



ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

2008 - 2012
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

December 21, 2007



ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA PARKS AND RECREATION 2008-2012 MASTER PLAN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

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Term expires 01/04/11
*Replaced by Kim Stacey who
will fill out the term*

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ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2008 - 2012

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PREFACE

A good place is refreshing and rejuvenating; after you leave it, you feel better for having been there.

Sometimes you can't miss a good place when you stumble upon it - for it has great beauty to beguile and recharge you

or you don't miss it because it possesses the siren call of thoughtful design touches that say someone wanted you to feel welcome there.

At other times, a good place works well not because of an aesthetic appeal but because it is neighborly - it draws people in and enables them to relax companionably.

It knits its residents together as they wile away time together and it is seen as the place to be.

Projects for Public Spaces



DEFINITIONS

PARKS

Parks are publicly owned spaces developed with facilities for active and/or passive recreation use. Parks provide a place to play and to enhance physical and mental well-being. They can also be a focus of community identity and character.

OPEN SPACE

Open Space can be defined as natural landscapes that remain relatively undisturbed. They can range from pristine preserves of high ecological significance to greenways. The broadest definition of open space includes land that does not have structures for residential, commercial, institutional or industrial use.

These lands may be in a natural state (e.g., nature preserves, floodplains and wetlands) or in a developed state (e.g., playing fields, plazas, cemeteries). They may also be in the public domain (e.g., municipal parks, plazas), or in the private domain (e.g., residential common areas, golf courses, farms, woodlots, etc.).

A more restricted definition for open space is used in this Plan. Open space is defined for purposes of this Plan as land that is preserved and protected by environmental regulations or by purchase, conservation easements, dedication and/or donation to a public agency or land trust.

These categories of open space may be under public or private ownership and may or may not be open for public access and use. Protected open space serves many purposes including recreation, protecting our water quality and wildlife, buffering neighborhoods, and providing visual relief and contrast from our built environment.

PARK VALUES

Public parks provide millions of Americans with the opportunity to be physically active. Physical activity is an essential part of an individual's efforts to stay healthy, fight obesity and prevent chronic conditions that lead to coronary disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Parks have true economic benefits. Proximity to a developed state, regional or county park improves property value. The economic benefits of park and recreation areas are manifold, but one of the most significant is the increase in value of private land adjacent or near protected public land.

Parks provide vital green space in a fast-developing American landscape, and provide vegetative buffers to construction and development, thus reducing the effects of sprawl.

More importantly, parks and public lands also provide groundwater recharge areas, floodplain protection, natural sound barriers, storm water protection from wetlands, reductions in heat island effects, and carbon uptake from abundant trees and vegetation. Parks keep our living environment healthy.

Parks preserve critical wildlife habitat. As our nation develops and our rural, agricultural and forest landscape is being lost, open space and wildlife habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate. The connected network of local, county, regional, state and national parks from across our country provide permanently protected wildlife habitat corridors for thousands of indigenous and migratory wildlife species.

In addition, county parks and community parks allow natural wildlife to co-exist with people while providing enjoyment for children and families.

Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions that are critical to maintaining cohesion and pride. Parks provide a meeting place where community members can develop social ties, and where healthy behavior is modeled and admired.

People gather to share experiences, socialize and build community bonds in common green spaces. These public commons are often the glue that holds the community together and the means to maintaining and improving future positive social interactions.

Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness. In an increasingly complex world, more and more people are placing a high value on achieving the feelings of relaxation and peacefulness that contact with nature, recreation and exposure to natural open spaces bring.

People go to the park to get in a better mood, to reinvigorate themselves and to decrease the anxieties of daily life.



“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

-Warren Buffet

Public parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands for the benefit and use of all. Since the creation of the first national park in the early 1900's and the subsequent development and growth of state, county and local park systems in virtually every part of our nation, Americans have had a special relationship with their parks and public lands.

A love of parks is one of the defining characteristics of our national identity. Americans love their parks, historic sites, national monuments, recreation areas and public open spaces because they bring such joy and pleasure to all people. In addition, the American public has shown time after time that they are willing to care for their parks, protect them, and pay for them.

Richard J. Dolesh is acting director of NRPA's Public Policy Division.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEISURE SERVICES

"The measure of any great civilization", according to John Ruskin, "is its cities; and a measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public space, its parks, and squares".

Parks, open space, greenways, trails and all recreation experiences contribute significantly to counter the depersonalization in our society. Park and recreation programs bring people together in family groups, organizations, or just social interaction among individuals.

A strong leisure service system is essential to address the fundamental needs of a modern society, especially protecting and preserving open spaces to meet the demands of the future. The quality of the community's Parks and Recreation service is a reflection on the community. It is a mirror of the observer's perception of what life in that county is all about.

SOCIAL ISSUES

We live in a society that has been hugely influenced by electronics. Starting with television, youngsters spend more time in front of this device and less time involved in a healthy outlet of sport or play. Now we have the internet, cell phones, and portable devices that can give us movies, music, and games wherever we go. Consequently, we have an epidemic of obesity today, partly attributable to the sedentary attractions around us.

It can be argued that many aspects of the electronics are educational. Much can be learned via the Internet, etc. But the essential need for play, exploration and exercise cannot be ignored. So, what is the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in this scenario?

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) provides a variety of programs and services, at a modest cost to the participants, to the best of their current financial and personnel capacity. Any expansion of programs and services will require additional funds, unless fees are adjusted to recover the costs of new programs and services. This is a fundamental policy decision.

When planning for expanded services, it is important for the PRD to continuously monitor all recreational services currently available in the county through other providers. Where are the service voids, unfulfilled by others? Is a new service important to county residents?

Will this service address our environmental and social needs? Will additional funding be available to the PRD, or can we charge adequately to recover costs for this new service?

Recognition of the outdoor recreational needs in the community, and an assessment of services available, in aggregate, will assist the PRD in determining their role in future recreation programming. But future expansion will largely depend on finances and the philosophical issue of fees and charges.

COUNTY PARKS

The primary role and responsibility of the PRD is one of stewardship over the natural resource properties it owns for public use. The care and maintenance of these parks is a reflection on the Park Board and staff, the County Commissioners, the County Council and even the citizens of the community. High quality care of park properties is translated by any observer as a high class image of the community in which they are located.

Equally important is a diligent acquisition program to secure added parklands, especially in anticipation of areas beyond the reach of expected urban expansion. Later in this plan we discuss the different classifications of parks: Active, Passive, Social, and Interpretative-Educational as defined by use patterns and service requirements.

CONCLUSIONS

Parks and recreation programs are essential to the quality of the community. The PRD services cannot alone combat the challenges of modern society, but can contribute significantly. The holistic approach to the provision of services is ultimately the most effective and efficient course of action. This includes an awareness of the financial, organizational and volunteer resources that may be linked by core beliefs, and complimentary to your own goals.

Park property is the exclusive responsibility of the PRD. Without question, real estate ownership imposes a primary priority for the PRD of stewardship excellence, not only for those who enjoy the parks today, but for future generations as well.

Outdoor educational programming and related services is also a legitimate expectation of the PRD, but not exclusive. The Department may find its primary role to be that of facilitating another provider in some instances.

At other times the PRD may be the only provider, or will partner with others to strengthen the service. It is important for the PRD to continue seeking out strategic alliances, and forge strong connections with others who are driven by the common desire to serve the citizens of Allen County. Any combination of energy is always a prudent requisite to any initiative.

There are no simple, single answers to the questions, nor should there be.

NEEDS AND DEMANDS:

The Board recognizes that it has the responsibility to provide a specific natural resource and outdoor recreation niche for the residents of Allen County to the best of their financial capability.

The changing behavioral patterns, family and social structures, economics and demographics within the population of the county and incorporated cities and towns must all be carefully analyzed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

This information, along with the results of the recent public input participation from support groups and public planning input at Board meetings, aid in the assessment of the county's needs and demand for facilities and opportunities.



CONSOLIDATION OR COOPERATION?

The operational philosophy of the **Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department** and the **Allen County Parks and Recreation Department** vary by the very nature of their central purpose and mandates. The Fort Wayne PRD is primarily a classic urban park system with focus on active recreational lands, facilities and programs augmented by passive and restorative areas.

While natural resource preservation is an integral part of the Fort Wayne PRD mission, it plays a secondary role to providing for the active recreational needs of over 250,000 city residents.

The Allen County PRD fulfills the essential need for preservation of natural resources in the unincorporated portions of the county and purposefully provides spaces and places for passive outdoor recreational initiatives through interpretive, educational and nature related programs. The citizens of Allen County are fortunate to have several agencies providing parks and recreational services. A variety of park resources are available, whether provided by the County,

Townships, or Cities and Towns within the County. The private and not-for-profit sectors also make recreational opportunities available.

Community shareholders support and appreciate this variety of resources, but also want to know that all tax- supported operations are efficient and effective. To this end, discussions between governmental agencies have focused on a variety of consolidation structures and cooperation that would potentially increase efficiency, without losing effectiveness.

Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne, in their decision to jointly plan their respective Park Master Plans, have already taken action on a cost effective initiative.

The philosophical and operational differences between Allen County and Fort Wayne are noted and respected. Efforts should continue, however, to capitalize of any opportunities for further cooperation, where such efforts will optimize service and reduce cost.

Many options have been discussed in the past. They include:

1. Merging Allen County and Fort Wayne Park Departments.
2. Securing enabling legislation for a Park District, establishing one provider in the County with taxing authority.
3. Establishing inter-departmental agreements for the provision of reciprocal services.
4. Purchase of service agreements between departments.

These are but a few of the methods available for cooperation between the departments.

A progressive step in cooperation between the City and County Parks and Recreation Departments could be the future joint acquisition of parkland in identified areas of need. The parcels should be large enough to accommodate the needs of both urban and county residents, and eventually designed and developed to advance the service goals of each agency.

Each (regional sized) park could have active use components and preserved natural areas. Each agency could design and develop the park portion that pertains to their particular interest. Further, each respective agency would be responsible for the management and maintenance of that portion of the park(s).

The scope and scale differences between the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County must be understood and appreciated, but both agencies are urged to continue pursuing strategies with one another that might increase productivity with cost effective results.



OUR REASONS FOR PLANNING?

Our purpose is not simply to produce a plan, but to...

1. Improve agency management.
2. Establish direction and set constraints.
3. Define goals, objectives and priorities.
4. Communicate direction to staff.
5. Allocate agency resources.
6. Facilitate delegation of responsibilities.
7. Manage change.
8. Assure public accountability.
9. Evaluate success.
10. Promote consistency in decisions.
11. Promote cooperation and unity.



GENERAL PLANNING GOALS

- Fulfill the original and primary purpose for establishing the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department...to provide needed parks, recreational opportunities and open space facilities throughout the county which fill the void between those provided on a state-wide basis and those provided by local governments.
- Provide for the comprehensive outdoor recreational needs of the county to extent possible within resources constraints.
- Provide healthful and safe recreational pursuits, facilities and programs that reflect the area's unique composition of persons, physical setting, and local resources.
- Preserve and enhance the county's diverse natural and human resources and encourage greater public awareness and education of our attributes.
- These attributes include scenic resources, cultural antiquities, historical places and unique geological and environmental settings. These features should ideally be linked by trails or other means.

OUR PLAN OBJECTIVES:

Criteria established by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation (SCORP) have been used in guiding this plan.

This plan recognizes the significance of the **SCORP** document and incorporates pertinent digest format portions of that plan to illustrate the synergy necessary to meet local, regional and state objectives and needs. It recognizes existing conditions and forecasts observations for future, orderly growth and preservation of facilities for the ACPRD.

ORGANIZATION

On July 19, 1965, the Allen County Park Board was formed. On July 28, 1965 their first meeting was *held*. The original 5-member board was appointed by the Circuit Court Judge of Allen County.

The goal of this board was to serve the citizens of Allen County with park areas for recreation and also to acquire large areas of land to help ensure conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

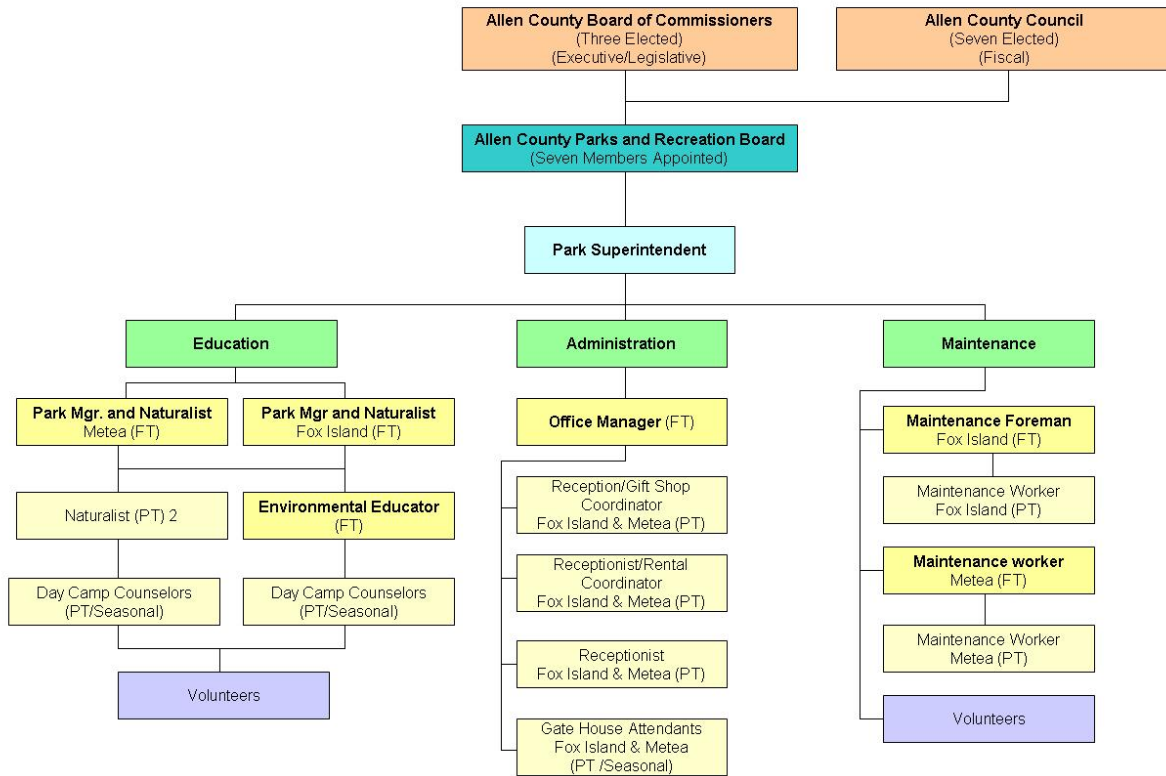
In 1985, the Allen County Park and Recreation Board was re-established in accordance with the amended Indiana Park and Recreation Ordinance dated July 19, 1965, as authorized by Indiana Code 36-10-3. Under this amended ordinance, the 5-member board was increased to a 7-member board and became effective April 18, 1985.

These seven members are appointed by five sources rather than only one source under the original ordinance. Members are appointed as follows:

- 2-members appointed by the Circuit Court Judge;
 - 2-members appointed by the County Council;
 - 1-member appointed by the County Commissioners;
 - 1-member selected by the County Extension Committee; and
 - 1-member appointed by the Mayor of Fort Wayne.
- Each member serves a staggered term.*

They currently meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. On an as-needed basis, and in accordance with Indiana Code, they will conduct an executive session for special concerns such as real estate options or personnel matters. The Park Board is under the authority of both the Allen County Commissioners and County Council.

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OUTLINE OF AGENCY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Department has the inherent responsibility of being the primary provider for the county's public park and recreation services for the county of Allen.

The Department manages over 895 acres of preserved open space, wetlands, lakes and woodlands and offers an assortment of educational and interpretive programs for its citizens.

The population of Allen County is 347,316 people based on 2006 estimates. The provision of service is an ongoing challenge with individuals relatively unique in terms of interests and need for park and recreation services. In today's hectic lifestyles, when professional park and recreation services are available, it makes a significant difference in the quality of people's lives, regardless of age, ethnic background, or socio-economic status.

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Department has an envious tradition of providing outstanding park and recreation services to the citizens of Allen County. Much of the Department's success is based on sound management practices and the good financial stewardship by the professional staff.

This success is in no small measure supported by the investment of time, funding and spirit of the corps of treasured volunteers who invest their passion and devotion in the support of Allen County's parks. Without them, the system would be severely diminished.

Among the notable qualities that identify the Park and Recreation Department is the dedicated leadership provided by the Park and Recreation Board. Essential and significant assistance is also provided to the Department through the philanthropic support of trusts, foundations, estates, and individual donors.

The Department operation provides a good balance of property, facilities and interpretive/educational programs for the citizens of the county. In addition, the Board interacts regularly with committees, associations and groups having an interest in the philosophy of county parks and recreation.

The staff is professional, well trained, and involved in related professional associations.

They keep abreast of national trends and contemporary technical information by attendance at workshops and seminars on a variety of pertinent parks and recreation topics.

Continued dedication to training is essential to remaining current with regulations and trends. It is highly recommended that all staff continue to take full advantage of the many educational opportunities that are available.

The Administrator interacts regularly with a host of committees, volunteers and special interest groups having an interest in Allen County Parks and Recreation.

Essential to the health of a Department is the direction provided by establishing and maintaining effective policies. Policies reviewed and passed by the Park and Recreation Board are the foundation and guide to sound administrative practices. It is through our policies that consistent decision making and direction is sustained.

POLICIES HELP ENSURE THAT:

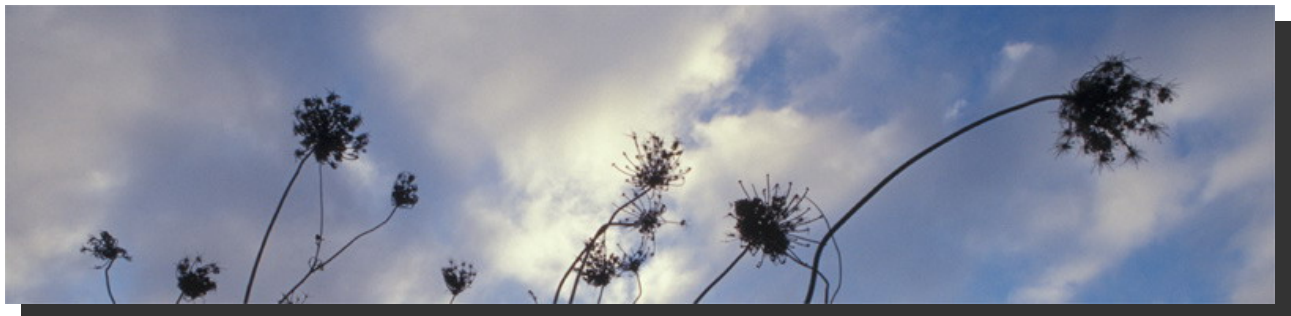
- a. planning efforts receive significant attention and comprehensive review;
- b. park lands are held and not dissipated by allocation to purposes other than those for which they were acquired;
- c. special privilege to individuals is denied and that all citizens are treated equitably;
- d. all possible effort is made to improve the quality and diversity of park lands, facilities, and programs for Allen County residents; and,
- e. cost efficiency and quality service throughout the entire organization.

THESE POLICIES:

- 1. Communicate the department’s scope of authority and to permit staff to function within that authority
- 2. Provide a framework for decision making
- 3. Define the department’s responsibility to the public and to enable those who have direct contact with the public to meet citizen requirements quickly and directly.
- 4. Provide communication, coordination, and increased continuity throughout the department

Allen County Parks are owned by the people of Allen County and operated by the Allen County Parks and Recreation Board, appointed by area public and elected officials.

Our parks are funded by the County of Allen and by user fees, facility rentals, program fees, grants, donations and gifts. Staff salaries are provided by county tax revenues with all operating and maintenance expenses supplied by user fees and through other sources.



OUR MISSION

To establish and manage a permanent park system incorporating values of conservation, outdoor education and nature preservation; and to provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of Allen County within this structure.

***NOTE:** The mission of the Department is designed to be achievable and measurable. The Board will evaluate the mission on an annual basis along with the specific goals to ensure continued forward focus and progress toward achieving the strategic goals of this master plan.*

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS PROVIDE:

- Natural areas for recreation and nature study.
- Environmental education for thousands of Allen County school children.
- Natural and cultural history programs for people of all ages.
- Careful management of county park system resources to maintain and increase natural diversity and recreational opportunities.
- Rental facilities in a beautiful natural setting.



OPERATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The identification of Board/Department goals and objectives helps to provide basis for the implementation of the Park Master Plan. Goals are broad policy statements and state a desired outcome in general terms.

Goals and **objectives** serve as a framework for formulating Department policies and Board planning decisions.

Objectives are defined as more specific actions that are to be accomplished within an identified time frame, which when achieved, help to meet a goal.

GOALS:

GOAL - MAINTAIN EXISTING PROPERTY AND FACILITIES: MAKE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN AFFORDABLE SPENDING LEVELS.

1. Protect and maintain all aspects of the native environment.
2. Provide sufficient resources, both financial, material and personnel to properly maintain facilities.
3. Conduct daily inspections of park grounds and structures for cleanliness and safety, and take necessary corrective measures.
4. Provide barrier-free access to facilities utilizing A.D.A. standards.



GOAL - PROVIDE WELL-BALANCED RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR ALL CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF SEX, AGE, RACE OR ABILITY.

1. Programs will emphasize nature appreciation, related crafts, outdoor education wellness and special events.
2. Coordinate efforts with other agencies providing recreational services and facilities to minimize duplication and to maximize programming opportunities through cooperative strategies.

GOAL - PROPERLY MANAGE THE DEPARTMENT'S FINANCES.

1. Monitor income and expenses daily-weekly-monthly: as needed.
2. Review all fees and charges at least annually, taking into consideration the Department's need to generate income while providing reasonably priced services.
3. Consider new sources of revenues, which are consistent with other Department goals.
4. Seek state and federal grants; solicit foundations, donations and other funding sources when appropriate.

GOAL - ANTICIPATE FUTURE NEEDS AND SEEK REASONABLE SOLUTIONS.

1. Encourage communication between the Department and the general public, special interest groups, students, seniors and others through open meetings, questionnaires, newsletters, brochures, personal contacts and other means.
2. Seek shared commitments from special interest groups to accomplish common goals.

GOAL - ANTICIPATE GROWTH AND INCREASED DEMANDS ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

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

OBJECTIVES:

1. Reflect the demands and needs of the Allen County residents within the scope of the mission.
2. Wisely use and preserve the county's natural resources, parks and facilities.
3. Expand recreational opportunities in Allen County.
4. Assist the Park Board in making prudent planning and fiscal decisions for the next 5-years.

Our Success will be measured by:

- *Satisfaction; and sustainability*
- *Participation*
- *Accessibility*
- *Strategic acquisition/s*



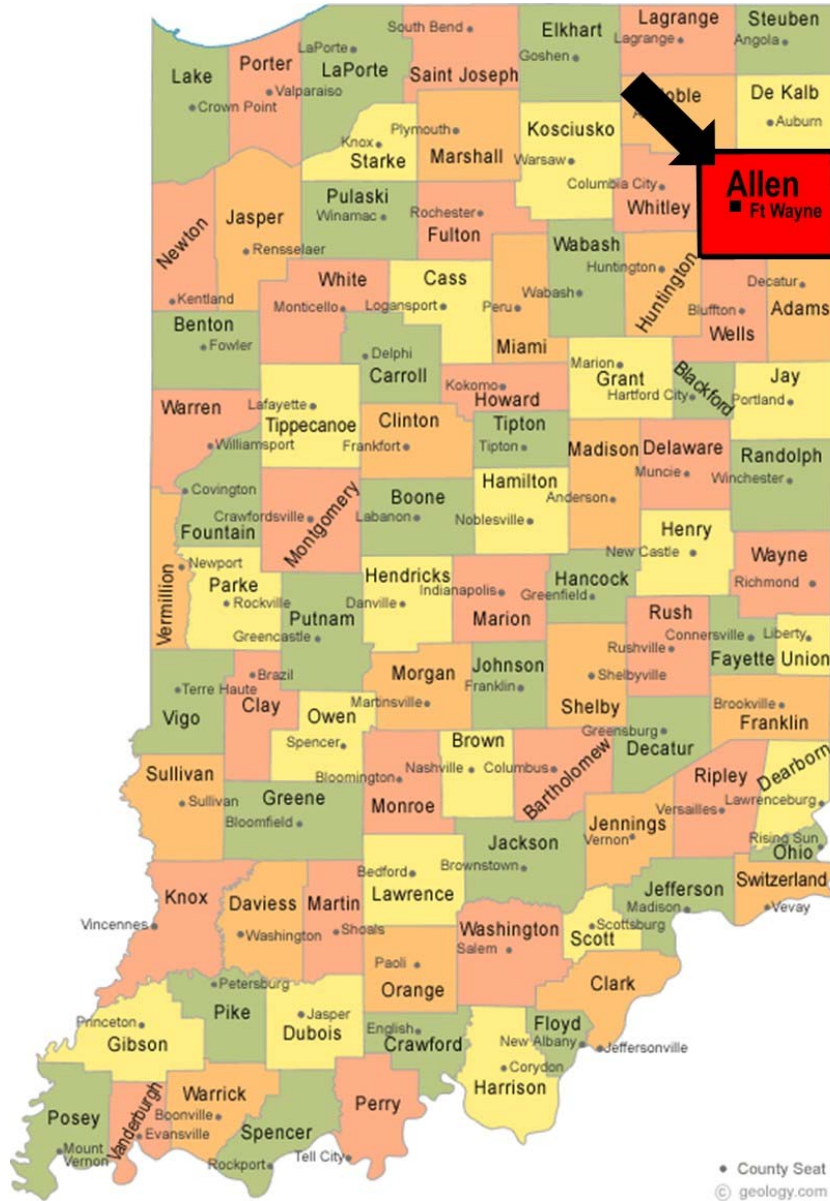
STEWARDSHIP

The recommendations of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan are designed to expand upon the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department, cultivating:

- A Department focusing on consistently meeting and exceeding citizen expectations;
- A Department that utilizes innovative ideas and methods to successfully meet challenges posed by budgetary/ facility and staffing limitations;
- A Parks and Recreation system that benefits residents by increasing services to all age groups and providing diverse opportunities;
- A Parks and Recreation agency that sees itself as a viable partner in providing community recreation services;
- A stewardship approach to providing high-quality facilities, existing and future, through judicious use of public funds;
- Cooperation and partnerships among the Department/ schools, community-based recreational entities, other local and regional governments, and the private sector in providing recreational services and facilities;
- A proactive planning process guided by community needs and executable strategies; and
- A process of reviewing and updating this master plan annually.



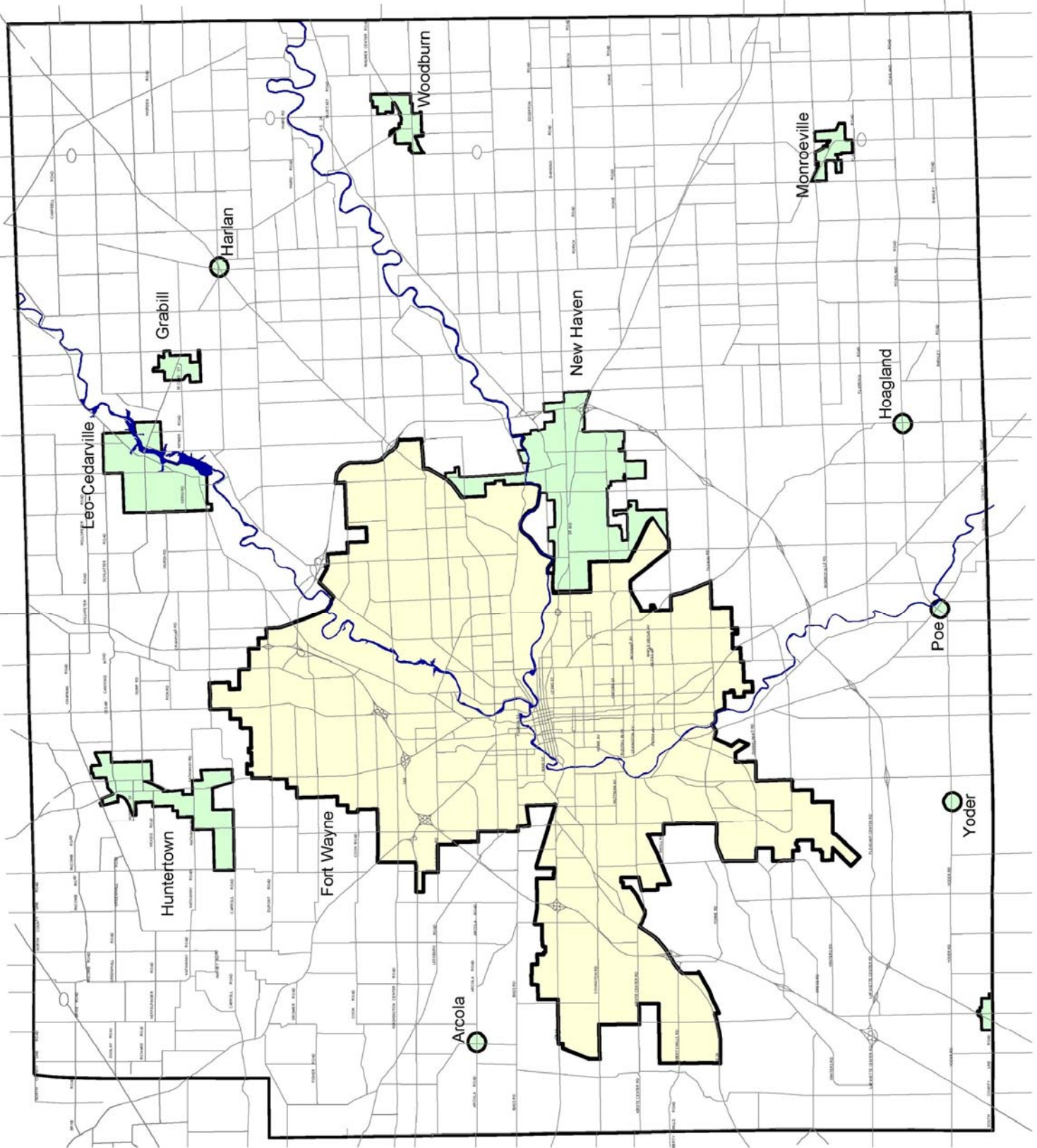
ALLEN COUNTY is in the northeastern part of Indiana.
It has a land area of 429,440 acres.
Fort Wayne is the county seat.



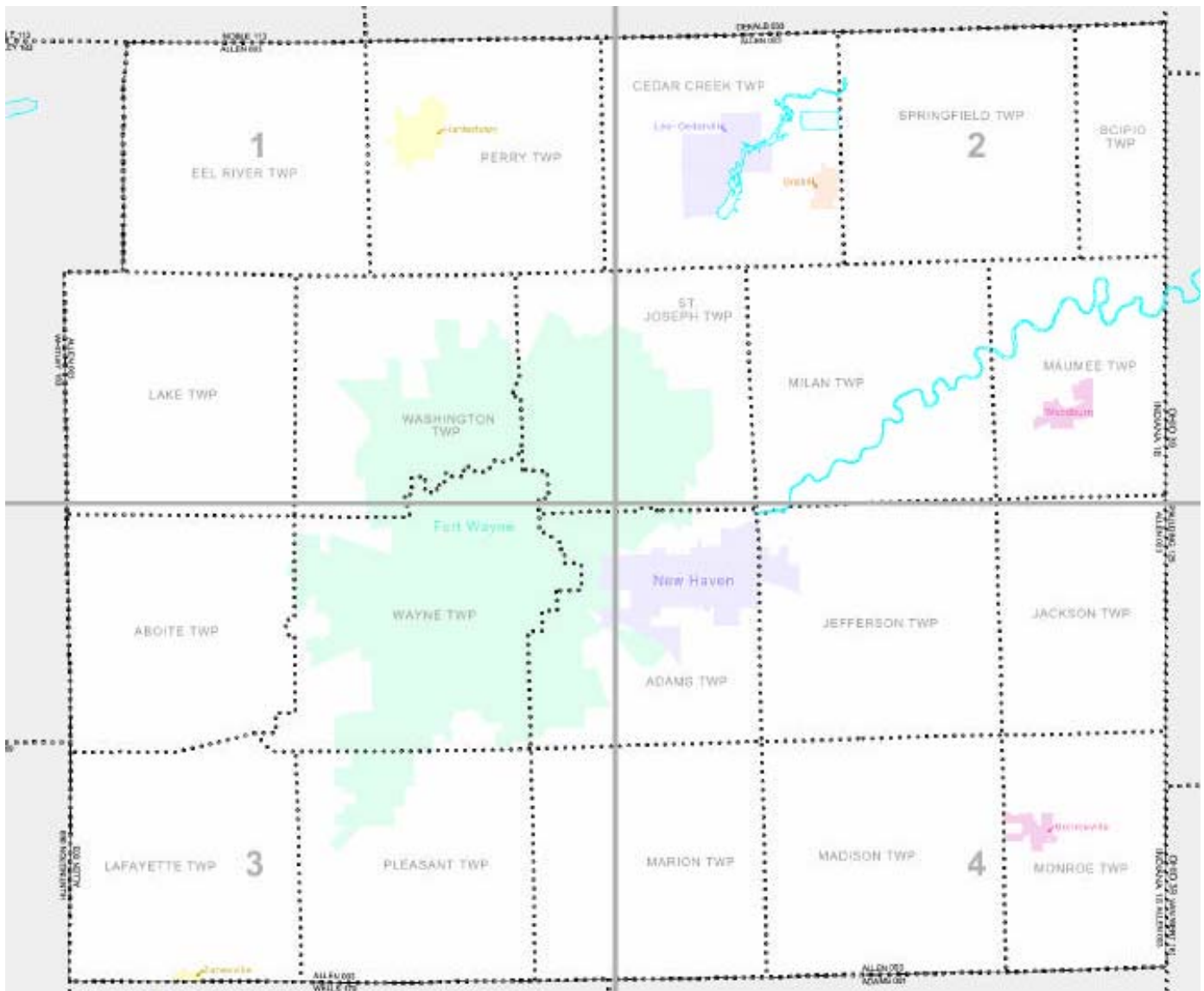
COUNTY LOCATION MAP



REGIONAL MAP



ALLEN COUNTY

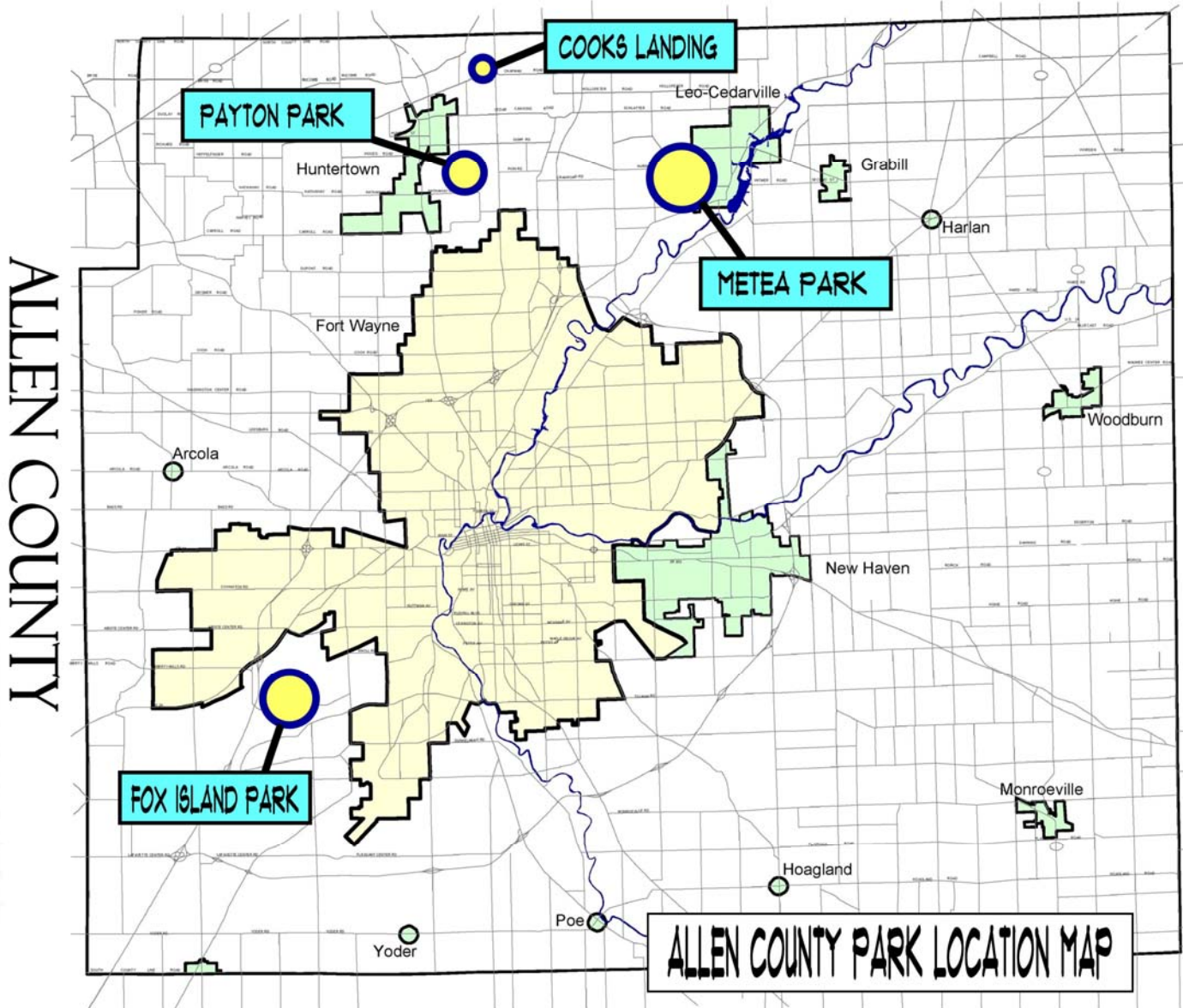


ALLEN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS CURRENTLY OPERATES FOUR PARKS:

- Fox Island (southwest Allen County near Aboite) 605.0 acres
- Metea (northeast Allen County near Leo) 250.0 acres
- Payton (northern Allen County near Huntertown) 38.0 acres
- Cook's Landing (northern Allen County on Coldwater Rd.) 4.5 acres

TOTAL: 897.5 acres

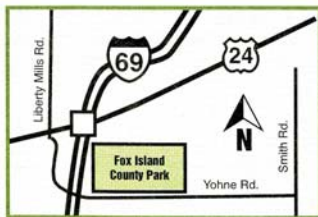


FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE

7324 Yohne Rd. • 260-449-3180

Fox Island is a 605-acre tract located southwest of Fort Wayne. Within this park, 270 acres are dedicated as a State Nature Preserve, which protects areas having unique plants, animals or geographic features. Hundreds of species of animals and plants live at Fox Island because of the relatively natural condition of most of the area, with its habitats of marsh, seasonal ponds, wooded sand dunes, wetland forest, old fields and restored prairie. These habitats are actively managed to preserve diversity.

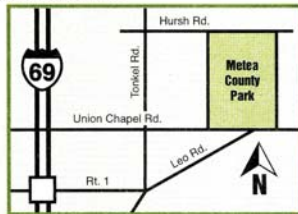
The Fox Island Nature Center (open 9am to 6pm, Tues. through Sun., closed Mon.) has classrooms, a library, education equipment, administrative and education department offices, a gift shop and a variety of natural history exhibits. The Nature Center is completely accessible. Other facilities include picnic areas, a playground, Bowman Lake (with swimming beach), the Wildlife Observation Building and the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society's observatory. Over 6 miles of trails are available for hiking and cross-country skiing, with ski equipment rental available.



METEA COUNTY PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE

8401 Union Chapel Rd. • 260-449-3777

Located northeast of Fort Wayne near Cedarville, 250-acre Metea County Park contains the 120-acre Meno-aki State Nature Preserve. The north and south areas of the park are separated by Cedar Creek. South unit access is off Union Chapel Road near the corner with Leo Road. North unit access is off Hursh Road between Puff and Halter Roads. Facilities include playfields, more than four miles of trails, canoe access to Cedar Creek, swimming and fishing areas, picnic areas, a playground, a sledding hill and cross-country skiing with ski rental available. The Metea Nature Center has the same facilities and hours as found at Fox Island's Nature Center.



Habitats are many and varied, including old field, native hill prairie, upland forest, floodplain forest, marsh, pond and restored prairie.

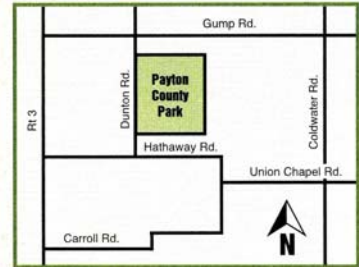


Students at Metea County Park

PAYTON COUNTY PARK

13928 Dunton Rd.

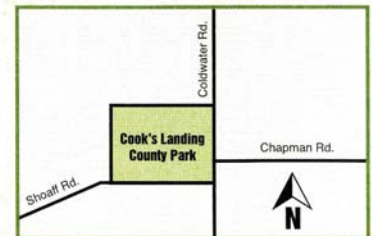
With its mix of open fields and woodlands, Payton County Park provides the solitude and quiet of the rural countryside. Trails, restrooms and a picnic shelter are available.



COOK'S LANDING COUNTY PARK

Corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Roads

Cedar Creek is the star of Cook's Landing County Park. Canoe access to the creek is available, along with a picnic shelter and fishing areas.



ALLEN COUNTY PARKS

FOX ISLAND is a 605 acre park owned by the people of Allen County (Indiana) and operated by the Allen County Park and Recreation Board. The park contains the largest contiguous forest in the county, and 270 acres of the park are dedicated and protected as part of the Indiana State Nature Preserve System. Eleven miles of marked trails through the preserve enable visitors to enjoy the beauty of the park. 7324 Yohne Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46809

THE FOX ISLAND ALLIANCE, INC. is a nonprofit organization whose purposes are:

- To help preserve the natural features of Fox Island County Park
- To assist in its orderly development as a nature preserve
- To raise funds to facilitate its development
- To promote Fox Island's use as an educational center
- To coordinate volunteer efforts

Fox Island Alliance is operated by a board of directors who work in partnership with the Allen County Park board. Membership in the Fox Island Alliance is open to all interested citizens. Board Meetings are held the second Monday of every other month at 7:00 pm at the Fox Island Nature Center.

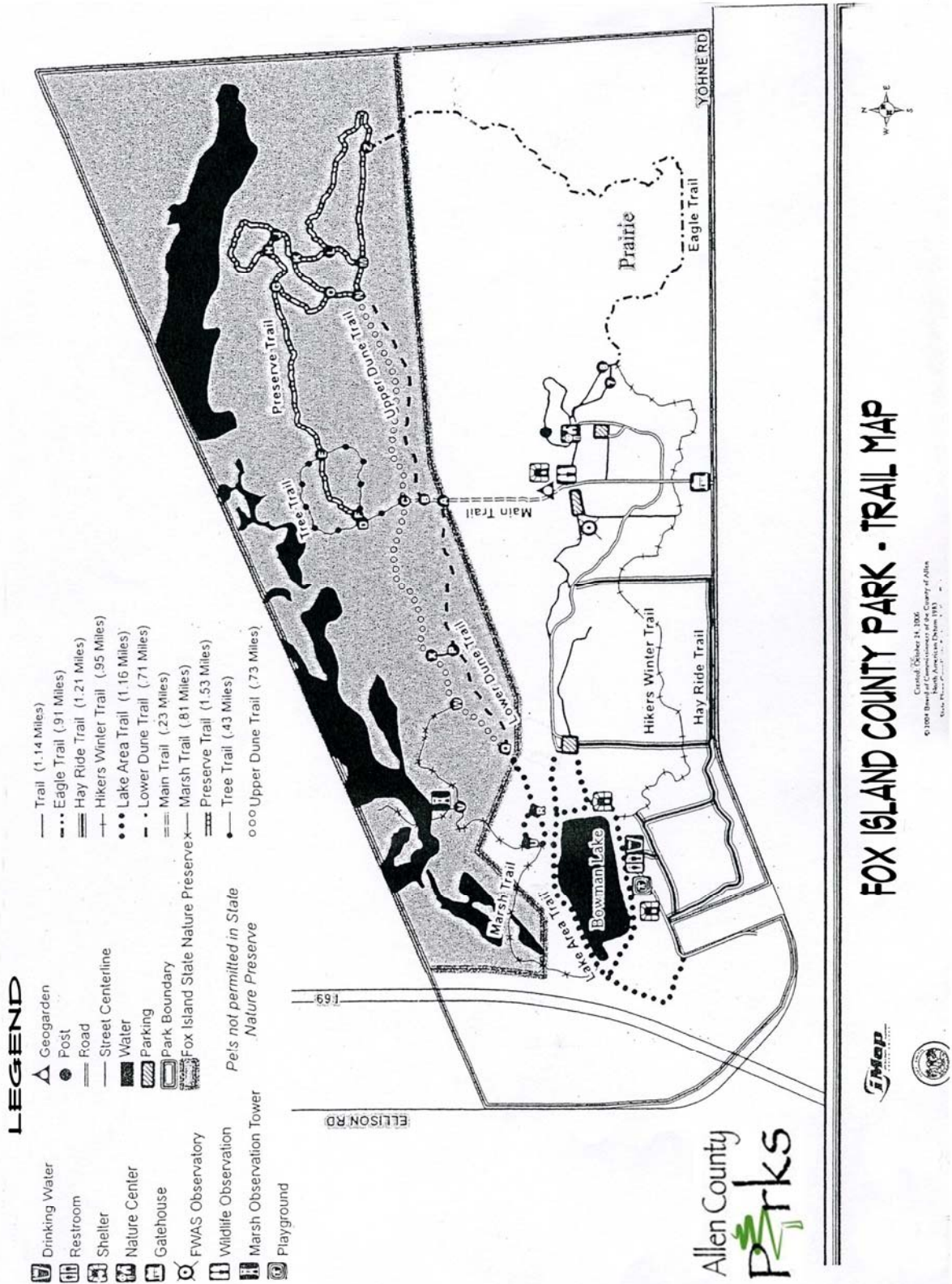
METEA PARK is a 250 acre park near Leo, containing a state nature preserve, woodlands, wetlands, a small lake, a large playfield, reconstructed prairie, old fields, a picnic shelter, a nature center building and Cedar Creek (a state scenic river). Metea County Park North (entrance off Hursh Road) is undeveloped, with hiking trails through rugged and varied terrain. 8401 Union Chapel Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46845

THE FRIENDS OF METEA is a tax exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to help preserve the natural features of Metea County Park, to raise funds to facilitate its development as a park and nature preserve, to promote its use as an educational center, and to coordinate volunteer efforts.

Friends of Metea is operated by a board of directors who work in partnership with the Allen County Park Board. Membership in Friends of Metea is open to all interested citizens. Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 pm, at the Nature Center in Metea Park; no meeting in July and December. In September, the meeting is replaced with an annual picnic.

PAYTON PARK has a picnic shelter, pit toilets, a pond, and several miles of hiking trails through 38 acres of old field, forest and wetland areas. 13928 Dunton Road - between Hathaway and Gump Roads

COOK'S LANDING - A small 4.5 acre park with a picnic shelter and good access to Cedar Creek for fishing or canoeing. Corner of Coldwater and Shoaff Roads





METEAL COUNTY PARK



The ACPRD recognizes the sweeping county-wide trail system initiatives that are in various stages of progress. These designs do and will include trails for running, rollerblading, biking and hiking ... and are included in this plan by reference.

As defined, trails include any "path, route, way, right-of-way, or corridor posted, signed, or designated as open for non-motorized travel or passage by the general public." The trails are intended to serve all county residents. Five types of trail classifications are identified:

- **Regional multi-use trails**, which provide the major access networks across the county for pedestrian and bicycle use, with equestrian use on the shoulder, where feasible.
- **Local trails**, whose function is to provide access from neighborhoods to regional multi-use trails or bike lanes.
- **Rustic trails**, which are smaller in scale than the local trail, and are intended to provide access to natural features and to provide loop trail opportunities.
- **Semi-primitive trails**, which are intended for rural or forest settings, where a more dispersed level of use provides for a more natural experience.
- **Bike lanes and pedestrian walkways**, which are located on city, county, and state road rights-of-way.

Recreation is the key function of greenway. Approximately 75% of Greenway based trail use is exclusively for recreation. People use Greenway trails to run, cycle, walk, and skate for exercise, to experience nature, and to interact with other people. Trail based recreational activities are more popular than ever with Americans.

While a quarter of all Americans reported engaging in a recreational team sport in 1994-95, two-thirds of them engaged in walking for recreation during the same period and between one quarter and one third ran or bicycled for recreation.

People engage in trail based activities frequently. Studies revealed that walkers participated in trail based walking over 70 times annually. Greenway are often better suited to provide trail based recreational activities than traditional parks because of their linear form. The trails associated with them usually provide an element of separation from roadway traffic and a more intimate level of contact with the environment.



NOTE: Because of their linear character, the maintenance and repair of trails is often understated and underfunded. A meandering trail is less likely to be observed in total, compared to a typical park site.

Before a trail system is moved from the physical planning stage to development implementation, the following questions need answers:

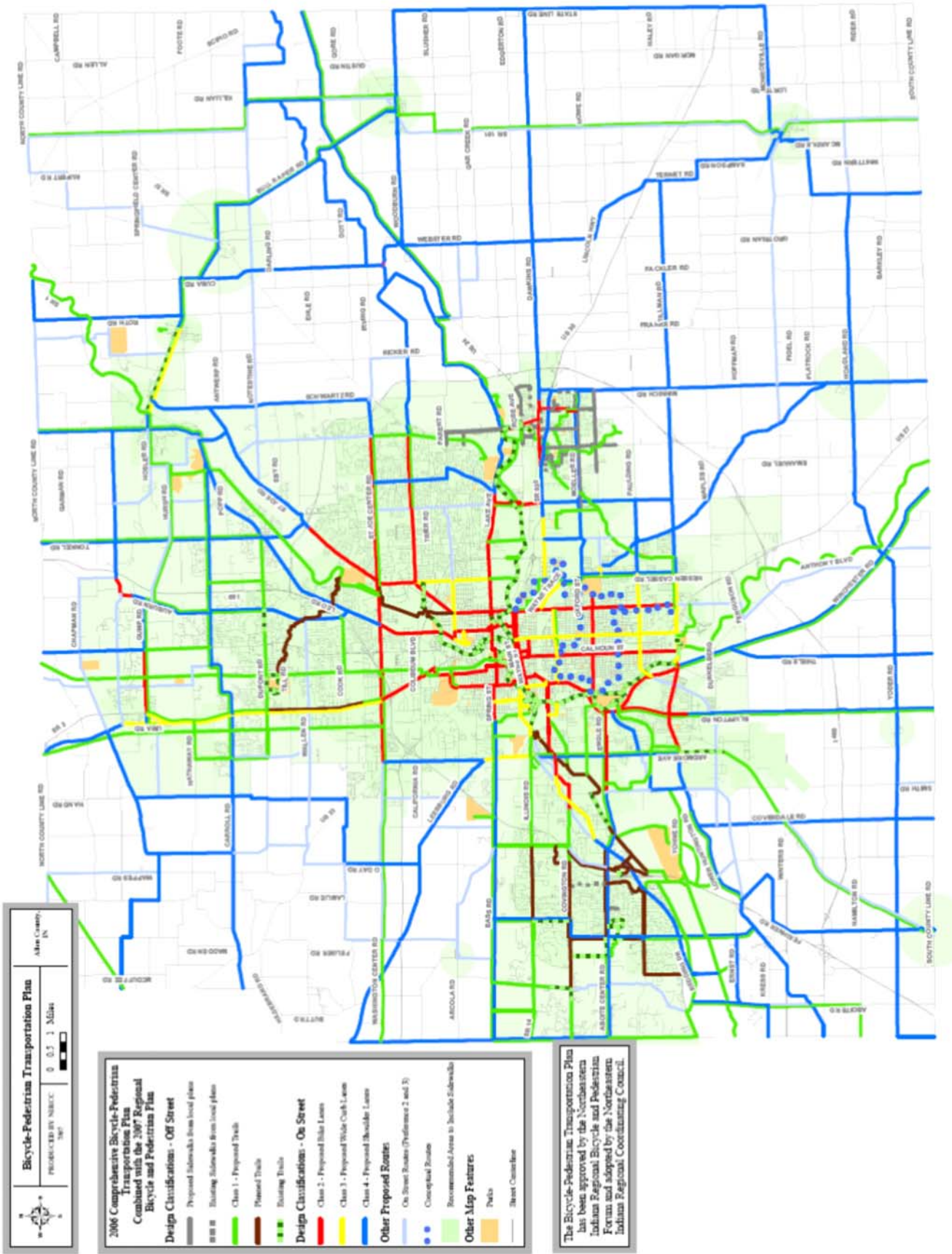
1. Who will maintain the trail system, including litter control, grooming, security, and capital improvements?
2. What is the expected level of consistent maintenance?
3. Is there a dedicated fund for this purpose?



GREENWAY CAN BE CLASSIFIED, BY FUNCTION, AS FOLLOWS:

TYPE OF GREENWAY FUNCTIONS							
Urban	Primary:	Secondary:	Connectivity:	Width:	Access:	Trail:	Development:
	<p>Flood Control</p> <p>Recreation</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <p>Aesthetic quality</p>	<p>Habitat for flora and fauna</p> <p>Utility Corridor</p>	<p>Between business and other public use areas important.</p> <p>Grade separation from roadways</p> <p>Most important for convenient human travel</p>	<p>Floodway determines width with some additional width required for trail placement</p>	<p>Highly visible access points from many adjacent use areas</p>	<p>Designed for multiple and high intensity use.</p> <p>Typical hard surface and wide tread</p>	<p>Highest level of development adjacent to and within the corridor, e.g. High density housing.</p> <p>Some channel improvements</p> <p>Appropriate but should be soft</p>
Suburban	<p>Flood control</p> <p>Recreation</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Aesthetic quality</p>	<p>Economic development</p> <p>Utility corridor</p> <p>Habitats for flora and fauna</p>	<p>Between residences and key destinations.</p> <p>Grade separation bridges designed for passage by human and wildlife</p>	<p>Entire floodplain is ideal. May require more for trails and buffer if floodplains are narrow</p>	<p>Access points dispersed to key entry and exit "collector" points in neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Designed for multiple use. Softer surface. Multiple treads may be needed to provide recreational diversity.</p>	<p>Moderate level of development characterized by residential areas and limited public and commercial support areas.</p>
Rural	<p>Flood control</p> <p>Habitat for flora and fauna.</p> <p>Recreation.</p> <p>Aesthetic quality</p>	<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Utility corridor</p> <p>Transportation</p>	<p>Between wildlife habitat areas important. Grade separation bridges designed for passage by humans and wildlife</p>	<p>Entire floodplain with additions to include critical conservation areas the corridor touches.</p>	<p>Infrequent points of access only at major destinations</p>	<p>Natural soft surface and minimal width. Minor improvements to control erosion and allow safe passage (e.g. bridge)</p>	<p>Low level of development. Some may not have trails. Adjacent land agricultural use. Channel improvements avoided.</p>

NORTHEAST INDIANA COORDINATING COUNCIL'S (NIRCC) FORECST PATH SYSTEM



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MEASUREMENTS

LISTING

21 buildings: 37,881 square feet = 0.87 acres under roof.

This includes all buildings open and closed: shelters, offices, maintenance buildings, etc.

- 4 Rental Pavilions
- 2 Open Shelters – not reserved or rented
- 2 Nature Centers – classrooms and conference rooms available at both
- 1 Bird Observation Building – can be rented

PARK ACREAGE

897.5 acres of parkland in the Allen County park system including largest contiguous forest in the county - 270 preserved in Fox Island Park.

MOWED ACREAGE (IMPACTED ACRES)

IMPACTED ACRES: 62.5 acres of mowed acreage - 7% of total system-wide acreage.

FLOODPLAIN ACREAGE

Total floodplain acreage is 440 +/- acres or 49% of our total system.

PLAYGROUNDS

2 – one at Fox Island and one at Metea

HERITAGE STRUCTURES (listed on the Historic Register)

NONE

OTHER MISC. FACTS

- 14 Miles of trails (7 at Fox Island, 5 at Metea, 2 at Payton)
- 2 State Dedicated Nature Preserves totaling 390 acres (270 at Fox Island, 120 at Metea)
- 2 swimming beaches
- 1 sledding hill
- Fort Wayne Astronomical Society Observatory located at Fox Island
- Glacial Sand Dunes located at Fox Island

OPERATIONS

Allen County Parks are only partially tax supported. Operating expenses must be met through user and program fees.

Admission is \$2.00 per person age 7 and older. Yearly passes (individual, family, gold individual, gold family) are available for \$15.00 - \$35.00. Activities at various parks include hiking, swimming, fishing, sledding, cross-country skiing (rentals are available), playgrounds, picnic areas, playfields, and many nature-based programs for all ages.

Wheeled vehicles (except wheelchairs) are not permitted on trails, and pets are not permitted in the state nature preserve areas (clearly marked).

SEVEN FACTORS OF PARK EXCELLENCE:

PARKS AND RECREATION VALUED EQUALLY

The Research Update in the January 2006 issue of the National Recreation and Park Association's magazine, pages 26-30 highlights "*Components of a Park System.*" Authors Chan Chung Shing and Lawal M. Marafa adapt information from Peter Harnik's "*The excellent park system*" The United States: The Trust for Public Land, Harnik, P (2003), regarding the seven (7) broad measures of an excellent park system. (Source: Adapted from Harnik 2003)

MEASURE	KEY QUESTIONS
A clear expression of purpose	A written mission statement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written set of defined core services? • Does the PRD publish a publicly available annual report? Does it provide hard, numerical information on outcome? Does it provide useful budget numbers?
Ongoing planning and community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the park system integrated into a comprehensive plan? • Does the PRD have a legal Park Board that meets regularly?
Sufficient assets in land, staffing and equipment to meet the systems' goals	What was the PRD's total actual revenue in the most recent completed fiscal year; goals including both operating funds and capital funds? How much did the PRD spend in the past fiscal year, including maintenance, programming, capital construction and land acquisition?

Equitable access

Do you know the distance from every residence to its nearest park?

- CONNECTIVITY; is there a pedestrian friendly means of accessing parks?
- Is there a disability advisory group to assist in meeting the physical and programming mission of the PRD's system?

User satisfaction

Is there at least one person in the park agency assigned the task of surveying park users and non-users, and analyzing the surveys?

Safety from physical hazards and crime

- How many uniformed park personnel does your agency have or contract with?
- Do you systematically collect data on crimes that occur in parks?

Benefits for the county beyond boundaries of the parks

- Does your county systematically collect data comparing property values near parks with those farther from parks, and report on the findings?

PROGRESS REPORT

PROGRAMMING:

A strong programming component in the department is evident by the wide range of instructional/interpretive venues offered. A comprehensive list of programs offered for the years 2002-2007 is contained in the appendix of this plan.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

In addition to the performance of routine maintenance functions to sustain all park properties and facilities, certain capital improvements projects (CIP) were completed. Some of these projects were identified in the 2001-2005 Parks Master Plan while others were not forecast in that plan, but still completed in the same time period. They are as follows:

2003-2007 BETTERMENTS & ADDITIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROJECT	COMPL YR.	FUNDING		COMMENTS
		SOURCE		
FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK				
Interactive Fossil Dig Exhibit	2004	Donation		Hanson Aggregates constructed and installed
Children's Tree Exhibit constructed and opened	2003	Donation		Fox Island Alliance (FIA) funded
	2004			
Bowman Lake Improvements Project Phase One	2006	IDNR WRHC		Renovated beach area w/accessible access to water accessible trail through project area, parking lot expansion. Includes new <u>restrooms</u> , <u>mound septic system</u> , <u>well upgrade</u> ; <u>electric to site</u> , <u>accessible playground equipment</u> .
	2007			
New audio/visual equipment	2005	Donation		Fox Island Alliance funded
Honeysuckle reduction project	2005 present	In house		Force Account and volunteers
New boardwalks	2004 2005	Donation		Boy Scout projects
New accessible boardwalk	2007	AC Building		Accessible walk to wetland observation site at NC
New trail benches - 12	2007	Donation		Boy Scouts and Fox Island Alliance
New Nature Center Benches	2007	Donation		Fox Island Alliance funded
New Aquariums, bird feeders, weather station	2007	Donation Grant		FW Branch of American Association of University Women - FIA administered funding.
New Wetlands signage	2007	Donation		FIA
Bird Observation Building Renovations	2007	Non Revert		New siding, insulation, flooring, dry wall and paint
Fox Island ADA Improvement Projects	2007	County Comm.		<u>ADA upgrades</u> and improvements including restroom modifications, signage, ramps, doors, parking upgrades and modifications per settlement on all County Buildings

Interpretive waysides (3) constructed	2006		Force Account and volunteers
New Maintenance Building	2006	County Comm.	Construction of new maintenance barn for staff use; 2-bays, office, work area, restroom and storage above office/work area.
New Residence - Park & Education Manager	2005	County Comm.	Construction of new manufactured home to replace aging Naturalist residence (double wide trailer)
	2006		
METEA COUNTY PARK	COMPL YR.	FUNDING SOURCE	COMMENTS
New Nature Center - Funded and Constructed	2005	\$650,000	10,000 SF Center, Named in honor of Gloria Goeglein 2-story w/gift shop, meeting rooms, bird observatory
Cross Country Ski Equipment Purchased	2006	Donation Grant	Adult Ski equipment purchased - Spencer Foundation
Nature Center Parking area reconstructed	2005		Contractual assistance
New Entry Gate House Building	2007	\$30,000	New entry gatehouse with heat and ac
New Trails Constructed	2004	Force Acct	Approx. 2.5 miles of new trails cleared and constructed
	2006		
New windows installed in caretaker's residence	2004	Force Acct.	Energy efficiency and to replace decayed windows
Sledding hill constructed	2005	Gen Assist	General Assistance Provided
New audio/visual equipment	2005	Donation	Friends of Metea funded
New Flagpole	2006	Donation Grant	Spencer Foundation
Jerry Allred Tree Trail			Force Account and volunteers
Andrew Britton Overlook			Force Account and volunteers
New Wetlands Diorama	2005		Force Account and volunteers
Interpretive waysides (10) constructed	2004		Force Account and volunteers
Changeable Exhibit Cases	2005		Force Account and volunteers

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

~Robert Frost





2 - HISTORY, POPULATION AND SUPPLY

LOCATION, HISTORY AND POPULATION

ALLEN COUNTY

Formed in 1823, Allen County is in the northeast part of the state and has its seat of government located at Fort Wayne, one of the state's largest cities. The county is named after Colonel John Allen, a Kentucky Indian fighter. A number of rivers, including the Wabash, Maumee, Eel, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's flow through the county.

A large number of attractions make any visit to Allen County worthwhile. These include Historic Fort Wayne, Headwaters Park, Science Central and Foster Park Gardens.

Other attractions include the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Children's Zoo, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Gardens, the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library, Bass Mansion at the University of St. Francis, Lakeside Rose Garden, the largest in Indiana. Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne, Concordia College, Fort Wayne Bible College and Indiana Institute of Technology are also located here.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION – ALLEN COUNTY/FT. WAYNE

Fort Wayne, Indiana's second largest city was built at the meeting-point of three rivers: the Maumee, the St. Mary's, and the St. Joseph.

The first inhabitants came to the Three Rivers region following the retreat of the glaciers 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. These were among the most ancient of the North American Indians. In the centuries just before the first Europeans wandered into the Great Lakes region, the tribe that descended from these woodland cultures of American Indians was the Miami. The Miami and their neighbors on all sides were slowly drawn into conflicts with faraway European nations who wanted their land.

The age-old strife between the French and English continued in the New World and both sides used American Indians in their fights. The Fort Wayne area was home to Native American groups such as the Iroquois, Huron, Chippewa, Wea, Fox, Potawatami, and Miami.

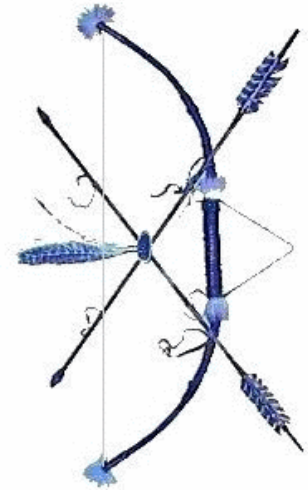
French explorer Robert de LaSalle traveled throughout the lower Great Lakes region in the 1670's and tried to convince tribes such as the Miami to regain their old homelands. By 1712 the Miami had re-established themselves throughout the Wabash Valley. Their main village was at the headwaters of the Maumee River in what is now the Lakeside area of Fort Wayne.

Because of increased pressure from the British, the French built Fort St. Phillips along the St. Mary's River in 1722. The fort was built near the present-day Sherman Street Bridge. This was the first of five forts to be built in the area.

Near the start of the American Revolution, tribes in the area included the Shawnee, Ottawa and Delaware, as well as the Miami, led by famous Chief Little Turtle. It was also the home of English and French traders and their families.

There also were outlaws, renegades, and traitors. The place came to be called Miamitown. It took on the reputation back east as a center of terrorism on the frontier.

In 1750 the French built a new fort at the present site of St. Joe Boulevard and Delaware Avenue. They called it Fort Miami. Some Miami friendly to the French returned to the area. New French traders also came. One of them was Joseph Drouet de Richardville. Richardville married Tacumwah, daughter of the reigning Miami chief and the sister of the future chief, Little Turtle.



Hostilities between the French and English grew in the early 1750's and got worse with the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1755. Fort Miami was among the many French outposts in the West that sent troops and Indian allies against the British in Pennsylvania. Miami from Kekionga had a hand in the defeat of a young Colonel George Washington at Fort Necessity and then General Braddock at Fort Duquesne.

Though the British defeated Fort Miami and maintained their control of the area, the Indians throughout the Great Lakes region united to throw out the British in celebrated Pontiac's Uprising of 1763.

In 1791 Washington sent another force. The army didn't even get close to Miamitown. Little Turtle's Indians, attacked the army while it was still in the Ohio area, at what is now Fort Recovery, Ohio, 40 miles southeast of Fort Wayne. It was the worse defeat ever suffered by an American military unit at hands of North American Indians.

In retaliation for General St. Clair's defeat, Washington sent the Revolutionary War hero General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to the frontier.

General Wayne defeated the Indians at the site of St. Clair's defeat and then again at the battle of Fallen Timbers northeast of Fort Wayne near what is now Toledo, Ohio in August, 1794. After Fallen Timbers, General Wayne moved his army to Miamitown.

He built the first American fort at what today is the northwest corner of Clay and Berry Streets. The partially finished fort was officially entered on October 21, 1794. It was formally announced the new fort was to be called Fort Wayne. This day, October 22, has since been recognized as the official birthday of the city.

THE WABASH - ST. MARY'S PORTAGE THE GLORIOUS GATE

"That glorious gate through which all the good words of our chiefs had to pass from north to south and from east to west." - Chief Little Turtle

Long before any Indians tribes or fur traders claimed these lands as their own, large glaciers cut valleys through the surface of the earth. Many of these glaciers reaching a mile high pushed rock and debris from place to place as they advanced. As these glaciers of the last ice age started to recede, they left large lakes in their wake.

Lake Maumee, one of the largest, spanned from present day Fort Wayne northeast to merge with Lake Erie. Eventually, Lake Maumee began emptying into Lake Erie. The rivers that were left would shape the area of northeast Indiana forever.

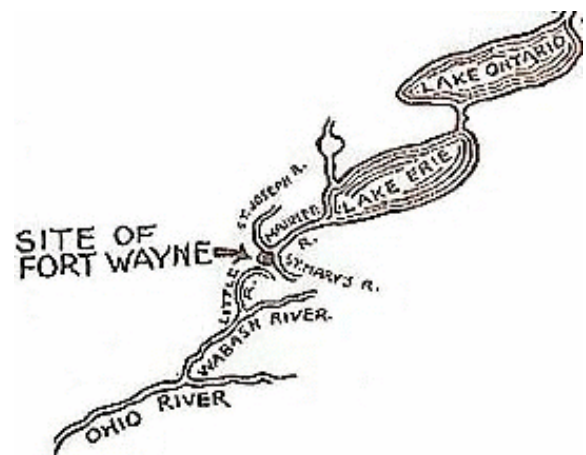
The glaciers had caused the St. Joseph and St. Mary rivers to sharply change course and flow together to form the Maumee River. What was left by the glaciers was to become one of the most traveled areas of the northwest wilderness.

There was only a very short "land barrier" that separated the fur traders from Quebec from the fur merchants of New Orleans. The abundance of beaver fur in the three rivers area was the most of any in the territory.

The Portage, a French word meaning "carrying place" was the most important trading route in the Northwest Territory.

The Miami considered it a sacred "gate" that was to be protected at all costs. From the earliest times, the Miami became very wealthy extracting a toll on those who used the portage.

The French were the first Europeans to use the route. As the fur trade grew, so did the French presence in the region. As early as the 1690's the French were creating a fur trading empire from Quebec to New Orleans.



A French explorer by the name of Robert Sieur de La Salle believed that a stronghold near the portage was essential to connecting French New Orleans with French Quebec and keeping the wealth of fur trading solely in French hands. The French and their Indian allies opened a fur trading post north of the portage on the St. Mary's river in what is today Guldin Park.

It was only a few years later that the French considered a permanent military presence important. Captain Dubuisson, the commander at Detroit, built the first fort in the three rivers area called Fort Miamis.

What is left of the great Portage today? Most of the Portage route has been destroyed by urban development. Only a few reminders of this great "path" remain if you know where to look.

Located in Aboite Township, the Little River (AKA Aboite River) was the western terminus of the Portage. Drainage projects have changed much of the landscape around the "river".

The Portage started at Little River near Ellison Rd in Aboite Township, and moved northeast through Fox Island Park to the Fort Wayne County Club. From there the Portage intersected Portage Avenue and continued thru the Wildwood Addition to Lindenwood Rd. Drainage reconstruction and home development has erased most of the visible path.

The Portage marker on Lindenwood Road near Main Street illustrated the path of the Portage as it approached West Swinney Park and the St. Mary's River. The portage route extended approximately 9 miles depending on the season, and rainfall amounts.

In Fort Wayne, at West Swinney park is where the Portage meets the St. Mary's river. The fur traders would make camp in these areas.

Tribes that are commonly known to have used the Portage area include: Wyandott, Delewares, Shawnees, Ottawas, Chippewas, Pattawatimas, Miamis, Eel River Tribe, Weas, Piankeshaws, Kickapoos, and Kaskaskias – all signatories to the 1795 Treaty of Greenville.

WABASH & ERIE CANAL

The idea of a water passage connecting Lake Erie through the short portage between the Maumee and Wabash Rivers was a suggestion of none other than George Washington himself. The portage, or carrying place was a stretch of land usually described as nine miles in length, that joined the navigable portions of the St. Mary's River (which flows via the Maumee into Lake Erie) and the Little Wabash River (which connects with the Mississippi by means of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers).

On March 2, 1827, Congress provided a land grant to encourage Indiana to build the Canal. Work began five years later on February 22, 1832 in Fort Wayne.

Construction proceeded west as the canal reached Lafayette in 1841. A second federal land grant enabled the canal to reach Terre Haute by 1849.

The connection with the Evansville segment was completed in 1853 forming the longest canal in the United States, 468 miles long, reaching from Toledo Ohio to Evansville Indiana (Canal Society of America).

Construction was accomplished with simple tools including picks, shovels and wheelbarrows by crews of diggers, mostly Irish immigrants, who had to endure fire, dysentery and cholera. It has been said that "One laborer died for every six miles of canal built."

"Watching as W&C Canal workmen were busy removing his house from the path of the 40-foot wide and four-foot deep channel, the great Miami orator Chapine was overheard muttering, "You people are crazy. The Great Spirit made the rivers. It won't rain enough to fill this canal of yours."

The boats, known as packets, brought new settlers to the area and gave residents a way to travel. The canal also opened more and larger markets to farmers and merchants all along the line. Some of the old canal may be seen if you know where to look and how to recognize the clues.

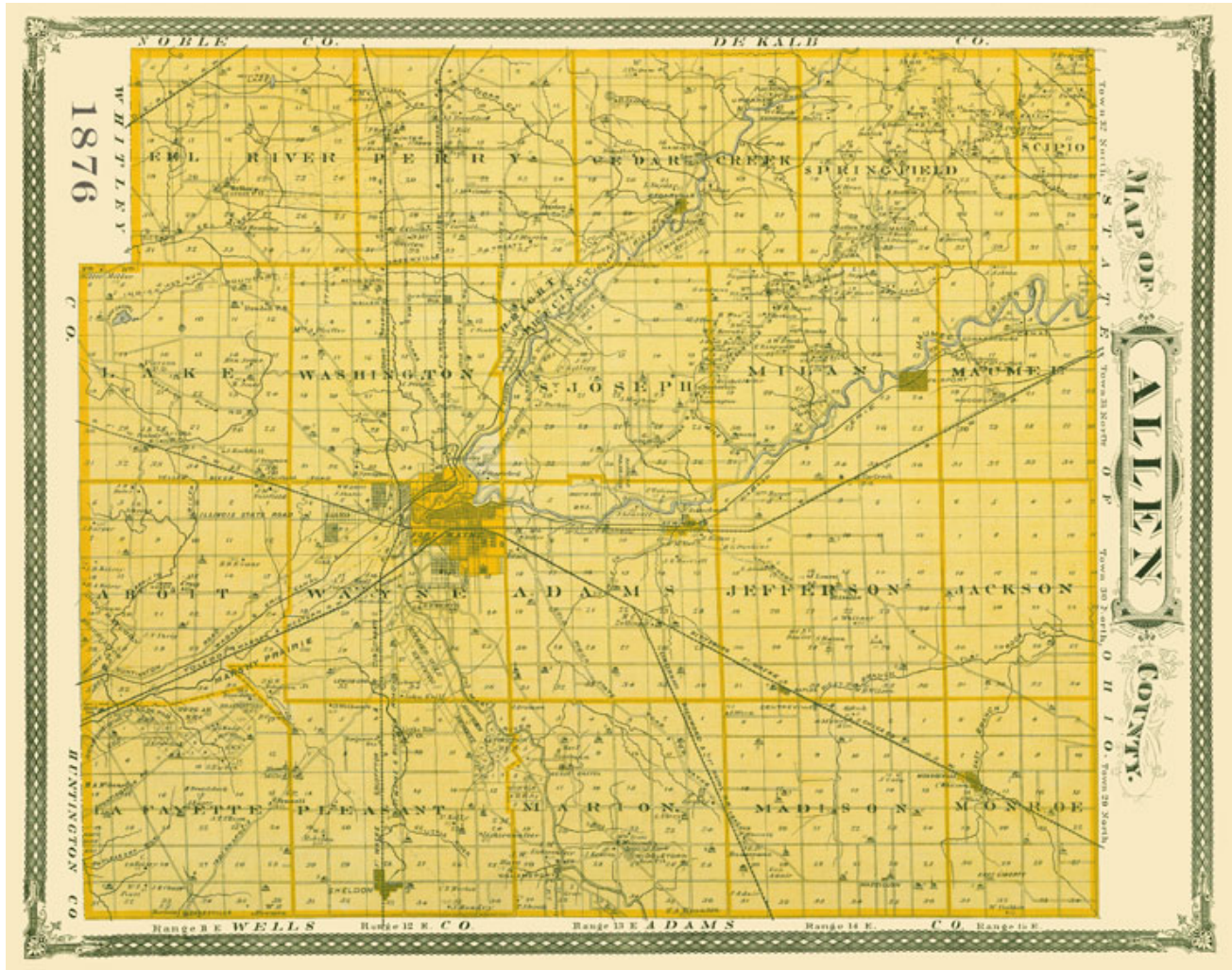
In Rockhill Park for example, the long ridge of knolls across the park have been described as the towpath or a levee where the canal digging laborers piled the earth as they dug their way along the line.

On the west side of Rockhill Park, Portage Avenue is where the canal channel once carried traffic, and under what is now Taylor Street in front of Portage Middle School. At the point where Taylor Street makes a turn to the northwest, Country Club Lane follows the old towpath to the west. Beside it, to the north, the channel is evident where water continues to accumulate during wet seasons.

If Country Club Road were extended it would cross Covington Road; skirt across the south side of the Fort Wayne Country Club and at Smith Road become Glendale Road.

At the Covington Road crossing there is a noticeable flattening of the road as it descends from the bluff traveling east to west. It is passed over by hundreds of cars each day. The flat space is the prism top formed when the canal was abandoned and refilled with earth.

Source: Wabash & Erie Canal Notebook – 1995 by Thomas E. Castaldi – and inquiry responses from the author.



On December 17, 1823, Indiana Legislature passed "An Act for the formation of a new county out of the counties of Randolph and Delaware, to be included within the following limits:

Beginning at a point on the line dividing this State, and the State of Ohio, where the township line dividing townships twenty-eight and twenty-nine, north intersects the same; thence north with said State line twenty-four miles; thence west, to the line dividing ten and eleven, east, thence south to the line dividing townships twenty-eight and twenty-nine, north intersects the same; thence north with said State line twenty-four miles; thence west, to the line dividing ten and eleven, east; thence south to the line dividing townships twenty-eight and twenty-nine, north; thence east to the place of beginning.

On April 1, 1824, the legislative act which created Allen County took effect. At that time, Allen County included the present Indiana counties of Allen, Lagrange, Steuben, Noble, DeKalb, Huntington, and most of Whitley, Wells and Adams counties.

The name of Allen was suggested (1823) by General John Tipton, who was an admirer of Colonel John Allen, the gallant Kentuckian who, after the relief of Fort Wayne in 1812, lost his life at the battle of the River Raisin, in Michigan, south of Detroit.

ALLEN COUNTY TODAY - DATA IN DETAIL

Prepared by the Indiana Business Research Center

Population Over Time	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Yesterday(1990)	300,836	3	5.40%	5,544,156
Today(2006)	347,316	3	5.50%	6,313,520
Tomorrow (2010 projected)	346,653	3	5.40%	6,417,198
Percent Change 1990 to 2000	10.30%	30		9.70%

Sources: US Census Bureau; Indiana Business Research Center

Components of Population Change in 2006	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Net Domestic Migration 2005 to 2006	-262	82		5,011
Net International Migration 2005 to 2006	788	4		10,419
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	2,770	2	8.80%	31,308

Source: US Census Bureau

Population Estimates by Age in 2006	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist.	Pct Dist.
Preschool (0 to 4)	26,306	3	7.60%	6.80%
School Age (5 to 17)	68,008	3	19.60%	18.20%
College Age (18 to 24)	31,366	4	9.00%	9.80%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	95,200	3	27.40%	27.60%
Older Adult (45 to 64)	87,101	3	25.10%	25.20%
Older (65 plus)	39,335	3	11.30%	12.40%
Median Age	35.4			Median Age=36.3

Sources: US Census Bureau; Indiana Business Research Center

Population Estimates by Race or Hispanic Origin in 2006	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist.	Pct Dist.
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	1,256	3	0.40%	0.30%
Asian Alone	6,601	4	1.90%	1.30%
Black Alone	41,236	3	11.90%	8.90%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	188	4	0.10%	0.00%
White Alone	292,617	3	84.30%	88.30%
Two or More Race Groups	5,418	2	1.60%	1.10%
Hispanic or Latino (can be of any race)				
Non-Hispanic or Latino	327,844	3	94.40%	95.20%
Hispanic or Latino	19,472	4	5.60%	4.80%

Source: US Census Bureau

Household Types	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Households in 2000 (Includes detail not shown below)	128,745	3	100.00%	100.00%
Married With Children	31,048	3	24.10%	23.80%
Married Without Children	35,203	3	27.30%	29.80%
Single Parents	12,836	3	10.00%	9.10%
Living Alone	35,279	3	27.40%	25.90%

Source: US Census Bureau

Housing	Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Total Housing Units in 2006 (estimate)	151,268	3	100.00%	100.00%
Total Housing Units in 2000 (includes vacant units)	138,905	3	100.00%	100.00%
Owner Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	91,415	3	65.80%	65.90%
Median Value (2000)	\$88,700	35	--	--
Renter Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	37,330	3	26.90%	26.30%
Median Rent (2000)	\$506	22	--	--

Source: US Census Bureau

Education	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
School Enrollment (2006/2007 Total Reported)	81,983	3	7.10%	1,154,826
Public	54,983	3	5.30%	1,045,702
Private	27,000	2	24.70%	109,124
High School Graduates (2004/2005)	3,700	4	6.30%	58,702
Going on to Higher Education	3,363	4	7.00%	48,317
4-year	2,711	4	7.50%	36,140
2-year	398	4	5.00%	7,957
Voc/tech.	254	3	6.00%	4,220
Adults (25+ in 2000 Census)	208,769	3	5.40%	3,893,278
with High School diploma or higher	85.70%	12		82.10%
with B.A. or higher degree	22.70%	9		19.40%

Sources: Indiana Department of Education; US Census Bureau

Notes: 1) School enrollment figures for 2006/2007 are preliminary. 2) Private enrollment includes home schools. 3) County rankings for high-school graduates continuing to higher education are subject to revision. Data from the Indiana Department of Education for Vigo County appear to include an erroneous entry. Until the data has been corrected by IDOE, Vigo will be removed from the rankings.

Income and Poverty	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2005	\$31,722	18	101.80%	\$31,173
Median Household Income in 2004	\$42,867	44	99.20%	\$43,217
Poverty Rate in 2004	11.30%	28	101.80%	11.10%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	16.00%	32	101.90%	15.70%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2006	2,073	1		
Foodstamp Recipients in 2006	31,826	1		
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2006	23,367	3	6.20%	374,221

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau; Indiana Family Social Services Administration; Indiana Department of Education

Health and Vital Statistics in 2005	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Births	5,295	3	6.10%	87,088
Births to Teens	551	3	5.70%	9,604
Deaths	2,664	3	4.80%	55,623

Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Labor Force in 2006	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Total Resident Labor Force	184,398	3	5.60%	3,271,496
Employed	175,277	3	5.60%	3,108,806
Unemployed	9,121	3	5.60%	162,690
Unemployment Rate	4.9	48	98.00%	5
August 2007 Unemployment Rate	5.2	33	108.30%	4.8

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Employment and Earnings by Industry in 2005 (NAICS)	Employment	Pct Dist.	Earnings (\$000)	Pct Dist.	Avg. Earnings Per Job
Total by place of work	228,227	100.00%	\$9,372,278	100.00%	\$41,066
Wage and Salary	195,740	85.80%	\$6,849,931	73.10%	\$34,995
Farm Proprietors	1,531	0.70%	\$3,274	0.00%	\$2,138
Nonfarm Proprietors	30,956	13.60%	\$837,861	8.90%	\$27,066
Farm	1,709	0.70%	\$8,309	0.10%	\$4,862
Nonfarm	226,518	99.30%	\$9,363,969	99.90%	\$41,339
Private	206,843	90.60%	\$8,382,394	89.40%	\$40,525
Accommodation, Food Serv.	16,407	7.20%	\$233,374	2.50%	\$14,224
Arts, Ent., Recreation	3,495	1.50%	\$43,157	0.50%	\$12,348
Construction	13,604	6.00%	\$625,594	6.70%	\$45,986

Health Care, Social Serv.	30,197	13.20%	\$1,366,238	14.60%	\$45,244
Information	3,816	1.70%	\$288,850	3.10%	\$75,694
Manufacturing	30,950	13.60%	\$1,971,599	21.00%	\$63,703
Professional, Tech. Serv.	10,176	4.50%	\$493,720	5.30%	\$48,518
Retail Trade	25,714	11.30%	\$564,557	6.00%	\$21,955
Trans., Warehousing	9,256	4.10%	\$532,231	5.70%	\$57,501
Wholesale Trade	12,769	5.60%	\$684,611	7.30%	\$53,615
Other Private (not above)	50,459	22.10%	\$1,578,463	16.80%	\$31,282
Government	19,675	8.60%	\$981,575	10.50%	\$49,889

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Assessed Property Value in 1999 (for taxes payable in 2000)	Value	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Assessed Value by Property Class	\$3,127,292,950	3	100.00%	100.00%
Commercial & Industrial	\$1,436,324,790	3	45.90%	43.20%
Residential	\$1,424,206,250	3	45.50%	41.50%
Agricultural	\$139,275,120	1	4.50%	9.60%
Utilities	\$127,486,780	4	4.10%	5.60%
Total Assesed Value Per Capita	\$9,946	32		

Source: The State Board of Tax Commissioners

Residential Building Permits in 2006	Units	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State	Cost (\$000)	State Cost (\$000)
Total Permits Filed	1,364	100.00%	100.00%	\$233,876	\$4,687,933
Single Family	1,167	85.60%	84.10%	\$220,196	\$4,343,823
Two Family	64	4.70%	3.50%	\$5,625	\$103,869
Three & Four Family	9	0.70%	2.00%	\$590	\$41,336
Five families and More	124	9.10%	10.40%	\$7,465	\$198,905

Source: US Census Bureau (Greene County totals are not included as it does not currently issue building permits.) Note: Detail cost may not sum to total due to rounding.

Commuting Patterns - Top 5 in 2005					
Into Allen FROM	Number	Percent	Out of Allen TO	Number	Percent
All Areas	27,276	11.50%	All Areas	11,745	5.30%
Whitley County	5,169	2.20%	Dekalb County	3,189	1.40%
Huntington County	3,846	1.60%	Whitley County	1,421	0.60%
Wells County	3,805	1.60%	Noble County	1,111	0.50%
Dekalb County	3,006	1.30%	Huntington Co	853	0.40%
Noble County	2,509	1.10%	Adams County	798	0.40%

Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

Cities and Towns in Allen Co.	Population in 2006	% of County
Fort Wayne	248,637	71.60%
Grabill	1,152	0.30%
Huntertown	2,144	0.60%
Leo-Cedarville	2,915	0.80%
Monroeville	1,276	0.40%
New Haven	13,678	3.90%
Woodburn	1,634	0.50%
Zanesville	90	0.0%*

* Population in this county is shown, this city or town crosses county lines.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

According to the 2000 Census, Allen County’s population has grown 12.7% over the last 20 years from 294,335 in 1980 to 331,849 in 2000.

Growth over the last decade is 10.3%.

MEDIAN INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD

\$42,671 in 1999 dollars (2000 Census)

POPULATION BY DECADE

Year	FWA	County
1960	161,144	232,196
1970	178,269	280,455
1980	172,196	294,335
1990	195,680	300,836
2000	205,727	331,849

POPULATION INFORMATION

2000 Allen County census of population and housing - general characteristics profile.

Female 169,424 51.1%
Male 162,425 48.9%

AGE	Percent of total population
Under 5 years	25,440 7.7%
5 to 9 years	26,195 7.9%
10 to 14 years	25,487 7.7%
15 to 19 years	24,119 7.3%
20 to 24 years	21,903 6.6%
25 to 34 years	47,011 14.2%
35 to 44 years	52,496 15.8%
45 to 54 years	45,188 13.6%
55 to 59 years	14,974 4.5%
60 to 64 years	11,276 3.4%
65 to 74 years	19,631 5.9%
75 to 84 years	13,383 4.0%
85 years and over	4,746 1.4%
Median age	34.1
18 and over	239,898 72.3%
65 years and over	37,760 11.4%

Based on the 2000 Census information emphasis on recreation facilities and programs should target the following age groups:

5 to 19 22.9% of the total population
25 to 54 43.6% of the total population

RACE

White83.08%
Black or African American11.31%
Native American0.36%
Asian1.40%
Pacific Islander0.04%
Some other race.....2.02%
Two or more races1.79%

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

There are no special groups requiring unique recreation or program development.

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

LOCATION

County: ALLEN
County size: 660 sq. mi

DISTANCE & DIRECTION TO MAJOR CITIES:

Chicago, IL (W) 211 miles
Indianapolis, IN (S) 127 miles
Detroit, MI (NE) 197 miles
South Bend, IN (NW) 122 miles

CLIMATE

Coldest month: Jan w/average temp 23.3 deg F.
Hottest month: July w/average temp 73.3 deg F.

Average annual precipitation 34.40 inches

LOCAL TAXES

Providing adequate local service while being fiscally responsible is the hallmark of Allen County's government.

COUNTY TAXES

Taxes for Allen County are detailed below.

Adjusted gross income tax	1.0%
Econ development income tax	0.2%
COIT/CEDIT	0.6%

STATE TAXES

Indiana state taxes are as follows.

Retail sales tax	6%
Corporate gross income tax (min)	0.3%
Corporate gross income tax (max)	1.2%
Corporate adjusted gross inc tax	3.4%
Supplemental net income tax	4.5%
Corp franchise tax	None
Mach, equip and inventory tax	Prop tax



Unemployment contribution rates for Indiana are detailed below:

Unemployment contr rate (min)	0.2%
Unemployment contr rate (max)	5.5%
Max benefit period	26-weeks benefit amount (min) \$116
Benefit amount (max)	\$225

Workers' compensation insurance rates for Indiana are detailed below

Liability	Employer's liability
Benefit rate	66 2/3% weekly wage
Benefit amt (max)	\$448

COMMUNICATIONS

- Fort Wayne Journal Gazette and News Sentinel
- FM radio: 88.3 WLAB, 88.7 WBNI, 89.1 WBOI, 90.3 WBCL, 91.1 WCYT, 92.3 WFWI, 93.3 WBTU, 95.1 WAJI, 96.3 WNHT, 97.3 WMEE, 98.9 WBYP, 101.7 WLDE, 102.3 WXTW, 102.9 WGL, 103.9 WXKE, 105.1 WQHK, 106.3 WSHY, 107.9 WJFX
- AM radio: 1090 WFCV, 1190 WOWO, 1250 WGL, 1380 WKJG, 1450 WLYV
- ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS, Cable and FIOS

AMENITIES, AWARDS AND SERVICES

- Allen County is the largest county by area in Indiana
- Fort Wayne is the second largest city in Indiana
- Fort Wayne is home of The Lincoln Museum, the worlds largest private collection of President Abraham Lincoln artifacts, including an original signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Fort Wayne is America's #1 minor sports league city, according to a 2007 issue of Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal.
- Fort Wayne's inventions include the washing machine, baking powder, calculator, juke box, television, breathalyzer, and refrigerator. It is also the city where stereo sound, the garbage disposal, magnetic wire, streetlights and the gasoline pump were first created and manufactured.
- Fort Wayne is home of America's largest, public genealogy research library.
- Fort Wayne's library ranked in the top 10 in the nation for the sixth year. The Allen County Public Library was ranked ninth in the nation for libraries serving a population of 250,000 to 499,999 – by Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index II.

- Fort Wayne’s nicknames include the City of Churches, City of Restaurants, the Summit City, the City that Saved Itself,
- Fort Wayne has been named an All-American City - 3 times.
- Fort Wayne has placed near the top as a best golf town in Golf Digest magazine's 2005 Best Golf Towns in America rankings.
- Fort Wayne is home to Arts United, the third oldest united nonprofit arts fund in the United States and the second largest arts council in the State of Indiana.

(source: www.visitfortwayne.com)

ACCOMMODATIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • America’s Best Value Inn | • Hampton Inn & Suites |
| • At the Herb Lady’s Garden B&B | • Hilton Garden Inn |
| • Baymont Inn & Suites | • Hilton Hotel – Grand Wayne Center |
| • Best Western Auburn Inn | • Holiday Inn Express |
| • Best Western Luxbury Inn | • Hyatt Place |
| • Candlewood Suites | • LaQuinta Inn & Conference Center |
| • Carol Lombard House B&B | • Lee’s Inn & Suites |
| • Comfort Suites | • Morning Glory Inn B & B |
| • Country Inn & Suites | • Quality Hotel & Fundome |
| • Courtyard by Marriott | • Red Roof Inn |
| • Days Inn | • Residence Inn by Marriott |
| • Don Hall’s Guesthouse | • Sleep Inn & Suites |
| • EconoLodge | • StudioPLUS Deluxe Studios |
| • Extended Stay America | • The LaSalle Inn |
| • Fort Wayne Inn | • The Worthington Mansion B& B |
| • Fort Wayne Marriott | |

BUSINESS

Health care, manufacturing, and insurance have traditionally been the primary industries in Fort Wayne. The city's hospitals form a regional medical center that serves the tri-state area. Demand for health care services has continued to increase alongside the area's population, particularly that of older citizens. The city's two health care networks—Parkview Health System and Lutheran Health Network—are among the city's five top employers.

Dozens of manufacturing companies in the Fort Wayne area employ 100 people or more. Notable among these is General Motors's Fort Wayne Assembly plant, which has approximately 3,000 employees and is one of the top employers in the city. The 2.5 million square-foot plant, which built its first pickup truck in 1986, produced 247,000 pickups in 2004 and is home of the world's first full-size hybrid pickup truck.

The home offices of several insurance companies are located in Fort Wayne, including Lincoln Financial Group, which opened for business in 1905—in a small rented space above a telegraph office in Fort Wayne—as Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. The company grew to become one of the largest insurance companies in the country.

Leading-edge communication service will soon arrive in the Fort Wayne area by Verizon, another of the city's largest employers. In January 2005, the company announced plans for a \$65-75 million fiber optic network throughout most of Fort Wayne and nearby New Haven. The network, which will serve approximately 65,000 homes and businesses, will be the first of its kind in the state. Nearly 900 new jobs—approximately 600 contract workers, 200 full-time Verizon jobs, and 80 temporary positions—are expected as a result of this project.

Tourism in Fort Wayne has grown in recent years, following the expansion or the building of new museums, hotels, festival parks, and meeting facilities. In 2003, 5.3 million visitors came to the city, spending \$370 million.

Items and goods produced: electric motors and supplies, trucks, tires, clothing, public speaking systems, televisions and electronic equipment, radios, valves, radio parts, copper wire, diamond wire dies, tools, trailers, aluminum pistons, gasoline pumps, liquid metering equipment, tanks and compressors, automotive axles, plastics, boats, feed, beer, paint, cranes and dredges, paper boxes, precision gears and counters, mobile homes

(source: www.city-data.com)

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Following is a list of the top 100 employers in Allen County. Rankings are determined by total number of full time equivalents (FTE). Employment data is for Allen County only. Retailers and Restaurants are generally excluded from the list.



ALLEN COUNTY TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

List maintained by Community Research Institute, IPFW. www.ipfw.edu/cri/majoremployers.htm

RANK	TOTAL FTE	COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	DATA PROVIDER	REPORT YEAR	FULL TIME	PART TIME
1	4201	Fort Wayne Community Schools	1200 S Clinton St	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	2863	1338
2	3844	Parkview Health Systems	2200 Randalia Dr	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	2749	1095
3	3432	Lutheran Health Network	7950 W Jefferson	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	2751	681
4	2981	General Motors Truck Group	42200 Lafayette Center Rd	Roanoke	Alliance	2006	2981	0
5	1964	Allen County Government	200 City County Bldg	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	1440	524
6	1910	ITT Aerospace-Communications Div	PO Box 3700	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	1901	9
7	1905	City of Fort Wayne	One Main Street	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	1897	8
8	1750	Lincoln Financial Group	1300 S Clinton	Ft. Wayne	Other	2007	1750	0
9	1700	Lincoln Financial Group	1300 S Clinton	Ft. Wayne	Other	2007	1700	0
10	1502	Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Manufacturing (Michelin)	PO Box 277	Woodburn	response	2006	1502	0
11	1500	Scott's Food Stores, Inc.	4118 N Clinton Street	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	1028	472
12	1459	Verizon	8001 W Jefferson Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2004	1437	22
13	1307	East Allen County Schools	1240 State Road 930 East	New Haven	Alliance	2006	1307	0
14	1300	Shambaugh & Son, Inc	7525 DiSalle St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	1300	0
15	1240	International Truck and Engine Corp	PO Box 1109	Ft. Wayne	Other	2007	1240	0
16	1120	IPFW	2101 E. Coliseum Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	902	218
17	1000	Raytheon Systems Co	1010 Production Road	Ft. Wayne	RMP2	2006	1000	0
18	915	Southwest Allen County Schools	4824 Homestead Road	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	642	273
19	883	OmniSource Corporation	1610 N Calhoun St	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	861	22
20	861	OmniSource Corporation	1610 N Calhoun St	Ft. Wayne	RMP2	2006	861	0
21	820	Parker Hannifin Corporation	10801 Rose Avenue	New Haven	J-G	2007	820	0
22	738	B.A.E. Systems Platform Solutions	2000 Taylor Street	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	731	7
23	700	Norfolk Southern Corp	8111 Nelson Road	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	700	0
24	680	Don Hall's	216 Highway 30 W	New Haven	response	2004	330	350
25	641	Kelley Automotive Group	500 E State Blvd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	641	0
26	588	IN Air National Guard - 122nd Fighter Wing	3005 Ferguson Rd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	329	259
27	531	AWS	2826 S Calhoun St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	377	154
28	512	Wells Fargo Bank	111 E Wayne St	Ft. Wayne	response	2004	479	33
29	500	Dana Corporation, Spicer Axle Div	2424 W State	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	500	0
30	498	Sirva	5001 US Highway 30 W	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	498	0
31	490	Pizza Hut	7100 W Jefferson Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	265	225
32	472	DO IT BEST Corp	6502 Nelson Rd	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	472	0
33	456	Supervalu-FW Division	4815 Executive Blvd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2004	456	0
34	449	Fort Wayne Newspapers Inc	600 W Main St	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	417	32
35	448	Lincoln Foodservice Products	1111 N Hadley Road	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	448	0
36	428	GE Industrial Systems	1635 Broadway	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	413	15
37	425	Fort Wayne Foundry Corp.	2817 Goshen Rd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	425	0
38	420	C&M Fine Pack, Inc	7707 Vicksburg Pike	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	420	0
39	420	Easter Seals ARC of Northeast IN	2542 Thompson Ave	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	265	155
40	400	Time Services	6422 Lima Rd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	400	0
41	395	Allen County Public Library	PO Box 2270	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	238	157
42	390	Rea Magnet Wire Co, Inc	3600 Pontiac St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	388	2
43	388	Rea Magnet Wire Co, Inc	3600 Pontiac St	Ft. Wayne	RMP2	2006	388	0
44	383	Park Center, Inc	909 E State St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	275	108
45	382	VA Northern Indiana Health Care System	2121 Lake Ave	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	343	39
46	380	Superior Essex	1601 Wall Street	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	380	0
47	374	Centennial Wireless	1619 Magnavox Way	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	374	0
48	364	IVY Tech Community College	3800 N Anthony Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	212	152
49	360	Mullinix Packages, Inc	3511 Engle Rd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	360	0
50	350	Fort Wayne Metals Research Products Corp	9609 Indianapolis Rd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	336	14
51	334	PHD, Inc	9109 Clubridge Dr	Ft. Wayne	response	2004	332	2
52	323	Trelleborg Sealing Solutions	PO Box 176	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	323	0
53	315	University of Saint Francis	2701 Spring St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	292	23

ALLEN COUNTY TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

List maintained by Community Research Institute, IPFW. www.ipfw.edu/cri/majoremployers.htm

RANK	TOTAL FTE	COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	DATA PROVIDER	REPORT YEAR	FULL TIME	PART TIME
54	315	Aetna US Healthcare	3500 E Coliseum Blvd	Ft. Wayne	Chamber	2004	315	0
55	315	Edy's Grand Ice Cream	3426 Wells St	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	315	0
56	312	Master Spas	6927 Lincoln Pkwy	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	312	0
57	312	CME Automotive (Mitsuba)	21600 Monroeville Rd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	312	0
58	311	Medical Protective Company	PO Box 15021	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	311	0
59	300	GE Industrial Systems	1635 Broadway	Ft. Wayne	RMP2	2006	300	0
60	291	Orthopaedics Northeast	5050 North Clinton Street	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	280	11
61	290	Sweetwater Sound	5335 Bass Rd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2007	290	0
62	290	Phelps Dodge Magnet Wire Co	2131 S Coliseum Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2004	289	1
63	281	Triple Crown Services Co.	2720 Dupont Commerce Crt	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	281	0
64	275	K&K Insurance Group, Inc	PO Box 2338	Ft. Wayne	Weekly	2007	275	0
65	272	Specialized Transportation Inc	PO Box 80520	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	271	1
66	252	Deister Machine Company	1933 E Wayne St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	251	1
67	250	Craftline Printing Inc.	3505 Independence Dr.	Ft. Wayne	Weekly	2007	250	0
68	247	Heritage Food Service	5130 Executive Blvd.	Ft. Wayne	response	2007	242	5
69	245	IBM Corp	2720 Dupont Commerce Ct,St110	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	245	0
70	242	Fort Wayne Orthopaedics	P.O. Box 2526	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	230	12
71	241	Star Financial Bank	6230 Bluffton Rd.	Ft. Wayne	response	2007	226	15
72	241	Ottenweller Co	3011 Congressional Pkwy	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	238	3
73	240	National Serv-All	6231 Macbeth Rd	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	240	0
74	238	Heart Center Medical Group	7916 W Jefferson	Ft. Wayne	response	2005	230	8
75	238	Ward Corp	642 Growth Ave	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	235	3
76	235	J. P. Morgan Chase	One Summit Square	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	225	10
77	230	Terex Advance Mixer, Inc	7727 Freedom Way	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	230	0
78	230	Brooks Construction Company	6525 Ardmore Rd	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	230	0
79	226	Allen Co. Dept. of Child Services, Div. of Family	201 E. Rudisill Blvd. Ste100	Ft. Wayne	response	2007	224	2
80	223	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co	P.O. Box 2227	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	215	8
81	222	Aunt Millie's	350 Pearl St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	216	6
82	221	Arden International Corp.	3510 Piper Dr, Building 1031	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	220	1
83	221	Towne House	2209 Saint Joe Center Rd	Ft. Wayne	response	2007	114	107
84	210	Craftline Printing Inc.	3505 Independence Dr.	Ft. Wayne	Weekly	2007	210	0
85	208	Grabill Cabinet Company	PO Box 40	Grabill	response	2006	205	3
86	208	Swiss Re	1700 Magavox Way	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	201	7
87	201	Ingram Book Company	7315 Innovation Blvd	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	185	16
88	200	LH Industries Corp	4420 Clubview Dr	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	200	0
89	200	Byron Health Center	12101 Lima Rd	Ft. Wayne	Weekly	2007	200	0
90	200	TuthillLinkage Group	PO Box 227	New Haven	response	2006	200	0
91	196	Cintas Corporation	3201 Brooklyn Ave	Ft. Wayne	fwdailynews	2007	196	0
92	190	Harris Kayot	2801 W State St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	190	0
93	183	Foamex International, Inc	3005 Commercial Road	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	183	0
94	181	Regal Beloit	1946 Cook Rd.	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	165	16
95	180	Vera Bradley	2208 Production Rd	Ft. Wayne	Alliance	2006	180	0
96	180	Buchanan Hauling and Rigging	4625 Industrial Rd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	180	0
97	179	Tower Bank	116 East Berry Street	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	168	11
98	177	Lutheran Homes	6701 S Anthony Blvd	Ft. Wayne	Other	2006	177	0
99	176	Fort Wayne Cardiology, Inc	1819 Carew St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	143	33
100	175	National City Bank	110 W Berry St	Ft. Wayne	response	2006	160	15

The Top 100 Companies are based on Full-Time Employees (FTE).

HISTORIC/SPECIAL PROFILE

Fort Wayne and Allen County have a wealth of historic architecture, districts and neighborhoods. Fort Wayne in particular has a substantial number of historic landmarks, Local Historic Districts and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Whether officially designated or not, these include the Allen County Courthouse, Lincoln Tower, Embassy Theatre, Swinney Homestead, and the West Central and Oakdale neighborhoods, to name a few.

The area also is home to a number of character-defining features/places that serve as local landmarks, including the General Electric and Sunbeam Bread signs, Henry's Bar, Cindy's Diner, Coney Island, and the Concordia Theological Seminary.

Other place-making buildings and historic corridors are dispersed throughout the County and serve as community identifiers, such as characteristic barns, churches and schools. Without official designation or protections, these sites and corridors are in particular danger of being lost to new development.

(source: www.city-data.com)

HEALTHCARE

As the largest single industry in Fort Wayne, the health care community serves a three-state region. Approximately half of the admissions to Allen County hospitals are from outside the county. Fort Wayne has six hospitals: Parkview Hospital, 573 beds; Lutheran Hospital, 343 beds; St. Joseph Hospital, 191 beds; Dupont Hospital, 86 beds; Rehabilitation Hospital Fort Wayne, 60 beds; and Parkview North Hospital, 38 beds. The city's two health care networks—Parkview Health System and Lutheran Health Network—are among the city's five top employers.

Parkview Hospital, Parkview Health System's flagship hospital, is the fourth-largest hospital in the state and the largest outside Indianapolis. A Level II Trauma Center, Parkview is the only trauma center to be verified by the American College of Surgeons in northern Indiana. The trauma center is comprised of 18 components, including a full-service emergency department, a surgical-trauma intensive care unit, a surgical care center, and a flight program with two medical helicopters.

The hospital also houses a cardiac-medical intensive care unit; a continuing care skilled nursing facility; a new life center and neonatal intensive care unit; a children's center; cancer, heart, stroke, and rehabilitation centers; and a sleep disorders lab.

Lutheran Hospital, the flagship hospital of Lutheran Health Network, is the region's only heart transplant facility. Other key services of the hospital include emergency services, inpatient and outpatient surgery, cardiac services, obstetrics, pediatrics, a diabetes treatment center, orthopedics, occupational medicine, and a sleep lab.

(source: www.city-data.com)

- Dupont Hospital LLC (2520 E Dupont RD)
- Lutheran Hospital of Indiana (7950 W Jefferson BLVD)
- Parkview Hospital (2200 Randalia DR)
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Ft Wayne (7970 W Jefferson BLVD)
- Select Specialty Hospital-Ft Wayne (700 Broadway)
- St Joseph Hospital (700 Broadway)

EDUCATION

Following is a listing of the K-12 schools within Allen County (arranged in order by zip code):



Local School District
Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 32,114 Students :: 55 Schools

46802

Anthris Career Center
 Grade Unknown :: No Enrollment Data :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Emmanuel-St. Michael School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 232 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private School

Lindley Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 468 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Portage Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 593 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Richard Milburn High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 97 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Special Education Center
 Un-Graded :: 254 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

St. John Lutheran School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 125 Students :: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Private School

St. Pauls Lutheran School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 196 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private School

Study Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 275 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Washington Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 245 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

46803

Adams Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 303 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Bunche Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 298 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Memorial Park Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 630 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Whitney M Young Early Childhood School
Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 255 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Zion Lutheran Academy
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 103 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Private School

46804

Emmaus Lutheran School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 128 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Private School
Haverhill Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 396 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Kindercare Learning Center
Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 55 Students :: Nonsectarian Private School
Whispering Meadow Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 492 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County

46805

Brentwood Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 451 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Concordia Lutheran High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 734 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private
School
Cornerstone Christian College
Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 114 Students :: Non-Denominational Christian Private
School
Cornerstone Day Care Learning Center
Kindergarten :: 15 Students :: Pentecostal Private School
Forest Park Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 679 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Holy Cross Lutheran School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 433 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Private School
Lakeside Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 538 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
North Side High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 1,384 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
St. Jude Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 648 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

46806

Alternative Learning Program
6th Grade to 12th Grade :: No Enrollment Data :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Bethlehem Lutheran School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 256 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Private School

John S Irwin Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 294 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Levan R Scott Academy
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 279 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Maple Grove Center
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: No Enrollment Data :: East Allen County Schools

Merle J Abbett Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 342 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Village Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 454 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Weisser Park Elementary School
 1st Grade to 5th Grade :: 643 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

46807

Fairfield Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 628 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Harrison Hill Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 646 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

South Side High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 1,408 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

South Wayne Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 413 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

St. John The Baptist School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 348 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Unity Lutheran School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 194 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private
 School

46808

Bloomington Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 353 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Francis M Price Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 518 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Franke Park Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 572 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Nebraska Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 331 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Precious Blood Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 220 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Queen of Angels Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 390 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Trinity Lutheran School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 4th Grade :: 50 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Private School

Wesleyan Kiddie Kollege School
Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 80 Students :: Non-Denominational Christian Private School

46809

Elmhurst High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 911 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Indian Village Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 386 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Kekionga Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 621 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Waynedale Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 471 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Local School District
M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 6,011 Students :: 9 Schools

46814

Aboite Elementary School
3rd Grade to 5th Grade :: 549 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Deer Ridge Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 511 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Fort Wayne Christian School-So
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 64 Students :: Non-Denominational Christian Private School
Homestead Senior High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 1,893 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Indian Meadows Elementary School
Kindergarten to 2nd Grade :: 508 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Summit Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 726 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County
Woodside Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 752 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County

46815

Blackhawk Christian Junior/Senior High School
7th Grade to 12th Grade :: 332 Students :: Baptist Private School
Blackhawk Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 870 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
Concordia Lutheran School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 419 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private School

Fred H Croninger Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 575 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Glenwood Park Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 532 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

J Wilbur Haley Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 592 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Lane Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 615 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Messiah Lutheran Nursery
Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 98 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private School

R Nelson Snider High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 2,031 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

St. Charles Borromeo School
Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 801 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

St. Peters Lutheran School
Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 231 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private School

Tlc Limited Partnership #1b School
Kindergarten :: 20 Students :: Nonsectarian Private School

Local School District

Timothy L Johnson Academy

Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 174 Students :: 1 School

46816

Ben F Geyer Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 572 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Bishop Luers High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 608 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Mon. Julien Beoit Academy
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 211 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Paul Harding High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 577 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Prince Chapman Academy
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 578 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Southwick Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 407 Students :: East Allen County Schools

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 227 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

Timothy L Johnson Academy
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 174 Students :: Timothy L Johnson Academy

46818

Allen County Youth Services Center
 1st Grade to 12th Grade :: 31 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Carroll High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 1,450 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Carroll Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 477 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Hickory Center Elementary
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 581 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Northeast Juvenile Correctional School
 5th Grade to 12th Grade :: 86 Students :: in Department of Correction
 Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 208 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Private School
 Washington Center Elementary
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 590 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

46819

Maplewood Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 434 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Miami Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 676 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Pleasant Center Elementary
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 258 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 St. Therese Catholic School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 187 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School
 Wayne High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 964 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

46825

Bishop Dwenger High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 958 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School
 Lincoln Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 625 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Mabel K Holland Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 610 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Northcrest Elementary School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 511 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Northrop High School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 2,075 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Northwood Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 747 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Shawnee Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 915 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 St. Vincent De Paul School
 1st Grade to 8th Grade :: 699 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

46835

Arlington Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 530 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Ascension Lutheran School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 104 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Private School
 Central Christian School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 7th Grade :: 94 Students :: Mennonite Private School
 Jefferson Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 651 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Kiddie Prep School
 Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 174 Students :: Other Private School
 Robert C Harris Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 497 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Saint Joseph Central School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 466 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools
 Willard Shambaugh Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 492 Students :: Fort Wayne Community Schools

Local School District

Northwest Allen County Schools

Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 4,992 Students :: 10 Schools

46845

Alternative School
 9th Grade to 12th Grade :: No Enrollment Data :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran School
 Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 22 Students :: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 Private School
 Cedarville Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 3rd Grade :: 624 Students :: East Allen County Schools
 Maple Creek Middle School
 6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 731 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Oak View Elementary School
 Kindergarten to 2nd Grade :: 525 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Perry Hill Elementary School
 3rd Grade to 5th Grade :: 576 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools
 Pine Hills Kiddie Garden School
 Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten :: 134 Students :: Mennonite Private School

46855

Fort Wayne Christian School
 Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 275 Students :: Non-Denominational Christian Private
 School

46895

Crossroad Ft Wayne Childrens H School

3rd Grade to 12th Grade :: 87 Students :: Church of Christ Private School

Ft Wayne Juvenile Correctional Facility

5th Grade to 12th Grade :: 17 Students :: in Department of Correction

Grabill, Indiana Schools

46741

A.P.S. No. 1 School

1st Grade to 8th Grade :: 138 Students :: Amish Private School

Cedar Creek Amish School #3

1st Grade to 8th Grade :: 97 Students :: Amish Private School

Fellowship Haven Bible School

Un-Graded :: 30 Students :: Mennonite Private School

Harlan, Indiana Schools

46743

Cuba Mennonite School

Kindergarten to 11th Grade :: 24 Students :: Mennonite Private School

Harlan Christian School

Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 68 Students :: Church of Christ Private School

Harlan Elementary School

Kindergarten to 6th Grade :: 466 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Hoagland, Indiana Schools

46745

Hoagland Elementary School

Kindergarten to 6th Grade :: 384 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Huntertown, Indiana Schools

46748

DbA Heritage Mission School

1st Grade to 10th Grade :: 7 Students :: Non-Denominational Christian Private School

Huntertown Elementary School

Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 443 Students :: Northwest Allen County Schools

Leo, Indiana Schools

46765

Leo Elementary School

4th Grade to 6th Grade :: 445 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Leo Junior/Senior High School

7th Grade to 12th Grade :: 1,017 Students :: East Allen County Schools

Monroeville, Indiana Schools
46773

Heritage Junior/Senior High School
7th Grade to 12th Grade :: 791 Students :: East Allen County Schools
Monroeville School
Kindergarten to 6th Grade :: 248 Students :: East Allen County Schools
St. John Lutheran School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 172 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Private School
St. Joseph School
Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 78 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School

New Haven, Indiana Schools

Local School District
East Allen County Schools
Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade :: 9,731 Students :: 20 Schools

46774

Amish Parochial School 2
1st Grade to 8th Grade :: 130 Students :: Amish Private School
Central Lutheran School
Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 299 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Private
School
Highland Terrace Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 448 Students :: East Allen County Schools
Meadowbrook Elementary School
Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 392 Students :: East Allen County Schools
New Haven Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 425 Students :: East Allen County Schools
New Haven High School
9th Grade to 12th Grade :: 824 Students :: East Allen County Schools
New Haven Middle School
6th Grade to 8th Grade :: 576 Students :: East Allen County Schools
Park Hill Learning Center
Grade Unknown :: No Enrollment Data :: East Allen County Schools
St. John The Baptist School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 411 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School
St. Louis Academy
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 105 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School
Three Rivers Montessori School
Pre-Kindergarten to 4th Grade :: 199 Students :: Nonsectarian Private School

**Roanoke, Indiana Schools
46783**

Aboite Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 11 Students :: Seventh-Day Adventist Private School
Lafayette Central Elementary School
Kindergarten to 5th Grade :: 184 Students :: M S.D. Southwest Allen County

**Woodburn, Indiana Schools
46797**

Black Creek School
1st Grade to 8th Grade :: 102 Students :: Amish Private School
Woodburn Elementary School
Kindergarten to 6th Grade :: 360 Students :: East Allen County Schools
Woodburn Lutheran School
Pre-Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 135 Students :: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Private School
Woodlan Junior/Senior High School
7th Grade to 12th Grade :: 715 Students :: East Allen County Schools

**Yoder, Indiana Schools
46798**

St. Aloysius Elementary School
Kindergarten to 8th Grade :: 125 Students :: Roman Catholic Private School
(source: www.indiana.schooltree.org)

HIGHER EDUCATION

Enrolling nearly 12,000 students, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) offers a complete range of undergraduate and graduate programs. The largest university in northeast Indiana, IPFW is a joint campus of two Big Ten schools, and grants both Indiana University and Purdue University degrees. The main campus of Purdue is in West Lafayette, IN, and that of Indiana University is in Bloomington. Long a commuter college, IPFW opened its first student housing in 2004.

Church-affiliated colleges include the University of Saint Francis, a Catholic liberal arts university; Taylor University-Fort Wayne, an interdenominational liberal arts college with campuses in Fort Wayne and Upland, IN; and Concordia Theological Seminary, dedicated to the preparation of Lutheran pastors.

Fort Wayne is also home to Indiana Tech, a four-year college providing degree programs in business, engineering, computer science, and human services; International Business College, offering business, health care, and technology programs; and ITT Technical Institute, offering technology, drafting and design, and business programs. Post-secondary education and technical training are provided by two-year Ivy Tech State College. Other two-year colleges include Michiana College and Indiana Business College-Fort Wayne.

(source: www.city-data.com)

CIVIC AND RECREATIONAL MAJOR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, Invent Tomorrow, Lions Club

MAIN CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Traditional neighborhood commercial districts can be found throughout the County and attract visitors from the surrounding region. The Three Rivers Co-op and the Southside Farmers Market in Fort Wayne are two examples of the unique shopping experiences available in the County.

Various cultural institutions also help to define the community. These include the Allen County Public Library (with its notable genealogy department), the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Sports offerings include the Wizards baseball team and the Fort Wayne Komet's hockey team. Various annual festivals, such as the Johnny Appleseed Festival, Grabill Days Festival, Germanfest, New Haven Canal Days and the Three Rivers Festival attract visitors to the area.

Allen County and Fort Wayne also offer cultural diversity, as seen in distinctive Amish settlements and ethnic neighborhoods.

(source: www.city-data.com)

LIBRARIES

Fort Wayne is served by the Allen County Public Library. The main facility of the Allen County Public Library houses extensive holdings—about 2.3 million books in addition to 10,100 periodical titles, records, tapes, films, slides, art reproductions, and compact discs—and special collections in such fields as local history, genealogy, heraldry, fine arts, business and technology, and federal and state documents. Its Genealogy Research Department, with more than 300,000 printed volumes and 314,000 items of microfilm and microfiche, is considered the most extensive public genealogy research library in the country.



The library operates 13 branches. The main library is the 11th busiest library in the country, as measured by circulation. In 2001 county taxpayers approved bond financing of an \$84 million library expansion project. Within four years two new branches opened and another was renovated. A massive renovation of the main library was completed in 2006.

Area colleges maintain campus libraries. Specialized libraries include the Lincoln Museum Library, specializing in Lincolniana, as well as libraries affiliated with hospitals, corporations, and government agencies. The Community Research Institute is among the nine Centers of Excellence supported by Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

(source: www.city-data.com)

PARKS (SEE PARK INVENTORY IN CHAPTER 1)

County : 4

GOLF COURSES

Public: 12 Private: 6 Semi-Private: 4

WATERWAYS

Rivers: St. Joe, Maumee, St. Mary's

OTHER ENTERTAINMENT

Bowling Alleys: 8

Movie Theaters: 8



UTILITIES

ELECTRIC: Indiana Michigan Power

NATURAL GAS: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

WATER: In a pattern similar to sewer systems, the provision of drinking water is dominated by the City of Fort Wayne (serving 75% of the customer base), Aqua Indiana (18%), and the City of New Haven (5%), with nine small systems meeting the remaining needs. Properties not served by these systems rely on individual wells.

All drinking water utilities have designated source water protection areas to preserve raw water supplies. For the City of Fort Wayne and the City of New Haven, this means protecting the St. Joseph River through a variety of watershed initiatives. For other systems, this means creating wellhead protection areas to protect groundwater wells.

SANITATION:

There are 14 separate sanitary sewer systems in Allen County, which serve about 100,000 customers, including households and businesses. There are approximately 18,000 properties on individual septic systems. These systems have a tendency to fail, particularly in the hydric-soil areas prevalent throughout the County.

The three main sewer providers are the City of Fort Wayne (serving 80% of the customer base), Aqua Indiana (12%), and the City of New Haven (5%). Many of the small, individual treatment systems were developed during the 1950s, when Allen County planning entities adopted a subdivision control ordinance that required sanitary sewer systems.

Today's regional water quality concerns include failed or underperforming septic systems, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Solutions for managing these problems can be costly. Fort Wayne, Allen County, and other sewer system providers must find suitable ways to mitigate existing problems, while expanding sewers to support community developments.

TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAYS

Highway travel into Fort Wayne is via Interstate 69, which runs north from Indianapolis into Michigan, and Interstate 469, which encircles the city. U.S. Highways 30, 33, 27, and 24 converge in Allen County. Interstate 80, which runs east/west, is located 45 miles north of Fort Wayne via Interstate 69.



RAIL

- Chicago, Fort Wayne and Eastern Railroad
- CSX Transportation
- Maumee and Western Railroad
- Norfolk Southern Railway

TRUCK

An excellent highway system is used by nearly 40 common and contract motor carriers that maintain local terminals that provide overnight delivery to most of the Midwest, Mid-south, and Canada. Triple Crown Services Co., a door-to-door truckload carrier, is headquartered in Fort Wayne.

BUS

The Fort Wayne Citilink provides intracity bus service to downtown, urban shopping centers, and area employment locations.

PORT

The port facility nearest to Fort Wayne is Burns International Harbor which is 70 miles away.

AIR

Fort Wayne International Airport is the destination for most air traffic into Fort Wayne. It is one of only a handful of airports in the Midwest with a 12,000-foot runway. Five commercial carriers provide direct flights from major cities throughout the United States; connecting flights for international travel are also available.

One of the top three revenue sources for the city of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne International Airport accommodates more than one million passengers annually.



Smith Field, located north of the city, is a secondary airport for private air traffic.

(source: www.city-data.com)

AREA TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- African/African-American Historical Museum
In a historic Queen Anne building, exhibits include Coming to America, African Village, Music of My People, and Underground Railroad Room. Only museum of its kind in Indiana.
- Allen County Courthouse
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the recently restored Allen County Courthouse was built at the turn of the century and reflects Beaux-Roman architecture.
- Allen County Fairgrounds
The fairgrounds host events such as the Allen County Fair, Muddy River Run, trade shows, coin and gem shows, horse sales, receptions, picnics, and more.
- ARCH
Fort Wayne's historic preservation organization. Advocacy for historic and architecturally important structures.
- Bower North Productions
Audience-participation mystery entertainment with a comic flair for banquets, conventions, fundraisers, and private parties.
- Castle Gallery
A unique art gallery featuring local and international artists set in a historic mansion.
- Cathedral Museum
A classic example of Gothic architecture, with exceptional wood carvings, Bavarian stained glass windows are said to be the finest of their kind in all the Western Hemisphere, housing religious artifacts dating back to the mid-13th century.
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
Come and enjoy 42 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and find out why 500,000 annual visitors call it the world's finest children's zoo.

- **Fort Wayne Civic Theatre**
The Civic Theater performs a wide range of scripts, from Shakespeare to contemporary comedy.
- **Fort Wayne Dance Collective**
Committed to promoting human creativity, FWDC is a diverse, non-judgmental, not-for-profit organization.
- **Fort Wayne Firefighter's Museum**
Located in historic Engine House No. 3, this museum showcases artifacts used by some of the city's earliest heroes - the firefighters.
- **Fort Wayne Museum of Art**
This contemporary museum offers artworks from its own permanent collections as well as national traveling exhibitions, classes, lectures, and a museum gift shop.
- **Fort Wayne Youtheatre**
The third oldest youth theatre in the United States, the Fort Wayne Youtheatre is celebrating its 68th year.
- **Historic Tour/The Heritage Trail**
Stop by the Visitors Center for a free map and take a self-guided tour of the fabulous historic buildings and points of interest in downtown Fort Wayne.
- **History Center**
An interactive museum that highlights the history of Allen County, from Little Turtle and Anthony Wayne, to inventions that originated in this area.
- **Lazer X**
Lazer X is the Midwest's largest laser tag and arcade game facility.
- **Lindenwood Nature Preserve**
Lindenwood Nature Preserve offers nature study on 110 acres of land, including forest, prairie, pond, wildlife and self-guided trails.
- **McMillen Ice Arena**
McMillen Ice Arena has served the Fort Wayne community for almost 50 years.
- **Putt Putt Golf and Games**
Family Fun Center, Miniature Golf with 3 Different 18 hole themed courses, go-karts, family and competition karts, arcade with redemption center and over 60 of the latest games.
- **Science Central**
Hands-on fun at Indiana's interactive science center.
- **Swinney Homestead**
The homestead includes the 1844 Swinney House, the 1849 log cabin and the herb garden.
- **The Lincoln Museum**
The award-winning permanent exhibit, Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment, includes 11 exhibit galleries featuring hundreds of artifacts from Lincoln's era.
- **The Mad Anthony Brewing Company**
Fresh, natural handcrafted ales, lagers, Gourmet pizza, pasta, salads, sandwiches, munchies.
- **Veterans Memorial National Shrine**
Shrine museum includes over 5,000 military artifacts from the Civil War to the present.

AREA PRO SPORTS TEAMS

Soccer – **Fort Wayne Fever** – Premier Development League
 Football – **Fort Wayne Flyers** – Minor League Football Association
 Indoor Football – **Fort Wayne Freedom** – Continental Indoor Football League
 Hockey – **Fort Wayne Komets** – International Hockey League
 Baseball – **Fort Wayne Wizards** – Midwest League
 Basketball – **Fort Wayne Mad Ants** – NBA development League

FESTIVALS

- BBQ Rib Fest
- Fort Wayne Pride Fest
- German Fest
- Greek Fest
- Holiday Fest
- Johnny Appleseed Festival
- Taste of Fort Wayne
- Three Rivers Festival

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

Churchill Downs Sports Spectrum - 1820 W. Washington Center Road (260-490-9006)
 Churchill Downs Sports Spectrum offers wagering on horse racing from the greatest tracks in the country. Admission free. The Spectrum also offers a selection of dining options.

Key Lanes - 2200 Goshen Road (260-482-1800) a complete bowling center - offering fun for the whole family! Restaurant, lounge, and group discounts available.

Crazy Pinz – 1414 Northland Boulevard (260-490-2695) a smoke-free facility that has 32-lanes of bowling, 4-lanes of mini-bowling, a 9-hole indoor mini-golf course and more.

Lazer X - 44 Fernhill Avenue (260-484-1350) Accept the challenge! Lazer X is the Midwest's largest laser tag and arcade game facility. We specialize in corporate and group events, parties, and school functions. Located next to Glenbrook Mall and Target, we offer special rates and facility rental for large groups.

Putt-Putt Golf & Games - 4530 Speedway Drive (260-483-7618) three 18-hole miniature golf courses, 50 video games, and go-karts. Special birthday party packages, group rates and Super Saturday rates.

Pro Bowl West - 1455 Goshen Road (260-482-4889) 56-lane complete bowling center. Zavakos Sports Bar, satellite TVs and pool tables.

The Plex - 1807 E. California Rd. (260-496-9999). This 45,000 square foot, centrally located facility offers indoor soccer, in-line hockey, and an indoor golf driving range. Open 7 days a week for league play. Full service soccer store.

Spiece Fieldhouse - 5310 Merchandise Drive (260-471-5270) with its 14 courts, Spiece Fieldhouse is the most sophisticated, technologically advanced and user-friendly basketball only facility in the US. The facility is used to host tournaments, clinics, camps, 3 on 3 tournaments, leagues, and instruction. The facility is surrounded by a new Spiece store concept and health and fitness facility. Conveniently located off I-69, exit 111A.

GOLF - Fort Wayne is host to over 25 golf courses that offer golfers a range from par-3 to exclusive club courses. Find your favorite below, or visit our Visitors Center at 1021 S. Calhoun for a complete listing of courses in the area.

Autumn Ridge Golf Course - 11420 Old Auburn Road (260-637-8727) Autumn Ridge offers country club conditions in a public setting. Four sets of bent grass tees give way to bent grass fairways on each hole. 17 lakes and 70 sand traps will challenge beginners and experienced golfers.

Canterbury Green Golf Course & Country Club - 2727 Canterbury Blvd.(260-486-7888) 18-hole golf course and 18-hole miniature golf. Gallery lounge. Carts available. Open to the public. Stay~N~Play packages available through the Executive Suites. Call 260- 486-REST.

Cedar Creek Golf Club - 10000 Garman Road ~ Leo, IN (260-627-5623) this 18-hole semi-private course features a rolling terrain and large, sloped greens. Facility features a full service bar and snack bar, driving range, and golf shop. Reservations required. Located 20 minutes North of Fort Wayne on State Road 1.

Cherry Hill Golf Club - 6615 Wheelock Road (260) 485-8727) Cherry Hill is an 18-hole course complete with one of the area's most complete practice facilities and full-service pro shop. Come and experience the area's only island green.

Chestnut Hills Golf Course - 11502 Illinois Road (260-625-4146_ 18-hole Fuzzy Zoeller signature golf course is located 3 miles west of I-69 on Highway 14. Large practice facility, full service golf shop, lessons and memberships available. Public welcome.

Eel River Golf Course - 1265 N. 950 East ~ Churubusco, IN (260-693-3464) 18-hole public golf course conveniently located 10 minutes north of Fort Wayne. Full service pro shop. New and renovated equipment and buildings, including indoor golf simulators.

Foster Park Golf Course - Rudisill & Old Mill Road (260-427-6735) 18 holes set in beautiful Foster Park offer you a fun and challenging day on the course. This par 71 course is one of Fort Wayne's finest public courses.

Lakeside Golf and Bowling - 746 N. Coliseum (260-422-8714) a local favorite, Lakeside offers both an 18-hole public course and a 9 hole executive par three course. Enjoy our full service bar and lounge, snack bar, pro shop, and driving range. Located conveniently on Coliseum Boulevard.

McMillen Park Golf Course - Oxford Street, East of Anthony (260-427-6710) McMillen Golf Course is great for players of all skill levels. Enjoy our 18-hole executive par 65 course. Our driving range is a wonderful place to get in some practice swings.

Noble Hawk Golf Links - 3005 Noble Hawk Drive ~ Kendallville, IN (260-349-0900) ~ (888-GOLF) - 321 Noble Hawk Golf Links is a world class 18-hole public golf course, featuring the area's only Scottish links style design, gently rolling bent grass fairways, large undulating greens, and 14 acres of ponds.

Riverbend Golf Course - 7207 St Joe Road (260-485-2732) Riverbend is a scenic golf course on the banks of the St. Joe River, featuring 18 holes of 6406 yards, a driving range, chipping green, pro shop, and snack bar. Carts are available as well as lessons from a PGA pro. The public is invited.

Shoaff Park Golf Course - St Joe Road (260-427-6745) set in a beautiful country setting, Shoaff Park is one of Fort Wayne's favorite par three courses, featuring 18 challenging holes. In addition, our driving range offers practice and entertainment before or after a round.

South Shore Golf Course - 10601 N. State Road 13 ~ Syracuse, IN (260-457-2832) This 18-hole golf course offers a challenging yet enjoyable day on the course for all skill levels. Driving range, full service restaurant and pro shop complement this facility, located 40 minutes north of Fort Wayne. Take Highway 30 N to 13.

The Links of Eagle Glen - 129 S. Eagle Glen Trail ~ Columbia City, IN (260-248-GOLF) This links style, 18-hole championship golf course features bent grass tees, fairways and greens, and is complemented by a full service snack and pro shop, driving range and event center. Located 20 minutes North of Fort Wayne on Highway 30.

The Golf Dome - 5702 Engle Road (432-8783) an indoor driving range with personal "T" boxes stations. Practice and fine tune your putting and chipping in comforts of a climate controlled environment. 18 hole miniature golf course and batting cages indoors. Outdoor range and 18 hole pitch-and-putt golf course coming in 2000.

AREA PARKS

Fort Wayne and Allen County covers 56 square miles and over 90 parks. It abounds in outdoor beauty where you can enjoy playgrounds, baseball, picnicking, jogging, tennis, basketball, and wandering the great outdoors.

Fox Island and Metea County Parks - 7324 Yohne Road (260-449-3180) Fox Island County Park (605 acres) and Metea County Park (250 acres) are often referred to as "Fort Wayne's best kept secrets." Both parks offer miles of hiking trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, fishes, cross-country skiing, bird watching and nature study at its best.

Foster Park - Old Mill Road & Rudisill Blvd. One of Fort Wayne's most beautiful parks, Foster Park features the lovely Foster Gardens with the Bridal Glen and gazebo. A pathway for joggers and bicyclers circles the 18-hole public golf course. Foster Park also includes pavilions, tennis courts and handicapped-accessible playground equipment.

Franke Park - 3411 Sherman Blvd. The site of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Franke Park's 282 scenic acres also feature a lake, baseball diamonds, picnicking facilities, a BMX track, a playground and the Foellinger Outdoor Theater.

Lakeside Rose Garden -1400 Lake Ave. The award-winning Lakeside Rose Garden is one of America's largest rose gardens, displaying nearly 2,000 rose bushes representing about 154 varieties. Lakeside is a favorite for weddings and picnics. The park also features baseball diamonds, tennis fishing and pavilions.

Lawton Park - Fourth Street between Clinton St. and Spy Run Ave. Visit Kids Crossing playground in Lawton Park. The playground was a Bicentennial project designed for kids by kids. Local third graders drew their ideas of an ideal playground and those ideas were modified into a workable design.

Kids of all ages will find something of interest on this innovative playground. Summer Fun Times guides will be available after May 8th. Call to receive one of the brochures. (Located adjacent to Science Central)

Lindenwood Nature Preserve - 600 Lindenwood Avenue. Lindenwood Nature Preserve offers nature study on 110 acres of land, including forest, prairie, pond, wildlife and self-guided trails.

McMillen Park - McKinnie Avenue, east of Anthony Blvd. The McMillen Ice Arena is open year-round for ice skating fun. McMillen Park also features a golf course, tennis, a public swimming pool, baseball diamonds, playground equipment, basketball and soccer areas.

Shoaff Park - St. Joe Road, north of St. Joe Center Rd. Shoaff Park offers golf, baseball diamonds, Frisbee golf, playground equipment and pavilions, as well as trails and paths for walking, jogging, or biking.

Swinney Park - Jefferson Blvd., west of downtown. Swinney Park features a public swimming pool, baseball diamonds, fishing, playground equipment and a Frisbee golf course. Easy access to the Rivergreenway.

Rivergreenway - Linking many of Fort Wayne's major parks, the Rivergreenway is a system of pathways that follow the St. Joseph, Maumee and St. Mary's rivers for walkers, joggers and cyclists. Since the 1970s, nearly 15 miles of paths, boardwalks, pedestrian underpasses, landscaping projects and scenic overlooks have been created through the efforts of the Rivergreenway Consortium.

Headwaters Park - Downtown, east and west side of Clinton Street, north of Superior Street (260-425-5745). A 30 acre park in downtown Fort Wayne which provides a setting for a wide range of public and private events including festivals, concerts and cultural events, weddings, family reunions and other parties.

Historic Tour/The Heritage Trail - Downtown Fort Wayne (260-424-3700). For those interested in a touch of the past, stop by the Visitors Center for a free map and take a self-guided tour of the fabulous historic buildings, important events, and points of interest in downtown Fort Wayne.

INDIANA FACILITIES

While none of the state operated facilities are located in Allen County, they are within easy reach of the residents and offer a variety of recreational resources.

POKAGON STATE PARK

Rt. 2, Box 29C, Angola 46703, (260-833-2012 (Steuben County). Northeastern Indiana's Winter Wonderland. Famous for its toboggan run, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Try Pokagon in the summer, too, for swimming, boating, fishing on beautiful Lake James. Camp, stay in a cabin or the Inn and enjoy a multitude of things to do, from horseback riding to hayrides. Open year-round, 7am - 11pm.

BIXLER LAKE PARK

P.O. Box 516, Kendallville 46755, (260-347-1064) (Noble). Swim boat and fish on the 120 acre lake. Camp or picnic on the 170 acres of this city park; play tennis, basketball and softball. Or play on the monkey bars at the playground. Open year-round.

MT. WAWASEE SKI RESORT

County Rd. 50, R.R. #1, New Paris 46553, (260-831-4118) (Elkhart). Downhill skiing 7 days a week from Dec.-Mar. Weekdays, Noon - 10pm, Sat 9am - 6pm.



HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR

Rt. 5, Box 78K, Huntington 46750, (260-468-2165) (Huntington). Dive into this 900-acre lake. Swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing. On the 7,600 acres surrounding the lake, there are hiking trails, camping sites, picnicking areas, ball diamond, playground equipment and an airport for radio controlled planes. The beach is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Mon-Thurs, Noon-6pm, Fri-Sun 11am – 7pm.

CHAIN O'LAKES STATE PARK

Rt. 2, Box 54, Albion 46701, (260-636-2654) (Noble). Glaciers formed a chain of eight kettle lakes here 10,000 years ago. Through the centuries, Miami Indians, and later pioneers, settled along their shores. A great place for boating, canoeing, fishing, swimming and hiking. In the winter, enjoy ice skating, cross-country skiing and sledding. Family cabins available. Open all year, 7am – 11pm.

MISSISSINEWA LAKE

R.R. 1 Box 194, Peru 46970, (317) 474-6528 (Miami). The Miami Indians christened the river, which has been dammed to form this lake “Mis-chris-in-wah,” meaning “water on a slope.” The rushing waters of the river carved “The Cliffs of Seven Pillar” out of the limestone banks, a natural wonder that can be seen today. Swim, fish, boat or camp and picnic along the shores of the lake. Hike the Frances Slocum Trail for a beautiful view. Open all year, 24 hours a day.

MOUNDS STATE PARK

4306 Mounds Road, Anderson 46013, (317) 642-6627 (Madison). Two tribes, the Adens and the Hopewell Indians, lived together peacefully along the banks of White River 2,000 years ago.

The remains of 12 mounds and earthworks remain today, all that survives of these two lost civilizations. This park offers a multitude of recreational activities camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, canoeing, cross-county skiing and horseback riding. Open year-round, 7am – 11pm daily.

SALAMONIE RESERVOIR

Rt. 1, Box 88A, Andrews 48702, (260- 468-2185) (Huntington). Sister lake to Huntington and Mississinewa. Salamonie is also a great spot to swim, fish, water ski and boat. Along the shores, you can camp, bike, hunt, picnic and horseback ride. In the winter, cross-country ski. Be sure to see Dora Covered Bridge and Hanging Rock. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, 7am – 11 pm daily.

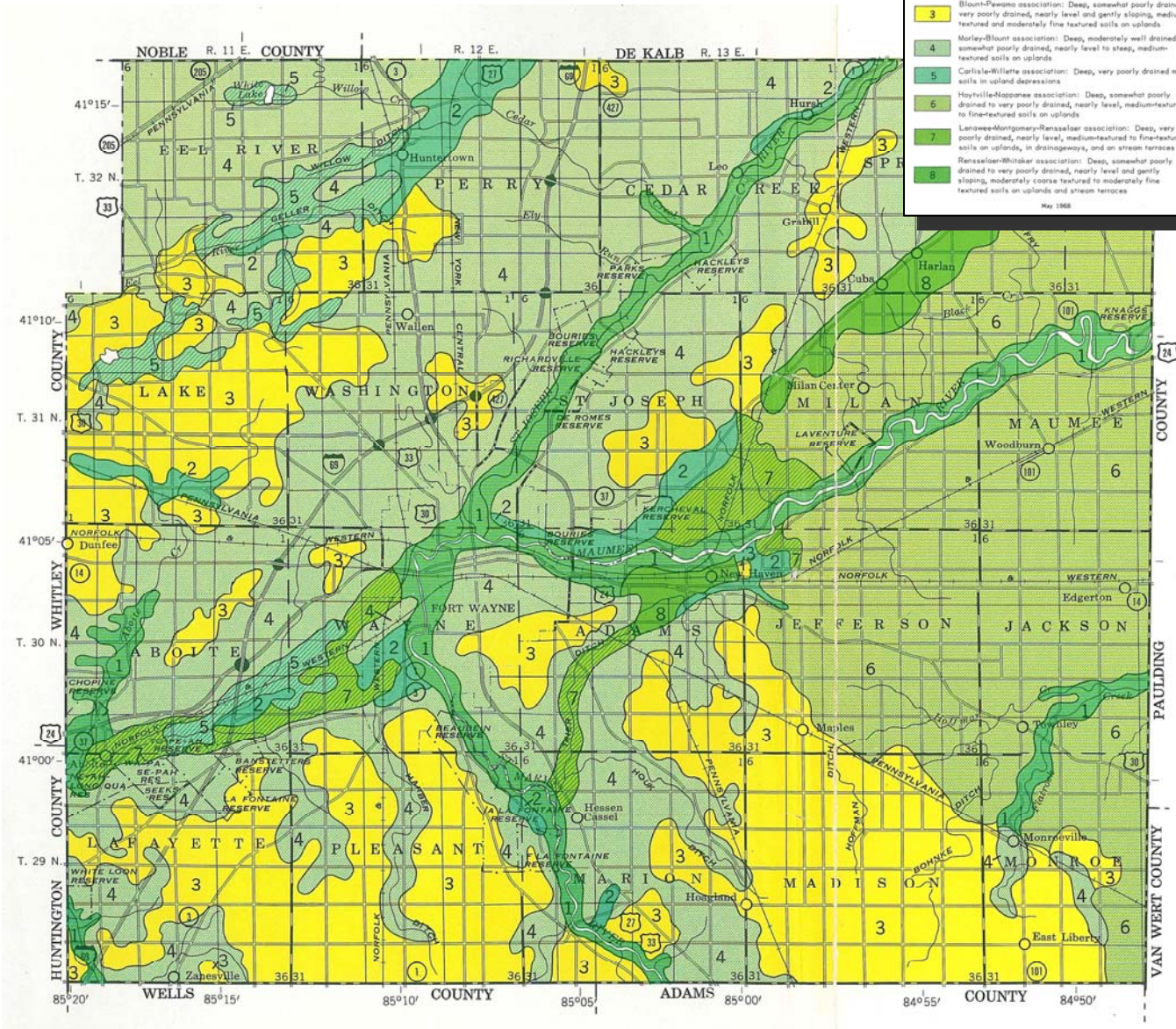
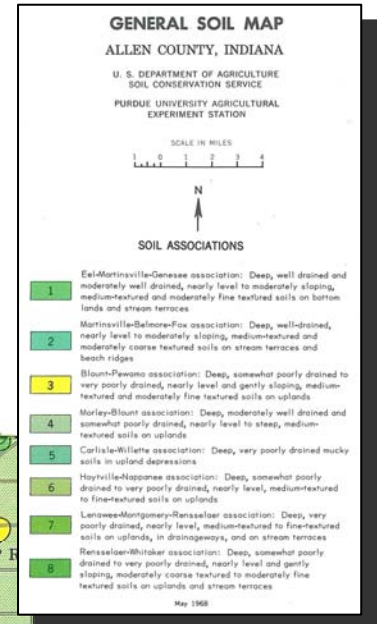


ALLEN COUNTY SOILS

NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE, MAN-MADE, AND HISTORICAL

SOILS AND WATERSHED

Allen County is in the Eastern lake section and the Till Plains section of the Central Lowland physiographic province. The southern and western parts are within the Tipton till plain, and the northern and eastern parts are within the Northern lake and moraine region.



The divide between the Lake Erie watershed and the Mississippi River watershed passes through the county several miles east of Fort Wayne. Water from most of the county drains into the Maumee River which is part of the Lake Erie watershed.

VEGETATION

Prior to European settlement, vegetation in the county was mainly hardwood forests. One of the major forest types represented in Allen County is the mixed upland oak type. This type predominates on the drier, well-drained sites. Major species are white oak, bur oak, red oak, black oak, hickory, white ash, sugar maple, and tulip-poplar.

Another major forest type is tulip-poplar, which is predominant on the lower parts of slopes, on the cool aspects (slopes facing north and northeast), and in the coves. Associated species are white ash, red oak, basswood, black cherry, white oak, hickory, beech, black walnut, and sugar maple. Of minor importance is the pin oak type. Associated with the pin oak are soft maple, elm, ash, swamp white oak, and bur oak.

CLIMATE

Rainfall, temperature and wind are among the climatic forces that promote the weathering of parent material and the activity of living organisms.

The climate in Allen County is characterized by hot summers and humid, cold winters. Rainfall averages about 35 inches a year. It is fairly well distributed throughout the year but is slightly greater in spring than in other seasons. The climate is uniform throughout the county and consequently, does not account for significant differences among soils.

WOODLAND

Hardwood forests originally covered a large part of Allen County, but by 1959 only 43,600 acres of woodland remained. Much of the present woodland is on sloping soils and adjacent to streams; many small areas are on wet soils in depressions and other undrained areas; and a small acreage is on droughty, sandy soils. The woodland acreage has decreased as industry and housing have expanded.

Among them, soil characteristics that most affect the growth of trees are available water capacity and depth of root zone. Other important characteristics are aeration, thickness of surface layer, natural supply of plant nutrients, texture and consistence of soil material, depth to mottling, and depth to water table.

WOODLAND GROUPS

The soils of Allen County have been placed in nine woodland groups, each made up of soils that are about the same in suitability for trees, in management needs, and in potential productivity.

WILDLIFE

A well-planned and well-managed system of farming maintains the productivity of the soils and provides food and cover for wildlife. Farming that depletes the soils reduces the supply of food and the amount of cover. The resulting reduction in the population of desirable animals leads to an increase in the number of insects and of rodents and other destructive animals.

On most farms habitats for wildlife can be improved by increasing and diversifying the supply of food and the areas of food and cover (2) and by providing travel lanes.

Only a few farms in Allen County have an ideal balance between cover and food for wildlife. Some farms are used almost entirely for row crops. On these farms food for wildlife is abundant but cover is scarce. Other farms are largely in pasture and woodland, which furnish ample cover but little food.

Cropland, pasture, and woodland can all be managed so as to make both food and cover available. On cropland, cover can be provided by fence rows, by windbreaks, by perennial field borders, and by vegetation in the waterways and on the banks of ditches and streams. In addition to these places of cover, odd areas in fields and the areas around ponds and in marshes can be used for both food and cover.

In pasture or woodland, borders that produce seed and fruit can be planted and small areas can be planted to grasses and conifers.

The kinds of wildlife that live in an area are related to the kinds of soils and to other environmental factors. For that reason, the kinds of wildlife in Allen County are discussed according- to their relationship to the eight soil associations, which are described in the section "General Soil Map" in the Allen County Soils Book.



Food in the form of farm crops is abundant in much of the county, but cover for small animals is lacking in most places.

The population of bobwhite quail is about six birds to a hundred acres in all eight soil associations. Compared with other counties in the State, Allen County has a small number of these birds.

Pheasants are especially plentiful in association 6 near the eastern border of the county, where the average population is at least 25 birds to a hundred acres. The average population in association 4 is two birds to a hundred acres. In the rest of the county, the average is seven.

More than 25 species of migrating waterfowl pass through the county in spring and fall. Mallards and black ducks are the most numerous. Wood ducks commonly nest near water in all the associations and compete with raccoons for hollow trees in which to rear their broods.

A few mallards and blue-winged teals nest in idle open fields and meadows near water.

The number of deer is increasing in all eight associations and most, noticeably along the St. Joseph River in association 2 and in the Cedar Canyons area in association 4.

Good habitat for deer exists also in wooded areas and along streams in association 1. Rabbits and squirrels are the most abundant small game animals in all eight associations but are less numerous in associations 5 and 6 than in the other associations.

Rabbits prefer farmland or the edges of fields, where they can obtain food and cover. Fox squirrels are plentiful in small woodlots and on wooded stream banks that are adjacent to cultivated areas.

Among the fur-bearing game animals are raccoons, muskrats, minks, skunks, and opossums. Raccoons and opossums are abundant in wooded areas and along streams.

Fish are common in the main rivers and their tributaries. The principal sport fish are bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Buffalo fish, other suckers, and pan fish are also caught.

RECREATION

Because of the wide variety and seasonal nature of recreational activities, many different areas can be used for these purposes. Allen County has many areas that have either natural ponds or good sites for pond construction. It also contains some areas that cannot be used profitably for crops, pasture, or timber but that can be developed for recreation.

Among these are swampy and marshy areas, wooded areas that have short, steep slopes, and bottom lands that have been cut by stream channels. If managed for multiple use, such areas also provide food and cover for wildlife, protection against runoff, and storage for water. Primitive areas are potential nature laboratories that can be used for educational and scientific purposes.

Four areas that have potential for recreational development are recognized. The soils in these areas are suitable for recreational uses but not for farming. They are described briefly, and their potential uses are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Area 1 is within the watersheds of Cedar Creek and St. Joseph River. It includes both wooded bottom lands and rugged severely eroded, wooded uplands within soil associations 1, 2, and 4. This area has potential as a wildlife sanctuary and, in its primitive state, as a nature laboratory that can be used for educational and scientific purposes. It can also be managed for watershed protection.

Area 2 is in the valleys of the Maumee River and the St. Mary's River. It includes wooded bottom lands and steep, wooded stream banks in all soil associations except association 5. This area has potential as a wildlife sanctuary.

Area 3 is within the watershed of the Little River. It includes seriously eroded wooded uplands, rugged wooded terrain around headwaters, and wet areas and sandy ridges in the valleys, in soil associations 4, 5 and 7. It has potential as a wildlife sanctuary and, in its primitive state, as a nature laboratory that can be used for educational and scientific purposes. It can also be managed for watershed protection.

Area 4 is in the northwestern part of the county, in soil associations 3, 4 and 5. It is characterized by potholes, bogs, lakes, and ditches, and by seriously eroded uplands.

This area has potential as a wildlife sanctuary and, in its primitive state, as a nature laboratory that can be used for educational and scientific purposes.

MANMADE FEATURES

No unusual man-made features exist in Allen County. The primary man-made features that have influenced the development of the region include the Wabash and Erie Canal, railways and the street/highway network. Highway I-69 allows for easy access and egress to and from the County.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead



3 - PUBLIC INPUT - NEEDS

The process followed to determine the future recreation needs of the community is similar to the market analysis process used by the corporate community to evaluate a proposed new product. Without information on markets, needs, trends, and public attitudes, future proposals are completely arbitrary and without fundamental basis.

The public input process for the Allen County Parks and Recreation Master was achieved by wide range of methods and specific planning tasks.

PARTICIPATION

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Department has an ongoing mechanism in place for regular feedback from participants concerning programs and services. Adjustments are made in accordance with comments for improvement.

The programs are evaluated in several ways. They include but are not limited to staff, participants, parents, and volunteers. The Department uses several ways to gather this feedback. Some examples include:

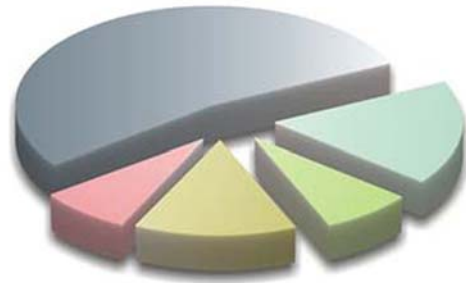
- Participant evaluation forms
- Internet information
- Staff evaluations (both verbal and written)
- Vendor evaluations
- Public meetings
- Volunteer meetings
- Park Board meetings

The Department also conducts specific public input sessions for a variety of planning initiatives. The following list of recent projects, and the extensive public comment opportunities, illustrates the Department's commitment to citizen involvement:

2007 PLAN-IT ALLEN! *(SEE THE FOLLOWING DIGEST OF PLAN-IT ALLEN)*

This is a very comprehensive study that includes extensive COUNTY-WIDE parks and recreation issues. The study involved:

- Ft. Wayne City Council
- Ft. Wayne Plan Commission
- Allen County Commissioners
- Allen County Plan Commission
- Monroeville Town Council
- Hometown Town Council
- Grabill Town Council
- Woodburn City Council



PLAN-IT ALLEN! - A DIGEST

A TESTIMONY TO PUBLIC INPUT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Plan-it Allen! is a citizen-powered initiative to develop a new Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan for **Allen County** and the **City of Fort Wayne** – the first-ever, joint effort in our community’s history.



Plan-it Allen! serves as the official policy document for addressing issues relating to growth and development in Allen County, its cities, towns and communities; and the City of Fort Wayne.

The Plan provides a framework for future decision making grounded in **extensive community involvement** and a solid analysis of major changes to the area’s natural, man-made and cultural environments, as well as the demographics of the area.

A PLAN SHAPED BY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Throughout every step of the process, Plan-it Allen! has been shaped by the people of Allen County, its cities, towns and communities; and Fort Wayne. **In hundreds of community meetings, open houses, workshops, speaking engagements, focus groups and surveys; through the Web site, personal conversations and media coverage; the ideas and insight of the public – you – have been continually gathered and incorporated into this Plan.**

Plan-it Allen! has been the culmination of a 3-year planning process that included the participation, collaboration and consensus of Allen County, the City of Fort Wayne, local city and town government officials, boards and commissions, and citizens throughout the community.

The process itself has been directed by the 16-member community steering committee known as the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Its members were selected specifically to be representative of Allen County’s and Fort Wayne’s many unique constituencies and diversity of voices.

Four series of public meetings, nearly 60 in total, were held countywide over the course of the process to engage residents and to ensure opportunities for full involvement. These meetings generated thousands of comments, ideas and suggestions that, in turn, became the basis for the Plan.

Amplifying participation opportunities, a **150-member Vision Work Group** was called together for several sessions to help craft the Plan’s vision and goals.

To build the Plan’s baseline of in-depth research and statistical analysis, 10 panels of community experts, the Element Work Groups, worked to add specialized knowledge to each of the Plan’s chapters both in the existing conditions phase and throughout the writing of the Plan.

Upon completion of the draft Plan, nearly 40 meetings with key stakeholder groups took place to refine and align the content.

Throughout the process, the Plan-it Allen! Web site and Speakers' Bureau also have been continually available to make the project accessible to the public at all times. The Web site will remain a key informational tool moving ahead: www.PlanYourCommunity.org.

THE PURPOSE OF PLAN-IT ALLEN!

Plan-it Allen defines a new vision and an inclusive roadmap for our community's future growth and development. It will give us an up-to-date policy guide for encouraging high-quality development and for preparing our community for the changes the future will bring.

Equally significant, as we change, the Plan will help us preserve our distinct and diverse community character – all the things that make our cities, towns, suburbs and rural areas unique and desirable places to live, work and raise our families. The Plan will be a fundamental tool to realizing our dreams.

KEY FINDINGS

The existing conditions analysis forms the Plan's factual foundation for building future policy. It serves as the intelligence-gathering phase of the planning process and has been designed to inform the more intuitive public input.

The existing conditions analysis is composed of nine separate components corresponding to the elements of the Plan: Demographics, Land Use, Housing and Neighborhoods, Economics, Transportation, Utilities, **Environmental Stewardship**, Community Facilities, and Community Identity and Appearance. A summary of each element's Key Findings appears within each Plan chapter.

A brief summary of the Existing Conditions Report, completed in 2005, is as follows:

- In 2025, there will be a nearly equal number of people in every age group.
- Residents age 65-plus have increased 45.5 percent since 1970.
- Foreign-born residents are the fastest-growing community segment.
- When it comes to economic development, in a comparison with peer communities, we are holding our own.
- Agriculture occupies 65.3 percent of our total land area in the county. Single-family housing occupies 14.7 percent.
- Per household land consumption is nearly three times more outside the City of Fort Wayne than within it.
- The combined total land area needed in 2025 for the three, major land uses will be just over 22,500 acres. By category, residential is 25,790 housing units or approximately 12,100 acres, industrial is 28,330,000 square feet of industrial building area or approximately 2,400 acres, and commercial and institutional are 81,746,000 square feet of building space or an estimated 8,000 acres.
- In 2025, Allen County's population is projected to be 410,349 persons.
- Non-family households (no spouse or dependent children) represent 33 percent of all households.
- From 1990 to 2000, for every new household created, builders produced 1.35 new housing units.

- Female-headed households with children and no spouse grew 37 percent over the past 10 years.
- **Most of the forested river corridors in the county have been removed.**

GOALS

The Comprehensive Plan has three key layers of policies: **goals**, **objectives** and **strategies**.

Goals are the broadest policy statements and state a desired outcome in general terms. The goals have been developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and were derived from the ideas generated by the public through its wide-ranging participation.

The Goals frame the development of the objectives and the subsequent strategies.

Objectives denote a more specific policy direction and help organize strategies. Strategies are detailed actions necessary to initiate or complete an objective – such as a program or project.

Within the Plan, there are multiple objectives for each goal and multiple strategies for each objective. The recommendations for each element of the Plan contain all three policy layers. The Plan goals are as follows:

LAND USE

Carefully planned, sustainable growth and efficient use of land resources through coordinated and quality development, revitalization and redevelopment which leads to improved community well-being.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A healthy, sustainable, and enjoyable environment with clean air and water, greenways and open spaces for residents, habitats for wildlife, protection from flooding, utilization of rivers, protection of other environmental assets (farmland, woodlands and wetlands), and promotion of a strong ethic among residents and businesses to control pollution and support environmental stewardship efforts.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Quality facilities that promote recreation and cultural enjoyment, ensure public health and safety, provide educational opportunities, and encourage tourism and investment; collectively building a thriving, accessible and welcoming community for all ages and backgrounds

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

The following principles are grouped into 4-specific planning categories: urban, suburban, rural and city and town. Several of the principles will apply in more than one category while some of the principles will apply exclusively to a particular planning category.

Numerous meetings with City and County Plan Commissions, the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Work Group members, citizens and planning staff have been conducted to provide input to draft the following principles.

SUBURBAN AREAS

1. **Encourage the retention of the natural and visual character derived from areas such as woodlands, wetlands and riparian corridors.**
2. The pattern of future new and infill development should be compatible with the character of existing development, including historic and natural features.
3. Utility system improvements should be coordinated with proposed and current land uses as identified in this plan and its amendments.
4. Discourage development that is not served by a sewer system.
5. Infill development and revitalization initiatives should be encouraged.
6. Development contiguous to developed suburban areas should be integrated with the existing pattern where it contributes to an outcome that is in conformance with the goals and policies of this plan.
7. Ensure coordination between major civic and institutional organizations and local planning departments.
8. **Primary and middle schools should be designed at a neighborhood scale with provisions for safe pedestrian and bicycle access.**
9. Civic, institutional, and commercial activity should be integrated into the neighborhood fabric.
10. New suburban development should be encouraged to develop as a planned neighborhood.
11. The preferred areas for new suburban development area those that are contiguous to existing developed areas.
12. Housing with a diversity of values and types should be encouraged to provide housing choices within neighborhoods.
13. Mixed-use commercial centers and neighborhoods should be encouraged as the preferred pattern of development.
14. **A range of open spaces, including parks, plazas, squares, etc. should be planned for and distributed within commercial centers and neighborhoods as gathering places.**
15. Mature neighborhoods should be stabilized maintained and enhanced.
16. Transportation improvements should be planned and necessary land reserved and/or acquired in coordination with proposed and current land uses as identified in this plan.
17. Encourage planned development along regional transportation corridors and at interchanges with adequate roadway design and infrastructure.
18. Each community or cluster of neighborhoods should have a well-defined edge and be interconnected wherever possible.
19. **Corridors and trails should be used to define and/or connect neighborhoods and commercial centers.**
20. Higher building densities of residential, commercial and work place uses should be provided within close proximity to transit stops.
21. Compact, pedestrian friendly and mixed-use neighborhoods should be encouraged.

22. **A connective framework for transit, pedestrian and bicycle systems, including sidewalks and pedestrian paths should be provided to allow for alternative modes of transportation.**
23. Many activities of daily living should occur within walking distance of most dwellings, allowing independence from driving as the only means to travel.
24. Encourage interconnection of existing and new residential, commercial, and industrial development.

RURAL AREAS

1. **Encourage the retention of the natural and visual character derived from areas such as woodlands, farmlands, wetlands and riparian corridors.**
2. Discourage development that is not served by a sewer system.
3. Utility system improvements shall be planned in coordination with proposed and current land uses as identified in this plan.
4. Infill development and revitalization initiatives should be encouraged.
5. Encourage the continued agricultural uses of the county's most productive farmland.
6. As the suburban area expands into rural areas, residential development should be contiguous to commercial and/or residential development and be served by existing or planned public services.
7. The pattern of future new and infill development should be compatible with the character of existing development, including historic and natural features where it contributes to an outcome that is in conformance with the goals and policies of this plan.
8. **A connective framework for transit, pedestrian and bicycle systems should be provided that allows alternative modes to automobile use.**
9. Transportation improvements should be planned and necessary land reserved and/or acquired in coordination with proposed and current land uses as identified in this plan.
10. Encourage planned development along regional transportation corridors and at interchanges with adequate roadway design and infrastructure.

GRABILL, HUNTER TOWN, MONROEVILLE, WOODBURN

1. Retain and enhance the visual character derived from existing natural features.
2. New development in existing non-sewered unincorporated towns should be strategically planned.
3. Infill development and revitalization initiatives should be encouraged.
4. Development contiguous to established incorporated and unincorporated towns should be integrated with the existing pattern where it contributes to an outcome that is in conformance with the goals and policies of this plan.
5. The pattern of future new and infill development should be compatible with the character of existing development, including historic and natural features where it contributes to an outcome that is in conformance with the goals and policies of this plan.
6. Housing with a diversity of values and types should be encouraged to provide housing choices within neighborhoods.

7. Mature neighborhoods should be stabilized maintained and enhanced.
8. Cities and incorporated and unincorporated towns should be compact, pedestrian friendly, and mixed-use.
9. Civic, institutional, and commercial activity should not be isolated in single use areas.
10. Transportation improvements should be planned and necessary land reserved and/or acquired in coordination with proposed and current land uses as identified in this plan.
11. **Corridors and trails should be used to define and/or connect neighborhoods, commercial centers, towns and downtowns.**
12. Encourage interconnection of existing and new residential, commercial, and industrial developments.
13. Civic, institutional, and commercial activity should not be isolated in single use areas.

PLAN-IT ALLEN GOALS RELATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION IN ALLEN COUNTY & FORT WAYNE

ENCOURAGE A “FIX-IT-FIRST” APPROACH THAT ESTABLISHES PRIORITIES FOR UPGRADING EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE.

Public expenditures on infrastructure, such as streets, highways, water and sewer systems, street lighting, schools and other civic buildings constitute a significant share of public expenditures each year.

By not fixing this infrastructure in the core area of Fort Wayne and other mature neighborhoods, a larger fiscal problem is created that increases each year as maintenance issues are not addressed. “Fix-it-first” policies direct resources to support the maintenance and upgrading of existing structures and facilities.

This helps to maintain the value of improvements made to attract private investment in new construction and rehabilitation. A challenge of infrastructure management is to balance the maintenance and upgrading of existing public facilities with the construction of new or expanded facilities.

The City should develop coordinated policies to establish priorities for upgrading existing public facilities and infrastructure and recommend the approval of those policies by the Fort Wayne Board of Public Works. The City should then use those policies to prioritize public funding to promote revitalization and redevelopment in the designated infill areas.

ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT, REVITALIZATION AND REDEVELOPMENT BY INCREASING AND ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY.

In the past 40 years, dispersed development patterns and the separation of uses have led to an increased reliance on personal automobiles and the elimination of many characteristics that support walkable, connected communities.

Today, arguments that sidewalks either will not be used or “won’t go anywhere” leave many new streets without sidewalks or with sidewalks on only one side. A need to reduce costs during roadway improvement projects have often led to similar results, even after significant improvements have been made.

One significant potential weakness of a community development pattern where uses are largely segregated from one another is an absence of adequate connectivity. A result of this is the need to rely almost exclusively on automobiles to get to destinations.

On the other hand, a result of building a community one mixed-use neighborhood at a time is that people are given the opportunity to walk to their destinations, thereby using vehicles less frequently and also working exercise into their daily lives.

Less frequent use of Automobiles also can result in reduced air pollution and the reduction in the need for large paved surfaces to accommodate parked cars. Sidewalks by themselves will not induce walking. Other pedestrian-friendly features also need to be present, such as an appropriate mix of densities and uses, compact street intersections, and neighborhoods that are more pedestrian in scale.

Neighborhoods can be built so that walking to destinations is a viable alternative, thereby improving access to services for the third of the population that is unable to drive due to age, health or economic reasons.

Land use and community design play a pivotal role in encouraging pedestrian environments. The community can increase the number and quality of walkable areas by building multiple destinations and uses within close proximity of one another.

This type of development pattern helps ensure that streets and sidewalks balance all forms of transportation and that the buildings and corridors are properly sized and scaled.

ENCOURAGE CONSISTENT COMMUNITY STANDARDS FOR PEDESTRIAN, VEHICULAR, BICYCLE, AND OTHER SIMILAR CONNECTIVITY SITUATIONS.

Communities need many links to facilitate pedestrian and other non-vehicular travel. Even when residential and commercial areas are in close proximity to one another, without adequate connections community residents are discouraged from substituting walking for short vehicle trips.

Recent land use patterns and development designs have typically resulted in a street network with few, or no through streets and walkways. In contrast, older street networks typically have shorter blocks and numerous through streets, providing pedestrians with multiple routes by which to reach their destinations.

Better streets and sidewalks require standards that are consistently applied throughout the community. Sidewalks need adequate widths, buffers, continuity, connectivity and edges to ensure that the needs of pedestrians are met.

Also, as is currently the case in Allen County, sometimes jurisdictions have standards that are not coordinated. Through the use of consistent, coordinated design standards, regular public investment, and updated development and subdivision design, communities can provide citizens with secure, convenient and connected streets and sidewalks.

Parking lot design standards should also be reviewed. Poor parking area layouts may force pedestrians to take unsafe routes between parked and moving cars to reach nearby destinations without sidewalks.

The design of large surface parking lots in urban centers may cause pedestrians to walk further to access nearby buildings. Large parking areas located in front of buildings separate pedestrian traffic from businesses and may leave walkers isolated.

Well-designed parking can actually add convenience and accessibility for those on foot. Parking that incorporates sidewalks, crossings, signs, and other pedestrian-scaled features and is situated in proximity to multiple destinations can provide a connection to a variety of activities, instead of making it difficult to go from place to place.

Once consistent standards are in place, communities will then need to look at retrofitting conventional street networks, so that they can have or approach the connectivity exhibited by traditional street networks.

One way to retrofit an area is by using existing natural or man-made features—such as utility corridors, waterways and other open spaces—to link existing walkways and destinations.

ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT ENHANCE AREA CONNECTIVITY.

Shops, offices, public facilities and other nonresidential uses are destinations as well as community assets. Diverse streetscapes with retail shops, restaurants, public art and other amenities encourage people to linger.

A lively and inviting street is safe and attractive, whereas an empty street can convey abandonment or danger. Building design features that isolate people and discourage pedestrian activity include “faceless” buildings without windows or doors at eye level, buildings with no first-floor retail, or buildings that are set back a great distance from the street.

Increasing pedestrian traffic in these areas requires that buildings incorporate designs that create a sense of place and security. There are several tools to make commercial developments and areas more walkable, including design guidelines and updated zoning standards.

Design guidelines or zoning standards for new development proposals and construction can look at issues such as: ground-floor space that faces the street, street-level retail in appropriate areas, structures built closer to front lot lines, and open building fronts that incorporate the placement of doors and windows.

In addition, zoning and street standards can be used to ensure that blocks are kept short, encouraging sidewalk commerce. Development proposals that conform to these design guidelines or enhance connectivity and pedestrian orientation in other ways should be encouraged.

ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT PROVIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL, CIVIC, INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER SIMILAR USES, DESIGNED TO ALLOW ADEQUATE ACCESS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLES, IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HOUSING.

Conventional subdivisions with cul-de-sacs and winding streets force residents to drive into their development and then drive out again whenever they need to shop for even the smallest item.

The location of daily living activities within walking distance of residential development can cut traffic and air pollution, make the neighborhood more convenient, and give neighbors another opportunity to socialize.

Developments can be designed to bring destinations and origins closer together and provide more incentives for people to walk. Research has demonstrated the importance of densities in promoting walking and transit use.

Higher densities and a mix of uses mean more residents or employees are within walking distance of transit stops. It also means that streets have more activity, interest and security by having more people around. Finally, mixed-use development and higher densities lead to a greater propensity to walk or use transit and to lower auto ownership rates.

However, in most communities, local zoning ordinances often prohibit the mixing of land uses in new or infill development. These laws can limit the location of public and private services within walking distance of home, work, and transit. As set forth herein, creating and adopting updated development regulations that allow for and encourage mixed land uses can help to address many of these issues.

According to the Centers for Disease Control Health Styles survey, less than 20 percent of the nation’s children currently walk to school. Students living far away from school must be bused or driven to and from school and extracurricular activities.

Fort Wayne and Allen County school districts can make it easier for students to walk to and from schools in local communities by building or rehabilitating smaller schools one mile or less from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Larger, centralized suburban schools may offer larger facilities and more programs, but neighborhood schools offer more efficient land use and closer walking proximity for students, ultimately translating into improved interaction among students, schools, parents and other citizens.

The surrounding community can benefit from the joint use of sports fields, gyms, computer centers, libraries and other resources during nonschool hours. Smaller schools also can be located close to facilities that provide daycare, sports, music, and other after-school activities to supplement schools’ formal programs and provide additional convenience for parents and caregivers.

Moreover, as residents see their neighbors’ children walking to school, they provide eyes on the street to enhance the safety of those children.

ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT PROVIDE HOUSING, DESIGNED TO ALLOW ADEQUATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCESS, IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL, CIVIC, INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER SIMILAR USES.

An important building block of a healthy community is the strength of its neighborhoods.

Providing a variety of housing options in one neighborhood means that residents will be able to continue living in the same neighborhood as they age, without having to move to a more suitable location, and without having to sever close community ties.

Building neighborhoods that provide housing within close proximity to a range of shopping, employment and service opportunities gives residents an alternative to traveling by car.

This approach will be most successful where these neighborhoods are compact, allowing everyday activities to take place within one-quarter mile of the neighborhood’s center, and where they are well connected with adequate and safe pedestrian/bicycle paths or sidewalks that lead to destinations.

ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BY CONSERVING NATURAL FEATURES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND WITH SIGNIFICANT VALUE.

One goal of many different communities throughout the country is to encourage a “sense of place” within the community. One way to do this is to emphasize and celebrate the existing features of the community that make it stand out from other communities.

One feature that the community has are natural features, and environmentally sensitive lands with significant value, primarily floodplain and wetland areas. As noted in the key findings for this chapter, hydric soils (soils that have high moisture content, and which are often indicators of wetlands) make up over 46.4 percent of the undeveloped land area in the community.

Preserve and reserve lands as shown on the Conceptual Development Map, which include environmentally sensitive land, make up over 11.2 percent of the County’s total land area.

DEFINE “SIGNIFICANT VALUE” IN TERMS OF NATURAL FEATURES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

The community has numerous natural features, along with environmentally sensitive land like floodplain and wetland areas. There are a number of ways to conserve natural features and preserve environmentally sensitive land; however, it will not be feasible to conserve every natural site feature, or preserve all environmentally sensitive land.

The community should provide input on those natural features and sensitive lands that have the most significance, and are in special need of careful protection. This could include significant woodlands, creeks, and wetlands; critical watershed areas and corridors; and other similar features. Once this is completed, the community’s development regulations could be updated.

ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT ARE SENSITIVE TO PRESERVE OR RESERVE AREAS.

Preserve areas, including parks, wetlands, floodway areas and other dedicated open spaces, are currently protected in a number of ways by a variety of organizations. Reserve areas include those areas that could, but have not as yet, been officially designated as preserve areas – areas such as floodway fringe, steep slopes, woodlands, and riparian corridors.

INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT SUSTAINABLE-DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES THAT CONSERVE NATURAL FEATURES AND PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

There are a number of different approaches to the development of land that can conserve natural features and preserve environmentally sensitive land more effectively than typical development approaches. Some examples are conservation/cluster development and compact development. Conservation development is generally an overall contiguous area of land proposed to be developed as a single entity.

In these developments, housing units are laid out usually according to more flexible or compact building location or setback standards than what would normally apply under single-family district regulations. This approach allows for the flexible grouping, or clustering, of houses in order to conserve natural features and preserve environmentally sensitive land by permitting higher concentrations of development on a smaller portion of land.

Conservation subdivisions have become a popular tool to preserve open space. However, this approach should be used with care as it may lead to leap-frog development, which further consumes land. Similarly, compact development can also offer environmental benefits, including improved water quality.

By consuming less land, compact development can leave land free that would otherwise be developed – land that can continue to perform other ecological functions. For instance, a 1995 study by the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League examined the water-quality impacts of two development alternatives.

The results concluded that the conventional low-density scenario consumed eight times more open space and generated 43 percent more runoff, four times more sediment, almost four times more nitrogen, and three times more phosphorous than the more compact scenario.

However, compact development can adversely impact critical environmental areas if not located properly. Best management practices can mitigate development impacts on adjacent environmental resources and reduce pollution originating from a developed area.

There are many best management practices available to communities, including buffer zones, narrower residential streets and tree planting. When incorporated into compactly designed areas, these practices can address many pollution issues.

Trees are also important components of a community’s green infrastructure. A healthy population of trees offers substantial environmental benefits, including cleaner air and water, quieter streets, cheaper energy bills, cooler temperatures and wildlife habitat. In addition, trees can provide numerous economic advantages, such as increased property values and lower air and water remediation costs.

Another technique is the use of incentive zoning. This allows builders to create a greater number of lots than normally allowed in a development in exchange for dedicating additional open space. Communities across the country have successfully used these types of alternative development approaches to preserve natural features or environmentally sensitive lands throughout a community.

Regardless of the development approach chosen, other best management practices can mitigate developmental impacts on adjacent environmental resources and reduce pollution originating from a developed area.

There are many best management practices available to communities, including buffer zones, narrower residential streets, and tree planting. Another management practice that is effective where applicable is wetlands protection.

Wetlands is the collective term for marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas found in flat, vegetated areas, in depressions in the landscape, and between dry land and water along edges of streams, rivers, lakes and coastlines.

Wetlands filter runoff and adjacent surface waters to protect the quality of lakes, bays and rivers, and protect many of our sources of drinking water. They can store large amounts of floodwaters, slowing and reducing downstream flows. They can protect shorelines from erosion.

Wetlands serve as a source of many commercially and recreationally valuable species of fish, shellfish, and wildlife. When incorporated into conservation or compactly designed areas, these other best practices can help address a number of potential impacts on environmentally sensitive land.

COLLABORATE WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ACQUIRE AND/OR PROTECT SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

Foundations, land trusts and other public and nonprofit entities often have a fundamental interest in preserving properties with natural, cultural or historic value.

Such entities can be particularly helpful with building coalitions, assisting on land-use legislation and making policy recommendations to communities. The community should support these organizations to improve civic awareness about their missions.

In addition, these organizations can help with the acquisition of open space. Land trusts operate at the local and regional level to acquire and protect land of significant ecological, open space, recreational and historical value. The nonprofit status of land trusts and some other non-governmental organizations can also allow landowners to receive tax breaks when they sell their property below market value.

ENHANCE THE USE AND PRESENCE OF THE THREE RIVERS.

Allen County spans the drainage divide between waters flowing east toward Lake Erie, and those flowing west toward the Mississippi River.

This divide runs roughly north/south through the western portion of the County. The Eel River, Seegar Ditch, Aboite Creek, Robinson Creek, Little River (or Little Wabash River), and Eight Mile Creek are the principal streams in the western part of the County that flow to the Mississippi.

In the eastern two-thirds of the County, the Three Rivers (St. Joseph, St. Mary's, and Maumee Rivers), and Flatrock Creek are the principal streams draining to Lake Erie. Cedar Creek, a principal tributary of the St. Joseph River, runs across the north/central part of the County and joins the St. Joseph just below Leo-Cedarville.

These corridors can be accessed and enjoyed by the public if the appropriate planning is conducted and adequate facilities are provided. Enhancing the use and presence of the County's waterways, particularly as alternative transportation and recreation corridors, is the focus of the strategies that follow.

CONTINUE TO COORDINATE WITH EXISTING, ADOPTED RIVER-ORIENTED PLANS AND STRATEGIES, SUCH AS THE RIVERGREENWAY MASTER PLAN, THE MAUMEE RIVER BASIN MASTER PLAN, AND OTHER EXISTING AND FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGIES.

Like the Rivergreenway Master Plan, the most successful completed greenway projects have all begun with a thorough and detailed comprehensive planning and project development process. Issues involving the design and construction of a trail can be resolved early and the development process can proceed with few interruptions when a thorough planning process occurs first.

These plans are also extremely helpful in the fundraising and grant application process. Public participation should be an important phase of each corridor planning process. Each greenway corridor should have a comprehensive development plan prepared prior to major construction activity occurring.

Installed trails should be evaluated and additional amenities such as site furniture, parking, drinking fountains, call boxes, bike racks, landscaping and signage should be installed as needed. Street crossings should be monitored for safety and improvements made when warranted. Compliance with current Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards should be continually monitored.

Additional greenway corridors are needed particularly in Allen County in areas where dense residential and commercial developments have given rise to public demand for non-motorized, alternative transportation routes.

As more greenways are developed and added to the system, it is critical that the maintenance crews continue to provide good service. It is also critical that funding is provided for adequate staffing and equipment.

The Greenway Consortium, a citizen-led advisory board, has been a valuable asset as the greenway system has evolved and should continue to be kept involved with and informed of greenway activities, and actively involved in policy decisions. Other partnerships with neighborhood groups, private individuals and local businesses should also be pursued to provide the means to acquire various amenities that may not otherwise be available due to budget or manpower restrictions.

Partnering also develops strong advocates within the community and strengthens the ties with the neighborhoods along the greenway corridors. Educational opportunities exist on each greenway corridor. Local schools, universities and advocacy groups can provide cultural and natural science “self-directed sites” along the greenways for educational activities to occur.

The safety of users on the greenway trails will continue to be a major issue in the development of new trails. Park Rangers, Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Sheriff’s Department, and volunteer trail monitors should all be involved in the safety of trail users within the greenway system.

ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATE RIVER-RELATED DEVELOPMENT IN THE FORT WAYNE URBAN CORE.

Similar to the past treatment of downtown rivers in many older urban areas, the City of Fort Wayne currently does not utilize its existing river areas as actively or as effectively as it could.

But many cities, such as San Antonio, Cincinnati, and Louisville, have shown how taking a more active approach to downtown river development can bring many benefits in terms of enhancing an active, walkable, safe downtown area.

As recommended in the Downtown Blueprint PLUS, a recent update of the 2003 Downtown Blueprint, the existing trails should be improved and expanded so that Lawton Park becomes the central hub of the network of trails throughout the region.

PROMOTE STREET TREE PLANTINGS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND SIMILAR PUBLIC LANDSCAPE FEATURES.

Greening efforts can have profound and positive effects on a community and the environment. Tree planting improves public spaces and increases property values, while providing shade and reducing water runoff. Pocket parks and community gardens can transform vacant lots into community assets, offering green space and recreational opportunities for neighborhood residents.

BUILD ON THE ASSETS AND STABILIZE EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS.

By reinvesting in downtowns, town centers, older suburbs and other interior neighborhoods, communities can reinvigorate their cores and begin to reverse the development trends that contribute to the loss of farmland, abandoned urban housing, longer commutes and higher levels of pollution.

PROMOTE AND COMPREHENSIVELY PLAN FOR GREENWAYS, BIKEWAYS, AND TRAILS WITHIN NEW AND EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS.

Communities can encourage non-vehicular transportation by promoting the provision of walkways and bikeways in new and existing developments. When new developments are constructed near existing or planned greenways and trails, developers can be encouraged to protect, improve or even contribute additional lands to these resources.

ENCOURAGE PARKS, WALKWAYS AND OPEN SPACES THAT LINK TO AND BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS, SCHOOLS, SHOPPING AND OTHER AMENITIES.

Greenways, parks and open space should be connected throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County communities, in order to increase connectivity between communities, provide recreational opportunities and promote habitat conservation for wildlife. By linking these types of public landscapes, Fort Wayne and Allen County communities can preserve their natural and cultural heritage, and support healthy communities.

ENCOURAGE NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO BE PEDESTRIAN- AND BICYCLE-FRIENDLY.

Fort Wayne and Allen County should encourage sidewalks within all new developments, as well as the provision of pathways, greenways and trails to connect residents to nearby commercial centers, housing, parks, schools and other institutional areas. When possible, new urban development should provide linkages to any existing or proposed greenways and trails.

WORK WITH THE FORT WAYNE, NEW HAVEN AND ALLEN COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL GREENWAY AND TRAIL ORGANIZATIONS TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING GREENWAY AND PROPOSED AREA BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

The Greenway provides a system of trails along the St. Mary's, St. Joseph, and Maumee rivers. It offers a combination of both County and City settings, and provides an excellent way for residents and visitors to explore the region.

It serves as a key spine from which additional trails, lanes and paths are proposed. Allen County, Fort Wayne and New Haven parks departments and local transportation agencies should continue to work with the Greenway Consortium and other regional and local greenway and trail organizations to expand and coordinate the development and maintenance of greenways, paths, lanes and trails throughout the County and region.

WORK WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION.

Alternative transportation infrastructure can generate numerous benefits for a community.

Sidewalks, trails and greenways can help to define public spaces and contribute to a sense of community. Recent studies have shown that property values tend to be higher near parks and greenways.

When residents make use of alternative transportation options, important environmental and health benefits can also be realized. Fort Wayne and Allen County should undertake efforts to educate the public about the benefits of alternative transportation.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is a priority for Fort Wayne and Allen County. It is also an overlapping issue that must be dealt with on a variety of policy and planning levels. Land use, transportation and utility initiatives, policies and impacts need to be integrated with environmental policies.

Effective environmental stewardship also requires partnerships at federal, state and local levels. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this chapter provide a framework for enhancing environmental protection in Allen County and Fort Wayne, focusing attention on a variety of land, water, air and wildlife resources.

KEY FINDINGS

A summary of key findings derived from the existing conditions analysis related to environmental stewardship in Allen County and Fort Wayne is outlined below. For a more detailed explanation of each finding, see the Environmental Stewardship Chapter of the Existing Conditions report.

GEOLOGY, SOILS AND VEGETATIVE COVER

The landscape of Allen County was shaped through the movement of glaciers. This natural history, coupled with the impacts of human settlement, has made the water supply, soils and other environmental features what they are today.

Planning related to these resources should take into account the variations and unique vulnerabilities that exist in different parts or ecoregions of the County. While deciduous forests dominated the landscape at one point in time, today most forests have been converted to agricultural or urban land uses.

The Cedar Creek corridor and Fox Island Park contain the County's largest remaining contiguous forest areas. Smaller woodlots can be found in rural areas and along streams. Prime farmland soils are an abundant natural resource. A significant percentage of the County's undeveloped land area qualifies as productive farmland.

Due to both past and current trends of increased development, a significant amount of productive agricultural land with prime characteristics is currently at risk of being irrevocably converted to nonagricultural, suburban, residential and industrial uses.

WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION

Less than 1 percent of County and City lands have been set aside for ecological preservation. Parklands as a whole, including parks that primarily serve recreational purposes, represent only 2 percent of the land in the County, and 8 percent of the land in the City of Fort Wayne. Residents have indicated strong public support for the preservation of more parklands and open space to achieve both recreational and environmental objectives.

There are over 100 rare, threatened and endangered species in Allen County that would benefit from strategic protection initiatives, particularly near unique aquatic communities, along riparian zones and within other linear habitat corridors. Due to their connection to the Great Lakes, Allen County's waterways are susceptible to invasive nuisance species.

Over 30 invasive species of plants, fish, and aquatic organisms have been identified and are currently monitored and controlled by the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

The vast majority of residents in Allen County (outside of Fort Wayne) rely upon groundwater systems to meet their drinking water needs. There are three major aquifer systems in the County.

The Hometown and Aboite aquifers are near-surface systems formed in glacial deposits and exhibit a high sensitivity to contamination. A bedrock aquifer can be found throughout the County at greater depths and is less sensitive to groundwater contamination.

There are currently 107 active public water systems in Allen County. While Wellhead protection Programs are required for “community” public water systems, no protective requirements apply to small “non-community” public systems or individual wells.

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

The City of Fort Wayne manages the largest water supply system in the County, which relies on surface water rather than groundwater. The health of the County’s rivers and streams is essential for protecting this water supply.

Many of the County’s streams have been modified to improve drainage, at the expense of environmental standards. Channelization, removal of vegetation, and maintenance dredging tend to have adverse impacts on ecological health and represent significant challenges for surface water management.

Failed and improperly maintained septic systems represent another significant challenge and are a potential source of high E. coli levels in various Allen County waterways and wells.

Other potential sources include sewer overflows, livestock and natural waterfowl concentrations. Protection of rivers and streams through planning regulations, such as overlay districts, and attention to preserving and expanding riparian buffers should be a top priority for protecting surface water quality in Allen County and Fort Wayne.

WETLANDS

Historically considered to be of little value, the majority of the County’s wetlands have been drained and converted to agricultural lands. Smaller wetlands are scattered throughout the area, but tend to be concentrated in the northern and western areas of the County.

Today, wetlands are recognized as areas of significant ecological importance, which help improve water quality, mitigate floods and provide habitats for wildlife. Protection of existing wetlands should be considered in future planning regulations and development frameworks.

The prevalence of hydric soils in the County represents a significant opportunity to restore wetlands, which can be accomplished relatively easily through interventions that restore natural hydrology, including for example, the removal of drainage tiles.

FLOODPLAINS

Flooding is of great concern in Allen County. Since a major flood inundated Allen County in 1982, many structural modifications and policy changes have been implemented to mitigate the impact of floods.

Most significantly, the City has pursued buyouts of floodplain properties in partnership with the Maumee River Basin Commission. Acquired properties have been returned to a more natural state, allowing for floodplain mitigation.

These areas now offer more recreational and alternative transportation opportunities along waterways. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has recently launched a No Adverse Impact initiative, which provides a holistic approach to floodplain management and should be considered as a guide for future land use decisions within river basins in Allen County.

AIR QUALITY

In 2004, Allen County was designated as a nonattainment area with respect to federal ozone standards. Based on data collected in 2005 and averaged over the 2003 to 2005 time frame, Allen County regained eligibility for maintenance status.

Ozone can be attributed to transportation-related emissions from cars and trucks, as well as nitrogen oxide emission from power plants. The transportation element of this Plan provides a number of strategies addressing transportation efficiency, which can lead to reductions in vehicle emissions.

BROWNFIELDS

To date, the City of Fort Wayne has completed two successful brownfield cleanup and redevelopment projects: one at the former Bowser Pump facility, located just east of downtown Fort Wayne and one at the former Myers Petro Terminal at University of Saint Francis.

Additional opportunities for brownfield redevelopment can be found in Fort Wayne, as well as in other Allen County communities. By coordinating projects through the state's Voluntary Cleanup Program, communities have the ability to leverage financial, legal and technical assistance resources.

ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT LAND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AGRICULTURAL LANDS, WOODLANDS AND WETLANDS.

Current development trends have demonstrated the need to protect open spaces in Allen County and Fort Wayne, with particular attention to valuable agricultural and natural resources. Adoption of the following strategies will help to ensure the conservation of agricultural landscapes, woodlands, wetlands and other natural Greenspace.

COORDINATE AND COMBINE EXISTING MAPS AND INVENTORIES OF AGRICULTURAL, WOODLAND AND WETLAND AREAS. IDENTIFY AREAS OF CONTIGUOUS PRIME SOIL, SIGNIFICANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND PRIME LANDS FOR TARGETED CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

Efforts to conserve agricultural lands should be pursued in a strategic manner, in part because maintaining contiguous agricultural lands is important to the health of an agricultural economy. Contiguous farmlands can support a critical mass of readily available agricultural infrastructure, such as equipment sale and repair, seeds and fertilizer suppliers, without which an agricultural community can become increasingly difficult to sustain.

Continuity of farmland also minimizes conflicts between farming and non-farming neighbors. Agricultural, woodland and wetland areas should be surveyed, mapped, analyzed, noted for agricultural heritage issues and classified in order to identify critical lands for targeted conservation efforts.

CONTINUE STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS AND IDENTIFY AREAS FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF CONTIGUOUS FORESTED AND NATURAL AREAS (SUCH AS THE CEDAR CREEK CORRIDOR, FOX ISLAND PARK, EAGLE MARSH, LITTLE WABASH RIVER CORRIDOR, BLACK MARSH, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS).

The Cedar Creek watershed represents an important natural corridor, and is designated as an Indiana Natural, Scenic and Recreational waterway. Fox Island County Park contains a nature preserve with diverse marshes, wetlands, deciduous forests and important wildlife habitats.

Allen County should continue to work with local environmental groups like the Fox Island Alliance, ACRES, St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative and the Cedar Creek Wildlife Project to continue to protect these important natural areas.

INVESTIGATE THE VALUE OF ADOPTING LOCAL WETLAND PROTECTION ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should consider the value of adopting local wetland protection ordinances and regulations in order to preserve and mitigate wetlands. These regulations may concentrate protection efforts along the Maumee, St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers, Little River, Cedar Creek, Aboite Creek, and other floodplain/wetland areas.

PURSUE WETLANDS RESTORATION INITIATIVES.

In many parts of the County, native hydric soils are still in place and represent an opportunity for restoring some wetlands that were previously drained.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should collaborate with local environmental organizations and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to target key areas for wetlands restoration, particularly those areas near critical wildlife habitats along natural corridors and in areas where wetland restoration would result in decreased flooding potential.

CONSIDER ZONING AND SUBDIVISION STANDARDS TO PROTECT NATURAL FEATURES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

Zoning and subdivision standards can be used as an important tool to reduce human impact on natural areas. Conservation zoning should be investigated as a mechanism to reduce the impact on the development potential of properties that are located within natural resource areas.

For example, some communities have used conservation zoning to promote cluster developments, which retain a large percentage of a development site in its natural state or open space.

PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITATS AND LIMIT INVASIVE SPECIES.

Over time, human actions have transformed and degraded many of the County's original natural habitats. Efforts should be made to conserve and expand remaining habitats in order to protect native plant and animal species. The following strategies recommend ways to protect wildlife and their habitats in Allen County.

COLLABORATE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources can serve as important funding and technical- assistance resources in the identification and protection of the County's endangered species.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should also enlist assistance from local environmental organizations, particularly those involved in watershed initiatives, to protect the area's unique aquatic ecosystems.

WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROTECT NATURAL HABITAT AREAS, PARTICULARLY ALONG LINEAR RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND AROUND CRITICAL AQUATIC COMMUNITIES.

Habitat corridors are important environmental assets. Unlike fragmented natural parcels, these corridors allow animals to move freely and plants to colonize more successfully over a wider area.

Allen County, Fort Wayne, local environmental groups, and land trusts should collaborate to protect and expand these critical habitat areas through the acquisition/protection of lands in and adjacent to existing habitat corridors.

Particular attention should be paid to rivers and streams in Allen County, which are home to unique aquatic communities that host a variety of rare and endangered mussels, amphibians, and plant species.

WORK WITH STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS TO DETERMINE THE TYPES OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES WHICH SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED IN PROJECT PLANTING PLANS.

In an effort to protect native plant species in our region, local planning and permitting agencies should work with state and local partners to determine types of invasive plant species which should be discouraged in project planting plans for new development.

PROVIDE EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NATURAL BENEFITS, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND AREAS, AND THE LAWS PERTAINING TO FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT.

Educate the public through the provision of information, publications and other materials about the natural benefits of floodplains and wetlands, how to protect and restore floodplain and wetland areas and the federal, state and local ordinances which pertain to floodplain development.

IDENTITY AND APPEARANCE

NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE

The three rivers running through Fort Wayne and Allen County (St. Joseph, St. Mary's, and Maumee) are frequently noted as a key character-defining feature of the community.

While these rivers were integral to the historical development of the region, they have suffered from underutilization and neglect in recent years. Concerted cleanup efforts and enhancements to public accessibility throughout the region would be welcomed efforts.

The agricultural landscapes in rural parts of the County (including fields, hedgerows, pastures and wooded plots), are also prized as character-defining features.

The Fort Wayne Parks system is another key asset, and has the potential to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other landscape features which help define the community's identity include the Kessler-designed system of boulevards in Fort Wayne, various parks, gardens and greenways.

IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO RIVERS AND WATERFRONTS.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should collaborate with parks and recreation departments and other stakeholders who are interested in improving public access to waterfronts and rivers. These groups should identify locations for creating boat launches and docking areas, and examine opportunities for enhancing trails and greenways along riverfronts.

INVESTIGATE DOWNTOWN RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND VISTAS.

A public/private effort should be developed to clean and improve the three rivers that converge in downtown Fort Wayne, in particular the St. Mary's river.

This endeavor requires a complex and multifaceted strategy, including: structural improvements (to improve water quality and regulate water levels); visual improvements (to clean up banks and thin overgrown areas to improve visibility between downtown and the river), and an investigation of appropriate development to increase activities along the river.

The effort should include not-for-profit organizations, environmental groups and government in partnership with the private sector.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE TREE COVER THROUGH AN URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM.

Trees are important community assets that can help to define a neighborhood, increase property values and improve the pedestrian experience. Fort Wayne should pursue urban forestry initiatives in urban areas, both in existing neighborhoods and new residential developments throughout the City.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department could take a leadership role in providing tree planting specifications and guiding tree maintenance. Depending on local interest, such an initiative could actively engage an array of volunteer support and private funding.

PROMOTE HISTORIC RESOURCES TO CAPITALIZE ON THEIR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL VALUES.

Fort Wayne and Allen County should examine ways to promote the cultural heritage of the region as a key component of its economy. Through partnerships with historic preservation organizations, marketing campaigns and guided tours, Fort Wayne and Allen County can increase public awareness of historical assets among local residents and throughout the broader region.

As the popularity of cultural tourism increases, it can play an important role in strengthening and diversifying the local economy, and generating public support for continued preservation efforts.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The current trend of outward expansion of growth and development in Allen County and Fort Wayne is having a substantial impact on the community facilities that serve the region.

Public safety services must accommodate this expansion, schools must deal with fluctuating enrollments, additional parkland should be acquired, and further efforts are needed to preserve and enhance cultural resources throughout the County.

During the public meetings that served as the foundation for this Plan, residents expressed particular concern for issues pertaining to public safety, recreational opportunities, improvements in education, and expansion of the arts, entertainment and cultural events. For many community facilities, full accessibility is a major priority.

Facilities planning should involve strategic siting, connectivity of roads, and provision of sidewalks and paths that accommodate a variety of users.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The two primary service providers for parks and recreation are the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department and the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

Funding for parks and recreation within the City of Fort Wayne has not kept pace with the increasing demand placed on the system by the continued growth of the community, in addition to the need to update existing infrastructure.

As growth occurs in Allen County, more active park acquisition should be pursued to meet future needs. According to projections, about 1,200 additional acres of parkland will be needed in the County by 2025. With increasing suburban development using up land, residents have commented that the acquisition of parkland and conservation of open space needs to become a higher priority.

SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE HIGH-QUALITY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

Fort Wayne and Allen County have nearly 100 parks that serve the recreational needs of residents. Moving forward, the City and County will need to plan for the acquisition and development of additional parklands.

The following strategies recommend ways to improve and expand the park system throughout the County, and pursue strategies for collaborating with the private sector and school corporations, and across municipal boundaries.

PURSUE STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS TO DEVELOP PARKS AND EXPAND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

By cooperatively planning for future parks and open space areas, Allen County and Fort Wayne can ensure that their park systems will meet the needs of all residents, and that parks, open space areas and greenways will help to protect the scenic and historic character of the region.

Collaborations should be pursued between Allen County Parks and Recreation, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, New Haven/Adams Township Park District, other public park agencies and groups, and with private recreation providers and school corporations.

EXPAND AND ENHANCE EXISTING PARKS AND IMPROVE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should undertake measures to expand parks, greenways and open space areas. Furthermore, Allen County and Fort Wayne should look for strategic opportunities to use existing utility and transportation corridors and acquire additional lands through purchase or donation.

They should also seek to enhance existing parks through capital improvements related to landscaping, equipment and additional facilities such as athletic fields and picnic shelters. Fort Wayne should continue to reference and pursue implementation of recommendations within the Cultural Landscape Reports.

ENCOURAGE PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should encourage ways to conserve open space and parklands. This strategy is of particular importance in suburban areas, where outward migration and low-density development are rapidly consuming existing land resources; and in areas with unique natural, historic and/or cultural features.

DEVELOP GREENWAYS AND FACILITIES THAT INTERCONNECT PARKS, SCHOOLS AND KEY POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE COMMUNITY.

Allen County, Fort Wayne, and other parks and trail organizations should continue to work together to develop a comprehensive trail system that connects parks throughout Allen County, and potentially beyond.

The connectivity of this system will provide alternative modes of transportation for residents as it connects neighborhoods to parks, schools and key points of interest.

ENCOURAGE USABLE OPEN SPACE FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should encourage developers to set aside a certain percentage of usable land for parks, greenways or open space. Wherever possible, this land set-aside should offer opportunities for and encourage connectivity with existing greenways, trail and park systems.

In certain situations when usable open space cannot be set aside, options for developers should be investigated and considered.

WORK WITH CITIES AND TOWNS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK AREAS.

Park and recreation areas are central to many of the cities and towns surrounding Fort Wayne and New Haven. Not only do they provide a recreation function but they also promote civic pride in these communities. As development patterns shift, it is important to maintain and enhance these areas.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RECREATIONAL AND SPORT FACILITIES AS VITAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

Fort Wayne and Allen County have a significant number of recreational and sport facilities which allow for active and passive participation. These facilities increase the quality of life of Allen County’s residents and support the region’s tourism economy.

Examples of these significant recreational and sport facilities include, but are not limited to, McMillen Park Ice Arena, Lawton Skate Park, Fort Wayne’s aquatic centers, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Memorial Stadium, and several golf courses.

ROLE OF THE PLAN

Plan-it Allen! is **advisory** in nature and serves as a guide for how and where our communities should grow. Communities should strive for concurrence with the Plan in rezoning or development approvals. Plan-it Allen!’s goals and policies aim for an “ideal scenerio.” These high aspirations mean that sometimes different objectives and strategies may conflict with one another, requiring careful balance. As such, this Plan provides guidance in the decision-making process, but it is not the final word.



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

DATE HELD: November 28, 2007

TOPIC: Allen County Parks and Recreation
5-year master plan

PRESENT: Jeff Baxter, Ron Divilbiss, Ron Zartman, Deana Davis, Karie Divilbiss-Harding, Bob Dispenza, Natalie Haley, Cindy Kimm, Judy Ruoff, Helen Cole, Gordon Cole, Joann Beerbower, Dan Ernst (Earth Source, Inc) and Stacy Haviland (Earth Source, Inc).

OUTCOME:

FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK

- Develop phase II improvements at Fox Island including multi-purpose trail construction, and pavilion at Bowman Lake
- Determine new location for observatory at Fox Island
- Reconnect the universal access trail that was removed with construction of nature center at Fox Island
- Repair or remove driving stand for remote control boats at the lake at Fox Island

METEA COUNTY PARK

- Review and implement phase II of Metea park master plan
- Bridge to link north and south Metea
- Outside ski storage area at Metea
- Wetland pond observation deck at Metea
- Observation deck at gully at Metea Park
- Boardwalks through vernal ponds at Metea park
- Connect all trails at Metea with boardwalks
- Need a place to store nets outdoors at Metea
- Move old gatehouse at Metea

PAYTON PARK

- Create master plan for Payton Park
- Replace structural posts on pavilion at Payton Park
- Playground equipment at Payton Park

FINANCE

- Create an Allen County Park Endowment for acquisitions, development, maintenance and operation of current and prospective county park properties

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- Develop natural resource management plan and train staff for prescribed burns
- Develop master interpretive plan for individual parks
- Combine efforts of control of invasive species and natural resource management with Little River Wetlands
- Develop fishing, boating and other water activities
- Encourage use of pervious concrete for parking lots and trails in the county parks
- CONNECTIVITY - Work with trails groups to implement connectivity between parks and with existing trails

LAND

- Land acquisition policy plan

STAFFING

- Present need for increased staff to manage growth of park system to the public and County Government.

MARKETING

- Develop and utilize a marketing plan
- Explore avenues to promote county parks

OTHER ISSUES/GOALS

- Increase opportunities for pets
- Signage for State Preserve along 69
- Plant trees along Interstate 69 at Fox Island

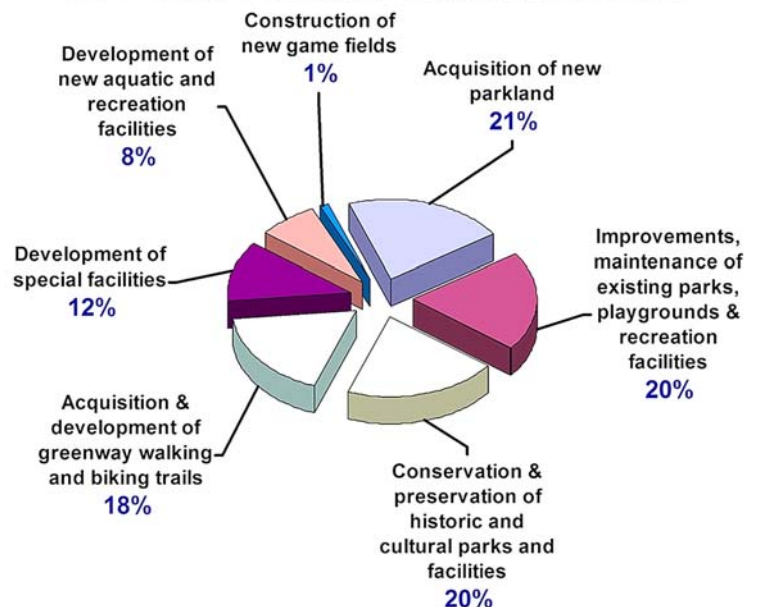
INVESTING \$100

Dan Ernst from ESI gave instructions for the exercise; allocating \$100 to various parks and recreation facilities and invited each attendee to participate.

Following is how the participants spent their \$100 allotment:

- 21%: \$250 for acquisition of new parkland
- 20%: \$240 for improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds and recreation areas
- 20%: \$240 for conservation and preservation of historic and cultural parks and facilities
- 18%: \$220 for acquisition and development of walking and biking trails, greenways
- 12%: \$140 for development of special facilities
- 8%: \$100 for development of new aquatic and recreation facilities
- 1%: \$10 for construction of new game fields

Q. IF YOU WERE ABLE TO INVEST \$100 IN ALLEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION, HOW WOULD YOU DISTRIBUTE YOUR INVESTMENT?



PROGRAM DEMANDS

As public demands increase for quality programs and services, the personnel resources of the Department will be taxed beyond their capacity for effective performance. It is obvious that the limited current staff will not be able to handle expanded or additional programs.

A variety of craft, educational, and recreational classes are offered on a regular basis in Allen County's parks.

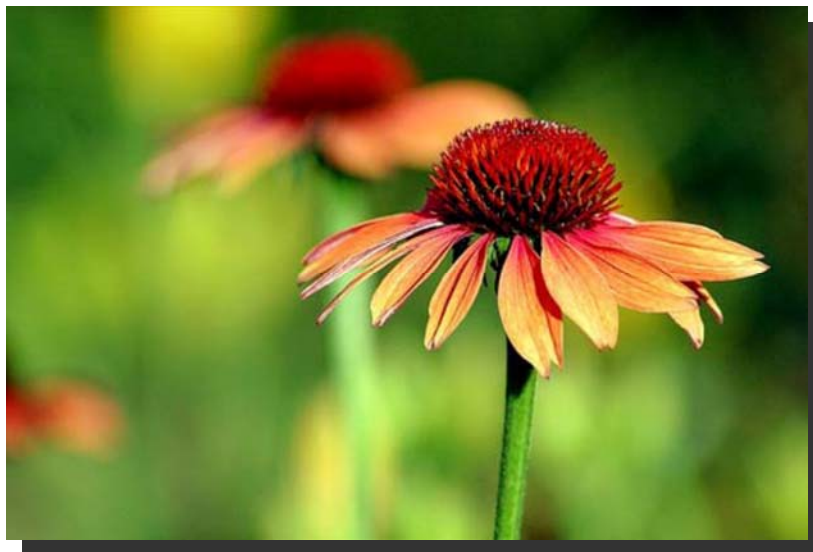
Cognizant of tight budgets and the historical Department philosophy of providing many free to low-cost program services, it is further recommended that fee schedules for special classes and programs be evaluated on a regular basis. National trends show that participants are very willing to pay for special activities, scheduled for their convenience.

Modest user fee increases, indexed annually, should help to offset the cost of staff expansion. However, the amount of program revenues generated does not diminish the financial support required from County Government for sustainable department operations.

Tax funding for public recreation is a legitimate expectation. General interest, free programs should continue and even grow in the future, while specialty programs should be fee based.

It is further recommended that all programs should be well advertised in the community. A focused marketing strategy should be developed and pursued as a priority goal.

The 2002-2007 program compilation listed in the appendix of this plan portrays the many excellent program opportunities available. The variety and low cost of the programs is impressive.





4 - STANDARDS ANALYSIS

PARKS AND RECREATION NATIONAL STANDARDS AND ANALYSIS

An essential component of the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan is a thorough inventory and analysis of the existing park facilities in the community. All planning documents and reports were examined.

PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

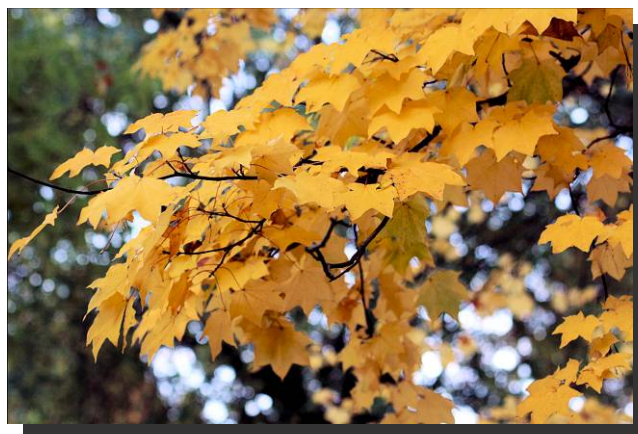
One method used to evaluate the service area's level of recreation opportunities was through comparisons with national standards. The standards were established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to park, recreation and conservation activities with the primary mission of improving the quality of life for all Americans.

The NRPA publication, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines manual was written in 1983, and has since been updated several times - with standards relating to both local and regional needs for recreation and open space to serve as a base line for Park and Recreation Boards to follow when determining needed park facilities. However, recreation trends will vary throughout the country requiring Boards to determine what standards best fit their needs.

NRPA standards are intended to serve as planning guides only. They are not absolute and vary from county to county depending upon assessed service area needs and desires.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Rapid growth rate of county population increasing demands/expectations on departmental capabilities and resources.
- Lack of local financial resources to meet customer expectations
- Lack of personnel resources to effectively implement plans
- Lack of affordable and available park land
- Lack of maintenance equipment to implement the plan



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- High level of community interest
- Partnership opportunities for programs, facilities and communications
- Willingness of the county-wide resident population to pay for quality services

TRENDS

Information from several sources has been gathered to provide an overview of current trends in the parks and recreation industry. **An important note:** Current circumstances and trends tell us what is, but they do not indicate the only direction we can take. They give insight and reveal opportunities to change course and fashion a better future through strategic decision making.

MISCELLANEOUS LEISURE TRENDS

- In the future, more women than men will participate in fitness programs outside the home.
- Americans have less time than 5-years ago, but they value recreation and leisure time more.
- 66-75 year olds are more likely than 15-20 year olds to use a park.
- There is a decrease in participation in structured programmed activities.
- Americans are participating in less of a variety of activities - 4 on average in 1995 vs. 3.3 on average in 1996.
- People with higher incomes participate at least monthly in outdoor recreation.
- Currently in America, people in mid-size communities have more opportunities to participate in parks and recreation programs than those in small communities – or even large cities.
- Americans spend more than \$300 billion on recreation annually.
- The average recreation fee that people are willing to spend is slightly over \$12, although the more satisfied they are with the experience, the more they will pay.
- Vacations are changing and becoming shorter in length and closer to home.
- Choices for recreational activities are endless, with malls, school activities, and entertainment centers.
- Parks and Recreation Departments are competing directly for recreation dollars with private offerings (fishing areas, health clubs, etc.), amusement parks, hobby clubs, and travel and tourism.
- Homes have become a central entertainment center with televisions (almost 4-hours per day), computers, home fitness equipment, hobby areas, etc.



PROGRAMMING TRENDS

- People have less unstructured time so lengths of programs and sessions need to be reduced.
- Activities are moving more towards unstructured, individual, and drop-in programs.
- Information technologies are allowing the design and customizing of recreation and fitness opportunities (reducing the reliance on a "standard package").
- People are changing from team to individual activities – ideal for County Park systems.
- There is a change from directed programs to self-directed activities, with less reliance on instructors and more flexible timing.
- People want more family programs and more programs for girls and women.
- More activities are being adapted for disabled participants.
- Fitness and wellness is becoming a lifestyle change that stresses the integration of mental, physical and spiritual well-being.
- Activities are moving outdoors: the fastest growing activities are snowboarding, mountain hiking, fishing, camping and boating.
- People want more environmentally friendly activities, and are placing an emphasis more on "open space" natural areas rather than manicured turf in parks.
- People want to move from "doing something" to "experiencing" - they are looking to add quality to the basic recreation activity, with depth, self-fulfillment, and self-expression.
- They want quality vs. quantity - a first class experience in the form of excellent customer service, programs, and facilities.



NATIONAL TRENDS

National trends in parks planning take into account both the aging and greening of America, while allowing maximum flexibility for a rapidly changing recreation setting.

With baby boomers aging, more opportunities are being provided for passive recreation. At the same time, the children of the baby boomers (and their children) continue to require facilities for traditional as well as new youth activities. Meanwhile, as cities and suburbs continue to develop, the value of open space has never been higher, and attention is being paid to the environmental impact of artificially groomed parklands.

Perhaps the most significant national recreation trend sweeping the country is the popularity of multi-use recreational (non-motorized) trails and greenways. Greenways have numerous benefits to the community:

- They provide opportunities for exercise for all ages.
- They provide opportunities for exercise with limited equipment (and expense).
- They connect neighborhoods to each other.
- They connect neighborhoods with schools, libraries, commercial centers, parks, beaches, and other destinations.
- They provide opportunities to reduce auto trips, by providing safe, pleasant alternatives such as walking, biking, and boating.
- According to the *Outdoor Recreation in American Life: A National Assessment of Demand and Supply Trends*, published in 1999, the most popular activities in the U.S. are walking, viewing a beach or waterside, outdoor family gatherings, and sightseeing.
- The same publication states that among the fastest-growing outdoor recreation activities through 2050 are expected to be visiting historic places, sightseeing, and viewing wildlife.
- The slowest-growing activities include fishing, primitive camping, and hunting.
- Popular themed playgrounds go beyond the normal powder-coated swings and jungle gyms found in older parks to more interactive playground appropriate for various age ranges.
- The popularity of static lap pools is fading in favor of more dynamic family aquatic centers, which can include traditional lap pools, but also feature water play structures, fountains, spraygrounds, zero-depth entry, and other family-friendly amenities.
- Partnerships are the way of the future for park and recreation agencies across the country. These include public/public, public/private, and public/not-for-profit partnerships.
- All three types of partnerships are designed to allow a community to leverage resources and build community support.

The most important national trend to note is that parks planning at the master plan level must create a flexible system that responds to the needs of the current population while ensuring that changes can be made to accommodate future as-yet-unknown recreation needs.

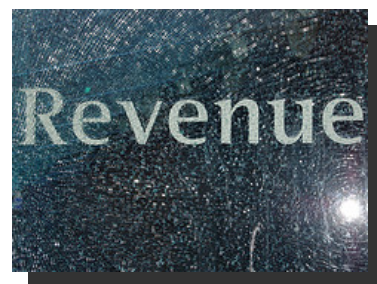
FACILITIES

COUNTY AMENITIES THAT ARE BECOMING "TYPICAL" RATHER THAN ALTERNATIVE:

- Nature centers/outdoor recreation centers
- Regional playgrounds for all ages of youth
- Partnerships with private or other agencies
- Trails for all forms of transportation (in-line, cycling, etc.)

MANAGEMENT TRENDS

- Agencies across the United States are increasing revenue production and cost recovery.
- Level of subsidy for programs is lessening and more "enterprise" activities are being developed thereby allowing subsidy to be used more appropriately.
- Agencies are hiring consultants for master planning, feasibility, and strategic/policy plans.
- Use of computer technology and programs helps tracking and reporting.
- Pricing is often done by peak, off-peak and off-season rates.
- More agencies are partnering with private, public and non-profit agencies.



SOURCES: SGMA, FLOW Consulting, LLC, Roper Research, Leisure Vision, EDAW, Inc., NRPA, Leon Younger and Pros, Hoyt Architects, NSGA, John Crompton Publications, Athletic Business.

SCORP DIGEST:

INDIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE 2006-2010 STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

ALLEN COUNTY (#2 ON STATE MAP) – IS IN REGION 3B ON STATE MAP.

INTRODUCTION

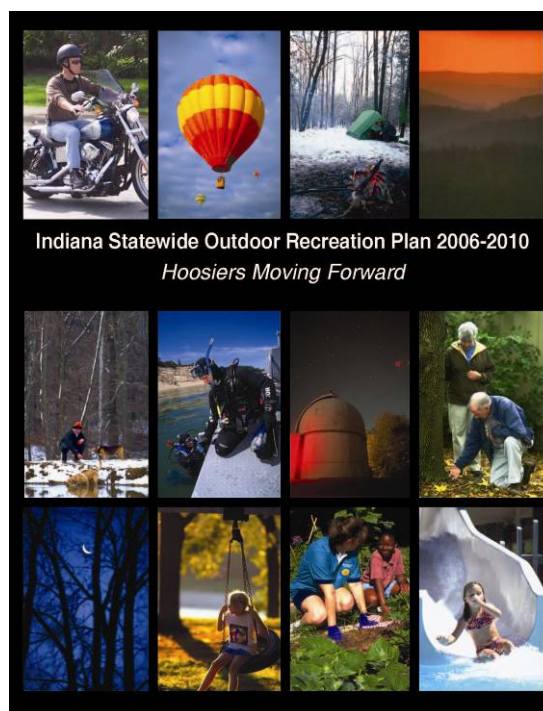
The State of Indiana uses the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to qualify for funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) and to apply for other federal funding.

Additionally, the SCORP has been developed to assist municipalities and organizations throughout Indiana in assessing needs, presenting facility and program development plans for grants and other outside funding, and following those plans to achieve improvements on the local level.

The SCORP is based on data collected throughout the State. The data-collection process ensures a comprehensive and representative sample.

The SCORP Plan Advisory Committee and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) hold that the information presented validly represents the citizens of Indiana.

One barrier for park managers and boards is finding funding for capital projects, which could include the addition of a walking trail to the local park system. Another more important major issue for parks is funding the maintenance, improvement, or upgrading of current facilities.



PARKS AND RECREATION: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Parks and recreation is fun and enjoyment ... but it goes beyond just the fun. It is fundamental to the quality of life for all people, communities and our environment. The value of parks and recreation has been identified many times as a factor in determining the “good life.”

With the obesity epidemic and the fight against a sedentary lifestyle, the value of recreation both inside and out of doors is even more important to our citizens today. In a recent report from the Trust for America's Health, Indiana is the ninth most obese state, 26 % of adults do not participate in regular exercise. The direct connection between the health of our communities and the opportunities provided for an active, healthy lifestyle is a basic human need.

When considering outdoor recreation, whether you look at the economic benefits of increased property values or the enhanced self esteem gained by an individual from participating in a special event or through becoming active and healthier. Or you look at the community awareness strengthened by a festival, or gain better understanding of the stewardship of land, we are now more than ever an essential service.

We must continue to form positive, active partnerships and collaborations to meet these needs, both now and in the future. We must complement the other services and focus on a common goal to create a quality of life in our communities that everyone wants and deserves.

A grassroots effort to promote public awareness of the existence and provision of parks and recreation activities is essential. Some simple suggestions to help with this effort:

- Write opinion pieces for your local newspaper, cable TV and other community bulletin boards.
- Make sure that your facility is well represented on your municipal, county or State Web site.
- Make sure your brown signs with your park names and arrows with directions are posted and visible.
- Keep your services in the minds of communities by using banners, radio ads, etc.
- Provide strong customer service and quality management at our parks and facilities.
- Visit www.inpra.org for IPRA's "An Essential Service" presentation.



There are many parks and recreation opportunities available throughout the State of Indiana. Whether referring to a bike trail, walking trail, pristine pond at a state park or an elaborate aquatics facility, you see what Joseph Lee ("Father of the Playground Movement" and National Recreation Association president 1910-37) means in the quote: "Play for adults is recreation ... the renewal of life; for children it is growth ... the gaining of life."

While no one can reasonably deny the benefits of parks, recreation and the environment, we still must understand the attitudes and opinions of the users of parks and recreation facilities to help us wisely direct our future economic and advocacy efforts using the information provided in this SCORP.

Although we must include all age groups in our plans, we need to pay special attention to serving our aging population. Admittedly, the prevalence of chronic diseases and conditions increases as a population ages, participation in outdoor recreation can contribute to a healthier lifestyle, which can help prevent or delay many conditions associated with aging. These include heart disease, cancer and stroke (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004).

When addressing the needs of older adults, we need to consider challenges associated with balance, mobility, hearing and vision loss, and greater propensity for injury. According to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the median age in Indiana is 36.1 years old, 11.9% of Hoosiers are 65 or older, and 1.3% are 85 and older.

The percentage of people 65 and older has remained steady for at least two years; however, the portion 85 and older has increased slightly. These statistics show the importance of considering the State's significant senior and aging mid-range populations when planning for and making decisions about future recreational opportunities.

Fortunately, accessibility and universal design are already high priority issues in our State. Indiana offices promote exceeding the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and considering the use of universal design, both for future improvements and alterations to current buildings and for new construction.

A significant issue faced by communities and facilities managers is how to pay for planned improvements. Grants are one way. Several are administered by IDNR:

- Indiana Heritage Trust
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Hometown Indiana (unfunded at this time)
- Shooting Range Program
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program
- Hoosier Riverwatch Water Monitoring Equipment Grants
- Lake and River Enhancement
- Community Forestry Grant Programs

To learn more about grant programs administered by IDNR go to:

<http://www.IN.gov/dnr/assistance/grantresources.html>.



IDNR and the Division of Outdoor Recreation continuously assess the needs and desires of users and facility managers. Empirical data are collected through statewide surveys, national surveys, focus groups, planning committees, interviews with natural resources experts and professional publications.

Goals or priorities are established to direct the State, regions, counties, municipalities, townships, and private owners to satisfactory compromises that will benefit as many people as possible.

We hope that the information presented in this document will help community members and outdoor recreation facilitators bridge the gaps between differing needs and reach the best solutions for all.

Remember, outdoor recreation includes a myriad of activities from walking through quiet neighborhoods to enjoying the rich aromas of farmers markets, festivals and fairs, to mountain biking at a State-owned recreation facility or enjoying a game of wheelchair basketball. The outdoor recreation possibilities in Indiana are as endless as your imagination.



ACTIVITY TRENDS:

ACTIVITY TRENDS IN INDIANA, TOP 10 RANKED IN ORDER
(OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION SURVEYS, 1979-2003)

1979	1989	1995	2000	2005
Picnicking	Picnicking	Hiking/walking/ jogging	Hiking/walking/ jogging	Hiking/walking/ jogging
Fishing	Pleasure driving	Picnicking	Fairs/festivals	Fairs/festivals
Swimming	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming/SCUBA/ snorkeling
Hiking	Swimming	Camping	Camping	Nature observation/ photography
Biking	Fishing	Fishing/hunting	Picnicking	Camping
Play fields	Bicycling	Biking	Swimming/SCUBA/ snorkeling	Fishing
Camping	Camping	Boating	Nature observation/ photography	Picnicking
Boating	Nature observation	Nature observation	Playground use	Bicycling
Playgrounds	Motor boating	Playground use	Bicycling	Motorized vehicle use
	Golf		Boating/ water skiing/ personal watercraft	Boating/ water skiing/ personal watercraft
				Court sports

FACILITIES INVENTORY

The IDNR-Division of Outdoor Recreation maintains a facilities inventory database that reflects the current supply of outdoor recreation opportunities in the State. The inventory is updated regularly through on-site inspections, self-report data from municipalities, and public information (e.g., State school directories).

The Indiana Facilities Inventory includes recreational facilities owned and managed by both public and private sectors. The inventory can be divided by area type: private, commercial, public, municipal, township, County, State, federal and school corporations.

By comparing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities and the supplies currently available, the Division of Outdoor Recreation is able to determine standards for acres per 1,000 people for Indiana.

RECOMMENDED SCORP STANDARDS:

- **COUNTIES:** 20 acres per 1,000 people (0.02 acre per person) of public local recreation acres (i.e., owned by township, municipal, county, and privately owned but open for public use)
- **INDIANA REGIONS:** 35 acres per 1,000 people (0.035 acre per person) of public regional recreation acres (i.e., owned by State or federal entities)
- **STATE:** 55 acres per 1,000 people (0.055 acre per person) of public recreation acres (i.e., a total of all acres in the above categories)

Determination of acreage amounts is based on publicly owned lands; therefore, it excludes private (not open for public use) and commercial acreages. School corporation acreage has also been excluded because the State does not have a complete and current assessment of schools that allow public use of their properties versus those that do not. Inclusion of school properties could skew the data and under-represent or over-represent outdoor recreation facilities by a substantial margin.

The State assesses supply of local, regional and total acres at the county and Indiana region levels to help determine areas with the highest need. To determine the neediest counties, they include the population growth (compared to the State average population growth) and the most recent inventory of total recreation acres available within the county.

COUNTY LEVEL

Assessing local outdoor recreation acres at the county level may be the best way to identify counties that need more assistance in improving their outdoor recreation supply. Some of these counties may need additional funding, advocacy, organization, or community resources, or there may be an abundance of State or federally owned properties in the county leading citizens to believe that local outdoor recreation is not a priority.

Whatever the reason, data analysis indicates that an overwhelming number of counties lack local outdoor recreation acreage.

Seventy of Indiana's 92 counties have an inadequate supply of local outdoor recreation acres. For example, Adams County, with a population of 33,849 people, is recommended to have 677 acres of local recreation opportunity; however, with a current total of 312 acres, Adams County has a deficit of 365 acres.

Table 10: County recreation acres-local *Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Indiana county - local acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/1000	Current	Difference
1	Adams	33,849.00	676.98	312.00	(364.98)
2	Allen	344,006.00	6,880.12	4,691.23	(2188.89)
3	Bartholomew	73,540.00	1,470.80	1,236.00	(234.80)
4	Benton	9,039.00	180.78	57.00	(123.78)
5	Blackford	13,849.00	276.98	91.00	(185.98)
6	Boone	52,061.00	1,041.22	597.55	(443.67)
7	Brown	15,154.00	303.08	76.00	(227.08)
8	Carroll	20,426.00	408.52	119.50	(289.02)
9	Cass	40,130.00	802.60	900.57	97.97
10	Clark	101,592.00	2,031.84	779.20	(1252.64)
11	Clay	27,142.00	542.84	284.00	(258.84)
12	Clinton	34,091.00	681.82	242.00	(439.82)
13	Crawford	11,216.00	224.32	33.00	(191.32)
14	Daviess	30,466.00	609.32	1,070.51	461.19
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	981.64	375.00	(606.64)
16	Decatur	25,184.00	503.68	235.34	(268.34)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	833.18	285.00	(548.18)
18	Delaware	116,362.00	2,327.24	498.11	(1829.13)
19	Dubois	40,858.00	817.16	1,306.00	488.84
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	3,907.24	3,240.45	(666.79)
21	Fayette	24,885.00	497.70	112.00	(385.70)
22	Floyd	71,997.00	1,439.94	675.00	(764.94)
23	Fountain	17,462.00	349.24	432.50	83.26
24	Franklin	23,085.00	461.70	312.00	(149.70)
25	Fulton	20,665.00	413.30	306.70	(106.60)
26	Gibson	33,408.00	668.16	370.00	(298.16)
27	Grant	70,557.00	1,411.14	338.57	(1072.57)
28	Greene	33,479.00	669.58	680.00	10.42
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	4,813.70	2,911.93	(1901.77)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	1,262.76	297.20	(965.56)
31	Harrison	36,827.00	736.54	867.13	130.59
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	2,549.66	1,112.73	(1436.93)
33	Henry	47,244.00	944.88	1,334.00	389.12
34	Howard	84,977.00	1,699.54	415.91	(1283.63)
35	Huntington	38,236.00	764.72	322.13	(442.59)
36	Jackson	42,237.00	844.74	269.65	(575.09)
37	Jasper	31,876.00	637.52	189.49	(448.03)
38	Jay	21,606.00	432.12	237.10	(195.02)
39	Jefferson	32,430.00	648.60	309.00	(339.60)
40	Jennings	28,427.00	568.54	343.10	(225.44)
41	Johnson	128,436.00	2,568.72	1,056.50	(1512.22)
42	Knox	38,366.00	767.32	787.25	19.93
43	Kosciusko	76,072.00	1,521.44	406.95	(1114.49)
44	LaGrange	36,875.00	737.50	711.50	(26.00)
45	Lake	493,297.00	9,865.94	10,637.39	771.45

Indiana county - local acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/1000	Current	Difference
46	LaPorte	110,512.00	2,210.24	2,150.20	(60.04)
47	Lawrence	46,403.00	928.06	857.00	(71.06)
48	Madison	130,412.00	2,608.24	1,283.06	(1325.18)
49	Marion	863,133.00	17,262.66	10,986.74	(6275.92)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	938.90	323.25	(615.65)
51	Martin	10,386.00	207.72	1,171.03	963.31
52	Miami	35,620.00	712.40	261.85	(450.55)
53	Monroe	121,407.00	2,428.14	4,610.59	2182.45
54	Montgomery	38,239.00	764.78	907.08	142.30
55	Morgan	69,778.00	1,395.56	289.00	(1106.56)
56	Newton	14,456.00	289.12	115.00	(174.12)
57	Noble	47,448.00	948.96	808.60	(140.36)
58	Ohio	5,874.00	117.48	55.00	(62.48)
59	Orange	19,770.00	395.40	434.00	38.60
60	Owen	22,823.00	456.46	68.90	(387.56)
61	Parke	17,362.00	347.24	657.00	309.76
62	Perry	19,032.00	380.64	152.30	(228.34)
63	Pike	12,766.00	255.32	469.28	213.96
64	Porter	157,772.00	3,155.44	1,820.60	(1334.84)
65	Posey	26,852.00	537.04	218.81	(318.23)
66	Pulaski	13,783.00	275.66	78.50	(197.16)
67	Putnam	36,957.00	739.14	98.00	(641.14)
68	Randolph	26,684.00	533.68	533.83	0.15
69	Ripley	27,710.00	554.20	596.09	41.89
70	Rush	17,823.00	356.46	34.25	(322.21)
71	St. Joseph	266,160.00	5,323.20	500.33	(4822.87)
72	Scott	23,820.00	476.40	3,779.49	3303.09
73	Shelby	43,766.00	875.32	69.20	(806.12)
74	Spencer	20,528.00	410.56	186.08	(224.48)
75	Starke	22,933.00	458.66	211.50	(247.16)
76	Steuben	33,773.00	675.46	602.03	(73.43)
77	Sullivan	21,763.00	435.26	2,109.00	1673.74
78	Switzerland	9,718.00	194.36	70.00	(124.36)
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	3,077.50	2,765.72	(311.78)
80	Tipton	16,385.00	327.70	181.57	(146.13)
81	Union	7,208.00	144.16	12.00	(132.16)
82	Vanderburgh	173,187.00	3,463.74	3,171.31	(292.43)
83	Vermillion	16,562.00	331.24	179.90	(151.34)
84	Vigo	102,592.00	2,051.84	2,252.33	200.49
85	Wabash	33,843.00	676.86	179.50	(497.36)
86	Warren	8,785.00	175.70	46.50	(129.20)
87	Warrick	56,362.00	1,127.24	2,052.59	925.35
88	Washington	27,885.00	557.70	968.87	411.17
89	Wayne	69,192.00	1,383.84	1,233.53	(150.31)
90	Wells	28,085.00	561.70	176.03	(385.67)
91	White	24,463.00	489.26	126.00	(363.26)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	646.46	309.50	(336.96)

CRITICAL COUNTIES AND REGIONS

IDNR-Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) also assesses the critical counties. The definition of a critical county has changed slightly from the 2000-04 SCORP due to changes in the State's population growth.

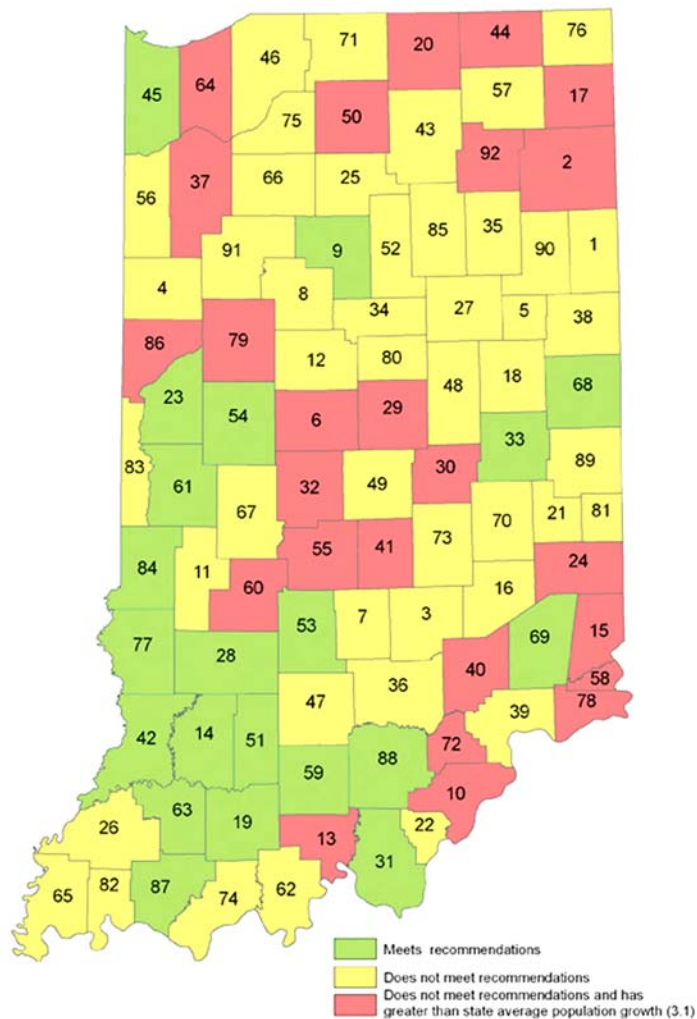
Chapter 3 of the current SCORP defines a critical county is a county that does not have the recommended outdoor recreation supply acreage of 55 acres per 1,000 population (55a/1,000) and has a population growth rate that is higher than the 2000-05 population growth rate of 3.1% for the Indiana (as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau).

INDIANA REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION ACRES-LOCAL

*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Note: DOR is in the process of redefining "critical county" to include "degree of need." For example, Lake and St. Joseph counties, both of which have a total deficit of greater than 10,000 acres, are not currently considered critical counties because of population growth lower than the State average. Counties that have been determined to be critical counties based on the defined criteria are

- **ALLEN**
- Boone
- Dearborn
- Dekalb
- Elkhart
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Hendricks
- Johnson
- Marshall
- Ohio
- Tippecanoe
- Warren
- Whitley



INDIANA REGION LEVEL

The State was divided into 15 planning regions in the late 1960s or early 1970s through the Indiana Department of Planning. Three of the regions (1, 3, and 13) were subdivided into two sections (A and B). Although many of the original regional planning commissions no longer exist, the DOR maintains the regional boundaries for our purposes.

This helps to assess trends, developments and losses through time. It also allows for easier study and assessment of supply and demand.

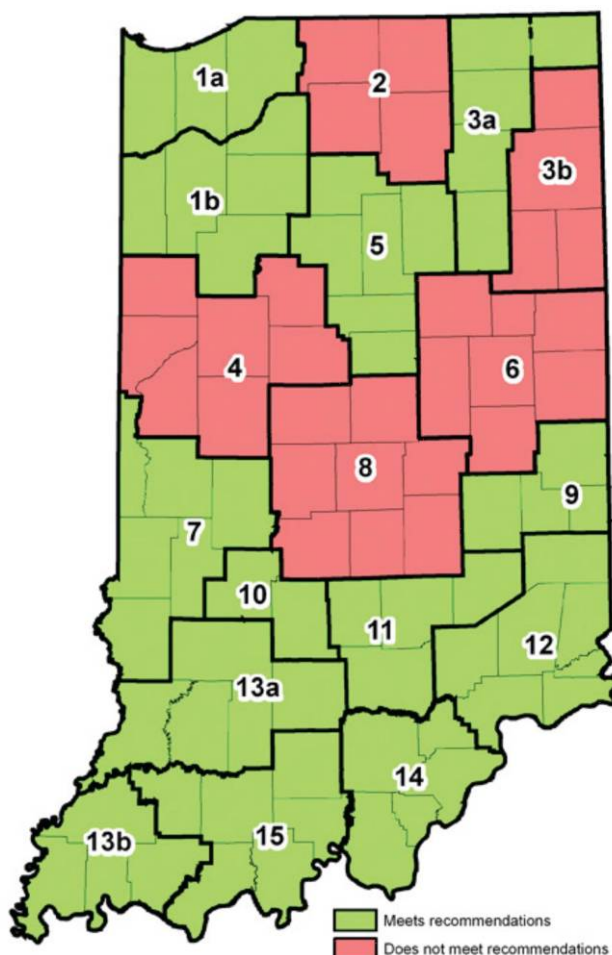
The State is also divided into three major regions based on its physiography (physical description of earth's surface). These major regions include:

- The Northern Lake and Moraine region
- The Central Drift region
- The Southern Upland and Lowland region

Currently 13 Indiana planning sections (10 ½ regions) meet NRPA/Indiana recommendations for 55-acres of total outdoor recreation acres per 1,000 people.

Regions 2, 3B, 4, 6, and 8 do not have enough public outdoor recreation acreage to support their populations. Four of the deficient areas include counties that have a population growth rate higher than the State average and have a major city or cities:

- Region 2: Elkhart and Marshall counties, Elkhart
- **Region 3B: ALLEN and Dekalb counties, FORT WAYNE**
- Region 4: Tippecanoe and Warren counties, Lafayette
- Region 8: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan counties, Indianapolis



This indicates that acquisition of new lands and development of new outdoor recreation opportunities have not or are not keeping pace with population growth.

INDIANA REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION ACRES-LOCAL

*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Indiana region - local acres				
Region	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/ 1000	Current	Difference
1A	761,581.00	15,231.62	14,608.19	(623.43)
1B	107,511.00	2,150.22	720.49	(1,429.73)
2	584,539.00	11,690.78	7,750.14	(3,940.64)
3A	188,655.00	3,773.10	2,753.76	(1,019.34)
3B	447,599.00	8,951.98	5,464.26	(3,487.72)
4	281,917.00	5,638.34	4,570.30	(1,068.04)
5	231,620.00	4,632.40	2,246.10	(2,386.30)
6	426,714.00	8,534.28	4,315.67	(4,218.61)
7	222,378.00	4,447.56	5,580.23	1,132.67
8	1,588,480.00	31,769.60	17,437.73	(14,331.87)
9	119,108.00	2,382.16	1,391.78	(990.38)
10	144,230.00	2,884.60	4,679.49	1,794.89
11	156,115.00	3,122.30	1,816.99	(1,305.31)
12	176,326.00	3,526.52	2,060.19	(1,466.33)
13A	159,100.00	3,182.00	4,565.79	1,383.79
13B	289,809.00	5,796.18	5,812.71	16.53
14	262,121.00	5,242.42	3,359.40	(1,883.02)
15	124,170.00	2,483.40	2,894.91	411.51

STATE LEVEL

With such a deficit of local outdoor recreation acres at both the county and regional level, it follows that the State as a whole does not meet NRPA/Indiana recommendations of 20 acres per 1,000 people. The State has a total population of 6,271,973 people and a current total of 92,028 local recreation acres. NRPA/Indiana recommends a total of 125,439 local recreation acres; therefore, Indiana is 33,411 acres below recommended acreage for local outdoor recreation opportunities.

SCORP STANDARDS - CONCLUSION:

The SCORP simplifies the guidelines; however, that does not equate to the State being equally balanced or without problems. A theoretical example, Mounds State Park could have a service area that includes parts of Hancock County, the 3rd fastest growing county in Indiana (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005). If Anderson, which is closer to Mounds SP, has a population increase, the service area of Mounds would “shrink” to be able to absorb that increase in population density.

Since Hancock County is already below standards for outdoor recreation supply, “shrinkage” of Mounds’ service area would have a ripple effect and further increase Hancock County’s shortage.

The IDNR interpretation indicates that the State has adequate acreage; however, service areas of outdoor recreation sites in the southern third of the State do not extend to Lake or ALLEN counties. Each has a greater than 10,000-acre deficit in outdoor recreation supply. ALLEN has a population growth rate greater than the State average of 3.1% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005).

Technological advances make it easier to assess park service areas based on population density; DOR hopes to include these assessments in future SCORPs. One last thought before moving to the most critical areas in Indiana.

Our state ranks 14th in population in the country. The total acreage is 23,307,520. Of that land, 998,669 acres is designated for outdoor recreation. That means Indiana has a mere 4.28% of her land allotted to recreation.

The U.S. Census Bureau (2005) reported an estimated average population increase of 3.1% for the State from 2000 to 2005, with an estimated total population of 6,546,000 to 7,158,000 by 2025. The percentage of land for outdoor recreation has increased by only 0.41% since 1999.

It is evident that Indiana has not kept pace with population growth. As future population growth occurs, the State, regions, counties, municipalities, and townships will need to develop new outdoor recreation sites to accommodate current and expected deficiencies because our present outdoor recreation supply is not distributed in a manner that serves all areas of the State.

ALLEN COUNTY PARK STANDARDS

In the past, park and recreation plans have utilized "standards" to calculate the park acres that a park system should have to meet the minimum recreation needs for its citizens. All too often, these 'standards' set unrealistic expectations, and do not address local conditions. Acreage requirements are set so high that an agency may never be able to achieve them.

Minimum standards also suggest that the department focus on acreage attainment, while other essential needs are overlooked.

However, park area standards are important as a fundamental measurement in the formulation and growth of any park system, as a basis for defining a land acquisition and development program.

TWO-TIER LEVEL OF SERVICE:

The Allen County Park Board has adopted a practical, flexible and progressive **2-TIER LEVEL-OF-SERVICE** for acreage standards for the citizens of Allen County.

LEVEL I: An achievable and conservative 10ac/1,000 population factor based on parochial limitations, resources and demands at the time of this writing.

LEVEL II: In harmony with the State's SCORP recommendation of 20ac/1,000 local population; to be achieved when adequate financing, staffing, opportunity and governance support is secured.

ALLEN COUNTY PARK SYSTEM TYPE

The Park Board considers the Allen County park system to be a district type of system. Within any park system there are many different types (classes) of park facilities sized to serve various populations. A variety of programs can occur within these facilities.

In classifying Allen County parks, the first step was to examine their existing function and design, and then identify how (the parks) are utilized by the public. Each park was then classified within one of the following basic park types.

1. **COUNTY/DISTRICT PARK (D)** - This type of park places emphasis on preserving and protecting landscape types. Sizes vary and are not fixed, but frequently range from 250 to 650 acres - and should be large enough to protect the resource. Both Fox Island and Metea Parks are examples of this type of park.
2. **SPECIAL RECREATION AREAS (SRA)** - This type of park or facility is a parcel not easily classified in a broader context. Cook's Landing and Payton Park are examples of SRA's.

County park system needs to maintain variety in order to provide a balanced park and recreation program. Therefore, there is no one set of standards for recreation areas and facilities.

National, State and University standards vary considerably. Terminology also has different meanings in different communities. The standards therefore should be derived locally and based on conditions that exist in the community but should be modified by the following three conditions:

1. **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION** - park areas must be distributed throughout the community so that certain park types are within prescribed distances from the population they are meant to serve.

SERVICE AREAS

COUNTY/DISTRICT PARKS ½ Hour Driving Time
 (Natural Resource District Parks)
 SPECIAL RECREATION AREAS No specified requirement

2. **PHYSICAL BARRIERS** - consideration must be given to the safety of users. Risk management is an administrative and design imperative.
3. **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS** - the capacity of a park area to accommodate uses is dependent upon such factors as soil, slopes, vegetation and size.

The current SCORP recommends recreational land standards as a means to measure progress in the availability of recreational lands. The standards were originally recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1988.

Due to the nature and complexity of the recreation provision system in Indiana, it is difficult to track progress in the availability of recreation lands using other methods. As stated previously, every community is different and the amount of land need for recreation varies accordingly.

With time being the major reasons why many Hoosiers don't participate in outdoor recreation, having adequate resources close by becomes critical. Consequently, **these standards are not a hard and fast rule**, only a means to the end. The goal is to provide uniform access to recreational lands for all citizens in Indiana.

For the purposes of this evaluation, regional recreational lands are considered to be those lands managed by either state or federal government.

SCORP DEFINITION – LOCAL RECREATION LAND

LOCAL RECREATION LANDS are considered to be those lands managed by county, municipal, or township governments. Regional recreation lands and local recreation lands are combined to make up the total recreation lands figures as shown in the following table.

<u>LEVEL II ACREAGE</u> SCORP CLASSIFIED LANDS	SCORP RECREATION LAND PER PERSON	SCORP RECREATION LAND PER CAPITA (1000 PERSONS)
<u>Local</u> Recreation Lands	.020 Acres	20 Acres
<u>Regional</u> Recreation Lands (1 hour driving time)	.035 Acres	35 Acres
TOTAL RECREATION LANDS	.055 Acres	55 Acres

Source: SCORP

LOCAL RECREATION LAND SUPPLIERS

There are currently a minimum of ten (10) governmental entities within (and including) Allen County providing parks, opens space and/or park facilities in some form. This intentionally does not include school properties. Those entities are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Fort Wayne | 6. Woodburn |
| 2. Allen County | 7. Aboite Township – contiguous to Fort Wayne |
| 3. Leo-Cedarville | 8. New Haven - contiguous to Fort Wayne |
| 4. Huntertown | 9. Monroeville |
| 5. Grabill | 10. State; Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area in Arcola |

Based a 2005 population factor and recorded inventory for the combined state, county, municipal and township parkland - **local park and recreation** lands total **4,691** acres.

The SCORP projects **6,880** acres as the target acreage based on a 20/ac/1,000 population factor.

- This results in a **LEVEL II - 2,189 ACRE SHORTFALL** (based on a 20ac/1000 population formula.).
- However, using a **LEVEL I** factor drops the shortfall to only **1,095 ACRES** (based on a 10ac/1,000 population formula).

ALLEN COUNTY - LOCAL RECREATION LEVEL I AND LEVEL II ACREAGE STANDARDS

LEVEL I ACREAGE 10ac/1,000	2005	COMMENTS
COUNTY POPULATION (estimated 2005 population)	344,006	2005 ALLEN COUNTY POP
Existing parkland acres *	4,691	PER SCORP
Parkland required at 10ac/1000 **	3,440	(344,006/1000)*10ac
Status; Local parkland need @ 10ac/1,000	+1,251	ABOVE STD

* This assumes no additional land is acquired by any of the local Park Departments.

** This calculation is based on the goal of **10 acres** of local recreational land per capita, as adopted by the Board and identified as Level I acreage.

Using population projections the following table shows a **CURRENT** deficiency in local park land based on SCORP and Board adopted LEVEL-II acreage standards of **20ac/1,000 population**.

LEVEL II ACREAGE 20ac/1,000	2005	COMMENTS
COUNTY POPULATION (estimated 2005 population)	344,006	2005 ALLEN COUNTY POP
Existing Parkland acres *	4,691	PER SCORP
Parkland required at 20ac/1000 **	6,880	(344.006/1000)*20ac
Status; Local parkland need @ 20ac/1,000	-2,189	SHORTFALL

* This assumes no additional land is acquired by any of the local Park Departments.

** This calculation is based on the goal of **20 acres** of local recreational land per capita established by the SCORP and as adopted by the Board as Acreage Level II.

LOCAL - ALLEN COUNTY RECREATION ANALYSIS REVIEW:

Using a 10ac/1,000 factor as adopted by the Board for Level I Acreage – there is a local balance of 1,251 acres above that standard.

However using a 20ac/1,000 factor (Level II Acreage) as noted in the SCORP, there is a **2,189 acre SHORTFALL** of recreational land in the local region. This substantial deficit will place a heavy user pressure on existing parks and facilities for years to come.

The Allen County Park and Recreation Board has been and will continue to strive to achieve an acreage base in proportion to the service area and the expressed needs and demands of the population served.

LOCAL RECREATION - RECOMMENDATION

Since Allen County Parks currently does not meet the IDNR's acreage standards using a 20ac/1,000 population factor, any opportunity to secure and preserve new lands contiguous to existing parks, and acquisition of new district size parcels should be pursued based on **availability, affordability and our ability to maintain**. Areas in the southeast and northwest will receive priority attention.

RESERVE OR CONTINGENCY ACREAGE

A 20% reserve or contingency is recommended over and above the total acre levels noted above.

STATE INITIATIVE NEEDED

To achieve the levels identified using a 20ac/1,000 base, it will be imperative for the State of Indiana to aggressively assist the local region by the creation of a large **State Park** within the boundaries of Allen County - and for local entities to increase their land holdings proportionate to their population base. Emphasis should be given to the areas previously mentioned for development potential.

REGIONAL (3b) RECREATION LANDS

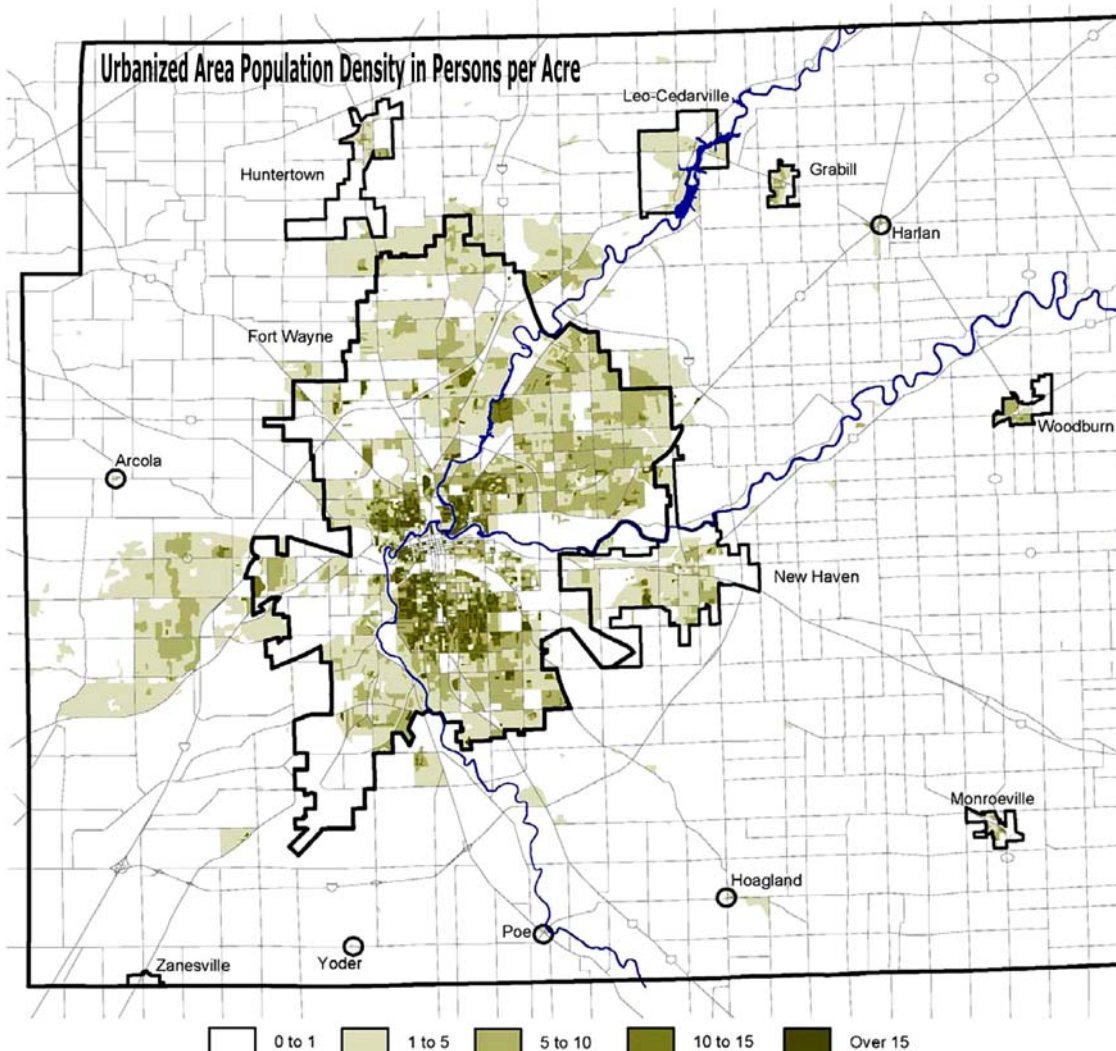
The other standard that must be taken into account is the "regional recreation land"- as defined in the SCORP 2006 - 2010 report. The report defines **regional recreation land** as land managed by either state or federal government. That standard is defined as **35 acres per capita (1,000 populations)**.



THERE ARE NO FEDERAL OR STATE PARKS IN ALLEN COUNTY with the exception of one state owned and manage site; the Pigeon River State Fish and Wildlife Area located in the Arcola area.

The total amount of regional recreation land in the Region 3B based on 2005 data is only **5,464 acres**. This is significantly below the 35-acre standard recommended by the 2006-2010 SCORP.

REGION	POPULATION 2005	ACRES@ 35ac/1,000	CURRENT	DIFFERENCE
3b	447,599	15,665	5,464	<10,202>



The following information is derived from the 2000 Census. 2006 estimates place the current county population at or about 347,316. For the purposes of our plan, statistical data from the 2000 Census will be the baseline and estimates for ensuing years will be used as noted.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>+/-%</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1980	72,196	294,335		
1990	195,680	300,836	(+2.2%)	FWA is 65% of the total county population
2000	205,727	331,849	(+9.3%)	FWA is 61.9% of the total county population
2006	250,727	347,316	(+4.5%)	FWA is 72%; Aboite Twp annexation impact

Note: Allen County’s population has increased over 13.3% in the last 16-years.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED ALLEN CO. ACREAGE NEEDS

The following information outlines both present and future park acreage needs for Allen County Parks and Recreation. Current needs and future projections are determined by subtracting existing facilities from forecast needs. These projected values were established utilizing the preceding acreage standards and population figures.

EXISTING ALLEN COUNTY PARK INVENTORY

PARK	ACRES
Fox Island	605.0
Metea	250.0
Payton	38.0
Cook’s Landing	4.5
TOTAL ACRES	897.5

ALLEN COUNTY ACRES REQUIRED TO MEET LEVEL I AND II STANDARDS

LEVEL I

@10 acres per 1,000 population = $(347,316/1000)*10 = 3,473$ **gross acres** MINUS **credit** for 2,811 Fort Wayne acres (includes 114 acres of Aboite Twp parkland) = **662 minimum net acres required**. With 898 current acres, there is presently a **236 POSTIVIE BALANCE** which can be credited to the recommended 20% reserve.

- At 10ac/1,000 population factor, Allen County meets a 10ac/1,000 acreage standard when crediting Fort Wayne's acres in the formula.
- The SE and NW quadrants of the county are particularly deficient in traditional county parkland.

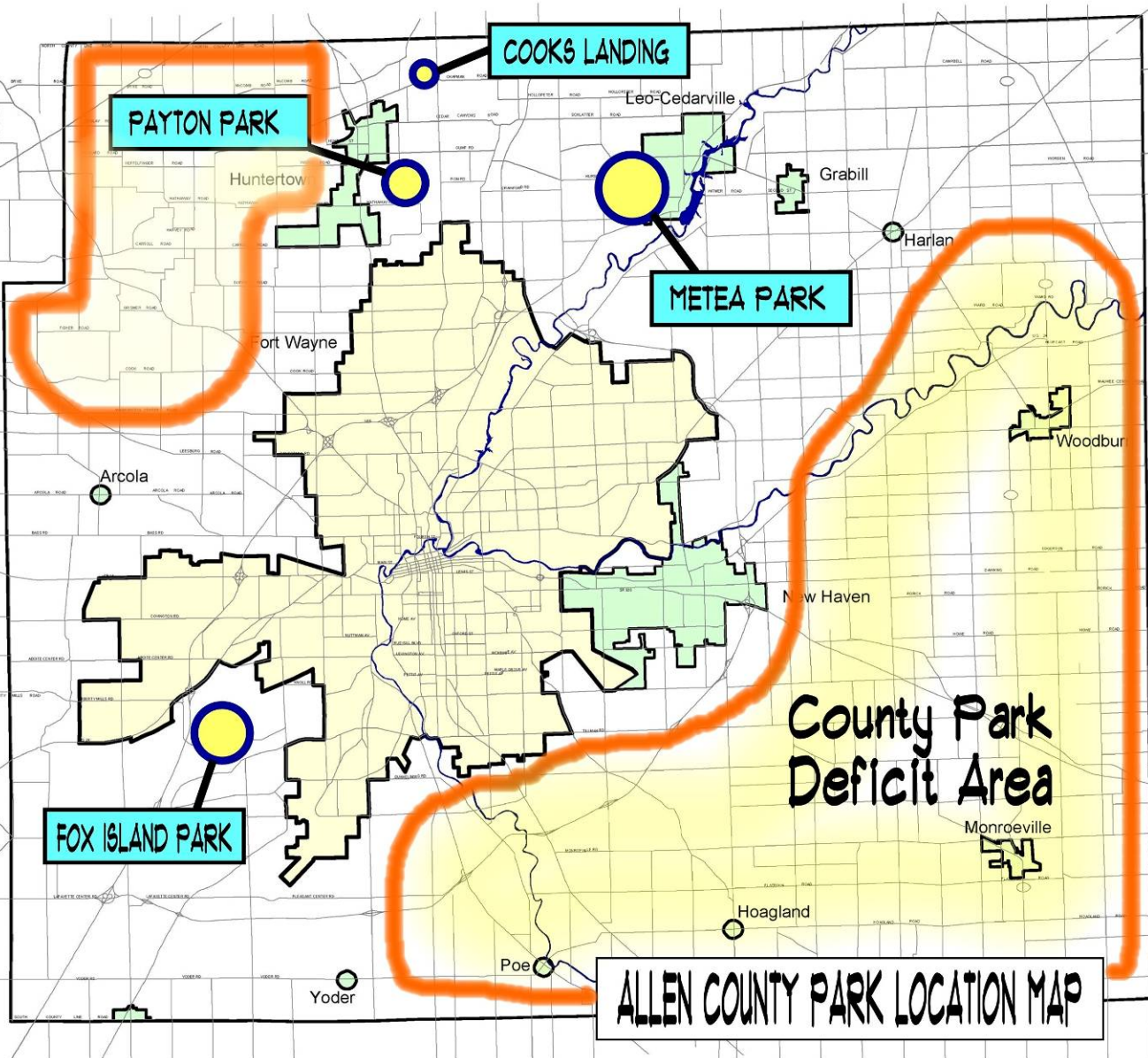
LEVEL II

@ 20 acres per 1,000 population = $(347,316/1000)*20 = 6,946$ **gross acres** MINUS credit for 2,811 Fort Wayne acres = **4,135 minimum net acres required**. With a current inventory of 898 acres, the **shortfall is 3,237 acres**. Without the ability to credit Fort Wayne acres in the formula, the shortfall rises dramatically to **6,048 acres**

- At a 20ac/1,000 population factor, Allen County currently DOES NOT meet the IDNR's standards for gross acreage – even with credit for Fort Wayne acreage.
- The SE and NW quadrants of the county are deficient in traditional county parkland.

***NOTE:** Any land acquisition or service expansion initiative must concurrently address the perpetual costs of operations and maintenance. Sufficient funding, consistent with the level of development envisioned, should be identified and secured before executing the project.*

ALLEN COUNTY



DISTRICT PARK RELATIONSHIPS: DISTRICT; NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Purpose: To provide easily accessible and more intensive recreation activity, for a region, within a natural environment, that is less extensive and dramatic than a regional park environment.

Character: Variety and openness are the important qualities of this park classification. Variety as defined in the regional park but with less dramatic terrain and vegetation features. Openness is expressed in the form of undeveloped land, wooded areas and scenic views.

Undeveloped Land: 40 - 60 percent of total park area, including support acreage.

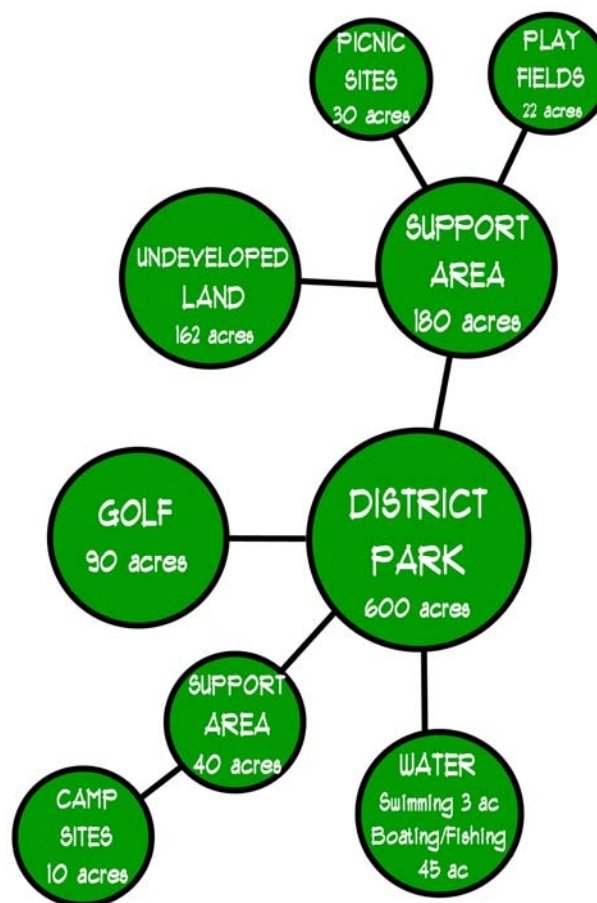
Service Area: A one-half hour driving time radius.

Size: 400 - 800 acres.

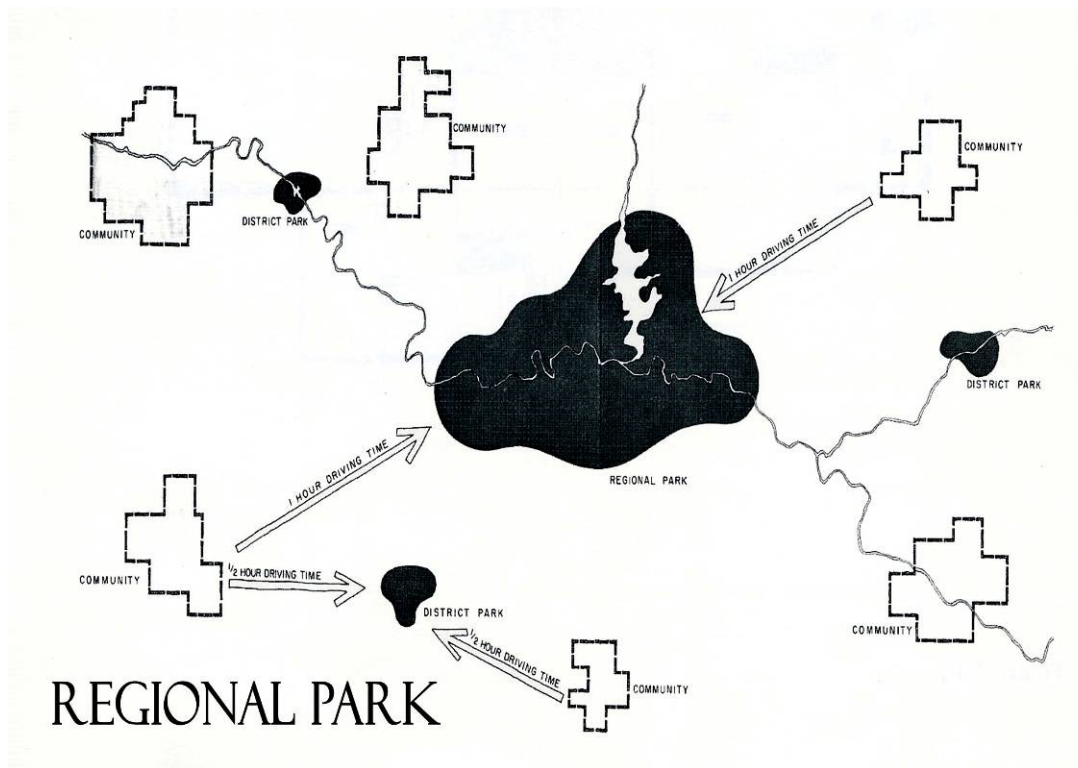
Special features: Should include water for swimming.

Facilities and Activities:

1. Picnic Areas
2. Campgrounds
3. Golfing
4. Winter Sports
5. Playfields
6. Trails
 - a. Hiking
 - b. Bridle
 - c. Bicycle
 - d. Vehicle
7. Nature Study Area
8. Nature Center
9. Water Recreation
 - a. Swimming
 - b. Fishing
 - c. Boating



TYPICAL FACILITIES FOR A DISTRICT PARK



TRAILS – CONNECTIVITY

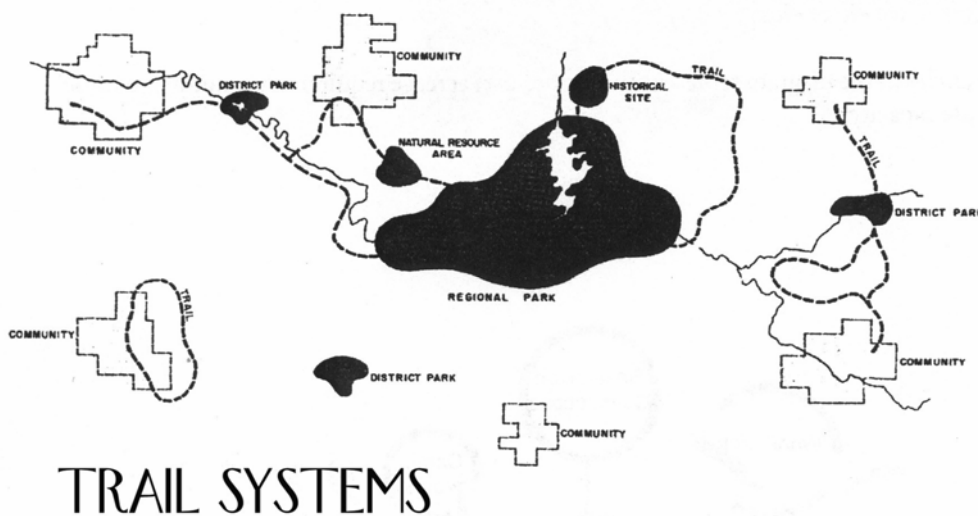
In addition to parks and recreation complexes, trail and greenway networks can provide a unique element in a park system. They may serve a multitude of very important functions within the system.

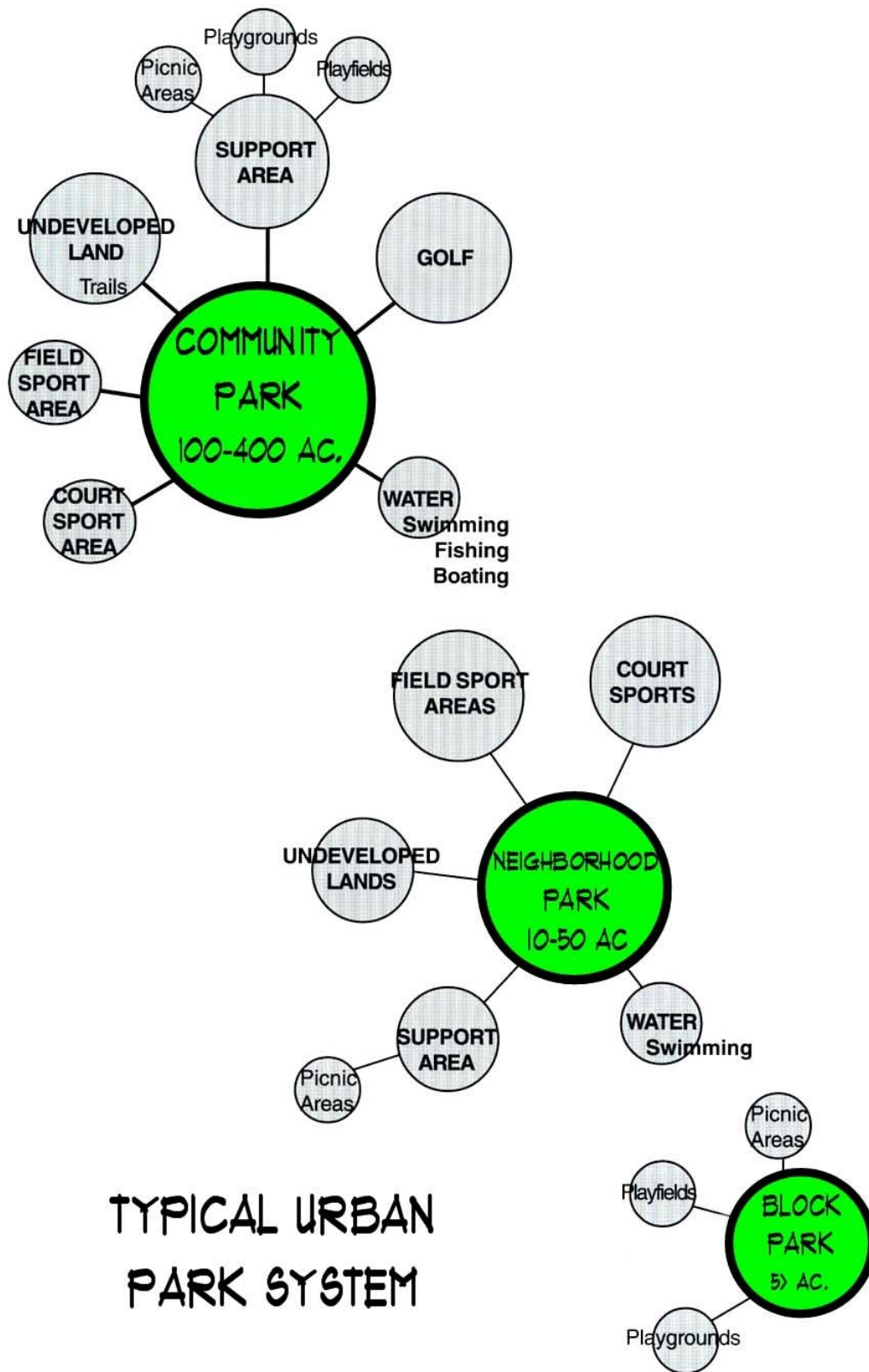
Trails and greenways provide defined and unhindered access to nature. They also provide connections between park components that make a cohesive park system.

They provide additional safety by allowing for uninterrupted pedestrian movement with a community.

Trails can connect housing areas to schools and shopping areas while greenways provide a natural habitat corridor for wildlife. Man-made corridors and trails in many areas provide much needed access to recreational opportunities that otherwise would not exist.

The model plans that follow were prepared by the IDNR and are incorporated in the SCORP 2000.





TYPICAL URBAN PARK SYSTEM

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYGROUNDS

ELIMINATE PLAYGROUNDS? YOU MUST BE NUTS!

By James Peterson

Just think: If we could eliminate all public playgrounds, we would no longer have to worry about accidents or having enough money to purchase or replace equipment. There would be no need for maintenance or costly repairs. No more lawsuits. Our lives as park and recreation professionals would be a whole lot easier. Of course, hundreds of thousands of families would be without playgrounds, but that would be their worry.

Actually, we do have a problem of major proportions with our public playgrounds. There is a serious playground accident happening every two-and-a-half minutes.

- Do we know where these accidents are happening?.....**Yes.**
- Do we know who is getting injured?**Yes.**
- Do we know how and why these accidents are happening?**Yes.**
- Do we know how to identify and eliminate hazards on the playground?.....**Yes.**
- Do we know how to prevent playground accidents in the future?.....**Maybe.**
- Can we reduce most of the serious accidents?.....**Probably.**

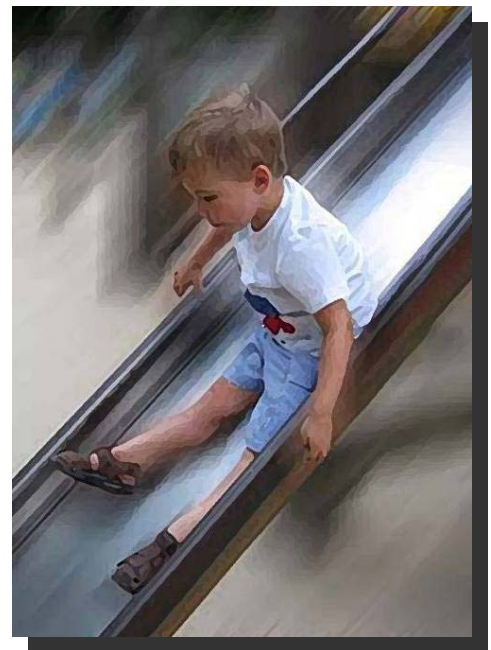
There is no such thing as a 100-percent safe playground given the unpredictability of children, yet we should not consider taking away the opportunities playgrounds afford just because we can't guarantee that no one will ever get hurt.

The thought of doing away with playgrounds is not as far-fetched as you might think. I recently heard of a state that is discussing the end of playgrounds and recess in their public schools. In my opinion, it would be a grievous error and a dismal day if play were eradicated. Think of telling 40-million American children that there is no more recess on the playground ...right.

Besides a kid's right to fun, some neuroscientists believe that playgrounds are a valuable benefit for developing children. While we think primarily of the physical attributes of play - running, skipping, sliding, jumping, swinging and hopping - there is much more to it than that.

Scientists at The Children's Institute for Research and Development emphasize how play experiences benefit the cognitive, social and emotional development in children.

Children's games actually program the brain for language, art, math and science, as well as build interpersonal abilities and intelligence.



Kinesthetics is the perception of movement through nerves in the muscles, tendons and joints. This process is enhanced with continued physical activity at an early age. A Baylor University College of Medicine study reported that children who do not play develop brains that are 20% to 30% smaller than normal for their age.

Is there any doubt that children need the physical, social and multi-sensory experiences that take place during play? What our children don't need, however, are playgrounds with hidden hazards that could lead to broken bones, skinned arms and legs, concussions, and even, on occasion, death.

ELIMINATE HAZARDS

The National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) spends a great deal of time identifying the difference between a risk and a hazard. A risk is something we as individuals are willing to take. It implies the voluntary taking of a chance. An adult can look down the black diamond run of a ski slope and decide to go for it.

It is his choice, a risk he is willing to take. It may be hazardous to his health if he misjudges and ends up in the hospital, but he's making that choice. Likewise, if a four-year-old looks down an eight-foot slide and decides it is worth the risk and goes for it, it is his choice to try the slide. It is our responsibility to make certain the experience is as free of hazards as possible.

A playground hazard is something that is hidden, an unforeseen or unexpected danger to the unsuspecting. Hazards can cause bodily injury. Hazards are the professional's responsibility; we in the field of leisure services need to be aware of a protruding bolt or space on the platform that might catch a shoulder strap or jacket cord and strangle an unsuspecting child.

Playground hazards are the responsibility of owners, operators, designers, manufacturers, and all others responsible for children on the playground. Those who are responsible for playgrounds and child safety must eliminate hazards. Children, in their enthusiasm to play, cannot be expected to recognize hazards.

One of the easiest ways you may be able to cope with the risk management skills needed for safer playgrounds is to become acutely aware of how to identify hazards. That is the thrust of the National Playground Safety Institute, which is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association in cooperation with state affiliates.

Currently, over 8,000 individuals have taken a course and become Certified Playground Inspectors. Why not add this certification to your list of professional skills?

Join the growing list of administrators, risk managers, landscape architects, maintenance foremen and crews, attorneys, parents, equipment manufacturers, sales reps, distributors, child-care personnel and military supervisors who have become better informed by enrolling in one of the **NPSI institutes**. They are offered about 40-times a year throughout the country.

In addition, there is a very informative brochure entitled "The Dirty Dozen" that is a great handout for parents, administrators and caretakers. It points out the 12 most serious hazards found on public playgrounds. Excerpts from that brochure may be found at the end of this article.

WHERE, WHO, HOW AND WHY?

On playgrounds, children are getting hurt mostly by falls. Statistics show that 79% of all playground accidents are due to falls. Most of these, 68%, are due to falls to the surface and 10% are from falls to the equipment. Just eliminate falls, and you solve almost 80% of the problem. Well, it's not quite that easy. Kids also get hurt from entanglement, head entrapment and impact with stationary or moving equipment.

Most injuries, about 56%, are happening to the five to nine age group. The next largest group injured is the two to four year olds (27%), with the rest scattered among the remaining ages. As for how and why they are being injured, there are several key reasons.

Improper use of equipment and the lack of adult supervision account for 44% of injuries. Poor maintenance is responsible for one out of three accidents. The remainder are due to improper equipment, faulty installation and poor layout and design.

James A. Peterson is professor emeritus in the Department of Recreation and Park Administration at Indiana University.



THE DIRTY DOZEN CHECKLIST

ARE THEY HIDING IN YOUR CHILD'S PLAYGROUND?



In the time it will take you to read this information a child will be severely injured and admitted to an emergency room as a result of a playground-related accident. It is estimated that each year over 170,000 such injuries occur. Approximately twenty children will die from playground related injuries

1. IMPROPER PROTECTIVE SURFACING

The surface or ground under and around the playground equipment should be soft enough to cushion a fall. Improper surfacing material under playground equipment is the leading cause of playground related injuries.

Over seventy percent of all accidents on playgrounds are from children falling. Hard surfaces such as concrete, blacktop, packed earth or grass are not acceptable under play equipment. A fall onto one of these hard surfaces could be life threatening.

There are many surfaces that offer protection from falls. Acceptable surfaces are hardwood fiber/mulch, sand, and pea gravel. These surfaces must be maintained at a depth of twelve inches, be free of standing water and debris, and not be allowed to become compacted.

There are also synthetic or rubber tiles and mats that are appropriate for use under play equipment.

2. INADEQUATE FALL ZONE

A fall zone or use zone is under the area under and around the playground equipment where a child might fall. A fall zone should be covered with protective surfacing material and extend a minimum of six feet in all directions from the edge of stationary play equipment such as climbers and chin up bars.

The fall zone at the bottom or exit area of a slide should extend a minimum of six feet from the end of the slide for slides four feet or less in

height. For slides higher than four feet, take the entrance height of the slide and add four feet to determine how far the surfacing should extend from the end of the slide. Swings require a much greater area for the fall zone:

The fall zone should extend two times the height of the pivot or swing hanger in front of and behind the swings seats. The fall zone should also extend six feet to the side of the support structure.

3. PROTRUSION & ENTANGLEMENT HAZARDS

A protrusion hazard is a component or piece of hardware that might be capable of impaling or cutting a child if a child should fall against the hazard. Some protrusions are also capable of catching strings or items of clothing which might be worn around a child's neck.

This type of entanglement is especially hazardous because it might result in strangulation. Examples of protrusion and entanglement hazards include bolt ends that extend more than two threads beyond the face of the nut, hardware configurations that form a hook or leave a gap or space between components and open "S" type hooks.

Rungs or handholds that protrude outward from a support structure may be capable of penetrating the eye socket.

Special attention should be paid to the area at the top of slides and sliding devices. Ropes should be anchored securely at both ends and not be capable of forming a loop or a noose.

4. ENTRAPMENT IN OPENINGS

Enclosed openings on playground equipment must be checked for head entrapment hazards. Children often enter openings feet first and attempt to slide through the opening. If the opening is not large enough it may allow the body to pass through the opening and entrap the head.

Generally, there should be no openings on playground equipment that measure between three and one half inches and nine inches. Where the ground forms the lower boundary of the opening is not considered to be hazardous.

Pay special attention to openings at the top of a slide, openings between platforms and openings on climbers where the distance between rungs might be less than nine inches.

5. INSUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT SPACING

Improper spacing between pieces of play equipment can cause overcrowding of a play area which may create several hazards. Fall zones for equipment that is higher than twenty-four inches above the ground cannot overlap.

Therefore there should be a minimum of twelve feet in between two play structures. This provides room for children to circulate and prevents the possibility of a child falling off of one structure and striking another structure. Swings and other pieces of moving equipment should be located in an area away from other structures.

6. TRIP HAZARDS

Trip hazards are created by play structure components or items on the playground. Exposed concrete footings, abrupt changes in surface elevations, containment borders, tree roots, tree stumps and rocks are all common trip hazards that are often found in play environment.

7. LACK OF SUPERVISION

The supervision of a playground environment directly relates to the overall safety of the environment. A play area should be designed so that it is easy for a parent or caregiver to observe the children at play.

Young children are constantly challenging their their own abilities, very often not being able to recognize potential hazards. It is estimated that over forty percent of all playground injuries are directly related to lack of supervision in some way. Parents must supervise their children in some way on the playground!

8. AGE-INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

Children's developmental needs vary greatly from age two to age twelve. In an effort to provide a challenging and safe play environment for all ages it is important to make sure that the equipment in the playground setting is appropriate for the age of the intended user. Areas for pre-school age children should be separate from areas intended for school age children.

9. LACK OF MAINTENANCE

For playgrounds to remain in "safe" condition a program of systematic, preventive maintenance must be present. There should be no missing, broken or worn-out components. All hardware should be secure.

The wood, metal, or plastic should not show signs of fatigue or deterioration. All parts should be stable with no apparent signs of loosening. The surfacing material must also be maintained. Check for signs of vandalism.

10. PINCH, CRUSH SHEARING, AND SHARP EDGE HAZARDS

Components in the play environment should be inspected to make sure there are no sharp edges or points that could cut skin.

Moving components such as suspension bridges, track rides, merry-go-rounds, see-saws and some swings should be checked to make sure that there are no moving parts or mechanisms that might crush or pinch a child's finger.

II. PLATFORMS WITH NO GUARDRAILS

Elevated surfaces such as platforms, ramps, and bridgeways should have guardrails that would prevent accidental falls.

Preschool age children are more at risk from falls and equipment intended for this age group should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than twenty inches. Equipment intended for school-age children should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than thirty inches.

12. EQUIPMENT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS

Accidents associated with the following types of equipment have resulted in the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommending that they not be used on public playgrounds:

- Heavy swings such as animal figure swings and multiple occupancy/glider type swings.
- Free swinging ropes that may fray or form a loop.
- Swinging exercise rings and trapeze bars are considered athletic equipment and not recommended for public playgrounds. Overhead hanging rings that have a short amount of chain and are intended for use as a ring trek (generally four to eight rings) are allowed on public playground equipment.

NATIONAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSTITUTE (NPSI)

The National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NPSI's mission is to promote children's rights to play in a safe environment and to nationally promote the importance of play in their development.

The NPSI promotes the latest public playground industry standards and guidelines as the most desirable standard of care for public-use playgrounds.

National Recreation and Park Association
22377 Belmont Ridge Road
Ashburn, Virginia 20148
www.nrpa.org



EQUITABLE ACCESS

Access to recreation means different things to different people. For the elderly and people with disabilities, it means being able to directly access or use the facilities or activities they choose. For minorities, it means being able to use facilities when they choose without fear, intimidation or discrimination. For those who are economically disadvantaged, it means being able to afford to use the facilities or have access to transportation to recreation locations.

It is the job of recreation providers to provide quality recreation experiences for ALL citizens and to make sure they can participate safely and to the fullest extent. Providing access to recreation for all people while maintaining the quality of experience and protecting the environment is a challenge, but it is one we must accept and conquer.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed to ensure equal access to public facilities regardless of ability. Recreation activities are no exception to this law.

Expectations of a recreational experience are not different based on the abilities of the visitor.

They are based on the experience a given facility is expected to provide. For example, people who visit state parks have different expectations than those who visit a baseball complex. Their expectations are based on the experience they desire, not the type of facility they visit. The quality of experience should be the same for all people.

As our population changes, this factor will become increasingly important as the highly active and outdoors-conscious baby boom generation ages. People will continue to demand quality outdoor recreation experiences that will soon have to accommodate aging populations. The more developed and urban a site is, the more access people will expect.

Providing more information about recreational experiences at recreation sites is a key to addressing some aspects of access to recreation. This applies to all citizens, not just those of a particular group or disability. It also applies to programming, issues, information and virtually every opportunity offered.

If people have the information they need about a particular recreation activity and the power to make informed decisions about whether or not to participate in a particular activity, some of the conflicts surrounding access to recreation can be minimized.



Indiana has adopted the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as its standard for developing facilities that are accessible. These guidelines cover both private and public sectors facilities under the DA and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

The guidelines cover new construction and alterations and generally do not address existing facilities outside of planned alterations.

The U.S. Access Board, which oversees the development and implementation of the guidelines, has enacted a proposal to update these guidelines.

The proposal seeks to improve access requirements while reconciling differences between ADAAG and national consensus standards, including model codes and industry standards.

The board develops and maintains guidelines for the built environment that serve as the basis for standards issued by the other Federal agencies.

ADAAG covers places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities.

The board's intent is to specify a more uniform level of access. The guidelines provide scoping requirements, which indicate what has to be accessible, and technical provisions that specify how access is achieved. *Source: IDNR - SCORP 2000*

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal Design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The authors, a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researchers, collaborated to establish the following Principles of Universal Design to guide a wide range of design disciplines including environments, products, and communications.

These seven principles may be applied to evaluate existing designs, guide the design process and educate both designers and consumers about the characteristics of more usable products and environments.

The Principles of Universal Design are presented here, in the following format: name of the principle, intended to be a concise and easily remembered statement of the key concept embodied in the principle; definition of the principle, a brief description of the principle's primary directive for design; and guidelines, a list of the key elements that should be present in a design which adheres to the principle. (Note: all guidelines may not be relevant to all designs.)

PRINCIPLE ONE: EQUITABLE USE

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities. **Guidelines:**

1. Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.
2. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
3. Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users.
4. Make the design appealing to all users.

PRINCIPLE TWO: FLEXIBILITY IN USE

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities. **Guidelines:**

1. Provide choice in methods of use.
2. Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
3. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
4. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.

PRINCIPLE THREE: SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level. **Guidelines:**

1. Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
2. Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
3. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
4. Arrange information consistent with its importance.
5. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.

PRINCIPLE FOUR: PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities. **Guidelines:**

1. Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
2. Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings.
3. Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
4. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions).
5. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.

PRINCIPLE FIVE: TOLERANCE FOR ERROR

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions. **Guidelines:**

1. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
2. Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
3. Provide fail safe features.
4. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

PRINCIPLE SIX: LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue. **Guidelines:**

1. Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.
2. Use reasonable operating forces.
3. Minimize repetitive actions.
4. Minimize sustained physical effort.

PRINCIPLE SEVEN: SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility. **Guidelines:**

1. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.
2. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
3. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size.
4. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance.

Please note that the Principles of Universal Design address only universally usable design, while the practice of design involves more than consideration for usability. Designers must also incorporate other considerations such as economic, engineering, cultural, gender, and environmental concerns in their design processes.

These Principles offer designers guidance to better integrate features that meet the needs of as many users as possible.

“The Principles of Universal Design were conceived and developed by The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University. Use or application of the Principles in any form by an individual or organization is separate and distinct from the Principles and does not constitute or imply acceptance or endorsement by The Center for Universal Design of the use or application.”

The Principles of Universal Design should be cited as follows: “The Center for Universal Design (1997). *The Principles of Universal Design, Version 2.0*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University.” *Copyright 1997 NC State University, The Center for Universal Design*

DESIGNING AGAINST CRIME

In areas of rapid growth, crime prevention in parks has become a major issue. It is known that quality parks and trails increase surrounding property values; however there is also a fear that these types of facilities can also bring undesirable activities into surrounding neighborhood.

The phrase Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) (C. Ray Jeffreys, 1971) is defined as the “proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and the incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life.”

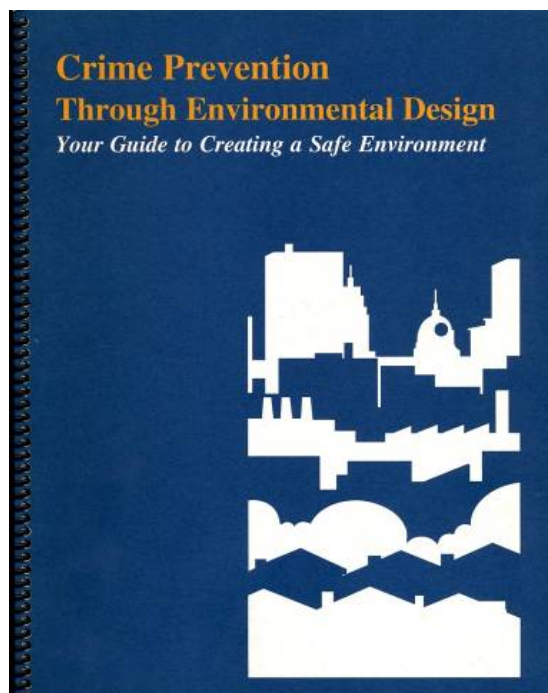
There are four main principles to CPTED:

1. Natural Surveillance: the environment is maintained so that people can be easily seen by others.
2. Natural Access Control: the natural access is controlled by some means.
3. Territoriality: distinguishing between public and private spaces.
4. Maintenance: park and recreation departments should only build what they can maintain

As the opportunity becomes available, selected staff should be trained in **CPTED** design standards. They should be implemented where feasible and incorporated into the aforementioned **Universal Design** principles in any future park development or new improvements.

Resources for **CPTED** include:

- *Designing Safer Communities: A CPTED Handbook by the National Crime Prevention Council*
- *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Second Edition, by Timothy Crowe*
- *Virginia CPTED Guidelines: www.vcpa.org*
- *Trees and Crime: The Role of Landscapes in Crime Prevention.*



SUMMARY:

A goal of the Allen County Parks and Recreation System is to serve the leisure needs of all in the community, including special populations, on an equal basis. All agencies in the community providing leisure programs and facilities have an obligation to work together in helping those with special needs to become integrated into leisure programs by offering a variety of activities at different skill levels.

Success can be measured in part by the effort extended to change negative attitudes and remove the barriers that bar active participation by so many.

Creating a positive climate, publicizing available services and advocating the rights of special populations are all part of the effort required to ensure that these groups can fully enjoy leisure experience.

The Park staff determines priorities for improvements as each year unfolds. The resolution contained in this document is a commitment to this goal.

Local standards should be tailored to best fit the parochial needs of the existing system, based on an inventory of parks and facilities in each of the identified categories. If the level of service/acreage is currently satisfactory within these categories, then that average should become the applied standard.

On the Konza prairie in Kansas, one becomes a part of the land of the day after tomorrow. It is thus called because as early settlers would crest a butte near the end of the day they could see the setting sun, and where they would be the day after tomorrow. Strategic planning is a function of looking at the day after tomorrow.
- Daniel D. McLean



5 - PRIORITIES, FINANCE AND ACTION PLAN

"When a piece of work gets done in the world, who actually does it? Whose eyes and ears do the perceiving, whose cortex does the thinking, who has the feeling that motivates, the will that overcomes obstacles? Certainly not the social environment; for a group is not an organism, but only a blind unconscious organization. Everything that is done within a society is done by individuals." - Aldous Huxley

This chapter contains the priorities for providing outdoor recreation in Indiana and more specifically – Allen County.

STATE PRIORITIES were established using several methods. Initially, the issues and concerns were developed based on input gathered from a Plan Advisory Committee, Issues Survey and discussions with natural resource and parks and recreation professionals throughout Indiana.



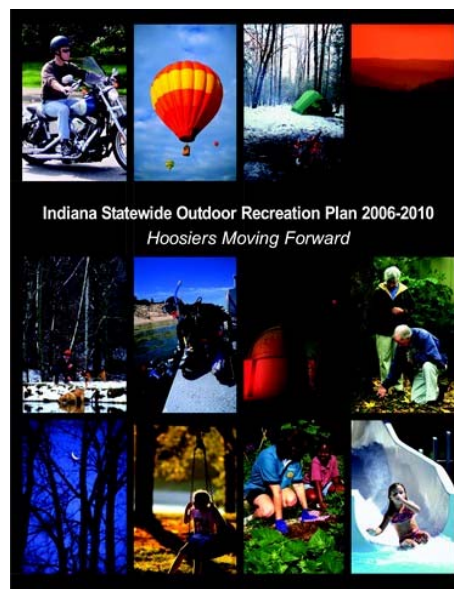
Secondly, goals and objectives were developed to help satisfy these issues. These goals and objectives will ultimately help to establish funding priorities within the state. In additions, they help to provide direction to decision makers asking the question “What is important in terms of outdoor recreation for the citizens of Indiana?”

Priorities for Allen County were developed based on input gathered from the Plan-it Allen - community survey, Park Board and Park staff and from community officials.

SCORP - OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES FOR PROVIDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

IDNR and the Division of Outdoor Recreation continuously assess the needs and desires of users and facility managers. Empirical data are collected through statewide surveys, national surveys, focus groups, planning committees, interviews with natural resources experts and professional publications.

Goals or priorities are established to direct the State, regions, counties, municipalities, townships, and private owners to satisfactory compromises that will benefit as many people as possible.



We hope that the information presented in this document will help community members and outdoor recreation facilitators bridge the gaps between differing needs and reach the best solutions for all.

Remember, outdoor recreation includes a myriad of activities from walking through quiet neighborhoods to enjoying the rich aromas of farmers markets, festivals and fairs, to mountain biking at a State-owned recreation facility or enjoying a game of wheelchair basketball. The outdoor recreation possibilities in Indiana are as endless as your imagination.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES FOR PROVIDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The following priorities have been established based on the survey data analysis, focus group discussions, and interviews with park and outdoor recreation professionals.

1) Promote long-term planning, budgeting and evaluation for recreation sites, facilities, and equipment maintenance and replacement.

Consider:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycle • Preventive maintenance • Projected increased upkeep costs as sites, facilities or equipment age • Renovation/replacement for • Changing user needs • Demolition, removal or recycling • Replacement costs for end of life cycle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing demographics • Universal design • Adaptability for changing trends • Cultural diversity • Increasing or decreasing user/server populations • Decreases in user travel time • Fluctuations in tourism • Local population variations |
|--|--|

2) Investigate non-traditional methods of funding and cost reduction.

Consider:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not-for-profit organizations • Private groups/"Friends of ..." groups • Sponsorships • Naming rights • Donations/In kind • Monetary • Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products • Land • Buildings • Equipment • Bequests • Endowments • Volunteers • Partnering |
|--|--|

3) Improve marketing of current and proposed recreation opportunities to local communities, tourists, marginal consumers and prospective stakeholders to increase site awareness, user population and revenues.

Consider:

- Product, planning, promotion, and price
- Targeted audiences
- Multi-media sources
- Effective outreach to the target population
- Benefits to consumer and economy
- Public presentations
- In-house presentations
- Public education and awareness of current or proposed outdoor recreation opportunities
- Sharing ownership
- Networking with outdoor recreational specialists
- Networking with professionals in tangential fields (e.g., health and wellness, engineering and education)

4) Research, develop and implement capital projects that are pertinent to the community and mesh effectively with existing facilities.

- Develop and submit a five-year master plan to the Division of Outdoor Recreation
- Advocate public participation in the planning process
- Assess local community needs
- Stakeholder surveys and focus groups
- User and non-user surveys and focus groups
- Community diversity discussions
- Remain aware of grant availability, criteria, and application process to ensure grant submissions are complete, accurate and meet mandated guidelines.
- Avoid duplicating facilities or programs in surrounding area
- Include land acquisition as often as possible
- Review and parallel national, regional and local initiatives and trends, following benchmark examples

5) Increase multi-use trails systems.

Consider:

- Extremely high demand for pedestrian-friendly facilities
- Connections to desirable locations, such as parks, schools, existing trails, historic attractions, business districts and residential areas
- Including multiple natural settings (e.g., woodlands, wetlands, prairies, streams)
- Signs, safety, maps/guides (hard copy and Internet), and future maintenance
- Universal design

6) Facilitate meeting consumer needs for low-cost, close-to-home, minimal equipment expenditure, and natural-talent-oriented outdoor activities and opportunities.

Consider:

- Facilities/programs designed for
- People seeking social interaction
- Low socioeconomic-status individuals
- Persons with disabilities or limitations
- Overweight/obese population
- Aging population, particularly those with increased chronic conditions and their related limitations
- Passive and extreme recreation Opportunities

SCORP - NEEDS ANALYSIS

The following section overviews the needs that were identified through the comparing and contrasting of the surveys.

SCORP - FACILITY OR PROGRAM

- Add, expand or improve facilities such as trails, urban greenways or walking paths for safe use by walkers, joggers or runners.
- Add non-traditional recreation activities into programming and site design at the State and local level, from passive activities to extreme sports.
- Factor in life-cycle costs when planning new facilities; include everything from planning to facility removal. Set aside funds in advance.
- Consider more local options for providing recreation services; changing fuel costs and lack of recreation time may encourage residents to use local facilities and programs.
- Create a sense of community ownership by bringing together local users; encourage partnerships to provide better service.

The overwhelming number of respondents who preferred linear activities indicates that there is strong public support for more facilities such as trails, urban greenways or walking paths.

Innovative thinking may help recreation professionals create new opportunities in their area. Fresh, trendy activities may attract new users to parks, trails and other attractions. Some popular recreation activities identified by the NSRE, but not specifically included in the other surveys, were not commonly offered by most park and recreation organizations. These included orienteering, rock climbing and attending outdoor sporting events (NSRE 2005).

SCORP - SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Increase use of universal design principles at the State and local levels to better serve people with disabilities or limitations.
- Provide more appropriate activities and facilities for our aging population; physical limitations and economic access will be a concern.

The surveys showed that many Hoosiers consider meeting ADA guidelines to be a priority for Indiana parks and recreation. A significant number of respondents said there are still some accessibility challenges in parks and recreation.

Universal design elevates accessibility and allows people with disabilities or limitations to more fully participate in their chosen recreational activities. Additionally, input from users with disabilities might ease identification of accessibility solutions in recreation facilities or programs.

As the baby boomer generation enters retirement, its recreation preferences will likely change. Older Hoosiers who are on a fixed income or have limited mobility are likely to use recreation activities that better fit their lifestyle. Recreation facility and program managers may wish to monitor the age demographics of their users to ensure faster adaptation to these shifts.

SCORP - HEALTH OR QUALITY OF LIFE

- Plan for recreation facilities and programs that encourage social group use like family picnic areas, large group interpretive areas or broad walking paths.
- Partner with local health and wellness organizations when planning new facilities or programs.

The SCORP surveys' results indicated a definite trend toward recreation activities that have a social component. Effective planning could meet this desire with savings to facility managers.

For example, repairing a damaged roof is much less expensive than replacing the roof and repairing damages to the interior of the building. Showing the long-term cost savings possible in preventive facility maintenance often helps convince budget authorities to provide consistent, permanent funding.

A great deal of research that emphasizes the benefits of parks and recreation is available for recreation professionals and supporters. Using this material to promote parks and recreation to potential funding sources, donors, volunteers and grant providers can be effective.

The connections between health, well being and physical activity are well documented and strongly supported by scientific research. Creating partnerships with local health and wellness organizations would benefit park and recreation planners.

By partnering with outside health and wellness experts, park and recreation professionals could share ideas concerning the following:

- (1) enhancing overall community design,
- (2) improving facility designs for better access,
- (3) improving opportunities for exercise and fitness,
- (4) forming partnerships to foster wellness.

Health professionals encourage their publics to be more active; more active people can save money on health-care costs (Pratt, Macera and Wang, 2000). If recreation professionals can provide better means for the publics to be more active, everyone wins.

SCORP - FUNDING OR BUDGET

- Explore alternative funding sources for the State and local levels to offset shrinking budgets and the growing public use of recreation.
- Provide consistent funding for renovation and planned maintenance of facilities.
- Use the economic, social, health, aesthetic, quality of life, and other benefits of parks and recreation as selling points for grant applications.

Statewide - survey respondents supported many kinds of funding, including alternative sources such as lottery/gaming proceeds and donations. Fund raising, endowments, grants, bequests, in-kind donations and volunteers offer potential funding alternatives to cash-strapped park and recreation organizations.

Both the professional and public respondents emphasized the importance of maintenance for recreation facilities and equipment. Preventive maintenance is especially effective in providing cost savings to facility managers.

For example, repairing a damaged roof is much less expensive than replacing the roof and repairing damages to the interior of the building. Showing the long-term cost savings possible in preventive facility maintenance often helps convince budget authorities to provide consistent, permanent funding.

A great deal of research that emphasizes the benefits of parks and recreation is available for recreation professionals and supporters. Using this material to promote parks and recreation to potential funding sources, donors, volunteers and grant providers can be effective.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Competition among departments for operating funds from tax proceeds is always a reality in municipal government. Another reality is the politically distasteful option of raising taxes. Concern for public safety may favor the addition of police officers, firefighters, or the purchase of support equipment. The consequence is less funding for the remaining operating departments.



Parks and recreation budgets can often become the casualty of the budgeting process. Leisure services must sometimes look to other means to maintain services and expand programs to meet public demands.

But first, the parks, the facilities, and the aesthetics of those spaces, the recreational programs, and the overall contribution of these public services to making Allen County a great place to live, work and raise a family must be clearly recognized.

These services are *essential* to healthy mental and physical lifestyle. This is the fundamental mission, goal, and objective of the Parks and Recreation Department, and *tax support is most certainly a legitimate premise for funding this operation.*

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET DATA 2003 - 2008

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FUNDING SOURCE
Salaries	\$376,316	\$342,250	\$369,906	\$458,520	\$487,945	\$500,859	T
Operating Fund	95,955	98,771	109,200	151,600	149,100	149,100	NR
Gift	50,000	50,000	0	0	500,000	200,000	NR
Capital	1,825,000	1,825,000	0	0	100,000	5,000	NR
	\$2,347,271	\$2,316,021	\$479,106	\$610,120	\$1,237,045	\$854,959	

LEGEND KEY:
T = Tax Support
NR = Non-Reverting Fund

Good fiscal management and operational efficiency have contributed largely to the department's current success. Future demands will likely strain the department's resources even further. For example, maintaining parity with other county employees with similar responsibilities is essential to keeping good department staff and sustaining good morale.

The level of wages, including seasonal hires, must meet the demands of competition from the private sector.

Maintaining reasonable and fair wage equity is always a prudent management practice, but becomes even more critical in today's labor market. The Park Board is responsible, by State statute, to propose Parks and Recreation Department salaries and wages. The final decision is made by the Commissioners and County Council.

Although the implementation of a reasonable fee structure for select services and programs can substantially offset some of the costs, other obligations will require additional funds. For example, continuous growth of land inventory is critical to accommodate population growth.

FUNDING ASSISTANCE-ALTERATIVES

An alternative to budgeted funds for capital improvements is the utilization of **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**. Bonding is an important tool for expensive projects. Selective timing to take advantage of attractive interest rates and a commingling of bond proceeds, budget funds, and private donations is an effective funding strategy for major projects. The current tax climate in the region may make this option unfavorable.

In business, when two or more individuals form a partnership, it is the result of recognizing a need for each other to enhance their mutual business interests and opportunities. This is also true of the parks and recreation business.

When **PARTNERING**, we look for others who can enhance our services and improve economic efficiency. It is important to recognize those activities that are “outside the box” of our core business. Many such activities can be more efficiently and effectively delivered as a result of a symbiotic relationship, or partnership.

A **PARK FOUNDATION** is an excellent support mechanism to assist with park projects. In the absence of a foundation expressly established for Allen County park purposes, a dedicated fund held by the **Community Foundation** may serve the park system equally well.

Gifts of all description: land, cash and securities (subject to policies of the foundation) could be held for park use. Such gifts could be expended directly for projects or held to match Grants. All grants available through the State require varying amounts of local matching money, or in-kind gifts.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, NAMING RIGHTS AND ADVERTISING SALES

This revenue-funding source allows corporations to invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities in a park and recreation system. Sponsorships are also highly used for programs and events.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS:

There are opportunities for sponsorships within the Allen County community. Comparable rates and limited advertising opportunities strengthen the County’s market share and make this a viable alternative funding resource.

NAMING RIGHTS:

Many cities, towns and counties throughout the country have successfully sold the naming rights for newly constructed facilities or when constructing new facilities or renovating existing.

Additionally, newly developed and renovated parks have also been successfully funded through the sales of naming rights. Generally the cost for naming rights offsets the development costs associated with the improvement.

People incorrectly assume that selling the naming rights for facilities is reserved for professional stadiums and other high profile team sport venues. This trend has expanded in the recent years to include public recreation centers and facilities as viable naming rights sales opportunities.

Naming rights can be a one-time payment or spread out with a fixed payment schedule over a defined period of time. During this time the sponsor retains the “rights” to have the building named for them. Maintenance endowments should be factored in the funding mix.

Also during this time, all publications, advertisements, events, and activities could have the sponsoring group’s name as the venue. Naming rights negotiations need to be developed by professionals so as to ensure a proper agreement that benefits all agents in the contractual obligation and provides remedies to change or cancel the arrangements at any time during the agreement period.

ADVERTISING SALES:

Advertising sales is a viable opportunity for revenue through the sale of tasteful and appropriate advertising on park and recreation related items such as in the program guides, on scoreboards, backstops and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent that exposes the product or service to many people. This prospect deserves considerable thought and examination to advance the concept to reality.

FEES AND CHARGES:

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Department fee policy should define expected or targeted revenue projections for each operation. For example, some programs may only be expected to recover a portion of cost. Others may be expected to break even, with revenues covering all operating costs, while even other operations may be expected to generate a surplus.



Some revenues may be expected to exceed the cost of that respective program in order to help support other subsidized programs (especially youth programs). Or, expansion of desired programs may be the objective without requiring additional subsidy. Regardless of the objective, a tactical decision must be reached to achieve the desired results.

For example, the Department should attempt to keep all fees reasonable for public use, but competitive with the local market, including Fort Wayne park facilities. Fees should be adjusted regularly to reflect the increased operating costs created by inflation. An assessment of current fees for similar facilities in the area market will provide an important benchmark for comparison.

If increasing revenues is the goal, the strategy chosen can be either a fee increase (in excess of inflation rates), an increase in overall participation, or a combination of both.

It is recommended that participation increases should be targeted first, before rate increases are imposed. Quality improvements, operating cost containment, better marketing and creative programming are all ways to expand participation.

FEE POLICY

It is established that the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department shall charge fees to the general public, individuals and groups, to the extent reasonable to recover all, or a portion of costs associated with the delivery of services, programs or events.

Excepted from fees contemplated by this policy shall be the programs, services or events determined to be basic in nature and thus available to all citizens.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Basic Park & Recreation Services Should Be Free.

Fundamental services are those that tend to preserve and promote physical and mental well being, provide patron safety, and provide park and recreation services and facilities to groups with limited ability to provide for themselves, such as the young, the older citizen, the disabled and the economically disadvantaged. Therefore, public funds should be used for acquisition of lands, improvement of existing property and facilities, management, maintenance and basic services.

Where possible or desirable, appropriate fees shall be charged for non-basic services and facilities when one or more of the following factors exist:

1. Cost per user-hour of the service or the facility is high. This may be where:
 - The service uses consumable materials.
 - The service requires a facility with high capital, operating or maintenance costs.
 - The service requires special preparation or clean-up.
 - The service requires special instruction at extra cost.

2. A fee will expand opportunities for a greater number of people, resulting in the least possible individual cost. Use of the service or facility is limited to a relatively few individuals or special interest groups of a private character; therefore those who benefit to the exclusion of others should pay something extra for the privileges enjoyed.
3. Public property is used for private economic gain; therefore the fees charged for use of public recreation facilities by private and closed membership groups should be comparable to commercial rates.
4. Admission to special events where profits are used to extend the activity or cover the cost of the event.

Imposition of a fee would serve an independent function such as:

- Rationing limited facilities among a large number of users;
- Aiding in discipline and control;
- Promoting respect for activity and/or service;
- Demand for the service is not a budgeted program or service;
- Lack of funding prevents program expansion or diversification;
- Provides an opportunity to offer programs or services that would otherwise not be available through public funds.

Although the implementation of a reasonable fee structure for select services and programs can substantially offset some of the costs, basic recreational services will require tax support.

TYPES OF FEES AND CHARGES

Admission Fee

A fee charged for entry into a building or structure. Some type of program, event, demonstration or exhibit to attract visitors is usually offered.

Rental or Reservation Fee

These fees are for the exclusive use of a facility. The word exclusive is emphasized because the individual pays for the privilege of using the facility without interference. For example, if a park structure is reserved for a family reunion, the group has exclusive use during the rental period. Equipment, such as additional picnic tables, or staff time for set-up, take-down or clean-up, could also be covered by the fee.

User Fee

A user fee is a charge to an individual or group for participation in a program or activity or for nonexclusive use of a facility. Numerous participants are usually involved in the activity or facility at the same time. The registration fee for a child to take part in a special program or the fees charged for adult program events are examples of user fees.

License or Permit Fee

A license or permit fee is levied to account for the privilege to perform a particular action, payment for a permit or license to use the parks for profit or for a commercial enterprise to operate within a park or facility.

Special Services Fee

This fee is a charge for receiving extraordinary services beyond customary levels or for having the use of special equipment or facilities where the benefits are specific to the individual or group which requests the service. Instructional classes are examples of special services for which fees could be charged.

CALCULATING FEES AND CHARGES

1. **Cost Accounting** should be used to calculate the cost of offering the program or service.
2. **Fixed Costs** (department administration, debt service, depreciation, and general operating expenses/costs) should not be included when calculating the fee to be charged for a program or facility use.
3. **Direct Costs** (instructor, staff time, equipment, utilities, and other expenses which can be directly attributed to a particular program) should be charged at 100% to the participant or team.
4. **Indirect Costs** expenses not directly incurred by the program or facility, including supervision and secretarial assistance should be charged to each program based upon a percentage of the costs of each of these items.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS DIGEST

1. Continually revise this **Master Plan** (2008-2012). The primary reasons for planning are to:
 - Listen to the citizens being served.
 - Create a reasonable vision
 - Establish priorities based on that vision.

The visions in this plan are resource to assist the Park Board and park administrator with future development decisions.

2. Monitor city growth and acquire - develop properties accordingly. The Park Board has done an excellent job of providing parks for the citizens of Allen County. The board will need to act to acquire additional property as needs, opportunities and economics warrant.

It is always prudent to expand popular parks when contiguous land becomes available, and acquire parkland in growth areas, as the board has accomplished in the past.

3. Establish a fees and charges policy. Benchmarking may be one means to achieve a portion of this administrative goal.
4. **Connectivity**; continue support for the Community Path System (3.5 miles currently in place).
5. Initiate preparation of the 2013-2017 Park Master Plan.
6. Remain alert for strategic property expansion opportunities (also see #2 above).
7. Continue system-wide ADA enhancements and universal design applications.

REVENUE RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

Operating our public parks and continuing to provide an array of public leisure experiences to the citizenry is an increasingly complex, difficult task for most public park and recreation systems.

Competing priorities for limited tax dollars usually result in lesser appropriations available, which do not keep pace with the increasing cost of operating the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department. It is therefore imperative to maintain operations in a most cost effective and efficient manner.

In addition to improving the cost effectiveness of the department, it is extremely important to examine all potential sources for generating supplemental support. Clearly, self generated revenues from fees and charges must be carefully considered.

Taxpayers are now insisting on less tax support and more on a pay as you go financing of recreation service where users bear more cost of the specialized services they enjoy and the taxpayers pay less. The need for more aggressive revenue management is evident.

1. **THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET; AN OVERVIEW** - Annual allocations from the general tax levy are generally utilized for both staffing and financing maintenance and providing modest capital improvements.
2. **FEES:** *(See Fees and Charges section in this chapter)* many agencies have developed and published **FEES AND CHARGES** policies. The policy establishes which programs and services are expected to be self supporting from user fees, those to be partially supported, and which are to be totally tax subsidized. The policy should be reviewed annually and the economic objectives modified as needed to appropriately reflect current market conditions.
3. **BONDING** - General obligation bonds, which are retired by property taxes, provide a funding source for implementation of large-scale projects. The Board of Park Commissioner's (BPC) bonding limit is two (2%) percent of the assessed valuation of the taxing district.

4. **NON-REVERTING CAPITAL FUND** - Fees from certain activities are deposited in this fund, which serves to provide capital for improvements within the operation or program that generated the revenue.
5. **CAPITAL FUND DRIVE/GIFTS AND DONATIONS (GD)** - An obvious method of obtaining funding for worthwhile projects is financial support from individuals, corporations and organizations. This means of capitalization for projects requires aggressive solicitation and a positive public image of the Allen County Park system. Land, time and cash donations are always important to any park board. Donations can also be leveraged to match some grant programs.
6. **CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS (CCI)**: Similar to the Cumulative Building Fund, this is a tax fund for capital improvements that must be established by local ordinance.

GRANT RESOURCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR FUND

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund is a state matching financial assistance program which provides grants for 75% of the cost of land acquisition and/or facility enhancement for conservation and recreational development along the historical transportation corridor of the Wabash River. Legally established park and recreation boards in the 19 counties that lie along the Wabash River corridor and not-for-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible for funding.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

Funds for this program come primarily from federal offshore oil lease receipts. The program is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS), but is operated at the state level by the DNR.

Only legally established park boards with an approved 5-year park master plan are eligible to participate.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for 80% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects are eligible.

Funds for this program are made available to Indiana from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-2 1).

The program is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), but is operated at the state level by the DNR. All units of government and not-for-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

INDIANA WATERS

The Indiana Waters program is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for up to 50-75% of the cost of development of fishing and boating access sites and facilities. Funds for this program come from Indiana's share of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program (commonly called the Dingell-Johnson program for its congressional authors).

The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Only legally established park and recreation boards are eligible for funding assistance.

SHOOTING RANGE

The Shooting Range program is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for 50-75% of the cost of development of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery & facilities. Funds for this program come from Indiana's share of the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson program for its congressional authors).

The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Units of government and not-for-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

For more information on any of these grant programs (including project eligibility, current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the grants staff of the Division of Outdoor Recreation at (317) 232-4070 or visit: www.state.in.usfdnr/outdoor.

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of architectural and historical, archaeological, and acquisition and development (rehabilitation of historic buildings) projects to aid the state in meeting its goals for cultural resource management. Surveys of historic sites and structures and archaeological sites are eligible for 70% matching assistance.

Funds for this program are distributed by the National Park Service and the program is administered at the state level by the DNR. Governmental agencies, educational institutions, and not-for-profit groups with 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

HOMETOWN INDIANA

The Hometown Indiana program is a state matching financial assistance program which provides grants for 50% of the cost of acquisition, stabilization, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or archaeological investigation of properties that are currently listed in the *Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures*.

Eligible projects include any “bricks and mortar” rehabilitation work which will stabilize significant historic resources listed in the *State Register* as well as acquisition and archaeological investigation.

Governmental agencies, educational institutions, and not-for-profit organizations with 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate in the historic preservation component of the Hometown Indiana program.

For more information on these grant programs (including project eligibility current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the grants staff of the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology at (317)232-1646 or visit: www.state.m.us/dnr/historic

DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

LAKE AND RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) is a state grant and cost-share assistance program which provides technical and financial assistance to ensure the continued viability of Indiana’s public-access lakes and streams. This program is part of the Clean Water Indiana initiative which strives to reduce soil erosion and resulting sedimentation, and contamination of streams and lakes by associated nutrients.

Eligible projects include study, design and construction activities in a lake or stream (up to 100% grant) and land treatment practices in contributing watersheds (up to 80% grant). Eligible local entities include lake associations, planning and development organizations, and governmental units.

For more information on this grant program (including project eligibility current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the LARE staff of the Division of Soil Conservation at (317) 233-3870 or visit: www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAMS

URBAN FOREST CONSERVATION GRANTS

The Urban Forest Conservation Grant Program is intended to help communities develop long-term programs to manage their urban forests. Matching grants are available to conduct any project that helps to improve and protect trees and other associated natural resources in urban areas. Community projects that target program development, planning and education are emphasized. Local municipalities, state agencies, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

ARBOR DAY GRANT PROGRAM

Arbor Day Grants can be used to fund any type of activity which helps promote Arbor Day and the planting and care of urban trees. Activities could include Arbor Day celebrations, educational workshops, public awareness campaigns, printing and distribution of printed materials, etc. Local municipalities (including schools and libraries), state agencies and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

FOREST MANAGEMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Forest Improvement Program is concerned with the supply of wood products. The Forest Stewardship Incentive Program encourages stewardship on privately owned woodlands. The Conservation Reserve Program is intended to remove erodible land from row crop production. Maximum refund rates range up to 50% of the cost as approved by a district forester.

All programs require that you follow a plan approved by a district forester and that you participate in the program for at least 10 years. Practices covered under these programs include timber stand improvements tree planting, critical area stabilization, and certain fencing and wildlife practices.

The Forest Stewardship Challenge Grants Program provides matching grants to encourage the retention and stewardship of Indiana's private forestlands. This grant program is open to all entities with the appropriate technical expertise to meet the goals of the Indiana Forest Stewardship Program.

Sample projects include: development of local forestry cost-share programs, outreach to forest landowners, direct assistance to forest owners, and educational programs targeting those who impact rural forestlands.

For more information on these programs (including project eligibility and program procedures) contact the Division of Forestry at (317) 232-4107 or visit: www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)

COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Logging operations that meet grant criteria are eligible for 75% reimbursement of the actual cost of carrying out the BMP's, not to exceed \$650.

For more information on this program contact the Improved Harvesting Practices Forester at (765) 342-4026.

INDIANA HERITAGE TRUST

The Indiana Heritage Trust program is a public/private conservation partnership which acquires state interests in real property that are examples of outstanding natural resources and habitats, or have historic or archaeological significance, or provide areas for preservation, conservation, or recreation.

Funds for this program come from the purchase of Environmental License Plates, donations, and appropriations from the Indiana General Assembly. The program is administered by the Project and Trust Committees, which are made up of individuals from the Natural Resources Foundation, legislators, DNR Division Directors, and appointed citizens.

Eligible projects include the acquisition of property for new and existing state parks, state forests, nature preserves, fish and wildlife areas' outdoor recreation, historic, or archaeological sites.

Project proposals generally come from two sources: Divisions of the DNR, and the general public which includes nonprofit organizations, local units of government, and corporations.

For more information on this program (including project eligibility and application procedures) contact the DNR Executive Office at (317) 232-4200 or visit: www.state.in.us/dnr/heritage

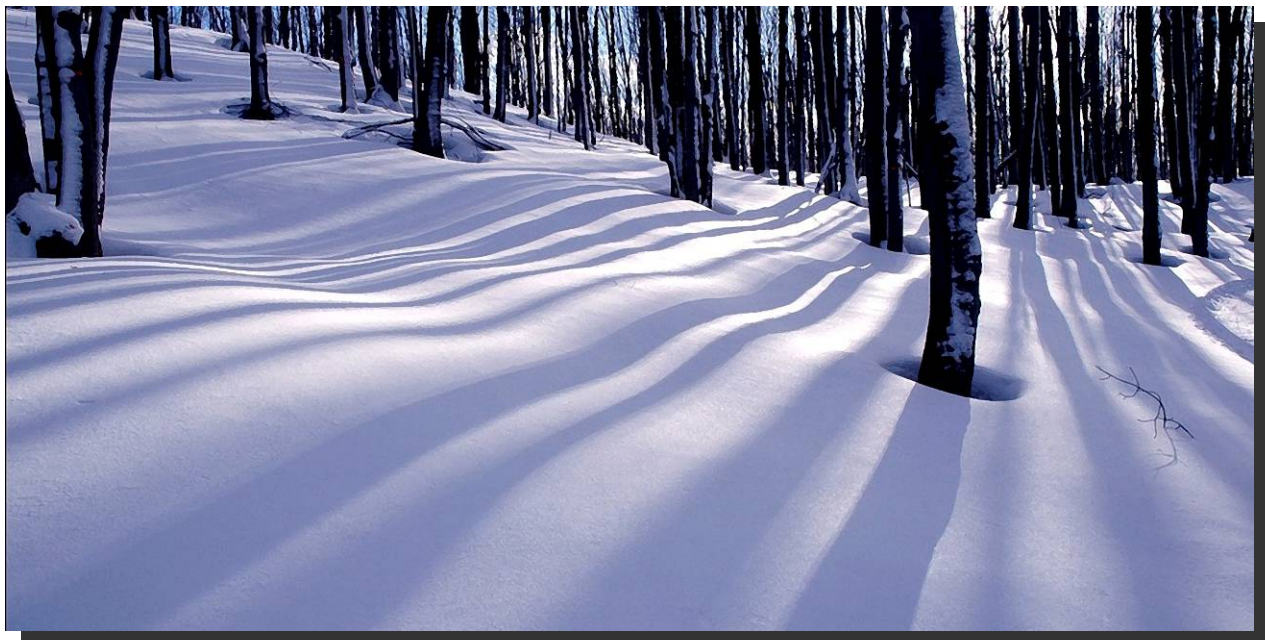
INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION

The Indiana Natural Resources Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation established to protect and preserve important natural areas. The foundation accepts contributions of money or property to create and protect wildlife habitat and acquire land for state parks, historic sites, nature preserves, state forests, fish and wildlife areas and other properties from willing sellers.

The foundation also supports projects to inform people about the importance of preserving and protecting Indiana's natural heritage. The foundation has taken a leading role in providing additional revenues for the popular Indiana Heritage Trust.

Proceeds from the sale of environmental license plates are often matched by the foundation to complete the funding necessary to preserve natural areas throughout the state.

For more information about the foundation or how to become a partner in this conservation legacy contact the DNR Executive Office at (317)2324200 or visit www.state.in.us/dnr/nrf.



IDNR - DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION SUMMARY OF GRANT PROGRAMS

Grant rounds and funding may vary pending state or federal approval.

GRANT PROGRAM	HOMETOWN INDIANA	WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR FUND	RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)	LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)	SHOOTING RANGE
	Applications may include land acquisition and/or facility construction and renovation. Indoor and outdoor facilities are eligible for assistance.	Applications may include land acquisition and/or facility development, conservation, or enhancement along the historic transportation corridor of the Wabash River.	Applications may include land acquisition and/or development, maintenance, and ethics education of multi-use trails.	Applications may consist of land acquisition and/or outdoor recreation facility construction or renovation.	Application may consist of development (not purchase) of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery opportunities.
FUNDING SOURCE	State Legislature	State Legislature	Federal	Federal	Federal
% MATCH	50/50	80/20	80/20	50/50	75/25
MIN/MAX AMOUNT	\$10,000-200,000	\$10,000-250,000	\$10,000-150,000	\$10,000-200,000	\$10,000-No Cap
GRANT ROUNDS	Funds not currently available	Funds not currently available	Applications due by May 1, 2007	Applications due by June 1, 2007	Funds not available until 2007
ELIGIBILITY	Municipal Corporation & 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan	Units of Governments (preferably Park Boards) and 501(c)(3) not-for-profits. Projects must be located in one of the 19 counties along the Wabash River Corridor	Units of Governments and 501(c)(3) not-for-profits	Park Board & 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan	Units of Governments and Not-for-profit corporations
FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$0.00	\$0.00	Approx. \$1,000,000	Estimated \$500,000	\$0

For grant information contact:

DNR-Division of Outdoor Recreation
State & Community Outdoor Recreation Planning Section
402 West Washington Street, Room W271
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748
(317) 232-4075 fax (317) 233-4648

The above page was last updated: Tuesday, 20-Feb-2007 09:24:27 EST.

Application may consist of development (not purchase) of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery opportunities. Grant rounds and funding may vary pending state or federal approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES

- Listen to the citizen-customers being served.
- Create a reasonable achievable vision
- Establish priorities based on that vision.
- Review and revise your vision on a regular basis.
- The visions in this plan are a resource to assist the Park Board, park administrator and respective staff with future development decisions.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<p>POPULATION GROWTH; land needs; expansion and acquisition</p>	<p>Monitor availability and ability to acquire land - develop properties accordingly. The Park Board has done an excellent job of providing parks for the citizens of Allen County. The board will need to act to expand existing properties when possible and acquire additional property as opportunity and funding allows</p> <p>It is always prudent to expand existing parks when contiguous land becomes available, and new acquire parkland in growth areas.</p>
<p>PLAYGROUND SAFETY; priorities should continue to include a strong focus on staff playground design and safety training.</p>	<p>Continuing education via the <u>National Playground Safety Institute</u> for playground inspection certification. This is a Risk Management Issue.</p>
<p>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Outdoor Recreation – SCORP</p>	<p>Revisit and review G&O at the <u>December</u> OR <u>January</u> Board meeting and revise as needed annually.</p> <p>SCORP is a resource to the Board and Department in realizing the goals of the State, region and county with respect to parks and recreation measurements. Pertinent digest copies of pertinent SCORP information in contained in this plan.</p>

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
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CONNECTIVITY – TRAILS

CONNECTIVITY; continue to support area interest in development and expansion of area greenways and trails. Encourage awareness and focus on the need for annual maintenance **funding** and **daily care**.

Additionally, half-life and full life capital renewal funding should be planned for initially by all entities involved in this endeavor

TRENDS

Remain aware of trends in parks and recreation both locally, regionally and at state and national levels.

Attendance by staff, and when possible by Board members at IPRA and NRPA functions and workshops is one way to accomplish this goal.

PLEASE REFER TO THE PLAN-IT ALLEN! DIGEST FOUND IN CHAPTER 3 FOR ADDITIONAL AND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PLAN

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage consistent community standards for pedestrian, vehicular, bicycle, and other similar connectivity situations.

SEE CONNECTIVITY ABOVE - One way to retrofit an area is by using existing natural or man-made features—such as utility corridors, waterways and other open spaces—to link existing walkways and destinations.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage sustainable growth by conserving natural features and environmentally sensitive land with significant value.

One feature that the community has are natural features, and environmentally sensitive lands with significant value, primarily floodplain and wetland areas. As noted in key findings of the Plan It Allen chapter, hydric soils (soils that have high moisture content, and which are often indicators of wetlands) make up over 46.4 percent of the undeveloped land area in the community.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage development proposals that are sensitive to preserve or reserve areas.

Preserve areas, including parks, wetlands, floodway areas and other dedicated open spaces, are currently protected in a number of ways by a variety of organizations. Reserve areas include those areas that could, but have not as yet, been officially designated as preserve areas – areas such as floodway fringe, steep slopes, woodlands, and riparian corridors.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Define “Significant Value” In Terms Of Natural Features And Environmentally Sensitive Land.

The community has numerous natural features, along with environmentally sensitive land like floodplain and wetland areas. There are a number of ways to conserve natural features and preserve environmentally sensitive land; however, it will not be feasible to conserve every natural site feature, or preserve all environmentally sensitive land.

The community should provide input on those natural features and sensitive lands that have the most significance, and are in special need of careful protection.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Collaborate with nongovernmental entities and organizations to acquire and/or protect significant natural and environmentally sensitive land.

This could include significant woodlands, creeks, and wetlands; critical watershed areas and corridors; and other similar features. Once this is completed, the community’s development regulations could be updated.

Foundations, land trusts and other public and nonprofit entities often have a fundamental interest in preserving properties with natural, cultural or historic value.

Such entities can be particularly helpful with building coalitions, assisting on land-use legislation and making policy recommendations to communities. The community should support these organizations to improve civic awareness about their missions.

In addition, these organizations can help with the acquisition of open space. Land trusts operate at the local and regional level to acquire and protect land of significant ecological, open space, recreational and historical value. The nonprofit status of land trusts and some other non-governmental organizations can also allow landowners to receive tax breaks when they sell their property below market value.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Enhance the use and presence of the three rivers.

Our river corridors can be accessed and enjoyed by the public if the appropriate planning is conducted and adequate facilities are provided. Enhancing the use and presence of the County’s waterways, particularly as alternative transportation and recreation corridors, is the focus of the strategies that follow.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Continue to coordinate with existing, adopted river-oriented plans and strategies, such as the Rivergreenway master plan, the Maumee river basin master plan, and other existing and future plans and strategies.

Partnering also develops strong advocates within the community and strengthens the ties with the neighborhoods along the greenway corridors. Educational opportunities exist on each greenway corridor. Local schools, universities and advocacy groups can provide cultural and natural science “self-directed sites” along the greenways for educational activities to occur.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage parks, walkways and open spaces that link to and between neighborhoods, schools, shopping and other amenities.

The safety of users on the greenway trails will continue to be a major issue in the development of new trails. Park Rangers, Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Sheriff's Department, and volunteer trail monitors should all be involved in the safety of trail users within the greenway system.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Work with the Fort Wayne, New Haven and Allen county parks departments, local transportation agencies, and regional and local greenway and trail organizations to facilitate the expansion of the existing Greenway and proposed area bicycle-pedestrian transportation systems.

Greenways, parks and open space should be connected throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County communities, in order to increase connectivity between communities, provide recreational opportunities and promote habitat conservation for wildlife. By linking these types of public landscapes, Fort Wayne and Allen County communities can preserve their natural and cultural heritage, and support healthy communities.

The Greenway provides a system of trails along the St. Mary's, St. Joseph, and Maumee rivers. It offers a combination of both County and City settings, and provides an excellent way for residents and visitors to explore the region.

It serves as a key spine from which additional trails, lanes and paths are proposed. Allen County, Fort Wayne and New Haven parks departments and local transportation agencies should continue to work with the Greenway Consortium and other regional and local greenway and trail organizations to expand and coordinate the development and maintenance of greenways, paths, lanes and trails throughout the County and region.

PLAN IT ALLEN!
Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is a priority for Fort Wayne and Allen County. It is also an overlapping issue that must be dealt with on a variety of policy and planning levels. Land use, transportation and utility initiatives, policies and impacts need to be integrated with environmental policies.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Continue stewardship efforts and identify areas for possible expansion of contiguous forested and natural areas (such as the Cedar Creek corridor, Fox Island park, Eagle Marsh, Little Wabash River Corridor, Black Marsh, and other environmentally significant areas).

Effective environmental stewardship also requires partnerships at federal, state and local levels. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this chapter provide a framework for enhancing environmental protection in Allen County and Fort Wayne, focusing attention on a variety of land, water, air and wildlife resources.

The Cedar Creek watershed represents an important natural corridor, and is designated as an Indiana Natural, Scenic and Recreational waterway. Fox Island County Park contains a nature preserve with diverse marshes, wetlands, deciduous forests and important wildlife habitats.

Allen County should continue to work with local environmental groups like the Fox Island Alliance, ACRES, St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative and the Cedar Creek Wildlife Project to continue to protect these important natural areas.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Improve public access to rivers and waterfronts!

Allen County and Fort Wayne should collaborate with parks and recreation departments and other stakeholders who are interested in improving public access to waterfronts and rivers. These groups should identify locations for creating boat launches and docking areas, and examine opportunities for enhancing trails and greenways along riverfronts.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Sustain and improve high-quality parks and recreational opportunities throughout the county.

Fort Wayne and Allen County have nearly 100 parks that serve the recreational needs of residents. Moving forward, the City and County will need to plan for the acquisition and development of additional parklands.

The following strategies recommend ways to improve and expand the park system throughout the County, and pursue strategies for collaborating with the private sector and school corporations, and across municipal boundaries.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Pursue strategic collaborations to develop parks and expand recreation opportunities.

By cooperatively planning for future parks and open space areas, Allen County and Fort Wayne can ensure that their park systems will meet the needs of all residents, and that parks, open space areas and greenways will help to protect the scenic and historic character of the region.

Collaborations should be pursued between Allen County Parks and Recreation, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, New Haven/Adams Township Park District, other public park agencies and groups, and with private recreation providers and school corporations.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Expand and enhance existing parks and improve parks infrastructure.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should undertake measures to expand parks, greenways and open space areas. Furthermore, Allen County and Fort Wayne should look for strategic opportunities to use existing utility and transportation corridors and acquire additional lands through purchase or donation.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage parkland and open space conservation.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should encourage ways to conserve open space and parklands. This strategy is of particular importance in suburban areas, where outward migration and low-density development are rapidly consuming existing land resources; and in areas with unique natural, historic and/or cultural features.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Develop Greenways and facilities that interconnect parks, schools and key points of interest in the community

Allen County, Fort Wayne, and other parks and trail organizations should continue to work together to develop a comprehensive trail system that connects parks throughout Allen County, and potentially beyond.

The connectivity of this system will provide alternative modes of transportation for residents as it connects neighborhoods to parks, schools and key points of interest.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Encourage usable open space for new development.

Allen County and Fort Wayne should encourage developers to set aside a certain percentage of usable land for parks, greenways or open space. Wherever possible, this land set-aside should offer opportunities for and encourage connectivity with existing greenways, trail and park systems.

In certain situations when usable open space cannot be set aside, options for developers should be investigated and considered.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Work with cities and towns to promote sustainability of existing and proposed park areas

Park and recreation areas are central to many of the cities and towns surrounding Fort Wayne and New Haven. Not only do they provide a recreation function but they also promote civic pride in these communities. As development patterns shift, it is important to maintain and enhance these areas.

PLAN IT ALLEN!

Continue to support recreational and sport facilities as vital community and economic resources.

Fort Wayne and Allen County have a significant number of recreational and sport facilities which allow for active and passive participation. These facilities increase the quality of life of Allen County's residents and support the region's tourism economy.

Examples of these significant recreational and sport facilities include, but are not limited to, McMillen Park Ice Arena, Lawton Skate Park, Fort Wayne's aquatic centers, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Memorial Stadium, and several golf courses.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

ALLEN COUNTY PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN

The table at the end of this chapter illustrates priorities with an action plan for each. It represents a listing of the issues previously outlined.

The following factors were used to determine priorities:

FACTORS:

1. Financial Feasibility
2. Available Manpower
3. Existing Facilities
4. Community need and impact
5. Practicality



After applying these factors to each issue, they were assigned to one of three categories, based upon the following definitions:

CATEGORIES:

PRIORITY 1: Of Primary concern and feasible to implement in the next 5-years.

PRIORITY 2: Of Secondary concern, but still feasible to implement in the next 5-years.

PRIORITY 3: May be of primary or secondary concern, but the feasibility of the project is questionable during the next 5-years.

SEE THE ACTION PLAN TABLE AT THE END OF THIS CHAPTER

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY:

The proposed Action Plan will need to be modified and adjusted as dictated by opportunity and available resources.

The annual department objectives should include those elements of the Park Master Plan deemed feasible for that given year.

Quantifiable benchmarks should be forecast for progress evaluation, based on a reasonable and attainable time frame.

The annual report should address those elements of the Master Plan that are in progress, have been initiated or completed.

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Board now have a chartered course to direct future actions.

Implementation is the last half of the task ... as planning and doing are two parts of the same job, not separate jobs.

RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY FORM

Indiana Recreation Inventory forms previously submitted remain substantially unchanged. As that information has been previously added to the state and local recreation provider database, it will not be duplicated here.

SEE THE FOLLOWING
5-YEAR CIP ACTION PLAN
MATRIX

2008-2012 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) ALLEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION							
#	PARK/RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS:	PRIORITY	EXPENDITURE & FUNDING SOURCE			POSS FUNDING SOURCE/S
				2008	2009	2010	
	FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK						
1	Repair or remove driving stand for remote control boats at the lake.		1	\$5,000			FA,VOL
2	Honeysuckle reduction project	On going project	1	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	FA, VOL
3	Reconstruct Marsh Observation Platform and Boardwalk	Totally remove and replace pilings, support structure decking, benches, install interpretive signage etc decking, benches, install interpretive signage etc	1		\$100,000		GD, VOL, FA, GRANTS
4	Interpretive wayside signage - all trails		1		\$3,000	\$3,000	GD, VOL
5	Develop phase II improvements including multi-purpose trail construction and pavilion at Bowman Lake	Study and reconstruct/construct accessible trails and apply and install signage denoting challenge levels for remaining trails.	2			\$300,000	DNR GRANT, LWCF, WRHC
6	Reforestation Project along I-69 and railroad tracks	Work in conjunction with Great Tree Canopy Comeback program, Trees Indiana, and Hoosier ReLeaf to plant and maintain trees to buffer north and west property lines	1	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	CREDIT, FA, GD, TBD, FOP
7	Landscape Reconstruction Project - Nature Center	Remove and replace existing non native species with native species highlighting what can be done with native species as far as landscaping at residents and business install interpretive signage	1	\$2,000			FA, VOL
8	Beach Enhancements - Bowman Lake	Determine if existing location is appropriate, reconstruct area to be user and dog friendly, construct pier, signs promote use to general public	1	\$5,000			FA, VOL
9	Construct New Fishing Piers	Construct 1-2 fishing piers at Bowman Lake, construct at appropriate locations away from swimming and dog beach	1		\$15,000	\$15,000	GD, VOL, FA
10	Bird Observation Building - Window Replacement		1	\$6,000			FA, VOL
11	Construct Ponding Platform at Wetland Area		1		\$3,000		COMM, FA
12	Butterfly Garden Reconstruction	Renovate existing butterfly garden with ALL butterfly plants	1	\$3,000			FA, VOL, GD
13	Reconstruct and add additional parking areas	Redo existing lots and add additional areas for overflow use during numerous rentals and special events. Explore use of pervious materials as an educational component of the park as well as being practical and useful	1			\$90,000	GD, CREDIT, County Commiss
14	New Astronomical Observatory	Working with FW Astronomical Society to determine appropriate location for a new observatory building.	3			\$350,000	FWAS
15	Picnic Shelter Renovations	Remove and replace roofs on two existing open shelters, access existing structural components and replace if necessary	1	\$12,000	\$12,000		FA, GD
16	Purchase additional passenger vehicle - programming	Purchase small passenger van for use in outside programming and use by staff for travel between parks	1	\$20,000			TBD
17	Replace existing vehicles	Replace two existing vehicles (1 passenger, 1 maintenance)	1	\$50,000			TBD
18	New tractor mounted blower unit	Blower unit for removal of leaves	2		\$8,000		FA, GD
19	New park signage - Interstate 69	Working with INDOT, or on park property, construct signage along west property boundary to identify park to drivers on 69 and direct them to Exit 102, install directional signage once off 69 to park entrance	1		\$5,000		INDOT/County Hwy
20	Garage Reconstruction	Reside and reroof existing storage garage.	1		\$8,000		FA
21	Combine efforts to control of invasive species and natural resource management with Little River Wetlands		1				ADMIN

METEA COUNTY PARK		PRIORITY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
#								
1	Review and implement phase II of Metea Park Nature Center	1				\$350,000		GD
2	Pedestrian Bridge Connection	1			\$3,000,000			GD,Grants
3	North Metea Trail Construction	2	\$10,000	\$10,000				FA,VOL
4	New Open Shelter - North Metea	2			\$40,000			GD,Grants
5	New Open Shelter - Open Field Area	1		\$40,000				GD,Grants
6	Playground Replacement	1	\$40,000					GD,Grants
7	Accessible pathways	1		\$25,000	\$25,000			FA,VOL,GD
8	New Cross Country Ski Storage Building	2		\$10,000				FA
9	New Park Signage	1		\$25,000				FA
10	New Well	1			\$20,000			FA,GD
11	Observation Deck at gully	2					\$10,000	GD
12	Boardwalks through vernal ponds; connect all trails via boardwalks	2			\$10,000	\$10,000		GD,Grants
13	Additional Benches and Picnic Tables	2	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		FA,GD,VOL
14	Nature Center - Improvements	1	\$15,000	\$5,000				FA,County
15	Misc Equipment and tools	1	\$2,000					FA
16	Maintenance Barn Improvements	1		\$80,000				TBD
17	New Lean-To Storage; Net storage facility	2		\$8,000				FA
18	Soft Shell Turtle Trail Bridge	1	\$10,000					VOL,FA,GD
19	Purchase additional passenger vehicle - programming	1	\$20,000					TBD
20	Replace existing vehicles	1	\$50,000					TBD
21	LAND - Acquire adjacent property	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	ADMIN,LWCF,HI
22	Window Treatments	1	\$1,000	\$1,000				FA
23	Bird Observation Room Furniture	1	\$3,000					GD,FA

24	New Restroom Building Enclosure - Open Field Area	Construct Porta-John enclosure for use as restroom facility	1	\$5,000						FA,GD,VOL
25	Reforestation Projects	Work in conjunction with Great Tree Canopy Comeback program, Trees Indiana, and Hoosier ReLeaf to plant and maintain trees to buffer south and east property lines	1	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000		E.O.P., CREDIT, GD, FA
26	New park signage - Interstate 69	Working with INDOT, construct signage at Exit 116 (Dupont Road) that Metea County Park exists and then install directional signage to park from this exit.	1		\$5,000					INDOT
27	Dog Beach Enhancements	Determine if existing location is appropriate, reconstruct area to be user and dog friendly, construct pier, signs promote use to general public	1	\$5,000						FA, VOL, GD
28	Construct New Fishing Piers	Construct fishing pier, construct at appropriate locations, away from swimming and dog beach locations. Include benches and make accessible	2			\$15,000				GD, Grants, VOL
29	Road and Parking Improvements	Pave roadways and parking lots. Investigate pervious alternatives.	1	\$50,000		\$20,000				County
30	Entrance Improvements; including moving old gatehouse	Work in conjunction with the Allen County Highway Dept. & Union Chapel Road Improvements to enhance entrance to the park.	1	\$20,000						County Highway
31	Prairie observation deck construction		2					\$30,000		GD, FA, VOL
32	Interpretive infrastructure	displays, etc. in nature center	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		GD, FA, VOL
#	PAYTON COUNTY PARK		PRIORITY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
1	Develop master plan for Payton Park	Funding and contractual services needed	1			\$20,000				
2	LAND - Property Acquisition	Acquire contiguous property to park	1				TBD			
3	Reforestation Projects	Work in conjunction with Great Tree Canopy Comeback program, Trees Indiana, and Hoosier ReLeaf to plant and maintain trees	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000		E.O.P., CREDIT, GD, FA
4	Open Shelter - Improvements	Remove and replace existing roof and inspect and replace structural members as needed.	1			\$30,000				GD, VOL, FA
5	Picnic Tables and Benches	Purchase and install new picnic tables and benches throughout park and trail system. Portable and in ground	2			\$5,000				GD, VOL, FA
6	New Signage	New entry sign and interpretive trail signage.	1	\$2,000						FA
7	New Playground Structure	Purchase and install small playground structure to better the community in this growing area of the County	2				\$25,000			GD, VOL, FA
8	New Wetland/Pond Observation Platform	Construct new observation platform at existing wetland/pond. Include benches and signage and make accessible.	1		\$10,000					GD, VOL, FA
9	Connection to other Trail Systems	Work in conjunction with Northwest Trails to connect park	1					\$12,000		Grants, FA
#	COOK'S LANDING		PRIORITY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
1	Open Shelter - Improvements	Remove and replace existing roof and inspect and replace structural members as needed.	1	\$20,000						GD, FA, VOL
2	Boat/Canoe Landing Reconstruction	Reconstruct boat and canoe landing area	2				\$30,000			GD, FA, VOL, L, WCF
3	Picnic Tables and Benches	Purchase and install new picnic tables and benches	1		\$5,000					GD, FA, VOL
#	LAND		PRIORITY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
1	Develop a Land Acquisition Policy and Philosophy		1	NA						
2	Large parcel north-northwest (250 acre target @\$12K/ac); LANDBANK		1				\$3,000,000			ADMIN, L, WCF, HI, PF, GD
3	Large parcel southeast (250 acre target); LANDBANK	Tie in Black Swamp, Lake Maumee	1			\$3,000,000				ADMIN, L, WCF, HI, PF, GD
4	Large parcel in Abote Township area w/partial development (250 ac @\$12K/ac)	215 acre shortfall per IDNR standards (Level II)	1					\$4,000,000		ADMIN, L, WCF, HI, PF, GD
5	Remain alert for contiguous property expansion opportunities	Also noted above	2	TBD	TBD	TB D	TBD	TBD		ADMIN, PF, GD, GF, CREDIT

#	ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS	PRIORITY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to the citizen-customers being served. Create a reasonable achievable vision Establish priorities based on that vision. Review and revise your vision on a regular basis. The visions in this plan are a resource to assist the Park Board, park administrator and respective staff with future development decisions. 						
1	<p>COMMUNITY GROWTH: land expansion and acquisition</p> <p>Monitor city growth and acquire land - develop properties accordingly. The Park Board has done an excellent job of It is always prudent to expand popular parks when contiguous land becomes available. The Board has done this in the past. Explore the potential to partner with the City for joint property acquisition and development.</p>	1					
2	<p>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Revisit and review G&O at the December OR January Board meeting and revise as needed annually.</p>	1					
3	<p>PLAYGROUND SAFETY: priorities should continue to include a strong focus on staff playground design and safety training.</p> <p>Institute for playground inspection certification. This is a Risk Management Issue.</p>	1	\$1,000				\$1,000
4	<p>CONNECTIVITY – TRAILS</p> <p>CONNECTIVITY: continue to support Community interest in development and expansion of area greenways and trails. Encourage awareness and focus on the need for annual maintenance funding and daily care. Additionally, half-life and full life capital renewal funding should be planned for initially by all entities involved in this endeavor</p>	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
5	<p>TRENDS</p> <p>Remain aware of trends in parks and recreation both locally, regionally, and at state and national levels.</p> <p>Attendance by staff, and when possible by Board members at IPRA and NRPA functions and workshops is one way to accomplish this goal.</p>	1					
6	<p>SCOREP: Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>SCOREP is a resource to the Board and Department in realizing the goals of the State, region and community with respect to parks and recreation measurements. Pertinent digest copies of pertinent SCOREP information in contained in this plan.</p>	1					
7	<p>Establish an Allen County Park Endowment fund for acquisitions, development, maintenance and operation of</p>	1					
8	<p>Prepare the 2013-2017 Master Plan, start April 2012</p>	1					\$15,000
9	<p>Examine this plan for revisions annually</p>	1	NA				
10	<p>Develop a Natural Resource Management Plan and train staff for prescribed burns</p>	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
11	<p>Develop interpretive plans for each park</p>	1		\$10,000	\$10,000		
	GRAND TOTALS:		180,508	184,509	6,431,550	4,106,555	4,116,560

POTENTIAL FUNDING KEY:
 CC=Cumulative Capital Funded; CDBG=Community Development Block Grant; CREDIT=County Economic Development Income Tax; CO=County Source; FED=Federal Source; FA=Force Account (In-House); GOB=General Obligation Bond; GD=Gifts & Donations; GRA=Grant Approved; GRP=Grant Pending; L=Lease; InfrAB=Infrastructure Bond; LRS=Local Roads & Streets; MIS=Miscellaneous; MVH=Motor Vehicle Highway; PF=Park Foundation; PCBF=Park Cumulative Bldg. Fund; RB=Revenue Bond; SU=Sewer Utility; SWU=Stormwater Utility; TIF=Tax Increment Financing; TBD=To Be Determined; UF=User Fee; WU=Water Utility; VOL=Volunteers; LWCF=Land & Water Conservation Fund; HI=Homestead Indiana; PB=Park Budget (Annual Operating Budget); CFD=Capital Fund Drive; ADMIN=Administrative Decision Req'd; TEA=Indiana Transportation Enhancement Fund.

CONCLUSION

This **Parks and Recreation Master Plan** endeavors to provide a guiding mechanism for continuing to meet existing and future community needs, and expanding the positive impacts of this portion of Allen County's services.

The strengths of this report stem from the extensive research, community involvement, analysis of needs, and public participation that form the basis for the recommendations it contains. The recommendations of this Plan are designed to create goals cultivating:

- Focus on consistently meeting and exceeding citizen expectations;
- Use of innovative ideas and methods to successfully meet challenges posed by budgetary, facility and staffing limitations;
- A system that benefits residents by increasing services to all age groups and providing diverse opportunities;
- A service agency that sees itself as a viable partner in providing community services;
- A stewardship approach to providing high-quality facilities, existing and future, through judicious use of public funds;
- Continuing development and cooperation in partnership with City, Public Schools, other non-profit organizations and the private sector in providing recreational services and facilities;
- A proactive planning process guided by community needs and executable strategies; and a process for reviewing and updating this document annually.

Ultimately, this plan is designed to serve as a decision-making tool for the Board of Park Commissioners. Action Strategies are needed to carry out the Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommendations.



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Allen County Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of the Allen County, Indiana, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALLEN COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD by unanimous declaration, hereby adopt the 2008-2012 Park and Recreation Master Plan as the official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities of all citizens of Allen County, Indiana.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Park and Recreation Board President _____

ATTEST: _____

Title: _____



ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The Allen County Parks and Recreation Board has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

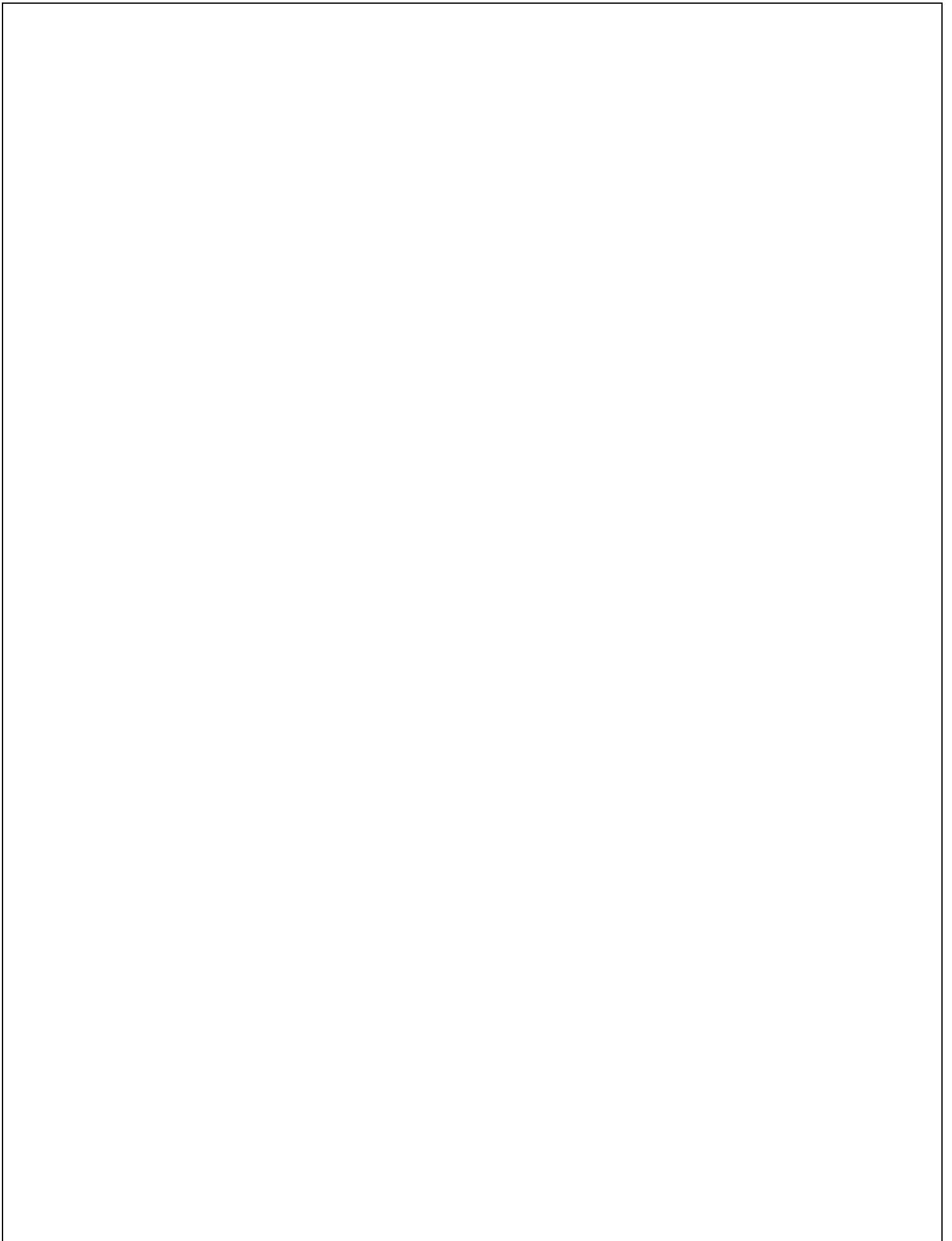
SIGNATURE _____
Board President

President's printed name

SIGNATURE: _____
Board Secretary

Secretary's printed name

DATE: _____, 2008



DIGEST OF SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law requiring that federal fund recipients make their programs and activities accessible to all individuals with disabilities. Section 504 may provide an alternative avenue for children to receive services who do not meet the eligibility requirements under I.D.E.A. The law states:

"No qualified individual with disabilities, shall, solely by reason of his or her disability be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

A person is disabled within the definition of Section 504 if he or she

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities,
2. Has a record of such impairments, or
3. Is regarded as having such impairment.

Major life activities include such functions as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. When a condition does not substantially limit a major life activity, the individual does not qualify under Section 504. However, if a child has ADHD with resulting limitation in his or her ability to learn, then Section 504 will apply.

Schools are required to evaluate a child who is suspected as having a disability under Section 504, and if the child is found to qualify, the school is required to develop an accommodation plan to accommodate the disability.

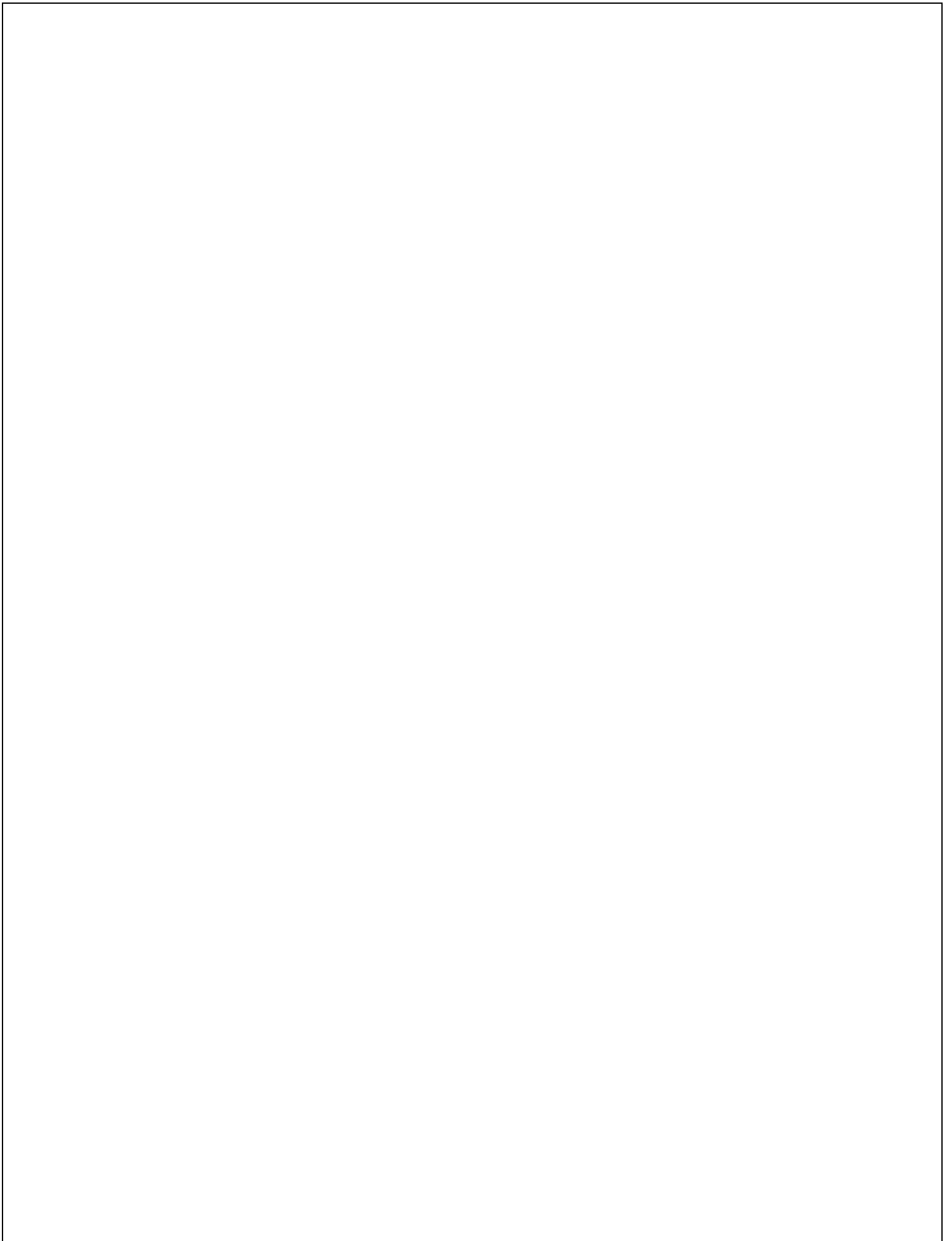
Detailed text of Section 504 can be found at:

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/oasam/public/regs/statutes/sec504.htm>





APPENDIX





PROGRAM DIGEST; 2002-2007

2002

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - OWLS

Thursday, January 17, 10 AM or 2 PM
Fox Island Nature Center
Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about owls. We'll explore the owl's world, read a story about owls, make a craft related to owls and have a snack during this hour-long program.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, January 25, 7 PM to 8:30 PM
Metea County Park
Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join Jodi Leamon of Allen County Parks as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about winter survival and celestial objects overhead on a winter Night Hike. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little snow stop us. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike. No bug repellent needed!

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLINIC

Tuesday, January 8, 7 PM to 8:30 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
You'll never look at snow the same way again after you learn more about cross-country skiing. Not only is it a great way to get out in nature, it's fantastic exercise, too. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks and representatives from Root's Ski Haus to learn about cross-country ski equipment, types of skiing, ski clothing, how to get started and where to ski.

Bring your own skis if you have questions or problems, and we'll go outside for a beginning ski lesson (weather permitting).

BEGINNING ASTRONOMY

Fridays, February 8 and 15, 7 PM
Fox Island Nature Center
People have been marveling at the night sky for ages. Objects of wonder surround us at night, but how much do we know about them? Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks will be your tour guide as we explore space and time from Fox Island County Park. The first class, on February 8, will cover observation techniques and equipment, constellations and stars. The second class, on February 15, will look into our solar system and outer space. We will go outside for observing after each class if it's not cloudy.

ARBOR DAY HIKE

April 26, Friday at 12 noon to 1 PM
North area of Metea County Park on Hursh Road east of Puff Road and west of Leo-Cedarville
Celebrate Arbor Day with a hike through the tree plantation and nature preserve at Metea County Park. Meet Naturalist Bob Dispenza at the North area parking lot on Hursh Road east of Puff Road at noon on Friday, April 26. Learn about the history of Arbor Day, tree planting projects in the Allen County Parks, and meet some of the trees that make Metea County Park special.

SUMMER ASTRONOMY

August 21, 22, 23 and 24, Wednesday through Saturday, 7:30 to 9 PM. Fox Island County Park. Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of August and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects.



ASTRONOMY FOR CHILDREN

Saturday, June 15, 7:30 to 9:30 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
Kids can reach for the stars, too. Join Education Director Bob Dispenza at “Astronomy for Children” and get stars in your eyes. Learn about telescopes, stars, our solar system and far-away galaxies with demonstrations, stories and hands-on activities.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Wednesday, June 19, 7 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park’s Wildlife Observation Building,
Miniscule but mighty. Small but swift. Enchanting but elusive. All these describe the subject of June’s edition of “Breakfast with the Birds”- the hummingbird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park’s tiny dynamo.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - BUTTERFLIES

Thursday, August 15, 10 AM or 2 PM
Fox Island Nature Center
Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about butterflies. We’ll explore the butterfly’s world, read a story about butterflies, make a craft related to butterflies and have a snack during this hour-long program.

SUNDAY SUNDAE SUNDAY

June 23, 2 to 4 PM
Fox Island County Park
Our Mr. Sun is more than just a big yellow ball in the sky. Human history is full of sun lore, and nearly all energy on earth ultimately comes from the sun. Learn more about the sun at “Sun Day Sundae Sunday” on June 23 from 2 to 4 PM. Drop by to find out how to observe the sun safely, see sunspots, hear sun mythology stories, watch solar energy in action, and make yourself an ice cream sundae to cool off.

MOSQUITOES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

7 to 8:30 PM, Wednesday, July 10
Fox Island County Park
Those pesky mosquitoes! Always trying to ruin our outdoor activities.

Here at Fox Island we are famous for mosquitoes. With West Nile virus and other insect-carried diseases in the news, how much do we need to fear the pesky mosquito?

PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER WATCH

Saturday, August 10, 9 PM to midnight
Metea County Park
Every year in mid-August earth is visited by the Perseid Meteor Shower, when more meteors than usual may be observed. Come out to the clear skies of Metea County Park to see the meteors streak across the sky, along with telescopic observing of other celestial objects. See and hold real meteorites that came from “out there.” Bring lawn chairs or sleeping pads to lie on while you wait for the “shooting stars.”

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, November 9
Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington
Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, November 9. We’ll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path.

N.E.A.T. (NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR) FOR BICYCLE RIDERS

Saturday, October 5, 9 AM to noon
Metea County Park, corner of Leo and Union Chapel Roads, Leo, IN
Enjoy a scenic 20 mile bicycle ride to three Allen County Parks while rolling through rural northeast Allen County. Fee of \$10.00 per rider over age 10 includes a map, SAG service, snacks and drinks. Proceeds will benefit the Allen County Parks as they reach out with educational and conservation activities. The tour will begin at Metea County Park and visit Payton and Cook’s Landing County Parks. Many other quality natural areas are also along the route, which is mostly on lightly traveled rural roads.

FULL MOON MADNESS

Friday, September 20, 8 PM; Fox Island County Park. A night of lunacy! Join moonstruck naturalist Bob Dispenza at Fox Island County Park on Friday, September 20 as we discover the secrets of the moon – history, facts, myth and effects. Included will be telescopic moon observation (weather permitting), a short night hike, moon music, a real space suit like those that went to the moon, demonstrations of cratering and moon phases, and moon-related treats. It's all you ever wanted to know about the moon.

NIGHT HIKE - OWLS

Saturday, November 16, 6:30 to 8 PM; Fox Island County Park Nature Center. Come out to Fox Island County Park to explore the park in the twilight hours. Learn about our exciting nocturnal flying birds. Dress appropriately and leave your flashlights at home.

2003

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – REACH FOR THE STARS

Thursday, January 16, 10 AM or 2 PM. Fox Island Nature Center. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about stars and planets. We'll explore the solar system, read a story about space, make a craft related to astronomy and have a snack during this hour-long program.

WINTER ASTRONOMY

January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, Fridays, 7:30 to 9 PM; Fox Island County Park. Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of January and February and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects.

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, March 29; Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, March 29. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path.

ASTRONOMY FOR CHILDREN

Friday, February 21, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
Kids can reach for the stars, too. Join Education Director Bob Dispenza at "Astronomy for Children" and get stars in your eyes. Learn about telescopes, stars, our solar system and far-away galaxies with demonstrations, stories and hands-on activities.

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING

Saturday, March 15, 9 AM to 3 PM
Fox Island County Park
Trail Guide Training sponsored by Allen County Parks and the Fox Island Alliance will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 9 AM to 3 PM. This free, useful and informative training is open to the public. "Birds and Bees" will be the subject, with local bird expert Cynthia Powers sharing about birds in the morning, and Allen County Parks Director of Education Bob Dispenza discovering stinging (and other) insects in the afternoon.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Wednesday, April 16, 8 to 9:30 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building
West Nile is here to stay. Find out how this virus affects wildlife and people at Allen County Parks and what you can do about it. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore this important subject.

INVASION OF THE GYPSY MOTHS

Friday, April 25, 7:30 PM

Fox Island County Park

They're coming! Nothing can stop them! They eat everything! Head for the hills!

Wait a minute – knowledge is better than panic.

Learn the facts about the gypsy moth, how to identify it in its different life stages, and its impact on our parks and neighborhoods.

MOTHER'S DAY HIKE

Sunday, May 11, 2 PM to 3:30 PM

Metea County Park, located at the corner of Leo and Union Chapel Roads near Cedarville.

Show your mother how much you appreciate her. "Give" her a bouquet of living, growing flowers at our Mother's Day Hike on Sunday, May 11 at 2 PM. We won't be picking anything, but will learn about our native wildflowers, how important they are and how they beautify the park (just like mom!).

BEEES COME TO FOX ISLAND

Friday, May 9, 2003, 5 PM. Fox Island County Park Wildlife Observation Building, 7324 Yohne Rd, Fort Wayne. A new bee observation hive has been installed at Fox Island. Come out and see a swarm of bees move into the hive on Friday, May 9 at 5 PM. Local student and beekeeper Bregan Eicher will provide information on beekeeping and how bees do those amazing things they do.

SUMMER ASTRONOMY

July 26, August 2, 9, 16, Saturdays, 7:30 to 9 PM. Fox Island County Park. Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of July and August and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects. This series for adults begins on Saturday, July 26 and ends Saturday, August 16, 7:30 to 9 PM each night.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – BUTTERFLIES

Thursday, June 19, 10 AM or 2 PM

Fox Island Nature Center

Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about butterflies and moths. We'll explore where they live, read a story about them, make a craft related to butterflies and have a snack during this hour-long program.

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, July 19. Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, July 19. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, July 11, 7:30 PM at Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Wednesday, July 16, 7:30 to 9 AM

Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. Miniscule but mighty. Small but swift. Enchanting but elusive. All these describe the subject of July's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the hummingbird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park's tiny dynamo.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, June 20, 8:30 to 9:30 PM

Metea County Park

Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer Night Hike. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain stop us.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, July 18, 8:30 to 9:30 PM
Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, Leo. Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer Night Hike. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain stop us.

PRAIRIE HIKE

Friday, August 22, 4 PM
Metea County Park
Prairies were a prominent feature of Indiana in the past. Since they turned out to be such good farmland, very few are left now. The restored prairie at Metea County Park can give you an idea of the beauty and diversity of this ecosystem. Take a walk through the prairie in full bloom with Education Director Bob Dispenza and find out more about the special plants that live there and how special management allows them to survive.



NIGHT HIKE

Friday, August 15, 8:30 to 9:30 PM
Metea County Park
Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer Night Hike. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain stop us.

NIGHT HIKE

Saturday, June 21, 8:30 to 9:30 PM
Fox Island County Park
Fox Island County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Fox Island while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer Night Hike.

NIGHT HIKE

Saturday, August 16, 8:30 to 9:30 PM
Fox Island County Park
Fox Island County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Fox Island while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer Night Hike.

NIGHT HIKE – BATS & SPIDERS

Friday, October 24, 7:30 PM
Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, Leo
Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a fall Night Hike. We'll pay special attention to bats and spiders.

NEAT – NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR FOR BICYCLES

Saturday, September 27, ride starts 9 AM
Metea County Park
Enjoy an early fall ride through scenic northern Allen County while helping out Allen County Parks. A 20-mile route tours Allen County, while a 37-mile route winds through Allen and DeKalb Counties. Visit three of the four Allen County Parks on both routes. . Many other quality natural areas are also along the route, which is mostly on lightly traveled rural roads. Snacks, drinks and emergency transportation service will be provided. Registration opens at 8:30 on Saturday, September 27 at Metea County Park, located near the corner of Union Chapel and Leo Roads just west of Cedarville.

ASTRONOMY FOR CHILDREN

Saturday, November 8, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
Kids can reach for the stars, too. Join Education Director Bob Dispenza at “Astronomy for Children” and get stars in your eyes. Learn about telescopes, stars, our solar system and far-away galaxies with demonstrations, stories and hands-on activities. There will be a lunar eclipse this night, and we will get a close look at it if we have clear skies.

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, November 22, 2003
Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington
Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, November 22. We’ll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations.

2004

WINTER ASTRONOMY

January 23, 30 and February 6, 13, Fridays, 7:30 to 9 PM. Fox Island County Park, Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of January and February and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects. This series for adults begins on Friday, January 23 and ends Friday, February 13, 7:30 to 9 PM each night.

NIGHT HIKE

7:30 PM, Friday, February 27. Payton County Park, Dunton Road between Hathaway and Gump Roads, near Hometown. Explore the winter night and learn about nocturnal animals and how they survive. Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Payton County Park, located on Dunton Road between Hathaway and Gump Roads, near Hometown.

ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION

Friday, February 20, 7:30 PM. Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd., Fort Wayne. Long, cold winter months often leave us wondering how to keep warmer and save on those high heating bills. There are things anyone can do to save our resources, reduce pollution and lower those bills. Join Allen County Parks Education Director Bob Dispenza for “Energy & Water Conservation” and find out how to apply those money and environment saving tips and technologies.

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

2 PM, Saturday, March 6
Fox Island County Park
Help out your feathered friends while doing something together as a family. You can build a bird feeder or bird house and take it home with you. Participants will need to bring gloves, eye protection, a hammer and a screwdriver, and we will provide kits and instructions. Each kit is \$10.00 – tell us which you would like when you call 449-3180 to reserve your kit.

ASTRONOMY FOR CHILDREN

Friday, March 26, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
Kids can reach for the stars, too. Join Education Director Bob Dispenza at “Astronomy for Children” and get stars in your eyes. Learn about telescopes, stars, our solar system and far-away galaxies with demonstrations, stories and hands-on activities.

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, March 27
Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington
Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, March 27. We’ll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, March 19, 7:30 PM at Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd.



BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS - BLUEBIRDS

Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building

So beautiful they are associated with happiness. Winged messenger of Spring. A detached piece of the sky. All these describe the subject of April's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the bluebird.

NIGHT HIKE – BATS & SPIDERS

Friday, April 30, 7:30 PM
Metea County Park

Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a spring Night Hike. We'll pay special attention to owls and amphibians.

MOSQUITOES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

7:30 to 8:30 PM, Friday, May 14
Fox Island County Park

Those pesky mosquitoes! Always trying to ruin our outdoor activities. Here at Fox Island we are famous for mosquitoes. With West Nile virus and other insect-carried diseases in the news, how much do we need to fear the pesky mosquito? Join Education Director Bob Dispenza to learn about the natural history of Mosquitoes, their interactions with mankind through history, and the health and medical implications of our mosquitoes

LIFESTYLES OF THE TINY AND MICROSCOPIC

Saturday, May 22, 2 PM
Fox Island County Park Visitors Center

Small creatures are all around us, sharing our houses, our food, our world. Often overlooked because they are so small, we will take a look into their world. Using Allen County Parks' powerful video microscopes we will learn about the "Lifestyles of the Tiny and Microscopic", with naturalist Bob Dispenza. We'll catch some outside, and you are invited to bring things with you to place under the microscope.

INVASION OF THE CICADAS

Friday, June 4, 7:30 PM
Fox Island County Park Visitors Center
Every 17 years they return, bring unearthly sounds, mysterious holes, and unidentified flying insects. This is the year they come back. Get ready for the "Invasion of the Cicadas," coming soon to trees near you. Learn about these patient, noisy insects at Fox Island Nature Center, 7324 Yohne Rd. Fort Wayne on Friday, June 4 at 7:30 PM. Do they bite or sting? Will they wreck our trees? Where will they go?

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. Miniscule but mighty. Small but swift. Enchanting but elusive. All these describe the subject of July's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the hummingbird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park's tiny dynamo. Meet at Fox Island's Wildlife Observation Building (the round building straight in from the entrance) from 7:30 to 9 AM on Wednesday, June 16 for a talk and a hike.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – FLOWER FUN

Thursday, June 17, 10 AM or 2 PM
Fox Island Nature Center
Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about the life of our plant friends. We'll explore the flowers that bloom and how they live, read a story about flowers, make a craft related to flowers and have a snack during this hour-long program.

LIGHTNING BEETLES – STARS COME TO EARTH

8:30 PM, Friday, June 18
Metea County Park
Many of us spent the summers of our youth chasing them around and capturing these living sparks. But lightning beetles (also known as lightning bugs and fireflies) have many interesting stories to tell.

SUN DAY SUNDAE SUNDAY

Sunday, June 20, 2 to 4 PM

Payton County Park

Our Mr. Sun is more than just a big yellow ball in the sky. Human history is full of sun lore, and nearly all energy on earth ultimately comes from the sun. Learn more about the sun at "Sun Day Sundae Sunday" on June 20 from 2 to 4 PM. Drop by to find out how to observe the sun safely, see sunspots, hear sun mythology stories, watch solar energy in action, and make yourself an ice cream sundae to cool off.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME – VENUS CROSSES THE SUN

Tuesday, June 8, 5 AM

Metea County Park

It's been over 120 years since Venus passed directly between the Earth and Sun. Provided our Indiana skies are cooperative, you will get to see this happen safely at "Once in a Lifetime – Venus Crosses the Sun" with Allen County Parks naturalist Bob Dispenza.

Through solar projection and the use of safe filters, we will observe the end of the crossing, or "transit" and learn about how and why it happens.

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS LOGO CONTEST

Until June 13, 2004; Allen County Parks is looking for your help to portray a clear image to the community. A new logo is needed to make Allen County Parks properties and staff easily identifiable.

ASTRONOMY FOR CHILDREN

Friday, July 9, 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Fox Island County Park Nature Center

Kids can reach for the stars, too. Join Education Director Bob Dispenza at "Astronomy for Children" and get stars in your eyes. Learn about telescopes, stars, our solar system and far-away galaxies with demonstrations, stories and hands-on activities.

SUMMER ASTRONOMY

July 21, 22, 23, 24, Wednesday through

Saturday, 7:30 to 9 PM

Fox Island County Park

Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of July and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects.

NIGHT OF THE STINGING INSECTS

Friday, August 20, 7 PM; Fox Island County

Park. Bees, wasps, hornets, yellowjackets –

they're everywhere and they're after me! Or are they? Why do they sting? How? How many times? Where do they live? How do I keep them away? Learn the answers to these and other questions at "Night of the Stinging Insects" with Allen County Parks education director Bob Dispenza.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Wednesday, August 18, 7:30 AM; Fox Island

County Park. Tall and stately. Majestic flyers.

Patient and swift. Herons have been described many ways. Find out the truth about these wetland hunters and how they make their living. Join Allen County Parks education director Bob Dispenza for "Breakfast with the Birds" on Wednesday, August 18, 7:30 AM the Observation Building in Fox Island County Park.

NIGHT HIKE

7:30 PM, Friday, August 27; Payton County

Park, Dunton Road between Hathaway and Gump Roads, near Huntertown. Explore the late summer night and learn about nocturnal singers and how they survive. Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Payton County Park, located on Dunton Road between Hathaway and Gump Roads, near Huntertown

NEAT – NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR FOR BICYCLES

Saturday, September 25, ride starts 9 AM

Metea County Park. Enjoy an early fall ride

through scenic northern Allen County while helping out Allen County Parks. A 20-mile route tours Allen County, while a 37-mile route winds through Allen and DeKalb Counties.

Visit three of the four Allen County Parks on

both routes. . Many other quality natural areas are also along the route, which is mostly on lightly traveled rural roads. Snacks, drinks and emergency transportation service will be provided

2005

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. Here at Fox Island County Park, we are regularly contributing to the scientific community by gathering important data on birds.

Join Project FeederWatch Volunteer Cynthia Powers and Naturalist Sarah Hendricks as they explain how you can be a part of both Cornell University and the Audubon Societies' studies on bird populations

PRE – K DISCOVERY PROGRAM "TRACKS"

Fox Island County Park; Thursday, January 20th, 10 AM – 11 AM or 2 PM – 3 PM.
Join naturalist Christian Schult identifying tracks from different animals. We will take a close look at tracks outside discovering the animals that left them behind! We will also have a snack, craft, and a short story to follow. Please dress for the weather, as we will be taking a short hike.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Friday, January 28th, at 10:00am and
Saturday, January 29th, at 2:00pm; Fox Island County Park Nature Center. Do you have a passion for nature? Would you like to find new ways to give back to your community? Then you would enjoy becoming an Allen County Parks volunteer. Positions available range from trail patrol to leading field trip hikes, working in our gardens to decorating bulletin boards.

Volunteer Orientation will help you learn more about our volunteer program, and give you a chance to meet our staff. You are welcome to attend either session, and refreshments will be served.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, January 28, 7:00 PM; Metea County Park. Metea County Park is rich in history and natural beauty. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a winter Night Hike. We'll pay special attention to owls animal signs. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain or snow stop us.

GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION

Fox Island County Park
Wednesday, February 2, 10 AM

As the weather continues cold, we all wonder when spring warmth will be arriving. One of our native animals has a reputation for being able to tell when – the groundhog. We are going to encourage him with a little celebration held in his honor. Learn about hibernation, the history of woodchuck weathermen, sing some Groundhog Day songs, and go out looking for our own Fox Island Frank. Will he see his shadow, or will he be out cross-country skiing?

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - OWLS

Thursday, February 17, 10 AM or 2 PM
Fox Island Nature Center. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about owls. We'll explore the owl's world, read a story about owls, make a craft related to owls and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside to call owls if the weather permits.



NIGHT HIKE

Fox Island County Park. Friday, March 18th, 7:30 – 8:30 PM. Join naturalist Christian Schult exploring Fox Island at night. Use your unique senses to find out what is around you in the dark. Whose eyes are those? What's making that noise? These are just a couple of questions we will answer on the hike. Dress for the weather and there is no need for a flashlight.

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, March 5. Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, March 5. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path. **Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, February 25, 7:30 PM** at Fox Island County Park

WRITERS' RETREAT

Saturday, March 5th
\$10 per person pre-registration, \$15 per person walk-in.

Explore nature through writing at this annual retreat for writers of all levels and styles. You will have an opportunity to attend a variety of workshop sessions, including a presentation on illustrations in children's books from the Allen County Public Libraries, and a session on non-fiction writing from journalist and author Phil Bloom. Sit in on a panel discussion of local published authors, or enjoy peace and quiet at any time throughout the day in our Bird Observation Building.

TREE DAY

Sunday, March 13, 2 to 5 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
\$2.00 per person age 7 and older
Celebrate trees at this festival for our forest friends. Hear tree stories read, make tree crafts, snack on tree-related refreshments, explore the new ActiviTREE exhibit, and learn about how we use trees every day. Fun for all ages.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS - BLUEBIRDS

Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. So beautiful they are associated with happiness. Winged messenger of spring. A detached piece of the sky. All these describe the subject of March's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the bluebird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park's resident bluebirds. Meet at Fox Island's Wildlife Observation Building (the round building straight in from the entrance) from 7:30 to 9 AM on Wednesday, March 16 for a talk and a hike.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY - SILLY SALAMANDERS WITH SARAH

Thursday March 17th, 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
Just how silly are salamanders? When Sarah the Naturalist is around, you never know!

We'll read a story or two, do a silly craft, have a salamander snack, and search for the salamanders themselves during this fun program for preschoolers.

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING - GEOLOGY BASICS

March 19th, 9 AM-noon at Fox Island County Park
How did the land come to be the shape it is today? What kind of rock is that? Is this a fossil? Let's get back to the basics of geology at this Trail Guide Training workshop. We'll take a stroll over the dunes to discuss glacial activity, review the Geo-Garden, and go over how to interpret our fossil pile to various ages and religious backgrounds.

NIGHT HIKE - RACCOON RAMBLE

Friday, April 29, 8 PM
Metea County Park, Union Chapel Road at Leo Road, west of Cedarville



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sleep all day and live your life at night? We will explore the night through the eyes of one of nature's most infamous nocturnal animals, the raccoon.

We'll start in the parking lot closest to the front gate at Metea County Park, and then wander off into the woods to see if we can survive as the raccoon does.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Fox Island Nature Center Sunday, May 1, 2 PM
Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in spring wildflowers.

SOLFEST

Fox Island County Park
Saturday and Sunday, May 7 & 8, 10 AM to 7 PM

Come out to Fox Island and see the amazing events, such as local bands, children's crafts, kayak test driving, artists, edible insects, a beer garden, wildflower hikes, hayrides and much more. Part of the proceeds are reserved to help underprivileged groups attend educational programs.

Bands include Rosemary Gates, Wailhounds, Mike Conley, Dan Mihuk with members of the Freak Brothers, Susan Mae Band, Sfumato, Phil's Family Lizard and the Brown Bottle Band. Celebrate songs and outdoor life!

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Fox Island County Park
Sunday, May 15, 2 PM
Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in spring wildflowers.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – WARBLERS

Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. Arline Thomas, an American writer, once said, "For most bird watchers, the coming of warblers has the same effect as catnip on a cat." Find out why during Breakfast with the Birds. After enjoying coffee and donuts and an introduction to the world of warblers, we'll head out to see what we can find. Meet at Fox

Island's Wildlife Observation Building (the round building straight in from the entrance).

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY PROGRAM - FROGS

Fox Island County Park; Wednesday, May 18, 10 AM – 11 AM or 2 PM – 3 PM.
Learn about fascinating frogs! Join naturalist Christian Schult on a short hike to observe this wonderful amphibian up close and personal. We will also have a snack, craft, and a short story to follow. Please dress for the weather, as we will be taking a short hike. Don't forget to dress for the weather and call 449-3180 and make a reservation.

Recreation Camps

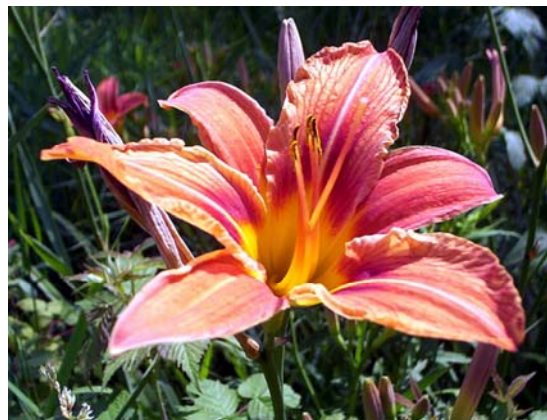
Session 1: June 13 – 17
Session 3: June 27 – July 1
Session 5: July 18 – 22
Session 7: August 1 – 5

Outdoor Education Camps

Session 2: June 20 – 24
Session 4: July 11 – 15
Session 6: July 25 – 29

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Fox Island County Park
Sunday, May 22, 2 PM
Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in spring wildflowers



NIGHT HIKE

Friday, May 27, 8:00 PM. Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road between Halter and Puff Roads, Leo. Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. It also has clear starlit and moonlit skies at night. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore the past, present and future of Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a spring Night Hike. Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain stop us. Boots are recommended, as the trails can be muddy.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Fox Island County Park
Sunday, May 29, 2 PM
Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in spring wildflowers

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Don't let summer pass you by without spending a week at Fox Island! This year we are offering some new and exciting activities for Day Camp. We will have canoeing, fishing, swimming, hayrides, nature study and much, much more. Camp is for children ages 6 to 11 years old. Each session runs Monday through Friday 9 AM to 5 PM. is completed.

RESCHOOL DISCOVERY PROGRAM - SQUIRRELS

Thursday, June 16, 10 AM or 2 PM. Fox Island Nature Center. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about squirrels. We'll explore the squirrel's world, read a story about squirrels, make a craft related to squirrels and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside if the weather permits – be sure to bring insect repellent.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, June 24, 8:30 PM. Payton County Park, 13928 Dunton Road, between Gump and Hathaway Roads near Huntertown
Explore the summer night and learn about nocturnal singers and how they survive.

Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Payton County Park, located on Dunton Road between Hathaway and Gump Roads, near Huntertown. Flashlights are optional, and insect repellent is needed! Be prepared for muddy conditions and unusual observations

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Don't let summer pass you by without spending a week at Fox Island! This year we are offering some new and exciting activities for Day Camp. We will have canoeing, fishing, swimming, hayrides, nature study and much, much more. Camp is for children ages 6 to 11 years old. Each session runs Monday through Friday 9 AM to 5 PM. Cost is \$90.00 per camper per session. Each camp will have age-specific activities.

Recreation Camps

Session 5: July 18 – 22

Session 7: August 1 – 5

Outdoor Education Camps

Session 4: July 11 – 15

Session 6: July 25 - 29

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – HUMMINGBIRDS

Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 to 9 AM
Fox Island County Park's Wildlife Observation Building. Miniscule but mighty. Small but swift. Enchanting but elusive. All these describe the subject of July's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the hummingbird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park's tiny dynamo at Fox Island's Wildlife Observation Building (the round building straight in from the entrance) from 7:30 to 9 AM on Wednesday, July 20 for a talk and a hike.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, July 29, 8 PM
Fox Island County Park
Dress for the weather and there is no need for a flashlight. Don't forget to call and make a reservation – 449-3180.

PRAIRIE TOUR

Saturday, August 6, 2 PM

Fox Island Nature Center

Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in the prairie. This unique ecosystem should be in full bloom – see how it is specially managed.

CREEK PEEK

Saturday, August 20, 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Metea County Park, Union Chapel Road at Leo Road, west of Cedarville. Bring your waders, boots, or really old sneakers and wade into Metea County Park to explore Cedar Creek. Be ready to get wet and muddy as we search out dragons, damsels, and other fascinating residents. We'll meet at the Nature Center parking lot and then hike out to the creek. All ages welcome.

BIRDING BY CANOE

Sunday, August 21, 5:30 AM to 12 noon

Join a naturalist along the beautiful shoreline of the Pigeon River through Mongo, IN. We will be using canoes from Root's and snack will be provided.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, August 26, 8:00 PM

Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road between Halter and Puff Roads, Leo

Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a summer hike.

Dress for the weather – we won't let a little rain stop us. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike.

PRAIRIE TOUR

Saturday, September 3, 2 PM

Metea County Park, Union Chapel Road at Leo Road, west of Cedarville

Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and see what's up in the prairie. This unique ecosystem should be in full bloom – see how it is specially managed. Program fee is \$2.00 per person.

DOG HIKE

Sunday, September 4, 1 to 2:30 PM

Metea County Park

Bring your canine friends for this official dog hike at Metea County Park. Learn about their wild relatives and how to safely treat your dog to the wonders of the park.

HIKING TRIP TO DUNES STATE PARK

Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY PROGRAM - SQUIRRELS

Thursday, September 15, 10 AM or 2 PM

Fox Island Nature Center

Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about squirrels. We'll explore the squirrel's world, read a story about squirrels, make a craft related to squirrels and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside if the weather permits – be sure to bring insect repellent.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, September 23, 8:00 PM

Metea County Park, Union Chapel Road at Leo Road, west of Cedarville

Explore the summer night and learn about nocturnal singers and how they survive. Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Metea Park, located on Union Chapel Road at Leo Road, west of Cedarville. Flashlights are optional, and insect repellent is needed! Be prepared for strange sounds and unusual observations. Meet at 8:00 PM on Friday, September 23.

NEAT – NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR FOR BICYCLES

Saturday, September 24, ride starts 9 AM

Metea County Park

Enjoy an early fall ride through scenic northern Allen County while helping out Allen County Parks. A 20-mile route tours Allen County, while 37-mile and 62-mile routes wind through Allen and DeKalb Counties. Visit three of the four Allen County Parks on all routes. Snacks, drinks, a light lunch and emergency transportation service will be provided.

METEA RENAISSANCE FAIRE VII

Saturday and Sunday, the 1st and 2nd days of October
at Metea County Park in the town of Leo, IN (N. of Fort Wayne)

Saturday, October 15, 2005 at Metea County Park

10 a.m.-Noon (Join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts)

Native People are not Extinct...So Why Interpret Them in the Past Tense?

Special guest Karen LaMere, an administrator for Indy Parks in Environmental Education and Interpretive Services, will discuss ways to interpret Natives in the present tense.. You will leave this workshop with new insight on the Native People of our area. This is also a great opportunity to explore the new Nature Center!

Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at the Fox Island Nature Center

7-9:30 p.m. (Join us at 6:30 p.m. for dessert and coffee)

NATURE AT NIGHT

You've explored Fox Island in daylight—come see what it's like in the dark! We'll discuss all the nocturnal happenings in the park, take a Night Hike, and do some stargazing. Workshops are sponsored by the Fox Island Alliance and Allen County Parks Department

PUBLIC HAYRIDES

Saturday, **October 15**, 2 to 3 PM

Saturday, **October 29**, 2 to 3 PM

Saturday, **November 12**, 2 to 3 PM

Saturday, **November 26**, 2 to 3 PM

Fox Island County Park

Experience the beautiful fall colors Fox Island County Park has to offer in a wagon full of straw. No need to call ahead – just show up at the Nature Center for an hour full of fun.

Weather is variable, so be prepared for cooler temperatures. Cost is \$4.00 per person, age 3 and under free.

FALL COLOR HIKE

Sunday, October 16, 2 to 3 PM

Metea County Park

Walk with a naturalist through some of the most pristine woodlands in northern Indiana. Metea County Park paints a wonderful canvas full of fall colors

Night Hike

Friday, October 28, 7:30 PM

Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road between Halter and Puff Roads, Leo

Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a fall hike. Dress for the weather.

HOWL-OWEEN A FOX ISLAND FAMILY FEST

Sunday, October 30th, 12:30 am – 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm - 9:00pm. Bring the entire family for a fun-filled Halloween at the Fox Island Nature Center. We'll spend the day getting to know the creepy-crawly creatures people love to squirm at. Meet live snakes, insects, and other Halloween animals. Enjoy hayrides, kids crafts, and a couple special programs. Wear your costume for the contest, and get your picture taken with a live creepy-crawly. In the evening, come back for a stroll along a jack-o-lantern lit path (bring a flashlight), or take a hike into the woods with a park naturalist. We'll look for the real creatures of the night on this not-so-scary outing. There will be a story-telling for all ages at a campfire, too.

Schedule of Events:

1:00- first hayride leaves

2:00-2:45- CeAnn Lambert of the Indiana Coyote Rescue Center will dispel coyote myths

3:00- costume contest, winners earn park passes and free cross-country ski passes

4:00-4:45- Edible Insects: Insects aren't so scary when you bite back!

Ongoing from 12:30-5:30: HOWL-oween Kids Crafts, get your photo taken with a live creepy crawly, full face painting with TAGart, hayrides, and more!

7:00- Not-so-spooky stories around the campfire at the Nature Center, Very Spooky Stories at the Lake with the Unique Theater Troupe (talent from 6th, 7th, and 8th graders)

7:45- Night hike with a naturalist

7:00-9:00- Venture down the jack-o-lantern trail with flashlights, on your own.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, November 25, 7:00 PM

Fox Island County Park

DOG HIKE

Saturday, November 12, 1 to 2 PM

Fox Island County Park

Bring your beloved dog for this official dog hike at Fox Island County Park. Learn about their wild relatives, how to safely treat your dog to the wonders of the park, and hike to Bowman Lake.



PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY CLASS - TURKEYS

Thursday, November 17, 10 AM or 2 PM

Metea Nature Center, 8401 Union Chapel, Fort Wayne. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Metea County Park to

learn more about turkeys. We'll explore the turkey's world, read a story about turkeys, make a craft related to turkeys and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside if the weather permits. Join an Allen County Parks naturalist on Thursday, November 17 at either 10 AM or 2 PM. Class fee is \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per adult companion.

NATURE READING GROUP

Tuesday, November 15th, 7pm, at Mitchell Books. Allen County Parks and Mitchell Books are teaming up for a book club, focusing on natural subjects. We'll kick off the book club at the Big Sit, October 9th, with an introduction to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Our first book will be The Race to Save the Lord God Bird, by Phillip Hoose. Books will be available at Fox Island for sale during the Big Sit, and we will discuss the book on Tuesday, November 15th, 7pm, at Mitchell Books. Everyone is welcome, and light refreshments will be provided.

CAVING ADVENTURE

Pre-caving class on Friday, December 2, 7:30 PM, and cave trip on Saturday, December 10, all day. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, December 10. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, December 2, 7:30 PM at Fox Island County Park.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – WOODPECKERS

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 to 9 AM

Metea County Park's Nature Center
The woodpecker makes a living banging his head against trees every day. Find out more about these amazing avian augers at December's Breakfast with the Birds. Continental breakfast provided.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, December 16, 7:00 PM

Payton County Park, on Dunton Road between Gump and Hathaway Roads

Explore the late fall night and learn about our winter animals how they survive. Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Payton County Park, on Dunton Road between Gump and Hathaway Roads. Flashlights are optional, and insect repellent is not needed! Be prepared for strange stories and unusual observations.

WINTERFEST AT FOX ISLAND

Saturday, December 17, 11 AM to 6 PM

\$4.00 per person, children 6 and under free

We will be gearing up to provide cross-country skiing, hayrides, children's crafts, entertainment and refreshments. And most important of all...

NO LINES TO SEE SANTA! Come and see Santa by the fireplace with many great gifts to give.

WINTER DAY CAMP

Thursday and Friday, December 29 & 30, 9 AM to 5 PM

Friday is "Winter Hibernation", Thursday is "Tracker".

2006

SKETCH ON A SUNDAY

Sundays in January: Ages 8-108 can join artist and teacher Michael Blackburn for Sketch on a Sunday in the Bird Observation Building.

Michael will provide personal attention (and supplies) to anyone wishing to work on their basic sketching skills. Be inspired by nature as you enhance your drawing capabilities.

NATURE AND A MOVIE

Friday, January 6, 7 PM to 9 PM at Metea County Park's Nature Center. A naturalist will give a brief talk, followed by a nature-themed movie for all ages. Popcorn and drinks will be served. This is a chance to see the brand new beautiful nature center, learn about the upcoming events at the park, and enjoy nature in the winter without getting cold.

INTRODUCTION TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Saturday, January 7, 2 PM at Fox Island County Park

Cross-country skiing is our favorite winter sport here at Fox Island. Learn about techniques, clothing, ski types and how to size skis, poles and shoes. Class fee is \$7.00, and includes an hour of ski rental (if snow), or a voucher for future ski rental (if no snow). If you bring your own skis, class fee is \$3.00.

WINTER TRACK HIKE

Sunday, January 15, 2 - 3 PM at Metea County Park

Join naturalist Christian Schult at Metea County Park for an introduction to wildlife tracks. We will begin our journey in the new nature center. All ages are welcome to attend this program. We will be hiking throughout the park, so dress for the weather!

THE FOX ISLAND NATURE READING GROUP:

Join our book club monthly at Mitchell Books (6360 W. Jefferson, in Covington Plaza) for a lively discussion of a chosen book on a variety of natural subjects. We'll read both classic and contemporary literature ranging from poetry to advocacy. See www.mitchellbooks.net or call 432-2665 for more information.

Tues. **Jan. 17th**, 7pm: A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold

Tues. **Feb. 21st**, 7 pm: Girl of the Limberlost, by Gene Stratton Porter

Tues. **March 21st**, 7 pm: Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, by Annie Dillard

WINTER ECOLOGY

Wednesday, January 18, 7:00-8:00 PM at Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel, Fort Wayne Warm yourself by the fire and enjoy a hot drink and cookies while you learn what Metea County Park's animals are up to during the winter.

Appropriate for all ages. Bring the family out to see the beauty of nature this time of year from the comfort of our new nature center. A naturalist will talk about survival strategies in the wild and entertain with a variety of visual aids.

**PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY CLASS –
ANIMAL HOMES**

Thursday, January 19, 10 AM or 2 PM at Metea Nature Center. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Metea County Park to learn more about animal homes. We'll explore where animals live, read a story about and make a craft related to animal homes, and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside if the weather permits. Come on Thursday, January 19 at either 10 AM or 2 PM.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, January 27, 7:00 PM at Fox Island County Park. Dress for the weather and there is no need for a flashlight..

ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION

Friday, February 10, 7:30 PM at Metea County Park's Nature Center. There are things anyone can do to save our resources, reduce pollution and lower you energy bills. Join an Allen County Parks naturalist and find out how to apply those money and environment saving tips and technologies. Get a chance to see the all-electric car in operation!

**BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS – HOW
TO ATTRACT A MATE, BIRD STYLE**

Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 to 9 AM at Fox Island County Park. With Valentine's Day just past, find out how the birds part of the birds and the bees works. Birds use a variety of strategies to attract and keep mates - can we learn anything about romance from them? Continental breakfast provided.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Saturday, February 18, 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Join us at either Fox Island or Metea County Park to participate in this national count. We'll go for a two-hour hike to identify and count every bird we see. Join Ed and Cynthia Powers, active members of the Audubon Society, at the Fox Island Bird Observation Building, or Park Naturalist Sarah R. Hendricks up at the Metea County Park Nature Center, at 8:30am. This national count is sponsored by Cornell University and the National Audubon Society.

ALLEN COUNTY PARKS GARAGE SALE

Saturday, February 18, 11:00 AM to 3 PM. Who knows what we'll clean out of our attics! From old aquarium stuff to surplus craft supplies, plus whatever is donated throughout the previous week, you're sure to find a bargain at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. The Sale begins at 11:00am, and lasts until 3:00pm. Donations of items in good condition can be dropped Feb. 14th –17th, 9am-6pm at the Nature Center. Please do not drop off items at any other time or place. All proceeds go to your Allen County Parks.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, February 24, 7:00 PM. Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road west of Halter Road, Leo. Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park. Dress for the weather. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike. Meet at the parking lot on the south side of Hursh Road at 7:00 PM.

WRITER'S RETREAT

Saturday, March 11. Beat cabin fever and explore nature through your own writing. The third annual writer's retreat will once again provide a little something for everyone. Find inspiration, advice, new skills, and new ideas as you participate in a variety of workshops. There is a quiet writer's zone waiting, drinks provided, and speakers both local and from out of town. Explore non-fiction, fiction, poetry, prose, short story, novel, journaling, journalism, and more.

CAVING ADVENTURE

Pre-caving class on Friday, March 10, 7:30 PM, and cave trip on Saturday, March 18, all day. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip a cave near Bloomington on Saturday, March 18. We'll be exploring a wild cave and going off the beaten path. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, March 10, 7:30 PM at Metea County Park's Nature Center.

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

Saturday, March 11, 2 PM at Metea County Park's Nature Center, 8401 Union Chapel Rd. Help out your feathered friends while doing something together as a family. You can build a bird feeder or bird house and take it home with you. Participants will need to bring gloves, eye protection, a hammer and a screwdriver. We will provide kits and instructions.

SPRING DOG HIKE

Sunday, March 12, 1-2pm at Fox Island County Park. Bring your four legged furry friend to Fox Island for a spring hike. We will show you the designated trails for you and your dog. We then will proceed to the 5.5 acre Bowman Lake located within the park. The weather can be a bit wet and sloppy, so dress appropriately.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY CLASS - SALAMANDERS

Thursday, March 16, 10 AM or 2 PM at Fox Island County Park. Children 3 to 5 years old (with an adult companion) are invited to Fox Island County Park to learn more about salamanders.

We'll explore the salamander's world, read a story about and make a craft related to salamanders, and have a snack during this hour-long program. We may even go outside.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, March 24, 7:30 PM at Metea County Park. Explore the late winter (actually early spring) night and learn about our winter animals how they survive. Flashlights are optional, and insect repellent is not needed!

SPRING DAY CAMP

Monday and Tuesday, April 3 & 4, 9 AM to 5 PM



CONSERVATION EGG HUNT

April 8th, Saturday, 10:00am – Noon, Metea County Park Nature Center. Join us for the first ever Conservation Egg Hunt. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for this unique egg hunt.

A short hike leads visitors to various bird habitats where they hunt for nests and “eggs” of local birds. Find your bird eggs and earn a prize!

EXTREME MAKEOVER BIRD HOUSE EDITION COMPETITION

April 8th, Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM, Metea County Park. Join Allen County Park staff in recycling bird houses that are in desperate need of a makeover. We will have various bird houses, in varying degrees of disrepair. Once a volunteer registers, he or she will then take a bird house home to remodel. The deadline for returning the bird houses is April 29th at the 7:00am early bird hike held in Metea County Park. We will then display these remodeled homes at our annual Sol Fest held at Fox Island County Park on May 6th and 7th. Bird houses will be judged and prizes will be awarded at 4:00pm on the 7th.

ALDO LEOPOLD LESSONS

First Thursday of every month, 7:00pm, Metea County Park. Join us fireside for a unique approach at understanding the renowned author and father of wildlife management, Aldo Leopold. We will read/discuss his book, *A Sand County Almanac*. This is an activity designed for the adult interested in humanity's ties to the natural environment and the importance of conserving and protecting the earth's natural resources.

AFTER-SCHOOL NATURE CRAFTS

Every Thursday in April and May, 4:00pm-5:30, Metea County Park. Need an after-school craft or activity for your family? What could be better than extending community aid to your local birds, or recycling home products into rain sticks or binoculars? Mom and me candle-making? Dad and me building project?

PRE-SCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE

April 12th and May 10th, Wednesdays, 10:00am, Metea County Park, Ages 3 to 5 years

We invite your active pre-schooler to satisfy their curiosity of outdoor wonders once a month. We will guarantee to stimulate their interest in various aspects of nature. They will learn about birds, bats, and frogs or go on a ponding adventure with our naturalist. Children and adult partners must be prepared to experience the outdoors – wear old clothes, shoes, and rain coats for rainy days. If too cold, we will explore within the nature center. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to participate

THE FOX ISLAND NATURE READING GROUP:

Join our book club monthly at Mitchell Books (6360 W. Jefferson, in Covington Plaza) for a lively discussion of a chosen book on a variety of natural subjects. We'll read both classic and contemporary literature ranging from poetry to advocacy

Tues. **April 18th**, 7pm: Encounters of the Arch-Druid by John McPhee

Tues. **May 16**, 7 pm: Mind of the Raven by Bernd Heinrich

BREKKIE WITH THE BUDGIES (TRANSLATION: BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS)

April 19, Wednesday, 8 AM, Fox Island County Park. Bird Australia! Explore the diversity of the land down under and discover which of our local birds have Aussie cousins.

Join naturalist Sarah Hendricks as she reflects on her adventures throughout rainforest, Outback, and Australian coastline.

CAMPFIRE CHATS

Third Thursday of each month, 8 PM, Metea County Park. Join us for a relaxing campfire activity. On **April 20th** we will begin with campfire safety. On **May 18th** we will host a "Mom's Night Out" campfire. We will be making a Mother's Day craft to take home. On **June 15th** it will be Dad's turn for a night out.

GIRL SCOUT BADGE/TRY-IT WORKSHOP

April 21st and May 26th, at 4:00pm, Metea County Park. Metea County Park hosts scouts throughout the year and can accommodate many needs by tailoring a program, providing a presentation, or by simply providing a meeting space for your group. Join us this year in our indoor/outdoor classroom nestled along Cedar Creek. Our classroom provides acres of forests, prairie, wetland and nature preserve habitats. We have outdoor shelters, picnic areas, as well as a pond, creek, nature center and a wetland. Our diverse habitats and hiking trails provide the perfect setting for scouts to complete hands-on studies of the environment.

LIFESTYLES OF THE TINY AND MICROSCOPIC

April 26, Wednesday, 4 PM, Fox Island County Park. We'll use our video microscope and stereoscope to open a window on the micro world. Pond life, plants, and even objects you bring in from home will be investigated, and you can try out a microscope yourself. You'll never look at pond scum the same way again.

NIGHT HIKE

April 28, Friday, 8:00 PM, Payton County Park. Take a tree trek at night? Absolutely! Trees are important 24 hours a day. Find out why during an evening ramble at Payton County Park



EARLY BIRD HIKES

Last Saturday of each month at 7:00 AM, Metea County Park. Metea County Park Naturalist, Natalie Haley, will lead you on an early bird hike. This morning walk is designed to help you identify common birds by sight and sound. Each hike will focus on the sights and sounds of a particular group of birds. This will allow birders to become familiar with birding at their own pace.

The more advanced birder is encouraged to attend and offer help and advice. A slow walk on Metea trails will make this an enjoyable morning

SOLFEST AT FOX ISLAND

May 6 & 7, 11 AM to 8 PM, Fox Island County Park. An annual celebration of songs and outdoor life. Local live music, kid's crafts, edible insects, hayrides, live reptile programs and hikes, face painting, bike demos, and lots more!

METEA TRAIL HIKING CLUB

First Tuesday of each month beginning in May, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park. Calling all hikers! Metea County Park is forming a hiking club, beginning in May. You can count these and all our hikes toward you Fort Wayne Walks One Million Miles goal.

ASTRONOMY CLUB

May 10 and June 7, 7 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Are you seeing stars? We hope so! We are encouraging the formation of an Astronomy Club. Join our naturalist in focusing on the stars each month. Learn how to use binoculars at night. Night Vision is a must – so if you bring a flashlight be prepared to turn it off for awhile.

MOTHER'S DAY AT METEA

May 13, Saturday, 10:00am until Noon, Metea County Park. Mothers who pre-register are encouraged to bring their children in for a hike, picnic lunch and craft. At 1:30pm a park naturalist will lead a hike on Metea's trails for moms and their families

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER HIKE AT FOX ISLAND

May 14, Sunday, 2 to 3 PM, Fox Island County Park. Bring yourself and your mother to Fox Island for a wildflower hike. We'll be looking for spring beauty, trillium, wild geranium, and other beautiful spring flowers. Dress appropriately for the weather.

PREK IN MAY~ FLOWER CHILDREN

May 18, Thursday, 10 AM or 2 PM, Fox Island County Park. The first flowers of spring are whimsical things! Join us for fun among the Fox Island flowers on Thursday, May 18th, at either 10 am OR 2 pm

FAMILY NATURE GAME NIGHT

May 24 and June 14, 6:00-8:00pm, Metea County Park. Families are constantly encouraged to have a family game night. We will have our own game night made up of nature games requiring team work, energy, and smiles. These games are active as well as educational.

NIGHT HIKE

May 26, Friday, 9:00 PM at Fox Island County Park. Dress for the weather, be ready for mosquitoes, and flashlights are optional.

FIELD TRIP TO POKAGON STATE PARK

May 30, Tuesday, 9:00am, Metea County Park. Caravan with us to Pokagon State Park and learn about the Pokagon-Potawatomi branch. We hope to tour with one of the Pokagon State Park naturalists and would like to give them a definite number of those wanting to attend. So bring your picnic lunch and enthusiastic curiosity.

SPRING DOG HIKE

May 31, Wednesday, 6 to 7 PM, Metea County Park. Bring your four legged furry friend to Fox Island for a spring hike. We will show you the designated trails for you and your dog. We then will proceed to the pond located within the park. The weather can be a bit wet and sloppy, so dress appropriately

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL CLASS

June 10, Saturday, 10:00am, Metea County Park. Gear up and learn outdoor survival. This program is designed to incorporate all ages into a class of outdoor survival. The importance of shelter, fire, food and water will be presented. First-aid kit essentials and appropriate attitudes are a must. We will hike on Metea trails and explore ideas for surviving various situations. Team-working skills will aid the park visitor at all times.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AT METEA

June 10, Saturday, 4:00pm, Metea County Park. Learn about various wildlife-management techniques being implemented at Metea County Park. Go on a park hiking tour with a naturalist and see first-hand the results of managing wildlife. Prairie burns, wetland maintenance, and animal homes have been implemented.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM

Recreation Camps:

June 12 – 16 (Fox Island)

June 26 – 30 (Metea)

July 17 – 21 (Metea)

July 31 – Aug 4 (Fox Island)

Outdoor Education Camps:

June 19 – 23 (Fox Island)

July 10 – 14 (Metea)

July 24 – 28 (Fox Island)

DADDY-DAUGHTER NATURE NIGHT

June 18, Sunday, 8.30 PM, Fox Island County Park. Dads, bring your favorite girl (or girls) to find out about animal families and how they are different from ours. Then we'll head outside to look for signs of our local wildlife. Don't forget your insect repellent and flashlight.

NATURE'S FIREWORKS

June 22, Thursday, 9 PM, Metea County Park. Glowing sparks flying everywhere! Come and see the lightning beetle (firefly, lightning bug) display and learn about the interesting lives these insects lead.

NIGHT HIKE

June 30, Friday, 9:30 PM, Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road west of Halter Road, Leo. Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike. Meet at the parking lot on the south side of Hursh Road (between the Cedar Creek bridge and Halter Rd

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM

Recreation Camps:

July 17 – 21 (Metea)

July 31 – Aug 4 (Fox Island)



ALDO LEOPOLD LESSONS

First Thursday of every month, 7:00pm, Metea County Park. Join us fireside for a unique approach at understanding the renowned author and father of wildlife management, Aldo Leopold. We will read/discuss his book, *A Sand County Almanac*. This is an activity designed for the adult interested in humanity's ties to the natural environment and the importance of conserving and protecting the earth's natural resources

PRE-SCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE

July 5, August 9 and September 13, Wednesdays, 10:00am, Metea County Park, Ages 3 to 5 years. We invite your active preschooler to satisfy their curiosity of outdoor wonders once a month. We will guarantee to stimulate their interest in various aspects of nature. They will learn about birds, bats, and frogs or go on a ponding adventure with our naturalist. Children and adult partners must be prepared to experience the outdoors – wear old clothes, shoes, and rain coats for rainy days. If too cold, we will explore within the nature center. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to participate

FAMILY NATURE GAMES

July 13, August 10, September 14, Thursdays, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park. Families are constantly encouraged to have family game times. We will have our own game mornings made up of nature games requiring team work, energy, and smiles. These games are active as well as educational

SENSORY TREK

July 14, August 11, September 15, Fridays, 10 AM, Metea County Park. Join us on the second Friday of each month for a sensory trek through Metea County Park. Meet at the Nature Center. This hike is designed to help you become more aware of you surroundings on the trail. Be sure to bring insect repellent and some drinking water with you.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS - HUMMINGBIRDS

July 19, Wednesday, 7:30 AM, Fox Island County Park. Miniscule but mighty. Small but swift. Enchanting but elusive. All these describe the subject of July's edition of "Breakfast with the Birds"- the hummingbird. Join Bob Dispenza of Allen County Parks as we explore the world of the park's tiny dynamo. Meet at Fox Island's Wildlife Observation Building (the round building straight in from the entrance) from 7:30 to 9 AM on Wednesday, July 19 for a talk and a hike.

PREK PAPER PARTY

July 20, Thursday, 10:00-11:00 AM OR 2:00-3:00 PM at the Fox Island Nature Center Small Classroom. You and your favorite preschooler are invited to come out to Fox Island County Park to a Paper Party. We'll make several recycled paper crafts, including our own sheets of recycled paper, toilet paper tube binoculars, and an All-About-Me Collage. Our landfills are 40% paper, so teach your preschooler how to help save the earth through recycling.

HABITAT MUSICAL CHAIRS

July 28, Friday, 10 AM, Metea County Park. We invite your preschool or early elementary children to play a game of habitat musical chairs with us. While we are playing, the children will be learning about animals, their homes and how their habitats are threatened.

NIGHT HIKE

July 28, Friday, 9:00 PM, Payton County Park. Dress for the weather, be ready for mosquitoes, and flashlights are optional

EARLY BIRD HIKES

Last Saturday of each month at 7:00 AM, Metea County Park. Metea County Park Naturalist, Natalie Haley, will lead you on an early bird hike. This morning walk is designed to help you identify common birds by sight and sound. Each hike will focus on the sights and sounds of a particular group of birds.

This will allow birders to become familiar with birding at their own pace.

The more advanced birder is encouraged to attend and offer help and advice. A slow walk on Metea trails will make this an enjoyable morning.

FOX ISLAND FLY FISHING WORKSHOP

July 23, Sunday. Come out to Fox Island County Park to learn the basics of fly-fishing. Instructor Rick Hinton of Bait N Hook will be here to teach both fly tying and casting. Join us at the Nature Center for one or both sessions: 10am-11:30am: Tie a blue gill fly to try out later in the afternoon; 12:30pm-2pm: Bring your own fly rod out to practice the basics of casting. We'll head out to the lake to do some actual fly-fishing.

WATER BALLOON PHYSICS

July 29, Saturday, 10 AM, Metea County Park. Calling all elementary kids! Join us in the field at Metea County Park to discover water balloon physics. We will be using slingshots to propel water balloons at several different targets while we see if different angles and pressures applied to the slingshot will give different results

METEA TRAIL HIKING CLUB

First Tuesday of each month (except July 4), 10:00 AM, Metea County Park. Calling all hikers! Metea County Park is forming a hiking club. Learn new things and help keep our trails nice for all visitors. You can count these and all our hikes toward your Fort Wayne Walks One Million Miles goal.

COLORFUL SHADES OF NATURE

August 5, Saturday, 1 to 2:30 PM, Metea County Park. We will discover how to use different plants that are found in nature to dye wool. Be prepared to learn about the process as well as hike a trail to find those plants

OWLS

August 12, Saturday, 10 AM, Metea County Park. What is the truth and what is myth about owls?



We will be looking at popular children's books about owls to sift the real from the make-believe. Then we'll learn about the owls found around here and dissect owl pellets to see what they eat.

BROWN BAG IT THURSDAYS

In August, 12:15-12:45. Join us on your lunch hour for a quick half hour program with a naturalist at Fox Island County Park. Pack a sack lunch, and picnic with us in the Bird Observation Building

SUMMER ASTRONOMY CLASSES

August 15 through 18, Tuesday through Friday, 8 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of August and expand your horizons to infinity with Education Director Bob Dispenza.

The first night will be about observing and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects. This series for adults and older children begins on Tuesday, August 15 and ends Friday, August 18, 8 to 9:30 PM each night

SUMMER DOG HIKE

August 16, Wednesday, 7 to 8 PM, Metea County Park. Bring your four legged furry friend to Metea County Park for a spring hike. We will show you the designated trails for you and your dog. We then will proceed to the pond located within the park. Dress appropriately for the weather

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY – PONDS

August 17, Thursday, 10 AM or 2 PM, Fox Island County Park. Favorite hangout of turtles and frogs, the pond is full of living things. Let's read a book about ponds and explore the world of pond water. We'll also have a craft and snack.

NIGHT HIKE

August 25, Friday, 9:00 PM at Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Rd, Fort Wayne. Dress for the weather, be ready for mosquitoes, and flashlights are optional.

NIGHT OF THE STINGING INSECTS

September 1, Friday, 7 PM, Fox Island County Park. Bees, wasps, hornets, yellowjackets – they're everywhere and they're after me! Or are they? Why do they sting? How? How many times? Where do they live? How do I keep them away? Learn the answers to these and other questions at "Night of the Stinging Insects" with Allen County Parks education director Bob Dispenza. Meet at the Fox Island County Parks nature center on Friday, September 1, 7 PM.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE AT METEA COUNTY PARK

September 8, Friday, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, at the new Nature Center. Find out how you can support your Allen County Parks by volunteering. We have opportunities for everyone.

SUMMER DOG HIKE

September 13, Wednesday, 7 to 8 PM, Fox Island County Park. Bring your four legged furry friend to Fox Island for a summer hike. We will show you the designated trails for you and your dog. We then will proceed to the pond located within the park. Dress appropriately for the weather.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS: EAST MEETS WEST, BIRDING CROSS COUNTRY

September 20, Wednesday, 8:00-9:30 AM, in the Fox Island Nature Center Large Classroom. Environmental Educator Sarah Hendricks has been traveling again. Hear about her birding ventures in Utah and Nevada, and find out how our local birds compare. We will go for a hike to do a little birding around Fox Island to find Eastern species that have western cousins

NEAT – NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR FOR BICYCLES

September 23, Saturday, ride starts 9 AM, Metea County Park. Enjoy an early fall ride through scenic northern Allen County while helping out Allen County Parks. A 20-mile route tours Allen County, while 40-mile and 62-mile routes wind through Allen and DeKalb Counties.

Visit three of the four Allen County Parks on all routes. Many other quality natural areas are also along the route, which is mostly on lightly traveled rural roads.

Snacks, drinks, a light lunch and emergency transportation service will be provided.

SUNSET HIKE

September 28, Thursday, 7 to 8 PM, Fox Island County Park. Join Naturalist Christian Schult at Fox Island and hike through pristine areas of the park while the sun sets. This hike will be a photographer's dream, so bring cameras and family members to enjoy this exclusive hike. Dress for the weather and possible mosquitoes

NIGHT HIKE

September 29, Friday, 9:30 PM, Metea County Park. Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike. Meet at the Nature Center

METEA RENAISSANCE FAIRE VIII

Saturday and Sunday, the 7th and 8th days of October at Metea County Park in the town of Leo, IN (N. of Fort Wayne). Castle Gates Open from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat., 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sun.

Metea Trail Hiking Club

First Tuesday of every month, 10:00am, Metea County Park Nature Center. Follow a naturalist along the scenic Cedar Creek. Exercise your spirit while hiking through restored prairie. This hike is intended for those of us who may not be in the next running marathon competition but would like to increase our pace in life.

ALDO LEOPOLD LESSONS

First Thursday of Every Month, 7:00pm at Metea County Park Nature Center. Join us fireside for a unique approach at understanding the re-known author and father of wildlife management, Aldo Leopold. We will read/discuss his book, *A Sand County Almanac* (copies available for \$3.25). This is an activity designed for the adult interested in humanity's ties to the natural environment and the importance of conserving and protecting the earth's natural resources.

PRE-SCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE

2nd Wednesday of every month, 10:00am at Metea County Park Nature Center. Our goal is to stimulate curiosity of outdoor wonders. We will guarantee an active investigation of various aspects of nature. Your child(ren) will learn about birds, bats, and frogs or go on a ponding adventure with our naturalist. Children must be prepared to fully experience the outdoors - wear old clothes, shoes, and rain coats for rainy days. Mosquito repellent is a must during the late summer season. If weather is uncooperative, we will explore within the nature center. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to participate.

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING: COYOTES ~ PART II

Saturday, October 14, 9-12:00, Fox Island County Park. Stanley Gehrt of Ohio State University will be at Fox Island to tell us about his studies of the coyote population within Chicago (downtown even!). He'll also provide some insight into how coyotes affect other species (even within Fox Island). All are welcome.

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Saturday, October 14, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park. This is a hike geared toward pre-school and lower elementary grade children who want to learn about the wildlife in the park and what the plants and animals do to prepare for the winter. We will also stop during the hike and read a story about fall.

PUBLIC HAYRIDES AT FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK

Saturday, **October 14**, 2 to 3 PM
Saturday, **October 28**, 2 to 3 PM
Saturday, **November 4**, 2 to 3 PM
Saturday, **November 18**, 2 to 3 PM

Experience the beautiful fall colors Fox Island County Park has to offer in a wagon full of straw. No need to call ahead – just show up at the Nature Center for an hour full of fun. Weather is variable, so be prepared for cooler temperatures. Hayrides are also available for private groups.

FALL COLORS HIKE

Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 4:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park and talk with our trees. Discover clues as to why they are changing and how. This hike will last 2 hours and will require sturdy hiking boots/shoes. We will take an exploratory hike along the top ridge above and down the hill along Cedar Creek. We will pace the hike according to the group dynamics of the day.

TREE IDENTIFICATION HIKE

Thursday, October 19, 4:30 PM, Metea County Park. Hike through Metea South and learn clues to help identify trees. We will be using a tree identification chart and learning about Indiana's multitude of trees and their characteristics.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, October 27, 7:30 PM, Metea County Park North Unit, Hursh Road between Halter and Puff Roads, Leo. Metea County Park is rich in natural beauty, especially the North Unit. Join an Allen County Parks Naturalist as we explore Metea Park while learning more about nocturnal animals and celestial objects overhead on a fall hike. Dress for the weather. Flashlights are optional, and will not be used on the hike. Meet at the parking lot on the south side of Hursh Road at 7:00 PM.

CAMPFIRE STORIES

Friday, October 27, 6:30 PM, Metea County Park. Bring blankets and chairs to the fire circle and join us for a fun night of story-telling around the campfire. Feel free to bring your own hotdogs and s'more supplies to roast over the fire. We have the roasting forks

HOWL-OWEEN

Sunday, October 29th, 12:30 am – 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm - 9:00pm, Fox Island County Park Family fun for everyone! Are you scared of bugs, snakes, the dark, or even the woods? Lose your fears at the annual Fox Island County Park's HOWL-oween. Sample cricket brownies at the edible insects programs, or have your picture taken with live creepy-crawlies. Have you face painted or wear your costume for the costume contest for a chance to win prizes.

Make a Halloween nature craft and go on a hayride. Stay late for a walk down our jack-o-lantern lit path, or join in a night hike. Listen to a story-teller share not-so-spooky-somewhat-silly stories around the campfire. Just plain have fun!

FOX ISLAND AND LITTLE RIVER WETLANDS PROJECT

Presents: Cool Weather Lecture Series At Fox Island County Park. Thursdays, November 9, 2006, January 18, 2007, February 15, 2007, March 15, 2007. 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

The Allen County Parks Department and Little River Wetlands Project presents Cool Weather Lecture Series. We will have several speakers giving amazing discussions on exciting relevant topics. These will be entertaining and informative talks. The programs are from 7-8:30 pm starting on Thursday, November 9 at the Fox Island Nature Center. This is the first of a four part lecture series provided by Allen County Parks and Little River Wetlands Project.

ANIMAL HOMES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Saturday, November 11, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park. We will be discovering where animals live; looking at wasp nests, bird houses and looking for the red fox's den. We will then come to the nature center for a surprise.

CORN HUSK DOLLS

Wednesday, November 15th, 2006, 4:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park to explore one of the oldest American toys – corn. Corn is more than a yellow, succulent vegetable. You can make corn-shuck dolls of your own. They look very decorative following harvest season and would make a wonderful gift

FALL HIKE AT FOX ISLAND

Wednesday, November 15, 6 to 7 PM. Join Naturalist Christian Schult at Fox Island County Park for a hike through the changing colors. Feel free to bring a camera as there will be many photo opportunities along the trail. Dress for the weather.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - GOOEY SCIENCE

Friday, November 17, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park. Join us for a fun night of “goopy science”. The children can discover how to make a concoction like flubber and check out some other cool hands-on goopy science

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, November 24, 7:00 PM. Fox Island County Park. Dress for the weather and there is no need for a flashlight.

GOING BATTY

Thursday, November 30, 7:00 PM, Metea County Park. Do you feel like you have become “batty” after the Thanksgiving festivities? Then come to Metea County Park and learn all about real bats. Learn bat basics, benefits of bats, conservation, and myths.

CAVING ADVENTURE

Pre-caving class on Friday, December 1, 7:30 PM, and cave trip on Saturday, December 9, all day. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, December 9. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, December 1, 7:30 PM at Fox Island County Park.

FOX ISLAND HUNT FOR HISTORY

Saturday, December 2. Help us uncover Fox Island's rich history, and find out where you fit in. See our new exhibit, go on a scavenger hunt, take a history hike, enjoy an archaeological activity, and more. If you experienced the Fox Island area in any way before it was a park, please come tell us about it! If you visited the park during the 70's, 80's or even 90's we'd like to hear about your experiences. Do you have photographs of Fox Island, even as recent as last week, which you'd be willing to share? We're interested! Don't feel like you have anything to contribute? Then create history yourself by joining us on Saturday, December 2nd.

CHRISTMAS CREATIONS

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Metea County Park. The holiday season has arrived! We will be designing different types of ornaments made from pinecones, seeds, recycled paper, and other natural items. This is a good idea for children who want to make gifts for their teachers or loved ones as well as for parents to learn harder ornaments.

AMAZING PAPER AIRPLANE RACE

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Downstairs classroom. Come and have fun learning how to fold many different types of paper airplanes. We will then fly the planes to find out which designs are more aerodynamic. Come prepared for a few paper cuts, to learn about aerodynamics, and have a lot of fun.

DECORATIVE PAPER MAKING (SCRAPBOOK)

Friday, December 15, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and join us for a relaxing evening of decorative paper-making. Sit by the fire and learn different techniques that can be used to design paper including bubble printing, leaf printing, leaf paper, as well as other techniques.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, December 15, 7:00 PM, Payton County Park, on Dunton Road between Gump and Hathaway Roads. Explore the late fall night and learn about our winter animals how they survive. Meet an Allen County Parks naturalist at Payton County Park, on Dunton Road between Gump and Hathaway Roads. Flashlights are optional, and insect repellent is not needed! Be prepared for strange stories and unusual observations.

CANDLE-MAKING

Wednesday, December 20th, 2006, Metea County Park Nature Center. This program is designed as an introduction to the art of candle-making. Children that are younger than 1st grade must be accompanied by an adult as the candle wax is fully melted and hot. Candles make a treasured gift for the holidays.

WINTER DAY CAMP AT FOX ISLAND

Thursday, December 28 – Frozen Fear Factor
Friday, December 29 – Winter Olympics
Camp is for ages 6 to 11 years old. Each day runs from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Cost is \$30 per day/session. Lunch and snack is provided both days. Weather can be unpredictable so dress appropriately

2007

SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

January 4, 2007, Thursday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Now is the time to start preparing for Science Fair. Let us help you get started on your project. We will be talking about the Scientific Method, the proper way to exhibit your project, and will be throwing around some great science project ideas.

FOX ISLAND WINTER HIKE

January 6, Saturday, 10 – 11:30 AM, Fox Island County Park. Join us at Fox Island for a walk through a winter wonderland. Enjoy wildlife and beautiful scenery among our 600 acres of county park.

MICROSCOPES FOR BEGINNERS I

January 11, 2007, Thursday, 4:00-6:00 PM, Metea County Park. This is a two-part series consisting of learning to use two types of microscopes—compound and dissection. The first session will consist of learning about proper use of the microscopes, learning about making wet and dry mounts, studying animal and plant fibers, ink on paper, and the markings on a five dollar bill. **THE MICROSCOPE STUDY IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE AGE 12 AND ABOVE.**

EAGLE MARSH ON SKIS

January 13, Saturday, 1 to 3 PM, meet at the Eagle Marsh barn off Engle Road. Explore Eagle Marsh on skis with a naturalist from neighboring Fox Island County Park. If more than 4 inches of snow is present, come and join us and bring your cross-country skis.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY – WINTER TRACKS

January 18, Thursday, 10 to 11 AM or 2 to 3 PM, Fox Island County Park. Bring the young ones out to Fox Island for an adventure exploring animal tracks. We will read a short story, create animal tracks, take a short hike and have a snack.

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 PM, Fox Island County Park. January 18 - Maple Sugaring with Larry Yoder. February 15 – Turtle Care with Marty Laprees. March 15 – Salamander Tracking with Chris Barlow and Chris Schult.

MEET THE CRITTERS – REPTILES

January 23, 2007, Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park and meet some of the animals that live there. Learn all about reptiles – their habitats, their benefits and other interesting facts; then meet some real, live reptiles.

MICROSCOPES FOR BEGINNERS II

January 25, 2007, Thursday, 4:00- 6:00 PM, Metea County Park. This is a two-part series consisting of learning to use two types of microscopes—compound and dissection. In the second session we will be practicing what we learned in the first session by studying plant and animal cells under the microscopes. The microscope study is open to all interested people age 12 and above

BRINGING IN THE BIRDS I

January 27, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park and learn about the different birds that can be found in Allen County during the winter. We will also be talking about different ways to keep the birds visiting your birdfeeders during the cold months.

WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION

February 1, 2007, Thursday, 4:00 PM, Metea County Park. Trek through Metea County Park and learn to identify trees by looking at their twigs, buds scars, and bark.

GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION

February 2, Friday, 10 AM, Metea County Park. As the weather continues cold, we all wonder when spring warmth will be arriving. One of our native animals has a reputation for being able to tell when – the groundhog. We are going to encourage him with a little celebration held in his honor. Learn about hibernation, the history of woodchuck weathermen, sing some Groundhog Day songs, and go out looking for our own Metea Park Marvin. Will he see his shadow, or will he be out cross-country skiing? Come and find out on Friday, February 2, 10 AM!

WINTER ASTRONOMY CLASSES

February 1, 8, 15, 22; Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Metea County Park. Boldly go where you have never gone before – to classes about astronomy! Take four nights out of February and expand your horizons to infinity with Park and Education Manager Bob Dispenza. The first night will be about observing methods and stars, the second about constellations, the third about the solar system, and the last about galaxies, nebulae and other distant objects. This series for adults and older children begins on Thursday, February 11, 7:30 to 9 PM each night..

WINTER SURVIVAL

February 8, 2007, Thursday, 5:30 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Take a hike through Metea County Park and learn about how the animals survive during the cold winter months. We will also be talking about human survival skills if we got stuck in the elements during the winter

SOIL BUILDERS (EARTHWORMS)

February 13, 2007, Tuesday, 5:00 PM, Metea County Park. We will be observing living earthworms by looking at their general appearance and surface color. We will observe the earthworms under the dissecting microscope and detect blood flow. We will also study segmentation and locate their parts. Finally we will compare the earthworm to another segmented worm -- the leech

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY – CHINESE NEW YEAR

February 20, 2007, Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Join us as we learn about the Chinese New Year at Metea County Park. We will be completing several crafts for the Chinese New Year, and will be looking at the traditions that are celebrated.

COLOR HIKE

February 28, 2007, Wednesday, 4:30 Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Nature is full of colors. How many colors can you see when hiking through Metea County Park? Join us for a hike through Metea South and explore the colors of winter

POP BOTTLE SCIENCE

March 14, 2007, Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Come to Metea County Park and experiment with activities that deal with chemistry, physics, biology, geology, and weather that all use pop bottles

SWIMMING BACKWARDS – THE CRAYFISH STORY

March 15, 2007, Thursday, 4:00 PM, Metea County Park. Observe the living crayfish, observe the locomotion of the crayfish, determine sensitivity and how crayfish respond to their environment, and observe how the crayfish swims and other interesting observations.

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN HIKE

March 28, 2007, Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Join us as we take a hike through Metea South and learn to look and listen to nature. We will walk for a short time then record what we hear and see. It will be surprising to see what others see and hear.

BRINGING IN THE BIRDS II

March 31, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center
Come to Metea County Park and learn about the different birds that can be found in Allen County during the spring. We will be looking at different types of birdfeeders, birdhouses, what plants to plant, and other ways to attract birds.

FOX ISLAND SPRING BREAK DAY-CAMPS

Thursday April 5 and Friday April 6, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center.
A day of nature-based learning, crafts and fun for 6-11 year-olds.

TIMBERDOODLE HIKE

April 6, 2007, Friday, 7:30 - 9:00 PM; April 20, 2007, Friday, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. American Woodcock is perhaps the wackiest bird to observe at Fox Island. Join Ron Zartman to see if you can accept what he has to share about the "bogsucker," then head out in the field to see (and believe) that their courtship antics are for real.

TREADS - VERNAL PONDS: FROGS, TOADS, AND SALAMANDERS

April 7, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea North, meet at the parking lot on Hursh Road. Come to Metea North and listen to the "Songs of Spring". We will be listening to the chorus of tree frogs and toads in the vernal pond. We will then travel to the pond to take a peek at the amphibians that sang so beautifully. *Treads* is a hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for visitors age 12 and up.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALKS

Saturdays and Sundays 2:00 – 3:30 PM - April 7, 8, 14, 21, 22, 28, 29; May 5, 6, 12, 13 Fox Island County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Join a park education staff or volunteer for a leisurely hike to enjoy the progression of woodland wildflowers.

SUPER SCIENTISTS (5-9 YEAR OLDS) - WE ARE SCIENTISTS

April 10, Tuesday, 4 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. This one hour program is for kids aged 5-9 years old. Metea naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will introduce the scientific method and scientific thinking.

We will focus on observations, questions and different ways of measurement on our hike. Then, we will come back to the nature center to read a book and a game.

TINY TREADS - NATURE HUNT

April 14, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the entrance parking lot "We're going on a nature hunt. We'll search high and low. We're going on a nature hunt. Now it's time to go!"* Attention all kids – come to Metea County Park as we hike Softshell

Turtle Trail and learn about nature in the spring. We will be stopping at several places along the way to learn about the different plants and animals that can be found in Metea Park. Make sure to dress for the weather. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING 101

April 15, 2007, 1:30 – 4:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Join us for an afternoon of learning the basics of trail guiding for the Allen County Parks. Trail guides are volunteers who lead school groups, families and others on educational hikes in our county parks. They are not "nature experts!" They just love being outdoors and sharing that love with others.

FROG DU JOUR

April 15, 2007, 4:30 – 6:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Spring time is the time for frog and toad romance. Scour amphibian hot spots with Park Education Manager Ron Zartman, to see who's hot to trot and who's not. We'll listen to recorded calls of all Fox Island's frogs and toads, listen for actual calls du jour and observe any 'phib's that aren't too shy to flaunt their stuff.

BACKYARD BIRDING

April 18 & May 16, Wednesdays, 4:30pm, Fox Island County Park Nature Center. Bring your hamburgers, buns, drinks and snacks. We'll provide the grill and entertainment. Visit with a park naturalist in the bird room and learn how you can welcome birds to your own backyard. Bring binoculars if you have them. We have binoculars to loan out on a first come, first serve basis.

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE - FROGS AND POLLYWOGS

April 19, 2007, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet in the Nature Center. All preschoolers with an active curiosity for the outdoors are invited to explore pond-life at Metea County Park. We will begin our program by making a frog craft and eating a snack. Then we will trek to the pond with our nets and find the different animals that live in the pond.

We will probably find frogs, pollywogs, crayfish and much, much more.

TAKE A HIKE! - OH, POOP!

April 21, Saturday, 2 PM, Metea County Park, meet outside the Nature Center. Learn where the wild things were by the clues they left behind, or in other words scat and tracks. We will be taking a hike in search of these clues, and then going to the basement to see what they tell us. We will be identifying scat and looking at it under the microscope. We will also make models of scat to display at the nature center. All ages welcome, dress for the weather.

NIGHT HIKE AT METEA NORTH - NIGHT SENSES AND NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

April 27, 2007, Friday, 9:00 PM, Metea North, meet at the parking lot on Hursh Road. We will trek through the north side of Metea in the dark in hopes of honing our night senses. We will test our vision and discover the nocturnal world before us. We will also learn about nocturnal animals found in the park and try to talk to them. Flashlights are optional and will NOT be used on the hike. Dress for the weather.

SUPER SCIENTISTS (5-9 YEAR OLDS) - PLANT STUDY

May 1, Tuesday, 4 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. This program will focus on different kinds of plants, life cycle and life span. We will learn about what plants need to live and what happens if they don't get what they need. We will look at plant parts under the microscope and do a craft.

PICNIC WITH FOX ISLAND'S ROCKIN' REPTILES & AMAZIN' ARTHROPODS!

May 2, and June 6, Wednesdays, 12:00 Noon, Fox Island County Park. We provide the campfire wood and hot dog forks for cooking. Bring your hot dogs, bread, marshmallows, etc. and meet with us at the campfire circle (right of the nature center). Discover snakes, turtles, giant millipedes from Sri Lanka, and hissing cockroaches from Madagascar!

PRE-SCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE

May 9, Wednesday, 10:00am, Fox Island County Park nature center. We invite your active pre-schooler, ages 3-5, to explore Allen County's outdoor wonders. We guarantee to stimulate their interest in various aspects of nature. They will learn about bats, birds, butterflies, or go on a ponding adventure with a park naturalist. Children must be prepared to fully experience the outdoors – wear old clothes, shoes, and rain coats for rainy days. If the weather is too extreme, we will explore the indoor tree house located within the nature center. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to participate.

MOTHER'S NIGHT OUT AND DADDY IS THE COOK!

May 10, Thursday, 7:00pm, Fox Island County Park Campfire Circle. Calling all Dads'! We invite you to let Mom enjoy a peaceful house, or a night out. We provide the campfire wood and hot dog forks for cooking. Bring your hot dogs, bread, marshmallows, etc. and meet with us at the campfire circle (right of the nature center). Park naturalist will provide the entertainment and Mother's Day craft

TINY TREADS - MOTHERS – UNTAMED

May 12, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the entrance parking lot Attention all children in preschool through grade 3!!! Mother's Day is May 13. Why not celebrate mom by bringing her to Metea County Park for a hike all about mothers. We will be hiking Muskrat Trail looking for mothers and their babies. We may see deer, birds, rabbits, fox or other park mothers and their young. Make sure to dress for the weather and bring a bottle of water to drink along the way. Fathers are welcome too!!! *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

SUPER SCIENTISTS (5-9 YEARS OLD) - WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

May 15, Tuesday, 4 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. We will be searching for some wild things today! We will learn about what animals need to live and what happens if they don't get what they need. We'll be looking for animal homes on our hike and then we'll try to reproduce a habitat for a wild thing that we come across on our hike. Our wild thing will be displayed temporarily in the Nature Center. .

SUNNY SCHICK BASIC DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

May 20, Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Instructors Bob Goines and Chuck Fletler will cover composition, how to shoot nature shots, how to focus on an area, and how to choose the best lens for your needs. A selection of Tamron demo lenses for Nikon and Cannon SLRs will be available.

NIGHT HIKE - CURIOUS COYOTES

May 25, Friday, 9:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Come to Metea for a howlin' good time on the last Friday in May. We'll learn about coyotes and other nocturnal animals in the Nature Center and then head out into the darkness to see if we can strike up a conversation with these creatures of the night! Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Most ages welcome, at parents' discretion.

DOG HIKE

May 29, 2007, Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the picnic shelter. Bring your four-legged furry friend to Metea County Park for a dog hike. We will show you the designated trails for you and your dog. We will then proceed to the pond located within the park. The weather can be a bit wet and sloppy, so dress appropriately.

TREADS - THE POWERS OF OBSERVATION

June 2, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea North, meet at the east parking lot on Hursh Road. Hone your powers of observation on this hike through the North side of Metea County Park. What things will we find?

A naturalist will be present to answer any questions and to lead the hike. Bring binoculars for bird watching or borrow a pair from us. Your powers of observation will be the guide for this hike. *Treads* is a hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for visitors age 12 and up.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKES

June 2, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. June 2, 2007, 1:00 – 2:30 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Celebrate trails by hiking our great paths with a park naturalist. This will be a two to three mile leisurely hike through mostly open terrain visiting some of Fox Island's favorite destinations. Bring sunscreen and bug repellent.

DAD'S NIGHT OUT AND MOM WANTS A CLEAN KITCHEN!

June 7, Thursday, 7:00pm, Fox Island County Park Campfire Circle. Calling all Moms'! We invite you to let Dad enjoy a quiet house, or a night out. We provide the campfire wood and hot dog forks for cooking. Bring your hot dogs, bread, marshmallows, etc. and meet with us at the campfire circle (right of the nature center). Park naturalist will provide the entertainment and Father's Day craft.

TINY TREADS - ABC HIKE

June 9, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea North, meet at the parking lot on Hursh Road. Bring your nature-loving youngsters aged preschool through 3rd grade to Metea County Park for an ABC Hike. We will be hiking through Metea North looking for different parts of nature starting with the letters of the alphabet. When we find the different letters we will take pictures with the digital camera. When we are all finished, naturalist Kara Harding will design an ABC book that will be displayed at the park. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

FISHING WITH FATHER

June 10, Sunday, 1-5 PM, Metea County Park, park in lower lot, meet at pond. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has waived the fishing license requirement for the weekend before Father's Day and we want to take advantage of it! Fishing will be available in either the pond or in Cedar Creek. We will be offering wildflower hikes for those who won't be fishing at 2:00 and 4:00. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day of fishing, hiking and the beauty of nature

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Specialty day camps offered Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

FOX ISLAND CAMPS

June 11-15 Art in Nature Day Camp
June 18-22 Frog and Tadpole Day Camp
July 23-27 Rockin' Reptiles Day Camp
July 30-Aug 3 Drip Drop Day Camp

METEA CAMPS

June 25-29 Powerful Predators Day Camp
July 9-13 Wilderness Survival Day Camp
July 16-20 Athletic Arthropod Day Camp

BIRDS OF THE LAKE AND FIELD HIKE,

June 16, Saturday, 9:00 -11:00 AM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Lots of great birds call the open areas in our old fields and around our Bowman Lake home. Discover them with our naturalist. Binoculars and spotting scope provided.

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE - INTERESTING INSECTS

June 21, 2007, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Calling out to all preschool aged children who love being outside. We will be exploring the exciting world of insects. We will learn about insects, complete a craft, have a snack, and then we will go out and see how many insects we can find on the prairie path.

DOG HIKE

June 26, 2007, Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Metea North, meet at the parking lot on Hursh Road. Bring your four-legged furry friend to the north side of Metea County Park for a dog hike. We will meet in the parking lot and then proceed to the dog-friendly trails. Dress for the weather and bug repellent is recommended.

NATURE'S FIREWORKS NIGHT HIKE! (NOT A JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY)

June 29, Friday, 9:00pm, Fox Island County Park Nature Center. Take a quiet night hike with a park naturalist. Lightening beetles will provide the entertainment! Why do they insist on lighting up the night?

How do they do that? We will answer these questions and more. Meet us in front of the nature center.

FOX ISLAND SPRING BREAK DAY-CAMPS

Thursday April 5 and Friday April 6, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. A day of nature-based learning, crafts and fun for 6 -11 year-olds.

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different ways of measurement on our hike.
Then, we will come back to the nature center to
read a book and play a game.

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April 14, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea
County Park, meet at the entrance parking lot
Attention all kids – come to Metea County Park
as we hike Softshell Turtle Trail and learn about
nature in the spring. *Tiny Treads* is a children's
hiking program for lower elementary students
(Pre-K through 3rd grade).

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Island Nature Center. Join us for an afternoon
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who lead school groups, families and others on
educational hikes in our county parks. They are
not “nature experts!”
They just love being outdoors and sharing that
love with others. Come whether you're sure
want to volunteer or not. Bring friends. No
cost! No obligation!

FROG DU JOUR

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Island Nature Center. Spring time is **the** time
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Discover snakes, turtles, giant millipedes from Sri Lanka, and hissing cockroaches from Madagascar!

FOX ISLAND SOL FEST

May 5, 2007, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
May 6, 2007, Sunday, 12:00 AM – 7:00 PM
The birds are back, the wildflowers are blooming and there's music in the air. Celebrate the sun and the environment with a full weekend of music and activities. Enjoy live bands, hikes, hayrides, children's crafts and visit environmental groups' activities and displays. Test drive a bike, canoe or kayak, munch festival foods, or relax in the Mad Anthony Brewery craft beer garden.

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BIRDS OF THE LAKE AND FIELD HIKE,
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 call the open areas in our old fields and around
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 our naturalist. Binoculars and spotting scope
 provided.

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 INTERESTING INSECTS**

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June 26, 2007, Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Metea North,
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 Metea County Park for a dog hike. We will
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(NOT A JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY)

June 29, Friday, 9:00pm, Fox Island County
 Park Nature Center. Take a quiet night hike
 with a park naturalist. Lightening beetles will
 provide the entertainment! Why do they insist
 on lighting up the night? How do they do that?
 We will answer these questions and more.

TINY TREADS – NATURE WALK

July 7, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County
 Park, meet at the Nature Center. Let's go on a
 nature walk. Calling all kids age preschool
 through grade 3 with a love of nature -- Come to
 Metea County Park, walk a trail and learn about
 the animals that live in the park, plants found
 here, and other interesting facts. *Tiny Treads* is a
 children's hiking program that will occur every
 month, and is geared for lower elementary
 students (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

MOMMY MANIA

Tuesdays, July 10, August 7, September 4,
 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the
 Nature Center. Hey moms!!! Come to Metea
 County Park with your youngsters and complete
 a fun program while talking with other mothers.
 We will take a short stroller-friendly walk, then
 come into the Nature Center, read a nature-
 related children's book and chat. This is a great
 opportunity to get out of the house, meet other
 mothers, find playmates in a safe and friendly
 environment and learn about the park and its
 residents

**PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE –
 BEAUTIFUL BIRDS**

July 12, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County
 Park, meet at the Nature Center. Calling out to
 all preschool aged children who love being
 outside. We will be exploring the exciting world
 of birds.

We will learn about birds, complete a craft, have
 a snack, and then we will go out and see how
 many birds we can find on the path leading to
 Andrew Britton Overlook.

DRAGONS OF THE SKY!

July 17, Tuesday, 3:30-4:30pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. Dragons of the sky truly do exist. These particular dragons are also known as dragonflies. Find out some very interesting facts about these voracious predators.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY - SUMMER'S SPECIAL SPIDERS

July 18, Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center

July 19, Thursday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center

Help your youngster learn to love, not fear and smear, our special spiders. A short discovery session will be followed by a craft, spider hunt and a snack.

TAKE A HIKE! TREE ID

July 21, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Metea County Park, meet at nature center. Take a hike among the gentle giants of the forest and learn their names as well! Park Naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will be your guide through the realm of trees and she will share tips on identification. Bring your bug spray!

ZOOMOBILE AT THE FOX

July 24, Tuesday, 9:30-10:30am. Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Reptiles are visiting Fox Island Nature Center on Tuesday, July 24th, 9:30-10:30am. Public and day campers welcome to attend.

GO FLY A KITE

July 25, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., Metea County Park, meet at picnic shelter. A perfect activity for a windy afternoon! Bring the kids and the kites for a great day at the park. Mom and Dad can relax with a picnic while the kids run around with kites in our expansive fields. Don't forget the sunscreen and bathing suits: swimming is available in the pond.

NIGHT HIKE

July 27, Friday, 9 PM, Payton County Park on Dunton Road between Gump and Hathaway Explore one of our lesser-known parks and learn about the night creatures that live there.

MENO-A-KI MUSIC SERIES AT METEA

This music series will be performed on our south deck with seating on the lawn, so bring a blanket or chairs. Dates and times are as published.

Check our website at www.allencountyparks.org for scheduled bands and cover charges.

Sundays, July 29, 5-8pm, August 26, 6-9pm, September 9, 4-8pm

BIRDS AND BLOOMS OF THE LAKE AND FIELD HIKE,

August 4, Saturday 9:00 -11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Lots of great birds and wildflowers call the open areas in our old fields and around our Bowman Lake home. Discover them with our naturalist on this 1 1/2 mile stroll. Binoculars and spotting scope provided.

TINY TREADS – POND WALK

August 4, Saturday, 2007, 10:00 AM Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Let's go on a pond walk. Hey kids, aged preschool through grade 3 – Come to Metea County Park in your swimming suits and take a walk in the pond. Naturalist Karie Divilbiss-Harding will hand out some nets as we wade in the pond to find the critters that live there.

Tiny Treads is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students (Pre-K through 3rd grade

FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING - PLANT A CACTUS

August 4, Saturday 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Meet at the Fox Island Beach Shelter. Plant a small cactus and discuss ways to reduce your carbon footprint during this informal all-ages drop-in program. Bring a teacup, small pot or other recycled planter to use or share. Cactus "babies", potting soil and temporary pots will be provided

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY – TURTLE TRACKS

August 7, Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center

August 8, Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center

Your youngsters will meet our exhibit turtles, make a turtle craft, search for wild turtles at the wetland and have a snack

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE – PAWS, CLAWS, WINGS AND THINGS

August 9, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park, meet at the Nature Center. Calling out to all preschool aged children who love being outside. What makes an animal different from others? Come and find out as we play a wacky game about parts of animals. This program will include reading a book, completing a craft, having a snack, and learning a lot about animals!

METEORS AND MUSIC

August 12, Sunday, 9pm till midnight, Metea County Park. This year the Perseid Meteor Shower occurs on a moonless night, so come out to Metea County Park for an evening of acoustic music and star gazing! Music will be provided by two very talented musicians: Leah Close, of Fort Wayne, and Ben Laatsch, of Huntington. Bring your roasting sticks and hotdogs or marshmallows for the fire, a blanket or chairs, and bug spray for a great evening under the (shooting) stars! Don't forget your list of wishes; we may see up to 50 meteors in an hour.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Aug. 15, Wednesday, 12:00 Noon, Fox Island County Park Nature Center. Bring your hamburgers, buns, drinks and snacks. We'll provide the grill and entertainment. Visit with a park naturalist in the bird room and learn how you can welcome birds to your own backyard. Bring binoculars if you have them. We have binoculars to loan out on a first come first serve basis.

HOME SCHOOL SERIES

Thursdays, August 16, and September 20, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Metea County Park is now offering a home school science enrichment program for all ages. We will be separating the students in three age groups and will be working on several different topics throughout the school year. At least 5 people per age group must pre-register for the program to run. One parent/guardian per family is required to attend.

BEGINNER GROUP – GRADES 1-3 - TOPIC: INSECTS

During the first session, students will learn about insects in their adult form by walking through the prairie catching insects with nets. A naturalist will then talk with the students about their attributes and other interesting information. The second session will consist of learning about insects in their larval stage by wading in the river and pond looking for insect larva with nets and seines. They will then use the dissecting scopes to look at the larva up close.

INTERMEDIATE GROUP – GRADES 4-7 - TOPIC: HABITATS

During the first session, students will wade in the river and discover the life in the river. We will be looking at the habitats near and in Cedar Creek. The students will use the nets and seines to discover larva, arthropods, and mussels in the water. They will also look at the life around Cedar Creek that needs the creek to live. In the second session we will discover life in the leaf litter. Several hula hoops will be strategically placed throughout the park. The students will have to discover the life within the circles. We will then take the findings to the microscopes and look at what we found.

ADVANCED GROUP – GRADES 8-12 - TOPIC: ADVANCED CREEK STUDY

The advanced group will be completing the RIVERWATCH program with a naturalist. "Hoosier Riverwatch is a state-sponsored water quality monitoring initiative. The program was started in 1994 to increase public awareness of water quality issues and concerns." The students will help calculate and test the water of Cedar Creek to be recorded in Metea's quarterly report to Hoosier Riverwatch. Tests include the following: stream flow data, biological tests, chemical tests, and basic habitat data.

TAKE A HIKE! SALAMANDER STUDY

August 18, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Metea County Park, meet at the nature center. Where do salamanders go in the summer? We will be taking stock of the salamander population at Metea to add to the body of data gathered at Fox Island. Hopefully, the information we uncover will bring us closer to understanding these secretive creatures so that we can better preserve them and the niche they fill in the ecosystem. Bring bug spray. Gloves are optional.

FIRST AID BASICS FOR THE OUTDOORS

August 22, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., Metea County Park, meet at nature center. Learn how to prevent and care for minor injuries in the wild. Rachel Rossiter-Smith will lead the group on a hike while instructing participants on how to deal with bee stings, snake bites, sprains and strains, burns, cuts and other outdoor dangers. This is not a certification course. This program is for information only and is not intended to take the place of emergency medical care.

“OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, INTO THE FIRE” CAMPFIRE COOKING

August 31, 7:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the fire ring near the Nature Center. Come join us at Metea County Park and learn about foil cooking over a campfire. We will have the food and equipment needed, but you will prepare and cook your food over the fire. Please bring your own beverage and place-setting. Come for some great food and stories around the fire.

After cooking there is a night hike through the nature preserve. See “Riddles in the Dark” below for more information and cost. Come prepared for a fun night for the whole family.

“RIDDLES IN THE DARK” NIGHT HIKE

August 31, Friday, 9:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet in the upper parking lot. Get a hobbit’s view of the park at night with this interesting night hike. We will look for nocturnal animals, use a bat detector and an owl call, talk about the luminescent insects out and about, and will be answering some nature-related “Riddles in the Dark”.

TINY TREADS – “ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH”

September 1, Saturday, 10:00 AM, meet at the Nature Center. Come rain or shine to Metea County Park and have a wonderful day. We will be hiking a trail at Metea County Park and will be talking about the weather. *Tiny Treads* is a children’s hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

PICNIC WITH FOX ISLAND’S ROCKIN’ REPTILES & AMAZIN’ ARTHROPODS!

September 5, Wednesday, 12:00 Noon, Fox Island County Park. We provide the campfire wood and hot dog forks for cooking. Bring your hot dogs, bread, marshmallows, etc. and meet with us at the campfire circle (right of the nature center). Discover snakes, turtles, and hissing cockroaches from Madagascar!

MONARCH MARATHON

September 8, Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come explore the wonderful world of monarch butterflies at Metea Park. This program will include games, crafts*, a live exhibit, tagging demonstrations, butterfly garden walks, and other fun and exciting activities for the whole family.



HAYRIDES!

Sept. 8 & 22 (More in October!), Saturday, 11:00am, Fox Island County Park. Hop aboard our hay wagon and receive an adventurous tour of Fox Island County Park. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy following the hayride. We will provide a campfire for cooking hot dogs.

PRAIRIE RAMBLE

September 8, Saturday 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. Fox Island’s restored prairie was planted with a wide variety of local grasses and wildflowers that provide a home for a diverse wildlife community. Discover birds, bugs, blooms and signs of animal life on this two mile ramble.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY – FIRST FALL COLORS

September 11, Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. September 12, Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Meet at the Fox Island Nature Center. September is when the first fall colors start to appear. We will focus on hunting for and identifying colors make a fall color bookmark craft and have a snack.

TAKE A HIKE! SCAVENGER HUNT

September 15, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Metea County Park, meet at the nature center. This is a program for all ages! Bring the whole family for an exciting romp through Metea County Park with a naturalist. We'll be searching high and low through the woods to check off the list. Those who complete the list will receive a prize! Dress for the weather and bring bug spray.

NEAT – NORTH EAST ALLEN TOUR FOR BICYCLES

September 22, Saturday, ride starts 9 AM, Metea County Park. Enjoy an early fall ride through scenic northern Allen County while helping out Allen County Parks. A 20-mile route tours Allen County, while 40-mile and 62-mile routes wind through Allen and DeKalb Counties. Visit three of the four Allen County Parks on all routes. Many other quality natural areas are also along the route, which is mostly on lightly traveled rural roads.

Snacks, drinks, a light lunch and emergency transportation service will be provided. Registration opens at 8:30 on Saturday, September 22 at Metea County Park, located near the corner of Union Chapel and Leo Roads just west of Cedarville.

POKEBERRY INK!

September 22, Saturday, 2:00-2:30pm, Fox Island County Park. Write a letter, draw a picture! Use a pioneer ink to write with.

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING

September 23, Sunday, 1:30-4:00pm, Fox Island Nature Center Large Classroom. Learn how to ask an inspiring question. Help park guests discover nature on their own.

METEA RENAISSANCE FAIRE IX

Saturday and Sunday, the 29th and 30th days of September at Metea County Park in the town of Leo, Indiana Castle Gates Open from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat., 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sun.

TINY TREADS – MANY, MANY CHANGES

October 6, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Hey kids, aged preschool through grade 3 – come to Metea County Park where we will learn about all the changes that happen in the fall. Did you know that a deer changes its color in the fall? What other changes happen before the winter? Come take a hike with naturalist Karie Harding and find out. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students

TAKE A HIKE! FALL COLORS

Oct. 6, 13, & 20, Saturdays, 2:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come out to Metea to enjoy autumn's splendor! Naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will lead the group through the woods and unravel the mystery of why leaves turn colors. Dress for the weather!

FOX ISLAND FALL COLOR HIKE

October 7, Sunday 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Fox Island Nature Center. Tag along on a naturalist led hike through Fox Island's trails.

SUNNY SCHICK MACRO AND CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY

October 7, Sunday 2:30 – 4:30 PM Fox Island Nature Center. Instructors Bob Goines and Chuck Fletter will cover techniques and equipment used in macro and close-up photography. They have requested manufacturer demo lenses for Cannon and Nikon digital cameras for test-use by participants if available.

PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY HOUR – FALL COLORS

October 9, Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Fox Island Nature Center. October is when fall colors peak. We will focus on hunting for and identifying colors, make a fall color bookmark craft and have a snack.

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE – GOING BATTY

October 11, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Calling out to all preschool aged children who love being outside. Come and discover the world of bats. This program will include reading a book, completing a craft, having a snack, and learning a lot about BATS!

HOME SCHOOL SERIES

October 18 & November 15, Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Metea County Park Nature Center
Metea County Park is now offering a home school science enrichment program for all ages. We will be separating the students in three age groups and will be working on several different topics throughout the school year.

BEGINNER GROUP – GRADES 1-3

Students will learn about fall and what animals and plants do to prepare for winter in this series. The students will be completing a fall scavenger hunt looking for different leaves, colors, and shapes, nuts and seeds, and different kinds of animals preparing for winter. The second session will focus on animal homes. We will search for winter homes for the park animals.

INTERMEDIATE GROUP – GRADES 4-6

Students will learn all about trees. Why do they lose their leaves in the fall? What is chlorophyll? What do trees do to prepare for the winter? Would you know what to do if you had to spend the night in the wild without a tent? Find out in the second session. It will include collecting items needed to make a debris shelter, and making one.

ADVANCED GROUP – GRADES 7-12

The advanced group will be taking a hike and classifying trees. We'll learn many ways to ID trees. The second session will include working through the book "Hatchet" and learning different ways to survive in the wild. We will be working on fire building, what to take on a hike, finding and making shelter and other survival concepts.

FALL EARLY MORNING HIKE SERIES

October 20th, November 3rd, Saturdays, 9:00am, Fox Island County Park. Join an environmental educator on a Saturday morning stroll through Fox Island's Fall Wonders.

PUMPKIN FLING

October 20, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park and join park naturalist Karie Harding as we learn about physics as we fling pumpkins into the pond with a sling shot. We will learn about force, angles, and what is needed to hit a target.

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, INTO THE FIRE

October 26, Friday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the fire ring near the Nature Center. Learn about cooking over the campfire using pie irons (Pudgie Pie Makers). We will have the food and equipment needed, but you will prepare and cook your food over the fire. Please bring your own beverage and place setting.

NIGHT HIKE- HOWL-OWEEN HIKE

October 26, Friday, 7:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. This is a family friendly night hike about some of the creepy creatures in nature and why they may not be so creepy after all. Come in costume and get a prize! Dress for the weather!

CAVE EXPLORATION ADVENTURE

October 26, Pre-caving class Friday, 7:30 PM, at Metea Nature Center. Trip Saturday, November 3, all day. Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, November 3. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, October 26, 7:30 PM at Metea County Park.

TURKEY TROT 5K TRAIL RUN – FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK

November 17, Saturday 10:00 AM Registration; 11:00 AM Race Start. (15,000 CM Kid's Fun Run –for kids under 10 years of age - Free). Burn some pre-Thanksgiving calories on Fox Island County Park's trails in the Fort Wayne Track Club's annual 5K race. Age group and door prizes will be awarded.

TINY TREADS – FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

November 3, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come to Metea County Park for a fall scavenger hunt with naturalist, Karie Harding. We will be walking a trail and looking for items that usually are seen only in fall. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month and is geared for lower elementary students.

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE – PUMPKINS, INDIAN CORN AND MORE

November 8, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Hey preschoolers! Come to Metea County Park and learn about pumpkins, Indian corn and more. We will learn about these things, learn about how they are grown, and how they became popular Thanksgiving decorations. We will read a book, have a snack, make a Thanksgiving craft, and learn a lot about pumpkins, Indian corn and more.

A POPPIN' GOOD TIME

November 9, Friday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Let's learn about POPCORN!!! Join naturalist Karie Harding for an interesting, hands-on popcorn experience. We will be learning the history of popcorn, doing a taste test, growing our own popcorn, and other A-maize-ing tidbits!

TAKE A HIKE! - OH POOP!

November 10, Saturday, 1:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. It is sometimes very difficult to spot animals in the woods, but if you know what to look for, you can tell who has been there. Naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will be leading the search for animal calling cards!

FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING - PLANT A CACTUS

November 17, Saturday 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Fox Island Nature Center. Plant a small cactus and discuss ways to reduce your carbon footprint during this informal all-ages drop-in program. Bring a teacup, small pot or other recycled planter to use or share. Cactus "babies", potting soil and temporary pots will be provided.

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, INTO THE FIRE - CAMPFIRE COOKING

November 30, Friday, 6:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. Come celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving at Metea County Park by cooking out over the campfire. We will provide the supplies, but bring your own place setting! Be sure to stay for the night hike afterward!

TINY TREADS – BRRRRRR....

December 1, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Just because it's getting cold outside doesn't mean that nature isn't interesting. Join naturalist Karie Harding as she leads a hike through Metea Park. Make sure to dress for the weather!

PRESCHOOL MORNING ADVENTURE – CHRISTMAS DECORATING FOR THE BIRDS

December 6, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Attention all preschoolers! Come to Metea County Park and help us decorate the small trees outside the bird room for the birds. We will be stringing popcorn, cranberries, making birdfeeders and hanging other “bird-friendly” ornaments on the trees. You will also have some to take home and decorate your outside trees for the birds! Story and snack included too!

PIONEER PRESENTS

December 8, Saturday, 1:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. Discover what Christmas was like for the early settlers of our country. We'll be looking at some materials pioneers may have had on hand, and making some pioneer presents of our own! This is an indoor program.

SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

December 22, Saturday, 4pm-7pm, Metea County Park Nature Center. The longest night of the year is upon us! Will the sun ever return? We will be learning about ancient Solstice traditions across cultures, having a bonfire and making treats for the woodland creatures. We will also be having a night hike, so dress for the weather! Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase.

INTRODUCTION TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Saturday, December 15, 2 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center. Learn about our favorite winter sport here at Metea County Park – cross-country skiing. Find out about techniques, clothing, ski types and how to size skis, poles and shoes. Class fee is \$7.00, and includes an hour of ski rental (weather permitting) or a voucher for future ski rental (weather not permitting).

WINTER DAY CAMP

December 27th and/or 28th, Thursday and Friday, 9:00-5:00, Fox Island County Park. Specialty Winter Survival Camps!



2007 PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS

Allen County
Parks



Winter DAYCAMP



**Thursday and Friday,
December 27th and 28th, 2007
9:00-5:00pm
Fox Island County Park
Specialty Winter Survival Camps
Ages 6-12**

Registration is \$35.00 per camper per day.
Sack lunches need to be provided from home.

Pre-registration Discounts:

*** Early registrations must be received two weeks prior = (12:00 noon, Dec. 13th).

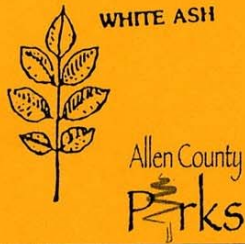
Early registration is \$65.00 per camper for *pre*-registration of *both* days.

Golden Parks Pass holders can pre-register for \$30.00/day/camper (\$60.00/2 day).

General registrations *must* be received by 12:00 Noon on December 26th.



Call 449-3180 for more information.



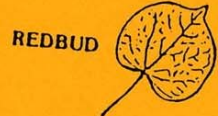
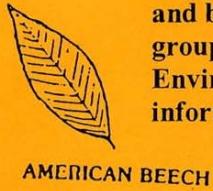
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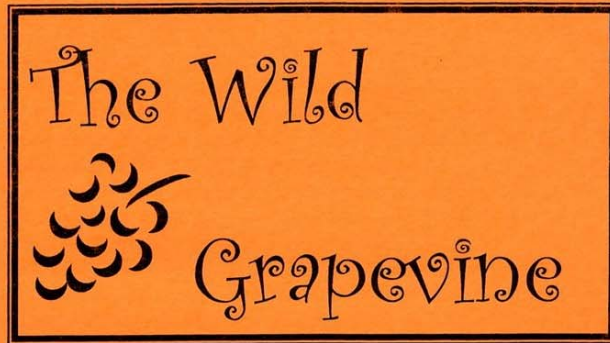
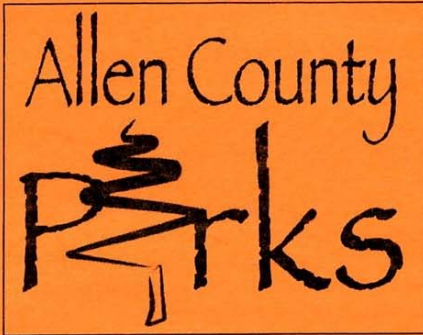


Fall Early Morning Hike Series
October 27th and Nov. 3rd, 2007
Saturday, 9:00am
Fox Island County Park Nature Center
COST: \$2.00



Come to Fox Island County Park and talk with our trees. Discover clues as to why they are changing and how. This hike will last 2 hours and will require sturdy hiking boots/shoes. We will take an exploratory hike along the Fox Island Dune to the Marsh Observatory and back to the nature center. We will pace the hike according to the group dynamics of the day. Please contact your Allen County Park Environmental Educator, Natalie Haley, at 449-3180 for more information. Cost is \$2.00 per hiker.





The Wild Grapevine

Vol. 3 No. 4 October 2007

The Wild Grapevine will provide you with nature-related articles and upcoming event information four times per year. All annual pass holders will receive this newsletter free as part of their benefits. Others may subscribe for \$5.00 per year for mailed copies. Contact Allen County Parks at 449-3180 or allencountyparks@yahoo.com for information on emailed copies.

Allen County Parks website:
Allencountyparks.org

Fox Island Alliance website:
<http://www.foxislandalliance.org>

Friends of Metea website:
www.friendsofmetea.org

Viruses – Our Smallest Wildlife

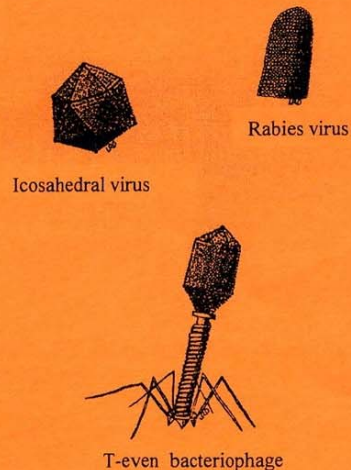
By Bob Dispenza, Park and Education Manager, Metea County Park

Computer viruses periodically make the news. The only relation these have to biological, “living” viruses is that they are small, insidious, work from the inside and cause damage. Natural viruses do all these things, but they do more than this. Little is known about most viruses, though they are around us everywhere. Most of the research into viruses has centered around those which cause human illness, but there are many others that infect bacteria, plants, and both wild and domestic animals.

The term “virus” comes from the Latin for slimy liquid or poison. The term “living” must be used with caution around viruses. There is still argument about whether they are extremely simple life forms or extremely complex chemicals that can produce copies of themselves. Most living things are “on” all the time – that is, enzymes are reacting in their cells constantly. Viruses are only “on” when they are inside a susceptible cell. Outside a cell they are as inert as any other lifeless chemical, and can even assume crystalline form like a mineral. Some can survive for long periods of time outside a living cell, but all are “obligate intracellular parasites”. They can only reproduce by commandeering the metabolic machinery of a living cell, a cell that is killed or drastically altered in the process.

Most viruses consist of two or three parts: a “core” made of viral DNA or RNA with associated proteins; a “capsid” made of protein which protects the core; and sometimes an “envelope” made of modified material from the host cell. West Nile virus is one of those enveloped viruses, which means it is less hardy and doesn’t usually survive long outside of a host. Capsids often look remarkably like mineral crystals. Many (including West Nile) are icosahedrons, with 20 triangular sides and 12 corners.

Viral RNA or DNA tends to be very simple, sometimes having as few as three genes. A few viruses are so simple that they cannot reproduce without the presence of



another, larger virus in the same cell. While the larger virus is parasitizing the cell, the smaller virus parasitizes the larger virus, stealing enzymes and proteins for its own use.

Hosts are often hard-pressed to fight off viruses, since virus genes evolve up to a million times faster than host genes. Viruses are responsible for sicknesses as common as warts and colds. They are also implicated in more deadly diseases – West Nile, dengue fever, AIDS, polio, hepatitis, rabies, and encephalitis. Viruses cause flu, and though it is not now thought of as deadly, it killed over 20 million people in the pandemic of 1918-1919. It's not all bad news – smallpox may have been eliminated.

Control of viruses can be difficult. Chemical agents are of limited use – viruses are so simple and use so much of the host's resources that damaging the virus would often involve damaging the host cell. Interferon, a protein secreted by virus-infected cells, can cause resistance to infection in surrounding cells. Immunity is a complex host response that works well, but it requires exposure to the virus itself or specific parts of the virus. Immunity to one virus does not mean immunity to all – there are over 100 different viruses that can cause cold symptoms.

Viruses can sometimes evade host defenses by inserting themselves into the host's DNA and "disappearing". Stress, chemicals and other factors may reactivate these viruses, producing disease. These "disappearing" viruses may cause some tumors.

Not usually thought of as wildlife, viruses still play an important part in any ecosystem. By moving DNA around and eliciting immune reactions they play a role in shaping the plants and animals we know today. Next time you get a cold you can take pride in the fact that you are providing habitat for our smallest wildlife.

Upcoming Programs for Fall 2007

Program fees are usually \$2.00 per person unless otherwise stated, and are used to provide operating funds (which are not supported by tax revenue) for Allen County Parks. Reservations are usually requested to allow resource and staff allocation planning.

Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, southwest Fort Wayne (260) 449-3180

Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road at State Route 1, Leo-Cedarville (260) 449-3777

Payton County Park, 13928 Dunton Rd. just east of Hometown

Cook's Landing County Park, corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Roads

We Want Snow!

If there is more than 4 inches of snow, come out to Fox Island and Metea for cross-country skiing! We have a limited number of skis available for rent. The new sled hill at Metea County Park will also be open from 9 AM to 6 PM Tuesday through Sunday.

Tiny Treads – Many, Many Changes

October 6, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Hey kids, aged preschool through grade 3 – come to Metea County Park where we will learn about all the changes that happen in the fall. Did you know that a deer changes its color in the fall? What other changes happen before the winter? Come take a hike with naturalist Karie Harding and find out. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month, and is geared for lower elementary students. \$2.00 per child and adult partner (partner required). Call 449-3777 to register.



Take a Hike! Fall Colors

Oct. 6, 13, & 20, Saturdays, 2:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Come out to Metea to enjoy autumn's splendor! Naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will lead the group through the woods and unravel the mystery of why leaves turn colors. Dress for the weather! Cost is \$2 - for more information or to register, call 449-3777.

Fox Island Fall Color Hike

October 7, Sunday 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Fox Island Nature Center

Tag along on a naturalist led hike through Fox Island's trails. \$2.00 per person park entry fee. No pre-registration required. Call 449-3180 for information.

Sunny Schick Macro and Close-Up Photography

October 7, Sunday 2:30 – 4:30 PM Fox Island Nature Center

Instructors Bob Goines and Chuck Fletter will cover techniques and equipment used in macro and close-up photography. They have requested manufacturer demo lenses for Cannon and Nikon digital cameras for test-use by participants if available. Call 449-3180 to register. \$12.00 per person.

Preschool Discovery Hour – Fall Colors

October 9, Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Fox Island Nature Center

October is when fall colors peak. We will focus on hunting for and identifying colors, make a fall color bookmark craft and have a snack. Call 449-3180 to register. \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per accompanying adult.

Preschool Morning Adventure – Going Batty

October 11, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Calling out to all preschool aged children who love being outside. Come and discover the world of bats. This program will include reading a book, completing a craft, having a snack, and learning a lot about BATS! \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per adult partner (partner required). Call 449-3777 for information and to register.

Home School Series

October 18 & November 15, Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Metea County Park Nature Center

Metea County Park is now offering a home school science enrichment program for all ages. We will be separating the students in three age groups and will be working on several different topics throughout the school year.

Participants in this project MUST pre-register at 449-3777. At least 5 people per age group must pre-register for the program to run. The fee for this program is \$10.00 per student and \$4.00 per parent, and includes both month's sessions, all handouts and equipment. One parent/guardian per family is required to attend.

PLEASE COME EARLY AS THE SESSIONS BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 2:00 PM.

Beginner group – grades 1-3

Students will learn about fall and what animals and plants do to prepare for winter in this series. The students will be completing a fall scavenger hunt looking for different leaves, colors, and shapes, nuts and seeds, and different kinds of animals preparing for winter. The second session will focus on animal homes. We will search for winter homes for the park animals.

Intermediate group – grades 4-6

Students will learn all about trees. Why do they lose their leaves in the fall? What is chlorophyll? What do trees do to prepare for the winter? Would you know what to do if you had to spend the night in the wild without a tent? Find out in the second session. It will include collecting items needed to make a debris shelter, and making one.

Advanced group – grades 7-12

The advanced group will be taking a hike and classifying trees. We'll learn many ways to ID trees. The second session will include working through the book "Hatchet" and learning different ways to survive in the wild. We will be working on fire building, what to take on a hike, finding and making shelter and other survival concepts.

Fall Early Morning Hike Series

October 20th, November 3rd, Saturdays, 9:00am, Fox Island County Park

Join an environmental educator on a Saturday morning stroll through Fox Island's Fall Wonders. \$2.00 per hiker. Call 449-3180 for brochures and registration.

Pumpkin Fling

October 20, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Come to Metea County Park and join park naturalist Karie Harding as we learn about physics as we fling pumpkins into the pond with a sling shot. We will learn about force, angles, and what is needed to hit a target. \$2.00 per person. Children under 15 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Call 449-3777 to register.



Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire

October 26, Friday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park, meet at the fire ring near the Nature Center

Learn about cooking over the campfire using pie irons (Pudgie Pie Makers). We will have the food and equipment needed, but you will prepare and cook your food over the fire. Please bring your own beverage and place setting. The fee for this program is \$5.00 per person. REGISTRATION REQUIRED – Call 449-3777.

Night Hike- Howl-oween Hike

October 26, Friday, 7:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center

This is a family friendly night hike about some of the creepy creatures in nature and why they may not be so creepy after all. Come in costume and get a prize! Dress for the weather! Cost is \$2. Be sure to come early for the campfire cooking program before the night hike! For more information or to register, call 449-3777.

Cave Exploration Adventure

October 26, Pre-caving class Friday, 7:30 PM, at Metea Nature Center

Trip Saturday, November 3, all day

Go underground with Allen County Parks. Caving instructor and naturalist Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to the Garrison Chapel Karst area near Bloomington on Saturday, November 3. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, October 26, 7:30 PM at Metea County Park. Class fee of \$20.00 per person covers maps and caving instruction. Learn about geology, cave life, needed equipment and cave formation. This activity is somewhat strenuous, but suitable for beginners. Call 449-377 to make reservations.



Turkey Trot 5K Trail Run – Fox Island County Park

November 17, Saturday 10:00 AM Registration; 11:00 AM Race Start

(15,000 CM Kid's Fun Run –for kids under 10 years of age - Free)

Burn some pre-Thanksgiving calories on Fox Island County Park's trails in the Fort Wayne Track Club's annual 5K race. Age group and door prizes will be awarded. Pre-registration fee is \$5.00 for track club members; \$7 non-members. Race day registration is \$8.00 for track club members; \$10.00 non-members. For information call Don Lindley at 436-2234 or email lindleyd44@verizon.net.

Tiny Treads – Fall Scavenger Hunt

November 3, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Come to Metea County Park for a fall scavenger hunt with naturalist, Karie Harding. We will be walking a trail and looking for items that usually are seen only in fall. *Tiny Treads* is a children's hiking program that will occur every month and is geared for lower elementary students. \$2.00 per child, \$2.00 per adult partner (partner required). Call 449-3777 for more information.

Preschool Morning Adventure – Pumpkins, Indian Corn and more

November 8, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Hey preschoolers! Come to Metea County Park and learn about pumpkins, Indian corn and more. We will learn about these things, learn about how they are grown, and how they became popular Thanksgiving decorations. We will read a book, have a snack, make a Thanksgiving craft, and learn a lot about pumpkins, Indian corn and more. \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per adult partner (partner required). Call 449-3777 for pre-registration.

A Poppin' Good Time

November 9, Friday, 6:00 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Let's learn about POPCORN!!! Join naturalist Karie Harding for an interesting, hands-on popcorn experience. We will be learning the history of popcorn, doing a taste test, growing our own popcorn, and other A-maize-ing tidbits! \$3.00 per person. Call 449-3777 for more information and registration.

Take a Hike! - Oh Poop!

November 10, Saturday, 1:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center

It is sometimes very difficult to spot animals in the woods, but if you know what to look for, you can tell who has been there. Naturalist Rachel Rossiter-Smith will be leading the search for animal calling cards! Cost is \$2. To register, or for more info, call 449-3777.

Fight Global Warming - Plant a Cactus

November 17, Saturday 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Fox Island Nature Center

Plant a small cactus and discuss ways to reduce your carbon footprint during this informal all-ages drop-in program. Bring a teacup, small pot or other recycled planter to use or share. Cactus “babies”, potting soil and temporary pots will be provided. Donation and \$2.00 per person gate entry fee.

Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire - Campfire Cooking

November 30, Friday, 6:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center

Come celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving at Metea County Park by cooking out over the campfire. We will provide the supplies, but bring your own place setting! Be sure to stay for the night hike afterward! Cost is \$5. **Pre-registration is required**, call 449-3777.



Tiny Treads – Brrrrrr....

December 1, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Just because it's getting cold outside doesn't mean that nature isn't interesting. Join naturalist Karie Harding as she leads a hike through Metea Park. Make sure to dress for the weather! \$2.00 per child and adult partner (partner required). *Tiny Treads* is a monthly hiking program geared for students in Pre-K through 3rd grade.

Preschool Morning Adventure – Christmas Decorating for the Birds

December 6, Thursday, 10:00 AM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Attention all preschoolers! Come to Metea County Park and help us decorate the small trees outside the bird room for the birds. We will be stringing popcorn, cranberries, making birdfeeders and hanging other “bird-friendly” ornaments on the trees. You will also have some to take home and decorate your outside trees for the birds! Story and snack included too! \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per adult partner (partner required). Call 449-3777 for more information and pre-registration.

Pioneer Presents

December 8, Saturday, 1:00pm, Metea County Park Nature Center

Discover what Christmas was like for the early settlers of our country. We'll be looking at some materials pioneers may have had on hand, and making some pioneer presents of our own! This is an indoor program. Cost is \$3. To register or for more info, call 449-3777.

Solstice Celebration

December 22, Saturday, 4pm-7pm, Metea County Park Nature Center

The longest night of the year is upon us! Will the sun ever return? We will be learning about ancient Solstice traditions across cultures, having a bonfire and making treats for the woodland creatures. We will also be having a night hike, so dress for the weather! Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. Cost is \$3. To register or for more information call 449-3777.

Introduction to Cross-country Skiing

Saturday, December 15, 2 PM, Metea County Park Nature Center

Learn about our favorite winter sport here at Metea County Park – cross-country skiing. Find out about techniques, clothing, ski types and how to size skis, poles and shoes. Class fee is \$7.00, and includes an hour of ski rental (weather permitting) or a voucher for future ski rental (weather not permitting). If you bring your own skis, class fee is \$3.00. Call 449-3777 for reservations.

Winter Day Camp

December 27th and/or 28th, Thursday and Friday, 9:00-5:00, Fox Island County Park

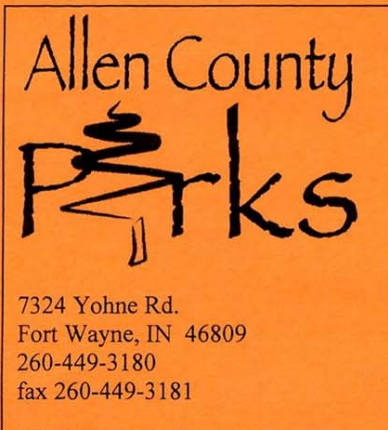
Specialty Winter Survival Camps! Registration is \$35.00 per camper per day and sack lunches from home, ages 6-12. \$65.00 per camper for pre-registration of both days. Call 449-3180 for brochures and registration.



Allen County does not discriminate because of disability in the admission to, treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Human Resources director has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereafter, and Allen County's ADA Policy are available from the ADA Coordinator. Requests for assistance or suggestions on how the County can better meet the needs of those persons with disabilities may be submitted to the ADA Coordinator at: Human Resources Department, Room 208, 1 East Main Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, or by telephone at 260-449-7217, TDD 260-449-7881.

Allen County Parks Mission:

"To establish and manage a permanent park system incorporating conservation, education, outdoor values and nature preservation, and to provide recreational opportunities for the people of Allen County within this structure."



We're On The Web:
Allencountyparks.org

Metea director Dispenza honored

Professional group gave him award for interpretation.

From staff reports

Bob Dispenza, park and education director at Metea County Park, was presented with a 2007 Master Front-Line Interpreter Award from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).

The association, which is based in Fort Collins, Colo., is a professional organization for park historians and naturalists; heritage interpreters; zoo and museum educators; park managers; and others who interpret the natural, historical and cultural environment to the public. The organization has more than 4,000 members.

Dispenza received the award in mid-November at the association's national

workshop in Wichita, Kan., the association said in an announcement.

The workshop provided training, ideas and networking opportunities for people working in the fields of environmental, cultural, historical and recreational resources interpretation.

The Master Front-Line Interpreter Award is presented to an NAI member who has worked as an interpreter for at least five years and whose current job responsibilities include spending at least 60 percent of his or her work time providing programs and interpretation for visitors and students, the announcement said.

Award winners also must show they have mastered interpretive techniques, program development and design of creative projects.

Dispenza has been with the Allen County Parks De-



Dispenza: Has presented many workshops

partment since 2001. He started work as director of environmental education and later was named park and education manager at Metea, on Union Chapel Road, near Leo-Cedarville.

The 250-acre park is located along Cedar Creek, a state scenic river. Metea's grounds contain a state nature preserve, woodlands, wetlands, a small lake, a large playfield, reconstructed prairie, old farm fields, a picnic shelter, a nature center and hiking trails.

Metea County Park is one of four owned and managed by the county parks department.

It is named after Chief Me-

tea of the Potawatomi Indians, who came to the Fort Wayne area about 1800 and was involved in many battles and treaty negotiations before his death in 1827.

Dispenza joined the Association of Interpretive Naturalists while in college and has been a member of that organization and NAI for about 25 years.

He frequently has presented sessions at NAI workshops in the Indiana-Ohio region, as well as at national workshop gatherings, the announcement said.

In April, Dispenza received the Indiana-Ohio region's Distinguished Professional Interpreter award.

For more information about the November workshop or the organization, contact NAI Executive Director Tim Merriman at 1-888-900-8283 or at www.interpnet.com on the Web.

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the Board's services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The County 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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Effective Communication: The County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the County's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all County programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in County offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a County program, service, or activity, should contact the office of the County Human Resources Department at 260-449-7217 (260-449-3392 TTY) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the County 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 County program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the Personnel Manager of the County Human Resources Department at 260-449-7217 (260-449-3392 TTY).

The County 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.



A good place is refreshing and rejuvenating; after you leave it, you feel better for having been there.

Sometimes you can't miss a good place when you stumble upon it - for it has great beauty to beguile and recharge you or you don't miss it because it possesses the siren call of thoughtful design touches that say someone wanted you to feel welcome there.

At other times, a good place works well not because of an aesthetic appeal but because it is neighborly - it draws people in and enables them to relax companionably.

It knits its residents together as they wile away time together and it is seen as the place to be.

Projects for Public Spaces

