



Hamilton County Parks & Recreation 5 Year Comprehensive Plan 2017-2021 Celebrating 50 Years!

Hamilton County Indiana
April 2017



Prepared by:



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Larry Roudebush, Vice President	Jan DeJarnatt
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County Council Members

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MISSION

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Mission Statement:

“The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department exists to serve the leisure and recreation needs of its residents and tourists, and to enhance the quality of life in the county. We strive to preserve and to provide, high-quality passive parks and facilities, to offer natural resource education and services, and to be recognized as a leader and resource for our community and its citizens in pursuit of living an environmentally responsible lifestyle”

VALUES

The Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department continually strives to:

- Maintain current levels of maintenance and programming
- Create Partnership/Sponsorship opportunities
- Provide creative and new sources of funding
- Emphasize marketing
- Create Volunteer support, staffing support and viable alternatives
- Include Political influence
- Acquire additional park property – where logical and possible
- Increase Administrative Infrastructure – facilities & technology available to provide staff effective resources to be mobile and operate at appropriate park buildings
- Provide Creative & New Amenities - Maximum utilization of resources and communication while providing new and greater attractions

INTRODUCTION

Location and Planning Area

Hamilton County is located in the central part of the state, immediately north of Marion County and the state capitol of Indianapolis. Hamilton County is the fastest growing in the state, and in the top 20 counties for growth in the nation. In 2008, Hamilton County was named America's Best Place to Raise a Family by *Forbes.com* due to its strong economy, affordable living, top-ranked schools, and close proximity to Indianapolis. The county has been growing at nearly 6% per year for the last decade.

The planning area for the department is Hamilton County. Several communities are located in the county, some with their own park departments/boards, planning boards, and commissions; the county park board has the duty to plan for parks and recreation opportunities within the entire area. Having locally established park boards within the county enables both the local and the county park board to better plan and to provide parks and services. Municipal park boards typically provide services for those close to home, allowing the county park board to concentrate efforts on serving a wider population base.

Several communities make up Hamilton County. The largest are Carmel, Cicero, Fishers, Westfield, Sheridan and Noblesville, the county seat. The southern half of the county is developed, while the northern half remains more rural. When first settled, access to transportation and agriculture were major area of concern. Today, the county enjoys a good transportation network, with US 31 running north/south through the county, and State Road 32 running east/west. Several other State Roads (19,37,38, and 213) crisscross the county and Interstate 69 touches the southeast corner of the county. This road network brings travelers and commerce to this central region.

The uniqueness of many of the County Parks do draw visitors from outside the county. From survey results we see park visitors regularly come from many of the surrounding county, and some throughout the state. Actual visitor counts are difficult to determine given most parks are not staffed, but visitation is counted and noticeably increasing at the Cool Creek Nature Center and Taylor Center for Natural Resources. At this time it is not possible to obtain general park visitor counts or where visitors reside, however the Department is starting to work with the County Tourism Bureau to strategize and implement ways to capture this data and better plan for the future. With a larger draw than just the county footprint, and longer travel times for many visitors, it is important to plan for park amenities and programs and features to sustain longer park visits including overnight options for park users.

Hamilton County History

The land containing Hamilton County was brought into the possession of the United States by the Treaty of St. Mary's in 1818. William Conner was the 1st white settler in the county. In the summer of 1822, after realizing there were enough settlers in the area, Conner and other settlers applied to the Indiana Legislature for a charter authorizing them to become a separate and independent county under Indiana law.

The application was presented to the Legislature at the 1822-23 session and the act was passed and approved by the Governor on January 8, 1823. The act took effect on the 1st Monday in April (April 7), 1823. The County Commissioners 1st met on May 5, 1823 at the house of William Conner. Conner's house would also serve as the County Circuit Court. The county was named after Alexander Hamilton, the 1st secretary of the treasury.

The county seat is Noblesville. The center of population of Indiana is located in Hamilton County, in the town of Sheridan.

Hamilton County's roots are in agriculture. However after World War II, Indianapolis grew north and the county developed as a suburb. Many farm fields have been replaced over the past couple decades by both residential and commercial development.



County Location Map

Community Description, Natural and Man-made Features

Hamilton County lies in the central part of Indiana, immediately west of Marion County and comprises about 400 square miles. Like much of central Indiana, Hamilton County has very little topographical relief, consisting mainly of a large, flat plain. There are several waterways located within the county's borders, with the White River being the most prominent. Hamilton County has a humid climate, influenced somewhat by the Great Lakes. Cool and warm air masses converge in Indiana, making for a wide seasonal range in temperature and moisture. The area enjoys an average of 27 inches of rain yearly, with the majoring of that precipitation falling April through September. The average temperature in the summer is 72 degrees and the average winter temperature is 29 degrees. Snowfall averages 21 inches per year.

Generally, opportunities for outdoor recreation rely upon the natural features of a region. Natural features are very important, especially to a rapidly developing area like Hamilton County. With such broad expanses of flat, easily developable land, very little is left over for parks and recreation sites. Rapid residential, industrial, and commercial developments quickly eat up available tracts. This usually means the 'less desirable' parcels are all that is left for public spaces. Unfortunately, those characteristics that make the land undesirable for development (floodplains, steep slopes, and poor soils) are also the same ones that make it difficult for park departments to improve sites for active and (sometimes) passive recreation. While every area needs river corridors and wooded tracts to be left in their natural states for passive enjoyment, it is also important to supply community

members with open spaces for organized team field sports and neighborhood pick-up games. It is the focus of the Hamilton County Park and Recreation Board to supply those natural and passive areas for community enjoyment. Local municipal park departments generally focus on the more active, organized activities and spaces. The White River has the potential to provide a huge recreation opportunity for a wide variety of users. There are several sites along the river corridor that could be acquired and preserved for passive recreation as well as flood control and natural preservation. Several spots lend themselves to canoe launches and portage sites. Also, there are always opportunities for both bank and boat anglers along with other passive activities such as birdwatching and nature photography.

Since the county was originally settled, agriculture has played a big role in the development of the area. Past agricultural practices included ditching waterways, adding artificial drainage, and covering large forested acreage to agricultural fields. Current residential and commercial development has continued this trend, leaving the county with fewer and fewer natural areas to preserve. Much of the developed areas lie in the southern portions of the county, so land acquisition plans may want to focus in the more northerly areas to acquire the largest, most pristine tracts of land. The board should also keep in mind that, while there will be less available land and that land may be more costly, it makes sense to acquire land near where the population pressure exists. However, after a lull in development in the 2008-2014 timeframe, populations centers are beginning another significant round of growth and development, especially in Westfield and Noblesville. This resurgence continues to drive up land costs and develop areas that could potentially serve as park land.

Man-made features also play a big part in outdoor recreation supply. Hamilton County is blessed with a fairly well laid-out and accessible roadway system. Ample opportunity exists for a comprehensive multi-use trail system to mirror the roadways and connect communities and sites throughout the township and county. There are also a number of railroad corridors crossing throughout the county providing additional opportunities for multi-use trail connections. Also, because of the large amount of development in the county, there are abundant utility corridors available to consider for trail development.

Geist and Morse reservoirs are two man-made lakes in Hamilton County that offer residents and visitors recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and waterfront living. These two bodies of water along with the White River account for 8.17 square miles of water



Cool Creek Nature Center

which makes up 2.03% of the total area of Hamilton County.

Ecologically, existing natural areas and park lands are experiencing some pressures. The Emerald Ash Borer is significantly impacting Ash Tree populations in the county. Recent drought and flooding cycles are pressuring ecosystems and flood plain areas, along which many parks are located. However, ongoing growth of the trail network throughout the county, including efforts by cities and towns, including park growth along riparian corridors is helping to connect habitat fragments within the county. There is still a long way to go in managing invasive species such as honeysuckle and garlic mustard while continuing to connect natural spaces through wildlife and habitat corridors.



Historic Hamilton County Courthouse
Source: www.visithamiltoncounty.com

Social and Economic Factors

As noted earlier, Hamilton County is located in the central section of Indiana. The county's estimated total population is 309,697 (*US Census, 2015 population estimate. Actual 2010 Census data shows 274,259*). The population is fairly evenly divided among gender (51.1% female and 48.9% male). Just over half of the population (53.3%) is between 18 and 65 years old, with a median age of 36 years. The population is nearly exclusively white (87.8%). Just under eight percent (about 21,400 persons) of county residents consider themselves to have a disability. Along with being young and married with children, local residents are also well educated (55.6% of the population having at least a bachelor's degree), despite the lack of higher educational opportunities in the county. Hamilton County residents also enjoy a high standard of living. The median household income in 2014 was

\$84,635, assuring a fair bit of disposable income people can use for leisure pursuits. Although Hamilton County has the highest median income in the state, there are still around 4.9% of households living below the poverty rate.

Hamilton County has seen a phenomenal growth in population over the last decade, and that trend shows little sign of slowing down. It was the fastest growing county in the state in Census 2010, with 50% growth rate since 2000, and a total growth rate of 185% between 1990 and 2014. Carmel, Fishers, and Westfield have seen growth rates of over 100% from 2000 to 2010. Within the last five years all three of these cities' populations have grown between 12% and 22%. Population projections have Hamilton County continuing to grow as the state's fastest county and doubling in size by 2050 to become the second largest county.

Indiana is one of many states undergoing the predicament of losing some of the best-educated citizens. While the population is steadily growing, more and more persons with higher education are moving to other states. Hamilton county is no exception to the is experience, although it is faring better than any other Indiana county. Job opportunities, schools, and health care are central factors when deciding where a person chooses to live. Equally important, however, is quality of life. Hamilton County fares well here, as well. Communities have been recognized as a "Best Place" and routinely score high marks in quality of life ratings, including 8th in a recent listing from *American City Business Journal*. The amount and quality of leisure opportunities are important not only to individuals and families, but they are becoming crucial to businesses when determining where to locate.

Currently the Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation has identified that the county has achieved critical mass in five employment areas, including, Knowledge and information technology, Business, legal and financial services, Life sciences, Amateur sports-related,



and Innovation-based manufacturing. Other key industries for the county include AgTech, Business, Legal & Financial Services, Corporate Headquarters, Defense & Security, Entrepreneurs, Information Technology, Innovation-Based Manufacturing, Life Sciences, and Sports & Tourism.

Using statistics like those presented above can help the park board in planning for future park growth. The board can generalize some demand and thus know to provide facilities and programming (in the near future at least) for young, active persons with families.

The county as a whole is more developed in the southern portions and somewhat less developed in the northern region. This growth pattern presents the Park Board with some challenges. While the park systems of some communities within the county are fairly well developed, more land can always be acquired to accommodate the increase in population and to provide alternative outdoor recreation opportunities. In these developed areas, the Park Board must compete with a variety of other uses for available space. On the other hand, land is in good supply in the northern reaches. While it may be more cost efficient to acquire large tracts in the north and west regions at the present time there may not be the population base to support developing park activities or facilities within the next five years. Land could (and perhaps should) be acquired now and banked for later development. The Park Board has developed and continues to act on its strategic land acquisition policy. In the past few years the Department has added property adjacent to many of its existing parks, including Strawtown Koteewi Park, Cool Creek Park, as well as adding and developing a section of the Monon Trail providing opportunities for Westfield to connect to the south and Sheridan to the north. Bishops Park and Bray Park have been added as well. The Board and staff continue to explore options focused on the northeast and northwest areas of the county, the White River Corridor, adjacent to existing parks and connector trails, and in focused areas to best serve the community.



Demographic Information

Since 2010 Hamilton County population has grown from 274,569 to an estimated 359,035 in 2015 - 12.8%. The estimated increase for the state of Indiana was 2.1%. It remains the 4th largest county in Indiana by population and represents 4.7% of Indiana's total population.

In the report Indiana Population Projections 2010 - 2050, the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) provided projected Indiana population growth for the state and its counties through the year 2050. According to those projections, Hamilton County population will increase to nearly 548,000 by 2050.

According to the 2015 Census estimates, the population of Hamilton County is predominantly Caucasian (87.8%), with the African-American, Native American, Asian, Latino, and Pacific Islander populations accounting for 10.3% of the total population. This is somewhat less diverse than the state as a whole, which also has a primarily Caucasian population of 85.7%. From 2010 to 2014 estimates, the population appears to be aging somewhat with the percentage of residents over 65 increasing from 8.6% to 10.4% of the population. The percentage of residents under the age of 18 is dropping slightly. With these factors, it is important for the Park Department to continue to plan facilities and programs for the aging population, while continuing to provide great opportunities for families and children. Also, despite being one of the wealthiest counties in the state, 4.9% are estimated to be at or below the poverty line, including 5.7% of children. Therefore, the Department maintains free access to all of their parks. Most programs are free, and the remainder are maintained at low cost.

Hamilton County is growing rapidly. There is still a great divide north and south of 32 between, urban and agriculture and economic standing as well north is much more economically challenged. As the county has grown it has become MUCH more diverse as well this is something that is in early stages but already recognizable. We must continue to monitor to determine how much and how to react. As in most cases integration comes with a comfort level and we are seeing increased integration in our programs and events. We are a service based, not profit based, park department. We always work with our visitor and rarely turn people away if they are interested in a service or program. As of now we can absorb those costs as needed. If that become an issue we will turn to our park foundation for a grant to help subsidize needs of aiding the poor or poverty level in our community, and it does exist.

Climate

Climate too, plays an important role in outdoor recreation opportunities. People like to play outdoors year round, and if the weather won't cooperate, then there are fewer opportunities available. Fortunately, climate is one area that isn't impinged upon by developers/development. Hamilton county enjoys a relatively mild climate. Hamilton County has a continental climate characterized by winter temperatures cold enough to support snow cover, with warm temperatures typical of tropical climates in the summer. The county is subject to the various conditions of all four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter) and enjoys a mild climate overall. Winter is the most unpredictable season, as precipitation takes on all forms (rain, sleet, freezing rain, snow, and hail).

- Average rainfall per year is 39.2 inches.
- Average snowfall per year is 21.3 inches.
- Average July temperature is 85 degrees high/64 degrees low (Fahrenheit)
- Average January temperature is 34 degrees high/18 degrees low (Fahrenheit)
- Lowest recorded temperature -23 degrees Fahrenheit in 1994
- Maximum average precipitation month is May (4.96 inches)

Warmest average temperature month is July and the coldest average temperature month is January (Source: 2009 NOAA – www.nws.noaa.gov). Overall, the summers are long enough and warm enough to enjoy plenty of beach time and summer sports, and springs and falls are mild enough to extend the play seasons for a few months on either side of summer. Winters are the most



problematic. Central Indiana does not get a great deal of snowfall, limiting the availability of outdoor winter sports like cross-country skiing and sledding. The Park Board may need to consider investing funds into creating outdoor activities in winter. The technology to create snow for ski/sled hills and for artificial ice is certainly available should the public demand these activities.

Soils

The soils in the township fall into seven major Associations, the majority of which are poorly drained. The Crosby-Brookston soils comprise the majority of soils in the county, with Miami-Crosby soils being the next most common. These soil types have some limitations on construction due to their wetness and potential for erosion. These soils are typically poorly drained and have severe to moderate limitations for recreational uses, including campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, and paths and trails. These limitations are based on the soils' restrictive features such as flooding, wetness, and slope. It should be noted that these limitations might be overcome through appropriate site design, intensive maintenance, limited use of the site, or a combination of measures.

Historic Landmarks, Facilities, & Places

Those on the National Register of Historic Places:

- George Boxley Cabin
- Carmel Monon Depot
- Castor Farm Site
- Catherin Street Historic District
- Cole-Evans House
- Connor Street Historic District
- William Connor House
- William Houston Craig House
- Daniel Craycraft House
- Davenport-Bradfield House
- Hamilton County Courthouse Square
- Dr. Samuel Harrell House
- Holliday Hydroelectric Powerhouse & Dam
- John Kinzer House
- Micah Newby House
- Nickel Plate Road Steam Locomotive
- Noblesville Commerical Historical District
- Noblesville Milling Company Mill
- Potter's Covered Bridge
- Roads Hotel

- Roberts Chapel
- Sheridan Downtown Commercial Historic District
- South 9th Street Historic District
- Judge Earl S. Stone House
- Strawtown Enclosure
- Union High Academy Historic District
- West-Harris House
- Robert L. Wilson House

Those Recognized by Indiana Historical Bureau with Historical Markers:

- The Central Canal
- Rhodes Family Incident
- Potter's Covered Bridge

Hospitals and Health/Family Services

Hamilton County is served by numerous hospitals, healthcare facilities, and other health related organizations providing a range of health and family services to the local community. Hamilton County is home to numerous health care facilities, including Indiana University Health North Hospital; St. Vincent Carmel Hospital; St. Vincent Heart Center; IU Health Saxony Hospital; Riverview Health; and the Heart Center of Indiana.

Education System

Six public school districts operate within the county, as well as several private and charter schools. Carmel-Clay, Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Sheridan, and Westfield-Washington have between them 12 high schools, 18 middle schools, and 41 elementary schools.

Each school has a comprehensive list of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities which vary by school, but include: athletics, clubs, arts and performance, and recreation facilities. Partnerships between the schools and the county's various parks and recreation programs provide opportunities for shared resources.

Libraries

- The Hamilton North Public Library serves the residents of Jackson Township in northern Hamilton County, Indiana. They have two branches in Cicero and Atlanta.
- The Hamilton East Public Library serves the residents in central and east portions of the county with branches in Noblesville and Fishers.

- The Carmel Clay Public Library serves Clay Township and the City of Carmel with their main branch in Carmel, a Digital Media Lab in Carmel, and a Mobile Library.

Recreational Amenities

There are several private and public recreation facilities available to Hamilton County residents. These include private, semi-private, and municipal golf courses as well as private facilities like Overdorf Lake, Ben & Ari's, Noblesville Golf and Batting park, and River Bend Campground. Additionally, there are numerous elementary and high school facilities that offer at least some part-time public recreation. The Hamilton County park department has continuously striven to be focused on passive recreation to help attain the necessary balance of active and passive recreation for the current and growing population. The department has been an active partner in providing current and emerging recreation opportunities throughout their jurisdiction.

Within the county there are 8 public park departments operating within their local jurisdiction, as well as some trail development and advocacy groups.

Other departments include:

- Noblesville Parks and Recreation
- Carmel-Clay Parks and Recreation
- Fishers Parks and Recreation
- Washington Township Parks
- Sheridan Parks and Recreation
- Westfield Parks and Recreation
- Cicero Parks

HCPR endeavors to coordinate and complement the local parks with the county parks, trails, amenities, and programs. The Department is active and involved in the Hamilton County Parks Association (HAMPA), an informal group of all public park departments in the county that meets regularly to discuss current activities and coordinate between departments. This group provides all members opportunities to work together in a collaborative fashion to meet the needs of all county residents with park facilities, programs, and activities.

HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Park Department History

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department began in 1967 and acquired its 1st park in 1970 with Potter's Bridge. The Parks Department now houses over 10 parks, 1 which is over 750 acres (Strawtown Koteewi Park), 3 parks over 100 acres, and over 1,445 acres of land. The Parks Department also offers some of the finest workshops, school programs, staff, and facilities in Indiana.

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department ordinance was established on March 11, 1967. The ordinance was filed May 1, 1967 in the office of Auditor, John Randall.

Many developments and improvements have been made to the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department throughout the years. Every year offers a new and exciting time for expansion and learning opportunities.

Early Parks & Recreation Department Board

The 1st board of directors was appointed for a 2 year period in 1968. Meetings of the board of directors were held at the Commissioner's Court at The Hamilton County Court House, located in Noblesville. Appointed to the 1st Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board of Directors were:

Jerry Barr, Secretary
Henry Burgher, President
Floyd Overdorf, Member
Paul Wheeler, Member

Previous Planning Efforts

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation regularly completes and updates its DNR 5 Year Master Plans.

5-Year Master Plan Goals

The goals of this plan are to maintain and improve parks and programs as the department celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The department wants to continue offering innovative resources for the community while continuing its record of success. Specific plan goals include:

- Maintenance & Updates for facilities starting to show their age and ever increasing use
- Administrative Staff space and functionality throughout the system
- Create New Partnerships and to offer new and unique amenities to park visitors
- Review and affirm land acquisition policies
- Work to lose the designation of 'Best kept secret'

Hamilton County Park Board

Andrew (Terry) Prather, President
Larry Roudebush, Vice President
Mark McCauley, Secretary
Philip Shelby, Treasurer
Stephen Andrews
Dr. Judith Campbell
Jan DeJarnatt
Susan Peterson

Full Time Staff

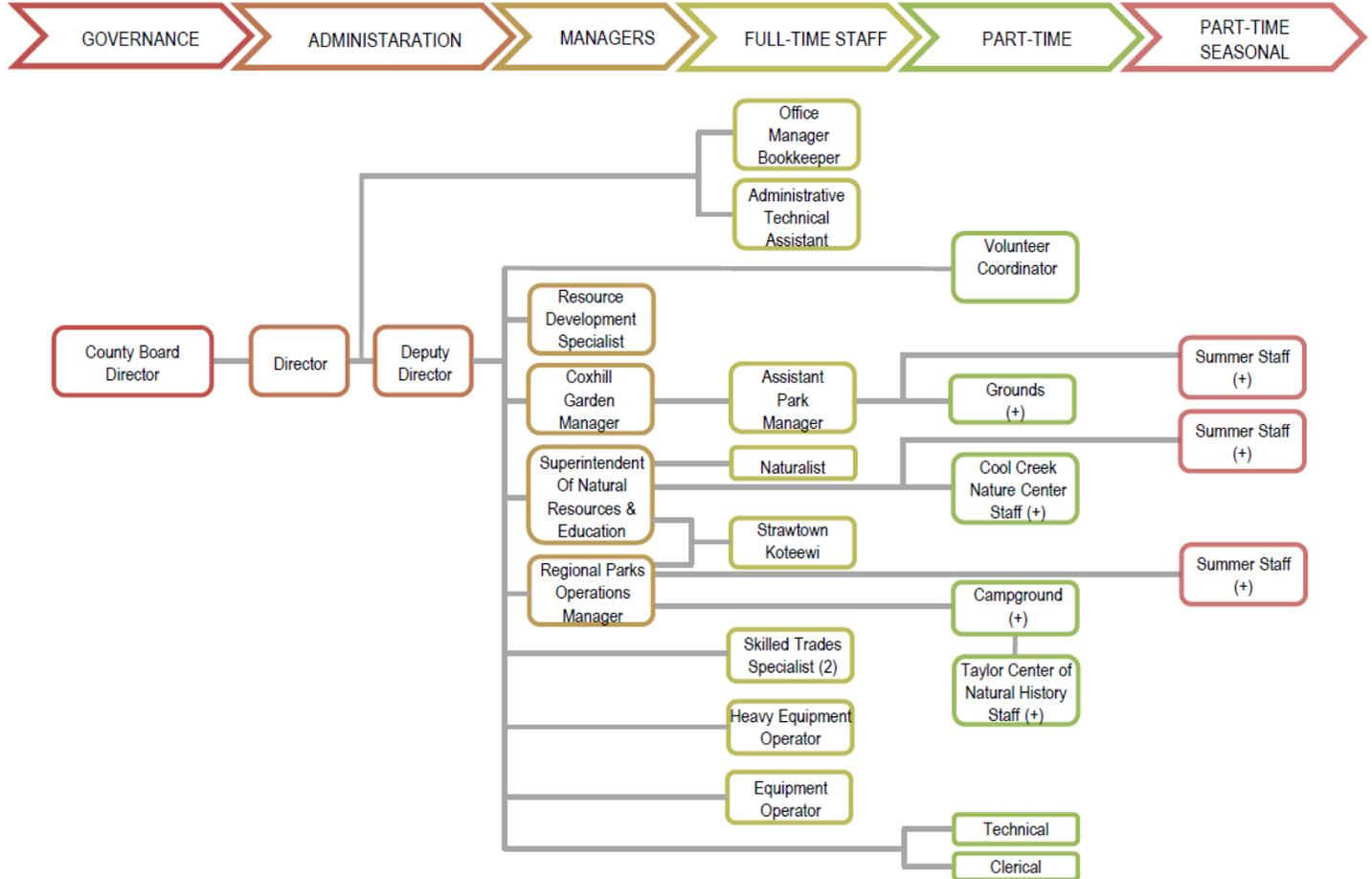
Allen Patterson, Director
B. Christopher Stice, Deputy Director
Amanda Smith, Supt. of Natural Resources & Education
Bruce Oldham, Regional Parks Operations Manager
Gary Nowlton, Coxhall Gardens Park Manager
Don Nicholls, Resource Development Specialist
Dan Popiela, Naturalist
Alesa Cox, Office Manager
Carrie Jones, Technical Coordinator

The department employs numerous part time and seasonal staff, filling essential roles in the department throughout the year. The Organizational Chart on the adjacent page provides a detailed view of the department staffing model.

Volunteers

The department is always looking for people who are creative, enjoy working with kids, want to be outdoors, or like to learn new things, to serve as a Park volunteer. It's a great way to give back to the community, meet new people, and help preserve Hamilton County's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Some of the various volunteer opportunities the Hamilton Volunteering for the Hamilton Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience! Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with special events, helping with gardening, caring for the nature center's wildlife friends, greenhouse tending, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, educating and more. Information can be found online and within the *Chatterbox!* program guide.

Organization Chart



Budget Summary

The department operates on an annual budget of about \$3.5 million. Occasionally grants, bonds, and other outside monetary sources supplement the budget by providing capital for land acquisition, capital improvements, maintenance, and special opportunities.

Parks Foundation of Hamilton County

Formed in 2006 as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation to support the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. (FHCP) was created with the goal of “assisting in revenue generation and marketing efforts.” Since its creation, FHCP has managed over 1.5 million dollars and benefits from more than 5 million dollars of investments.

The Hamilton County Park system operates in one of the most densely populated and fastest growing counties in Indiana. Even though the Parks Department has successfully increased land holdings on behalf of the

community it serves, the county is described by the Department of Natural Resources as being “critically deficient” in terms of providing adequate outdoor recreation land for its residents. Without a concentrated effort by the county’s park departments, that problem will continue to escalate at a parallel rate with population growth.

While the Hamilton County Parks Department has been soliciting support for some time by seeking donations, park/program sponsorships, and tree and bench dedications, the formation of the Friends of Hamilton County Parks is a major development intended to elevate fundraising and re-giving to a significantly higher level.

Highlights include Coxhall Gardens (donated), Strawtown Koteewi Park (bargain sale, acquisition through Charitable Remainder Trust), Bray Family Homestead Park (donated), and support of the Cool Creek Concert Series, Haunted Trails, Cool Creek Summer Camps, and quality nature and natural history programming.

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Creating accessibility throughout a park system is no small task. Accessibility encompasses so many different things, from people with temporary disabilities to people who lack financial resources. Each person, regardless of physical, mental, emotional, or financial ability must be considered and included in all facets of facility and program design. Given the notable percentage of residents with a disability and a population that is aging, particular attention should be paid to acquiring appropriate training to meet the challenge of appropriate universal design and access. Board members and staff should either receive such training, or ensure that any outside contractor is cognizant of the importance of providing parks and programs for all users.

The 2014 estimates from American Community Survey (by the U.S. Census Bureau) estimated that over 15% of the population in Hamilton County has a physical or mental disability or is over 65 years old.

By age group those with a disability include:

- 4.9% of the population under 65 have some form of disability.
- 10.4% of the population is aged 65 and older

In order to meet the recreation needs of those county residents and visitors with disabilities, it is the goal of Hamilton County Parks & Recreation to offer barrier-free facilities, programs and services that are inclusive of all users whenever feasible.

The existing surface materials of some nature trails and intended use of some of the park's facilities may be restrictive and make meeting ADA requirements challenging. The department is committed to accommodating all individuals with special needs and has policies and procedures in place to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

The department provides the following ADA Notice within the *Chatterbox!*, other publications, and the county website:

Hamilton County, will upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in Hamilton County's public meetings. For special accommodations for a meeting contact the ADA Facilities Coordinator/Safety & Risk Manager at (317-770-1976) or dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. Hamilton County

Parks and Recreation is committed to accommodating all individuals with special needs. If assistance is required at any county park event, program or facility, please contact the Administrative Office in advance at 317-770-4400.

Accessible Parking

All facilities and most parks with developed parking have accessible parking spaces and accessible routes that meet ADA requirements at a minimum. Some undeveloped or minimally developed parks plan to provide accessible parking as the park and facilities are developed.

Facilities

All facilities are designed to meet or exceed accessibility requirements. Some storage facilities and barns are not universally accessible, but accommodations are made for park users and programs as needed.

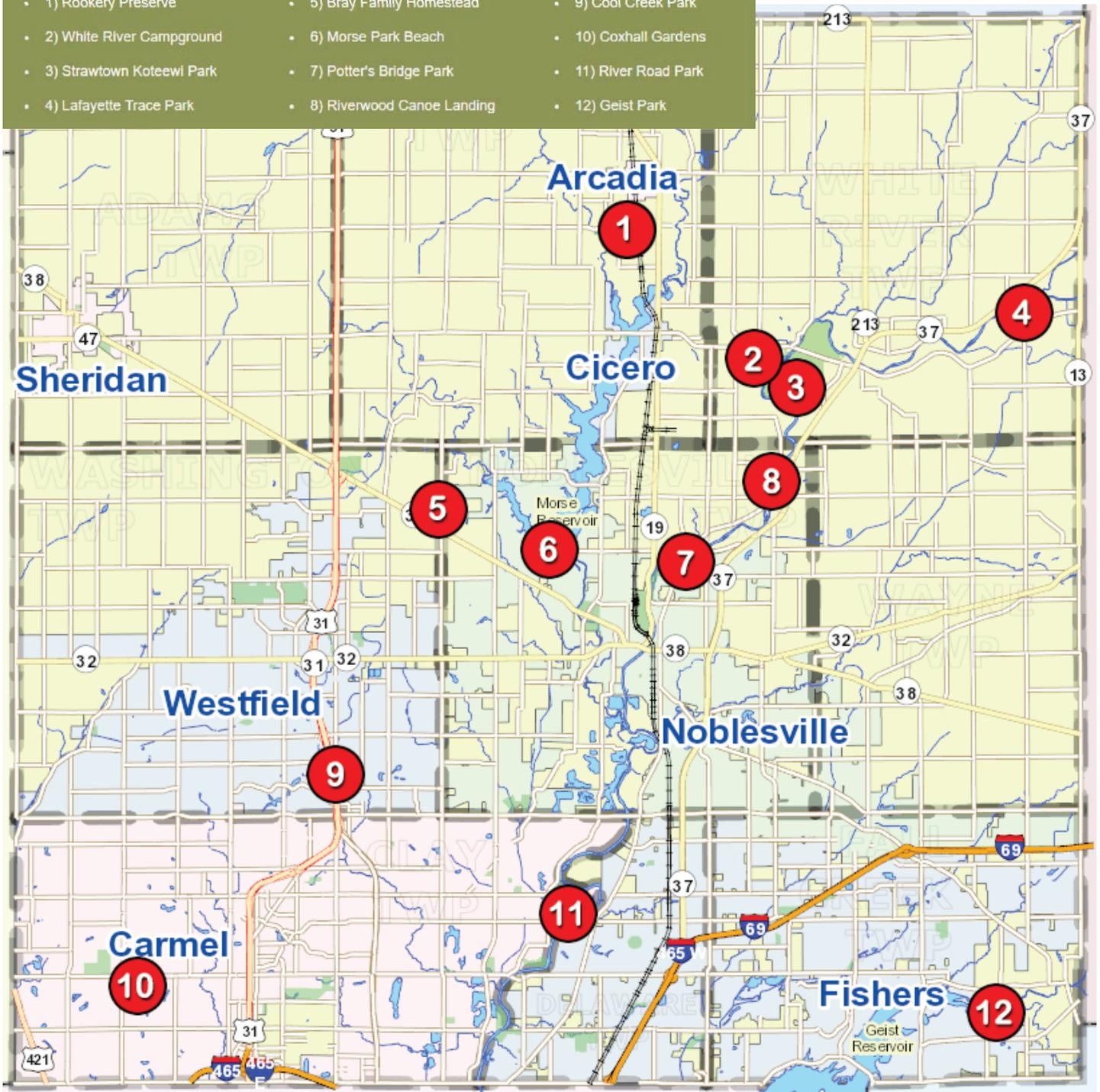
Trails

Most trails in the park are either paved or constructed with an accessible crushed stone. Some nature trails are narrow compacted earth paths. When well-compacted, some of the unpaved trails are readily used by those using a wheelchair or walker or those with other limited mobility disabilities. Occasionally crushed stone surfaces may develop loose or unstable surface and along with natural earth pathways, may not be readily accessible.



EXISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

- 1) Rookery Preserve
- 2) White River Campground
- 3) Strawtown Koteewi Park
- 4) Lafayette Trace Park
- 5) Bray Family Homestead
- 6) Morse Park Beach
- 7) Potter's Bridge Park
- 8) Riverwood Canoe Landing
- 9) Cool Creek Park
- 10) Coxhall Gardens
- 11) River Road Park
- 12) Geist Park



EXISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

PARKS

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation operates 12 parks with over 1589 acres. Parks are primarily located in the central portion of the county with some to the south and a few to the north. The northwestern and northeastern portions of the county are the only areas without significant parks available.

Parks & Properties	Acres
• Acorn Farm	40
• Administration Facilities	15
• Bray Family Homestead Park	94
• Cool Creek Park and Nature Center	90
• Coxhall Gardens	125
• Geist Park	17
• Harger Trace	7
• Lafayette Trace Park	124
• Monon Trail	19.7
• Morse Park & Beach	25
• Potter's Bridge Park	30
• River Road Park	64
• Riverwood Canoe Landing	2
• Rookery Preserve	34
• Strawtown Koteewi Park	810
• Weimeyer	4.1
• White River Campground	20
• White River Greenway Trail	46.7
• Bishop Park (undeveloped)	24.4

The department has also acquired property recently that includes Acorn Farms and Bishops Park as well as the Morris Family Homestead at Strawtown, adjacent to Strawtown Koteewi Park.

TRAILS

The Monon Trail was recently opened through northwestern portions of the county connecting the Westfield Area with Sheridan. The White River Greenway is another popular trail connecting park areas. The department also maintains numerous miles of trails within their parks.

PROGRAMS

HCPR provides programs and activities aimed at a variety of ages, user groups and interests. New, revised and additional programs and recreational activities respond to changing community needs and interests. Many of the programs offered by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are free to participants, while others are reasonable to

low cost. Many of the Department's programs are focused on interpretation of nature and history/pre-history, with special emphasis on archaeology and Native American Culture. Programs are conducted by Park Department Naturalists/Interpretive Staff, as well as volunteers, and partners. The biggest events hosted by HCPR are the Cool Creek Concert Series hosted at the park throughout the summer months. The concerts drew 6114 attendees in 2016 and profited just under \$5000 to support other programs and operations in the department. Other popular events include the Daddy Daughter Dance, Maple Syrup Program, the Hamilton County Bluegrass Festival, 4 free Concerts in the Centerpiece series at Coxhall Park & Gardens, Little Haunt on the Prairie, and Holly Jolly Jamboree. Archaeology Month in September continues to grow and provide school field trips and program participants first hand and views and of the process of archaeology and interpretive experiences related to the importance of archaeological studies at Strawtown Koteewi Park. HCPR is in discussions with local acting groups for a possible Shakespeare in the Park program as well.

Programs are generally centered around the following categories:

- Nature Camps
- Scout Programs
- Family Programs
- Historical Programs
- Guided Nature Hikes
- School Field Trips
- Special Events
- Concerts

The Department publishes the *Chatterbox!* quarterly, providing information on all programs, activities, and park news. It can be found online as well as in print at park and county facilities, and is mailed to subscribers. Programs are also publicized on social media and on the department's website.



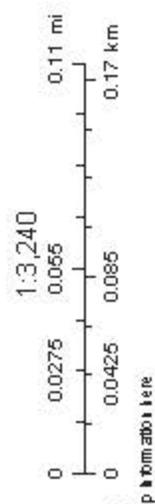
Acorn Park

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land





ACORN FARMS

LEGEND	
OPEN FIELD	
WOODS	
STRUCTURES	
PARKING	
WATERSHED	
GRAVEL ROAD	
PARK BOUNDARY	



REGIONAL MAP



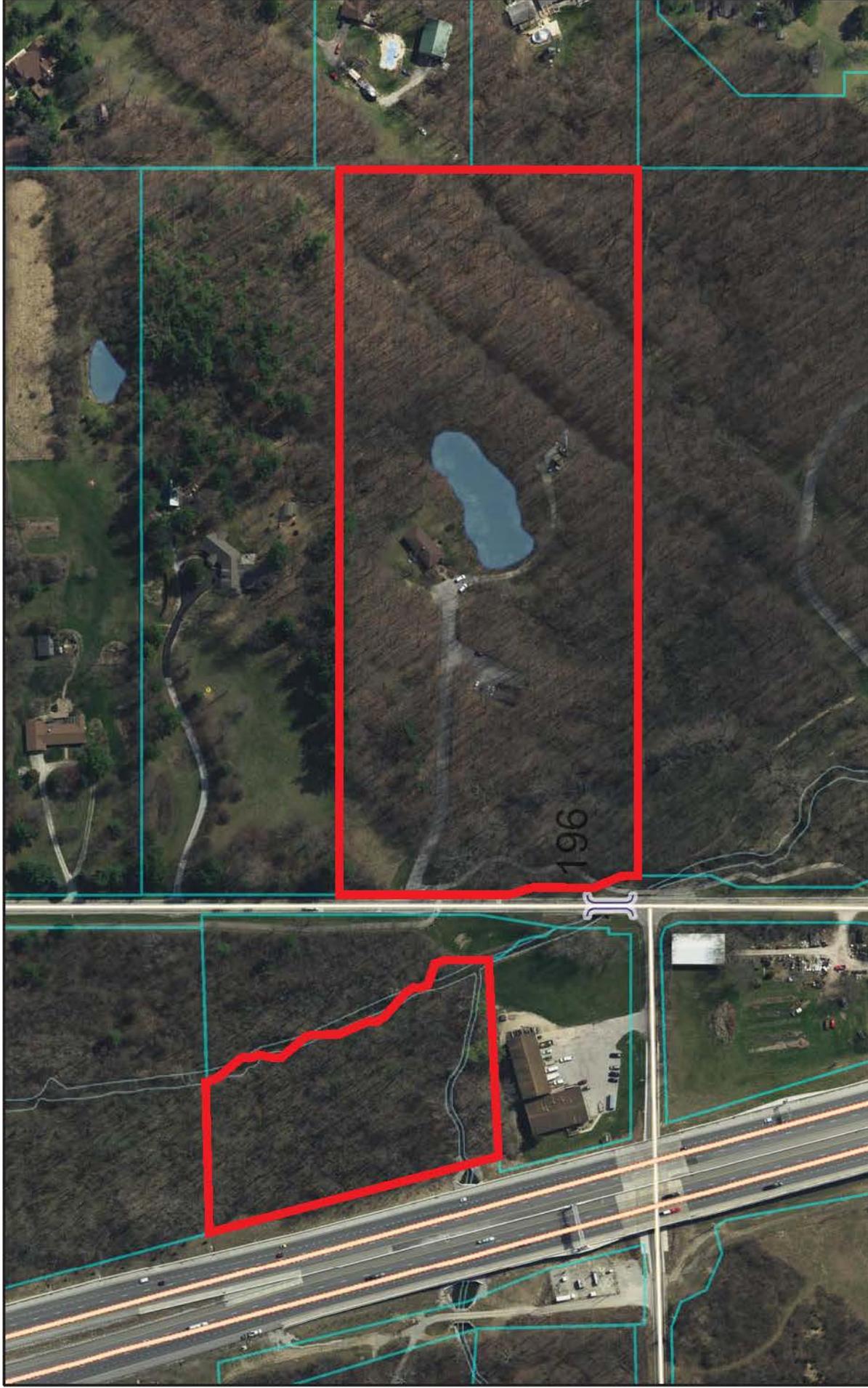
HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400
15466 OAK ROAD, CARMEL, IN 46033

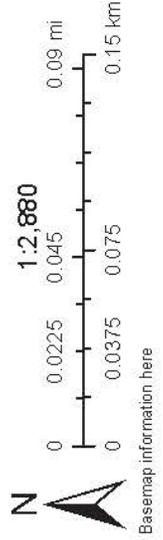


Admin Building and Land Hamilton County Map



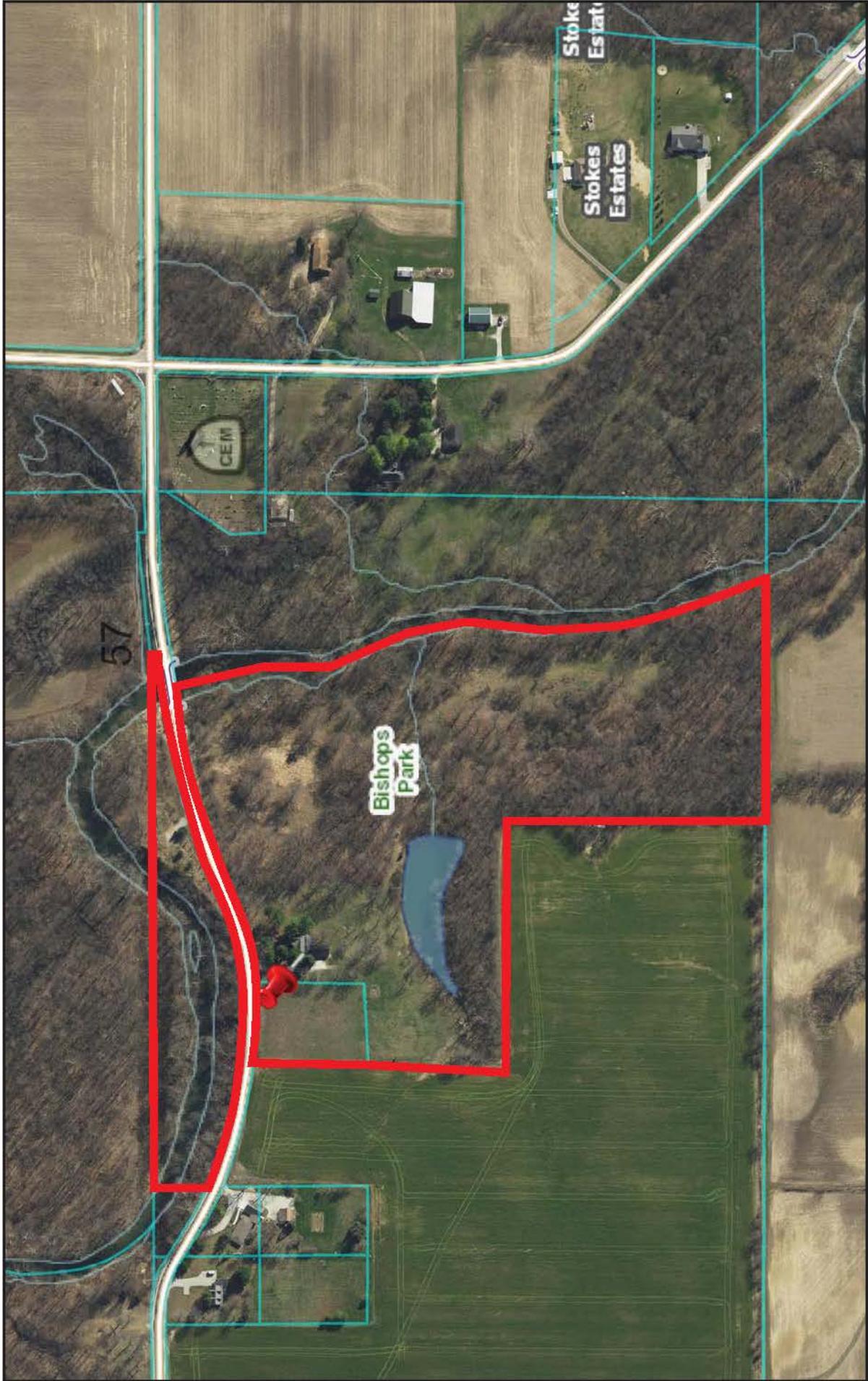
December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land



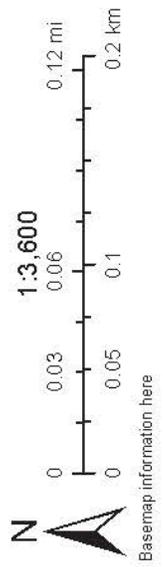
Bishops Park

Hamilton County Map



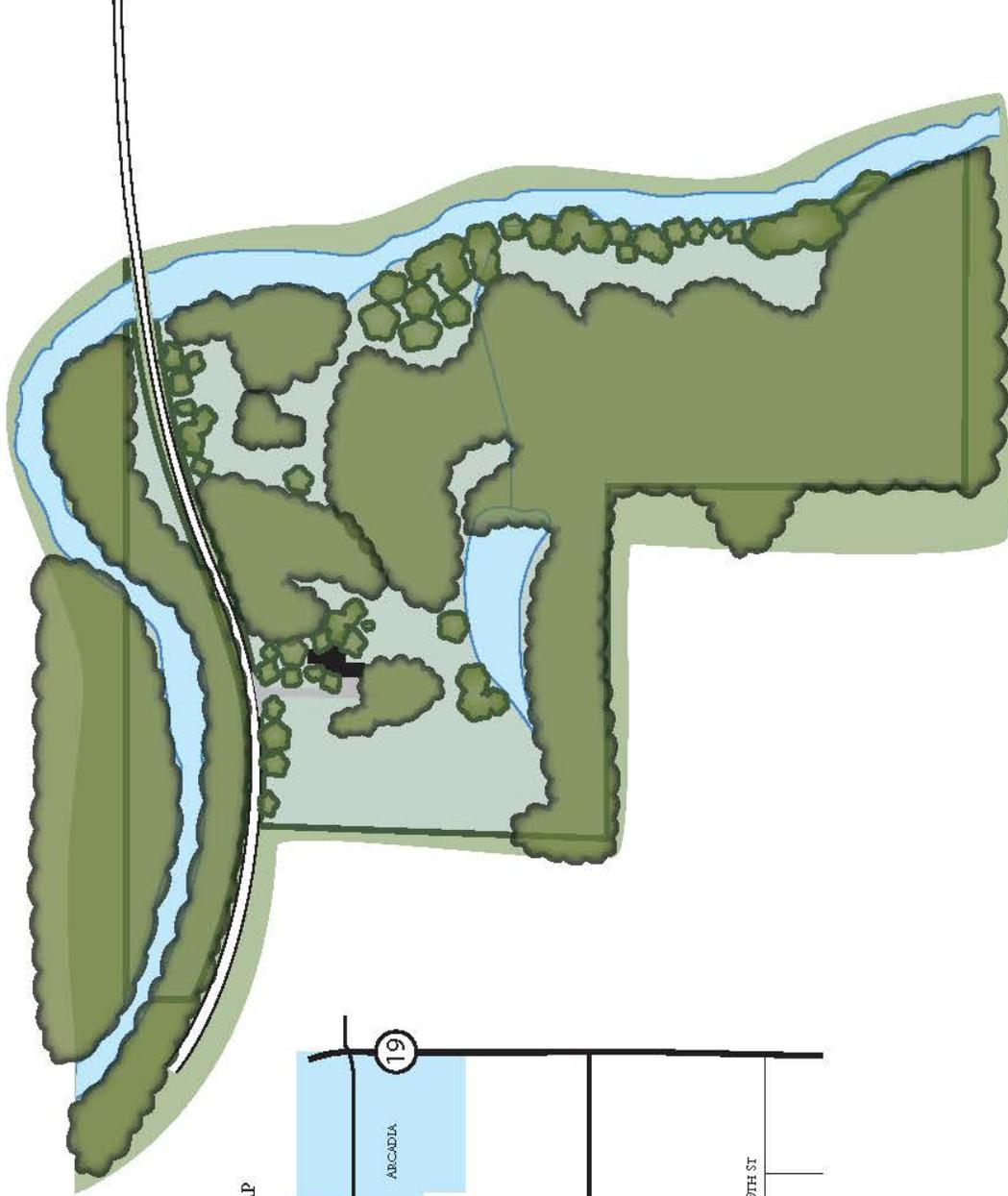
December 15, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land

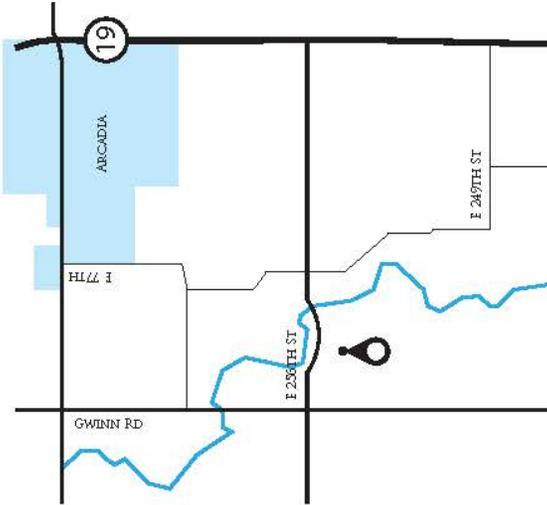




BISHOP'S PARK



REGIONAL MAP



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK

MYHAMILTONCOUNTYPARKS.COM 317.770.4400
7661 E 256TH ST, ARCADIA, IN 46030



Bray Family Homestead Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

-  Parcels
-  Bridges
-  HCPR Land



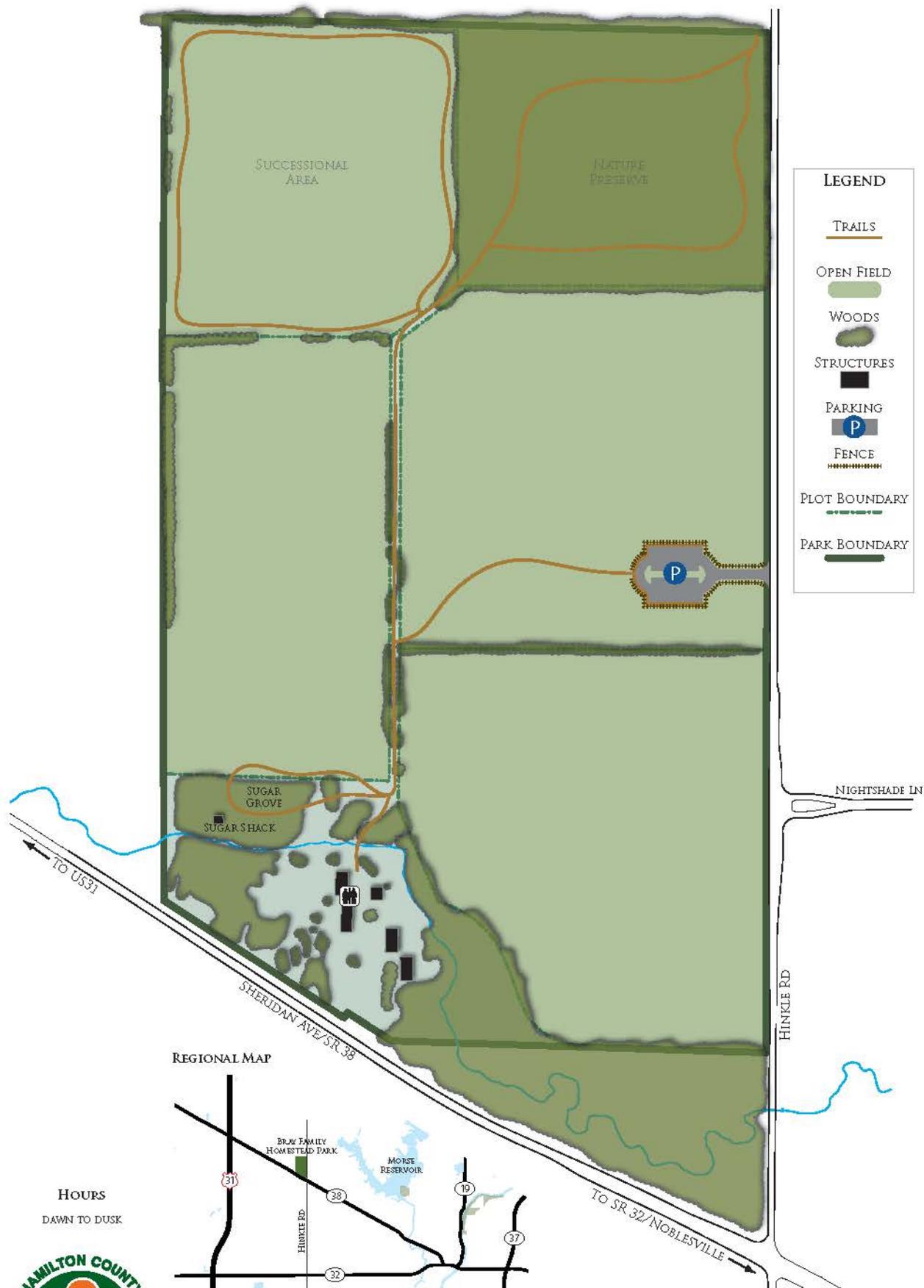
1:6,480

0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 mi
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 km

base map from aeri



BRAY FAMILY HOMESTEAD PARK



LEGEND

- TRAILS
- OPEN FIELD
- WOODS
- STRUCTURES
- PARKING
- FENCE
- PLOT BOUNDARY
- PARK BOUNDARY

REGIONAL MAP



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



4528 SHERIDAN RD/SR38, NOBLESVILLE IN, 46062

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Cool Creek Park

Cool Creek Park encompasses 90 acres in the south central portion of the county. It's located on 151st Street, just east of US 31. Cool Creek Park is one of the most popular spaces for area residents to gather and play or enjoy nature. The park has over 3 miles of wooded trails, picnic shelters, and a popular playground. There is also a large pavilion with ample grass area for seating while listening to the wide variety of musicians during the summer concerts. The nature center located on the site contains a wide variety of seasonal displays, live animals, and a bird watching room. Also in the nature center is a library and a large meeting room for classes and other leisure activities. The nature center receives an average of 50,000 visitors annually. The park administrative offices are located in cool creek park.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Removing hazard trees throughout the park
- Expand the park boundary
- Aggressive removal of invasive plant species
- Improve Interpretive Signage
- Study the Nature Center facility for accommodation of staff and visitors
- Upgrade playground equipment

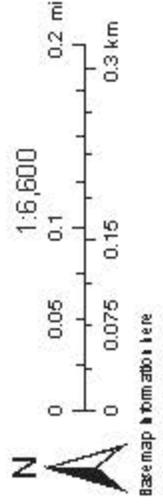
Cool Creek Park

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land





COOL CREEK PARK & NATURE CENTER



REGIONAL MAP



HOURS

PARK
DAWN TO DUSK

NATURE CENTER:
MON-SAT 10AM-5PM
SUN 1PM-5PM

LEGEND

- TULIP/PAWPAW TRAIL 1.5 MILES
- TULIP/BEECH TRAIL 1 MILE
- NATALIE WHEELER TRAIL (PAVED)
- OTHER TRAIL
- ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL
- TRAILHEAD
- OPEN FIELD
- WOODS
- STRUCTURES
- PICNIC SHELTERS
- PARKING
- WATERSHED
- GATES
- FENCE
- PARK BOUNDARY



2000 EAST 151ST STREET, CARMEL IN, 46033

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.774.2500



Coxhall Gardens

Coxhall Gardens is located on 116th Street in the southern part of the county, near the western county line. This 125 acre site is one of the newest Hamilton County Parks, and is the generous legacy of Jesse and Beulah Cox. Jesse and Beulah lived for many years on this site and built a replica of the Governor's mansion at Colonial Williamsburg. This park site is one of many jewels in the county park system. This unique facility provides visitors with formal gardens, childrens' gardens, a large play area, a large lake, plenty of open greenspace, a center piece and twin bell towers.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Improving the Williams Homestead
 - Designing and installing picnic areas throughout the park
 - Installing interpretive signage
 - Establishing an art/sculpture program in the park
 - Constructing a conservatory and meeting space
 - Establishing a trail system in the park linking the amenities and community
-

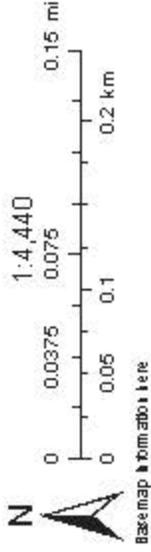
Coxhall Gardens

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

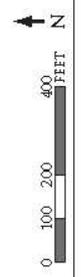
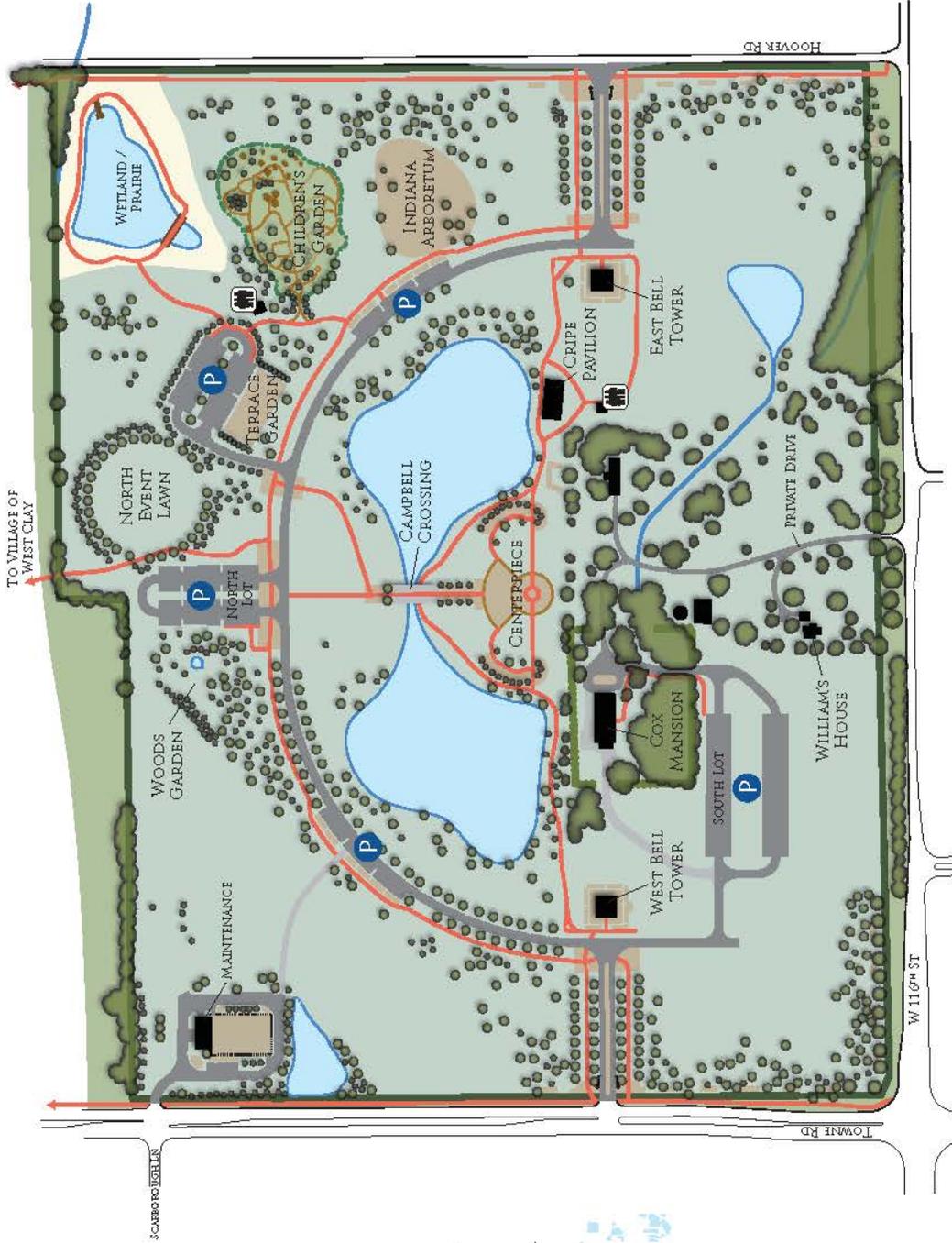
- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land



COXHALL GARDENS



LEGEND	
TRAILS	
OPEN FIELD	
WOODS	
STRUCTURES	
PARKING	
WATERSHED	
GRAVEL ROAD	
LANDSCAPING	
GATES	
PARK BOUNDARY	



REGIONAL MAP



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



MYHAMILTONCOUNTYPARKS.COM 317.770.4400
11677 TOWNE RD., CARMEL, IN 46032

Geist Park

Geist Park is located at the eastern edge of the county, on Florida Road. This 17 acre site lies along the banks of Fall Creek at the edges of Geist Reservoir. This park contains a play area, picnic shelter, and restrooms. It also provides the perfect spot for fishing, canoeing, or just spending time with nature. There is a boardwalk and wildlife observation deck, concrete canoe launch and areas along the bank for fishing. There are trails that wind through the park providing walkers with different views of the area's natural setting.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Installing hard surface trails
 - Implementing items from the connectivity plan developed with Fishers
 - Removing hazard trees
-

Geist Park

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land



GEIST PARK



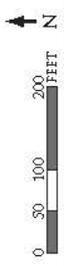
LEGEND

- GRAVEL TRAIL
- PAVED TRAIL
- TRAILHEAD
- OPEN FIELD
- WOODS
- CANOE LAUNCH
- FIREPIT
- STRUCTURES
- PICNIC SHELTER
- PARKING
- FENCE
- GATE
- WATERSHED
- PARK BOUNDARY

HOURS
OPEN 24 HOURS



10979 FLORIDA RD, FORTVILLE, IN 46040
myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



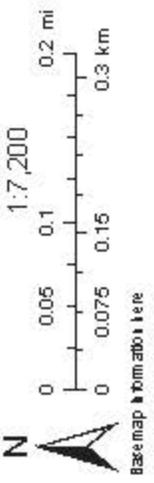
Lafayette Trace Park

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land





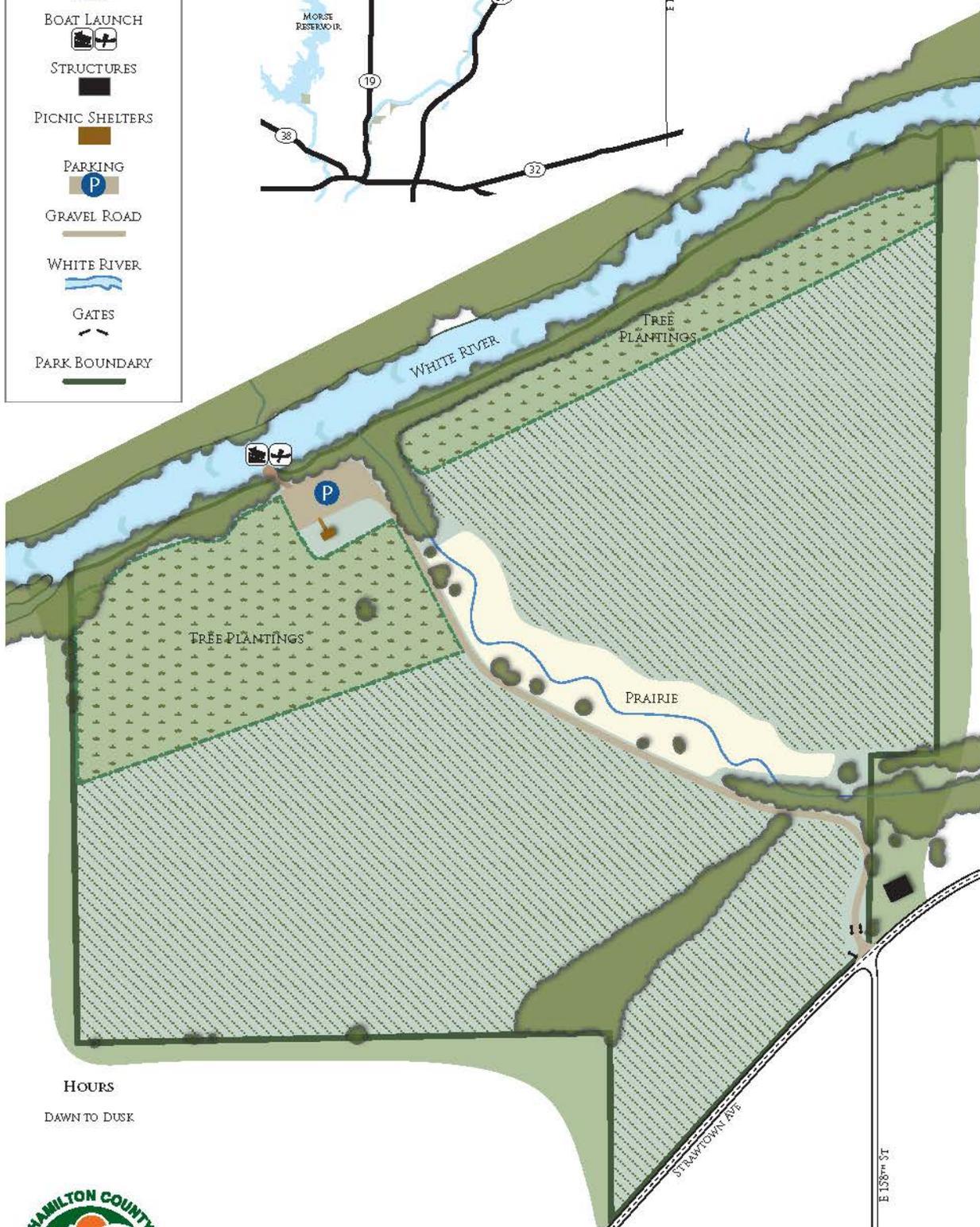
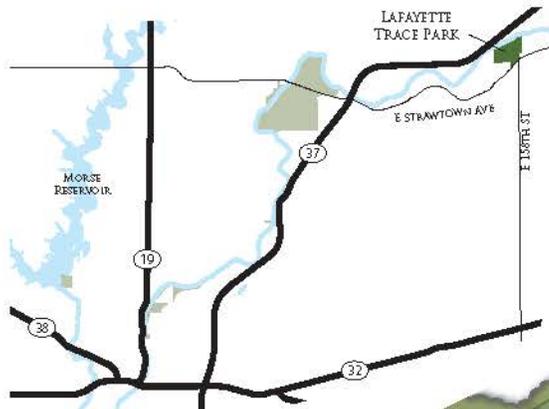
LAFAYETTE TRACE PARK



LEGEND

- CULTIVATED FIELD
- WOODS
- BOAT LAUNCH
- STRUCTURES
- PICNIC SHELTERS
- PARKING
- GRAVEL ROAD
- WHITE RIVER
- GATES
- PARK BOUNDARY

REGIONAL MAP

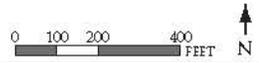


HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



15796 EAST STRAWTOWN AVE, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Monon Trail

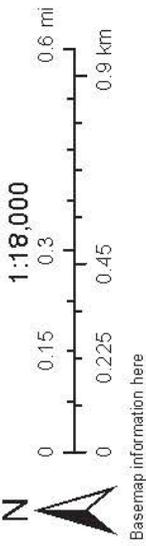
Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

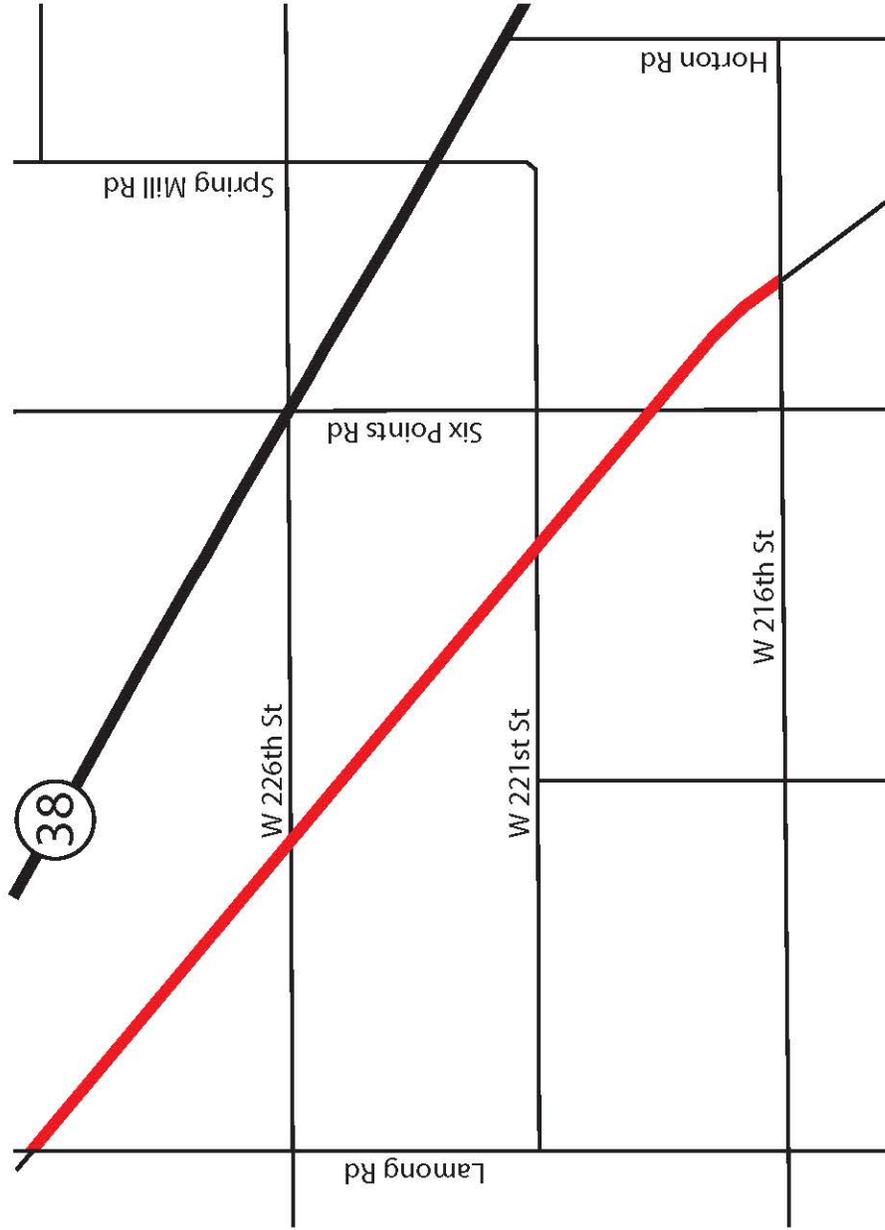
Bridges

HCPR Land





MONON TRAIL



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



MYHAMILTONCOUNTYPARKS.COM 317.770.4400

Morse Park & Beach

Morse Park and Beach is located in the central area of the county, at the southern edge of Morse Reservoir. This 23 acre park's biggest draw is, of course, the water. Morse Reservoir provides ample opportunity for boating and swimming. The park has a swimming beach area, playground, disc golf course, picnic shelters, and grills. There are also 2 adult softball fields and an enclosed pavilion - Osprey Pointe that offers meeting space and limited kitchen facilities.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

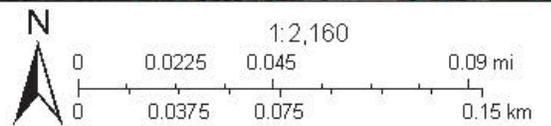
- Upgrades to the restroom/bathhouse
- Trail connector to Noblesville and Cicero
- Benches and picnic areas for visitors

Morse Beach Park Hamilton County Map



December 19, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land





MORSE PARK & BEACH



LEGEND	
	PAVED TRAIL
	STOP SIGN
	OPEN FIELD
	TREES
	STRUCTURES
	PICNIC SHELTERS
	PARKING
	WATERSHED
	GATES
	FENCE
	PARK BOUNDARY

HOURS
PARK OPEN 24HRS



19777 MORSE PARK LN, NOBLESVILLE IN, 46060

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Potter's Bridge Park

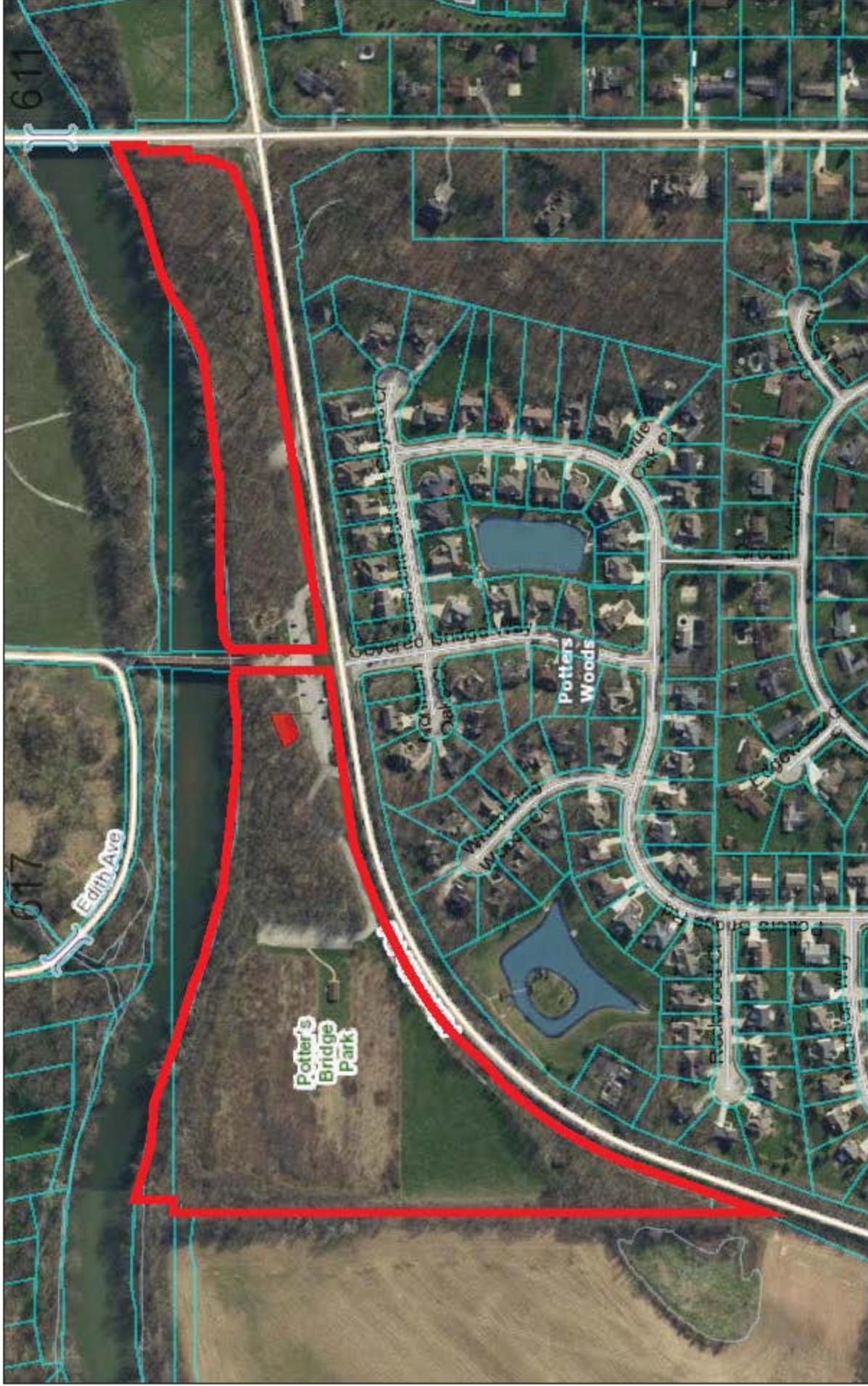
Potter's Bridge Park is centrally located in the county, on Allisonville Road east of SR 19. This 30 acre park is the site of a restored historic covered bridge, constructed by Josiah Durfee in 1870. This only remaining original Hamilton County covered bridge was restored in 1999 and has become a gathering place for local park goers. The park contains a picnic shelter and playground, a canoe launch and bank fishing opportunities. There is a trail in the park that connects to the White River Greenway Trail.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Providing continued maintenance to the covered bridge
 - Bank stabilization
 - Removal of invasive plant species
 - Trail maintenance
 - Additional interpretive signs
-

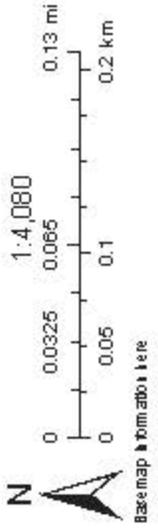
Potter's Bridge Park

Hamilton County Map

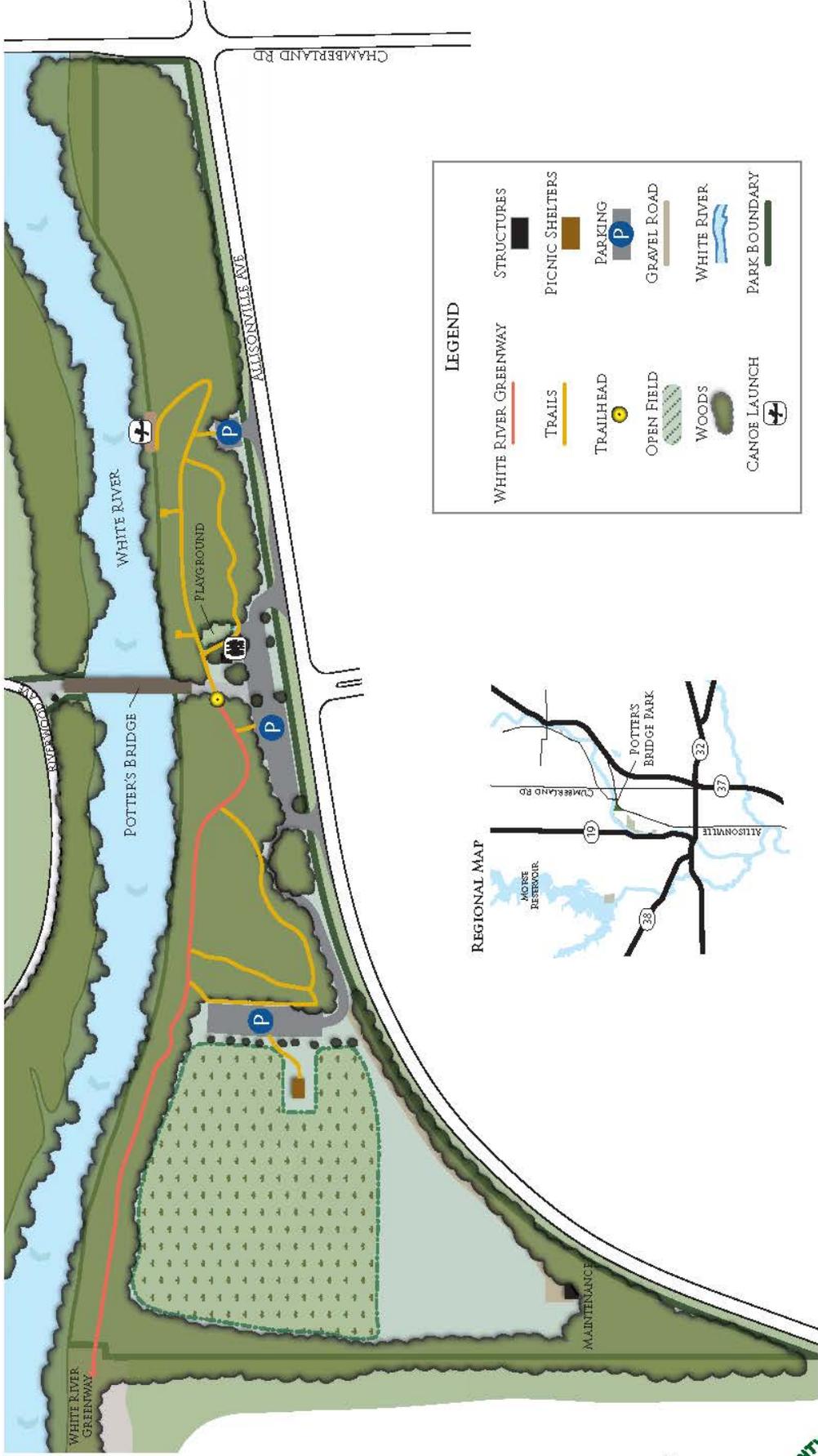


December 13, 2016

-  Parcels
-  Bridges
-  HCPR Land



POTTER'S BRIDGE PARK

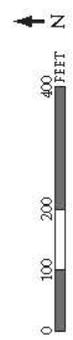


LEGEND

WHITE RIVER GREENWAY	TRAILS	TRAILHEAD	OPEN FIELD	WOODS	CANOE LAUNCH	STRUCTURES	PICNIC SHELTERS	PARKING	GRAVEL ROAD	WHITE RIVER	PARK BOUNDARY



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



19401 NORTH ALLISONVILLE RD, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060
myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Rookery Preserve

The Rookery Preserve is located on Scherer Ave. south of Arcadia. Acquired in 2010, it houses over 100 active nesting sites for the Great Blue Heron. Parking and an overlook are available for visitors to view the Herons nesting near Little Cicero Creek.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Improve views to nesting sites
- Add scopes/binoculars
- Connection to Bishops Park
- Remove hazard trees

Rookery Preserve

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

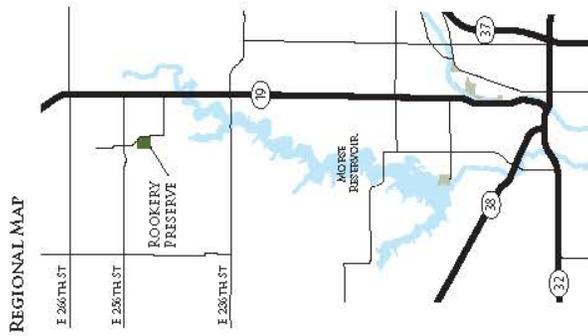
Parcels

Bridges

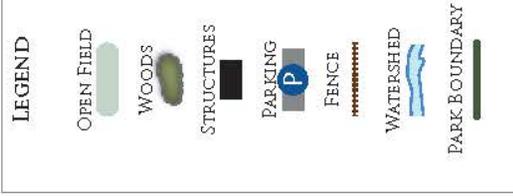
HCPR Land



ROOKERY PRESERVE

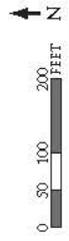


HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



25440 SCHERER AVE, ARCADIA, IN 46030

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



River Road Park

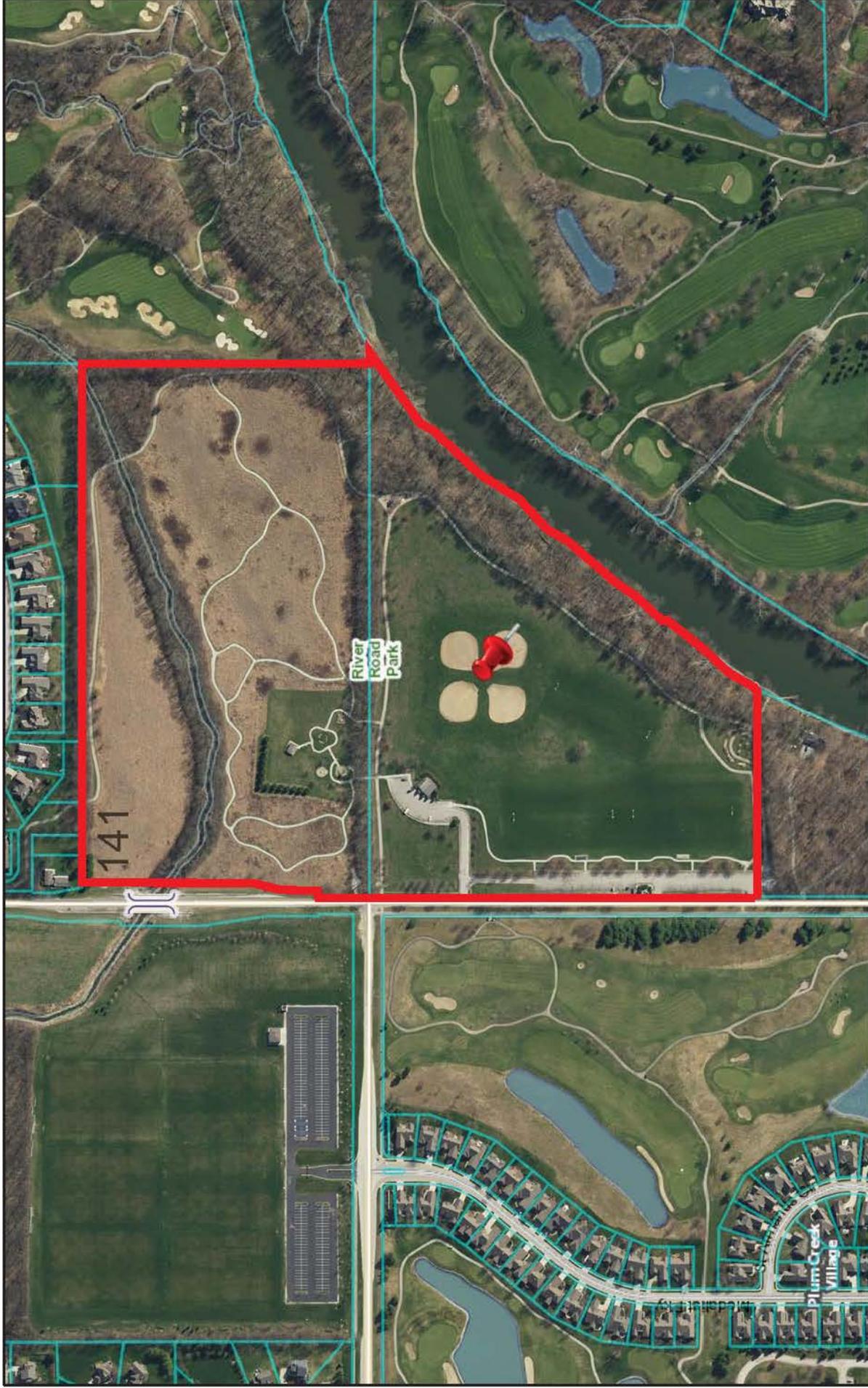
This 63 acre park lies in Clay Township along the White River. There are trails, riverside bike trails, softball, soccer, and rugby fields, a canoe launch, restroom facility and plenty of open space. There is an archaeological theme to this site, with a unique play area, an enclosed interpretive exhibit designed to give visitors a peek at a typical day in the life of Native Americans thousands of years ago.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Repairs to play area
- Additional interpretive signs

River Road Park

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

Parcels

Bridges

HCPR Land



Basemap information here

1:5,040

0 0.0425 0.085 0.17 mi

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 km



RIVER ROAD PARK



LEGEND	
	GRAVEL TRAIL
	PAVED TRAIL
	RIVER TRAIL 2.2 MILES
	MOUNTAIN BIKE SINGLE TRACK
	TRAILHEAD
	OPEN FIELD
	WOODS
	STRUCTURES
	PICNIC SHELTERS
	PARKING
	WATERSHED
	FENCE
	PARK BOUNDARY

HOURS
PARK:
DAWN TO DUSK

REGIONAL MAP



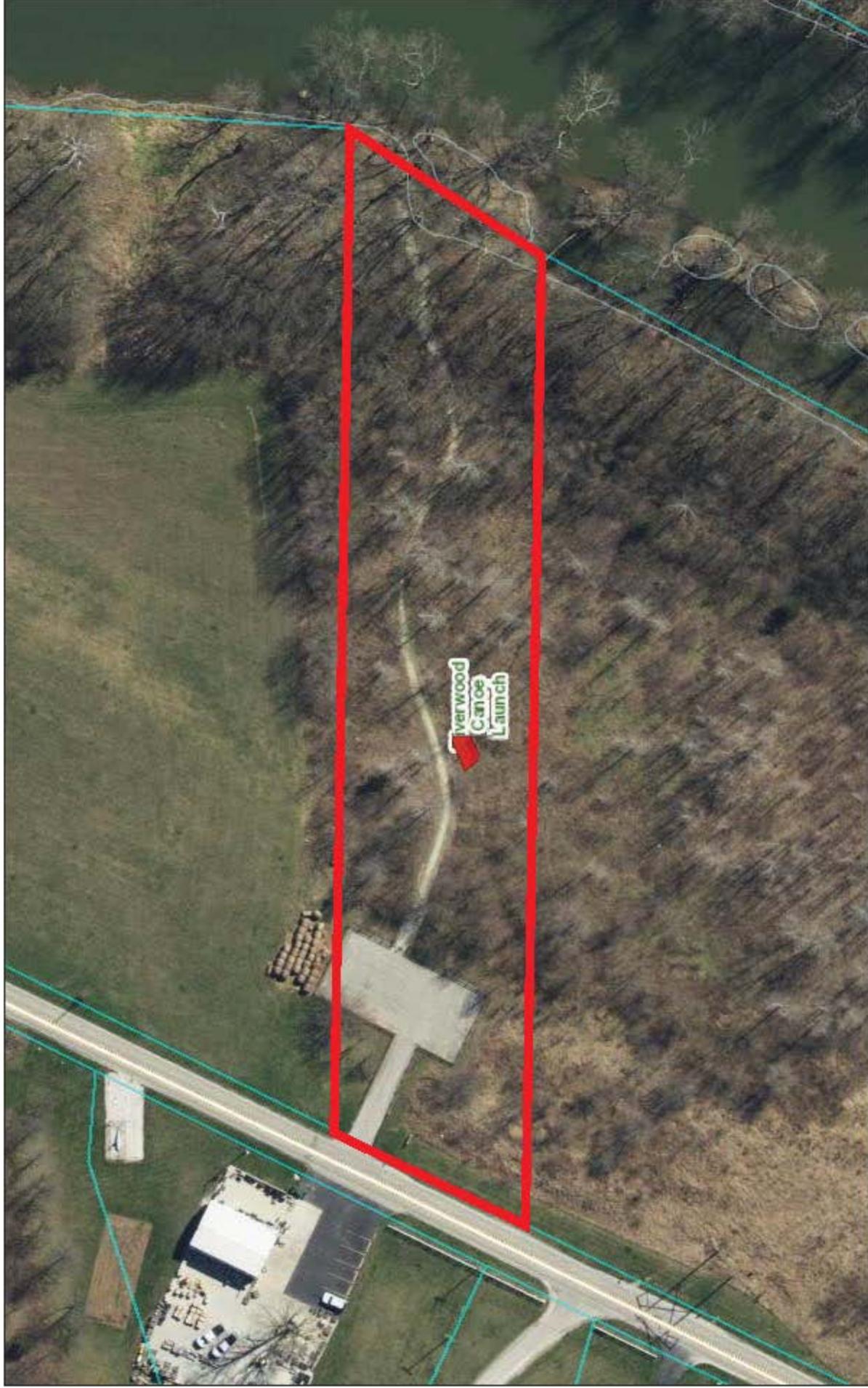
12575 RIVER RD, CARMEL, IN 46033

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Riverwood Canoe Launch

Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land



1:1,080

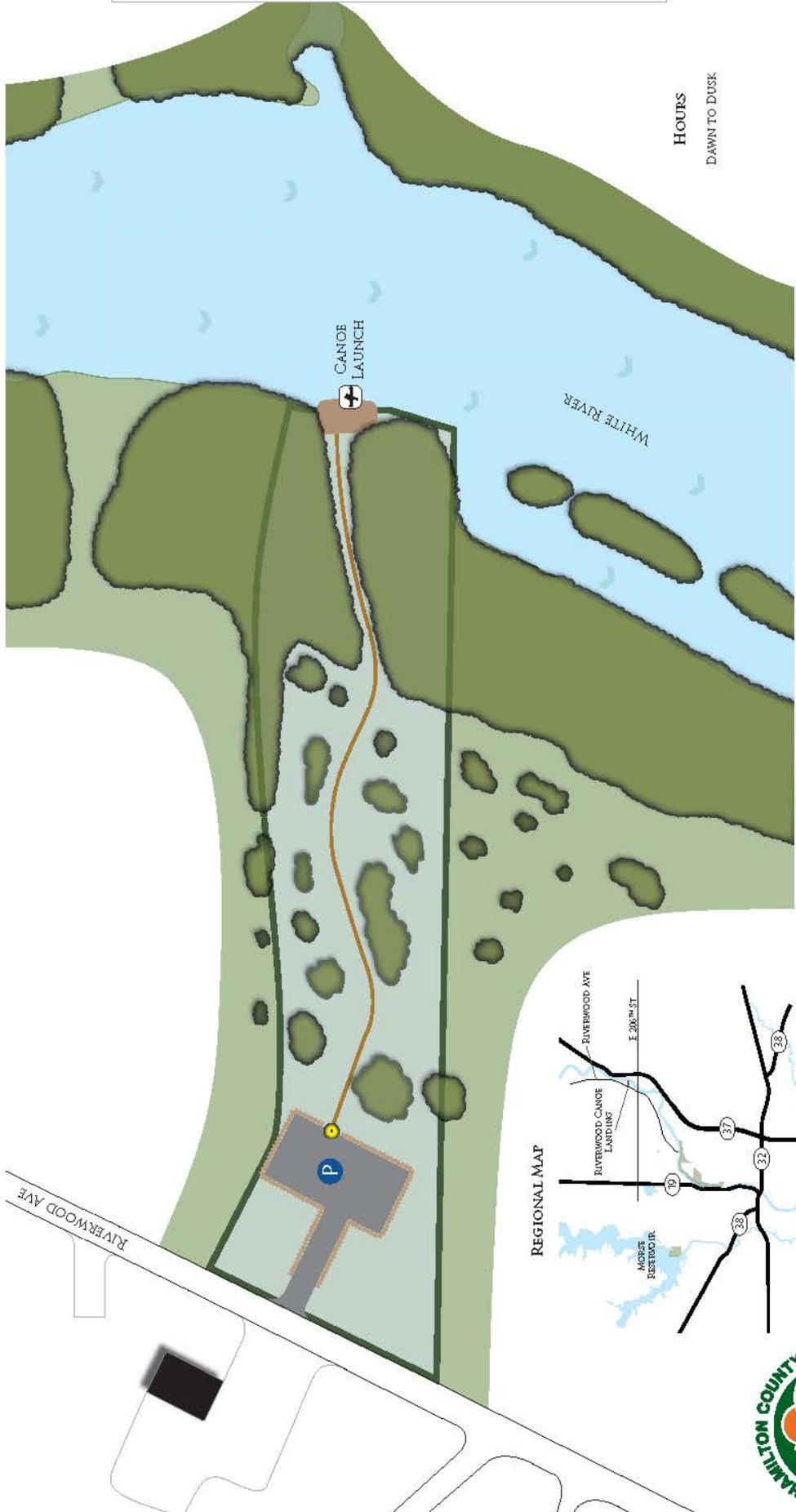
0 0.0075 0.015 0.03 mi
0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 km

base map from aeri

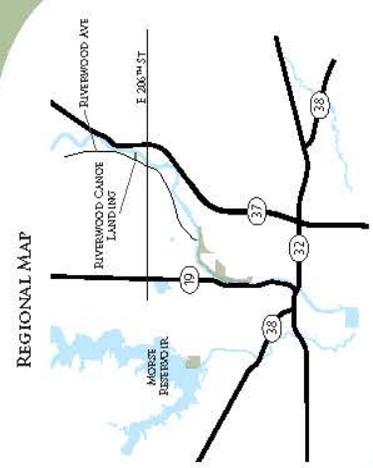
RIVERWOOD CANOE LANDING



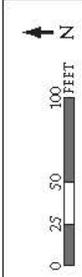
LEGEND	
TRAILS	
TRAILHEAD	
OPEN FIELD	
WOODS	
STRUCTURES	
PARKING	
WHITE RIVER	
FENCE	
PARK BOUNDARY	



HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK



20814 RIVERWOOD AVE, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46062
myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



Strawtown Koteewi Park

This 800+ acre site is an archaeological gem located in the northeast area of the county along the White River. Several seasons of scientific digs have unearthed numerous pieces of early American history. This site is home to the Taylor Center for Natural History, over 6 miles of multi-use trails and a canoe launch. This site is popular with equestrians, as it provides several miles of riding trails and parking lot for horse trailers. Recently an archery range has been added, along with an equestrian facility, new trail connectors, an outdoor exhibit for archaeology, and aerial adventure course. A lake is nearly complete as is a sledding/tubing hill. Also, the Morris Family Homestead adjacent to the park has recently been acquired providing opportunities for additional programming and parkland.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

- Complete lake
 - Construction of a conference center/lodge
 - Installing additional prairie and woodland plantings
 - Expansion of archery facility
 - Expansion of the Taylor Center for Natural History
-

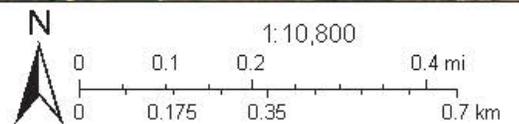
Strawtown Koteewi Park Hamilton County Map



December 19, 2016

⋮ Bridges

HCPR Land

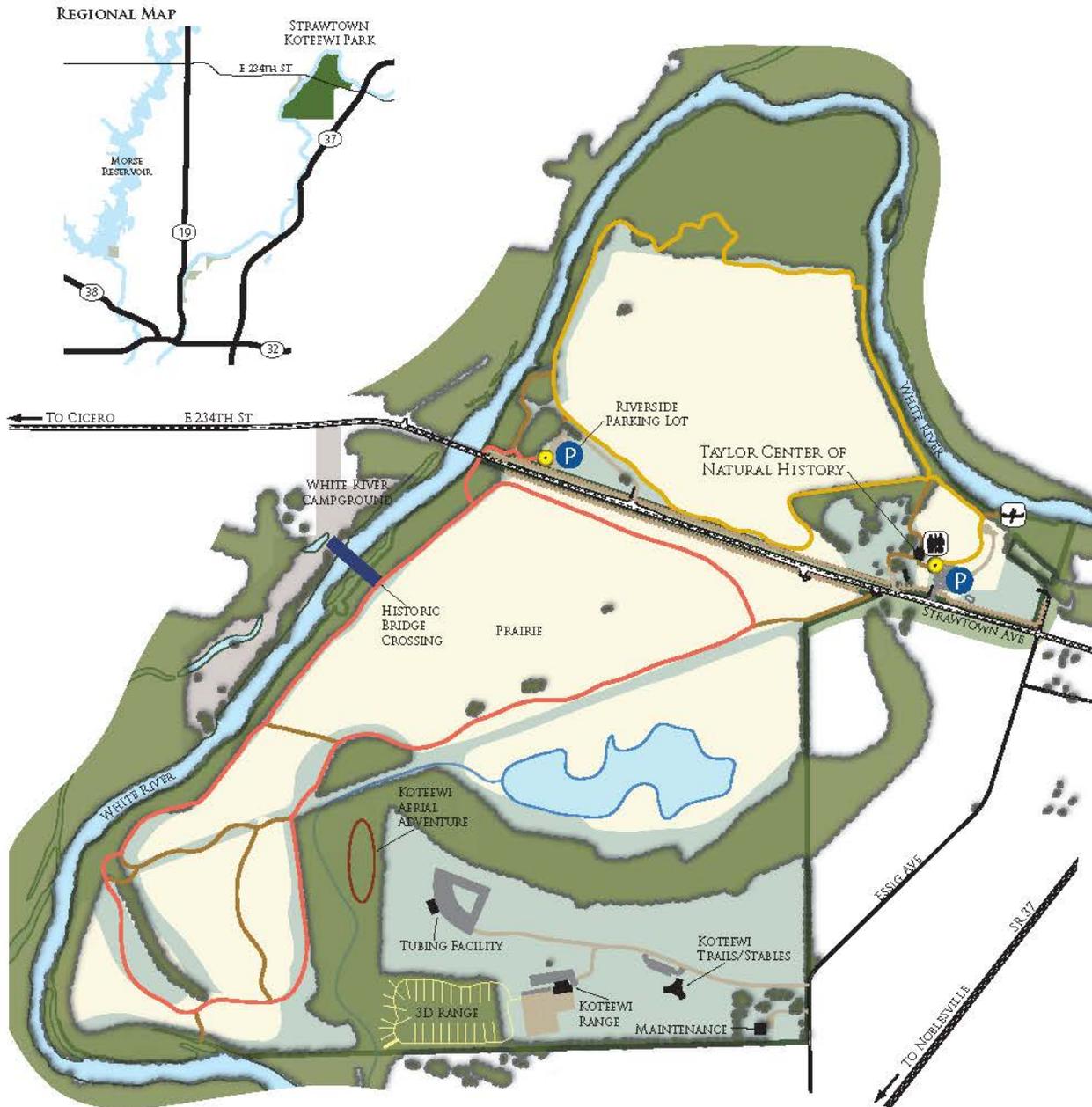




STRAWTOWN KOTEEWI PARK



& TAYLOR CENTER OF NATURAL HISTORY



HOURS

PARK:
DAWN TO DUSK

TAYLOR CENTER:
MON-SAT 10AM-5PM
SUN 1PM-5PM

*TRAILS MAY CLOSE DUE TO
FLOODING

LEGEND

- NORTHERN TRAIL LOOP
2.3 MILES
- SOUTHERN TRAIL LOOP
3.2 MILES
- OTHER TRAILS
- TRAILHEAD
- CANOE LAUNCH
- HISTORIC BRIDGE CROSSING

- PRAIRIE
- OPEN FIELD
- WOODS
- WATERSHED
- STRUCTURES

- PARKING
- GRAVEL ROAD
- GATES
- FENCE
- PARK BOUNDARY



12308 EAST STRAWTOWN AVE, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.774.2574

0 250 500 1000 FEET



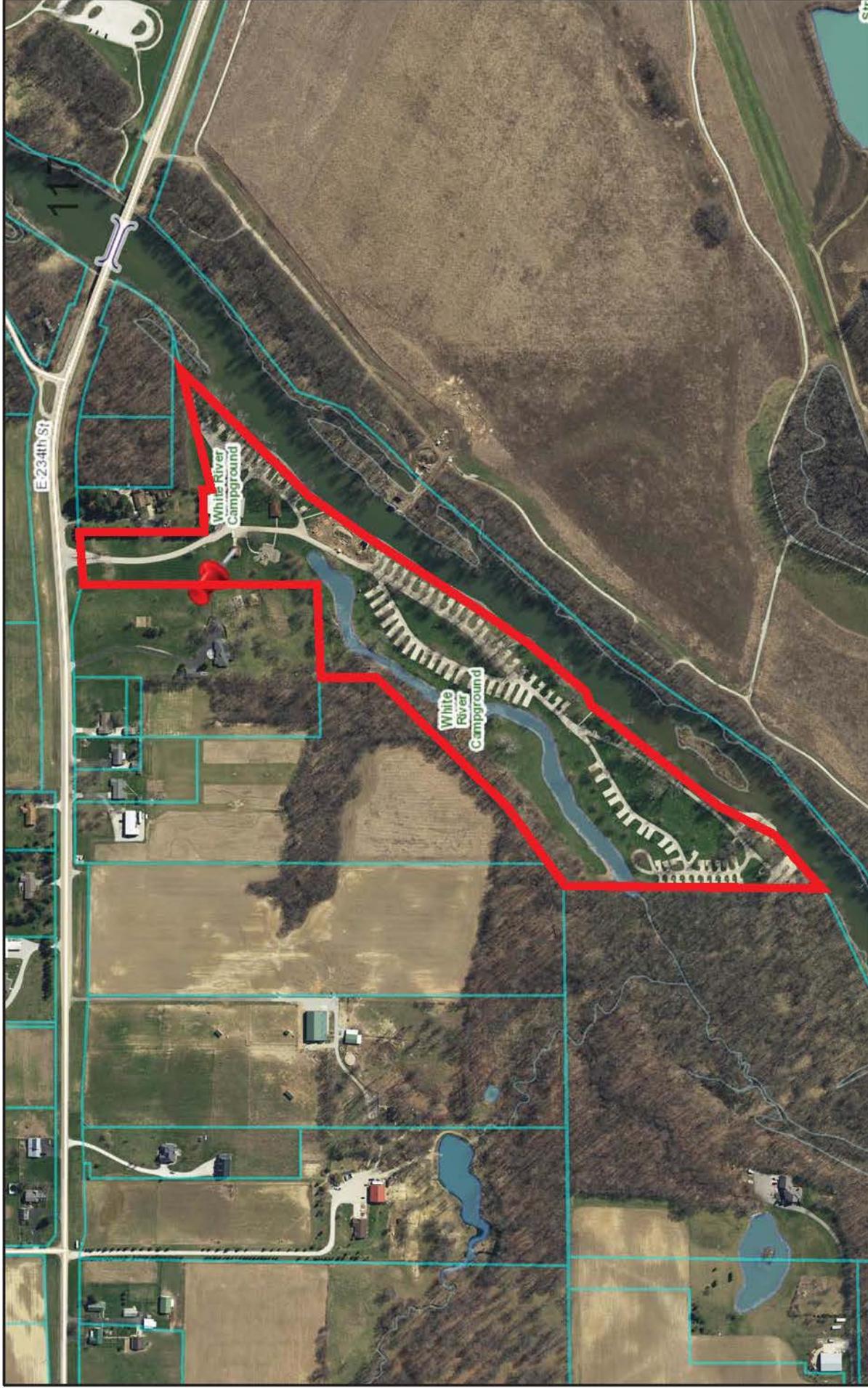
White River Park & Campground

This park offers the perfect spot for a weekend getaway. This 25 acre park provides 106 modern and primitive campsites along the White River. The campground offerings include a boat launch, large picnic shelter available, shower and laundry facilities, restrooms, a campstore with recreation room, and playground. There are also plenty of fishing and canoeing opportunities. This site lies just across the White River from Strawtown Koteewi Park, and in 2016 was connected to the park through the installation of historic bridge spans to allow pedestrian access between the campground and the park.

Some of the priorities for this park site include:

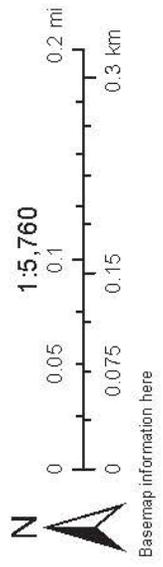
- New wastewater treatment facility
- Improve administrative capabilities
- Update campground offices and storage facilities

White River Campground Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

- Parcels
- Bridges
- HCPR Land





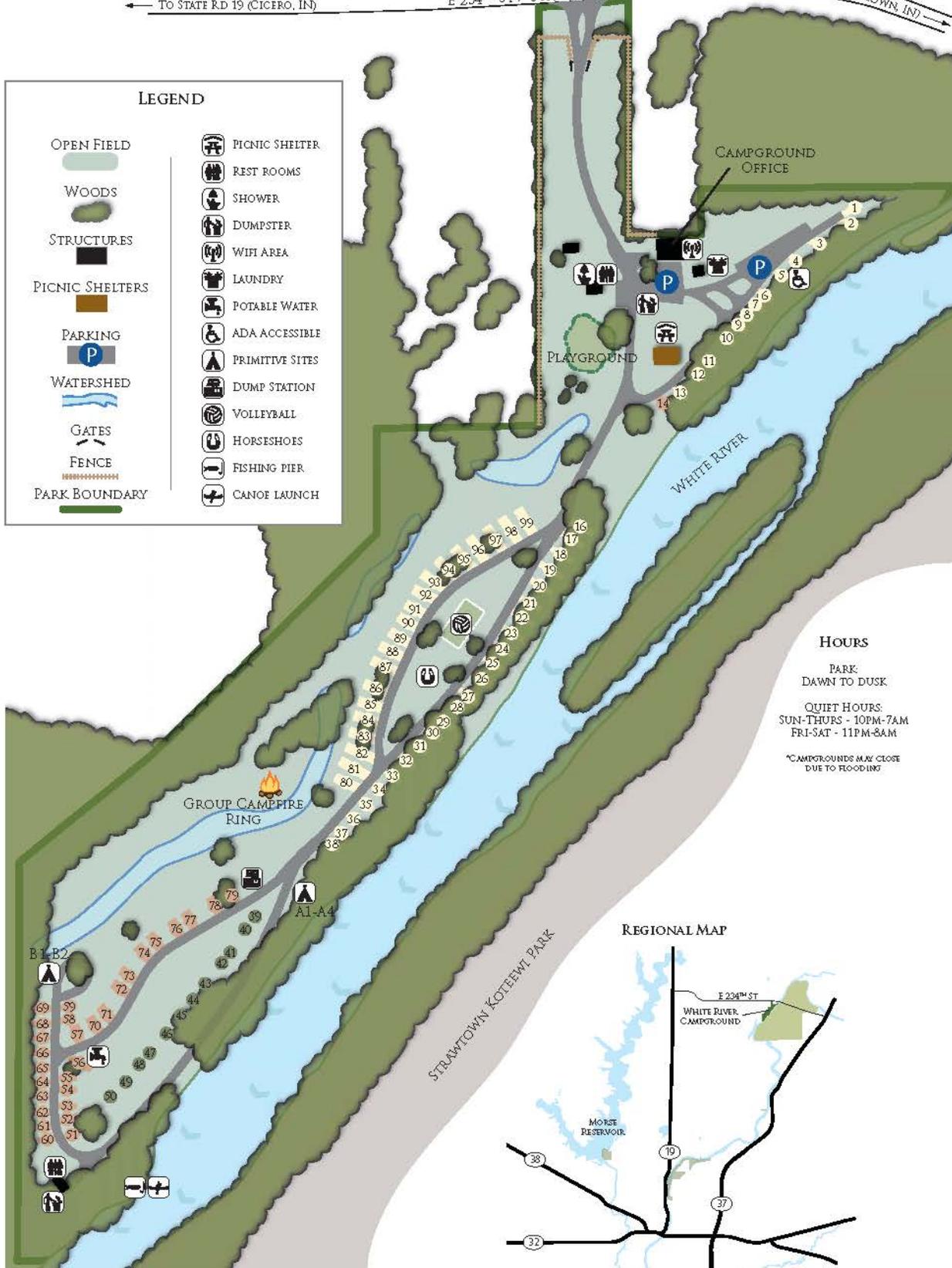
WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND



← TO STATE RD 19 (CICERO, IN) E 234TH ST / STRAWTOWN AVE TO STATE RD 37 (STRAWTOWN, IN) →

LEGEND

OPEN FIELD		PICNIC SHELTER
WOODS		REST ROOMS
STRUCTURES		SHOWER
PICNIC SHELTERS		DUMPSTER
PARKING		WiFi AREA
WATERSHED		LAUNDRY
GATES		POTABLE WATER
FENCE		ADA ACCESSIBLE
PARK BOUNDARY		PRIMITIVE SITES
		DUMP STATION
		VOLLEYBALL
		HORSESHOES
		FISHING PIER
		CANOE LAUNCH

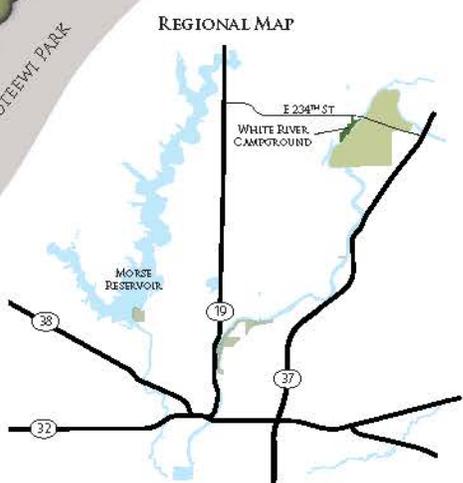


HOURS

PARK:
DAWN TO DUSK

QUIET HOURS:
SUN-THURS - 10PM-7AM
FRI-SAT - 11PM-8AM

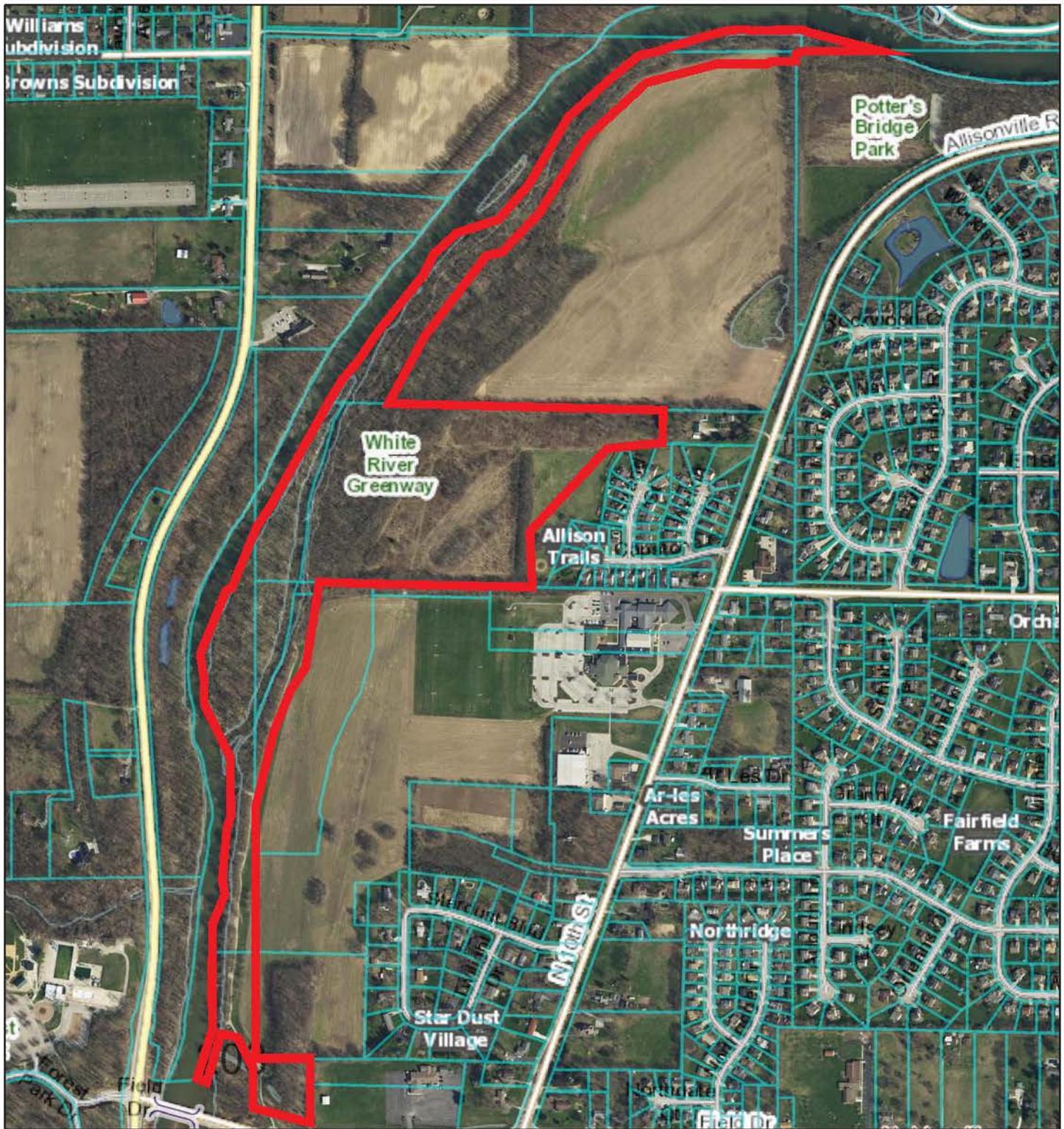
*CAMPGROUNDS MAY CLOSE DUE TO FLOODING



11299 EAST 234TH ST, CICERO, IN 46034
myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4430

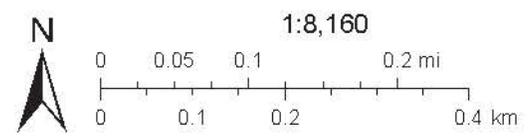


White River Greenway Trail Hamilton County Map



December 13, 2016

-  Parcels
-  Bridges
-  HCPR Land



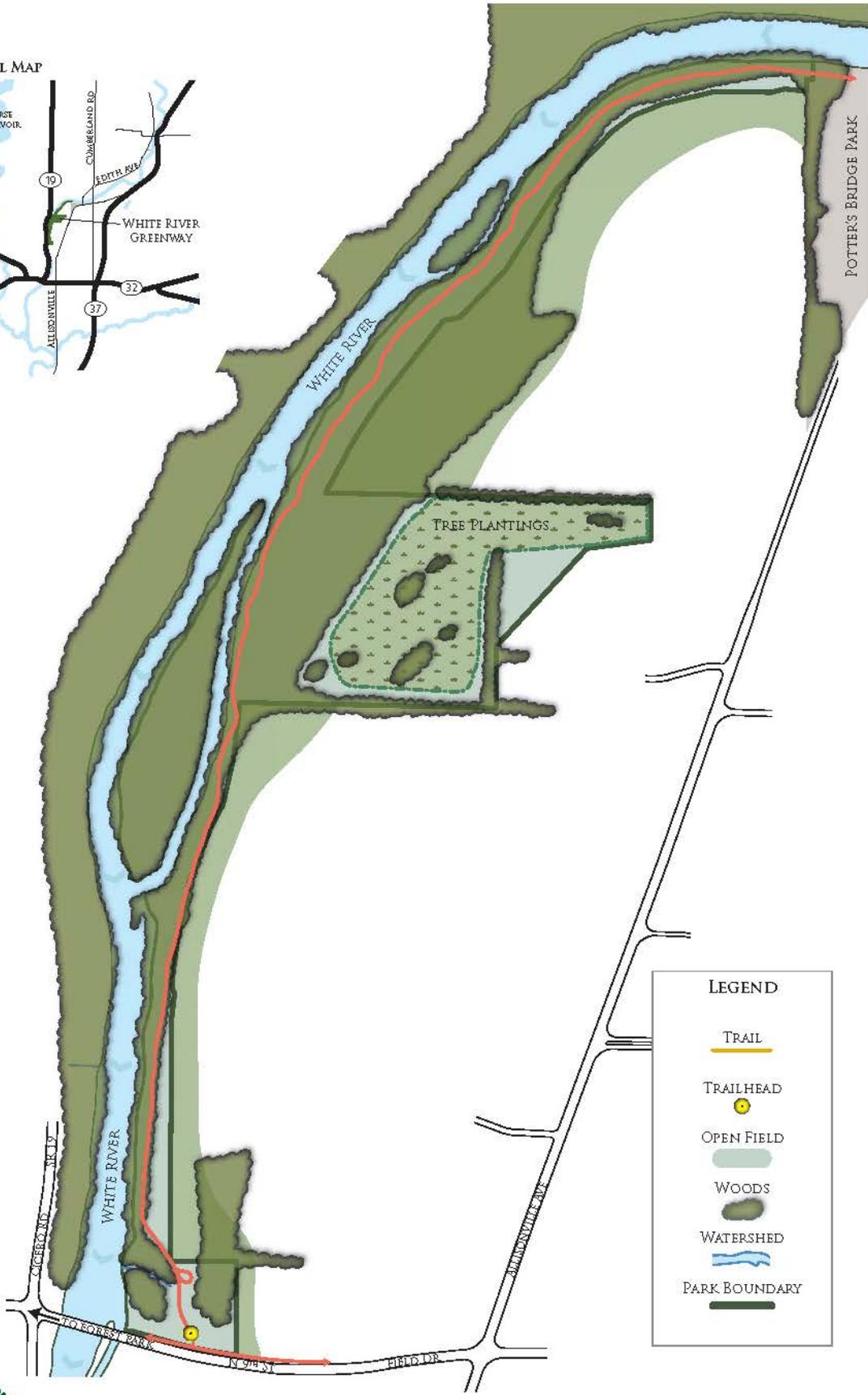
Basemap information here



WHITE RIVER GREENWAY



REGIONAL MAP



POTTERS BRIDGE PARK

TREE PLANTINGS

HOURS
DAWN TO DUSK

LEGEND

- TRAIL
- TRAILHEAD
- OPEN FIELD
- WOODS
- WATERSHED
- PARK BOUNDARY



19401 N ALLISONVILLE AVE, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060

myhamiltoncountyparks.com 317.770.4400



EXISTING AMENITIES

	showers	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	archery	disc golf	soccer field	baseball/softball	basketball court	volleyball	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland/prairie	
1. Administration Office 15513 S. Union Street, Carmel																								(317) 770-4400
2. Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP) 4528 Sheridan Ave, Noblesville																		●	●					(317) 770-4400
3. Cool Creek Park (CCP)/(CCNC) 2000 E. 151 st Street, Carmel						●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●					●	(317) 774-2500
4. Coxhall Gardens (CHG) 116th Street & Towne Road, Carmel				●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●				●	(317) 774-2582
5. Geist Park (GP) 10979 Florida Road, Fortville				●	●		●	●	●	●								●	●				●	(317) 770-4400
6. Lafayette Trace Park (LTP) 15796 E. Strawtown Ave, Noblesville				●	●													●						(317) 770-4400
7. Morse Park & Beach (MPB) 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●					(317) 770-4400
8. Potter's Bridge Park (PBP) 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville				●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●					(317) 770-4400
9. River Road Park (RRP) 12575 River Road, Carmel				●	●			●	●							●	●	●	●				●	(317) 770-4400
10. Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL) 20814 Riverwood Ave, Noblesville				●	●																			(317) 770-4400
11. Rookery Preserve (RP) 25440 Scherer Ave, Arcadia																		●						(317) 770-4400
12. Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)/(TCNH) 12308 Strawtown Ave, Noblesville				●	●					●						●	●	●		●		●		(317) 774-2574
13. White River Campground (WRCG) 11299 E. 234 th Street, Cicero	●			●	●		●	●	●						●	●	●					●		(317) 770-4430

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Community Survey

Between December 9, 2016 and January 6, 2017, a community survey was available via the Department's website, via Survey Monkey, online and as hard copies distributed at the Administrative Office and Park facilities. The survey was advertised through social media, email blasts to the Department's database, and the department website. The survey was open to the public, but is not to be considered a randomized or statistically accurate survey. Due to costs and a long history of public input and interaction with the department it was determined that a non-randomized survey would be sufficient for the current master plan update.

The Department received 283 completed responses online. No paper responses were received. The survey included 38 detailed questions about the Parks Department, facilities, parks, trails, programs, and community parks and recreation needs, and demographic information. The survey was formatted in multiple choice, ranking, and open-ended style questions.

The information received was consistent with past surveys and identified needs and goals of the Department. Most ranked the parks, facilities, and programs as 'Very Good' or 'Good' in quality, condition, and value. Some specific items to note:

- Over 35% of respondents make over \$100,000 household income.
- Nearly 15% of respondents recreate more than 5 times per week, and 60% recreate at least once a week.
- Most park visits occur with families attending together, while over 10% of respondents visit parks alone.
- Hiking/Walking/Running, nature, birding, were top park activities listed. Horseback Riding and Camping are also frequently listed.
- Rankings were very high for quality of facilities and programs, and were considered very well maintained.
- Less than 2% felt that too much tax money (\$11/resident) went to support parks. Over 56% felt it was too little, and 42% felt it was about right. Nearly 58% would pay \$1-\$25 more per household, 15% would pay \$26-\$50, and 7% would pay \$75-100 or more, while only 17% were not willing to pay more.



Stakeholder Meetings

Our first stakeholder meeting included all current department staff. The meeting was held at Osprey Pointe Pavillion, and nearly all staff were in attendance and the participation rate was very high with nearly everyone providing input throughout the meeting. The meeting focused on parks, facilities, and activities/programs in each park. Input was noted and all ideas were coalesced into the action plan for further evaluation and prioritization.

A series of four stakeholder meetings were held March 21st and March 23rd and included mixed groups of Park Board, Elected Officials, and other critical groups. These meetings were held to garner input on the ongoing activities of the department, facilities, and programs; gain insight into current views on parks and the department by influential county leaders; and continue to prioritize the action plan.

Each meeting began with a review of the park department's statistics to update the stakeholders with information on parks, acres, staff, facility visits, and event attendees. The department is working with the County Tourism group to focus efforts on marketing and gathering park visitor data. There is a desire to move away from the term 'Best Kept Secret' in the county.

All seemed impressed and happy with the progress the department has made since 1992 when the department was tasked with being something more than the city/local parks, but less than the state park system. All believed the department has been very successful in bridging that gap. Continuity of leadership with staff and board have been important in the ongoing growth, evolution, and success of the department.

Budget impacts of 2009/2010 are still being felt, as staffing is still significantly lower than when at its peak at that time. Most agreed that adding staff is always tough within the county budget. Many also agreed that the current staff is working very hard to cover all the tasks required, and achieving a lot with very limited resources. It was suggested that any requests for additional staff be thoughtful and supported with data illustrating need. A 5-10 year staffing plan would help elected officials balance staffing needs/requests across all county departments. Working with private vendors in cooperative efforts in areas where specific expertise is needed, such as archery, equestrian, and the adventure course are great as they allow more opportunities for park visitors without adding to park staff requirements. It was noted that \$500,000 for capital expenses was the first capital funding budget since 2003. Most of this money is focused on maintenance of existing facilities. Bonding was discussed, and could be used on a case by case basis for park needs. A more detailed facilities study, understanding operations and maintenance costs and future projections would be helpful to consider. A contingency building fund would be something to consider in future budgets to accommodate maintenance needs.

Several commented that the lack of Political involvement with the Park Department is a very good thing... Commissioners have full confidence in the Park Board and Staff. Many elected officials tout the parks as a campaign point. Parks are a good part of the Quality of Life in Hamilton County. This sometimes in in conflict with budgeting efforts as parks often play a secondary priority to public safety and corrections which are state mandates.

Safety and Security was discussed in each meeting. The Department has a great relationship with the Sheriff, and they patrol parks very well from where they can access with their vehicles. Discussions are starting regarding getting more patrols on trails and more remote areas of parks not visible from roads or parking lots. This could be accomplished through more bike patrols on trails, or possibly the development of a Park Ranger patrol within the Sheriff's Department. It was agreed that staff or patrols will never be everywhere all the time, and it's important for park visitors to always be vigilant, aware, and prepared.

The Park Foundation was discussed in all meetings as a good and growing supporting arm for the parks. Much of the money held by the foundation is designated to specific parks, functions, or facilities. They are working to grow and increase their flexibility as their funding expands.

Each meeting discussed the preliminary action plan, focusing on priority areas, including; Administrative offices, Growth of existing facilities to meet increasing use/visitor counts, Conservatory at Coxhall, Campground sewer facilities are in need of study and repair, Cabins, Lodge, or other overnight accommodations at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

All were asked to prioritize their desire for Land Acquisition, Maintenance of existing, Staff, Programs, and development of new facilities. While there was not a clear priority among all groups, there was a desire and commitment to maintain what we have first. Land Acquisition was important, following the land acquisition plan. It was noted that the elected officials are typically supportive when key pieces of land are available to add to the park department's inventory. Partnerships were discussed as being important for all of the items. Staffing was discussed as being important, and increases in full time staff may be warranted in the near future.

Community Group Meetings

The first public meeting was held on October 13 at 6:30 pm at the Cool Creek Nature Center. It was advertised in the local newspapers, on the Department's website, and through social media and email blasts. Seven people attended, including the park director, and 3 additional staff members, two residents, and the 2 facilitators. While not the number of attendees desired, the group did have a good, in-depth discussion about each of the parks, facilities, and future of the department. The group discussed existing parks, programs, and activities offered by the Department. Discussions centered around activities for seniors, and innovative ideas to encourage more park use. For example, many of the parks are large with long trails not suitable for seniors with difficulties walking long distances. Park tours on golf carts, segwes, or other accommodations could encourage more people to experience the larger parks in the system.

Final Public Meeting

A final public meeting to present the completed plan was held at the Park Board Meeting April 17, 2017. It was advertised in local newspapers, on the website, and via social media and email blasts. The plan was presented, focusing on an overview of the master planning process, an overview of the department, and a review of the proposed Action Plan. The plan was well received by the public and the board, and was approved in the course of the board meeting.

NEEDS & PRIORITIES

NEEDS ANALYSIS

We have analyzed this information after reviewing existing programs and facilities, public survey, public input, stakeholder input, and committee and park board input. Along with considerations for national standards, neighboring and overlapping park departments, we have identified needs for each of the department's properties and facilities. In the previous sections, each park cover sheet identified specific needs for that park. Overall Park and Department Needs have been identified on the following Action Plan.

When determining what parks and programs are needed, it is common to compare the total number of park acres available to the total population. This type of model has been used for a number of decades and provides a good basis to begin an analysis. Through NRPA's standards and per the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Hamilton County is considered Critically Deficient in the amount of parkland available to the population. Without National Parks or Preserves in the area, and solely relying on the County and Local park departments, Hamilton

County will perpetually fit in this category given its rapidly growing population.

HCPR, along with other local departments, are continuously looking for reasonable opportunities to add to the available parkland to , and have land acquisition policy in place to guide its search. This is evident in the fact that HCPR has added several properties to its park offerings over the last several years throughout the county.

PRIORITIES

In keeping with the department's vision and mission, the Action Plan assigns a priority of 1 through 3 for each of the Needs listed, indicating importance to the community, stakeholders, staff, and board. Funding and opportunity will be key in how much of the Action Plan can be accomplished.

The Action Plan is intentionally a stretch goal for the Department, providing a guide for operation and development for the next 5 years.



ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is intentionally a stretch goal for the Department, providing a guide for operation and development for the next 5 years. The committee has assembled all relevant input from stakeholder meetings, community meetings, surveys, and staff. They evaluated the data and incorporated all pertinent ideas into the action plan. Items were prioritized and assigned a budget to allow for ongoing reference and planning.

Currently the Action Plan is in DRAFT form, and while most items are shown on the list, priorities and budgets are yet to be determined by the master plan committee. It is anticipated that further input may add additional items to the list.



Action Plan

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation

5 Year Master Plan

Location	Priority	Price	Funding Source
Admininstration Office			
Study new location or replacement of Admin Office Bldg	H	\$5,000	P
Consider Connectivity to Cool Creek or other location relative to parks			
Acorn Farms			
Building evaluation and maintenance (annual budget)	H	\$20,000	P/B
Bishops Park			
Master Plan for Park	H	\$15,000	P
Bray Family Homestead			
Park Flag Pole w/ solar light	H	\$2,000	P
Shelter by parking area	M	\$30,000	B/P
Restroom (water(well)/electric/sewer connections)	L	\$300,000	B
Electrical Service for Park in General	L	\$30,000	B/D/G/S
Water well	L	\$15,000	B/P
Plant trees (maple, sugar bush, nurse, food plot) & prairie	H	\$100,000	B/G/D
Add bollards at parking near community garden	M	\$2,500	
Revisit Park Master Plan	M	\$0	St
Additional Lawn Parking near Buildings	L	\$3,000	P/NR
Study Maple Sugar Shack - expand/allow syrup production	M	\$0	St
Invasive Species Removal - annual	M	\$10,000	P
Barn Improvements - Paint	M	\$5,000	P/St
Interpretive Signage w/ stands	M	\$5,000	P/St
Cool Creek Park			
Re-stripe parking areas	H	\$6,000	P/B
trail maintenance - ongoing	H	\$3,000	P/B
fix drainage from 151st toward maintenance	M	\$5,000	P
re-vegetate honeysuckle removal areas - ongoing	H	\$3,000	P/D
prairie maintenace program burn - ongoing	H	\$6,000	P
Playground replacement with trees/shade	M	\$350,000	P/B
Directional Signage from roadway	M	\$0	St/G
Restroom improvements at Picnic Shelters	H	\$1,000	
Interpretive Signage	M	\$5,000	
Emergency - location plan/coord with Fire & Police	H	\$0	St
Add picnic shelter at Playground area	L	\$100,000	P/B
Roofing improvements at Shelters & Maintenance Building	H	\$125,000	P/B
Study Adding saw mill/woodworking area at Maintenance	L	\$0	St
Stripe drive at curve to Nature Center	M	\$1,000	P

Cool Creek Nature Center			
Slow Runoff by Nature Center (capture/retain/mitigate)		\$25,000	P/NR
Office space (swap naturalist office w/library & coatroom)	L	\$10,000	B/NR
Auto-open doors (strollers/ADA)	H	\$15,000	B/NR
Replace accoustic panel	M	\$20,000	B/NR
Revisit expansion plans for building, consider updates	M	\$15,000	P/St
Coxhall Gardens			
Conservatory / Event Space	M	\$12,000,000	F/SRC
More gardens (Silo)	M	\$100,000	B/CHF
Upgrade video cameras	M	\$2,000.0	P
Greenhouses	M	\$400,000	B/CHF/D
Shelters and picnic tables price each	H	\$150,000	B/CHF/D
Shade for centerpiece	M	\$100,000	B/CHF/D
Williams House	H	\$500,000	B/CHF/D/G/F
116th St. trail	L	\$200,000	B/CHF
more bike racks/amenities/ Recycle	L	\$30,000	B/CHF
Centerpiece trail south	H	\$35,000	B/CHF
Electric Signs at Corner of 116th Hoover and Towne (electric)	H	\$150,000	B/CHF
Removal of invasive species at creek & wetlands	M	\$100,000	P/NR/F
Add wood shop	L	\$50,000	P/B/F
Purchase dump truck dedicated to this park	M	\$50,000	P/F
Fountain Repairs	M	\$100,000	P/B/CHF
Coxhall Mansion - LED	M	\$6,000	P/CHF
Plan for Storage space needed for tables/chairs at mansion	H	tdb	P/B/CHF
Interpretive signage throughout, and at children's garden	M	\$5,000	B
Lights at Mansion Patio	H	\$10,000	B/P/CHF
Butterfly Garden	M	\$2,000	B
Replace dead trees	H	\$10,000	B
Replace sidewalk lighting with bollard style to match mansion	H	\$200,000	
Geist Park - Reference Connectivity Plan			
Bathroom shelter maintenance - paint, stain, replace parts	M	\$5,000	
Implement items from Connectivity Plan w/ Fishers P&R	H	\$250,000	B/SRC
Improve pinnensula at end of trail, floating dock, block/concrete	M	\$20,000	
Interpretive signage at wetland	H	\$2,000	B
Bridge maintenance - apply sealant	H	\$500	B
Overseed Prairie area	M	\$2,000	
Add small shelter with concrete walks	M	\$50,000	B
Kayak launch	M	\$6,000	B
Lafayette Trace Park			
Restrooms & Year Round Shelter	M	\$250,000	B
Trails	M	\$50,000	B
Group Camp area & Plantings	M	\$230,000	B/NR
Central Indiana Canal Interp.	H	\$5,000	NR/St
Electric	M	\$50,000	B/NR
Plantings - Habitat restoration, natives, prairie, trees	M	\$100,000	B
Locking station for Canoes	H	\$10,000	P/B/S
Information Kiosk	H	\$5,000	P/B/S

<u>Monon Trail</u>			
General Maintenance (every 2 years +/-)	H	\$15,000	P
Explore opportunities for connection	M	\$0	St
Shelter	M	\$40,000	B/SRC
Updates to parking and restrooms + permits	H	\$350,000	B/SRC
<u>Morse Park</u>			
Clear out ditch areas at softball (also preventive maint.)	H	\$15,000	D/P
Fish cleaning station	M	\$20,000	B/G/S
Trees in frisbee golf area - ongoing	H	\$5,000	P
Improve levee overlook	M	\$35,000	B/G
Trail on or by levee - connect to Cicero & Noblesville	M	\$150,000	B/G
Improve pinnensula near beach - been 'bouldered'	H	\$20,000	B
Paint Picnic Tables for consistent aesthetic	H	\$20,000	B
Add driveway into Grove / Parking	M	\$25,000	b
Additional Shelter - just add electricity	M	\$15,000	B
Improve spillway (in coordination with water co.)	M		
- bridge across spillway	M	\$500,000	
- access for fishing	M	\$20,000	
- remove fencing where possible	M	\$5,000	
<u>Morse Beach</u>			
Ends of beach fences, bench & seawall repaired	H	\$25,000	D
Redesign and update bathhouse/restrooms	H	\$15,000	
<u>Osprey Pointe Pavilion</u>			
Solar power	M	\$150,000	B/G
<u>Potter's Bridge & Trail</u>			
Re-stripe parking lots	M	\$2,000	P
Greenway trail Upgrade & Maintenance	M	\$10,000	B/G
Interpretive signs updates	M	\$5,000	NR
Eradicate invasive species	M	\$10,000	P
Improve drive to garage	H	\$10,000	B
Fix electrical access points	H	\$2,000	P/B
Widen gate to grass parking	H	\$500	St
Maintenance at canoe launch - boulders	H	\$3,000	B
Ongoing bridge maintenance	H	\$5,000	B
Landscape improvements along road	H	\$5,000	B
Security Cameras	M	\$10,000	P/B
<u>Rookery Preserve</u>			
HCRP to determine future use of House	M	\$15,000	B/P
Interpretive Signs	H	\$2,500	NR
Binoculars/scope	H	\$12,000	NR
Plantings update	H	\$15,000	P
Tree removal to better view nests	H	\$20,000	St/P
Land acquisition - connection to Bishops Park	H	\$80,000	P/B
Ongoing nest research	H	\$0	St
Dump site cleanup	H	\$5,000	G

River Road Park			
Prairie maintenance program - ongoing (every 3 years)	H	\$10,000	P
Structural check of Vestal Ditch bridge - County bridge inspection	H	\$0	D
Playground maintenance - annual	H	\$1,000	P
Upgrade Canoe/Kayak slide launch	H	\$10,000	B
Picnic Shelter	M	\$30,000	P/B
Maintenance for erosion at overlook	H	\$2,500	B
Riverwood Canoe Landing			
Improve access point and water's edge	H	\$25,000	G/P
Add Trails	M	\$10,000	B
Surveillance for dumping issues (signage)	H	\$10,000	B
Strawtown Koteewi Park			
Expand Trail Network	H	\$150,000	B/G/St
Boardwalks in wetlands	H	\$250,000	B
Improve signage (directional)	H	\$100,000	NR/P
Summer Concerts	M	\$0	S
Complete Lake - landscape & access	H	\$150,000	D/G/P
Multiple rental programs (boat, horse, segway)	H	\$0	V
Supply/mower/Utility Vehicle/Equip	H	tbd	P
Expansion of archery facility (indoor)	H	\$300,000	G/B/V
Picnic Tables & Benches	M	\$15,000	P
Interpretive Accessories at Koteewi Trace/Program Needs	H	\$25,000	S/G/P/NR
Admin Building Technology	H	\$25,000	P/B/NR
Shelter	M	\$50,000	P/B/NR
Bank Stabilization	H	\$30,000	G
Pave equestrian parking lot & maintenance area	M	\$70,000	P/B/NR
Maintenance Building/Restrooms	H	\$600,000	SRC
Study Cabins/Lodge implementation	L	\$0	St/V
Taylor Center of Natural History			
Revisit Expansion Plans for Taylor Center	H	\$15,000	P
White River Campground			
Standardize signage - consider Koteewi Branding	M	\$15,000	P
Study Sewage Treatment Facility	H	\$25,000	P
Energy efficiency (remove garage door @ office)	H	\$5,000	P
Update/Replace Office (Administration/Infrastructure)	L	\$300,000	B/NR
Renovate fishing pier	H	\$50,000	B/NR/P
Add back maintenance shop	M	\$40,000	B/P/SRC
New sewage treatment system	H	\$3,000,000	SRC

Policies and Procedures			
Animal Control and policing	H	\$500	P
Enforcing smoking policies in buildings and vehicles	H	\$0	St
Update Snow Removal Policy	H	\$0	St
Collections Management Policy	H	\$0	St/D
Rule and Reg. accessibility to public and staff	H	\$500	P
Pavement Maintenance Plan	H	\$100,000	Annually - P
Prairie Maintenance Plan	H	\$20,000	Annually - P
Budget for Natural Resource Management/Trees	H	\$20,000	P
Improve Payment Opportunities	H	\$0	St
Improve Maintenance Records	H	\$0	St
Data collection, general, social media capture rate	H	\$0	St
Develop Drone policy	H	\$0	St
Develop photography policy	H	\$0	St
Consider HCPR Sustainability Statement	L	\$0	St
Ongoing review of staffing levels considering \$ and state/federal policies	H	\$0	St
Map locations of fire extinguishers	H	\$0	St
Invasive Species Removal Plan	H	\$0	St
Considerations for All Parks			
Pollinator gardens/plantings - annual expense	H	\$10,000	S/P
Add or improve Interpretive Signage - annual	M	\$5,000	St
Track park visit #'s at small parks	M	see wifi	S/St
Invasive Removal & Pond Maintenance - annual	H	\$50,000	P/S
Plant natives to replace invasives - annual	H	\$25,000	B/P
Increase Programming	H	tdb	St/P
Admin/Management Connectivity & Technology	H	\$25,000	B/P
Public Wifi at Facilities & Park Areas	H	tdb	P/B/S
Audio Tours	H	tdb	P/F/St
Goose issues at beach, ponds, lawn areas - annual cost	H	\$7,000	P
Hazard Tree Removal - annual cost	H	\$20,000	
Playground Mulch at all Playgrounds - annual	H	\$3,000	P/St
Implement Recycling program at all parks	H	\$20,000	P/V
Other			
HCPR Smart Phone App	H	\$2,000	P/NR
More/Better use of QR Codes	H	\$0	St
"Dumb Phone apps"	H	\$2,000	P/NR
Public Wi-fi at parks/NC/AD/	L	\$20,000	B
Move events/programs around to other parks	H	\$0	St
Events vs. Programs (difference, define)	H	\$0	St
Energy efficiency - Department wide - annual cost	H	\$10,000	P/B
Department wide site amenities/furnishings	M	\$20,000	P/B
Tech/Video Marketing - annual	M	\$15,000	P/D/F

Equipment			
Tractor w/ Backhoe	L	\$125,000	B
2 Vehicles/year	M	\$80,000	P
2 Mowers/year	M	\$100,000	P
Tractor	M	\$35,000	P
Golf Carts - Replace one per year	M	\$35,000	P
Bobcat	M	\$70,000	P
Concrete Curb forming machine	M	\$7,000	P
Portable Sawmill	H	\$40,000	P
Training			
Meth Training (State Police)	H	\$0	St
Spanish	M	\$1,000	P
Power Tool use/care	H	\$0	St
Management Training	H	\$5,000	P
Customer Service	H	\$500	P
Public Safety (about our facilities)	H	\$0	St
Disaster/Emergency	H	\$0	St
Staff meetings / staff retreat	H	\$500	St
Refresh department policies with staff	H	\$0	St
Land Acquisition			
Cool Creek Park Boundaries	H	\$1,000,000	B/G/D
Strawtown Koteewi Park Boundaries	H	\$400,000	B/G/D
Rookery Preserve Boundaries	H	\$300,000	B/G/D
White River Campground Boundaries	H	tbd	B
Important Historical/Natural Sites	H	tbd	B/G/D
White River Access	H	tbd	B/G/D
Deming Area	H	\$2,000,000	B
Aquire Corner from Uncle Philip at Bray	H	tbd	B/D
	L=low		B = Bond
	M=med.		P = Park Budget
	H=high		D = Donation
			G = Grant
			S = Sponsor
			St = Staff
			CHF = Coxhall Fund
			NR = Non-Reverting
			V= Vendor/Conc.
			F= Foundation
			SRC=Special Request Council



BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Hamilton County, Indiana, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Hamilton County five-year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Hamilton County.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2017

HAMILTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Andrew T. Prather, President

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY/COMPLIANCE

Whereas, the Hamilton County Park and REcreation Board is aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (Public Law 101-336); and,

WHEREAS, The Hamilton County Park and Recreation Board desires to provide the highest level of accessibility reasonably practical for all residents of Hamilton County, regardless of ability and consistent with the responsibility to conserve and protect natural and cultural features; and,

WHEREAS, The Hamilton County Park and Recreation Board recognizes the responsibility to provide a quality leisure and outdoor recreation experience for everyone,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD will work to provide said experiences and to resolve any and all complaints pertaining to these Acts.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2017

HAMILTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Andrew T. Prather, President

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

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

SIGNATURE _____
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE _____

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE _____



APPENDIX

Land Acquisition Plan

Community Survey

Census Data

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Land Acquisition Plan

Purpose:

The purpose of this plan is to provide direction, awareness and accountability for future land acquisition by the Park Board. The plan will increase the knowledge of our recreational needs to other public officials, parks departments and the citizens of Hamilton County. From a practical standpoint, the cost of land is escalating and the availability is declining. A good plan will guide us to the right decisions, enhance our chances for success and provide accountability for our decisions.

Why the Rush?

Charles Kiphart, Hamilton County Plan Director, provided the board with current and projected growth figures. Hamilton County's population has increased an astounding 36% from 4/90 to 7/96. Twenty-three percent of the county is already developed. The population doubled from 1970 to 1990 (54,000 to 109,000). An additional 40% has occurred from 1990 (109,000) to 1998 (153,000). Population and land development are two recognized benchmarks for establishing the recommended acres of park land. If growth continues as projected, the ratio of park land to population or development will quickly be diminished.

Other Park Board Plans

The Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department does cooperate with other local parks departments. We have donated land to the Fishers, Carmel, and Atlanta park boards. We have an active partnership with Carmel and Noblesville Parks Departments. The Hamilton County Parks Department may have a different mission and different goals than the city, town, and township departments, but it would be foolish to plan in a vacuum.

The following land acquisition plans as we know them to be:

- Carmel-Clay Park Board: Land acquisition focus - complete 278 acres
 - Park Sites - West, Central, and East sides of the township
 - Goals - Lengthen White River Trail, build Monon Trail,
Develop park properties
 - Impact Fee - \$84/New Residential Unit

- Westfield:
 - Projected Park Sites- North of Westfield
 - Monon Corridor
 - Central RR Corridor
 - South West
 - Trail to Cool Creek Park
 - Impact Fee - \$206/New Residential Unit

Noblesville Parks Department: Projected Land Acquisition - Expand Forest Park and Fox Prairie to a total of 360 acres
Add bikeways to connect the City of Noblesville
Impact Fee - \$230/New Residential Unit

Cicero: Current Land - 37 acres of park land at south end of town
Red Bridge Park
Subdivision requires the development of park area within subdivisions.

Recreation Needs:

1. Complete the proposed White River Trail and expand trails where possible
2. Complete access points to White River and provide additional canoe launches.
3. Purchase land for two large parks north of State Road 32. These parcels should exceed 100 acres and preferably 250 acres.
4. Expand Cool Creek Park.
5. Expand White River Campground.
6. Provide equestrian trails.
7. Provide mountain bike trails.
8. Cabins/Inns/Stables

Program Needs:

1. To be visionary
2. Our parks are to be appreciated and enjoyed
3. Continue and strengthen public and private partnerships
4. Outstanding maintenance
5. Public information program to educate about the importance and need for park land

Land Acquisition Policy:

The current policy is taken from the Five Year Master Plan. The following are policy statements:

1. Parcel should exceed 100 acres and the land should have park-like qualities.
2. Develop passive parks
3. Consider the purchase of unique, historic or contingent properties.

(Definition of a Passive Park: Park design and activities that take minimal staff direction, supervision and maintenance.)

Criteria:

The following criteria is to be used for selecting future park lands. The criteria is listed from most to least importance. A weighted criteria scale has not been devised.

1. Geographic location
2. Natural attributes that fulfill needs
3. Development cost

4. Purchase cost: factor is useability of the land and its relative cost
5. Proximity to other parks

When the selection criteria and needs were analyzed, the following priorities were agreed upon for land acquisition:

1. A large parcel of land on White River near Strawtown
2. Two hundred or more acres of rolling uplands with some floodplain near Deming
3. Expand Cool Creek Park

The following program priorities were also agreed upon:

1. Market the benefits of country parks
2. Improve and strengthen partnerships
3. Outstanding park maintenance and appearance



Hamilton County Parks and Recreation 2016 Public Survey



**Please mark an 'X' by the option best that indicates your answer.
Your selections will be anonymous.**

1. What county do you live in?

Hamilton

Other _____ Out of State _____

2. Gender

Male

Female

3. What is your age?

18-34

35-54

55+

4. What is your Zip Code?

46011

46030

46031

46032

46033

46034

46038

46040

46060

46062

46069

46074

46280

46256

Out of County _____

5. In what township do you reside?

Adams

Clay

Delaware

Fall Creek

Jackson

Noblesville

Washington

Wayne

White River

Out of County _____

6. What is your employment status?

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Retired
- Unemployed

7. Your annual household income range is:

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20-50,000
- \$50-80,000
- \$80-100,000
- \$100,000

8. Please list the number of people in your household by age:

___ 0-9 ___ 10-18 ___ 19-34 ___ 35-55 ___ 55+

9. How often do you engage in any kind of outdoor recreation activities, at home or in any park, including passive or active recreation?

___ more than 5/week ___ 1-4 per week ___ 1-4 per month ___ less than 1/month

10. Which of these Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Parks have you visited within the past 12 months? How often?

PARK	HOW OFTEN
<input type="checkbox"/> Bray Family Homestead	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cool Creek Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Coxhall Gardens	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Geist Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette Trace Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Monon Trail (216 Street – Lamong Road)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Morse Park and Beach	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Potter’s Bridge Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> River Road Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Riverwood Canoe Launch	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rookery Preserve	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Strawtown Koteewi Park	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> White River Campground	_____

If you haven’t visited any Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks within the last 12 months, what is your reason(s)?

11. How often do you attend a program or activity offered by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation?
___ Daily ___ 1-3 a week ___ 1-2 a month ___ 1-4 a year ___ I don't use the programs

12. Is there anything that prevents or restricts your use of the parks or programs?
___ Lack of Time ___ Poor health/mobility ___ Physical barriers ___ Lack of access
___ Parks are too far away ___ Other _____

13. Who do you most often visit parks with?
___ Children ___ Other Family ___ Friends ___ Varies ___ Just me

14. Which Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park(s) do you and/or your family visit(s) the most? Why? _____

15. I would like to see Hamilton County Parks add, develop, or improve the following things. Rank all that apply, with 1 being most important:

- ___ Trails Linking Communities ___ More nature trails ___ More paved trails
- ___ Accessible Trails ___ Natural Areas ___ Gardens ___ Open Play Space
- ___ Gathering Spaces ___ Picnic Shelters ___ Playgrounds ___ Accessible equipment
- ___ Nature Programs ___ Adult Programs ___ Children's Programs
- ___ Programs for Seniors ___ Environmental Education/Nature Center
- ___ Historical Exhibits ___ Conservatory ___ Camping ___ Event Space
- ___ Indoor Archery ___ Other/Comments _____

16. List your top 3 program types currently offered by the County Parks:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

17. List the top 3 program types you would like to see that are not currently offered by the County Parks:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

18. Please answer the following about Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Programs and Activities:

	Nature Camps	Scout Programs	Family Programs	Historical Programs	Guided Nature Hike	School Field Trip	Special Event	Concert
What Programs have you attended?								
Rate Quality from 1-5 (5 being best)								
Was it fun?								
Was it Educational?								
Was the experience worth the price?								
Should the price be Higher, Lower, Same, Free								

19. Hamilton County needs trail systems linking parks and communities. Would you say that you...

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know/ N/A

20. Tax dollars should be used to create trails. Would you say that you...

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know/ N/A

21. Please rate how well Hamilton County park grounds and facilities are maintained? Would you say...

- Well/Very Well
- Average/Fair
- Poor
- Don't Know/ N/A

22. Are you or anyone in your family involved in any passive outdoor recreation activities? By passive, we mean recreation such as hiking, walking, and nature observation.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- No Answer

23. What passive outdoor recreation activities are you or the members of your family presently involved with? (Remember by passive, we mean recreation such as hiking, walking, and nature observation) _____

24. What is your preferred way to notify about upcoming Hamilton County Parks and Recreation programs and events? (RANK YOUR TOP 5)

- _____ Email
- _____ Website
- _____ Twitter
- _____ Facebook
- _____ Instagram
- _____ Newsletter (Chatterbox)
- _____ Newspaper (Specify)
- _____ Radio (Specify)
- _____ Banners
- _____ Television
- _____ Word of Mouth
- _____ Something else? (Specify)

25. Currently, County Parks are primarily supported by property taxes. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation receives less than \$11.00 per resident per year for all county park operations. Do you think this amount is...

- Too Little
- Too Much
- Just the Right Amount

26. How much more would you be willing to pay per household per year to support park facilities and programs?

- \$0.00
- \$1.00 - \$25.00
- \$26.00 - \$50.00
- \$51.00 - \$75.00
- \$76.00 - \$100.00
- More +

27. If you had \$100 to spend for Parks & Recreation how would you allot funds for the following categories:

- _____ Maintain existing facilities
- _____ Upgrade existing facilities
- _____ Develop new amenities within existing parks
- _____ Invest in new park property
- _____ Develop new greenways/trails throughout the county
- _____ Staffing
- \$100 Total

28. Overall, how do you feel the county is doing with respect to parks and recreation?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Fair
- Poor

29. Do you feel Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks in the community impact property values?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat
- Don't Know

30. Do you feel Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks impact the quality of life in the community?

- Positively
- Negatively
- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Don't Know

31. Please mark an 'X' by each of the following you have or would like to attend.

	HAVE	LIKE TO
Nature Day Camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cool Creek Nature Center – Daddy Daughter Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White River Campground - Family Fun Days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cool Creek Park – Summer Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cool Creek Park – Campfire Series	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coxhall Gardens - Concerts in the Centerpiece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coxhall Mansion Tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morse Park – Aqua Adventure Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potter's Bridge Park - Potter's Bridge Fall Festival	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cool Creek Park - Haunted Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cool Creek Nature Center – Holly Jolly Jamboree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strawtown Koteewi – Archeology Month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bray Family Homestead – Maple Syrup Festival	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White River Campground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerial Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equestrian Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

32. Do you feel the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department adequately informs the public about its programming, facilities and events?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat
- Don't Know
- If no, what are some suggestions? _____

33. Do you feel safe in your Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat
- Don't Know

34. Please mark an 'X' by each of the following communications that you would like to see or be notified of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation programs and other notices.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park Rack Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio: Which Station(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Text to your Cell Phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Theater Advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> "The Chatterbox" Leisure Guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Kiosks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Banners Along the Road/Park |

35. What days have you or would you visit a Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park?

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

36. What hours have you or would you visit a Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park?

- 5:00 am – 8:00 am
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- 5:00 pm +

37. Have you ever visited a Hamilton County Park or program that was closed due to weather, flooding or other circumstances?

- Yes: Weather Flooding Other
 No

In the future, how would you prefer to be informed of any closures or cancellations?

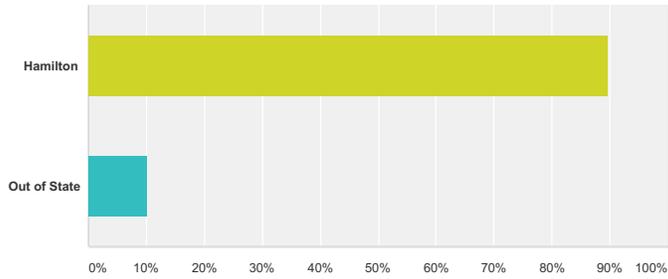
38. What is the one thing you would like to tell Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department that would help improve your park experience? _____

Thank you for your time and cooperation. Your opinion counts!



Q1 What county do you live in?

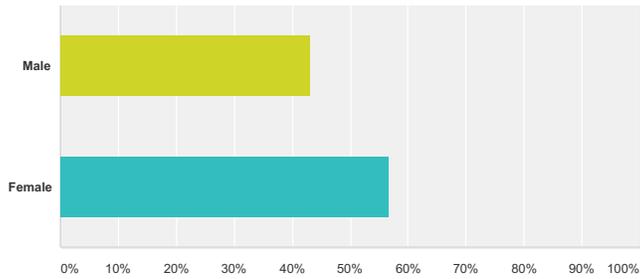
Answered: 223 Skipped: 60



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Hamilton	89.69%	200
Out of State	10.31%	23
Total		223

Q2 Gender

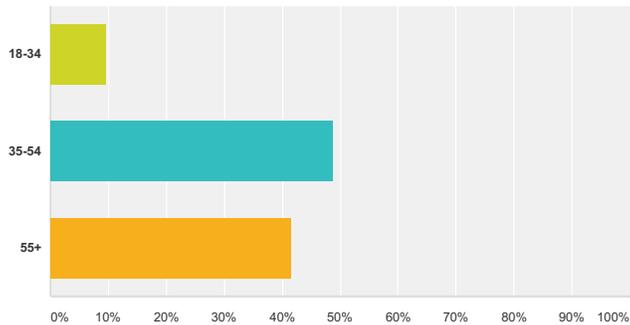
Answered: 280 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Male	43.21%	121
Female	56.79%	159
Total		280

Q3 What is your age?

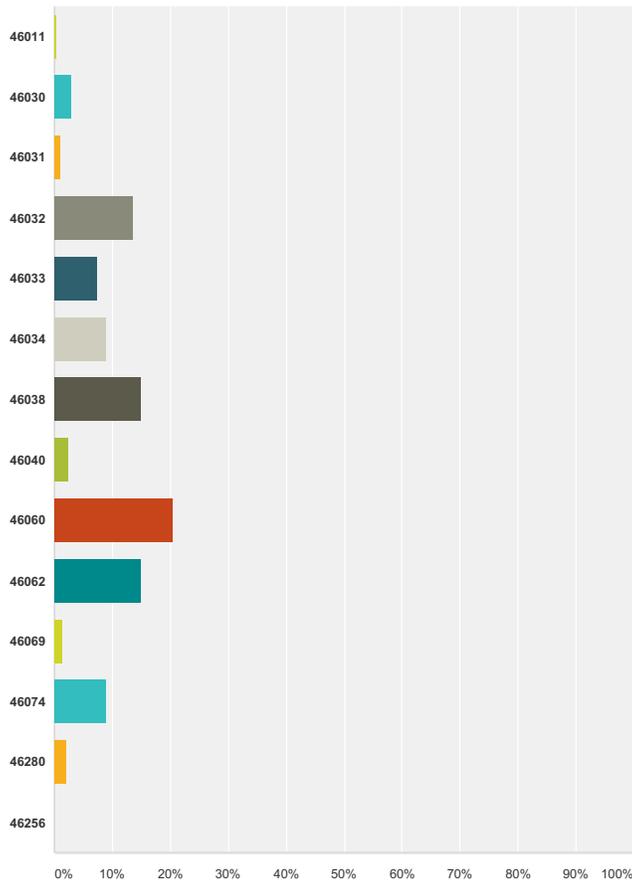
Answered: 282 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
18-34	9.57%	27
35-54	48.94%	138
55+	41.49%	117
Total		282

Q4 What is your Zip Code?

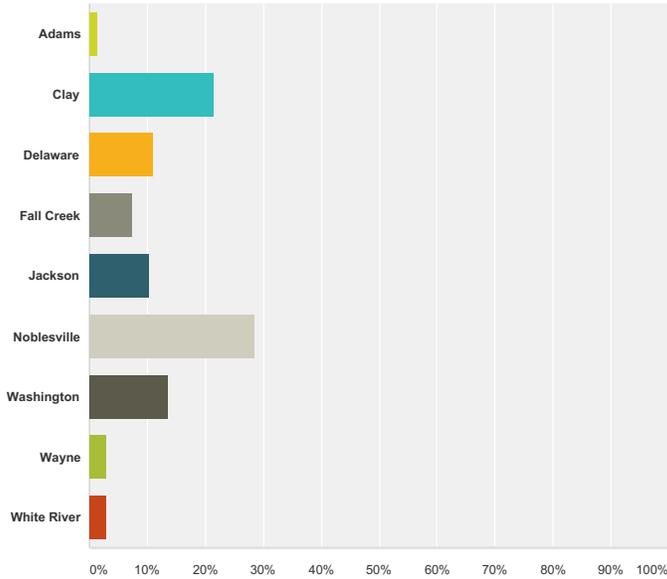
Answered: 200 Skipped: 83



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
46011	0.50%	1
46030	3.00%	6
46031	1.00%	2
46032	13.50%	27
46033	7.50%	15
46034	9.00%	18
46038	15.00%	30
46040	2.50%	5
46060	20.50%	41
46062	15.00%	30
46069	1.50%	3
46074	9.00%	18
46280	2.00%	4
46256	0.00%	0
Total		200

Q5 In what township do you reside?

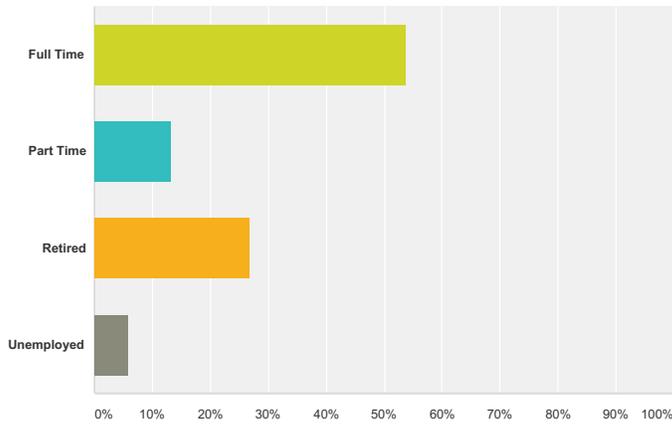
Answered: 200 Skipped: 83



Answer Choices	Responses
Adams	1.50% 3
Clay	21.50% 43
Delaware	11.00% 22
Fall Creek	7.50% 15
Jackson	10.50% 21
Noblesville	28.50% 57
Washington	13.50% 27
Wayne	3.00% 6
White River	3.00% 6
Total	200

Q6 What is your employment status?

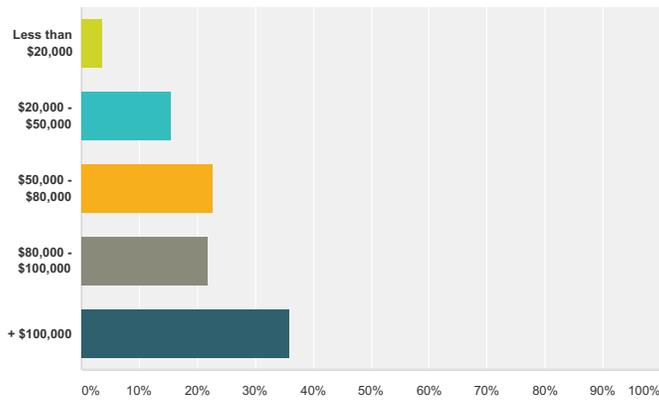
Answered: 278 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Full Time	53.96% 150
Part Time	13.31% 37
Retired	26.98% 75
Unemployed	5.76% 16
Total	278

Q7 Your annual household income range is:

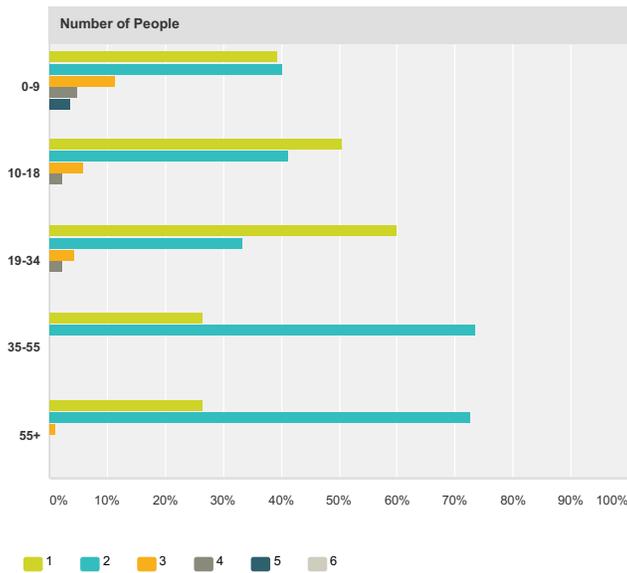
Answered: 259 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than \$20,000	3.86% 10
\$20,000 - \$50,000	15.44% 40
\$50,000 - \$80,000	22.78% 59
\$80,000 - \$100,000	22.01% 57
+ \$100,000	35.91% 93
Total	259

Q8 Please list the number of people in your household by age:

Answered: 278 Skipped: 5

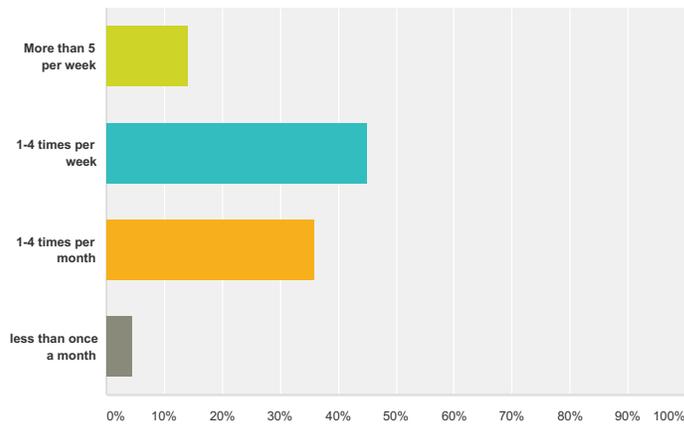


Number of People							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
0-9	39.42% 41	40.38% 42	11.54% 12	4.81% 5	3.85% 4	0.00% 0	104
10-18	50.57% 44	41.38% 36	5.75% 5	2.30% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	87
19-34	60.00% 27	33.33% 15	4.44% 2	2.22% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	45
35-55	26.43% 37	73.57% 103	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	140
55+	26.42% 28	72.64% 77	0.94% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	106

Q9 How often do you engage in any kind of outdoor recreation activities, at home or in

any park, including both passive and active recreation?

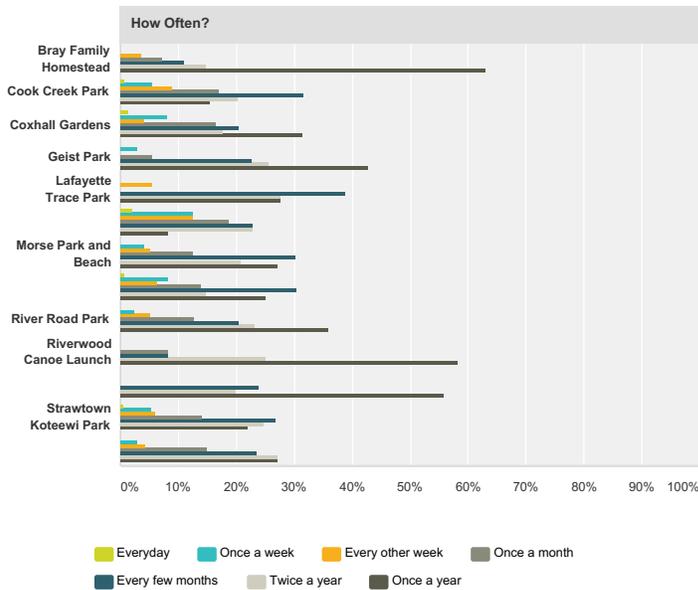
Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
More than 5 per week	14.23% 40
1-4 times per week	45.20% 127
1-4 times per month	35.94% 101
less than once a month	4.63% 13
Total	281

Q10 Which of these Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks have you visited within the last 12 months?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 9

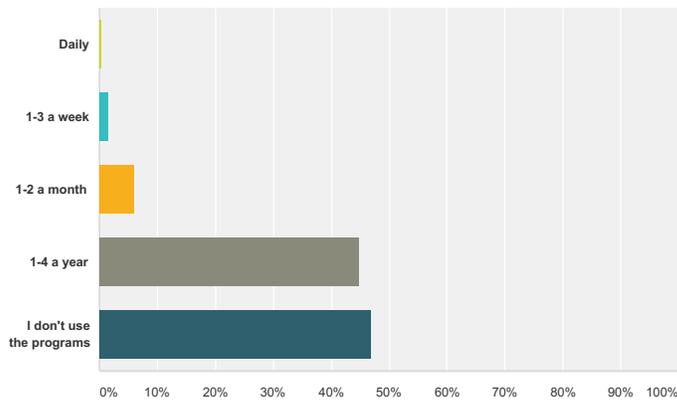


How Often?	Everyday	Once a week	Every other week	Once a month	Every few months	Twice a year	Once a year	Total
Bray Family Homestead	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.70% 1	7.41% 2	11.11% 3	14.81% 4	62.96% 17	27
Cook Creek Park	0.81% 1	5.69% 7	8.94% 11	17.07% 21	31.71% 39	20.33% 25	15.45% 19	123
Coxhall Gardens	1.37% 1	8.22% 6	4.11% 3	16.44% 12	20.55% 15	17.81% 13	31.51% 23	73
Geist Park	0.00% 0	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	5.71% 2	22.86% 8	25.71% 9	42.86% 15	35

Lafayette Trace Park	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	38.89% 7	27.78% 5	27.78% 5	18
Monon Trail (216th Street - Lamong Road)	2.08% 1	12.50% 6	12.50% 6	18.75% 9	22.92% 11	22.92% 11	8.33% 4	48
Morse Park and Beach	0.00% 0	4.17% 4	5.21% 5	12.50% 12	30.21% 29	20.83% 20	27.08% 26	96
Potter's Bridge Park	0.93% 1	8.33% 9	6.48% 7	13.89% 15	30.56% 33	14.81% 16	25.00% 27	108
River Road Park	0.00% 0	2.56% 1	5.13% 2	12.82% 5	20.51% 8	23.08% 9	35.90% 14	39
Riverwood Canoe Launch	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	25.00% 3	58.33% 7	12
Rookery Preserve	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24.00% 6	20.00% 5	56.00% 14	25
Strawtown Koteewi Park	0.67% 1	5.37% 8	6.04% 9	14.09% 21	26.85% 40	24.83% 37	22.15% 33	149
White River Campground	0.00% 0	2.86% 4	4.29% 6	15.00% 21	23.57% 33	27.14% 38	27.14% 38	140

Q11 How often do you attend a program or activity offered by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation?

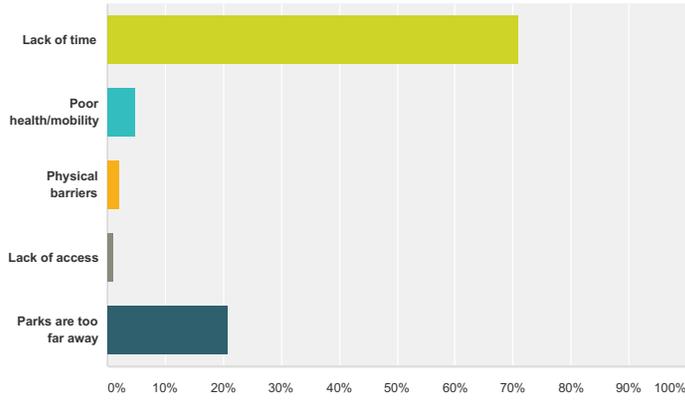
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Daily	0.35%	1
1-3 a week	1.77%	5
1-2 a month	6.01%	17
1-4 a year	44.88%	127
I don't use the programs	47.00%	133
Total		283

Q12 Is there anything that prevents or restricts your use of the parks or programs?

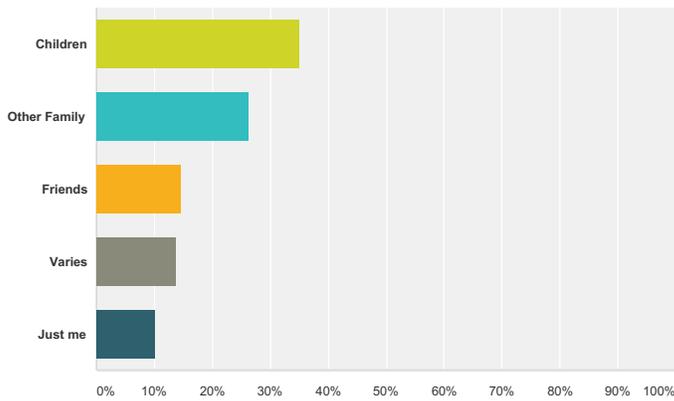
Answered: 186 Skipped: 97



Answer Choices	Responses
Lack of time	70.97% 132
Poor health/mobility	4.84% 9
Physical barriers	2.15% 4
Lack of access	1.08% 2
Parks are too far away	20.97% 39
Total	186

Q13 Who do you most often visit parks with?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 1



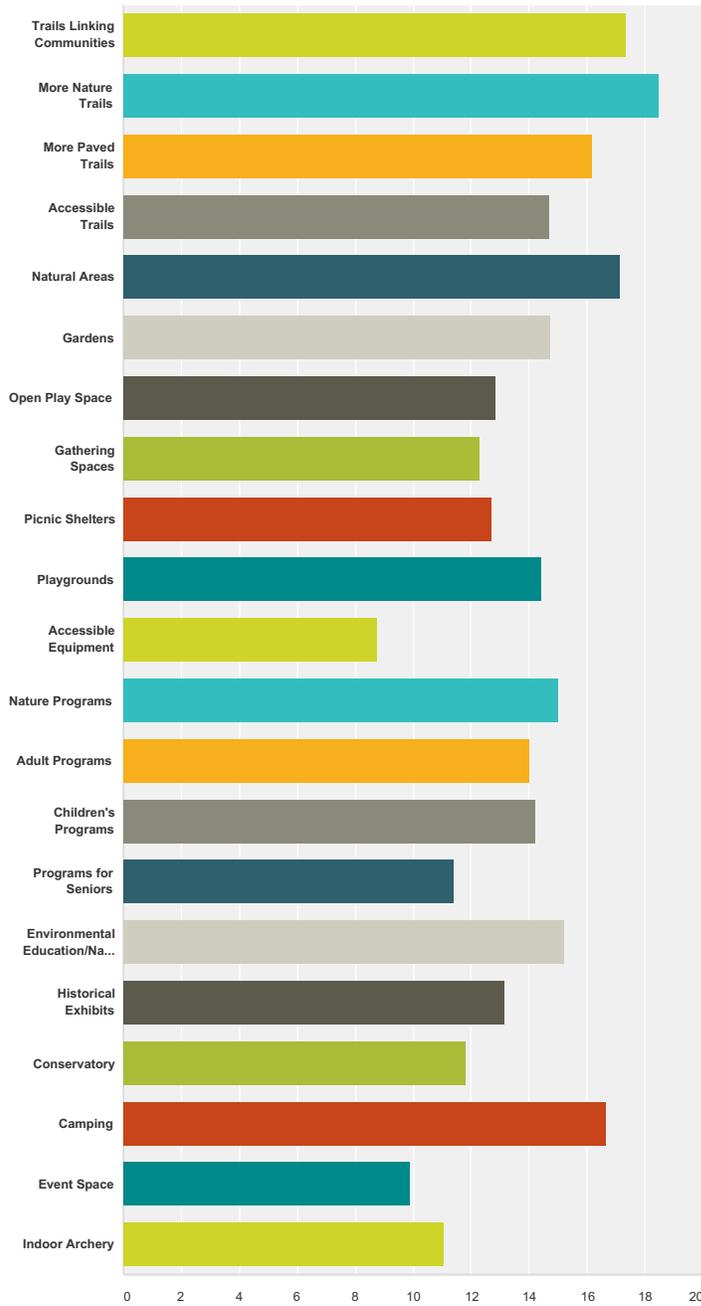
Answer Choices	Responses
Children	35.11% 99
Other Family	26.24% 74
Friends	14.54% 41
Varies	13.83% 39
Just me	10.28% 29
Total	282

Q14 Which Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park(s) do you and/or your family visit(s) the most? Why?

Answered: 223 Skipped: 60

Q15 I would like to see Hamilton County Parks add, develop, or improve the following things: (Please rank all that apply, with 1 being most important)

Answered: 252 Skipped: 31



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Trails Linking Communities	27.59% 32	18.97% 22	14.66% 17	12.93% 15	6.03% 7	2.59% 3	1.72% 2	0.00% 0	1.72% 2	1.72% 2	0.86% 1	1.72% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.86% 1	1.72% 2	0.86% 1	2.59% 3	2.59% 3
More Nature Trails	31.79% 48	17.88% 27	20.53% 31	9.93% 15	2.65% 4	1.99% 3	3.97% 6	2.65% 4	1.99% 3	1.32% 2	0.00% 0	1.32% 2	1.32% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.32% 2	0.00% 0	1.32% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
More Paved Trails	11.65% 12	23.30% 24	14.56% 15	5.83% 6	7.77% 8	5.83% 6	4.85% 5	3.88% 4	3.88% 4	2.91% 3	1.94% 2	0.97% 1	0.00% 0	1.94% 2	0.00% 0	0.97% 1	4.85% 5	0.97% 1	2.91% 3	0.97% 1	0.00% 0
Accessible Trails	4.62% 3	4.62% 3	12.31% 8	20.00% 13	12.31% 8	1.54% 1	6.15% 4	7.69% 5	6.15% 4	3.08% 2	1.54% 1	0.00% 0	3.08% 2	3.08% 2	3.08% 2	3.08% 2	0.00% 0	3.08% 2	3.08% 2	1.54% 1	0.00% 0
Natural Areas	19.64% 22	16.07% 18	11.61% 13	11.61% 13	6.25% 7	12.50% 14	3.57% 4	6.25% 7	0.89% 1	1.79% 2	1.79% 2	1.79% 2	0.89% 1	0.89% 1	0.89% 1	0.00% 0	1.79% 2	0.00% 0	0.89% 1	0.00% 0	0.89% 1
Gardens	7.45% 7	13.83% 13	6.38% 6	6.38% 6	15.96% 15	8.51% 8	6.38% 6	5.32% 5	4.26% 4	3.19% 3	2.13% 2	2.13% 2	4.26% 4	2.13% 2	1.06% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.19% 3	1.06% 1	4.26% 4	2.13% 2
Open Play Space	0.00% 0	8.33% 5	3.33% 2	8.33% 5	8.33% 5	6.67% 4	8.33% 5	8.33% 5	10.00% 6	1.67% 1	5.00% 3	3.33% 2	5.00% 3	3.33% 2	8.33% 5	3.33% 2	1.67% 1	3.33% 2	0.00% 0	1.67% 1	1.67% 1
Gathering Spaces	1.64% 1	4.92% 3	1.64% 1	6.56% 4	8.20% 5	4.92% 3	4.92% 3	9.84% 6	4.92% 3	9.84% 6	4.92% 3	6.56% 4	9.84% 6	8.20% 5	1.64% 1	3.28% 2	1.64% 1	4.92% 3	1.64% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Picnic Shelters	6.56% 4	1.64% 1	6.56% 4	8.20% 5	8.20% 5	8.20% 5	6.56% 4	1.64% 1	11.48% 7	3.28% 2	4.92% 3	3.28% 2	3.28% 2	3.28% 2	4.92% 3	3.28% 2	3.28% 2	6.56% 4	3.28% 2	0.00% 0	1.64% 1

Playgrounds	10.98% 9	9.76% 8	7.32% 6	8.54% 7	9.76% 8	9.76% 8	7.32% 6	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	6.10% 5	4.88% 4	2.44% 2	0.00% 0	3.66% 3	4.88% 4	6.10% 5	3.66% 3	1.22% 1	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	1.22% 1
Accessible Equipment	1.96% 1	3.92% 2	3.92% 2	1.96% 1	3.92% 2	1.96% 1	1.96% 1	5.88% 3	1.96% 1	5.88% 3	5.88% 3	3.92% 2	1.96% 1	1.96% 1	3.92% 2	11.76% 6	5.88% 3	5.88% 3	9.80% 5	9.80% 5	5.88% 3
Nature Programs	1.02% 1	5.10% 5	24.49% 24	8.16% 8	12.24% 12	7.14% 7	7.14% 7	4.08% 4	3.06% 3	3.06% 3	5.10% 5	7.14% 7	2.04% 2	3.06% 3	3.06% 3	1.02% 1	0.00% 0	1.02% 1	1.02% 1	0.00% 0	1.02% 1
Adult Programs	3.95% 3	11.84% 9	10.53% 8	11.84% 9	5.26% 4	11.84% 9	1.32% 1	2.63% 2	5.26% 4	1.32% 1	6.58% 5	1.32% 1	6.58% 5	3.95% 3	0.00% 0	3.95% 3	6.58% 5	0.00% 0	5.26% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Children's Programs	6.41% 5	10.26% 8	8.97% 7	8.97% 7	11.54% 9	6.41% 5	7.69% 6	7.69% 6	0.00% 0	3.85% 3	0.00% 0	5.13% 4	1.28% 1	3.85% 3	6.41% 5	0.00% 0	3.85% 3	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	1.28% 1	0.00% 0
Programs for Seniors	6.85% 5	12.33% 9	2.74% 2	6.85% 5	5.48% 4	2.74% 2	4.11% 3	5.48% 4	0.00% 0	2.74% 2	1.37% 1	6.85% 5	4.11% 3	4.11% 3	4.11% 3	2.74% 2	4.11% 3	2.74% 2	4.11% 3	6.85% 5	9.59% 7
Environmental Education/Nature Center	12.63% 12	8.42% 8	7.37% 7	15.79% 15	7.37% 7	5.26% 5	9.47% 9	2.11% 2	2.11% 2	7.37% 7	6.32% 6	1.05% 1	2.11% 2	1.05% 1	2.11% 2	5.26% 5	1.05% 1	1.05% 1	2.11% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Historical Exhibits	2.50% 2	8.75% 7	8.75% 7	3.75% 3	8.75% 7	10.00% 8	6.25% 5	6.25% 5	5.00% 4	5.00% 4	2.50% 2	3.75% 3	3.75% 3	5.00% 4	5.00% 4	1.25% 1	8.75% 7	2.50% 2	1.25% 1	0.00% 0	1.25% 1
Conservatory	2.70% 2	4.05% 3	6.76% 5	8.11% 6	10.81% 8	4.05% 3	4.05% 3	5.41% 4	4.05% 3	6.76% 5	1.35% 1	5.41% 4	4.05% 3	1.35% 1	6.76% 5	4.05% 3	4.05% 3	6.76% 5	1.35% 1	2.70% 2	5.41% 4
Camping	41.35% 55	15.79% 21	5.26% 7	4.51% 6	3.01% 4	3.01% 4	1.50% 2	2.26% 3	1.50% 2	2.26% 3	2.26% 3	0.75% 1	0.75% 1	2.26% 3	0.75% 1	0.75% 1	1.50% 2	1.50% 2	3.01% 4	3.76% 5	2.26% 3
Event Space	4.69% 3	4.69% 3	6.25% 4	6.25% 4	3.13% 2	3.13% 2	6.25% 4	1.56% 1	1.56% 1	4.69% 3	1.56% 1	3.13% 2	3.13% 2	6.25% 4	3.13% 2	4.69% 3	4.69% 3	3.13% 2	4.69% 3	20.31% 13	3.13% 2
Indoor Archery	14.29% 12	4.76% 4	4.76% 4	3.57% 3	7.14% 6	7.14% 6	4.76% 4	1.19% 1	4.76% 4	1.19% 1	1.19% 1	1.19% 1	2.38% 2	4.76% 4	1.19% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.95% 5	2.38% 2	5.95% 5	21.43% 18

Q16 List your top 3 program types currently offered by the County Parks:

Answered: 107 Skipped: 176

Answer Choices	Responses	
1.	100.00%	107
2.	79.44%	85
3.	62.62%	67

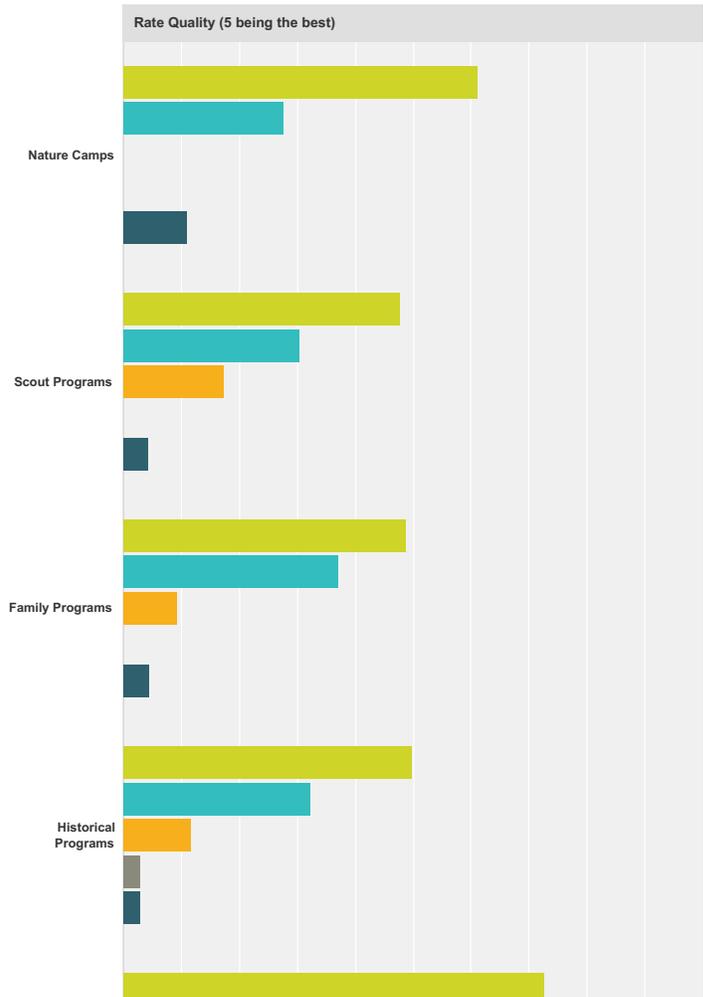
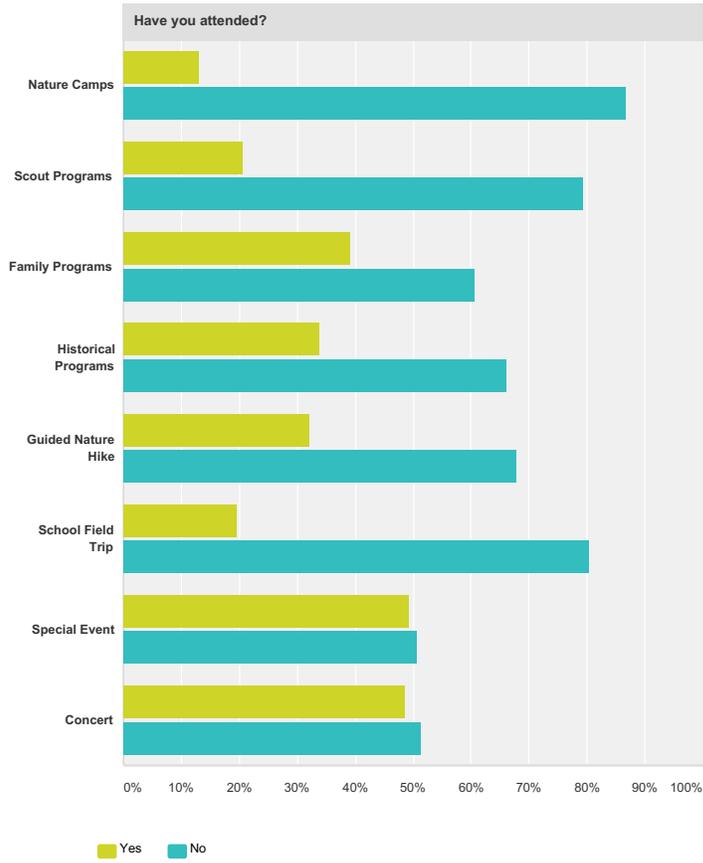
Q17 List the top 3 program types you would like to see that are not currently offered by the County Parks:

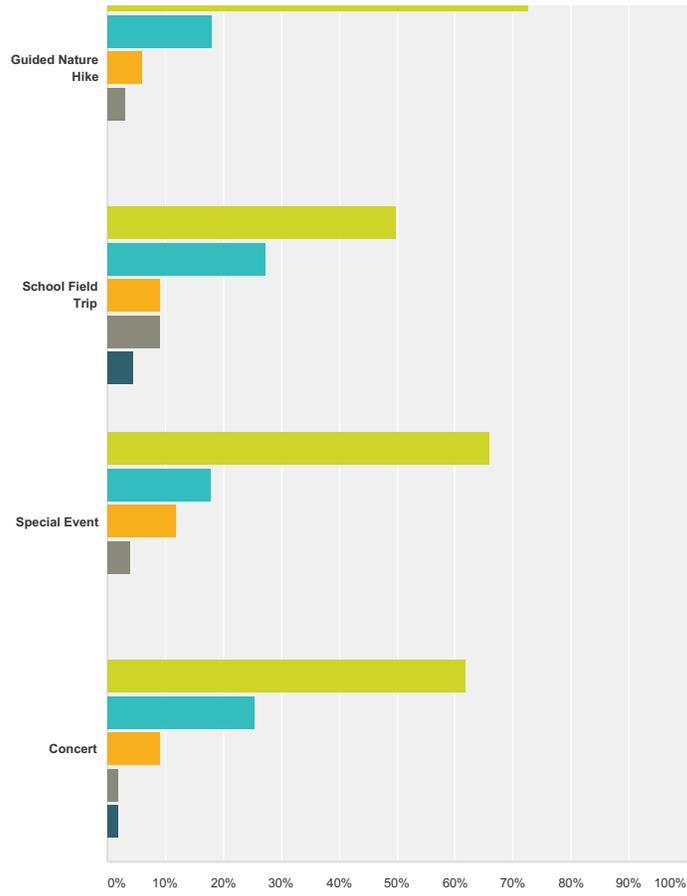
Answered: 82 Skipped: 201

Answer Choices	Responses	
1.	100.00%	82
2.	57.32%	47
3.	40.24%	33

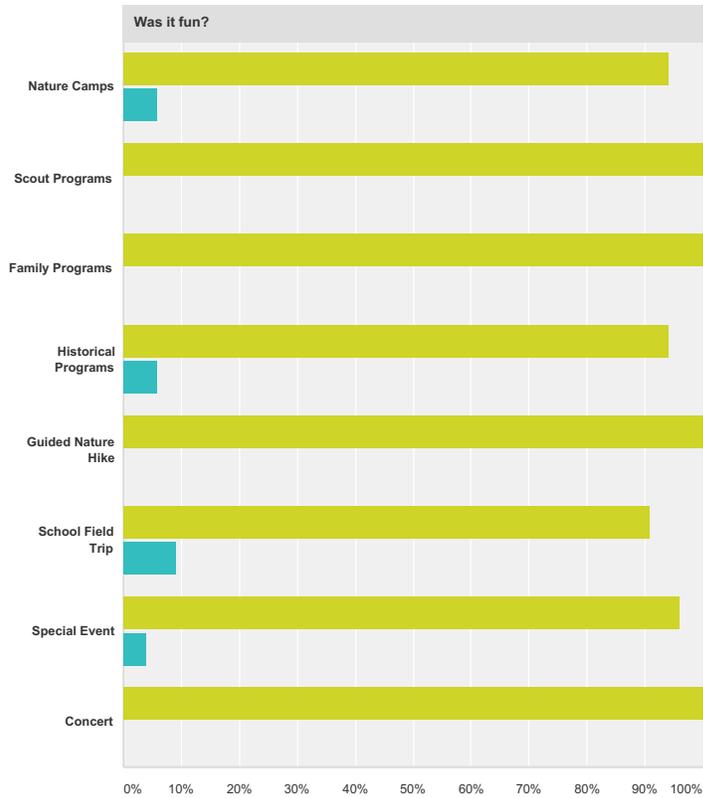
Q18 Please answer the following about Hamilton County Parks and Recreation programs and activities:

Answered: 181 Skipped: 102

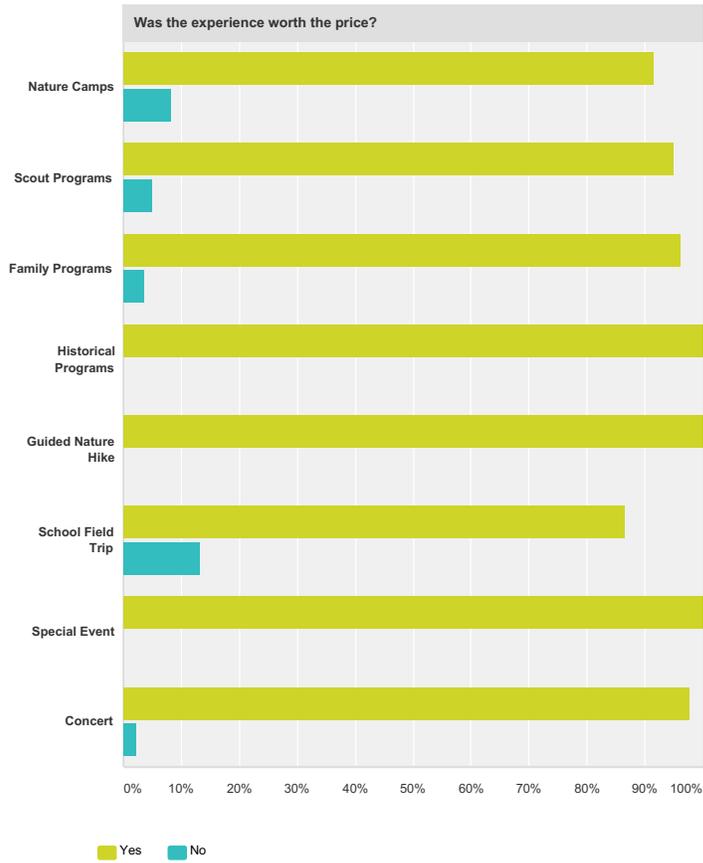
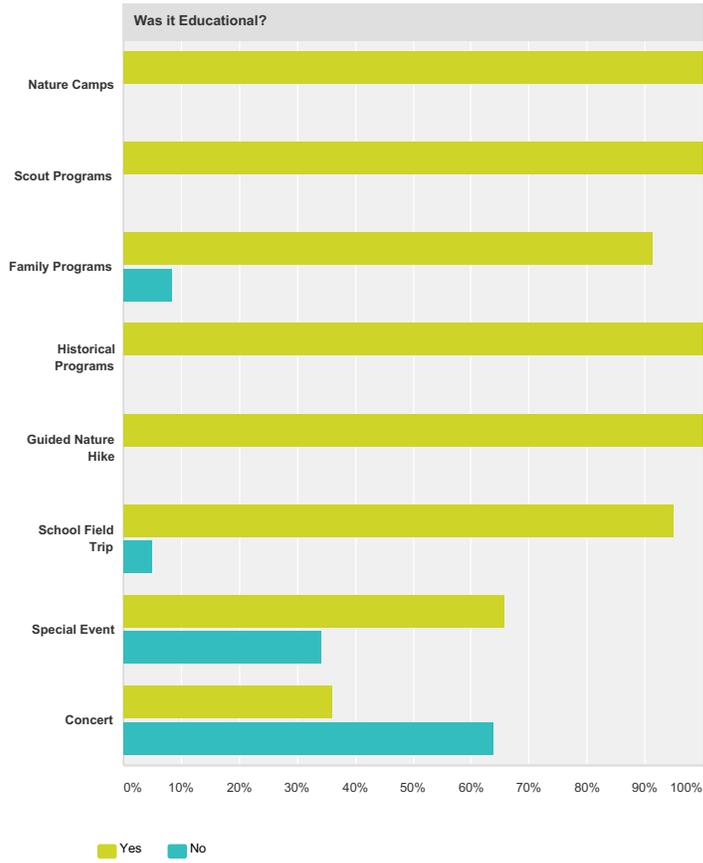


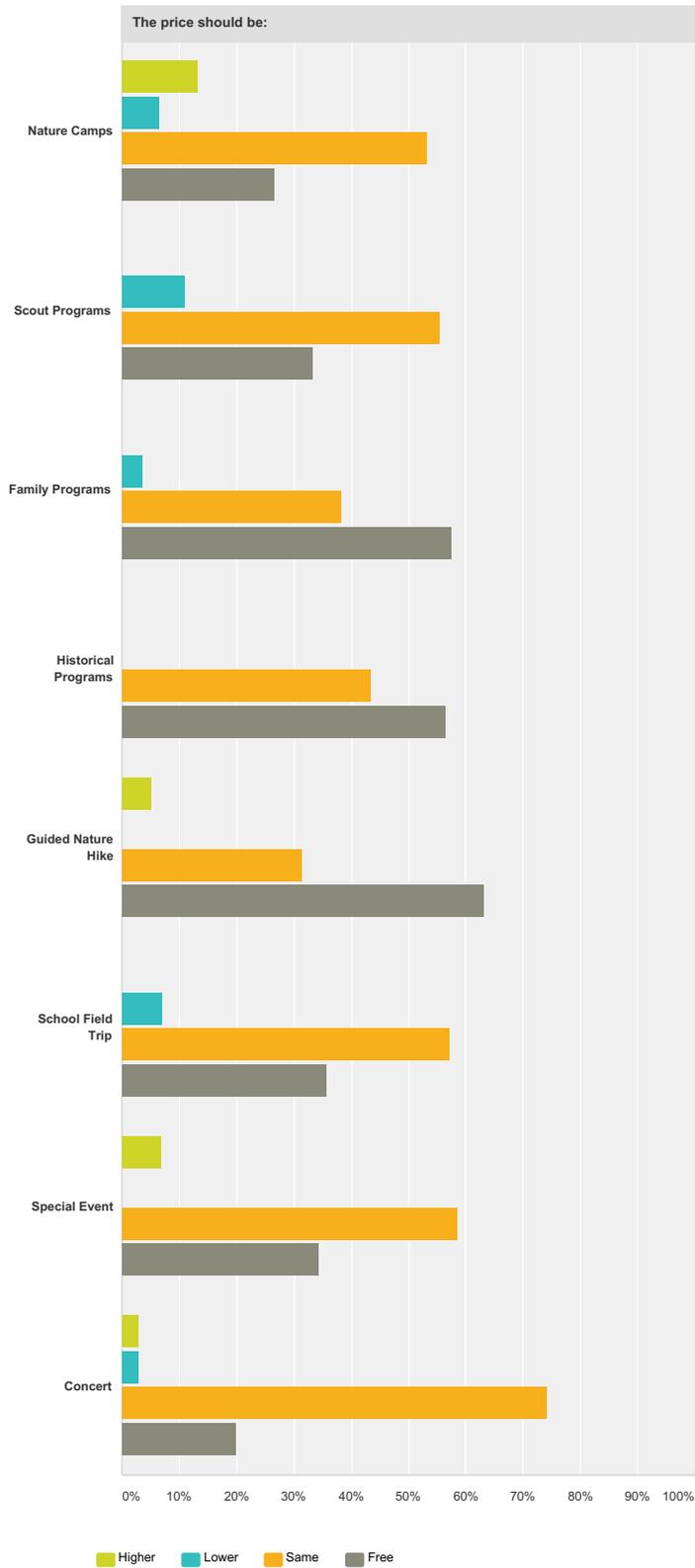


5 4 3 2 1



Yes No





Have you attended?			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Camps	13.10% 19	86.90% 126	145
Scout Programs	20.59% 28	79.41% 108	136
Family Programs	39.29% 55	60.71% 85	140

Historical Programs	33.83%	66.17%	133
	45	88	
Guided Nature Hike	32.06%	67.94%	131
	42	89	
School Field Trip	19.53%	80.47%	128
	25	103	
Special Event	49.29%	50.71%	140
	69	71	
Concert	48.61%	51.39%	144
	70	74	

Rate Quality (5 being the best)						
	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Nature Camps	61.11%	27.78%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	18
	11	5	0	0	2	
Scout Programs	47.83%	30.43%	17.39%	0.00%	4.35%	23
	11	7	4	0	1	
Family Programs	48.84%	37.21%	9.30%	0.00%	4.65%	43
	21	16	4	0	2	
Historical Programs	50.00%	32.35%	11.76%	2.94%	2.94%	34
	17	11	4	1	1	
Guided Nature Hike	72.73%	18.18%	6.06%	3.03%	0.00%	33
	24	6	2	1	0	
School Field Trip	50.00%	27.27%	9.09%	9.09%	4.55%	22
	11	6	2	2	1	
Special Event	66.00%	18.00%	12.00%	4.00%	0.00%	50
	33	9	6	2	0	
Concert	61.82%	25.45%	9.09%	1.82%	1.82%	55
	34	14	5	1	1	

Was it fun?			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Camps	94.12%	5.88%	17
	16	1	
Scout Programs	100.00%	0.00%	24
	24	0	
Family Programs	100.00%	0.00%	45
	45	0	
Historical Programs	94.12%	5.88%	34
	32	2	
Guided Nature Hike	100.00%	0.00%	33
	33	0	
School Field Trip	90.91%	9.09%	22
	20	2	
Special Event	96.00%	4.00%	50
	48	2	
Concert	100.00%	0.00%	56
	56	0	

Was it Educational?			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Camps	100.00%	0.00%	16
	16	0	
Scout Programs	100.00%	0.00%	23
	23	0	
Family Programs	91.43%	8.57%	35
	32	3	
Historical Programs	100.00%	0.00%	30
	30	0	
Guided Nature Hike	100.00%	0.00%	27
	27	0	
School Field Trip	95.00%	5.00%	20
	19	1	
Special Event	65.85%	34.15%	41
	27	14	
Concert	36.17%	63.83%	47
	17	30	

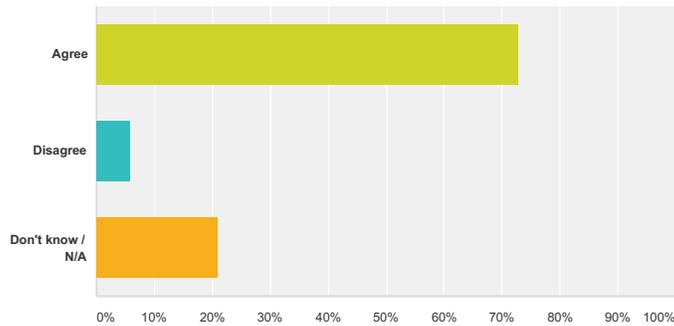
Was the experience worth the price?			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Camps	91.67%	8.33%	12
	11	1	
Scout Programs	95.00%	5.00%	20
	19	1	
Family Programs	96.30%	3.70%	27
	26	1	

Historical Programs	100.00%	0.00%	23
	23	0	23
Guided Nature Hike	100.00%	0.00%	23
	23	0	23
School Field Trip	86.67%	13.33%	15
	13	2	15
Special Event	100.00%	0.00%	35
	35	0	35
Concert	97.78%	2.22%	45
	44	1	45

The price should be:					
	Higher	Lower	Same	Free	Total
Nature Camps	13.33%	6.67%	53.33%	26.67%	15
	2	1	8	4	
Scout Programs	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%	18
	0	2	10	6	
Family Programs	0.00%	3.85%	38.46%	57.69%	26
	0	1	10	15	
Historical Programs	0.00%	0.00%	43.48%	56.52%	23
	0	0	10	13	
Guided Nature Hike	5.26%	0.00%	31.58%	63.16%	19
	1	0	6	12	
School Field Trip	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%	14
	0	1	8	5	
Special Event	6.90%	0.00%	58.62%	34.48%	29
	2	0	17	10	
Concert	2.86%	2.86%	74.29%	20.00%	35
	1	1	26	7	

Q19 Hamilton County needs trail systems linking parks and communities. Would you say that you...

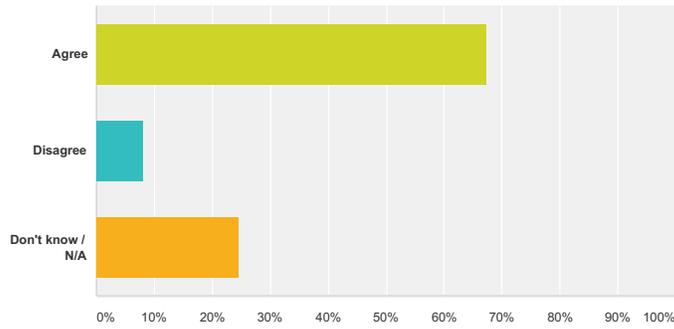
Answered: 270 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses
Agree	72.96% 197
Disagree	5.93% 16
Don't know / N/A	21.11% 57
Total	270

Q20 Tax dollars should be used to create trails. Would you say that you...

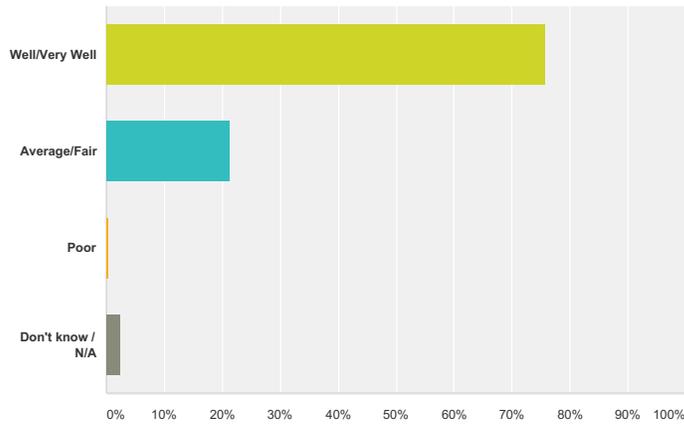
Answered: 273 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses	
Agree	67.40%	184
Disagree	8.06%	22
Don't know / N/A	24.54%	67
Total		273

Q21 Please rate how well Hamilton County park grounds and facilities are maintained. Would you say...

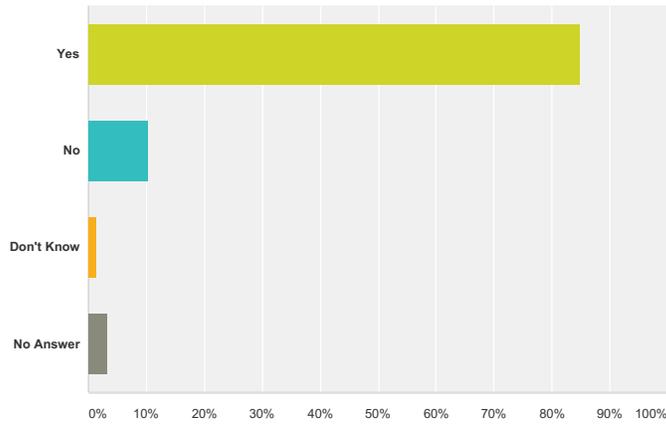
Answered: 277 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Well/Very Well	75.81%	210
Average/Fair	21.30%	59
Poor	0.36%	1
Don't know / N/A	2.53%	7
Total		277

Q22 Are you or anyone in your family involved in any passive outdoor recreation activities? By passive, we mean recreation such as hiking, walking, and nature observation.

Answered: 278 Skipped: 5



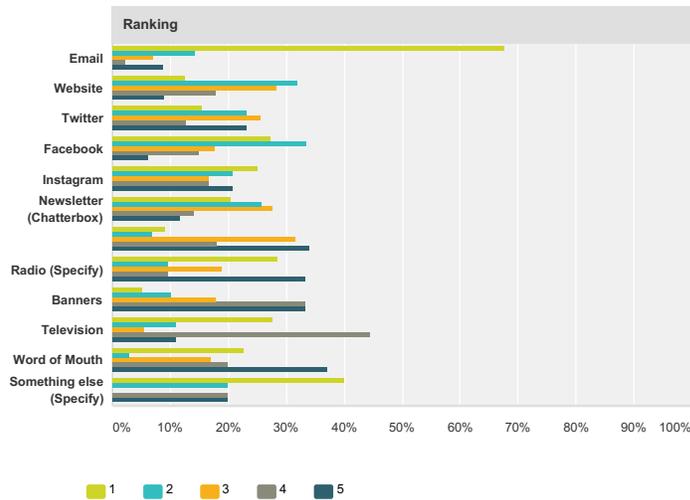
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	84.89%	236
No	10.43%	29
Don't Know	1.44%	4
No Answer	3.24%	9
Total		278

Q23 What passive outdoor recreation activities are you or the members of your family presently involved with? (Remember by passive, we mean recreation such as hiking, walking, and nature observation)

Answered: 218 Skipped: 65

Q24 What is your preferred way to be notified about upcoming Hamilton County Parks and Recreation programs and events? (RANK YOUR TOP 5)

Answered: 254 Skipped: 29

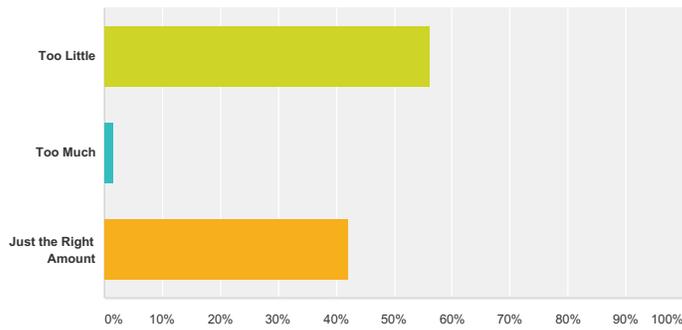


Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Email	67.54% 154	14.47% 33	7.02% 16	2.19% 5	8.77% 20	228
Website	12.50% 18	31.94% 46	28.47% 41	18.06% 26	9.03% 13	144
Twitter	15.38% 6	23.08% 9	25.64% 10	12.82% 5	23.08% 9	39

Facebook	27.40% 40	33.56% 49	17.81% 26	15.07% 22	6.16% 9	146
Instagram	25.00% 6	20.83% 5	16.67% 4	16.67% 4	20.83% 5	24
Newsletter (Chatterbox)	20.54% 23	25.89% 29	27.68% 31	14.29% 16	11.61% 13	112
Newspaper (Specify)	9.09% 4	6.82% 3	31.82% 14	18.18% 8	34.09% 15	44
Radio (Specify)	28.57% 6	9.52% 2	19.05% 4	9.52% 2	33.33% 7	21
Banners	5.13% 2	10.26% 4	17.95% 7	33.33% 13	33.33% 13	39
Television	27.78% 5	11.11% 2	5.56% 1	44.44% 8	11.11% 2	18
Word of Mouth	22.86% 8	2.86% 1	17.14% 6	20.00% 7	37.14% 13	35
Something else (Specify)	40.00% 2	20.00% 1	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	5

Q25 Currently, County Parks are primarily supported by property taxes. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation receives less than \$11.00 per resident per year for all county park operations. Do you think this amount is...

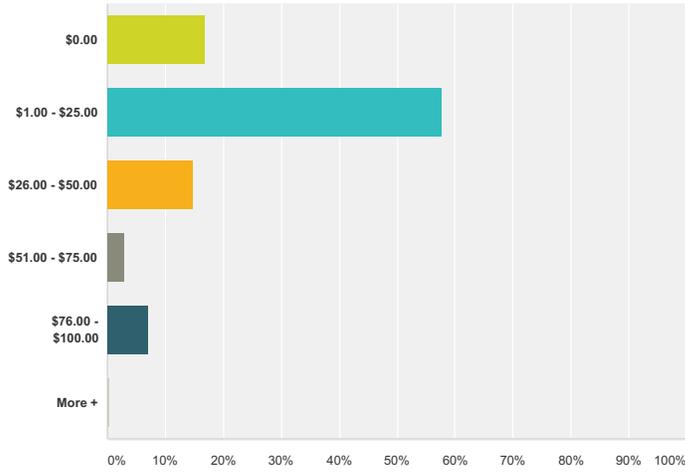
Answered: 251 Skipped: 32



Answer Choices	Responses
Too Little	56.18% 141
Too Much	1.59% 4
Just the Right Amount	42.23% 106
Total	251

Q26 How much more would you be willing to pay per household per year to support park facilities and programs?

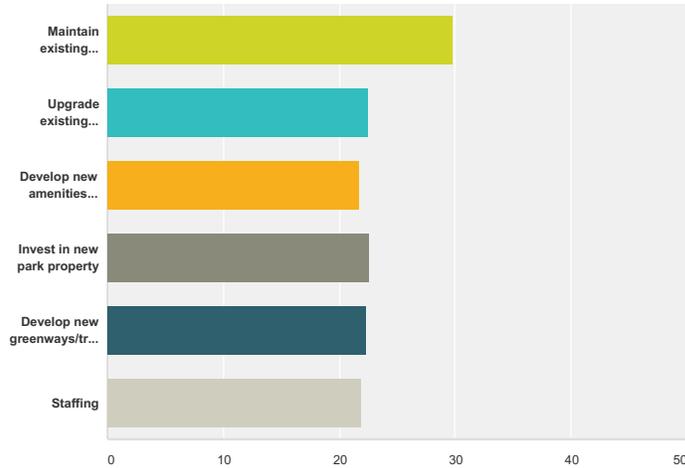
Answered: 242 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
\$0.00	16.94%	41
\$1.00 - \$25.00	57.85%	140
\$26.00 - \$50.00	14.88%	36
\$51.00 - \$75.00	2.89%	7
\$76.00 - \$100.00	7.02%	17
More +	0.41%	1
Total		242

Q27 If you had \$100 to spend for parks and recreation, how would you allot funds for the following categories?

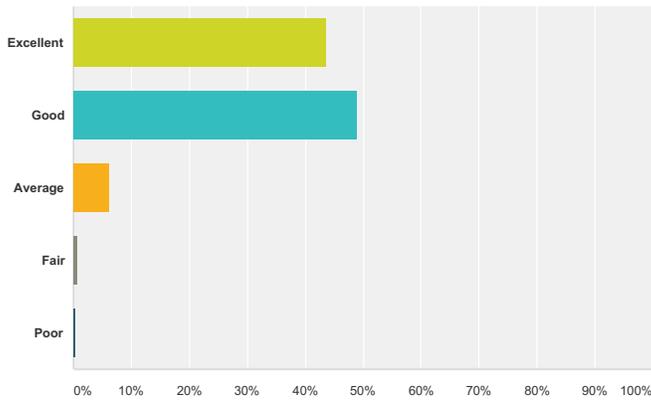
Answered: 186 Skipped: 97



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Maintain existing facilities	30	4,385	147
Upgrade existing facilities	23	3,291	146
Develop new amenities within existing parks	22	2,913	134
Invest in new park property	23	2,628	116
Develop new greenways/trails throughout the county	22	2,705	121
Staffing	22	2,678	122
Total Respondents: 186			

Q28 Overall, how do you feel the county is doing with respect to parks and recreation?

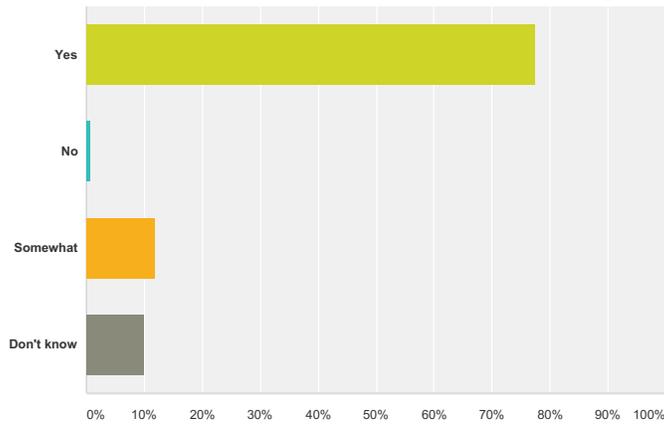
Answered: 273 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	43.59%	119
Good	49.08%	134
Average	6.23%	17
Fair	0.73%	2
Poor	0.37%	1
Total		273

Q29 Do you feel Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks in the community impact property values?

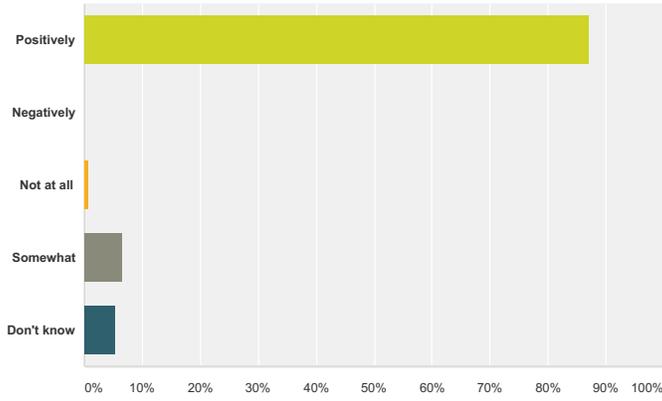
Answered: 271 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	77.49%	210
No	0.74%	2
Somewhat	11.81%	32
Don't know	9.96%	27
Total		271

Q30 Do you feel Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks impact the quality of life in the community?

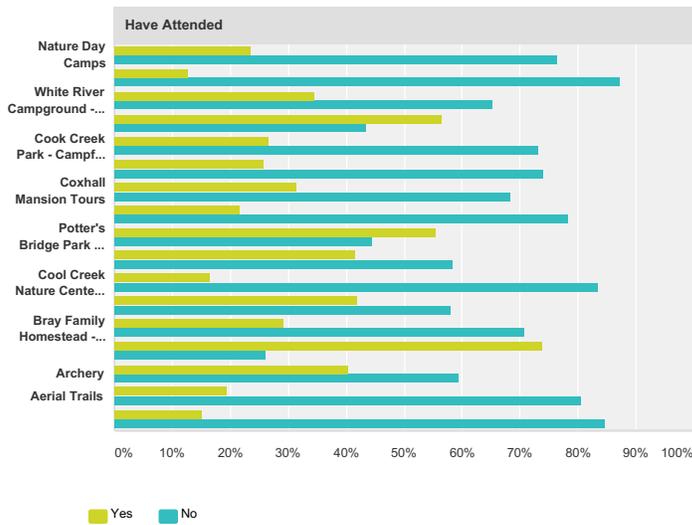
Answered: 272 Skipped: 11

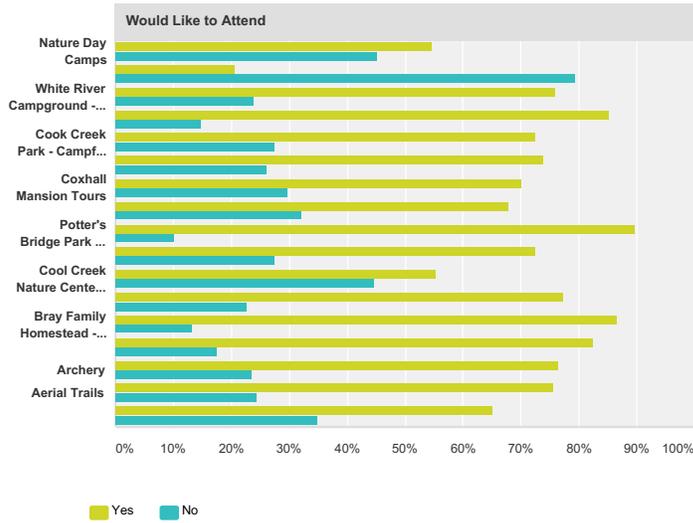


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Positively	87.13%	237
Negatively	0.00%	0
Not at all	0.74%	2
Somewhat	6.62%	18
Don't know	5.51%	15
Total		272

Q31 Please mark if you have attended any of the following or would like to attend:

Answered: 229 Skipped: 54



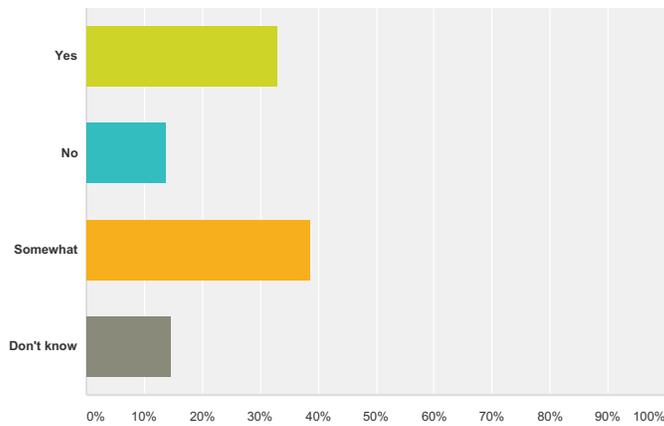


Have Attended			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Day Camps	23.86% 22	76.34% 71	93
Cook Creek Nature - Daddy Daughter Dance	12.64% 11	87.36% 76	87
White River Campground - Family Fun Days	34.65% 35	65.35% 66	101
Cook Creek Park - Summer Concerts	56.52% 65	43.48% 50	115
Cook Creek Park - Campfire Series	26.67% 24	73.33% 66	90
Coxhall Gardens - Concerts in teh Centerpiece	25.84% 23	74.16% 66	89
Coxhall Mansion Tours	31.52% 29	68.48% 63	92
Morse Park - Aqua Adventure Park	21.74% 20	78.26% 72	92
Potter's Bridge Park - Potter's Bridge Fall Festival	55.46% 66	44.54% 53	119
Cook Creek Park - Haunted Trails	41.51% 44	58.49% 62	106
Cool Creek Nature Center - Holly Jolly Jamboree	16.47% 14	83.53% 71	85
Strawtown Koteewi - Archeology Month	41.90% 44	58.10% 61	105
Bray Family Homestead - Maple Syrup Festival	29.17% 28	70.83% 68	96
White River Campground	73.97% 108	26.03% 38	146
Archery	40.40% 40	59.60% 59	99
Aerial Trails	19.35% 18	80.65% 75	93
Equestrian Trails	15.22% 14	84.78% 78	92
Would Like to Attend			
	Yes	No	Total
Nature Day Camps	54.67% 41	45.33% 34	75
Cook Creek Nature - Daddy Daughter Dance	20.63% 13	79.37% 50	63
White River Campground - Family Fun Days	76.09% 70	23.91% 22	92
Cook Creek Park - Summer Concerts	85.26% 81	14.74% 14	95
Cook Creek Park - Campfire Series	72.37% 55	27.63% 21	76
Coxhall Gardens - Concerts in teh Centerpiece	73.91% 68	26.09% 24	92

Coxhall Mansion Tours	70.11% 61	29.89% 26	87
Morse Park - Aqua Adventure Park	67.86% 57	32.14% 27	84
Potter's Bridge Park - Potter's Bridge Fall Festival	89.69% 87	10.31% 10	97
Cook Creek Park - Haunted Trails	72.37% 55	27.63% 21	76
Cool Creek Nature Center - Holly Jolly Jamboree	55.41% 41	44.59% 33	74
Strawtown Koteewi - Archeology Month	77.17% 71	22.83% 21	92
Bray Family Homestead - Maple Syrup Festival	86.60% 84	13.40% 13	97
White River Campground	82.42% 75	17.58% 16	91
Archery	76.40% 68	23.60% 21	89
Aerial Trails	75.51% 74	24.49% 24	98
Equestrian Trails	65.17% 58	34.83% 31	89

Q32 Do you feel the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department adequately informs the public about its programming, facilities, and events?

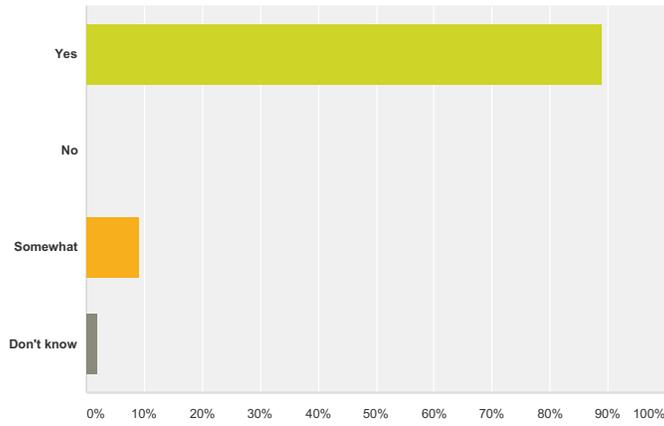
Answered: 267 Skipped: 16



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	32.96%	88
No	13.86%	37
Somewhat	38.58%	103
Don't know	14.61%	39
Total		267

Q33 Do you feel safe in your Hamilton County Parks and Recreation parks?

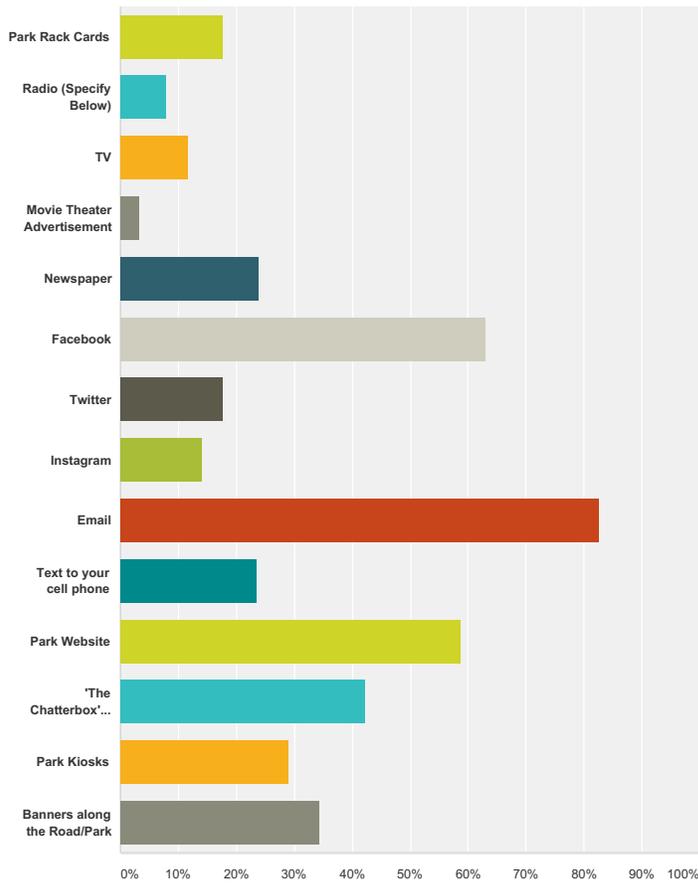
Answered: 271 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	88.93%	241
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	9.23%	25
Don't know	1.85%	5
Total		271

Q34 Please mark each of the following communications that you would like to see or be notified of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation programs and other notices.

Answered: 241 Skipped: 42

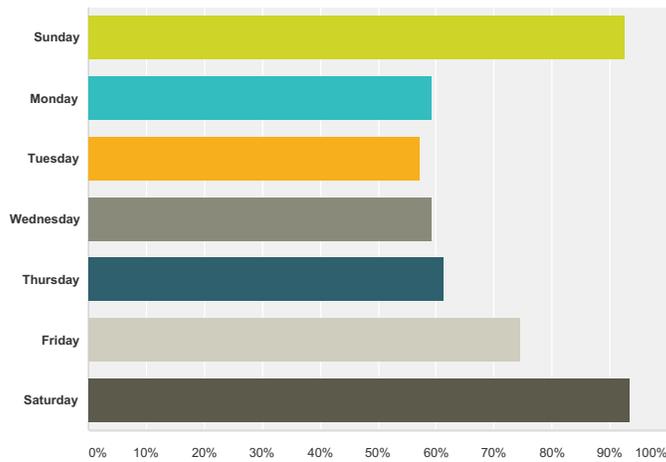


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Park Rack Cards	17.84%	43

Radio (Specify Below)	7.88%	19
TV	11.62%	28
Movie Theater Advertisement	3.32%	8
Newspaper	24.07%	58
Facebook	63.07%	152
Twitter	17.84%	43
Instagram	14.11%	34
Email	82.57%	199
Text to your cell phone	23.65%	57
Park Website	58.92%	142
'The Chatterbox' Leisure Guide	42.32%	102
Park Kiosks	29.05%	70
Banners along the Road/Park	34.44%	83
Total Respondents: 241		

Q35 What days have you or would you visit a Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park?

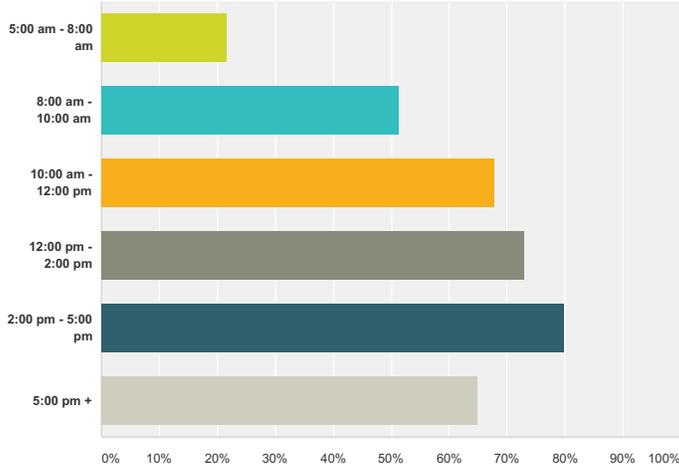
Answered: 248 Skipped: 35



Answer Choices	Responses	
Sunday	92.74%	230
Monday	59.27%	147
Tuesday	57.26%	142
Wednesday	59.27%	147
Thursday	61.29%	152
Friday	74.60%	185
Saturday	93.55%	232
Total Respondents: 248		

Q36 What hours have you or would you visit a Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park?

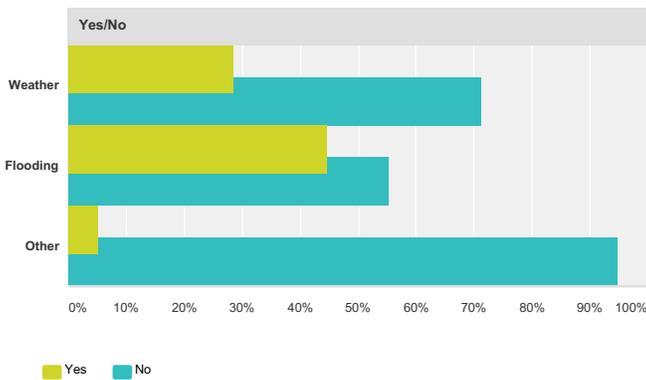
Answered: 245 Skipped: 38



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
5:00 am - 8:00 am	21.63%	53
8:00 am - 10:00 am	51.43%	126
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	67.76%	166
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	73.06%	179
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	80.00%	196
5:00 pm +	64.90%	159
Total Respondents: 245		

Q37 Have you ever visited a Hamilton County Park or program that was closed due to weather, flooding or other circumstances?

Answered: 220 Skipped: 63



Yes/No	Yes	No	Total
Weather	28.57% 54	71.43% 135	189
Flooding	44.65% 96	55.35% 119	215
Other	5.26% 5	94.74% 90	95

Q38 What is the one thing you would like to tell Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department that would help improve your park experience?

Answered: 124 Skipped: 159



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U.S. Census Quick Facts

QuickFacts

Hamilton County, Indiana

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

All Topics	HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA
People	
Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2015, (V2015)	309,697
Population estimates, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	302,623
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2015)	274,569
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2014)	274,569
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2015, (V2015)	12.8%
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2014, (V2014)	10.2%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	274,569
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	6.8%
Persons under 5 years, percent, April 1, 2010	7.9%
Persons under 18 years, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	28.5%
Persons under 18 years, percent, April 1, 2010	30.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	10.4%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, April 1, 2010	8.6%
Female persons, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	51.2%
Female persons, percent, April 1, 2010	51.2%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent July 1, 2014, (V2014) (a)	88.2%
White alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	88.5%
Black or African American alone, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) (a)	4.1%
Black or African American alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	3.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) (a)	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	0.2%
Asian alone, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) (a)	5.6%
Asian alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) (a)	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	Z
Two or More Races, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	1.8%
Two or More Races, percent, April 1, 2010	1.8%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) (b)	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, April 1, 2010 (b)	3.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	84.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, April 1, 2010	86.4%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2010-2014	14,946
Foreign born persons, percent, 2010-2014	7.4%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2015, (V2015)	119,799
Housing units, April 1, 2010	106,772
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2010-2014	78.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2010-2014	\$218,000
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2010-2014	\$1,603
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2010-2014	\$491
Median gross rent, 2010-2014	\$985
Building permits, 2015	4,047
Families and Living Arrangements	
Households, 2010-2014	105,578
Persons per household, 2010-2014	2.73
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2010-2014	86.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2010-2014	9.4%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2010-2014	96.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2010-2014	55.6%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2010-2014	4.9%

Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	▲ 7.8%
Economy	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2010-2014	73.2%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2010-2014	66.5%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	588,235
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	2,311,282
Total manufacturers shipments, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	1,641,684
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	3,403,740
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	4,338,371
Total retail sales per capita, 2012 (c)	\$14,986
Transportation	
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2010-2014	26.5
Income and Poverty	
Median household income (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	\$84,635
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	\$40,012
Persons in poverty, percent	▲ 4.9%
Businesses	
Total employer establishments, 2014	8,274
Total employment, 2014	122,263
Total annual payroll, 2014	6,189,127
Total employment, percent change, 2013-2014	7.1%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2013	24,778
All firms, 2012	30,741
Men-owned firms, 2012	17,067
Women-owned firms, 2012	9,487
Minority-owned firms, 2012	2,954
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	26,615
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	2,804
Nonveteran-owned firms, 2012	25,926
Geography	
Population per square mile, 2010	696.4
Land area in square miles, 2010	394.27
FIPS Code	18057

▲ This geographic level of poverty and health estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels of these estimates

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info icon to the left of each row in TABLE view to learn about sampling error.

The vintage year (e.g., V2015) refers to the final year of the series (2010 thru 2015). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

- D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
- F Fewer than 25 firms
- FN Footnote on this item in place of data
- NA Not available
- S Suppressed; does not meet publication standards
- X Not applicable
- Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

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- Governments (<http://www.census.gov/govs/>)
- Local Employment Dynamics (<http://lehd.ces.census.gov/>)
- Survey of Business Owners (<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/>)

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STATS INDIANA

Indiana's Public Data Utility



Choose one of the following geographies and click go to view its profile:

County:

Region:



Hamilton County, Indiana

Organized in 1823 and named for Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the treasury

County Seat: Noblesville

Largest City: Carmel (2015 population: 88,713)

Population per Square Mile: 785.43

Square Miles: 394.30

[Go to county's in.gov site](#)

Population over Time	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Yesterday (2010)	274,569	4	4.2%	6,484,192
Today (2015)	309,697	4	4.7%	6,619,680
Tomorrow (2020 projection)*	359,035	4	5.2%	6,852,121
Percent Change 2010 to Today	12.8%	1		2.1%

*Projection based on 2010 Census counts.

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

Components of Population Change, 2014-2015	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Net Domestic Migration	3,259	1		-14,881

Net International Migration	845	5		12,574
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	2,400	2	9.5%	25,260

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Population Estimates by Age, 2014	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Preschool (0 to 4)	20,506	4	6.8%	6.4%
School Age (5 to 17)	65,663	4	21.7%	17.6%
College Age (18 to 24)	21,601	8	7.1%	10.1%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	84,457	4	27.9%	25.3%
Older Adult (45 to 64)	78,832	4	26.0%	26.3%
Seniors (65 and older)	31,564	5	10.4%	14.3%
Median Age	36.4			Median Age = 37.5

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

Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2014	Number	Rank of	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	646	7	0.2%	0.4%
Asian Alone	17,057	2	5.6%	2.0%
Black Alone	12,284	8	4.1%	9.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	174	6	0.1%	0.1%
White	266,983	4	88.2%	86.1%
Two or More Race Groups	5,479	5	1.8%	1.9%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (can be of any race)				
Non-Hispanic	291,197	4	96.2%	93.4%
Hispanic	11,426	8	3.8%	6.6%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Household Types	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Households in 2014 (Includes detail not shown below)	105,578	4	100.0%	100.0%
Married With Children	34,804	2	33.0%	19.4%
Married Without Children	30,748	4	29.1%	30.1%
Single Parents	8,143	7	7.7%	9.9%
Living Alone	23,111	6	21.9%	27.8%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

Housing	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Total Housing Units in 2015 (estimate)	119,799	4	100.0%	100.0%
Total Housing Units in 2014 (includes vacant units)	111,256	5	100.0%	100.0%
Owner Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	83,206	4	74.8%	61.6%
Median Value (2014)	\$218,000	1		
Renter Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	22,372	8	20.1%	27.1%
Median Rent (2014)	\$843	1		

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

Education	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
School Enrollment (2015/2016 Total Reported)	60,975	4	5.5%	1,108,151
Public	58,349	3	5.6%	1,046,058
Adults (25+ in 2014 ACS)	186,175	4	4.3%	4,287,819
with High School diploma or higher	96.2%	1		87.6%
with B.A. or higher degree	55.6%	1		23.6%

Sources: [Indiana Department of Education](#); [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

Income and Poverty	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2014	\$63,141	2	159.5%	39,578
Median Household Income in 2014	89,861	1	182.0%	\$49,384
Poverty Rate in 2014	4.9%	92	32.2%	15.2%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	5.7%	92	26.9%	21.2%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2015	64	23	0.8%	8,338
Food Stamp Recipients in 2015	8,681	19	1.1%	810,606
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2014	9,188	12	1.8%	514,128

Sources: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#); [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Family Social Services Administration](#); [Indiana Department of Education](#)

Health and Vital Statistics	Number	Rank of	Percent of State	Indiana
Births, 2014	3,888	4	4.6%	84,080
Births to Teens, 2014	77	19	1.2%	6,277
Deaths, 2014	1,510	7	2.5%	60,798

Source: [Indiana State Department of Health](#)

Labor Force, 2015

	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Total Resident Labor Force	164,518	4	5.0%	3,265,761
Employed	158,990	4	5.1%	3,109,217
Unemployed	5,528	5	3.5%	156,544
Annual Unemployment Rate	3.4	91	70.8%	4.8
April 2016 Unemployment Rate	3.4	91	70.8%	4.8

Source: [STATS Indiana](#), using data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Employment and Earnings by Industry, 2014		Pct Dist. in Employment	Pct Dist. in County	Earnings (\$000)	Pct Dist. In County	Avg. Earnings Per Job
Total by place of work	195,079	100.0%	100.0%	\$10,268,217	100.0%	\$52,636
Wage and Salary	137,240	70.4%	70.4%	\$6,926,321	67.5%	\$50,469
Farm Proprietors	489	0.3%	0.3%	\$23,004	0.2%	\$47,043
Nonfarm Proprietors	57,350	29.4%	29.4%	\$1,856,485	18.1%	\$32,371
Farm	720	0.4%	0.4%	\$29,968	0.3%	\$41,622
Nonfarm	194,359	99.6%	99.6%	\$10,238,249	99.7%	\$52,677
Private	180,455	92.5%	92.5%	\$9,479,546	92.3%	\$52,531
Accommodation, Food Serv.	13,788	7.1%	7.1%	\$297,442	2.9%	\$21,573
Arts, Ent., Recreation	5,685	2.9%	2.9%	\$93,458	0.9%	\$16,439
Construction	10,262	5.3%	5.3%	\$777,689	7.6%	\$75,783
Health Care, Social Serv.	18,402	9.4%	9.4%	\$1,020,896	9.9%	\$55,477
Information	4,001	2.1%	2.1%	\$259,375	2.5%	\$64,828
Manufacturing	6,854	3.5%	3.5%	\$497,392	4.8%	\$72,570
Professional, Tech. Serv.	19,069	9.8%	9.8%	\$1,199,819	11.7%	\$62,920
Retail Trade	20,271	10.4%	10.4%	\$671,755	6.5%	\$33,139
Trans., Warehousing	2,096	1.1%	1.1%	\$85,933	0.8%	\$40,999
Wholesale Trade	7,896	4.0%	4.0%	\$811,091	7.9%	\$102,722
Other Private (not above)	72,131	37.0%	37.0%	\$3,764,696	36.7%	\$52,192
Government	13,904	7.1%	7.1%	\$758,703	7.4%	\$54,567

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

Residential Building Permits, 2015	Units	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State	Cost (\$000)	State Cost (\$000)
Total Permits Filed	4,047	100.0%	100.0%	\$765,598	\$3,737,044
Single-Family	1,916	47.3%	68.4%	\$591,233	\$2,929,210

2-Family	26	0.6%	2.8%	3,104	\$54,124
3- and 4-Family	47	1.2%	1.6%	\$6,861	\$31,656
5+ Family	2,058	50.9%	27.2%	\$164,400	\$722,054

Notes: Detail cost may not sum to total due to rounding. Greene County does not currently issue building permits, so it is excluded.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Largest Cities and Towns in Hamilton County

Name	Population in 2015	Percent of County
Arcadia	1,666	0.5%
Atlanta	735	0.2%
Carmel	88,713	28.6%
Cicero	4,891	1.6%
Fishers	88,658	28.6%
Fortville	0	0.0%*
Noblesville	59,093	19.1%
Sheridan	2,934	0.9%
Westfield	36,738	11.9%

* This place crosses county lines, so only population in this county is shown.

