



Master Plan

Recreation Director was not filled. This has left Muncie in a position of not providing essential recreational opportunities for Muncie’s citizens. When this department is reestablished as outlined by city code, the Recreation Director should have a steering committee appointed to provide assistance/guidance for restoring and providing recreational opportunities.

- 2- Verify and finalize the ownership of all park properties to the Muncie’s Parks & Recreation Board.
- 3- Create and maintain master plans for each park.
 - Many park departments have a landscape architect on staff for such projects. If Muncie does not have a landscape architect on staff then this project should be contracted out to a professional landscape architect, or other design professional, in order to maximize the potential use of each park, make the best connections with the community, and benefit from visioning that will provide achievable improvements in phases.
 - All parks should be designed to be inclusive – usable by people of all ages and abilities.
 - Master plans need to provide methods for transitioning each park to meet ADA guidelines and become ADA compliant.
- 4- Create and maintain a non-reverting capital improvement fund, as permitted under IC 36-10-3-20.
 - All money generated by the Department of Parks & Recreation should be kept in a non-reverting fund that would be used to subsidize the Department’s needs including updating equipment, maintaining existing and new properties, and other necessary improvements.
- 5- Develop and enhance wayfinding and marketing devices, including signage, maps, brochures, and websites, to assist people in locating Muncie’s parks and educating the public about available recreational opportunities.
- 6- Write grants to enhance Muncie’s parks and recreational facilities.
 - Writing grants could provide Muncie’s DP&R with the needed opportunity to compete for funds to improve Muncie’s parks. Depending on the grant, a grant award could provide money for hiring a landscape architect to prepare needed master plans for each park, replace playground equipment, purchase land for a new park in the NW quadrant of Muncie, build a quality skatepark, or accomplish any number of identified needs for Muncie’s DP&R.
- 7- Create a park foundation.
 - The creation of a park foundation would allow for a venue to support Muncie’s parks through philanthropy and volunteerism. Park foundations are generally created to provide additional investment for the parks and for recreational opportunities.

Goal B- Provide safe, accessible, and well equipped park and recreational opportunities throughout the City of Muncie.

Objectives-

- 1- Remove unsafe equipment.
- 2- Update all structures (i.e. cabins) and electrical boxes to be compliant.
- 3- Create partnerships to provide safe parks.
 - Muncie Police Department
 - Work with the Muncie Police Department to ensure that parks are included in their patrols.





- Neighborhood Associations
 - Work with neighborhood associations to maintain or create neighborhood watches that include the parks.
- 4- Create partnerships to expand park and recreational opportunities. Partnerships should include but not be limited to:
- Muncie Community Schools – as permitted under IC 36-10-3-11, Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation should pursue a contract with Muncie’s school corporation “for the use of park and recreation facilities or services”. A partnership between Muncie’s DP&R and Muncie Community Schools (MCS) would provide beneficial opportunities for the citizens of Muncie including more recreational opportunities and more area identified as park space (school-parks). Ideally, MCS would host recreational programs for Muncie residents with assistance from the DP&R.

This proposed partnership to provide recreational opportunities should be a base to build upon in the future. Along with conducting further study, Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation should seek additional partnerships throughout the community to meet the recreational needs of Muncie’s residents.
 - Ball State University – Ball State University has committed to becoming a climate neutral campus. A principal component in accomplishing this is to plant trees in order to sink carbon levels. It would be an ideal fit for Ball State University to convert some of the property it owns in the Northwest quadrant of Muncie into a natural resource park, converting fields into quality wooded areas that could include walking trails. By entering into a partnership with Muncie’s DP&R, BSU could strengthen its relationship with the city by contributing to Muncie’s park space while providing learning opportunities for students working on degrees in natural resources, biology, and landscape architecture and sinking carbon to accomplish its goal of becoming climate neutral.
 - Sanitary District and Cardinal Greenway Inc. – Formally establish a partnership between Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation, the Muncie Sanitary District, and Cardinal Greenway Inc. in order to delineate and establish White River Park as a linear park with a formalized agreement for the maintenance of this property.
- 5- Continue and rejuvenate partnerships in order to honor the cooperative efforts to preserve excellent maintenance for the parks.
- Continue a partnership with Minnetrista, Master Gardeners, and the Minnetrista Neighborhood Association for the care of the Appeal to the Great Spirit Park.

Through this partnership, Muncie’s Department of Parks and Recreation should establish an agreement with Minnetrista, Master Gardeners, and/or the Neighborhood Association to formalize an arrangement for the care of this historic property. With Minnetrista’s expertise and the Landscape Preservation Master Plan prepared by Malcolm Cairns in 2001, a management plan for this property should be established in order to protect the historic nature of this property.
- 6- Equip park properties with:
- Water fountains
 - Restrooms
 - Grills





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- Bike Racks
 - Safe playground equipment
- 7- Create a skatepark.²⁶
- The amateur ramps at Tuhey Park were extremely popular and well used. Muncie’s Department of Parks & Recreation has the responsibility and opportunity to provide an exemplary skatepark in order to meet the needs of Muncie’s youth and to compete with the rise of excellent skateparks that are being created in other second class cities across the state.²⁷
- 8- Purchase/obtain new park properties in order to provide various types of parks (mini parks, community parks, etc.) in areas that are lacking service.
- Properties reverting to City or County ownership through tax sales should be inspected to determine if they would be appropriate for park use.

Goal C- Enhance the quality of life and contribute to the physical, scenic, environmental and economic health of the City of Muncie and its residents.

Objectives-

- 1- Rezone all park properties to the Recreation/Conservation zone.
- The Recreation/Conservation zone designation emphasizes the importance of parkland and would allow for appropriate development of park properties while providing a measure to preserve the park properties for existing and future generations.
- 2- Establish parks in the northwest quadrant of Muncie.
- 3- Adopt a policy of all new construction being Leadership in Energy Efficient Design- New Construction (LEED-NC) accredited and /or Low Impact Design (LID).
- LEED-NC and LID developments are environmentally sustainable, reducing the cost for operating and maintaining, effective at reducing pollutants in the environmental, and make for healthier places to visit and enjoy.
- 4- Establish programs.
- Programs are critical to help attract the community to the parks while building community involvement and pride. When the community is more involved and committed to the parks, the parks will naturally become safer because undesirable activities tend to occur in underutilized environments.
 - The following types of programs were recommended through public input:
 - ♦ Adopt-A-Park (sponsorship opportunities)
 - ♦ Events in the parks
 - Movies
 - Concerts
 - Theatre
 - ♦ Sport leagues & tournaments

26 Code of Ordinances, City of Muncie Indiana 92.09- Using skateboards prohibited. This outdated city code needs to be deleted. Skateboarding is a nationally recognized alternative form of transportation. Any public concerns could be solved by enforcing anti-vandalism laws.

27 Indiana has 22 second class cities. 16 of those cities provide skateparks as a part of their park systems that are free to the public, one charges, and 2 are in the planning phase. Muncie is 1 of only 3 second-class cities to not have a public skatepark.





- ♦ Classes (nature oriented, fitness oriented, craft, etc.)
 - ♦ Summer camps
 - ♦ Passport to Recreation – a program to encourage participation in park and recreation activities throughout each year by gathering stamps that would be turned in at the last event of the year for a prize drawing.
- 5- Establish a “park system”
 - Unite all of the neighborhood, community, and large urban parks through connections made by complete green streets and/or greenways.
 - 6- Create a signature park within the City of Muncie.
 - A signature park is a park that provides a variety of unique opportunities in an accessible, centrally located area in order to create a unique resource for the entire community of Muncie and beyond. Having a park that draws people from outside the community of Muncie provides economic development for the City of Muncie.²⁸ With their size and central locations, either McCulloch Park or Heekin Park could be improved upon to become Muncie’s signature park.
 - 7- Include park service as an element in financial studies for annexations.
 - Because parks are an important service that municipalities provide to the public, there needs to be an assessment of how a city will provide this service as its boundary grows. Measures need to be put in place that will allow of the creation of new parks in areas that are growing and underserved.
 - 8- Establish natural resource parks to provide alternative recreational opportunities (including hiking, nature appreciation, mountain biking) while protecting sensitive areas from development (including floodplains, wetlands)
 - Alternative recreational opportunities would include hiking, nature appreciation- viewing and education, mountain biking, snow shoeing/cross country skiing, etc.
 - Sensitive areas to protect include, but are not limited to, floodplains, wetlands, and ground water recharge areas. Areas such as floodplains can be problematic to build in; establishing these areas would not only reduce damages done to developments from flooding but also protect the floodplain.
 - 9- Explore opportunities for community gardens.
 - Community gardens offer unique opportunities for building community and for building personal strength/health including endurance and flexibility.
 - 10- Investigate the feasibility of development standards that would regulate new developments to include park space as necessary infrastructure.
 - 11- Officially establish and develop the new downtown urban park located northeast of the South Walnut roundabout.

28 While Prairie Creek Park is a type of signature park that draws people from across the region, it is not an easily accessible property for all residents of Muncie. It is important to have a signature park inside Muncie’s corporate boundary to create accessible opportunities for Muncie’s residents and economic development for Muncie by attracting visitors into the city proper.

