



FOUNTAIN COUNTY
Inventory & Assessment Report
March 2024

Prepared for



Prepared by



Acknowledgments

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Town of Veedersburg Parks and Recreation (under development)

- 1.0 Project Overview 2
 - 1.1 Acknowledgments2
 - 1.2 Table of Contents.....3
 - 1.3 Introduction4
 - 1.4 Findings5
- 2.0 Demographic Analysis 12
- 3.0 Needs Assessment 14
 - 3.1 Community Attitude Survey 14
 - 3.2 Committee Evaluation 19
 - 3.3 Park and Land Acquisition 20
 - 3.4 Blueway Evaluation 21
 - 3.5 Programming Evaluation 22
 - 3.6 Budget Analysis 22
- 4.0 Inventory and Analysis..... 23
 - 4.1 Attica 24
 - 4.2 Covington 42
 - 4.3 Veedersburg 48
 - 4.4 Hillsboro 52
 - 4.5 Kingman 54
 - 4.6 Stone Bluff 56
 - 4.7 Mellott 58
 - 4.8 Newtown 60
 - 4.9 Others 62
- 5.0 Implementation Plan 70
 - 5.1 Recommendations 70
 - 5.2 Concept Plans 72



Introduction

Fountain County is located in the western part of the state, southwest of Lafayette. It was established in 1826 and just under 400 square miles.

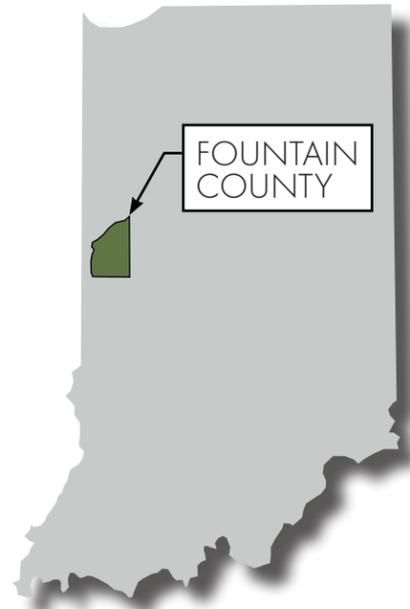
Cities and towns in Fountain County include: Attica, Cates, Covington, Fountain, Hillsboro, Kingman, Lake Holiday, Mellott, Newtown, Riverside, Rob Roy, Silverwood, Stone Bluff, Veedersburg, Wallace and Yeddo. The largest city in the county is Attica, with a 2022 population of 3,205, followed by Covington, with a 2022 population of 2,686.

The three school corporations within Fountain County are:

- Attica Consolidated School Corporation
- Covington Community School Corporation
- Southeast Fountain School Corporation

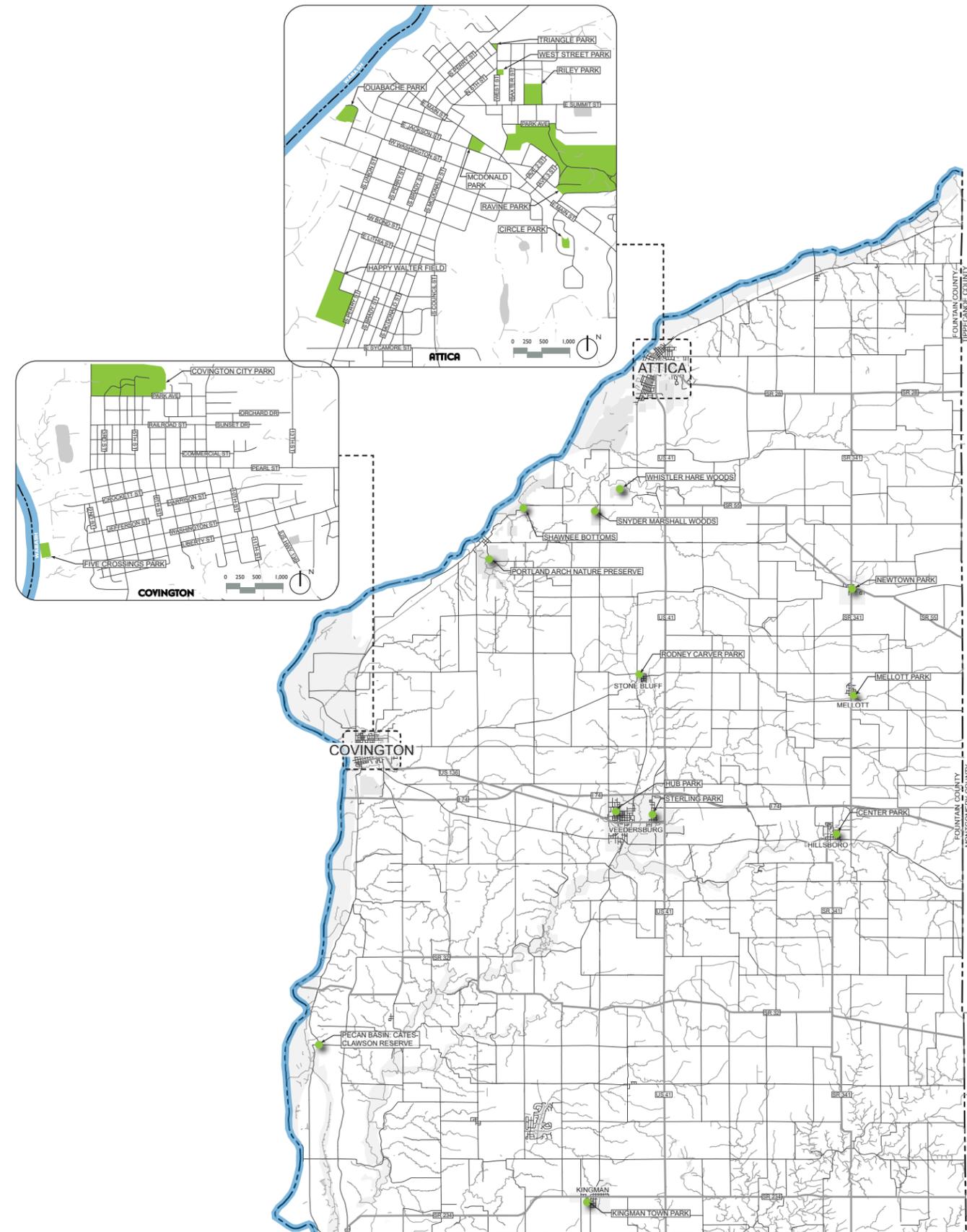
The north and western borders of the county are defined by the Wabash River, which flows out of Tippecanoe County. Roughly 84% of the county's land is used for agriculture.

Fountain County landmarks include the d'Arlier Cultural Center in Veedersburg, the Old Attica Library located in Attica, and the Fountain County Clerk's Building & Museum located in Covington. Both the d'Arlier Cultural Center and Clerk's Building offer walk through tours.



Findings

Fountain County Park Locations:



A total of 22 parks were inventoried for this report. Those include four Niches Land Trust properties and one owned and managed by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves.

The four Niches Land Trust properties are:

- Pecan Basin: Cates-Clawson Reserve
- Shawnee Bottoms
- Snyder Marshall Woods
- Whistler Hare Woods

The one property managed by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves is Portland Arch Nature Preserve.

Eight parks were inventoried in **Attica**: Ravine Park, Riley Park, West Street Park, Triangle Park, Ouabache Park, Happy Walter Field, Circle Park and McDonald Park.

Two parks were inventoried in **Covington**: Covington City Park and Five Crossings Park.

Two parks were inventoried in **Veedersburg**: Sterling Park and Hub Park.

One park was inventoried in **Hillsboro**: Center Park.

One park was inventoried in **Kingman**: Kingman Town Park.

One park was inventoried in **Stone Bluff**: John Carver Park.

One park was inventoried in **Mellott**: Mellott Park.

One park was inventoried in **Newtown**: Newtown Park.



Natural Features:

Topography:

Generally slopes downward towards the Wabash River and its tributaries. The bedrock includes shale, sandstone, limestone, clay, and coal beds.

Natural Areas and Preserves:

Portland Arch Nature Preserve, Pecan Basin: Cates-Clawson Reserve, Shawnee Bottoms, Snyder Marshall Woods, and Whistler Hare Woods. Natural features in these sites include but are not limited to: access points and frontage along the Wabash River, mature woods, cliffs, prairie land, wetlands and savannas.

Agriculture:

Agriculture is both an important part of economic and social composition. The primary agricultural products from Fountain County are grain and livestock.

Cultural Features:

Heritage Days is a cultural event that takes place in Attica annually.

The d'Arlier Cultural Center in Veedersburg Indiana offers walk through tours and event space.

Potential for Expansion

Updating existing outdated and unsafe play equipment when possible, and switching to more ADA compliant versions when opportune.

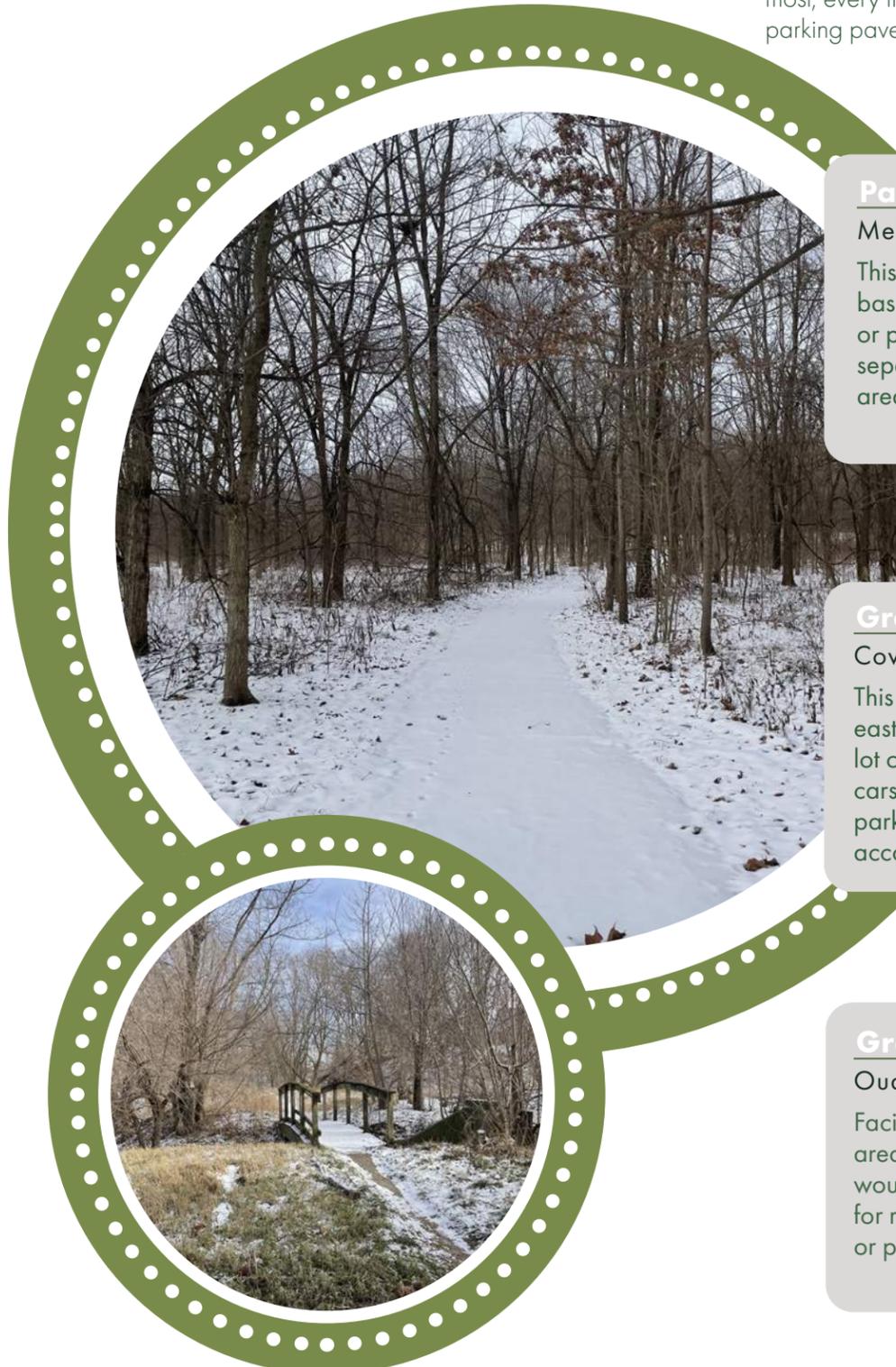
Replacing gravel parking lots and pathways with pavement to become ADA accessible. Maintaining existing paved areas for general upkeep.

Connecting existing trails and parks with new trails and connection points.

Expanding upon existing park and recreational areas within Fountain County.

Gathering community feedback to see what is most wanted/needed within the community.

Creating and maintaining park boards within the communities of Fountain County.



Pedestrian and Vehicular Access and Parking

Certain parks in Fountain county lack adequate parking. Many have no parking at all, with the exception of a few with either gravel or paved lots. Signage for parking is lacking, as well as circulation to and from parking.

Of the asphalt-concrete parking lots that are existing, it is recommended the City seal coat all surface cracks, at the most, every three years for ease of maintenance and to increase the surface's life expectancy. In most cases the existing parking pavement and sub base have significant life remaining before replacement will be required.

Paved Parking Lot

Mellott Park

This paved parking area is also used as a basketball court. There are no parking lines or parking blocks. It is recommended a clear separation is delineated between basketball play area and vehicular area.



Gravel Parking Lot

Covington City Park

This gravel lot provides parking for visitors to the eastern side of Covington City Park. This parking lot can accommodate a reasonable number of cars, however when sporting events take place, parking in the grass is almost always necessary to accommodate the amount of cars.



Grassy Parking Lot

Ouabache Park

Facing the Wabash River is a large grassy parking area. This is adjacent to the paved boat ramp and would be ideal for people who come to the park for river access. There are no lined parking spots or parking blocks.



Land Utilization for Active and Passive Areas

Common to the state of Indiana, the vast majority of the land use within Fountain County is for agriculture and farming. Corn, soy beans, and livestock dominate the type of farming throughout the county. While less common, wooded areas are present. They can be found in close proximity to water bodies like the Wabash River, Sugar Mill Creek, Mill Creek, Coal Creek, and nature Preserves that are covered later in this document. These natural areas would be considered passive and the agriculture land use considered to be active. Major towns and cities that are also considered active would include: Attica, Covington, Veedersburg, Hillsboro, Mellott, Wallace, and Kingman.

Specific to park properties within the county, active use of park space is more common than passive. Sport and recreational facilities within parks in Fountain County include:

- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Soccer fields
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Tennis courts
- Disc golf course
- Play equipment
- Splash pad
- Public pools

While passive park elements are less common within the parks in towns and cities, there are multiple nature preserves throughout Fountain county that are large and provide passive areas for county residents. The parks that are natural and more passive focused are:

- Pecan Basin: Cates Clawson Preserve
- Shawnee Bottoms
- Snyder Marshall Woods
- Whistler Hare Woods
- Portland Arch Nature Preserve
- Portions of Ravine Park

Most of these properties are owned and managed by NICHES Land Trust which has a high focus on native plants and animals, public access to their properties, and long-term stewardship and sustainability of their land. Natural surface facilities are used throughout their land such as trails and parking areas.

Compatible Usage and Alternatives

Any future land acquisition for parks within the county should be considered in relation to their current use and adjacent park uses nearby. For example a community that is rich in natural areas and passive parkland use may want to prioritize a piece of land that is more adept to supporting an actively programmed park, and vice versa. A detailed and widely distributed community survey is included in this report that should be utilized in making park property usage decisions.

There are parks within Fountain county that may be of more benefit to residents if an alternative usage was considered. For example, Ouabache Park in Attica has large expanses of passive lawn area near the Wabash River. As an alternative, it may be considered to use a portion of these open areas to help activate the riverfront and interact with the existing boat launch space.

Similarly, Covington City Park is a highly programmed park, being the only one within the City of Covington. A future expansion of this park may want to prioritize a more natural passive area for residents to utilize. This may come in the form of a nature preserve with walking paths along the adjacent Mallory Branch.

ADA Compatibility

If not already done, it is recommended the county undertake a full Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance review effort. This is to inspect existing facilities, conduct self-evaluation and update plans as needed to continue meeting ADA standards and regulations for all of Fountain County parks and facilities.

During on site assessments for this report, several instances were noted where existing amenities, such as parking lots, sidewalks and playground equipment need review to ensure safety requirements are met.



Ramp onto Play Area

Ravine Park

Leading up to the main play area in Ravine Park, there is a hard plastic ramp. This enables park users to safely get up to the level grade of the play area. These ramps are recommended for all opportune places within the County park system to ensure a more accessible park system overall.



Ramp into Shelter

Ravine Park

Also located in Ravine Park, this ramp provides access into a large shelter on site where there is a large stage and many picnic tables. This ramp is made out of wood at the top, and transitions to metal for the sloped part and its associated hand rails.



Handicap Parking

Ouabache Park

Facing the river, these Handicap Parking spots are precariously close to the river front. It is recommended the addition of paved ADA spots with wheel stops at the front of each spot to ensure more safety overall for Ouabache Park.

Facility and Structure Safety

For this report, facilities, such as restrooms and maintenance buildings were only visually inspected. A facility Condition Assessment for structures was not undertaken.

It is recommended that the County undertake a condition assessment for each of its facilities. The assessment should determine condition, average remaining useful life expectancy, code violations, reason for deficiencies, effect on structure or occupancy with required maintenance and repair works. Additionally, calculation of the costs for each deficient condition utilizing nationally recognized estimating standards should be included.



Covington City Park

Concession Stand

Featuring a shaded area for picnic tables, this small building is currently a concession stand for sporting events.



West Street Park

Bus Stop

This existing metal and glass structure in West Street Park is currently utilized for neighborhood kids to stop and wait for their bus in a covered space.



Sterling Park

Maintenance Shed

This small shed is able to house maintenance equipment and other small items on site for groundskeepers and board members of the park.



Ravine Park

Medium Shelter

Ravine park has a couple of these wooden picnic shelters. They have a concrete base making it easy for patrons to gather and move the picnic tables around as necessary.



Ouabache Park

Bridge

This footbridge is over a small arterial water way leading into the Wabash. It is along a footpath that crosses under the overpass of West Jackson Street.

Greenways, Trails, Blueways and Connections

The largest existing local trail within Fountain County would be Circle Trail in Covington. This trail provides a partial loop around Covington measuring 5.2 miles in length and offering views of farmland, wetlands, and small wooded creeks. Plans are underway for completing Circle Trail around the community. A strong connection to this trail should be considered for any future trails within the City to help strengthen the connectivity in the community.

The Wabash River Greenway is a large regional trail that has been planned to go through Fountain County and would connect to northern neighboring counties of Warren, Tippecanoe, Carrol, and Cass. There are many benefits to supporting this trail running through Fountain County such as a larger regional connectivity, property value increases and encouraging healthier community habits. Key communities along the proposed trail alignment include Attica and Covington. An adoption of the future master plan into local and county comprehensive plans would be a step towards implementation of the asset.

WABASH RIVER GREENWAY

Led by the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, the Wabash River Greenway is a proposed multi-use pathway that would create over 230 miles of greenway corridor routes along both sides of the Wabash River. The Wabash River Greenway brings a new era of purpose and benefit to the river corridor: a unique destination recreation greenway/blueway amenity.



WABASH RIVER BLUEWAY

The Wabash River Blueway Master Plan was completed in conjunction with this report. The Blueway Master Plan analyzes, plans and develops recommendations to activate the Wabash River through the counties of Warren, Fountain, and Vermillion. Recommendations are made for future river access locations and prioritizes connections of assets back to the cities and town within the corridor.



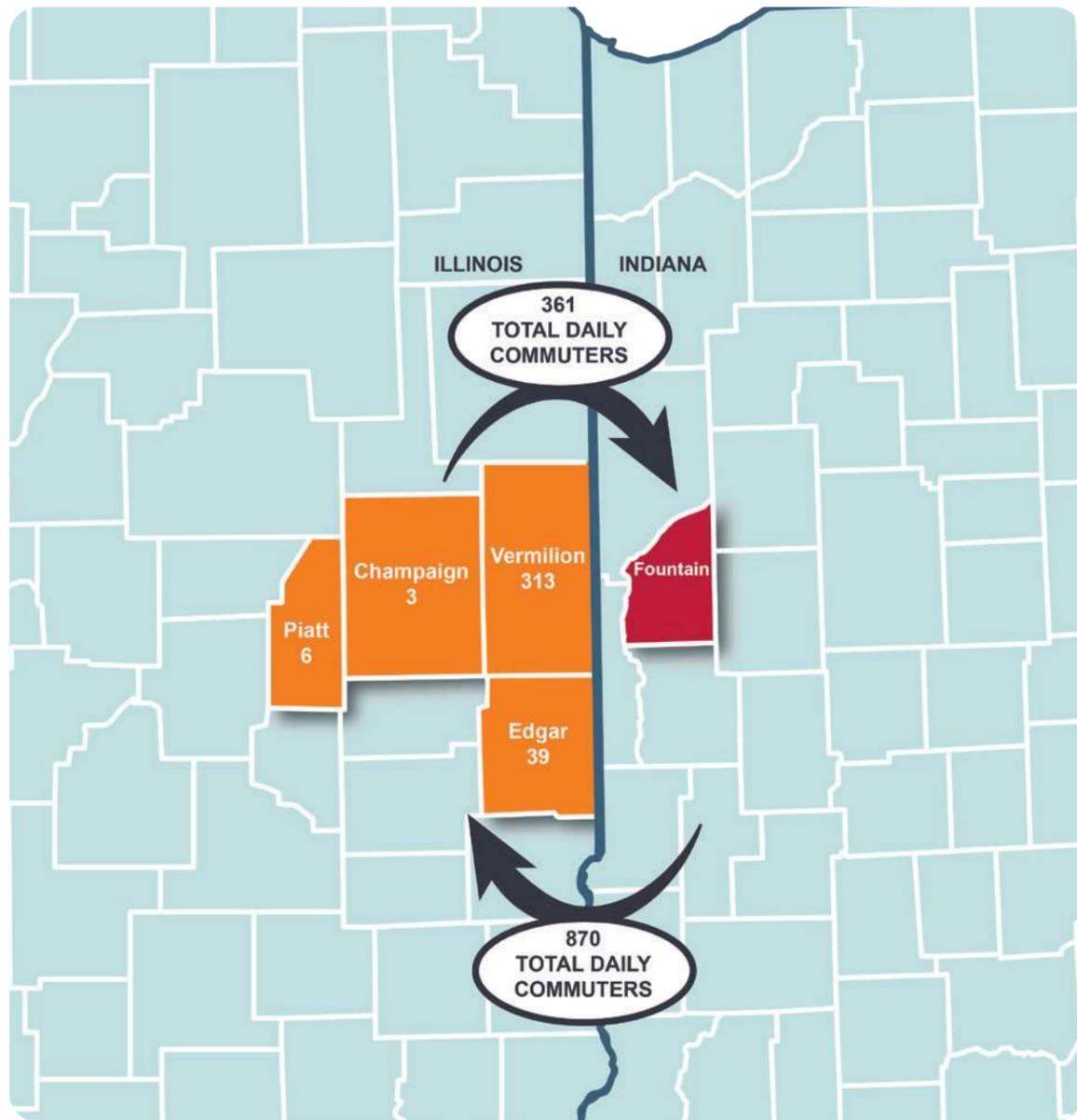
2.0 Demographic Analysis

Results:

As part of this report, a demographic analysis was completed for Fountain County. Top results concluded that the most common household size was a 2-person household and largest age group was those between 45 and 54 years.

Looking at daily commuters into and out of the County, there are on average 361 daily commuters from the Illinois counties of Piatt, Champaign, Vermilion, and Edgar that travel into Fountain County each day. However, there are a total of 870 daily commuters from Fountain County going into Illinois.

This is shown in the graphic below.

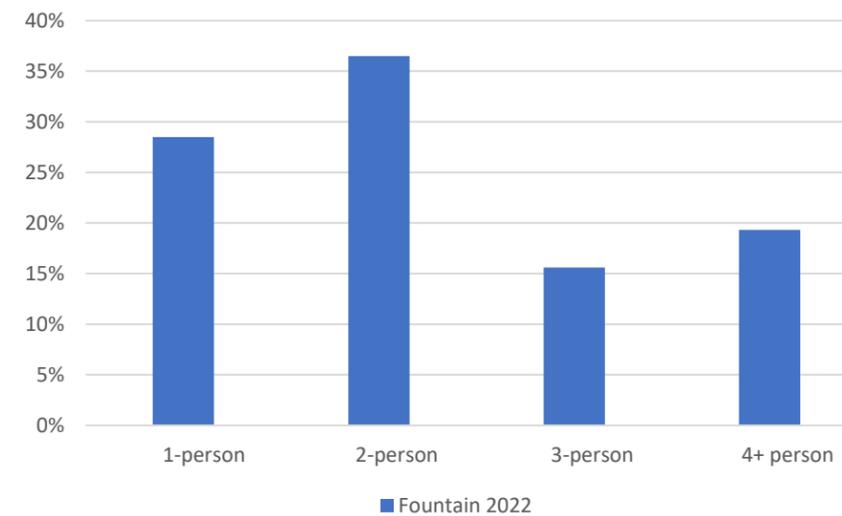


Tapestry:

According to the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) and the USA Demographics and Boundaries from 2023, Fountain County is a Heartland Community. That means the community is mostly semi rural and semi retired. A lot of the children from these households have moved away, and the people who remain live a slower paced life - favoring outdoor activities and community events.

The median age for these communities is 42.3 and the average household size is 2.39. Often these types of communities are concentrated in the Midwest, and their rural economies favor manufacturing, construction, utilities, healthcare, and agriculture.

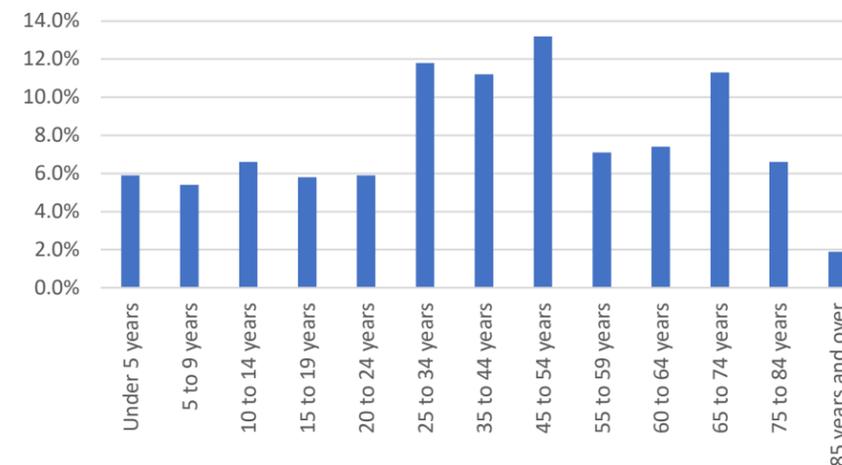
Fountain County Comparison of Households by Size 2022



FEEDBACK

The most common household size in Fountain County is a 2-person household. Followed by 1-person.

Fountain County Comparison of Population by Age 2022



FEEDBACK

45 - 54 years is the most common age of Fountain County residents at over 13%. The second most common is the age range of 25 - 34 year olds with just under 12%.

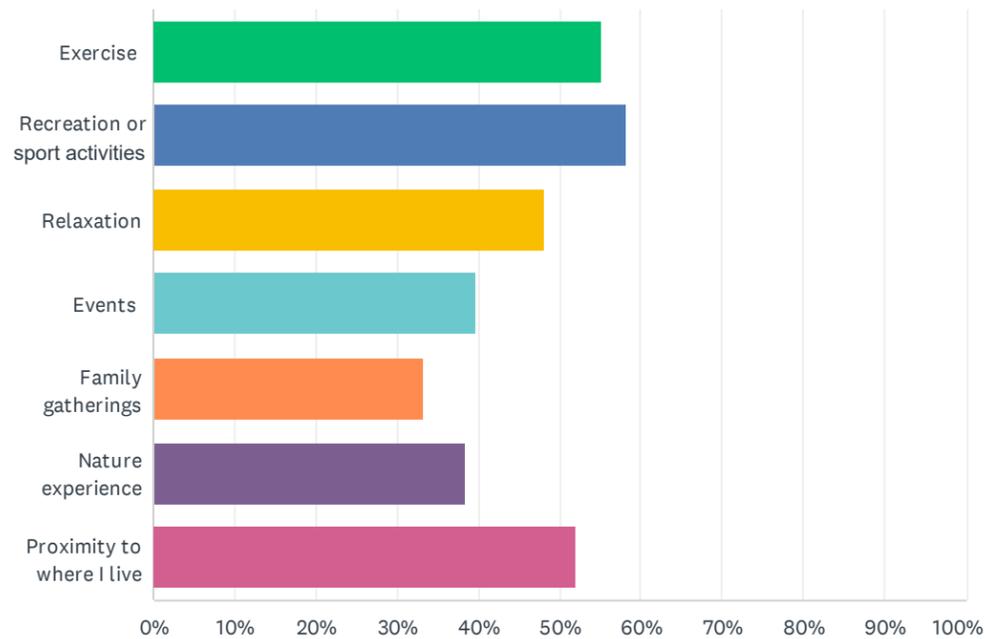
3.1 Community Attitude Survey

Distributed throughout the county via social media and email blasts, the information provided on the following pages should be utilized in setting priorities for park enhancements and updates. Recommendations in this document weighed heavily on the feedback gathered through this community survey.

One of the most positively supported questions of the survey was whether or not there is interest in seeing improvements made to existing community swimming pools. Nearly 90% of respondents affirmed that they would be interested in this. While there are few existing public swimming pool within the county, they do present the opportunity to be improved. Similarly, there was wide support for the implementation of a new splash pad within the county.

Athletic facilities that people would like to see investments made in the most included (in order): swimming, baseball, basketball and pickleball. In order to support these investments and maintenance, over 60% of respondents noted that they would support a parks tax increase.

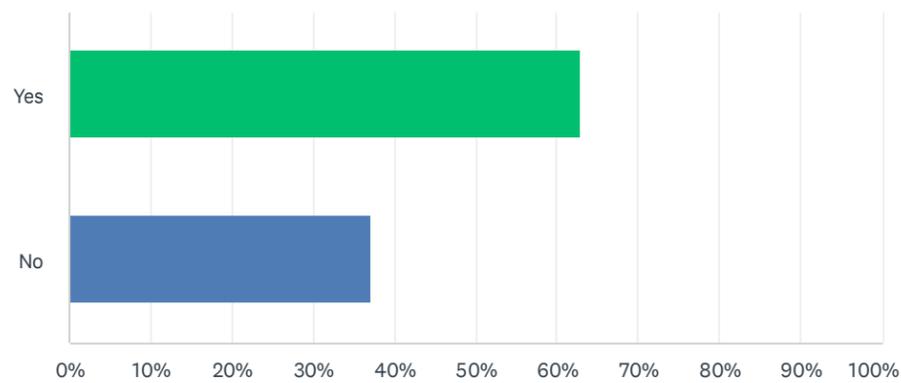
Please select all the reasons why you visited a park in the last year. (Select all that apply)



FEEDBACK

 The top reasons residents choose to visit parks are: recreation or sports activities, exercise, and proximity to where they live.

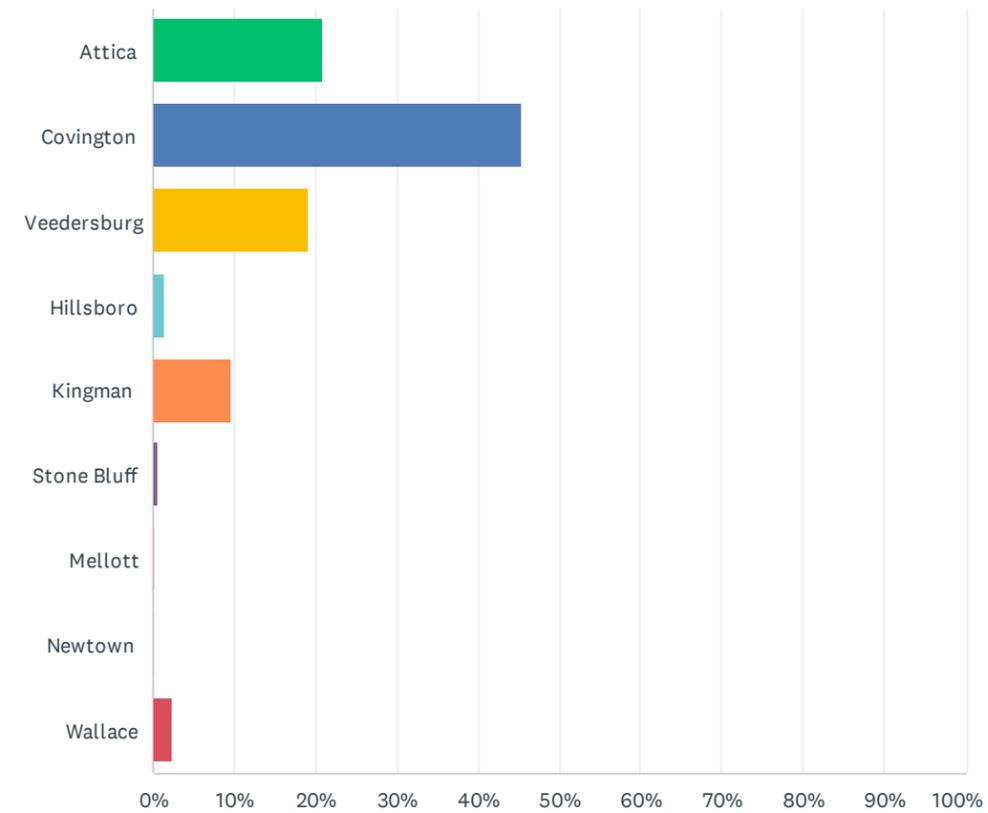
Would you support a parks taxing increase to fund park improvements, park land acquisition, and park maintenance?



FEEDBACK

 Over 60% of respondents said they would support a taxing increase.

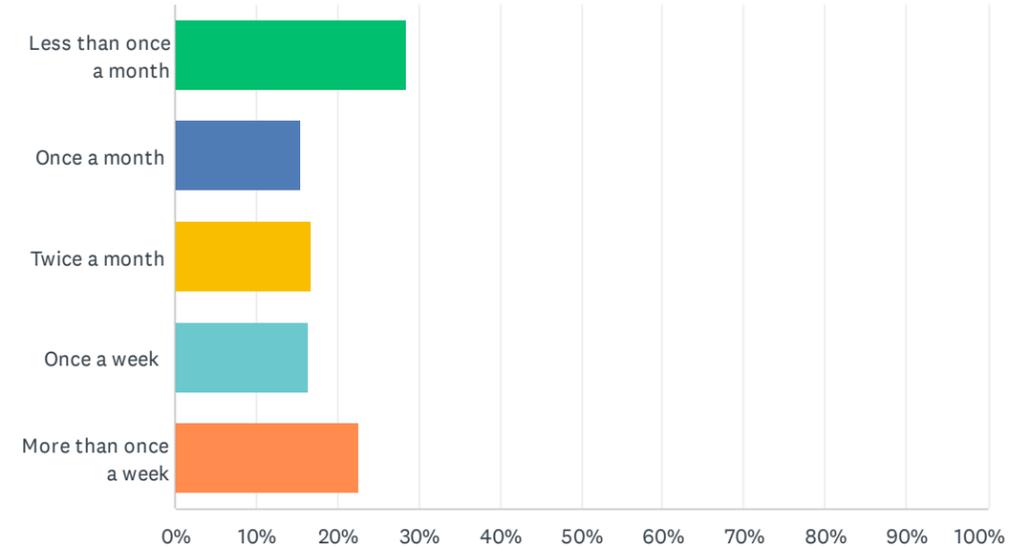
In which community are the parks you visited in the last year located?



FEEDBACK

 Covington by far has the most visited parks by county residents. Followed by both Attica and Veedersburg. Communities least visited for parks are Stone Bluff, Mellott, and Newtown.

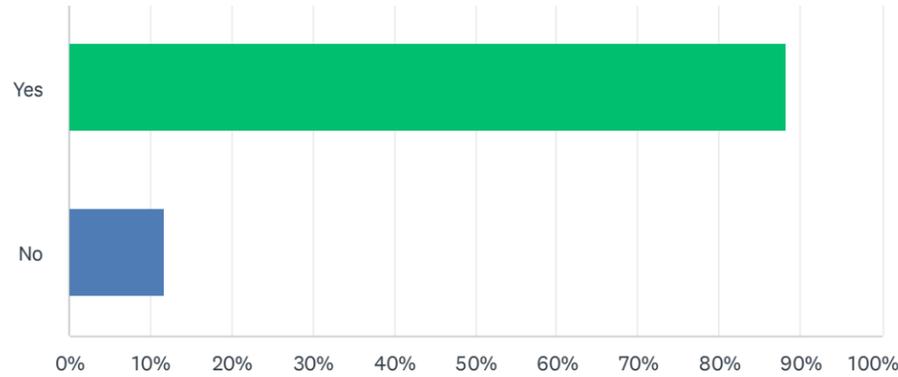
How often have you visited a park in the last year?



FEEDBACK

 The majority of respondents fall onto either side of the spectrum. Most people either visit a park frequently, or not at all.

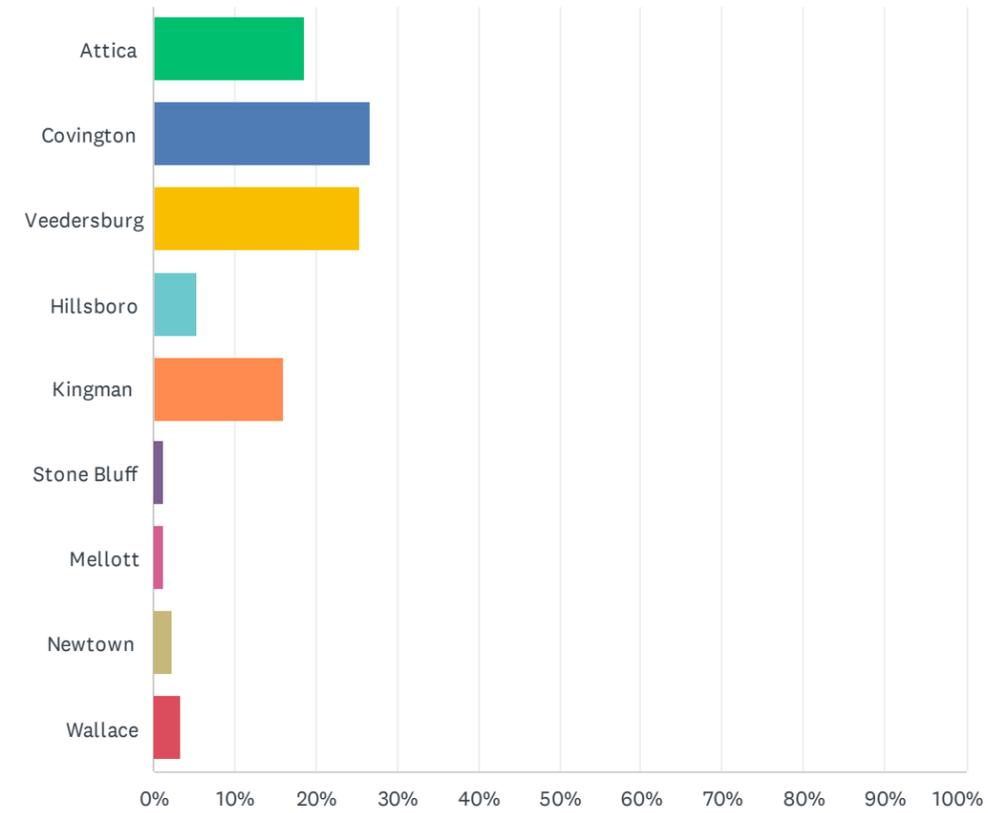
Would you be interested in seeing improvements made to existing public swimming pools in Fountain County?



FEEDBACK

Nearly 90% said they would like to see pool improvements.

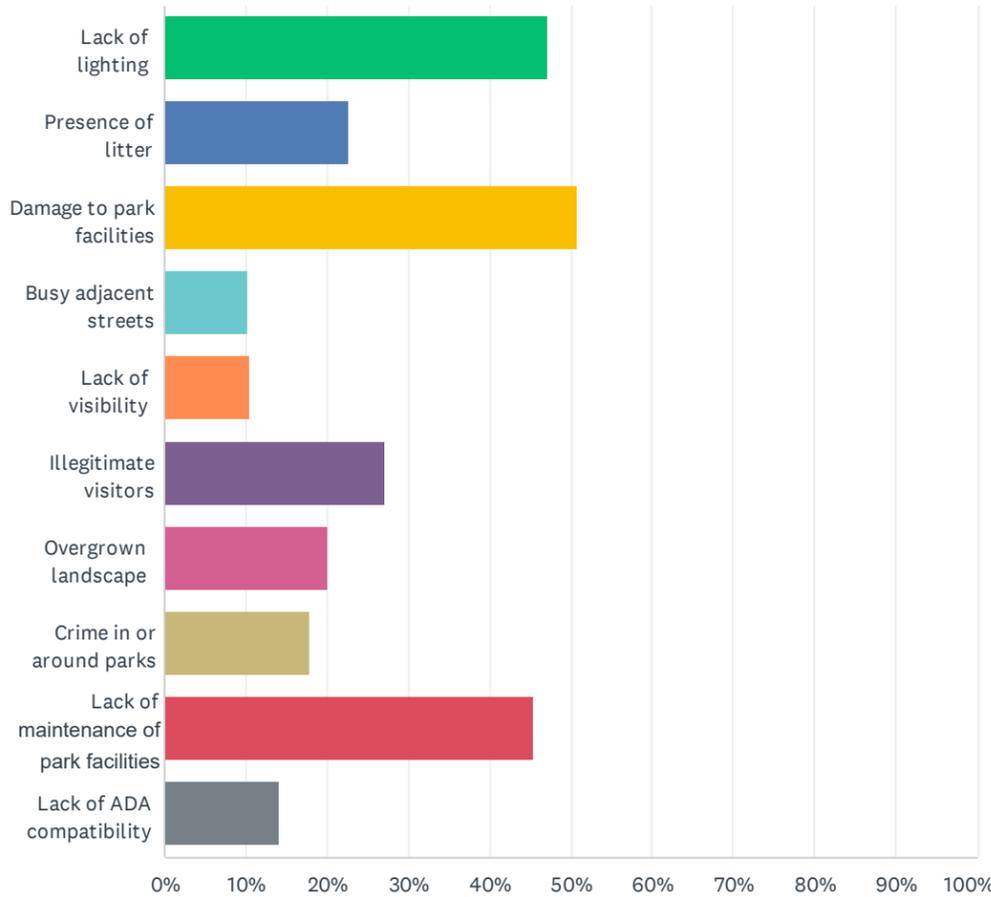
Which communities within Fountain County could use more park space?



FEEDBACK

Responses show that communities that could most use additional park space are Covington, Veedersburg, Attica and Kingman.

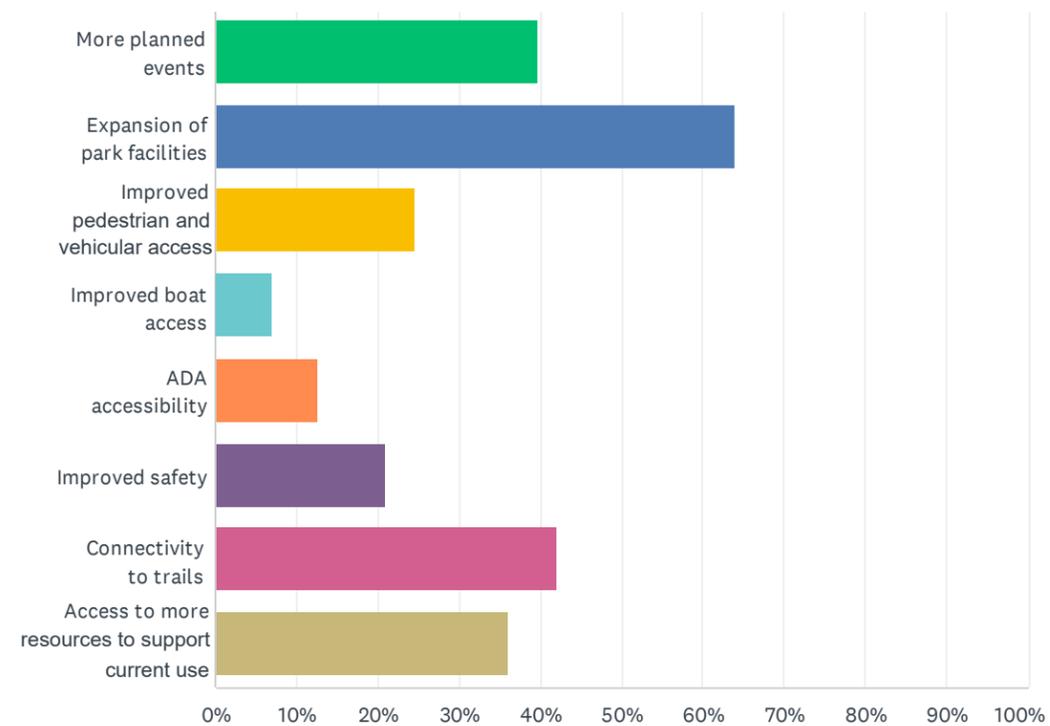
As a park user, what concerns you the most about safety? (Select all that apply)



FEEDBACK

Biggest safety concerns include: damage to park facilities, lack of lighting, and lack of maintenance of park facilities. Other notable concerns were presence of litter and illegitimate visitors.

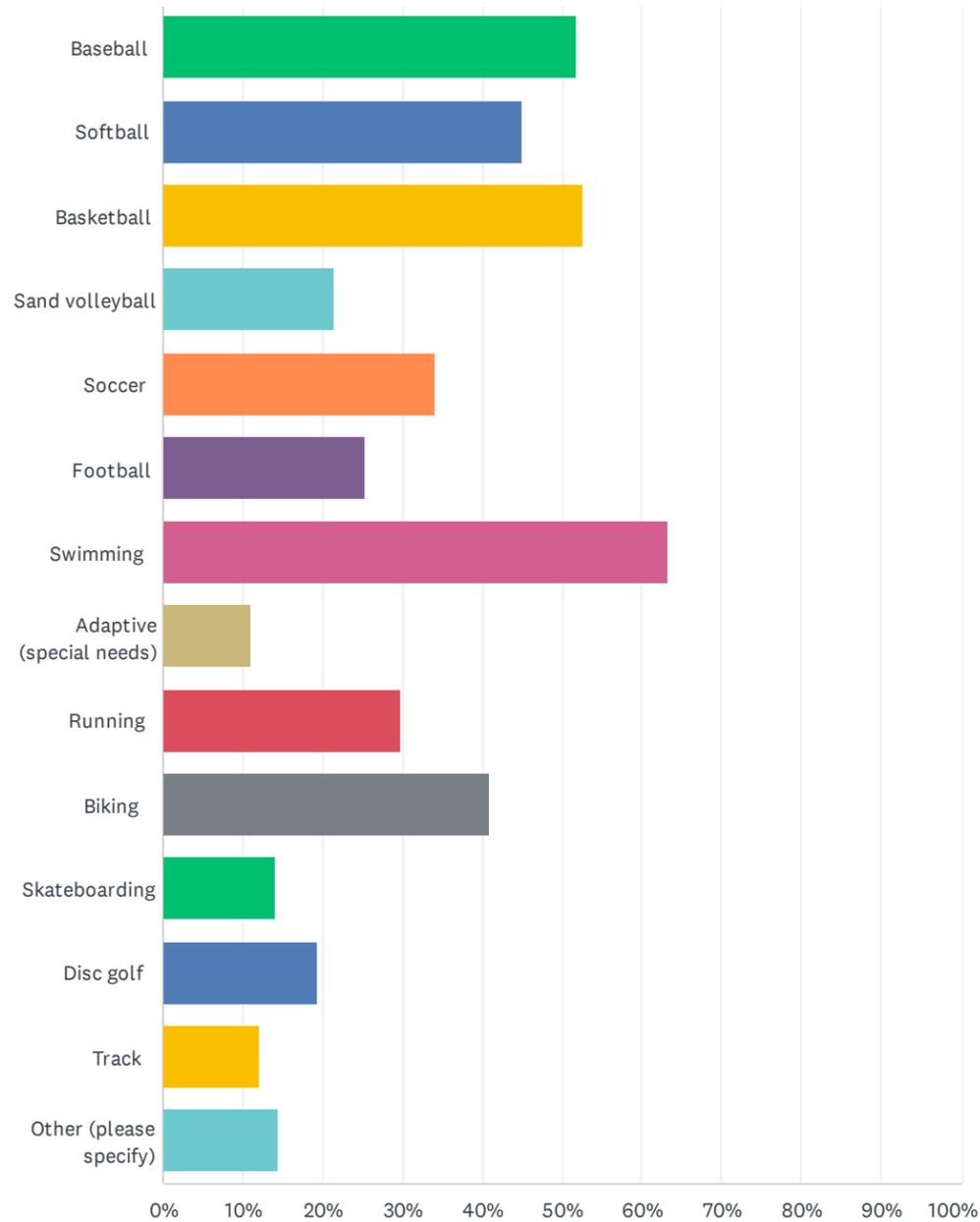
What new facilities/improvements would you like to see? (Select all that apply)



FEEDBACK

Top facilities and improvements that residents would like to see are: expansion of park facilities, connectivity to trails, and more planned events.

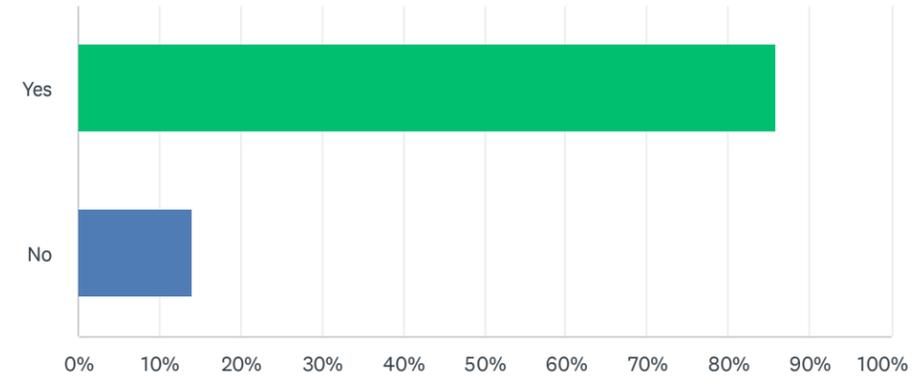
What type of athletic facilities does your household have interest in? (Select all that apply)



FEEDBACK

 The most common athletic facilities that Fountain County households have interest in include: swimming, basketball, baseball/softball, and biking. Other favored responses include: soccer, running, and football.

Would you be interested in the installation of a children's splash pad in Fountain County Parks?



FEEDBACK

 Over 85% of respondents voted yes in favor of a splash pad.

3.2 Committee Evaluation

Veedersburg Revitalization Association, Inc. (VRA):

A volunteer led organization that focuses on improving the cultural life and economic environment of Veedersburg. VRA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that often collaborates with the Veedersburg Town Council and Veedersburg Redevelopment Commission.

Covington Girls Softball League:

Minor, Middle, Major and Pee Wee Leagues all take place at Covington City Park utilizing the 4 fields and 6 batting cages on site. Different tournaments that take place here include the Spring Swing, Midwest Showdown, and the Summer Swarm.

Covington Youth Soccer League:

Including four different age divisions (U5, U8, U11 and U15) this league runs August through October and has been happening within the community for over 40 years.

Attica Parks Board:

This park board maintains the existing Attica parks and creates goals to identify future needs and wants of the surrounding community members. They are very involved in the current maintenance of the parks.

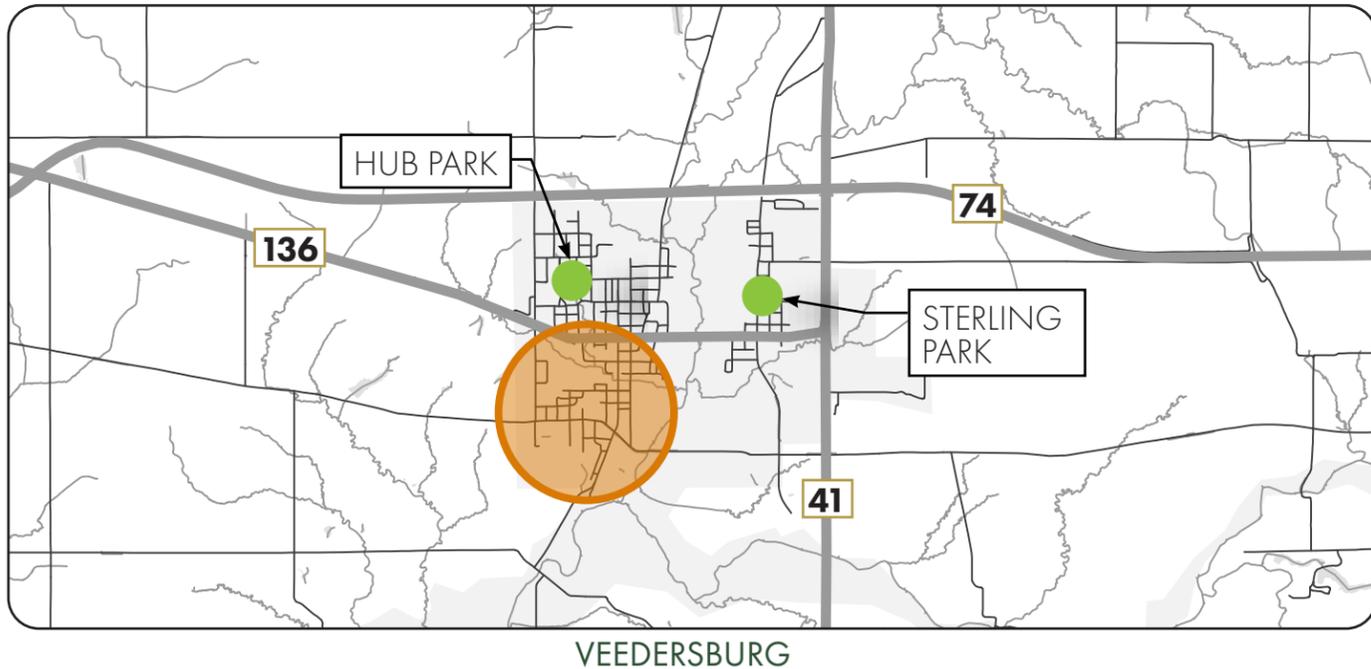
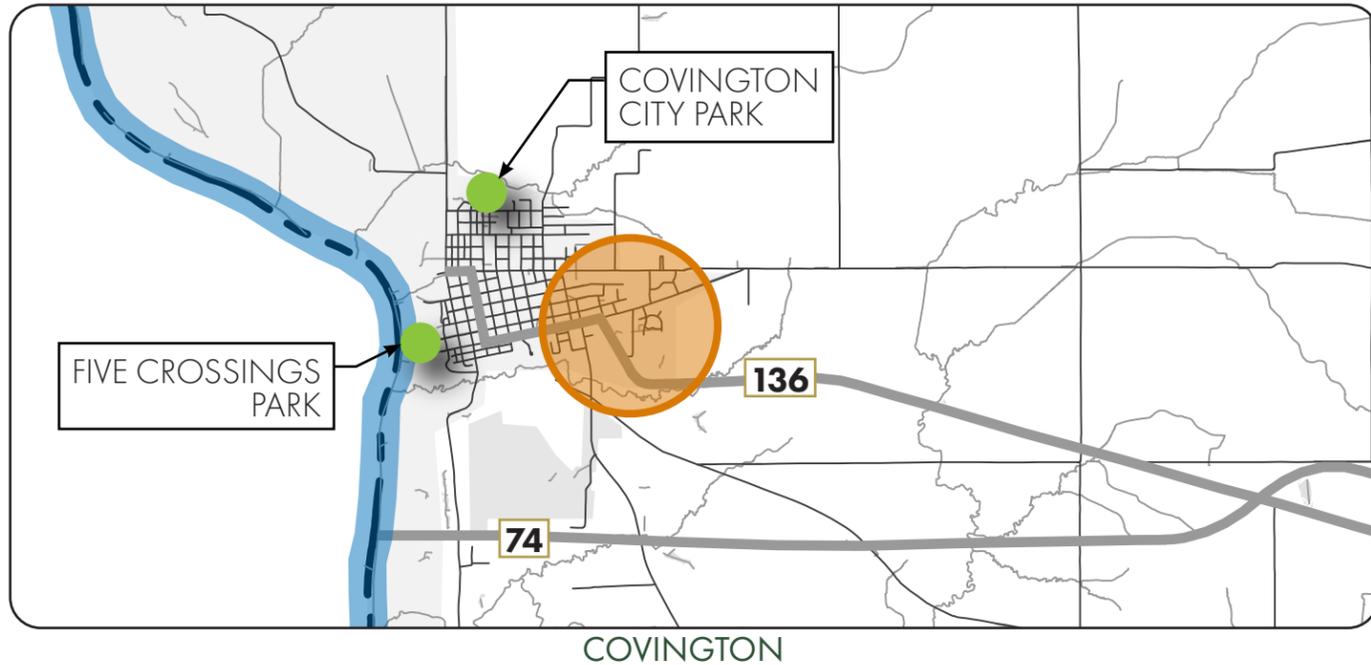
Veedersburg Park Board:

Formation of board ongoing.



3.3 Parks and Land Acquisition

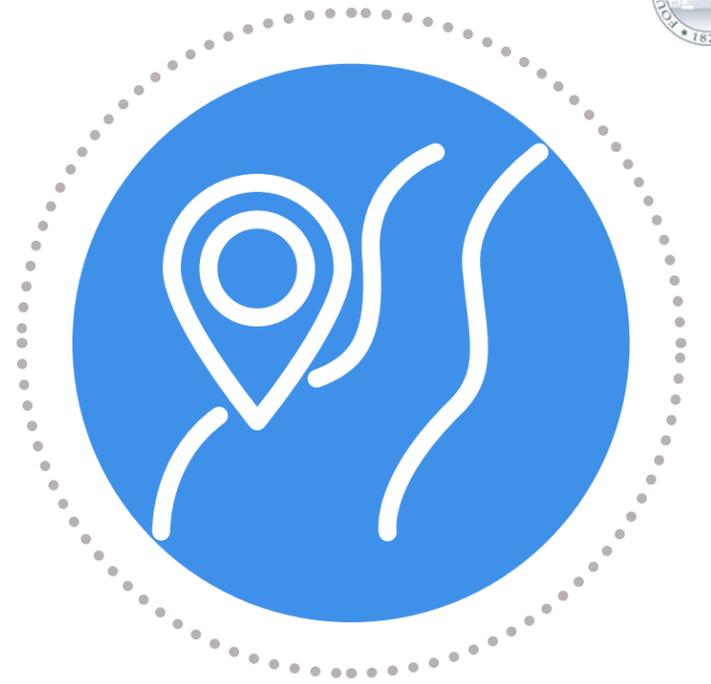
There are a couple areas under consideration for Parks and Land Acquisition. These areas were discussed with Stakeholders and other community leaders. Those potential areas are highlighted in orange below.



3.4 Blueway Evaluation

Four existing parks inventoried have the Wabash River running along or through the property. Those are Ouabache Park, Five Crossings Park, Pecan Basin: Cates-Clawson Reserve, and Shawnee Bottoms. Two of those parks, Ouabache and Five Crossings, have river front access.

Ouabache Park, located in Attica, has a paved boat ramp and small camping area. Five Crossings Park, located in Covington, has a paved boat ramp and large gravel parking lot. Pecan Basin: Cates-Clawson Reserve and Shawnee Bottoms are both Niches Land Trust properties. Pecan Basin: Cates-Clawson Reserve has 3/8 mile river frontage, but no access. Shawnee Bottoms has over a mile of river running through its property, but no access as well.



WABASH RIVER BLUEWAY MASTER PLAN 2024

This report was created in conjunction with the 2024 Wabash River Blueway Master Plan. This report discusses the future of blueway opportunities within Fountain County.

Three main takeaways from this report include:

- *Benefits of Blueways*
- *Evaluation of Existing Launch Sites*
- *Potential Programming and Activation*

3.5 Programming Evaluation

Existing Programming

There are several third parties who utilize Fountain County public park space.

Attica Heritage Days takes place annually in McDonald Park and downtown Attica.

Covington 5K walk/run happens annually every summer in Covington City Park.

Twilight Music Series takes place in McDonald Park and features local musical artists.

Magical Christmas in the Park is hosted at Covington City Park each night from the end of November into January.

Covington **4th of July Celebration** takes place annually and has been happening for over 60 years.

Movies in the Park

Programming Opportunity 1

Can be done by renting a large portable screen or using the side of a blank wall of a nearby public building. Movie nights can be fun for all to enjoy.



Family Fitness Classes

Programming Opportunity 2

Parks are great places for yoga or zumba classes to take place. If enough interest is gathered, regular classes could be scheduled.



Food Truck Festival

Programming Opportunity 3

Easy to get community members involved, food truck festivals highlight local cuisine and create opportunities for people to try new, exciting foods.



3.6 Budget Analysis

Budgets for Parks and Recreation services within the county focus mostly on maintenance aspects. Specifically, Covington City Park and the Covington Circle Trail utilize seasonally hired staff members for the management of restroom facilities, regular mowing, and park security throughout the warmer months. These employees are paid hourly for the work they do. Outside of Covington, other communities within the county do not hire seasonal staff, rather the park maintenance duties are shared amongst existing city employees.

Capital improvements for parks are funded almost exclusively through grant funding. Local grant programs that should be investigated for future opportunities include:

- **Indiana Trails Program (ITP)** – A matching grant assistance program administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor Recreation that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multiuse recreational trail projects.
- **Land & Water Conservation Fund** – A matching assistance program administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor Recreation that provides grants for 50% of the cost for the acquisition or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities.
- **National Endowment of the Arts** – This is the National Endowment for the Arts' creative placemaking grants program. These grants support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes.

4.0 Inventory & Analysis

Types of parks found within Fountain County include:

Pocket Parks:

Usually less than 0.3 acre, but sometimes up to 3 acres, these small parks are often surrounded by commercial buildings or houses. They typically serve as small event spaces, play areas, and a place for relaxation and socialization. Pocket Parks offer minimal amenities and they are not designed to have programmed spaces. They encourage usage from community members who are within walking distance from the park. Standardly very limited to no designated parking.

Neighborhood Parks:

Typically between 3-15 acres in size, neighborhood parks are either determined by size or by facilities offered. By having limited parking, 5-10 spots, and a .5 mile service radius, neighborhood parks encourage walkable communities and have a shorter length of stay: one hour or less. Neighborhood parks usually have one signature amenity such as a playground or gazebo, no restrooms, a non-programmed sports field with loop trails, non-reservable shelters, and benches. There are no revenue facilities for these types of parks, with the landscape designed just to enhance the park experience. There is just enough signage at neighborhood parks to enhance user experience and provide directional signage and facility/amenity regulations. Lighting tends to just be for security purposes, with the names of neighborhood parks usually consisting with the towns ordinances. The safety design should meet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety standards.

Community Parks:

Community parks usually reside within the 15-40 acre range, but can reach up to 100 acres. These parks have a 2-5 mile service radius and serve the local community. Intended to be accessible to more than one neighborhood, these parks focus on community-based recreational needs. Community parks generally contain a minimum of four multi-use fields, parking areas, restrooms and water fountains. They are regularly found adjacent to schools, trail systems or other parks. With the average length of stay between 2-3 hours, there are about four signature amenities minimum found at community parks. These amenities can include but are not limited to: trails, sports fields, playgrounds, off-leash areas, rec centers, aquatic centers, or water features. They also include restrooms, large numbers of parking spaces and security lighting. Signage at community parks should be directional and facility/amenity based to enhance user experience. Names for these parks should be consistent with the towns naming right ordinance or named after a prominent person, event, or landmark. The safety design should meet CPTED safety standards.

Regional Parks:

Differing from other park types, regional parks are often mostly passive in their intended activities; such as: camping, boating or nature preserves. Regional parks are traditionally located in areas where they can preserve natural resources such as streams, wetlands and historical features. Because of the large scale, length of stay is intended to be all day. Regional parks commonly have about 10-12 amenities, restrooms, concessions/restaurants, ample parking and special event sites. There may also be sport fields and sport complexes located within regional parks.

There should be a considerable amount of parking provided, especially if there are event spaces within the park. There should be both amenity lighting and security lighting on a dual system. Signage at regional parks should be able to enhance the users experience by providing direction and facility/amenity regulations. The naming of these parks should be consistent with the towns naming ordinance, or after a prominent historical person, event or landmark. The safety design should meet CPTED safety standards.

Open Space/Natural Area:

These are undeveloped areas, but may include natural or paved trail systems. They often are managed in a way to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, or endangered species. They may have interpretive kiosks, wildlife viewing areas, or educational facilities. They will typically have no on site lighting and a demand-based maintenance with available funding.



Attica:
RAVINE PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 1.5 Mile Nature Trail**
Including 5 pedestrian bridges
- 2 Play Equipment**
Including new ADA inclusive equipment
- 3 Disc Golf Course**
9 holes
- 4 Large Shelter**
Including 11 tables and 2 grills
- 5 Parking**
Gravel and paved

INFO

Size: 90 acres
 Classification: Community Park
 Location: Kenneth Freed Park Dr, Attica, IN 47918

RAVINE PARK

The large wooden area on the west end of the park includes a 1.5 mile nature trail and a stream. The middle ~30 acres of the park contain shelters, picnic tables and playground equipment.



Attica:
RAVINE PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Trail	1.5 mi	Gravel; recommended erosion concerns be addressed
Play Equipment	21	Wide range of new and old equipment; updating older play equipment recommended
9 Hole Disc Golf Course	1	Good condition; additional signage recommended
Large Shelter	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Small Shelter	2	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Signage	-	Stone entrance signage, trail signage
Raised Garden beds	6	Good condition; additional signage recommended
Basketball Court	1/2	Restoration recommended
Picnic Tables	11	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
BBQ Grill	2	Located by shelters, additional BBQ grills recommended
Pool	1	Major repairs needed
Bike Rack	1	Located near pool; routine maintenance recommended
Bench	10	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Parking	-	Paving current gravel lots recommended
Foot Bridges	9	Recommended erosion concerns be addressed

4.1 Attica

Attica: RAVINE PARK



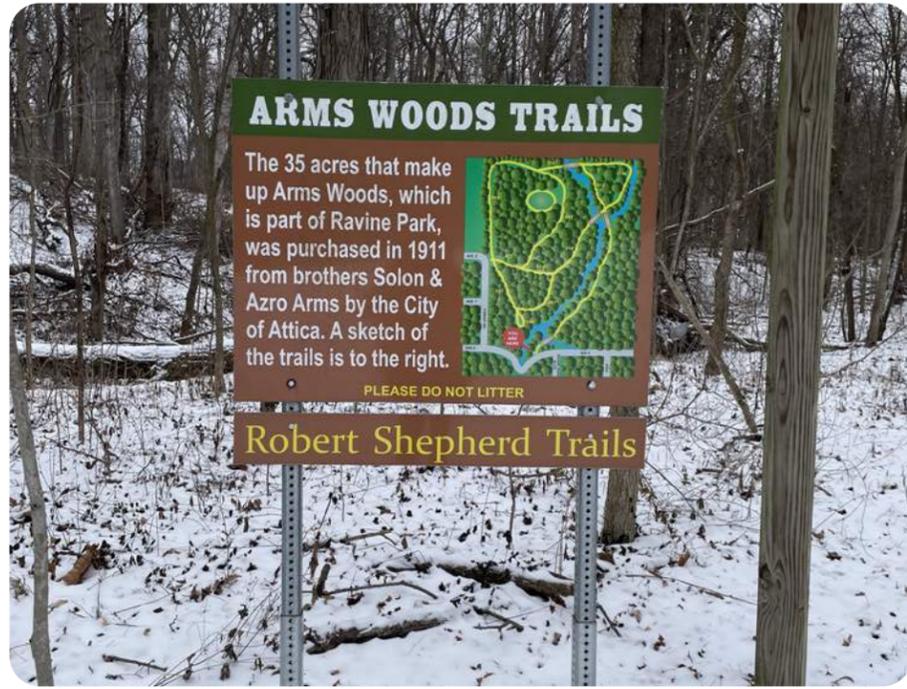
Play Equipment



Disc Golf



Play equipment



Trail signage

4.1 Attica

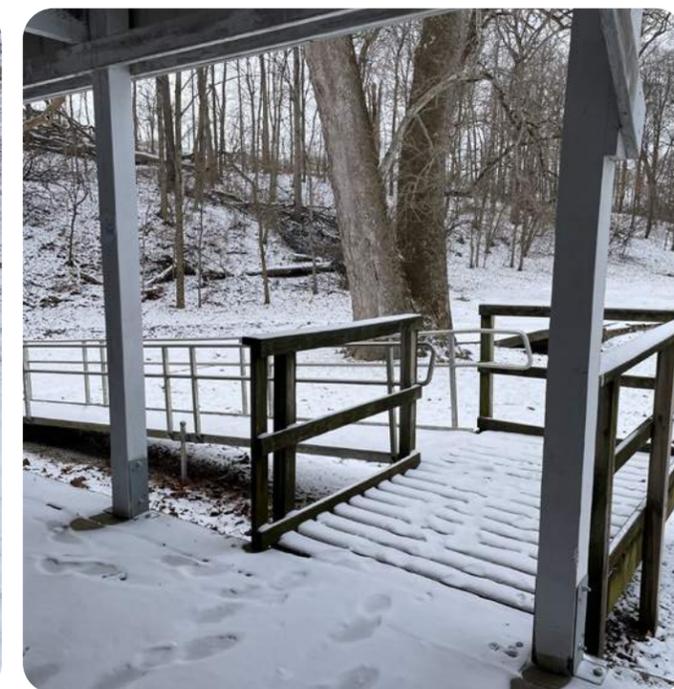
Attica: RAVINE PARK



Wooden shelter with picnic tables



Community involvement project



Ramp to main shelter

4.1 Attica

Attica: RILEY PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Two Soccer Fields**
One large and one smaller field
- 2 Ice Machine**
Home City Ice
- 3 Picnic Tables**
2 picnic tables located near wooded area

INFO

Size: 3.5 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: 814 E Summit St, Attica, IN 47918

RILEY PARK

Featuring two soccer fields, this neighborhood park is located within the residential streets of north east Attica. It features two full soccer fields, and is just north of Ravine community park.



4.1 Attica

Attica: RILEY PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Soccer Field	2	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Tables	2	Shaded location; routine maintenance recommended
Signage	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended



Ice machine



Soccer goal



Picnic table



Park signage



Two soccer fields



View towards wooded area



Attica:
WEST STREET PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Play Equipment**
Swings, merry-go-round, and slide structure
- 2 Small Shelter**
Includes two picnic tables and trash can
- 3 Water Fountain**
Includes water spout
- 4 Bus Stop**
Glass enclosed and covered, bench inside
- 5 Climbing Wall**
Three panels, double sided

INFO

Size: 0.5 acres
 Classification: Pocket Park
 Location: 402 West St, Attica, IN 47918

WEST STREET PARK

Also known as Ben & Mary Bowles Park, this pocket park contains play equipment, a water fountain, and a small shelter with picnic tables and trash.



3



Attica:
WEST STREET PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Play Equipment	5	Some swings may need repairs
Small Shelter	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Water Fountain	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Bus Stop	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Tables	2	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Park Signage	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended



Park signage



Climbing wall



Shelter with seating



Shelter with picnic tables



Play equipment



Attica:
TRIANGLE PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Basketball Court**
Half basketball court
- 2 Park Bench**
Overlooking half basketball court
- 3 Picnic Table**
Located under a large shade tree

INFO

Size: 0.5 acres
 Classification: Pocket Park
 Location: 700 North St, Attica, IN 47918

TRIANGLE PARK

This small park contains a half basketball court, picnic table, and park bench. It is located in northern Attica and is triangular in shape, as its name entails.



Attica:
TRIANGLE PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Basketball Court	1/2	Half court; routine maintenance recommended
Bench	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Table	1	Fine condition; routine maintenance recommended
Park Signage	1	Small; larger signage recommended



Basketball hoop



Park seating



Overall view of park



Picnic table



Signage

4.1 Attica



Attica: OUABACHE PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

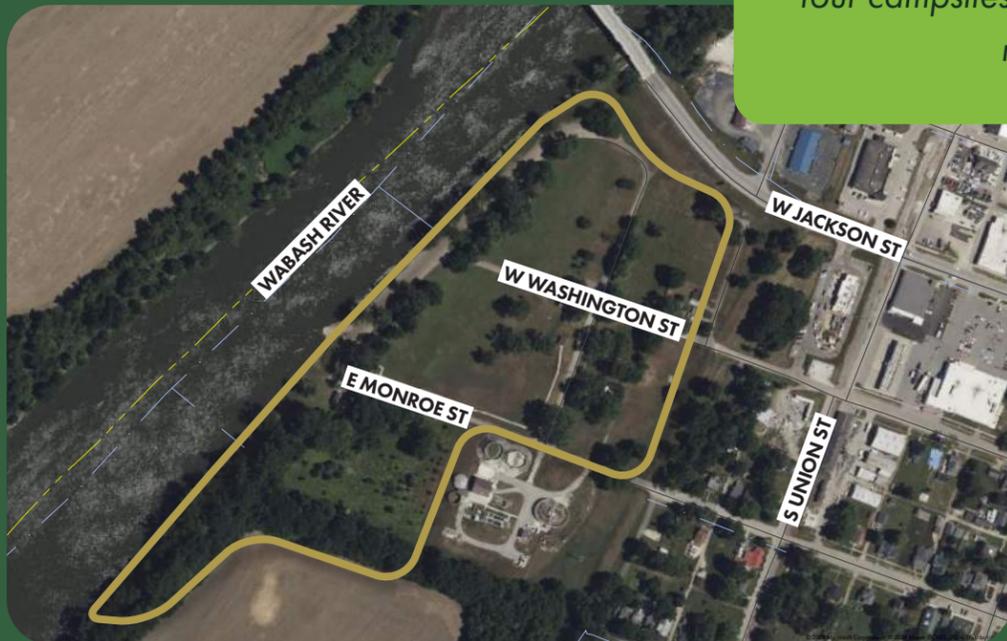
- 1 Paved Boat Ramp**
DNR public access to the Wabash River
- 2 Small Shelter**
Includes two picnic tables
- 3 Four Tent Campsites**
With picnic table, trash can and fire pit
- 4 Restrooms**
Handicap accessible
- 5 Wildlife Sanctuary**
Located next to camping area

INFO

Size: 22.5 acres
 Classification: Regional Park
 Location: W Washington St, Attica, IN 47918

OUABACHE PARK

With blueway access, this park borders the Wabash River, providing four campsites and a paved boat ramp.



4.1 Attica



Attica: OUABACHE PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Restroom Building	1	Fine condition; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Tables	5	Two tables ADA accessible; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Shelter	1	ADA accessible; routine maintenance recommended
Fire Rings	5	Good; routine maintenance recommended
Campground	1	4 tent campsites; routine maintenance recommended
Paved Boat Ramp	1	Handicap pad in poor condition; renovations recommended



Walk towards overpass



Large shelter with signage



Ramp into water



View under overpass



Picnic benches with fire pits



Attica:
HAPPY WALTER FIELD

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Concession Stand**
With mural facing the street
- 2 Grandstands**
Surrounding championship field
- 3 Three Baseball and Softball Diamonds**
With one championship field
- 4 Basketball Hoop**
Half basketball court
- 5 Shelter**
With three picnic tables

INFO

Size: 9 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: 1200 Perry St, Attica, IN 47918

HAPPY WALTER FIELD

Owned by the Harrison Steel Castings Company, this neighborhood park provides the community with three ball fields as well as a half basketball court.



Attica:
HAPPY WALTER FIELD

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Baseball Fields	4	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Bleachers	4	Good condition, non accessible; ADA accessible updates recommended
Dugouts	8	Good condition, non accessible; ADA accessible updates recommended
Shelter	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Tables	3	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Basketball Court	1/2	Half court; routine maintenance recommended



Raised seating



Welcome mural



Field scoreboard



Dugout



Shelter with picnic tables



Attica:
CIRCLE PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Basketball Hoop**
Half court
- 2 Playground Equipment**
Includes merry-go-round and swings
- 3 Bench**
Facing play equipment

INFO

Size: 0.6 acres
 Classification: Pocket Park
 Location: David Dr, Attica, IN 47918

CIRCLE PARK

This small park is located within a circle of houses along Ruby Road and David Drive. This park contains a half basketball court and limited playground equipment.



Attica:
CIRCLE PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Playground Equipment	2	Non accessible; ADA accessible updates recommended
Basketball Court	1/2	Half court; routine maintenance recommended
Bench	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended



Play equipment



Park seating



Basketball hoop



Merry-go-round



Basketball court



Attica:
MCDONALD PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Basketball Court**
Colored concrete pad
- 2 Two Tennis Courts**
Lighted
- 3 Bandstand**
String lights attached
- 4 Playground Equipment**
Including monkey bars, swings, merry-go-round, teeter totter, and more
- 5 Public Art**
Sponsored by Bob and Melinda Shepherd

INFO

Size: 1.5 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: 199 S Council St, Attica, IN 47918

MCDONALD PARK

Located in the center of Attica, this park features a full basketball court, raised bandstand, public art, and ample playground equipment.



Attica:
MCDONALD PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Non accessible; ADA accessible updates recommended
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	2	Non accessible, lighted; ADA accessible updates recommended
Picnic Table	1	Fair condition; routine maintenance recommended
Bandstand	1	Non accessible; ADA accessible updates recommended
Playground Equipment	11	New and older equipment mixed; replace outdated equipment recommended
Drinking Fountain	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Bench	4	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended



Picnic table with BBQ grill



Play equipment



Picnic table



Raised shelter



Tennis courts

4.2 Covington



Covington: COVINGTON CITY PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Covington City Pool**
Aquacise classes and lap swim available for small fee
- 2 Covington Girls Softball League**
Major, Middle, Minor, and Pee Wee leagues
- 3 Covington Youth Baseball League**
Pony, Major, Minor, Pee Wee, and Teeball leagues
- 4 Public Disc Golf Course**
9 hole course
- 5 Destination Playground**
Large playground and splash pad

INFO

Size: 35 acres
 Classification: Community Park
 Location: 1 City Park Dr, Covington, IN 47932

COVINGTON CITY PARK

This community park is home to historical features, a city pool, softball league, tennis and basketball courts, sand volleyball, disc golf course, large destination playground and more.



4.2 Covington



Covington: COVINGTON CITY PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Sand Volleyball	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Destination Playground	-	Including splash pad, good condition
Large shelter	1	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Public Pool	2	Swimming pool and toddler pool, good condition
Tennis courts	2	Great condition, pickleball capabilities
Basketball Courts	2	Newly resurfaced
Aquatic Locker Room	1	With restrooms; routine maintenance recommended
Concession Stand	2	One softball one baseball; routine maintenance recommended
Stage	1	Covered performance stage (under construction)
Covington Circle Trail	5.2 mi	Paved; routine maintenance recommended
Soccer Fields	4	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Ball Fields	5	Three baseball, two softball; routine maintenance recommended
Batting cages	6	Located by ball fields; routine maintenance recommended
Restroom Building	3	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Shelters	6	Good condition; routine maintenance recommended
Disc Golf	1	9 holes, additional signage recommended
Log Cabin	1	Historic; routine maintenance recommended

4.2 Covington



Covington: COVINGTON CITY PARK



Ball field



Dugout



Covington City Pool



Concession Stands



Batting cages

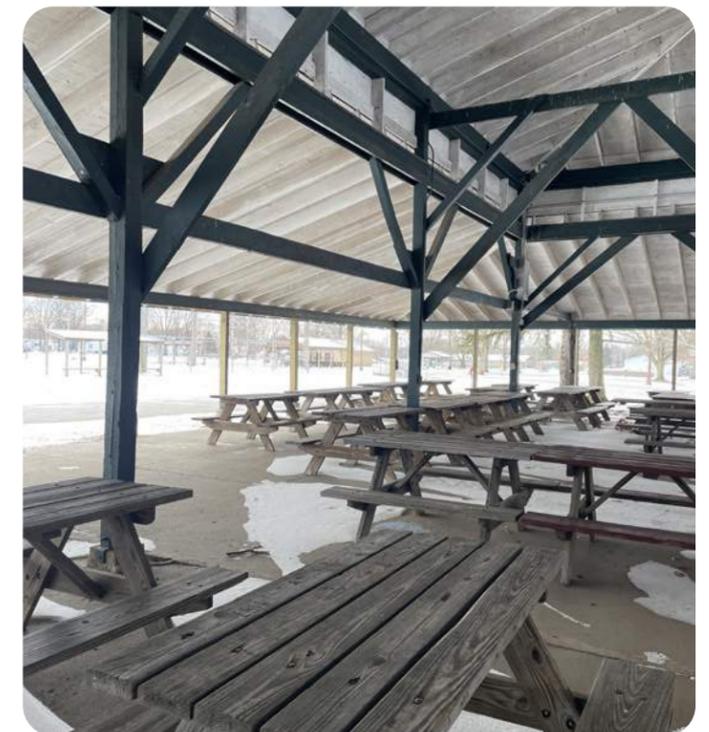
4.2 Covington



Covington: COVINGTON CITY PARK



Sand volleyball



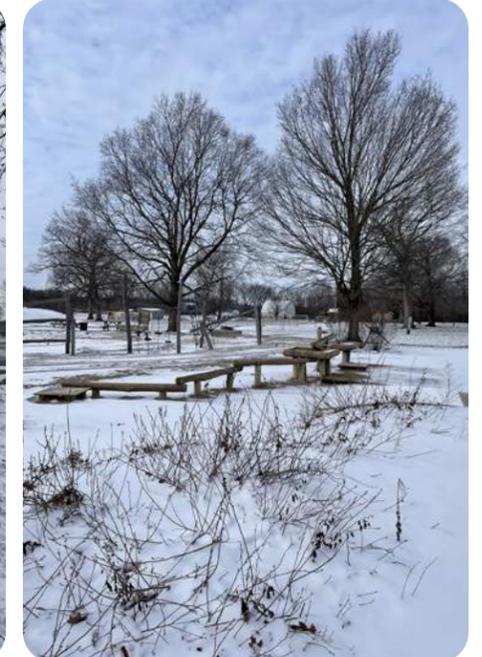
Large shelter with picnic tables



Wooden play structure



Tennis courts



Water play

4.2 Covington



Covington: FIVE CROSSINGS PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Paved Boat Ramp**
Access into Wabash River
- 2 **Parking**
Large gravel parking lot
- 3 **Water Access**
Park located directly on Wabash River
- 4 **Scenic Views**
Picturesque views of Wabash River

INFO

Size: 22.7 acres
 Classification: Natural Area
 Location: Washington St, Covington, IN
 47932

FIVE CROSSINGS PARK

With waterfront access, this park features a paved boat ramp, scenic views, and a gravel parking lot.



10



4.2 Covington



Covington: FIVE CROSSINGS PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Boat Ramp	1	Paved; routine maintenance recommended
Parking Lot	1	Gravel; addition of paved ADA parking spots recommended



Ramp to water



Signage



Parking lot



Gravel road



View of water

4.3 Veedersburg



Veedersburg: STERLING PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Ball Field**
Baseball field
- 2 **Play Equipment**
Including swings, merry-go-round, and slides
- 3 **Large Shelter**
With built in picnic tables
- 4 **Building on Site**
With restrooms and concessions stand
- 5 **Bleachers**
For ball field

INFO

Size: 1.7 acres
 Classification: Pocket Park
 Location: 510 Chambers St,
 Veedersburg, IN 47987

STERLING PARK

This pocket park is located between Harper St and N Sterling Ave. It includes a ball field, various play equipment, concession stand, and restrooms.



4.3 Veedersburg



Veedersburg: STERLING PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Ball Field	1	Dugout repaint recommended
Large Shelter	1	Picnic tables built in; repaint recommended
Play Equipment	6	Some older, some newer; older equipment phased out recommended
Shed	1	Maintenance shed; repaint recommended
Concession/ Restroom Building	1	Good condition
Picnic Tables	2	Repaint recommended



Ball field with seating



Large shelter with picnic tables



Dugout



Play equipment



Play equipment

4.3 Veedersburg



Veedersburg: HUB PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Play Equipment**
Slides, swings, merry-go-round, etc
- 2 Large Shelter**
Lined with picnic tables
- 3 Community Pool**
Daily and Season passes available
- 4 Ball Fields**
One small one large field
- 5 Disc Golf Course**
9 hole course

INFO

Size: 179 acres
 Classification: Community Park
 Location: 710 N Meridian St,
 Veedersburg, IN 47987

HUB PARK

With over 17 acres of land, this community park is the ideal spot to visit the pool, play a game of disc golf or have a scenic picnic while watching a local ball game.



12



4.3 Veedersburg



Veedersburg: HUB PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Play Equipment	-	Additional ADA equipment recommended
Large Shelter	2	One with built in picnic tables, the other with a stage; routine maintenance recommended
BBQ Grill	1	Located by shelter; additional BBQ grills recommended
Ball Field	2	One small one large; routine maintenance recommended
Public Pool	1	Includes pool and picnic area; routine maintenance recommended
Disc Golf Course	1	9 holes; additional signage recommended
Basketball Court	1	Partially fenced; routine maintenance recommended
Picnic Tables	-	Some newer, some older; routine maintenance recommended



Shelter with picnic tables and BBQ grill



Ball field



Building on site



Play equipment with seating



Large shelter with picnic tables

4.4 Hillsboro



Hillsboro: CENTER PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Basketball Court**
Full court
- 2 **Ball Field**
With dugouts and bleachers
- 3 **Play Equipment**
Slides, climbing structure, swings, etc
- 4 **Medium Shelter**
Including picnic tables
- 5 **Batting Cage Net**
Located on north side of park

INFO

Size: 2.7 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: N Murphy St, Hillsboro, IN
 47949

CENTER PARK

Featuring a ball field, batting cage, and basketball court, this neighborhood park is located in the middle of Hillsboro. There are also various play structures on site, with seating and picnic tables.



4.4 Hillsboro



Hillsboro: CENTER PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Good condition
Ball Field	1	Routine maintenance recommended
Play Equipment	10	Routine maintenance recommended
Medium Shelter	1	Routine maintenance recommended
Batting Cage Net	1	Located behind water tower; routine maintenance recommended
Parking	-	Gravel; recommended paving ADA parking spots
Picnic Tables	8	Under shelter; routine maintenance recommended
Water fountain	1	Good condition



Ball field



Batting cage



Dugout



Shelter with picnic tables



Play equipment



4.5 Kingman



Kingman: KINGMAN TOWN PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Ball Field**
With wooden bleachers
- 2 Large Shelter**
With picnic tables
- 3 Basketball Hoops**
Two located near large shelter
- 4 Play Equipment**
Including
- 5 Horseshoe Pitch**
2 sets

INFO

Size: 5 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: W State St, Kingman, IN 47952

KINGMAN TOWN PARK

This neighborhood park has ample parking and green space. Also located within this park is a ball field, picnic tables, and various play equipment.



4.5 Kingman



Kingman: KINGMAN TOWN PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Ball Field	1	With dugouts and stands; routine maintenance recommended
Large Shelter	1	Routine maintenance recommended
Basketball Hoops	2	Repair work recommended
Play Equipment	3	Older equipment; addition of ADA play equipment recommended
Horseshoe Pitch	4	2 games; repaint recommended
Picnic Tables	13	Under shelter; routine maintenance recommended
Benches	2	Repaint recommended



Play equipment



Horseshoe pitch



Building on site



Basketball hoop



Large shelter with picnic tables

4.6 Stone Bluff



Stone Bluff: JOHN CARVER PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Basketball Court**
Full court
- 2 **Ball Field**
Grass ball field
- 3 **Gazebo**
Located in the center of the park
- 4 **Play Equipment**
Slides, merry-go-round, swings, etc
- 5 **Free Little Library**
Book exchange

INFO

Size: 3 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: 112 E Stone Bluff Rd,
 Veedersburg, IN 47987

JOHN CARVER PARK

This neighborhood park contains a full basketball court, Free Little Library, and parking pull offs on both West Stone Bluff Road, as well as East Osborn Prairie Road.



15



4.6 Stone Bluff



Stone Bluff: JOHN CARVER PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Repair/repaint recommended
Ball Field	1	All turf; routine maintenance recommended
Gazebo	1	Repaint recommended
Play Equipment	4	Some older, some newer; phasing out older equipment recommended
Free Little Library	1	Good condition
Parking	-	Paved ADA spots recommended
Picnic Tables	3	Repair work recommended
BBQ Pit	1	By picnic table; routine maintenance recommended



Signage



Little Free Library



Basketball hoop



Seating



Play equipment

4.7 Mellott



Mellott: MELLOTT PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Ball Field**
With dugouts
- 2 Large Shelter**
Including picnic tables and BBQ grill
- 3 Play Equipment**
Including swings, teeter totters, slides, etc
- 4 Bleachers**
Two sets
- 5 Basketball Hoop**
Half court

INFO

Size: 3 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park
 Location: 409 Main St, Veedersburg, IN 47987

MELLOTT PARK

Host to Fountain Central Youth Little League, this neighborhood park is located on the southern side of Mellott. It includes a ball field, play equipment, and large turf area.



4.7 Mellott



Mellott: MELLOTT PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Ball Field	1	With dugouts and bleachers; repaint/repair work recommended
Basketball Hoop	1	In parking area; routine maintenance recommended
Play Equipment	4	Some new some older; phase out older equipment recommended
Shelter	1	With concession stand; repaint/repair work recommended
Picnic Tables	3	Under shelter; repaint recommended
BBQ Grill	1	By shelter; routine maintenance recommended



Park signage



Half Basketball court



Seating



Shelter with picnic tables



Play equipment

4.8 Newtown



Newtown: NEWTOWN PARK

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Basketball Court**
Full court
- 2 **Bench**
Overlooking basketball court

INFO

Size: 0.15 acres
 Classification: Pocket Park
 Location: 315 W Main St, Newtown, IN 47969

NEWTOWN PARK

Located on the corner between Washington Avenue and Richland Street, this pocket park features a full basketball court and seating.



4.8 Newtown



Newtown: NEWTOWN PARK

Amenity	Qty	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Paved, non-lighted; routine maintenance recommended
Bench	1	Facing inwards to park; good condition



Park bench



Memorial



Basketball court



Road signage



Others:
PECAN BASIN: CATES-CLAWSON RESERVE



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Handicap Accessible Trail**
1/2 mile mostly paved loop
- 2 Parking**
Gravel and grass lot
- 3 River Frontage**
3/8 mile of Wabash River frontage

INFO

Size: 155 acres
Classification: Natural Area
Location: 2798 S Silver Island Rd,
Covington, IN 47932

PECAN BASIN: CATES-CLAWSON RESERVE

This 155 acre lot of land was acquired by NICHES Land Trust in 2000. After purchase, the east end of the property was restored to oak woodlands.



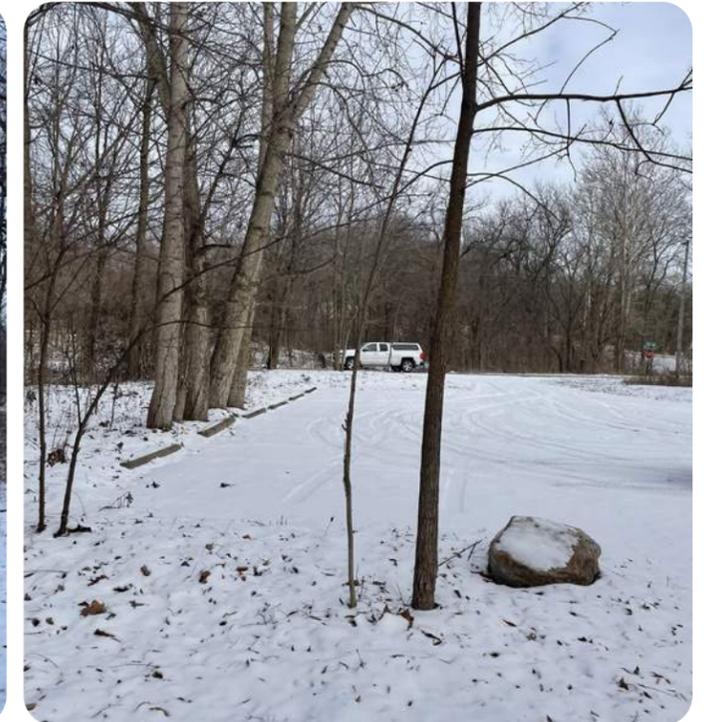
18



Others:
PECAN BASIN: CATES-CLAWSON RESERVE



Trail head



Parking lot



Paved trail



Signage

4.9 Others



Others: SHAWNEE BOTTOMS



4.9 Others



Others: SHAWNEE BOTTOMS

POINTS OF INTEREST

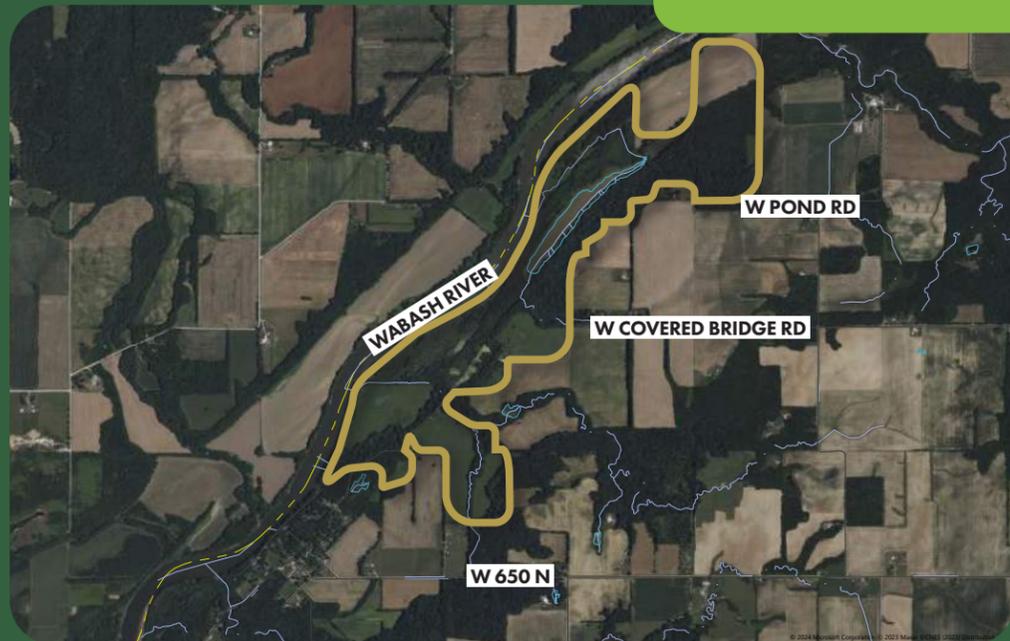
- 1 **Trail**
3.5 miles of trails
- 2 **Parking**
Gravel lot
- 3 **Mushroom Harvesting**
Mushroom harvesting allowed
- 4 **Water frontage**
Over a mile along the Wabash River

INFO

Size: 459 acres
 Classification: Natural Area
 Location: Shawnee Bottoms, Covington, IN 47932

SHAWNEE BOTTOMS

At just under 460 acres, this is NICHES largest property. The first 220 acres were purchased in 2002, with an additional three purchases happening from 2009-2015.



Wooded Area



Signage

4.9 Others



Others:
SNYDER MARSHALL WOODS



POINTS OF INTEREST

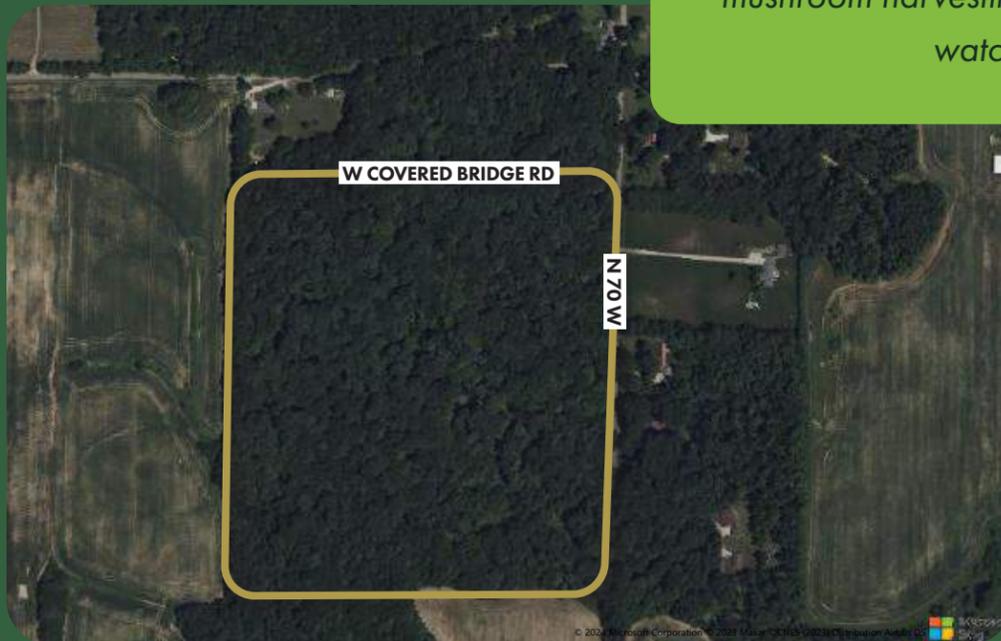
- 1 Scenery**
Sandstone rock outcrops, white pines, etc
- 2 Stream**
Leads into Wabash River

INFO

Size: 41 acres
 Classification: Natural Area
 Location: W Covered Bridge Rd, Attica, IN 47918

SNYDER MARSHALL WOODS

Part of NICHES Land Trust, this wooded area has no trails or parking lot, but allows mushroom harvesting, fishing, and bird watching.



4.9 Others



Others:
WHISTLER HARE WOODS



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Parking**
Grassy Parking lot
- 2 Woods**
Mature white oak and white pine woods
- 3 Big Shawnee Creek**
Flows through site on its way to Wabash River

INFO

Size: 100 acres
 Classification: Natural Area
 Location: W Covered Bridge Rd, Attica, IN 47918

WHISTLER-HARE WOODS

Purchased by NICHES Land Trust in 2019, this land protects white oak and white pine woods. See wildflowers blooming here every spring.





Others:
PORTLAND ARCH NATURE PRESERVE

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Trail**
Located on moderate to rugged terrain
- 2 Woods**
Black walnut, American beech, etc
- 3 Wildflowers**
Brilliant displays spring through summer

INFO

Size: 436 acres
 Classification: Natural Area
 Location: 1599 W Scout Camp Rd,
 Covington, IN 47932

PORTLAND ARCH NATURE PRESERVE
 Both owned and managed by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves, this large area of land was dedicated as a State Nature Preserve in 1972.



22



Others:
PORTLAND ARCH NATURE PRESERVE



Pedestrian entry



Trail signage



Trail signage



Trail entry



Interpretive signage



Parking lot



Registry box

5.1 Recommendations

General Recommendations:



ADA Inclusion

It is recommended that any existing infrastructure within parks that is not ADA compliant be considered for renovations and updates. Bringing facilities into compliance will allow individuals with disabilities to fully participate and enjoy the recreational opportunities that parks offer. Specific facilities to be updated would include gravel parking lots, play areas without an accessible walkway connection, and shelters that have steps but now ramp access.



Structure Restoration

Many existing structures within Fountain County parks are in poor condition and would benefit from cosmetic updates and the review of structural components. Picnic shelters within parks would be easily restored by replacing rotted members and applying a fresh coat of paint. Updates to baseball and softball dugout structures are recommended for fields that receive heavy use during the playing months.



Maintenance

Regular maintenance of existing and proposed play equipment, structures, and sport facilities is recommended. Specifically this should include regular cleaning, landscape maintenance, playground equipment inspections, restroom maintenance and any vandalism removal. Regular trash and recycling pick-up/removal for all parks should be provided to prevent overflow and maintain cleanliness.



Adequate Parking

A common problem with in the more popular and highly programmed parks is a lack of parking. It is recommended that parking needs be evaluated at these parks to better understand how many parking spots are needed during the busiest times. Currently, overflow parking is open space within the parks which becomes a conflict for park users looking to use those areas. Specifically at Covington City Park, overflow parking is in conflict with the disc golf course.



Programming Opportunities

To promote community involvement and parks programming, it is recommended that community Parks and Recreation boards strategically identify events that can take place in their parks. These events will promote community engagement, showcase local culture and traditions, and could have a positive economic impact on the community. The population centers of Fountain County (Attica, Veedersburg and Covington) should me parks programming a priority.

Specific Recommendations:

HUB PARK MASTER PLAN & PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

Being Veedersburg's largest park, Hub Park warrants a Park Master Plan that would guide future decisions regarding upgrades and expansion of facilities. Based upon stakeholder feedback, program items to be investigated would include: pool and restroom updates, new play equipment, new splash pad, and the closure of 6th Street that currently bisects the park. A phased implementation strategy should be included in this master plan.

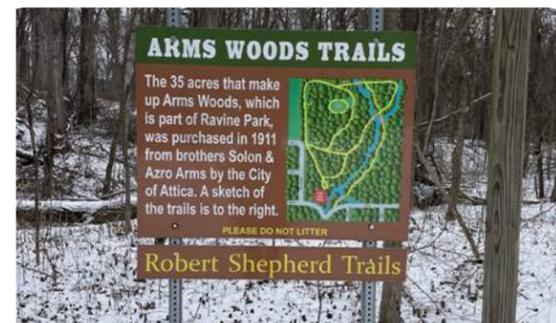


SPLASH PAD AND POOL IMPLEMENTATION

Through the community attitude survey, the most requested items by Fountain County residents were public swimming pools and new splash pads. Attica's Ravine Park pool facilities offer the opportunity for renovation and the addition of an adjacent splash pad.

PHASED PLAY EQUIPMENT UPDATES

Many parks throughout Fountain County currently utilize outdated and potentially dangerous play equipment. It is recommended to identify and replace play equipment in key communities throughout the county. Parks that could be included in this list are McDonald Park (Attica), Center Park (Hillsboro), and Hub Park (Veedersburg).



TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

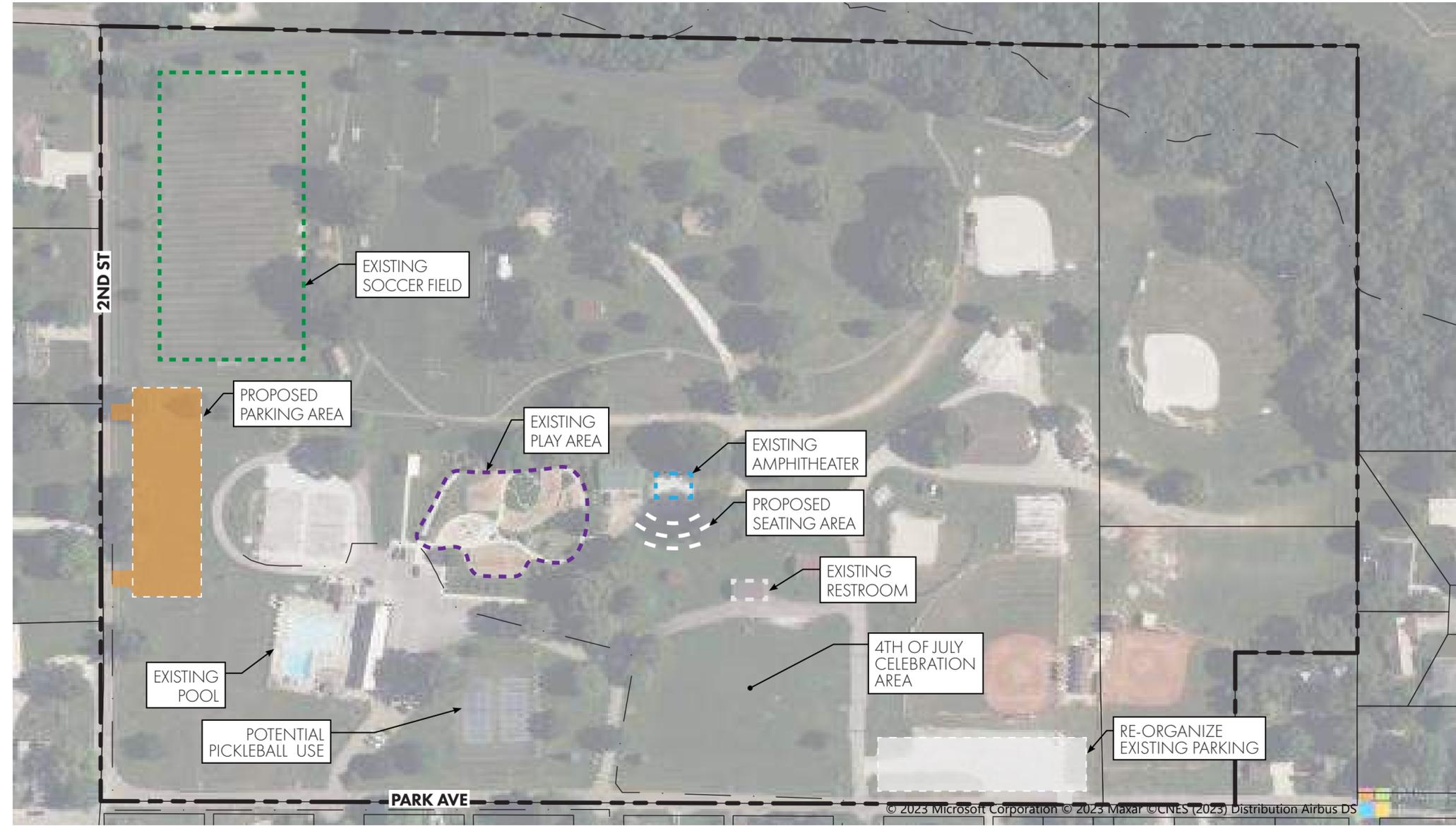
Trail connectivity was also a highly requested item through the community attitude survey. A county wide trails master plan is recommended to aid in the identification of assets / communities that would warrant new trails and connections. With the proposed Wabash River Greenway route running through the county, there are opportunities for greater regional connectivity.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION / EXPANSION

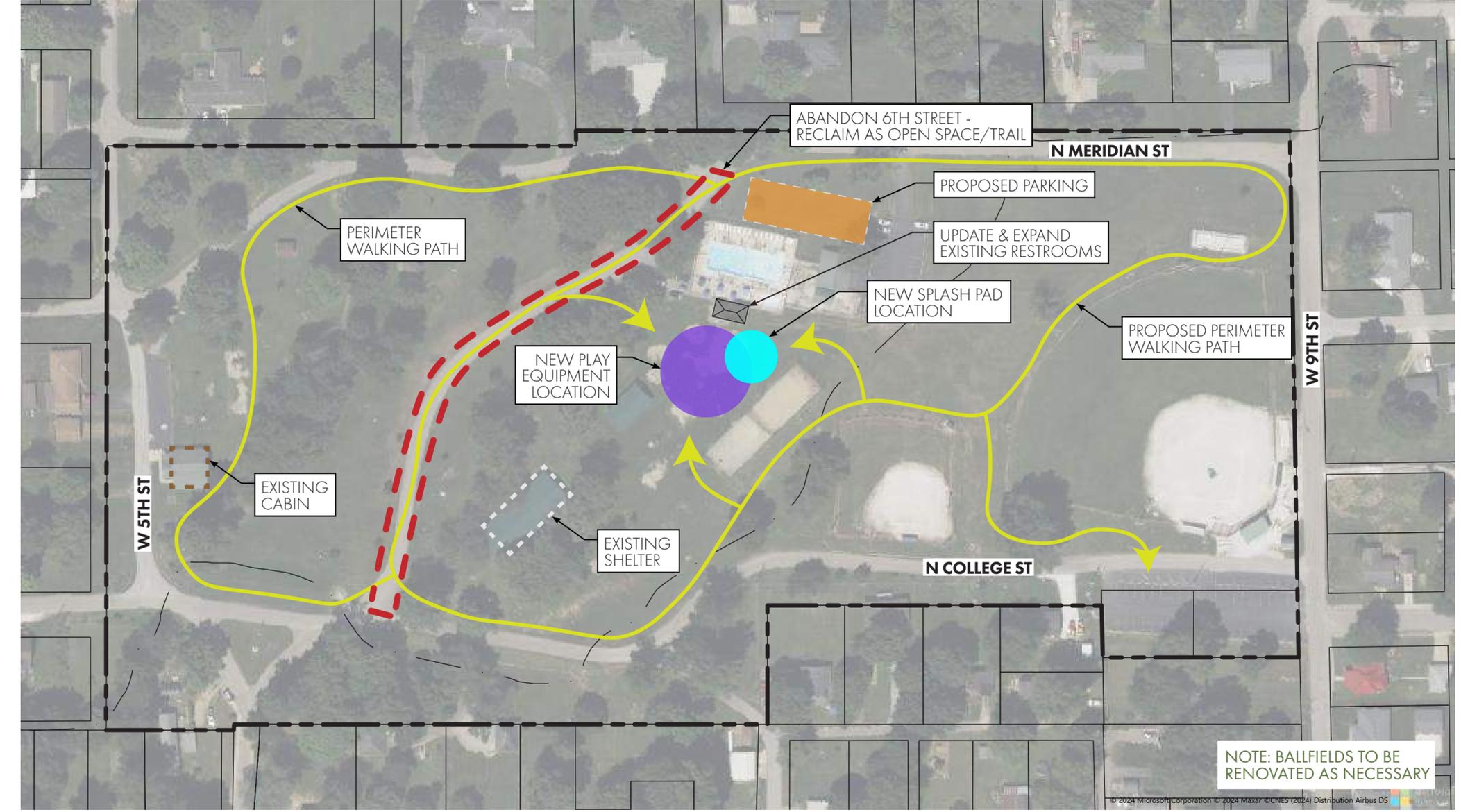
Future expansion of parkland is recommended specifically for the communities of Veedersburg, Covington, and Attica.



5.2 Concept Plan - Covington City Park



5.2 Concept Plan - Hub Park



NOTE: BALLFIELDS TO BE RENOVATED AS NECESSARY



5.2 Concept Plan - Ravine Park

