

PARKS+RECREATION

MASTER PLAN • TERRE HAUTE



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan was prepared with the assistance, direction, and cooperation of the City of Terre Haute Parks Board, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Purdue Extension Vigo County, and the citizens of the City of Terre Haute.

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parks & recreation

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

In 2008, the City embarked on an extensive park planning process, resulting in the 2009-2013 Parks Master Plan. This long-term vision was intended to place emphasis on the value of parks and provide a guide for the care of this tremendous asset. However, budget cuts reduced staffing levels, deferred maintenance projects and cut programming in the following years.

The 2014-2018 plan anticipated lean years and the main emphasis was to take care of what Terre Haute already has - including addressing deferred maintenance issues, replacing outdated equipment and updating aging facilities.

As the City now looks ahead to the 2019-2023 Parks Master Plan, the budget is beginning to slowly rebuild and the department is starting to move forward incrementally.

As the department revisited the previous plan, leaders renewed their commitment to the long term vision and goals established by that plan. Additional goals include focusing more resources on neighborhood parks and forming lasting partnerships to facilitate rehabilitation and renewal.

Recognition has been given to the fact that many

critical issues throughout the parks system need action plans. Deferred maintenance must be addressed. Golf operations need investment. Aquatics facilities are aging rapidly. The trails are not so new anymore and need work. Strong park leadership will be required to implement solutions to address these needs over the course of this plan.

PLAN METHODOLOGY

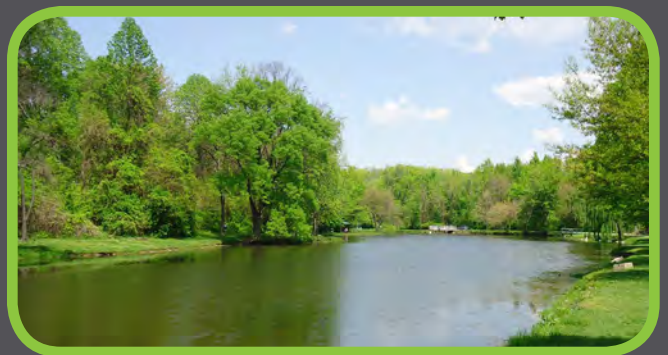
The Terre Haute Parks System is contained within the corporate limits of the city of Terre Haute. In addition to serving the needs of the residents of the city, it is recognized that the parks also serve as a regional draw for users outside of the corporate limits. It is acknowledged that these outside users impact the parks while not financially contributing to the parks system. The Parks Department has a long-term goal to address these impacts, but this is not an immediate priority for this plan. Currently, it is not feasible to put non-resident fees in place...

We cannot continue to ignore the financial difficulties that the Terre Haute Parks System has experienced in recent years. As such, this plan will lay out priorities and methodologies for addressing needs in creative and innovative ways while highlighting areas of the parks system that need priority financial support.

This plan was developed through an extensive process of property inventory, data collection, analysis of previous plans, park staff meetings and public input. Input from the general public was sought through a public outreach program facilitated by the Purdue Extension Vigo County, in partnership with the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Terre Haute.

The results of this program were compiled in the Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces (EVPS) report and were reviewed by stakeholders and Parks Staff. Multiple meetings were held with key staff members of the Parks Department to understand how the parks can better enhance their value to the local community. Specific issues and opportunities were discussed and noted. Since this plan largely builds from the previous 2014-2018 plan, an evaluation of the progress of the community toward their previous goals were completed. Incomplete goals were noted and evaluated to see if they were still a priority. Items remaining a priority were brought forward into this plan if applicable.

Priorities were reviewed by the Parks Board and Mayor's office, city planners and staff. All goals and objectives were then presented to the public at an open house prior to finalizing the plan.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department strives to preserve, protect, and enhance Terre Haute's heritage, character, and quality of life by effectively providing the community and visitors diverse leisure time opportunities, parks, trails, and facilities.

VISION

Throughout the planning process, it was repeated multiple times that Terre Haute has an incredible park system, and that taking care of the system is the highest priority to the community. Concerns were also consistently expressed that maintaining the park system has become a challenge with the past budget cuts. Park leaders understand that establishing long term alternative revenue streams is essential for meeting their goals of taking care of the parks system. Also critical to the success of the department will be continuing to educate the public on the value of parks so that the public will continue to support improvements to park facilities.

"The City of Terre Haute is known for its fine people, public concerns, historical value and the quality of service provided to all citizens. The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department plays an important role in this community as thousands of adults and children visit and use City parks every year. We strive to provide quality recreational opportunities to individuals of all abilities. Each year, the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department experiences growth as it strives to meet increased demands and needs."



PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following is a summary of the primary goals and objectives for the 2019-2023 plan. This is not meant to be inclusive of everything that will occur in the parks in this time frame. Instead, it is intended as an overview of department priorities.

The goals and objectives were developed based upon the EVPS public input summary, stakeholder input and meetings with staff.



Collett Park Sign

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

It is of utmost importance that there is a park serving every neighborhood of Terre Haute. Therefore, it is a major goal to focus on the neighborhood parks to make sure that they are providing safe and relevant recreation opportunities for their surrounding communities.

GOAL: FOCUS ON THE REVITALIZATION AND RENEWAL OF THE CITY'S SMALLER NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

OBJECTIVES:

- When choosing parks for renewal efforts, particular attention should be paid to ensure that the recreation needs of low-to-moderate income neighborhoods and minority populations are taken into account.
- Identify gaps in service and determine a course of action to help get people to a park (i.e. trail connections, sidewalk improvements, etc.)

GOAL: SET THE GROUNDWORK TO IMPROVE REA PARK AS A REGIONAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TO SERVE THE SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITIES

OBJECTIVES:

- Work with the Friends of Rea Park, Inc., to implement the improvements to William S. Rea Park.
- Renewal efforts include: renovation of the historic 1925 clubhouse into a park activity center, implementation of a park master plan that includes reconstruction of tennis courts and other facilities, and encouraging the parks board to maximize the efficiency and profitability of all Rea Park resources, programs and facilities.

GOAL: PLAN FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PER YEAR

OBJECTIVES:

- Use the Herz-Rose Park partnership as a model of community engagement through strategic partnerships. Indiana State University, with support from Arts Spaces, has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to engage with an artist to create a public art work for Herz-Rose Park. In September 2018, the artist conducted an "outdoor living room" in the park, sitting with approximately 60 residents and conversing with them for approximately 2-3 hours regarding what they value about their neighborhood, what are their most pressing needs and what they would like to see happen there. Moving forward, a unique strategic partnership involving institutions of higher education in Terre Haute and a Vectren-led consortium of stakeholders in the Ryves neighborhood will work to bring the artist's project to fruition in the park, plan for the long-term maintenance of the project, and manage programming of the space.
- Engage with local organizations to help facilitate a community conversation, before any work is done on the park - to determine what the best next steps are for that particular area and initiate strategic partnerships with stakeholders.
- Complete one local park engagement process per year in parks where changes may be proposed and existing partnerships already exist. Suggested locations include Herz-Rose Park, Gilbert Park, Coy Park, Sheridan Park and Spencer F. Ball Park.

PARTNERSHIPS

Seeking out and forming partnerships will be a major goal for the next five years. Strong partners can promote and advocate for parks and recreation. Partnerships also create new opportunities for park and recreation agencies to demonstrate their value to a community. Partnerships can occur at the neighborhood level, such as the Collett Park Neighborhood Association raising funds for park improvements at Collett Park. An example of a partnership at the organization level is the Wabash Valley Art Spaces, Inc. providing collaborative community engagement programming within various parks. As the parks and surrounding neighborhoods change, these partnerships can help facilitate conversations on what can be done to keep the parks relevant and useful.

GOAL: PARTNER WITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS.

OBJECTIVE:

- Identify and reach out to neighborhood associations near existing parks. These entities will most likely consist of individuals who have a large stake in the future of the park and are great partners for determining community needs and desires and for fundraising opportunities.

GOAL: PARTNER WITH LOCAL ARTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. TO CREATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT WILL ASSIST IN PROGRAMMING NEEDS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

OBJECTIVE:

- Identify and reach out to outside organizations such as arts groups and community organizations. Partnering with such entities will allow the Parks Department to utilize their cache of connections, resources and advertising capability.

GOAL: PARTNER WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND MEDIA OUTLETS TO INCREASE VISIBILITY OF PARK EVENTS THROUGH BOTH PROMOTION AND COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Create partnerships with schools and universities to help in the development of media-oriented promotional materials for the Department.
- Create partnerships with Parks leaders and media outlets on regular television news segments to highlight park activities. This could especially be used to promote neighborhood parks, not just what is occurring at community parks.

GOAL: PARTNER WITH OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS AND ENTITIES FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES.

OBJECTIVE:

- Identify city departments and entities that may have a stake in the appearance or functionality of a space, such as a traffic island or triangle park. A partnership of this type may consist of an annual planting agreement or mowing agreement.



Rib Fest



Collett Park Band



Fishing Rodeo

AQUATICS

A long term aquatic plan for the community will be developed in the course of this plan. The plan will also identify the long-term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Deming Park pool.

GOAL: DEVELOP A LONG-TERM AQUATICS PLAN

OBJECTIVES:

- Long term aquatics plan should include the eventual replacement of the Deming Park Pool.
- Plan should include recommendations for adding splash pad amenities throughout the City.
- Plan should evaluate the location of all aquatics facilities, including an evaluation of alternate locations for the pool at Deming Park.



Deming Park Pool



Booker T. Washington Community Center



Collett Park Gazebo

ALTERNATIVE REVENUE SOURCES

In order to supplement the shrunken budget and still attain the maintenance and improvement goals, alternative revenue sources will be sought out. Every effort will be made to chase grant opportunities provided at the local, state and federal levels. Additionally, the Parks Department will support the fundraising efforts of the Wabash Valley Community Foundation that go toward the Parks Endowment.

GOAL: CREATE AND MAINTAIN AN EVOLVING LIST OF GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OBJECTIVES:

- Research potential grant and funding sources with a short list of requirements for future reference.
- Update the list yearly, as these opportunities change and evolve.

GOAL: PROMOTE THE TERRE HAUTE PARKS DEPARTMENT ENDOWMENT FUND THROUGH THE WABASH VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote charitable giving through informational signage at locations where the funding has paid for a project.
- Promote charitable giving through programming and events by directly engaging with park patrons and community members.

TRAILS

Our trails system has become an outstanding and well-used community asset. We will continue to finish the original trails master plans, with a focus on filling gaps in trails, and making connections to parks and other destinations.

GOAL: CONTINUE THE CURRENT MOMENTUM TO COMPLETE THE GREENWAYS PLAN CONNECTIONS

OBJECTIVES:

- Finish the connections from greenways to specific parks.
- Continue expanding trail mileage throughout the city, connecting neighborhoods and landmarks.
- Prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that the constructed greenways are free of obstacles and hazards.



National Road Heritage Trail Sign

RIVERFRONT ENGAGEMENT

A large part of the City's focus has been directed to the future of the riverfront – what development opportunities exist and what potential the river provides for public engagement. The Parks Department will encourage and support the development of recreational opportunities for tourists and residents along the Wabash River along with the Art Spaces *Turn to the River* Project, aiming to reconnect Terre Haute's downtown with the Wabash River through public art and design.

GOAL: SUPPORT RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

OBJECTIVE:

- While not a function of the parks department, the redevelopment of the riverfront for recreational use is in keeping with the spirit and mission of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department. Therefore, the intent of this goal is to express support for the redevelopment vision and projects of the Art Spaces, Inc. and the Wabash Valley Development and Beautification organization Riverscape.



Rib Fest

MAINTENANCE AND BUDGET

Prior cuts have reduced the parks budget significantly in the last eight years due to property tax caps. While the budget has since stabilized and is slowly beginning to rebuild, it is essential to continue upgrading shelter houses, restroom facilities and playgrounds, and to continue to provide well-planned programming. Upgrade and replacement of existing, well-used and outdated facilities and equipment will take precedence over expansion and growth. To make this a priority, we will develop and annually update a capital improvements plan. This plan will outline needed improvements, costs and revenue sources.

GOAL: UPGRADE OR REPLACE AGING AND OUTDATED FACILITIES

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a priority list of facilities/amenities that are in need of repair and those that are in need of total replacement.
- Create a budget for each facility/amenity that needs work, so as to have numbers available when funding or grant opportunities become available.
- Aim to update one playground facility per year.

GOAL: ESTABLISH REPLACEMENT POLICIES FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

OBJECTIVE:

- Develop a policy to guide decision making on the scheduled maintenance and replacement of park maintenance equipment.

GOAL: CONSOLIDATE THE EAST AND CENTRAL MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS INTO A SINGLE FACILITY AT 17 ACRES COMPLEX. MAKE THIS FACILITY A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Remove the dilapidated facility at Dobb's Park.
- Remove or repurpose the facility at Deming Park, utilizing the additional space for recreation.
- Construct a single facility at 17 Acres Park, away from public view, to allow space for the department to conduct mulching operations, composting, equipment storage, maintenance and other activities.
- Develop and implement sustainable maintenance practices at this facility.

GOAL: INCREASE PARKS BUDGET

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase parks budget on an annual basis to make up for budget cuts over the last decade due to property tax caps. Finances are improving due to increased revenue projections in 2019, and the budget should increase in 2020.
- The initial priority for the increase in parks budget is to address deferred maintenance and improvement to existing facilities.

GOAL: IMPLEMENT GREEN/SUSTAINABILITY BEST PRACTICES THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT

OBJECTIVES:

- The Parks Department should work to identify and implement opportunities to increase the sustainability of their operations as well as become a leader in sustainability throughout the community.
- Develop a mulching program, mulching around trees to reduce watering and trimming needs
- Utilize the greenhouse at Dobb's Park to grow nursery and native plant stock
- Continue partnerships with organizations like Trees, Inc. to implement best practices for maintaining and replacing trees
- Reduce the area mown in city parks
- Begin a recycling program within the parks and at parks buildings
- Encourage new construction to utilize sustainable materials and methods
- Consider policy to follow LEED standards on new construction
- Replace inefficient building systems with new high efficiency, low consumption systems



Halloween Decorations



Small Playground at Deming Park

UNCATEGORIZED GOALS

These goals do not fall within the aforementioned categories, but are important goals to strive for to keep the park system running efficiently and productively.

GOAL: ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT PROFESSIONAL SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM TO MAKE PARKS MORE USER FRIENDLY

OBJECTIVES:

- Create a unified and consistent design package to aid in park and facility identification.
- Install wayfinding signs to help locate parks that are not on main corridors, helping visitors and community member to locate and enjoy all parks.

GOAL: DEVELOP PARK-ORIENTED PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS TO ASSIST IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

OBJECTIVES:

- Create materials to give to prospective business leaders to help them understand how the parks system contributes to the quality of life in the community.
- Promote the trail system as a means of alternative transportation as well as an amenity to be used for increased public health.

GOAL: UPGRADE FACILITIES TO MEET CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure that all restrooms are wheelchair accessible and fixtures within the restrooms meet accessibility standards.
- Ensure that all shelters, playgrounds and other facilities are connected by an ADA pathway, so that all users can access them.
- ADA compliance should be coordinated with the City's ADA Coordinator, Melissa Reed, at 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807. Phone: 812-244-4903. The City has published notice of ADA requirements, ADA Grievance Procedure and point of contact and the Assurance of Accessibility form. These forms and documents can be found the in Appendix.
- Specific objectives for the parks department include:
 - Develop plan for bringing park system into compliance with ADA standards
 - Address the most significant accessibility issues within the terms of this plan. Priority will be based on cost, frequency of use, scheduled obsolescence, and related issues. High cost/low use items may need to be deferred until funds are available.

GOAL: IMPLEMENT GOLF IMPROVEMENTS

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify needed maintenance and improvements to both Hulman Links and the Rea Park course to improve attendance and user experience.
- Update the clubhouse at both locations to provide more quality amenities and services.

GOAL: ENSURE SECURITY OF PARK FACILITIES IS KEPT AS A TOP PRIORITY

OBJECTIVES:

- Investigate alternatives for reducing graffiti problems at parks
- Investigate alternatives for improving security, such as establishing park rangers, local monitoring committees, or internship with local universities
- Study the cost/benefit or continuing to provide employee residences within select parks as a deterrent. Develop a policy for future provision of these residences.

GOAL: EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC ON THE VALUE OF PARKS

OBJECTIVE

- Create promotional materials and programming that helps the public understand the depth to which the park system contributes to the quality of their daily lives. Events such as the recommended “lunch for parks” will help with this, as would improved focus on the value of parks during media coverage.



Arch at Fairbanks Park



Booker T. Washington Community Center

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THE COMMUNITY



THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY HISTORY

Vigo County was organized in 1816 from a portion of Sullivan County. The area was named after Colonel Francis Vigo, an Italian tradesman and Colonel who assisted George Rogers Clark during the Revolutionary War. Terre Haute, which is French for “high land” was appropriately named by French traders using the Wabash River Valley for travel during the 1700’s.

The first documented settlement in Terre Haute was in 1802 by the Ouiatanon Indians, a member of the Wea Tribe, which had been present in the Wabash River Valley since 1695. This settlement near Terre Haute was the Wea’s primary village until October 2nd, 1818, when a treaty was signed to remove all Indian settlements from Indiana. General William Henry Harrison encountered this settlement during his travels up the Wabash River in 1811. His troops built Fort Harrison two miles north of the tribe’s location.

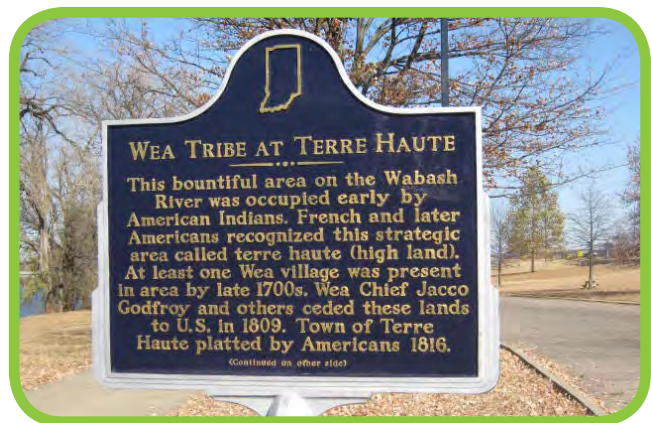
Terre Haute became the official county seat in 1818, was incorporated as a town in 1832, and incorporated as a City 21 years later. This area was a major trade center through the 19th Century. Ports along the Wabash allowed steamboats to dock, the extension of the National Road during the early 1930’s provided access by horse and wagon and acted as the gateway to the west. The Wabash and Erie Canal reached this area in 1849, and

railroads came through in 1852.

The Civil War was the turning point for Terre Haute, combining an agricultural-based economy with an industrial-based economy. The discovery of coal in Clay County initiated the development of iron furnaces, foundries and rolling mills in the region. By 1870, Vigo County became the third largest coal producer and the fifth largest iron manufacturer in the state. This era was short-lived, however, as the ore in the area was inferior to other mines in Lake County and other Midwestern states. By the turn of the century, agriculture once again became the economic staple of the area.

From the mid to late 1800’s, corn became Terre Haute’s most valuable commodity for the making of alcohol and food items. By 1880, the city was the nation’s fifth largest import center of flour and other grist mill products, as well as in the production of distilled liquor.

The economic base of the City was put to a standstill following World War I. Prohibition closed the distilleries and bottle manufacturing plants, coal mining operations were reduced and mechanized, and the Pennsylvania Railroad repair shops were closed. Additionally, severe labor-management issues were a constant source of conflict, producing an environment susceptible to regular strikes and violence.



Terre Haute's economy greatly benefited from World War II. During the war, Terre Haute provided peacetime goods and supplied labor to the nearby plants. It was also one of the largest recruitment centers of women serving in the navy. Despite this, high unemployment rates, an unstable local economy, decreases in overall population, and bad press continued to plague the city through the early 1970's.

The 1970's brought manufacturing and one of the state's lowest unemployment rates to the city. This boom, however, was short-lived. During the early 1980's, Columbia Records, Terre Haute's largest employer, closed its doors, ISU enrollment dropped, labor-management disputes escalated, historic downtown buildings were demolished, and the population continued to decrease.

Grow Terre Haute, an organization of City officials and community leaders, was established to stabilize the City's volatile economy. By the mid 1980's, new high-tech plants, construction at Rose-Hulman and ISU, improved traffic circulation, downtown development, and recognition on the National Register of Historic Places all contributed to bettering the community.



CHANGING CONDITIONS

Recent years have seen a refocus on the River as an important community asset. Indiana State University has initiated riverfront redevelopment with the construction of the new track stadium and shared-use trail, as well as the renovation of the Icon building into riverfront student housing. Additionally, the Art Spaces *Turn to the River* project aims at reconnecting Terre Haute's downtown with the Wabash River through public art and design. Both of these initiatives provide opportunities for public engagement and recreation along and near the river, which the Terre Haute Parks Department encourages and supports.

Along with its riverfront development, Indiana State University is continually growing and its transitioning fringe should be considered in current and future parks planning. Other important educational facilities for consideration are St. Mary's of the Wood College, Ivy Tech, and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology.

While the primary focus of this plan is to protect existing assets, rebuild the parks budget, and re-establish neighborhood parks, new and innovative opportunities should be noted for future endeavors. Terre Haute has many brownfields throughout the corporate limits, some of which are located in prime areas for community recreation. Additionally, the Graham Grain Line is being abandoned, which opens up a great opportunity for further trail connectivity. Currently, the parks budget will not allow for allocation of new property and facilities, but it is important to note these opportunities in the hope that the budget will see significant growth in the coming years.

COMMUNITY FEATURES

TRANSPORTATION

Nick-named the “Crossroads of America”, Terre Haute has been a regional transportation hub since the 1850’s. Today, I-70 borders the southern edge of the city equidistant between I-65 and I-57. U.S. Highways that traverse the area include U.S. 40, U.S. 41 and U.S. 150.

CSX and Indiana Railroad both have rails that go through Terre Haute. At one time, these rail lines interfered with local transportation routes; however, in the 1980’s many of these conflicts were resolved with bridge construction. CSX maintains a bulk transfer site in Terre Haute.

Terre Haute International Airport provides military, commercial, corporate, private, and government transportation service for the region. The area surrounding the airport has been designated by the Indiana General Assembly as an Airport Development Zone to encourage development and growth.

EDUCATION

Terre Haute is home to five colleges and universities, giving many parts of the City a “college town” atmosphere. Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and St. Mary of the Woods College are four-year institutions that provide both undergraduate and graduate level degrees. These universities provide Terre Haute with unique cultural experiences, including art galleries, observatories, and preserved natural areas. Each campus adds to the beauty of Terre Haute, as well as generating visitors, tourism and economic development for the area.

Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana Business College offer small class sizes, flexible schedules, on-line courses, and focused instruction for students earning Bachelors and Associates degrees, as well as transferable credit hours. These education centers do not offer a typical college campus setting with dorms and dining halls;

however, a constant flow of students and professors provides economic stimulus to these areas of Terre Haute.

HISTORIC FEATURES

There are currently 45 structures on the National Register of Historic Places. Incentives at the local, state, and federal level are available to building owners to ensure these structures retain their historic qualities through renovations and upkeep. Several older buildings have been demolished since the 1950’s, but historic structures like the Collett Park Pavilion remain. Terre Haute Landmarks, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that identifies historic land marks, offers assistance to owners, protects historic elements from demolition, and presents awards for renovations.

The Native American Museum (located in John G. Dobbs Memorial Park) is the only museum of its kind to be operated by a city parks department. The permanent displays feature the ways of life of the Native peoples that once inhabited this area - the Northeast Woodlands environment. Numerous temporary exhibits provide seasonal interest and focused educational experiences.

NATURAL FEATURES

The Wabash River, which forms the western boundary of the City, is the most prominent natural feature within Terre Haute. The Wabash has been used for hundreds of years to travel across Indiana, as it travels through 16 counties and drains more than 60 counties on its way to the Ohio River—more than 75 percent of the state.

Terre Haute was named after its relationship to the Wabash River. French for “high land”, this rise above the river was a rolling plateau. The topography includes the broad Wabash River Valley, rolling uplands immediately east of the river corridor, and moderately rolling farmland in the surrounding area.

Vigo County was the southern limit of the advance of glacial ice during two major glacial ice ages. The

soils throughout this area are a combination of silts deposited by the winds along the ice front; glacial outwash soils, glacial till soils compacted under the heavy ice weight, sand dunes, and soft glacial lake deposits. The first settlers drained many of the ample wetlands and morasses they found to reveal these varied soil types which were ideal for a variety of agricultural production.

Today, the parks system helps to highlight and protect the natural environment found in and around the City, though it is a secondary goal of this plan. Parks such as Dobbs Nature Park and Maple Avenue Nature park actively promote and engage users with nature. Citizen groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America, frequently visit these parks and volunteer to clear out invasive species along trails and waterways. This is a great example of how important the parks are to the local residents and visitors - creating volunteer partnerships to care for these natural resources.

Other large parks such as Deming, Rea, and Hulman Links help to preserve large woodlots. Maintenance crews have been removing dead ash trees and preserving ash trees that appear to be in good health, when possible. Emerald Ash Borer is still a threat within the parks system. Fairbanks Park plays a critical role in keeping people connected to the Wabash River. Trails, greenways, and boulevards through the city help to create corridors of life through the City.

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society partners with the Parks Department to provide programming on the natural environment, flora and fauna of the area. Programming and educational materials includes animals such as owls and other native birds, salamanders, turtles, and bats; native wildflowers; wetlands; and the night sky.

Vigo County parks, which surround the City, has a heavier focus on protecting and preserving natural features while the Terre Haute park system has a heavier focus on recreational opportunities. These two park systems working in tandem help to create a well rounded exposure to all the benefits a park system can offer to its users.



Wetland Area near Maple Avenue Nature Park



Wabash River along Fairbanks Park

CULTURAL FEATURES

Terre Haute has a wealth of museums, music and theater groups, and historically significant homes and businesses open for tours. These groups and attractions offer significant cultural diversity for a small city, and are listed below.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

- Oakley Observatory
- Hatfield Hall

Indiana State University

- Hook Observatory
- University Art Gallery

St. Mary of the Woods

- Providence Center at St. Mary of the Woods
- St. Mary of the Woods Art Gallery
- White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

Art Groups and Galleries

- Art Spaces
- Arts Illiana, Inc.
- Sheldon Swope Art Museum
- The Halcyon Contemporary Art Gallery
- Titzer Art Studios and Back Gallery

Music and Theater

- Community Theater of Terre Haute
- Sweet Harmony Women's Barbershop Chorus
- Terre Haute Children's Choir
- Terre Haute Community Band
- Terre Haute Masterworks Choral
- Terre Haute Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra
- Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra

Museums and Attractions

- C.A.N.D.L.E.S Holocaust Museum and Education Center
- Children's Science and Technology Museum
- Clabber Girl Museum and Country Store
- Eugene V. Debs House Museum
- Fire-Police Museum
- Veterans Museum
- Fowler Park Pioneer Village (Vigo County Park)
- Dobbs Park Nature Center
- Kleptz Antique Auto Museum
- Native American Museum – Dobbs Park
- Paul Dresser Memorial Birthplace
- Terre Haute Brewing Company
- Vigo County Historic Museum
- Wabash Valley Railroaders Museum



Terre Haute Children's Museum Ropes Course
Source: www.nateandrachel.com



Rose Hulman - Moench Hall
Source: www.rose-hulman.edu



C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum
Source: www.thevetetofamily.com



Indiana Theater
Source: www.wikipedia.com

VIGO COUNTY PARKS

The Vigo County Parks Department manages over 1,868 acres of recreation land with 141 acres of water recreation. Many activities are organized throughout the year that take advantage of the natural setting of their parks, including hay rides, maple syrup gathering, Christmas light displays, a triathlon race, and pioneer days. Throughout the year, camping, swimming, boating, and hiking are available within the parks, as well. The Vigo County Parks Department works with the Terre Haute Parks Department on a regular basis.

Private Recreation Providers

- Country Club of Terre Haute
- The Landing
- Happiness Bag, Inc.
- Wabash Valley Family Sports
- Curves
- Anytime Fitness

Parent/Church Organizations

- Terre Town Baseball League
- Terre Haute South Little League
- Terre Haute Church League – Men's and Co-Ed Softball
- Terre Haute Miss Softball America
- Vigo County Youth Soccer Association



Country Club of Terre Haute

BENEFIT OF HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ASSETS TO THE TERRE HAUTE PARKS SYSTEM

It is a desire of the parks department to continue developing partnerships and relationships with the cultural institutions and organizations listed in order to increase the vitality of the parks system and Terre Haute as a whole. Close working relationships with organizations, such as that with Art Spaces Inc. which helps to place high quality sculptures throughout the city and in city parks, is vital to elevating the parks visibility and use within the community.

These partnerships also help the parks department to sponsor many popular events in the city including the Banks of the Wabash Festival, Old Fashion Day, Independence Day Celebration, Annual Memorial 5k Run, Haunted and Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings, Fairbanks Community Band Concerts and Christmas in the Park.

Several goals listed later in this document directly relate to working with other organizations including: Partnering with local schools, universities, and media outlets; Educating stakeholders and the public on the value of parks; Developing park-oriented promotional materials to assist in economic development initiatives; and Supporting riverfront development initiatives.



Paul Dresser Memorial Birthplace



Fowler Park
Source: www.vigocounty.in.gov

THE PEOPLE

PAST POPULATION TRENDS

Terre Haute reached its largest population in the 1960's with 72,500 residents. Over the past forty years, the population has decreased by nearly 18 percent, with the greatest decreases occurring between the 1970 census and 1980 census (-13.1 percent). However, this decrease was prompted by activities that occurred thirty years earlier.

Between 1940 and 1961, Terre Haute had one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, despite the building of several new factories, including Pfizer Chemical, Allis- Chalmers, Columbia Records, and Anaconda Aluminum. During this time, more than 6,000 manufacturing jobs were lost. Population increases from the 1960 Census were a result of annexation, not prosperity and economic growth.

During the 1960's, Terre Haute's downtown continued to decline both financially and physically when a series of explosions and fires in abandoned and dilapidated buildings occurred. Many residents and merchants moved from the downtown area into suburbs and outlying shopping centers. The late 1960's and early 1970's brought some stability and urban renewal to Terre Haute as Indiana State University (ISU) doubled its student population and the Fort Harrison Industrial Park was developed. By 1973, Terre Haute boasted one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, despite the recession.

The 1980 Census indicated an extreme decrease in Terre Haute's population, despite increased economic development. The decrease was caused by many factors, including a high attrition rate of an aging population, a decrease in attendance at ISU, cutbacks by the City's largest employers, and the relocation of employees and jobs from the Fort Harrison Industrial Park.

Economic troubles continued to plague Terre Haute during the early 1980's. Unemployment soared to 15.5 percent in 1983 as plant closings, droughts, real estate slumps, and inflation continued to rise. The effects were increased crime, demolition of historic downtown structures, and escalating labor-management disputes. One positive addition to Terre Haute was the Digital Audio Disc Corporation (DADC). This high-tech manufacturing plant, along with new stores and factories, helped turn Terre Haute's economy around in just three short years. By 1986, employment at the DADC plant had tripled and new building and transportation construction occurred throughout the city.

Once again, economic stability, as well as community pride, had returned to Terre Haute. These factors helped to stabilize the population, which continued to decrease between 1980 and 1990, but at a much reduced 6 percent. The 2000 Census indicated an increase in Terre Haute's population to nearly 60,000 residents, or nearly a 4 percent increase from 1990.

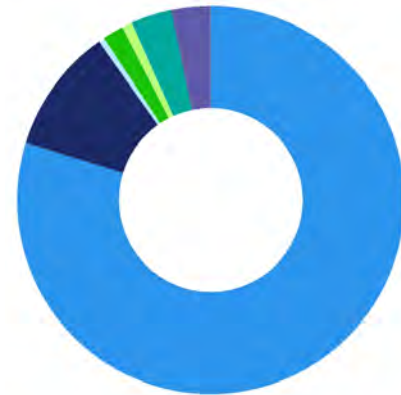
CURRENT POPULATION TRENDS

The 2010 Census population of Terre Haute was 60,785. An estimate was completed in 2018 that indicated the total population of the city had increased slightly to 61,905. These numbers show that the previous trend of decreasing population has reversed and the population is slowly growing. This population represents approximately 56 percent of the county population. Vigo County's population of 107,516 (2017 Census Estimate) is a -0.3% change from the 2010 Census count. Other communities within Vigo County include the following:

West Terre Haute:	2,376
Seelyville:	866
Riley:	162

**Source: 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimate*

Census estimates indicate that Terre Haute's population is slowly growing, while the population for the other towns within Vigo County, and the County population itself are on the decline. This growing population within the City of Terre Haute will add strain to the Parks within the City, and indicates a need for stronger maintenance and park growth. Additionally, the seasonal college student population from St. Mary's, ISU, Ivy Tech, and Rose Hulman colleges add strain to the larger, regional parks as these are the most frequented by this demographic.



- White
- Black
- American Indian
- Asian
- Some other race
- Two or more races
- Hispanic origin

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Racial composition for the 2018 population

Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate



- Male
- Female

GENDER

Gender distribution for the 2018 population

Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The median age for Terre Haute, according to the 2018 ESRI Census Estimate, is 34.2 years, with 24 percent of the population under the age of 19. The largest group is between the ages of 25 to 34. This number coincides with the five secondary education centers found within the city. Residents over the age of 65 make up approximately 15 percent of the population. A younger population indicates a higher need for quality parks facilities as parks are vitally important to ensuring the health and well-being of families and youth, establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region. (National Recreation and Park Association)

ECONOMICS

The median family income in Terre Haute is estimated at \$38,061, while the average family income is \$54,114. The unemployment rate for Terre Haute is 3.8%, close to the national rate of 4.0% in June 2018. The federal poverty level in 2018 for a family of 4 was \$25,100. In 2018, 33.8% of Terre Haute's households earned below \$25,000 per year. The significance here for the parks system is that it is often hardest for those living in low-income neighborhoods to access parks - whether it be because they do not live within walking distance of a park and have no transportation, or because their local parks have not seen investment. Therefore, it is important that Terre Haute focus on the parks at a neighborhood level, to ensure equal access to this amenity.



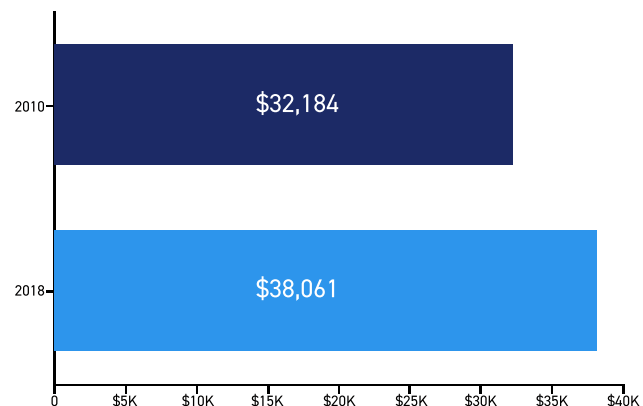
UNEMPLOYMENT

Terre Haute has a 3.8% unemployment rate
 Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate

Age	Number	Percentage
Under 5	3,575	5.8%
5-9 Years	3,351	5.4%
10-14 Years	3,205	5.2%
15-19 Years	4,715	7.6%
20-24 Years	7,151	11.6%
25-34 Years	9,705	15.7%
35-44 Years	7,130	11.5%
45-54 Years	6,715	10.8%
55-64 Years	7,080	11.4%
65-74 Years	5,020	8.1%
75-84 Years	2,800	4.5%
85 and Over	4,461	2.4%

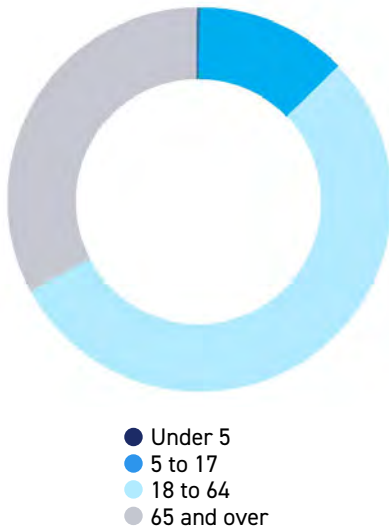
AGE DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of ages throughout the population
 Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate



MEDIAN INCOME

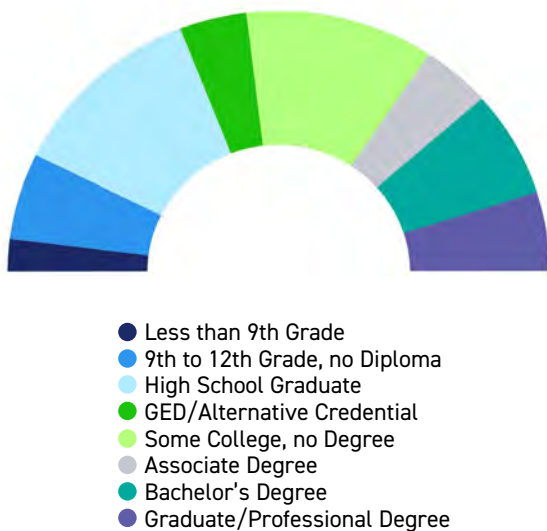
Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate



DISABILITY

Distribution of individuals with a disability, by age group

Source: ESRI 2010 Census



EDUCATION

Education level reached for the population over 25 years of age

Source: ESRI 2018 Census Estimate

APPLICATION

The parks system plays a vital role in helping provide services and improving the quality of life to residents who may not be able to afford or access other recreational opportunities. As such, the parks department must be extremely sensitive and knowledgeable of the communities served by the parks system, especially when it comes to decisions regarding improvements or managing underutilized properties.

As mentioned in the plan goals at the beginning of the document, protection of recreation opportunities for minority and low-to-moderate income neighborhoods must remain a priority as elimination of underutilized park spaces is considered. Any action must analyze the benefit to be gained by elimination against the benefit provided to the local community.

The parks system also plays an important role in providing recreational opportunities for those in the population who report a disability. In Terre Haute, nearly 16% of the population reports having a disability. As such, progress needs to continue towards updating playgrounds, pathways, and other amenity areas to be universally accessible. Progress has been made in this area with examples such as Oakley Playground, updating pathways to shelters and picnic tables, and through educational opportunities presented through the Nature Center, Torner Center and the Native American Museum.

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THE PARKS DEPARTMENT



THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

MANAGEMENT

Management of the Terre Haute Parks Department is set up in a structure that starts with the Mayor of Terre Haute, to the Park Board which has four members and then down to the Park Superintendent. The Superintendent interacts directly with the Mayor, the Park Board and all of the other key personnel from the Recreation Coordinators, Park Managers, Director of Maintenance, Curator, Naturalist, Golf Superintendent and to all the related employees under the aforementioned.

The Terre Haute Park Department started in 1883 with the donation of 21 acres by Joseph Collett, Jr. for Collett Park. Today the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department operates under Code 3-1-3 through 36-10-3 which was passed by the City Council through General Ordinance #6 on June 11, 1982.

The Board is responsible for the supervision of the Department which includes both administrative and fiscal responsibility. The Board may enter into contractual agreements and may finance improvements by issuing general obligation bonds after obtaining a resolution from the city council approving the issuance of such bonds.

PARK POLICIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

It appears that these documents are well written and applicable, however, many of these documents were approved in 1985 with some additional items added such as: drug testing, approved in January 1996; Trail System additions, added November 24, 2002; and Electronic Communications, added July 19, 2004.

The policies and job descriptions should be reviewed every year with recommendations for changes and additions being approved by the Park Board.



Park Office

MAINTENANCE

INTRODUCTION

There are at least 35 areas that are under the maintenance supervision of this department. These areas contain over 975 acres and range in size from .1 acre at One Triangle to 230 acres at Hulman Links. Over 900 acres are mown by the department every week during the growing season.

STAFFING

There are 20 Employees in maintenance. This includes:

- (1) Mechanics
- (2) Trail Managers
- (2) Park Managers (Deming and Fairbanks)
- (2) Directors/Assistant Directors

EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS

The director of Maintenance is responsible for employee evaluations. He then reports to the Superintendent.

BUDGET IMPACTS

Because of budget reductions due to property tax caps, the department has had to really cut back on what they can buy. Whenever possible, they have avoided buying supplies for the last few years and has even been seeking donations for basic maintenance supplies. The department has been resourceful by building things in house whenever they can.

Another impact of budget reductions is they have been more reactive than proactive. This unfortunately means that they are deferring maintenance for the future. As an example, it has been over four years since the department completed a comprehensive painting effort.

Finances are improving, however, due to increased revenue projections for 2019. The Parks budget is expected to increase for the 2020 fiscal year.

PRIORITY MAINTENANCE NEEDS

The biggest current needs for maintenance are as follows:

- Equipment to maintain the parks is needed. Work trucks and utility vehicles are the biggest need. The department is now leasing the mowers to offset the cost of buying new and maintaining old mowing equipment.
- Many highly used park shelters are in poor condition. The department usually replaces some each year, but this has been cut from the budget. Additionally, replacement of some of the larger shelters is needed, but is such a large expense that it has not been feasible.
- The maintenance facility is in very poor condition. This was noted as a major concern for the last plan. They cited buildings and roofs in poor condition, and the need for cabinets to store flammable materials. An example was given that they have standing water on the floors after it rains, sometimes several inches deep.

BUDGET STRATEGIES

Here are some of the strategies being employed by the department to address budget concerns, and suggestions for additional strategies.



Tennis Courts in Need of Repair



Memorial at Fairbanks Park in Need of Repair

1

Make High Impact, Low Cost Decisions: One strategy the department has used is to focus on decisions that have low materials costs. Since labor costs are already in the budget, they have prioritized projects that are largely labor focused. For example, they did a lot of clearing along the Heritage Trail in Dobb's Park.

2

Make the Public Aware of Budget Choices: There is a reluctance to show the public how the budget cuts have really impacted the Parks System. While it is easy to defer maintenance since the public won't see that for years, the long term cost burden is significant. Instead, it is appropriate to cut both visible things (i.e. a reduction in the area you mow) and behind-the-scenes work (i.e. major maintenance).

3

Make Decisions Together: The Superintendent and Maintenance department leaders work together to prioritize maintenance decisions. By working together, they can best manage decisions during tough times.

4

Capital Improvements Budget: It is recommended that the department begin developing and updating an annual capital improvements plan. This plan should include capital projects and major maintenance work throughout the system. Each heading should identify the cost of the work and the funding source. It is recommended that this be updated every year, and that the document project at least 4 to 5 years into the future.

5

Establish Maintenance Equipment Obsolescence Plan: While this was established as a goal in the previous plan, budget reductions never allowed it to get started. It is essential that this be developed, and the costs included in the capital improvements budget.

VANDALISM

Vandalism continues to be an ongoing concern for the department. It is worse in the summer when schools are out. In these summer months, they expect to have a vandalism issue every night somewhere in the system.

The parks has looked at hiring a parks ranger as a part time position during summer months, but the budget has not allowed this. The department is now tracking repair costs from vandalism to see if the cost of a ranger would offset the repair costs.

MOWING

An ongoing goal of the parks department is to reduce the number of acres mown by the department each week in the summer. With over 900 acres of lawn in the department, a significant portion of the city's budget is for mowing. It is recommended that each park be reviewed to determine if the area of mowing can be reduced.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The first trails installed by the parks department are now over ten years old, and are in need of significant repair work. The challenge with pavement maintenance is that you need to seal

cracks in the pavement soon after they develop. Otherwise, the pavement can deteriorate very quickly.

While the parks department is clearly responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the trails, they are not equipped, trained or staffed to handle pavement maintenance. This work is usually completed by the Street Department in most communities. There is immediate maintenance needed on the trails, so it is important that the parks work with the Street and Engineering Departments to determine how best to accommodate pavement repair. Even more, the departments need to work together to determine how to begin to plan for the eventual need to resurface or replace sections of the trails.

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Track annual vandalism repair costs.
- Develop and maintain an annual capital improvements plan.
- Develop equipment obsolescence plan.
- Develop a plan for and assign responsibility for both short and long term trail pavement repair/replacement.
- Develop plan to reduce mowing.



Coy Park - Open Field



National Road Heritage Trail

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS & STANDARDS

Best practices for park and recreation plans include rigid standards to establish the number of park areas required to meet the needs of the community. There are several general park classifications and they serve a specific purpose. The features and facilities developed in these parks are designed ideally to meet the number of age segments that will use these areas. The Agency must consider the age factor as it designs and develops parks for specific uses.

The following age groups are generally used when we are planning park development.

- Toddlers, ages 2 -5
- Youth, ages 6 - 12
- Teens, ages 13 - 17
- Young Adults, ages 18 - 35
- Adults, ages 36 - 64
- Older Adults, ages 65+

In general, a park system is composed of a series of open spaces each space serving a particular segment of the community, certain recreational and leisure pursuits, and are compatible with the entire park system. The following descriptions have been established over the years by Federal, State and local systems and serve as a benchmark for planning and implementation.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

These parks are normally designed to serve 1,000 persons per 1.5 acres and are generally 2 to 10 acres in size. They serve an individual neighborhood or small community group. Persons who use these parks normally live within a .5 mile radius of the site.

Some of the traits found in this type of park:

- There is generally one main amenity such as a shelter, special playground structure; a sport court such as basketball, tennis or pickleball court.
- This park is usually not programmed and probably is not a revenue facility.
- There is some security lighting, small parking area or street parking and signage should be relative and strategically placed.
- This space is generally well used but in short time blocks by the participant, normally less than two hours.
- Generally these areas require a low level of landscaping but maintenance will be considerable because these parks are well used, which is a good attribute.

COMMUNITY PARK & ATHLETIC COMPLEXES

A typical community park will contain 10 to 100 acres; it is a bike-to or drive-to park area as it serves an entire community within a 1.5 mile radius. A general standard would be 3-7 acres per 1,000 people.

Generally these parks have several signature facilities such as sports fields and sport courts, a pool or water feature, a recreation center, large and small shelters, public restrooms, etc. They will have ample parking, security lighting and maintenance standards which will assure a long life for the various amenities. Solid signage and marketing is a must to assure the success of this investment.

This park will have strong programming that will offer the Agency an opportunity to produce revenue to offset operational costs with a possibility of retaining some revenues for debt retirement and future expenses within the park.

REGIONAL PARK

A park of this nature will generally have 100 to 1,000 acres and has 4 acres per 1,000 persons. It will draw participants from as far away as 60 miles because of the amenities contained in this area. Amenities in this type of park area are facilities for overnight camping, fishing and boating, golf courses, aquatic facilities, gardens, zoos, BMX track and Extreme Sports facilities, concession areas.

Again, these parks are revenue producers to offset operational costs. There will be strong programming in these parks and there will need to be solid marketing, signage, landscaping and adequate parking for all of the amenities.

Because these parks are generally about 50% active use and 50% passive there is a higher maintenance ratio with this park area. Generally a level 2 type of maintenance is necessary in most of the park with level 1 maintenance at the entry.

GREENWAYS & MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

Across America this type of park has grown in popularity. Much of this started with the railway abandonment by the nation's major railroads. In many states there are Federal and State funding sources for development of these amenities. Users range in age from toddlers to older adults. Reasons for the success of greenways and multipurpose trails are many and the following is just a sample:

- Safe and alternative forms of transportation for walking, running, biking and even equestrian in some cases.
- Paved trails ranging in width from a few feet to twelve feet or more is common.
- Restrooms and trail signage is important.
- Trailheads with adequate parking and lighting are necessary.
- Maintenance is important and a level 2 is acceptable.
- Greenways and trails offer a unique opportunity in regards to outdoor education and historical sites.



Deming Park - Pool



Veterans Memorial Park - Sculpture



Oakley Park - Neighborhood Park

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

STAFFING

The agency has a Director of Recreation and an Assistant Director of Recreation. They are responsible for recreation programs and special events. The general recreation programming includes the following core group of activities:

- Mobile recreation programming
- Adult softball leagues, men and co-ed, summer/fall
- Pottery, ceramics and arts, adults/youth, year-round
- Swimming and swim lessons, summer
- Special events, 24 activities with something each month, adult/youth

The recreation coordinators' offices are in Torner Center along with one additional full-time employee and a secretary at the facility.

In addition to the normal recreation offerings the agency is fortunate to have two special recreation facilities which offer a variety of programs. These include the Nature Center and the Native American Museum.

NATURE CENTER

This facility is located in Dobbs Memorial Park. It is overseen by a full-time Naturalist. The facility on a year-round basis, five days per week except for major holidays. Programs are provided for schools and organizations, Saturday programs and a Junior Naturalist Program for any park visitor seven years or older. This facility has educational displays on topics such as plants, wildlife, the environment, weather and the universe plus some live animal displays of native Indiana reptiles, amphibians, fish and crustaceans.

NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM

This facility is also located in Dobbs Memorial Park and has a full time curator. Events take place year-round, five days per week except for major holidays. Programs are offered for schools and organizations during the week. Additional programs are offered for youth and adults with hands on training by a Native American artisan as a guide. Learning about Native American cultures is enhanced as the facility has historical and pre-historical artifacts and treasures on display.

RECREATION NEEDS

Indoor Facility: In order to expand programming, a larger facility is needed as the Torner Center in Deming Park is too small, seriously limiting class size.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

The Booker T. Washington Center is located near 13th and College Avenue. This community and recreation center is owned by the Department and includes offices for social services and a full size gymnasium that can be utilized by the public. Program direction within the facility is provided by Chances and Service for Youth, a local not-for-profit.



Torner Community Center

GOLF COURSES

The Parks Department oversees two golf courses; Hulman Links and William S. Rea Golf Course.

HULMAN LINKS

Hulman Links has 230 acres and was built in 1978. The course has streams, ponds, rolling hills and trees which create a beautiful 18-hole golf course that presents a solid golfing challenge and experience for the golfers. In 2008, Golf Digest rated Hulman Links "4 1/2 stars" and a "must play" course. This facility has a nice small restaurant area with a bar. The course has a driving range and a putting green.

While once considered one of the best courses in Indiana, Hulman Links needs investment to regain that status. Challenges with irrigation and maintenance have plagued the course, and driven down its use. The result is the course has been losing significant money each year.

To address these and related concerns, the City established a Golf Oversight Committee to review the issues and provide direction to the Golf Pro and maintenance departments. Their recommendations have been positively received and are in the process of being implemented.

In 2013, the City is making a series of significant investments into the course, and golf operations

in general. Drainage systems have been upgraded throughout the course. New, drought tolerant Zoysia grass is being installed. A second source for irrigation water has been found, and when installed will keep the course in good condition throughout the year.

Some of the specific needs and issues at Hulman Links include:

- The entire irrigation system needs replaced. It was built in 1976, and has exceeded its 25 year life expectancy. The system is experiencing problems with pumps, leakage and the shut off control system. The pumps were rebuilt in 2000, but need more work. It is expected to cost \$1.0-1.5M to replace the system.
- Provide second water source for irrigation.
- Establish maintenance equipment obsolescence plan.
- The cart paths are in very poor shape and need replaced.
- Their maintenance building roof leaks and needs repaired or replaced.
- The greens need to be re-built.

Still, the future of Hulman Links is the subject of much discussion. Some feel that the course cannot be made to turn a profit while operated by the City. Others call for giving the course back to the Hulman family. Many others say the City should lease the course to a private operator.

While the goal continues to be to make the course profitable in some manner, this plan acknowledges that the decisions on the ownership/operation of this course are too important to make during a budget crunch. The city does not want to forfeit this asset.

WILLIAM S. REA GOLF COURSE

Rea Park contains 160 acres and was opened in 1925 with funding provided by Mrs. Geraldine Rea. The park has a beautiful clubhouse with historical value. The course has 18 holes, a driving range and putting green. There are also nine (9) tennis courts that are well used.

In contrast to Hulman Links, Rea Park is built on sandy soil and has a stable water supply for irrigation. The result is the course stays in playable condition throughout most of the year.

In February of 2018, the Friends of Rea Park and the Terre Haute Parks Board created a Master Plan to update the facilities of the park and improve upon underutilized zones to create a more community-friendly regional park. More specific details on this plan can be found on pages 94-97, and the entire plan is included in the Appendix.

Specific recommendations for Rea Park golf course include:

- Improving the driving range (possibly into a golf academy)
- Make noted golf course enhancements as time and money permit



Rea Park Clubhouse



Cart Path in Poor Condition



Rea Park Course



Hulman Links Pro Shop and Restaurant

VALUE OF GOLF

While community leaders strive to make golf operations more profitable, it is important to realize the many ways that golf brings significant value to the City. Consider the following:

Over \$200,000 is raised for local charities each year during golf events. Each event takes away from general admission and sales that could have otherwise occurred to make it more profitable.

Golf is a key quality of life amenity for many residents. Providing an affordable option for golf recreation is critical to the overall value of parks, and for the quality of life in the greater Terre Haute area.

Golf is an indispensable asset to businesses. Without quality golf courses, many businesses simply would not consider locating in Terre Haute.

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THE PARK SYSTEM



THE PARK SYSTEM

OVERVIEW

Terre Haute has a diverse set of park and recreation facilities. From pocket parks to neighborhood facilities to trails to golf courses, Terre Haute parks serve residents throughout the City, Vigo County, and surrounding communities.

For the purposes of overview and organization, the parks have been categorized as follows:

COMMUNITY PARKS

The major community parks such as Collett Park, Deming Park, Dobb's Park, and Fairbanks Park, serve the recreational needs of residents throughout the City and surrounding communities. Offerings in these locations are wide ranging and include museums, shelters, athletics, open space, festivals, nature preserves, aquatics facilities, playgrounds, and many other facilities. These are the jewels of the Terre Haute park system.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks such as Booker T. Washington Park, Brittlebank Park, and Voorhees Park are more modest and focused on providing services to serve the residents living within a short walk.

One of the goals of this plan has been to elevate parks to the point they drive the vitality of the

neighborhoods that they serve. For example, Collett Park is a model facility that engages its neighborhood and creates a sense of pride in the community. It is intended that improvements at other neighborhood parks follow this model as a means of spurring revitalization.

BLOCK PARKS

Block parks consist of both "green spaces" along street corridors (such as John Hanley Jr. Park) and small-scale parks that serve a limited number of nearby residents (such as Oakley Park). Expressed concerns are that these parks are underutilized; A policy needs to be developed on how to accept future park land donations, and on how to maintain/redevelop current block parks managed by the park department.

The value of "green spaces" along street corridors is usually aesthetic in nature and not recreational. It is recommended that the community find ways to better integrate "green spaces" into the street corridors to achieve better aesthetics. At the same time, block parks such as Anaconda Park have very limited and outdated facilities. It is recommended that no facilities be improved at limited use parks until a long term policy is developed to guide decision making on their redevelopment.

At the same time, block parks can be very effective when developed well. Locations such as Oakley Park continue to meet an important recreational need for the community, and it is recommended parks like Oakley continue to be developed.

Another good example of a well developed parcel is the green space surrounding the sculpture, Max Ehrmann at the Crossroads at 7th and Wabash. Though this area is owned by the Vigo County School Corporation, it is under an easement to the Parks Department and the Parks Department is responsible for upkeep of the area. This space was developed through partnership with Art Spaces Inc. and though not technically a park, this space functions much like a block park. Currently, a volunteer group from Rotary, Art Space, Inc., and a local landscape company help maintain the site. Though this may not continue forever, partnerships modeled after this alliance should be sought after to help with the maintenance of smaller block parks.

LAFAYETTE AVENUE CORRIDOR PARKS

These block parks have been grouped because they have the potential to contribute to the greater Lafayette Avenue Corridor. A plan will need to be developed to further integrate them into the corridor. Nonetheless, these park facilities are currently underutilized.

PROPOSED/UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Park property at 17 Acres Complex has been transferred from the City to the Parks Department adjacent to Deming Park. It has been proposed that this space be developed into a maintenance facility for the department.

MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES

Hulman Links is the premier golf course in the city and attracts golfers from throughout the region. Rea Park is another quality golf course operated by the City on the south side of town. The courses both provide significant contribution to the city and the parks department.



Jones Trailhead - National Road Heritage Trail

TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BOULEVARDS

Most major components of the City's original vision for the greenway system are now in place. With that in place, the near-term priority for greenways is to finish filling in minor gaps in the system, and to finish the connections to other parks and attractions throughout the City.

RECREATIONAL CENTERS

There are two community centers in the City. Torner Center is located at Deming Park and provides office space for the parks department, concessions for Deming Park, as well as a public meeting room. The Community Center at Booker T. Washington Park provides activities for area youth. Facilities include a gymnasium and classrooms with educational/after-school programming. Additionally, the Collett Pavilion in Collett Park houses indoor recreational meeting room space.



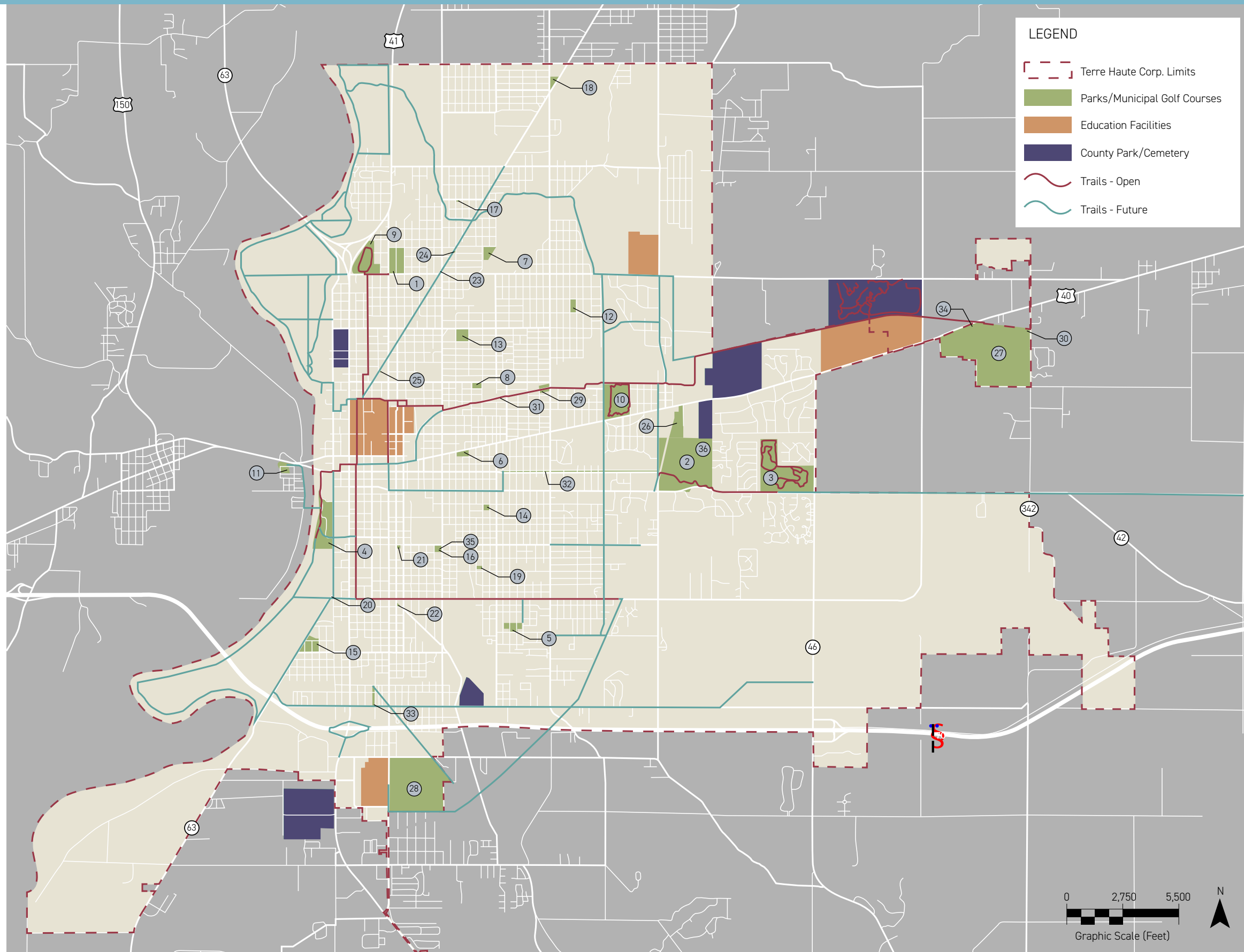
Vi Cottrell Park



Rea Park Golf Course



Booker T. Washington Community Center



LEGEND

- Terre Haute Corp. Limits
- Parks/Municipal Golf Courses
- Education Facilities
- County Park/Cemetery
- Trails - Open
- Trails - Future

COMMUNITY PARKS

- ① Collett Park
- ② Deming Park
- ③ Dobbs Park
- ④ Fairbanks Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- ⑤ Brittlebank Park
- ⑥ Curtis Gilbert Park
- ⑦ Coy Park
- ⑧ Herz-Rose Park
- ⑨ Maple Avenue Nature Park
- ⑩ Veterans Memorial Park
- ⑪ Paul Dresser Memorial Park
- ⑫ Sheridan Park
- ⑬ Spencer F. Ball Park
- ⑭ Thompson Park
- ⑮ Voorhees Park
- ⑯ Washington Park

BLOCK PARKS

- ⑰ Anaconda Park
- ⑱ Five Triangles Park
- ⑲ Graham Park
- ⑳ John Hanley Jr. Park
- ㉑ Oakley Park
- ㉒ One Triangle Park

LAFAYETTE AVENUE CORRIDOR PARKS

- ㉓ 12 Points Park
- ㉔ Boy Scout Park
- ㉕ Vi Cottrell Park, Gold Medal Plaza

PROPOSED/UNDEVELOPED PARK SPACE

- ㉖ 17 Acres Maintenance Facility

MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES

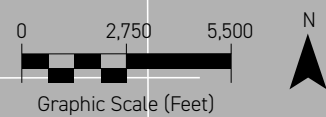
- ㉗ Hulman Links
- ㉘ William S. Rea Park and Golf Course

TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BOULEVARDS

- ㉙ Centennial Park
- ㉚ Jones Trailhead
- ㉛ National Road Heritage Trail
- ㉜ Ohio Boulevard
- ㉝ Sixth Street Boulevard
- ㉞ Twigg Rest Area

RECREATIONAL CENTERS

- ㉟ Booker T. Washington Community Center (at Washington Park)
- ㊱ Tomer Center (at Deming Park)



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PARK/FACILITY

SIZE

LOCATION

COMMUNITY PARKS

①	Collett Park	21.1 Acres	7th Street and Maple Avenue
②	Deming Park	160 Acres	Fruitridge and Ohio Boulevard
③	Dobbs Park	105 Acres	5170 E. Poplar Drive
④	Fairbanks Park	48 Acres	625 Dresser Drive

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

⑤	Brittlebank Park	7.5 Acres	20th Street and Grant Street
⑥	Curtis Gilbert Park	3.85 Acres	1431 Wabash Avenue
⑦	Coy Park	4.5 Acres	16th Street and Barbour Avenue
⑧	Herz-Rose Park	5.18 Acres	1515 Locust Street
⑨	Maple Avenue Nature Park	25 Acres	500 Maple Avenue
⑩	Veterans Memorial Park	22 Acres	ISU Stadium, Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue
⑪	Paul Dresser Memorial Park	5.55 Acres	US 40 west of Wabash River
⑫	Sheridan Park	6.5 Acres	28th Street and Ash Street
⑬	Spencer F. Ball Park	9.86 Acres	14th Street and 8th Avenue
⑭	Thompson Park	4.73 Acres	17th Street and Oak Street
⑮	Voorhees Park	17.4 Acres	230 Voorhees Street
⑯	Washington Park	2.4 Acres	13th Street and College Avenue

BLOCK PARKS

⑰	Anaconda Park	0.5 Acres	14th Street and Elizabeth Street
⑱	Five Triangles Park	0.2 Acres	25th Street and Lafayette Avenue
⑲	Graham Park	0.96 Acres	Harrison Street and 17th Street
⑳	John Hanley Jr. Park	0.3 Acres	First Street, Hulman Street, and SR 63
㉑	Oakley Park	0.5 Acres	College Street and 8th Street
㉒	One Triangle Park	0.1 Acres	8th Street and Hulman Street

LAFAYETTE AVENUE CORRIDOR PARKS

㉓	12 Points Park, Gold Medal Plaza	0.3 Acres	Lafayette Avenue, Maple Avenue, and 13th Street
㉔	Boy Scout Park	0.32 Acres	Lafayette Avenue and Barbour Avenue
㉕	Vi Cottrell Park	.03 Acres	Lafayette Avenue and 1st Avenue

PROPOSED/UNDEVELOPED PARK SPACE

㉖	17 Acres Maintenance Facility	17 Acres	4113 E. Wabash Avenue
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MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES

㉗	Hulman Links	230 Acres	990 North Chamberlain Road
㉘	William S. Rea Park and Golf Course	160 Acres	7th Street and Davis Drive

TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BOULEVARDS

㉙	Centennial Park	0.93 Acres	25th Street and National Road Heritage Trail
㉚	Jones Trailhead	2 Acres	Chamberlain Road
㉛	National Road Heritage Trail	Approx. 64 Acres	Twigg Rest Area to ISU
㉜	Ohio Boulevard	46.1 Acres	19th Street to Fruitridge Avenue
㉝	Sixth Street Boulevard	5 Acres	Helen Avenue to College Avenue
㉞	Twigg Rest Area	2 Acres	US 40 East of Overpass

RECREATIONAL CENTERS

㉟	Booker T. Washington Community Center		In Washington Park
㊱	Tomer Center		In Deming Park

PUBLIC INPUT

ENHANCING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SPACES (EVPS)

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Terre Haute, and Purdue Extension Vigo County teamed up to utilize the Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces (EVPS) extension program to increase the amount of public participation garnered for the creation of this plan update. The civic leadership of Terre Haute seized the opportunity to not only develop a plan informed by the EVPS process, but to do so using the newly developed Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities Program.

CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

This program focuses on using public spaces, in this case the parks and recreation system, to improve opportunities to engage in active living behaviors and access to healthy food. The three goals of this planning effort are:

- Healthy Food and Environment
- Active Living
- Enhancing Quality of Life Through Placemaking

These goals were used to organize facilitation activities and focus discussion. The goals were further developed during two workshops where objectives and strategies were developed for each.

The workshop process consisted of six meetings, three of which involved public input. Three scoping and planning meetings occurred from May to September 2017. The following three public meetings included a community visioning session and two meetings that focused on identifying objectives and strategies and action planning for the upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. The total number of participants in all workshops was 71.

A survey effort was launched between the October 2017 meeting and the August 2018 meeting. The 44 question survey gathered data from 964 respondents. The survey was administered both online and in paper format. Additional outreach was done in areas of the community where significant barriers to survey participation exist - such as mobility, computer access, and literacy. The number of responses is equivalent to 1.6% of the population of Terre Haute (based on the 2016 population of 60,852), though not all responses were generated by individuals residing within the City of Terre Haute. The results were presented to participants at the second workshop and informed the development and selection of goals and objectives.

The full report can be found in the Appendix of this plan.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND INPUT SESSION

Following a brief presentation on the current findings and plan goals, the public was invited to give feedback and ask questions. Questions arose concerning the focus of the budget and it was determined through conversations that the budget should focus on maintenance, with the understanding that staffing needs will be an important concern in the future.

A focus on trails, the future of Rea Park, and park programming were all points brought up by participants. While a master plan for trails was not included in the scope of this plan, the trail system was looked at and suggestions for future goals for the trails are included. A representative from the Friends of Rea Park was in attendance and helped to explain the goals and objectives that were included in the Parks Plan, which were based upon the report created by the Friends group. Park programming suggestions from the participants included more street art/performance art, movies in the park, splash pads for children and additional pickleball facilities.

A concern brought up from the participants was if the plan recommends closing any park facilities. At this time, the only consideration is the closing of the Paul Dresser Memorial Park - selling it to the county. The alternative to closing parks is to consider Adopt-A-Spot programs for the smaller triangle and corridor parks, allowing the community to participate in the maintenance and upkeep of some of these amenities.



Community members listen to a brief presentation of the parks plan draft before giving input and feedback.

A copy of the sign-in sheet and meeting minutes can be found in the appendix.

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN THE PARKS SYSTEM

All park facilities should meet the guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). While the Parks Department facilities have been inventoried, no formal evaluation of ADA compliance of facilities have been undertaken as part of this plan. A thorough evaluation of all facilities and programs should be completed with the ADA coordinator to provide ADA compliance. An effort to bring all facilities to compliance has begun with the installation of mulch surfacing at all playgrounds. Education of all Parks Staff and Board Members is needed to ensure the installation of non-accessible elements and spaces is avoided in the future.

GUIDELINES

The guidelines cover all aspects of outdoor spaces and buildings. Some of the existing issues found throughout the Terre Haute Parks System include:

1. Walks are to have a 4' clear width with a firm, level and stable surface. For example, the many of the walks at John G. Dobbs Memorial Park are non-paved pathways making them non-accessible.
2. Access and special provisions are required to picnic shelters, play areas, bleachers, concessions stands, restrooms, and other facilities regularly needed by park users. For example, there is no paved walk to the restroom/shelter building or playground within Herz-Rose Park.
3. For sports courts, at least one accessible route

shall directly connect both sides of the court. For example, the tennis courts at Spencer F. Ball Park have an accessible route to only one side of the courts.

4. Where more than one parking facility (stall) is provided on a site, the number of accessible spaces provided on the site is calculated according to the number of total spaces (i.e. for 1 to 25 provided space, at least 1 shall be accessible). Brittlebank Park does meet these requirements with 2 accessible parking spaces among the total of 19, it does not provide paved access to the amenities within the park, leading from the parking area.

There are two theories of accessibility: Meeting the minimum ADA compliance guidelines and Universal Design. The concepts above describe the minimum guidelines of accessibility and these are required by law. Universal Design is a goal for future construction and development, which provides accessibility to all areas to all users. For example, ADA guidelines would provide one accessible route into the playground area. Under Universal Design, the entire border of the playground is level with the surrounding ground and the entire playground surface is firm, level and stable.

Many programs are sponsored by the Terre Haute Parks Department, but are organized by other entities, including soccer, softball/baseball, and other

youth programs. Any program that is associated with the Terre Haute Parks Department or utilizes their facilities should also be evaluated for accessibility. The Department should provide guidance to these organizations when compliance is not incorporated.

Examples of making programs more accessible include using large print, sign language/ universal symbols, and Braille patches to assist in communication, providing modified equipment or team organization, assisting in filling out forms, and increasing training of staff to encourage and assist participants with disabilities.



No sidewalk connections within Herz-Rose Park

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THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT



THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

FAIRBANKS PARK

ADDRESS: 625 DRESSER DRIVE

SIZE: 48 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Fairbanks Park is an incredible asset to the city of Terre Haute. The park is located south of downtown and is the only park in Terre Haute along the Wabash River. The government center is north of the park and Indiana State University is four blocks away. The Wabash River bordering the west edge and the urban setting characterizes Fairbanks Park.

Fairbanks Park is a popular regional destination. A number of festivals are hosted within the park each year. The boat ramp is one of two public access sites to the Wabash River within Vigo County. Development of a Wabash River Greenway is an initiative that provides great potential for Fairbanks Park. Unique facilities within the park include the amphitheater, Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza, and Paul Dresser home, and a linear trail along the river. The YMCA's facilities and a softball field leased to the Terre Haute Softball League are within the park and attract many additional users. Park offices are also located on-site.

Additionally, Art Spaces Inc. is planning to install a new sculpture and improved landscaping around the historic Paul Dresser home to commemorate the famous composer. Art Spaces is also spearheading a planning effort called 'Turn to the River' that will study the ways in which public art and design can play a role in reconnecting downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River. The study area includes Fairbanks Park and the Government campus downtown and is scheduled to conclude in June 2014. Though the study is ongoing, the Parks Department looks forward to the ways in which Fairbanks Park may help support this goal.





Softball Fields



Park Shelters

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground is insufficient for such a high profile park. Play surfacing is not accessible.
- The existing trail along the river is in good condition and is wide enough to function as a multi-use trail. Trail extensions are planned to connect this segment with the National Road Heritage Trail to the north. Future trail extensions are planned to the south.
- The park contains one restroom building with separate men's and women's facilities in fair condition. The restroom is accessible.
- The Wayne L Myers Memorial field is well-maintained, and is used for league play. It contains restrooms, concessions and grandstands for softball users. It has a good brick dust infield, is lighted, and has a good backstop and fencing. It is the best field in the park system. The parking lot is pea gravel.
- Shelters throughout the park are in good condition. Some concrete pads have been added under single-table shelters along the greenway to reduce maintenance. Additional pads should be added.
- The park contains one gazebo that is in good condition. Parking is adequate throughout the park. Accessible striping, signage and routes are in need of improvement in most parking areas. The pavement and curbing on the main park drive is in need of repair/repaving. The newly paved asphalt service drive, paralleling First Street serves as an exhibit and vendor space during festivals. The gravel drive should be paved to provide improved conditions for festival goers.
- The docks and fishing pier were damaged by river flooding and need to be replaced.
- The boat ramp is in fair condition. The boat trailer parking at the top of the ramp is adequate for current use. The boat dock was destroyed by

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

FAIRBANKS PARK

river flooding and needs to be replaced. A grant application has been submitted for funds to replace the dock.

- A dog park has been built on the north end of Dresser Drive and is well-used. The rubber under layer on the surfacing is too close to the surface, and prevents grass from growing well. This should be re-surfaced.
- The amphitheater is ideal for public performances and is currently well utilized by community groups.
- A new art installation titled Watermark Landing has been installed along the riverfront by Watermark. The art installation is in good condition and serves to commemorate the Wabash River.
- The Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza defines the seating area at the amphitheater and is architecturally compatible. This historic brick structure and plaza are in poor condition and need to be restored. The structure, roof and brick pavement are in need of extensive repair.
- The Paul Dresser Memorial Home is the childhood home of the author of the state song "On the Banks of the Wabash." The home is designated on the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained by the Vigo County Historical Society.



Amphitheater



Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza



Brick work in need of repair



Paul Dresser Memorial Home



Arch Sculpture and Fountain Area



Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Add more public art
- Upgrade electricity boxes and lighting around the whole park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide regional playground similar to Oakley Playground at Deming Park
- Define park edges with additional landscaping
- Provide additional boat and trailer parking
- Provide accessible route to boat docks and make accessibility improvements to docks
- Replace fishing pier
- Expand promotion and marketing of facilities and events
- Encourage active use of Dresser Home
- Enhance park entrances and signage
- Provide accessible parking improvements
- Work with Art Spaces to place a significant sculpture at the appropriate location within the park
- Prepare park master plan - integrate plan with greater riverfront initiative
- Renovate Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza
- Add ice rink
- Support 'Turn to the River' goals.
- Support enhancement of the Paul Dresser Memorial home through sculpture and landscape installation

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

CURTIS GILBERT PARK

ADDRESS: 1431 Wabash Avenue

SIZE: 3.85 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Gilbert Park is an urban park located east of downtown along Wabash Avenue. The park is primarily a passive park. Facilities include a playground, restrooms, shelters, sidewalks, a limestone sculpture and a small plaza. Mature trees provide shade throughout the park. The general condition of the park is good, but many of the facilities are in need of repair or replacement. One unique feature in the park is the cul-de-sac on the south side of the park. This provides a good opportunity for neighborhood access.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The playground equipment was replaced in 2009 and is in good condition. Currently there is no accessible route or accessible safety surfacing.
- The half court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.
- One structure contains separate men's and women's facilities. The restroom building has recently been renovated and had a new roof installed.
- The two shelters are in good condition. One shelter does not have an accessible connection to the walk.
- On-street parking is available along the east and west side of the park. Designated accessible parking spaces should be provided at the cul-de-sac.
- Limestone sculpture in the northwest corner of the park titled Composite House for Terre Haute is in good shape.
- The park has become a gathering place for the city's homeless population.

- With its location on Wabash Avenue at the north end of the downtown commercial district, the park affords the opportunity to become integrated with downtown revitalization plans. This overall purpose of the park should be reconsidered to better accommodate the location's residents and visitors.





Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Update park amenities to better accommodate the area's residents and visitors

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide increased accessibility to and lighting of sculpture
- Remove basketball court
- Provide trail connection to Heritage Trail
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Designate on-street accessible parking spaces



Shelter and Pathway



Composite House for Terre Haute Sculpture
Source: Art Spaces Inc.



Park Sign

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

HERZ-ROSE PARK

ADDRESS: 1515 LOCUST STREET

SIZE: 5.18 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Herz-Rose Park is a neighborhood park near ISU. Facilities within the park include a restroom/shelter building, a playground, and a full basketball court. There are no internal park walkways. The majority of the park is open lawn. The National Road Heritage Trail is two blocks south of Herz-Rose Park. A direct trail connection would bring more people to the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The playground equipment is in good condition. The surfacing does not meet safety standards and should be replaced. Currently there is no accessible route or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets.
- The overall park is compact with excellent access from the surrounding streets. Internal drives are not required. On-street accessible parking spaces should be delineated.
- The full basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.
- One structure provides separate men's and women's facilities. The facility should be ADA accessible with the addition of pedestrian walkways connecting to park destinations. Building is also a picnic shelter in good condition.
- A community engagement project with Art Spaces, Inc., directly impacted the short and long term goals for this park.



SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Follow the recommendations and proposal from the Art Spaces, Inc. community engagement project: include new landscaping, walkways, play areas, seating and wayfinding

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide trail connection to Heritage Trail
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Designate on-street accessible parking spaces

PAUL DRESSER MEMORIAL PARK



ADDRESS: US 40 west of Wabash River

SIZE: 5.55 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Paul Dresser Memorial Park is a park with limited use located west of the Wabash River and outside of Terre Haute. The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department owns and maintains the facility but few people use it or know that the park exists. Although it fronts US 40, this park is in a remote location and is difficult to police and monitor. The site previously included an adult softball field, but it has been removed.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- Because there are no longer built facilities at this park, the City and the Parks Department should evaluate the long term vision for this site. This could include serving as part of the western gateway into Terre Haute or becoming part of the proposed riverfront redevelopment initiative. The Vigo County Parks may have interest in utilizing the site as part of its adjacent wetlands.



Unused Open Space



Abandoned Softball Field

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Develop long term vision for this site
- Investigate donating the property to Vigo County Parks



Abandoned Concessions Building

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

ADDRESS: Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue

SIZE: 22 ACRES

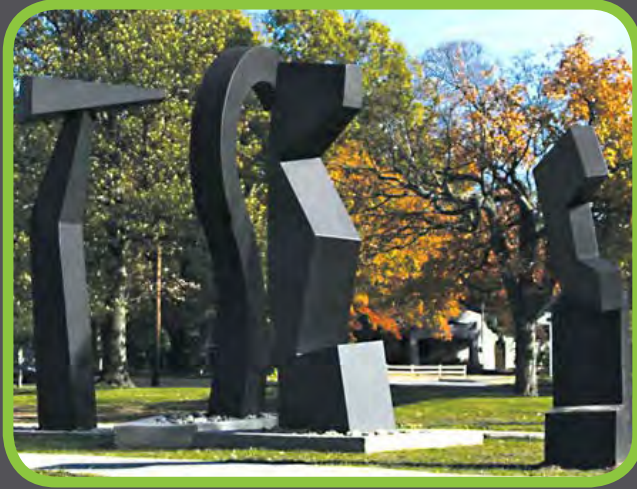
CONTEXT:

Veterans Memorial Park is a 22-acre parcel of land containing the ISU Football Stadium. This parkland is owned by Vigo County and leased to Indiana State University and the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department. The park was renamed in May, 2013. ISU maintains and operates the portion of the site containing the stadium and parking to the corner of Wabash and Brown Avenue. The "Indiana Mile," a one-mile interpretive loop trail in the shape of Indiana was constructed in 2004. New workout equipment was added along the trail in 2010. The National Road Heritage Trail runs along the perimeter of the park. ISU intends to construct a new stadium at some point in the future. It is likely that this will not be within the life of this current plan. The Terre Haute Parks Department should prepare for this eventual move by developing a plan for the site when they have full use of it.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- Access to the site is available from Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue. Parking is somewhat limited with parking areas located along Wabash Avenue and northwest of the stadium. A total of approximately 100 parking spaces are available. Most students coming to football games shuttle from the ISU campus.
- This land formerly incorporated a 9-hole golf course and prior to that contained a baseball stadium that Babe Ruth played in. The course has since been abandoned. There have been few improvements made to the site and portions of the golf course and baseball stadium can still be identified.
- The site also contains a mile long trail called the 'Indiana Mile'. The trail surrounds the stadium and is laid out in the shape of Indiana. 101 native trees of Indiana are planted along the length of the trail. All the trees have not yet been located and the tree planting is an ongoing project through TREES Inc.
- In addition to the trail, a large metal sculpture titled TREE also graces the park, visible from Wabash Avenue. The same artist who created the TREE sculpture also created tree identification markers to line the Indiana Mile. The artwork was made possible through Art Spaces, Inc.





TREE Sculpture
Source: Art Spaces Inc.

LONG TERM GOALS

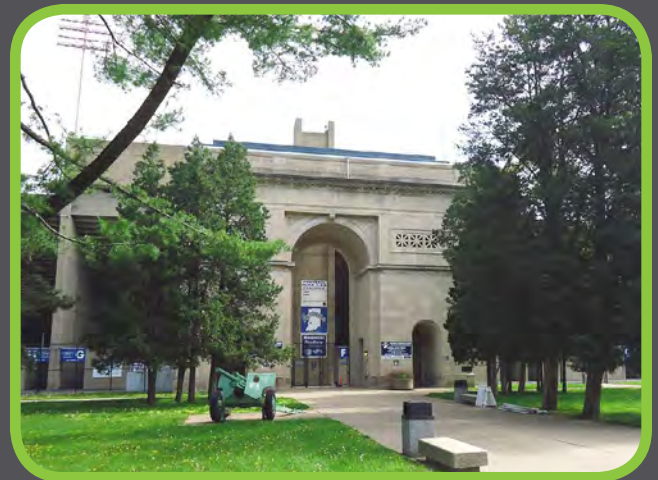
- Prepare park master plan
- Support continuing tree installation with TREES Inc. along the Indiana Mile trail



Memorial Stadium



Indiana Mile trail system



Memorial Stadium Entrance

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

THOMPSON PARK

ADDRESS: 17th Street and Oak Street

SIZE: 4.73 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Thompson Park is a neighborhood park with limited recreation activities. Mature broadleaf trees are scattered throughout the park. There are no walkways in the park or perimeter sidewalks. Additional recreational activities would increase the use of this park. On-street parking is available on the perimeter streets.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The playground equipment is fairly new and in good condition. The pea gravel surfacing should be replaced. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations.
- The park contains one restroom structure with separate men and women's facilities in good condition; the structure also serves as a shelter.
- The one full basketball court is in good condition. The court is located in the center of the park, providing poor visibility for safety.



Playground



Shelter and Restrooms

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Designate on-street accessible parking space
- Improve existing softball field and facilities

CENTENNIAL PARK



ADDRESS: 25th St. + National Road Heritage Trail

SIZE: 0.93 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Centennial Park was constructed in 2004 as a public service by the local Rotary Clubs. The parkland and improvements will be owned and maintained by the Rotary Club for ten years after which they will be deeded to the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department. The park department is currently responsible for lawn maintenance in the park. The park contains a shelter, benches and landscaping. Four on-street parking spaces are provided. This park functions as a block park as well as a trailhead for the National Road heritage Trail.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Pavement extensions to the shelter from the trail would improve the accessibility of these elements.



Centennial Park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide accessible path to shelter and benches

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

GRAHAM PARK

ADDRESS: Harrison Street and 17th Street

SIZE: 0.96 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Graham Park is a block park on the south side of Terre Haute. The mature shade trees throughout the park are the most distinguishing feature of the park. The playground is the only recreational facility in the park. Additional attractions within the park are needed to better serve the surrounding neighborhood.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The playground equipment is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. Currently there is no accessible route or safety surfacing. There is one relatively small play feature all other play equipment needs to be replaced.



Graham Park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground
- Provide benches
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Construct new ½ basketball court
- Designate on-street accessible parking space



Graham Park Playground

OAKLEY PARK



ADDRESS: College Street and 8th Street

SIZE: 0.5 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Oakley Park is a small block park west of Fire Station #2. The park was built on the site of the former Cruft Elementary School. The park contains play equipment and a short basketball court. Accessibility improvements are needed throughout the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The playground equipment is relatively new and in good condition. An accessible route needs to be provided to the play equipment.
- The short basketball court is in good condition. There are no walkways connecting to the court.



Oakley Park Playground



Oakley Park Sign

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground
- Provide benches
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Construct new $\frac{1}{2}$ basketball court
- Designate on-street accessible parking spaces

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

JOHN M. HANLEY, JR. MEMORIAL PARK

ADDRESS: First Street, Hulman Street, and SR 63

SIZE: 0.3 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Hanley Park is a traffic island primarily valued for aesthetic purposes. The park was created in 1992 as a memorial to a man who was an activist for the beautification of the Southwest Industrial corridor. This park is a tribute to his efforts. The park has limited recreational value.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- Park features include a flag pole, landscaping and park sign which are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of park department resource.



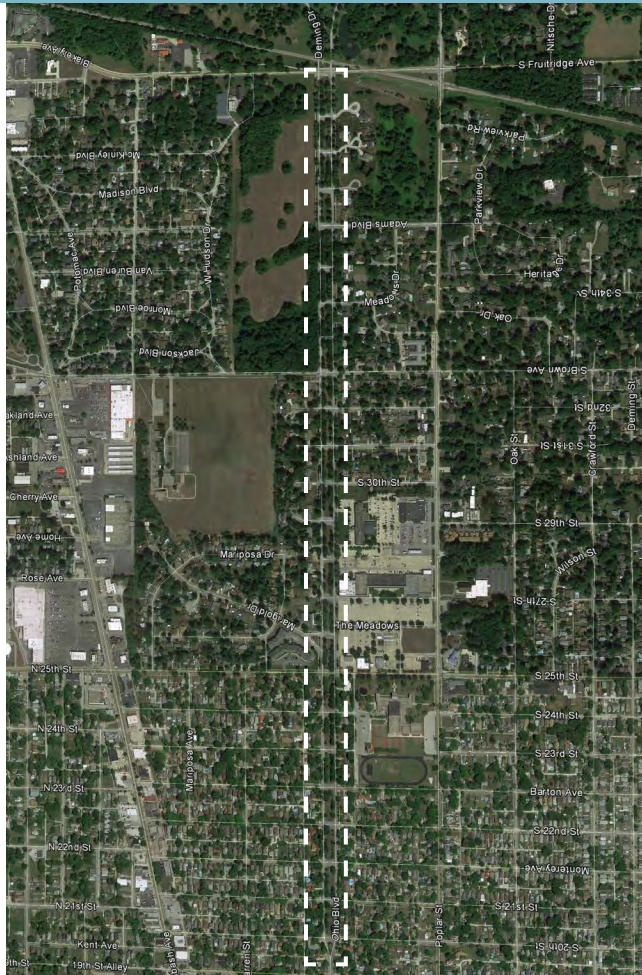
SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with local businesses



John M. Hanley, Jr. Memorial Park

OHIO BOULEVARD



ADDRESS: 19th Street to Fruitridge Avenue

SIZE: 46.1 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Broadleaf tree lined Ohio Boulevard has a powerful visual impact. Ohio Boulevard was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1989 and has many historic homes. Ohio Boulevard serves as the formal entry to the crown jewel of the park system, Deming Park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The western end of the boulevard is accentuated with historic limestone columns and walls. Broadleaf trees lining the boulevard provide a consistent canopy. There are expansive lawn areas in the boulevard.
- Bike lanes have recently been added to the boulevard. Additional landscaping should be provided at the limestone feature at the western terminus. There is a landscaped fountain at one of the midpoint intersections.



Ohio Boulevard

LONG TERM GOALS

- Improve crosswalks at intersections

THE PARK SYSTEM: CENTRAL DISTRICT

NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE TRAIL

ADDRESS: Twigg Rest Area to ISU

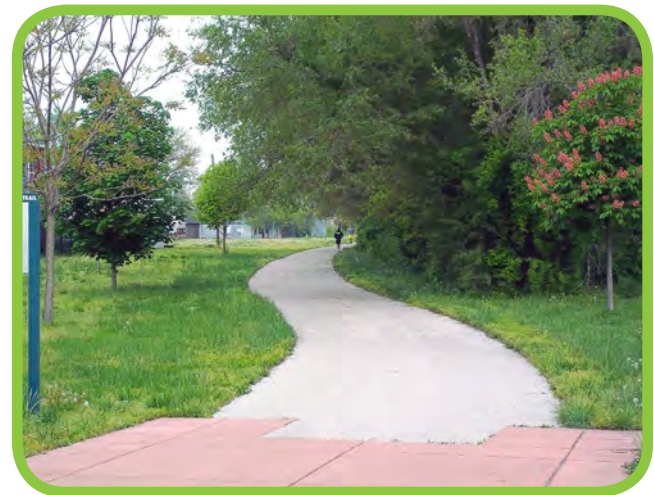
SIZE: APPROXIMATELY 64 ACRES

CONTEXT:

The development of the National Road Heritage Trail within the last five years has provided the biggest boost to park and recreation opportunities in Terre Haute in many years. With completion of Phase 2 in 2004 the trail now extends for approximately 6.5 miles from the Twigg Rest Area to the Indiana State University campus downtown. The success of the trail has encouraged economic development in several locations and the desire by many people to extend the trail to their neighborhood. The success of the trail and maintenance and operations requirements have pointed to the need for a minimum of two maintenance people dedicated to taking care of the trail and trailhead facilities.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- The National Road Heritage Trail provides 6.5 miles of paved multi-use trail with very good signing and controls at street intersections. The majority of the trail length occurs along the abandoned National Road corridor and has few conflicts with vehicular intersections. There is a good supply of benches and litter receptacles scattered along the trail. There are several block parks and trailhead facilities along the trail with additional amenities that are described separately.
- The trail provides an excellent linear open space element that provides connections and linkages to a large number of Terre Haute parks, schools, neighborhoods and community destinations. Additional landscaping should be provided to increase screening of undesirable views along some segments of the trail.



National Road Heritage Trail near 25th Street



National Road Heritage Trail near Veterans Memorial Park

LONG TERM GOALS

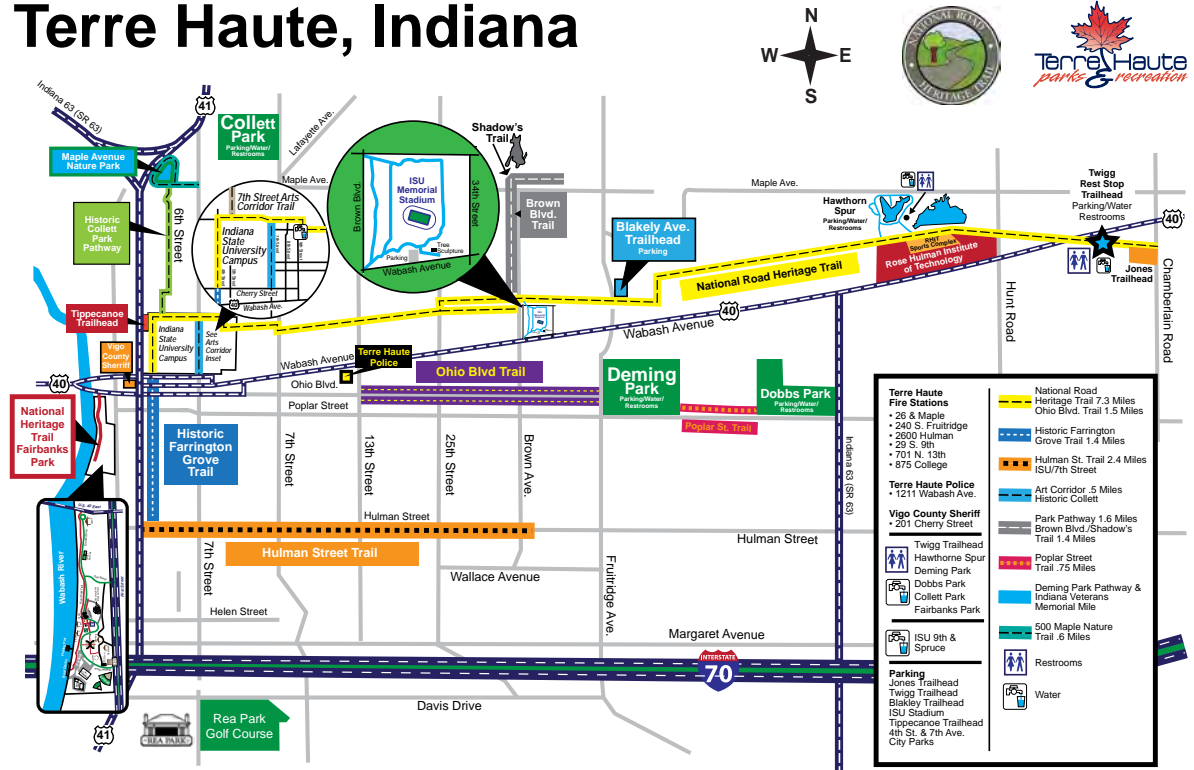
- Development pavement repairs and replacement plan



National Road Heritage Trail near Jones Trailhead

Terre Haute Recreational Trails

Terre Haute, Indiana



Map Design Sponsored By: Cross Country Town USA (Map Updated 2016)

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THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT



THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

COLLETT PARK

ADDRESS: 7th Street and Maple Avenue

SIZE: 21.1 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Collett Park is the oldest park in Terre Haute. The park was founded in 1883 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The surrounding neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique setting is a large part of the charm of Collett Park.

Activities within Collett Park are primarily passive. Facilities include the Collett Park Pavilion, the Wabash Valley Horse Shoe Club, tennis courts, soccer fields, and a fitness trail. The mature trees throughout the park add to the appeal.

The Collett Park Neighborhood Association has started a fundraising campaign (2018-2020), to facilitate some desired and needed improvements within the park. Through this effort, they have assembled a committee, developed a list of potential projects, researched rough cost estimates and created a list of prioritized, board approved projects.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is good to fair. Improvements are needed. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing. The surface is currently mulch.
- Currently the only access is a concrete sidewalk that bisects the park north to south. It is in good condition, but does not match the character of the park. Pedestrian circulation throughout the park relies heavily on vehicular routes.
- Improvements to pedestrian circulation throughout the park are recommended.
- Investment has been made into the historic pavilion at the site and it will be getting a new roof in the near future.





Accessible Restrooms



Gazebo



Fitness Trail Signage

- Collett Park contains a new accessible restroom building.
- The lighted tennis courts have recently been renovated and the City will be adding Pickle Ball lines in the near future. The pathway to the courts is in poor condition.
- Four shelters throughout the park, all in good condition. Pedestrian connections are needed at some shelters. There is one gazebo which is in good condition. There is no accessible route to the gazebo. Multiple covered benches throughout the park are in moderate to poor condition. Covered benches are of limited recreational value and should be replaced with standard benches as replacement is needed.
- A fitness trail with placards is in good condition. The trail is near the playground along the sidewalk that bisects the park.
- Parking is insufficient for the number of people driving to the park at peak times. Many park users are residents of the adjacent neighborhood that walk to the park, reducing the need for parking. Accessible parking striping, signage and accessible routes are in need of improvement in most parking areas.
- The road surface is in good condition. The vehicular park entrance is a traffic hazard and should be relocated.

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

COLLETT PARK

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Construct a dog park/enclosure
- Restore tennis courts and add futsal conversion
- Replace fencing around tennis courts
- Replace playground equipment

LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct parking along loop drive
- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Replace covered benches
- Replace plantings in park
- Construct loop trail and accessible paths
- Add formal gardens and fountain
- Construct bandstand
- New perimeter sidewalks and lighting



Main Park Entrance



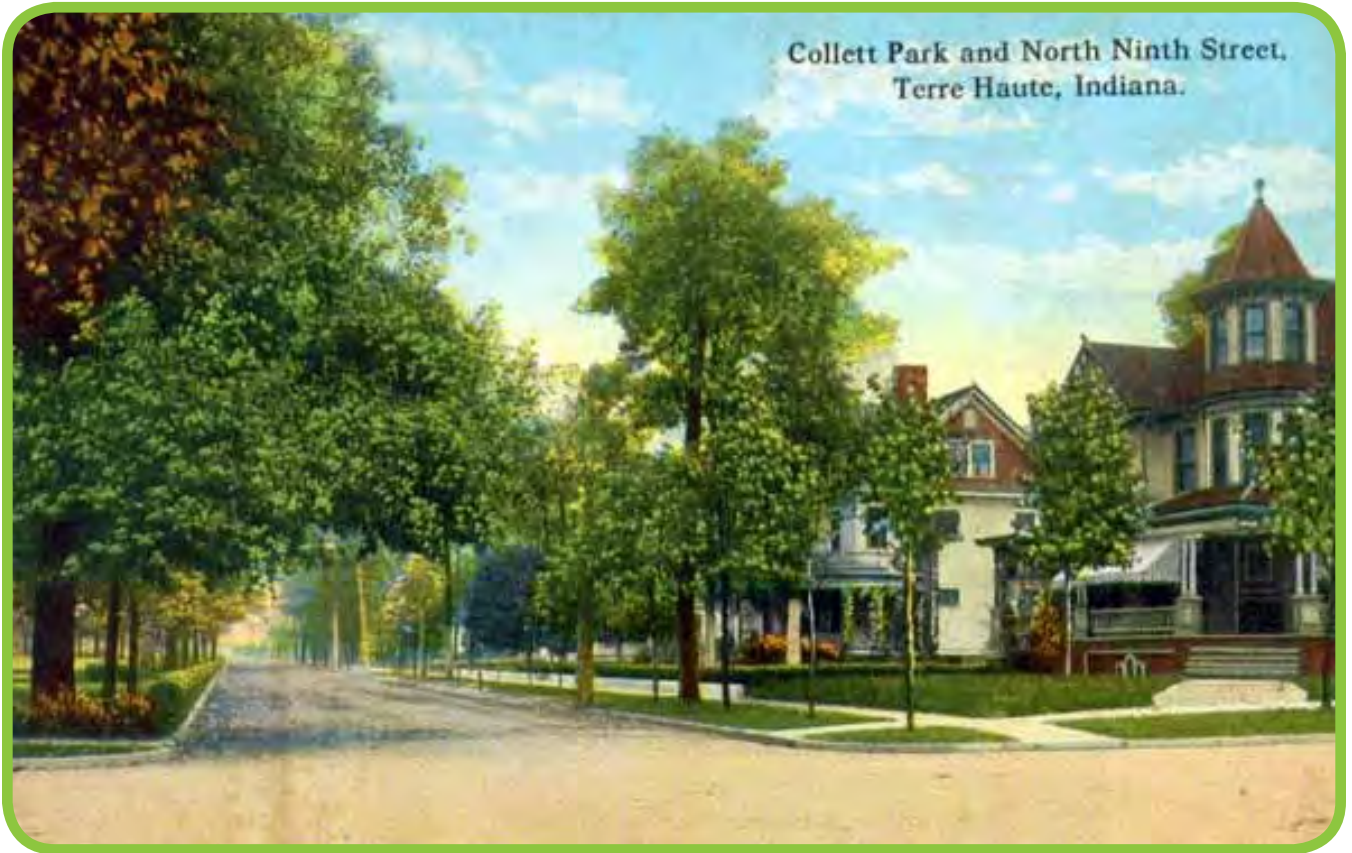
Sidewalk that bisects the Park



Playground



Historic Pavilion



Historic Postcard Image

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

COY PARK

ADDRESS: 16th Street and Barbour Avenue

SIZE: 4.5 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Coy Park is an underutilized park. Facilities within the park only include an outdated playground, as the restroom facilities have been gutted. Existing trees are minimal throughout most of the park. The majority of the park is open lawn. The potential for additional development including playing fields is great. There is not any off-street parking for the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is in poor condition. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing. The condition of this equipment requires replacement.
- The half court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.
- The former restroom facility has been gutted. The building also serves as a picnic shelter.
- The two shelters are in good condition. Both shelters need a pedestrian route connecting to existing walks along streets.
- Off street parking convenient to park activities needs to be provided, with accessible routes to the activities.



SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Using the Herz-Rose Model, partner with a local organization to start a conversation with neighbors concerning the future of the park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide off-street parking
- Remove/remodel restroom facility
- Investigate need for off-street parking
- Construct loop path and accessible paths



Coy Park Open Lawn

SHERIDAN PARK



ADDRESS: 28th Street and Ash Street

SIZE: 6.5 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Until 2012, Sheridan Park featured a public swimming pool. Besides the pool, there is playground equipment, half-court basketball, a baseball backstop and significant open space.

With the closing of the pool, there is interest in re-envisioning the future of this park. A new splash pad is expected to be the centerpiece of a park revitalization plan. Additional walks and playground facilities may also be needed.

Because the pool has been critical to the identity and success of this neighborhood, the Parks department should not delay in developing and implementing the park revitalization plan. Without investment in this park, the City could see a serious decline in the surrounding neighborhood in a few short years.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is in good condition. The safety surfacing needs to be replaced. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to streets and park destinations.
- The half basketball court is in moderate condition.



Sheridan Park

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Using the Herz-Rose Model, partner with a local organization to start a conversation with neighbors concerning the future of the park
- Remove the pool and pool house

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

SPENCER F. BALL PARK

ADDRESS: 14th Street and 8th Avenue

SIZE: 9.86 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Spencer F. ball Park is a relatively new park within the Terre Haute parks system. The park was constructed in the 1980's and is in good condition. The dominant feature of the park is the competition softball field.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment needs to be updated. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations. The swings are too far from the main play feature resulting in an excess of play surfacing. The playground equipment is poorly located too far from softball seating.
- The park contains one restroom structure with separate men and women's facilities in good condition. The restrooms are accessible. A portion of the building is used for storage. The restrooms are well lit with natural light.
- The basketball area is in fair to poor condition. There is one full court; two ½ courts and the courts are lit.
- The park contains two lighted tennis courts in poor condition. These should be removed.
- The plaza area is adjacent to the restroom building and seating areas. A stronger relationship to an additional recreational attraction, such as the playground, would increase the use of this area. The play area is not visible from the plaza.
- The parking is efficient and in good condition. Accessible parking striping and signage is needed. A pedestrian walkway along the parking lot connecting to other park destinations would minimize pedestrian conflicts and improve circulation. Cars are vulnerable to damage from



foul balls and home runs.

- A new roof was installed on the concessions building in 2012. The concession stand does not operate, but there are vending machines available to the public.
- A new scoreboard has been installed.



Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Using the Herz-Rose Model, partner with a local organization to start a conversation with neighbors concerning the future of the park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Upgrade concessions
- Remove tennis courts
- Update playground equipment
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Provide new playground near softball field
- Designate accessible parking
- Repair basketball courts



Ball Diamond



Tennis Courts



Plaza Area Near Concessions

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

MAPLE AVENUE NATURE PARK

ADDRESS: 500 Maple Avenue

SIZE: 25 ACRES

CONTEXT:

The City's newest park is the Maple Avenue Nature Park. Built over time between 2009-2013, the park includes a large lake, natural areas, a fishing pier, and boat dock.

The park connects to the historic Collett Park Pathway trail on Maple Avenue in front of the park. The trail connects Maple Avenue Nature Park to Collett Park.

The City works with DNR to stock this pond. A key issue with the pond is preventing river water from backing up into the lake and mixing river fish with lake fish. Screens have been installed on both sides of the lake to help with this issue. While this will never be completely prevented, it should remain an ongoing, long term priority for this park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The nature park has recently expanded the parking area and now has ample amounts of parking. A boat ramp has also been installed with spaces for trailer parking. A new sign that has been installed makes it easy to find the park and reads very well. The restroom facility has been completed.
- The .6 mile concrete trail that rings the lake is an extension of the Collett Park Pathway which extends to Collett Park. The pathway is in excellent shape and is mostly shaded by tree cover. There are a few low points on the walkway that get covered with mud and can be covered by flooding when the water is high, preventing the full use of the walkway.
- There are 5 picnic tables and small shelters along the pathway along with multiple mulched pathways and access points to the lake shore for fishing. The City would like additional shelters and tables added to the path. Also, the City would



like a larger pavilion added to the eastern edge, along the berm, overlooking the park to be used as a rental facility.

- A small shelter/gazebo structure has been constructed on the lake edge, with a natural pathway for access to the structure. All structures are in excellent shape.
- Additional trash receptacles may need to be added along the trail.
- The 11 acre pond looks very clean and well stocked with fish based on the activity level in the pond.
- The Ouabache Elementary School is directly across the park, which may allow for future educational opportunities within the park.



Gazebo and Pond



Boat Ramp



Picnic Area on Edge of Pond

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Relocate fishing dock from Fairbanks Park to this park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Address the silting and depositing of mud over walkways in low spots that occurs with flooding
- Add additional small shelters and tables along the pathway
- Construct a large rental pavilion overlooking the park from the berm on the east
- Implement a pilot project for community gardens at this site, since it already has water service available



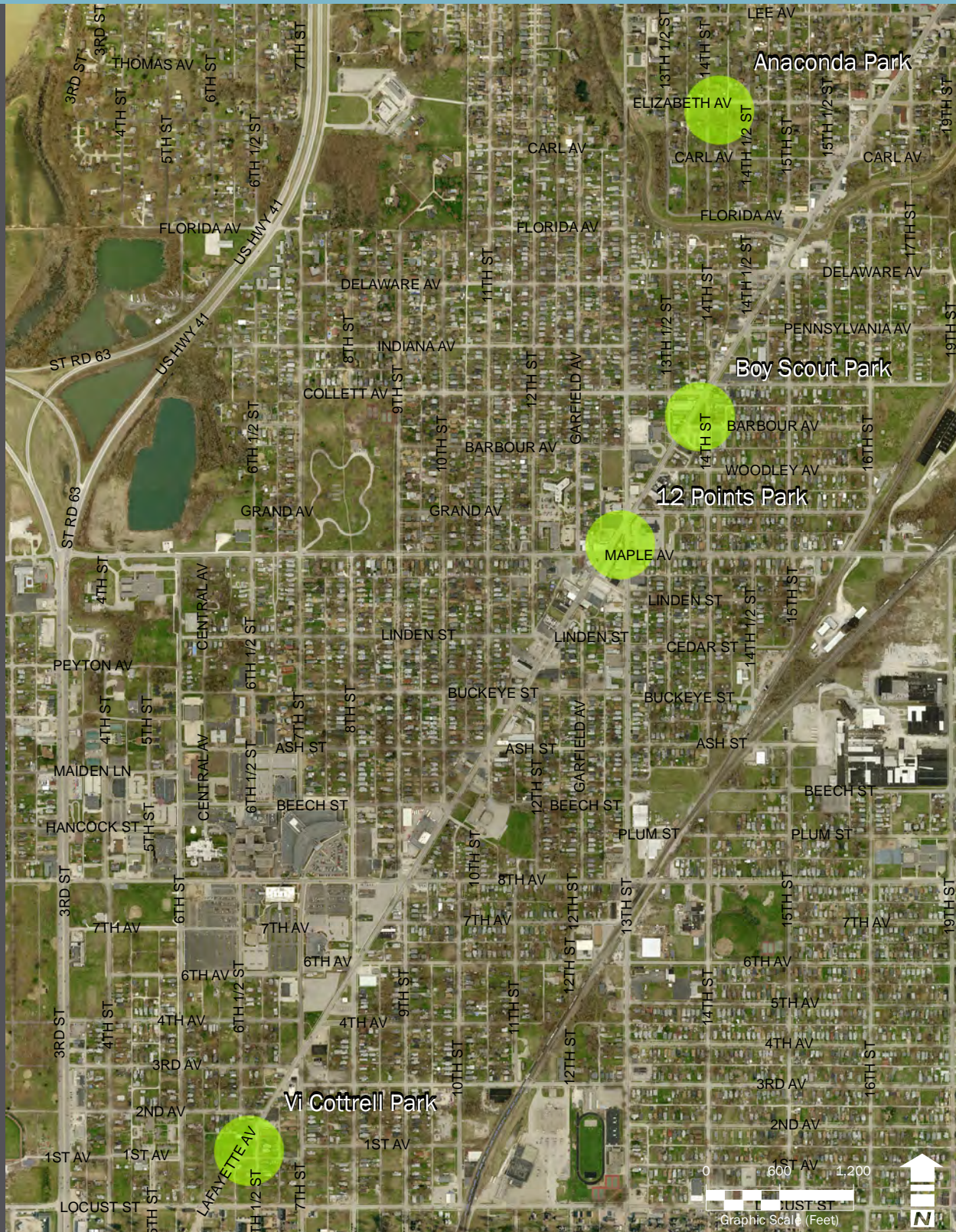
Maple Avenue Nature Park Sign



Nature Trail

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR PARKS



LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR: VI COTTRELL PARK



ADDRESS: Lafayette Avenue and 1st Avenue

SIZE: 0.3 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Vi Cottrell is a landscaped traffic island with limited park and recreation value. The park is named for a local diner owner whose diner was formerly located on the park site. There is a sidewalk along Lafayette Avenue and along 6 ½ Street but no other sidewalks. The size of this park and heavy volume of traffic on Lafayette Avenue make pedestrian access very difficult.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of park department resources. A path is needed to make the benches accessible.



Vi Cottrell Park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Explore "Adopt-a-spot" feasibility with local businesses
- Include in master plan for Lafayette Corridor

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR: GOLD MEDAL PLAZA

ADDRESS: Lafayette Ave., Maple Ave., + 13th St.

SIZE: 0.3 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Gold Medal Plaza at 12 Points Park is a landscaped traffic island with benches. Although there are benches and sidewalks pedestrian access is very difficult because three primary transportation arteries surround the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The park currently houses a memorial to local Olympic gold medal winners along with landscaping and seating.



LONG TERM GOALS

- Work with Art Spaces to place sculpture as plaza focal point
- Include in master plan for Lafayette corridor



Gold Medal Plaza

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR: BOY SCOUT PARK



ADDRESS: Lafayette Avenue and Barbour Avenue

SIZE: 0.32 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Boy Scout Park is a landscaped traffic island. There is one sidewalk along Lafayette Avenue. The nature of this park combined with very difficult access provide little park and recreation value.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of department resources. The covered bench does not have a walk to it.



Boy Scout Park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Include in master plan for Lafayette corridor

THE PARK SYSTEM: NORTH DISTRICT

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR: ANACONDA PARK

ADDRESS: Lafayette Ave., Maple Ave., + 13th St.

SIZE: 0.3 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Anaconda Park is a small block park. Recreational value is limited by the size of the park. Accessibility improvements are needed throughout the park. There are no walkways at the streets or within the park. The addition of walkways, benches and landscaping in addition to accessibility improvements would increase the usefulness of this park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is in poor condition. The swings are in good condition with poor surfacing. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing at any play equipment.
- The half court basketball court is in poor condition and in need of repair. There are no walkways connecting the court to other park destinations.



LONG TERM GOALS

- Assess need for improvements at this location
- Include in master plan for Lafayette corridor



Anaconda Park

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR: FIVE TRIANGLES (TERRE TOWN)



ADDRESS: Lafayette Ave., Maple Ave., + 13th St.

SIZE: 0.3 ACRES

CONTEXT:

The streets in Terre Haute intersect 25th Street and Lafayette Avenue at angles resulting in traffic islands that are maintained as landscaped open space. The parks department maintains the Terre Town parcel. There are no park or recreational activities provided in the islands.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The multiple traffic islands are an aesthetic asset to the immediate neighborhood. Limited recreational value is provided by these traffic triangles. An 'Adopt-A-Spot' program within the neighborhood should be pursued to reduce parks department maintenance responsibilities. There are opportunities to develop several of these islands into block parks if traffic conflicts can be resolved.



Five Triangles Park

LONG TERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with neighborhood
- Explore feasibility of block park development
- Include in master plan for Lafayette corridor

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THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT



THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

WILLIAM S. REA PARK

ADDRESS: 7th Street and Davis Drive

SIZE: 160 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Rea Park is a golf and tennis facility on the south side of Terre Haute. The park was opened in 1925. The Clubhouse is an attractive building with historic architectural interest. The tennis complex adds a second use in addition to golf at the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The course is generally in good condition and works well as a public golf course. The course is relatively flat with few hazards. There are a few cart paths and there is poor delineation between fairways.
- The clubhouse is a historical landmark but is in need of renovation and maintenance. The clubhouse is not accessible.
- The parking area and drives are in good condition. Accessible parking spaces and access routes need to be clearly defined.
- The park has nine tennis courts and all are in poor condition. This is the largest tennis complex in the parks system. There are no lights. Windscreens and bleachers are provided, but also in poor condition. The City would like to move the courts to the south end of the park to open up the view of the clubhouse and create a grand entrance.
- Restroom facilities on the course include three flush restrooms with separate men and women's facilities. Restroom facilities are also available in the clubhouse.



Driving Range



Golf Carts and Course



Tennis Courts



THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

WILLIAM S. REA PARK

NEW MASTER PLAN

Three years ago the Terre Haute Parks Board and Friends of Rea Park, Inc. agreed to partner to improve the facilities and programs at historic Rea Park. In 2016, architectural drawings and cost estimates for a restored Rea Park clubhouse were presented to the parks board.

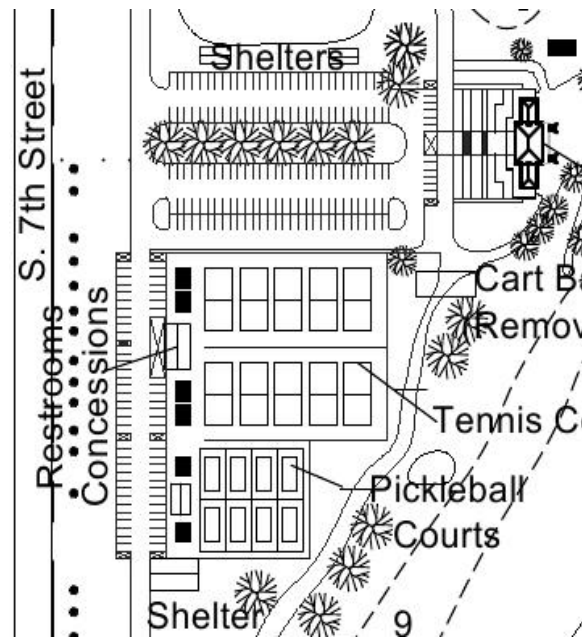
This report proposes a total revitalization of Rea Park. It includes project rationale, a clubhouse feasibility study, and park master plan.

Key findings in the report include:

- The restoration of Rea Park can greatly benefit Terre Haute residents, young and old alike. It promotes healthy living and life-long sports.
- The cost of Rea Park's restoration is reasonable when compared to other projects being considered by local government.
- Rea Park is located in a strategic location, near the busiest part of town. Establishing new partnerships between businesses, local schools, healthcare providers, Westminster Village and our city parks department should be explored. Investment in this project by private companies, individuals, and other governmental units should be encouraged.
- Despite having excellent schools, an ideal geographic location, and modern infrastructure, the health of Vigo County residents has fallen to a new low, so low that it may be THE FACTOR that is keeping new business and industry from relocating to our community. In 2016, Vigo County ranked 91st out of 92 Indiana counties in obesity, tobacco use, alcohol use, and drug use.



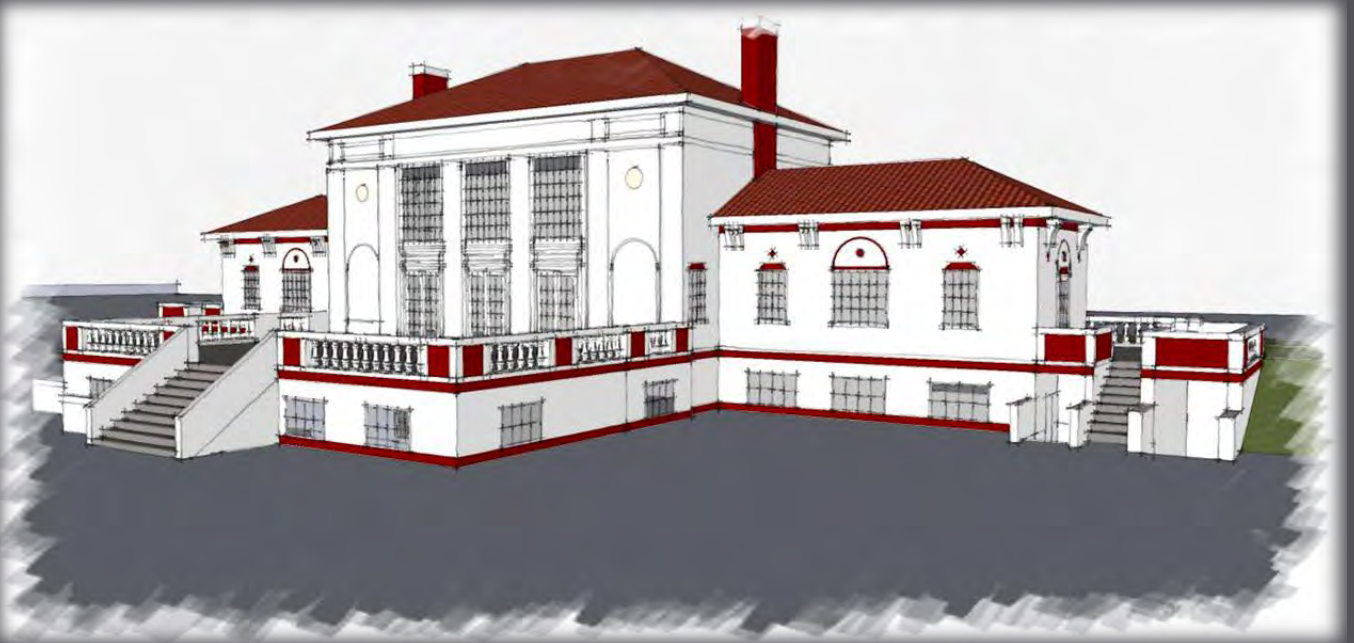
Source: *The Renewal of Historic Rea Park - Plan of Option A - Renovating existing tennis court area*



Source: *The Renewal of Historic Rea Park - Plan of Option B - Moving the tennis court area to the southwest corner of the park*

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Rehabilitate the historic 1925 clubhouse, making it an activity center for the park
- Upgrade or replace the tennis court facility (possibly adding a fitness center)
- Improve the driving range (possibly into a golf academy)
- Develop plans for a bike/walking trail and small park-like family area, including a small splash park that could turn into a skating rink area during the winter
- Make noted golf course enhancements as time and money permit



Source: *The Renewal of Historic Rea Park*
Architect's rendering of potential building improvements

THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

BRITTLEBANK PARK

ADDRESS: 20th Street and Grant Street

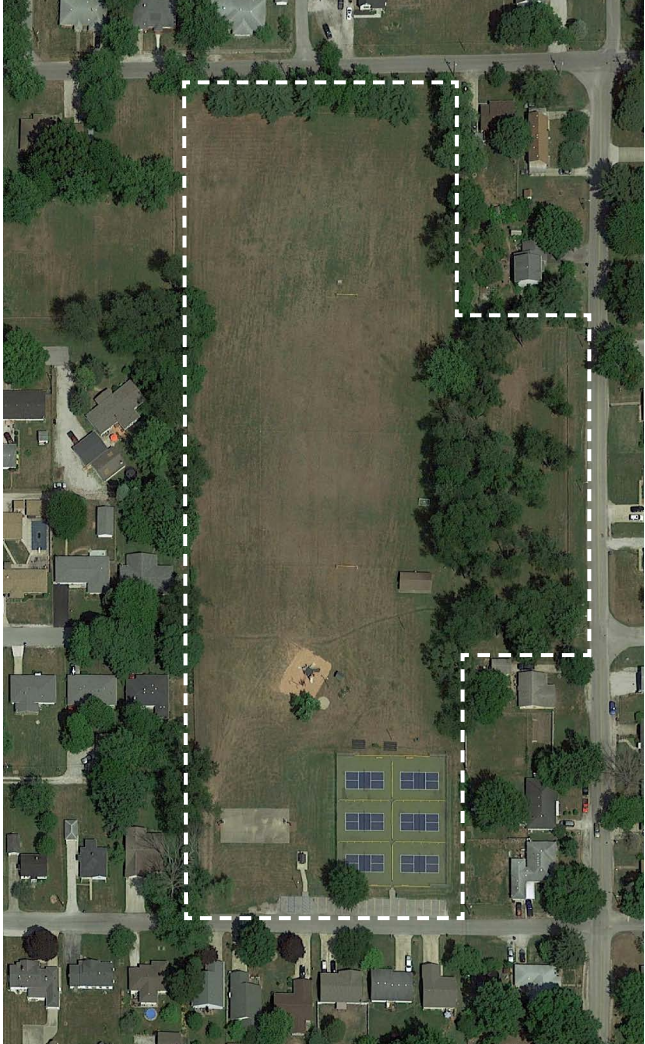
SIZE: 7.5 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Before 2008, Brittlebank Park was perhaps the most underutilized park in the system. At that time, a group of pickleball players began using the tennis courts at the site. That group has since grown, and become a staple at the park. The courts have since been developed into dedicated pickleball courts.

Because much of the park is open space, the park has significant opportunity to develop additional activities, including playing fields.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is needs to be updated. Currently there is no ADA accessible route.
 - The full court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court. Visibility from the street is good.
 - The tennis courts have been converted to pickleball courts. There is no pedestrian access to the courts. The courts are often full and additional courts are needed (at least 6-8 more).
 - The shelter is in good condition. There is no pedestrian access to the shelter. On street parking is inconvenient, reducing the usefulness of the shelter.
 - Open space is the most abundant feature in this park, but least used. Provision of additional activities in open space is strongly encouraged.
 - Off street parking is inadequate and needs to be provided with accessible routes to park activities. Additional parking is urgently needed.
- 
- The two shelters are in good condition. Both shelters need a pedestrian route connecting to existing walks along streets.
 - Off street parking convenient to park activities needs to be provided, with accessible routes to the activities.



Shelterhouse



Playground



Pickleball Courts

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Provide additional parking
- Construct additional pickleball courts
- Provide permanent accessible restroom

LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct loop trail and accessible paths
- Replace playground equipment
- Provide off-street parking
- Add picnic shelter near new parking
- Provide modest equipment storage building

THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

VOORHEES PARK

ADDRESS: 230 Voorhees Street

SIZE: 17.4 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Voorhees Park is a neighborhood park on the southwest side of Terre Haute. There is a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities in the park. Facilities include a skate park, a large picnic shelter, and playground area. Mature trees are distributed through much of the park. A new aquatics facility has been constructed on the site and is utilized by the local schools.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- A new skate park has been built and is a key attraction. The skate park should be expanded to the east of the shelter.
- The playground equipment is needs to be updated. There are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets.
- There is one structure with separate restroom facilities in good condition. The structure also serves as a shelter. A unisex restroom is also provided in the skate park.
- The site includes the Vigo County School Corporation Aquatic Center.





Playground



Skate Park



Ball Diamond and Bleacher

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Update play equipment
- Expand skate park



Aquatic Center

THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

ADDRESS: 13th Street and College Avenue

SIZE: 2.4 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Booker T. Washington Park is highly valued by the neighborhood it serves. The park is historically significant in Terre Haute because it was the only park designated for African- Americans during segregation. Today the park includes the Booker T. Washington Center which houses offices for social services as well as a gymnasium. It also contains several classrooms suitable for indoor programming. Other park features include a playground and basketball and tennis court.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- This park has a year-round facility that is owned by the City but not run by the City. Program direction is provided by Chances and Services for Youth.
- The playground equipment is in fair condition. The playground surface is mulch. There are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations.
- The basketball court is in excellent condition. The location of the court is good, with high visibility.
- A new shelter was added in 2009 and is in excellent shape.
- The parking area is in good condition. Pedestrian routes are clearly identified. ADA parking spaces need to be striped and signed.
- A community garden will be added in 2019.





Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Update/replace playground
- Add drinking fountain
- Add interpretive signage to explain the historical significance of the park (it was one of the few parks African-Americans were allowed to visit for many years)
- Install splash pad at this location



Shelterhouse

LONG TERM GOALS

- Rehabilitate exterior basketball court and/or renovate tennis court for basketball
- Construct accessible paths
- Upgrade tennis courts if educational/instructional programming can be provided through the center



Basketball Court



Booker T. Washington Community Center



Chances and Services for Youth sign

THE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTH DISTRICT

BLOCK PARKS: ONE TRIANGLE

ADDRESS: 8th Street and Hulman Street

SIZE: 0.1 ACRES

CONTEXT:

One triangle is a traffic triangle with limited recreational value and provides only aesthetic value. The parks contains a flagpole and a small memorial.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The traffic island is an aesthetic asset to the immediate neighborhood. An 'Adopt-A-Spot' program within the neighborhood should be pursued for this traffic triangle. The maintenance of this facility is an inefficient use of park department equipment and employees.



One Triangle Police and Fire Memorial

LONG TERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with business and neighborhood

BLOCK PARKS: 6TH STREET BOULEVARD



ADDRESS: Helen Avenue to Margaret Avenue

SIZE: 5.0 ACRES

CONTEXT:

6th Street Boulevard is a wide boulevard that extends one and a half blocks between Margaret Avenue and Helen Avenue. A railroad line crosses the north end of the boulevard. The neighborhood is an area that is under served by park facilities.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The boulevard view shed is free of obstacles except for the railroad crossing. The boulevard has potential for a block park. A small playground and shelter could provide recreational opportunities. Fencing and crosswalks would be needed along the railroad and the streets. The broadleaf trees lining the boulevard are in good condition. Additional trees should be provided to fill in gaps in the tree line. Additional trees are needed in the right of way along both sides of the street to develop a tree canopy.



6th Street Boulevard

LONG TERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with neighborhood
- Provide shelter
- Provide playground
- Construct traffic calming features, including fencing
- Provide additional tree plantings

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THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT



THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

DEMING PARK

ADDRESS: Fruitridge and Ohio Boulevard

SIZE: 160 ACRES

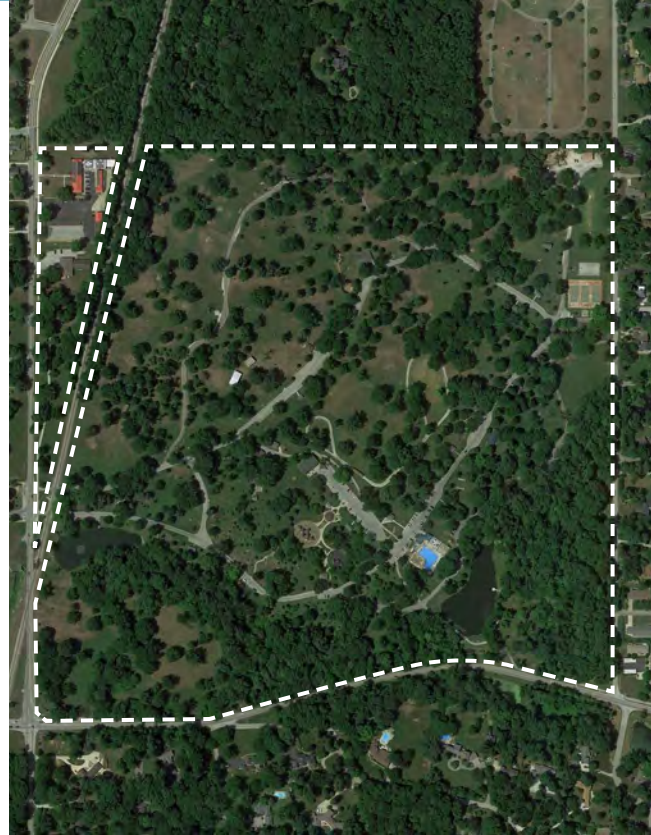
CONTEXT:

Deming Park is the most visited park in the Terre Haute Parks system. The character of the park is defined by large expanses of open lawn with mature broadleaf trees and a meandering drive looping through the park. The mix of passive and active recreation activities appeals to a great number of parks patrons.

The park is home to the Deming Park pool, the Clark-Landsbaum Holly Arboretum, the Oakley Playground, and 18 hole disc golf course, many picnic shelters and two ponds among other recreational amenities. Parks activities such as Christmas in the Park, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Memorial 5k and Haunted and Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings are widely popular.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The Oakley Playground is an exceptional asset to the parks system. The equipment and poured in place surfacing are in excellent condition. The size and quality of this playground make it a very popular attraction. The Parks Department is currently planning to add outdoor fitness equipment near the playground for adults.
- The high number of users may require additional maintenance due to wear on equipment.
- The Torner Center is in good condition and houses some parks offices and a community meeting room and concessions area. The meeting room is used by outside groups as well as programming activities. Expansion of the center is needed to provide additional indoor programming.
- There is one stand-alone restroom building with separate men and women's facilities. Restrooms are also available at Deming Park Pool locker rooms and in Torner Center. ADA accessibility improvements are needed.





Oakley Playground



Deming Park Entrance Sign



Frisbee Golf

- The Deming Park pool is a neighborhood size pool with splash pad. A small pool house with locker rooms and a lifeguard station is provided. The pool house also has an open air ceiling and allows birds in. The age and relatively small pool size limits the attractiveness of the pool resulting in low numbers of swimmers on most days. The pool area is not ADA accessible.
- There are three unlighted tennis courts that are in need of repainting and get used for pickleball and tennis lessons.
- Deming Park contains one practice quality softball field. This field should be upgraded in order to host league play.
- There is one soccer area with portable goals.
- There is one full basketball court and two half-courts all in moderate condition.
- The eighteen-hole frisbee golf course is well-utilized and relatively low maintenance. The character of the course fits in well with the pastoral nature of the park. There are multiple tournaments each year. This course is currently being expanded by nine holes.
- The park includes a mix of old and new shelters in a variety of sizes. Shelters are very popular at this park. Some of the older, larger shelters are in need of repair/replacement. A plan should be developed for the repair/replacement of shelters in this park. Many shelters need new flooring.
- The park's landscape structures include a small gazebo at the west pond near the park entrance and a small gazebo and fishing pier at the east pond. There is also a small bridge near the east pond. All the structures are in good condition.
- The Larrison Pavilion has fallen into disrepair. Though the pavilion was repainted in 2009, major renovation is needed to make the facility functional. Currently a concrete masonry unit

THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

DEMING PARK

stage area and backdrop are all that remain from what had been a large covered pavilion. A long term plan needs to be developed to determine the need to replace the pavilion with a similar structure or if an indoor recreational facility needs to be developed in the system that could also meet the need previously served by the pavilion.

- Remove or refurbish horse shoe pits.
- The park's naturalized areas include the heavily wooded areas east of the east pond and along the north side of the park. A heavy tree line along the south provides visual separation from Poplar Drive.
- Renovate the wet areas in the park into true wetlands.
- Parking appears to be adequate throughout the park. ADA striping, signage and accessible routes need to be improved in most areas. The road surface is in good condition. Many people use this drive as a driving park. Some conflict occurs between pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to the lack of separate trails. The railroad crossing at the park entrance is a visual and physical barrier to Ohio Boulevard and presents safety problems with the active rail line and pedestrians entering the park. The feasibility of a four way stop at this intersection should be studied.
- The maintenance area includes a large metal building and service area with outside storage. Landscape screening at storage yard is needed and the building needs to be repainted.
- The Clark-Landsbaum Holly Arboretum contains over 300 hollies and serves as a unique asset to the park. The arboretum would benefit from the development of pathways, allowing ADA accessibility.
- The train is a small gauge loop novelty ride near the playground and Torner Center that is popular



Larrison Pavilion



Deming Park Mural

with younger park users. There is a token fee to ride the train. There is discussion of extending the length of the train. The train is also needs upgraded to provide for accessible use.

- The park contains two ponds with a total area of approximately 3 acres. DNR stocks these ponds for the City. Because of the small size of the ponds, and the frequent use, they have a difficult time keeping the ponds stocked.
- The ponds also have problems with silt. DNR has recommended installation of sediment traps upstream of both ponds to collect both sediment and nutrients.



Bridge within the Park

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Expand miniature train
- Determine long term plan for aquatics facilities
- Add outdoor fitness equipment
- Repaint tennis courts and maintenance building

LONG TERM GOALS

- Begin budgeting for long term repair and replacement of Oakley Playground surfacing
- Re-open east entrance to pedestrians
- Implement planting/re-forestation plan



Fishing Pier and Gazebo



Park Entrance/Exit with Railroad Tracks



Master Gardener maintained Garden within Park



Shelterhouse

THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

HULMAN LINKS

ADDRESS: 990 North Chamberlain Road

SIZE: 230 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Hulman Links is an 18-hole golf course with practice putting greens, a driving range, clubhouse and restaurant.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The course is set among rolling hills and contains multiple water hazards and wooded areas. The course is crowded at peak times and shows signs of wear. Many of the cart paths are in fair to poor condition and need to be improved.
- The parking area and drive lanes are in fair condition.
- There is the desire to provide major improvements to the course that will not only improve the overall quality of play, but to speed play and increase the available capacity. Rehabilitation of the golf course will require that accessibility improvements be made.



Golf Course



Cart Path



Pro Shop and Clubhouse

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Repair/replace maintenance building roof
- Establish maintenance equipment obsolescence plan
- Replace cart paths

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide second water source for irrigation
- Replace entire irrigation system
- Re-build greens



THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK

ADDRESS: 5170 E. Poplar Drive

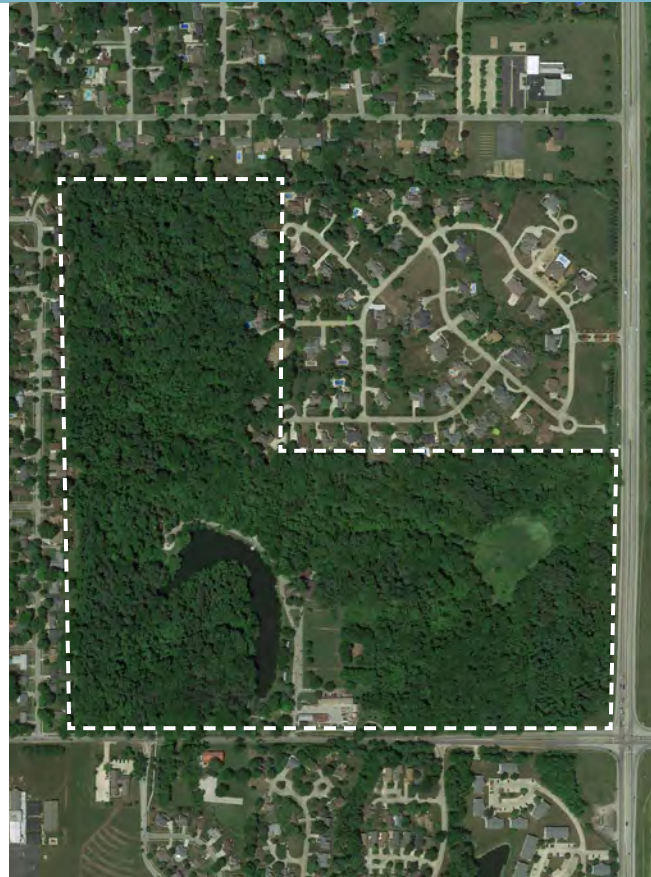
SIZE: 105 ACRES

CONTEXT:

John G. Dobbs Park is the city's premier nature park. The park is home to the Dobbs Park Nature Center and the Native American Museum. The majority of the park is heavily wooded. Dobbs Park contains 3.5 miles of woodland trails, a 3.5-acre pond and approximately 1.5 acres of wetland.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The playground equipment is in fair condition but is in a remote location. The play equipment is accessible. There is accessible safety surfacing at the play equipment. Accessibility to the playground needs to be improved.
- There is a large open lawn area between the parking lot and the playground. The open space area is separated from the pond by the park drive and parking area. The majority of the park is heavily wooded. Continual maintenance to remove understory invasive plants such as honeysuckle should continue.
- The trail network consists of 3.5 miles of mulched woodland trails. The trails are in good condition. The trails are not accessible. Additional directional and interpretive signs need to be provided. The trail behind the pond should provide a connection back to the main trail.
- The nature center includes an inside bird viewing area, small office, and open meeting area.
- One stand-alone restroom contains separate men and women's facilities in moderate condition. Restrooms are available at the Nature Center and Native American Museum. Improved access is need at all restrooms.
- There are three shelters throughout the park,





Native American Museum



Nature Center



Park Shelter

all in good condition. The train trestle shelter received a new roof in 2018.

- The pavement is in poor condition and needs replaced. Improved delineation of the accessible spaces should be provided.
- The 3.5 acre pond is a strong attraction. The City works with DNR to stock the pond. Silting of the pond is an ongoing concern. Upstream sediment traps were installed in 2012 to help address this issue.
- The Nature Center greenhouse is severely deteriorated and needs to be replaced.
- The maintenance facilities are deteriorated and it is recommended that they be moved off site. The house at the entrance to the park should also be removed. These steps would allow the beautification and realignment of the main entrance. As the main drive is reconfigured, it should route closer to the playground, shelters, and buildings.
- A continued problem at the park is that nearby residences are infringing on the nature preserve. A protection plan for the preserve needs to be implemented.

THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK

SHORT TERM GOALS (2019-2023)

- Provide accessibility improvements at Museum and Nature Center
- Develop protection plan to limit intrusion into nature preserve by adjacent residents

LONG TERM GOALS

- Relocate maintenance facility and reconfigure main entrance
- Provide accessible route to playground or add parking near playground
- Provide trailheads and improve directional and interpretive signage
- Construct fishing pier
- Make trails accessible
- Increase outdoor nature programming
- Remove invasive plant species in natural areas
- Stabilize pond banks
- Repair and paint shelters



Picnic Shelter on Pond



Existing Fishing Pier



John G. Dobbs Memorial Park Pond



Playground



ADDRESS: 4113 E. Wabash Avenue

SIZE: 17 ACRES

CONTEXT:

17 Acres Park is an undeveloped parcel north of Deming Park and fronting on Wabash Avenue (US 40). It directly abuts Deming Park to the south and is largely wooded. It is currently being used to store wood chips and mulch.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- It is proposed that this site be developed into a sustainable maintenance facility for the parks department. This would allow maintenance areas at Dobb's Park and Deming Park to be converted into recreational lands.
- A drive connection would allow the maintenance area to be accessed directly from Deming Park, and would also allow access to Wabash Avenue.
- Features to be included in the facility could include maintenance buildings, composting yard, mulching areas, a tree nursery, a greenhouse, and other features.



Existing Conditions

LONG TERM GOALS

- Conduct (Phase 1) brownfield site assessment
- Complete drainage assessment in collaboration with Rose-Hulman
- Construct new sustainable maintenance facility to serve the district

THE PARK SYSTEM: EAST DISTRICT

JONES TRAILHEAD

ADDRESS: Chamberlain Road

SIZE: 2.0 ACRES

CONTEXT:

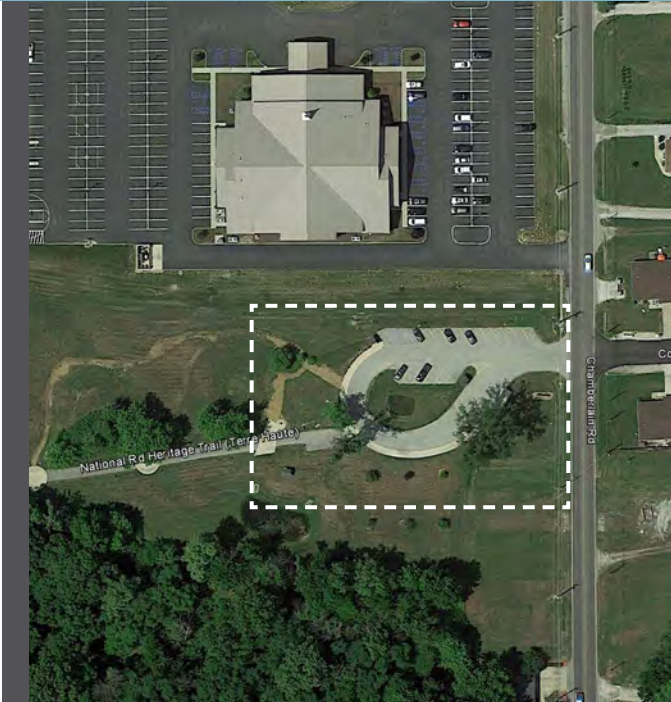
The Jones Trailhead is the eastern terminus of The National Road Heritage Trail. Long-term statewide plans call for the trail to extend the entire width of the state from Terre Haute to Richmond along the National Road corridor. Facilities provided at the trailhead include a vending area and parking.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The Jones Trailhead has a large parking area for 20 cars. There is a vending area as well as bike racks and a picnic shelter, all in excellent condition.
- The trailhead also contains educational gardens which meander along the sides of the National Road Heritage Trail. The pathways within these gardens are constructed of large and loose stone, which is difficult to walk on and is not well contained in the pathways.
- The site contains a few bio-retention areas to help manage stormwater run-off. The bio-retention areas are in good condition.
- The signage around the trailhead and on the trail are fairly new and in excellent condition. Trash receptacles are also in excellent condition and well placed.



Jones Trailhead Sign



LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct a restroom facility
- Develop a plan for management of native areas and bio-retention
- Install an amphitheater
- Add a small skate park/skate spot



Jones Trailhead Parking Area and Bio-Retention

TWIGG REST AREA



ADDRESS: US 40 East of Overpass

SIZE: 2.0 ACRES

CONTEXT:

Twigg Rest Area is a trailhead at the eastern terminus of the National Road Heritage Trail. The trailhead was constructed on the site of a former rest area along US 40. The park is very popular with area residents. A grant was recently awarded to Terre Haute to provide additional improvements to the trailhead including a restroom facility.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS:

- The parking area is in excellent condition. Accessible parking spaces are provided along with an accessible route to the trail. Direct access is provided to Wabash Avenue.
- The site includes bike racks, a kiosk, benches, restrooms, and litter receptacles. All site amenities are in excellent condition. Access should be provided to the benches and litter receptacles.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide ADA access to all benches and trash receptacles



Twigg Rest Area Trailhead



Twigg Rest Area Sign

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ACTION PLAN



ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN - FACILITIES AND AMENITIES			
ACTION	EST. BUDGET	FUNDING SOURCE	YEAR
CENTRAL DISTRICT			
FAIRBANKS PARK			
Add additional public art	N/A	Art Spaces	2019-2023
Upgrade electricity boxes and lighting around the whole park	\$40,000.00	Local Funding	2021
HERZ-ROSE PARK			
Install perimeter and interior walkways	\$175,000.00	Local Funding/Fundraising	2020
Add play area	\$120,000.00	Local Funding	2021
Add seating/benches	\$20,000.00	Local Funding/Fundraising	2020
Update and add landscaping	\$15,000.00	Local Funding	2021
Provide wayfinding	\$6,000.00	Local Funding/Art Spaces	2020
NORTH DISTRICT			
COLLETT PARK			
Construct a dog park/enclosure	\$80,000.00	Local Funding/Fundraising	2022
Restore tennis courts and add futsal conversion	\$15,000.00	Local Funding	2019
Replace playground equipment	\$50,000.00	Local Funding/Fundraising	2023
SHERIDAN PARK			
Remove the pool and pool house	\$100,000.00	Local Funding/Fundraising	2022
MAPLE AVENUE NATURE PARK			
Relocate the fishing dock from Fairbanks Park to this park	N/A	Staff Action	2019
SOUTH DISTRICT			
WILLIAM S. REA PARK			
Rehabilitate the historic 1925 clubhouse, making it an activity center for the park	TBD	TBD	TBD
Upgrade or replace the tennis court facility (possibly adding a fitness center)	TBD	TBD	TBD
Improve the driving range	\$10,000.00	Local Funding	2021
BRITTLEBANK PARK			
Provide additional parking	\$20,000.00	Local Funding	2021
Construct additional pickleball courts	\$15,000.00	Local Funding	2020
Provide permanent accessible restroom	\$30,000.00	Local Funding	2022
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK			
Update/replace playground	\$120,000.00	Local Funding	2022
Add drinking fountain	\$6,000.00	Local Funding	2019
Add interpretive signage to explain the historical significance of the park	\$5,000.00	Fundraising/Donations	2021
Install a splash pad	\$120,000.00	Local Funding	2023

EAST DISTRICT			
Expand miniature train	\$300,000.00	Fundraising/Donations	2022
Add outdoor fitness equipment	\$30,000.00	Fundraising/Donations	2021
Repainting tennis courts	\$20,000.00	Local Funding	2020
Repaint maintenance building	\$10,000.00	Local Funding	2019
HULMAN LINKS			
Re-build greens	\$25,000.00	Local Funding	2023
Repair/replace maintenance building roof	\$10,000.00	Local Funding	2020
Replace cart paths	\$45,000.00	Local Funding	2019
JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK			
Provide accessibility improvements at Museum and Nature Center	\$20,000.00	Local Funding	2021

ACTION PLAN - ADMINISTRATIVE

ACTION	YEAR
FOCUS PLANNING EFFORTS ON NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	
Engage with local organizations to help facilitate a community conversation to determine what the best next steps are for that particular area and initiate strategic partnerships with stakeholders	2019-2020
Complete one local park engagement process per year in parks where changes may be proposed and existing partnerships already exist. Suggested locations include: Herz-Rose Park, Gilbert Park, Coy Park, Sheridan Park and Spencer F. Ball Park	2019-2023
Identify gaps in service and determine a course of action to help people get to a park	2020
Investigate locations and opportunities for a skate park facility on the City's north side	2022
SEEK OUT AND FORM PARTNERSHIPS	
Identify and reach out to neighborhood associations near existing parks	2019-2020
Identify and reach out to outside organizations such as arts groups and community organizations	2019-2020
Create partnerships with schools and universities to help in the development of media-oriented promotional materials for the parks department	2019-2020
Create partnerships with Parks leaders and media outlets on regular television news segments to highlight park activities	2019-2023
Identify city departments and entities that may have a stake in the appearance or functionality of a space within the parks department	2019-2020
DEVELOP A LONG-TERM AQUATICS PLAN	
Develop a plan for eventual replacement of the Deming Park pool	2019-2020
Evaluate the location of all aquatics facilities, including an evaluation of alternate locations for the pool at Deming Park	2020
Determine recommendations for adding splash pad amenities throughout the City	2020-2021
Research public/private partnerships that could support aquatics plan	2019-2020
EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE REVENUE SOURCES	
Research potential grant and funding sources with a short list of requirements for future reference - update the list yearly	2019
Promote charitable giving through informational signage at locations where funding has paid for a project (Terre Haute Parks Department Endowment Fund)	2019-2023
Promote charitable giving through programming and events by directly engaging with park patrons and community members (Terre Haute Parks Department Endowment Fund)	2019-2023

CONTINUE THE CURRENT MOMENTUM TO COMPLETE GREENWAY CONNECTIONS	
Finish the connections from greenways to specific parks	2021-2023
Continue expanding trail mileage throughout the city, connecting neighborhoods and landmarks	2019-2023
Prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that the constructed greenways are free of obstacles and hazards	2019-2020
SUPPORT THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC WITH THE RIVER	
Encourage and support the development of recreational opportunities for tourists and residents along the Wabash River along with the Art Spaces <i>Turn to the River</i> Project, aiming to reconnect Terre Haute's Downtown with the Wabash River through public art and design	2019-2023
ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE AND EQUIPMENT LONGEVITY	
Develop a priority list of all facilities/amenities that are in need of repair and those in need of total replacement	2019-2020
Create a budget for each facility/amenity that needs work so that numbers are available when funding becomes available	2019-2020
Update one playground facility per year	2019-2023
Develop a policy to guide decision making on the scheduled maintenance and replacement of park maintenance equipment	2020-2021
Plan for the consolidation of the east and central maintenance operations into a single facility at 17 Acres Complex	2021
Develop a protection plan to limit intrusion into nature preserve at John G. Dobbs Memorial Park by adjacent residents	2019
Create a plan to implement green/sustainable best practices throughout the department	2020-2022
INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVES FOR CARE, MAINTENANCE AND OWNERSHIP FOR CERTAIN PARKS PROPERTIES	
Investigate 'Adopt-a-Spot' feasibility for John M. Hanley, Jr. Memorial Park; Vi Cottrell Park; Five Triangles (Terre Town); 6th Street Boulevard	2019-2023

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APPENDIX



APPENDIX

- 1. ENHANCING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SPACES: CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORTA-3
- 2. PARKS PLAN PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND INPUT SESSION NEWS ARTICLE, MEETING
 - MINUTES AND SIGN-IN SHEETA-44
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- 4. NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.....A-123

Terre Haute, IN

Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities

Community Engagement Report

October 2017 – August 2018



PURDUE EXTENSION

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Appendix: Surveys and Survey Response Data (included separately)

Executive Summary

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Terre Haute, and Purdue Extension Vigo County met with Purdue extension specialists Michael Wilcox, Kara Salazar, and Daniel Walker in May of 2017 to discuss using the Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces (EVPS) extension program to increase the amount of public participation garnered in its upcoming five-year Parks and recreation Master Plan. The civic leadership of Terre Haute seized the opportunity to not only develop a plan informed by the EVPS process, but to do so using the newly developed Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities program. This program would focus on using public spaces, in this case the parks and recreation system of Terre Haute, to improve opportunities to engage in active living behaviors, and access to healthy food. The three goals of this planning effort were identified by the leadership team: **Healthy Food Environment, Active Living, and Enhancing Quality of Life through Placemaking**. These goals were used to organize facilitation activities and focus discussion. They were also developed during two follow-on workshops where objectives and strategies were developed for each.

The workshop process consisted of six meetings, three of which involved public input. Three scoping and planning meetings occurred from May to September of 2017. The first of the three public meetings was a community visioning session. The two subsequent meetings were focused on identifying objectives and strategies and action planning for the upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. The total number of participants in all workshops was 71. A survey effort was launched between the October, 2017 meeting and the August, 2018 meeting. The 44 question survey gathered data from 964 respondents. The survey was administered both online and in paper format. Additional outreach was done in areas of the community where significant barriers to survey participation exist such as mobility, computer literacy, and literacy. This number of responses is equivalent to 1.6% of the population of the City of Terre Haute (2016 population: 60,852), though not all responses were generated by individuals residing within the City of Terre Haute. The full survey results are provided in the appendix. The results were presented to participants at the second workshop and informed the development and selection of goals and strategies.

Community Workshop Series Meeting One: Community Visioning

Session Summary

Residents of Terre Haute participated in a community visioning session in which they described the foundation and vision for the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation system as it relates to active living and healthy eating. Workshop participants were provided with a health status overview of their community, an understanding of appreciative inquiry and the *Community Capitals*, and an overview of several best practices for creating healthy communities based on the Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities curriculum. The primary activity in this workshop was a facilitated world café style activity where participants compiled assets and opportunities under each of the seven Community Capitals (Human, Social, Cultural, Natural, Financial, Political, and Built) in successive table rotations. At the conclusion of the session, participants categorized the opportunities based on themes and similarities within each Community Capital. Participants were then given seven “votes” and instructed to place a vote on the category or theme within each Community Capital that they felt should be the focus of next two workshops. The tables below are a record of the assets and opportunities that were developed under each Community Capital. Participants were asked to vote for only one opportunity under each Community Capital.

Community Visioning Session Community Capitals Assets and Opportunities

Human Capital Assets

Motivation	Belief in possibility
Cultural and arts access	Passionate
Public awareness	Volunteering
Collaborative	Community value
Health minded (physical & mental)	Entrepreneurship
Cooperation	Compassion
Hometown pride	Driven – follow through
Public library	Environmentally friendly
Civic engagement	Creative
Workforce development	Inclusive minded
Localized politics	Resilient
Education	Fitness centers and trails
Children’s sports	Environmental
Provide (Parks) meeting space	Visionary
Park interns	Open minded
Generosity	Inclusion
Hospitality	Hard working
Colleges and universities	Family connections
Resource sharing	Legal and ethical decision makers
Open to change	Do their best
Multi-cultural	Equity
Faith	Diversity
Social minded, caring	Equality

Human Capital Opportunities

UNIVERSAL ACCESS (9 votes)	INCLUSION (3 votes)
Increase awareness of community opportunities	Neighborhood events might increase comfort & safety w/ neighbors
Build strong central leadership	Collaboration
Lack of leadership from city hall for initiating public + private + non-profit partnerships	Spiritual connection
Political appointment of unqualified personnel	Move accountability for public officials
Seemingly longstanding conflict between ISE and Terre Haute	Greater spirit (for collaboration less in-fighting)
From Terre Haute vs. You're not from Terre Haute attitude of "natives"	Ask community members what opportunities are needed for success
Political exclusion by few powerbrokers	
Multi-generational parks programming	

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESOURCES STRONGER BASE (5 votes)	EDUCATION AND EASIER ACCESS (3 votes)
Homelessness	Childcare more funding higher quality
Drug use	Kids - more nature, less technology games
Mental health housing and treatment	Greater appreciation for STEM/STEAM and nature
Drug rehab	Maker Spaces (public)
Hunger	Nutrition programs
Clothing coats gloves shoes	Healthy food
Family strengthening program	Partnership with master gardeners + Purdue Ext. + 4H to teach community gardens in low-income neighborhoods
Workforce development program in jail bldg when it moves	Job seeker training

Social Capital Assets

Community connect event	First Fridays downtown	Mom's clubs
Catholic Christmas store	Veterans court	Facebook groups
Senior center	Vigo County soccer association	Community gardening
14th & Chestnut	Community events	Homeowners associations
Boys & girls club	Charitable organizations	West central economic development corporation
Booker T. Washington	Sports clubs	Launch Terre Haute
Provider fairs	Educational groups	Christmas in Deming Park (shelter decorations)
Free health clinics	Informal and formal networks	Vigo County soil and water conservation
Churches clean-ups community uniting	Local coordinating council	Strong organizational bridging social capital among nonprofits
Volunteers to parks master gardeners	Yard sale events	Veteran stand down
Hulman and Company	Farmers' market	Library
Allen Chapel	Indian community	Strong college/university community partnerships
Ryves youth center	Dog park	United Way
Hamilton center	ISU homecoming parade	Upward programs
Youth organizations	Festivals	Catholic charities
Boy scouts	Community fundraising events (walks, runs)	4H clubs
Girl scouts	Youth events (un-haunted happenings)	DTTH First Fridays
4H	Arts events and festivals	Holiday events
Community clubs	Cultural events	Air show
Rotary	Octoberfest	Classes foster common interests
Lions	Music	Rowing crew

		Christmas parade
Chances + services for youth	Crossroads disc golf club	Sports leagues
National night out	Food events	
Car shows	Fairgrounds	

Social Capital Opportunities

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS (14 votes)	COMMUNITY NETWORKS (4 votes)
Use parks as location for farmers' markets closer to populations in least developed neighborhoods	Establish big roundtable so non-profits collaborate and allocate resources better
more community involvement	Clubs for shared interests (bird watching, hiking, etc.)
"Free" corner libraries	MARKETING (4 votes)
Duplicating services	One unified event calendar
Identifiable neighborhoods throughout city	more marketing + promotion to least-served communities
Neighborhoods involve more & initiated	Bulletin Boards for messages and hints WAZE Next Door Online
ACTIVITIES (1 vote)	App that encourages people to come communicate about trails
Enhance all public spaces and parks to increase spontaneous interactions	Better promotion of existing events
More social events at city hall would increase people's involvement in government	Outreach to draw citizens to parks/events
Programs for working adults outside of 8-5 hours	
Yoga-exercise classes in parks	
More day events (family, elderly friendly)	
Child programs, swim lessons, etc.	
Community clubs and non-profit Adopt-a-park	

Political Capital Assets

Parks board eager to see positive change	Access to mayor
Steering committee	Neighborhood meetings
Library & League of Women Voters cracker barrels	Having knowledge of what's going on in community inform
Politicians live in county State & Federal Reps.	Churches
Leadership conferences	Chamber of commerce
Parks are a source of city pride	Mayor
Willing to think about improving access	Congressman
Parks reached out to Purdue to generate community involvement	County Council
City parks is interested in new ideas	City Council
New RJL Consulting lobbyist ISU	Print and TV media
Young leaders program Chamber Prog. Extension	Social media influence as a news source
Parks are well managed with limited resources	New blood
Political knowledge	Unions
Informed voters	Advisory boards and commissions
Public forums and surveys	Local community interested in making sure funds are properly used

Diversity of community decisions	Local gov't access 311 system
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

Political Capital Opportunities

NEED FOR A VISIONARY GOVERNMENT (17 votes)	BUILDING LEADERSHIP (4 votes)
Need a city planner (yes!)	Appointing qualified board members regardless of political affiliation
More diverse representatives	Political collaboration
More connection to West Terre Haute	Increase accessibility to leadership
Economic viability	Need qualified personnel for politically appointed roles + department needs
Need arts commission	Diverse recreational champion
City plan	Recruit new talent
Need a historic preservation commission	Lenders that have the community interest
True partnership	H.S. students and college shadow leaders
	Leaders w/ vision
	Leadership development
EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT (3 votes)	FUNDING (0 votes)
More polling places (in parks)	Regional plan (WRDBI WCEDI riverscape)
More cracker barrels promote more open forums	Regional cities
Education outreach inform citizens	Fed./state grants
Recruit past St. and Fed. Politicians to advocate for you	Restore "riverscapes" funding
Community engagement	Appropriate funding

Financial Capital Assets

ISU	Chamber of commerce
Ivy Tech	Private / public partnerships
St. Mary's	TIF
Rose Hulman	HUD-THHA
Service clubs	Federal prison - employer
Salvation army	Union hospital
Individual planned giving	Casey's
Haute create VCPL	ONB (Old National Bank)
Private donors	First financial bank
Churches charity	Arts grants
Rotary Optimists Knights of Columbus	Federal grants
In-kind	United Way
Philanthropic groups	Garmong
Launch Terre Haute	State grants
ABATE VFW / American Legion - vets orgs	Local/regional [funds?]
Mobile market	Thompson + thrift
Feeding America	Clara Fairbanks Foundation
Score/SBDC	Oakley Corp.
Special interest clubs/donors	Vectren

Frisbee Disc / Pickleball	Community foundation
Economic development corporation	Duke Energy
Convention Visitors Bureau	Financial institutions
Tax dollars	Energy assistance
	Small businesses

Financial Capital Opportunities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (13 votes)	EDUCATION (7 votes)
Federal & private agencies	Entrepreneurial thinking
Private/public partnerships	People need a second chance
Private development incentives	Fund more rehabilitation programs to stop criminal cycle
Better jobs environment/healthy	Sound planning to enable any tax funding increase + major foundations
TIFF funding	Clear and complete communications between shareholders
Matching funds pool	Community engagement
More transparency w/ public funds	Find a way to fund school food for all
More responsible stewardship of public funds	Accessibility to financial needs barriers
More true community partnerships between gov't, ed, orgs	Health education through local media (e.g. to avoid e.r.)
Progressive and inclusive partnerships to get funding	Employment education opportunities
County + city budgeting	REVENUE (5 votes)
Prioritize investment	Shopping bag fee
EDUCATION (7 votes)	Garner more corporate interest
Entrepreneurial thinking	Bottle deposit system
People need a second chance	Equipment rentals
Fund more rehabilitation programs to stop criminal cycle	Park entrance fee for non-residents
Sound planning to enable any tax funding increase + major foundations	Food + beverage tax to be used for health education + other positive services
Clear and complete communications between shareholders	
Community engagement	
Find a way to fund school food for all	
Accessibility to financial needs barriers	
Health education through local media (e.g. to avoid e.r.)	
Employment education opportunities	

Built Capital Assets

Water treatment facilities	Veterans museum
Sewage plant and infrastructure	Observatories
Downtown buildings	Garden areas
Hulman center	Playground
Fiber optics	In-town fishing opportunities
Sidewalks	Sake park
ISU recycling center	Dog park
Terre Haute Rex baseball	Riverside trail
Action track + midget track	Paul Dresser House (2x)
Courthouse	Train
Thompson ditch	Quality parks
Wabash Valley Crew (rowing)	Paved ways
Pool	Chauncey Rose memorial
Disc golf	Bike paths
Pavilions	shelter need
Tennis courts	Torner center
Shelters	Memorial Benches
Arts corridor	Horseshoe pits
Turn to river	Sculptures/public art
Higher education	Skate park
Garden of Eve / Hope garden	Trails
Indiana theatre	Voorhees skate park + Griffin bike park
	Fairbanks amphitheater

Built Capital Opportunities

RECREATION (16 votes)

Public pools	Bike rental & share program
Water park / aquatic center	More hiking and walking trails
Bigger skate park	Need - free splash pad / water play
Trails that connect all city parks	Bike paths/lanes
More pedestrian features all over downtown	Concession stands in parks
Downtown park-green space	Specific park ideas
more accessible playgrounds	Public shower house - need
need senior "playground" aka exercise	Build things for 8 and 80 year olds and it will be good for everyone
Park in Farrington Grove	Dog park with water and trails (pond)
Northeast trail system along lost creek	Pop-up business opportunities
Railroad park @ Clabbergirl	More art
Splash pad in a park (Hertz-Rose?)	More transitional Housing: education
New tennis courts @ Deming park	Alternative uses
Repair bike station	Need homeless facility
Mega sports complex	Need-lights on trails (the more secluded)

Public access to the Aquatic Center	Pedestrian crossing at 3rd + fast traffic warning
Bike lanes need repainted	Water fountains
Sidewalks everywhere!	Public benches
Equipment rental for sports (disc golf tennis racquets)	Fix streets so we can walk/bike
Enforce bike lane on Ohio - No Parking	Downtown greenspace
More disc golf courses	More inner city greenspace
More parks in vulnerable areas Pop-up parks	Government campus park
WABASH RIVER IDEAS (14 votes)	
Transportation to parks	
Wildflowers (bee habitat) along Thompson's Ditch	
Safe access (ex. Sidewalks to parks)	
Rowing boat house - need	
Ped. bridge over Wabash (x2)	
River walk	
Reconstructed and added docks	
Security on trails cameras/ emergency stations	
Food trucks by river or in other parks	
Kayak rental	
Safety and improvements	

Natural Capital Assets

Lost creek	Coal mines - surface
Thompson ditch	ALL of the city parks
Lazy L	Trees
Hulman Lake	Wabashiki wetlands
Public lakes	Hawthorn park wetlands
Colleges connect w/ parks corridor and connection	Neighborhood parks / block park
Lots of Volunteers Re: Asian B[?...] - Honeysuckle	Case reservoir
Wildlife concerns	Heritage trail
Animals	Deming park pool/community center/butterfly garden
Sky	Dobbs park nature center
Neighborhood yards/gardens	Native American center
Air	Holly Arboretum
Born learning trail	Maple Ave. park
Master gardeners' gardens	Gardens
Wabash River	Cooling ponds electrical energy
Otter Creek	Government campus
Hulman Ave. reservoir - could be developed?	Community gardens
Collett park	One Wabash property
Water	Rich historic buildings
Sunsets sun rises	Ohio Blvd.
101 native trees of Indiana	Green spaces
Elevation change	People

Wet lands Hawthorne	Farm areas
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Natural Capital Opportunities

RIVER (10 Votes)	PARKS (6 votes)
Protect/naturalize riverfront land	Dobbs nature center more programs
Improved river access	Gilbert park community garden, band concerts, etc.
Wabash river	Native American museum
River scenic overlook	Graffiti: among parks and community
Boats available at Fairbanks park (for public)	Walking groups
More water education and river programs	Less trash in parks recycle
	Trailhead (designed) in Fairbanks park
	Group nature walks
	Better maps and distribution of information about existing trails
	Network/link parks with trails green streets corridors
LAND/SPACES (4 votes)	ENVIRONMENTAL (3 votes)
Invasive species *Asian carp *honey suckle	Duke energy "coal as" issue
Naturalize [??] of "ag" land to serve as animal/wildlife corridor to east	Child. Environmental education
Group residual land into larger management lands	Solar charging stations
Conserve land between rail lines	Increase fuel efficiency in cars
Link land to Ft. Harrison	Clean air *sewage aroma from road drains
Reclaim urban blight for natural spaces	Adult environmental education
Develop brown field spaces into parks	Soil quality
Plan for care and upkeep of natural areas	water clean *sewage spillover
GARDENING (2 votes)	More E-recycling days
Composting drop off locations could sell soil for revenue	More recycle bins than trash cans
Green corridors with flowers for monarchs to nectar feed during migration	
Gardening programs	
Wildflowers along Thompson's ditch instead of mowing	
Pollinator gardens	
Fruit trees in parks for hungry	
Neighborhood gardens	

Cultural Capital Assets

Events	Diversity walk color run
The homecoming walk	Art spaces
Pubs and coffee shops	Paul Dresser
Scheid diesel	Dobbs park Native American & Nature museum
Wayfinding to existing assets	Arts Illiana

Miracle on 7th St.	Train museum
Wabash valley visions and voices	Historical museum
Holiday events	the Swope art museum
March for babies	White Violet center
Little Italy festival	Candles museum
Diverse cultures within community	Children's museum
TH symphony	Museums and industries
Blues fest	Public library
Lights and decorations shelters at Deming	Public schools
Farmers' market	Native American community gatherings (pow wow)
Lost creek community	TH Roadrunners
Audubon society	TH community band
Groups clubs	Community theatre
4H	Theater 7
Downtown district	Banks of the Wabash singing group @ 12 points
Allen chapel	Indiana Theatre
Coke bottle	Catholic Christian Jewish centers
Fort Harrison / the landing	Performing arts
Max Ehrmann	Higher learning institutes
Mothering as a career club	ISU special collections / VCPL special collections
Icons/Places	Sculptures in the parks
5k hot pursuit	Ceramics classes at Torner
Ribs on the river	Fire/Police museum
Race for the cure + other races	African American center at ISU
Clabber Girl	
Debs museum/mural	

Cultural Capital Opportunities

HEALTH (12 votes)	ART & PROGRAMS (5 votes)
Cooking classes	More festivals
Farmers' markets in neighborhood park locations	Cultural center on Wabash
Access to fruits and vegetables in food deserts	Improved awareness of cultural events
Free lunch	celebrate multi-cultural origins of the city
Free breakfast in schools all children	Increase focus on cultural arts + historical assets - positives in the community
Reward active lifestyles & healthy choices	Partner w/ organization serving underserved populations to promote programs
	Art programs
	Arts at all locations
	Community arts coop studios - wood clay paint etc
	Drum + dance classes (open jam)

MARKETING (4 votes)	EDUCATION (1 vote)
Attractive wayfinding	Encourage literacy
Help people to find the river	Value recycling & use it
Promote the city parks regionally and on highway	Education re: the flora and fauna throughout the community
Promote cultural assets on highways	
Digital “wayfinding” location about app creation	
Everyone appreciate parks & feel accessible	
Signage	
INFRASTRUCTURE (1 vote)	
Recycling impt	
Better public transportation to cultural place and events	
Trails connect to cultural destinations	
City hall has positive cultural center	
Take programming to underserved	

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Demographic Summary

The community visioning session is held with the goal of both educating the community about where it stands from a public health perspective, and to establish a broad inventory of the assets and opportunities in the community, across the community capitals. A group of 36 residents and civic leaders participated in this event. The following information portrays a limited number of demographic characteristics including gender, age, race, and ethnicity.

Of the 26 participants who submitted demographic survey responses:

- Participants were mostly female (69%).
- Participants were mostly non-Hispanic (96%), some preferred not to answer (4%).
- Participants were 88% white, 4% black or African-American, 4% two or more races, 4% preferred not to answer
- Attendees varied in age accordingly:

Age Range	Representation by Participants
18-29	27%
30-39	19%
40-49	19%
50-59	4%
60-69	23%
70+	4%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Community Health Snapshot 2017

A snapshot of various health rankings was presented during the visioning session. The purpose of this presentation is to establish an understanding of the current status of community health in Vigo County, and to reinforce the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department's effort to include community health in its five-year master plan. The following data was derived from multiple reports and rankings.

The following rankings are developed by tracking 30 health linked variables across all Indiana Counties. Information on the study, methodology, and data can be found here:

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/what-and-why-we-rank>.

Vigo County Ranking for Health Outcomes 2017: **74th of 92 counties.**

2018: **81st of 92 counties.**

Vigo County Ranking for Health Factors 2017: **81st of 92 counties.**

2018: **79th of 92 counties.**

About Health Outcomes and Health Factors - The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county in the state is ranked #1. The ranks are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive. The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of counties as compared to other counties within Indiana. The ranks are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. More information about health outcomes and factors can be found here:

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/indiana/2018/rankings/vigo/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

Additional Health Rankings:

Indicator	Vigo County	Indiana	Top US County
Adult Obesity (2013)	33%	32%	26%
Physical Inactivity (2013)	27%	26%	19%
Food Environment Index (2010-2014)	6.3%	7.2%	8.4%
Access to Exercise (2014)	74%	75%	91%

Source: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>; CDC BRFSS

About these Indicators: The adult obesity rate is provided by the County Health Rankings and is the percentage of adults age 20 and older who report a Body Mass Index (BMI) exceeding 30. Physical inactivity is measured by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS survey is conducted annually and conducts more than 400,000 surveys nationally by telephone. The Physical Inactivity figure above is from this survey, and reports the percentage of adults age 20 and over who report no physical activity in the last month. More information about the BRFSS is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>. The Food Environment index measures limited access to health foods and food insecurity. It is derived from the USDA Food Environment Atlas, and Map the Meal Gap). The

“Access to Exercise” indicator represents the percentage of individuals that live “reasonably close” to a location for physical activity. These locations are defined as parks or recreational facilities. In rural areas, “access to exercise” is defined as living within three miles of a park or recreational facilities. Definitions and statistics are derived from the University of Wisconsin and the U.S. Census.

Vigo County Poverty Statistics

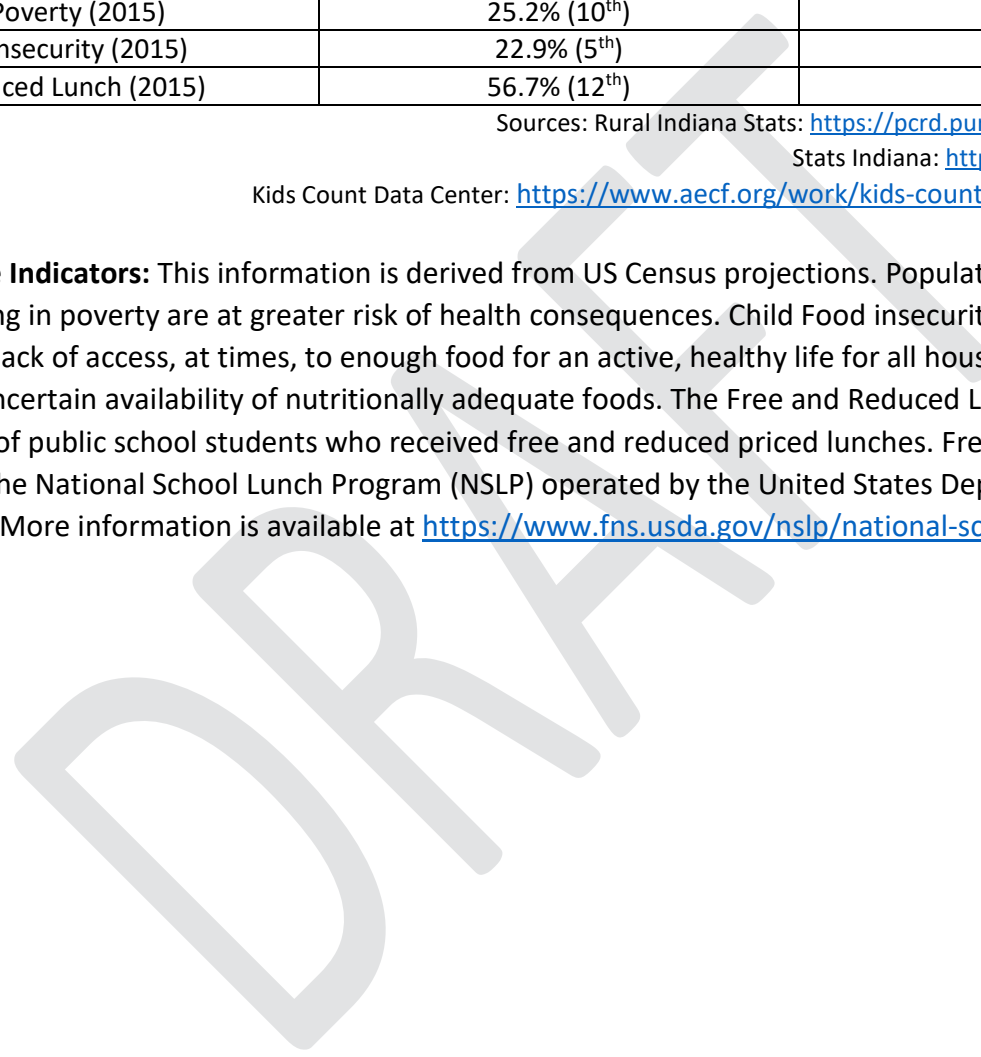
Indicator	Vigo County	Indiana
Persons in Poverty (All ages, 2015)	20.4 (4 th)	13.5%
Children in Poverty (2015)	25.2% (10 th)	20.4%
Child Food Insecurity (2015)	22.9% (5 th)	19.1%
Free & Reduced Lunch (2015)	56.7% (12 th)	49.1%

Sources: Rural Indiana Stats: <https://pcrd.purdue.edu/ruralindianastats/>

Stats Indiana: <http://www.stats.indiana.edu/>

Kids Count Data Center: <https://www.aecf.org/work/kids-count/kids-count-data-center/>

About these Indicators: This information is derived from US Census projections. Populations in poverty, and children living in poverty are at greater risk of health consequences. Child Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. The Free and Reduced Lunch indicator is the percentage of public school students who received free and reduced priced lunches. Free and Reduced lunch is a part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) operated by the United States Department of Agriculture. More information is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp>.



Community Workshop Series Meeting Two: Setting Goals, Objectives and Identifying Strategies

Session Summary

During this session, held August 10th, 2018, participants were grouped according to the goals of **Healthy Food Environment**, **Active Living**, and **Enhancing Quality of Life through Placemaking**, and asked to develop and prioritize objectives that would be further developed in the next workshop. These objectives were grounded in the assets and opportunities identified by the larger community during the visioning session held in October of 2017.

Goal: Healthy Food Environments

Objective 1: Gardens and Orchards – Sharing the Healthy Food Environment (Supply)

Several ideas led to each objective. These ideas could be potential strategies used for implementation:

- Partnering to host food share events or other area healthy events
- Shared orchards
- Assess potential land use / high needs areas
- Partnership and collaboration

Objective 2: Educating Consumers

Potential Strategies:

- More community gardens [with] education provided
- Youth education food choices

Objective 3: Parks as marketplaces for healthy foods

Potential Strategies:

- Mobile market to parks
- Healthy vending machines
- Farmers market at park

Objective 4: Processing healthy food

Potential Strategies:

- Shared kitchen
- Adult cooking class

Objective 5: Connecting Parks to the Food System

Potential Strategies:

- Partnerships

Goal: Active Living Environments

Objective 1: Built Environment/Infrastructure/Physical Amenities

Potential Strategies:

- More trails
- Connections (trails, info, signs)
- Add bike lanes
- Bike rental
- Better trail maps (wayfinding/signage)
- Policies – bike lanes
- Water
- Safe places to gather FUN!
- Water equipment (accessible)
- New pool

Objective 2: Partnerships for Organizational Support

Potential Strategies:

- Recreational champion
- Strong central leadership
- Partnerships and entrepreneurial education
- Fundraising
- Park ranger
- City planner

Objective 3: Information + Education

Potential Strategies:

- Marketing and wayfinding
- Multicultural events
- City website
- Field days for schools
- Tennis program for youth
- “Funpacks” balls, Frisbees to runt at Deming
- Activities programs
- Partnerships (gov. individuals organizations, corporations) partnerships to offer more programs
- Better trail maps (informational)

Goal: Enhancing Quality of Life through Placemaking

Objective 1: Infrastructure

Potential Strategies:

- Wayfinding that includes education + celebrates parks uniqueness, for example Fairbanks = River, Deming = Frisbee golf
- Trailhead in Fairbanks to river to other trails
- Successes support – duplicate
- More water access, fountain
- Lighting in some parks
- Highlight existing
- Guidance for homeless in park
- Amenities to support trails
- Increase access to existing resources
- New amenities in parks such as Herz-Rose so not just the wealthy parks
- Wayfinding signage

Objective 2: Programming and New Activities

Potential Strategies:

- Trail scavenger hunt
- Sculpture tours
- Rolling high tables for walking meetings
- Planet walk
- Ping pong
- Park selfie challenge
- JR golf
- Ice skating
- Frisbee golf
- Canoe rental
- Archery
- Foot golf

Objective 3: Art

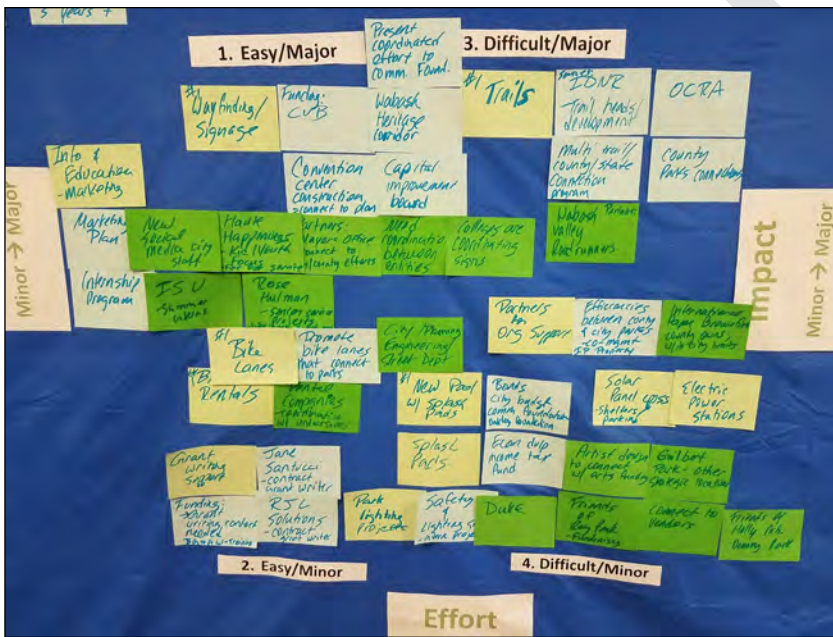
Potential Strategies:

- Festivals
- International festival
- Market parks to organizations as venues (cultural, university, etc.) for events and festivals
- Assess current usage of parks to support planning

Community Workshop Series Meeting Three: Action Planning

Session Summary

In the Action Planning session, held August 20th, 2018, participants collaborated to develop and prioritize strategies. Each strategy was prioritized according to its expected impact and the perceived difficulty of implementation. Strategies were ranked using an impact-effort grid, on a one-through-four scale, with a ranking of four representing the most difficult, least impactful strategies. All Strategies were tied to the objectives identified in the previous meeting. The participants also considered funding sources, responsible parties, and partnerships that could be developed to implement the strategy. Some strategies were also assigned a term of short, medium, or long. The group defined each of these as follow: short term meant a strategy could be achieved within two years. Medium term meant that the strategy could be achieved in three to four years. Long term strategies were expected to be implemented in five or more years. Participants were not able to develop strategies for implementing all the objectives that were developed at the previous meeting.



The photo on the left shows a sticky wall with strategies, funding sources, and partnerships for several objectives from the Active Living working group.

Goal: Healthy Food Environments

Objective	Strategies	Schedule			Responsible Party	Funding	Partners
		2018-2019	2020-2023	2024-2029			
Gardens and Orchards – Sharing the Healthy Food Environment (Supply)	Gardens and Orchards	X			Purdue Extension (determine location of gardens), Universities, Purdue Master Gardeners		Sheridan Park Community Garden, Maple Avenue Park, Union Hospital
Educating Consumers/Processing Healthy Foods	Adult Cooking	X			Purdue Extension (determine location of gardens), Universities, Purdue Master Gardeners	United Way	Purdue University, ISU Mobile teaching kitchen
Parks as marketplaces for healthy foods	Healthy Vending Machine Options	X			Parks and Recreation Department		Vending Machine Contractors
Connecting Parks to the Food System	Mobile Market in Parks		X				

Goal: Active Living Environments

Objective	Strategies	Schedule			Responsible Party	Funding	Partners
		2018-2019	2020-2023	2024-2029			
Built Environment, Infrastructure, Physical Amenities	Wayfinding Signage	X			Purdue Extension (determine location of gardens), Universities, Purdue Master Gardeners	CVB, Capital Improvement Board, Community Foundation, Wabash Heritage Corridor	Convention Center (connect to plan)
	Trails	X			Purdue Extension (determine location of gardens), Universities, Purdue Master Gardeners	OCRA, IDNR for Trail Heads/Development, multi trail/county/state connection program	County parks connections, Wabash Valley Roadrunners
	Bike Lanes	X			City Planner/Engineering/Street Department		
	Bike Rentals	X			Rental companies		Universities
	New Pool with Splash Pads	X	X	X	Parks and Recreation Department	City budget, bonds, community foundation, Oakley Foundation, EDIT funds, incorporate arts for additional funding sources	Arts/Artists, Friends of Ray Park, fundraisers, connect to vendors, Friends of Holly Arboretum at Deming Park
	Safety and Lighting	X	X	X	Intern project		Duke Energy

	Solar Energy	X	X	X			
	Electric Power Stations	X	X	X			
Partnerships and Organizational Support	Efficiencies between county and city parks	X	X	X			
	Grant Writing Support	X	X	X			Jane Santucci, RJC Solutions (contract grant writers)
Information & Education	Marketing Plan	X			New social media staff at City of Terre Haute		Haute Happiness (Kids/youth focus for service), Mayor's Office, Connect to county efforts
	Internship Program	X					ISU summer interns, Rose Hulman senior service projects

Goal: Enhancing Quality of Life through Placemaking

Objective	Strategies	Schedule			Responsible Party	Funding	Partners
		2018-2019	2020-2023	2024-2029			
Infrastructure	Water Access		X			IDNR LARE funds	YMCA, Private Companies, Fishing Activities
Programming and New Activities	Festivals	X					Existing festivals – Blues at the Crossroads, Holiday themed festivals, Old Fashion Day, Ribfest, 4 th of July, Riverwalk Festival, Hydroplane Races, Art at Fairbanks, Banks of the Wabash, Other Communities, University
	Junior Golf	X					Local golf organizations, First Tee
	Trail Activities	X					
	Bike Sculpture Tour	X				Donations	Art Spaces, Local hospitals, Sponsors
	Planet Walk	X					Rose-Hulman Astronomy Club
	Archery			X			Partnerships: National Wild Turkey Federation
	<u>Pickleball</u>			X			Pickleball Group

	Ice Skating/Splash Pad			X			Dan Sanders (architect)
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Survey Summary

The Parks and Recreation Survey was available to the public from April 14th 2017 to May 25th. The total number of responses was 964. The survey was available online, as well as in paper at the following locations:

Parks office (in Fairbanks Park)
Torner Center (in Deming Park)
Vigo County Public Library
Community Resource Fair

The survey asked for opinions on a range of topics from park amenities, to registration methods and preferred funding mechanisms for park programs. The charts and tables below document some of the data collected via this survey. All survey data is available in the Appendix to this report.

Demographics

The survey collected information on the respondents' zip code, age, household size, gender, education level, race, ethnicity, and language spoken in the home. The following statistics and charts represent the responses to these survey questions. U.S. Census statistics for Terre Haute are included to provide a comparison between the survey respondents' demographic characteristics, and the characteristics of the City of Terre Haute.

Residence (n=668):

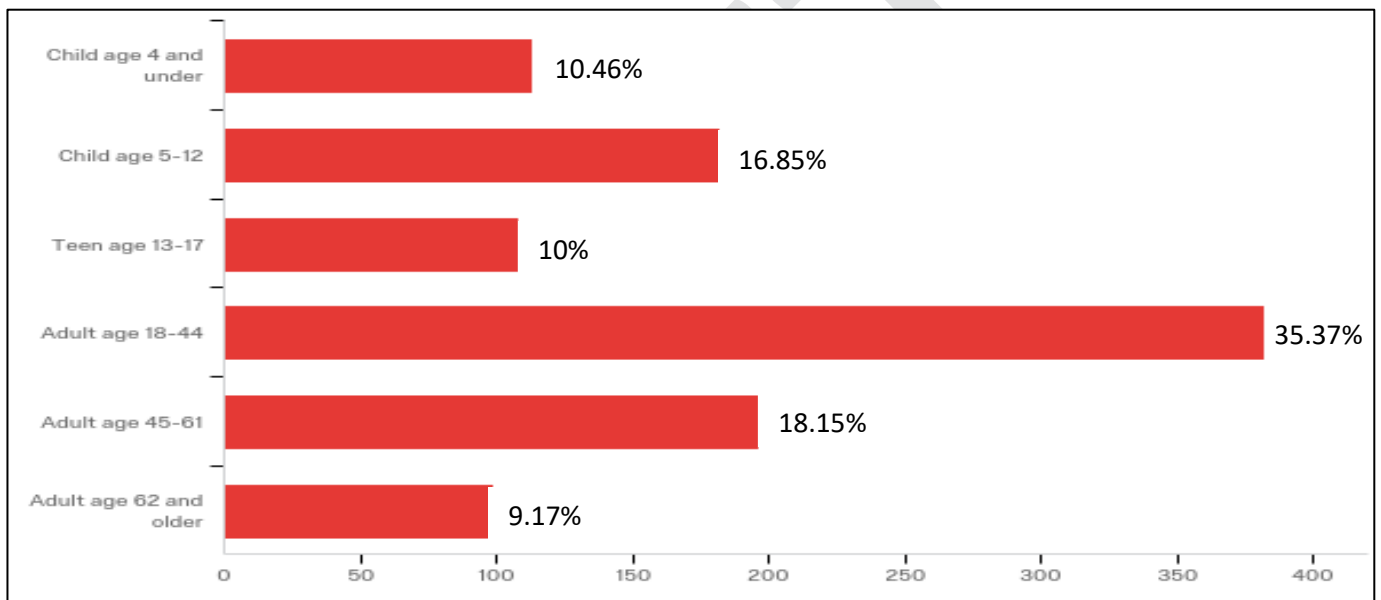
The survey used ZIP codes to determine residence. The responses indicated that 68.26% (456) of respondents lived within the corporate boundary of Terre Haute. The remaining respondents (212) lived outside of the city.

Age (n=676)

The age of respondents varied as follows:

Answer	%	Count
18 to 24 years	19.53%	132
25 to 44 years	38.46%	260
45 to 64 years	33.28%	225
65 and over	8.73%	59
Total	100%	676

Households by Age (n=1080)



Gender (n=639)

Self-Reported Gender	Count
Female	416
Male	219
Trans	1
Declined to answer	3
Total	639

Education (n=661)

Answer	%	Count
Less than high school	1.06%	7
High school graduate (includes GED)	8.02%	53
Some college, no degree	26.78%	177
Associate degree	9.23%	61
Bachelor degree	26.78%	177
Professional degree or more than Bachelor degree	28.14%	186
Total	100%	661

Race (n=649)

Answer	%	Count	Terre Haute Census %
White	90.91%	590	83.1%
Black or African American	3.24%	21	9.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.31%	2	0.2%
Asian	1.23%	8	1.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.46%	3	0.0%
Some Other Race	0.62%	4	
Two or More Races	3.24%	21	5.0%
Total	100%	649	

Ethnicity (n=645)

Answer	%	Count	Terre Haute Census %
Hispanic	2.33%	15	3.2%
Non-Hispanic	97.67%	630	
Total	100%	645	

Language (n=641)

Self-reported Language	Count
Arabic	2
English	628
German	2*
Mandarin	1
Pilipino	1
Spanish	1
Telugu	1
Declined to answer	6
Total	641* <i>1 entry listed German and English</i>

Household Use of Parks and Facilities

Parks by Highest Number of Visits

Parks	More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total	Total Visits
Deming Park	157	153	298	107	55	770	715
Fairbanks Park	79	83	225	172	135	694	559
Dobbs Park	59	77	197	186	157	676	519
Collett Park	92	48	101	256	186	683	497
Dobbs Park Nature Center	30	47	111	217	259	664	405
Trails	80	77	133	89	331	710	379
Collett Park Pavilion	24	19	52	237	329	661	332
Deming Park Torner Center	18	25	56	192	370	661	291
Maple Avenue Nature Park	53	48	75	104	434	714	280
Deming Park Pool	18	31	55	114	499	717	218
Native American Museum	15	14	47	128	449	653	204

Parks by Lowest Number of Visits

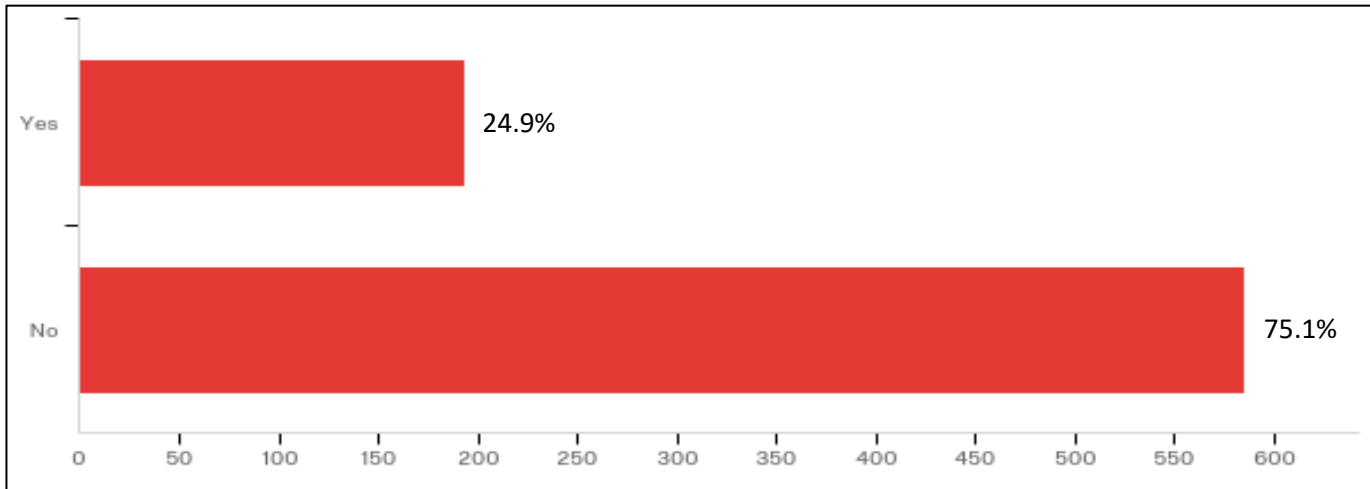
Parks	More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total	Total Visits
Boy Scout Park	13	7	18	31	587	656	69
Herz Rose Park	7	11	11	37	628	694	66
Gold Medal Plaza	12	3	16	29	582	642	60
Thompson Park	16	5	10	25	591	647	56
Washington Park	8	5	12	28	586	639	53
Coy Park	12	7	17	14	600	650	50
Vi Cottrell park	12	5	10	16	597	640	43
Graham Park	8	3	13	16	606	646	40
Anaconda Park	6	4	8	16	623	657	34
John Hanley Jr Park	6	0	4	17	610	637	27

Frequency of Amenity Use

Answer	Count
Nature trails	494
Restrooms	485
Playground	429
Paved Trails	393
Festival	376
Shelters	366
Park Events	291
Train Ride	247
Fishing	224
Basketball Courts	181
Fitness Area (Indiana Memorial Mile)	181
Dog Park	180

Program Participation

Rate of Participation in Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department Education / Recreation Programs (n=779)



Program Participation Responses (n=316)

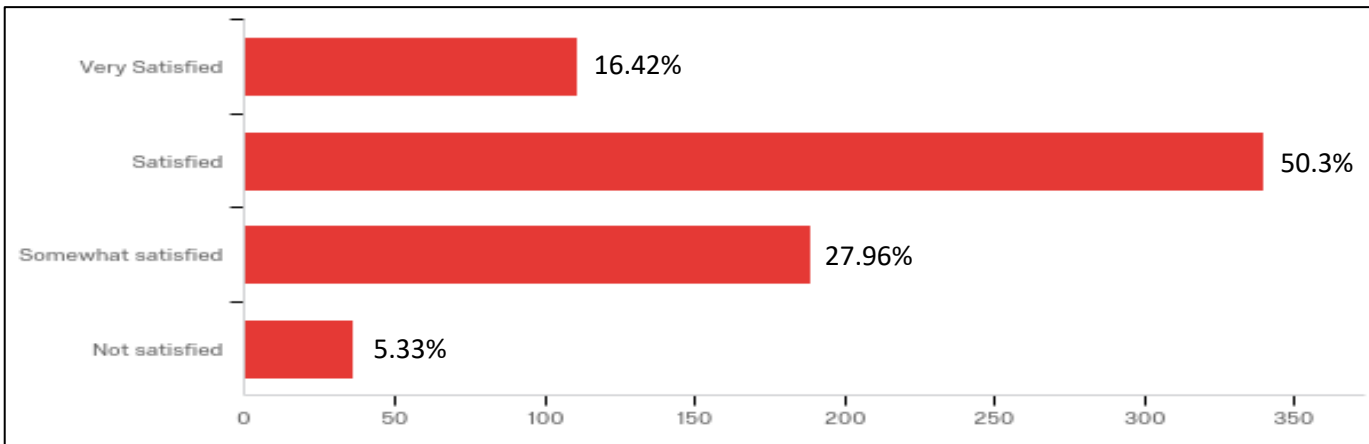
More than ten (10) respondents indicated they participated in each of the following programs:

- Christmas at Deming Park
- Halloween at Deming Park
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Banks of the Wabash Festival
- Pottery Classes
- Nature Programs
- Kids Cooking Class
- Movie in the Park

Reasons for non-Participation in Programs (n=569)

Answer	%	Count
None of the choices meet my interests / needs	16.87%	96
Not aware of program options	60.63%	345
Relevant options do not fit my schedule	18.28%	104
Fees are too expensive	2.46%	14
I don't have access to transportation to a park	1.76%	10
Total	100%	569

Satisfaction of Present Services Provided by the Parks and Recreation Department (n=676)



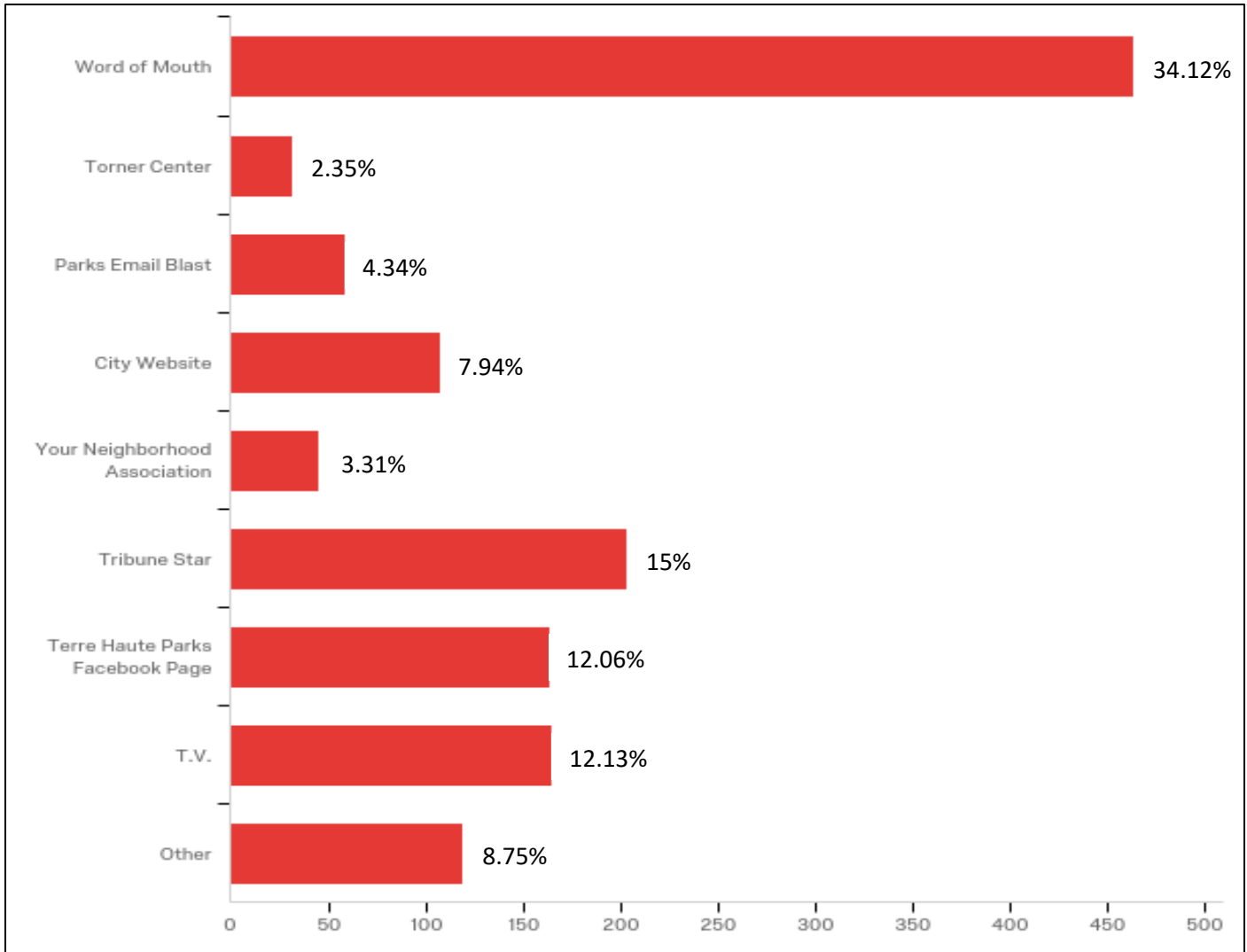
Participation and Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Programming and Facilities (n=676)

The left side of the table below shows the satisfaction of respondents by participation. Among those who participated in Parks and Recreation Department programming, all but 44 were at least satisfied. The table below, on the right, provides some idea of why respondents do not participate in Parks and Recreation Department programming.

Does your household participate in Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department programs					If no, please select from one of the following options (n=496):					
Overall, how satisfied are you with the current facilities and programs		Yes	No	Total	None of the choices meet my interests / needs	Not aware of program options	Relevant options do not fit my schedule	Fees	I don't have access to transportation	Total
	Very Satisfied	37	74	111	14	35	20	1	1	71
	Satisfied	92	248	340	38	151	43	7	7	246
	Somewhat satisfied	37	152	189	20	101	26	3	0	150
	Not satisfied	7	29	36	7	18	3	1	0	29
	Total	173	503	676	79	305	92	12	8	496

Sources of Information about Park Programming (n=1,360 more than one response was permitted per survey)

The majority of people receive information about Parks and Recreation Department programming through word of mouth. T.V., Facebook, and the Tribune Star were also major sources of information about programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Use of an Online Registration and Payment Method (n=612)

Respondents were asked whether or not they would use an online registration system to use and pay for Parks and Recreation Department services. The majority (58.5%) responded “yes,” that they would use an online system for these purposes. The second highest response was “I don’t know,” at 24.75%. The lowest percentage of responses was “No,” they would not use an online system for these purposes, at 14.05% of responses.

Means of Access to Parks and Recreation Locations (n=1,108 more than one response was allowed)

Means of Access	%	Count
Walk	30.32%	336
Bike	14.80%	164
Car	54.42%	603
Bus	0.45%	5
Total	100%	1108

Condition and Quality of Selected Parks and Amenities

Deming Park Trail Condition by Frequency of Park Usage (n=720)

The table below indicates how frequently respondents visit Deming Park and also how the respondent ranked the condition of paved trails. For example, a respondent who has never visited Deming Park would be unlikely to know the condition of the paved trails in the park. This is reflected by the responses; of 49 respondents who have never visited Deming Park, 38 responded “I don’t know” when asked about the condition of the paved trails. Frequent users of the park were most likely to rank the condition of the paved trails as “good” or “excellent.” Only 4 of 720 responses indicated the paved trails at Deming Park were in “poor” condition.

On average, how often does your household use Deming Park?							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Deming Park for the following: - <u>condition of paved trails.</u></i>	Excellent	43	37	51	15	1	147
	Good	79	71	166	41	6	363
	Fair	19	25	32	13	4	93
	Poor	2	0	1	1	0	4
	I Don't Know	6	9	30	30	38	113
	Total	149	142	280	100	49	720

Deming Park Accessibility to Individuals with Disabilities by Frequency of Park Usage (n=722)

On average, how often does your household use Deming Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Deming Park for the following: - <u>accessibility to individuals with disabilities.</u></i>	Excellent	27	26	29	12	2	96
	Good	51	46	80	25	5	207
	Fair	17	23	41	14	3	98
	Poor	3	3	8	2	0	16
	I Don't Know	49	45	122	49	40	305
	Total	147	143	280	102	50	722

Deming Park Perceived Safety by Frequency of Park Usage (n=722)

On average, how often does your household use Deming Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Deming Park for the following: - <u>perceived safety while using the park.</u></i>	Excellent	50	45	72	21	2	190
	Good	78	67	158	44	8	355
	Fair	19	21	36	20	5	101
	Poor	2	7	4	5	1	19
	I Don't Know	0	2	9	12	34	57
	Total	149	142	279	102	50	722

Deming Park Condition of Playground Equipment by Frequency of Use (n=725)

On average, how often does your household use Deming Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Deming Park for the following: - <u>condition of playground equipment.</u></i>	Excellent	52	44	82	24	3	205
	Good	63	67	133	42	7	312
	Fair	17	18	33	9	4	81
	Poor	2	2	0	1	0	5
	I Don't Know	16	12	32	26	36	122
	Total	150	143	280	102	50	725

Deming Pool Condition by Frequency of Use (n=601)

On average, how often does your household use the Deming Park Pool							
<i>Please rate the Deming Pool for each of the following: - <u>condition of the pool.</u></i>		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
	Excellent	3	1	5	4	8	21
	Good	4	10	18	35	25	92
	Fair	4	8	17	27	34	90
	Poor	3	1	7	14	30	55
	I Don't Know	0	5	2	22	314	343
	Total	14	25	49	102	411	601

Deming Pool Cost of Entry by Frequency of Use (n=601)

On average, how often does your household use the Deming Park Pool							
<i>Please rate the Deming Pool for each of the following: - <u>cost of entry.</u></i>		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
	Excellent	4	4	5	8	6	27
	Good	3	12	21	33	29	98
	Fair	7	4	15	32	41	99
	Poor	0	1	4	6	5	16
	I Don't Know	0	4	4	23	330	361
	Total	14	25	49	102	411	601

Collett Park Condition of Tennis Courts by Frequency of Use (n=576)

On average, how often does your household use Collett Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Collett Park for each of the following: - <u>condition of tennis courts.</u></i>	Excellent	11	7	7	4	0	29
	Good	17	7	16	23	7	70
	Fair	21	4	15	29	10	79
	Poor	14	10	8	17	3	52
	I Don't Know	15	12	40	145	134	346
	Total	78	40	86	218	154	576

Collett Park Condition of Sidewalks by Frequency of Use (n=574)

On average, how often does your household use Collett Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Collett Park for each of the following: - <u>condition of sidewalks.</u></i>	Excellent	10	12	10	12	1	45
	Good	28	13	39	80	11	171
	Fair	32	10	23	56	12	133
	Poor	6	4	4	13	1	28
	I Don't Know	1	2	9	57	128	197
	Total	77	41	85	218	153	574

Collet Park Rating of Pavilions by Frequency of Use (n=576)

On average, how often does your household use Collett Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Collett Park for each of the following: - <u>the pavilions.</u></i>	Excellent	16	11	13	23	1	64
	Good	32	18	40	82	10	182
	Fair	24	8	16	47	14	109
	Poor	3	0	0	2	0	5
	I Don't Know	2	4	17	64	129	216
	Total	77	41	86	218	154	576

Fairbanks Park Condition of Boat Ramp by Frequency of Use (n=606)

On average, how often does your household use Fairbanks Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Fairbanks Park for the following: - <u>condition of dock and boat ramp.</u></i>	Excellent	7	6	2	5	1	21
	Good	11	7	32	16	3	69
	Fair	10	16	37	17	13	93
	Poor	28	21	46	29	6	130
	I Don't Know	13	21	84	78	97	293
	Total	69	71	201	145	120	606

Fairbanks Park Condition of Dog Park by Frequency of Use (n=604)

On average, how often does your household use Fairbanks Park							
		More than one time a week	One time per week	One time per month	One time per year	Never	Total
<i>Please rate Fairbanks Park for the following: - <u>condition of dog park.</u></i>	Excellent	12	11	10	8	2	43
	Good	28	15	45	22	6	116
	Fair	8	12	17	10	13	60
	Poor	3	4	7	5	2	21
	I Don't Know	19	28	120	100	97	364
	Total	70	70	199	145	120	604

Ranking of Various Characteristics of Herz-Rose Park

Question	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	I Don't Know	Total
Appearance of grounds	1	6	3	0	16	26
Cleanliness of restrooms	1	2	3	2	19	27
Condition of the pool	0	2	1	2	22	27
Cost of entry	1	3	1	0	22	27
Hours of operation	1	3	1	0	22	27
Accessibility to individuals with disabilities	0	4	4	1	18	27
Perceived safety while using the park	1	5	2	1	17	26

Funding of Services and Improvements

Method of Funding Parks and Recreation Services (n=584)

Funding Method	%	Count
Self-supported through program fees and admissions	9.76%	57
Supported by taxes	10.27%	60
Combination of self-supported and taxes	79.97%	467
Total	100%	584

Support for Using a Bond to Fund a New Pool or Splash Pad (n=580)

Over 76% of respondents indicated they support using a bond to fund a new pool/splash pad.

Top New Programs and Facilities

Respondents were asked to list the top three new programs and activities they would like to see from the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department. Responses were as follow:

Top Three New Programs:

- 302 responses included the terms “Splash Pad, Water Feature”
- 169 responses included the terms “Activities and Rentals for Trails (boats, bikes, clubs)”
- 113 responses included the terms "All Ages Arts and Entertainment (movies, food trucks, games, interactive art displays, music)

Top Three New Facilities:

- 460 responses included the terms “Splash Pad, Water Features, Pool”
- 351 responses included the terms “Trails, Paved, Hiking, Biking, Water”
- 236 responses included the terms “Indoor Activities, All Ages Community Center Complex”

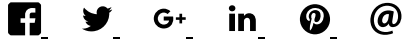
Conclusion

The contents of this document reflect the results of three public meetings and a public survey that received 964 responses. The document reflects a significant effort on the part of the City of Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department and Purdue Extension to engage the residents of Terre Haute in developing the goals, objectives, and strategies it will need in order to incorporate healthy eating and active living opportunities into the community through the development of its Parks and Recreation facilities, amenities, and programming.

https://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/terre-haute-presents-five-year-plan-for-city-parks/article_282eb607-d184-5c71-be80-44204dcc389e.html

Terre Haute presents five-year plan for city parks

By Alex Modesitt Tribune-Star Mar 13, 2019



The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department introduced a draft of its five-year master plan at a public forum Tuesday afternoon.

Members of the public were invited to Torner Community Center in Deming Park to hear a presentation from HWC Engineering, an Indianapolis planning firm hired by the city, and to offer suggestions for the master plan.

Kris May, a landscape architect with HWC, presented an abridged version of the proposed plan via a 10-minute slide show. The slide show outlined the biggest issues facing Terre Haute parks and what steps can be taken to remedy them.

May said the two biggest concerns for the parks department is its extensive maintenance back log for its aging equipment and facilities and budget cuts.

“We do have good news, though,” May said. “The budget will likely grow. The prospects for 2019 are looking good and it’s predicted the budget for 2020 will also increase.”

May said later in the forum that any budget increase should be used to maintenance existing facilities.

After visiting all city parks and taking inventory of what they have and what neighbors say they’d like them to have in the future, May said they were able to put together a list of goals, including;

- Investing in neighborhood parks
- Build partnerships with local art groups and schools
- Create a plan for aquatics

- Find alternative revenue sources
- Address needed maintenance within budget
- Explore trails and connectivity to Wabash River

Catherine Puckett, a landscape architect with HWC, said the goals they created should be more than attainable and account for budget and manpower constraints currently experienced by the parks department.

“We took inventory of what the department had and said, ‘OK, these are all the things that need to be done to bring the parks up to where we think they should be,’” Puckett said. “And these aren’t pie-in-the-sky goals that can’t be achieved because of budget constraints.”

Reporter Alex Modesitt can be reached at 812-231-4232 or at alex.modesitt@tribstar.com. Follow him on Twitter @TribStarAlex.



Meeting Minutes

Terre Haute Parks and Recreation – 2019-2023 5 Year Master Plan
Public Presentation Workshop
March 12, 2019 – 5:00-6:30pm

- **Presentation:**
 - o Kris May (HWC) gave a brief presentation of the plan goals

- **The following questions/comments were heard during the Q&A session:**
 - o Q: Should the budget focus more on maintenance or additional staff?
 - The plan focuses on maintenance, but staffing needs will also be an important concern in the future
 - o Q: Did the plan look at trails?
 - The greenways masterplan is included in the appendix
 - The scope of this plan did not include a detailed look at trails, though suggestions for trail expansion is included
 - o C: Would like to see the railroad track by the golf course become a future trail, ideal location, people are already using it as a trail
 - o C: Friends of Rea Park are looking into this
 - o C: Fairbanks Park has erosion control issues, west bank has concrete stabilization, but east bank is losing Cottonwood trees into the water, would like City to look into funding sources to work towards stabilization
 - o Q: Does the plan recommend closing any parks?
 - Yes, Paul Dresser Memorial Park is proposed to be closed and/or sold to the county
 - The plan suggest triangle parks could become adopt-a-spots
 - o C: Would like to see a 5-acre dog park that charges a membership fee or minimal daily cost with grasses, allowing dogs to explore, programming for training dogs, etc.
 - o C: Yard Sale Vendor fee is too expensive, should be lowered from \$30 to \$10, should set up with locations closer to the pavement so the elderly can experience the garage sale
 - o C: Would like to see more street art, movies in the parks, splashpads for children, and pickleball



Terre Haute Parks and Recreation ~~park board meeting~~

MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC
INPUT SESSION - 3-12-19 @ 5PM

Please sign in

1	<u>Mike Harding</u>	16	<u>Lucy Zeman</u>
2	<u>Edna B...</u>	17	<u>Ray Lawler</u>
3	<u>Jim Avolis</u>	18	
4	<u>Obryan</u>	19	
5	<u>Byg...</u>	20	
6	<u>Jennifer Johnson</u>	21	
7	<u>Ashley Dyl</u>	22	
8	<u>Theresa Camp</u>	23	
9	<u>Ron...</u>	24	
10	<u>Alex Modest</u>	25	
11	<u>Jeff Ruell</u>	26	
12	<u>Martha Cross</u>	27	
13	<u>John Wright</u>	28	
14	<u>Denise Hatcherson</u>	29	
15	<u>Tom Kussell</u>	30	



THE RENEWAL OF HISTORIC REA PARK

AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE

*Rationale
Clubhouse Feasibility Study
Park Master Plan*

Friends of Rea Park, Inc.
Indiana Landmarks, Inc.
Terre Haute Parks Department
Sanders & Associates, Inc. Architects



February 2018
Updated Final Version – Clubhouse Option C

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Rationale
Friends of Rea Park, Inc.

Introduction

Three years ago the Terre Haute Parks Board and Friends of Rea Park, Inc. agreed to partner to improve the facilities and programs at historic Rea Park. In 2016, architectural drawings and cost estimates for a restored Rea Park clubhouse were presented to the parks board.

This report proposes a total revitalization of Rea Park. It includes project rationale, a clubhouse feasibility study, and park master plan.

During our research, we learned ...

- The restoration of Rea Park can greatly benefit Terre Haute residents, young and old alike. It promotes healthy living and life-long sports.
- The cost of Rea Park's restoration is reasonable when compared to other projects being considered by local government.
- Rea Park is located in a strategic location, near the busiest part of town. Establishing new partnerships between businesses, local schools, healthcare providers, Westminster Village and our city parks department should be explored. Investment in this project by private companies, individuals, and other governmental units should be encouraged.
- Despite having excellent schools, an ideal geographic location, and modern infrastructure, the health of Vigo County residents has fallen to a new low, so low that it may be THE FACTOR that is keeping new business and industry from relocating to our community. In 2016, Vigo County ranked 91st out of 92 Indiana counties in obesity, tobacco use, alcohol use, and drug use.

This proposal recommends city government ...

- Restore the historic clubhouse into an all inclusive activity center, replace the tennis courts, modernize the driving range, establish a running/walking trail around the park, and develop a park space for picnickers with playground equipment for families to enjoy.
- Seek vendors who will operate businesses within the park, sharing a percentage of their profits to be invested back into Rea Park. These could include a restaurant/catering vendor to locate in the newly renovated clubhouse; a company to fully develop the driving range; and the establishment of a racket sports/fitness center. These businesses could add thousands of dollars of revenue each year.

Rea Park is a treasure. Long ago it was one of Terre Haute's shining stars. Lit up at night, patrons could see the grand clubhouse while driving along South Seventh Street. This plan provides a roadmap for its renewal and a pathway to "relight the glow" on our city's south side.

Friends of Rea Park Belief Statements

- 1. Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes the city of Terre Haute is obligated to honor the vision of park donors Geraldine and William S. Rea. The guidelines set forth in the contractual agreement it signed with the Rea Family in 1922 should be followed.***

William S. Rea was a prominent Terre Haute grocer and retailer who died in 1919. He left the substantial sum of \$100,000, \$1.5 million in 2016 dollars, to establish a public park on the south side of Terre Haute.

One hundred and sixty acres of prime farm land were purchased by the Rea estate to be used for the golf course and other park features. The Rea family estate and the city of Terre Haute signed an agreement in 1922 formally establishing William S. Rea Park. On September 10, 1925, the park was deeded to the city. At the dedication ceremony that evening, Mayor Davis declared Rea Park to be “the finest municipal golf course in the nation.”

By the end of 1925, an 18-hole golf course, a magnificent clubhouse, and several tennis courts had been constructed.

An agreement between the city of Terre Haute and the William Rea estate was signed in 1922. It calls for the city to forever retain the name of the park as William S. Rea Park, and forever maintain and beautify its’ grounds.

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes the potential of Rea Park to serve the citizens of Terre Haute is not being fully realized. Today the park’s clubhouse and tennis facilities sit in disarray. The historic clubhouse has seen routine maintenance deferred so often, it has fallen into a state of decay. Tennis courts are old and outdated, and are nearly in unusable condition.

In 2015, the city parks board approved the addition of a new roof on the clubhouse at the cost of over \$30,000. This is an indication the city parks board is serious about wanting to preserve the historic clubhouse and grounds.

While a section describing the renewal of Rea Park exists in the Terre Haute Parks Department’s current master plan, the Friends of Rea Park, Inc. study is the first detailed, site-specific plan written for the park since it was created in the 1920s.

2. *Friends of Rea Park, Inc. sees a revitalized Rea Park increasing civic pride while preserving our culture, our past traditions, and our heritage.*

On April 19, 2017, Rea Park's application to be placed on Indiana's register of historic places will be considered by the Indiana Historic Preservation Board. Friends of Rea Park, Inc. has supported the effort to place the park on historic state and federal registers from its inception. Our intent has always been to "relight the glow" of Rea Park's historic clubhouse and grounds. It is, and will always remain, a beloved Terre Haute landmark.

After Rea Park's application is approved, it will be placed on Indiana's list of historic places. The state will then forward the Rea application to the U.S. Department of Interior for placement on the federal register of historic places, which could occur as soon as June, 2017.

Being listed on the national register is federal recognition that Rea Park is a place of significance. People think highly of the national register. It is a recognition factor that organizations can use to obtain needed resources, whether they come in the form of a grant from a foundation, governmental agency, or business; or a donation from a private individual.

Placement on the federal register sends a message to our community. In rehabilitating Rea Park, we are restoring a piece of Terre Haute's historic fabric. Our history, our customs and our traditions will be in better hands given this designation. We think future generations may look back years from now and thank us for preserving this wonderful park.

Rea Park's application was funded by the Terre Haute Parks Board and guided by Indiana Landmarks, Inc.

3. *Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes the city of Terre Haute should upgrade existing properties that hold potential before building new venues of similar purpose.*

Rea Park is one of Terre Haute's oldest parks. It sits in a state of serious decline.

Before city government considers spending funds on other locations that offer equivalent or similar services, it seems reasonable the repair and significant upgrading of Rea Park take precedence over any new recreational projects.

4. *Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes the culture of Terre Haute must be changed. Improving the health of our citizens should be a top priority of city and county governments.*

Poor report. Terre Haute’s location is ideal, sitting between Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Our city is fortunate to have an outstanding infrastructure system with railroads, national and interstate highways, and world-class technology and electric power grids within its boundaries.

Terre Haute’s population fell from 72,000 in 1960 to 60,800 in 2015. This is a loss of over 11,000 people, or roughly 16 percent of our populace. Over this same period, major employers including Stran Steel, Anaconda, J.I. Case and Pfizer have left Terre Haute and Vigo County, taking with them hundreds of high-paying, family-supporting jobs.

Like many Midwestern cities, Terre Haute’s economy has struggled in recent years. Vigo County statistics show adult unemployment, the percentage of children living in poverty, the percentage of children living in a single parent home, and the percentage of residents living in poverty all stand significantly above Indiana state averages.

Companies seeking to relocate to an area look for healthy workers. They seek a population that has the work skills needed to compete in a world-wide economy.

Terre Haute is fortunate to have a good system of K-12 public schools, an outstanding community college in Ivy Tech, a well-respected four-year institution in Indiana State University, and one of our country’s highest rated, most respected engineering schools in Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. They do an excellent job of giving students the skills needed to succeed in today’s workforce. These educational organizations are some of our community’s greatest assets.

Yet, while positive, these factors have not been enough to attract new business and industry to our area. It may be that to attract outside interest in Terre Haute, an effort must begin to increase the health of those living in our county.

Current data. County Health Rankings is a web site that compiles local, state and federal statistical data. Using various statistical methods, each year County Health Rankings assigns a health ranking to every county in the United States.

Vigo County’s rankings are displayed in the table on the following page. The table shows Vigo County has an unhealthy population when compared to other counties in the Hoosier state, ranking near the bottom in nearly every health category.

VIGO COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS
2011 thru 2016
Out of 92 Indiana Counties

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
HEALTH OUTCOMES	58	59	65	65	68	75
Length of Life Premature Death	59	56	67	67	70	73
Quality of Life Poor or Fair Health, Poor Physical Condition, Poor Mental Health, and Low Birth Weight, etc.	67	62	57	62	60	76
HEALTH FACTORS	75	61	72	72	74	86
Health Behavior Adult Smoking, Adult Obesity, Food Environment Index, Physical Inactivity, Access to Exercise Opportunities, Excessive Drinking, Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Teen Births, etc.	77	49	60	61	57	91
Physical Environment Air Pollution, Drinking Water Violations, Severe Housing Problems, and Commutes to Work, etc.	38	61	66	74	75	88
Socio-Economic Factors Educational Level, Unemployment, Income Inequality, Children Living in Poverty, Children Living in a Single Parent Home, and Violent Crime, etc.	75	74	74	80	82	85
Clinical Care Uninsured, Primary Care Physicians, Dentists, Mental Health Providers, Preventable Hospital Stays, and Diabetic Monitoring, etc.	28	18	47	53	47	41

Vigo County health rankings have dropped significantly over the past five years. In the two major categories of health outcomes and health factors, Vigo County now rates in the bottom 20 percent of Indiana’s 92 counties.

In every health category Vigo County’s state ranking is lower in 2016 than it was in 2011. In some cases, the drop has been significant. These data support the realization that the overall health status of citizens in Vigo County is getting worse, not better. When it comes to drinking, smoking, alcohol use, and drug use, our county ranks above only one other county in Indiana. Ninety counties rank ahead of Vigo County.

The health rankings of the state of Indiana from 2011 on are displayed in the table on the following page. The data show our state consistently ranks near or in the bottom 20% of all 50 states.

Vigo County has one of the poorest health rankings within a state that has one of the poorest health rankings in the U.S. This cannot be good news for those trying to persuade new businesses to relocate to our city.

HEALTH RANKINGS – UNITED STATES
 Indiana Out of 50 States
 America’s Health Rankings (United Health Foundation)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rank	42 nd	39 th	39 th	39 th	39 th	41 st

What can be done? The decline in Vigo County’s health rankings coincides with major reductions in funding allocated for recreational facilities and activities in our city’s budget. Terre Haute’s park department budget had been reduced by nearly a third in recent years.

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes city and county governments must take note of these poor rankings. If local governments want to raise the level of health in Vigo County, if they want our community to grow and prosper, they must begin to focus their efforts toward improving the health of all living in Vigo County.

They need to begin investing in recreation infrastructure and health programming. Our population is aging. Many of our seniors are seeking facilities having the equipment and programs needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We must make them available.

A good start for the city of Terre Haute might be to replace tax monies that have been cut from past park and recreation budgets. Seeking grant funds from public and private foundations, soliciting donations from private donors, and encouraging private investment in public projects are excellent ways to support local health initiatives, too.

Abraham Lincoln said, “Government should do what people cannot do on their own or by individual effort.” It is clear Vigo County residents cannot provide major recreational facilities and programs on their own. Most do not have the resources available to them to join private clubs. Instead, they depend upon local government to improve their lives through collective means. The leadership of governing bodies such as the Terre Haute City Council, the Vigo County Council, and the Vigo County School Board must begin to see health and wellness as an important part of our county’s growth agenda.

Change needed. Our culture and priorities must change. We must place the health of our citizens first. The rehabilitation of historic Rea Park is as much an economic development initiative as it is one of health and wellness.

If we want growing companies to look at Terre Haute, we must change our health habits. Modern organizations look for healthy cities and towns whose people are physically fit and mentally work ready.

Economic development is much like a three-legged stool. Using this analogy, the first leg consists of workforce readiness skills and attributes, and the institutions that develop them. The second leg represents a community's strategic location, physical infrastructure and fiscal means. The third and last leg, the one that seems to be missing in Vigo County, could represent the health and wellness of its' populace. If one of the stool's legs is wobbly or missing, the stool becomes unstable.

Our community needs to create an economic development plan that has all three legs functioning equally. A strategy to improve Vigo County's health and fitness should be a priority of this plan.

5. ***Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes mutually beneficial relationships between the park and the Terre Haute community should be established. They have the potential to significantly impact the health and well-being of all living in Vigo County. They have the potential to help Rea Park improve its' financial bottom line.***

Rea Park has two advantages that could help it become a great park for both city and county residents.

First, it is a park, not a golf course. It is a large tract of land - 160 acres - with tennis courts, a driving range, and a historic clubhouse of nearly 12 thousand square feet. The clubhouse can be renovated into a park activity center for significantly less money than a new building of the same size and quality. The park's venues beg to be upgraded into revenue-making businesses that can improve Rea Park's financial bottom line.

Second, the best attribute may be Rea Park's location. It sits next to the largest consumer base in west central Indiana. The busy Honey Creek Square area off of Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 41 South swells each day with shoppers and employees.

On the west side adjoining park property stands Terre Haute South High School, with nearly two thousand students. Sarah Scott and Honey Creek middle schools, and Fuqua Elementary School lie nearer Rea Park than Deming Park. Terre Haute's second largest medical provider, Terre Haute Regional Hospital, and Westminster Village, the largest retirement center in the Wabash Valley, are located directly across the street. Many of our county's major hotels, restaurants, and retail stores are within a half-mile radius of the park.

We encourage members of our parks board to consider the possibilities Rea Park presents to our community. Can we use Rea Park to increase the number of Vigo County residents wanting to live an active, healthy lifestyle? Can we form partnerships that will result in opportunities for our students to learn more about the benefits of personal fitness and well being? What programs could be offered at Rea Park that would impact people of all ages? In general, how can we maximize this wonderful gift that Mr. and Mrs. Rea have given our community?

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. suggests ...

Terre Haute Regional Hospital could use the park as a base to share its expertise. The hospital might use park facilities to conduct health education programs or forums. It could use park facilities to assist patients in overcoming cardiac and orthopedic challenges. Experiences could be developed for people of all ages – children through adults – that would integrate Rea Park’s tennis, golf, walking, and running facilities with health education. Should a fitness or tennis center ever be established at the park, the hospital could play a major role in its operation.

The **Vigo County School Corporation** could have the most to gain. The VCSC has been hosting events for school-age athletes at the park since it opened in the 1920s. Golf, tennis, cross country matches, and physical education classes are regularly conducted on Rea Park grounds. There is no doubt students would benefit from restored and updated facilities, those on varsity teams, as well as those participating in intramural or summertime programs.

The VCSC is considering renovating or constructing a new high school on the present site of Terre Haute South. How can Rea Park assist the school district in making this transition? Is there a possibility for sharing sports facilities as the park and school sit directly across South Seventh Street from each other? Could this be a way to avoid duplication of facilities and services, saving taxpayers money?

A newly renovated clubhouse would be an inviting place for students to gather, and for the school to conduct extra-curricular activities. Internship experiences, such as working in the clubhouse food and beverage service, or as part of the grounds crew, could be developed for high school pupils.

Non-profit organizations conduct fundraising events each year at Rea Park. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised over the years for good causes. Most use the golf course, but not the clubhouse due to its deteriorating, aging condition. Would additional business come to Rea Park if the clubhouse were renovated? Updating the historic clubhouse remains the top priority, as it may well have the biggest impact on park services.

Our parks board should consider engaging the park’s neighbors asking them how Rea Park can best meet their needs, as well as the types of facilities and programs they would like to see developed.

6. Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes the investment to rehabilitate Rea Park is minimal compared to other community projects now being considered. It has the potential for maximum returns, helping to improve the health of people of all ages.

The total cost to renew Rea Park, including the historic clubhouse and grounds, is in the 4 to 4.5 million dollar range. This is a reasonable investment when compared to other community projects now being considered by city and county governments.

- \$75 million for a renovated Hulman Center
- \$68 million for a new county jail
- \$10 million for a new city police station
- \$10 million for a new school aquatic center in Voorhees Park.

Of these, only the aquatic center emphasizes health and wellness. None are comprised of recreational facilities that would offer open, year-round access to the public and to persons of all ages.

As for Rea Park, there has been no significant investment in the historic clubhouse for over 30 years. The tennis courts were resurfaced in 2004, but are now in dire need of upgrading after 13 years.

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. suggests the city of Terre Haute consider the Rea Park rehabilitation project an effort to promote healthy living for people residing in the Terre Haute area. New facilities and services suggested in this study could have a dramatic impact on our community, from both health and economic development perspectives. The project could be done in stages, lessening the impact on yearly budgets.

7. Friends of Rea Park, Inc. suggests new revenue streams should be developed at the park that will move it toward self-sustainability.

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. sees great potential in Rea Park. While the golf course remains in good condition, other areas of the park need to be developed. The following are ideas that need to be considered:

Food and beverage. Once the historic 1925 clubhouse is rehabilitated, it can serve the park as an activity center as originally envisioned in 1922 by Mrs. Rea and city leaders.

A private vendor could operate this business, with a percentage of the profits going to the city. Operations could be year round. A local vendor who is successful and well regarded would be the best candidate. The clubhouse could host all kinds of social and civic groups, especially non-profit organizations using the golf course to conduct fundraising activities.

Weddings and social events requiring a small space could be promoted. Food and beverage services could be made available to golf, tennis, jogging, and family park patrons, or any other group visiting the park. Holiday parties could be conducted at the clubhouse as well.

At the present time, Rea Park does not serve hot food.

Tennis center. A new tennis center facility at Rea Park could be built on the southwest end of the park. The current location is in a wet area, with water often permeating through the courts after a good rain.

Rather than building new courts for recreational play, Friends of Rea Park, Inc. suggests a new tennis center could be built on Rea Park property. It could be designed much like the tennis center located in Evansville, IN's Wesselman Park. This center would serve patrons of all ages, promoting the games of tennis and pickle ball as life-long sports. It would encourage a steady stream of players using Rea Park's courts in future years.

A new tennis center could double as a place for Terre Haute South High School to stage its matches, and the Terre Haute Tennis Association to conduct its competitions. Summertime programs could be developed that would encourage students from nearby Sarah Scott, Honey Creek, Fuqua, and Dixie Bee schools to take up the game.

A fee schedule for the use of tennis and pickle ball facilities would support the maintenance of court areas, keeping them in playable condition. Tennis professionals now using park facilities to teach students for free, would be asked to pay a facility usage fee. Management of the tennis center could be contracted out to a private vender much like the food and beverage service would in a renovated Rea Park clubhouse, with a percentage going to Rea Park.

The Terre Haute Parks Board may want to consider granting a long-term contract to any private investor who would assist in the building of a new tennis center on the Rea Park property.

Fitness center. Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes a great deal of expertise surrounds Rea Park. Terre Haute South High School, Terre Haute Regional Hospital, Westminster Village, and businesses in the Honey Creek Square area are located nearby. The possibility of a partnership being created among these organizations should be studied. Discussion centering around a fitness facility being built on Rea Park property near a new tennis learning center should be undertaken.

Could Terre Haute Regional Hospital, given their expertise in health and wellness, share their knowledge with park patrons, Terre Haute South students, and seniors living in Westminster? With proper facilities on hand at a Rea Park facility, training and fitness programs could be developed at all levels for all ages. Even individuals in outpatient rehabilitation programs at THRH might benefit from such an arrangement.

Facilities at Rea Park, the kind discussed in this proposal, could be used to help deliver these new programs. If properly developed, programs such as these could be a win-win situation for all involved.

Golf academy learning center. The driving range facility at Rea is located at the northwest end of the park. It is a minimal facility. A large tee box, small sand trap, and flag pins are all that comprise the range.

Rea Park golf course is an expensive facility to operate and maintain. It is important programs that teach aspects of the game of golf be developed so a continuous stream of golfers can be maintained over time. A golf academy could be planned and built on the driving range site at Rea Park. New golf academy amenities might include:

- Concrete driving pads with mats for year-round use.
- Covered hitting areas that could be used in off season periods.
- An indoor facility with one or two golf simulators.
- An outdoor short game area featuring a new practice green and bunkers. This could be located at the north end of the current range for use with beginners through advanced players.

Academy staff would be committed to making golf more accessible and affordable. They would serve young children through seniors. The academy could be open year round, ensuring golfers throughout the city always have a place to gather, practice and play.

Instructional programs for students at Terre Haute South and other nearby schools could be conducted during school hours and outside of the regular school day. Other activities at this facility might include golf exhibitions, repairing clubs, and fitting golfers for new golf equipment. An effort could be made to employ teens from Terre Haute South High School or work-study students from Indiana State University at the golf learning center.

The Terre Haute Parks Board might want to consider granting a long-term contract to any private investor who would be willing to establish a golf learning center or golf academy on Rea Park property. A percentage of the profits could be shared with Rea Park.

Family park area. Newspaper articles from the Terre Haute Tribune and Terre Haute Star written around the time Rea Park was originally being planned and developed demonstrate Mr. and Mrs. Rea's vision was that of a park, not just a golf course.

Non-golf activity areas such as picnic areas, tennis courts, ball fields and the possibility of a swimming pool were all mentioned by park founders as amenities that might be added to Rea Park in later years. The historic clubhouse was built not as a domain exclusive to golfers, but as an activity center for all park patrons. While some of these facilities were not developed in Rea Park's early years, the idea that they could be built still exists today.

Park patrons could use a dedicated space to picnic or gather for other activities. A playground, splash pad and picnic shelter are just a few features that could be included in this area. This new venue in Rea Park would encourage citizens to visit, even if they are not golfing or playing tennis. Relaxing in a park-like setting, having lunch at the clubhouse, and enjoying the site of golfers and tennis players at work on their games would be possible for those who just want to enjoy a public park setting on the south side of Terre Haute.

Perimeter walking trail. The Terre Haute Parks Department is home to one of the finest trail systems in the state of Indiana. These trails have been of great benefit to those living in Vigo County who enjoy biking, hiking, walking and running.

Rea Park is home to Terre Haute South High School's cross-country team, which hosts several running events each year. West Vigo students also use Rea Park during the cross country season, as well as runners from Sarah Scott and Honey Creek middle schools.

Developing a perimeter trail around Rea Park would be beneficial to both students and the general public. The layout of this trail will make it possible to connect Rea Park to the city's existing trail system.

8. *Friends of Rea Park, Inc. believes private investment in Rea Park should be encouraged.*

In today's fiscal environment, it is not unusual for city governments to seek out private investment in some form to assist in providing services or building new facilities. Municipal budgets around the country are tightening. Tax revenues are falling due to tax freezes or outright tax elimination.

In Terre Haute, the city budget has been the focus of numerous newspaper articles and TV news reports. Our budget deficit dilemma has been a constant headline in the media, and a source of much public debate.

At Rea Park, no long-term, public-private agreements exist. It is managed and supervised by city employees. Facilities are underutilized. Maximum potential of the park is not being realized.

Friends of Rea Park, Inc. encourages city government to take advantage of the location and size of Rea Park. Agreements with individuals and/or businesses that want to partner with the city should be encouraged. Expertise can be cultivated and shared, the result being Rea Park patrons will enjoy a higher grade of service and facilities.

An example of this may be contracting the food and beverage service for Rea Park where no service now exists. An operator could be asked to fully develop the driving range into a golf learning academy. Private investors could be asked to invest in a tennis center and/or fitness center on park property. Public/private partnerships have worked in other cities, they can work in Terre Haute.

Bringing programs and facilities to park patrons that promote a healthy life style is what our city should focus on. Ways to assist city government in eliminating our fiscal deficits, while enhancing park services and facilities, merits further investigation. If city government cannot afford to go it alone, they should consider asking the private sector for assistance.

Clubhouse Feasibility Study
Sanders and Associates, Inc. Architects

A. Park History

William S. Rea Park is located at 3500 South 7th Street, and is bordered by Davis Avenue to the north, Royse Drive to the south, and an old railroad spur to the east.

It occupies 160 acres, which contains an 18-hole, par 72 golf course that plays 6,482 yards from the back tee boxes. The course rating is 69.8 and has a slope rating of 113. Rea Park also has a practice green, driving range, caretaker house, maintenance facilities, cart barn, and a large clubhouse, along with nine tennis courts.

The course was designed by Lawrence Sheridan, a prominent landscape architect of the early 1900s. It opened for play in 1922 when the first nine holes were completed. The second nine was opened in September of 1925.

Terre Haute native William S. Rea, who died in 1919, left \$100,000 in his will to purchase land to develop Terre Haute's first municipal golf course. His widow, Geraldine, would donate an additional \$60,000 to construct a clubhouse. The Mediterranean-style clubhouse, designed by local architecture firm Johnson, Miller, Miller and Yeager, opened in September 1925. This amount is equal to a \$2.3 million gift in 2017 dollars.

Tennis courts were eventually added to the park in the late 1920s. Today's courts lie in the same area as the original courts. Patrons have never paid fees to use the tennis courts.



Aerial View of Rea Park

B. Existing Operations.

The City of Terre Haute operates two golf facilities, Rea Park and Hulman Links, each of which is an 18-hole course with a driving range and practice greens, as well as clubhouse facilities. The courses occupy a total of 360 acres, or roughly 36 percent of the 1,000+ acres maintained by the Terre Haute Parks Department. Rea Park golf professional David Kennedy estimated about 25,000 rounds of golf were played at Rea Park and approximately 20,000 rounds at Hulman Links in 2014. However, the actual number of rounds played are not recorded by Rea Park personnel.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the conditions of the William S. Rea Park clubhouse building, and explore options for improvements to the clubhouse, golf course, tennis facilities, and accessory uses.

The clubhouse has suffered significant deterioration over the years, which prompted the creation of Friends of Rea Park, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is encouraging the city to revitalize the park's grounds and historic clubhouse. This study focuses on the clubhouse, but also examines Rea Park as a whole for master planning purposes.

Both Rea Park and Hulman Links are operated under the direction of the Terre Haute Parks Department. However, at the time of this study, the City of Terre Haute had distributed a formal request for proposals (RFP) regarding the operations and maintenance of Hulman Links and Rea Park.

Both properties face financial challenges. Over the past 12 years, Rea Park had a revenue stream of \$5,918,100 and total expenditures of \$7,045,400, for a net loss of \$1,127,300. The average loss during this time was around \$94,000 per year.

Terre Haute Parks Department – Golf Course Revenue and Expenditures
Rea Park and Hulman Links - 2009 thru 2016

Thousands of Dollars													
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Rea Park													
Revenue	504.6	551.3	536.3	511.1	471.3	474.0	483.1	558.7	525.1	435.9	452.9	413.8	5918.1
Expense	544.0	555.4	677.0	600.5	658.6	549.8	577.4	536.3	568.9	571.3	583.5	622.7	7045.4
Diff	39.4	4.1	140.7	89.4	187.3	75.8	94.3	22.4	43.8	135.4	130.6	208.9	1127.3
Hulman Links Golf Course													
Revenue	469.5	495.0	613.8	556.6	549.9	536.9	469.9	440.6	387.5	413.6	437.4	497.4	5868.1
Expense	694.5	624.7	909.0	874.4	930.0	866.9	764.9	854.3	795.4	788.5	803.5	840.9	9747.0
Diff	225.0	129.7	295.2	317.8	380.1	330.0	295.0	413.7	407.9	374.9	366.1	343.5	3878.8
Total													
Revenue	974.1	1046.3	1150.1	1067.7	1021.2	1010.9	953.0	999.30	912.6	849.5	890.3	911.2	11786.2
Expense	1238.5	1180.1	1586.1	1474.9	1588.6	1416.7	1342.3	1390.6	1364.3	1359.8	1387.0	1463.6	16792.5
Diff	264.4	133.8	436.0	407.2	567.4	405.8	389.3	391.3	451.7	510.3	496.7	552.4	5006.3

Data Courtesy of the Terre Haute Parks Department

In 2013, Rea Park was awarded a \$1,100,000 settlement from Dupont Corporation. This large award was the result of a chemical spray killing several trees on the Rea Park golf course property. When this windfall is included, the Rea Park operation has largely been a “break even” proposition for the city since 2005.

There are some concerns, however. Rea Park’s golf revenues have fallen the last four years by nearly 25 percent, from \$560,000 in 2012 to \$414,000 in 2016. And, after remaining steady for several years, expenses jumped significantly in 2016. Rea Park lost more money in 2016 than in the previous 11 years due to record expenses.

The cost of course labor, allowing tennis courts to be used by the public at no charge, no major marketing efforts, a lack of public/private partnerships being formed, free golf give-a-ways, and poor facility conditions may all have contributed to declining revenue.

At Rea Park, many park assets are not being utilized, assets that if properly managed could possibly place the park into the black on a regular basis.

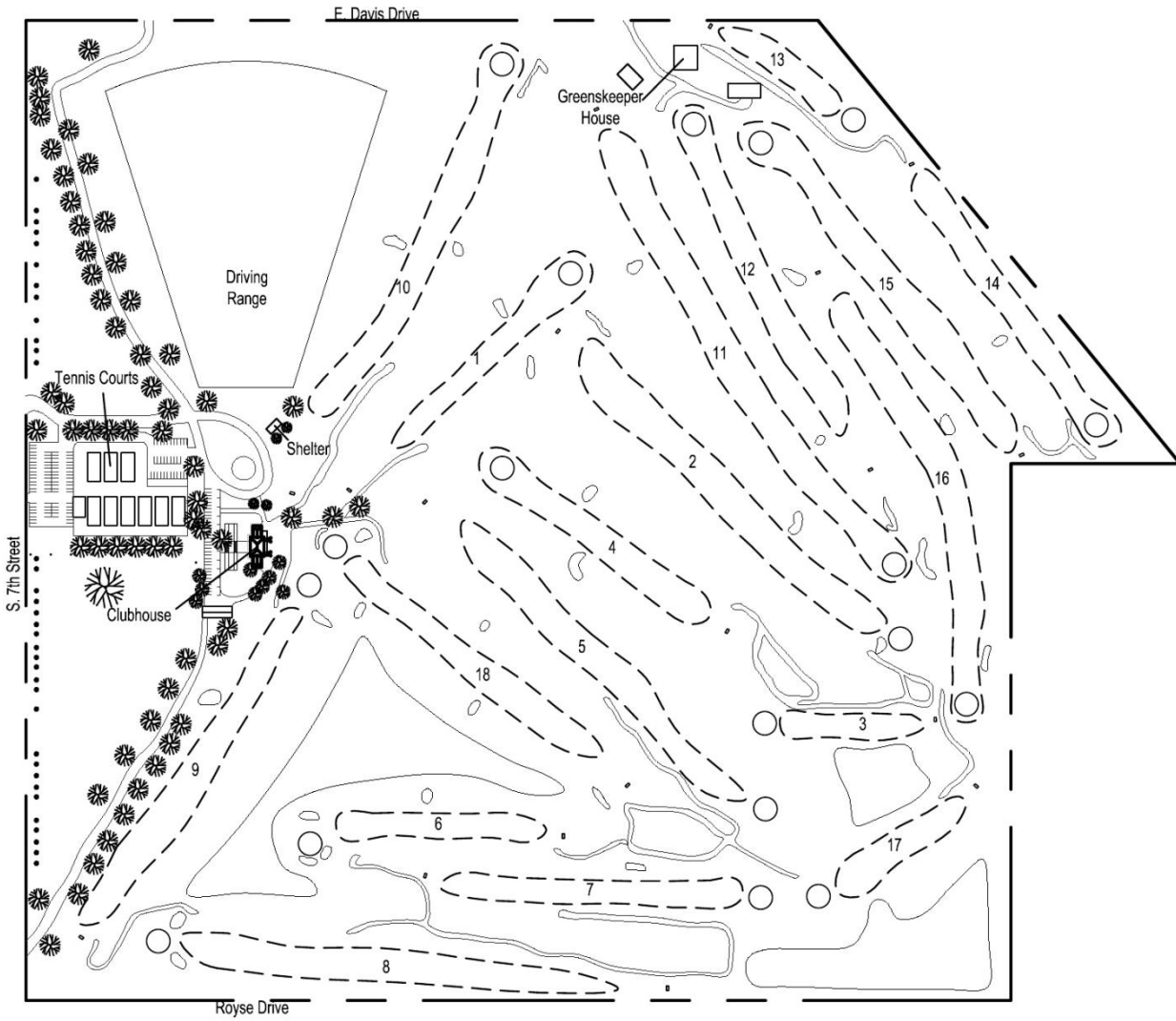
The good news is local golfers are willing to share in the costs of supporting Hulman Links and Rea Park. Over the past 12 years, revenue for the two courses, which comes from golfing fees and operations, totaled \$11,786,000. The average yearly revenue is about one million dollars. Of the total dollars needed to operate Hulman Links and Rea Park, golf revenue supported about 70 percent of the budget. Money from the parks department budget or other city line item paid for remaining expenses.

Some may call it a fee, but what golfers in Terre Haute are paying is a “voluntary” tax. If you want to play golf at our public course, you pay a fee or tax. A million dollars in voluntary taxes each year to play golf is proof that in Vigo County, the public has a significant interest in the game.

Rates for golf at Rea Park for the 2016 season were:

		<u>18 Holes</u>	<u>9 Holes</u>
<u>Daily Fees</u>			
Monday-Friday		\$20.95	\$10.95
Weekend/Holiday		\$23.95	\$13.95
Junior/College/Senior/City/County		\$16.95	\$8.95
<u>Carts</u>			
Monday-Friday		\$13	\$9
Weekend/Holiday		\$20	\$10
<u>Season Passes</u>			
Family	\$1,600	Adult	\$750
College	\$300	Junior	\$200

C. Map of Rea Park (Existing):



EXISTING SITE PLAN

D. Goals and Considerations

Although Rea Park is a popular golf course with the community, it has not been a breakeven operation.

The clubhouse needs major improvements, as well as the tennis courts and other support facilities. The course itself is in good condition, which stands to reason that other factors are impacting the golf experience at Rea Park.

Revenue generating potential from physical improvements, such as banquet facilities, driving range, and tennis courts could help make the park financially independent.

Goals for the Rea Park master plan, in priority rank, are:

- #1 Renovation of the Historic Clubhouse
- #2 Restoration or Relocation of the Tennis Court Facility
- #3 Improvements to the Driving Range
- #4 Bike/Walking Trail Development
- #5 Develop Family Park Area
- #6 Golf Course Enhancements

These priorities are opportunities to improve Rea Park not just for golfers, but for the general public, while increasing the income potential and financial stability of the park. Rea Park is not just a golf course, it is a park.

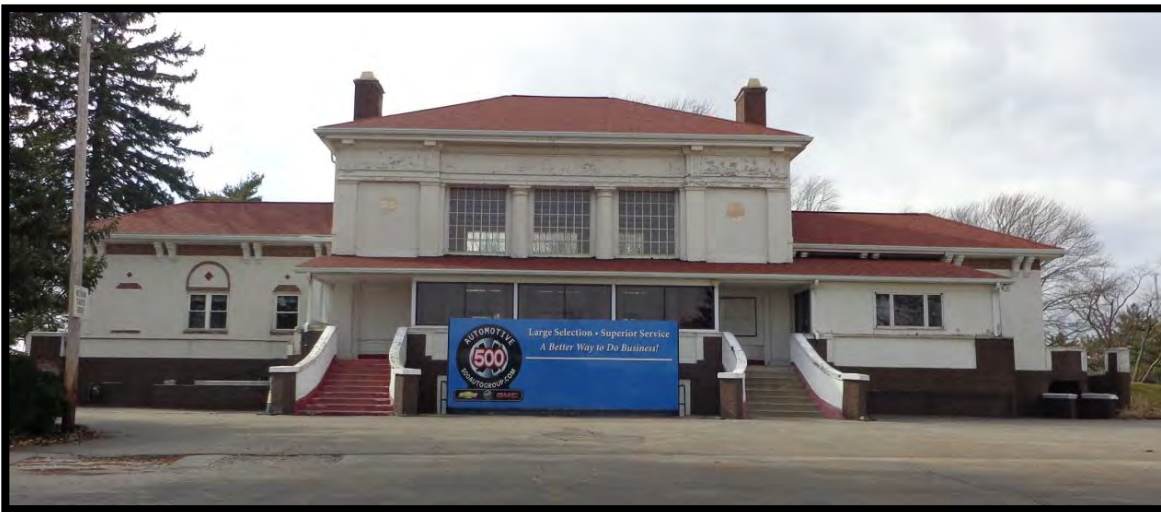
Once these goals have the public's support and confirmation, Friends of Rea Park, Inc. will begin to develop and implement a fundraising plan.

E. Rehabilitating the Historic 1925 Clubhouse

The clubhouse facility was constructed in 1925 and has undergone minor renovations and additions in its 90+ years of operation. The structure is built on an earthen pedestal, enhancing its stately Mediterranean style of white stucco, large columns, and red tile roof. It consists of a main hall/lounge, pro shop, office, and kitchen area on the main level, with restrooms, Hall of Fame room, storage areas, and mechanical room on the lower level. The west terrace has a basement-type area beneath it with an unexcavated dirt floor.

Renovations between 1984 and 1986 included an addition to the northeast corner of the building for the expansion of the pro shop and the enclosing of the east balcony area. An irrigation system for the course and a cart barn were also constructed during this time. A series of modifications over time have made their mark on the building, significantly changing the character and functionality of the historic building.

A complete renovation of the clubhouse is necessary in order to address the following problems and concerns.



East Side of the Clubhouse

Exterior. The stucco exterior finish needs repaired and repainted. Many of the large windows are single-pane, metal units that are original to the building. Other window openings have been in-filled with glass block or vinyl replacement windows. Some windows have been removed entirely.

Existing doors are storefront replacements that do not resemble the original wooden French doors. Side doors are metal replacements that show much wear. Some of the doorways have been in-filled with solid material.

A new asphalt shingle roof (3rd layer) was put on the building in 2015, over an existing asphalt shingle roof that was installed in the 1980s. The original building had a red clay tile roof, which was removed in the 1960s for the installation of an asphalt shingle roof. Some of the gutters and downspouts do not drain water properly and contribute to the water intrusion problem on the lower level.

The west side concrete terrace is deteriorating rapidly; temporary structural shoring has been placed in the unexcavated space below, and is a major safety concern. Cast railings and limestone balustrades have been removed or covered up along the entire perimeter of the building. Many of the exterior concrete stairways are unsafe or in poor condition, some of which have been closed off or removed.



Windows Blocked Shut



Deteriorating Steps on the East Side



Clubhouse Westside

HVAC. There is no central air conditioning in the building. The pro shop, office, and kitchen areas use window air conditioning units. Two gas, forced air furnaces are 28 years old (1987) and are the primary source of heat for the building. Wood burning fireplaces are no longer used, but the chimneys and dampers are still in place in the main hall and pro shop.

The original metal ductwork with coordinating supply and return grilles are still used for the delivery of warm air. The addition has two electric baseboard heaters connected to a thermostat. The enclosed balcony does not have a supplemental heat source.



Furnace

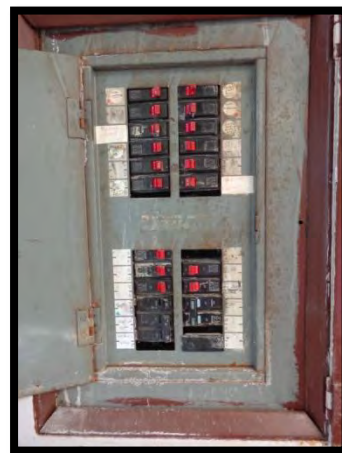


Pro Shop Window A/C

Electrical service. Two, single-phase, electrical services are located on the south side of the building, each providing 400 amps with a separate meter base. A new transformer with a single service to the building would be preferable, as well as the relocation of the above ground power lines to underground. Some of the wiring has been updated in the building, but any remaining knob and tube wiring needs to be replaced. Existing electrical panel boxes show evidence of water damage. Exterior feature lighting has been removed and the remaining exterior lights are in disrepair. Most of the original interior lighting fixtures have been changed, but are of poor quality, not working, or do not keep in character with the original décor of the building.

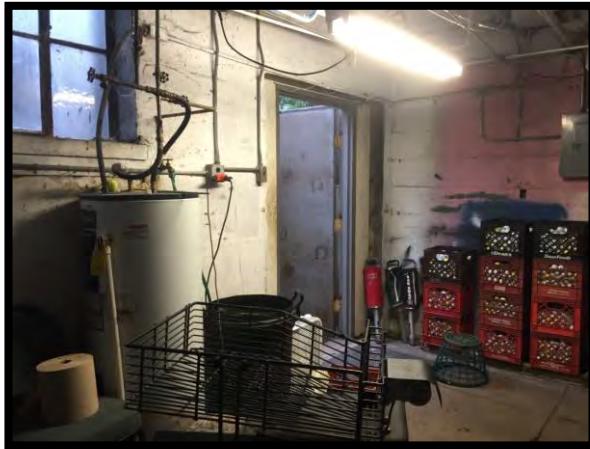


Outside Electrical Boxes



Inside Fuse Box

Plumbing. The main water line into the building is a 1" service. The 50 gallon gas water heater is 12 years old (2004). Men's and women's restrooms have two stalls each, even though there is space for additional stalls. Restrooms used to have showers, and formerly served as locker rooms. The facility lacks a utility mop sink and frost-proof exterior hose bibs. The majority of the water supply lines are galvanized metal. The drain lines are cast iron, both of which need to be replaced. A 1" gas supply services the building.

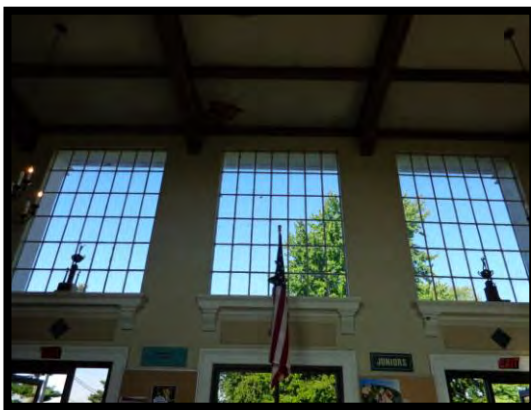


Water Heater



Outside Water Lines

Energy efficiency. The age of the building indicates that there is no insulation in the walls. Four to six inches of loose insulation was added in the attic space in the 1960s. The large expanses of single-pane windows and storefront doors are not energy efficient. No insulation is evident in the lower level of the building. The furnace is too old to meet Energy Star efficiency requirements. Incandescent bulbs are the primary lighting source for the building, which could be replaced with CFLs or LEDs to improve energy efficiency.



Main Hall Windows



Water Damages in Main Hall Ceiling

Structure. The building is primarily masonry, consisting of clay tile block with a plaster finish on the main level, with poured-in-place concrete walls on the lower level, sitting on a concrete foundation. The floors are concrete over a clay tile bed. In the lower level, portions of the clay tile bed have failed and have left holes in the ceiling, compromising the floor/ceiling structure.

The hip-style roof is wood framed and originally was covered in red clay tiles. Water damage has occurred in various areas on the ceiling, and some of the wood structure will need to be reinforced. One beam on the ceiling shows evidence of being repaired.

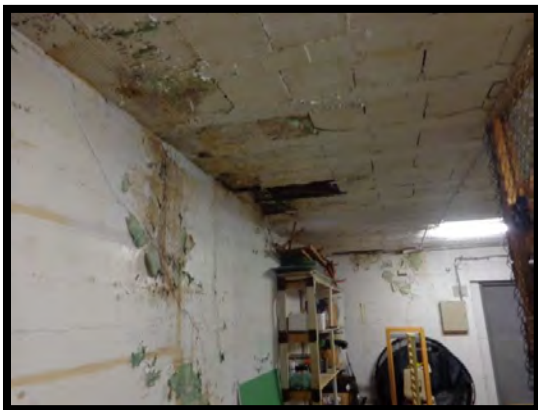
The west terrace concrete structure has been compromised through water intrusion and will need to be rebuilt. Steel lintels above exterior doors and windows are rusting and will need repainted, but a majority of them will need replaced due to significant deterioration. The addition uses a large steel beam to bridge the opening from the existing building into the pro shop area. The addition is mainly wood frame construction with a concrete floor and brick wainscot.



Deteriorating Westside Terrace



Water Damage Under Westside Terrace



Water Damage in Basement Storage Room

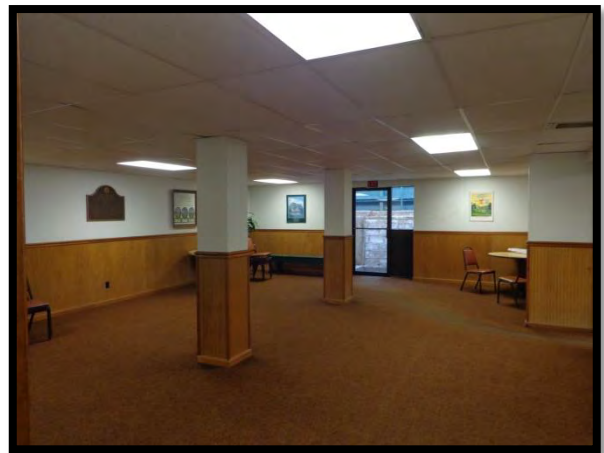


Cracking in Basement Walls & Ceilings

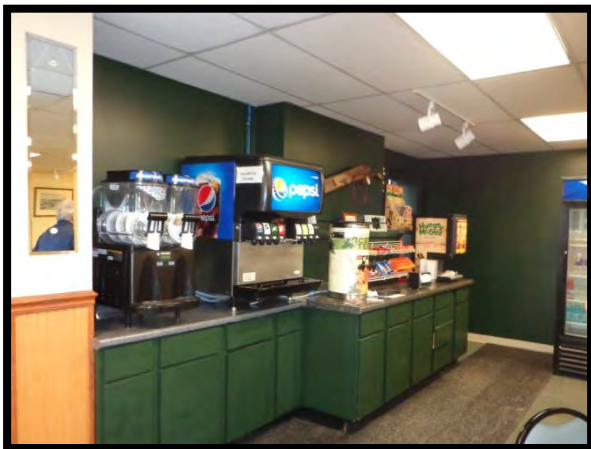
Interior. Carpet has been installed over the original terrazzo floor in the main hall, and other main level areas. The lower level has vinyl tile or concrete in most areas, with carpet in the Hall of Fame room. Rooms have been modified over the years, including infilling windows and doorways. The south wing of the building has painted wood paneling installed over the existing plaster walls. A dropped ceiling system with 2x4 acoustic tiles is installed in the main level north and south wings, along with the lower level Hall of Fame Room and restrooms. The ceilings in the lower level north and south wings are exposed clay tile that was once painted and now has evidence of peeling and mold/fungus/mildew. Original chandeliers hang in the main hall, but most of the rest of the lighting is not original to the building. The main hall limestone fireplace is in relatively good condition; however the other remaining fireplaces have been covered up or removed. Water infiltration into the lower level is a concern. Both north and south wings have standing water after any measureable rainfall, and most of the exterior facing basement walls have visible efflorescence. The unexcavated space beneath the west terrace has serious water penetration problems, indicated by the stalactite formations on the ceiling.



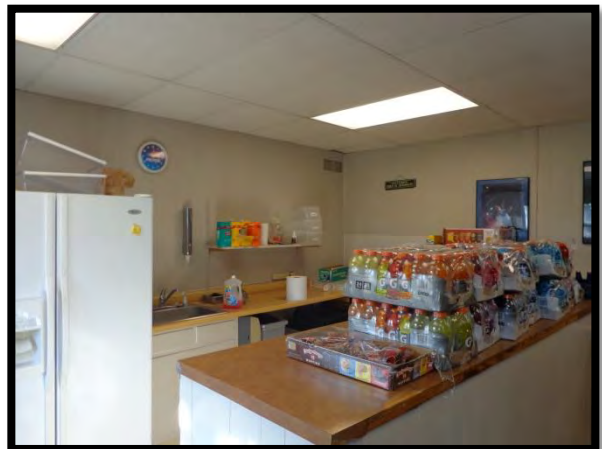
Main Hall with Fireplace



Basement Meeting Room



Pro Shop Snack Stand



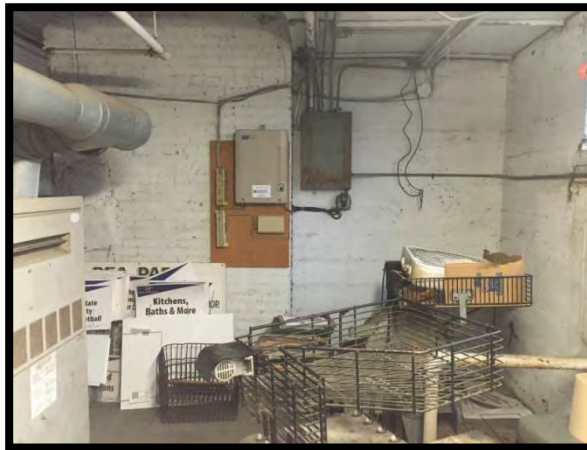
Storage Area in Office

Miscellaneous. Two ice machines are located in the lower level utility room. The low voltage wiring panels for the phone, cable, and internet are also mounted in the utility room. The security alarm panel is located in the lower level storage room. The Pro Shop uses a P.O.S. (point of sale) computerized system for handling course fees. Smoke detectors are located in each room, which then report to the security system in the event of a fire, however there are no lighted "Exit" signs, nor any emergency lighting in case of power failure. The existing office is located in the south wing of the building, accessed through the kitchen area, and does not have any exterior windows or doors.

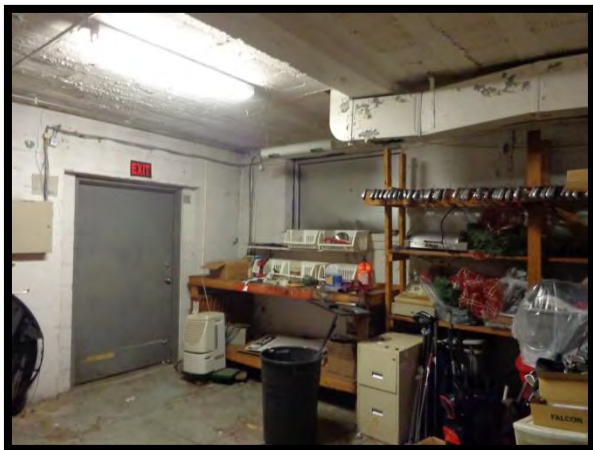
Accommodations have not been made to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Currently, wheelchair bound visitors cannot access the clubhouse as there are no ramps available to either level of the building, only staircases. A handicap restroom is also needed.



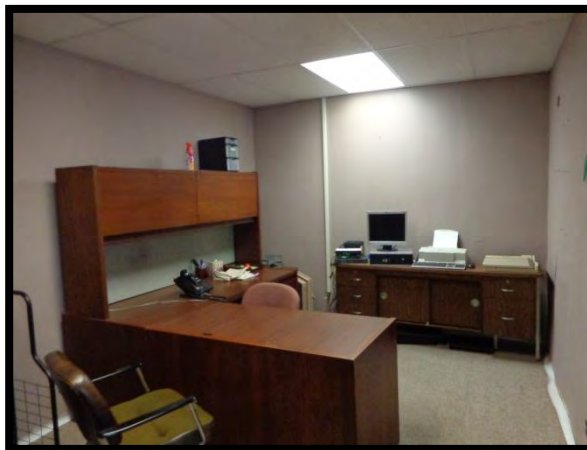
Ice Machines



Utility Room



Golf Equipment Storage in Basement



Office Area

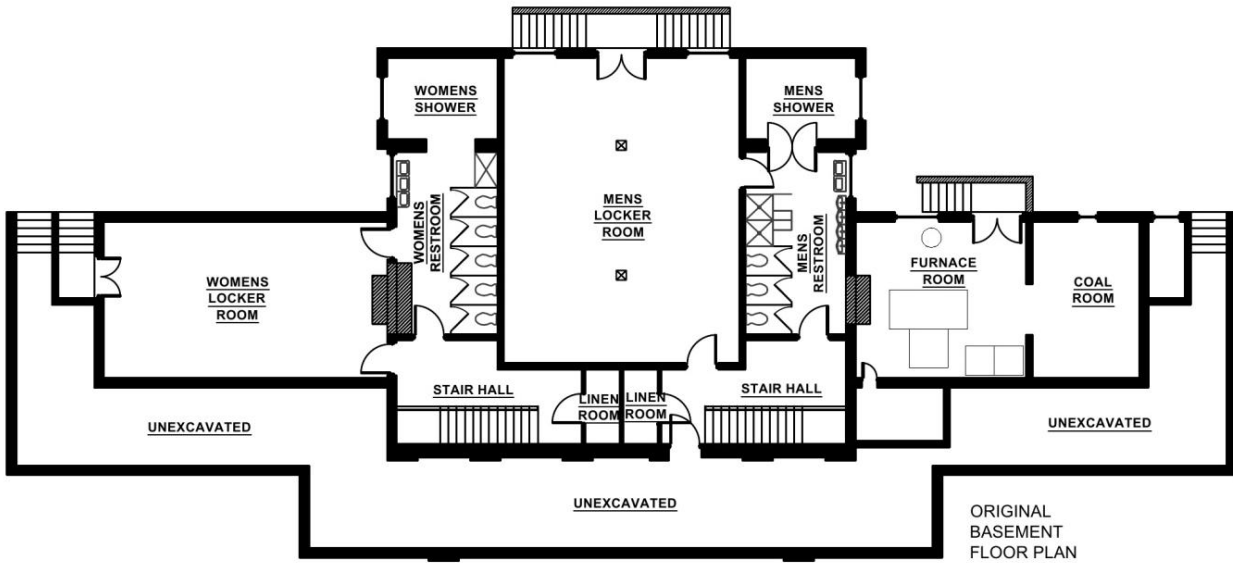
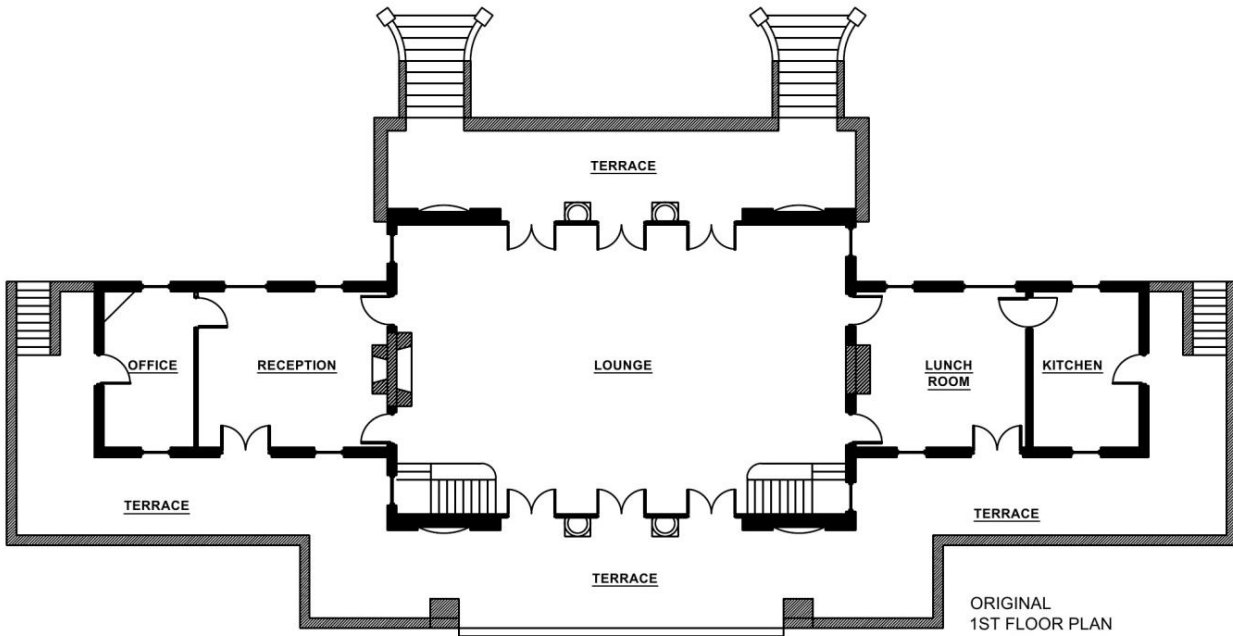
F. Building Program

A building program has been developed to identify the space needs and functions of the clubhouse facility. Plans and elevations of the existing building, and the original building have been included in this report.

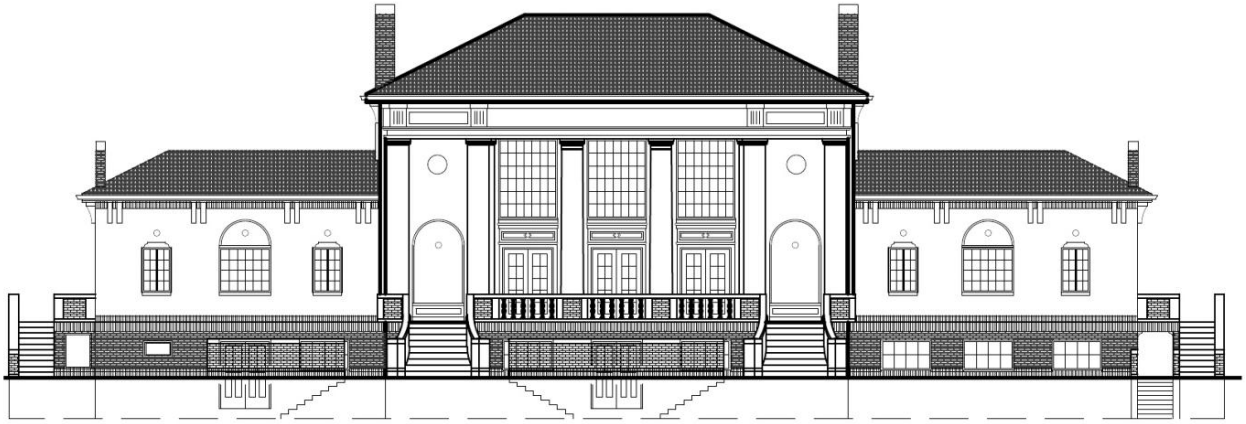
- Pro Shop
- Administration
- Dining/Banquet Space
- Food & Beverage Prep
- Support Space (restrooms, storage, etc.)
- Mechanical

At present the clubhouse is mainly used to house the pro shop and provide restroom access. Hot food and bar service is not provided, nor is the main hall rented out for events other than a few golf outings during the golf season. These issues limit the ability for the clubhouse to generate much needed revenue. They are addressed in renovation options that follow.

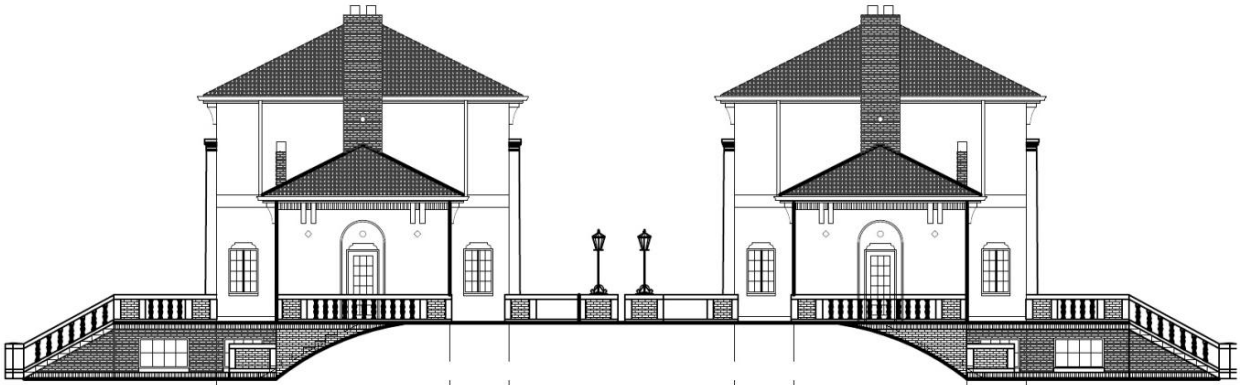
Original Clubhouse Floor Plans and Elevations:



ORIGINAL FLOOR PLANS
10,440 SQFT

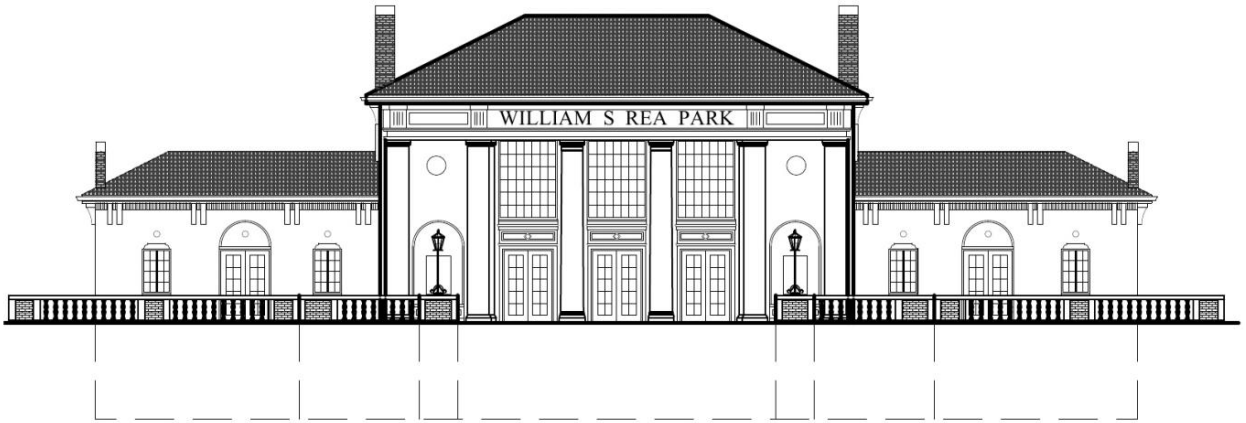


ORIGINAL EAST ELEVATION



ORIGINAL NORTH ELEVATION

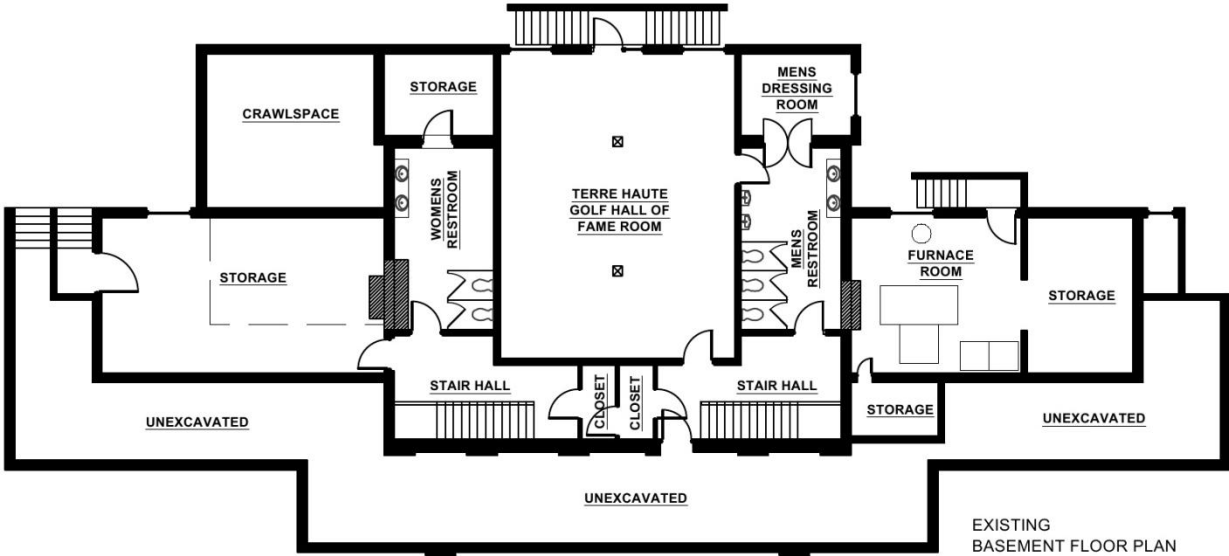
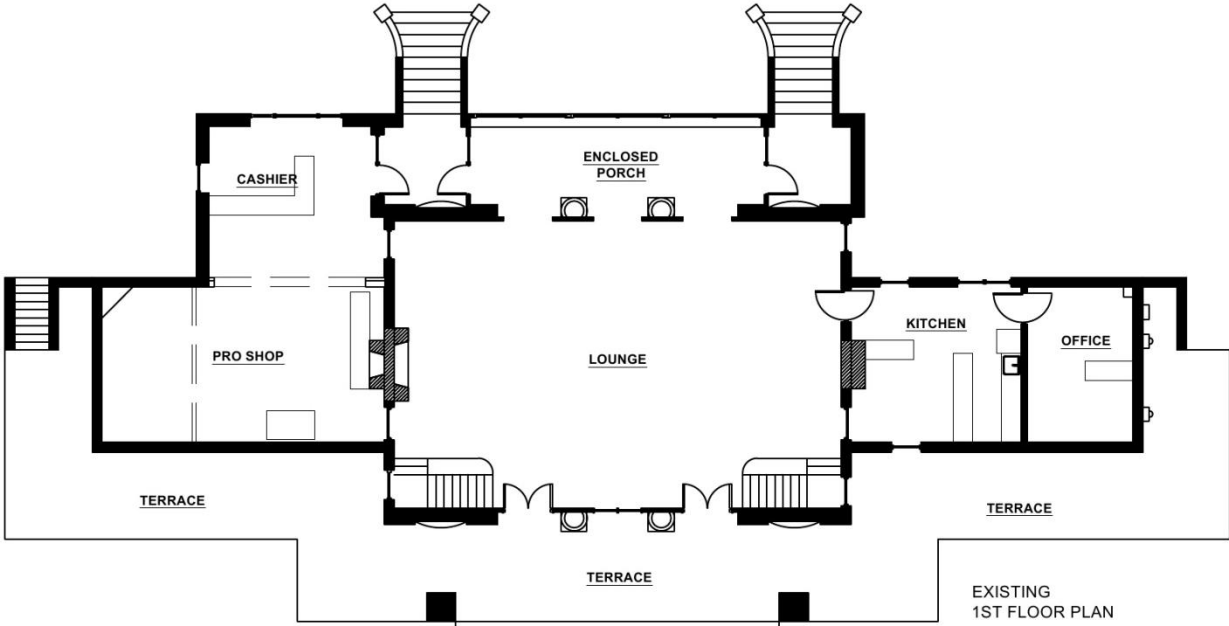
ORIGINAL SOUTH ELEVATION



ORIGINAL WEST ELEVATION

ORIGINAL ELEVATIONS

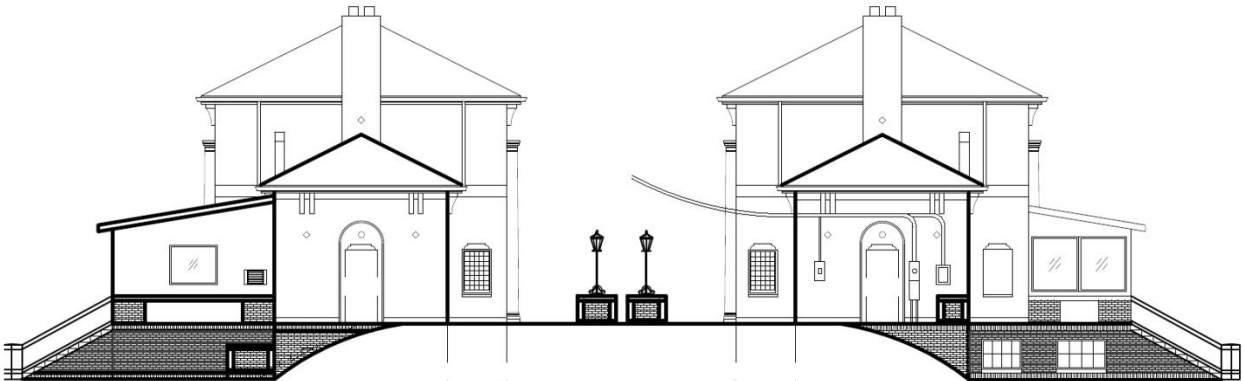
Existing Clubhouse Floor Plans and Elevations:



EXISTING FLOOR PLANS
11,065 SQFT



EXISTING EAST ELEVATION



EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION

EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION



EXISTING WEST ELEVATION

EXISTING ELEVATIONS

Clubhouse Renovation Options. After considering programs that would likely be conducted at Rea Park, as well as the physical condition of the historic 1925 clubhouse, four main options were developed for the total renovation of the building.

Members of the Terre Haute Park Board decided in April 2017 that Option C offered the greatest potential. Because of this, only Option C is shown in this updated version of the Rea Park clubhouse study. It includes all anticipated costs associated with the project, including construction and architectural/engineering fees, and restaurant equipment.

Option C includes the relocation of golf cart storage to an underground parking area underneath the west terrace of the building. The west terrace is non-repairable, therefore it will need to be removed and replaced, at which time the lower level can be modified and improved to accommodate golf cart storage. Little evidence of this new space would be visible on the outside of the building, and removing the existing cart barn would be an improvement to the site.

A new handicap accessible ramp on the east side of the building was included in Option C to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Option C does not call for the installation of an elevator in the building.

A new geothermal heat pump system is proposed for the upgrades to the HVAC system. Geothermal systems are energy efficient, do not require an outside condenser unit such as a typical air conditioning system, and there is enough space on the property to locate the underground pipes used for heat transfer.

Rea Park was placed on Indiana's list of historic landmarks and the U.S. Department of Interior's Register of Historic Places last spring (2017). While Option C proposes an addition to the existing envelope of the building, the local office of Indiana Landmarks has indicated Option C would be permissible if the addition were built so the architectural integrity of the original building would be maintained.

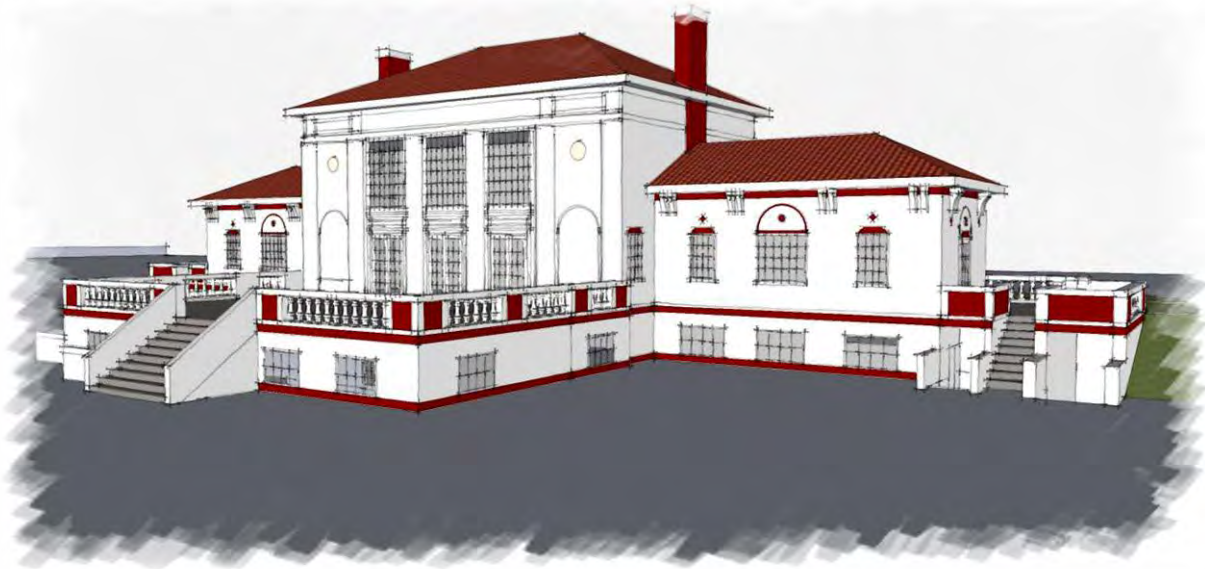
Costs and plan elevations for Option C are:

Renovation Financial Estimate for Option C (as of May 2016):

	OPTION C <i>Expanded Terrace</i> <i>11,445 sqft</i>
Roof	\$35,000 - \$70,000
Exterior	\$185,000 - \$210,000
HVAC	\$80,000 - \$95,000
Electrical	\$80,000 - \$95,000
Plumbing	\$80,000 - \$95,000
Interior	\$295,000 - \$320,000
Cart Storage /Terrace	\$300,000 - \$385,000
Demo	\$25,000 - \$35,000
Misc.	\$120,000 - \$145,000
TOTAL	\$1,200,000 - \$1,450,000

Option C Seating Capacity:

	OPTION C <i>Expanded Terrace</i>
Banquet	65-75
Meeting	50-55
Bar	6-8
Outside	30-40
TOTAL	151 - 178



Option C Details: \$1,200,000 - \$1,450,000

Expanded Terrace (11,445 SQFT)

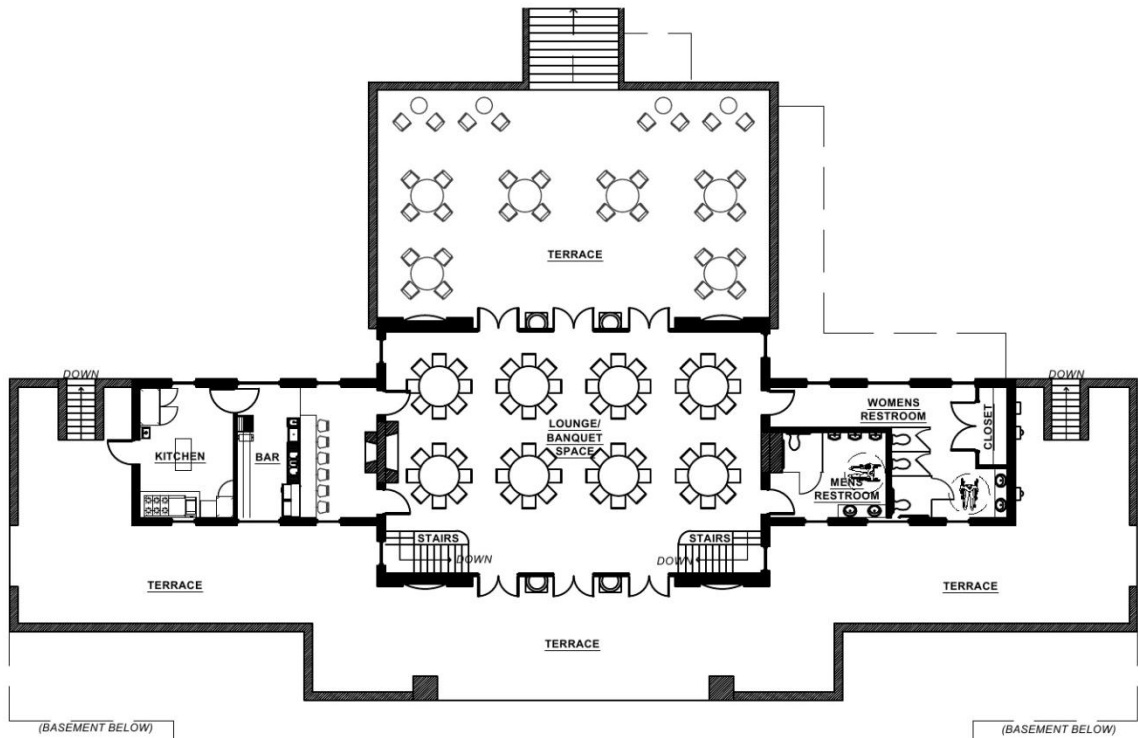
Option C would remove the existing pro shop addition and enclosed balcony on the east side of the building. A large outdoor terrace would then be constructed with pro shop space underneath.

The main level would have banquet space with a new set of men's and women's restrooms located in the south wing. Kitchen and bar service would be located in the north wing.

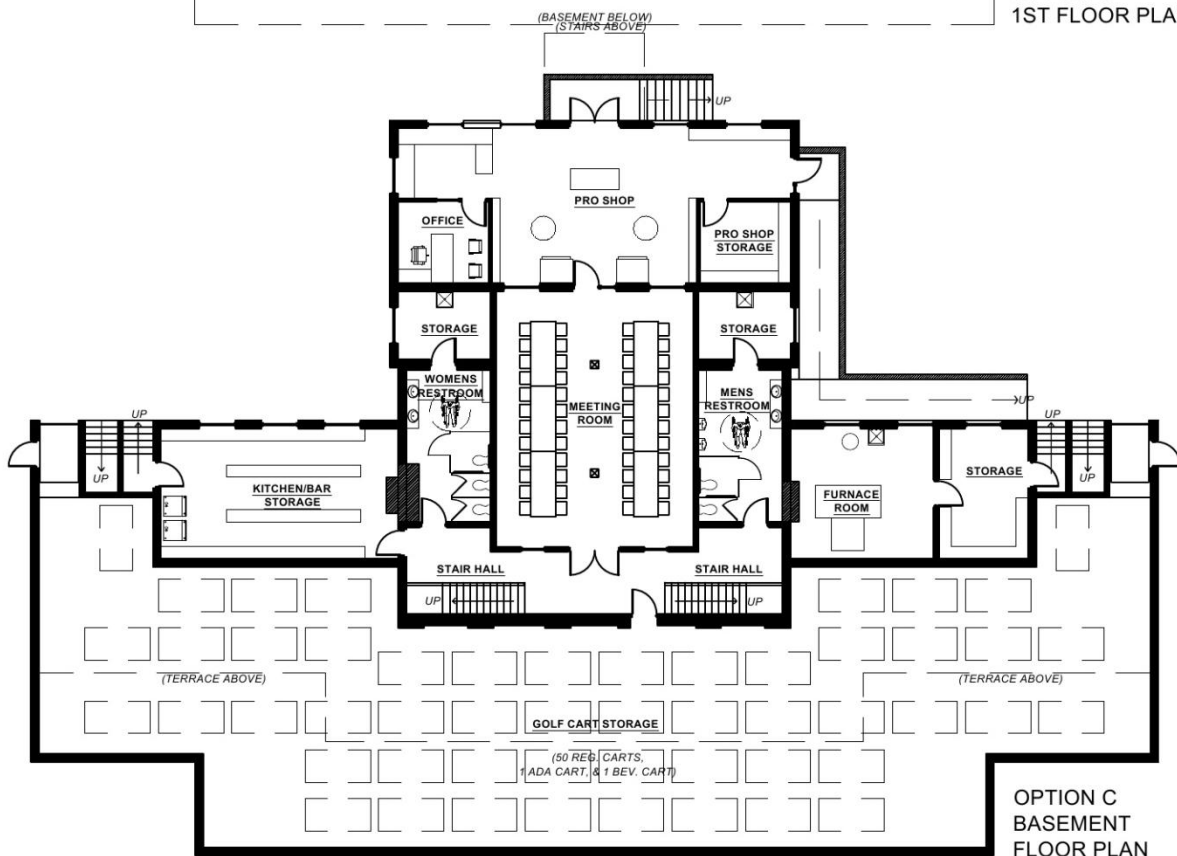
The lower level would include a large meeting space with renovated restrooms and added plumbing fixtures. The area under the outdoor terrace would house the pro shop, office, and pro shop storage.

Kitchen/bar storage would be located in the lower north wing of the building, and the mechanical space and storage within the south wing.

The u-shaped cart storage would be located under the rebuilt west terrace with access doors facing the golf course.



OPTION C
1ST FLOOR PLAN



OPTION C - EXPANDED TERRACE
11,445 SQFT

OPTION C
BASEMENT
FLOOR PLAN



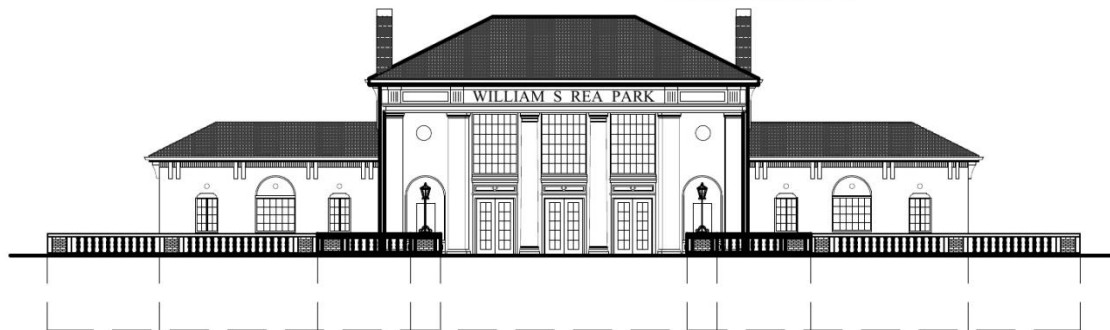
OPTION C
EAST ELEVATION



OPTION C
NORTH ELEVATION



OPTION C
SOUTH ELEVATION



OPTION C
WEST ELEVATION
OPTION C - EXPANDED TERRACE
11,445 SQFT

Park Master Plan
Sanders and Associates, Inc. Architects

A. Rehabilitating/Upgrading Existing Park Grounds

Driving range. The existing driving range at Rea Park is located on the north side of the property, adjacent to the entry drive, and is approximately 300 yards in length. Currently the range has a four foot high chain link fence around the perimeter with a few flags within the range indicating the drive lengths. There are no stalls in place on the tee off space, no mats on a concrete pad for use in inclement weather, nor is there any shelter covering the tee boxes. About 20 to 30 individuals can use the driving range at one time. At this time there is no driving range membership available in the Rea Park fee schedule.

Driving range renovation options include:

Option A - Upgrade the Existing Range

A moveable one-story covered structure could be purchased and used over the existing tee off space. Or, a permanent shelter could be built to protect the tee area from the elements, while also increasing the amount of usable driving range time for golfers. Sidewalks/ramps providing ADA accessibility to the range should be added as well. Constructing small greens or and fairway lanes in the range would provide additional practice challenges, potentially drawing in more users.

Option B - Add a Golf Teaching (Golf Academy) Facility

A one-story covered structure could be constructed on the north end of the existing driving range for private rental. Having a separate facility for golf professionals to teach golfers, or for small groups to practice, would produce income without adding significant cost. They would still be using the same range area, just a separate tee space. The shelter could provide the flexibility to operate year-round by including operable garage doors and radiant heaters. Range lights and shelter lights could also be added, further increasing the income generating potential of the driving range. A short-game practice area with a green and bunkers could be added.



L to R: Practice chipping green and practice tee on driving range



Cart storage barn. The existing cart barn is a wood frame post-frame structure with tan metal siding. It was constructed in the 1980s to store golf carts and serve as a maintenance area. It currently houses about 50 electric carts which are leased and maintained by a third party service.

The cart barn is located south of the clubhouse, directly in the middle of a former south access drive to the property. The building is aesthetically incompatible with the clubhouse and should be removed.

Each of the clubhouse renovation options – A through D - provides a golf cart storage area with the intent that the existing cart barn will be demolished when improvements are complete.

The new storage area will accommodate 50 carts, as well as a food and beverage cart and an adaptive cart for use of disabled players.

Maintenance facilities. Main park maintenance facilities are located in the northeast corner of the park, adjacent to the greens superintendent’s house. It consists of two pole barns.

Rea Park employs approximately 25-30 people each season, who operate the various pieces of equipment owned by the park.

The Caretaker house is a 1,320 square foot, two story bungalow with white vinyl siding and a green asphalt roof that was built in the 1920s. The current course superintendent resides in the house as part of the position’s compensation package.

Maintenance facility renovation options include:

Although the maintenance facilities appear to be fair condition, our master plan takes into consideration that the time for the metal maintenance buildings to be replaced is fast approaching, and will need to be done some time in the not-so-distant future.

The greens superintendent’s house is showing its age, and is also in need of renovation at some time in the future. However, the city could easily adjust the compensation of the greens superintendent to reflect a caretaker’s house on the property will no longer be provided.



L to R: Maintenance Barn and Park Superintendent House

Cart paths, course shelters, and restrooms. The cart paths at Rea Park are mostly paved, but the park lacks a continuous circuit of pavement around the course. It requires golfers to drive on the course where the paths are incomplete, which increases ground maintenance tasks.

Two small shelters are available at Rea Park for golfers, located near holes 14 and 5. Additional shelters might be beneficial throughout the course as they provide protection from stormy weather.

A large picnic-type shelter, which is used as a base of operations for golf outings, sits adjacent to the driving range and practice green. This location is not ideal, as it is not very close to the clubhouse and starting tees. A smaller shelter might be constructed nearer the clubhouse near the 10th tee to provide protection for golfers starting play.

Although restrooms are available in the clubhouse, only one on-site restroom is available near hole number three teeing area and number 16 green. A port-a-pot is placed each year near #11 tee. A new restroom facility could be installed to replace the temporary portable toilet.



L to R: Bathroom Near #16 Green and Park Shelter Used for Outings



Tennis courts. There are nine tennis courts on the western edge of Rea Park, along with a small building that contains restrooms and a small shed for ticket sales and concessions. A 10-foot-tall chain link fence surrounds the courts. Several sets of bleachers and picnic tables are on-site for spectators. The very first courts were constructed in the late 1920s using a clay pavement system, which was then covered over with asphalt sometime in the 1950s. Today the courts sit in poor condition, having severe issues with cracking and water ponding. The trees that were planted for shade on the south side of the courts have grown to be very large, and contribute a great deal of debris onto the playing surfaces. They need to be trimmed or removed.



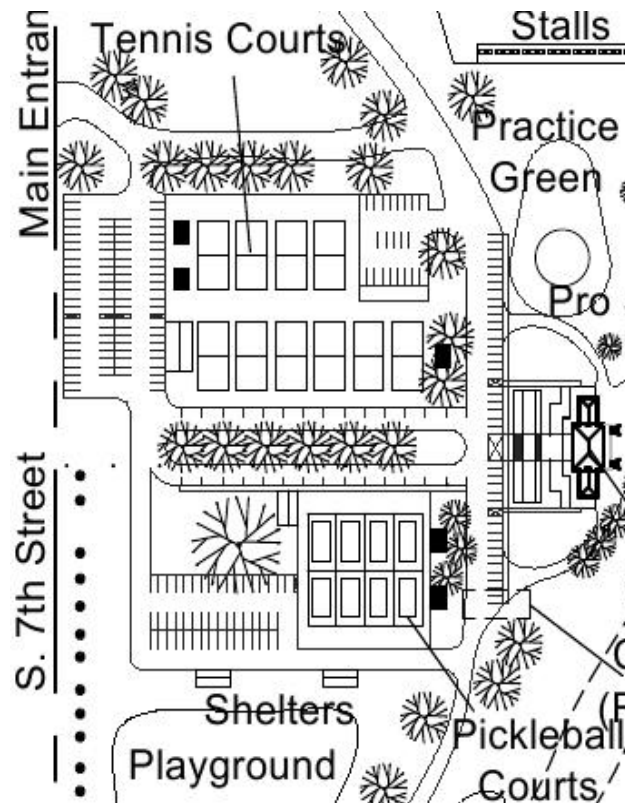
Tennis court area renovation options include:

Option A - Renovate the Existing Tennis Court Area

The three most northern tennis courts are good candidates for rehabilitation; however the other six courts would need to be evaluated further to determine if resurfacing or replacement is the best solution.

An additional court would need to be constructed in order to provide the 10 needed courts to host large tournaments. Eight new pickle ball courts would be constructed south of the existing tennis courts, with additional parking and a shelter area.

The existing restroom building would remain, but it would require repairs be made as well as some cosmetic upgrades, such as new paint and floor epoxy.

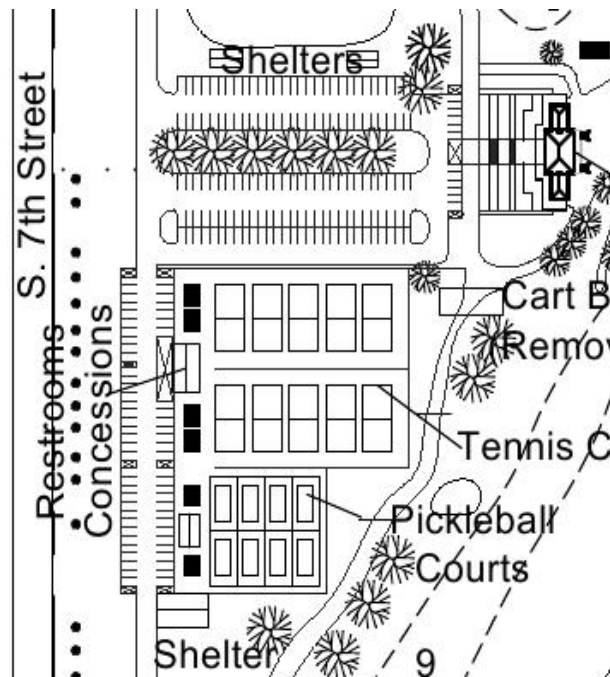


Option A – Renovate Existing Court Area

Option B – Moving the Tennis Court Area to the Southwest End of the Park, Build New

Ten new courts and eight new pickle ball courts would be constructed on the south end of the park.

A minimal view of this option would be to build a new restroom facility and concession stand, along with new parking areas. New fencing, lighting, and spectator seating would also be included in this option. A grander vision of this option would be to create a tennis learning center, with racquet courts and a fitness center on site. Private investment would be required to develop this option.



Option B – Moving the Tennis Court Area to the Southwest Corner of the Park

Option C – Build New Tennis Courts Off-Site

There has been talk of the City of Terre Haute developing a sports complex on riverfront land near the recently constructed VCSC Aquatic Center in Voorhees Park. With county government planning to construct a new jail in this area, the option of building sports fields near the river may no longer be popular, or viable.

A storied history of tennis being played at Rea Park exists, and that the tennis court complex at Rea should remain on park grounds.

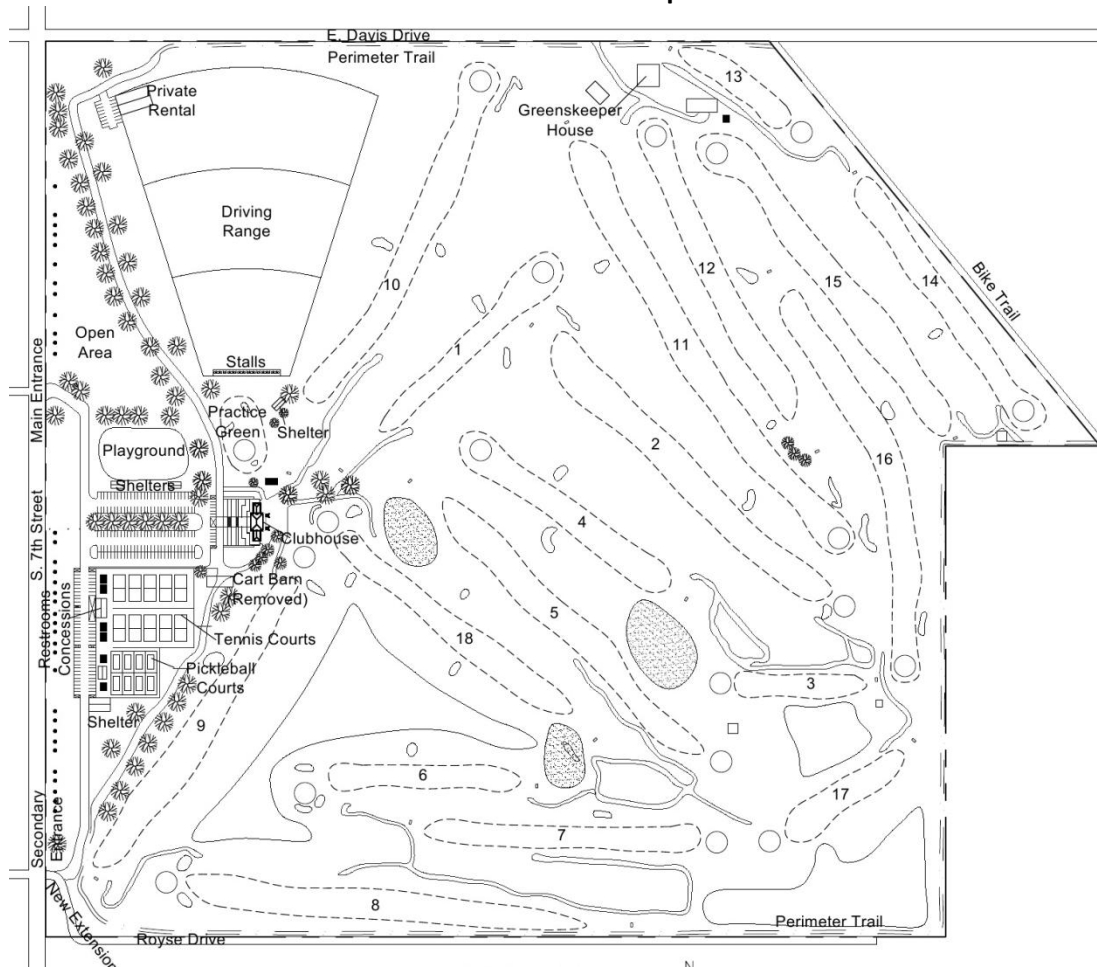
Rea Park's location sits in an ideal location, next to Honey Creek Square and established restaurants and hotels on Terre Haute's south side. Terre Haute Regional Hospital and Westminster Village are adjacent neighbors. Nearly 40 percent of our county's high school students go to school directly across the street from Rea Park. Mutually beneficial partnerships among these park stakeholders could be established to promote healthy living and the benefits of participating in life-long sports such as golf and tennis.

The Rea Park property can be developed into one of Indiana's most unique and historic venues.

Perimeter trails. At the present time, no “official” trails exist at Rea Park, though the master plan for the Terre Haute Parks Trail System indicates future trails and bike paths intersecting the park remain a possibility. Terre Haute South High School currently uses the park for cross country team practice.

A complete trail around Rea Park would provide a two- mile loop which could serve both visitors and the neighboring community. The old railroad spur that runs along the eastern edge of the park is slated for development into a bike trail as part of a “Rails to Trails” program. This connection can bring visitors from other areas of the city or county, which could then connect to the perimeter trail around Rea Park.

Perimeter Trail Map



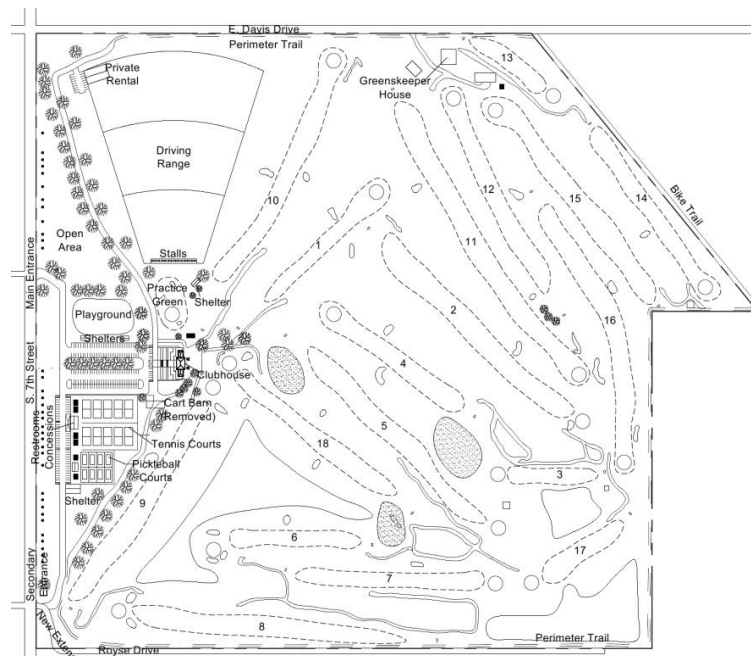
Entering and exiting the park. Due to there being three different access roads to the park, and multiple activity venues, establishing a new central entrance to the park might keep the number of parking areas to a minimum. It is estimated 150 to 175 parking spaces are needed to accommodate events held at the park.

At the present time. Parking is limited near the Rea Park clubhouse, with most golfers having to parallel park on the circle drive near the practice green. This situation is not ideal, as the drive was meant to act as a drop off point. Parking cars along the practice green can also prove to be hazardous for golfers and park patrons.

Another 45 or so parking spaces are available directly to the west of the clubhouse. Two other parking lots, both located near the tennis courts, can hold up to 100 parked cars. During golf and tennis tournaments, and other park events, patrons will sometimes parallel park on the grass along the north entry drive.

New main entrance. This study proposes a new option for park entry and exit. A “main boulevard” could be built leading to the clubhouse from Seventh Street, having one central entrance at the streetlight. Existing north and south drives would be removed, or kept with their gates marked “for personnel use only”. The tennis court entrance off Seventh Street would be closed, with additional parking spaces added to the parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts. The drive around the practice green would be removed, allowing for a larger practice area.

Royse Drive that borders the southern property line of the park, has potential to be redirected through the southwest corner of Rea Park in order to exit onto Seventh Street at the stoplight intersection across from Regional Hospital. If this road improvement is made, the south drive could become a new secondary entry point into the park.



Suggested golf course improvements. The course at Rea Park is historic, being nearly 100 years old. It is one of the first public 18-hole courses in Indiana. At the time of its dedication in 1925, Rea Park was declared by then Mayor Davis as “one of the finest municipal golf courses in the country.”

This study does not focus on the golf course. The condition of the course is one of the better attributes of Rea Park. There are, however, a few course improvements that could be made if funding were to become available over time:

- Add a shelter near the #1 and #10 tees to facilitate golf events and the starting of players.
- Replace the temporary port-a-pot with a new restroom building near the #15 green and #13 tee.
- Add several trees for safety on #12 tee (between hole 11 and hole 12).
- Extend the existing cart paths into a full-length system so the golf course can operate carts on wet or rainy days, year round.
- Renovate course ponds - those near #18 tee, #6 tee and #4 tee - so they can retain water.
- Relocate or build a new scoreboard near the new shelter; or a new, smaller scoreboard could be made and placed in the area next to the starting tee and #18 green.
- Create a pitch and putt area near the driving range and historic practice green by removing the road around the practice green.
- Explore options for a short-game course (3 holes, small distances) for children or practice area to be located in the open space north of the driving range.
- Evaluate the feasibility of a foot golf course (soccer ball kicked into a hole) to be somehow integrated into the park.
- Add par-3 tees to each hole with a separate scorecard for super-senior golfers to enjoy.



L to R: Historic Practice Putting Green and #8 Hole Green

Other golf courses located in Vigo County. The following courses are located in Vigo County and offer Vigo County golfers other options to play the game.

Hulman Links Golf Course (Private), located at 990 North Chamberlain Street, opened in 1978, and is an 18-hole, par 72 course that plays 7,225 yards from the back tees. It was designed by David Arthur Gill, ASGCA, and the course rating is 74.9 with a slope rating of 144.

The property for Hulman Links and some of funds to build the course were donated by Terre Haute native Tony Hulman. Private donations were collected to help construct the clubhouse in 1983. The clubhouse features a restaurant, lounge, banquet facility and pro shop. In 2014, approximately 20,000 rounds of golf were played at Hulman Links.

There is a distinct difference between the Hulman Links property and Rea Park. Hulman is a golf-only facility. Rea Park is a multi-activity city park.

Country Club of Terre Haute (Private), located at 57 Allendale, originally opened in 1898 on the site of the old Phoenix Country Club on east Hwy 40. The club's current location was established in the 1920s. The existing golf course, an 18-hole, par 71 layout designed by noted golf architect William Diddle, opened for play in the spring of 1925, a few months before Rea Park's clubhouse and full 18-holes were open for public play.

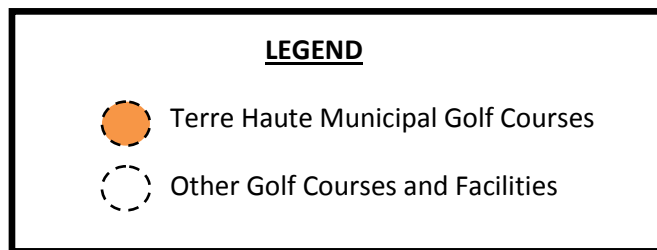
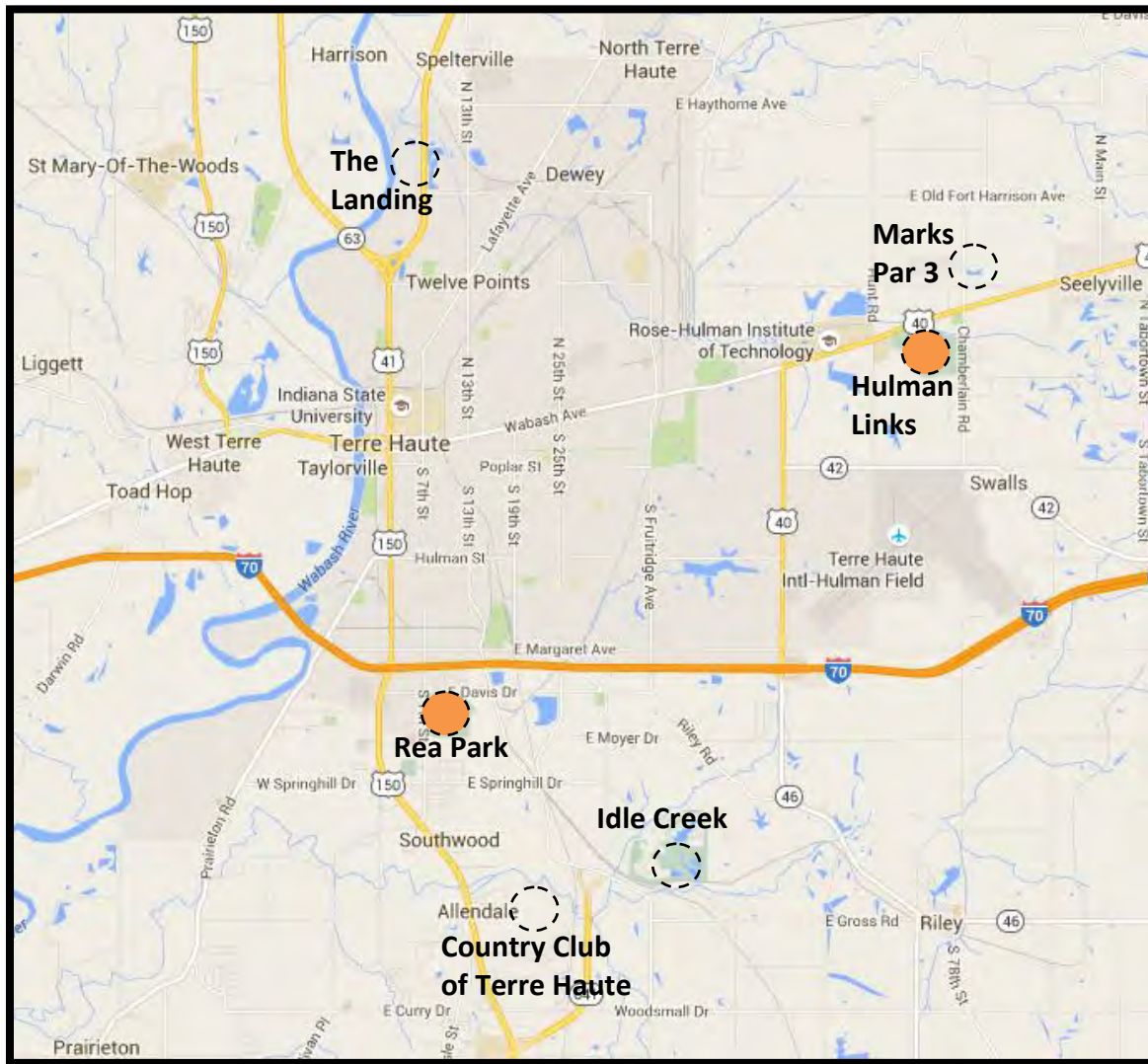
A driving range, practice green and pro shop are located on site. The Country Club features a restaurant and banquet facilities, too, along with a bar, tennis courts, and outdoor pool. Membership is available but not required to use the facilities, as members can invite guests to play four times a year.

Idle Creek Golf Course (Semi-Private), located at 5353 Rynne Marie Lane, opened in 1996, and is an 18-hole, par-71 course that plays 6,100 yards from the back tee boxes. It was designed by Rick Jenkins and Jack Keidel as part of a 300-lot "golf community" subdivision. The course features a restaurant, bar, banquet facilities and pro shop.

The Landing at Fort Harrison (Semi-Private), located at 3350 North 4th Street, opened in 1925, and is a 9-hole, par-36 course that plays 3,100 yards from the back tee boxes. It can, however, be played as an 18-hole, par-72 course, with 6,300 yards of play when played twice.

The course features a restaurant, bar, banquet center, spa, outdoor pool, bowling alley, and pro shop. Formerly owned by the Fraternal Order of the Elks, the course and facilities were sold to a private entity and reopened as The Landing at Fort Harrison, a no-membership, open to the public country club.

Mark's Par Three (Private-Open to the Public), located at 2401 Chamberlain Road, opened in 1964, and is an 18-hole, par 3 course situated on 64 acres. Rates are reasonable for beginning players.



Summary comments. After thorough review of the facilities at William S. Rea Park, it is apparent the clubhouse is in most need of repair, followed by the tennis courts and other park amenities.

All four of the proposed clubhouse renovation options have merit, but most likely the choice will be made based on the funds made available for the project. For example, a donor might stipulate the original features of the clubhouse be restored, and any non-original modifications be removed, such as the 1980s pro shop addition. Or, the city might recognize the income potential of having a banquet/restaurant facility with a full bar and kitchen, and want to invest in an option that maximizes revenue streams. Either way, there is no right or wrong solution, as long as improvements are made to save the historic clubhouse first.

Improving the tennis facilities at Rea Park is an important aspect of the park's master plan, since the courts have been a part of the park for almost as long as the golf course. Upgrades to the driving range would benefit golfers, while generating income for Rea Park's golf operations. Developing Rea Park's other amenities, such as a bike/walking trail or a small picnic area, are important to serving the greater community of Terre Haute.

Unlike the rest of the park, the historic golf course at Rea Park remains in good condition. However certain improvements can be made to enhance the golfing experience, making it more likely for players to return to the course.

Rea Park's master plan priorities are, in rank order ...

1. Rehabilitate the historic 1925 clubhouse, making it an activity center for the park
2. Upgrade the tennis court facility (possibly adding a fitness center)
3. Improve the driving range (possibly into a golf academy)
4. Develop plans for a bike/walking trail and small park-like family area, including a small splash park that could turn into a skating rink area during the winter.
5. Make noted golf course enhancements as time and money permit

APPENDICES

A. List of Contributors

City of Terre Haute

Duke Bennett, Mayor; Pat Martin, City Planner

Terre Haute Parks Board

Gordy Bryan, Board President
Nancy Cummins, Board Member
John Wright, Board Member
Bobby Moore, Board Member

Terre Haute Parks Department

Eddie Bird, Superintendent; Tina Bauer, Assistant Superintendent; Greg Towne, Golf Director;
David Kennedy, Rea Park Golf Professional

Friends of Rea Park, Inc.

Officers: Michael L. Harding, Ph.D., M.P.A.; President; Mr. William V. Verdeyen, Vice President; Mr. William Olah, J.D.; Secretary; and Mr. Earl O. Elliott, C.P.A., Treasurer
Steering Committee: Bob Arnett, George Azar, Kathy Berlin, Chris Bilyeu, Bill Burdine, Jim Cook, Ralph Dale, Ron Danielson, Dan Hopkins, Tom and Sharon Horrall, Jeannie Ji, Jim Jenkins, Dallas Kelsey, Art Miley, Pat Mozley, Pat Ralston, Bernard Ridens, Paul Stanley, Liz Torrence, Milt Van Reed, Ken Wooden, Scott Williams, Phillip Wade, and Bob Wright

Ball State University Archives – Carol Street

Indiana Landmarks - Tommy Kleckner

Indiana State Parks - Jodi Heaston

Indiana State University Master of Public Administration Program – Nathan Myers

Indiana State University Womens Golf Team - Greg Towne

Tabco, Inc. - Kris Bilyeau

Terre Haute Tribune Star - Mark Bennett, David Hughes

Terre Haute Visitors and Convention Bureau – David Patterson

Terre Haute Golf Association - Tom Jones

Terre Haute Women’s Golf Association - Eileen Mann

Terre Haute South High School - Principal Tammy Rowshandle & Asst Principal Steven Joseph

Terre Haute Tomorrow -Brian Miller

The Oakley Foundation

Wabash Valley Community Foundation - Beth Tevlin

Sanders & Associates Inc. – Architects Dan Sanders & Graduate Architect Amanda Jukes

Wabash Valley Tennis Club & Terre Haute Junior Tennis Association - Kris Bilyeu

WTHI – TV - Jon Swaner

Vigo County Public Library - Matt Bird

Sycamore Club - Jim Bell

B. Photographs of Existing Conditions at Rea Park

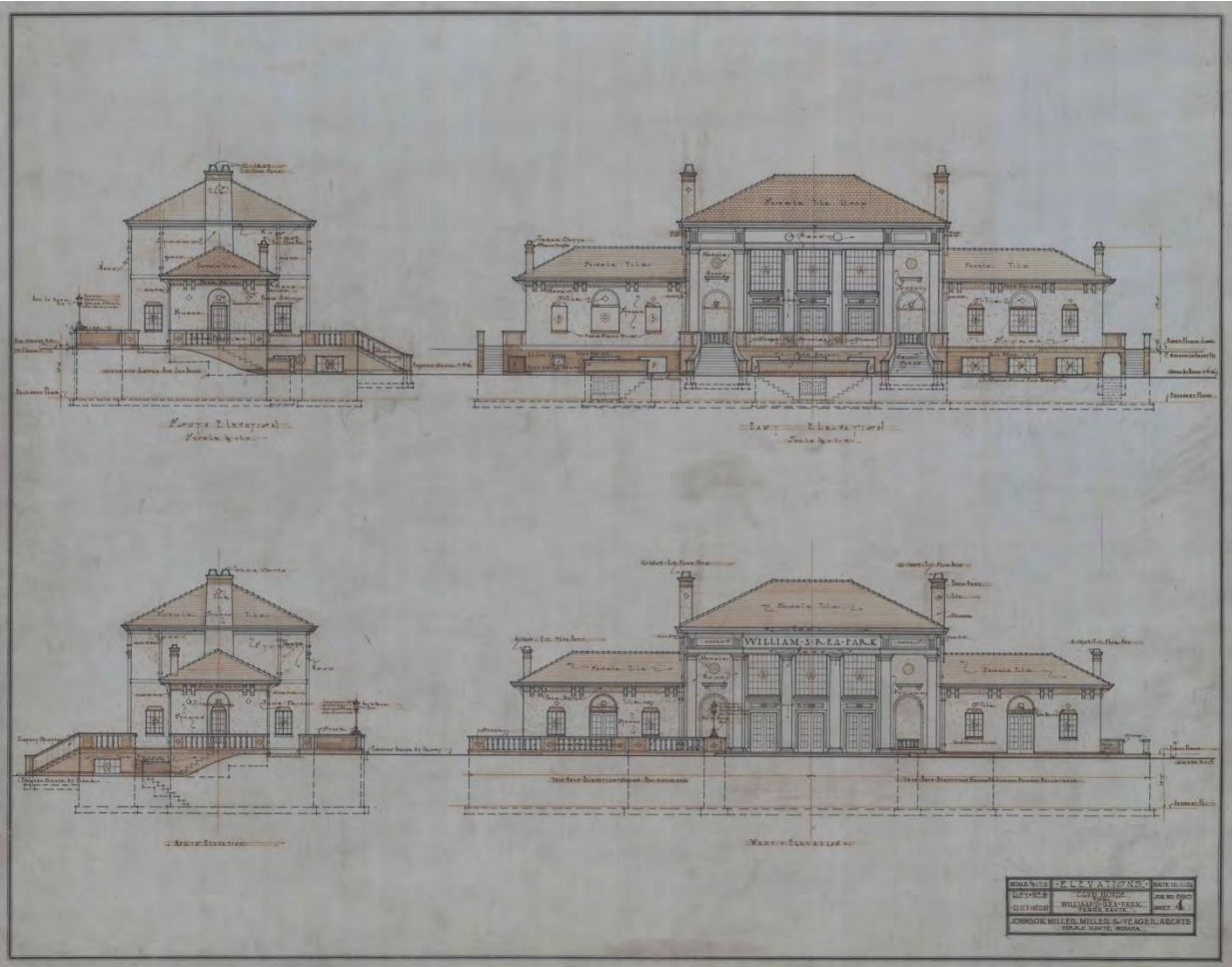


L to R: Westside entrance of clubhouse and tarnished historic tablets

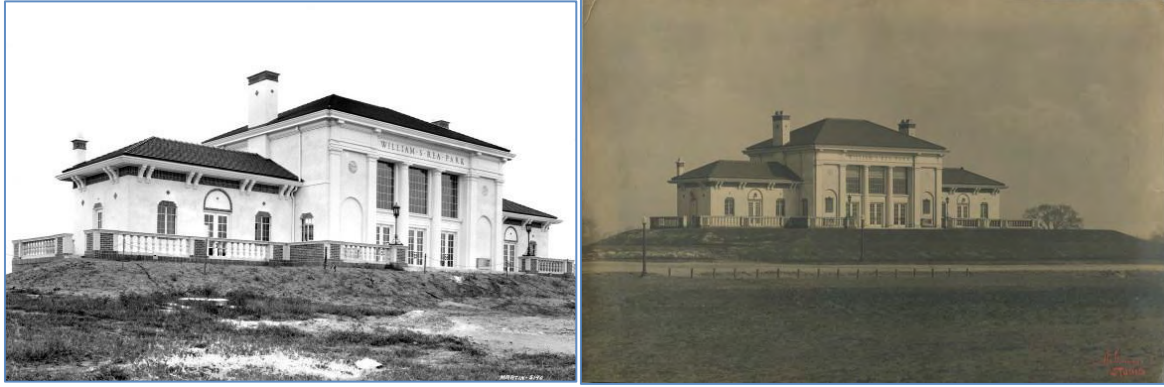


L to R: South side of clubhouse, Mrs. Rea's damaged portrait, crumbling east side stairway

C. Historic 1924 Clubhouse Elevation Drawings



D. Historic Clubhouse Photographs



L to R: Clubhouse under construction and shortly after completion in September 1925



L to R: Clubhouse in 1929 and in 1974



Clubhouse main hall interior in late 1920s

E. Rea Park Deed, 1922

29 **Rea Park Deed** **8741**
230

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH: That United States Trust Company of Terre Haute, Indiana, Trustee of Vigo County in the State of Indiana, conveys and quit claims unto the City of Terre Haute, of said County and State, for the sum of (\$1.00) and for the further considerations and upon conditions hereafter set forth, expressed and declared the following described real estate, situate in Vigo County in the State of Indiana, to-wit: -

The southwest quarter of Section Three (3), Township Eleven (11) north, of range (9) west, excepting, however, the right of way of the Evansville, and Indianapolis (Evansville, Indianapolis and Terre Haute) Railroad across the northeast corner thereof and all that part of said southwest quarter lying north and east of said railroad right of way, leaving 158 acres more or less of said southwest quarter hereby conveyed. Also, all that part of the following described tract of land, which lies south and west of said railroad right of way, to wit:

The west half of thirty-nine (39) acres off the north end and of eighty-five (85) acres in the southeast quarter of said Section Three, Township and Range aforesaid, said 85 acres being all that part of said southeast quarter of said section, township and range aforesaid that lies west of the Wabash and Erie Canal and making in all one hundred sixty (160) acres more or less hereby conveyed.

This conveyance is made pursuant to the powers conferred upon and vested in the grantor by Item Nine of the last will and testament of William S. Rea, deceased. The lands and premises herein conveyed have been purchased by the grantor as and for a site within the corporate limits of said City of Terre Haute, Indiana, for a public park, pursuant to and in conformity with said item of said will, are hereby conveyed to said City as a site for a public park. This conveyance is made in consideration of the agreement of said city to establish, beautify, and forever maintain a public park upon the said site and to name and forever maintain the same as "William S. Rea Park", and upon the express condition subsequent that should said City for any reason decline the gift of said lands and premises or refuse to establish, beautify and maintain said park named "William S. Rea Park", then and in any such case the lands and premises herein conveyed shall forthwith go to vest in and become the property and right of the Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana, all as contemplated by said item of said will.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said United States Trust Company of Terre Haute, Trustee, as aforesaid, has caused this instrument to be executed in its name and behalf by its President and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed, attested by its Secretary this 23rd day of August A.D., 1922.

UNITED STATES TRUST COMPANY OF
TERRE HAUTE, TRUSTEE

BY John T. Beasley, President

ATTEST:

William K. Hamilton, Secretary

STATE OF INDIANA)
 :
COUNTY OF VIGO) **SS**

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a notary public within and for said County and State, John T. Beasley and William K. Hamilton, President and Secretary, respectively of United States Trust Company of Terre Haute, the corporation with executed the annexed and foregoing instrument as Trustee, personally well known to me to be such President and Secretary, and severally acknowledge the execution thereof as their free act and deed and as the free act and deed of said United States Trust Company of Terre Haute, Trustee as aforesaid.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal this 23rd day of August, A.D., 1922

Ray H. Briggs
Notary Public

F. Historic Terre Haute Tribune, Terre Haute Star, Saturday Spectator Newspaper Articles

The Terre Haute Saturday Spectator
About Town Column
August 29, 1925

Beautiful New Clubhouse at Rea Park Will Probably Be Opened to Public on September 8

The date has not been officially set, but in all probability the formal opening and dedication of the splendid new clubhouse at Rea Park, a gift to the city from Mrs. Geraldine A. Rea, widow of the late William S. Rea, donor of Rea Park, will be announced for September 8.

Today there is being shipped from Brooklyn, N.Y. two beautiful bronze tablets, purchased by the Terre Haute park board, which are at once to be placed in the clubhouse and which in years to come will tell those who gather there for the pleasures of the wonderful golf course that the joys of the hour are due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Rea.

Full plans for the dedication of the new clubhouse are not yet complete. The program for the opening day is being left entirely to the wishes of Mrs. Rea, who, with the extreme modesty characteristic of her entire life, has said that she wishes the opening to be without ostentation. She has expressed a wish that the dedication of the new clubhouse be an occasion for a gathering of rich and poor alike and that all be made so welcome that there will be no mistaking her aim for a pleasure round for all people.

Under direction of John T. Beasley

This expression from Mrs. Rea will do away with former tentative plans to have a dinner at the house, which should be invited the members of the park board and a few friends of the giver of the clubhouse and the wide acres surrounding it.

One thing incident to the dedication has been decided upon, however, and that is whatever dedicatory program is carried out will be under the direction of John T. Beasley, warm friend and advisor of Mrs. Rea, and an equally close friend of her late husband.

Coincidental to the dedication of the spacious clubhouse, the additional nine holes of the golf course are to be officially thrown open for play. The opening of this part of the golf course will give to Terre Haute one of the very best golf grounds to be found anywhere.

An attempt was made some time ago to open the second nine holes, but it was found that too much confusion resulted about the, at that time, unfinished clubhouse. People were so eager to see the clubhouse that the work was greatly interfered with and, at the request of Mrs. Rea, the new half of the course was closed until such time as the clubhouse should be finished, dedicated, and turned over to the city as a playground.

For the last two weeks, a large number of teams have been employed at the grounds north and west of the new clubhouse making roads, driveways and parking drives. Later in the fall, the park board contemplates setting out a large number of fine trees.

The park board had hoped to do a number of things it has not done before the formal opening of the clubhouse, but as they cannot be accomplished until next spring, work will progress until cold weather comes and what is not done will have to await the arrival of spring.

Mrs. Rea, however, has purchased a great deal of the furnishings of the clubhouse, and she says the buying of them has been a real pleasure to her. She has selected all of the porch furniture, as well as considerable of the inside furnishings. Some things which Mrs. Rea wished could be secured at this time, and she will therefore permit them to go over until the grounds are opened for play next year.

The bronze tablets to be installed in the Rea clubhouse are said to be very beautiful. There is one for Mr. Rea and another for Mrs. Rea. Each is four and a half feet high and thirty inches wide. That for Mr. Rea is inscribed as follows:

Whose forethought and generosity in giving this park to the city marked him
as one of the city's foremost citizens and benefactors
In grateful recognition
this tablet is placed here
by
The Board of Park Commissioners
Terre Haute, Indiana
To the Memory of
WILLIAM S. REA
A.D. 1925

Mrs. Rea's tablet was inscribed with:

For the gentle woman whose generous gift of the
club house constitutes the crowning act in the work
started by her late husband, these words are inscribed on this plate of bronze:
"Love for home town, heart beating true,
What will not woman, gentle woman do?"
This beautiful clubhouse erected by
Geraldine A. Rea
Widow of William S. Rea
A.D. 1925
--
Presented to the City of Terre Haute
through its Board of Park Commissioners
which in appreciation has placed this tablet here

Rea Golf Links Formally Given to Terre Haute Eighteen-Hole Course Becomes Official Property of City During Impressive Ceremonies at Park; Mrs. Rea Drives First

Brief but impressive ceremonies marked the dedication yesterday afternoon of memorial of Terre Haute's most beloved citizens that will live through the ages. On Wednesday night, a banquet at which city officials and citizens had gathered, the William S. Rea Park became the official property of the city of Terre Haute when the deed was formally presented by Mrs. Rea and acknowledgement of the gift was made by Mayor Davis. But yesterday the golf course and the beautiful clubhouse was formally delivered to the citizens of Terre Haute for their enjoyment.

Sense value to city

After the first ball had been driven from the tee by Mrs. Rea, a number of foursomes followed and when darkness settled over the course to such an extent that it was no longer possible to follow the ball in its flight, the golf enthusiasts left the course with a keener sense of what Rea Park actually means to the life of the city and with a deeper appreciation of the public spirited donors who had made such a park possible. It was indeed a day in the civic life of Terre Haute that will be long remembered and should mark a new epoch in the recreational life of the city.

During the entire afternoon, this beautiful clubhouse was open for inspection and throngs of Terre Haute citizens journeyed through various rooms and added their tributes to the numerous others that have been paid. At 6 o'clock the assembly was called to order by Mayor Ora Davis, who spoke briefly of the pleasure derived from this occasion and what it meant to the city of Terre Haute. He then introduced John T. Beasley, a close friend of the Rea Family, who made the short dedicatory address.

Praises Mr. Rea's life

Mr. Beasley paid high compliment to the life of W.S. Rea and spoke of him as a quiet, unobtrusive man of business who did not allow his business cares to overshadow his great public spirit and his overwhelming desire to do something that might stand for the good of humanity throughout the ages yet to come. He spoke of how, at his death, Mr. Rea had left the sum of \$100,000 on deposit at the Citizens Trust Company for the purpose of establishing a park in Terre Haute on the condition that the city accept the gift, establish the park, beautify it and forever retain it as the William S. Rea Memorial Park.

Mr. Beasley then stressed the fact that it was no easy matter to carry out the provisions of the gift. After the present site had finally been selected and purchased, he spoke of the difficulty that the city administration faced in obtaining sufficient funds to carry out the work of beautifying the park as they had agreed to do in their acceptance.

"These matters," Mr. Beasley said, "were brought before Mrs. Geraldine Rea, who held the same great public spirit that her husband had held, and in her quiet and beautiful way, she expressed a

determination to build a clubhouse. This magnificent structure, the finest of its kind in the state, that we are here today dedicating, is the result of that gift.”

Recommends golf

“While this park will be made the center of other recreational activities in the next few years, there is nothing finer than the great game of golf. It provides plenty of physical exercise, has its broadening influence and cements friendship in such a manner as nothing else can. I believe that the average American citizen – that is the one who works at all – works too hard and nothing offers greater inducement to the business man to get out in the open air and forget the worries of business affairs than do golf courses. This course is one of the most beautiful in the state, even the country, and is something of which Terre Haute may well be proud.

Mr. Beasley also addressed the fact that while Terre Haute may have gained a reputation of not being all that it ought to be, this fact came largely because the people of Terre Haute had not yet realized the many things they possessed of which they might well be proud. He cited a number of these, including various institutions of learning and benevolent institutions, the Memorial Stadium and last, but by no means least, the Rea Park golf course.

Bronze tablets unveiled

At the conclusion of Mr. Beasley’s address, the beautiful bronze tablets at the west entrance to the clubhouse were unveiled and the course officially opened. After Mrs. Rea had driven the first ball down the middle of the fairway for a considerable distance in spite of the fact it was the first time she had ever swung a golf club, two scheduled foursomes took their places on the tee. Playing in the first group were Mayor Ora Davis, John T. Beasley, Wood Posey and Fred Heinl. This foursome was followed by Bill Kendall, Phoenix club professional; Emerson Staup, Deming club professional; Paul Wood, Fort Harrison club professional; and Bobby Hess, amateur champion. While these foursomes were followed from the tee by several others, none of them were able to complete the 18 holes of play before darkness had settled over the course.

Course one of the best

As pointed out by Mr. Beasley yesterday in his short talk, Rea Park is now undoubtedly ready to take its place as one of the best, if not the best, municipal courses in the state. While the fairways are rolling, they are not too rolling to make play especially hazardous and are kept in excellent condition. The fairways on the new nine holes are already in good shape for play and will get better as they are used. Under the watchful care of Ray Clark, constructionist at the course, the greens are in the very best of shape and cannot be equaled on any course in the country. During the last few months, Clark has spent untiring efforts in getting the course in shape and his efforts have been rewarded. Seldom does a municipal course develop so rapidly as has Rea Park.

Play over the 18 holes will be open to the general public today with a charge of 50 cents. If the nine only nine holes are played the cost will remain the same as it has always been. The player may go the first nine holes and then, if he chooses to complete the course, obtain tickets at the 10th green, which is near the clubhouse, to finish the course. In the professional’s play yesterday, Bill Kendall turned in a count of

36, one under par for the first nine holes, and that is sufficient evidence that the course is in good condition.

Terre Haute Star Newspaper
Thursday, September 10, 1925

Banquet Opens New Clubhouse at Rea Course: Hundred Leading Citizens Attend Affair in Handsome Structure – Beasley and Mayor Speak, Speeches Laud Mrs. Rea.

With Mrs. W.S. Rea the donor as the guest of honor, the Terre Haute board of park commissioners officially opened the new Rea Park clubhouse with a dinner party in the beautiful structure last evening. More than 100 of the city's citizens, including Mayor Ora D. Davis and members of the park board, paid unstinted tribute to Mrs. Rea in an impressive program that succeeded a perfectly appointed five-course banquet.

Beasley gives address

Wood Posey, president of the park board, presided at the dinner, and John T. Beasley, attorney and president of the United States Trust Company, made the principal addresses. Chief among the other speakers were Mayor Davis, with the principal feature of the ceremonies being the reading of two resolutions: one from Mrs. Rea approving the clubhouse and formally giving the building to the city, the other a resolution from the park board. George Schaal, representing a group of Rea Park golfers, also presented Mrs. Rea with a silver loving cup.

Resolution lauds donor

The resolution prepared by the park board and offered to Mrs. Rea follows:

At a meeting of the board of park commissioners of Terre Haute held at the new William S. Rea Park clubhouse, in the City of Terre Haute, Ind., September 9, 1925, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Geraldine A. Rea, prompted by a noble quality of mind and heart, has erected and presented to our city this beautiful clubhouse for the use of our people, we, the board of park commissioners have assembled here tonight, together with many leading citizens, to pay our respects, and to show our gratitude to Geraldine A. Rea, and by words to express to her our heartfelt thanks and great appreciation, and,

Whereas, Geraldine A. Rea, in the dedication of this clubhouse, has the privilege of knowing that her name is now indelibly written in the history of this city, with that of her late husband, William S. Rea, the donor of this beautiful park and golf course, and that together they stand as true benefactors of this community, and,

Whereas, This board recognizes in said act of Geraldine A. Rea, not only a generous gift to this community, but a far reaching event that will be noted by people from different parts of our country.

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That we, the board of park commissioners, accept this most liberal gift for the use of our people, and that our secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Geraldine A. Rea and cause a copy to be spread on the records of this board.

The Board of Park Commissioners, Wood Posey, President

Dedicate course today

The formal dedication of the complete 18-hole golf course purchased with funds left by Mrs. Rea's husband, W.S. Rea, and the clubhouse was held at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Mayor Davis introduced Mr. Beasley, who also made a dedication speech. "The complete and overwhelming pleasure that would otherwise be mine on this occasion," Mr. Beasley said, in opening his last evening, "is marred by a sense of incompetence. The occasion is a unique one, not only in the history of Terre Haute, but in the history of any city in a commonwealth."

"Fifty years ago there came to this city a man from a neighboring town in a sister state. Unheralded and unknown, he cast his lot here, lived here, and died here. Now his life and achievements are part of the woof and warp of the history of Terre Haute. Modest and unassuming and practical, he achieved and achieved greatly."

Reads portion of will

"By attending to his own business and doing that well, he was far from being unheralded and known at the time of his death. He made a will and among its estimable things which I wish to call attention to are phrases 8 and 9."

"In these phrases he gave to the United States Trust Company the sum of \$100,000 to be used for the purchase of a site in Terre Haute for a public park. The conditions involving the city's acceptance included the fact that the city should establish, beautify, and forever maintain the land as William S. Rea park.

"For three years the trustees studied, investigated, considered and analyzed plans for a fulfillment of the obligation. These terms were quite explicit and those of us who knew him well realized what was in his mind."

Disliked drone

"Mr. Rea hated a drone, but he loved the people, who did the best they could under whatever conditions existed. His belief was that of a real and true philanthropist, to leave money for the benefit of those who had earned a right to enjoy it. Yes, Mr. Rea was ambitious, but his ambitions were of the kind that make better men, the kind that enrich and ennoble society. It was his sincere wish to help those who helped themselves, to give his fellow citizens an opportunity to enjoy themselves."

“I believe that Mr. Rea realized, as did Herbert Spencer, and other English philosophers who studied the people of this country, that a recreational life was as necessary to our people as a commercial one. In accordance with this, an option was secured to the land now comprising the park – 160 acres of land located at the very doors of this city.”

Points out advantages

It was at this point that Mr. Beasley pointed out the advantages of the park, its already amazing popularity and usefulness, and how it will be a constant source of pride and pleasure for generations to come. Then, after touching upon the value of golf, he continued: “But this is not all of our story. Side by side with Mr. Rea was a helpmate worthy of the name. To Mrs. Rea was left a goodly sum to do with as she pleased. Knowing what the community needed and what was in her husband’s heart, she carried on from where her noble husband was forced to stop.”

“To complete the beauty of her husband’s gift with a clubhouse appropriate in beauty, Mrs. Rea, seated at my side, made possible this creation, a thing of beauty and something to be proud of forever.”

Communications read

With hearty applause ringing in the room, Mr. Beasley continued his address by reading a ‘letter of appreciation and pleasure’ from Robert D. Heintz of Washington, D.C., formerly from Terre Haute and also several other communications. More enthusiastic applause was forthcoming when Mr. Beasley read Mrs. Rea’s resolution, approving the clubhouse.

Mr. Posey, in response to Mr. Beasley, read the resolution of the park board, accepting the gift, which was unanimously adopted by the members. “I wish to publicly express the thanks of every citizen in Terre Haute to Mrs. Rea,” began Mayor Davis as the next speaker. “The late William S. Rea as a great benefactor and his park in a few years will be one of the greatest in the country. Mrs. Rea stands alone as one who has done more than any other women in the United States as a benefactor to a city, for our wonderful park couldn’t have been fully complete without her gift of a clubhouse. The park board did not have the funds to create a building and it would have been years before it would have been able.”

Thanks to Mrs. Rea

“I am supremely happy to see Mrs. Rea can watch other people enjoying her gift, and Mrs. Rea, to you I want to extend my deepest and sincerest thanks.” Mr. Posey then read the two tablets which are to be unveiled today in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Rea and requested a moment’s silence in silent tribute to the memory of Mr. Rea.

E.R. Knecht, mayor of Shelbyville, IL, who is a brother of Mrs. Rea, was introduced and in a few words paid tribute to his sister and her city. Mrs. Rea herself was the next called upon by Mr. Posey, for any expression. Very simply, she arose and said, “All I can say is that it gives me great pleasure to be here and that I hope people will get as much pleasure from the clubhouse as I have in giving it.”

Other speakers introduced

Then came Mr. Posey's speech of resignation, and, at the conclusion, he introduced Mrs. Omer Mewhinney, Mrs. R. B. White, I.H. Waterman, Herman Prox, and J.O. Engleman, superintendent of the Terre Haute public schools, all of whom expressed the appreciation of the guests and the city for Mrs. Rea's gift. Three cheers were given for Mrs. Rea at the closing, the cheering being led by Homer Williams and Ben Pfister.

"On the Banks of the Wabash" was sung by the guests under the directorship of Bill Condon and Mrs. J.B. Pfister, proceeded the dinner. Appropriate music was furnished during the meal and afterwards for dancing by Harry G. McDaniel and his orchestra.

G. Recent Newspaper Articles Concerning the Revitalization of Rea Park

Terre Haute Tribune Star Newspaper

Monday, March 6, 2017

David Hughes, Reporter

'Friends' hope to give Rea Park facelift over the coming

A 1970 graduate of Honey Creek High School, Mike Harding maintained fond memories of playing golf at Rea Park when his career in the coal business led him to a life in Evansville for 35 years. Now 64 and retired, he's been back living in Terre Haute since November 2014. But Harding is not pleased with the modern-day look of Rea Park, particularly the clubhouse.

"I looked at the clubhouse [during a 2013 visit] and oh my gosh, it's really in bad shape," he recalled. As previously reported in the Tribune-Star, Harding and longtime golf buddies Bill Olah, Dan Sanders, Bill Verdeyen, and Earl Elliott formed a non-profit organization known as Friends of Rea Park Inc. Their goal is to turn Rea Park — all 160 acres — into a popular gathering place for more activities than golf. For example, they envision wedding receptions, dances, parties and meetings if a banquet center is built there. "Over the last three years, we have been working toward some plans, not just for the Rea Park clubhouse, but for Rea Park," Harding explained.

He said two possible plans for park renovations and four possible designs for clubhouse renovations exist. The Rea Park Clubhouse Feasibility Study and the Rea Park Master Plans should be ready for review by the Terre Haute Parks Board at its March or April meeting. If one of the new designs is approved, a terrace would be built onto the back of the clubhouse. "There is the possibility of fully developing this," Harding noted. "We may not do it all at once. It may have to come in pieces."

Eddie Bird, superintendent of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department, agreed that it won't happen all at once. "Since this all started, it's kind of become more of an overall master plan for the whole Rea Park," Bird said. "The building would be the No. 1 item. Then down the road, say for Phase II or Phase III, we would try to fix up the park, which I was kind of for because we don't really have a park on the south side. I mean, it's called Rea Park, but it's a golf course."

"I keep telling Mike, the main thing is the building for right now. The first step has to be the building. And then we're looking at maybe adding a trail around the property — a jogging trail, walking trail, biking trail. And then we're also looking at maybe moving the tennis courts to one end of the park and then adding some picnic shelters and maybe a playground and maybe later on even a splash pad."

Harding estimated the cost of all renovations at between \$3.5 million and \$5 million. "We're either going to raise it or we're going to work with the city," Harding said. "I think the public would like the re-design of the building ... to make it useful. It would be an activities center for the park." Bird, who would love to see a full kitchen and restaurant added to the park clubhouse, said it all comes down to how much money can be raised through the Friends of Rea Park.

The next meeting of the Terre Haute Parks Board will be March 15. History shows that Terre Haute grocery magnate William S. Rea left \$100,000 in his will to build the park in 1919, which would be nearly \$1.4 million in today's dollars. His widow, Geraldine Rea, donated an additional \$60,000 in 1925 to build

a clubhouse. Local architectural firm Johnson, Miller, Miller and Yeager designed a clubhouse of the Mediterranean style.

“At the time, the population of Terre Haute and the population of Evansville were about the same,” Harding said. “Terre Haute was a pretty prosperous place in the 1920s.” He mentioned that the whole park has not been renovated for almost 100 years, but now there’s a chance for new pickle ball courts and a driving range. “The park is almost 100 years old, and it needs to be renovated, but it’s an easy fix,” Harding insisted. “It has the potential to impact all kinds of people.”

One reason he wants that impact is the health of Wabash Valley citizens. Harding recently found a study online that ranked Vigo County as one of the unhealthiest counties in Indiana in 2016. He wants to change that. “We need to begin to change our culture here,” he said.

For more information on the efforts to improve Rea Park, visit www.friendsofreapark.com or the “Friends of Rea Park Inc.” Facebook page.

Relighting the glow: Rea clubhouse target of preservation effort

The glow was its trademark. As a kid, riding in the family car down South Seventh Street in the evening, Mike Harding saw it as they passed by countless times, like thousands of other Terre Hauteans. “Rea Park’s clubhouse used to be lit up at night. You could see it from Seventh,” recalled Harding. “There was a lot of community pride about Rea Park.”

Now 62 years old, Harding holds a sentimental attachment to the facility. The 1970 medalist at the local sectional, Harding played Rea as a high schooler. He got job there at age 14 and kept it through his college years at Indiana State University, watering the greens at night. Harding moved to Evansville in 1980, working as a mine engineer and then an administrator for the Pike County schools.

Harding returned to his hometown in 2013 and played the course and found its condition to be “better than ever.” When he walked through the stately, white clubhouse, though, Harding was “taken aback” by the worn state of the historic building. He moved back to Terre Haute last year, enlisted the support of Scott Williams of the Wabash Valley Foundation and Tommy Kleckner of Indiana Landmarks. They shared ideas and concerns with Eddie Bird, the Terre Haute city parks superintendent, and helped then form the Friends of Rea Park.

The grassroots group earn nonprofit 501(c)(3) status last week, thanks to Friends member and local attorney Bill Olah, Harding said. The Friends’ ranks include others, just like Harding, with fond memories of playing golf or tennis at Rea. “The older you get, you start thinking, ‘What can I do to help and leave a legacy?’” Harding explained, “just like Mr. and Mrs. Rea.”

The Friends hope to raise funds to renovate the clubhouse, repair the aging tennis courts and get the entire 160-acre park placed on the National Register of Historic Places. And restore the glow. Time has taken a visible toll on the building.

“We hope to get it back to that point, where it’s a respected part of the city’s parks system,” said Kleckner, director of the Indiana Landmarks western regional office in Terre Haute. Kleckner aims to see Rea Park added to the National Register of Historic Places by late 2016. His office is working on the nomination process for Rea. It deserves the distinction for several reasons, including its age, architecture, landscape and connection to the Rea family. “We don’t see public buildings built like that anymore,” Kleckner said.

It’s a Terre Haute icon. “Even if it’s someone born and raised here who never visited it, it’s still one of those identifiable landmarks of this community to them,” Kleckner said. “Something needs to be done.” The park and clubhouse mark their 90th birthday this year. The course opened Aug. 1, 1925, thanks to a \$100,000 trust left in the will of William S. Rea, who died in 1919, to turn the 160 acres on the city’s south side into a park, with an 18-hole golf course. On Sept. 10, 1925, the city dedicated the clubhouse, funded by an additional \$60,000 donation from Rea’s widow, Geraldine. She donated the extra money when the city administration struggled to raise funds to carry out her late husband’s wishes.

As the master of ceremonies at that 1925 ceremony, Rea family friend John T. Beasley, put it, Geraldine Rea “in her quiet and beautiful way ... expressed a determination to build a clubhouse,” according to a Terre Haute Tribune report. “This magnificent structure, the finest of its kind in the state, that we are dedicating today, is the result of that gift.”

And, “that was quite a gift,” Harding said last week. Indeed, her \$60,000 donation would be worth \$811,666 in 2015 dollars. Her husband’s contribution of \$100,000 would equal \$1.37 million today. Those gifts allowed the city to hire the local architectural firm Johnson, Miller, Miller and Yeager — prolific in the early 20th century — to design a clubhouse as a “high-style example of Mediterranean style,” as Kleckner described it. The structure is surrounded by a course landscaped by prominent Indiana architect Lawrence Sheridan.

“Despite its conditional issues, it looks like something you could see sitting in a village along the Mediterranean [Sea],” Kleckner said. Its conditional issues are significant. They threaten the clubhouse’s chances of marking its 100th birthday, or perhaps even its 91st.

“Something needs to be done right away,” Bird said. Roof leaks caused a hole in the ceiling of the main pro shop room, an otherwise impressive, high-ceiling space where golfers and tennis players gather before and after playing. Damage from water leaks is visible not only in the ceiling tiles but also in the upper walls, floors, and in the basement, where rooms once used for parties, lockers and storage sit mostly idle. The foundation shows the effects of drainage problems. The first-floor and basement rooms need refurbished, said Dave Kennedy, the golf pro at Rea.

“It’s a big building that right now is really only using one room, and it’s just a waste,” Kennedy said. “Obviously, it was a great building back in the day,” he added, “and that’s what Mike’s and the Friends of Rea Park’s vision is — to bring it back.”

Redesign, repurpose. Its revival will require an investment. Bird said a local construction firm estimated the repairs would top \$320,000. The cost to repair the roof would involve \$20,000 for materials alone, he added. Bird shared his concerns about the roof with the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Board at its meeting last week. Board members, in agreement with Bird, decided that before pursuing a full roof repair, a structural engineer should determine whether the building itself is salvageable.

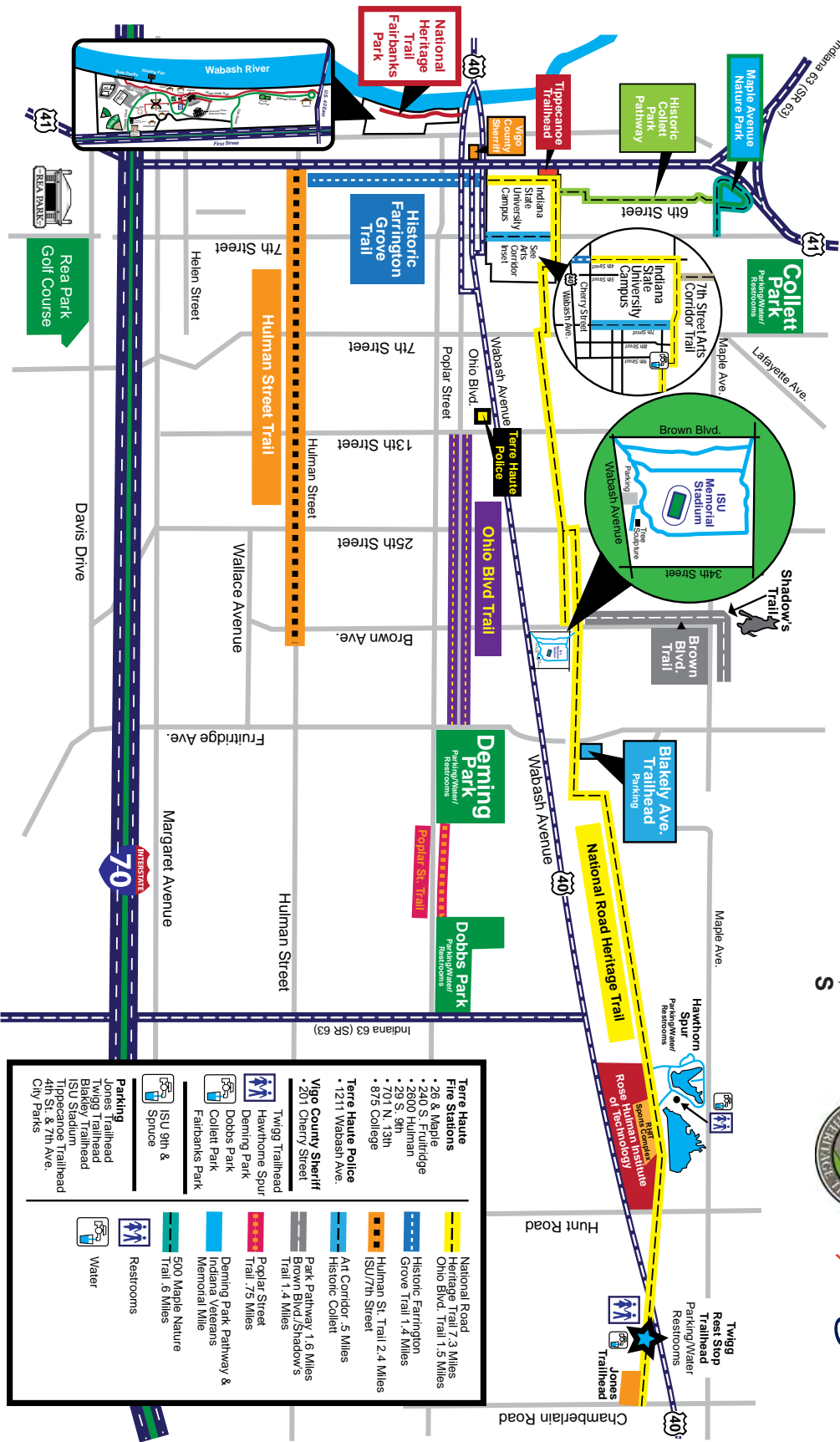
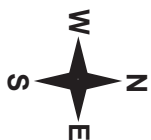
Bird wants such an inspection to also make sure the clubhouse is safe to use in the meantime. Rea’s golf season begins March 1. “I think it’s just been neglected for so many years,” Bird said. “It just needs a lot of work right now.” A plaque in the clubhouse marks renovations to the course done in 1984-86. Harding patterned Friends of Rea Park, Inc. on a similar group in Evansville that generated funds to restore that community’s historic Bosse Field. The Friends of Rea Park hope to draw funding support from private foundations, government entities, grants (thanks to the group’s nonprofit status), and individual donors. A renovation of the clubhouse could top \$1 million, Harding said, emphasizing that’s a “wild guess.” The tennis courts, added to the park years after the golf course opened, need vast repairs, as well.

The park is worth the investment and effort, Harding contends. Its grounds have been toured by countless golfers, tennis players, cross country runners and casual walkers through nine decades. The names of those visitors include baseball great Tommy John, basketball legend John Wooden and LPGA pioneer Patty Berg, among others.

“That’s a beautiful building out there. If an architect got a hold of it, they could really redesign and repurpose it,” Harding said, rattling off a list of functions the clubhouse could house beyond golf and tennis events. “I think it could be something the whole community could use and have pride in. “It was once a grand old building,” he added, “and it can be brought back.”

Terre Haute, Indiana

Terre Haute Recreational Trails



	National Road Heritage Trail 7.2 Miles
	Ohio Blvd Trail 1.5 Miles
	Historic Farrington Grove Trail 1.4 Miles
	Hulman St. Trail 2.4 Miles
	Art Corridor .5 Miles
	Park Pathway 1.6 Miles
	Brown Blvd/Shadow's Trail 1.4 Miles
	Poplar Street Trail .75 Miles
	Deming Park Pathway & Indiana Veterans Memorial Mile
	500 Maple Nature Trail .6 Miles
	Restrooms
	Water

	Terre Haute Fire Stations
	• 26 & Maple
	• 240 S. Fruitridge
	• 260 S. Hulman
	• 701 S. 11th
	• 875 College
	Terre Haute Police
	• 1211 Wabash Ave.
	Vigo County Sheriff
	• 201 Cherry Street
	Twigg Trailhead
	Hawthorne Spur
	Deming Park
	Dobbs Park
	Collett Park
	Fairbanks Park
	ISU 9th & Spruce
	Parking
	Jones Trailhead
	Twigg Trailhead
	Blakely Trailhead
	ISU Stadium
	Tippecanoe Trailhead
	4th St. & 7th Ave.
	City Parks



NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Employment: The City of Terre Haute does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The City of Terre Haute will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City of Terre Haute's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City of Terre Haute will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City of Terre Haute offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Terre Haute, should contact the office of **Josey Daugherty, ADA Coordinator, 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807, (812) 244-4903**, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City of Terre Haute to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Terre Haute is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to **Josey Daugherty ADA Coordinator, 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807, (812) 244-4903**.

The City of Terre Haute will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

City of Terre Haute Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Terre Haute. The City of Terre Haute's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Josey Daugherty
ADA Coordinator
17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807
(812) 244-4903

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Josey Daugherty or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Josey Daugherty or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Terre Haute and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

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

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Josey Daugherty or his/her designee, appeals to the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City of Terre Haute for at least three years.

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