



RICHMOND

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



ADOPTED 10.22.20



Greg Beilfuss - Chief Planner
IDNR - Outdoor Recreation
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Indianapolis, IN 42204-2782
(317) 232-4071

October 29th, 2020

Mike Foley
Richmond Park Board
2200 E. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374

Dear Mike,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2021-2025 Richmond 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 2021 grant year**. A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2026, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: bbronson@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. 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 Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Katie Clark, TSW

Agenda Item Resolution 1- 2020

**Board of Parks and Recreation for the
City of Richmond, Indiana
and**

Be it Resolved That the Board Hereby Approves:

**Approval from the Parks Board of the 2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation
Master Plan.**

Calling for:

**approval from the Parks Board for the Richmond Parks and Recreation Master
Plan for 2020 drafted with substantial public involvement and input, and
incorporates sound planning principles and staff expertise.**

The form of which is to be approved by the Department attorney, be and is hereby
APPROVED.

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE Park Superintendent of the Department of Parks
and Recreation is hereby authorized to execute such agreement for and in behalf of the
Department.

Passed and signed this ____ day of October, 2020.

**BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY OF RICHMOND**



Mike Foley, President



Tiauna Washington, Vice President



Cathryn Dickman, Secretary



Dakota Collins, Board Member



Larry Parker, Common Council Liaison



Attest, Tonya Bowen Administrative Assistant

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

SIGNATURE _____

Mike Foley
APPLICANT/PRESIDENT

(Mike Foley)

SIGNATURE _____

Cathryn Dickman
APPLICANT SECRETARY

(Cathryn Dickman)

DATE _____

10-22-20

SIGNATURE _____

Tonya Bowen
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(Tonya Bowen)



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This plan would not have been possible without the numerous hours contributed by local leadership, City staff and the project master plan team. The following individuals played an important role in the development of this plan.

Mayor

David M. Snow

Richmond Parks and Recreation Board

Mike Foley, Board President

Tiauna Washington, Board Vice President

Cathryn Dickman, Secretary

Dakota Collins

Larry Parker, Common Council Liaison

Master Plan Committee

Dakota Collins- *Earlham College, Richmond Parks and Recreation Board*

Pam Denning- *Resident*

Mike Devine- *Richmond Rose Garden, City of Richmond Plan Commission*

Beth Fields- *City of Richmond*

Mike Foley- *Richmond Parks and Recreation Board President*

Joe and Sarah Hellrung- *Past SPUR Committee Members*

Ron Itnyre- *IU East*

Monica Koechlein- *Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Stamm Joechelin Family Foundation*

Keith Morey- *Richmond Community Schools*

Tiauna Washington- *Richmond Parks and Recreation Board Vice President*



Department of Parks and Recreation Staff

Denise Retz, *Parks Superintendent*

Jim Dykes, *Assistant Superintendent*

Paul Blomke, *Senior Center Janitor*

Tonya Bowen, *Administrative Assistant*

Keith Clemens, *Sports & Recreation Coordinator*

Morgan Clevenger, *Technician 1*

Nate Davis, *Technician 2*

Donna Handley, *Widow Person Services Coordinator*

Darren Hicks, *Field and Grounds*

Jackson Hillard, *First Assistant*

Jay Hoover, *Grounds*

Mark Houser, *Grounds*

Brandon Johnson, *Technician 2*

Amanda Jones, *Senior Services Coordinator*

Laura Karnes, *Landscaping and Naturalist Leader*

Mark Lahman, *Facility Janitor*

Tanner Marlow, *Field and Grounds*

Derek McNeely, *Club House Manager*

Kyle Miller, *Technician 1*

Shelia Mills, *Business Manager*

Fay Paul, *Receptionist*

Jerry Peacock, *Maintenance Laborer*

Caleb Smith, *Farmers Market Coordinator & Community Engagement Facilitator*

Dakota Smith, *Maintenance Laborer*

Kim Smith, *Glen Miller Greenskeeper*

Doug Speers, *Technician 2*

Doug Towns, *Mechanic*

Danny Turner, *Golf Division Director/ PGA Golf Professional*

Tammy Waller, *Senior Center Receptionist*

Brett Webb, *Technician 1*

Wesley Widdows, *Golf Division Director*

Isabella Wilhelm, *Floral and Beautification Leader*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the stakeholder focus groups, online surveys and public open houses. Your participation was essential to the success of this community-driven planning process.

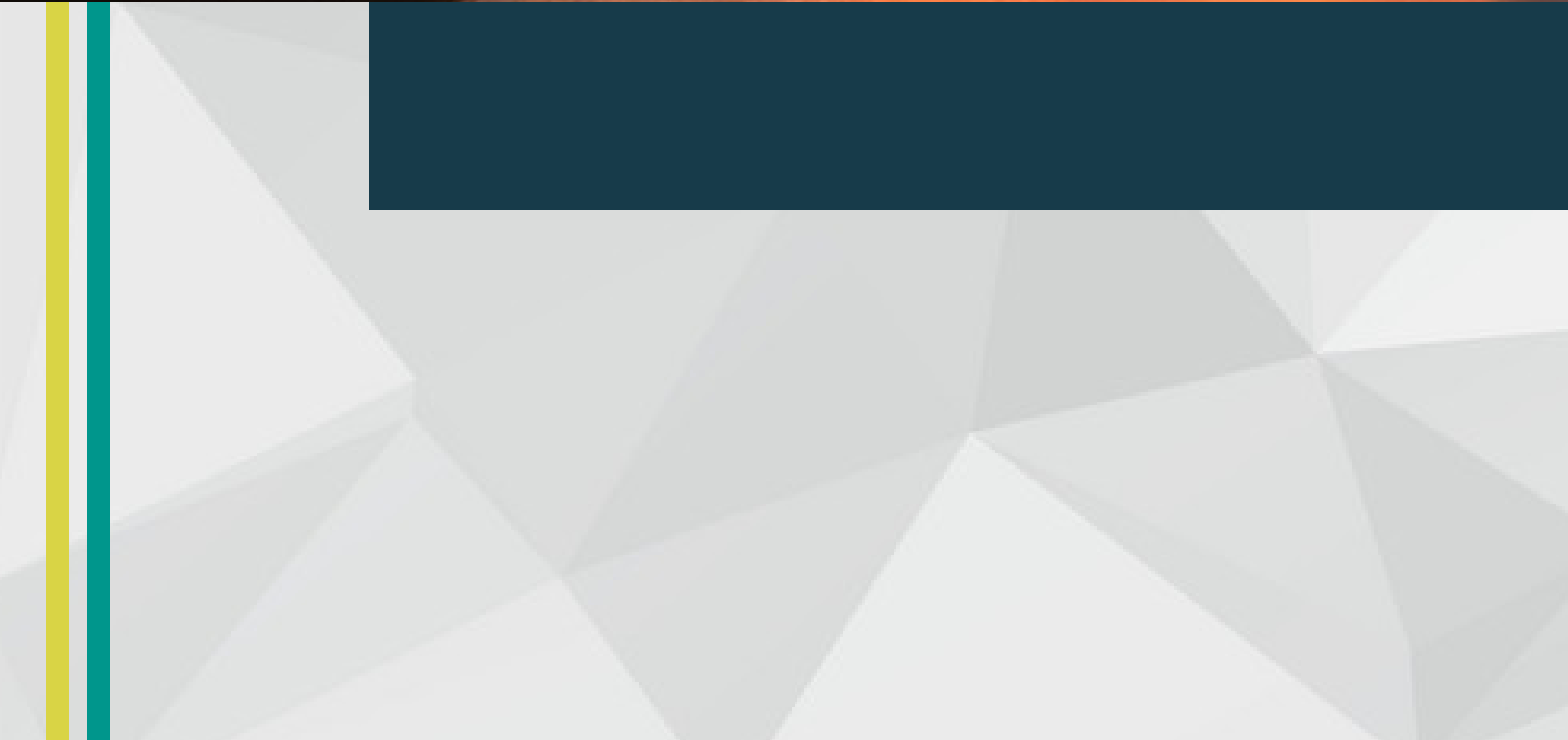


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A photograph of three cyclists riding on a paved path. The cyclist in the foreground is wearing a white t-shirt with a 'HOMECOMING' logo and a helmet. The cyclist behind them is wearing a white t-shirt with 'thumbs up.' and a helmet. A third cyclist is visible further back. The background features large green trees and a modern building. A vertical yellow and teal bar is on the left side of the image.

The 2020 *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master plan* is intended to build upon the community's vision to GROW the city's built environment, CONNECT the city's destinations, PROTECT the city's natural resources and CELEBRATE the city's offerings and accomplishments.

As Americans continue to spend more time in outdoor activities than ever before, the demand for recreation and leisure activities is increasing for nearly all age groups. Therefore, it was no surprise that two of the priority projects from the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* process focused on planning for the ongoing success of Richmond's parks, open spaces and recreational programming opportunities. With the last long-range parks master planning document dating back to 2009, the 2020 *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is the City's opportunity to reflect on their successes, assess current conditions, anticipate future needs and chart a realistic road map for the future of the City's parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs. This 2020 *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* outlines a 5-year vision for the development, improvement, maintenance and operation of the City's entire park and recreation system. It is, the City's chance to identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City. While specific in its focus, it should also be seen as a complement to the City's 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*. Together, these documents outline the goals, strategies and action steps that allow all Richmond leaders, business owners, community stakeholders and residents to work together to grow the population and workforce, build systems that support the community, connect the city's destinations and districts, protect the region's natural assets and celebrate Richmond's unique history and culture.

Staff may be stretched too thin.

SPEEDER
IN
GLEN HILL
PHOTO CAMERAS
ON
ROUNDABOUTS

NEARBY
PARKS
FOOTBALL
PICKLEBALL

Maintenance
of Pickleball
Courts

funding
to maintain
parks that
have active
participation

up keep on
Diamonds + fields
+ Fencing Rusted
+ Fields rough Infield
and out-field
+ Lights and Score Board

Known
KS or on
that usurep
funds that
be used for
well known/us

BETTER
EVENT
PUBLICITY

Star Creek
Maintenance
on pickleball
Court
of Star
Gunnett Mall



KEY FINDINGS

In order to identify the current strengths and challenges of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation within the broader community, a six-month, four-phased planning process was used to supplement the findings of the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*. The planning process was focused on establishing where the City and Department of Parks and Recreation have been historically, what they currently offer and what the public perceptions are regarding the parks, open spaces and recreational programs. The key findings, summarized below, reflect the input gained from 2,766 community-wide survey responses, over 1,200 individual public comments, five facilitated discussions with park stakeholders and department staff and six months of research, site visits and technical analysis.

The strengths, challenges and trends outlined here and on pages 198-201 formed the foundation of the plan's 5-year vision for the development, improvement, maintenance and operation of the City's entire parks and recreation system which is outlined within Chapter 4: The Future Vision.

SYSTEM STRENGTHS

The City's parks, open spaces and recreation programs offer various amenities and opportunities, many of which can be leveraged in the future.

Richmond residents value parks, open space and recreational programs.

Richmond's parks and recreation system is valued across the community and considered an essential component to the community's quality of life. (Pages 72, 74)

Richmond residents' value multi-use trails and city-wide connectivity.

The City currently maintains nearly 8-miles of paved trails and has recently invested in high-quality bicycle amenities across the community. (Pages 72, 74)

The City's flagship parks and events offer history, amenities and a sense of community.

The City has established several key park properties such as Glen Miller Park, Middlefork Reservoir, Highland Lake Golf Course and the Richmond Senior Community Center that serve as the backbone to the entire parks and recreation system. (Pages 66-67 and 189-196)

The Department has existing partnerships that serve as a resource.

The Department currently has partnerships with City departments, local businesses and community organizations which provide the Department with additional resources that are supporting maintenance efforts throughout the year. (Pages 42-43)



KEY FINDINGS

SYSTEM CHALLENGES

The challenges faced by Richmond's Parks and Recreation system are generally not new, but the magnitude of each of these issues has grown over the years, as has the need to find solutions.

The Department has numerous responsibilities, and residents worry they have too much on their plate.

While the public recognizes that the Department has multiple responsibilities, they also indicated through focus group discussions and feedback during the community workshop that they were concerned that the parks department was stretched too thin. (Pages 72-74)

The general public remains unaware of certain park properties and program offerings.

When surveyed, the community identified several park properties that they were unaware of in either name, location or amenities. In addition to park properties, there are existing programming opportunities that the public was unaware of based on community survey responses. (Pages 72, 74 and 118-179)

The City's flagship parks are in need of repairs and improvements.

Some of the City's larger and most popular park properties need significant improvements and ongoing maintenance to ensure that the property and available amenities are safe and high quality. (Pages 118-179)

Departmental resources are constrained.

With a reliance on tax funding and a continued decrease in property tax revenue, the Department's total annual operating budget remains constricted. (Page 109)

FUTURE TRENDS

Demographic, social, and environmental trends have implications on parks and recreation that should be considered when planning for the future. Richmond is changing in the following ways:

The community prioritizes improvements and maintenance over new facilities.

By and large the comments and feedback received from residents during this process indicated that they would prefer to see the City invest in resources to improve maintenance within the existing parks and facilities than construct new facilities. (Pages 72, 74 and 206)

More programming is desired, but funds are tight.

Many of the Department's current programs are offered for free or at cost. Expanding programming options across the community will put additional pressure on the Department's already constrained budgets. (Pages 72, 74, 74 and 88-93)

Streamlining and expanding Department resources could increase capacity.

During the inventory and analysis phase of work, notable challenges related to Department responsibilities and constrained resources were noted in both stakeholder and community outreach opportunities. (Pages 72, 74 and 110-111)

Increased diversity in amenity offerings would be ideal if they fit within available resources.

While the community is concerned about the Department's ability to take on more responsibilities, there is a general interest in adding amenities that allow for an expanded range of fitness, exercise, play and organized sport activities. (Pages 72, 74 and 88-93)

Communication and marketing efforts would benefit the Department.

Finding ways to create and maintain clear and consistent communication channels will bring awareness to the City's parks and open space system and program offerings and encourage more residents to engage in recreational activities. (Pages 72, 74 and 80)

Strengthening and expanding public/private partnerships can expand the Department's capacity.

Establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with non-profit organizations, neighborhoods and service groups to enhance the value of parks and recreation assets, programs and services can help expand the Department's capacity while building a sense of community. (Pages 78-79)



The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation's focus for the future will build upon the legacy of our parks to create and support a resilient and sustainable parks system that features active public spaces, inclusive amenities and diverse programs.

2020 Department of Parks and Recreation Vision Statement

SYSTEM VISION AND GOALS

The City and its residents understand that parks, open space, trails and recreational programming play an important role in these efforts. To both build and complement the community's overall vision to GROW the City's built environment, CONNECT the City's destinations, PROTECT the City's natural resources and CELEBRATE the City's offerings and accomplishments, the *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* seeks to build upon their rich history and legacy to support interaction, inclusivity and diversity within the parks and open space system as well as build resiliency and sustainability within the Department itself.

Over the next five years, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation will turn their park passion into park P.R.I.D.E. by working towards the following goals:



P. Promote our offerings.



R. Respond to our community's needs



I. Invite activity into our spaces.



D. Diversify and optimize our resources.



E. Enhance our parks and open space system.

The park P.R.I.D.E. goals are intended to provide structure to a diverse and comprehensive set of short, mid and long-term action items. Each goal focuses on a specific topic that was developed in direct response to the challenges, opportunities and trends discussed in Chapter Three. While each goal may be achieved independently, the future vision of the parks and open space system relies on advancement in all five themes.

MOVING TOWARDS THE VISION

The 2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan is not simply an operational or strategic plan that outlines a list of long-term construction projects; it is a framework for long-term success. Achieving the vision for the parks and open space system requires focus and follow through. To ensure that the community's vision of a desirable future has the greatest chance of succeeding, the recommendations of this Plan inform a set of tools that encourage focused actions and responsible decision making. As such, the 2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves to facilitate the following:

1. Ongoing Decision Making

It provides guidance criteria for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Board in decisions related to the future of the Department and the City's parks and open space system.

To allow for flexibility and ongoing guidance to the Department and the Board, a series of policy statements were developed that align to the five park P.R.I.D.E. goals. The policy statements identify the Department's position in regards to implementing the goals. These statements are intended to serve as a check point when considering new projects and initiatives, because they represent the values and needs of the community and the Department. The statements should be used by the Parks and Recreation Board and Department leaders to review and guide investments, plan for Department and community-led initiatives and determine if future initiatives and projects are in alignment with the vision outlined within this Plan.

2. Strategic Initiatives and Improvements

It provides the foundation for a series of strategic action items that can optimize department resources, streamline procedures and processes and enhance the parks and open space system.

To be successful, the parks and open space system will need more than physical maintenance and enhancements. While the Richmond community values the offerings of the parks and open space system and acknowledges that the Parks Department is responsible for numerous items, there are concerns that staff and Department resources are being stretched too thin. During the inventory and analysis phase of work, notable challenges related to Department responsibilities and constrained resources were noted in both the stakeholder and community outreach opportunities. In an effort to overcome these internal challenges, a series of action items have been identified as opportunities to streamline existing processes and procedures, expand staff capacity and capitalize on existing programs, systems and tools.

While streamlining and expanding the Department's resources will create new opportunities in staff capacity and strategic planning, the Richmond parks and open space system will also need resources dedicated to the ongoing maintenance of the City's parks, open spaces, facilities and trails. Strategic investment will be needed to enhance existing amenities and facilities, continue recreational and educational programs and develop new recreation amenities and programs.

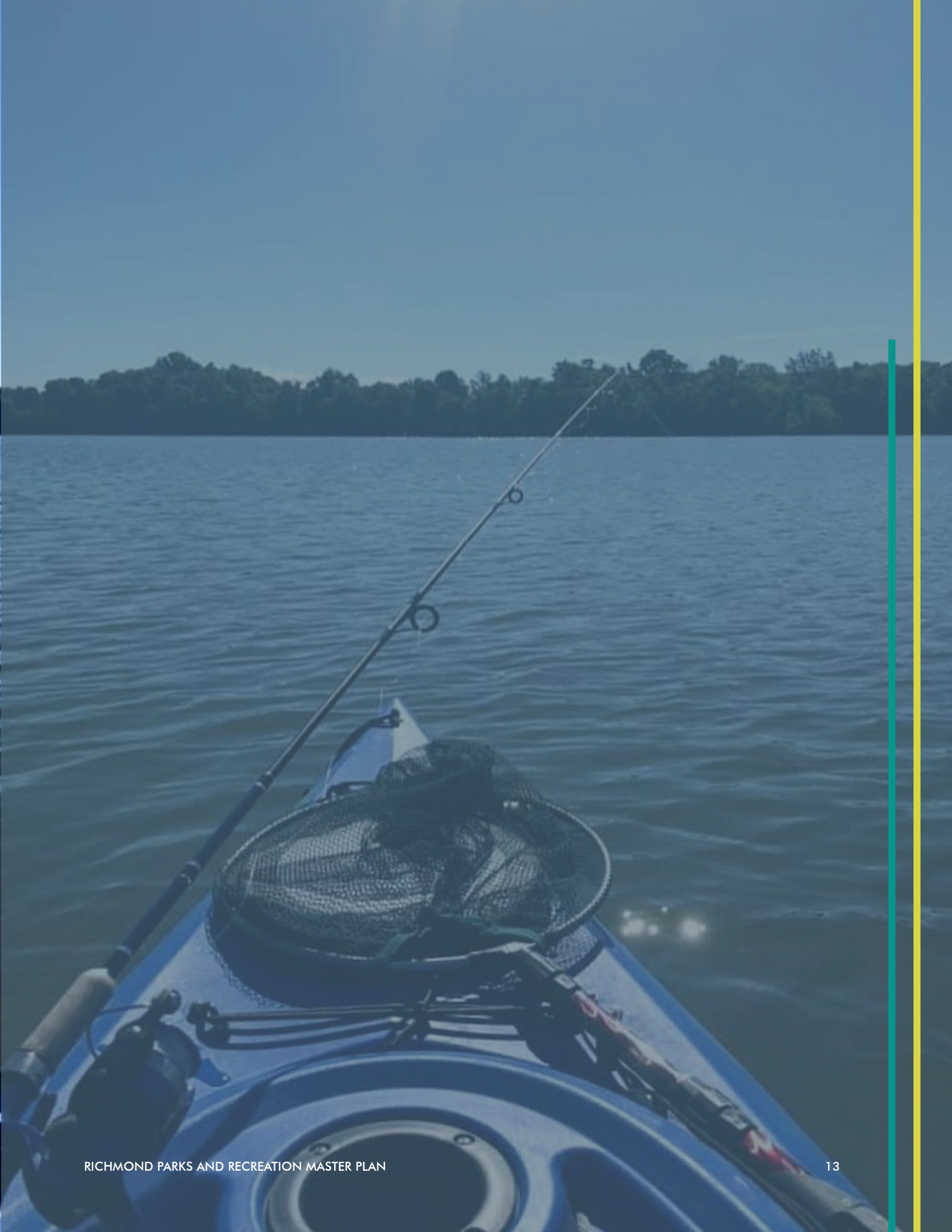


COMMUNITY DRIVEN ACTION PLAN

To determine the most beneficial path forward, the Richmond community was encouraged to provide input on the Plan's future priorities throughout the process. As a component of the Public and Needs Public Workshop, attendees were asked, by way of an interactive exercise, how they would invest in Richmond's parks and open spaces. To provide further insight into the community's priorities, the same question was asked through a community-wide survey, which was facilitated via an online survey response platform from June through July of 2020. In total, 1,025 responses were collected in addition to those responses captured during the in-person public workshop.

Using the findings from the stakeholder interviews, community workshops, community-wide surveys and discussions with Department staff, it was determined that the Department of Parks and Recreation should focus their efforts over the next five years on strategic initiatives that balance the interests of the community and the sustainability and resiliency of the department.

The ambitious five-year action plan acknowledges that existing park spaces, facilities and amenities are in need of improvement and prioritizes that investment. While the action plan identifies funding sources to serve as a catalyst for identified improvements, the action plan also outlines strategic projects that will work to explore, expand and generate new revenue sources for the Department in the long run. The efforts and initiatives contained within the Action Plan represent those of the highest priority to the greatest number of residents. Due to the diverse nature of the Department's priorities the action plan has been broken down into two key parts: Short Term Priority Action Steps and Mid-Long Term Priority Action Steps. The complete action plan can be found on pages 247-255.

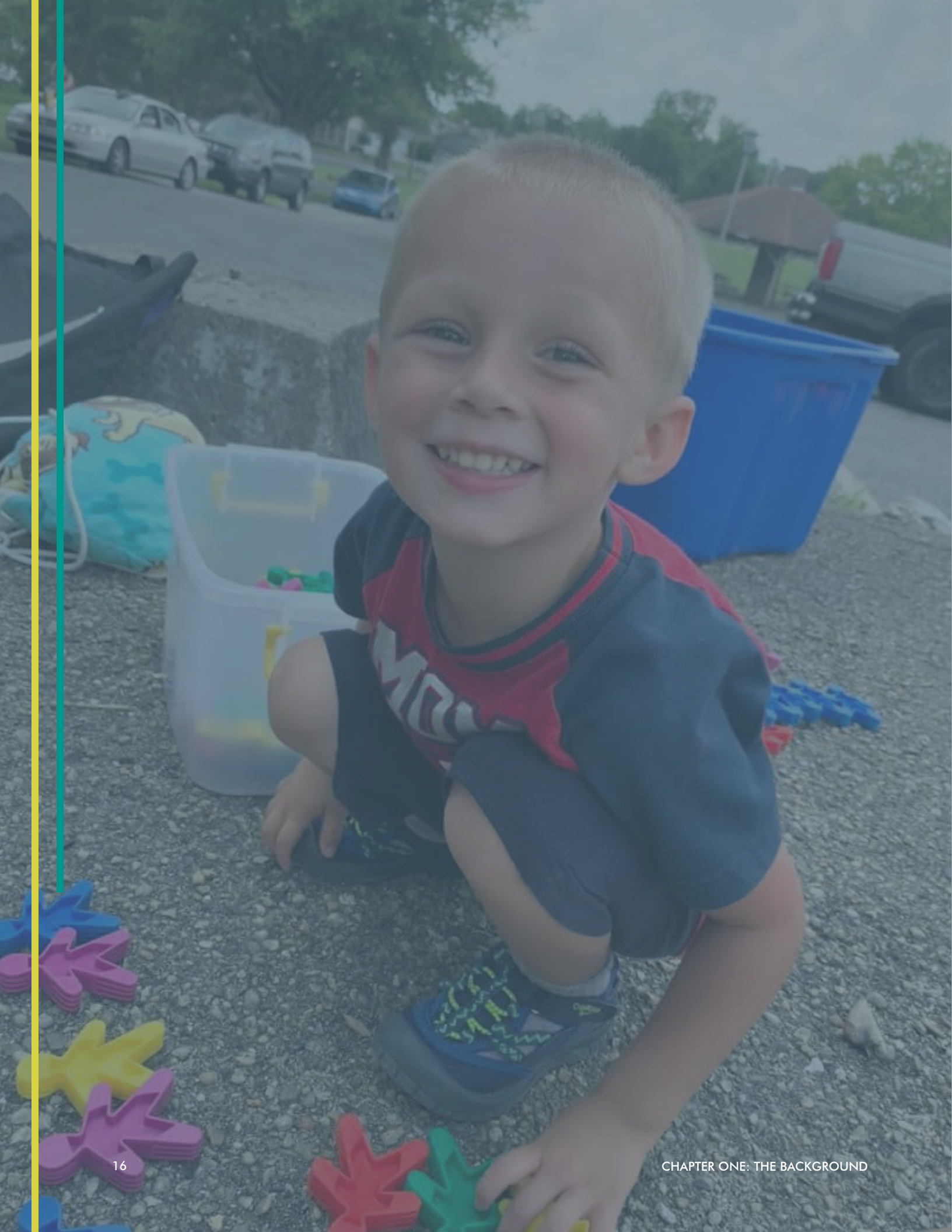






CHAPTER ONE

THE BACKGROUND



PLAN PURPOSE

The 2020 *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is intended to build upon the community's vision to **GROW** the City's built environment, **CONNECT** the City's destinations, **PROTECT** the City's natural resources and **CELEBRATE** the City's offerings and accomplishments.

To stay competitive as both a place to live and work, the City of Richmond will need to rise to meet its new potential. In addition to the City's rich history, and natural and cultural assets, Richmond's parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs serve as critical building blocks for the future.

Beginning in 2018, Richmond leaders began a collaborative process to update the City's comprehensive plan. As the City's collective guidance document for future growth and development, the comprehensive plan serves as a roadmap for effective decision-making in both private development projects and community initiatives. *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*, the City's new comprehensive plan, was developed for the community, and citizen engagement played a huge role in the plan's development and review. Over the course of 12 months, the Richmond Rising movement was used to gather the input, ideas, concerns, and suggestions of hundreds of Richmond residents, business owners, and stakeholders. The plan resulted in 12 priority action steps that ranged from marketing efforts to long-range planning and development projects.

Today, Americans spend more time in outdoor recreational activities than ever before and the demand for recreation and leisure activities is increasing for nearly all age groups. Therefore, it was no surprise that two of the priority projects from the Richmond Rising process focused on planning for the ongoing success of Richmond's parks, open spaces and recreational programming options.

With the last long-range parks master planning document dating back to 2009, the *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is the City of Richmond's opportunity to reflect on their successes, assess the current conditions, anticipate future community needs, and chart a realistic road map for the future of the City's parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs as well as the Department of Parks and Recreation as a whole.

The City of Richmond is focused on maintaining and growing the city's quality of life, which is supported today by its diverse people, collaborative organizations, welcoming neighborhoods, and rich cultural amenities. This *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is the City's chance to identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City. The *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is intended to build upon the community's vision to GROW the City's built environment, CONNECT the City's destinations, PROTECT the City's natural resources and CELEBRATE the City's offerings and accomplishments.

The *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* outlines a 5-year vision for the development, improvement, maintenance and operation of the City's entire park and recreation system. While specific in its focus, it should also be seen as a complement to the City's 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*. Together, the documents outline goals, strategies and action steps that allow all Richmond leaders, department heads, business owners, community stakeholders and residents to work together to grow the population and workforce, build systems that support the community, connect the city's destinations and districts, protect the region's natural assets, and celebrate Richmond's unique history and culture.

This 2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the City's chance to identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City.

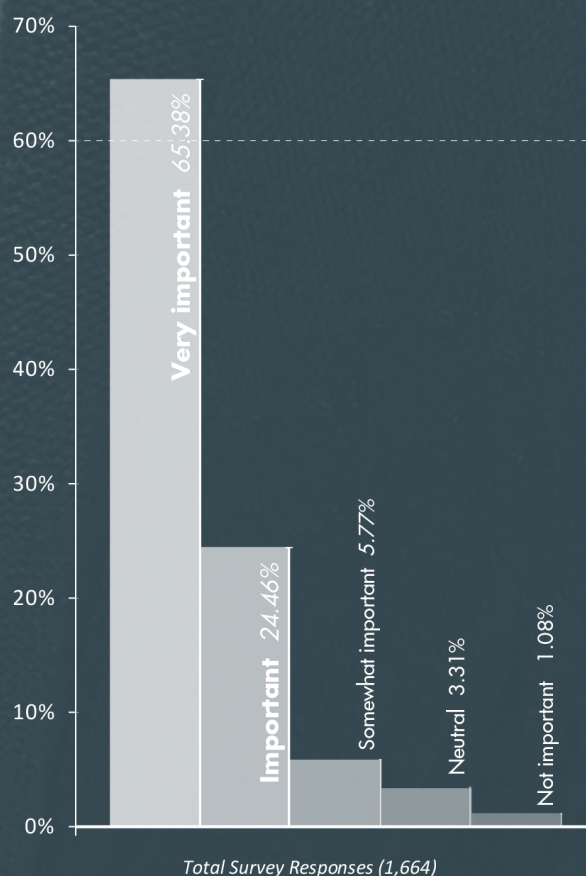
WHY PLAN FOR PARKS?

THE BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Throughout the *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* process, the City's parks, open spaces and recreational programs were identified as an asset to residents and a key factor in the City's current and future quality of life. Richmond's parks and open spaces allow residents to experience the City in new and different ways, and the recreational programs provide opportunities for nearly all age demographics to educate themselves, relax or find a creative outlet.

During the planning process for the *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, a community-wide survey was used to gather input on the City's parks and recreation system. Out of 1,748 survey respondents, nearly 90% stated that parks, open spaces and recreational services were important to the quality of life in Richmond.

How important are parks, recreation services and open spaces to the quality of life in Richmond?



*While individual residents can easily point to parks playing an important role in their life, it is sometimes difficult for them to pinpoint why. **Based on both national and regional research and key findings, parks, open spaces and recreational programs, can be easily tied to a city's economic value, a community's overall health and environmental wellbeing, and the enhanced quality of life community-wide.***

ECONOMIC VALUE

Parks, open spaces and recreational programs are integral to the improvement of local tax revenues, balanced utility costs and increased property values. According to the NRPA, "Local park and recreation agencies generated \$166 billion in economic activity and supported more than 1.1 million jobs in 2017."¹

Many homebuyers prefer to purchase homes near parks, and some companies are choosing to move closer to parks to satisfy the needs of employees. Across the country, private properties that are within 500-feet of a park and/ or open space have shown a 5% increase in property values.² Depending on the size of the park and the available amenities, parks can also drive visitors to an area, which increases tourism spending at local businesses such as hotels, restaurants and retail stores.

¹ <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/the-economic-impact-of-local-parks/>

² <https://conservationtools.org/guides/98-economic-benefits-of-parks>

RESIDENT RETENTION

Parks are more than just spaces for recreation; they are an essential component of the community economic engine that drive activities such as resident retention. . In a series of surveys conducted by the University of Sheffield in England, researchers found that, "Some residents would be willing to pay more than \$560 per year to have greener spaces in their community."³ Local parks offer free entertainment, spaces for outdoor gatherings and make it easier for people to maintain active lifestyle.

PROMOTING EQUITY

Parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs are a physical reflection of the quality of life in a community. They contribute to the sense of place offered within Richmond. As a result, parks can enhance a community's identity and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in any given area. Parks are inclusive spaces that even the playing field and provide opportunities for people to recreate and engage with one another regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation or income level.

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2011-11-21/how-much-more-would-you-pay-to-live-near-a-park>

Parks, open spaces and recreational programs have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community. Throughout history, parks and open spaces have been a central component of rural and urban cities, and this physical and emotional connection to parks and recreational opportunities continues to grow stronger. Ensuring that Richmond's parks, open spaces and recreational programs are adequately maintained and improved over the next five years, will help to ensure the success and vitality of the City as a whole.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

In addition to providing places for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together, parks are proven to improve air and water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife. Trees and green spaces within urban parks remove up to 7 million tons of toxins from the air annually at a value of \$3.8 billion to cities.⁴

As the focus of healthcare shifts towards prevention, parks and green spaces are becoming increasingly important in fostering more healthy, active lifestyles. Exercising just 30 minutes a day can help you stay healthy and reduce your risk of developing a chronic disease later in life. Beyond promoting physical and mental health, parks can help reduce the costs of healthcare: maintaining a healthy weight saves \$1,500 per person in healthcare costs per year.² By making outdoor recreation more accessible and providing safe and attractive places for individuals and families to exercise and play, parks bring people and nature together.

⁴ <https://cityparksalliance.org/about-us/why-city-parks-matter/>

SOCIAL BENEFITS

The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey estimates that 15 percent of children 6 to 19 years old are overweight or obese. Among 2 to 5-year olds, 1 in 10 is overweight or obese.⁵ Surprisingly, even in light of these frightening statistics, school districts across the country have been curtailing recess—or eliminating it altogether. Parks, trails, open space and recreational programs are an opportunity to supplement the more formal learning opportunities offered within any given school system.

City park systems offer children safe places to play outside of school hours, organize free or affordable facilities for engaging in health and wellness activities, and provide social opportunities and chances to connect youth to their peers. These open spaces, facilities and programs not only provide a series of formal and informal activities, but they offer the opportunity for children to prepare for the future. Through parks and park department offerings, the number of adverse childhood experiences, such as injury, depression and disease can be lowered across a community.

⁵ "Prevalence and Trends in Overweight Among US Children and Adolescents, 1999-2000." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 288(14),

SYSTEM CONTEXT

According to John Crompton, “Public parks are often the “engine” that drives tourism in many communities.”⁶ This is most certainly true in the City of Richmond, where the park and open space system’s diverse offerings have historically attracted both members of the community and residents from neighboring communities within a 30-minute driving radius. In fact, 39% of community survey respondents reported not being a City of Richmond resident, with many respondents visiting from locations including Centerville, IN (12%), Connersville, IN (10%) and Fountain City, IN (5%). Of non-resident respondents, 16% reported visiting from somewhere in Ohio, with many respondents visiting from locations including Eaton, OH (4%) and New Paris, OH (4%). In attracting more people to visit Richmond parks in the future, it is important to consider what attracts new visitors, from attractions located in parks to parks themselves as attractions.

The City of Richmond has always been at the center of activity. As the county seat of Wayne County, and the only urban center in east Central Indiana, Richmond is the primary service provider for the larger region. Richmond’s location on the border of Indiana and Ohio provides accessibility to Dayton, Ohio (45 minutes); Indianapolis, Indiana (60 minutes); and Cincinnati, Ohio (90 minutes). With Interstate 70 nearby and U.S. 40 and 27 running through the city, Richmond has always been and will continue to be the Eastern Gateway of Indiana.

With a modest beginning as a settlement town along the Whitewater River to a terminal point along the National Road, Richmond has historically been a trading and transportation center for the Midwest. From those early years as a route through the Midwest, the city rose to become home to manufacturing giants such as Davis, Mo-to Mower, Dille-McQuire, and F&N. In addition to its manufacturing ties, the city boasts a rich history in the arts and music. American architect John Hasecoster and piano and phonograph manufacturer Henry Gennett both called Richmond home. However, the City wasn’t just a place for manufacturing and music entrepreneurs; Richmond also fostered a love and appreciation for horticulture. Historically, the city has been the home to premier rose growers and marketers of cut roses, such as Hills Roses, since 1881.

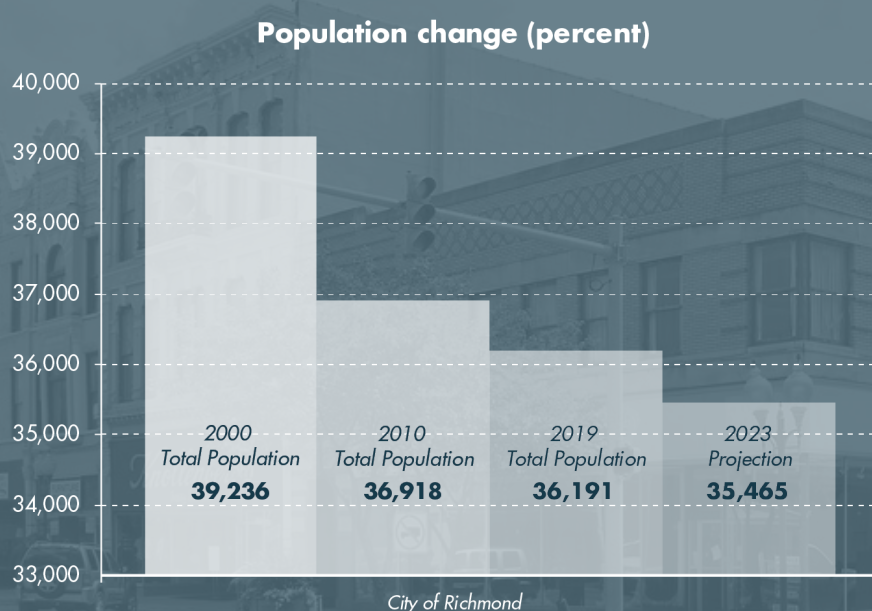
⁶ https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download_pdf/Parks-to-Promote-Tourism.pdf



Today, the City of Richmond is at a critical turning point. As of 2018, Richmond is a city of roughly 36,000, which is a two percent decline since the 2009 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*. The transportation routes and river access points that once set Richmond apart from other communities, have become barriers to growth and community prosperity. For years, the City, not unlike many other Midwestern communities, focused on vehicular transportation routes that drew interest away from providing connectivity for pedestrians or cyclists. Evolving development patterns took the focus off of the community's core, leaving central areas such as downtown and along the riverfront to fend for themselves. As the economy flourished and then receded, the City's job markets fluctuated, relocated, or simply closed. The City of Richmond is committed to facing these national, regional and local challenges head on.

As a component of the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* process, City leaders, community stakeholders and the general public stated their commitment to maintaining and growing the city's quality of life by relying on the City's diverse people, collaborative organizations, welcoming neighborhoods, and rich cultural amenities. The City's parks, open spaces and recreational programs are a defining component of the City's Action Plan for change.

To be successful, the 2020 *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* needs to account for the city's past, present, and future. While this planning document is focused on identifying a path for the future, it is imperative to start with a solid understanding of where the department has been, what they have been working on and where the largest achievements have occurred. This requires an understanding of the history of the community and the park and open space system, past and ongoing planning efforts at both a City and system level, and a celebration of past and current achievements. These elements greatly inform and provide direction for the development of the Department's aspirations and goals for the future.



As of 2018, Richmond is a city of roughly 36,000, which is a two percent decline since the 2009 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*.

PARKS HISTORY

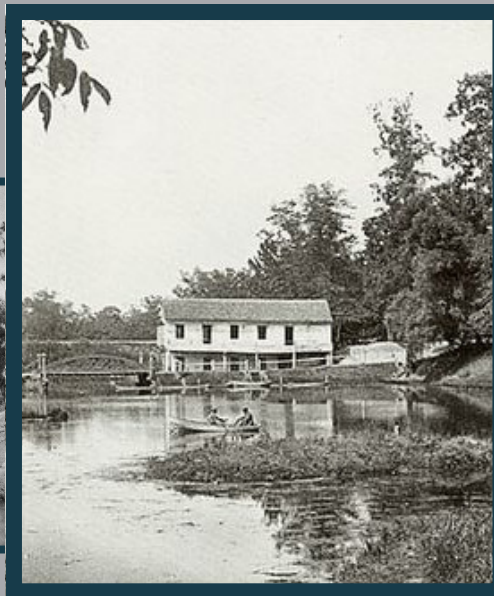
The Richmond Park System owes its beginning to the generosity of the citizens who lived on South 10th Street. These individuals built their homes with a park area in mind. The houses on each side of 10th Street were set back far enough to leave a large area, which was covered with huge elm trees. Located on South 10th Street, between South A and South C Street, South 10th Street Park was given to the City when the area was first platted in 1853.

Since the neighbors of South 10th Street established South 10th Street Park, the Richmond park and open space system has grown and expanded exponentially. The following timeline tracks significant events in the growth and development of the City's Parks and Recreation system from 1853 to today.

1850

1853- South 10th Street Park

South 10th Street Park platted and dedicated to the City of Richmond.



GLEN MILLER PARK

Far Left Source: The Indiana Album
Left Source: Wayne Co. Tourism Bureau
Bottom Source: Morrison Reeves Library
Right Source: Richmond Rose Garden



1885- Glen Miller Park

City of Richmond purchased one hundred eighty-four acres of wooded land east of Richmond from Colonel John Miller. The last name of the former owner and the natural topography of the area provided the name for the park, "Glen Miller."

1899- Swicker Park*

Swicker Park was named in honor of the then President of the Southside Improvement Association. Prior to being established as a park, the area was once a cemetery and in 1885 the remains of those buried here were moved to other locations.

1880

**Estimated. The actual date of establishment is unknown.*

1900

1900- Former Starr Park

Formerly located on both sides of the North 10th Street overpass, the 1.4-acre Starr Park dates back to the beginning of the city. This park was sold in 1952.

1911- Mary Scott Park

Originally part of the Peacock Farm, the City purchased the 4 acres located off West Main on NW 7th Street for \$3,000 in an effort to establish a park within each area of the City. Named for avid park volunteers Frank and Mary Scott, the site was furnished with a ball diamond and a log cabin for City Girl Scout troops.



MARY SCOTT PARK

Left Source: City of Richmond

MCBRIDE STADIUM

Right Source: Pal Item



Clear Creek Park

Above Source: Earlham College

1936- Clear Creek Park

The 39 acres was acquired from Earlham Cemetery Association for \$1,400 in the early 1900's. It was immediately developed by the Parks Department with the installation of horseshoe courts, softball diamonds, and the Municipal hardball stadium.

1937- McBride Stadium

The ballpark has hosted four minor-league baseball teams over the years including the Richmond Roses (1946-48), the Richmond Robins (1949), the Richmond Tigers (1950-52) and the Richmond Roosters (1995-2005), as well as the Richmond High School, Seton Catholic Cardinals and Earlham College teams.

1930

1950

1952- Former Starr Park Property Sold

The land, including the former Hoover Cemetery was purchased by the State of Indiana to facilitate the construction of the North 9th Street overpass. The remaining land, which was not used for overpass right of way, was given back to the City of Richmond and is now maintained as open space.

1956- Joseph H. Hill Memorial Park

Joseph H. Hill leased 7 acres of land at the corner of Peacock and NW 13th Street. The land, and its constructed fields were home to the local Little League Ball Park and is home to the Richmond Evening Optimists Youth Programs.

Joseph H. Hill Memorial Park

Left Source: Google Earth Imagery

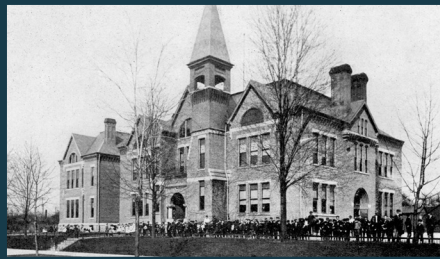
Starr School

Bottom Source: Richmond Parks Department

Middlefork Reservoir

Right Source: City of Richmond

Far Right Source: Google Earth Imagery



1960- East Side Lions Park

Formerly the Starr School, the land was donated to the parks department for the purpose of building a neighborhood park in the area of North 15th Street between C and D Streets. The Richmond Lions Club donated \$3,500 for the development of amenities such as a playground, basketball court and backstop. Today, local neighbors refer to this park as 'Starr Park'.

1961- Berryfield Park

Located at the far north edge of a housing development, the site provides recreation on a limited scale to local area residents.

1962- West Side Lions Park

Formerly the site of Sevastapol School the site was purchased for the Richmond Community School system in a continued effort to give neighborhoods a park within walking distance for their children. The local Lions Club was instrumental in the development of this park by donating \$2,300, which paid for site amenities including a basketball court, playground and small baseball diamond.

1963- Middlefork Reservoir

The 400 acres of land has been leased to the City by the American Water Works for recreational purposes. In an ongoing partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the property offers an excellent 177-acre lake for limited recreational uses including fishing and boating.

1960

1965

1966- Freeman Park

Located at the foot of the North 12th Street hill along the middle fork of the Whitewater River, this 31-acre park was gifted to the City by Mrs. Gath Freeman through Earlham College.

1968- Scantland Park

The George Scantland Park was donated by Mr. George Scantland through the Richmond Lion's Club. Located on South 13th and 14th Streets, off of S H Street, it is now a Richmond Power and Light substation site.



FREEMAN PARK
Left Source: TSWDG



SPRINGWOOD LAKE PARK
Left and Above Source: Google Images

1970- Springwood Lake

Located on Waterfall Road off Sheridan Street and between US 27 North and the C & O Railroad, this property was developed by Will Rodefield as early as 1933 and was later sold to the Conservation Club in 1948. The property was a center of activity within Richmond and only declined when swimming was prohibited and Conservation Club membership declined. Obtained by the City through a Federal Open Space Grant, the property includes a large shallow lake as well as a natural swamp area for study.

1972- Cordell Municipal Pool

In an effort to provide a well-rounded recreation program for the city, an Olympic size swimming pool was built at the corner of West Main and 13th Street within the Clear Creek Park property.

1972- Highland Lake Golf Course

Designed by John Budzale, Highland Golf Course was established north of Richmond and east of US 27 on Highland School Road and provides a modern 165-acre, 18-hole golf course.

1970

1975

1976- Bicentennial Park (Fossil Park)

Located off of Bridge Avenue within the flood plain of the Whitewater River, the purpose of the park is to provide for passive recreational and educational pursuits through access to the peaceful environment of the river and the geological significant outcropping of limestone in the river valley.

BICENTENNIAL PARK

Left Source: TSWDG

RICHMOND ROSE GARDEN

Bottom and Right Source: Richmond Rose Garden

CARDINAL GREENWAY

Far Right Source: Pal Item



1987- Richmond Rose Garden

The first public rose garden was planted to honor the City's rose heritage. The Richmond Rose Garden, the Richmond Friendship Garden, and E.G. Hill Memorial Rose Garden still exist today in Glen Miller Park.

1993- Cardinal Greenway

Cardinal Greenway, Inc. purchased 60 miles of former railroad corridor from CSX Transportation Corporation to develop a rails-to-trails recreational linear park covering five counties in Eastern Indiana: Wayne, Randolph, Henry, Delaware, and Grant. The purchase paved the way for the future corridor, which now spans 62 miles from Marion through Muncie to Richmond in East Central Indiana and as of 2018 was the state's longest rail-to-trail project.

1990

2000

2000- Veterans Park*

Located near Main Street and Sim Hodgin Parkway on the east side of the Whitewater River. The park, which honors area veterans for their service to their country, was established during Sally Hutton's mayoral administration during which time she showed commitment and support to the park property by investing in the area's improvements and long-term maintenance.



VETERANS PARK

Left Source: Wayne County

Bottom Source: Wayne County



STARR GENNETT AREA

Above Source: Wayne County

2007- Park Greenhouse

Parks Department purchases the property and greenhouse located at 28 Waterfall Road.

2007- Starr Gennett Building

In 1916, a six-story building for the manufacture of phonographs and records was erected and was subsequently given to the City in later years. In 2007, as part of its ongoing effort to promote and celebrate the music legacy of Starr Piano Company and its subsidiary, Gennett Records, the Foundation inaugurated the Gennett Records Walk of Fame to honor those who recorded for Gennett Records and whose work contributed significantly to American history.

2009- Playful City USA award

Playful City USA was a recognition program, running from 2007 to 2017, that recognized and honored the cities and towns that ensured kids in their communities, particularly kids from low-income families, were getting the balanced and active play they need to thrive. Richmond was recognized for making the community a national role model, leading the way for play, and growing the next generation of healthy and productive adults.

2005

*Estimated. The actual date of establishment is unknown.

2010

2013- Wernle Park

Located at east of S 13th Street on Wernle Road, the site was acquired through land donations from Wernle Homes, Inc. Development. Currently the 27-acre site features a retention pond which is managed by the Richmond Sanitary District.

WERNLE PARK

Left Source: Google Earth Imagery

JACK ELSTRO PLAZA

Bottom and Right Source: City of Richmond
Far Right Source: Visit Indiana



2015- Playful City USA award

2015- Jack Elstro Plaza

Located at 47 N. Sixth Street, Jack Elstro Plaza opened to the public nearly two years after being documented as a Stellar Communities project through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Stellar Communities program. The park is named for longtime Richmond Common Council member Howard "Jack" Elstro, who died in July 2014.

2015

2016

2016- Playful City USA award

2016- Riverside Trail (National Road Heritage Trail)

In partnership with Richmond's Society for the Preservation and Use of Resources (SPUR), a paved 10-foot-wide trail from North 12th Street to North 24th along the East Fork of the Whitewater River and a trail head were constructed through a Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trail Program grant.

2017- Playful City USA award

2020

2020- Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

Awarded to the Department's greenhouse.

2021 Whitewater Gorge Connector Trail

By the end of 2021, the Whitewater Gorge Connector Trail will provide a paved connection from the north end of the Whitewater Gorge Trail to the South end of the Cardinal Greenway.



RIVERSIDE TRAIL

Left Source: Wayne County

The Loop

Bottom Source: City of Richmond



WHITewater GORGE TRAIL

Above Source: Wayne County

2019- The Loop

A multi-modal connectivity project included in the City's 2013 Stellar Communities Strategic Investment Plan, "The Loop" consists of a protected bike path to the south side of East Main Street from First to Seventh streets, the west side of North Seventh Street from East Main to Fort Wayne Avenue and the east-side of North 10th Street from the 10th Street Park to North E Street. Phase Two, which consists of bike paths running along Fort Wayne Avenue, North E Street and East Main from Seventh to 10th streets, is anticipated to be complete by 2022.

2019- West Side Lions Park

Reinvestment within park done through a Lions Club Legacy Bicentennial Project.

2019

ONGOING WORK

PREVIOUS PLANS/ INITIATIVES SUMMARY

Richmond has a long and rich tradition of community and facilities planning. This timeline serves as a graphic representation of the efforts put forth by the community to guide, and prepare for future development and redevelopment opportunities. While each plan was thoroughly reviewed for the wealth of knowledge it offers, this timeline serves to highlight the overarching purpose of each document.

2006

City of Richmond Comprehensive Plan 2006- A document that was being used as a policy guide for making informed decisions that affect the community, the City's previous comprehensive plan identified economic development, job creation, physical appearance of the community, community services, community resources, and sense of City identity and pride as the six most pressing issues during the time the plan was completed.

2009

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2009-2013- A guide for providing parks and recreation in and around the City of Richmond, this document's action plan outlines strategies for 5 categories including facilities, services, markets, community, and stewardship.

2011

Transportation Plan 2011- The plan establishes a vision to, "provide a framework for an integrated multi-modal transportation system that will guide City policies and priorities and improve the quality of life in Richmond." The framework is one that centers on the creation of a complete streets system where transportation planning evolves, becoming less automobile-centric.

2013

2013 Stellar Strategic Investment Plan- A regional planning process that resulted in earning the Stellar Communities designation in 2013, the Mission Statement reads, "Positively enhance the quality of life for the entire region by making improvements in the district, leveraging strategic partnerships and creating gateways to surrounding emerging districts for sustainable quality living and economic vitality." The strategic investment plan outlines 10 projects including the creation of Elstro Plaza; rehabilitation of the former YMCA building into Music City Place senior apartments; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along East Main, Seventh and 10th streets; facade work along East Main Street; owner-occupied home rehabilitation in the Vaile neighborhood; and development of downtown living spaces.

2014

2014 Richmond Farmers Market: Recommendations for Revitalization-

In response to the City's 2013 Stellar Communities designation, seniors from Earlham College's Environmental Studies program collaborated with City officials to identify recommendations and best practices to assist the City's strategic planning and decision-making process for the future Farmer's Market.

2015

Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan 2015- This plan builds upon the success of the Cardinal Greenway and aims to provide a complete system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The purpose is two-fold: first, to further non-vehicular transportation and recreation; and second, to improve the local quality of life offered by the City of Richmond.

2018

2018 Middlefork Master Plan- Seniors from Earlham College's Environmental Studies program collaborated with Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation staff to define revitalization needs at Middlefork Reservoir. The report focused on identifying site challenges and City wants and needs through a community engagement process.

2019

2019 Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan- The Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan serves as the City's comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan is a guidance document for future growth and development over the next 10 to 20 years. It serves as a roadmap for effective decision-making in both private development projects and community initiatives for the public good. Key components of the Comprehensive Plan include a snapshot of current conditions, a vision for the future, and recommendations of how to achieve the vision and goals outlined within the document.

CARRYING FORWARD THE MOMENTUM

SYSTEM AND DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The City not only has a rich parks and planning history, but the Department of Parks and Recreation has been gaining momentum since the completion of the *2009 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*. This momentum has allowed for an increase in park property, linear feet of trails, and park programming opportunities and attendance. This momentum has not only fueled the department over the last decade, but it will continue to drive Department leaders and staff forward into the future.

While the accomplishments of both the Department of Parks and Recreation's teams and individuals are numerous, in a presentation to Richmond Common Council in early 2020, the Department of Parks and Recreation highlighted twelve transformative projects completed in 2019 throughout the City.

Center City

Construction of the first phase of Richmond's Loop was completed and the Department of Parks and Recreation immediately began providing ongoing maintenance services. Additionally, the year-round maintenance and growing operations provided by the floral team ensured that planters and planting beds within Center City were visually appealing.

Richmond Senior Center

Currently providing for approximately 1,000 members, the Richmond Senior Center received facility and amenity improvements such as paint, furniture, and HVAC units. Outdoor improvements were undertaken as well including tree and landscape pruning and cleaning of pickleball courts.

Whitewater Gorge

Specifically, within Veterans Park and the Starr Gennett area, improvements have been made to site landscaping and site security systems. Additionally, to increase the awareness and celebration of these key historic and cultural entities, the City has worked to increase programming opportunities by supporting programs such as the Richmond Shakespeare Festival and Memorial Day events.

Starr Park/ East Side Lions Park

Starr Park received minor improvements including a new shelter, grill and trashcans. Additionally, retaining wall improvements have been provided along the perimeter of the park.

Equipment

The Department was able to purchase new maintenance equipment including a mowing trailer, four new mowers and three new fleet vehicles.

Highland Lake Golf Course

Significant improvements were undertaken at Highland Lake Golf Course including new landscaping, new signage and building improvements that addresses the banquet room, bathrooms, and clubhouse. The course is home to many local high school teams and as of 2019 the IU East Girls Golf team as well as local high school teams.

Mary Scott Park

The park received minor improvements including a new ADA ramp, new safety fall surfacing around the swing set and the removal of the deteriorated concrete area in front of the cabin and retaining wall.

Elstro Plaza

The focus of 2019 has been to increase the use and programming of Elstro Plaza. The support of local events and celebrations including the International Food Festival, Chalkfest, outdoor movies and recreation opportunities such as the outdoor game tables have ensured that the plaza remains a fixture within the community.

Richmond Farmers Market

Participation by both vendors and the community has continued to increase at the City's Farmers Market. Since 2017 the total vendor sales have been reported nearing \$410,000 and City collected vendor fees are approaching \$36,000.

Clear Creek Park

As one of the City's flagship parks, the area received several improvements including eight new pickleball courts, perimeter drainage and landscaping improvements, and a new shelter with electrical service. The Cordell Municipal Pool and McBride Stadium also received needed improvements.

Middlefork Reservoir

New landscaping, new mulch and a new playground were key improvements at Middlefork Reservoir in addition to a new deck and repaired service center porch. Maintenance and amenity improvements were also conducted on the boat docks and slips in anticipation of the boat fleet coming in 2020.

Glen Miller Park

Improvements to key facilities and amenities took place including the bandshell, Rose Garden, Mack Shack and former golf course area, new recreational options such as the new gaga ball pit and music garden. Improved landscaping and the removal of invasive species also became a focus for the park area.



RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Prior to 1941, the parks department was under the sole guidance of the Mayor. On February 27, 1941 Mayor J. R. Britton appointed a Board of Park Commissioners for the first time. The Board was made up of four appointed members and was granted a budget of \$27,000 for the first year of operations. The Board's early efforts were directed toward contract negotiations for food and ride concessions at Clear Creek and Glen Miller Parks, the City's flagship properties. On August 1, 1983 the Richmond City Council adopted an ordinance (#28-1983), which established the Park Board under the provisions of Indiana Statute 36-10-3.

Today, The Richmond Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of four appointed individuals based on their interest in and knowledge of parks, open space, and recreational programming. In addition to the four board members, there is also one City Council liaison appointed to the group. Through monthly meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month and open to the general public, the Parks and Recreation Board sets policy and gives direction to the park system and is directly charged with the stewardship of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields, over 250 recreational programs and play amenities, five multi-use trails, and an operating budget of approximately \$3 million dollars broken down into five separate reverting and non-reverting funds.

Together the Parks and Recreation Board, city leaders, department staff and team members and community partners work to:

- maintain the City's parks, trails and spaces to the best of their ability;
- serve the community of all ages and abilities;
- provide positive quality recreational opportunities for everyone;
- be an inspiration of destination; and
- ensure that parks are at the forefront of why people visit or move to the City of Richmond.

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Board works collaboratively with staff to provide for the positive development and well-being of the Richmond community through the provision of parks, greenways, trails and recreational programming and facilities, while working in cooperation with other service providers and partners in the community to maximize all available resources.

Richmond Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement

The Parks and Recreation Board works hand in hand with department staff on a daily basis to ensure that the City's long and short-term goals around parks, open spaces and recreational programs are realized. While the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the various department teams are different and distinct, they can generally be separated into the following broad responsibilities.

TASK	Park and Recreation Board	Department Staff/ Teams
Long- term visioning and goal setting	Approves	Drafts, recommends and provides input and follow up
Short-term visioning and goal setting	Monitors	Establishes and carries out as a part of daily activities
Capital Purchases and Improvements	Approves	Researches, prepares requests and makes recommendations following all City procurement policies. Department Superintendent can also sign contracts (under \$5,000) if given authority following all City procurement policies.
Capital Investment Decisions (building renovations, leasing, expansions etc.)	Makes decisions and assumes responsibility	Researches and makes recommendations; Department Superintendent can also sign contracts (under \$5,000) if given authority following all City procurement policies.
Budgets	Approves all non-reverting funds and recommends approval to Common Council	Park Superintendent and Business Manager prepare budget recommendations with administration and park divisions in each area.
Inventory and supply purchases	Establishes policy and yearly budget	Purchases according to board policy and maintains an adequate audit trail
Emergency repairs	Works with Department Leadership	Notifies Board chairperson and acts with concurrence from chair
Cleaning and Maintenance	-----	Sets schedule and preforms duties
Programming and amenity fees	Adopts policy	Develops and recommends fee schedules
Billing, credit and collections	Adopts policy	Proposes policies and implements action steps
Hiring of staff	Hires Park Superintendent from Administration recommendation; Sets standards and qualifications and may be asked to be involved in staffing process for various Park Divisions	Approves all hiring
Staff development and assignments	-----	Implements development programs and assignments
Termination of staff	May be notified for clarification or recommendations	Makes final determinations
Staff Salaries	Allocates line item for salaries in yearly budget	Researches and makes recommendations
Staff evaluations	Evaluates the Department Superintendent	Department Superintendent evaluates direct reports and direct reports evaluate other staff

Specific information on the roles and responsibilities of both the Parks and Recreation Board and the department staff can be found on the following pages.

RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

The Richmond Park and Recreation Board, by ordinance, operates under the First-Class City Park Law. The State statute (36-10-3) establishes the executive department of public parks in First Class cities/towns and provides that the Park & Recreation Board shall have exclusive government, management, and control of all park and recreation areas within the City/Town, subject only to the laws of the State.

The duties of the Board are outlined under SECTION 10 and are as follows:

- a) The board shall:
 - 1) exercise general supervision of and make rules for the department;
 - 2) establish rules governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public;
 - 3) provide police protection for its 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;
 - 4) appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties;
 - 5) establish standards and qualifications for the appointment of all personnel and approve their appointments without regard to politics;
 - 6) make recommendations and an annual report to the executive and fiscal body of the unit concerning the operation of the board and the status of the park and recreation programs in the district;
 - 7) prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other executive departments of the unit; and
 - 8) appoint a member of the board to serve on another kind of board or commission, whenever a statute allows a park or recreation board to do this.
- b) In a municipality, the board shall fix the compensation of officers and personnel appointed under subsections (a)(4) and (a)(5), subject to IC 36-4-7-5 and IC 36-4-7-6.

Also under SECTION 11 the powers of the Board are outlined as follows:

- a) The board may:
 - 1) enter into contracts and leases for facilities and services;
 - 2) contract with persons for joint use of facilities for the operation of park and recreation programs and related services;
 - 3) contract with another board, a unit, or a school corporation for the use of park and recreation facilities or services, and a township or school corporation may contract with the board for the use of park and recreation facilities or services;
 - 4) acquire and dispose of real and personal property, either within or outside Indiana;
 - 5) exercise the power of eminent domain under statutes available to municipalities;
 - 6) sell, lease, or enter into a royalty contract for the natural or mineral resources of land that it owns, the money received to be deposited in a non-reverting capital fund of the board;
 - 7) engage in self-supporting activities as prescribed by section 22 of this chapter;

- 8) contract for special and temporary services and professional assistance;
 - 9) delegate authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary;
 - 10) prepare, publish, and distribute reports and other materials relating to activities authorized by this chapter;
 - 11) sue and be sued collectively by its legal name, as the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board, with the service of process being had upon the president of the board, but costs may not be taxed against the board or its members in any action;
 - 12) invoke any legal, equitable, or special remedy for the enforcement of this chapter, a park or recreation ordinance, or the board's own action taken under either; and
 - 13) release and transfer, by resolution, a part of the area over which it has jurisdiction for park and recreational purposes to park authorities of another unit for park and recreational purposes upon petition of the park and recreation board of the acquiring unit.
- c) The board may also lease any buildings or grounds belonging to the unit and located within a park to a person for a period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. The lease may authorize the lessee to provide upon the premises educational, research, veterinary, or other proper facilities for the exhibition of wild or domestic animals in wildlife parks, dining facilities, a bathhouse, skating facilities, dancing facilities, or amusement rides generally found in amusement parks. A lease may be made for more than one (1) year only to the highest and best bidder, after notice that the lease will be made has been given by publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

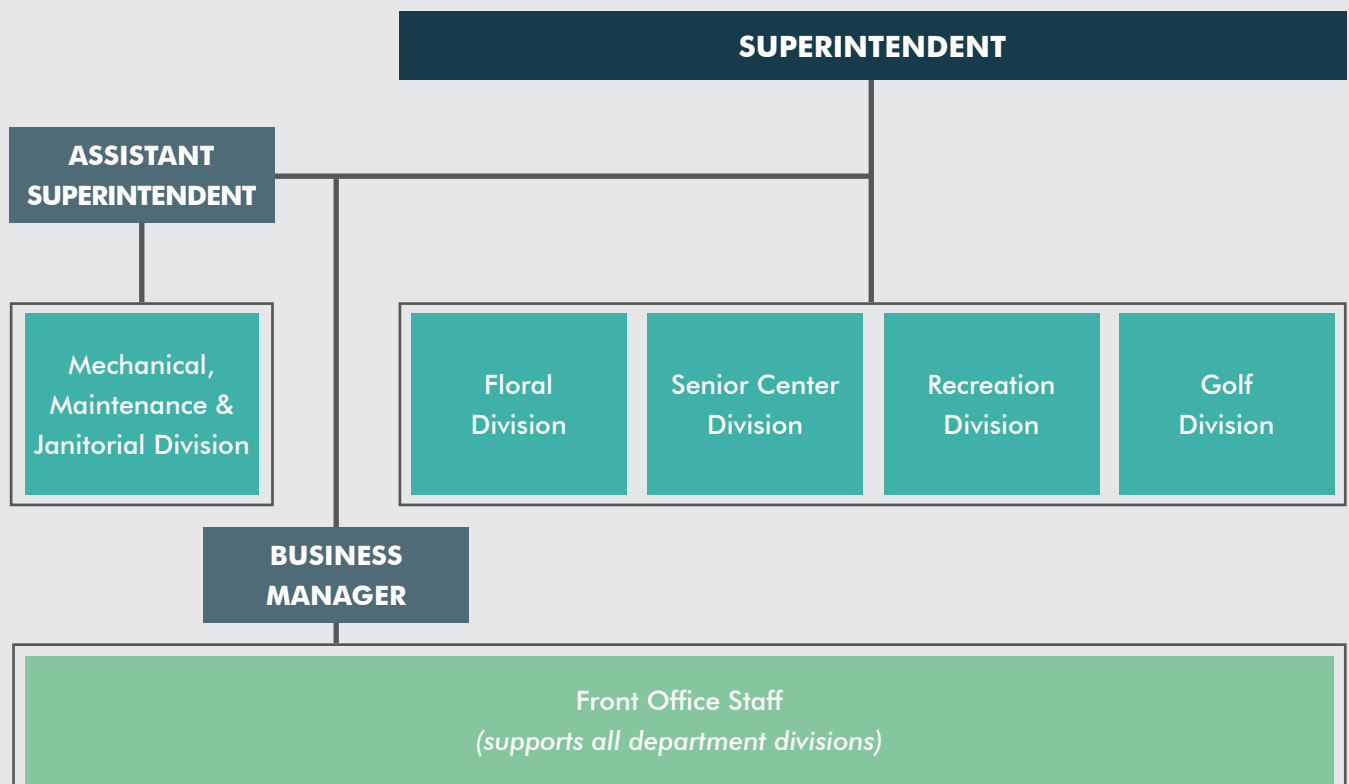
RICHMOND DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF

While the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board serves primarily as a governing body, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff ensures that each of the City's parks, facilities and recreational programs run smoothly on a daily basis. Today, the City's Department of Parks and Recreation is comprised of 23 full-time staff members, and 10 part-time staff members. Additionally, up to 100 seasonal staff members are added over the course of the year to increase maintenance and operations capacities.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is managed by a Parks Superintendent and an Parks Assistant Superintendent. Together, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent work towards communication with department staff, the Parks and Recreation Board, City Council, City Departments and the media. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are supported by in-office staff positions who work daily to provide complete customer service, whether in person, over the phone, or through written correspondence.

Currently, staff members are divided into six divisions, each serving a specific purpose within the comprehensive system. All department teams currently report directly to the Parks Superintendent, with the exception of the Maintenance and Janitorial Division who report to the Assistant Superintendent.

RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Golf Division

The Golf Division is responsible for overseeing the daily operations and maintenance of the Highland Lake Golf Course. In addition to the maintenance of buildings and grounds, the team is also responsible for programming, marketing and community-wide partnership development.

Floral Division

The Floral Division is responsible for cultivating, growing and maintaining the City's landscape beds and established planting areas. Additionally, the members of this team participate in community programming opportunities as related to landscaping and environmental protection.

Mechanical, Maintenance and Janitorial Division

The Mechanical, Maintenance and Janitorial Division is responsible for the daily care and upkeep of the City's parks, facilities and recreational amenities. Additionally, they are tasked with identifying and planning for long-range improvements and equipment upgrades.

Recreation Division

The focus of the Recreation Division is to provide quality, positive recreation opportunities, which enhance the well-being of the diverse citizenry of Richmond. Overseeing the organization and facilitation of the City's community programs including JUKO, Little JUKO, and JUKO Rocks! as well as events such as outdoor movies, the Egg Hunt and City Festivals and Events are critical responsibilities of this team. The City's Farmer's Market and Sports and Recreation Programs are also included as a critical component of the Recreation Division. The Recreation Division also serves as a liaison to community organizations such as Center City Development Corporation, Starr Gennett Foundation, Rose Garden Committee, City Arts, Family Earth Day and the EARN Program.

Senior Center Team

The Senior Center division oversees the daily operations and programming activities held at the Richmond Senior Center for those residents 50 and over. The responsibilities of this group include oversight of the organization's Senior Council, facilitation of senior activity meetings, as well as presentations tours to guests, partners and potential donors.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

By teaming up, parks agencies can help cities do a better job of meeting citizens' demands for more and better parks in the face of limited public resources. Parks agencies can tap into a wide range of natural partners to support their activities. While City departments, local hospitals, local foundations, colleges, universities, community organizations and major businesses are obvious potential partners, the Department can also reach out to parents with children in parks-sponsored programs, participants in adult recreation programs, adults who use facilities on a casual basis, and neighborhood groups that advocate for city services. These represent a power base that can be mobilized for park maintenance, community programming and even local park advocacy events when needed.

The City of Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation currently has partnerships with City departments, local businesses and community organizations. In most cases these partnerships include a donation of in-kind resources or supplies by the Department in exchange for supplies, resources and volunteer time. Most of these partnerships provide the Department with additional resources that are targeting maintenance efforts throughout the year. In addition to maintenance initiatives, some partnerships have resulted in additional funding being directed to the Department. Through direct donations of equipment including lighting, flagpoles, mulch, and stone, and funding solicitation on behalf of the Department, additional capital resources have been generated.

While many of the Department's relationships result in the sharing of resources, at times the Department provides services or resources without receiving a benefit in return. These instances, while few, result in the Department expending time, energy and resources in areas that may not be a recreational priority. With Department staff and budgets facing consistent pressure, it is important to make sure that Department resources are being used in strategic ways. By ensuring that existing partnerships can be strengthened and new partnerships can be created the resources and capacity of the Department can grow.

SELECTED PARK PARTNERS

Amigos Richmond
Center City Development Corporation
City of Richmond Fire Department
City of Richmond Municipal Landfill
City of Richmond Police Department
City of Richmond Sanitation Department
City of Richmond Street Department
City of Richmond Team
Cope Environmental Center
Depot District
Downtown Business Group
Earlham College
Early College Collation
Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County
Hayes Arboretum
Hibbard Middle School
Hills Pet Nutrition
IU East
IVY Tech
Midwest Industrial Park
Quigg Fund
Recycling Center
Reid Health
Richmond Community Schools
Richmond Friends School
Richmond Jazz/ Hitters Hangout, LLC
Richmond Lion's Club
Richmond Pickleball, LLC
Rose Garden Committee
Rotary Club of Richmond
Seton Community Schools
Stamm Koechlein Family Foundation
Star Gennett Foundation
Test Middle School
Vigran Family Foundation
Wayne County Community Corrections
Wayne County Fairgrounds
Wayne County Foundation
Wayne County Soil and Water District
Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park Committee
Women of Wayne Republican Party
Wood Block Press
YMCA







CHAPTER TWO

THE COMMUNITY



To effectively guide parks, open space and recreational programming policies and decisions, local decision makers will often review an inventory of current conditions and trends at the local, state, regional and national levels.

An analysis of Richmond's demographic and socio-economics data was completed during the *2019 Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan* to establish an understanding of the community characteristics, growth patterns and economic trends. This data and analysis guided the Richmond Rising planning process and served as the foundation for many of the recommendations presented throughout the final document.

The same analysis is essential for parks and recreation master planning. Current community characteristics, growth patterns and economic trends can impact the supply and demand for park and recreational facilities and programming. Due to the similarities in data and analysis needs, the data collected during the Richmond Rising planning process has been carried over into this *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. The previously collected demographic data has been paired with an inventory of natural features from the *2009 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*, and readily available City and County statistics outlining the conditions of topography, soils, waterways, vegetation and animal habitats. The analysis of the Richmond community focus on two primary categories- Community Profile, which includes population, housing and employment topics and Community Features, which provides an inventory of Richmond's natural and built environment. All data was obtained from ESRI Business Analyst and the U.S. Census Bureau, unless otherwise noted.

The key findings of this chapter were paired with the system wide inventory analysis presented in Chapter Three. Together these opportunities and challenges form the basis of the System Findings outlined on pages 198-201.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION, AGE, INCOME AND HOUSEHOLDS

Richmond's population is declining, along with Wayne County's.

- Richmond's 2018 total population is estimated to be over 36,000 people, making it the largest city in Wayne County.
- The City is expected to experience a 2 percent decrease in population over the next five years, which is slightly less than the expected decrease of 2.25 percent for Wayne County.
- As of 2018, Richmond has 14,813 households; by 2023, this number is expected to decrease by 2 percent, leaving 14,500 households in Richmond. Wayne County is expected to experience a relatively similar decrease from 26,832 households in 2018 to 26,211 households in 2023.

Richmond is getting older.

- Today, the median age for residents in Richmond is 40 years old. Similar to Wayne County, this has been slowly increasing since 2000 and is expected to continue through 2023.

Richmond has a lower median household income relative to Wayne County and the rest of the state.

- Richmond has a median household income of \$40,213, which is over \$5,000 dollars less than the median household income of \$45,817 in Wayne County, and over \$13,000 lower than the state median household income.
- In Richmond, the per capita income, the average income earned per person, is \$23,402.

Richmond has not experienced any major shifts in its racial composition in the last several years.

- The percentage of residents who identify as "white" is expected to decrease by 1.2 percent, while people of "some other race" may increase by 0.3 percent and people of "two or more races" may increase by 0.8 percent.

Richmond exceeds the state average in every disability type, especially in those over the age of 75.

- Roughly 20 percent of Richmond's population holds some form of disability, including: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, difficulty with self-care, and/or difficulty with independent living.
- Disabilities become more prevalent with age, increasing from 23 percent to 38 percent after age 64, and again from 38 percent to 57 percent after age 75.
- Most Richmond residents with a disability fall under three main types, including ambulatory difficulty (11.7 percent), cognitive difficulty (9.1 percent) and difficulty with independent living (9.1 percent).
- For younger residents, including those below the age of 18, cognitive disabilities are the most common.



RICHMOND IMPACTS

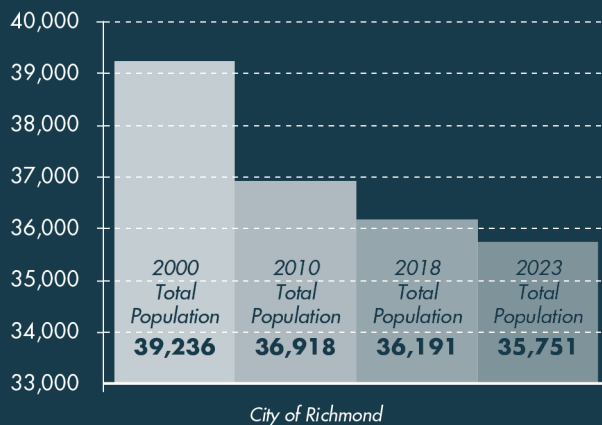
The demographic data analysis reveals that Richmond has been declining in total population, and is expected to continue doing so. Since residential property taxes fund the majority of the Parks and Recreation budget, the decline in population will result in lower income tax levies, and additional reductions in park improvement, maintenance and programming.

Compared to Wayne County and the state of Indiana, Richmond has a low median household income. This can directly impact the Department of Parks and Recreation because area residents could be unable to spend money on “extra” things such as park programming, enclosed facility and open air shelter rental fees.

As the population continues to get older, there will be an increased need to provide diverse equipment and programming opportunities for individuals over the age of 50, while also still ensuring amenities exist for other age demographics. The diversity in equipment and programming opportunities will also need to account for the 20 percent of Richmond residents that are dealing with some sort of disability.

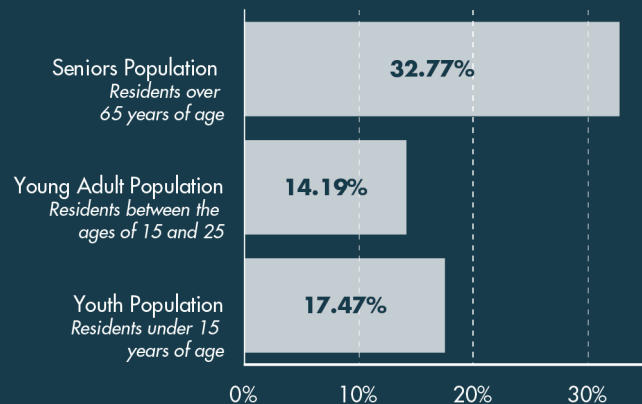
These system impacts are further assessed in the System Findings section started on page 198.

Population Change

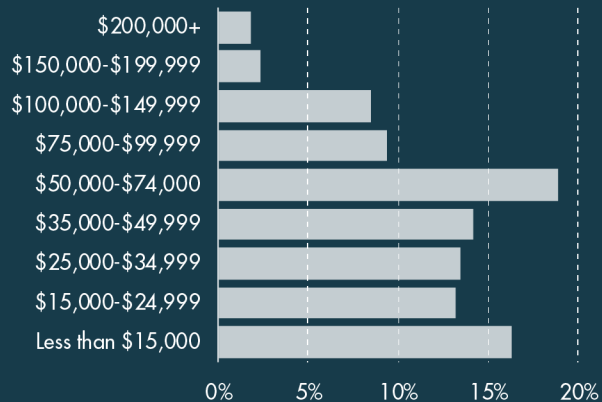


2000 and 2010 population data provided by the US Census Bureau; 2018 population data and 2023 population projections provided by Esri Business Analyst

2018 Population Breakdown

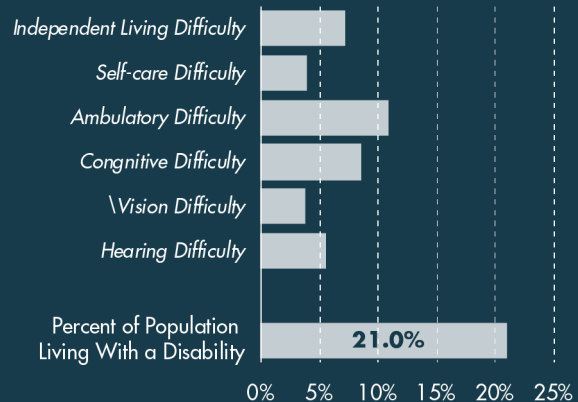


2018 Income by Households



2018 population data provided by Esri Business Analyst

2018 Disability Type Percent



Disability data provided by 2018 ACS 5 Year estimates

HOUSING

NUMBER OF UNITS, AGE, AND OWNERSHIP

This section provides an overview of the housing market in Richmond, including total units, housing occupancy, and year built. All data was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI Business Analyst. The key findings are as follows:

Richmond's housing stock is older and less valuable relative to Wayne County.

- Nearly 70 percent of the current housing stock in Richmond was built before 1970, meaning the units were constructed before modern building codes went into effect.
- Richmond's median home value in 2018 was \$92,590 while the median home value in Wayne County was \$105,503.

The vacancy rate is high and rising.

- The total number of housing units in Richmond has stayed relatively consistent since 2000 shifting only by 20 units, while Wayne County had a 2.5 percent increase in housing units between 2000 and 2010 and held steady through 2018 with 31,242 units.
- As of 2018, the City of Richmond had 17,684 housing units with 50 percent owner occupied, 34 percent renter occupied, and 16 percent vacant.
- When compared to Wayne County, Richmond's vacancy rate is 2 percent higher than the county with 14 percent of housing units being vacant.
- The combination of stable numbers of housing units with declining numbers of households (see demographic section above) means that vacancy rates will probably increase over the next few years.



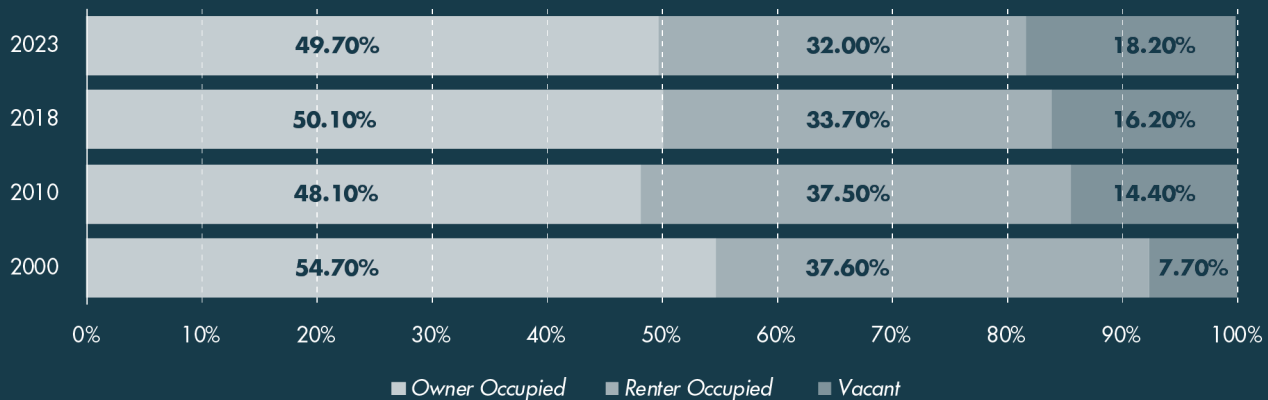


RICHMOND IMPACTS

Housing plays a major role in the success of a community. Even though Richmond is rich in natural and cultural resources, which includes a strong park and open space system, the availability and quality of housing is one of the greatest selling points of a community. Data reveals that Richmond is facing many challenges within its housing stock. As the City mitigates the housing challenges which include increased vacancy, variety in price points and structural concerns, the Department of Parks and Recreation will need to respond accordingly to ensure that new and/ or rehabilitated residential neighborhoods have access to park and open space areas.

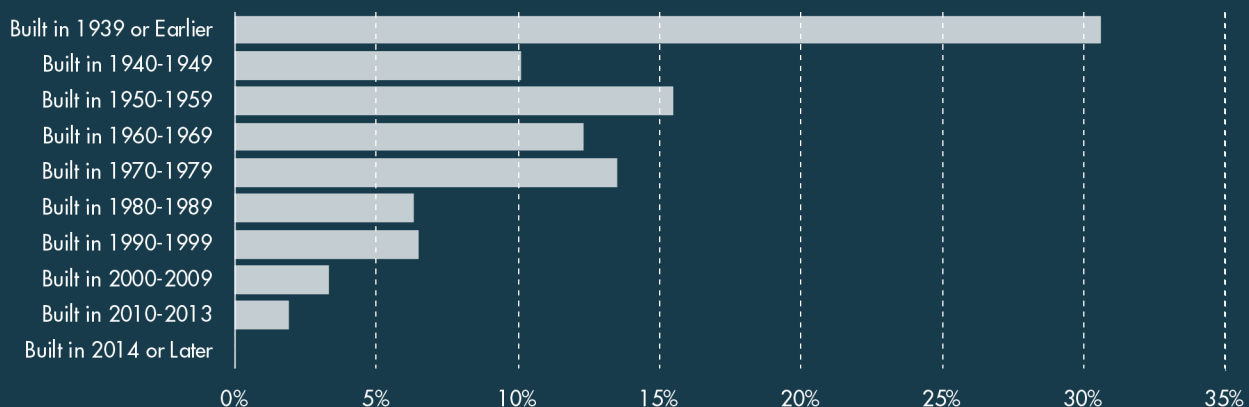
These system impacts are further assessed in the System Findings section started on page 198.

Home Ownership



2000 and 2010 population data provided by the US Census Bureau; 2018 population data and 2023 population projections provided by Esri Business Analyst

2018 Age of Structure



2018 population data provided by Esri Business Analyst

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMY

EDUCATION, LABOR FORCE AND INDUSTRIES

Richmond closely resembles the rest of Indiana, but has trouble retaining those with higher education degrees

- As a host to Earlham College, as well as to the branches of several other major Indiana universities, the City of Richmond has a high number of residents who have some level of college education but have not yet attained a degree (21.7 percent) as of 2018.
- Nearly 30 percent of Richmond residents have a high school diploma, slightly lower than the Indiana average of 33 percent.
- The City of Richmond has significantly fewer residents with a bachelor's degree (9.9 percent) than the state average (17.3 percent), especially considering the density of higher education institutions within the community.

Most of Richmond's employment and labor force is engaged in the service and retail industries.

- Richmond has over 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 28,000 workers from both the city and the surrounding county. Top industries include services and retail trade.
- Richmond itself has a total employed population of 15,327 residents, all of which are at least 16 years of age. Of those nearly 15,000 workers, over 30 percent work in the service industry. The second greatest industry is manufacturing with 20.5 percent of the population working in factories.

Richmond serves as a regional employment center.

- The top 10 employers for Wayne County, ranging from government services, healthcare, and education to manufacturing, are all located in Richmond.
- As of 2015, commuting trends reveal that 9 percent of Wayne County's workforce is commuting into the county each day, mostly from Ohio.
- As of 2015, commuting trends reveal that 5.3 percent of Wayne County's labor force travels outside of Wayne County for employment. The majority of these commuters are going to Ohio to work.

Richmond's employment base and labor force are contracting.

- The latest (2017) county-wide total employment statistic of 38,721 represents a substantial decline (~10%) from its 2001 level of 43,099.
- As of 2018, Richmond's unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, which is 1.2 percent higher than Wayne County and 0.9 percent higher than the state of Indiana.
- Between 2010 and 2017, Richmond's labor force decreased by 2 percent. Wayne County experienced a very similar decline of 2.3 percent, while Indiana as a whole, experienced a 25 percent increase in labor force during the same time frame.



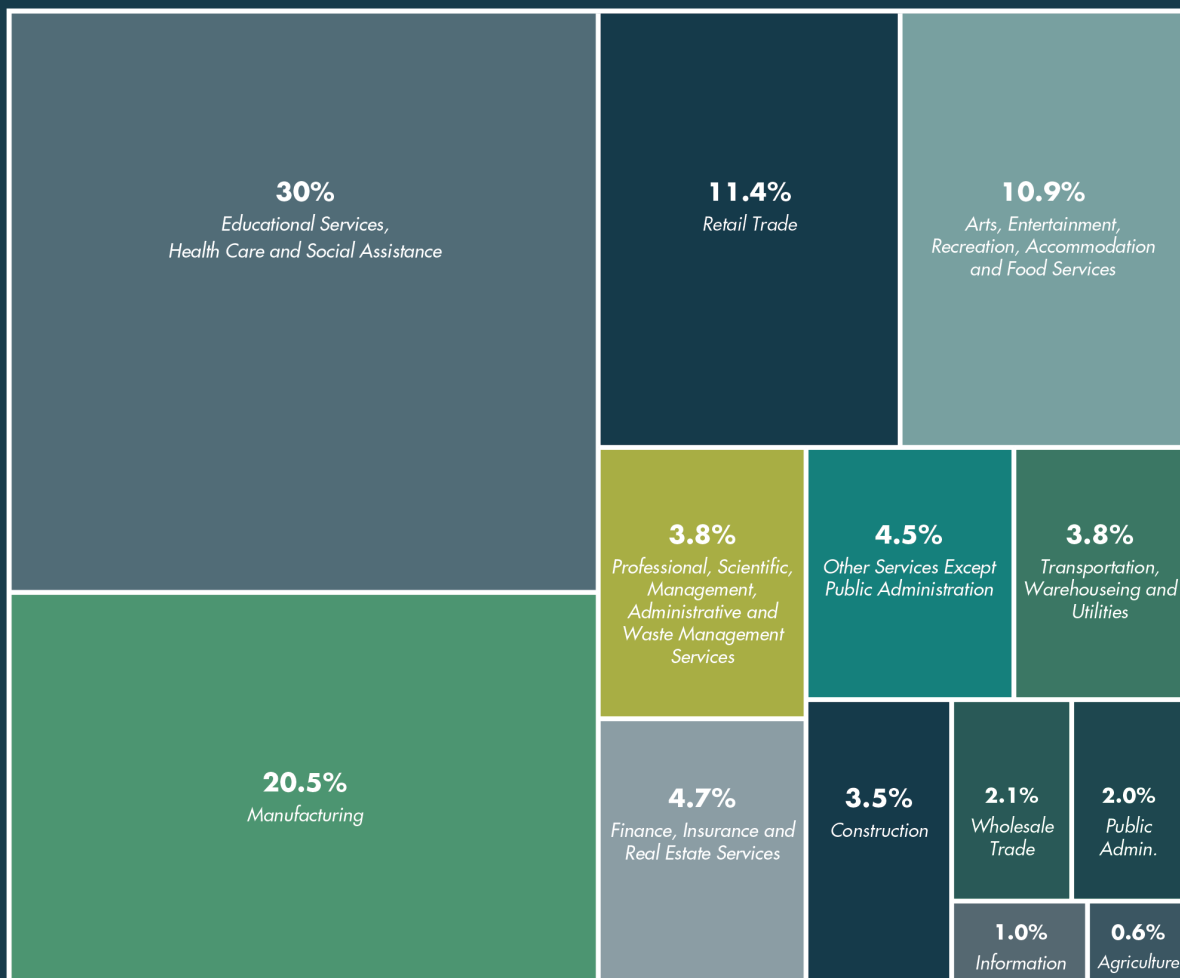
RICHMOND IMPACTS

Richmond's future prosperity will depend on its ability to develop both businesses and a workforce. Based on Richmond's median household income and top employment industries, it can be concluded that existing job opportunities primarily fall within the relatively lower wage brackets. Because of this, Richmond is experiencing an increase in poverty, lack of affordable dependent care, fewer stable jobs, fewer employer-sponsored healthcare plans, and an inability to attract retail and housing development.

The City's existing parks and open space system is one key tool to overcoming the workforce and employment challenges the City is currently facing. By building upon the existing system and included quality of life amenities such as parks, open spaces, recreational amenities, entertainment and programming options, and trails the City can work to strengthen the health of community residents and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all residents.

These system impacts are further assessed in the System Findings section started on page 198.

Richmond Industries Summary



Industry summary provided by 2018 ACS 5 Year estimates and accounts for total employed civilian population over the age of sixteen

EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND USE

EXPANSION AND GROWTH

Having an understanding of a City's existing land use patterns and their future development aspirations is important for two reasons. First, reviewing development patterns and completing an inventory of the types and mix of current land uses can show where concentrations of similar activity exist. Secondly, the analysis can indicate areas in which to target development and redevelopment efforts. For park and recreation planning specifically, an inventory of existing land use will reveal where current parks and open spaces are located and how they fit into the larger development pattern. For example, this analysis will indicate any residential areas that lack park and recreation facilities within a reasonable walking distance.

Richmond consisted of only 11.6 square miles in 1960. Over the next 30 years (between 1960 and 1990), the City's area grew by over 50 percent to become approximately 18-square miles. By 2000, both land area and population growth had started to shift. While the land area increased to 23-square miles, a 23 percent increase in 10 years, its population had only slightly increased. It can be concluded that this happened because of typical urban sprawl – people started moving away from the center of the city towards its developing fringe. This forced the city to expand to encompass these areas, but this expansion led to a decrease in population density. Nearly 20 years later, Richmond remains similar in size, covering 24-square miles of land.

While the City of Richmond has not changed significantly in size over the past two decades, it is important to consider that the City has extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) for 2 miles outside of the incorporated boundary. This gives the City planning and zoning authority over land within the 2-mile fringe surrounding the incorporated area. This area, making up an additional 34-miles of land, is home to several single-family residential neighborhoods. The residents within the ETJ often use City services as a part of their daily lives- including City parks, open spaces, trails and recreational programs. While these residents utilize City services, they do not pay property taxes to the City. Instead their residential property taxes go directly to the County.

During the 2019 Richmond Rising process, portions of the ETJ were identified as potential areas for future annexation since City services and programs were already available to these residents. While an Annexation Fiscal Impact and Cost-Benefit Analysis would be needed to determine the community-wide benefit to expanding the City's geographical boundary, it is important to consider these areas when providing parks, open spaces and recreational program opportunities.

Existing Land Use Percentage (Municipal Area and ETJ)

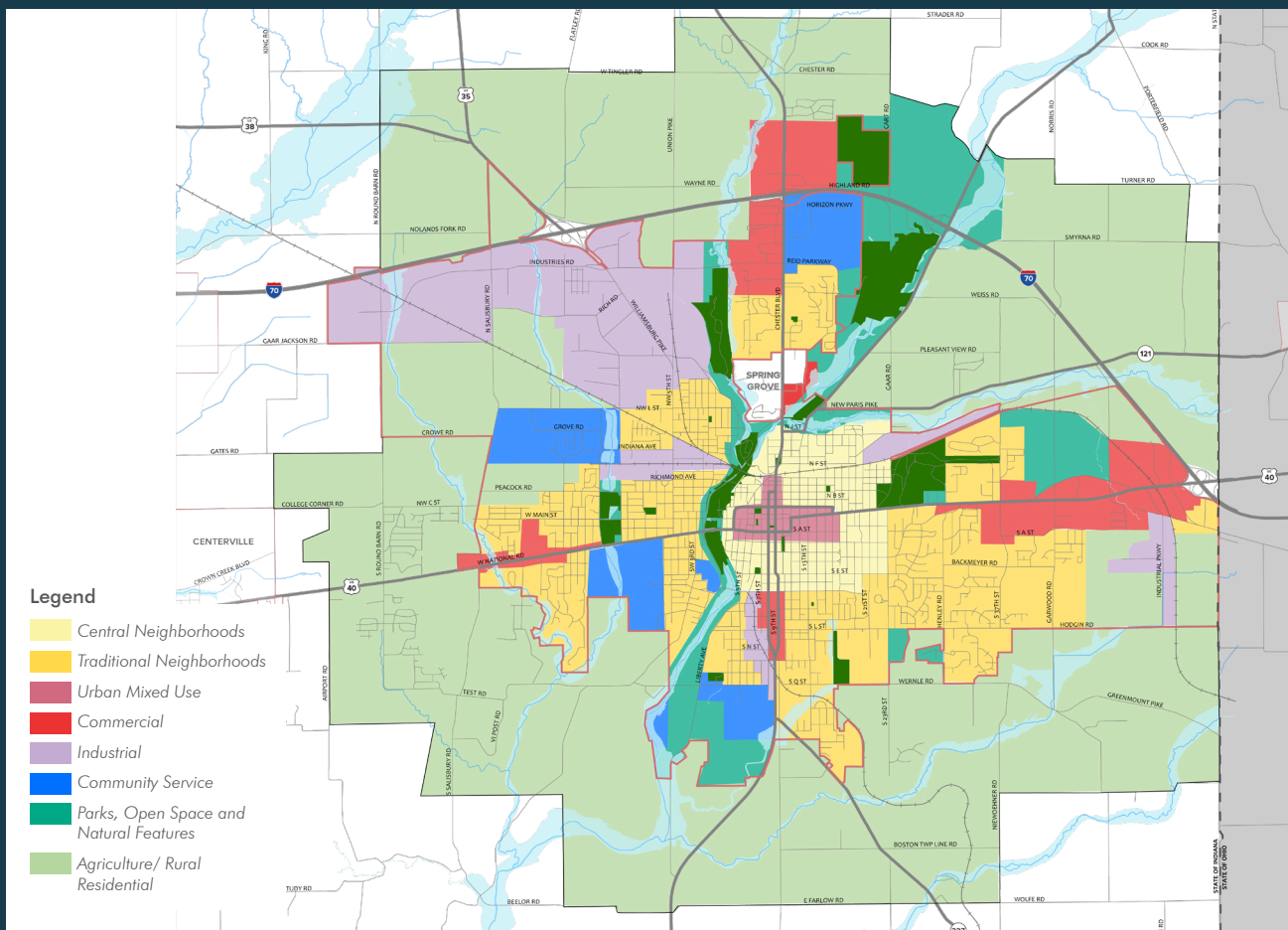




RICHMOND IMPACTS

As a component of the 2019 Richmond Rising process, a future land use map was created that established new City-wide land use place types. Areas within the City of Richmond and the two-mile fringe have been classified into eight unique place types. Unlike traditional land use designations, which are applied parcel by parcel, place type designations can define the nature and desired character of uses on a larger scale. This approach allows for greater flexibility regarding future land use decisions and puts an emphasis on how adjacent place types interact and impact one another. Each of Richmond's eight place types describe the character, land uses and level of connectivity within each designation. The place types also indicate areas that are ideal for future parks and open space development. The future land use pattern for the City is not anticipated to change, however there is a new emphasis on redevelopment and revitalization within core areas of the community. In addition to the City's overall future land use plan, the Richmond Rising process identified seven Priority Investment Opportunity (PIO) Districts. These districts represent critical opportunities for the City of Richmond to improve the city's identity, local neighborhoods, local and regional employment centers, vehicular and non-vehicular connectivity and public perception, and they are now considered to be priority development areas for the future.

These system impacts are further assessed in the System Findings section started on page 198.



2019 Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan Future Land Use Map

COMMUNITY FEATURES

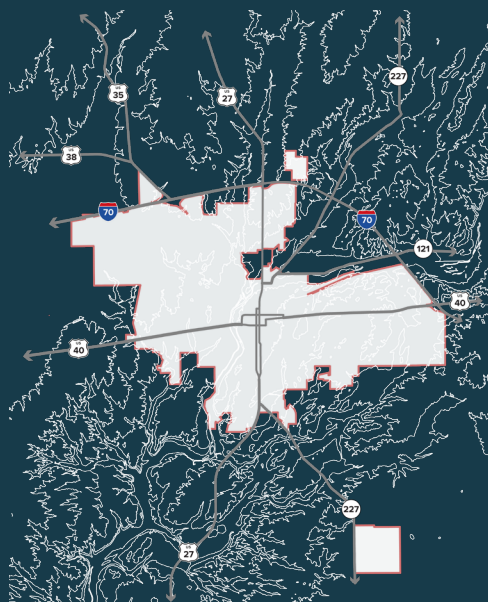
RICHMOND'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Topography and Geology

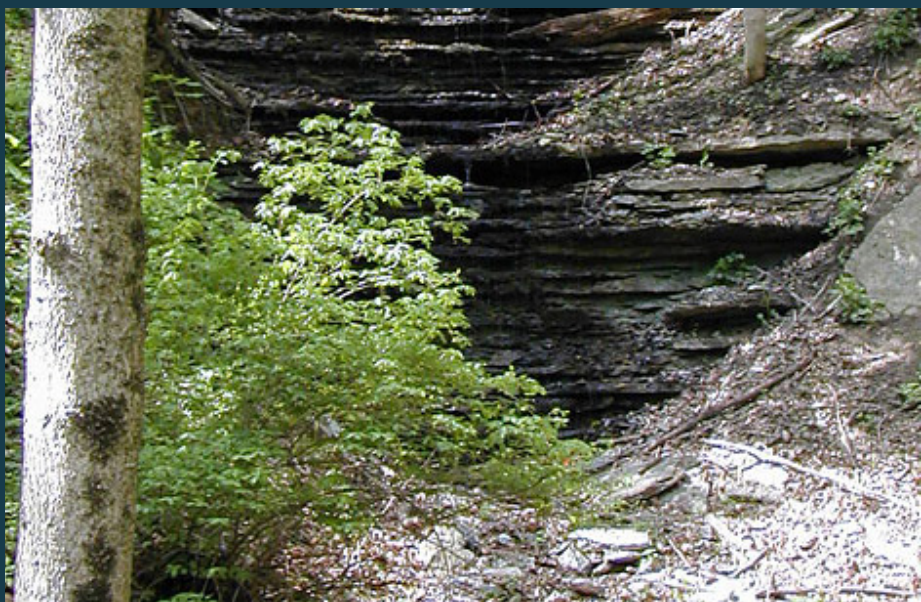
Topography refers to the shape and elevation of the natural and manmade features of the earth. Within city limits, the topography of Richmond is relatively flat. Areas with varying elevations are primarily located along rivers and creeks. The highest elevation in Richmond is located in the 2-mile fringe area within Smyrna Road and Interstate 70, likely due to the Richmond landfill. The lowest elevation in Richmond is located along the Whitewater River and Clear Creek.

Geology refers to the defining physical features of the earth's surface, such as rocks. A concentration of rock known as "The Richmond" is named after the City of Richmond where it is largely exposed. Where well-developed, these formations are approximately 300-feet thick. Most of Richmond is even-bedded, with clean-cut alternations of limestone and shale. The limestone beds vary in thickness from two to ten inches (generally less than six inches), and make up less than half of the whole mass (likely not more than one-fourth). The lowest formation in the Richmond group is Arnheim shale, which rests on the Mount Auburn formation in Ohio and is approximately 80-feet thick. In these areas the limestone occurs in rough, irregular beds with ragged masses of hardened clay, which strongly contrast with the regular bedding above and below.

The next 50-feet of the Richmond formation is Waynesville Shale, which are sometimes highly chalky or crumbly. Above the Waynesville are 35-foot beds of Liberty limestone, which differ very little from the Waynesville. The last layer above the Liberty is the Whitewater Formation, where recognizable fossils of plants and animals may be found. The 425-million-year-old fossiliferous limestone of the Ordovician Period in the Whitewater Gorge is one of the only two places in the United States where this type of limestone has been exposed to the surface.



Topography diagram



Whitewater Gorge Geology provided by Waynet.

Rivers, Creeks and Floodplains

The main waterway traveling through the city of Richmond is the Whitewater River and the three tributary rivers that flow into it, including the West Fork Whitewater River, the Middle Fork Whitewater River, and the East Fork Whitewater River. The East Fork flows into the Middle Fork right before Chester Boulevard, while the West Fork flows into the Middle Fork just before north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, forming the Whitewater River. In addition to the primary waterways, there are a variety of creeks and ditches located throughout the City of Richmond including Short Creek, A.F. Scott Ditch, Quigg Ditch, Comers Run Creek, the South Richmond Ditch, Clear Creek, O'Brian Ditch and the Lick Creek.

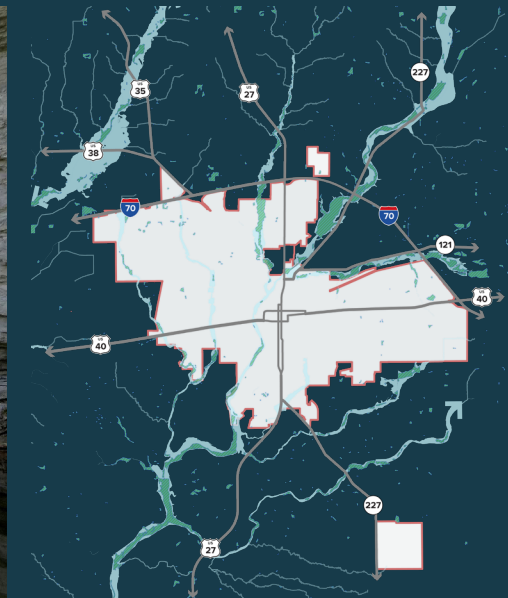
The City of Richmond and the two-mile fringe area contain numerous areas of floodplains running north and south. Floodplains are areas of land adjacent to rivers or streams that stretch from the base of the channel to the base of enclosing valley walls that may experience flooding during periods of snowmelt or rainfall. The most predominant floodplain runs along the three forks of the Whitewater River. All floodplains located in the City of Richmond are considered 100-year floodplains, meaning that an area has a 1 percent chance every year of being flooded.

Wetlands are areas permanently or seasonally flooded with shallow water and include features such as bogs, marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, creeks, and rivers. There are three different classifications that make up the wetlands of Richmond based on the Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, including intermittently exposed, seasonally flooded and temporarily flooded areas.

Richmond's floodplains are subject to periodic flooding, which may pose civic health and safety hazards, loss of property and disruption of community services. These damages are caused by the cumulative effects of impervious surfaces and obstructions in floodplains. In order to minimize potential losses, the City has set restrictions on floodplain development. Since many of Richmond's park properties are located along primary waterways, established floodplains pose challenges to the capacity of the Richmond Parks Department to add or improve upon park facilities and amenities.



Whitewater River provided by Whitewater Valley Fossil Hunt



Rivers, creeks and floodplains diagram

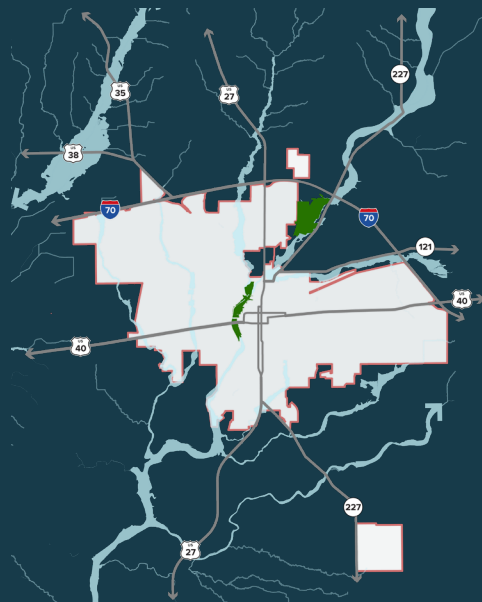
Special Features

Where the West, Middle, and East Fork come together is the Whitewater Gorge. A gorge is a deep valley with steep sides, usually formed by a river or stream cutting through the rocks. The Whitewater Gorge dates back to the Ice Age and offers many unique natural features and recreational opportunities, such as fossil hunting and exploration. The area may be explored by boat or hiking trail, with the main trail being approximately 3.5 miles long and winding through waterfalls, cliffs, quarries, and over numerous bridges.

Middlefork Reservoir is located just east of the city boundary in the upper part of the Northeast quadrant along the Middle Fork. Middlefork Reservoir, constructed in the early 1960s, is a 405-acre facility with a 177-acre stream and spring-fed lake. The Reservoir provides Richmond's water supply and is currently owned by American Waterworks Company and its subsidiary, Indiana American Water Company. Through a 50 year lease agreement, the land around the reservoir is leased to the City Department of Parks and Recreation who maintains the land as open park space. Continuing this vital partnership between the City and American Waterworks Company is critical because the Reservoir is home to many recreational activities, including fishing, boating, indoor and outdoor picnic areas, a large playground and hiking trails.

Aquifer and Well Head Protected Areas

The sand and water aquifer in the City of Richmond provides water for the majority of the City's residents and businesses. An aquifer is an underground layer of water saturated rock from which water may be extracted using a well. If Richmond's aquifer were to become contaminated and no longer potable, securing an alternative source of water would be a great financial burden to the City. Therefore, protection must be a high priority for all land use decisions within the aquifer and recharge area. The City's current Aquifer Protection Overlay District controls development standards in two specific areas of the City. These two districts also provide the necessary protection as mandated in the 1986 Amendment to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act that requires every State to develop a Wellhead Protection Program to protect public water supplies, which utilize a groundwater source.



Special features diagram



Middlefork Reservoir provided by Waynet

Woodlands

While much of Richmond's natural vegetation has been cleared out for development and agriculture, significant amounts of forested areas remain, particularly along stream corridors, in wetland conservation areas, and in the north quadrant of the city. Woodlands provide a number of environmental benefits, from providing habitat for diverse species of plants and animals to improving air and water quality.

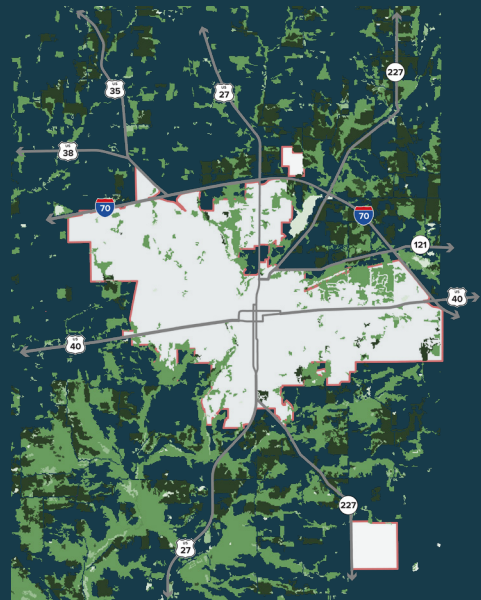
The majority of woodlands found in the planning area are classified as deciduous forests, where 75 percent or more of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to season change. The most prominent deciduous forests in the area include the Hayes Arboretum and the Cope Environmental Center. Evergreen forests, where 75 percent or more of the tree species maintain their leaves all year, are the second largest classification of forests in the planning area. The most prominent evergreen forests in the area include the Hayes Arboretum, the Cope Environmental Center, and the area east of the Middle Fork Whitewater River just north of Smyrna Road.

A variety of tree species are found in the planning area including box elder, sycamore, green ash, willow, hackberry, buckeye, honey locust, silver maple, beech, cherry, redbud, oaks, walnut, hickory and sugar maple.

While rich with woodland resources, the Department of Parks and Recreation is faced with the challenge of maintaining these assets and preventing ongoing disease and insect damage. Insects such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer provide pose real threats to the ongoing health and vitality of the City's natural resources and the character of the City's parks and open spaces.



Woodlands at Whitewater Gorge Trail provided by The Greenways Foundation



Woodland diagram

Fish and Wildlife

Richmond is home to a vast variety of fish, mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian species. These species rely on plant communities in three major habitat types, including prairie grasslands, deciduous forests and wetlands. While these habitat types still remain, they have been greatly diminished and fragmented by human intervention, infrastructure and development.

The City plays a unique role in providing critical habitat for a variety of endangered, threatened, and rare species of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles in Wayne County, including: Indiana Bat, American Badger, Upland Sandpiper, Bald Eagle, Least Bittern, Black-Crowned-Night-Heron, Osprey, King Rail, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Barn Owl, Ohio Lamprey, Popeye Shiner, Kirtland's Snake, Blanding's Turtle and Butler's Garter Snake. Maintaining a balance of ecological, recreational, and economic benefits is necessary to manage Richmond's fish and wildlife for years to come.



Left: Black Crowned Nigh Heron provided by Wikimedia Commons, Right: Bald Eagle provided by Wikimedia Commons



Left: Indiana Bat provided by USFWS. Middle: American Badger provided by ArcGIS, Right: Barn Owl/ provided by Tony Hisgett



COMMUNITY FEATURES

RICHMOND'S MANMADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

Transportation System

Understanding mobility throughout a community and connectivity to the larger regional, or even state, transportation network can be done by reviewing the Federal Highway Administration Functional Classifications. These classifications represent a process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide.

Vehicular Roadways

Interstate 70 runs through the northern portion of Richmond with four interchanges. There are several other arterial corridors including U.S. 27/South 9th Street and U.S. 40/Main Street. These roadways serve as natural dividers within the community, creating the four quadrants discussed in existing land use sections. In urban settings, minor corridors provide intra-community connections. When compared to arterials, these roadways tend to have lower travel speeds, accommodate shorter trip lengths and lower traffic volumes. The lowest classification roadways in Richmond are characterized by an even distribution of access and mobility function. Major collectors act as an intermediate link between the arterial system and points of origin and destination.

Railroads

Established with the building of the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in 1902, the present-day Norfolk Southern rail lines that run through the City of Richmond and the greater Wayne County are part of a north-south route between the City of Cincinnati, OH and Fort Wayne, IN. This 25-mile segment of local rail is part of over 4,000 miles of rail line across the State of Indiana, 1,400 of which are operated by Norfolk Southern. The line operates primarily on commercial freight shipping, with little-to-no passenger services.



Transportation system diagram



The Loop provided by Environmental Resilience Institute



RICHMOND BIKE & PED MASTER PLAN

The Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, adopted in 2015, serves as a “road map” in planning future transportation facilities. Plan recommendations were guided by community input to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and highlight the health and wellness benefits of active transportation to Richmond residents.

While some areas of Richmond are currently walkable and bikeable, there are many gaps in the system that create challenges for residents trying to access key destinations by bike or on foot. Gaps between sidewalks, trails and greenways limit the use of this infrastructure and require residents to complete their trips using a car.

An inventory of existing conditions was conducted in order to gain a better understanding of the community. The findings were as follows:

Northwest Quadrant. The northwest quadrant of Richmond is characterized by sparse industrial and rural land uses. While the remote nature of this type of development can make it more difficult to access downtown and commercial areas, the natural features provide opportunities for greenways connecting to key destinations.

Northeast Quadrant. The northeast quadrant of Richmond is characterized by walkable college campuses and commercial areas. It provides opportunities for additional sidewalks and regional connections to neighboring communities. However, this area is divided by the East Fork Whitewater River, which presents challenges in connecting the east and west sides of town.

Southwest Quadrant. The southwest quadrant of Richmond is characterized by schools and neighborhoods. While it provides opportunities for residents to make trips by bike or on foot, access to downtown is limited, with roadway bridges built to accommodate cars, rather than bicyclists and pedestrians.

Southeast Quadrant. The southeast quadrant of Richmond is characterized by urban land use and suburban development. Many neighborhoods in this area have sidewalks on both sides of the street. However, high traffic volumes and speeds may discourage residents from participating in active transportation opportunities.

Based on this assessment, it was determined that a more complete system is needed in order to provide safe and convenient transportation options for all modes of travel.

Historical Sites and Markers

Richmond is home to six historic districts designated on the National Register of Historic Places. These historic places can be seen as community assets. Often times, people value historic structures and areas, and some are even willing to pay more to live in a historic district. These areas or structures add character to a community and can create a unique identity for a place. On the other hand, historic designations also come with challenges and barriers. For growth and redevelopment specifically, maintenance and renovations can be costly; some historic districts hold strict regulations and an approval process for any type of renovation or change to the structure. These are just some of the trade-offs that come with historic designations.

The following statements offer a brief description of historic significance and district boundaries.

- **East Main Street (Glen Miller Park Historic District)-** Identified in 1986 as a historic district, this area is recognized for its landscape architecture, community planning and architecture. It covers nearly 2,160 acres of land on both sides of E Main Street from North 18th Street to North 13th Street and Glen Miller Park.
- **Old Richmond Historic District-** This district was added to the National Register in 1974 for historic significance in politics, education, architecture, commerce, and transportation. It is roughly bounded by C&O Railroad, South 11th Street, South A Street, and Alley S of South E. Street. In 2003, the Old Richmond Historic District adjusted its boundaries that now include A Street, 11th East Street, and the C&O Railroad.
- **Reeveston Place Historic District-** In 2003, this district was added to the national register for historic significance in landscape architecture, community planning and development, and architecture. This area comprises South B Street, South E Street, South 16th Street, and South 23rd Street.
- **Richmond Railroad Station Historic District-** This area has been on the national register since 1987. The railroad station has historic significance in its classical revival architecture, transportation, and industry. This area is made up of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad tracks, North 10th Street, Elm Place, North D Street, and Fort Wayne Avenue.
- **Starr Historic District-** This area was identified in 1995 as a historic district known for its single-family dwellings displaying Italianate architecture. This area is roughly bounded by North 16th Street, E Street, A Street, and the alley west of North 10th Street.

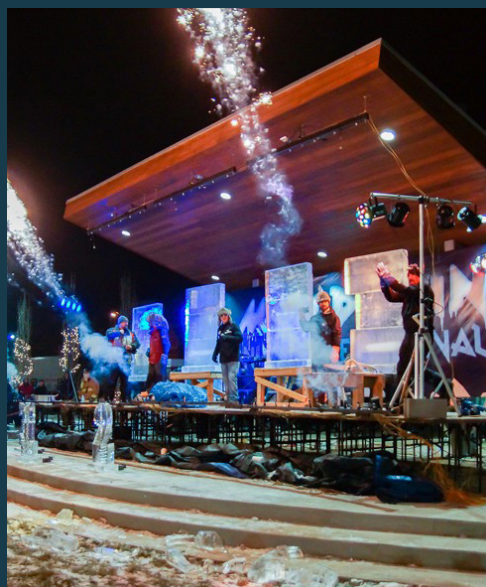


COMMUNITY CULTURE AND CELEBRATED EVENTS

Early Richmond was settled in 1806 by North Carolina Quakers of European decent, who selected the site to capitalize on the location as a trade and transportation hub. The city would later become the seat of Wayne County in 1873. As Richmond would continue to grow as the regional center and gateway of eastern Indiana, it began to make its national mark as the cradle of recorded jazz with the foundation of the Starr Piano Company and the later Gennett Records. These companies turned Richmond into a national center for music and recording. While the Great Depression destroyed much of the recording industry, today Richmond continues to honor its music heritage.

On an annual basis, the City of Richmond hosts several festivals that serve not only as entertainment venues for both visitors and residents, but also as windows into the cultural history of the community. These events are supported both by the city and local interest groups who hold a passion for specific aspects of their community. A list of some of the more popular events are as follows:

- Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Festival
- Annual Festival of Trees
- Meltdown Winter Ice Festival
- Taste of Italy
- International Food Festival
- Shakespeare Festival
- Oktoberfest Festival
- City Arts Festival
- Walk of Fame Music Festival



Meltdown Winter Ice Festival provided by Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation. Shakespeare Festival provided by Richmond Shakespeare Festival



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: IN THE PARKS

Meltdown Winter Ice Festival

The Meltdown Winter Ice Festival is a weekend event that includes a tour of custom ice sculptures, ice fights and winter events for participants of all ages. In the past, the festival, which occurs in Jack Elstro Plaza in mid-January, has included sculptures from world-class ice carvers Andrew Thistlethwaite, Aaric Kendall, Dean DeMarais, Edwin Hutchinson and Danny Bloss II.

Shakespeare Festival

The Shakespeare Festival is part of a free Shakespeare in the Park series presented by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. The festival offers a unique touring production of a Shakespeare play each year. While past events have been held at the Starr-Gennett Factory Building in Whitewater Gorge Park, the festival will be held at Jack Elstro Plaza this September due to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

City Arts Festival

The City Arts Festival, hosted by City Arts, a collaboration between local art groups, the Richmond Parks Department and Centerstone, is an annual arts event held at Glen Miller Park in October. The event includes music and arts activities for participants of all ages, food and drinks and the launching of gondolas onto the park's pond as part of a "pond fire."

Walk of Fame Music Festival

The Walk of Fame Music Festival, hosted by the Starr-Gennett Foundation and the Richmond Parks Department, takes place in September at Whitewater Gorge Park. The annual festival highlights the City's heritage as the "Cradle of Recorded Jazz." The Festival includes music and arts activities



City Arts Festival provided by City Arts, a collaboration between local art groups, the Richmond Parks Department and Centerstone.





CHAPTER THREE

THE CURRENT NEED



RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Understanding where we have been.

PARK FACILITIES

Understanding what we offer and how we are perceived.

PLANNING STRATEGIES

Understanding where we are now and identifying strategies for the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

Identifying how we can move forward.

In order to identify the current strengths and challenges of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation within the broader community, a six-month, four-phased planning process was used to supplement the findings of the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*. The Research and Analysis and Park Facilities phases were aimed at establishing where the City and Department of Parks and Recreation have been historically, what they currently offer and what the public perceptions are regarding the parks, open spaces and programs. They included community engagement efforts, data and technical analysis, and field inventories in order to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Richmond's parks and open spaces.

Community Engagement

To ensure the Plan reflects the needs and values of the community, a combination of traditional and innovative outreach tools and approaches were used to connect with as many residents as possible over the course of six months. In total, 1,748 people participated and over 1,200 individual comments were received throughout the process. A more detailed summary of community engagement efforts can be found on page 74 and within the Technical Appendix.

Data and Technical Analysis

A variety of technical analyses were used to better understand the Richmond community, the system as it exists and opportunities for the future. While the conditions of the entire Richmond community were assessed, this Chapter focuses specifically on the data and technical analysis of the parks and open space system. It includes an emphasis on existing and emerging trends and a benchmark assessment of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation and its parks, open space and recreation system. A more detailed summary of the existing and emerging trends can be found on pages 77-96, and the Department's benchmark assessment can be found on page 99-105.

Field Inventory Assessments

Richmond's parks, facilities, trails and programs were evaluated to assess the current state of the system and inform the prioritization of future projects and initiatives. A thorough assessment of each property, amenity and program was conducted in accordance with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requirements. A more detailed summary of the field inventory efforts begins on page 118.

A summary of the findings and key conclusions from the Research and Analysis and Park Facilities phases are included within this chapter. Together, these phases were used as the foundation for developing the strategies, recommendations and action steps outlined within the Planning Strategies and Implementation phases of work.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

NEEDS AND PERCEPTIONS

As the primary users of the City's parks, open space and recreation system, the input, ideas and perceptions of Richmond residents were critical to the development of the Research and Analysis and Park Facilities Phase findings. While the community was engaged throughout the entire planning process, the initial phases of work focused on identifying existing expectations and perceptions regarding parks, facilities and recreation programs. In addition to understanding how ongoing efforts were being viewed and understood by the community, these initial engagement efforts worked to identify what amenities, facilities or programs residents felt were missing from the parks and open space system.

From January to March 2020, the following community outreach and engagement efforts provided an opportunity for Richmond residents to identify how they use existing parks, facilities and programs. These engagement opportunities worked to ensure that the community's interests and overall needs were reflected within the plan.

Focus Group Input: By facilitating one on one interviews and group discussions with focus groups, additional information on the specific opportunities and challenges impacting Richmond's parks, open spaces and recreation programs were identified. On Wednesday March 11, 2020, the project consulting team facilitated five group discussions with representatives from Highland Golf Course, the Richmond Senior Center, the Maintenance and Operations team, the Recreation team, the Floral team, front office staff and City leaders and department heads. Each group met for one hour and discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the park system and the specific events and tasks that they are involved in on a daily basis.

Perceptions and Needs Public Workshop: To supplement the findings gathered during one on one interactions and focus group discussions, the Richmond community was invited to participate in a *Perceptions and Needs Public Workshop*. The workshop was held on March 11, 2020 at Lingle Hall at Reid Hospital from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm. In total, 60 individuals signed in using the open house sign-in sheets. The meeting was an open house format, which allowed attendees to filter through the various stations at their own pace. It consisted of a series of hands-on exercises which allowed participants to learn about the parks and open space system and share their experiences and ideas for the future.

Online and Paper Surveys: The initial *Perceptions and Needs Community Wide Survey* was open for approximately one month starting February 13, 2020 on Survey Monkey. It covered general topics including system usage, service satisfaction, concerns, and priorities for the future. The survey was offered in both English and Spanish and was available to the public in hard copy and digital formats. In total, 1,748 responses were received with over 1,200 individual comments, ideas and suggestions documented.

Pop-up Events: Using existing events, meetings and ongoing collaborative efforts, staff from the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation assisted in facilitating numerous one-on-one conversations, collaborative pop-up work sessions, data and research collection and photographic inventory during the initial work phases.

Website, Social Media and Email: Social media accounts for the City of Richmond and its Department of Parks and Recreation were used to share information about the project and opportunities for involvement. In addition, the project website was used to consistently share information, public notices and meeting summary information with the community.



ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

Through various discussions, online surveys and public events, the following key takeaways were identified. Full documentation from each outreach event can be found in the Technical Appendix. They are not listed in any order or priority.

WHAT ARE THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION'S GREATEST STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES?

- **Park size and location.** For a city Richmond's size, the parks and open space system features numerous quality properties and facilities.
- **Residents value parks and recreational programming.** Residents recognize that parks are an amenity that play an integral role in their overall quality of life.
- **Community support.** Existing community support and partnerships with allied organizations are beneficial to the parks and open space system and the Parks Department's ability to provide new opportunities.
- **Diverse programs.** The Parks Department currently markets programs to a variety of age groups, with a significant number of offerings being available to individuals over the age of 50.
- **Established community festivals and events.** Richmond celebrates its history, culture and community by offering a variety of festivals and events tailored to the City's diverse population.
- **Continued momentum.** Within the last five years, the Parks Department has made considerable strides towards improving park properties, facilities, amenities and programming opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION?

- **Funding and resources.** Richmond's resources are spread too thin. Moving forward, the City's best assets should be a priority.
- **Park size and location.** While the amount of space offered to residents is great, the overall system size puts a greater burden on the Department's resources.
- **Marketing and communication.** Some existing park properties, amenities and programs are still unknown to members of the community. Increased awareness could boost park activity and program participation.
- **Improved maintenance practices system-wide.** Particular maintenance needs cited by residents include the springs, playgrounds, ball fields, pickle ball courts, trails, restrooms and seasonal planters.
- **Strategic and well-planned investment.** To ensure long-range success, the Parks Department needs the ability to plan for and fund ongoing capital improvements in a meaningful way.
- **Inefficiencies within Departmental processes.** To ensure that the City has enough well-trained, well-managed employees in the right position to run the Parks Department smoothly and efficiently, efforts should be made to identify new positions and innovative processes that would benefit the department as a whole.





DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

EXISTING AND EMERGING TRENDS

There are many emerging trends impacting the field of parks and recreation today, the majority of which create both opportunities and challenges for Parks and Recreation Departments. Trends are gradual changes in the development of conditions or processes and occur at the national, regional and local levels. National and regional trends have the power to influence local trends, and the ability of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation to understand and adapt to those key patterns of change will shape the future of their interactions with the community. In the world of parks, open space and recreation programming, it is imperative that City leaders and parks professionals understand the trends related to local demographics, health and wellness, operations, maintenance, capital investments, and programming so that they can make decisions that reflect the needs of their community. Through community conversations, data research and professional analysis, a series of noteworthy trends were identified that could impact the Richmond Parks and Recreation System as a whole. In total, nine primary trends were identified including:

- Increasing financial constraints
- Need to embrace innovative technology systems
- Increasing need to use parks as a health and wellness tool
- Increasing need to provide inclusive amenities and programs
- Adapting to changing and evolving interests in general sports activities, indoor fitness activities, aquatic fitness facilities and outdoor recreation activities
- Adapting to changing and evolving interests in aquatic fitness amenities
- Declining and Aging Population
- Increasing Need for Multi-Modal Transportation
- Increasing Need for Social Services

These national, regional and local trends are intended to serve as a context that informed the development of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations which are outlined within Chapter 4. To further understand each potential trend and the impacts it could have on the City's parks and open space system, a detailed narrative of each topic is provided on the following pages.

INCREASING FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Parks nationwide are facing increasing financial constraints. While local governments agree that parks and recreation agencies provide important services that are critical to solving community issues, they are often one of the first agencies targeted for large budget cuts. The Great Recession of 2008 and 2009 had a profound impact on funding for parks and recreation agencies, and post-recession financial support has been slow to recover. While parks have received a significant amount of investment over the past several years, it is clear that a more permanent shift in spending has occurred.

In Indiana, tax caps limiting the amount of property taxes based on property values are impacting traditional funding sources for parks and recreation agencies, resulting in tight budgets. City leaders and parks professionals are facing challenges in raising additional funds for operation and maintenance costs from fees and charges. There are no signs that this trend will reverse as municipal government budgets are unable to keep up with rising costs and long-term debts.

As the amount of funding support from state and local governments continues to decline, the demand for self-generated revenue from parks and recreation agencies is increasing. Changes in funding, limited revenues, and minimal full-time staff positions require parks professionals to become more adaptive to evolving conditions and public input. The public has greater expectations for park performance and offerings now than ever before, and changing social, environmental, and economic conditions are demanding that parks become more proactive in assessing conditions and making informed decisions in investments to benefit their communities. As a result, parks and recreation agencies are looking to do more with less.

Many agencies statewide are reporting using non-tax-based funding strategies to pay for their parks: 96% received donations, 82% applied for grants, 73% engaged in fundraising, 47% levied taxes, 40% worked with a park foundation, and 27% closed facilities. While state-level grants have become more important than ever to fund parks, some local governments are struggling to provide matching funds. In response these challenges, many parks and recreation agencies are establishing partnerships with allied organizations and exploring new methodologies to create high-quality programming, acquire staff, and obtain funds.

According to data released by The Trust for Public Land (TPL), 2019 saw a 6% decrease in public spending on parks, from \$7.5 billion in 2018 to \$7.1 billion in 2019.

Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2021-2025

Financial constraints are limiting Hoosiers looking to participate in recreation activities. The *Indiana 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) found that most respondents were only willing to spend less than \$100 per year on their favorite outdoor recreation activity (including cost of equipment, training, and travel), and less than \$5 for an annual trail fee if that money was spent in their local area to help support trail upkeep and new trail development.¹ These factors may be driving increased use of community parks and recreation facilities, where reduced travel costs, convenient access, and low-or-no entry fees are driving forces in attendance.

Increased use of park facilities, programs, and services across the board are resulting in higher maintenance and operations costs for parks and recreation agencies. Best management practices such as life-cycle costing, where agencies plan for and monitor maintenance and operations costs of facilities and equipment over time, are rising in popularity.¹ While preventative maintenance of existing facilities and equipment is key to keeping operational costs down, replacing old and outdated equipment can save resources, time and effort and boost staff speed and efficiency.

While it is clear that parks professionals will continue to struggle with financial burdens, combating impacts on budgets, staffing, and maintenance will require greater flexibility in the future. Increasing proficiency in financial management and seeking additional opportunities for funding will help parks and recreation agencies address these challenges and ensure their communities can enjoy the many benefits of their services in the future.

¹ *Indiana 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

EMBRACING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Technology is having a significant impact on parks now more than ever. Factors such as the production of large quantities of products, simplified technology, and lower costs are making advanced technology more accessible and affordable for parks and recreation agencies nationwide. Park monitoring systems, such as video camera surveillance, beacon counters, geofencing and biometric identification systems (BISs) are becoming increasingly popular to increase safety and establish a better understanding of visitor traffic patterns, stay durations, and levels of engagement.

Many parks and recreation agencies are turning to technology as a means to inspire and engage. Location-based augmented reality (AR) games, geocaching, digital scavenger hunts and drones are changing the way visitors interact with parks. Location-based AR games, played on mobile devices using GPS technology, enable users to travel through their physical environments by combining audio and visual content with the player's environment in real-time. Points of interest can be located virtually anywhere, including parks. Some agencies are hosting events and providing food, beverage, and transportation accommodations to encourage players to visit.²

Geocaching is a form of modern-day treasure hunting where participants use a GPS enabled device (typically a cellphone) to find specific points where containers of objects, or geocaches, may be found. Geocaches are trackable, and may be placed in places with different difficulty ratings to encourage people to explore places they wouldn't normally visit. Location-based AR games such as Pokémon Go have increased the popularity of geocaching, and many agencies are building on the enthusiasm by offering challenges and adventures to introduce the parks to entirely new groups of people.²

Digital scavenger hunts are growing in popularity as parks departments seek new ways to promote community unity and park engagement. These self-guided scavenger hunts are designed to take participants on a tour of their community's parks, trails and recreation facilities, with prizes being given to those who complete the adventure. In addition to finding "new" spots in city parks, many participants who took this challenge also developed friendships, visited local businesses and discovered recreation outlets.

Drone use is becoming more prominent in park settings. Recreational "follow-me" drones may be used to accompany visitors on recreational outings, while commercial drones may be used to deliver food and

² <https://recmanagement.com/feature/201701FE04>

beverages to park patrons. While drones may be seen as a nuisance, drone use has a variety of benefits and applications for parks and recreation agencies, such as natural resource inventories, inspection of remote park areas, and public monitoring and security.³

Over the past several years, social media has revolutionized the way parks and recreation agencies communicate. Agencies using social media can increase transparency and better serve their communities by encouraging park visitation, program participation, and volunteerism. Technology-driven platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have enabled parks professionals to increase advertising and deliver information in a more flexible, efficient and cost-effective manner than traditional means of marketing.

Whether security, recreation, or social media related, it is clear that technology is reshaping the operation of parks and recreation agencies. Technology plays a huge role in attracting young families, and parks professionals have the opportunity to embrace technology to foster positive changes and support growth.

³ <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/january/top-trends-in-parks-and-recreation-for-2019/>



Stock image provided by pixabay.com

PARKS AS A HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOOL

Parks and recreation agencies nationwide have become increasingly effective in providing services beyond traditional recreation programming. Partnerships between parks professionals and other public-sector service providers have enabled the development of a unified approach to tackling social services, law enforcement, health and nutrition, and community recreation. Together, with their community partners, parks and recreation departments are providing access to resources such as afterschool programs, nutrition assistance, healthcare providers, counseling services, educational opportunities, and other public services.

Specifically, parks and recreation agencies are beginning to play a fundamental role in combatting complicated health challenges such as poor nutrition, physical inactivity, obesity, and addiction. Parks are essential partners in enhancing the environment and providing facilities and services to support the health and wellbeing of people of all ages, abilities, and ethnicities. In Indiana, parks are becoming a greater priority for Hoosiers seeing the positive impacts of outdoor recreation on their overall health and wellbeing. Healthcare providers statewide are partnering with parks and recreation agencies on programming, infrastructure, and community health/wellness initiatives to increase physical activity and get more people moving.⁴

Through their traditional roles, parks professionals now have the opportunity to build increased public awareness and encourage positive wellness habits, including fighting addictions and dependence. The United States is facing an opioid overdose epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “In 2017, more than 70,000 people died from drug overdoses, making it a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Of those deaths, about 68 percent involved a prescription or illicit opioid. Adults between the ages of 25 and 54 years old have the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths.”⁵ The impact of the opioid health crisis on parks and recreation agencies ranges from mentoring and prevention strategies to trauma-care training and equipping staff with Naloxone, a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.⁶ Partnerships between parks and recreation agencies and social services can foster the creation of health-based solutions and increase community awareness of substance misuse to combat the opioid crisis.

⁴ *Indiana 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/strategy.html>

⁶ <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/january/top-trends-in-parks-and-recreation-for-2019/>

One cause of rising concern in communities across the United States are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). According to the CDC, ACEs describe potentially traumatic experiences that occur in children under the age of 18, including experiencing or witnessing violence, abuse or neglect at home or in the community.⁷ Down the road, exposure to ACEs can cause toxic stress and lead to risky behaviors and negative health outcomes such as injury, mental illness, chronic health and substance abuse. However, positive life experiences, such as those offered through mentoring programs, offer a variety of engaging social, health and wellness opportunities to prevent children from experiencing adversity. Some parks and recreation departments have begun offering Out-of-School Time Programs with Trauma-Informed Care, an approach that assumes that an individual is more likely than not to have been affected by some childhood adversity or trauma. Today, parks are being highlighted as a gateway to healthy living. Moving forward, parks and recreation agencies will have the opportunity to effect positive change by providing access to resources and programs that encourage physical activity, connecting people to natural environments, and fostering healthy habits to enhance quality of life. Parks professionals that embrace their roles in improving public health will benefit their communities and help their residents live longer, happier and healthier lives.

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/aces/fastfact.html>



Richmond Senior Center activities provided by Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation

INCLUSIVITY IN AMENITIES AND PROGRAMS

Every individual deserves access to the programming, facilities and amenities that parks offer, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, or income-level. Equity in parks and recreation means extending a commitment to justice, fairness, and equality in the distribution and management of facilities and resources serving the public. There are many benefits to providing equitable access to parks, including widespread public engagement, increased socialization, improved health and well-being, and decreased crime rates. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), there are many challenges keeping parks and recreation agencies from being more inclusive to all members of the community, including insufficient funding, facility space shortages, and inadequate staffing and training.⁸ In order to remove the barriers that prohibit some people from participating, many parks professionals are instituting an inclusion policy designed to allow parks and recreation agencies to maintain consistent guidelines and ensure that all members of the community can access and enjoy parks.

While only 40% of parks and recreation agencies nationwide have a formal inclusion policy, 94% of agencies are taking steps to ensure that programming is relevant and accessible to all members of the community by partnering with allied organizations, such as schools, non-profit organizations, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and transit agencies to provide resources and support. Activities geared towards specific members of the community may include:

- Opportunities for individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities or sensory processing disorders, such as physical activity programs, volunteer and employment opportunities, and health and wellness programs;
- Opportunities for multicultural, racial and ethnic communities, such as programs that celebrate diversity, culturally-sensitive programming hours, English as Second Language (ESL) classes, job skills training and health and wellness programs targeting specific races and ethnicities; and
- Opportunities for the LGBTQ community, such as community awareness campaigns, social programs and activities, youth groups and mentoring services.

⁸ <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/e386270247644310b06960be9e9986a9/park-recreation-inclusion-report.pdf>

Modifications to improve practices and policies to be more inclusive are becoming increasingly important in parks and recreation management. These efforts are designed to increase participation, communicate inclusivity, and ensure that all have equitable and unprejudiced access to parks, programs, and resources. By providing safe and equitable access to programs and services, parks professionals have the opportunity to connect people to their communities.

The NRPA's Parks for Inclusion pledge is a commitment to supporting infrastructure improvements, policy developments and best practices for program implementation in order to increase access to healthy opportunities for populations with physical and cognitive disabilities, the LGBTQ community, racial, multicultural and ethnic communities, and members of refugee or immigrant communities.

2018 National Parks and Recreation Inclusion Report



JUKO camp activities provided by Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation

ADAPTING TO CHANGING INTERESTS:

General Sports

According to the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) *2019 Outdoor Participation Report*, basketball was the most popular team sports activity in 2018 with 24.2 million participants nationwide. The other leading team sports activities were baseball (15.9 million), soccer (11.4 million), slow-pitch softball (7.4 million), and flag football (6.6 million).⁹ The popularity of these activities as team sports may be attributed to the limited amount of equipment, space, and number of participants needed to participate. Other contributing factors, such as the internet and mobile devices, have become a huge networking tool where players and people of all ages and skill levels can visit social media and web services to source other players who may want to participate in their area.

Participation in other team sports activities such as field hockey (1.5 million), rugby (1.6 million), lacrosse (2.1 million), and fast-pitch softball (2.3 million) were the least popular.¹⁰ Factors such as the costs of participation and the number of players needed to compete may be making these activities less popular. From 2013-2018, the top three fastest growing team sports activities were baseball (0.7%), flag football (0.3%), and cheerleading (0.2%), while the team sports activities that saw the most decline in participation over the same five-year period were touch football (-0.7%), soccer (-0.6%), and tackle football (-0.4%).⁸

On an individual level, traditional golf was by far the most popular general sports activity with 24.2 million participants in 2018.¹¹ Golf has remained popular for many reasons, including the inclusivity and accessibility of the sport. Advances in golf technology, such as simulators, are making it a year-round activity that can be played by people of all ages.

Other niche sports such as pickleball and esports have seen a rise in popularity over the past several years, and many parks and recreation departments are attempting to attract players by adding them to their sports programming options.

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States. According to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), pickleball has seen a 650% increase in participation over the last six years, mostly due to younger generations of participants joining the sport. Pickleball,

⁹ <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2019-outdoor-participation-report/>

¹⁰ <https://newzoo.com/insights/articles/newzoo-global-esports-economy-will-top-1-billion-for-the-first-time-in-2019>

¹¹ <https://www.thengfq.com/2019/06/ngfs-2019-participation-report/>

which combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, is played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. It may be played indoors or outdoors on badminton-sized courts using modified tennis nets as singles or doubles games. Parks and recreation departments nationwide have added pickleball to their programming rosters since the financial investment is relatively small.¹² Four pickleball courts can be accommodated in one standard tennis court, and games can easily coexist along other activities such as volleyball and basketball.

In esports, spectators watch individuals or teams of players play a variety of electronic games. According to Newzoo, a games market insights and analytics firm, the global esports economy surpassed \$1 billion in revenues in 2019, with global esports viewers totaling 453.8 million.¹³ While many parks and recreation agencies across the country are embracing esports by building gaming rooms and facilities, this sedentary recreational activity is the opposite of what parks and recreation programs are fighting for: encouraging healthy and active lifestyles. On the other hand, esports are guaranteed to draw crowds of young people, with events and tournaments having potential for increasing facility utilization and generating revenue.

Sports bring communities together. As the world of sports continues to evolve, engaging individuals in sports team activities will be critical to encouraging healthy, active lifestyles.

¹² <https://www.athleticbusiness.com/recreation/adding-pickleball-to-parks-and-recreation-programming.html>

¹³ <https://newzoo.com/insights/articles/newzoo-global-esports-economy-will-top-1-billion-for-the-first-time-in-2019>

TEAM SPORTS	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%
Baseball	13,284	4.6%	13,152	4.5%	13,711	4.7%	14,760	5.0%	15,642	5.3%	15,877	5.3%
Basketball	23,669	8.2%	23,067	7.9%	23,410	8.0%	22,343	7.5%	23,401	7.9%	24,225	8.1%
Cheerleading	3,235	1.1%	3,456	1.2%	3,608	1.2%	4,029	1.4%	3,816	1.3%	3,841	1.3%
Field Hockey	1,474	0.5%	1,557	0.5%	1,565	0.5%	1,512	0.5%	1,596	0.5%	1,460	0.5%
Football (Flag)	5,610	1.9%	5,508	1.9%	5,829	2.0%	6,173	2.1%	6,551	2.2%	6,572	2.2%
Football (Tackle)	6,165	2.1%	5,978	2.0%	6,222	2.1%	5,481	1.9%	5,224	1.8%	5,157	1.7%
Football (Touch)	7,140	2.5%	6,586	2.3%	6,487	2.2%	5,686	1.9%	5,629	1.9%	5,517	1.8%
Ice Hockey	2,393	0.8%	2,421	0.8%	2,546	0.9%	2,697	0.9%	2,544	0.9%	2,447	0.8%
Lacrosse	1,813	0.6%	2,011	0.7%	2,094	0.7%	2,090	0.7%	2,171	0.7%	2,098	0.7%
Rugby	1,183	0.4%	1,276	0.4%	1,349	0.5%	1,550	0.5%	1,621	0.5%	1,560	0.5%
Soccer (Indoor)	4,803	1.7%	4,530	1.6%	4,813	1.6%	5,117	1.7%	5,399	1.8%	5,233	1.7%
Soccer (Outdoor)	12,726	4.4%	12,592	4.3%	12,646	4.3%	11,932	4.0%	11,924	4.0%	11,405	3.8%
Softball (Fast-Pitch)	2,498	0.9%	2,424	0.8%	2,460	0.8%	2,467	0.8%	2,309	0.8%	2,303	0.8%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	6,868	2.4%	7,077	2.4%	7,114	2.4%	7,690	2.6%	7,283	2.5%	7,386	2.5%
Swimming on a team	2,638	0.9%	2,710	0.9%	2,892	1.0%	3,369	1.1%	3,007	1.0%	3,045	1.0%
Track and Field	4,071	1.4%	4,105	1.4%	4,222	1.4%	4,116	1.4%	4,161	1.4%	4,143	1.4%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	4,769	1.6%	4,651	1.6%	4,785	1.6%	5,489	1.9%	4,947	1.7%	4,770	1.6%
Volleyball (Court)	6,433	2.2%	6,304	2.2%	6,423	2.2%	6,216	2.1%	6,317	2.1%	6,317	2.1%
Volleyball (Grass)	4,098	1.4%	3,911	1.3%	3,888	1.3%	4,295	1.4%	3,454	1.2%	3,464	1.2%

Trends in Team Sports (Source: 2019 Outdoor Participation Report/Outdoor Industry Association).

ADAPTING TO CHANGING INTERESTS:

Indoor Fitness

Overall, national trends in indoor fitness have experienced some growth over the past several years. According to the OIA 2019 Outdoor Participation Report, walking for fitness was by far the most popular fitness activity in 2018 with 111 million participants nationwide. The other leading fitness activities include treadmill (53.7 million), free weights with dumbbells and hand weights (51.3 million), recumbent/upright stationary cycling (36.7 million), and weight/resistance machines (36.3 million).¹⁴ These activities have very few barriers to engagement, making them relatively easy and inexpensive for most individuals to participate in. Participation in other activities such as Barre (3.5 million), Tai Chi (3.8 million), boot camp style training (6.7 million), and cardio kickboxing (6.7 million) were the least popular¹⁰. Factors such as cost of participation and limited class sizes due to space and equipment availability may be making activities that cater to these niche fitness markets less popular.

As shown in the table to the right, from 2013 -2018, the top three fastest growing indoor fitness activities were treadmill (1.3%), yoga (1.2%), and high-impact/intensity training (1.2%), while the activities that saw the most decline in participation over the same five-year period were walking for fitness (-3.6%), free weights with dumbbells and hand weights (-3%), and weight/resistance machines (-0.4%).¹³

Parks and recreation agencies have the responsibility of ensuring that all members of the community have access to the benefits of their programming, facilities, and services. Providing fitness classes for older adults has become an area of interest as the number of older adults continues to increase. According to the Census Bureau, the estimated count of baby boomers in 2019 was about 73 million, and older adults are expected to outnumber children under the age of 18 by 2034.¹⁵ Seniors are more heavily impacted by obesity than other groups, as the prevalence of obesity among adults aged 60 and older is 42.8%.¹⁶ The associations between obesity and mortality risks increase with age, and parks and recreation agencies play an important role in preventing obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles. In addition to diet, exercise through fitness programs for older adults can help this generation maintain healthy and active lifestyles.

¹⁴ <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2019-outdoor-participation-report/>

¹⁵ <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/12/by-2030-all-baby-boomers-will-be-age-65-or-older.html>

¹⁶ https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/senior/measure/obesity_sr/state/ALL

While national trends in indoor fitness have experienced some growth over recent years, these activities remain popular due to increasing interest among community members looking to improve their overall health and wellbeing by engaging in exercise. As trends in indoor fitness continue to evolve, it is the responsibility of parks and recreation agencies to innovate to ensure that their programming, facilities, and services remain relevant.

INDOOR FITNESS

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%	#(000's)	%
Aquatic Exercise	8,483	2.9%	9,122	3.1%	9,226	3.1%	10,575	3.6%	10,459	3.5%	10,518	3.5%
Barre	2,901	1.0%	3,200	1.1%	3,583	1.2%	3,329	1.1%	3,436	1.2%	3,532	1.2%
Bodyweight Exercise & Bodyweight Accessory-Assisted Training			22,390	7.7%	22,146	7.5%	25,110	8.5%	24,454	8.3%	24,183	8.0%
Boot Camp Style Training	6,911	2.4%	6,774	2.3%	6,722	2.3%	6,583	2.2%	6,651	2.2%	6,695	2.2%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,311	2.2%	6,747	2.3%	6,708	2.3%	6,899	2.3%	6,693	2.3%	6,838	2.3%
Cross-Training Style Workouts			11,265	3.9%	11,710	4.0%	12,914	4.4%	13,622	4.6%	13,338	4.4%
Dance, Step, and Other Choreographed Exercise to Music			21,455	7.3%	21,487	7.3%	21,839	7.4%	22,616	7.6%	22,391	7.4%
Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer	30,410	10.5%	31,826	10.9%	32,321	11.0%	32,218	10.9%	32,283	10.9%	33,238	11.1%
Free Weights (Barbells)	25,641	8.8%	25,623	8.8%	25,381	8.6%	26,473	8.9%	27,444	9.3%	27,834	9.3%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	58,267	20.1%	56,124	19.2%	54,716	18.6%	51,513	17.4%	52,217	17.6%	51,291	17.1%
High Impact/Intensity Training	17,323	6.0%	19,746	6.8%	20,464	7.0%	21,390	7.2%	21,476	7.2%	21,611	7.2%
Kettlebells		0.0%	10,240	3.5%	10,408	3.5%	10,743	3.6%	12,182	4.1%	12,511	4.2%
Pilates Training	8,069	2.8%	8,504	2.9%	8,594	2.9%	8,893	3.0%	9,047	3.1%	9,084	3.0%
Rowing Machine	10,183	3.5%	9,813	3.4%	10,106	3.4%	10,830	3.7%	11,707	4.0%	12,096	4.0%
Stair-Climbing Machine	12,642	4.4%	13,216	4.5%	13,234	4.5%	15,079	5.1%	14,948	5.0%	15,025	5.0%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	8,309	2.9%	8,449	2.9%	8,677	3.0%	8,937	3.0%	9,409	3.2%	9,434	3.1%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	35,247	12.2%	35,693	12.2%	35,553	12.1%	36,118	12.2%	36,035	12.2%	36,668	12.2%
Swimming for Fitness	26,354	9.1%	25,304	8.7%	26,319	8.9%	26,601	9.0%	27,135	9.2%	27,575	9.2%
Tai Chi	3,469	1.2%	3,446	1.2%	3,651	1.2%	3,706	1.3%	3,787	1.3%	3,761	1.3%
Treadmill	48,166	16.6%	50,241	17.2%	50,398	17.1%	51,872	17.5%	52,966	17.9%	53,737	17.9%
Walking for Fitness	117,351	40.5%	112,583	38.5%	109,829	37.3%	107,895	36.4%	110,805	37.4%	111,001	36.9%
Weight/Resistance Machines	36,267	12.5%	35,841	12.3%	35,310	12.0%	35,768	12.1%	36,291	12.3%	36,372	12.1%
Yoga	24,310	8.4%	25,262	8.6%	25,289	8.6%	26,268	8.9%	27,354	9.2%	28,745	9.6%

Trends in Indoor Fitness (Source: 2019 Outdoor Participation Report/Outdoor Industry Association).

ADAPTING TO CHANGING INTERESTS

Aquatic Fitness

The aquatic fitness industry presents a variety of unique challenges for parks and recreation departments to manage, include complex costs, equipment and staffing requirements. These challenges are multiplied by the various types of aquatic facilities found in parks, including outdoor pools, spray plazas, aquatic parks, and waterparks. In a survey conducted for Recreation Management, the predominant type of aquatic facilities in the United States found among parks and recreation agencies are outdoor pools (72.6%), followed by spray plazas (54%), aquatic parks (30.4%), and waterparks (13.4%).¹⁷ The popularity of spray plazas is on the rise as they provide communities with aquatic experiences without the staffing and maintenance costs associated with traditional swimming pools. Spray plazas can be incorporated into existing waterparks or be stand-alone features in community parks.

There are a variety of amenities parks and recreation agencies can offer to attract a wider audience to their outdoor pool facilities. Some of the most common types of features included in public and private facilities nationwide include lane lines (76.3%), lifeguard stations (69%), pool lifts or other accessibility equipment (64.4%), pool exercise equipment (49.1%), and diving boards (48.6%).¹⁴ In the future, parks indicated they were more likely to add amenities such as pool inflatables, shade structures and water volleyball equipment than any other types of amenities.¹⁴

While pools invite park patrons to come and enjoy themselves as they please, 95.7% of parks and recreation agencies indicated that they offered some type of programming at their aquatic facilities.¹⁴ Common types of programs offered by public and private aquatic facilities nationwide include learn-to-swim programs (83.3%), leisure swim time (75.3%), lifeguard training (74%), lap swim time (73.2%), and aquatic aerobics (66.4%).¹⁴ In the future, 26.8% of parks indicated that they planned to add more programs to their facilities in the next three years, with commonly planned program additions including aqua-yoga and other balance programs (33.6%), dive-in movies (33.2%), and programs for those with developmental and physical disabilities (26.2% and 25.7%, respectively).¹⁴ As the number and variety of amenities in aquatic facilities continues to rise, the cost and value of admission is increasing. Family aquatic centers with varied amenities are attracting more guests, who stay longer and are willing to pay more for the price of admission.

¹⁷ https://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201902SU01

Parks and recreation agencies face numerous challenges in the management, staffing, budgeting, and maintenance of their aquatic facilities. Among the biggest issues faced by parks professionals, 61.1% indicated staffing as their top issue, followed by budgets (50.5%), equipment and facility maintenance (55.1%), safety and risk management (29.5%), and conservation of energy, water and other resources (17.5%).¹⁴ Further complicating these issues are the rising average costs of operating aquatic facilities. From 2017 to 2019, parks expected an 8.8 percent increase in operating costs, from \$570,000 in 2017 to \$620,000 in 2019.¹⁴ As parks and recreation agencies rise to meet these challenges, partnerships with allied organizations should be considered to help fund, operate, and maintain aquatic facilities.

PREVALENCE OF AMENITIES	
Amenity	Prevalence
Lane Lines	76.3%
Lifeguard Station	69%
Pool Life or Other Accessibility Equipment	64.4%
Pool Exercise Equipment	49.1%
Diving Boards	48.6%
Starting Platforms	43.3%
Pool Slides	42.4%
Shade Structures	40.6%
Zero-Depth Entry	38.3%
Water Basketball Equipment	29%
Scoreboard	23.1%
Water Polo Equipment	20.8%
Pool Inflatables	20.4%
Water Volleyball Equipment	18%
Water Playground	17.5%
Teaching Platform	15%
Lazy River	12.8%
Diving Platforms	12.2%
Poolside Cabanas	10.4%
Poolside Climbing Wall	8.1%
Lily Pads/Water Walk	7.6%
Underwater Treadmill or Bike	3.8%

Prevalence of Amenities in Public and Private Aquatic Facilities (Source Recreation Management Aquatic Trends Report/Recreation Management).

ADAPTING TO CHANGING INTERESTS

Outdoor Recreation

According to the OIA 2019 Outdoor Participation Report, running, jogging, and trail running were by far the most popular outdoor recreation activities in 2018 with 57.8 million participants nationwide.¹⁸ These results are consistent with the Indiana 2021-2025 SCORP, where walking has remained the number one most popular outdoor recreation activity for Hoosiers since the 1955 Indiana SCORP². “Walking” includes activities such as jogging, running, pushing a stroller, or simply moving as a pedestrian. People use trails for all kinds of reasons, but the plan found that the public is 3-4 times more likely to use trails for walking than for most other activities. In fact, over 80% of respondents reported that they used trails for walking at some point during the year for reasons such as relaxation and recreation, health and physical training, and family or social outings.¹⁹

The other leading outdoor recreation activities nationwide were fly/salt/freshwater fishing (49.4 million), mountain biking (47.9 million), day hiking (47.9 million), and car/backyard/backpacking/RV camping (41.7 million).¹⁷ The popularity of these activities may be in large part due to the fact that they can be done individually with minimal equipment. In Indiana, the other top activities participated in more than once per week by Hoosiers were low or no-cost outdoor recreation activities, including relaxation/spiritual renewal, gardening/ landscaping, bicycling, and bird/wildlife watching. Participation in other ordinary outdoor recreation activities, such as camping, fishing, and canoeing were also moderately high, but may have lower participation due to equipment fees and require greater travel, skill, and time off from work to accomplish.¹⁸

Participation in other outdoor recreation activities such as boardsailing/windsurfing (1.6 million), triathlon (1.6 million), sport/boulder climbing (2.2 million), and kayak fishing (2.5 million) were the least popular.¹⁷ Factors such as lack of exposure, cost of equipment, and skill level may be negatively impacting participation in these activities.

¹⁸ <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2019-outdoor-participation-report/>

¹⁹ <https://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/files/or-scorp21.pdf>

From 2013-2018, day hiking was by far the fastest growing outdoor recreation activity at 4.0%. The other fastest growing outdoor recreation activities were recreational kayaking (0.7%), fly/salt/freshwater fishing (0.6%), stand-up paddling (0.6%), and rifle/shotgun/handgun/bow hunting (0.5%). The outdoor recreation activities that saw the most decline in participation over the same five-year period were camping within ¼ mile of vehicle/home (-1.1%), road/paved surface bicycling (-1.1%), and birdwatching more within than ¼ mile from home/vehicle (-0.8%).¹⁷

The United States experienced a 3.3% increase in outdoor recreation from 2017-2018, with 50.5 percent of the population indicating that they participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2018.¹⁷ This is consistent with the findings of the Indiana 2021-2025 SCORP, which noted increases in local and regional park attendance based on data obtained through local parks and recreation master plans.²⁰ Driving forces such as individual community growth/decline, economic circumstances, size and variety of amenities, availability of programming, and competition for local recreation participation from other organizations may be contributing to these results.

Outdoor recreation programming activates parks and open spaces and offers patrons the chance to change the way they interact with the environment. Over the past several years, trends in expanded program offerings such as animal yoga and dog parks have increased the potential of parks to inspire, excite, and motivate members of the community to become involved.

A new programming obsession taking the parks and recreation community by storm is animal yoga. Across the country, yoga experiences with baby animals, such as dogs, cats, goats, and even pigs, are becoming increasingly popular. Some parks and recreation agencies are sponsoring classes, where instructors provide both yoga instruction and animals for participants.²¹ These Instagram-worthy classes are giving patrons the chance to share their experiences on social media and increase participation in a positive manner.

Continued innovation in outdoor recreation offerings by parks and recreation agencies will become necessary to increase outdoor recreation participation in the future. More needs to be done to get people moving, for the health of both the outdoor recreation industry and the general population.

²⁰ <https://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/files/or-scorp21.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/january/top-trends-in-parks-and-recreation-for-2019/>

DECLINING AND AGING POPULATION

Richmond's total population was estimated at over 36,000 people in 2018, making it the largest city in Wayne County. However, its population has been declining over the past several years and is projected to experience an additional 2 percent decrease in total population over the next five years, which is slightly less than the anticipated 2.25 percent decrease for Wayne County.

The population of Richmond is growing older, with a median age of 40 years old, two years older compared to the state of Indiana. After the age of 60, the percentage of aging adults starts to drop off, likely due to the lack of amenities this group needs, including the diversity of housing types, alternative modes of transportation, and other community services. While there is a significant portion of the population between the ages of 20-24, this may be attributed to the number of higher education institutions in Richmond, including Earlham College, Indiana University East, and Ivy Tech Community College. The category representing people between the ages of 25-28 is significantly smaller as college-educated individuals are leaving Richmond, resulting in community "brain drain." In "brain drain," educated and skilled individuals are leaving less developed communities for more developed communities, for reasons such as a desire for advancement in the workplace and little opportunities to do so.

However, many of the amenities and services desired by millennials align with those needed by seniors. Richmond can retain its population by enhancing quality of life, which refers to a person's standards of individual satisfaction relating to convenient access to goods and services, personal health and wellness, social integration, sense of safety, job security, opportunities for learning, and unique experiences. Parks and recreation agencies play a unique role in attracting and retaining people from all stages of life.

INCREASING NEED FOR MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

The Rose View Public Transit System offers public transportation for all residents in the City of Richmond. The system operates six fixed routes that encompass the entire city, with the northern point at Highland Road and I-70, the southern point at US 27 South and Boston Pike, the eastern point at US-49 and West Eaton Pike and the western point at US-40 West and Salisbury Road. The system provides complementary paratransit service for individuals whose disabilities make them unable to use the fixed route system. Requests for paratransit service must have an origin or destination within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on each side of a fixed route.

Richmond is making strides when it comes to offering alternatives to motorized transportation. Across the community, recent additions of bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements, such as the Loop, have made getting around Richmond a little easier. However, there's still much to be done. Popular responses throughout the *Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan* public engagement process revealed a desire to eliminate gaps in pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity. Further, citizens expressed a need for more user-friendly, dependable, and convenient public transportation improvements.

Nearly 16 percent of occupied households in Richmond do not own a vehicle, and 40 percent of households only own one vehicle. These people may be more dependent on walking, bicycling, or public transit for the majority of their trips. However, where gaps in connectivity exist, barriers between people, neighborhoods, and public services arise and prevent equitable access. By establishing a quality multi-modal transportation network, residents without access to vehicles can connect to jobs, services, and community amenities, such as parks.

INCREASING NEED FOR ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

As the only urban center east of Central Indiana, Richmond is the primary provider of social services for a large region consisting of 85,000 people. Social services are programs or services offered by either the government or local organizations for the benefit of the larger community. These programs are designed to serve disadvantaged, distressed, and vulnerable persons or groups. Types of assistance provided by these programs may include food, housing, education, drug rehabilitation services, transportation, disability or mental health support, and recreation programming opportunities.

Unfortunately, the spatial pattern of resources presents a challenge for providers and clients, who may be limited relative to the service area or unable to access services due to lack of transportation. As the center of recreation for eastern Indiana with approximately 1,110 acres of parks accounting for roughly 49 percent of all park and open space land in Wayne County, Richmond parks play a unique role in expanding beyond recreation programming and joining with other public service providers to address social services.





DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY BENCHMARKING

While the findings of the existing and emerging trends research can inform how the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation needs to respond to broad recreation topics in the future, the process of community benchmarking can help inform what specific strengths and challenges exist within the system and the Parks Department itself. For the purpose of this master planning process, ‘benchmarking’ is defined as a process of measuring the performance of the City’s parks and recreation system and services against a set of known standards or those of another system. The point of benchmarking is to identify internal opportunities for improvement and to provide context to the idea of a “standard operating procedure”.

While no two parks or park systems are the same, sets of standard metrics were used to provide an analysis on Richmond’s parks, Level of Service (LOS) and overall organizational standing. Data for the benchmarking analysis was pulled from three primary sources: 1983 basic LOS guidelines as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the 2021-2025 *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) and the NRPA Park Metrics and Agency Performance Survey. The data sources vary and compare parks and park systems using different metrics and standards; however, they do identify the unique strengths and challenges that should be considered.

PARK CLASSIFICATION, SIZE AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

In 1983, Drs. James D. Mertes and James R. Hall co-authored and published the definitive book on recreation, park and open-space LOS guidelines through the NRPA. For decades, these organizational categories and tools were used by the majority of parks and recreation departments nationwide to determine the minimum desired acreage of recreational properties at both a local and regional level. The classifications organized parks by type and provided guidance on the recommended acreages for each park type based on a population-ratio basis.

1983 NRPA Park Classifications and Guidelines

TYPE	SERVICE AREA	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE
Regional Park	One-hour drive time radius <i>(normally includes several communities)</i>	5.0 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 people
Community Park	1 to 2-mile service area <i>(normally includes several neighborhoods)</i>	5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people
Neighborhood Park	0.25 to 0.50 mile radius	1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people
Mini-Park	Less than a 0.25 mile radius	0.25 to 0.50 acres per 1,000 people

For nearly 20 years, the standards established by Drs. Mertes and Hall were widely accepted and applied within communities to identify shortfalls in their existing parks and recreation systems. While widely accepted, the classifications and recommendations themselves had major shortfalls. By using the 1983 guidelines, communities were unable to factor in park location to their LOS assessments. In some instances, communities met the acreage requirements but had portions of their community located outside the service area of a defined park. In short, the guidelines provided one, fairly rigid set of recommendations that did not account for community specific populations, amenities or needs.

Knowing that this one-size fits all approach to park LOS was challenging, academics and park professionals worked to improve upon the established guidelines by taking unique local priorities into account. In the mid 1990’s, a more flexible approach of assessment emerged based on quantifying the demand for recreation opportunities, current parks and recreation resources and the needs and preferences of community residents. This more strategic LOS approach has been used by the State of Indiana in their efforts to determine a statewide set of guidelines for park and recreation space. Highlighted within the 2021-2025 SCORP document, the Indiana LOS guidelines simplifies the classification of park space into three key categories, including local, state and an aggregate statewide total, which relied on one simple calculation to dictate the recommended acreage for any given community.

2021-2025 SCORP Local Park Classifications and Guidelines

TYPE	OWNERSHIP	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE
Local Recreation Areas	Land owned by municipal, township and county governments, as well as land privately owned but open for public use.	20 acres per 1,000 people

The simplified local recreation areas designation and broad level acreage recommendations established a guideline that allows each individual community to then establish their own metrics around park location and amenity offerings. This allows for the specific needs of a community’s population to drive the development of parks, facilities and recreation amenities.



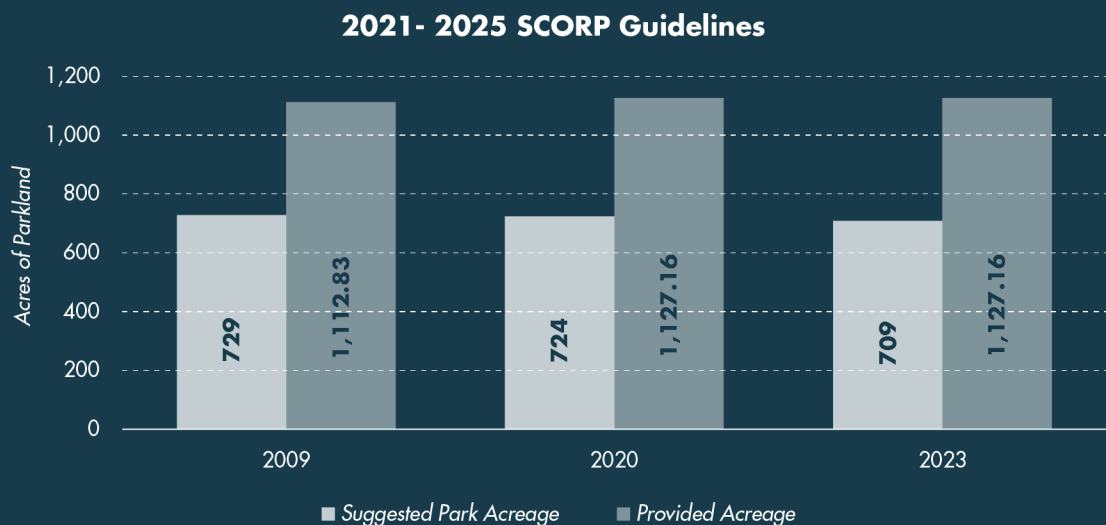
RICHMOND IMPACTS

While the standards and metrics have evolved in their recommendations and usage over time, both the 1983 NRPA and the 2021-2025 SCORP recommendations can be used to assess the City of Richmond's park system and overall LOS. Using the guidelines provided in both data sets, the following conclusions can be made:

Richmond exceeds the current park acreage recommendations. (pg. 101)

As of 2018, Richmond is a city of approximately 36,191 residents. Using the 2021-2025 SCORP guidelines, this would suggest that in order to serve the needs of current residents, Richmond should have 724-acres of locally owned and operated public outdoor recreation spaces at a recommended 20 acres per 1,000 people. Currently, the City's parks and recreation system includes 23 parks and 6 recreation facilities which provide nearly 1,130-acres of open space to City residents. Based on the SCORP recommendations, the City currently has an open space surplus of 403 acres and is currently providing 32 acres of open space per 1,000 people.

The City has been providing more open space per 1,000 residents since before 2009. While the population within Richmond decreased from 2009 to 2020, and is expected to experience an additional 2 percent decrease by 2023, the City's parks and open space offerings have increased by 1.2 percent. Even if park and open space decreases slightly in the future, the available open space within Richmond is well above the recommended guidelines.



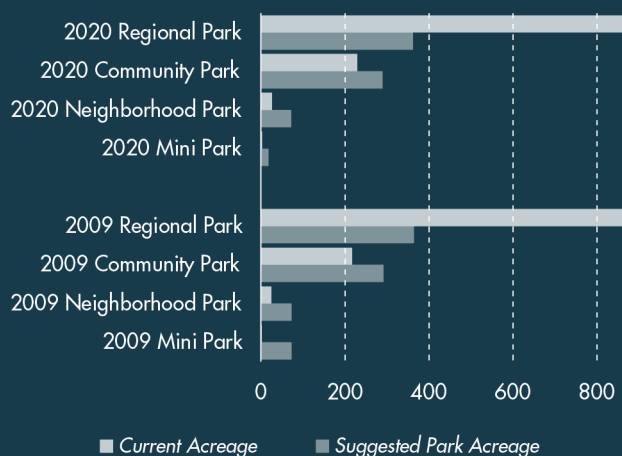
Richmond residents may lack access to neighborhood and community parks. (pg. 100)

Based on the 1983 NRPA guidelines for park classifications and recommended acreages, the City's current parks and recreation system would need to provide approximately 18-acres of mini parks, 72-acres of neighborhood parks, 290-acres of community parks and 362-acres of regional parks to area residents. While the NRPA guidelines do not include an overall park system acreage total, the classification recommendations suggest a percentage break down of 2 percent mini park, 10 percent neighborhood park, 39 percent community park and 49 percent regional park.

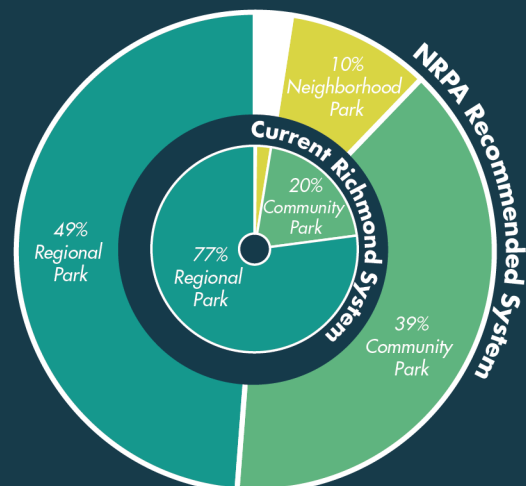
Based on the classifications of the City's 23 parks and 6 recreation facilities, the parks and open space system falls short of the recommended guidelines in all but one classification. While the City offers a robust quantity of park land (1,130-acres) the largest percentage of acreage is made up of regional parks due to their overall size and service area. The City of Richmond has four regional parks (Glen Miller Park, Highland Golf Course, Middlefork Reservoir and the Whitewater Gorge Park), which account for nearly 80 percent of the City's total park space. The suggested shortfalls have existed since before 2009, and while the City has increased their amount of mini, neighborhood, and community parks, a significant discrepancy exists between the recommendations outlined by the NRPA and available park lands.

As noted previously, the City has ample amounts of parks and open space available to its residents. The suggested shortfalls can only help to identify potential access challenges within the system. Oftentimes, regional parks lack locally-oriented amenities such as athletic fields, playgrounds or multi-purpose shelters due to their large size and service area. Since the majority of Richmond's parks and open space is made up of regional parks, it will be critical to ensure that these parks offer a wide array of amenities in addition to those features that attract larger groups of visitors.

Park Classifications and Acreages



Park System Make Up





RICHMOND IMPACTS

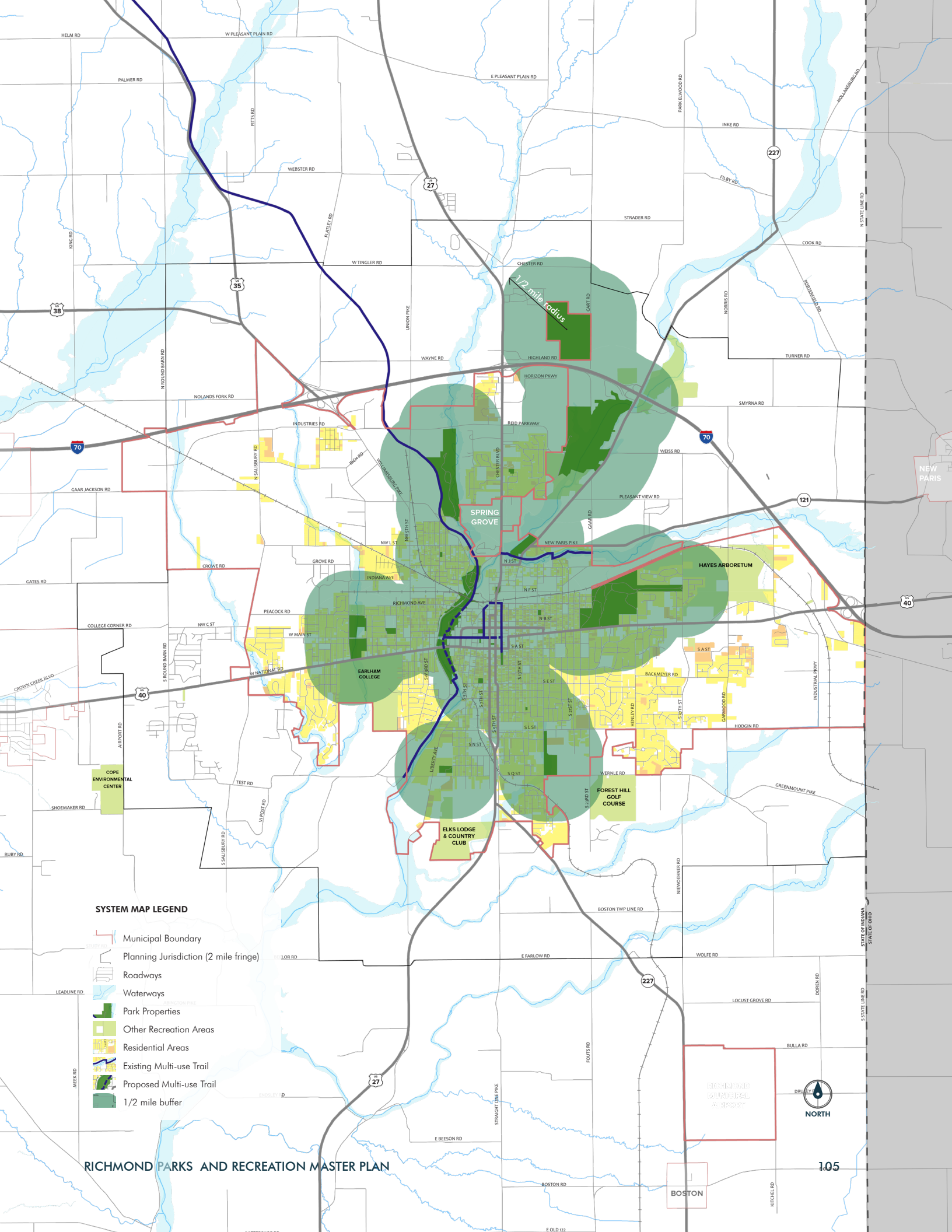
Regardless of classification or size, the majority of Richmond’s residents are within a ten-minute walking distance of a park property. (pg. 104)

While not tied to any specific set of guidelines or recommendations, considering overall proximity and residential access to Richmond’s parks is one way to tie together overall park acreage and general park classifications. The NRPA in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute has recently been focused on using access as a way to not only establish park space within a community, but also to ensure that all residents in the City have safe, easy access to a park within a 10-minute walking distance from their home. A 10-minute walk equates to roughly a half mile distance. The majority of Richmond’s residential areas are within a half mile of a park.

While most areas are within a half mile of a park, two areas of the City are well outside of the half mile buffer area. The northwest quadrant, which is largely light industrial and institutional uses lacks parks and open space with the closet option being West Side Lions Park, or Springwood Park. Similarly, the southeast quadrant of the City lacks parkland but the primary difference is that this area is primarily residential in nature.

During the planning process residents were asked how important it was to have a park within a 10- minute walk of their home and 70% of the survey respondents indicated that it was important to them. Since two portions of the community are outside of the 10- minute walking buffer additional infrastructure in the form of sidewalks and multi-use trails may be needed in the future to ensure that these residential areas have access to parks and recreational areas. Additionally, as development continues to expand within the northwest quadrant of the City, open space can be integrated into industrial parks and sidewalks and trails can be constructed to provide connectivity to existing facilities.

These system impacts are further assessed in the System Findings section started on page 198.



SYSTEM MAP LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Planning Jurisdiction (2 mile fringe)
- Roadways
- Waterways
- Park Properties
- Other Recreation Areas
- Residential Areas
- Existing Multi-use Trail
- Proposed Multi-use Trail
- 1/2 mile buffer



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW

While the LOS guidelines offered in the 1983 NRPA and 2021-2025 SCORP documents provide insight into how the system is serving the local community, they do not necessarily indicate how the Department of Parks and Recreation is currently managing their operating resources. There are no national standards when it comes to reviewing how a parks agency or department functions because different agencies service different communities that have unique needs, desires and challenges. While there is no standard metric, there are tools to compare how the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation is functioning in comparison to its peer agencies. By using the NRPA's Parks Metrics database, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation can be compared to peer agencies of similar population and system size. NRPA Park Metrics, which was launched in 2009, is the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for parks and recreation agencies. The online tool allows any parks agency to upload their information, which is then used to tabulate an overall Agency Performance Review that can be pulled through the various reporting functions. By utilizing a custom report function, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation was compared to documented agencies in the Midwest. In total, data was pulled from 20 cooperating agencies throughout twelve states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio). The included communities have an average population of 36,691 and an average incorporated area of 13.2-square miles. The City of Richmond by comparison includes 36,191 residents and a total incorporated area of 24.16-miles. The data for the peer agencies is presented with averages, along with data responses at the lowest 25 percent and highest 25 percent. This organization method allows for insights into not only where the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation stands compared to the "typical" agencies but also compared to the full spectrum of agencies at both the high and low ends of the spectrum. Additionally, Richmond specific data from 2009 has been added to showcase how the Department of Parks and Recreation has adjusted over the last decade. The findings of the agency comparison should be used to inform conversations with City leaders and department partners regarding the role of parks, open space and recreation programming within the community.

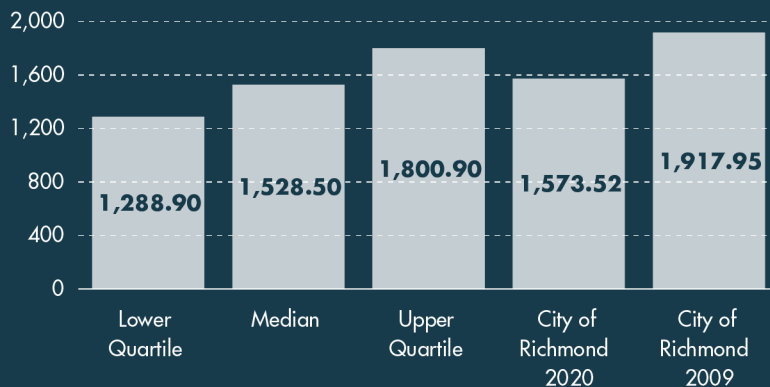
The findings of the NRPA peer agency comparison focused on three key topics: park facilities, agency staffing and agency funding. Together, these three topics provide context regarding the Richmond parks and open space system, and the operational components the City uses to manage its park lands and facilities.

Park Facilities

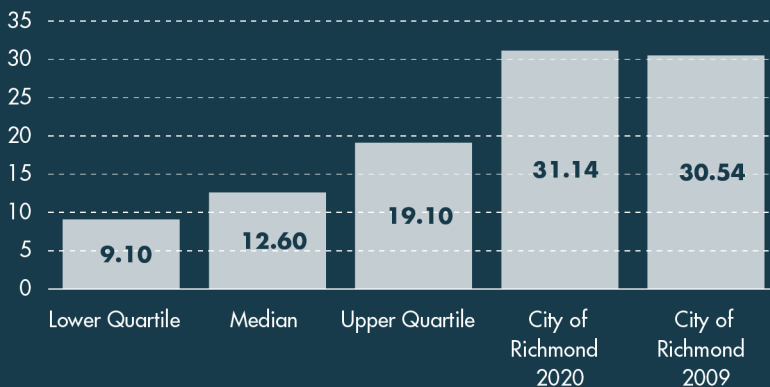
The typical agency within the twelve Midwest states manages 23 parks and roughly 8 miles of trails. On average, this offers one park for every 1,528 residents. **By comparison, the Richmond park and open space system includes 23 parks, nearly 8 miles of paved trails and offers one park for every 1,573 residents, keeping the City on track with its regional peers.** The number of people per park rises as the population of the city served by an agency increases, which is one reason why the 2009 statistic is higher. Since 2009, Richmond has gained four park properties and has lost approximately 400 residents.

While the number of parks per resident is on track with the regional average, Richmond is well above average in available park acreage per 1,000 residents. The typical agency within the twelve mid-west states manages approximately 12.6-acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. **Richmond currently manages nearly 2.5 times the regional average, which can likely be attributed to Richmond's large, regional park offerings.**

Number of Residents Per Park



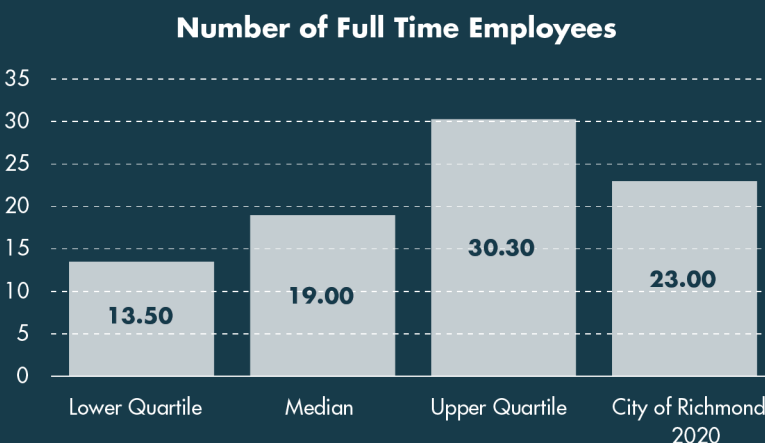
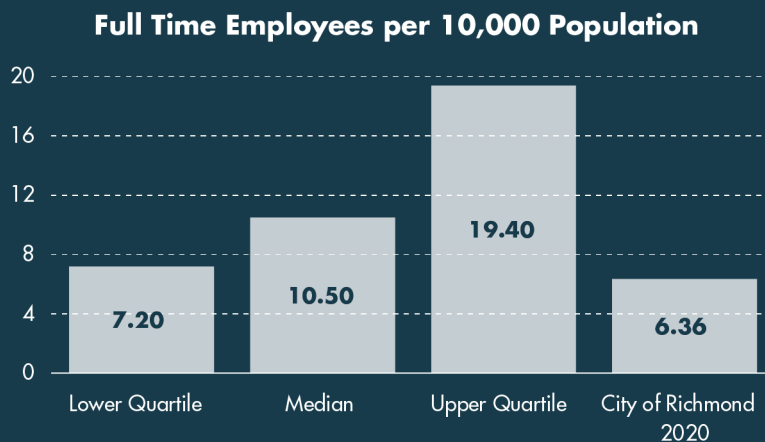
Acres of Parks Land Per 1,000 Residents



Comparison data provided by NRPA's Parks Metrics database. City data provided by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.

Agency Staffing

Staffing at typical parks and recreation agencies often includes a mix of both full and part-time employees, which are often supplemented by vendors or seasonal staff. The size of a system's staff generally expands based on the size of the community or park service area. Currently, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation employs 23 full-time staff members, which is above the regional average of 15 full-time employees. On average, the 19 full-time staff members are supported by 150 seasonal or part-time employees. Currently the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation employs up to 100 seasonal and/ or part time employees. In contrast, based on the City's current population, **Richmond employs nearly 6.5 full-time staff members per 10,000 residents, a number that is within the lower 25 percentage when compared to the system's regional peers.**



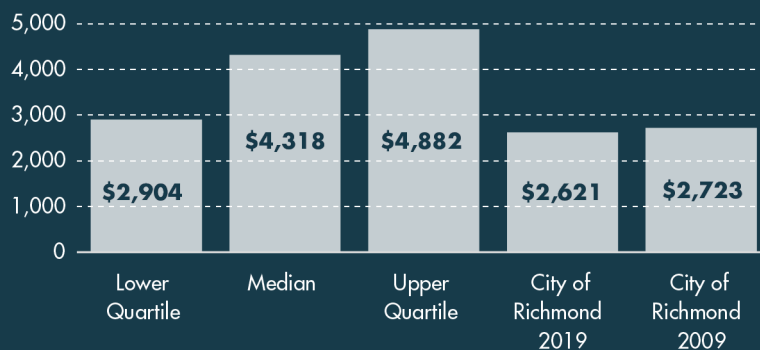
Comparison data provided by NRPA's Parks Metrics database. City data provided by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.

Agency Funding

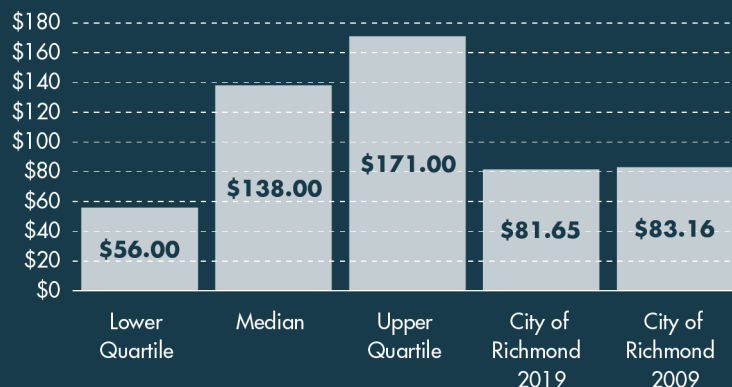
Funding for parks and recreation comes from a variety of sources including tax support, sponsorships, earned or generated revenue and grants. An agency's ability to diversify their funding allows for increased flexibility in responding to a community's current and future needs. **In fiscal year 2019, 77% of the Department's revenue came directly from local taxes, with 23% being funded through program fees and rentals.** While regional data was unavailable, national data pulled from the National Recreation Parks Association shows that on average park agencies receive 60% of their funding through general fund tax support, 8% in dedicated levies and 3% in other dedicated taxes. When combined, those percentages show that Richmond is in line with their national peers.

In fiscal year 2019, the Department spent \$2,624.61 per acre of parkland and \$80.30 per resident which is significantly less than the Department's regional peers who spend \$4,318 per acre and \$138.00 per resident on average. Since Richmond's total acreage of parks per resident is considerably higher than the regional average, this comparison shows that the Department is consistently providing more services with less resources.

Park Operating Expenditures per Acre of Parkland



Operating Expenditures per Capita



Comparison data provided by NRPA's Parks Metrics database. City data provided by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.



RICHMOND IMPACTS

The goal of the agency benchmarking analysis is to assess how the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation is performing compared to its peer agencies. Using the data and metrics compiled from the NRPA Park Metric database, the following conclusions can be made:

Richmond's incorporated area and park service area is greater than its regional peers.

While Richmond's total population is comparable to the peer communities studied, the incorporated square mileage of the City, on average, is nearly twice as large. This means that the City of Richmond's parks and open space system is more spread out than those of comparison agencies, which could put a greater impact on the system's capital resources.

Compared to communities of similar size, Richmond offers more park land per resident than most.

While the City's total number of park properties and miles of paved trails (23 parks and roughly 8 miles of trails) is comparable to the regional averages, the City does provide 2.5 times more parkland per one thousand residents than the average community. These higher than average totals can be attributed to the City's four regional park properties, which make up 77 percent of the City's parkland.

The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation does more with less.

While the City's annual expenditure budgets and full-time staffing levels are comparable to regional peer agencies, because of the make-up of the City's parks and open space system the Department is spending fewer dollars per acre of parkland than its peers. Currently, the Department's annual expenditures budget includes nearly \$2,100 per acre of parkland, which is significantly less than the average of \$4,318. In addition to the lower expenditure, the park staff is responsible for nearly 2.5 times more acreage than their regional peers. Knowing that the 23 full-time Parks Department employees are also responsible for park programming, landscaping and supporting facilities an additional burden is placed on their limited capacities.

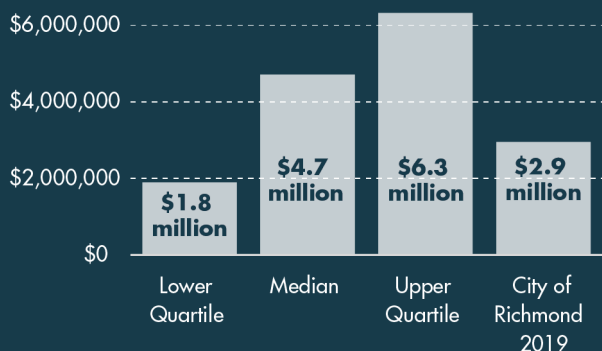
The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation has constrained funding sources.

The Department's budget is dispersed through five municipal funds. In total, the five funds cumulatively represent **a 2019 operating budget for the Department of \$2,906,235; a 4.0% increase over fiscal year 2018 but nearly half that of their regional peers.** Nearly 83% of the Department's annual budget is in a reverting fund which covers general operating expenses including personnel and supplies. The remainder of the annual budget is held in four non-reverting funds which handle the revenue and expenses of the Widow Services Program, the City's Farmers Market program, McBride Stadium and the Highland Golf Course.

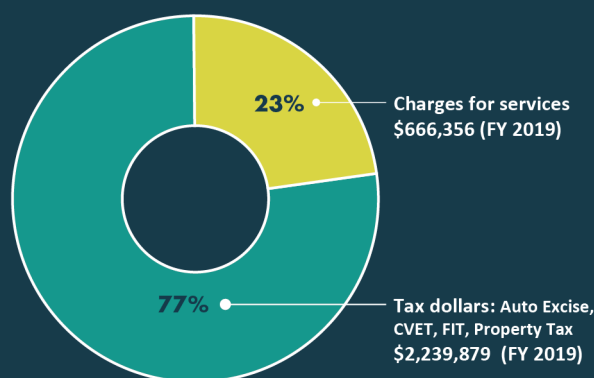
In 2019 77% percent of the Department's combined annual budget comes directly from pooled tax dollars. While this is in line with national data, public tax dollars are not expected to increase in the future, and more than likely could see a decrease in the short term due to population loss and continued property tax caps.

Nearly 23% of the Department revenue comes from charges for services, including programs, events, shelter rentals, concessions and facility entry fees. These fees are paid by local residents in exchange for a good or service. While many park agencies are able to increase the cost of programs and services to increase revenue, historically fee increases have met a negative response amongst Richmond residents. Finding new ways to diversify and strengthen the alternative revenue sources will allow for the Department to be more flexible in their offerings and their ability to plan for the future.

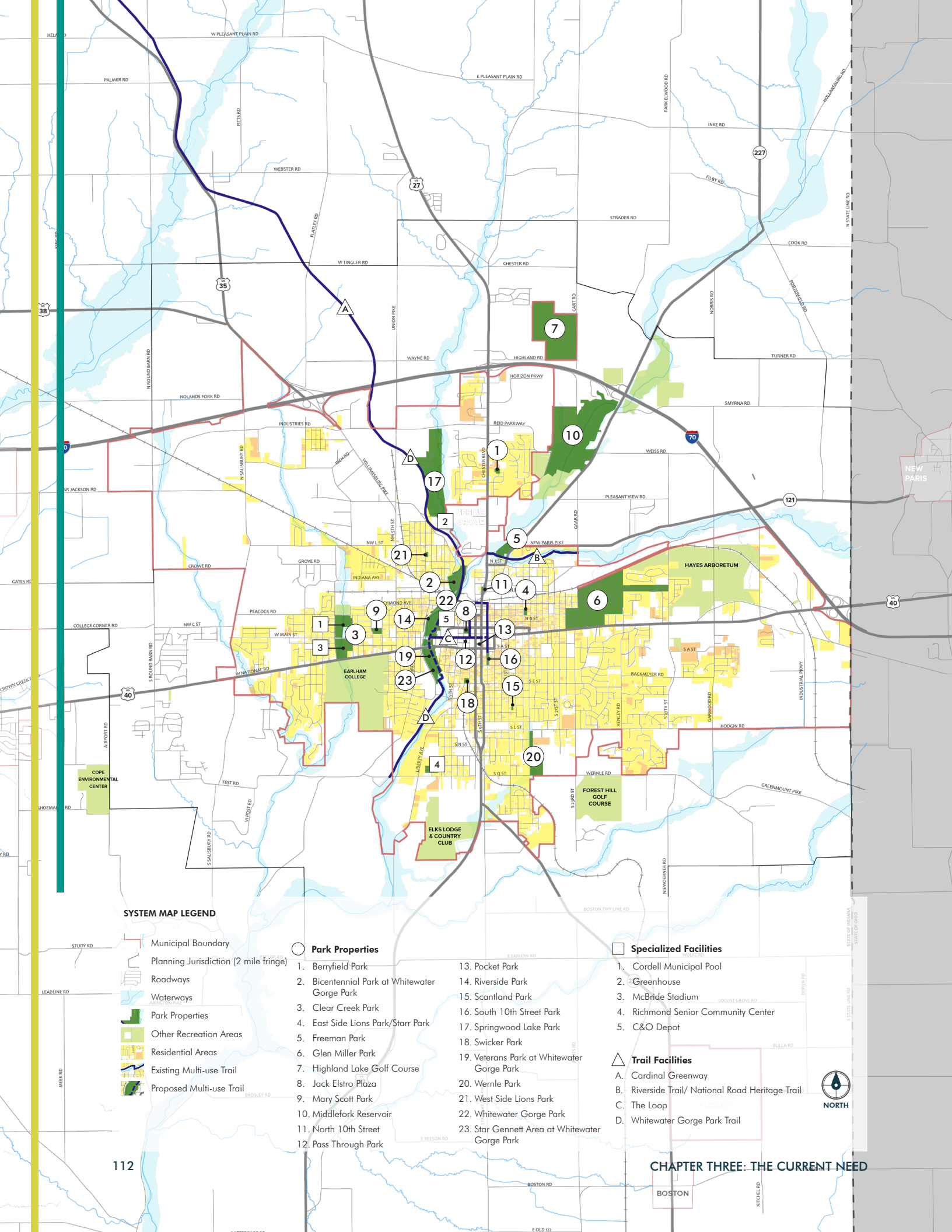
Total Annual Operating Expenditures



Department Revenue Sources



Comparison data provided by NRPA's Parks Metrics database. City data provided by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.



SYSTEM MAP LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Planning Jurisdiction (2 mile fringe)
- Roadways
- Waterways
- Park Properties
- Other Recreation Areas
- Residential Areas
- Existing Multi-use Trail
- Proposed Multi-use Trail

Park Properties

1. Berryfield Park
2. Bicentennial Park at Whitewater Gorge Park
3. Clear Creek Park
4. East Side Lions Park/Starr Park
5. Freeman Park
6. Glen Miller Park
7. Highland Lake Golf Course
8. Jack Elstro Plaza
9. Mary Scott Park
10. Middlefork Reservoir
11. North 10th Street
12. Pass Through Park
13. Pocket Park
14. Riverside Park
15. Scantland Park
16. South 10th Street Park
17. Springwood Lake Park
18. Swicker Park
19. Veterans Park at Whitewater Gorge Park
20. Wernle Park
21. West Side Lions Park
22. Whitewater Gorge Park
23. Star Gennett Area at Whitewater Gorge Park

Specialized Facilities

1. Cordell Municipal Pool
2. Greenhouse
3. McBride Stadium
4. Richmond Senior Community Center
5. C&O Depot

Trail Facilities

- A. Cardinal Greenway
- B. Riverside Trail/ National Road Heritage Trail
- C. The Loop
- D. Whitewater Gorge Park Trail



RICHMOND PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

INVENTORY OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

The Richmond parks and open space system is very diverse, consisting of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields and play amenities and three multi-use trails, totaling over 1,100-acres of parkland and nearly 8 miles of paved trail. The parks, facilities and trail segments reflect the City's unique geography, history and culture and consistently draw residents and visitors to the community. Together these elements form the City of Richmond's open space system.

The Richmond open space system is composed of four primary components: park properties, specialized features, trails and supporting open spaces and properties and facilities that are privately-owned and managed. While the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation is only able to plan for City properties and facilities, it is critical to understand how the various components contribute to the comprehensive open space system. For the purpose of the *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, the open space system components are defined as follows:

Park Properties

Parks are those properties that are owned and/or operated by the City of Richmond. These properties range in scale and include large regionally-oriented parks, conservation areas, urban plazas, golf courses and pocket parks. In total, Richmond maintains 23 park properties which are located throughout the City.

Specialized Facilities

In addition to Richmond's park properties, the City owns and maintains a series of specialized facilities. These facilities are buildings and multi-use structures that provide unique opportunities for recreation and programming. While often times these specialized facilities are within a defined park boundary, at times these facilities can be standalone facilities that operate outside of a park property. Today, the City of Richmond maintains five specialized facilities (Cordell Municipal Pool, McBride Stadium, the Greenhouse, C & O Depot, and the Richmond Senior Center), three of which are located within a designated park property.

Trails

The trail system within Richmond consists of paved, multi-use pathways and established trailheads that provide both regional and local connections and recreation opportunities. While many of Richmond's park properties feature internal walking paths, trails provide an added benefit by serving as a connection to destinations and residential areas city-wide.

Supporting Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities

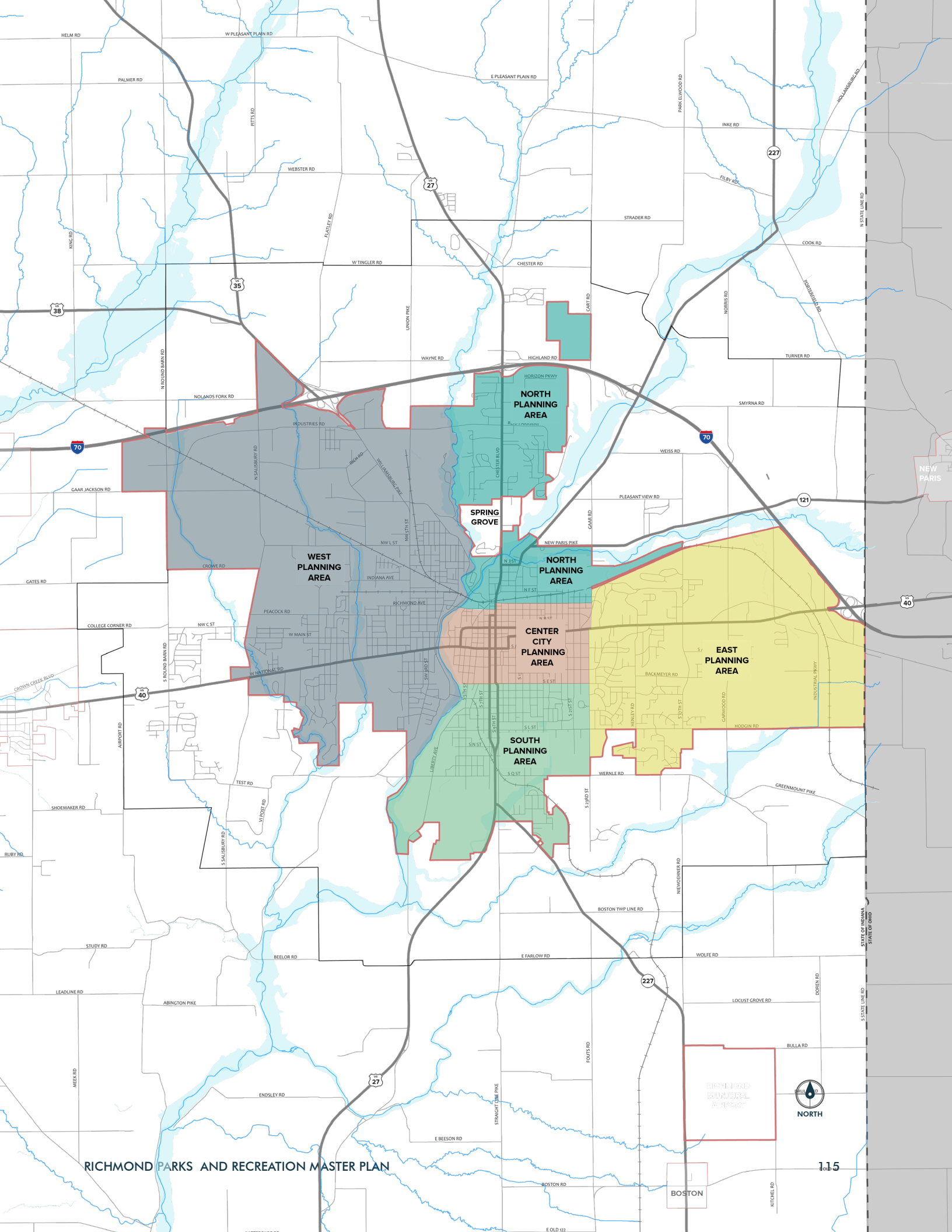
In addition to the City's park properties, specialized facilities and trails, Richmond residents utilize other recreation facilities and open spaces to fulfill their various recreation needs. These open spaces and recreational facilities supplement the services the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation can provide. At times, these supporting spaces and recreation facilities can also serve as partners or supporters to ongoing City-wide initiatives and programs.

PARK PLANNING AREAS

In order to coordinate local needs on a system-wide scale in an efficient and consistent manner, the City's individual park properties, specialized facilities and trails have been grouped into five geographic planning areas, which are defined by the primary transportation corridors running through the City. While park offerings and amenities within each park planning area do not need to be equal, defining general areas allows for a better understanding of how residents and visitors are using their local parks and open space system and what facilities and amenities are available to them.

Planning Areas

NORTH	The North planning area consists of the area east of the Whitewater River and north of Grand Boulevard. This area includes both the East and West Forks of the Whitewater River and the Middlefork Reservoir, as well as pockets of dense single-family residential development.
EAST	The East planning area consists of the area east of N 23rd Street. This area consists of dense suburban residential neighborhoods, as well as commercial and industrial development near the I-70 and National Road interchange.
SOUTH	The South planning area consists of the area south of S E Street. This area includes the southern portion of the Whitewater River, and dense single-family residential development.
WEST	The West planning area consists of the area west of the Whitewater River. This area includes dense single-family residential development, Earlham College and light industrial development.
CENTER CITY	The Center City area is representative of the City's urban core and includes Downtown Richmond and the Depot District. The planning area is bounded by the CSX rail corridor along the north, the Whitewater River to the west, US 27 to the east and S C Street to the South.



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND INVENTORY

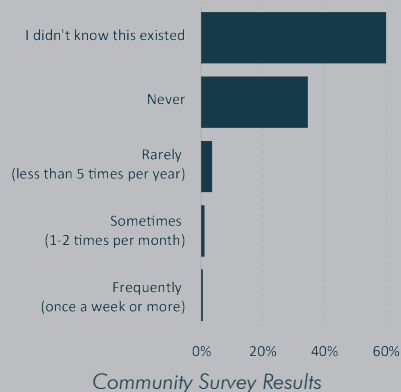
It is important that parks be programmed, operated and maintained in order to meet an established set of outcomes. In 1966, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published the *Park, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, which suggests a hierarchy of typical park classifications and Level of Service (LOS) recommendations as a “systems” approach to parks and recreation planning. As a means of organizing Richmond’s park properties, parks have been classified according to the NRPA rankings that serve as a baseline for determining the minimum standards for park types. These guidelines have been refined to fit the unique qualities and needs of the City and are used to determine how well the park system is performing and serving residents.

	SIZE	SERVICE AREA	FEATURES
REGIONAL PARK	100 Acres or more	One-hour drive time radius	Due to their size, regional parks are able to support the extensive sports activities that mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks aren’t able to; they may be marketed towards organizations that host athletic tournaments, concerts, festivals, theatrical performances and other events.
COMMUNITY PARK	25 Acres or more	1-3-mile service area	Features may include a mix of active and passive recreation amenities such as game courts, informal ballfields and swimming pools, as well as hiking trails, picnic areas, and facilities for cultural events, such as plays or concerts in the park.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	5-10 Acres	¼ to ½ mile radius	Since neighborhood parks are typically designed with limited amounts of space, concentrated areas of amenities are common, such as play equipment, splash pads, ball fields, open lawn areas, picnic shelters and walking paths.
MINI PARK	1.5 acres or less	¼ mile radius	Features may include play equipment or passive recreation opportunities for adults and seniors, depending on the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITY	The purpose, size, service areas and amenity options vary for special purpose parks depending on the use of the property. This classification may include areas designated for special uses such as golf courses, conservation areas or natural preserves.		



COMMUNITY USE

Berryfield Park 1100 North Drive



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

✗ Play Areas

Not Compliant

✗ Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Compliant

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

BERRYFIELD PARK

North Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

Berryfield Park is a 1.3-acre neighborhood park located at 1100 North Drive. The park serves residents of a multi-family housing development to the north and the Berryfield subdivision to the south. The site provides amenities including a playground, a basketball court and open lawn areas.

PARK ANALYSIS

The location of Berryfield Park is both a strength and a weakness. While there aren't any vehicular barriers to pedestrian access, the public park feels very private and unwelcoming for non-residents. Access to the park is severely limited; visitors must enter from the Chester Heights Apartments entrance at Hillsdale Drive and Chester Boulevard, or through a backyard easement. Minimal parking is available at the north entrance to the site. However, it's unclear to the public what kinds of amenities are offered at the park, and many people don't know it exists.



Basketball Court

Open Lawn Area

Playground
Ages 5-10

CHESTER BLVD

NORTH DR

CENTRAL DR

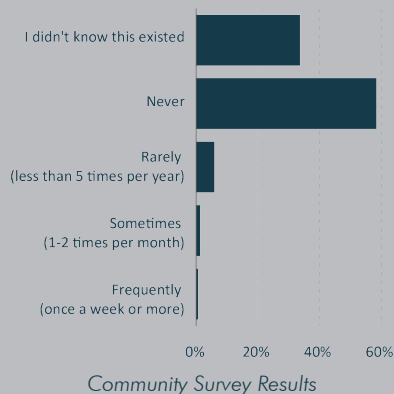
MIDDLE DR

KEYSER LN

Legend

- +— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

East Side Lions Park/Starr Park
311 North 15th Street

ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ **Approaches & Entrances**
Not Compliant

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

✗ **Play Areas**
Not Compliant

✗ **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Not Compliant

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

EAST SIDE LIONS PARK/ STARR PARK

North Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

East Side Lions Park/ Starr Park is a 2.3-acre neighborhood park located at the site of the Old Starr School at 311 North 15th Street. The park provides amenities including a playground, a basketball court, picnic areas and open lawn areas. There is some on-street park available adjacent to the park.

PARK ANALYSIS

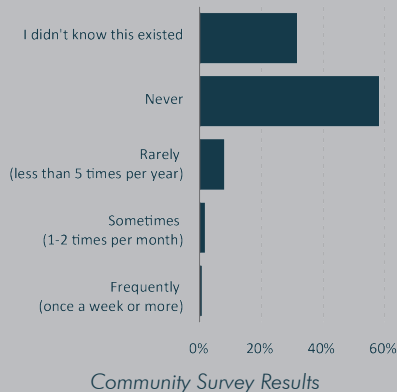
East Side Lions Park features connections to the local pedestrian network, which provides safe and convenient access for Starr Elementary School students and the surrounding neighborhood. The park is fenced-in on three sides, reducing the potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts but posing connectivity problems with the surrounding neighborhood. While there is an entrance on the north side of the park with a ramp to the shelter, the park isn't very ADA accessible; the primary entrance to the park is up a flight of stairs on N 15th Street, and the existing playground equipment is outdated and doesn't offer opportunities for universal play.



Legend

- +—+— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Freeman Park1150 North 12th Street

ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

✗ Play Areas

Not Compliant

✗ Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Compliant

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

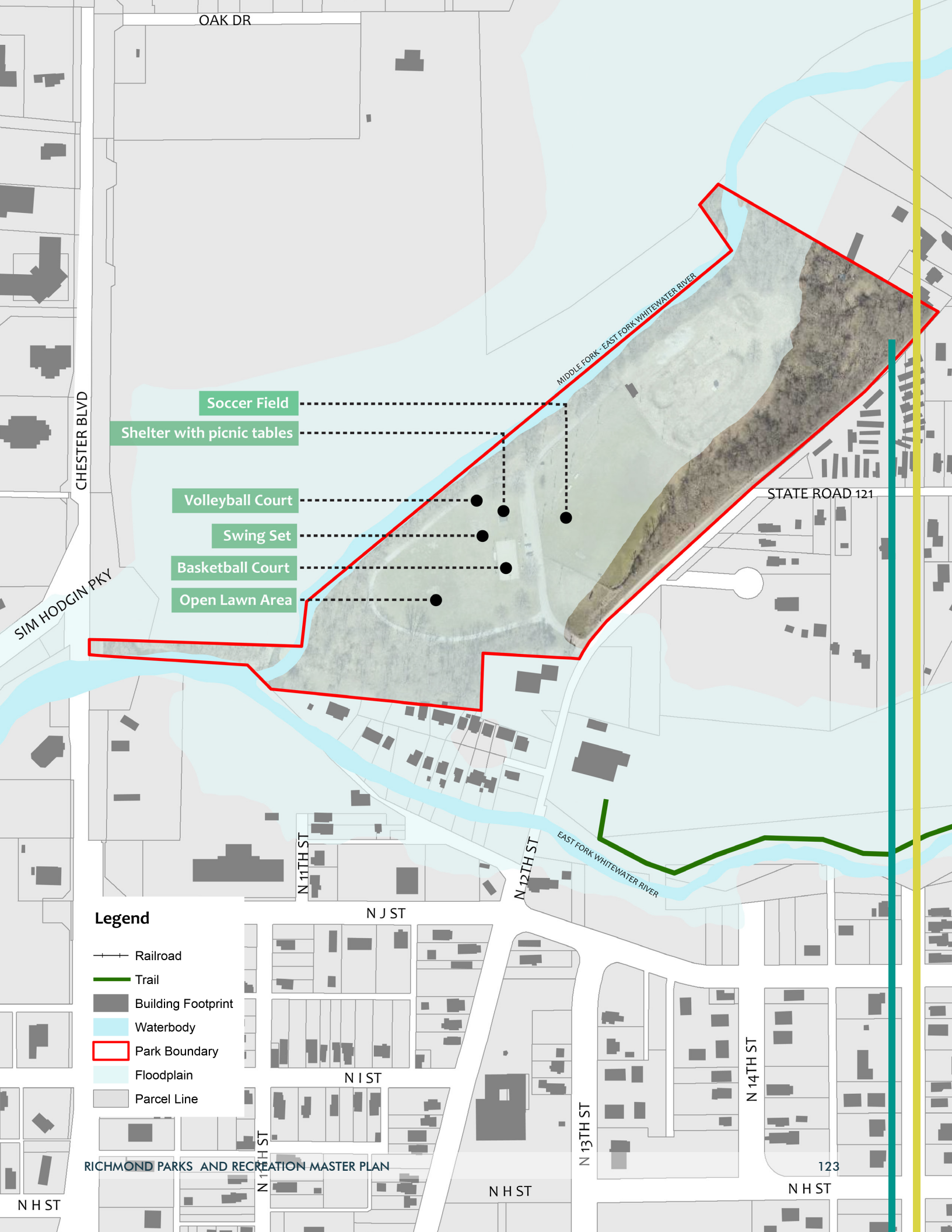
FREEMAN PARK

North Planning Area | Community Park

Freeman Park is a 30-acre community park located at 1150 North 12th Street. The site was gifted to the City in 1966 by Gath Freeman through Earlham College. The park runs along the East Fork Whitewater River and is adjacent to the Richmond Bankers Life Fieldhouse. It offers a variety of amenities, including a swing set, an internationally striped basketball court, a soccer field, a volleyball court and a picnic area. The Wayne County National Road Heritage Trail, otherwise known as the Riverside Trail, is located just south of the park, starting at MA Auto Sales and running along the Whitewater River.

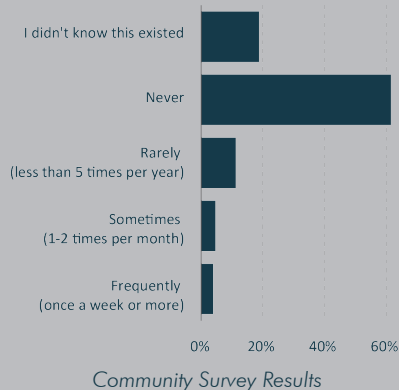
PARK ANALYSIS

Freeman Park is relatively secluded in its location adjacent to the East Fork Whitewater River and the former Reid Hospital site. Future redevelopment opportunities have the potential to establish connections to the site however. Open lawn areas offer opportunities for various “temporary” activities such as corn hole and outdoor fitness classes. Park access is vehicular-oriented and while there are trails nearby, they aren’t clearly marked, so park users may not know they exist.



COMMUNITY USE

Highland Lake Golf Course 1972 Highland Lake Road



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ **Approaches & Entrances**
Not Compliant

✗ **Restrooms**
Not Compliant

✓ **Parking**
Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

✓ **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Compliant

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

HIGHLAND LAKE GOLF COURSE

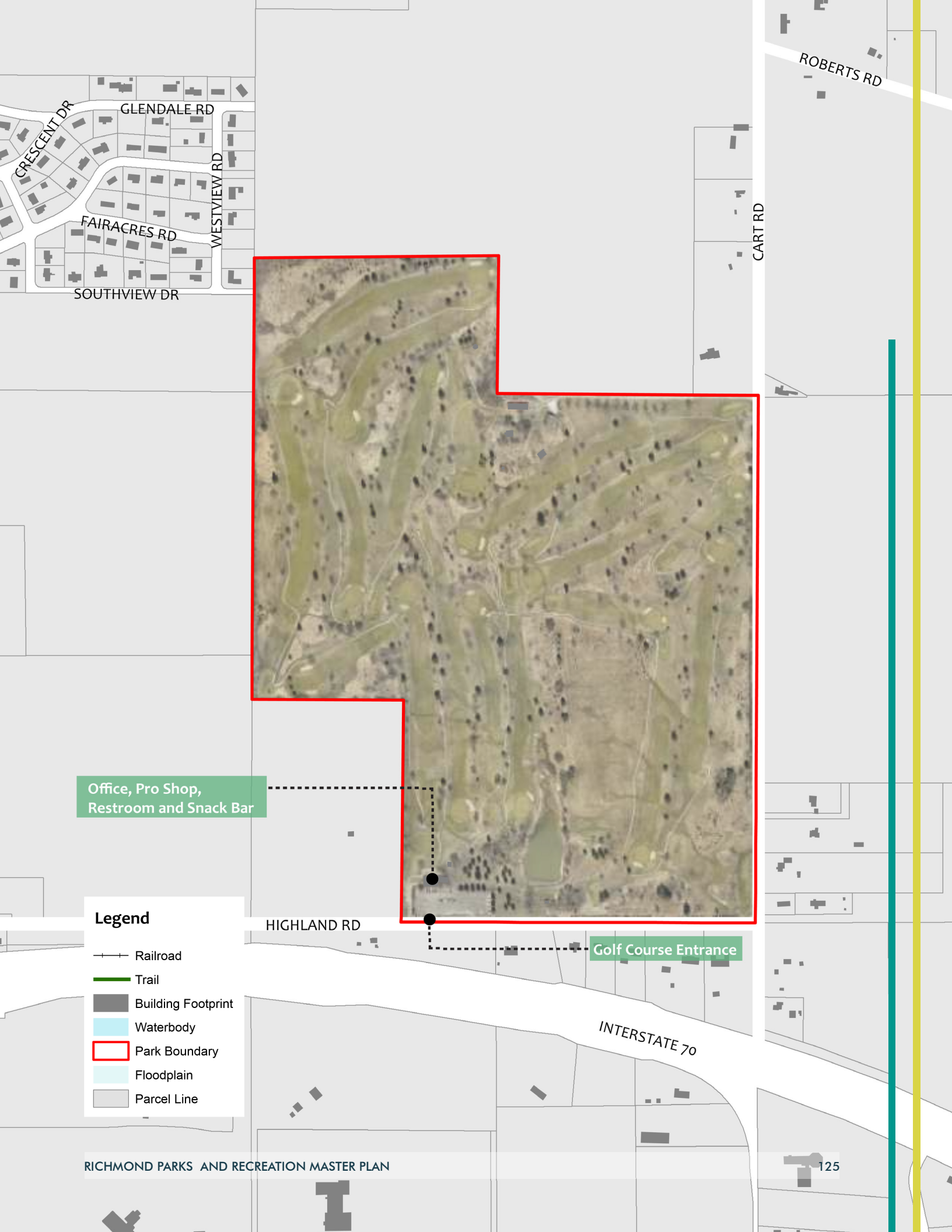
North Planning Area | Special Purpose Park

Highland Lake Golf Course is a 165-acre, eighteen-hole championship golf course located at 1972 Highland Road. The course features 6,981 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72, as well as a practice facility with a driving range and three practice greens. The clubhouse includes a snack bar, a banquet hall, restrooms and a Pro Shop, which offers equipment and apparel as well as motorized carts, pull carts and rental clubs. The course is home to the IU East Girls Golf team and local high school teams and hosts several local, regional and state tournaments.

Daily golf rates range from \$5 - \$37, depending on the number of holes played, the day of the week and the age of the player. The course also offers 10-play pass specials from \$125 - \$275, depending on the number of holes played. Standard season passes, unlimited play passes and unlimited play and cart passes are offered on a seasonal basis and depend on the age and number of players.

PARK ANALYSIS

Over the past few years, the Highland Lake Golf Course has seen a variety of improvements made possible by community donations, such as additional equipment. Local players care about the golf course and are willing to donate their time, money and efforts to ensure its future. However, the course experiences a lull in revenue in the winter, when weather prohibits golfers from engaging in play. Limited staff and funding and some aging equipment make implementing improvements, such as better practice facilities and a closer driving range, difficult. Further, the clubhouse is aging, and the roof will soon need to be replaced. While the course has potential to attract additional local, state and regional players, it lacks effective advertising, and some people don't even know it exists.



ROBERTS RD

CRESCENT DR
GLENDALE RD
FAIRACRES RD
SOUTHVIEW DR
WESTVIEW RD

CART RD

Office, Pro Shop,
Restroom and Snack Bar

HIGHLAND RD

Golf Course Entrance

INTERSTATE 70

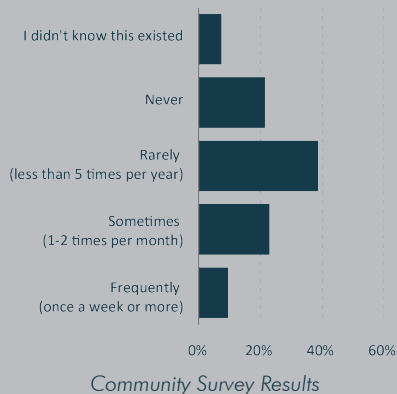
125

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Middlefork Reservoir 1750 Sylvan Nook Drive



ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ Approaches & Entrances
Compliant
- Restrooms
Needs Improvement
- Parking
Needs Improvement
- ✓ Play Areas
Compliant
- ✓ Sports Courts / Facilities
Compliant
- ✗ Water Amenity Areas
Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

MIDDLEFORK RESERVOIR

North Planning Area | Regional Park

Middlefork Reservoir is a 405-acre regional park located at 1750 Sylvan Nook Drive. The park is located on Middlefork Reservoir, a 177-acre lake owned by The American Waterworks Company and its subsidiary, Indiana-American Water Company. It provides a variety of amenities including fishing, boating and docking facilities, a bait shop, concessions, a playground, an RC Airplane Field, Hill's Bark Park, restrooms, open air and enclosed shelters, open lawn areas, picnic areas and nature trails.

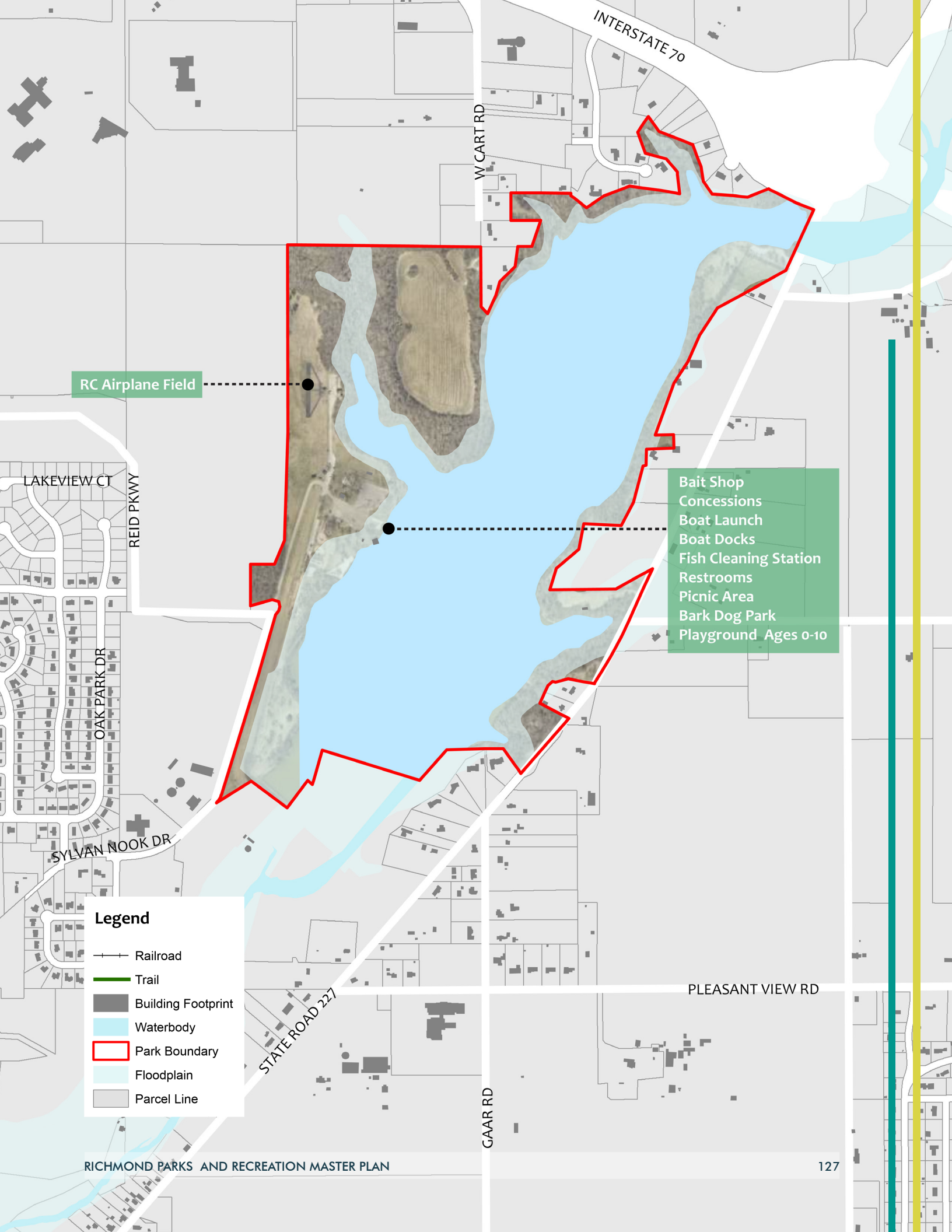
Hill's Bark Park is the only off-leash dog park in Richmond, where dog owners are invited to let their dogs run free and socialize with others. The park is fenced-in and provides amenities including picnic tables and agility equipment.

In 2018, Earlham College Students published the *Middlefork Masterplan*, which spurred a series of park revitalizations including a new playground with equipment that reflects the natural character of the site, as well as updates to boating and fishing docks and a new patio for the service center. A fleet of kayaks, rowboats and paddle boats and associated equipment will be arriving Summer 2020.

PARK ANALYSIS

Middlefork Reservoir is one of the largest bodies of water in the region and draws residents and visitors alike to engage in water-based activities.

Hill's Bark Park is incredibly popular amongst dog owners in Richmond. However, some users are faced with challenges commonly associated with free dog parks, including a lack of amenities, crowds and issues with safety and cleanliness.



INTERSTATE 70

W CART RD

RC Airplane Field

LAKEVIEW CT

REID PKWY

OAK PARK DR

SYLVAN NOOK DR

Bait Shop
Concessions
Boat Launch
Boat Docks
Fish Cleaning Station
Restrooms
Picnic Area
Bark Dog Park
Playground Ages 0-10

PLEASANT VIEW RD

STATE ROAD 227

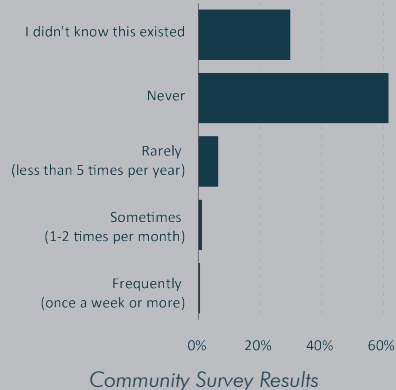
GAAR RD

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

North 10th Street 600 North 19th Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

NORTH 10TH STREET PARK

North Planning Area | Mini Park

North 10th Street Park is a 1.2-acre mini-park located in an industrial area between North F and G Streets at 600 North 10th Street. The park is surrounded by heavily-traveled streets and is bisected by the US 27 Highway overpass.

Formerly a cemetery, the land was acquired by the State of Indiana in 1952 to build a highway over the railroad tracks. The unused land was returned to the City in 1959 to be used as a park. The park originally included a playground, a basketball court and a baseball diamond; however, these facilities were removed and open lawn areas are the only amenity that remains. A monument depicting the former grave site of the Hoover Family is located on the east side of the park between the US 27 Highway Overpass and Chester Blvd.

PARK ANALYSIS

While North 10th Street Park is considered a park, it's really more of a right-of way between two major roadways that the Parks Department maintains. The busy vehicular traffic on both sides of the park creates potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts and detracts from the park-like setting. Other than open lawn areas, there aren't any amenities offered at the park; the park is rarely used, and many people don't know it exists.



N H ST

N G ST

N 10TH ST

N G ST

N 8TH ST

N 9TH ST

N 9TH ST

Open Lawn Area

Open Lawn Area

N F ST

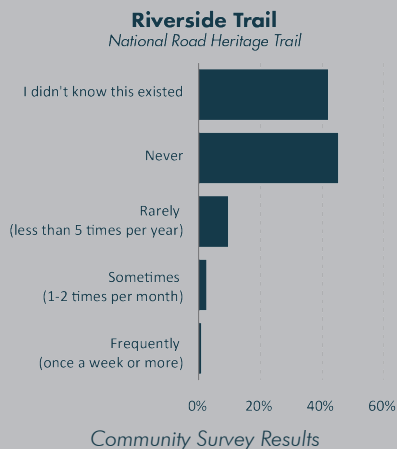
N F ST

FORT WAYNE AVE

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

✗ Trail Surface

Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

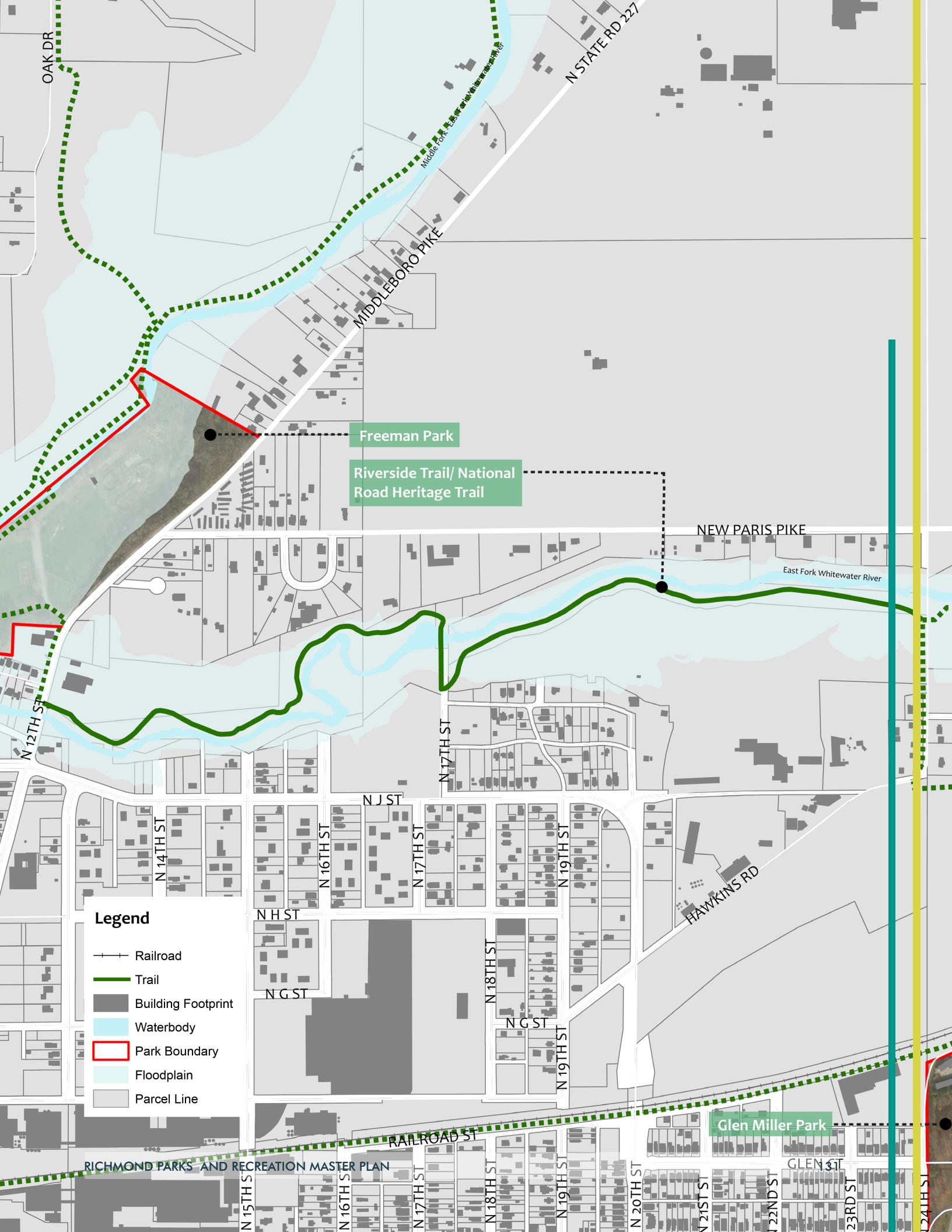
RIVERSIDE TRAIL/ NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE TRAIL

North Planning Area | Trail

The National Road Heritage Trail, otherwise known as Riverside Trail, is a Society for the Preservation and Use of Resources (SPUR) project along the East Fork Whitewater River between North 17th and 24th Streets. As it exists today, a primitive hiking trail has been cleared and covered with wood chips to discourage weed growth and provide a comfortable walking surface. The trail will eventually extend east to Hayes Arboretum and the Ohio border and north to Reid Hospital and the campuses of Indiana University East and Ivy Tech Community College.

PARK ANALYSIS

Riverside Trail, the city's newest trail, is meant to be a piece of a larger trail system. Once completed, the trail will connect to the Whitewater Valley Gorge Trail and the Cardinal Greenway to the west, Hayes Arboretum and the Ohio Border to the east, and Freeman Park, the former Reid Hospital property and the IU East and Ivy Tech campuses to the north.



Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

Freeman Park

Riverside Trail/ National
Road Heritage Trail

NEW PARIS PIKE

East Fork Whitewater River

HAWKINS RD

Glen Miller Park

RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY USE

Whitewater Gorge Park was not included on the community survey.

ADA COMPLIANCE

● **Approaches & Entrances**

Needs Improvement

Restrooms

Not Applicable

● **Parking**

Needs Improvement

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

✗ **Water Amenity Areas**

Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

WHEATWATER GORGE PARK

North Planning Area | Regional Park

The Wheatwater Gorge Park is a 100-acre regional park located between Test Road and Waterfall Road. The gorge was created by the convergence of the three branches of the Wheatwater River during the last ice age and runs 2.5 miles through Richmond, ranging from 200-300-feet wide and 50-80-feet deep. It provides a variety of natural features and unique amenities, including, the Wheatwater Gorge Trail, scenic vistas and picnic areas.

The Wheatwater River has exposed an ancient limestone and shale layer named the Wheatwater formation, which contains skeletons from animals that lived about 435 million years ago. There are many places to look for fossils in the gorge, particularly along the bottoms of slopes near roads and creeks.

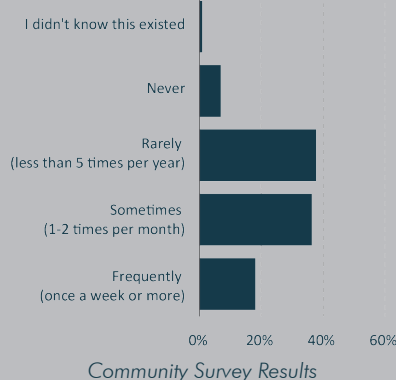
PARK ANALYSIS

Wheatwater Gorge Park provides a number of unique geological and historical features that attract residents and visitors alike. The park connects many different parks along the Wheatwater River and has the potential to provide direct connectivity to the Cardinal Greenway. While the Wheatwater Gorge Trail is heavily used, trailhead access and parking aren't clearly indicated. Public access to the river is currently limited by overgrown vegetation and steep banks. While the park provides a number of passive recreation activities, there aren't many active recreation amenities offered for visitors to engage in physical activity.



COMMUNITY USE

Glen Miller Park 2200 East Main Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

- Approaches & Entrances
Needs Improvement
- ✓ Restrooms
Compliant
- ✓ Parking
Compliant
- ✓ Play Areas
Compliant
- ✓ Sports Courts / Facilities
Compliant
- ✓ Water Amenity Areas
Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

GLEN MILLER PARK

East Planning Area | Regional Park

Glen Miller Park, the largest and most popular of Richmond's parks, is a 199-acre regional park located at 2200 East Main Street. The park is easily accessible and offers a wide range of facilities and amenities for visitors looking to recreate, including a playground, a skate park, tennis courts, a splash pad, a disc golf course, a band shell, Roosevelt Hill, the Richmond Rose Garden, restrooms, open air and enclosed shelters, concessions and a pond.

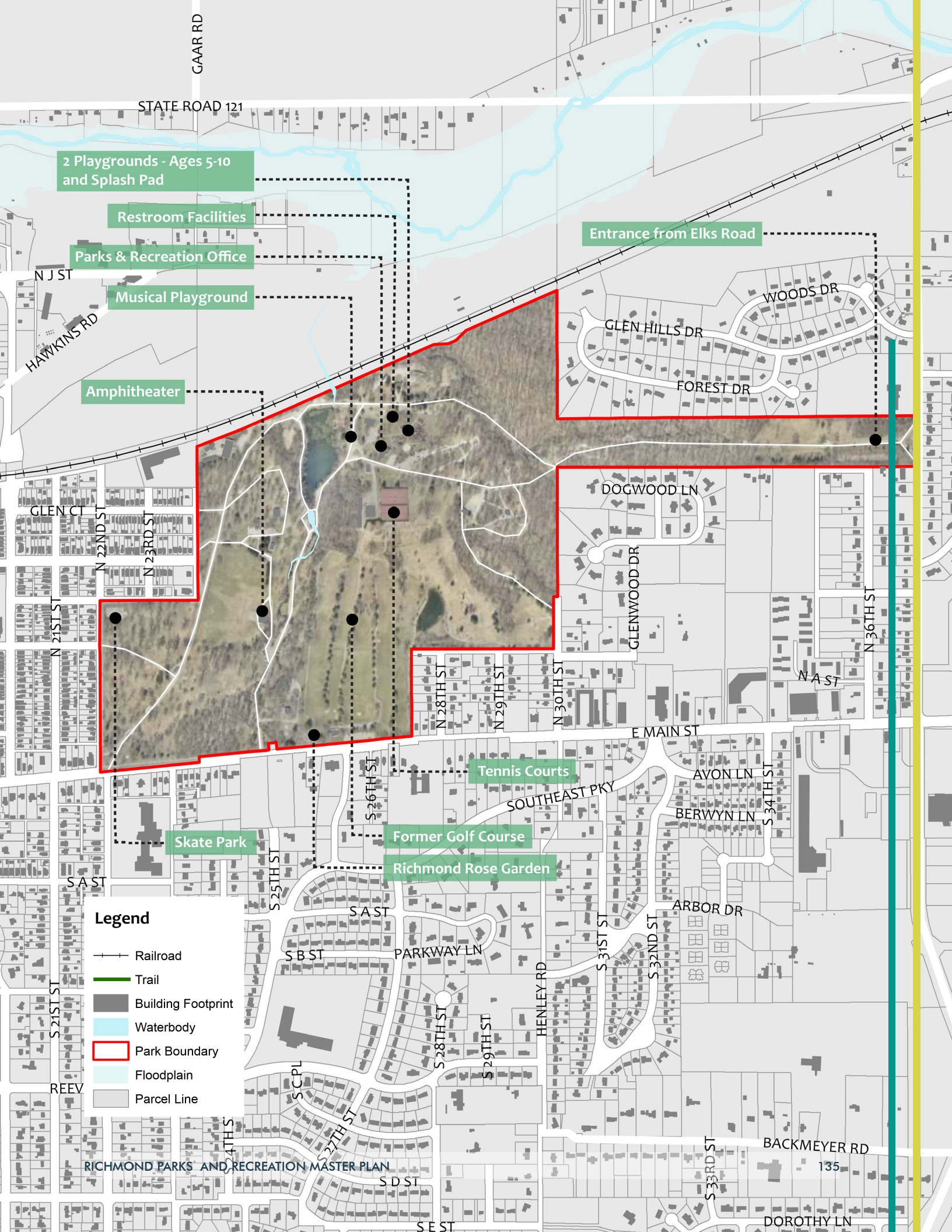
The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Office and the maintenance complex are also located in the park.

The Glen Miller Golf Course was constructed in 1923 and is located on the east side of the park. The former 2,831-yard, nine-hole course was converted into a three-hole practice facility in 2009, and three additional holes were added in 2019, with the remainder of the space dedicated to active recreation opportunities such as running and walking.

The park features two unique amenities. The Madonna of the Trail Monument, erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1928 and currently one of 12 monuments along US 40, stands at the entrance of Glen Miller Park along US Highway 40. The Richmond Rose Garden is located at the south entrance to the park adjacent to the Charles House on US Highway 40. The rose garden opened to the public in 1987 and pays homage to Richmond's heritage as Rose City. It is one of only 130 public display gardens nationwide.

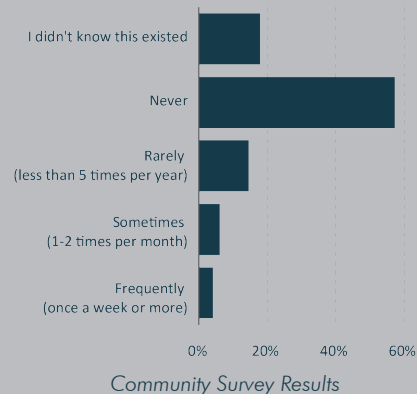
PARK ANALYSIS

Glen Miller Park offers a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. The recently updated playground gives kids of all ages and abilities the chance to play and socialize with other children. The bandshell and Roosevelt Hill are unique to the park and attract residents and visitors alike to enjoy concerts, movies and cultural events. The Parks Department is currently updating the springs to become a destination, and park patrons have requested a basketball court on site. However, because amenities are located throughout the site and pedestrian connectivity is limited, many park users choose to drive, rather than walk. Speeding is a serious problem on park roads. A lack of sidewalks creates unsafe conditions, as pedestrians are forced to share the road with vehicles.



COMMUNITY USE

Richmond Senior Community Center 1600 South 2nd Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

✓ Approaches & Entrances
Compliant

✓ Restrooms
Compliant

✓ Parking
Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

✓ Sports Courts / Facilities
Compliant

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

RICHMOND SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

South Planning Area | Specialized Facility

The Richmond Senior Community Center is located at 1600 South 2nd Street. The senior center provides amenities including a gymnasium, pickleball courts, horseshoe pits, a cafeteria and meeting rooms. It operates on weekdays and offers paid memberships to those ages 50 or better.

The senior center is first and foremost a service agency that is dedicated to ensuring that seniors remain mentally and physical healthy. Its fitness programs, such as Walking, Exercise, Senior Steppers, Pickleball, Basketball, Line Dance, Enhanced Fitness, Chair Volleyball, Yoga and Tai Chi are incredibly popular. While there is a stigma associated with the senior center, its yoga classes are available to everyone; participants younger than 50 pay a \$5 fee per class.

Fitness programs aren't the only activities offered at the senior center. Craft demonstrations, music classes and games such as Trivia, RC Aircrafts, Euchre, Bridge and Bingo are scheduled throughout all operating hours. A number of health and informational resources are available to those looking for additional assistance, and free blood pressure/blood glucose screenings are offered by Omni Home Care on the first Wednesday of every month. The Winter Farmer's Market occurs in the gym every Saturday from November through April. The market offers fresh produce, meat, eggs, baked goods, and much more from local farmers.

PARK ANALYSIS

The Richmond Senior Community Center is an incredible resource for the community. However, aging baby boomers don't want to be associated with traditional perceptions of aging, where the word "senior" is synonymous with words like "old", "passive" and "boring". By rebranding the facility from a "senior center" to an "active-adult center" and offering a range of intergenerational activities, the City can encourage more people to visit the center.

The center isn't large enough to accommodate current programing needs. The gym is too small, and while the existing cafeteria is functional, it doesn't have the right appeal. Pickleball is incredibly popular at the center, which includes both indoor and outdoor pickleball courts; however, there are no standard-size pickleball courts on site.

S 3RD ST

Basketball Court
Conference Room
Gym
Kitchen & Cafeteria
Art Room
Media Room
Widow Shop
Game Room

Horseshoes

Pickleball Courts

S P ST

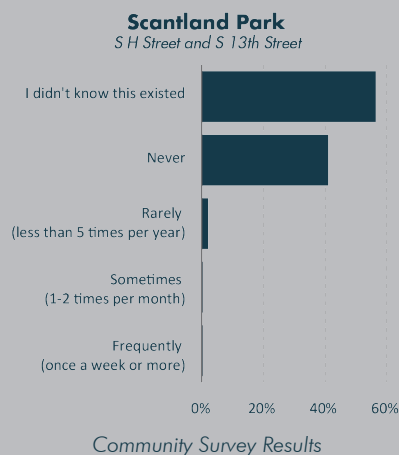
S 2ND ST

S Q ST

Legend

-  Railroad
-  Trail
-  Building Footprint
-  Waterbody
-  Park Boundary
-  Floodplain
-  Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

SCANTLAND PARK

South Planning Area | Mini-Park

Scantland Park is a .8-acre mini-park located near the intersection of S H Street and S 14th Street. The park is named for George Scantland, who donated the park through the Richmond Lion's Club. The park serves residents of the surrounding single-family housing development and is now a Richmond Power and Light substation site.

PARK ANALYSIS

While Scantland Park is considered a park, it's really more of an easement between single-family homes that the Parks Department maintains. The location of Scantland Park is both a strength and a weakness. While there aren't any vehicular barriers to pedestrian access, it feels very private and unwelcoming for non-residents. Access to the park is severely limited; visitors must enter from the alley at S H Street. Other than open lawn areas, there aren't any amenities offered at the park; the park is rarely used, and many people don't know it exists.



Open Lawn Area

S 13TH ST

S H ST

S 14TH ST

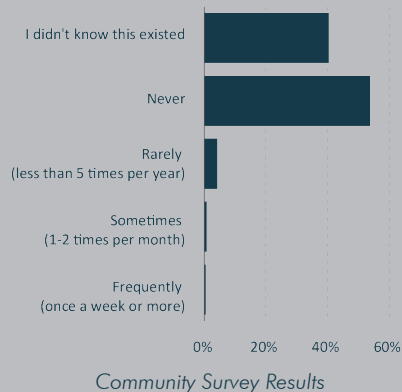
S I ST

Legend

- +—+— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Swicker Park 450 South 7th Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

SWICKER PARK

South Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

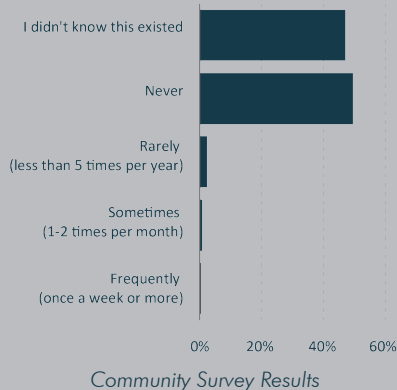
Swicker Park, also known as South 7th Street Park, is a 2.6-acre neighborhood park located at 650 SE Street. The park, established approximately in 1899, is the site of an early town cemetery, later incorporated into the street grid. The park provides amenities for passive recreation including a central gazebo and diagonal paved paths, surrounded by open lawn areas, mature shade trees and minor decorative materials. The park's dense plantings obscure sight lines from surrounding sidewalks and buildings, which may make the solitary visitor hesitate to enter.

PARK ANALYSIS

The location of Swicker Park on the corner of S E St and S 7th Street makes it convenient to access on foot. However, the gravel pathways are in need of repairs, making them difficult for those using assistive mobility devices to access. While there are plenty of mature trees to provide shade, there are no benches or seating on site for park patrons to use other than the gazebo. The park offers no amenities for children.



COMMUNITY USE

Wernle Park
South L Street and Wernle Road at 16th Street


ADA COMPLIANCE

Approaches & Entrances

Not Applicable

Restrooms

Not Applicable

Parking

Not Applicable

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

WERNLE PARK

South Planning Area | Community Park

Wernle Park is a 27-acre community park located between S L Street and Wernle Road. The Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County and Ivy Green Apartments are located just north of the park, while the Wernle Youth and Family Rehabilitation Center is located to the east. The site was acquired in 2013 through land donations from Wernle Homes, Inc. Development. The park has no amenities; its primary purpose is to retain storm water runoff during periods of peak demand.

PARK ANALYSIS

The location of Wernle Park is both a strength and a weakness. From the street, there is no signage, parking or any other indication that the park exists. Access to the park is severely limited; visitors must enter from the intersection at S L Street and S 18th Street and park at the Boys and Girls Club or Ivy Green Apartments. While the park has the potential to be a first-class nature preserve, it has not yet been developed for recreation due to site and financial constraints.

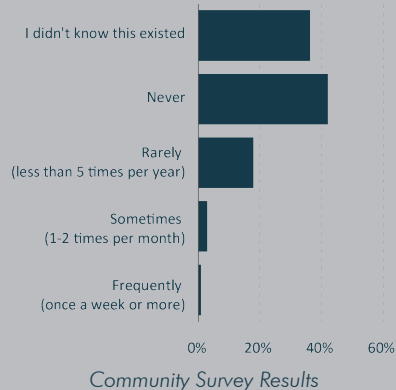


Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Bicentennial Park 30 Bridge Avenue



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ **Approaches & Entrances**
Not Compliant

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

✗ **Water Amenity Areas**
Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

BICENTENNIAL PARK AT WHITEWATER GORGE PARK

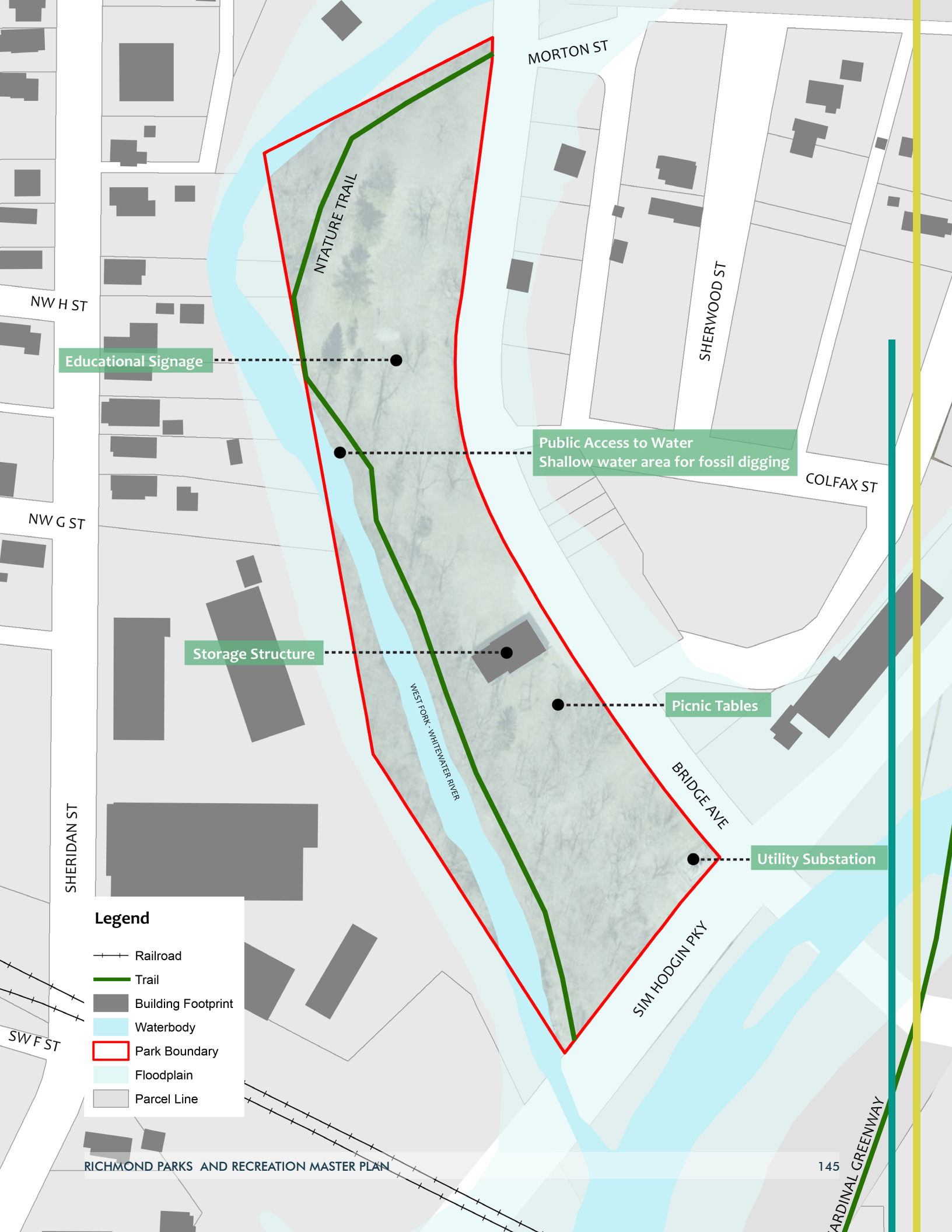
West Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

Bicentennial Park is a 4-acre park located in Whitewater Gorge Park at 30 Bridge Avenue. The park provides opportunities for passive recreation and includes amenities such as grills, an open lawn area and access to the Whitewater River. A single-story maintenance structure and small garage are located on the south side of the site.

Bicentennial Park is home to a “fossil park,” comprised of two informational signs overlooking fossiliferous rock walls that are part of the Whitewater Limestone Formation of the Richmondian Age. These walls were transported to the site by the Indiana Department of Transportation from a road cut along US. 27 just south of city limits.

PARK ANALYSIS

Bicentennial Park offers scenic views of the river valley area. While the fossil park is a unique asset for the City, many people don't know that it's there. Raising awareness of the fossil dig area is crucial to increasing park attendance. Other than the fossil dig area and the picnic areas, there isn't much to do at the park. There isn't any wayfinding signage to indicate where you are, and existing educational signage is old and needs replaced. There isn't a designated parking area available onsite, only a small gravel patch, and the park's location near the roadway increases potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts.



MORTON ST

SHERWOOD ST

COLFAX ST

BRIDGE AVE

SIM HODGIN PKY

CARDINAL GREENWAY

NW H ST

NW G ST

SHERIDAN ST

SW F ST

NATURE TRAIL

WEST FORK-WHITEWATER RIVER

Educational Signage

Public Access to Water
Shallow water area for fossil digging

Storage Structure

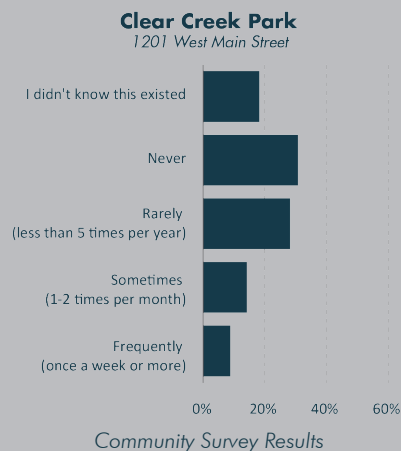
Picnic Tables

Utility Substation

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

● **Approaches & Entrances**
Needs Improvement

✓ **Restrooms**
Compliant

● **Parking**
Needs Improvement

✓ **Play Areas**
Compliant

● **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Needs Improvement

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

CLEAR CREEK PARK

West Planning Area | Community Park

Clear Creek Park is a 49-acre community park located at 1201 West Main Street. The park offers a variety of sports-oriented amenities including, baseball fields, a DreamCourt, horseshoe courts, pickleball courts, softball fields, concessions, picnic areas, a playground, restrooms and open lawn areas. The park is divided into two sections by West Main Street.

The playground was updated in 2017 via an Indiana Housing Community and Development Authority (IHCDA) campaign to develop a sensory playground for children of all ages and abilities that encourages physical activity and socialization. The playground integrates all aspects of play and was specifically designed by Earlham College students to serve children with physical disabilities or sensory-processing disorders through equipment that facilitates auditory, tactile and visual development. It includes several pieces of equipment for children ranging from 6 months to 12 years old and three playsets, each targeting a specific age group. Other equipment includes a sensory wall, an inclusive swing, a roller table and a play dome.

The pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park replaced the unused tennis courts that previously occupied the site. The courts were installed back in 2019 to keep up with a group of enthusiasts who were interested in seeing pickleball come to Richmond. Since then, the popularity of the sport has bloomed, engaging younger generations of players who previously might have considered pickleball a game for seniors.

PARK ANALYSIS

Clear Creek Park provides numerous benefits and services to the neighborhoods surrounding the park, including increased park use and easier access for residents. It offers a wide range of activities and amenities for visitors looking to participate in active and passive recreation opportunities, including the JV baseball fields, Cordell Municipal Pool and McBride Stadium. The interior of the park has poor connectivity; amenities are spread out without any real pathways to connect them. The only sidewalks in the park are on the west side of 13th street, and the creek creates a barrier between the east and west sides of the park.



GRACE DR

PEACOCK RD

McBride Stadium

2 Baseball Diamonds

Open Lawn Area

Softball Diamond

W MAIN ST

Cordell Municipal Pool

Basketball Court

Picnic Area with tables

Open Lawn Area

SW A ST

SW A ST

Playground Ages 5-10

Softball Diamond

8 Pickleball Courts

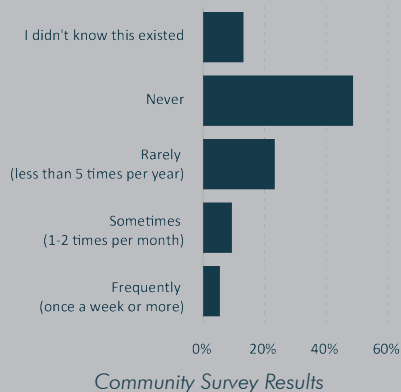
Horseshoes

Open Lawn Area

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Cordell Municipal Pool
9 SW 13th Street

ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant
- ✓ **Restrooms**
Compliant
- ✓ **Parking**
Compliant
- Play Areas**
Not Applicable
- ✓ **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Compliant
- ✓ **Water Amenity Areas**
Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

CORDELL MUNICIPAL POOL AT CLEAR CREEK PARK

West Planning Area | Specialized Facility

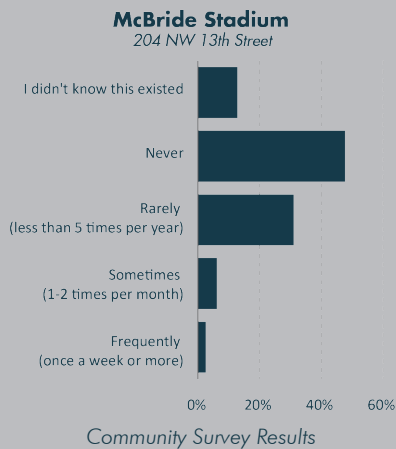
Cordell Municipal Pool is located in Clear Creek Park at SW 13th Street. The Olympic-sized swimming pool includes a drop slide, a 1-meter diving board and a 2-foot depth section connected to the main pool. A separate children's "Splash Pool" is available for younger members of the family.

The pool is open during the summer season from late May to early August, weather permitting. Daily entrance fees range from \$4 - \$6, and children 2 and under swim free. Seasonal passes are available and range from \$50 - \$65 per person, or \$150 for a family of four. The pool is available for private rentals on Fridays and weekends for parties of up to 200 guests. There are a variety of programs offered at the pool, including Learn to Swim, Family Night, and Adult Lap Swim. Regular entrance fees or additional charges may apply.

PARK ANALYSIS

Cordell Municipal Pool provides a great place for children and their families to cool off during the hot summer months. The park is affordable for families and fun for people of all ages and abilities. However, the facilities need improvements. Persistent leaks in the gutter system drive up operation and maintenance costs, and structural issues with the large slide have restricted the number of amenities available for teens and adults to enjoy. However, a new drop slide was added in 2018, and a new large slide is planned for the 2020 season.

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant
- ✓ **Restrooms**
Compliant
- ✓ **Parking**
Compliant
- Play Areas**
Not Applicable
- ✓ **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Compliant
- Water Amenity Areas**
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

MCBRIDE STADIUM AT CLEAR CREEK PARK

West Planning Area | Specialized Facility

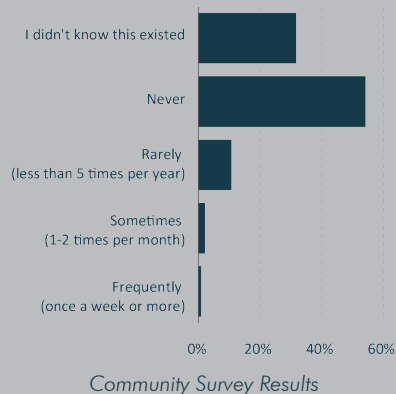
McBride Stadium is located in Clear Creek Park at NW 13 Street. The stadium, established in 1936, was named after Joseph D. McBride, former director of the Richmond Parks Department who oversaw the development of the stadium. The 1,874-seat stadium features a small grandstand and a sloping grass hill overlooking the John Cate Field. Several rows of wood and plastic seating are located beneath the roof, and a wooden deck, located on the sloped section, is open to any visitor wishing to view the game from a different vantage point. Concessions are sold from the concourse area, located at the entrance to the park.

The stadium has hosted several minor-league baseball teams over the years, including the Richmond Roses (1946 – 1948), the Richmond Robins (1949 – 1951), the Richmond Tigers (1950 – 1952), the Richmond Roosters (1995 – 2005) and the Richmond RiverRats (2009 – 2015), as well as the Richmond High School, Seton Catholic Cardinals and Earlham College teams. The stadium is currently home to the Richmond Jazz of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate Team.

PARK ANALYSIS

McBride Stadium is a popular attraction for fans of summer collegiate team baseball. While many improvements have been made since 2016 including turf management, roof repair and leveling of fields, the stadium is still in need of updates to its dugouts and surrounding fields. The condition of the turf makes it difficult for activities to take place outside of collegiate baseball.

COMMUNITY USE

Greenhouse
28 Waterfall Road

ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

✗ Restrooms

Not Compliant

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

GREENHOUSE COMPLEX

West Planning Area | Specialized Facility

The Greenhouse Complex is located at 28 Waterfall Road near Springwood Park and Thistlethwaite Falls. The property, which was formerly a commercial greenhouse operation, contains four greenhouses and a brick smokestack that was once part of the greenhouse heating system. The department primarily uses one of the greenhouses to grow all of its own plants for spring, summer and fall.

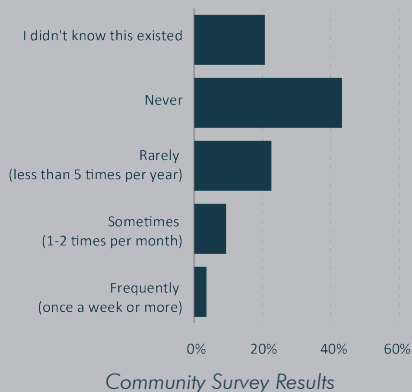
The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation Floral Division offers a variety of recreation opportunities, including invasive species removal and clean-up days, plant sales and educational gardening classes such as rose care, landscape design and installation, lawn care, pollinator's garden, proper pruning techniques, pest and disease management and plant propagation methods and techniques.

PARK ANALYSIS

The location of the Greenhouse Complex is both a strength and a weakness. While there aren't any vehicular barriers to pedestrian access, it feels very private. Access to the complex is provided from the entrance at Waterfall Road and there is plenty of parking available adjacent to the greenhouse. However, since the greenhouse isn't open to the public except during special events, many people don't know it exists. While there is a sign stating that the Greenhouse Complex is owned and operated by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation on Waterfall Road, there isn't any wayfinding signage inviting the public to visit. Educational garden sessions at the greenhouse have been very successful over the past year, but additional classes are needed to keep the momentum going.



COMMUNITY USE

Mary Scott Park
101 NW 8th Street

ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ **Approaches & Entrances**
Not Compliant

✗ **Restrooms**
Not Compliant

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

✗ **Play Areas**
Not Compliant

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

MARY SCOTT PARK

West Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

Mary Scott Park, is a 7-acre neighborhood park located at 101 Northwest 8th Street. The park serves the area near Dennis Middle School and the former Parkview Elementary School. The park was established in 1911 after the City purchased the land from the Peacock family. The park originally provided opportunities for passive and active recreation including a wading pool, playground equipment, a ball diamond and a shelter house; however, a picnic area, a playground and open air and enclosed shelters are the only amenities that remain.

One of the park's biggest attractions is the Burgess log cabin, which was moved to the park and donated to the city as a memorial to area pioneers. A large room with a modern kitchen, restrooms and meeting space was added to the back side of the cabin in 1959. A public fruit orchard, including a variety of fruit trees and fruit-bearing plants as well as two butterfly gardens for pollinators, will be installed in the fall. The orchard will provide free access to healthy foods for Richmond residents throughout the growing season and offer students at Dennis Intermediate School the chance to participate in the maintenance and harvesting of fruits.

PARK ANALYSIS

Mary Scott Park includes a variety of amenities that attract visitors from surrounding neighborhoods and the nearby Dennis Middle School and daycare center. These organizations have the opportunity to use the park facility for educational instruction and events. The Burgess log cabin provides a source of revenue for the park and is often rented out. The gazebo, located in the middle of the park, includes a fire pit, which is a unique feature in the Richmond parks and open space system. However, the park includes limited signage and isn't well marketed from the street. In addition, Clear Creek Park is nearby and offers more amenities and a better playground.



Dennis
Intermediate
School

NW 8TH ST

PEARL ST

NW 7TH ST

NW B ST

Cabin

Open Lawn
Area

Gazebo with
Picnic Tables

NW A ST

Swing Set

Playground
Ages 5-10

W MAIN ST

SW 8TH ST

SW 7TH ST

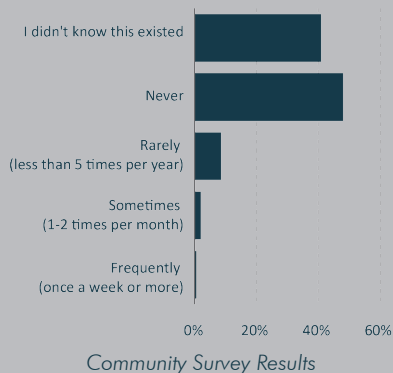
Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Riverside Park

NW 1st Street,
between Sim Hodgkin Parkway and NW 1st Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

Approaches & Entrances

Not Applicable

Restrooms

Not Applicable

Parking

Not Applicable

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

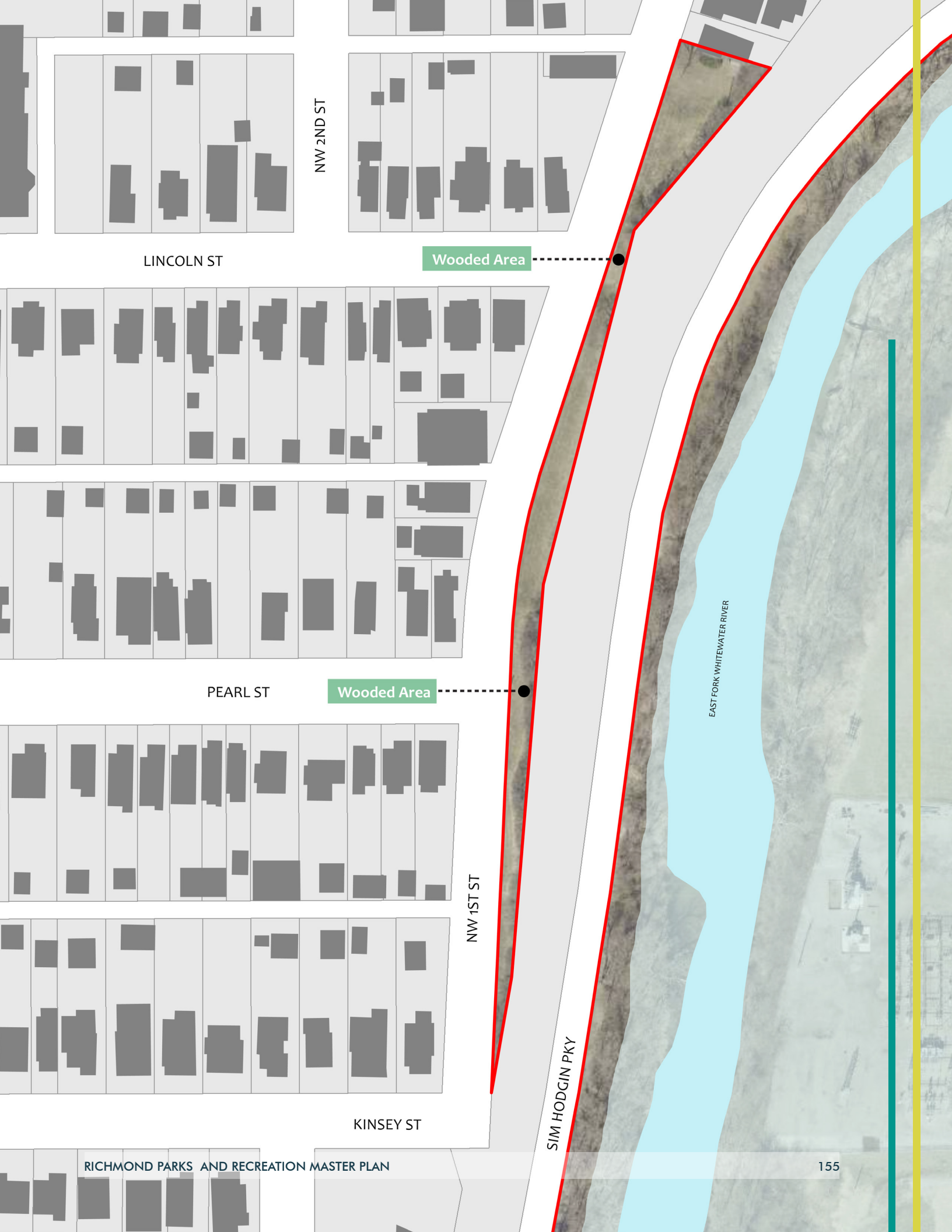
RIVERSIDE PARK

West Planning Area | Special Purpose

Riverside Park, formally known as Northwest 1st Street Park, is a 3-acre special purpose park located between Sim Hodgkin Parkway and Northwest First Street. The park is currently undeveloped and includes no amenities.

PARK ANALYSIS

While Riverside Park is considered a park, it's really more of a right-of way between two major roadways that the Parks Department maintains. Future development activities should be coordinated with the Whitewater Gorge Park as a cohesive unit. The busy vehicular traffic on both sides of the park creates potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts and detracts from the park-like setting. Other than naturalized wooded areas, there aren't any amenities offered at the park; the park is rarely used, and many people don't know it exists.



NW 2ND ST

LINCOLN ST

Wooded Area

PEARL ST

Wooded Area

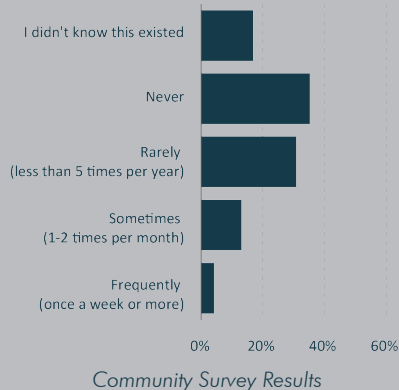
NW 1ST ST

KINSEY ST

SIM HODGIN PKY

EAST FORK WHITEWATER RIVER

COMMUNITY USE

Springwood Lake Park
64 Waterfall Road

ADA COMPLIANCE

✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant

✗ **Restrooms**
Not Compliant

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

✗ **Play Areas**
Not Compliant

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

✗ **Water Amenity Areas**
Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

SPRINGWOOD LAKE PARK*West Planning Area | Regional Park*

Springwood Lake Park, formerly called "Conservation Park," is a 104-acre regional park located at 60 Waterfall Road. Thistlethwaite Falls is located immediately south of the park boundary, and the Cardinal Greenway runs parallel to the western border of the site. Developers purchased the land in the 1930s, which at the time was just a spring-fed swamp. The lake was created by dredging the swamp, and a swimming area with a beach, bathhouse, and 30-foot-high slide was added to attract visitors. Other attractions at the time included boating, canoeing, and fishing. The Conservation Club purchased the park in 1944 and added skeet shooting and horseback riding. The park was purchased by the city in 1970 through a federal open-space grant.

The site features natural areas including the Whitewater River, large wooded areas, marshes, streams and a 30-acre lake. Today, the beach is closed and fishing, swimming and boating are prohibited. The park currently provides amenities including a baseball diamond, a playground, volleyball courts, restrooms, open air and enclosed shelters, picnic areas and a nature trail.

PARK ANALYSIS

While Springwood Lake Park has the potential to be a hotspot for water-based recreation, it would take a lot of time, money and effort to clean it up. The once pristine body of water has been contaminated by decades of industrial runoff and spills, making it dangerous to interact with. The restrooms have been closed since 2014 due to vandalism, and a portable restroom has been put in place. While the baseball fields once experienced issues with lead contamination, they have since been cleaned up and are ready for play.



INDUSTRIES RD

Cardinal Greenway

Open Lawn Area

Parking and Enclosed Structure

Playground
Ages 5-10

Picnic Area

Springwood Lake

Park Entrance

Thistlethwaite Falls

MIKAN DR

KELLY PL

WATERFALL RD

SHERIDAN ST

NW N ST

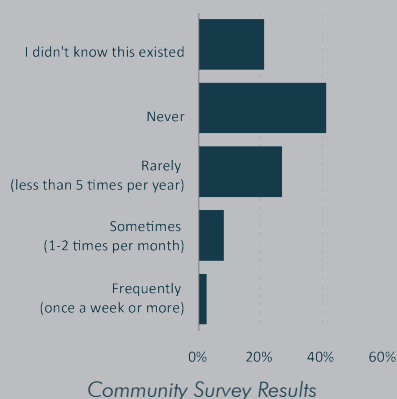
157

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Thistlethwaite Falls 60 Waterfall Road



ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ Approaches & Entrances

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

✗ Water Amenity Areas

Not Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

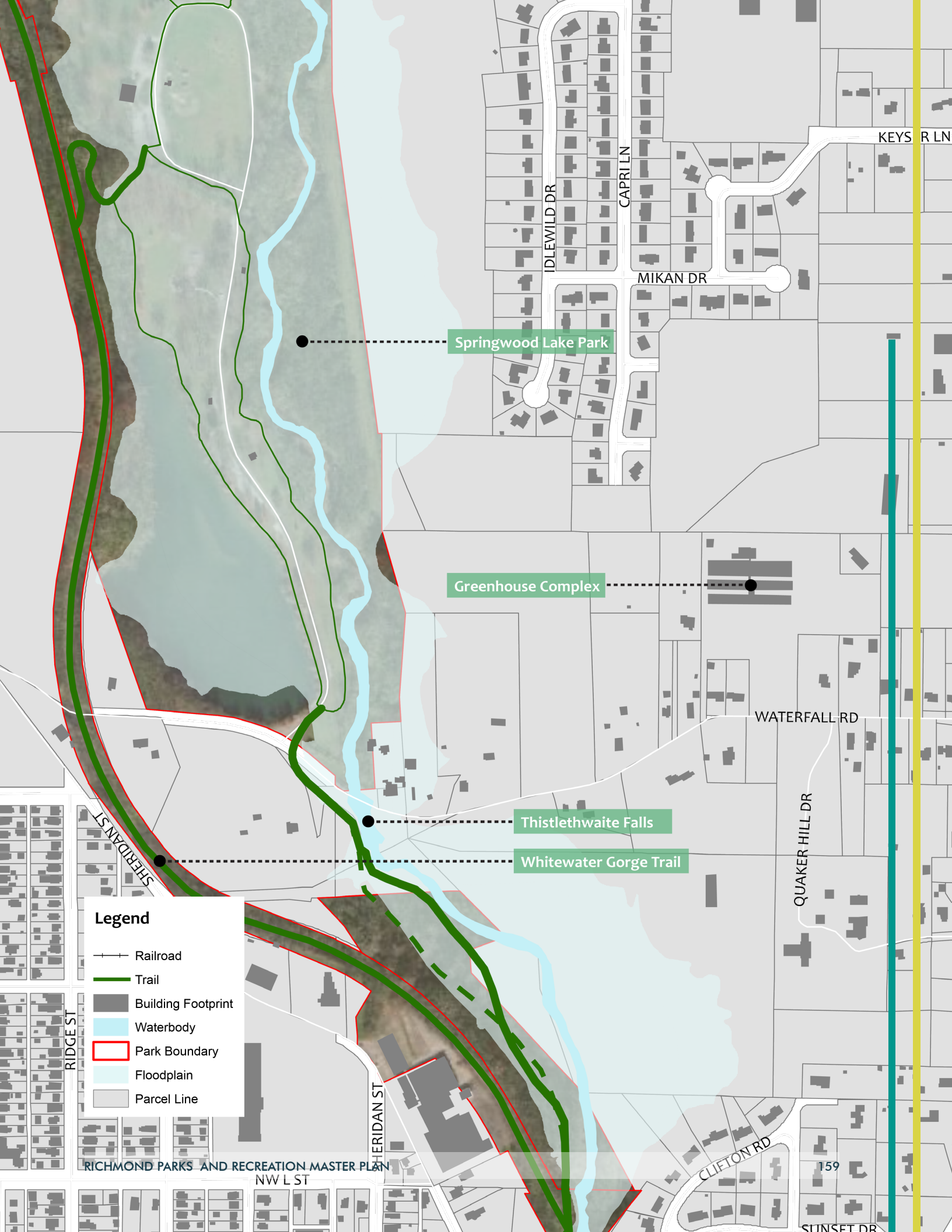
THISTLETHWAITE FALLS

West Planning Area | Special Purpose

Thistlethwaite Falls is a natural preserve located just south of Springwood Park at 65 Waterfall Road. The falls are a man-made waterfall, created in 1854 when Timothy Thistlethwaite blasted a new channel in the West Fork of the Whitewater River to direct the flow of the water over a rocky ledge, providing more waterpower for his nearby sawmill. While several saw mills were built on site, none of them remain today. The trail to the falls is part of the Whitewater Gorge Trail, which takes visitors on a journey through the historic gorge area.

PARK ANALYSIS

Thistlethwaite Falls is one of Richmond's most unique hidden gems. The water at the bottom of the falls is shallow and provides opportunities for exploration and fossil hunting. An overlook with concrete steps leading down to the water provides a place for visitors to sit and watch the water. However, outside of watching the falls, there isn't much to do on site.



KEYS R LN

IDLEWILD DR

CAPRLN

MIKAN DR

Springwood Lake Park

Greenhouse Complex

WATERFALL RD

Thistlethwaite Falls

Whitewater Gorge Trail

QUAKER HILL DR

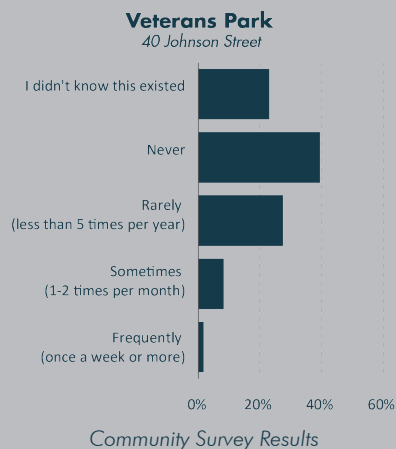
CLIFTON RD

SUNSET DR

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant
- ✓ **Restrooms**
Compliant
- ✓ **Parking**
Compliant
- Play Areas**
Not Applicable
- Sports Courts / Facilities**
Not Applicable
- Water Amenity Areas**
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK AT WHITEWATER GORGE PARK

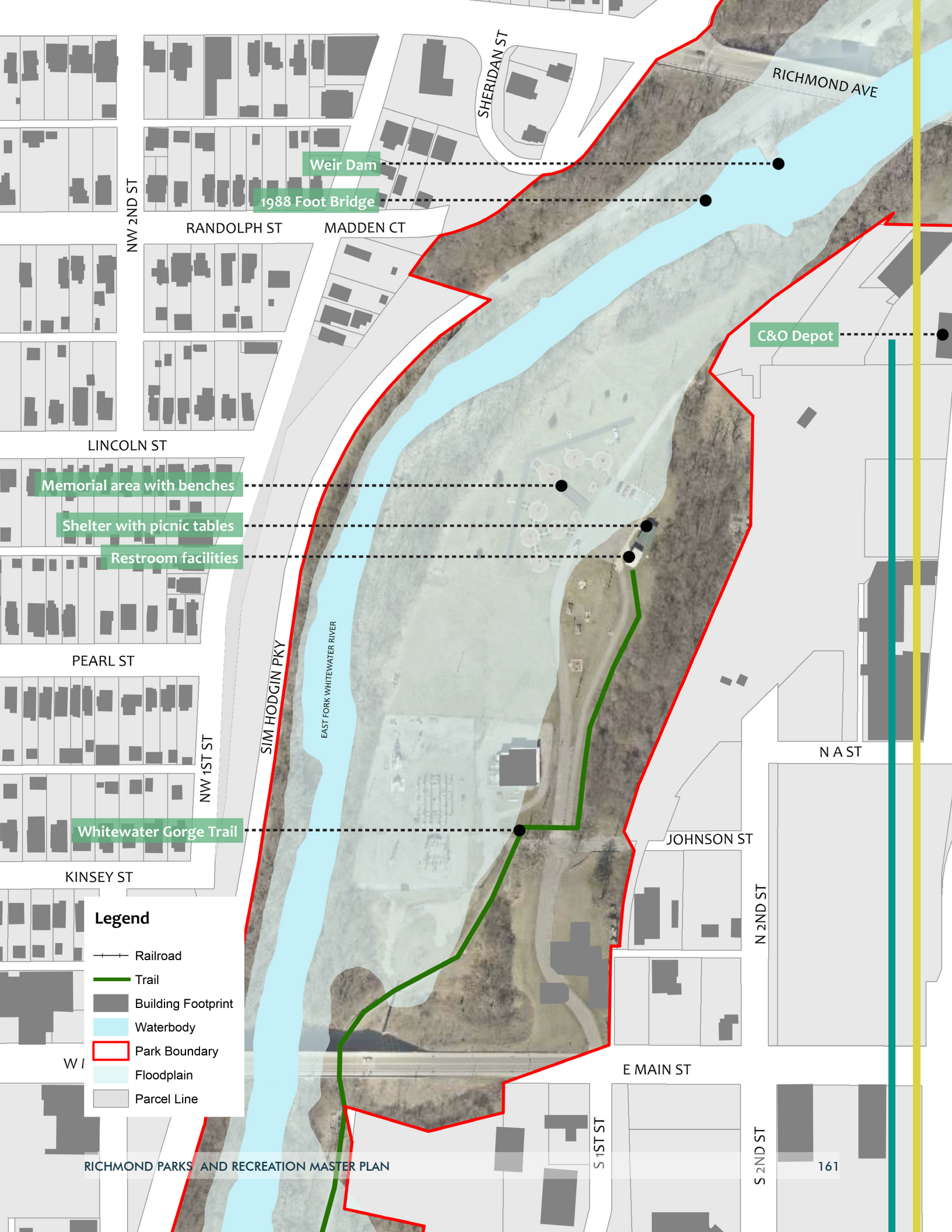
West Planning Area | Community Park

Veteran's Memorial Park is a 15-acre park located in Whitewater Gorge Park. The park honors veterans for their service to the country. It may be accessed by automobile from the entrance at South 1st Street and Johnson Street on the south side of the park, or on foot via the pedestrian suspension bridge on Sim Hodgkin Parkway or the Whitewater Gorge Trail.

The site features memorials from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Women's Memorial, the Purple Heart Memorial and others, as well as two M3A3 Stuart tanks that once sat on the Wayne County courthouse property. The Memorial Park Committee works hard to maintain the park and expand its memorials. Residents are invited to honor individual veterans or groups of veterans in several ways, including memorial benches, granite memorial plaques and memorial bricks.

PARK ANALYSIS

Veteran's Memorial Park is the only park dedicated to honoring veteran's in Wayne County. The park provides a peaceful place for visitors to pay their respects to war veterans. It features connections to the Cardinal Greenway, the Whitewater Gorge Trail and the pedestrian suspension bridge on Sim Hodgkin Parkway. There is plenty of room for expansion, should additional monuments and memorials be desired. However, in order to access the park, visitors must pass an unsightly substation located on the south side of the site. Further, there are serious concerns surrounding the lack of on-site lighting. Future improvements include a Connector Trail to the Whitewater Gorge Trail, which will extend across the park to the Cardinal Greenway, located on the north end of the site.



Weir Dam

1988 Foot Bridge

C&O Depot

Memorial area with benches

Shelter with picnic tables

Restroom facilities

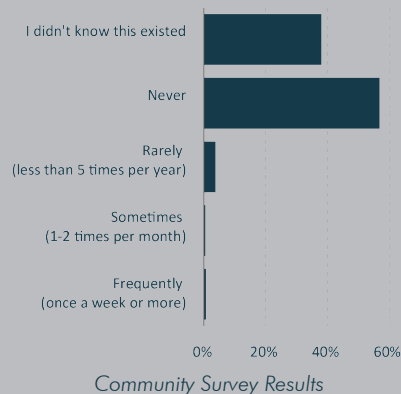
Whitewater Gorge Trail

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

West Side Lions Park 1201 Ridge Street



ADA COMPLIANCE

● **Approaches & Entrances**
Needs Improvement

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant

✗ **Play Areas**
Not Compliant

✗ **Sports Courts / Facilities**
Not Compliant

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

WEST SIDE LIONS PARK

West Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

The West Side Lions Park is a 2.2-acre neighborhood park located at the site of the former Sevastopol School at 1201 Ridge Street. The site was purchased in 1962 by Richmond Community Schools to provide children a park within walking distance and is one of the only parks in the Fairview neighborhood. The Richmond Lion's Club was instrumental in the development of the park, which provides amenities including a basketball court, playground equipment, a picnic area and open lawn areas. Some on-street parking is available adjacent to the site.

In 2018, the Westside Lions Park received some improvements thanks to an \$8,000 donation from the Richmond Lions Club as part of their Legacy Project. Among the improvements were two new basketball goals, a concrete pad, a shelter and a grill.

PARK ANALYSIS

West Side Lions Park features connections to the local pedestrian network, which provides safe and convenient access for Fairview Elementary School students and the surrounding neighborhood. The park is completely fenced-in, eliminating the potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts. However, it's not ADA accessible; the only entrance to the park is up a flight of stairs on Ridge St, and the existing playground equipment doesn't offer opportunities for universal play.



RATLIFF ST

RIDGE ST

Playground
Ages 0-10

Basketball Court

Shelter with picnic tables

NW K ST

Park Entrance

Open Lawn Area

BOYER ST

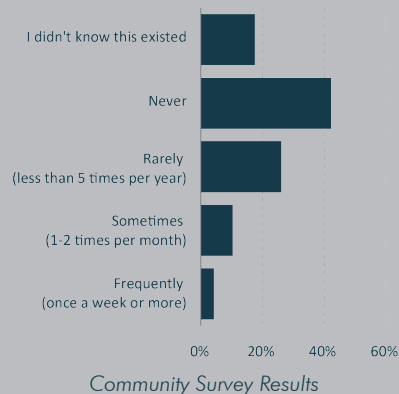
NW J ST

Legend

- +—+— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Whitewater Gorge Park Trail



ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant
- Restrooms**
Not Applicable
- ✓ **Parking**
Compliant
- ✓ **Trail Surface**
Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

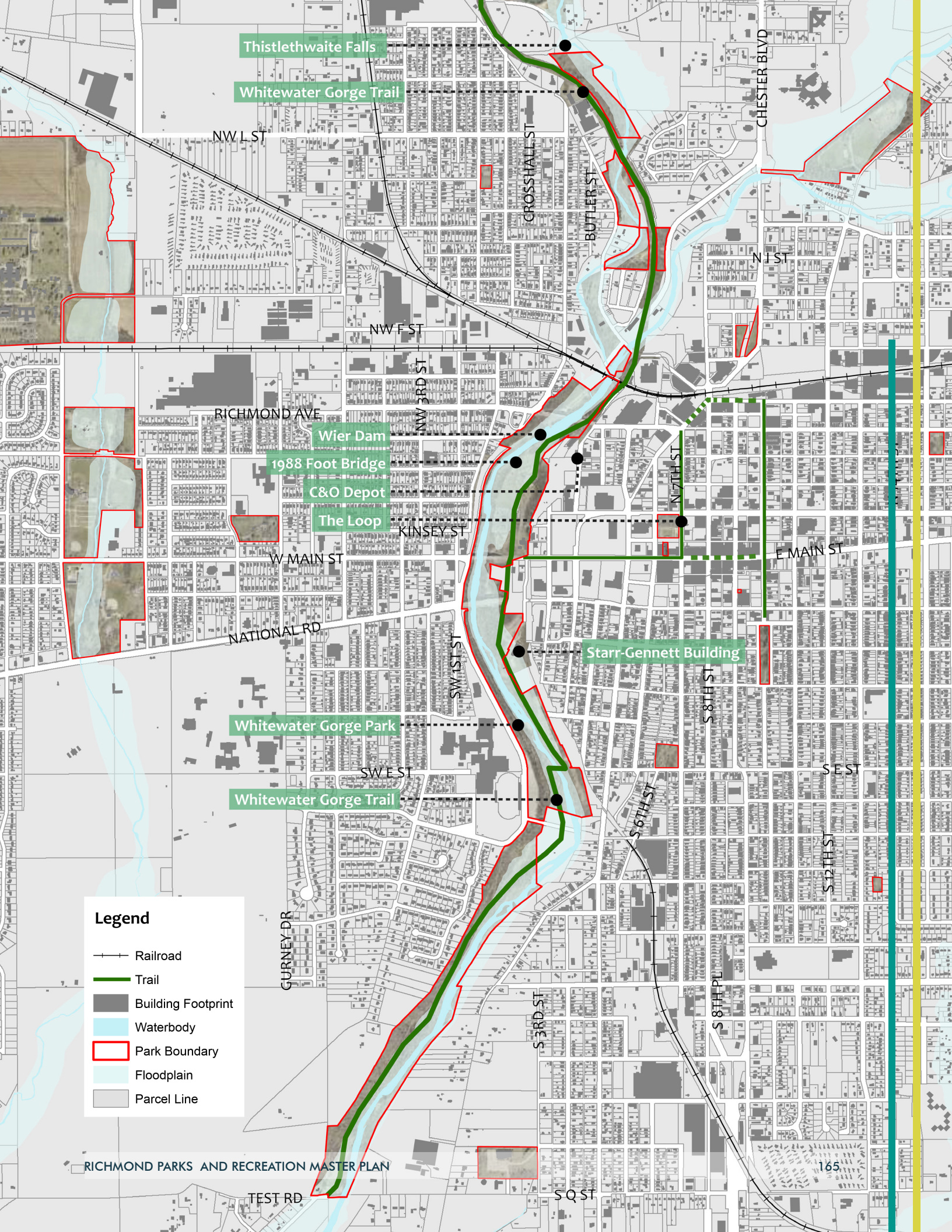
WHITEWATER GORGE TRAIL

North and South Planning Area | Trail

The Whitewater Gorge Trail is a 3.5-mile trail located in Whitewater Gorge Park from Test Road to Thistlethwaite Falls. The trail runs through the gorge area and features several natural and man-made destinations along the way, including numerous quarries, vertical cliffs, Thistlethwaite Falls, Happy Hollow, Wier Dam, Richmond Roller Mills, the First Public Utility, the Wayne County Courthouse, the National Road Bridge, Starr Piano Company, Gennett Recording Studio and the Test Woolen Mill. Trailheads are located at Test Road and the Richmond High School Parking Lot on Hub Etchinson Road.

PARK ANALYSIS

The Whitewater Gorge Trail provides unique insights into Richmond's local history. It is paved and well-maintained and flows mostly through wooded parkland along the Whitewater Gorge. In the future, the Whitewater Gorge trail will feature an extension that will connect to Veteran's Memorial Park and the Cardinal Greenway.



Thistlethwaite Falls

Whitewater Gorge Trail

NW L ST

NW F ST

CROSSHALL ST

BUTLER ST

CHESTER BLVD

N 1ST

RICHMOND AVE

NW 3RD ST

Wier Dam

1988 Foot Bridge

C&O Depot

The Loop

KINSEY ST

W MAIN ST

NATIONAL RD

Starr-Gennett Building

SW 1ST ST

S 8TH ST

E MAIN ST

Whitewater Gorge Park

SW E ST

Whitewater Gorge Trail

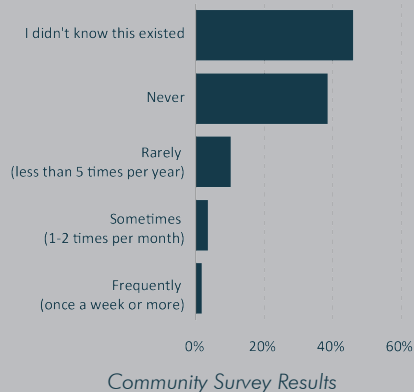
S 6TH ST

S 12TH ST

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Undeveloped CSX Corridor & C&O Depot
Intersection of 3rd and D Street

ADA COMPLIANCE

✗ **Approaches & Entrances**

Not Compliant

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ **Parking**

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

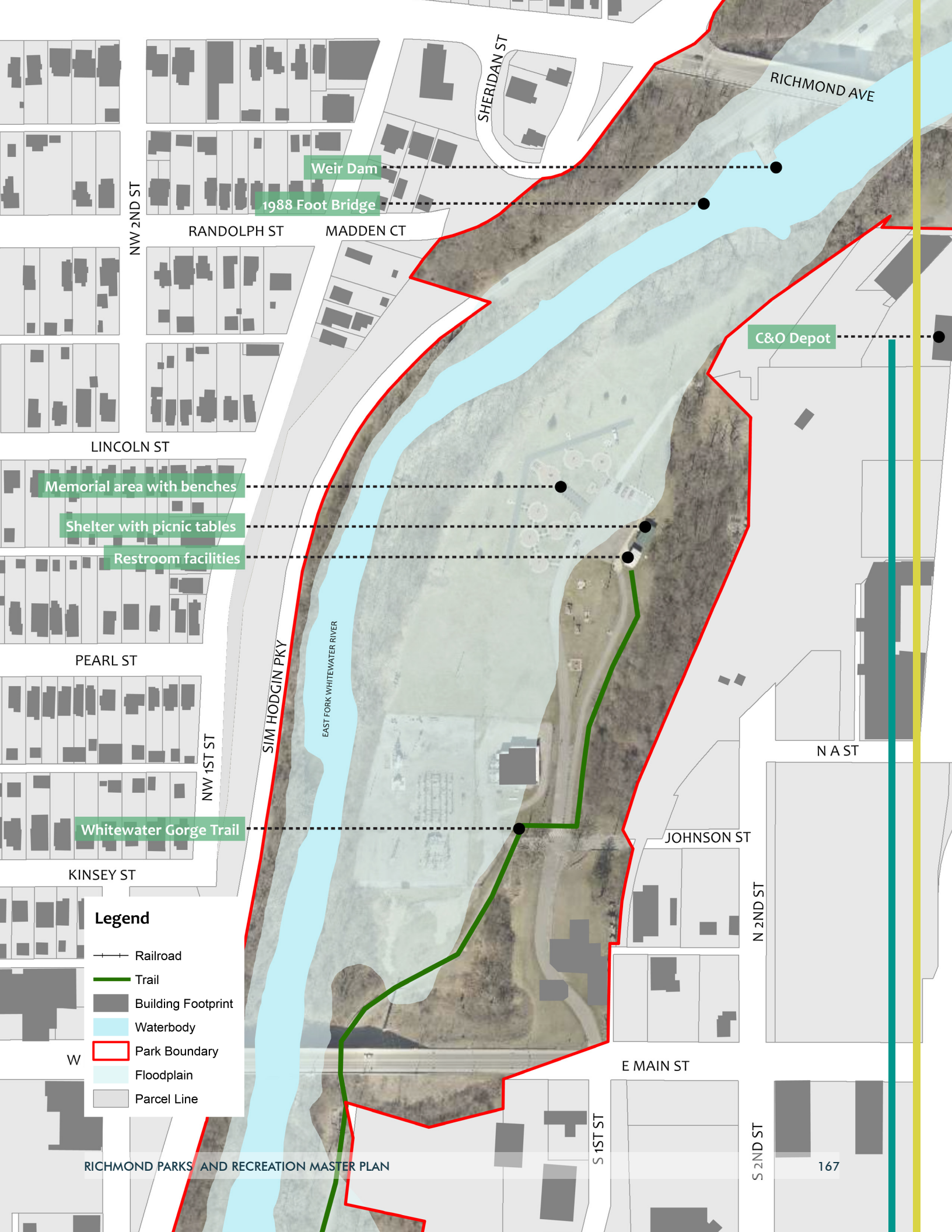
C&O DEPOT

Center City Planning Area | Specialized Facility

The C&O Depot, built in 1800, is located along the Cardinal Greenway. The city purchased the building and the 13-acre site it sits on from CSX Railroad Corporation in 2015 with the intention of revitalizing the structure.

PARK ANALYSIS

Over the years, the C&O Depot has fallen into disrepair. There are large holes in the roof, and other repairs are needed on the interior and exterior of the structure, including lead paint removal. However, the C&O Depot sits within an opportunity zone and has the potential to become a real asset to the community. In the future, the building could be renovated and offer meeting and rental space to raise funds for the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.



Weir Dam

1988 Foot Bridge

RANDOLPH ST

MADDEN CT

SHERIDAN ST

RICHMOND AVE

C&O Depot

LINCOLN ST

Memorial area with benches

Shelter with picnic tables

Restroom facilities

PEARL ST

NW 1ST ST

SIM HODGIN PKY

EAST FORK WHITEWATER RIVER

N A ST

Whitewater Gorge Trail

JOHNSON ST

KINSEY ST

N 2ND ST

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

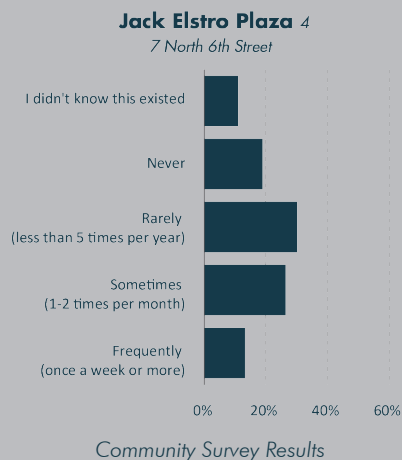
E MAIN ST

S 1ST ST

S 2ND ST

167

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✓ **Parking**
Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

✓ **Water Amenity Areas**
Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

JACK ELSTRO PLAZA

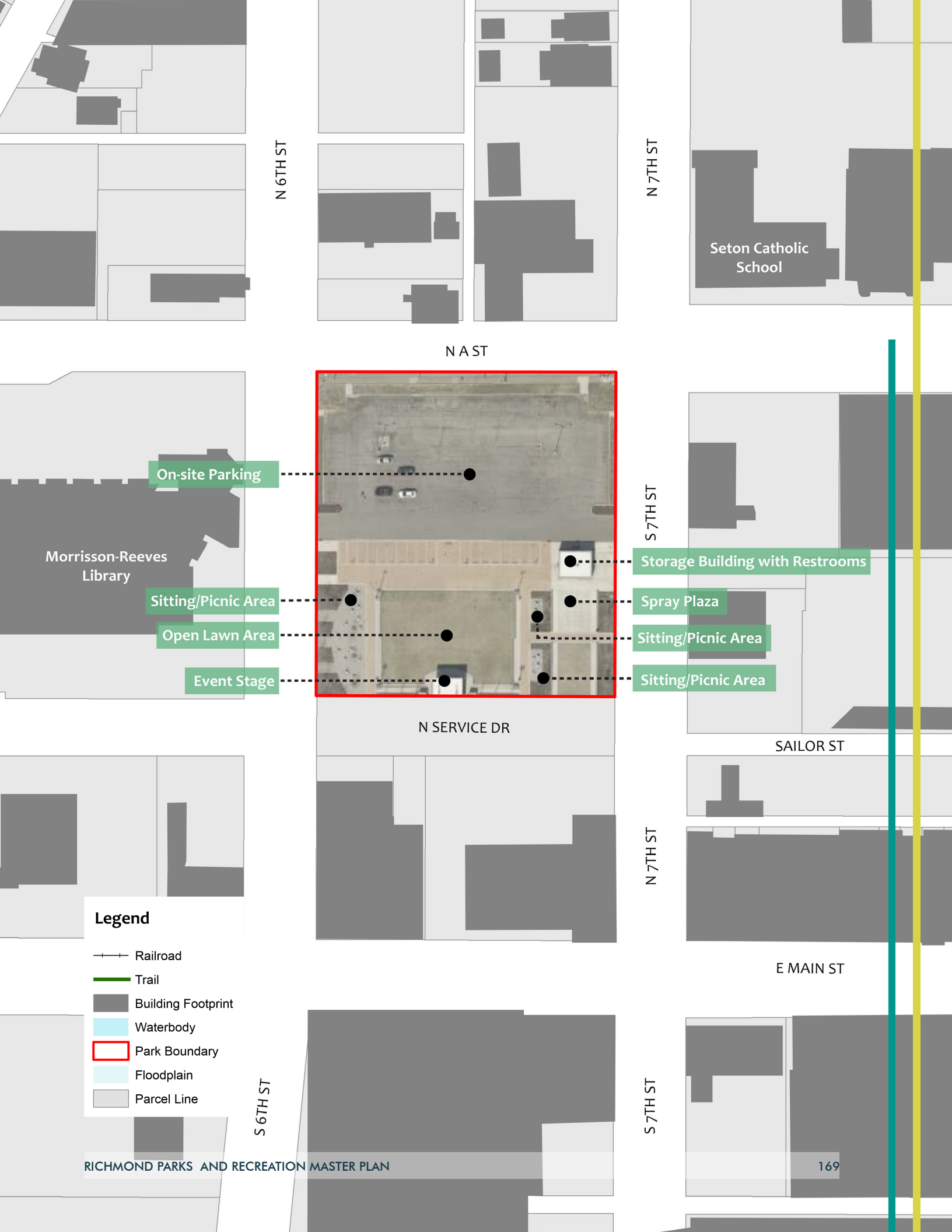
Center City Planning Area | Mini- Park

Jack Elstro Plaza is a 1.2-acre mini-park located in downtown Richmond between Main Street and US 40 at 47 North 6th Street. The plaza was established in 2015 and is named for longtime Richmond Common Council member Howard “Jack” Elstro, who passed away in July 2014. The plaza features a variety of amenities including a performance pavilion, open lawn area, a spray plaza, restrooms, and passive seating opportunities. During the spring and summer months, the plaza is home to the Richmond Farmer’s Market, a growers-only market that features local farmers and producers of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, flowers, herbs and other products.

The popular “Play in the Plaza” program offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy games such as ping pong, chess/ checkers, foosball, and corn hole, with equipment available for check out at the Morrisson-Reeves Library. Events such as the City’s Annual Meltdown Winter Ice Festival, Picnic-Me-Up summer concert series, and others are activating the plaza year-round.

PARK ANALYSIS

Elstro Plaza is a unique urban park located in the heart of downtown Richmond that serves as a public gathering space. The park is the perfect place to host the Richmond Farmer’s Market and boasts plenty of on-site parking. While the park provides a number of amenities, opportunities for active recreation are limited, especially during the fall, winter and spring months when the splash pad isn’t open. The existing electrical outlets don’t offer enough power for events and vendors, and no recreation classes are currently offered on-site.



N 6TH ST

N 7TH ST

N 8TH ST

Morrisson-Reeves
Library

On-site Parking

Sitting/Picnic Area

Open Lawn Area

Event Stage

S 7TH ST

Storage Building with Restrooms

Spray Plaza

Sitting/Picnic Area

Sitting/Picnic Area

N SERVICE DR

SAILOR ST

N 7TH ST

E MAIN ST

S 7TH ST

S 6TH ST

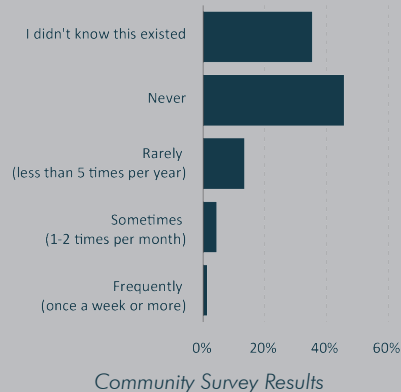
Legend

- +—+— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

COMMUNITY USE

Pass Through Park

Between JoyAnn & Chase Building



ADA COMPLIANCE

● Approaches & Entrances

Needs Improvement

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Not Compliant

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

PASS-THROUGH PARK

Center City Planning Area | Mini-Park

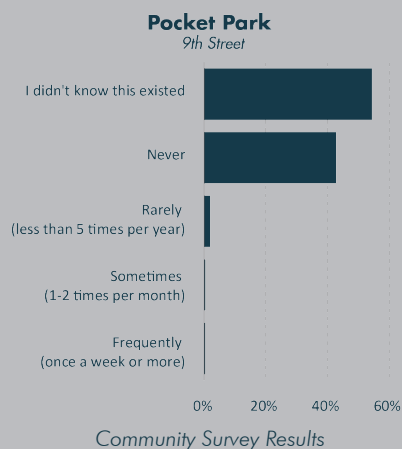
Pass-Through Park is a .15-acre mini-park located in the 600 block of East Main Street in downtown Richmond between the former Joy Ann Cake Shop and Chase Bank. The park is a place for passive recreational opportunities and provides amenities such as a sidewalk and mature trees.

PARK ANALYSIS

While Pass-Through Park is considered a park, it's really more of an easement between two commercial buildings that the Parks Department doesn't own, but maintains. The location of Pass-Through Park is both a strength and a weakness. While there aren't any vehicular barriers to pedestrian access, the park is tucked away, and is impacted by safety, lighting and accessibility concerns. Access to the park is severely limited; visitors must enter from East Main Street or the parking lot behind Chase Bank. Other than planted areas and a sidewalk, there aren't any amenities offered at the park; the park is rarely used, and many people don't know it exists.



COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

● Approaches & Entrances

Needs Improvement

Restrooms

Not Applicable

✗ Parking

Needs Improvement

Play Areas

Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities

Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas

Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

POCKET PARK

Center City Planning Area | Mini-Park

Pocket Park is a .12-acre mini-park located in downtown Richmond adjacent to the Leland Legacy, an assisted and independent senior community, on South 9th Street. The park is fenced-in with only one entrance and has a patio with tables, chairs and umbrellas.

PARK ANALYSIS

While Pocket Park is considered a park, it's really more of a leftover parcel from the Leland Legacy that the Parks Department maintains. The location of Pocket Park is both a strength and a weakness. While there aren't any vehicular barriers to pedestrian access, it feels very private and unwelcoming for non-residents of the senior living community. Access to the park is severely limited; visitors must enter through the gate from South 9th Street. The park has the potential to serve as outdoor dining area for the Leland's Corner Café. Other than narrow lawn areas and a patio with seating, there aren't any amenities offered at the park; the park is rarely used, and many people don't know it exists. Signage could help raise awareness that this is a public space, open to City residents.



N 8TH ST

N 9TH ST

E MAIN ST

S 8TH ST

S 9TH ST

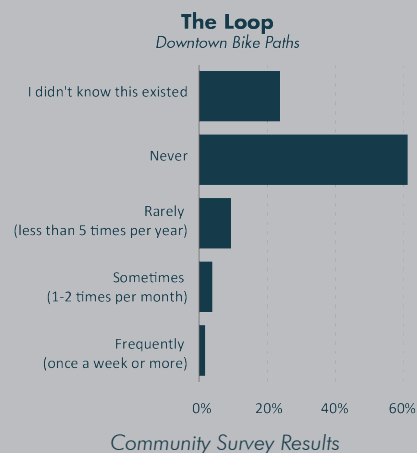
S A ST

Legend

-  Railroad
-  Trail
-  Building Footprint
-  Waterbody
-  Park Boundary
-  Floodplain
-  Parcel Line

Fenced in area
with tables &
chairs

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

- ✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant
- Restrooms**
Not Applicable
- ✗ **Parking**
Not Compliant
- ✓ **Trail Surface**
Compliant

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

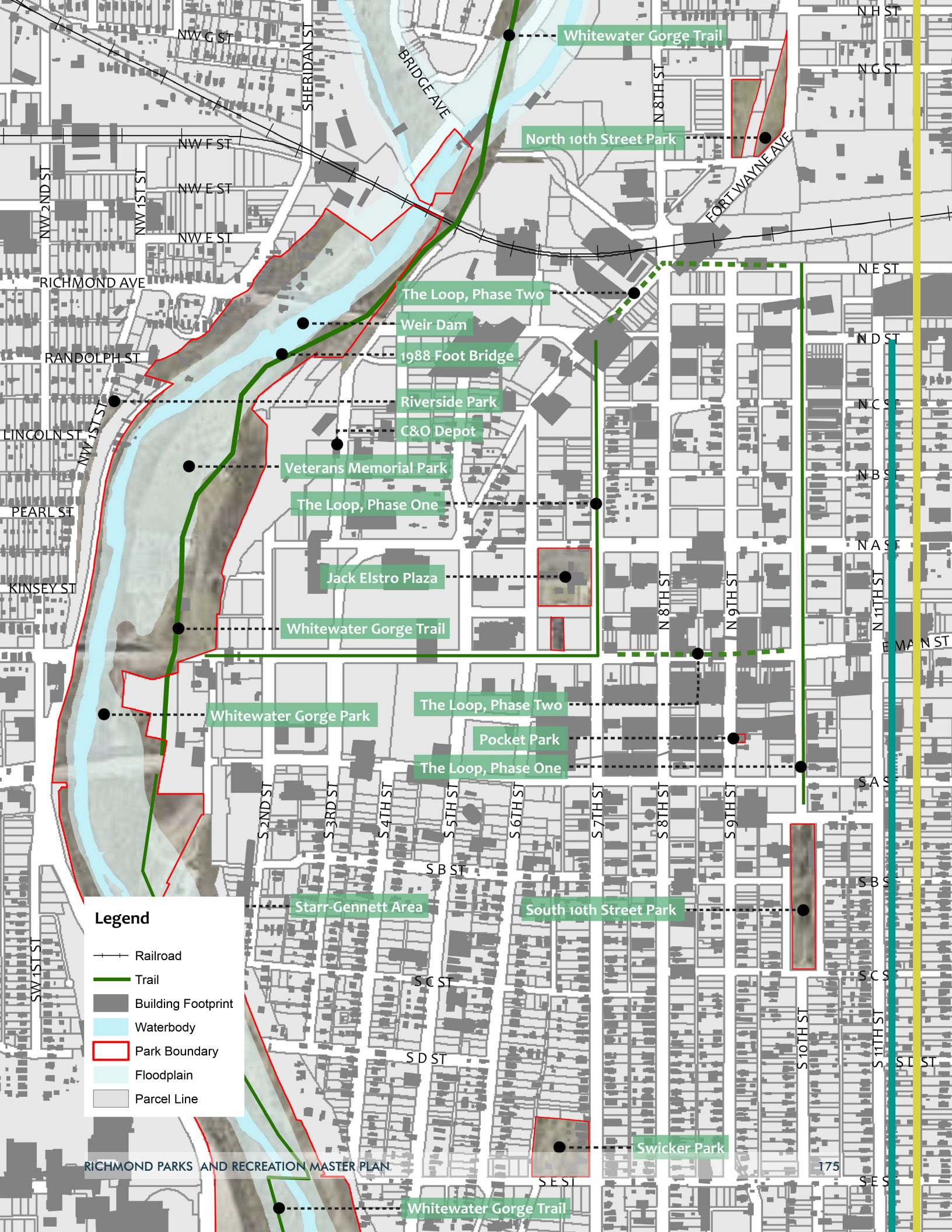
THE LOOP

Center City Planning Area | Trail

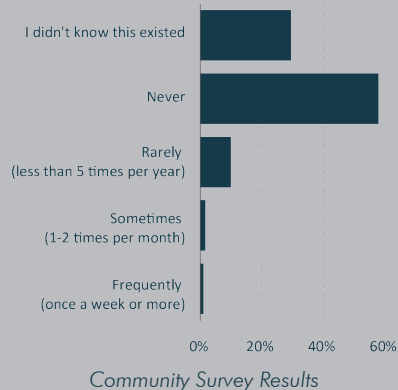
The Loop, a Stellar Communities project, was designed to create a balanced transportation system that provides safe, accessible and efficient connections between destinations that boost economic growth and stability and increase property values in Richmond. It is a protected bike path separated from other modes of travel that winds through Richmond's downtown and the Depot District. When finished, the route will extend along the south side of East Main Street from 1st to 7th Streets, the west side of North 7th Street from East Main Street to Fort Wayne Avenue and the east side of North 10th Street from 10th Street Park to N E Street.

PARK ANALYSIS

The construction of The Loop has prompted concern within the community, largely because of the intended use, and priority of the project were not understood by the community. Education around the amenity and the way in which it benefits the residents of Richmond could be critical to the success of the project. Further, there is a need for additional signage and future programming to activate the corridor.



COMMUNITY USE

South 10th Street Park
 101 South 10th Street


ADA COMPLIANCE

● Approaches & Entrances
Needs Improvement

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✗ Parking
Not Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to Appendix 'B': ADA Park Checklist for detailed information on each park/ facility.

SOUTH 10TH STREET PARK

Center City Planning Area | Neighborhood Park

South 10th Street Park is a 2.2-acre neighborhood park located at 101 South 10th Street. It is Richmond's oldest park and provides opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking and relaxation. The park provides amenities including a picnic area and open lawn areas. Numerous benches for seating are located along a central pathway running north and south, surrounded by green space and mature trees. A plaque commemorating Camp Wayne, a Civil War training camp for the then 5th Congressional District, is located on the north end of the site.

PARK ANALYSIS

South 10th Street Park is a unique linear park connecting the downtown area to surrounding residential neighborhoods. Amenities such as a new flagpole, lighting, benches and picnic areas make this park a hub for passive recreation and potential public art opportunities. In addition to the Family Fun Fest and Moonlight Parade, South 10th Street Park has the opportunity to be a unique setting for other community festivals and events.

However, the park doesn't offer any amenities for children and lacks an enclosed shelter. The park is missing crosswalks from its east and west paths to sidewalks on the opposite side of the street, creating potential for pedestrian/vehicular conflicts. It is often inhabited by homeless people living in makeshift encampments, who may be seen as a threat or nuisance to other users.

S A ST

S 10TH ST

Flag Pole and Memorial Sign

Benches

Grills

Path Intersection

Grills

PARK PL

S 9TH ST

S B ST

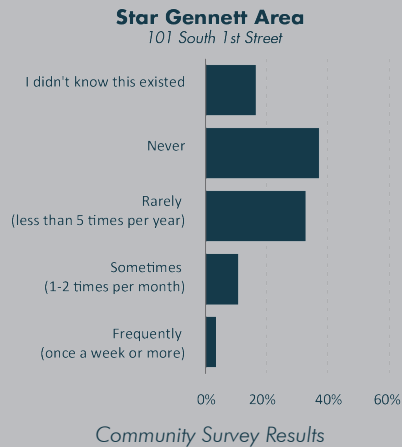
S B ST

Legend

- +—+— Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line

S C ST

COMMUNITY USE



ADA COMPLIANCE

✓ **Approaches & Entrances**
Compliant

Restrooms
Not Applicable

✓ **Parking**
Compliant

Play Areas
Not Applicable

Sports Courts / Facilities
Not Applicable

Water Amenity Areas
Not Applicable

Refer to the Technical Appendix for detailed information on each park/ facility.

STARR-GENNETT AREA AT WHITEWATER GORGE PARK

Center City Planning Area | Community Park

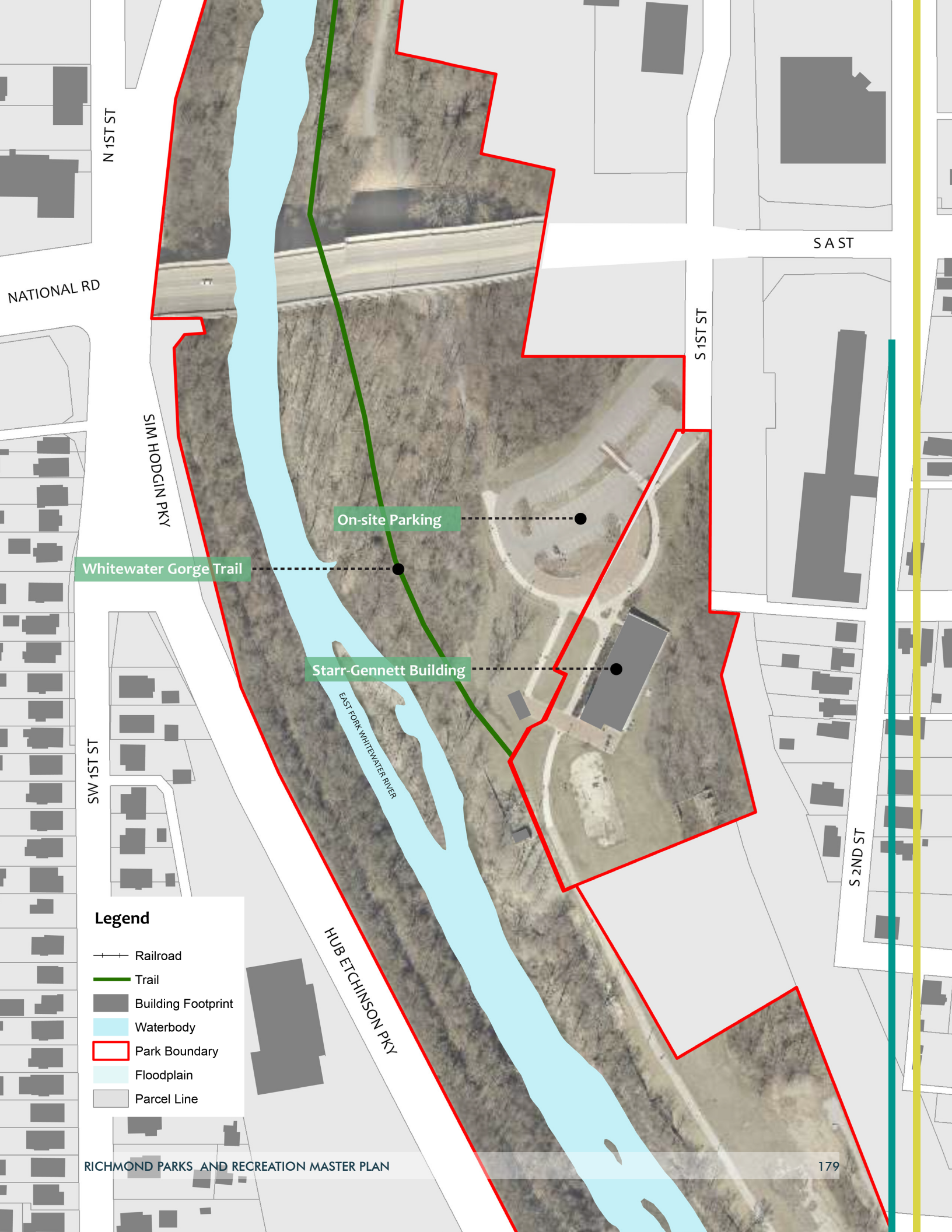
The Starr-Gennett complex is located in the middle of Whitewater Gorge Park and features the remains of the Starr Piano Company building, which was established in the mid-1880s. The surviving Starr Piano Company factory building, now called the Starr-Gennett Pavilion, lives on as a multi-purpose activity center.

The Voices of the Gorge Master Plan, completed in 2012, seeks to transform the Starr-Gennett Area into a national tourist destination to celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the site. The master plan cited four different destinations, including the Memorial Garden, the Depot Park, the Gorge Visitors Center and the Starr-Gennett area to create a series of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. An update to the plan should be considered in the future to examine a more focused vision for the area.

The Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame was established in 2007 to celebrate the music legacy of the Starr Piano Company and Gennett Records. The Walk, which runs parallel to the park access drive, consists of large ceramic and bronze medallions that resemble 78 rpm records and feature the images of honored artists. The accompanying bronze plaques summarize the artists' musical achievements. A few of the artists honored by the Walk include Louis Armstrong, Gene Autry, Hoagy Carmichael and Duke Ellington.

PARK ANALYSIS

The Starr-Gennett Area at Whitewater Gorge Park is a unique historical space converted from the remnants of the Starr-Gennett Recording Studio. The primitive building and minimal amenities provide space for private weddings, concerts and other events. The site's located within the Whitewater Gorge Park adjacent to the Cardinal Greenway and Whitewater Gorge trails make it accessible by foot. However, other than the building and the Starr-Gennett Walk of Fame, there isn't much to do on the site.



N 1ST ST

S A ST

S 1ST ST

SIM HODGGIN PKY

On-site Parking

Whitewater Gorge Trail

Starr-Gennett Building

EAST FORK WHITEWATER RIVER

SW 1ST ST

S 2ND ST

HUB ETCHINSON PKY

Legend

- Railroad
- Trail
- Building Footprint
- Waterbody
- Park Boundary
- Floodplain
- Parcel Line



ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation and telecommunications. ADA defines a person as having a disability if they have a temporary or permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits them from performing one or more major life activities or if they are perceived by others as having such an impairment²².

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 61 million adults in the United States have some type of functional disability, such as mobility, cognition, independent living, hearing, vision or self-care. Mobility is the most common type of functional disability, affecting 1 in 7 adults²³. Persons with disabilities are present in every community, and most people will either have a disability or know someone who has a disability at some point in their lives.

Parks and recreation facilities play an important role in improving the quality of life for members of the community. However, since many of Richmond's parks were constructed before ADA Standards took effect, individuals with disabilities may be unable to participate in the programs and activities offered in these spaces. The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to providing inclusive, barrier-free programs and public spaces that serve everyone. As the City's parks and open space system is updated and expanded, it is imperative that accessibility is ensured for persons with disabilities.

During the inventory and analysis phase of this Plan, accessibility was evaluated for each of the City's parks, trails and open spaces to gain a better understanding of existing conditions and how best to improve these facilities to bring them into full ADA compliance. The review included:

- An examination of routes taken to access parks and recreation facilities, such as parking, sidewalks, ramps, stairs and docks; and
- The functionality of facilities and amenities upon arrival, such as shelters, courts, playgrounds, splash pads and restrooms.

One of the biggest challenges the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation faces is getting the word out about their vast recreation

²²<https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm>

²³<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>

offerings to the public. The Parks Department offers a wide range of opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability and community connectedness. However, it lacks a full-time communications/ marketing coordinator to increasing program participation; programs are primarily marketed through the annual Richmond Rec Guide, flyers and social media. According to the community survey, over half (57%) of respondents indicated that they didn't participate in Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation programs because they didn't know what was being offered. Building awareness for park programming is made more difficult by the amount of resources required to communicate offerings. Since community members are more likely to take advantage of park offerings when they know about them, increasing the number of participants is dependent on improving marketing strategies to heighten awareness.

This assessment builds off of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation ADA Audit conducted by William Tandy in 2016. While some accessible features have been provided since this audit, many routes, facilities and amenities remain inaccessible to those with disabilities. A complete assessment of ADA accessibility for each park and trail can be found in the Technical Appendix. The following are key recommendations for the Richmond parks and open space system:

Glen Miller Park (2200 East Main Street)

- Provide a ramp to Don's Cabin to make it accessible.
- Provide accessible tables at Shelter #2.

Middlefork Reservoir (1750 Sylvan Nook Drive)

- Reconstruct existing boat dock system to improve accessibility.
- Update existing restrooms to be ADA compliant.
- Provide additional designated accessible parking spaces adjacent to the service center, open-air shelter north of the bait house and the propbusters shelter.
- Provide accessible tables at the open-air shelter north of the bait house.

Cordell Municipal Pool (9 SW 13th Street)

- Provide additional programming opportunities for those with developmental and physical disabilities.

Springwood Lake Park (64 Waterfall Road)

- Update existing restrooms to be ADA compliant.

Clear Creek Park (1201 West Main Street)

- Provide designated accessible parking spaces adjacent to park facilities and amenities.
- Provide accessible tables in picnic areas.

East Side Lions Park/Starr Park (311 North 15th Street)

- Construct a new playground with opportunities for inclusive play for ages 2-5.
- Construct a new playground with opportunities for inclusive play for ages 5-12.

West Side Lions Park (1201 Ridge Street)

- Construct a new playground with opportunities for inclusive play.

Pass Through Park (Between JoyAnn & Chase Building)

- Ensure sidewalks are ADA accessible.

ADA COORDINATOR

The ADA Coordinator ensures that the City of Richmond complies with ADA requirements and establishes effective lines of communication with all members of the community. Specifically, the ADA Coordinator is responsible for making certain that the needs of persons with disabilities are met by:

- Ensuring City efforts comply with Title I and Title II of the ADA;
- Investigating any complaints that the City has violated Title I and Title II of the ADA;
- Adopting and distributing public notice regarding relevant ADA provisions for programs, activities and services to all interested persons; and
- Developing and adopting grievance procedures to provide fair and prompt resolution of complaints under Title I and Title II of the ADA

The ADA Coordinator for the City of Richmond is:

Imani Murphy

ADA/Title VI Coordinator

50 North 5th Street

Richmond, IN 47374

p. 765.983.7202

imurphy@richmondindiana.gov



Children playing at the Sensory Playground at Clear Creek Park

ADA PUBLIC NOTICE

The ADA Non-Discrimination Notice is available on the City's website.

ADA NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

In Accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Richmond will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment

City of Richmond 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

City of Richmond will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in City of Richmond's programs, services, and activities.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures

City of Richmond 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.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies and programs to participate in a program, service, or activity of City of Richmond, should contact Imani Murphy, ADA Coordinator, 50 North 5th Street, Richmond, IN 47374, 765-983-7435 or imurphy@richmondindiana.gov as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require City of Richmond 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 City of Richmond is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Imani Murphy, ADA Coordinator, 50 North 5th Street, Richmond, IN 47374, 765-983-7435 or imurphy@richmondindiana.gov. See City of Richmond's Grievance Procedure.

City of Richmond 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.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

The City of Richmond ADA Transition Plan is available on the City's website. The plan guides the planning and implementation of necessary street and sidewalk modifications, programs and facility modifications. It is significant in that it establishes the City's ongoing commitment to the development and maintenance of policies, programs and facilities that include all of its citizens. The document is considered to be part of an iterative improvement process and shall be modified as standards change and when barriers are removed or alterations are made.

The mission of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the positive development and well-being of the Richmond community through the provision of parks, greenways, trails and recreational programming and facilities while working in cooperation with other service providers and partners in the community to maximize all available resources. There are currently 10 park sites within the Richmond community which are wheelchair, restroom and designated accessible parking friendly. Since the adoption of the ADA Transition Plan in 2017, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation has developed the following:

Sensory Playground at Clear Creek Park

The sensory playground at Clear Creek Park was designed specifically to serve children with physical disabilities or sensory-processing disorders through equipment that facilitates auditory, tactile and visual development. It includes several pieces of equipment for children ranging from 6 months to 12 years old and tree playsets, each targeting a specific age group. This playground is wheelchair friendly and provides designated access to parking and restrooms.

Wayne County National Road Heritage Trail

The Wayne County National Road Heritage Trail, otherwise known as the Riverside Trail, will be constructed along the south side of the East Fork Whitewater River between North 17th and 24th Streets. Once constructed, the 10-foot wide, ADA compliant walking trail will measure 0.5-milers on the north side of Richmond. As it exists today, a primitive hiking trail has been cleared and covered with wood chips.

Mary Scott Park

A ramp was provided to the entrance of the cabin at Mary Scott Park to make it accessible.

Clear Creek Park

A sidewalk was provided to the pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park to make them accessible.

Glen Miller Park

Designated accessible parking spaces were provided adjacent to the Administration building.

Middlefork Reservoir

Additional designated accessible parking spaces were provided.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR ADA COMPLAINTS

The Grievance Procedure for ADA Complaints is available on the City's website. The Grievance Procedure adheres to the standards outlined in the ADA and is intended to be used by a person wishing to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits provided by the City of Richmond.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

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 City of Richmond. The City of Richmond's 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 complaint, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for person 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:

Imani Murphy

ADA/Title VI Coordinator
50 North 5th Street
Richmond, IN 47374

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the coordinator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the coordinator or his/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 City of Richmond and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the coordinator or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Mayor or his designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor or his/her designee 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 the coordinator or his/her designee. Appeals to the Mayor or his designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City of Richmond for at least three years.





66%

of community survey respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the current park and recreational offerings in Richmond.

60%

of community survey respondents indicated that they thought the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation should offer more recreational programming.

70%

of community survey respondents indicated some level of interest in participating in sports, fitness and aquatic programs.

RICHMOND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Programming is one of the most important tools parks can use to improve quality of life for people living in their communities. Comprehensive parks and recreation programs offer a mix of high-quality recreational, educational and cultural programs coordinated with community facilities that maximize resources and meet constituents' needs. The programming process is dynamic and requires extensive planning, development and flexibility in order to stay relevant and respond to changes in the way people live, work and recreate.

The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation offers a multitude of activities based on participant interests, market trends, recreation fundamentals and available resources. The Department has worked with numerous allied organizations and agencies in order to administer and maintain consistent programming. In order to develop a better understanding of how residents and visitors are engaging in programs and services offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, programs have been categorized into six core programs including:

- Fitness and Aquatics
- Youth and Sports Camps
- Family
- Seniors
- Special Events
- Environmental
- Pop up programming

One of the biggest challenges the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation faces is getting the word out about their vast recreation offerings to the public. The Parks Department offers a wide range of opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability and community connectedness. However, it lacks a full-time communications/ marketing coordinator to increasing program participation; programs are primarily marketed through the annual Richmond Rec Guide, flyers and social media. According to the community survey, over half (57%) of respondents indicated that they didn't participate in Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation programs because they didn't know what was being offered. Building awareness for park programming is made more difficult by the amount of resources required to communicate offerings. Since community members are more likely to take advantage of park offerings when they know about them, increasing the number of participants is dependent on improving marketing strategies to heighten awareness.

SPORTS, FITNESS AND AQUATICS

There are a variety of sports and fitness programs offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, including Walking Club and the Industrial Softball League. Walking Club was by far the most popular sports and fitness program in 2019 with 138 participants. All sports and fitness programs experienced a decrease in participation from 2018 to 2019, including Walking Club (-65.5%) and Industrial Softball League (-9%). According to the community survey, people have a low level of awareness of fitness program offerings, including fitness classes (26%), intramural adult sports leagues (25%) and walking club (28%).

Aquatic programs offered at Cordell Municipal Pool include Learn to Swim, “Family” Night and Adult Lap Swim. According to the community survey, people have a low level of awareness of aquatic program offerings, including adult lap swim (17%) and swim lessons (31%).

Sports and fitness programs offered via partnerships with allied organizations include the new Friday Night Bikes (offered in 2020), First Tee, the 2020 Wayne County Challenge and Richmond Pickleball (beginner lessons and open play opportunities). Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

47%

of community survey respondents indicated some level of interest in participating in Intramural Adult Sports Leagues.

53%

of respondents indicated some level of interest in participating in Intramural Youth Sports Leagues.

70%

of community survey respondents indicated some level of interest in participating in sports, fitness and aquatic programs.

SPORTS, FITNESS AND AQUATICS PROGRAMS

PARK PROGRAM	2018 ATTENDANCE	2019 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST
Walking Club	400	226	Glen Miller Park Golf Course	Free
Industrial Softball League (20 players each team)	11 Teams	10 Teams	Clear Creek Park	Free
Learn to Swim	35	41	Cordell Municipal Pool	\$50/person
“Family” Night	350	400	Cordell Municipal Pool	Entrance Fee or Standard Pass
Adult Lap Swim	N/A	N/A	Cordell Municipal Pool	\$1/person
Fit Fridays at the Plaza (New program starting in 2021)	Not offered	Not offered	Jack Elstro Plaza	Free

YOUTH AND SPORTS CAMPS

There are a variety of youth programs offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, including Just Us Kids Outdoors (JUKO), Little JUKO, Just Us Kids Outdoors Respecting Other's Capabilities is Key to Success! (JUKO ROCKS!), Art in the Park, Talented Tykes and Summer Sports Camp. In many cases, program participation is capped at 30 participants. JUKO was by far the most popular youth program in 2019 with 340 participants. All youth programs experienced a decrease in participation from 2018 to 2019, including JUKO (-24.4%), Little JUKO (-4%), JUKO ROCKS! (-66.7%), Art in the Park (-56.7%), Talented Tykes (-53.3%) and Summer Sports Camp (-68%). According to the community survey, people have low to moderate levels of awareness of youth program offerings, including youth camps (52%) and arts and crafts camps (24%). Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

50%

of community survey respondents indicated some level of interest in participating in youth camps.

YOUTH PROGRAMS				
PARK PROGRAM	2018 ATTENDANCE	2019 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST
JUKO	450	340	Springwood Lake Park, Mary Scott Park & Glen Miller Park	Donation
Little JUKO	200	192	Spring Lake Park & Mary Scott Park	Donation
JUKO ROCKS!	30	10	Clear Creek Park	Donation
Art in the Park	30	13	Mary Scott Park	\$30/person
Talented Tykes	30	14	Mary Scott Park	\$30/person
Summer Sports Camp	50	16	Glen Miller Park	\$30/person

FAMILY

There are a variety of family programs offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, including the Richmond Farmer's Market, Tuesday Twilight Market, Picnic-Me-Up Wednesdays, Evenings at Elstro, Neighborhood Movies and Movies in the Glen.

The Richmond Farmer's Market was by far the most popular family program in 2019 with 32,000 participants. It is also the most well-known program, with 86% of community survey respondents indicating they were aware that it was available. The Richmond Farmer's Market is a growers-only market with local farmers and producers selling fruits, vegetables, plants, herbs, flowers, baked goods, dried goods, jams, honey, syrup and other products. The market runs a SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) Double Dollars program, where participants purchase tokens with their EBT card and the amount is doubled, thanks to a grant from Reid Community Benefit. This program enables participants to purchase additional SNAP-eligible products and encourages healthy eating habits for all residents, regardless of income. The Summer Market is an outdoor market located at Jack Elstro Plaza and occurs every Saturday from May to October, as well as Tuesdays (Tuesday Twilight Market) from July to September. The Winter Market occurs every Saturday from November to April at the Richmond Senior Community Center. In addition to providing local farmers and producers marketing opportunities to sell their goods directly to consumers, the Richmond Farmer's Market:

- Provides opportunities for consumers to purchase quality local food and farm-grown foods;
- Provides a community gathering place to promote and stimulate economic development; and
- Creates traffic in the downtown area.

All family program saw an increase in attendance from 2018 to 2019, while other core program groupings did not. From 2018 to 2019, the fastest growing family programs were Neighborhood Movies and Movies at the Glen (12.5%), followed by the Richmond Farmer's Market (2.6%) and Picnic-Me-Up Wednesdays (2.3%). According to the community survey, people have a moderate level of awareness of family program offerings, including family events (49%), food truck rallies (60%) and outdoor movies (70%). Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

FAMILY PROGRAMS				
PARK PROGRAM	2018 ATTENDANCE	2019 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST
Richmond Farmer's Market	31,200	32,000	Jack Elstro Plaza	Free/Vendors
Tuesday Twilight Market	6,500	6,500	Jack Elstro Plaza	Free/Vendors
Picnic-Me-Up Wednesdays	13,200	13,500	Jack Elstro Plaza	Free/Vendors
Evenings at Elstro	2,500	2,500	Jack Elstro Plaza	Free/Vendors
Neighborhood Movies & Movies at the Glen	400	450	Jack Elstro Plaza, Middlefork Reservoir, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Clear Creek & Glen Miller Park	Free

SENIORS

There are a variety of senior programs offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation at the Richmond Senior Community Center (RSCC), ranging from fitness programs to craft demonstrations, music classes and games. The RSCC offers paid annual memberships to those ages 50 or better for \$20/person. Participants younger than 50 are encouraged to participate in Yoga but pay a \$5 fee/class. Fitness programs include Walking/Exercise, Basketball, Line Dancing, Enhanced Fitness, Pickleball, Chair Volleyball and Tai Chi, while craft demonstrations, music classes and games include Art Classes, Bingo, Dulcimer Group, Birthday Party/Price is Right, Knitting and Crochet, Crafts, Cards and Bingo. A number of health and informational resources are available to those looking for additional assistance.

Membership decreased from 2018 to 2019, including new members (-20%) and active members (-39%). This may be in part due to the low level of awareness people have of their program offerings, with only 24% of community survey respondents indicating they were aware they were available. Bingo was by far the most popular senior program in 2019 with 3,912 participants. Senior programs saw the greatest increase in attendance from 2018 to 2019. From 2018 to 2019, the fastest growing senior program was Enhanced Fitness (230%), followed by Art Classes (43%) and Pickleball (35%). Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

SENIOR PROGRAMS				
PARK PROGRAM	2018 ATTENDANCE	2019 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST
Walking/Exercise	1277	1560	RSCC	Membership
Art Classes	686	982	RSCC	Membership
Bingo	3219	3912	RSCC	Membership
Basketball	1071	996	RSCC	Membership
Line Dancing	1585	1712	RSCC	Membership
Sr. Activity Meeting	331	275	RSCC	Membership
Dulcimer Group	428	507	RSCC	Membership
Enhance Fitness	730	2406	RSCC	Membership
Pickle Ball	1654	2229	RSCC	Membership
Chair Volleyball	438	529	RSCC	Membership
Birthday Party/Price Is Right	253	106	RSCC	Membership
Knitting & Crochet	437	343	RSCC	Membership
Tai Chi Class	952	1247	RSCC	Membership
SHIP Counselor	187	193	RSCC	Membership
AARP Tax Program	411	372	RSCC	Membership
Crafts	1360	1392	RSCC	Membership
Cards	2566	2576	RSCC	Membership
Widowed Persons Group (WPS)	326	74	RSCC	Membership

SPECIAL EVENTS

There are a variety of special events offered by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation. The Halloween Howl was by far the most popular special event in 2019 with 1,500 participants, while the Kids Triathlon was the least popular with 26 participants. From 2018 to 2019, the fastest growing special event was the Woofstock Adoption Festival (500%), followed by the Celebration of Lights (50%) and the Back to School Splash Bash (42%). The programs that saw the most decline in participation over the same one-year period were Kids' Triathlon (-48%), Grandparents Fun Day (-42%) and Halloween Howl (-25%). According to the community survey, people have a low to high levels of awareness of special event program offerings, including 5k runs and walks (82%), dog park events (61%), music, cultural events and ceremonies (49%) and kids' triathlon (9%).

The programs that saw the most decline in participation over the same one-year period were Kids' Triathlon (-48%), Grandparents Fun Day (-42%) and Halloween Howl (-25%). According to the community survey, people have a low to high levels of awareness of special event program offerings, including 5k runs and walks (82%), dog park events (61%), music, cultural events and ceremonies (49%) and kids' triathlon (9%).

Special Events offered via partnerships with allied organizations include programs such as Music in the Parks, the Starr-Gennett Foundation Walk of Fame Celebration, Meltdown Ice Festival, the Fireworks 5K, the Chocolate Garden and Bloom and Glow at the Richmond Rose Garden and performances by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company at the Shakespeare Festival. Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

SPECIAL EVENTS				
PARK PROGRAM	2018 ATTENDANCE	2019 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST
Kids' Triathlon	50	26	Cordell Pool & Dennis Middle School Track	Free
Rosemary Weigle 5K	250	250	Glen Miller Park	\$25/person
Egg Hunt	300	300	Glen Miller Golf Course	\$2/person
Halloween Howl	2000	1500	Tom Raper Center	Canned Good
Celebration of Lights	800	1200	Glen Miller Park	Free
Father Daughter Walk	300	300	Glen Miller Golf Course	Free
Mother Son Date Night	300	300	Glen Miller Golf Course	Free
Back to School Splash Bash	600	850	Cordell Municipal Pool	\$2/person
Grand Parents Fun Day	50	30	RSCC	Free
Treat Find & Bark & W(h)ine	100	100	Middlefork Reservoir	Free
Happy Pawl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest	50	50	Middlefork Reservoir	\$1/dog
Dog Photos with Santa	120	150	Middlefork Reservoir	\$1/dog
Farm to Fork Dinner	70	70	Middlefork Reservoir	N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL

There are a variety of environmental programs offered by the floral department staff at the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, including Invasives Class, Christmas Centerpiece, Rose Care, Landscaping Design and Installation, Lawn Care, Pollinator's Garden, Proper Pruning Techniques, How to Buy, Use and Maintain Garden Tools, Pest and Disease Management, Plant Propagation Methods and Techniques and Native Trees, Shrubs and Flowers. These programs are unique, in that they are being put on by the floral team's labor force, rather than the department itself.

The first environmental programs were offered in 2019. The Pollinator's Garden was the most popular environmental program between 2019 and 2020 with 16 participants, followed by Landscape Design and Installation with 12 participants and Christmas Centerpiece with 12 participants. Unfortunately, people have a low level of awareness of environmental program offerings, with only 16% of community survey respondents indicating they were aware they were available. It is important to note that many of these programs have been or will be postponed or canceled due to COVID-19. Program cost, location and attendance can be seen in the table below.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS				
PARK PROGRAM	2019 ATTENDANCE	2020 ATTENDANCE	LOCATION	COST*
Invasives Class	6	Not offered	Greenhouse Complex	\$5/person
Christmas Centerpiece	12	Not offered	Greenhouse Complex	\$25/person
Rose Care	Not offered	1	Admin Office	\$5/person
Landscape Design & Installation	Not offered	12	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Lawn Care	Not offered	7	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Pollinator's Garden	Not offered	16	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Proper Pruning Techniques	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
How to Buy, Use & Maintain Garden Tools	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Pest & Disease Management	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Plant Propagation Methods & Techniques	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Invasive Plants: Part 2	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person
Native Trees, Shrubs & Flowers	Not offered	Not offered	Glen Miller Clubhouse	\$5/person

*Cost was done on a requested donation basis.

POP-UP PROGRAMMING

Pop-up programming offerings are designed to activate public spaces with little set-up and almost no instruction for easy engagement. Pop-up programming is currently offered at Jack Elstro Plaza through “Play in the Plaza,” a program that offers ping pong, chess/ checkers, foosball and corn hole. Equipment and game pieces are available for rent at the nearby Morrisson Reeves Library.

Informal fitness classes are another form of pop-up programming. Fit Fridays at the Plaza are free fitness classes including kettlebell, yoga, Yogaflow and Zumba that are held on Fridays during the lunch hour from May to August at Jack Elstro Plaza. These classes are new for the 2020 summer season and provide those working downtown the opportunity to engage in quick workouts without stepping foot in the gym.

Richmond Parks and Recreation was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant for place making through OCRA, which will fund a project titled, “Art is everywhere,” in Elstro Plaza. The project involves installing art pieces such as murals voted on by the Richmond Senior Community Center, as well as dog selfie stations and other elements. These projects will be completed through partnerships between the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation and local artists.





SYSTEM FINDINGS

The information outlined within this chapter is a summary of the findings and key conclusions from the Research and Analysis and Park Facilities phases (pages 102-104, 110-111 and 107-109), which utilized community engagement events, data and technical analysis and field inventory assessments to paint a comprehensive picture of the current condition of the Richmond parks, open space and recreation system.

SYSTEM STRENGTHS

The City's parks, open spaces and recreation programs offer various amenities and opportunities, many of which can be leveraged in the future.

Richmond residents value parks, open space and recreational programs. (pgs. 72, 74)

Richmond's parks and recreation system is valued across the community and considered an essential component to the community's quality of life. Nearly 90 percent of residents surveyed during the Perceptions and Needs Community-Wide Survey said they consider parks and recreation important to their quality of life, and nearly 61 percent of surveyed residents indicated that they spend more than three hours per week participating in recreational activities.

Richmond residents' value multi-use trails and city-wide connectivity. (pgs. 72, 74)

The City currently maintains nearly 8 miles of paved trails and has recently invested in high-quality bicycle amenities across the community. Nearly 56 percent of residents surveyed indicated that the City needs more trails to help connect existing parks, recreational facilities and community destinations.

The City's flagship parks and events offer history, amenities and a sense of community. (pgs. 66- 67 and 189-196)

The City has established several key park properties and community events that serve as the backbone to the entire parks and recreation system. Places like Glen Miller Park, Middlefork Reservoir, Highland Golf Course and the Richmond Senior Community Center not only offer diverse programs and amenities, but have also created ways for community members to stay connected with one another and to the City's history. Key programs such as the Farmers Market provide opportunities for residents to visit a park space for recreation, entertainment and social interactions, while also supporting local food access.

The Department has existing partnerships that serve as a resource. (pgs. 42-43)

The Department currently has partnerships with City departments, local businesses and community organizations. Most of these partnerships provide the Department with additional resources that are targeting maintenance efforts throughout the year. In addition to maintenance initiatives, some partnerships have resulted in additional funding being directed to the Department. Through direct donations of equipment including lighting, flagpoles, mulch, and stone, and funding solicitation on behalf of the Department, additional capital resources have been generated.

SYSTEM CHALLENGES

The challenges faced by Richmond's Parks and Recreation system are generally not new, but the magnitude of each of these issues has grown over the years, as has the need to find solutions.

The responsibilities of the Parks Department are numerous, and residents worry they have too much on their plate. (pgs. 72, 74)

The nearly 1,700 residents surveyed indicated that their expectations of the Department of Parks and Recreation included numerous responsibilities ranging from the development and maintenance of park properties and facilities to providing various educational programming opportunities. While the public recognizes the multiple responsibilities, they also indicated through focus group discussions and feedback during the community workshop that they were concerned that the parks department was stretched too thin. This concern resulted in the community desire to focus on what was being offered currently and limit expansion, unless resources could be secured to increase departmental capacities.

The public remains unaware of certain properties and program offerings. (pgs. 72, 74 and 118-179)

When surveyed, the community identified several park properties that they were unaware of in either name, location or amenities. In addition to park properties, there are existing programming opportunities that the public was unaware of based on the community survey responses, including adult and youth activities such as lap swim, intramural sport leagues, fitness classes and landscaping education classes. Additionally, nearly 57 percent of surveyed residents indicated that being unaware of program offerings kept them from registering and participating in programs.

The City's flagship parks need repairs and improvements. (pgs. 118-179)

Some of the City's larger and most popular park properties need significant improvements and ongoing maintenance to ensure that the property and available amenities are safe and high quality. In addition to the City's largest facilities including Glen Miller, Middlefork Reservoir, Clear Creek and Springwood Park, improvements are needed within the remaining facilities and properties as well. Needed improvements range in scale and include regular maintenance projects, the rehabilitation of facilities and amenities, increased accessibility and overall enhancement of park properties.

Departmental resources are constrained. (pg. 109)

With a reliance on tax funding and a continued decrease in property tax revenue, the Department's total annual budget remains constricted. While specific facilities and programs are able to keep themselves afloat, long-term capital improvements and maintenance expenses are difficult to plan for and incorporate into operational budgets. Restricted staff and budget capacities also make it difficult to expand successful programs and pioneer new opportunities that could benefit segments of the community.



SYSTEM FINDINGS

FUTURE TRENDS

Demographic, social, and environmental trends have implications on parks and recreation that should be considered when planning for the future. Richmond is changing in the following ways:

The community prioritizes improvements and maintenance over new facilities.

(pgs. 72, 74 and 206)

During the public engagement events, the community was asked how they would like to see investment used within the parks and open space system. By and large the comments and feedback indicated that they preferred to see the City invest in resources to improve maintenance within the existing parks and facilities. Specifically, the community was interested in seeing improved maintenance practices within the parks, additional full-time staff and more community-wide partnerships to support the ongoing upkeep of the City's parks and open space network.

More programming is desired, but funds are tight. *(pgs. 72, 74, 84 and 88-93)*

Of the surveyed residents nearly, 61 percent indicated that they would like to see the Department of Parks and Recreation offer more recreational programming in all age groups. While interest is high, the amount surveyed residents indicated they would be willing or able to pay was roughly \$1-\$10 per month. Many of the Department's current programs are offered for free or at cost. Expanding the options across the community will put additional pressure on the Department's already constrained budgets.

Streamlining and expanding resources could increase capacity. *(pgs. 72, 74 and 110-111)*

While the Richmond community values the offerings of the parks and open space system and acknowledges that the Parks Department is responsible for numerous items, there are concerns that staff and Department resources are being stretched too thin. During the inventory and analysis phase of work, notable challenges related to Department responsibilities and constrained resources were noted in both the stakeholder and community outreach opportunities. Streamlining existing processes and procedures, expanding staff capacity and capitalizing on existing programs, systems and tools could help overcome shortfalls in resources.

Increased diversity in amenity offerings would be ideal if they fit within available resources. *(pgs. 72, 74 and 88-93)*

While the community is concerned about the Department's ability to take on more responsibilities, there is a general interest in adding amenities that allow for an expanded range of fitness, exercise, play and organized sport activities. Continual efforts and collaboration across City departments will be necessary to ensure that recreation amenities and programs are made available to all residents throughout the City.

Communication and marketing efforts would benefit the Department. (pgs. 72, 74 and 80)

While having a diverse set of amenities and program offerings is a priority to the Department, ensuring that Richmond residents are made aware of recreational opportunities is just as critical. Today, the Richmond parks and open space system consists of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields and play amenities, approximately 8 miles of paved trail and countless recreational program opportunities. However, some Richmond residents noted that they were unaware of specific park properties and facilities. Nearly 57 percent of surveyed residents indicated that being unaware of program offerings kept them from registering and participating in programs. Finding ways to create and maintain clear and consistent communication channels will bring awareness to the City's parks and open space system and program offerings and encourage more residents to engage in recreational activities.

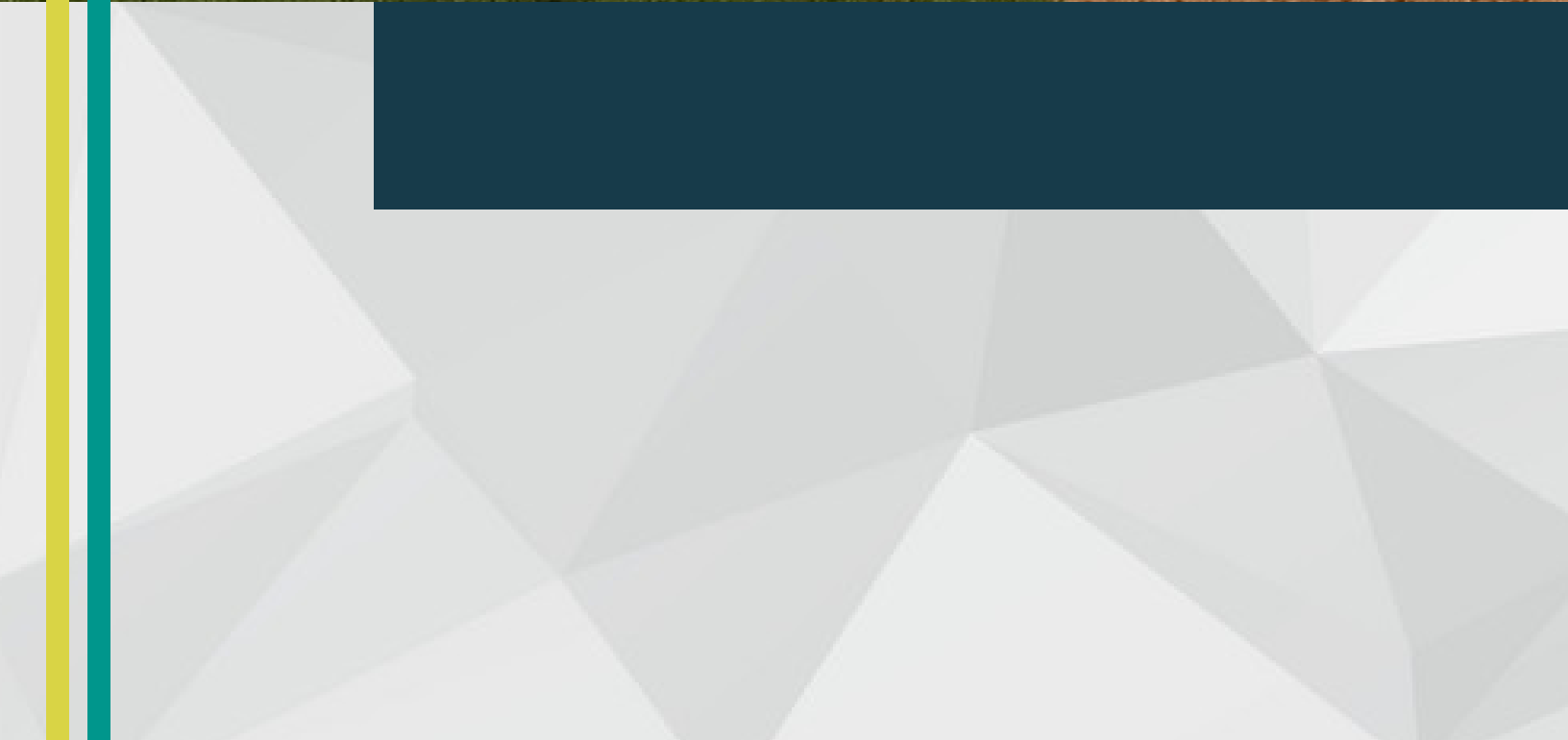
Strengthening and expanding public/private partnerships can expand the Department's capacity. (pgs. 78-79)

Public/private partnerships are already being used by the Department to plan for and implement new projects and programs. Currently, the Department partners with individuals and both for profit and non-profit community organizations to hold events, maintain existing amenities and develop new amenities and programs of interest. Establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with non-profit organizations, neighborhoods and service groups to enhance the value of parks and recreation assets, programs and services while building a sense of community.

As the Department continues to expand its offerings, it must evaluate its pricing strategy for programs and facilities system-wide. (pgs. 72, 74)

While the City welcomes non-resident customers, they are also conscious of the impact they have on Richmond residents. Non-resident customers do not pay property taxes, and with the parks and open space system's reliance on tax funding, it is critical that it works to recuperate lost dollars. The Department includes a non-resident surcharge at only one of its properties, Middlefork Reservoir, as part of its annual launch and dock fees. In determining an appropriate non-resident surcharge for tax-payer supported assets, the Department must consider:

- Resident versus non-resident demand;
- The availability of program offerings;
- The degree of taxpayer subsidies for a particular facility or program;
- The degree of success without non-resident participation; and
- Cost recovery goals.






CHAPTER FOUR

THE FUTURE PLAN





The long-range vision and supporting goals of this Plan serve to guide the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation moving forward. With a clear focus defined, the Department can better utilize its time, energy and resources presently and in the future. Since 2009, the Department has grown in its capacity to develop, operate and maintain the City's parks and open spaces. Within the last five years, the City has used this momentum to enhance park properties, expand the City's trail system and add new and innovative recreational programming opportunities, all while maintaining the City's existing parks and open space system. This *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is the City's chance to further identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City." This Plan is the Department's opportunity to dream big about the role of parks, open spaces, trails and recreational programming. It documents the strategic steps and resources needed to propel the parks and open space system and the Department into the future. The City of Richmond has a passion for parks and is ready to use that passion to drive progress and investment throughout the system.

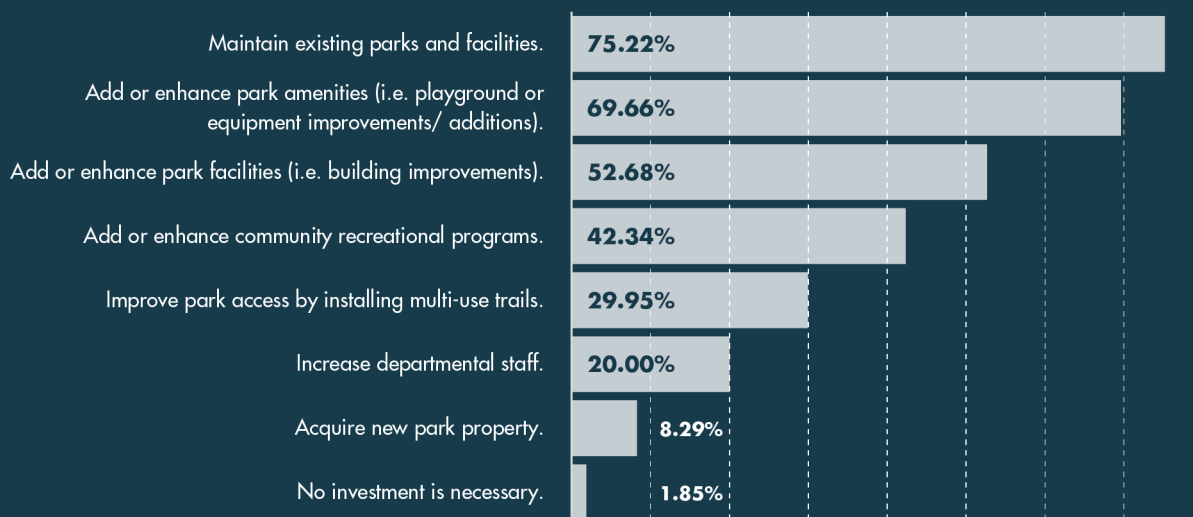
COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

In order for a long-range master plan to be useful and effective, it needs to be guided and developed by the community. The community support built during the planning process ensures that the Plan upholds the unique needs, desires and values of the community and articulates where improvements can and should be made. Building community support around the Department's long-range vision and supporting goals ensures that Richmond residents will see that their input, concerns and needs accounted for in the recommendations and action items of the plan. This community support often paves the way for implementation moving forward.

Throughout the process the Richmond community had the opportunity to weigh in on priorities for the future. First, as a component of the Public and Needs Public Workshop, attendees were asked, by way of an interactive exercise, how they would invest in Richmond's parks and open spaces. To provide further insight into the community's priorities, the same question was asked through a community-wide survey, which was facilitated via an online platform from June through July of 2020. In total, 1,025 responses were collected in addition to those responses captured during the in-person public workshop. These two activities were in addition to stakeholder interviews, staff discussions and an initial Perceptions and Needs community survey which yielded 1,748 responses. **The combined results indicated three primary areas of focus for the next five years: maintenance of existing parks and facilities, enhancement of park amenities and enhancement of park facilities.**

These future priorities were also discussed during the early phases of the planning process. In addition to staff capacity and revenue diversification, these three items were identified through community stakeholder and input sessions as primary challenges or threats within the existing parks and open space system. While the community outreach efforts identified a series of needs for the future, they also showcased a deep appreciation for the City's existing parks, open spaces, trails and recreational programs. The City's parks and open space system ties residents to Richmond's unique local history, culture and sense of place. These parks, facilities and programs are the stepping stones for the future.

Investment Priorities



Percentages are based on the second community wide survey that was distributed from June to July 2020. In total 1,025 responses were collected.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE...

Using the dot stickers provided, please vote on the following questions.

The dot color does not matter for this exercise.

The parks master planning process will work to determine the best way the community's parks, open space and recreational system can respond to what you want for the future we can better align recommendations and community resources in the future.

ARE PARKS IMPORTANT TO YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?

YES

NO

IS IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE A PARK WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF YOUR HOME?

YES

SYSTEM VISION AND GOALS

As outlined in Chapter One and in the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*, the City of Richmond has put a renewed focus on maintaining and growing the city's quality of life in order to stay competitive as both a place to live and work. The City and its residents understand that parks, open space, trails and recreational programming play an important role in these efforts. To both build and complement the community's overall vision to GROW the City's built environment, CONNECT the City's destinations, PROTECT the City's natural resources and CELEBRATE the City's offerings and accomplishments, the *Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* seeks to build upon their rich history and legacy to support interaction, inclusivity and diversity within the parks and open space system as well as support resiliency and sustainability within the Department itself.

Over the next five years, the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation will turn their park passion into park P.R.I.D.E. by working towards the following goals:



P. Promote our offerings.



R. Respond to our community's needs



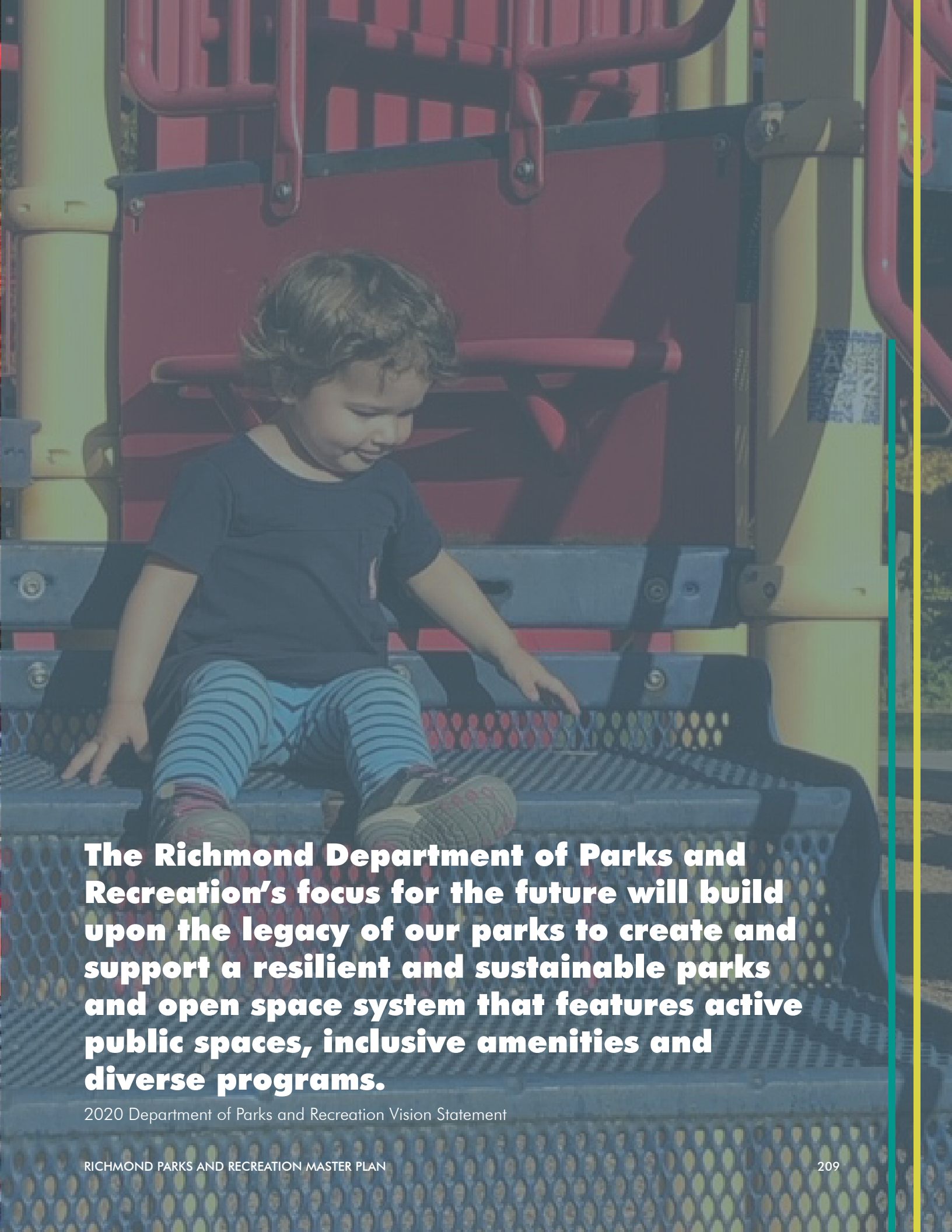
I. Invite activity into our spaces.



D. Diversify and optimize our resources.



E. Enhance our parks and open space system.

A young child with curly hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and blue and white striped pants, is sitting on a blue metal playground structure. The child is looking down at their hands, which are resting on the structure. The background shows more of the playground equipment, including red and yellow components. The image has a semi-transparent dark blue overlay.

The Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation's focus for the future will build upon the legacy of our parks to create and support a resilient and sustainable parks and open space system that features active public spaces, inclusive amenities and diverse programs.

2020 Department of Parks and Recreation Vision Statement



MOVING TOWARDS THE VISION

The *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is not simply an operational or strategic plan that outlines a list of long-term construction projects; it is a framework for long-term success. Achieving the vision for the parks and open space system requires focus and follow through. To ensure that the community's vision of a desirable future has the greatest chance of succeeding, the recommendations of this Plan inform a set of tools that encourage focused actions and responsible decision making. As such, the *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* serves to facilitate the following:

- 1. Ongoing Decision Making**

It provides guidance criteria for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Board in decisions related to the future of the Department and the City's parks and open space system.

- 2. Strategic Initiatives and Improvements**

It provides the foundation for a series of strategic action items that can optimize department resources, streamline procedures and processes and enhance the parks and open space system.

Using input gathered from community outreach efforts, staff discussions, local park conditions and future trend research, a series of critical issues facing the community were defined. In order to overcome those issues, five key park P.R.I.D.E. goals were established organizing future efforts around common themes. The park P.R.I.D.E. goals are intended to provide structure to a diverse and comprehensive set of short, mid and long-term action items. Each goal focuses on a specific topic that was developed in direct response to the challenges, opportunities and trends discussed in Chapter Three. While each goal may be achieved independently, the future vision of the parks and open space system relies on advancement in all five themes.

The following sections provide a brief description of the overarching goals, guidance statements and action steps.

DECISION MAKING CRITERIA

The *2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan* was developed using community input, physical inventory and technical research and analysis; however, it can only represent and respond to current findings and anticipated trends. The Parks Department and the parks and open space system are not static entities; they both grow, change and evolve and must respond to the everchanging needs of the community. This fluidity will ensure that over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Board will regularly need to make decisions that will impact the Department and the parks and open space system. While there are recommendations for new initiatives and capital projects included within this document, it is expected that the Department and the Board will need to make decisions based on new challenges, opportunities and ideas that are not clearly articulated within this master plan.

To allow for flexibility and ongoing guidance to the Department and the Board, a series of policy statements were developed that align to the five park P.R.I.D.E. goals. The policy statements vary in detail but generally are more specific than the park P.R.I.D.E. goals and identify the Department's position in regards to implementing the goals. These statements are intended to serve as a check point when considering new projects and initiatives, because they represent the values and needs of the community and the Department. The statements should be used by the Parks and Recreation Board and Department leaders to review and guide investments, plan for Department and community-led initiatives and determine if future initiatives and projects are in alignment with the vision outlined within this Plan.



PROMOTE OUR OFFERINGS.

OVERVIEW

While having a diverse set of amenities and program offerings is a priority to the Department, ensuring that Richmond residents are made aware of recreational opportunities is just as critical. Today, the Richmond parks and open space system consists of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields and play amenities, approximately 8 miles of paved trail and countless recreational program opportunities. However, some Richmond residents noted that they were unaware of specific park properties and facilities. Nearly 57 percent of surveyed residents indicated that that being unaware of program offerings kept them from registering and participating in programs. Finding ways to create and maintain clear and consistent communication channels will bring awareness to the City's parks and open space system and program offerings and encourage more residents to engage in recreational activities.

Over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation will work to:

1. Promote the use of parks, recreational space and facilities by enhancing existing core programs that include various types of fitness (sports, aquatics, etc.), diversity in attendees (families, youth, seniors, etc.) and special events - environmentally driven and pop-up programming - for more options across the City.
2. Improve web-based information and registration processes to help visitors quickly find information on park properties, amenities available facilities and programming experiences.
3. Continuously monitor, maintain and provide a clear picture of cost and revenue information to the community, including community and economic impacts associated with park properties, facilities and recreational events.



RESPOND TO OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS.

OVERVIEW

The residents of Richmond are unique in their characteristics and needs. The Department of Parks and Recreation is tasked with providing spaces, facilities, amenities and programs that are inviting, accommodating and inclusive. However, the needs of the community are ever-changing. Today, we know that a portion of Richmond residents are faced with limited incomes and physical and mental disabilities, and nearly one-third of residents are over the age of 65. While the specific needs of those groups can be identified, the Parks Department cannot ignore the needs of other residents or future populations. Continual efforts and collaboration across City departments will be necessary to ensure that recreation amenities and programs are made available to all residents throughout the City.

Over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation will work to:

1. Build facilities that welcome all Richmond residents regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities such as inclusive play areas, multi-purpose amenities, fitness stations and multi-cultural amenities.
2. Develop and implement diverse and creative park and recreation programs that target all residents in the City to maximize the community's appreciation for quality park and recreation experiences.
3. Enhance community health and wellness by providing opportunities for active and passive recreation that support relaxation, learning and socialization.
4. Seek innovative solutions to serve identified underserved or unserved populations in the community.
5. Continually assess community needs and proactively plan for recreation amenities and programming that aligns to these needs and trends.
6. Eliminate barriers to community engagement and participation to ensure parks reach and represent those they are intended to serve.



INVITE ACTIVITY INTO OUR SPACES.

OVERVIEW

Some of Richmond's greatest recreational assets are also home to cultural events, family-friendly activities, public art and educational programs. These events provide recreational opportunities and create a connection between the community and the environment. Effective park programming benefits the health and wellbeing of residents by providing the community with the means to get involved with and stay invested in their parks and open spaces. Richmond residents should feel empowered to use the City's parks and open space system for a variety of events and programs to enhance their connectedness to the environment and the City as a whole.

Over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation will work to:

1. Re-energize the City's parks and open spaces by enhancing connections to the arts, the local economy and the community's culture.
2. Increase awareness and opportunities for hosting seasonal and special events within City parks and park facilities in order to encourage people to engage, socialize and contribute to the community.
3. Explore opportunities to increase public awareness and access to waterways, including creeks, rivers, lakes and reservoirs, where it is appropriate, safe and sustainable.
4. Increase programming and activation opportunities along public waterways including the Whitewater River, the Whitewater Gorge Park and the Middlefork Reservoir.
5. Build on the success of the City's Farmer's Market program.
6. Leverage "pop up" programming, community events and temporary/ seasonal uses to activate public parks and open spaces and expand access to flexible, low-cost recreational programs.
7. Increase adult and senior programming opportunities across multiple categories including active recreation and nature-based programming using existing park facilities in the City.



DIVERSIFY AND OPTIMIZE OUR RESOURCES.

OVERVIEW

With a reliance on tax funding and a continued decrease in property tax revenue, the Department's total annual budget remains constricted. While specific facilities and programs are able to keep themselves afloat, long-term capital improvements and maintenance expenses are difficult to plan for and incorporate into operational budgets. Restricted staff and budget capacities also make it difficult to expand successful programs and pioneer new opportunities that could benefit segments of the community. Ensuring that additional revenue streams such as public/ private partnerships and philanthropic foundations can be created and strengthened will allow for greater flexibility in planning for the long term. Additionally, streamlining existing procedures will allow the Department to maximize the efficiency of existing resources.

Over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation will work to:

1. Secure diverse and sustainable funding sources to maintain existing parks and allow for future growth and expansion.
2. Establish a funding mechanism prior to accepting new park properties, roles or responsibilities needed to support the work.
3. Rightsize park properties, facilities, amenities and programs based on available funding and community need.
4. Ensure that emergency operations management and resiliency initiatives are included in all park planning efforts.
5. Consolidate and improve efficiency of maintenance operations, administrative and program management functions.
6. Recruit, hire and retain highly engaged, driven and innovative staff to deliver quality parks, recreation facilities and programs in the City that demonstrate the best of public services.
7. Leverage public dollars with private dollars through sponsorships, endowments, and new revenue-generating facilities and/ or mini businesses.
8. Establish mutually beneficial partnerships with non-profit organizations, neighborhoods and service groups to enhance the value of parks and recreation assets, programs and services while building a sense of community.



ENHANCE OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM.

OVERVIEW

While having a diverse set of amenities and program offerings is a priority to the Department, ensuring that Richmond residents are made aware of recreational opportunities is just as critical. Today, the Richmond parks and open space system consists of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields and play amenities, approximately 8 miles of paved trail and countless recreational program opportunities. However, some Richmond residents noted that they were unaware of specific park properties and facilities. Nearly 57 percent of surveyed residents indicated that being unaware of program offerings kept them from registering and participating in programs. Finding ways to create and maintain clear and consistent communication channels will bring awareness to the City's parks and open space system and program offerings and encourage more residents to engage in recreational activities.

Over the next five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation will work to:

1. Focus investment within the City's flagship park properties, facilities, trails and recreational programs.
2. Expand education and participation in programs and amenities at Middlefork Reservoir and along the Whitewater River within Whitewater Gorge Park.
3. Invest in golf infrastructure and amenities to improve current conditions, generate new revenue opportunities and strengthen existing revenue streams.
4. Preserve, protect and maintain natural areas and resources within the City's park properties that support immersive experiences and provide space and management for environmental functions and benefits.
5. Look for opportunities to expand the City's trail system to connect people to parks, facilities and natural resources.
6. Continue strategic reinvestments in the City's non-flagship park properties, facilities and trails by adding or replacing amenities as needed.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Within the last five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has successfully maintained the City's parks and open spaces, expanded the trail system, added new amenities and facilities and continued to develop a series of successful community-oriented programs. The community, Department staff and park system stakeholders have indicated the need for a more focused strategic plan for the future. During any long-range master planning effort, it is expected that investment and improvement will be identified for various park properties and facilities. While that was an outcome of this process, it also became clear that adjustments and enhancements could be made within the Department itself. Through those minor adjustments, the Department could be better positioned to make long-term, high-cost park system enhancements.

Through community outreach and stakeholder discussions, two primary opportunities were identified for future investment:

- Streamlining and expanding Department resources in the short term; and
- Planning for long-term maintenance and enhancement projects.

By focusing internally in the short term, small adjustments can be made to Department staffing, procedures and policies. These small adjustments, in addition to more detailed action plans where needed, better prepare the Department to maintain existing parks and facilities, capitalize on available resources and expand the reach of the Department across the community.

Streamlining and Expanding Department Resources

To be successful, the parks and open space system will need more than physical maintenance and enhancements. Minor improvements to the Department's organization, processes and procedures will assist in making sure the Department is able to respond to the community's needs, maximize their limited resources and plan strategically for the future.

While the Richmond community values the offerings of the parks and open space system and acknowledges that the Parks Department is responsible for numerous items, there are concerns that staff and Department resources are being stretched too thin. During the inventory and analysis phase of work, notable challenges related to Department responsibilities and constrained resources were noted in both the stakeholder and community outreach opportunities. In an effort to overcome these internal challenges, the following action items have been identified as opportunities to streamline existing processes and procedures, expand staff capacity and capitalize on existing programs, systems and tools.

While some of the listed items will require a nominal capital investment, many of the outlined action items can be achieved by empowering existing staff to champion new initiatives under the umbrella of their current roles and responsibilities. While increasing staff responsibilities over the long term is not the primary goal, by introducing new ideas, policies and procedures within the short term, long-term efficiencies can be realized within the Department.

PROCESS, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES INITIATIVES

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION
1. Develop an ongoing process to measure the universal accessibility of parks and open spaces that ensures programs, facilities and amenities meet current and future community needs.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent
2. Develop regulations and enhancements for new forms of mobility near parks and along trails.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent
3. Develop parks and recreation management tools to effectively track reservations, program registrations and collect data for users and profile information.	Business Manager
4. Develop and implement guidelines for sustainable landscape management through the use of native and adaptive plant species that are long-lasting, require minimal pesticides and fertilizers, and support energy and water efficiencies, biodiversity and pollinator populations.	Floral Division
5. Maximize environmental performance by creating and implementing sustainable best practices and implementing land and forest management plans to lessen the impact on department budgets.	Floral Division
6. Consolidate and apply any current POS systems that can be streamlined for better functionality.	Business Manager
7. Develop an appropriate key management system.	Business Manager
8. Develop a Work Order System to streamline maintenance and operations assignments.	Assistant Superintendent Maintenance Division

STAFFING INITIATIVES

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION
1. Increase staff capacity by establishing a Maintenance Supervisor position to streamline the processes of the mechanical, maintenance and janitorial division.	Superintendent City Leadership
2. Increase staff capacity within the Floral Division to expand the successful educational and service offerings of the department.	Superintendent City Leadership
3. Invest in succession planning for program staffing to ensure seamless transitions.	Superintendent
4. Add parks and recreation staff as needed to support community needs and service expectations of residents and plan for long and short-range departmental growth and operations.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent
5. Continue to invest in staff training and development to increase dependability, stay current with trends and encourage cooperation and communication between department divisions.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION
1. Increase staff capacity by creating a Communications and Engagement Division to help bridge the gap between existing resources, offerings, development (grant writing and resources) and community knowledge of and interaction with the parks and open space system.	Superintendent City Leadership
2. Rebrand the Richmond Senior Community Center and offer a range of intergenerational activities to encourage community residents to visit.	Senior Center Division
3. Develop a Marketing and Utilization Plan to measure and promote the image, usage, role, and effectiveness of Richmond's parks and recreational programs. Use the plan to increase community exposure to park properties, programs and activities including low or no-cost facilities and services.	Superintendent Senior Center Division Recreation Division Golf Division Floral Division City Communications

PLANNING AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION
1. Establish a Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan and funding program using the findings of this 2020 <i>Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan</i> .	Superintendent City Leadership
2. Establish a Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Maintenance Management Plan to identify improvements to maintenance practices, necessary equipment needs and improvements to internal procedures.	Assistant Superintendent Maintenance Division
3. Create an Activation and Management Plan for the Whitewater River and Whitewater Gorge Park.	Superintendent Floral Division Recreation Division
4. Study the feasibility and cost impacts of additional trails, river access, and environmental education components that encourage family participation and promote community awareness of the Whitewater River.	Superintendent Floral Division Recreation Division
5. Plan for the development and expansion of the City's trail network.	Superintendent
6. Conduct a Farmers Market Strategic Plan to identify ways to expand and strengthen the Farmers Market program.	Superintendent Recreation Division
7. Provide maintenance operations staff with a centralized, accessible and efficient storage area.	City Leadership Assistant Superintendent Maintenance Division
8. Continue to develop a complete asset inventory of all Department equipment that includes condition, risk, and criticality.	Business Manager All Divisions
9. Create a Comprehensive Tree Inventory to determine the proper planting, maintenance and removal of trees on park property.	Floral Division
10. Establish a comprehensive wayfinding signage plan for the parks and open space system and implement signage improvements within each of the City's park facilities. Signage should include welcome, directional and mile markers as appropriate to the site.	Superintendent City Leadership

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION
1. Develop a partnership assessment guide that can be used to help develop a set of expectations, appropriately define structure and oversight recommendations and evaluate the benefits and impacts of partnerships with community and allied organizations.	Superintendent City Legal Department
2. Develop a comprehensive partnership agreement with City legal involvement.	Superintendent City Legal Department
3. Keep an accurate record of department partners and volunteers that includes names, contact information, project/ program names and year of participation.	Business Manager
4. Create a yearly appreciation strategy for parks partners, donors, sponsors and volunteers.	Superintendent Business Manager

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS

While streamlining and expanding the Department's resources will create new opportunities in staff capacity and strategic planning, the Richmond parks and open space system will also need resources dedicated to the ongoing maintenance of the City's parks, open spaces, facilities and trails. Strategic investment will be needed to enhance existing amenities and facilities, continue recreational and educational programs and develop new recreation amenities and programs.

The community had the opportunity to weigh in on the preferred type of investment into the City's parks and open space system. Through the second community-wide survey residents showed their preference for ongoing park maintenance (75.22%), the addition or enhancement of park amenities (69.66%) and the addition or enhancement of park facilities (52.68%). The survey also gave residents the opportunity to identify the parks and/ or facilities that should be prioritized for future investment. These flagship park properties, including Glen Miller Park, Middlefork Reservoir, Springwood Lake Park, Clear Creek Park, Mary Scott Park, Jack Elstro Plaza and the Richmond Community Center, are notable places within the community. While these park properties and facilities were identified as a community priority, they are not the only areas that should receive investment moving forward.

The following represents a comprehensive list of maintenance and enhancement projects within each of the City's parks and facilities that should be used for planning purposes. The list is presented according to the community preferences of location and investment type. Additional information on the prioritized projects for the next five years can be found in Chapter Five: Implementation Plan.

Defining a Flagship Park or Facility

A flagship park, facility or program is one that has been identified as either the best or one of the most important elements of the City's parks and open space system.

The City of Richmond's flagship park properties, facilities and programs have strong ties to the City's history and members of the community. Together, they form the backbone of the City's parks and open space system.

The proposed maintenance and enhancement projects utilize the color coding system shown to the right. The color coding is intended to provide a visual summary of enhancement type.

Investment Type
Maintain Existing
Add/Enhance Park Amenities
Add/Enhance Park Facilities
Add/Enhance Programs
Improve Park Access
Increase Staff
Acquire New Park Property
No Investment Necessary

Glen Miller Park		Investment Type
1.	Repair existing playground.	Maintain Existing
2.	Repair existing pond fountain.	Maintain Existing
3.	Establish additional seating areas around the pond.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Dredge the existing pond.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Improve the Richmond Rose Garden to provide additional space for weddings and small events.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
6.	Expand the existing skate park; consider including a new pump track.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
7.	Provide additional tennis courts.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
8.	Establish a stadium lawn for seasonal concerts and events.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
9.	Evaluate the existing tennis courts to determine appropriate improvements (resurfacing, reconstruction etc.)	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
10.	Remodel the existing Bandshell; if deemed cost prohibitive, construct a new Bandshell.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
11.	Restore the Charles House.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
12.	Construct a new shelter at the existing playground.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
13.	Limit vehicular traffic within the park by establishing shared-use roadways.	Improve Park Access

Middlefork Reservoir		Investment Type
1.	Reconstruct existing boat dock system to improve accessibility and expand capacity.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Improve or reconstruct existing parking area.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Improve existing picnic tables and add additional seating opportunities throughout the site.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Add an RC Track with Propbusters area.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Construct a look out at the existing dam.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
6.	Ensure that existing restrooms meet ADA guidelines.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
7.	Improve the service center by updating the gutters and HVAC system.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
8.	Establish a Boat Shack to facilitate rentals in a more efficient manner.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
9.	Run water utilities to the existing cabin.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
10.	Evaluate opportunities for expansion and additional amenities, such as a restaurant, year-round storage and primitive cabins.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
11.	Establish additional multi-use trails on site.	Improve Park Access

Cordell Municipal Pool at Clear Creek Park

		Investment Type
1.	Repair all decking, shower rooms and sink areas.	Maintain Existing
2.	Improve the existing chemical system.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Provide additional features such as pool exercise equipment, pool inflatables, shade structures and water volleyball equipment.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide additional programming such as aquatic aerobics, aqua-yoga, dive-in movies and programs for those with developmental and physical disabilities.	Add/Enhance Programs

Springwood Lake Park (64 Waterfall Road)

		Investment Type
1.	Evaluate potential water remediation strategies to improve water quality and establish a public fishing area.	Maintain Existing
2.	Demolish the existing Edventure Lab if improvements cannot be made. Consider constructing a chapel or other small event facility in this location.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Establish horse trails and other appropriate amenities.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Renovate existing restrooms at the pavilion to meet the needs of park users.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
5.	Enhance and repair existing site lighting throughout the park.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
6.	Renovate the existing pavilion to address current and future maintenance needs.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
7.	Construct a new restroom facility on site.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
8.	Evaluate opportunities for the construction of a new well on site.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Clear Creek Park

		Investment Type
1.	Establish partnerships with allied organizations to fund maintenance and improvements of JV baseball fields.	Maintain Existing
2.	Repair existing softball diamonds to support the softball league and tournaments for additional revenue.	Maintain Existing
3.	Establish additional pickleball courts where appropriate.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Establish an indoor sports facility for year-round sports leagues, tournaments and competitions.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
5.	Construct a pedestrian bridge across W Main Street to connect the north and south portions of the park.	Improve Park Access
6.	Improve walkability by establishing a pedestrian network connecting park amenities and facilities.	Improve Park Access

Richmond Senior Center		Investment Type
1.	Expand outdoor fitness areas.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Complete the installation of the 5 remaining HVAC systems for the building.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
3.	Install new flooring in activity and dining rooms.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
4.	Create a new dining area to allow for increased capacity and lunch programming opportunities.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
5.	Transition existing conference room to a multi-purpose space.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
6.	Consider additional facility updates such as updated fitness rooms, a second gymnasium and smart devices and technology to meet community wellness needs.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
7.	Expand facility to allow for additional indoor pickleball courts.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
8.	Provide new and innovative programming such as personal training, massage and spa services, on-demand fitness classes, physical therapy and competitive sports leagues to ensure that the center's programming remains relevant.	Add/Enhance Programs
9.	Provide premium bus trips to exciting destinations to provide seniors an outlet to interact and engage with their peers.	Add/Enhance Programs

Mary Scott Park		Investment Type
1.	Provide simple, effective and consistent wayfinding signage.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Update the existing playground to provide new equipment, seating and shade structures for children of all ages and abilities.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Improve the existing cabin on site.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide additional active amenities such as paved paths and fitness zones/exercise equipment to encourage people to visit the park.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Former Glen Miller Golf Course		Investment Type
1.	Provide mile markers along existing paths.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Establish low-mow or no-mow areas.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Explore opportunities for the adaptive reuse of the former Glen Miller Golf Course. Revenue generating opportunities should be a priority.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Establish a high-quality 6-hole golf course.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Undeveloped CSX Corridor & C&O Depot

		Investment Type
1.	Rehabilitate the existing structure.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
2.	Provide safe connections to adjacent facilities by installing signage and pathways where needed.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Jack Elstro Plaza

		Investment Type
1	Ensure on-site fountain is functioning and train staff on fountain mechanics.	Maintain Existing
2	Install-in-ground bollards to control parking on site.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3	Install electric monument signage.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4	Add utility services to allow for public Wi-Fi, adequate electricity and security.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Construct a shade structure.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
6.	Construct a permanent Farmers Market enclosure.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
7.	Upgrade the site's electrical service to accommodate community and entertainment events.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
8.	Transition the management and oversight of the adjacent parking lot to the Department of Parks and Recreation.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
9.	Explore the addition of on-site social interaction opportunities including fitness equipment and interactive seating elements.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
10.	Renovate the existing pavilion to address current and future maintenance needs.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Whitewater Gorge Park - Test Road Trailhead

		Investment Type
1.	Repair boards along the trail and existing retaining wall.	Maintain Existing
2.	Provide mile markers along the trail.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Develop simple, effective and consistent wayfinding signage to direct users to the Cardinal Greenway.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide pedestrian amenities, including benches and trash cans, where appropriate.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Starr-Gennett Area at Whitewater Gorge Park		Investment Type
1.	Establish a signage program to label existing building footprints.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Clear overgrown vegetation in designated areas to establish a Riverwalk for park patrons to enjoy, increase visibility and discourage vandalism and other criminal activities.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Construct an outdoor concert venue.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Develop the Walk of Fame medallions as a destination.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Provide a historical marker on site that provides information on the previous site uses and buildings.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
6.	Promote the site to the community.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Veterans Park at Whitewater Gorge Park		Investment Type
1.	Clear overgrown vegetation to provide scenic views of the Whitewater River and the dam adjacent to the pedestrian suspension bridge.	Maintain Existing
2.	Clear trail and improve signage to the pedestrian suspension bridge.	Maintain Existing
3.	Add and/or improve lighting leading down to the Whitewater Gorge.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide additional monuments and memorials to honor individuals in the armed forces, and those who serve the community through the Police and Fire Departments..	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Bicentennial Park at Whitewater Gorge Park		Investment Type
1.	Provide simple, effective and consistent wayfinding signage.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Renovate and enhance the existing Fossil Park.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Renovate and repair the existing garage to improve the structure and enhance the appearance.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Highland Lake Golf Course

		Investment Type
1.	Rebrand the golf course as a year-round attraction to draw additional players and local youth, high school and collegiate golf teams.	Maintain Existing
2.	Install a golf simulator to provide players the opportunity to golf at any time, regardless of the weather.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Improve or reconstruct existing parking area.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Add and improve existing driving range and practice facilities to accommodate increased use by residents, visitors and local teams.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Extend beautification efforts onto the golf course, with habitat areas to attract local wildlife.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
6.	Improve the existing restroom to include a women's option.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
7.	Construct a new cart barn on site.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
8.	Construct a new clubhouse on site and include a true food and beverage operation.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
9.	Expand social media outreach and make the golf course part of a "Stay and Play" package with other area courses.	Add/Enhance Programs

East Side Lions Park/Starr Park

		Investment Type
1.	Address homelessness using a person-first approach that requires building trust and collaboration with social service providers to secure housing.	Maintain Existing
2.	Establish crosswalks at all locations where pedestrians are intended to cross.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Provide active amenities for youth to engage in physical activity, such as playground or play structures.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide for an accessible entrance so that everyone can enter the park easily.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
5.	Construct a new restroom facility on site.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities

Freeman Park		Investment Type
1.	Clear overgrown vegetation from the East Fork Whitewater River.	Maintain Existing
2.	Evaluate the potential for river access and connections to future sub-area development.	Maintain Existing
3.	Provide simple, effective and consistent wayfinding signage.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Improve the existing soccer field and facilities.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
5.	Provide an additional international striped court.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
6.	Improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the park and enhance connectivity to the National Road Heritage Trail as it is completed.	Improve Park Access

Greenhouse		Investment Type
1.	Install a rolling gate for the glass house.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Establish improved amenities including an adequate irrigation system, certified compost facility and flower cooler.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Construct new restrooms and an office on site.	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
4.	Construct a pole barn on site (approximate size 30' x 30').	Add/Enhance Park Facilities
5.	Provide additional greenhouse classes such as tree identification, botanically-inspired jewelry, trough making, functional landscapes, pest identification, floral design, water gardening and all-purpose annuals.	Add/Enhance Programs
6.	Hire additional full-time staff to maintain existing and future landscaping needs throughout the parks and open space system.	Increase Staff

The Loop (Phase One); Downtown Bike Trails		Investment Type
1.	Establish wayfinding signage.	Maintain Existing
2.	Install bicycle and pedestrian counters.	Maintain Existing
3.	Establish a bikeshare program.	Add/Enhance Programs

Whitewater Gorge Park

		Investment Type
1.	Clear overgrown vegetation in designated areas along the Whitewater River to establish a Riverwalk with features such as an outdoor amphitheater for park patrons to enjoy, increase visibility and discourage vandalism and other criminal activities.	Maintain Existing
2.	Develop wayfinding signage to direct people to the gorge to increase tourism and educate park patrons on local geology.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Establish an adventure park with activities such as ziplining, aerial adventures, ropes courses, target-oriented activities, tubing, kayaking and canoeing.	Add/Enhance Programs

West Side Lions Park

		Investment Type
1.	Install a new perimeter fence.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Explore the addition of new, on-site, activity options.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Swicker Park

		Investment Type
1.	Consider selling to focus funds where they're most needed.	No Investment Necessary

North 10th Street Park (600 North 10th Street)

		Investment Type
1.	Consider selling to focus funds where they're most needed.	No Investment Necessary

Riverside Park

		Investment Type
1.	Improve the historic bridge to allow for pedestrian use.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Pass Through Park

		Investment Type
1.	Ensure site is ADA accessible.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Improve on-site lighting.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
3.	Provide additional pedestrian seating.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
4.	Provide façade enhancements, such as public art.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities

Wernle Park

		Investment Type
1.	Consider selling to focus funds where they're most needed.	No Investment Necessary

Berryfield Park

		Investment Type
1.	Consider selling to focus funds where they're most needed.	No Investment Necessary

Scantland Park

1.	Consider selling to focus funds where they're most needed.	No Investment Necessary
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Pocket Park

		Investment Type
1.	Providing seating.	Add/Enhance Park Amenities
2.	Provide opportunities for passive recreation.	Add/Enhance Programs






CHAPTER FIVE

THE STEPS FORWARD





Parks are playing an increasingly important role in our communities. Across the United States, we are asking more of our parks and recreation systems than ever before. There is a growing need for parks, open space, trails and recreational programs to revitalize economies, enhance community health and improve quality of life at the state, regional and local levels. While there is a renewed focus being placed on parks and recreation, the organizations and departments that manage and maintain these facilities are facing continued and increasing financial constraints. Though local governments agree that parks and recreation agencies provide important community services, they are often one of the first agencies targeted for large budget cuts. This leaves City leaders and parks professionals with the responsibility of raising additional funds to cover operation, maintenance and improvement costs, all while meeting the increasing needs and expectations of their communities. With community residents experiencing their own financial constraints and the increased use of park facilities, programs, and services resulting in higher maintenance and operations costs, the financial challenge these leaders face is immense. There is no perfect funding solution for city parks- especially in tight economic times - but finding creative financing tools can provide sustainable revenues that allow for the future maintenance and enhancement of the parks and open space system.

FUNDING SUMMARY

Over the past five years, the Department of Parks and Recreation's operating costs have been distributed among five different municipal budget funds, including one reverting fund, and four non-reverting funds. Reverting funds include yearly appropriations and return any unspent monies to the original source at the end of the fiscal year. Non-reverting funds do not revert unspent money and instead allow for funds to accumulate and grow from year to year. The Department's four non-reverting funds handle the revenue and expenses of the Widow Services Program, the City's Farmers Market program, McBride Stadium and the Highland Golf Course. In total, the five funds cumulatively represent a 2020 operating budget for the Department of \$3,058,786; approximately a 3.4% increase over fiscal year 2019 (\$2,954,970).

2020*

	Fund 1301	Fund 9503	Fund 9502	Fund 9516	Fund 1310
		Park Human Services	Highland Golf Course	Farmers Market	McBride Stadium Improvements
	Reverting	Non Reverting			
Operating Revenue					
Auto Excise, CVET, FIT	\$176,177	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Charges for Services	\$152,800	\$0	\$387,800	\$35,000	\$13,050
Circuit Breaker Credits	(\$763,015)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Earnings on Investments	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$14,450	\$20,483	\$73,010	\$52,397	\$0
Property Tax	\$2,731,417	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Adjustments	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Revenue	\$2,313,829	\$20,483	\$460,810	\$87,397	\$13,050
Operating Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,626,909	\$15,059	\$242,829	\$51,765	\$0
Supplies	\$205,663	\$1,150	\$105,050	\$1,600	\$0
Other Services and Charges	\$655,743	\$3,475	\$76,764	\$10,470	\$0
Capital Outlays	\$20,928	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,600
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,509,243	\$19,684	\$424,643	\$63,835	\$13,600

* 2020 financial data was captured in September 2020.

		Operating Revenue Summary					
		2009	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Reverting Accounts (Fund 1301)							
Public	Auto Excise, CVET, FIT	\$189,200	\$156,402	\$156,916	\$95,158	\$168,012	\$176,177
	Property Tax	\$2,179,909	\$2,355,449	\$2,444,183	\$2,589,600	\$2,728,182	\$2,731,417
	Circuit Breaker Credits	\$0	\$0	(\$460,728)	(\$604,300)	(\$656,315)	(\$763,015)
Reverting Accounts (Fund 1301)							
Community	Charges for Services	\$57,500	\$125,135	\$98,989	\$131,148	\$146,314	\$152,800
	Earnings on Investments	\$500	\$0	\$108	\$112	\$150	\$2,000
	Miscellaneous Receipts	\$5,750	\$16,000	\$14,690	\$21,688	\$19,750	\$14,450
	Adjustments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non Reverting Accounts (Fund 9503, Fund 9502, Fund 9516 and Fund 1310)							
Community	Charges for Services	\$409,720	\$466,786	\$441,242	\$469,880	\$421,640	\$435,850
	Earnings on Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Miscellaneous Receipts	\$21,728	\$29,380	\$37,124	\$87,950	\$85,200	\$145,890
	Adjustments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$6,698)	\$0
Total Operating Revenue							
		\$2,864,307	\$3,149,152	\$2,732,524	\$2,791,236	\$2,906,235	\$2,895,569

* 2020 financial data was captured in September 2020.

		Operating Expenses Summary					
		2009	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Reverting Accounts (Fund 1301)							
	Personal Services	\$1,670,760	\$1,444,618	\$1,564,834	\$1,528,201	\$1,591,307	\$1,626,909
	Supplies	\$253,560	\$204,347	\$250,978	\$198,500	\$175,760	\$205,663
	Other Services and Charges	\$575,860	\$497,699	\$571,178	\$586,812	\$658,293	\$655,743
	Capital Outlays	\$99,800	\$32,845	\$80,328	\$40,845	\$10,000	\$20,928
Non Reverting Accounts (Fund 9503, Fund 9502, Fund 9516 and Fund 1310)							
	Personal Services	\$218,428	\$236,755	\$246,891	\$281,842	\$308,481	\$312,033
	Supplies	\$67,350	\$114,015	\$130,347	\$107,550	\$107,700	\$92,600
	Other Services and Charges	\$144,822	\$135,348	\$151,292	\$101,382	\$90,429	\$131,310
	Capital Outlays	\$0	\$0	\$29,741	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,600
Total Operating Expenses							
		\$3,030,580	\$2,665,627	\$3,025,588	\$2,858,132	\$2,954,970	\$3,058,786
Additional Appropriations							
					(\$178,000)		

* 2020 financial data was captured in September 2020.

Each of the Department's budget funds is unique and handles separate revenue and expense line items. Further, each one is impacted by economic pressures in different ways and at different scales. To provide a basic overview, this master planning process analyzed the City's budget at a high level and determined that the Department's operating budget currently comes from three primary categories: Public, Community and Private.

Public Funds

Aptly named, monies coming from this category are allocated from public tax dollars and assessments. Parks departments are largely funded through the use of public tax dollars, and the City of Richmond's Department of Parks and Recreation is no different. With 74% of their operating budget coming from sources such as automobile excise tax and property taxes, the Public category represents the largest revenue source for the department at \$2,144,579 for FY2020. These monies, which are funneled through the Parks and Recreation Fund (Fund 1301), provide for the Department's general operating expenses including personnel and supplies. The available Public funds are continually impacted by the State's Circuit Breaker Credit. The credit, which caps a taxpayer's property tax bill at a set percentage, shows as revenue loss in the fiscal budget due to the uncollectable tax levies created by the circuit breaker credits. In FY2020, the Circuit breaker credit resulted in a revenue loss of \$763,015 which was nearly 12% higher than FY2019. Aside from the Circuit breaker credit impacts, funding from this budget has fluctuated over the last five years but has remained relatively steady.

Community Funds

While the Department's primary revenue source comes from tax allocations, the second largest revenue stream comes from earned and or generated revenue including but not limited to program fees, shelter rentals, Senior Center memberships, pool fees, and concessions. These fees are paid for by the community in exchange for a program, service or use of a facility. In FY2019, \$750,990 (nearly 26%) of the total operating budget came from revenue sources generated within the Parks Department. The monies earned from fees for a service are generated by the Highland Golf Course and the Farmers Market program and are predominately funneled through the four non-reverting funds. While the Public category is often stable and consistent, funding coming through the Community category can be greatly impacted by the local economy in both positive and negative ways. Within the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, the Community revenue streams have been strong and continue to show opportunity for growth.

Private Funds

This funding category takes advantage of the community's appreciation of parks and open spaces. Private funds are those that come directly from individuals or community organizations but are not necessarily given in exchange for a service or activity. Private funds are often direct donations to the Department but can also account for the direct donation of amenities, supplies and resources. These funds can be restricted to a specific park or amenity, or can be given as un-restricted funds meaning they can be applied at the Department and Board's discretion. Currently, the Department does track the donation of Private funds, although it is done separately from the Department's budget. Currently the Department categorizes donations through 34 accounts which directs funds to specific park properties, park facilities, programs and events. These private donations paired with the donations of time, talent and in-kind resources allow the Department to maintain facilities and facilitate programs and events throughout the year.

As the amount of funding support from state and local governments continues to decline, the demand for self-generated revenue from parks and recreation agencies is increasing. Changes in funding, limited revenues and minimal full-time staff positions require parks professionals to become more adaptive to evolving conditions and public input. The public has greater expectations for park performance and offerings now than ever before, and changing social, environmental, and economic conditions are demanding that parks become more proactive in assessing conditions and making informed decisions in investments to benefit their communities. As a result, parks and recreation agencies are looking to do more with less. Providing more recreational options with limited resources means that the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation will need to look internally and find ways to streamline processes and procedures so that the Department operates efficiently on a day-to-day basis. In addition to improving the cost effectiveness of the Department, it is extremely important that the Department be proactive and creative about identifying new revenue opportunities and growing those that already exist.

FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The five-year vision for the Department of Parks and Recreation focuses on creating a resilient and sustainable parks and open space system. Terms like ‘resiliency’ and ‘sustainable’ are often used when referring to the natural environment, and one’s ability to conserve and protect natural resources. However, they can also be used to discuss a community’s ability to respond to change and challenges over a period of time. In order for a community to be resilient and sustainable, they need to have flexibility in how they respond to challenging situations. Oftentimes that flexibility comes from having a set of available resources that the community can consistently rely on or that can be used if necessary.

With a reliance on tax funding and fees for service, the Department’s total annual budget remains constricted and at risk for future challenges based on economic pressures. While specific facilities and programs are able to keep themselves afloat, long-term capital improvements and maintenance expenses are difficult to plan for and incorporate into operational budgets. Restricted staff and budget capacities also make it difficult to expand successful programs and pioneer new opportunities that could benefit segments of the community. In the case of the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation, creating a resilient and sustainable system begins with identifying ways to diversify their revenue streams so that they can expand the available capital resources moving forward. Historically, the Department has shown that they know how to work within the public funds provided, but in order to achieve the strategic initiatives and improvements outlined in this Plan, the Department will need to identify and utilize additional funding resources as well.

Today, the Department is predominately funded through public tax dollars, which is fitting given that the park system provides a service to the community. However, future initiatives and improvements do not need to be funded solely through residential taxes or fees. Like other organizations across the country, the Department has the opportunity to expand their operating revenue by exploring and implementing new funding mechanisms within the three existing funding categories of Public, Commercial and Private. This section highlights a list of those potential sources available to the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation by fund category.

Public Funds

Park Fund

Public tax dollars are currently used to fund the majority of the Department's annual expenses. Monies earned are allocated to the Department and cover personnel, supplies and additional resources to aid in the daily operations of the Department and the regular oversight of the parks and open space system. The primary source of revenue for the Department will be generated through public tax dollars, though increases to the Department's allocation is not anticipated.

Selling of Land

The Richmond parks and open space system includes 23 parks properties. While several properties house multiple amenities that serve a variety of needs, there are a handful of properties that are undeveloped, underutilized and are difficult to access by the community. The properties that are underutilized still require maintenance and oversight but provide little to no benefit to the greater community. In an effort to fund improvements in other areas of the parks and open space system, the Parks and Recreation Board, in partnership with the City, could choose to sell park land to private buyers. The selling of park land would provide monies only at the time of sale and would not be an ongoing source of revenue.

Municipal Bond Program

A municipal bond is a debt issued by a state or municipality to fund public works. Municipal bonds come in two varieties: general obligation and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are used to finance public projects that aren't linked to a particular revenue stream. Revenue bonds, by contrast, are used to finance public projects with the potential to generate revenue. Bonds are generally paid back over a long-term schedule, allowing the City to recoup investment and use collected fees/revenue to pay back the bonds on time. Bonds have been used by the City of Richmond before and continue to be the most feasible instrument for funding large capital improvement efforts.

Commercial Funds

Fees/ Charges

Fees and charges are assessed on the use of park shelters and for some park facilities and recreational and educational programs. Fees and charges are also paid by local vendors who participate in the Farmers Market program. The fees and charges are used to cover the cost of regular maintenance and program supplies. In many instances, the fees and charges paid only cover the cost of the maintenance or facilitation of the event itself. Program fees will continue to be a primary revenue source for the Department. However, increasing fees to allow for additional revenue streams may be difficult given the demographic and socioeconomic challenges within the Richmond community.

Non-Resident Fees/ Charges

The City of Richmond provides various services to residents outside of the incorporated municipal boundary. By exercising their right to have extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), the City has planning and zoning authority over land within the 2-mile fringe surrounding the incorporated area. The residents within the ETJ often use City services as a part of their daily lives- including City parks, open spaces, trails and recreational programs. While these residents utilize City services, they do not pay property taxes to the City. Instead, their residential property taxes go directly to the County.

Since the residents within the ETJ can attend programs and use facilities without having their tax dollars support the Department, non-resident fees could be an opportunity to cover the financial gap. Non-resident fees are assessed to individuals who are residents outside of the local municipality. These fees would need to be carefully planned for and administered so that they did not deter activity or participation.

Public/ Private Partnerships

Public/private partnerships are already being used by the Department to plan for and implement new projects and programs. Currently, the Department partners with individuals and both for profit and non-profit community organizations to hold events, maintain existing amenities and develop new amenities and programs of interest. Oftentimes these partnerships are mutually beneficial and allow the Department to activate park spaces without spending capital resources. In the future, the Department has the opportunity to establish new partnerships to help improve the City's parks and program options while also maintaining existing partnerships.

Grants

Grants are non-repayable funds or products disbursed or given by one party, often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient. In addition to the grant programs facilitated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Parks and Recreation is also able to utilize grants given through other state programs, local organizations and businesses. Grants can be used to fund physical improvement projects as well as programs and events. A listing of known grant opportunities is on file with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Revenue Sharing

A revenue sharing financial model is a specific type of public/private partnership. In these instances, the Department would partner with a company to offer a service or amenity. While the Department may be asked to invest a nominal amount of capital initially, the bulk of the operating and maintenance expenses become the responsibility of the private partner. This agreement limits the expenses of the Department and provides a needed service or amenity to the community. In exchange for their initial investment, the Department would receive a share of the revenue earned by the business, amenity or program. This model can be used to establish larger amenities such as cabin and/or boat rentals but can also be used for smaller services such as concessions in the parks and during community events.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers several grant programs to help municipalities and associated local agencies in providing a number of public outdoor recreational spaces and facilities. The programs operate on a cost reimbursement basis to a government or non-profit organization. Local government can receive one grant per year. While there is a total of six programs that the IDNR administers, the following are applicable to the Richmond parks and open space system.

Land and Water Conservation Funds

The LWCF is a matching assistance program that provides grants for land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. The program is federally funded, requires a 50% local match and is ideal for projects in the range of \$50,000- \$250,000.

Indiana Trails Program

The Indiana Trails Program is a matching assistance program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects are eligible for the program. The program, which previously was known as the Recreational Trails Program allows for a streamlined process by swapping federal funds for state funds through a partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation. Indiana Trails Program projects require a 20% local match and is ideal for projects in the range of \$50,000- \$250,000.

Next Level Trails

The Next Level Trail Program is a matching assistance program that provides grants for the development of regionally and locally significant trails throughout Indiana. The program is funded through Governor Holcomb's broader Next Level Connections infrastructure program and is designed to incentivize collaborative efforts to accelerate trail connections. There is a required local match of 20%. Due to budgetary restrictions associated with COVID 19 response, the Next Level Trails program was put on hold in 2020. The state does intend to reinstate the program at a later date.

Private

Donations

Donations of time, resources and in-kind services can be given to the Department at any time. These resources can be used to help with the development and care of facilities, programs and amenities and often bridge the gap between available Department capacity and necessary resources. As an implementation resource, donations should not be relied on as a primary source since donations can ebb and flow depending on the community's availability and interest. Development funds help to bring stakeholders into the care and advocacy of parks. They can also provide tax benefits to the donors.

Foundations

A dedicated park foundation, also known as a “Friends Group”, is an independent, tax-exempt, non-profit organization that serves as a champion for the local parks and open space system. Through the partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, larger financial resources can often be raised with annual fundraising campaigns, grants, major gifts, capital campaigns, planned giving and endowment funds. Since a park foundation is a charitable organization (501c3), it is structured so that it can easily accept monetary donations from individuals, organizations or corporations. In some instances, the foundation can also lead community efforts such as public engagement, volunteerism and advocacy. Creating a new park foundation would require considerable time and attention but could be useful for long term resource development.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are simply an investment of cash or in-kind resources in return for access to visibility and recognition at a facility or event. Within the parks and open space system, sponsorships can occur in a variety of ways and could result in resources being exchanged for banners on park grounds, naming rights at specific facilities or signage at local community events. Sponsorships can be implemented on a per event basis as part of a yearly recognition program. At any level, sponsorships should be used to leverage the relationships that already exist between vendors, organizations and businesses within the community.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN ACTION PLAN

The draft action plan was presented at the September 10th meeting of the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board. Following the meeting the draft action plan was shared with the board, the master plan team and the public for review and comment. Using the findings from this final review, the previous stakeholder interviews, community workshops and discussions with Department staff, the Department of Parks and Recreation chose to focus their efforts over the next five years on strategic initiatives that balance the interests of the community and the sustainability and resiliency of the department.

The ambitious five-year action plan acknowledges that existing park spaces, facilities and amenities are in need of improvement and prioritizes that investment. While the action plan identifies funding sources to serve as a catalyst for the identified improvements, the action plan also outlines strategic projects that will work to explore, expand and generate new revenue sources for the Department in the long run.

The efforts and initiatives contained within the Action Plan represent those of the highest priority to the greatest number of residents. As previously noted, these high-priority actions will likely require funds from multiple sources and partners. Due to the diverse nature of the Department's priorities the action plan has been broken down into two key parts: Short Term Priority Action Steps and Mid-Long Term Priority Action Steps. The short term priority list outlines a series of strategic initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency of the department along with initiatives that allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to explore new ideas in a thoughtful manner. The mid to long term priority list identifies capital improvement projects that will improve park and facility maintenance, amenities and facilities.

SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (1-2 YEARS)

The following projects and initiatives have been identified as short term priorities. These initiatives will require a nominal capital investment but can be achieved through available Department resources or can be accommodated during yearly budgeting processes. Additionally, many of the outlined action items can be achieved by empowering existing staff to champion new initiatives under the umbrella of their current roles and responsibilities. Identified projects have not been further prioritized. Determination of which projects should take precedence should be decided upon by the Parks and Recreation Board and should be based on available resources. The intent is that these initiatives would be completed within a 1-2 year timeframe.

Action Step	Responsible Division	Estimated Investment	Available Resources
Shift the ownership responsibilities through the sale or transfer of land, and/ or share the maintenance responsibilities of Swicker Park, North 10th Street Park, Wernle Park, Berryfield Park, Scantland park and the JV Diamonds at Clear Creek Park with other Departments, organizations or private entities.	Superintendent City Leadership	None	N/A
Develop parks and recreation management tools to effectively track reservations, program registrations and collect data for users and profile information.	Business Manager	None	Existing Staff
Consolidate and apply any current POS systems that can be streamlined for better functionality.	Business Manager	None	Existing Staff
Develop an appropriate key management system.	Business Manager	None	Existing Staff
Develop a Work Order System to streamline maintenance and operations assignments.	Assistant Superintendent Maintenance Division	None	Existing Staff
Increase staff capacity by establishing a Maintenance Supervisor position to streamline the processes of the mechanical, maintenance and janitorial division.	Superintendent City Leadership	Varies (depending on salary requirements)	Department Annual Budget
Increase staff capacity within the Floral Division to expand the successful educational and service offerings of the department.	Superintendent City Leadership	Varies (depending on salary requirements)	Department Annual Budget
Invest in succession planning for program staffing to ensure seamless transitions.	Superintendent	\$2,500-\$5,000	Department Annual Budget
Add parks and recreation staff as needed to support community needs and service expectations of residents and plan for long and short-range departmental growth and operations.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent	Varies (depending on salary requirements)	Department Annual Budget

Action Step	Responsible Division	Estimated Investment	Available Resources
Continue to invest in staff training and development to increase dependability, stay current with trends and encourage cooperation and communication between department divisions.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent	Varies (depending on training opportunity)	Department Annual Budget
Rebrand the Richmond Senior Community Center and offer a range of intergenerational activities to encourage community residents to visit.	Senior Center Division	\$10,000-\$15,000	Department Annual Budget
Develop a Marketing and Utilization Plan to measure and promote the image, usage, role, and effectiveness of Richmond's parks and recreational programs. Use the plan to increase community exposure to park properties, programs and activities including low or no-cost facilities and services.	Superintendent Senior Center Division Recreation Division Golf Division Floral Division	\$10,000-\$15,000	Department Annual Budget
Establish a Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan and funding program using the findings of this 2020 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	Superintendent City Leadership	None	Existing Staff
Establish a comprehensive wayfinding signage plan for the parks and open space system and implement signage improvements within each of the City's park facilities. Signage should include welcome, directional and mile markers as appropriate to the site.	Superintendent City Leadership	\$10,000-\$15,000 (Depending on scope)	Department Annual Budget
Establish a Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Maintenance Management Plan to identify improvements to maintenance practices, necessary equipment needs and improvements to internal procedures.	Assistant Superintendent Maintenance Division	\$20,000-\$30,000 (Depending on scope)	Department Annual Budget
Conduct a Farmers Market Strategic Plan to identify ways to expand and strengthen the Farmers Market program.	Superintendent Recreation Division	\$30,000-\$40,000 (Depending on scope)	Department Annual Budget
Create a Comprehensive Tree Inventory to determine the proper planting, maintenance and removal of trees on park property.	Floral Division	None	Existing Staff
Develop a comprehensive partnership agreement with City legal involvement.	Superintendent City Legal Department	None	Existing Staff
Keep an accurate record of department partners and volunteers that includes names, contact information, project/ program names and year of participation.	Business Manager	None	Existing Staff

MID TO LONG TERM PRIORITIES (3-5 YEARS)

The following projects and initiatives have been identified as mid to long term priorities. Identified projects have been prioritized by location to align with the recommendation that the City focus investment within the City's flagship park properties, facilities, trails and recreational programs. Within any given property or facility projects have not been further prioritized. Determination of which projects should take precedence should be decided upon by the Parks and Recreation Board and should be based on available resources.

The listed projects, while critical to the maintenance and improvement of the park system will require significant capital investment. Funding resources have been identified for each proposed project and while some projects can be done using a mix of commercial and private funds, many will need to rely on public funds as well. Securing these financial resources will take additional time and may be impacted by local economic conditions. It is recommended that discussion and planning for these projects begin now so that the construction/ implementation can occur within a 3-5 year timeframe.

Glen Miller Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Repair or replace existing playground.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants Public/ Private Partnerships
Establish additional seating areas around the pond.	Park Funds/ Bond Public/ Private Partnerships
Dredge the existing pond.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Improve the Richmond Rose Garden/ EG Hill Area to provide additional space for weddings and small events.	Public/ Private Partnership Grants
Remodel the existing Bandshell; If deemed cost prohibitive, construct a new Bandshell.	Park Funds/ Bond Sponsorships
Construct a new shelter at the existing playground.	Park Funds/ Bond Public/ Private Partnerships
Limit vehicular traffic within the park by establishing shared-use roadways.	Park Funds/ Bond

Middlefork Reservoir

Action Step	Available Resources
Reconstruct existing boat dock system to improve accessibility and expand capacity.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Improve or reconstruct existing parking area.	Park Funds/ Bond
Ensure that existing restrooms meet ADA guidelines.	Park Funds/ Bond
Improve the service center by updating the gutters and HVAC system.	Park Funds/ Bond
Establish a Boat Shack to facilitate rentals in a more efficient manner.	Revenue Sharing
Run water utilities to the existing cabin.	Park Funds/ Bond
Evaluate opportunities for expansion and additional amenities, such as a restaurant, year-round storage and primitive cabins.	Revenue Sharing

Cordell Municipal Pool at Clear Creek Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Repair all decking, shower rooms and sink areas.	Park Funds/ Bond
Improve the existing chemical system.	Park Funds/ Bond
Provide additional programming such as aquatic aerobics, aqua-yoga, dive-in movies and programs for those with developmental and physical disabilities.	Park Funds/ Bond Fees/ Charges

Springwood Lake Park (64 Waterfall Road)

Action Step	Available Resources
Evaluate potential water remediation strategies to improve water quality and establish a public fishing area.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Demolish the existing Edventure Lab if improvements cannot be made. Consider constructing a chapel or other small event facility in this location.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Enhance and repair existing site lighting throughout the park.	Park Funds/ Bond
Renovate the existing pavilion to address current and future maintenance needs.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants Private Funds
Evaluate opportunities for the construction of a new well on site.	Park Funds/ Bond

Clear Creek Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Repair existing softball diamonds to support the softball league and tournaments for additional revenue.	Public/ Private Partnership
Establish additional pickleball courts where appropriate.	Park Funds/ Bond Public/ Private Partnership
Construct a pedestrian bridge across W Main Street to connect the north and south portions of the park.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Improve walkability by establishing a pedestrian network connecting park amenities and facilities.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants

Richmond Senior Center

Action Step	Available Resources
Expand outdoor fitness areas.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Complete the installation of the 5 remaining HVAC systems for the building.	Park Funds/ Bond
Install new flooring in activity and dining rooms.	Park Funds/ Bond
Expand facility to allow for additional indoor pickleball courts.	Park Funds/ Bond
Provide new and innovative programming such as personal training, massage and spa services, on-demand fitness classes, physical therapy and competitive sports leagues to ensure that the center's programming remains relevant.	Public/ Private Partnerships Fees/ Charges

Mary Scott Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Improve the existing cabin on site.	Park Funds/ Bond Public/ Private Partnership Grants

Former Glen Miller Golf Course

Action Step	Available Resources
Establish low-mow or no-mow areas.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Explore opportunities for the adaptive reuse of the former Glen Miller Golf Course. Revenue generating opportunities should be a priority.	Revenue Sharing

Undeveloped CSX Corridor & C& O Depot

Action Step	Available Resources
Rehabilitate the existing structure.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants

Jack Elstro Plaza

Action Step	Available Resources
Add utility services to allow for public Wi-Fi, adequate electricity and security.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Construct a shade structure.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants Sponsorships
Construct a permanent Farmers Market enclosure.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants Sponsorships
Upgrade the site's electrical service to accommodate community and entertainment events.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants

Starr - Gennett Area at Whitewater Gorge Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Develop the Walk of Fame medallions as a destination.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Promote the site to the community.	Public/Private Partnerships

Bicentennial Park at Whitewater Gorge Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Renovate and repair the existing garage to improve the structure and enhance the appearance.	Park Funds/ Bond

Veterans Park at Whitewater Gorge Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Clear overgrown vegetation to provide scenic views of the Whitewater River and the dam adjacent to the pedestrian suspension bridge.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Clear trail and improve signage to the pedestrian suspension bridge.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants
Add and/or improve lighting leading down to the Whitewater Gorge.	Park Funds/ Bond Grants

Highland Lake Golf Course

Action Step	Available Resources
Install a golf simulator to provide players the opportunity to golf at any time, regardless of the weather.	Park Funds/ Bond Revenue Sharing Fees/ Charges
Add and improve existing driving range and practice facilities to accommodate increased use by residents, visitors and local teams.	Park Funds/ Bond Fees/ Charges
Construct a new cart barn on site.	Park Funds/ Bond

East Side Lions Park/ Starr Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Provide for an accessible entrance so that everyone can enter the park easily.	Park Funds/ Bond
Construct a new restroom facility on site.	Park Funds/ Bond

Whitewater Gorge Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Establish an adventure park with activities such as ziplining, aerial adventures, ropes courses, target-oriented activities, tubing, kayaking and canoeing.	Park Funds/ Bond Revenue Sharing Fees/ Charges

West Side Lions Park

Action Step	Available Resources
Install a new perimeter fence.	Park Funds/ Bond
Explore the addition of new, on-site, activity options.	Park Funds/ Bond

PLAN EVALUATION AND UPDATES

The action plan should be re-evaluated at the end of each fiscal year, considering progress made, available funding, and new or changing needs. An annual review of the master plan also allows for the consideration of ongoing public input and opinion as new ideas and challenges emerge. Additionally, larger improvement projects may need to be phased to reflect available funding. This yearly review is necessary to help the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain the ability to provide quality park properties, facilities, trails and recreational programs.

Within any given year there may be unforeseen circumstances that may change the priorities of the five-year planning period. When this occurs, a plan amendment may be submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation to document the change in priorities and action steps. Formal amendments to your plan are only required if they involve projects proposed in grant applications requiring a five-year master plan. The competitiveness and eligibility of a grant application depends in part on the project being included as a priority in the park board's master plan. If a project is not originally in the plan, it is important that the project be added by a plan amendment.

Proposed amendments should be reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board prior to submittal to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined here: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/files/or-planningguidelines.pdf>.



