

CITY OF KNOX

FIVE YEAR PARKS MASTER PLAN 2018-2022



City of Knox Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2018-2022



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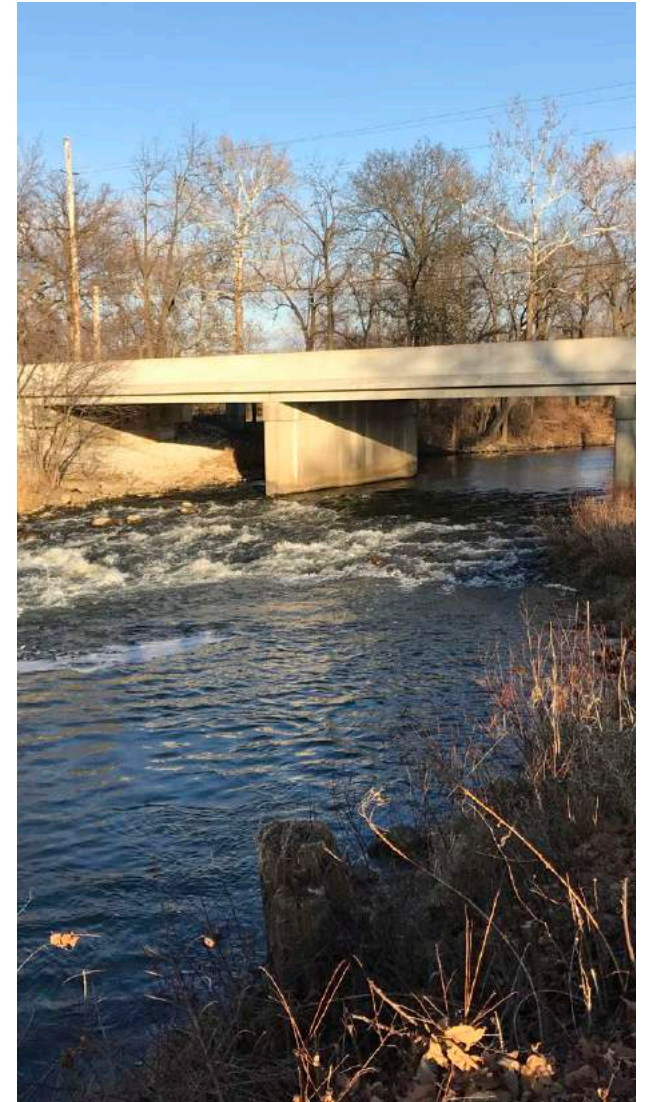
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Together, We Will

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Assurance of Compliance Form

Assurance of Compliance
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

Signatures

Applicant President

President's Printed Name

Applicant Secretary

Secretary's Printed Name



Resolution Adopting the Master

WHEREAS, the City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Knox, Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional facilities and programs to the residents of Knox to meet their needs; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board realizes the importance of a sound planning document in order to meet the needs of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board is continually aware of the value and importance of outdoor and leisure opportunities, programs and facilities to the future of the Knox Park and Recreation Department. its programs, and to the residents of Knox,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF KNOX PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Knox Parks and Recreation 2018 to 2022 Master Plan, as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Knox, Indiana for the next five years. The City of Knox Parks and Recreation Board is committed to an annual review and update of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____ ,
2018.

CITY OF KNOX PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

XXXXXX
Park Board President



Planning Area and Plan Goals

Definition of the Planning Area

The City of Knox is the county seat of Starke County and it strives to provide a public environment that meets expectations of high quality facilities and services to all residents and visitors from Starke County and beyond. Although the City looks to primarily serve its residents, its goal is to attract a greater population of visitors from around the county by providing exceptional park and recreation facilities. The influx of visitors from outside the City helps support economic development by increasing the amount of people using businesses in Knox.

About 60 percent of the online survey respondents were from outside the City of Knox limits. To help address this, the planning area for this document will include the City of Knox, a buffer zone around the community, and regional connections to the entire county. This captures a number of small communities including Bass Lake, Hamlet, Toto and Ober, for whom Knox serves as an important recreation, social and economic resource.

Comprehensive Plan Purpose

Faced with limited funds and staff the Knox Parks and Recreation Board undertook this park master planning process in order to prioritize community needs, assure that the greatest benefit is achieved from each dollar spent, and expand funding and grant opportunities.

Facility improvements and program recommendations proposed in this plan will be based on the following factors:

- An assessment of current facilities and programs
- Review of the 2011-2015 City of Knox Five Year Master Plan
- Input from the community at large and stakeholder groups
- Input from the those who govern Knox at the local level, and the Knox Parks and Recreation Board
- An evaluation of the present opportunities constraints, and goals.

The proposed recommendations serve as a guide for the development of recreational resources and amenities for the next five years and prioritize improvements to the park facilities and recreation programs that will most benefit the Knox community.

Specifically, this Five Year Master Plan aims to accomplish the following:

- Gather feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders, residents, and park users and report the findings in an accurate manner.
- Set achievable goals and objectives that reflect current issues, challenges, and opportunities as they relate to the current park system.
- Inventory and evaluate the physical condition of existing parks and amenities.
- Inventory and evaluate existing parks and

recreation programming.

- Provide a guide for the development of park and recreation amenities that reflects the interests and needs of the community.
- Expand opportunities to obtain funding for the park system amenities and programming

Master Parks Plan Objectives

The primary objectives of this plan are as follows:

- Discover strengths, opportunities, weakness, and threats
- Acquire input and gather support from the citizens of Knox and surrounding areas.
- Analyze information and public input to determine strategies, priorities, and an action plan for the next five years.
- Obtain Park Board adoption of the plan
- Submit final plan to IDNR by April 15th, 2018 and receive approval from IDNR for LWCF Program eligibility.
- Identify opportunities to add or expand Parks and Recreation programs and amenities.
- Serve as a supporting document to secure funding for proposed projects.
- Provide the foundation to make accurate budget decisions.
- Acquire input and gather support from the citizens of Knox and surrounding areas.



Knox Parks and Recreation Mission and Philosophy

Mission

To provide residents and visitors of our community with state of the art park facilities and leisure, educational, cultural and physical activities that enhance quality of life and inspire personal growth, self esteem, pride and respect for the community

Operating Philosophy

In its operations, the Knox Parks and Recreation Department shall:

Strive to provide affordable recreation opportunities that are accessible to all.

Celebrate and protect the unique heritage, culture and natural environment of the community.

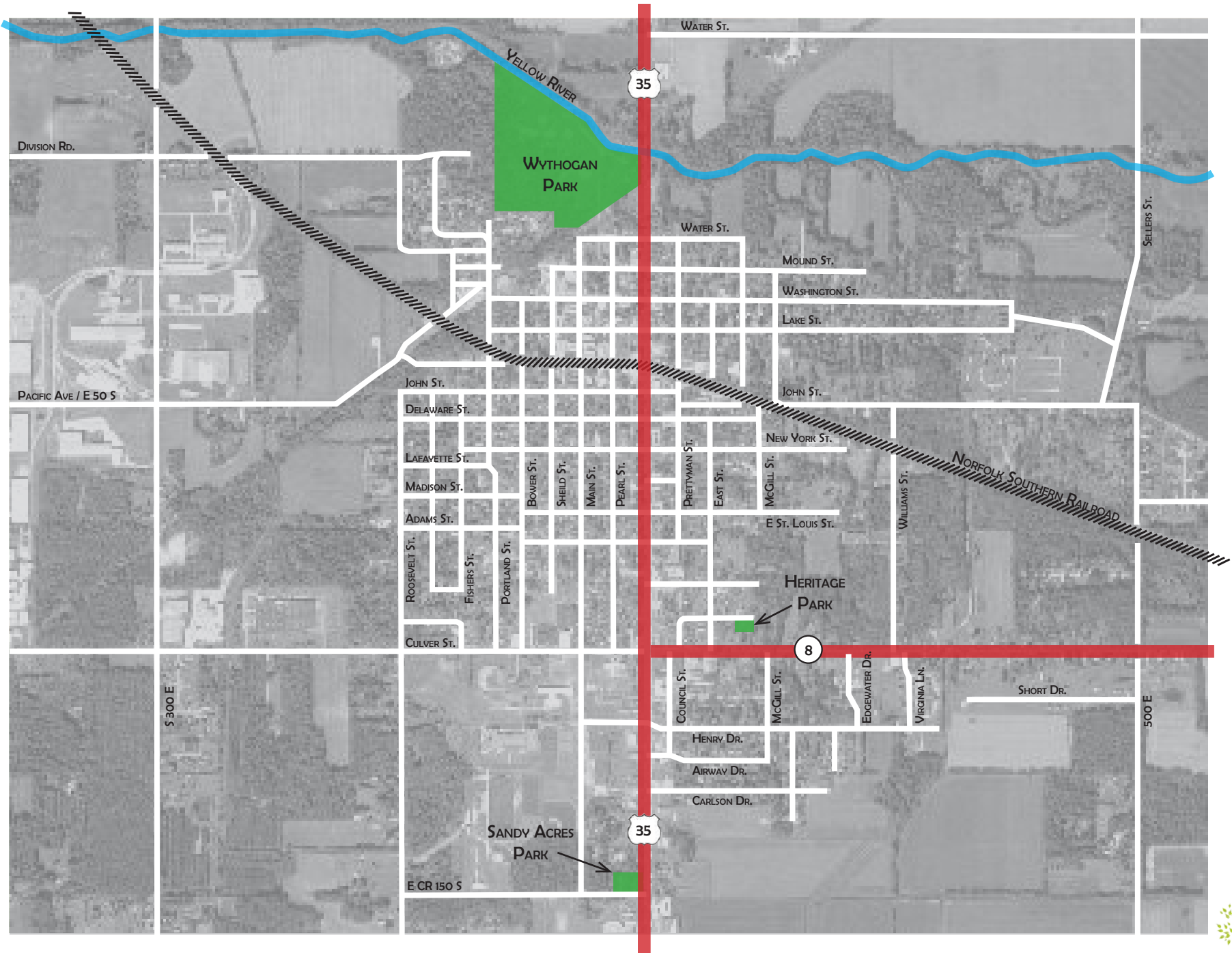
Work in partnership with other government entities, community organizations and businesses, and volunteers to provide recreation opportunities and amenities that respond to the needs of the community.

Provide good stewardship and maintenance of existing park resources and amenities.

Develop new park and recreation amenities and programs in response to community needs and desires.



Map of Knox, Indiana



Context

The City of Knox is the County Seat of Starke County, Indiana. The community is located in the northwest quadrant of the state, 42 miles southwest of South Bend, Indiana and 65 miles southeast of Chicago, Illinois.

Other nearby Starke County cities include North Judson and Hamlet, and the unincorporated Bass Lake.

- Knox latitude is 41.295N and longitude is -86.625W.
- It is in the Central Standard time zone.
- Elevation is 712 feet.
- The city encompasses 3.9 square miles, all of it land.
-

Natural Features and Landscape

The landscape of Starke County, Indiana was formed more than 12,000 years ago, when the last ice glacier receded from the area. The melting of snow and ice left Starke County, and nearby lands of the area now known as the Kankakee Valley, a flat, slowly-drained marsh and swamp with sandy, wooded knolls and highlands in and around the sides of the valley.

In the early 1900s, this landscape was changed significantly when much of the county was drained through the use of open ditches and underground tiles. The drainage work allowing much of the county to be used as productive farmland.

Natural Region

Knox, and all of Starke County is located within Indiana's Northern Moraine and Lake Natural Region.

Soils

According to the National Cooperative Soil Survey for Starke County, Indiana, "Starke County lies mainly on a flat plain dissected by the Yellow River and numerous drainageways. It is a nearly level and gently sloping outwash plain with intermittent steeper ridges."

Much of the City of Knox lies on soil classified as PIA (Plainfield Sand, 0 to 1 percent slopes) and PIB (Plainfield Sand, 1 to 8 percent slopes) with pockets of PIC (Plainfield Sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes), Prochaska Loamy, Morocco Loamy Sand, and Brems Sand. As PIA and PIB soils are well-drained and suited for trees, buildings, roads and streets, they would also support a wide variety of recreation opportunities. The pockets of other soil types would offer more limited recreation use, as they may not be suitable for buildings or are too steep to be suitable for recreation amenities such as ball diamonds, playing courts and the like.

A notable exception to the city's prevalent soil types occurs in Wythogan Park, and along the Yellow River. The soil in Wythogan Park is primarily Algansee Fine Sandy Loam, with some areas of Craig mile Fine Sandy Loam. Flooding is typical of both soil types which limits the suitability of some areas of the park for buildings and other structures. Only during large rain events does the city experience

flooding of any type.

Water Resources

The county has two lakes of significance: Bass Lake and Koontz Lake. Bass Lake is the larger and was the playground of the "rich and famous" during the early 1900s. The lake is located a few miles south of Knox on US 35. It is Indiana's fourth largest natural body of water and covers more than 1,400 acres and includes a beach with public access.

The Yellow River runs through Knox, forming the northern edge of Wythogan Park. River flooding occurs, primarily impacting the



City of Knox Parks and Recreation

pedestrian path in the park and under the US 35 bridge. In January of 2008, the river began to flood for the first time in decades due to a 6" inch snow melt and 2" rainfall that happened in the same occurrence. Nothing like this has happened since then, but construction measures have been taken with pathway improvements under the US 35 bridge. Other river bank improvements can take place to help reduce the amount of scouring that has occurred over the years.

Epidemics

One of the issues within recent years has been the Emerald Ash Borer epidemic that has plagued communities and their Ash Trees. Some streetscapes and public spaces have been severely impacted and the replacement costs are a struggle that communities have tried to accommodate.

Originally from Asia, this insect was first discovered in the Detroit Area in 2002. Although very small, it can take down trees by disrupting their nutrient cycles. With Ash trees being one of North America's most valuable woodland resources at 7-9 billion in total this is detrimental to the North American ecology. According to the Arbor Day Foundation it is estimated that the bug has destroyed 40 million ash trees in Michigan alone and millions throughout several other states spreading fast.

The Ash Borer has been around for the past 15 years stateside now, but the problem is still a large threat. The city of Knox has been one of the thousands of communities that has

suffered the consequence of replacement cost, but in smaller cities this takes a longer time to come up with replacement funds. Initial efforts have been underway, and the City continues to remove Ash trees as time and financial resources allow. The City should review the extent of the Ash Borer impact, and potentially apply for grant assistance from the state for tree inventory and replacement initiatives.

Climate

Knox, like all of Indiana, has a temperate-continental climate, characterized by four distinct seasons, with significant seasonal variations in temperature.

Average daily temperatures in Starke County vary from 15° to 34° in January, and from 60° to 80° in July. Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. Annual precipitation is about 36"; and annual snowfall which occurs primarily in December, January and February is about 30-40". The first freeze usually occurs the first part of October, and the last freeze typically occurs the first part of May.

History

Early inhabitants of Starke County were hunters and farmers. They lived and farmed on the sandy highlands and fished and hunted in the swamps and marshes.

"Starke" County was formed by the legislative act of February 7, 1835. It is believed that the first settler, an Englishman named Edward Smith, lived on land in what is known as Oregon

Township in 1835. The first sawmill was built in 1849 at the end of Koontz's Lake.

Starke County was officially organized in January 1850, and was named after the Revolutionary War General, John Stark. Knox was named the county seat April 1, 1850.



Three courthouses have served Starke County over the years. The Romanesque-style courthouse that presently stands in downtown Knox was built in 1897 of architectural limestone. The courthouse remains as one of the tallest structures in the county.

Railroads played an important part in the development of the county, bringing visitors from Chicago to Bass Lake in the early 1920s, and providing the means to transport farm products from the county to other parts of the

country. The first railroad in the county passed through San Pierre. The first railroad through Knox was the Nickel Plate, now the Norfolk and Southern Corporation.

Man-made Attributes and Resources

Transportation Network

- US 35, running north to south, bisects the City of Knox.
- SR 8, enters Knox from the east, intersects US 35, and continues north, running concurrently with US 35 through the city.
- The Norfolk Southern Railroad is an active line which travels through Knox, connects to Fort Wayne to the east, and Valparaiso to the west.
- Pedestrian and Bike Trails: The City has a pedestrian/ bike trail located primarily in Wythogan Park. This trail connects throughout the part and carries on past east of US 35 only a little bit.
 - The condition of the trail seems to be in excellent condition, most of it constructed in asphalt.
 - Efforts for future connection routes throughout the city are to be considered for complete access to each one of the parks.
 - Potential connections to regional trails such as the Erie-North Judson Trail to the south.
- Sidewalks: Portions of the City have pedestrian sidewalks. Where sidewalks occur, their condition varies from excellent to very poor. Grant funding has been an avenue in which the city has started to look

into to improve the areas that are in poor condition.

- The Starke County Airport is located approximately three miles northwest of Knox. The airport provides service for private aircraft.

Cemeteries

Knox has two cemeteries: Oak Park Cemetery and Crown Hill Cemetery

IU Health Starke Hospital

Located in Knox, Indiana, Starke Hospital is a 50-bed community hospital committed to providing quality healthcare and patient experiences to residents of Starke County and surrounding communities. Recognized in 2011 by the Indiana Rural Health Association for achievements and advocacy for rural healthcare, Starke Hospital offers adult acute care, emergency services, surgical services, orthopedics, gastrointestinal services, diagnostic imaging and cardiovascular testing. Robust outpatient programs include wellness, rehabilitation and infusion services. Starke Hospital is the sister facility of La Porte Hospital to the north.

As part of an elite hospital recognition it is important to always strive for new opportunities that will not only benefit the hospital, but the community and its residents as well. With collaborative efforts by the city's Parks and Recreation Department and the hospital there is an immense potential for programming, events, and improvements within the park system.

Starke County Public Library

The main branch of the Starke County Public Library is located in Knox. The library collection includes books, audio books, magazines, videos, DVD's, music, online databases, computers, reading programs, and educational classes.

Future Park Properties

Currently, the city of Knox holds ownership to approximately 60 parcels of land within the city limits. Of those parcels about a dozen have the potential of parks and recreation activities. Whether that be for recreational trail additions, natural areas, or a small park, these sites may have value in the future as the parks system can expand.

Education

The City of Knox School Corporation operates three schools: Knox Community Elementary School, Knox Community Middle School and Knox Community High School. The schools are located adjacent to one another on a school campus west of US 35.

Activities offered by the school corporation include:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Football
- Track
- Cross Country
- Softball
- Baseball
- Tennis
- Golf



- Wrestling
- Swimming
- Cheerleading
- Band
- Choir
- Performing Arts

The High School swimming pool is open to the public on a limited basis. The main school playground is accessed through the Elementary School building, and it is not available for general public use.

There are no colleges or universities located in Starke County. However, the Purdue University Northwest Campus, which is located in Westville, Indiana, offers programs to the community.

As with many smaller cities, the community has become very close with its schools. The children are the future and as such lots of time and effort are invested in a child's growth and development.

Nature not only plays a role in the growth and development of a child, but helps with the healthy interactions between children. According to a study done by NC State University in January of 2012 the benefits of exposing children to naturalized outdoor learning environments "stimulates the diversity of children's play experience and contributes to their healthy development."

As part of Knox's Master Planning for its parks, these benefits to the youth need to be

considered. Working with the youth of the community and their educators is important in order to improve these sites for maximum benefit.

Culture

Starke County Historical Museum

The museum is located in the former Schricker home on Main Street in Knox. The Honorable Henry F. Schricker was born in North Judson, lived in Knox, was a banker, distinguished businessman and twice-elected Governor of Indiana.

Knox Depot

The Nickel Plate Depot was established in Knox in 1882 when the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad was built through the county. It was used as a passenger station until 1965 and as a freight station until 1984.

When the depot was no longer needed as a maintenance building for RR crews in 1992, it was sold to the Starke County Historical Society. The depot was moved north 1/2 mile to the site of the abandoned New York Central RR tracks, now called the Gateway. The Gateway area includes approximately three acres just south of the Yellow River Bridge on US Highway 35 at the north edge of Knox. It is adjacent to the city park and connected to it by a walking trail that passes under the US Highway 35 bridge.

The Starke County Tourism Commission and the Starke County Chamber of Commerce now have offices in the restored Knox Nickel Plate Depot.

The office serves as trail head its use could grow with future expansion of the walking trail to the east of 35. The Depot could serve as an important site for the city of Knox as a potential welcome center for those using the trail.

Festivals and Events

July Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by the Starke County Historical Society.

Bass Lake Festival

Held annually the last full weekend in July.

Starke County 4-H Fair

Held annually in mid-July.

Memorial Day Weekend

City of Knox Annual Car Show

Held annually on the Saturday over Memorial Day Weekend at Wythogan Park. Attendees can enjoy the Beer Garden, Food, and games throughout the day with live bands at the Performance Stage. Registration fee required and awards are given to top entries in multiple categories. Admission and parking is free.

Family Fun Day and Fireworks

Following the annual 4th of July parade, the Family Fun Day & Fireworks Show is held at Wythogan Park to celebrate the July 4th holiday. A fun filled day of family activities, music and food is available all day. Tram service to and from the park is available at various locations for those that park around the courthouse and surrounding lots. Parking within



the park is available for a fee. Fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m.

Movies in the Park

Movies are shown at the performance stage in Wythogan Park. Movie nights occur every other week on Wednesday nights in the summer months.

Concerts in the Park

Various bands from all musical genres perform at the Performance Stage throughout the Summer into Fall. Admission and parking is free and concessions are available.

Halloween Trick or Treat

Park Board passes out candy on Halloween at the performance stage at Wythogan Park.

Peppermint Parade

Held on the 1st Saturday in December, the Peppermint Parade kicks off the holiday season with Santa Claus in the parade and ends in Wythogan Park. Santa visits with the kids at the Santa House, attendees enjoy smores, hot cocoa, horse drawn carriage rides and holiday music. Christmas tree lighting at dusk.

Other Recreation Opportunities

In addition to the amenities provided by the Knox Parks and Recreation Department, community members have other recreation opportunities. A partial list follows.

Bass Lake

- Fishing and Ice Fishing
- Swimming

- Boating
- Camping
- Water skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Skating

Tippecanoe River State Park (Winamac, US 35)

- Picnic shelters
- Boat Launch Ramp
- Cross County Skiing | No Ski Rental
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Recreational Building
- Camping: full service to primitive

Kankakee State Fish and Wildlife Area

- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Hunting
- Bird Watching

Knox Community Center

- Facility includes a dance floor, stage and kitchen.
- Senior Meals
- Facility Rental for Events

Golf

- Chesapeake Run Golf Course (North Judson, Indiana)
- Hamlet Golf Course (Hamlet, Indiana)

Churches

A number of churches serve the Knox community. They offer a variety of programs for

youth, adults and families, including activities such as ball leagues, camps, youth groups, open gym, and retreats.

Starke County Youth Baseball/Softball League

The league offers organized baseball and softball play for all ages, both male and female. Games are played at the Wythogan Park ball diamonds.

Recently within the last year the league joined with the Plymouth Junior League for increased competition, and to help with cost efficiencies and field utilization purposes. The joint program is positive in that it helps to expand the programming and partnerships to reach more youth in the region.

Starke County Youth Soccer

Offers organized soccer play for youth through high school.



Other Planning Documents

As part of the inventory and analysis phase of the master plan, review of existing planning documents was conducted. Summaries of findings from these documents follows.

City of Knox Park and Recreation Master Plan: 2011-2015

This plan is an update to the City of Knox 2011-2015 Master Plan. Information from this plan was updated to reflect the current conditions of Knox Parks, community, demographics, etc.

Starke County Strategic Plan

Commissioned by the Starke County Economic Development Commission in 2005, the strategic plan focuses on economic development issues. The plan did not specifically address how parks and recreation may play into economic development. However, it did include tourism as a strategy for economic development. Park and Recreation efforts that attract visitors from outside the community, such as the skate park, and league tournaments, are aligned with Strategic Plan recommendations.

Starke County Parks Five Year Master Plan

The Starke County 2017-2021 Parks Master Plan was the first five year park plan for Starke County. It addressed a few of the County's current properties such as Bass Lake Beach and Campground, as well as future opportunities, trails, and regional connections. Since Knox is located within Starke County, the plans will have similarities, and address overlapping target audiences.

2018-2022 Parks Master Plan



Population Distribution/Economic Factors

Population

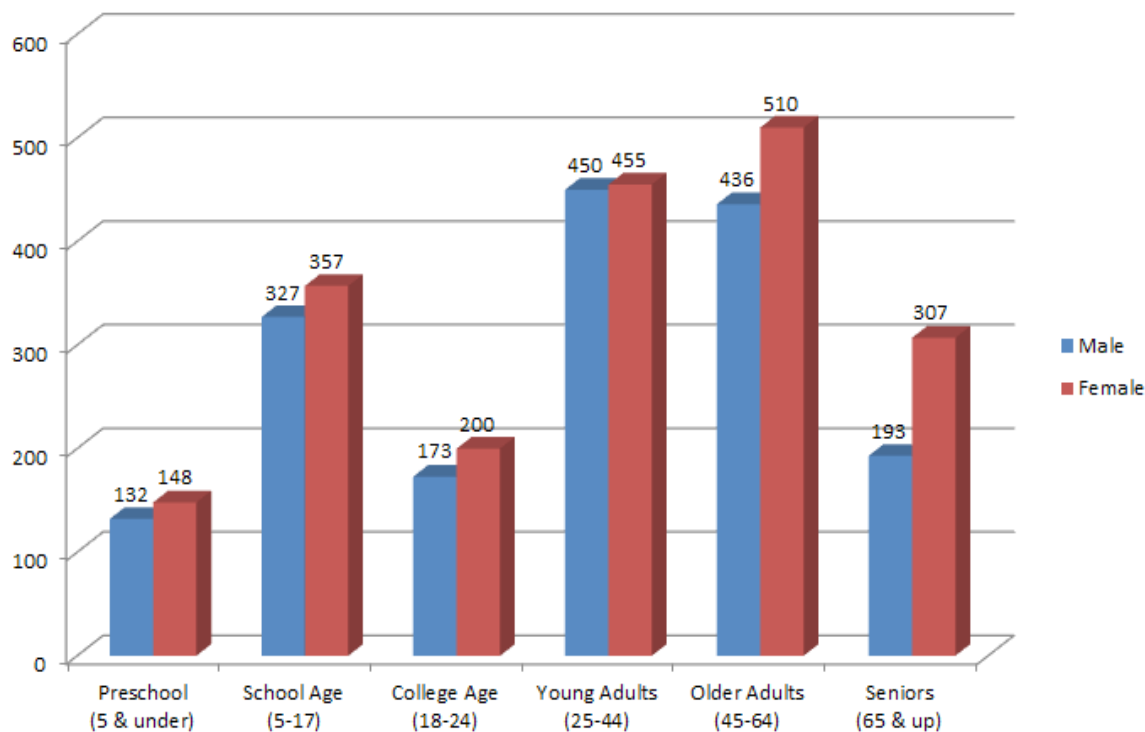
Knox is the county seat of Starke County, a rural county in North Central Indiana. Knox is located approximately 40 miles from the Michigan State Line and about the same distance from the Lake Michigan shoreline in neighboring LaPorte County. Starke County has three incorporated cities and towns, of which Knox is the largest. The population of Knox in 2017 was estimated to be 3,704, which is about 16% of the entire county population (2015).

The population distribution by age is presented in the chart above. This distribution is similar to the overall State of Indiana population distribution; however, there are notable differences between the Knox and the state averages in that Knox has a higher percentage of residents in the 45-64 age range and the over 65 age range. In addition, the US Census Bureau predicts that over the next five years and longer, there will be increasing numbers of citizens over the age of 65, while the population

of adults aged 25-44 will decrease or remain steady over that same time period.

The population of Knox decreased from 2008-2017 by about 1%, which is relatively stable with the State of Indiana population growth rate of .97% over the same time period. Little or no population growth is expected to occur during the time period from 2017-2021. The population of Knox is primarily Caucasian (97%), with the African American, Native American, Asian, and Hispanic populations accounting for less than 3% of the total population.

Population of Knox by Age

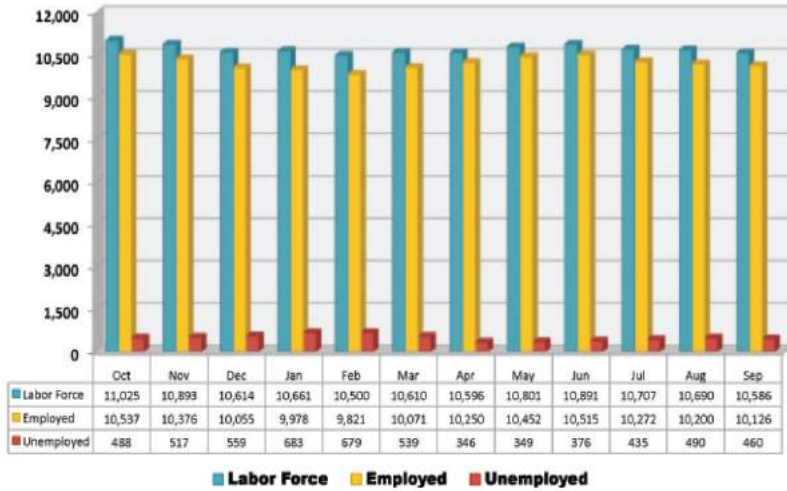


Employment and Economics

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the unemployment rate in Starke County in September 2017 was 4.3%, which was higher than the state unemployment rate (3.8%) at the time. City-data.com reports that 39.6% of Knox residents live and work in the city, and that the majority of workers travel between 1-20 minutes from their home to their workplace. This is a significant decrease from the 51.2% that lived and worked in the city in 2010.

There are several primary employers in the city. They are IU Health Starke Hospital, Knox Community Schools, and many manufacturing companies such as Callisons Inc. and Reagent Chemical and Research Inc. According to the Starke County Economic Development Foundation, the leading industries were

Starke County Labor Force - Oct. 2016 - Sept. 2017



Manufacturing; Education, health, and social services; Retail Trade; and Construction.

The estimated median household income in Knox for 2016 is \$35,979, which is about 25% less than the median household income of Starke County and about 31% lower than the median income for the State of Indiana. This lower than average income can likely be explained by the high unemployment rate, the loss of manufacturing jobs, and the lack of new employers entering the market.

Households

It is important to review household types for the purposes of planning parks and recreation facilities and activities. Since specific household type data is not available for Knox, the Starke County data were reviewed. About one quarter of households are families with children, while 8.4% are single parent households. (Refer to graph, next page.)

2018-2022 Parks Master Plan

Bass Lake

Bass Lake is a small unincorporated town located about seven miles from Knox and on the shores of a 2.1 square mile lake, also known as Bass Lake, which is the fourth largest lake in the state. According to the 2016-17 US Census, there are about 1195 people living in the town of Bass Lake, and according to the same census data, there were about 521 households.

Although uncorroborated by any census data, local stakeholders in Knox report that Bass Lake is a resort area where many of the households are owned by people who do not live there on a full time basis. This would explain the disproportionate number of households to population. According to Knox stakeholders, many of the homes on Bass Lake are used and visited frequently during the summer months. Most of them are owned by people of a relatively higher socioeconomic status than the Knox average.

Knox stakeholders view the part-time residents of Bass Lake as summer residents of the City of Knox because there are extremely limited retail and service providers in Bass Lake, these summer visitors come to Knox for their retail and service needs. In some cases, this includes recreational pursuits.

Conclusions

Several conclusions can be drawn from these demographic data that might have an impact on planning for parks and recreation facilities and services. With little or no population growth expected, adding new facilities and park lands should be considered carefully and based mostly on information about needed or desired services to serve the existing population. Also, programming and services for older citizens and families with children should be considered an important aspect in planning for the future.

It is also realized that parks and recreation leads to improved quality of life, which can lead to attracting businesses and residents. Funding opportunities should be explored for implementing new parks and recreation facilities or improvements. Such opportunities might lead to a lower unemployment rate and some positive population growth.

The data shows that Knox has many residents that live in the city but work outside of the city. Adding programs and events that respond to this, such as those scheduled for summer evenings, will be important to serve that portion of the population. Keeping park properties open later in summer evenings would also help address this demographic.



Recreation and Programming Trends

Recreation and Programming Activity

According to the 2016-2020 Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), nearby recreation appears to be vital to Hoosiers and their families, as well as the free or low-cost local parks and recreational options. Additionally, outdoor activities that were inexpensive and did not require a great deal of skill were more popular than their expensive, skillful counterparts. This statewide trend coincides with national recreation trends.

In the past ten years, both walking and cycling have seen dramatic participation increases across all age groups. Similarly, running and jogging participation rates have also increased. These activities were particularly popular because they can be done with a partner or alone. The residents of Knox reported that walking and biking trails are an amenity they desire, and these trends support this idea.

Team sports are very popular among school-aged children, with 55% of students participating every year. However, participation declines during and after high school, with only 26% of the 16 and older population participating every year. This trend suggests there is no need for additional sports fields unless a community is at a deficit in this area. The Knox parks and recreation department manages five baseball/softball fields and has

vibrant league participation. Maintaining this activity for youth is important to the citizens of Knox. Although in the case of Knox, upgrading the facilities or replacing them might be more in order than adding new fields.

A non-mainstream sport, skateboarding, has seen a significant increase in the past ten years. Skateboarding is popular among both adults and youth, with the average number of outings per skateboarder being 27 per year. Participants involved in "urban associated" activities are more likely to increase their participation level of "traditional" activities, so maintaining the Knox skate park should increase activity levels in other recreational pursuits.

Family oriented activities are also popular among Hoosiers. Activities such as picnicking and disc-golf have seen a rise in popularity over the past years. This fits the needs of citizens that desire an inexpensive family activity as well as aesthetically pleasing landscaping, and is congruent with the expressed desires of Knox residents.

Access & Connectivity

The popularity of walking and cycling, especially fat-tire cycling has impacted the construction of trails and paths suitable for activities throughout Indiana, and the United States as a whole. Parks and Recreation Departments throughout Indiana are focused on maintaining existing trails and constructing new trails, paved and non-paved. These trails

serve multiple purposes as they connect a variety of community centers and green spaces, and serve as an excellent venue for recreation and exercise. Furthermore, participants that use these trails and paths are more likely to use other park facilities. Knox residents indicated high use levels of the walking trail at Wythogan Park and expressed a desire to have separate walking and biking paths there, and to close the trail loop. Knox residents' use are congruent with state and national trends and justify improvements to the existing trail and the addition of other trails where feasible.

Indiana's statewide obesity epidemic is still increasing. The SCORP reports states that according to the 2013 U.S. CDC health survey one-third of Hoosiers are obese. This percentage places Indiana as one of the most overweight states in the nation, with much concern. Estimates published in the journal "Obesity" in 2012 show that during an average year, Hoosiers pay \$3.5 billion in obesity related medical costs.

Some of the reasons for this are many communities are built in ways that make it difficult or unsafe to be physically active. Access to parks and recreation centers may be difficult or lacking and public transportation may not be available. Safe routes for walking or biking to school, work, or play may not exist. Too few students get quality, daily physical education in school.



Current Accessibility

By the year 2015, it is estimated that 15 to 20% of Hoosiers will be aged 65 or older. With an aging population, many Indiana municipalities are taking greater measures to make trails and facilities accessible to all populations. In many cases, municipalities are restructuring current maintenance projects to include accessibility features.

The Knox Parks and Recreation Board has acknowledged this trend and intends to include accessibility in all new projects. Several Knox residents with mobility disabilities expressed a desire for more ADA accommodations, especially at Wythogan Park.



Looking at Wythogan Park, it has minimal accessibility. There is one sidewalk that runs along Bridge Street into the park, but the rest of the park has no sidewalk access to a large majority of the facilities and the playground equipment, except along the riverfront. The

splash pad is accessible, but the parking lot it runs to is not.

Heritage Park has fairly new equipment, but ADA accessibility to the equipment is non-existent. Lumber edging presents a barrier around the equipment, and no sidewalk access is provided.

Sandy Acres Park is used quite often by the public, mostly for use of the picnic shelter. ADA accessibility to park amenities is lacking. Also there are no accessible parking spaces.

With the potential addition of a new park to Knox, just to the east of Wythogan Park, considerations for accessibility should be explored during the planning and design process.

River Recreation

River walks and recreation areas are becoming popular in cities across America because they also make practical use of land in the river flood plains. Since many communities in Indiana were built up along rivers in the early 20th century, the local history can be observed by walking a trail along the river in many towns.

The 2017 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report indicates that road biking, mountain biking, and BMX are growing in popularity. According to the report, 15.5% of the American population participates in bicycling and that participation level showed an increase of 3% from 2015 to 2016.



Besides offering opportunities for walking, biking, or just observing the natural beauty of rivers, other recreation opportunities include fishing. The 2017 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report indicates that 17.5% of the American population participates in freshwater fishing. Also, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources reported an increase in fishing license sales from 2014-2015.

The 2017 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report also indicates that recreational kayaking are growing in popularity. According to the report, 3.4% of the American population participates in canoeing and that participation level showed an increase of 6% from 2015 to 2016.

Knox residents expressed a desire to take advantage of the Yellow River by providing more recreational access like fishing piers and an improved boat launch. National and state trends support these desires.

Historical Preservation and Interpretation

Big box strip malls, planned “town centers” and suburban sprawl have left many Main Streets and city business districts depressed and abandoned. But many communities made a come back and have transformed their older and historic downtowns and shopping districts into vibrant places to live, work, and play--without sacrificing what makes them special.

Over 1,600 communities have adopted the Main Street approach (<http://www.preservationnation.org/mainstreet/>) in the past 25 years to look again at Main Street, their heart of the community, to save its historic buildings, to revive its commercial core, to strengthen business, to control community-eroding sprawl, and keep a sense of place and community life in America.

According to recent research sponsored by Heritage Travel, Inc. (commissioned by the U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Marketing Council, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce, and conducted by Mandala Research):

- 78 percent, or 118 million, of leisure travelers consider themselves cultural/ heritage travelers;
- 28 percent, or 36 million, travelers will take a cultural/ heritage-oriented trip in the next 12 months;

- These travelers spend more on cultural/ heritage trips than on the average trip: \$994 versus \$611;
- The number one driver for these travelers is to “seek travel experiences where the destination, its buildings, and surroundings have retained their character.”
- These travelers are the customers of historic downtowns

These trends support the ideas of the Starke County Historical Society to capitalize on and interpret historical landmarks in and around Knox city parks. Collaborating with the Historical Society may be a beneficial way to reach additional community members by providing unique programs and events.



Public Engagement: Stakeholder Meetings

Public involvement in the planning process is necessary for final plans to reflect the needs and wants of the public. In the end, implementation of the plan by the parks and recreation department should be well supported to effectively deliver a community-oriented park system. Community collaboration builds trust and invites successful master planning efforts.

The public involvement process was not only done to secure their support, but to gain an understanding on what they perceive as important in their city. The city council and parks and recreation board are at the forefront of the master planning efforts, but several methods of outreach were completed to involve participation from citizens of Knox:

- Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Survey
- Open Public Forums/Public Review of Plan Draft
- Media Awareness / Publication

Stakeholder Meeting Results

Stakeholder meetings were held at City Hall on December 7th, 2017 at various times in the City of Knox. Close communication with city hall and the Parks and Recreation Board enabled the identification of key stakeholders that would prove important in the interview process. Stakeholders were interviewed in groups at two different times. A total of 10 stakeholders participated, representing:

- Knox City Council
- Starke County Youth Club Board
- Park Board
- Starke County Chamber of Commerce
- Starke County Youth Baseball
- Starke County Youth Softball



An interview guide was created by the project team and served as the agenda for all stakeholder meetings to ensure consistency of questioning. All responses were recorded and analyzed using standard qualitative data analysis techniques. The results indicated five core themes that occurred consistently among stakeholders:

- Vandalism, Security, Safety
- Yellow River
- Vehicle Traffic Patterns
- Program Coordinator
- Park Improvements and Upgrades

A concern mentioned by stakeholders was

vandalism. While vandalism hasn't been as much of an issue as in the past, a prevalent perception is that if new amenities are put in the parks, the improvements will become a target for the vandals. Most believe that the vandalism is caused by teenagers, and that most of the acts of vandalism take place at night when the park is closed.

Stakeholders see the lack of constructive activities for kids and teens in the community as one factor leading to vandalism. Some youth activities and recreation opportunities do exist. The local schools offer various sport, recreation and club activities for youth. As well, there is a county agency that provides recreation programming services to youth. However, the programs target a specific age group and programming need.

This concern among stakeholders has a negative impact on the town, and at times the community's willingness to make certain improvements. Stakeholders are seeking to better understand the underlying causes of this behavior, and solutions to the issue.

One of the solutions to help keep these kids occupied was with the implementation of a skatepark in 2014, catering to those who were possibly not as interested in traditional sport offerings. However, this facility needs repair due to degradation of wood ramps and other materials.

Security and safety in the parks was also mentioned. While there haven't been many incidents, some comments were made about perceived safety due to the amount of lighting and lack of visibility to some parts of the park.

The **Yellow River** was commonly mentioned by stakeholders as a recreational asset to the town, and an amenity of great natural beauty. Stakeholders also shared their concerns about the danger associated with the river, especially for those who enjoy kayaking and canoeing. The problem resides with the rapids that run beneath the US 35 bridge into the City of Knox. It has been a concern that these waters are too rough in this particular spot and a danger to those who are unfamiliar. In the past years, there have been a couple of drownings that are a large concern to the general public.

Fishing is another common river recreation activity that stakeholders recognize as important for people of all ages in the community. More fishing access and facilities were mentioned as increasingly desirable uses of the Yellow River bank in Wythogan Park

River access is a major reason why the city is looking into acquiring a property across US 35 from Wythogan Park. This property will provide increased river access, including opportunities for a fishing pier and a kayak launch that is up river from the rapids. This launch would also allow people to bypass the rapids with their

kayaks and canoes by taking out at this launch and putting back in at the existing Wythogan Park launch down river of the rapids.

Stakeholders also expressed concern about the **Vehicle Traffic Patterns** in the parks. Some stakeholders have experienced congestion on the Wythogan Park road during peak times, and expressed concern about what would happen in the case of an emergency. Stakeholders representing public safety agencies have concerns about the single entry and exit access to Wythogan Park and have expressed interest in alternative access points. Having a secondary entrance/exit to US 35 and widening the existing entrance were both discussed.

There was discussion by many of the stakeholders for the need of a **Program Coordinator** for the park system. Concern from the stakeholders is that each of the parks have been undervalued by the community, especially Heritage Park, unknown by most. With the implementation of more programs and awareness the hope is that public involvement and passion will rise. This added position would help to relieve stress from the Mayor's office and Park board and benefit the city with many activities & programs.

Park Improvements and Upgrades was the last main theme discussed in the interviews. Some of the new facilities suggested include:

- Connector walking trails
- Indoor Pavilions
- Additional restrooms at Wythogan and Sandy Acres
- Basketball court pavement improvements
- Upgrades to baseball/softball diamonds
- A dog park
- An ice rink
- Lighting in several areas around the parks
- Security cameras to help reduce vandalism
- Large structural improvements to the skatepark

Walking trail connections were mentioned by many stakeholders as a desire and a need. Specific connections discussed included closing the loop for the walking path in Wythogan Park. Other stakeholders expressed a desire to extend walking and biking paths in Wythogan Park down the Yellow River to the east reaching N 500 E street, perhaps even further. Another interesting idea was the extension of the trail that connects to Bass Lake, 8 miles to the south. There are plans being discussed to connect Bass Lake to the Erie North Judson Trail as well. This would potentially provide benefits to the citizens of Knox, as well as increase the economic impact of trails for the city.

Public Engagement: December 7, 2017 Public Meeting

A public meeting to seek input on the Knox park and recreation system was held the evening of December 7th, 2017. The meeting was announced via a legal notice in the Starke County Register, a posted announcement in City Hall and notification to local news media.

A total of seven people attended the meeting. Turnout was very low, considering two attendees were city personnel, one park board member, and one person from the media. Low turnout could have been due to poor weather the day of the meeting, and that the public preferred to provide input via the online survey rather than attend the meeting. The public input survey received a high response rate.

SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Autumn Ferch	Park Board	autumnferch@yahoo.com
Daniel McGrath	SC Youth Baseball	danielmcgrath76@yahoo.com
Travis Martin	SC Youth Baseball/Soccer	tmartin@knox.com
DEAN'S ESTOK	MAYORAL OFFICE/KNOX, TN	
JEFF HOUSTON	JEFF HOUSTON	jeffhouston16441@yahoo.com
LOE A ESTOK	LOE A ESTOK	loeaestok@embarqmail.com
Jacques Ryan	Jacques Ryan	jrryan@wkviv.com

A presentation on the Master Plan process, and current Knox Parks and Recreation amenities was made to attendees, followed by open discussion.

In short, the meeting helped to identify the main concerns, needs, and wants of the community for the parks. One of the main wants from the attendees was the idea of a communal dog park that facilitates both small dogs and large dogs off leash. The dog park could be used by those who pay a small yearly fee, which would help pay for maintenance cost and upkeep of the facility. Attendees also expressed that

this would be helpful for not only the safety of animals that normally run around free at the other parks, but also the safety of children.

Other comments circulated around safety, facility and equipment improvements, and updates. During the summer months, because the parks are open longer hours, concerns of safety were discussed with lighting, security cameras and public awareness. Safety also played a role in the updating of several facilities and playground equipment between all three parks. While there is some newer playground equipment in the parks, there is still some

- KNOX PARKS 5 YEAR PLAN 12/7/17
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
- TRAIL SYSTEM EXPANSION
 - WYTHOGAN EXPANDED EAST
 - DOG PARK
 - BALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN USED FOR DOGS
 - UPKEEP OF PARKS & FIELDS
 - M AWARENESS OF OTHER PARKS BESIDES WYTHOGAN
 - LIGHTING
 - FISHING PIER
 - KAYAKS/ CANOE LAUNCH EAST OF BRIDGE

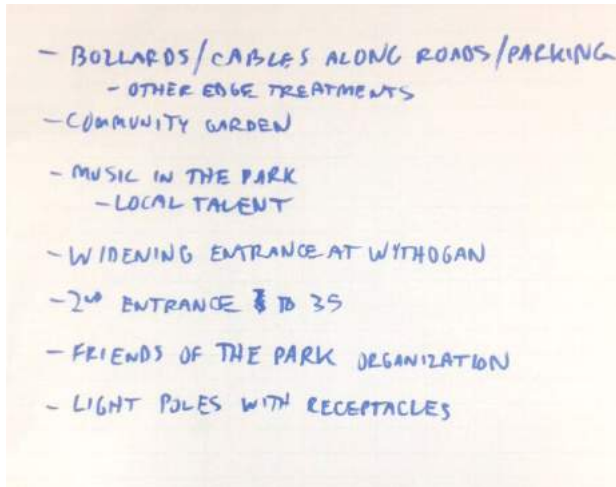
- SKATE PARK REPAIRED
- GIVE KIDS PLACE TO SKATE NOT ON STREETS
- LIGHTING TO REDUCE VANDALISM & IMPROVE SAFETY
- VANDALISM HASN'T BEEN A BIG PROBLEM AT SKATE PARK
- SECURITY CAMERAS IN PARKS
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- BASKETBALL COURTS REDONE
- SLEDDING HILL
- MORE BBQ GRILLS
- PAVED PARKING LOTS
- ADA COMPLIANCE
- UPGRADING PLAYGROUND EQUIP
- RESTROOMS RENOVATED/ADDED



equipment that needs repair/replacement. Also, facilities such as the bathrooms and baseball fields need improvements. Updates to these facilities would meet ADA guideline compliance to increase accessibility and use of all the parks.

This public meeting also helped present that more community involvement is needed throughout the City of Knoxville, leading with communication and how to better facilitate information to the community. It was also mentioned that the parks were not open long enough due to people's busy schedules and not having enough time spent at the parks.

The meeting lasted about one hour. Comments pertaining to the meeting were written down and cataloged to ensure all ideas presented were considered.

- 
- BOLLARDS/CABLES ALONG ROADS/PARKING
 - OTHER EDGE TREATMENTS
 - COMMUNITY GARDEN
 - MUSIC IN THE PARK
 - LOCAL TALENT
 - WIDENING ENTRANCE AT WYTHOGAN
 - 2ND ENTRANCE TO 35
 - FRIENDS OF THE PARK ORGANIZATION
 - LIGHT POLES WITH RECEPTACLES

Public Input Survey Results

Methodology

The survey questionnaire was designed by the project team in conjunction with the Knox Parks and Recreation Board. The questionnaire was published using an online survey design and implementation website.

The questionnaire was distributed using several methods. First it was made available online via the City of Knox website. The local radio, WKVI, also broadcasted the announcement of the survey and was located on WKVI website. Duplicate online responses were prevented by the Google Forms survey, which only allows one response per IP address.

Survey Responses

A total of 257 valid responses were received and analyzed. All responses were received online. Hard copy surveys were available at City Hall, but none were filled out and returned. All responses were combined for a single overall analysis.

Key Survey Findings

Some highlights of the survey include:

- The demographics of survey respondents differed from the general population of Knox in that survey respondents had a higher than average education attainment level and had higher than average household income

- 66.4% of respondents were from households with children and 4.7% of respondents were from households with people aged 65 and older and about 6% of respondents were people living alone.
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), local radio, and newspaper were selected by respondents as their preferred sources of information about parks and recreation activities.
- By far, the largest proportion of respondents (69.6%) indicated their most important reason for recreating is to spend time with family.
- Survey respondents indicated that currently they most frequently participate in the following activities:
 1. Picnicking
 2. Hiking/walking/jogging on trails
 3. Using children’s playgrounds
 4. Spending time in nature
 5. Fishing
 6. Baseball and softball fields
 7. Skatepark
- When asked what park and recreation facilities and activities are top priority for development in Knox, survey respondents most commonly mentioned upgrades to ball fields and/or more ball fields, upgraded children’s play equipment, a fishing pier, more picnic shelters/area, and more trails.
- 21.5% of respondents have volunteered for the Knox Parks and Recreation Board in the past year, and 27% said they are willing to volunteer in the future.
- The most widely used parks were Wythogan and Sandy Acres Park being used by 81% of the survey participants, with 73.5% rating the all of the parks as “generally good” or better.

The complete survey results will be located in the appendices of this document.

Knox Parks and Recreation Department

Organization Structure

The Knox Parks and Recreation Board was established by Ordinance #400 from the Knox Common Council on February 10, 1976. The Park Board is made up of three members appointed by the Mayor and two ex-officio members; one appointed by the Board of School Trustees and one by the Library Board. Appointed board members serve four year staggered terms. Ex-officio members are appointed by their respective board whenever a vacancy occurs.

The Parks and Recreation Board reports to the Knox City Council and the Mayor. Board Members serve a four-year term. All terms expire on the first Monday of January of the anniversary year, but the incumbent may continue in office until a successor is appointed. All reappointments are to be made by the first Monday in April, or the incumbent serves another four-year term.

The Park Board may be contacted at:

Knox Parks and Recreation Board
C/O Knox City Hall
101 West Washington Street
Knox, Indiana 46534
knoxparks@cityofknox.net

Park Staff

The Knox Parks Department staff includes a Superintendent and three part-time employees. In addition, the Mayor and his staff provide some administrative assistance to the department.

Hours for park staff vary seasonally, and the part-time staff works only 28 weeks per year. The superintendent oversees day-to-day operations of the parks, including maintenance, mowing, tree trimming, and construction and/or repair of park amenities. The superintendent reports to the Parks and Recreation Board of Directors.

The primary responsibility of the staff is park maintenance. The parks and recreation board take much of the responsibility for the administration of the department. During peak periods, board members are required to make frequent decisions about day to day operations. Although the parks superintendent and staff are efficient and capable; they do not have any financial decision making authority; leaving this responsibility with the board.

Department Progress Evaluation

The Park and Recreations Departments prior Park and Recreation Master Plan spanned from 2011 through 2015. In that plan , seven goals were established for the parks and recreation board and/or department. A synopsis of each follows, with progress made on each.

Provide Safe and High Quality Recreational Facilities and Amenities

Based on the results in the public input survey, the majority of residents feel that the parks provide a high quality recreational experience. More comments were positive than negative about the safety and condition of the parks.

Provide Recreation Amenities and Opportunities that are Accessible to All

While some provisions have been made such as improvements to the restrooms at Wythogan Park, most of the amenities in the park are not ADA accessible. Some of the newer playground equipment installations are surrounded by timbers to retain the mulch, and impede wheelchair access. Accessible parking is also not in compliance or missing in the parks. An accessible drinking fountain was installed in Heritage Park, but there is no ADA compliant access to it.

Provide Amenities to Meet Demand for Specific Recreation Needs

One of the major amenities the public wanted was a splash pad. This was installed in 2016 in Wythogan Park and has been a tremendous success. Also a performance stage was built in Wythogan Park which hosts music events and movie nights. But other smaller objectives of this goal were not met, such as refurbishing the tennis courts, adding the downtown Knox Park, acquiring additional land, installing a dog park at Heritage Park, and adding the paved walking path in Sandy Acres park.



Build a Fishing Pier and Splash Pad in Wythogan Park

A fishing pier has not been constructed but the splash pad was built in 2016. The splash pad has a concrete surface with six water play features. It has been very popular with residents and visitors. It is now desired to build a pavilion and parking lot near the splash pad.

Create a Strong Identity for the Parks and Recreation Department

One of the objectives was to add a park department website. While there is a parks web page on the City's web site, there is minimal information on the page. Also no park logo or branding was done. These efforts should be completed over the next few years, in conjunction with establishing a presence on social media. Most people obtain information through social media platforms now.

Create Strong Partnerships with Community Organizations

Unfortunately the Friends of the Park organization has been dissolved. However, partnerships with local businesses and groups were critical in the development of the new splash pad and performance stage. Much of the construction of these facilities were donated or completed at a reduced cost. Increasing the presence and communication of the park department will help to build community support, volunteering, and donations.

Develop Policies and Practices that Support the Parks

Some policies and practices have been established but this needs to be an ongoing commitment from the City to build and support its park system.

Budget Review

The Knox Parks and Recreation board receives fund allocations from the City Council. Budget construction and review takes place in the fall with approval of the next year's budget in December. In 2018, the Knox Parks and Recreation Board budget is \$136,278. The budget is broken into the following categories:

- Personal Services (Salaries/Benefits)
- Supplies
- Services and Charges
- Capital Expenditures

In order to supplement the budget and maintain necessary services and operations, the board may seek other revenue/funding sources which include:

- Generate revenue to make up for the loss in the general fund allocation
- Establish community partnerships
- Obtain grants and/or donations to fund capital expense projects

Generate Revenue

The KPRD has historically provided most programs and services free of charge. This practice aligns with its operating philosophy to "Strive to provide affordable recreation opportunities that are accessible to all."

Given the current economic climate, and a Knox average income that is lower than the state average, it is recommended that the department continue this practice. Low cost entertainment and recreation for Knox residents will continue to be the priority for the foreseeable future. However, some revenue generating opportunities do exist:

Concession stand sales currently provide a source of income to the parks department. The Starke County Ball Leagues, which runs the concession stand in conjunction with scheduled games and tournaments, has indicated that upgrades to the ball diamonds would permit additional tournament play and, by association, additional concession sales.

Park shelter rentals also provide a source of income for the parks department.

Community Partnerships

Communities are finding that partnerships are an effective and essential way for maintaining and building the park system and its programs. Partnerships take many forms, and may be long-standing or temporary. Partnership support may include:

- Donations (funds, materials, equipment, new amenities, land)
- Volunteers (events, maintenance, administrative)
- Programming, advocacy, fund raising

Making the desire for partnerships known throughout the community is a proven method for leveraging multiple resources within a community.



Grants and Funding Programs

Recommendations in the action plan section of this Master Plan include larger capital expenses that may seem beyond the financial reach of the community. Grants and/or significant donations will be essential in the board's efforts to implementing some of these items. A key consideration for the board is to keep its eye on grant opportunities; and be willing and able to apply for grants for capital projects. Some of these include:

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act)

Provides 80% grant/20% local funding for transportation alternative projects. This includes pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity. This could include monies for the trail, associated parking, restrooms, and other basic improvements.

IDNR- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

RTP provides 80% grant/20% local funding for acquisition and development of multi-use trails. Funding is more limited than TE funds, but still could provide grants of up to \$200,000.

IDNR- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF provides 50% grant/50% local funding for the development of park facilities. The LWCF is best used for projects that involve land acquisition to expand park property.

OCRA Place Based Investment Fund

The PBIF grant can be used for many types of projects that improve quality of life and tourism in a community. The grant requires a 1:1.5 local match, and requires investment from multiple entities. Grant requests must be between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Patronicity Creating Places

The PBIF grant can be used for many types of projects that improve quality of life and tourism in a community. The grant requires a 1:1.5 local match, and requires investment from multiple entities. Grant requests must be between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

IDNR, Division of Forestry

Grants for community and urban forestry programs to assist with street and park tree inventories, management plans and tree planting. Grants range from \$2,000 up to \$20,000 and must have an equal cash/in-kind match.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

This provides 80% grant/20% local funding to promote walkability in communities where school facilities are located.

CDBG Funding

OCRA provides 90% grant / 10% local funding for community development project from Community Development Block Grants. While OCDA does not normally provide funds for park and recreation oriented activities, they do

finance historic preservation projects. Historic Preservation Fund: offers 50% matching grants for acquisition, restoration, and preservation of historic properties.

Lilly Endowment

Supports facilities and programs that advance the city's economic revitalization and community recreational opportunities.

Starke County Community Foundation

Supports projects related to social services, the environment, and the arts

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (IN PAWS)

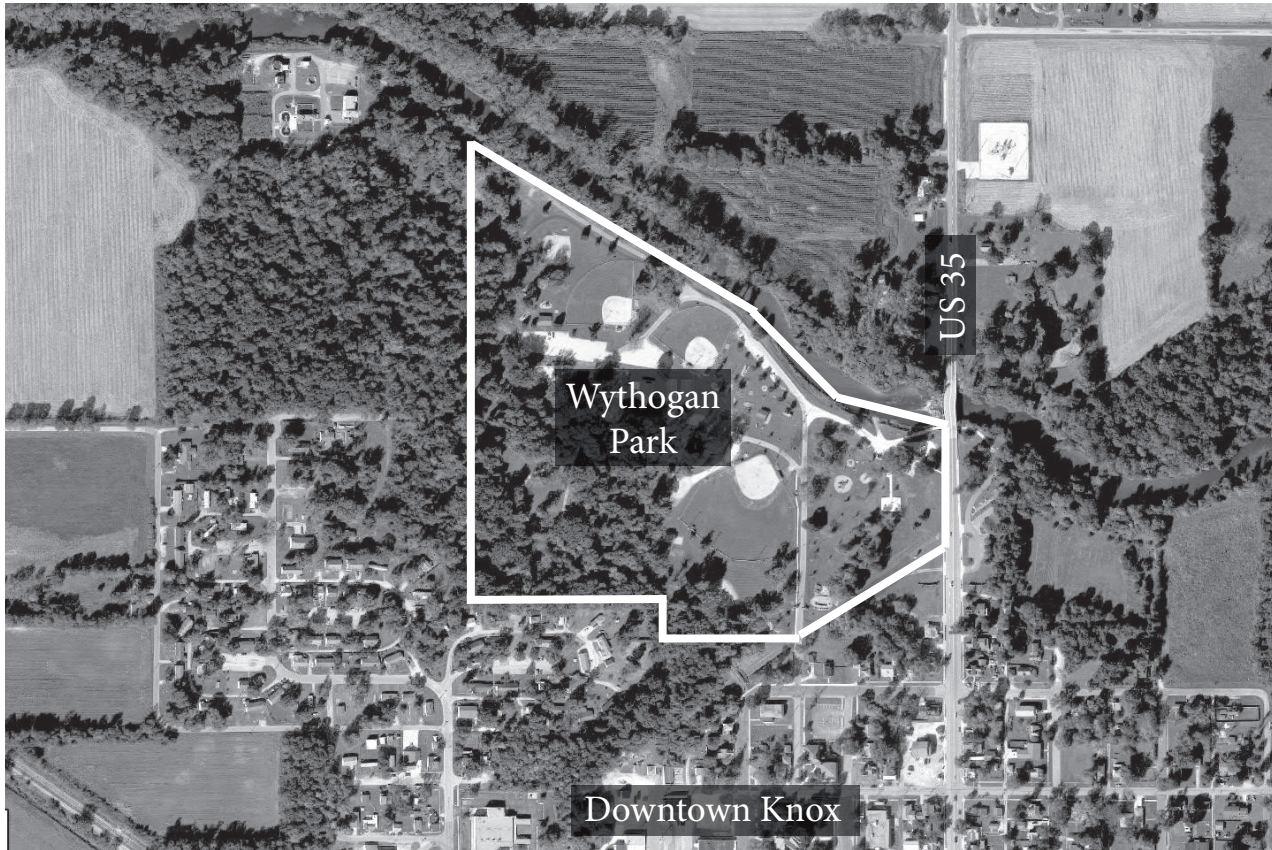
Offers small grants to promote the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.

IDNR Lakes and Rivers Enhancement Program (LARE)

Offers grants to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities.



Wythogan Park



Park Description

Wythogan Park is the oldest and the largest Knoxville City Park. At 39.20 acres, according to Starke County GIS, it is located on the north edge of the city, adjacent to the Yellow River and downtown Knoxville. A pedestrian trail under State Road 35 Bridge provides an important link to the "Depot", a historic train depot located on the east side of US 35 and used by the Chamber of Commerce, the Gateway Committee and the Starke County Historical Society.

Portions of the park are mixed hardwood forest, providing shade and natural beauty. The tree cover is mature and removal of trees and stumps is frequently necessary as trees die or lose limbs. Most of the park lies within the floodway, although flooding into the park rarely occurs.

Wythogan Park is heavily used and is the most popular park within the community due to its many amenities. Contributing to its summer use is the Starke County Baseball and Softball Leagues. The league has expressed the desire to expand its tournament offerings at Wythogan Park, if more regulation-size ball



diamonds were available. Several of the ball diamonds are small, with limited outfield and obstructions along the foul line. However, existing park amenities and natural areas do not permit the addition of a new diamond, or an expansion of the existing diamonds without reorganization. In fact, the addition of any significant new amenity is limited by the amount of open space remaining in the park.

A paved drive, with one point of access at the south end of the park serves as the main vehicular artery throughout the park. At one point two-way traffic was permitted on this drive, however in order to provide safer circulation and direct traffic flow, the drive is now one-way, traveling in a counter-clockwise pattern through the park. Access to city's utility buildings occurs at the northwest corner of the park. During times of high usage, available parking does not meet demand, and a series of post and wire fences have been



constructed around the edges of the drive to prevent vehicles from parking in the grass and in unauthorized areas.

The Yellow River provides both a source of natural beauty, and an opportunity for passive and active recreation including fishing, canoeing, and enjoying the view of the water and wildlife. The park includes river access via a boat launch, just west of the US 35 Bridge. Sometimes area youth still use the river to swim, dive and raft. This activity has proven hazardous and is discouraged by the city and its park employees.

The park houses several historic amenities, including the Starke County Bridge #39, which was relocated to the park in 1992, cannon donated by the American Legion, and a stone entrance gate constructed by the W.P.A, and a cemetery.



Park Amenities

While park amenities are generally open and available to the public during park hours, some facilities are available for reservation and/or rental. These include: the Park Shelters, Basketball Courts, Volleyball Courts, Tennis Courts, Baseball Diamonds, and Horseshoe Pits.

- Concrete boat launch
- Recently constructed splash pad with concrete pad and six water play features.
- Recently constructed 40'x20' waved glu-lam beam performance stage with fieldstone columns and backdrop.
- Park Shelters: All shelters sit on a concrete pad, none have an ADA accessible route to them, although modifications of some picnic benches has been done to permit use by those using wheelchairs
 - Shelter #1 : A 16' x 32' shelter, electric hook-up and security lighting, adjacent grill and drinking fountain
 - Shelter #2: A 16' x 32' shelter, electric hook-up and security lighting, adjacent grill



- Shelter #4: 33' by 44', no ADA accessible route, but one could easily be added, electric hook-up, adjacent grill
- Shelter #6 A 16' x 32' shelter, electric hook-up and security lighting, adjacent grill
- Concession Building / Maintenance Shop: Painted block building, housing a concession stand, park and recreation maintenance shop and public restrooms, good condition. The maintenance building is kept clean and orderly, however additional storage space is desirable.
- Permanent Restroom Facilities (in Concession Building) Renovations have been done to the restrooms for ADA compliance, however an accessible route to them is needed.
- Portable Restroom Facilities: placed seasonally in park to serve those using the ball diamonds, shelters and playgrounds.
- Ball Diamonds:
 - Field #1, crushed stone infield, no fence, bleachers in fair condition
 - Field #2, crushed stone infield, short outfield fence, lighted, bleachers in poor condition
 - Field #3, crushed stone infield, scoreboard, lighted, dugouts, bleachers in fair condition
 - Field #4, clay/sand blend infield, dugouts, lighted, bleachers
 - Field #5, crushed stone infield
- Paved Walking Trail: The trail is 10' wide asphalt and is in good condition. The trail is 8/10 of a mile and is highly used.
- Skate Park
 - Built in conjunction with Friends of the Park (FOTP). The Skate Park began as a FOTP project, with the Park Board contributing funding for its completion.
 - High use, attracts users from outside City of Knox
 - Wood used in some of the ramps had deteriorated and the skate park is temporarily closed until improvements can be made.
- Basketball Courts:
 - One full court, lighted
 - Good condition, some surface cracking
 - High use, additional courts needed to meet demand
- Sand Volleyball Courts: (2 courts)
 - Good condition, low use
- Tennis Courts
 - Two courts, poor condition
 - Surface cracking has permitted weed growth
 - Low use
- Playground: Kids Kingdom
 - Multipurpose play structure, excellent condition, on pea gravel
- Playground: Little Kids Kingdom
 - Multipurpose play structure, excellent condition, on pea gravel contained by raised timber



- Slide and climber, older, good condition
- Playground: Miscellaneous Equipment of various ages, and conditions. Some is in poor condition and/or unusable
 - Slides
 - Swings (some toddler)
 - Climbers: various kinds, sizes
 - Glider swing
 - Spring riders
 - Balance beam
- Drinking Fountains:
 - Various, found throughout park
 - None ADA Accessible
- Picnic Tables: located throughout park
 - Condition varies
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Horseshoe Pits: various, found throughout park

Conclusions/Recommendations

The following recommendations for Wythogan Park addresses several park issues: The park includes a wide variety of amenities and space to add any additional amenities of significant size, such as new ball diamonds, is limited. However, a reorganization of some portions of the park could provide room to expand the size of several ball diamonds, parking areas and playgrounds, as well as providing space for additional amenities. Ultimately additional park space will be needed in order to add more and/or larger ball diamonds.

Adding several roundabouts may help direct traffic flow and serve as traffic calming measures, as vehicles must slow to maneuver through the roundabout. A second entrance to the park is proposed. Even if opened only during large events or times of heavy traffic, the second access point will ease traffic congestion and provide additional emergency vehicle access. The roundabouts will also provide space

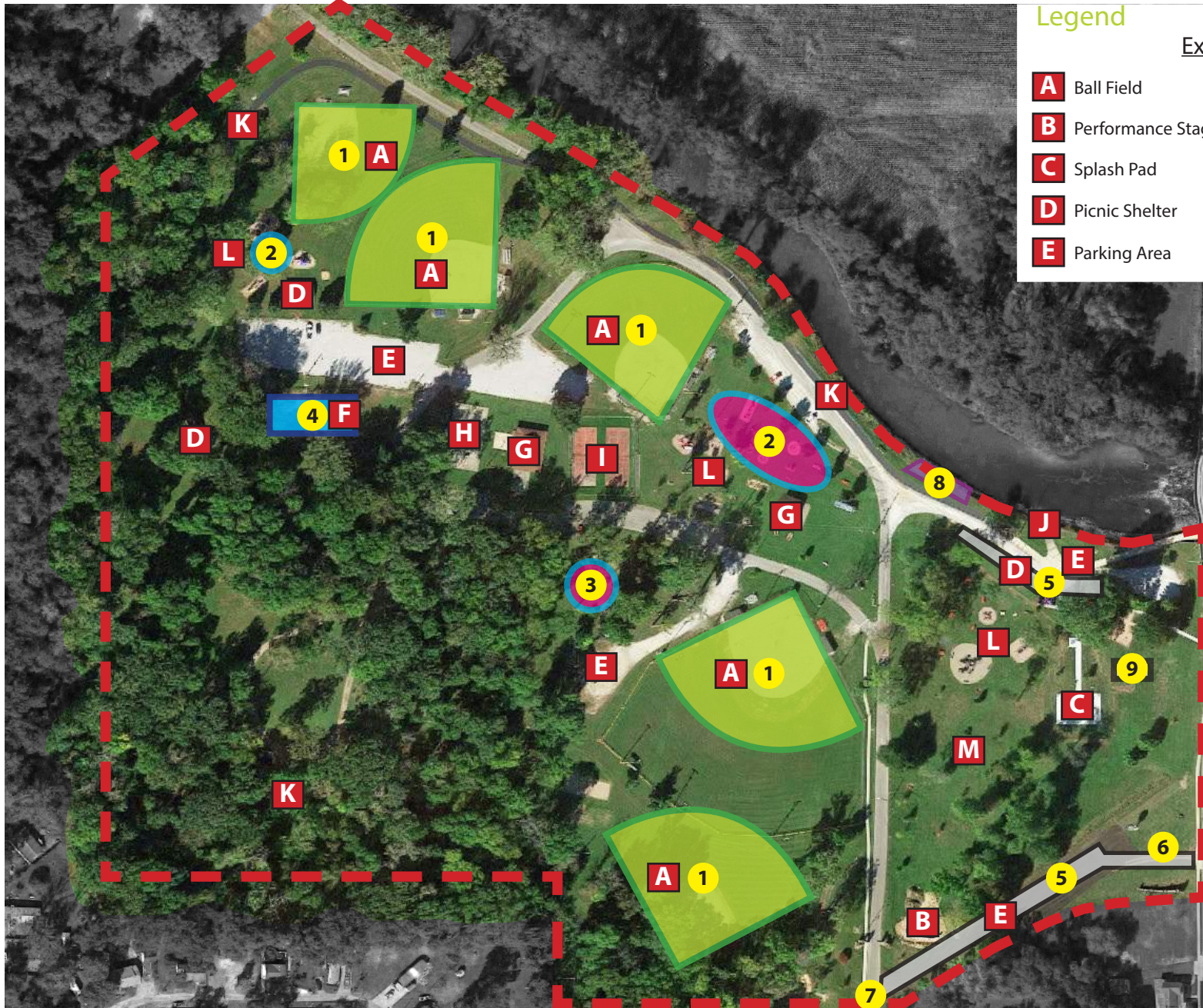
to display signage, or historic artifacts, such as the cannon currently located in the park.

It should be noted that locations of proposed new amenities on the recommendations map are preliminary and may be revised as other park space becomes available or if site conditions preclude construction at the proposed location.

Other potential recommendations for Wythogan include:

- Pursue acquisition of adjacent land to expand the park
- Add a second basketball court.
- Renovation and upgrades for the skate park
- Add an accessible route to the picnic shelters, and concession stand/restrooms.
- Add an accessible fishing pier
- Add a picnic shelter and parking lot near the splash pad.
- Add accessible picnic benches and drinking fountain
- Consolidate scattered playground equipment

Facilities Recommendation Map: Wythogan Park



Legend

Existing

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| A Ball Field | F Skate Park |
| B Performance Stage | G Restroom/Concessions |
| C Splash Pad | H Basketball Court |
| D Picnic Shelter | I Tennis Courts |
| E Parking Area | J Boat Launch |
| | K Multi-use Trail |
| | L Playground |
| | M Restrooms (Under Construction) |

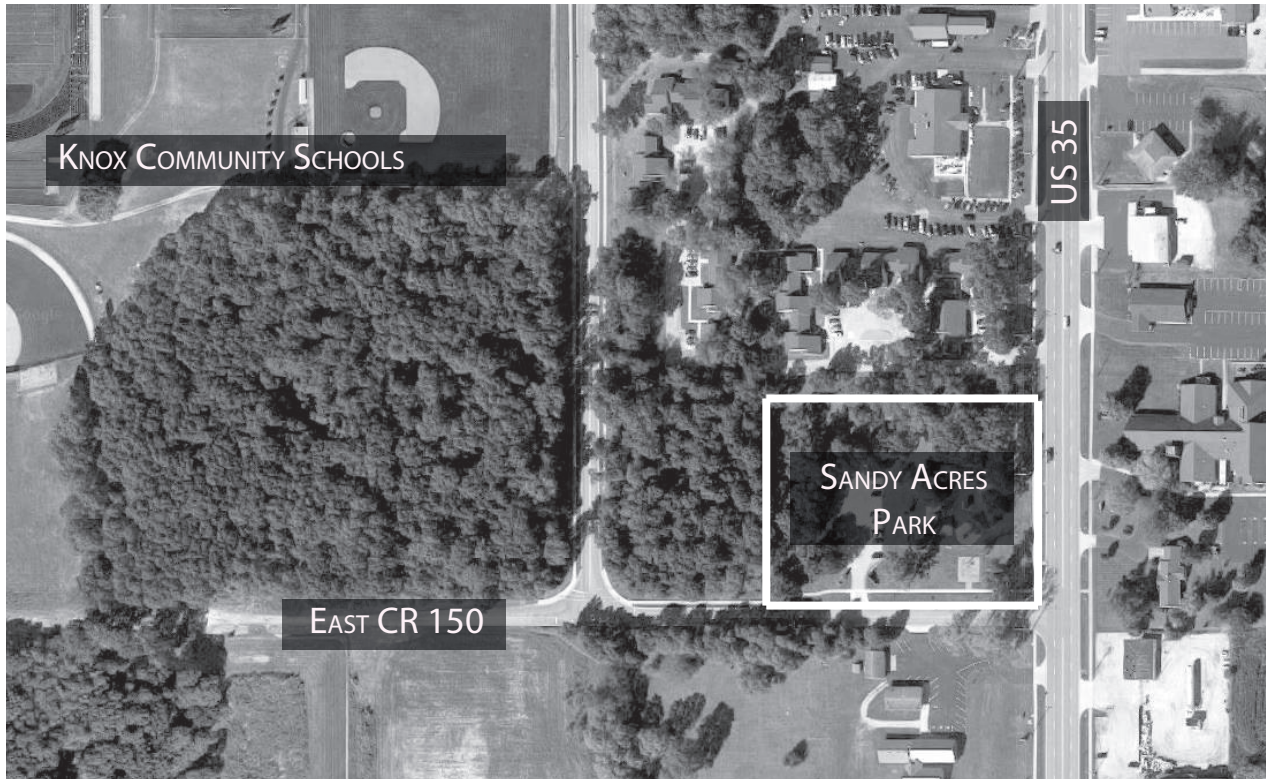
Proposed

- 1** Ball Field Improvements
- 2** Playground Upgrades
- 3** New Accessible Playground
- 4** Skate Park Upgrades
- 5** Paved Parking with ADA
- 6** Secondary Park Entrance
- 7** Entrance Improvements
- 8** Fishing Pier
- 9** New Picnic Shelter

 Park Boundary



Sandy Acres Park



Park Description

A former rest stop along State Road 35, Sandy Acres Park is now owned by the City of Knox and has been converted to a City Park. The 3.5 acre park is located on the south side of Knox. Park amenities include a playground structure, fitness equipment, picnic shelter, grilling area with seating, and gravel parking lot. The park's quiet, peaceful atmosphere is enjoyed as an alternative to the busier Wythogan Park, and Sandy Acres has become a popular lunch-time

picnic destination during the week. The park does not have permanent restrooms. Instead portable restroom facilities are provided seasonally.

The park is wooded and abutted on its north side by an assisted living facility for seniors, by East CR 150 South on its south edge, and by a privately owned wooded lot on its west edge.

Vehicular access to the park is provided from East CR 150 South. A gravel parking lot provides ample parking, but there are no ADA accessible parking spaces. The City of Knox school

campus is located to the northwest of Sandy Acres Park, and pedestrian access between the two is provided by a sidewalk along East CR 150 South and Main Street.

Park Amenities

Park amenities are generally open and available to the public during park hours. Amenities at Sandy Acres Park are as follows:

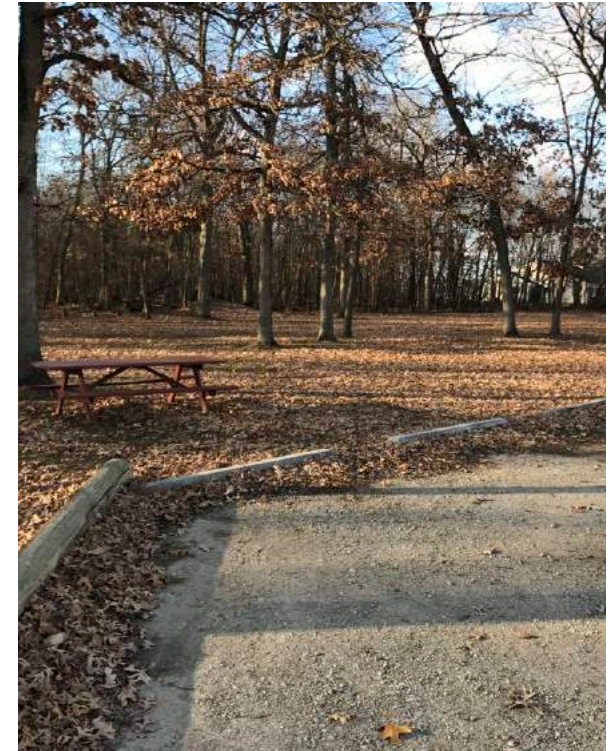
- Park Shelter: The wood park shelter sits on a concrete pad and is in good condition. It is available for rental for a fee of \$35 per day.

City of Knox Parks and Recreation

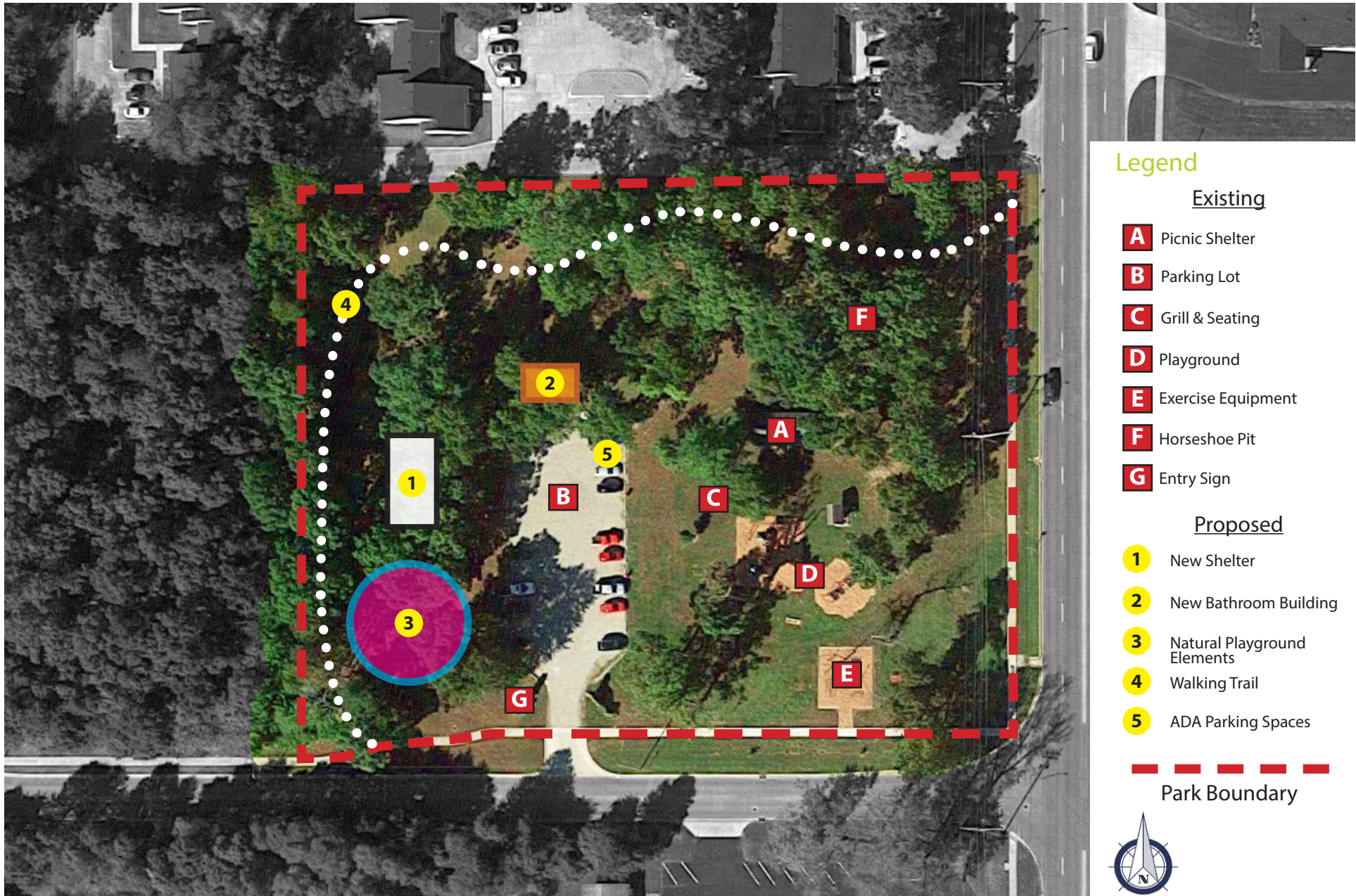
- Playground: the metal and plastic multi-purpose play structure is in excellent condition. It sits on a mulch play surface and includes climbing, sliding and other play activities.
- Fitness equipment: Powdercoated steel equipment was recently installed and is in excellent condition.
- Drinking Fountain: The park's drinking fountain is a unique design, housed under a wooden structure, with a rough stone base. The roof of the structure is in fair condition.
- Grill and seating ring: fair condition
- Picnic Benches: good condition
- Restrooms: The park's restroom facility is portable toilets which are placed seasonally.

Recommendations

- Build a permanent restroom facility with ADA compliant restrooms.
- Develop ADA compliant parking spaces in the parking lot.
- Create an internal walking path with connections to adjacent sidewalks and assisted living facility.
- Construct a second picnic shelter in the area west of the parking lot.
- Develop a natural playground in the area west of the parking lot.
- Designate the park as a trail head for a marked community walking path that travels along existing sidewalks to the school campus.



Facilities Recommendation Map: Sandy Acres Park



Heritage Park



Park Description

Heritage Park is a 3.5 acre property located on the east side of Knox, at the terminus of Ellis and Danker Streets, and is abutted by property used by the city water utility. This park is not well known or well used by the community. This is due in part to its location and also to its limited amenities. Because of its remote location, it has been prone to vandalism.

Park amenities include a concrete basketball court in fair condition, a small gravel parking

lot in fair condition, and some newer swings, slide, and drinking fountain in good condition. The basketball court surface has some fairly substantial cracks that could affect playability and safety. The basketball hoops are in good condition. There is also a small set of bleachers adjacent to the court that is in fair condition.

The park offers two open lawn areas. One near the parking lot and the other in the southwest corner of the park. These areas allow for users to have space for other active and passive recreational opportunities.

Swings and a slide were installed over the last few years to replace some outdated equipment. The swings and slide are surrounded by mulch and have a treated lumber 6x6 border. The equipment appears to meet fall zone requirements but it is not accessible for users in a wheelchair.

The gravel parking lot is being overgrown by weeds in some areas. There is one accessible parking space that is marked with a sign but no surface markings. Also the gravel surface is not ADA compliant.

Recommendations

Given Heritage Park's location and propensity for vandalism, suggestions for improvements are for simple amenities and uses that provide little opportunity for vandalism, but increase the visibility and use of the park. The park does a pretty good job of that currently, so no major improvements are needed.

There is a need for basketball courts in the park, so replacing the concrete for the existing basketball court in this park would be a priority to make the court safer and more playable. If the basketball court becomes used enough, a second court could be installed to the south of the existing court. This would take up some of the open space, but would leave some open space near the parking lot.

A picnic shelter could be added to increase recreational opportunities at this park and provide a source of revenue for rentals. With the basketball court and playground equipment, Heritage Park could be a desirable spot for families and friends to have a picnic shelter rental.

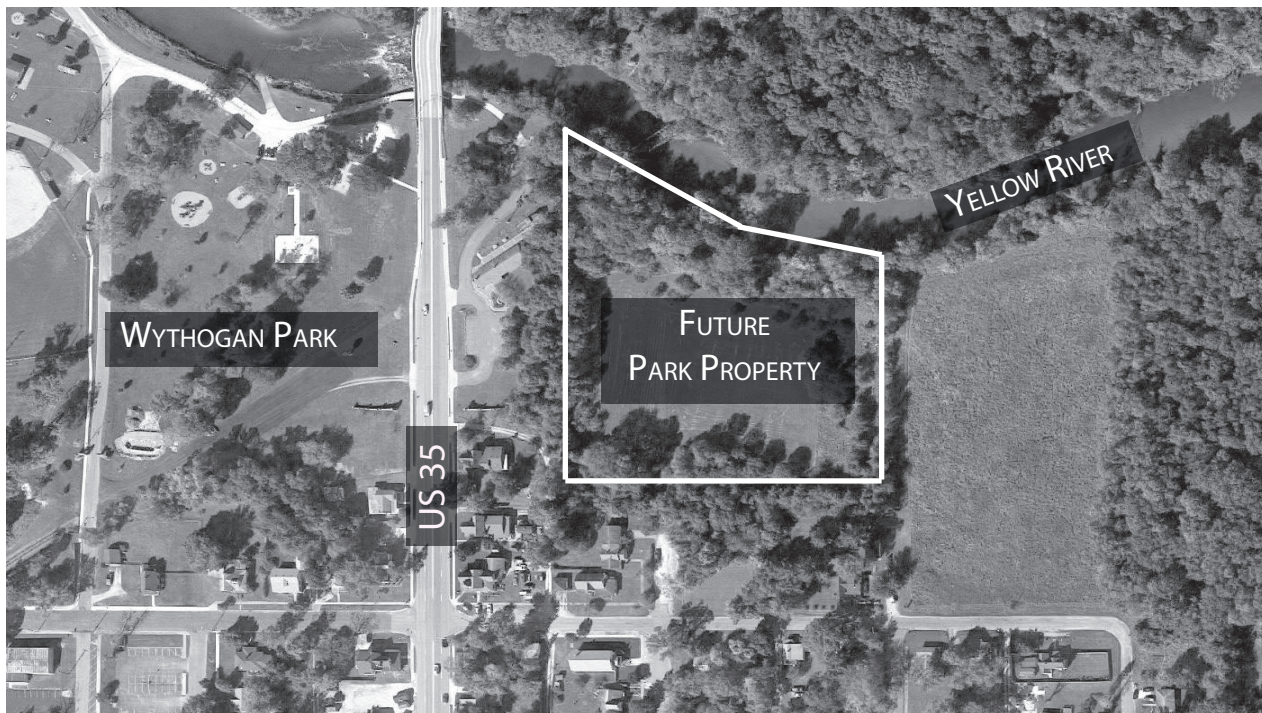
There is an accessible parking space marked by a sign, but the space does not meet ADA requirements. Also none of the amenities in the park are ADA accessible. It is recommended that access is provided to these amenities, especially if a picnic shelter is installed.



Facilities Recommendation Map: Heritage Park



Future Potential Park Across US 35 From Wythogan Park



A kayak launch would be one of the largest benefits for this property. Immediately down river from this site there are some rapids and a deep pool that are dangerous for kayakers and canoers. Multiple drownings have occurred in this area. A launch at this park would allow for kayakers to take out their kayaks upstream of the rapids, and if desired they can launch again at the existing boat launch in Wythogan Park down river of the rapids.

Property Description

The Park Board and Mayor is interested in acquiring a property east of US 35 across from Wythogan Park. This property connects to Wythogan Park by the multi-use trail and tunnel under US 35. The property is also adjacent to the restored Railroad Depot, which is home to offices for the Starke County Chamber of Commerce and Starke County Tourism Commission.

The property is predominantly open lawn with wooded areas along the perimeter. It is adjacent to the Yellow River, which creates an

opportunity for public access. Vehicular access to the site is possible from an existing road that dead ends into the property from the south.

Recommendations

The City should acquire the property and create a new park. The park should include amenities that supplement Wythogan Park as well as offer some new recreational activities for residents. Some potential uses for the new park include a kayak launch, fishing access, trails, dog park, open green space, and a seasonal outdoor ice rink.

The walking trail through Wythogan Park connects to this property. An extension of the trail through this property is a logical improvement that would increase the length of the trail loop. The trail would also provide a connection to adjacent neighborhoods to give a safe walking route to Wythogan Park. Routing a trail in this park would add to the beauty of the trail experience, offering new views of the river and adjacent wooded areas.

An ice rink was brought up by many people in the public input survey and has been discussed in the past by the Park Board. This park has plenty of open space that could be occupied



by the seasonal ice rink. Many options for an ice rink are possible, including contracting with a company for seasonal installation/removal of leased equipment, purchasing seasonal equipment, or constructing a permanent rink.

It will be important to also maintain some of the open green space for playing sports, games, or relaxing with your family on a blanket with a picnic. Much of the open space in the other parks has been filled with various amenities, so this new park should try to maintain some open space for flexible use.

Future Potential Park Master Plan



Accessibility Review

According to a 2010 report by the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 56.7 million Americans, 19% of the population report some level of disability. The report defines a person as having a disability if they have difficulty performing a specific activity such as seeing, hearing, bathing or doing light housework, or had a specified condition, such as Alzheimer's disease or autism. Other report findings include:

- Four million children ages 6 to 14, or 11 percent, had a disability.
- The chances of disability rise with age: 72 percent of those age 80 and older had disabilities.
- About 8.1 million people age 15 and older had difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newspaper print, including 1.8 million who were unable to see.
- Of those ages 15 to 64, 36 percent with a severe disability used a computer and 29 percent used the internet.

Knox Park System Accessibility Review

During the preparation of this plan, an accessibility review of the Knox Parks and Recreation operations and facilities was conducted. It is the goal of the department to offer barrier free facilities, programs and services that are inclusive of all users.

Currently the park system offers accessible restroom facilities at Wythogan Park, as well as play equipment with an accessible transfer

stations, and accessible picnic benches. The Wythogan walking trail is paved and accessible. Although some accessible amenities have been provided, accessible routes to and between the amenities are lacking and provide the single greatest barrier to accessibility in the park system. As well, although parking spaces for those with disabilities are provided, the parking surface is gravel and does not meet ADA requirements. The addition of accessible parking and accessible routes to amenities would greatly increase the number of accessible features for this park system.

Other community amenities offer accessible recreation opportunities. The Knox Community Center is fully accessible and offers the opportunity to provide recreation programs inclusive of those with disabilities.

In addition to reviewing the accessibility of physical amenities, communication practices were also reviewed. Information about the park system is available online, however information about accessible park and recreation amenities is not included. If citizens have an ADA grievance, they may submit their complaint to the ADA Coordinator. Information on the ADA Coordinator, Grievance Procedure, and Policy can be found in Appendix C.

Public Input and Stakeholder Comments

In order to gain a better understanding of their needs and concerns, residents with disabilities and senior citizens were invited to participate in the public survey as well as to discuss their

concerns regarding accessibility in the park system during the stakeholder and public meetings.

The community has a higher population of residents over the age of 65 than does the state of Indiana. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this percentage is expected to increase.

Requests for accessibility improvements included:

- Accessibility to park amenities and additional seating closer to parking areas.
- Closer parking lots to some of the new park amenities.

The parks department continues to improve accessibility to its amenities. Further improvements should address accessible routes to and within the parks, accessible playground equipment and accessible site furnishings. Specific recommendations are included in the Action Plan, with time line and cost estimates.

Contact Resources

ADA Information Hotline: (800) 514-0301 *voice*
(800) 514-0383 *TTY*

ADA Home Page

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm

ADA Checklist

www.adachecklist.org



Benchmarks

Introduction

The purpose of benchmarking is to assist the planning team in setting goals and generating ideas for parks and recreation facilities in the City of Knox. The benchmarking study provides an exploration of the parks and recreation facilities and structure of five cities comparable to Knox.

The benchmark process is not intended to find cities that match Knox exactly. The main purpose is to assist Knox in finding comparisons for measurement and setting standards. By delineating the parks and recreation system of any one of the benchmark cities, Knox can compare, contrast and emulate its future facilities and programs in a measurable context. The benchmark cities in this study were chosen because of their comparable context of being small Indiana cities located on a river or near a river and/ or being a county seat with a fairly similar size population.

Another factor that was considered in choosing the benchmark cities was population growth. A couple of the cities were chosen specifically because they had recently experienced population growth, and the Knox Parks and Recreation Board was interested in learning what may have influenced this growth.

Benchmark Cities

Bremen is located in North Central Indiana about 20 miles south of Mishawaka and at the Junction of US Highway 6 and State Road 331. Bremen is about 30 river miles upstream of Knox on the Yellow River. It has about 900 more residents than Knox.

Corydon is in the southeastern part of Indiana in Harrison County. It is about 25 miles from Louisville, KY and is very near Interstate 64. Corydon has about 500 less residents than Knox.

Covington is in Western Indiana only a few miles from the Illinois border. The Wabash River runs along the city's western border and US Highway 136 runs through the center of the city. Covington is the seat of Fountain County. There are about 1000 fewer residents than in Knox. The city has one large park of 33 acres that is managed by the city council.

Ligonier is in Northeast Indiana in Noble County. It is about halfway between Napanee and Kendallville on US Highway 6 and is situated on the Elkhart River. It has about 1000 more residents than Knox.

Monticello is in central Indiana about 25 miles north of Lafayette. It is located on the Tippecanoe River. There are about 1700 more residents in Monticello than Knox. Monticello has seven parks totaling 53 acres.

Results

Analysis indicates the following notable conclusions for Knox in comparison to the benchmark cities.

- The benchmark cities have an average of about 10 acres of parks per 1000 population. Knox's 4 park acres per 1000 population is significantly less.
- Knox compares well with the benchmark cities on hard surface trails. However, it is notable that Covington has significantly more trail miles with 4.3.
- Four of the five benchmark cities have a public pool. Knox has added a splash pad; while not a pool it does provide a water amenity for residents.
- For all other comparison facilities, Knox is similar to or exceeds the benchmark cities' average.

The results of this benchmarking study indicate that the City of Knox compares well with the benchmark cities in most of the areas studied. An important finding is that Knox has fewer park acres in their system than the other cities; yet there are relatively equal number of amenities. This finding confirms the observations of the project team and an expressed concern by stakeholders that the number of amenities in Wythogan Park makes it feel overcrowded. This indicates that it might be a good idea to acquire more parkland to accommodate the number of park users in the city.

Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards

Recreation Needs Analysis

Review of the Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) guidelines for recreation lands in Starke County is inconclusive. These guidelines recommend 20 acres of recreation lands per 1000 population at the local or municipal level. On this scale, Starke County falls short of the recommended level by over 200 acres. On the regional level, which includes state and federal recreation lands, Starke County far exceeds the state recommended guidelines. This is because there are large amounts of state recreation land in Starke County, however they are only accessible by car to Knox residents, and require planned driving time.

A lack of local park acreage was revealed in the benchmarking study, which put Knox below the benchmark cities average of 10 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. Given these results, along with the SCORP findings about local park acreage the Knox Parks and Recreation Board decided it was necessary to set a Level of Service (LOS) standard for park acreage.

At the current level of service of 15 acres of parkland or about 4 acres per 1000 residents, it would be overambitious to strive to reach the state recommended level of 20 acres per 1000 residents; or even the benchmark cities, average of 10. Therefore, as a reasonable and

achievable goal over the coming years, it was decided to set an LOS standard of 6.0 park acres per 1000 population. This sets the goal of adding seven acres of parkland for a total inventory of 22 acres.

Park Acreage Level of Service Standard

2016 Level of Service: 4 park acres per 1000 residents (15 Acres)

LOS Standard: 6 park acres per 1000 residents (22 Acres)

Because the levels of service for other recreation amenities and facilities in Knox were generally on par with the comparison cities in the benchmark study; and because increasing the level of service for amenities and facilities would require the addition of only one of any particular amenity, The Knox parks and recreation board decided it was not necessary to set any other levels of service at this time.

Recreation Needs

While park acreage is one indicator of the level of service, the number and type of amenities are also important. Knox Parks have a wide variety of amenities within the 15 acres of park land. The recreation needs for Knox were determined by a combination of results from the benchmark study and the public input gathered in the planning process. Some new or improved recreation amenities or facilities to meet these needs should include:

- Picnic shelters and picnic areas
- Walking trail connections and lighting
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Dog Park
- Upgraded children's playgrounds
- Upgraded baseball and softball fields
- Fishing access on the Yellow River
- Ice Rink
- Improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation in parks
- Connections to other regional trails



Parks and Recreation Goals

The seven goals identified below define the over-arching direction for the City of Knox Parks and Recreation Department for the next five years. The goals generally focus on long-term outcomes, and the planning team and Park Board of Directors recognize that some may not be fully achieved during the next five years. The objectives for each goal serve as statements of action which, when completed, will move the department towards accomplishing the goal.

These goals and objectives are the result of the master planning process. They:

- Reflect the department's mission and philosophy
- Respond to the expressed needs and desires of the community
- Respond to the anticipated constraints and opportunities for the next five years

While many of the objectives outlined below can be funded with the current and projected operating budget, others will require funding sources that may include grants, fund raising and/or donations to achieve. The action plan which follows assigns a proposed time line, a cost opinion, and potential funding sources to each of the objectives.

Goal #1: Acquire property across US 35 from Wythogan Park to create a new city park

A 6 acre parcel on the east side of US 35 and south bank of the Yellow River may be available for acquisition by the city. This property would be an excellent addition to the Knox Parks system. There is a large open space that could be used for an ice skating rink, dog park, or other recreation uses. The walking trail could be extended from Wythogan Park throughout this property. Access to the Yellow River can be obtained through construction of a kayak launch and fishing pier or observation deck.

Goal #2: Provide Recreation amenities and opportunities that are accessible to all

- Provide paved accessible routes to Wythogan Park amenities and paved accessible parking.
- Install accessible playground surface at the Kids Kingdom Playground, or construct a new accessible playground that utilizes universal design principles.
- Develop ADA policies and procedures.
- Provide public access to ADA policies and procedures, and accessible facilities, programs and activities.

Goal #3: Provide amenities to meet demand for specific recreation needs

- Refurbish Wythogan Park tennis courts and/or create pickleball courts
- Build a dog park and temporary ice rink if the new park property is acquired.
- Improve the Wythogan Park ball diamonds

to meet standard diamond regulations and conditions.

- Add paved walking path in Sandy Acres Park that connects to city sidewalk.
- Develop a disc golf course
- Build a fishing pier at Wythogan Park and/or the potential new park property

Goal #4: Provide safe and high quality recreation facilities and amenities

- Conduct a safety audit of all playground equipment using a certified playground safety inspector.
- Remove or refurbish all non-compliant playground equipment.
- Conduct regular inspection and maintenance of park amenities and equipment and document all activities.
- Refurbish Heritage Park basketball court surfacing.
- Complete improvements to Wythogan Park Skate Park.
- New restroom facility at Sandy Acres Park.
- Analyze vehicular and pedestrian traffic conflicts at Wythogan Park to determine if any improvements are necessary.

Goal #5: Develop Branding and Establish a Social Media Presence

- Add Park Department website content including park maps, list of amenities and accessible amenities, and calendar of events.

- Develop a Park Logo and associated color palette by sponsoring a logo contest.
- Rename Park Shelters to celebrate local history or culture.
- Create and actively manage a Knox Parks and Recreation account on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Goal #6: Create and fill a Recreation Programs Coordinator position

Knox Parks have a wide variety of amenities available to the residents, but there aren't a lot of programs and events that occur throughout the year. The Park Board, Park Superintendent, and Mayor's Office coordinate some events and programs, but the available time and resources limits the amount of programs that occur. A Recreation Programs Coordinator position should be created and filled so that Knox Parks and Recreation can expand its offerings to residents. This person can coordinate, manage, and market current and new events for the Parks. The Recreation Coordinator can also manage the social media accounts and promotion of the parks.

Goal #7: Expand the Trail Network and Create Connections to Regional Trails

If the property east of Wythogan Park across US 35 can be acquired, it offers a great opportunity to add length to the trail and offer additional

views and experiences. The city should also look into multi-use trails that can connect park facilities with other city amenities. Additionally, there are existing and proposed trails in the region that should be examined for opportunities to connect Knox with those trails.

An example is the Erie Trail to the south. The trail runs from North Judson along the former JK Line Railroad and connects to US 35 near Bass Lake. Making a connection to this trail would provide access to a great amenity for residents, while also bringing trail users into Knox as a means for economic development. Starke County approved using CR 450 E as a share the road route connecting the Erie Trail to Bass Lake. Developing a trail or bike route from Bass Lake/CR 450 E to Knox Parks would be beneficial.

Heading north from Knox, perhaps a connection could be made extending the trail in Wythogan Park to the west until it meets CR 300 E. A share-the-road crossing could be allowed on CR 300 E to cross the Yellow River.

Action Plan Matrix

Prioritization and Implementation Matrix					
Strategies and Action Items	Estimated Cost	Potential Partners/Funding	Timeline (in years)		
			Short	Medium	Long
General Park System Improvements					
Promote Parks Identity/Awareness	N/A	Park Board, Chamber of Commerce, Trails Group	Ongoing		
Expand Website and Social Media	\$ 1,000 - \$2,000	Park Board	1-2		
Create a Programs Director Position	+/- \$20,000 Annually	City of Knox, Park Board	1-2		
Develop a Programs and Activities Calendar	N/A	Park Board, Programs Director	1-2		
Identify Funding Sources	N/A	Park Board, OCRA Liaison, Grant Writers	Ongoing		
Wythogan Park					
Improve/Widen Current Park Entrance	\$15,000-\$25,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment	1-2		
New Park Entrance to US 35	\$40,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment		3-4	
Playground Equipment Improvements/Replacement	\$50,000-\$100,000	Park Board, City Council, Playground Grants		3-4	
New Accessible/Universal Design Playground	\$200,000-\$300,000	Park Board, City Council, Grant Funding			5+
Ball Field Improvements (Field, Fences)	\$25,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City, Ball League, Donations	1-2		
Ball Field Lighting Improvements	\$100,000-\$150,000	Park Board, City, Ball League, Donations			5+
Ball Field Scoreboard	\$10,000-\$15,000	Park Board, Ball League, Sponsorships		3-4	
Repair and Upgrade the Skate Park	\$10,000-\$20,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations	1-2		
Paved Parking near Splash Pad	\$30,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment	1-2		
Fishing Pier	\$15,000-\$25,000	Park Board, City Council, Grant Funding			5+
New Picnic Shelter	\$40,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations		3-4	
Sidewalk/ADA Access to Amenities	\$20,000-\$40,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations	1-2		
Improve Tennis Courts/Add Pickleball Court	\$100,000-\$150,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment			5+
Disc Golf Course	\$7,000-\$10,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations	1-2		
Warming Hut/Santa House	\$20,000-\$30,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations		3-4	
Park Lighting & Security Cameras	\$100,000-\$150,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment		3-4	
Maintenance Building Expansion or Storage Building	\$50,000-\$75,000	Park Board, City Council		3-4	
Sandy Acres Park					
New Restroom Building	\$150,000-\$200,000	Park Board, City Council		3-4	
New Picnic Shelter	\$40,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations		3-4	
Natural Elements Playground	\$30,000-\$80,000	Park Board, City, Grants, Donations			5+
Walking Trail	\$15,000-\$20,000	Park Board, City Council, Redevelopment	1-2		
Improve Grill Area and Seating	\$3,000-\$5,000	Park Board, City, Donations	1-2		
ADA Parking Spaces & Access to Pavilion	\$7,000-\$12,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations	1-2		



Proiritization and Implementation Matrix

Strategies and Action Items	Estimated Cost	Potential Partners /Funding	Timeline (in years)		
			Short	Medium	Long
Heritage Park					
Replace Basketball Court Concrete	\$25,000-\$35,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations		3-4	
ADA Parking Improvements/Access to Amenities	\$8,000-\$15,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations	1-2		
New Picnic Shelter	\$40,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City Council, Donations			5+
Potential Park Across US 35 from Wythogan Park					
Acquire Property		Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Kayak Launch	\$15,000-\$30,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Observation Deck/Fishing Pier	\$20,000-\$30,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Trail Extension	\$35,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Picnic Shelter	\$40,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Dog Park	\$20,000-\$30,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Entrance Drive & Parking Lot	\$75,000-\$100,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Temporary Ice Rink	\$10,000-\$30,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant		3-4	
Trails and Connectivity					
Extend Trail from Wythogan into New Park	\$35,000-\$50,000	Park Board, City, LWCF Grant	1-2		
Multi-Use Trail from Knox to Bass Lake	\$2,000,000	Park Board, City, IDNR /INDOT			5+
Extend Wythogan Trail to CR 300 E	\$300,000-\$400,000	Park Board, City, IDNR Grant			5+
Develop Trailhead in Knox	\$50,000-\$75,000	Park Board, City, Grants			5+

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Meeting Documentation

December 7, 2017 Public Meeting Notice

<h1>Advertising Receipt</h1>	The Pilot News Group PO Box 220 Plymouth, IN 46563
	Phone: 574-936-3101 Fax: 574-936-7491

City of Knox Legals 101 W. Washington Knox, IN 46534	Acct #: 03104296 Ad #: 00275375 Phone: (574)772-3032 Date: 11/20/2017 Ad taker: BS Salesperson: BS
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Sort Line: 275375 Public Meeting Classification: 117

Description	Start	Stop	Ins.	Cost/Day	Total
LE Legals -kl/cc	12/01/2017	12/01/2017	1	5.53	5.53
IN Internet	12/01/2017	12/01/2017	1		0.00

Ad Text:
 Notice of Public Meeting
 The City of Knox Park Board will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM CST on Thursday, December 7 th at Knox City Hall, 101 West Washington St, Knox, IN 46534 regarding the Parks Five Year Master Plan. Interested parties are encouraged to attend to provide input and learn about the Five Year Master Plan for existing and proposed parks in the City of Knox.
 December 1, 2017 KL275375 hspaxlp

Total: 5.53
Tax: 0.00
Net: 5.53
Prepaid: 0.00
Total Due 5.53

Prescribed by State Board of Accounts

General Form No. 99P (Rev. 2009)

CITY OF KNOX
 Starke County, Indiana

To: **THE LEADER**
 Knox, Indiana

PUBLISHER'S CLAIM			
LINE COUNT Display Matter (Must not exceed the total more than four solid lines if advertisement is set) number of lines _____ Head -- number of lines _____ Body -- number of lines _____ Tail -- number of lines _____ Total number of lines in notice _____	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">117 Knox Legals</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Notice of Public Meeting The City of Knox Park Board will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM CST on Thursday, December 7 th at Knox City Hall, 101 West Washington St, Knox, IN 46534 regarding the Parks Five Year Master Plan. Interested parties are encouraged to attend to provide input and learn about the Five Year Master Plan for existing and proposed parks in the City of Knox. December 1, 2017 KL275375 hspaxlp </td> </tr> </table>	117 Knox Legals	Notice of Public Meeting The City of Knox Park Board will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM CST on Thursday, December 7 th at Knox City Hall, 101 West Washington St, Knox, IN 46534 regarding the Parks Five Year Master Plan. Interested parties are encouraged to attend to provide input and learn about the Five Year Master Plan for existing and proposed parks in the City of Knox. December 1, 2017 KL275375 hspaxlp
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Column Width _____ Inch	Number of column inches _____ 0.00		
COMPUTATION OF CHARGES			
14 lines, 1 column(s) wide equals equivalent lines at a rate of _____	\$ _____		
(or) .3952 cents per line _____	\$ 5.53		
0.00 total column inches at _____ per column inch _____	\$ _____		
Additional charges for notices containing rule or tabular work (50 per cent of above amount) _____			
Charge for extra proofs of publication (\$2.00 for each proof in excess of two) _____			
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM _____ \$ 5.53			
DATA FOR COMPUTING COST			
Width of single column in picas _____	7		
Size of type _____	8		
Number of insertions _____ 1			

Plan Commission
 Pursuant to the provisions and penalties of IC 5-11-10-1, I hereby certify that the foregoing account is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due, after allowing all just credits, and that no part of the same has been paid.

I also certify that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, of the same column width and type size, which was duly published in said paper _____ 1 _____ time(s), the dates of publication being as follows:
12/1/17

Additionally, the statement checked below is true and correct:
 _____ Newspaper does not have a Web site.
 Newspaper has a Web site and this public notice was posted on the same day as it was published in the newspaper.
 _____ Newspaper has a Web site, but due to technical problem or error, public notice was posted on _____
 _____ Newspaper has a Web site but refuses to post the public notice.

Date: **DECEMBER 1, 2017** Signature: *Anthony R. Shygal*





Notice of Public Meeting

The Knox Park Board will hold a Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 26th at Knox City Hall, 101 West Washington St., Knox, Indiana 46534 regarding the Parks Five Year Master Plan. The findings of the public input survey will be shared, along with information from the draft master plan. The regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will begin upon completion of the public meeting for the Parks Master Plan.

DE/pjt/press releases/notice of public meeting park board survey results

Appendix B: Parks Usage Agreement

Knox Parks and Recreation Department

Facility / Fields Use Policy

Rev. 4

This policy has been established to assure that the park and field facilities are utilized for recreational, athletic, cultural, educational, social and community service functions that meet the needs and interests of the community, as well as to set clear policies, procedures, and regulations regarding such uses.

In addition to the facilities that are available for general public use, Knox parks have a wide variety of amenities that are available for reservation by the general public. These amenities include ball diamonds, general athletic fields/lawn, group picnic areas, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and horseshoe pits. Exclusive use requires an advance reservation and is subject to fees, and in some cases, damage deposits. Citizens are encouraged to use these facilities, when available, for their casual recreational needs, or to reserve them in advance for organized groups, parties, or league play.

A. PRIORITIES OF USE OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Decisions to grant facility use will be made in accordance with the following prioritized ranking of uses and user groups:

1. Knox Parks and Recreation Department programs.
2. Programs of Co-Sponsoring Organizations (any organization in partnership with Knox Parks)
3. City Resident private functions and third-party functions.
4. Non-City resident private functions and third party functions.

Facilities Available:

Fields and facilities available for reservation on an hourly basis. These are available upon completion of a use form and submission of a complete schedule.

Wythogan Park – basketball court, tennis courts, volleyball, horseshoe pits, baseball fields.

Sandy Acres Park

Heritage Park – basketball court

B. RESERVATIONS

1. APPLICATIONS

- a. Field Reservations can be made no less than 10 calendar days prior to the desired date(s) of use beginning January 1 each year.
- b. Applications must be made in-person at Knox City Hall. Call 806-2262 to check on facility availability.
- c. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age or older.
- d. No application will be processed without deposit where required.

2. DEPOSITS

- a. A refundable damage deposit of \$100 is required for all athletic field reservations of one day. Any reservation of more than 1 day requires a \$250 deposit.
- b. The Park reserves the right to deduct from the damage deposit all additional charges relating to, but not limited to: janitorial services, maintenance/repair services, staff time, or emergency services that were required as a result of your use. If you arrive for your reservation and notice damage, please notify the Superintendent and Kurt Snearly at 806-2262 to retain your deposit.
- c. Refunds of damage deposits may be fully or partially withheld for any of the following reasons:
 1. Damage to facility. (Other than normal wear)
 2. Misuse of the facility.
 3. Inadequate cleanup by permittee, requiring additional custodial/staff time/services after your use.
 4. Misrepresentation of the type of event held, or group/individual actually using the facility.

C. FACILITY USE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- a. Park hours are from sunrise 7 AM – 11 PM in summer. Lighted facilities are open until 10:00pm. No person shall remain in a City park during non-operating hours.
- b. All motor vehicles must park in marked parking areas, or be subject to citation by the Knox Police Department. No unauthorized vehicles shall enter park premises, drive on turf, grounds, playfields, or paved walkways. Customers must carry or "cart" their belongings to and from parking lots.
- c. For the safety of all park users, athletic uses must be limited to designated field and court areas. Volleyball, badminton, or other similar activities must be set-up a minimum of 25 feet from walking paths, picnic areas, and parking areas.
- d. Gambling is prohibited on all City property
- e. Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and substances are not permitted in or on Parks and Recreation Department facilities and their use will not be tolerated.
- f. Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed facilities and within 25 ft of all athletic fields.

- g. Vending of any merchandise is not allowed in Knox parks, except with the possession of a concession agreement approved by the Park Board. A business license and health department permit are required, if applicable.
- h. No fires are allowed in City Parks, except in provided barbeque grills.
- i. Fireworks are not allowed in City Parks.
- j. Any person(s) violating the established rules and regulations, or constituting a public nuisance, may be required to leave the facility and premises and may forfeit the ability to reserve future facilities. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law.
 - k. *Anyone or any group using the facility that charges fees for admissions, sells advance tickets, takes donations, or sells concessions must have approval of the Parks and Recreation Superintendent and Park Board. A commission will be paid to the Parks Department based on 15% of total gross sales. Full payment is due within five (5) days of the reservation. If payment is not received in a timely manner, Knox Parks and Recreation Department reserve the right to retain your damage deposit. Noncompliance may result in the forfeiture of future use.*

2. FACILITY RESERVER'S RULES AND REGULATIONS

- a. Permits/reservations cannot be transferred, assigned, or sub-let to any other group or organization for any reason.
- b. All litter must be deposited into trash receptacles or removed from the premises at conclusion of reservation. The contact person and his/her organization will be held responsible for returning areas used to the condition of cleanliness in which it was obtained. Trashcans are provided at all facilities. Failure to leave areas in satisfactory condition could lead to the forfeiture of your rights to future use or forfeiture of damage deposit. If you anticipate generating a great deal of trash, you are responsible to provide your own additional waste bags to contain your trash.
- c. The misuse of Park facilities or failure to conform to facility regulations, established policies and procedures or any other Federal, State, or local law, rule, regulation or ordinance shall be sufficient reason for immediate termination of permit and denial of future applications. No refund will be granted. **Also prohibited is any type of behavior that is considered detrimental to the normal operation of the facility or the safety, health and welfare of the public and employees.**
- d. Picnic tables in shelters may not be moved from one shelter to another. Park staff will prep areas of use for organizations upon request. (See Use Form)
- e. Individual minors or groups of minors must be properly supervised by adults when using park facilities.
- f. Permittees are to restrict their use to only use those playfields or courts specifically reserved, as designated on their Facility Use Form. Other playfields or courts may be scheduled by other groups and may not be available.
- g. Permittees are advised to always carry their Facility Use Form in case there is a question as to who has priority/reservation for the use of the field or court area. If you arrive at the facility and have difficulty gaining access due to an unscheduled user, contact the Knox Park Superintendent and board member Kurt Snearly at 806-2262.
- h. In the event of an emergency the Park reserves the right to cancel a previously approved reservation.
- i. Failure to return any key in a timely manner (within 5 days) may mean the forfeiture of deposit, as locks will be replaced.
- j. Facilities are NOT available for overnight use.
- k. Notify the Park immediately if a field or fields reserved by your group are no longer needed or if there is a change in your playing schedule.

LIABILITY/INSURANCE (for long term reservations)

- a. The applicant shall be responsible for any and all damage to the City's premises, equipment, and property. If after an activity, additional maintenance is required (in excess of normal services/time), the applicant will be charged accordingly.
- b. The City of Knox is not responsible for accidents, injuries or loss of or damage to individual property.
- c. The applicant will be held responsible for all actions, behavior and damages caused by his/her guests/attendees.
- d. All applicants requesting use of the athletic fields will be required to provide the City with an **original** Certificate of Insurance providing proof of the following coverage:
 1. General liability insurance.
 2. The City of Knox must be named as additional insured.
 3. The coverage shall not be canceled or reduced without at least ten (10) days written notice to the City of Knox.
 4. The certificate must be submitted to the City Hall at least ten (10) days prior to the event.

MODIFICATIONS TO RULES & POLICY

- a. The City of Knox Parks and Recreation shall have the authority to waive or modify these rules, for uses on their property, at their discretion, upon written request and approval. Any and all requests/variances shall be considered individually and shall not be automatically applied as a matter of precedent to past or future uses of a similar nature by the same or another group. Requests for fee waivers or waiver of any rule shall be directed, in writing, to the Park Superintendent and Park Board at least 30 days prior to the intended date of use/event.
- b. This Park and Field Use Policy supersedes any policy now in effect and will take effect on January 1, 2008.



Company or Organization Name: _____
Address: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Contact Person Responsible: _____ Title _____
Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

1. **Facility / Field Requested:**

2. **Date Requested:** (please list multiple dates and times in case of potential conflict)(please attach schedule for long term reservation)

Option #1: _____ Time: From _____ to _____
Option #2: _____ Time: From _____ to _____
Option #3: _____ Time: From _____ to _____

3. **Schedule Attached** Yes No

4. **Reservation Damage Deposit:** Athletic field requests require a \$100 deposit. (Long term reservations require a \$250 deposit)
Check # _____ Cash _____

5. Is your organization a nonprofit? Yes No Federal Tax ID if applicable: _____

6. Approx. # of People Attending _____

7. Will there be a fee charged for this function? Yes No

8. Will your function be promoted to the public to attend? Yes No

9. Vending Concession Agreement Yes No

10. Insurance Certificate Yes No

11. Additional Items Needed (Park staff will prepare):
 Lights Picnic Tables # Needed _____ Trash Cans # Needed _____

12. **Type of Activity / Reason for Request:**

*I hereby certify that I am the authorized and responsible representative of the petitioning group, that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge, that I have received and read a copy of the rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities; and that our group will comply with the regulations, policies and fee schedule governing the use of the facility.
The undersigned applicant hereby agrees to indemnify and save harmless the City of Knoxville from and against any and all loss, costs, damages, expense and liability causes by any accident or other occurrence causing bodily injury or property damage or damage for libel or slander to any person or property arising from or out of the use or occupancy of the premises by the undersigned applicant, its agents, employees or invitees. I understand that a 24-hour notice is required for cancellation.*

Signature of Applicant

Date

Office Use Only
Approved ___ Not Approved ___
Re'd Date _____
Re'd By _____
Deposit ___ Check # _____



Appendix C: Accessibility Compliance Information



ORDINANCE #1163

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA, ADOPTING
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA),
DESIGNATING THE ADA COORDINATOR,
AND ADOPTING PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the Federal government enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to prevent discrimination of the physically and mentally disabled relating to employment and access to public facilities; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the City of Knox shall name an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the City of Knox shall adopt a grievance procedure for resolving complaints alleging violation of the Title II of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the City of Knox shall post the ADA coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number along with the ADA Notice and ADA grievance procedure on its website; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Title II of the ADA the City of Knox shall adopt the 2005 Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights of Way, and the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, including but not limited to any enforceable standards or updates required by future changes to Title II of the ADA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX as follows:

SECTION I. Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston is designated as the ADA Coordinator for the City of Knox, Indiana.

SECTION II. The Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", is adopted as the City of Knox Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

SECTION III. The City of Knox Grievance Procedure under the ADA, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B", is adopted as the grievance procedure for addressing activities, programs or benefits by the City of Knox.

SECTION IV. In compliance with Federal and State Laws as set forth above, the Common Council of the City of Knox resolves to post the required information regarding the ADA coordinator. Notice under the ADA, and the City of Monticello Grievance Procedure under the ADA on its website and at such other locations as may be determined from time to time.

SECTION V. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOX:

Ron Parker, Council President

Don Kring, Councilor

Bertha Blue, Councilor

Tim Manns, Councilor

Jeff Berg, Councilor

Approved by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer

CITY OF KNOX
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Knox. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Jeff Houston
ADA Coordinator
City of Knox
101 W Washington Street
Knox IN 46534

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Knox and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

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

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor of the City of Knox or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor of the City of Knox or their designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee, appeals to the Mayor of the City of Knox or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City of Knox for at least Three (3) years.

Code Requirements and Engineering Plan Review Procedures:

A review of the City code and any other City policies will be reviewed periodically to ensure proper and uniform terms and definitions are used.

Communications:

Under Title II of the ADA, all state and local governments are required to take steps to ensure that their communications with people with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. For most individuals with disabilities, there is no difference. For people who have disabilities that affect hearing, seeing, speaking, reading, writing, or understanding, they may use different ways to communicate than people who do not.

Any request for reasonable accommodation will be made through the Mayor's Office. Request for accommodations will be accepted up to 48 hours prior to an event.

Website:

The City of Knox maintains a website. If you use assistive technology and the format of any material on the City's website interferes with your ability to access the information please contact the Mayor's office.

The City of Knox is committed to making our Website accessible to any and all users. We welcome comments on how to improve the site's accessibility for users with disabilities.

Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Inventory:

The sidewalk and curb ramp inventory will be completed by City staff during the summer of 2018. The inventory information will be available upon request at the City Hall.

The maps identify locations where non-compliant ramps and sidewalks exist. The City will use these maps to program and prioritize repairs on an annual and on-going basis.

ADA GRIEVANCE FORM
CITY OF KNOX, INDIANA

Today's Date: _____

Complainant: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone and E-mail: _____

Alleged Violation: Date(s) and Approximate Time of Occurrence: _____

Detailed Description of Violation and City Department Involved: _____

Requested Action by City to Correct Violation: _____

Has Complaint been filed with State or Federal Agency: _____ Yes _____ No

Name of Agency: _____ Date Filed: _____

Contact Person: _____

Signature: _____

If there are witnesses, please list names and addresses separately.





NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Employment: City of Knox, Indiana, does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: City of Knox, Indiana, will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in City of Knox, Indiana, programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: City of Knox, Indiana, will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City of Knox, Indiana, offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires as auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Knox, Indiana, should contact the office of the ADA Coordinator, Jeff Houston at 574-772-3032, as soon as possible but no later than one week before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City of Knox, Indiana, to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Knox, Indiana, is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator Jeff Houston at 574-772-3032.

The City of Knox, Indiana, will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

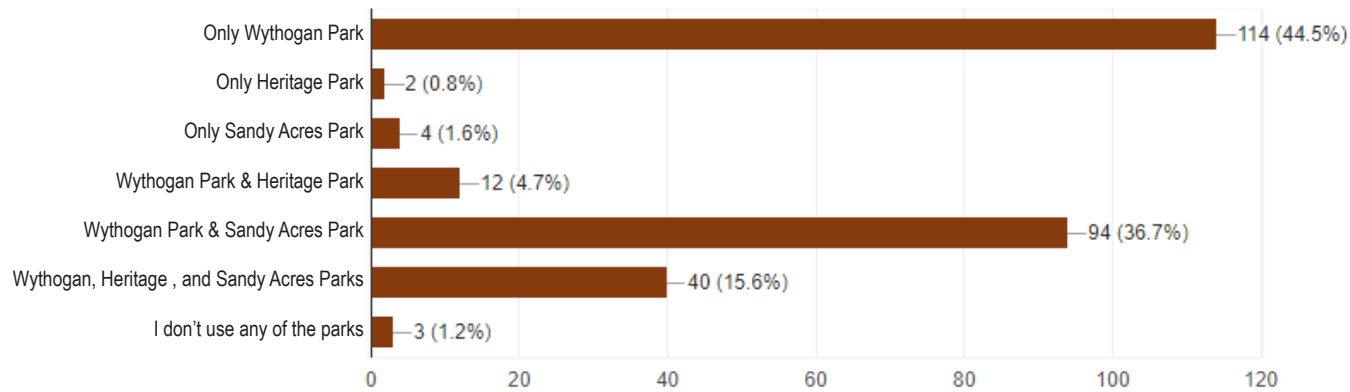


Appendix D: Survey Responses

Current Park Use

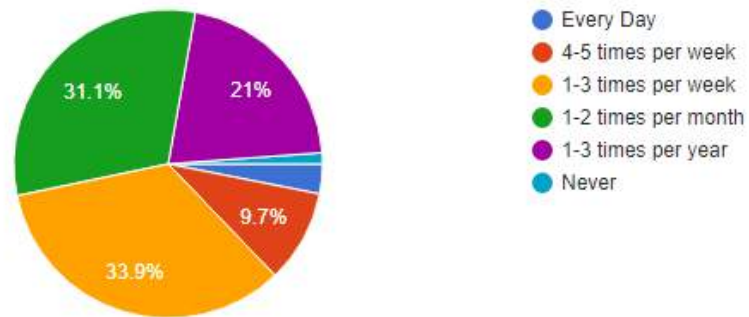
Which Knox park(s) do you use?

256 responses



How often do you use the Knox Parks?

257 responses

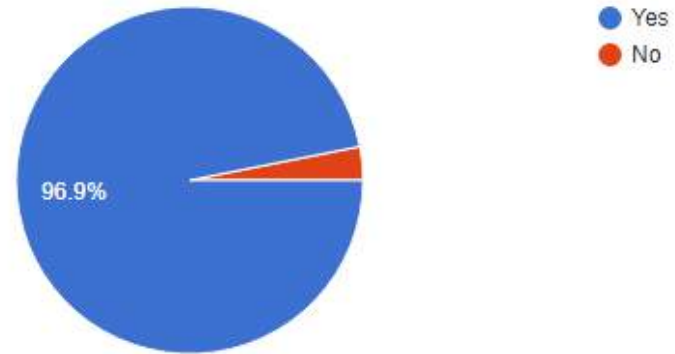


Survey Responses

Current Park Use

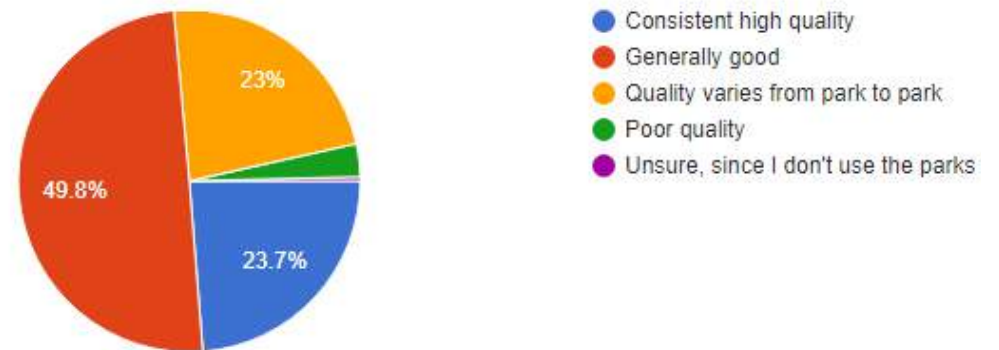
Do you believe Knox Parks provide an essential service in the community?

257 responses



How would you rate the Knox Parks?

257 responses

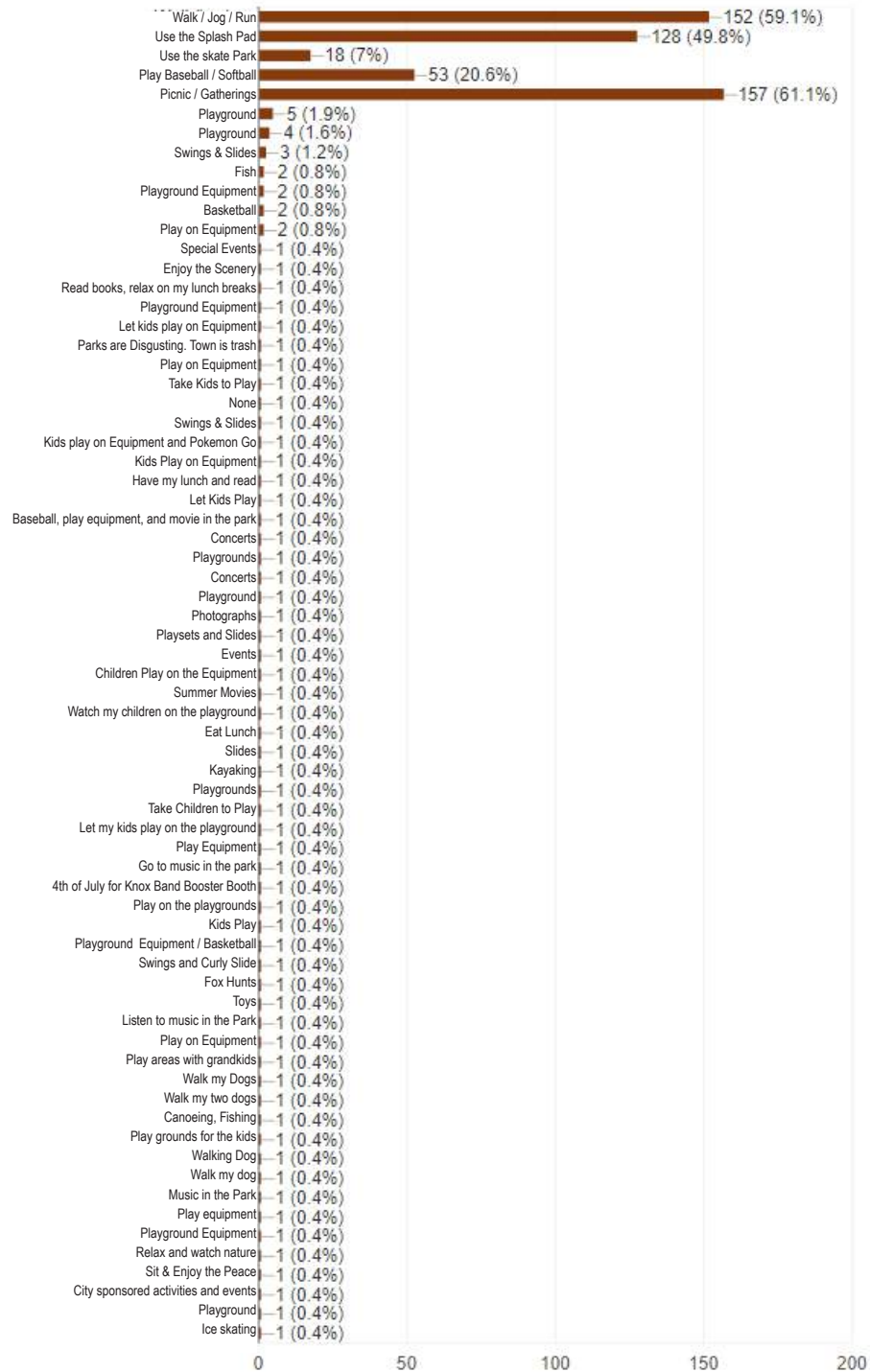


Survey Responses

Current Park Use

What do you typically do in the Parks?

257 responses

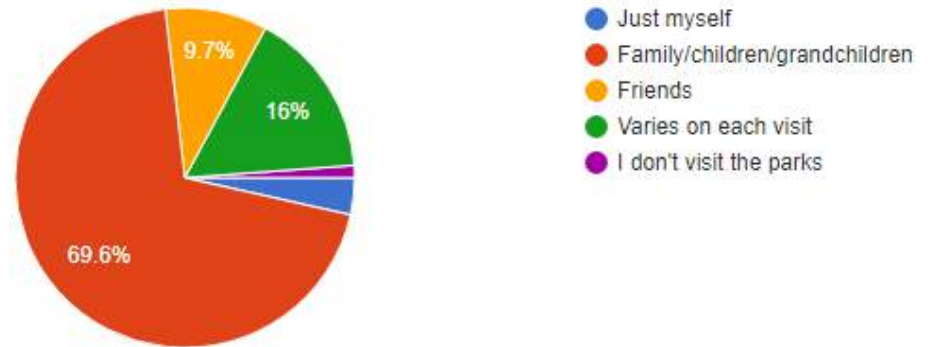


Survey Responses

Programs and Activities - Existing

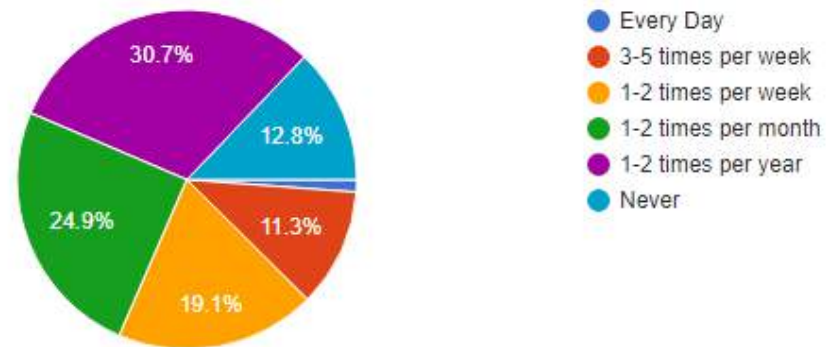
Please select the people with whom you most often use the parks.

257 responses



How often do you use Knox Parks, programs, and activities?

257 responses

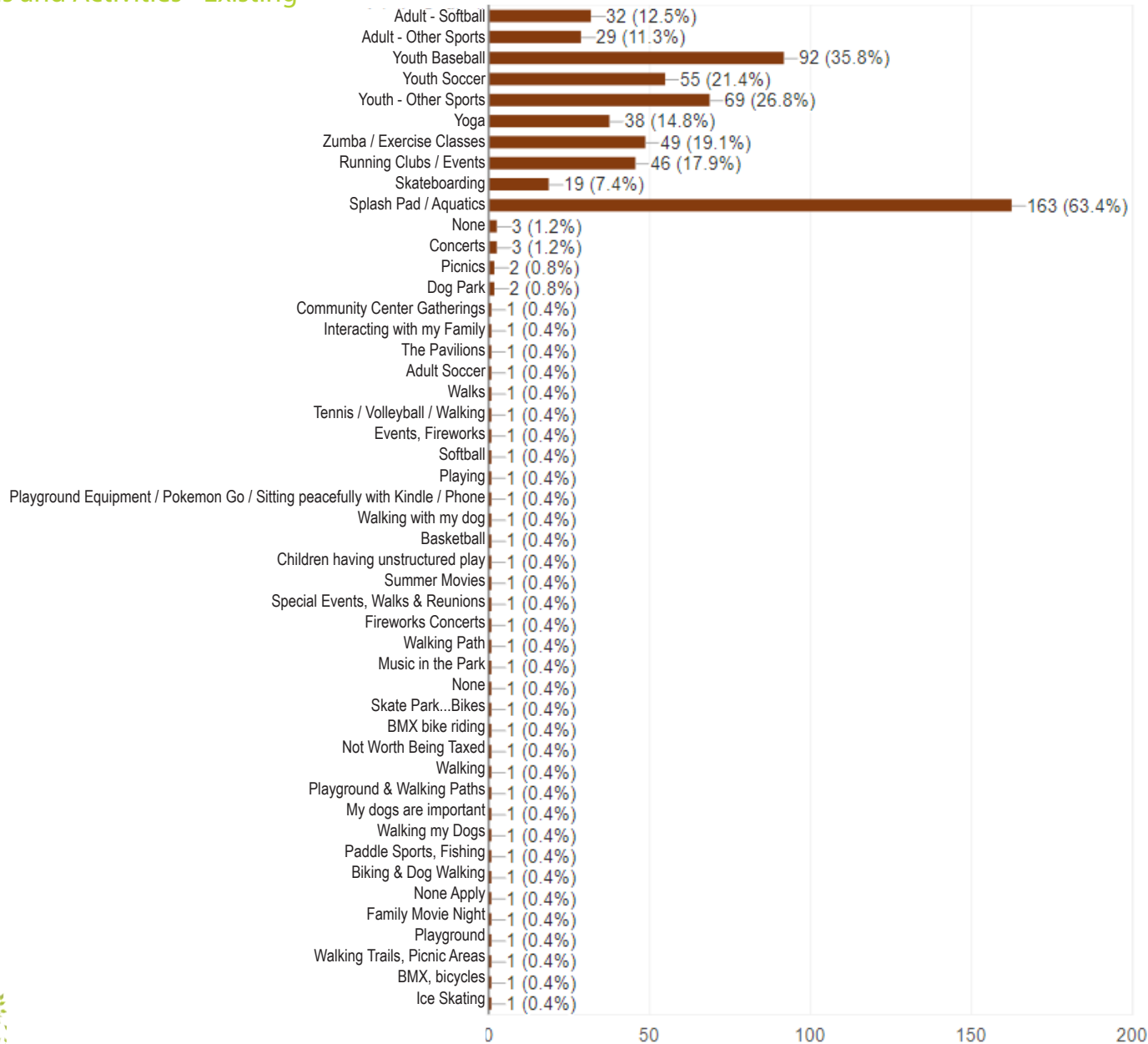


Survey Responses

Which of the following programs/activities are important to you and/or your family?

257 responses

Programs and Activities - Existing

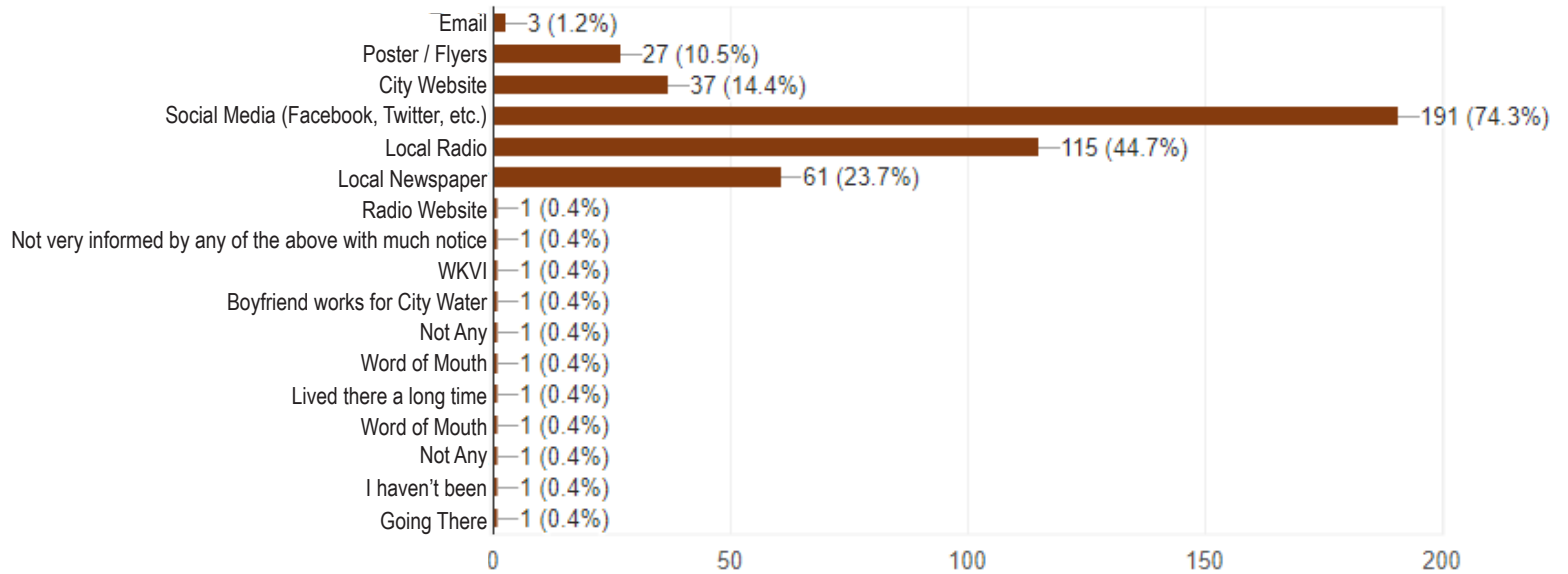


Survey Responses

Programs and Activities - Existing

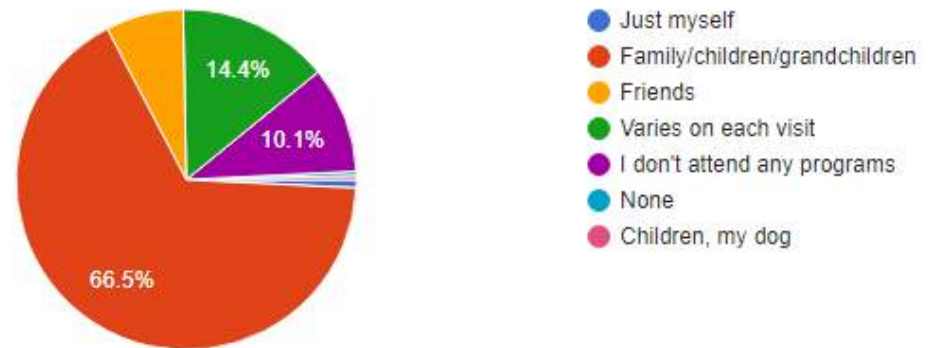
How are you currently informed of Knox parks activities and programs?

257 responses



If you attend any of our programs, with whom do you most often attend?

257 responses

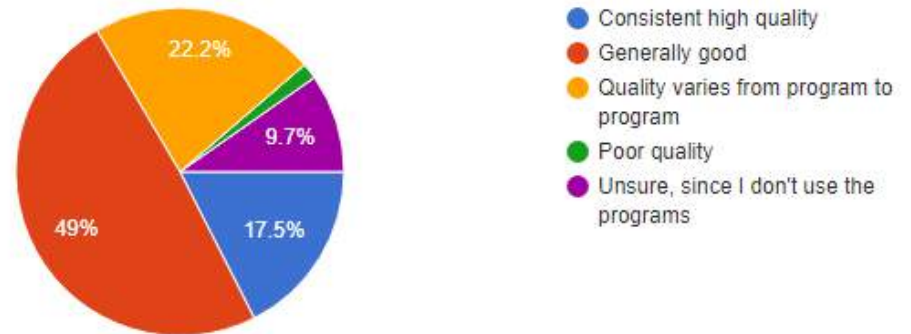


Survey Responses

Programs and Activities - Existing

How would you rate the Knox Parks programs and activities

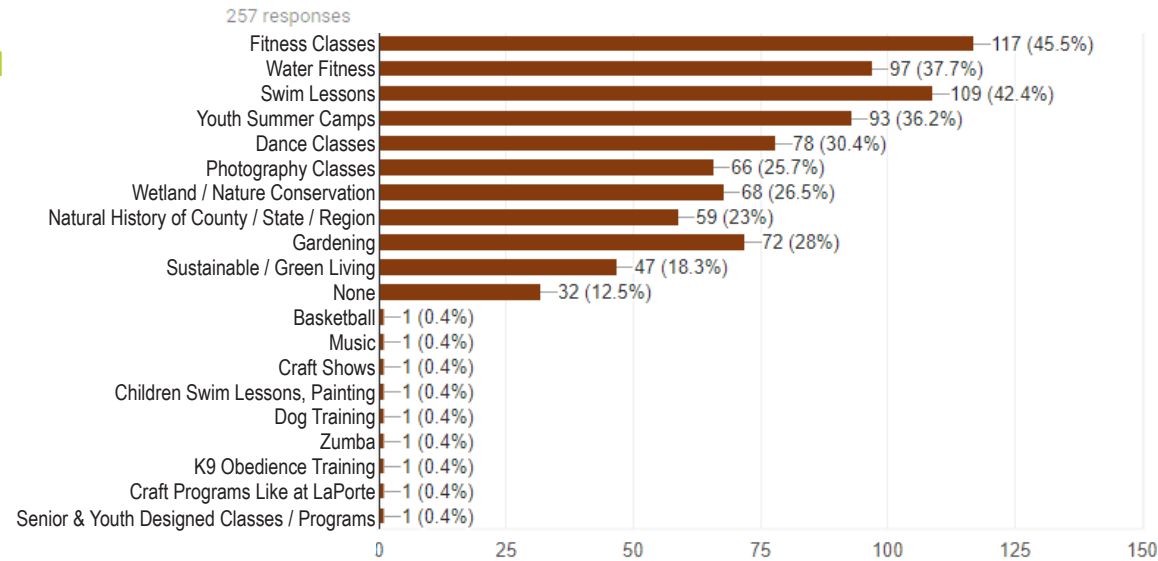
257 responses



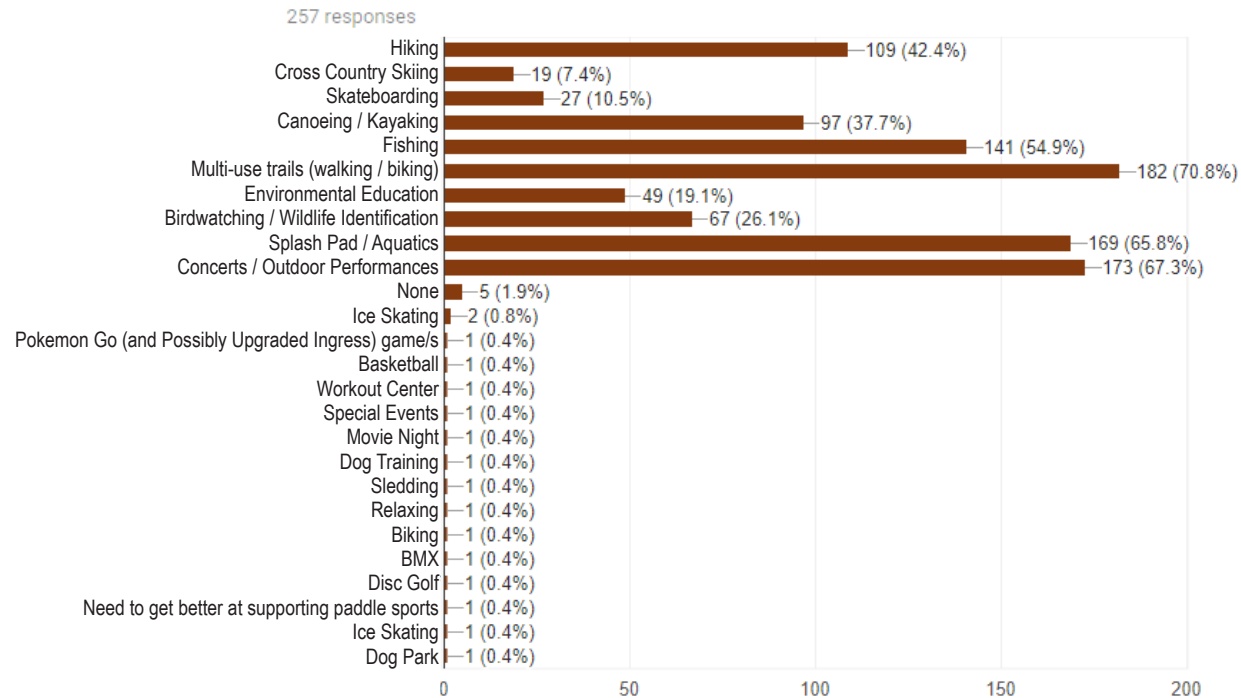
Survey Responses

Programs and Activities - Desired

What indoor programs and activities are important to you and/or your family?

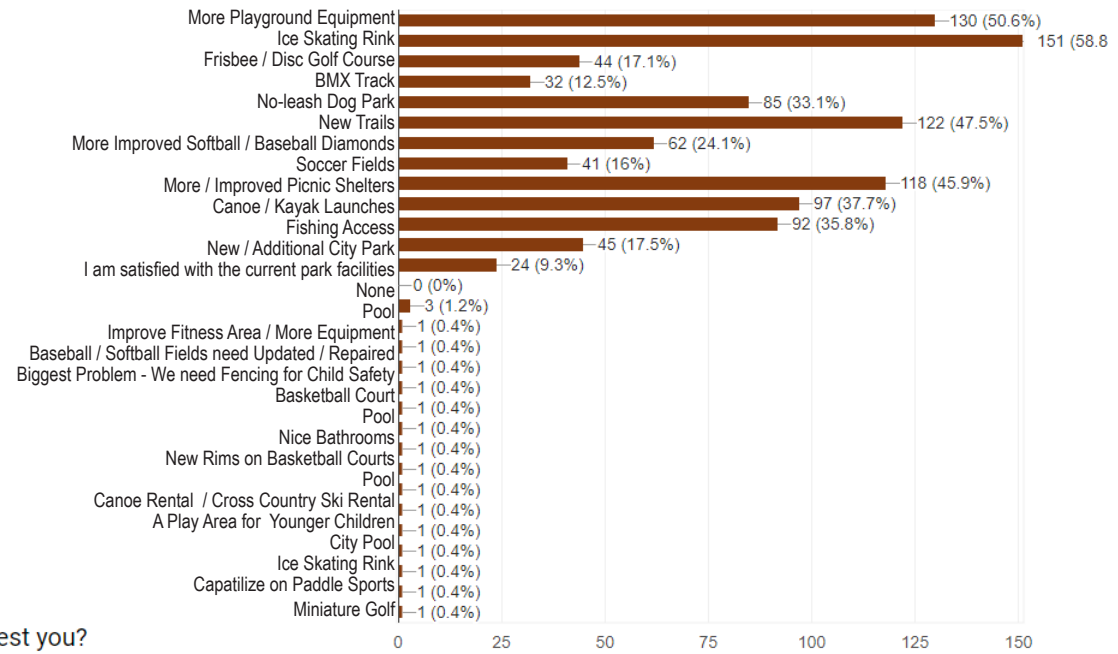


What outdoor programs/activities are important to you and/or your family?



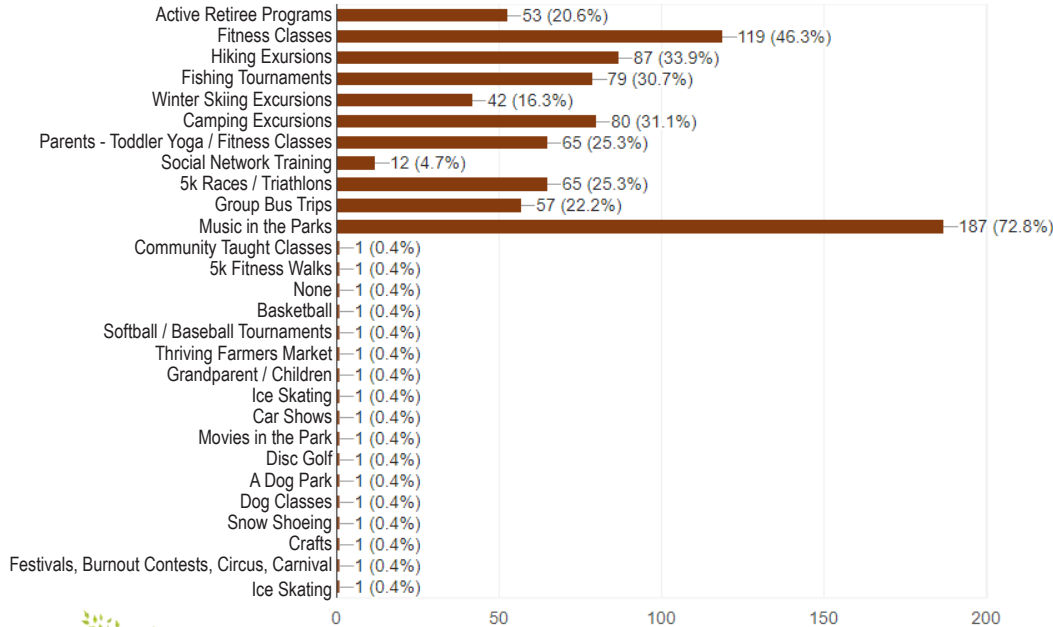
What new, renovated, or expanded park facilities would you support?

257 responses



Would any of these programs or activities interest you?

257 responses

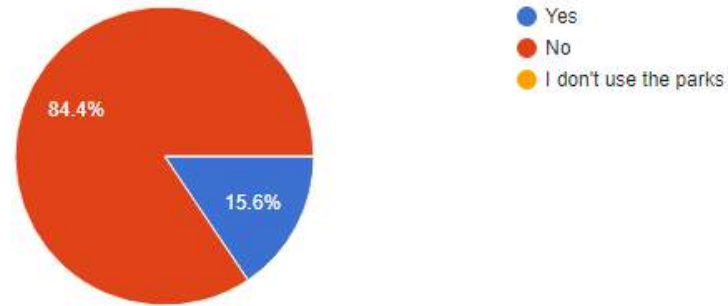


Survey Responses

Participation

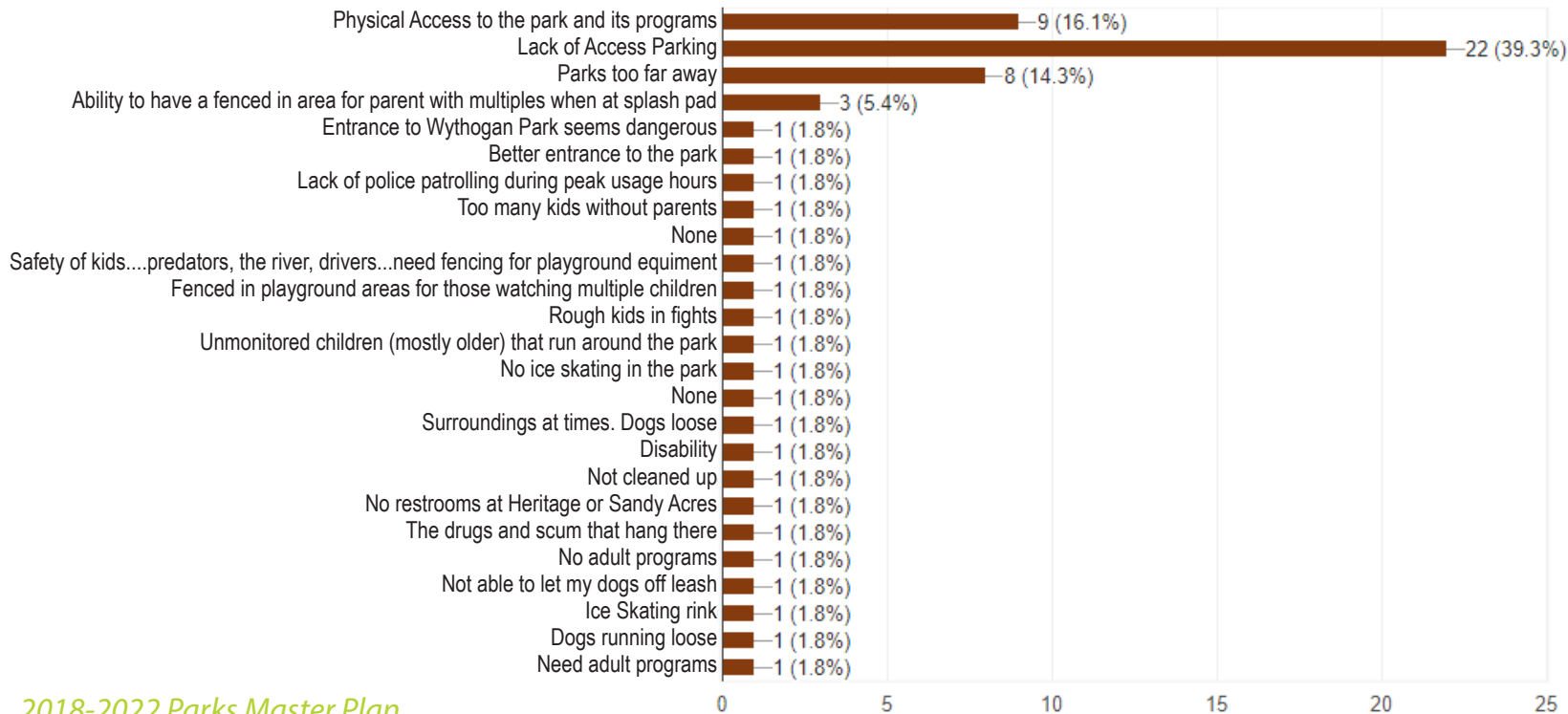
Is there anything that prevents or restricts your use of the parks?

257 responses



If yes, do any of these physical barriers restrict or prevent your using the parks or programs?

56 responses

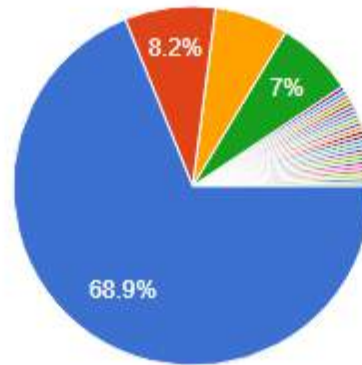


Survey Responses

Participation

What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using the parks or programs more often?

257 responses



- Lack of time
- Poor health/mobility
- Can't afford the programs
- Lack of interest/don't want to
- this question does not apply to me
- I go to the park about 3 or 4 times a...
- The disgusting people
- Live in North Judson
- Dont know when they are
- Lack of fencing from predators, the...
- We are tgere more in sprung summ...
- Uncomfortable going alone.
- Handicap accessible park equipment
- The lack of supervision of children a...
- Lack of supervision for children. Kid...
- Don't know about them
- Parking and the access point to the...
- no zumba-iceskating ring.
- Not knowing when programs are
- not cleaned up
- time/interest...do not enjoy the vulg...
- No pool
- Nasty
- programs need more advertisement
- no adults program.
- Lack of disc golf course
- Not alowed to allow dogs to go in baseball fields.
- need adult progams.

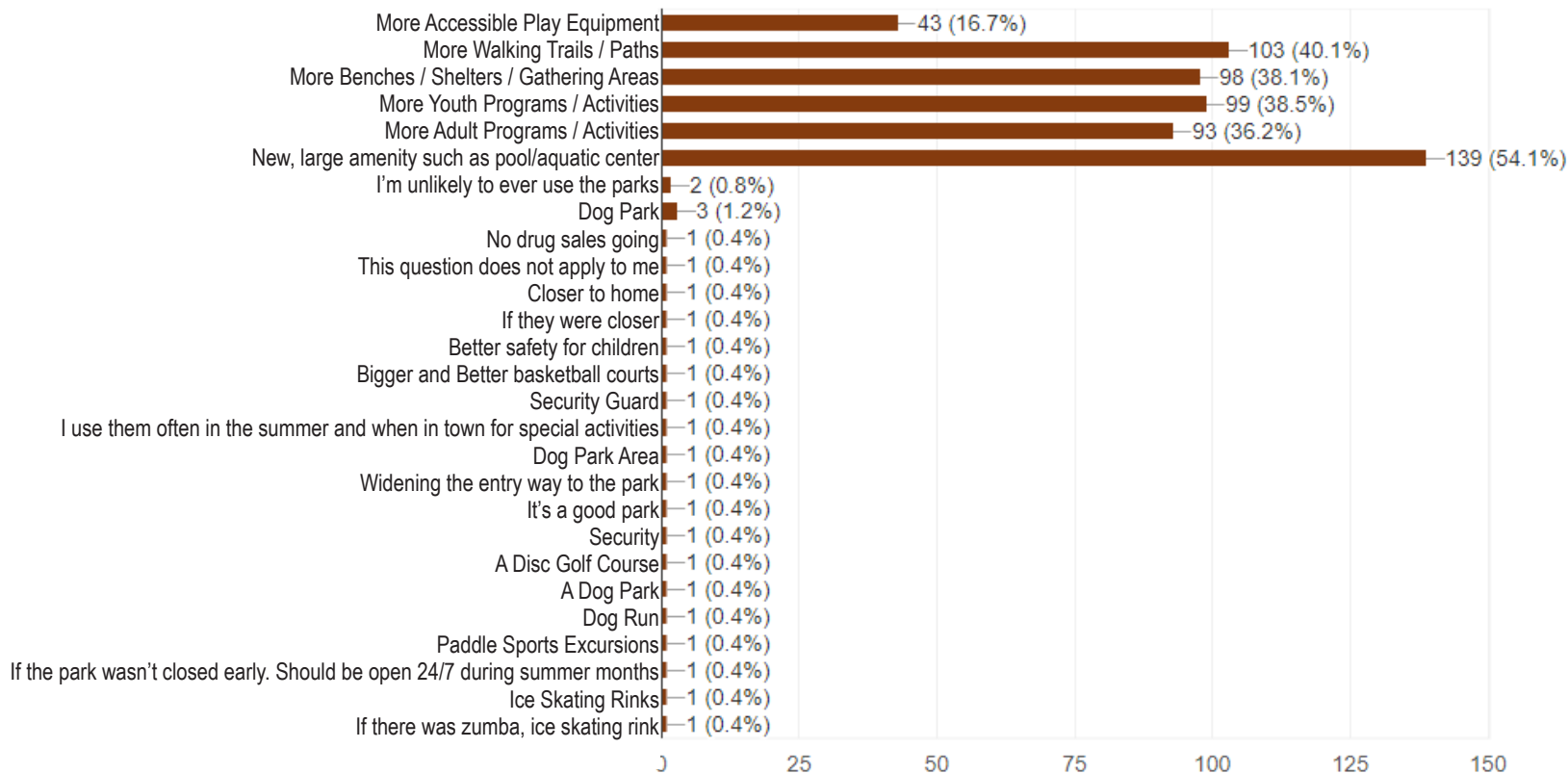


Survey Responses

Participation

I would be more likely to use the parks if the following were available:

257 responses

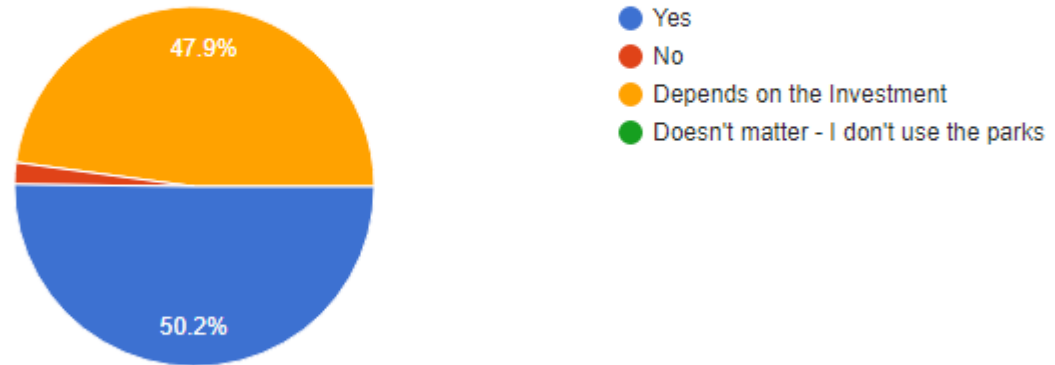


Survey Responses

Park Funding

Would you like the City of Knox to invest more money in the parks?

257 responses

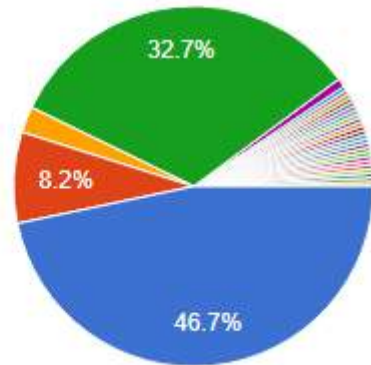


Survey Responses

Park Funding

After first utilizing all available grants and donations, how would you like Knox to pay for new amenities in the parks?

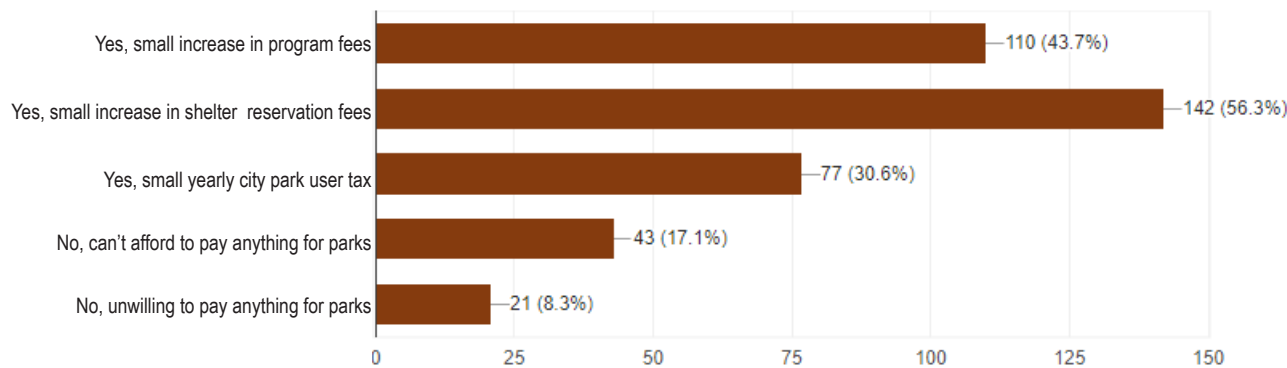
257 responses



- Use existing budget
- Municipal bonds
- New taxes/fees
- All the above
- Fund raising
- local fundraising
- Depends on which amenities they a...
- Fundraising beyond part of city bud...
- donations
- None
- Seek more volunteers and donation...
- State Grants
- Fundraiser
- Maybe fundraisers
- Fundraisers?
- fund raisers... 5 k runs etc
- donations..help make it
- Creative funding
- Fundraise and community supports.
- I don't know enough about any of th...
- fundraising
- Not new taxes! If we have new taxe...
- Grants
- Fundraising, festivals etc
- Fund raisers
- Not spend
- Fundraising
- Sponsorships, dedicated park business.
- Fundrasier

Are you willing to pay for improvements in Knox Parks using any of the following methods?

252 responses

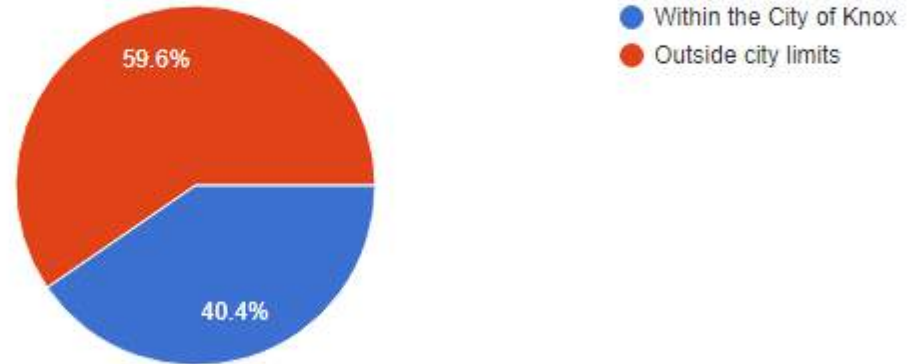


Survey Responses

About You

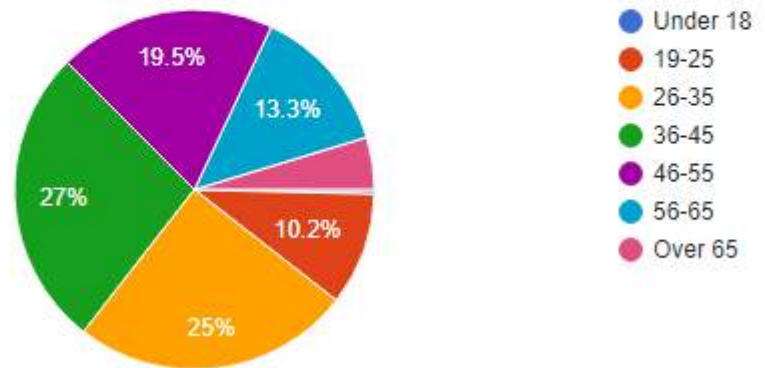
Where do you live?

255 responses



How old are you?

256 responses

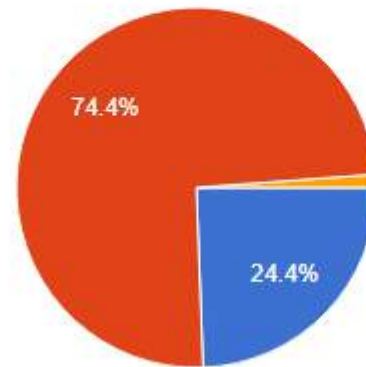


Survey Responses

About You

What is your Gender

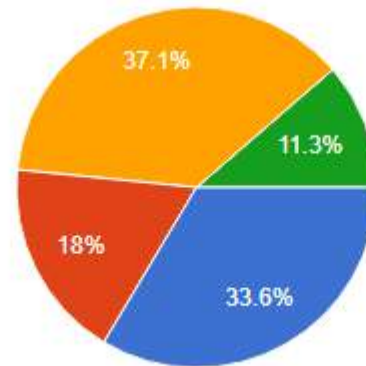
254 responses



- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

How many Children are in your household?

256 responses



- 0 - Adults only
- 1 child
- 2-3 children
- 4+ children

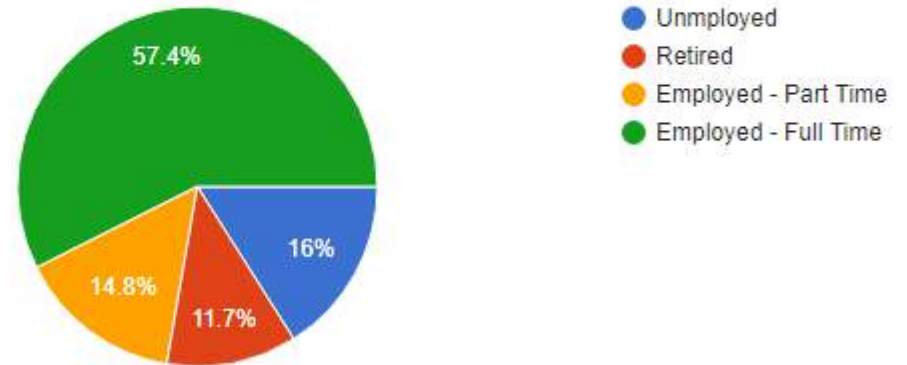


Survey Responses

About You

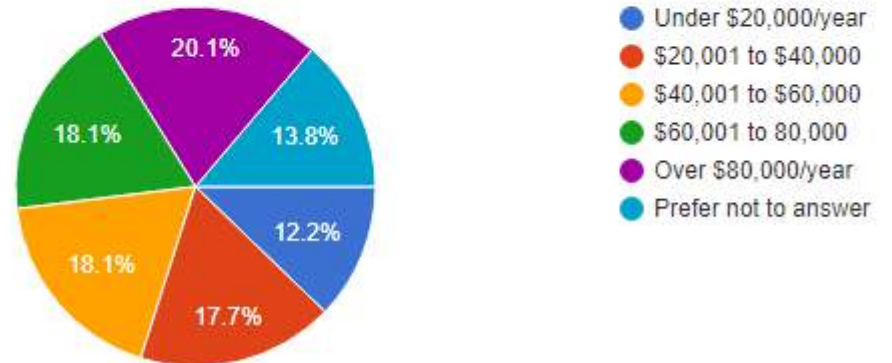
What is your employment status?

256 responses



What is your approximate household income?

254 responses

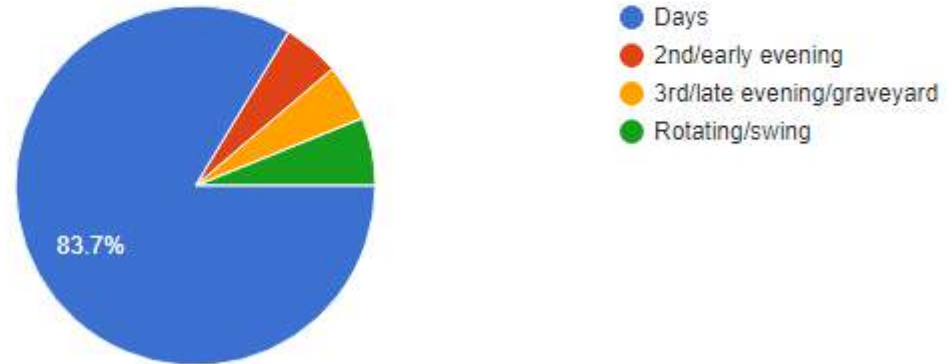


Survey Responses

About You

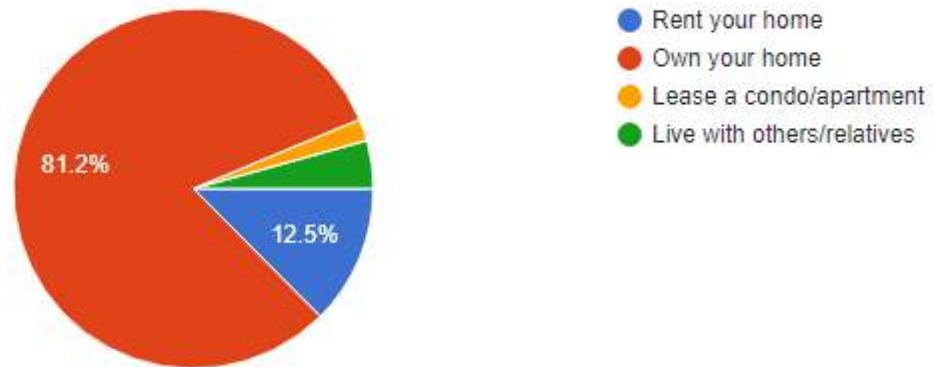
If you are employed, what shift do you normally work?

196 responses



Which of the following best describes your household situation?

255 responses



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

The progress with the parks so far has been phenomenal, with the right kind of focus and organization I believe the existing amenities will continue to provide great opportunities for community members. I would love to see the performance stage utilized more frequently for monthly events when weather permits. Any additions should be targeted at improving the facilities for children, as well as providing more adult oriented things for older community members to utilize.

a dog park would be an excellent addition to our local parks.

Skate park needs to be repaired. Canoe path needs to be made before the bridge. Could lead to river rentals.

Need to stop all the drug dealing that goes on around the basketball area and other areas in the park.

How about arts in the park, date night aka couples night, BBQ/chili cook-off, stars at night aka science night for kids, Christmas night at the park

The city is doing a great job with the parks and would like to see them do more

I think the upgrade to the parks so far are great!!! I would like to see more family fitness groups involving the park.

Overall I love the Knox park and use it frequently as I work in the Knox area. I think having more adult programs and fun events on evenings and weekends would increase the use of the park. I mentioned previously that I use the park a lot in the summer when the weather is nice out, but would most definitely use the park more in the winter if there were more fun winter activities available (an ice skating rink, Christmas music concert with hot chocolate, snowman building contest, etc.).

I feel the new additions to the park have been fantastic! Seeing families playing in the park and gathering for events like our town tree lighting have been wonderful!

I'd love to see some classes taught in the park. I'd like to see more activities that are directed towards older kids and adults as well.



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

Instead of focusing on the parks move the focus to improving downtown Knox. Make it a place where people want to go. Make it a place where people will want to invest time and money. Looks at surrounding towns (Culver, Plymouth) their downtowns are nice and welcoming. Businesses actually want to grow and start there. More growth and opportunity means more economical growth for the town aka more money to put into the parks and recreation program.

There needs to be benches near the parking lot at Sandy Acres. I broke my leg in August but still wanted to go to park with kids. Using a walker I only made it to the cement seats by the grill. Shelter was way out of reach. I have learned a lot about being disabled and where we can go and where we can't. Just need to look at it from all ways of mobility. Thank you for wonderful parks! Denise Dowd.

We need more lighting in the park!!! I can't walk in winter months at the park with my dog because it gets dark early & without the proper lights on the trails I will not walk at night.

I'm very impressed with the mayor's interest in making the Knox Parks better. My priority would be to update the softball/baseball fields so we could maybe start hosting more tournaments and softball/baseball related activities. As it is we only have 2 fields that are consistently good to play on. We could easily have 5 if we put a little more money and attention towards the remaining 3 fields.

Enjoy seeing it used more and hope that it can be maintained

More shelter over by splash pad and possibly restroom/changing room for family after getting wet at the splash pad.

This is SO timely. Just today we drove through and I thought the kids LOVE to come here, but it's SO stressful to me. Keeping my eye on 5 kids at a time usually with NO fencing or barriers anywhere. I literally HATE taking them because of that. While I'm watching one, a pervert could be taking off with another or one could get hit by a car or drown in the river. I'd love even more things to do, but... it has to be relaxing for mom (or dads or grandparents) and fun for kids.

I visit the park with my mom and family and am impressed with the improvements that have been made since my youth. It feels like there's a shift to embrace our youth there now. I think you're doing a great job!



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

I love the improvements that have been made to Wythogan Park so far! Can't wait to get restrooms by the splash pad though.

Better and safer enforcement of the law... Better basketball courts , it's the most used yet one of the poorest shape

I am very Proud of the way our park looks and all of the new improvements to our park. I think the new activities and events we've had in our park is what this town has needed for a Very long time! I feel that it is bringing our small community more together and I Thank our Mayor Dennis Estok , Park Board members and all the people that are involved in making all of this happen and keeping our parks a clean & safe place for families to enjoy!!!

More police precense take out some trees in summer trees get full and make it hard to see across the park making it feel scarier than it is in the early evening

I feel the park supervisor George Byers as done a great job and with the help of mayor estock bringing new activities to involve the community it is really refreshing

Family group activities. Ice skating is an excellent idea...where larger groups can participate at once. A good investment for our community!!

Ice skating rink and dog park would both be amazing. Just wouldn't want to spend too much money

Love the park would like to see bbq grills installed by splash Pad and cement tables for checkers or chess will kids play .

I have seen vast improvement in our parks compared to the past several years. Great job to all those who made this happen.



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

I believe that we as a community are on the right track with using the park as a great common area for families and friends to get out and have fun. With that said, I believe that we are only using 25% of the parks potential. The skate park is an eye sore and takes up space that could be used for better use. I would like to see more weekend baseball/softball tournaments. We have 5 fields, multiple concessions and plenty of parking. These tournaments could bring in the revenue that would really help catapult our park to its fullest potential...
keep up the good work!

You're doing a great job with the park!

I think the improvements are coming around really good and making entertainment more fun and relaxing.

I think it's great what has been done the past few years with all the improvements! We love all the park event days that the city plans! My daughter normally cries when we leave because she doesn't want to go. :)

Multi sport complex that can be used in the wintertime 4 leagues and training classes.

More winter activities and a pool or aquatic center would be amazing. Check out Prophetstown aquatic center. You have to pay to get in, but it's always packed. Also maybe rentals of bikes, canoes, golf carts, ECT. Having a park trunk or treat and maybe a zombie run! Ok there are some of my ideas!

We should look what surrounding parks have for kids we need more for kids in this town

Need more handicapped playground equipment

My friends and family would love to see an indoor aquatics center

We have very nice parks and they have been getting nicer. I really have no complaints but if more is offered, I'm sure it would be welcomed by the community.

Looking good Mayor Estock

Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

Our family enjoys the family activities, festivals, and events that have been at the park. My kids love the splash pad!

safety is always an issue... lights, patrols, keeping children & adult safe... available bathrooms

We are just so lucky and blessed to have Dennis Estok as our Mayor. He has done so much more for our community for The children. We love everything he has done and look forward to see what he has planned for our community's and children's future. Thanks again Mayor Estok

Is there a park committee? Maybe advertise if so and get new memeber, new ideas

The Knox parks have a bright future.

Our parks are currently very nice and I think the main goal needs to getting people active. Park programs need to be affordable so that everyone can participate. The splash pad was a wonderful investment and the fact that it free is amazing! Keep up the good work and let's get people moving!

I just want to say, Knox has one of the best parks around. Thank you!

We love the splash pad! It it a great addition. Also love the movie nights at the park. Great family event! Maybe have some movie nights in the fall when it's not too hot or cold out.

None

The park system has improved 100% in the past year!!! I would like for things to keep moving forward. I believe the generation of ages between 20-40 years of age would agree! Don't let folks without children ruin things or spread negativity! Keep up the amazing job with our community!

Former Knox resident, with kids that still live in Knox. Splash pad is a great improvement to the park. Would love to see ice skating rink, non paved hiking trails and possibly non paved bicycle trail. Any improvement would be welcomed. I don't know if it's possible to partner with the school and provide summer open swim at the high school?



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

So pleased with all the new activities and conditions of all the parks. Great job!

Many changes have been made to the park & it's becoming really nice! I have travel anxiety. Meaning I can't really leave the premise of Knox without having a panic attack. So the park is my favorite place to be in the summer since it's right here in Knox. I hope to see many more exciting changes!

I would like to be able to ride the golf cart in the park when there is special things going on, I can't stand or walk for too long at a time.

I think they have been doing a great job parks are generally neat and clean and the existing mayor has been doing a great job bringing new things to the park

I would like to see more Police Patrol. I sometimes feel uncomfortable walking the trail alone. Knox is a great town, except for the Parkview area.

Bigger shelter by the splash pad is needed with additional parking

More adult activities or fitness classes, pool, winter activities, younger children area(under 3)

I have only been to heritage park a couple of times and both times it has been very dirty and very little for the kids to do there

I love the park. I love the splash pad. I feel a pool would be a great addition. It would improve Knox and encourage people to come to the park and be more active.

Would love to see ice skating and more hiking trails available in knox

Skate park needs work. I Hate to see it not be repaired. There was a lot of kids that utilized it. Why let it go.

Better bmx/skate park, warm therapy pool

Impressed with improvements so far.



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

I am definitely all for improvement of anything in this community that benefits my children and our youth. I will be very frank when I say that any increase in taxes needs to be put towards our elementary school's poor conditions. After that it taken care of, I will gladly put my money towards improvements of the parks, but again, I am adamant that the elementary school is hurting quite a bit. Please, this is where money needs to go first.

It is an awesome park!! Wythogan and sandy acres! I wish wythogan could be expanded to the east. Additions so far have been awesome!!

You're doing a great job! Online surveys like these really help make me feel involved and connected with things going on in the community!

Our current mayor has done a fantastic job of making the park a destination! I have always thought, however, our park maintenance has done a wonderful job maintaining our parks. They always are mowed, trimmed and lovely. We are very fortunate for both!

If you were to decide to have a dog park, I recommend checking out Pear Dog Park in Leesburg Fl. It's just about perfect.

I love all the new improvements to the park, and like the concerts and movies in the park, I like having the holiday celebrations at the park. great for Families.

A nine hole disc golf course would attract a lot more younger people, a pool would also be awesome

Please please please build a dog park!!

There are many people that would love a dog run. I personally have to take my dogs out of the city to another dog park. I believe a dog run would benefit the people living in knox and their dogs.

Need to have organized paddle sport events, how many vehicles have kayaks or canoes on them going down the roads. The Yellow river is an excellent unknown to most body of water to float or paddle.
Thank you, Tony Williams



Survey Responses

Open Response Feel free to use the space below to provide any comments that you may have regarding the current status and future plans for the Knox Parks system:

79 responses

I enjoy the parks with my grandsons and most things there great with the exception of some of the newer benches. They are not comfortable and seem to have been installed at the wrong angle , slanted forwards.

I personally feel that the Mayor and park committee has went over and beyond their responsibilities and should feel EXTREMELY proud of their accomplishments!!

I would like to see more police presence in the park.

Only issue with parks are the issue.of teens not being held accountable foe their mischief

I would love to see all of the baseball/softball fields receive renovated.

The City parks overall are clearly well maintained and clean. The new stage area at Wythogan has already shown great potential for new programs and drawing more people (not just Knox residents) into the park. There is a need for youth and senior programming, more walking trails, better playground equipment and/or more, and improvements to park shelters. The skate park either needs to be maintained or turned into something functional. An unleashed dog park for dog owners would be well received, however to insure safety for owners and their dogs, it should be a membership based park (access should be restricted to those that pay their membership, show proof of rabies certs, etc.) not just a walk-in and let your dog go area. There would need to be some type of gate access like an access card. Any of these suggestions would certainly enhance the City's beautiful parks even more and improve overall use by the public.

A warm "therapy-type" pool for water aerobics and exercise



Knox Parks Survey

Please take a moment to help us improve your experiences in Knox Parks. The results of this survey will be added to the information being gathered for the 2018-2022 Knox Parks 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and will help guide our decision making for the next five years.

All results gathered in this survey will be anonymous and all information is completely confidential. No information from these surveys will be used for any purpose other than park planning.

Current Park Use

Description (optional)

Which Knox park(s) do you use?

- Only Wythogan Park
- Only Heritage Park
- Only Sandy Acres Park
- Wythogan Park and Heritage Park
- Wythogan Park and Sandy Acres Park
- Wythogan, Heritage, and Sandy Acres Parks
- I don't use any of the parks

How often do you use the Knox Parks? *

Select one response

- Every Day
- 4-5 times per week
- 1-3 times per week
- 1-2 times per month
- 1-3 times per year
- Never

Do you believe Knox Parks provide an essential service in the community? *

- Yes
- No

How would you rate the Knox Parks? *

Select one response

- Consistent high quality
- Generally good
- Quality varies from park to park
- Poor quality
- Unsure, since I don't use the parks

What do you typically do in the Parks? *

Mark all that apply

- Walk/jog/run
- Use the splash pad
- Use the skate park
- Play baseball/softball
- Picnics/Gatherings
- Other...

Please select the people with whom you most often use the parks. *

Select one response

- Just myself
- Family/children/grandchildren
- Friends
- Varies on each visit
- I don't visit the parks

Programs and Activities - Existing

Description (optional)

How often do you use Knox Parks, programs, and activities? *

Select one response

- Every Day
- 3-5 times per week
- 1-2 times per week
- 1-2 times per month
- 1-2 times per year
- Never

Which of the following programs/activities are important to you and/or your family? *

Mark all that apply

- Adult - Softball
- Adult - Other Sport
- Youth Baseball
- Youth Soccer
- Youth - Other Sports
- Yoga
- Zumba/Exercise Classes
- Running Clubs/Events
- Skateboarding
- Splash Pad/Aquatics
- Other...

How are you currently informed of Knox parks activities and programs? *

Mark all that apply

- Email
- Poster / Flyers
- City website
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Local radio
- Local newspaper
- Other...

If you attend any of our programs, with whom do you most often attend? *

Select one response

- Just myself
- Family/children/grandchildren
- Friends
- Varies on each visit
- I don't attend any programs
- Other...

How would you rate the Knox Parks programs and activities? *

Select one response

- Consistent high quality
- Generally good
- Quality varies from program to program
- Poor quality
- Unsure, since I don't use the programs

Programs and Activities - Desired

Description (optional)

What indoor programs and activities are important to you and/or your family? *

Mark all that apply

- Fitness classes
- Water fitness
- Swim lessons
- Youth summer camps
- Dance classes
- Photography classes
- Wetland/nature conservation
- Natural history of county / state / region
- Gardening
- Sustainable/green living
- None
- Other...

What outdoor programs/activities are important to you and/or your family? *

Mark all that apply

- Hiking
- Cross country skiing
- Skateboarding
- Canoeing/ kayaking
- Fishing
- Multi-use trails (walking / biking)
- Environmental education
- Bird watching/ wildlife identification
- Splash Pad/Aquatics
- Concerts/Outdoor Performances
- None
- Other...

Would any of these programs or activities interest you? *

Mark all that apply

- Active retiree programs
- Fitness classes
- Hiking excursions
- Fishing tournament
- Winter skiing excursions
- Camping excursions
- Parent-toddler yoga/fitness classes
- Social networking training
- 5K races / triathlons
- Group bus trips
- Music in the parks
- Other...

What new, renovated, or expanded park facilities would you support? *

Mark all that apply

- More playground equipment
- Ice skating rink
- Frisbee/disc golf course
- BMX track
- No-leash dog park
- New trails
- More/Improved softball/baseball diamonds
- Soccer fields
- More/Improved Picnic shelters
- Canoe/Kayak launches
- Fishing access
- New/Additional City Park
- I am satisfied with the current park facilities
- None

Participation

Description (optional)

Is there anything that prevents or restricts your use of the parks? *

Select one response

- Yes
- No
- I don't use the parks

If yes, do any of these physical barriers restrict or prevent your using the parks or programs?

Select all that apply

- Physical access to the park or its programs
- Lack of accessible parking
- Parks too far away
- Other...

What is the single most important thing that prevents you from using the parks or programs more often?

Select one response

- Lack of time
- Poor health/mobility
- Can't afford the programs
- Lack of interest/don't want to
- Other...

I would be more likely to use the parks if the following were available: *

Mark all that apply

- More accessible play equipment
- More walking trails/paths
- More benches/shelters/gathering areas
- More youth programs/activities
- More adult programs/activities
- New, large amenity such as a pool/aquatic center
- I'm unlikely to ever use the parks
- Other...



Park Funding

Description (optional)

Would you like the City of Knox to invest more money in the parks? *

Select one response

- Yes
- No
- Depends on the Investment
- Doesn't matter - I don't use the parks

After first utilizing all available grants and donations, how would you like Knox to pay for new amenities in the parks? *

Select one response

- Use existing budget
- Municipal bonds
- New taxes/fees
- All the above
- Other...

Are you willing to pay for improvements in Knox Parks using any of the following methods?

Select all that apply

- Yes, small increase in program fees
- Yes, small increase in shelter reservation fees
- Yes, small yearly city park user tax
- No, can't afford to pay anything for parks
- No, unwilling to pay anything for parks



About You

This Section is OPTIONAL, but please be assured all responses are anonymous and confidential.

Where do you live?

- Within the City of Knox
- Outside city limits

How old are you?

Select one response

- Under 18
- 19-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- Over 65

What is your Gender

Select one response

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

How many Children are in your household?

Select one response

- 0 - Adults only
- 1 child
- 2-3 children
- 4+ children

What are your children's ages

Please list each age separate by a comma (for example: 2, 5)

Short answer text

What is your employment status?

Select one response

- Unemployed
- Retired
- Employed - Part Time
- Employed - Full Time

What is your approximate household income?

- Under \$20,000/year
- \$20,001 to \$40,000
- \$40,001 to \$60,000
- \$60,001 to 80,000
- Over \$80,000/year
- Prefer not to answer