

Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2018 - 2022



Portage Township, Porter County, Indiana

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Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2018 - 2022

Completed by:



engineering



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The goal of the master plan process is to establish a pragmatic, action oriented plan for improving Portage Township’s park facilities and programs. The inventory and analysis draws on information gathered in the field and from park users, Parks and Townships boards, community leaders, and citizens. The resulting plan is a tool to guide Portage Township’s future park development.

THE PARK DEPARTMENT

The Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation was established by the Portage Township Board on May 17, 2011, in accordance with the requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-7.5-5.5.

Current Contact

Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation
330 West 700 North
Valparaiso, IN 46385
219.759.5471

Department Staff and Volunteers

Currently Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation consists of one full-time Superintendent and one full-time head of maintenance, one part-time hourly maintenance employee, and two part-time hourly seasonal staff.

Volunteers serve as an integral part of Department’s strategy for maintenance and programming. Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit volunteer organization created to help ensure the sustainability of the Portage Township Parks & Recreation Department.

Park volunteers are used to assist in implementing youth programs and community festivals and events. Further volunteers participate in annual clean-up programming and landscape maintenance. As park development continues, the department will seek additional volunteers to lead educational and recreational park programming. These volunteers are and will continue to be critical to the well-being of the Portage Township Parks and Recreation system.

Department Vision

Enriching the Portage Township community through recreation.

Department Goals

The department has established both short and long term goals as an agency:



Staff		
Name	Title	Hire Date
Joy Lundstrom	Superintendent	03.21.2011
Dan Trater	Director of Maintenance	
Trey Rivas	Maintenance	

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Potential Partners
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Save the Dunes
Recycle & Waste Reduction District of Porter County
South Haven Homeowners Association
Twin Creeks Conservancy

1. Increase accessibility and connectivity of Haven Hollow Park and Field of Dreams Park to each other and the surrounding community.
2. Enhance partnerships with local organizations to introduce educational, natural, and 'green' programming to neighborhood residents and students.
3. Build new relationships with local businesses to raise awareness and gain support for community development.
4. Encourage neighborhood ownership and care of township parks, buildings and community areas.
5. Develop amenities to further enhance the park system and respond to community needs.
6. Provide recreation and learning opportunities such as fishing contests, open play gaming, and nature hunts to area elementary schools.
7. Reduce the system's ecological footprint by installing rain barrels, utilizing recycle bins, reducing impervious surface, and building environmentally responsible permanent structures.
8. Support environmental initiatives for protecting and cleaning natural areas.
9. Work with Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc. to raise funds to benefit the park system and encourage students to consider career development in the park and recreation industry.
10. Create a system-wide sustainability plan to ensure future investment and development of the Portage Township Park & Recreation system.

Budget

The following table shows the 2016 budget for the Portage Township Parks and Recreation Department by four main categories; Personal Services, Supplies, Services and Charges, and Capital Outlay. Personal Services includes all the expenditures for staff (including seasonal staff) salaries, wages, and employee benefits. The Supplies category includes office supplies, operating supplies, repair and maintenance supplies, and all other supplies needed for daily work. Services and Charges refers to services and charges from outside business entities (i.e. insurance, advertising, rentals, professional fees, etc.). Capital Outlay includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment and other capital projects expenses used for the Portage Township parks.

Amount	
Personal Services	\$ 87,306.00
Supplies	\$24,000.00
Services and Charges	\$30,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$40,803.00
TOTAL	\$182,109.00

THE PARK BOARD

The Portage Township Park Board is made up of four members - three appointed seats and the Portage Township Trustee. At the time the first board was established in August of 2011, members served staggered terms (three, two, and one year terms). At the time this master plan was completed there are no term limits for the current board. Current board members are:

	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Ex officio
Name	Colleen Bolton	Stephanie Lundy	Ferdinand Alvarez	Brendan Clancy (Township Trustee)
Address	446 Portland Road Valparaiso, IN 46383	383 Keystone Drive Valparaiso, IN 46385	2085 Landmark Portage, IN 46368	3484 Airport Road Portage, IN 46368
Term	No term limit	No term limit	No term limit	No term limit

THE PARK FOUNDATION

➔ Vision Statement

Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc. was created in June of 2011 to support the mission of the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation. The foundation serves three vital roles:

1. To raise funds for continued park maintenance and development.
2. To foster sustainability of the Portage Township Parks and Recreation system.
3. To raise awareness of and encourage students to pursue park and recreation education and career opportunities.

Making Portage Township a better place to live and play.

Mission Statement

Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to sustaining and expanding the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation and inspiring environmental preservation through initiatives designed to raise and leverage funds, increase community awareness and promote enjoyment of the outdoors.

Like the park department itself, the foundation maintains both vision and mission statements to guide the organization in their pursuit of improving recreation in Portage Township. Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and is governed by a twelve member volunteer board. The foundation views its role in the park system as:

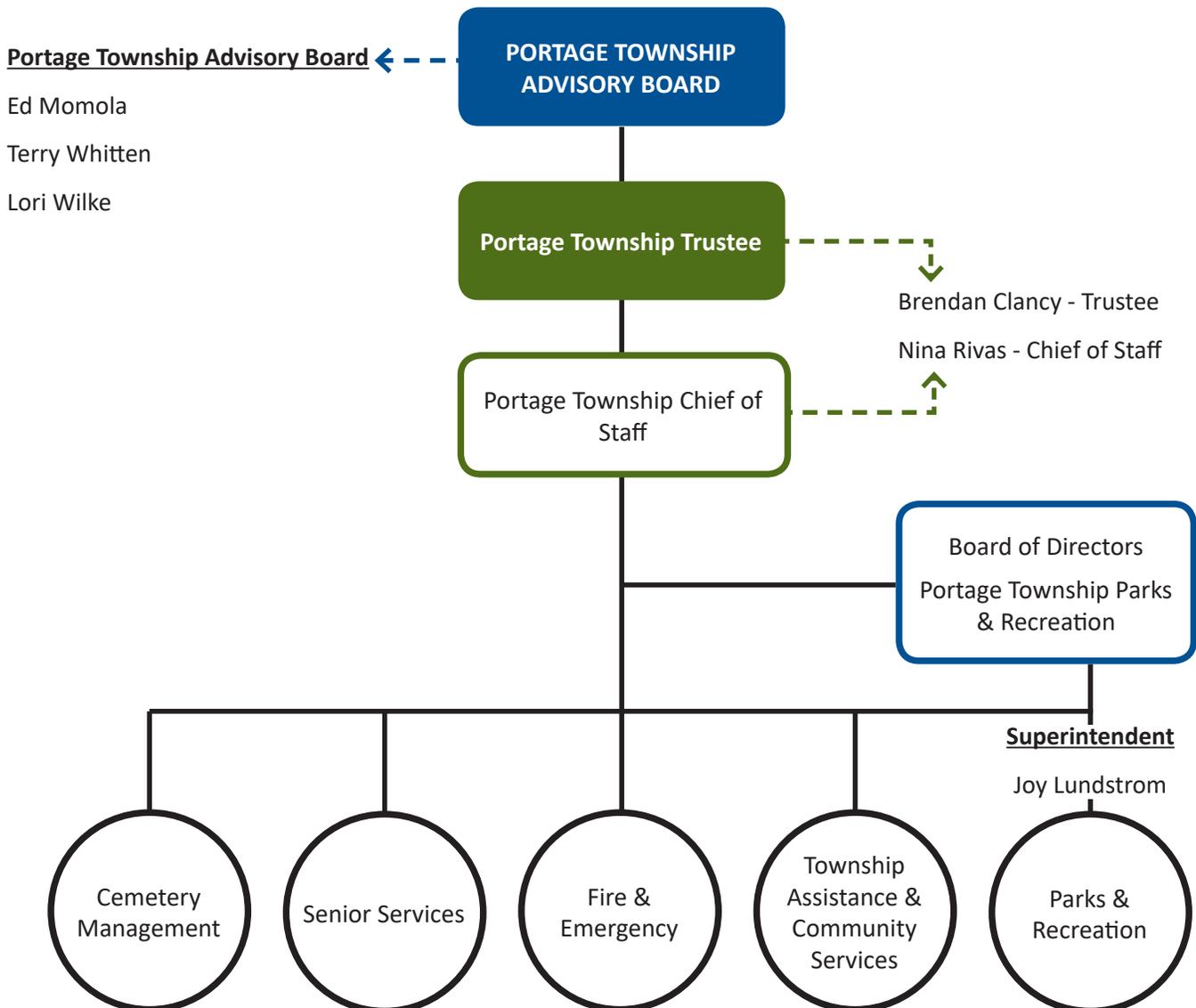
- Collaborating with community and corporate partners



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- Encouraging healthy outdoor experiences
- Fundraising
- Generating participation in the preservation of natural resources
- Hosting community events
- Instilling community pride
- Promoting careers in park and recreation for sustainability of the industry
- Supporting Township park growth and development

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP, PORTER COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



THE PLANNING AREA

The planning area matches the area served by the Portage Township Trustee's Office including areas within the corporate boundary of the City of Portage and unincorporated areas known as South Haven, Ogden Dunes, and Duck Creek. A map of the planning area including the location of all of facilities noted below is shown on the following page.

The Township currently owns and maintains four parks in the planning area including Haven Hollow Park, Field of Dreams Park, and Jim H. Lynch Park, all in the South Haven area. The fourth Township property is Evergreen Park which formerly functioned as the Portage Little League Park and is located within the corporate boundary of the City of Portage and approximately five miles from the three other Township facilities.

While natural for the Portage Township Parks and Recreation to focus more attention on the unincorporated areas of the Township, it should be recognized that the department does serve the entire community within the Township boundary and is interested in all recreation opportunities that satisfy community needs.

The Township also owns and operates the Bonner Senior Center which is the only facility serving all Portage Township seniors. The center is currently managed directly through the Portage Township Trustee office. Looking for greater recreation development opportunities for the community's seniors, Township Park board members have had discussions about the center becoming part of the Township parks and recreation department instead of a stand-alone facility overseen by the

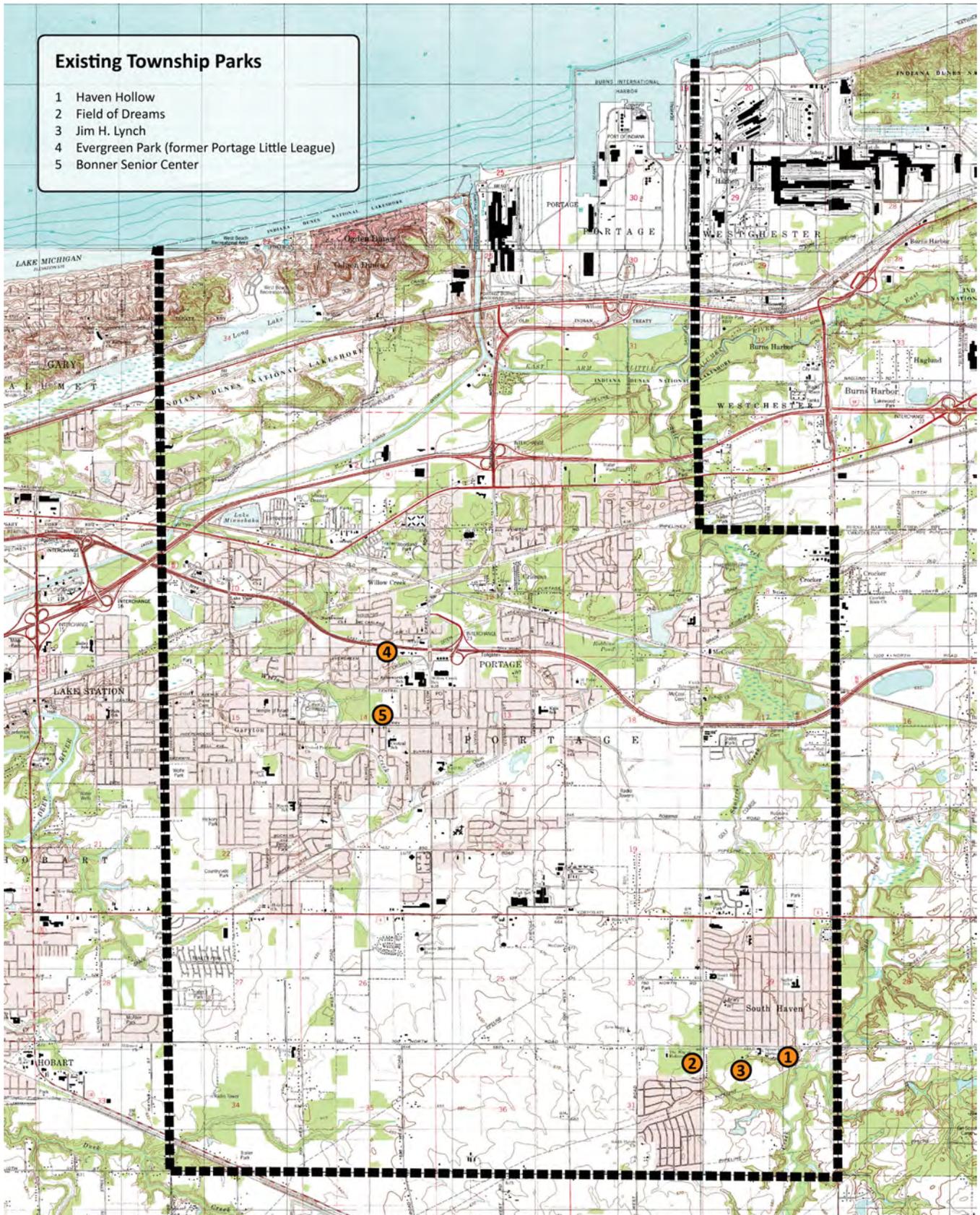
Haven Hollow Park includes access to Salt Creek.



Jim H. Lynch Park is a mini-park in the Coventry neighborhood (below, and left).



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Township Trustee. Public input from seniors during the completion of the 2013 - 2017 master plan showed that seniors are very loyal to the center and not interested in recreation opportunities offered elsewhere in the system. Seniors expressed a strong desire to see more senior-focussed development on the Bonner Senior Center's property.

In response the Township Advisory Board determined the first step was to update and expand the existing building to meet the growing needs of the center's membership. This expansion was completed in the fall of 2016. Although conversations regarding the center's move to the supervision of the parks department are ongoing, no time line has been set and no specific goals are in place. The Advisory Board intends to monitor how the expansion is benefitting the seniors before determining the next steps in development of the center.

PLAN GOALS

Goals of the master plan process have been created to support and promote the vision of the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation as they look toward the future of recreation in the community. The goals provide the framework for the development of the plan's recommendations. However, goals seek to achieve a more forward-thinking result, a long-term purpose toward which facilities, programs or activities are ultimately directed. The goals of this plan include:

- Incorporating successes achieved since the creation of the 2013-2017 plan and establishing an updated, comprehensive strategy for parks and recreation investment and development over the next five years.
- Engaging a diverse group of community members in the needs assessment by using a variety of public outreach techniques.
- Gathering community feedback and complete needs analysis to determine priorities and compile into a concise, usable format.
- Presenting and gaining consensus regarding draft plan.
- Receiving approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for eligibility in applying for Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCG) funding.
- Utilizing the master plan in pursuit of additional grant program and funding opportunities.



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2 | Community Features

predominately of mixed drift {34%}, clay-loam to silt-loam till {31%}, clay-loam to silt-loam {10%}, and lake sand (10%).”

The Soil Survey of Porter County, Indiana shows that the soil composition in the South Haven area is predominately classified as Morley silt loam and Blount silt loam, but also includes Rawsom loam, Haskins loam and Fluvaquents. Morley silt loam is further classified into MrB2, MrC2, MrD2, and MrE, indicating the percentage slope (overall, from 2-30 percent slope) and erosion data within the area. Blount series consist of deep, somewhat poorly drained soils on upland till plains.

Further, the Salt Creek Management Plan document describes the Salt Creek Watershed as being comprised of six soil associations; The Blount-Giynwood-Morley series being the predominant soil association; occupying 55% of the watershed. The soil is deep or moderately deep to dense till, and moderate to poorly drained. These soil types are typically found on ground moraines and end moraines like that of the Salt Creek watershed (USDA, 2002).

The South Haven/Salt Creek watershed area has been determined to be highly erodible land with moderately high runoff potential. Evidence of this condition is seen at both of the Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks. Salt Creek runs through a portion of Haven Hollow Park and a significant portion of land around the creek access site is low and holds water making its use for recreational purposes limited. In dry summer months, the area is useful for short-term, passive recreational programming such as yoga, tai chi, etc., and in the other seasons of the year, the area is enjoyed for its aesthetic natural beauty. Away from the creek area, higher elevation areas are suitable for permanent capital building projects (concession buildings/restroom facilities, amphitheater, etc.) and recreation such as softball and soccer complexes, basketball courts, volleyball courts, etc.

Evergreen Park area soils map from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



The watershed’s poorly drained soil is also evident at Field of Dreams Park where the moisture-holding land limits year-round use of the park. Besides the wooded wetlands of the park property, the open grassy areas, playground and softball complex areas also are challenged with poorly drained soil and sitting water. Drainage improvements at this park are a priority before future program and capitol development can take place.

Soil composition around Evergreen Park is primarily made up of four

soil types with nearly the entire park itself consisting of Urban-land Brems complex (Ud). A small hill along the park's southern boundary does contain Oakville fine sand (OaC), 4 to 12 percent slopes. Oakville soils are made up of 90% sand and considered well drained. These soil types are often associated with dune environments. Urban-land Brems complex is often associated with outwash plains or summits with slopes ranging from 0 to 2 percent. This soil is classified as moderately well drained, non-hydric, and supportive of woody vegetation.

Forest Resources

Approximately 20 percent of Indiana is forested. Of Indiana's nearly 23 million acres, approximately 5 million are forestland. Most forests are located in the southern half of the state and northern Indiana has the lowest percentage of forestland statewide. Porter County, Indiana is approximately 19% forested comprising approximately 51,000 acres.

Tree species native to Northern Indiana include: Beech, White Ash, Locust, Sweetgum, several species of Oak, Cypress, Hawthorn, Tulip, Cedar, Locust, Black Walnut, Elm, Flowering Dogwood, Cottonwood, Sugar Maple, Sassafras, and White Pine. Within the Salt Creek watershed, deciduous forest areas are dominated with trees generally greater than 16' tall and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change. Evergreen forest areas are also dominated by trees greater than 16' tall and greater than 20% vegetation cover, however, more than 75% of the species maintain their leaves all year.

Within the City of Portage, at Woodland Park, is an Oak Savannah. An active restoration project has been underway to preserve the Savannah as well as the natural habitat and wildlife that depend on the Savannah for survival including attracting and keeping the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly back to the area.

Water Resources

Lake Michigan is Portage Township's largest water resource and home to the International Port of Indiana. Falling within the Great Lakes watershed, the Lake Michigan Watershed in Porter County flows through the little Calumet River and drains into Lake Michigan through Burns Ditch. Burns Ditch runs through northwest Porter County (Portage Township) with Salt Creek as its major tributary. Salt Creek runs through the southeast corner of Haven Hollow Park, which is one of four parks and the largest park within the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation.

Willow Creek and Squirrel Creek also run through the township and into

Wooded area in Field of Dreams Park



*Sources for Forest Resources:
USDA Forest Service; IDNR-Division of
Forestry; Salt Creek Management Plan 2008*

*Sources for Water Resources:
Salt Creek Watershed Management Plan;
Twin Creeks Conservancy*

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Burns and Robbins ditches, respectively. Pepper Creek subwatershed is within the western central portion of the Salt Creek watershed in south Portage Township.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's primary beach, West Beach, and the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, located within Portage Township, offer many recreational opportunities including boating, skiing, swimming, fishing and hiking. Initiatives are underway from several government and independent groups to clean and protect Salt Creek and to look toward the creek for future recreation.

Also within Portage Township are several smaller water resources offering recreation including Dombey Lake, Lake Minnehaha, Long Lake, Countryside Park Pond, Robbins Lake, and Robbins Ditch.

Each park within the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation system offers its own unique ecological features. As mentioned above, Salt Creek runs through the south east corner of Haven Hollow Park. Although there is interest from several government and independent groups to clean and protect Salt Creek for future recreation, restoration efforts for Salt Creek have essentially stalled at the time this plan was created. In 2012 a Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant (LMCP) was approved to fund the replacement of two collapsed culverts and to create a daylighted channel from Salt Creek to the existing pond in Haven Hollow Park. This project was rescinded due to the Enbridge Pipeline replacement project completed in 2016. Although the Township attempted to work with the pipeline company to include the scope of the LMCP grant project into the pipeline project, the attempt was unsuccessful. No future projects or time line has been identified at this time for stream restoration.

The DNR Salt Creek Public Fishing Area, located to the south of and adjacent to Haven Hollow Park is comprised of 75 acres of hardwood forest and fallow farm fields. The property provides fishing access along Salt Creek's main stem including Steelhead Trout and salmon fishing.

The department recognizes the recreation and natural value that Salt Creek offers including fishing, kayaking, and natural and wildlife education and programming. It is the intention of the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation Board to join creek preservation and clean-up initiatives and pursue future recreational opportunities along the creek.

A report by the Army Corp. of Engineers in 1994 stated that Field of Dreams Park, located at the southwest corner of 700 North and 400 West Roads in unincorporated Portage Township, does contain wetlands. Portage Township Park Department will strive to develop educational programming highlighting this and all natural assets within the Township park system.

Other Natural Influences

As in many communities across Indiana, Portage Township is dealing

Salt Creek in Haven Hollow Park.



with the effects of certain invasive species. The parks department has engaged in the removal of damaged trees due to Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth impacts. The Township spent \$3,200.00 for tree removal in Haven Hollow Park during 2015. In 2016, the Township expended \$6,300.00 for tree removal in Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks. Removal of the damaged trees was primarily undertaken to reduce the risk of damage to park facilities or injury to park visitors. Removal of diseased or dead trees also promotes a more beautiful park environment and positive image of the parks in the community.

MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL

Portage Township History

Prior to the official establishment of Portage Township in 1836 the area, then called Twenty Mile Prairie denoting its distance from Michigan City, was inhabited by Native American Indians who thrived due to the rich land, good drinking water, waterway transportation, abundance of fish, grasslands for cattle, and plentiful wildlife within the woodlands. Tribes residing in the area included the Wea Indians whose primary area of inhabitation was Indiana in the 18th Century. Other native American residents included the Chiqua east of Valparaiso and north of Kouts. Porter County was frequently traveled by the Sac Indians who lived to the west and created two major trails crossing the county, called the Sauk Trails. These were used by early white settlers when crossing the wilderness and homesteading in the region. Indiana Route 2 closely follows the original route of the southern Sauk Trail. The northern trail followed closely along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

In the early 1800's the Potawatomie Indians, led by Chief Pokagon, settled into the Garyton area. He later sold a large tract of land to white settlers that was used for the construction of the Michigan Road and the Wabash and Erie Canal that stretched west to Chicago. A portion of this land later became the City of Gary.

The Native Americans' influence on the area is evident in their establishment of trade routes that have led to development of many present day roads in the area's transportation network. The word "Portage" is attributed to the Native American Indians who transported boats and supplies overland between navigable waterways in the area.

Later, travelers, fur traders, and trappers traveled through the Portage area, using a stage coach path linking Detroit to Fort Dearborn. The only known white settler prior to 1833 was Joseph Bailly who ran a trading post and later a hotel. Starting in 1833, additional settlers began arriving from as far away as New York state.

Portage Township's history can be found at the Alton Goin Museum, operated by the Portage Community Historical Society.



2 | Community Features

On January 28, 1836, Indiana State Legislature passed an act creating present day Porter County, effective February 1, 1836, and 10 townships were formed including Portage Township. The area maintained its rural flavor for nearly a century, even after an interurban streetcar line linked residents to Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Crown Point and Valparaiso. During world wars and other boom periods farmers could supplement their incomes by working at nearby steel mills such as the U.S. Steel Corporation's Gary Works.

During the 1950's many Lake County urban dwellers, anxious to leave behind problems of pollution, crime, and racial tension, moved to Portage. Other newcomers from Kentucky, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana liked Portage's rural ambience, available jobs, and inexpensive housing. In 1959 National Steel opened a mill along Portage's lakefront and plans were created to construct a deep-water port nearby. Fear of annexation by Valparaiso or another municipality led to incorporation of Portage as a town in 1959. Pro-growth land developers and Chamber of Commerce officials persuaded voters to change Portage's status from town to city in 1968.

Transportation

Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks are located on County Road 700 North, a main county artery running through unincorporated Portage Township. CR 700 North connects travelers to State Road 149 to the east and Countyline Road to the west. These north-south arteries both connect to U.S. Highway 6 to the north and State Road 130 to the south. From there, travelers easily connect to major city and county roads and expressways leading throughout Northwest Indiana and into neighboring states, with Illinois approximately 30 miles to the west and Michigan 45 miles to the east.

Evergreen Park is located on Evergreen Avenue less than one mile from the City of Portage central business district and less than one mile from access to I-90, the Indiana Toll Road.

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) commuter rail service runs east to west through the north-end of Portage Township connecting township residents to cities across Northern Indiana and Illinois between Chicago and South Bend, Indiana. The ease of the train service offers Portage Township residents more employment and leisure opportunities.

The ChicaGO Dash, located six miles south-east of Portage Township in Valparaiso, Indiana, is a second alternative for residents traveling to and from Chicago. The bus offers an express commuter service from Valparaiso to downtown Chicago with four buses per day round trip. Round trip cost is \$16.00 and monthly passes are available.

Porter County Council on Aging and Community Services implements

NICTD commuter train.



a transportation program for the betterment of seniors, the disabled, and those in need. This service offers Portage Township residents transportation to locations vital to their well-being including medical and dental appointments, grocery and pharmacy stores, the trustee's office, etc. There is a nominal, affordable fee associated with the program.

Opportunity Enterprises, Valparaiso, Indiana offers the OE Express to Porter County adults with disabilities. The transportation program reaches throughout Porter County as well as portions of Lake and LaPorte Counties. There is a fee associated with this program.

The Portage Township Trustee's Office, through the Bonner Senior Center, offers a similar program, however, the service is free to members, taking them to locations within Portage Township.

A local taxi-cab service is available to township residents; however, the high cost of service is prohibitive to many local residents.

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is a federally-funded, multipurpose planning agency working to coordinate the urban transportation planning process for the region including Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. NIRPC's Environmental Department strives for improvement in both water and air quality for Northwest Indiana and NIRPC is a proponent of carpooling and utilizing the trail and bikeway systems established throughout the region to reduce emission and increase air quality.

NIRPC participated in this plan as a stakeholder and their *Ped & Pedal Plan 2010* was reviewed as a part of the planning process. Specific recommendations from NIRPC include:

- Providing a 10 foot wide asphalt multiuse path along the east side of McCool Road between CR 700 N north to the existing Prairie-Dunleand Trail, approximately three miles, to connect Haven Hollow and Field of Dream parks to the trail
- Improving the existing signalized intersection of McCool Road and US 6 to improve safety for path users
- Reapportioning the existing width of the McCool Road Bridge over I-90 to accommodate at least an eight foot wide multimodal route on the east side of the bridge, separated from the travel lane by a physical barrier
- Creating dedicated bike lanes or sharrows (pavement markings and signs) in the South Haven area to allow bicyclists to reach Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks more safely

The Prairie-Duneland Trail will ultimately connect multimodal users to the proposed Marquette Greenway which in its envisioned form will traverse

Port of Indiana, Porter County



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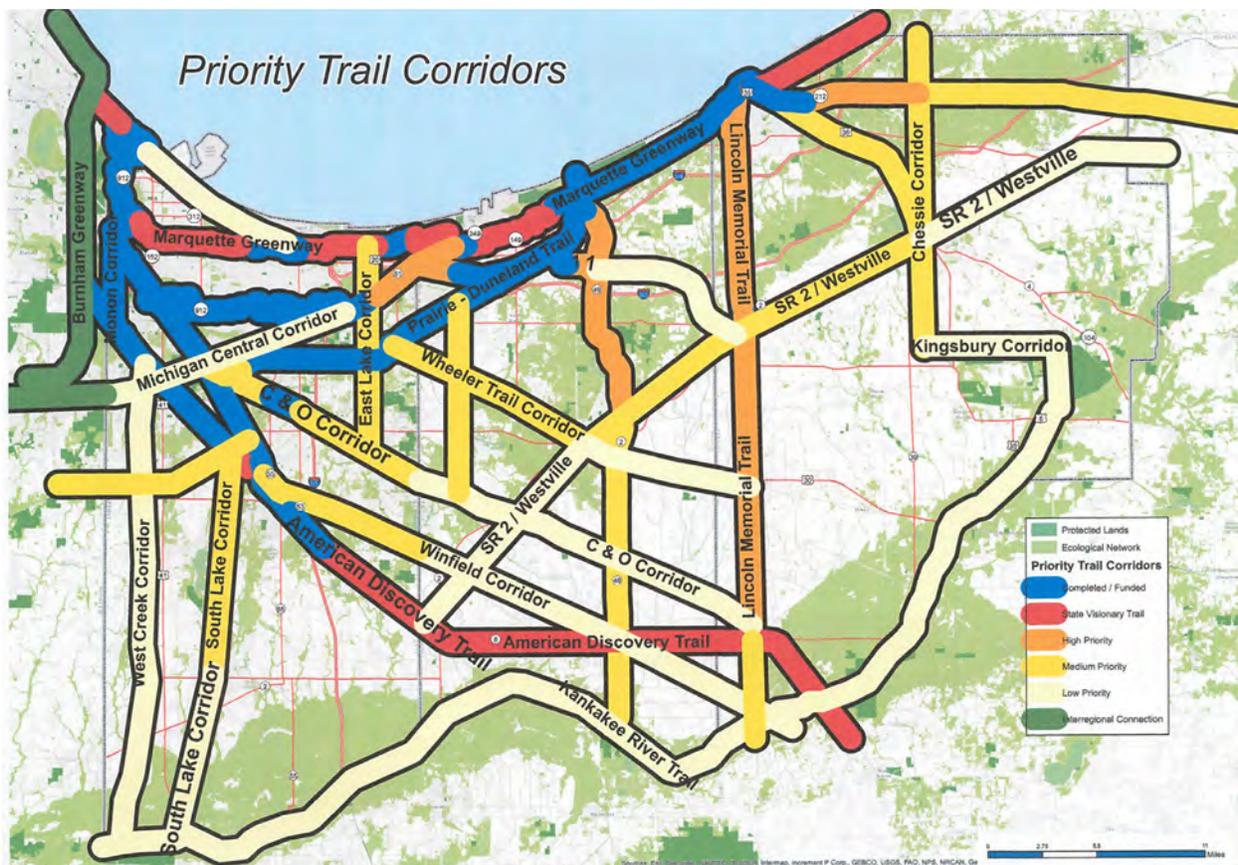
15 communities across 50 miles from Calumet Park in Chicago to New Buffalo, Michigan.

The nearest commercial airlines for passenger travel are located (in order of closest proximity) in Gary, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; South Bend, Indiana; and Indianapolis. There are also smaller commuter airports in Hobart and Valparaiso for small private planes.

The Port of Indiana on Lake Michigan provides access to the Atlantic Ocean for transporting goods and materials by ship. Approximately 100 ships, 400 barges, and 200 laker vessels travel through the port each year. Common freight railway carriers running through the Chicagoland-Northwest Indiana area include Canadian National Railway, Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad, Chicago Fort Wayne and Eastern Railroad, Chicago Shoreline and South Bend Rail Road, CSX Transportation, Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad, Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad, Norfolk Southern Railway, and the South Chicago and Indiana Harbor Railway.

Opportunities to connect community members with Township Parks through public transportation do exist but are limited and in some cases costly. Additional Township Park access will be considered, primarily connecting local residents through the expansion of trails, bikeways, and walkways.

NIRPC map showing trail corridor priorities and the connection between the Prairie-Duneland Trail and the Marquette Greenway.



Employment

2014 data obtained from the US Census Bureau indicates the following mix of employers in Portage Township by NAICS Industry Sector:

Of the 15,438 employees in the Township, 25.9% of workers are age 29 or younger, 54.1% are age 30-54, and 19.9% are 55 or older.

Employment	Count	Share
Manufacturing	2,649	17.2%
Accommodation and Food Service	2,172	14.1%
Retail Trade	2,018	13.1%
Construction	2,007	13.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,266	8.2%
Educational Services	1,002	6.5%
Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation	907	5.9%
Wholesale Trade	743	4.8%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	707	4.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	560	3.6%
Public Administration	431	2.8%
Finance and Insurance	297	1.9%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	264	1.7%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	147	1.0%
Information	98	0.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	79	0.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	40	0.3%
Utilities	27	0.2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	20	0.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	4	0.0%

Education

The Portage Township School System consists of eight elementary schools (K-5), two middle schools (6-8), and one high school (9-12) for a total of approximately 8300 students. Aylesworth, Central, Crisman, Jones, Kyle, Myers, Saylor and South Haven Elementary Schools serve approximately 3900 students. South Haven and Saylor Elementary Schools maintain the highest student populations in the district and are located in the South Haven area of Portage Township near Field of Dreams and Haven Hollow Parks. Fegley and Willowcreek Middle Schools serve approximately 2090 students and Portage High School approximately 2600 students.

Two parochial elementary schools (K-6) and one parochial elementary-middle school (K-8) are also located in Portage Township.

Additional resources include the Portage Township Education Foundation

Portage Township School's logo.



2 | Community Features

Inc., a nonprofit, volunteer organization that raises money to support teachers in the classroom. Their mission is to engage the Portage Township Community in support of educational innovations that improve student achievement.

The opportunity to increase and strengthen educational, environmental, science and wellness programs at the Township Parks with community students is a priority of the parks department. The county parks department regularly brings science education and wellness programming into Portage school classrooms, giving the Township Parks Department an ability to focus on outdoor opportunities. Two of the local elementary schools and the South Haven Boys and Girls Club currently visit the parks once or twice a year as a celebration for curriculum achievements; however, there is opportunity to create a day for education and wellness outside of the classroom at the park.

Partnerships with local school administrators, parent/teacher organizations, and educators have been established however, there is room to reach more educators and create more opportunities for students.

Historic Sites, Arts and Culture

Local theater, art, and music are found throughout the Portage Township area and include locally performed plays, art shows highlighting local artists and summer concerts in Township and City of Portage parks.

The Portage Community Historical Society created and maintains the Alton Goin Historical Museum at the City's Countryside Park in Portage, Indiana. Hundreds of school children tour the museum each year to learn about the history of Portage. While at the park, students also tour the historic Traeger Homestead and out buildings. The annual Portage Historical Festival invites visitors to experience life in the early 1800's by participating in butter churning, wood carving, fishing, vintage

baseball, as well as, viewing antique farm equipment, automobiles and fire trucks. Santa visits the museum each December, and the Society regularly brings special exhibits to the museum.

The City of Portage Department of Parks and Recreation, along with the Portage Historical Society, have also worked together to preserve the historic Traeger Farmstead at Countryside Park in Portage. Additionally, within the last 5 years, the two groups also worked to move a historic cottage from National Lakeshore Property to Countryside Park. The historic log home is thought to be of Swedish construction from fur traders in the 1800's. Fund raising initiatives have been underway to restore the log home to its original state.

Traeger Farmstead



Locally, the Township Parks Department has the opportunity to partner with many organizations to bring community members of all ages together to experience arts and culture at the parks including theatre workshops, music concerts, and craft and painting instruction. Recent events are discussed in more detail in the Programming section of Chapter 3.

Taking a broader look at the influence of art and culture in Porter County the Town of Chesterton and the City of Valparaiso also offer a variety of theatrical productions throughout the year, and the Historic Memorial Opera House and nearby Porter County Museum are located in nearby Valparaiso, Indiana. The auditorium within Ivy-Tech’s Valparaiso Campus hosts theatrical performances twice a year, and Valparaiso University’s Center for the Arts has a dynamic Visual and Performing Arts Program for music, art, theatre. The campus also contains the Brauer Museum of Art, home to a nationally recognized collection of 19th, 20th, and 21st century American art.

The Porter County Museum in Valparaiso.



Within 35 miles west of Portage Township, residents can visit the Munster Visual & Performing Arts Center in Munster, Indiana or the Chicago Arts District in Chicago, Illinois.

Local art galleries, breweries, and a variety of restaurant cuisines can also be found in neighboring cities. The Hispanic community within Portage Township also brings with it bakeries, groceries, and customs of their heritage.

The Portage Community Concert Series brings music to the City Parks each year. Throughout the year and hosted by the City and various service organizations are parades, carnivals, music concerts, Elvis Fest, art exhibits, Halloween parties, etc. held annually throughout the City.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

Estimated population data has been taken from the U.S. Census Bureau (2015) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Area	Population (2015 Estimate)	Percent Change from 2010 Census
Portage Township	47,252	+0.35%
Porter County	167,688	+2.00%
State of Indiana	6,619,680	+2.10%

The Township has experienced a small percent of growth since 2010 although not as much growth as Porter County or the State. The following chart provides some basic population information and compares the Township with Porter County and the State of Indiana.

2 | Community Features

Population	Portage Twnshp.	Porter County	State of Indiana
Male	48.4%	49.2%	49.3%
Female	51.6%	50.8%	50.7%
Median Age	37.8	39.2	37.3
White	75.5%	84.5%	80.5%
African American	6.4%	3.2%	9.1%
Asian	0.9%	1.4%	1.8%
American Indiana/Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0.1%	0.0%
Other	0%	0.1%	0.1%
Identified by two or more	1.6%	1.3%	1.9%
Hispanic or Latino	15.5%	9.2%	6.4%

Housing

2015 census estimates show a total of 19,080 housing units in Portage Township, up 1.48% from 2010 Census numbers. Of these units, there is a 7.4% vacancy rate, up from 6.1% in 2010. 73.4% of units are owner occupied with 26.6% being renter occupied. This remains unchanged from 2010 data. Acknowledgement of vacancy rate of units, accounts for a total of 17,678 households with an average of 2.7 persons per household.

Of these households, the following is true:

- 60.8% are occupied by married couples
- 5.9% by a male householder
- 19.0% by a female householder
- 14.3% are non-family

Median household value is \$132,600 in the Township. This is approximately 20% lower than overall Porter County (\$165,500) and approximately 10% higher than the Indiana average of \$124,400. National median household value is \$178,600.

Income

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development shows a November 2016 unemployment rate in Porter County of 4.3%, down from the 7.7% shown in the 2013 plan. For the same month, Indiana's rate was 3.9% and the US rate was 4.4%. The following comparison illustrates economics in Portage Township as compared to Porter County and the State of Indiana.

Statistic	Portage Twnshp.	Porter County	State of Indiana
Per Capita Income	\$25,344	\$29,922	\$25,346
Median Household Income	\$57,015	\$63,926	\$49,255
Persons Below Poverty Line (All)	14.9%	11.6%	15.4%
Persons Under 18 Below Poverty Line	22.3%	17.5%	21.9%
Person 65 and Over Below Poverty Line	7.8%	4.9%	7.3%

Portage Township maintains a goal of offering family oriented programs and events at little or no cost. The department has partnered with local organizations and businesses for donations and volunteer support to underwrite costs thus eliminating cost as a barrier to participants. The department continues to find more ways to financially sustain no or low cost programming including development of a youth scholarship program, initiation of a corporate banner/visibility program, and by applying for more grants and donations.

The department also continues to partner with outside organizations (local churches, Boys and Girls Clubs) who bring their programming into the parks. As an example, the department has partnered with local boys and girls clubs to create a flag football league during the summer. The park department is responsible for maintenance and field set-up and the boys and girls clubs manage the event and programming.

Fishing instruction on Salt Creek.

Education

2015 Census data estimates that 89.1% of residents are a high school graduate or higher with 16.1% holding a bachelor’s degree or higher. Porter county is 91.9% and 26.4% respectively and the State of Indiana is 87.8% and 24.1%.

Age

Approximately 58% of South Haven households are comprised of families with children under the age of 18. South Haven is one of the most affordable areas to live in Portage Township and the two elementary schools located within two miles of Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks have the largest student populations of the eight total Portage Township elementary schools. Given the number of family households in the immediate area, family oriented events and programming are well attended in the parks.



Age plays an important role in the development of softball leagues in the

2 | Community Features

Township. The number of adults interested in league play has declined over several years. This coupled with the close proximity of other facilities and park departments offering adult leagues have made it difficult for Portage Township to build and maintain healthy adult leagues. In response to this, Portage Township has found a niche in renting fields to travelling and local youth teams for practices.

SUMMARY

- Portage Township has experienced minimal growth since 2010. Porter County and the State are both growing approximately 140% faster than the Township
- The median age of Township resident has increased 3.28% since 2010 indicating an aging population
- Portage Township has a significant number of residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino, nearly 1.75 times that of Porter County and more than 2.4 times the state average. This should be considered when developing new park amenities or programs. For instance, creating marketing and event advertising in both English and Spanish may help increase awareness and attendance
- Educational attainment is slightly higher in the Township than in the State overall
- Housing values in the Township have remained steady since the 2013 plan was complete
- Family oriented programming is more successful than adult specific programming
- Maintaining low or no cost programming is a top priority of the department

The Greater Portage Chamber of Commerce releases data specific to the Township comparing the City of Portage, Ogden Dunes, and the South Haven area with Portage Township in general. It should be noted that the Town of Ogden Dunes is a lake side residential community of approximately 1200 residents within the Township's boundary. While most areas of the Township are somewhat similar regarding income and home values, Ogden Dunes is higher with a median household income \$106,406 and a median household value of \$343,800. Ogden Dunes accounts for approximately 2.29% of the Township population and 3.43% of the total households.

A facilities inventory was conducted to catalog recreation opportunities found in the Portage Township park system. Four facilities were inventoried including:

- Haven Hollow Park
- Field of Dreams Park
- Jim H. Lynch Park
- Evergreen Park

Initial inventories of the park sites were completed using the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Department of Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory Sheets. Basic information for each park was supplemented with more detailed information obtained through further field investigation. Inventory information was then reviewed and confirmed by department staff.

Park classifications listed for each facility are based on the National Park and Recreation Association’s standards for park types.

The fishing pier at Haven Hollow Park.



HAVEN HOLLOW PARK

Acres: 39
Classification: Community Park

Haven Hollow Park includes active and passive recreation. The park is bound by County Road 700 N on the north, the Salt Creek corridor and woodlands to the south, Porter County land and residences to the east, and a church and residences to the west. Approximately four acres of the parkland are developed with the additional 35 acres remaining undeveloped or natural. A pipeline easement runs from the northeast to the southwest corner of the site. This easement does not preclude recreation opportunities but it does limit the activities that can occur in this area.

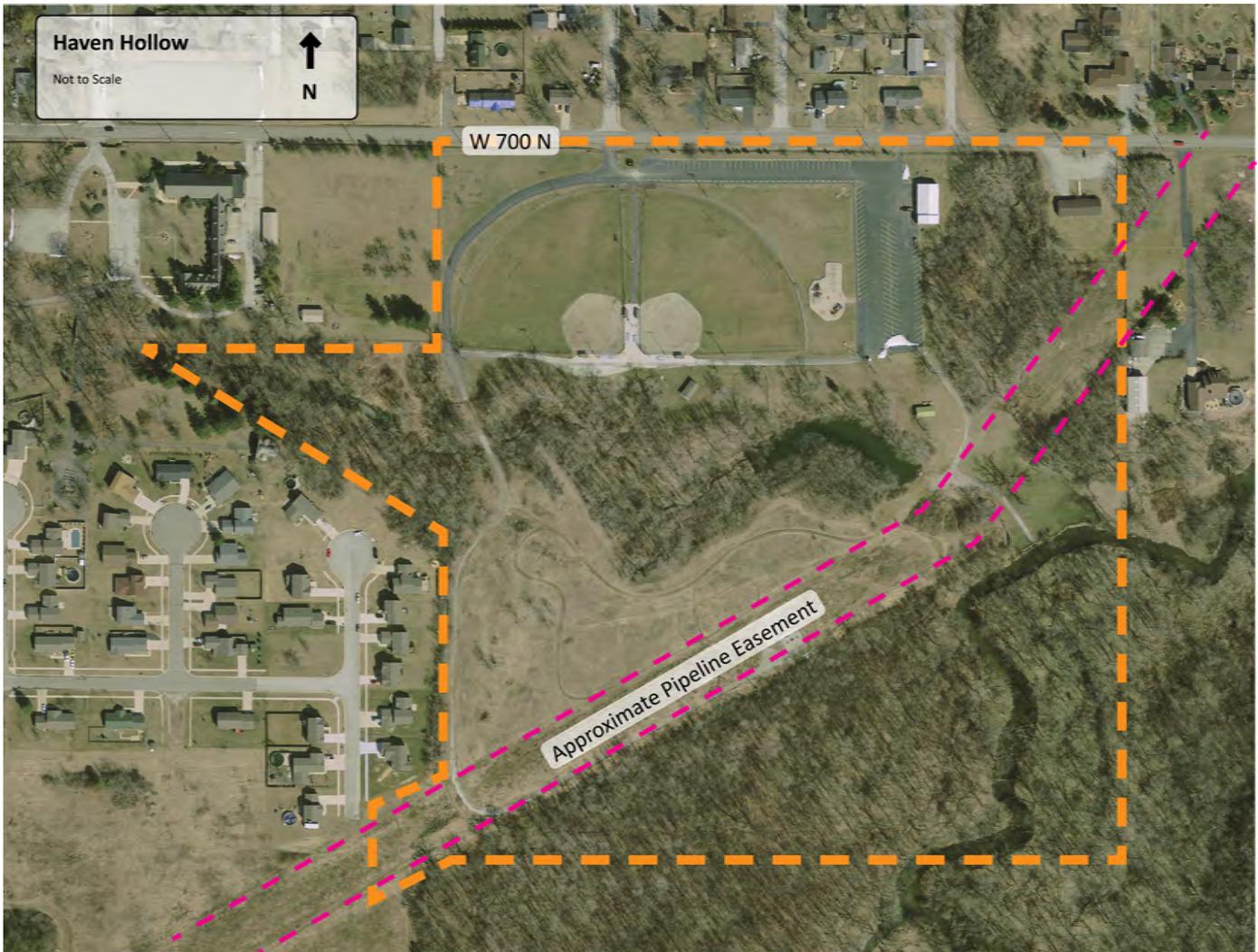
Park amenities include:

- Two sanctioned softball fields including dugouts, lights, and portable bleachers
- One half court basketball
- Playground area
- Paved running/walking path (approximately 0.40 miles)
- Salt Creek access and fishing platform
- Three picnic shelters with 20 tables total

Playground Equipment
Small multifunctional piece (fire truck)
Large multifunctional piece
Four swings including accessible infant swing
One seated spinner
One spiral climber
One wheelchair accessible swing
One hippopotamus climber
One rocking pirate ship
One grasshopper bouncer
One hanging spinner

3 | Supply Analysis

- Park office and maintenance building
- Bike rack - four bicycles
- Asphalt parking lot - 128 spaces



FIELD OF DREAMS PARK

Acres: 24.2

Classification: Community Park

Field of Dreams Park is bound by County Road 700 N on the north, County Road 400 W/McCool Road to the east, a tributary of Salt creek to the south, and a private residence to the west. Field of Dreams Park contains mostly active recreation elements and the park is adjacent to a Porter County library branch and the South Haven Fire Department. The

parkland was donated to the Township in 1994 by ANR Pipeline Company with the intention of relocating softball fields from Haven Hollow Park that had been constructed over the pipeline easement. Approximately nine acres of the park are developed with the remaining 13.2 being undeveloped, open green space, or wooded.

Park amenities include:

- Three practice softball fields including dugouts and portable bleachers
- One half court basketball
- Playground area
- One picnic shelter with 8 tables
- Concrete block concession and storage building
- Open green space
- Gravel parking lot - 60 spaces

Playground Equipment
Medium multifunctional piece
Large multifunctional piece
Four swings including two infant swings



3 | Supply Analysis

JIM H. LYNCH PARK

Acres: 0.36
 Classification: Mini Park

Jim H. Lynch Park is a mini park located in the Coventry neighborhood and primarily serves neighborhood residents living within walking distance of the park. It was developed by Portage Township Parks & Recreation in 2014.

Park amenities include:

Playground Equipment
Small multifunctional piece
One seated spinner
One standing spinner

- Playground area
- One picnic shelter with 4 tables
- Small open green space

EVERGREEN PARK

Acres: 3.49 acres
 Classification: Neighborhood Park

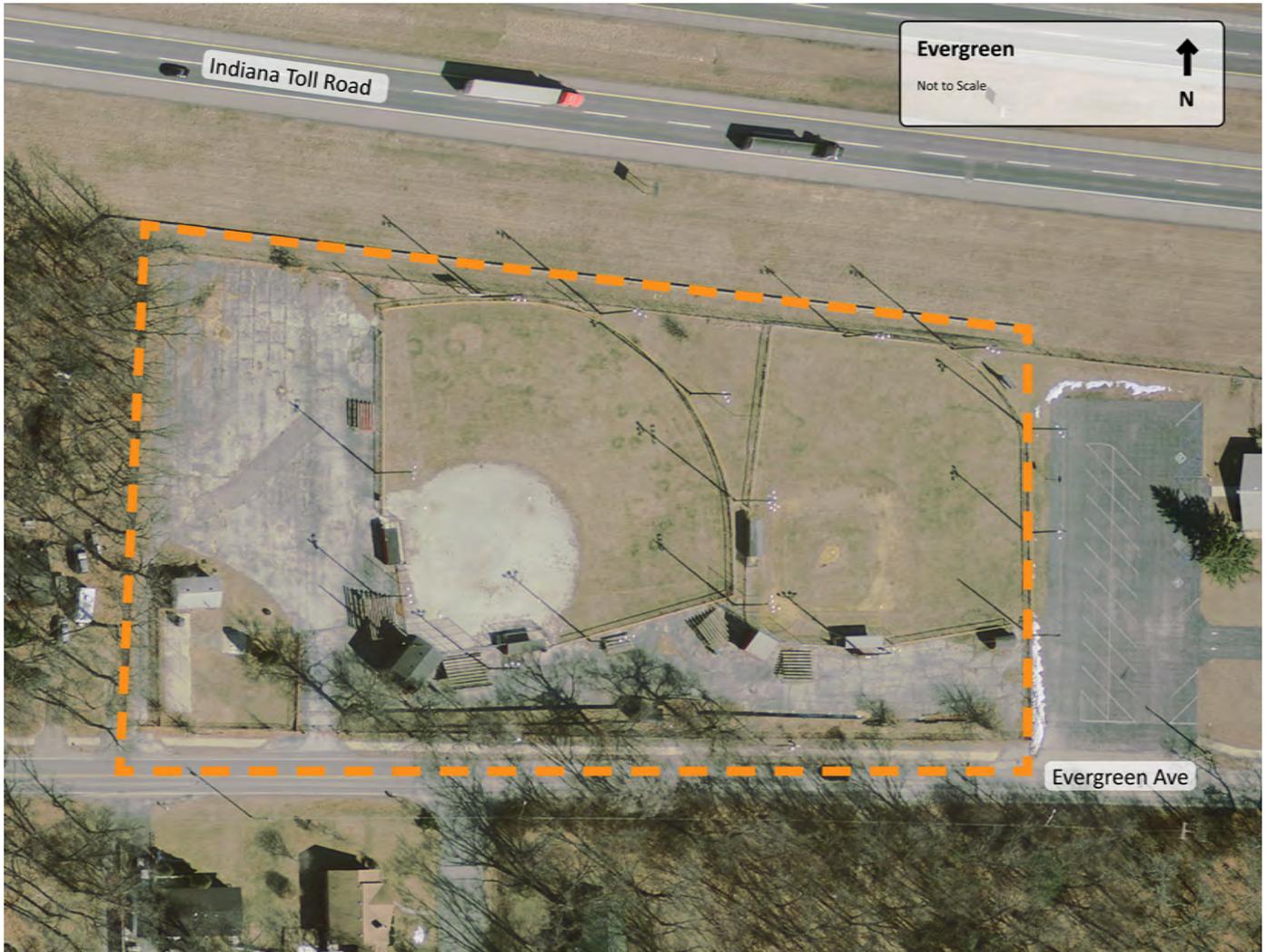
Evergreen Park was acquired by Portage Township in June of 2015. The property previously functioned as the home of Portage Little League and had been unused for several years prior to 2015.

Park amenities include:

- Two softball fields including dugouts, lights, portable bleachers, and a score board
- Concrete block concession building (condemned)
- Two storage buildings - one concrete block, one frame
- Asphalt parking lot (poor condition), approximately 0.58 acres

Evergreen Park, below and right





PROGRAMMING

Portage Township Parks & Recreation has seen significant growth in programming since the department's inception in 2011. A variety of events and programs have been implemented in the last six years - some lasting and others without lasting results. The following is a summary of 2015 programming offered in the parks system. The full *2015 Program Summary* is included in the Appendix.

Softball Leagues

Portage Township Parks & Recreation has focused league activity on youth teams, both local and travelling, who look for outdoor facilities to practice on once or twice a week. The fields are currently used by Township residents and by visitors from outside the Township and current demand outweighs field availability.

3 | Supply Analysis

Fields are rented on ninety minute or two hour increments depending on the season allowing two teams to practice on each field each night. Teams are asked to commit to rental for an entire season. Player ages range from 9 to 18 with teams from local organizations as well as other local communities including Chesterton and Valparaiso. Travelling teams have come from as far away as Illinois.

Spring and summer season are generally booked solid Monday through Thursday each week. Weekends are rented for scrimmages, Round Robins, and player tryouts.

2015 Earth Week

Earth Week programs and activities were designed to raise awareness of local environmental stewardship and provide opportunities for park users to engage in community events.

Activities included a drawing and coloring contest designed to raise awareness of a healthy environment. Approximately 1000 students (Kindergarten through Grade 8) participated and 27 students received recognition. Winning artwork is displayed in the Township Trustee's office until the following year's contest.

Portage Township Parks & Recreation also organized a *Team Up 2 Clean Up* event at which 80 volunteers participated in beautification projects in the parks including planting, mulching, trash removal, and other general maintenance (painting, etc.). The event closed with a free cookout for volunteers.

NFL Flag Football

Portage Township Parks & Recreation hosts this event that is organized by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Porter County. Begun in 2013, the program has expanded to include two fields and runs for seven weeks starting in May. Games run from 8 am to 4 pm each Saturday.

Youth Archery

2015 marked the second year of the program targeted at youth 5-15 years old. 17 children participated in the day-long program which taught safety, sport rules, and techniques.

Youth Fishing

2015 marked the fourth year of the program targeted at youth 5-15 years old. The program was filled to capacity with 20 children participating in hands-on instructional presentations and actual fishing. The program was run with partners Porter County Conservation Club, Cabela's, and Slez's Bait and Tackle Shop.

Youth fishing.



Easter Egg Hunt

2015 was the first year this event was held in Haven Hollow Park. Held during evening hours, the hunt featured glow-in-the-dark eggs and other items and was targeted to children ages 3-12. The event included the hunt as well as free pictures with the Easter Bunny. Approximately 500 children participated, much greater than the anticipated 100.

Harvest Festival.



Haven Hollow Harvest Festival

Began in 2013, this event is a free, youth-oriented, family friendly event. The event includes horse and carriage rides, a photo booth, games, crafts, storytelling, a costume parade, and food and beverages. The event is cohosted by a variety of area nonprofit groups and local businesses. It is primarily targeted to Township families with children ranging from 3-12 years old. Estimated attendance included 250 youth from 3-12 years old plus their families.

Friday Night Live in the Park

New in 2015, the event included a performance by a popular local band, a beer garden, and three food vendors. It is the intent that this event grow to a summer series and be as used a fund-raiser for park development.

PROGRESS

Portage Township Parks and Recreation has accomplished many of the goals outlined in the previously published 2013-2017 master plan. The Township has also made other improvements not addressed in the original plan. The following is summary of progress. *Italicized items indicate those that were not goals or actions included in the 2013-2017 Plan*

Haven Hollow Park

- Consolidated and expanded playground
- Rebuilt fishing pier
- Resurfaced parking lot and increased capacity
- Increased multimodal access to park in two locations
- Improved ball fields - new backstops and gates, fencing repair, new infield mix, outfield maintenance enhancements, new bases

3 | Supply Analysis

- Installed new park identification and internal/external wayfinding signs
- *Installed flagpole*
- *Installed wood fencing and gates*
- *Installed outfield gates at ball fields*
- *Built a new park shelter with tables*
- *Added accessible equipment to the playground*
- *Constructed new park office maintenance building*

Field of Dreams Park

- Upgraded backstops
- Built a new park shelter with tables
- Upgraded fencing
- Installed new park identification and internal/external wayfinding signs
- Improved grading and drainage around ball fields
- *Added heat to concession building*
- *Improved infield with new mix*

OTHER PROVIDERS

Portage Township Parks and Recreation is in a unique situation in that the Township’s service area includes overlap with areas of Porter County and the City of Portage. Given this, a review of both City and County facilities was conducted to determine what areas of the Township are being served by either Porter County or City of Portage parks.

Event at Porter County’s Sunset Hill Farm Park.



Porter County Parks

Porter County Parks and Recreation includes three primary parks properties and the Calumet Trail. One of these, Sunset Hill Farm Park, includes a service area overlapping that of Portage Township. The 238 acre district park includes a program center, amphitheater, camping, a playground and passive recreation opportunities. The park’s five mile service radius includes the eastern third of Portage Township.

City of Portage Parks

The City of Portage Parks and Recreation department manages five parks all of which are located within the Township’s boundary. Facilities include, based on acreage, one mini park (Robert’s Park), three community parks (Woodland Park, Countryside Park, and the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk), and one district park (Imagination Glen).

The Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk is jointly operated by the City of Portage and the National Park Service as part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Although based on its size of 57 acres it qualifies as a community park, due to direct access to Lake Michigan and associated beach front, the facility has a larger service radius than is typically expected for this classification.

The following two pages contain a chart indicating the public and private recreation opportunities located throughout the Township. The page following the chart includes a map illustrating the service radii of Township, Porter County, and City of Portage parks providing recreation within the Township boundary (based on park classifications outlined in Chapter 6 of this master plan.

The pavilion at the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. The pavilion includes restrooms, seasonal food and beverage, and class-room/meeting space. Image courtesy of the National Park Service.



3

Supply Analysis

ADDITIONAL RECREATION PROVIDERS

The following chart illustrates recreation opportunities provided by other providers in the planning area.

	Basketball	Baseball	Bicycling/Mountain Biking	Boating	Bowling	Cheerleading	Camps/Camping	Crafts/Art	Day Trips/Education	Environmental Programs	Fishing	Festivals/Events	Football	Gymnastics/Tumbling	Golf	Hiking	Health/Fitness
Portage Township Trustee	•	1									•	•				•	A
IN Dunes National Lakeshore							•			•	•		2			•	
Portage Lakefront/Riverwalk			•								•					•	
Indiana Dunes State Park			•	•						•	•					•	
Portage Public Marina				•													
City of Portage Parks	•	•	•	•	Y	Y	Y	•	A	•	•	•		Y	Y	•	•
Porter County Parks								•		•	•	•				•	•
Porter Co. Library, South Haven							Y	•	A								•
Porter Co. Library, Portage							Y	•	A								•
Boys & Girls Club, South Haven	Y							Y	Y	Y							Y
Boys & Girls Club, Portage	Y							Y	Y	Y							Y
Portage Township Schools	Y	Y							Y				Y	Y			
Portage Township YMCA	•						Y	Y				•		Y			•
Portage Youth Basketball	Y																
South Haven Little League		Y															
Portage Little League		Y															
Portage Junior Miss																	
Portage Pop Warner Football													Y				
Portage Pop Warner Cheerleading						Y											
Portage Youth Soccer																	
Little Champions Cheerleading						Y											
Karate & Gyms-for-Profit																	•
Elite Gymnastics & Cheer						Y								Y			
NW Indiana Gymnastics														Y			
The Courts	•																

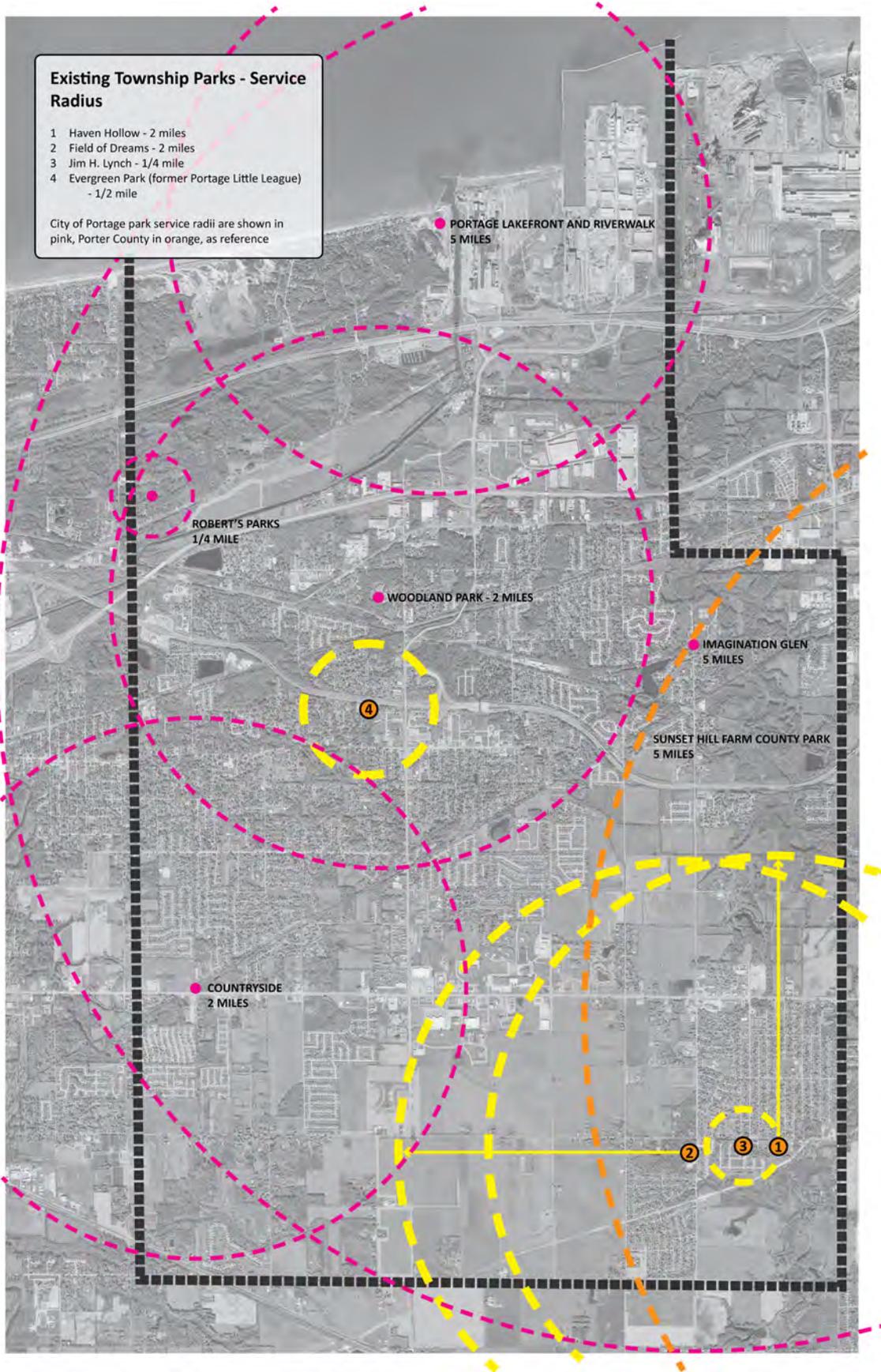
1. Portage Township rents fields for baseball but does not organize nor implement baseball programming.

- - Adult and Youth
- A - Adult Only
- Y - Youth Only

	Hockey	Horseback Riding/Trails	Jogging/Running	Karate/Taekwondo	Outdoor Open Play Space	Preschool	Soccer	Cross country Skiing	Sledding	Social/Dances/Theater/Music	Softball	Swimming	Tennis	Track & Field	Trails	Volleyball	Wrestling
Portage Township Trustee			•		•					A	•						
IN Dunes National Lakeshore		•			•			•				•				•	
Portage Lakefront/Riverwalk			•		•											•	
Indiana Dunes State Park			•		•							•				•	
Portage Public Marina																	
City of Portage Parks			•	Y	•	•	Y	•	•	•	A		Y			•	A
Porter County Parks			•		•			•	•	•						•	
Porter Co. Library, South Haven																	
Porter Co. Library, Portage																	
Boys & Girls Club, South Haven							Y			Y							
Boys & Girls Club, Portage							Y			Y							
Portage Township Schools	Y						Y				Y	Y		Y		Y	Y
Portage Township YMCA			•	•		•				Y		•					
Portage Youth Basketball																	
South Haven Little League																	
Portage Little League																	
Portage Junior Miss											Y						
Portage Pop Warner Football																	
Portage Pop Warner Cheerleading																	
Portage Youth Soccer											Y						
Little Champions Cheerleading																	
Karate & Gyms-for-Profit				•													
Elite Gymnastics & Cheer																	
NW Indiana Gymnastics																	
The Courts													•			Y	

2. Portage Township facilities are used for flag-football but the Township does not organize nor implement football programming.

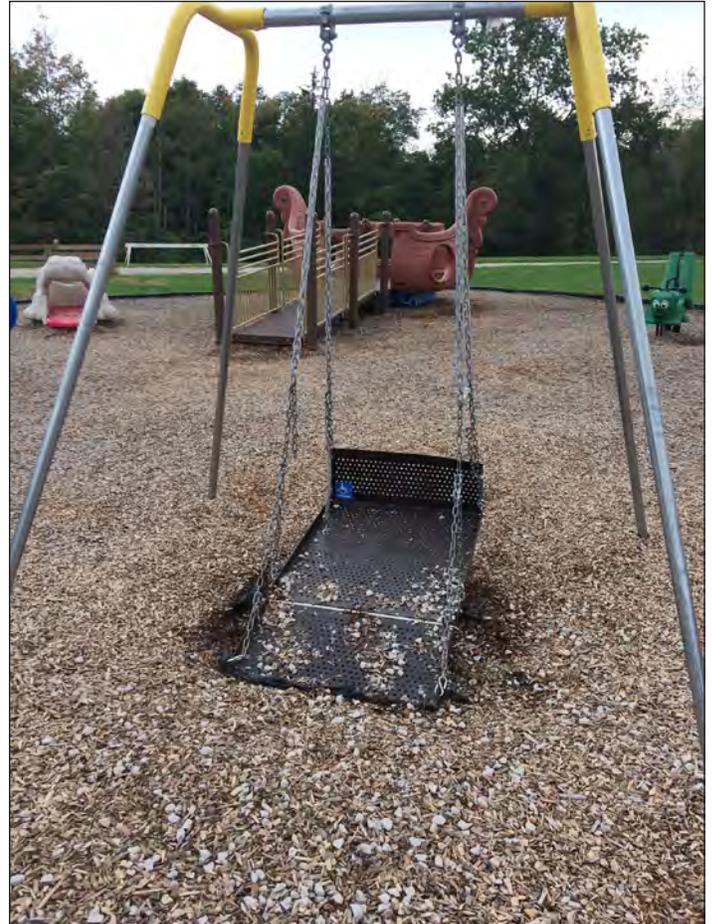
3 | Supply Analysis



Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to offering valuable program and recreational opportunities to all visitors regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, and physical and mental abilities and will comply with guidelines set forth in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 as well as the Civil Rights Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and all disability rights laws where applicable.

The Portage Township Trustee is currently undertaking a self-evaluation and the development of a transition plan for compliance at each Township property and department (evaluation results are not complete at this time). It is also important to note that at the time this plan was created, the Township completed an update to design master plans for Haven Hollow Park and Field of Dreams Park and a new design master plan for Evergreen Park. These master plans look at specific design elements in each park including recommendations for ADA compliance.

Wheelchair accessible swing in Haven Hollow Park.



ACCESSIBILITY TO DATE

The Parks Department and the Township as a whole have made considerable efforts to upgrade the accessibility of facilities including parks. The following represents a list of projects completed since 2013:

- Addition of accessible crushed stone surfacing at Field of Dreams ball fields.
- Addition of accessible playground equipment at Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks to include transfer platforms and meeting ADA requirements for accessible entrance & exit and fall-surfacing underneath the equipment.
- Addition of a wheelchair accessible swing in Haven Hollow Park.

Joy Lundstrom, Superintendent of Portage Township Parks and Recreation, was appointed by the Township Trustee as ADA Coordinator for the Township Trustee including the Trustee’s administration building, the parks department, cemetery department, South Haven Fire Department and the Bonner Senior Center.

A preliminary assessment of accessibility at Township parks shows:

- Eight designated ADA parking spaces at Haven Hollow Park, four comply with ADA guidelines and four do not.
- Concrete pad able to hold three to four ADA parking spaces currently exists at Field of Dreams. As discussed later in this

4 | Accessibility

plan, paving and striping of this lot is a priority in the next five years. This would include all required ADA spaces and improvements.

- An accessible route of travel to the Haven Hollow playground exists but not at Field of Dreams Park.
- Portable bathroom facilities are accessible.
- New park development or existing park renovation will meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the ADA guidelines.

PRELIMINARY SELF EVALUATION

Many of Township Park facilities were constructed in the 1980's and 1990's without consideration of accessibility. As rehabilitation of existing facilities and new development occur in land, facility and programming, the Portage Township Park Board will ensure compliance with ADA Guidelines. Potential funding sources will be sought primarily through private, state, and federal grant opportunities and through corporate sponsorships within the region. The time line for development will be dependent on availability of funding.

Current inaccessible facilities:

- Access to Haven Hollow Park - The park is located on a busy county road with no sidewalks. Pedestrians must cross the road at one of the two park entrances due to a deep drainage ditch running along the property. Crosswalk striping and pedestrian crossing signs do not exist. The updated Haven Hollow design master plan addresses specific accessibility recommendations.
- Access to Field of Dreams Park - A four foot wide sidewalk exists along the park on CR 400 W. It is recommended that at the time the walk needs to be replaced that a minimum of six feet of width be provided, preferably ten feet. The Field of Dreams design master plan addresses specific accessibility recommendations.
- Evergreen Park - The township recently completed a design master plan for Evergreen Park. The master plan addresses specific accessibility issues and makes recommendations for ADA compliance.
- Jim H. Lynch Park - The existing playground is accessible; however, the picnic shelter is not.
- Clearly defined sidewalks/paths within the parks and to park amenities such as playgrounds and shelters are lacking. Pathway issues will be addressed as funding is available for park development, according to the master plans referenced above.

Playground equipment includes transfer platforms for accessibility.



PUBLIC NOTICE

At a public meeting held on January 3, 2012, the Portage Township Park Board officially approved Resolution 2012-01, following the reading of a proposed ADA Compliance Statement. Park Board members, through voice call vote, unanimously supported the statement, pledging their commitment and responsibility to meeting, and where possible, exceeding ADA requirements in all its facilities and departments where possible. The resolution is included in the appendix. Copies of the accessibility statement are posted at the following Portage Township location:

- Trustee’s Administrative Offices
- Bonner Senior Center
- Department of Parks and Recreation Office and Maintenance Facility (located in Haven Hollow Park)

Crushed stone paving has been installed to the fields and concession building in Field of Dreams Park.



GRIEVANCES

Information and forms regarding ADA grievance procedures are available at the above mentioned Portage Township Trustee locations and grievances will be forwarded to the ADA Coordinator, Joy Lundstrom, Portage Township Parks and Recreation, 330 W 700 N, Valparaiso, IN 46385, 219.759.5471, for investigation.

ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

An original signed copy of the Township’s commitment to comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (as amended), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended) was included with the submission of this master plan. A copy of this document is included on the following page.



ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH: ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended); SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended); AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)

The Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Bolton".

APPLICANT PRESIDENT

The name "Colleen Bolton" printed in a simple, sans-serif font.

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Lundy".

APPLICANT SECRETARY

The name "Stephanie Lundy" printed in a simple, sans-serif font.

(Secretary's printed name)

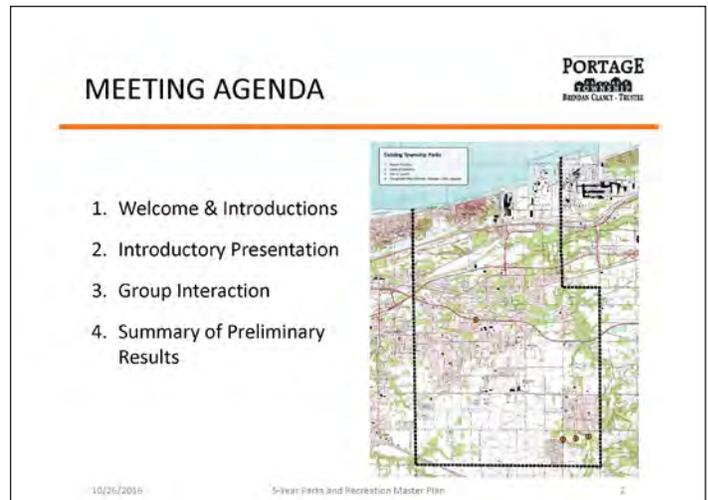
DATE

A handwritten date "August 8, 2017" written in cursive script.

Several methods of public input were used in the planning process to understand the community’s impressions of the department, existing facilities, and citizen’s opinions on future growth and improvement throughout the Portage Township Parks and Recreation department and system. Methods included:

- Three focus group meetings
- Two public input meetings
- Questionnaire

Agenda from focus group meetings.



FOCUS GROUPS

Three one-hour focus group meetings were held on October 26, 2016. Focus group participants were invited and the meetings were organized around three community stakeholder types:

- Township Advisory Board, parks board, and park foundation board members
- Community leaders
- Outdoor recreation leaders and coaches

Meetings were held at the Bonner Senior Center and began with a brief presentation of the planning process and project goals. Aerial photos of the four existing parks were available for use throughout the meetings. The majority of meeting time was spent in an open discussion of Portage Township Parks and Recreation’s strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for the future. In total, 16 people participated in the focus group meetings. The following chart illustrates a synopsis of discussion results. Full results are located in the appendix.

Bold items in the chart below indicate the top three reoccurring comments in all focus groups.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities
Softball fields are well used	Walkability/community connectivity	Destination park/unique offerings
New playground equipment	Lack of knowledge of park amenities	Increase variety of activity/programs
Good amount, functional park space	Name recognition	Connectivity/trails
Maintenance	Distinguishing Township from other areas	Redesign of Evergreen Park
Easy to get to	Teen programming	Splash pad
Investment in parks to date	Amount/condition of parking	Kayak launch in Haven Hollow
Special events/programs	Lack of variety in programming	Hosting softball tournaments
Family oriented	Social media/web presence	Fitness equipment/obstacle course
Dry, usable field at Evergreen Park	Lack of adult softball leagues	Buy and protect land
Relationships with other entities	Communication	Preserve existing open space
Progress in last five years	Lack of plumbed restrooms	Basketball
Improved signage		Batting cages

5 | Demand Analysis

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meeting 1

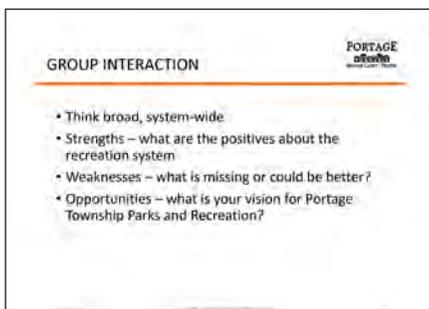
A public input meeting was held on October 26, 2016, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Bonner Senior Center. Advertising for the meeting was done in the following ways:

- A press release was sent to local media outlets on October 5 and October 14, 2016.
- A letter size flyer was printed and distributed throughout the community. A copy of the flyer was sent home with every elementary school child in the Portage Township school system.
- 100 copies of a postcard size announcement were distributed in the community.
- Township website and Facebook page.

The public meeting format mirrored the format of the focus group sessions held earlier in the day. The majority of meeting time was spent in an open discussion of Portage Township Parks & Recreation’s strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for the future. In total, five people participated in public meeting. The following chart illustrates discussion results.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities
Maintenance	Lack of use	Multimodal access along CR 700 N
Special events/programs	Lack of knowledge of park amenities	Increase variety of activity/programs
Increased use from past	Number of staff	Technology
	Communication	Cameras/security
	Senior activities/ programming	
	Child activities/programming	
	Parking	
	Social media/web presence/information	
	Lack of adult softball leagues	

Slide from public meeting.



Meeting 2

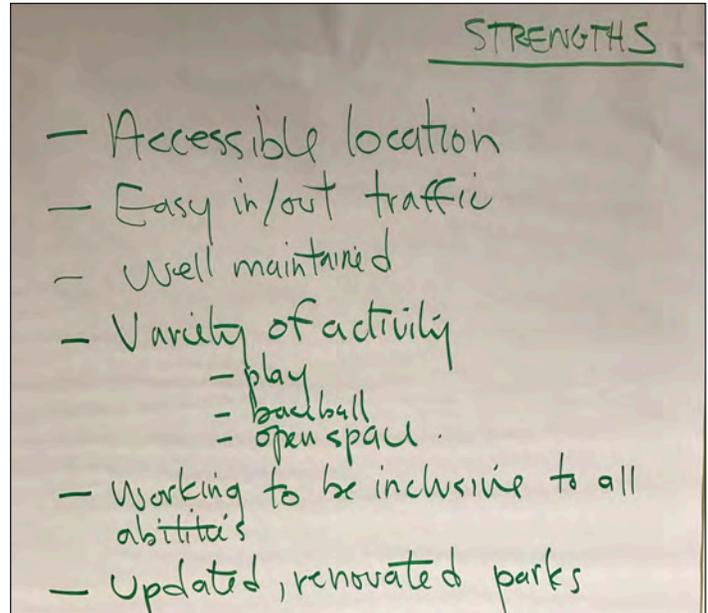
A second public input meeting was held on January 17, 2017, as a part of the regular scheduled parks board meeting. The meeting was held at the Portage Township Trustee’s office. Advertising for the meeting was done in the following ways:

- A press release was sent to local media outlets on December 27, 2016.
- Township website and Facebook page.

The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of the planning process and information contained in the draft version of the plan document. The meeting began with a presentation that included:

Large format note pads were used in the stakeholder and public meetings to record participants' comments.

- An overview of the planning process and discussion about why planning for the future is important.
- Summary of the supply inventory.
- Summary of the public outreach process including focus group meetings, Public Meeting 1, and questionnaire results.
- Summary of the Needs Assessment.
- Presentation of draft action items, discussion, and assignment of draft priorities. via dot voting.
- Eight people attended the meeting.



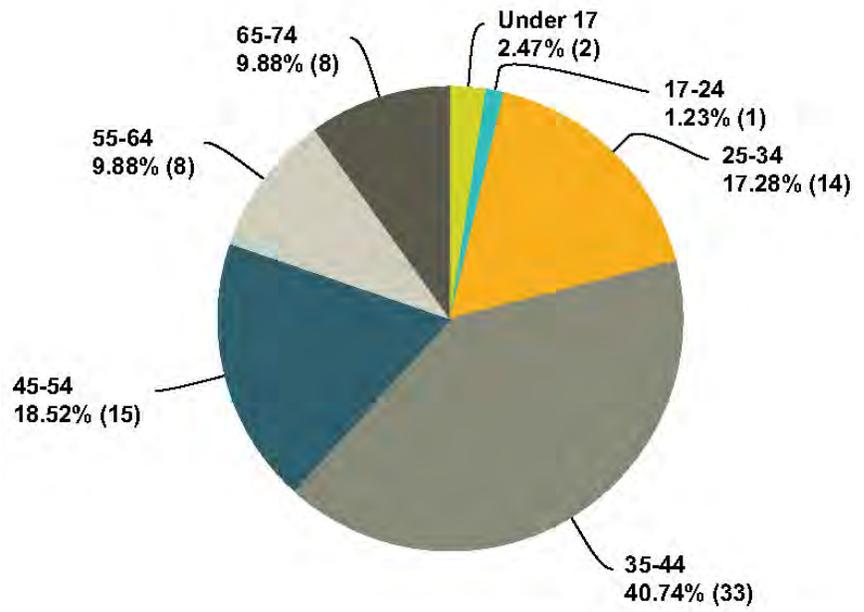
QUESTIONNAIRE

The third method of public outreach used was a 20 question survey. The survey specific website was included in the press release for Public Meeting 1, on the printed flier and postcard advertising the public meeting. The on-line survey site address was e-mail blasted by the parks department and appeared as a link on the department's Facebook page. Hard copies of the survey were distributed to the area Boys & Girls Club. In total, 23 hard copies of the survey were completed and 59 people responded online for a total of 82 responses. A summary of questionnaire results are shown below. Full results are included in the Appendix.



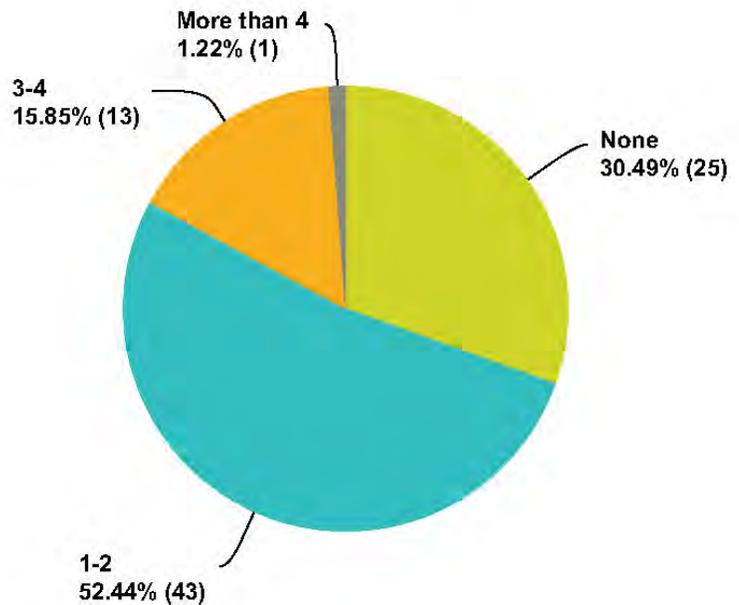
Q2 In which age group are you?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 1



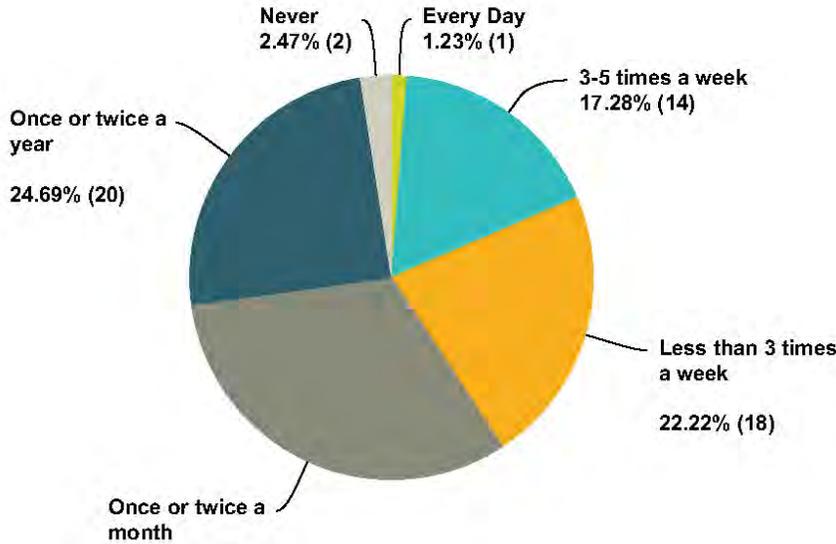
Q3 What is the number of children 18 years or younger living in your home?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 0



Q4 How often do you visit one of Portage Township's parks?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 1



Questions 1 through 4 were designed to capture information regarding who was completing the questionnaire in order to cross reference the survey takers information with the area’s demographic makeup. 98.78% of the survey respondents were from zip code 46368 which primarily includes the City of Portage (53.66%) and from 46385 which includes South Haven (45.12%). One respondent was located in 46342 which includes Wheeler in Porter County as well as the Lake County city Hobart.

58% of survey takers ranged between 25 and 44 years of age with 52.44% of takers having either one or two children at home under the age of 18. 30.49% of survey takers had no children under the age of 18 living at home.

Survey response indicates the majority of the community is using a Portage Township park facility only once or twice a month (32.10%). An additional 22.22% are using the parks one or two times per week. This supports comments from the focus groups and first public meeting that overall use of the parks is still relatively low.

Question five posed the question of how many times on average per month survey takers participated in a variety of recreation activities. The bar chart on the following page illustrates responses from the activities most often engaged in to the least. Numbers next to each bar indicate the average number of times per month respondents are engaging in that activity.

5 | Demand Analysis

Hiking and walking was followed closely by fitness (weight lifting, aerobics) as the top two activities most engaged in. Dog walking and playground use followed with nature observation rounding out the top five.

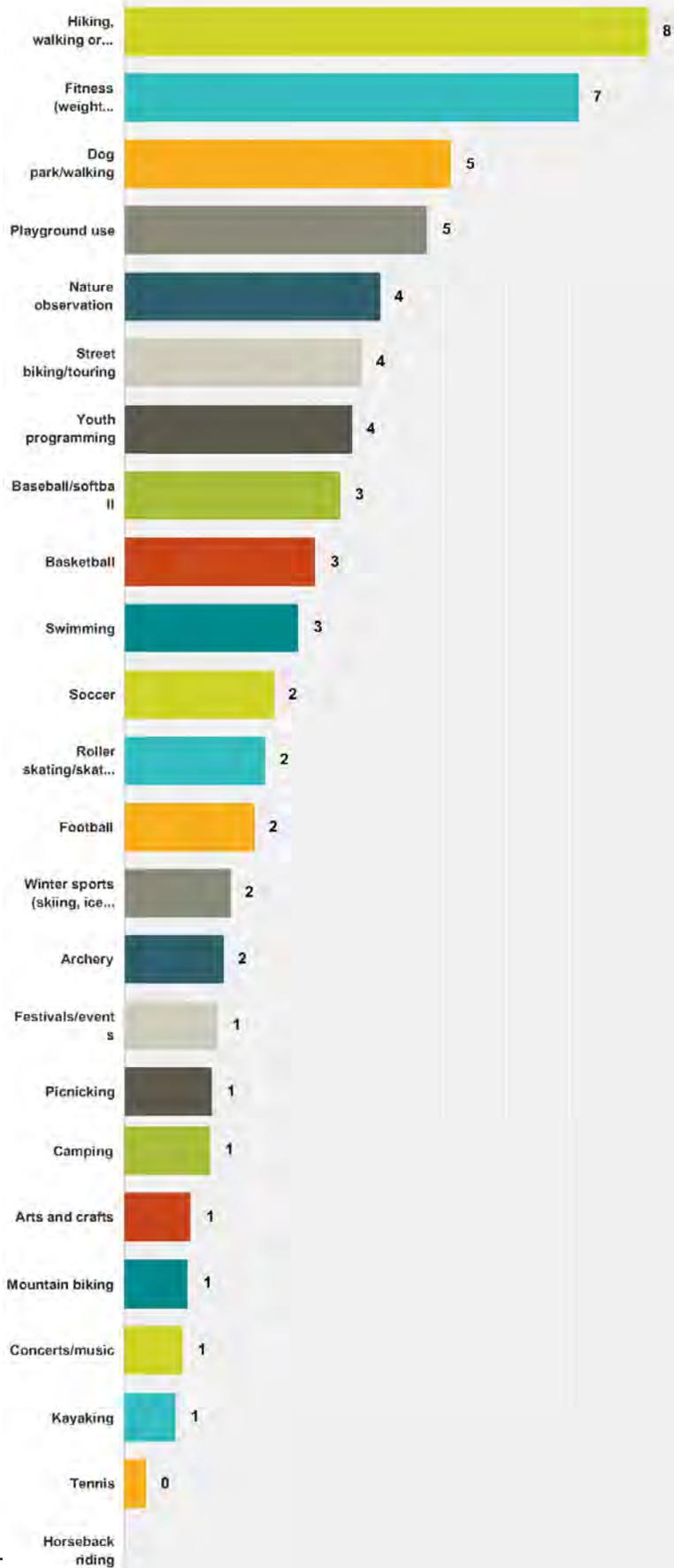
Question six asked citizen's to identify any additional activities not listed in the multiple choice answer block. The following comments were given:

Regular park play

Off road vehicles, snowmobiles

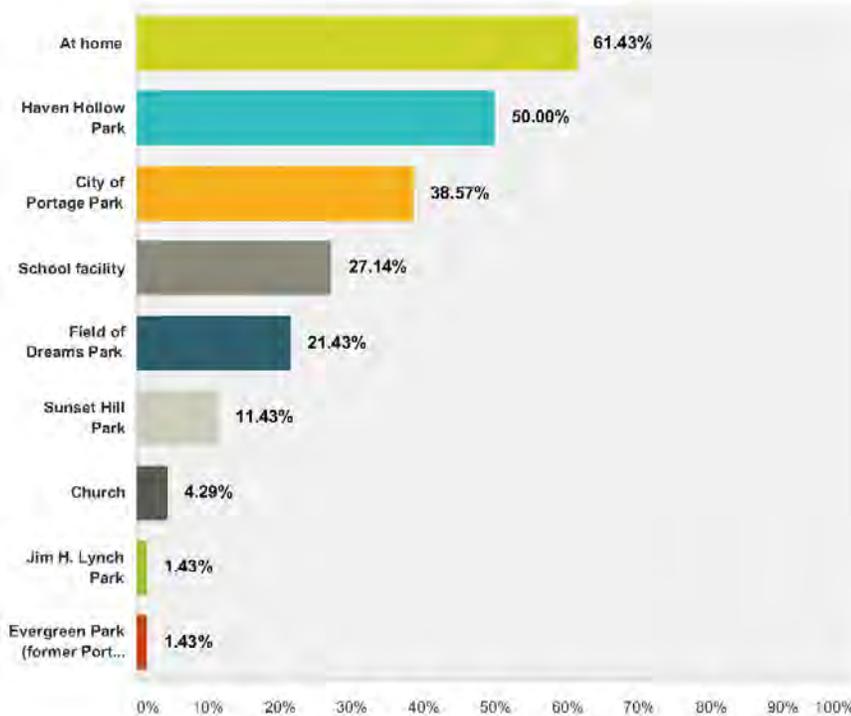
Jump roping

Golf



Q7 Where do you participate in these activities most often? Check all that apply.

Answered: 70 Skipped: 12



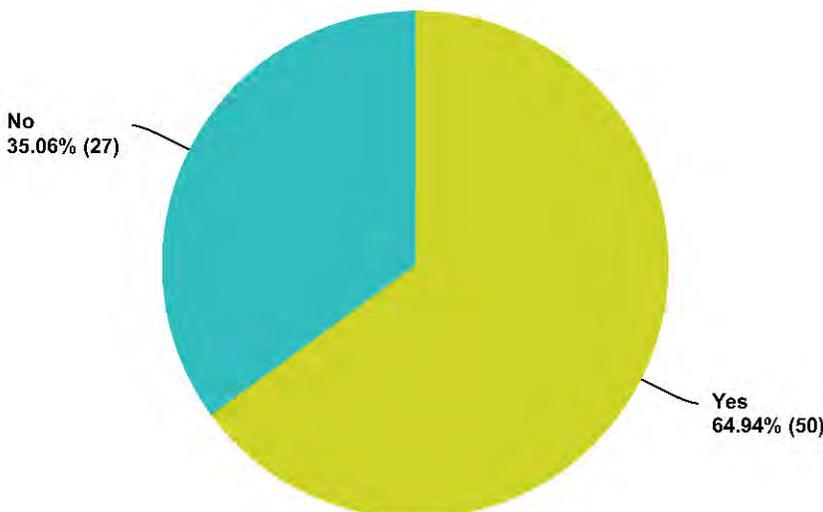
Survey participants were asked to identify where they most often participated in recreation. Of the existing four Township parks, Haven Hollow was the most used with 35 of 70 answerers indicating the location. By comparison, Field of Dreams rated 15 votes with Jim H. Lynch and Evergreen Parks each having one. An “other” option was provided and facilities scoring more than three votes included:

- YMCA (5)
- Boys and Girls Club (4)
- Indiana Dunes State Park (4)

City of Portage Parks was included in the multiple choice block of answers. It should be noted that five answers under “other” were in fact City of Portage parks indicating some level of confusion in the community as to what parks belong to what agency.

Q8 Does Portage Township have enough recreation facilities?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 5



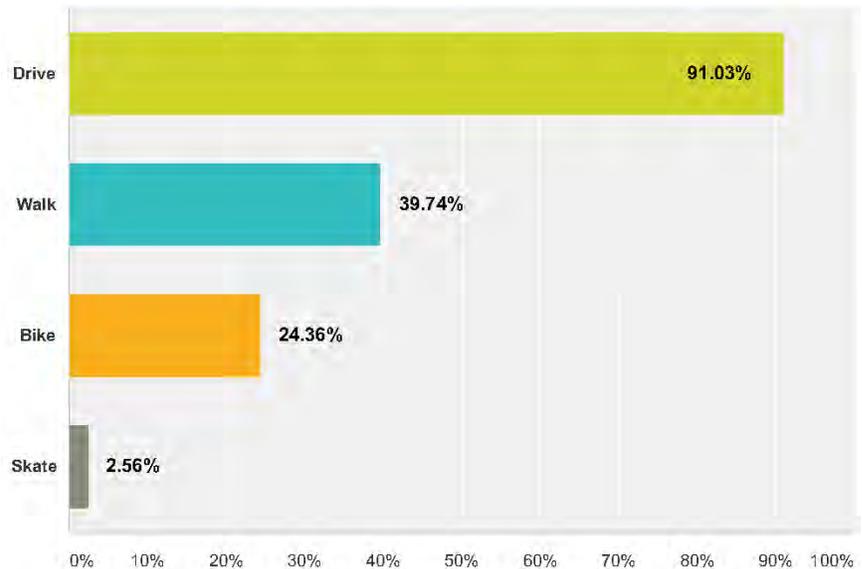
Nearly two-thirds of survey takers indicated the Township has enough recreation facilities. Since Portage Township includes areas of the City of Portage within its boundary, City parks may be a factor in people’s determination of “enough.”

5 | Demand Analysis

The vast majority of park users drive to the parks. In other public outreach methods, lack of multimodal connectivity was one of the most frequently brought up weaknesses of the park system.

Q9 How do you access Portage Township recreation sites? Check all that apply.

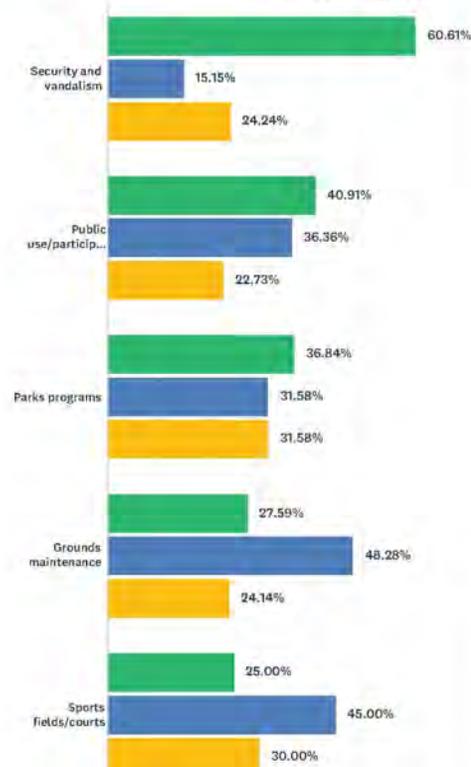
Answered: 78 Skipped: 4

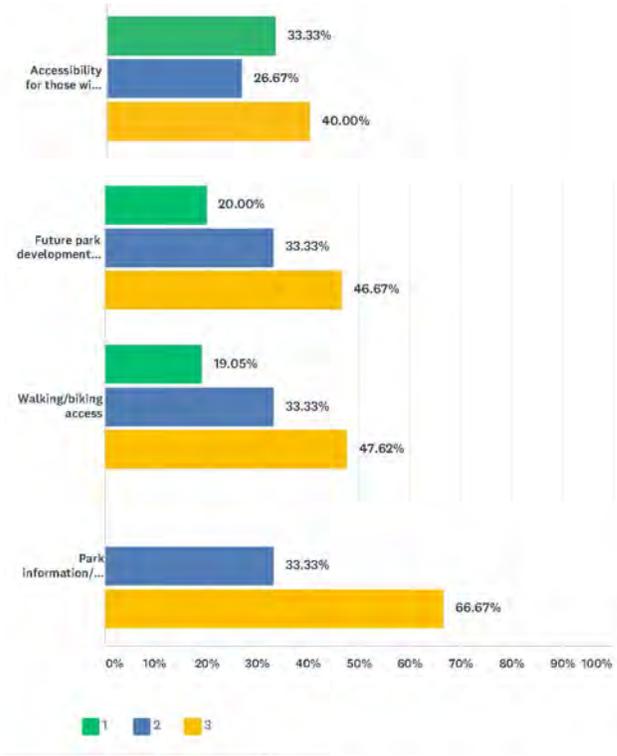


Perception of safety, knowledge about parks, and lack of diverse programming were the items receiving the most "Number 1" priority votes.

Q10 Please select in order of importance the TOP 3 issues relating to Portage Township Parks and recreation. Mark the most important 1, the next to the most important 2, etc.

Answered: 69 Skipped: 20



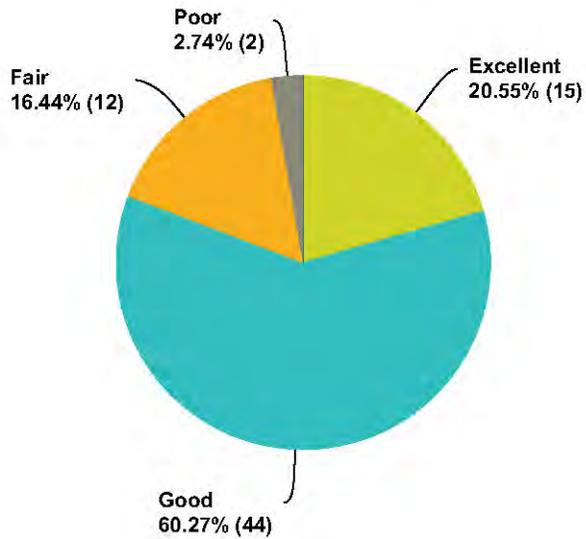


5 | Demand Analysis

80.82% of survey takers rated the existing parks facilities "good" or "excellent".

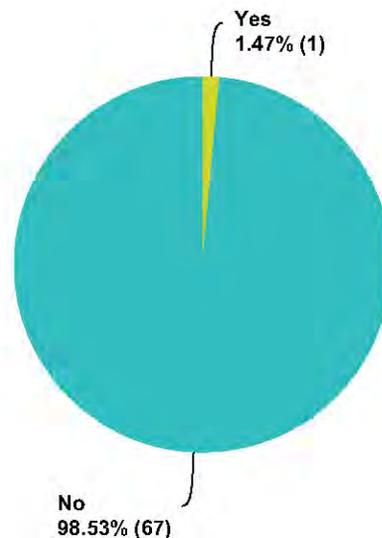
Q11 How would you rate the quality of recreation facilities in Portage Township?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 9

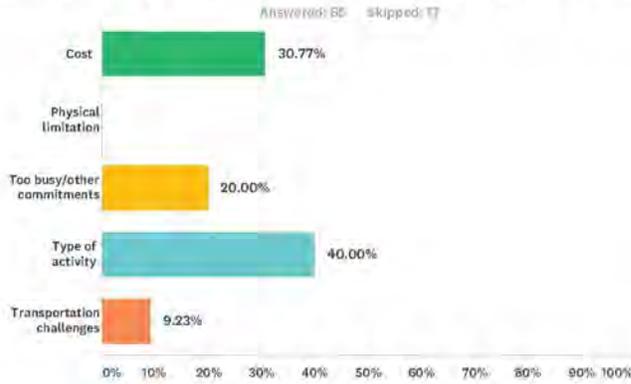


Q12 Do you or your child have a disability that interferes with access to or participation in recreation activities? If so, please indicate what activities you/your child could participate in.

Answered: 68 Skipped: 14



Q13 What is the PRIMARY determination whether or not you would allow you child to participate in park activities?

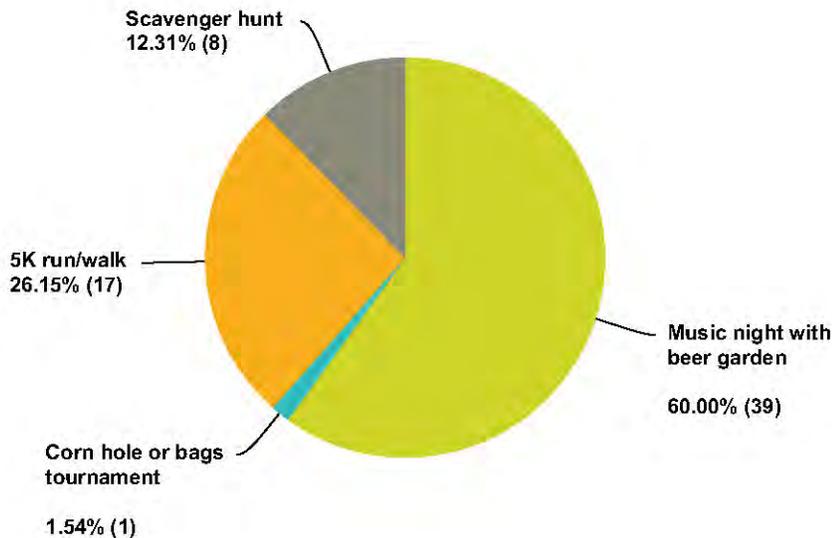


Question 14 asked what instructional or recreation programs geared toward youth should be created. The following comments were made:

- Learning activities
- More sports programming
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Ballet, gymnastics, swimming, karate, hockey, art
- Baseball
- Day camps
- Hiking
- Create joint efforts with City of Portage and Porter County
- Ice hockey
- Tennis
- Sports camps
- Environmental education
- Off road tracks
- Archery
- Swimming pool/lessons
- Something new/unique
- Tee-ball

Q15 Would you participate in the following? Check all that apply.

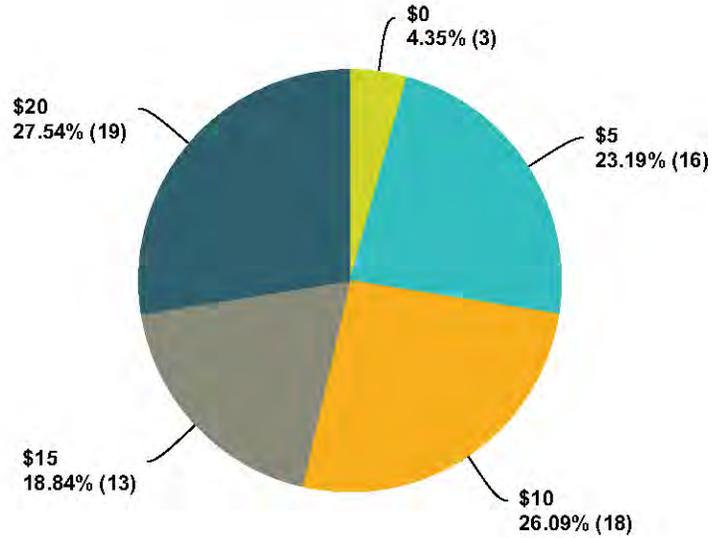
Answered: 65 Skipped: 17



5 | Demand Analysis

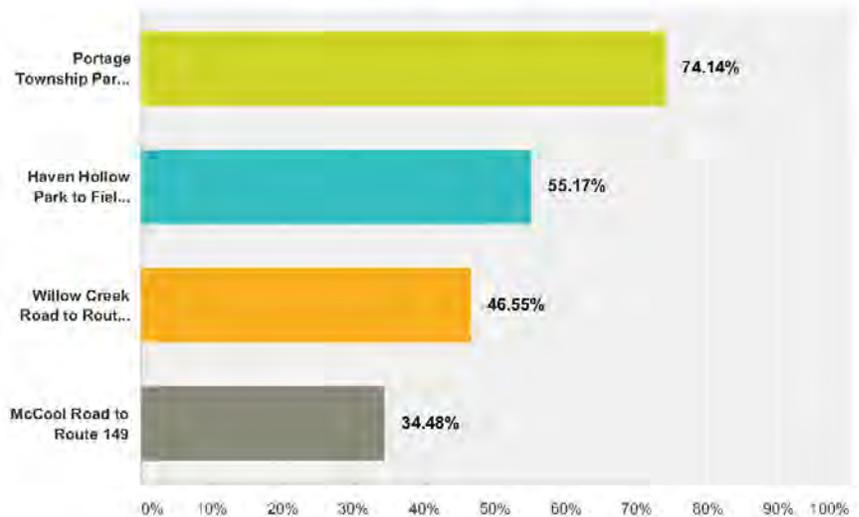
Q16 What is the most you would be willing to pay to attend an event like those noted above?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 13



Q17 Would connecting the following through pathways benefit you? Please check all that apply.

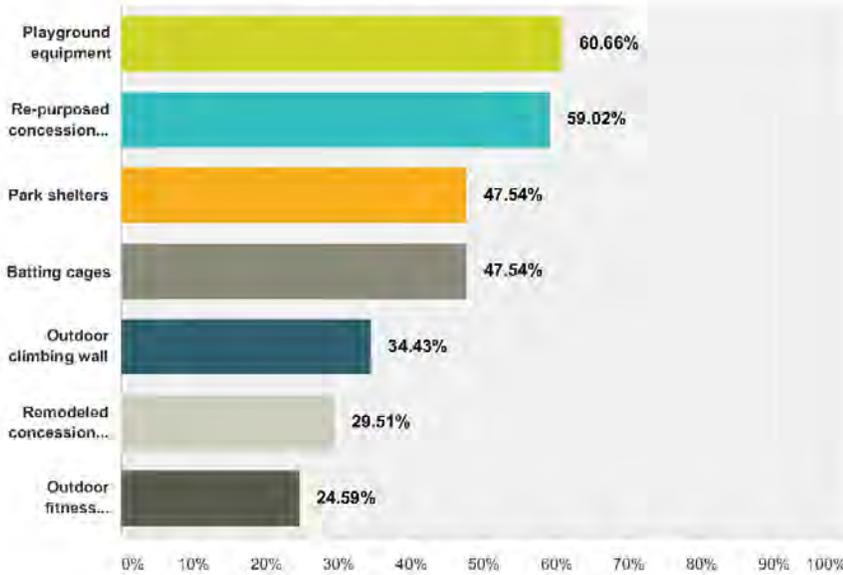
Answered: 58 Skipped: 24



Multimodal paths between Portage Township parks and the Prairie-Duneland Trail and between Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks were the top two responses.

Q18 What new amenities would you like to see at Evergreen park (the former Portage Little League Park on Evergreen Avenue)? Check all the apply.

Answered: 61 Skipped: 21



Questions 19 asked participants to identify whether they were willing to serve on a committee to preserve the history of Evergreen Park. Three respondents provided contact information.

The final survey question asked survey takers to provide additional thoughts and comments relating to Portage Township Parks and Recreation. It should be noted that many of the comments received referred to either the City of Portage or Porter County parks systems. The full list is included in the appendix. Portage Township specific comments included:

- Not enough basketball courts in Porter County.
- Full basketball courts needed at parks.
- Provide adult fitness classes with childcare option.
- Provide camping at Haven Hollow Park.
- Increase visibility of law enforcement.
- Establish volunteer garden clubs in each park to help with maintenance (i.e. Friends of Haven Hollow Park).

FINAL PLAN PRESENTATION

A final presentation of the draft plan was given at the park board meeting on July 11, 2017. The presentation included a projected presentation of all work completed to date and provided an opportunity for final comment. However, no members of the public attended the meeting. Given that no public attended, the board took the opportunity to pass a resolution to adopt the plan. The resolution is shown below.

Portage Twp. wants input on park plan

TIMES STAFF

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP — The Portage Township Parks Department is inviting residents to help them decide the direction of the parks over the next five years.

A public meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26 at the Bonner Senior Center, 5800 Lexington Ave., to collect public comments for the Portage Township 5-year parks and recreation master plan. The master plan is a guide for the growth and management of the township's outdoor recreation resources.

Public participation is vital to ensure this plan addresses the community's needs, said Joy Lundstrom, parks superintendent.

Residents will have the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire, learn more about the project and provide important feedback on the needs of the township's park system. Residents may also complete the questionnaire prior to the meeting. Surveys are available online by visiting surveymonkey.com/r/PortageTwnshpSurvey or in paper format at the Portage Township Trustees office, 3484 Airport Road.

The Times October 21, 2016

Portage Twp. asks input Jan. 17 on parks plans

JOYCE RUSSELL

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP — Would you like to see a kayak launch on Salt Creek? How about an outdoor workout center and splash pad at Field of Dreams Park?

The Portage Township Park Department is looking for input from residents on a five-year master plan. The session will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Portage Township trustee's office, 3484 Airport Road.

The township has been in the process of developing a five-year master plan, Superintendent Joy Lundstrom said, and this session will allow residents to prioritize suggestions at the township's four parks.

So far, public input has been good in the process of developing the master plan, Lundstrom said. Residents have made suggestions as to what they'd like to see and identified issues.

"There is an identity challenge. People are not sure what Portage Township parks is. They get confused with the city's parks. It is a message we've been working on and will continue to do so through education," she said.

Lundstrom said people also are looking to connect the township's parks, in particular connecting Haven Hollow on County Road

700 North to Field of Dreams, also on County Road 700 North. They would also like to see a connection between the township parks and the Prairie Duneland Trail, she said.

In addition, the public has suggested a kayak launch on Salt Creek at Haven Hollow, parking improvements and plumbed bathrooms at both Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams and increased opportunities for passive recreation. Suggestions specific for Field of Dreams include an expanded playground, splash pad and outdoor workout center.

Once the master plan is completed, it will be sent to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for approval. Parks departments must adopt master plans to be eligible for grants and other funding.

Lundstrom said after this master plan is completed, the department will be working on a master plan for Evergreen Park, which is on the site of the former Portage Little League Field in Portage. People have suggested installing a playground, batting cages and picnic shelter at that park, which was purchased by the township about a year ago.

"We are here for the community, so we really want to put in place what the community wants to see in their parks," Lundstrom said.

Monday Times 1-2-17 Lake County

RESOLUTION 2017-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORTAGE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

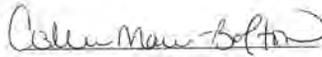
WHEREAS, the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Portage Township, Indiana and

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 PORTAGE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities on Portage Township.

Adopted this 11th day of July, 2017.

ATTEST:



Colleen Marvín, Board President

Stephanie Lundy, Board Secretary



Ferdinand Alvarez, Board Treasurer



Brendan Clancy, Portage Township Trustee

Newspaper advertisements in the Northwest Indiana Times for the October 26, 2016, and the January 17, 2017 public meetings are shown above.

TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Current trends throughout the United States are focusing on activities that can incorporate all members of the family such as growth in walking trails and aquatic facilities and their major emphasis on health and wellness programs. These have been increasing over the last fifteen years and continue to do so today. Citizens are becoming more health conscious as they age and they are paying more attention to their overall health and fitness. This is evidenced by the fact that more people are walking, swimming and exercising today more than ever before. This is also evidenced by the fact that schools, businesses and hospitals are instituting wellness programs for all ages to encourage life-long fitness and to reduce health insurance costs.

Recreational activities such as walking, hiking, and camping are among the top 10 recreation activities recently identified by the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These findings are also consistent with the Sports Fitness and Industry Association (SFIA) 2013 survey results per Parks and Recreation Magazine March 2014 and parallel Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

2015 NSGA Sports Participation Study - Top Rated Activities

1. Exercise walking
2. Exercising with equipment
3. Swimming
4. Camping - vacation/overnight
5. Aerobic exercising
6. Bicycle riding
7. Hiking
8. Running/jogging
9. Bowling
10. Workout at club

SFIA has indicated that youth participation in sports has declined nationally from 2008-2013 by almost 2.6 million children between the ages of 6-12 years old. This decline in participation is attributed to many things: influence of technology, lack of income, no interest, health issues, and no access to facilities, to name several.



6 Needs Assessment

The chart on the right shows youth participation in various sports from 2008 to 2013.

M = Millions
k = Thousands

	Basketball	Soccer	Track/ Field	Baseball	Football	Softball
2008	5.7 M	5.6 M	847 k	5.3 M	1.8 M	1.3 M
2013	5.5 M	5.0 M	731 k	4.5 M	1.3 M	862 k
% Change	-3.5%	-10.7%	-13.7%	-15.1%	-27.8%	-33.7%

The State of Indiana recently updated the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2016-2020. As part of this plan, IDNR provides a questionnaire to recreation users. The top responses of Indiana residents regarding their outdoor activities closely parallel the nation and are as follows:

1. Walking/hiking/jogging
2. Camping
3. Fishing
4. Swimming
5. Canoeing, kayaking, paddle sports
6. Bicycling
7. Hunting
8. Fairs/Festivals, outdoor concerts
9. Boating, water skiing, sailing
10. Off-road motorized use

The following chart illustrates the ranking of activities since 1989 from the Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020. Hiking, walking and jogging have topped the list since 1995.

	1989	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
1	Picnicking	Hiking/Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/Walking/ Jogging	Hiking/Walking/ Jogging
2	Pleasure Driving	Picnicking	Camping	Fairs/Festivals	Camping	Camping
3	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming/SCUBA	Picnicking	Fishing
4	Swimming	Camping	Fairs/Festivals	Nature Observation	Fishing	Swimming
5	Fishing	Fishing/Hunting	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming	Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle Sports
6	Bicycling	Bicycling	Swimming/SCUBA	Fishing	Boating/Water Skiing	Bicycling
7	Camping	Boating	Nature Observation	Picnicking	Golf	Hunting
8	Nature Observation	Nature Observation	Bicycling	Bicycling	Bicycling	Fairs/Festivals
9	Boating	Playground Use	Boating/Water Skiing	Motorized Vehicle Use	Hunting	Boating/Water Skiing/Sailing
10	Golf		Playground Use	Boating/Water Skiing	Horseback Riding	Off-road Vehicles

General Programming - National Trends

As the department looks to provide new programming opportunities for its citizens, it is interesting to note current trends in recreation programming. Recreation Management Magazine surveys its readers who consist of Park & Recreation Departments, YMCA's and YWCA's, health clubs, colleges and universities, schools, aquatic centers, and Boys and Girls Clubs. According to Recreation Management Magazine's June 2016 "State of the Industry Report," the most popular programs, offered by more than 95% of the survey respondents who were park departments included the following:

1. 63.4 % - Holiday events and other special events
2. 57.1% - Fitness programs (cardio, strength, etc.)
3. 56.5% - Educational programming
4. 55.0% - Day camps and summer camps
5. 54.4% - Youth sports teams: basketball, baseball, softball, soccer
6. 47.3% - Mind-body/balance programs (yoga, Pilates, etc.)
7. 46.6% - Sports tournaments or races
8. 45.8% - Swimming programming
9. 45.2% - Adult sport teams
10. 44.2% - Arts and crafts

Park Staff will need to continue to monitor programming trends, competitors, and their user base to maximize budget dollars to provide a variety of programming for the community.

Resources:

- "State of the Field" Parks and Recreation, March 2, 2014; Research Data from Sports Fitness and Industry Association
- Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- "State of the Industry Report", June 2016; Recreation Management Magazine



6 | Needs Assessment

PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND LAND REQUIREMENTS

The master plan preparation process includes reviewing recreation standards developed by organizations including the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the master plans for communities of similar size. In addition, specific characteristics such as local natural resources, economic conditions, land use availability, cultural preferences, and community needs contribute to the formation of a community's recreation standards.

The recommended standards for park classifications and land area requirements are described below. The park classifications conform to one of three general categories: places for active recreation, resource-oriented areas and specialized facilities. Space requirements, typical facilities and programs, and unique environmental features further define the park types.

Regional Park

A regional park serves several communities or a multi-county region within a one-hour driving distance. Approximately 10 acres per 1,000 population is required, and a regional park is generally 1,000 acres or more. A regional park is an area of natural ornamental quality that provides diverse and unique natural resources for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as nature viewing and study, wildlife habitat conservation, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. Usually 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% of the site developed for active recreation. Active recreation areas consist of play areas and open fields for informal use and can include specialized activities like golf, boating, hiking, lodging, or a conference center. It is common for these types of parks to become specialized in their offerings to the public. Many regional parks can be considered a 'destination park.'

District Park

A district park provides more diverse recreational opportunities than the regional park, but on a smaller scale. Similar to a regional park, a district park emphasizes passive recreational opportunities, but will also include active recreational facilities. A district park is easily accessible by the population it serves and has a five mile service radius. The park contains a minimum of five acres per 1,000 population and is usually 200-400 acres in size. District parks normally include an indoor recreation building or an interpretive center that reflects the character of the park. Active recreational facilities located in a district park include active play areas, ball fields, hard surface courts, golfing, swimming, boating, multi-purpose play fields, picnic facilities, and various types of trails. Many district parks are specialized in their offerings to the public and draw participants from throughout the community.

Imagination Glen, owned and managed by the City of Portage, is a district park located in Portage Township. The park has a service radius of five miles and it included mountain biking trails.



Community Park

Community parks are easily accessible to single or several neighborhoods depending on local needs and the population distribution at the time of development. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a middle or elementary school. A community park provides recreational opportunities for the entire family and contains areas suited for intense recreational purposes such as a recreation center building, athletic fields, swimming, tennis, and walking/jogging trails. The park may also have a recreation center and have areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Community parks have an average service area of 2 miles and require a minimum of 3 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 16 and 75 acres (typically 40 acres). The size is variable due to the type of facilities located within the park.

Field of Dreams Park



Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is designed to serve a population of up to 5,000, but in many instances may serve more. The park requires 1-2 acres per 1,000 population served and should be between 5-15 acres; however, many times they are smaller. Neighborhood parks are typically characterized by family oriented recreational activities such as court games, crafts, playground apparatus, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities.

The service radius for a neighborhood park is one-half mile and is easily accessible to the neighborhood population through safe walking and bicycle access. Parking may or may not be required. Where feasible, the activity use areas are divided equally between quiet/passive activities and active play areas.

This type of park may be developed as a school/park or neighborhood center facility. Municipal governments normally provide neighborhood parks.

Mini Park

Mini parks are characterized by their relatively small size (approximately 1-4 acres) and specialized facilities to serve a specific segment of the population (tot lots or senior citizens). This park is typically located in close proximity to more densely populated neighborhoods such as an apartment complex, townhouse development or senior housing. The service area for a mini park is one-quarter mile or less and mini parks are normally provided by municipal government or private developers as a part of a residential development or business park.

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Greenway

A greenway is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking and biking. The greenway park will often be developed to connect recreational facilities as well as schools and residential neighborhoods.

The acreage and service area of a greenway park is variable and subject to existing natural and man-made features, the existence of public right-of-way, and the public demand for this type of park. In some cases, a greenway park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with the recreational use as a secondary objective. All levels of government provide these parks.

Special Sites or Facilities

Special sites are park types that exist to enhance or utilize a special man-made or natural feature. They can include golf facilities, beaches, aquatic facilities, museums, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, arboretums, conservation easements, flood plains, river access, etc. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource, while providing optimum use, is considered desirable. Other specialized facilities require space sufficient to accommodate the program planned for the site. All levels of government provide special use parks.

National standards for the minimum park land requirement (in acres) for the total population of a planning area is provided in the table to the right. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification.

National Standards for Park and Land Area Requirements (NSR)				
Park Type Standard	Acres/1000 Population	Acres	Population Served	Service Area
<i>Regional Park</i> National Recommended	10 10	1000 1000	Several Communities 50 - 100 k	1 Hour Drive 50 mile rad.
<i>District Park</i> National Recommended	5-10 5	200 76-200	Several Communities 10 - 50 k	15-20 Min. Dr. 5 mile rad.
<i>Community Park</i> National Recommended	5-8 3	25+ 25+	Several Neighborhoods 5 - 15 k	1-2 miles 2 miles rad.
<i>Neighborhood Park</i> National Recommended	1-2 2	15+ 5-15	5000 5000	1/4 to 1/2 mile 1/2 mile
<i>Mini Park</i> National Recommended	1/4 - 1/2 1/4	1 1	Adjacent Residents	1/4 mile 1/4 mile
<i>Greenway/Special</i> National Recommended	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies	Varies Varies

Portage Township Acreage Requirements			
Park Type Standard	Existing Parks (2017)	Required per NSR 2017 (52,619)	Required per NSR 2022 (56,068)
<i>Regional Park</i> +1000 acre park (10 ac/1000)	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
<i>District Park</i> 76-400 acre park (5 ac/1000)	N/A ²	N/A ²	N/A ²
<i>Community Park</i> +15-75 acre park (3 ac/1000)	63 acres ³ 2 sites ³	158 acres 3 or 4 sites	168 acres 3 or 4 sites
<i>Neighborhood Park</i> 5-15 acre park (2 ac/1000)	3.5 acres ⁴ 1 site ⁴	105 acres 3 or 4 sites	112 acres 3 or 4 sites
<i>Mini Park</i> 1-4 acre park (0.24 ac/1000)	0.36 acres ⁵ 1 site ⁵	N/A	N/A
<i>Greenway/Special</i> N/A	N/A ⁶	N/A ⁶	N/A ⁶

National standards for the minimum park land requirement (in acres) for the total population of the Portage Township planning area is provided in the table to the left. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of park land per 1,000 population) established for each park classification.

Notes:

¹ There are no regional parks owned by the township in the planning area.

² There are no district parks owned by the township in the planning area.

³ Community Parks = Field of Dreams (24 acres), Haven Hollow (39 acres).

⁴ Neighborhood Parks = Evergreen (3.5 acres).

⁵ Mini Parks = Jim H. Lynch (0.36 acres). Township Parks and Recreation Departments do not typically provide this size of park due to the large scale of the overall planning area.

⁶ There are no greenways or special use parks owned by the Township in the planning area.

It should be noted the park facilities were labeled per their actual use within the community, not by the actual acreage. Park facilities are aging and keeping facilities maintained is a critical need for the future. Pedestrian linkages are also an important element to the future success of the park system as it continues to grow over the next five years.

The Township Parks and Recreation Department works in partnership with the other Park and Recreation departments to provide a variety of recreational opportunities. In addition, the Department continues to join efforts with the School Corporations, local sports groups, Boys & Girls Clubs, churches and private providers to maximize recreational opportunities and resources.

6 | Needs Assessment

As mentioned earlier in this document, Portage Township’s boundary includes incorporated areas of the City of Portage. City of Portage parks falling with the Township boundary include one mini park, three community parks and one district park. The chart below includes the five additional parks in existing and future acreage calculations.

Portage Township Acreage Requirements Including City of Portage Parks			
Park Type Standard	Existing Parks (2017)	Required per NSR 2017 (52,619)	Required per NSR 2022 (56,068)
<i>Regional Park</i> +1000 acre park (10 ac/1000)	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
<i>District Park</i> 76-400 acre park (5 ac/1000)	276 acres	263 acres	280 acres
<i>Community Park</i> +15-75 acre park (3 ac/1000)	217 acres 5 sites	158 acres	168 acres
<i>Neighborhood Park</i> 5-15 acre park (2 ac/1000)	3.5 acres 1 site	105 acres 3 or 4 sites	112 acres 3 or 4 sites
<i>Mini Park</i> 1-4 acre park (0.24 ac/1000)	0.81 acres 2 site	N/A	N/A
<i>Greenway/Special</i> N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The purpose of including the City’s parks in the above chart is to accurately illustrate how the community as a whole is being served. The City’s district park, Imagination Glen, is of a size and location where it fulfills both the current and future need for district park facilities. Similarly, the combination of five community parks (three City, two Township) are currently providing 29% more community park area than would be dictated by standards for the 2022 plan horizon. The community parks are geographically located in a way that nearly all of the Township is served by at least one of them.

Based on the above data there is a large gap in the number and acreage of neighborhood parks found in the Township. Therefore a logical conclusion is that the Township should focus resources and efforts in developing additional small, neighborhood parks (5-15 acres) in a geographically distributed manner. The acquisition of Evergreen Park and its future improvements supports this concept.

PRIORITIES - HAVEN HOLLOW PARK				
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Notes
2018	Engineering for multimodal connection to Field of Dreams and improved trail connectivity within Haven Hollow, use Federal standards	\$150,000	TAP, RTP, NIRPC, CMAQ, LMCP	0.80-1.00 miles
	Redesign pond for more active use and increased safety	\$150,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	Dredge and clean, add littoral shelf, plantings, fishing area
	Design, construct amphitheater	\$250,000	LMCP, LWCF	Construction in a floodway permit required
	Establish relationship with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for access to IDNR Salt Creek fishing area	\$400,000	LMCP, LWCF, RTP, DNR	Bridge over Salt Creek for access
2019	Improve access to Salt Creek	\$25,000	LMCP, LWCP	
	Design and engineering for new hiking trail	\$25,000	Operating	
	Construct plumbed bathrooms and new shelter building	\$200,000	LMCP, LWCP	
2020	Improve walking track and provide opportunity for ice skating ribbon in winter	\$2,000,000	LMCP, LWCP, RTP	Potentially partner with private vendor for ice skating capital and maint. costs
	Increase usable acreage (existing) for passive recreation	\$50,000	LMCP, LWCP, Operating	
	Increase opportunity for nature study,	\$25,000	LMCP, LWCP	
	Construct new hiking trail	\$150,000	LMCP, LWCP	
2021	Improve ADA access to the Chinook Shelter and playground per previously completed plan including pavers and landscape	\$150,000	LMCP, LWCP, Volunteer	
2022	Construct new multimodal path between Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Parks	\$1,000,000	RTP, TAP, CMAQ	Assumes use of Federal funds
	Improve dugouts	\$40,000	Operating	
	Increase and improve parking	\$150,000	LMCP, LWCP	Mill surface, install new surface, new striping
	Correct remaining drainage issues	\$50,000	Operating	

The total investment in Haven Hollow Park through 2020 is shown in the chart above at \$ 4.765 million.

7 | Implementation

PRIORITIES - FIELD OF DREAMS PARK				
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Notes
2018	Design and engineering for multimodal path (Zone VI of FOD Master Plan)	\$45,000	TAP, RTP, NIRPC, CMAQ	Cost included in Haven Hollow projects
	Design and construct splash pad	\$250,000	LMCP, LWCF	
	Improve drainage throughout the softball fields and parking lot, playground, shelter, and open areas. Construct pond per design master plan.	\$300,000	LMCP, LWCF, DNR	
2019	Develop aerial adventure course in existing wooded area	\$500,000		Partner with private company for capital costs and operations
	Regrade existing lawn to accommodate multipurpose fields (soccer, football)	\$40,000	Operating	
	Pave and stripe existing parking. Incorporate green infrastructure	\$200,000	LMCP, LWCF	
	Construct soft surface trail with interpretive signs in existing wooded area	\$150,000	LMCP, LWCF, DNR	
	Construct plumbed bathrooms	\$400,000	LMCP, LWCF	
2020	Increase opportunity for nature study, bird watching	\$25,000	Operating	
	Construct new multimodal trail with benches and mile markers (Zone VI of FOD Master Plan)	\$300,000	LMCP, LWCF	
2021	Improve warm-up other ancillary spaces around fields	\$75,000	Operating	
	Reduce mowed turf and replace with prairie/ naturalized areas	\$100,000	LMCP, LWCF, Operating	
2022	Improve playground with additional equipment, access	\$75,000	LMCP, LWCF, Operating	
	Improve dugouts	\$40,000	Operating	

The total investment in Field of Dreams Park through 2020 is shown in the chart above at \$ 2.600 million.

PRIORITIES - EVERGREEN PARK				
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Notes
2018	Demolish existing park buildings	\$75,000	LMCP, LWCF, Operating, Volunteer	
	Reconstruct existing large softball field with new dugouts	\$200,000	LMCP, LWCF, Operating, Volunteer	
	Update parking area, drive and park entrances	\$150,000	Operating	
2019	Install batting cages	\$400,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	
	Construct new concession and restroom building	\$200,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	
	Install perimeter landscape along I-90	\$75,000	Operating, Volunteer	
2020	Install experiential playground	\$250,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	
	Install interpretive signs/kiosks	\$200,000	Operating	
	Construct park shelter addition to restroom building	\$50,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	
2021	Construct new terraces and pedestrian access along Evergreen Avenue	\$150,000	Operating, LMCP, LWCF	
2022	N/A			

The total investment in Evergreen Park through 2020 is shown in the chart above at \$ 1.750 million.

PRIORITIES - JIM H. LYNCH PARK				
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Notes
2018	Install accessible bench	\$5,500	Operating, Volunteer, Donation	
	Provide additional mulch safety surface at playground and make existing shelter ADA accessible	\$5,000	Operating, Volunteer, Donation	
2019	Update landscape including east tree line, north property line, overseeding, flagpole and water garden areas	\$7,500	Operating, Volunteer, Donation	

The total investment in Jim H. Lynch Park through 2020 is shown in the chart above at \$ 18,000.

7 | Implementation

PRIORITIES - GENERAL AND PROGRAMMING				
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Notes
2018	Create multiuse path master plan for McCool Road Trail from CR 700 N to the Prairie-Duneland Trail	\$75,000	Township	Final deliverable should include application for federal funding; partner with City, County, NIRPC
	Establish internal protocol for future land acquisition	\$0.00		
	Redesign department website to be more user-friendly and include more regularly updated information	\$2,500	Operating	Possible consultant fee
	Develop one new program for adults and one for teens	\$1,000	Operating	Look for potential project sponsors/partners
2019	Add one additional staff member	\$20,000	Operating	
	Develop one new program for adults and one for teens	\$1,000	Operating	Look for potential project sponsors/partners
	Redesign branding image and develop new marketing strategy	\$2,500	Operating	Consultant fee
2020	Develop one new program for adults and one for teens	\$1,000	Operating	Look for potential project sponsors/partners
2021	Add one additional staff member	\$20,000	Operating	
	Develop one new program for adults and one for teens	\$1,000	Operating	Look for potential project sponsors/partners
2022	Develop one new program for adults and one for teens	\$1,000	Operating	Look for potential project sponsors/partners

The total investment in operational and programming costs through 2020 is shown in the chart above at \$125,000.

The above implementation charts outline a five year investment strategy of \$9.33 million but includes several major initiatives that could be realized in conjunction with private partners or outside vendors. Regardless, the overall strategy is daunting for a small parks and recreation department.

Developing a final funding strategy will take the cooperation of multiple government, not-for-profit, and private entities. The Township will rely on the Friends of Portage Township Foundation to take a large role in raising awareness and assisting in fund raising to leverage local dollars available.

Strategies for raising funds include:

- Organizing events requiring a entrance fee
- Holding special fund raising events
- Increasing the size and potential revenue of existing festivals; adding new festivals
- Mail campaigns
- Corporate sponsorships/naming rights
- Issuing municipal bonds
- Establishing user fees
- Applying for local, state and federal grant opportunities
- Donations (in-kind, materials, labor)

PLAN EVALUATION

Over the next five years, the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation Board of Directors will look to the Township Park Superintendent for monthly reports regarding implementation of the master plan. Reports will include progress with attaining funding, project planning, development and implementation, as well as project sustainability, challenges and community response. Fundraising will be vital to the success of the plan.

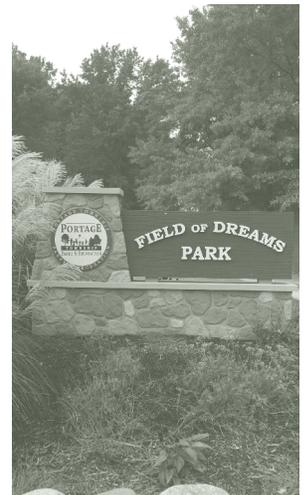
7 | Implementation

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FACILITIES MAP

Portage Township Parks and Recreation does not have any current plans for the acquisition of additional parks or property. Potential acquisition may occur based on a site specific evaluation should lands of interest become available. This philosophy resulted on the purchase of Evergreen Park as a Township effort to preserve the history of the former Little League park.

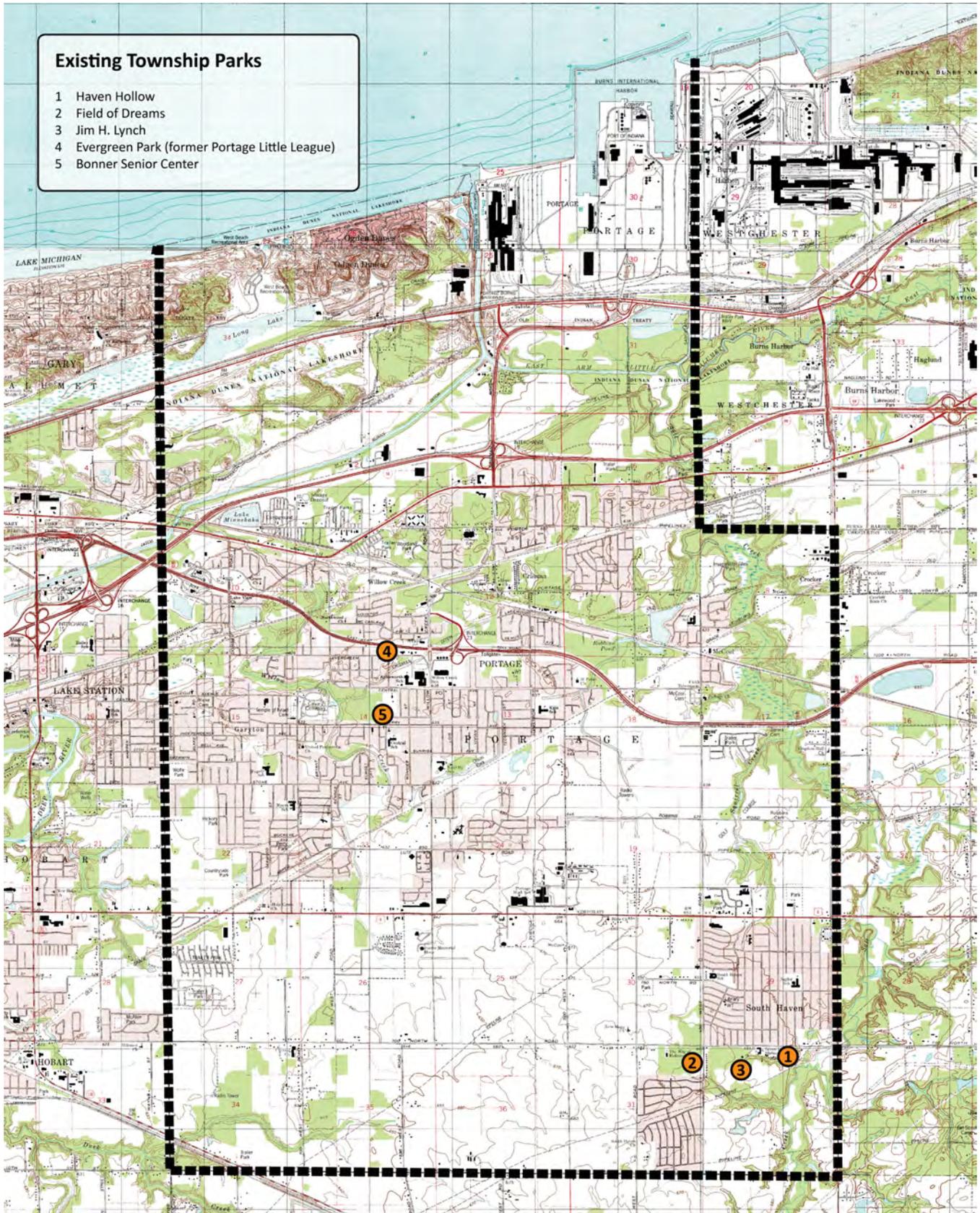
The maps on the following pages illustrate the Townships current recreation facilities and public recreation facilities offered by the City of Portage and Porter County with service areas within the Township.

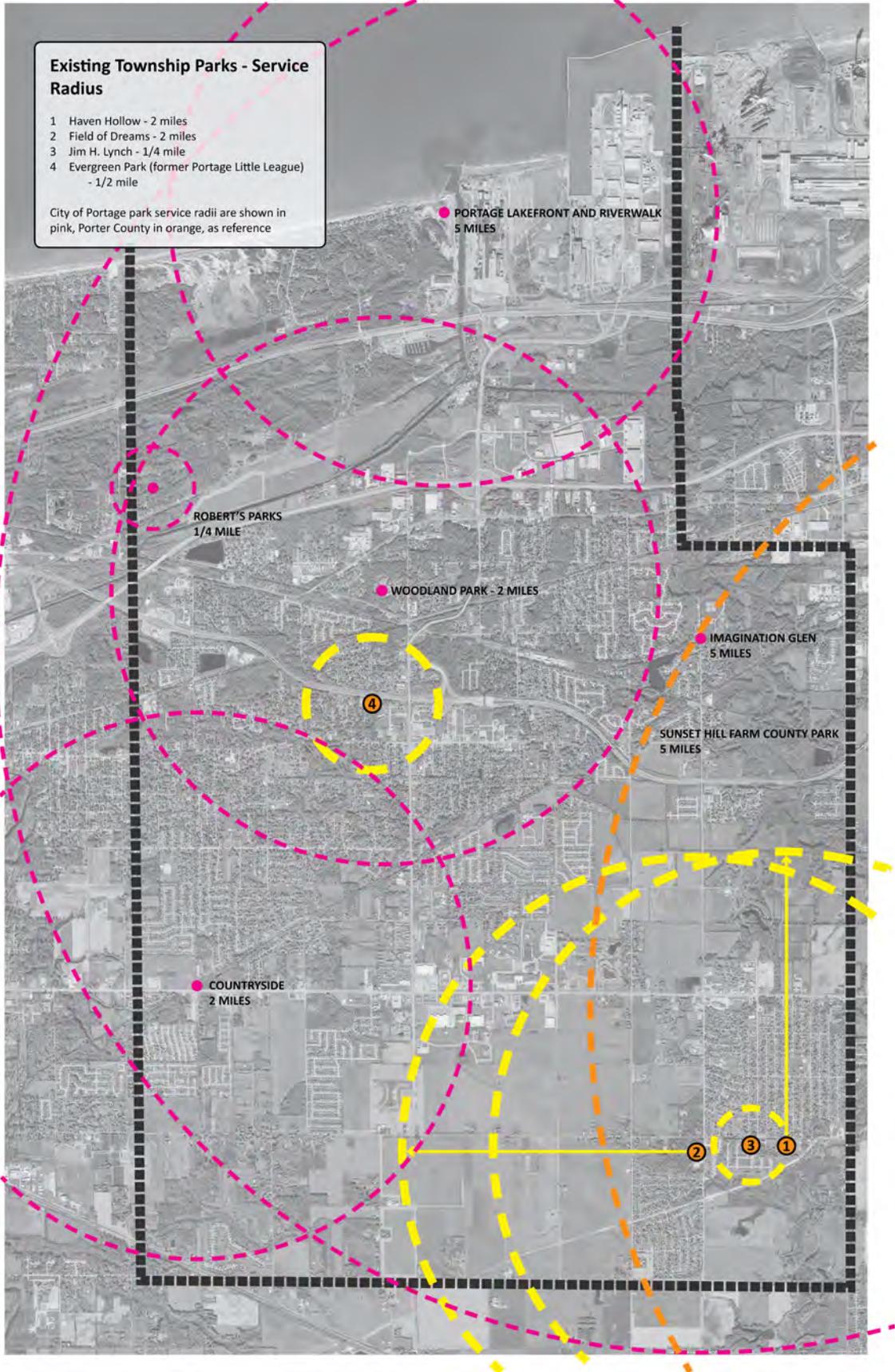


Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2018 - 2022

7 | Facilities Map





7 | Facilities Map

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The following documents are included as appendices by reference to the 2018-2022 Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

1. Evergreen Park Master Plan, 2017
2. Field of Dream Park Master Plan, 2012
3. Field of Dreams Park Master Plan UPDATE, 2017
4. Haven Hollow Park Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2012
5. Haven Hollow Park Master Plan Update, 2017

FULL SURVEY RESULTS

Full results of the survey are found on the following pages.

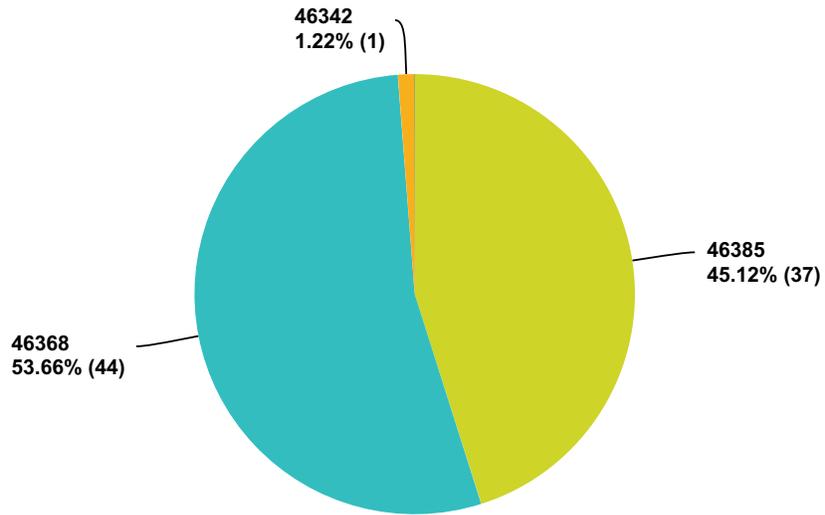


9 | Appendices

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Q1 What is your zip code?

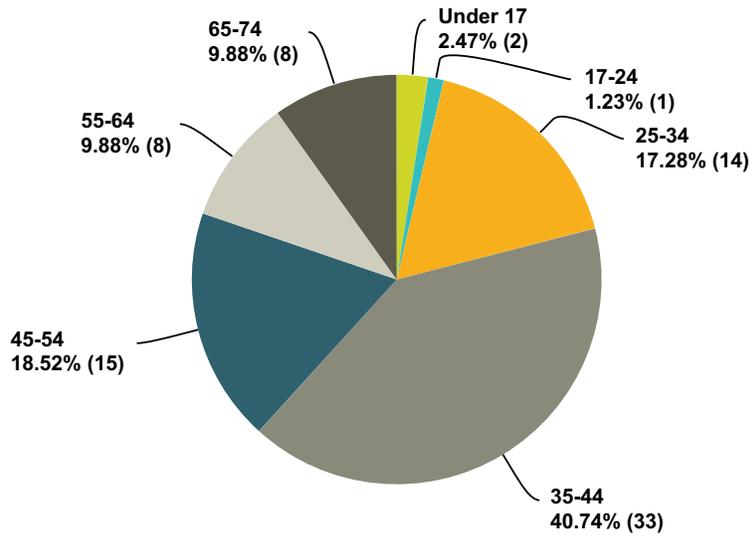
Answered: 82 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
46385	45.12%	37
46368	53.66%	44
46342	1.22%	1
46341	0.00%	0
46304	0.00%	0
46383	0.00%	0
46347	0.00%	0
46356	0.00%	0
Total		82

Q2 In which age group are you?

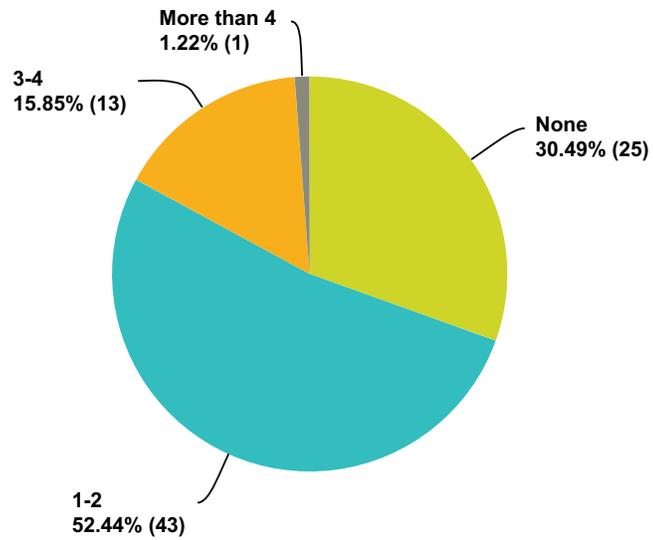
Answered: 81 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 17	2.47%	2
17-24	1.23%	1
25-34	17.28%	14
35-44	40.74%	33
45-54	18.52%	15
55-64	9.88%	8
65-74	9.88%	8
75 or older	0.00%	0
Total		81

Q3 What is the number of children 18 years or younger living in your home?

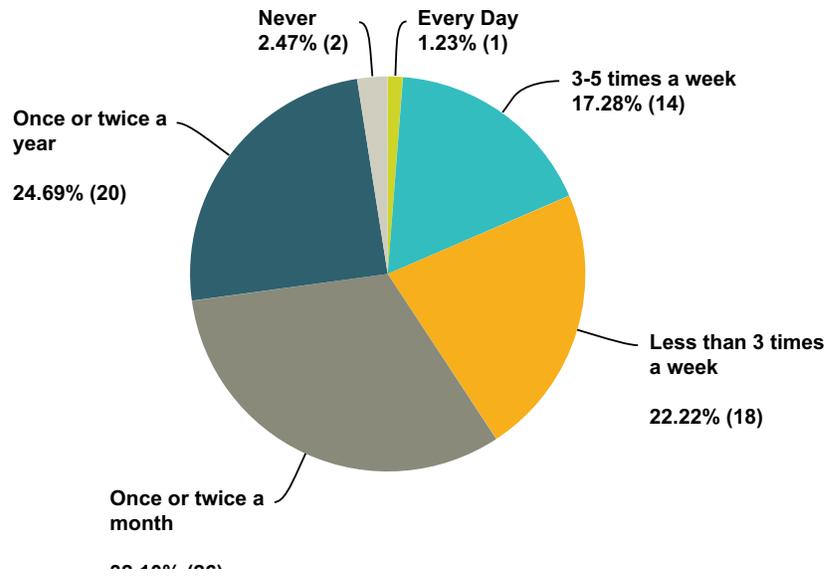
Answered: 82 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
None	30.49%	25
1-2	52.44%	43
3-4	15.85%	13
More than 4	1.22%	1
Total		82

Q4 How often do you visit one of Portage Township's parks?

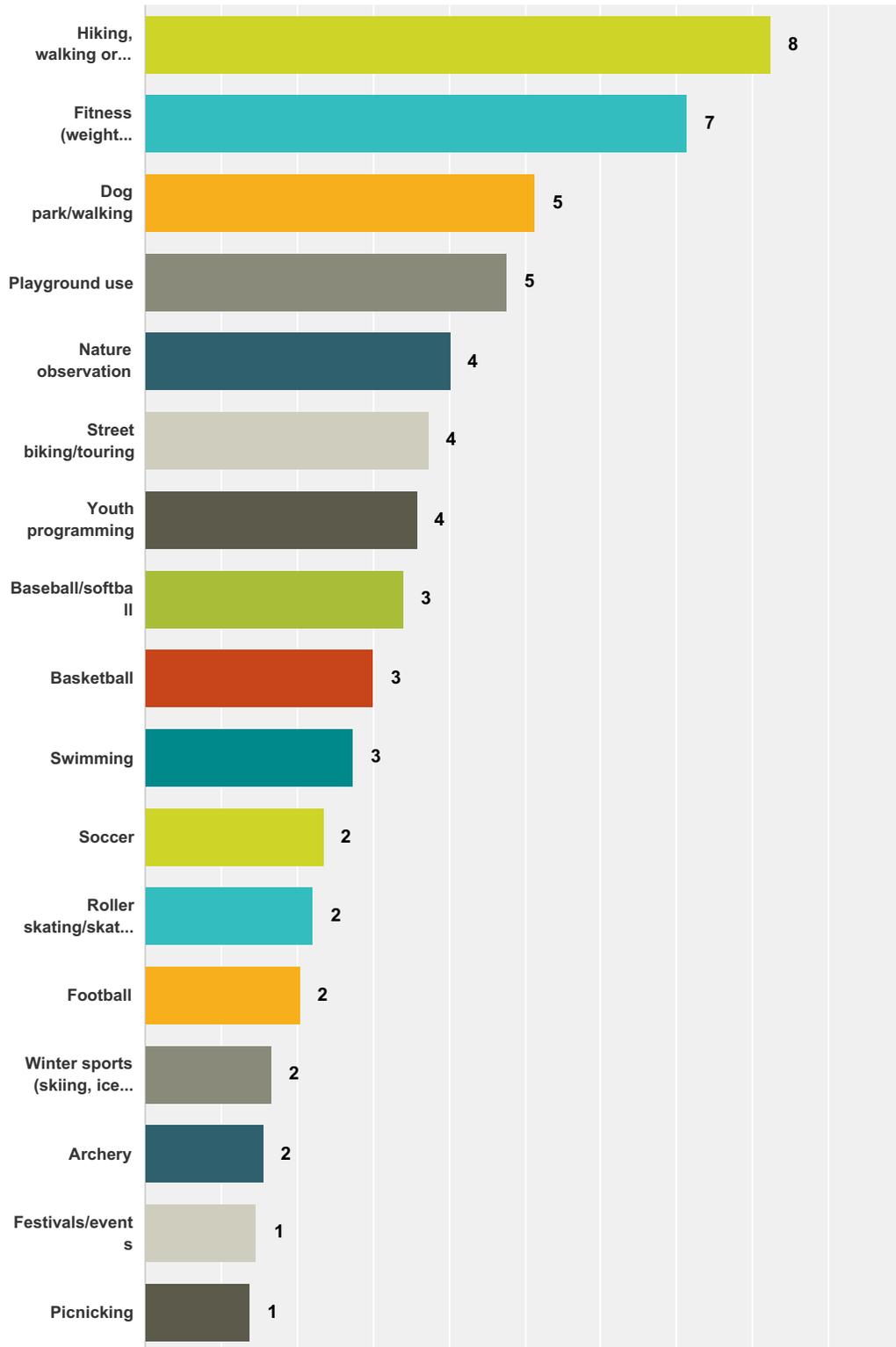
Answered: 81 Skipped: 1



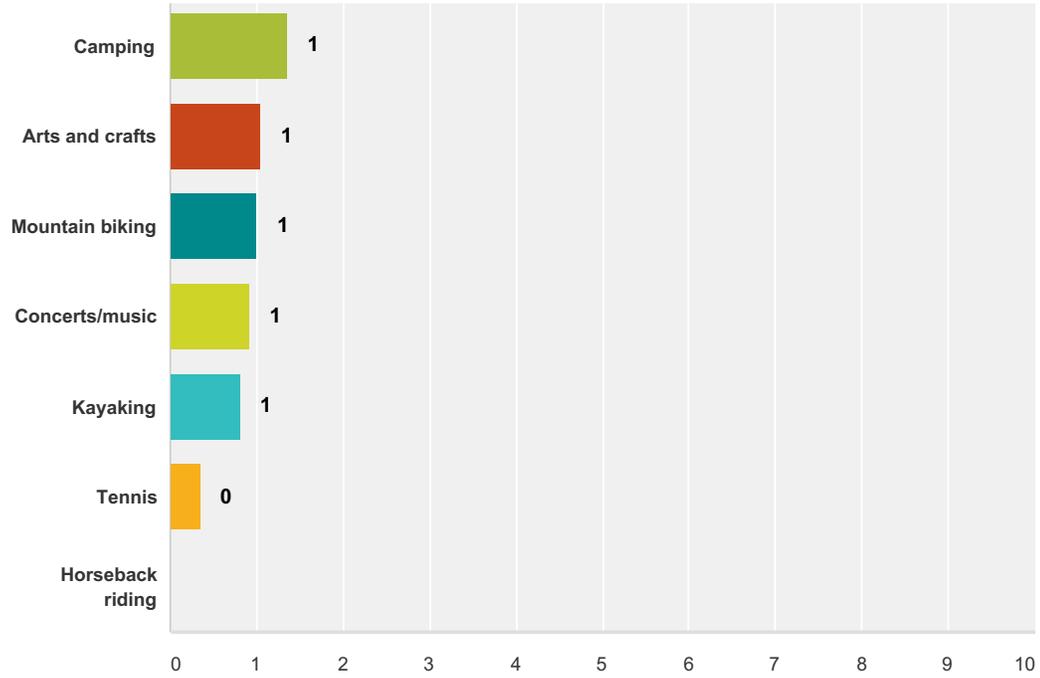
Answer Choices	Responses	
Every Day	1.23%	1
3-5 times a week	17.28%	14
Less than 3 times a week	22.22%	18
Once or twice a month	32.10%	26
Once or twice a year	24.69%	20
Never	2.47%	2
Total		81

Q5 On average, how many times per month do you participate in the following recreation activities? Please enter a whole number (1,2,3, etc.). If the answer is none, please leave the field blank.

Answered: 66 Skipped: 16



Portage Township Parks and Recreation



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Hiking, walking or jogging	8	445	54
Fitness (weight lifting, aerobics, etc.)	7	193	27
Dog park/walking	5	118	23
Playground use	5	181	38
Nature observation	4	117	29
Street biking/touring	4	116	31
Youth programming	4	86	24
Baseball/softball	3	75	22
Basketball	3	69	23
Swimming	3	60	22
Soccer	2	47	20
Roller skating/skateboarding	2	42	19
Football	2	43	21
Winter sports (skiing, ice skating, etc.)	2	30	18
Archery	2	28	18
Festivals/events	1	47	32
Picnicking	1	29	21
Camping	1	31	23
Arts and crafts	1	21	20

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

Mountain biking	1	17	17
Concerts/music	1	21	23
Kayaking	1	14	17
Tennis	0	5	14
Horseback riding	0	0	14
Total Respondents: 66			

#	Hiking, walking or jogging	Date
1	5	12/6/2016 4:32 PM
2	1	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
3	4	12/6/2016 4:14 PM
4	5	12/6/2016 4:11 PM
5	2	12/6/2016 4:08 PM
6	15	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
7	2	12/6/2016 4:02 PM
8	8	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
9	15	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
10	15	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
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24	20	10/24/2016 4:59 PM
25	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
26	1	10/24/2016 3:42 PM
27	3	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
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31	4	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
32	8	10/24/2016 8:28 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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36	5	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
37	3	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
38	10	10/18/2016 3:13 PM
#	Roller skating/skateboarding	Date
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Portage Township Parks and Recreation

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17	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
18	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
19	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
20	6	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
21	1	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
22	3	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
23	1	10/18/2016 3:13 PM
#	Tennis	Date
1	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
2	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
3	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
4	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
5	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
6	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
7	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
8	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
9	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
10	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
11	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
12	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
13	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
14	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Baseball/softball	Date
1	4	12/6/2016 4:28 PM
2	5	12/6/2016 4:11 PM
3	30	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
4	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
5	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
6	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
7	4	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
8	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

9	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
10	2	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
12	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
13	8	10/22/2016 9:56 PM
14	8	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
15	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
16	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
17	1	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
18	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
19	4	10/18/2016 7:06 PM
20	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
21	1	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
22	3	10/18/2016 3:13 PM
#	Soccer	Date
1	4	12/6/2016 4:28 PM
2	4	12/6/2016 4:12 PM
3	4	12/6/2016 4:11 PM
4	8	12/6/2016 3:57 PM
5	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
6	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
7	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
8	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
9	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
10	4	10/24/2016 10:18 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
12	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
13	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
14	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
15	10	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
16	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
17	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
18	4	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
19	3	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
20	1	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Football	Date
1	10	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
2	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
3	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
4	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
5	16	10/26/2016 1:48 PM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

6	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
7	0	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
8	1	10/24/2016 3:42 PM
9	1	10/24/2016 10:59 AM
10	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
11	4	10/24/2016 6:38 AM
12	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
13	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
14	5	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
15	3	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
16	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
17	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
18	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
19	2	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
20	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
21	1	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Camping	Date
1	1	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
2	6	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
3	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
4	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
5	3	10/27/2016 10:45 AM
6	1	10/26/2016 11:13 AM
7	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
8	5	10/25/2016 9:51 AM
9	1	10/24/2016 8:45 PM
10	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
11	3	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
12	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
13	3	10/24/2016 6:38 AM
14	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
15	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
16	2	10/24/2016 12:13 AM
17	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
18	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
19	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
20	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
21	1	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
22	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
23	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Kayaking	Date

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

1	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
2	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
3	1	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
4	3	10/27/2016 10:45 AM
5	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
6	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
7	4	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
8	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
9	1	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
10	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
12	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
13	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
14	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
15	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
16	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
17	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Swimming	Date
1	1	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
2	2	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
3	15	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
4	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
5	3	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
6	4	10/26/2016 3:26 PM
7	1	10/26/2016 11:13 AM
8	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
9	10	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
10	3	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
11	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
12	1	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
13	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
14	5	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
15	5	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
16	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
17	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
18	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
19	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
20	5	10/18/2016 10:28 PM
21	4	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
22	1	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Winter sports (skiing, ice skating, etc.)	Date

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

1	1	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
2	1	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
3	2	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
4	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
5	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
6	1	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
7	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
8	15	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
9	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
10	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
12	10	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
13	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
14	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
15	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
16	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
17	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
18	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Fitness (weight lifting, aerobics, etc.)	Date
1	20	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
2	6	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
3	16	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
4	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
5	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
6	10	10/27/2016 10:45 AM
7	2	10/26/2016 4:49 PM
8	4	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
9	1	10/26/2016 11:13 AM
10	10	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
11	20	10/25/2016 11:11 PM
12	5	10/25/2016 5:14 PM
13	10	10/24/2016 8:45 PM
14	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
15	4	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
16	4	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
17	20	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
18	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
19	4	10/23/2016 1:39 PM
20	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
21	5	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
22	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

23	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
24	15	10/18/2016 10:21 PM
25	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
26	2	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
27	30	10/18/2016 3:13 PM
#	Archery	Date
1	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
2	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
3	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
4	1	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
5	1	10/26/2016 11:13 AM
6	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
7	1	10/24/2016 8:45 PM
8	0	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
9	0	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
10	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
12	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
13	0	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
14	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
15	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
16	25	10/18/2016 10:28 PM
17	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
18	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Concerts/music	Date
1	1	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
2	1	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
3	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
4	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
5	1	10/26/2016 3:26 PM
6	1	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
7	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
8	1	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
9	1	10/24/2016 3:42 PM
10	4	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
11	1	10/24/2016 11:55 AM
12	1	10/24/2016 10:59 AM
13	1	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
14	1	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
15	2	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
16	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

17	2	10/23/2016 1:39 PM
18	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
19	1	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
20	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
21	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
22	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
23	2	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Festivals/events	Date
1	2	12/6/2016 4:32 PM
2	1	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
3	2	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
4	1	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
5	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
6	1	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
7	1	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
8	1	10/25/2016 9:51 AM
9	1	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
10	1	10/24/2016 3:42 PM
11	4	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
12	1	10/24/2016 11:55 AM
13	1	10/24/2016 10:59 AM
14	3	10/24/2016 10:01 AM
15	1	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
16	1	10/24/2016 8:23 AM
17	1	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
18	2	10/24/2016 6:38 AM
19	1	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
20	3	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
21	1	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
22	2	10/23/2016 1:39 PM
23	5	10/22/2016 9:56 PM
24	1	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
25	1	10/22/2016 6:38 PM
26	2	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
27	1	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
28	1	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
29	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
30	1	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
31	1	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
32	2	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Arts and crafts	Date

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

1	2	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
2	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
3	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
4	0	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
5	1	10/24/2016 4:59 PM
6	5	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
7	1	10/24/2016 3:42 PM
8	2	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
9	2	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
10	1	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
11	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
12	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
13	3	10/23/2016 1:39 PM
14	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
15	1	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
16	1	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
17	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
18	2	10/18/2016 8:35 PM
19	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
20	0	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Dog park/walking	Date
1	2	12/6/2016 4:11 PM
2	1	12/6/2016 4:02 PM
3	0	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
4	2	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
5	10	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
6	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
7	10	10/27/2016 10:45 AM
8	10	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
9	0	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
10	2	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
11	4	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
12	15	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
13	7	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
14	30	10/24/2016 12:13 AM
15	4	10/24/2016 12:07 AM
16	4	10/23/2016 11:18 PM
17	8	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
18	1	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
19	2	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
20	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

21	5	10/18/2016 8:35 PM
22	0	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
23	1	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
#	Youth programming	Date
1	4	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
2	4	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
3	15	12/6/2016 4:12 PM
4	3	11/14/2016 3:15 PM
5	4	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
6	0	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
7	0	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
8	0	10/24/2016 4:40 PM
9	7	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
10	1	10/24/2016 10:59 AM
11	4	10/24/2016 9:35 AM
12	4	10/24/2016 6:38 AM
13	0	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
14	0	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
15	20	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
16	6	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
17	0	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
18	5	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
19	0	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
20	0	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
21	1	10/18/2016 3:49 PM
22	3	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
23	2	10/18/2016 3:29 PM
24	3	10/18/2016 3:13 PM

Q6 Please list any additional recreation activities you regularly participate in.

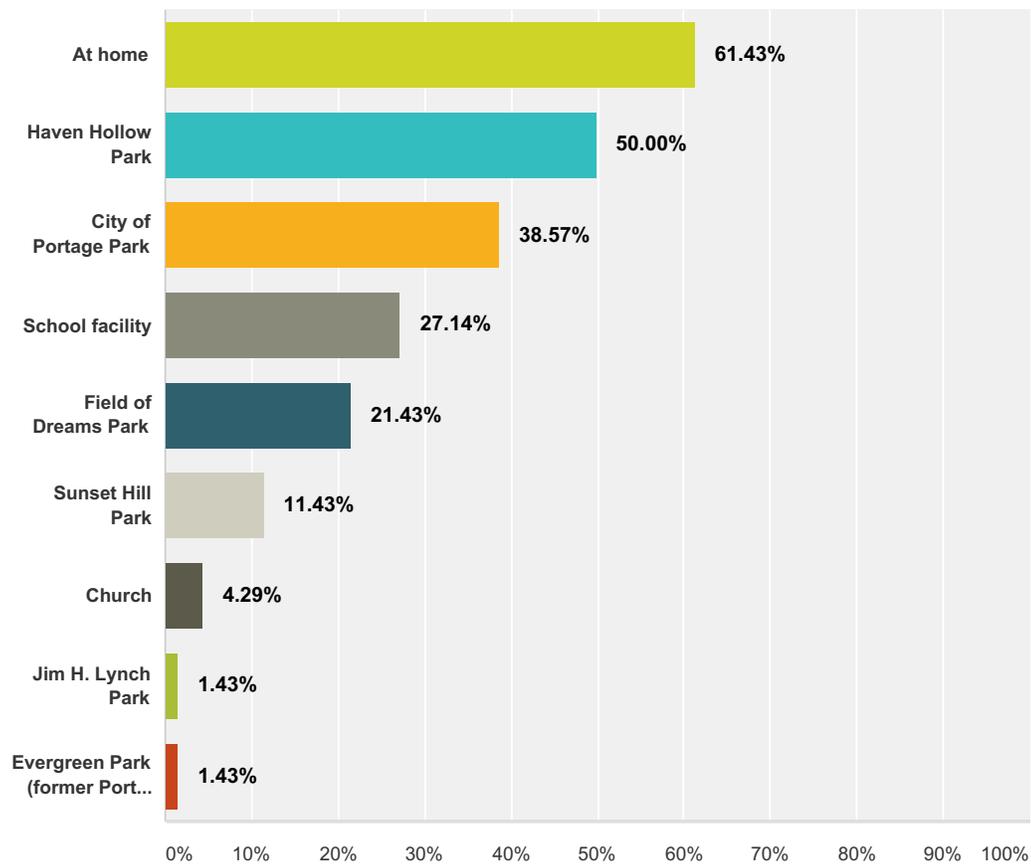
Answered: 6 Skipped: 76

#	Responses	Date
1	Regular park play	12/6/2016 4:39 PM
2	Off road vehicles, snowmobile	12/6/2016 4:25 PM
3	none	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
4	jump roping	10/25/2016 11:11 PM
5	Golf. Also if it were easier to kayak down Sugar creek we would. Too many downed trees.	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
6	Nature study, bird watching	10/21/2016 11:22 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

Q7 Where do you participate in these activities most often? Check all that apply.

Answered: 70 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses
At home	61.43% 43
Haven Hollow Park	50.00% 35
City of Portage Park	38.57% 27
School facility	27.14% 19
Field of Dreams Park	21.43% 15
Sunset Hill Park	11.43% 8
Church	4.29% 3
Jim H. Lynch Park	1.43% 1
Evergreen Park (former Portage Little League)	1.43% 1
Total Respondents: 70	

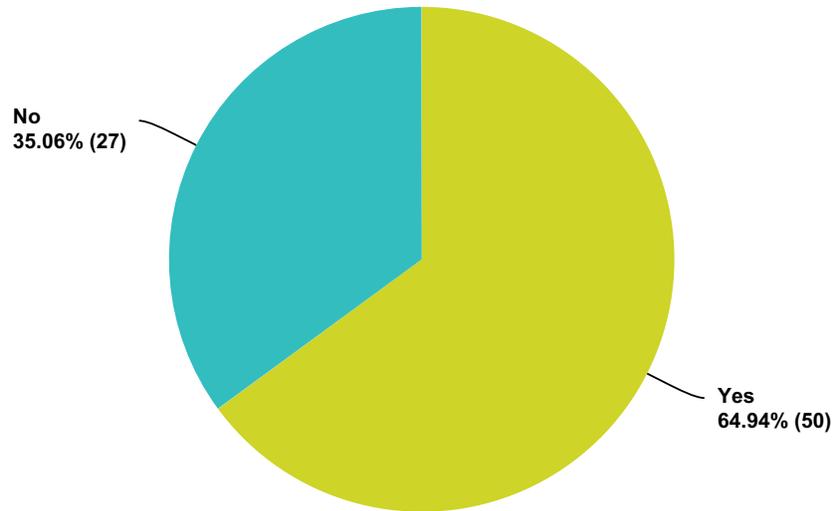
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Club	12/6/2016 4:30 PM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

2	South Haven Little League	12/6/2016 4:28 PM
3	Bike trails, campgrounds	12/6/2016 4:22 PM
4	Boys and Girls Club	12/6/2016 4:18 PM
5	Boys and Girls Club	12/6/2016 4:12 PM
6	Boys and Girls Club	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
7	Valparaiso	12/6/2016 4:01 PM
8	Boys and Girls Club	12/6/2016 3:57 PM
9	YMCA	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
10	State parks	10/27/2016 7:50 PM
11	Rails to Trails, YMCA	10/27/2016 10:45 AM
12	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and State Park	10/26/2016 4:54 PM
13	YMCA	10/26/2016 4:49 PM
14	Woodland Park, trails	10/25/2016 11:11 PM
15	Portage YMCA	10/25/2016 5:14 PM
16	YMCA	10/24/2016 8:45 PM
17	Park on boulder avelove all the space there!!!	10/24/2016 10:59 AM
18	Rails to Trails	10/24/2016 8:28 AM
19	National Park	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
20	Imagination Glen, Iron Horse Trail, Prairie Duneland Trail	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
21	Olson Park	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
22	State park	10/24/2016 12:13 AM
23	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park	10/22/2016 10:07 AM
24	Woodland Park	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
25	Imagination glen	10/18/2016 8:35 PM
26	Streets and trails. NPS	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
27	Imagination Glen	10/18/2016 3:13 PM

Q8 Does Portage Township have enough recreation facilities?

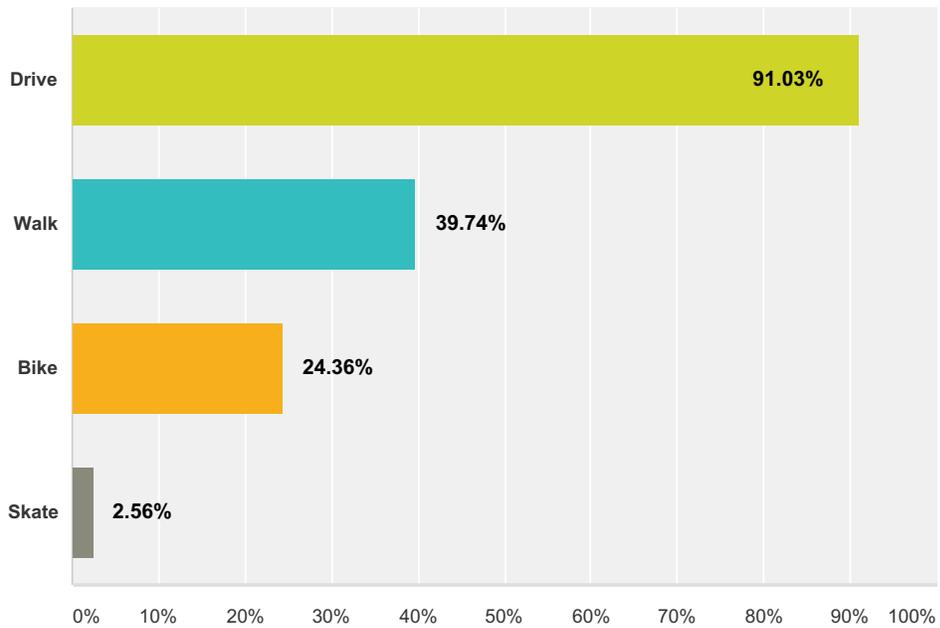
Answered: 77 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	64.94%	50
No	35.06%	27
Total		77

Q9 How do you access Portage Township recreation sites? Check all that apply.

Answered: 78 Skipped: 4

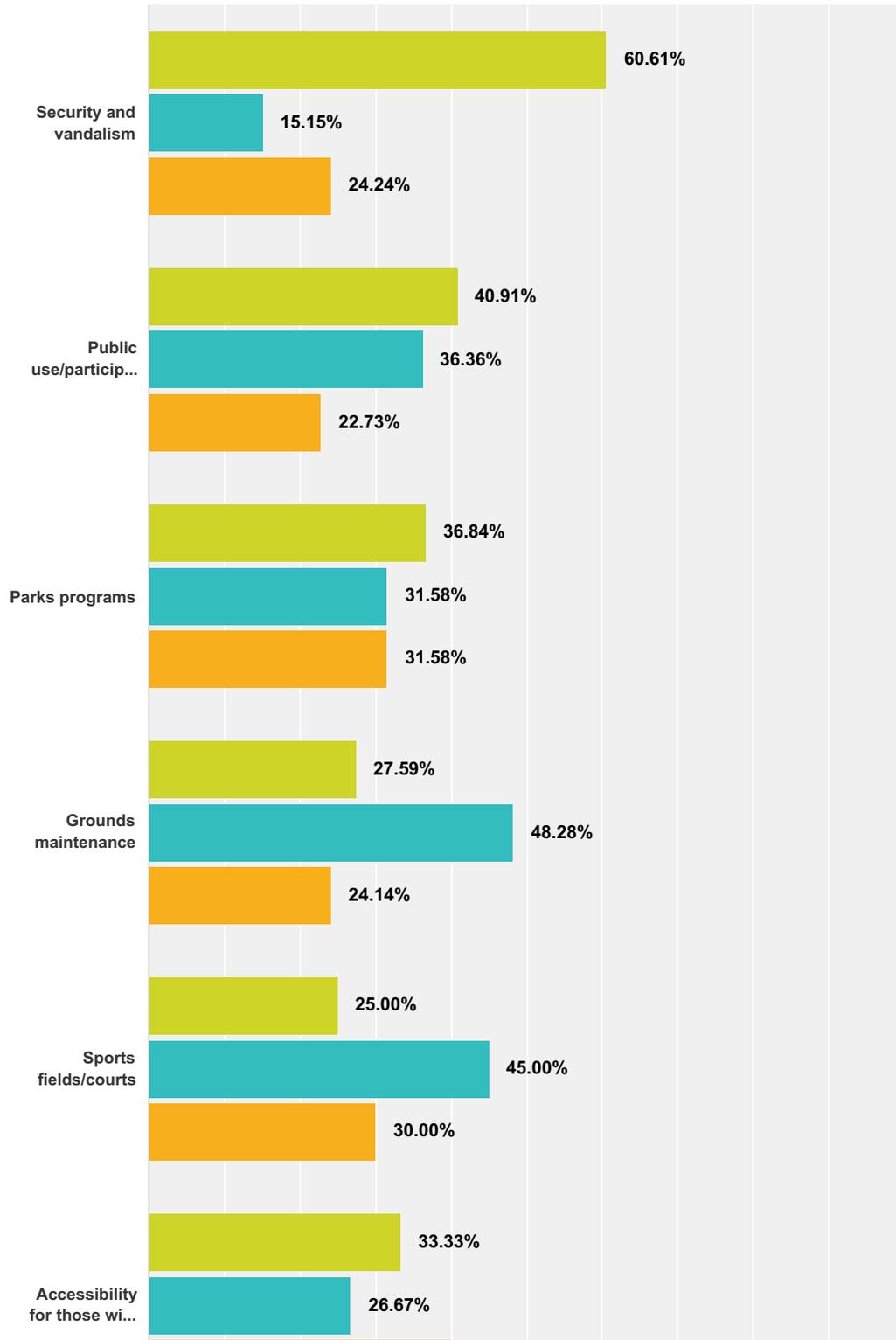


Answer Choices	Responses
Drive	91.03% 71
Walk	39.74% 31
Bike	24.36% 19
Skate	2.56% 2
Total Respondents: 78	

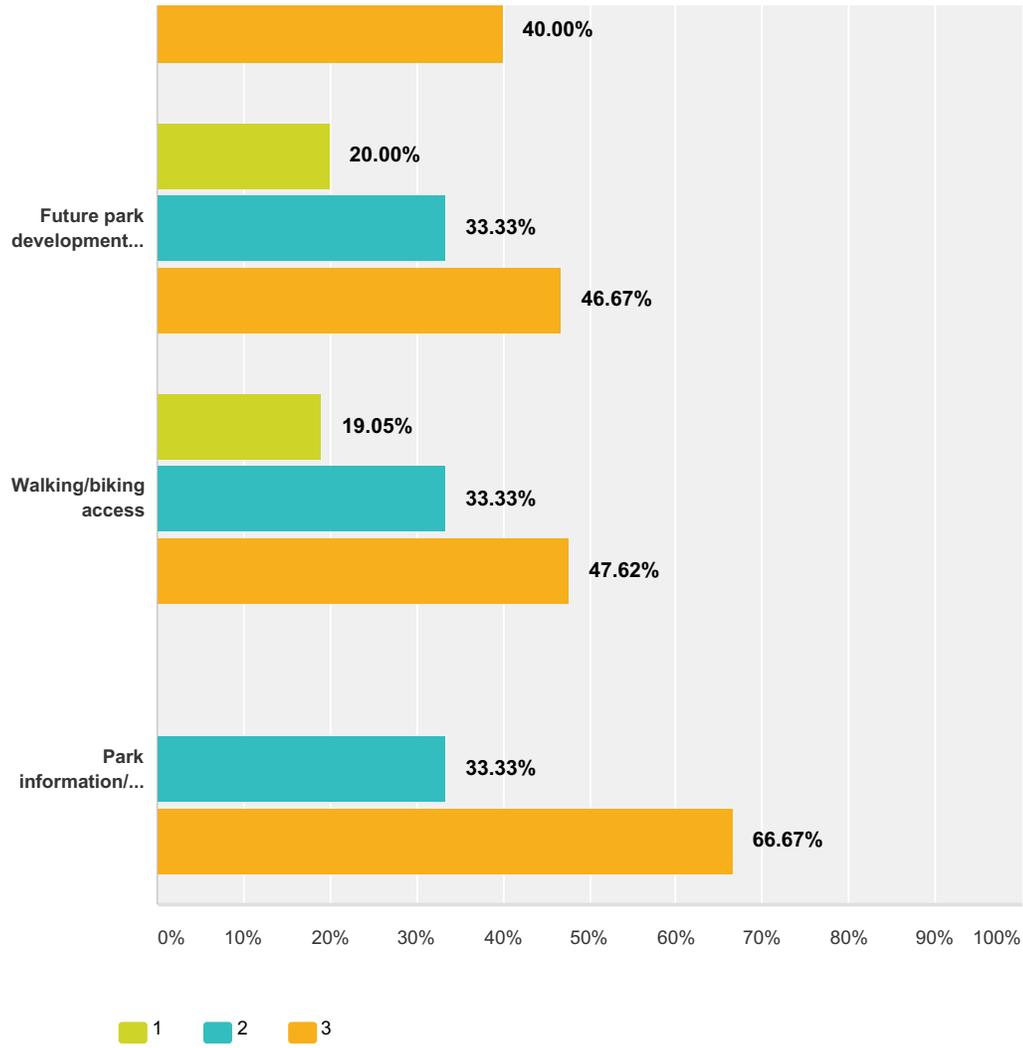
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	There are no parks/playgrounds within walking distance of my house. Other than walking in my subdivision, there are many streets without sidewalks by me. I don't consider Portage a very walking friendly city.	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
2	run	10/24/2016 12:08 PM

Q10 Please select in order of importance are the TOP 3 issues relating to Portage Township Parks and recreation. Mark the most important 1, the next to the most important 2, etc.

Answered: 62 Skipped: 20



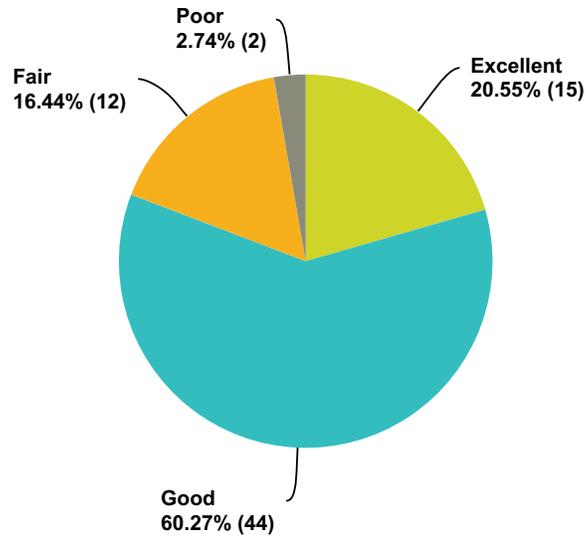
Portage Township Parks and Recreation



	1	2	3	Total	Weighted Average
Security and vandalism	60.61% 20	15.15% 5	24.24% 8	33	1.64
Public use/participation	40.91% 9	36.36% 8	22.73% 5	22	1.82
Parks programs	36.84% 7	31.58% 6	31.58% 6	19	1.95
Grounds maintenance	27.59% 8	48.28% 14	24.14% 7	29	1.97
Sports fields/courts	25.00% 5	45.00% 9	30.00% 6	20	2.05
Accessibility for those with disabilities	33.33% 5	26.67% 4	40.00% 6	15	2.07
Future park development standards	20.00% 3	33.33% 5	46.67% 7	15	2.27
Walking/biking access	19.05% 4	33.33% 7	47.62% 10	21	2.29
Park information/signs	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	66.67% 2	3	2.67

Q11 How would you rate the quality of recreation facilities in Portage Township?

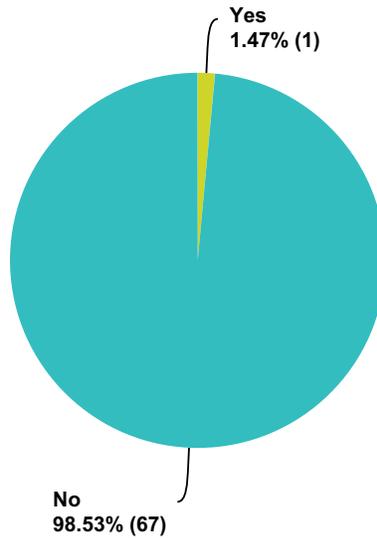
Answered: 73 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	20.55%	15
Good	60.27%	44
Fair	16.44%	12
Poor	2.74%	2
Unacceptable	0.00%	0
Total		73

Q12 Do you or your child have a disability that interferes with access to or participation in recreation activities? If so, please indicate what activities you/your child could participate in.

Answered: 68 Skipped: 14

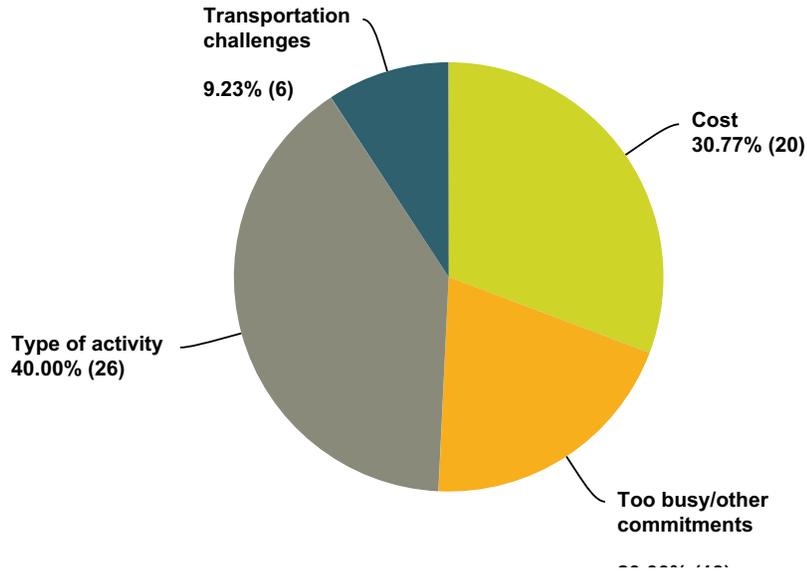


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	1.47% 1
No	98.53% 67
Total	68

#	What activities could you participate in?	Date
1	Getting up and down to the 'fishing' area	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
2	Youth sports	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
3	Public pool. Archery range.	10/18/2016 10:28 PM
4	Any	10/18/2016 3:49 PM

Q13 What is the PRIMARY determination whether or not you would allow you child to participate in park activities?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses
Cost	30.77% 20
Physical limitation	0.00% 0
Too busy/other commitments	20.00% 13
Type of activity	40.00% 26
Transportation challenges	9.23% 6
Total	65

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

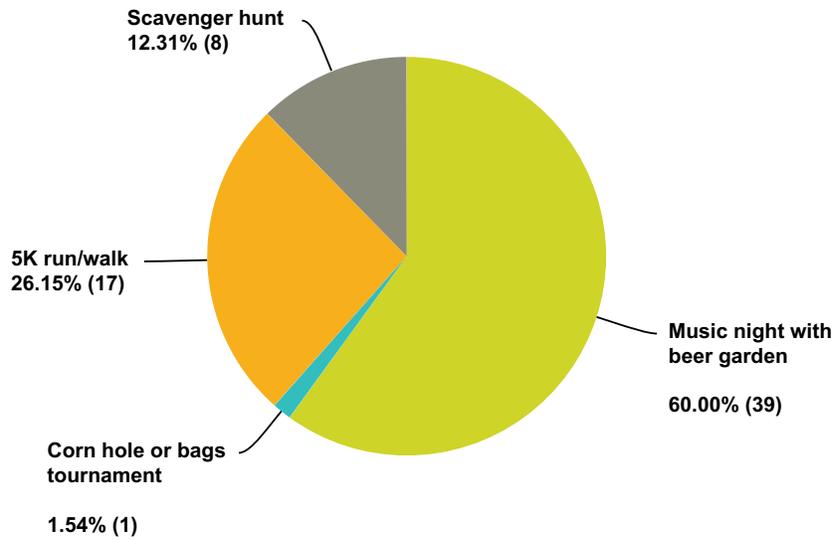
Q14 What instructional or recreation programs would you like to see for your child at the parks?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 60

#	Responses	Date
1	Anything that benefits learning	12/6/2016 4:39 PM
2	More sports	12/6/2016 4:26 PM
3	Soccer, basketball	12/6/2016 3:59 PM
4	ballet, gymnastics, swimming, karate/jujitsu, hockey, art	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
5	unknown	10/30/2016 5:16 PM
6	baseball program	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
7	day camps in the summer, hiking trails	10/26/2016 8:50 AM
8	organized sports	10/25/2016 5:14 PM
9	Hiking/Jogging trails	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
10	Combine efforts with City, County and National parks.	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
11	I don't have an answer for this but #15 says check all that apply and only let's you check one. My answer is music, 5k, scavenger hunt. On #16 it really depends on the event. (other only accepts #'s 21-100)	10/23/2016 11:18 PM
12	Ice hockey, tennis	10/23/2016 10:56 PM
13	Group fitness classes. Movies in the park	10/22/2016 9:56 PM
14	Sports camps.	10/22/2016 7:11 PM
15	Environment usage and appreciation	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
16	Dirt bike and 4 wheeler tracks.	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
17	Nature programs. Archery range with hunter education courses. Public swimming pool with swimming lessons taught.	10/18/2016 10:28 PM
18	Children's soccer league.. gymnastics, swimming.	10/18/2016 10:21 PM
19	Offer skateboarding lessons	10/18/2016 8:35 PM
20	Something new/unique to the area	10/18/2016 7:06 PM
21	None. Township parks should not be competing with city or county systems. They should be merged into the county parks department to decrease taxpayer costs.	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
22	tee-ball	10/18/2016 3:13 PM

**Q15 Would you participate in the following?
Check all that apply.**

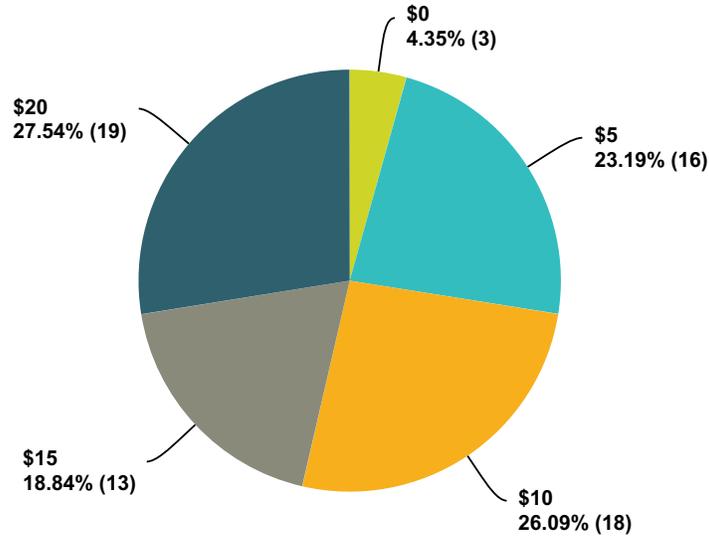
Answered: 65 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses	
Music night with beer garden	60.00%	39
Corn hole or bags tournament	1.54%	1
5K run/walk	26.15%	17
Scavenger hunt	12.31%	8
Total		65

Q16 What is the most you would be willing to pay to attend an event like those noted above?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 13

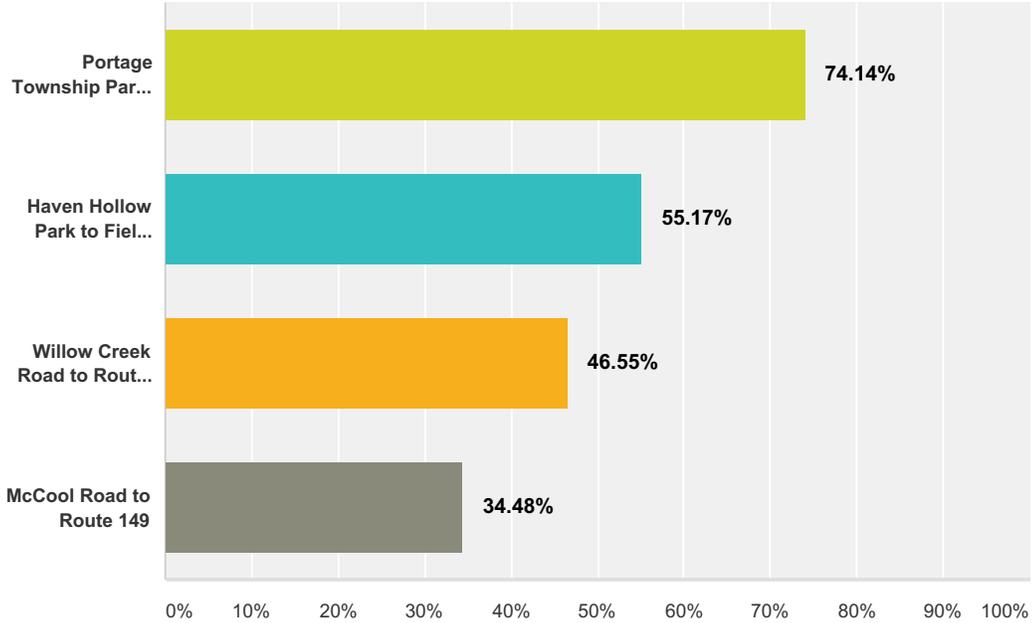


Answer Choices	Responses
\$0	4.35% 3
\$5	23.19% 16
\$10	26.09% 18
\$15	18.84% 13
\$20	27.54% 19
Total	69

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	30	10/24/2016 6:18 PM

Q17 Would connecting the following through pathways benefit you? Please check all that apply.

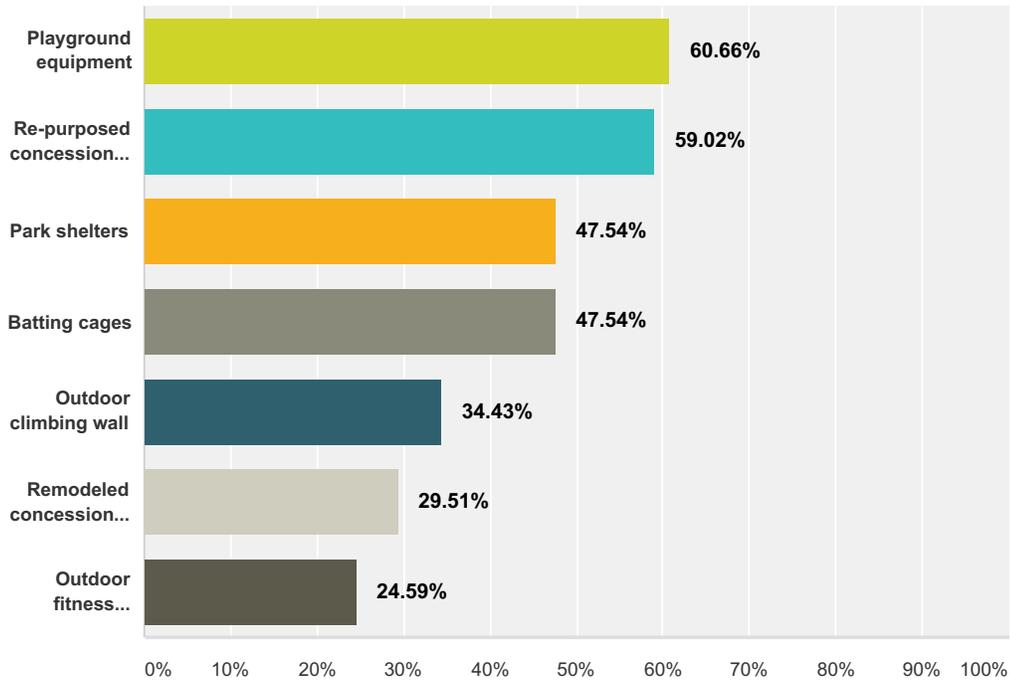
Answered: 58 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
Portage Township Parks to the Prairie-Duneland Trail	74.14% 43
Haven Hollow Park to Field of Dreams Park	55.17% 32
Willow Creek Road to Route 149	46.55% 27
McCool Road to Route 149	34.48% 20
Total Respondents: 58	

**Q18 What new amenities would you like to see at Evergreen park (the former Portage Little League Park on Evergreen Avenue)?
Check all the apply.**

Answered: 61 Skipped: 21



Answer Choices	Responses
Playground equipment	60.66% 37
Re-purposed concession building as bathrooms	59.02% 36
Park shelters	47.54% 29
Batting cages	47.54% 29
Outdoor climbing wall	34.43% 21
Remodeled concession building	29.51% 18
Outdoor fitness equipment	24.59% 15
Total Respondents: 61	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Walking/running track would be great since this area seems more open and not so secluded. I don't feel safe walking on the current trails by myself. I only go walk there when my husband can go with me.	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
2	Safe access for families who live north of the toll road	10/26/2016 4:49 PM
3	hAVE NOT BEEN THERE Have not been there.	10/24/2016 4:59 PM
4	Turn it over to the City.	10/24/2016 7:13 AM
5	I drive past it 5+ times a week, hardly ever people there!!! not much there now to draw people there!!	10/24/2016 6:38 AM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

6	As I live in this area, I enjoy seeing it being cleaned up and improved. There are a lot of little kids in the area, I would like to see this made useful to them.	10/23/2016 11:18 PM
7	Keep as a ball field	10/22/2016 6:38 PM
8	No need for two ball fields at that park. Take the space of one of the fields and utilize the space for a more well-rounded recreational park. Walking path around one field, rubberized surfacing with workout equipment, batting cages, playground, and possibly something unique to the area like an outdoor climbing wall or other feature. Seems to me the park could make money with batting cages being that they have Portage Jr. Miss and Portage Little League teams looking for practice space in that area. Kids need batting cages and a good infield for practicing.	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
9	Sidewalks and pathways to and from housing communities	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
10	It needs completely revamped! That whole area was thriving at one time.. now it is rarely used. Would be great if there was a public batting cages or more accessible to book fields for bday parties or sheltered areas so it could be used for private games/ cookout shelters	10/18/2016 10:21 PM
11	Maybe turn it into a fitness park?	10/18/2016 7:06 PM
12	None. Township parks should not be competing with city parks. They should be merged into the county parks department to reduce costs to the taxpayer. Any investment into the Little League Park would be a waste of taxpayer money. The city of Portage has enough parks that can service the community.	10/18/2016 3:39 PM
13	Soft surface trails for running	10/18/2016 3:29 PM

Q19 Would you like to volunteer to be on a committee to preserve the history of the former Little League Park? If so, please submit your name, phone number and email.

Answered: 3 Skipped: 79

Answer Choices	Responses
Name	100.00% 3
Telephone	100.00% 3
Email	100.00% 3

#	Name	Date
1	Kyle Bauske	12/6/2016 4:32 PM
2	Bruce Barich	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
3	Andrew Berger	10/18/2016 3:49 PM

#	Telephone	Date
1	219-771-0386	12/6/2016 4:32 PM
2	219-309-8630	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
3	219-276-0347	10/18/2016 3:49 PM

#	Email	Date
1	kbauske109@yahoo.com	12/6/2016 4:32 PM
2	brucevich@gmail.com	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
3	bergerandy222@gmail.com	10/18/2016 3:49 PM

Portage Township Parks and Recreation

Q20 Please provide any additional comments.

Answered: 17 Skipped: 65

#	Responses	Date
1	Not enough basketball courts in all of Porter County	12/6/2016 4:18 PM
2	Full basketball courts needed at parks	12/6/2016 4:04 PM
3	It would be nice for adult fitness classes with a childcare option.	10/31/2016 5:17 PM
4	keep up the great work!	10/26/2016 1:48 PM
5	I'm not sure of the name of the park, but there is a huge parking problem where our grandchildren play soccer (Haven Hollow Park, I think; off of Rt. 149). There is NEVER enough parking spaces; and many of us have just had to leave for lack of parking. Could you possibly get this fixed. It would be GREATLY appreciated. Thank you for letting us give input.	10/25/2016 11:11 PM
6	Would like to see camping at the parks. Area behind Haven Hollow would be a great area to start off with primitive camping then in future add waterlines and electricity. Funds taken in from this could help other township park enhancements.	10/24/2016 8:45 PM
7	There should be more visible law enforcement around the parks.	10/24/2016 6:18 PM
8	Question #15 you asked that we "check all that apply". It wouldn't allow me to do that. I love the Portage Park System. My biggest complaint is all the concrete that has been added at Woodland Park. It was a great place to run on grass/soft surface and had so much history with PHS's Cross Country programs.	10/24/2016 12:08 PM
9	I'm not sure if money spent on the former L.L. park is worth spending.	10/24/2016 6:38 AM
10	If the iron horse trail / prairie duneland could somehow connect to the lakefront park that would be ideal.	10/24/2016 2:47 AM
11	There are no where near enough trash cans on the bike trails. There is always garbage and dog poop. Maybe some more trash cans and provide people doggie poop bags like Gilbert Park has. A person can go nearly 2 miles before a trash can is even found. Do you want to carry your dog's poo 2 miles???	10/24/2016 12:19 AM
12	Maybe have a volunteer Garden Club for each park to help with flower planting, weeding and just general overall appearance. Question 15 does not allow me to select more than one answer, even though it says I can.	10/23/2016 1:39 PM
13	I am looking forward to seeing trail development at Haven Hollow Park and development of all kinds at Field of Dreams Park. Field of Dreams has a lot of untapped potential.	10/22/2016 5:10 PM
14	It sure would be nice to have more sidewalks in the South Haven area!	10/21/2016 11:22 AM
15	Around Mission St. the kids play in the streets. We need some restrictions before they get hit by cars.	10/21/2016 8:32 AM
16	I heard rumors of a park being added on Dombey Road. That the city wanted to acquire Dombey Lake and build it into a nice park. Now that would be AWESOME!! My family would love to finally have a park close by and easily accessible. I hope it's true. I think that would be just wonderful.	10/19/2016 8:33 AM
17	Would like to see iron horse paved and maintained	10/18/2016 10:57 PM