

APRIL 2024

BORDEN, INDIANA PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

2024–2028



Borden, Indiana
Parks and Recreation System Master Plan
2024-2028

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April 2024

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A Resolution Accepting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

WHEREAS, the Borden Park and Recreation Board is desirous of providing a quality parks and recreation system for the citizens of Borden, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, in doing so the Borden Park and Recreation Board Desires to make itself eligible to meet certain requirements for participation in grant programs; and

WHEREAS, on 25 march, 2024, the Borden Park and Recreation Board received final draft document of the proposed Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was prepared by Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, Indiana University.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE BORDEN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, hereby accepts and adopts the final draft document of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the period of 2024 – 2028.

Pass and signed this 9 day of April, 2024.



Brian Everage, President Borden Park and Recreation Board



ATTEST

Introduction and Executive Summary

Purpose and Goal of the Plan

Master planning is a complex process involving thorough data collection, robust public engagement, and thoughtful analysis to create a periodic roadmap that sets goals and establishes priorities, then outlines a specific set of actions that the park department and community will undertake to meet those goals and priorities.

The Town of Borden and Borden Park Board partnered with the Eppley Center for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University and the Radius Indiana to create this Park System Master Plan for this community. Radius Indiana is a regional economic development organization serving as a catalyst for government, business, and academic collaboration to market and promotes the region as a highly competitive, vibrant ecosystem with an increasingly attractive quality of life. Borden, in Clark County, is outside that region but is an important hub on the soon to be constructed Monon South Trail so is being supported by Radius as part of a larger initiative to enhance capacity among all communities impacted by the new trail.

A parks system master plan provides the standards for level of service and facilities in the county, along with development priorities and an implementation strategy. It allows the Park Board to equitably allocate services and to meet identified deficiencies and shortfalls in the system for the future. In addition to providing an inventory of the facilities, properties, programs, events, and an analysis of use and demand, the comprehensive plan solicits and documents extensive public and stakeholder input obtained throughout the planning process. The synthesis of information, public engagement, data, trends, organizational need, and measurable, definable goals and objectives guides the community actions and investment in a rational, systemwide, equitable approach that aligns with community priorities for parks and recreation services. Additionally, completion of a system master plan will also create an avenue for funding opportunities through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources- State Parks, Grants, and Trails Section to support the goals that result from the community-driven plan.

The objectives for the Master Plan under are to:

- Gain public input for Borden to use for direction of important policy issues and to build wide-spread support of the plan for successful implementation
- Engage as a local community in enhancing quality of place and economic development within the Monon South Trail Corridor
- Provide an accessibility assessment of park and recreation facilities and programs to determine whether they are encompassing and accessible for all individuals
- Identify barriers to participation and establish priorities for barrier removal
- Create a published plan that will make Borden eligible for grant and passthrough funding from IDNR- State Parks, Community Grants, and Trails

This comprehensive system master plan will guide the Borden Park Board from 2024 through 2028.

Executive Summary

Master Plan Process and Timeline



Public Input

Public involvement is critical to the success of any planning project. The Department and Park Board sought to use this process to build trust within the community while also developing a plan that outlines a path forward. Methods of public engagement included:

- Public Meeting
- Community Survey
- Master Plan Website
- Public Comment Sessions

Public Meeting

A public meeting was conducted in October 2023 to gain feedback about issues important to the planning process. All attendees and their affiliations are identified in Appendix A.

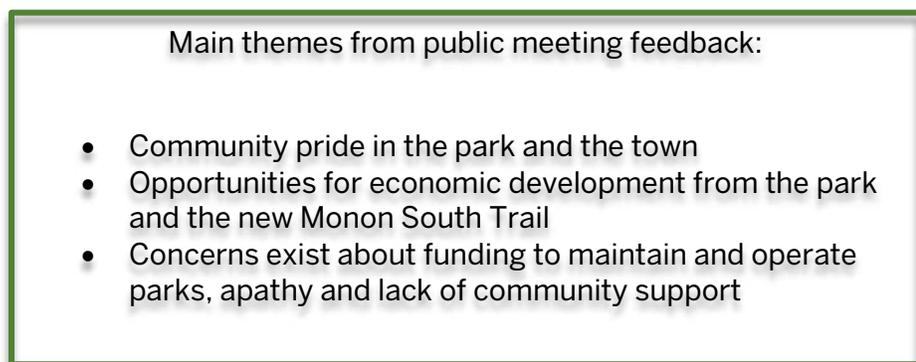


Figure 1: Public meeting feedback

Survey

The survey was launched in November 2023. A random sample survey was mailed to all households in Borden. Results will be compiled once the survey closes in December.

Highlights from the survey are summarized below:

Most Important Funding Priorities	
#1	Maintaining existing parks and trails (28%)
#2	Renovating (updating/improving) the grounds, facilities, and amenities in existing parks and trails (18%)
#3	Constructing new walking and biking paths (10%) & Constructing / adding new parks or facilities (10%)
Benefits of Parks	
#1	Provide access to the outdoors and nature (61%)
#2	Improve physical health and fitness (57%)
#3	Enhance community appearance (56%)
Important Recreation Facilities to Increase	
#1	Restrooms (93%)
#2	Playgrounds (83%)
#3	Shelters (82%)
Important Recreation Programs to Increase	
#1	Farmer's Market (75%)
#2	Concerts, festivals or family nights (73%)
#3	Youth Sports' League/Programs (71%)
Top Desired Monon South Trail Features	
#1	Ensure easily accessible parking at trailheads (50%)
#2	Provide visual maps at parks with trails (42%)
#3	Connect trail to existing bike paths or sidewalks (41%)

Figure 2: Survey Infographic

Project Website

Progress of the plan development is documented through a project website- <https://masterplan.eppley.org/borden-in/> - containing general information, a project timeline, updates, and a comment section for public feedback and questions.

Public Comment

The plan was presented to the public on March 25, 2024. Questions and feedback were recorded in Appendix A. In addition, the final draft of the plan document was posted to the project website with an invitation to leave additional feedback or questions in the comment portal.

Benchmarking

Benchmarking compares communities and park departments that are similar to Borden in population and department size to develop a picture of what might exist in typical, similar community. Communities included were:

- Salem, Indiana
- Huntingburg, Indiana
- Orleans, Indiana
- New Pekin, Indiana

Key facts about each community can be found here:

City	State	Service Area Population	Residents per Park	Trail Miles per 1000 residents	Operating Budget per Capita	Population per FTE Equivalent
Borden	IN	1,326	1,326	1.51	\$16.67	1,326
Huntingburg	IN	6,362	1,272	.41	\$149.42	1,590
Salem	IN	6,307	1,051	1.0	\$42.11	2,102
New Pekin	IN	1,224	1,224	.09	\$2.04	1,224
Orleans	IN	2,104	526	0.0	\$135.64	1,052

Moving Forward- 2023-2027

All of the data collected throughout the plan development process including the current state of the parks system and the community, public input, demographics, physical site assessments, and benchmarking were analyzed through a needs assessment that informs the action plan for the next five years.

Needs Assessment

The needs assessment brings together the information and data gathered through earlier stages of the planning process to identify a path forward for the agency. This assessment blends a level of service (LOS) analysis with current conditions and public input to determine needs and gaps in the park system.

Goals for Borden include:

- Maintain and Improve Assets
- Ensure Access for All
- Spur Economic Development
- Connect to the Community and Beyond
- Enhance Capacity

Action Plan

The final step in the planning process is the action plan. The action plan takes the recommendations created in the needs assessment and turns them into a detailed set of priorities intended to be undertaken within the planning period and beyond. This action plan establishes goals including priorities for each with anticipated completion timeframes, estimated cost, and potential funding sources for each action item in four goal areas.

Significant action items over the next five years include:

- Construct the new inclusive playground
- Complete the amphitheater
- Construct a dog park
- Construct Monon South Trail trailhead
- Economic impact analysis
- Write a marketing plan for recreation based tourism

Background and Context

Planning Area

The planning area includes the Town of Borden, Indiana, located in Wood Township Clark County in southeast Indiana. The Town covers 1.39 square miles.

Borden is located in western Clark County near the south-central border of Indiana in what is known as the Star Valley. The community is positioned along Indiana State Road 60 in between the communities of Sellersburg and New Pekin. It is approximately 30 minutes from Louisville, Kentucky to the south, two hours from both Evansville to the west and Indianapolis to the north.

Borden has one park- Borden Community Park which serves a wide area outside of the Town limit including Wood and Carr Townships and regional attendees of events such as the Star Valley Strawberry Festival.



Figure 3: Borden, Indiana

Monon South Trail

Borden is on the route of the emerging Monon South Trail. Radius Indiana along with the Indiana Department of National Resources (IDNR), through its Next Level Trails program, began a project in 2023 to construct the trail from Mitchell, IN to Borden. The greenway trail offers dramatic vistas of the Indiana farmland and linkages to several regional natural destinations, including nearby state parks and recreation facilities. Building on the unique

qualities of the region, the proposed trail amenities highlight several local community destinations and connections to other regional attractions (Radius Indiana, 2023). The trail is anticipated to bring additional tourism to Borden, opening the door to further outdoor recreation based economic development.



Figure 4: Monon South Trail map (courtesy Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

Upon completion, management of the Monon South Trail will be transferred to the Southern Indiana Trailways non-profit organization. To support the communities along the path of the new trail, Radius encouraged and funded the development of park system master plans for several towns, including Borden, in collaboration with the Epley Center for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University.

Star Valley Portfolio

Created but the grassroots Wood Township Committee, the Star Valley Portfolio aims to make Southern Indiana a national model for the implementation of Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI) This model will not only provide ASI education, but it will lead the regional implementation of a robust feeling economy based on high trust.

The portfolio incorporates goals to re-establish the Borden Institute to create a scalable national model for the enhancement of tourism, feeling economy development, and state healthy living and use the Institute as a vehicle for tourism, economic development, and healthy living. The Institute will lead and conduct regional healthy living expenditure research to identify avenues to achieve substantial state healthcare savings; the savings of which will be partially redirected to state feeling economy asset and program development and maintenance. In effect, establishing a five-county regional healthy living hub.

Both Borden Community Park and the Monon South Trail along with other local tourism assets are cornerstones of this portfolio and its goals. Future developments at the park and along the trail will align with this visionary regional development plan.

Natural Features and Landscape

Elevation and Climate

The Town of Borden's elevation is 558 feet above sea level. Borden is situated at the base of the Knobs, which is a local term used to describe the terrain there. The "Knobs", or Knobstone Escarpment, is one of the most rugged terrains in Indiana. One of the Knobs reaches an elevation of 1,056 feet above sea level.

Borden, in the Louisville climate area, has four distinct seasons, with warm, humid summers and cold winters. Daily high temperatures typically stay within 44°F (January) and 89°F (July), with lows between 28°F (January) and 71°F (July). The Borden area receives around 48 inches of precipitation a year, with around 13 inches of snow annually. Typically, the snowiest month is January and the rainiest is May.

Topography and Geology

The Knobstone Escarpment in southern Indiana can simply be described as a large group of steep hills and ravines. Due to the cost of building on this terrain, the borders of Borden have remained an elongated shape, contained by the sloped areas. Most of these sloped areas within Borden are heavily wooded and have the potential to provide attractive hiking and/or mountain biking soft-surface trails. Other wooded areas in Borden are mostly concentrated at the outer edges of Town limits surrounding a local waterbody (Packwood Branch) and behind the Junior and Senior High School. Future recreational areas will remain along natural or existing designated spaces as the community expands.

Based on the USDA NRCS soil survey of Clark County. Borden may contain areas of soil that are unsuitable for development. As future parks are built, there should be a geotechnical evaluation to determine design standards of the park facility.

Forests

Borden is within an hour's drive of three state forests. Clark State Forest, about 15 miles away, is over 25,000 acres in size and offers boating, hiking, accessible fishing, mountain biking, bridle trails, picnicking, sports fields, and shelter houses. Jackson-Washington State Forest, about 38 miles away, offers accessible archery, boating, bridle trails, accessible camping, accessible fishing, accessible hiking, historical sites, seasonal interpretive activities, hunting, mountain biking, and sports fields. Harrison-Crawford State Forest, about 35 miles away, offers camping, boating, fishing, hiking, and hunting.

Watercourses and Lakes

Borden is also dissected by two minor streams, Packwood Branch and Muddy Fork.

Packwood Branch is a small stream that runs throughout Clark County and parts of Borden and could potentially serve as a place for future recreational areas. This would include walking trails or different types of water recreation such as kayaking or canoeing. Muddy Fork, which runs along the south side of State Road 60 also has recreational potential. Presently, Muddy Fork is mainly used to divert flooding. Walking trails along this waterbody could potentially become a greenway system for the community and would need to be built to withstand flooding. creating pedestrian connectivity from the east to west boundary of the Borden.



Figure 5: Muddy Fork through Borden Community Park

Deam Lake is located around seven miles east of Borden, off State Road 60.

The lake, named after Charles Deam, Indiana's first state forester, consists of 194 acres and was constructed in 1965. The Deam Lake State Recreational Area offers multiple recreational opportunities, including hiking, boating, fishing, picnicking, camping, and hunting.

Flora and Fauna

Native Plants and Wildlife

Before the industrial revolution, southern Indiana, including Borden's geographic location, was almost entirely covered with deciduous forest. Modern forested areas are typically secondary growth and include tree species such as oaks, hickories, maples, dogwoods, and Indiana's state tree, the tulip poplar. Multiple fern species and shrubs accompany the trees in forested settings.

Wildlife common to the area include white-tailed deer, opossums, skunks, raccoons, rabbits, moles, shrews, bats, beavers, and muskrats. Songbirds such as robins, bluebirds, and chickadees are common, along with waterbirds like ducks, geese, and herons. Clark County is home to several fish species, including those of bass, bluegill, sturgeon, perch, and sunfish.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Clark county is home to three endangered species including one mollusk (Fat Pocketbook) and two mammal species (the Grey Bat and the Indiana Bat). There are also three

threatened or candidate (proposed) species including one mollusk (Longsolid) and two amphibians (streamside salamander and hellbender) (IDNR, [2023](#)).

Invasive Species

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District has identified several invasive plant species present in the county. These include Tree of Heaven, Winger Burning Bush, Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Barberry, Winter Creeper, Japanese Stiltgrass, and Purple Loosestrife. Efforts have been made in the county to remove these plants and others, including garlic mustard. There is no known significant presence of invasive plant species within the Borden Community Park but monitoring for them will continue.

The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic insect species that has infected and killed much of the ash tree population in the eastern United States. It was detected in Clark County in 2011. In some locations, foresters are treating ash trees with success. However, the problem is prevalent and people camping and recreating in natural areas are strongly urged not to move firewood from one location to another because this practice spreads the insects to new areas.

Other Recreation Facilities and Preserved Natural Areas

The following are recreation facilities available for Borden residents but not owned or operated by the Borden Park Board.

Community Center- 129 West Street

The Community Center is a building that is shared by Borden Town Hall and the local Police Department. The building sits on a half-acre lot on the west side of West Street in Borden. This community center is located within the heart of Borden next to the Jr./Sr. High School.

The community center offers a large, air-conditioned room with two rows of multiple tables and chairs. Also available at the community center is a men's and women's restroom, and kitchen facility for prepping, preparing, storing and serving food. The community center is mostly used for community meetings such as Parks Boards Meetings and small events.

Wood Township Park- 125 E. Main Street

Wood Township Park is a 2-acre park directly adjacent to the Jr./Sr. High School on the east side of West Street. This community facility is also located in the center of town and in close proximity to the community center. This area is not technically defined as a park but does offer recreational space for the community. This park is considered a neighborhood park and provides 2 acres of space.

Being located just directly next to the schools and centrally located in the community, this park could be improved and utilized to its full potential. Although the Town of Borden or the Park Board does not have control over this park, they could partner with Wood Township to improve the park and improve recreational assets for the community overall.

Within the park there is a swing set, merry-go-round and small slide that are all in fair condition. Surrounding the large open field are a few benches and trash receptacles. The open field is large enough to hold an organized game such as soccer. On the north section of the site is a large parking lot with approximately 100 parking spots. On the edges of the parking lots are basketball goals that offer space to play pick-up basketball games when the lot is empty.

Muddy Fork of Silver Creek Watershed Conservancy District

The Muddy Fork of Silver Creek Watershed Conservancy District is managed by the Muddy Fork Conservancy District Board and is located just north of town. The conservation district was identified to solve flooding/drainage issues and serve water needs. The reservoir has recently received federal funding for engineer and design is expected to be filled with water in the future. Once the reservoir is established, recreational activities are intended to be established and connections made to the Town and Deam Lake. New facilities may include camping, fishing, hiking, kayaking, canoeing and other water-related activities. Other facilities that may be included would be camping sites, utilities, parking, signage, a pavilion, dock, and a canoe launch.

Clark State Forest

Clark State Forest is located due northeast of Borden, a 17-mile trip by road. It was established in 1903 and is Indiana's oldest state forest. Originally 2000 acres in size, additional land acquisitions have allowed the forest's area to expand to 24,000 acres. There are two nature preserves within the forest: the White Oak Nature Preserve (160 acres), and the Chestnut Oak/Virginia Pine Nature Preserve (20 acres).

Primitive camping is available at the forest, with 38 campground sites and 26 equestrian sites. There are seven lakes within the forest, all of which are open for fishing. Hunting is permitted in season with a valid license. Other available activities include picnicking, playgrounds, ballfields, and recreational sports facilities. Additionally, there is a public gun range on site.

The Knobstone Trail crosses 32 miles through Clark State Forest. In addition, there are two shorter trails of about a mile each on the property. There are also five miles of mountain bike trails within the forest area.

Deam Lake

Deam Lake is located about 12 miles to the east of Borden. The lake itself is 194 acres in size. It is managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Besides the lake, the Recreation Area includes a campground and multiple trails. The lake was constructed in 1965 and named after Charles Deam, Indiana's first state forester.

The Deam Lake Recreation Area offers a total of 212 electric-equipped campsites with modern restroom facilities. 99 of these campsites are equestrian. There are also 19 rental cabins on site. Lake activities include fishing, boating, and swimming. There is a boat launching ramp that can accommodate larger boats. Rowboat and kayak rentals are available during the summer months. There is also a swimming beach open between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The recreation area has four hiking trails, ranging from .2 to 6 miles, in addition to the trailhead for the Knobstone Trail. Other activities available include mountain biking trails, a staffed Forest Education Center, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Hunting is allowed with a permit in season.

Knobstone Trail

The Knobstone Trail runs for 48 miles, mainly between the Clark State Forest and the Jackson State Forest. The southern terminus, at Deam Lake State Recreation area, is just over six miles east of Borden. The trail is managed by the IDNR with assistance from volunteer groups. It is named for the terrain it encompasses, the Knobstone escarpment. It is considered a rugged trail because it is situated on steep slopes and is used by some

hikers to trail for hiking in mountainous areas. The trail offers views over southern Indiana, the Ohio River, and the city of Louisville.

Planning Implications

The construction of the Monon South Trail presents opportunities for additional connections to the facilities mentioned above. Other than the local terrain and water features, other natural features in Borden include open space areas. Currently, most open space in the Borden area is primarily used for agricultural purposes or residential property. A large community-owned open space (identified as High School Recreational Field) directly adjacent to the Jr./Sr. High School could also potentially serve as a future/improved park. Many opportunities for outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing are easily available, leaving the Town and the park to continue to focus on active recreation and special events.

Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Factors

Overall, Borden is approximately 1.5 square miles, with various land uses such as residential, commercial, recreation, institutional, agricultural, and industrial. Residential properties in Borden are mainly focused along Main Street and in a neighborhood northeast of Main Street. A few residential properties are also located along Daisy Hill Road, which is situated in the northwestern area of Borden. If population were to increase, the density of the town would also increase due to the topographical constraints of the Knobstone Escarpment.

Historical- European Settlement

Borden was founded in 1816 and was originally named New Providence when it was founded by John Borden, who hailed from the Providence area in Rhode Island. John Borden's son, William W. Borden, became one of Clark County's wealthiest citizens after his work in silver mines in Colorado. He ended up founding multiple facilities and institutions in the area, including a library, the Borden Center (educational facility), a museum, a water reservoir, and electric streetlights. In his honor, the town was officially renamed Borden in 1994.

Historical- Before European settlement

The area now known as the state of Indiana is the ancestral land of several native groups still in existence today. As settlers began to expand to the West, Native American tribes were forced to leave their homelands and/or sign their land over to the government via treaties. In the late 1600s, the Miami and the Potawatomi tribes were the most prominent nations living in the Indiana area. A disruptive conflict called the Beaver Wars in the late 1690s and early 1700s caused migrations of multiple nations.

By the 1780s, the Lenape (Delaware) and Shawnee nations, refugees from nearby regions, also settled in what would become Indiana. From 1805 to 1846, most of the tribes within the Miami, Potawatomi, and Delaware nations, and the Shawnee people were forced to leave Indiana and relocate to Kansas, Oklahoma, Michigan, and several other states.

Native Land Digital, an Indigenous-led nonprofit, has developed a tool where people can learn about the history of the area where they live, specifically in terms of which indigenous nations, are documented to have historically lived in the area. Below is a list of tribes and tribal members that have been documented as residing within land in Borden:

- Osage Nation
- Myaamia (Miami)
- Shawandasse Tula (Shawanwaki/Shawnee)
- Kaskaskia
- Hopewell Culture
- Adena Culture

Today, many Native American people, tribes, and communities in Indiana are working to regain their land rights, sovereignty, language, and cultures. Two tribes have land within Indiana: the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In addition, members of multiple federally recognized tribes live in Indiana, including those of the Apache, Cherokee, Navajo, Comanche, Lakota Sioux, and many others.

Cultural

At one time, strawberries were a major farm crop of the Borden area and that heritage is featured yearly at the Star Valley Strawberry Festival held at the Borden Community Park. The festival moved to Borden and was renamed after many years of being called the Starlight



Strawberry Festival and held in nearby Starlight, Indiana. Attended by 12,000 people annually. The strawberry festival is a regional festival that includes a 5K run/walk, craft booths, music, festival games, kids' bouncers, a build-your-own strawberry shortcake bar, and a variety of food.

Transportation

The main thoroughfares through Borden include Main Street and Water Street (SR 60), which travel east to west through the Town. A newly constructed roadway called Star Valley Road connects SR 60 to the top of the knobs for the purpose of providing a direct and safe route to the top of a steep slope. Existing access to the "top" of the knobs are mainly small, steep, and winding roadways. There are no sidewalks in Borden to create a walkable system. If traffic along SR 60 increases, this could create a hazard for pedestrians and bicyclists. Borden's 2011 Comprehensive Plan established a goal of improving the sidewalk network, more critical now with the construction of the Monon South Trail and the need for residents on the south side of SR 60 to have a safe crossing for access and leading to better pedestrian access to the park.

Borden is also served by the CSX rail system. It was formerly known as the Monon and was one of the main loading points for carloads of strawberries shipped by the Borden-Pekin Berry Growers Association north along the rail line. The line is being redeveloped as the Monon South Trail, a key addition to Borden's recreation and transportation network.

Industrial

Within the Town of Borden are multiple types of businesses and institutions, including agriculture, construction, professional services, industry and manufacturing, retail, and restaurants. The three most common job groups in 2021 were production occupations, construction and extraction occupations, and office and administrative support occupations. Borden is home to one of the ten major employers for Clark County, Koetter Woodworking, which has been in operation since 1959, and has been recognized by multiple associations for its innovation and environmental stewardship. Borden is also home to Huber Orchard and Winery, a multigenerational (since 1843) operation offering multiple activities, including a winery, distillery, a family park, a restaurant, and a u-pick farm.

Other Infrastructure and Land Use

Borden is home to two schools, Borden Elementary, and Borden Junior/Senior High School. The town website lists six churches located within its borders. There is also a public library in Borden, a branch of the Charlestown-Clark County Public Library.

Planning Implications

Borden is located in an area close to many natural resources, including forests, lakes, and trails. The Monon South trail's construction is likely to draw more visitors to Borden via bicycle or on foot. Increasing connections to nearby locations like Deam Lake, the Knobstone Trail, and the Clark State Forest could offer visitors even more opportunities to enjoy Borden and the surrounding area, as well as being an asset to people living in the Town.

Social and Economic Factors

Population

The population of Borden was estimated at 1,326 at the 2021. The Town has been steadily growing from a population of 623 in 2012 to a high of 1,448 at the 2020 census before a slight dip in 2021.

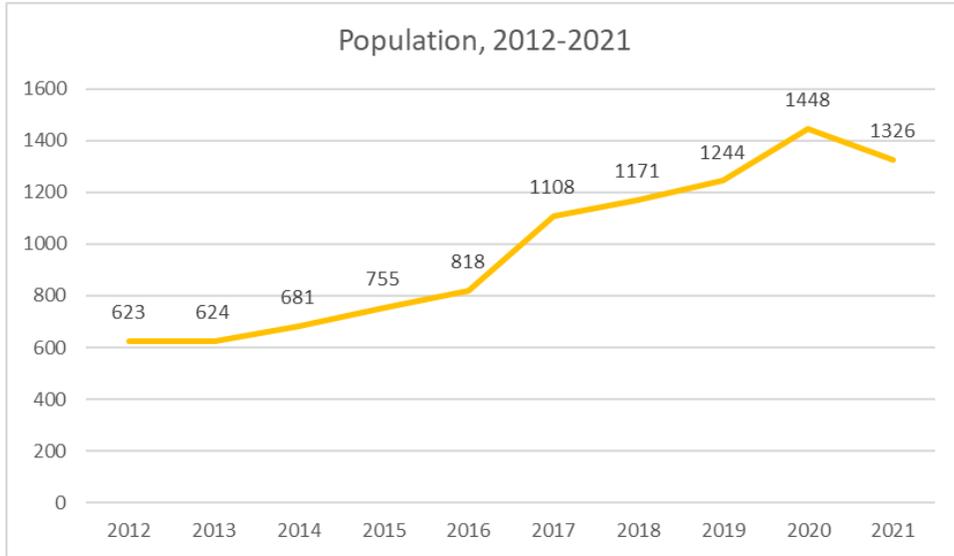


Figure 6: Borden population 2011-2020

The median age of Borden residents is 28.9, much younger than the median age for the State of Indiana (37.7). Across the state 16% of Hoosiers are over the age of 65 and 23% are under the age of 18, compared to 8% of Borden residents over the age of 65 and 33% under the age of 18. Borden has been growing much younger as well. In 2012, 20% of residents were over the age of 65 and 17% under 18.

95.1% of Borden’s population is White, 4% are Black, and 2.7% are Hispanic or Latino. 52.1% are female.

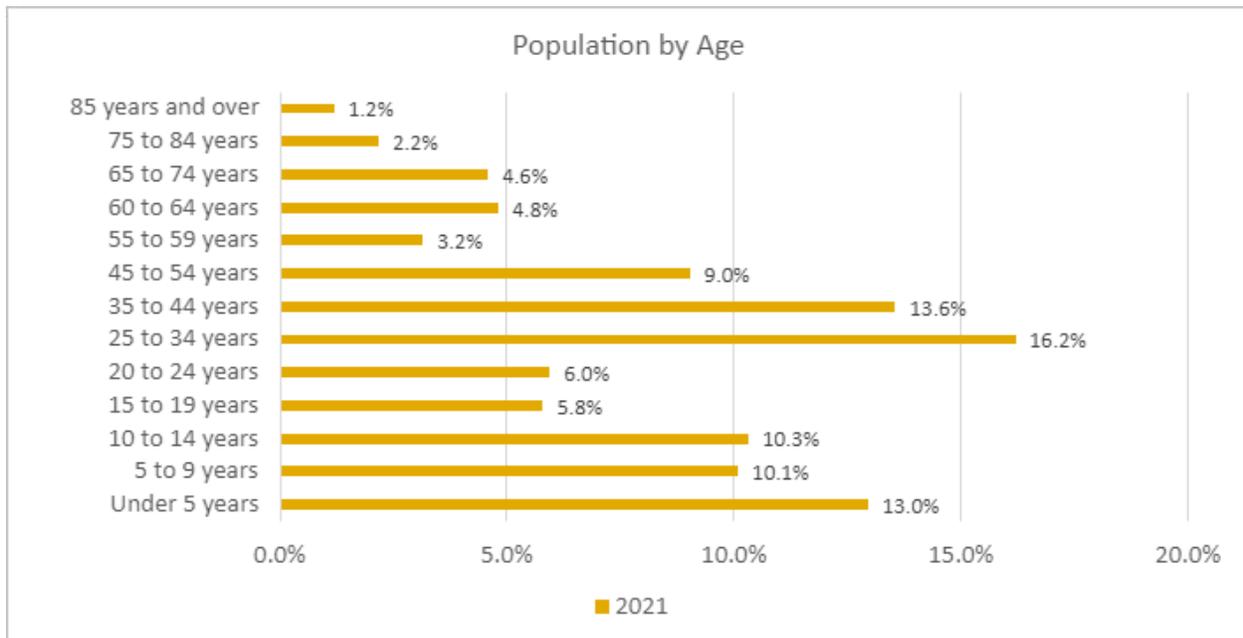


Figure 7: Borden population by age

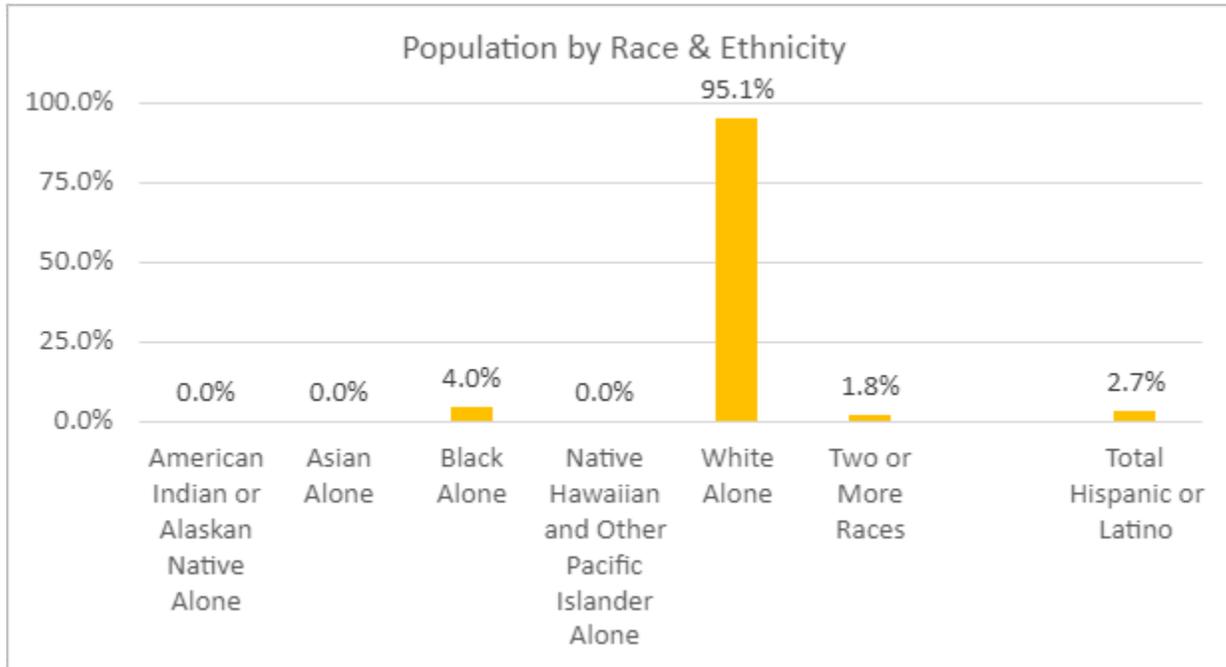


Figure 8: Borden population by race

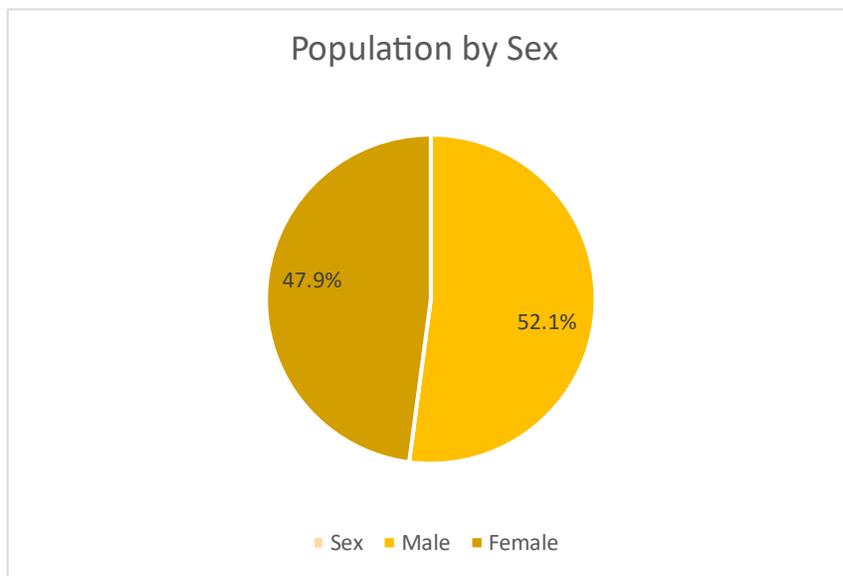


Figure 9: Borden population by sex/gender

Education

92% of Borden residents over the age of 25 have graduated high school, higher than the state average with 89%, while 17% have earned a bachelor's or higher degree. 28% of Hoosiers hold a bachelor's or higher degree.

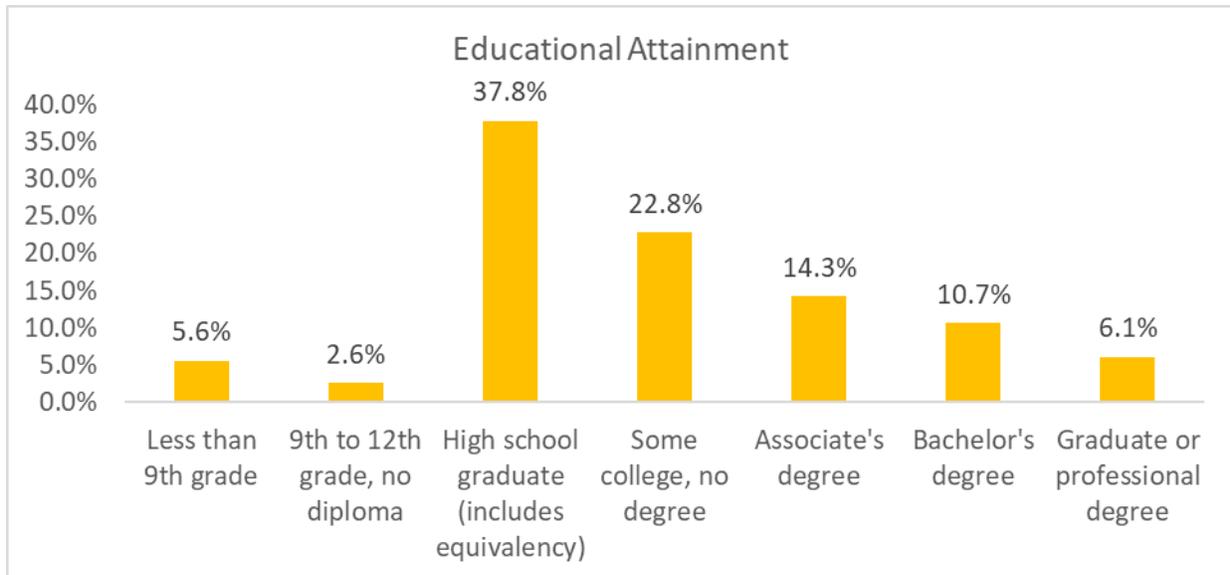


Figure 10: Borden educational attainment

Economic

Median household income in Borden is \$60,000, slightly lower than but comparable with the state of Indiana median income of \$61,944 while 10% of Borden residents are in poverty compared to just under 13% statewide. 40% of Borden resident have a household income of at least \$75,000. Median property values in Borden are \$137,200, less than the state average of \$158,500.

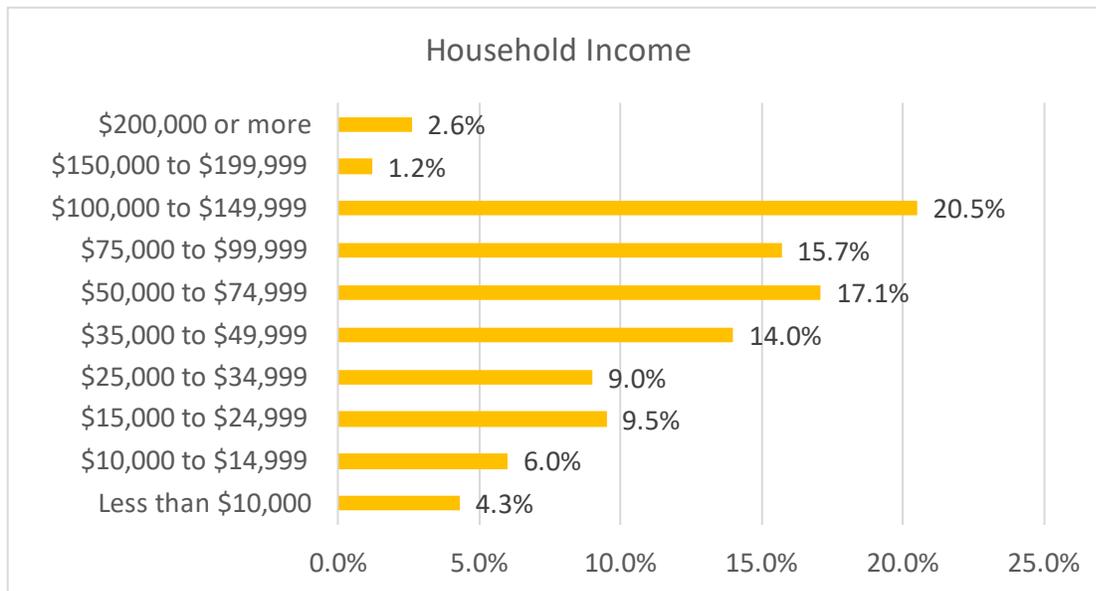


Figure 11: Borden household income

Employment Data

As of 2021, 594 Borden residents over the age of 18 (65%) were participating in the labor force compared to 64% statewide, with an unemployment rate of 4.5%, compared to 3.6% for the state. 26% of Borden residents are employed in the educational, health, or social services manufacturing sector, the most common sector, followed by manufacturing (24%), and arts, entertainment, recreation, and food service (9%). Average commute times for Borden resident is reported at 26.9 minutes, indicating a high number of workers travelling to larger cities and towns for work.

Table 1: Borden Employment by Sector

Industry	Employed	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	18	3.2%
Construction	49	8.6%
Manufacturing	137	24.2%
Wholesale trade	12	2.1%
Retail trade	47	8.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	13	2.3%
Information	6	1.1%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	7	1.2%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	39	6.9%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	150	26.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	51	9.0%

Other services, except public administration	38	6.7%
Public administration	0	0.0%

Health Data

8.2% of Borden residents have a disability, lower than the 9.9% of Hoosiers under the age of 65. Many people report multiple disabilities, meaning the sum of all categories will be more than 8.2%. The following table shows the types of disabilities reported by Borden residents. Independent living disabilities are the most common followed by ambulatory disabilities.

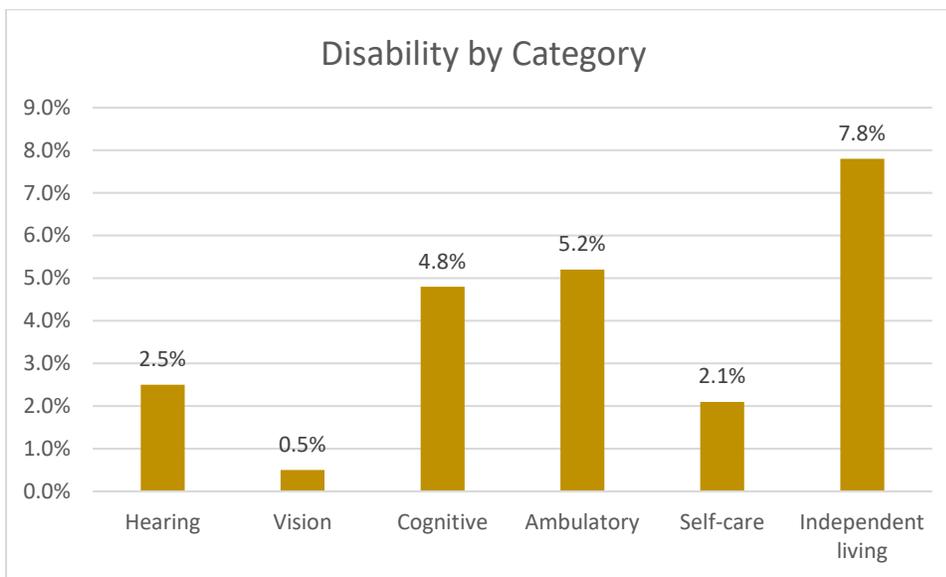


Figure 12: Borden disability by category

Planning Implications

Borden's population is younger, has higher income and education levels, and lower levels of disability than most similar, rural communities. Borden is, in fact much younger and less disabled than the state as a whole with income and property values comparable to state averages. The recent explosion of the population under 18 can be seen as a statement that Borden is an attractive community for families. With a large and constantly improving park and the Monon South Trail soon to be constructed, the community has opportunities to create amenities, for both the park and the trail, and programming that appeal to families and continue to enhance quality of life for all residents.

Borden Parks Information

Board

The Borden Parks and Recreation Board was originally created in 2001 and re-constituted with a new ordinance (2023-OR-1) in January 2023, then re-organized in February of 2024 through Ordinance 2024-2-13A, which can be found in Appendix C.

According to the new ordinance, current members serve terms of one to four years, then a full four years when the current terms expire. Four members are appointed by the Town Council and one ex officio member is appointed by the Borden-Henryville School Corporation. To formally contact the Members of the Parks and Recreation Board:

Borden Parks and Recreation Board
Borden Town Hall
129 West Street
Borden, Indiana 47106

Board Member	Role	Appointed by	Term ends
Brian Everage	President	Town Council	December 31, 2027
Robert Shaw	Vice president	Town Council	December 31, 2025
Kevin Jackson	Member	Borden-Henryville School District	December 31, 2027
Randy Koetter	Member	Town Council	December 31, 2026
Christian Gleason	Member	Town Council	December 31, 2024

Park upkeep and event operations is supported by the Friends of Borden Community Park (Friends). The purpose of the Friends group is to provide support of the Borden Community Park in the accomplishment of its designated goals and activities and operate in accordance with Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code. Included in the purposes stated above shall be the promotion of recreational, natural, and interpretive activities of the park and recreation areas in the Borden Community Park.

The Friends perform routine maintenance such as minor repairs, landscaping, trash removal, and clean-up of the park. At least one current Friends volunteer is an employee of a municipal park and recreation department and has knowledge and experience to perform more extensive repairs and maintenance.

The Friends also hold events like the Star Valley Strawberry Festival and the Fish Fry, proceeds and donations from which are dedicated to upkeep of the park.

Budget

Without a formal department, Borden does not have a specific budget for the Borden Community Park. Town staff do maintain the park as part of their day-to-day duties at approximately .5 Full-time Equivalent hours.

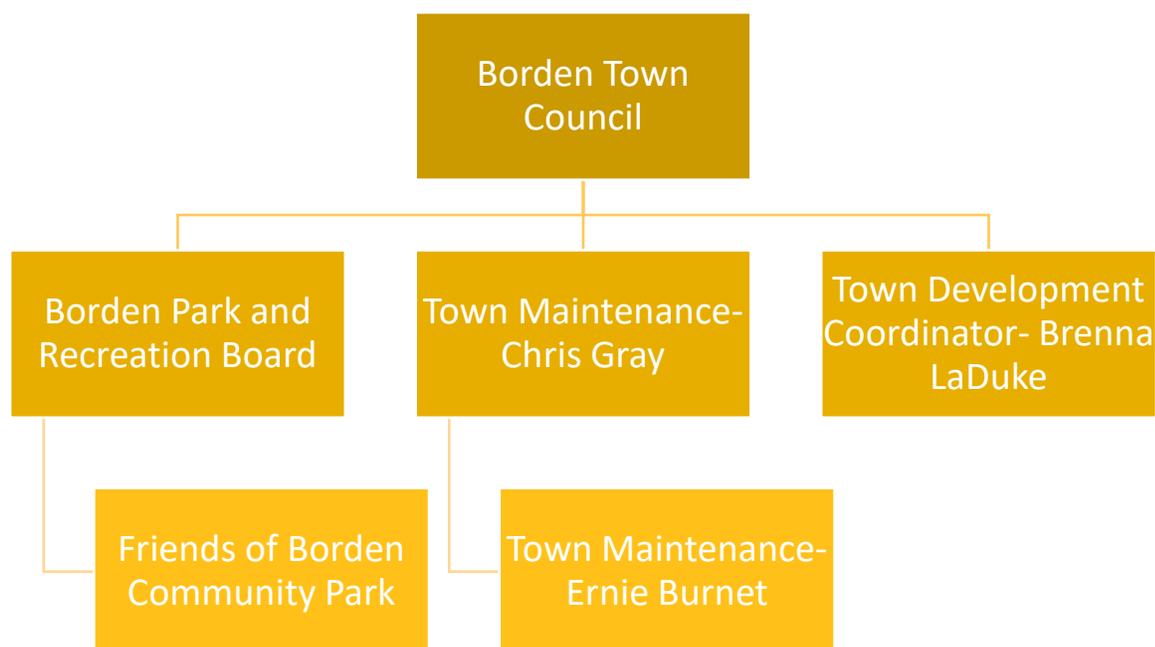
Expenditures for the park come from a combination of the Town's budget allocation- \$15,000 in 2023, Facility rental fees- \$6,390 in 2023, and donations from the Friends and other entities, usually for specific projects.

The Friends of Borden Community Park, on behalf of the Wood Township Committee and utilizing the Star Valley Portfolio as a roadmap, applied for and received a Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grant in 2019 for \$500,000 to be used, in part, for construction of the new amphitheater, and event center, and other to be determined amenities at the park. The remainder is earmarked for design, engineering, and construction of other local infrastructure.

Staff

Borden does not have a formally established Park Department. Routine maintenance including mowing and minor repairs are performed by Town employees who report to the Town Council and volunteers from the Friends of Borden Community Park.

Borden Community Park- Organizational Chart



Facilities

Borden has one park, the Borden Community Park. A condition assessment was conducted at the site by the Eppley Center in October of 2023. This assessment was done to confirm assets and amenities within each facility and visually inspect for overall quality, usage, and needed repairs, replacements, or upgrades. The assessment was done concurrently with an accessibility assessment, during which assets and amenities at each facility were inspected for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and recommendations for

improvements were made. Eppley's assessment of facility, asset, and amenity conditions can be found here and in more detail in the Accessibility Review.

Borden Community Park- 875 E. Main Street -41 acres

Borden Community Park is located on the eastern portion of Borden near the industrial development in the community. In 2019, Borden acquired 14 additional acres located north of the original park boundaries to expand it to the current 41 acres. To date, the parcel is undeveloped open space. The park is bisected by the Muddy Fork, a scenic creek crossed by a bridge constructed in 2022. The section north of the creek includes two basketball courts, small shelter, grass volleyball areas, four softball/baseball fields, a large shelter, a playground and large open fields. The ballfields surround a two-story building with concessions, restrooms, and a press box. Two miles of paved walking trails wind through



Figure 13: Baseball Field

the park and seating benches are scattered throughout. South of the Muddy Fork is a large open field, also surrounded by paved walking trail with a new amphitheater, grass and bleacher seating in the center. The amphitheater is currently usable but incomplete with the band shell to be constructed in 2024.

Since the adoption of the current master plan in 2018, Borden has made significant progress with many of its strategic goals including the acquisition of the additional 14 acres, construction of the Muddy Fork bridge, installed additional lighting and security cameras, constructed an amphitheater, hired a Town Development Coordinator to assist with logistics and

administration. In addition, Friends of Borden Community Park established the “Sunshine Gang” Bingo club boasting 65 members and added several events including Concerts by the Creek and Light Up Borden. Borden also now hosts the annual Star Valley Strawberry Festival, formerly the Starlight Strawberry Festival held in the town of Starlight, with over 12,000 attendees.

Borden was unable to advance goals of constructing a dog park, splash pad, or ADA compliant playground. However, in October of 2023, Borden received a \$150,000 grant from Community Foundations of Southern Indiana to construct an ADA compliant playground and restrooms, which will involve reconstruction and expansion of the existing playground. Goals still exist for completion of the dog park and splash pad and are included in this planning period. The Friends are also funding the resealing of the smaller parking lot for the creation of 2 pickleball courts.

Borden Parks System with Monon South Trail

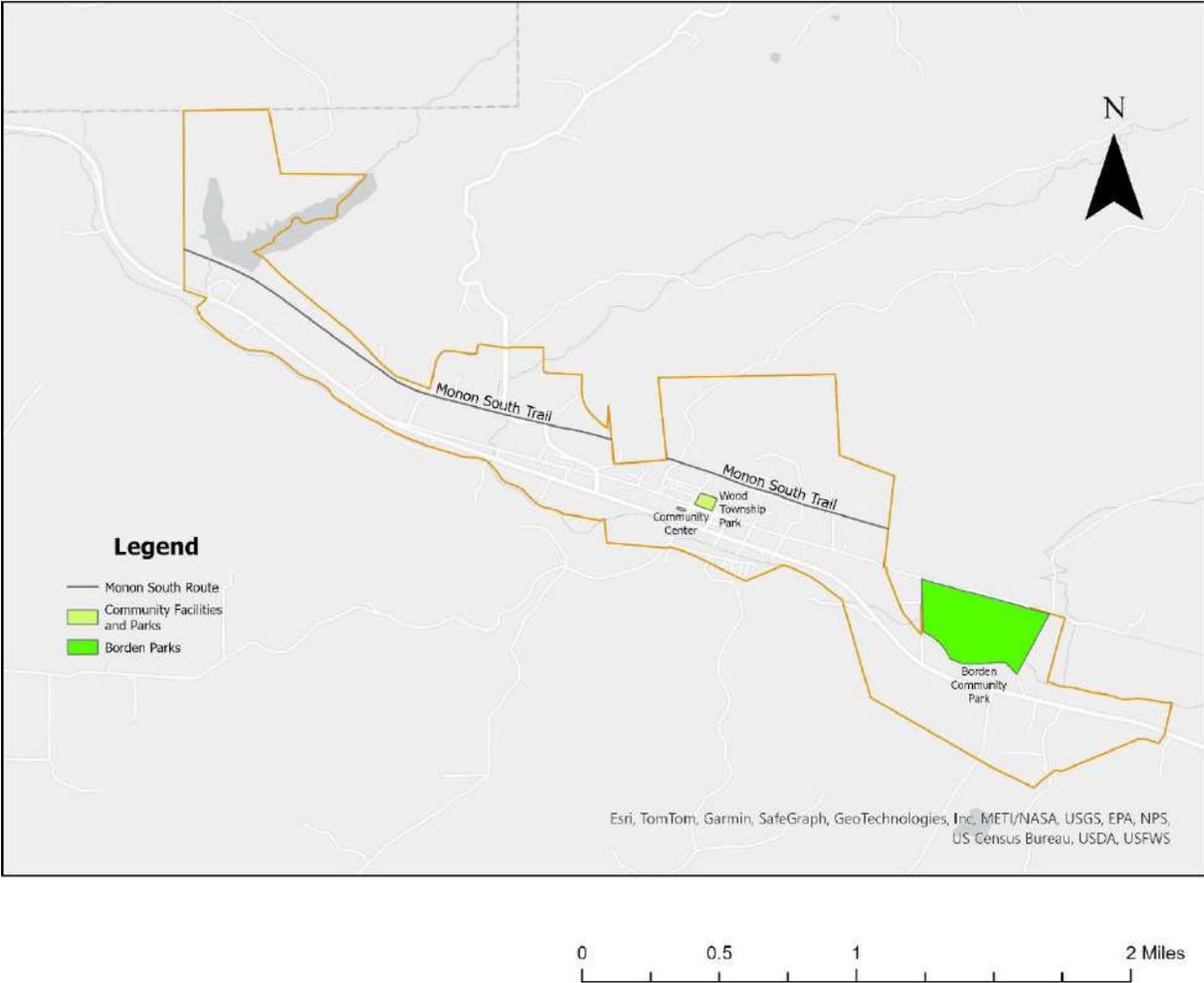


Figure 14: Borden parks with Monon South trail

Condition Assessment

The overall of the park is good. The basketball courts are in excellent condition, recently resurfaced and painted as is the Muddy Fork bridge, as is the larger shelter. Ballfields are in good condition with minor turf improvements needed. Dugouts and fencing are in good condition. Playground equipment is in very good condition though the wood chip surfacing needs minor maintenance and does not meet ADA requirements. The walking trail is in very good condition with the exception of a few sections of cracked or broken asphalt, most



Figure 15: Swing set at playground

notably between the first two ballfields. Volleyball courts are all grass with no court lines and the nets should be replaced. The trail is only 6 feet wide in most places and could be widened to better accommodate traffic in both directions and mobility devices. The amphitheater is useable but still under construction, expected to be completed by the summer of 2024. Asphalt parking areas are adequate but all paint has been worn away and minor patching and resealing are in order. Seating benches all appear to be in good condition, though two stone picnic tables are not. Across the park, routes to various elements such as the volleyball courts, amphitheater seating, and seating benches should be added. More details can be found in the Site Assessment Report in Appendix C.

Programming

The Town of Borden does not offer programming directly but maintains joint use agreements with the Borden Youth League to hold summer baseball and softball leagues and tournaments and Borden High School to play Girls' Softball at Borden Town Park.

The Park Board and Friends of Borden Community Park and other community organizations partner to hold many public events at the park including:

Easter Egg Hunt- Hosted by Borden Lions Club

Star Valley Strawberry Festival, Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend – Hosted by Friends of Borden Community Park

Concerts by the Creek, Third Friday of June, July, August & September, Hosted by Friends of Borden Community Park

Fish Fry, Monthly February - October hosted by Friends of Borden Community Park. Fish Fry located at Borden Community Center February through April, and October. June through September Fish Fry at Borden Community Park to coincide with Concerts by the Creek.

White Pumpkin Remembrance Walk- An event to honor and support families who have suffered Infant or Pregnancy Loss, October- Hosted by Kayla Troutman, Artist

Fall/Spring Field Clean Up- A volunteer day set up to prepare youth field leagues for season- Hosted by Volunteers from Park Board, Friends of Borden Community Park, Borden Youth League, and community volunteers.

Park Clean Up Day- A volunteer day to spruce up Borden Community Park- Hosted by Borden Community Park Board, Friends of Borden Community Park, and community volunteers.

Light Up Borden- A holiday celebration to kick off the Holiday Season, Sunday after Thanksgiving- Hosted by Friends of Borden Community Park

Christmas Eve Vigil Service to celebrate Christmas- Hosted by Lions Club

In addition, the Friends started the "Sunshine Gang" Bingo club which meets at the Town Hall's Community Room each Wednesday morning.

Accessibility Report

The Town of Borden is committed to establishing and maintaining an accessible community. We want all our community members to enjoy the benefits of our programs, services, and activities. We recognize that access is not only a civil right, but our social responsibility to uphold and promote diversity and inclusion.

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on January 26, 1990 established access to recreation and play settings as a civil right for Americans. This law requires that any program, activity or service that is offered to the public must be accessible to disabled individuals. As parks and recreational facilities are built and updated in Borden, the community should ensure that the design of these facilities do not hinder access to the disabled. In addition to facilities, all policies, programs and activities must also comply with ADA requirements.

ADA Coordinator

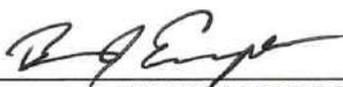
Currently the community does not have over 50 employees and does not have an ADA Coordinator. The ADA contact representative for the Parks Board is Parks Board President Brian Everage (bmeverage@gmail.com). To better understand and ensure compliance moving forward the community should establish a grievance procedure and develop an ADA transition plan to ensure accessibility in the parks system.

Public Notice

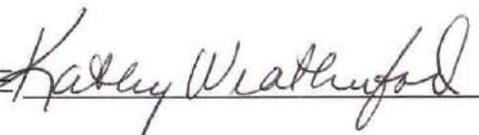
The Town of Borden has provided and will continue to provide public notice about the rights of the public under the ADA and the responsibility of the Town under the ADA.

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

The Borden Community Park Board President, Brian Everage (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE 
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Brian Everage
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

Kathy Weatherford
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE April 9, 2024

Accessibility Evaluation and Recommendations

The Eppley Center project team conducted an accessibility assessment designed to identify barriers to facilities and program participation for people who are differently abled. Recommendations for barrier removal and improved access to assist parks personnel in long-term planning are based on the findings of the site assessment.

The Eppley Center uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for program access as a guiding principle for viewing the programs, activities, and services of the department, in their entirety, for consideration of barrier removal. The inspection team looks critically at facilities and programs from the point of view of persons who have different abilities pertaining to vision, hearing, mobility, or cognitive processes. This approach focuses on experiential components of a site, as well as compliance with minimum design standards. The Eppley Center views the physical environment as a catalyst for program access and thus forms recommendations for barrier removal with program access at the forefront of investigative and reporting processes.

The ADA requires that if a service is provided, such as picnic areas, that service must be made accessible to everyone. This does not mean that every picnic area needs to be immediately retrofitted to meet accessibility standards; instead, it is recommended that when renovation or construction takes place, accessible picnic areas should be created. Accessibility should be included in planning for any new or renovated amenity or service. The goal is to make the experiences provided at the site to be equitable regardless of ability.

Outdoor recreation standards for some spaces and facilities are contained in the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards. These standards are specific to federally operated and/or funded locations and are not yet required for state and local entities. However, they are viewed as best practices and should be utilized in project designs. The ABA is cited when an appropriate corollary ADA standard is not available.

The following are the most important items of concern that our team identified, with recommendations for corrective action or improvement. In some cases, further investigation of ADA compliance is recommended.

Borden Community Park

Parking and Arrival

The northwestern parking lot nearest the ballfields has two spaces painted with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) and access aisles however, there is no signage indicating accessible parking. A single port-a-let is placed near the eastern side of the lot, and there is a footbridge from the lot to the grassy field to the west. A second lot near the basketball courts has two more spots painted as accessible.



Figure 16: Footbridge over drainage ditch

Recommendation: Add directional signage throughout from E. Main Street through the park roads. Include the ISA on signage directing to accessible parking and other amenities.

Recommendation: Add ADA-compliant signage to indicate accessible parking spaces. Where signage is present, ensure that it meets the standards for height and placement (min 60 inches to lowest edge per ADA 502.6).

Recommendation: Replace (or add a second) port-a-let with an accessible one and ensure it is placed on an accessible route with no change in level to entry.

Recommendation: Widen the footbridge that crosses the drainage ditch, replacing worn boards and adding a second handrail. Handrails should be 1.25 to 2 inches in diameter to allow for gripping (ADA 505.7). Ensure that the openings in the bridge decking are no more than a half-inch.

The path from the lot to the courts is newly paved and accessible. It does not connect to the courtside bench seating (although the bench can be accessed via the court), and there is not enough clear ground space in the poured concrete pad under the bench. Volleyball nets are set in the grass beyond the basketball court.

Recommendation: Expand the poured concrete surface to accommodate companion wheelchair seating. When adding seating anywhere at the park, include arm and backrests to assist those who benefit from that structure.

The pedestrian paths throughout the rest of the park vary in construction standard and maintenance. Several areas present barriers caused by changes in level or vegetation growth in the accessible route. The area around the ballfield concessions building has areas where the cross slope exceeds standards for the intended use. A pedestrian bridge over the Muddy Fork connects the north and south sides of the park. It is well maintained but lacks usable handrails. There is a change in level between the asphalt path and concrete footer at the bridge.



Figure 17: Approach to shelter

Recommendation: Develop a maintenance protocol for minimizing changes in level caused by weathering, patching, and grounds maintenance. Ensure that staff understand the standards regarding openings, clear width, and changes in level to minimize barriers (ADA 303 and 305).

Recommendation: Assess the slopes of the main route to the ballfields and around the concessions area to determine ADA compliance for an accessible route (ADA 402).

Recommendation: Add compliant handrails to the bridge and bevel the change in level at each end of the bridge walking surface. Minimize the openings where the bridge planking meets the footings

Site Amenities

Two shelters with picnic tables are located on the north side of the creek that bisects the park. The smaller one offers an accessible picnic table, while the other does not. A water pump near the second shelter is difficult to operate (requires a lot of force). The surfaces near both the pump and nearby water fountain differ from the surrounding grass lawn, but neither have clear space for a side approach. (The water fountain should be reexamined for forward approach standards.)

Restrooms provided at the center of the ballfield complex are not accessible. The change in level at the threshold presents a barrier and the interior is missing grab bars and features such as toilet paper dispenser, flushing mechanism, and the door handles appear to be out of compliance. There appears to be plenty of space to refurbish the existing rooms to meet ADA standards. Once that is done ADA compliant signage should be placed on the walls outside the doors on the latch side (per ADA 603).

Recommendation: Around site amenities such as trash receptacles, water fountains and benches, add surfacing that permits level, clear ground space for use, either from the front or via side approach (ADA 305).

Recommendation: Set tension on manipulable parts (faucet handles, drinking fountain buttons or levers) to require less than five psi of force to operate.

Recommendation: Begin rehabbing of the restroom facilities to meet accessibility standards in ADA 603-606).

Recommendation: Place a cane-detectable object beneath the drinking fountain at the concession building (ADA 307).

Recommendation: As longer term projects are being considered and implemented, provide accurate information about the accessibility of the restrooms and the slope of the route to the ballfields.

Assembly and Activity Areas

Accessing the ballfields requires navigating a change in vertical level to enter the dugouts. The dugout benches have space for wheelchair seating. The stands next to the fields have no back or armrests. Some are not located on the accessible route, while others are but have no clear space for accessing the seating or placing a wheelchair.

On the south side of the park, where a stage is constructed, there are several picnic tables and metal bleachers. The ground has been graded to elevate the ground-level platform stage on all sides. Access to the stage is from the back (north) where a gravel/grass surfaced path slopes from the paved walking trail. This area could be made more accessible with the installation of a ramp with handrails – no slope measurements were taken at this site. A small shed is situated at the south end of the footbridge. It has a significant change in level at the doorway. Depending on use by visitors, a handrail and/or ramp should be installed here.

The playground has a light surfacing of wood chips. The area could be entered from the grass lawn without much change in level, however entering from the paved route has a significant change in level. The maintenance solution – adding mulch to bring up the playground surface level – is not ideal for accessibility. Any surface, to be accessible, must be firm and stable. Wood mulch is not considered accessible.



Figure 18: Wood mulch surfacing on playground

Recommendation: At ballfields and stage area, install bleacher seating that has handrails and backrests and is placed along an accessible route with space for wheelchair seating (ADA 802).

Recommendation: Consider alternatives for accessing the dugouts using a ramp or on-grade seating.

Recommendation: Replace wood chip playground surface with a firm, stable surface on grade with the paved path (see ADA 1008 and ASTM F1951 and F1292).

Public Engagement

Civic involvement is crucially important in planning and decision-making processes to effectively develop and deliver community-centered park and recreation opportunities. The public engagement process that follows was designed to be balanced, open, and collaborative. The Borden Park Board sought to use this process to build trust within the community while also developing a plan that outlines a path forward. Methods of public engagement include:

- Public Meeting
- Community Survey
- Master Plan Website
- Public Comment Sessions

Public Meeting

A public meeting was called at the Borden Community Center on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in order to elicit feedback about park and recreation facilities and programs in Borden, as well as to garner feedback regarding the Monon South Trail (MST), which is currently under construction. The meeting was co-lead and co-facilitated with representatives from the planning team as well as the National Park Service to collect insights on both initiatives. Complete methodology details can be found in Appendix A.

Participants

Recruitment for the public meeting occurred via social media (e.g., Facebook posts on Friends of Borden Community Park page), traditional media, and other institutions (e.g., Radius Indiana and Southern Indiana Trailways). All members of the public were invited to the public meeting. There were 21 meeting attendees and two facilitators. Members of the public included several residents, official representing local government (i.e., town, commission, fire department, and park board) as well as representatives from the local Friends of the Park and Friends of the Ohio River Greenway groups. All attendees are documented in Appendix A.

Data Collection

The public meeting consisted of (1) a welcome and introduction, (2) presentations regarding the Borden master park system planning process and Monon South Trail project, (3) an icebreaker about attendees' opinions regarding parks and recreation offerings in Borden, a (4) Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) evaluation of Borden's park and recreation system, and (5) a "gallery walk" presentation about the MST, which collected targeted feedback about that specific project.

The ice-breaker activity posed, “What 5 words would you use describe the current parks and recreation opportunities in your town?” Meeting attendees were asked to provide their response on individual post-it notes.

The SWOT evaluation divided attendees into two groups of participants, each supported by a meeting facilitator. Prior to initiating the activity, one facilitator provided an overview of the feedback sought, including (a) strengths and weaknesses associated with Borden’s current parks and recreation offerings and (b) opportunities and threats attendees foresee with respect to the town’s parks and recreation offerings.

Following the SWOT evaluation, the MST “Gallery Walk” activity featured a presentation coupled with a guided worksheet that attendees filled out (Appendix A). As the “Gallery Walk” presentation progressed, attendees identified on their worksheet two benefits of the Monon South Trail that were most important to them. Then, during a subsequent part of the “Gallery Walk” activity, attendees were invited to identify three trail activities they desired on the trail and/or anticipated engaging in themselves.

Results

Attendees at Borden’s community meeting were generally complimentary of Borden’s park and recreation offerings, sharing descriptions such as “huge asset to the town,” “outstanding for this size community,” amazing opportunities for all visitors,” “nice for families,” and “popular.” Others used terms such as “evolving,” “growing with activities,” “improving,” and “minimal but improving with opportunities.” The most frequently used word was “community” (repeated 5 times). This was followed by “town” and growing” (each referenced 3 times). “Community-oriented,” “improving,” “opportunities,” “park,” “beautiful,” and “very good” were each shared by two attendees.

The SWOT evaluation results indicated wide-ranging strengths, ranging community pride and support for/from local businesses to the town’s history and diversity. Several identified topics addressed spatial locations and connectivity, such as “connectivity of town, park, and trail,” “established park adjacent to trail,” and “next to lake.” Top factors identified between the two groups include the quality of the park itself and tourism. With respect to weaknesses, funding and maintenance were repeated in both small groups, and funding was identified as the “top” weakness in both groups. Opportunities posed by future park and recreation offerings (namely, the trail) to bring in development and new businesses was identified by both groups. Notably, connecting the school to the park, which would likely benefit youth and caregivers, was identified by one group as a “top” opportunity. Finally, threats identified ranged from vandalism to development issues like flood plains; however, the factors identified as “top” issues included the (lack of) “community support” and similar, perceptions regarding “fear of change.”

Table 1. Borden SWOT Evaluation Results

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community pride • Connectivity of town & park & trail • Diversity • Draw from other areas • Established park adjacent to trail • Familiar with master plan process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding (2)** • Maintenance (2) • Apathy • "Change" - Fear of • Crime - public safety • Facilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future amenities • History • Local support • Mental & physical health • Next to lake • Opportunity to capitalize on strengths • Potential collaboration • Programs available • Quality of the park* • Safe place • State government support • Support for /from local business • Tourism* • Visibility • Youth development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth / competing strategies • Lack of engagement with population • Local government collaboration • Repairs • Traffic Management • Uncharted territories • Volunteers
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring development / new businesses (2)* • Agritourism • Bringing new businesses • Connecting school to park* • Healthy living • Opportunity for community engagement/partnerships • Organized events • Program opportunities • To try new activities • Tourism • Towns-connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big city-fullness (?) • Community support* • Development - flood plain • "Fear of change"* • Government • Illegal activities • Maintenance/Environment conditions • Unknowns • Vandalism

*Indicates a factor that was identified as "top factor" by one group.

MST worksheet results indicated that perceived improvements to quality of life due to the MST was the most frequently selected benefit. Rounding out the top 5 factors include pedestrian and bike safety increasing outdoor recreation, connecting communities, and economic development.

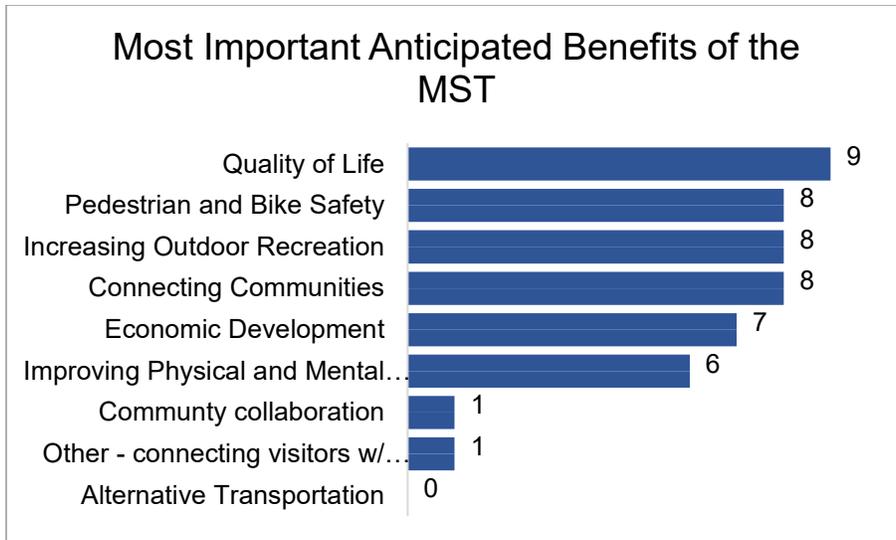


Figure 19: Trail Benefits

The most frequently selected activities that attendees either (a) desire on the MST or (b) plan to engage in on the MST included: Walking, Enjoying Nature/Nature Walks, Biking, Events/Special Events, and taking advantage of Town-to-Town Connections.



Figure 20: Trail Activities

Community Survey

Survey Methodology

Objectives

The primary objective for the survey was to systematically gather data on public opinion, interests, and perceptions regarding the current recreation and park system in Borden. This effort sought to collect data regarding:

- **Demographics** of who took the survey, including characteristics such as gender, age, and income level
- **Awareness** of the community park and recreation resources, including current & preferred modes of recreation opportunity information
- **Usage** of the existing park and recreation facilities, including transportation access
- **Barriers** to the use of parks and recreation resources
- Perceived **Benefits** of parks and recreation resources to public health outcomes, environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, and social sustainability
- **Facilities**, with respect to importance, use, and condition
- **Programs**, with respect to importance, participation, and reasons for non-participation (if applicable)
- Feedback regarding the **Monon South Trail**, including desired features and promotion, as well as anticipated trail activities
- **Opinion** about desired park and recreation funding budget allocations

Sampling

The 2020 US Census reports that population of Borden, Indiana, was 786 individuals and 360 total households. Given the relatively small population and that up to 10% of mail surveys are non-deliverable, the planning team decided to recruit from all known addresses. As a result, the survey featured a bimodal recruitment strategy, seeking (1) to survey all households in Borden as well as (2) to facilitate a “convenience” sampling approach.

Initially, the sample population sought to first include all known addresses in Borden, Indiana; this data was provided by a member of the town council and included 314 addresses, collected via town sewer utility data. Additionally, the town sought to also distribute the survey to frequent attendees of Borden’s “Sunshine Bingo” club, including some who live outside of Borden town boundaries but who regularly engaged in its programming. Ultimately, 376 addresses were recruited for survey participation. Individuals were recruited via a mailed postcard with a link and QR code to the survey (Appendix A).

In addition to the mailed postcard strategy, the link/QR code was also made available for public posting and sharing. Borden contacts were predominantly responsible for promoting

and making available the convenience survey. Mechanisms for distributing this version included:

- Social media – The survey link was shared to relevant community Facebook groups, including those associated with Monon South Trail planning activities
- Planning Website – The Eppley Center posted the link on the project's website.
- Word of mouth.

After the conclusion of sampling, 171 total responses were included, which is best represented by a response rate of approximately 45.5% and corresponds with a $\pm 7\%$ margin of error. However, it should be noted that these 171 responses reflect a combination of the three strategies (mailed postcards to all provided residential addresses, Sunshine Bingo attendees, and the convenience survey).

Design & Analysis

The survey was designed to take 12 minutes or fewer to complete. Data was analyzed for key findings, relying on relevant descriptive analysis (e.g., counts, distributions, percentages, means). Free-response comments to question prompts were also reviewed and summarized.

Survey Results

Demographics

Overall, 189 surveys were collected, although 18 individuals initiated the survey but did not make it past the second question, resulting in the 171 included responses. The average reported household size was 2.9 individuals. By household income, 5% reported a household income under \$25,000, 15% reported a household income between \$25,000-\$49,999, 19% reported a household income between \$50,000-74,999, 18% reported a household income between \$75,000-99,999, 33% reported a household income between \$100,000-\$199,999, and 9% reported a household income exceeding \$200,000.

Almost half (44%) of households reported having at least one child/young adult (i.e., 19 years old or younger). Nearly one quarter (22%) reported at least one adult 65 years old or older. Well over half of survey respondents were female (65%), compared to 30% male. Of respondents indicating their racial or ethnic identity, most respondents identified as white (83%), 3% selected Hispanic, and few identified as American Indian or Alaska Native (2%) or Asian (1%). Approximately 1 in 10 selected "prefer not to say" (11%). With respect to residency, more than half of respondents (54%) reported they had lived in Borden for 16 or more years. Otherwise, residents reporting less than one year of residency were 1% of responses, followed by 1-5 years (21%), 6-10 years (15%), 11-15 years (9%).

Awareness

In terms of current ways respondents learn about recreation opportunities in Borden, social media (75%), friends and neighbors (75%), and the town or city website (43%) were the top three mechanisms (Table 1). Other ways that respondents currently acquire information include online searching, online applications, bike shops, and “Friends of” groups. When prompted to respond with their *preferred* modes of information, the top three remained the same. Open-ended responses to preferred modes of communication reiterated the idea of a website (n = 2), as well as social media “other than Facebook” and signs posted in the park.

Table 2: Current & Preferred Ways Information Preferences

	Current	Preferred
Town or city website	43%	62%
From friends and neighbors	75%	52%
Flyers/posters at parks and rec facilities	29%	37%
Conversations with parks and rec staff	19%	21%
Social media	75%	74%
Newspaper articles	13%	20%
Parks and Rec Department e-mail bulletins	11%	41%
Newspaper advertisements	7%	12%
Community meetings	23%	26%
Seasonal program guide	6%	41%
Radio	4%	13%
Television	7%	14%
Other	4%	3%
I do not receive any information	2%	-

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Usage

More than one-third (34%) of Borden survey respondents reported using a local park or playground more than 20 times throughout the year, this reported visitation was higher than reported values for state or federal parks or forests (15%) or existing trail or greenways (8%), illustrating the importance of local park or playground spaces (Figure 2).

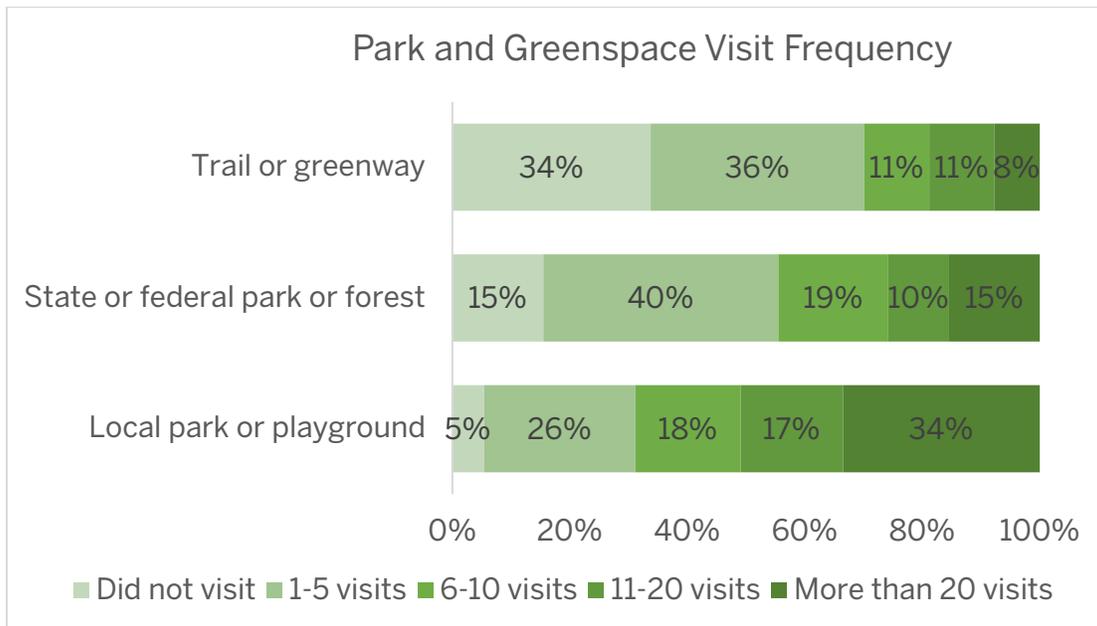


Figure 21: Reported Frequency of Park and Greenspace Use

When asked how they normally travel to get to the park facilities they use the most, most respondents—nearly 90%—travel via car or other personal motor vehicle. The complete ranking of reported modes of transport is:

1. Car or other personal motorized vehicle (86%)
2. Walk (8%)
3. Bicycle, scooter, or non-motorized wheeled device (4%)
4. Other (1%)

Barriers

When presented a list of potential barriers that prevent them or their family members from using parks and recreation services in Borden, “Distance/parks are too far away,” “Lack of time,” and “[There is] no park, trail, or recreational facility within a 10-minute walk from my house” were among the top 3 factors. Fewer than five respondents reported an “Other” barrier, but among those who did, they identified the condition of the bathrooms, their own motivation, the need for more amenities at the park, and the lack of a trail (at the time of the survey).

Table 3: Barriers to Park System Use

Barrier	% of Total
n	154
Distance/Parks are too far away	16.9%
Don't know about parks or recreation programs	12.3%

Don't know where parks are	2.6%
Health/mobility concerns	9.7%
Inadequate/poorly maintained facilities	12.3%
Lack of access for people with disabilities	5.2%
Lack of money	3.9%
Lack of public transportation	1.3%
Lack of time	50.6%
No park, trail, or rec. facility within a 10-minute walk from my house	23.4%
Programs offered are not interesting to me	6.5%
Safety concerns	12.3%
Other	2.6%
None of these apply to me	20.8%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Benefits

Another series of survey items sought respondents' level of agreement regarding a series of potential benefits that they, or a member of their household, receive from parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services (Appendix B). Based on levels of strong agreement (% of respondents), the following four factors were identified as the highest-rated perceived benefits:

1. Provide access to the outdoors and nature (61%)
2. Improve physical health and fitness (57%)
3. Enhance community appearance (56%)
4. Improve mental health and reduce stress (50%)

Among the open-ended responses to the "Other" option to the potential benefits, several respondents shared responses about park and recreation facilities serving as spaces for important, safe, entertaining, accessible, and enjoyable recreational opportunities for families. Others identified benefits such as a sense of pride in the community, child development, and building connection to place. A few comments were more critical, mentioning concerns such as impact on property taxes, littering, crime, or traffic.

Facilities

Respondents were then asked about park and greenspace facilities and amenities that were important to them; in some cases, these were facilities or amenities already offered at Borden parks. The top-rated amenities, based on the % of respondents selecting "Important" or "Very Important" include:

1. Restrooms (93%)
2. Playgrounds (83%)
3. Shelters (82%)
4. Accessible facilities (for people with disabilities) (80%)
5. Habitat or natural space (76%)

Notably, paved trails (74%) and natural trails (74%) were rated #6 and #7 in importance, respectively. The full list of facility and amenity importance ratings from this survey question are provided in Appendix C. With respect to open-ended responses to the “Other” prompt (n = 16), several respondents mentioned a wanting use or access to natural spaces, such as creek access, hunting and fishing, gravel trails, or camping. Two individuals suggested better lighting. Others shared feedback regarding features such as benches, themed book walking paths, hammocks, observation towers, or an enclosed shelter for events. Others provided feedback regarding the need for the park space to be safe, use resources efficiently, and to be safe/free from crime.

Respondents were also asked about recreation facilities in Borden, specifically. Responses to this question generally aligned with the importance of facilities identified in the prior results. The top two-rated facilities at Borden parks include the shelters (90%) and restrooms (88%); the third-most important facility was benches (81%; Appendix D). When asked two additional follow up questions, in which respondents were asked to identify the “top” facility or amenity that they (a) use the most and (b) contributes the most to their health, walking paths, playgrounds, and woodlands/forests rated highly on one or both metrics (Table 3).

Table 4: Top Ranked Facilities, by Use and Health-Promotion Assessment

	Used Most	Health
n	124	122
Amphitheater	6%	0%
Benches/Seating	2%	2%
Basketball Court	3%	2%
Woodlands/Forest	7%	9%
Playgrounds	19%	8%
Restrooms	2%	3%
Shelter Houses	10%	1%
Sports Fields (Baseball, Softball)	6%	2%

Volleyball Court	0%	0%
Walking Path	45%	72%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

With respect to park condition, respondents highly rated Borden Community Park’s condition, with 43% of indicating it was in “Excellent” condition and another 47% rating it “Good” (Figure 3). Among those respondents who rated the facility “Fair” or worse, more than half identified the condition of the bathrooms, their accessibility, and the perceived lack of maintenance (at bathroom facilities specifically). Others described specific facilities that needed attention, such as the playground equipment, playground surface, lighting, and baseball fields. Two individuals broadly suggested a need to revitalize the space and increase the number of amenities.

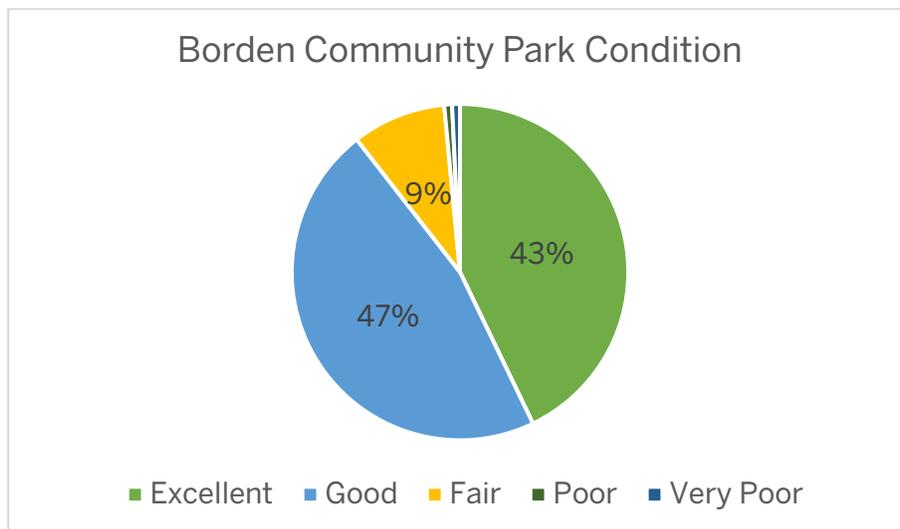


Figure 22: Park Condition Rating

Programs

Respondents were then asked about programs that were important to them; similar to the questions about facilities, in some cases these were programs already offered in Borden. The programs rated in the top quartile, based on the % of respondents selecting “Important” or “Very Important” include:

1. Farmers Market (75%)

2. Concerts, festivals or family nights (73%)
3. Youth sports leagues / programs (71%)
4. Accessible programs (for people with disabilities) (70%)

The full list of facility and amenity importance ratings from this survey question are provided in Appendix E. Open-ended responses (n =2) recommend group activities/hikes along the Monon South Trail and concern about the trail's perceived use of taxpayer spending. Respondents were also specifically asked whether they or a member of their household had participated in a recreation program or service in Borden during the course of the past year. Approximately half (47%) reported participating in such a program. Among those who had participated in a Borden parks and recreation program, respondents generally were satisfied. With respect to % "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied," Sunshine Bang Bingo elicited an 89% combined rating, followed by Borden Youth League (88%), Other (82%), Light Up Borden (80%) and Star Valley Strawberry Festival (79%).

Among those survey respondents who had not recently participated in a Borden parks and recreation program, reasons for non-participation varied, but in most cases, either "didn't know it existed," "not interested," "not relevant to me (e.g., no children", or "other") were selected. The full results of this question are provided in Appendix F.

Monon South Trail

A series of items were also asked about the Monon South Trail, a primary area of parks and recreation-related development in Borden. The first item asked respondents to identify the three features they would like to see along the trail. Features most frequently selected included, "Ensure easily accessible parking at trailheads" (50%), "Provide visual maps at parks with trails" (42%), and "Connect trail to existing bike paths or sidewalks" (41%). Individuals who selected "something else" shared a wide variety of potential trail feature ideas, such as rental bikes, accessible bathroom and water access, story book walks, online maps, poison ivy control, fitness stops, trash receptacles, increased security, and private property protection, among others. The full results of this item are presented in Table 4.

Table 5: Top Ranked Desired Monon South Trail Features

Trail Feature	% Rated in Top 3
n	137
Connect trail to existing bike paths or sidewalks	41%
Ensure easily accessible parking at trailheads	50%
Integrate public art along the trail	11%
Post information about the town along the trail	28%

Post logistical information about the trail (emergency contacts, rules of the trail) along the trail	25%
Post informational content about the trail (trail facilities, programs, and special events) along the trail	18%
Provide environmental / historical / interpretative information along the trail	22%
Provide visual maps at parks with trails	42%
Update or renovate the trails	26%
Something else	10%

Respondents were then asked about the likelihood in which they would engage in a series of trail activities, on a 5-point scale from “Extremely Unlikely” to “Extremely Likely.” More than half of respondents shared that they were either “Somewhat Likely” or “Extremely Likely” to participate in the follow activities: “Biking / Cycling,” “Nature-based activities (such as bird watching),” “Special events / organized programs along the trail,” “Walking pet or pushing a stroller,” and “Walking / hiking.” These results are presented in Figure 4.

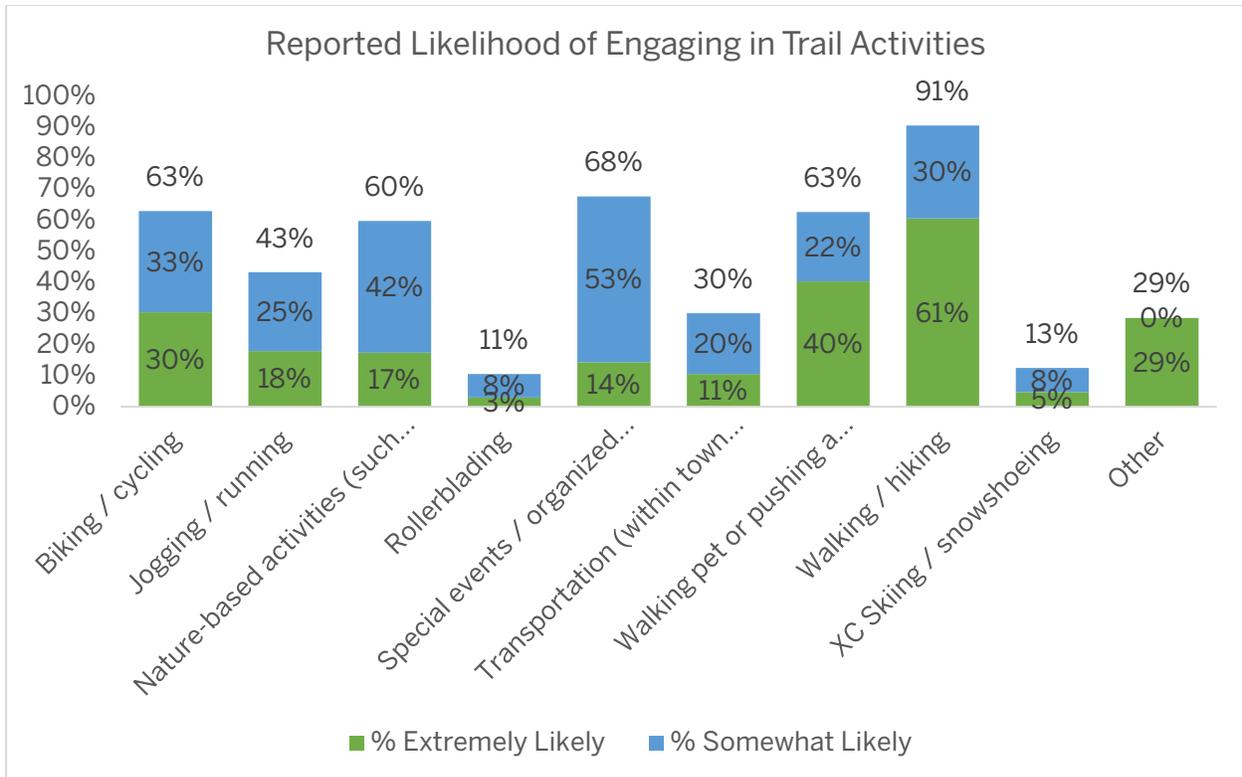


Figure 23: Reported Likelihood of Engaging in Trail Activities

The last Monon South Trail-related question was about respondents' preferred ways the trail would be promoted. Many respondents (85%) recommended that the trail be “[Promoted] online, including social media” and that there would be “Visual maps at parks with trails” (74%). Several unique ideas were provided in open-ended responses, including filming drone footage of the trail; promoting it through volunteer networks; and incorporating trail programming into a larger, formal park district plan. Full results are provided in Appendix G.

Hypothetical Funding

Finally, survey respondents were posed with the question: “If additional funding were available for Borden to fund parks and trails, how would you allocate the funding among competing categories?” Respondents were asked to ensure that their total allocation equaled 100%. On average, the typical respondent wished to allocate approximately 28% of their budget to “maintaining existing parks and trails.” This was followed by “renovating the grounds/infrastructure in existing parks and trails” (18%). A summary of the average hypothetical funding allocation is provided in Figure 5. Among open-ended “Other” responses, three sought funding for a splash pad, two identified pickleball courts, two identified improved restrooms, and other relevant suggestions included a dog park, community pool, security, and equestrian trails.

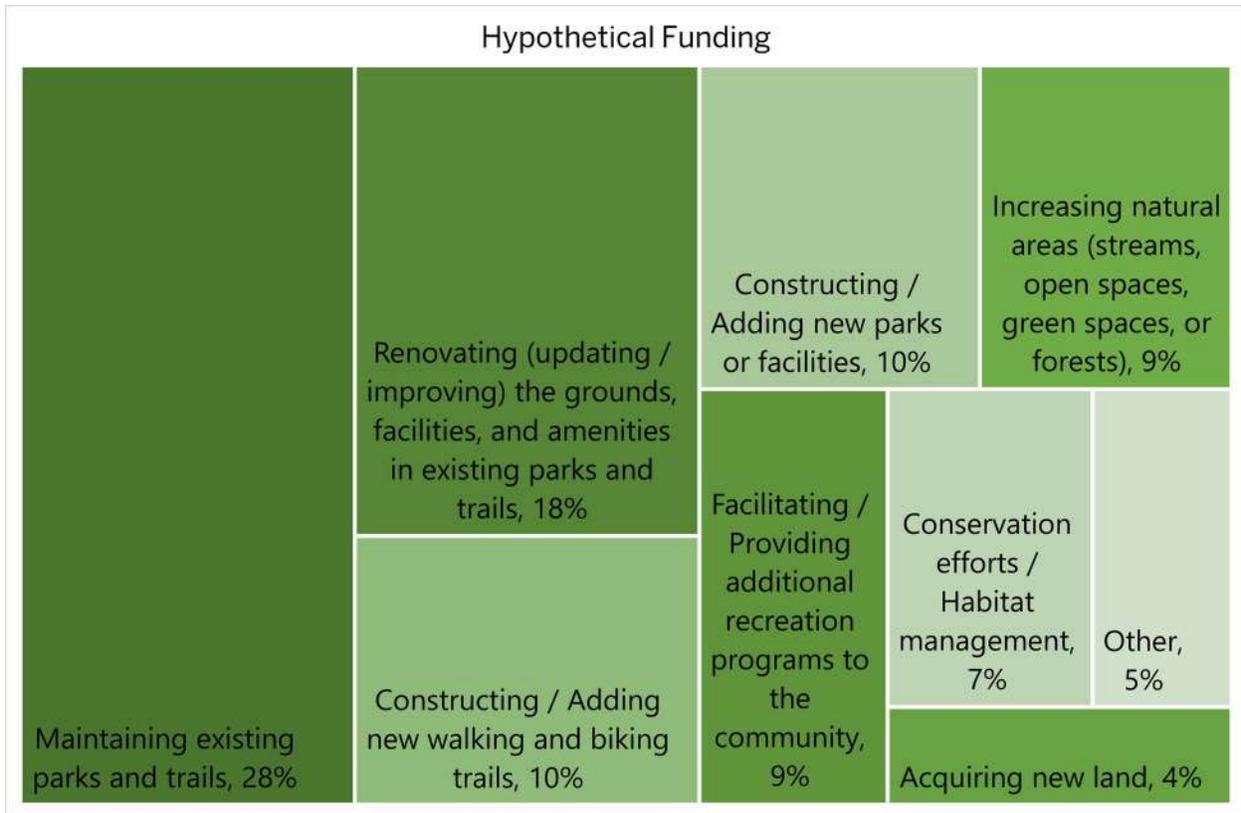


Figure 24: Hypothetical Funding Allocations for Borden Parks and Trails

Planning Website

The project team kept the public informed and updated about the Master Plan throughout the process using a website- <https://masterplan.eppley.org/borden-in/> The website was developed and published in September 2023.

From the time of launch and throughout the project, the site contains:

- General information about the Parks and Recreation master planning process.
- A project timeline and information about major milestones.
- Information about the consultant team.
- Information about how to participate in the public engagement process.
- A portal to access the community survey.
- A public comment forum for leaving feedback for the planning team to consider.

The website, including the public comment forum, remained active through the planning process to ensure transparency and allow ample opportunity for community members to leave their feedback.

Public Comment

As part of the engagement process, the draft plan was presented to the public at the Borden Park Board meeting on March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Borden Community Center. 12 members of the public attended the presentation. Questions asked and comments made during the presentation are documented in Appendix A.

Community Benchmarking

Benchmarking is a vital process that allows organizations to compare their assets, programs, policies, and other criteria to those of peer organizations. Such comparisons are often used by agencies to evaluate themselves and, ultimately, plan better for growth and improvement. As with the Level of Service analysis, benchmarking is a direct comparison, it is not meant to judge that any community “should” have the same assets and program offerings as other communities. Each community is unique, with different demographic, economic, geographic, and social situations so priority should be given to the needs and desires of each community’s population in parks and recreation system master planning. Benchmarking creates an aggregate picture of the recreation system among the comparison service areas and may uncover opportunities not previously realized by the community.

Using criteria such as community size, park system size, and comparable and desired recreational offerings and facilities, data from four communities along the emergent Monon South trail and one peer community of similar size were analyzed.

Five communities are included in the final analysis:

- Borden
- Salem
- New Pekin
- Orleans
- Huntingburg

To ensure consistent comparison across communities, basic demographic data from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates were used. Land area figures were taken from the 2022 Census Quick facts.

In the analysis below, Borden can be compared to each individual agency and also to the descriptive statistics of the comparison group. In benchmarking, means and medians for the peer group are often calculated as an illustration of the ‘typical’ community within the group. Means illustrate comparisons by averaging the group’s data while the median provides a look at the ‘middle’ of the group and are useful in cases where a single community may have a data point that is very high or very low and may skew the average.

Data collection was completed in March of 2024. Data is only as accurate or complete as the information provided by each agency and, despite our best attempts to standardize data, agencies may report certain figures differently or not at all.

Population and Demographics

City	State	Service Area Population	Land Area (in square miles)	Population per square mile	Median Income (dollars)	Median Age (years)
Borden	IN	1,326	1.39	954	\$60,000	28.9

Huntingburg	IN	6,362	5.05	1,259	\$42,941	36.5
Salem	IN	6,307	4.0	1,577	\$43,021	37.9
New Pekin	IN	1,224	2.39	512	\$49,444	40.5
Orleans	IN	2,104	1.70	1,185	\$54,811	47.4
Benchmark Ave		3,999	3.29	1,133	\$47,554	40.6
Benchmark Median		4,206	3.20	1,222	\$46,233	39.2

Four of the selected cities, Salem, Orleans, New Pekin, and Borden, are in southeast Indiana, while Huntingburg is located in the southwest area of the state. Parks and recreation service area populations range from 1,224 in New Pekin to 6,362 in Huntingburg. Borden, with a population of 1,326, is smaller than both the peer group mean (3,999) and median (4,206).

Land areas of the peer communities range from 1.39 square miles (Borden) to 5.05 square miles (Huntingburg). Because Borden occupies the smallest land area, it naturally falls below the median (3.20) and mean (3.29) values for this group of communities. Borden is relatively small in both spatial size and population, with its population per square mile of 954 falling somewhat below the median (1,222) and mean (1,133) for this value.

Of all of the communities in the peer group, Borden has the highest median income, \$60,000. The median income for these communities as a group is \$46,223 with the lowest median income, in Huntingburg, being \$42,941.

The median age of people living in Borden, 28.9, is the youngest median age of these communities, with the mean being 40.6 and the median being 39.2. For the median age, the values range widely from 28.9 to 47.4.

Baseline Characteristics

City	Total Number of Parks	Residents per Park	Total Acres Managed by Agency	Total Acres of Developed Parks	Total Acres of Open Space	Acres per 1000 Residents	Total Paved Trail Miles	Total Unpaved Trail Miles	Trail Miles per 1000 residents
Borden	1	1,326	41	5	36	30.92	2.0	0	1.51
Huntingburg	5	1,272	141	141	0	22.16	2.6	0	.41
Salem	6	1,051	160	3	1	25.37	1.5	4.8	1.0
New Pekin	1	1,224	10.78	7	3.78	8.81	.113	0	.09

Orleans	4	526	11.2	11.2	0	5.32	0	0	0
Benchmark Ave	4	1,018	80.75	40.55	1.20	15.42	1.05	1.2	.38
Benchmark Median	4.5	1,138	76.1	9.1	.5	15.49	.81	0	.25

While Borden has fewer developed parks than other peer communities, the town has a comparatively high amount of trail miles. The total number of parks ranges from a low of one in both Borden and New Pekin to a high of six in Salem. Borden, with one park total is below the benchmark mean (4) and median (4.5). Borden has the highest value for residents per park (1,326), above the mean (1,018), and the median (1,138).

There is a very large range of values for the total acres managed by each agency. New Pekin has the smallest amount of land managed by the local agency, 10.78 acres, while Salem has the largest at 160 acres. Among this group of communities, Borden has by far the highest amount of open space (36 acres).

Borden, with 2.0 miles of paved trails, falls above both the median (.81) and the mean (1.05) for these communities. Miles of paved trails ranges from zero (Orleans) to 2.6 (Huntingburg). Salem is the only community analyzed that manages unpaved trails (4.8 miles). For trail miles per 1000 residents, Borden has the most at 1.51.

Budget

City	Total Operating Budget (2022)	Operating Budget per Capita	Percent of Budget from Fees and Charges	Percent of Budget from Taxes	Tax Cost per Capita	Percent of Budget from All Other Sources	Average Capital Budget (last five years)
Borden	\$22,098	\$16.67	29%	71%	\$4.82	0%	\$15,000
Huntingburg	\$950,605	\$149.42					\$227,290
Salem	\$265,570	\$42.11	7%	62.34%	\$26.24	5%	\$242,391
New Pekin	\$2,500	\$2.04	100%	0%	\$0	0%	\$2,000
Orleans	\$75,000	\$35.64	0%	100%	\$35.64	0%	\$75,000
Benchmark Ave	\$323,419	\$57.30	35.67%	54.11%	\$20.63	\$1.67	\$136,670
Benchmark Median	\$170,285	\$38.88	7%	62.34%	\$26.24	0%	\$151,145

The Borden parks system operates with a comparatively smaller budget than the peer communities. Its total operating budget for 2022, \$22,098, falls well below the mean (\$323,419) and the median (\$170,285) operating budgets.

A more precise way to view operating budgets is to examine budget per capita, or the amount of money available to operate the department per resident. This view adjusts for the disparity in population among the peer group when it is to be expected that more populated communities generally have a larger budget. From this perspective, Borden, with both the second-smallest budget and the second-smallest population, has the second-smallest budget per capita (\$16.67), a value that ranges from \$2.04 (New Pekin) to \$149.42 (Huntingburg). The mean budget per capita is \$57.30 and the median is \$38.88.

There are many factors at play in agency budgeting including the number and size of facilities maintained, fluctuations in funding sources, and complementary and competing recreation opportunities offered by other providers such as city governments and private and non-profit entities. As such, budget examinations should not necessarily be viewed as an agency's or community's commitment or ability to provide services as much as a reflection of the uniqueness and needs of each community.

Staffing

City	Number of Full-Time Employees	Number of Part-Time Employees	Population per FTE Equivalent	Volunteer Hours
Borden	0	2	1,326	144
Huntingburg	4	24	1,590	0
Salem	3	0	2,102	1,100
New Pekin	0	1	1,224	150
Orleans	2	0	1,052	0
Benchmark Ave	2.25	6.25	1,492	312.5
Benchmark Median	2.5	.5	1,407	75

Borden, along with New Pekin and Orleans, does not have any full-time parks and recreation employees. The numbers of full-time employees range up to 4 (Huntingburg) with the median value being 2.5 and the mean being 2.25. The population per FTE ratio ranges from 1,052 (Orleans) to 2,102 (Salem). Values for Borden and New Pekin could not be computed because there are no full-time Parks employees working for the cities. Hiring part-time employees is a strategy that agencies can apply, depending on the needs and resources of the department. Borden has 2 part-time employees from Town staff who perform routine maintenance. The mean number of part-time employees for these communities is 6.25 because of the higher number (24) of part-time employees working for the town of Huntingburg, with the median for this value being .5.

Many agencies also depend on volunteers for their operations. For the communities in the peer group, volunteer hours show a wide range, from 0 (Huntingburg and Orleans) to 1,100 (Salem). Borden’s 144 volunteer hours are below the mean (312.5) but above the median (75). The number of volunteer hours may reflect the area’s population, but in Borden’s case it is a smaller population town, with an average to above average number of volunteers.

Outdoor Athletic and Recreation Facilities

City	Basketball courts (outdoor)	Pickleball (outdoor)	Tennis (outdoor lighted)	Tennis (outdoor unlighted)	Volleyball (outdoor)	Courts per 10,000	Diamond Fields (baseball/softball)	Rectangular Fields (football/soccer)	Fields per 10,000	Disc Golf Courses	Other
Borden	2	2	0	0	2	45.25	4	0	30.17	0	
Huntingburg	4	1	2	0	2	14.14	5	0	7.86	1	
Salem	2	0	0	0	0	3.17	5	0	7.93	0	
New Pekin	2	0	0	0	0	16.34	1	0	8.17	0	
Orleans	2	0	0	0	0	9.51	4	0	19.01	0	
Benchmark Ave	2.5	.25	.5	0	.5	10.79	3.75	0	10.74	.25	
Benchmark Median	2	0	0	0	0	11.83	4.5	0	8.05	0	

Peer communities vary in the outdoor facilities offered. Basketball courts per agency range from 2 (Salem, Borden, Orleans, and New Pekin) to 4 (Huntingburg), with the median being 2 and mean being 2.5. Borden and Huntingburg were the only communities with outdoor pickleball courts and volleyball courts. Huntingburg was the only community with an outdoor tennis court (2 lighted). Overall, courts per 10,000 people range 3.17 (Salem) to 45.25 (Borden). Borden’s value falls well above the mean (10.79) and median (11.83).

Borden (4) is above the mean (3.75) and below the median value (4.5) for baseball and softball fields, with a range of 1 –5 total for this amenity across the communities. None of these communities have a soccer or football field. Fields per 10,000 people range from 7.86 (Huntingburg) to 30.17 (Borden). Borden, with the highest value for fields per 10,000 people, falls well above the mean (10.74) and median (8.05). Of these communities, Huntingburg is the only one offering a disc golf course.

Other Facilities

City	Indoor Recreation Facility (#)	Indoor Recreation Facility (Sq. Ft.)	Indoor Recreation Space per 10,000	Community Center	Senior Center	Other Facility
Borden	0	0	0	0	0	
Huntingburg	0	0	0	0	1	Driving Range
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	
New Pekin	0	0	0	1	0	
Orleans	0	0	0	0	0	
Benchmark Ave	0	0	0	.25	.25	
Benchmark Median	0	0	0	0	0	

Among the peer communities, in general there are few indoor facilities in place. None of the communities currently have an indoor recreation facility. Only New Pekin has a Community Center and only Huntingburg offers a Senior Center. a community center, or a senior center. Huntingburg also offers a driving range.

Aquatic Facilities

City	Outdoor Pools	Indoor Pools	Pools per 10,000	Splash Pad/Spray Parks	Splash Pad/Spray Parks per 10,000
Borden	0	0	0	0	0
Huntingburg	1	0	1.57	1	1.57
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
New Pekin	0	0	0	0	0
Orleans	0	0	0	0	0
Benchmark Ave	.25	0	.39	.25	.39
Benchmark Median	0	0	0	0	0

None of these communities currently have an indoor pool. Huntingburg does provide an outdoor pool and a splash pad.

Other Facilities

City	Community Gardens (Plots)	Park Shelters	Playgrounds	Playgrounds per 10,000	Dog Parks	Outdoor Fitness Stations	Permanent Stage or Amphitheater	Mobile Stage
Borden	0	2	1	7.54	0	0	1	0
Huntingburg	0		11	17.29	1	0	1	0
Salem	0	4	3	4.76	0	1	0	0
New Pekin	0	1	2	16.34	0	0	0	0
Orleans	0	7	3	14.26	0	0	1	0
Benchmark Ave	0	4	4.75	13.16	.25	.25	.5	0
Benchmark Median	0	4	3	15.3	0	0	0	0

In consideration of other types of facilities, Borden has, in general, fewer of these amenities than average among the peer group. None of these municipalities offer community gardens. For park shelters, peer communities report having a range of 1 (New Pekin) to 7 (Orleans).

Borden has 2 playgrounds, somewhat below average for the group. Playgrounds in place range up to 11 (Huntingburg), with a mean of 4.75 and a median of 3. For playgrounds per 10,000 people, the range is 4.76 (Salem) to 17.29 (Huntingburg). Mean playgrounds per 10,000 people is 13.16 and median is 15.3.

Salem is the only community here offering an outdoor fitness station. Borden is among three (also Huntingburg and Orleans) that have a permanent stage or amphitheater. Only Huntingburg offers a dog park.

Programs

City	Team Sports	Individual Sports	Fitness Classes	Health and Wellness Education	Safety Training	Aquatics	Trips and Tours	Marital Arts	Cultural Crafts	Themed Special Events	Natural, Cultural,	Performing Arts	Visual Arts
Borden	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

Huntingburg	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Salem	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
New Pekin	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Orleans	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N

Peer communities vary in the programs offered. Salem and Borden offer team sports and themed special events. Huntingburg has team sports, aquatics, trips/tours, and themed special events. Orleans has team sports, themed special events, natural/cultural/historical activities, and performing arts. New Pekin offers themed special events.

Programs for Targeted Groups

City	Programs for People w/ Disabilities	Summer Camp	Senior Specific Program	Teen Specific Programs	After School Programs	Before School Programs	Preschool	Full Daycare
Borden	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Huntingburg	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Salem	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
New Pekin	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Orleans	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Among the peer communities, there is only currently a small amount of programming available for special groups such as people with disabilities, youth, and seniors. Salem, along with Huntingburg, offers senior-specific programming. Huntingburg also has summer camps in place. None of the communities offer programs such as programs for people with disabilities, teen programming, before/after school programming, preschool, or full daycare.

Needs Assessment

One of the most important and meaningful parts of the master planning process is the needs assessment. The needs assessment brings together the information and data gathered through earlier stages of the planning process including background information on the community and department, public feedback from the public and standardized parks data from national organizations to identify a path forward for the agency.

This needs analysis begins with a level of service (LOS) analysis, which summarizes the state of the parks system in Borden using data collected on facilities and programming offered by the Town of Borden.

Certain benchmarks were used to determine where Borden's recreation system fits within the larger picture of recreation throughout the United States. Both The Trust for Public Land's (TTPL) 2023 ParkServe and National Park and Recreation Agency's (NRPA) 2023 Agency Performance Review include metrics and standards for the number of facilities in relation to the population.^{1,2} NRPA reports data by jurisdiction and by population size served (among many other measures) to reflect that parks and recreation departments serve unique and varied communities. In this analysis, LOS for the county is compared to NRPA's less than 20,000 population bracket, where Borden's total population (1,326) fits. It is important to note that both TTPL and NRPA recognize that every community is different and has its own needs and wants for recreation services. As such, neither organization attempts to set standards or make recommendations about what a department or community *should* have in their system. They only offer median data for comparison with what other communities actually have.

While analyzing level of service is valuable for providing a quantifiable overview of a park system, it does not qualitatively measure the needs and desires of the community that a particular parks system serves. For this reason, the needs assessment also includes a gap analysis, which blends public feedback obtained through the many methods of engagement including stakeholder interviews, surveys, and public comment, with what is known about the current state of the parks system and with department goals and priorities to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. The final step in the master planning process is for the needs assessment to inform the action plan in which the planning team identifies specific actions that help close system gaps and meet community goals.

Level of Service Analysis

Parks and Greenways

¹ 2022 City Park Facts. (2022). The Trust for Public Land. Accessed October 25, 2022. <https://www.tpl.org/2021-city-park-facts>.

² 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks. (2022). National Park and Recreation Association. Accessed October 25, 2022. <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassests/2022-nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf>.

Table 6: Level of Service for Parks and Trails

Level of Service for Parks and Trails				
Unit	Number	Current LOS (residents per park)¹	NRPA Benchmark²	Recommendation
# of Parks	1	1,326	1,225	
Unit	Acres	Current LOS (per 1,000 residents)	NRPA Benchmark (per 1,000 residents)	Recommendation
Acres of Parks	41	30.9	13.0	
Unit	Mileage	Current LOS (per 1,000 residents)	NRPA Benchmark (miles)	Recommendation
Greenways and Trail	2.0	1.5	4.0	

¹ Current LOS is per 1,000 residents and based on a 2021 population estimate of 1,326 from the U.S. Census Bureau's Quick Facts

² NRPA Benchmark was retrieved from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review and is based on jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000 residents.

With one park that is significantly larger than NRPA's benchmark, Borden is not in need of additional park space and should continue to seek improvements to the Borden Community Park. Only 10% of survey respondents said the highest priority should be constructing new park facilities. Trails were not rated in the top five most important amenities to add and while the milage of trails currently falls below the benchmark, the completion of the Monon South Trail will more than double the current service level and open opportunities for a new population of visitors to the park.

Recreation Facilities

Table 33 below provides a summary of the current level of service for facilities and amenities with metrics from The Trust for Public Land's 2023 Town Park Facts Data and NRPA Park Metrics. These metrics provide national benchmarks against which communities can compare facilities and amenities to similar sized communities. TTPL metrics show the average number of these facilities and amenities per 10,000 residents. NRPA metrics show the number of residents per a single facility or amenity. Level of Service (LOS) measurements indicate the facilities provided by the Town of Borden. Facilities owned by other entities such as business, non-profits, and State and Federal agencies are not included in the LOS or metric data. Included in the final column are recommendations for facilities which can be increased based on metric comparisons combined with resident

feedback from the surveys and interviews. The data and recommendations reflect what currently exists without commentary on the condition of each facility or amenity.

Table 7: Level of Service for Facilities

Facility Type	Qty	LOS (facilities per 10,000 residents) ²	TTPL Median LOS ²	LOS (population per facility) ³	NRPA Park Metrics ³	Recommendation
Arena	0		-		5,531	
Athletic Fields	0	0	1.03		-	
Youth Soccer			-	-	3,600	
Adult Soccer			-	-	6,955	
Multi- purpose			-	-		
Football Field			-	-	8,637	
Lacrosse Field			-	-	9,786	
Ball Diamonds	4	3.02	1.49		-	
Youth Baseball	0		n/a	-	3,114	
Adult Baseball	1		n/a	1,326	7,627	
Youth Softball	3		n/a	663	5,079	
Adult Softball	0		n/a	-	5,800	
Basketball Courts	2	15.1	3.85	663	3,729	
Community Garden (plots)	0	0	1		8,178*	
Cooling Centers	0	0	-		-	
Disc Golf	0	0	0.04		-	
Dog Parks	0	0	0.13		11,100	
Drinking Fountains			2.46		-	
Golf course	0	0	n/a		9,587	
Fitness Zones	0	0	0.02		-	
Ice Rink (indoor)	0	0	-		8,000	
Improved Trails (miles)	2.0	15.1	.14		-	
Nature Center	0	0	-		10,633	
Nature Trails (miles)	0	0	0.26		-	
Performance Amphitheater	1	7.54	-	1,326	11,100	
Pickleball Courts	2	15.08	0.43	1.326	3,252	

Playgrounds	1	7.54	2.78	1,326	2,014
Recreation and Senior Centers	0	0	0.38		
Community Center	-	-	-	-	8,829
Recreation Center (including gyms)	-	-	-	-	9,745
Senior Center	-	-	-	-	14,000
Teen Center	-	-	-	-	14,593
Restrooms	1	7.54	1.46		-
Skate Parks	0		0.07		10,726
Splashpads	0		0.13		-
Swimming Pools	0		0.18		11,650**
Tennis Courts	0		1.60		4,868
Volleyball Courts	2	15.08	0.39	663	5,093***

²LOS and TFPL median LOS is per 10,000 residents. TFPL median LOS data was retrieved from the Trust for Public Land’s 2023 Town Park Facts Data. It was reported in various ratios and standardized to units per 10,000 population

³LOS and NRPA Park Metrics is based on population per facility. The NRPA Park Metrics were retrieved from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review and is based on jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000 residents.

*per garden rather than per plot

**Aquatics center (indoor)

***multi-use courts (volleyball and basketball)

Borden exceeds both TTPL and NRPA benchmarks for almost every amenity offered at Borden Community Park, including ballfields, basketball courts, and the impressive new amphitheater. The planned inclusive playground will put the Town well ahead of the curve for playgrounds and accessible recreation facilities and the planned Event Center will provide indoor recreation space not generally available for a community of Borden’s size.

Borden, however, does not have any athletic fields for soccer, lacrosse, or football or community gardens, or dog parks though the Star Valley plan



Figure 25: Basketball courts at Borden Community Park

includes a vision for further development at the park that includes these amenities in addition to additional parking, a spray pad, and a trailhead for the MST. There is ample room on the northern side of the park to include such amenities without a significant additional maintenance burden. Some other amenities under consideration such as the splash pad, though the room exists for them, may be burdensome for a community with the resources that Borden has to maintain, especially when factoring in ongoing maintenance requirements for the new amphitheater and inclusive playground. Restrooms, playgrounds and shelters were rated as the three most important facilities to add by survey respondents, highlighting the importance of continuing to upgrade amenities at the park and add new features when feasible and affordable.

Recreation Programming

To analyze level of service, the NRPA gathers data on agency program offerings across the nation. While the number of each program is not measured, the prevalence of them in each agency is. This LOS analysis looks at the programs that Borden offers and compares that portfolio to the frequency with which those programs are offered in other agencies of similar population.

Table 8: Program Offerings

Program	Offered by Borden	% Offering (NRPA Park Metrics)¹	Recommendation
Team Sports	Y	82%	
Individual Sports	N	64%	
Fitness Classes	N	64%	
Health and Wellness Education	N	64%	
Safety Training	N	63%	
Aquatics	N	53%	
Trips and Tours	N	41%	
Martial Arts	N	35%	
Cultural Crafts	N	40%	
Themed Special Events	Y	82%	
Natural and Cultural History Activities	N	34%	
Performing Arts	N	39%	
Visual Arts	N	39%	
Social Recreation Events	N	82%	
Racquet Sports	N	60%	
Running / Cycling Races	N	40%	
Golf	N	22%	

eSports / eGaming	N	12%
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¹NRPA Park Metrics were retrieved from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review and is based on jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000 residents.

With no park department or dedicated staff, Borden’s program offerings are limited to special events such as the Star Valley Strawberry Festival and to team sports, all of which are operated by independent organizations such as Friends of Borden Community Park and the Borden Youth League. While The Friends of do well with events and with volunteer maintenance of the park, any additional programming will likely also need to be operated independently or on a contract basis. The Monon South Trail will open opportunities for additional trail-related events such as races or informal walking meetings or clubs that could reasonably be hosted by the Park Board or the Friends.

Parks and recreation departments are also frequently responsible for offering programming for populations with different needs than traditional sports or ‘active’ recreation. These populations are often vulnerable due to disabilities or socioeconomic status and look to the parks department to provide services not easily obtained elsewhere.

Recreation and activities these populations are invaluable for the well-being of a community. These include programs for disabled persons, seniors, and youth that may not be available elsewhere in the community. Many communities also often depend on the parks and recreation department to provide needed services such as various childcare options benefitting working parents accessed through recreation programming including before and after-school programs, summer camps, and direct childcare. Though Borden, without a park department, does not offer these programs, Table 9 shows the percentage of agencies in Borden’s population bracket offering these programs nationwide. With the construction of the Monon South Trail, opportunities exist to create certain types of these programs such as walking meetings or clubs for seniors and people with disabilities.

Table 9: Targeted Programs for People with Disabilities, Seniors, and Children

Program	Offered by Town	% Offering (NRPA Park Metrics)¹
Programs for People w/ Disabilities	N	34%
Summer Camp	N	61%
Senior Specific Program	N	60%
Teen Specific Programs	N	43%
STEM Programs	N	42%
After School Programs	N	45%
Before School Programs	N	16%
Preschool	N	24%
Full Daycare	N	5%

¹NRPA Park Metrics were retrieved from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review and is based on jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000 residents.

Equitable Access

Borden has been awarded a grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana's Quality of Place Pathways to Progress program. The \$150,000 grant will fund the construction of an inclusive playground.

80% of survey respondents said it was important to increase accessible facilities and amenities and 70% want more programs for people with disabilities. Accessibility improvements at the park are noted in the Accessibility Report section. Any new or significantly renovated amenities are required to be ADA compliant. Many of these are straightforward and simple to accomplish such as addressing some level changes adding signage. A route between the drainage ditch bridge and basketball court requires more labor and materials but can be completed by the removal of sod and the addition of the proper gauge gravel for a firm, stable surface. Others are more complex and expensive and should accomplished amenities are refurbished or upgraded and funding available.

The Town's website contains no information about accessibility policies or explanation of the Accessibility Grievance Procedure.

Economic Impact

Borden expects the Monon South Trail to be a significant economic driver for the community. Additional visits to local restaurants and retail shops, opportunities for expanding overnight accommodations, and additional programming for the trail are all potential economic benefits. Borden residents seems enthusiastic about the possibilities that bot the new trail and enhancements at the park could bring. Public meeting feedback notes "bring development", "new business development", and "agritourism" as opportunities for the community.

The Star Valley plan includes specific tourism infrastructure and amenities and housing development that would increase visitation to the park. The plan also envisions an increase in events held at the park and other local and yet to be developed venues designed to draw tourists as well as provide for improved quality of life for Borden residents. Efforts to enhance the park should align with the Star Valley plan over time to avoid redundancy and maximize resources to achieve the desired economic outcomes.

Borden Community Park and events held there a visitor draw, most notably the Star Valley Strawberry Festival which attracts over 10,000 visitors each year. The park also holds events such as Concerts at the Creek and Light Up Borden which draw visitors from the wider region. The new trail will be routed adjacent to the park, creating new entrance points for longer-distance trail users to visit the park and these special events.

The soon to be completed amphitheater serves as the home to Concerts at the Creek and is capable of hosting many more concerts and other live events that draw tourism to the park.

The new playground will not only improve access to recreation for Borden and area residents but will likely be an economic boost for the Town, drawing visitors from more

distant locales who are looking for more inclusive recreational opportunities, as other inclusive playgrounds have done in other communities.

To date, no economic impact analysis has been done to measure the effect of these events and amenities or the new trail on the local economy but is advised.

Asset Management

Currently Borden has no park asset management plan or operations and maintenance plan in place. As the Town and park continue to grow and the inventory of park assets and amenities becomes more complex, it is critical to prioritize which assets receive routine preventative maintenance, repairs to maintain basic usability, or are removed from active service, retired, or discarded altogether. The construction of a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, and trails, is often undertaken without understanding the total cost of operation (TCO) over the life span of the asset. Without a systematic process to plan for and prioritize the maintenance of assets, misallocation of resources where less vital assets deplete money and labor while more critical assets fall into disrepair becomes a risk.

At its most basic level, asset management planning includes operations and maintenance planning. Critical to managing park operations and maintenance is the development of written and defined standards and levels of service. Operations and maintenance standards define and describe how a park asset (shelter, trail, etc.) is to be cared for. By developing a set of standards, a consistent and regular operation and maintenance plan for park assets can then be created in a systematic fashion.

In developing an operations and maintenance implementation blueprint, it is critical to determine the assets at each park and recreation facility, their expected level of usage, the tasks necessary to operate and maintain each asset, and an expected frequency and time standard for each maintenance task. The result is a functional and flexible model that not only allows facility management to plan for and track periodic maintenance, but also allows for an accurate estimation of the staffing levels needed for operation on an annual basis.

An example section of an operations and maintenance model is below. The table contains the recommended service standards and a best estimate for the time required to fulfill various operations. This model is inclusive of standards necessary for the normal operation of the park and its assets and may help determine appropriate levels of staffing, paid or volunteer. The model is exclusive of supplies such as mulch, paint, or gravel, because cost and volume needed for these materials may vary greatly from year to year but should be included in an annual budget.

Table 10: Example operations and maintenance planning model

Recommended Service Standard	Frequency	Frequency Unit	Times per Year	Service Performance Rate			Site Specific Units Maintained	Total Labor Hours
				Time	Unit	Unit Description		
Building Maintenance (Park Office, Maintenance shed)								
Internal painting 4-7 years	1.00	4 years	0.25	20.00	1.00	Time	1.00	5.00
Touch up painting	1.00	Year	1.00	8.00	1.00	Year	1.00	8.00

General building repair including plumbing/electrical	1.00	Month	12.00	2.00	1.00	Year	1.00	24.00
Interior Cleaning, regular (not post-event)	1.00	Month	52.00	2.00	1.00	Time	1.00	104.00
Exterior Cleaning	1.00	Week	52.00	1.00	1.00	Time	1.00	52.00
Filter changing-A/C, water systems	2.00	Year	1.00	2.00	1.00	Time	1.00	4.00
Building Inspection (Roof, Structure)	1.00	Year	1.00	8.00	1.00	Time	1.00	8.00
Deck Cleaning	2.00	Year	1.00	2.00	1.00	Time	1.00	4.00
Total								209.00

Public feedback about the condition of Borden Community Park and park assets highlights the importance of proper maintenance. 46% of survey respondents said that maintaining or renovating existing park facilities should be the highest priority for the use of funding and resources and only 43% rated the condition of the park as “excellent” while public meeting participants considered funding, maintenance, and facilities to be weaknesses of the recreation system in Borden. Asset management planning, including maintenance and operations should be developed for the park to preserve and conserve assets and control costs over the long term.

Communication and Marketing

The Park will become even more of a destination once the amphitheater and inclusive playground are completed and the Town itself can become a destination once the Monon South Trail is completed.

According to survey results, most people learn about Borden’s park and recreation services by word of mouth (75%). 43% say they find information on the Town’s website, though 63% consider that a preferred method and 11% receive information through e-mail bulletins compared to 41% who would prefer that method.

The Borden Town website- <https://bordenindiana.com>- has undergone redevelopment to include extensive information about event and tourism opportunities, positioning it well for the completion of the trail. Opportunities exist for the Town to more effectively use social media and email communications to distribute information about the park and events held there and about the Town itself, particularly important for new visitors to be able to fully experience shopping, restaurant and other services.

The Star Valley plan provides an opportunity and incentive to develop a marketing plan that integrates the park and events held there, the MST, and anticipated Star Valley developments to promote Borden as a tourism and recreation destination.

Park and Recreation Providers and Partners

The Town of Borden does not offer programming directly but relies on community partners to offer programs and manage recreation and entertainment events. Chief among these is the Friends of Borden Community Park who operate the Star Valley Strawberry Festival, Concerts by the Creek, a monthly Fish Fry, Light up Borden, and volunteer clean-up days at the park. Other partners include the Borden Youth League, Borden Lions Club, and local artist Kayla Troutman.

As the park and community continue to grow and the vision set forth in the Star Valley plan continues to take shape, additional partners could add to the portfolio of program offerings in at the park, related to the trail, and in Borden at large and will be necessary without a professional park and recreation department. Public feedback indicates a desire for more programming. Survey participants desire increases in concerts, festivals, and family night (73%) and youth sports leagues (71%), while a Farmer's Market, for which there is ample room at the park, topped the list at 75%.

Healthy living is a focal point in the Star Valley plan but programming to provide this is lacking in Borden. Health care providers may offer or sponsor walking clubs or activities, healthy cooking classes, yoga, or other lifestyle programs. The Borden Youth League may be able to offer soccer and other sports once athletic fields are available. The amphitheater is an ideal venue for performing arts. The arts cooperative anticipated in the Star Valley plan could offer all manner of arts and craft classes.

Opportunities and Recommendations

Through this needs assessment, certain themes or areas of emphasis become clear. The following are those themes and recommendations for addressing the gaps within each theme. Detailed action items from these recommendations are in the Action Plan to follow.

Maintain and Improve Park Assets- The amphitheater and inclusive playground will require consistent upkeep and specialized maintenance and repairs. While the addition of amenities in the park increases the level of recreational services offered by the Town, it also attracts more visitors creating wear and tear, a situation that will be compounded by the completion of the Monon South Trail. In addition to operations and maintenance planning, Borden should consider hiring staff and allocating funding dedicated to care of the park.



Figure 26: Asphalt path to ballfields

Additional amenities can be added to the park, particularly in the recently acquired parcel at the northern side of the park property. Some of these amenities such as the multi-purpose fields and the dog park could be added at relatively low cost to install and maintain. Others such as a splash pad require much more planning, engineering, and funding as well as specialized maintenance that must be considered.

Ensure Access for All- The new inclusive playground will be constructed to ADA standards and additional changes and repairs should be undertaken to improve access to all areas of

the park. Many corrections noted in the Accessibility Report are simple and inexpensive and should be completed as soon as possible. Others, such as replacing the current playground surfacing are more extensive and expensive as should be done as soon as feasible as funding allows.

The Sunshine Gang is also a vehicle for the creation of walking clubs for seniors and people with disabilities to take advantage of the Monon South Trail. Additional partners could be sought to offer additional accessible and health-related programming.

Spur Economic Development- An economic impact analysis would help to determine the current and potential revenue generated by tourism at the park and the projected impact of the Monon South Trail. Such an analysis by the Eppley Center, funded by Radius in planned and expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

The new amphitheater is a significant asset that is being used for Concerts by the Creek and should be the centerpiece of entertainment at the park adding capacity for arts, additional festivals, and the Event Center will be a draw for indoor events.

Connect to the Community and Beyond- There are virtually no sidewalks in Borden and crossing SR 60 can be hazardous. The 2011 Borden Comprehensive Plan established a goal of the construction of sidewalks and a safe highway crossing. Given the need to ensure safe access to the soon to be constructed trail and the growing park, this goal should be prioritized with funding sources sought. Additionally, connections are envisioned from the new Monon South Trail to the planned Muddy Fork Reservoir, Knobstone Trail, and other non-vehicular transportation routes and should be pursued. These trail connections are a longer term goal given the extensive planning and funding needed to complete.

Enhance Capacity- As the quantity and complexity of the assets at Borden Community Park grows, both a dedicated budget and systematic operations and maintenance will be crucial going forward. The Friends do a very credible job of basic maintenance and upkeep of the park and operation of events but carry a heavy burden for a volunteer organization. As assets and activities multiply, it may be beneficial to establish a professional staff dedicated to operations and programming at the park.

In addition, the Borden website has been revamped to convey information and as a marketing tool for the park and events held there though a marketing plan would create a more deliberate approach to promoting recreation and tourism in Borden.



Action Plan

This Action Plan establishes priorities and goals for the planning period of 2024-2028 for the Town of Borden with anticipated completion timeframes, estimated cost, and potential funding sources for each action item. The action plan spells out what is realistic within the time frame and does not necessarily include every recommendation from the needs analysis, balancing priorities with available funding, staffing, and overall capacity of the community.

An implementation timeframe is provided for each solution. These timeframes are intended to help the Park Board transition from the planning process to implementing its action plan, recognizing that funding, staff, and other factors will likely impact the proposed timeframes. As such, the Park Board should review the strategic action plan and update timeframes and action items on an annual basis. The timeframes are as follows:

- Ongoing
- Immediate: less than 1 year
- Short-term: 1-2 years
- Mid-term: 3-5 years
- Long-term: more than 5 years

A variety of funding options exist for carrying out needed repairs, renovations, upgrades, and additions to MCPR parks and greenways. These funding options include:

- General Fund (GF): Annual budget from tax appropriations, fees, and rental income
- Capital Budget (CB): Annual budget for capital expenditures
- General Obligation Bond (Bond): Bond issued to raised funds for a specific project and paid back over a certain length of time
- Donation: Gifts, including sponsorships, from private or non-profit sources such as Friends of Borden Community Park, business entities, or individuals
- Grant: Grant funding applied for through various public, private, or non-profit sources such as the READI grant, Radius Indiana, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Southern Indiana Community Foundation, Indiana University's Center for Rural Engagement, and others as identified

Table 11: Maintain and Improve Park Assets

Action Item	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Construct dog park	Short term	\$10,000	Operating budget, donations
Create multi-purpose athletic fields	Mid term	\$2,000	Operating budget, donations
Complete construction of amphitheater	Short term	\$160,000	READI grant
Construct event center	Mid term	\$300,000	READI grant
Create a parking area at amphitheater/event center	Short term	\$20,000	READI grant

Table 12: Ensure Access for All

Action Item	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Complete construction of inclusive playground	Short term	\$150,000	Southern Indiana Community Foundation grant
Expand Sunshine Gang to include trail-related programs and activities	Immediate/Short term (pending completion of Monon South Trail)	\$1,000	Operations
Explore additional providers for healthy living programs	Short term	\$0	Staff time
Add directional signage throughout park	Short/medium term	\$5,000	Operations/grant/donations
Add/renovate accessible restroom facilities	Short term	\$20,000	Operations/grant/donations

Address level changes at bridges, shelters, and other transition areas	Medium term	\$3,000	Operations/donations
Install ADA compliant bleacher seating at amphitheater	Short term	\$10,000	READI grant/donations

Table 13: Spur Economic Development

Action Item	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Complete economic impact analysis	Short term	\$15,000	Radius, other grant
Create marketing plan in alignment with Star Valley plan	Mid term	\$20,000	Operations/grant funding

Table 14: Connect to the Community and Beyond

Action Item	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Construct Monon South trailhead	Mid term	\$100,000	Capital/grant
Improve SR 60 crossing and sidewalk/multi-purpose path to connect to Monon South Trail	Mid/long term	\$100,000	Capital/grant/INDOT
Connect Monon South Trail with Knobstone Trail	Long term	\$1,000,000	Grant
Connect Monon South Trail with Muddy Fork Reservoir	Long term	\$1,000,000	Grant

Table 15: Enhance Capacity

Action Item	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Develop park budget	Short term	\$0	Staff time
Explore establishment of Park Department	Short term	\$0	Staff time
Create operations and maintenance plan	Short term	\$15,000	Grant/operating

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Appendix A- Public Engagement

Public Meeting Methodology:

Objective & Overview

A public meeting was called in order to elicit feedback about park and recreation facilities and programs in Borden, as well as to garner feedback regarding the Monon South Trail (MST), which is currently under construction.

To facilitate both objectives, the public meeting was co-lead and co-facilitated with representatives from two groups: The Borden park planning team as well as the National Park Service. This partnership was strategic chosen due to two concurrent processes: (1) The park system master sought community input that would inform the park system master plan, of which a substantial piece is stakeholders' perspectives on and vision for the MST, and (2) community engagement efforts for the MST, which is led by the National Park Service who has been hired by Radius Indiana. Consequently, a combined community meeting was planned to collect insights on both initiatives. The meeting was held at the Borden Community Center on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

Participants

Recruitment for the public meeting occurred via social media (e.g., Facebook posts on Friends of Borden Community Park page), traditional media, and other institutions (e.g., Radius Indiana and Southern Indiana Trailways). All members of the public were invited to the public meeting. There were 21 meeting attendees and two facilitators. Members of the public included several residents, official representing local government (i.e., town, commission, fire department, and park board) as well as representatives from the local Friends of the Park and Friends of the Ohio River Greenway groups. All attendees are documented in Appendix A.

Data Collection

The public meeting consisted of (1) a welcome and introduction, (2) presentations regarding the Borden master park system planning process and Monon South Trail project, (3) an icebreaker about attendees' opinions regarding parks and recreation offerings in Borden, a (4) Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) evaluation of Borden's park and recreation system, and (5) a "gallery walk" presentation about the MST, which collected targeted feedback about that specific project.

The ice-breaker activity posed, "What 5 words would you use describe the current parks and recreation opportunities in your town?" The prompt was phrased in a way that sought to avoid "priming" participants to provide a response that was either positive or critical. It also anticipated responses of (a) a short phrase or sentence or (b) several descriptors or adjectives. Meeting attendees were asked to provide their response on individual post-it notes.

The SWOT evaluation divided attendees into two groups of participants, each supported by a meeting facilitator. Prior to initiating the activity, one facilitator provided an overview of the feedback sought, including (a) strengths and weaknesses associated with Borden's

current parks and recreation offerings and (b) opportunities and threats attendees foresee with respect to the town's parks and recreation offerings. Each group was also provided paper copies of the prompt to guide their discussion and SWOT evaluation (Appendix A). At the end of the activity, each group was asked to circle or otherwise indicate their "top" factor in each of the four SWOT categories. The SWOT evaluation activity lasted approximately 15 minutes.

Following the SWOT evaluation, the MST "Gallery Walk" activity featured a presentation coupled with a guided worksheet that attendees filled out (Appendix B). As the "Gallery Walk" presentation progressed, attendees identified on their worksheet two benefits of the Monon South Trail that were most important to them. Then, during a subsequent part of the "Gallery Walk" activity, attendees were invited to identify three trail activities they desired on the trail and/or anticipated engaging in themselves.

Analysis

Ice-breaker response review included (a) reading through the responses twice, (b) identifying patterns in responses subjectively (by the planning team), and finally (c) reviewing patterns objectively by identifying words that were repeated frequently. The SWOT evaluation analysis first combined both SWOTs into one. Then, repetitious responses between the groups were bolded at the top, with a count provided of the number of times that topic was identified. Finally, the park planning team developed a descriptive narrative-based response to the SWOT exercise.

Analysis of MST worksheet responses centered simple descriptive counts of two items: (1) Perceived benefits of the MST and (2) Activities participants' reported interest in/anticipated engaging in.

SWOT Analysis Prompts for Community Meeting

SWOT (Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat) Analysis Prompts

Review this prompt sheet with your group to help spur ideas for your group's "SWOT" Analysis!

Strengths	Weaknesses
What are some of the strengths related to current parks, recreation, and public programming in your town?	What weaknesses do you think exist in the current system, related to parks, recreation, or public programming?
Consider... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of existing facilities or programs currently offered. • Types of events currently occurring • Cost of access or participation • Quantity of facilities, programs, or events • Frequency of events • Quality of programs or events • Condition of facilities • & more! 	Consider... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of existing facilities or programs currently offered • Types of events currently occurring • Cost of access or participation • Quantity of facilities, programs, or events • Frequency of events • Quality of programs or events • Condition of facilities • & more!
Opportunities	Threats
What opportunities would you like to see your town take advantage of in the future ?	What threats , or challenges, do you see in your town's future with respect to park and recreation activities?
Consider... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential, beneficial partnerships with private, nonprofit, or other government entities • Useful collaborations with other nearby towns or communities • New programs, events, or facilities (particularly those that you think would contribute to the community's quality of life) • & more! 	Consider... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges with respect to partnerships or collaborations • "Competing" institutions offering park or recreation services • Social, political, health, or economic factors • Barriers to access (health, accessibility, or age) • & more!

Monon South Trail Worksheet

What one word would you use to describe the future Monon South Trail?

MAPS

PARKS - green

POTENTIAL PARKS – dashed green

Open spaces/gathering spots – dotted green

TRAILS – yellow/orange

POTENTIAL TRAILS – dashed yellow/orange

WATER FEATURES– blue lines

SCHOOLS – blue dots

Points of interest – purple

Look for connections, opportunities, challenges!



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES



INCREASING
OUTDOOR
RECREATION



IMPROVING
PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL
HEALTH



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PEDESTRIAN
AND BIKE
SAFETY



QUALITY OF
LIFE



ALTERNATIVE
TRANSPORTATION

Please circle 2 benefits that are most important to you.
Any other benefits you can think of?

ACTIVATING THE TRAIL FOR YOU!

What kind of activities will you want on the trail? How will you use the trail? Choose 3 most important

Individually or part of a group

Walking

Running

Biking

Hiking

Birdwatching

Enjoying nature

Group activities

Special events

Rehab

Art

Events

Seniors

School groups- env ed, track

Fundraisers

Night hikes

Nature walks

Questing, geocaching

Sprees

Series

Clean ups

Safety town

Solar walk

Kids play

Waysides/signs

Art!

Culture

Town to town connections

Whole trail

Farmers markets

TRAIL SUPPORT

How can you support the trail to realize maximum benefits?

Are you interested in being part of a Friends of Monon South Trail group?

If yes, please include your name here

Which support activities interest you most?

Who else in your town would be a community champion for the trail?

What other groups could be engaged to participate?

Concerns? What are you worried about?

What else do you want us to know?

Meeting promotion methods

Parks, Public Spaces, and You

PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS - PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN & THE MONON SOUTH TRAIL

The National Park Service and the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands are collaborating to collect feedback regarding two important initiatives: **Your community connection to the Monon South Trail and the development of a park system master plan!**

We invite all community members to this meeting! By collaborating, we look forward to providing information about these initiatives, hearing your feedback, supporting your community in identifying opportunities, and making connections between people and projects.

Follow the Monon South Trail on Facebook to learn more about this project!



OCTOBER 24

BORDEN COMMUNITY ROOM

6-8 PM

HOSTED BY



Public Meetings

Southern Indiana Trailways and its partners are conducting public meetings with the communities along the Monon South Trail (Lawrence, Orange, Washington, and Clark Counties in Indiana) to involve community members in the process of the development of the trail.

Parks, Public Spaces, and Your Input Sessions

You're invited! Please join us for the next round of public meetings in your town.

The [National Park Service](#) and the [Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands](#) are collaborating to collect feedback regarding two important initiatives occurring in your town: the development of a park system master plan and the South Monon trail!

The National Park Service wants to hear your thoughts and ideas about what the development of the Monon South Trail will mean to you and your community. What kind of activities will you want on the trail? How can you support the trail to realize maximum benefits?

The Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University seeks your critical input about both current and desired public spaces and programs community wide. This is a crucial step in developing a park system master plan for your town! Master Plans outline the strategic direction for your town's park spaces and recreation programs and also enable eligibility for funding opportunities.

We invite all community members to these meetings, whether you are a longstanding resident or new to town—or an active parks user or not! By collaborating for this round of meetings, we look forward to providing information about these initiatives, hearing your feedback, supporting communities in identifying opportunities, and making connections between people and projects.

Each meeting is community-specific and will be focused on hearing your input about the spaces, programs, features, and activities of your town.

Salem	New Pekin	Borden	Mitchell	Onians
October 23 6-8 PM EST	October 24 2-4 PM EST	October 24 6-8 PM EST	October 25 2-4 PM EST	October 25 6-8 PM EST
Salem Depot Museum (205 S College Ave, Salem, IN 47167)	New Pekin Community Center (540 S Park Street, Pekin, IN 47165)	Borden Community Room (205 S College Ave, Salem, IN 47167)	Mitchell Library (804 W Main St, Mitchell, IN 47445)	Onians, Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria (200 W Wilson St, Onians, IN 47462)


Friends of Borden Community Park
4d · 🌐

Join us this Tuesday, October 24th from 6 to 8 pm at the Borden Community Center. We need your input! What would you like to see at your park? Please Share!
[#friendsofbordencommunitypark](#)
[#bordencommunitypark](#)



Parks, Public Spaces, and You

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS -
PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN &
THE MONON SOUTH TRAIL**

OCTOBER 24

BORDEN COMMUNITY ROOM

6-8 PM

TUE, OCT 24

Borden - Parks, Public Spaces, and You: Public Input Sessions

Borden Community Room

13 people interested

☆ Interested

Meeting attendees with affiliation (when known):

Chris Crews, Friends of Ohio River Greenway
Monica Crews, Friends of Ohio River Greenway
Mindi Holmes, Town of Borden
Kathy Weatherford, Town of Borden
Steve Williams, Community member
Susan Williams, Community member
Brian Everage, Fire Department & Park Board
Terry Wingle, FOBC
Brenna LaDuke, Friends of Borden Community Park
Faith Sauber, Friends of Borden Community Park
Nick Sauber, Friends of Borden Community Park
Dan Vetrovsky, Neighbor
Max & Sue Doley,
Jack Coffman, Commissioner
Donna Overstreet,
Marvin Overstreet,
Stephanie McCoy,
Junior McCoy,
Les Wright, Friends of the Park
Larry & Wanda Floyd,
Ann Burnett,
Paul Brewer

Additional Survey Results

Benefits of Parks

	Enhance community appearance	Help attract new residents and businesses	Help reduce crime	Improve diet and nutrition	Improve mental health and reduce stress	Improve physical health and fitness	Improve social connections	Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact
Strongly Agree	56%	38%	24%	28%	50%	57%	34%	27%
Agree	33%	37%	22%	40%	41%	38%	46%	39%
Uncertain	9%	15%	35%	25%	7%	4%	15%	24%
Disagree	1%	7%	13%	6%	1%	0%	4%	9%
Strongly Disagree	1%	2%	6%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Increase property values in surrounding area	Make my community a more desirable place to live	Strengthen sense of community	Preserve open space and the environment	Promote tourism in the region	Provide access to the outdoors and nature	Protect the region's historical attributes	Other
Strongly	33%	46%	41%	50%	27%	61%	32%	43%

Agree						36%		
Agree	40%	36%	42%	39%	42%	36%	39%	13%
Uncertain	20%	12%	10%	8%	22%	1%	19%	40%
Disagree	4%	4%	5%	2%	7%	2%	7%	0%
Strongly Disagree	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Total	100%							

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Importance of Park Facilities and Amenities

Facility or Amenity	% Important or Very Important
n	157
Accessible Facilities (for people with disabilities)	80%
Athletic Fields (Soccer / Other)	58%
Bike Racks	48%
Bike Paths	63%
Community Gardens	52%
Courts (Pickleball)	43%
Courts (Basketball / Tennis / Other)	64%
Golf Courses	25%
Displays (Environmental / Historical / Educational)	46%
Dog Park	47%
Fishing Piers / Areas	36%
Fitness Equipment (along trails)	29%
Green Space / Open Fields	69%
Habitat or Natural Spaces (Prairie Meadow/Forest/Woodland)	76%
Pavilions or Stages	56%
Picnic Tables and BBQ Grills	68%
Playgrounds	83%
Restrooms	93%
Shelters	82%
Splashpad / Water Feature	43%
Trails (Paved)	74%
Trails (Natural)	74%
Other	70%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Importance of Facilities to Increase

	Amphitheater	Benches/ Seating	Basketball Court	Woodlands/ Forest	Playgrounds	Restrooms	Shelter Houses	Sports Fields (Baseball, Softball)	Volleyball Court	Walking Path
Very Important	19	46	20	45	58	64	89	54	36	12
Important	31	56	28	43	28	34	23	42	22	23
Moderately Important	16	5	21	15	21	7	5	9	25	22
Somewhat Important	15	15	8	10	7	3	6	15	6	10
Not Important	12	4	11	2	0	3	2	1	6	13
Total	93	126	88	115	114	111	125	121	95	80
% Important or Very Important	54%	81%	55%	77%	75%	88%	90%	79%	61%	44%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that row.

Importance of Programs

Program	% Important or Very Important
n	151
Accessible programs (for people with disabilities)	70%
Adult programs or sports leagues	51%
After school programs for youth	63%
Arts programming	51%
Concerts, festivals or family nights	73%
Farmers' Market	75%
Fitness, health, and wellness programs	65%
Holiday celebrations (4th of July, Memorial Day, et cetera)	69%
Gardening programs	46%
Healthy cooking / nutrition programs	34%
Movies in the parks	46%
Nature programs / environmental education	62%
Senior or older adult programs	61%
Sports programming	48%
Volunteer or service opportunities	59%
Youth sports leagues / programs	71%
Youth summer day camps	56%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Barriers

	Adult programs	Adult sports leagues / clubs	Fitness, health, and wellness programs	Public events / festivals / picnics	Senior or older adult programs	Teen programs	Youth sports leagues / programs	Youth summer programs	Other
n	66	68	66	67	43	60	62	65	64
Didn't know it existed	50%	47%	59%	69%	21%	28%	23%	17%	28%
Too far away	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not interested	18%	28%	21%	12%	16%	15%	11%	18%	16%
Too expensive	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	5%
Health reasons	6%	7%	3%	3%	7%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Not relevant to me (e.g. no children)	14%	9%	6%	6%	9%	43%	58%	45%	41%
Other	12%	9%	11%	10%	44%	10%	6%	15%	9%

Trail Promotion Support	% Selected
n	135
Offer guided tours of the trails	26%
Promote the trail in the media (radio, newspaper)	42%
Promote the trail at government or business locations	24%
Promote the trail online (including social media)	85%
Provide visual maps at parks with trails	74%
Signage on major roads and road-trail intersections	54%
Something else (please indicate):	4%

Note. Cells highlighted in green indicate those in approximately the top 25% of values for that column.

Survey Instrument



Park System Master Plan Survey

Your community leaders would like your input to help determine priorities for its new five-year parks and recreation master plan.

This survey will take 5-8 minutes to complete and is scheduled to remain open until February 5, 2024.

The results of this survey will be used to guide the management, operation, and development of park assets for years to come.

Your participation is valued and appreciated!

This parks and master planning process is being conducted by the Eppley Center for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University.



**EPPLEY INSTITUTE FOR
PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS**

Please return this survey by February 5, 2024

1. Including yourself, please select how many people are in your household according to the following age groups? (Please write the number of people in your household in each range; please do not enter a checkmark.)

- Under age 5 _____
- Ages 5 - 9 _____
- Ages 10 – 14 _____
- Ages 15 – 19 _____
- Ages 20 – 24 _____
- Ages 25 – 34 _____
- Ages 35 – 44 _____
- Ages 45 – 54 _____
- Ages 55 – 64 _____
- Ages 65 – 74 _____
- Ages 75+ _____

2. From the following list of park or trail facilities, how often have you or a member of your household used each over the past year?

	Did Not Visit	1-5 visits	6-10 visits	11-20 visits	More than 20 visits
Local park or playground	○	○	○	○	○
State or federal park or forest	○	○	○	○	○
Trail or greenway	○	○	○	○	○

3. How do you usually travel in order to visit the park facilities you visit the most?

- Bicycle, scooter, or non-motorized wheeled device
- Car or other personal motorized vehicle
- Public transport (e.g., bus)
- Walk
- Other: _____

4. The following are some of the potential benefits that you, members of your household, or the community in general may receive from parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services. For each potential benefit, please indicate your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Enhance community appearance	<input type="radio"/>				
Help attract new residents and businesses	<input type="radio"/>				
Help reduce crime	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve diet and nutrition	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve mental health and reduce stress	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve physical health and fitness	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve social connections	<input type="radio"/>				
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	<input type="radio"/>				
Increase property values in surrounding area	<input type="radio"/>				
Make my community a more desirable place to live	<input type="radio"/>				
Strengthen sense of community	<input type="radio"/>				
Preserve open space and the environment	<input type="radio"/>				
Promote tourism in the region	<input type="radio"/>				
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	<input type="radio"/>				
Protect the region's historical attributes	<input type="radio"/>				
Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>				

5. Please check any of the following circumstances that prevent you from using parks and trails or attending parks and recreation programs as often as you would like.

- Lack of time
- Distance / parks are too far away
- Health / mobility concerns
- Safety concerns
- Inadequate / poorly maintained facilities
- Don't know where parks are
- Lack of access for people with disabilities
- Lack of money
- Don't know about parks or recreation programs
- Lack of public transportation
- No park, trail, or recreational facility within a 10-minute walk from my house
- Programs offered are not interesting to me
- Other (please list): _____
- None of these apply to me

6. Below is a list of recreation facilities and amenities. Some of the resources are currently provided in your community; others are not. Please rate how important it is to you for your community to provide availability to the facilities and amenities listed below.

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Accessible programs (for people with disabilities)	○	○	○	○	○
Athletic Fields (Soccer / Other)	○	○	○	○	○
Bike Racks	○	○	○	○	○
Bike Paths	○	○	○	○	○
Community Gardens	○	○	○	○	○
Courts (Pickleball)	○	○	○	○	○
Courts (Basketball / Tennis / Other)	○	○	○	○	○
Disc Golf Courses	○	○	○	○	○
Displays (Environmental / Historical / Educational)	○	○	○	○	○

Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Fishing Piers / Areas	<input type="radio"/>				
Fitness Equipment (along trails)	<input type="radio"/>				
Green Space / Open Field	<input type="radio"/>				
Habitat or Natural Spaces (Prairie / Meadow / Forest / Woodland)	<input type="radio"/>				
Pavilions or Stages	<input type="radio"/>				
Picnic Tables and BBQ Grills	<input type="radio"/>				
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>				
Shelters	<input type="radio"/>				
Splashpad / Water Feature	<input type="radio"/>				
Trails (Paved)	<input type="radio"/>				
Trails (Natural)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>				

7. Below is a list of sports and recreation programs. Some are currently provided in your community; others are not. Please rate how important it is for you that your community provide availability to the programs listed below.

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Accessible programs (for people with disabilities)	<input type="radio"/>				
Adult programs or sports leagues	<input type="radio"/>				
After school programs for youth	<input type="radio"/>				
Arts programming	<input type="radio"/>				
Concerts, festivals or family nights	<input type="radio"/>				
Farmers' Market	<input type="radio"/>				
Fitness, health, and wellness programs	<input type="radio"/>				

Holiday celebrations (4th of July, Memorial Day, et cetera)	<input type="radio"/>				
Gardening programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Healthy cooking / nutrition programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Movies in the parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Nature programs / environmental education	<input type="radio"/>				
Senior or older adult programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Sports programming	<input type="radio"/>				
Volunteer or service opportunities	<input type="radio"/>				
Youth sports leagues / programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Youth summer day camps	<input type="radio"/>				
Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>				

8. Please select all of the ways that you currently learn about parks and recreation services and programs within your community.

- Town or city website
- From friends and neighbors
- Flyers / posters at parks and rec facilities
- Conversations with parks and rec staff
- Social media
- Newspaper articles
- Parks and Rec Department e-mail bulletins
- Newspaper advertisements
- Community meetings
- Seasonal program guide
- Radio
- Television
- Other (please specify): _____
- I do not receive any information

9. Please select all of the ways that you would prefer to learn about parks and recreation services and programs within your community.

- Town or city website
- From friends and neighbors
- Flyers / posters at parks and rec facilities

- Conversations with parks and rec staff
- Social media
- Newspaper articles
- Parks and Rec Department e-mail bulletins
- Newspaper advertisements
- Community meetings
- Seasonal program guide
- Radio
- Television
- Other (please specify): _____

0. In general, if additional funding were available to fund parks and trails, how would you allocate the funding among the competing categories below?

Enter as much or as little as you wish, but please make your total allocation equal 100%.

Category	Allocation
Maintaining existing parks and trails	%
Renovating (updating / improving) the grounds, facilities, and amenities in existing parks and trails	%
Facilitating/Providing additional recreation programs to the community	%
Acquiring new land	%
Increasing natural areas (streams, open spaces, green spaces, or forests)	%
Constructing / Adding new walking and biking trails	%
Constructing / Adding new parks or facilities	%
Conservation efforts / habitat management	%
Other (please describe): _____	%
Total	100 %

11. Your community is interested in improving local trails. What features would you like to see at or along local trails? Select your top three.

- Connect trail to existing bike paths or sidewalks
- Ensure easily accessible parking at trailheads
- Integrate public art along the trail
- Post information about the town along the trail
- Post logistical information about the trail (emergency contacts, rules of the trail) along the trail

- Post informational content about the trail (trail facilities, programs, and special events) along the trail
- Provide environmental / historical / interpretative information along the trail
- Provide visual maps at parks with trails
- Update or renovate the trails
- Something else (please indicate): _____
- None of the above

12. Please indicate how likely you or a member of your household is to engage in the following trail activities.

	Extremely Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neither Likely nor Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Extremely Likely
Bicycling / cycling	○	○	○	○	○
Jogging / running	○	○	○	○	○
Nature-based activities (such as bird watching)	○	○	○	○	○
Rollerblading	○	○	○	○	○
Special events / organized programs along the trail	○	○	○	○	○
Transportation (within town or between towns)	○	○	○	○	○
Walking pet or pushing a stroller	○	○	○	○	○
Walking / hiking	○	○	○	○	○
XC Skiing/snowshoeing	○	○	○	○	○
Other (please specify):	○	○	○	○	○

13. Your community is interested in promoting local trails. What do you think would be the best way(s) to promote local trails? Select all that apply.

- Offer guided tours of the trails
- Promote the trail in the media (radio, newspaper)
- Promote the trail at government or business locations
- Promote the trail online (including social media)
- Provide visual maps at parks with trails
- Signage on major roads and road-trail intersections
- Something else (please indicate): _____

14. How long have you lived in Borden?

- Less than one year
- 1 - 5 years
- 6 - 10 years
- 11 - 15 years
- 16 or more years
- I do not live in Borden

15. From the following list of Borden parks, please rate the condition of each of the parks that you and members of your household have used during the past year.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Did Not Use
Borden Community Park	○	○	○	○	○	○

16. In the prior question, if you rated the park "Fair" or lower, please describe how you would improve the park.

17. Please indicate if you or members of your household have used any of the recreation facilities offered in Borden in the past year. If you or members of your household have used a facility in the past year, please indicate how important the facility is to your family's recreational needs.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Did Not Use
Amphitheater	○	○	○	○	○	○
Benches / Seating	○	○	○	○	○	○
Basketball Court	○	○	○	○	○	○
Green Space / Open Fields	○	○	○	○	○	○
Woodlands / Forest	○	○	○	○	○	○
Playgrounds	○	○	○	○	○	○

Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>					
Shelter Houses	<input type="radio"/>					
Sports Fields (Baseball, Softball)	<input type="radio"/>					
Volleyball Court	<input type="radio"/>					
Walking Path	<input type="radio"/>					

18. Which facility from the previous question have you or members of your household used the most during the past year?

19. From the list in the previous question, which facility contributed the most to your health?

20. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation programs and services in Borden during the past year?

- Yes
- No

21. For each program listed below that you have used in the past year, please rate your level of satisfaction.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Did Not Participate
Sunshine Gang Bingo	<input type="radio"/>					
Star Valley Strawberry Festival	<input type="radio"/>					
Borden Youth League	<input type="radio"/>					
Concert by the Creek Series	<input type="radio"/>					
Light Up Borden	<input type="radio"/>					
Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>					

22. If you HAVE NOT used the following sports or recreation programs in the past year, please indicate why not.

	Didn't know it existed	Too far away	Not interested	Too expensive	Health reasons	Not relevant to me (e.g. no children)	Other
Adult programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult sports leagues / clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness, health, and wellness programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature programs, environmental education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public events / festivals / picnics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior or older adult programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth sports leagues / programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth summer programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The final four questions are optional. Your answers will be used to help us learn more about our park users, community members, and to help us create more equitable and inclusive offerings.

23. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer

24. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic Latino or Spanish origin: _____
- Prefer not to answer

25. What is your race? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Some other race: _____
- Prefer not to answer

26. What is your household income?

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

Survey Invitation Postcard



Your Input is Needed!

Borden is collecting crucial input for a new Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. You have been selected to participate in an important survey, which will guide the management, operation, and development of parks for years to come.

To take the survey:

1. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or

2. Enter this link into a web browser:

[go.iu.edu/parkmasterplan]



If you would prefer a paper copy (with stamped return envelope), please contact Indiana University's Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at (812) 855-3095 or email info@eppley.org.

The survey is scheduled to close on February 5, 2024.

Please submit your response as soon as possible.

 INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY
**EPPLEY INSTITUTE FOR
PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS**
2805 E 10th St
Suite 170
Bloomington, IN 47408

Public Plan Presentation

The Borden Parks System Master Plan was presented to the public at the Borden Park Board meeting on March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Borden Community Center for review and comment. 12 members of the public were present at the presentation. The following questions were asked:

Q. How were addresses for the survey invitations collected?

A. Sewer bills were used as the basis for the mailing list to include all Borden households plus households in the surrounding area to capture additional area residents who use the park.

Q. Is there a marketing and promotions effort to get the word out about tourism opportunities in Borden?

A. There is a recommendation for a marketing plan in the Action Plan. Management of the trail will be turned over to Southern Indiana Trailways and they should be a willing partner in the creation of a marketing plan.

Q. Is it up to the town to implement the items in the Action Plan or is it up to Eppley?

A. It is ultimately up to the town though Eppley, as the consultant and a part of Indiana University is always happy to answer basic questions and serve as a resource.

In addition, the final draft was uploaded to the project website for public viewing and feedback or questions through the comment portal. No additional feedback was received.

Appendix B- Condition Assessment

Eppley Center Staff conducted a site visit to Borden Community Park on October 23, 2023 to review park inventory and assess the condition of the park and amenities. The full assessment report follows here with each amenity scored per the following scale.

Condition Scoring:

5- Excellent- Full functionality as intended. No defects or needed repairs. Appearance- no defects, peeling paint, vandalism, etc. Proper surfacing and routing. Fully accessible (ADA).

4- Good- Functional as intended. Minor repairs (unrelated to functionality or safety) notable. Appearance- wear and tear visible. Adequate surfacing. Proper routing. Mostly accessible with correctable issues.

3- Fair- Minor loss of functionality. Repairs notable. Appearance- obvious wear and tear or vandalism. Inadequate surfacing or routing. Accessibility issues apparent.

2- Poor- 50% functionality. Repairs needed. Appearance- obvious wear and tear. Accessibility issues evident.

1- Very Poor. Non-functional or unsafe. Not accessible. Removal or replacement recommended.

Eppley Center- Individual Site Assessment

Site Name	Borden Community Park
Classification	Community Park
Conducted by	Layne Elliott, Kate Wiltz, Kristy Anderson
Site Description	41 acre park. 4 softball/baseball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, shelter, playground, walking trail, performance stage with grass seating, open fields. Large natural (unmowed) area. Bisected by Muddy Fork creek. Several benches and picnic tables scattered throughout. Borden HS Softball team plays games on ballfield.

Amenity	Condition				
	1	2	3	4	5

Softball field (HS)				X	
Notes Dugouts, fencing, outfield grass, in good condition. Some grass and unevenness in infield dirt but long out of season. Safety capping present on all fencing. Bleachers in good condition but no route to access.					
Small softball field				X	
Notes Dugouts, fencing, outfield grass, in good condition. Some grass and unevenness in infield dirt but long out of season. Safety capping present on all fencing. Grass in infield around pitchers circle need to be re-sodded. Bleachers in good condition but no route to access.					
Softball Field				X	
Notes Dugouts, fencing, outfield grass, in good condition. Some grass and unevenness in infield dirt but long out of season. Safety capping present on all fencing. Bleachers in good condition but no route to access.					
Baseball field				X	
Notes Dugouts, fencing, outfield grass, in good condition. Infield is grass except for home plate area and 1 st to third basepaths. Pitcher's mound is portable, artificial turf covered. Some maintenance needed on infield- seeding or sod replacement, uneven dirt. Bleachers in good condition but no route to access.					
Concession/restroom/press box building				X	
Notes No notable issues on exterior. Normal wear. Interior locked except for restrooms. No notable repairs needed in restrooms. Paved concourse around building in good condition.					
Shelter				X	
Notes Concrete pad, roofing, and posts in good condition. 13 picnic tables in good condition. Water pump and fountain in fair condition. No route to access pump.					
Playground				X	

Notes All equipment in good condition. Climbing equipment, 3 swing sets, merry-go-round, ground level riding equipment. Wood chip surface rutted under swings, ends of slides, around merry-go-round, otherwise in adequate condition.					
Basketball courts					X
Notes Asphalt surface and baskets in excellent condition. Appears to be recently resurfaced or constructed.					
Volleyball courts		X			
Notes 2 nets on grass. No court lines. No route to access. Drainage ditch in path from parking. Nets are damaged and should be replaced.					
Stage			X		
Notes Concrete slab only at time of visit. Construction not complete- roofing will be added in fall 2023. Gravel drive to access is uneven and overgrown, poor condition. Slopes down on all sides to grass seating area. Picnic tables.					
Open fields				X	
Notes Large open fields. Grass appears to be in good condition. Don't appear to be lined to designated for any specific purpose. No observable drainage issues. Some areas could probably be naturalized to reduce mowing.					
Parking			X		
Notes 2 large parking areas. Pavement in fair condition. Little cracking, small potholes, striping is almost completely faded. Should be resealed and striped.					
Walking path			X		
Notes Mostly in good condition. Couple areas where damage is present. One is between ballfields, could present tripping hazard. Most of path is only 6 feet wide.					
Bridge (over Muddy Fork)					X

Notes

Appears to be fairly new. Small gaps at transition to walking path, otherwise no notable issues.

Benches, picnic tables			X		
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Notes

Scattered throughout park. Most in grass with no route to access. Most in fair to good condition.

Appendix C- Additional Documents

ORDINANCE # 2024- 2-13A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Borden, Indiana (hereafter "the Town") has previously established a Department of Parks and Recreation (the "Department") in the Town.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town ("Council") previously adopted Ordinance No. 2023-OR-01, which amended the ordinance adopted on May 8, 2001 that originally created the Department in the Town.

WHEREAS, the Council now desires to amend and restate Ordinance No. 2023-OR-01 and have the Department be administered consistent with the terms of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Borden, Indiana as follows:

SECTION 1. All members of the existing Park and Recreation Board ("Board") shall continue in office until such member either resigns or dies, are removed pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-10-3-6, or their terms expire.

SECTION 2.

(a) The Board shall be composed of four (4) members appointed by the Council on the basis of his or her interest in and knowledge of parks and recreation.

(b) Members of the Board must be residents of the Town.

(c) The Board may have one (1) ex officio member, being a member of the governing body of the Borden-Henryville School Corporation (the "School Corporation"), selected by that body on the basis of his or her interest in and knowledge of Parks and Recreation.

(d) In making appointments to the Board, the Council may be required to find, pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-10-3-4.1, that due to the political composition of the persons active in the parks community, it is necessary to waive the following requirements for members of the board: (1) the requirement that a member of the Board be affiliated with a political party, and (2) the requirement that not more than two of the four members of the Board be affiliated with the same political party. The Council may vote for a waiver only if the waiver is necessary due to the absence of persons who are willing to serve on the Board and who satisfy any or all of the requirements.

SECTION 3. Subject to the provisions of Section 1 and upon each vacancy on the existing Board, the terms initially appointed shall be:

(a) One (1) member for a term of one (1) year.

(b) One (1) member for a term of two (2) years.

(c) One (1) member for a term of three (3) years.

(d) Two (2) members for a term of four (4) years, which includes the ex-officio member.

As each term expires, and except for the term of the ex-officio member appointed by the School Corporation, the Council shall make each new appointment for a term of four (4) years. All terms expire on the first Monday in January, but a member shall continue in office until his or her successor is appointed. If the Council does not make an appointment for a new term by the first Monday in April, the incumbent shall serve another term.

Pursuant to Indiana § 36-10-3-4, ex officio members have all the rights of regular Board members, including the right to vote. A vacancy in an ex-officio position shall be filled by the appointing authority.

SECTION 4. At its first regular meeting in each year, the Board shall elect a president and vice-president. The vice-president shall have authority to act as the president of the Board during the absence or disability of the president. The Board may select a secretary within or outside of its own membership.

SECTION 5. The Board shall have the power to perform all acts necessary to acquire and develop sites and facilities and to conduct such programs as are generally understood to be park and recreation functions. In addition, the Board shall have all the powers listed in Indiana Code § 36-10-3, et seq. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board shall provide regular informational reports to the Town and shall obtain prior written approval from the Council prior to taking final action that will affect the Town's finances and/or property. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board shall obtain the prior written approval of the Council prior to (a) adopting final rules governing the use of Park and Recreation Facilities pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-10-3-10(a)(2) and/or (b) exercising any of its powers under Indiana Code §§ 36-10-3-11, 36-10-3-12, 36-10-3-24, and/or 36-10-3-27.

SECTION 6. The Board shall prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of the Town as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts. The Board may accept gifts, donations, and subsidies for park and recreation purposes.

SECTION 7. To the extent any Town ordinances or resolutions conflict with this Ordinance, the provisions contained within this Ordinance shall control and supersede those provisions.

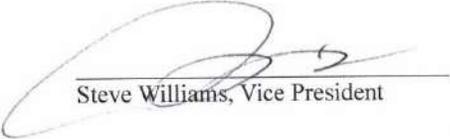
SECTION 8. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval, according to the laws of the State of Indiana.

SECTION 9. If any part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable, such part shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Borden, Indiana this 13th day of February, 2024.

Town Council Members:


Junior McCoy, President


Steve Williams, Vice President


LeAnn McClure, Secretary

ATTEST:

Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer

SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT

This Site Access Agreement (this "Agreement"), is made effective as of the 14 day of February, 2024, by and between the **Town of Borden, Indiana** (the "Town"), a municipal entity with an address of 129 West Street, Borden, Indiana, and **Borden Youth League, Inc.** (the "League"), an Indiana nonprofit corporation with an address of P.O. Box 65, Borden, Indiana.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Town and the League desire to enter into an agreement to allow the League a non-exclusive license to utilize certain Town property or Town-controlled property to direct and run a recreational youth baseball league for the 2024 season for the betterment of the Town and surrounding communities and subject to the terms and conditions herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town and the League hereby agree as follows:

1. Access to Premises. Subject to the terms herein, the League shall have access to, and use of the baseball fields and diamonds and surrounding grass fields owned or controlled by the Town located in Borden Community Park (collectively, the "Fields") from **March 1, 2024** until **July 31, 2024** to facilitate a recreational youth baseball league season and for no other purpose during that period. This time frame is hereinafter referred to as the License Period. The League shall present a game and tournament schedule to the Town by **March 1st** of each year for the baseball league season (the "Baseball Schedule"), which Schedule shall be subject to approval by the Town in its sole discretion. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the League shall only have exclusive use of the Fields on days and times submitted on the Schedule presented by the League and approved by the Town. Unless otherwise set forth above, the license is non-exclusive, such that the Fields may be utilized by other individuals and entities, including, but not limited to, the Town and its departments.

The Town shall provide to the League at least two ^{3TC} keys to the equipment storage shed containing equipment necessary to the operation of the Youth League. These keys shall not be copied, and loss of a key will result in the replacement of the respective locks at the expense of the League.

2. Duties and Responsibilities. The League shall be responsible, at its own cost, for lining or marking the Fields and all other Field preparation and maintenance. Field preparation and maintenance to be performed by the League includes setting bases and pitcher's rubber; marking baselines, foul lines, batters' boxes, coaches' boxes, catchers' boxes, and on-deck circles; and otherwise preparing the Fields to the standards set by the League and/or to conduct the League games and tournament games.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Town shall mow inside the ball diamonds of the Fields once per week during the License Period.

The League shall report any leak, damage, or other maintenance issue to a Town official or employee immediately upon occurrence or discovery, and the Town will endeavor to remedy any plumbing or safety issue within a reasonable time.

The League shall provide its own employees, volunteers, and supplies at its own expense. All supplies, equipment, and materials purchased by the League shall remain the property of the League and shall not be used by the Town without approval by the League.

3. Insurance. The League agrees to maintain liability insurance in the following amounts:

Type: General Liability

Coverage: General Liability

Amount: \$250,000 per person/\$1,000,000 per occurrence

Type: Worker's Comp (as applicable)

Coverage: Worker's Comp

Amount: Statutory limits

to protect the Town and the League against personal injury claims or any other claims mentioned herein. Prior to the use of the Fields under this Agreement the League shall provide the Town with a Certificate of Insurance with coverage limits set forth above, at a minimum, and naming the Town as an additional insured. Upon request from the Town, the League shall be required to provide the Town any additional Certificate of Insurance to evidence the requirements herein.

The insurance required in the Agreement, through a policy or endorsement(s), shall include a provision that the policy and endorsements may not be canceled or modified without thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Town.

4. Indemnification. All personal property of the League, its employees, representatives, agents, invitees, or guests, in or on the Fields, and/or premises shall be used at their own risk, and the Town and its elected and appointed officials, boards, commissions, officers, and agents, shall in no event be liable to any such person or party for any damage to or loss thereof, including, but not limited to any damage to or loss of property stored by the League in the equipment shed. The League, at its sole expense, shall maintain insurance coverage on all the League's property, including its equipment.

The League shall further defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Town and its representatives, employees, boards, commissions, agents, and officers from and against any and all claims, suits, losses, cost, damages penalties, fines, expenses (including attorneys' fees) and other liabilities, whether due in whole or in part to the negligence of the Town, arising out of or relating to:

(a) the operations of the League;

(b) the League's use of the Town's property, and/or Fields; or

(c) injury to or death of any person, or damage to, destruction of, or loss of any property allegedly caused by, in whole or in part, any act or omission of the League or its employees, officers, volunteers, board members, or representatives.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League shall be responsible for any damage sustained to the Town premises or property, including the Fields, by participants or spectators associated with the League's operations. The insurance specified herein constitutes the minimum requirements and shall in no way lessen or limit the liability of the League under the terms of the Agreement.

5. Fees. Prior to the beginning of the License Period, the League agrees to provide the Town with a roster for each player participating in the League. The League shall pay to the Town a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per participant for the License Period. This amount is due to the Town on or before April 30, 2024.

6. Use of the Premises. The League shall not make any permanent changes to any Town property, including, but not limited to, the Fields, fences, parking areas, and any other Town property, without prior written approval of the Town in the Town's sole discretion.

The League shall be responsible for ensuring proper use of all Town property and facilities by its employees, volunteers, members, and teams, opposing team members, and all spectators present. Failure to ensure proper use of Town property shall result in the League reimbursing the Town for any repair or replacement of any property or facilities damaged while in the possession of the League and/or the termination of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the League shall not be responsible for damages to Town property and facilities caused by other organizations that are unrelated to the League's operations.

The League shall also be responsible for all trash and debris relating to its use of the Fields during the License Period. Said trash and debris is to be picked up from the park grounds immediately following each game or tournament. The Town shall contact the League in the event trash or debris was not properly picked up. If the League does not pick up the trash within 24 hours of the notification from the Town, the League shall pay the Town a fee of \$19.00 per hour for a park laborer to perform trash or debris cleanup caused by the League's use of the Fields. The Town shall bill the League for the time spent by its park laborer, and said bill shall be paid by the League to the Town within fourteen (14) days from the billing date.

In the Event the League fails to pay any of the fees or bills set forth in the above paragraphs or other portions of this Agreement, it shall be in breach of this Agreement and the Town shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement and/or recover reasonable attorney's fees from the League that it incurs in remedying the breach, whether or not litigation ensues.

7. Alcohol and Drug Use Prohibited. A NO ALCOHOL, NO DRUG policy shall be strictly enforced. The League shall immediately suspend any person found with alcohol or drugs on the Fields or surrounding grounds during the League's use of the Fields.

8. End of License Period. The League shall surrender the Fields, and keys herein utilized by the end of the last day of the License Period. If necessary, the League is allowed a seven-day grace period after the last day to surrender the Fields with all the improvements, parts, and surfaces thereof in the condition in which they were received, ordinary wear and tear expected.

9. Cancellation of Play. The Town reserves the right to cancel play in its sole discretion if field conditions are unfavorable or if play under said unfavorable conditions could cause damage to the Fields. The Town designates the Town Council President to be the Town official that can cancel play, but such cancellation can only occur after consulting with the League's contact person.

10. Termination of Agreement. If the League shall violate any of the provisions of this Agreement or other applicable ordinance of the Town, and no written resolution can be agreed upon between the Town Council President and the League within seven (7) days from the violation, the League shall be in default, and the Town may immediately terminate this Agreement, along with any license granted herein, and, upon request of the Town, the League shall immediately cease utilizing the Fields. The Town shall also have such other remedies as are available under law or in equity.

If the Town shall violate any of the provisions of this Agreement, and no written resolution can be agreed upon between the Town Council and the League within seven (7) days from the violation, the Town shall be in default, and the League may immediately terminate this Agreement. In such even of default, the League's sole remedy shall be the termination of this Agreement.

11. Force majeure. In the event that the Town shall be delayed or hindered in or prevented from doing or performing any act or thing required in this Agreement by reason of strikes, lockouts, casualties, disease, Acts of God, labor troubles, inability to procure materials, failure of power, governmental laws or regulations, riots, insurrection, war or other causes beyond the reasonable control of the Town then the Town shall not be liable or responsible for any such delays and the doing or performing of such act or thing shall be excused for the period of the delay. Without limiting the generality of the forgoing, if the Fields are totally destroyed by a natural disaster or are otherwise rendered unusable through no fault of the Town, this License shall be suspended until the Town determines when play can resume. If it is determined by the Town, in its sole discretion, play cannot properly resume, the License and this Agreement shall terminate immediately.

12. Compliance with the Law. The League shall conduct its activities at the Fields and on the surrounding grounds in accordance with State, Federal, and local laws and ordinances, including but not limited to, any applicable permitting requirements.

13. Lack of landlord-tenant relationship. It is agreed that nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed or construed as creating a partnership, joint venture, or a relationship of landlord and tenant between the Town and the League.

14. Agreement Approval. This Agreement shall be submitted to the Town Council of the Town prior to execution of the same. The terms of this Agreement are expressly conditioned upon the approval of the same by the Town Council.

15. Assignment. This Agreement may not be assigned by either party without the other party's written consent.

16. Waivers. No waiver of any condition or covenant in this Agreement by either party shall be deemed to imply or constitute a further waiver of the same or any other condition or covenant of the Agreement.

17. Notice. Any notice provided by this Agreement is to be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address set forth above or may be personally delivered to an authorized agent of the party.

18. Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains a complete expression of the agreement between the parties and there are no promises, representations, or inducements except such as are herein provided. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, this Agreement supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, and discussions relative to the subject matter hereof and is a full integration of the agreement of the parties. No modifications or alterations of this Agreement shall be binding, unless in writing and executed by authorized representatives of the parties hereto.

19. Indiana Law, Venue, and Mediation. This Agreement has been executed under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana. All proceedings arising in connection with this Agreement shall be tried and litigated only in the state courts in Clark County, Indiana. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of irresolvable conflict or in the case of potential litigation between the parties, both parties shall hereby consent to submit such conflict to mediation prior to filing suit. In the event of mediation, both parties agree to equally split the costs of mediation.

20. Authority. Each person signing this Agreement hereby warrants that he/she has the legal authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the respective party, and that such binding authority has been granted by proper order, resolution, ordinance, or other authorization of the entity.

21. Partial Invalidity. If any provision in this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, then that provision shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary to render that provision enforceable and the remainder of the Agreement shall continue in effect and be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

22. Non-discrimination. User agrees not to discriminate against any employee or participant with regard to the employee's or participant's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, color, national origin ancestry, age, disability, or United States military service veteran status.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement of the dates set forth with their signatures.

"League"

BORDEN YOUTH LEAGUE, INC.

Signed: Tiffany Cook

Printed: Tiffany Cook

Title: President

Dated: 2/14/24

Signed: Bucky Smith

Printed: Bucky Smith

Title: Vice-President

Dated: 2/14/24

"TOWN"

TOWN OF BORDEN

Junior McCoy

Junior McCoy, Town Council President

Dated: 2-23-24

Attest:

Faith Sauber

Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Borden