2024 - 2029

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Board Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

2024 - 2029

Aboite Township
Five-Year Master Plan
2024 - 2029
Year Plan Prepared: 2023

Park Board	**Term Expires**
Township Trustee/Board Executive Kim Mills, (Trustee Elect 2023)	December 31, 2026
Member Mike Rost (President)	July 15, 2025
Member Colin Lank	July 15, 2026
Member (End Term: 2-2024) *Chris Perez	February 15, 2024
New Member (Start Term: 2-2024) *Brad Mills	July 15, 2027
Park Superintendent Paul Neilsen	

2023 Planning Committee	**Representing**
Mike Rost	Aboite Park Board/Softball League
Jason Cordes	Summit Middle School/Asst. Principal & Athletic Director
Chuck Dwyer	Aboite Township Former Staff/Resident
Scott Helmcamp	YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne
Kevin Scholze	Don Ayers Little League/Resident
Brad Mills	Southwest Allen Schools/Board Trustee

*End of member term and start of new member term

Contact Information

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Fort Wayne, IN 46814
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Website: https://www.aboitetwp.com/

Hours of Operation

Mondays 9am - 2pm
Tuesdays 9am - 2pm
Thursdays 9am - 2pm
Closed: Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday & Sunday

Prepared By

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Executive Summary

Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board

In August 2022, the Aboite Township Trustee and Deputy Trustee met with the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) to discuss further development of its parks system. The immediate concern articulated was a shortage of baseball/softball facilities that was exacerbated following the loss of ballfields from a renovation expansion project conducted by the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) system; an adjacent facility to the Van Hoozen Community Park.

After the development of the Indian Trails Park, a strategy identified in the "2001-2005 Vision Plan", developed in 2000 under a former trustee and park board, it was determined that more planning was needed to develop future strategies for Aboite Township's growing community and to meet the demand for more ballfields. The initial focus was to address the shortage of ballfield facilities to alleviate tensions with league scheduling. However, the park board determined a more comprehensive planning strategy should be implemented to assess the community needs at both township-owned parks: The Indian Trails Park and Van Hoozen Park – two popular park facilities in Aboite Township.

Following a brief preliminary survey in 2022, and a review of existing park inventory, the Park Board shared its planning goals and objectives with the public through a well-attended public meeting hosted in April 2023. The public meeting included a structured breakout session and activities to help determine specific parks and recreation needs. To further develop the needs assessment, a follow-up community survey was created and released in the summer of 2023, which asked a series of questions to narrow down specific recreational needs and evaluate the usage of both parks. Many residents expressed a need for more park development; however, the survey responses varied depending on the age groups, but the shortage of baseball/softball facilities was a recurring theme within all methods of public inquiry. Responses also included a need for more trails and trail connections; some wanted the pickleball courts expanded, a popular amenity added to Indian Trails Park in 2018; others expressed a need for a community venue/event focal point, while some desired playground improvements and others wanted a splash pad.

After compiling and reviewing the results, the Board considered nearby recreational amenities provided by other park facilities such as Buckner Park, a Fort Wayne City Park, which already offers a splash pad, and the adjacent Jorgensen YMCA that provides an indoor and outdoor pool. After considering potential gaps and redundancies in available recreational facilities, the Board determined a top priority should be to first address the underdeveloped areas of the Van Hoozen Park to complete a cloverleaf softball complex with the ability to convert to baseball, and update soccer/lacrosse (rectangular fields). In addition, the plan should include ADA walkways and a perimeter trail and trail connections to provide better access to all park amenities. Improvements should also provide benches, restroom/concessions, as illustrated in the *Van Hoozen Master Plan*, to better facilitate the activities desired by the community. The next focus will be to make improvements at the Indian Trails Park, as illustrated in the *Indian Trails Master Plan*, which includes adding a cloverleaf ballfield complex with concessions, lacrosse/soccer fields, parking expansion and walkways, and stormwater upgrades to address ongoing drainage issues at the southeast edge of the park.

The following sections provide the parks development and planning strategies over the past several months of this study with the understanding that the exact timing and implementation of various priorities are contingent upon the success of fundraising efforts and obtaining grant funding to achieve the planning goals as described within this document.

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Organization of the Plan

The Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Park Plan (ATPRMP) provides an outline of proposed actions and goals of the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department (ATPRD) for the next five years. It is a collaborative effort using independent research, public input from area residents, special interest groups, local business and school representatives, and the interests and goals of the Aboite Township Park Planning Committee to clearly identify the needs of the community and to develop a practical plan of action. The ATPR 5-Year Master Park Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that ongoing goals and activities align with the needs identified in the park plan. This plan will expire after five years, and a new plan should be drafted to maintain continuity between the park department and township priorities.

This Plan is written in such a way that local officials and residents with non-technical backgrounds will be able to use it effectively and without any professional assistance. This plan is not intended to be a legal document, but rather to provide guidance and a point of reference for the Park Board, as well as the general public.

The Plan consists of five (5) main sections, to help provide ease for the reader to access the information used to develop the Action Plans. Sections six (6) and seven (7) provide the final public review records with an evaluation and Board Resolution following IDNR's final review and plan approval.

1. INTRODUCTION: This section provides the framework of the plan and outlines the planning process. It is used to define the planning area and establish the scope of the plan. The vision and goals for the parks are identified and historical background, governmental structure, and budgetary constraints of the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department are presented.

2. **EXISTING CONDITIONS**: An analysis of the present conditions of the existing parks system will help to establish a context of the current needs and pinpoint future possibilities. This section will include a review of the physical, historical, and cultural features of the planning area. Additionally, it will examine demographic data, social and economic conditions and provide a summary analysis of the findings.

3. INVENTORY: To better understand the future needs of the parks, an inventory of the existing assets must *first* be identified. This section will research facilities and amenities that are contained within the current parks system as well as the programming that is offered at each site. Additionally, an overview of Accessibility and Universal Design (ADA) compliance efforts of the current park system will be provided.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Public input is essential to understanding the unique characteristics of a community park system as well as useful for identifying its strengths and weaknesses. This section will summarize the public participation mechanisms used throughout the planning process and analyze the resulting data. Data is from community surveys, public meetings, discussions and comment sheets.

5.ACTION PLAN: Once the evaluation of existing conditions, current park inventory and level of need has been established; an Action Plan based on each task to be conducted and an implementation schedule and funding or resource(s) to accomplish the identified tasks will be developed.

1.2 Definition of the Planning Area

The planning area for the purposes of this Plan is the area within the boundaries of the Aboite Township corporate limits, within which all the parks exist. Aboite Township is situated in the western part of Allen County, and comprises Township 30 north, of Range 11 east. These boundaries were established by the Board of County Commissioners, at the May session, 1836, and in March 1843, it was ordered "that so much of about Township as lies south of Little River, be attached to the township of Pleasant." Aboite is bounded on the north by Lake Township, east by Wayne Township, south by Pleasant Township, west by Whitley County. Aboite Township contains 33.35 sq. miles (86.4 km^2) with 1,244.7 people per sq. mile and a population of 42,082 per the 2020 US Decennial Census. Aboite Township includes five zip codes 46783, 46804, 46809 46814 & 46818. The Township Trustee office is located at 11321 Aboite Center Road., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814.

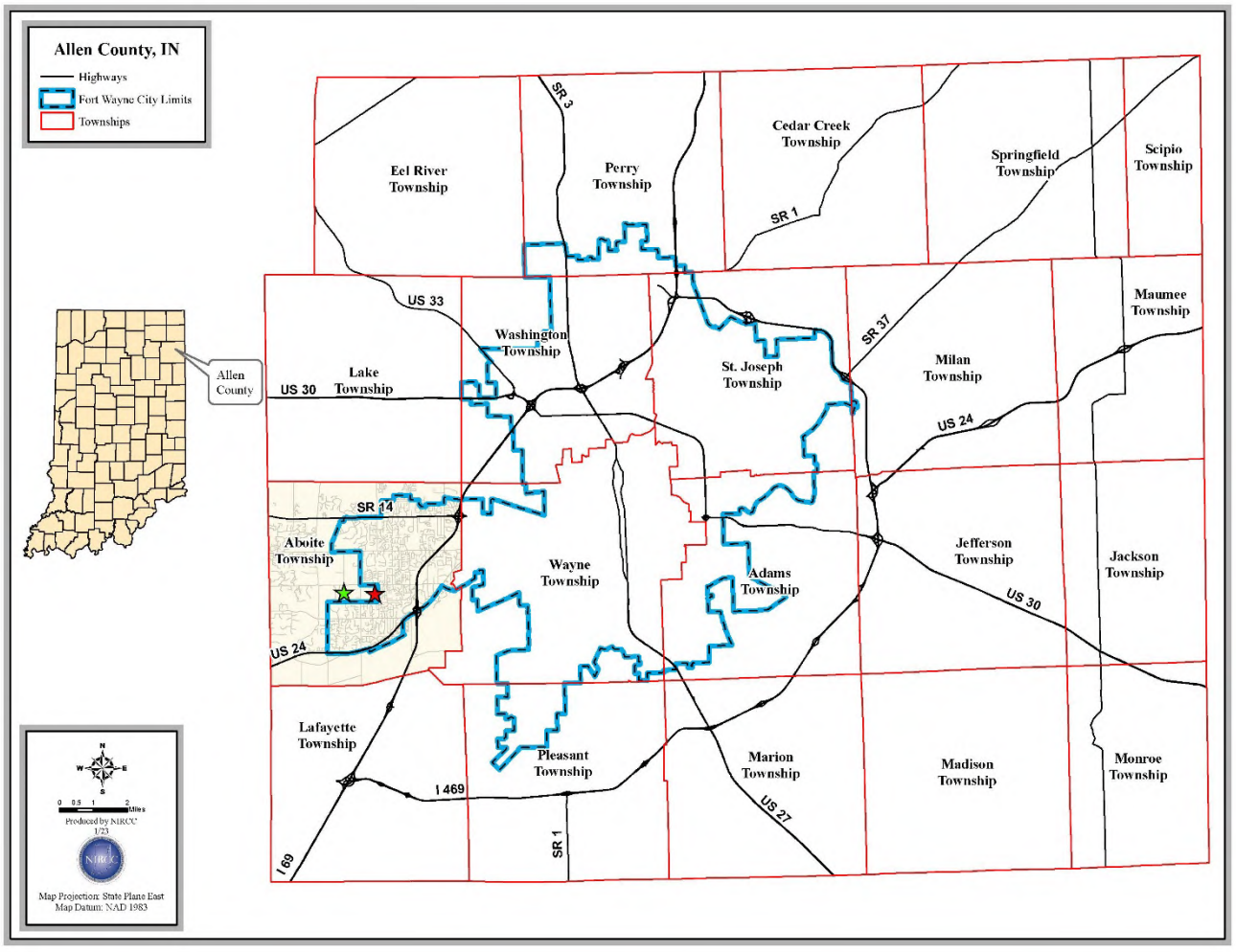

Figure 1: Aboite Township Planning Area

The Aboite Township has jurisdiction of two (2) community parks within its corporate limits: Indian Trails Park (66.73 acres); and Van Hoozen Community Park (28.17 acres). These two parks will be the focus of development strategies of this plan. The City of Fort Wayne incorporated approx. 12.23 square miles (31 km^2) of Aboite territory effective January 1, 2006. The park facilities owned and operated by the City of Ft. Wayne as well as the Allen County parks located within Aboite Township are discussed in Section 3.3.

Aboite Township Parks draw visitors from around the region due to their central location and proximity to community schools, the quality of park amenities, and the high demand for recreational activities in the area (see Figure 2: Aboite Townships Park Map).

Figure 2: Aboite Township Parks Map

1.3 Goals of the Aboite Township Parks Department

Goal 1: Aboite Township Parks Department will utilize existing facilities and make improvements within a reasonable spending level.

1. Protect and maintain all aspects of the native environment.
2. Provide sufficient resources: finances, materials, and personnel to properly maintain facilities.
3. Conduct regular inspections of park grounds for cleanliness and safety.
    - Aboite Township Parks will take any necessary corrective measures.

- Playgrounds will be constructed and updated to Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards.

4. Provide barrier-free access to existing and new facilities.

Goal 2: Provide well-balanced recreational services for everyone regardless of age, background, or abilities.

1. Programs will emphasize wellness, nature appreciation, education, and recreation.
2. The Aboite Township Park Board will coordinate efforts with other agencies providing recreational services and facilities to minimize duplication and maximize programming opportunities through a cooperative strategy.

Goal 3: Properly manage the Department's finances.

1. Regularly monitor income and expenses based on Department Budget Line Items.
2. Consider new sources of revenues that are consistent with other Township goals.
3. Seek out state and federal grants and solicit foundations and private donations from other funding sources when appropriate.

Goal 4: Anticipate future needs and seek reasonable solutions for the parks, environment, and community.

1. Encourage communication between the Department and the general public, focus groups, demographics, and elected officials through open meetings, public surveys, website updates and other means.
2. Seek shared commitments from focus groups to achieve common goals.

Goal 5: Anticipate growth and increase demand for park facilities and services.

1. Acquire available open space in advance of development to minimize costs and ensure adequate spatial requirements for future development in areas of expected growth.

1.4 Park Board History

Park development for Aboite Township all started after the Aboite Township Board of Trustees and Advisory Board announced the purchase of 155 acres of land adjacent to the Aboite School property for future expansion in November 1962. The acreage was purchased for $80,000 and located at the intersection of Homestead and Aboite Center Roads for the expansion of schools and to develop a 26-acre park – The park area was later established as the Van Hoozen Park, named after the former Aboite Township Trustee Ronald Van Hoozen, Trustee from 1955 to 1962 when the property was purchased, which is currently the home of Southwest Allen County Schools' campus and Homestead High School.

Aboite Parks became official from a Resolution adopted November 30, 1983, creating the Southwest Allen County Park Board in joint action with the Metropolitan School District of Southwest Allen County. This Resolution was later repealed on June 4, 1992, to establish the Aboite Township Park District, IC 36-10-7-4 and IC 36-10-7.5-1 et seq., which was adopted May 12, 1992.

Aboite Township's acquisition of a 78.9-acre Buecker Farm site contiguous to the SACS School-Park Complex, prompted the planning for park development, for what is currently home to the popular Three Rivers Junction Playground located at Indian Trails Park. The acquisition of the Buecker Farm property catalyzed planning for a new park in conjunction with assets from the Metropolitan School District of Southwest Allen County and the development of the YMCA campus in September of 1998. The YMCA campus received approval by the Allen County Zoning Appeals that allowed planners to build a 63,540 SF recreation center on a 12.5-acre site adjacent to the Aboite Township Indian Trails Park.

Indian Trails Park, located on Aboite Center Road next to the Jorgensen YMCA, began to emerge in the twenty-first century as an important community gathering place. Its centerpiece, the "Three Rivers Junction" is a one-of-a-kind two-acre children's playground of swings, slides, a wooden fort, maze, and planted walkways, which has attracted the attention of many families in the township. Planning for the Junction began in 2000-01, when Gail Herendeen, Marcia Roberts, and Colleen Gray sought donations from the community to develop the playground. Township residents responded generously, and funding for the playground came from a variety of corporate sponsors that included the Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne Orthopedics, Vera Bradley Designs, and Target, among others.[1]

This study comes after a 22-year gap from the development of the "*2001-2005 Aboite Township Park District Parks and Recreation Vision Plan," aka "Vision Plan",* under the direction of former Trustee, Barb Krisher, Park President, Orrin Sessions, and five (5) member board established under Indiana Code (I.C.) § 36-10-7-4 and Indiana Code § 36-10-7-, et seq.

Since the development of Indian Trails Park, and under the direction of the former Aboite Township Trustee, Michael Meyers, a new Township Park Board was organized under the provision of Indiana Code § 36-10-7.5-5, and though formal Resolution 2022.1.13.1, passed January 13, 2022. The provision created a Township Department of Parks and Recreation Board comprised of 1) The Township Executive (Trustee), and three (3) persons to serve at the pleasure of the Executive. The executive or an appointed member of the Township Park and Recreation Board established under this section remains a member of the board until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified. The new 2023 Trustee, Kim Mills, has established a rotation of board members, and the Term Dates are included in the preface.

Following the creation of the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department, the Township contracted the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC), the regional planning organization of Allen County, to assist with the development of a current Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan to help determine the focus of future park development.

[1] Angela M Quinn, Delia C. Bourne & John D. Beaty, "Aboite Township," in History of Fort Wayne & Allen County: 1700 to 2005, ed. (Evansville, IN: M.T. Publishing Co., Inc.,) 2006, Chapter 35 pg. 451.

1.5 Parks Staff

The parks have five to six part-time paid staff members to assist with the day-to-day organization and maintenance of the Aboite Township Parks. Below is a list of current park staff and job duties

1 – Paul Neilsen, Park Superintendent & Site Manager (full-time)
3-4 Part-time groundskeepers, (Seasonal mowing, trimming, spraying, as needed)

Additional Information on the Aboite Township Parks Operation Schedule & Maintenance Plan is provided in Sect 3.1.4 and Appendix E.

1.6 Park Board Vision and Mission Statement

The Board understands it is important to have a vision for the parks system in Aboite Township, which is shaped by the purpose of their organization and whom they serve. Below is the Board's vision and mission statement for the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department.

1.6.1 Vision Statement

As a board, we strive to be a voice for the Aboite Township Community. Work done in enhancing, preserving, and protecting open spaces and township land will be shared with residents to enrich the quality of life for families, future generations, and the environment of the township.

1.6.2 Mission Statement

Aboite Township Parks will create public spaces to increase the quality of life in the community by encouraging healthy lifestyles through physical activity and quality recreational activities for all ages and abilities by engaging in cultural and artistic expression. The township will do this while being a responsible steward of finances, public safety, and environmental health.

1.7 Local Government Structure

<u>2023 Park Board</u>:

- Kim Mills (Trustee/Executive)
- Christine Perez
- Mike Rost
- Matthew Booker (Jan-Aug 2023)
- Colin Lank (Aug-Dec 2023)

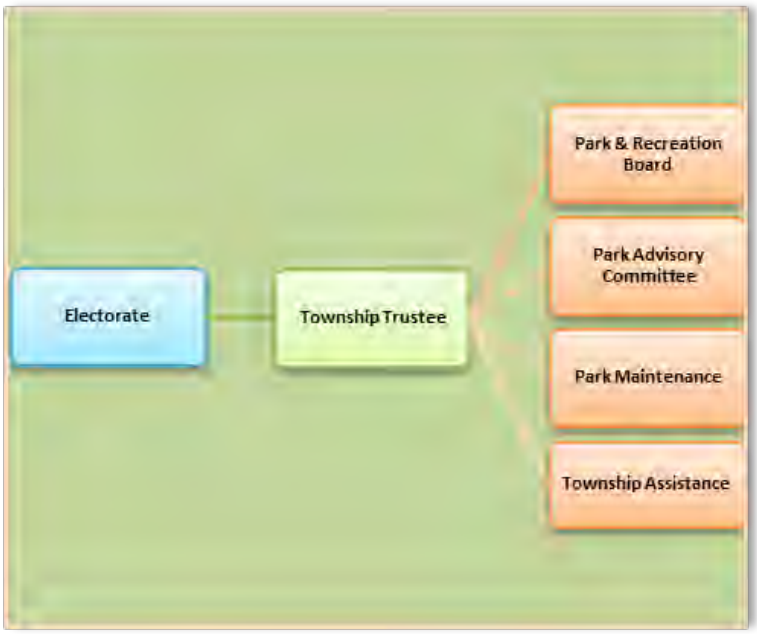

Figure 3: Aboite Township Government Structure Chart

The January 2022 Park Resolution provides that the "Township Executive (Trustee) and Three (3) persons appointed by the Executive to serve at the pleasure of the Executive." (See Park Board Resolution in Appendix D).

Note: The Aboite Township Volunteer Fire Dept., founded in 1981, had previously operated under the jurisdiction of Aboite Township, however, the Fire Department will function under a new jurisdiction in 2024 called the West Central Fire District. The fire department currently shares its location with the Township Trustee offices at 11321 Aboite Center Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

1.8 Park and Recreation Budget

Most of the park budget comes from tax-based township appropriations (General Property Tax, County Option Income Tax, Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution). A small portion of receipts come from rental services and miscellaneous receipts. The Park budget historically has met the basic needs of the parks; however, the Aboite Township Parks will require future development and significant maintenance undertakings to keep pace with population growth and park usage demand, which could require increasing the park budget. Table 1 provides the Park and Recreation Budget from 2017 through 2022. The budget also includes a 2017 Capital Improvement Loan for park improvements for the development of new pickleball courts in 2018-2019, and to purchase maintenance equipment; however, this loan was paid in full in December 2023 during the time of this study.

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK BUDGET Cash & Investment Statement (2017-2022)				
Year	Fund	Receipts	Disbursement	Cash Balance
2017	PARK	$124,722.64	$ 124,257.67	$ 36,403.57
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ 14,424.11	$ 22,672.13	$ 773.03
	PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND	$615,000.00	$ 278,245.06	$336,754.94
2018	PARK	$152,523.72	$ 132,989.93	$ 55,937.36
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ 8,426.03	$ -	$ 9,199.06
	2017 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN	$310,326.82	$ 358,791.82	$288,289.94
2019	PARK	$177,308.21	$ 168,173.96	$ 65,846.61
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ 835.00	$ -	$ 10,034.06
	2017 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN	$ 1,400.00	$ 172,067.67	$117,622.27
2020	PARK	$172,204.42	$ 158,256.75	$ 79,794.28
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ -	$ -	$ 10,034.06
	2017 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN	$ -	$ 39,978.95	$ 77,643.32
2021	PARK	$195,096.27	$ 175,023.82	$ 99,866.73
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ -	$ -	$ 10,034.06
	2017 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN	$ -	$ 61,646.00	$ 15,997.32
2022	PARK	$175,190.85	$ 224,415.93	$ 50,641.65
	PARK DONATION FUND	$ 395.00	$ -	$ 10,429.06
	2017 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN	$ 2,079.99	$ 18,003.20	$ 74.11

Table 1: Aboite Township: Park and Recreation Budget 2017 – 2022
Source : https://gateway.ifionline.org/

How Aboite Township Parks & Recreation is funded:

- **Property Tax, County Option Income Tax (COIT), Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution (VA-ET), and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET).**
  - **2023 Certified Tax Rate: 0.0063**
  - **2023 Certified Recreation Budget: $231,352**

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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2.0 Existing Conditions

2.1 Natural Features and Landscape

2.1.1 Geology

Aboite Township is located within the southwestern portion of Allen County, Indiana and has a land area of 33.2 square miles (86.4 km2), or 21,331.2 acres, of which 33.33 square miles (86.3 km2) (or 99.94%) is land and 0.03 square miles (0.078 km2) (or 0.09%) is water. Allen County has a land area of 429,440 acres and is in the Maumee Lake Plain. In addition, Aboite Township is within the Upper Wabash Sub-Basin (8-digit HUC805120101) Aboite Township's Ecoregion (55a) designation is Eastern Corn Belt Plains with a composition of Clayey High Lime Till Plains. See Figure 4 below:

Aboite Township

Allen County, IN

Figure 4: EPA Ecoregions of Indiana & Ohio Map
Source: ohin_front.pdf (epa.gov)

As described by the Indiana University Geological and Water Survey website for Allen County, Indiana:

Allen County, Indiana, sits astride the eastern continental drainage divide, encompassing some of the most complex and interesting geology and groundwater issues found anywhere in the eastern United States. The rocks and sediments beneath the surface span more than 400 million years of geologic time and reveal a fascinating history of environmental change that ranges from reefs formed in ancient tropical seas to catastrophic floods of frigid water pouring from ice sheets thousands of feet thick. Geologic history is intimately woven into the fabric of human settlement and modern life, and ultimately is the reason that Fort Wayne was founded as the "Summit City." Virtually every aspect of modern life is influenced in some way by the geologic underpinnings of the county, from the groundwater that provides most of the region's water, to the limestone bedrock that supplies the basic building materials for most infrastructure[2]

[2] Indiana Geological & Water Survey. "Allen County Geology", Indiana Bloomington University, Website: Allen County | Indiana Geological & Water Survey. Download: 11-8-2023.

2.1.2 Deciduous Forest

Hardwood forests originally covered a large portion of Allen County, but since 1959, only 43,600 acres of woodlands remained. One of the major forest types represented in the county is the mixed upland oak type. This type predominates on the drier, well-drained sites. Major species are white oak, bur oak, red oak, black oak, hickory, white ash, and sugar maple. Based upon a 2010 Indiana Urban Tree Canopy study, tree canopy covers approximately 77,686 acres, or an average of 18.09% of Allen County. The county's canopy cover is considered about average when compared to the northeast regional Urban Tree Canopy of 18.06%, and slightly below average when compared to the Statewide average of 24.58%

2.1.3 Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that feeds on ash trees that eventually girdle and kill branches and entire trees. This native of Asia was first discovered in southeastern Michigan in July 2002. On April 21, 2004, EAB was confirmed in Indiana. Since that time, the forest pest has spread throughout Indiana and the surrounding states. More recently and currently, ash trees have been significantly affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Figure 5: Aboite Township Emerald Ash Borer Location Map

Like many counties in Indiana, Allen County experienced considerable damage to ash trees from the EAB since its discovery in the state. Now that most of the untreated ash trees are dead in Indiana, there are fewer emerald ash borers to attack the surviving ash trees. Research clearly shows that treating trees once every three years is enough to keep ash trees alive: Increasing the time between treatments beyond three years will increase the risk of losing your trees. The Dept. of Natural Resources provides an Emerald Ash Borer location map with known infestations in the state. Several sites have been detected in Allen County (see the Indiana EAB Quarantine Map Figure 5).

No EAB infestations have been identified within the Indian Trails park system. Most trees in the park system are Maple, Oak and Pine trees that are concentrated in wooded areas along the south end of Van Hoozen and Indian Trails parks. Most of the trees around the Indian Trails playground and trails are Oak,

and several Maple trees that were planted by local Boy Scouts. There were losses of Ash Trees in the adjacent Homestead Environmental Center just south of Van Hoozen Park, with reports of 20+ Ash Trees succumbing to EAB in wooded areas. Dead trees are usually left in their natural state unless it presents public safety concerns. Summit Schools, adjacent to Indian trails and the Jorgensen YMCA, had a Gypsy Moth infestation that required treatment in previous years, but no infestations have been reported at the Aboite Township parks system.

2023 Indian Trails Trailway

2.1.4 Wetlands/Floodplain

The History of Aboite Township reports the earlier pronounced "Aboit River"- the principal stream that flows through the township from north to south, joining Little River near Aboite Station, on the Wabash Railway. Little River—a tributary to the Wabash—waters the southeastern part of the township. Bollard's Run is a small brook which has its source in a series of springs, and, flowing in a southerly direction, joins Little River at the point of Section 25. There are other small streams to which no names have been assigned.

The name "Aboit" is evidently a corruption of the name originally given to the creek by the French. On the bank of this creek, in 1780, a battle took place between the Indians and the French forces, led by Col. La Balm. The latter were overwhelmed and slaughtered, and from this circumstance the place was called "Abattoir, "the slaughterhouse." Historically, Aboite Township was the site of an extensive marsh that also covered Lafayette and much of western Wayne Townships. It also became an important link in the Wabash-Maumee portage that was critical to the development of Allen County[3]

While river systems of central and eastern portions of the county are drained by tributaries of the Maumee River and rise from the center of downtown Fort Wayne at the confluence of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers, the western portion, including those in Aboite, drain into streams associated with the Eel and Aboite Rivers, both of which are tributaries of the Wabash Rivers. "Aboite" is believed to be related to the French words Riviere a Boitte (river of minnows) or Boite, a box or container in which fish are held, a reference to the Native American practice of trapping fish in lowland areas. Whatever the origin of its name, the early history of Aboite Township is tied directly to the changing role of its wetlands and waterways.

Figure 6: Provides the location of the floodplain which consists of a large area in the southern portion of Aboite Township, as well as scattered rivers and streams throughout the township. Rivers and streams are shown in more detail in Figure 7 Wetlands/Hydrology Map for Aboite Township.

[3] L. H. Newton, "Aboite Township History Bits, Published 1880, Chicago; Kingman Brothers, website: http://genealogytrails.com/ind/allen/twphistory/hist-aboitetwp.html). Download 1-4-23.

Figure 7: Provides the wetlands in, and around Aboite Township. This map shows the National Wetland Inventory (NWI). The NWI is a digitized map developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to illustrate information on the location, size, and type of wetlands across the county.

2.1.5 Impaired Streams

A 6.25-mile portion of Aboite Creek is an Impaired Stream as identified in the IDEM's *Indiana 2022 303(d) List of Impaired Waters* report. The report indicates a level 5A contamination of Escherichia Coli (E-Coli).

BASIN	HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE	COUNTY	ASSESSMENT UNIT ID	ASSESSMENT UNIT NAME	WATER TYPE	SIZE	UNITS	PARAMETER	DESIGNATED USE	IR CATEGORY
UPPER WABASH	51201011005	Allen	INB01A5_04	ABOITE CREEK	STREAM	6.25	Miles	COLI	Full Body Contact	5A

The 303(d) list identifies where many of Indiana's water quality problems exist and the nature of those impairments. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) provides a comprehensive Indiana Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report (IR) every two years. Allen County has several impaired sites on IDEM's 303(D) Impaired Water Assessment list[4]

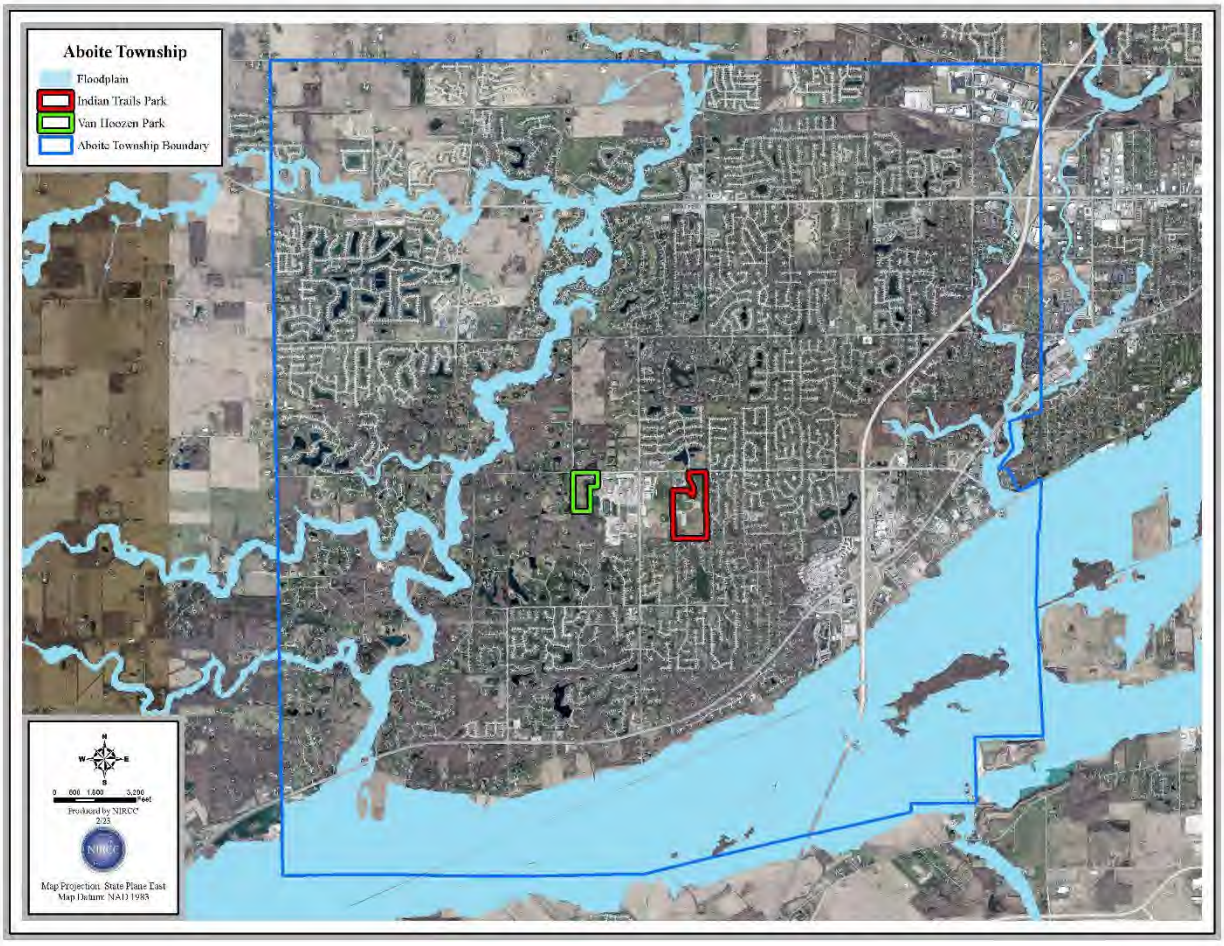


Figure 6: Aboite Township Floodplain Map

[4] Indiana Department of Environmental Management, "Indian's 2022 303(d) List of Impaired Waters". IN.Gov Website: IDEM: Nonpoint Source: Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Download 2-14-2024.

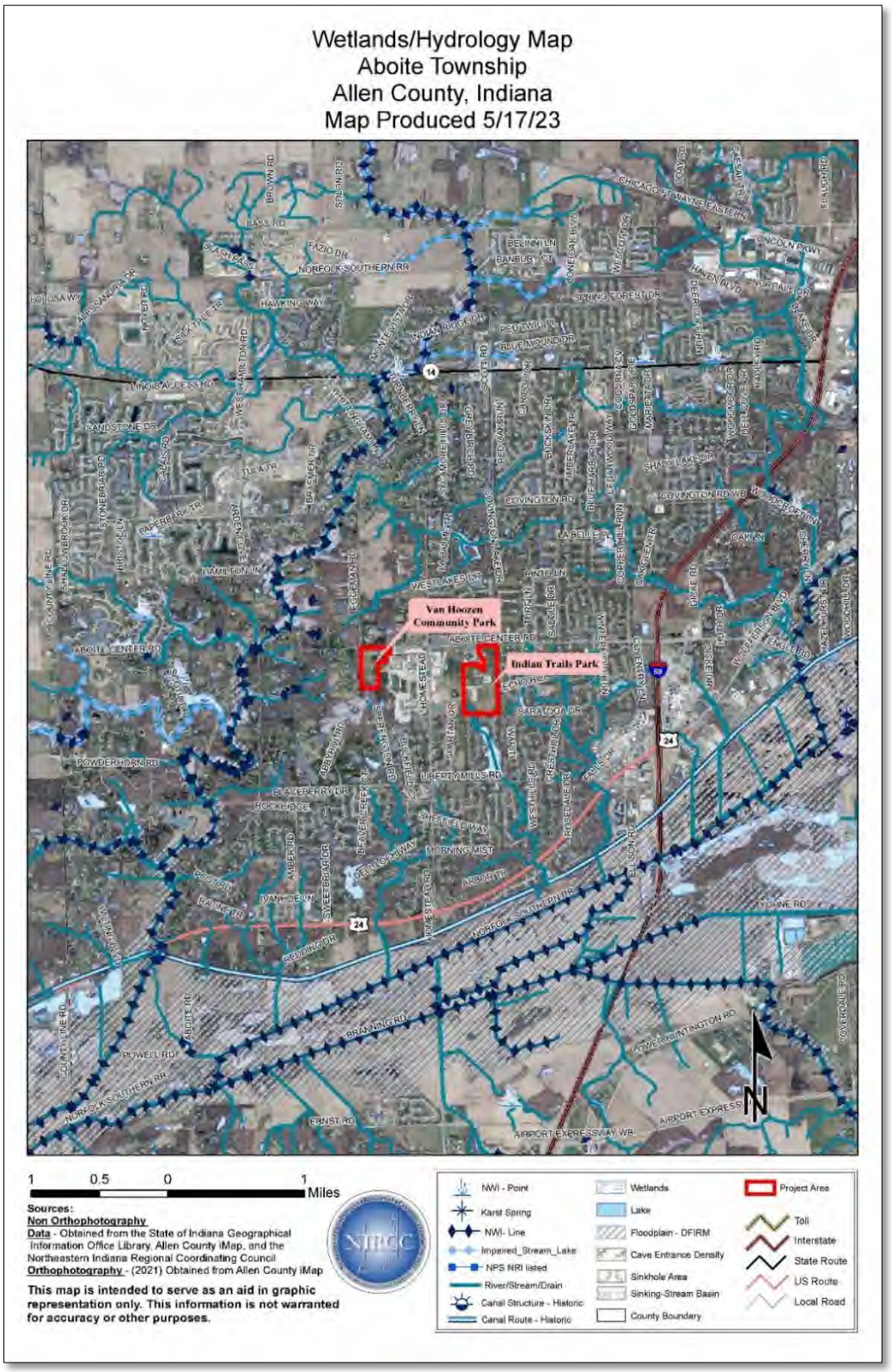


Figure 7: Aboite Township Wetlands/Hydrology Map

2.1.6 Soils

The USGS Web Soil Survey shows there are ten (10) soil compositions found in and around Aboite Township Parks and composed chiefly of Blount loam, Glynwood silt loam and Pewamo silty clay loam. Much of Aboite Township derives of rich black loam, with a substratum of clay which produces excellent qualities for growing wheat, fruit, and a variety of products. The muck soil or peat was built up from natural springs or underground water surging to the surface. Some muck soils were developed in shallow lake beds[5]. Indian Trails Park has areas of poor drainage around the southeastern edges that affects the field conditions and use during the wet seasons. The Park Board discussed existing drainage issues with engineers and sought pricing with the cost projections for drainage as outlined in Section 4.6.

Aboite Township remained overwhelmingly agricultural for the first three decades of the twentieth century, with corn, wheat, oats, and hay being the standard crops. The extensive drainage efforts of the 1880s had improved the arability of much of the land, but there were still wetlands and marshy fields. Today, the top crops per acre for farmland in Allen County are soybeans at 134,685 (57%), corn at 82,869 (33%), wheat at 10,790 (4.5%), hay at 9,0193 (3.8%), and corn silage at 790 acres (.03%) per the *2017 US Census of Agriculture Report, Allen County, Indiana*[6]. (See Soil Descriptions in Table 2 below, and Figure 8: Soil Survey Park Area Map on the following page).

Table 2: Soil Association Descriptions

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BmA	Blount loam, interlobate moraines, 0 to 2 percent slopes	189.0	**56.4%**
BmB	Blount silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	6.3	**1.9%**
BmB2	Blount loam, interlobate moraines, 1 to 4 percent slopes, eroded	5.9	**1.8%**
Es	Eel silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	3.8	**1.1%**
HpA	Whitaker silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	1.4	**0.4%**
McB2	Martinsville loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	7.8	**2.3%**
MrB	Glynwood silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	0.3	**0.1%**
MrB2	Glynwood silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	57.4	**17.1%**
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	51.3	**15.3%**
Rs	Rensselaer silty clay loam	12.1	**3.6%**
Totals for Area of Interest		**335.4**	**100.0%**

[5] USDA "Custom Soil Resource Report for Allen County, Indiana." Aboite Township Parks. Website: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx. Report Date: 12-29-22.
[6] United States Department of Agriculture, "2017 Census of Agriculture County Profile, Allen County, Indiana," National Agricultural Statistics Service. USDA Website: www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. Download: 9-7-23.

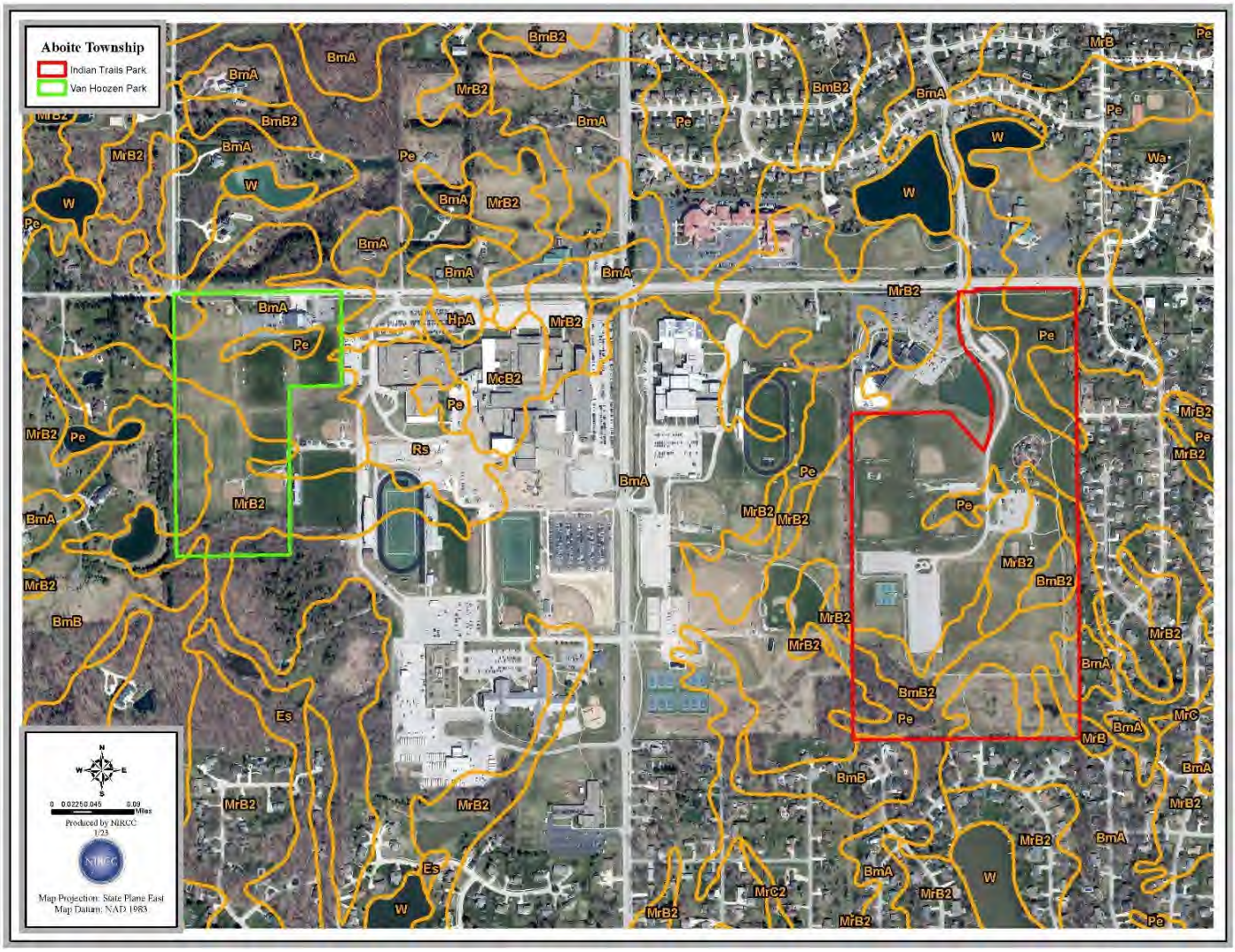


Figure 8: Aboite Township Soil Survey Park Area Map

2.1.7 Wildlife

More than 25 species of migrating waterfowl pass through the county in spring and fall. Mallards and black ducks are the most numerous. Bald eagles nested in Indiana until the 1890s and small numbers wintered in the state from November through March. In 1985, the Indiana Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program began the Bald Eagle Reintroduction Program, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources map shows there are four Bald Eagle nesting sites in Allen County; one of which, is in Aboite Township at Eagle Marsh wetland area just south of Aboite Center Road[7]. To review the 2023 Indiana County Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species List for Allen County can be accessed at the Department of Natural Resources website at: https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np_allen.pdf.

[7] Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "Bald Eagle – Distribution and abundance: History in Indiana" map website: https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/bald-eagle/.

2.1.8 Land Use

Allen County, Indiana is predominately agriculture land (cultivated crops and pastureland) in the northern sections; however, the county has lost five (5) acres of farmland a day since World War II, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture: In 1964, 77% of Allen County, or 323,705 acres, was farmland. By 1997, farmland dwindled to 276,385 acres, or 66% of the county[8]. That said, Aboite Township has large sections of residential-zoned districts and stretches of commercial and industrial-zoned districts along US 24, I-69, and SR 14. Although there remain areas of agricultural-zoned areas (Agricultural Class A1) dispersed throughout the township. Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Park are Zoned A3, "Estates", or categorized as Special Use in district(s) where allowed. It is important to note that the southern boundary areas of Aboite Township have a large floodplain presence, and this area is not favorable for residential and commercial development. A Land Use/Zoning map is provided in Figure 9 below:

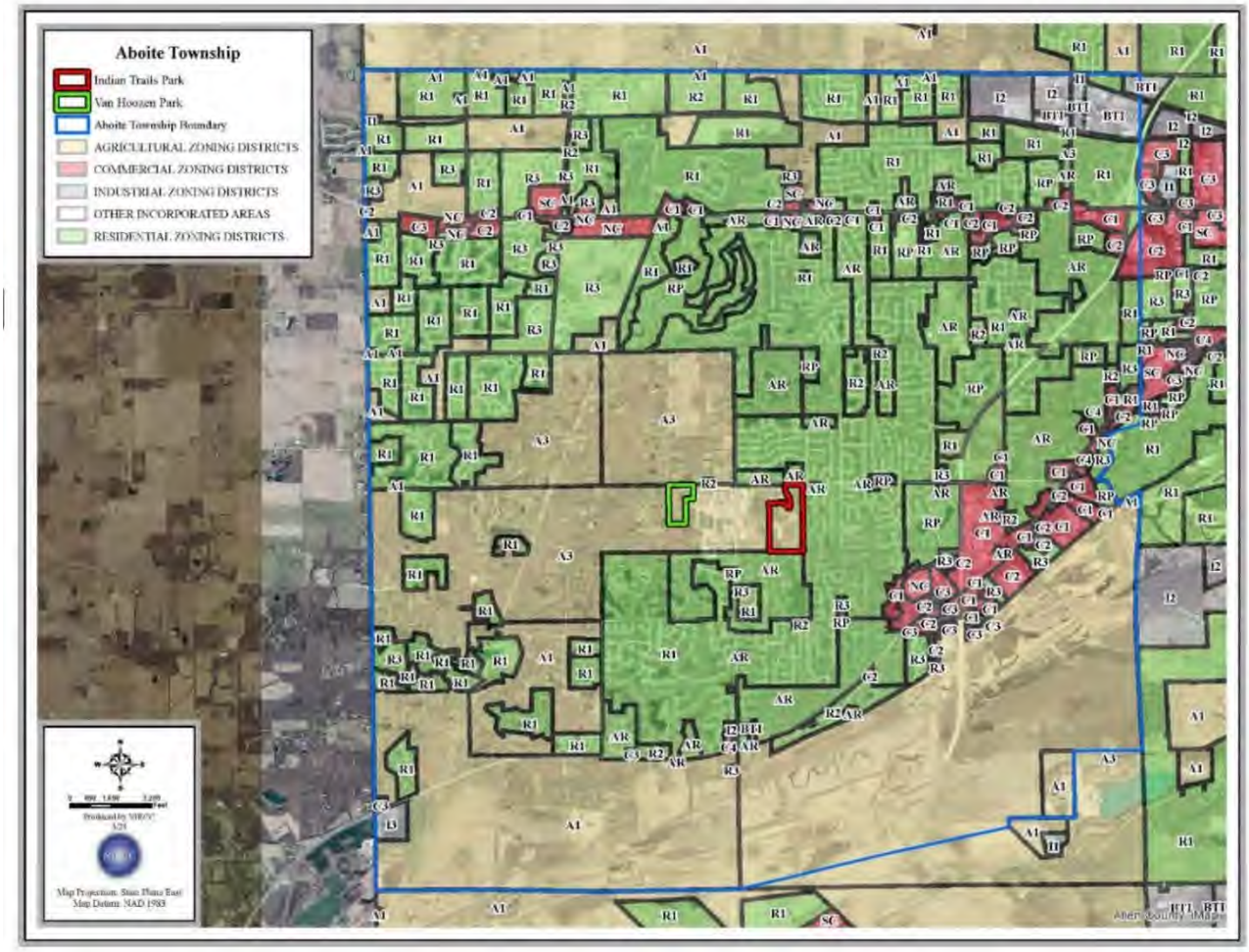


Figure 9: Aboite Township Land Use Map

[8] Gordon, John R. "Indiana Agriculture 1964 and 1969 A Census Comparison (1971) Historical Documents of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. Paper 629. Dept. of Agricultural Communication. Website: https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/agext/629/ Download 9-15-23.

2.2 Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Characteristics

Aboite Township, formally recognized by the Allen County Commissioners in May 1836, is located in southwest Allen County, and bounded by Bass Road to the north and County Line Road to the west. It has no eastern or southern boundary roads, though Powell Road covers a small part of its southern boundary, and Coverdale Road marks the southern edge of its eastern boundary. However, no unusual man-made features exist in Aboite Township. The primary man-made features that have influenced the township's development include the Wabash and Erie Canal, railways, and the street/highway network. As discussed in the following transportation section, Highway I-69 allows for easy access and egress to and from the township. The City of Fort Wayne incorporated approx. 12.23 square miles (31 km2) of Aboite territory effective January 1, 2006, or 37% of Aboite Township was annexed into the City of Fort Wayne.

2.2.1 Transportation Links

The major highways linking Aboite Township today consist of I-69, US 24, US 33, and SR 14. However, Aboite Township has been an important link in the development of commerce and transportation for centuries. The 'Portage' used for ages by Native Americans and later by settlers traced through Aboite – providing a key link between the Wabash Valley and the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and beyond. The idea of a water passage connecting Lake Erie through the short portage between the Maumee and Wabash Rivers was suggested by none other than George Washington himself. The opening of the Wabash and Erie Canal became an important factor in spurring the development of Aboite Township.

In 1940, US 24 was constructed, linking Fort Wayne and Huntington, but the township's population didn't really start to grow until after World War II. Some of the new growth came from returning veterans, who constructed new homes along county roads as they started families. None of the new houses built in the 1950s were in subdivisions. Instead, they were usually built on farms sites where farmers would often divide land among their children to build new homes along the roads. In the 1960s the decision to construct Interstate-69 (I-69), linking Fort Wayne to Indianapolis as part of the nationwide Interstate Highway System, undoubtably played a major role in Aboite' s development. The new highway funneled several new development efforts: After the new highway opened in 1962, there were two access ramps located in the township – an elaborate cloverleaf at the intersection of Illinois Road and a simple access ramp at U.S. 24. The new highway served as a catalyst for more residential neighborhoods and retail growth[9].

Most of the roads in Aboite Township tended to follow the section divisions, such as Bass Road, which separates Aboite from Lake Township, and County Line Road between the township and Whitley County. Aside from U.S. 24 and I-69, the main exception is West Hamilton Road that runs straight in the northern part of the township, but becomes a picturesque, curving drive through the hills. With the significant growth of the area, increasing traffic patterns had become a challenge. To address this challenge, Illinois Road was successfully widened between U.S. 24 and I-69, leading to a flurry of new commercial

[9] Angela M. Quinn, Delia C. Bourne, & John D. Beatty, "Aboite Township" Part 7: Townships, in Vol. 2 History of Fort Wayne & Allen County (Evansville, IN: M.T. Publishing Co., Inc., 2006). Pgs. 443-449.

development in that corridor, but the roads elsewhere in the township, except for being repaved, remained just two lanes.

2.2.2 Transportation Improvement Projects

The recommended funded roadway improvements according to the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) "2045 Allen County Transportation Plan" includes an intersection improvements project on Liberty Mills Road and Homestead Road, and a Reconstruction and Realignment project on Bass Road funded highway projects in Aboite Township. The transportation "funded" projects in Allen County are illustrated in Figure 10: 2045 Allen County Transportation Plan Map below:

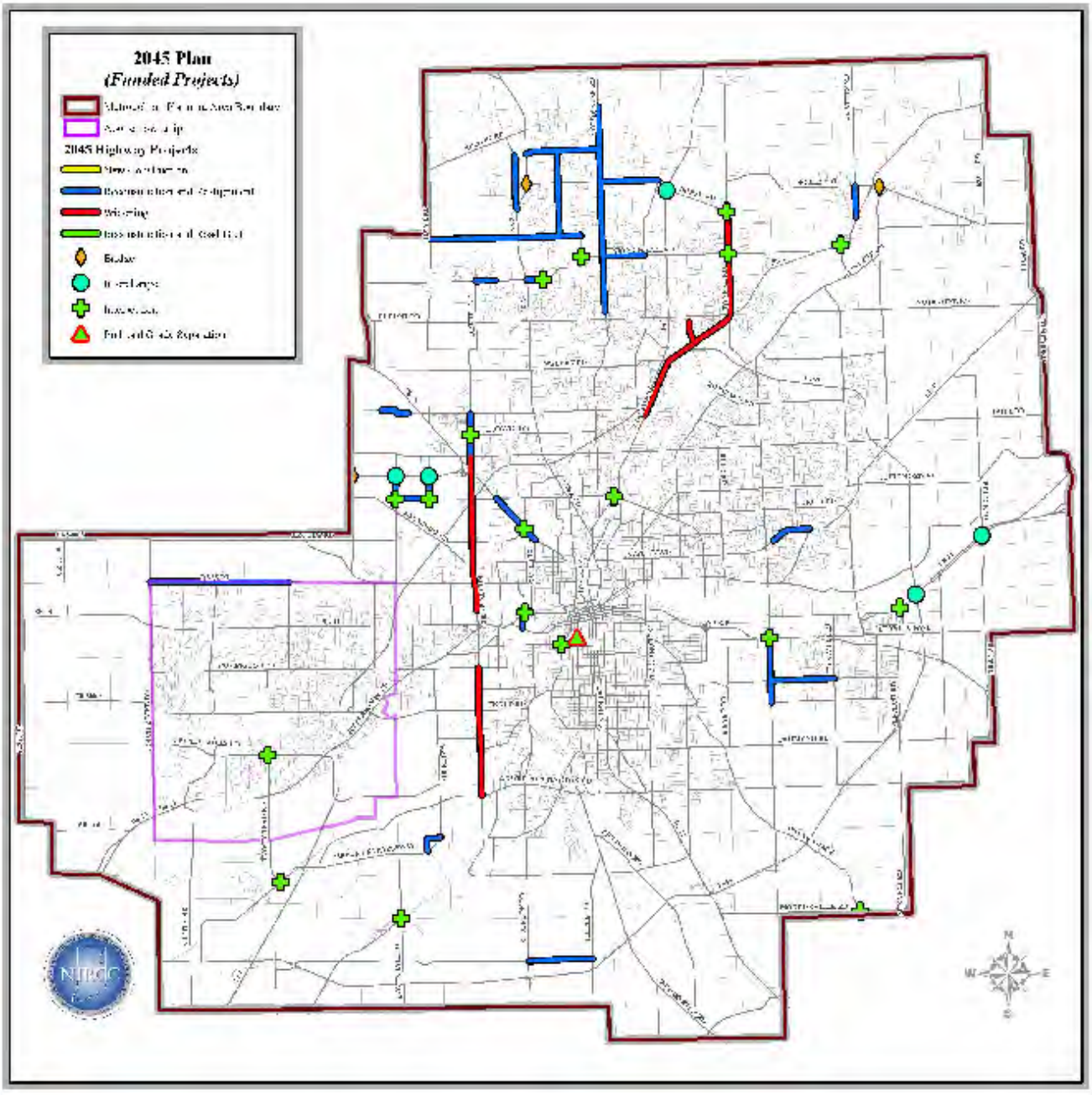


Figure 10: 2045 Allen County Transportation Plan Map – Aboite Township Overlay (Rv. 11-13-23)

2.2.3 Trails Projects – Aboite New Trails

Permission to reproduce photo by Fort Wayne Trails https://fwtrails.org/our-work/our-history.

In 2001 Aboite Township began advocating for trails in their community. Leaders attended a number of public meetings for transportation plans and projects and also met with local government officials and planners. The Aboite New Trails non-profit was formed out of this effort and the first township plan for walkways and shared use paths was completed in 2003, which at that time only a little over one (1) mile of trails existed in the township. Because of that plan, today there are more trails in Aboite Township than any other township in Allen County except for Wayne Township.

In 2003, when the Aboite Township plan for walkways and shared use paths was first completed, there were almost no bike or pedestrian facilities present along arterial and collector streets throughout the township. Many of the neighborhoods had internal sidewalks but the roadways connecting those neighborhoods were very rural in design and did not have sidewalks or trails to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian trips. Those roadways also carried a large number of vehicles, which combined with the rural design, made walking or biking extremely dangerous.

In 2004, Aboite New Trails was organized as a citizen advocacy group with a goal to build 50 miles of trails in Aboite Township, and to connect to the Fort Wayne system. The Indian Trails Park Loop started in 2002 by the Aboite Township Trustee. Fundraising for trails on Homestead, Aboite Center, Covington, and Aboite New Trails had announced a goal to raise $3 Million for trail projects in the suburban area.

In 2004, the Greenway Consortium, Northwest Allen Trails, and Aboite New Trails combined efforts to lobby Mayor Graham Richard and the City Council for a paid Greenway Coordinator position. Jack Stark, a board member of the Greenway Consortium, volunteered to fill the position as a volunteer to prove the benefit and need for the position and served in the position until the beginning of January 2005. In 2011, the Rivergreenway Consortium, Northwest Allen Trails, and Aboite New Trails, all three merged to become of the Fort Wayne Trails, Inc., currently directed by Megan McClellan in 2019.

As a result of the Aboite Township planning efforts and the Aboite New Trails non-profit, there are over 22 miles of trails and 152 miles of sidewalks in Aboite Township that are now connected. This densely connected network of trails and sidewalks accounts for almost 82% of all the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Aboite Township. Every school, library, and park are connected within this network as well as Lutheran Hospital. This connected network also includes the Village of Coventry shopping center, the commercial areas around Scott Rd. and SR 14, and the medical and commercial areas along Glencarin Blvd. The Towpath Trail also creates a connection from Aboite Township to the Fort Wayne and New Haven Trail System which will also include Huntertown and northern Allen County once the 1.6-mile section of the Pufferbelly Trail from Ice Way Rd. to Washington Center Rd. is built in the next year.

The existing trails network and proposed trails in Aboite Township can be found in the map below (see Figure 11).

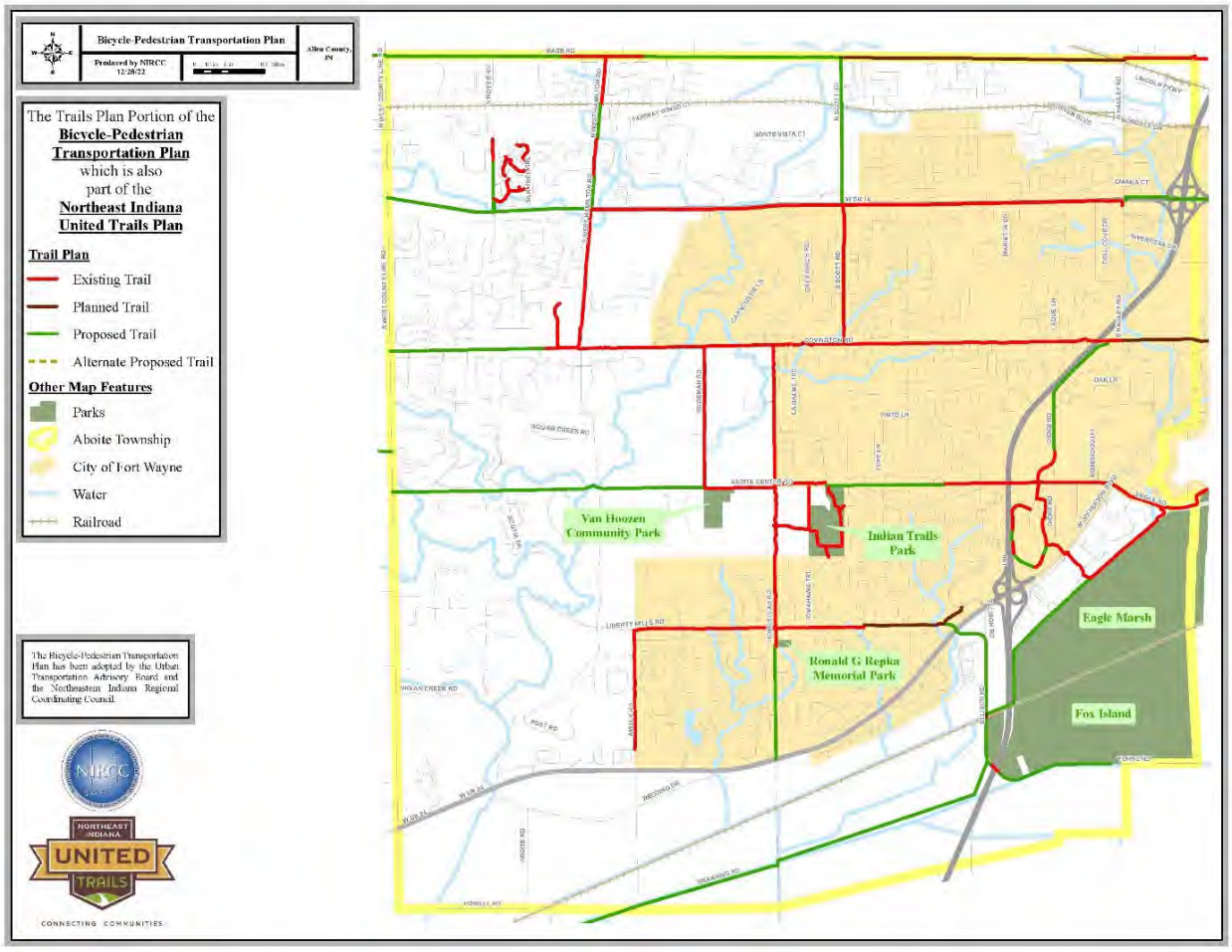


Figure 11: Allen County Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan

2.2.4 Sidewalk System

There are currently over 213 miles of sidewalks and trails existing in Aboite Township. This ranks 3rd out of the 20 townships in Allen County. Out of that total, over 25 miles are trail facilities which ranks 2nd, only behind Wayne Township, of which, is the largest and most densely populated township in Allen County. There are some areas where trails and sidewalks have been built by new developments in the fringes of the township which are not connected yet to the main system of connected

Drone Photo: Indian Trails Sidewalks & Trailway

infrastructure in Aboite Township. There are plans to connect those facilities through projects and new development in the future (see Section 4.7).

Indian Trails Playground Sidewalks

Most sidewalks and walkways are complete throughout the incorporated areas and densely populated, non-incorporated areas within Aboite Township, although agricultural areas (zoned A1) and private estates (zoned A3) areas have limited or no sidewalk connectivity. As noted previously, schools, hospitals, professional offices, and commercially zoned areas are equipped with complete sidewalks that lead to existing trail sections (see Fig. 12).

The sidewalks within the park system appear in good condition, although some walkways have minor heaving and cracking due to tree roots and freeze/thaw weather events. Overall, Indian Trails Park has a nice internal network of trails, and the parks are connected to the trail system and to each other. However, the Van Hoozen Community Park does not currently have an internal trail, but a future parameter trail with walkway connections is proposed as part of this Master Plan as shown in the Aboite Township Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Map below:

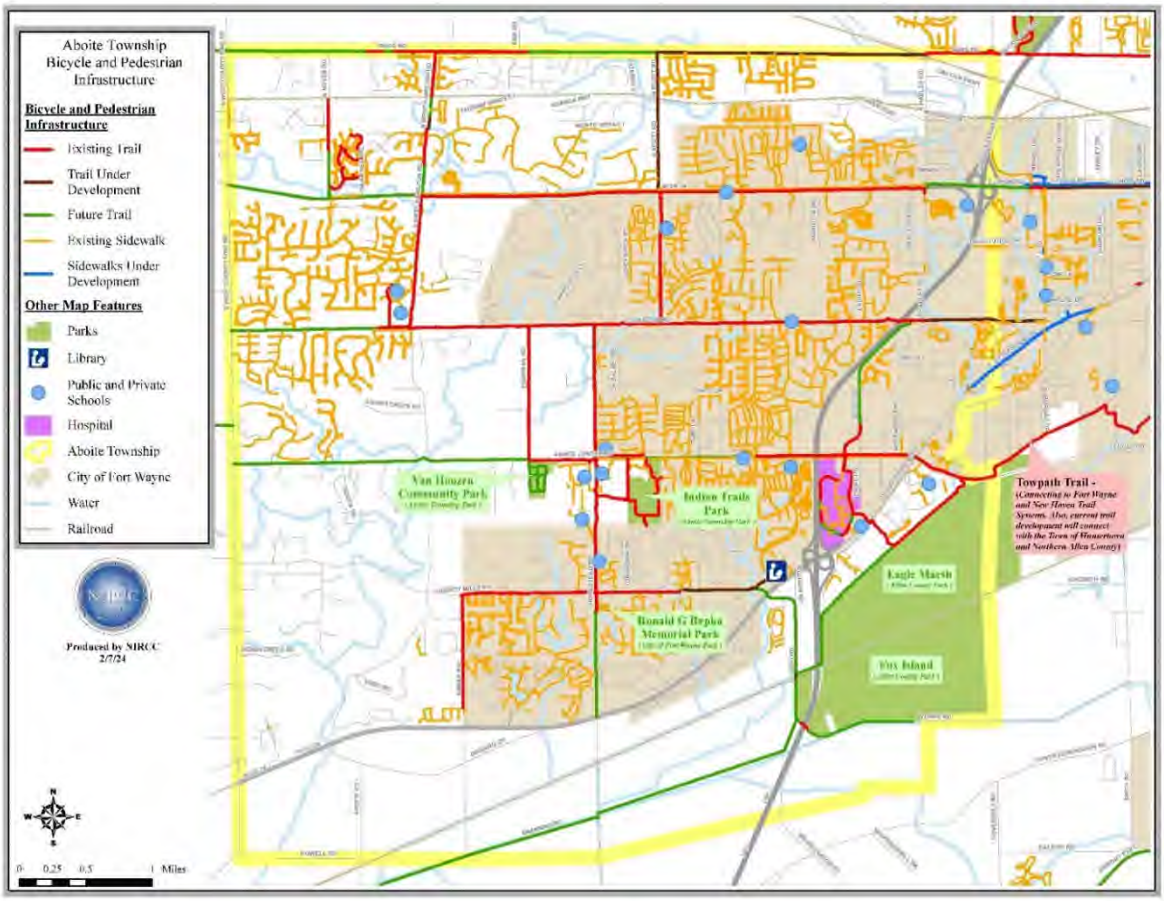


Figure 12: Aboite Township Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

2.2.5 Airports/Railways/Bus Services

Nearby airports consist of the Smith Field Airport (SMD) located approx. 13-miles from park facilities, and the Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) located approx. 9-miles from the Aboite Township park facilities. These two airports serve as the primary hubs for private pilots, local corporations, and charter services for Allen County. The Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority (FWACAA) was created in 1985 and is responsible for managing the Fort Wayne International Airport and Smith Field Airport. Serving northeast Indiana and the surrounding region, FWA offers nonstop service to 13 cities on four airlines. In 2023, Fort Wayne International Airport has seen an increase of passengers/enplanements of 11.6% since July 2022.[10] (See Figure 13 Airports/Railways Map).

Fort Wayne is a city that came about in 1794, long before there were any railroads in the United States. The canal system served Fort Wayne until the railroads came. Eventually the city succumbed completely to the railroads and by the early 20th Century Fort Wayne was truly a railroad town, being served by several lines, most of which are still in service today.

Figure 13: Aboite Parks Airports/Railroads Location Map

The Fort Wayne area is interlaced with many tracks, but basically there are three (3) east-west lines, one (1) north-south line, and the remnants of two (2) other lines. Norfolk Southern is king in Fort Wayne, however RailAmerica operates the former Pennsylvania Railroad east and west of Fort Wayne and has a small yard (Piqua Yd.) on the southeast side of town.[11] The 1990s ended the era of passenger rail in the area as Amtrak, the last remaining railway provider, discontinued rail services in Fort Wayne. Although, in 2009, the Northern

[10] Katie Robinson, "Fort Wayne International Celebrates Positive Traffic and Capacity Growth." August 2023, Website: https://fwairport.com/news/fort-wayne-international-airport-celebrates-positive-traffic-and-capacity-growth.

[11] Overview: Fort Wayne, Indiana – Rail Lines, website: http://www.fwarailfan.net/fortwayne_rail.htm.

Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIRPA) was created by community stakeholders to revive passenger rail service in northern Indiana. The overall goal is to eventually link nine states with a passenger rail network providing substantial economic benefits in Fort Wayne and Northern Indiana. It is estimated that some 4,500 full-time permanent jobs could be generated in Indiana with the completion of this nine-state passenger rail network.

Fort Wayne Citilink provides public bus service routes (Mon.-Sat.) to various Fort Wayne destinations including city parks. Currently, there is a bus route near Aboite Center Road with stops at Time Corners Shopping Ctr., the Village at Coventry, and Lutheran Hospital. The Time Corner's stop is approx. 2.5 miles from the Aboite Township Parks and the Jorgensen YMCA. Citilink offers services for people with disabilities, bike racks, and reduced fares for Child/Youth (Ages 5-18), Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens (60+), Youth Summer Fun Pass, and free services for children under 5 (with supervision).[12] See Figure 14 Citilink Bus Route Full-System Map below:

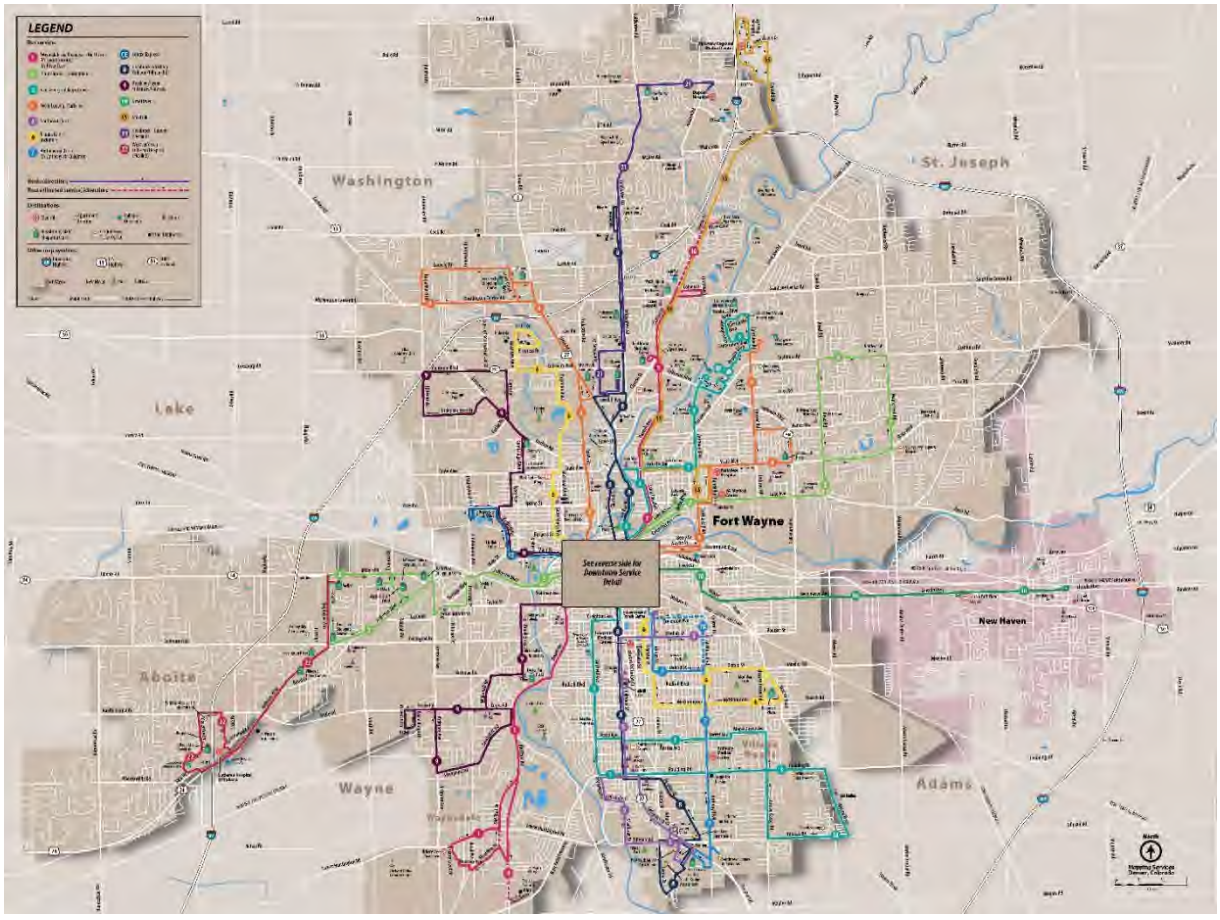


Figure 14: Citilink Bus Route Full-System Map

[12] Citilink, Fixed Routes "Parks", Website: https://fwcitilink.com/all-routes/#parks. Citilink Full System-Brochure website: https://fwcitilink.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Full-System-Brochure.pdf.

2.2.6 Commercial and Industrial

Compared to population growth, Aboite Township's retail growth has unfolded more slowly. In the early 1960s, 76 percent of the land in the township was still zoned for agricultural use or as flood hazard areas. Twenty percent was zoned for estates and just two (2) percent was zoned for residential, industrial, or commercial use. One of the earliest commercial developments of significance was the Time Corners Shopping Center. The history of the area extended back to the 1940s when a filling station, known as the Time Corners Service Station, opened on the newly built U.S. 24. It became a local landmark to passing motorists because of its large, free-standing clock located next to the station. Surprisingly, there were few new commercial buildings erected in Aboite Township in the 1970s, but one of them was the office complex of General Telephone of IN located on US 24. Two other shopping centers were also built in the 1970s but were in Wayne Township near the Aboite Township boundary line. In 1973, the Westland Mall on the southside of US 24 at Getz Road broke ground. The first major commercial development was the Village of Coventry, a shopping and retail outlet located on the north side of U.S.24 just west of the interchange with I-69. Anchoring the new mall was Scott's supermarket, several gas stations and Don Hall's Tavern restaurant. The Allen County Public Library purchased property in the development and opened the Aboite Branch in November 1990.[13]

The largest project to affect Illinois Road's commercial development was the opening of the Jefferson Pointe Shopping Center in August 2001 at West Jefferson Road and Illinois Road in Wayne Township. Despite its location in Wayne Township, Jefferson Pointe became a symbol for many of the continuing growth in the area bordering Aboite' s northeast side. Another major impact in the development of Aboite Township stemmed from the decision to locate a General Motors plant in the adjacent Lafayette Townships off I-69 and 12200 Lafayette Center Road. The plant was opened in 1986 by General Motors and the 4,600,000 sq. ft. plant includes two body shops, a paint shop, general assembly, and sequence center. Today, GM employs 4419 employs and builds 1300 trucks daily.

By 1990, the population of Aboite Township had swelled to 18,490, and the rate of growth showed little sign of slowing. Additionally, the relocation and expansion of the Lutheran Hospital, which moved to a new site at West Jefferson and I-69 in 1992, would add to the extraordinary growth that had already occurred within the township's professional-medical field. In the early 1990s, many physicians moved their practices to the township or opened new offices. As identified in Aboite top industries, Lutheran Hospital is the "top" employer in Aboite Township.

The extraordinary growth of the healthcare industry in Aboite Township has shown no sign of slowing in 2023: Parkview Hospital announced plans to open the newest addition to its southwest campus Nov. 1st. The new 98,100-square-foot facility will have three floors, with each focusing on a different type of care. In addition, Parkview is renovating its existing women's and children's center. The construction and renovations to the southwest campus cost Parkview about $65 million. The projects will add

[13] Angela M. Quinn, Delia C. Bourne, & John D Beatty, "Aboite Township" in History of Fort Wayne & Allen County Part 7: Townships. (Evansville, IN: M.T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2006) 436-437.

approximately 160 employees and 15 providers. This expansion is expected to impact continued growth for Aboite Township, and spur economic development in and around the southwest sector of Allen County.

2.2.7 Residential Housing

Since 2010, Total housing has increased 14.3% (from 14,398 to 16,451) in Aboite Township, and occupied housing has increased 17.2% (from 13,513 to 15,834). Vacant homes have decreased 30.3% (from 885 vacant homes to 617). The median value of owner-occupied housing units is $228,200 found in Aboite Township per the 2021 ACS Census. As noted previously, the I-69 Interstate system opening in 1962 with two access ramps located in the township, undoubtably played a central role in Aboite' s commercial and residential development.

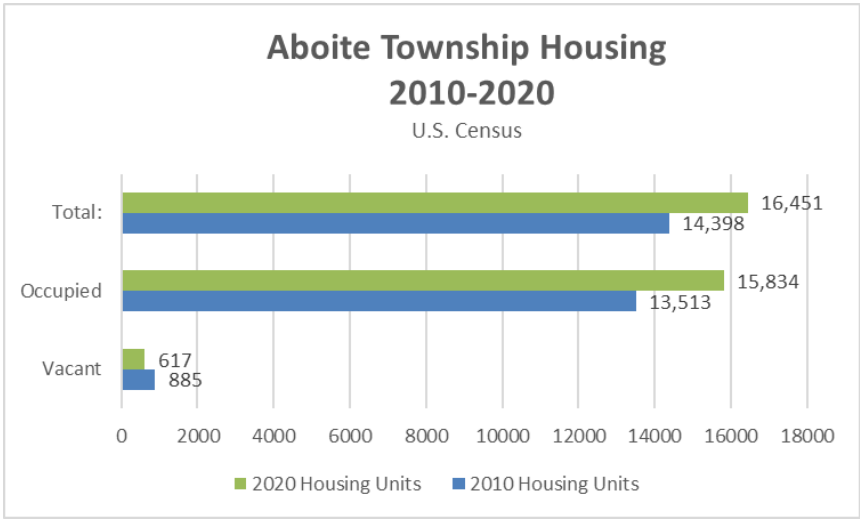


Figure 15: 2010-2020 Housing Comparison

Several new additions were developed during this period such as Briarwood Hills, Covington Dells, Edgemont, Ridgewood, Westlawn and Woodland, all of which would be located near the I-69 corridor. In 1954, the Aboite school opened, and in 1955, major Fort Wayne developer John Worthman began plans for the township's first subdivision, Timbercrest. Because the development was about 10 miles from downtown, and the homes were expensive for the time, sales were slow. However, between 1953 and 1959, nearly 900 lots for single-family homes were platted.

The decision to locate Interstate 69 played a large role in bringing many new residents to the township. Maple Dells, Rolling Hills, and Manor Woods, all near Timbercrest, were developed along U.S. 24 at a later period. When the population increased to over 11,000, in 1980, some newer developments included Centaur Acres, Covington Dells, and Lake of the Woods on Illinois Road and Covington Lake Estates, platted on Covington Road. In addition to Rolling Hills, several developments appeared on Liberty Mills Road, Including Parkway Hills, Liberty Hills, Kekionga Shores and Devils Hollow. Aboite Meadows emerged off Aboite Center Road and Green Gables was platted off Homestead Road. Inverness Hills was developed opposite Covington Dells on Hadley Road. U.S. 24 has continued to be a

major residential hub. Permits for single-family homes leaped from 66 in 1980 to 361 in 1985 – a 447% increase. The 1990s brought about a transition of rapid development, which led to Aboite Township becoming the twentieth fastest-growing township in the state. Although, this transition from a rural society to a suburban community brought with it a myriad of challenges and implications. In 1998, the Allen County Plan Commission issued a moratorium on new construction due to concerns that the utility provider could not keep up. A new provider was introduced, and the moratorium was lifted in 2001, after the county and state were satisfied a sufficient utility system was in place. After the moratorium was lifted, building recommenced with additions to Bridgewater and Chestnut Hills, and the new additions of Walnut Creek and Rock Creek housing developments. In 2005, the rapid residential development of Aboite Township continued. Some predicted it would reach a point where all its available agricultural land would eventually disappear. From 2018 to 2023, 1,436 Single/2-Family residential permits and 157 Commercial/Industrial/Multiple Family Permits were issued in Aboite Township.

2.2.8 Aboite Annexation of 2006

It would be remiss to not consider the impact of the largest annexation in the history of Indiana, and the last of its kind for the City of Fort Wayne. The annexation of a large portion of Aboite Township that included 12 square miles (31 km^2) and impacted 25,000 residents of unincorporated suburbs within Aboite Township – all of which became part of the City of Fort Wayne on January 1, 2006. This annexation included more than 7,000 households, together with 115 miles of road and 8,228 acres of land. The annexation battles in Allen County became well-known throughout the state and prompted legislative action to change Indiana's annexation laws. A pressing challenge that followed the contentious annexation battle was to restore a sense of community in the Aboite Township area that had become increasingly isolated. The community was compelled to provide recreational activities and create gathering spaces to help fulfill this need; thus, the dawn of the Indian Trails Park and many hours dedicated by the community helped to cultivate a renewed sense of community spirit in Aboite Township.

2.2.9 Historic Aboite Township

The origin of "Aboite" is often disputed. John W. Dawson, writing in 1873, claimed the name was ancient and obscure, though local French residents at the time attested to the Aboite River as "a muddy, stagnant, miry and filthy creek and considered its crossing dangerous and deathly." More recent historians have believed it to be a corruption of the French works Riviere a Boitte (river of minnows) or Boite, a box or container in which fish are retained, from a reference to the Native American practice of trapping fish in lowland areas. Still others claim it's in reference to abattoir, meaning "slaughterhouse," pertaining to the massacre of Auguste Mottin de La Balme and his men in 1780. Whatever the mysterious origins of its name, the early history of Aboite Township is tied directly to the changing role of its wetlands and waterways.

2.2.10 National Register Listings in Aboite Township

According to the County Survey listed on the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD), there are 355 existing historic sites and structures located in Aboite Township. Of the structures surveyed, one (1) is listed on the National Register; one (1) is listed on both

the National and State Register; seven (7) are rated as "outstanding"; 25 structures are rated as "notable"; and 323 sites are rated "contributing" in terms of the level of historic integrity. See National Register and Outstanding sites listed on Tables 3 and 4 below:

Table 3: National & State Register Listings

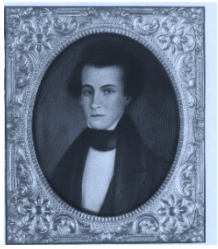
Aboite Township, Allen County, DHPA National & State Register Structures				
#	Survey #	Historic Name	Address	Rating
1	NR-1817	Vermilyea, Jesse, House	13501 Redding Dr	Included in NR HD
2	NR-1839	Vermilyea Inn Historic District	13501 Redding Dr	Included in Nat. Reg. & St. Reg.

Table 4: Outstanding Structures

Aboite Township, Allen County, Indiana DHPA Outstanding Structures				
#	Survey #	Historic Name	Address	Rating
1	003-021-10249	Canal Aqueduct	13501 Redding Drive	Outstanding
2	003-021-10132	Aboite Township School Number 4	14318 Aboite Center Rd	Outstanding
3	003-021-10259	Vermilyea Inn	13501 Redding Dr	Outstanding
4	003-215-10164	Orus Eash House	7425 Oak Lane	Outstanding
5	003-215-10165	Thomas Covington Farm	7323 Covington Road	Outstanding
6	003-215-05043	Mason-Lurch Farm	7606 Bass Road	Outstanding
7	003-021-10167	The Hanselman House	10220 Circlewood Drive	Outstanding

Website: https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/welcome.html.

2.2.11 Jesse Vermilyea House and Inn



The opening of the Wabash and Erie Canal became an important factor in the development of Aboite Township. In 1832, Jesse Vermilyea arrived in Allen County with his wife, whom he had married in Jackson County, Indiana. He was attracted to the area through his relationship with Canal Commissioner David Burr, who had married Jesse's eldest sister and who spent much time in Allen County. His parents, Edward and Joanna (Wright) Vermilyea, had moved their family from New York to Salem, Indiana in 1818. Jesse was enterprising, despite being orphaned as a child, and rose to become Circuit Court Clerk and Auditor of Grant County before moving to north Allen County. He became quite wealthy through land speculation and owned much land near the Aboite River where the Wabash and Erie Canal was being dug. He owned a home which was at one time a tavern and an inn. In 1839, he built a two-story brick home with clay from his own land. The Vermilyea house still stands on Redding Road in Aboite Township. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Permission to reproduce: Vermilyea Inn (now a house) Built in 1839, the inn and surrounding buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.(ACPL; Originals in ACFHS)

2.3 Social and Economic Factors

2.3.1 Historic Population

Since 1970, Aboite Township has experienced consistent growth in population from 1970 to 2020. US Census data shows that Aboite Township's population has increased from 6,132 persons to 42,082 persons over 50 years – a significant 586% increase since 1970. This is the largest increase in township population seen in Allen County, Indiana. The greatest percentage change occurred from 1970 to 1980 when the population nearly doubled. However, the largest numerical increase occurred between 1990-2000 when Aboite Township saw a 9,848-person spike in the population in just over ten years (up 53%).

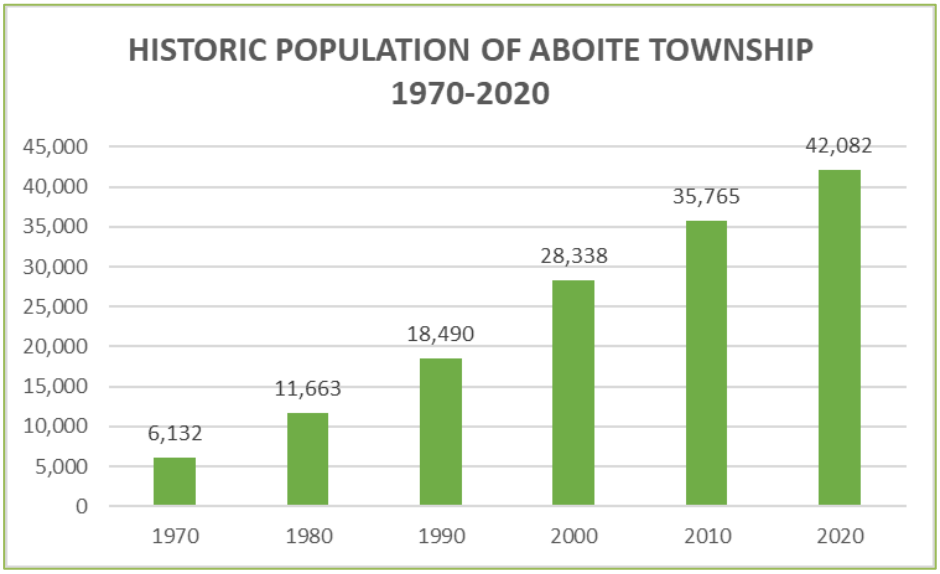


Figure 16: Aboite Township Population Change

2.3.2 Population Trends

The drastic growth rate and changing characteristics of Aboite Township had not gone without notice of local officials. A report conducted in 1957 by the Allen County Plan Commission called the "Design for Living Plan of 1957" projected that Allen County's population would reach 350,000 by 1975, which had proven to be remarkably accurate. The report assessed the county's lumber industry and agricultural base, and then offered a plan for dealing with the expected growth and anticipated urban sprawl of Fort Wayne. The population movement isn't simply outward; it has followed a specific pattern: Adams Township, which is to the southeast, nearly

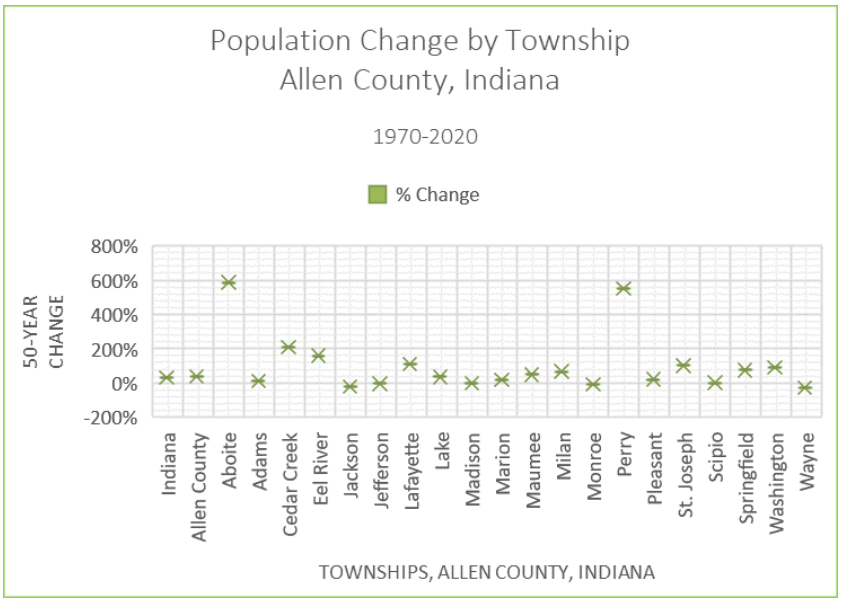


Figure 17: Population Change by Township

doubled in population from 1960-1970. Since then, growth has stagnated. That could largely be attributed to the departure of International Harvester in 1982 and major employers moving north and west.

The decision to construct Interstate-69 undoubtedly played a key role in Aboite' s development, as two access ramps were in the township. The access ramps included an intricate cloverleaf at the intersection of Illinois Road and another ramp at U.S. 24 (see additional transportation information is discussed in Section 2.2.1). Table 5 below reflects population trends and the dynamics of urban sprawl: The data shows a significant decline of the population in Wayne Township from 1970 to 2020 (down 28%), which encompasses the area of downtown Fort Wayne; however, it still holds the county's largest township population. Some experts argue that the figures do not necessarily represent true growth, instead, the city's population is spreading across a larger area. Although Allen County has seen an overall population increase of 37% and Indiana has grown by 31% since 1970. Significant population growth has occurred in Aboite and Lafayette Townships to the southwest, and Perry and Cedar Creek Townships to the north. Although, Aboite Township could see relaxing in growth due to a decline of available residential land to facilitate future housing development (see Table 5 and Fig. 9 Land Use Map (Pg 16)).

Table 5: The Historic Township Population Trends, Allen County, Indiana

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP POPULATION TRENDS, ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA (1970-2020)												
Place	1970	1980	10 YR % change	1990	10 YR % change	2000	10 YR % change	2010	10 YR % change	2020	10 YR % change	50 YR % Change
Indiana	5,195,392	5,490,224	6%	5,544,159	1%	6,080,485	10%	6,483,802	7%	6,785,528	5%	31%
Allen County	280,455	294,335	5%	300,836	2%	331,849	10%	355,329	7%	385,410	8%	37%
Aboite	6,132	11,663	90%	18,490	59%	28,338	53%	35,765	26%	42,082	18%	586%
Adams	30,913	31,897	3%	31,023	-3%	31,394	1%	31,816	1%	34,192	7%	11%
Cedar Creek	4,414	5,864	33%	6,688	14%	10,288	54%	12,570	22%	13,684	9%	210%
Eel River	1,622	2,423	49%	2,576	6%	3,004	17%	3,612	20%	4,199	16%	159%
Jackson	661	602	-9%	561	-7%	498	-11%	504	1%	523	4%	-21%
Jefferson	2,130	2,142	1%	1,882	-12%	1,958	4%	2,109	8%	2,037	-3%	-4%
Lafayette	2,035	2,389	17%	2,530	6%	2,707	7%	3,354	24%	4,247	27%	109%
Lake	2,061	2,184	6%	1,914	-12%	1,985	4%	2,301	16%	2,789	21%	35%
Madison	1,711	1,729	1%	1,615	-7%	1,796	11%	1,771	-1%	1,659	-6%	-3%
Marion	3,221	3,600	12%	3,529	-2%	3,655	4%	3,858	6%	3,838	-1%	19%
Maumee	1,781	2,408	35%	2,459	2%	2,619	7%	2,620	0%	2,647	1%	49%
Milan	2,335	3,178	36%	3,165	0%	3,503	11%	3,749	7%	3,891	4%	67%
Monroe	2,153	2,174	1%	1,969	-9%	1,963	0%	1,927	-2%	1,960	2%	-9%
Perry	5,768	8,299	44%	10,909	31%	18,170	67%	29,158	60%	37,592	29%	552%
Pleasant	2,474	3,472	40%	3,355	-3%	3,362	0%	3,312	-1%	2,964	-11%	20%
St. Joseph	38,094	55,381	45%	61,167	10%	68,276	12%	72,245	6%	76,266	6%	100%
Scipio	409	396	-3%	414	5%	414	0%	414	0%	412	0%	1%
Springfield	2,608	2,987	15%	3,169	6%	3,697	17%	4,349	18%	4,541	4%	74%
Washington	20,296	23,818	17%	27,416	15%	33,105	21%	36,092	9%	38,434	6%	89%
Wayne	149,637	127,729	-15%	116,005	-9%	111,117	-4%	103,803	-7%	107,453	4%	-28%

2.3.3 Age Distribution

Table 6 shows the Population by Age Comparison within Aboite Township as reported by the U.S. Census 5-year estimates for 2010-2020. The top population age representations are highlighted in yellow, and the above average populations are highlighted in green. The data shows that Ages 5-9 (8.9%), holds the highest population presence, with ages 60-64 (7.3%) consisting of the second highest population, and ages 10-14 (7.2%) holding the third largest population presence: Although, ages 10-14 saw an 11.7% decline in the population since 2010. The smallest populations are persons aged 85 and over (1.7%), persons aged 80-84 (2%), and persons 75-79 (2.3%). Although, it is important to note that the population of 85 years and over has increased by 168.8% since 2010.

Population by Age Comparison 2010-2020 ACS			
AGE	2010	2020	% Change
Total Population	34,435	37,942	10.2%
Under 5 years	2,204	2,433	10.4%
5 to 9 years*	2,927	3,191	9.0%
10 to 14 years*	3,099	2,736	-11.7%
15 to 19 years	2,617	2,334	-10.8%
20 to 24 years	1,412	1,281	-9.3%
25 to 29 years	1,377	2,319	68.4%
30 to 34 years	2,066	2,684	29.9%
35 to 39 years	2,548	2,485	-2.5%
40 to 44 years	2,755	2,343	-14.9%
45 to 49 years	2,479	2,612	5.4%
50 to 54 years	2,893	2,438	-15.7%
55 to 59 years	2,410	2,651	10.0%
60 to 64 years*	2,135	2,761	29.3%
65 to 69 years	1,171	1,855	58.4%
70 to 74 years	930	1,539	65.5%
75 to 79 years	758	874	15.4%
80 to 84 years	482	758	57.2%
85 years and over	241	648	168.8%
Above Average Populations (Green)			
2020 Top 3 Population Age Groups (Yellow Highlights)			

Table 6: Age Distribution (2010-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

2.3.4 Median Age

According to the 2020 US Census, the median age estimates in Aboite Township is 38.9, and higher than the median age of Allen County (36.0) and Fort Wayne (35.3), but closer to the median age of Indiana (37.8) and the U.S. at (38.2). As indicated in Figure 9 below, the median age in Aboite Township is increasing and has remained higher than Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, and U.S. estimates since 2010.

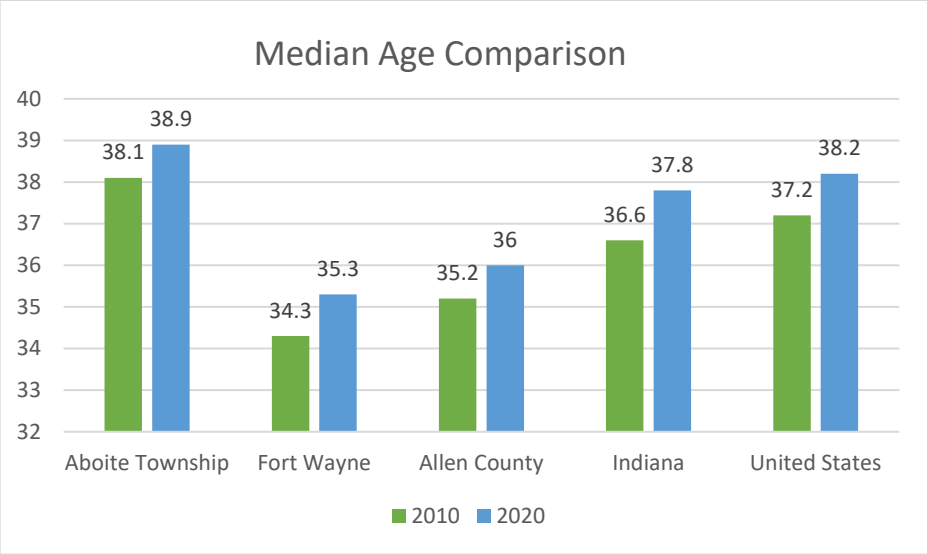


Figure 18 Median Age in Aboite Township, Allen County, Indiana, and US

2.3.5 Race

Aboite Township is less diverse than Indiana with 88% of the population identified as white, as opposed to 77.5% of Allen County, Indiana, and 82.3 % of the state of Indiana identified as white according to the 2020 ACS. Table 7 below shows the distribution of races in Aboite Township, Allen County, and Indiana. Although, when comparing 2010 -2020 ACS demographic data, Aboite Township has increased in its Black or African American population presence from 2.8% in 2010 to 4.9% in 2020 but saw a decline in the Asian population from 6.5% to 3.8%. Although, the white population in Aboite Township, Allen County, and Indiana saw declines in percentages of its overall population since 2010. The Hispanic population has

2010-2020 Race and Ethnicity Comparison									
Demographic by Race & Hispanic or Latino Origin	Aboite Township			Allen County			Indiana		
	2010	2020	% Change	2010	2020	% Change	2010	2020	% Change
White	89.10%	88.00%	-1.3%	80.40%	77.50%	-3.7%	85.10%	82.30%	-3.4%
Black or African American	2.80%	4.90%	42.9%	11.70%	11.30%	-3.5%	8.90%	9.40%	5.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%	0.30%	0.20%	-50.0%	0.20%	0.20%	0.0%
Asian	6.50%	3.80%	-71.1%	2.50%	4.20%	40.5%	1.50%	2.40%	37.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islan	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%	0.10%	0.00%	0.0%	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%
Some other race	0.50%	0.50%	0.0%	2.60%	2.30%	-13.0%	2.30%	2.30%	0.0%
Two or more races	1.00%	2.90%	65.5%	2.50%	4.40%	43.2%	1.90%	3.30%	42.4%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2.90%	2.90%	0.0%	6.20%	7.60%	18.4%	5.60%	7.10%	21.1%

Table 7: Distribution of Race in Aboite Township, Allen County, and Indiana (2010-2020)

remained the same in Aboite Township. However, Allen County saw an increase of 18.4%, and Indiana saw an increase of 21.1% of its Hispanic population.

2.3.6 Disabilities

Figure 16 shows the population of the civilian noninstitutionalized population living with disabilities in Aboite Township is estimated at 8.0 % in 2020, which is lower than disability levels found in Allen County, which is at 12.7%, and Indiana is at 13.7% in 2020 according to ACS Census Data. Even though the disability levels of Aboite Township are lower and experienced a slight decline since 2015 data, it is still important to provide adequate equipment and accommodations for those in the community that require them. Therefore, Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department needs to be attentive to the standards identified within the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act and to address the accessibility needs of all its park users.

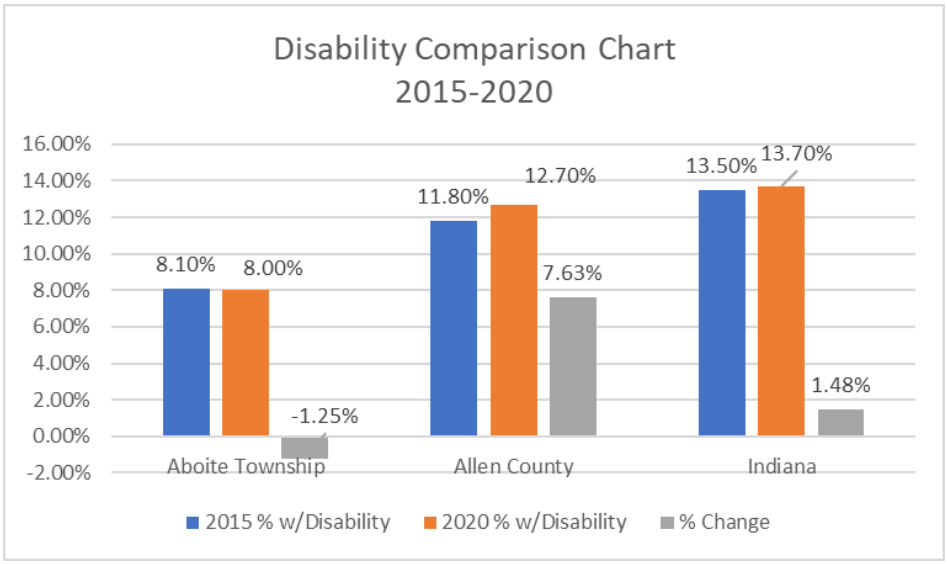


Figure 19: Disability (2015-2020 Comparison)

2.3.7 Unemployment

According to the 2020 US Census, Aboite Township has an unemployment rate of 2.2% of its population aged 16 years or older. Allen County has an estimated unemployment rate of 5%, and Fort Wayne has a rate of 5.9% of its population aged 16 or older. Whereas Indiana experienced an unemployment rate of 4.7%. As identified in the adjacent chart the unemployment rate in Aboite Township is considerably lower than that of Allen County and Indiana. However, all sectors experienced a decline in unemployment since 2010 as shown in the Unemployment Comparison Chart (see Figure 20).

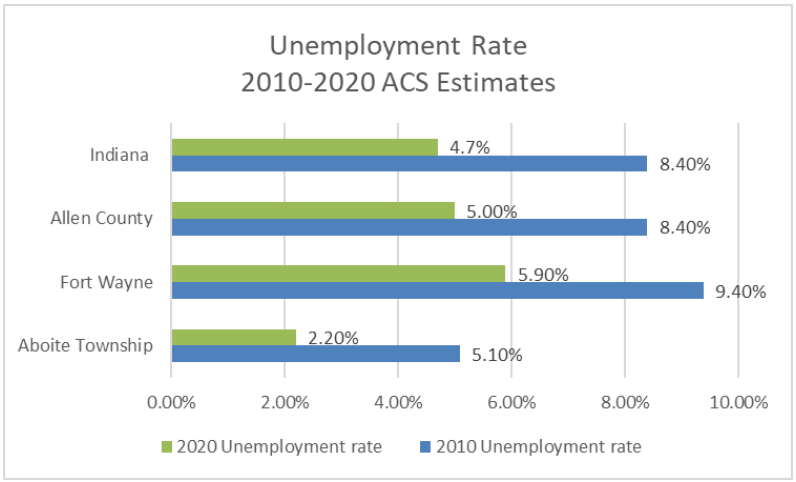


Figure 20: Unemployment rates (2010-2020 Comparison)

2.3.8 Median Income

In 2020, the median household income in Aboite Township is much greater than that of Indiana as a whole at $88,974 vs. $57, 104 in Allen County and $58,235 in Indiana, respectively. However, since 2010 median incomes have increased in all sectors, with Indiana and Allen County seeing the greatest increases: Median income went up 30.5% in Indiana, and Allen County's median income went up 17.2%, whereas Aboite Township experienced a modest increase of 2.6% since 2010 (see Figure 21).

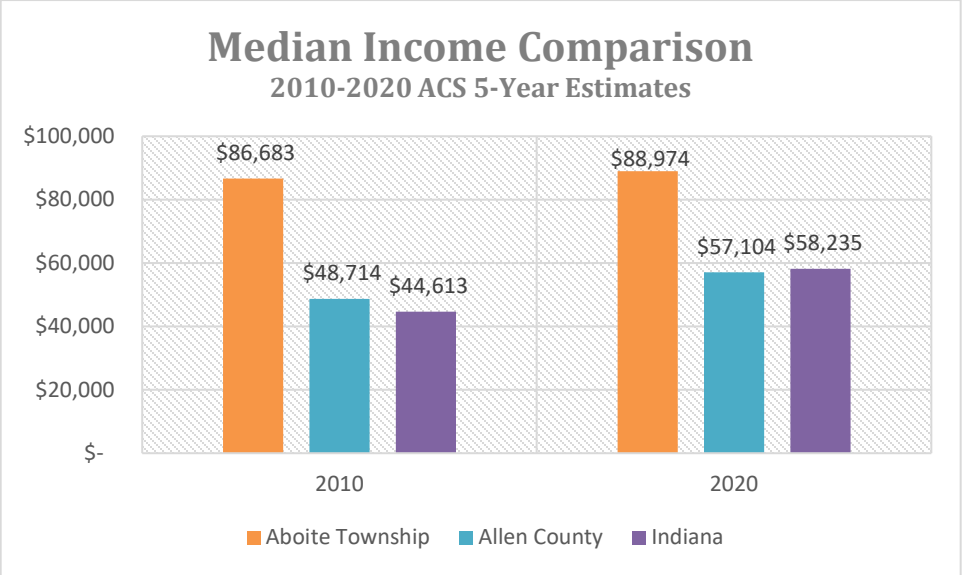


Figure 21: Median Income (2010-2020 Comparison)

2.3.9 Population Below Poverty Level

Additionally, the percentage of people living in poverty is considerably lower in Aboite Township. In 2010 poverty rates were at 1.4%; however, increased to 2.4%, in 2020, compared to Allen County, which experienced poverty rates of 9.1% in 2010 and increased to 9.3% in 2020. It is important to note that poverty levels increased in Aboite Township and Allen County from 2010 to 2020, but Indiana saw a modest decline from 9.6% in 2010 to 8.9% in 2020.

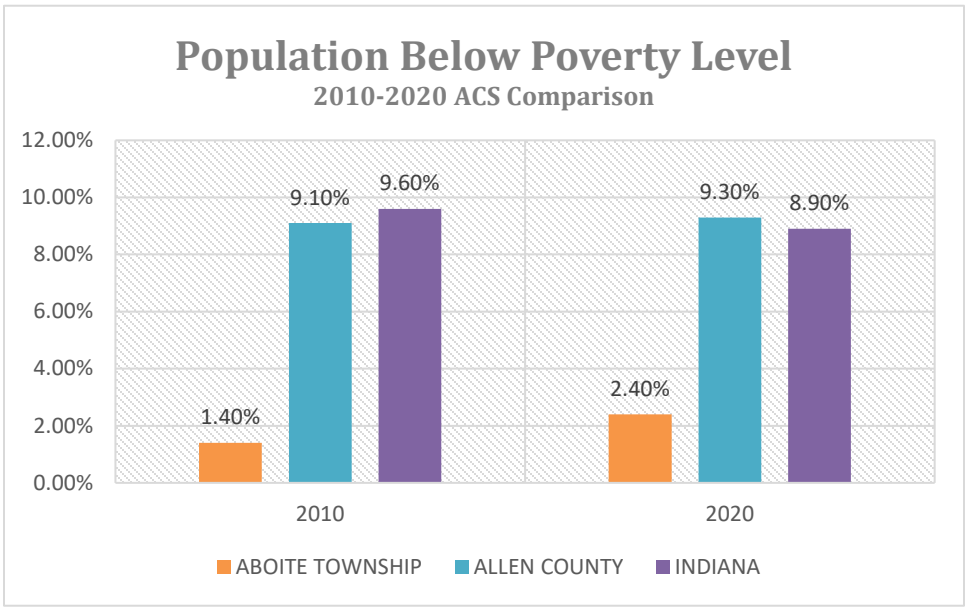


Figure 22: Poverty Level (2010-2020 Comparison)

2.3.10 ALICE Report and COVID 19 Impact

It is important to note that even though poverty and unemployment levels identified in the 2020 US Census data sets are lower in Aboite Township when compared to Allen County and the State; this data may not adequately reflect point in time circumstances, such as the COVID-19 shutdown that started in March 2020, and various unforeseen financial hardships experienced within individual households. The information outlined in the ALICE Report also factors life events and cost of basic expenses for persons living in rural, urban and suburban areas. ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the County (the ALICE Threshold). ALICE Households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials. The Township data from the 2021 Alice Report shows that, of the 15,653 households, 19 % (2,974 households) in Aboite Township are below threshold.

Allen County, 2021		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Aboite township	15,653	19%
Adams township	13,180	52%
Cedar Creek township	4,422	19%
Eel River township	1,554	19%
Jackson township	124	26%
Jefferson township	812	36%
Lafayette township	1,522	23%
Lake township	1,108	24%
Madison township	675	36%
Marion township	1,464	31%
Maumee township	859	28%
Milan township	1,164	12%
Monroe township	754	42%
Perry township	13,084	14%
Pleasant township	1,205	30%
St. Joseph township	29,973	37%
Scipio township	219	13%
Springfield township	1,446	20%
Washington township	16,132	39%
Wayne township	44,401	57%

Table 8: ALICE Poverty by Township

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. The COVID-19 pandemic is an example of just how quickly "point-in-time" circumstances can change and create employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures, etc. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. According to the *ALICE Covid and Financial Hardship Indiana Report*, among the five counties with the highest total number of households, "Allen County had the biggest percentage increase of households in hardship from 2019 to 2021, with 38% below the ALICE Threshold in 2021".[14]

In addition, the US News & World Report says that the M S D Southwest Metropolitan School district in Aboite Township, has a minority enrollment of 30%. with, 12.7% of students identified as "economically disadvantaged"[15]
The Aboite Township Parks Board must also consider this data when assessing the need for inexpensive recreational opportunities.

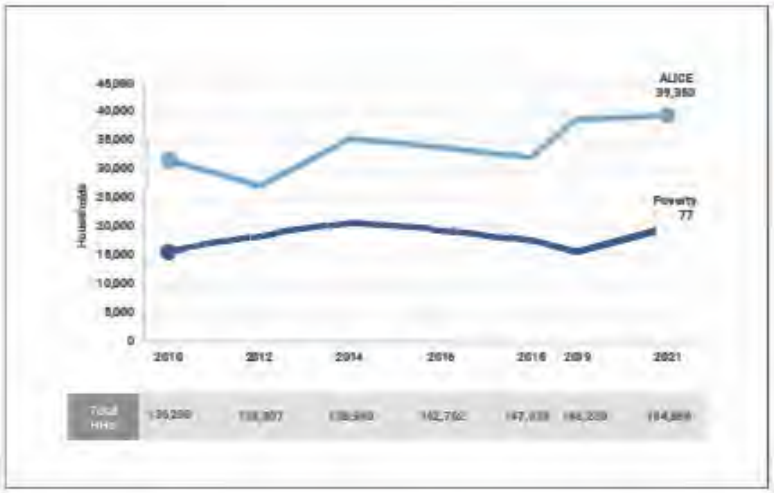


Figure 23: 2010-2021 Households by Income, Allen County, IN

[14] ALICE Report, 2023 "ALICE in Allen County", United for ALICE. Website: https://unitedforalice.org/Indiana
[15] US News & World Report, "M S D Southwest Allen County Schools" Overview of M S D Southwest Allen County Schools. Website. https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/indiana/districts/msd-southwest-allen-county-schls-100672

2.3.11 Education

The higher median income levels and the lower poverty rate provided in US Census data may be attributed to the higher education attainment levels found in Aboite Township. As shown in the Education Attainment Comparison Chart, of the population of 25 years and over, Aboite Township has 21.4% of the population with Graduate or professional degree (double the percentages found in Fort Wayne, Allen County, and the State) and 30% of the population holding a bachelor's degree. As much as 18.4 % have attained an education level of a high school graduation degree or equivalency – And only 4.5% of the population 25 years or over has less than a high school education.

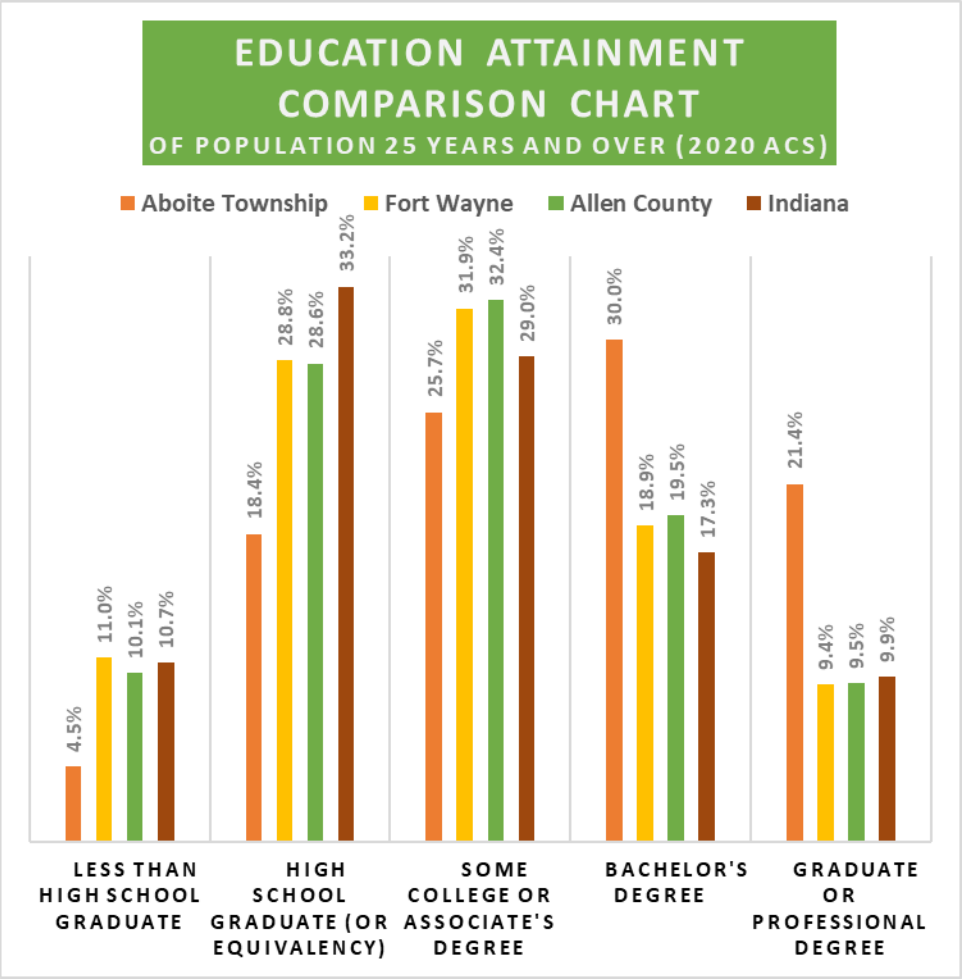


Figure 24: Education Attainment Comparison Chart 2020 ACS)

2.3.12 Occupations

The 2020 ACS reports that the top industry by occupation is #1) Educational Services Health Care and Social Assistance at 29.6%, and #2 is Manufacturing representing 16.7% of the occupations in Aboite Township. In addition, the mean travel time for workers is 21.5 minutes, which closely resembles the average travel time for Allen County at 21.6 minutes. However, the mean travel time for Indiana is a little higher at 23.9 minutes per trip. The "class of worker" represented in Aboite Township is mostly "Private wage & salary workers", or 85.3%; "Government workers" account for 11.0 %; and "self-employed workers" account for 3.8% of the workforce in Aboite Township. Figure 21 and Table 9 on the following page show the percentage breakdown of industry by occupation and provide a comparison of Aboite Township's workforce.

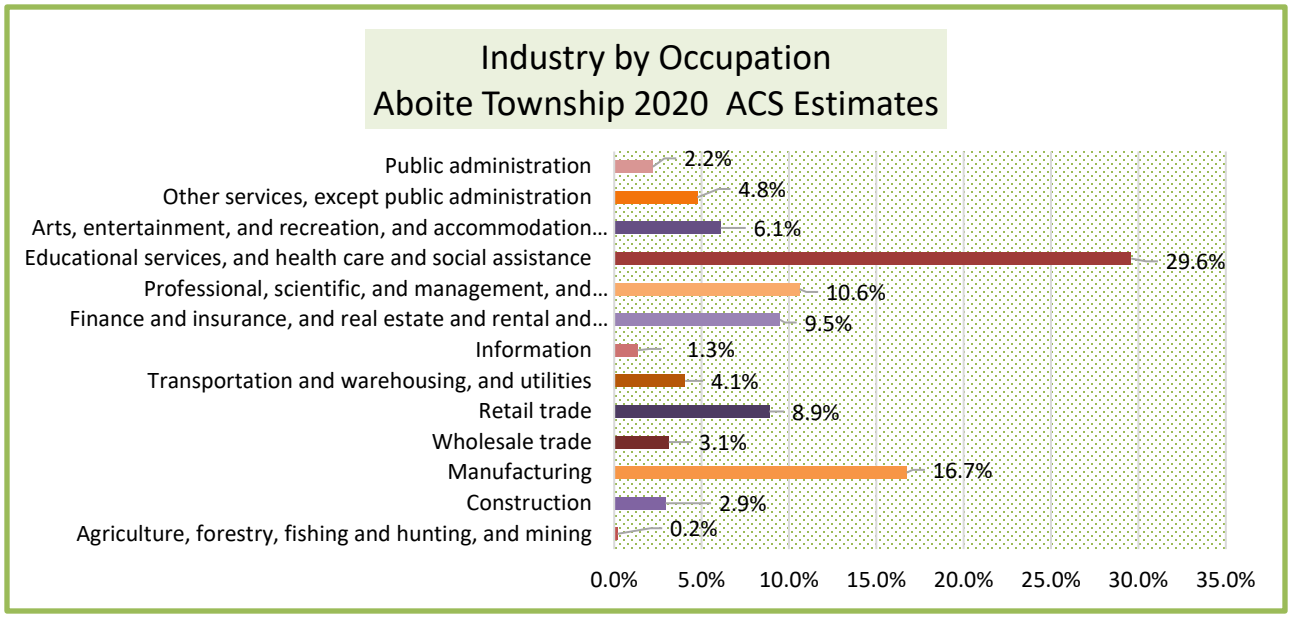


Figure 25: Industry by Occupation 2020 ACS Estimates

INDUSTRY BY OCCUPATION FOR THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER Aboite Township 2020 ACS							
INDUSTRY	**Total #**	**%**	**Management, business, science, and arts occupations**	**Service occupations**	**Sales and office occupations**	**Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations**	**Production, transportation, and material moving occupations**
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	19,645	100.0%	54.30%	11.40%	20.30%	3.80%	10.10%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	38	0.2%	73.70%	0.00%	26.30%	0.00%	0.00%
Construction	577	2.9%	23.90%	0.00%	12.00%	59.10%	5.00%
Manufacturing	3,287	16.7%	48.30%	0.60%	12.00%	3.10%	35.90%
Wholesale trade	613	3.1%	15.00%	0.00%	77.20%	0.00%	7.80%
Retail trade	1,744	8.9%	24.80%	3.20%	52.10%	3.20%	16.80%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	798	4.1%	38.20%	3.10%	21.40%	12.30%	24.90%
Information	263	1.3%	64.30%	0.00%	35.70%	0.00%	0.00%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	1,864	9.5%	56.50%	0.00%	39.40%	4.10%	0.00%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	2,084	10.6%	64.00%	7.20%	25.20%	1.10%	2.50%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	5,812	29.6%	81.60%	11.10%	5.40%	0.00%	2.00%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	1,197	6.1%	18.10%	64.60%	15.60%	0.00%	1.70%
Other services, except public administration	934	4.8%	38.00%	43.30%	7.80%	5.20%	5.70%
Public administration	434	2.2%	48.80%	40.80%	7.40%	3.00%	0.00%

Table 9: Industry by Occupation for the Civilian Employed 16 Years & Over 2020 ACS)

2.3.13 Major Employers

According to 2019 data sets from Data-Axle.com, Aboite Township has approximately 1,668 employers with 18,364 employed persons within Aboite Township civil division of Allen County. Lutheran Hospital is the top employer providing 2,250 healthcare-related occupations (12.3% of the workforce). D & W Fine Pack, LLC, holds the 2nd highest employer ranking providing 400 jobs specialized in food service packaging for catering and healthcare industries, and Brunswick Leisure Boats shares the third-highest ranking with OmniSource Corp. (Source: Permission to reproduce Data-Axel.com data sets purchased through INDOT with Aboite Township data extracted from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC)[16].

Table 10: Major Employers in Aboite Township, Allen County, Indiana

Aboite Township Major Employer List			
Rank	Top Employer List	# Employees	%
1	Lutheran Hospital	2250	12.25%
2	D & W Fine Pack LLC	400	2.18%
3	Brunswick Leisure Boats	300	1.63%
3	OmniSource Corp	300	1.63%
4	Master Spas LLC	250	1.36%
4	Medical Group Of Fort Wayne	250	1.36%
4	Steel Dynamics Inc	250	1.36%
5	Orthopaedic Hospital	205	1.12%
6	Homestead High School	180	0.98%
7	Coldwell Banker	163	0.89%
8	Indiana State Police	150	0.82%
8	Saratoga Potato Chips	150	0.82%
9	Coventry Meadows	140	0.76%
10	Lutheran Life Villages	130	0.71%
11	Casa Ristorante	120	0.65%
12	Kroger	105	0.57%
12	Top-Notch Tool	105	0.57%
13	Oral Maxillofacial Surg Assoc	100	0.54%
13	Orthopedic Hospital At Luth	100	0.54%
13	Outback Steakhouse	100	0.54%
13	State Police	100	0.54%
13	Visiting Nurse	100	0.54%
14	Sycamore Hills Golf Club	97	0.53%
15	Eddie Merlot's	95	0.52%

As noted in the Commercial and Industrial Section 2.2.2, Parkview Hospital announced plans to add a new outpatient facility to its southwest campus Nov. 1st. The medical facility is within Aboite Township and located off Illinois Rd on Glencarin Blvd., Fort Wayne. The construction and renovations to the southwest campus will create 160 new jobs and 15 additional medical providers to the area[17].

[16] INDOT 2019 data purchased from Data-Axle, formally Infogroup. Special Permission to reproduce for Indiana MPOs (NIRCC). Website: https://www.data-axle.com.

[17] Maya Wilkins, "Parkview to open new Southwest outpatient facility Nov. 1." Newspaper Article, "The Journal Gazette." 10.12.23.

2.3.14 All in Allen Comprehensive Plan

The November 2022 "All in Allen Comprehensive Plan", indicates that most residential areas within Allen County are well-served by public parks; however, accessibility to parks need to be improved in the identified unincorporated areas to serve existing and new residents in the County. As shown in the Allen County Underserved Parks Service Area Map, a large underserved residential area exists in the northwestern portion of Aboite Township along the SR 14 corridor and surrounding areas. The orange areas indicates where residents would need to travel more than 3 miles (15-minutes on a bike) to get to a park. This lack of walkable access not only detracts from the neighborhood's quality of life but poor access to open space is also often associated with decreased health outcomes. Some areas in and around the City of Fort Wayne are fortunate to have a healthy ratio of park space; however, the parkland is not evenly distributed throughout the community.[18]

The park board discussed the need for park development at the northwestern portion of the township, but with limited availability of land, and high demand for commercial/residential property, purchasing land for park use would be difficult and cost prohibitive in this area (see Figure 23: Underserved Parks Service Area Map with Residential Building Permits & Rezoning Map in side-textbox).

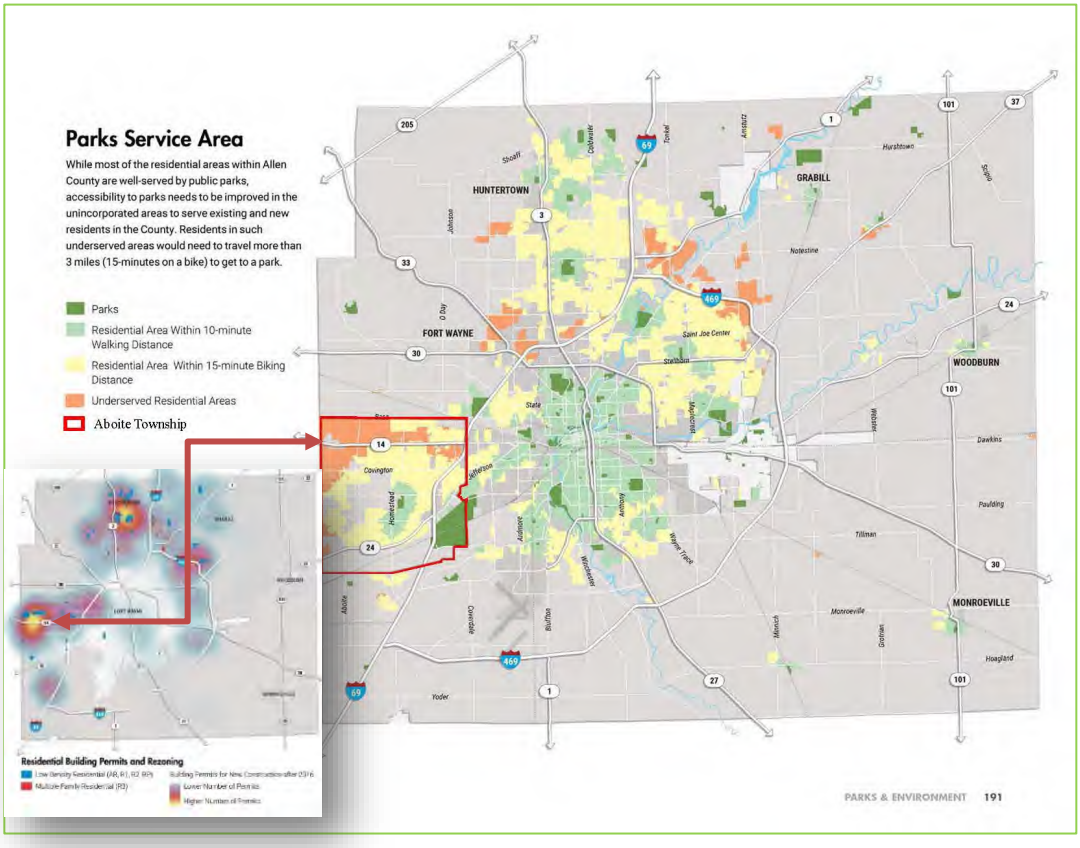


Figure 26: Underserved Parks Service Area Map, Allen County, IN

[18] Fort Wayne-Allen County Comprehensive Plan, "ALL IN Allen Moving Forward Together", Effective March 12, 2023, Website: http://allinallen.org/. Pgs. 41, 190-191.

2.3.15 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Deficits in available outdoor recreational acreage by county are also identified in the Department of Natural Resources 2021-2025 Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). According to SCORP, Allen County "does not" meet recommendations for recreational acreage and is short 1,653.69 acres per Level of Service (LOS) recommendations for parks and recreation acreage. This estimate is up 564 acres from the 2016-2020 SCORP. The SCORP is a resource that quantifies and analyzes the state's outdoor recreation resources for social, environmental, health and economic benefit of citizens statewide. The purpose of SCORP is to support local, regional, and state-level recreation decision making, as well as foster research, partnerships and cooperation among users, planners, government officials, nonprofits, and the private sector. Indiana's established guidelines for local (county, township, city, or town) LOS at a minimum of 0.02 acres (20 acres/1000 people) of outdoor recreational space including parks, recreation, and open space available per person. Figure 24 is a map taken from the Indiana 2021-2025 SCORP showing the counties that meet the recommended LOS (orange) and those that do not meet standards (grey).

Figure 27: (SCORP) Local Outdoor Recreation Acres, by County

LEVEL OF SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

To simplify processing of the facilities inventory data, Indiana divides the current supply of recreation acreage into three categories: Local, State/federal, and Total (statewide):
Local (County, Township, City or Town) recreation acres: Land owned by municipal, township and county governments, as well as land privately owned but open for public use.

State/federal recreation acres: Land owned mostly by State or federal governments and does include some non-profit sites (such as those owned by Land Trusts) open for public recreational use.
Total (Statewide) recreation acres: Total of all statewide public recreation land that is owned by all the entities in the other two categories.

The State of Indiana took the above categories and created LOS guidelines for publicly owned parks and recreation and open space for all Hoosiers. Indiana's guidelines for outdoor recreation in terms of acres per 1,000 people are:
Local LOS: 20 acres per 1,000 people (.02 acres per person).

- State/Fed LOS: 35 acres per 1,000 people (.035 acres per person).
- Total (Statewide) LOS: 55 acres per 1,000 people (.055 acres per person).

(Source: Indiana SCORP Plan 2021-2025, Chapter 3: pgs. 34-35.)

2.3.16 SCORP Critical Counties

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources provides a list of "Critical Counties" in SCORP. The definition of critical county in Indiana has changed due to a decrease in the state's population-growth rate. Indiana has increased in population, but not as rapidly as some other states. Indiana has a total of 23,307,520 acres in the state. Of this total, 953,122.85 (4.09%) acres are designated for outdoor recreation.[19]

A critical county is defined as:

- A county that does not have the recommended supply of outdoor-recreation acres of 55 acres per 1,000 population or greater.
- A population-growth rate higher than the 2014 to 2018 estimated Indiana statewide population growth rate of 1.44% (data obtained from the U.S. Census 2014 and 2018 population estimates).

The SCORP map indicates that most southern counties meet the total Level or Service (LOS) guidelines when compared to the northern tier. From the sorted Table 11 below, Allen County is 13,147 acres below recommendation for outdoor recreational acreage (55 acres per 1,000 population).

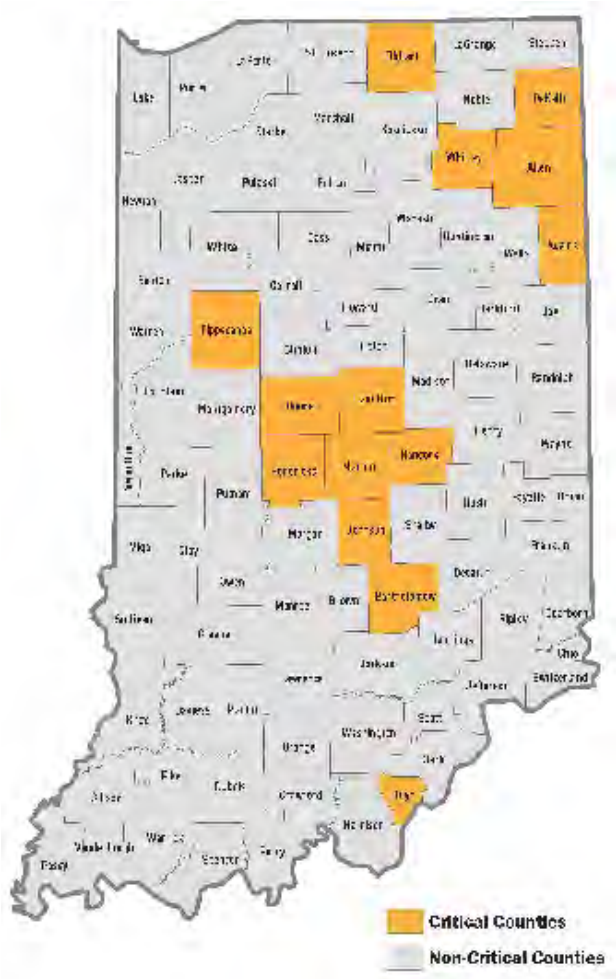


Figure 28: SCORP Critical Counties based on Total Acres Map

County Name	2018 Population	Recommended Acres; Total 55a/1000	Sum of County Total Acres	Difference
Marion	954670	52507	14086	-38421
Hamilton	330086	18155	4180	-13975
Allen	375351	20644	7497	-13147
Elkhart	205560	11306	3132	-8173
Hendricks	167009	9186	1555	-7631
Tippecanoe	193048	10618	5772	-4846
Hancock	76351	4199	510	-3690
Boone	66999	3685	673	-3012
Johnson	156225	8592	6010	-2582
Bartholomew	82753	4551	2591	-1960
Dekalb	43226	2377	677	-1700
Floyd	77781	4278	2997	-1281
Adams	35636	1960	927	-1033
Whitley	34074	1874	1041	-833

Table 11: Critical Counties Based on Total Acres (Sorted by difference)

[19] Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2021-2025" pgs.55 & 56. Website: https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/recreation/planning/scorp/

2.3.17 Access to Exercise Opportunities

According to the 2023 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Report Allen County is ranked 47th for overall health outcomes and 39th of overall health factors of 92 counties in Indiana, as 88% of Allen County's population has reasonable access to exercise opportunities. Allen County ranks higher than Indiana which estimates 77% of the average population has access to exercise opportunities. However, it should be noted, this ranking may be due to the City of Fort Wayne, the County seat, which provides 86 parks covering 2,805 acres of parkland, as well as the availability of several YMCAs, private gyms, county parks, and 113 miles of multi-use trails. U.S. top performers range in the 90th percentiles for access to exercise. Individuals are considered to have access to exercise opportunities if they 1) reside in a census block that is within a half mile of a park; 2) reside in an urban census block that is within one mile of a recreational facility; or 3) reside in a rural census block that is within three miles of a recreational facility. Local, state, and national parks, and facilities including gyms, community centers, YMCAs, dance studios and pools are included in this measure.[20] It is important to recognize that the County Health Rankings report uses data that includes commercial gyms and clubs with membership dues or user fees that may prohibit recreational opportunities to economically disadvantaged persons or families unable to pay for these recreational activities. In addition, many of these facilities had closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby increasing the demand for outdoor recreational activities for persons of all economic classes (see Figure 29).

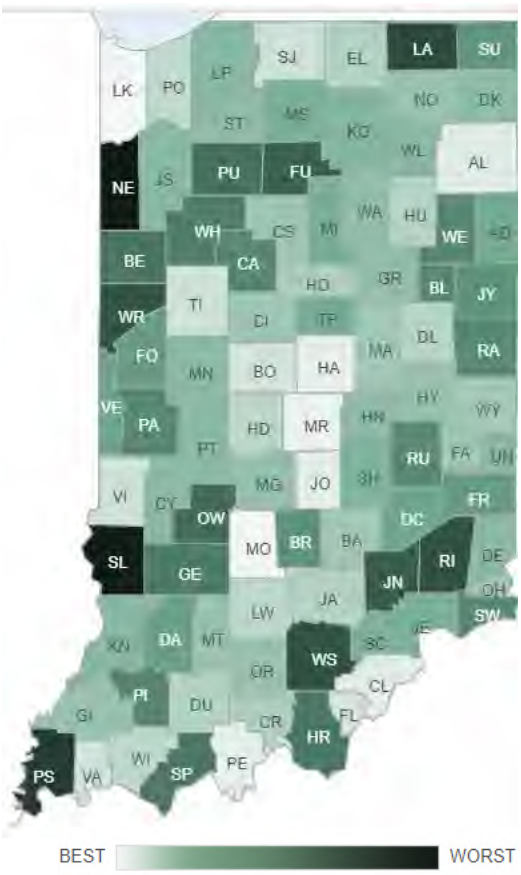


Figure 29: 2023 IN Access to Exercise Opportunities Map

2.3.18 Summary of Findings

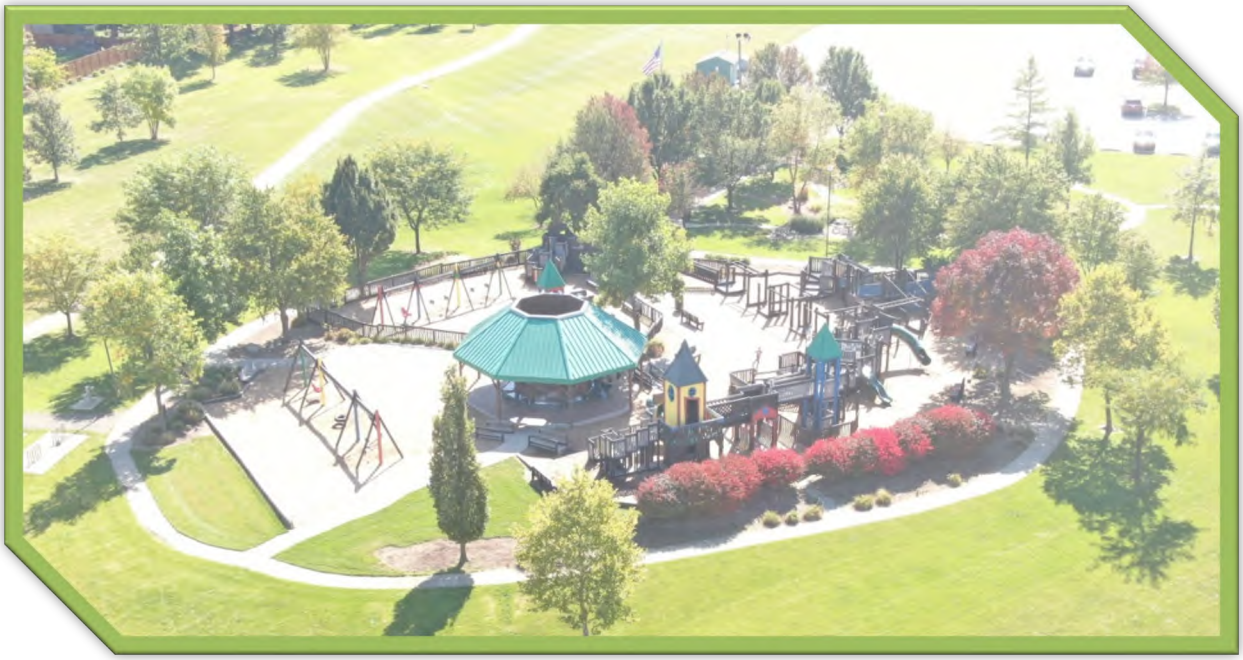
Below is a summary of the findings related to the social and economic analysis that may influence park planning:

- The population of Aboite Township has increased by 17.7 % from 2010 and 2020, and over 586% since 1970. Aboite Township ranked the highest for percentage increase of population in Allen County, Indiana over the past 50 years but ranked fourth (4th) over the past 10 years; top population increases in the past 10 years were experienced by #1) Perry Township, #2) Lafayette Township and #3) Lake Township, #4) Aboite Township, Allen County, Indiana.
- The median age of Aboite Township is 38.9, and this is higher than the median age of Allen County at 36.0, and Fort Wayne at 35.3, but closer to the median age of Indiana of 37.8 & the US at 38.2.

[20] County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Allen, IN-Health Factors "Access to Exercise Opportunities", website, Allen, Indiana | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Download. 2-9-2023.

- The median household income is nearly 35% higher in Aboite Township and the percentage in poverty is significantly lower than that of Indiana as a whole.
- The Township data from the 2021 Alice Report shows that, of the 15,653 households, or 19 % (2,505 households) in Aboite Township are below threshold. (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the County).
- The COVID-19 pandemic affected incomes and increased the need for inexpensive recreational options and open areas to exercise when gyms and indoor activities are closed.
- the US News & Reports states that 12.7% of students in the Southwest Allen County School system are economically disadvantaged children, and the recreational needs of economically disadvantaged persons should be a consideration of park planning.
- The estimated percentage of individuals with disabilities in 2020 is significantly lower in Aboite Township (8.0%) than that found in Indiana (13.7%).
- Aboite Township has 21.4% of the population with a graduate or professional degree (double the percentages found in Fort Wayne, Allen County, and the State) and 30% of the population holding a bachelor's degree. Only 4.5% of the population 25 years or over has less than a high school education, and 18.4 % have attained as much as high school graduation degree or equivalency.
- Educational Services Health Care and Social Assistance is the occupation with the highest percentage of workers in Aboite Township at 29.6%, and second is #2, in Manufacturing representing 16.7% of the occupations in Aboite Township.
- The mean travel time for workers in Aboite Township is 21.5 minutes, which closely resembles the average travel time for Allen County at 21.6 minutes. However, the mean travel time for Indiana is a little higher at 23.9 minutes per trip.
- Access to exercise opportunities is greater in Allen County than the state of Indiana; however, lower income families may not have equal access to recreational facilities whenever costs and fees are required to use some services.
- Allen County is determined to be deficient in outdoor recreation acreage according to the IDNR 2021 – 2026 SCORP.
- Allen County is classified as a "Critical County" by SCORP and is 13,147 Acres below recommendations per the IDNR 2021-2026 SCORP (Ranked third of 14 critical counties for total difference of acreage: Recommended 55a/1000 population).
- Aboite Township is recognized as having a large, underserved parks service area that exists in the northwestern portion of Aboite Township along the SR 14 corridor and surrounding areas (per the All-in Allen Comprehensive Plan).

PARK INVENTORY



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3.0 Inventory

3.1 Parks Located within Aboite Township

Aboite Township owns and maintains two parks with a total of 94.74 acres. Van Hoozen Park contains a 28.17-acre park area, ball fields, playground, pavilion and shared parking area with the Aboite Township Trustee offices and community room. Indian Trails contains 66.73 acres with a 0.95-mile paved perimeter trail; and a 0.28-mile wooded walking trail tucked away in the southwestern edge of the park.

The two parks owned and operated by Aboite Township offer different amenities for park users by design. The Inventory Maps, Tables and photos provided in Section 3 illustrate the specific details and available inventory of the two parks.

Figure 30: Aboite Township Park Planning Location Map

3.1.1 Van Hoozen Park

Van Hoozen Park is a 27.17-acre park located next to the Aboite Township fire station/township offices and community center at 11321 Aboite Center Road. The 12,345 sq. ft. building that currently houses the Aboite Township fire station and Trustee offices were initially constructed in 1975. However, the effective year of Aboite Township usage began in 1987.

The Van Hoozen Park has a small pavilion and playground, soccer fields, lacrosse fields and two softball diamonds. Reservations to use the fields for team practice and/or games are to contact the Aboite Township office at 260-432-0970. Figure 16 on the next page shows the location of Van Hoozen Park and the available amenities.

Soccer/Lacrosse Fields

Playground Area

VAN HOOZEN PARK

27.17 Acres

Playground

Pavilion

Soccer

Lacrosse

Softball Fields

Dog Waste Station

Parking Area

(79 parking spaces approx.)

Van Hoozen Park Amenities Map

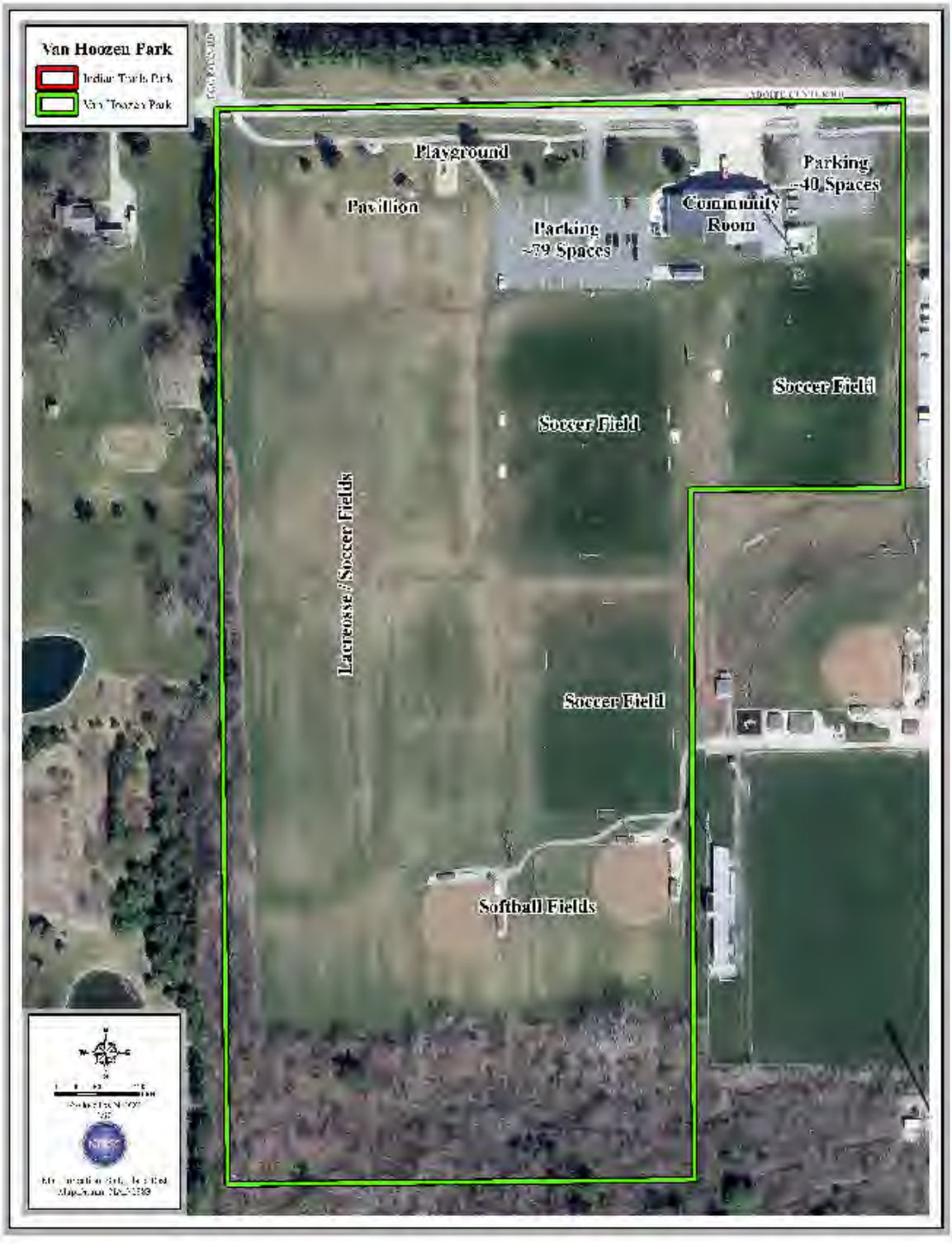


Figure 31: Van Hoozen Park Amenity Map

3.1.2 Van Hoozen Park Inventory Review

An inventory of park amenities with assessment of strengths and weaknesses is provided in Table 12 below.

Table 12: 2023 Van Hoozen Park Inventory Assessment

VAN HOOZEN PARK						
Van Hoozen Park, Aboite Township	Established: 1983		ACRES: 27.1	Address: 11321 Aboite Center Rd		Pavilion Rentals: No
PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA FIRM/STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	CONDITION: (Excellent /Fair /Poor)	USAGE: (LOW / MODERATE / HEAVY)	LIST STRENGHTS/WEAKNESSES
Shelter House/Pavilion	1	1985	No	Fair	Moderate	STRENGTHS
Rectangular Fields (2-Lacrosse, 3-Soccer)	5	2000s (Approx)	No	Fair	Moderate	Large area area used for Lacrosse/Soccer/Softb
Softball Diamonds w/perimiter fence	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	New ADA striping installed 2023
Bleachers	4	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Newer Ball field/Score Board
Fencing (ballfield) - 9-gauge galv.	(1)-1987/(1)-2000/(1)-2022		No	Poor/Fair/Excellent		New Ball field fencing installed in 2022
Lighting (Light Poles)	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Added Doggie Waste Stations in 2021
Dugouts	4	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Fields & lawns regularly mowed and maintained
Scoreboards	2	2010	No	Excellent	Moderate/Heavy	Attractive landscaping around memorial
Parking Area: Number of Spaces	50	1987	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	bench area at Van Hoozen dedication stone
Parking Area: ADA Spaces	2	New 2023	No	Excellent	Moderate/Heavy	WEAKNESSES
Playground Area(s)	1	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	Playground area is aging with limited
Infant Playground (Ages 6-23 months)	None	N/A	No	None	none	amenities for children to use.
Toddler Playground Area (Ages 2-5)	2 Spring Rides	1990s (approx.)	No	None	none	Island Moat Park - No ADA firm/stable route
Children's Playground (over 5 Years)	1		No	Fair	Moderate	available to access play area
Swings - Over 5 years	None	N/A	No	None	none	Missing firm & stable walking path to ballfields
Toddler Swings - 0-2 yrs.	None	N/A	No	None	none	from the parking area with a long distance to
ADA Apparatus	None	N/A	No	None	none	walk
Climbing Apparatus	2	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	Some fencing is showing rust and wear
Riding/Bouncing Apparatus	1	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	No drinking fountains or concessions available
Merry-go-Round/Spinning Apparatus	None	N/A	No	none	none	Limited toddler activities (Two toddler spring
Climbing/Rock Wall	1	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	rides available)
Slides	2	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	Bench sits on concrete but no firm and stable walkway to the seating/dedication stone area
Benches	3	Varies	Yes*	Fair	Moderate	Pavilion from 1985 and roofing & posts
Picnic Tables	2	1990s (approx.)	No	Fair	Moderate	showing wear. Not ADA-accessible and has no
Walking Area / Trails	None	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	grills for the picnic area.
Water Spigots	None	N/A	No	None	N/A	Concerns expressed of playground ares to
Bike Racks	2	2000s	Yes	Fair	low	proximity to busy highway - needs protective
Flower Planters	1	2000s	No	Fair	low	barrier or moved further away from road.
Storage/Equipment Buildings	4	(4 @ baseball fields, 1 grandstand bldg.)		Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Dog Waste Station	1	2021	Yes	Excellent	Moderate	
Utility Shed 14 x 400	1	2019	No	Fair	Moderate	

Van Hoozen Softball Field

Mike Rost Softball Field Score Board

Van Hoozen Park Amenities

Van Hoozen Playground

Climbing Apparatus

Slide

Bench / Memorial Area

Doggie Waste Bin

Lions Club Pavilion

ADA Parking Area (striped 2023)

3.1.3 Indian Trails Park

In 2000, Aboite Township bonded $1.7 million to purchase an 80-acre farm for the development of park space. However, approximately 12.5 acres of the Indian Trails Park was sold to develop the adjacent 63,540 SF Jorgenson YMCA Recreation Campus. Indian Trails Park off Aboite Center Road includes baseball diamonds, volleyball and soccer fields, recreational trails, and playground.

The 66.7 acres that houses Indian Trails Park and the Three Rivers Junction playground area, the centerpiece of The Indian Trails Park, was designed with a central pavilion for parents to watch as children play on swings, bridges, slides and more. One section is designed for small children, featuring a train slide, a pretend car to "drive" and an enclosure to keep kids contained. In 2002, the Indian Trails Park Loop was initiated by the Aboite Township Trustee. Fundraising for trails on Homestead, Aboite Center, Covington, and more started with a goal to raise $3 million for trail projects in the suburban area.

Planning for the Junction began in 2001, when Gail Herendeen, Marcia Roberts, and Colleen Gray appealed to the community for donations for the playground. Townships residents responded generously, and funding for the playground came from a variety of corporate sponsors that included Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne Orthopedics, Vera Bradley Designs among others. An entrance sign to the Junction Playground to commemorate the sentiments of its founders says, “if you build it, we will play.”

INDIAN TRAILS PARK

66.7 Acres

Three Rivers Junction Playground

Baseball/Softball fields

Sandlots

Amphitheater

Soccer Fields

Pickleball Courts

Pavilions

Football Fields

Restrooms

Parking Areas

Kiosk/seating area

Paved Trail

(approx. 0.95 Miles)

Mulched Trail

(Approx. 0.28 Miles)

As noted in Section 2.2.3, the .95-mile Indian Trails Park Loop started in 2002 and has been a popular amenity and the Indian Trails Park. In 2018, the Krisher Pickleball Courts was added and has been popular attraction to the Indian Trails Park. However, the pickleball fencing sustained approx. $40,000 in wind damage from a derecho storm that hit portions of Allen County on June 13, 2022, which produced wind surges of 76 to 98 MPH, as reported by the Fort Wayne International Airport. Fortunately, insurance helped to cover repair costs for the downed pickleball court fencing with limited disruption to park users.

Indian Trails Trailhead and Information Kiosk

Permission to reproduce: Indian Trails Park pickleball court & Three Rivers Junction Playground (FB posts dated 11-3-20)

In February 2023, The Park Board hired an independent playground inspector to review the 22-year-old Three Rivers Junction Playground and provide a service inspection report. This report provided a safety review of playground amenities and a checklist of scheduled maintenance items to be updated at the playground area. The inspection report is included in Appendix D. In addition, these activities are referenced in the Action Plan & Implementation Schedule in Section 5.2.1.

Indian Trails Park Amenities Map

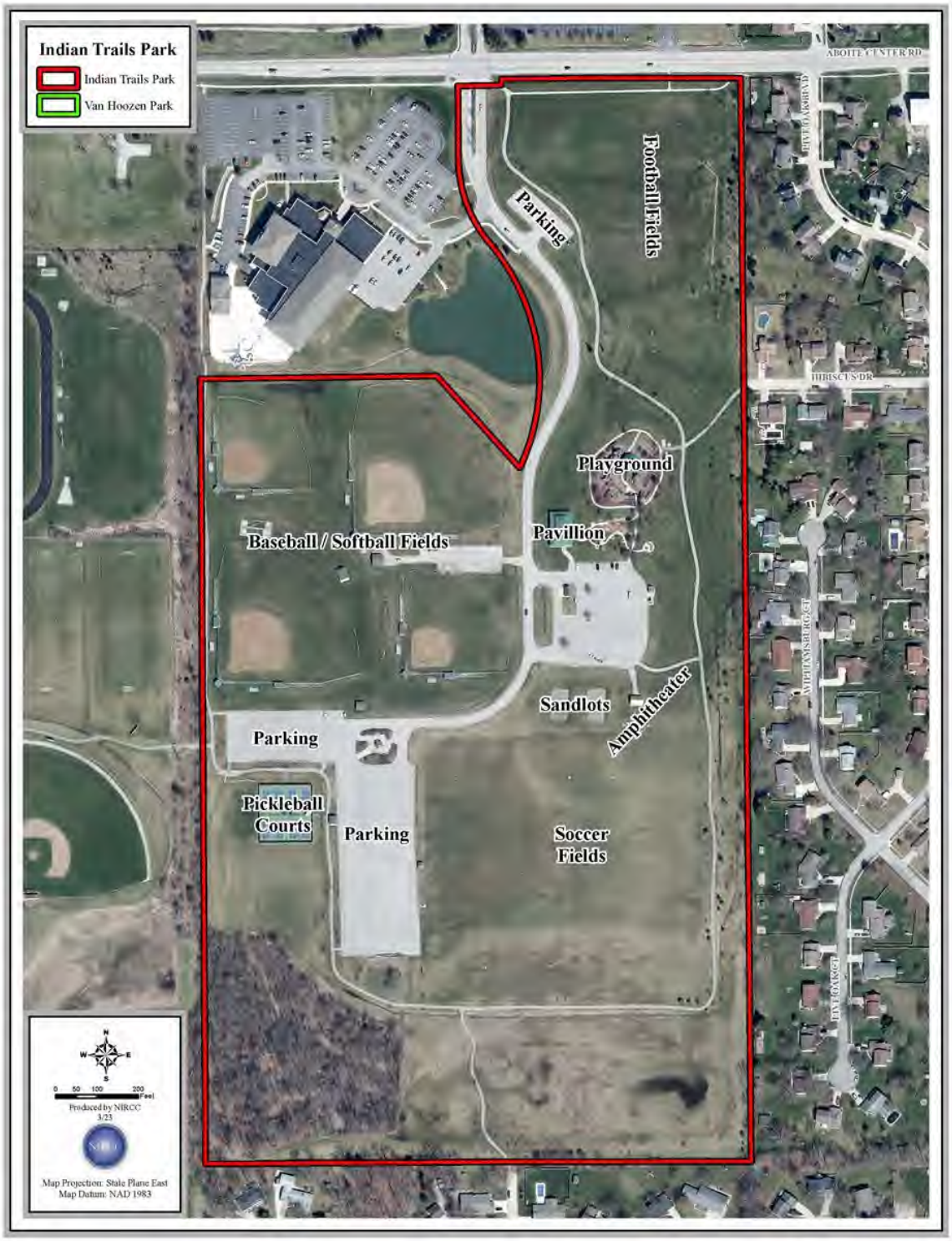


Figure 32: Aboite Township Park Planning Location Map

3.1.4 Indian Trails Inventory Review

An inventory of park amenities with assessment of its strengths and weaknesses is provided in Table 13 below:

Table 13: 2023 Indian Trails Park Inventory Assessment

Indian Trails Park Inventory						
NAME: Indian Trails	Established 2001		Size: 67 acres	Address: 10300 Aboite Center Road		Pavilion Rentals: Yes
PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA FIRM/STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	CONDITION: (Excellent /Fair /Poor)	USAGE: (Low / Moderate/ Heavy)	LIST STRENGHTS/WEAKNESSES
Shelter House/Pavilion	5 pavilions	2005	2/5 ADA Compliant	Excellent	Moderate	STRENGTHS
Fenced Baseball Diamonds w/Score Boar	4	2005	No	Excellent	Heavy	Popular pickleball Courts with new fencing
Bleachers	8	2010	No	Fair	Moderate	Highly used park with various amenities
Concession Stand* (used for storage)	1	2000s	No	Fair	Heavy	Newly added ADA striping in 2023
Restrooms (1 ADA Year Round) & 1-ADA Port-A-Potty (Seasonal)	2	2005 (Brick Bathroom)	Yes	Fair	Heavy/Moderate	Three Rivers Junction Playground is one-of-a kind playground in the region.
Lighting (Light Poles)	3	2020	N/A	Excellent	n/a	Nice seating areas and attractive landscaping around playground.
Batting Cage	2	2005	No	Fair	Heavy	
Dugouts	8	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	New security cameras to provide protection
Sand Volleyball	2	2000s	No	Fair	Moderate	Attractive new Amphitheater building with wide walkways
(1) Soccer Field; (1) Rugby/Football Field	2	2000s	No	Fair		
Pickleball Courts	8	2017	Yes	Excellent	Heavy	Playground rules are nicely displayed
Amphitheater	1	2019	Yes	Excellent	Low/Moderate	w/new benches centrally located with donor bricks.
Parking Area: Number of Spaces	150+	2000	Yes	Fair	Heavy	
Parking Area: ADA Spaces	12	2023	Yes	Excellent	Moderate	Highly attended summer concert program
Playground Area(s)						New Flag Pole and Memorial Stones at trailhead
Infant Playground (Ages 6-23 months)	none	2005	N/A	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Nice Information Kiosk /Trailhead Amenities
Toddler Playground Area (Ages 2-5)	1	2005	Yes	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	WEAKNESSES
Children's Playground (over 5 Years)	1	2005	Yes	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Drainage issues on soccer/football field areas
Swings - Over 5 years	4	2005	No	Fair		Playground does not have designated area for children under 2 years-of-age
Toddler Swings - 0-2 yrs.	4	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
ADA Apparatus	2 swings	2005	No	Fair	Moderate	Includes ADA swings, but no firm/stable route to access the equipment
Climbing Apparatus	5+	2005	No	Fair	Moderate	
Riding/Bouncing Apparatus	2	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	*No functional concession stand (used for storage)
Merry-go-Round/Spinning Apparatus	2	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Climbing/Rock Wall	2	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Note: Playground Inspection Report has several items listed for needed maintenance. Aboite Parks to determine maintenance schedule to address issues
Slides	6	2005	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Benches	10+	2005	Yes	Fair	Moderate	
Picnic Tables	10+	2005	Yes	Fair	Moderate	
Walking Trails (Paved) & Trailhead w/Kios	0.95 Mile	2002	Yes	Excellent	Moderate/Heavy	
Forest Trail (Mulched)	0.28 Mile	2021	No	Excellent	Low	
Water Spigots	3	2000s	No	Fair	Moderate	
Bike Racks	4	2000s	Yes	Fair	low	
Grills	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Dog Waste Station	4	2021	n/a	Fair	Moderate	
Score Houses / Ball field sheds	4	2005	N/A	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Ball Diamonds	4	2005	No	Fair	moderate	
Pump House	1	2005	No	Fair	Heavy	
Pickleball Shed	1	2018	No	Excellent	Heavy	
Garage	1	2005	No	Fair	Heavy	

Indian Trails Park Amenities

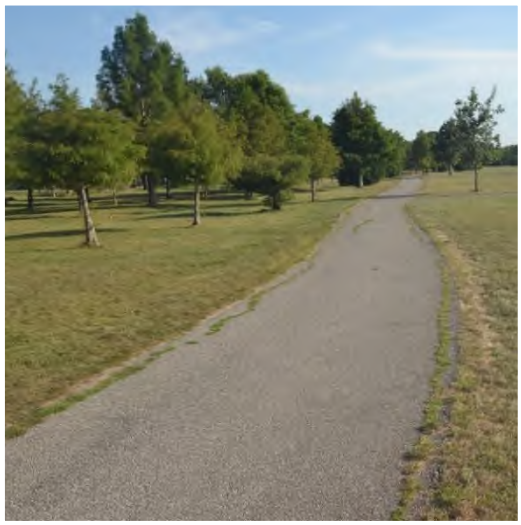
Three Rivers Junction Playground Aerial

Three Rivers Junction Playground

Large Accessible Shelter House Pavilion Aerial

Large Accessible Shelter House Pavilion

.28 Mile Mulched Forest Trail



.95 Mile Paved Trail

Ball Fields Aerial

Batting Cages

Music Pavilion, seating area & Volleyball Courts Aerial

Music Pavilion & Seating boulders

Pickleball – Krisher Courts Aerial

Pickleball – Krisher Courts

Indian Trails Recent Park Improvements

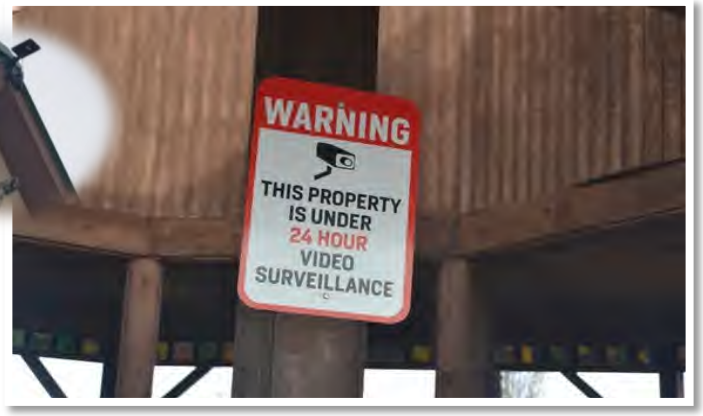
Over the past five years various amenities have been added to Indian Trails Park as illustrated below:

Year	Amenity	Investment
2017-18	Pickleball Courts	$247,200
2017	Pickleball Pavilion	$28,746
2019	Band Pavilion	$33,000
2019	Landscape Boulders	$11,600
2019	Restroom upgrades	$10,636
2019	Park Gate	$2,114
2019	Entrance Sign	$8,820
2020	Park Lights	$9,500
2021	Forrest Trail	$8,000
2021	New Well	$12,393
2021	Dog Waste Stations	$2,314
2022	Flag Pole	$3,000
2022	Security Cameras	$3,622
2022	Security Rocks	$2,200
2023	ADA Parking Striping	$1,032

Table 14: 2017-2023 Park Improvements

2019 Band Pavilion

2019 Restroom Updates



2022 Security Cameras

2019 – Landscape Boulders

2023 – ADA Parking Accessibility Upgrades

3.1.5 Operation and Maintenance Plan

The Operation and Maintenance Plan for activities conducted at the Indian Trails Park and the Van Hoozen Park had been developed in November 2023 and will need to be updated with current costs and activities as needed. Operating considerations for the Van Hoozen Park Master Plan are included below.

Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Operation & Maintenance Plan

Usages:

Annual Concerts (Indian Trails Park)

- 8-9 per year
- To be organized by the Aboite Township office and be the responsibility of the Aboite Township office
- These concerts are free to the public but will promote opportunity and social interaction in the parks.
- Revenue will be placed in an operations and maintenance fund. This account line will be created in 2024 to create the operations and maintenance fund.

Rental of Facility – Pavilion, Fields and Community Room

- Promotions for weddings, family reunions and parties will be advertised.
- All revenues generated from facility fees will be placed in an operations and maintenance fund.
- Free usage: This facility will be available for non-exclusive use on a first come first serve basis for any non-reserved dates.

Revenues:

Current Rental Fees

- Community room
  - Monday – Thursday: non-profits can use free, give donations to food pantry.
  - Friday – Sunday - $150 rental fee plus $100 security deposit
- Indian Trails Park Pavilion
  - Half day $50, full day $100

New concession stand at the Van Hoozen Park is to be managed by users of the softball/baseball complex **(Concession stand schedule to start post construction and contingent of park funding and completion)*

Rental fees, scheduling, and application will be handled at the Township Office. Applications will be available online and in the Aboite Township office.

Expenses:

- Utilities

- Water and electric charges will be included in the parks fund yearly budget.
- Electric: $ 2,498
- Water: $ 341
- Trash: $ 2,766
- Port-a-Jon Maintenance: $5,847

(Note: Utilities based on 2023 costs – Budget to be adjusted annually)

Maintenance Plan

Park Department employees will do monthly inspections of all equipment & surface areas & weekly area maintenance. Park funds are available for maintenance.

Surface Maintenance inspections:

- painted surface (No scratched, chipped or peeling paint)
- surface wear
- debris
- graffiti

Area Maintenance:

- mowing
- trimming
- spraying
- cleaning
- Inspections maintenance will be scheduled as needed.
- Yearly inspections of all concrete and pathways
- Yearly ADA inspections will be made to ensure compliance.
- Spring inspections of water and sewer services
- Late fall inspections of water and sewer services to get ready for winter.
- Structures will be inspected.
- Driveways will be inspected for potholes.
- Painted surfaces
- Roof and eves
- Drainage around area
- clean area of litter (no broken glass or bottles)

Facility maintenance in the first year will be based on similar existing park facilities but to a lesser amount based on the facility being new. As the facility ages, budgets will be adjusted to accommodate aging structure and equipment.

Employees

Site Manager: Paul Neilsen

- Will conduct all inspections and scheduling of maintenance.
- Estimated work hours: 2,080 hrs. per year.

Seasonal Mowers:

- Estimated work hours: 2,144 hrs. per year. (See Appendix E for full Maintenance Schedule)

3.2 Park Programming

The Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board (ATPRB) does not directly provide sports programming for the residents of Aboite Township or the surrounding area; however, it partners and facilitates local sports organizations to provide various events for the community to enjoy. The active Sports Organizations include the following:

- Three Rivers Youth Soccer Association (TRYSA)
- Fort Wayne Youth Select Soccer League (FWYSSL)
- Girls Fastpitch League
- Time Corners Little League
- Time Corners T-ball League
- Girls Softball Association (GSA)
- Aboite Softball Association (ASA)
- Wildcat Baseball League
- Aboite Baseball League
- Don Ayers Little League

3.2.1 Parks Participation Report – 2022

Park participation in athletic activities in Aboite Township has been robust. The following list provides athletic activities and the number of participants reported in the year 2022.

- Aboite Girls Softball – 400 Participants
- Wildcat League – 300 Participants
- Don Ayers Little League – 500 Participants
- Homestead Boys Lacrosse Club – 40 Participants
- Homestead Girls Lacrosse Club – 25 Participants
- Homestead Rugby – 20 Participants

Total Participants: 1,285

The various sports organizations who utilize Aboite Township Park facilities must provide proof of liability insurance coverage that includes the Township. Organizations are responsible for their own player recruitment and development. Field usage is scheduled through the Township office. However, player fees for organizations utilizing the fields are being restructured under the new leadership of Aboite Township. Scheduled upkeep and maintenance of park facilities is also under review with the Township Trustee and Park Board, and a maintenance schedule is under development to assure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support current and future needs.

With the growing population of Aboite Township and its ever-evolving needs, and under new leadership of the 2022 Park Board and the 2023 Township Trustee elect, the desire of the Parks Department is to find ways to expand amenities to meet the growing demand for sports fields, and to provide vigilant oversight of event scheduling to assure equitable access of all park amenities. The comments received from the first public meeting and community surveys provided important feedback conveying an immediate need for more baseball/softball fields and to address scheduling conflicts with the various ball leagues.

The Aboite Township Parks Department is open to facilitating other program opportunities identified through community feedback, but currently lacks the funding and staffing necessary to offer more programming at this time. However, potential volunteers have expressed an interest and provided

contact information in the 2023 survey, so possible programming options can be explored and implemented in the future.

3.2.2 Concerts on the Green

Summer concerts are a popular event hosted at Indian Trails Park during the months of July and August. Concerts are funded by Aboite Township and free of charge to attendees. The Aboite Township Fire Department has traditionally helped to provide refreshments and assisted with community activities held at the park.

2023 SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULE
Wednesday evenings
From 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

July 5 —The Dee Bee's
July 12 — Shannon Persinger
July 19 — Party Boat Band
July 26 — Biff and the Cruisers
August 2 — The Bulldogs
August 9 — Damon Mitchell
August 16 — MG5
August 23 — Greg Bender
August 30 — Classic Distress

Photos provided with permission to reproduce (Aboite Township Website & Facebook)

3.2.3 Community Room and Pavilion Use

In addition to the ballfields and summer concerts, Aboite Township offers opportunities for public use of the Aboite Township Community Center and the various pavilions at the two parks. The Community Room is used by a local quilter's club, subdivision groups and local ball teams, and to host various meetings and activities: Residents rent the community room for birthday parties, baby showers and a variety of celebrations. The charge for most users is $200, but the fee is waived for regular public groups who routinely use the facility for meetings and non-profit organizational functions. The large pavilion at Indian Trails can be rented out for $50 as used for private parties and celebrations for all sorts of organizations. However, fees may be waived for public entities and non-profit organizations as needed.

The Indian Trails Park's grassy green area is used by a dog training group, and the YMCA uses it for playing games with their campers in the summer. The sand volleyball area is a very popular summer activity. There are currently no restrictions on the use of this area.

3.3 Other Recreational Facilities

Because of the symbiotic relationship that exists between the local parks and schools, various resources are available for public sports / recreational utility. Historically, school teams have priority use of the fields, however; ample time is available for public use on a first come-first served basis. In previous years, the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Department had outsourced the scheduling of athletic fields or games, but oversight of scheduling the fields will be more closely administered under Aboite Township's new leadership to assure equitable access of all park facilities to the community.

There are several other recreational areas located within Aboite Township, and some within a 10-minute drive that can be enjoyed by the public. A list of other recreation spaces is provided below, and Figure 25 shows the location of the other recreation areas along with the existing and a proposed trail system.

3.3.1 Aboite Township Area Schools

The first school in Aboite Township was a log house donated by George and Rosamond Bullard in 1836, at what is now the southwest corner of U.S. 24 West and Aboite Center Roads. By 2005, Bullard School evolved into the Southwest Allen County School District, (aka SACS), to include ten school buildings; a fleet of 62 buses, 828 employees, 6,281 Students; and a budget of $37,900,000.

In early 1890 Aboite had eight brick one-room schoolhouses, roughly two miles apart as stay laws stipulated. In 1946 the Consolidation Act closed the one-room schoolhouses. The township then had to pay to transfer students to other districts until Aboite School was built in 1954 on Homestead Road. The Township bought 155 acres of land in 1961, which included land for the 26-acre park, now, the Van Hoozen Park, at 11321 Aboite Center Road. Lafayette Township joined Aboite in 1967 to form the Metropolitan School District of Southwest Allen. Currently, the Southwest Allen County School system includes 1- High School, 2-Middle Schools, and 6-Elementary Schools with a combined enrollment of 7,800 students.

The following school facilities provide public recreation and sports activities for local students as follows:

- Aboite Elementary School – Playgrounds / Basketball Area
- Covington Elementary – Playgrounds / Basketball Area
- Deer Ridge Elementary School – Soccer Fields, Ball Diamonds, Playgrounds (ADA)
- Lafayette Meadows Elementary School (Roanoke) – Playgrounds, Basketball, Soccer, Trail & Picnic Area
- Whispering Meadows Elementary – Playground Areas & Soccer Fields
- Haverhill Elementary School – Ball Diamonds & Soccer Fields
- Summit Middle School – Ball Diamonds, Soccer Fields, Track & Field
- Woodside Middle School – Track & Field, Soccer Fields
- Homestead High School – Ball Diamonds, Soccer Fields, Basketball, Football/Track & Field, and Environmental Center
- CMT (Computer & Media Center) – Ball Diamonds & Soccer Fields

Wooded Trails adjacent to Van Hoozen

3.3.1.1 Homestead High School Environmental Center

The Homestead High School Environmental Center was established in 1984 and consists of 30 wooded acres, a cabin built by students, an educational training area, walking trails, wetlands, pond, and prairies. The property is just south of the Van Hoozen existing softball field with a mulched trail access at the back of the Van Hoozen softball fields. Adding a perimeter trail around Van Hoozen Park would not only benefit the community by providing a paved trail to park amenities, but also offer a paved access point to the wooded trails. This concept was discussed with the Park Committee, which included the Vice Principal of the SACS Corporation.

Southeast Access to the Homestead Environmental Center

3.3.2 Jorgensen Family YMCA

The Jorgensen Family YMCA, a branch of YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, opened in September of 1998, at 10313 Aboite Center Rd., and provides a variety of recreational activities and programs. The YMCA campus is adjacent to the Aboite Indian Trails Park and offers amenities to its members that includes an outdoor pool open from the end of May through the first week of September. Other amenities include the following:

Jorgensen YMCA Website photo

- Wellness Center
- Weight Room
- Aerobics Room
- Cardio Room
- Child Watch
- Climbing Wall
- Cycling Room
- Dance Studio
- Gymnasium
- Indoor Pool
- Indoor Track
- Kids Play Area
- Locker Rooms
- Outdoor Pool
- Sauna
- Whirlpool

The YMCA monthly fees range from $27.50 for students to $85 for two (2) adults and their dependents. Financial assistance is available to qualifying low-income persons through an application and approval process. The YMCA website information is provided in the footnote below[21].

3.3.3 Sycamore Hills Golf Club

Sycamore Hills Golf Club was founded in July of 1987 and is located at 1836 Covington Rd, Fort Wayne. The facility offers a private 18-hole golf course that officially opened on July 2, 1989, when Jack Nicklaus and Tom Kelley (Founding Member/President) played the inaugural round of golf. The golf club and property consist of mature trees, rolling hills, along the Aboite River, with design Influence of Jack Nicklaus. Sycamore Hills Golf Club was voted the second best new private course in the United States in 1990, the top golf course in Indiana in 1991, and was voted one of "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses" for the last ten years by Golf Digest.

Sycamore Hills is also home to The Golf Academy. The Academy provides a 2500 square foot state-of-the-art building with a specialized learning environment for its members. The Golf Academy is located at the north end of the range and includes a putting/chipping green with a green-side bunker, year-round access, and video analysis equipment offered for golf lessons[22].

3.4 Public Park Acreage in Aboite Township

There are currently five (5) public parks located in Aboite Township totaling 1,414.11 acres. Of this total, Aboite Township owns 97.74 Acres (7%) of the park area in the township. (See adjacent Table 15).

Note: Allen County owns and manages 93% of the park area in the township (1,316.1 Acres) and Ft. Wayne manages less than 1% (3.28 Acres) in Aboite Township.

Public Park Acreage in Aboite Township			
Name of Park	**Ownership**	**Area (Acres)**	**%**
Indian Trails Park	Aboite Township	66.73	5%
Van Hoozen Community Park	Aboite Township	28.01	2%
Ronald G Repka Memorial Park	City of Fort Wayne	3.28	0%
Eagle Marsh	Allen County	717.27	51%
Fox Island	Allen County	598.82	42%
Total Acreage for all parks in Aboite Township =		1,414.11	100%

Table 15: Public Park Acreage in Aboite Township

[21] The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, "Jorgensen Family YMCA" Website: www.fwymca.org/locations/jorgensen-family-ymca. Download 8-3-23.

[21]. Joey Kelley, "Sycamore Hills Golf Club Has More", Waynedale News, 6-15-2005 website: https://waynedalenews.com/2005/06/sycamore-hills-golf-club-has-more/

3.4.1 Buckner Park

Website Photo: City of Fort Wayne

Buckner Park is a 197.5-acre park located 6114 Bass Rd., Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The park is owned and operated by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department. Since its purchase from Marie Buckner in 1969, it has served as public farmland, military training ground, as well as a variety of other uses. Today it offers a modern playground, a walking trail (.75 Mile) splashpad, and shelter.[23] This park is located within a five-mile distance of the Aboite Township Parks but resides in a neighboring township (see 5-mile radius map Figure 28).

3.4.2 Fox Island County Park

Fox Island is a 605-acre park located in southwest Allen County at 7324 Yohne Rd., Fort Wayne. The park has 270 acres dedicated as a State Nature Preserve, which protects areas having unique plants, animals, or geographic features. Hundreds of species of animals and plants live at Fox Island because of the relatively natural condition of most of the area, with its habitats of marsh, seasonal ponds, wooded sand dunes, wetland forest, old fields, and restored prairie. The park contains the largest contiguous forest in the county and a glacial sand dune.

Figure 33: Fox Island County Park (Allen County Website Map)

Seven miles of marked trails through the preserve offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the park. Over six miles are available during the winter for cross-country skiing when four or more inches of snow is on the ground. Hundreds of species of animals and plants live at Fox Island because of the relatively natural condition of most of the area, with its habitats of marsh, seasonal ponds, wooded sand dunes, wetland forest, old fields, and restored prairie.[24] Other amenities available at the park include:

- Nature Center – Large and small classrooms, conference room all available for rental; gift shop, education offices, and a variety of exhibits including the "Tree House"

[23] Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation, 2023 PDF, website: https://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/stories/Home/Park_Brochure.pdf

[24] Allen County Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022, Fox Island County Park, pg. 12.

- Allen County Parks Administrative Offices – located in Nature Center
- Three (3) open picnic shelters (50-person capacity)
  Campfire pits (by Permit Only)
- New gazebo – (Eagle Scout)
- Picnic Areas
- Grills
- Bowman Lake – Swimming beach – (No lifeguard on duty)

3.4.3 Fox Island County Park Derecho Storm Damage

Fox Island County Park closed following a June 13, 2022, derecho that damaged approximately 1,300 trees throughout the park and piles of debris was left in its aftermath blocking the trails. Some of the trees were purchased and cleared by logging crews; however, the park delayed volunteer help with the cleanup to the summer of 2023 due to danger from the level of damage at the park. As of October 2023, the park has remained closed, and reopening has not been formerly announced by the Allen County Parks Department. The Allen County Education Manager, Natalie Haley, told WANE 15 that there may be higher water levels at Fox Island due to the significantly decreased number of trees absorbing water from the ground. She said that could be an issue for the park that tends to be soggy at certain times of the year[25].

Photo: Northwest corner of Bowman Lake
Courtesy of the Drone Taskforce

3.4.4 Eagle Marsh

In 2005, the Little River Wetlands Project (LRWP) announced it would pay $2.1 million for a 680-acre tract located at 6801 Engle Rd., to preserve wetlands in Aboite Township, with funding help from the federal Wetlands Reserve Program, the Indiana Heritage Trust of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, foundations, and LRWP members. Eagle Marsh is located just north of Fox Island Park and was established to restore a portion of wetlands once a part of the Wabash-Maumee portage in the Little River Basin. The designated area represented the third largest wetland restoration project in Indiana's history. The project included the development of 14 miles of hiking trails that dovetailed with a project of the Aboite New Trails Inc. Forty more acres of forested wetland were added to Eagle Marsh between 2007 and 2010, totaling an 831-acre wetland nature preserve. Eagle Marsh created almost two square miles of habitat

Little River Wetlands Project, ADA floating trail:
Website: https://www.lrwp.org/eaglemarsh

[25] Rex Smith, "Fox Island County Park seeking volunteers, aiming for early-summer to reopen," Dec. 12, 2022.
Website: https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fox-island-county-park-seeking-volunteers-aiming-for-early-summer-to-reopen/

for birds and other wildlife with more than 250 kinds of birds and numerous other wild creatures found: Among them includes 28 birds, two amphibian and one reptile species endangered or of special concern in Indiana. Bald eagles are often found at the preserve and have raised several eaglets nearby. The park is open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, with no entry fee. However, the entrance gate for direct access to the fully accessible floating trail is open Monday-Thursday, 11am-3pm.[26]

3.4.5 Noll Park

Noll Park is a 9.2-acre park and located at Taylor Street and North Washington Road. The park was dedicated on November 6, 1974, to William Frederick Noll. This land was a gift to the City of Fort Wayne from Ms. Rose Fox and Mrs. Brett Lashell, the daughters of William F. Noll. This park features over 9 acres of wooded area with open space for picnicking[27].

Website Photo: City of Fort Wayne

3.4.6 Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park

Since 2004, the 3.7-acre Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park, located on Homestead Road, just south of Liberty Mills Road, features an open-air shelter with picnic tables that is available on a first come/first served basis. In addition to the picnic shelter, the park includes a fire-truck themed playground, a .37-mile trail, and a natural swale area.

The park is managed and owned by the City of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department (FWPRD). From the late 1990s on the area was being surveyed and considered as a park area. Through pursuing various funding avenues, the FWPRD was able to purchase the land in 2003. Building a new park as well as a fire station was very well received by the neighbors in the Aboite Township area. Homestead Park opened in 2004 and was renamed Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park in 2012. The park is named after Ronald G. Repka who tragically lost his life after being struck by an impaired, speeding motorist while cycling on a country

Website Photo: City of Fort Wayne

[26] Little Rivers Wetlands Project, "Eagle Marsh," Website https://www.lrwp.org/eaglemarsh
[27] Noll Park History, City of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Website Download: 11-10-23 https://www.fortwayneparks.org/38-parks/park-page-links/325-noll-park.html?highlight=WyJub2xsIiwicGFyayIsInBhcmsncyIsIm5vbGwgcGFyayJd

road. Repka's death helped prompt an ongoing campaign to develop safer off-road trails and sidewalks in Aboite Township which eventually led to the creation of the Aboite Trails Network[28].

See the Aboite Township Park Radius Map below to identify parks located within 5 miles of the Aboite Township Parks.

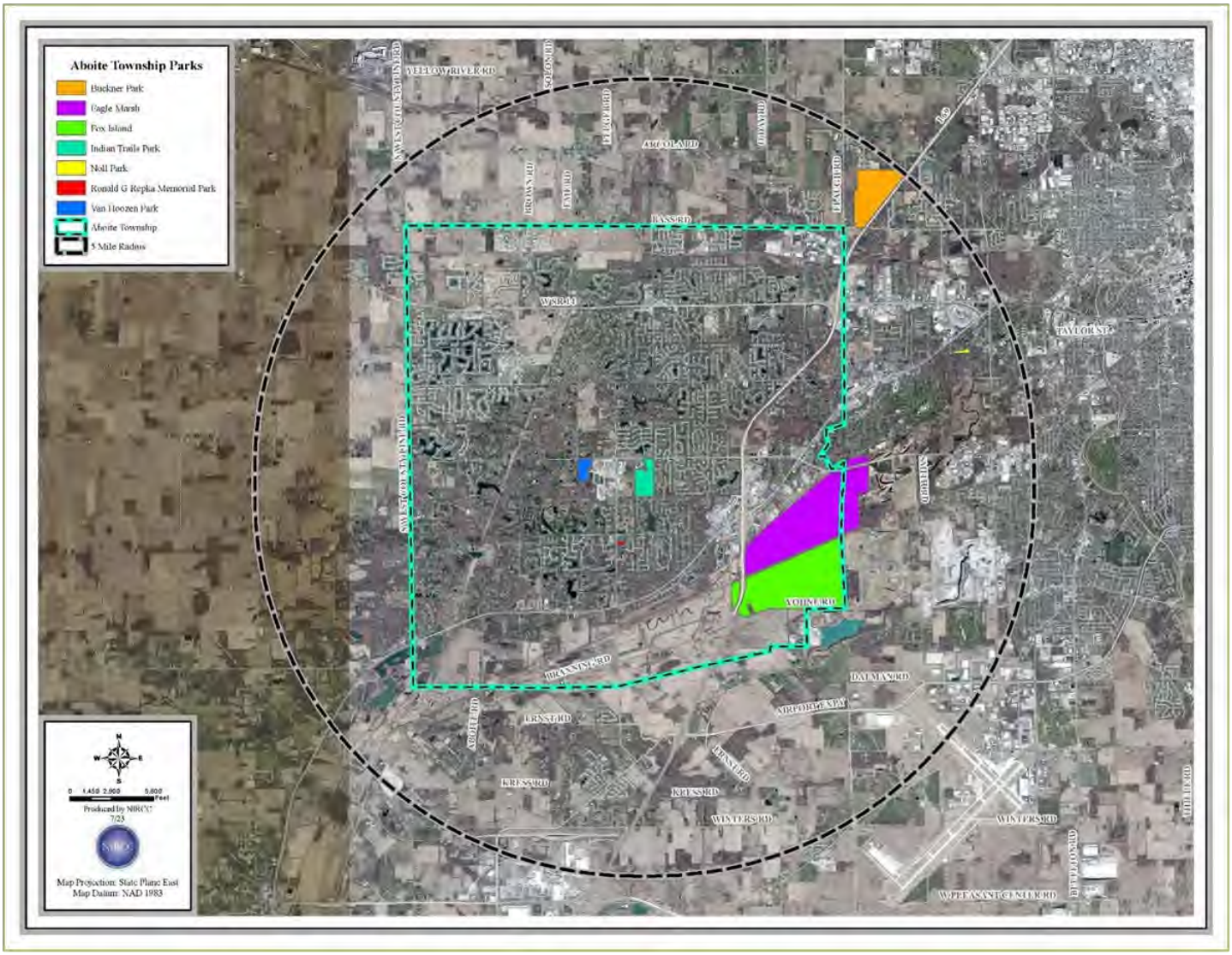


Figure 34: Aboite Township 5 Miles Radius Map

[28] Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park, City of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Website https://www.fortwayneparks.org/parks/38-parks/park-page-links/321-homestead-park.html. Download: 11-10-23

3.5 Accessibility and Universal Design

Aboite Township is responsible for ensuring that all activities and facilities offered by the Aboite Township Parks Department are accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities. The Parks and Recreation Board is committed to ensuring that all new facilities and renovations are constructed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); Architectural Barriers Act; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. An Accessibility Compliance Amendment will be completed and finalized at the completion and Indiana DNR approval of Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan.

Table 16 provides a scale of *ADA Minimum Play Components* required to be on an accessible route for the Parks and Recreation Board to use as a strategical guide for the development of action items and implementation schedule in an effort to meet and or exceed ADA standards for playgrounds.

In addition, the Park Department has established a safety checklist of items to review playground equipment with safe and age-appropriate play equipment on an ongoing basis. *Note*: The park board has scheduled improvements to address various ADA compliance issues as to be outlined in the 2024-2029 Action Plan and Implementation Schedule. However, the funding of various park improvements outlined in the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule is contingent of obtaining grant awards and donations to cover the costs (Source: U.S. Access Board: Accessible Play Areas).

Table 16: ADA Minimum Play Components

ADA Number and Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Route		
Number of Elevated Play Components Provided	Minimum number of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Route	Minimum Number of Different Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	7	4
23 to 25	8	4
More than 25	8 plus 1 for each additional 3 over 25, or fraction thereof	5

EQUITABLE ACCESS

The "2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan" (SCORP) states: "Public entities have an ongoing obligation to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs and services because facilities are unusable or inaccessible to them." Additionally, there is no grandfather clause in ADA regulation that exempts older facilities. However, the law strikes a careful balance between increasing access for people with disabilities and recognizing the constraints many public entities face. It allows entities confronted with limited financial resources to improve accessibility without excessive expense. And states that "entities are not required to take any action that would result in undue financial and administrative burdens."

Source : https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/files/outdoor-recreation/or-scorp21.pdf (SCORP) Chapter 5: pgs. 64-65.

3.5.1 ADA Self Evaluation

In January 2023, Aboite Township, and its newly established park board, discussed developing and incorporating an *Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan*. The development of a Transition Plan included the establishment of a new ADA Coordinator to oversee compliance of existing and new development. Additionally, on January 17, 2023, members of the park board met with planners from NIRCC to conduct an evaluation of park facilities to identify and document ADA compliance at Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Parks. During the park's assessment and

Plan development, it was identified that both Indian Trails Park and Van Hoozen Community Park did not have adequate ADA parking spaces and some playground amenities did not have firm-and-stable surfaces such as to the ADA swing at the Three Rivers Junction Playground.

To assess playground safety, the Township received proposals from three playground specialists to provide a safety evaluation. A consultant was hired, and a playground evaluation was completed in February 2023. The Playground Report provides an assessment and list of safety actions to be conducted. Items from this assessment will be implemented as outlined in the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule. The safety report is provided in Appendix D. In addition to these efforts, the township hired an ADA striping specialist in 2023 to paint parking areas per Indiana Code 5-16-9-2, and these ADA improvements are provided in the inventory photos sections.

2023 Indian Trails ADA Swing Evaluation

3.5.2 ADA Coordinator

Aboite Township Resolution 2023-0912 established the position of the ADA Coordinator. Contact information and the information on the ADA Transition Plan, the ADA Grievance Procedures and Grievance Forms as well as available accessible facilities can be obtained as follows:

Brad Mills
2024 ADA Coordinator (Interim for 2023 Coordinator, Chris Perez)
11321 Aboite Center Rd.
Ft. Wayne IN 46814
Ph: (260) 432-0970
Email:info@aboitetwp.com
Website: https://www.aboitetwp.com/

2023 Indian Trails ADA Parking Updates

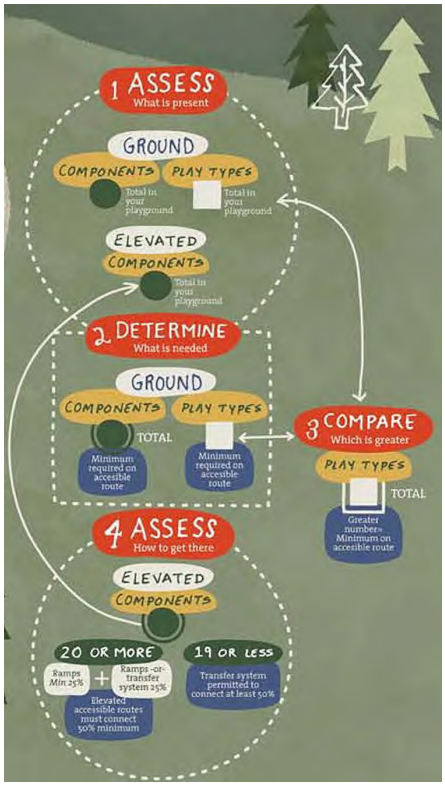
Within 60 days of the receipt of a complaint, Aboite Township will investigate any allegations based on the information provided and issue a written report of its findings to the complainant. Aboite Township will try to obtain an informal voluntary resolution to all complaints at the lowest level possible. Aboite Townships' adopted Grievance Policy and Procedures documentation is provided in Appendix D.

3.5.3 ADA Transition Plan

The 2023 Aboite ADA Coordinator, Chris Perez, assessed township amenities and developed the ADA Transition Plan to include public buildings, park facilities, and sidewalks within the document. Several actions have been conducted to evaluate accessibility under the current administration: ADA Accessibility was discussed in 2023 park planning meetings and an ADA playground walkthrough and discussion was conducted with consultants and members of the park Board; various ADA materials were provided and reviewed throughout the planning process; a 2023 playground assessment and report was conducted by a playground specialist; and ADA parking striping was added to both Aboite Township Parks to meet ADA standards.

The List of Resource Documentation reviewed by the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board include the following:

- IPEMA Checklist for Access
- DNR Accessible Playground Toolkit
- ADA National Network Institute for Human Centered Design ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities
- U.S. Access Board: A Summary of Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas
- U.S. Access Board: Accessible Routes
- U.S. Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act: ADA Guide for Small Towns



In addition to reviewing ADA National and State Resources, a timeline and resources were implemented with the development and implementation of an ADA Transition Plan. The tasks completed during park planning include:

Task	Completion Deadline
1. Designation of ADA Coordinator	8-1-23
2. Resolution of ADA Coordinator signed*	8-15-23
3. Non-Discrimination Notice	8-15-23
4. Grievance Procedure*	8-15-23
5. Inventory	10-01-23
a. List of all items	8-01-23
b. Within list indication of compliance or barrier and corrective action	8-15-23
c. Prioritize list	9-15-23
6. Funding & Scheduling, amount per year	10-01-23
7. Review & Evaluation	10-01-23
8. ADA TP document complete for 2023*	10-15-23

*A copy of the ADA Transition Plan Action Items to be conducted over the next five years are found in Section 5 .3. A copy of the ADA Grievance Policy, Grievance Form, and the 2023 ADA Transition Plan is provided in Appendix D.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

`

4.0 Public Participation

The Aboite Township Community Parks have made significant improvements over the past several years which are listed in Section 3. However, the newly established Parks and Recreation Board believed additional planning was needed to not only address the demand for more park amenities of a growing population, but also to meet an outcry for more ballfields to address scheduling conflicts with local baseball/softball leagues. There has been a significant gap in park planning since the development of the "*2001-2005 Vision Plan"*, a strategy that was instrumental in the development of the Indian Trails Park. With a twenty-year lapse in planning and under new park leadership, more planning was needed to address these concerns. With guidance from park planners, the development of a pre-survey was incorporated to identify the general perceptions of the existing parks and identify recreational deficiencies. Furthermore, a broader lens was incorporated to identify the needs that may exist outside of the ballfield shortages that were routinely expressed by the ball leagues: It was important for the park board to become more engaged with the public to distinguish the recreational needs of all ages represented. The Park Board created a Park Committee that included various stakeholders involved with the local schools, ball leagues, the YMCA, and healthcare industry to help develop strategies and ways to generate public feedback. The results of this multi-pronged approach will be discussed in this section.

4.1 2022 Pre-Survey

A 2022 Pre-Survey was developed by the Park Board to determine general park usage, identify the amenities used the most, and help structure the focus of park development over the next five years. The pre-survey was opened to the public on September 17, 2022, and closed October 31, 2022. Park flyers with a SurveyMonkey website link and QR codes were distributed on local bulletin boards, the YMCA, the pickleball kiosk areas, and signage was placed throughout the parks to provide survey information. In addition, the Aboite Township and youth league posted website links and QR codes. The survey information was emailed to the Southwest and City of Fort Wayne Housing Authorities (HOAs) and Southwest Allen County School Corporation (SACS). From this effort 475 responses were received. The results of survey questions 1-7 are described as follows:

Q1). From 475 survey responses, it was discovered that a high level of park usage exists in Aboite Township, with nearly 55% of respondents attending parks at least once a week, and 33% using parks one or two times a month: 10% of respondents use the parks one or two times a year and only 2% (10 persons) said they never used Aboite Parks (see Figure 35).

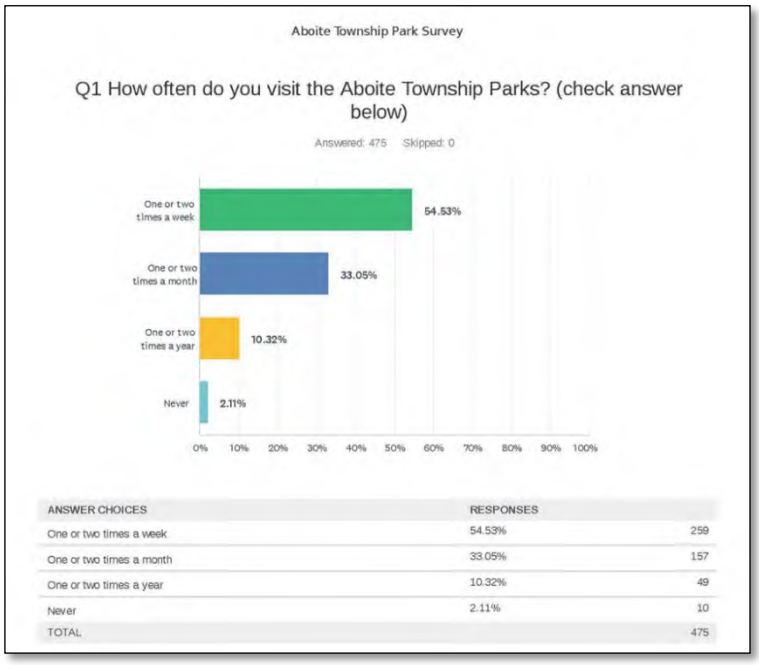
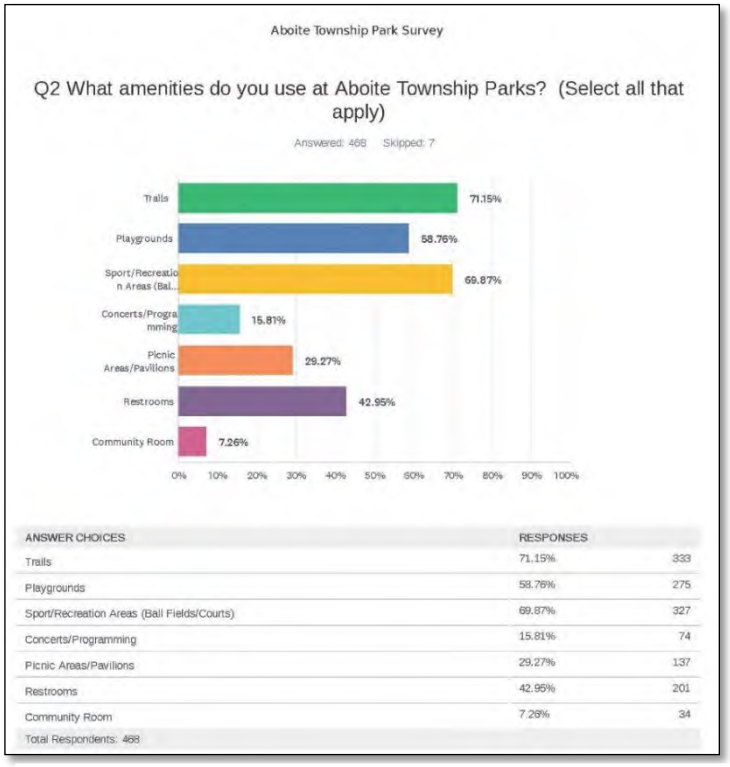


Figure 35: Park Usage

Q2). The next question identified the most used park amenities from the least-used park amenities. This question received 408 responses and showed the trail system at Indian Trails was used by 71% of respondents with the ballfields coming in a very close second at 69.9%. A list of amenities ranked from the highest-to-lowest used by respondents is provided below:

1. Trails - 71%
2. Sports/Ball Fields - 69.9%
3. Playgrounds - 58.8 %
4. Restrooms – 43%
5. Picnic Areas/Pavilions – 29.2%
6. Concerts/Programs – 15.8%
7. Community Room – 7.6%

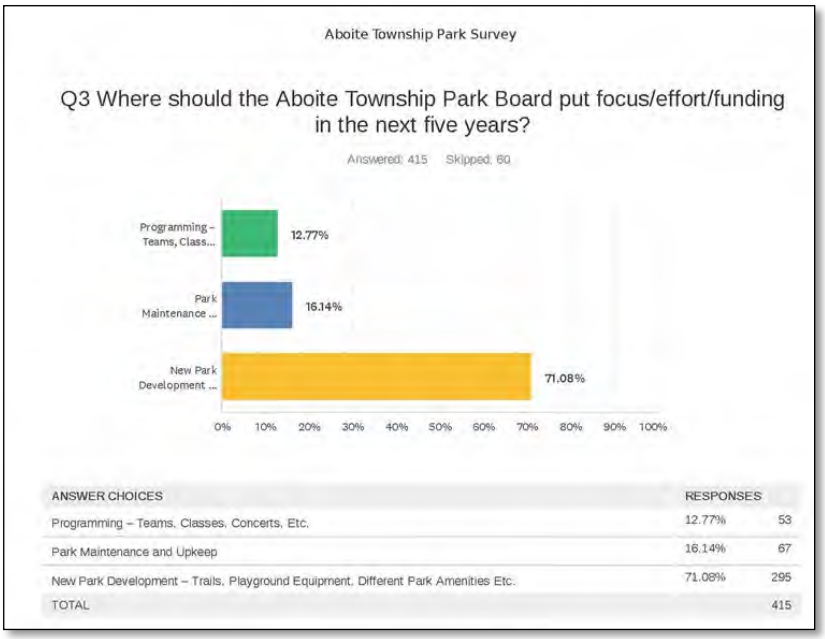
Note: Other written comments included drinking fountains and several requests for more softball fields.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails	71.15%	333
Playgrounds	58.76%	275
Sport/Recreation Areas (Ball Fields/Courts)	69.87%	327
Concerts/Programming	15.81%	74
Picnic Areas/Pavilions	29.27%	137
Restrooms	42.95%	201
Community Room	7.26%	34
Total Respondents: 468		

Figure 36: Most Used Park Amenities

Q3). To provide the park board with a better understanding of where to invest time and resources over the next five years, a question was asked concerning the focus of future park efforts. This question received 415 responses with 71%, or 295 responses wanting "new park development" to be the focus over the next five years. Additionally, 16% of respondents said to use resources on park maintenance and upkeep, and 12% wanted resources used on park programming such as more concerts, teams, and classes. Currently, the community room is used for quilting classes, and the music pavilion is sometimes used for exercise classes: Both programs are managed by independent community organizations. The park pavilions are scheduled on a first come-first serve basis.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Programming – Teams, Classes, Concerts, Etc.	12.77%	53
Park Maintenance and Upkeep	16.14%	67
New Park Development – Trails, Playground Equipment, Different Park Amenities Etc.	71.08%	295
TOTAL		415

Figure 37: Where to Focus Funding over next 5 Years.

Q4). Question 4 asked persons to identify what the Aboite Township Parks are missing, which garnered 380 responses and received a variety of comments: The highest number of responses, or 118 (31%) persons indicated event accommodations such as parking, concessions, restroom, and trash receptacles are missing. 81 responses (21%) said trail connectivity was missing, and 66 responses (17%) said better lighting, sidewalks and amenity access was missing. This question received a variety of written comments that include some of the following:

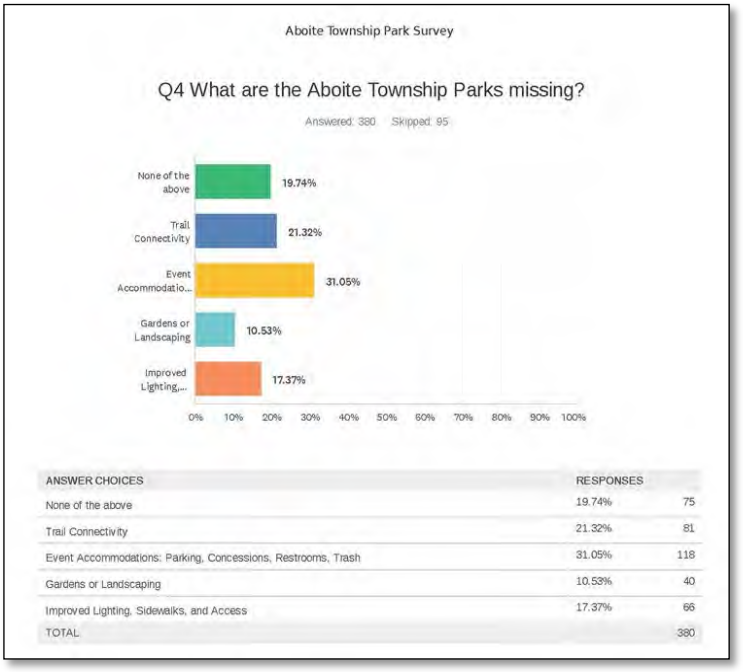


Figure 38: Missing Park Amenities

- <u>112 comments</u> wanted more softball and baseball fields or access to them: *"We need access to more ballfields for boys and girls little league games/practices," also, "We need more baseball and softball fields. The scheduling is insane."*
- <u>15 comments</u> wanted park activities such as the playground equipment, field use, trails, etc.
- <u>13 comments</u> wanted access, security, parking, lighting, and water.
- <u>4 programming comments:</u>
  - 1 request for an indoor pavilion
  - 1 request for summer camp opportunities
  - 2 requests for concession stand/league opportunities

Q5). A question was then asked if Aboite Township should create another park. This question received 453 responses with nearly 70%, or 308 "agreeing" that the township should create another park, and 32%, or 145 "disagreeing" that another park should be created. When asked where a new park space should be created, the responses varied as follows:

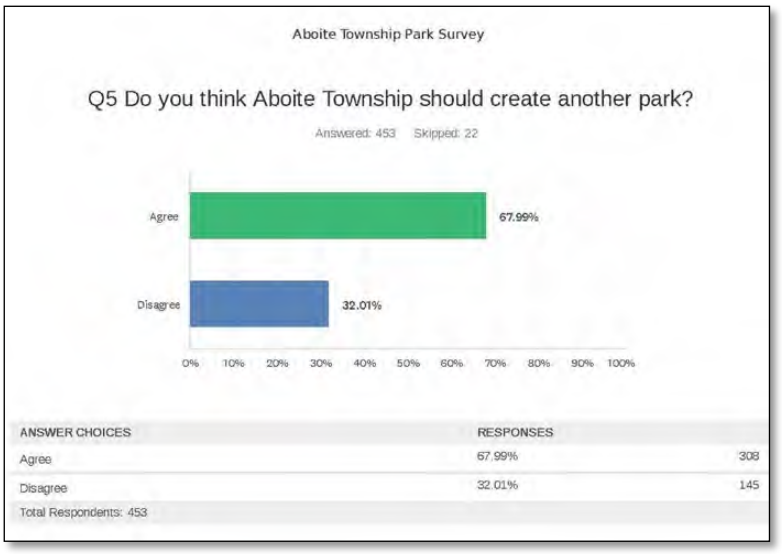


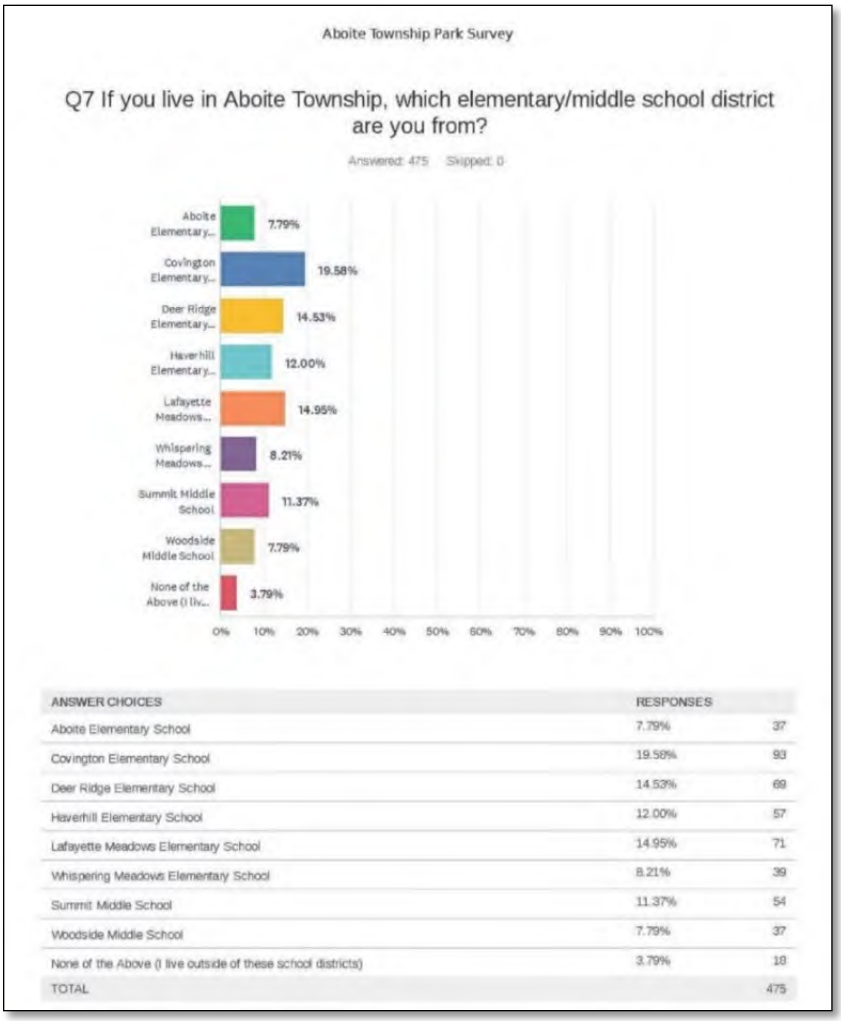
Figure 39: More Park Development Responses

#1) In and around Hamilton Road (19 Responses)
#2) County Line Rd. (8 Responses)
#3) Unsure (7 Responses)
#4) Current Park Area (6 Responses)
#5) Within Aboite Township (4 Responses)
#5) By Bass Road (4 Responses)
#6) By Van Hoozen park) (3 Responses)
#6) By Indian Trails (3 Responses)
#7) By US 24 (2 Responses)
#7) By Homestead (2 Responses)
#7) Roanoke Area (2 Responses)

Q6). Most respondents surveyed, or 92%, lived in Aboite Township and 4% lived in a rural area outside of Fort Wayne and Aboite Township. Only 2% of responses came from a nearby township (Lake or Wayne Townships), and 1% lived in Roanoke, Huntington County. Only three responses came from a city or small town outside of Fort Wayne and Aboite Township.

Q7). A question was asked about school districts to help identify local school affiliation. The school districts represented by survey respondents include the following ranking from highest to lowest as follows:

1. Covington Elementary – 19.6%
2. Lafayette Meadows – 15%
3. Deer Ridge Elementary – 14.5%
4. Haverhill Elementary – 12%
5. Summit Middle School – 11.3%
6. Whispering Meadows Elementary–8.2%
7. Woodside Middle School – 7.8%
8. Aboite Elementary School – 7.8%
9. None of the Above – 3.8%



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Aboite Elementary School	7.79%	37
Covington Elementary School	19.58%	93
Deer Ridge Elementary School	14.53%	69
Haverhill Elementary School	12.00%	57
Lafayette Meadows Elementary School	14.95%	71
Whispering Meadows Elementary School	8.21%	39
Summit Middle School	11.37%	54
Woodside Middle School	7.79%	37
None of the Above (I live outside of these school districts)	3.79%	18
TOTAL		475

Figure 40: School District Representation

The survey showed that a good representation of Aboite area school districts had been pooled. The response feedback related to Aboite Parks need is included in the data analysis priority ranking table (see the Combined Scored Ranking Table 19 in Section 4.5.1).

4.2 Park Committee Top 10 Rank

In January 2023 the park board had established and assembled a planning committee, on February 13, 2023. A planning activity was incorporated for each committee member to identify and rank a list of their top ten desired park amenities. This information was then tallied and ranked using a weighted scoring system. The results were then used for amenities to be included with public engagement activities and the 2023 Aboite Community Survey questionnaire to later be used in the development of the needs analysis. The results of the committee's top ten amenities include the following amenities:

#1) Baseball/Softball
#2) Restrooms
#3) Pickleball
#4) Lacrosse/Soccer Fields (rectangular fields)
#5) Trails
#6) Splashpad
#7) Community Venue/Event Focal Point
#8) Concession Stand/Frisbee Golf (tie)
#9) Playground Upgrades
#10) Benches/Seating areas

Aboite Park Committee Top 10 Rank		
PARK ACTIVITY	SCORE	RANK
Baseball /Softball Fields	59	1
Restrooms	50	2
Pickleball	49	3
Lacrosse/Soccer (Rect Fields)	48	4
Trails	47	5
Splashpad	32	6
Community Venue / Event Focal Point	30	7
Concession Stand	24	8
Frisbee golf	24	8
Playground Upgrades	22	9
Benches/Seating Areas	17	10
Drinking Fountains	16	11
Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	15	12
Sledding Hill	12	13
Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	8	14
Stocked Fishing Pond	8	14
Driving Range	7	15
Landscaping/Beautification	6	16
Veterans Memorial	2	17
(9 Responses)		

Table 17: Committee Top 10 Amenities

Other amenities scored included Drinking Fountains, Cornhole /Multi-purpose Venue, Sledding Hill, Fitness Trail/ Trail connections, Fishing Pond, Driving Range, Landscaping & Beautification and Veterans Memorial.

4.3 Public Participation Meeting

The Aboite Park Planning Committee chose to host a public meeting prior to disseminating the 2023 Community survey. The intent was to inform the community of the park study, the board's goals and mission, and provide an opportunity to glean additional feedback through focus group discussions. This strategy helped to refine the focal point used to develop the 2023 Community Survey to better understand public perceptions and needs at Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Parks, and to determine the support future park development. The focus groups also provided an opportunity for two-way communication with the community, to brainstorm ideas, and to direct future recreational decisions.

April 18, 2023, Public Meeting & Focus Groups

Note: A copy of both surveys is provided in Appendix A; Public meeting minutes and public comments are in Appendix B; media releases are in Appendix C; Resolutions and ADA Transition Documentation are found in Appendix D; and Parks Maintenance Schedules are found in Appendix E.

The first public participation meeting was held at 6:30 PM on April 18, 2023, at the Aboite Township Community Room. There was a robust turnout with 74 attendees that included six members of the Aboite Park Board and Planning Committee, and two consultants from NIRCC. In addition, Wane TV Channel 15 provided news coverage and Channel 21 provided a website news release. Comment sheets were distributed at the entry table and on chairs, a PowerPoint presentation provided an overview the Park Board's goals and objectives, an analysis of the 2022 Pre-Survey, budget and demographic information, the planning timeline, previous efforts, and a review of a Van Hoozen Sports Complex schematic that was created under the previous park board in November 2021. The public participation meeting materials and minutes are provided in Appendix B.

April 18, 2023, Public Meeting & Focus Groups

4.3.1 Community Breakout Discussion Session

Following the initial presentation, a breakout discussion group was provided to ask three focused questions developed by the park planning committee and implemented by designated group discussion leaders. A tally of community responses and questions are provided below:

<u>Question 1 Responses</u>: What new developments will best meet immediate park needs?

- Additional Baseball and Softball Fields (sports complex)
    - Special mention of a need for T-ball fields for younger children
    - Special mention of a lack of seating at ballfields
    - Special mention of a lack of softball practice space
- Oversight and access to existing fields in reference to the Indian Trails ballfields
- Concessions/Restrooms needed at both Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Parks
- Parking is needed at Van Hoozen
- More and "wider" trails are needed (special mention along Aboite Center Road)
- Better directional signage to point out park amenities.
- More Pickleball Courts
- Lighting at existing ballfields to increase useable hours for access.
- Playground improvements (special mention of fencing and maintenance)
    - Special mention of Indian Trails playground ADA updates and connectivity
- Splash Pad Development in vacant areas at Indian Trail Park

- Address drainage issues at football fields and soccer fields at Indiana Trails
- Indian Trails ADA updates and trail connectivity

Question 2 Responses: Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

- New Parcel of land for future park development
- Sports Complex which could include BB, SB, and Rectangular Sports Fields
- Adding a trail around Van Hoozen Sports Complex
- Fencing around playground area at Van Hoozen (for barrier of safety where closer to roadway)
- More cloverleaf ballfields
- Concessions/Restroom facilities (and access to restrooms)
- Incorporating multi-use facilities
- Additional programming

Question 3 Responses: What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks?

- Leverage current assets to create events and implement revenue generating items such as concessions to fund future Aboite Township initiatives.
- A focal point at the park to include intentional landscaping, natural aspects, and areas for programming such as initiating farmers market in pavilions or conduct cornhole tournaments.

After a brief follow-up to convey the group findings, each attendee was then provided increments of play money to place into labeled tubs of desired amenities to determine the community "buy-in" of park improvements. Comment sheets were then gathered and a brief online questionnaire QR code was provided to assess the quality of the public participation meeting. Responses are provided in Appendix B.

4.3.2 Buy-in Bucks Activity

A second community activity included "Buy-in Bucks" to determine the level of financial commitment for a variety of 15 park improvement options. Each person was provided four (4) bills totaling $180 dollars ($100, $50, $20, $10). Community members were then asked to place bills in labeled tubs to represent activities they would prefer local dollars to be used as (from amenities identified from previous polling). This activity helped to establish the public "buy in" of desired park activities. As can be seen by the adjacent Table 18, the baseball/softball fields were ranked the highest park amenity to invest in over the next five years. Pickleball, concessions/restrooms were also of high importance to community members. The amenities that did not receive public buy-in included a driving range, cornhole, sledding hill and stocked fishing pond.

4-18-23 PUBLIC MEETING BUY-IN BUCKS ACTIVITY		
Rank	DESCRIPTION	$$ Results
1	Baseball /Softball Fields	$ 6,120
2	Pickleball	$ 1,040
3	Concessions/Restrooms	$ 740
4	Playground Upgrades	$ 620
5	Trails	$ 440
6	Splashpad	$ 200
7	Lacrosse/Soccer Fields	$ 180
8	Community Venue / Event Focal Point	$ 160
9	Frisbee golf	$ 80
10	Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	$ 60
10	Skatepark	$ 60
11	Veterans Memorial	$ 50
12	Driving Range	$ 40
13	Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	$ 20
14	Sledding Hill	$ 10
15	Stocked Fishing Pond	$ -

Table 18: Public Buy-In Bucks Activity Ranking

4.4 2023 Community Survey

Two surveys were made available to the public: The 2022 Pre-Survey and the 2023 Community Survey: Both surveys were available to adults and area youth. Below is a summary of results for the 2023 Community Survey.

To gather the interest in the Aboite Township parks and determine the desires for the existing park system, a 2023 public survey was created and made available online through a SurveyMonkey questionnaire. The survey opened June 13, 2023, and closed July 28, 2023. A press release was provided to local newspapers and posted on the Aboite Township and Ball League websites. Signage was distributed throughout the park and brochures posted on community bulletin boards. In addition, email announcements with survey links were sent to local housing authorities and shared on Aboite Township social media sites.

These efforts garnered 405 survey responses by individuals ranging in ages from under 18 years old to over 65 years old. All surveys were completed online utilizing SurveyMonkey. Most survey respondents were in the age range of 35 – 44 years old (46.04%). This is the age at which there are typically children living at home and respondents were likely considering their children's recreational needs as well as their own. It was also noted that most survey respondents were park users, as 98% of respondents said that outdoor recreation was" very important" or "important" to them.

The full results of both surveys can be found in Appendix A.

2023 Aboite Township Community Parks Survey Results

Summary of findings: 405 *Responses* *(Note: The Pre-Survey received 475 Responses)*

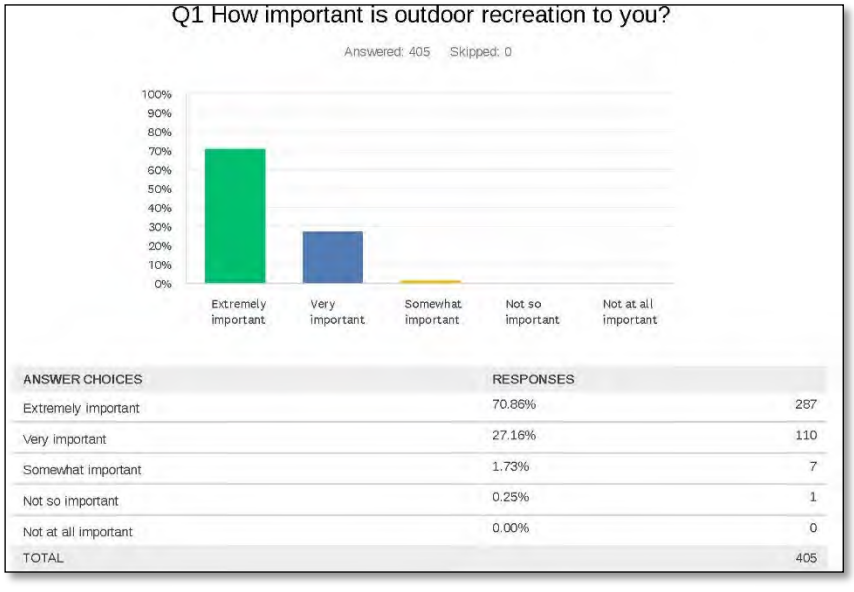
Q1). How Important is outdoor Recreation to you?

Very Important/Important Recreation Responses:

- A total of 98% of respondents say that outdoor recreation is "Extremely Important" (70.9%) or "Very Important" (27.2%)

Somewhat Important/Not so Important Recreation Responses:

- A total of 2% of respondents say outdoor recreation is Somewhat Important (1.7%) or Not so Important (0.25%).

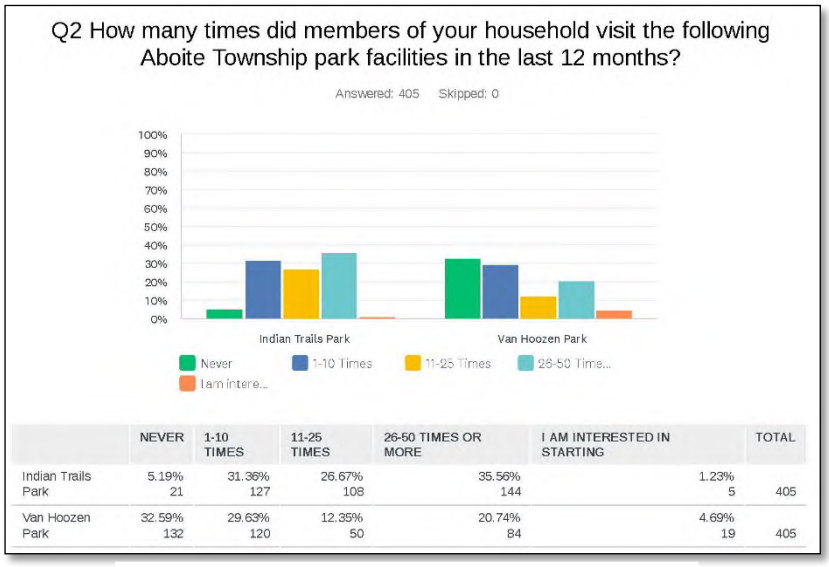


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	70.86%	287
Very important	27.16%	110
Somewhat important	1.73%	7
Not so important	0.25%	1
Not at all important	0.00%	0
TOTAL		405

Figure 41: Importance of Recreation

Q2). How many times did members of your household visit the following Aboite Township Parks in the last 12 months?

- **Indian Trails Park:** 36% attend 26-50 times or more; 31% attend 1-10 times; 27% attend 11-25 times (94% Used Indian Trails in last 12 month)
- **Indian Trails Park**: 6.4% of respondents have never attended Indian Trails (But 1.2% are interested)
- **Van Hoozen Park:** 30% attend 1-10 times; 21% attend 25-50 times or more;12 % Used 11-25 times (63% used in last 12 months).
- **Van Hoozen Park:** 37.3 % of Respondents have never attended Van Hoozen Park (But 5% are interested)



	NEVER	1-10 TIMES	11-25 TIMES	26-50 TIMES OR MORE	I AM INTERESTED IN STARTING	TOTAL
Indian Trails Park	5.19% 21	31.36% 127	26.67% 108	35.56% 144	1.23% 5	405
Van Hoozen Park	32.59% 132	29.63% 120	12.35% 50	20.74% 84	4.69% 19	405

Figure 42 Park Usage in last 12 Months

(Note – 2022 pre-survey showed 54% attended parks 1-2x a week, 33 % used 1-2x a month, and 10% 1-2x a year (98% use parks)

Q3). How often do you or members of your household use or visit the following recreational facilities:

Most Used Facilities – Trail at Indian Trails Park (83% use) Note: 2022 Pre-survey had 71% use of trails

Least Used Facilities – Volleyball/Sandlot Area (74.8% don't use)

Most Used Amenities: (405 Responses)

1. Indian Trails Trailway (83% visited)
2. Playground Area / Indian Trails (77%)
3. Open Air Pavilions (61%)
4. Baseball/Softball Fields (59%)

Never used Amenities:

1. Volleyball/Sandlot – Indian Trails (75%)
2. Football Area/Indian Trails (69%)
3. Soccer/Lacrosse Fields (66%)
4. Pickleball Courts (65%)

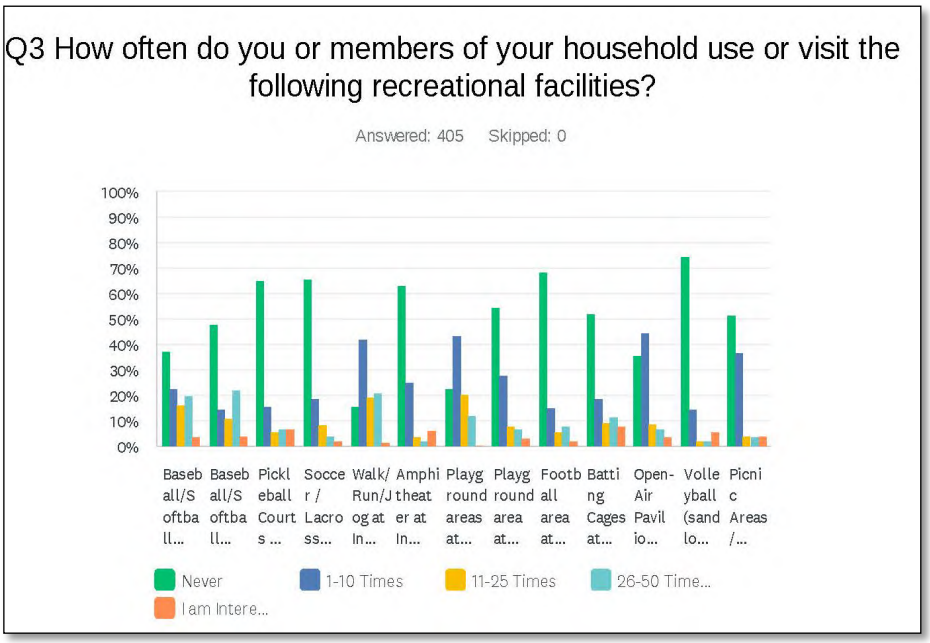


Figure 43: Aboite Township Park Usage by Amenity

Q4). How important is it to add the following amenities to Aboite township Parks (405 Responses)

Very Important Amenities to Add to Parks:

1. Baseball/Softball (71%)
2. Restrooms/Concessions (60%)
3. Trails & Trail Connectors (52%)
4. Playground Areas/New Equipment (42%)

Not Important Amenities to Add to Parks:

1. Corn Hole (55%)
2. Disc Golf (48%)
3. Driving Range (47%)
4. Pickleball Courts (44%)

Not Wanted Added to Park:

1. Driving Range (17%)
2. Dog Park (15%)
3. Corn Hole/Disc Golf (Tied@12%)

Q5). Are there other activities not listed above that you would like to see added to the parks?
(See individual responses in Appendix A)

Q6). Thinking of Indian Trails Park, how do you rate the following? (405 Responses)

Indian Trails Park - Excellent Ratings:

1. Playground (20%)
2. Indian Trails Pickleball Courts (20%)
3. General Atmosphere (16%)

Indian Trails Park - Below Average Rating:

1. Baseball Fields (13%)
2. Soccer/Lacrosse (10%)
3. Amphitheater (7%)

Q7). Thinking of Van Hoozen Park, how do you rate the following? (405 Responses)

Van Hoozen Park - Excellent Ratings:

1. Park Safety (8%)
2. Softball Diamonds (4%)
3. Landscaping/Atmosphere (4%)

Van Hoozen Park - Below Average Ratings:

1. Playground (25%)
2. Parking (24%),
3. Softball Diamonds (14%)

Q8). If you rated something below average, please tell us why (See individual responses in Appendix A)

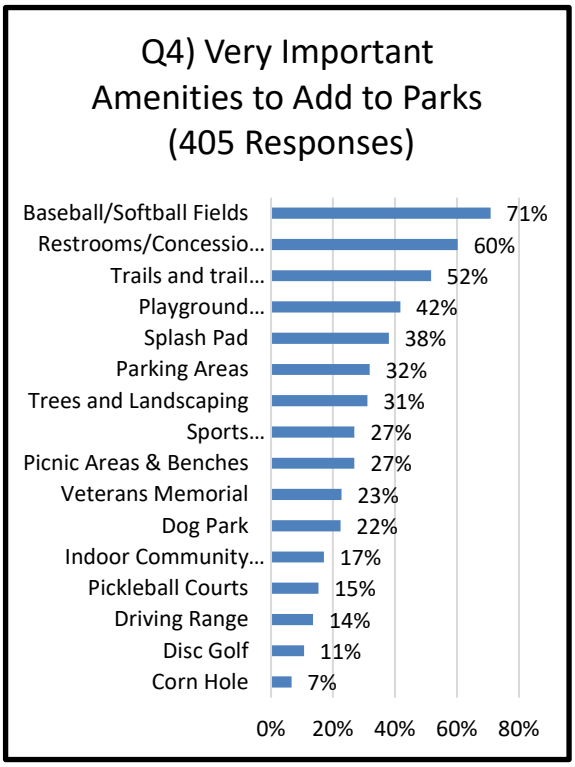


Figure 44: Aboite Township Important Park Amenities to Add

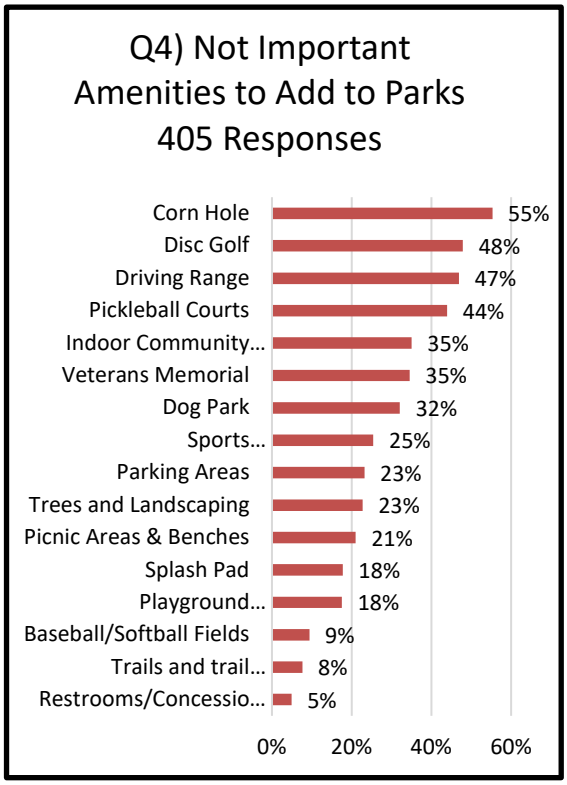


Figure 45: Aboite Township Not Important Amenities to Add

Q9). Would you be interested in participating in park programs if they were offered?
(405 Responses)

1. Yes - Interested (45%)
2. Maybe, depending on activity (54%)
3. No - Not Interested (7%)

Q10). If you answered "yes" or "maybe" to the question above, what programs would you like to see offered?

Various answers included: Senior programs, pickleball tournaments and/or training, fitness programs, educational programs, picnics, youth sport camps and tournaments (271 answers provided in Appendix A).

Q11). Do you have additional comments regarding any of the parks in Aboite Township? (240 Responses)

Various answers included: Fix drainage issues at rugby fields (Indian Trails), better advertising of community events, additional parking, more softball fields at Van Hoozen Park, park benches along trails, (many requests for baseball/softball fields), walking pathways to athletic fields, arts and science activities, etc. (Answers provided in Appendix A).

Q12). What barriers exist to keep you from enjoying Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Facilities (check all that apply) (309 Responses)

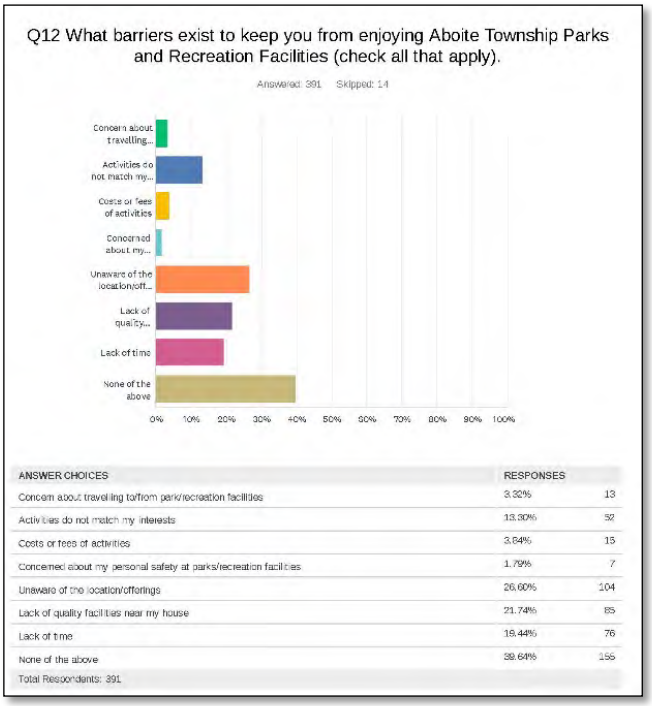
1. None of the above (40%)
2. Unaware of location/offerings (27%)
3. Lack of quality facilities near my house (22%)
4. Lack of time (20%)

Q13). How far do you typically travel to participate in most recreational activities? (405 Responses)

1. 5-10 miles (42%)
2. Under 5 miles (38%)
3. 10-20 miles (15%)
4. Over 20 miles (5%)

Q14). Who do you normally visit the parks with? (check all that apply) (404 Responses)

1. Children (80%)
2. Spouse, significant other, other family (70%)
3. Ball Clubs/Leagues (58%)
4. Friends (36%)
5. By Yourself (24%)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Concern about travelling to/from park/recreation facilities	3.32%	13
Activities do not match my interests	13.30%	52
Costs or fees of activities	3.84%	15
Concerned about my personal safety at parks/recreation facilities	1.79%	7
Unaware of the location/offerings	26.60%	104
Lack of quality facilities near my house	21.74%	85
Lack of time	19.44%	76
None of the above	39.64%	155
Total Respondents: 391		

Figure 46: Barriers to Park Activities

Q15). Which best describes how you travel to Aboite Township Parks? (check all that apply)
(405 Responses)

1. Drive (95%)
2. Bike (31%)
3. Jog/Run (16%)
4. Other (4%)

Q16). What best describes where you live?
(405 Responses)

1. Aboite Township (87%)
2. Fort Wayne (11%)
3. Outside Aboite Township but within Allen County (4%)
4. Nearby Township (Lake Township or Wayne Township) (2%)

*(Presurvey: 92% of Respondents lived within Aboite Township)

Q17). Which statement best explains why you visit local parks (Please check at least one answer)
(405 Responses)

1. Provide activities for children (78%)
2. To Exercise/ physical activity (77%)
3. To be with family/friends (47%)
4. To be close to nature (33%)
5. To experience excitement/adventure (21%)

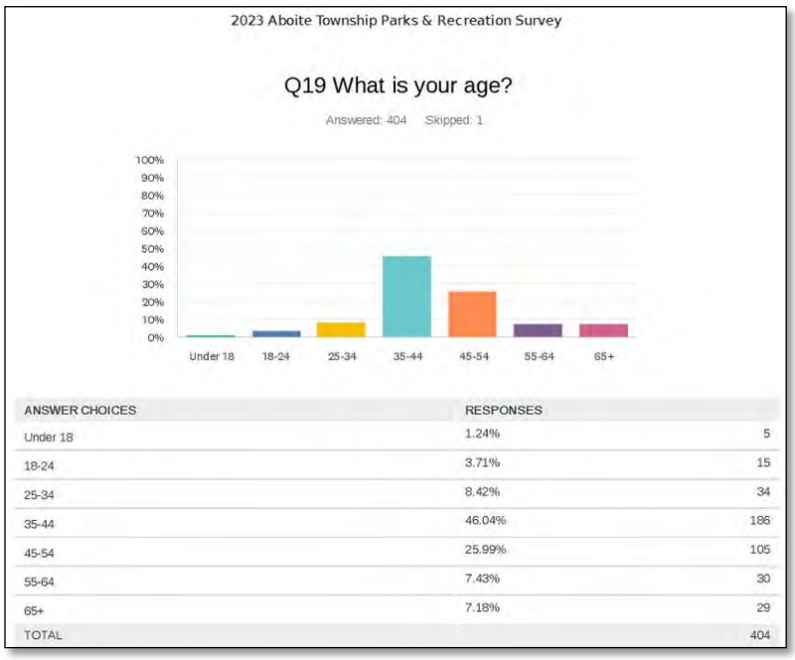
Q18). Which answer best describes your level of satisfaction with recreational programs and facilities offered in Aboite Township: (403 Responses)

1. Satisfied (45%)
2. Somewhat unsatisfied (40%)
3. Very Satisfied (7%)
4. Very Unsatisfied (6%)
5. None of the Above (3%)

Q19). What is your age? (404 Responses)

1. 35-44 (46%)
2. 45-64 (26%)
3. 25-34 (8%)
4. 55-64 (7%)
5. 65+ (7%)
6. 18-24 (4%)
7. Under 18 (1%)

*Note: 2023 survey had 5 respondents under the age 18 – (2022 Pre-Survey had approx. 180 school-aged students but ages all ages were polled).



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.24%	5
18-24	3.71%	15
25-34	8.42%	34
35-44	46.04%	186
45-54	25.99%	105
55-64	7.43%	30
65+	7.18%	29
TOTAL		404

Figure 47: Age of Respondents

Q20). How many people live you're your household? (403 Responses)

1. 81% of households had 2 adults
2. 34% of households had 2 children
3. 28% of households had 3 children.
4. 9% of households had 3 Adults
5. 9% respondents had no children
6. 4% of respondents had 6 or more children

Q21). Are you willing to volunteer your time or skills at the parks?

1. 30% are interested in volunteering.
2. 70% are not interested in volunteering.
3. Other: (46.5%) - most said N/A, not interested (Note – Some are interested in coaching and helping with leagues. Some responded an interest in helping marketing and fundraising. This information and areas of interests were provided to the park board (however, due to confidentiality, are not included with the survey results in Appendix A

See Public Survey Results in Appendix A (excluding volunteer personal contact information).

4.4.1 SCORP Statewide Survey (2017-2018)

In addition, the Indiana SCORP park survey was reviewed to evaluate and compare the views and perspectives of persons throughout the state. The SCORP survey included roughly .1% of Indiana's 6.7 million Hoosiers (response rate of 6,700 respondents from all 92 Counties). The top five outdoor recreation activities participated in more than once per week by the survey respondent and/or by others in the household (if Mountain Biking were not included as part of Bicycling).

The top 15 recreational activities included:

1. **Walking/Hiking/Jogging/Running (49%)**
2. Relaxation/Spiritual Renewal (19.6%)
3. Gardening/Landscaping (16%)
4. Bird/Wildlife Watching (12%)
5. Health-Related Activities (Exercise, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, etc.) (11%)
6. Bicycle Touring (11%).
7. Disc Golf
8. **Spectator Sports (baseball, football, soccer, etc.)**
9. **Playground Use**
10. Outdoor Pools/Swimming or Water Parks
11. Fall foliage viewing
12. Family/Friends/Group outdoor gatherings
13. Outdoor Photography
14. Playing Basketball
15. **Playing Baseball/softball**

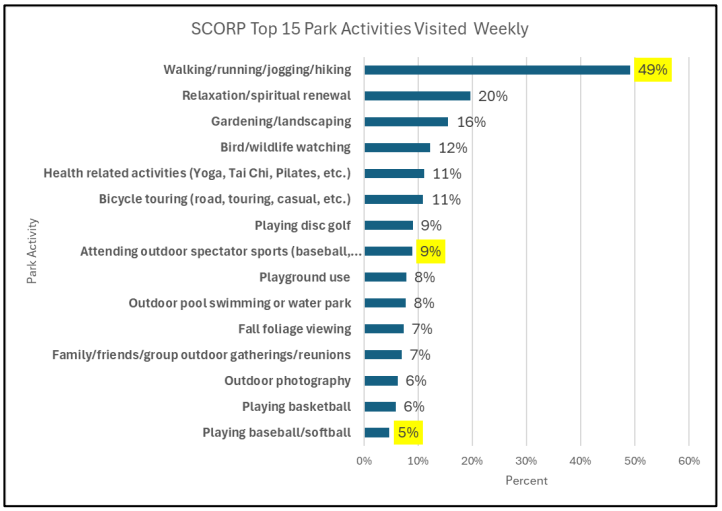


Figure 48: SCORP Activities Usage Comparison

4.4.2 Aboite Township Park Usage Comparison

By comparison, Aboite Township's most used park activities are used from 1-10 times, 11-25 times, or 26-50 times annually as outlined below and shown in Fig. 49 (405 Responses).

Trail usage is a popular activity that is used frequently by both state and local parks.

1**. Walk/Run/Jog at Indian Trails**

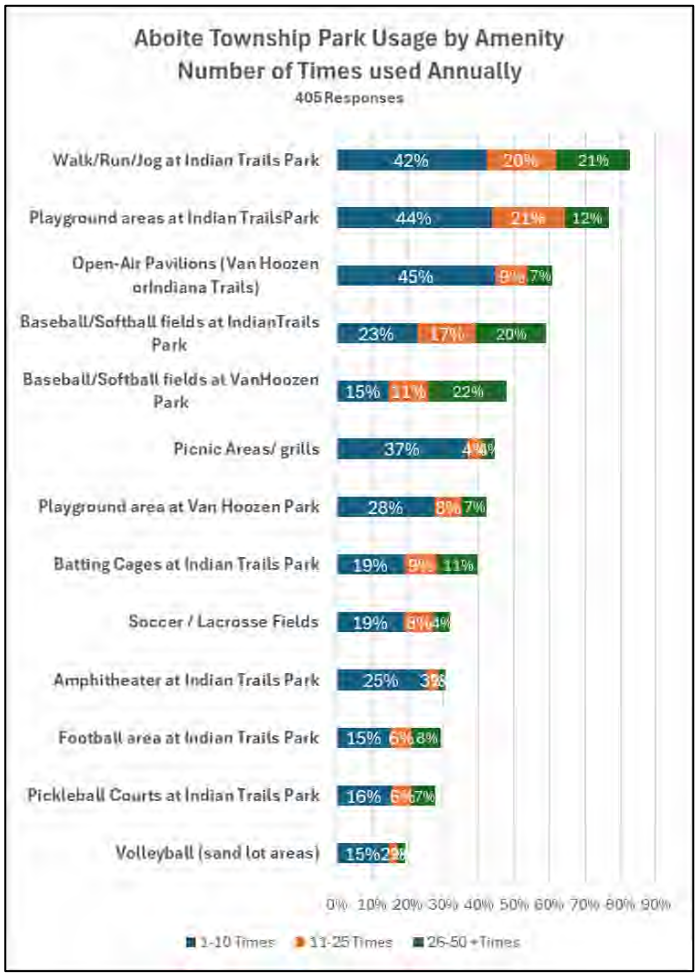


Figure 49: Aboite Township Park Activities Annual Usage Comparison

2. **Playground Areas/Indian Trails**
3. Pavilion Usage
4. **Baseball/Softball Fields (Indian Trails & Van Hoozen Parks)**
5. Picnic Areas/Grills
6. Batting Cages
7. Soccer/Lacrosse Fields
8. Amphitheatre used at Indian Trails Park
9. Football Areas/Indian Trails Park
10. *Pickleball Courts/Indian Trails Park
11. Vollyball Courts/Indian Trails Park

** Note: Pickleball court usage may have been impacted by the 6-17-22 derecho storm that damaged pickleball fencing that had to be replaced during the summer of 2022.*

(See Figure 49)

4.5 Analysis

After examining the results of the public meeting and surveys, the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board gleaned vital information to improve the parks system to benefit and meet the needs and desires of the residents of Aboite Township. The following subsections will outline the main points gathered from the public as well as the priorities as measured by the ATPRB.

4.5.1 Public Perception, Needs, and Wants

A weighted point system was used to score and rank the activities gathered throughout the study. The list of the top-ranking park amenities and community priorities is provided in the Table 19 below:

ABOITE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS PRIORITY LIST										
2022-2023 COMBINED SCORED WORKSHEET										
PARK ACTIVITY/AMENITY		Q4. 2022 PRE-SURVEY NEEDED PARK ACTIVITIES		SURVEY "VERY IMPORTANT AMENITES TO		PUBLIC MEETING "BUY IN BUCKS" ACTIVITY		COMMITTEE INDIVIDUAL PRIORITY RANK		WEIGHTED SCORE
RANK	DESCRIPTION	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	# POINTS
#1	Baseball /Softball Fields	1	10	1	10	1	10	1	10	40.0
#2	Concessions/Restrooms	2	9	2	9	3	8	2	9	35.0
#3	Trails	2	9	3	8	5	6	5	6	29.0
#4	Pickleball	4	7	13	0.13	2	9	3	8	24.1
#5	Community Venue / Event Focal Point	1	10	12	0.25	8	3	7	4	17.3
#6	Playground Upgrades (Tie)	0	0	4	7	4	7	9	2	16.0
#6	Splashpad (Tie)	0	0	5	6	6	5	6	5	16.0
#7	Lacrosse/Soccer (Rect. Fields) (Tie)	0	0	9	2	7	4	4	7	13.0
#7	Landscaping/Beautification (Tie)	3	8	7	4	0	0	10	1	13.0
#8	Frisbee Golf (Tie)	0	0	15	0	9	2	8	3	5.0
#8	Parking Areas (Tie)	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	5.0
#9	Stocked Fishing Pond	0	0	0	0	15	0	8	3	3.0
#10	Veterans Memorial	0	0	10	1	11	0.5	17	0	1.5
#11	Fitness Trail & Trail Connections (Tie)	0	0	0	0	10	1	14	0	1.0
#11	Skatepark (Tie)	0	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	1.0
#12	Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	0	0	16	0	13	0.1	12	0.3	0.4
#13	Driving Range	0	0	14	0	12	0.3	15	0	0.3
#14	Sledding Hill	0	0	0	0	14	0	13	0.13	0.1

Table 19: Combined Scored Ranking Sheet

4.6 Priorities

A committee meeting was held October 17, 2023, where the results of the Combined Scored Ranking worksheet were discussed and analyzed. It was determined that the culmination of top amenities from all activities should be compiled into a prioritization list for the Planning Committee to further develop the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule. During the meeting the committee discussed possible funding mechanisms to develop the amenities that are desired by the community, and administrative needs to be conducted over the next five years. All top-ranking amenities were added to flip charts and the committee ranked each amenity based on a three-tiered priority system. The results were reviewed and prioritized to assist with the action Items to be conducted over the next five years. This list is provided in section 5.1. The Combined Community Surveys and Activities are ranked in the Table and Chart below.

PRIORITIZATION RESULTS: COMBINED COMMUNITY SURVEYS & ACTIVITIES

Top Amenity Ranking Combined Surveys & Community Activities		
Park Activity	Score	Rank
Baseball /Softball Fields	40.0	1
Concessions/Restrooms	35.0	2
Trails	29.0	3
Pickleball	24.1	4
Community Venue / Event Focal Point	17.3	5
Playground Upgrades	16.0	6
Splashpad	16.0	6
Lacrosse/Soccer (Rect. Fields)	13.0	7
Landscaping/Beautification	13.0	7
Frisbee golf	5.0	8
Parking Areas	5.0	8
Stocked Fishing Pond	3.0	9
Veterans Memorial	1.5	10
Skatepark	1.0	11
Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	1.0	11
Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	0.4	12
Driving Range	0.3	13
Sledding Hill	0.1	14

Table 20: Top Amenity Combined Ranking

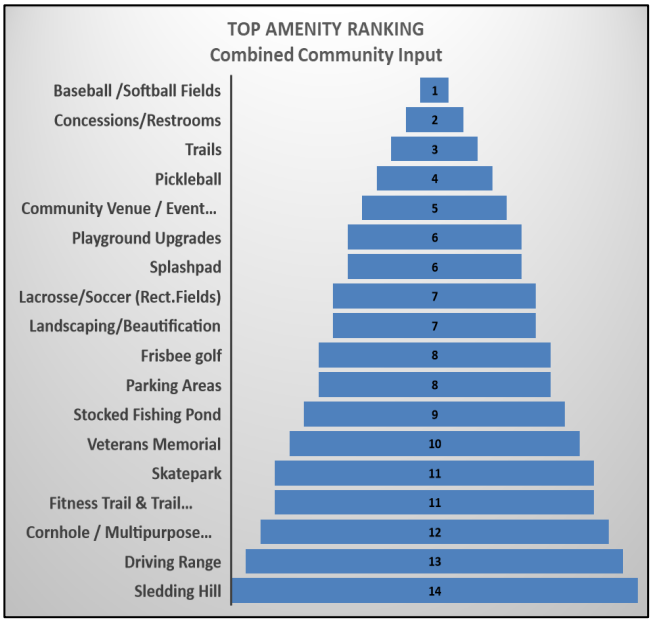


Figure 50: Top Amenity Combined Ranking Chart

4.7 Engineering Concepts and Probable Costs

To determine the Action Plan Items and an Implementation Schedule, the park board received an engineering proposal for the development of schematics and probable costs to include prioritized amenities identified throughout the planning process. The completed park schematics and cost estimates were provided to the Park Board on October 12, 2023, to assist with the development of the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule. Schematics of Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Parks along with itemized budgets can be reviewed in the following pages with corresponding budgets and cost projections. These concepts and cost estimates were discussed at a park committee meeting on October 17, 2023.

2023 Van Hoozen Park Improvements Concept

Figure 51: Van Hoozen Park Improvements Schematic

2023 Van Hoozen Park Improvements Budget

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

VAN HOOZEN PARK

OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

October 13, 2023

	SUMMARY	Amount
100	GENERAL	$26,700
200	SITE DEMOLITION	$50,000
300	HARDSCAPING / SITE AMENITY	$549,250
400	BALLFIELD AMMENITIES	$624,160
500	LACROSSE FIELD AMENITIES	$9,000
600	LANDSCAPING	$8,800
700	EARTHWORK	$355,000
800	SITE UTILITIES	$622,500
900	CONCESSION/RESTROOM BUILDING	$200,000
	SUBTOTAL	$2,445,410
	+5% General Conditions	$122,271
	+20% Design Contingency and Allowance	$489,082
	+6% Design Fee	$146,725
	TOTAL	**$3,203,487**

NOTES:

1. Excludes Soil Stabilization Measures/ Unsuitable Soil
2. Assuming (1) Project
3. No Signage
4. No Irrigation
5. No Sound System
6. No Press Box
7. Assuming Earthwork Balance on-site.

ENGINEERING RESOURCES, INC.

Table 21: Van Hoozen Park Improvements Budget Summary

Cost Breakdown
Van Hoozen Park

#	DESCRIPTION	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Amount
100	**GENERAL**				
101	SITE BOUNDARY & TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
102	GEOTECHNICAL	1	LS	$5,000.00	$5,000.00
103	DEVELOPMENT PLAN PERMIT/FEES	1	LS	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
104	BUILDING PERMIT/FEES	1	LS	$500.00	$500.00
105	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
106	RULE 5 EROSION CONTROL PERMIT	1	LS	$200.00	$200.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$26,700.00**
200	**DEMOLITION**				
201	EXISTING DEMOLITION SITE FEATURES	1	LS	$50,000.00	$50,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$50,000**
300	**HARDSCAPING / SITE AMENITY**				
301	PARKING LOT PAVEMENT - ASPHALT	6,200	SY	$45.00	$279,000.00
302	TRAIL PAVEMENT - ASPHALT	6,000	SY	$35.00	$210,000.00
303	CONCRETE PAVEMENT	530	SY	$75.00	$39,750.00
304	PAVEMENT MARKING STRIPING	1	LS	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
305	BENCHES INCLUDING CONCRETE PAD	7	EA	$2,500.00	$17,500.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$549,250**
400	**BALLFIELD AMMENITIES**				
401	INFIELD DIRT	5,500	SY	$15.00	$82,500.00
402	6' CHAIN-LINK FENCE	3,165	LF	$40.00	$126,600.00
403	CHAIN-LINK GATE	8	EA	$500.00	$4,000.00
404	SCOREBOARD	4	EA	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
405	BASES	16	LS	$50.00	$800.00
406	BACKSTOP NET SYSTEM (265' DIAMOND)	1	EA	$30,000.00	$30,000.00
407	BACKSTOP NET SYSTEM (200' DIAMOND)	3	EA	$20,000.00	$60,000.00
408	BASEBALL FOUL POLE	8	EA	$1,850.00	$14,800.00
409	DUGOUTS	8	EA	$20,000.00	$160,000.00
410	BACKSTOP WALL FOR DIAMONDS	4	EA	$12,000.00	$48,000.00
411	BATTING CAGE (PAIR)	1	EA	$15,000.00	$15,000.00
412	FENCE CAP	1,615	LF	$4.00	$6,460.00
413	BLEACHERS	8	EA	$7,000.00	$56,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$624,160.00**
500	**LACROSSE FIELDS AMMENITIES**				
501	LACROSSE GOALS	4	EA	$2,000.00	$8,000.00
502	FIELD STRIPING	1	LS	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$9,000.00**
600	**LANDSCAPING**				
601	SHADE TREE	16	EA	$550.00	$8,800.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$8,800.00**
700	**EARTHWORK**				
801	COMMON EXCAVATION	44,000	CY	$5.00	$220,000.00
802	SEEDING	8	AC	$5,000.00	$40,000.00
803	EROSION CONTROL	1	LS	$25,000.00	$25,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$285,000.00**
800	**SITE UTILITIES**				
801	STORM SYSTEM (PIPES, STRUCTURES & DETENTION)	1	LS	$200,000.00	$200,000.00
802	SUBDRAIN FOR BASEBALL FIELDS	7,500	LF	$15.00	$112,500.00
803	STORMWATER QUALITY UNIT	1	EA	$20,000.00	$20,000.00
804	CONCESSION BUILDING UTILITIES	1	LS	$60,000.00	$60,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$392,500.00**
900	**CONCESSION BUILDING**				
1001	CONCESSION BUILDING ALLOWANCE	800	SF	$250.00	$200,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$200,000.00**

Table 22: Van Hoozen Park Improvements Itemized Budget

2023 Indian Trails Park Improvement Concept

Figure 52: Indian Trails Park Improvements Schematic

2023 Indian Trails Park Improvement Budget Summary

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

INDIAN TRAILS PARK

OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

October 13, 2023

	SUMMARY	Amount
100	GENERAL	$26,700
200	HARDSCAPING	$363,625
300	BALLFIELD AMMENITIES	$624,160
400	PICKLEBALL COURT AMMENITIES	$317,400
500	SOCCER/LACROSSE FIELD AMMENITIES	$7,500
600	LANDSCAPING	$29,150
700	EARTHWORK	$285,000
800	SITE UTILITIES	$392,500
900	CONCESSION/RESTROOM BUILDING	$200,000
	SUBTOTAL	$2,246,035
	+5% General Conditions	$112,302
	+20% Design Contingency and Allowance	$449,207
	+6% Design Fee	$134,762
	TOTAL	**$2,942,306**

NOTES:

1. Excludes Soil Stabilization Measures/ Unsuitable Soil
2. Assuming (1) Project
3. No Signage
4. No Irrigation
5. No Sound System
6. No Press Box
7. Assuming Earthwork Balance on-site.

ENGINEERING RESOURCES, INC.

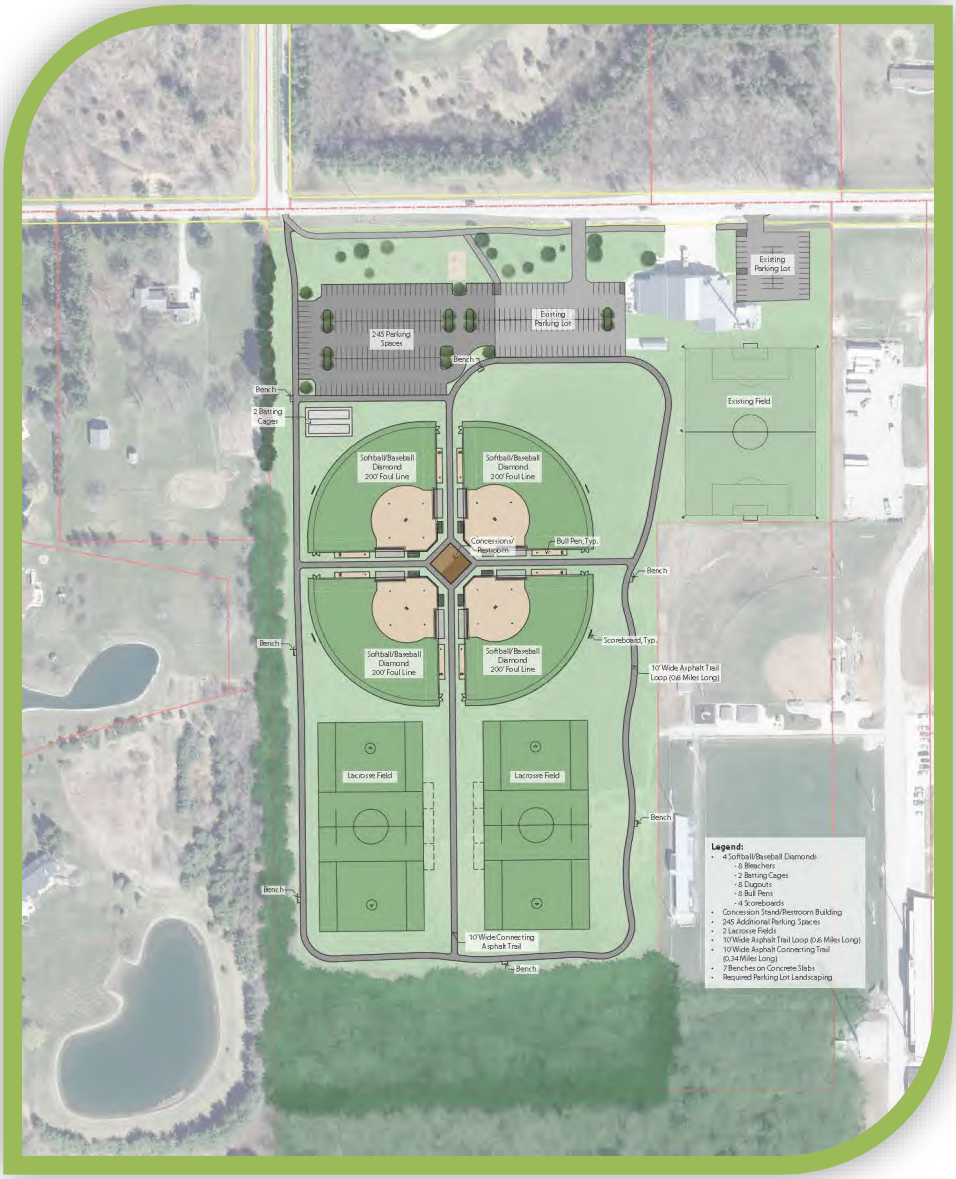
Table 23: Indian Trails Park Improvements Budget Summary

Cost Breakdown
Indian Trails Park

#	DESCRIPTION	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Amount
100	**GENERAL**				
101	SITE BOUNDARY & TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
102	GEOTECHNICAL	1	LS	$5,000.00	$5,000.00
103	DEVELOPMENT PLAN PERMIT/FEES	1	LS	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
104	BUILDING PERMIT/FEES	1	LS	$500.00	$500.00
105	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	1	LS	$10,000.00	$10,000.00
106	RULE 5 EROSION CONTROL PERMIT	1	LS	$200.00	$200.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$26,700.00**
200	**HARDSCAPING**				
201	PARKING LOT PAVEMENT - ASPHALT	4,750	SY	$45.00	$213,750.00
202	TRAIL PAVEMENT - ASPHALT	2,750	SY	$35.00	$96,250.00
203	CONCRETE PAVEMENT	675	SY	$75.00	$50,625.00
204	PAVEMENT MARKING FOR PARKING LOTS	1	LS	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$363,625**
300	**BALLFIELD AMMENITIES**				
301	INFIELD DIRT	5,500	SY	$15.00	$82,500.00
302	6' TALL CHAIN-LINK FENCE	3,165	LF	$40.00	$126,600.00
303	CHAIN-LINK GATE	8	EA	$500.00	$4,000.00
304	SCOREBOARD	4	EA	$5,000.00	$20,000.00
305	BASES	16	LS	$50.00	$800.00
306	BACKSTOP NET SYSTEM (265' DIAMOND)	1	EA	$30,000.00	$30,000.00
307	BACKSTOP NET SYSTEM (200' DIAMOND)	3	EA	$20,000.00	$60,000.00
308	FOUL POLE	8	EA	$1,850.00	$14,800.00
309	DUGOUTS	8	EA	$20,000.00	$160,000.00
310	BACKSTOP WALL FOR DIAMONDS	4	EA	$12,000.00	$48,000.00
311	BATTING CAGE (PAIR)	1	EA	$15,000.00	$15,000.00
312	FENCE CAP	1,615	LF	$4.00	$6,460.00
313	BLEACHERS	8	EA	$7,000.00	$56,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$624,160.00**
400	**PICKLEBALL COURT AMMENITIES**				
401	8' TALL CHAIN-LINK FENCE	680	LF	$55.00	$37,400.00
402	ASPHALT WITH COATING	2,100	SY	$90.00	$189,000.00
403	NET SYSTEM	8	EA	$3,000.00	$24,000.00
404	PAVEMENT STRIPING	1	LS	$2,000.00	$2,000.00
405	LIGHTING FOR EXISTING AND NEW COURTS	1	LS	$65,000.00	$65,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$317,400.00**
500	**SOCCER/LACROSSE FIELD AMMENITIES**				
501	SOCCER GOALS (PAIR)	1	EA	$4,500.00	$4,500.00
502	LACROSSE GOALS (PAIR)	1	EA	$2,000.00	$2,000.00
503	FIELD STRIPING	1	LS	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$7,500.00**
600	**LANDSCAPING**				
601	SHADE TREE	45	EA	$550.00	$24,750.00
602	ORNAMENTAL TREE	4	EA	$500.00	$2,000.00
603	SHRUBS	40	EA	$60.00	$2,400.00
				SUBTOTAL >	**$29,150.00**

Table 24: Indian Trails Park Improvements Itemized Budget

ACTION PLAN


Existing Parking Lot
245 Parking Spaces
Existing Parking Lot
Bench
Bench
2 Batting Cages
Existing Field
Softball/Baseball Diamond 200' Foul Line
Softball/Baseball Diamond 200' Foul Line
Concessions/ Restrooms
Bull Pen, Typ.
Bench
Bench
Softball/Baseball Diamond 200' Foul Line
Softball/Baseball Diamond 200' Foul Line
Scoreboard, Typ.
10' Wide Asphalt Trail Loop (0.6 Miles Long)
Lacrosse Field
Lacrosse Field
Bench
Bench
10' Wide Connecting Asphalt Trail
Bench
Legend:
4 Softball/Baseball Diamonds
- 8 Bleachers
- 2 Batting Cages
- 8 Dugouts
- 8 Bull Pens
- 4 Scoreboards
Concession Stand/Restroom Building
245 Additional Parking Spaces
2 Lacrosse Fields
10' Wide Asphalt Trail Loop (0.6 Miles Long)
10' Wide Asphalt Connecting Trail (0.34 Miles Long)
7 Benches on Concrete Slabs
Required Parking Lot Landscaping

`

5.0 ACTION PLAN

5.1 Board Priorities

During an October 17, 2023, Park Board Meeting, the engineering concepts were reviewed and discussed. The concepts and budgets included many top-tiered priorities discussed throughout the planning process. The *Van Hoozen Park Master Plan* and the *Indian Trails Master Plan* renderings provides the items used in the development of the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule. Using the information from the *Combined Priority Ranking Table*, the Board, as a group, considered the desired activities and needs presented to them throughout the planning process and considered the costs to implement park activities (See Table 19: Combined Priority List of Park Improvements in Section 4.5.1).

- Priority 1: Primary Concern and feasible to implement in the next five (5) Years.
- Priority 2: Secondary concern, but feasible to implement in the next five (5) Years.
- Priority 3: May be of primary or secondary concern, but the feasibility is "questionable" to complete during the next five (5) Years.

FIVE-YEAR PARK BOARD PRIORITY LIST

Priority 1: Primary Concern and feasible to implement in the next five (5) Years.

- Baseball/Softball fields (1s Van Hoozen, 2nd Indian Trails Park)
- Trails/Walkways (Van Hoozen)
- Concessions & Restrooms (1st Van Hoozen, and 2nd Indian Trails Park)
- Landscaping/Beautification (both parks as needed)
- Lacrosse/Soccer (1st Van Hoozen, 2nd Indian Trails Park)
- Parking Areas (1st Van Hoozen, 2nd Indian Trails)
- Benches (Van Hoozen (Consider Veterans Memorial Benches)
- Trail Connections (Van Hoozen)

Priority 2: Secondary Concern, but feasible to implement in the next five (5) Years.

- Pickleball (Indian Trails Park)
- Veterans Memorial (Discussion to start a Veteran Memorial Bench Program at Van Hoozen Park)

Priority 3: May be of primary or secondary concern, but the feasibility is "questionable" to be completed during the next five (5) Years.

- Splash Pad (A splash pad is available at Buckner Park and an Indoor/Outdoor Pool is available at Jorgensen YMCA, adjacent to Indian Trails Park (Splash pad concept or budget is not included)
- Community Venue/Possible Cornhole Event (More Organizational Planning Needed)
- Fishing Pond/Sledding Hill (Site Prohibitive - Unable to complete activity at existing parks)
- Fitness Nodes (More Design Development Needed)
- Frisbee Golf or Driving Range (Site Prohibitive – Unable to complete activity at existing parks)

A volunteer list compiled through community surveys was used to establish a fundraising committee in 2024 to assist with completing park development strategies. However, implementation of various park priorities is contingent upon the success of fundraising efforts and obtaining grant funding.

5.2 Action Plan and Implementation Schedule: Capital Improvements

5.2.1 Van Hoozen Park and ADA Transition Plan Improvements: 2024-2027

The Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board has established the following activity schedule to guide future park development at Van Hoozen Park with the understanding that the ability to complete various activities outlined within the proposed schedule is contingent upon fundraising efforts and grants. The proposed years to complete and budgets are subject to change.

Table 25-A: Action Plan – Capital Improvements Years 2024-2027 (Van Hoozen Park & ADA Transition Plan)

IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS						
ACTION ITEM	2024	2025	2026	2027	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Van Hoozen Park Improvements					
Fundraising	x					LWCF Donations (D) Park Budget (PB) or other Grants (G) (and/or) Bank Finance (BF)
LWCF Application (Aug 1)	x					
General/Demolition		$ 76,700			$ 76,700	
Site Utilities		$ 311,250	$ 311,250		$ 622,500	
Cloverleaf Ball Fields w/bleachers			$ 624,160		$ 624,160	
Lacrosse Fields			$ 9,000		$ 9,000	
Concession Stand/Restrooms			$ 200,000	*Concessions in PH 2 if needed	$ 200,000	
Trails Pavement-Asphalt			$ 210,000		$ 210,000	
Concrete Pavement & Striping			$ 42,750		$ 42,750	
Parking Area Expansion			$ 279,000		$ 279,000	
Hardscaping/Site Amenities/Walkways			$ 355,000		$ 355,000	
Landscaping/Trees			$ 8,800		$ 8,800	
Benches w/concrete pad			$ 17,500		$ 17,500	
Ballfield Lighting - TBD				TBD	$ -	
Closeout LWCF				x	$ -	
Subtotal (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 387,950	$ 2,057,460	$ -	$ 2,445,410	
General Conditions, Design Conting. & Allow. + Fees	%	31%	31%	31%		
Total Construction (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 508,215	$ 2,695,273	$ -	$ 3,203,488	
Archeological Reconnaissance* if required by DNR		$ 2,500				
Environmental/ Grant Admin		$ 10,000			$ 10,000	
Legal as needed		TBD	TBD			
Total Costs (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 520,715	$ 2,695,273	$ -	$ 3,215,988	

IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS						
ACTION ITEM	2024	2025	2026	2027	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Van Hoozen & Indian Trails ADA Improvements					
*Add Firm & Stable Routes to play structures per ADA Transition Plan	$10,000				$ 10,000	PB See Funding Key
*Add ADA Picnic tables at both Parks per ADA Transition Plan				$10,000	$ 10,000	
*Add Paved ADA Route from parking lot to amphitheater per ADA Transition Plan			$10,000		$ 10,000	
*Add Firm & Stable pathways to Ballfield amenities at IT & V H Parks.		$10,000			$ 10,000	
Subtotal:	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$40,000	
TOTAL COST	$10,000	$530,715	$2,705,273	$10,000	$3,255,988	

5.2.2 Indian Trails Park and ADA Transition Plan Improvements: 2027-2029

The Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board has established the following activity schedule as a guide for future park development at Indian Trails Park with the understanding that the ability to complete various activities outlined within the proposed schedule is contingent upon fundraising efforts and grants. The proposed years to complete and budgets are subject to change.

Table 25-B: Action Plan – Capital Improvements Years 2027-2029 (Indian Trails & ADA Transition Plan)

ACTION ITEM	2027 (cont)	2028	2029	2030	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Indian Trails Park Improvements					
Fundraising	x					
LWCF Application (Aug 1)	x					
General/Earthwork/Utilities		$ 704,200			$ 704,200	
Pickleball Court Expansion			$ 317,400		$ 317,400	
Ballfield Amenities			$ 624,160	Start 2030 Park Planning Renewal	$ 624,160	LWCF Donations (D) Park Budget (PB) or other Grants (G) (and/or) Bank Finance (BF)
Soccer/Lacrosse field Ammenities		$ 7,500			$ 7,500	
Concessions/Restrooms			$ 200,000		$ 200,000	
Landscaping			$ 29,150		$ 29,150	
Hardscaping (Parking/Sidewalks)			$ 363,625		$ 363,625	
Closeout LWCF Grant					$ -	
Subtotal (Indian Trails Park)		$ 711,700	$ 1,534,335	$ -	$ 2,246,035	
General Conditions, Design Conting. & Allow. + Fees	%	31%	31%	TBD		
Total Construction (Indian Trails Park)		$ 932,327	$ 2,009,979	$ -	$ 2,942,307	
Archeological Reconnaissance* if required by DNR		TBD		TBD		
Environmental/ Grant Admin			$ 10,000		$ 10,000	
Legal as needed		TBD				
Total (Indian Trails Park)		$ 932,327	$ 2,019,979		$ 2,952,307	
IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS						Potential Funding Source
ACTION ITEM	2027 (cont)	2028	2029	2030	Subtotal	
	Van Hoozen & Indian Trails ADA Improvements					
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)	See ADA TP					
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)		$10,000			$ 10,000	PB See Funding Key
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)			$10,000		$ 10,000	
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)				$10,000	$ 10,000	
Subtotal (ADA TP)		$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 30,000	
Total Cost		$942,327	$2,029,979	$10,000	$2,982,307	

Funding Key: LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; G=Grant; PB = Park Budget ; BF=Bank Finance
D = Donations; ITP = Indiana Trails Program Grant; PG/D = Patronicity 50-50 Grant/Donations
Admin/PB = In-house Administration/Park Budget; Aboite Ball Leagues' = AL
V = Tasks to be addressed, but cost not established; TBD = To Be Determined;
* ADA Coordinator Review, but needs Board Approval and Funding Source TBD
*Estimate based on average cost (Per ERI email discussion).

Note: Final version updated 7-5-2024 following IDNR Approval and Board Approval to include Grant Administration Fees

5.3 Action Plan and Implementation Schedule: Administrative Work Program

The Administrative Work Program items outlined in Table 25-C are approximations and will need to be adjusted annually as tasks are completed.

Table 25-C: Action Plan – Administrative Work Program

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK PROGRAM									
Priority Rank (1 or 2)	ACTION ITEM	IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS							Potential Funding Source
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
PARK PROGRAMMING									
1	Conduct Final Public Hearing for Park Planning	√							Admin/NIRCC
1	Facilitate/Schedule Ball League Activities - Update Park Rules and Concession Schedule as needed	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/Ball League Coordinator
1	Administer & Conduct Summer Concerts	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/TBD
1	Create Ball League Schedules/Rules and Fee Schedule for existing and new ballfields.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/TBD
1	Review Volunteer List and coordinate potential programming activities (Per Public Feedback)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/TBD
ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEDULE									
1	Public Review/Adopt 2024-29 Park Master Plan	√							Admin/PB
1	Create Fundraising Committee and organize fundraising campaigns for Van Hoozen & Indian Trails Parks	√	√	√	√	√			Admin/Fundraising Committee
1	Schedule Meeting with Nathanial Simmons, DNR Grants Manager (Done)	√							NIRCC/PB
1	Conduct Routine Park Maintenance & Safety Inspections	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/PB
1	Refine Scope & Budget to Apply for LWCF Grant (Due 8-1-24)	√			√				Admin/PB/GA/ENG
1	Implement/Administer LWCF Grant as needed		√	√	√	√	√		GA/Admin/PB/ENG
1	Park Grounds Maintenance Equipment & Supply Needs	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/PB
1	Conduct Monthly Board Meetings & Appoint/Renew Members per Park Ordinance	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/PB
1	Sign Resolutions & Compliance Docs as needed.	√	√	√	√	√	√		Admin/PB/
1	ADA Transition Plan Administration	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	ADA Coordinator
1	Start Planning in 2029 for 2030 Park Plan						√	√	Admin/PB
1	Create Park Rules Ordinance and Maintenance Schedule Administration - update as needed	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Admin/PB
Administrative:		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD			TBD	$ -

Funding Key: LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; G=Grant; PB = Park Budget ; BF=Bank Finance
D = Donations; ITP = Indiana Trails Program Grant; PG/D = Patronicity 50-50 Grant/Donations; FWT = FT. Wayne Trails
Admin/PB = In-house Administration/Park Budget; Aboite Leagues = AL
GA = Grant Administrator; ENG = Engineer
√ = Tasks to be addressed, but cost not established; TBD = To Be Determined;
*Estimate based on average cost

5.4 Potential Funding Sources

It is important note that Land and Water Conservation fund (LWCF) grants administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) would be a better fit for identified park improvements when compared to the other available grant programs. There have been increases to the maximum request amount to $1,000,000 in 2024; however, LWCF has 50/50 matching requirement to apply and specific regulations to consider carefully when determining funding options (see Table 27). These considerations have been discussed between the Park Board with representatives from IDNR Grant Support in early 2024.

Table 26: Potential Funding Sources

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES				
FINANCING TOOLS	**TYPE OF FUNDS**	**DESCRIPTION**	**USES**	**TIMEFRAME**
	Bond-General Obligation	Loan taken out against the value of taxable property	Park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and capital improvements	Typically issued for 15, 20 or 30 years
	Bond-Revenue	Loan paid from the proceeds of a tax levied for the use of a specific public project, or with the proceeds of fees charged to those who use the facility that the bonds finance	Park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and capital improvements Bonds are typically	Typically issued for 15, 20 or 30 years
	Income Tax	Tax on individual income	Park: acquisition, maintenance, and capital improvements	Ongoing
	Park Impact Fee	One-time fee to off-set costs of infrastructure caused by new development	Park, open space, and recreation: acquisition and development	One-time cost to developer
	Property Tax	Tax on real property	Park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, and capital improvements	Tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
	Real Estate Transfer Tax	Tax on the sale of property	Park and open space: acquisition (proceeds are often deposited into land banks)	One-time cost to home seller or buyer
	Sales & Use Tax	Tax on the sale of goods or services	Park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, acquisition, and capital improvements	Tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
	Special Assessment District	Separate units of government that manage specific resources within defined boundaries	Park, open space, and recreation: maintenance, operations, acquisition, and capital improvements	Tax ongoing or increased for a defined time period
	User Fee	Fees that cover costs of service	Park, open space, and recreation: maintenance and operations	One-time cost to user
	Tax Increment Financing	Financing mechanism used to stimulate economic development in a blighted area	Park: acquisition and capital improvements	Normally a duration of 20 to 30 years

GRANTS & OTHER PROGRAMS

GRANT PROGRAMS

PROGRAM/SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	MIN/MAX AMOUNT	TIMEFRAME
Indiana Trails Program (ITP): Federal (DNR) 80/20 MATCH	Applications may include land acquisition and/or development, maintenance, and ethics education of multi-use trails	$100,000-$400,000	Applications due Mar 1st
Land & Water Conservation Fund: Federal (LWCF) 50/50 MATCH - (Only park and recreation boards established under Indiana law are eligible)	Applications may consist of land acquisition and/or outdoor recreation facility construction or renovation.	$50,000 -$700,000 (2023) ($1,400,000+ total project) in LWCF assistance for one project per year	Applications due by June 1
CreatINg Places: State (IHCDA) 50/50 Match	As a place-based crowd-granting program, CreatINg Places empowers the public - residents, businesses and community organizations - to play a role in achieving community improvements and building community pride.	$5,000 - $50,000	Varies
Quick Impact Place based (QuIP): State (IOCRA) 50/50 Match	Alley activation / art alley; Creative project to showcase community identity; Enhancement of existing or underutilized public assets into a new or usable space; Interactive life-size games or game sheds for public use; Pop-up public gathering spots	$2,500 - $5,000	Varies (2019 due March 8)
Community Facilities Direct Loan/Grant Program-Federal (USDA)	Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area	Funds vary on availability - Used for small communities with a population of 5,500 or less: Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.	Indiana Director: Michael R. Dora 5975 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46278 VM: (317) 290-3100 Fax: (855) 541-9018 www.rd.usda.gov/in.
AWS Foundation	Focus is specific to individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. Priorities Include: Social Enrichment, Education & Employment, Transportation, Early Diagnosis of disabilities & Housing	Varies: Grants > $50,000 = Letter of Intent (LOI) / Grants < $2,500 simple application	Applications accepted any time throughout the year. (Limit 1 application per year).
AARP Community Challenge	The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages.	Varies: $2,500-$50,000	Varies (2023, Due March 15)
Greenways Foundation of Indiana	Every year, supporters make it possible to award over $40,000 in grants for the development of trails and citizen trail organizations in Indiana. Trails include those for walkers/runners, cyclists, horseback riders, as well as water trails for canoeists and kayakers.	< $10,000	Applications accepted throughout the year.

OTHER	**Maintenance Endowments**	Created and administered by Community Foundation and established as Designated Fund & included in the finance formula	For a developed parkland project: a $3,000 per year budget (per acre of park)	Varies
	American Rescue Plan Act - OCRA	These funds are ear marked for communities hardest hit by the pandemic. They cannot be utilized for match with LWCF funds.		
	Naming Rights / Sponsorships	Donor Funds: dedicated to the acquisition and/or development of a park feature	Park facility, paid for and named for the sponsor (can be assured w/maintenance endowment)	Varies

LOCAL FUNDING

	TYPE OF FUNDS	DESCRIPTION
LOCAL	**Parks and Recreation General Budget**	Annual tax allocations from the General Tax Levy, Auto- Air Excise Tax and other local funding could be utilized for both staffing and financing capital improvements within the Park and Recreation Department. However, general tax dollars may be limited or unavailable for extensive capital improvements.
	Non-Reverting Account Funds	Monies collected from certain fees and rentals can be placed in one of two non-reverting accounts. Funds are available from the Non-Reverting Operating Account to offset operation costs from administration of programs within the Park and Recreation Department. Funds from the Non-Reverting Capital Account are available for capital improvements in the Park and Recreation Department.
	Gifts and Donations Fund	Donations of money, land and time are important resources to any Park and Recreation Department. Donations are important from the point that they can be used to match grants from other sources.
	Lease Purchase	This is a traditional mechanism used to finance capital projects including equipment and vehicles. City Council must annually levy a tax payable from property taxes sufficient to pay lease rentals; except that the levy may be reduced any year to the extent other money is pledged or available for the payment of the lease rentals (I.C. 36-10-1).
	Cumulative Capital Improvement Funds	The Park and Recreation Law (36-10-3-20) allows money to be placed in a fund for the purposes of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements. The Park and Recreation Department can also make requests to the Council for funds from the general CCI Fund for specific projects. (Note: A CCI Fund cannot be established if a Recreational Impact Fee is in place)
	Recreational Impact Fees	In 1991, the Indiana General Assembly passed an impact fee bill that created an alternative funding mechanism for infrastructure improvements in fast growing areas. The essence of the legislation was to allow local governments the option of passing onto new residents the costs of building the new infrastructure expected by those same residents

6.0 Final Public Comment Period

The Action Plan for implementing the community desires for the Aboite Township park system was finalized and presented after receiving the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) evaluation of the initial park plan draft: The first draft had been submitted to IDNR on November 15, 2023, and IDNR's initial evaluation was provided to the Park Board on January 11, 2024. This process was to assure that all park planning requirements were addressed prior to releasing the Master Plan to the public. The Aboite Park Planning Committee met on February 13, 2024, to confirm alterations of the Action Plan with the items included in Section 5.2 and 5.3. The Board determined to tentatively schedule activities at the Van Hoozen and Indiana Trails Parks over the next five years with the understanding that the proposed actions would be contingent on the success of fundraising efforts and obtaining grant funding. To assure the success of fundraising, a 501c3 committee had been established in January 2024 to help generate the revenue to accomplish goals and tasks identified within the Action Plan and Implementation Schedule.

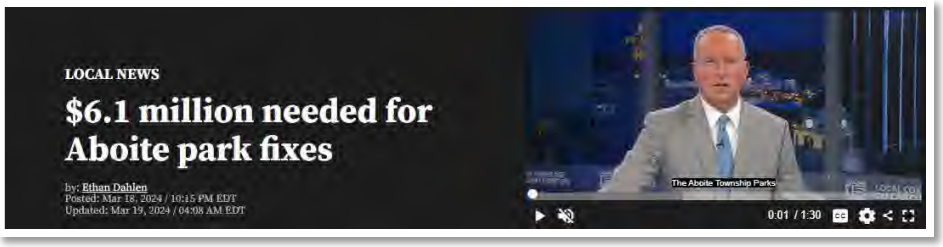
6.1 Public Review Methods

A legal notice for the final park plan review was posted in the Journal Gazette on March 8, 2024, to announce a public meeting that was held on March 18, 2024. The legal notice also provided location and weblink information for the public to review the *Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan,* and instructions for written comments. The local comment period opened Friday, March 8, 2024, and closed Saturday, March 30, 2024, to allow ample time for public feedback prior to the DNR submission deadline of April 15, 2024. Public notices were also displayed on the Aboite Township webpage, the Northeastern Indiana Coordinating Council (NIRCC) webpage, and fliers were posted at the Aboite Community Room and the Jorgenson YMCA. A digital version of the Master Plan and comment sheets were provided on the NIRCC and the Aboite Township websites. A press release was emailed to various local media outlets and to the Fort Wayne Housing Authorities. Additionally, the public meeting was aired on the WOWO radio station and Wane 15 News. A follow-up story was later televised on Wane 15 News and the Wane.com website on March 18, 2024[29].

A total of 20 people attended the public meeting, which included thirteen (13) members of the general public; four (4) members of the Aboite Township Park Board; two (2) consultants; and a Wane 15 News reporter. The meeting included an introduction by Kim Mills, Trustee, a brief history of Aboite Township Parks by the Park Board President, Mike Rost, and a formal presentation provided by NIRCC consultants. In addition, the Aboite Parks Fundraising Chairperson, Jason Dohm, provided information on the status of fundraising efforts. Following the presentation, the floor was opened for

[29] Wane 15 News, Ethan Dahlen, "$6.1 million needed for Aboite park fixes". Vídeo: https://www.wane.com/video/6-1-million-needed-for-aboite-park-fixes/9528119/. Mar 18, 2024, 11.07 PM,

public comments. Additionally, comment sheets were provided at the meeting. The transcribed minutes, presentation materials, attendee list, and public comments can be found in Appendix B.



6.2 Public Comments and How They Were Addressed

Various comments were received during the public hearing and all questions and comments were answered directly, either by the Aboite Township Park Board, the NIRCC Consultant, or the Aboite Township Park Fundraising Chairperson. In addition, eight (8) written comments were received during the three-week public review period; although, two written comments came from the same resident. As written comments and questions were received, questions were provided with responses, and both were attached to the minutes. Most responses were in favor of the action items outlined in the master plan; however, two written objections were received to the overall master plan. Questions and/or objections were addressed to provide further clarification and/or explanation of the actions presented in the plan. The primary objection expressed stemmed from a concern that an unbalance of proposed park improvements was being directed to baseball/softball amenities and not evenly distributed to other activities. The Aboite Township Park Board provided a written response to this objection, and it is provided below:

The park board has been working since 2022 to review current usage trends and evaluate the needs of the community. Based on the results of our study, the current usage and demand for ball diamonds is much greater than the usage and demand for the rectangular sports fields. We are trying to maximize the utilization of our facilities to benefit the most township residents. We have had meetings and two surveys to get public input and there has been more support for diamonds. We want to have facilities for as many sports as possible, so we are reserving a significant amount of space for rectangular sports. The drainage features that we are making with the new improvements will allow for more useability for rectangular sports. So rectangular sports will enjoy a better playing area when this phase is complete.

The proposed trail, walkways, restrooms/concessions and expanded parking at Van Hoozen Park were included as a top priority in the master plan to better utilize the underdeveloped recreational areas that will not only complement the ballfields and the rectangular sports fields alike, but will also provide a new trailway, necessary ADA walkways and seating facilities to allow persons of all ages and capabilities to attend recreational functions who otherwise may not be able to enjoy the use of the park. Approximately 75% of the proposed investment at Van Hoozen Park is to incorporate trails, parking, concessions, ADA walkways, and infrastructure to benefit all recreational activities at the park. At Indian Trails Park, approximately 72% of the proposed budget is to benefit other park activities such as pickleball, rectangular sports, walkways, drainage, and parking. Although, the park board is aware that more evaluation will need to be considered during the final design stages of development (see Appendix pgs. B-58-60).

The objection was reviewed by the Park Board and the decision to keep three rectangular sports fields at Van Hoozen Park and two rectangular sports fields at Indian Trails Park was considered reasonable based on Aboite Township's existing park usage reports and the mixed method needs assessment: baseball/softball fields consistently emerged as a top need from the various forms of public input as shown in the *Table 19: Combined Scored Ranking Sheet*. In addition, a breakdown comparison of park acreage currently dedicated and proposed to be used for baseball/softball was evaluated. This information was provided to a resident in a written inquiry during the public review period. To summarize the discussion, of the existing 94.74 total park acres owned by Aboite Township, currently 14.9 acres (15.9%) of park area is dedicated to baseball/softball fields. The proposed improvements presented in the Master Plan would increase the footprint of park area dedicated to baseball/softball to 27.1 acres (29%). This is an overall increase of 12.2 acres, or 13% of the existing park area to be used for baseball/softball fields to address the expressed need (see discussion in Appendix pgs. B-50-B-51).

7.0 Plan Evaluation

The Aboite Township Parks Master Plan is a living document that will need to be evaluated annually to assess the effectiveness of the action register, progress in addressing priorities, and to identify changing needs over time. The *Action Plan* schedule should be evaluated annually to measure progress in achieving the activities outlined therein, and to reassess the priorities of each action item. While all Park Board meetings are open to the public, the park board incorporated additional advertising measures to engage public review of the master plan, such as creating social media posts, website announcements, emails, and media releases. The Administrative Work Program (Section 5.3, Table 25-C) outlines administrative activities for the park board to conduct over the next five years, and to use as a guide to monitor progress annually. Table 27 provides a general LWCF timeline for applying for and administering a funded application from IDNR. This timeline should be updated as fundraising goals are achieved and as the related tasks outlined within the schedule have been accomplished.

8.0 Board Resolution Adopting the 5-Year Master Park Plan

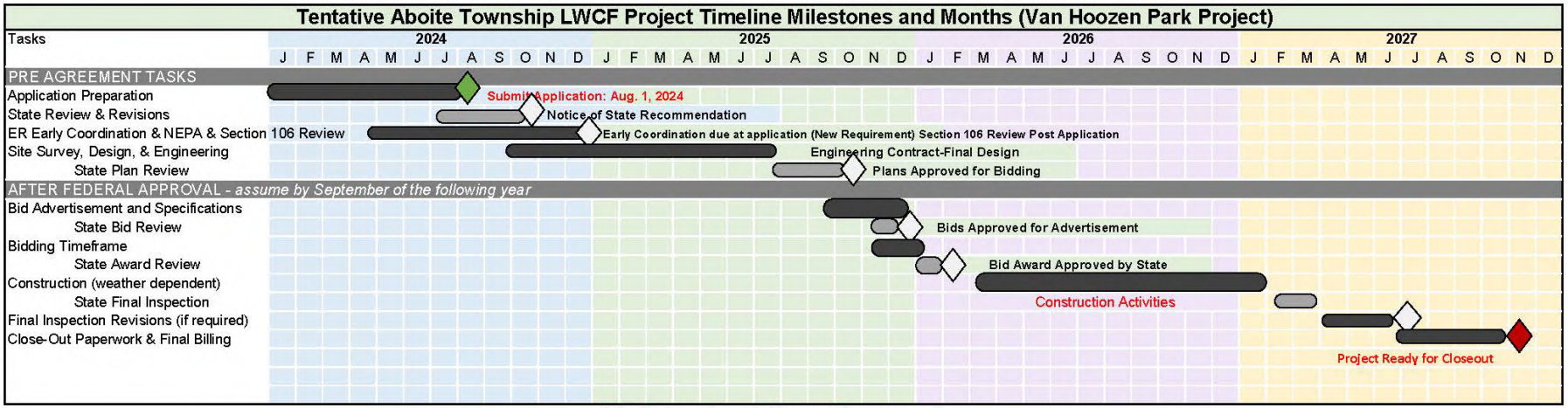
The park board reviewed a final draft of the *Aboite Township 5-Year Master Plan* prior to its public release on March 8, 2024, or the start date of the public review period. A hardcopy was provided at the Aboite Community room Monday, March 11, 2024. After the public review period ended, the final plan with public review comments and final action plan and implementation schedule was then provided to Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) by the April 15, 2024, deadline.

The master plan approval from IDNR was received in a letter on May 31, 2024. The Park Board then executed a formal Resolution adopting the Master Plan on June 25, 2024. In addition, the Park Board signed the *Assurance of Accessibility Compliance* form on the same date as a prerequisite to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) grants. These items were then mailed to the IDNR Div. of State Parks and have been included in the Plan Approval Section (Appendix F) for placement on the Aboite Township and the NIRCC websites.

The following schedule was discussed October 17, 2023, to provide guidance to the Park Board to use as a model of what to expect when pursuing a Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCF) in 2024. (This timeline is contingent of Readiness to Proceed and obtaining a minimum of 50% local match requirements of the proposed budget). However, the LWCF application deadline had been changed to August 1, 2024, per recent DNR grant updates.

Table 27: LWCF Project Projected Timeline

LWCF Project Timeline
2024-2027*



* Timeline is tentative and subject to readiness to proceed

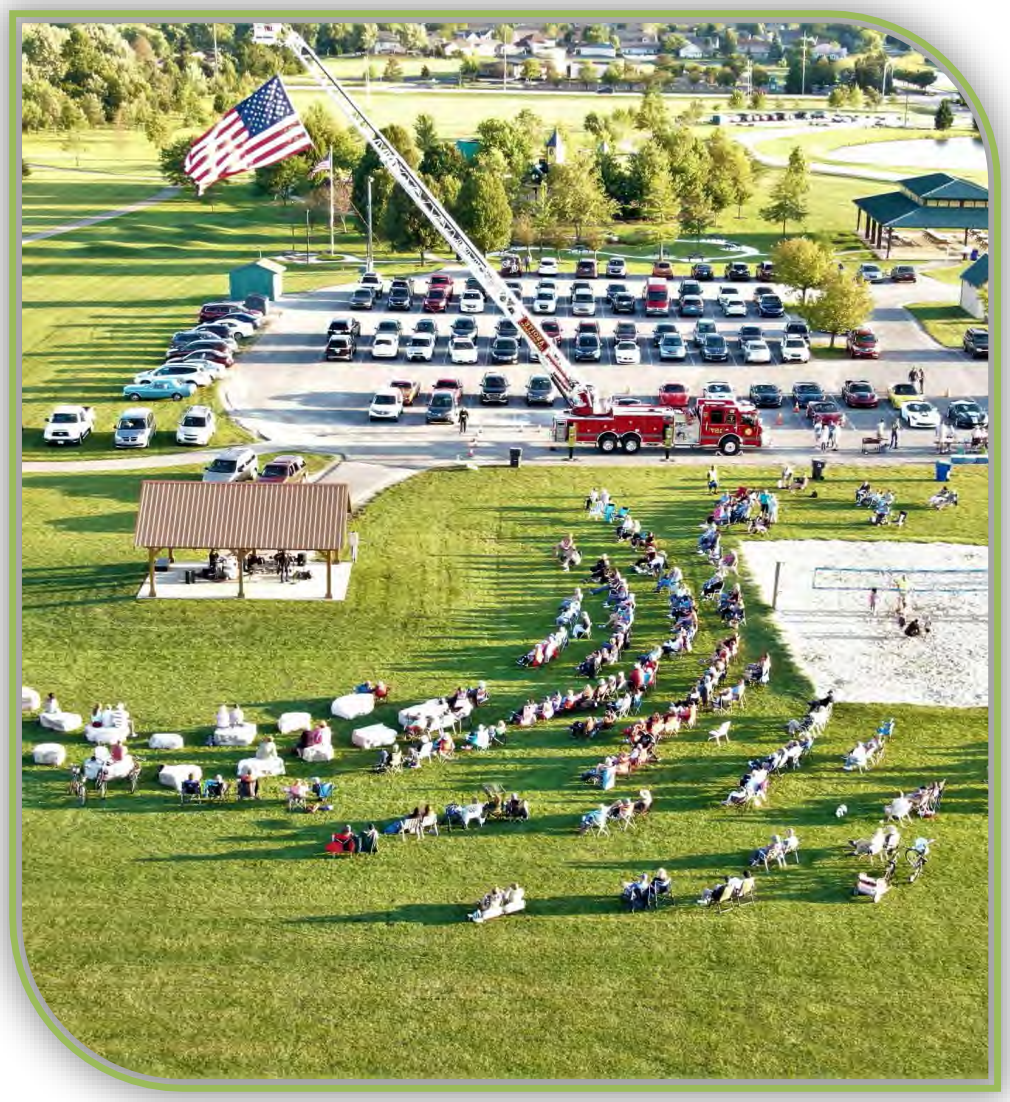
: Applicant Task
: State Review Period
: Local/State Milestone

TIMELINE CONSTRAINTS TO CONSIDER

1. Projects have a maximum of 36 months to reach total completion from the point of Federal Approval so designating pre-agreement costs is STRONGLY encouraged to allow for construction buffer time
2. Projects may designate pre-agreement costs up to 3 Years prior to Federal Approval
3. The State begins fiscal year-end shutdown preparations in March every year. Consult with your grant coordinator to see if this will impact your project

New Application Due Date: Aug 1st 2024
Update KC 3-8-24

APPENDICES



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Appendix A: Surveys

Survey Responses

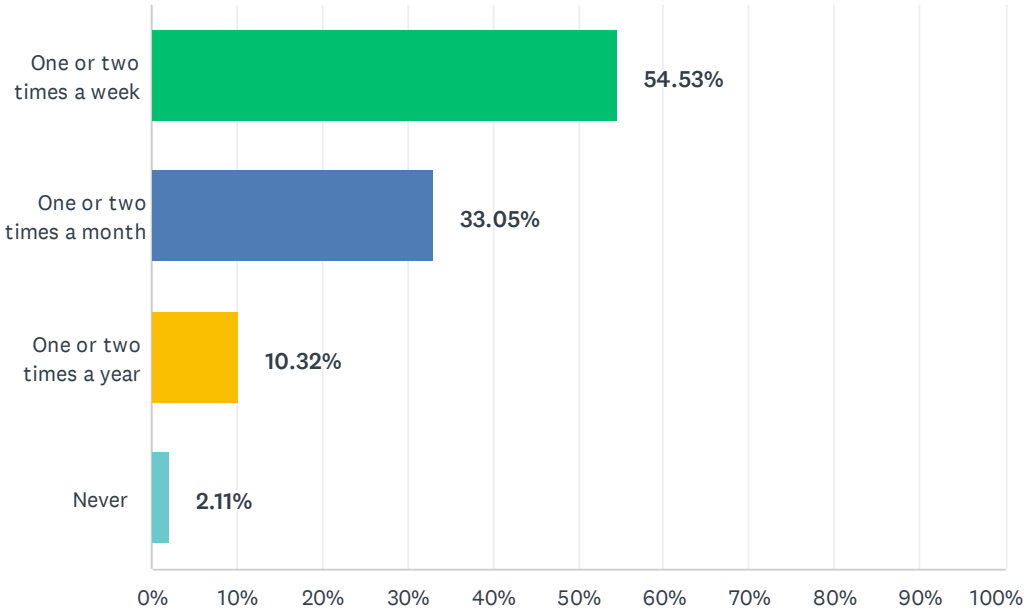
Appendix A

Survey Responses

2022 Pre-Survey

Q1 How often do you visit the Aboite Township Parks? (check answer below)

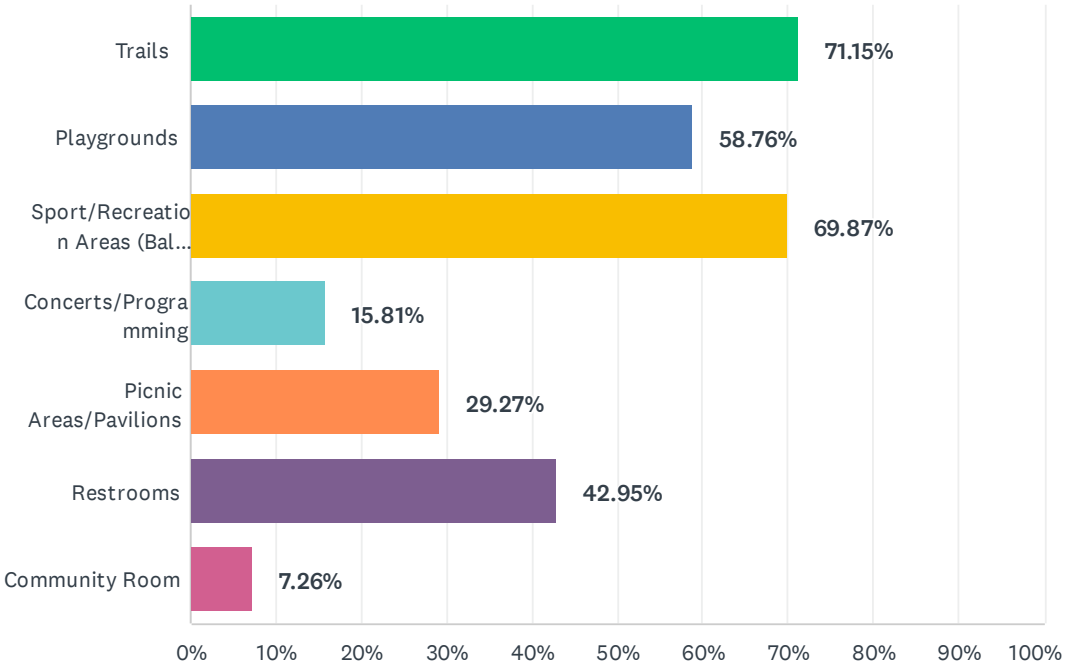
Answered: 475 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One or two times a week	54.53%	259
One or two times a month	33.05%	157
One or two times a year	10.32%	49
Never	2.11%	10
TOTAL		475

Q2 What amenities do you use at Aboite Township Parks? (Select all that apply)

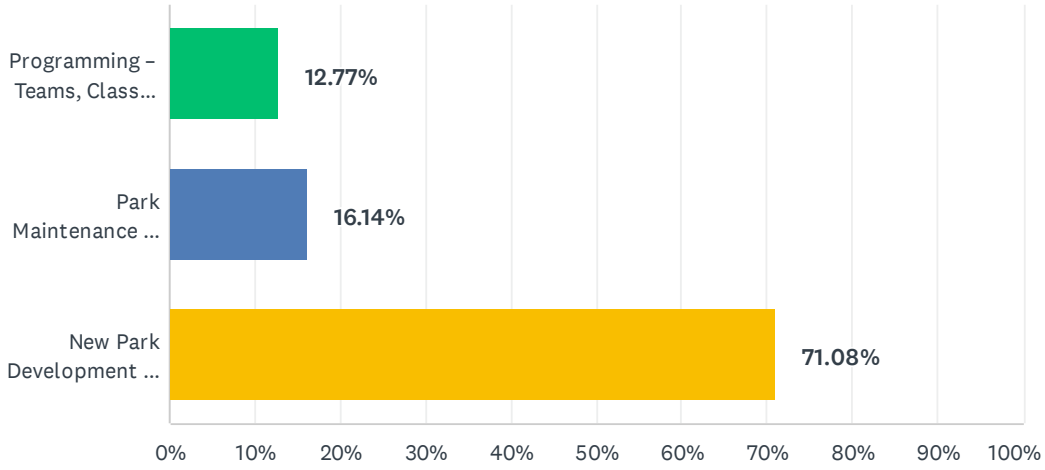
Answered: 468 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails	71.15%	333
Playgrounds	58.76%	275
Sport/Recreation Areas (Ball Fields/Courts)	69.87%	327
Concerts/Programming	15.81%	74
Picnic Areas/Pavilions	29.27%	137
Restrooms	42.95%	201
Community Room	7.26%	34
Total Respondents: 468		

Q3 Where should the Aboite Township Park Board put focus/effort/funding in the next five years?

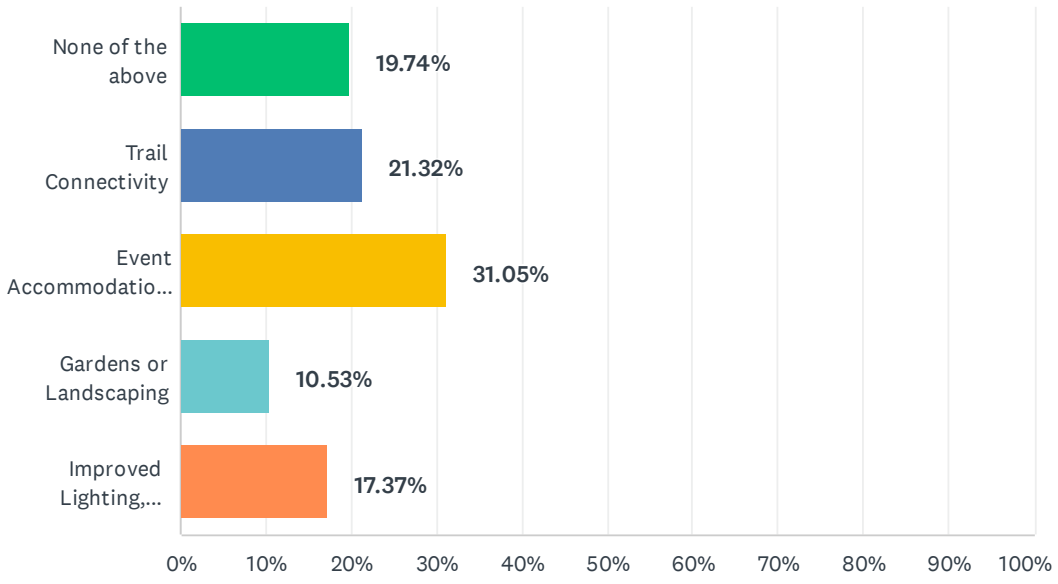
Answered: 415 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Programming – Teams, Classes, Concerts, Etc.	12.77%	53
Park Maintenance and Upkeep	16.14%	67
New Park Development – Trails, Playground Equipment, Different Park Amenities Etc.	71.08%	295
TOTAL		415

Q4 What are the Aboite Township Parks missing?

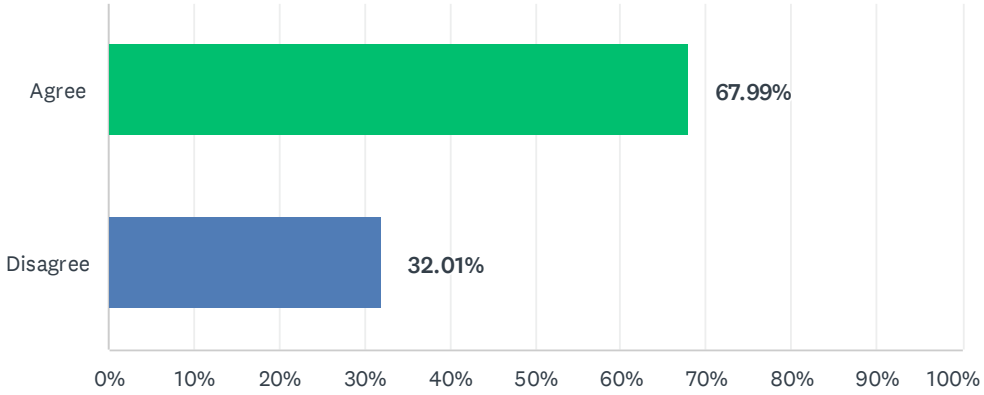
Answered: 380 Skipped: 95



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	19.74%	75
Trail Connectivity	21.32%	81
Event Accommodations: Parking, Concessions, Restrooms, Trash	31.05%	118
Gardens or Landscaping	10.53%	40
Improved Lighting, Sidewalks, and Access	17.37%	66
TOTAL		380

Q5 Do you think Aboite Township should create another park?

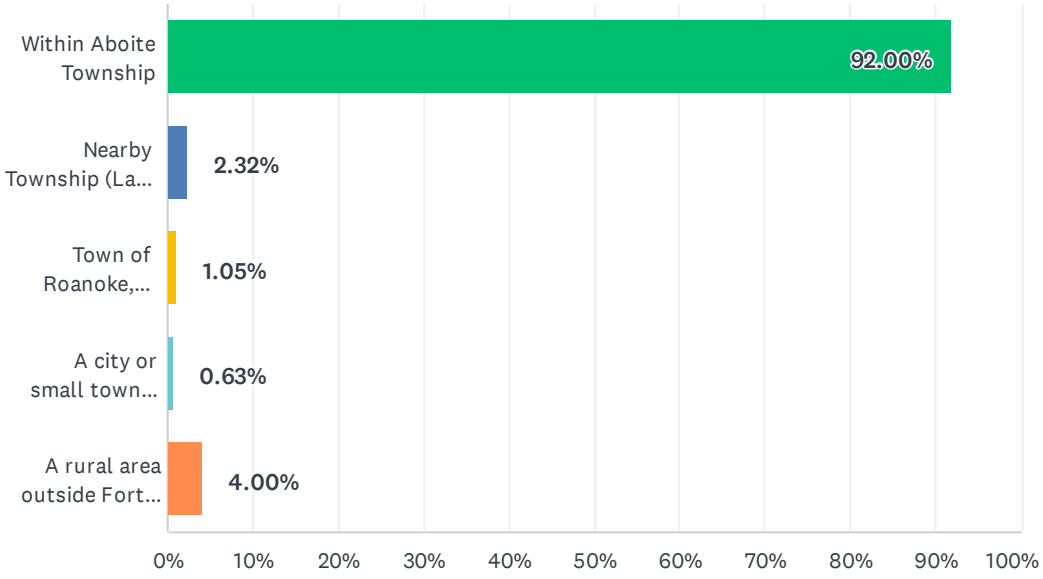
Answered: 453 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	67.99%	308
Disagree	32.01%	145
Total Respondents: 453		

Q6 Which best describes where you live?

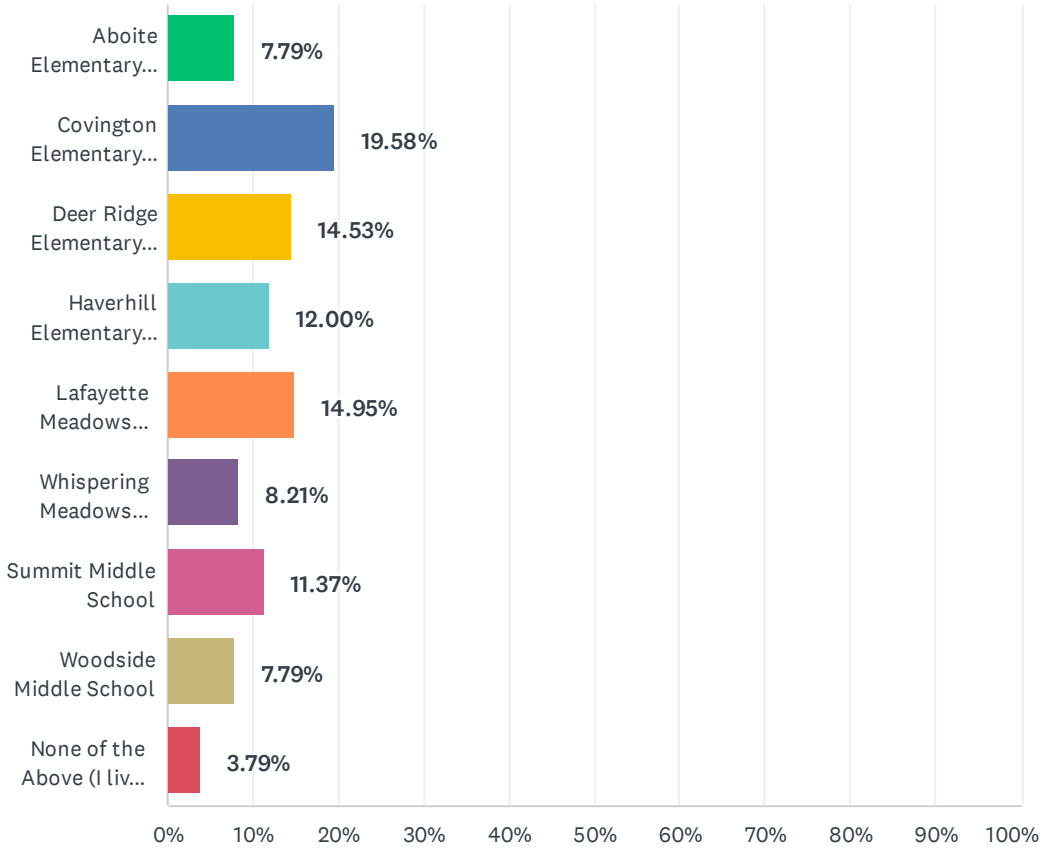
Answered: 475 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Within Aboite Township	92.00%	437
Nearby Township (Lake Township or Wayne Township)	2.32%	11
Town of Roanoke, Huntington County	1.05%	5
A city or small town outside Fort Wayne and Aboite Township	0.63%	3
A rural area outside Fort Wayne and Aboite Township	4.00%	19
TOTAL		475

Q7 If you live in Aboite Township, which elementary/middle school district are you from?

Answered: 475 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Aboite Elementary School	7.79%	37
Covington Elementary School	19.58%	93
Deer Ridge Elementary School	14.53%	69
Haverhill Elementary School	12.00%	57
Lafayette Meadows Elementary School	14.95%	71
Whispering Meadows Elementary School	8.21%	39
Summit Middle School	11.37%	54
Woodside Middle School	7.79%	37
None of the Above (I live outside of these school districts)	3.79%	18
TOTAL		475

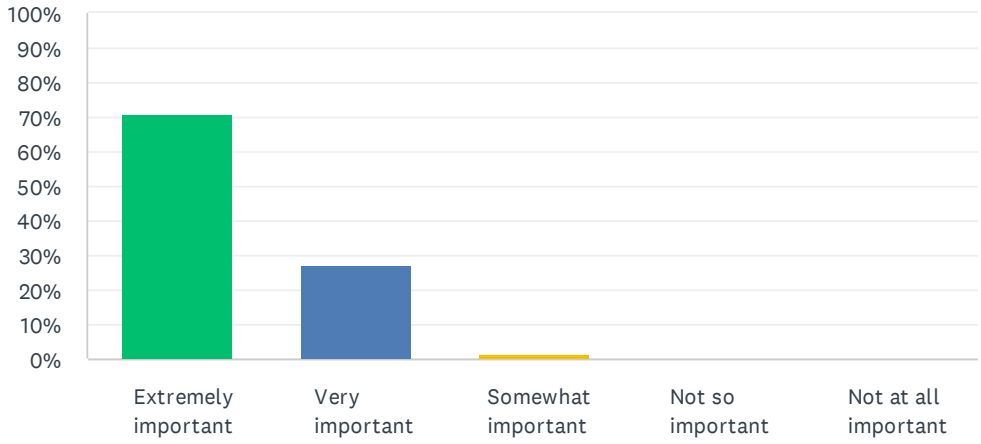
Appendix A

Survey Responses

2023 Community Survey

Q1 How important is outdoor recreation to you?

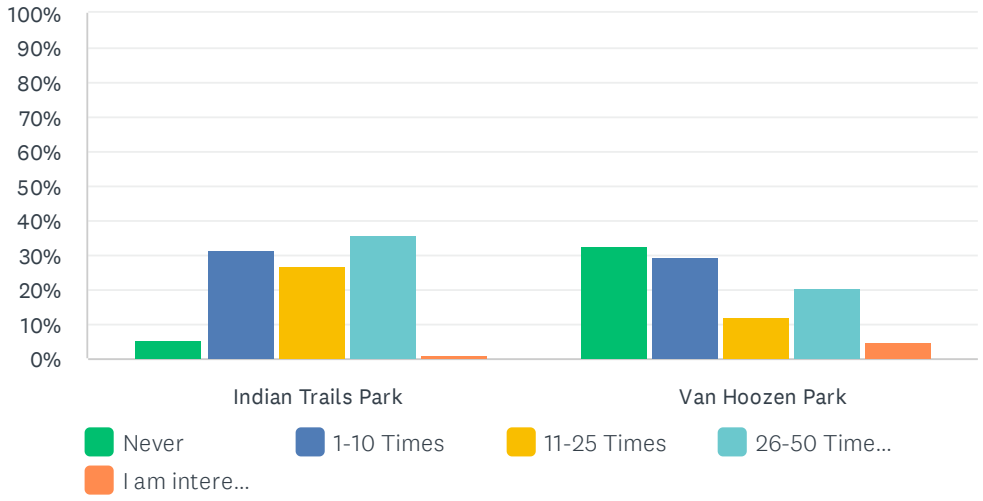
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	70.86%	287
Very important	27.16%	110
Somewhat important	1.73%	7
Not so important	0.25%	1
Not at all important	0.00%	0
TOTAL		405

Q2 How many times did members of your household visit the following Aboite Township park facilities in the last 12 months?

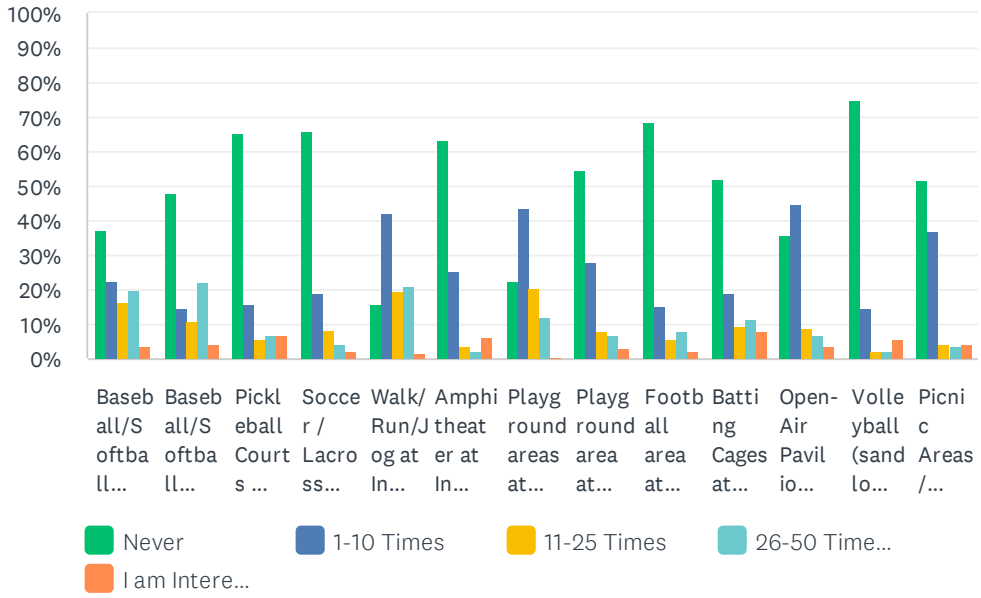
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



	NEVER	1-10 TIMES	11-25 TIMES	26-50 TIMES OR MORE	I AM INTERESTED IN STARTING	TOTAL
Indian Trails Park	5.19% 21	31.36% 127	26.67% 108	35.56% 144	1.23% 5	405
Van Hoozen Park	32.59% 132	29.63% 120	12.35% 50	20.74% 84	4.69% 19	405

Q3 How often do you or members of your household use or visit the following recreational facilities?

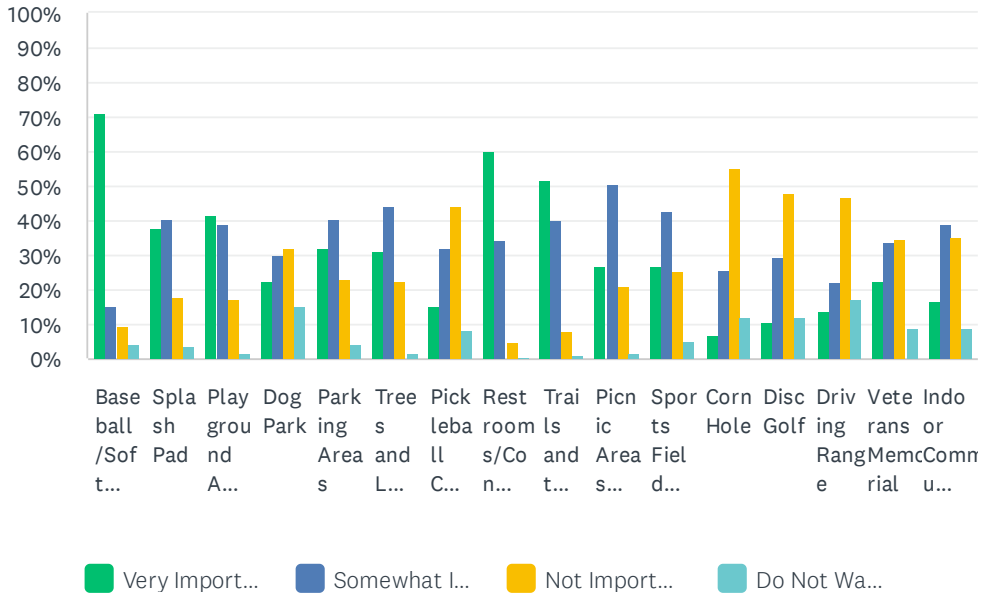
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



	NEVER	1-10 TIMES	11-25 TIMES	26-50 TIMES OR MORE	I AM INTERESTED IN STARTING	TOTAL
Baseball/Softball fields at Indian Trails Park	37.53% 152	22.72% 92	16.54% 67	19.75% 80	3.46% 14	405
Baseball/Softball fields at Van Hoozen Park	48.15% 195	14.81% 60	11.11% 45	21.98% 89	3.95% 16	405
Pickleball Courts at Indian Trails Park	65.19% 264	15.56% 63	5.68% 23	6.67% 27	6.91% 28	405
Soccer / Lacrosse Fields	65.93% 267	19.01% 77	8.40% 34	4.44% 18	2.22% 9	405
Walk/Run/Jog at Indian Trails Park	15.80% 64	42.22% 171	19.51% 79	20.99% 85	1.48% 6	405
Amphitheater at Indiana Trails Park	63.21% 256	25.19% 102	3.46% 14	1.98% 8	6.17% 25	405
Playground areas at Indian Trails Park	22.72% 92	43.70% 177	20.74% 84	12.35% 50	0.49% 2	405
Playground area at Van Hoozen Park	54.81% 222	27.65% 112	7.65% 31	6.91% 28	2.96% 12	405
Football area at Indian Trails Park	68.64% 278	15.31% 62	5.93% 24	8.15% 33	1.98% 8	405
Batting Cages at Indian Trails Park	52.35% 212	19.01% 77	9.38% 38	11.36% 46	7.90% 32	405
Open-Air Pavilions (Van Hoozen or Indiana Trails)	35.80% 145	44.94% 182	8.89% 36	6.91% 28	3.46% 14	405
Volleyball (sand lot areas)	74.81% 303	14.81% 60	2.22% 9	2.22% 9	5.93% 24	405
Picnic Areas/ grills	51.36% 208	36.79% 149	4.20% 17	3.70% 15	3.95% 16	405

Q4 How important is it to add the following amenities to Aboite Township Parks?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	DO NOT WANT ADDED TO THE PARKS	TOTAL
Baseball/Softball Fields	70.86% 287	15.31% 62	9.38% 38	4.44% 18	405
Splash Pad	38.02% 154	40.74% 165	17.78% 72	3.46% 14	405
Playground Areas/New Equipment	41.73% 169	39.01% 158	17.53% 71	1.73% 7	405
Dog Park	22.47% 91	30.12% 122	32.10% 130	15.31% 62	405
Parking Areas	31.85% 129	40.49% 164	23.21% 94	4.44% 18	405
Trees and Landscaping	31.11% 126	44.44% 180	22.72% 92	1.73% 7	405
Pickleball Courts	15.31% 62	32.35% 131	43.95% 178	8.40% 34	405
Restrooms/Concession Area	60.25% 244	34.07% 138	4.94% 20	0.74% 3	405
Trails and trail connections	51.60% 209	39.75% 161	7.65% 31	0.99% 4	405
Picnic Areas & Benches	26.91% 109	50.37% 204	20.99% 85	1.73% 7	405
Sports Fields (Soccer/Lacrosse/Football fields)	26.91% 109	42.47% 172	25.43% 103	5.19% 21	405
Corn Hole	6.67% 27	25.93% 105	55.31% 224	12.10% 49	405
Disc Golf	10.62% 43	29.38% 119	47.90% 194	12.10% 49	405
Driving Range	13.58% 55	22.22% 90	46.91% 190	17.28% 70	405
Veterans Memorial	22.72% 92	33.83% 137	34.57% 140	8.89% 36	405
Indoor Community Venue	17.04% 69	38.77% 157	35.06% 142	9.14% 37	405

Q5 Are there other activities not listed above that you would like to see added to the parks?

Answered: 255 Skipped: 150

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Rugby field is great, but needs maintenance.	7/27/2023 11:50 PM
2	Nothing in particular.	7/27/2023 9:21 PM
3	Rugby field	7/26/2023 7:04 PM
4	No	7/24/2023 2:15 PM
5	n/a	7/24/2023 10:57 AM
6	Fitness course	7/23/2023 11:37 PM
7	Community garden	7/22/2023 10:02 PM
8	Rugby!	7/22/2023 10:39 AM
9	No	7/22/2023 4:04 AM
10	rugby!!!!	7/21/2023 4:23 PM
11	Rugby field	7/21/2023 7:55 AM
12	Would love to see the football/rugby field improved so that it's better for spectators and not nearly as muddy	7/21/2023 7:33 AM
13	No	7/21/2023 12:03 AM
14	No	7/20/2023 11:26 PM
15	The rugby field is in bad shape	7/20/2023 11:07 PM
16	The renovation of the Rugby field at Indian Trails	7/20/2023 9:56 PM
17	Disc golf would be amazing.	7/20/2023 9:37 PM
18	The rugby field needs work with the lawn care and drainage	7/20/2023 9:27 PM
19	The football field needs to be better. Homestead rugby and youth football need it	7/20/2023 9:00 PM
20	N/A	7/20/2023 8:37 PM
21	N/A	7/20/2023 5:16 PM
22	no	7/20/2023 4:52 PM
23	Rugby field	7/20/2023 4:33 PM
24	Improvements to the rugby/soccer/lacrosse area near Aboite Center Road. The ditch running the length of the field and the water drainage issues at the far end.	7/20/2023 3:56 PM
25	Please level out the rugby field	7/20/2023 3:46 PM
26	50 meter pool	7/19/2023 10:07 PM
27	Idk	7/19/2023 5:32 PM
28	Senior activities	7/19/2023 11:41 AM
29	NEED SOFTBALL/BASEBALL DIAMONDS BADLY!!	7/19/2023 11:38 AM
30	Basketball courts? Fitness stations along trails?	7/18/2023 1:57 PM

31	N/A	7/17/2023 6:43 PM
32	I see a lot of kids skate boarding on sidewalks and private property. It would be nice if there was a designated skate park. This may keep kids off the sidewalks and away from people's personal property.	7/17/2023 11:35 AM
33	None	7/17/2023 9:41 AM
34	no	7/16/2023 11:44 AM
35	Built in chess boards/foozballs/corn hole similar to the Fort Wayne Riverfront.	7/15/2023 1:16 PM
36	Fittness trail	7/15/2023 10:47 AM
37	None	7/15/2023 12:28 AM
38	No	7/14/2023 10:50 PM
39	no	7/14/2023 4:55 PM
40	Affordable swimming pool. Year round	7/14/2023 11:57 AM
41	Basketball courts	7/14/2023 11:51 AM
42	More Pickleball courts.	7/14/2023 10:17 AM
43	Bocce Courts	7/14/2023 8:59 AM
44	Yes the pool like they have the aqua Center over there in Whitley it's very much needed because the YMCA is crowded cuz they do all the daycare visiting keeping rather babysitting teaching all that stuff goes on at the Y and it's disgusting how busy and you can't enjoy yourself as much so very much is needed out here and Fort Wayne because the families the development of the houses is unbelievable it's like exploded and we do definitely need more recreational stuff even a real cool pizza place for family and kids can come in and get a slice of pizza would be awesome to keep them off the streets to let them enjoy instead of sitting at the gas station like they do out here in southwest let them have fun indoors also there's much money more things I could say but the biggest is to have where the kids can join together and honestly an aqua Center would be so beneficial Whitley County it's wonderful they have the racing with the champion lapsody swim teams everything for family	7/14/2023 8:13 AM
45	Can’t think of anything	7/14/2023 7:49 AM
46	No	7/14/2023 7:12 AM
47	No	7/14/2023 6:02 AM
48	No	7/13/2023 10:35 PM
49	Nothing to add, other than we REALLY need more baseball and softball facilities for the kids	7/13/2023 10:10 PM
50	No	7/13/2023 7:13 PM
51	No	7/13/2023 3:53 PM
52	No	7/13/2023 2:02 PM
53	Swimming, indoor track and weights. It is not economically feasible for all members of Aboite to have a Y membership	7/13/2023 1:26 PM
54	Flower gardens, community gardens.	7/13/2023 12:30 PM
55	Farmers market, drinking fountains/water bottle refill stations	7/13/2023 11:57 AM
56	We are in desperate need of baseball and softball fields for little league.	7/13/2023 11:07 AM
57	A par three or executive golf course for beginners and senior golfers, equipped with practice area including a large putting green and sand trap practice area	7/13/2023 11:00 AM
58	.	7/13/2023 10:58 AM
59	N/a	7/13/2023 10:58 AM
60	No	7/13/2023 10:25 AM

61	Not that I can think of	7/13/2023 8:23 AM
62	More handicap accessible areas in a playground similar to the Drake Goetz Memorial Park in Huntington	7/13/2023 8:22 AM
63	No	7/13/2023 7:20 AM
64	No	7/12/2023 7:12 PM
65	no	7/12/2023 4:30 PM
66	none	7/12/2023 2:54 PM
67	A roller hockey rink would be wonderful! Especially if it could be used as an ice hockey rink in the winter.	7/12/2023 2:17 PM
68	No	7/12/2023 1:44 PM
69	No	7/12/2023 1:37 PM
70	Skating path	7/12/2023 10:28 AM
71	N/A	7/12/2023 10:23 AM
72	N/A	7/12/2023 9:50 AM
73	No	7/12/2023 9:02 AM
74	No	7/12/2023 8:43 AM
75	More adaptive equipment at the playgrounds	7/11/2023 10:57 PM
76	Need to expand the number of baseball and softball fields. Homestead did a disservice to the area by tearing out those fields.	7/11/2023 10:14 PM
77	No	7/11/2023 10:08 PM
78	None	7/11/2023 10:03 PM
79	Tennis Courts! (less pickleball more tennis.) An outdoor public swimming pool would be fantastic.	7/11/2023 10:02 PM
80	No	7/11/2023 9:23 PM
81	No	7/11/2023 8:12 PM
82	Lacrosse area would be nice but can be shared with other sports if needed	7/11/2023 7:41 PM
83	Tennis	7/11/2023 7:13 PM
84	Very important to add more pickleball courts. There were 24 people waiting to play today- july.	7/11/2023 6:22 PM
85	No	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
86	No	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
87	N/a	7/11/2023 5:57 PM
88	Not that I can think of	7/11/2023 5:47 PM
89	Softball diamonds!!!! :)	7/11/2023 5:45 PM
90	Roller skating area please!!	7/11/2023 5:41 PM
91	No	7/11/2023 5:32 PM
92	No	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
93	Not that I can think of.	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
94	no	7/11/2023 4:47 PM
95	Need more softball fields, this has been a issue for years! I would love to see more softball diamonds.	7/11/2023 4:38 PM

96	Anything to attract ppl to the area.	7/11/2023 4:29 PM
97	No	7/11/2023 4:25 PM
98	No	7/11/2023 4:19 PM
99	No	7/11/2023 4:18 PM
100	Sledding Hill	7/11/2023 4:16 PM
101	No	7/11/2023 4:15 PM
102	N/A	7/11/2023 4:09 PM
103	N/a	7/11/2023 4:02 PM
104	Na	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
105	Indoor basketball courts	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
106	None	7/11/2023 3:50 PM
107	A public pool in the southwest area would be a nice addition for those that can't afford a membership to the YMCA.	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
108	None at this time	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
109	Splash Pad and better restrooms	7/11/2023 3:42 PM
110	Na	7/11/2023 3:40 PM
111	ice hockey rink for ice hockey for winter and roller hockey for summer	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
112	We need to upgrade softball fields for our young women immediately. They deserve better than what they have right now.	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
113	Nope	7/11/2023 3:34 PM
114	No	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
115	Softball fields	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
116	no	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
117	Na	7/11/2023 6:55 AM
118	Community pool. Outdoor fitness area. Drinking fountains. Shady spots to sit. Bike racks. Maybe some sort of check out system for things like pickle ball rackets and volleyball.	7/11/2023 1:25 AM
119	Exercise/fitness trail	7/11/2023 12:06 AM
120	year round open usable restrooms maybe area for drones, planes	7/10/2023 10:08 PM
121	Sand volleyball	7/9/2023 8:55 PM
122	Public pools	7/9/2023 8:41 PM
123	Art installation	7/9/2023 5:37 PM
124	N/A	7/9/2023 10:26 AM
125	No	7/8/2023 8:22 PM
126	No	7/8/2023 12:28 PM
127	There needs to be more youth softball fields available. There are so many baseball fields and few softball fields, it is not fair to the girls who want to play	7/8/2023 7:19 AM
128	No	7/7/2023 3:32 PM
129	raquetball courts	7/7/2023 10:56 AM
130	No	7/7/2023 7:25 AM
131	N/A	7/7/2023 5:14 AM

132	Adequate trash & recycling bins Drinking fountains Sunshades for fields Bleachers/stands for fields	7/6/2023 11:38 PM
133	More softball and baseball diamonds	7/6/2023 5:24 PM
134	None	7/6/2023 4:55 PM
135	No	7/6/2023 1:44 PM
136	Baseball fields need more	7/6/2023 1:37 PM
137	No	7/6/2023 10:37 AM
138	No	7/6/2023 10:13 AM
139	No	7/6/2023 9:09 AM
140	N/A	7/6/2023 8:30 AM
141	Hoping the parks will continue to support don ayers softball. A large part of SACS girls play DA softball. This keeps them active and involved.	7/6/2023 8:16 AM
142	No	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
143	Please add dog park	7/6/2023 7:59 AM
144	batting cages, maps	7/6/2023 7:15 AM
145	No	7/6/2023 6:43 AM
146	No	7/6/2023 5:14 AM
147	Tennis courts	7/6/2023 12:35 AM
148	More baseball/softball facilities and fields.	7/5/2023 11:05 PM
149	NA	7/5/2023 10:49 PM
150	No	7/5/2023 9:13 PM
151	Na	7/5/2023 8:40 PM
152	No	7/5/2023 8:38 PM
153	Tennis courts	7/5/2023 8:20 PM
154	No	7/5/2023 8:02 PM
155	None	7/5/2023 7:53 PM
156	No	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
157	N/A	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
158	Basketball courts	7/5/2023 5:55 PM
159	No	7/5/2023 5:47 PM
160	No	7/5/2023 5:43 PM
161	Swimming pool	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
162	No	7/5/2023 5:39 PM
163	Scoreboards for the sports fields	7/5/2023 5:38 PM
164	No	7/5/2023 5:21 PM
165	No	7/5/2023 4:48 PM
166	Additional batting cages, additional softball diamonds	7/5/2023 4:47 PM
167	No	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
168	Baseball and softball most important!	7/5/2023 4:43 PM

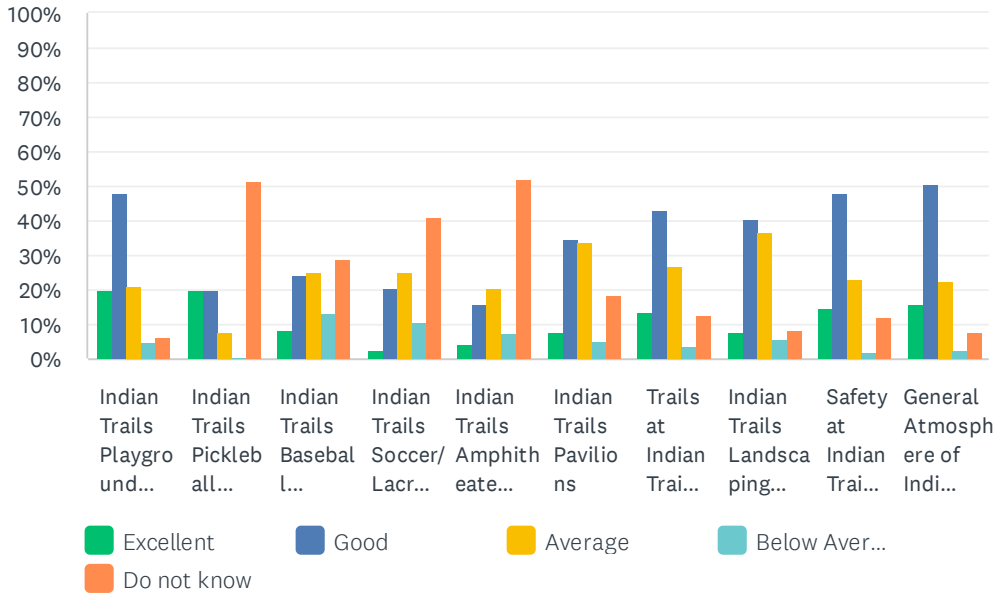
169	No	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
170	Don ayers Little League Softball needs fields. There are over 350 girls trying to play and practice on 2 fields currently. One of those in in abysmal condition	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
171	No	7/5/2023 4:25 PM
172	None at this time	7/5/2023 4:23 PM
173	No	7/5/2023 4:20 PM
174	More fields or don’t allow travel teams to buy up all the time to practice!!	7/5/2023 4:06 PM
175	Softball complex	7/5/2023 4:01 PM
176	No	7/5/2023 3:53 PM
177	No just more fields for baseball/softball	7/5/2023 3:49 PM
178	No	7/5/2023 3:47 PM
179	Handicap accessible playground equipment. Not just one swing. Also playgrounds where you can actually keep track of your children instead of not being able to see them unless you are following right behind them.	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
180	Basketball court	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
181	We need a softball complex!!!!! So many young girls who want to play and our facilities are less than sub par. Not to mention the attractiveness of having tournaments in southwest Fort Wayne	7/5/2023 3:40 PM
182	Easier access requests for renting. Be able to see availability for fields and pavilions.	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
183	Exercise equipment similar to the park at Parkview Main Campus	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
184	No	7/5/2023 3:35 PM
185	No	7/5/2023 3:34 PM
186	No.	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
187	No	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
188	Nope	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
189	As a travel sports parent, it would be really nice to have a soccer/football and/or baseball/softball facility so that southwest teams could host tournaments. It brings convenience and business to our community. I 100% feel that it would be a positive addition.	7/5/2023 3:24 PM
190	No	7/5/2023 3:15 PM
191	No	7/5/2023 3:10 PM
192	Nothing I can think of	7/5/2023 3:09 PM
193	N/a	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
194	N/A	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
195	Motocross, airsoft field,paintball field	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
196	No	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
197	None	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
198	Nope! Thank you :)	7/5/2023 3:04 PM
199	Parkour park/area	7/5/2023 3:01 PM
200	Softball fields, baseball fields, bleachers, UNLOCKED restrooms	7/5/2023 2:59 PM
201	none	7/5/2023 2:58 PM
202	More baseball/softball fields	7/5/2023 2:57 PM

203	No	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
204	Food Allergy Awareness Signs posted	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
205	No. My main concern is the lack of field space for softball/baseball little league	7/5/2023 2:53 PM
206	No	7/5/2023 2:51 PM
207	No	7/5/2023 2:50 PM
208	Nothing	7/5/2023 2:49 PM
209	Just baseball fields	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
210	Ni	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
211	No	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
212	No. This is a very comprehensive list.	7/5/2023 2:45 PM
213	More Diamond area for softball and baseball.	7/5/2023 2:43 PM
214	Public pool with a pass for the summer	7/5/2023 2:42 PM
215	None	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
216	No	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
217	Ball fields!	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
218	Curling	7/5/2023 2:39 PM
219	Baseball and softball	7/5/2023 2:39 PM
220	n/a	7/5/2023 2:38 PM
221	No	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
222	No	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
223	no	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
224	N/A	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
225	n/a	7/5/2023 2:32 PM
226	More trash pick ups for dogs/trash	7/3/2023 5:09 PM
227	Presentations or training on how to use some of these things. A Pickleball class on how to play. Information on how to reserve a pickleball court or the volleyball court (not sure where that is). Or do you use them? Is there etiquette? Information on where all the trails are in Aboite, where they start and end, etc. I look at the map, and I can't find a trail where there supposedly is one. Or maybe it's the sidewalk? I don't understand. Classes or social activities that build community where you don't have to join the Y, just be a resident. Yoga, exercise classes, strength training using your own bodyweight, an obstacle course competition split by age groups, classes on natural landscaping and cutting down on chemicals, classes to get to know your neighbors. A big game of tag or capture the flag for kids and adults. A guided hike on some of the trails in Aboite so we know where they are. A community picnic. The free concerts in July are great fun. Some of us would contribute to having more of those. A few food trucks would be nice other than the sugar treats.	7/3/2023 3:00 PM
228	Tennis court	7/3/2023 10:22 AM
229	No	7/2/2023 5:49 PM
230	Community/public pool.	7/2/2023 4:35 PM
231	Water bottle filling station	7/1/2023 10:53 AM
232	Wider trails More landscaping with variety plants Removal of the eyesore chain link fence between the YMCA and the school	6/29/2023 11:35 PM
233	N/A	6/29/2023 8:54 PM

234	Sand Volleyball Courts	6/29/2023 4:57 PM
235	Restrooms, and water	6/29/2023 12:18 PM
236	More rain shelters and rest rooms	6/29/2023 9:48 AM
237	No	6/29/2023 9:43 AM
238	Na	6/28/2023 10:12 AM
239	n/a	6/27/2023 10:08 AM
240	I can't think of any, just maintaining what we already have as well.	6/26/2023 9:45 AM
241	No	6/25/2023 5:33 PM
242	More drinking fountains for people and dogs along the trail	6/25/2023 12:33 PM
243	No	6/23/2023 6:47 PM
244	Nature Center	6/23/2023 6:32 PM
245	We would love a community pool!	6/23/2023 5:53 PM
246	Fishing pond	6/22/2023 8:49 PM
247	NA	6/22/2023 8:37 PM
248	No	6/22/2023 6:56 PM
249	No	6/21/2023 9:55 PM
250	can't think of anything.	6/21/2023 7:40 PM
251	Nope	6/17/2023 10:12 PM
252	No	6/15/2023 7:20 PM
253	No	6/14/2023 7:22 AM
254	Batting cages	6/13/2023 9:37 PM
255	Equipment and activities geared toward all abilities	6/13/2023 8:50 PM

Q6 Thinking of Indian Trails Park, how do you rate the following?

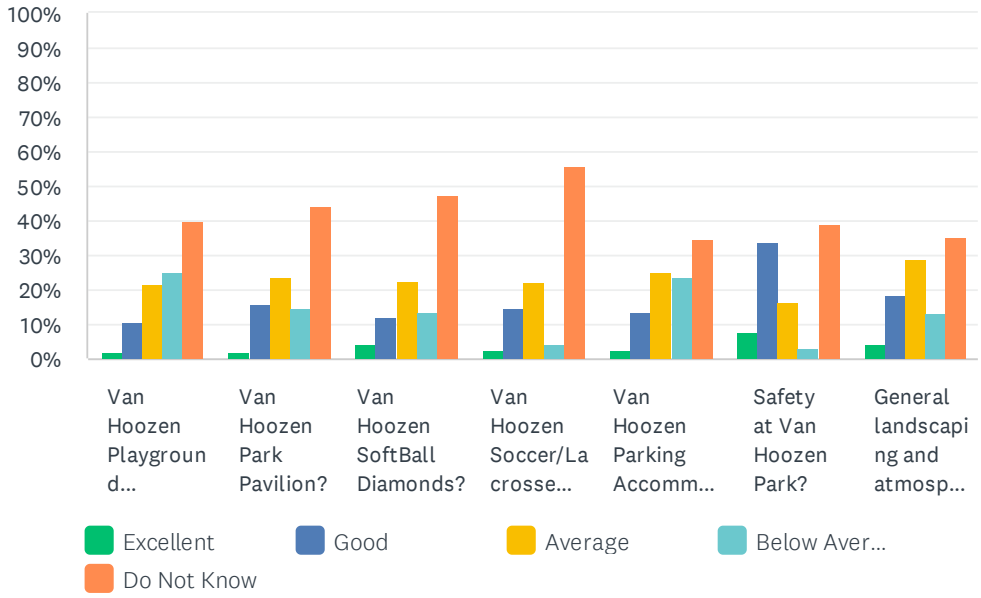
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	DO NOT KNOW	TOTAL
Indian Trails Playground Amenities?	19.75% 80	47.65% 193	21.23% 86	4.94% 20	6.42% 26	405
Indian Trails Pickleball Courts	20.00% 81	20.25% 82	7.65% 31	0.49% 2	51.60% 209	405
Indian Trails Baseball Fields	8.40% 34	23.95% 97	25.43% 103	13.09% 53	29.14% 118	405
Indian Trails Soccer/Lacrosse/Flag Football (Rectangle Field Sports)	2.72% 11	20.49% 83	25.19% 102	10.37% 42	41.23% 167	405
Indian Trails Amphitheater/outdoor concert area	3.95% 16	15.80% 64	20.49% 83	7.41% 30	52.35% 212	405
Indian Trails Pavilions	8.15% 33	34.81% 141	33.58% 136	5.19% 21	18.27% 74	405
Trails at Indian Trails Park	13.83% 56	42.96% 174	26.91% 109	3.70% 15	12.59% 51	405
Indian Trails Landscaping and Grounds?	7.90% 32	40.49% 164	37.04% 150	5.93% 24	8.64% 35	405
Safety at Indian Trails Park?	14.81% 60	47.65% 193	23.21% 94	2.22% 9	12.10% 49	405
General Atmosphere of Indian Trails Park?	15.80% 64	50.62% 205	22.72% 92	2.72% 11	8.15% 33	405

Q7 Thinking of Van Hoozen Park, how do you rate the following?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	DO NOT KNOW	TOTAL
Van Hoozen Playground Amenities?	2.22% 9	10.62% 43	21.73% 88	25.43% 103	40.00% 162	405
Van Hoozen Park Pavilion?	2.22% 9	15.56% 63	23.70% 96	14.57% 59	43.95% 178	405
Van Hoozen SoftBall Diamonds?	4.44% 18	12.10% 49	22.72% 92	13.58% 55	47.16% 191	405
Van Hoozen Soccer/Lacrosse Fields (Rectangle Field Sports)?	2.72% 11	14.57% 59	22.22% 90	4.44% 18	56.05% 227	405
Van Hoozen Parking Accommodations?	2.47% 10	13.83% 56	25.19% 102	23.70% 96	34.81% 141	405
Safety at Van Hoozen Park?	7.90% 32	33.83% 137	16.30% 66	3.21% 13	38.77% 157	405
General landscaping and atmosphere of Van Hoozen Park?	4.20% 17	18.27% 74	28.89% 117	13.33% 54	35.31% 143	405

Q8 If you rated something below average please tell us why.

Answered: 226 Skipped: 179

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The rectangle fields at Indian Trails could be much better. The field at the front of the park where flag football and rugby are played is in very bad shape. The east end of the field has exceptionally poor water drainage. There is also a significant trench running the entire length of the field that could cause injury.	7/27/2023 9:21 PM
2	Rugby field at Indian trails is below average. This definitely needs improvement please.	7/26/2023 7:04 PM
3	The Playground and Pavilion are small.	7/24/2023 2:15 PM
4	n/a	7/24/2023 10:57 AM
5	Indian Trails Playground is old and worn out. Need to be cleaned up and refreshed.	7/23/2023 11:37 PM
6	All above average	7/22/2023 10:02 PM
7	Indian trails park has not been updated in a long time. There is a huge ditch that runs right by the rugby field that should be addressed as well.	7/22/2023 10:39 AM
8	N	7/22/2023 4:04 AM
9	These parks are utilized by several ppl the west and tear is extreme money needs invested to improve these amenities for the community	7/21/2023 7:55 AM
10	The football/rugby field is really muddy for both players and spectators. Van Hoozen just needs a bit more for people to want to be there more. Currently we only go when my older kids have a cross country meet over there.	7/21/2023 7:33 AM
11	Our football/rugby field in the front of the park needs work. The ditch and drainage issues fixed. Bleachers for families to watch the games	7/21/2023 12:03 AM
12	The safety at Indian Trails has to do with the main toad and front parking lot. It is all too small/narrow to accommodate the amount out traffic it receives on any given Saturday or game day. Dangerous to be walking around. The average reviews of Van Hoozen are just because things are adequate. Nothing has ever stood out as being great or terrible. The rectangle sports fields are fine, but could always be improved with grading, drainage, and/or better maintained of grass.	7/20/2023 11:26 PM
13	The fields in Indian trails park are uneven have bad surrounding area leading to flooding and harder ground	7/20/2023 11:07 PM
14	The Rugby field needs work.	7/20/2023 9:56 PM
15	The van hozen park is an old playground for little kids directly by a busy road. Parking lot is tiny. No amenities.	7/20/2023 9:37 PM
16	None	7/20/2023 9:27 PM
17	The Indian rivers rectangular field closest to Aboite CenterRD definitely needs works, there is a big ditch in the middle of the field that hurt some of my rugby players a few years back (if it has been fixed after 2018 than never mind)	7/20/2023 8:37 PM
18	N/A	7/20/2023 5:16 PM
19	N/A	7/20/2023 4:52 PM
20	Parking small lot at Van Hoozen. Baseball fields ok	7/20/2023 4:33 PM
21	The field near the road needs work. Drainage is a problem. Some stands to sit in may be nice.	7/20/2023 3:56 PM
22	There's definitely some things just left and not taken care of including rugby field and pavilions	7/20/2023 3:46 PM

23	It is embarrassing to host baseball tournaments at Indian trails. No public restrooms unlocked, no concessions, poorly maintained dirt fields…	7/20/2023 1:50 PM
24	Playground at Van Hoozen is small and limited equipment	7/19/2023 10:07 PM
25	I didnt	7/19/2023 5:32 PM
26	Landscaping needs to be addressed. Trees need suckers removed and weed eated around the bases. Dead trees/limbs need to be removed.	7/19/2023 11:41 AM
27	Not enough baseball/softball diamond in this area to support the number of players/kids in this community	7/19/2023 11:38 AM
28	Parking is limited and far away from softball fields. Softball diamonds are outdated.	7/18/2023 1:57 PM
29	M/A	7/17/2023 6:43 PM
30	You know	7/17/2023 9:41 AM
31	The bathrooms at Van Hoozen frequently have no toilet paper. The playground is run down.	7/17/2023 9:07 AM
32	I did not know these parks existed. Where are they?	7/16/2023 11:44 AM
33	Minimal parking. Playground has minimal toys/climbing apparatus and is all geared toward very young children	7/15/2023 8:40 PM
34	Playground is well taken care of, but appears seldom used unless another activity is going on.	7/15/2023 1:16 PM
35	Poor parking	7/15/2023 12:28 AM
36	N/A	7/14/2023 10:50 PM
37	never been	7/14/2023 4:55 PM
38	There's just not enough things like they can even have all those exercising equipments at the playgrounds for the people update update	7/14/2023 8:13 AM
39	Need more baseball softball field access and field maintenance is sub-par	7/14/2023 7:12 AM
40	Not enough parking at van hoozen park.	7/14/2023 6:02 AM
41	Na	7/13/2023 10:35 PM
42	There are some facilities we just don’t use that are hard to evaluate.	7/13/2023 10:10 PM
43	Field conditions at indian trails could be better.	7/13/2023 3:53 PM
44	The playground equipment is little and far between. Not much	7/13/2023 2:43 PM
45	N/a	7/13/2023 2:02 PM
46	Too many bee/wasp nests at Indian Trail playground	7/13/2023 1:26 PM
47	The grass area is not an amphitheater. Where is the stage?	7/13/2023 12:30 PM
48	First van Hoozen and Indian trails are very close in proximity. There is an abundance of athletic fields between both places in addition to having the SWAC FIELDS to utilize. No more fields are needed. If you add landscaping, it would be great if you utilized native Indiana plants, trees, bushes and flowers. I’m not sure if possible but there are many kids and families who would like to have a nice pond to fish. It might also be nice for winter if there were a way to install a pad for an outdoor ice rink in the winter. I’ve read on other sites people asking also where great places to sled in the winter time would be. Maybe a sledding hill could be added to the landscape.	7/13/2023 12:02 PM
49	Very poor drainage in front aboite rd field that causes uneven, dangerous surface.	7/13/2023 11:57 AM
50	Parking for baseball fields at Indian Trails is terrible. There is no way to access the back field for anyone with a physical disability or who has a difficult time walking.	7/13/2023 11:08 AM
51	N/A	7/13/2023 11:07 AM
52	Looks dated and run down	7/13/2023 11:03 AM
53	no opinion	7/13/2023 11:00 AM

54	N/a	7/13/2023 10:58 AM
55	Very little parking at the park. Homestead HS has parking but that is not actually the parks parking and so during school it's limited.	7/13/2023 10:25 AM
56	Van Hoozen’s playground equipment is pretty limited. A couple additional pieces would be nice.	7/13/2023 8:23 AM
57	Playground at Van Hoozen is small, but could be great!	7/13/2023 8:22 AM
58	Na	7/13/2023 7:20 AM
59	Poor parking	7/12/2023 7:12 PM
60	Parking is an issue	7/12/2023 6:53 PM
61	The playground equipment is out of date and very minimal. My kids just end of throwing rocks because of not much to do.	7/12/2023 6:07 PM
62	It was not at all wheel chair accessible at the Van Hoozen park due to the new construction. I realize it will be once the sidewalk is open. It was just unfortunate circumstances on timing.	7/12/2023 2:54 PM
63	Could be better maintained	7/12/2023 1:44 PM
64	N/A	7/12/2023 1:37 PM
65	N/A	7/12/2023 10:28 AM
66	This could be a beautiful facility with financial resources, hard work and direction.	7/12/2023 10:23 AM
67	Parking tends to be an issue when a sporting event takes place.	7/12/2023 9:50 AM
68	Na	7/12/2023 9:02 AM
69	Need more softball fields.	7/12/2023 8:43 AM
70	The outfield on softball Diamond 11 at Van Hoozen needs some work. Additional softball diamonds are also needed, along with batting cages.	7/12/2023 12:15 AM
71	The landscaping at both parks is abysmal. The parking at Van Hoozen is terribly limited but also kind of a moot point since only one family with two toddlers can even play on the equipment at one time. The areas are just so small and only geared towards very small/ young children. Which also makes safety a concern when one area is 20 yards from the road. And the equipment has wood chips under it, very unsafe. I literally had a piece at Indian Trails go through my flip flop! And at Van Hoozen the old railroad tie was coming loose and fell over with rusty old nails exposed. Was there for 3 weeks in a row.	7/11/2023 10:57 PM
72	The Southall fields are rough. Parking does not accommodate the number of people that could show up to games.	7/11/2023 10:14 PM
73	Girls need better access to softball facilities in Aboite. We can do way better here.	7/11/2023 10:08 PM
74	Van Hoozen Park is outdated in its softball fields, playground and picnic area. It would be really great to focus on improvements and upgrades on this park.	7/11/2023 10:02 PM
75	Did not	7/11/2023 9:23 PM
76	Parking stinks when softball is being played. Too long of a walk to get to diamond 12	7/11/2023 8:12 PM
77	When there are multiple sports/activities going on parking and safety of people around is nail biting at times	7/11/2023 7:41 PM
78	Van Hoozen park desperately needs more parking and access to the softball diamonds from a path. Aside from the sports field and diamonds, there is no atmosphere, and the playground is nothing worth stopping for. Expanded softball fields and trails to reach them, along with welcoming landscaping and ample parking, would be greatly beneficial.	7/11/2023 6:58 PM
79	NA	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
80	Updated softball diamonds with better and bigger playground and pavillions	7/11/2023 6:03 PM
81	N/a	7/11/2023 5:57 PM

82	The landscaping at van hoozen does not include many flowers or shrubs that I am aware of. I know of the grass in the soccer fields and the grass around the softball fields.	7/11/2023 5:47 PM
83	Van Hoozen is difficult to park and not handicap accessible. I realize some of this is from construction at Homestead, but my elderly family has not been able to see my daughter play softball in 3 years due to difficulties accessing the diamonds.	7/11/2023 5:45 PM
84	Diamonds could be better maintained.	7/11/2023 4:29 PM
85	N/A	7/11/2023 4:25 PM
86	Need more softball fields!	7/11/2023 4:19 PM
87	Playing conditions of softball and baseball fields are very poor.	7/11/2023 4:18 PM
88	Playground equipment is very old. Need additional softball fields. Need walking Trails around & through the park.	7/11/2023 4:16 PM
89	The playground at Van Hoozen park is small and does not have many fun things to play on for kids. Also, parking by the fire station is limited and not easy to navigate.	7/11/2023 4:15 PM
90	N/A	7/11/2023 4:09 PM
91	N/a	7/11/2023 4:02 PM
92	Na	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
93	The playground equipment at VanHoozen is very outdated.	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
94	Need another softball Diamond!!! Better playground, better restrooms.	7/11/2023 3:42 PM
95	Na	7/11/2023 3:40 PM
96	Old and out dated.	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
97	The softball fields need some help because with the holes girl can hurt themselves severely	7/11/2023 3:34 PM
98	There is not enough parking for grandparents at this park. It is a long way to the diamonds and it is hard for them to get back there with the increase waking in the lot	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
99	Parking is not convenient for the couple of ball diamonds at Van Hoozen park. Landscaping and trees are minimal	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
100	N/a	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
101	never enough parking, one softball diamond does not have a fence.	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
102	Softball diamonds are extremely under kept. There are only a couple of options and they are just not up to par with as higher quality if the boys diamonds are. Softball needs some major work in the area to allow the girls in our community the chance to grow. We just don’t have adequate options for them.	7/11/2023 6:55 AM
103	improved security for permanent restrooms so they can be open.	7/10/2023 10:08 PM
104	The pavilion is very small and not in the best shape. There needs to be more shade. The fields are super lumpy and increase risk of injury.	7/9/2023 8:55 PM
105	Trails could use interest, shade, benches. A loop that doesn't cross at the main road.	7/9/2023 4:09 PM
106	Hardly any playground equipment and pavilion is very, very basic	7/9/2023 10:26 AM
107	There seems to be minimal trees and landscaping done at the parks. Could be done a lot prettier.	7/8/2023 8:22 PM
108	NA	7/8/2023 12:28 PM
109	Na	7/8/2023 7:19 AM
110	I don’t use Van Hoozen much, but I hardly even think of it as a “park.” I’ve had kids a mile away for 10-11 years, and I’ve never thought to go there expect for using the softball field just a couple times. The playground is nothing compared to Indian Trails.	7/7/2023 3:32 PM
111	amenities could be much better given the population	7/7/2023 7:25 AM

112	Poor availability	7/7/2023 5:14 AM
113	Van hoozen playground is weak in comparison to Indian Trails playground. Limited equipment/options.	7/6/2023 11:38 PM
114	I haven’t seen it updated in years	7/6/2023 9:00 PM
115	Nothing to the pavilion just open space. Not very appeqling	7/6/2023 6:55 PM
116	Do not know enough about the soccer and lacrosse fields	7/6/2023 5:24 PM
117	None	7/6/2023 4:55 PM
118	The baseball fields at Indian Trails park are way below average and are an embarrassment to our community. Most surrounding small town communities have much better baseball facilities	7/6/2023 1:44 PM
119	Na	7/6/2023 1:37 PM
120	Na	7/6/2023 10:37 AM
121	No	7/6/2023 10:13 AM
122	Bc we do not have enough (if any that I know of) softball/baseball fields for our little league	7/6/2023 9:09 AM
123	🤷‍♀️	7/6/2023 8:30 AM
124	D2 needs to be completely redone. It is not safe for elders to make their way back there to watch their grandchildren.	7/6/2023 8:16 AM
125	Indian trails park is a basic park. Similar to others.	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
126	Need more ball diamonds	7/6/2023 7:15 AM
127	Playground could be bigger	7/5/2023 10:56 PM
128	Not enough ballparks for Don Ayres softball	7/5/2023 10:49 PM
129	For the funds and resources Aboite township has the park at Van Hoozen is embarrassing. Pavilion….really? A family of six can’t sit under there. The fields don’t drain, aren’t mowed on a consistent basis and frankly need to be updated to turf to host events. The softball fields have been surrounded by construction for far too long and need upgraded as well. Do better.	7/5/2023 10:41 PM
130	Didn’t rate anything below average	7/5/2023 9:13 PM
131	Na	7/5/2023 8:40 PM
132	N/A	7/5/2023 8:38 PM
133	Never been to van hoozen	7/5/2023 8:02 PM
134	NA	7/5/2023 7:53 PM
135	Baseball facilities are surprisingly inadequate for need and condition (especially for being in such an affluent area) compared to other communities.	7/5/2023 6:20 PM
136	N/a	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
137	Baseball/softball at Indian trails need major upgrades for all facilities. Also more of them.	7/5/2023 5:47 PM
138	NA	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
139	It needs updated	7/5/2023 5:39 PM
140	The amenities are either lacking or so small that I didn't even realize they were available at those locations	7/5/2023 5:38 PM
141	Have not been to the park	7/5/2023 5:21 PM
142	The softball fields are used a lot by aboite slow pitch league and aren’t kept up compared to other fields.	7/5/2023 4:47 PM
143	No	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
144	not enough baseball diamonds	7/5/2023 4:43 PM

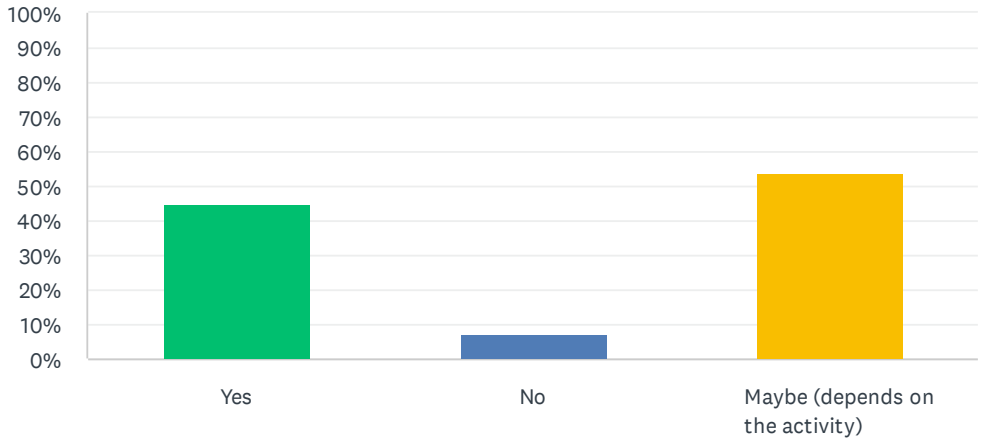
145	Ok	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
146	N	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
147	The restroom situation at Indian Trails park is a problem. The portable toilets are always overflowing in the summer and it's disgusting. I have had to take my kids to pee behind a pine tree far away from the park because poop was literally sticking above the toilet seat. The restrooms are always locked. It's awful. The park is great and well maintained. But kids have to go to the bathroom and they aren't taken care of after a long weekend of baseball/soccer tournaments.	7/5/2023 4:29 PM
148	No	7/5/2023 4:25 PM
149	N/A	7/5/2023 4:23 PM
150	Baseball/Softball fields -- The condition is lacking other communities and we have a TON of people that spend time on and around them.	7/5/2023 4:20 PM
151	The playground area is small and outdated.	7/5/2023 4:01 PM
152	Van hoozen playground had rusted and broken devices the last time I was there with my children.	7/5/2023 3:53 PM
153	N/a	7/5/2023 3:49 PM
154	There are better condition fields in FW	7/5/2023 3:47 PM
155	There have been kids threatening other kids at the playground. The baseball fields are very poorly maintained. Scoreboards don’t work, rough and uneven fields, bases that won’t stay in place when the kids play. They are terrible.	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
156	NA	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
157	Fields need updated and bathroom access is limited they are always locked	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
158	There isn't anything that stands out at the softball diamond's. Some of the diamonds could use a makeover. The parking lot is adequate for one event, but additional events would have parking challenges.	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
159	NA	7/5/2023 3:34 PM
160	Broken playground equipment	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
161	We’re located on the southwest side of Fort Wayne . We should offer better to the all the families that live out southwest I feel there’s a huge demand for a outdoor sports complex, but upscale clean for concession and activities for the whole family	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
162	I don’t think I did.	7/5/2023 3:24 PM
163	N/a	7/5/2023 3:15 PM
164	No	7/5/2023 3:10 PM
165	Indian trails baseball fields are rough. The dirt is in bad shape, the scoreboard is broken, and the backstop behind the plate is down a small grassy incline.	7/5/2023 3:09 PM
166	N/a	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
167	Nope	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
168	N/a	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
169	Indian Trails could use their space better.	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
170	I didn't!	7/5/2023 3:04 PM
171	No available restrooms. Woodchips instead of sager playground material. Playground structures cracked/sharp/unsafe. Far walk from parking and generally unreachable for disabled.	7/5/2023 2:59 PM
172	We need more quantity, and better quality baseball diamonds.	7/5/2023 2:58 PM
173	below average on all.	7/5/2023 2:57 PM

174	Playground is outdated, small, and too close to a busy road/lot. Needs enhanced safety and new equipment.	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
175	Baseball fields at Indian Trails are not kept up very well, parking is terrible, no options for concessions, pitching mounds are sprained ankles waiting to happen and batting cages are in terrible condition.	7/5/2023 2:53 PM
176	Scoreboards at baseball fields are all mostly broken, Definitely field 14 and 17	7/5/2023 2:51 PM
177	Park appears to just be a green space that gets little attention other than by participants.	7/5/2023 2:50 PM
178	Do not know	7/5/2023 2:49 PM
179	Need more fields for baseball practices and games	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
180	NA	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
181	Fields not taken care of adequately never any lines grass over grown not enough game or practice space very unorganized baseball association	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
182	The landscaping seems to be very minimal.	7/5/2023 2:45 PM
183	HONESTLY IT IS ABSOLUTELY ABSURD THAT SOUTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE A FULL LITTLE LEAGUE FACILITY TO MIMIC OTHER MUCH LOWER INCOME AREAS IN THE STATE OF INDIANA THAT HAVE FULL FIELDS, CONCESSIONS AND AMENITIES. IT IS REALLY AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE COUNTY AND NO COMMITMENT HAS BEEN PLACED ON THIS FOR OUR CHILDREN WHO SO GREATLY NEED IT AND A SAFE ORGANIZED PLACE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
184	The playground needs to be updated as well as the landscaping	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
185	not up to date on parking or looks, very worn down	7/5/2023 2:42 PM
186	None	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
187	Na	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
188	Baseball fields are sub par. Need updated, more available, and restrooms.	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
189	The baseball fields do not have adequate bathrooms or concessions. There is no shade or protection from inclement weather. The scoreboards don't work and there has never been an announcer.	7/5/2023 2:39 PM
190	?	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
191	Pitching mounds and batters box need better care. Also zero restrooms or concessions for travel ball	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
192	There should be more trees/shade areas and native plants landscaping.	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
193	Fields are rough and bumpy, if event going on parking is terrible. No real landscaping or need of it really	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
194	N/A	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
195	n/a	7/5/2023 2:32 PM
196	The walk/jog trails at Indian trails park are cracked causing a safety hazard, and too narrow for bikes and runners side by side	7/3/2023 10:22 AM
197	NA	7/2/2023 5:49 PM
198	Soccer goals/nets are so poorly taken care of. Grass is always too long in these areas.	7/2/2023 4:35 PM
199	Trails need to be wider to accommodate bicycles/runners/pedestrians using it at the same time. Need better / more parking. Paved parking along the road running through the park.	6/29/2023 11:35 PM
200	Both of the parks and their trails are just grass fields left unused. If people don’t use them do something with them.	6/29/2023 4:57 PM
201	none	6/27/2023 11:31 AM
202	the playground equipment is outdated.	6/27/2023 10:08 AM

203	Nothing about it is extraordinary its just there and maintained	6/26/2023 9:45 AM
204	Parking area is very small. Not enough space to support the park and the community room at the same times on occasion. Pavillion could use some updating. Not much of a playground	6/25/2023 5:33 PM
205	A way to call for help if people don’t have a phone on them	6/25/2023 12:33 PM
206	Na	6/23/2023 6:47 PM
207	Playground and pavilion seems outdated and small.	6/23/2023 5:53 PM
208	More native trees to provide shade. Pear trees planted at the park are weak and invasive	6/22/2023 8:49 PM
209	NA	6/22/2023 8:37 PM
210	Ok	6/22/2023 6:56 PM
211	Na	6/21/2023 9:55 PM
212	Not enough amenities	6/21/2023 9:01 PM
213	nothing below average.	6/21/2023 7:40 PM
214	Very little usage at Van Hoozen Park. Aboite Softball League could expand to normal capacity if there were more softball diamonds	6/21/2023 5:06 PM
215	Nope	6/17/2023 10:12 PM
216	Na	6/15/2023 7:20 PM
217	Not a lot of parking	6/15/2023 12:17 PM
218	I sm from Aboite Twp originally, but from another state now, so just visit when I am in Indiana for Reunions. It would ne nice to utilize these upgraded areas for more reunions.	6/14/2023 2:52 PM
219	Ok	6/14/2023 7:22 AM
220	Outdated	6/13/2023 11:33 PM
221	Van Hoozen- no restrooms Would be nice to have some turf fields available to the community	6/13/2023 10:56 PM
222	Play ground amenities deserve to be better. VanHoozen park is very important to the family	6/13/2023 9:59 PM
223	Need more parking area and restrooms	6/13/2023 9:37 PM
224	Equipment is broken and needs replacing. General wear and tear.	6/13/2023 8:50 PM
225	Park pavilion is very small	6/13/2023 8:39 PM
226	Amenities at Van Hoozen park could be increased for the whole population especially the playground equipment	6/13/2023 8:38 PM

Q9 Would you be interested in participating in park programs if they were offered?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.94%	182
No	7.41%	30
Maybe (depends on the activity)	53.58%	217
Total Respondents: 405		

Q10 If you answered "yes" or "maybe" to the question above, what programs would you like to see offered?

Answered: 271 Skipped: 134

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Perhaps activities or events for young adults. It seems like many of the activities in the park are focused on families and older adults.	7/27/2023 9:21 PM
2	Pickleball Tournaments	7/24/2023 2:15 PM
3	Community bike rides. Trail exploration.	7/23/2023 11:37 PM
4	Flea market or farmers" market	7/22/2023 10:02 PM
5	Undecided	7/22/2023 10:39 AM
6	I don't know	7/22/2023 4:04 AM
7	rugby	7/21/2023 4:23 PM
8	Fitness programs in the park would be fun. Story time for the kids, both in the summer for elementary aged kids and during the school year for preschoolers. During school breaks, some fun nature or craft activities. I would also like to see more about local sports rec programs. We have lived here for 4 ½ years and information about rec sports is not widely available. It seems you have to know people who have lived in the city their whole lives to find out about rec sports. Or maybe they aren't offered here and that's why I can't seem to find any information. A web page with rec sports info and bulletin boards near the playgrounds would be a huge help.	7/21/2023 7:33 AM
9	Unsure	7/21/2023 12:03 AM
10	Photography Art or crafting Walking or hiking club	7/20/2023 11:26 PM
11	Random sporting events for amatuers	7/20/2023 11:07 PM
12	Cornhole tournaments and other community building activities	7/20/2023 9:56 PM
13	I don't know...adult softball, disc golf league ect	7/20/2023 9:37 PM
14	None	7/20/2023 9:27 PM
15	Running clubs	7/20/2023 8:37 PM
16	I'm not sure which activities, but if they were offered I'd try to go	7/20/2023 5:16 PM
17	existing are sufficient youth sports	7/20/2023 4:52 PM
18	Disc golf, pickle ball,	7/20/2023 4:33 PM
19	Dog training	7/20/2023 3:56 PM
20	N/A	7/20/2023 3:46 PM
21	Ping pong senior games	7/20/2023 11:24 AM
22	Depends - adult recreation leagues	7/19/2023 10:07 PM
23	More pickleball tournaments	7/19/2023 5:32 PM
24	Senior activitues... maybe small hikes and also activities in the pavilion . Maybe cards, games, free seminars, potluck luncheons etc.	7/19/2023 11:41 AM
25	Camps	7/19/2023 11:38 AM
26	Boot camp classes	7/19/2023 6:42 AM
27	Unsure at this point	7/17/2023 6:43 PM

28	None	7/17/2023 9:41 AM
29	Softball	7/17/2023 9:07 AM
30	Any	7/16/2023 11:44 AM
31	Pickleball club, cornhike teams	7/15/2023 8:40 PM
32	leagues and/or lessons for pickle ball/corn hole/etc.	7/15/2023 1:16 PM
33	Tai chi or yoga	7/15/2023 10:47 AM
34	None	7/15/2023 12:28 AM
35	Adult athletic programs	7/14/2023 10:50 PM
36	Softball	7/14/2023 8:19 PM
37	?	7/14/2023 4:57 PM
38	no	7/14/2023 4:55 PM
39	sports leagues for kids and adults. Sand Volleyball would be awesome.	7/14/2023 11:51 AM
40	racquet sports, volleyball, arts/crafts, educational programming - things you might see FW Parks and Recreation provide.	7/14/2023 10:17 AM
41	Okay thank you	7/14/2023 8:13 AM
42	Community baseball softball pickleball	7/14/2023 7:12 AM
43	Don't know right now	7/14/2023 6:02 AM
44	Bird-watching, Astronomy, Tree identification, Native plants	7/13/2023 11:31 PM
45	Educational	7/13/2023 10:35 PM
46	Adult softball leagues	7/13/2023 10:10 PM
47	Yoga	7/13/2023 7:13 PM
48	Not sure.	7/13/2023 3:53 PM
49	Bike/trail rides	7/13/2023 2:02 PM
50	Swimming, indoor track	7/13/2023 1:26 PM
51	Nature walks/walking club	7/13/2023 1:02 PM
52	Pickleball programs, adult ultimate frisbee leagues	7/13/2023 12:37 PM
53	Ice rink in winter	7/13/2023 12:30 PM
54	Yoga, farmers market, etc	7/13/2023 11:57 AM
55	I’m not sure what activities I’d like to see, but I’m curious what others have in mind.	7/13/2023 11:07 AM
56	Sport activities for kids	7/13/2023 11:03 AM
57	golf opportunities	7/13/2023 11:00 AM
58	Moms day out programs	7/13/2023 10:58 AM
59	Running clubs, Men's Recreational Softball, Disc Golf clubs, More Pickleball.	7/13/2023 10:25 AM
60	Art / crafts.	7/13/2023 8:23 AM
61	Any programs are fine, “maybe” is due to scheduling / but camps for kids similar to what Fort Wayne Parks and Rec offers would be great! Although staffing would Be challenging given the high interest there would be	7/13/2023 8:22 AM
62	Senior activities	7/12/2023 7:12 PM
63	Something for Seniors	7/12/2023 6:53 PM

64	FW parks and Rec offers park play dates and activities. Would be interested in those. Currently they are all up north or downtown area.	7/12/2023 6:07 PM
65	Softball	7/12/2023 4:30 PM
66	Adult soccer	7/12/2023 2:54 PM
67	Baseball, tennis, pickleball, trail biking and running, picnics, restrooms, music	7/12/2023 2:52 PM
68	Sports tournaments	7/12/2023 2:17 PM
69	Younger kid activities	7/12/2023 1:44 PM
70	Don’t know	7/12/2023 1:37 PM
71	Sports and outdoor activities	7/12/2023 10:28 AM
72	Community activities for adults and kids.	7/12/2023 10:23 AM
73	I am open to just about anything	7/12/2023 9:50 AM
74	Na	7/12/2023 9:02 AM
75	Not sure	7/12/2023 8:43 AM
76	Similar offerings as FWPR	7/11/2023 10:57 PM
77	yoga, exercise classes, kids classes	7/11/2023 10:54 PM
78	Gardening, safety	7/11/2023 10:14 PM
79	Girls softball	7/11/2023 10:08 PM
80	Gardening, cooking class	7/11/2023 10:03 PM
81	Nature & Recreational sports programs. (Especially softball, flag football, cross country programs. Would be interested in tennis and swimming if the facilities were available.)	7/11/2023 10:02 PM
82	Don’t know	7/11/2023 9:23 PM
83	Summer camps, fall or spring softball	7/11/2023 8:12 PM
84	More things for 50+ folks	7/11/2023 7:41 PM
85	Tennis	7/11/2023 7:13 PM
86	Sports for kids	7/11/2023 7:01 PM
87	Children and teen sports, adult exercise	7/11/2023 6:58 PM
88	Pickleball lessons	7/11/2023 6:22 PM
89	NA	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
90	?	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
91	Softball (men's, women's, boys and girls, coed)	7/11/2023 6:03 PM
92	N/a	7/11/2023 5:57 PM
93	Sand volleyball for girls	7/11/2023 5:47 PM
94	Children's summer programs or camps	7/11/2023 5:45 PM
95	Fast pitch softball for the girls	7/11/2023 5:27 PM
96	Softball games	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
97	Can't think of any off the top of my head.	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
98	Youth sports camps	7/11/2023 4:47 PM
99	More softball fields, splash pad, and another park with more equipment! That would be great!	7/11/2023 4:38 PM
100	Volleyball	7/11/2023 4:29 PM

101	N/A	7/11/2023 4:25 PM
102	Anything that’s fun and educational for kids	7/11/2023 4:20 PM
103	Golf	7/11/2023 4:19 PM
104	Moving to FL	7/11/2023 4:18 PM
105	Fun activities for toddlers and kids (craft activities, fun classes toddlers can do with a parent), amazing race type activities. Would be fun to be able to host larger softball tournaments.	7/11/2023 4:15 PM
106	More things for younger children 2-5 years of age	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
107	Adult leagues, pickle ball, tennis, co-Ed softball, corn hole, shuffleboard	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
108	I have a 6 year old and 3 year old and we are always looking for things to do	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
109	Softball Diamonds	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
110	Sand Volleyball, disc golf, more softball diamonds.	7/11/2023 3:42 PM
111	Youth sports, family activities	7/11/2023 3:40 PM
112	Guided nature walks, volleyball	7/11/2023 3:38 PM
113	hockey	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
114	.	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
115	Help for the softball fields	7/11/2023 3:34 PM
116	Softball diamonds, splash pad/activities for kids, batting cages	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
117	Pickle ball, sand volleyball, corn hole	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
118	idk	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
119	Softball	7/11/2023 3:25 PM
120	NA	7/11/2023 6:55 AM
121	Volleyball or pickle ball tournament	7/11/2023 1:25 AM
122	Sports, cooking, arts	7/11/2023 12:06 AM
123	adult walking groups especially for people overweight, with medical needs	7/10/2023 10:08 PM
124	Baseball clinics for youth	7/9/2023 4:09 PM
125	Sports programs for grandkids	7/9/2023 10:26 AM
126	I do not know.	7/8/2023 8:22 PM
127	Attending Don Ayres baseball/softball games	7/8/2023 12:28 PM
128	More rec league youth sports options	7/8/2023 7:19 AM
129	Fitness	7/7/2023 5:25 PM
130	My main concern is baseball. I would mostly be interested in programs for my kids. Maybe nature-oriented programs or athletic sorts of things.	7/7/2023 3:32 PM
131	running groups	7/7/2023 10:56 AM
132	More softball fields	7/7/2023 7:25 AM
133	Community youth sports and adult sports	7/7/2023 7:04 AM
134	Music/entertainment	7/7/2023 5:14 AM
135	Any sports lessons/camps Fitness classes for adults Recreational Biking club	7/6/2023 11:38 PM
136	I don’t even know what programs you have now or what would even be an idea or option. I have lived her for 19 years and all of my children have grown up here since birth and I haven’t	7/6/2023 9:00 PM

	seen any programs offered at these two parks other than aboite softball or a place to meet for running club. It seems most programs are offered the parks on the north side of town.	
137	More softball and baseball diamonds	7/6/2023 5:24 PM
138	New baseball facilities	7/6/2023 1:44 PM
139	Sports for kids	7/6/2023 1:37 PM
140	Baseball	7/6/2023 12:07 PM
141	Community/Church Softball	7/6/2023 11:33 AM
142	Baseball	7/6/2023 10:37 AM
143	Outdoor exercise	7/6/2023 10:13 AM
144	Depends upon what is offered	7/6/2023 10:08 AM
145	I’m not sure	7/6/2023 9:09 AM
146	Anything to bring the community together and get kids active	7/6/2023 8:33 AM
147	🤷‍♀️	7/6/2023 8:30 AM
148	Anything for kids 4-13	7/6/2023 8:16 AM
149	Basketball	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
150	Sports, coaching	7/6/2023 7:15 AM
151	Programs for younger children	7/6/2023 6:43 AM
152	Softball, volleyball, kids activity days	7/5/2023 10:56 PM
153	Nature, art, sports clinics	7/5/2023 10:50 PM
154	N.A.	7/5/2023 10:49 PM
155	Youth sports	7/5/2023 10:41 PM
156	Community sports leagues	7/5/2023 9:54 PM
157	Walking	7/5/2023 9:13 PM
158	Na	7/5/2023 8:40 PM
159	Soccer adults Baseball Softball Flag Football Adults	7/5/2023 8:38 PM
160	Tennis, golf, softball, baseball	7/5/2023 8:20 PM
161	Baseball	7/5/2023 8:02 PM
162	Football	7/5/2023 7:53 PM
163	We need more baseball fields so kids do not have to use the grass at the Chapel and also be turned away from playing	7/5/2023 6:41 PM
164	Unsure of the possibilities	7/5/2023 6:20 PM
165	Youth sports	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
166	Anything, art, movement, community	7/5/2023 6:03 PM
167	Kid’s Sumer camp	7/5/2023 5:55 PM
168	Any	7/5/2023 5:47 PM
169	I'm not sure	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
170	Sports, yoga	7/5/2023 5:39 PM
171	Baseball / softball / teeball / live music / food truck nights / toddler time or class activities	7/5/2023 5:38 PM
172	I don’t know	7/5/2023 5:21 PM

173	Youth activities, you have to stay up until midnight the days camp registration opens if you want to get your kid into camps through the YMCA, Parks programs, the schools programs offered, etc. I want to give my kiddos etxra summer experiences and there just isn't enough to go around!	7/5/2023 4:48 PM
174	More Youth	7/5/2023 4:47 PM
175	Driving range	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
176	pottery, gardening	7/5/2023 4:43 PM
177	Softball	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
178	Adult softball	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
179	Softball	7/5/2023 4:25 PM
180	N/A	7/5/2023 4:23 PM
181	Not sure, but we try to be apart of the community.	7/5/2023 4:20 PM
182	I'm not sure	7/5/2023 4:06 PM
183	Youth summer activities- crafts, story time, games	7/5/2023 4:05 PM
184	Thea softball complex	7/5/2023 4:01 PM
185	Golf camp/instruction for youth, youth sports activities	7/5/2023 3:56 PM
186	Kids pickleball instruction or classes.	7/5/2023 3:53 PM
187	More basebAll/softball	7/5/2023 3:49 PM
188	Baseball, basketball, golf, football, softball, volleyball,	7/5/2023 3:47 PM
189	Crochet, quilting, book clubs.	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
190	Not sure. What ya got?	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
191	Pickle ball, volleyball , baseball , softball	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
192	Instructional classes like pickleball, yoga, disc golf. Teen gathering activities.	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
193	No	7/5/2023 3:34 PM
194	More baseball area!!!!! We don't have enough fields and that's all we do.	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
195	Any community family events	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
196	Any	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
197	Anything for the kids!!	7/5/2023 3:24 PM
198	Kids programs	7/5/2023 3:15 PM
199	Local baseball/softball leagues	7/5/2023 3:10 PM
200	Basketball, football, soccer, tennis, swimming	7/5/2023 3:10 PM
201	We have 6 kids with varied interests. We would be open to a variety of things.	7/5/2023 3:09 PM
202	N/a	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
203	I have kids baseball on my mind, and the fact we have minimal opportunities for the kids to practice and play baseball because fields are so over booked and we instead use Homestead facilities is bizarre.	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
204	Family friendly stuff that would also appeal to teens	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
205	Softball	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
206	Soccer, football, baseball	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
207	Summer camp	7/5/2023 3:04 PM

208	A decent baseball program.	7/5/2023 3:03 PM
209	Hosting current FW Parks N Rec programming - or offering similar local offerings in Aboite	7/5/2023 3:00 PM
210	Softball, baseball, walking	7/5/2023 2:59 PM
211	n/a	7/5/2023 2:58 PM
212	kids activities	7/5/2023 2:57 PM
213	Not sure	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
214	More softball fields	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
215	tennis, golf, softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, running, swimming sport programs that are low cost and designed to help expose youth to a new sport in a low competitive setting	7/5/2023 2:53 PM
216	A legitimate soccer league would be very welcome on this side of town. We travel across town to St. Joe Township for soccer because the FW Sport Club offering is very underwhelming. I think many families would prefer something else.	7/5/2023 2:52 PM
217	Any	7/5/2023 2:51 PM
218	More concert/entertainment type shows	7/5/2023 2:50 PM
219	Summer programs, youth camps, adult fitness	7/5/2023 2:49 PM
220	Different sports	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
221	Baseball	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
222	Outdoor Yoga groups pet friendly get togethers family days picnic specific dates	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
223	Community activities.	7/5/2023 2:45 PM
224	BASEBALL FIELDS!!!!!!!!!!	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
225	Programs for young boys and girls under 18	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
226	Summer camps	7/5/2023 2:43 PM
227	More recreational opportunities for girls/easter egg hunts/5k and movie nights with big projectors	7/5/2023 2:42 PM
228	Sports	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
229	Idk	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
230	Youth sports	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
231	Softball	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
232	Baseball camps	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
233	Yoga, sustainability education	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
234	Youth sports	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
235	Adult stuff or dog stuff. Corn hole	7/3/2023 5:09 PM
236	Yoga, exercise classes, strength training using your own bodyweight, an obstacle course competition split by age groups, classes on natural landscaping and cutting down on chemicals, classes to get to know your neighbors. A big game of tag or capture the flag for kids and adults. A guided hike on some of the trails in Aboite so we know where they are. A community picnic. The free concerts in July are great fun. Some of us would contribute to having more of those. A couple of food trucks offering something other than sweets would be nice. Gyros, tacos, etc.	7/3/2023 3:00 PM
237	Running, walking, picnics	7/3/2023 10:22 AM
238	Idk	7/2/2023 5:49 PM
239	Yoga	7/1/2023 10:53 AM

240	Don’t know	6/29/2023 11:35 PM
241	We have a young child (1yr), so programming geared towards young kids would interest us.	6/29/2023 8:54 PM
242	Anything to do with getting people more excited about using the parks like some sort of open day activity or sale of some sort	6/29/2023 4:57 PM
243	More pickleball courts	6/29/2023 12:18 PM
244	Pickleball classes	6/29/2023 9:48 AM
245	Night time pickleball	6/29/2023 9:43 AM
246	not sure	6/27/2023 11:31 AM
247	Don't know	6/27/2023 10:51 AM
248	yoga in the park	6/27/2023 10:08 AM
249	We have utilized the parks for extracurriculars such as Soccer Shots. Id try yoga in the park if it fit with my schedule.	6/26/2023 9:45 AM
250	Mens/coed adult softball Disc golf. Driving range Mini golf could be added	6/25/2023 5:33 PM
251	Martial arts, Rugby, defense classes	6/24/2023 2:35 PM
252	Golf	6/23/2023 6:47 PM
253	Gymnastics, kids nature programming, Little and big kid soccer	6/23/2023 6:32 PM
254	Additional community events especially those geared for children. Sports camps or other activities!	6/23/2023 5:53 PM
255	Adult softball league	6/22/2023 8:49 PM
256	NA	6/22/2023 8:37 PM
257	Softball baseball	6/22/2023 6:56 PM
258	Not sure	6/21/2023 9:55 PM
259	More softball!	6/21/2023 9:01 PM
260	answered "no".	6/21/2023 7:40 PM
261	Nature education Outdoor yoga	6/17/2023 10:12 PM
262	Basketball	6/15/2023 7:20 PM
263	Children's activities	6/15/2023 12:17 PM
264	Dog park!!!!	6/14/2023 4:56 PM
265	More summer concerts	6/14/2023 7:22 AM
266	Sports and activities for toddlers/preschools. Along with adult sports	6/13/2023 11:33 PM
267	Pickle ball lessons Dancing lessons- adult Euchre leagues	6/13/2023 10:56 PM
268	Programs for seniors	6/13/2023 9:37 PM
269	A variety	6/13/2023 8:50 PM
270	Crafts taught/shared lessons for pickle ball Planting of flower beds for visitors and passerbyers to enjoy	6/13/2023 8:38 PM
271	Summer kid friendly programs or family programs year round	6/13/2023 7:56 PM

Q11 Do you have additional comments regarding any of the parks in Aboite Township?

Answered: 240 Skipped: 165

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I believe adding more parking near the front of Indian Trails Park should be considered. The southern lot fills quickly during most events or even a nice day. Sometimes as a result people park on the side of the road instead of parking in one of the north lots. Widening the road through the park to accommodate people parking could be another solution. I also believe a splash pad or at least a second drinking fountain is a good idea as the park gets hot in the summer.	7/27/2023 9:21 PM
2	Repairs at the playground tend to take a long time	7/27/2023 8:20 AM
3	More softball diamonds	7/25/2023 7:25 PM
4	No	7/24/2023 2:15 PM
5	No	7/23/2023 11:37 PM
6	Park Dept needs to fill in the ditch leading to drain on east side of bandstand in Indian Trails. It is getting quite deep and is a safety hazard plus impedes proper drainage.	7/22/2023 10:02 PM
7	Not at this time.	7/22/2023 10:39 AM
8	Need additional and refurbished baseball fields and cages. Not enough and the existing is run down	7/22/2023 4:04 AM
9	The joys of a park, to me, are largely nature-based. It seems counterproductive to me to take a forested area or pretty field and excavate it to turn it into a park. I would appreciate options that focus on keeping undeveloped nature in Aboite township.	7/21/2023 9:54 PM
10	see above	7/21/2023 7:33 AM
11	No	7/21/2023 12:03 AM
12	PLEASE fix the drainage issues and grading of the rugby field at Indian Trails. Please provide better advertisement of what activities, games, and/or concerts are scheduled. Website? Social media? Physical signage or posters?	7/20/2023 11:26 PM
13	Rugby fields need work	7/20/2023 11:07 PM
14	I love our park, and feel that they are exceptional, but the Rugby field really needs renovated for player and team safety	7/20/2023 9:56 PM
15	More lighting around paths	7/20/2023 9:37 PM
16	None	7/20/2023 9:27 PM
17	Just the Rugby field the Homestead Spartans play on Fix it Make it amazing They deserve it all	7/20/2023 8:37 PM
18	N/A	7/20/2023 5:16 PM
19	none	7/20/2023 4:52 PM
20	Rugby field could use assistance with drainage and field condition.	7/20/2023 4:33 PM
21	Already filled out survey for Pawsters park.	7/20/2023 3:56 PM
22	No	7/20/2023 3:46 PM
23	Thanks for reaching out for input	7/19/2023 10:07 PM
24	No	7/19/2023 5:32 PM

25	Do not know where the Van one is located. Never heard if it.	7/19/2023 11:41 AM
26	Build more baseball/softball diamonds to support the kids/players within this community	7/19/2023 11:38 AM
27	Continual improvements to keep it a great space	7/17/2023 6:43 PM
28	Keep up the good work!!	7/17/2023 11:35 AM
29	No	7/17/2023 9:41 AM
30	The publicity department needs to be more proactive.	7/16/2023 11:44 AM
31	The dog waste bins/bags are awesome and very much appreciated! Additional park benches placed along the walking trail. People may be able to walk the entire trail but may need rest at short intervals.	7/15/2023 8:40 PM
32	We have participated in Aboite Girls Softball for 16 years and we think they are a great family organization. They deserve quality fields.	7/15/2023 1:16 PM
33	No	7/15/2023 10:47 AM
34	None	7/15/2023 12:28 AM
35	No	7/14/2023 10:50 PM
36	?	7/14/2023 4:57 PM
37	no	7/14/2023 4:55 PM
38	They are great! So much potential for leagues for kids and adults with the right investments.	7/14/2023 11:51 AM
39	RESTROOMS, RESTROOMS, RESTROOMS!!!!	7/14/2023 10:22 AM
40	That's what I said	7/14/2023 8:13 AM
41	No	7/14/2023 7:12 AM
42	No	7/14/2023 6:02 AM
43	Bo	7/13/2023 10:35 PM
44	You wouldn’t regret adding baseball and softball facilities. There just aren’t enough in Ft Wayne and tons of kids play all Spring and Summer	7/13/2023 10:10 PM
45	No	7/13/2023 3:53 PM
46	We need more softball and baseball fields for the kiddos	7/13/2023 2:02 PM
47	No	7/13/2023 1:26 PM
48	The soccer/lacrosse fields at IT are very nice, and the open space is very important to the overall atmosphere. I do not want more baseball diamonds added at IT.	7/13/2023 12:37 PM
49	No	7/13/2023 12:30 PM
50	N-A	7/13/2023 11:07 AM
51	Compared to other areas of Fort Wayne they aren’t as impressive	7/13/2023 11:03 AM
52	none	7/13/2023 11:00 AM
53	N/a	7/13/2023 10:58 AM
54	NO	7/13/2023 10:25 AM
55	Thanks for all you do to make our community a wonderful place to live. 🙂	7/13/2023 8:23 AM
56	Thanks for doing the survey and working to improve the parks!	7/13/2023 8:22 AM
57	No	7/13/2023 7:20 AM
58	No	7/12/2023 7:12 PM
59	Need another softball field @ Van Hoozen park to replace the one that was removed	7/12/2023 4:30 PM

60	overall we are very happy with the progress	7/12/2023 2:54 PM
61	Need to update baseball fields	7/12/2023 2:52 PM
62	No	7/12/2023 1:44 PM
63	No	7/12/2023 1:37 PM
64	No	7/12/2023 10:28 AM
65	N/A	7/12/2023 10:23 AM
66	no	7/12/2023 9:50 AM
67	No	7/12/2023 9:02 AM
68	No	7/12/2023 8:43 AM
69	No	7/11/2023 10:57 PM
70	I have this fear that Homestead will try to take over the parks. I hope that does not happen.	7/11/2023 10:14 PM
71	Girls softball feels like an also or me too. Not good enough for our tax base. We can do much better and should be working to create better facilities and programs.	7/11/2023 10:08 PM
72	None	7/11/2023 10:03 PM
73	The development and growth of the existing Aboite Girls Softball program at the Van Hoozen Park should be a primary focus. It is already a great program to have in the community but the facilities are greatly lacking. With improved facilities and opportunities the program will grow even more in the community. As for Indian Trails park, the restroom facilities are in desperate need of improvement and upgrade. The only permanent restroom facilities are at the playground and they are either locked, out of service, leaking or overflowing most of the time. The portable toilet by the baseball diamonds has been full and out of toilet paper often. There have been numerous times I have had to leave the property to find a restroom facility for myself and/or numerous children. Sometimes we cut our plans short due to lack of suitable facilities.	7/11/2023 10:02 PM
74	Need more pickleball courts	7/11/2023 9:23 PM
75	No	7/11/2023 8:12 PM
76	This is a growing area and would love to see the parts area grow with it. Housing, schools, roads (recently paved) are all being upgraded and it’s time to parks do too.	7/11/2023 7:41 PM
77	No	7/11/2023 7:13 PM
78	Need more softball fields in van hoozen to accommodate softball	7/11/2023 7:01 PM
79	Indian Trails park playground has been wonderful for my children and we enjoy the trail. My daughters play softball at Van Hoozen and we would greatly appreciate more diamonds with a paved path for access. The teams frequently play double-headers due to lack of space and it is hard for especially the younger girls (tball and grades 1-2). Please consider, thanks!	7/11/2023 6:58 PM
80	Really need more pickleball courts.	7/11/2023 6:22 PM
81	No	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
82	No	7/11/2023 6:11 PM
83	N/a	7/11/2023 5:57 PM
84	I love the Aboite Softball League and would value having more softball fields.	7/11/2023 5:47 PM
85	N/A	7/11/2023 5:45 PM
86	No	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
87	no	7/11/2023 5:19 PM
88	MORE SOFTBALL DIAMONDS, PLEASE!	7/11/2023 4:38 PM
89	No	7/11/2023 4:25 PM

90	No	7/11/2023 4:19 PM
91	Need a full time maintenance/grounds crew to maintain fields/courts	7/11/2023 4:18 PM
92	N/A	7/11/2023 4:09 PM
93	Would love to see more parks or something indoor for winter time	7/11/2023 3:59 PM
94	No	7/11/2023 3:50 PM
95	More need for softball diamonds at Van Hoozen	7/11/2023 3:45 PM
96	Please replace the softball diamond lost to Homestead Construction.	7/11/2023 3:42 PM
97	No	7/11/2023 3:40 PM
98	no	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
99	Softball has already lost one field to Homestead. A better complex for our young women is needed. Would also attract others to the area.	7/11/2023 3:36 PM
100	Hope	7/11/2023 3:34 PM
101	No	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
102	N/a	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
103	no	7/11/2023 3:32 PM
104	NA	7/11/2023 6:55 AM
105	biggest concern is lack of year round open usable restrooms with running water. So strange to have the facilities but they are generally/usually not open.	7/10/2023 10:08 PM
106	It seems they could up kept better and more offerings for the size and population in the area. We are newer here and was disappointed by the park situation for the type of area.	7/9/2023 4:09 PM
107	Not at this time	7/9/2023 10:26 AM
108	I feel there is a lot of excess space that could be utilized better at the parks, rather than just being open fields.	7/8/2023 8:22 PM
109	Create newsletter for community making them aware of park benefits	7/8/2023 12:28 PM
110	No	7/8/2023 7:19 AM
111	I am a “travel” baseball coach (although most of the players go to SACS, and we generally play games and practice in the Fort Wayne area) and my main concern in all of this planning is the use of the baseball fields. I understand that Little League needs field space, and I support Little League, especially for ages 10 and under, but that cannot come at the expense of “travel” teams for ages 11 and up. It is simple, absolute fact that the best players beginning at age 11 (likely younger) are playing on travel teams. If Aboite prioritizes Little League over “travel” teams such as mine (the 2023 12U Summit City Wizards) then Aboite is saying, “we don’t have space for the best players in our community.” Ultimately there needs to be ample space for baseball, more than what is available now, so that both LL and “travel” teams can be fully supported and so baseball can fully thrive in our area. I played college and professional baseball, and I want what is best for baseball in this community. I would love to be part of any discussions. If Little League has a seat at the table, please be sure the “travel” teams do too. Keegan Laycock 260-433-9355	7/7/2023 3:32 PM
112	need restrooms open all year round, need dog park	7/7/2023 10:56 AM
113	No	7/7/2023 7:25 AM
114	Connect ability down Aboite Center Road and Covington Road	7/7/2023 5:14 AM
115	Is there a website to show events and programs for these parks? I didn’t even know the pickleball courts were added until last year and now we use them. There needs to be more communication about the parks. I also don’t know if there is enough room at these parks for all of aboite township as there are way too many housing additions being added.	7/6/2023 9:00 PM
116	New open playground equipment at Indian trail. Get rid of wood and make the equipment open	7/6/2023 6:55 PM

	so can see your kids playing	
117	No	7/6/2023 4:55 PM
118	No	7/6/2023 1:44 PM
119	No	7/6/2023 1:37 PM
120	Ni	7/6/2023 10:37 AM
121	More softball	7/6/2023 10:13 AM
122	Our youth desperately needs baseball/softball field space for little league, it’s a huge part of our community and the kids love it!	7/6/2023 9:09 AM
123	No	7/6/2023 8:30 AM
124	No	7/6/2023 8:16 AM
125	No	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
126	Overall great parks, but SW is growing and the parks need to as well	7/6/2023 7:15 AM
127	Baseball/softball fields…..it’s embarrassing coming from the SW side of town and looking at other areas(foster park, Georgetown, St. Joe’s) ballparks. We are way behind.	7/6/2023 12:35 AM
128	The bathroom facilities are very subpar. It's embarrassing when other baseball teams come to play and there are porta potties to use.	7/5/2023 10:50 PM
129	No	7/5/2023 10:49 PM
130	My family and I always wonder why Aboite Township can’t host lacrosse/softball/baseball tournaments and it comes back to the poor facilities and lack of vision. Youth sports are a money maker and improving our parks to the point our community is known for their parks should be something we as a community strive to accomplish in the near future.	7/5/2023 10:41 PM
131	No	7/5/2023 9:13 PM
132	Na	7/5/2023 8:40 PM
133	They should be open to use the baseball fields to all little leagues	7/5/2023 8:38 PM
134	No	7/5/2023 8:02 PM
135	N9ne	7/5/2023 7:53 PM
136	No	7/5/2023 6:20 PM
137	Softball and baseball demand is higher than the number of fields offered. Too many later games for young children to gain field time.	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
138	N/a	7/5/2023 6:12 PM
139	No	7/5/2023 6:03 PM
140	No	7/5/2023 5:47 PM
141	No	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
142	No	7/5/2023 5:39 PM
143	No	7/5/2023 5:38 PM
144	There should be more availability for softball. This season, our team was only given 2 practices for the entire season. We were forced to find other places (Homestead turf and local elementary school in grass). For the amount of money that we paid for softball, it was very disappointing the use of the diamonds. There are more diamonds that could be used but we’re not. Also, the restroom situation. There are restrooms by the JV baseball field at Homestead, but not all of the time we’re they open. Softball and baseball are a big part of our community and I would like to see more availability for our programs.	7/5/2023 5:21 PM
145	No	7/5/2023 4:48 PM
146	There needs to be more softball and baseball fields. Giving the existing ones to Don Ayres	7/5/2023 4:47 PM

	isn’t the answer for everyone else.	
147	No	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
148	more baseball diamonds	7/5/2023 4:43 PM
149	No	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
150	N	7/5/2023 4:32 PM
151	My kids noticed the updates to Indian Trails park - paint, a few new features, etc. Thank you!	7/5/2023 4:29 PM
152	We need more softball/baseball diamonds for the kids to play on!	7/5/2023 4:25 PM
153	Adding/upgrading baseball fields is a massive need for Southwest Allen. The fields are far behind other towns with less resources available. In addition, the availability for field access is very limited.	7/5/2023 4:23 PM
154	Really would like to see more fields and updated conditions. Other communities like SW Allen have immaculate fields that turn into community spaces. That's what we are missing.	7/5/2023 4:20 PM
155	More softball baseball fields	7/5/2023 4:06 PM
156	We need more softball fields	7/5/2023 4:06 PM
157	The softball fields are out dated and there is not enough for two leagues to play on and have Practice. With the growth of our community these girls are suffering.	7/5/2023 4:01 PM
158	More baseball/softball space seems to be needed for the leagues that use these facilities	7/5/2023 3:56 PM
159	No	7/5/2023 3:53 PM
160	Need more parks to offer little league!	7/5/2023 3:50 PM
161	No	7/5/2023 3:49 PM
162	Na	7/5/2023 3:47 PM
163	No	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
164	None	7/5/2023 3:45 PM
165	Indoor turf field for softball baseball would be huge	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
166	No	7/5/2023 3:37 PM
167	No	7/5/2023 3:34 PM
168	Baseball fields need updated. Taken care of just like every other sport field. We play travel and REC for DA. We don't have enough fields. It makes it difficult to practice or even play games. The score boards don't work half of the time. Etc. Focus more on the kids than only the adults.	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
169	Please make our parks better	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
170	No	7/5/2023 3:28 PM
171	There is so much potential!!!! I can’t wait to see what you guys come up with!!	7/5/2023 3:24 PM
172	You've got to find some baseball/softball field space!! Call me at (573)-300-1667. My name is Mark Moon and I'm the treasurer of Coventry Baptist Church and we've potentially got acreage for sale that could house multiple softball/tball fields plus parking at the corner of Aboite Center and Homestead Roads!!! We'd like to move off the property. Please, give us a call.	7/5/2023 3:16 PM
173	No	7/5/2023 3:15 PM
174	The baseball/softball diamonds are not in terrible shape but could/should be so much better.	7/5/2023 3:10 PM
175	Nope	7/5/2023 3:09 PM
176	N/a	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
177	No	7/5/2023 3:08 PM
178	Nope	7/5/2023 3:08 PM

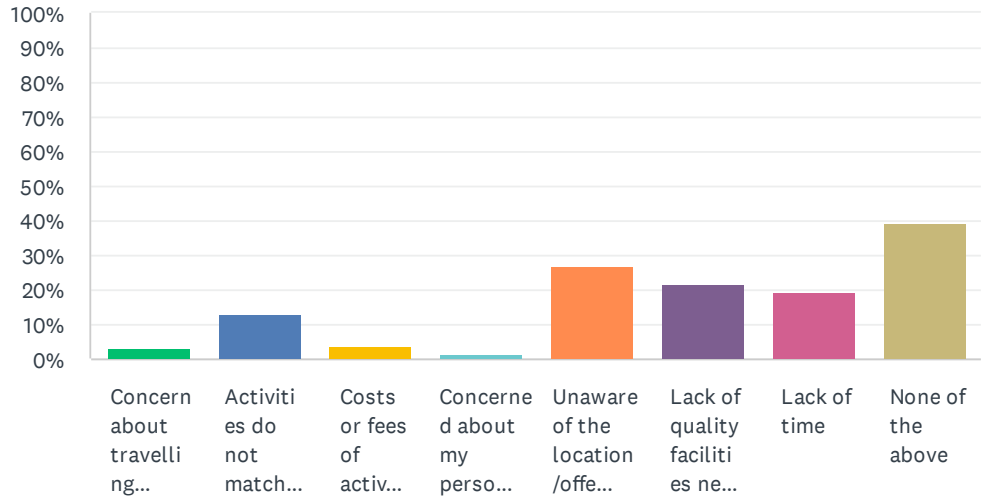
179	We need a legitimate little league complex. The kind that can host a state tournament. A legitimate complex would include well manicured fields, concessions, press box, restroom facilities, and located at one main location that can be home to our large little league program.	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
180	So much potential	7/5/2023 3:07 PM
181	No	7/5/2023 3:04 PM
182	I appreciate that the mulch has been better kept this year at the Indian Trails playground.	7/5/2023 3:01 PM
183	Aboite Township is filled with young families who are looking for things to do with their kids that is safe and offers socialization with other children and parents of kids. Fostering that environment with parks, splash pads, playgrounds, and even better a coffee/concession stand with areas for kids to play nearby would be amazing!	7/5/2023 3:00 PM
184	We choose other parks even those these are closer due to lack of available clean restrooms. Need more ball diamond space for softball and baseball programs our 4 kids all participate in. Including concession stand, restroom, batting cage, and seating amenities.	7/5/2023 2:59 PM
185	n/a	7/5/2023 2:58 PM
186	More baseball/softball fields	7/5/2023 2:57 PM
187	Don Ayres baseball needs a home. I would love to see the fields developed to attract more tournaments and have a permanent space for Little League.	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
188	Food Allergy Awareness Signs posted	7/5/2023 2:56 PM
189	I would like diamond availability for aboite residents. No all travel ball!	7/5/2023 2:53 PM
190	I think the space fo both parks could be better utilized. More baseball and softball diamonds would be good. I think some wooded areas that were maintained to allow visitor some natural shade would be nice. Some open areas are needed but there is a lot of that at both parks.	7/5/2023 2:52 PM
191	No	7/5/2023 2:51 PM
192	I would not consider Aboite Parks as parks but rather sports facilities with inadequate space or quantity to handle the growing population in the township.	7/5/2023 2:50 PM
193	No	7/5/2023 2:49 PM
194	Need more baseball fields	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
195	No	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
196	Baseball and softball need help	7/5/2023 2:47 PM
197	My son has played sports (mostly baseball) for nearly 10 years, and the baseball fields can use some work, and we have often experienced the lack of field availability during the playing season.	7/5/2023 2:45 PM
198	AS STATED ABOVE - AN ENTIRE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FACILITY IS NEEDED IN SOUTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY AND IS ABSURD THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THIS.	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
199	It's been very difficult to get access to baseball fields. The amount of fields in the township should have easier access. They are run down. Scoreboard bulbs out, uneven ground, additional dirt needed during the season, etc. My kids enjoy visiting Indian Trails Park and at one time it was an amazing park, but it desperately needs an update.	7/5/2023 2:44 PM
200	If you are looking to hire an operations coordinator I would be interested in the position. huffhousejj@gmail.com	7/5/2023 2:42 PM
201	No	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
202	No	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
203	Baseball and softball field additions and upgrades needed!	7/5/2023 2:41 PM
204	Maintain the facilities we have and build more	7/5/2023 2:39 PM
205	The investment and master plan for baseball and softball needs a lot of work. For the amount of money in our township we should have a first class complex, not bottom of the barrel.	7/5/2023 2:39 PM

206	No	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
207	Definitely need more baseball fields the growth of travel ball and rec leagues running out of places to play	7/5/2023 2:37 PM
208	We need more softball diamonds. There are not enough to serve Don Ayers and Aboite Girls Softball leagues.	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
209	No	7/5/2023 2:36 PM
210	We are new here and love Indian Trails. The Y is a little pricey, so we haven't joined yet. I didn't know the Hoozen park was there, since we live right near Indian Trails and walk over to it and walk or bicycle in it almost daily. It has always felt very safe to us, and people are very friendly. The only issue has been people who let their dog do its business and just leave a pile there. I have tried to catch up with them and politely ask them to bring a bag and ask them to imagine if everyone did that. Some people just don't get it or care, and some spot fines or something might have to be implemented. I don't have a dog, but I love seeing them out and happy and enjoy petting them, so I would hate for a few bad behaved owners to spoil it for everyone. We wish we had ways to meet our neighbors other than waving at them; in today's culture, you don't really walk up to their door and introduce yourself. Activities that build community and help us learn something about our neighbor would be fun and help build community where we look out for each other. We don't have kids or participate in sports, but there are always lots of sports being played in the various fields, and the kids seem to enjoy it and the few spectators. We would love to try pickleball, but we don't know how to play or how to use the courts. What are the rules? Do you sign up or what? Thank you.	7/3/2023 3:00 PM
211	No	7/2/2023 5:49 PM
212	Please maintain existing structures before adding to the park and make sure existing restroom facilities stay open during park hours	7/1/2023 10:53 AM
213	Remove the chain link fence and beautify that area between the trail that runs between the YMCA and the school. Better / wider trail running from Indian Trails between the baseball fields to Homestead Road. A trail replacing the sidewalk running along Aboite Road from Homestead past Summit M.S. and the YMCA that is further from Aboite Road and closer to Summit M.S.	6/29/2023 11:35 PM
214	We wouldn't use them for several years, but I would like to see more softball/baseball fields around Aboite township. I'd be interested in connecting with the fundraising team about sponsorship/donation for baseball facilities for children (ie, Little League/Wildcat)	6/29/2023 8:54 PM
215	N/A	6/29/2023 4:57 PM
216	No	6/29/2023 12:18 PM
217	No	6/29/2023 9:48 AM
218	Love the dog waste containers, so nice to have a place to dump my dogs waste while I walk rather than have to carry it around	6/28/2023 10:12 AM
219	Additional pickleball courts and a water fountain at the courts.	6/27/2023 11:31 AM
220	bathrooms in the Indian trail parks to be accessible. most of the time they are locked. Porter potties are ok but real bathroom is more convenient and hygienic.	6/27/2023 10:08 AM
221	We utilize the parks as often as possible. I highly appreciate the work being done on the playground and the mulch added even though it was late in the season. I think we're missing a dog park on this side of town.	6/26/2023 9:45 AM
222	It seems the baseball fields at Indian Trails could be better utilized. It seems they're "private" and not accessible for the public to use	6/25/2023 5:33 PM
223	The restrooms are in terrible condition and need major attention.	6/24/2023 2:35 PM
224	No	6/23/2023 6:47 PM
225	Really need to upgrade ball diamonds	6/23/2023 6:32 PM
226	I was very pleased with the ease of renting the pavilion this year for a school field trip!	6/23/2023 5:53 PM
227	No	6/22/2023 8:49 PM

228	NA	6/22/2023 8:37 PM
229	No	6/22/2023 6:56 PM
230	No	6/21/2023 9:55 PM
231	Need to connect to more areas and better softball!	6/21/2023 9:01 PM
232	no	6/21/2023 7:40 PM
233	Nope	6/17/2023 10:12 PM
234	Na	6/15/2023 7:20 PM
235	No	6/14/2023 7:22 AM
236	Na	6/13/2023 11:33 PM
237	Not at this time	6/13/2023 9:37 PM
238	Na	6/13/2023 8:50 PM
239	Please do not dissolve Van Hoozen park. It was established as a small park to not be overwhelmed by many, many people. Also it was named and dedicated in 2001 "Van Hoozen Park" for the family from many, many years ago that had been involved in Aboite township and it's formation in several areas mainly of buying the land where the current Homestead high school, Aboite elementary and transportation/maintenance buildings currently stand. There is a granite "statue" near the entrance that describes some of the involved family members. Thank you	6/13/2023 8:38 PM
240	We need more baseball diamonds so kids aren’t turned away from leagues. When thinking of playground equipment something for all ages to enjoy that is safe and heat resistant.	6/13/2023 7:56 PM

Q12 What barriers exist to keep you from enjoying Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Facilities (check all that apply).

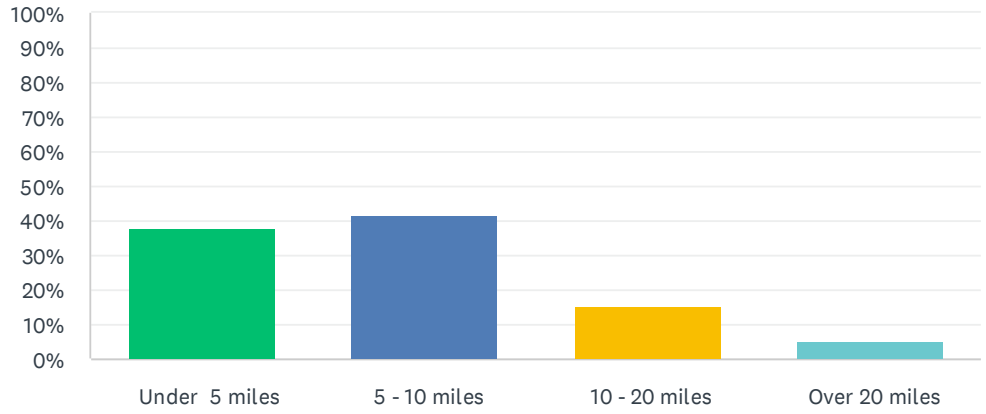
Answered: 391 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Concern about travelling to/from park/recreation facilities	3.32%	13
Activities do not match my interests	13.30%	52
Costs or fees of activities	3.84%	15
Concerned about my personal safety at parks/recreation facilities	1.79%	7
Unaware of the location/offerings	26.60%	104
Lack of quality facilities near my house	21.74%	85
Lack of time	19.44%	76
None of the above	39.64%	155
Total Respondents: 391		

Q13 How far do you typically travel to participate in most recreational activities?

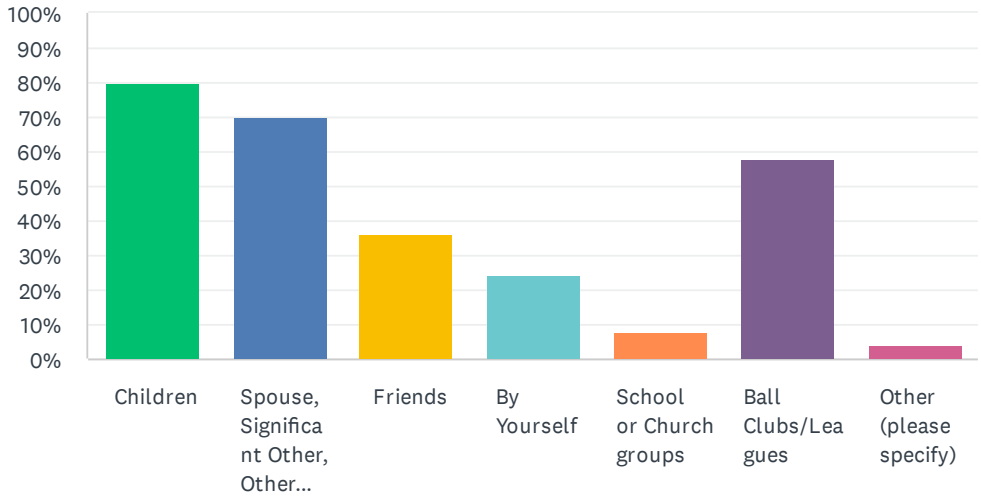
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 5 miles	38.02%	154
5 - 10 miles	41.48%	168
10 - 20 miles	15.31%	62
Over 20 miles	5.19%	21
TOTAL		405

Q14 Who do you normally visit the parks with? (check all that apply)

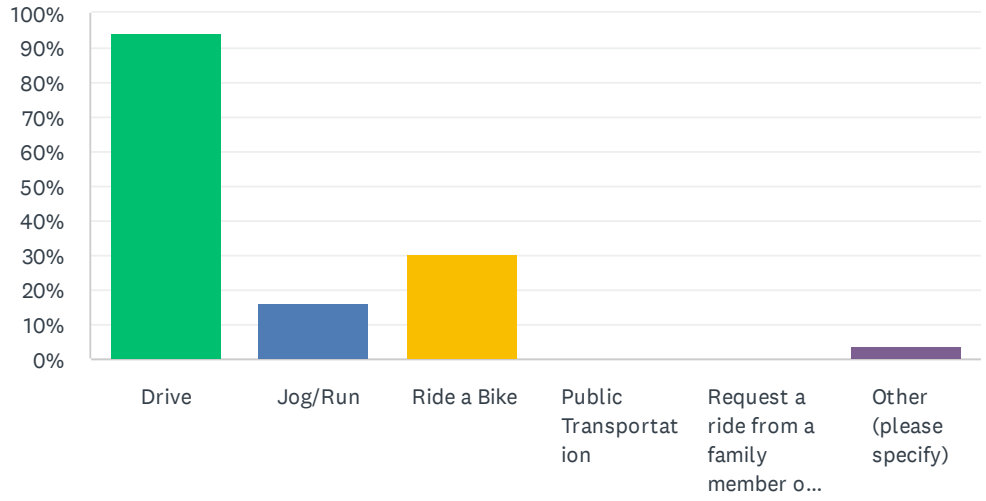
Answered: 404 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Children	79.95%	323
Spouse, Significant Other, Other Family	69.80%	282
Friends	36.39%	147
By Yourself	24.26%	98
School or Church groups	7.92%	32
Ball Clubs/Leagues	57.92%	234
Other (please specify)	3.96%	16
Total Respondents: 404		

Q15 Which best describes how you travel to Aboite Township Parks? (check all that apply).

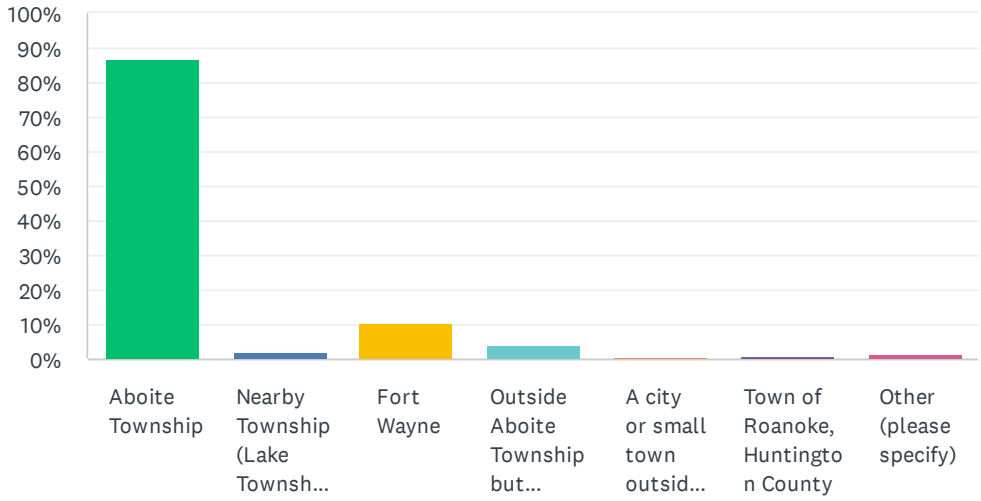
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Drive	94.07%	381
Jog/Run	16.30%	66
Ride a Bike	30.62%	124
Public Transportation	0.25%	1
Request a ride from a family member or friend	0.25%	1
Other (please specify)	3.70%	15
Total Respondents: 405		

Q16 What best describes where you live?

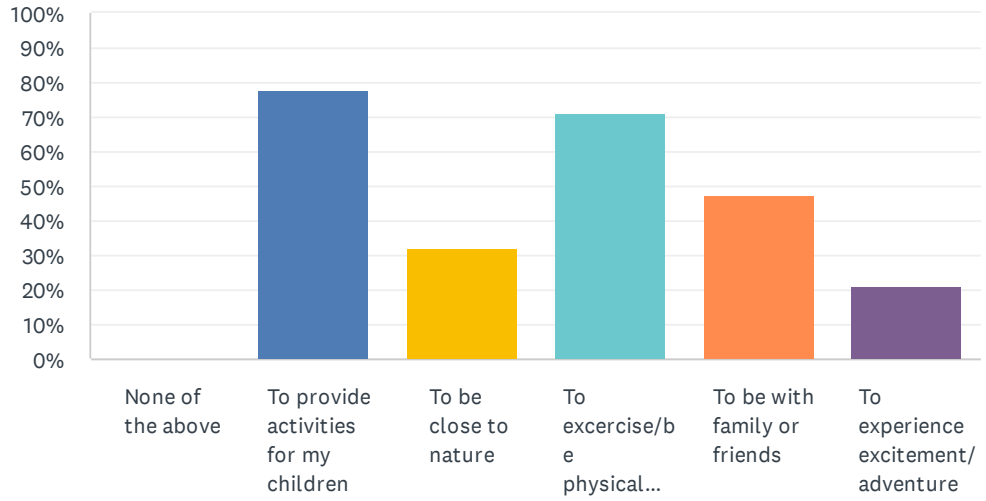
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Aboite Township	86.91%	352
Nearby Township (Lake Township or Wayne Township)	1.98%	8
Fort Wayne	10.62%	43
Outside Aboite Township but within Allen County	3.95%	16
A city or small town outside Fort Wayne and Aboite Township	0.49%	2
Town of Roanoke, Huntington County	1.23%	5
Other (please specify)	1.73%	7
Total Respondents: 405		

Q17 Which statement best explains why you visit local parks (Please check at least one answer).

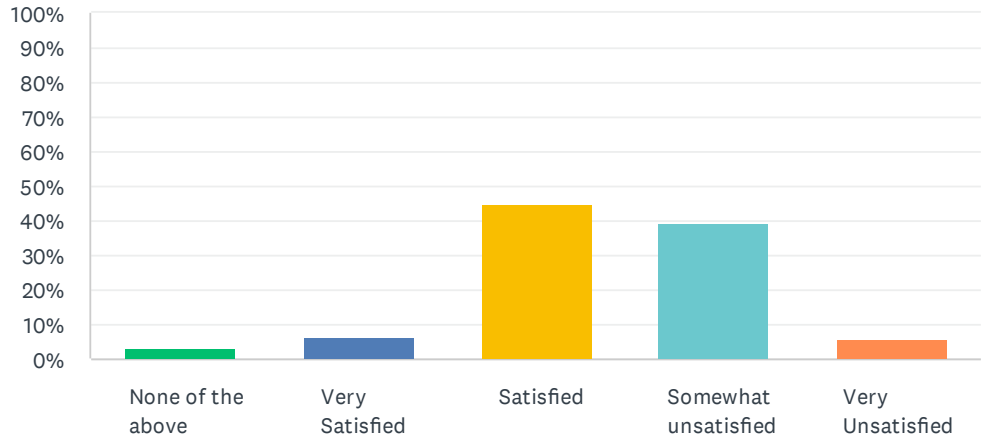
Answered: 405 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.00%	0
To provide activities for my children	77.78%	315
To be close to nature	32.35%	131
To excercise/be physically active	70.86%	287
To be with family or friends	47.16%	191
To experience excitement/adventure	20.99%	85
Total Respondents: 405		

Q18 Which answer best describes your level of satisfaction with recreational programs and facilities offered in Aboite Township.

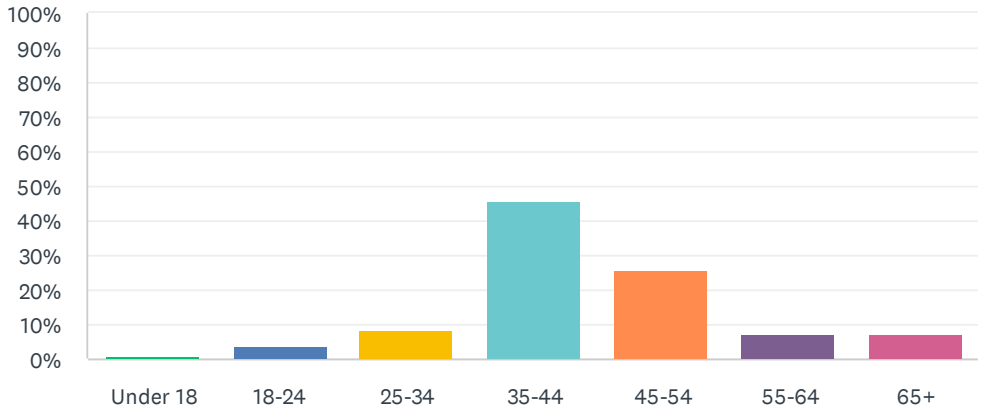
Answered: 403 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	3.23%	13
Very Satisfied	6.45%	26
Satisfied	44.91%	181
Somewhat unsatisfied	39.70%	160
Very Unsatisfied	5.71%	23
TOTAL		403

Q19 What is your age?

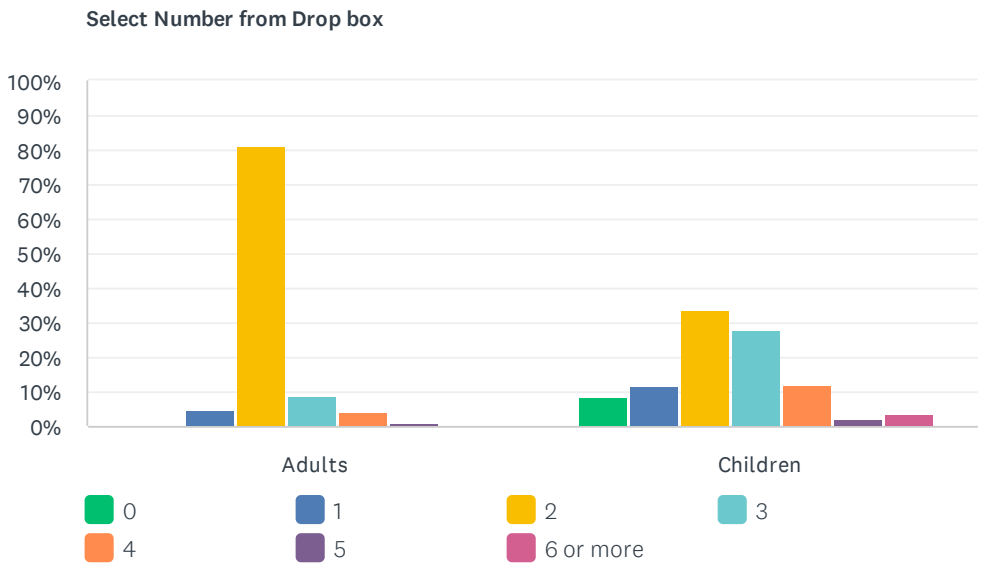
Answered: 404 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.24%	5
18-24	3.71%	15
25-34	8.42%	34
35-44	46.04%	186
45-54	25.99%	105
55-64	7.43%	30
65+	7.18%	29
TOTAL		404

Q20 How many people currently live in your household?

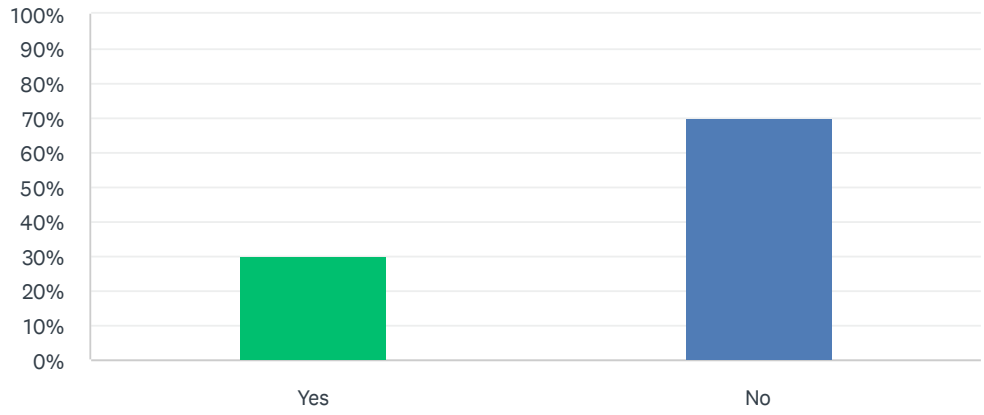
Answered: 403 Skipped: 2



Select Number from Drop box								
	0	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6 OR MORE**	**TOTAL**
Adults	0.00% 0	4.96% 20	80.89% 326	8.68% 35	3.97% 16	1.24% 5	0.25% 1	403
Children	8.60% 30	11.75% 41	33.52% 117	28.08% 98	12.32% 43	2.01% 7	3.72% 13	349

Q21 Aboite Township is always looking for volunteers to assist with making the parks the best they can be for our community. Are you willing to volunteer your time or skills at the parks?

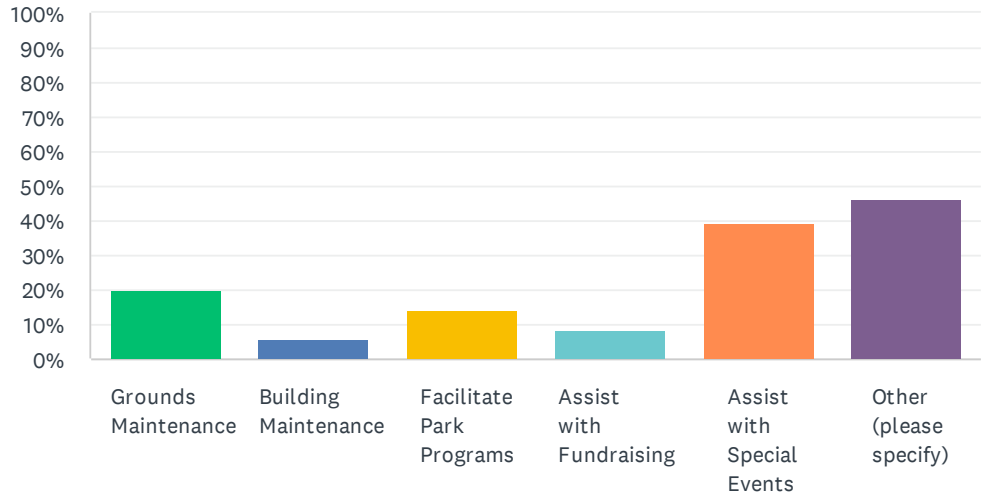
Answered: 401 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.93%	120
No	70.07%	281
TOTAL		401

Q22 If you answered yes, you are willing to volunteer at the parks, what activities are you willing to work on? (check all that apply)

Answered: 196 Skipped: 209



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Grounds Maintenance	19.90%	39
Building Maintenance	5.61%	11
Facilitate Park Programs	14.29%	28
Assist with Fundraising	8.16%	16
Assist with Special Events	39.29%	77
Other (please specify)	46.43%	91
Total Respondents: 196		

Q23 If you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the parks please leave your contact information.

Answered: 69 Skipped: 336

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	98.55%	68
Company	15.94%	11
Address	81.16%	56
Address 2	2.90%	2
City/Town	81.16%	56
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	81.16%	56
Country	63.77%	44
Email Address	88.41%	61
Phone Number	69.57%	48

Appendix B: Public Meetings

Public Meeting Minutes and Public Comments

Appendix B

Public Participation

Appendix B

Minutes

1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

#1 Public Hearing Minutes

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Aboite Township Public Participation Meeting
Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Public Hearing
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
April 18, 2023
6:30 PM

The Park Public Participation meeting began as advertised at 6:30 p.m., April 18, 2023, at the Aboite Township Community Room. Matt Booker Introduced the Aboite Township Board and Planning Committee. Following introductions, the conversation was turned over to Kristine Christlieb, Principal Planner, from the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) to provide a presentation of the plan and provide a Question and Answer Session. A public engagement breakout session was incorporated to provide questions and answers time in smaller groups and a buy-in bucks activities was included at the end. An overview of the breakout session findings is provided in the minutes.

74 persons in attendance: (See sign-in sheet)

Introduction:
Matt Booker, Park Board
Presentation:
Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC (See Attached Presentation Slides)

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/RESPONSES

Public Questions in bold, Responses in italics

<u>Attendee #1</u>: What about the area over by Covington Elementary? Is that owned by the school system, or is that available?

Response: *That is owned by the school system.*

Matt Booker*: So, that's one of the issues you deal with new park development. Where do you get the land? The land is valuable in Aboite Township. Where do you get that and how do you acquire that?*

<u>Attendee # 2</u> *(Chris Buell):* Regarding the data that you show for your survey results, you show that 71% wanted additional trail space. Up until recently, and I know at the time of this survey, the largest little league did not have access to any of the township fields. Do you think that would change if the parks were used more for little league events? To me right now, it's showing that trails are the most important concern of people.

Kristine Christlieb, Response*. We will ask that question in the next survey. This was a pre-survey to provide an overview. We will be more specific with a community survey running in May/June. We wanted to get together first to see where things are leaning with the community.*

Matt Booker: *Chris, from what I'm hearing you say, the survey is only as good as the responses. So, as we do more surveys, we're going to need more help getting the information out. We had 467 responses. There are over 35,000 residents in Aboite Township. So we only have so much public input.*

<u>Attendee # 2 -</u> Continued. So what I was getting at - "How often do you visit the parks" and "How do you use the parks?" So, you got the largest little league in Fort Wayne, but we don't use it for recreation because we don't have access to it. It [responses] might be different if we were using it for sporting events.

***Matt Booker**: Right, yes, and noted.*

<u>Attendee #3</u>: I have a two-part question. So who is currently using Indian Trails softball fields right now?

***Chris Perez:** It is my understanding that Don Ayre's team uses one to practice on, and the other ones are being used by the travel leagues.*

Attendee #3: So, are they Aboite Township residents using those?

***Chris Perez:** They are primarily Aboite Township residents using the fields.*

Attendee # 4: Is there someone from the Township that verifies it? We've got teams from Decatur, Columbia City, Angola, Auburn, & Warsaw that are using those for practice and games when I'm struggling to run as a softball league, and we have to stagger our schedule to accommodate a schedule for our girls. When it says 71% wanted park and trails development, but the list of things to do is softball fields. We're relying on Southwest Allen County Schools for Don Ayres Little League to fill a league. We have the biggest little league in the northeastern third of Indiana.

***Chris Perez:** That is a question we would have to ask the township trustee. We would have to look through the list.*

***Matt Booker:** From what I hear you saying is that "Who's using the fields." "Are the residents in Aboite Township using the fields?" And then if there is different access to the fields, "would the survey results change?"*

Attendee # 4: continued – Part of it yes.

***Matt Booker:** Okay, but we do have an agenda to stick to, so we're going to need to split up into six (6) groups with three groups in the fire station bay [for public group discussion time].*

1. Breakout Session – Started at 7:00 PM
2. Table Monitors Review – Started at 7:20 PM
3. Buy-in Bucks Activity – Each person provided with play cash: a $100 bill, $50 Bill, $20 bill & $10 bill.

GROUP MONITORS FINDINGS

Matt Booker: This group included baseball users, residents, and field sports users: For question # 1: What new developments should be considered – It was said that we need a better utilization of current parks to best meet the immediate needs. A new park at northwest Aboite, trails, restrooms, trash cans, and new baseball, softball, and pickleball.

2). Define viable options for parks: We need to have a flexible use of land and baseball diamonds that all can be used for something else. Is there a way to create a practice space that's available for baseball, but then used for something else? Options listed: Community room, pavilion, and disc golf.

3). A focal point would be to have a park that feels more like a park with Intentional landscaping, natural aspects, and areas for programming such as an Aboite farmers market.

Chris Perez:. The immediate needs include taking care of all of our softball and baseball kids and rectifying the situation with the uneven scheduling. We know that needs to be done, and that will be done.

The restrooms are another issue, as we know, no one wants to use a port-a-john. We had to close the restrooms during the daylight hours because of problems with vandalism. We are going to try and have them open. The group also said we need better field scheduling. Also, we were made aware of a drainage hole that is a potential danger, so we are going to get that taken care of right away. We addressed all our questions. Our baseball and softball people are very passionate about getting access to the fields that they need.

They have great ideas on how to do that by creating two cloverleaf fields with restrooms and concessions that the whole park could use so not just for the baseball/softball people. We still need to have field space for our rectangle sports; so we can't take away from one to provide to another. We can't just have one group's needs being met. We need to spread it out. They also have ideas on how to accomplish that. Concessions and restrooms were a big issue with our group as well.

Colin Lank: I had very passionate people from the baseball and softball organizations. The immediate need is to leverage the assets that Aboite Township currently has. So, managing schedules and making sure we have more access. And also leveraging the assets we have at Indian Trails and Van Hoozen Park – making sure we have access to these things and reallocating assets to maybe cloverleaf diamonds to rectangular sports fields.

We did also talk about parking needs. There is some lack of parking: We have persons crossing long distances to access the asset they want to use at the park system, so making sure we have parking available. And potentially some creative ideas on how we could leverage current assets. So in five years looking forward is to look at new park development. Looking at new land parcels and what are the options. So starting to look at new land opportunities, and we had a wide range of activities to have -- like rectangular sports fields, again, baseball/softball came up. And some other immediate needs came around playground development. Some safety concerns were to make sure everything is up to standard as well as other safety items such as additional fencing for those with younger kids like me. So when you're herding cats, it's nice to have something contained. Then adding a splash pad [Indian Trails] and more play areas was pretty much what we had.

Mike Rost: My group was heavily filled with baseball/softball people and had a lot of what other groups had brought up. In addition to that, we need to make sure Indiana Trails playground equipment is maintained and ADA-compliant. And also, more pickleball courts close to the ones currently available as there really isn't much else to be done in that area, so pickleball courts would be a worthwhile thing. But it was also reiterated that we need to have more softball/baseball diamonds.

Alexis Degitz: We had a great conversation with my group. We had a lot of the same things. We talked about baseball and the difference between fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball. We talked about access to the restrooms and also concessions being a potential form of revenue for the township.

For our second discussion, we talked about what our dream park would look like in five years. So the things that were mentioned were having eight (8) ball diamonds, which I thought was a very specific number to work with. Also, having connectivity of the Indiana Trails Park to the YMCA, the school system, and Van Hoozen. We did discuss the ADA compliance that would have to go along with the connectivity. I think [AADA Compliance] is one place where they'd like to see improved efforts.

Lastly, I think ways to make the Aboite Township Parks a focal point is to not only improve our playgrounds but to have smaller playgrounds throughout the large campus that is the school system, the YMCA, and the two parks. We talked about Howard Parks being a park system in South Bend that would be worth reflecting on. We talked about the programming. While they like the current programming, they would like to see improved programming in Aboite Township.

Scott Helmkamp: Last, but not least, we had similar things. But one of the things that came up was about the fastest-growing, largest populations in the township is T-Ball Age. We haven't talked at all about T-Ball. We need improved seating at some of the ball diamonds. Lack of signage: Right now with the construction at the schools, we have some potential safety issues with kids running around, and we need some signage.

We didn't dig into this too much into this, but the potential for an indoor parks and recreation facility. What would that look like? Another item that came up is as you're riding a bike on Aboite Center Road on the sidewalk by the YMCA and school, you have to go into the grass, and there's a need to have a trail, not just a sidewalk area. Also, the playground was discussed. Can we make it more walkable? Could we add a trail around the Van Hoozen Complex? And how best to use the open spaces at Van Hoozen and Indian Trails parks

The Public Meeting Closed at 7:40 PM

Minutes Prepared By:

Kristine Christlieb *April 25, 2023*

Kristine Christlieb **Date**

Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC)
200 East Beery Street, STE 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

ATTENDEE LIST

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM

	Print Name	Email/Phone	I'm Interested in Volunteering (check box)	√
1	Kevin McCanley	[redacted]		
2	David Graney		✓	
3	Sarabai Colin Lamont			
4	Nick Davey			
5	ERIC KLEINRICHERT			
6	John Schoff			
7	AUBREY COX			
8	Andrew Tudor			
9	Tim Heffron			
10	NICK SPITLER			
11	Denise Dennis			
12	Tracy Sneffel			
13	Tony Sheffel			
14	Judi Lewis		✓	
15	Charles Morrison			
16	Steve Stepp			
17	Susan Rost			
18	Rebecca Garcia			
19	SANJIV AGGARWAL			
20	Betty Close			
21	KEN EVERSON			
22	SHIRLEY EVERSON			
23	Jim Edwards			
24	Jade Miller			
25	Addison Miller			
26	Ryan Gustus			
27	Brandon Fenbert		✓	
28	David Bienz			
29	Mark Beth Bietz			
30	Charles Bostwick			
31	Darren Waggoner			

ATTENDEE LIST

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM

	Print Name	Email/Phone	I'm Interested in Volunteering (check box)	V
1	Chris Buell	[redacted]		✓
2	Jeff Bartlett	[redacted]		✓
3	Kevin Scholze	[redacted]		✓
4	LAURIE HIGGINBOTTHAM	[redacted]		
5	Ashley Buell	[redacted]		
6	Adam Hake	[redacted]		
7	Erin McCawley	[redacted]		
8	[illegible]	[redacted]		
9	Josh McKhart	[redacted]		
10	Joe Kruyer	[redacted]		
11	Scott Helmkamp	[redacted]		
12	VICTOR KAMINSKI	[redacted]		
13	Jason Dohm	[redacted]		✓
14	John Wagoner	[redacted]		
15	Keegan Laycock	[redacted]		✓
16	LINDA McCARTHY	[redacted]		
17	Angie M. Lee	[redacted]		
18	Vincent Garcia	[redacted]		
19	Steve Gordon	[redacted]		✓
20	RYAN FRY	[redacted]		
21	Lisa Lee Edwards	[redacted]		
22	Alex Rinearson	[redacted]		✓
23	Terri Coolman	[redacted]		
24	James Kelm	[redacted]		
25	Julie Potter	[redacted]		
26	David Lavoro	[redacted]		
27	Calista Lavoro	[redacted]		✓
28	MARK Schultheis	[redacted]		
29	Amy Smith	[redacted]		
30	Kristine Christlieb	Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us		
31	Alexis Degitz	Alexis.Degitz@co.allen.in.us		

ATTENDEE LIST

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM

	Print Name	Email/Phone	I'm Interested in Volunteering (check box)	√
32	KERRY JOHNSON	[redacted]		
33	Glen Weaver			
34	Lizzie Gordon			✓
35	Liz Martin			
36	Sarah King			
37	Kenneth Green			
38	Chris Perez	cperez@aboitetwp.com		
39	Matt Booker	mbooker1@amfam.com		
40	Paul Nielson	nielson1951@msn.com		
41	Colin Lank	clank@its.jnj.com		
42	Chuck Dwyer	cfd313@aol.com		
43	Mike Rost	mssim5@frontier.com		
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COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Tonwship Parks & Recreation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Jim Edwards + Lisa Edwards

[redacted]

Fort Wayne, IN. 46814

Date: 4-18-23

Please provide comments below:

① Slow Pitch Softball Fields seperate from Fast Pitch

Bathrooms & concessions, handicap parking closer to fields

WE VALUE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Survey link and QR code to let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Tonwship Parks & Recreation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address:

Andrew Tudor
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Date: 4/18/2023

Please provide comments below:

I would like to see increased access to the fields to local leagues, New softball, baseball, & other sports fields. We need greater access to restrooms, Improved maintenance of existing playgrounds

WE VALUE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Survey link and QR code to let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Tonwship Parks & Recreation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Date: 4/18/23

MARK Schultheis

[redacted]

Fort Wayne IN 46804

Please provide comments below:

(*) Need to accomodate More Fields For Little League Baseball.

(*) Need to Accomodate More Fields For Girls Soft Ball

Both have LOST more than 1/2 of their Fields Since the Homestead Expansion

WE VALUE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Survey link and QR code to let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Tonwship Parks & Recreation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Rebecca Garcia [redacted] Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Date: 4-18-23

Please provide comments below:

I support more softball fields along with more/safer parking areas.

WE VALUE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Survey link and QR code to let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Tonwship Parks & Recreation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Vincent Garcia [redacted]

Date: 4/18/23

Please provide comments below:

I am all in for more softball/lacrosse fields. I also use the trails frequently and any additional trails would be excellent!

WE VALUE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Survey link and QR code to let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

Kristine A. Christlieb

From: Susan Cisney <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Kristine A. Christlieb
Subject: Meeting

Christine,

I can't make tonight's meeting. I'm a homeowner in The Cliffs on Aboite Center Road.
We really, really need a great dog park in Aboite.
Please consider this for those of us that pay high taxes but are empty nesters with wonderful dogs that need a state of the art dog park.
Susan Cisney
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Citizens Square

200 East Berry Street Suite 230

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Phone: 260-449-4704

Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

Website: www.nircc.com

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

From: Jacob Rose <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:08 AM
To: Kristine A. Christlieb <Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us>
Subject: Aboite Township Public Forum

Hello,

I am writing this email to voice my support of implementing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for The Aboite Township Parks Department. I have two young boys ages 1 and 3 who love the local parks. I fully support implementing more youth sports programs in any way possible for Aboite Township. Any sort of investment in new facilities and parks would be beneficial to the whole community. If you have an email list for additional correspondence please add my email to the list.

Thanks,

#1

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:38:17 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:48:17 AM
Time Spent:	00:09:59
IP Address:	184.17.156.14

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Football field that can have soccer and flag football leagues, basketball courts, fields for sports/events for children and teens. Well maintained safe and accessible parks with trails.

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

Well maintained safe and accessible parks with trails.

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

Finding a place to meet have music, festivals, events, fundraisers, 5ks etc.

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

If you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the parks, please leave your contact information below. (Your contact information will remain confidential, used only by the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Dept., and will NOT be provided to a third party).

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:56:49 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:58:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 107.123.49.57

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

New ball fields and maintenance of existing

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

New ball fields and maintenance of existing

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

New ball fields and maintenance of existing

Q4

Met expectations

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:05:13 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:25:52 PM
Time Spent:	00:20:38
IP Address:	174.238.48.147

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Lighting for the Pickleball courts

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

I'd love to see an expansion of the current pickleball courts. It would also be beneficial to add small fencing between each court, to allow fly-away to stay within the court being used.

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

I think it's great right now. Courts, fields, trails, and playground equipment allow people of all ages to enjoy the parks.

Q4

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Met expectations

Q5

If you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the parks, please leave your contact information below. (Your contact information will remain confidential, used only by the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Dept., and will NOT be provided to a third party).

Respondent skipped this question

#4

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:58:56 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:35:07 PM
Time Spent:	00:36:10
IP Address:	107.123.53.33

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Softball fields with adequate, safe parking and a walking path from the parking lot to the fields.

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

Respondent skipped this question

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Met expectations

Q5

If you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the parks, please leave your contact information below. (Your contact information will remain confidential, used only by the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Dept., and will NOT be provided to a third party).

Respondent skipped this question

#5

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:39:14 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:42:00 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:46
IP Address:	68.45.15.90

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Fenced Dog park

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

Fenced dog park
Flower gardens with benches

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

See above, for older adults and dog owners

Q4

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Comments (please specify):
Unable to attend

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:15:21 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:16:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 174.194.2.230

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Softball/baseball diamonds

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

Van Hoozen become a softball/baseball complex with a clover leaf 4 diamonds added. Maybe 2 smaller ones for t-ball behind the firestation. With batting cages behind fire station also for revenue.
Indian trails gets a splash pad north of playground.
Undeveloped area to south gets drainage problems fixed and more room for rectangle sports. With a storage, concession RR.
More trees and lighting.

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

Van hoozen & Indian trails are close enough together. Thiers no need to scatter amenities between the 2, but to give focal points on both. Van hoozen baseball softball.
Indian trails

Q4

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Met expectations,
Comments (please specify):

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:38:34 AM
Last Modified: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:52:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:50
IP Address: 73.102.133.149

Page 1: April 18, 2023, Public Meeting

Q1

What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

Number one is to add and improve softball diamonds. There are many groups wanting to use the VanHoozen diamonds for games and practice. Much more difficult with one of the two nice diamonds now gone. The back two diamonds need upgraded. Also, as a parent of a toddler, I would love to see more play areas and a fence around the Indian Trails playground for security. Play areas near the softball diamonds would be nice. I'm also a big user of the trails for walking and cycling. Would love a trail around the VanHoozen parks for easy access to diamonds.

Q2

Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like?

See comments above. I would like all parts of the two parks to be easily connected with trails between through the school area. Play areas right near the softball seating would be excellent to keep an eye on the game and playground kids. Keep pickleball together. Better lighting around trails and more picnic pavilions/restrooms scattered in all areas.

Q3

What are your thoughts on the best ways to integrate amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

How satisfied were you with the Aboite Township Public Engagement Meeting?

Met expectations

Q5

If you would like to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the parks, please leave your contact information below. (Your contact information will remain confidential, used only by the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Dept., and will NOT be provided to a third party).

Respondent skipped this question

Aboite Township Park and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan

Aboite Township

2023-2028

Kristine Christlieb
(kristine.christlieb@co.allen.in.us)
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

1

Aboite Township

Who Are We?

Aboite Township Trustee & Board Executive
Kim Mills

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

- Matthew Booker, Park Board President
- Christina Perez, Deputy Trustee, Park Board & ADA Coordinator
- Mike Rost, Park Board Member

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Brad Mills, SACS Board & Park Planning Committee
- Jason Cordes, SACS & Park Planning Committee
- Scott Helmkamp, YMCA & Park Planning Committee
- Colin Lank, Don Ayers & Park Planning Committee
- Kevin Scholze, Don Ayres & Park Planning Committee

PARK MANAGER

- Paul Nielson, Park Manager & Park Planning Committee

2

Aboite Township

Agenda

4-18-23 Park Meeting Schedule (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

- **PRESENTATION – Kristine Christlieb** (20 min.)
  - **Public Q & A time** (5 Min.)

ACTIVITY TIME

- **BREAKOUT SESSION**
  - ANSWER PARK QUESTIONS W/TABLE MONITORS (20 Min.)
    TABLE MONITORS: Alexis Degitz, Chris Perez, Matt Booker, Mike Rost, Colin Lank, & Scott Helmcamp
  - MONITORS FINDINGS (5 Min.)
- **BUY-IN BUCKS ACTIVITY** (5-10 Min.)
  - COMMENT SHEETS / STICKY NOTES, QR CODE
  - VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET
    PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
    CLICK ON THE QR CODE

Question. . .
So, *why do people park in a driveway but drive on a parkway?*

3

Aboite Township

Aboite Township Park Dept.

- May 12, 1992: Establish Aboite Park District (I.C. 36-10-7.5-1)
- Jan.13, 2022: Establish new Parks & Recreation Dept. with Township Executive & 3 Members (I.C. 36-10-7.5-5).
- Township Trustee (Executive) & Park Board is the governing body for the Park system.
- How Parks & Recreation Dept. is funded: Property Tax, County Option Income Tax (COIT), Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution (VA-ET), and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET).
  - 2023 Certified Tax Rate: 0.0063
  - 2023 Certified Recreation Budget: $231,352

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Aboite Township

Why a Park Plan?

- Provides a "Road Map" for the Aboite Township Park Board to follow regarding activities and park improvements.
- Provides opportunities to gain feedback from the community to identify needs and determine future park activities and goals.
- Shows potential funders that the community has a strategy and prioritization for the Park (DNR).
- Keep the momentum going for future park development
- Help improve amenities and activities provided at the park for residents and visitors.
- Provides a Historical Record (2001 Aboite Park Plan)

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Aboite Township

Goals of the Plan

- **Aboite Township Parks will utilize existing facilities and make improvements within a reasonable spending level.**
  1. Protect and maintain all aspects of the native environment.
  2. Provide sufficient resources: finances, materials, and personnel to properly maintain facilities.
  3. Conduct regular inspections of park grounds for cleanliness and safety. Aboite Township Parks will take any necessary corrective measures. Playgrounds will be constructed and updated to Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards.
  4. Provide barrier-free access to existing and new facilities.
- **Goal 2: Provide well-balanced recreational services for everyone regardless of age, background, or abilities.**
  1. Programs will emphasize wellness, nature appreciation, education, and recreation.
  2. The township park board will coordinate efforts with other agencies providing recreational services and facilities to minimize duplication and maximize programming opportunities through a cooperative strategy.
- **Goal 3: Properly manage the Department's finances.**
  1. Regularly monitor income and expenses based on Department Budget Line Items.
  2. Consider new sources of revenues that are consistent with other Township goals.
  3. Seek out state and federal grants and solicit foundations and private donations from other funding sources when appropriate.
- **Goal 4: Anticipate future needs and seek reasonable solutions for the parks, environment, and community.**
  1. Encourage communication between the Department and the general public, focus groups, demographics, and elected officials through open meetings, public surveys, website updates, and other means.
  2. Seek shared commitments from focus groups to achieve common goals.
- **Goal 5: Anticipate growth and increase demand for park facilities and services.**
  1. Acquire available open space in advance of development to minimize costs and ensure adequate spatial requirements for future development in areas of expected growth.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

-Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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Aboite Township

VISION STATEMENT

As a board, we strive to be a voice for the Aboite Township Community. Work done in enhancing, preserving, and protecting open spaces and township land will be shared with residents to enrich the quality of life for families, future generations, and the environment of the township.

MISSION STATEMENT

Aboite Township Parks will create public spaces to increase the quality of life in the community by encouraging healthy lifestyles through physical activity and quality recreational activities for all ages and abilities by engaging in cultural and artistic expression. The township will do this while being a responsible steward of finances, public safety, and environmental health.

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Aboite Township

PLANNING TIMELINE

- Initial Park Board Meeting: August 8, 2022
- Conduct Pre-Survey & Analyze Results: Sept-Nov. 2022
- Hold 1st Public Meeting: April 18, 2023
- Conduct Community Surveys: May-June
- Submit 1st Draft of Plan to IDNR: Nov.15, 2023
- Complete Needs Analysis: Dec-2023
- Prioritize needs and Develop an Action Plan: Jan. 2024
- Public Review of Master Plan: Feb. 2024
- Submit Board Approved Plan to IDNR: March 2024 (Deadline to submit Master Plan to IDNR: April 15, 2024)
- LWCF DNR Application Submission Deadline: June 1, 2024 ($500,000 Maximum Grant Request)

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Aboite Township

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Population

	YEAR 2000	YEAR 2020	% Change
Aboite Township	28,338	42,082	49%
City of Fort Wayne	253,691	263,886	28%
Allen County	355,329	385,410	16%

Aboite Township
Households: 15,834
(11% of Allen Co. Occupied Housing)
Avg. Size of Household: 2.61
Median Age: 38.9

Fort Wayne
Households: 67,738
(Occupied)
Avg. Size of Household: 2.44
(Owner Occupied)
Median Age: 35.3

Allen County
Households: 147,043 (Occupied)
Average Size of Household 2.66
Median Age: 37.8

Aboite Residential building Permits From 1-2018 to 3-2023:
1436 Residential & 157 Commercial Permits

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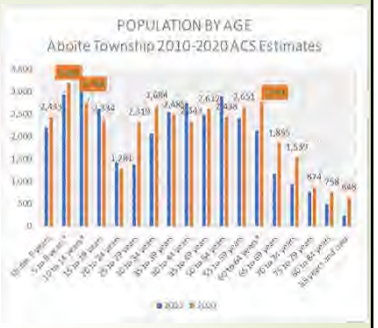
Aboite Township

Population by Age Comparison 2010-2020 ACS

AGE	2010	2020	% Change
Total Population	34,435	37,942	10%
Under 5 years	2,204	2,433	10%
5 to 9 years*	2,927	3,191	9%
10 to 14 years*	3,099	2,736	-12%
15 to 19 years	2,617	2,334	-11%
20 to 24 years	1,412	1,281	-9%
25 to 29 years	1,377	2,319	68%
30 to 34 years	2,066	2,684	30%
35 to 39 years	2,548	2,485	-2%
40 to 44 years	2,755	2,343	-15%
45 to 49 years	2,479	2,612	5%
50 to 54 years	2,893	2,438	-16%
55 to 59 years	2,410	2,651	10%
60 to 64 years*	2,135	2,761	29%
65 to 69 years	1,171	1,855	58%
70 to 74 years	930	1,539	66%
75 to 79 years	758	874	15%
80 to 84 years	482	758	57%
85 years and over	241	648	169%

Above Average Populations (Green)
2020 Top 3 Population Age Groups (Yellow Highlights)



Largest Population by Age
5 to 9 Years (8.4%)
60-64 Years (7.3%)
10-14 Years (7.2%)

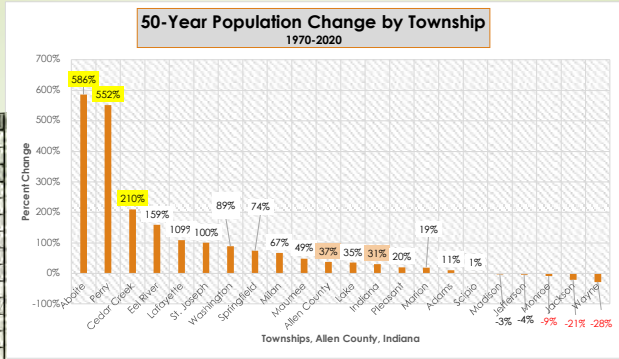
Smallest Population by Age
85 and older (1.7%)*
80-84 Years (2%)
75-79 Years (2.3%)
*Largest % change since 2010

POPULATION BY AGE

10

ALLEN COUNTY INDIANA

Indiana	6,785,528
Allen County	385,410
Township	Population
Wayne	307,453
St. Joseph	76,366
Aboite	42,082
Washington	38,434
Perry	37,592
Adams	34,192
Cedar Creek	13,684
Springfield	4,541
Lafayette	4,247
Eel River	4,198
Milan	3,881
Marion	3,833
Pleasant	2,964
Lake	2,789
Maumee	2,647
Jefferson	2,037
Monroe	1,960
Madison	1,659
Jackson	523
Scipio	412



Population Increase
Aboite Township +586%
Perry Township +552%
Cedar Creek +210%

Population Decrease
Wayne Township -28%
Jackson Township -21%
Monroe Township -6%

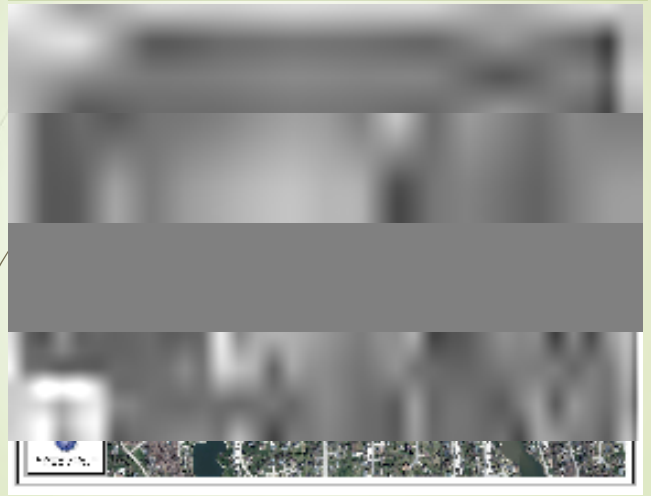
11

Aboite Township

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK SYSTEM

93.9 ACRES OF PARK AREA

Aboite Center Road (South)

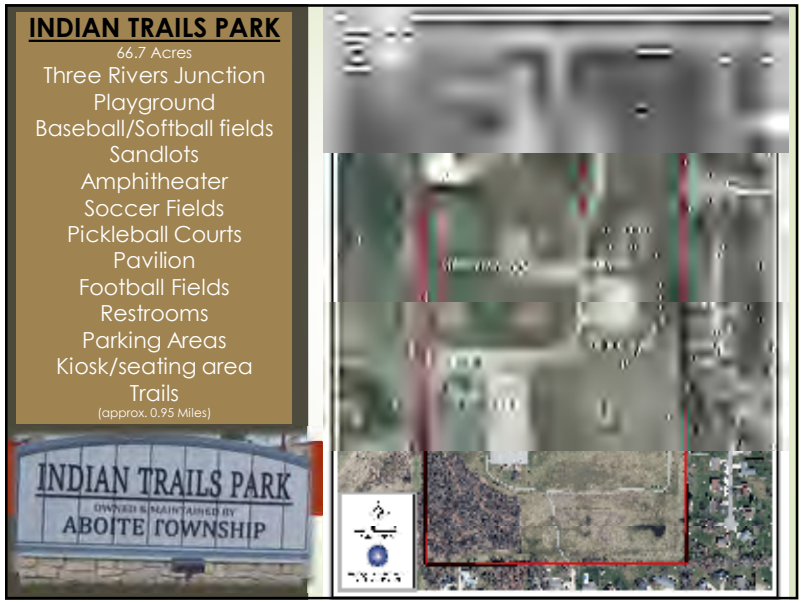


12

INDIAN TRAILS PARK

66.7 Acres

Three Rivers Junction
Playground
Baseball/Softball fields
Sandlots
Amphitheater
Soccer Fields
Pickleball Courts
Pavilion
Football Fields
Restrooms
Parking Areas
Kiosk/seating area
Trails
(approx. 0.95 Miles)



13

VAN HOOZEN PARK

Includes: 27.2 Acres

Playground
Pavilion
Soccer
Lacrosse
Softball Fields
Parking

(79 spaces approx.)

14

Recent Improvements - Indian Trails park

Security Cameras (2022)

Restrooms Upgrades (2019)

Flagpole/rocks(2022)

Band Pavilion (2019)

Pickleball Courts (2017-2018)

15

Recent Improvements - Van Hoozen Park

Softball/Baseball Improvements: Leveling, Seeding, Drainage at Softball Fields #11 & #12

Softball Fencing

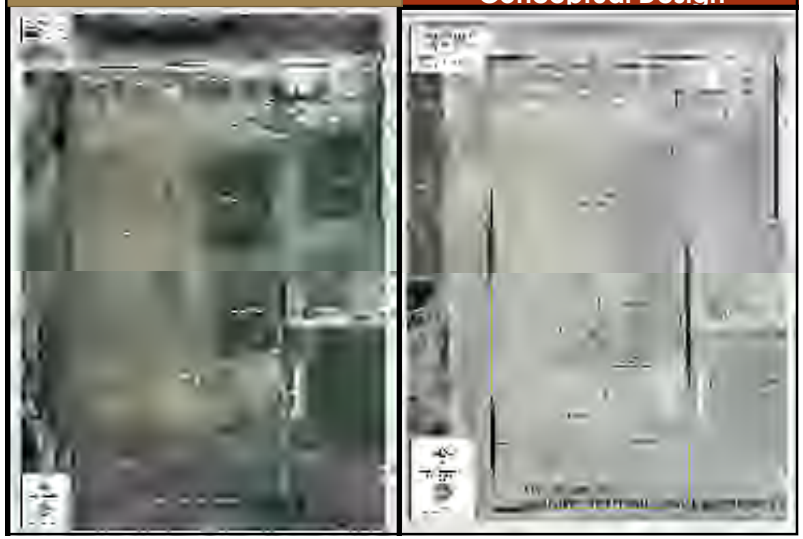
Park Vehicles/ATV, Mowers, Trailers (All parks)

Doggie Waste stations (all parks)

16

Park Inventory Map
Van Hoozen Park

Softball & Lacrosse Complex Conceptual Design



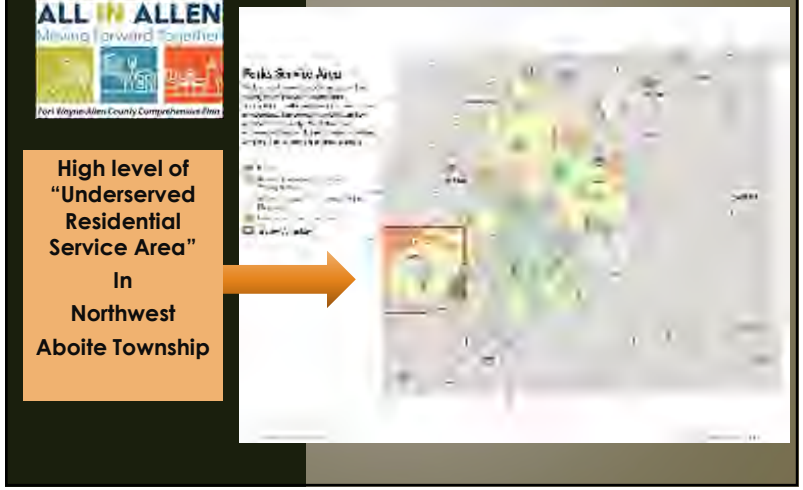
17

All In Ft. Wayne-Allen County Comprehensive Plan

March 13, 2023

ALL IN ALLEN
Moving Forward Together

High level of "Underserved Residential Service Area" In Northwest Aboite Township



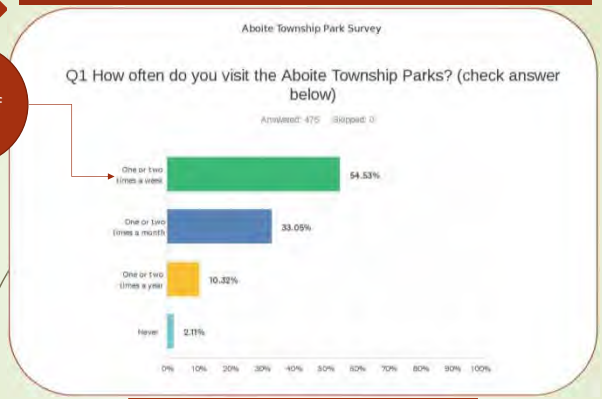
18

PRE-SURVEY PARK USAGE

475 SURVEY RESPONSES (SEPT 11 – NOV 28, 2022)

Aboite Township

High level of usage!



- 54.5% - VISIT 1-2 TIMES A WEEK
- 33% - VISIT 1-2 TIMES A MONTH
- 10% - VISIT 1-2 TIMES A YEAR
- 2% - NEVER USE PARKS

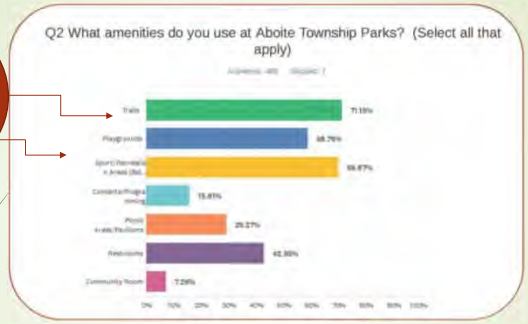
19

MOST USED PARK ACTIVITES

468 SURVEY RESPONSES (SEPT 11 – NOV 28, 2022)

Aboite Township

Trails & Sports Recreation (ball fields-courts) highly used

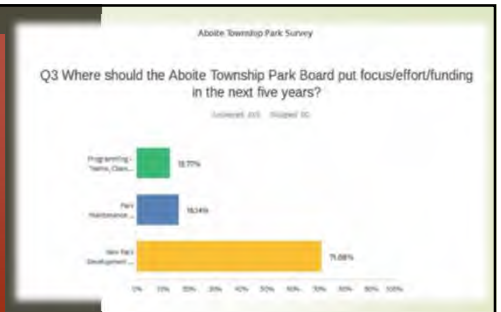


- 71% TRAILS
- 69.8% BALL FIELDS/COURT SPORTS
- 58.7% PLAYGROUNDS
- 42.9% RESTROOMS
- 15% CONCERTS/PROGRAMS
- 7.2% COMMUNITY ROOM

20

Where to focus efforts/funding over the next 5 years

415 Responses



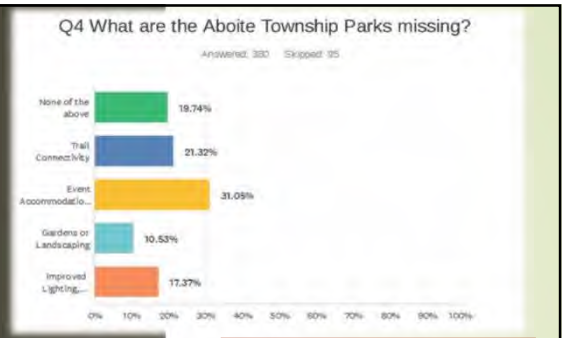
Aboite Township Parks Pre-Survey

- 71% - PARK DEVELOPMENT (Trails, Playground equipment, different park amenities, etc.)
- 16% - PARK MAINTENANCE / UPKEEP
- 12.7% - PROGRAMMING (Teams, Classes, Concerts, Etc.)

21

WHAT ARE THE PARKS MISSING?

380 Responses



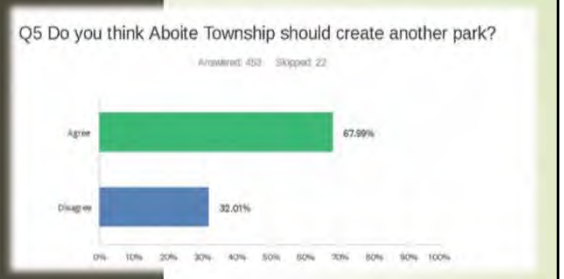
Aboite Township Parks Pre-Survey

- 31% - EVENT ACCOMMODATIONS: Parking, Concessions, Restrooms, Trash
- 21.3% - TRAIL CONNECTIVITY
- 19.7% - NONE OF ABOVE
- 17.4% - LIGHTING, SIDEWALKS & ACCESS
- 11% - GARDENS /LANDSCAPING

22

Do you think Aboite Township should create another park?

453 Responses



Aboite Township Parks Pre-Survey

- 68% AGREE
- 32% DISAGREE

23

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

****

WHAT SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE YOU FROM?

475 Responses

- 92% - Aboite Township
- 4% - Rural area outside Ft. Wayne and Aboite Township
- 2.3% - Lake or Wayne Township
- 1% - Roanoke, Huntington County
- 0.63% - City or Town outside the city of Ft. Wayne and Aboite Township

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- 20% Covington Elementary
- 15% - Lafayette Meadows Elementary
- 14.5% - Deer Ridge Elementary
- 12% - Haverhill Elementary
- 11.4% - Summit Middle School
- 8.2% - Whispering Meadows Elementary
- 7.8% - Aboite Elementary
- 7.8% - Woodside Middle School
- 3.8% None of the Above

Aboite Township Parks Pre-Survey

24

PARK COMMITTEE PRIORITY RANK

Aboite Township

RANK	PARK COMMITTEE PRIORITY RANK
1	Baseball /Softball Fields
2	Restrooms
3	Pickleball
4	Lacrosse/Soccer Fields
5	Trails
6	Splashpad
7	Community Venue / Event Focal Point
8	Concession Stand (Tie)
8	Frisbee golf (Tie)
9	Playground Upgrades
10	Benches/Seating Areas
11	Drinking Fountains
12	Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue
13	Sledding Hill
14	Fitness Trail & Trail Connections (Tie)
14	Stocked Fishing Pond (Tie)
15	Driving Range
16	Landscaping/Beautification
17	Veterans Memorial

25

Aboite Township

ACTIVITY TIME!
BREAKOUT SESSION

(20 Minutes)

Please provide your perspective!

1). What new development(s) will best meet immediate park needs?

2). Define viable options over the next 5 years for park development and what township parks should look like.

3). What are your thoughts on the best way to integrate (combine) park amenities to better meet the needs of ALL ages while developing a community vocal point (what might that look like for Aboite Township Parks)?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

"BUY-IN" BUCKS

Place cash in desired park activity tubs

26

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Let us know what you think!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABOITE

Aboite Township

Kristine Christlieb
(kristine.christlieb@co.allen.in.us)
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

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4-18-23 PUBLIC MEETING BUY-IN BUCKS ACTIVITY	
DESCRIPTION	**$$ Results**
Baseball /Softball Fields	$ 6,120
Pickleball	$ 1,040
Concessions/Restrooms	$ 740
Playground Upgrades	$ 620
Trails	$ 440
Splashpad	$ 200
Lacrosse/Soccer Fields	$ 180
Community Venue / Event Focal Point	$ 160
Frisbee golf	$ 80
Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	$ 60
Skatepark	$ 60
Veterans Memorial	$ 50
Driving Range	$ 40
Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	$ 20
Sledding Hill	$ 10
Stocked Fishing Pond	$ -

Note: The results of the Buy-in Bucks participation activities were tabulated and emailed to the Park Board/Planning Committee on 4-19-23.

Appendix B

MINUTES

#2 Public Hearing

#2 Public Hearing Minutes

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Aboite Township Public Participation Meeting
Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Public Hearing
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
March 18, 2024
6:00 PM

The Park Public Participation meeting began as advertised at 6:00 p.m., March 18, 2024, at the Aboite Township Community Room. Kim Mills Introduced members of the Aboite Township Park Board and Planning Committee. She also introduced community planners from the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council. After Introductions, Mike Rost, Park President provided background information on the two parks owned by Aboite Township that include the Indian Trails Park and Van Hoozen Park.

20 Attendants:

- **See Sign-in Sheet in Attachment A**
- **See Written Comments in Attachment B**
- **See Presentation Slides in Attachment C**

Mike Rost, Board President: Aboite Parks Background & Planning: Indian Trails started with the purchase of 66.8 acres and the development of the playground and trails. And then from the baseball diamonds, baseball / softball diamonds were created over Indian Trails and then shortly after that, it was the large pavilion that's there now. And they put restrooms there. And then there was the amphitheater that got built six or seven years ago for concerts; and then just recently in the last couple of years there's been pickleball. So, everybody's familiar with Indian Trails Park. They may not know exactly the name of it, but. Township residents have been there. Now that's the opposite of the other park and that's where we are right now - and it's called the Van Hoozen Park. And many people play here at Van Hoozen Park and do things here, but they may not know the name of it as it's not very well known. You saw the little playground over there. The playground and the pavilion, which has been there since back in the early 70s and it was started up by the Aboite River Women's Club. And then there's where the softball diamonds are. There's a couple of rectangular fields, and that's pretty much it. Now a lot of times when people describe this park, they're thinking about, there's a concession stand down there with a restroom and there's a playground and there's a big parking lot. And there's another softball diamond. Well, that's school district property, and there's often some confusion by Township residents in Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS). And it gets shared because there's a couple of different lacrosse organizations, but it it's used by Southwest Allen County soccer for practices and then cross country. Homestead and JV cross country use it all around the perimeter. Van Hoozen is used by a lot of southwest Allen County as well. Back in 2020, the school district was going to renovate Homestead and what happened was the recreational leagues lost five diamonds - And one of them was here - so we're short as far as softball diamonds and baseball diamonds throughout and a group of parents deciding there are several that decided in 2020 that we need to come up with something different to replace the diamonds and thought maybe a Sports Complex would make a lot more sense. And so, we've worked on that for about two years. In 2022, we partnered with the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) which is Kristine

and Alexis in the back. They got us together to better assess what the needs of the residents were. Then we created a vision statement, a mission statement. We had bylaws. We ended up with a five-year plan after two public surveys and one public hearing. So, the Park board has been meeting since 2022, once a month or more, to try to come up with this plan that we're going to present to you. We did our due diligence. We believe as far as asking residents what it is that's needed around here and for most of us that are in this room who I know the big push is - they know sports is very important and it's growing. We have many kids that need to be playing some ball and even more so now than it used to be since COVID - Let's get those kids outside. Van Hoozen is a fairly underused park at this point and it's only 22 acres, but I think we can do good things with it. So, with that said, I'll turn it over to Kristine.

Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC Community Planner: Kristine Christlieb. I'm a community planner from NIRCC, and I've prepared a presentation tonight. And after I'm done with my presentation, Jason Dohm is going to talk about some fundraising efforts, and then we'll open to questions. Please be sure you've signed the sign in sheet. We need to record that for planning, and I also have comment sheets on the back table if you do not feel comfortable giving a verbal comment, we have those as well. Written comments are open to the end of March. To give an overview of how we came to the results of the plan, we started back in 2022-2023 when the board developed a planning committee made-up of representatives from Aboite Township. The committee included the park board and the Southwest Allen County Community Schools, the YMCA, the ball leagues, and the parks manager, Paul Nielsen. Then the committee helped to develop surveys. We had a 2022 survey that was more general and then a more specific survey in 2023 after the public meeting in April. After that, we analyzed all the data. We then had an engineer come in and get budget estimates to determine an implementation schedule. And then tonight is one of the final steps of the process. We're presenting you with the findings of and results of our planning.

- **See Presentation Slides in Appendix 3**

Mike Rost, Board President: Do you want to mention the matching grant?

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: She did in the presentation.

Mike Rost, Board President: Yes, We're going to need the matching grant. We need to have all the funds for the matching grant. So, $3.2 million is what we need, at least it's believed by Engineering Resources to do what we need to do. And by August 1st, we'll need the $2.2 million with the $1 million matching grant. That's not guaranteed, but that'd be something that we're going to suggest. And we have been meeting, we've been meeting for years on what to do with all this. But in the last couple of months. Since we formulated that plan, there's been a group of people that have gotten together every couple of weeks trying to come up with fundraising efforts in order to raise those funds. And Jason Dohm and Jeff Potter do one of you guys want to come up and share a few things that we're planning on doing.

Jason Dohm, Fundraising Chairperson: Did you all bring a checkbook? (laughter) I guess not. So, you know it's going to take a community of people. But first, thank you for being here tonight. We've been trying to get traction on this for the last couple of years and it's been difficult. You know every meeting - We're like, oh! More people are going to come. Well, we need to get this out to the community, and they need to know what we're trying to do, because we can't do this individually. It's got to be for the kids and the community. Once the community gets back behind, it will be a lot easier. So, to help fundraise because

who's going to give anybody money if they don't see a benefit. The benefit is for you and the development of our kids. You know - How many kids have their X-boxes, and their eyes are glued to the TV all day - or their phones. At family reunions, you don't even hear the kids yelling at each other anymore because they're still on their phones. But I guess I'm supposed to talk about fundraising instead. (Laughter). But in order to get funding for this, everybody always said, well, what about this place? What about this place? What about this place? Corporate sponsorships. OK, everybody is willing to take money from a corporate sponsorship, but nobody is willing to ask them. What we're going to try to do is we're going to use it for all our corporate sponsorships - And we're going to give naming rights to the corporations who are willing to step up and help the community grow and help develop all the kids. And so those corporate sponsorships are going to be laid out. Hopefully we can get that figured out on Wednesday when we figure out what those are going to be or look like, and that all might change. OK, what I mean by that is, is for example the whole overall complex. Well, somebody is going to write $1,000,000. Check you know they could probably have sponsorship over the whole thing, or a field, a dugout, or a scoreboard- or bleachers. We're also going to do like bricks, so we're going to create a sponsorship wall - for corporations; we need people who know people – those who can reach out individually, who can give them instead of just a company, or us asking the company and saying, hey, please give us money. Well, we want people that know those people who really want to give to the community and the reason why we're doing it. It's not just to take money from corporations - It's to give back to the community that keeps buying your products. We need to get lists of people that own businesses here. Mike Hutchee has been good to get a list. They've been corporations and the small companies that have done a great job; both big corporations and small corporations that are within a 3 1/2-mile radius of here. So, we're going to do that. What we need to do is to share our mission and vision with those corporations in order to develop sponsorships from them.

We need to create a sponsorship letter so we can send them, so they understand that this is a huge deal to the community. We'll create a subcommittee to give a call to sponsorships, and we'll basically break it down to where you know this group of people, this is the companies that you'll call and this group of people - So that will help us on the corporate side, on the local businesses. And while committees are going around, I've gone to several of them already. Such as places like the Tequila and The Breakfast Club and talked to them and the owners there and they're more than willing let us go there in a day and support with anywhere from 10- to- 20% of their sales back to the community for that day. So, we'll do a couple of those throughout the years. Depending on the businesses, obviously the businesses shouldn't pay for everything. We should lean on our community to create sponsorships to do golf tournaments, pickleball tournaments, corn hole, bingo, or reverse raffles. We can do drawings to get donations: We could get 10-15, 20-30 different products to raffle off or donate them throughout the games. We can do food trucks, and they donate, or pay for a spot. For instance, the Home and Garden Show - we can hold a spot for $750. And what else? By bringing people to the park to get recognition. We can set out the game plan for them, so everybody can see. We can publicize this more through TV and thank you letters. We can also do a *GO Fund Me* page. And thanks to Cassidy, we do have a Facebook page to publicize what we're doing and to keep updated and keep everybody informed because a lot of people have Facebook. Also, we can send emails, but we need reach one-on one. So that's what we have going on there – Questions?

Mike Rost, Board President We're creating a 501C3, so that it's a nonprofit organization and that's where donated funds will go. Instead, you won't be directly donating to the government budget at Aboite Township.

So, another thing we've discussed is having a referendum. We'll discuss that more at our next meeting on Wednesday, but it's more difficult than you might think, right! Not many people are interested in voting to raise their taxes. So not only that, but we have to publicize, and there's a lot of money to publicize. Hey, we're looking to have a referendum. We need $2.2 million in order to build the Sports Complex out there. And then if it didn't happen, that's money that we don't have anymore. So, we're still sorting it out - But again, it will be discussed. That's where we're at with the plan and that's where we're at with the fundraising and grant. Do you have questions?

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: At this time, we'll open for public comment, so again, I echo what Jason said. Thank you for being here tonight and giving of your time. I know we all have our own lives to live, but a lot of work has gone into this. So, Kristine obviously highlighted a lot of the due diligence we've done around the planning process. What does this community need? There are underserved areas identified by the community between Indian Trails and Van Hoozen. We saw the fact that Van Hoozen was less utilized and there were more opportunities for improvement - and what bubbled to the surface is probably the most of your affiliated with right now is ball sports fields. So, whether that be rectangular sports fields, lacrosse or baseball and softball diamonds. And so, you see the plan ahead of you right there as far as what we're guiding ourselves towards and this is an opportunity to give comments or ask questions about the plan to the board or to the trustee around the process and what the future plans are

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/RESPONSES

Public Questions in bold, Responses in italics

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1: I'm Lizzy Gordon and I was wondering, as you were going through that, it seems like some of the slides had soccer and lacrosse together and then a separate football and another one; and then the football kind of just fell off completely. So, I didn't know how that happened or if that was on purpose. If you look at some of the surveys, some of them have those items separate. So, it has soccer and lacrosse together and then separate for football.

Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC Community Planner: *Yes, the 2022 survey was more generalized; so, it was difficult to categorize them, the ballfields separately, because we then got very specific with the second survey [survey conducted in 2023]. Part of that was because of the ways the surveys were formatted. It was difficult to score because the ballfields were all lumped together in the first survey, and they were separated individually for the second survey. So that's probably where there was some variation in the survey questions and how they were presented.*

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1: And when you show the Indian Trails future plan, it's all lacrosse and baseball from what I saw. Is that correct?

Colin Lank, Board Member: *I think a distinction that might be worth making is around a rectangular sports field. So, when you think about soccer fields, lacrosse, or football: So, these are not going to be dedicated*

as sport- specific fields. The idea is that as we build up our community; we start to serve other parts of our community and programs as organizations start up around us. All sports teams will have the capability to house those in Southwest Allen County - so, the "rectangular sports field" should encapsulate that.

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1: Are those new baseball fields taking away the other soccer field (at Indian Trails)? It looks like you're essentially adding 4-8 baseball fields and taking away several other fields. Is that correct?

Colin Lank, Board Member: *That would be correct. That would be correct based on the plan. Yes, so that's an appropriate question.*

Brad Mills, Board Member *So, you know, we are repurposing the area here, see the darker green up here (Points to the rectangular field on the* Indian Trails Map). For right now that is for soccer.

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1: Yeah, that was already used for that, it just wasn't like, you know, that wasn't a set label that didn't have any . . ..

Brad Mills, Board Member: *Right. So that will add a field and with the drainage issues that are out there, the part below the outside of the trail really is not able to be used right now, not for very much. Then, by adding the drainage that will allow that rectangular area to be used for youth football and soccer, and like Colin said, all of these rectangular areas are large enough for high school, which is part of the biggest thing we have here. High school soccer, lacrosse, rugby and football. They're all big enough for all of those things to happen on.*

Unknown Speaker: Are you talking for the Flag Football people?

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1: No, we're rugby - And so we have that front field with the goal posts. Which is okay – but it's pretty hard to play on with the drainage right now. Currently, there's really bad drainage by the road. I've noticed it in the last six months. So Is that going to be a second question. Is this improvement going to be in 2028 or before then, because I know you mentioned drainage earlier. It fills up a lot in the center.

Kim Mills, Trustee: *I can speak to that. The church across the street is working on that. We believe it's stopping up there. So, they're working on it. I'm not sure where they are at. We've been going back and forth on whose [drain] it is, but they are working on it.*

Brad Mills, Board Member: *Hopefully, they'll get it cleared up because* it's stopping up there. Their property backs up to ours, so that's going to get resolved and that will make the drainage better for the rugby field.

Kim Mills, Trustee: *We're hoping because our son played rugby over there too, so we know.*

Colin Lank, Board Member: *Overwhelmingly the responses were around baseball and softball, but we also wanted to make sure we did save the rectangular fields. I understand. And we debated a lot, and we had a lot of conversations around what to include in our new parks plan. We did not want to get rid of those two rectangular sports fields. We almost wanted to enhance them and to make sure that the drainage*

was good so that they are more playable for any of those rectangular sports which can be used for rugby, football or lacrosse/soccer. They are to be used as multi-purpose fields, so that is our goal.

Doug Branscome, Speaker # 2: Does this all assume that the current use of the Southwest Allen County facilities is going to stay the same?

Mike Rost, Board President: *At this point it does. That was one of our fears. And then when we lost the five ball diamonds around the complex, they were all used by recreational leagues. And so, the fear was that what else might happen? So, my intent was to have as many baseball fields, softball, soccer, and lacrosse fields on Aboite Township property as possible. At this point there are no plans to do away with any other facility that the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) has for recreational leagues, correct? (question directed to Brad Mills, SACS Board Member).*

Brad Mills, Park Board Member: *No, there's no plans at this time.*

Mike Rost, Board President: *I'm not convinced. So, that's why to me, it makes a whole lot more sense to have recreational leagues play on Township property.*

Colin Lank, Board Member: *Yes. And to a certain extent, we're bound by the Aboite Township parks land that we own. So whatever Southwest Allen County Schools does - we obviously want to try to influence and petition to maintain those fields because of the multi-utilization that we see from the organizations. But for the most part, we would just have to advocate on behalf of the youth organizations and any of those using it. But it's outside of our purview.*

James Edwards, Speaker #3: I think this was brought up at one of the earlier meetings, but maybe just refresh my memory - over by Woodside. I mean in the elementary school over there is that the property owned by the school system. If it is, OK, that's fine.

Mike Rost, Board President: *Yes, that field is Woodside's. Then I might be able to speak to that. That's a nice property, isn't it? Like underdeveloped, right?*

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1. **We'd be thankful if they'd just take the road down – or If the trails would just reach the addition, you know.**

Colin Lank, Board Member: *There is a need for trails around that. But again, I think that falls out of our territory. That's part of where the Fort Wayne Trails organization needs to be involved. There is a need for that.*

Those that know the home prices in Aboite Township and the costs of real estate in Aboite Township – And getting access to that is not in our budget to purchase that. There are opportunities. But as part of our 5-year plan is to manage the assets that we currently have - and based on our home prices and those that live in Aboite Township probably understand - the cost of real estate and also the ability to retain real estate. So, getting access to right now, Southwest Allen County schools as far as we're aware of - we don't have to budget and the plan as far as Kim has told us - And we don't have the ability to purchase that. But yeah, there is some land. There are opportunities in the area, but it's very hard to come by and so what we're trying to do first is a part of our five year plan is to manage the assets we currently have, make sure

we develop them in a way that will actually help us to serve the community the best we can and progress one step at a time because it's a massive lift.

You saw the growth trajectories that Kristine put out there, and it's been a lot of growth in our area and there are some areas that are underserved. So, we're trying to do the best we can over the next five years and once we accomplish that - We'll look to move forward to the rest.

Lisa Edwards, Speaker #4: When you talked about the fundraising and you said bricks, are we talking like on the concession stand building – Are talking about in the ground, the cinder blocks they could do the same?

Mike Rost, Board President: *It's something similar to that or that look.*

Lisa Edwards, Speaker #4. Well, yeah, because we had talked at one time on the building that we have over here. The one side is just plain. There's nothing on it. And we talked about, hey, could we, like have the kids do a mural? Like wings and stuff, where they can take pictures in front of it and do stuff that was cool for the kids, you know, because it's just a blank wall. And so, things like that are. Just thought so it gives back again to the kids . . .

Colin Lank, Board Member: *Yeah. I don't think we're ruling anything out and Jason and Jeff tell me otherwise about how we're going to fundraise. Any other questions?*

Justin Huff, Speaker #5: Looking at the new fields and the budget - is their plan as far as the maintenance of these new fields? Have we looked at, you know, the budget down the road for that?

Kim Mills, Township Trustee: *Aboite Township would be in charge of that maintenance so. It would be out of our budget or from the fees for tournaments and things like that, it would be able to pay for the maintenance, but we would have to hire more maintenance for. Sure, yeah. But that would be u*p to the Township to be in charge of that.

Colin Lank, Board Member: *Yeah. I think that with Indian Trails and the teams we have out there now. We have worked on establishing a new system in place to basically take the revenues generated from those assets by travel teams. For instance, all the ones that rent those fields or host games there to help that pay for the maintenance. And obviously, development of those diamonds themselves and the plan would be to keep that infrastructure that we're developing over to Indian Trails this year and bring that to Van Hoosen for the new complex to ensure the fact that somehow there would be maintenance included into that to be able to maintain the beautiful assets we plan on building.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: I'm going to be talking about the drainage on the rugby field. And just to be clear, I'm not trying to ask for another rugby field or anything like that. I'm just looking to preserve what I have and also and again, I can come back anytime for this another covering meeting, but we got a field that's kind of becoming unsafe. The drainage is one part of it. There's the drainage and the ditch. That's right next to Aboite Center, also it I mean what would be the northeast corner. All of that rectangular field is routinely underwater, and I'm not just talking about like a little bit. I mean, it's totally underwater, and for a contact sport or really any sport that's not really ideal. And so, when you talked about the church doing something to address drainage like that does. That is, are you talk about the

drainage of the ditch? Or the drain on the field, or both? Do we know? Because that corner has been an issue for many years.

Kim Mills, Township Trustee: *Right, right. Yeah. And it's gotten worse. Yeah, for sure. Yeah. So that is, we were hoping that it addresses the whole thing, but I do need to get an update because for a while, it was set back because we had the whole issue of Aboite center - You know, the big drainage there.*

We thought that would fix it. It did. And so, I called different city people, and they keep passing me around, so I haven't got a clear answer. But I believe it's a church issue but let me do some more research and maybe even you and I could meet because it's a problem.

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: I'd be happy to. I'm not trying to waste time here, but I'm trying to protect my guys. And also, there's a rut that runs east-west, that is along the southern edge. It's significant. It's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. I've been putting dirt in that thing, and it's done nothing. Is that something that's on people's radar?

Kim Mills, Township Trustee: *Not much. Because we're hoping that the church will get their side fixed and would clear this us up. But maybe if we walked through - Maybe it's something that I need to have someone come out to fix. We'll* have our maintenance guy look at it though.

Colin Lank, Board Member: *It sounds like a grading issue.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: The rut thing I don't think will be fixed by the drainage.

Colin Lank, Board Member: *I'd be happy to go out with you too and look at it.*

Mike Rost, Board President: *We can take your number and go out and look at this with you.*

Kim Mills, Township Trustee: *I think the church [issue] is just with the tile. This sounds like another issue*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #5: Another thing, is anybody involved with the planning - Are you guys connected to baseball somehow?

Lizzie Gordon, Speaker #1. **Yeah. Several**

Colin Lank, Board Member: Yes. There are multiple people on the committee from different walks. . .

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: And I'm not trying to talk trash on it, but it's pretty it's a big number that you guys are having and again you guys did a survey. You know, I had some of my parents filling it out because again, I was trying to advocate for drainage. And then you are adding multiple fields. I'm not trying to step on any toes, but it seems a little bit disproportionate, you know, and I don't know.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *For our own edification, how many rugby players do you have in your organization?*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: Right now, we're at 32 members, And I don't want to shake a fist at you. I completely understand that.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *Yeah, We want to provide the opportunities to grow these organizations, that's something we need to consider, and that's honestly the thought process behind those southern fields you see on there. The rectangular sports field. Because at one point there was consideration to making those all-baseball diamonds. Because between Aboite Slow-pitch softball league, there are 300 girls that participate in that program. Yeah, there's 650 youth sports athletes that participate in Don Ayres Little League, and roughly 150 travel organizations that leverage our fields here. And those are all pretty much under the age of 18 years old. So, you're talking about 1000 plus kids. And I've been a part of several different organizations I'm spread across them all – And I promise - I try to keep this moving forward. And the fact of the matter is there is a massive, underserved need there, and even those organizations are being kind of quelled by the fact that they don't have the ability to participate in the fields. And softball has to navigate their practices and games, and I think it's there's opportunities being missed across the board. And I think this goes to the fact that we're kind of landlocked in by the Southwest Allen County, based on real estate and everything else that we have. By no means do we think that this is an all-inclusive to serve everybody we possibly can and to open up opportunities to develop lacrosse, rugby, soccer, or anything else. But we're trying to address the biggest rocks first - is the best analogy to use and that's the one with over 1000 use sports participants in these that are lacking the ability to get field access. So that's one of the things we decided to address.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: OH, I get that. Yeah, my 30 doesn't do anything for me.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *No, that's not diminishing the 30 rugby players.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: No, no, I didn't take it that way. I'm just trying to figure it out and you guys are great organizing because you know I heard about you know basically a lot of these meetings have been the baseball parents, and that's fine. I get that. You guys, I think it's unavailable to you guys and you need more. How many more? I don't know where you have the tail wagging the dog because you guys organize so well and have a lot of parents coming out. Are those numbers potentially a little inflated? And I don't know the answer to that. And I'm not asking you to answer that,

Mike Rost, Board President: *No one knows how to answer that. They have public surveys, and we have public hearings. It's mostly baseball, softball, people that come. So, I don't know.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: Yeah, I understand that! I'm just asking the question.

Jason Dohm, fundraising Chairperson: *Yeah, I know that the lacrosse people have been invited and the head coach. I've been in contact with him at almost every meeting - and they haven't participated. So, we can't get that information. One of my things when we started this- is we didn't ever want to ever take away from somebody and not give back. Responding to all of them, you know so because there's people that said that they wanted eight diamonds. And I said, we can't take away from anyone here, from soccer and lacrosse unless we put it somewhere else there, right? Because you can't take away from one organization and not give back to another. That's unfair to all kids across all of the sports.*

We want to try to give a place to develop young sports and your kids and like you said, there's 1000. I am a softball coach, you know, in both leagues, both fast-pitch and Aboite and they're so it's so hard because we don't practice during the week. Once play starts game start because we can't get on the field. Don

Ayres. You can't even practice on a field because you don't have a field to play on. You got to practice in a field. So, we'll find somewhere to go because we don't have a diamond to practice on.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *We hear you. And we definitely agree with you on that - We're trying to do what we can with this right now and we didn't want to get rid of those rectangular sports fields for that reason. But at the same time, we're thinking about the emergent needs of right now which Is we have some parents from baseball softball there that are definitely making their presence known. And then we also don't unnecessarily want to reduce the ability for organizations to grow, because I think I'll use a poor analogy here talking about like Field of Dreams "you build it, they will come" if there's facilities available for other sports, like if there's an awesome soccer field or lacrosse field or rugby field, those programs will butt-up . . . I know rugby coaches that I'm friends with. It's a growing sport like yours. But the baseball/softball sports are maybe more mature.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: Yeah, definitely they are.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *And you're definitely catching up. And I think it could be more, but it's because they're probably experiencing the same thing that the baseball and softball people are - which are maybe more mature organizations there. And you're going to be catching up, but we kind of have to address the emergent needs right now while still recognizing the others. This is definitely the appropriate place to talk about it. So, we appreciate it.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: The parking lot by that field.

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *The gravel parking lot?*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #5: It's not gravel, it's the small one next to the field.

Brad Mills, Park Board Member: *Well, on the Indian Trails. There's a lot of parking that is going to be improved, but not for a while. We're going to finish parking at Van Hoozen first.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #5: It's something that and even not just with rugby, another thing I actually I haven't heard talk about a lot is why. Well, like with football [field]. The parking is swamped with people at the park. And there's people parked all over the sides of the road and everywhere.

Kim Mills, Township Trustee: *Especially if we have concerts and baseball and several things going on at the same time.*

Unknown Speaker: Overall, there's not nearly enough parking.

Brad Mills, Park Board Member: *So, we've got parking planned to be extended all over that area there and especially by the playground (shows slide of new parking area planned at Indian Trails).*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: Oh, I was going to recommend they extend it there [parking].

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *But that's at Indian Trails that we're talking about there.*

Sam Hatlem, Speaker #6: Oh, that's for Indian Trails, yeah. It doesn't happen very often, but when it happens - it's a mess.

Brad Mills, Park Board Member: *If there's other questions, the park board is going to be around. There is another organization coming in for a meeting with the youth. But we can continue to be here and talk while they set up. But as far as that, they're coming in.*

Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC Community Planner *Also, there are comment sheets if you want to make a written comment, please pick up the sheet. You can also e-mail questions to me or Kim since we're running out of time.*

Unknown Speaker: I've got two quick comments. On both renderings, there's not nearly enough parking. If we're adding four ball diamonds, we need to relook at the parking situation and then to his comment about the rectangular field. Is there a way to get rid of the bisecting trail? So, the trail there between the two fields on and going into to Van Hoozen. Could you squeeze in more parking by the third field there? Right in the middle of the two rectangles.

Mike Rost, Board President *That might be school district property, possibly where you're looking at. We could look into it more if there's more room on Van Hoozen property though.*

Colin Lank, Park Board Member: *Thank you all for coming and appreciate the comments. And as Jason and Jeff both talked about, there is a fundraising committee that is meeting on Wednesday t at 5:30 here. Right back in this place. So, if you want to be part of the discussions and help to build up this future five-year plan, we'd appreciate it. So, thanks again for coming.*

Public Meeting Closed at 7:10 PM.

Kristine Christlieb *March 27, 2024*

Kristine Christlieb **Date**

Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC)
200 East Beery Street, STE 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Attachment A: Attendee List

ATTENDEE LIST

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814
Monday, March 18, 2024
Time: 6:00 PM

	Print Name	Email/Phone	I'm interested in sharing fund/volunteer support. (check box)
1	Candy Keller	[redacted]	
2	Justin Huff		
3	Sam Hatlem		
4	Lizzie Gordon		X
5	Andrew Tudor		
6	Chris Landrigan		
7	Doug Brasseur		
8	Jason Dohm		X
9	Lisa Edwards		
10	Jim Edwards		
11	Jeff Polk		X
12	Brandon Fenbert		X
13	David Grane		
14	Kristina Christlieb, Niece		
15	Mike Rust, President		
16	Kim Mills, Trustee		
17	Brad Mills, Park Board		
18	Colin Lank, Park Board		
19	Aieris Hathaway NIRCC		
20	Ethan Dahlen, Wane 15 News		
21			
22			
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Aboite Township Park Plan - Public Review

Attachment B: Written Comments

#1

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Final Public Review

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Andrew Tudor
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Date: 3/18/24

Telephone (Optional) [redacted]

CHECK ONE:

☒ **I APPROVE** of the actions identified in the 2024-2029 Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

☐ **I DISSAPROVE** of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

Please summarize any thoughts or concerns in the space below:

I support the overall plan. I want to make sure Aboite Softball league Remains or increases access to the fields in Van Hoosen Park

Please send written comments no later than March 30, 2024, to:

Aboite Township
c/o Kristine Christlieb, Community Planner
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

#2

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Final Public Review

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address:

Date: 3/18/2024

Justin Huff
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Telephone (Optional) [redacted]

CHECK ONE:

☑ **I APPROVE** of the actions identified in the 2024-2029 Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

☐ **I DISSAPROVE** of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

Please summarize any thoughts or concerns in the space below:

Please send written comments no later than March 30, 2024, to:

Aboite Township
c/o Kristine Christlieb, Community Planner
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

#3

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Final Public Review

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name & Address: Date: 3-18-24

Doug Branscomb
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Telephone (Optional)_____

CHECK ONE:

☒ **I APPROVE** of the actions identified in the 2024-2029 Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

☐ **I DISSAPROVE** of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

Please summarize any thoughts or concerns in the space below:

Please send written comments no later than March 30, 2024, to:

Aboite Township
c/o Kristine Christlieb, Community Planner
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

COMMENT SHEET

Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Final Public Review

Name & Address: **Date:** 3/27/24

David Lovvorn

[redacted]

Fort Wayne IN 46804

Telephone (Optional) [redacted]

CHECK ONE:

☐ **I APPROVE** of the actions identified in the 2024-2029 Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

☐ **I DISSAPROVE** of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

Please summarize any thoughts or concerns in the space below:

I approve of all actions in the 5-Year Master Plan except the plan to demolish the soccer fields in the southeast corner of Indian Trails Park for more ballfields. This space is one of the only publicly available wide-open green spaces in Aboite Township, and it is frequently used by people playing soccer, ultimate frisbee, flying kites, and all sorts of other activities requiring an open space. Cutting up this space with fences and dugouts would also damage the peaceful nature of Indian Trails and create a much less appealing space. There must be a balance between softball/baseball needs and the needs of everyone else, and I know the township can work to address the issue of ballfield access with the addition of the four new ballfields at Van Hoozen Park and the existing fields at Indian Trails. These parks are used for many activities, and 50% of park square footage should not be devoted to one activity.

RESPONSE 3-27-2024

From: Kristine A. Christlieb
To: David Lovvorn
Bcc: Kim Mills (kmills@aboitetwp.com); Colin Lank; Mills, Brad; Michael Rost
Subject: RE: 5-Year Master Park Plan for Aboite Township Comment Sheet
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 2:44:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
COMMENT SHEET - Final Public Review - Aboite Van Hoozen Duel Use Sheet.docx

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David,

Thank you for providing your comment sheet. I will include your approval of the Van Hoozen Park Improvements with the meeting documents and provide it to the park board. Since the Van Hoozen Park project is the first item on the park board's action plan, they were hoping that if there were no objections to these park improvements, to then use the March 18th public hearing and comments for the application submission this year (if they're able to generate the local match in time to apply in 2024). If DNR allows the March 2024 hearing to apply, they won't need to conduct another public hearing this year.

However, to make any improvements at the Indian Trails Park, they will need to finish the Van Hoozen Park Improvements first before applying for grant funding at Indian Trails. The Indian Trails project will require another public hearing and further community vetting to apply for another grant at this park. The renderings provided at the public hearing were concepts to inform the community of the board's proposed actions and to provide an opportunity to identify community approval *or objections* to any of the items.

I know the park board is very open to public feedback as they took additional measures to provide the community with two public surveys, a public forum in 2023, and a second public meeting in 2024. They've also extended the public review time through the end of the month to allow additional time for persons to voice their opinions.

I will forward your email and comment sheet to the park board. Would you like someone from the park board to reach out to you to discuss any concerns about improvements at Indian Trails?

Thank you again for your comments and interest in the Aboite Township parks!
Kristine

Kristine Christlieb
Principal Planner of Community Development
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
Citizens Square
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

From: Kristine A. Christlieb
To: Lizzie Gordon
Cc: Kim Mills (kmills@aboitetwp.com); Mills, Brad; Michael Rost; Colin Lank; Alexis Degitz
Subject: RE: 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:43:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image004.png

Hello Lizzie,
Please see the responses to your questions in *red italics below*:

From: Lizzie Gordon <lizziecgordon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:07 PM
To: Kristine A. Christlieb <Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us>
Subject: 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan

Hi Kristine,

I'm not sure if you'll be able to answer my questions, but your contact information was given for public comments on the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation plan. For official records, my name and address are as follows:

Elizabeth Gordon
[redacted], Fort Wayne, IN 46804

I DISAPPROVE of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

Below are my questions on the information in the current Master Plan document:

1. Ongoing maintenance of the new diamonds and concession stand structures is not well defined. What studies have been done or data reviewed to show that the park can afford the increased maintenance with the current budget? *The amenities being considered do not require significantly more maintenance than the current ones. The Township will be able to afford the maintenance of these new facilities within their current budget (per Kim Mills, Trustee).*

2. On page 63, section 3.2 there is a list of organizations that use the park, and then section 3.2.1 gives a different list of athletic activities and participants. Why don't the lists match up? Where are the participation numbers for those activities from? Why aren't there participation numbers for any of the soccer, cross country, or football

groups that use the park (or other organizations)? Is their historical participation data for the organizations the new amenities are based on to make sure their numbers aren't decreasing? As we plan out ball diamonds that will be used for the next 20+ years of the park I think it's important to understand current and historical participant data.
We'd used 2022 usage data that was available for section 3.2.1 (the most recent usage data). And the list from 3.2 was a general list of different leagues and associations identified as users of the fields per Aboite Township. However, with the changes in township administration, we do not have historical data for the usage from those other organizations (Kim Mills, Trustee).

3. Less than 1% of the population completed the survey, is there a concern that this isn't enough of a response to have useful data? *For a population of 40,000+, this response rate isn't unusual. The IN Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a survey used to update the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (SCORP) and it received a response rate of 0.1%.*

To assure a thorough review, we had used a "mixed method" process for public input by incorporating two public surveys and a variety of communication efforts to announce both surveys with the hopes of receiving a larger response rate. However, survey responses came in lower than anticipated for the level of effort - but we received local TV coverage of both meetings, which is very rare to achieve in local park planning, and we obtained a lot of great feedback from all forms of inquiry. In addition, the 70+ persons who'd attended the April 2023 public forum provided excellent information from the discussion groups - and the "buy-in-bucks" activity helped to gauge the level of community "buy-in" for various amenities: This data was then tabulated and scored along with the survey data. The results showed that Baseball/Softball Fields was ranked the most important amenity to add from each polling method used (see Table 18: Combined Scored Ranking Sheet pg. 82). Our public participation efforts were complimented by the DNR Senior Planner in a November Master Plan evaluation for the various measures we'd used to obtain public input (Kristine Christlieb, Community Planner).

4. Of the 94.74 acres, how much will be dedicated to baseball/softball fields with the new proposal vs now (as in what % or total acreage)? See the acreage/percentage breakdown below:

Van Hoozen Park (VHP) 27.2 Acres (Total includes wooded area at the south end)
Existing Baseball/Softball Fields = 2 Acres or (8%)
Proposed Baseball/Softball Fields = ***5.7 Acres or (21%)***
Van Hoozen (up 13%)

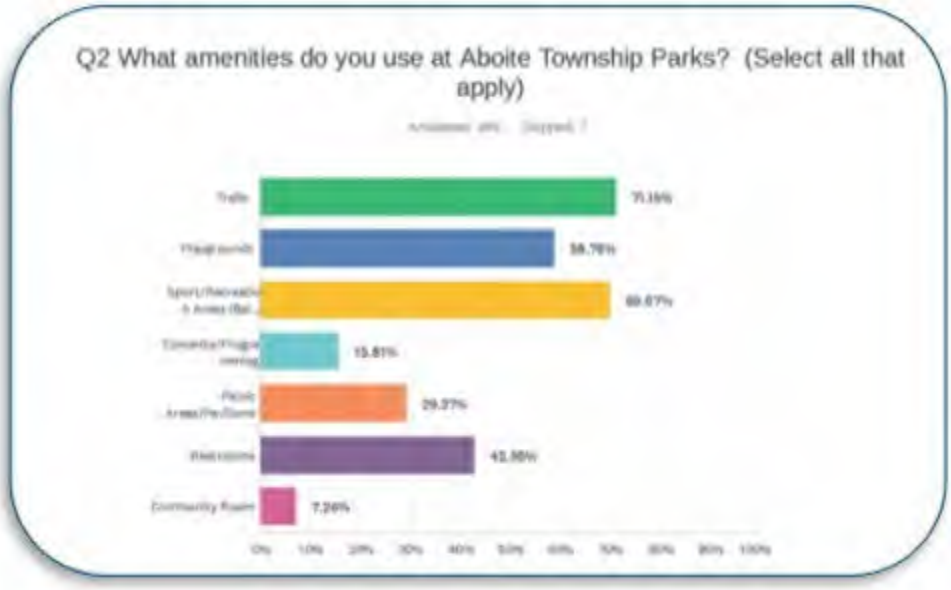
Indian Trails Park (ITP) 66.7 Acres Total
Existing Baseball/Softball Fields = 12.9 Acres or (20%)
Proposed Baseball/Softball Fields = 12.9 Acres + 8.5 Acres new w/cloverleaf = 21.4 ***Acres or (32%)***
Indian Trails (up 12%)

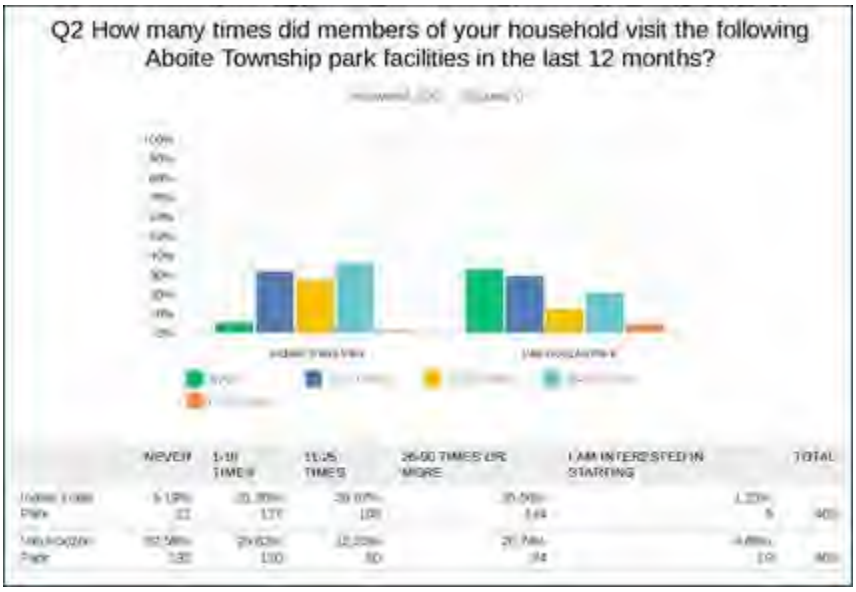
Total park acreage 93.9 (both parks)
Total Baseball/Softball field acreage w/improvements: ***5.7 Acres (VHP) + 21.4 Acres (ITP) = 27.1 Acres / 93.9 acres or (29%)*** *of Aboite Township park area proposed for Baseball/Softball fields) Per Stephen Senior, NIRCC Associate Transportation Planner.*

5. Are the cross-country paths staying? What current amenities will be removed in the new plans (it's hard to tell in the photos)? *This had been discussed with Jason Cordes, a 2023 committee member representing SACS, and he said they could adjust their cross-country paths if there was some overlap with the proposed trail loop. However, the specific details will need to be worked out with the school.*

6. Page 52, table 11 shows an inventory assessment of Van Hoozen Park, and page 57, table 12 for Indian Trails Park. Where did the usage information come from? Was there a usage study done with quantitative results or do we only have this qualitative data available? The soccer fields for Indian Trails Park have no usage information; why is this the only area with no data? Why isn't there information on the other "rectangular sports fields" for Indian Trails Park? *The two surveys included quantitative results of park usage. This information was provided in the park plan and at the public meeting. Specific league information was provided by the township and the new park board. All rectangular field information was presented in the amenity usage slide at the public hearing. As noted at the public hearing, the first survey lumped together all sports field usage (to include all the rectangular fields). The second usage report was broken out by individual sports– however, we believe the feedback from both surveys provided a good sampling & reference point for the level of park usage at both parks (as shown in Q2 – Most respondents had attended Indian Trails (94%); and over 63% or respondents had attended Van Hoozen park in the past 12 months).*

Aboite Township Park Usage by Amenity
Number of Times used Annually


Q2 What amenities do you use at Aboite Township Parks? (Select all that apply)
71.16%
58.78%
69.87%
15.81%
29.27%
43.90%
7.26%



7. Will there be scoreboards, bleachers, and restrooms for the rectangular sports fields to match the level of investment in the baseball/softball fields? *There will be one set of restrooms and they will be utilized by all who are utilizing these facilities. Bleachers will be repurposed where possible. The plan for scoreboards has not yet been finalized, but we will have similar scoreboards for the different types of ballfields (Per Kim Mills, Trustee).*

8. Appendix E, for the maintenance schedule attached, there are activities labeled "Delegated by the Aboite Township Office"; who would pay for these? If it's the township, where will these funds come from as they're not currently in the budget? ? *Kim Mills had stated at the public meeting that they would be handling the costs for maintenance. The Maintenance Plan provided in the park plan considered various costs based on current maintenance fees. The township is aware that additional costs will be needed to cover maintenance of new amenities and annual budgets will be adjusted accordingly.*

9. On pages 92 and 95, the breakdown of cost for Van Hoozen and Indian Trails updates states $1,000 for field striping on Lacross field. At the public meeting, all board members were adamant that rectangle fields could and would be used for many sports, but if the striping is set for one sport how is that possible? Will there be striping paid for to match only a lacrosse field or are these fields available to all sports with striping paid for by the township? Also, what are the expected sizes of these fields? All sports listed as using them (lacrosse, soccer, rugby, football) have different regulation field sizes. *The renderings provided at the hearing were conceptual designs and the list of probable costs provided by the engineer. The Township is aware that these items will need to be*

determined at the final design phase. However, the specifics are yet to be determined.

Thank you for your interest in Aboite Township Parks!

Kristine Christlieb & the Aboite Township Park Board

Kristine Christlieb
Principal Planner of Community Development
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
Citizens Square
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us
Website: www.nircc.com

Thanks,
Lizzie

#6

COMMENT RECEIVED: 3-21-2024 - CHRIS LANDRIGAN

From: Landrigan, Chris M RTX <chris.m.landrigan[redacted]

To: Mike Rost (msslm5@frontier.com) <msslm5@frontier.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 03:23:34 PM EDT

Subject: Township project

Mike

While I'm certain there's lots of information I'm not aware of …

For the Van Hoozen area…

It seems like there's a lot of money being laid out for not that much gain…especially when compared to where ASL was just a few years ago.

Gaining just one additional diamond (loss of #9, #11 and #12 + cloverleaf diamonds) for $3M seems like quite a bill considering no other groups (beyond ASL members) apparently are really participating in the fund raising.

Going back to the rectangular fields…other than ASL using the fields for batting practice, who else uses those soccer fields? Is it Homestead? I know I've witnessed them using the one field towards the north end of that area. Perhaps the other fields get used if they have soccer tournaments (I don't have any idea). I've also seen flag football play out in those fields before.

The plan showed 3 of these fields remaining…why would there NEED to be that many fields? I think you were attempting to not take away anything that currently existed, but if the need doesn't really exist, why not use the space for something else…?

If there isn't really a need for that many rectangular fields, could diamonds 11 & 12 remain?

Maybe the main soccer field (near the fire station) could get turned by 90 degrees and put a second field right next to it.

Who are the other organizations that would use the rectangular fields? When do they use it and how often? (you may not know this unless you either know the right people or they responded to the questionnaire).

Soccer – which org??

Field hockey – which org??

Rugby – which org??

Lacrosse – which org??

If the ‘org’ is Homestead should they also contribute to the cause?

If 4 more diamonds are added over at Indian Trails, would those be dedicated to Don Ayres baseball? Or fastpitch (is it called Don Ayres fastpitch (for the girls)??)

How did Don Ayres adjust to having fewer diamonds to use?

How many diamonds did they lose with the Homestead construction?

RESPONSE: 4-3-2024

From: MIke and Sue Rost
To: Chris M. RTX Landrigan
Cc: Mills, Brad; Kim Mills (kmills@aboitetwp.com); Colin Lank; Kristine A. Christlieb
Subject: RE: Township project
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:47:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Chris,

We certainly appreciate your attendance at the public hearing and your follow-up comments below.

From an Aboite Softball League perspective, you're correct that not much additional as far as softball diamonds will be gained. There were 4, with 2 being on Township property. And, with the proposal, there will be 5, with 4 on Township property. The positive will be that it will be a much nicer complex and will be located in an area where the drainage will be much improved.

There is currently a lot of conversation among board members about the use of the rectangular fields. Similar to the Aboite Softball League, the fields have been there for many years and the Township needs to take that into consideration. There has been very little input from those that play on the rectangular fields, and, as you mention, it seems like usage has greatly declined the last two years. We plan to do more investigation in this. But it's imperative that we continue moving forward with the proposed plan if we are to have a chance at getting the all-important DNR Matching grant. If further investigation warrants a change, we'll work to address that.

To answer your other questions, Don Ayres lost 4 diamonds to the Homestead renovation. Two have since been given to them at Indian Trails. The usage of new proposed cloverleaf diamonds at Indian Trails has not been finalized, but it's clear that the Township needs the diamonds. Hopefully, the total two new proposed cloverleaf diamonds at the two parks allow more Aboite kids to play ball in their Township Parks.

Again, we appreciate your comments and you have not been the only one to voice these concerns and questions. We'll continue trying to do what's best for Aboite Township residents. And we want to continue hearing your thoughts, Chris.

Mike Rost

COMMENT: Samuel Hatlem 3-30-2024

Principal Planner of Community Development
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
Citizens Square
200 East Berry Street Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260-449-4704
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us
Website: www.nircc.com

From: Sam Hatlem <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:20 PM
To: Kristine A. Christlieb <Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us>
Subject: 2024-2029 Aboite Parks Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Samuel Hatlem
[redacted] Fort Wayne, IN 46804

I DISAPPROVE of the actions identified in 2024-2029 Aboite Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan that includes further development of the Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

I feel that, while this plan addresses some improvements that would be welcome to some residents of Aboite Township; it is unbalanced and too heavily weighted towards specific activities at the expense of a more diverse offering to the community. I find the amount of favoritism shown towards specific sports in this plan very concerning. Additionally, it is highly suspect that multiple members of the planning committee and Aboite Township board have direct and significant ties to baseball programs, then developed a plan which overwhelmingly favors baseball.

While I understand that there is a want, and potentially a need, for more baseball facilities in the area, doubling the number of baseball diamonds is absolutely excessive. Even more troubling is the fact that some of these new baseball diamonds would come

at the expense of the existing rectangular fields in Indian Trails Park and existing green space in Van Hoozen Park. Between both parks, this plan proposes a final tally of 12 baseball diamonds, 2 Lacrosse fields, and yet just 3 of the rectangular sporting fields that serve multiple sports. Baseball diamonds can only be used to play baseball, and therefore only serve the members in the community who play that single sport. Yet under this plan, baseball would have overwhelmingly more purpose-built fields than every other sport combined. This complete lack of balance does not serve the broader community.

Additionally, there are significant long term concerns including maintenance costs, long term planning flexibility, and overall sustainability. As proposed, this would be the largest grouping of baseball diamonds in Allen County. Compared to other fields, baseball diamonds cost more to build and are much more difficult to remove if changes to the park are desired in the future. Baseball fields also cost more to maintain due to the variety of building materials, and it seems there has been very little consideration for those costs. Also concerning is that this plan makes no mention of repairing many significant, long known issues with existing fields and amenities in the parks. Building so many new facilities exclusively for one sport without even maintaining those for many other sports seems extremely shortsighted.

In general, I cannot support this plan and question the reasoning of an approach which significantly and unfairly favors a single sport at the expense of a variety of other activities which serve the wider community. Furthermore, I question the rationale used to make this wildly unbalanced proposal.

Sincerely,
Sam Hatlem

RESPONSE: 4-3-2024

From: Kristine A. Christlieb
To: Sam Hatlem
Cc: Kim Mills (kmills@aboitetwp.com); Mills, Brad; Colin Lank; Michael Rost; Alexis Degitz
Subject: RE: 2024-2029 Aboite Parks Plan
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:11:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hello Sam,

Thank you for providing your feedback. Your comments and concerns are being considered by the park board.
The park board has been working since 2022 to review current usage trends and evaluate the needs of the community. Based on the results of our study, the current usage and demand for ball diamonds is much greater than the usage and demand for the rectangular sports fields. We are trying to maximize the utilization of our facilities to benefit the most township residents. We have had meetings and two surveys to get public input and there has been more support for diamonds. We want to have facilities for as many sports as possible, so we are reserving a significant amount of space for rectangular sports. The drainage features that we are making with the new improvements will allow for more useability for rectangular sports. So rectangular sports will enjoy a better playing area when this phase is complete.

The proposed trail, walkways, restrooms/concessions and expanded parking at Van Hoozen Park were included as a top priority in the master plan to better utilize the underdeveloped recreational areas that will not only complement the ballfields and the rectangular sports fields alike, but will also provide a new trailway, necessary ADA walkways and seating facilities to allow persons of all ages and capabilities to attend recreational functions who otherwise may not be able to enjoy the use of the park. Approximately 75% of the proposed investment at Van Hoozen Park is to incorporate trails, parking, concessions, ADA walkways, and infrastructure to benefit all recreational activities at the park. At Indian Trails Park, approximately 72% of the proposed budget is to benefit other park activities such as pickleball, rectangular sports, walkways, drainage, and parking. Although, the park board is aware that more evaluation will need to be considered during the final design stages of development.

Again, thank you for your feedback, as we want to assure that we have a full understanding of the needs and concerns of the community that we serve.

The Aboite Township Park Board

Kristine Christlieb

3.1.3 Indian Trails Inventory Review

An inventory of park amenities with assessment of its strengths and weaknesses is provided in Table 12 below:

Table 12: 2023 Indian Trails Park Inventory Assessment

Indian Trails Park Inventory

PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA ITEM/ STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	CONDITION (Excellent/Fair/Poor)	USAGE (Low / Moderate/ Heavy)	LIST STRENGTH/WEAKNESS
Soccer Fields	5	2001	1/5 ADA Compliant	Excellent	Moderate	STRENGTH
Baseball Diamonds w/Scorer Booth	4	2001	No	Excellent	Heavy	Popular softball courts with new fencing
Pavilion	6	2018	No	Fair	Moderate	Highly used park with numerous picnic
Restroom "Barn" (used for storage)	1	2000s	No	Fair	Heavy	Newly added ADA parking in 2023
Concession Stand	1	2000s (not ADA compliant)	No	Fair	Heavy/Moderate	The concession location/layout is one of the most
Tot Play Equipment	2	2001	Yes	Fair	Heavy/Moderate	playground in the region
Lighting (Light Poles)	3	2020	N/A	Excellent	n/a	Nice entrance area and attractive landscaping
Parking Lots	2	2001	Yes	Fair	Heavy	around playground
Courts	8	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Fence security cameras to provide protection
Soccer/Football	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate	
Basketball Courts	2	2001	No	Fair		outdoor
Volleyball Courts	2	2001	Yes	Excellent	Heavy	Playground rules are nicely displayed
Playground Areas	11	2019	Yes	Excellent	Low/ Moderate	Shaded and covered information center at new
Walking Trail	1	2001	Yes	Excellent	Moderate	Handicap accessible with ramp
Walking Trail ADA Spurs	12	2021	Yes	Excellent	Moderate	Lights attended summer concerts park
Ground Accents						Boat flag Pole and Memorial Stones at the Trailhead
Underground Pipes 8-23 months	none	2001	N/A	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Nice information signs (Trailhead / Pavilion)
Toddler Playground Area (Ages 2-5)	1	2001	Yes	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	WEAKNESS
Children's Playground (ages 5 Years)	1	2001	Yes	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Old equipment at soccer/football field areas
Swings - Over 5 years	4	2001	No	Fair		Playground does not have direct ground cover for
Swings - 0-2 yrs	4	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	children under 2 years of age
Open Area	2 acres	2001	No	Fair	Moderate	No trails ADA Design, but no fully stable route to
Swing Sets	5	2001	No	Fair	Moderate	access the equipment
Play Structures	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Climbing Apparatus	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	No facilities at concession stand (need to add one)
Basketball	2	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Newer Playground equipment except this several
Picnic	8	2001	No	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	Benches for needed maintenance. Aboite Parks
Pavilion	10+	2001	Yes	Fair	Moderate	to determine additional needs to add one
Trails Network	10+	2001	Yes	Fair	Moderate	more
Walking Area / Trails (Paved)	0.95 Miles	2021	Yes	Excellent	Moderate/Heavy	
Dog Park	0.28 Miles	2021	No	Excellent	Low	
Water Spigots	6	2000s	No	Fair	Moderate	
Fencing	4	2020s	Yes	Fair	Low	
Grills	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Baseball Batting Cages	4	2021	n/a	Fair	Moderate	
Soccer Nets / Ball Field Goals	8	2001	n/a	Fair	Moderate/Heavy	
Bleachers	4	2001	No	Fair	moderate	
Storage House	1	2001	No	Fair	Heavy	
Batting Cage	1	2021	No	Excellent	Heavy	
Storage	1	2001	No	Fair	Heavy	

Indian Trails Park Amenities

Comment or use @ to invite

Lizzie Gordon
2 hours ago

Only soccer fields listed (not football) and no usage data. Where is usage data from?

Kristine Christlieb
7 mins ago

Thank you for catching that! We counted rectangular fields as a whole but did not specify the one used for the football field. The inventory list will be updated in the final draft and reposted after DNR's review and park adoption. Usage reports in the surveys included "rectangular" fields and football was included in the survey results. See Sports/Ball Fields question Q Pg 70 (general ball field usage). Also see Pg 81 on the Football Area usage at Indian Trails. We should have been more specific in listing this, but the survey formatting would sometimes cut off parts of the description when downloading the results. Thanks again for your
comment and interest in Aboite Township Parks!

Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC Community Planner

Reply or use @ to invite

57
237

Attachment C: Presentation Slides

ABOITE TOWNSHIP

AGENDA

Public Meeting
March 24, 32023

WELCOME

Kim Mills, Aboite Township Trustee

BACKGROUND

Mike Rost, President

PARK MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC Community Development Planner

FUNDRAISING & NEXT STEPS

Jason Dohm, Fundraising Chairperson

PUBLIC COMMENT & ANSWER SESSION

Community Members & Park Planning Team

CLOSING COMMENTS

Brad Mills, Park Board Member

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION 5-YEAR MASTER PARK PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW

March 18, 2024

Presented by: Aboite Township Park Planning Committee &
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

Planning process overview

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETS

2023 Planning Committee was made up of representatives from the Aboite Township Park Board, SACS, YMCA, Ball Leagues & Parks Manager

CONDUCT PUBLIC SURVEYS & Public Form

Understand park users desires and needs of ALL ages

PRIORITIZE

Consider costs to develop and maintain, evaluate budgets, fundraising options, and park users needs and suggestions to develop an action plan

PRESENT FINDINGS

Present planning process findings and gather public input and answer questions

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK PLANNING TEAM

2023-2024

2024 ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD
Kim Mills, Trustee & Board Executive
Mike Rost, Park Board President
Colin Lank, Park Board Member * (2023 Committee Member)
Brad Mills, Member **(Replaced Chris Perez 2-2024)*
2023 PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Brad Mills, SACS Board & Park Planning Committee*
Jason Cordes, SACS & Park Planning Committee
Scott Helmkamp, YMCA & Park Planning Committee *
Kevin Scholze, Don Ayres & Park Planning Committee
Chuck Dwyer, Former Aboite Township Staff, Resident
PARK MANAGER
Paul Nielson, Park Manager & Park Planning Committee

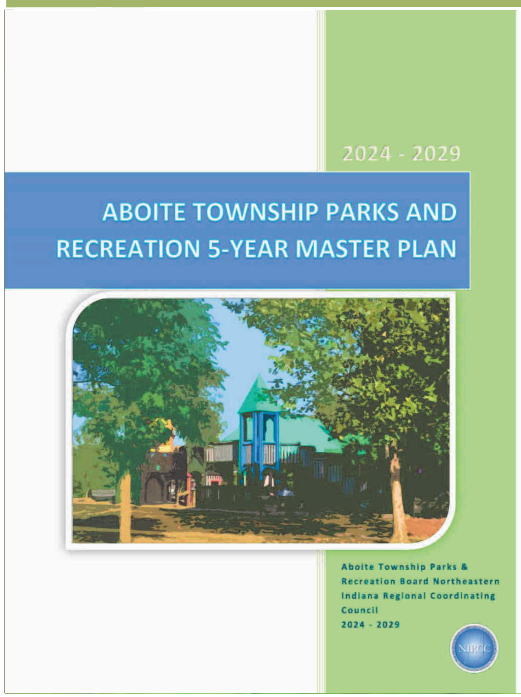
PARK PLANNING SCHEDULE

- Initial Park Board Meeting: August 2022
- 2022 Pre-Survey & Data Analysis: Sept-Nov. 2022
- 1st Public Meeting: April 18, 2023
- 2023 Community Survey: May-June 2023
- Needs Analysis/Priority Rank: August 2023
- Engineering Proposal/Renderings: Sept.-Oct. 2023
- Park Action Items/Implementation Schedule: Oct.- Nov 2023
- 1st Draft of Plan Submitted to IDNR: Nov.15, 2023
- Public Review of Master Plan: March 2024
- 2nd Public Hearing: March 18, 2024
- Final Board Approved Plan Submitted to IDNR: April 15, 2024
- Fundraising Activities (Van Hoozen Sports Complex) Jan.-July 2024
- LWCF DNR Application Submission Deadline: August 1, 2024

$1 Million Maximum Grant Request * (2024 update)

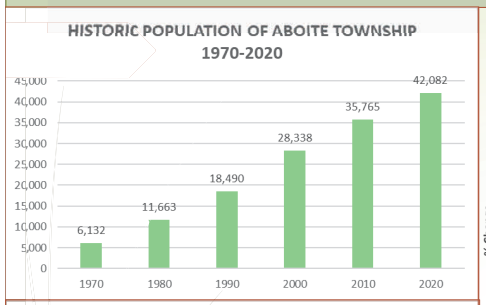
Question. . .
So, why do people park in a driveway but drive on a parkway?

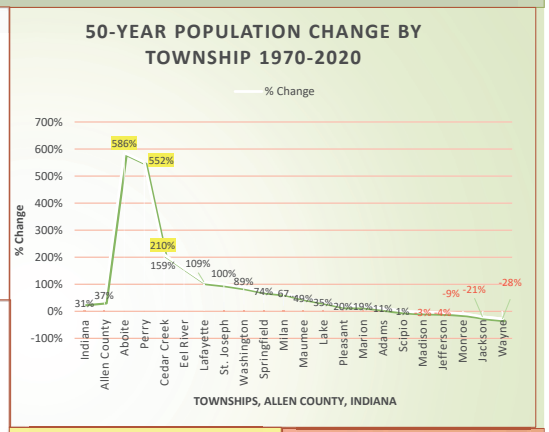
2024-2029 PARKS & RECREATION 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

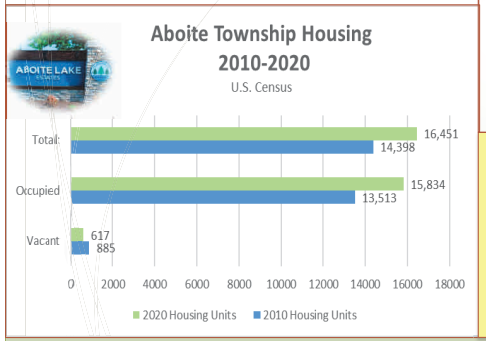


- 1.0 Introduction
  - Background/History/Goals & Mission
  - Budget/Staff
- 2.0 Existing Conditions
  - Natural Features/Landscape
  - Manmade/Cultural/Historical Features
  - Social & Economic Features
- 3.0 Park Inventory
  - Parks In Aboite Township
  - Van Hoozen Park Inventory
  - Indian Trails Park Inventory
  - Other Recreational Facilities
  - ADA Self Evaluation
- 4.0 Public Participation
  - Public Surveys: 2022 & 2023
  - Public Hearing Activities/Results
- 5.0 Action Plan
  - Board Priorities
  - Action Plan/Implementation Schedule
  - Plan Evaluation
- 6.0 Final Review
  - #2 Public Hearing: 3-18-24
- 7.0 Plan Evaluation
- 8.0 Board Resolution & Plan Adoption
- Appendix

ABOITE TOWNSHIP POPULATION & HOUSING







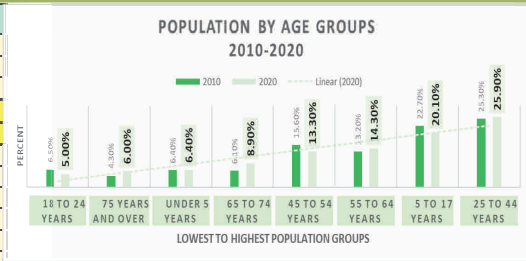
Greatest Increases
Aboite Township
Up 586%
Perry Township
Up 552%
Cedar Creek
Up 210%

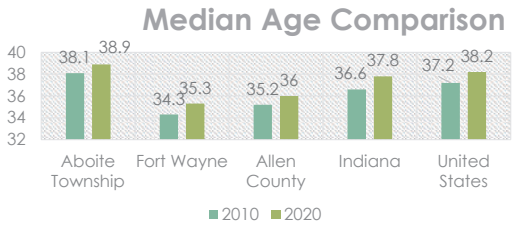
Greatest Decrease
Wayne Township
Down 28%
Jackson Township
Down 21%
Monroe Township
Down 9%

Residential building Permits From JAN 2018 to MAR 2023:
1436 Residential Permits / 157 Commercial Permits

POPULATION COMPARISON BY AGE

Population by Age Comparison 2010-2020 ACS			
AGE	2010	2020	% Change
Total Population	34,435	37,942	10%
Under 5 years	2,204	2,433	10%
5 to 9 years*	2,927	3,191	9%
10 to 14 years*	3,099	2,736	-12%
15 to 19 years	2,617	2,334	-11%
20 to 24 years	1,412	1,281	-9%
25 to 29 years	1,377	2,319	68%
30 to 34 years	2,066	2,684	30%
35 to 39 years	2,548	2,485	-2%
40 to 44 years	2,755	2,343	-15%
45 to 49 years	2,479	2,612	5%
50 to 54 years	2,893	2,438	-16%
55 to 59 years	2,410	2,651	10%
60 to 64 years*	2,135	2,761	29%
65 to 69 years	1,171	1,855	58%
70 to 74 years	930	1,539	66%
75 to 79 years	758	874	15%
80 to 84 years	482	758	57%
85 years and over	241	648	169%
Above Average Populations (Green)			
2020 Top 3 Population Age Groups (Yellow Highlights)			

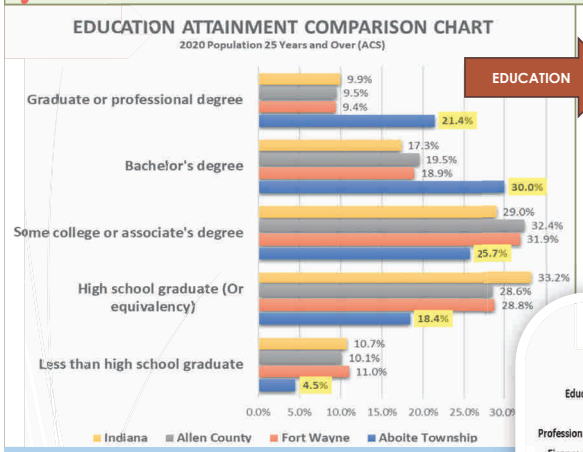




Largest Population by Age
5 to 9 Years (8.4%)
60-64 Years (7.3%)
10-14 Years (7.2%)

Smallest Population by Age
85 and older (1.7%)*
80-84 Years (2%)
75-79 Years (2.3%)
***Largest % change since 2010**

EDUCATION & OCCUPATIONS



EDUCATION

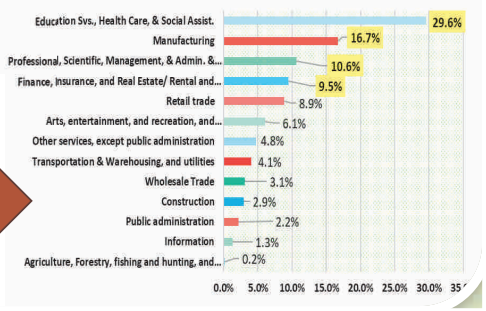
High Education Attainment in Aboite

- 21.4% - Graduate/Professional Degree
- 30% - Bachelor's Degree
- 25% - Some college/Associate Degree
- 18.4% - HS Diploma (or Equivalent)
- 4.5% - Less than HS Graduate

TOP OCCUPATIONS IN ABOITE TOWNSHIP

- 29.6% Education, Health Care, Social Svc
- 16.7% Manufacturing
- 10.6% Professional, Scientific, Management/Admin.
- 9.5% Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

INDUSTRY BY OCCUPATION

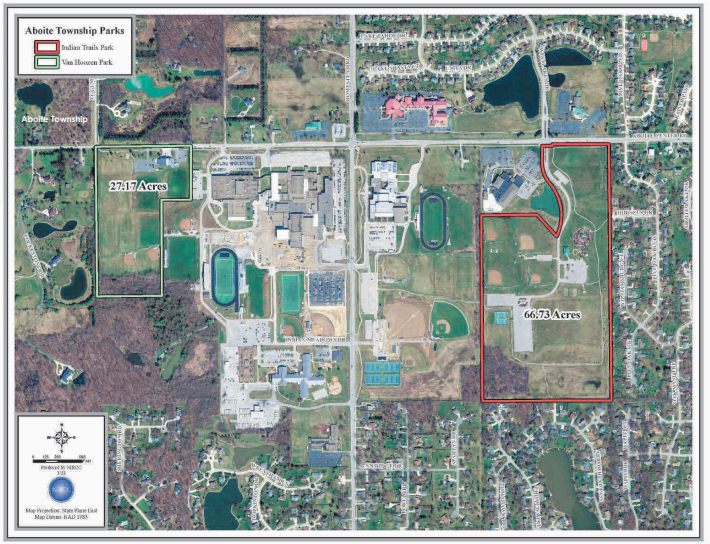


ABOITE TOWNSHIP

EXISTING AMENITIES

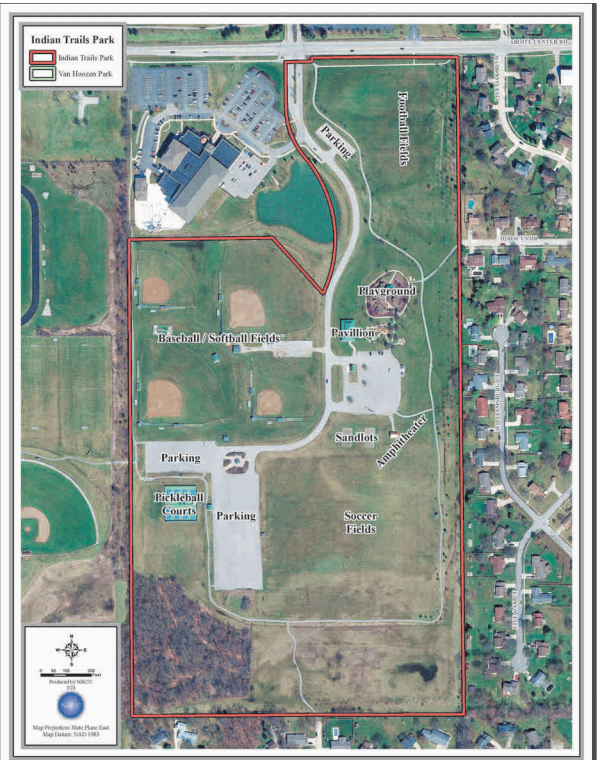
93.9 ACRES OF PARK AREA LOCATED:

Aboite Center Road (South)



INDIAN TRAILS PARK

66.7 Acres
Three Rivers Junction Playground
Baseball/Softball fields
Sandlots
Amphitheater
Soccer Fields
Pickleball Courts
Pavilions
Football Fields
Restrooms
Parking Areas (Approx 150+)
Trailhead - Kiosk/seating area
Paved Trails
(approx. 0.95 Miles)
Mulched Wooded Trails
(Approx. 0.28 Miles)



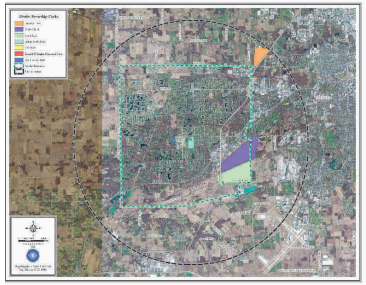
VAN HOOZEN PARK

Includes: 27.2 Acres

Playground
Pavilion
Soccer Field
Lacrosse Fields
Softball Fields
Parking

(79 spaces approx.)

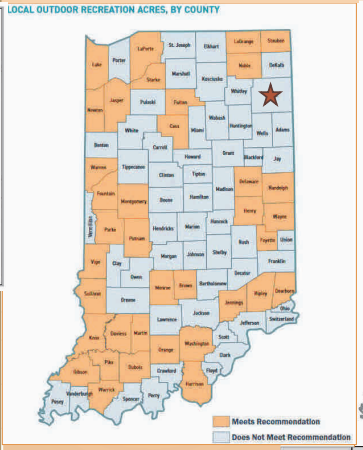
LEVEL OF SERVICE
ABOITE TOWNSHIP, IN
Public Park facilities



Public Park Acreage in Aboite Township

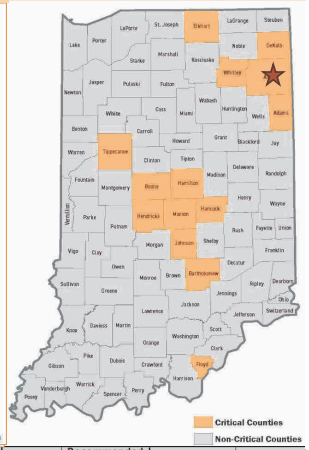
Name of Park	Ownership	Acreage	%
Indian Trails Park	Aboite Township	66.73	5%
Van Hoozen Community Park	Aboite Township	28.01	2%
Ronald G Repka Memorial Park	City of Fort Wayne	3.28	0%
Eagle Marsh	Allen County	717.27	51%
Fox Island (2023 Storm Damage Closure)	Allen County	598.82	42%
Combined Public Park Acreage in Aboite Township		1,414.11	100%
ABOITE TOWNSHIP OWNED PARK ACREAGE		**94.74**	**7%**
Local LOS for Aboite Township (42,082 Population x.02 Acres) =		**842 Acres**	

LEVEL OF SERVICE
ALLEN COUNTY
Indiana SCORP (DNR Standards)



Local LOS: 20 acres per 1,000
(.02 acres per person).
For county, township, city, or town
Allen County "does NOT" meet recommendations
Short 1,653.69 acres per LOS

CRITICAL COUNTIES
ALLEN COUNTY
Indiana SCORP (DNR Standards)

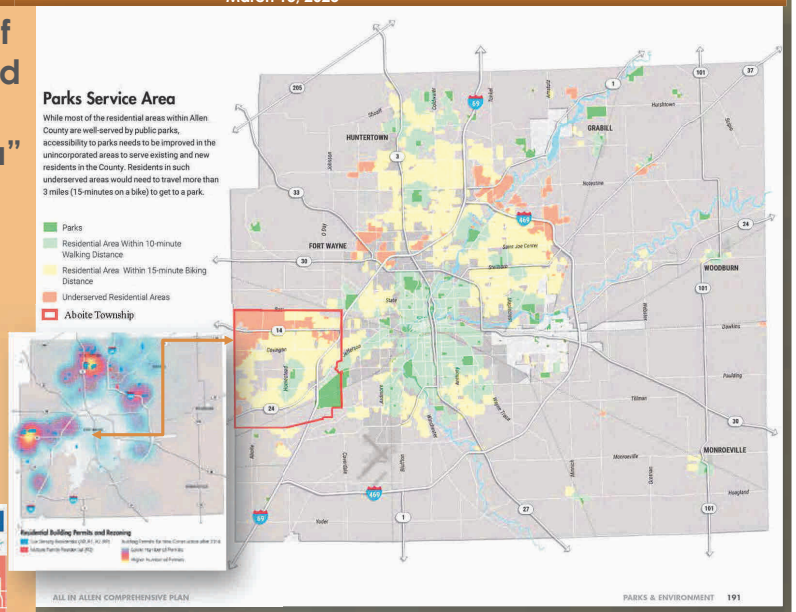


County Name	2018 Population	Recommended Acres; Total 55a/1000	Sum of County Total Acres	Difference
Marion	954670	52507	14086	-38421
Hamilton	330086	18155	4180	-13975
Allen	375351	20644	7497	-13147
Elkhart	205560	11306	3132	-8173
Hendricks	167009	9186	1555	-7631
Tippecanoe	193048	10618	5772	-4846
Hancock	76351	4199	510	-3690
Boone	66999	3685	673	-3012
Johnson	156225	8592	6010	-2582
Bartholomew	82753	4551	2591	-1960
Dekalb	43226	2377	677	-1700

Critical Counties LOS 55 acres /1000 Population

All In Ft. Wayne-Allen County Comprehensive Plan
March 13, 2023

High level of "Underserved Residential Service Area" In Northwest Aboite Township

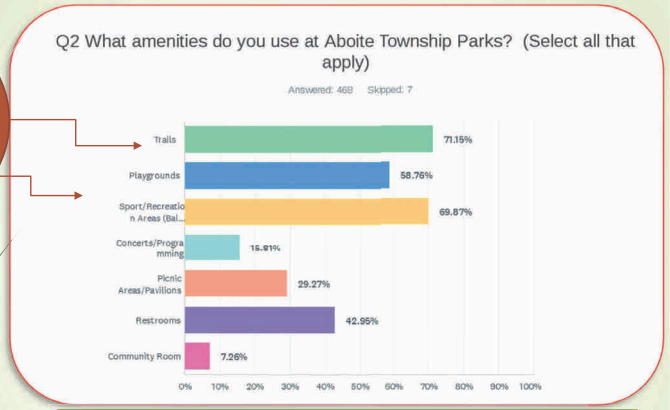


ALL IN ALLEN
Moving Forward Together
Fort Wayne-Allen County Comprehensive Plan

2022 MOST USED PARK ACTIVITES
468 SURVEY RESPONSES (SEPT 11 – NOV 28, 2022)

Aboite Township

Trails & Sports Recreation (ballfields-courts) highly used



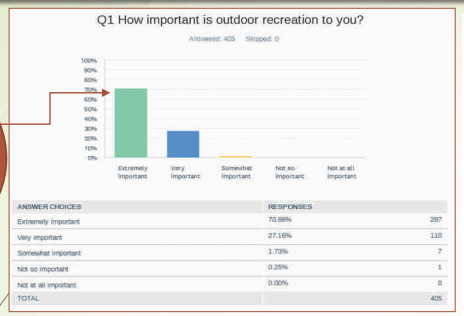
- 71% - TRAILS
- 70% - BALL FIELDS/COURT SPORTS
- 59% - PLAYGROUNDS
- 43% - RESTROOMS
- 15% - CONCERTS/PROGRAMS
- 7% - COMMUNITY ROOM

2023 PARK USAGE

405 RESPONSES

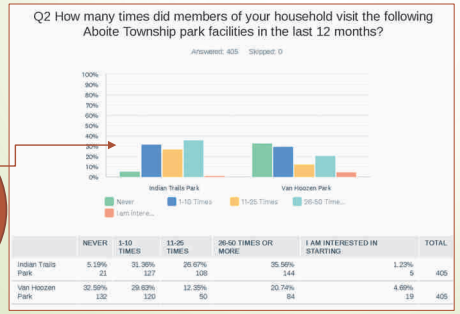
Aboite Township

High level of Importance



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	70.86%	287
Very important	27.16%	110
Somewhat important	1.73%	7
Not so important	0.25%	1
Not at all important	0.00%	0
TOTAL		405

Indian Trails Visited more than Van Hoozen



	NEVER	1-10 TIMES	11-25 TIMES	26-50 TIMES OR MORE	I AM INTERESTED IN STARTING	TOTAL
Indian Trails Park	5.19% 21	31.36% 127	26.67% 108	35.56% 144	1.23% 5	405
Van Hoozen Park	32.59% 132	29.63% 120	12.35% 50	20.74% 84	4.69% 19	405

- 71% Say recreation is "Very Important"
- 27% say "Important" (98% of responses)

INDIAN TRAILS PARK (ITP)

- 36% Attend 25-50 X or more
- 32% Attend 1-10 X
- 94% Used ITP in last 12 months
- 5% Had Not used ITP

VAN HOOZEN PARK (VHP)

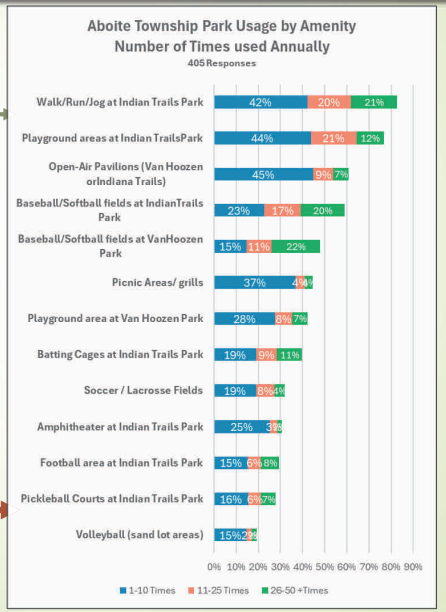
- 21% Attend 25-50 X or more
- 30% Attend 1-10 X
- 63% Used VHP in last 12 months
- 33% Had Not Used VH Park.

2023 MOST & LEAST USED PARK ACTIVITIES IN PAST 12 MONTHS

2023 ABOITE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY (JUNE-JULY 2023) 405 Responses

TRAILS, PLAYGROUND PAVILLIONS BALLFIELDS USED THE MOST

VOLLEYBALL PICKLEBALL FOOTBALL AMPHITHEATER USED THE LEAST



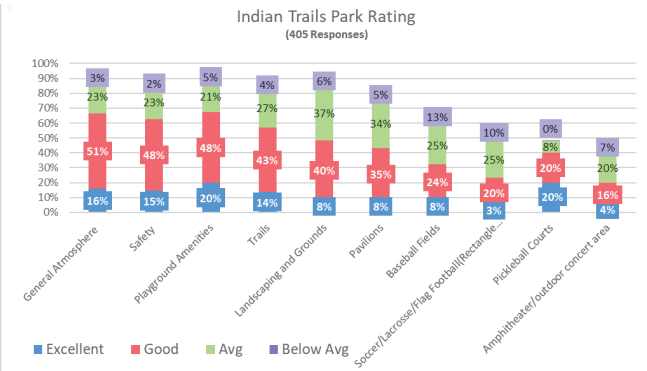
INDIAN TRAILS RATING

Excellent/Good:

Playground (20% Exc. / 48% Good)
Pickleball Courts (20% Exc./ 20% Good)
Atmosphere (16% Exc. / 51% Good)

Below Average:

Baseball Fields (13%)
Soccer/Lacrosse (10%)
Amphitheater (7%)



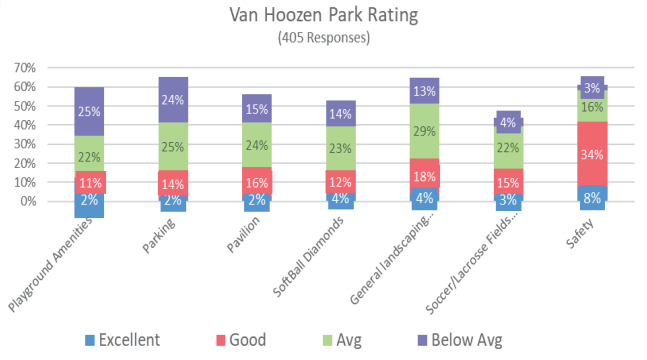
VAN HOOZEN RATING

Excellent/Good :

Park Safety (8% Exc.,34% Good),
Softball Diamonds (5%, Exc., 12% Good),
Landscaping/Atmosphere (4% Exc., 18% Good)

Below Average:

Playground (25%)
Parking (24%)
Pavilion (15%)



AGES OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

404 Responses (2023 Respondents June-July 2023)

MOST TO LEAST AGES

46% AGES 35-44

26% AGES 45-54

8% AGES 25-34

7.4% AGES 55-64

7.2% AGES 65+

1.2% UNDER 18

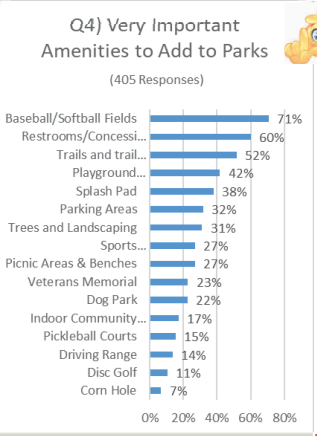
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.24%	5
18-24	3.71%	15
25-34	8.42%	34
35-44	46.04%	186
45-54	25.99%	105
55-64	7.43%	30
65+	7.18%	29
TOTAL		404

BUY-IN BUCKS ACTIVITY

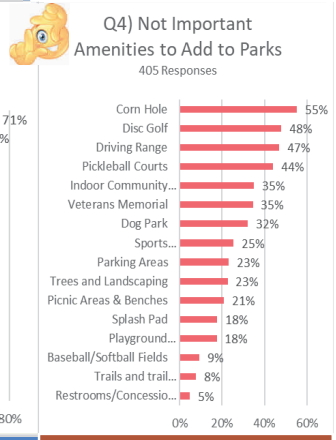
4-18-23 PUBLIC FORUM

Rank	DESCRIPTION	$$ Results
1	Baseball /Softball Fields	$ 6,120
2	Pickleball	$ 1,040
3	Concessions/Restrooms	$ 740
4	Playground Upgrades	$ 620
5	Trails	$ 440
6	Splashpad	$ 200
7	Lacrosse/Soccer Fields	$ 180
8	Community Venue / Event Focal Point	$ 160
9	Frisbee golf	$ 80
10	Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	$ 60
10	Skatepark	$ 60
11	Veterans Memorial	$ 50
12	Driving Range	$ 40
13	Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	$ 20
14	Sledding Hill	$ 10
15	Stocked Fishing Pond	$ -

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TO ADD



LEAST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TO ADD



2023 BUY-IN BUCKS
TOP DESIRED ACTIVITIES

1. Baseball/Softball
2. Pickleball
3. Restrooms/Concessions
4. Playground Upgrades
5. Trails

2023 SURVEY
TOP ACTIVITIES TO ADD

1. Baseball/Softball (71%)
2. Restroom/Concession (60%)
3. Trails & Connections (52%)
4. Playground (42%)
5. Splash Pad (38%)

2023 SURVEY
NOT IMPORTANT TO ADD

1. Corn Hole (55%)
2. Disc Golf (48%)
3. Driving Range (47%)
4. Pickleball Courts (44%)
5. Indoor Comm. Venue (35%)

PARK COMMITTEE RANK

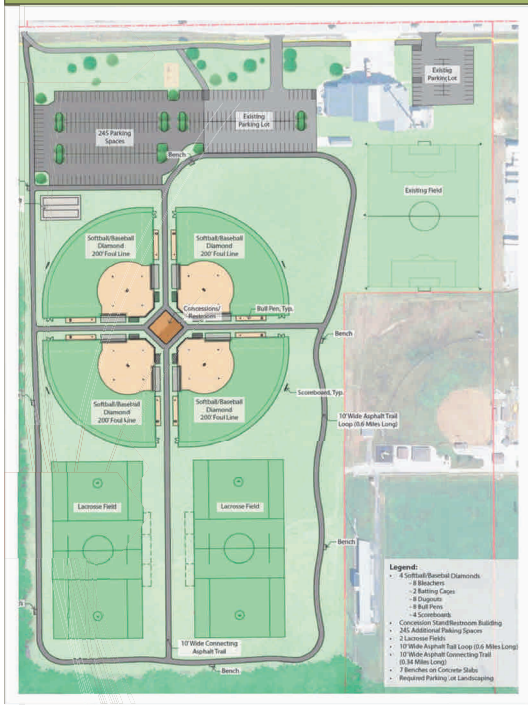
PARK ACTIVITY	SCORE	RANK
Baseball /Softball Fields	59	1
Restrooms	50	2
Pickleball	49	3
Lacrosse/Soccer Fields	48	4
Trails	47	5
Splashpad	32	6
Community Venue / Event Focal Point	30	7
Concession Stand	24	8
Frisbee golf	24	8
Playground Upgrades	22	9
Benches/Seating Areas	17	10
Drinking Fountains	16	11
Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	15	12
Sledding Hill	12	13
Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	8	14
Stocked Fishing Pond	8	14
Driving Range	7	15
Landscaping/Beautification	6	16
Veterans Memorial	2	17

2022-2023 COMBINED SCORED PRIORITY RANK

Top Ranking Combined Surveys & Community Activities

Park Activity	Score	Rank
Baseball /Softball Fields	40.0	1
Concessions/Restrooms	35.0	2
Trails	29.0	3
Pickleball	24.1	4
Community Venue / Event	17.3	5
Playground Upgrades	16.0	6
Splashpad	16.0	6
Lacrosse/Soccer Fields	13.0	7
Landscaping/Beautification	13.0	7
Frisbee golf	5.0	8
Parking Areas	5.0	8
Stocked Fishing Pond	3.0	9
Veterans Memorial	1.5	10
Skatepark	1.0	11
Fitness Trail & Trail Connections	1.0	11
Cornhole / Multipurpose Venue	0.4	12
Driving Range	0.3	13
Sledding Hill	0.1	14

2023 VAN HOOZEN PARK CONCEPT

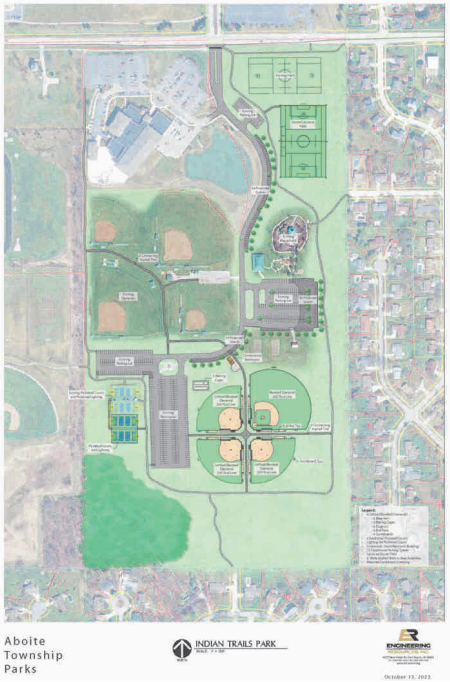


- 4 - BALLFIELDS W/BLEACHERS, DUGOUTS & BULL PENS
- 2 – BATTING CAGES
- 2 - LACROSSE FIELDS
- 1 - CONCESSIONS /RESTROOMS
- 10' PERIMITER TRAIL (.6 Mile) & PATHWAYS (.3 Mile)
- 7 - BENCHES
- 245 - PARKING SPACES /LANDSCAPING

Cost Estimate:

$3,203,487

2023 INDIAN TRAILS PARK CONCEPT



- 4 - BALLFIELDS W/BLEACHERS, BATTING CAGES, & DUGOUTS
- 8 – BULL PENS
- 4 - SCOREBOARDS
- PICKLEBALL COURT
- 1 – SOCCER / LACROSSE FIELD
- CONCESSIONS / RESTROOMS
- PARKING/LANDSCAPING UPGRADES
- DRAINAGE UPGRADES

COST ESTIMATE:

$2,942,306

ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Action Plan

An action plan was developed to help guide the implementation of the desired park improvements.

An Action Plan is only a guide. As funds become available, or specific project implementation may work better when paired with another project - implementation of specific amenities may take place out of order from what is laid out in the Action Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

ACTION ITEM	2024	2025	2026	2027	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Van Hoozen Park Improvements					
Fundraising	x					LWCF Donations (D) Park Budget (PB) or other Grants (G) (and/or) Bank Finance (BF)
LWCF Application (Aug 1)	x					
General/Demolition		$ 76,700			$ 76,700	
Site Utilities		$ 311,250	$ 311,250		$ 622,500	
Cloverleaf Ball Fields w/bleachers			$ 624,160		$ 624,160	
Lacrosse Fields			$ 9,000		$ 9,000	
Concession Stand/Restrooms			$ 200,000	*Concessions in PH 2 if needed	$ 200,000	
Trails Pavement-Asphalt			$ 210,000		$ 210,000	
Concrete Pavement & Striping			$ 42,750		$ 42,750	
Parking Area Expansion			$ 279,000		$ 279,000	
Hardscaping/Site Amenities/Walkways			$ 355,000		$ 355,000	
Landscaping/Trees			$ 8,800		$ 8,800	
Benches w/concrete pad			$ 17,500		$ 17,500	
Ballfield Lighting - TBD				TBD	$ -	
Closeout LWCF				x	$ -	
Subtotal (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 387,950.00	$2,057,460.00	$0.00	$2,445,410.00	
General Conditions, Design Conting. & Allow. + Fees	%	31%	31%	31%		
Total Construction (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 508,215	$ 2,695,273	$ -	$ 3,203,488	
Archeological Reconnaissance* if required by DNR		$ 2,500				
Environmental/ Grant Admin		TBD	TBD			
Legal as needed		TBD	TBD			
Total Costs (Van Hoozen Park)		$ 510,715	$ 2,695,273	$ -	$ 3,205,988	

2024-2027 VAN HOOZEN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

5-YEAR ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Action Plan

An action plan was developed to help guide the implementation of the desired park improvements.

An Action Plan is only a guide. As funds become available, or specific project implementation may work better when paired with another project, implementation of specific amenities may take place out of order from what is laid out in the Action Plan.

Indian Trails Capital Improvements 2028-2030

ACTION ITEM	2027 (cont)	2028	2029	2030	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Indian Trails Park Improvements					
Fundraising	x					LWCF Donations (D) Park Budget (PB) or other Grants (G) (and/or) Bank Finance (BF)
LWCF Application (Aug 1)	x					
General/Earthwork/Utilities		$ 704,200			$ 704,200	
Pickleball Court Expansion			$ 317,400		$ 317,400	
Ballfield Amenities			$ 624,160		$ 624,160	
Soccer/Lacrosse field Ammenities		$ 7,500			$ 7,500	
Concessions/Restrooms			$ 200,000		$ 200,000	
Landscaping			$ 29,150		$ 29,150	
Hardscaping (Parking/Sidewalks)			$ 363,625		$ 363,625	
Closeout LWCF Grant					$ -	
Subtotal (Indian Trails Park)		$ 711,700	$ 1,534,335	$ -	$ 2,246,035	
General Conditions, Design Conting. & Allow. + Fees	%	31%	31%	TBD		
Total Construction (Indian Trails Park)		$ 932,327	$ 2,009,979	$ -	$ 2,942,307	
Archeological Reconnaissance* if required by DNR		TBD				
Environmental/ Grant Admin		TBD		TBD		
Legal as needed		TBD				
Total (Indian Trails Park)		$ 932,327	$ 2,009,979	TBD	$ 2,942,307	

IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

ACTION ITEM	2027 (cont)	2028	2029	2030	Subtotal	Potential Funding Source
	Van Hoozen & Indian Trails ADA Improvements					
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)	See ADA TP					PB See Funding Key
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)		$10,000			$ 10,000	
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)			$10,000		$ 10,000	
ADA Corrective Activities (TBD)				$10,000	$ 10,000	
Subtotal (ADA TP)		$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 30,000	
Total Cost			$2,019,979	$10,000	$2,972,307	

2027-2030 INDIAN TRAILS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

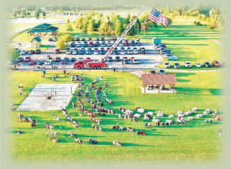
5-YEAR ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Priority Rank (1, 2. 3)	ACTION ITEM	IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS 2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Potential Funding Source
		Other ADA Transition Plan Priorities							
		ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARK FUNDS							
1	*Add Firm & Stable Routes to play structures per ADA Transition Plan	$10,000				TBD			PF, ADA Appropriation
1	*Add ADA Picnic tables at both Parks per ADA Transition Plan				$10,000		TBD		PF, ADA Appropriation
1	*Add Paved ADA Route from parking lot to amphitheater per ADA Transition Plan			$10,000				TBD	PF, ADA Appropriation
1	*Add Firm & Stable pathways to Ballfield amenities at IT & V H Parks.		$10,000						PF, ADA Appropriation
Subtotal: Other CIP		$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$10,000.00			$0.00	$40,000.00

Action Plan

Van Hoozen Park & Indian Trails Parks

ADA Transition Plan Improvements



ABOITE TOWNSHIP ADA TRANSITION PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Action Plan

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Priority Rank (1 or 2)	ACTION ITEM	IMPLEMENTATION YEARS AND ESTIMATED COSTS 2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Potential Funding Source
		PARK PROGRAMMING							
1	Conduct Final Public Hearing for Park Planning	✓							Admin/NIRCC
1	Facilitate/Schedule Ball League Activities - Update Park Rules and Concession Schedule as needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/Ball League Coordinator
1	Administer & Conduct Summer Concerts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/TBD
1	Create Ball League Schedules/Rules and Fee Schedule for existing and new ballfields.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/TBD
1	Review Volunteer List and coordinate potential programming activities (Per Public Feedback)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/TBD
		ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEDULE							
1	Public Review/Adopt 2024-29 Park Master Plan	✓							Admin/PB
1	Create Fundraising Committee and organize fundraising campaigns for Van Hoozen & Indian Trails Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Admin/Fundraising Committee
1	Schedule Meeting with Nathanial Simmons, DNR Grants Manager (Done)	✓							NIRCC/PB
1	Conduct Routine Park Maintenance & Safety Inspections	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/PB
1	Refine Scope & Budget to Apply for LWCF Grant (Due 8-1-24)	✓			✓				Admin/PB/GA/ENG
1	Implement/Administer LWCF Grant as needed		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		GA/Admin/PB/ENG
1	Park Grounds Maintenance Equipment & Supply Needs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/PB
1	Conduct Monthly Board Meetings & Appoint/Renew Members per Park Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/PB
1	Sign Resolutions & Compliance Docs as needed.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Admin/PB/
1	ADA Transition Plan Administration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ADA Coordinator
1	Start Planning in 2029 for 2030 Park Plan						✓	✓	Admin/PB
1	Create Park Rules Ordinance and Maintenance Schedule Administration - update as needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Admin/PB
Administrative:		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD			TBD	$ -

Estimated Costs to Implement Park Plan

Estimated cost to implement short-term amenity goals — **$3.2M**

- Van Hoozen Park Improvements Probable Cost Estimate

Estimated cost to implement long-term amenity goals — $2.9M

- Indian Trails Park Improvements Probable Cost Estimate

Estimated cost to implement ADA Improvement goals — $40,000

- Both parks

TOTAL COST OF IMPROVEMENTS — **$6.1M**

How to Fund and Sustain a Vibrant Park System

- Program Fees
- Property Tax
- Donations / Volunteers

DNR GRANTS

- Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) $1 Million (50/50 Matching Grant)
- Indiana Trails Program (ITP) up to $400K (80/20 Matching Grant)

STATE GRANTS

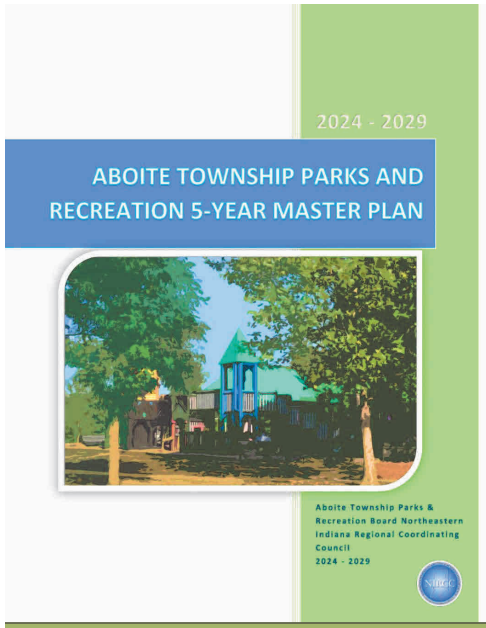
- CreatINg Places / Patronicity (50/50 Matching Grant)

PRIVATE/LOCAL GRANTS ASSISTANCE

- AWS Foundation (up to $25,000 for developmental disabilities)
- Community Foundation

FUNDRAISING & NEXT STEPS

Jason Dohm, Fundraising Chairperson



QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

THANK YOU

Written Comments Deadline

MARCH 30, 2024

FOR COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Kristine Christlieb or Aboite Township Office or websites at:

www.nircc.com

or

www.aboitetwp.com

Or email Kristine Christlieb at:

kristine.chrisltieb@co.allen.in.us

Kristine Christlieb
(kristine.chrisltieb@co.allen.in.us)
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

Appendix C: Media Materials

Media Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE:
April 12, 2023

CONTACT:
Chris Perez
Park Program Manager
(260) 432-0970
Email: cperez@aboitetwp.com

Aboite Township hosts public meeting to discuss parks and recreation plan

Aboite Township: The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting next week to discuss the development of a Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The meeting will be 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Road. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will attend to provide activities and discussion opportunities.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources requires agencies to have a park plan to apply for federal grants for both Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant programs could assist the Park Department with implementing strategies developed in the master plan.

Kim Mills, Aboite Township Trustee said of the upcoming public meeting, “Community input helps provide guidance for future initiatives to consider for park development." Mills goes on to say, “Connecting with the community is instrumental to assure a robust park system with the right facilities that meet the community’s needs is available for years to come."

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For additional information, please contact Kristine Christlieb at 260-449-4704 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

###

From: Booker, Matthew -1
To: Booker, Matthew -1
Cc: Kristine A. Christlieb; Alexis Degitz
Subject: Aboite Parks Master Plan Public Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:07:28 AM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
Aboite Parks Public Input.png
#1 Newspaper Article_Public Meeting_Published 3-27-23.pdf

Dear SW Neighborhood Association Contacts,

Please share the attached Media Release with Residents in Aboite Township.

The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting to discuss the development of a Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) will attend to provide activities and discussion opportunities.

A Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to apply for federal grant funding for both Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant programs could assist the Park Department with implementing strategies developed in the master plan.

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For additional information, please contact Kristine Christlieb at 260-449-4704 between the hours of 8:00-4:00.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

MATT BOOKER AGENCY

MATTHEW BOOKER, AGENT | **AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**
Pronouns: He | Him | His
6070 E State Blvd | Fort Wayne, IN 46815
Office Phone: (260) 702-3682 | Fax: (844) 430-7573

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ABOITE

INVITATION

FROM THE ABOITE TOWNSHIP
PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHO:

Aboite Township Residents interested in the future of the Aboite Township Parks.

WHAT:

Public meeting for the development of a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to provide activites and discussion time.

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 6:30 PM.

WHERE:

Aboite Community Room
11321 Aboite Center Rd,
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

260-449-4704 Kristine Christlieb Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

INVITATION

From the Aboite Township Parks Department

WHO: Aboite Township Residents interested in the future of the Aboite Township Parks.

WHAT: Public meeting for the development of a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master plan to provide activities and discussion time.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 6:30 PM.

WHERE: Aboite Community Room, 11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

WHY: You are vital to the success of a community-focused park system!

Aboite Township seeks input for five-year parks, recreation plan

The Journal Gazette Mar 27, 2023

Meeting set on Aboite parks plan

The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting next month to discuss the development of a Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan.

The meeting will be 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Road. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will attend to provide activities and discussion opportunities.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources requires agencies to have a five-year plan to apply for federal grant funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, a news release said.

Grant programs through the DNR's Division of Outdoor Recreation could help the parks department with implementing strategies developed in the master plan.

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For more information, call Kristine Christlieb at 449-4704 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

– The Journal Gazette

www.journalgazette.net

BRIEFS

FORT WAYNE/ALLEN COUNTY

Hope's Harbor to honor Mad Anthonys

Hope's Harbor, a nonprofit that serves families of children receiving hospital care, will honor the Mad Anthonys Foundation for its longtime support in a brief ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

A plaque dedicated to the foundation that has been placed on the Lutheran Campus House building at 7922 W. Jefferson Blvd. will be unveiled. A news release said the foundation has supported Hope's Harbor for more than 15 years.

Mad Anthonys supports local charities with events such as a pro-am tournament and Red Coat Gala.

Aboite parks plan meeting Tuesday

The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting Tuesday to discuss the development of a five-year parks and recreation master plan.

The 6:30 p.m. meeting will be at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Road. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will attend.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources requires agencies to have a park plan to apply for federal grants for both Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.

Albion skatepark donations rising

Nearly $87,725 has been donated for the Albion Lions Club fundraising campaign for a skatepark. The goal is $167,000.

The money collected includes a $40,000 gift from the Olive B. Cole Foundation, a Wednesday news release said. The donations will help build an above-ground, all-season skatepark at Hidden Diamonds Park, designed by local youth and adult extreme-sports riders and enthusiasts.

Gifts can be mailed to Community Foundation of Noble County with "Albion Skatepark" in the memo at 1599 Lincolnway S., Ligonier, IN 46767 or made online at cfnoble.org/donate-now/donate-online/. In the first box select "I would like this donation to go to a specific fund." Then select "Town of Albion Parks Dept. Skatepark" and click "donate."

For more information, call John Eastis of the Albion Lions Club at 714-815-2003.

– Journal Gazette

BRIEFS

FORT WAYNE/ALLEN COUNTY

Water main work to affect Clinton traffic

Beginning Thursday, crews will begin installing a 24-inch water main under the St. Marys River from West Fourth Street to the area south of the river.

During construction, Clinton Street will have two lanes closed at Fourth and the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Bridge. One traffic lane on the bridge's east side will remain open during the construction. Motorists should allow for extra travel time or plan a different route, the city said in a news release Monday.

Additionally, Fourth Street will be closed to all traffic between Clinton and North Calhoun Street during construction. Weather could affect the project, but expectations are that the work will last about four weeks.

Meeting set on Aboite parks plan

The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting next month to discuss the development of a Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan.

The meeting will be 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Road. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will attend to provide activities and discussion opportunities.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources requires agencies to have a five-year plan to apply for federal grant funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, a news release said.

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For more information, call Kristine Christlieb at 449-4704 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

– The Journal Gazette

ADVERTISEMENT

Aboite Parks Dept. sets public meeting on "five-year park master plan"

(Fort Wayne News)

By Evan Harris

Published: Apr. 12, 2023 at 10:10 AM EDT

ABOITE TOWNSHIP, Ind. (WPTA) - The Aboite Township Parks Department says it is holding a public meeting next week to discuss the development of what they call the "Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan" for Aboite-area parks.

Officials say the meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Aboite Township Community Building at 11321 Aboite Center Rd.

They say the plan is due to a requirement by the state's Department of Natural Resources for agencies to have a five-year to apply for federal grant funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.

Aboite Parks officials ask the public for feedback for any future park development.

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NEWS DETAIL

< Back to Home

27
Mar, 2023

Support Don Ayres Little League at the Aboite Township Parks-Public Hearing

Aboite park board wants to hear from public about master plan

Aboite Township: The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting to discuss the development of a Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Rd., Fort Wayne. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) will attend to provide activities and discussion opportunities.

A Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to apply for federal grant funding for both Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant programs could assist the Park Department with implementing strategies developed in the master plan.

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For additional information, please contact Kristine Christlieb at 260-449-4704 between the hours of 8:00-4:00.

Appendix C

Media Releases

#2 FINAL PUBLIC REVIEW HEARING

Prescribed by State Board of Accounts

General Form No. 99P
(Rev. 2009A)

The Journal Gazette

Allen County, Indiana

Account Name
Gov: NIRCC - Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

Notice ID: WJqmjOvbiYOPjQOjq4yR

PUBLISHER'S CLAIM

ATTACH COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT

LINE COUNT

Display Master (Must not exceed two actual lines, neither of which shall total more than four solid lines of the type in which the body of the advertisement is set) – number of equivalent lines _____

Head – number of lines _____

Body – number of lines _____

Tail – number of lines _____

Total number of lines in notice 67

COMPUTATION OF CHARGES

67 lines, 1 column(s) wide equals

67 equivalent lines at $ 0.5120 cents per line $ 34.30

Additional charges for notices containing rule or tabular work (50 percent of above amount) $ _____

Electronic processing fee $ 0.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM $ 34.30

DATA FOR COMPUTING COST

Width of single column in picas . . . 9.8 Size of type . . . 7point

Number of insertions . . . 1

Pursuant to the provisions and penalties of IC 5-11-10-1, I hereby certify that the foregoing account is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due, after allowing all just credits, and that no part of the same has been paid.

I also certify that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, of the same column width and type size, which was duly published in said paper.

The dates of publication being as follows:

3/8/24 _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Additionally, Newspaper has a Web site and this public notice was posted on the same day as it was published in The Journal Gazette.

Date: 3/8/2024

Linda McClure
Legal Clerk

PUBLIC MEETING
Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan
Aboite Township Community Room
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46814
Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5:00 PM

An oral or written translation of the public notice will be available in Spanish upon request. (Una traducción oral o escrita del aviso público estará disponible en español previa solicitud.

The Aboite Township Parks Department will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm., located at the Aboite Community Room, 11321 Aboite Center Rd. Ft. Wayne, IN 46814, for persons to learn the results of the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan.

The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) has compiled a 5-Year Master Park Plan for Aboite Township based on current trends, public input, and future needs of the community. Every effort will be made to allow persons to voice their opinions and ask questions at the public meeting.

If you are unable to attend but would like to review and comment on the Park Plan, it will be available on the NIRCC website at www.nircc.com and the Aboite Township website at www.aboitetwp.com. A hardcopy and comment sheets will be available at the Aboite Township Community Room, during regular business hours, or by contacting Kristine Christlieb at 260-449-4704, Mon-Fri. (8am-4pm) or emailing Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us. Written comments will be accepted through March 30, 2024.

Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public meeting and need assistance should contact Aboita Township, c/o Kristine Christlieb, 200 E Berry Street, Ste. 230 Fort Wayne, IN 46802, or contact Kristine Christlieb as provided above, not later than Thursday, March 14, 2024.

By the Order of Kim Mills, Trustee
And the Park Board of Aboite Township

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3--8 hspaxlp

PUBLIC MEETING
Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan
Aboite Township Community Room
11321 Aboite Center Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46814
Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM

An oral or written translation of the public notice will be available in Spanish upon request.
(Una traducción oral o escrita del aviso público estará disponible en español previa solicitud.

The Aboite Township Parks Department will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm., located at the Aboite Community Room, 11321 Aboite Center Rd. Ft. Wayne, IN 46814, for persons to learn the results of the *Aboite Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan*.

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Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public meeting and need assistance should contact Abeita Township, c/o Kristine Christlieb, 200 E Berry Street, Ste. 230 Fort Wayne, IN 46802, or contact Kristine Christlieb as provided above, not later than Thursday, March 14, 2024.

By the Order of Kim Mills, Trustee
And the Park Board of Aboite Township

###

Publish in the Journal Gazette
Publisher Deadline: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, by 4:00 PM
Date to Publish: Friday, March 8, 2023

From: Kristine A. Christlieb

To: Adiand Guenther; Alan Riebe; Alex Krouse; Allison Norris; Andy Kurzen; Arline Nation; Brian Carmondy; Bridget Glaser; Chad Neely; Christy Schoeff; Dan Robinson; David Tyndall; Dawn Parnin; Delno C Abnet; Douglas Homan; Douglas Routh; Gary Brennan; Gary Dexheimer; Gordon Fisher; Holly Munoz; Jaimie Vogelsong; James Crouse; Jerry Clancy; Jim Berry; Jim Sack; Jody Lent; John O Feighner; Jon Edmonson ; Julie Hanchar; Julie Wells; Karen Peak; Kimberly Clark; Kyle Newcomb; Lesa Starr; Linda Harmon; Lisa Pavey; Louise Jackson; Marilyn Reinking; Mark Jesse; Mark Merkel; markamymays5@gmail.com; Matt Mutton; Mike Rager; Mike Wilson; Nate DeArmond; Neil Warner; Nick Bucher; Norb Dreyer; Olivia White; Pam McDaniel; Patrice Daugher; Paul Forbing; Peg Maginn; Rachael Elliott; Randall Kirby; Rick Smith; Ron Norton; Scott Collins; Shaleen Moriarity; Stephen McCord; Steve Mauldin; Tim England; Tom Hayhurst -personal; Tom Tiernon; Tyler Bowers; Zac Brough

Cc: Colin Lank; Michael Rost; Kim Mills (kmills@aboitetwp.com); Mills, Brad

Subject: Aboite Parks Master Plan Public Meeting - Monday, March 18, 2024

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 1:09:00 PM

Attachments: image001.png

Dear SW Neighborhood Association

Please share the attached Media Release with Residents in Aboite Township.

Aboite Parks Dept. sets public meeting to present results of five-year master plan

Aboite Township -The Aboite Township Parks Department is hosting a public meeting next Monday to discuss the completion of a Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan for Aboite-area parks. The public meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., March 18, 2024, at the Aboite Township Community Building, 11321 Aboite Center Rd., Ft. Wayne. Representatives from Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) will attend to present the findings.

A Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to apply for federal grant funding for both Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant programs could assist the Park Department with implementing strategies developed in the master plan.

Kim Mills, Aboite Township Trustee said of the upcoming public meeting, “The input received from community surveys and a public forum held last summer has been instrumental in the development of the master plan to assure a robust park system with the right facilities that meet the community’s needs is available for years to come."

The public is invited to join and provide feedback for future park development. For additional information, please contact Kristine Christlieb at 260-449-4704 between 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., or email Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us.

If you are unable to attend but would like to review and comment on the Park Plan, a digital copy is available on the NIRCC website at www.nircc.com, and the Aboite Township website at www.aboitetwp.com. A hardcopy of the master plan and comment sheets are available at the Aboite Community Building. Written comments will be accepted through March 30. 2024.

CONTACT:
Kristine Christlieb
Community Planner
(260) 449-4704
Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 13, 2024

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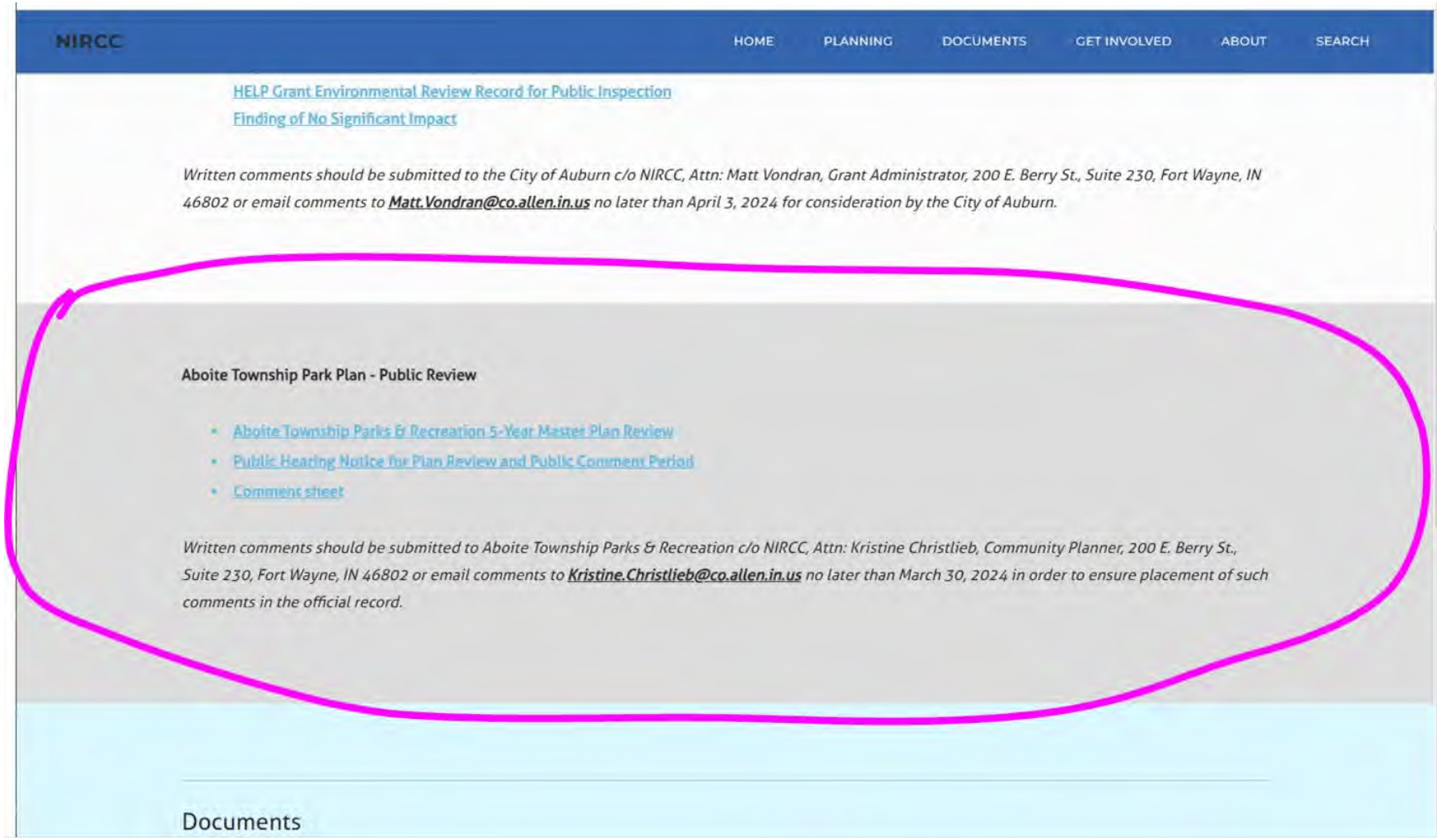
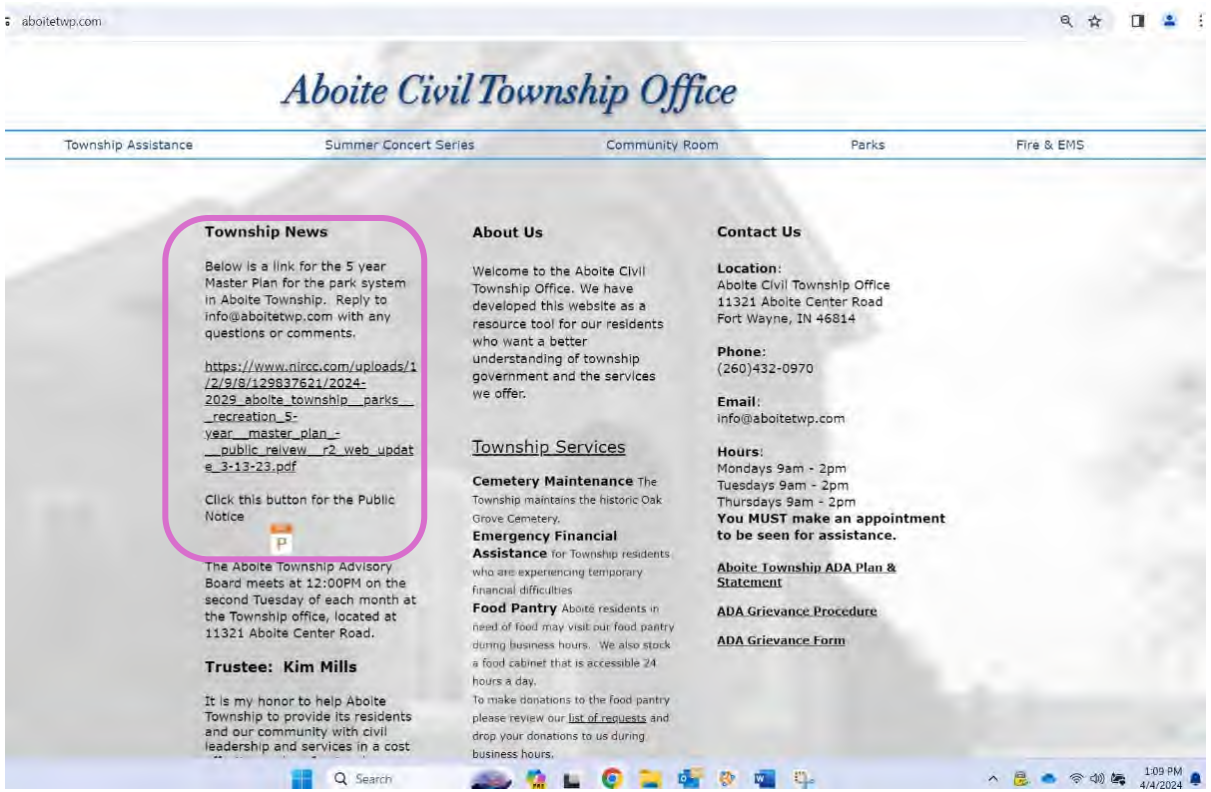
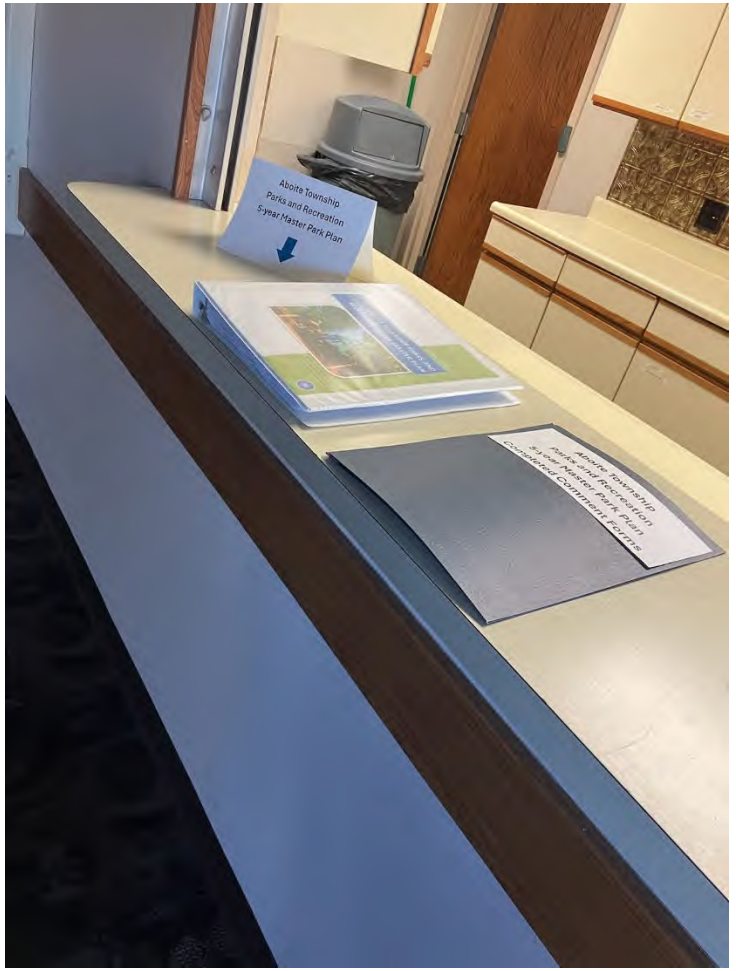

NIRCC
HOME
PLANNING
DOCUMENTS
GET INVOLVED
ABOUT
SEARCH
HELP Grant Environmental Review Record for Public Inspection
Finding of No Significant Impact
Written comments should be submitted to the City of Auburn c/o NIRCC, Attn: Matt Vondran, Grant Administrator, 200 E. Berry St., Suite 230, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or email comments to Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us no later than April 3, 2024 for consideration by the City of Auburn.
Aboite Township Park Plan - Public Review
Aboite Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan Review
Public Hearing Notice for Plan Review and Public Comment Period
Comment sheet
Written comments should be submitted to Aboite Township Parks & Recreation c/o NIRCC, Attn: Kristine Christlieb, Community Planner, 200 E. Berry St., Suite 230, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or email comments to Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us no later than March 30, 2024 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record.
Documents

Aboite Website: https://Aboitetwp.com

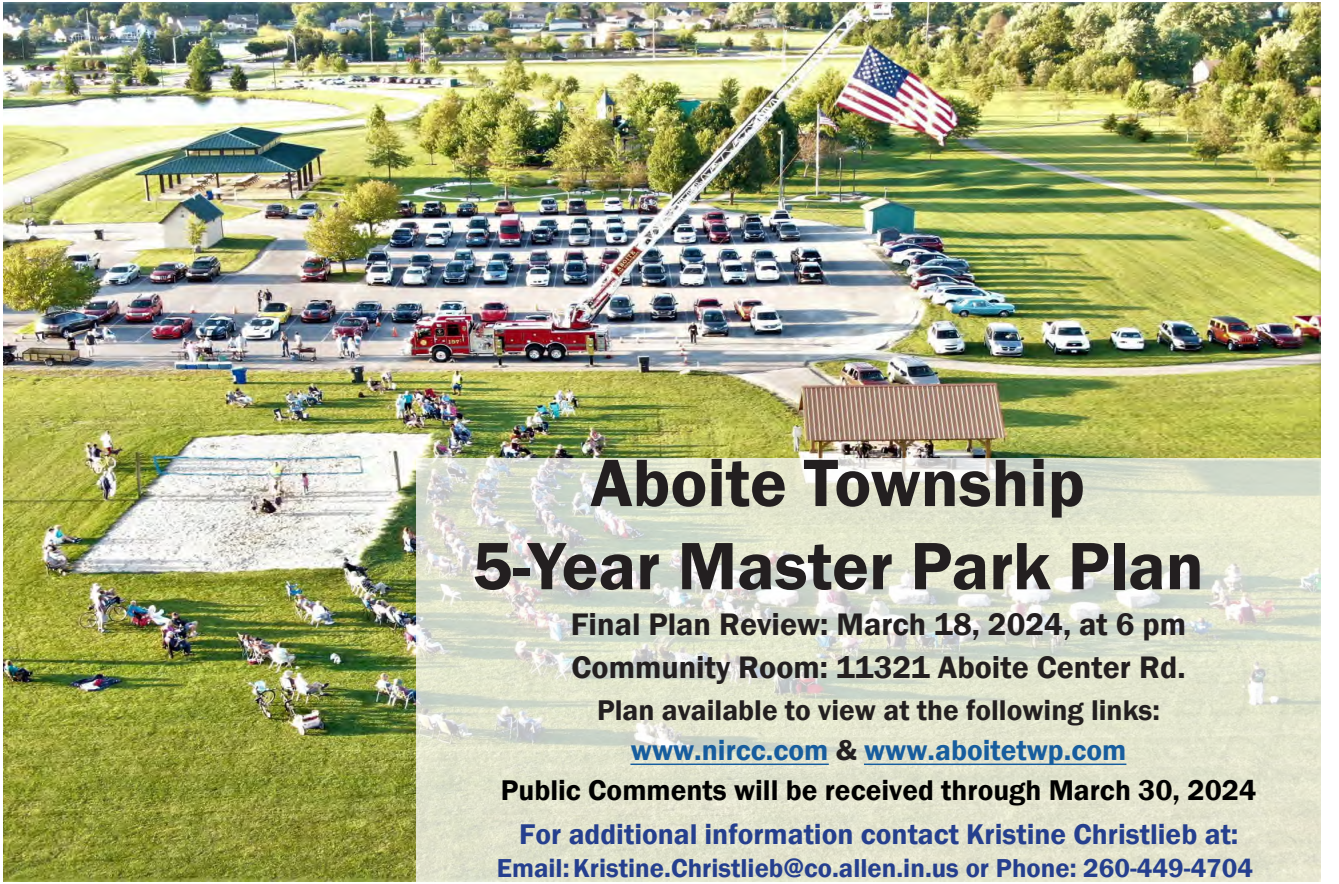
Aboite Township Website: Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Plan Review





Hardcopy and comment sheets available at the Aboite Township Community Room March 11, 2024, through March 30, 2024

Also available at the Aboite Township Public Meeting March 18, 2024


Aboite Township
5-Year Master Park Plan
Final Plan Review: March 18, 2024, at 6 pm
Community Room: 11321 Aboite Center Rd.
Plan available to view at the following links:
www.nircc.com & www.aboitetwp.com
Public Comments will be received through March 30, 2024
For additional information contact Kristine Christlieb at:
Email: Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us or Phone: 260-449-4704

Aboite park fixes

by: Ethan Dahlen
Posted: Mar 18, 2024 / 10:15 PM EDT
Updated: Mar 19, 2024 / 04:08 AM EDT

SHARE

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WANE) — Aboite Township may have two parks, but the parks board has big plans for Van Hoozen Park and Indian Trails Park.

"We need to utilize all the 90-something acres we have for sports and trails and restrooms and other things as well," said Michael Rost, Aboite Township Park Board President.

On a snowy Monday night, the board unveiled the full plans for both parks, alongside the data and public feedback that led them to the changes.

Both parks would receive four new baseball/softball diamonds in addition to other changes.

Proposed changes for Van Hoozen Park

ADVERTISING

Proposed changes for Indian Trails Park

Indian Trails Park would notably receive new bullpens, not only for the four new fields, but for its existing set of four fields as well.

Another issue addressed with the update would be current drainage problems which some at Monday's meeting said were creating challenges for playing Rugby.

"It seems like the feedback was mostly positive, there were some things that weren't on our radar as far as working on our rugby fields," Rost said. "We realize there are other sports out there and we need to do things with them as well, and we're open for that."

While feedback was mostly positive, the board did acknowledge that one big issue still stands in the way: financing.

The total estimated cost is $6.1 million, but Aboite Township officials think that with the usage of grants, they can bridge much of that gap.

"We have had a fundraising committee and we have been meeting for the past several months," Rost said. "We're hoping to get a $1 million matching donation from the DNR, in order to do that we need to have $2.2 raised by Aug. 1."

The board is looking to partner with corporations to get funding in exchange for naming rights as well.

The next fundraising meeting will be held on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Aboite Community Room at 11321 Aboite Center Road.

Appendix D: Legal

ADA Compliance and Park Board Resolution

Appendix D

Resolutions & ADA Compliance

Grievance Procedure & Form

2023 Transition Plan Evaluation

Resolution Number: 2022.1.13.1

A Resolution Establishing a Department of Parks and Recreation and Repeal of all Resolutions in Conflict Therewith.

Be it ordained by the Township Trustee and Board of Aboite Township, Indiana,

Section 1

Under the provision of I.C. 36-10-7.5-5 there is hereby created a Township Department of Parks and Recreation.

Section 2

A Township Park and Recreation Board shall be composed of:

1. The Township Executive (Trustee), and
2. Three (3) persons appointed by the Executive to serve at the pleasure of the Executive.
    a. The Executive or an appointed member of the Township Park and Recreation Board established under this section remains a member of the board until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified.

Section 3

Following the restrictions set out for Townships of certain population in I.C. 36-10-7 et seq., the Park Board shall have the power to perform all acts necessary to acquire and develop sites and facilities and to conduct such programs as are generally understood to be park and recreation functions. In addition, the Park Board shall have all the powers, duties, and authorized actions listed in I.C. 36-10-7 and I.C. 36-10-7.5 et seq.

Section 4

The Park Board shall do the following:

1. Prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other budgets of the Township as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts.
2. Establish standards and qualifications for the appointment of all personnel and approve their appointments without regard to politics.
3. Accept gifts, donations, and subsidies for park and recreation purposes.
4. Exercise general supervision of and make rules for the Department.
5. Establish rules governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public.
6. Provide police protection for park property and activities, either by requesting assistance from state, municipal, or county police authorities, or by having specified employees deputized as police officers. The deputized employees,

however, are not eligible for police pension benefits or other emoluments of police officers.

7. Appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties.

Section 5

All other resolutions, ordinances, or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions and intent of this resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 6

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and approval, according to the laws of the State of Indiana.

Passed by the Aboite Township Board, this 13th day of Jan 2022

_____, Attest: Michael Meyers, Trustee

_____, Township Board Member

_____, Township Board Member

_____, Township Board Member

RESOLUTION 2023-0912

A Resolution of the Township of Aboite, Allen County, Indiana
Adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
ADA Coordinator and Procedures

WHEREAS, the Federal government enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to prevent discrimination of the physically and mentally disabled relating to employment and access to public facilities; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Township of Aboite shall name an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Township of Aboite shall adopt a grievance procedure for resolving complaints alleging violation of Title II of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Township of Aboite shall publish notice to the public regarding the ADA;

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the Township of Aboite shall post the ADA coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number along with the ADA Notice and ADA grievance procedure on its website.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Township Board of Aboite, Allen County, Indiana:**

Christina Perez, is designated as the ADA
Coordinator for the Township of Aboite.

The Township of Aboite ADA Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto, is adopted as the grievance procedure for addressing complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs or benefits by the Township of Aboite.

In compliance with Federal and State laws as set forth above, the Township Board resolves to post the required information regarding the ADA coordinator, Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Township of Aboite Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act on its website and at such other locations as may be determined from time to time.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of September 12, 2023.

Township Board:

Scott Myers

printed name

Douglas P. Schantel

printed name

printed name

printed name

Aboite Civil Township Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Aboite Civil Township. The Aboite Civil Township Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Christina Perez
11321 Aboite Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46814
260-432-0970
cperez@aboitetwp.com

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Christina Perez or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting Christina Perez or her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Aboite Civil Township and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Christina Perez or her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Aboite Township Trustee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Aboite Township Trustee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Aboite Township Trustee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Christina Perez or her designee, appeals to the Aboite Township Trustee and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Aboite Civil Township for at least three years.

Aboite Civil Township Non-Discrimination Notice

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Aboite Civil Township will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: Aboite Civil Township does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: Aboite Civil Township will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Aboite Civil Township programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: Aboite Civil Township will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in Aboite Civil Township offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Aboite Civil Township, should contact Chris Perez at 260-432-0970 or cperez@aboitetwp.com as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Aboite Civil Township to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Aboite Civil Township is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Chris Perez at 260-432-0970 or cperez@aboitetwp.com.

Aboite Civil Township will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Pursuant to Resolution 2023-0912 adopted on the 12th day of September, 2023, by the Aboite Civil Township the position of ADA Coordinator for the Aboite Civil Township was created. The following individual was appointed to serve in such capacity:

Christina Perez, ADA Coordinator

Christina Perez holds such position concurrently with her position as the Deputy Trustee in the Aboite Township Trustee's office and is responsible for overseeing compliance with the ADA.

Christina Perez
11321 Aboite Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46814
260-432-0970
cperez@aboitetwp.com

ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE - ABOITE CIVIL TOWNSHIP

GRIEVANCE FORM

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION:
Name:
Address:
Daytime Phone:
Email:
LOCATION INFORMATION
Address (If Known):
Location Description:
NATURE OF GRIEVANCE
Playground Equipment:
Sports Field Access:
Building Access:
Other:
Describe the Grievance/Complaint/Problem:
Date of Incident, If Applicable:

FOR LOCAL/ADA COORDINATOR USE ONLY	
Township Representative Preparing the Form if not by Complainant and Date Complaint Received:	
Date Received by Township, If Appl.:	
Date Received by ADA Coordinator:	
Date of Initial Contact:	
Date of Meeting or Site Visit:	
Date ADA Coordinator's Decision Mailed:	
Date Appeal Received by Township Board:	
Date First on Township Board Agenda:	
Date Township Board Decision:	
Date Board Decision Mailed:	

INDIAN TRAILS PARK LOCATION: 10313 Aboite Center Rd
AGE OF PARK: 2005 ACRES: 58 Pavilion Rentals: Yes

PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA FIRM/STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	Barrier	Corrective Action	Priority (1 = 0-2 years; 2 = 3-4 years; 3 = 5 years)	Target Complete Date	Completed Date
East parking lot	1		no	grass between lot and trail	construct paved path between parking lot and trail	2		
						2		
East port-a-john	1		no	gravel surround; not ADA accessible	construct paved path between parking lot and port-a-john			
Playground Area	1	2005						
Toddler Area	1	2005	no	wood chipped, large step down from path to enter; no ramps to access play structure	construct ramps from main path down to firmer paths leading to each of the play structures	1		
Swings	2	2005	no	wood chipped, large step down from path to enter		1		
Big kid area	2	2005	no	wood chipped, large step down from path to enter; no ramps to access play structure		1		
Water fountain	1	2019	no	small grass patch between trail and fountain; not wheelchair accessible	pave small grass space between trail and fountain	3		
Bike Racks	2		no	small grass patch between racks and trail	pave small grass space between trail and racks	3		
Big Pavilion 10 picnic tables	10		yes	no wheelchair spots on tables	add ADA picnic tables (~$1000/each)	1		
Picnic table area between pavilion and playground	10		yes	narrow paths; one ADA picnic table	add more ADA picnic tables	3		
Restroom building - womens								
Accessible path			yes					
Restroom building - mens								
Accessible path			yes					
Band pavilion picnic tables	2			no wheelchair spots	add ADA picnic tables	3		
Amphitheater			no	grass area				
Seating boulders			no	grass area	construct paved path from parking lot to amphitheater seating area	1		

Playground Safety Inspection

Three Rivers Junction - Ft. Wayne

February 2, 2023		Inspector: Bob Lipford, CPSI	
Equipment	Needed Maintenance	Action Taken	Date
Main Playground (Leathers & Associates Design)	The rubber covering the chain on the chain bridge on the South side near the entrance is cracking exposing the		
	There is some wear on the chain links at the connectors. The fourth connector from the West is open. SEE PHOTO		
	"S" hooks on the horizontal ladder are open more than .04". Bars are rusty. (CPSC 5.3.8.1 This is for any "S" hook, not just swings)		
	Steering wheel is loose, appears the bushing is worn out. SEE PHOTO		
	Four foot platform has three opening where some activity has been. Opening on platform should be protected from someone falling. (CPSC 5.1.3, Table 4, pg. 21)		
	Rubber covering chain bridge on the West side I gone or coming apart.		
	The chain bridge on the Southwest corner, the North lower chain is badly worn. SEE PHOTO		
	Parallel bars are OK		
	High and low Horizontal ladders are OK		
	Chain walk on the Southeast corner has rubber coming off and the chain links are badly worn.		
	Chain walk on the Northwest side has rubber coming off and the chain links are worn.		
	Tire swing under the deck on the West side hits the support post when it swings. (CPSC 5.3.8.4.1, 5.3.8.4, Fig.26 & 27)		
	Window missing on North spiral slide.		
	Some wire mesh in the windows of the house is gone and wire ends are exposed. SEE PHOTO		
4 Bay Swing (2 Belt, 1 H/C swing,1 Tire)	Slight wear on the chain links.		
	The swivel on the tire swing needs a boot to cover it, to eliminate a Crush and Shearing point hazard. (CPSC 3.1)		

Equipment	Needed Maintenance	Action Taken	Date
	Mat under one Belt swing is out of position and the other has a hole causing a trip hazard.		
Tot Playground			
Train Structure	Steering wheel on the car portion is loose, appears the bushing is worn out.		
	New slide is on order		
	Paint flaking off.		
3 Bay swing (4 Buckets, 1 H/C)	Slight wear on chain links. "S" hooks need to be closed tighter.		
Surface (EWF-Wood Mulch)	Ideally 9 -12" of mulch would be best and raked into impact points especially under swings regularly.		

PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA FIRM/STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	Barrier	Corrective Action	Priority (1 = 0-2 years; 2 = 3-4 years; 3 = 5 years)	Target Complete Date	Completed Date
Sand volleyball	1		no	grass area	construct paved path from parking lot to volleyball courts	3		
Baseball Fields	4		no	grass areas, gravel	Construct paved pathways to all baseball field amenities	1		
Bleachers	8		no	grass areas, gravel		1		
Dugouts	8		no	grass areas, gravel		1		
Score Buildings	4		no	grass areas, gravel		1		
Batting Cages	2		no	grass areas, gravel		1		
Center Baseball Pavilion	1		no	grass surround; 4" step up to concrete	construct pathway to pavilion and ramp up to concrete pavilion floor; ADA table	1		
Baseball Pavilion by Diamonds #16 & #17	1		no	grass surround; 4" step up to concrete	construct pathway to pavilion and ramp up to concrete pavilion floor; ADA table	2		
Nature Trail	1		no	grass surround to entrance; packked wood chipped trail within woods	construct pathway to trail entrance	3		

VAN HOOZEN PARK

AGE OF PARK: ACRES: 26 ON: 11321 Aboite Center Rd Pavilion Rentals: No

PARK AMENITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	YEAR BUILT	ADA FIRM/STABLE ROUTE (Yes/No)	Barrier	Corrective Action	Priority	Target Complete Date	Completed Date
Pavilion	1	1985	no	grass, approximate 6" step up to concrete	construct pathway and ramp up to pavilion			
Picnic Tables	3		no	no path, step up to pavilion; no wheelchair seating at tables	add wheelchair accessible tables			
Playground	1		no	surrounded by grass, no solid path to access; must step over railroad ties; gravel base on playground area	construct pathway and ramp up to play area			
Play components	4		no	no ADA accessible components	add ADA play features			
Grass Sports Fields	5		no	no paved path, all grass	construct pathways to fields			
Bleachers at Grass Fields	4		no	no paved path, all grass	construct pathway to bleachers			
Accessible route - ball diamonds #11 and #12	2		yes	paved accessible route from HHS parking; some rough patches; incline	smooth out incline and rough spots on path			
Bleachers at Diamond #11	2		yes	rough pavement, with incline, then gravel surrounding bleachers	smooth out incline and rough spots on path; pave around bleachers			
Dugouts at Diamond #11	2		yes	rough pavement, with incline, then gravel at entrance; narrow entry points, step up to concrete	smooth out path, pave entrance, widen entrance to make accessible			
Bleachers at Diamond #12	2		yes	rough pavement, with incline, then gravel surrounding bleachers	smooth out incline and rough spots on path; pave around bleachers			
Dugouts at Diamond #12	2		no	gravel surround; narrow fence openings; step up to concrete	smooth out path, pave entrance, widen entrance to make accessible			
Score Building at Diamonds #11 and #12	2		no	gravel surround	pave from path to building entrance			

Appendix E: Maintenance Schedules

Tentative Parks Maintenance Schedule

- Indian Trail Park (Existing Park)
- Van Hoozen Park (Existing Park)
- Tentative Maintenance Schedule for Van Hoozen Park Improvements (Pending Construction)

Appendix E

Tentative Parks Maintenance Schedule

- Indian Trails/Van Hoozen Amphitheater/Pavilion aintenance Schedule
- Indian Trails Park (Existing)
- Indian Trails Baseball Maintenance Schedule
- Van Hoozen Park (Existing Park)
- Proposed Van Hoozen Ballfield Maintenance Schedule (Pending New Construction)

Aboite Township Parks

Indiana Trails / Van Hoozen

Amphitheater/Pavilion

Operation & Maintenance Plan *Tentative Draft as of November 2023*

The purpose of the plan is to clearly define the requirements and actions needed to maintain a high-quality park system and ensure its sustainability.

Operations Plan

Usages:

- Annual Concerts
  - 8-9 per year
  - To be organized by the Aboite Township office and be the responsibility of the Aboite Township office
  - These concerts are free to the public but will promote opportunity and social interaction in the parks.
  - Revenue will be placed in an operations and maintenance fund. This account line will be created in 2024 to create the operations and maintenance fund.
- Rental of Facility – Pavilion, Fields & Community Room
  - Promotions for wedding, family reunions and parties will be advertised.
  - All revenues generated from facility fees will be placed in an operations and maintenance fund.
- Free usage: This facility will be available for non-exclusive use on a first come first serve basis for any non-reserved dates.

Revenues:

- Current Rental Fees
  - Community room
    - Monday – Thursday: non-profits can use free, give donations to food pantry.
    - Friday – Sunday - $150 rental fee plus $100 security deposit
  - Indian Trails Park Pavilion
    - Half day $50, full day $100
  - New Concession stand @ Van Hoozen to be managed by users of the softball/baseball complex (Starting Post Construction 2026-2027)

Rental fees, scheduling, and application will be handled at the Township Office. Applications will be available online and in office.

Expenses:

- Utilities
  - Water and electric charges will be included the parks yearly budget.

- Electric: $ 2,498.45
- Water: $ 341.34
- Trash: $ 2,766.00
- Portajon maintenance: $5,847.39

Maintenance Plan

Park Department employees will do monthly inspections of all equipment & surface areas & weekly area maintenance. Park funds are available for maintenance.

Surface Maintenance inspections:

- painted surface (No scratched, chipped or peeling paint)
- surface wear
- graffiti
- debris

Area Maintenance:

- mowing
- spraying
- trimming
- cleaning
  - Inspections maintenance will be scheduled as needed.
  - Yearly inspections of all concrete and pathways
  - Yearly ADA inspections will be made to ensure compliance.
  - Spring inspections of water and sewer services
  - Late fall inspections of water and sewer services to get ready for winter.
  - Structures will be inspected.
  - Driveways will be inspected for potholes.
  - Painted surfaces
  - Roof and eves
  - Drainage around area
  - clean area of litter (no broken glass or bottles)

Facility maintenance the first year will be based on similar existing park facilities but at a lesser amount based on the facility being new. As the facility ages, budgets will be adjusted to accommodate aging structure and equipment.

Employees

Site Manager: Paul Neilsen

- Will do all inspections and scheduling of maintenance.
- Estimated work hours: 2,080 hrs. per year.

Seasonal mowers: seasonal mowers

- Estimated work hours: 2,144 hrs. per year.

Indian Trails Park Schedule

March/June		July/September		Post Season (Fall)	
Activity	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**
Mow park areas (As Needed)	Park Maintenance Staff	Mow park areas (As Needed)	Park Maintenance Staff	Mow park areas (As Needed)	Park Maintenance Staff
Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Winterize Restroom and restock if needed	Delegated by Aboite Township Office
Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent	Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent	Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent
Volleyball Court Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Volleyball Court Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Unassemble netting / winterize as needed	Park Superintendent
Pickleball Court/Fence Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Pickleball Court/Fence Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Pickleball Court/Fence Maintenance - Unassemble Netting and store as needed	Park Superintendent
Trail Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Trail Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Trail Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent
Building & Pavilion Maintenance (As needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Landscape Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Landscape Maintenance	Park Superintendent
Signage Maintain/updates as needed	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Signage Maintain/updates as needed	Park Superintendent	Signage Maintain/updates as needed	Park Superintendent
Parking Lot Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Parking Lot Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Parking Lot Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent
Drinking Fountain Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Drinking Fountain Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Drinking Fountain Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent
Landscape Maintenance (Spring Updates)	Park Maintenance Staff	Landscape Maintenance (Summer watering as needed)	Park Maintenance Staff	N/A	N/A
Picnic Table Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Picnic Table Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	N/A	N/A
Dog Waste Station Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Dog Waste Station Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Dog Waste Station Maintenance - Winterize as needed	Park Superintendent
Prepare Park Programming and Concert Series	Aboite Township Office	Administer Park Programs - oversee events	Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Line Rectangular Fields - (As Needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Line Rectangular Fields - As Needed	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Drinking Fountain Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Drinking Fountain Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	N/A	N/A

Indian Trails Baseball Maintenance Schedule

March/June		July/September		Post Season (Fall)	
Activity	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**
Mow park areas (As needed)	Park Maintenance Staff	Mow park areas (As needed)	Park Maintenance Staff	Mow park areas (As needed)	Park Maintenance Staff
Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office
Prep Diamonds/Drag infields (As needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Drag and line diamonds before each game	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Apply fertilizer, aerate and oversee outfields	Park Superintendent
Apply 80-50lb bags Turface	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Paint foul lines in out field as needed	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Apply TriMech to outfields after 1st or 2nd hard frost (at least 6 weeks after fertilizer)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office
Drag fields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Drag fields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Reapply Turface for practices (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Reapply Turface for practices (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Building/Pavilion maintenance (as needed)	Park Superintendent	Building/Pavilion maintenance (as needed)	Park Superintendent	N/A	N/A
Replace yellow tile fence toppers(as needed)	Park Superintendent	Replace yellow tile fence toppers(as needed)	Park Superintendent	N/A	N/A
Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates/posts for bases (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates/posts for bases (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as needed	Aboite Township Office	Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as needed	Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent

Van Hoozen Park Schedule

March/June		July/September		Post Season (Fall)	
Activity	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**
Mow park areas	Park Superintendent	Mow park areas	Park Superintendent	Mow park areas	Park Superintendent
Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent	Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent	Playground Safety and Maintenance Check	Park Superintendent
Repaint/Maintain Buildings & Pavilions as needed	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Repaint/Maintain Buildings & Pavilions as needed	Park Superintendent	Repaint/Maintain Buildings & Pavilions as needed	Park Superintendent
Dog Waste Station Maintenance	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Dog Waste Station Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Dog Waste Station Maintenance	Park Superintendent
Parking Lot Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Parking Lot Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent	Parking Lot Maintenance (As Needed)	Aboite Township Office/Park Superintendent
Picnic Table Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Picnic Table Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Picnic Table Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent
Landscape Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Landscape Maintenance	Park Superintendent	Landscape Maintenance	Park Superintendent
Line Rectangular Fields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Line Rectangular Fields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates/posts for bases	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as needed	Aboite Township Office	Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as	Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent

Proposed: Van Hoozen Softball Complex Maintenance Schedule

March/June		July/September		Post Season (Fall)	
Activity	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**	**Activity**	**Responsible Party**
Mow park areas	Park Superintendent	Mow park areas	Park Superintendent	Mow park areas	Park Superintendent
Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Restock/Clean Restrooms	Delegated by Aboite Township Office
Prep Diamonds/Drag infields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Drag and line diamonds before each game	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Apply fertilizer, aerate and oversee outfields	Park Superintendent
Apply 80-50lb bags Turface	Aboite Township Office	Paint foul lines in out field as needed	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Apply TriMech to outfields after 1st or 2nd hard frost (at least 6 weeks after fertilizer)	Aboite Township Office
Drag fields	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Add Turface and use Diamond Dry as needed before/during games	Aboite Township Office	Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates /posts for bases as needed	Aboite Township Office
Reapply Turface for practices (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Weeding on and around diamonds and fencing	Park Superintendent	Weeding on and around diamonds and fencing	Park Superintendent
Repaint & Maintain Buildings and Pavilions - as needed	Park Superintendent	Repaint & Maintain Buildings and Pavilions - as needed	Park Superintendent	Repaint & Maintain Buildings and Pavilions - as needed	Park Superintendent
Replace yellow tile fence toppers - as needed	Park Superintendent	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates/posts for bases (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	Replace/reset/rebuild pitching mounds/ home plates/posts for bases (as needed)	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as needed	Aboite Township Office	Check lights on scoreboards, replace bulbs as needed	Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A
Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent	Weeding & Fence Maintenance (As Needed)	Park Superintendent
Picnic Table Maintenance (as needed)	Park Superintendent	Picnic Table Maintenance (as needed)	Park Superintendent	Picnic Table Maintenance (as needed)	Park Superintendent
New Concession stand deep cleaned on spring cleanup day	Delegated by Aboite Township Office	N/A	N/A	Close-up Concession and winterize - as needed	Delegated by Aboite Township Office

Park Rules and Regulations

<Insert 2024 Park Regulation Ordinance>

Appendix F: Plan Approval

- IDNR Plan Approval – May 31, 2024
- Adopted Master Park Plan Board Resolution—June 25, 2024
- Assurance of Accessibility of Compliance

PLAN APPROVAL

IDNR Master Plan Approval Letter

Greg Beilfuss - Chief Planner
IDNR – State Parks: Community Grants and Trails
402 W. Washington St., W298
Indianapolis, IN 42204-2782
(317) 232-4071

May 31st, 2024

Mike Rost
Aboite Township Park Board
11321 Aboite Center RD
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Dear Mike,

The DNR Division of State Parks planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2024-2029 Aboite Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2024 grant year**. A new plan will be due on November 15th, 2029 at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact our grant section chief as soon as possible about future grant applications. The grants staff can assist in your grant application process. They can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-1295 or by e-mail at: nsimmons@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of State Parks. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
Chief Planner - IDNR Division of State Parks, Community Grants and Trails

ECC – Kristine Christlieb, NIRCC

Aboite Township Board Resolution
Adopting Master Plan

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Board, organized and existing under the laws of Indiana, and having its principal place of business at 11321 Aboite Center Road, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, 46814; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Aboite Township; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Aboite Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Aboite Township, and which, a copy will be made available at the Aboite Township Office and the Aboite Township official website.

Adopted and signed this 25 **day of** June **, 2024.**

ABOITE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Executive, Kim Mills

President, Mike Rost

Member, Colin Lank

Member, Brad Mills

Assurance of Accessibility Compliance

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 **Aboite Township Parks & Recreation Board** (Applicant) having its principal place of business at 11321 Aboite Center Road, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, 46814, has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE: _____
BOARD EXECUTIVE

Kim, Mills
(printed name)

SIGNATURE: _____
BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Rost
(printed name)

DATE: 6/25/24