



PARKS AND RECREATION FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN

2023 -2028



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS IN NEW ALBANY

It is often asked why a community such as the City of New Albany (City) should continue spending valuable time and resources toward the development and improvement of its park and recreation system. The answer to this question is probably most simply stated in the following quote by Paul M. Sherer in his Trust for Public Land published white paper called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space (The Benefit of Parks)*.

“City parks and open space improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work.”

As convincing as this view of the benefits of city parks and open space is shouldn't the question residents really be asking is “Why are we not doing more to enhance and improve these community assets which contribute so many tangible and intangible benefits to New Albany?”

As many Americans continue gravitating towards higher density suburban and urban communities parks and open spaces are increasingly becoming critical and much needed spaces.

WHY PLAN?

The City of New Albany has continued to make investments in quality of life amenities and recreational offerings since completion of the last plan. As such, it may be tempting to ask why the City should continue to spend resources updating the Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Evaluating and analyzing the park system every five years gives the City the chance to understand changes and emerging new trends since completion of the last plan. Park and recreation planning is also rooted in sound economic policy. Recent economic

development strategies have centered around the notion of improving local quality of place, as people want those amenities, and businesses follow the people.

There are also multiple benefits to the citizens of New Albany for continuing to invest in parks and recreation. In his white paper published for the Trust for Public Land, titled ‘*The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*’, Paul M. Sherer notes the following:

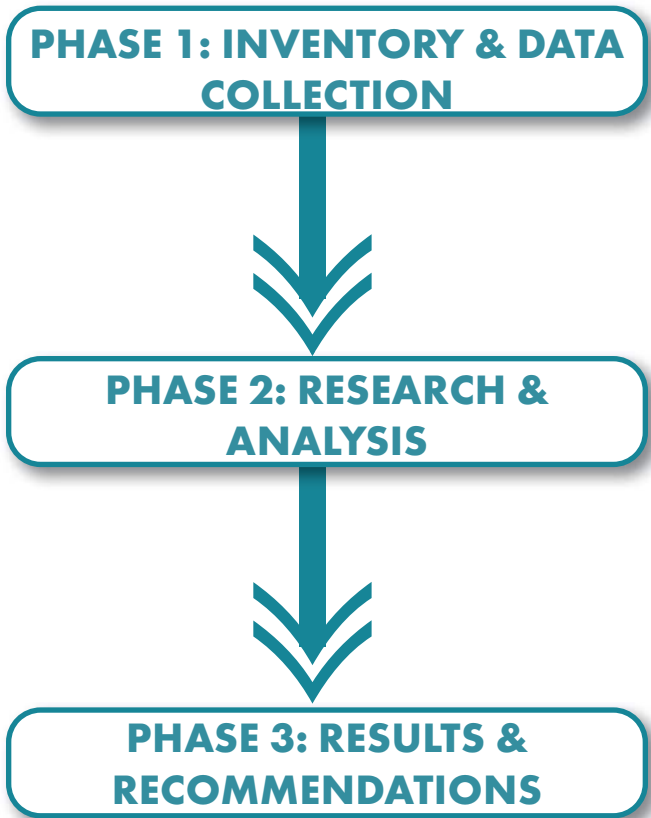
- **Public Health Benefits:** including increased physical activity, reduction in chronic physical diseases, improved mood and recreational well-being, and decreased anxiety and depression.
- **Social Benefits:** including increased neighborhood livability, improved chances for social engagement, increased organized recreational opportunities, improved sense of community ownership and pride, and reduction in crime and juvenile delinquency.
- **Economic Benefits:** including increased residential and commercial property values, attracting and retaining businesses and residents, increasing tourism and bolstering local business activity, and creating important quality of life benefits that top corporations are seeking when making facility location choices.



PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

Since the completion of the first New Albany Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2017, the City has established its own Parks and Recreation Department. This plan is intended to be an update to that original plan. Fundamentally, the plan is intended to evaluate current conditions and recommend improvements to ensure that New Albany Parks and Recreation is providing the right facilities and activities to adequately serve the people of New Albany.

While New Albany Parks and Recreation already provides many opportunities for citizens through its wide variety of existing facilities and programs, this plan should also serve to inform the public of these existing opportunities and understand future improvements and goals of New Albany Parks and Recreation.



GOALS OF THE PLAN

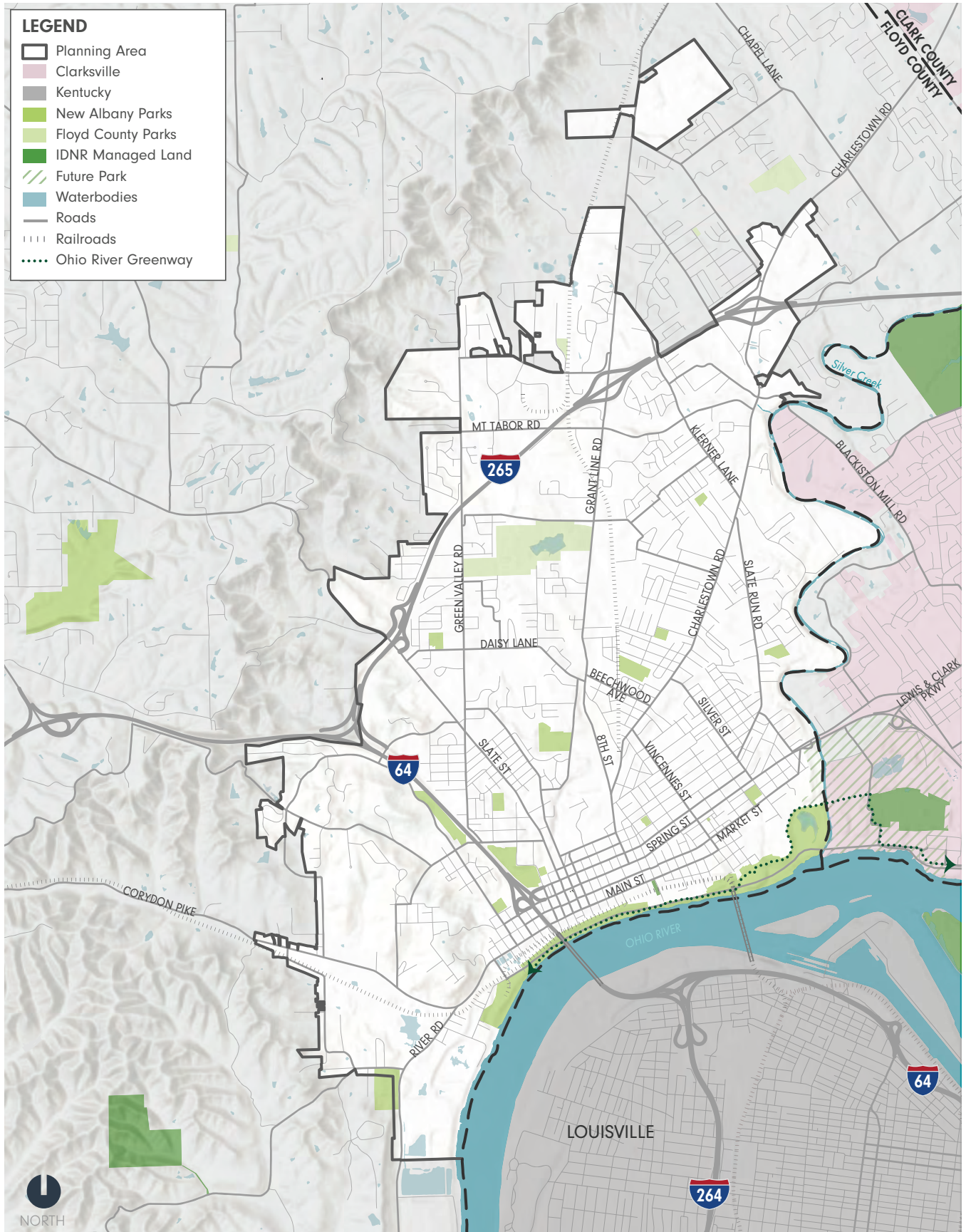
- Identify needed and desired facilities and programs in the community.
- Use the plan to educate the public about the park facilities and programming currently available within the community.
- To keep the public informed about New Albany Parks and Recreation planning.
- To be eligible for grant programs such as Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and other applicable grants.

PLAN METHODOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

This plan was developed through an extensive process of inventory, data collection, research, park staff interviews, stakeholder interviews, public outreach meetings, and a public survey. The information that was collected throughout this process is summarized within the content of the plan and shaped the outcomes and recommendations.

The diagram below depicts the three main phases conducted during the completion of the plan. Additional summary descriptions for each main phase can be found later in Chapter 3, Plan Development.

FIGURE 1.1: PLANNING AREA MAP



DEFINITION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The City of New Albany is located in the southeast portion of Floyd County and borders the major metropolitan area of Louisville, the Ohio River, Clark County, and Clarksville. A map of the planning area is shown in Figure 1.1. For the purposes of this plan, the limits are generally considered to be the corporate limits of the City of New Albany. However, as the City accounts for nearly half the population of Floyd County, consideration is given that some facilities and amenities within the park system, such as the riverfront and River Run Waterpark, will pull users from outside the corporate limits.

Overlap between the City of New Albany Parks and Recreation facilities and Floyd County Parks and Recreation facilities remain, as the County still maintains three facilities within the city limits. These facilities include the Floyd County Fairgrounds, Southern Indiana Sports Center (SISC) and the very large Sam Peden Community Park, which is a regional draw for visitors. Kevin Hammersmith Memorial Park is also a popular Floyd County park recently completed and located northeast just outside of New Albany city limits.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Public input and feedback is a important component of the research and analysis phase. Information collected during this phase identifies the amenities and services that are most used and enjoyed by residents and visitors and what amenities and services are most needed in the parks system. Later, in the planning process, this informs the recommendations that are developed.

Public input was sought in the following ways:

1. Park Staff Group Interview
2. Stakeholder Interviews
3. Public Survey
4. Public Outreach Event
5. Public Meeting
6. Public Presentation

Additional public input information and summaries can be found in Chapter 3.

PARK STAFF INTERVIEW

A staff group interview was held at Silver Street Park where park employees were interviewed as a group to gather information directly from the people that work with the park and recreation users and know the successes and shortcomings of the current park system. In total there were nine employees present at this meeting.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Stakeholder interviews were held the week of November 7 through November 11, 2022. These interviews were conducted individually through a phone call. There were a total of four interviews. Stakeholders represented New Albany residents, teachers, parks board and New Albany High School athletics.

PUBLIC SURVEY

A public survey was developed and distributed Online. The survey was promoted on the New Albany Parks and Recreation Facebook Page, at the stakeholder meetings, the public outreach event, the public meeting, through email blasts and a local news story. A total of 514 accessed the survey and 451 responses were received, surpassing the 279 responses from the 2017 plan.

PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENT

New Albany Parks and Recreation hosted an informal public outreach event at a New Albany High School Basketball Game as an effort to gain more public input from the age group 24 years or younger that was under represented in the public survey. The basketball game was on February 10, 2023. Presentation boards, a jumbo tron graphic, comment cards and survey fliers were used to engage attendees and gain public input for the plan. These materials were available at a station set up in the lobby. Following the game, survey responses increased by over 120 responses.

PUBLIC MEETING

An open house style public meeting was held on February 22, 2023 at New Albany City Hall. A presentation was given to inform the public on parks and recreation master planning and to share the results of the planning efforts. Presentation boards were also used to engage attendees and allow for an opportunity to provide more feedback and input for the plan. A total of 11 members of the public attended the public meeting. This meeting was advertised in the newspaper and on social media.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A final presentation of the plan highlighting plan recommendations was held at New Albany City Hall at the Board of Works meeting on March 21, 2023 at 10:00 am. The meeting was live-streamed and ten people attended.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Continue development of Ohio River Greenway and Monon South Freedom Trail greenways.

NATURAL PARK SPACES

- Continue providing naturalized park spaces with development of New Albany Shoreline: River Recreation site and providing natural play spaces.

UPDATE EXISTING PARK AMENITIES

- Establish a prioritized short-term and long-term equipment replacement plan for each park facility for such items as benches, picnic tables, trashcans, shelters and playgrounds.
- Improve pathways and parking to increase ADA accessibility.

PROVIDE NEW PARK AMENITIES

- Disc golf
- Pickleball courts
- Updated playgrounds
- Providing neighborhood park features at special-use parks such as Anderson, Billy Herman, River Run Waterpark and Cannon Acres.

MARKETING

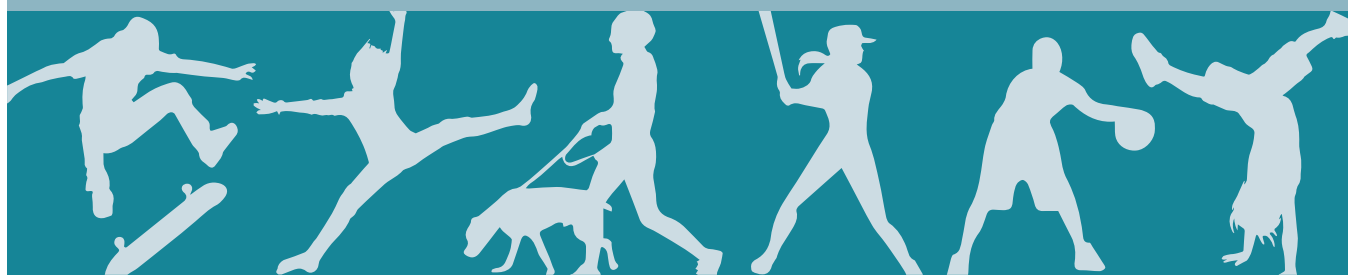
- Increase marketing efforts of parks programming and events through additional social media and information/signage kiosks at select parks and major thoroughfares.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- Establish an inventory of vacant and large industrial/commercial properties that could support new parks or sports facilities should the opportunity arise in the future.
- Conduct a feasibility study of providing a new indoor facility or expanding the indoor facilities at Silver Street Park.
- Conduct a feasibility and use study for an RV and campsite area along the Shoreline.

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THE COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY LOCATION

New Albany is located within the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in southern Indiana's Floyd County. It is about a ten-minute drive north of Louisville and about a two-hour drive south of Indianapolis, on Interstate 65. Due to proximity, Louisville influences many of the local social, cultural, and economic factors in New Albany. The map to the right shows the location of New Albany within the context of the State of Indiana.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

New Albany and the bend in the Ohio River around Louisville have a long and rich history. Early in 1813, New Albany began taking shape as the Scribner brothers of Joel, Nathaniel, and Abner came from New York and started clearing land below the Falls of the Ohio. In 1817, New Albany was incorporated as a town and twenty-two years later, in 1839, New Albany was incorporated as a city. Prior to the locks being built on the Louisville side of the river, New Albany was one of the largest cities in the Midwest. The Buffalo Trace Trail originated just east of New Albany at the Falls of the Ohio and continued all the way to Vincennes. Originally a path of migrating buffalo, the trail became an important corridor for pioneer settlement of Indiana.

New Albany's location on the river allowed riverboat building and glass manufacturing to become important early businesses. In the mid 1800's, New Albany was connected to Lake Michigan via the Monon Railroad. By 1853, New Albany High School was established as the first public high school in Indiana. The present New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation was the first of its kind in Indiana.

As shipbuilding and glass faded, New Albany's plywood and veneer production industries began to flourish. This industry is still active in the community with many lumberyards located throughout New Albany.

Today, New Albany's future outward growth is limited by natural features to the west and south and jurisdictional boundaries to the north and east. Given these constraints, New Albany must maximize the value of remaining areas for both urban and park development.



NEW ALBANY'S LOCATION WITHIN INDIANA.

Map Source: HWC Engineering



INDUSTRIAL NEW ALBANY RIVERFRONT, CIRCA 1890.

Photo Source: www.historiclouisville.weebly.com, Indiana Historical Society



DOWNTOWN NEW ALBANY, PEARL STREET.

Photo Source: www.historiclouisville.weebly.com



SUMMER FESTIVAL ON THE RIVERFRONT.

Photo Source: City of New Albany



RIVERBOAT WITH SHERMAN MINTON BRIDGE (I-64) IN BACKGROUND.

Photo Source: City of New Albany

HISTORIC RESOURCES

New Albany's long and rich history have provided the backdrop for many significant historic events and home to many historic sites and structures in well maintained condition. The presence of these resources provides residents and visitors many opportunities for immersion in historic and cultural experiences, many of which help enhance the overall recreational and social opportunities available to residents of New Albany.

Below is a list of the registered historic sites within New Albany which represents a small fraction of the historic resources remaining.

- Downtown Historic District
- Cedar Bough Place Historic District
- East Spring Street Historic District
- Mansion Row Historic District
- Cardinal Ritter Birthplace

As New Albany was one of the largest and richest cities in Indiana through the 1800's and into the 1900's, there is a large inventory of historic properties in various architectural styles. Historic New Albany and the New Albany Historic Preservation Commission are two active organizations dedicated to preserving and promoting the historic fabric of the area.

Both the Downtown Historic District and Mansion Row Historic District abut the Ohio Riverfront, along with Riverfront Park and the Ohio River Greenway.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Given New Albany's history and location, there are many different cultural activities for residents to enjoy within the City and the larger region. The summer concert series in Bicentennial Park is very popular on Fridays. The riverfront also plays host to large community gatherings such as Independence Day celebrations and the Harvest Homecoming Festival. The Harvest Homecoming festival draws in hundreds of thousands of visitors to downtown New Albany. New Albany is a primary sponsor of all three events, and New Albany Parks and Recreation has a presence in some form or fashion through either staffing or promotional events.

Following is a list of some of the many cultural resources available within the New Albany region. New Albany Parks and Recreation also develops extensive programming for smaller events at its own facilities. Chapter 4 discusses events in more detail, including the programming opportunities New Albany Parks and Recreation offers.

CULTURAL AMENITIES

- Carnegie Center for Art and History
- Floyd County Library
- Culbertson Mansion
- Scribner House
- Town Clock Tower Church

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

- Harvest Homecoming
- Farmers Market
- Winter Farmers Market (November and December)
- Holiday Fest/Jingle Walk Carnegie Center's a Taste of Art and History
- Midtown Street Fair and Festival
- Bicentennial Park Concerts
- Riverfront Amphitheater Concerts

REGIONAL RESOURCES

There are numerous other regional recreational amenities and resources beyond the boundaries of New Albany, which serve to compliment the services and amenities provided by the City.

Within a short drive of New Albany is the Harrison-Crawford State Forest, Jackson-Washington State Forest, Hoosier National Forest, and Clark State Forest. Falls of the Ohio State Park lies just a few miles to the east. These parks all offer a variety of recreational offerings, including swimming, boating, hiking, and fishing. The Knobstone Trail, the longest continuous hiking trail in Indiana is northwest of the City. Upon completion of the recently announced Monon South Trail, the City could be connected to this trail within the next decade.

There are numerous limestone caves in the region, including Marengo Cave, Wyandotte Cave, and Squire Boone Caverns.

In addition to the parks and forests listed above, Bernheim Forest in Louisville provides a quality arboretum and natural area. The Parklands of Floyds Fork is another expansive natural area east of Louisville.

Louisville provides a multitude of other entertainment and recreational opportunities, including:

- Six Flags Amusement Park
- Louisville Zoo
- U of L Athletics
- Louisville Bats Baseball
- Churchill Downs Racetrack
- Kentucky State Fair and Expo Center
- Louisville City FC Soccer



BICENTENNIAL PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Photo Source: www.gosoin.com



OHIO RIVER GREENWAY

Photo Source: www.gosoin.com

NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural features that make New Albany unique also create special park development issues and considerations. The area in and around New Albany is characterized by flat lowlands along the Ohio River to large knobs overlooking the river valley to the west. Below is a brief listing of the many nearby natural features which residents have the opportunity to enjoy.

- Loop Island Wetlands includes historical wetlands and walking trail amid old industrial area on the southeast side of New Albany. Since the last plan, this area has been added to New Albany Parks and Recreation's park system.
- The Ohio River bounds the southern edge of New Albany.
- Silver Creek forms New Albany's eastern edge and serves as a boundary between New Albany and Clarksville.
- The knobs, or large rounded hills, form a boundary to the west and north, overlooking the City. Extensive wooded areas still remain along the knobs, to the west and north.
- Falling Run Creek runs north/south through the middle of New Albany.

Most of New Albany's parks have been developed in areas with some natural appeal and several of the parks have been developed along and within the floodplains and floodways of Ohio River tributaries. Often, these areas have been left as available green spaces, as they were unable to be developed.

HYDROLOGY

Figure 2.1 shows the hydrological conditions within the planning area. Watersheds include Falling Run, Silver Creek-Slate Run, Middle Creek, Ohio River and Jacob's Creek.

New Albany has approximately 3.6 miles of shoreline along the Ohio River. The watersheds and the creeks that feed them have a large impact on the existing park system. Many of the parks with sports facilities, such as Billy Herman, Anderson, and Binford Park, are within the floodway and subject to recurring seasonal flooding. Billy Herman and Anderson Park are particularly susceptible, as these parks lie in portions of land used for flood control.

Flooding in these parks occurs in tandem with high Ohio River levels, when there is no other place for water to drain, causing flooding in low-lying areas. As this type of flooding often occurs more slowly and with advance notice, Parks and Recreation is able to take some precautions to minimize damage to facilities. However, when flooded, sporting and recreational events must be rescheduled in these parks.

In the near-term, mitigation strategies are limited for the Anderson and Billy Herman Parks as they are part of the flood control system for the City. Drainage swales, rain gardens and vegetative buffer strips can help mitigate run-off from up-slope hardscape areas during small rainfall events, but these systems will be overwhelmed in a river flood event.

In the long-term, planning should begin to identify locations where intensive sports facilities might be re-located out of the floodway, preserving park spaces in flood-prone areas for more passive or naturalized recreational uses. This will be a challenge in New Albany. Loop Island Wetlands and the New Albany Shoreline, currently under development, represent areas utilizing naturalized and passive recreation within the floodplain.

There is very little undeveloped space within the city limits, and the City is constrained in its ability to grow due to the knobs to the west and jurisdictional boundaries to the north and east. However, the City can start to identify vacant parcels and infill opportunities that may meet the criteria for new park facilities, especially active sports fields. This is an approach already recommended in the City's comprehensive plan to support infill and redevelopment initiatives. It can be adapted to identify park opportunities.

FIGURE 2.1: HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES

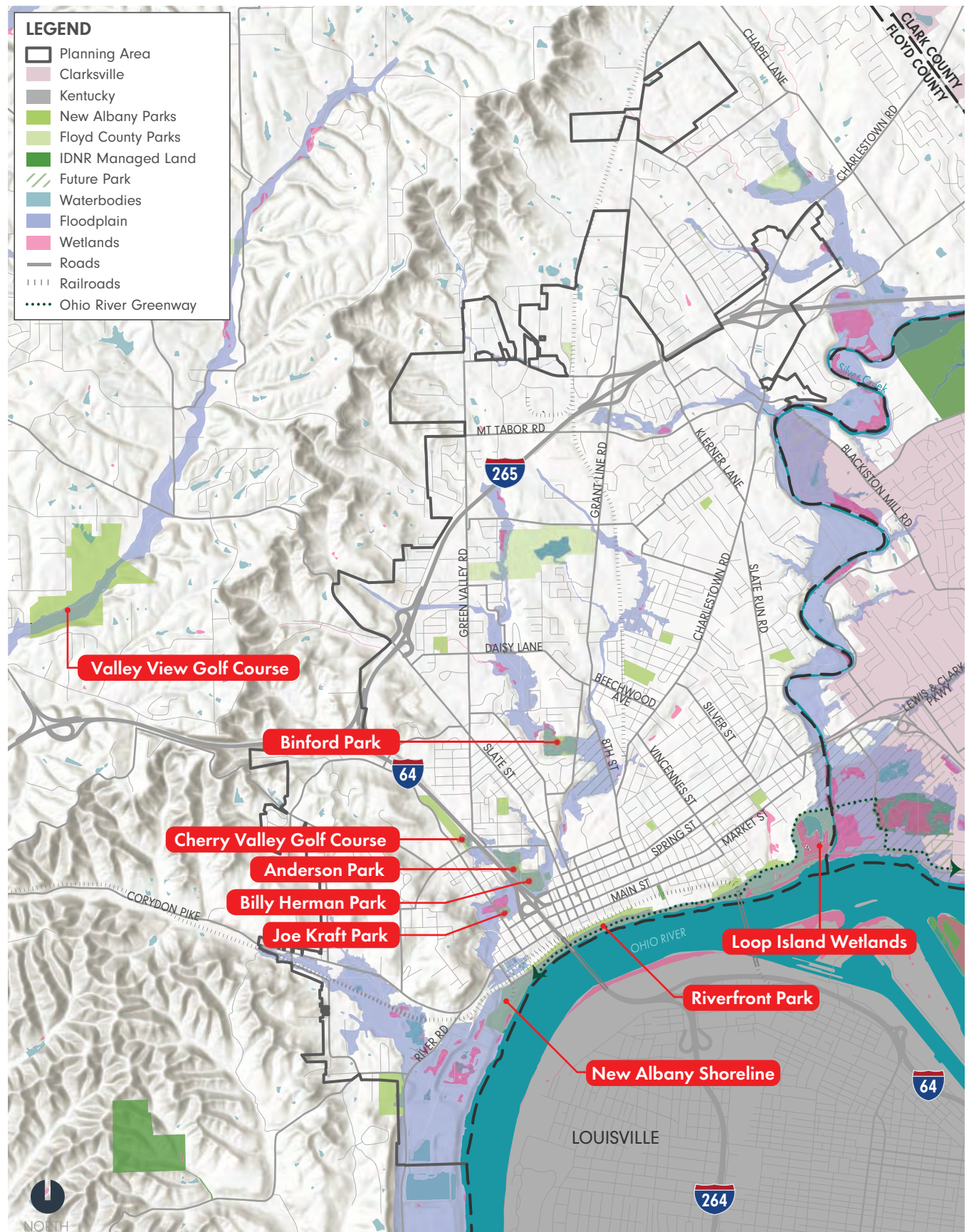
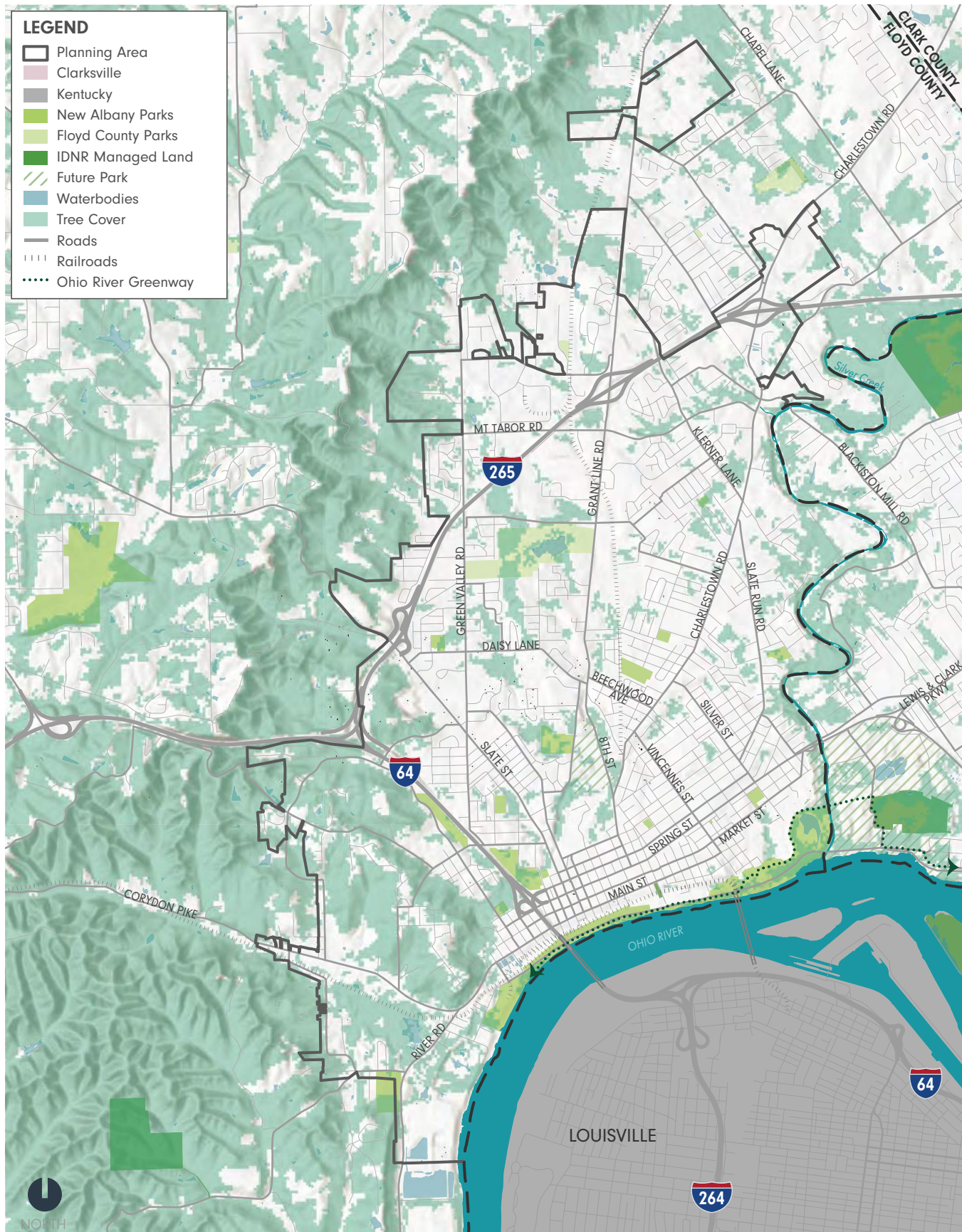


FIGURE 2.2: TERRAIN & TREE COVER



TOPOGRAPHY & SOILS

Figure 2.2 depicts the terrain in and around New Albany which is characterized by flat lowlands along the Ohio River to large knobs overlooking the river valley. The majority of the developed portion of New Albany lies within the relatively flat lowlands of the Ohio River. According to USDA soil survey data, the lowlands near the Ohio River primarily contain the dominant soils of Wheeling, Elkinsville and Vincennes soils.

The midsection of New Albany, north and west of the knobs, contains primarily the dominant soils of Cincinnati, Trappist and Jennings. Lastly, the knobs to the west primarily contain the dominant soils of Zanesville, Wellston and Gilpin.

The vast majority of soils within city limits are urban soils and unrated when it comes to suitability for differing uses, such as small building construction. As it pertains to New Albany Parks and Recreation and placement of park facilities, consideration of the floodplain is of primary concern. Beyond the concern of flooding, soils within a floodplain will often contain characteristics which limit their suitability for construction. This building limitation is often how current park spaces came to be located, as they were left as undeveloped spaces in older cities.

TREE COVER

Some of the priorities identified through New Albany's most recent comprehensive plan is to improve the condition of the public and private urban forest, preserve urban forest resources and to reduce negative impacts of development on the urban forest. After planting 276 trees in 2020, New Albany was designated "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation in 2021. In order to achieve this designation, New Albany had to meet certain standards including:

- Maintaining a tree board or department
- Having a community tree ordinance
- Spend at least \$2 per capita on community forestry program
- Have an Arbor Day Proclamation and hold an Arbor Day event

The City and the Tree Board have also developed nearly five miles of self-guided walking trails to appreciate the urban tree canopy. The trails contain 58 distinct species with identification markers.

The parks system is an integral part of the urban forest in New Albany with hundreds of acres of public open space. The parks has partnered with the Tree Board for tree plantings and should continue to be a visible partner promoting these popular community events. While City parks have thus far avoided a significant loss of trees canopy to disease, monitoring should continue on tree health with removal and replacement of diseased and hazard trees. Where appropriate, Parks and Recreation should also increase tree canopy at key locations such as in naturalized areas and areas that could benefit from additional shade like walking paths and playgrounds.

Parks that could benefit from additional trees include Silver Street Park, Bicknell Park (around the walking path and playground), and Griffin Recreation Center (around playground).



NATURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In the last plan, the public input indicated that the community desired more natural recreational opportunities within New Albany. Since then, New Albany Parks and Recreation added Loop Island Wetlands to the park system and is currently developing two other sites that will connect residents to local waterways. These projects include Silver Creek Landing Kayak Launch on Silver Creek and New Albany Shoreline and Boat Ramp.

There are also long-term opportunities to develop additional passive and naturalized park areas in the floodplains of existing park spaces, if appropriate up-land properties are acquired and developed to support active park uses.

With an increasing footprint of naturalized areas, the parks will need assistance and expertise on topic areas that have previously not been of concern. Understanding and managing invasive species will become more of a need.

Small pockets of natural areas may also be provided in portions of Sertoma Park, Billy Herman, Joe Kraft Park, Riverfront Park, Cannon Acres, and Griffin Park. There are pockets within these parks that could benefit from naturalized prairie plantings to remove portions of underutilized mown turf grass.

MAN-MADE RESOURCES

New Albany was founded on the basis of transit-oriented development spurred by the connection of rail lines to the Ohio River, and these transportation corridors become both economic drivers and community hindrances.

The Ohio River is the most visible of these transportation corridors. As a response to the great flood of 1937, the Ohio River Levee was constructed in the 1960's. Today, the levee supports the Ohio River Greenway, Amphitheater, and Riverfront Park. However, it is also a visual and physical wall between the City and the riverfront. The City continues to look for ways to reconnect to the river, through such parks as Loop Island Wetlands and the current development of the New Albany Shoreline River Recreation site at the west end of the City. The new Silver Creek Trail provides greenway connections over the levee on the east end of the City, and there are hopes to renovate the existing amphitheater and it's connections to the downtown.

Though not as visible, the rail corridors that cut through New Albany developed in response to transit along the Ohio River. The Monon Railroad connected New Albany to Lake Michigan. This rail corridor, abandoned since 2018, will serve to connect New Albany to Mitchell through a 62-mile trail corridor. The City has started work on designing the segment of the trail corridor within their jurisdiction.

While the north/south Monon line will find new life, active rail lines still exist east/west along the riverfront before crossing the K & I bridge into Louisville. This rail line poses another obstacle, in addition to the levee, to connecting the City to the riverfront. There have been conversations in the past about converting the now closed roadway portions of the K & I bridge into pedestrian use, which would connect New Albany and the Ohio River Greenway trail into the Louisville Loop trail system. Norfolk Southern, who owns and operates the rail line, currently rebuff that consideration.

The interstate and arterial road system has also shaped the layout and development of New Albany. Interstate 64 and the Sherman Minton Bridge are a defining image of New Albany on the west side of the City. However, the interstate has also served to cut-off the west-end from the City. The west-end was once a traditional neighborhood connected directly to the downtown. The River Recreation site is located in this area and, upon completion of this amenity coupled with new pedestrian and greenway connections, this neighborhood has the potential to become a redevelopment area.

Interstate 265 along the northern edge of the City has also served as a barrier between residential areas north and south of this line. As expected, commercial growth has been very successful along the major interchanges of Charlestown Road, Grant Line Road, and State Street. At the same time, older commercial and industrial areas closer to downtown and further from the interstate have suffered as business relocated. While these areas do not provide the commercial benefit to the communities they once did, they do provide a potential redevelopment opportunity.

As noted before, the City's comprehensive plan stated the need to identify vacant or underutilized parcels that could be priorities for redevelopment. These same parcels could also be targets for new park facilities, especially in service of relocating active sports facilities out of the floodway and floodplain. Older developments along Grant Line Road and Charlestown Road would be accessible with existing sidewalk connections and also serve existing residential areas.

Lastly, the City continues to develop the internal trail system with recent connections via the Silver Creek Trail between Spring Street and the Ohio River Greenway, a planned expansion of the Ohio River Greenway to the west, and the development of the South Monon Trail north/south through the City, connecting the Ohio River Greenway, downtown and Southern Indiana University. Sidewalk development and connectors between these trails, park facilities, and neighborhoods should be prioritized and are just as important as the larger trail projects.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Below is a snapshot of demographic and social data. Data is from US Census American Community Survey 2021 - 5 Year Estimates, unless noted otherwise.

POPULATION TRENDS

- New Albany 2020 U.S. Census Population: 37,841. Increase from 2010 U.S. Census by 1,169, representing a total growth rate of 3.8% and annual growth rate of 0.38%.
- Floyd County grew by 7.9% between the 2010 and 2020 Census for a total population of 80,484, representing an annual growth rate of 0.79%.
- Esri projects a 0.27% annual growth rate for New Albany and a 0.21% annual growth rate for Floyd County through 2027, representing approximately 500 and 840 new residents respectively.
- 52% women, 48% men. This ratio is nearly identical to both Floyd County and Louisville MSA with 51% women and 49% men.
- Median Age: 38.4. This is younger than surrounding Floyd County (39.5) and Louisville MSA (39.5) but a year older than 5 years ago.
- 84.0% White, 8.4% Black/African American, 5.8% Hispanic or Latino, 0.2% American Indian, and 0.8% Asian. Since the last plan, the City has seen a slight increase in the Black/African American Population (0.6%) and a larger increase in the Hispanic or Latino population (1.7%). While the percentage of the population that is white has dropped by around 1.6%, the City maintains a much higher percentage than the surrounding Louisville MSA of 73%.
- 15,390 households with an average size of 2.4 persons per household. The same as Louisville MSA but slightly smaller than Floyd County at 2.6.
- 17.7% of the population over age 5 has a disability, nearly the same as the last plan. Higher than Floyd County (14%) and Louisville MSA (15%).
- Of those over age 5 with a disability, 58% have ambulatory, 35% have cognitive, 24% have hearing, and 9% have vision disability.
- 5.3% speak a language other than English at home, which is higher than the last plan by 1.1%.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

- 4.8% unemployment rate. As seen across the country, the unemployment rate remains low and is a drop from 6.9% at the time of the last plan.
- Median Household Income has increased by over 23% since the 2017 plan to \$49,429. However, it remains lower than Floyd County (\$66,596) and the Louisville MSA (\$64,029).
- Median value of owner-occupied units is \$139,500, lower than Floyd County at \$203,700 and Louisville MSA at \$220,500.
- 64.5% of owners of owner occupied units have a mortgage. Of these housing units with mortgages, 16.4% of owners spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs.
- 45.5% of renters on the other hand spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs.
- Median rent for New Albany (\$852) was more slightly more affordable than Floyd County and the Louisville MSA at \$934.
- 17.4% of persons live below the poverty level, higher than Floyd County (7.8%) and the Louisville MSA at 12.1%. This percentage has dropped from 18.1% in the last plan, but remains high.
- Education/healthcare/social assistance and manufacturing remain the two highest employment occupation categories.

HOUSING TRENDS

- 18,175 total housing units.
- 15.3% of all available units are vacant, while 84.7% are occupied. New Albany has a higher percentage of vacant units compared to both Floyd County (10.9%) and Louisville MSA (7.5%).
- Of occupied units, 57% are owner occupied and 43% are renter occupied. New Albany has a much higher percentage of renters in occupied units than Floyd County (26.9%) and Louisville MSA (31.4%).
- 10.7% of households have no vehicles available. Higher than Floyd County at 6.1% and Louisville MSA at 7.4%. However, this is a slight decrease from 11.6% in the last plan.

EDUCATION TRENDS

- The local school corporation graduation rate has dropped slightly from 93.1% in 2015 to 91.5% in 2020 but remains higher than the 87% average in Indiana. Due to impacts from COVID, a decrease in educational benchmarks has been observed state-wide.
- 86.5% of population has a high school diploma or higher, lower than Floyd County at 92.3% and the Louisville MSA at 91.3%.
- 22.2% have a bachelors degree or higher, lower than Floyd County at 29.1% and the Louisville MSA at 32.9%.
- While the percentages are lower than the surrounding region, New Albany has increased percentages of both high school diplomas (+1.5%) and bachelors degrees (+5.2%) since the last plan.

COMMUTING

- Average travel time for workers was 20.2 minutes, with 81.6% of workers driving alone, 2.6% walking, and 6.8% working from home.
- 3,425 workers live and work in New Albany, while 12,643 workers commute out of New Albany and 16,927 workers commute into New Albany.
- Of those commuting into New Albany, the majority are coming from Louisville Metro area (9.2%), Jeffersonville (8.9%) and Clarksville (5.5%).
- Of those commuting out of New Albany, the majority are also commuting to Louisville Metro area (22.7%), Jeffersonville (10.4%) and Clarksville (5.9%).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

With ups and downs since a peak of 38,402 in 1970, New Albany's population has been trending upward since 2010. However, future growth is expected to be slower than the past several years. A recent study by the Indiana Business Research Center indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic upended the state's population trends in 2021, with the smallest annual increase since 2015. This correlates to projections by Esri which show a smaller future annual growth rate than the historical rate since 2010. Using Esri's projections, New Albany could expect to add around 500 residents over the next five years. County growth is within the same projection range, with around 840 potential residents per Esri's projections.

New Albany is working to ensure the City meets or exceeds that growth. As of October 2021, 900 units were under construction within the City with both multi-family and single-family projects underway. The City has also been working to upgrade its significant footprint of public subsidized housing, the largest in the state outside of Gary. Redevelopment of the Beechwood Housing development adjacent to Silver Street Park is set to provide fifty-three single-family and duplex homes and thirty senior apartments. Twelve of these lots are to be market-rate, resulting in a new mixed income neighborhood. A housing study completed by the City in 2021 underscored the need for new affordable housing, a need reinforced by the high-percentage of rentals in the City.

Infill and redevelopment continue to be a focus for the City, with a de-facto growth boundary constrained by topography to the west and north, the Ohio River to the south, and Silver Creek and Clarksville to the east. Just as the City must look to underutilized or vacant spaces for redevelopment, the same mindset will need to be adopted for finding future park opportunities. Underutilized or vacant commercial and industrial properties should be identified for future park spaces, much in the way the City is currently redeveloping the old QRS recycling property for new park space along the west end of the City. Many previous commercial and industrial centers have moved north along Grant Line Road and Charlestown Road corridors towards the interstate and newer development. These older developments provide prime opportunity for new park space, in addition to housing redevelopments, and are closer to a large percentage of City residents.

To respond to the need for additional recreational opportunities, Parks and Recreation should continue building upon its partnerships with the YMCA and New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation. Programs with the YMCA, such as shared aquatics and summer camp programs, should be continued and further developed. Fairmont Park and Ritter Park, which are part of elementary school grounds in addition to being part of the park system, are stand-up examples. Resources and partnerships with New Albany High School or Nathaniel Scribner Middle School may help provide recreational access northwest of downtown and in the west-end. While a verbal agreement currently exists with the school corporation, there is no legal joint-use agreement defining responsibilities and use.

In addition to responding to population trends, New Albany Parks and Recreation should continue to respond to other key findings for the City. New Albany has higher percentages of individuals with disabilities, higher percentages of households with no vehicles available, and higher percentages of families living below the poverty level when compared to peer communities and the region. The good news is that almost all of these metrics have improved since the last plan. The City is also seeing a small increase in the percentage of the Hispanic and Latino population from five years ago.

New Albany Parks and Recreation must continue to tailor their recreation programming for these populations, as they have successfully done in the past.

The last plan also noted the importance of providing park amenities that are accessible to residents, both geographically and financially and that has not changed. With on-going trail planning and construction, the City and Parks and Recreation should also make continued improvements for local accessibility and access through providing new and updated sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to local parks and greenways. A higher percentage of renters and multi-family units (than the region as a whole) means access to physical green space is a critical need as many residents are unlikely to have their own yard or outdoor area. Public input received through the plan has supported this need, with a desire for new parks, natural areas, greenways, walking paths/trails, and playgrounds.

Since its re-establishment in 2013, New Albany Parks and Recreation has made great strides in the community. Parks and Recreation must continue to build on its programming strengths and its great record of adding new recreational amenities, such as Loop Island Wetlands, River Run Water Park, Silver Street Park, River Recreation Site and Boat Launch, Kayak Launch, and new greenways. In addition to these highly visible improvements, a focus should not be lost on providing neighborhood level amenities to existing park spaces throughout the City.

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3

PLAN DEVELOPMENT



PLAN METHODOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

This plan was developed through a detailed process of inventory, data collection, research, analysis and public input. The three main phases conducted during the completion of the plan are outlined below.

PHASE 1: INVENTORY & DATA COLLECTION

The plan began with an inventory and data collection phase consisting of physical visits and inventories at each park property, a tour of the park system, and conversations with the New Albany Parks and Recreation staff.

A review of current literature and publications, relating to parks and recreation master planning trends, was completed referencing available industry resources such as:

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation
- National Recreation & Park Association
- Trust for Public Land
- Local, regional, and national examples of similar plan documents from other communities

This approach was key to identifying standards and trends to later analyze how that information compared to New Albany Parks and Recreation in the research and analysis phase. Detailed findings from the inventory and data collection phases can be found in Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this plan.

PHASE 2: RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

The second phase of plan development was intended to supplement the inventory findings and background research with a deeper understanding of the local perception of New Albany Parks and Recreation. A series of public input and discussions were held to accomplish this task, including the following:

- Park Staff Group Interview
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Public Survey
- Public Outreach Event - New Albany High School Basketball Game
- Public Meeting
- Public Presentation
- A comparison of the New Albany's park system to state and national standards and trends

This phase also evaluated the progress that has been made since completion of the original plan five years ago. Previous recommendations were revisited to determine what has been accomplished, what work is still underway, and what new goals should be added to the plan update in order to keep New Albany Parks and Recreation moving forward in the desired direction that best serves the community.

PHASE 3: RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The third phase of the plan combined the results of the first two phases into a series of specific recommendations for the plan.

Early recommendations were discussed with New Albany Parks and Recreation staff and the Parks Board to help inform the contents of the final plan direction. The resulting recommendations were reviewed, prioritized and approved through a collaborative process of discussion and revision involving parks staff and board members.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARIES

Public input and feedback is an important component of the research and analysis phase. Information collected during this phase identified the amenities and services that are most used and enjoyed by residents and visitors and what amenities and services are most desired in the parks system.

Public input was sought in the following way:

- Park Staff Group Interview
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Public Survey
- Public Outreach Event
- Public Meeting
- Public Presentation

PARK STAFF INTERVIEW

A park staff group meeting was held at Silver Street Park on November 2, 2022 to gather information directly from the people that work with park and recreation users. In total, there were nine employees present at this meeting. A variety of topics were discussed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The staff is most proud of their team and the variety of parks and recreation resources provided to the community.
- If staff could change one thing tomorrow, it would increase funding/budget, add more full-time staff, offer more parks and recreation team activities, and provide more community spaces such as exercise spaces, rent-able indoor spaces and office space.
- Other strengths identified include:
 - Good employees. Everyone does a good job to keep parks and recreation facilities maintained and operational.
 - Good relationships with outside agencies such as the YMCA.
 - Good responsiveness to community inquiries.

- Areas of improvement identified included:
 - Lack of space at Silver Street Park.
 - Lack of pickleball courts in the park system.
 - Not enough space to perform winter maintenance and the maintenance building is located in the floodplain, experiencing flash flood issues.
 - Blacktop surfaces in parks need replaced
 - Short-staffing. Staff needs should be factored into decisions for future facilities.
 - Nexus Park in Columbus, Indiana - how will this effect programming and attraction for regional events
 - Limited greenspace.
 - Improving security in parks.
 - Continue updating playgrounds to be accessible.
 - Northeast New Albany considered to be an under-served community and could use another park facility in that location.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Stakeholder interviews were held the week of November 7 through November 11, 2022. These interviews were conducted individually through a phone call. There were a total of 4 interviews. Stakeholders represented New Albany residents, teachers, parks board and New Albany High School athletics.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Stakeholders considered the strengths of New Albany Parks and Recreation to be:

- The Parks and Recreation Department being its own entity operating separately from the previously combined New Albany Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department. This has allowed New Albany to have its own identity and better serve the local community.
- The variety, quality, and maintenance of existing park facilities. Stakeholders also thought parks had improved since the last plan.
- Silver Street Park and River Run Waterpark were identified as major strengths.
- Softball leagues and events that bring the community together such as Water Wars, Movie in the Park, and holiday events.
- New Albany Parks and Recreation employees.
- Partnership with the Mayor's Office.

Stakeholders considered areas of improvement for New Albany Parks and Recreation to be:

- Increase funding of parks system.
- New Albany Little League Baseball being hosted at Kevin Hammersmith Park and costs of participation. Kevin Hammersmith Park is a Floyd County Park in northeast New Albany. This is inaccessible for children who are living in poverty or low-income families because they can not walk to the park. Associated costs also make it inaccessible for children who live in poverty or low-income families.
- Availability of sports facilities at Silver Street Park due to high levels of use.
- Increased coordination between New Albany Schools and New Albany Parks and Recreation.
- Not enough basketball courts or soccer fields.
- General perception of safety. Not all of the parks feel safe.

Stakeholders considered the opportunities of New Albany Parks and Recreation to be:

- Redevelopment in the community, such as Beechwood Development, provides opportunity for growth in the parks.
- An indoor fitness or recreation center other than the YMCA for people to gather and workout.
- A indoor field-house or recreation center with all-purpose courts and/or turf. This could increase tourism and promotion of the community, and would benefit children in the community. Facilities in Salem and Greensburg were referenced.
- Upgrading existing playground and basketball facilities.
- Adding walking trails, hiking trails, shelters, basketball courts, pickleball courts, tennis courts and multi-purpose fields.
- Adding another park like Kevin Hammersmith Park to the park system.
- Continued Ohio River Greenway development.
- More advertising of facilities, programs and events.
- Events for skateboarding.
- Bringing back a football league for kids.
- Basketball camps that are accessible for children who live in low-income homes.

PUBLIC SURVEY

A survey with 19 questions was developed and distributed Online. The survey was promoted on the New Albany Parks and Recreation Facebook Page, at the stakeholder meetings, the public outreach event, the public meeting, through email blasts and a local news story. The survey was made available to the public on October 27, 2022 and closed February 27, 2023.

A total of 514 accessed the survey and 451 responses were received. The previous parks and recreation master plan had 279 respondents. A full copy of the survey results can be found in the document appendix and a summary of the results are provided on the following pages.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The age group with the most respondents was 35-44 years old (30.4%), followed by 25-34 years old (21.7%) and 45-54 years old (18.0%). Age groups least represented in the survey were 24 years or younger (3.8%) and 65 years or older (11.5%). New Albany Parks and Recreation put in extra effort to gain responses from the 24 years and younger age group by organizing a special public outreach event at a local high school basketball game. More information on that public event can be found later in this chapter.

The majority of respondents resided in New Albany (56.0%) and about a third of respondents identified as residing in Floyd County (31.6%). Other respondents (12.4%) identified as residing in Louisville (KY), Jefferson (KY), Sellersburg (IN), Clark County (IN), Jeffersonville (IN), Harrison (IN) and Fayette (IN).

About 77.2% of respondents have children under 18 years of age with 25.4% having children 0-5 years old, 28.6% having children 6-11 years old and 23.3% having children 12-18 years old.

FIGURE 3.1: AGE OF RESPONDENTS

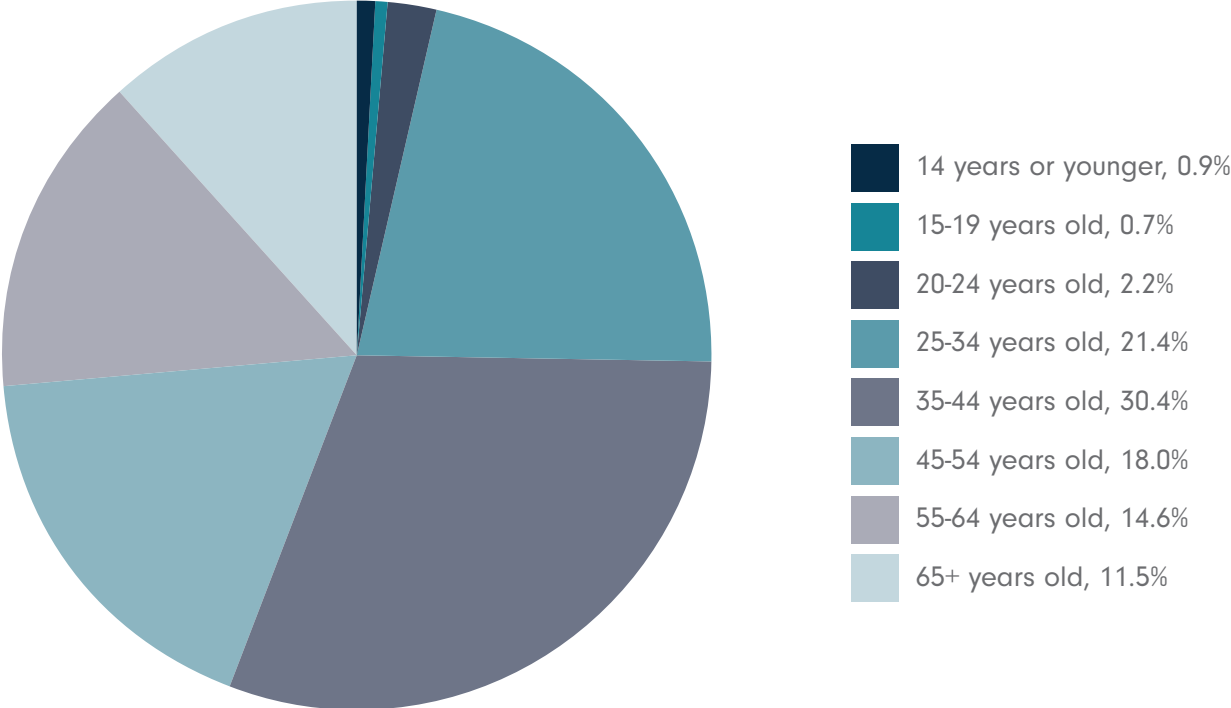
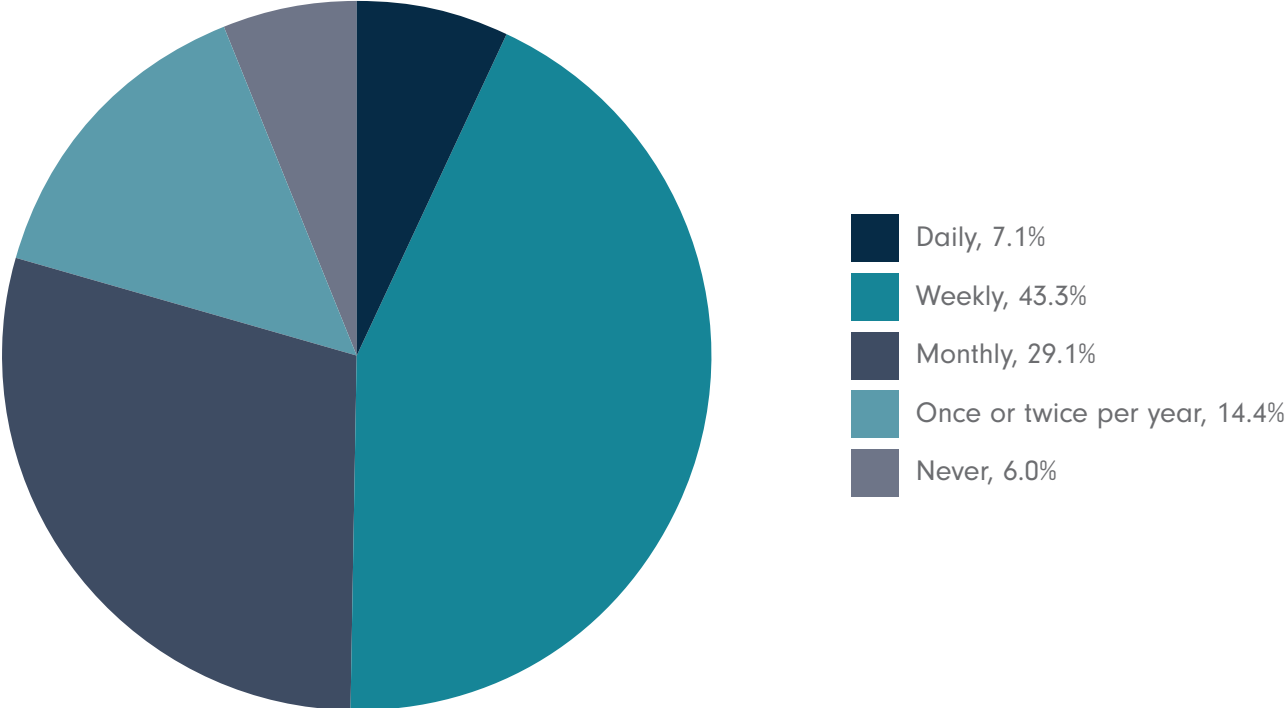


FIGURE 3.2: FREQUENCY OF PARK USE



Respondents were asked if any members of their family have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disability Act, about 6.5% said “yes”. Respondents were given an option to provide a response on how Parks and Recreation could better serve their needs. Out of 35 open-ended responses, key themes included:

- More accessible parking
- Hard surface walkways and ramps
- Inclusive playgrounds/equipment for all ages and abilities (young and older kids)
- Enclosed playgrounds (with fence/gates)
- Softer/padded play surfacing under play equipment
- More benches along walking paths for resting
- More shade at parks and near park amenities
- Family/assisted restroom facilities
- More programming for special needs population, specifically older kids/teens.
- Reconsideration of current programming cut-off ages as older special needs children may enjoy programs for younger children that don’t have special needs

PARK PROXIMITY & USAGE

Approximately 60.5% of respondents live a 1/2 mile or more from the nearest park. This high percentage is likely due to the higher percentage of survey respondents living in Floyd County or elsewhere. Of **City respondents, 57.2% live within a 1/2 mile walk of a park.**

There were 79.6% of survey respondents who indicated using park facilities daily (7.1%), weekly (43.3%) or monthly (29.1%) with only a few respondents saying they never use park facilities (6.0%) or only used park facilities once or twice a year (14.4%).

Top Five Most Used Park Facilities

1. Riverfront Park/Amphitheater (61.6%)
2. Silver Street Park (45.5%)
3. Greenway Trails (41.1%)
4. Loop Island Wetlands (37.7%)
5. River Run Waterpark (33.1%)

Least Used Park Facilities

1. Joe Kraft Park (2.2%)
2. Division Street Park (2.2%)
3. Anderson Park (3.7%)
4. Ritter Park (5.6%)
5. Millerwood Park (5.8%)

Top Five Most Popular Activities & Amenities

1. Walking/Jogging/Exercise (83.9%)
2. Playgrounds (48.2%)
3. Bicycling (38.4%)
4. Special Events & Festivals (35.2%)
5. Picnicking (33.2%)

Top Reasons Respondents Did Not Use City Parks

1. Lack of restrooms (32.3%)
2. Use parks outside of New Albany (31.0%)
3. Perception of Safety (27.0%)
4. Outdated Amenities (26.0%)
5. Lack of Awareness (21.8%)

PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS & PRIORITIES

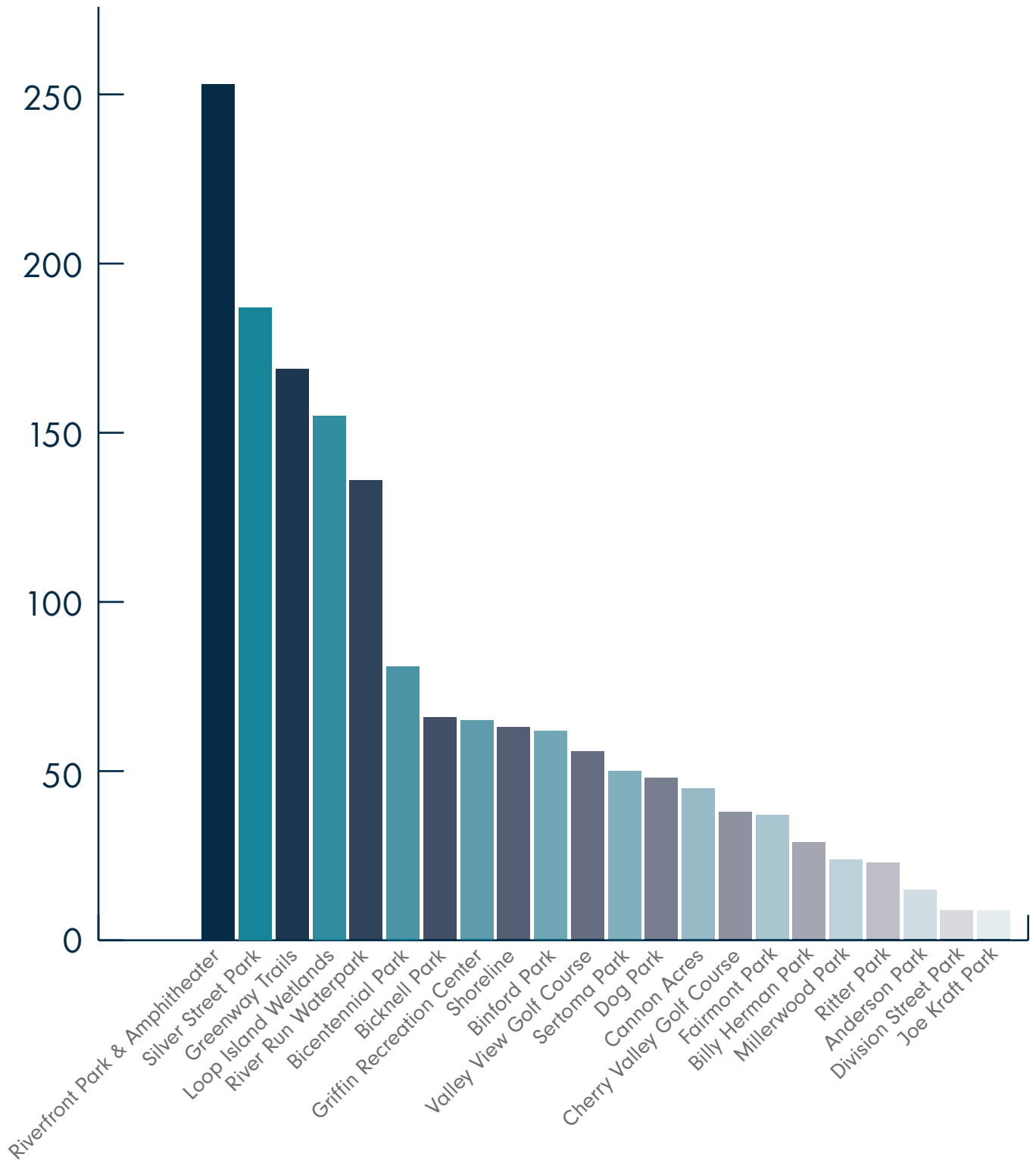
Most Needed Facilities/Improvements

1. Restrooms in parks and along trails (51.6%)
2. Natural areas for hiking/nature-viewing/picnicking (49.5%)
3. Additional greenway/bike trails (36.6%)
4. Internal loop trails within existing parks (33.4%)
5. Tennis/pickleball courts (18.0%)
6. Expanded disc golf course (17.5%)

Top Youth Programming Needs

1. Outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, etc. (55.9%)
2. Hobby / interest classes such as crafts, gardening, cooking, etc. (5.5%)
3. Nature programs / environmental education (49.4%)
4. Special events (41.8%)
5. Summer camps (34.1%)

FIGURE 3.3: PARK FACILITIES USAGE



Top Adult Programming Needs

1. Outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, etc. (51.8%)
2. Hobby / interest classes such as crafts, gardening, cooking, etc. (50.5%)
3. Fitness classes such as yoga, martial arts, Zumba, etc. (48.07%)
4. Kayaking / water-sport activities (43.2%)
5. Nature programs / environmental education (37.8%)

Top Other Programming Needs

1. Community events (68.3%)
2. Outdoor winter activities (50.6%)
3. Family or adult/child activities (49.0%)

Top Desired Capital Improvement Projects

1. Add trails for walking/jogging/biking (51.5%)
2. Add new parks to the park System (28.9%)
3. Add another splash pad (21.1%)
4. Update playground equipment (18.6%)
5. Expanded disc golf courses (18.4%)
6. Add an inclusive playground (18.4%)

Top 10 Write-In Priorities Identified by Respondents

This question was an open-ended question in the survey. A total of 250 people wrote responses to this question which was approximately 55.4% of all respondents.

1. **Safety (22.0%):** Respondents thought improving safety should be a top priority and specifically mentioned items such as adding lighting to parks and trails, increased patrol or surveillance, and increasing safety/security measures as the community grows.
2. **Maintenance of Existing Parks (18.3%):** Respondents want increased management of parks, trails and restrooms, including repair of broken facilities/amenities.
3. **Trails (15.0%):** Respondents want connectivity to the existing park system via loop trails, paved trails, nature / hiking trails, mountain biking trails, bike facilities, and more trails within the parks.

4. **Update Existing Parks (11.8%):** Respondents requested updating of existing play equipment, improvement of existing trails/paths, adding amenities such as drinking fountains, seating and shade to parks, and updating /improving of parks to be accessible and inclusive.
5. **Disc Golf (9.8%):** Respondents want disc golf amenities.
6. **Nature (7.7%):** Respondents requested nature or naturalized areas incorporated in the parks. Some suggested ways included planting native plants instead of mowing large open fields, more nature park areas like the riverfront, preservation of existing natural areas, a nature center, nature trails and nature activities/education.
7. **Pickleball (7.7%):** Respondents want pickleball amenities.
8. **Programming (7.3%):** Respondents requested more programming and activities at neighborhood parks, programs being fully implemented and funded, community events/concerts, more outdoor summer and school break programs with on-site paid program staff, senior programming, more outdoor recreation, hobby/interest and nature programming, pickleball league, winter activities, and more awareness of existing programming opportunities.
9. **Inclusion (7.3%):** Respondents requested accessible/inclusive playground equipment, ADA accessible natural areas, accessibility to and in parks, and accessible restrooms. Most respondents requested accessible and inclusive play equipment or generally wanted improved accessibility.
10. **Restrooms (6.9%):** Respondents want restroom facilities in parks and along trails. They want restrooms to be accessible, open and to be available year round.

PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENT

New Albany Parks and Recreation hosted an informal public outreach event at a New Albany High School Basketball Game as an effort to gain more public input from the age group 24 years or younger. The basketball game was on February 10, 2023 at 7:30pm at New Albany High School. Presentation boards, a jumbo-tron graphic, comment cards and survey fliers were used to engage attendees and gain public input for the plan. These materials were available at a station set up in the lobby. All outreach materials can be found in the appendix. Following the game, survey responses increased by over 120 responses.



NEW ALBANY BASKETBALL GAME
Image Source: Sideline Sports News

PUBLIC MEETING

A open house style public meeting was held on February 22, 2023 at 5:30pm at New Albany City Hall. A total of 13 members of the public attended the public meeting, not including park or park board staff. This meeting was advertised in the newspaper and on social media, and several of those present stated that they saw the notice in the newspaper. A presentation was given to inform the public on parks and recreation master planning and to share the results of the planning efforts thus far. Presentation boards were also used to engage attendees and provide them an opportunity to share more feedback and input for the plan. All presentation materials and meeting advertisements can be found in the appendix.

Below is a summary of the feedback given at the public meeting:

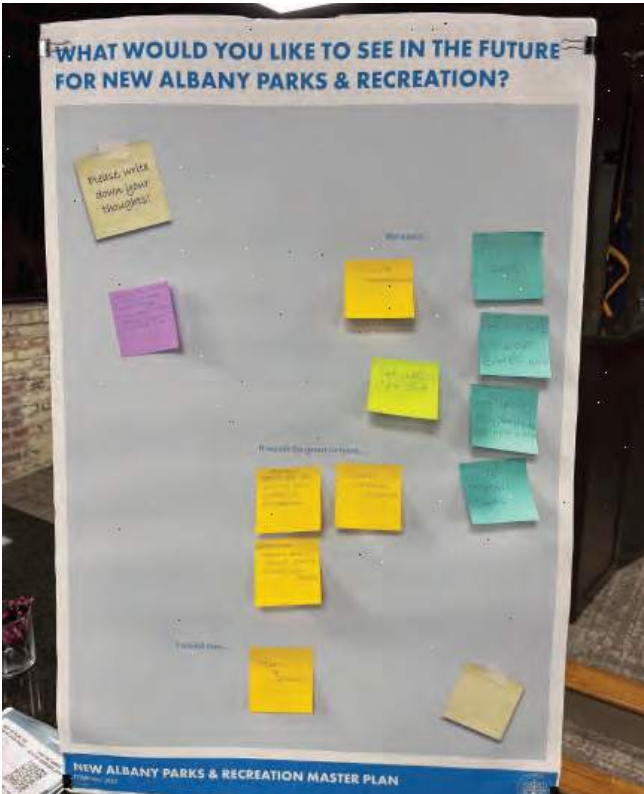
- Attendees identified the following needs:
 - Inclusive playgrounds
 - Restrooms
 - Maintenance and repair trails at Loop Island Wetlands
 - Improved advertising of offerings
 - More trash receptacles along Greenway
 - Partnership with Origin Park
- Attendees identified the following desired improvements:
 - Natural playgrounds/playscapes to bring nature in the City
 - Afterschool programs and social events during school breaks
 - Outdoor exercise stations
 - Stairway at Bicknell Park on southwest end for Center Street neighborhood access
 - Trees at Bicknell Park

PLAN PRESENTATION

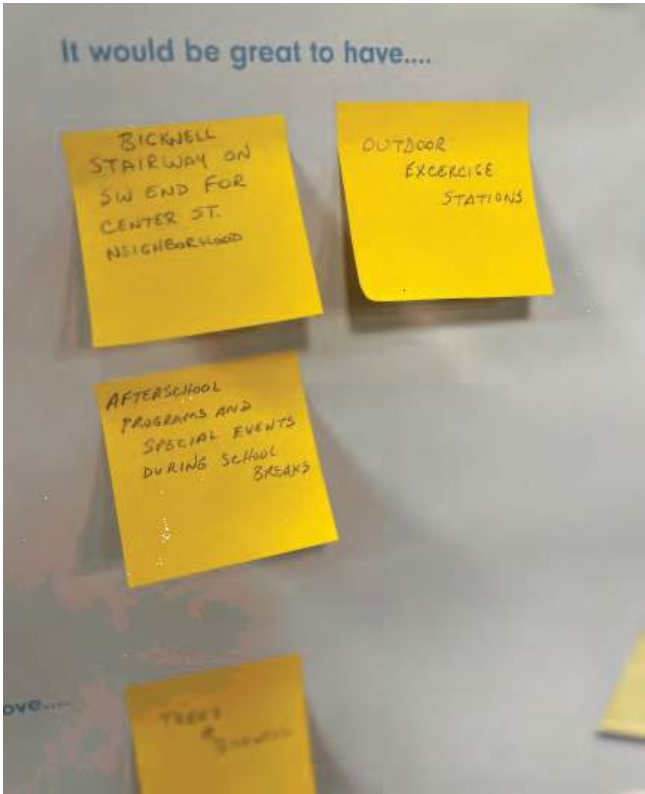
A final presentation of the plan highlighting plan recommendations was held at New Albany City Hall at the Board of Works meeting on March 21, 2023 at 10:00 am. Ten people attended the meeting.



PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2023



PUBLIC MEETING INPUT BOARD



PUBLIC MEETING INPUT BOARD

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Community involvement is a fundamental component in parks and recreation planning. The information gathered through these methods aids in the development of recommendations that will guide New Albany Parks and Recreation in future planning and development decisions.

Below are the key takeaways and themes from all public input methods:

- New Albany Parks and Recreation has a strong and dedicated team passionate about providing quality parks and recreation facilities and programming for its community.
- People are especially proud of and value:
 - Riverfront Park/Amphitheater
 - Silver Street Park
 - Greenway trails
 - River Run Waterpark
 - Loop Island Wetlands
- People especially value and enjoy:
 - Community events at the parks
 - Walking/jogging/exercise
 - Bicycling
 - Using the playgrounds
 - Eating out at the parks
- Improvements are needed for New Albany Parks and Recreation to continue strengthening its park system, facilities, and programming to better meet community needs and includes:
 - Increasing accessibility of park facilities, including parking, walkways, playgrounds, and additional programming for populations with disabilities.
 - A desire for new parks to be added to the system.
 - A desire for more naturalized park and play spaces.
 - A desire for additional trails and greenways.
 - Adding amenities such as disc golf and pickleball.
 - Updating amenities such as playgrounds and shelters.
 - Increasing amenities such as more walking trails, benches, and shade.
 - Adding additional restrooms to park facilities and trails.
 - Additional programming such as outdoor recreation and nature-based programs, leagues, winter activities and hobby/interest classes.
 - Increasing marketing and advertisement of existing programs and park events.
 - Increasing maintenance at park facilities.
 - Increasing funding or the operational budget to support increased park maintenance, support existing and new staff, and to be able to provide more parks and recreation activities and spaces.
 - Long-term needs for additional indoor facilities with sports courts and turf.

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4 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT





HISTORY OF THE PARKS BOARD

Formal parks and recreation planning in New Albany was initiated in the 1930s with the creation of the City of New Albany Parks and Recreation Department. The City maintained their own department until 1994, when they joined with the Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department. In 2013, the City again formed its own New Albany Parks and Recreation to oversee park development and offerings within the City. The parks board has four members.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

This plan serves to support and enhance the mission and vision statements of New Albany Parks and Recreation. Below are the existing mission and vision statements for New Albany Parks and Recreation; these were not modified during the development of the plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

"New Albany Parks & Recreation strives to enrich the quality of life and well-being of our citizens, visitors, and future generations by creating opportunities for each to learn, grow, and play through use of our various parks and recreation programs."

VISION STATEMENT

"To continuously improve and plan for future growth and expansion of our parks, special use venues, facilities, open spaces, walking trails, and recreational programs."

PARKS AND RECREATION SLOGAN

The slogan for New Albany Parks and Recreation, "Creating Community Through Parks, Programs and the People We Serve", is also supported through the recommendations of this plan.

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

STAFFING

New Albany Parks and Recreation is currently staffed with 20 full-time employees and, at times, can employ nearly 200 people, including part-time and seasonal staff to help operate special-use facilities such as River Run Waterpark and the Silver Street Park indoor-use facility. A department employee pyramid is located on the following page.

One important consideration for the future is staffing needs. As New Albany Parks and Recreation continues to grow and offer additional amenities and programming to residents, staffing levels will need to be considered.

New Albany Parks and Recreation is working to not only maintain functional integrity for existing facilities and programs, but also focusing on improvements and expansion to current offerings. As Parks and Recreation continues to make significant upgrades and expand recreational opportunities, it will be important to fill vacant positions and monitor staffing needs to meet their goals.

Additional responsibilities placed on Parks and Recreation, either in the form of new facilities or additional responsibilities for programming, may require the provision of additional staffing resources. This can be accomplished in a number of ways, including the following methods:

- Additional full-time department staff to fulfill specific needs required from park expansion
- Hiring additional seasonal staff to fulfill additional peak season demand created by new facilities and programs
- Contracting with outside companies for the maintenance and operations of specific park and recreation functions

BUDGET

New Albany Parks and Recreation currently oversees 17 different recreation areas with an operating budget of \$2,685,861. In the last plan, the park oversaw 16 recreation areas and the operating budget was \$2,085,200.00

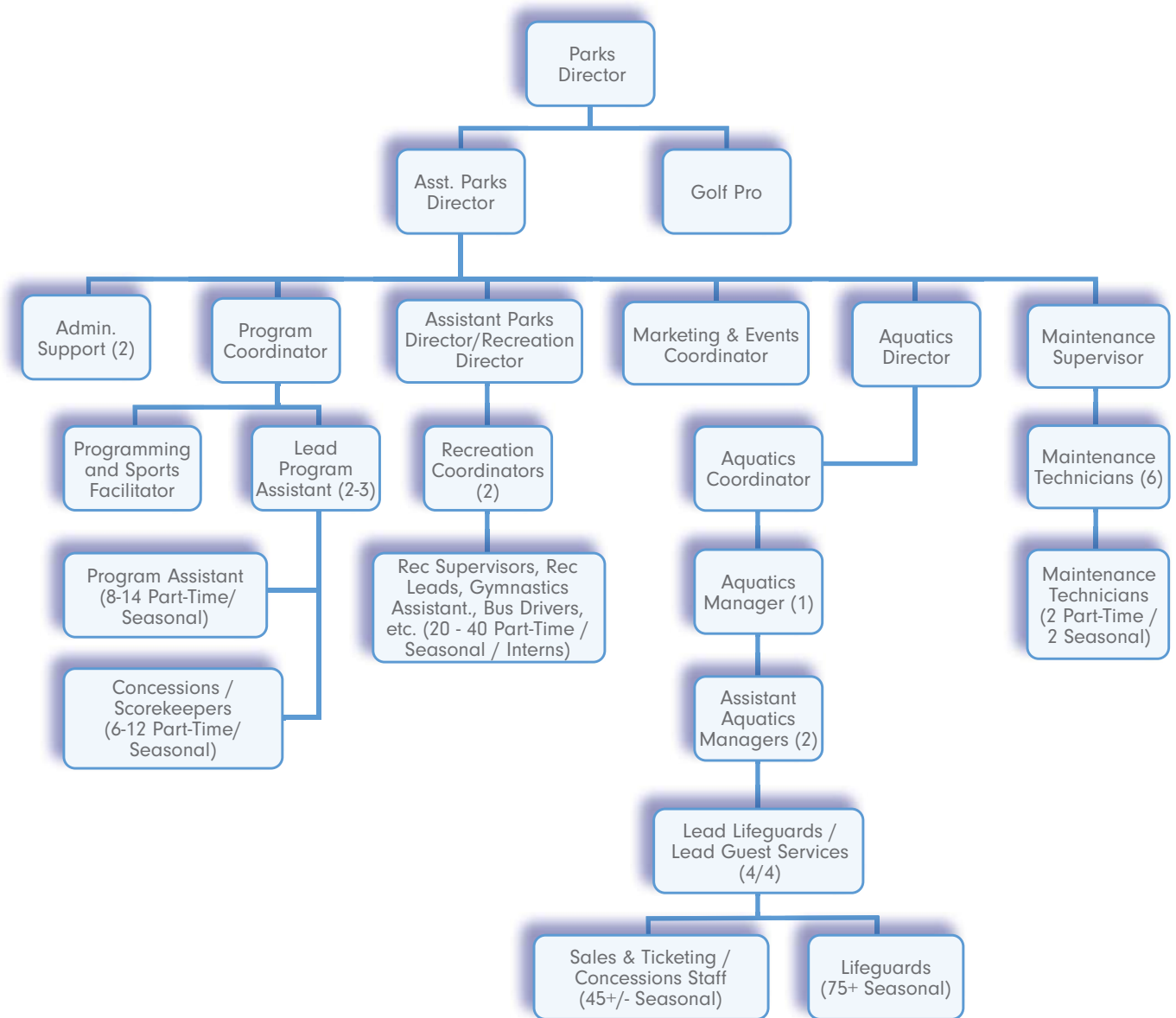
The operating budget covers items such as:

- Staff salaries and wages
- Operations
- Programs
- Services
- Supplies
- Utilities/overhead
- Maintenance - including all buildings, equipment, sports fields, and properties.

The current budget is strictly operational. Any facility and capital improvements over \$5,000 must be requested through the City. Funds for capital improvements are dispersed separately through the City.

The New Albany Redevelopment Commission has also provided funding to the parks in the past several years towards playground updates. Updates to playgrounds at Bicknell and Griffin were completed with their assistance.

FIGURE 4.1: NEW ALBANY PARKS & RECREATION EMPLOYEE PYRAMID



CURRENT PROGRAMMING

New Albany Parks and Recreation offers robust programs to residents of New Albany and is very active on their Facebook platform, posting about upcoming events and programming opportunities. Residents can also search for programming opportunities on the park's website by adult, teen, youth, and preschool opportunities, and by age, park location, or type of programming.

In addition to the Online search tool, the City produces recreation programming brochures for summer, fall and winter. These brochures can be downloaded from the parks website or picked up at locations offering programming. Examples of these brochures have been included in the appendix.

Most activities take place at Griffin Recreation Center and Silver Street Park. The Bud Flynn Senior Center in Bicknell Park also hosts some activities. Some events, such as 3-on-3 basketball, soccer, and movie night occur at multiple parks throughout the City. New Albany Parks and Recreation also provides programming at recreation centers located in public housing developments maintained by the New Albany Housing Authority, such as the Parkview and Riverside centers.

A sampling of the various programming opportunities can be found to the right. The City is constantly trying to add new programs and opportunities that vary with the season, so while all attempts have been made to include all programming types, this list is certainly not exhaustive.

PARK AND FAMILY EVENTS

- Family Easter Egg Hunt
- Water Wars
- Spring Training Camp for Youth Baseball
- Cub Scout Day Camp
- Jingle Fest
- Bike New Albany and Block Party
- Valley View Adult & Child Golf
- Summer Games
- MLK Celebration
- Story-Time and Craft
- Prince & Princess Party
- Summer Kick-off
- Indiana Wild
- Nature & Outdoors
- Family Movie Night
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Touch a Truck
- Miscellaneous Dog Park events

PRESCHOOL/YOUTH

- Little Sluggers Pre-Tee Ball
- Glitz & Glitter
- Pillowcase Art
- Works of Art
- Fairy Garden
- Fun with Food
- Stretch-n-Grow Preschool Fitness
- Wiggles & Giggles Indoor Play
- Nature & Outdoors
- Jump & Shout Cheer Leading Camp
- Muscle Hustle
- Stories & STEM
- Swim Lessons

YOUTH/TEEN SPORTS

- After-School Programming
- Enrichment Classes and Camps
- Water Wars / Summer Sizzle
- Youth Flag Football
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney
- Junior Bulldog Youth Football Camp
- Hot Shot Basketball Contest
- Flag Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Girls Basketball
- Soccer
- Gymnastics
- Baseball Camp
- Indoor Youth Tennis
- Adventure Club

ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES

- Indoor Co-ed Kickball
- Indoor Co-ed Whiffle Ball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Dodgeball
- Outdoor 7-on-7 Flag Football
- Hot Shot Basketball Contest
- Cornhole
- Slow Pitch Softball
- Co-ed Softball
- Mens Softball
- 3-on-3 Basketball
- Volleyball
- Pickleball

ADULT AND ADULT FITNESS

- Art on Canvas
- Out to Lunch Brunch
- Women's Self-Defense
- 21 Day Fix
- Zumba
- Yoga
- A Better Me Club (disabled adults)
- Special Friends Club (disabled adults)
- Hand of Art
- Open Gym

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Special Friends
- Special Needs Christmas Party
- Everyone Plays Today
- Sports & Wellness
- Music Therapy

SENIOR OUTREACH

- Senior Clubs
- Brunch & Movie
- Out to Lunch Bunch
- Bingo
- Site & Fit Workshop

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There are also other community resources, such as the YMCA, which offer additional recreation programming. New Albany Parks and Recreation have a great relationship with the YMCA and partner on several offerings, including:

- YMCA-led Bootcamp at Silver Street Park
- YMCA-led soccer at Cannon Acres Park
- YMCA-led water aerobics and water walking at River Run Waterpark
- YMCA-led field trips during summer camp to River Run Waterpark
- New Albany Parks and Recreation lifeguard classes at YMCA
- New Albany Parks and Recreation field trips for swimming at the YMCA

Parks and Recreation is also in conversation with the YMCA about future opportunities for TeeBall and Coach Pitch at Billy Herman Park

Several other sports leagues and organizations can be found throughout the community as well and utilize New Albany Parks and Recreation facilities such as Anderson Park, Billy Herman Park, Binford Park, Cannon Acres Park and Silver Street Park for practices, games, and tournaments. Groups include New Albany Youth Soccer League, and Indiana University Southeast athletics.

Recreational amenities in the greater region are discussed in Chapter 2.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Since the primary purpose of New Albany Parks and Recreation annual budget is to fulfill the previously discussed operational needs, it is important to for Parks and Recreation to be aware of additional revenue resources that may assist with desired and anticipated capital improvement costs.

The current structure of Parks and Recreation is such that a large number of these capital improvement needs will be met through other city sources, such as existing or new TIF districts and funding from the Redevelopment Commission. However, greater access to funding sources dedicated solely to parks related improvements will allow greater flexibility for Parks and Recreation to implement its long-term vision.

There are many avenues that Parks and Recreation can explore for the funding of new facilities and programs. It should be noted that while these avenues can help with upfront capital costs and implementation, Parks and Recreation will need to ensure its operating budget is updated accordingly to match the needs of any future investments for long-term sustainability and success of these amenities.

Some of the more commonly used and easily accessible options in Indiana include the following:

- Development Impact Fees, such as Recreation Impact Fees
- Special Event and Facility Revenue Streams
- Matching Grant Programs
- Crowdfunding
- Endowment Programs

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

In 1991, the Indiana General Assembly passed an impact fee bill that created an alternative funding mechanism for infrastructure improvements, including for new and expanded park facilities, in fast growing areas. The premise is to pass along the fees associated with building new infrastructure to the residents that will be utilizing the infrastructure.

These impact fees, however, cannot be used to finance the current needs of improvements required to raise existing deficiencies. With New Albany's current projected growth, these are likely not a viable source at this time but should be considered if/when New Albany grows beyond current city limits.

SPECIAL EVENT AND FACILITY REVENUE STREAMS

Fees for facility rentals and special events are likely the most direct and near-term opportunity to impact on-going Parks and Recreation funding. These fees should be compared against neighboring, peer communities and recreation providers. With a higher percentage of lower-income residents compared to the region, Parks and Recreation must balance access to resources for these residents along with ensuring sustainability of these same resources. One approach would be to evaluate if instituting sliding scales is feasible for existing program/facility fees.

Another approach would be to apply differing rates for New Albany residents than Floyd County, Indiana, or out of state. River Run Waterpark already has a similar rate schedule for Floyd County, Indiana and out-of-state residents.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAMS

There are a number of available matching grant programs administered through federal, state, and local resources. The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) highlights several on their website at <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/>.

These programs offer advantages to a community already investing local dollars into a project. Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) also has a number of funding programs available for use upon the completion of this master plan. Two of their most popular programs are briefly discussed below:

- Indiana Trails Program (ITP) through the IDNR. This fund is for land acquisition and/or development projects that provide public access to trails. It is an 80/20 match with a \$400,000 maximum grant. Applications are due by March 1st.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through the IDNR. This fund can assist with land acquisition and/or outdoor recreation facility construction or renovation. It is a 50/50 match with a \$500,000 maximum grant. Grant applications are due June 1st.

It is important to note that most grant programs require a match and several are reimbursement based, meaning the funds have to be spent by the grant recipient first and then submitted for reimbursement by the grant program. Nonetheless, these grants can help funding from existing city sources go much further for new development.

CROWDFUNDING

One avenue that has gained traction in recent years is crowd-funding improvements, especially when there is a passionate group of people excited to help fund a new amenity or improvement. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has established the CreatINg Places Program in partnership with Patronicity, which has helped facilitate park and recreation improvements across the State. With CreatINg places, projects that meet crowdfunding goals can receive a matching grant between \$5,000 and \$50,000. In fact, this program was used towards the recently completed, and very popular, Kevin Hammersmith Memorial Park Playground in Floyd County.

Patronicity is also a popular crowd-funding platform on its own, with a specific focus towards placemaking and quality-of-life projects. Over \$31 million has been funded across more than 1,500 projects through the platform.

ENDOWMENT PROGRAMS

Lastly, endowment programs specifically tailored to the funding of future park facilities, commonly referred to as a 'Friends of the Park' organization or parks endowment, is a resource communities across the State have utilized. Starting a 'Friends of the Park' group requires a core group of people who are willing to work hard, serve as initial officers, coordinate articles of incorporation, establish non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service and support the group's organization in the first few years. These groups can be set-up for the benefit of a specific park, or greater park system. For example, a popular neighborhood with a dedicated group of users could form a parks endowment for the specific park they are passionate about.

A 'Friends of the Park' group will allow New Albany Parks and Recreation to benefit from cash gifts, in-kind support, real estate, planned giving and gifts in honor, memory or special occasions. This type of organization may also establish an endowment fund to ensure long-term financial stability and support to the parks.

Alternatively, another option is to explore setting up an endowment fund with existing charitable organizations such as the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana. This approach requires less up-front effort. By joining efforts with the local community foundation, park-system advertising can be combined, the responsibility of overseeing donations and charitable gifts can be shared, and proper management of those donor contributions can be ensured. While it will not raise significant funds in the short term, this could be a major long-term revenue stream for the park system and also provides opportunity for giving to commemorate special occasions or in memoriam.

5

PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY





PARK SYSTEM

The New Albany Park System is comprised of 17 facilities under New Albany Parks and Recreation jurisdiction. While the park system has been in the community for decades, New Albany Parks and Recreation and Parks Board were formed in 2013.

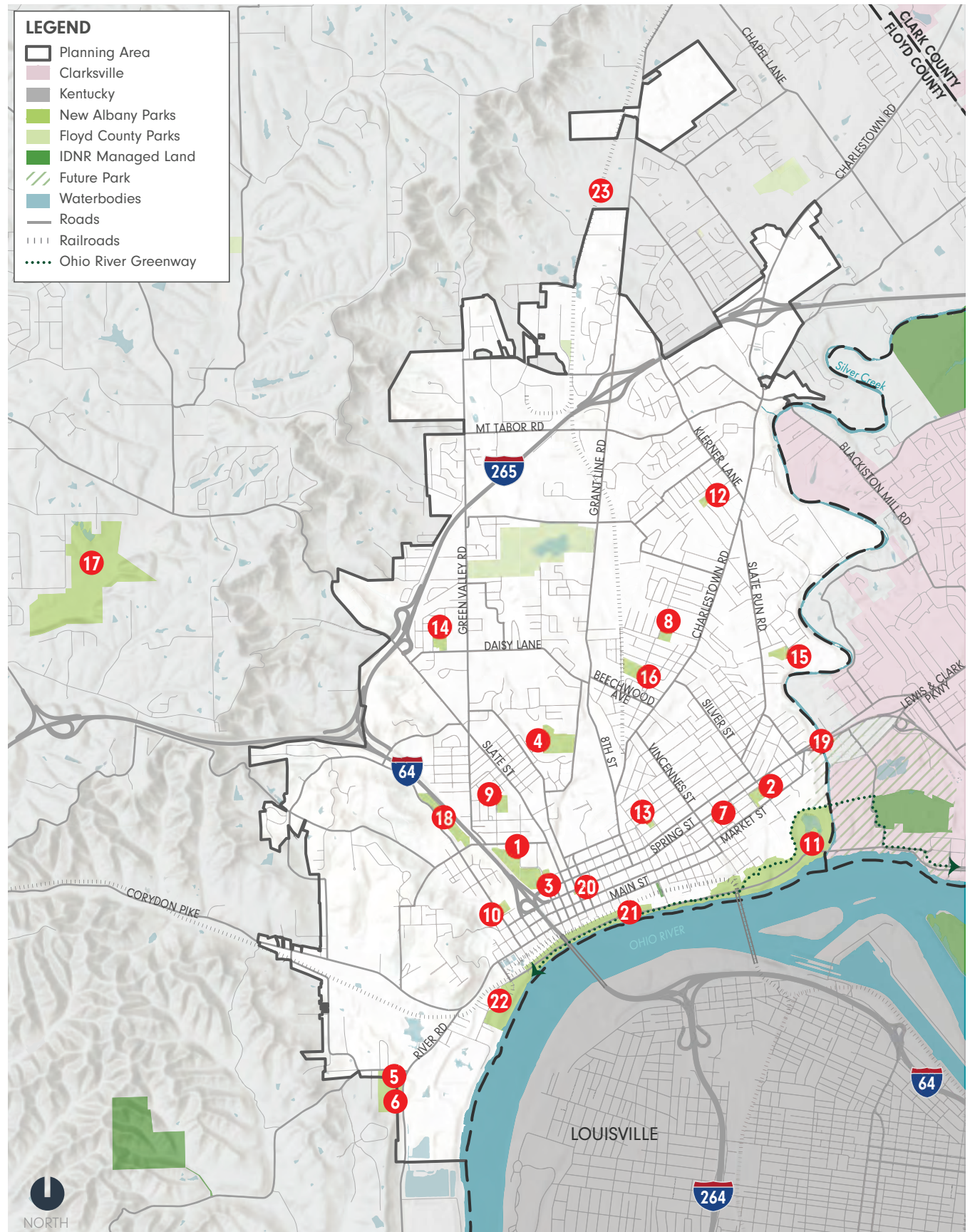
EXISTING PARKS

- 1 Anderson Park
- 2 Bicknell Park
- 3 Billy Herman Park
- 4 Binford Park
- 5 Cannon Acres Park
- 6 Dog Park
- 7 Division Street Park
- 8 Fairmont Park
- 9 Griffin Recreation Center
- 10 Joe Kraft Park
- 11 Loop Island Wetlands
- 12 Millerwood Park
- 13 Ritter Park
- 14 River Run Waterpark
- 15 Sertoma Park
- 16 Silver Street Park
- 17 Valley View Golf Course

There are several facilities which New Albany Parks and Recreation does not have direct control over but are city facilities. New Albany Parks and Recreation shares in maintenance for these areas and thus are included in this report. These facilities are:

- 18 Cherry Valley Golf Course
- 19 Silver Creek Landing
- 20 Bicentennial Park
- 21 Riverfront Park
- 22 New Albany Shoreline (in development)
- 23 South Monon Freedom Trail (in development)

FIGURE 5.1: NEW ALBANY PARK SYSTEM



CURRENT PARK SYSTEM AMENITY SNAPSHOT





COMMUNITY RESOURCES

In addition to the facilities owned and run by the City and New Albany Parks and Recreation, a number of other recreational facilities can be found throughout the broader community and region. Within the City, the two largest providers of these additional facilities are Floyd County Parks and Recreation and the New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation (NAFCCSC). The map to the right illustrates additional community resources that were referenced in the public survey.

Sam Peden Community Park is a Floyd County park facility, with over 104 acres, a fishing lake, walking trail, and multiple sports courts and fields. The County also operates the Southern Indiana Sports Center on the north side of the City, which hosts four indoor sports courts open to the public. The County is planning and developing a new regional park in Georgetown off Indiana 62 adjacent to the Novaparke campus. The park will be the largest in Floyd County at 200 acres and include space for natural woodland and wildlife, a comprehensive trail system, recreational areas for youth sports and family activities, as well as preserved historic farmland that will offer opportunities for 4-H livestock demonstrations and agricultural exploration and discovery.

The City should consider what these facilities provide to the residents of New Albany and focus their efforts on amenities and services not provided by the County or not accessible by city residents, to avoid overlap and duplication of services.

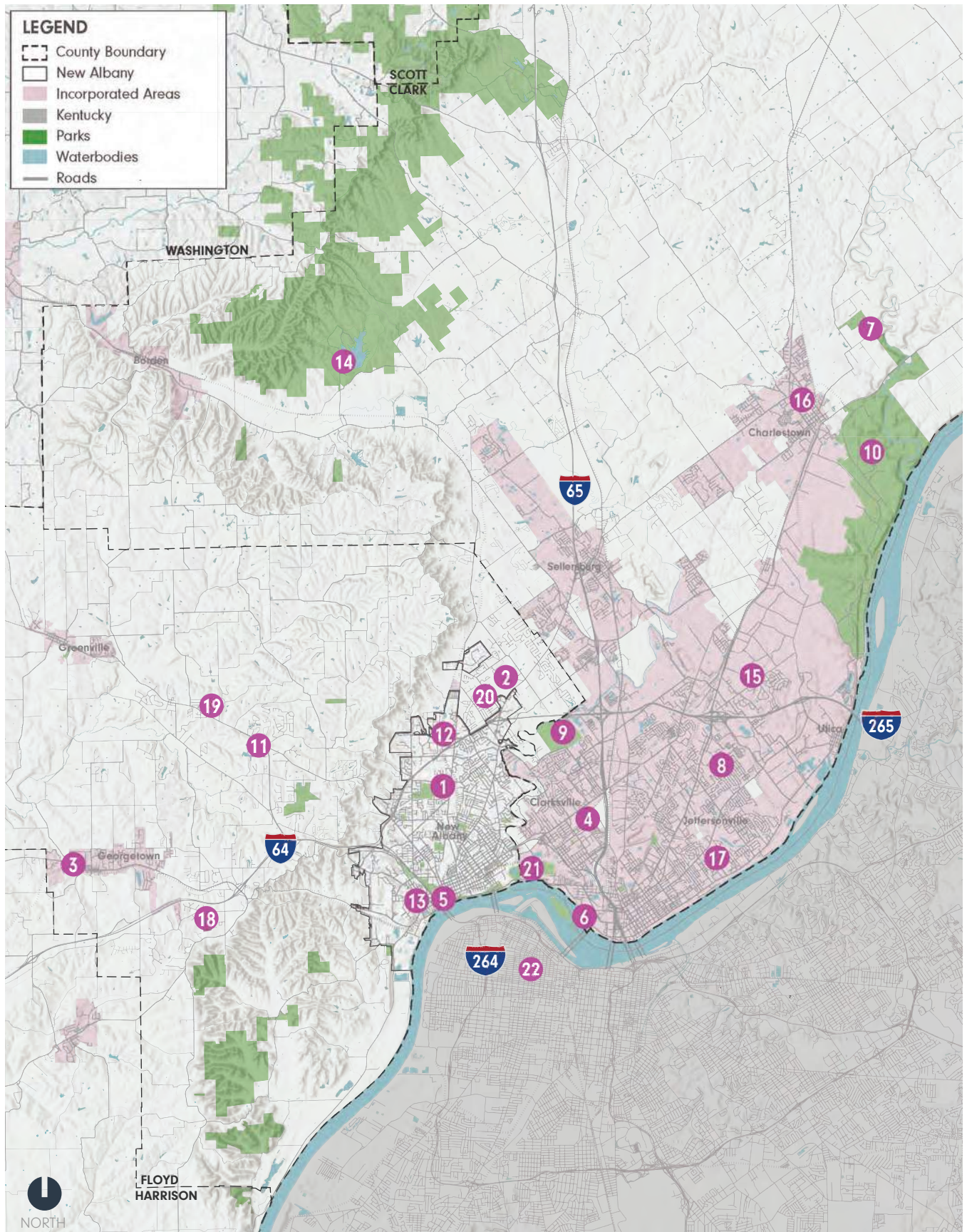
Most of the public schools in the City have playgrounds or athletic courts and fields open to the public. Facilities at two of these schools, Fairmont and Ritter Park, double as facilities for both schools and the park system. More formal partnership should be pursued with NAFCCSC to define other recreational resources available to the community.

Survey respondents also referenced facilities located in Clarksville, Jeffersonville, other Floyd County Parks and Louisville Parks including Iceland Sports Complex, Parklands of Floyds Fork and Cherokee Park.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

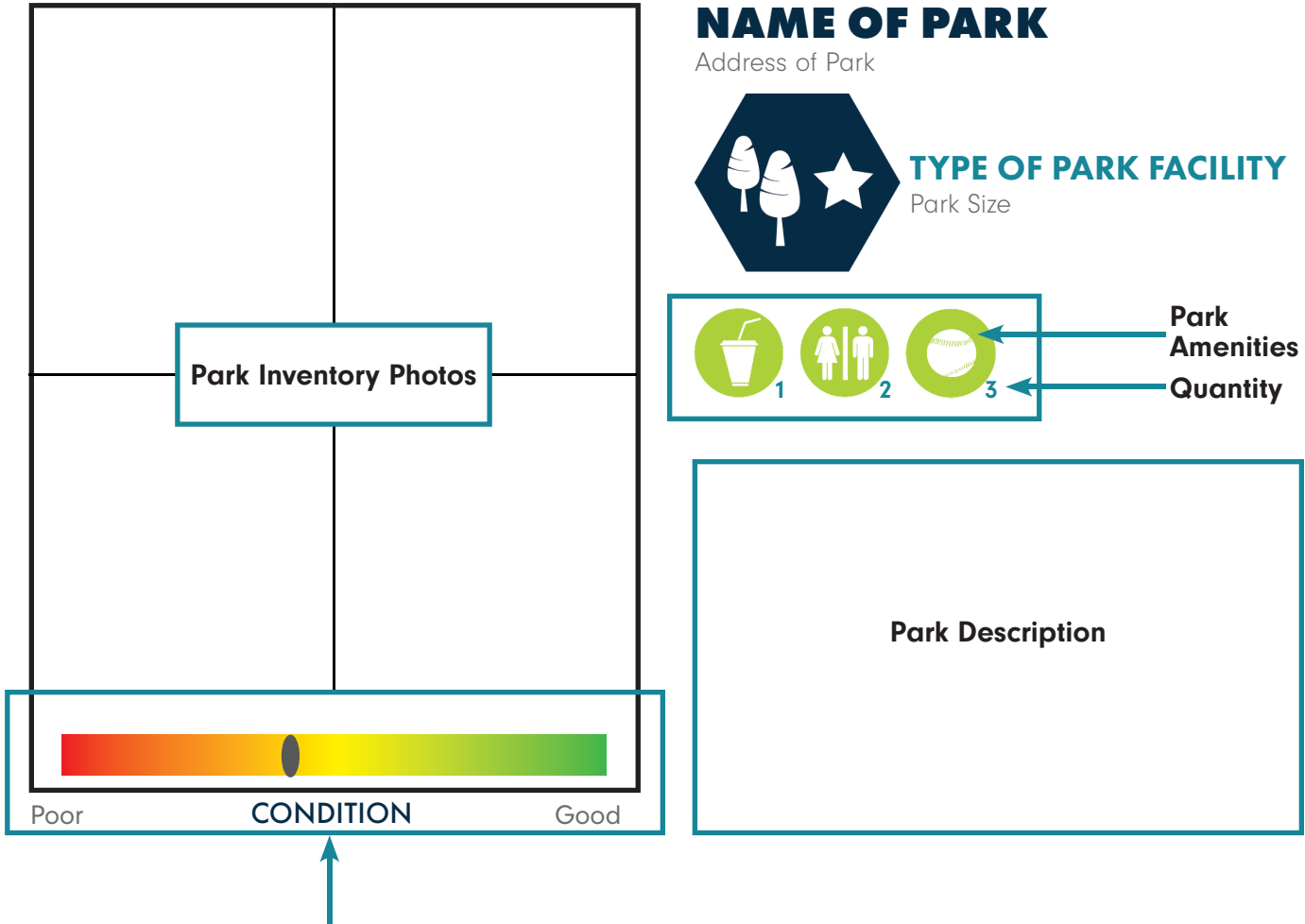
- 1 Sam Peden Community Park
- 2 Kevin Hammersmith Memorial Park
- 3 Georgetown Christian Church
- 4 Ray Lawrence Park
- 5 Floyd County Family YMCA
- 6 Falls of the Ohio State Park
- 7 Nine Penny Nature Reserve
- 8 Vissing Park
- 9 Lapping Park
- 10 Charlestown State Park
- 11 Mount Saint Francis Center
- 12 Southern Indiana Sports Center
- 13 Silver Hills Historical Nature Trail & Wildlife Sanctuary
- 14 Deam Lake State Recreation Area
- 15 Chapel Lake Park
- 16 Family Activities Park
- 17 Perrin Family Park
- 18 Garry E Caven Park
- 19 Galena-Lamb Park
- 20 Graceland Church
- 21 Origin Park (under development)
- 22 Louisville Parks and Recreation Facilities

FIGURE 5.2: NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY RESOURCES



PARK INVENTORY KEY

The next several pages walk through current inventories for each park. The organization for each inventory is shown below.



OVERALL PARK CONDITION

Park condition was evaluated on a general observation of park facilities and are intended to give a comparison of facilities to one another on a continuum of poor to good. Facilities were observed on one day only and may not reflect recent maintenance or improvements. Features of poor, fair, and good facilities are listed below.

Poor – Amenities may need major repairs or be completely unusable. Areas may not be maintained well or present safety concerns. Poor conditions discourage park use.

Fair – Amenities may need minor or moderate repairs, but are operational. Some deficiencies or safety concerns may be present. Fair conditions may discourage some park use by residents, but still maintain their importance to the area.

Good – Amenities need no repairs and are fully operational. There may be some minor cosmetic defects that are easily repaired. Areas are clean, maintained well, and contain fully intact safety features. Good conditions encourage full and active park use.

TYPE OF PARK FACILITIES



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

These parks tend to be smaller, usually less than 5 acres and offer amenities such as walking trails, playgrounds and open space that can be utilized in a myriad of ways by the nearby residents. Because of population distribution, all parks within the New Albany Park System should serve as neighborhood parks.



COMMUNITY PARK

These parks tend to be larger than neighborhood parks and serve a wider area due to the amenities offered. They still cater to the nearby residents but offer amenities that can draw in people from a further distance including special programming, splash pads, dog parks, centerpiece playgrounds, etc.



SPECIAL USE PARK

These parks can vary in size, but are unique in that they more or less exist for a very narrow, specialized use that likely brings in users from a much wider area.



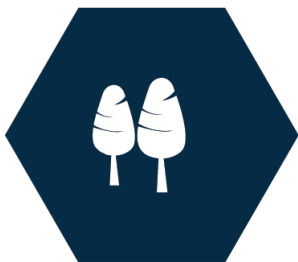
NATURE PARK

These parks contain large areas of natural, undesignated park space. Examples of natural space include large wooded areas, wetlands or meadows. Even though they are undesignated, they are still accessible to the public.



LINEAR PARK

These parks include narrow green space or signature trails and greenways which serve city-wide or regional connectivity.



MINI PARK

These parks include linear parks or signature trails and greenways which serve city-wide or regional connectivity.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

ANDERSON PARK

711 Hildreth Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1970

SPECIAL USE PARK

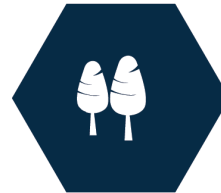
Size = 18.5 Acres



Anderson Park is used by adult and youth baseball and softball leagues and tournaments. It contains three 300-foot softball fields and each is equipped with lighting, scoreboards, covered dugouts, a scorers box, and bleachers for fan seating. To accommodate teams and spectators, there is a concession stand with covered seating for eating and two restroom facilities. This facility is located within the floodway and is subject to frequent flooding. There are no other amenities at this park that serve the surrounding neighborhoods.

BICENTENNIAL PARK

Corner of Pearl and Spring Streets



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2013

MINI PARK

0.3 Acres



Bicentennial Park is a popular downtown pocket park due to its role hosting the Summer Concert Series. When the park isn't being utilized for events, it becomes a passive recreation space with seating, trellises, green space and fountains. The park space is owned by the City, though not officially part of the responsibility of New Albany Parks and Recreation.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

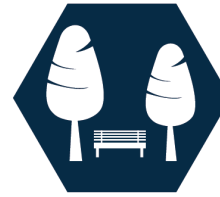
Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

BICKNELL PARK

315 Silver Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1931

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

5.5 Acres



Bicknell Park has a shelter, full court basketball court, open space for soccer, a well lit paved walkway around the park, restrooms and a playground. Since the last master plan, the restrooms, playground, benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles have been replaced. The basketball court is in fair condition. The Bud Flynn Center, a community building, is also located adjacent to this park which provides some programmable space.

**On Feb. 23, 2023, a portion of the playground was burned in an arson event.*

BILLY HERMAN PARK

600 Scribner Drive



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1934

SPECIAL USE PARK

10.8 Acres



This park is used by youth leagues for baseball. Billy Herman Park has four baseball fields of differing sizes, a batting cage, press box, concessions stand, restrooms, bleachers, a paved walking path, and is adjacent to Anderson Park. This facility is located within the floodway and is subject to frequent flooding. Flooding is washing out the fence line on the southeast field and also bringing trash and debris that becomes a maintenance and safety issue. The fence line of the northwest field is eroding near the creek.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

BINFORD PARK

1701 Graybrook Lane



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1952

COMMUNITY PARK

21.6 Acres



Binford Park is most well known and used for its nine soccer fields. The turf is in excellent condition and perfect for tournaments, leagues, and practices. Fields include four U5/6, one U7/8, two U10, and two U12. Other amenities include a full size basketball court, a playground, restroom and concessions. The playground is in fair to poor condition. Similar to Billy Herman and Anderson, Binford Park is located in the floodway.

CANNON ACRES PARK

1935 Budd Road



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2004

COMMUNITY PARK

30.9 Acres



Cannon Acres Park sports fields cover 28 acres that are primarily designated for youth soccer. This park offers an expansive flat grass space set within rolling topography and suburban neighborhoods. Other amenities include a dog park, walking paths and a disc golf course.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

CHERRY VALLEY GOLF COURSE

600 Cherry Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1961

SPECIAL USE PARK

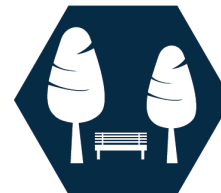
19.5 Acres



Built in 1932, this park contains a 9-hole par-3 golf course open to all golfers. The facility is currently leased through New Albany Parks and Recreation to an independent operator.

DIVISION STREET PARK

1728 Division Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1980

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

0.3 Acres



Situated between Ritter Park and Bicknell Park, Division Street Park offers a basketball court, a parking space, and a few benches. It is located next to the historic Division Street School. A new sidewalk connection has recently been provided to the park.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

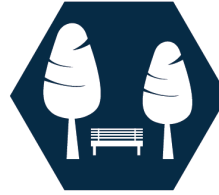
Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

FAIRMONT PARK

1725 Abbeydell Avenue



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1996

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

3.8 Acres



Fairmont Park is attached to Fairmont Elementary School. The park features a shelter with six picnic tables, basketball courts, practice ball fields, two playgrounds, and a paved lighted walk way around the entire park. The playgrounds are dated and worn down.

GRIFFIN RECREATION CENTER

1140 Griffin Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1952

COMMUNITY PARK

6.1 Acres



Griffin Recreation Center is the main recreational facility that serves the community with programs and activities for people of all ages. Amenities include restrooms, indoor gymnasium, softball field, volleyball court, two basketball goals, playground, and a mini disc golf course. Since the last plan, the playground, gym floor, gym padding, lighting, flooring and all doors and paint have been updated. The gym and kitchen are available to the public to be rented for special occasions.

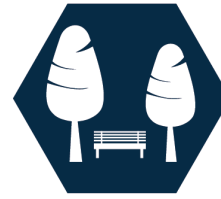
Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

JOE KRAFT PARK

500 W 7th Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1962

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

3.9 Acres



1



1



1



1

Joe Kraft Park primarily serves its surrounding neighborhood, though it is fairly underutilized. It has a playground, practice ball field, and two basketball goals. Falling Run Creek runs through the park, which has 1,000 linear feet of embankment within its boundaries. This facility is located in the floodway and is subject to frequent flooding.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

LOOP ISLAND WETLANDS

2200 E Main St



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1854

NATURE PARK

54.0 Acres



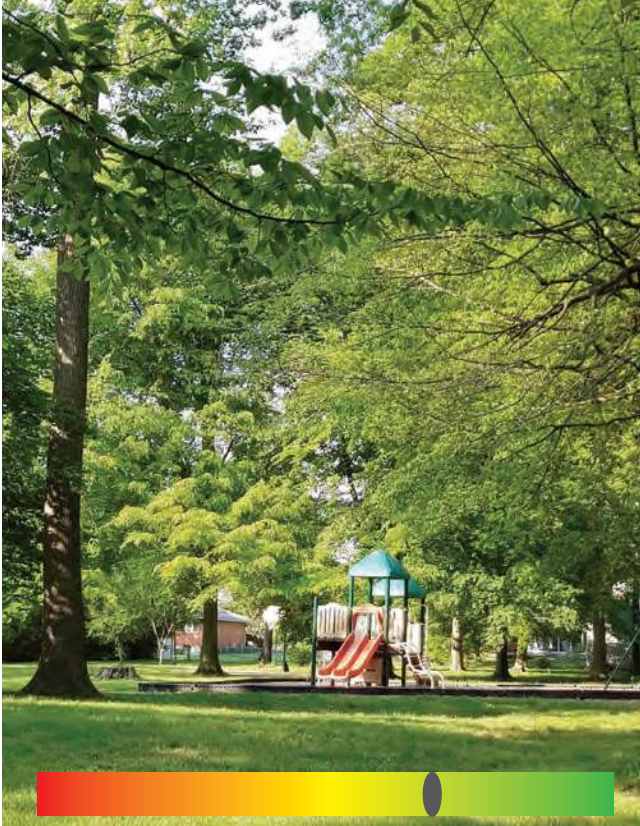
1



.9

Loop Island Wetlands is a nature and wildlife preservation area located on the eastern edge of the New Albany Shoreline. The site is accessible right along the Ohio River Greenway. Trails have been installed around the wetland since the last plan, though maintenance continues to be an issue due to a local beaver population and erosion from the Ohio River and Silver Creek.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

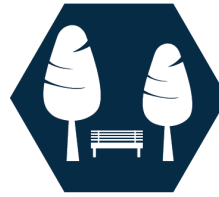
Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

MILLERWOOD PARK

1759 Millerwood Drive



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2005

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

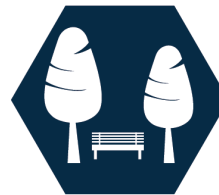
2.8 Acres



Millerwood Park is a neighborhood park with a playground and a basketball goal. It has a lot of creek frontage with three footbridges making this well shaded, peaceful park easily accessible from anywhere in the neighborhood. The park is very much a local neighborhood park, with no on-site parking available.

RITTER PARK

1218 Culbertson Avenue



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1996

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1.9 Acres



Ritter Park is located just east of S. Ellen Jones Elementary School. Ritter Park includes a playground, large covered shelter, two basketball goals, park benches, a paved walking path around the park and open green space. The previous shade fabric over the playground has been removed due to age.

Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

RIVER RUN WATERPARK

224 W Daisy Lane



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2015

SPECIAL USE PARK

4.3 Acres



Opened on June 26, 2015, River Run Waterpark has an activity pool, a children’s play pool with a large steamboat play feature, lazy river, four slides, lounge chairs, shade structures and concessions.

RIVERFRONT PARK

201 W Water Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1981

COMMUNITY PARK

88 Acres



Riverfront Park is home to the Ohio River Greenway, a large playground, a basketball court, a new skatepark called Flow Park and the New Albany Amphitheater. The amphitheater hosts community festivals and concerts. New Albany Parks and Recreation does not maintain the facilities located in Riverfront Park. The park is managed by the Department of Flood Control.

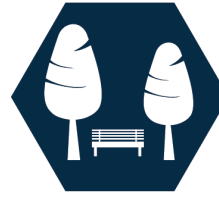
Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

SERTOMA PARK

1315 Mill Lane



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

1948

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

6.7 Acres



Sertoma Park is an isolated neighborhood park on the western edge of the City. It has a covered shelter, playground, half court basketball, a practice ball field, and a temporary restroom.

Photo Source: HWC Engineering



Poor **CONDITION** Good

SILVER CREEK LANDING

Under Spring Street Bridge near Providence Way



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2023

SPECIAL USE PARK

0.7 Acres



Silver Creek Landing is a new access point to Silver Creek. This project is currently under construction and is anticipated to open in 2023. The project is designed to provide residents of New Albany with safe and accessible access to Silver Creek. Silver Creek connects to the Ohio River and provides beautiful scenery, wildlife, and fishing. The project stabilizes the steep slope and provides an accessible ramp and stairs with a kayak railing.

Photo Source: City of New Albany



Poor **CONDITION** Good

SILVER STREET PARK

2043 Silver Street



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

2015

COMMUNITY PARK

13.8 Acres



Silver Street Park is a sport facility and park located in the center of the City. Amenities include a 50-yard by 50-yard indoor sports turf area and concessions along with several outdoor features such as a football/soccer stadium with a press box, bleachers, lights, and scoreboards, two basketball courts, skate park, splash pad, playground, 1/2 mile walking path, three shelters, and an entertainment pavilion.

Photo Source: Google Earth



Poor **CONDITION** Good

VALLEY VIEW GOLF COURSE

3748 Lawrence Banet Road, Floyds Knobs, IN



ESTABLISHMENT DATE

Undetermined

SPECIAL USE PARK

189.2 Acres



Valley View is an 18 hole golf course with a clubhouse and golf shop. While this facility is owned by New Albany Parks and Recreation, it is leased to a private operator. Due to its operation and location outside of the city limits and its specialized use, it has not been included with the analysis and recommendations discussed later in this plan.

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

CITY OF NEW ALBANY EXISTING POLICY

Since the last plan, the City completed an Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan (ADA Transition Plan) in 2018. The City of New Albany recognizes that it is important for its facilities, programs, and services to be available to all citizens and the general public. The plan established an ADA coordinator and outlines procedures for acknowledging and addressing grievances and requests for reasonable accommodations. The City of New Albany's ADA Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and initiating actions to ensure compliance.

This person is:

Scott Wood, ADA Coordinator
City of New Albany, Indiana
311 Hauss Square Room 329
New Albany, IN 47150
p: (812) 948-5333
e: swood@cityofnewalbany.com

Anyone who has an ADA concern or need in regards to one of the City's programs, services or facilities should complete the Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form. The contact information of the person making the request should be included as well as a description of why the accommodation is needed. The completed Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form should be submitted to the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator will respond to the individual requesting the accommodation within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the written request. ADA Accommodation and the Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form, can be found in the appendix.

The City established a formal Grievance Procedure that may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of New Albany. The Formal Grievance Procedure and the ADA Grievance Form can be found in the appendix.

NEW ALBANY PARKS SYSTEM POLICY

New Albany Parks and Recreation is under the jurisdiction of the City of New Albany in regards to ADA policy. However, New Albany Parks and Recreation and Parks Board also realize they have a responsibility to improve access to their facilities and programming where deficiencies exist. Assurance of Accessibility Compliance forms can be found in the appendix of this plan.

PARK SYSTEM

In the 2018 ADA Transition Plan, a self-evaluation and inventory was conducted on City of New Albany owned or operated facilities including some park facilities. Areas were reviewed in accordance with 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The on-site evaluation at each location included assessment of the parking area(s), accessible routes from the parking area(s) to the building entrance(s) and all publicly accessible areas within each facility.

Parks included in the self-evaluation and inventory are listed below. Barriers are identified in the self-evaluation. See the appendix for more detailed information.

- Anderson Park
- Billy Herman Park
- Binford Park
- Cannon Acres Park
- Division Street Park
- Fairmont Park
- Joe Kraft Park
- Millerwood Park
- Ritter Park
- River Run Waterpark
- Sertoma Park
- Silver Street Park
- Valley View Golf Course

The City also conducted a self-evaluation of the accessibility of all New Albany sponsored programs, classes and events such as tournaments, leagues, concerts, soccer, special events, movie night, swim lessons, after-school programs and more. No barriers were identified in the self-evaluation. See the appendix for more detailed information.

Since the last plan, the City has made significant progress in evaluating park facilities. It is recommended that future updates to the City's ADA Transition Plan should add the below missing park facilities listed below to the self-evaluation.

- Bicknell Park
- Bicentennial Park
- Cherry Valley Golf Course
- Griffin Street Park & Recreation Center
- Loop Island Wetlands
- Riverfront Park

Revisions to programs, classes or events offered through parks and recreation should be communicated to the ADA Coordinator for future ADA Transition Plan updates.

Given the higher percentages of population with a disability in New Albany, the City and New Albany Parks and Recreation should prioritize investing in infrastructure to make all parks and recreation facilities and programming accessible to all.

It should be noted that newer facilities, such as Silver Street Park, Binford Park, and the River Run Waterpark are accessible. New Albany Parks and Recreation currently offers several programs for disabled adults at the Griffin Recreation Center and the Flynn Center in Bicknell Park.

If accessible routes from park entrances and/or accessible parking are not present to accessible park amenities and facilities, then those park amenities and facilities are not actually accessible. A list of accessibility ideas and tips are provided in the appendix. The appendix also contains additional information regarding ADA accessibility for parks systems.

Some improvements to accessibility since the last plan include:

- New accessible path to skate park at Silver Street Park
- New restroom facilities added at Bicknell Park
- New parking spaces added to Sertoma Park with a sidewalk leading from the parking area to the playground and the shelter.

The following general issues were observed during review of the existing park system and should have further evaluation completed:

- Handicap parking is often not clearly designated and there are few paths leading from parking areas toward facilities within the parks.
- If restroom facilities are present, they are not always accessible. Uneven surfaces, tall thresholds and accessibility within the restroom itself are all present.
- Some play equipment is outdated and does not have adequate surfacing. The existing surfacing at other playgrounds often does not extend far enough from the play equipment, is not of an adequate depth and is not of a recommended material such as bonded wood chips or rubber surfacing.

*See appendix for Accessibility Compliance sheet.

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6

NEEDS ANALYSIS



OVERVIEW

The purposes of this chapter is to identify the needs of New Albany Parks and Recreation by comparing industry standards to the current park system. This is achieved by first reviewing a series of industry recognized parks and recreation benchmarks to help establish a baseline for the types of services and facilities which are currently in demand. This information is compared to the existing programs and facilities provided by New Albany Parks and Recreation to identify surpluses and deficits within the system. All this information is further influenced by the public input gathered through the various methods identified in Chapter 3.

It is important to note that the benchmarks reviewed in this chapter are just an inventory and review of data for comparison to New Albany Parks and Recreation. There is not a “one size fits all” approach to parks and recreation planning. Each community has unique needs, desires and challenges, and future planning should reflect this.

CURRENT TRENDS

SCORP AS A COUNTY COMPARISON

Indiana’s 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is an information resource that quantifies and analyzes the state’s outdoor recreation resources and is intended to support local, regional, and state-level recreation decision making. It is important to not only understand national recreational trends but also local recreational trends.

TRENDS

From the Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey results, the top-three reasons why respondents participate in outdoor recreation were:

1. To be with family and friends (38%)
2. Physical health (37%)
3. Mental health (34%)

The top-five outdoor recreation activities that respondents participated in more than once per week include:

1. Walking / hiking / jogging / running
2. Relaxation/spiritual renewal
3. Gardening / landscaping
4. Bird / wildlife watching
5. Health-related activities (Exercise, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates etc.)

The top ten “favorite” outdoor recreation activities described by respondents were:

1. Walking, running, jogging
2. Camping / RV camping
3. Hiking/backpacking
4. Fishing
5. Boating, wake-boarding, sailing, tubing, jet skiing, water skiing
6. Picnicking, barbecuing / cookout
7. Gardening, landscaping, yard work, mowing
8. Swimming, snorkeling, diving, scuba, splash pad
9. Bicycling
10. Golf

LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES

Indiana’s SCORP Level of Service (LOS) Guidelines recommend twenty acres of public recreation area per every 1,000 residents within a local area such as a county, township, city, or town. Public local recreation areas are described as being owned by the township, municipality, county, or being privately owned but open for public use. SCORP excludes all schools as many schools do not allow public access to their outdoor facilities.

New Albany is deficient in acreage outlined by Indiana’s SCORP. Based on the recommendation of twenty acres per 1,000 residents, New Albany should be providing 756 acres of public recreation area for a population of 37,841 (2020 US Census) and has current existing acreage of 482 leaving a local deficiency of 274 acres. Floyd County is identified as being deficient in local acreage with a deficit of approximately 697.37 acres and is listed as a “critical county” in the Indiana SCORP.

TOP-RATED RECREATION ACTIVITIES



SCORP: TOP-5 RATED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Walking/hiking/jogging/running
- Relaxation/spiritual renewal
- Gardening/landscaping
- Bird/wildlife watching
- Health-related activities (Exercise, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates etc.)

NRPA: TOP OUTDOOR FACILITIES PROVIDED BY AGENCIES

- Playgrounds
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts (outdoor)
- Youth baseball diamonds
- Adult softball fields

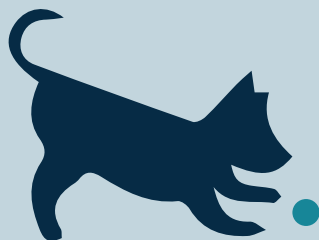


NRPA: TOP INDOOR FACILITIES PROVIDED BY AGENCIES

- Community centers
- Recreation centers
- Senior centers
- Performance amphitheater
- Nature centers

TPL: TOP RECREATIONAL TRENDS

- Interactive water feature
- Dog parks
- Pickleball
- Disc golf



SCORP: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

NRPA: National Recreation & Park Association

TPL: Trust for Public Land

While SCORP recommendations show a clear deficit in park acreage for New Albany and Floyd County as a whole, it is also important to note that benchmarks are not meant to be “one-size fits all” and each community is unique in their needs and resources. Adding new park acreage in New Albany will have to be done with a focus on infill and redevelopment of existing properties within the City.

Another important fact to consider is the acreage provided by other county resources such as Floyd County Parks. See Chapter 2 Community and Chapter 5 Park system Inventory for a more detailed list of resources.

TRAILS

Since the 1995 SCORP, Walking/Jogging/Running has been the top most popular outdoor recreation activity for Hoosiers. The Indiana SCORP includes an Indiana Trails Plan that identifies goals for 2021-2025. These goals are:

- Develop more miles of trails to meet need
- Better maintain Indiana’s existing trails
- Increase trail stakeholder capacity for trail management/use of best practices
- Improve trail user experience

As New Albany expands it’s trail network, it will be important to refer to the goals and strategies identified in the SCORP along with local planning strategies to ensure future trails are meeting the needs of the local community, region and state.

The Indiana Trails Plan also identified the Monon South (see Figure 6.1) as a potential trail corridor to be included in the Visionary Trail System in 2026. This is an old railroad corridor that stretches sixty-two miles from New Albany to just north of Mitchell. At the Governor’s January 10, 2023 State of the State Address, it was announced that \$29.5 million will be awarded from DNR to New Albany and Radius Indiana to acquire and begin development of this critical trail segment.

FIGURE 6.1: INDIANA SCORP NEW & POTENTIAL TRAILS CORRIDORS

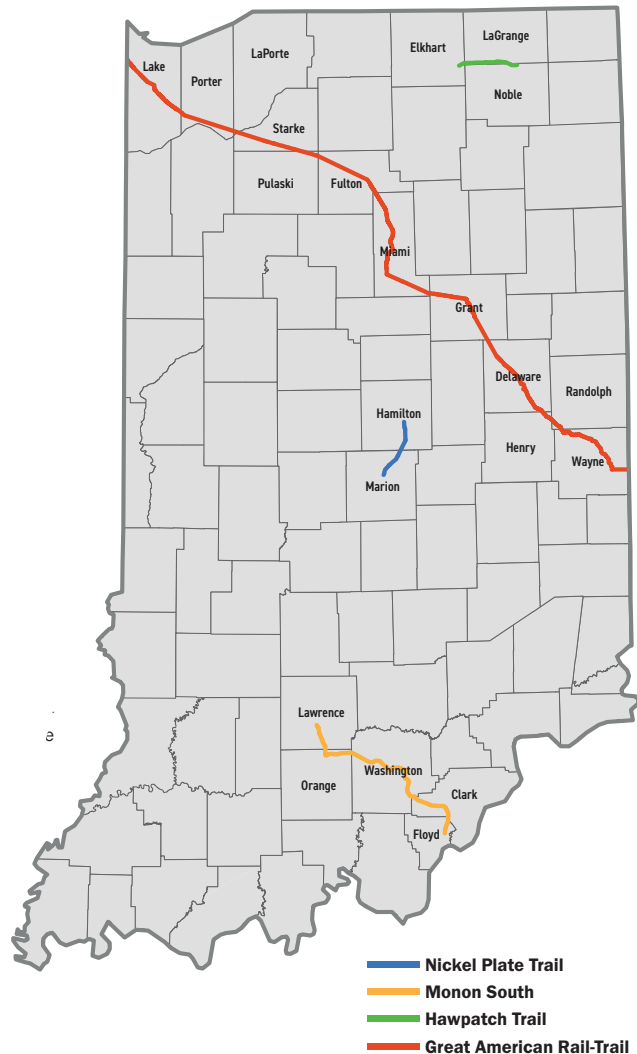


Image Source: 2021-2025 Indiana SCORP

NRPA AS A CITY COMPARISON

The National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities. The NRPA provides parks and recreation professionals with up-to-date data to help agencies make informed decisions and equip leaders with insights that help them make the case to key stakeholders and elected officials for greater and more sustainable funding. The reports reviewed for this plan include the 2022 NRPA Engagement With Parks Report and 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

2022 NRPA ENGAGEMENT WITH PARKS REPORT

Since 2016, the NRPA research team has conducted an annual survey to better understand how people connect with parks and recreation across the United States. This report provides parks and recreation professionals insight on how local parks and recreation facilities impact people's lives across the nation.

According to this report, the top four reasons why residents visit parks are to:

1. Be with family or friends (54%)
2. Exercise or be physically fit (53%)
3. To have a break from day-to-day stresses (52%)
4. To be closer to nature (50%)

These reasons closely correlate with the Indiana SCORP findings and to what users identified as their favorite park and recreation activities in the 2022 Engagement With Parks Report which included:

- Visiting local park, playground, dog park, or other open space (73%)
- Hiking/biking/walking on a trail (53%)
- Playing sports with family/friends/neighbors (32%)
- Visiting local swimming pool/aquatic center (24%)
- Visiting local recreation/senior center (22%)
- Taking part in classes/lessons/activities at a local recreation center (17%)
- Participating in an organized sports league (17%)
- Children participate in an out-of-school time program (13%)

Walking, jogging, and exercise were also the top response (at 83.8%) of the public survey respondents regarding what they most enjoyed doing in New Albany Parks. Knowing what motivates an individual or family to visit a local park and/or recreation facility helps agencies customize their offerings to specific needs, wants and desires.

2022 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Combined, the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review and NRPA Park Metrics feature the most comprehensive collection of park and recreation-related benchmarks and insights informing the public on the state of the park and recreation industry. Key benchmarks and insights are identified in the following sections. These benchmarks are then compared to the current park system in New Albany.

The NRPA benchmarks identified are for jurisdictions serving 20,000 to 49,999 in population to more closely compare New Albany to communities similar in size. It is important to note that benchmarks can change significantly between the jurisdiction's population size or from the median of all agencies. For instance, agencies serving 20,000 to 49,999 in population provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 13,123 residents. Agencies serving 50,000 to 99,999 in population provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 28,000 residents while the median of all agencies provided one outdoor ice rink facility per 16,887 residents.

Park System Size

For agencies serving jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999 in population, there is one park for every 1,941 residents. This would equate to about twenty parks for the population of New Albany at 37,841 (2020 US Census).

New Albany currently has 17 parks in its park system that it oversees with an additional six other facilities under various City responsibilities. This does not include Floyd County park facilities within city limits such as Sam Peden Community Park.

Parks and recreation agencies serving jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999 in population, manage 10.6 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. This equates to about 400 acres of parkland for the City of New Albany. Currently, New Albany has 482.6 acres of parkland in its system. However, these results could be partially skewed by Valley View Golf Course which accounts for 189.2 acres and Cherry Valley Golf Course which accounts 19.5 acres. Factoring out these areas, the park system would have 273.9 acres in the system which would be a deficit of about 130.1 acres.



Outdoor and Indoor Park Facilities

As identified in the 2022 Engagement with Parks Report and the Indiana SCORP, trails are a popular park amenity for exercising or to walk, bike, or hike. It is no surprise that 81% of park and recreation agencies have trails, greenways and/or blueways as part of their outdoor offerings. Agencies serving jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999 in population manages or maintains a median of 8 miles of trail for walking, hiking, running and /or biking in its network. The lower quartile provides 4 miles and the upper quartile provides 18 miles. New Albany currently has 7.7 miles of trails within the community.

The 2020 Performance Review also offers insight into facilities offered by other park and recreation agencies and provides facilities to persons ratios. This data is used to determine overall surpluses and deficiencies. Table 6.1, on the following pages, identifies target park land and facility inventories in New Albany for 2022 and 2027.

These target inventories are based strictly on NRPA data and New Albany's current population data and population projections for the indicated years. As previously stated, there is not a "one size fits all" approach to parks and recreation planning and the following analysis is to establish a baseline understanding of how New Albany compares to other jurisdictions of similar size.

New Albany's current park system indicates both surpluses and deficiencies compared to agencies serving jurisdictions of similar size. Most notably, some surpluses identified were in basketball courts and youth soccer fields. Deficiencies in outdoor facilities included playgrounds, tot lots, pickleball courts, and youth baseball fields. The highest deficiency for indoor facilities is an indoor ice rink, followed by a stadium and teen center.

TPL AS A CITY COMPARISON

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a charitable organization that works to create parks and protect land for people to ensure that communities are healthy and livable. The TPL's Center for City Park Excellence works to make cities more successful by providing data for park professionals and planners on realities of urban park and recreation systems. The 2022 City Park Facts and ParkScore generated by TPL analyzes and evaluates how large cities are meeting the need for parks and recreation.

According to this evaluation, the overall median of parkland as percentage of adjusted city area is 10% and the overall median of parkland per 1,000 residents is 13.2 acres. Additionally, the average percent of population that is within a walkable distance (1/2 mile radius) to access publicly owned parks is 72%. The 2022 City Park Facts also gives insight into balancing natural and built park environments. The average percentage of designed parkland is 48% and the average percentage of parkland that is natural is 52%.

Based on the TPL standards of 13.2 acres per 1,000 residents, New Albany should have roughly 500 acres of parkland. New Albany currently has 482.6 acres of parkland which is a 17.4 acre deficiency. However, as previously mentioned, these results could be partially skewed by Valley View Golf Course which accounts for 189.2 acres and Cherry Valley Golf Course which accounts 19.5 acres. Factoring out these areas, the park system would have 273.9 acres in the system which would be a deficit of about 226.1 acres.

TPL also reviews data to provide a walkability score. According to TPL ParkServe, only 45% of New Albany residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park—less than the national average of percent. However, TPL ParkServe is missing crucial parks in their data including River Run Waterpark, Griffin Recreation Center, and New Albany Shoreline, as well as Floyd County Parks and Recreation facilities located within city limits. The public survey results showed that 32% of respondents live within a 5-minute walk (0 -1/4 mile) and 23% of respondents live within a 10-minute walk (1/4 - 1/2 mile) for a total of 55% within a 10-minute walk. A walkability mapping analysis including all these properties showed that

TABLE 6.1: NEW ALBANY TARGET RATIOS

Amenity	NRPA Target Ratio (1)	Current Inventory	Current Ratio	Unit
Park System Size				
Acres of Park Land	10.6 acres per 1,000 residents	482.6	1.2	Acres
Miles of Trails	8 miles per 20,000 to 49,000 residents	7.7	1.0	Miles
Outdoor Facilities				
Playgrounds	1 facility per 3,111 residents	10.0	0.8	Ea.
Tot Lots	1 facility per 10,756 residents	1.0	0.3	Ea.
Basketball Courts	1 facility per 6,839 residents	12.0	2.2	Ea.
Tennis Courts	1 facility per 5,000 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Pickleball Courts	1 facility per 8,143 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Multi-use Courts: Basketball, Volleyball	1 facility per 14,807 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	1 facility per 4,858 residents	3.0	0.4	Ea.
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	1 facility per 19,000 residents	1.0	0.5	Ea.
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	1 facility per 8,509 residents	2.0	0.4	Ea.
Diamond Fields: Softball - Adult	1 facility per 11,232 residents	1.0	0.3	Ea.
Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose	1 facility per 7,674 residents	6.0	1.2	Ea.
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Youth	1 facility per 5,011 residents	14.0	1.9	Ea.
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Adult	1 facility per 10,547 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	1 facility per 19,351 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Multipurpose Synthetic Field	1 facility per 24,665 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Swimming Pools	1 facility per 26,281 residents	1.0	0.7	Ea.
Ice Rink	1 facility per 13,123 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Community Gardens	1 facility per 24,500 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Skate Park	1 facility per 32,335 residents	2.0	1.7	Ea.
Dog Park	1 facility per 28,000 residents	1.0	0.7	Ea.
Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses	1 facility per 33,800 residents	1.0	0.9	Ea.
Golf Driving Range Station	1 facility per 23,238 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Indoor Facilities				
Recreation Centers	1 facility per 24,601 residents	2.0	1.3	Ea.
Community Centers	1 facility per 26,668 residents	1.0	0.7	Ea.
Senior Centers	1 facility per 32,075 residents	1.0	0.8	Ea.
Teen Centers	1 facility per 29,406 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Nature Centers	1 facility per 30,912 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Aquatic Centers	1 facility per 31,230 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Indoor Ice Rink	1 facility per 24,904 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.
Performance Amphitheater	1 facility per 30,745 residents	1.0	0.8	Ea.
Stadiums	1 facility per 27,891 residents	0.0	0.0	Ea.

(1) Target ratio standards are from the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review for agencies serving 20,000 to 49,999 residents.

(2) Target inventory is calculated by dividing the 2020 population data by the target ratio. Population data sourced from 2020 US Census.

Target Inventory 2022 Data (2)	Target Inventory 2027 Data (3)	Project Surplus/Deficit (Based on NRPA Benchmarks and 2022 Population Data)	Project Surplus/Deficit (Based on NRPA Benchmarks and 2027 Population Data)
401.1	409.1	81.5	73.5
8.0	8.0	-0.3	-0.3
12.2	12.4	-2.2	-2.4
3.5	3.6	-2.5	-2.6
5.5	5.6	6.5	6.4
7.6	7.7	-7.6	-7.7
4.6	4.7	-4.6	-4.7
2.6	2.6	-2.6	-2.6
7.8	7.9	-4.8	-4.9
2.0	2.0	-1.0	-1.0
4.4	4.5	-2.4	-2.5
3.4	3.4	-2.4	-2.4
4.9	5.0	1.1	1.0
7.6	7.7	6.4	6.3
3.6	3.7	-3.6	-3.7
2.0	2.0	-2.0	-2.0
1.5	1.6	-1.5	-1.6
1.4	1.5	-0.4	-0.5
2.9	2.9	-2.9	-2.9
1.5	1.6	-1.5	-1.6
1.2	1.2	0.8	0.8
1.4	1.4	-0.4	-0.4
1.1	1.1	-0.1	-0.1
1.6	1.7	-1.6	-1.7
1.5	1.6	0.5	0.4
1.4	1.4	-0.4	-0.4
1.2	1.2	-0.2	-0.2
1.3	1.3	-1.3	-1.3
1.2	1.2	-1.2	-1.2
1.2	1.2	-1.2	-1.2
1.5	1.5	-1.5	-1.5
1.2	1.3	-0.2	-0.3
1.4	1.4	-1.4	-1.4

(3) Target inventory is calculated by dividing the 2027 population data by the target ratio. Population data sourced from ESRI.

20,910 people live within a 10-minute walk in New Albany, which is approximately 55% of the population. This is on par with the national average.

Figure 6.2 and Figure 6.3 depicts the walkability to current park and recreation facilities. All park facilities are shown with a 1/4 mile (5-minute walk) and 1/2 mile (10-minute walk). Figure 6.1 shows only New Albany Parks and Recreation facilities. Figure 6.2 shows both New Albany Parks and Recreation facilities and Floyd County Parks and Recreation facilities.

Both maps illustrate three lack-of-service areas — a significant one southwest of I-64, and two other areas northwest and northeast of the city limits. The northwest lack-of-service area diminishes when we add in Floyd County Parks and Recreation facilities such as Sam Peden Community Park and Southern Indiana Sports Center. These lack of service areas are better understood by their underlying land uses and population densities. As shown on Figure 6.2, Area 1 lies in a heavily wooded and sparsely populated area of the City, Area 2 lies in an area of commercial and industrial development along with the campus of Indiana University Southeast, and Area 3 lies in a lower density suburban residential development area. Area 4 is a priority due to a lack of park facilities within walking distance of the dense residential population.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

As previously noted, the Indiana Trails Plan identified the Monon South (see Figure 6.1) as a potential trail corridor to be included in the Visionary Trail System in 2026. This is an old railroad corridor that stretches sixty-two miles from New Albany to just North of Mitchell. New Albany and Radius Indiana are both moving forward with plans to develop and construct this trail. New Albany's section will extend through the downtown and connect to the Ohio River Greenway Trail.

New Albany also recently completed a small spur to the Ohio River Greenway (Silver Creek Trail) near Loop Island Wetlands to a trailhead along Spring Street and the kayak launch under construction. Work is also on-going for an extension of the Ohio River Greenway to the west.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES AND FULL-TIME STAFF

There are several ways in which the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review compares operating expenditures. These include annual operating expenditures, operating expenditures per capita, operating expenditures per acre of park and non-park sites and operating expenditures by the amount of parkland managed. The following statistics are for jurisdictions serving 20,000 to 49,999 in population:

- Annual operating expenditures range from \$2,059,044 (lower quartile) to \$6,719,633 (upper quartile) with a median of \$3,500,000.
- Operating expenditure per capita ranges from \$70.12 (lower quartile) to \$206.80 per person with a median of \$110.32 per person
- Operation expenditure per acre of park and non-park site has a median of \$9,817.

New Albany's annual operating budget is within the range identified at \$2,685,851 and is closer to the lower quartile. Likewise, operating expenditure per capita correlates to the lower quartile at \$70.97.

Just as park and recreation agencies differ by size and jurisdiction served, so too do staffing levels. The typical park and recreation agency has 8.3 Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) on staff for each 10,000 residents in the service area, which would equate to 31.4 FTEs. New Albany currently has 20 FTEs which aligns with the lower quartile of jurisdictions this size at 18.0 FTEs. However, it is also noted that agencies tend to have fewer FTEs on staff when located in more populated areas.

FIGURE 6.2: WALKABILITY MAP (NEW ALBANY FACILITIES ONLY)

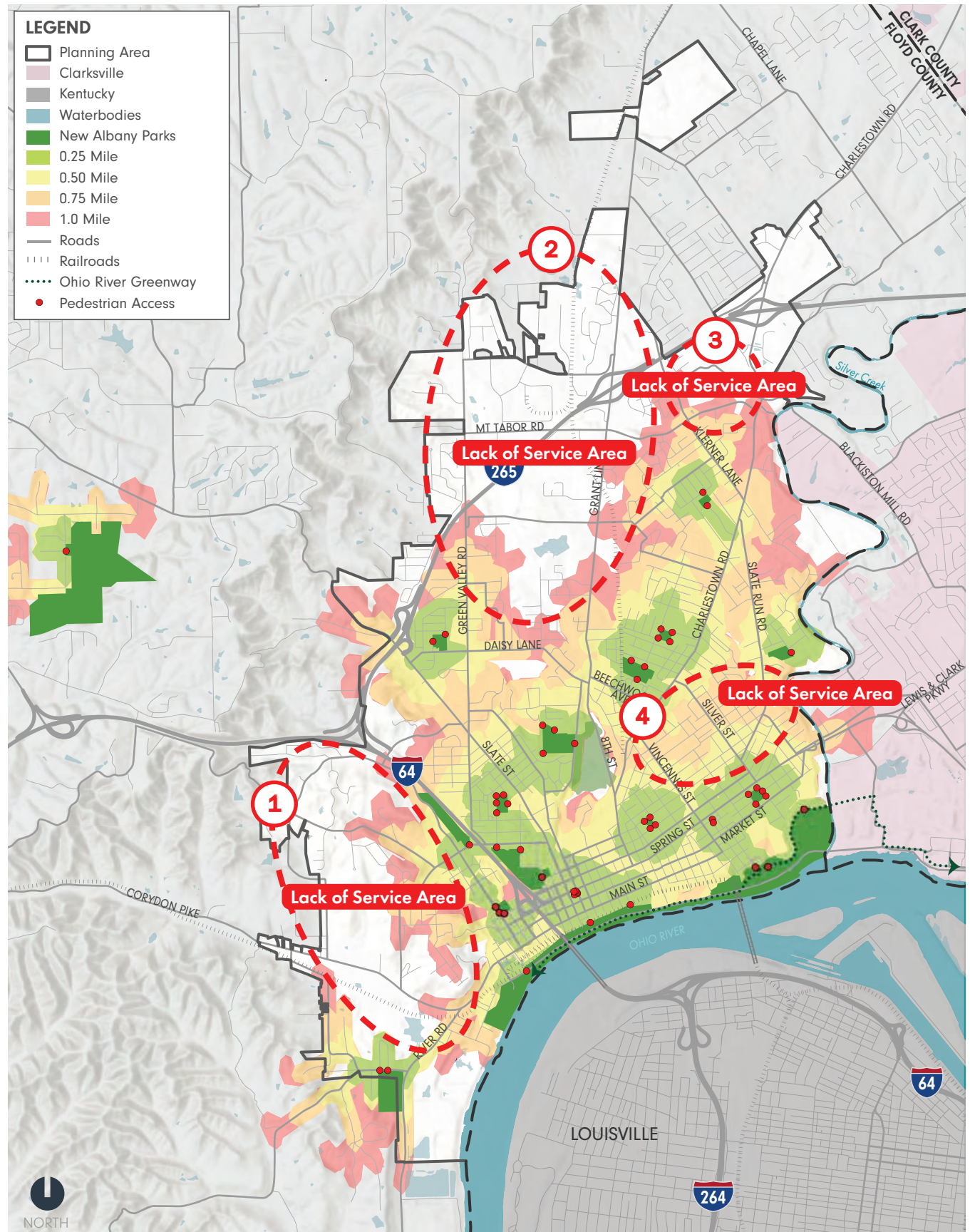
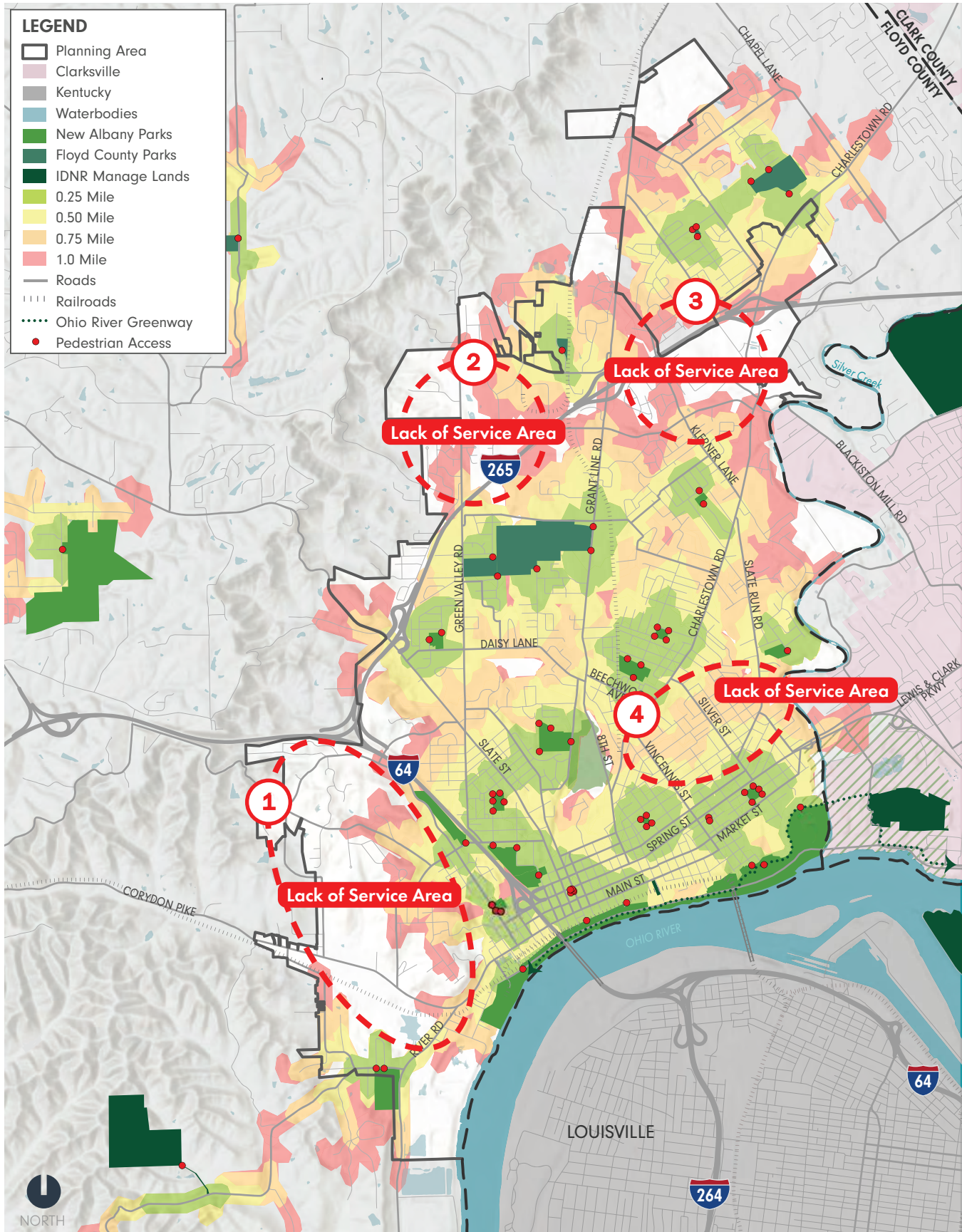


FIGURE 6.3: WALKABILITY MAP (NEW ALBANY, FLOYD COUNTY & IDNR FACILITIES)



CURRENT PROGRAMMING TRENDS

According to the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, programming is a key method of engagement that drives the use of park and recreation facilities, and when associated with registration fees, it is also the largest source of non-tax revenue for most agencies. The lack of programs can equate to reduced usage rates, less community support and reduced budgets.

The 2022 Performance Review identified key programming activities offered by at least seven out of ten parks and recreation agencies. These include:

- Themed special events (90%)
- Social recreation events (88%)
- Team sports (87%)
- Fitness enhancement classes (82%)
- Health and wellness education (80%)
- Individual Sports (76%)
- Safety Training (72%)
- Racquet sports (71%)
- Aquatics (70%)
- Performing arts (64%)
- Visual arts (63%)
- Natural and cultural history activities (62%)
- Cultural crafts (62%)
- Trips and tours (61%)
- Martial arts (59%)
- Running/cycling races (50%)
- Golf (48%)
- eSports/eGaming (12%)

Agencies jurisdictions serving 20,000 to 49,999 in population typically offered the following programs targeted specifically for children, seniors, and people with disabilities:

- Summer camp (88%)
- Specific senior programs (80%)
- Specific teen programs (62%)
- Programs for people with disabilities (58%)
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs (50%)
- After-school programs (48%)
- Preschool (37%)
- Before-school programs (20%)
- Full daycare (6%)

New Albany Parks and Recreation offers all of the above through some form of it's programming except for before-school and full daycare programs.

KEY ANALYSIS TAKEAWAYS

SCORP guidelines as well as the NRPA and TPL benchmarks, in addition to public input help form a complete picture of the amenities and services New Albany Parks and Recreation should strive to provide to its residents. This analysis resulted in a number of observations and recommendations for the future direction of the park system. Below is a summary of the primary takeaways of this analysis.

PARK ACREAGE AND LOCATION

Depending on the metric used (NRPA, SCORP, or TPL), New Albany faces a park acreage deficiency between 130 to 274 acres (excluding Valley View Golf Course which is out of the City). If acreage from Sam Peden Community Park were accounted for, the system still faces a deficiency of around 26 to 170 acres. Combined with the fact that Floyd County is also identified as a critical county in the SCORP for a deficiency in park acres, this analysis suggests new park acreage should be added to the system.

Priority locations for new acreage should consider future opportunities in the area between Silver Street Park, Bicknell Park and Sertoma Park due to the high population density in these areas and smaller footprint of available park acreage. This area of the City also has a higher percentage of households without access to a vehicle. Figure 6.3 illustrates a higher walking distance to park spaces within this area. Additionally, this area of the City has current industrial or commercial areas which could be opportunities for future park redevelopment.

Other properties, such as golf courses, may also provide future opportunities for park development or redevelopment, should they decrease in popularity or close.

While the northeast portion of the community indicates a lack of service area, the development patterns of these residential areas and available potential land indicate this area as less of a priority.

While new park acreage will be a challenge to add due to the developed nature of New Albany and constraints on expanding growth, short-term needs can be met by focusing on providing neighborhood park amenities, such as walking trails, playgrounds, and shelters to special use parks such as Anderson, Billy Herman and River Run Waterpark.

NATURAL PARKLAND

While the City has added naturalized park space with the Loop Island Wetlands since the last plan, public feedback has reinforced the desire for additional natural spaces. Reports from TPL noted that the average percentage of natural parkland is 52%, much higher than New Albany's current offerings. Considering that activities such as hiking and bird/wildlife watching ranked in the top-five rated outdoor activities in the SCORP, there is a need for continued emphasis on providing natural areas.

The City is currently planning for more naturalized areas along the riverfront with development of the Shoreline: River Recreation site. In addition to larger facilities, Parks and Recreation can also introduce naturalized areas into smaller spaces with conversion of underutilized spaces to prairie plantings, reforested areas, and natural play spaces (as an alternative to traditional play equipment). In the long-term, an opportunity exists to try and relocate active sports fields out of floodways, opening up the possibility for conversion of portions of these spaces to more naturalized settings near the heart of the City.

PARK FACILITIES

The TPL noted that pickleball and disc golf were some of the top recreational trends nationwide, which correlates to some of the top requested amenities during public input. The NRPA analysis noted deficiencies in outdoor facilities including playgrounds, tot lots, and pickleball courts, which were also highly favored during public input.

Public input also indicated a desire for easier-to-add amenities, such as additional shade, trees, and benches and places to sit.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Greenway trails were noted as the third most popular park facility in the public survey and walking, jogging, and bicycling were in the top five most popular activities. Additionally, greenway/bike trails were selected as a top-five priority for most needed facilities and desired capital improvement projects and was a top three priority for write-in responses.

Beyond New Albany, the SCORP identified walking, hiking, jogging, and running as the top recreational activity that residents participated in more than once per week.

With current planning efforts to extend the Ohio River Greenway and develop the South Monon Freedom Trail, New Albany is meeting this need. Beyond development of these signature facilities, the City in collaboration with Parks and Recreation should also look at secondary connections, ensuring park facilities are connected via accessible sidewalks and pathways to these regional and city-wide assets.

PROGRAMMING

Along with the desire for additional naturalized park spaces, there is also a desire for more outdoor recreation and nature-based/environmental education programs for both youth and adults. As the City further develops these naturalized spaces, programming should be developed to take advantage of these assets. Activities such as hiking hours, tree walks, adventure play, fishing, outdoor skills, compass navigation, astronomy, pond visits, and more can complement existing or planned natural areas.

Since the last plan, there was an increase of around 1.5% in the Hispanic population and around an 1% increase in residents who speak a population other than English at home. With a strong offering of existing programming, Parks and Recreation should evaluate its current roster and participation data and see if additional programming towards this population is warranted.

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7 PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS



INTRODUCTION

The following chapter provides a detailed listing of plan recommendations for the New Albany Parks and Recreation System. These recommendation will assist Park and Recreation in making decisions that will be most beneficial for the community of New Albany, Indiana.

PLAN EVALUATION

In order to implement their goals over the coming years, New Albany Parks and Recreation will use the Recommendation Tables to guide decisions and prioritize projects for implementation. Periodically, they will review the plan to ensure they are following the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations outline general (system-wide and maintenance) objectives along with park-specific objectives for projects and tasks needing implemented to meet the outlined goals of the plan; some have costs and budgets associated while others are yet to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION SOURCES

The recommendations on the following pages have been formed after reviewing community demographics and statistics, public input, park staff input, and comparison of the New Albany Parks system to state and national metrics. Summaries of this data/input can be found at the end of Chapters 2, 3, and 6.

MASTER PLAN GOALS

1

FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Identify needed and desired facilities and programs in the community.

2

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Use the plan to educate the public about the park facilities and programming currently available within the community.

3

PUBLIC AWARENESS

To keep the public informed about New Albany Parks and Recreation planning.

4

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for grant programs such as Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and other applicable grants.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Continue development of Ohio River Greenway and Monon South Freedom Trail greenways.

NATURAL PARK SPACES

- Continue providing naturalized park spaces with development of New Albany Shoreline: River Recreation site and providing natural play spaces.

UPDATE EXISTING PARK AMENITIES

- Establish a prioritized short-term and long-term equipment replacement plan for each park facility for such items as benches, picnic tables, trashcans, shelters and playgrounds.
- Improve pathways and parking to increase ADA accessibility.

PROVIDE NEW PARK AMENITIES

- Disc golf
- Pickleball courts
- Updated playgrounds
- Providing neighborhood park features at special-use parks such as Anderson, Billy Herman, River Run Waterpark and Cannon Acres.

MARKETING

- Increase marketing efforts of parks programming and events through additional social media and information/signage kiosks at select parks and major thoroughfares.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- Establish an inventory of vacant and large industrial/commercial properties that could support new parks or sports facilities should the opportunity arise in the future.
- Conduct a feasibility study of providing a new indoor facility or expanding the indoor facilities at Silver Street Park.
- Conduct a feasibility and use study for an RV and campsite area along the Shoreline.

TOP TEN PRIORITIES

The following table outlines the top ten priorities for the timeframe of this plan.

ACTION ITEM	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
1. SHORELINE EXPANSION		
Expand New Albany Shoreline: River Recreation to include expansion of Ohio River Greenway.	\$1.5 - \$1.8m per half mile	Next Level Trails, Indiana Trails Program, Local Funding, READI
2. SOUTH MONON FREEDOM TRAIL		
Assist with development of the South Monon Freedom Trail through the City.	In-house labor/ time commitment	Local Funding - Park Staff Time
3. NATURALIZED PARK SPACES		
Increase naturalized park spaces through converting portions of existing properties or with new development, such as at New Albany Shoreline: River Recreation.	Project specific costs T.B.D.	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Local Funding
4. PLAYGROUNDS		
Replace or update one playground per year, with consideration of naturalized play spaces where appropriate. Prioritize replacement at Binford, Ritter and Millerwood.	\$150,000 - \$400,000 + per playground and ADA surfacing	Land and Water Conservation Fund, Local Funding, Playground Manufacturer Grant Programs, CreatINg Places
5. PARK AMENITIES		
Develop a prioritized short-term and long-term replacement plan for park amenities including benches, shelters, picnic tables, trashcans, basketball backboards, drinking fountains, lighting, and splash pad features.	\$5,000 + for consultant or in-house labor	Local funding
6. DISC GOLF		
Expand disc golf to a full course at Cannon Acres.	\$100,000 - \$120,000	Local funding, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CreatINg Places
7. PICKELBALL		
Add pickleball courts at to an existing facility such as Bicknell Park.	\$35,000 to \$50,000 per court	Local funding, Land and Water Conservation Fund, CreatINg Places
8. MARKETING		
Increase marketing of recreational programming, including use of LED message boards and placement along major city thoroughfares connected to park facilities.	\$30,000 to \$40,000 per message board	Local funding, Partnership opportunity with other organizations who may use sign
9. NATURE PROGRAMMING		
Expand programming to include outdoor education/nature-based activities.	Program budget costs T.B.D.	Local funding - park budget
10. MAINTENANCE FACILITIES		
Relocate park maintenance facilities out of the floodplain.	\$15,000 to \$30,000 for feasibility study/ assessment	Local funding

RECOMMENDATION TABLES, SYSTEM-WIDE

The following tables outline recommendations for meeting the outlined goals across the entire park system.

ALL PARKS RECOMMENDATIONS	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Update and create uniform signage across all parks, including main entrance signs.	\$2,500 to \$3,000 per main entrance sign
Repair, seal-coat, and stripe all basketball courts.	\$2,500 to \$5,000 per court
Repair, seal-coat and stripe all paved surfaces.	\$800 to \$1,500 per 1,000 sf
Review city ordinances to ensure that current codes align with and do not hinder the types of programming and amenities Parks and Recreation wants to offer.	Staff time, hourly consultant services
Work with city planners to ensure all significant new development and redevelopment projects include appropriate park and recreation spaces or funding to update nearby park and recreation facilities.	Staff time, hourly consultant services
Improve accessibility within the park system. Work with the City's ADA Coordinator to complete ADA audits for park facilities not yet audited and develop a phasing plan to implement recommendations contained in the ADA report.	Staff time
Increase accessible amenities within the park system, such as an adaptive sports field or large inclusive playground.	Project specific costs, T.B.D.
Increase access to restroom facilities through increased hours restrooms are open, additional port-a-lets, or permanent restroom facilities in high-use parks.	Up to \$200,000 per permanent restroom

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Purchase a turf-tank to facilitate automated striping of turf athletic fields.	\$12,000 to \$15,000, plus annual fee
Purchase a one-man lift.	\$23,000 to \$25,000
Install pavement at the maintenance shop.	\$50 - \$60 / square yard
Purchase a sod cutter.	\$4,500 to \$5,000
Purchase a power seeder.	\$4,000 to \$5,000
Purchase a 3-point hitch tiller (for grooming sand volleyball courts).	\$2,000 to \$2,500
Purchase a MIG welder.	\$500 to \$700
Purchase portable torches.	\$400 to \$600
Purchase a refrigeration recovery machine.	\$650 to \$800
Purchase a refrigeration vacuum pump.	\$400 to \$500

RECOMMENDATION TABLES, PARK-SPECIFIC

The following tables outline recommendations for meeting the outlined goals within each park.

ANDERSON PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Rebuild backstops and scorekeeper boxes.	No cost information
Replace field lights.	\$450,000 +
Install concrete paving for dugout entries, bleacher pads, and walkways.	\$100 - \$120 per square yard
Install pedestrian walkway to Bill Herman. (requires bridge)	\$100,000 +
Install playground	\$100,000 to \$150,000

BICKNELL PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Improve alley and drain collars.	Construction costs T.B.D.
Install pickleball courts.	\$35,000 to \$50,000 per court
Install workout stations or fitness course.	\$3,000 to \$8,000 per statio
Re-surface and re-stripe basketball court.	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Add staircase at southwest end for Center Street neighborhood access.	\$10,000 to \$15,000
Add additional shade trees.	\$500 to \$700 per tree
Add additional shelter near playground.	\$20,000 to \$30,000 per shelter

BILLY HERMAN PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Field 1 - remediate washout at 3rd base side, from stormwater runoff.	No cost information
Update field lights.	\$500,000 +
Rebuild restroom facility.	\$200,000 - \$250,000
Field 4- Completely redo/reposition and fix the erosion problem in right center field.	\$60,000 to \$80,000
Rebuild dugouts.	\$10,000 to \$15,000 per dugout
Build a dumpster corral.	\$4,000 to \$5,000
Pave the existing gravel / grass area between fields 1 and 3.	Construction cost T.B.D.
Rebuild batting cage.	\$3,000 to \$5,000

BINFORD PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Install a perimeter walking path. (6' wide concrete path)	\$150,000 + per half mile
Expand and update playground.	\$150,000 to \$250,000

CANNON ACRES

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Replace siding on the house.	Construction cost T.B.D.
Stabilize structure and replace flooring in garage.	\$60,000 to \$65,000
Stabilize structure and replace flooring in large barn.	\$60,000 to \$65,000
Replace roofs on garage, large barn and small barn.	Construction cost T.B.D.
Expand the disc golf course.	\$100,000 to \$125,000
Install new playground.	\$150,000 to \$250,000
Install new restrooms with a dog wash station.	\$150,000 to \$200,000

CHERRY VALLEY

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Increase lighting for visibility.	\$10,000 to \$12,000 per area light
Convert cart path to walking path around perimeter.	Staff time
Convert large swaths of turf to natural planting areas.	\$40,000 to \$50,000 per acre

DIVISION PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Increase lighting for visibility.	\$10,000 to \$12,000 per area light
Resurface and re-stripe basketball court.	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Provide additional seating.	\$2,500 to \$3,500 per bench

DOG PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
No current recommendations.	Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION TABLES, PARK-SPECIFIC

The following tables outline recommendations for individual parks.

FAIRMONT PARK	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
No current recommendations.	Not applicable

GRIFFIN PARK	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Replace interior basketball goals.	\$22,500 - \$25,000
Repair the parking lot.	\$35 to \$45 per square yard
Replace larger windows at the front of building and gym.	Construction cost T.B.D.
Add a splash pad.	\$400,000 + for recirculating system

JOE KRAFT PARK	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Resurface and re-stripe basketball court.	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Re-purpose facility with mountain bike or dirt bike/atv trails .	\$20,000 to \$25,000 for plan
Install bollards and chain barriers to keep vehicles out.	\$13,000 - \$15,000

LOOP ISLAND PARK	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Consider closing outer trail loop near Silver Creek.	Staff time - signage
Develop annual maintenance plan for main pathway along wetlands towards river.	Staff time - material cost for stone

MILLERWOOD PARK	
ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Implement erosion control measures along stream lines.	Construction cost T.B.D.
Upgrade basketball court.	\$2,500 to \$5,000

RITTER PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Replace playground equipment parts in need of repair.	\$35,000 to \$45,000
Replace all park lighting.	\$10,000 to \$12,000 per area light
Resurface and re-stripe basketball court.	\$3,000 to \$5,000
Convert two half size basketball court into one full size court.	\$5,000 to \$8,000

RIVERFRONT PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Replace playground.	\$200,000 to \$300,000
Add fitness stations.	\$3,000 to \$8,000 per station

RIVER RUN WATERPARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Paint the pool and stairs.	\$85,000 to \$90,000
Refurbishing or replace the steamboat feature.	\$20,000 (or replace with new)
Purchase a Peps Vacuum for all water including the zero-depth entry areas.	\$7,000 to \$8,000
Paint existing features.	\$17,000 to \$20,000
Replace netting.	\$7,000 to \$8,000
Replace all shower levers.	\$6,000 to \$6,500
Change lawn to artificial turf.	\$15,000 to \$18,000
Replace canopies on slide tower and concessions.	Cost T.B.D.
Replace lockers.	Cost T.B.D.
Purchase outdoor, walk-in cooler for concessions.	\$10,000
Construct a storage building.	\$75,000 to \$100,000
Pave overflow parking areas.	\$50 to \$60 per square yard
Create a rentable, party space.	\$90,000 to \$110,000

RECOMMENDATION TABLES, PARK-SPECIFIC

The following tables outline recommendations for meeting the outlined goals within each park.

SERTOMA PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Replace shelter.	\$50,000 to \$60,000
Replace picnic tables.	\$10,000 to \$12,000
Remove backstop, grade, and relocate volleyball court.	\$5,000 to \$8,000
Build a permanent, one-stall restroom to replace porta-pot.	\$75,000 to \$100,000

SILVER STREET PARK

ACTION ITEM	ASSOCIATED BUDGET
Purchase a club car for staff.	\$18,000 to \$20,000
Rehab and repair the skatepark.	\$50,000 to \$60,000
Purchase a professional-grade, turf cleaner for indoor turf (SSS1000 by SiSIS).	\$6,000 to \$7,000
Replace indoor carpet.	\$5,000 to \$6,000
Replace splashpad features.	\$5,00 to \$20,000 per feature
Expand turf area (full size).	\$3,000,000 +
Install upper-deck, spectator seating along indoor turf area.	\$5,000 to \$6,000
Install sidewalks connecting the playground and walking trail.	No cost information
Purchase a modular, hard surface to cover turf for basketball/volleyball courts.	Cost T.B.D.
Provide secondary parking lot.	\$80 to \$100 per square yard
Rehab all park turf areas with new topsoil and seeding.	\$35,000 to \$45,000 per acre

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