

# City of Wabash Park Department Master Plan

2010 - 2014

# City of Wabash Park Department Master Plan

**The City of Wabash  
Mayor Robert E. Vanlandingham**

**2010 Park Board**

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## Introduction

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### **Purpose and Goal of Plan**

Park Master Plans are created as guidelines and strategic planning tools to guide municipal park departments in creating policy, making fiscal decisions, and reaching long-range planning decisions. As with all the previous plans for the City of Wabash, this Master Plan update is not meant to dictate or force decision-making on the part of the Park Board, Park Superintendent, or any member of the City Government; this plan is meant to present a review of park system accomplishments since the last plan, share information gathered via public engagement processes, identify opportunities and threats that might affect the system, and recommend strategic actions to allow the department to fulfill its mission most effectively. This Master Plan follows the precedent created by earlier plans in 1970, 1976, 1998, and 2004 and is intended to continue observations and recommendations that were reported there.

The following illustrates the planning process used by the City of Wabash Park Department, staff and Park Board in partnership with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands to create the 2010 City of Wabash Park Department Master Plan Update.

- Population and demographics research (including future trends)
- Inventory of existing park system facilities
- Stakeholder interviews with community members and representatives
- Public opinion surveying
- Public meetings
- Strategy and policy review
- Review and update of action plan



**Resolution**


WHEREAS, the Wabash Park Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Indiana, and

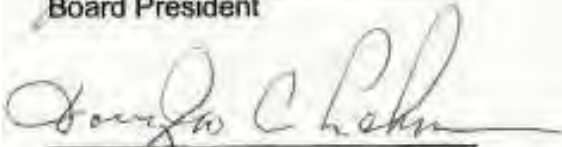
WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WABASH PARK BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the 2010 Wabash Park Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in our city.

Passed and signed this day February 9, 2011.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## Assurance of Compliance

### SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The City of Wabash, Indiana, has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

SIGNATURE [Signature]  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

John P. SALB  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE [Signature]  
APPLICANT SECRETARY

Barry Mattern  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 2-9-11

## Planning Area and Context

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### Definition of Planning Area

This Master Plan serves the City Wabash and populated areas outside and in close proximity to the city limits. This is the service area of the City of Wabash Park Department. Public engagement for this plan included the population of ZIP Code 46992, which includes a radius of roughly 2-3 miles around the city center and covers most of southern Wabash County.

### History

The City of Wabash is located in Noble Township. It is the county seat of Wabash County. The first settlers in the county were Colonel David Burr, Colonel Hugh Hanna, and Alexander Worth. Wabash County was named for the Wabash River and was initially organized in 1835. In January 30, 1833, the county was formally established. The City of Wabash was first incorporated in January 1849. Joseph A. Matlock was elected its first mayor.

On January 26, 1856, the first passenger train arrived in Wabash. The Big Four Railroad (the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad) was persuaded to build shops in Wabash, and the railroad continued to play a major role in the development of Wabash.

Wabash is most famous for being the first electrically lighted city in the world. At eight o'clock on the evening of March 31, 1880, city officials turned on four lamps that had been purchased from the Brush Electric Light Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

### Natural and Geologic Setting

Perhaps the most evident natural feature of the city is the Wabash River, which flows east to west bisecting the community just south of downtown. A significant portion of riverfront property remains undeveloped beyond its agricultural and industrial use. However, the development of a riverside trail, along with a general growing recognition of its utility and value, indicates that it may be the subject of considerable change over the next 5-10 years. Properties along this corridor are owned by the City of Wabash and the Charley Creek Foundation.

Professional geologists know the City of Wabash as the site of a famous Silurian-era fossilized reef. The reef was formed approximately 440 to 410 million years ago. It emerges as part of a railroad cut that exists just yards to the northeast of the Paradise Spring Park and has been the subject of much research, and can be viewed by the public from the east end of Paradise Spring Park. It is reputed to be one of the best examples of its kind in the world.

Elsewhere in the city, the local bedrock consists of limestone and dolomite formations with varying numbers of fossils; they are part of the Wabash formation of the Salina and Bainbridge groups of rocks. These are the rock formations that are visible in the canyon and waterway at Charley Creek Park and other parks throughout the city. Discussions among regional geologists revealed that several groups have participated in university-based field trips to Wabash specifically to view and study these geologic formations in detail. These trips are known to continue currently from Ball State University and Indiana University.

Wooded areas, creeks, and open areas help shape other aspects of the Wabash Park System. Such natural resources allow for recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife watching, and field sports. The City owns approximately 20 acres of undeveloped wooded property north of town. Both this tract of land and the property along the Wabash River hold potential for additional park and recreation opportunities.

### **Cultural Setting**

In addition to the historical context described above, the area that is now Paradise Springs Park was the site of the negotiation and signing of a treaty between Potawatomi and Miami tribes and the U.S. Government in 1826. The signing of the Treaty of 1826 marked the beginning of Anglo-American settlement of the area, including the construction of Wabash and Erie Canal. This historic event set the stage for the development of a culture based around commerce, transportation, and agriculture.

There are several festivals in Wabash County throughout the year. Many of these events take place at the Paradise Spring Historical Park in the City of Wabash. The Ole Boys' Toys Expo is held there in July; the Wabash Herb Festival takes place there in August; and the Wabash Cannonball Chili Cook-Off is held in October. The Kunkel Cruise In is held at the Honeywell Center in August. The North Manchester Funfest is held in downtown North Manchester in August.

Wabash is also home to the Wabash County Museum and the Honeywell Center. The museum is a visitor attraction and a resource used by educators in the area. It was the 2009 recipient of the Indiana Historical Society's Indiana History Outstanding Event or Project Award for its work on the Lincoln series. The Honeywell Center was developed in the 1940s by Mark C. Honeywell and is dedicated to the enhancement of social, recreational, and cultural opportunities for state and local residents. Both facilities play a large role in the tourism and culture of the city.

### **Population**

According to recent estimates<sup>1</sup>, the total population of the City of Wabash was 10,731 in July 2009. Population has declined over the past decade from an estimated 11,032 in 2005 and an estimated 11,695 in 2000. Figure 1 presents City of Wabash population estimates from 2000 – 2009, which represent a total decline of approximately 8.9%.<sup>2</sup>

Information on population by age group was available only for the County of Wabash – not at the city level. However, a county population analysis still holds a high degree of relevance to the factors that may affect the City of Wabash Park Department.

Census data<sup>3</sup> indicates all population categories are decreasing, except for individuals 45-64 and 65 and over. In 2003, residents 45-64 overcame 25-44 year olds to become the largest

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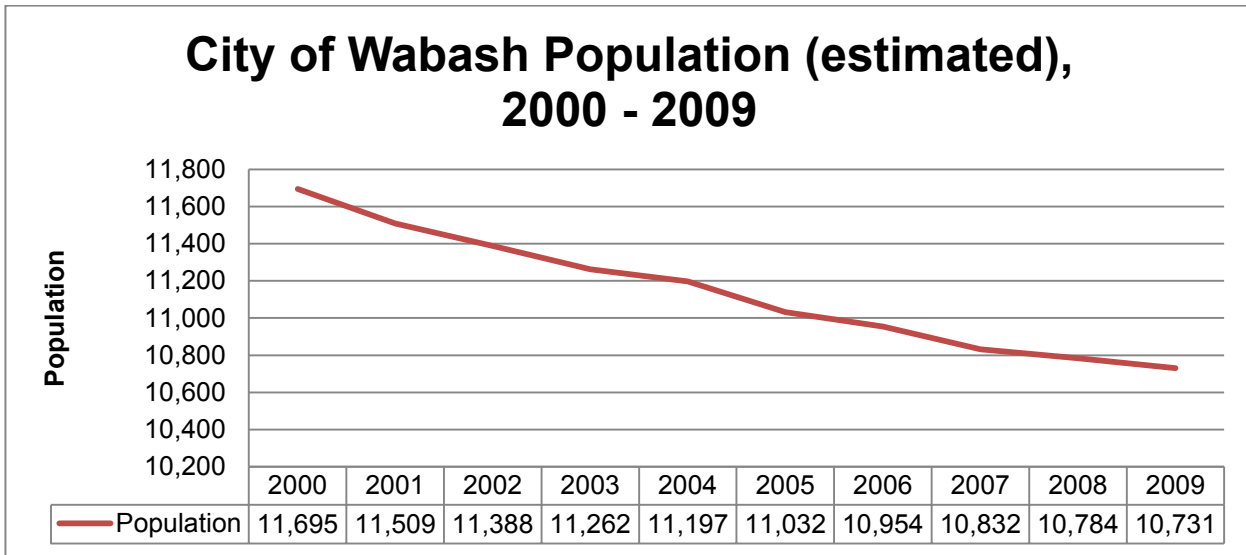
<sup>1</sup> Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed through [http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/sub\\_cnty\\_estimates/2009/e2009\\_places.asp](http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/sub_cnty_estimates/2009/e2009_places.asp).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

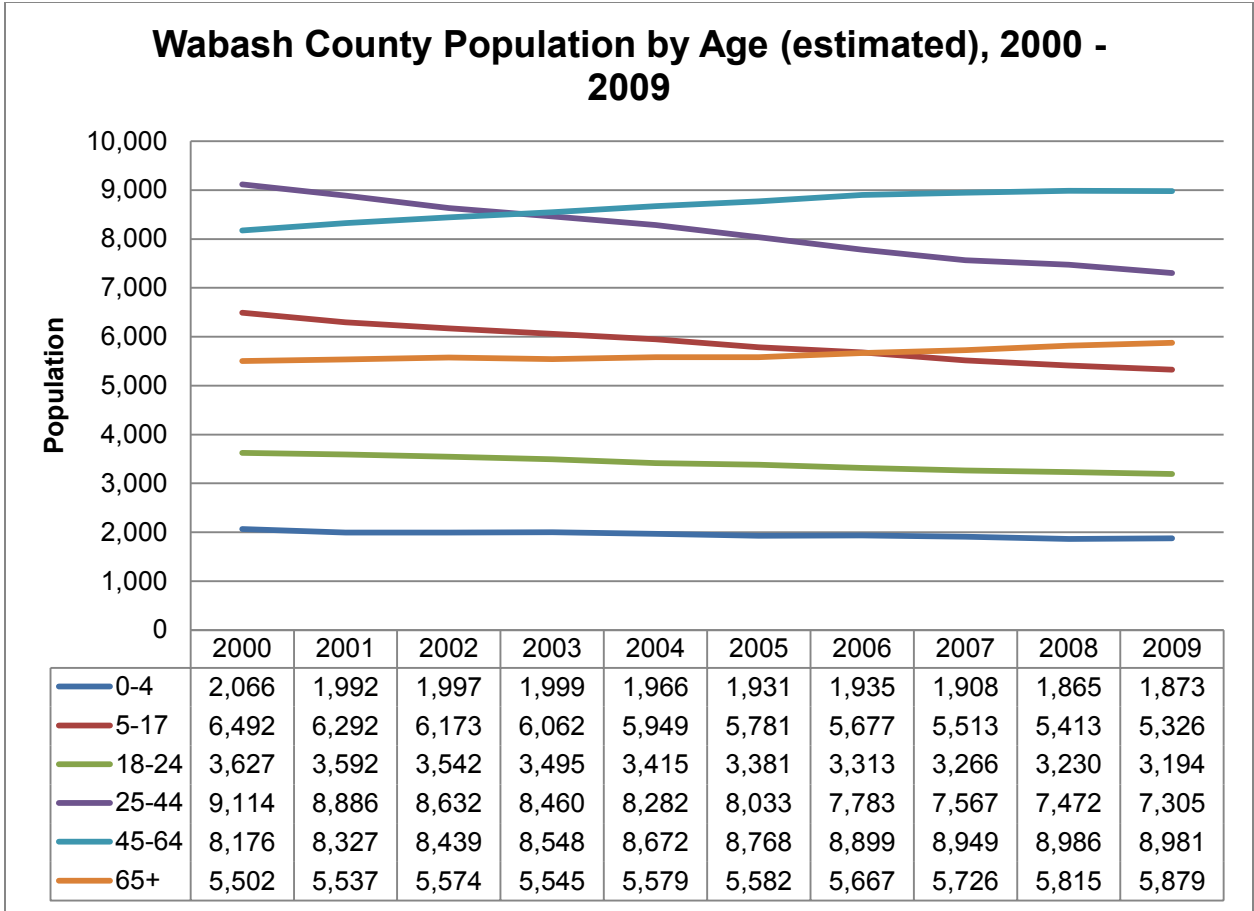
segment of the population. If trends continue, individuals 65 and older will become the second largest segment of the county population within the next few years. See Figure 2.

Population by ethnicity has remained stable over the past decade in relative terms. Data<sup>4</sup> indicates that Wabash County is overwhelmingly Caucasian. While the Caucasian population is decreasing, minority populations are increasing. This difference, albeit slight and on a different scale than the Caucasian majority, is reflective of shifting demographic trends across the state and nation.



**Figure 1: City of Wabash Population (estimated), 2000-2009.**

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 2: Wabash County Population by Age (estimated), 2000-2009**

Year	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Native Pacific	Two or More Races	Total
2000	34,242	147	229	144	12	203	34,977
2001	33,873	152	232	147	12	210	34,626
2002	33,572	179	232	147	12	215	34,357
2003	33,309	184	233	149	12	222	34,109
2004	33,054	183	236	149	12	229	33,863
2005	32,657	188	237	149	12	233	33,476
2006	32,441	189	239	152	12	241	33,274
2007	32,091	186	240	153	12	247	32,929
2008	31,922	195	243	155	12	254	32,781
2009	31,683	199	244	157	12	263	32,558

**Figure 3: Wabash County Population by Ethnicity (estimated), 2000-2009**

In the period between 2006-2008, data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that just over half of Wabash County households consisted of a married couple. About 28% of households were of individuals, and approximately 14% were best described as “other family.” See Figure 4.

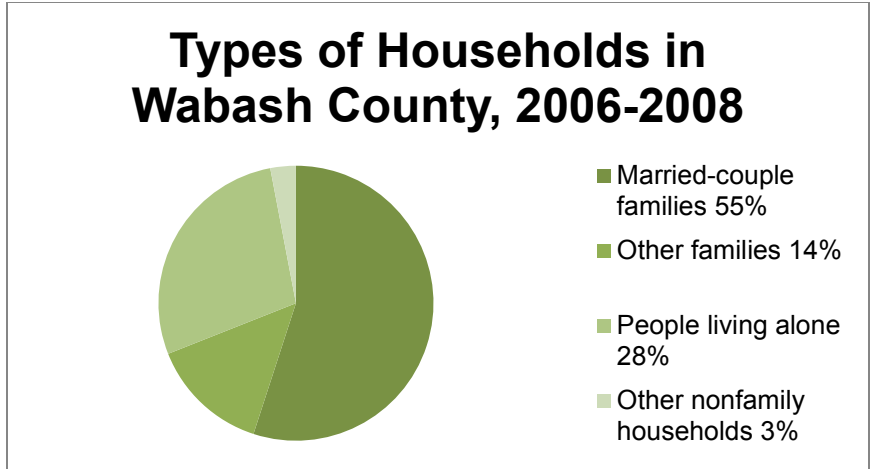


Figure 4: Types of Households, Wabash County, 2006-2008

**Education**

According to the 2000 census, 7,778 people living in Wabash were 25 years or older. Of those, 497 had less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education; 1,199 attended 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but did not graduate; 3,427 were high school graduates, including equivalencies; 1,396 had some college, but did not graduate; 397 had an associate’s degree, 521 had earned a Bachelor’s degree, and 341 had earned a graduate or professional degree.

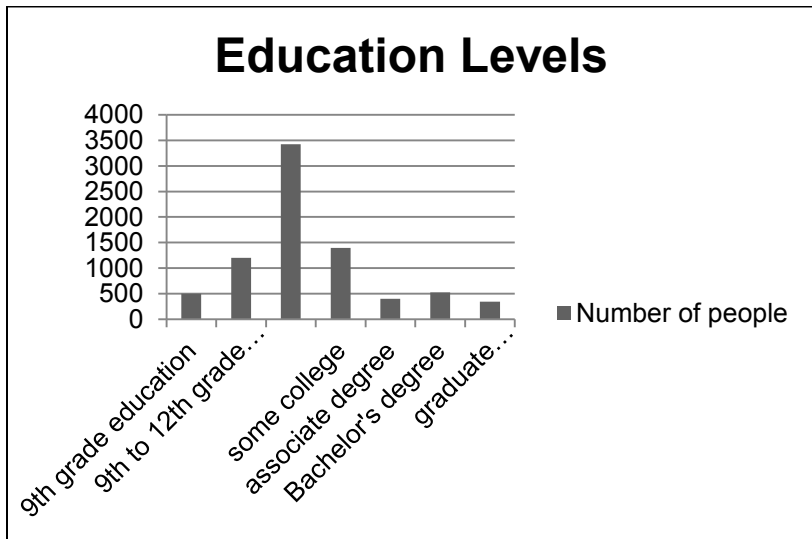


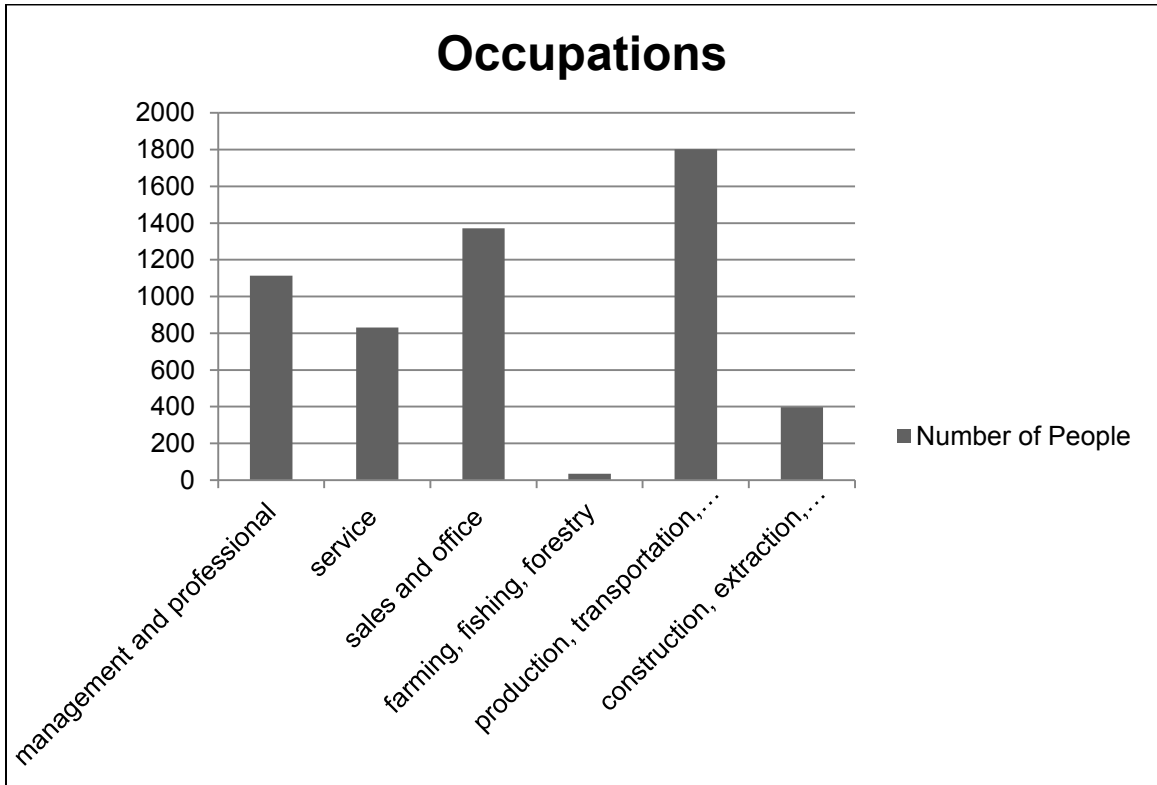
Figure 5. Education Levels in City of Wabash, 2000

**Housing**

There were 5,146 housing units in the City of Wabash in 2000; 4,813 of those were occupied. Sixty-two percent of owners have a mortgage, with a median mortgage of \$670.00. There were 1,544 specified renter-occupied units. The median rent amount was \$409.00.

**Economics**

In 2000, 9,291 people in Wabash County were 16 years or older and eligible to work. Of these, 5,897 were in the labor force. All 5,897 were in the civilian labor force, with 5,550 actively employed and 347 unemployed. Management, professional, and related occupations employed 1,113; 832 were employed in service occupations; 1,371 were in sales and office occupations; construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations employed 398 people; 35 people were employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; and 1,801 were employed in production, transportation, and material-moving occupations.



**Figure 6. Wabash County Occupations, 2000**

According to the U.S. Census estimate for 2008, for a total of 13,317 households in Wabash County, 850 households made less than \$10,000 a year. One thousand, one hundred and eleven made \$10,000 to \$14,999. There were 1,307 households earning \$15,000 to \$24,999; 1,847 earned \$25,000 to \$34,999; 2,356 households earned \$35,000 to \$49,999; 3,192 households made \$50,000 to \$74,999; 1,477 households made \$75,000 to \$99,999; 934 households earned \$100,000 to \$149,999; and 179 households earned between \$150,000 and \$199,999. Only 64 households earned \$200,000 or more in 2008. The estimated median household income was \$45,586, and the mean household income was \$51,873.



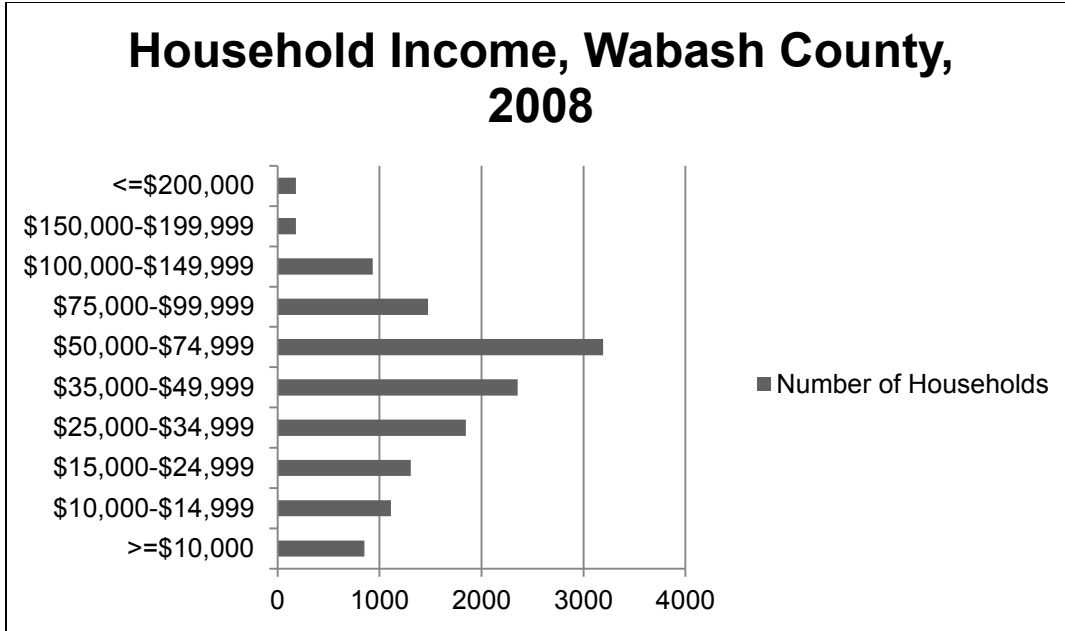


Figure 7. Household Income, Wabash County, 2008

Income and Poverty	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2008	\$31,657	45	91.6%
Median Household Income in 2008	\$46,192	49	96.2%
Poverty Rate in 2008	12.0%	43	93.0%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	16.2%	50	90.5%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2009	104	47	0.3%
Food Stamp Recipients in 2009	3,071	52	0.4%
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2009	2,203	49	0.5%

Figure 8. Wabash County Income and Poverty

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were 850 farms in Wabash County in that year; this was up from the 762 reported farms in 1997. The average farm was 236 acres in size, according to the 2007 Agricultural Census.

Of the farm operators that responded, 352 reported that farming was their principal occupation, while 498 reported that they had other principal occupations. Harvested cropland for Wabash County was reported as 170,042 acres in 2007, down from 156,217 in 1992. The market value per farm of agricultural products sold in 2007 was \$178,016. Farm production expenses in Wabash County per farm averaged \$152,683 in 2007.

### **Summary**

Overall, the population of the City of Wabash has continued to decline since the 2004 Master Plan. While the decrease in population could lead to fewer park users, it will also lead to a smaller tax base. Taken in conjunction with the fact that populations of older residents is growing, the park system will likely see a shift in park and recreation participation and demand. The loss of major industry in the area has affected income, which can decrease the willingness of some residents to buy pool admission, a major source of revenue for the Park Department. Less spending can also lead to a decrease in tax revenue for the city. This plan will consider strategies for the future in the context of this demography. Various methods could be used to maintain or increase park attendance, appreciation, and funding.

## **Existing Features and System Inventory**

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### **2010 Wabash Parks Inventory**

There are nine parks within the City of Wabash Park Department, which are generally distributed throughout the City. These parks include both small, neighborhood parks with minimal infrastructure, and larger community parks that have more buildings, restrooms, play equipment, etc.

The following table presents the existing inventory of the Wabash Park Department.

Park	Type	Total Acres	Playground Area (Yes/No)	Picnicking (Yes/No)	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Baseball Diamonds	Softball Diamond	Horseshoe Pits	Swimming Pool	Open Space Acres
City Park	City Park	35	Yes	Yes	0	2	2	1	10	0	9
Honeywell Park	City Park	8	No	Yes	8	2	1	0	0	1	3.6
Paradise Springs Historical Park	City Park	15	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
South Side Park	Neighborhood Park	1	Yes	Yes	0	2	0	0	0	0	.7
Hanna Park	Neighborhood Park	3	Yes	Yes	0	2	0	0	0	0	2.8
Broadmoor Park	Neighborhood Park	2	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4
Charley Creek Park	Neighborhood Park	2	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5
John Drook Memorial Bike and Skate Park	Community Park	3	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Master Trooper David Rich Memorial Park	Neighborhood Park	0.25	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.25
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>

**Figure 9: Wabash Parks Inventory, 2010**

The three pools at Honeywell Park present issues to the department. The facility was built in 1961 and is now 49 years old. It has been consistently maintained and updated over the years, but it will soon need some major attention. Current issues include:

- Replacement of the majority of the original concrete deck. The present deck is very uneven, cracked, chipped, etc. Sand fill (under deck) has settled and will need to be addressed.
- Inspection and replacement (as needed) of water supply lines around all three pools.
- Application of water barrier on the back side of the main pool walls (pool shell).
- Consideration of a separate filtration and chlorination system for the smaller pools.
- Fiberglass resurfacing of the waterslide (originally installed in 1989).

Pool attendance has also been decreasing. Total admissions in 2009 were roughly half of what they were in 1999. This decline in attendance has been consistent since 2000. Reasons for this include an aging population with fewer children, more home pools, public pools not having the same appeal they once did, and competition from the new indoor YMCA facility.

### **Accessibility**

Chapter 2, Article 8, Section 2-130 of the Wabash City Code states the City Policy on accessibility:

*The express policy of the City of Wabash, Indiana, shall be to not exclude qualified individuals with disabilities from participation in or benefiting from the services, programs, or activities of the city. It is the further policy of the City of Wabash not to discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability in the city's job application procedures, that is, in the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, and all other terms, conditions and privileges of employment with the city.*

Accessible facilities in the Wabash park system include parking at City Park, Honeywell Park, Paradise Springs Park, Southside Park, and Charley Creek Park. There are accessible trails and walkways within or leading to City Park, Honeywell Park, Paradise Springs Park, and Southside Park. Inaccessible facilities in the Wabash Park system include playgrounds and fields at Hanna Park and Broadmoor Park. A shortage of funding has prevented the City of Wabash from mitigating these barriers; however, strategies to address them are addressed in the strategic recommendations of this plan.

## Administrative Structure

The Superintendent of the Wabash Park Department reports to the Office of the Mayor and receives policy direction from the Wabash Park Board. There are six park board members. Four members are appointed by the mayor on staggering four year terms. The Wabash Carnegie Library appoints one of its board members to the park board annually. The Wabash City School Board also appoints one of its board members to the park board annually. Any member, regardless of appointment, can serve as the Board Chair.



**Figure 10: 2010 Wabash Park Department Organization Chart**

The budgets, including wages and other expenditures, are expressed in the tables below. The other expenditures category includes office supplies, gas, oil, tires, maintenance supplies, paint, attorney fees, telephone and travel fees, printing and advertising, electric, gas, water/sewage, repair services, tree maintenance, uniform service, and subscriptions and dues for the park department. The other expenditures category for the pool includes office supplies, repair supplies, paint, chemicals, telephone, printing and advertising, electric, gas, water/sewage, repair services, and miscellaneous equipment.

Year	Superintendent Wages	Foreman Wages	Seasonal Wages	Other Expenditures	Total Expenditures	Wages as a Percent of Total Budget
2004	\$40,978	\$26,924	\$51,550	\$48,460	\$167,912	71.1%
2005	\$42,207	\$31,096	\$57,139	\$47,961	\$178,403	73.1%
2006	\$44,595	\$32,050	\$51,263	\$59,468	\$187,376	68.3%
2007	\$44,810	\$33,010	\$54,156	\$65,924	\$197,900	66.7%
2008	\$46,200	\$34,000	\$59,623	\$72,438	\$212,261	65.9%
2009	\$47,600	\$35,000	\$69,232	\$73,138	\$224,970	65.7%

Figure 11: Park Budget Trends, 2004-2009

Year	Managers Wages	Seasonal Wages	Other Expenditures	Total Expenditures	Wages as a Percent of Total Expenditures
2004	\$10,110	\$31,237	\$39,079	\$80,426	51.4%
2005	\$10,632	\$34,345	\$47,351	\$92,328	48.7%
2006	\$11,850	\$37,866	\$37,343	\$87,059	57.1%
2007	\$12,000	\$35,299	\$55,272	\$102,571	46.1%
2008	\$12,600	\$35,000	\$58,026	\$105,626	45.1%
2009	\$12,700	\$34,237	\$57,713	\$104,650	45.0%

Figure 12: Pool Budget Trends, 2004-2009

Year	Park Wages	Pool Wages	Park Expenditures	Pool Expenditures	Total Park Budget	Total Pool Budget
2004	\$119,452	\$41,347	\$48,460	\$39,079	\$167,912	\$80,426
2005	\$130,442	\$44,977	\$47,961	\$47,351	\$178,403	\$92,328
2006	\$127,908	\$49,716	\$59,468	\$37,343	\$187,376	\$87,059
2007	\$131,976	\$47,299	\$65,924	\$55,272	\$197,900	\$102,571
2008	\$139,823	\$47,600	\$72,438	\$58,026	\$212,261	\$105,626
2009	\$151,832	\$46,937	\$73,138	\$57,713	\$224,970	\$104,650

Figure 13: Park and Pool Budget Trends, 2004-2009

The Honeywell Pool had three managers in 2010, each working two days a week. The pool employed 15 lifeguards and 10 substitute lifeguards. The pool attendance and revenue is expressed in the table below.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>June</b>						
Daily Ticket Sales	\$10,165	\$10,198	\$10,052	\$8,875	\$7,925	\$7,434
Season Ticket Sales	\$7,427	\$10,844	\$12,804	\$12,191	\$11,043	\$5,169
June Total Revenue	\$17,592	\$22,616	\$23,454	\$21,066	\$19,758	\$13,606
Paid Attendance	7,349	10,844	10,779	8,832	7,899	5,798
Special Attendance*	891	605	703	653	873	890
June Total Attendance	8,240	11,449	11,482	9,485	8,772	6,688
<b>July</b>						
Daily Ticket Sales	\$7,054	\$7,665	\$6,657	\$7,328	\$6,517	\$3,833
Season Ticket Sales	\$516	\$70	\$70	\$197	\$260	\$30
July Total Revenue	\$7,570	\$7,735	\$6,727	\$4,525	\$6,777	\$3,863
Paid Attendance	7,750	9,035	8,446	6,344	6,593	3,626
Special Attendance*	790	800	1,355	915	1,075	435
July Total Attendance	16,780	21,284	21,283	16,744	16,440	10,749
<b>August</b>						
Daily Ticket Sales	\$2,053	\$3,262	\$2,637	\$2,340	\$2,037	\$2,948
Season Ticket Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
August Total Revenue	\$2,053	\$3,262	\$2,637	\$2,340	\$2,037	\$2,948
Paid Attendance	2,265	3,591	3,126	3,279	2,236	5,199
Special Attendance*	300	450	225	670	700	460
August Total Attendance	2,565	4,041	3,351	3,949	2,936	5,659
<b>Total Revenue for Season</b>	\$29,519	\$35,552	\$34,925	\$30,445	\$31,114	\$22,312
<b>Total Attendance for Year</b>	19,354	25,325	24,634	20,693	19,376	16,408

**Figure 14: Honeywell Pool Attendance and Revenue, 2004-2009**

\*Special attendance includes activities such as pool parties, swimming lessons, and lifeguard training classes.



## Public Engagement

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### Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were conducted during the site visit to Wabash on April 28 through 30, 2010. During the three days in Wabash, the Eppley Team (Jeff Dillon and Jeff Bransford) interviewed 15 different individuals representing a variety of organizations. A set of questions was asked to each of the stakeholders as a starting point to the interviews, but the stakeholders were allowed to take the conversation in any direction. The summary below reflects the common responses and general statements that were most frequently shared by several stakeholders.

### Common Themes

- **Priority on taking care of existing facilities and features** – Most respondents focused on the current quality of park maintenance, including the great job the department does with limited staff and funding. Focus should be on basic maintenance of existing parks as the highest priority for the future. Some expressed concerns that, as new facilities are being built, that additional maintenance will be needed to avoid losing quality of older facilities.
- **The community is changing** – Changing community character, including aging of the population, loss of youth, and loss of manufacturing jobs that are unlikely to return was a key theme brought up by most.
- **Key philanthropic investments have been critical to Wabash** – “The Ford and Honeywell families have been very generous – the community could not have survived without them.”
- **Wabash has been hurt by the recession** – As with most communities, the economic downturn has hit Wabash with the loss of well-paying manufacturing jobs.
- **There is a great opportunity to revitalize the riverfront and downtown business district** – Re-development with focus on Downtown Revitalization, including the River Walk Park. Extending trail from Paradise Springs Park west along the Wabash River was the number one project focus for the immediate next few years by most individuals. There were a number of elements to this, including:
  - New YMCA, new hotel
  - Museums
  - Honeywell Center
  - Focus on tourism
- **Infrastructure in the park system is aging** – The pool is a major concern, with a need for upgrades now before a complete rebuild is required. Also, there are many other park facilities requiring more upkeep as they age.
- **Succession planning for park staff is needed** - Staff will be retiring within some future date and a succession plan is needed for the next generation.

### SWOT Analysis

Based on the initial investigation of the existing parks and surrounding community along with interviews of the stakeholders, an internal SWOT analysis was performed. This looks at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing Wabash in the immediate- and near-term as well as for the long-term. Following is a summary of the SWOT analysis:

### *Strengths*

- Community generosity and giving
- Staff are highly skilled and dedicated
- Focus on maintaining what they have and being frugal
- Conservative approach to funding has enabled budget surplus
- Strong partnerships
- Spirit of the community with events and cooperation
- Strong historic Downtown with most major buildings still intact
- Strong advocates and persuaders within community

### *Weaknesses*

- Economic downturn with loss of well-paying jobs
- Aging population and loss of young people
- Volunteer leadership
- Lack of succession planning
- Aging facilities, especially pool
- Loss of white collar jobs and midlevel giving
- Lack of connectivity between attractions

### *Opportunities*

- Underemployed work force
- River Walk
- Downtown Revitalization
- Economic redevelopment focus – investment in new infrastructure
- Volunteers willing to help – Friends group and foundation
- YMCA
- Tourism growth

### *Threats*

- Economic stagnation
- Changing community – aging population with loss of young people
- Build more than can be taken care of
- Failure to keep up with aging facilities such as the pool
- Jeopardy of institutional memory

## **Public Meetings**

A public meeting was held on April, 14, 2010, at 6:00pm. Jeff Bransford and Jeff Dillon from the Eppley Institute facilitated the meeting that was held in the City Council Chambers. Twelve people were in attendance, including six park board members, the park board attorney, one city council member, two city staff members, and two members of the general public. The Eppley Team sought information on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities facing the Wabash Parks Department. The positive attitude of the people of Wabash was listed as a strength, because both the public and the Parks Department are so willing to work together and with other agencies to improve the department. The infrastructure at the Honeywell Pool is

a major concern because it will need to be replaced in the future, which will be a huge cost to the department.

It was also noted in the public meeting that changing demographics of the city, including fewer families with young children, is having an effect on the parks system. Some parks show little evidence of use. Extending the River Walk was discussed at the meeting. That option might appeal more to the city's older populations.

## Survey

### Random Sample Survey

#### *Methods*

A public survey was developed to gather information about the public's opinions, ideas, and needs for the Wabash Parks System. The survey instrument included 25 items (see Appendix H) and was administered online and on paper.

Postcards inviting participation in the survey were mailed to 730 randomly selected households in Wabash during the month of June. The postcards included instructions for completing the survey and a unique identification number, which was used to track participation. The surveys were made available online using a survey tool, but residents could request a paper copy of the survey, as well. Residents were asked to respond to the survey by July 15, 2010.

During this survey period, 27 surveys were received, a response rate of 3.7%. The project team and city officials decided to extend the deadline to August 31, 2010 to increase the number of responses, and reminder postcards were mailed out to the same survey sample as before. During the extension, an additional 12 responses were received, yielding a total of 39 participants and a final response rate of 5.3%.

#### *Results*

A summary of survey findings follows. Complete results are included in Appendix I.

- All but one respondent (n=38; 97.4%) reported having previous awareness of the Wabash Parks Department. However, all respondents (n=39; 100.0%) were aware of City Park. All but one respondent (n=38; 97.4%) was aware of Paradise Springs Historical Park. The least recognized park was Broadmoor Park (n=19; 48.7%).
- Natural areas (n=38; 97.4%), picnic areas (n=35; 89.7%), picnic shelters (n=34; 87.2%), paved trails (n=34; 87.2%), community centers (n=34; 87.2%), and historical sites (n=31; 80.0%) were identified as facilities "important" or "most important" (i.e. the two most favorable response categories) to respondents.
- Horseshoe pits (n=35; 89.7%), ice skating rinks (n=27; 69.2%), and BMX bike parks (n=27; 69.2%) were identified as facilities "somewhat important" or "not at all important" (i.e. the two least favorable response categories) to respondents.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with the facilities within the Wabash Park System. On average, 56.8% reported being "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied" (i.e. the two most favorable response categories). On average, 36.6% of participants responded that they "don't know."

- When asked how they would allocate \$100.00 to alternative park system priorities, most respondents (n=31, 80.0%) indicated that they would dedicate an average of \$58.87 to ~~im~~provements and maintenance of existing city-owned parks and recreation facilities.” The ~~ac~~quisition and development of new walking and biking trails” received the second-most number of respondents (n=26; 66.7%) willing to allocate funding and the second-highest average allocation amount (\$44.62).
- Survey participants were asked specifically about the Honeywell Pool facility, which is approximately 50 years old and in need of frequent maintenance. Of the alternatives provided, the most favored (n=18; 46.2%) management approach was ~~P~~roceed with a comprehensive reconstruction and improvement of the pool in the short term to provide new, additional, and innovative features (such as wave pools, splash pads, and/or a spray park).” The second-most favored alternative, ~~P~~roceed with rehabilitating the pool in the short term to maintain the same level and quality of experience and so as to avoid a large unexpected cost later,” had four fewer supporters (n=14; 35.9%).

### Non-Random Public Survey

#### *Methods*

The survey was opened to the general public after the random sampling period was over. These responses were kept separate from the random sample responses. The general comment period lasted until September 21, 2010. A press release was sent to the newspaper to advertise this open comment period. During this phase, 43 residents completed the survey.

#### *Results*

A summary of survey findings follows. Complete results are included in Appendix J.

- All but one respondent (n=42; 97.7%) reported having previous awareness of the Wabash Parks Department. However, all respondents (n=43; 100.0%) were aware of City Park and Paradise Springs Historical Park. The least recognized park was Broadmoor Park (n=28; 65.1%).
- Picnic areas (n=40; 93.0%), picnic shelters (n=40; 93.0%), natural areas (n=37; 86.0%), historical sites (n=35; 81.4%), swimming pools (n=33; 76.7%), and paved trails (n=32; 74.4%) were identified as facilities ~~im~~portant” or ~~most~~ important” (i.e. the two most favorable response categories) to respondents.
- Horseshoe pits (n=30; 71.4%), BMX bike parks (n=29; 69.0%), and skate parks (n=25; 59.5%) were identified as facilities ~~some~~what important” or ~~not~~ at all important” (i.e. the two least favorable response categories) to respondents.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with the facilities within the Wabash Park System. On average, 63.9% reported being ~~some~~what satisfied” or “very satisfied” (i.e. the two most favorable response categories). On average, 26.0% of participants responded that they ~~do~~’t know.”
- When asked how they would allocate \$100.00 to alternative park system priorities, most respondents (n=37, 86.0%) indicated that they would dedicate an average of \$58.76 to ~~im~~provements and maintenance of existing city-owned parks and recreation facilities.” The ~~ac~~quisition and development of new walking and biking trails” received the second-most number of respondents (n=33; 76.7%) willing to allocate funding and the second-highest average allocation amount (\$44.58).

- Survey participants were asked specifically about the Honeywell Pool facility, which is approximately 50 years old and in need of frequent maintenance. Of the alternatives provided, the most favored (n=27; 62.8%) management approach was “Proceed with a comprehensive reconstruction and improvement of the pool in the short term to provide new, additional, and innovative features (such as wave pools, splash pads, and/or a spray park).” The second-most favored alternative, “Proceed with rehabilitating the pool in the short term to maintain the same level and quality of experience and so as to avoid a large unexpected cost later,” had 14 fewer supporters (n=13; 30.2%).

### Summary

Results between the random and non-random samples were largely consistent, indicating a high degree of reliability. Awareness of the department and the major parks within the Wabash system is high, as is satisfaction with current service. However, a significant percentage of both samples reported that they “do not know” enough to assess their satisfaction with the park system, which supports the finding that many residents use parks relatively infrequently (see Question 7 in Appendix I and J).

Responses also indicate that the community generally values passive recreation resources (e.g. natural areas, picnic areas, trails) over facilities that are targeted to active users (e.g. skate parks, BMX bike parks, horseshoe pits). However, the Honeywell Pool reflects an exception to this with both samples ranking it relatively high in importance. This suggests that Wabash residents overall are happy to have the Parks Department continue to focus primarily on providing passive areas, except regarding the case of the Honeywell Pool.

While both samples indicated a preference for a comprehensive reconstruction of the pool, they did so to a different extent. A higher percentage – and a majority – of non-random sample participants favored the reconstruction approach. Both samples indicated they least desired management options that restricted maintenance to limited or as-needed repairs until an issue emerges. Similarly, over 8 out of 10 respondents from both samples expressed their priority for improving and maintaining existing park facilities over alternatives to construct new features or acquire additional land. However, both random and non-random respondents agreed that of all of the construction/acquisition options, developing new trails is most important.

### Comparison to 2004 Survey

The development of the 2004 Wabash Parks Master Plan included a public survey conducted by mail. Key consistencies between the 2004 and 2010 survey include:

- Overall satisfaction with the quality of experiences and quality of facilities presented by the Wabash park system.
- Use of walking and biking trails and desire for additional trails.
- Preference to see existing facilities repaired or maintained rather than having new facilities constructed or acquired.
- Interest in seeing the Wabash Parks Department be a facilitator of recreation programming rather than a provider.
- Interest in seeing the Wabash Parks Department seek alternative methods of funding for projects, but without the implementation of additional or higher user fees.

Key differences between the 2004 and the 2010 survey include:

- Stronger desire in 2004 for additional access to recreation programming made available in Wabash, either through or by the Parks Department. This need was expressed to a much lesser extent in 2010, likely due to the activities provided by a new YMCA facility that opened in 2009.
- Stronger preference in 2004 for maintenance for playground equipment. This desire was expressed in 2010, but not to the same extent as the previous survey. This is likely because the new YMCA facility helps to meet this need, and maintenance issues with the Honeywell Pool may overshadow playground issues.
- Desire to build a skatepark in 2004. There was minimal priority given to this need in the 2010 survey, likely because a skatepark has been added to the Wabash park system since 2004.

### **Public Presentation of the Plan**

On December 8, 2010, a final public meeting was conducted at Wabash City Hall to review the planning process and describe the draft action plan. Eight individuals, including two City staff members, attended the meeting. Hard copies of the Master Plan draft were provided to the Park Department for distribution at City Hall and the public library. Comment sheets and contact information were included with the review version.

The public comment period closed on February 9, 2011. One comment was received verbally, remarking positively on the thoroughness and feasibility reflected in the plan. The Wabash Park Board adopted the plan the same day.

### **Benchmarks**

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As part of the Wabash Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands conducted a benchmarking study. The purpose of benchmarking is to assist the planning team in setting standards for Wabash's parks and recreation facilities.

The benchmarking analysis provides an exploration of the parks and recreation facilities, programs and administration of five communities determined to be comparable to the Wabash planning area. The results of benchmarking inform the Level of Service analysis, the development of management priorities, and the creation of an action plan.

The benchmark communities selected for this analysis are similar to Wabash, but not intended to match the city exactly. Communities are chosen based on a variety of factors, including geography, size, park system attributes, available budget, and social similarities; however, communities that excel in particular areas are often included to help form goals or standards. Overall, the main purpose of benchmarking is to assist the community in comparing, contrasting, and emulating its current and conceptual programs, facilities, and administration in a measurable context.

The following cities were chosen because of their similarities to the City of Wabash.

- Huntington, IN
- Logansport, IN

- Marion, IN
- Peru, IN
- Warsaw, IN

### **Methodology**

City of Wabash staff and Eppley Institute researchers considered several cities as potential benchmarks and, through an evaluative dialogue, selected the five cities listed above for the analysis.

The Eppley Institute worked with the Wabash Parks Department to identify the system attributes to be included in the analysis. The data was collected from each community by researching agency material, requesting information via email, and conducting telephone interviews.

### **Discussion**

The following conclusions can be drawn from the results of the benchmarking study:

- The land area of the City of Wabash is very comparable to the other cities included in the study.
- The total spending per person for parks and recreation in Wabash is \$44.97, which is only slightly less than the average for all of the cities included in the study (\$46.72).
- The total parks and recreation operating budget as a percentage of the city's entire operating budget for Wabash is slightly lower than the other cities included in the study.
- Wabash has considerably fewer total park acres than the other cities in the study. With only 64 total acres, Wabash has 141.8 fewer acres than the average of other cities included in this study. However, Wabash also has a considerably smaller population than the other cities included in this study, so the lack of total acreage alone does not indicate that the population is underserved.

**Results**

	Huntington	Logansport	Marion	Peru	Warsaw	Average	Median	Wabash
Population	16,521	18,663	30,212	12,301	13,627	18,265	16,521	<b>11,166</b>
Land Area (Square Miles)	8.4	8.3	13.3	4.6	10.5	9.0	8.4	<b>8.9</b>
Total Park Acreage	183	294	210	235	107	205.8	210.0	<b>64</b>
Total Paved Trail Miles	2.00	0.50	2.25	3.00	4.75	2.50	2.25	<b>1.50</b>
Park Acreage as % of City Land Area	3.4%	5.5%	2.3%	8.0%	9.2%	5.7%	5.5%	<b>1.1%</b>
Number of Community Centers/ Pavilions	12	6	10	11	1	8.0	10.0	<b>11</b>
Number of Recreation/Fitness Centers	0	1	0	0	0	0.2	0.0	<b>0</b>
Number of Baseball/Softball Fields	5	6	7	11	0	5.8	6.0	<b>4</b>
Number of Soccer Fields	0	1	3	2	1	1.4	1.0	<b>0</b>
Number of Tennis Courts	2	2	11	0	5	4.0	2.0	<b>8</b>
Number of Skate Parks	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	1.0	<b>1</b>
Number of Dog Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Total P&R Operating Budget	\$952,304	\$598,451	\$662,507	\$192,818	\$1,860,849	\$853,386	\$662,507	<b>\$502,080</b>
Total P&R Operating Budget as % of City's Total Operating Budget	7.0%	6.0%	4.6%	1.9%	8.3%	5.6%	6.0%	<b>4.0%</b>
Total P&R Maintenance Budget	\$322,200	\$312,000	\$172,800	\$139,451	\$614,000	\$312,090	\$312,000	<b>\$241,062</b>
Total P&R Maintenance Budget as % of Department Operating Budget	33.8%	52.1%	26.1%	72.3%	33.0%	43.5%	33.8%	<b>48.0%</b>

**Figure 15: Benchmarking Results**



## LOS Analysis

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### Introduction

The purpose of this section is to identify Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks and facilities in the City of Wabash by synthesizing information and research conducted throughout the planning process. LOS standards provide recommendations for a minimum service standard for park acreage and certain facility types. The standards provide guidelines for the City of Wabash to plan and build parks and recreation facilities needed to adequately serve the community. LOS standards are intended to ensure that a balance of facilities and services are provided fairly and strategically across the community.

Application of LOS standards is not mandatory; rather, the standards should be considered as guidelines that express the desires of the community to provide a balanced and equitable distribution of facilities. The application of LOS standards is directly impacted by land supply, tax base, resource availability, willingness of constituents to fund, political support, and recreational demand. Establishing unrealistic LOS standards can have the impact of creating a system that cannot be sustained without significant additional investment.

### Analysis

The table below provides a summary of the recommended LOS standards for Wabash. The use of LOS standards for park and recreation facilities is based on national trends in the profession and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 1995 publication Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. It is important to remember that standards are based on a variety of methodologies that are subjective in nature. Ultimately, communities must reach a consensus about the amount of parkland, open space, and recreation facilities required to maintain the quality of life that is desired.

To determine the recommended LOS standards for the Wabash Parks Department, the planning team used a basic model to synthesize various research findings from the planning process. This model consisted of five basic components that were applied to each facility type to develop the LOS recommendation. Those five components included:

- Current Level of Service
- Benchmark communities range and average Level of Service
- Public engagement findings
- Population projections, demand, and trends
- Administrative and financial trends

Facility	Wabash Current (real terms)	Wabash Current LOS (per 1,000)	Benchmark LOS Range (per 1,000)	Benchmark LOS Average (per 1,000)	Wabash Recommended LOS (per 1,000)	Wabash Recommended (real terms)
<b>Park System Acreage</b>	64.00	5.73	6.95 <sup>c</sup> - 19.10 <sup>d</sup>	12.15	6.50	72.58
<b>Paved Trails (miles)</b>	1.50	0.13	0.03 <sup>b</sup> - 0.35 <sup>e</sup>	0.16	0.24	2.68
<b>Community Centers &amp; Pavilions</b>	11	0.99	0.07 <sup>e</sup> - 0.89 <sup>d</sup>	0.47	0.99	11
<b>Recreation &amp; Fitness Centers</b>	0	0.00	0.00 <sup>acde</sup> - 0.05 <sup>b</sup>	0.01	0.00	0
<b>Baseball &amp; Softball Fields</b>	4	0.36	0.00 <sup>e</sup> - 0.89 <sup>d</sup>	0.35	0.36	4
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	0	0.00	0.00 <sup>a</sup> - 0.16 <sup>d</sup>	0.08	0.00	0
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	8	0.72	0.00 <sup>d</sup> - 0.37 <sup>e</sup>	0.19	0.72	8
<b>Skate Parks</b>	1	0.09	0.00 <sup>ac</sup> - 0.08 <sup>d</sup>	0.04	0.09	1
<b>Dog Parks</b>	0	0.00	0.00 <sup>abcde</sup>	0.00	0.00	0

**Figure 16: Levels of Service Analysis of Park and Recreation Facilities (per 1,000 residents)**

<sup>a</sup> Huntington; <sup>b</sup> Logansport; <sup>c</sup> Marion; <sup>d</sup> Peru; <sup>e</sup> Warsaw

This model provides a standardized method for analyzing the information gathered throughout the planning process. Figure 11 presents a comparison of quantitative LOS standards for Wabash plus all benchmark communities, including current service levels and recommended levels. Recommendations are the product of the synthesis of quantitative and qualitative findings and are described in the sections below.

**Discussion**

Park System Acreage

The Level of Service of park system acreage for the City of Wabash (5.73 per thousand) falls outside of the range of benchmark community Levels of Service (6.95-19.10) and well below

the benchmark average of 12.15. Without considering other factors, the current LOS standard would suggest that the City strive to acquire additional parkland to become comparable to benchmark communities. However, public engagement results indicated a strong desire to prioritize the maintenance of existing facilities over acquiring and developing new ones, and there are no indications of plans to increase funding to obtain new land. Therefore, this plan recommends growth, but at a very modest level of about eight acres over the next five years. Much of this growth may be accomplished with the creation of River Walk Park, which is already under development.

### Paved Trails

The Level of Service of paved trailways for Wabash (0.13 per thousand) falls near the average of all benchmark communities (0.16). There appears to be a high degree of public support concerning trails and connectivity, and an investment to expand the trail network by approximately one mile would significantly increase the LOS. After development, trails require little maintenance and provide a powerful return on investment in terms of community support and participation. Additional mileage could position Wabash as a more desirable place to live, enhance property values, and provide additional pedestrian and bicycle safety.

### Community Centers & Pavilions

Wabash has 11 community pavilions; as a result, the current LOS for Wabash is 0.99, above the benchmark average (0.47) and above the range of benchmark communities (0.07-0.89). This plan recommends maintaining a LOS standard of 0.99, or 11 total pavilions/community centers. Public engagement results indicated that an additional large pavilion capable of hosting events would be generally well-received by the community, but it was not conveyed as a top priority. Like trails, pavilions often serve as low-cost investments that require little ongoing maintenance yet provide a flexible opportunity for multiple returns, including events, partnerships, visibility, and modest revenue.

### Recreation & Fitness Centers

Like four of the five benchmark communities, the Wabash Parks Department does not maintain or operate any recreation or fitness centers. Partner organizations such as the YMCA provide these services primarily, and with high quality according to public engagement results. The existing situation in Wabash, wherein the Parks Department provides park facilities virtually exclusively and relies upon the network of community organizations to provide recreation services, works quite effectively. This should continue to be nurtured. To that end, this plan recommends that the LOS standard remain 0.00 for recreation and fitness centers.

### Baseball & Softball Fields

Partner organizations such as the YMCA and sport leagues also play a large, important, and effective role in the provision of ball fields. The Field of Dreams complex on the north side of the city is operated by the YMCA and provides 53 acres including eight (8) fields in addition to the four (4) currently provided by the City. Given the strong working relationship between the Parks Department and the YMCA and sport leagues, this plan recommends no increase to the LOS standard for ball fields. The current LOS of 0.36 falls well within the benchmark community range of 0.00 – 0.89 and near the overall benchmark average of 0.35.

### Soccer Fields

The YMCA/Field of Dreams and local schools provide a number of designated soccer fields in Wabash, and although the Parks Department has no officially designated soccer areas there are open spaces in Honeywell Park, John Drook Memorial Park, and City Park that serve as general open space available for activities such as soccer. So, while the current LOS is currently 0.00, there is evidence to suggest that the needs of the community are being met and the actual LOS being provided is generally congruent with the benchmark communities. This plan recommends no changes in this category.

### Tennis Courts

The City of Wabash stands out among its benchmark communities in the number of tennis courts available to the public. The Parks Department's eight (8) courts provide a LOS of 0.72, well above the benchmark average of 0.19 and well outside of the benchmark maximum of 0.37. All eight of the courts are located in Honeywell Park rather than being distributed around the community; however, they are also located near Wabash High School – an area of high demand. No changes to the LOS for tennis courts are recommended by this plan.

### Skate Parks

All benchmark communities used in this analysis either had one skate park or none at all. Wabash provides one at John Drook Memorial Park, yielding a current LOS of 0.09. Based upon the population of Wabash, this also constitutes a LOS higher than any other benchmark community. This plan recommends that the LOS remain the same until such a time that public feedback reflects increasing constituent demand.

### Dog Parks

Wabash, along with all benchmark communities, does not operate a dog park. Some interviews with City staff contained inquiries about the demand and feasibility of providing a dog park in the community; however, no demand was indicated in public engagement research. Considering this, the LOS for dog parks is recommended to remain at 0.00.

## Strategies and Action Plan

### Progress since 2004 Master Plan

The Wabash Park Department has accomplished several action items since the 2004 Master Plan. These are detailed in the table below.

Task	0 – 2 Years	3 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	Potential Funding Source	Complete
Replace Timberform play equipment in Southside Park	⊙			Operating budget	Yes; Timberform removed.
Create Friends of Wabash Parks' group	⊙			Operating budget; volunteer time/labor	No
Re-paint graffiti-covered play equipment and picnic shelters in many parks.	⊙			Operating budget, volunteer labor, involve groups like Big Bros./Big Sisters to create "ownership" by kids	Yes
Construct new maintenance facility for year-round use	⊙			Capital budget, Donations, In-Kind Donations	Yes
Designate and create an extreme sports park area for facilities like an off-road BMX/bike park, skate park, and other features for teens and adventurous adults	⊙			Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, Endowment, Donations, In-Kind Donations, Fund-raiser events	Yes
Build an off-road BMX/Bike Park	⊙			Endowment, Donations, In-Kind Donations, Fund-raiser events	No
Repair or refurbish the big picnic shelter/stage in City Park.	⊙			Capital budget, volunteer labor, In-kind Donations, Possible Historic Preservation Grant funds	Yes

Task	0 – 2 Years	3 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	Potential Funding Source	Complete
Obtain the brownfield industrial sites near downtown and seek their remediation for conversion into parks land/facilities	⊙	⊙		Endowment, Capital budget, In-Kind Donations, Environmental remediation funds/grants that also provide for recreation	Yes
Resurface Honeywell Pool shells	⊙			Capital budget	Yes
Build a skatepark (possibly in phases as funds and land allow)		⊙		Capital budget, Endowment, Donations, In-Kind Donations, Fund-raiser events	Yes
Hire additional staff to help maintain parks—interns or temporary hourly; fill-in with volunteers/Friends Group as needed.	⊙	⊙	⊙	Operating budget, Partnerships with regional Universities/Colleges	Yes
Explore options for coordinated recreation programming between involved agencies in Wabash	⊙	?	?	Operating budget, volunteers, In-Kind Donations	No
Create Endowment with Wabash Community Foundation for future project funding	⊙			Donations, Bequests, Fund-raiser events	No
Create an off-leash Dog Park	⊙			Capital budget, Donations, In-Kind Donations	No
Explore cooperation with YMCA and its plans for a recreation facility downtown		⊙		Operating budget, Donations (relatively low-cost)	No

Task	0 – 2 Years	3 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	Potential Funding Source	Complete
Add age-appropriate new ADA/CPSC play equipment to neighborhood parks and other parks as needed	⊙	⊙	⊙	Endowment, In-kind Donations, volunteer labor, recreation grants	No
Extend Riverwalk as far as funds and property availability allow.		⊙	⊙	INDOT Transportation Enhancement and private grants. Use volunteer labor and land value for matching funds	Yes; ongoing project.
Add connector trails between Parks as funds, land availability and easements allow		⊙	⊙	INDOT Transportation Enhancement and private grants. Use volunteer labor and land value for matching funds.	No; trail plan has been developed.
Potential creation of teen activities or gathering locations to encourage teens to utilize the parks		⊙		'Youth at Risk' grants from state or federal sources	No.

**Figure 17: Accomplishments since 2004 Master Plan**

Additional work that has been completed since the 2004 Master Plan includes:

- Contact Wabash Community Foundation about Endowment
- Continue to seek variety of local and federal grants
- Continue the City takeover process for the brownfield sites near downtown
- Establish cultural trail
- Adopt a comprehensive trail plan
- Construct new roof and complete interior and exterior painting at pool bath house
- Pool filter rehabilitation project.

## Strategic Priorities for 2010-2014

The actions and priorities recommended by this plan fall into four general strategic areas. They are informed by the physical, social, historical, political, and economic context of the planning area; the park facility inventory; public meetings, stakeholder meetings, the public survey, and other forms of public engagement; the benchmark analysis; the Level of Service analysis; and research undertaken by the project team.

- **Prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing resources over the acquisition of new facilities.** An abundance of findings from the planning process suggest that the Wabash Park System focus on continuing the level of service it currently provides rather than expanding it. A decreasing population, economic recession, lack of human resources for additional management, and public support of such a policy all provide a strong basis for this strategy.
- **Respond and anticipate changing parks and recreation use patterns.** In order to remain relevant to the Wabash population over the next five years – and beyond – the Park Department will need to meet the demand of an aging population. Accessibility will be a growing consideration. Additionally, shifting demands for certain facilities such as trails may need to be recognized. And the growth of recreation opportunities provided by other organizations (e.g. YMCA) may affect the use of Wabash parks.
- **Continue to foster a network of support with key groups.** The ongoing success of the Wabash Park System depends upon a wide base of support. Strong relationships have already been forged by the Park Department, and those partnerships should be maintained. The existing network can be used to leverage the organization of volunteerism around the park system in general, or around a particular issue. Also, partnerships that are integrated in many levels and in many forms can help protect the institutional memory of the department.
- **Seize opportunities to connect the community.** With the recent completion of a trail master plan, a number of ways to facilitate physical connectivity within the city have been identified. The acquisition and/or designation of linear parkland and trailways often involves many interests and takes considerable front-end work. With the development of River Walk Park, an additional anchor will be added to the system of trails in the community. But beyond the physical connections, the opening of River Walk Park can also support the development of a social and economic connection to downtown Wabash and beyond.



**Action Schedule**

Actions that support the four strategic priorities are presented in the table below. For each action, a recommended timeline, estimated cost, and potential funding sources are listed. Additionally, the related strategic priority/priorities are indicated based upon the following:

- Priority A – Prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing resources over the acquisition of new facilities.
- Priority B – Respond and anticipate changing parks and recreation use patterns.
- Priority C – Continue to foster a network of support with key groups.
- Priority D – Seize opportunities to connect the community.

Action	Timeline (years)			Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Related Priority			
	0-2	3-5	6-10			A	B	C	D
A. Replace/remove aging play equipment to meet accessibility and safety standards									
i. Southside Park	•			\$25,000 - \$50,000	Capital funds; operating funds; grant	•	•		
ii. Broadmoor Park	•			\$25,000 - \$50,000	Capital funds; operating funds; grant	•	•		
iii. Hanna Park	•			\$25,000 - \$50,000	Capital funds; operating funds; grant	•	•		
B. Adjust parking areas to control erosion and pedestrian foot traffic									
i. City Park	•	•		\$1,000 - \$8,000	Operating funds; capital funds	•	•		
ii. Charley Creek Park	•	•		\$1,000 - \$5,000		•	•		

Action	Timeline (years)			Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Related Priority				
C. Develop accessibility transition plan for key visitation areas										
i. Broadmoor Park	•			\$2,000	Operating funds; grant		•			
ii. Charley Creek Park	•			\$1,000	Operating funds; grant		•			
iii. Paradise Spring Park	•			\$1,000	Operating funds; grant		•			
iv. City Park	•			\$2,000	Operating funds; grant		•			
D. Install signage for environmental education or historical significance										
i. Charley Creek Park		•	•	\$2,000-\$10,000	Capital funds; grant; donation	•	•			•
ii. Hanna Park		•	•	\$2,000-\$10,000	Capital funds; grant; donation	•	•			•
iii. Paradise Spring Park		•	•	\$2,000-\$10,000	Capital funds; grant; donation	•	•			•
iv. Southside Park		•	•	\$2,000-\$10,000	Capital funds; grant; donation	•	•			•
E. Develop traffic management plan for City Park		•	•	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Capital funds; grant		•			•

Action	Timeline (years)			Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Related Priority				
F. Provide connectivity for pedestrians as opportunities arise				Dependent upon associated projects						
i. Between City Park and Charley Creek Park along existing roadway	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•
ii. Connect Honeywell Park to Charley Creek Trail Connection	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•
iii. Connect new Riverwalk Trail eastward through Paradise Springs Park and along Largo Road	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•
iv. Connect new Riverwalk Trail to RV park and Drook Park	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•
v. Improve connection between Drook Park and YMCA across Carroll Street	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•
vi. Connect Southside Park to Riverwalk Trail.	•	•	•		Capital funds; grant; donation		•			•

Action	Timeline (years)			Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Related Priority			
G. Reconstruct and rehabilitate Honeywell Pool to meet demand and ensure safety.				\$320,000 in total	Capital funds; donation; grant				
i. Replace concrete deck	•	•				•	•		
ii. Replace water supply lines as needed	•	•				•	•		
iii. Apply water barrier to pool walls	•	•				•	•		
iv. Install separate filtration/ chlorination for small pools	•	•				•	•		
v. Resurface waterslide	•	•				•	•		
H. Create friends' group for Wabash Parks	•			\$2,000	Operating costs; volunteer time			•	•
I. Develop partnership plan for Drook Bike & Skate Park focusing on opportunities with YMCA		•	•	\$5,000 - \$20,000	Capital funds; cost-share		•	•	
J. Facilitate or join inter-organization recreation coordination group	•			\$1,500	Operating costs		•	•	

Figure 18: Action Schedule

## Appendices

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**Appendix A: Financial Information**

BUDGET INFORMATION		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>PARK DEPT.</u>
2007	\$11,451,380	\$650,057
2008	11,434,770	596,550
2009	11,693,285	495,280
2010	12,336,498	502,080

POOL INFORMATION		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AVERAGE REV.</u>	<u>AVERAGE ATTEND.</u>
1985-89	\$27,680	37,738
1990-94	36,100	35,945
1995-99	30,175	34,351
2000-04	36,263	24,314
2005-08	33,009	22,507

NOTE: THE AVERAGE REVENUE IS BASED ON THE 1985 AND 2000 CENSUSES

Honeywell Pool Attendance & Revenue		2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2007	2008	2009
<b>June</b>									
Daily ticket sales		\$10,823.00	\$10,166.00	\$10,198.00		\$10,061.50	\$8,876.16	\$7,925.00	\$7,434.00
Season ticket sales		\$8,342.00	\$7,428.50	\$10,844.00		12,804	12,101.00	-11,043.00	\$5,189.00
Total revenue to date		\$19,312.00	\$17,591.50	\$22,616.00		\$23,454.00	\$21,066.16	\$19,798.00	\$13,608.00
<b>July</b>									
Daily ticket sales		\$8,514.00	\$7,023.50	\$7,688.00		\$8,666.50	\$4,327.50	\$6,517.00	\$3,832.50
Season ticket sales		\$445.00	\$516.00	\$70.00		\$70.00	\$197.00	\$260.00	\$30.00
Total revenue to date		\$29,223.00	\$27,106.50	\$31,964.00		\$31,839.00	\$27,005.00	\$27,927.50	\$18,303.50
<b>August</b>									
Daily ticket sales		\$4,177.00	\$2,052.50	\$3,261.50		\$2,636.50	\$2,339.50	\$2,036.50	\$2,947.50
Season ticket sales		0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Total revenue for season		\$34,120.00	\$29,518.50	\$35,852.00		\$34,925.25	\$30,444.66	\$31,114.00	\$22,312.00
<b>September</b>									
Daily ticket sales		4,396	2,265	3,581		3,126	3,279	2,236	5,199
Season ticket sales		400	300	450		225	670	700	480
Total attendance for season		22,858	19,304	25,325		24,934	20,693	19,378	16,408

Special attendance includes activities such as pool parties, swimming lessons, and lifeguard training classes

PARK DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE REPORT 2001-2009

PARK	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Supt. Wages	\$37,500	\$38,826	\$39,784	\$40,978	\$42,207	\$44,595	\$46,810	\$48,200	\$47,600
Foreman Wages	24,639	25,379	26,140	26,924	31,096	32,050	33,010	34,000	35,000
Seasonal Wages	48,911	48,982	51,550	51,550	57,139	61,263	64,156	68,623	69,232
Office Supplies	71	83	50	239	150	98	119	289	80
Gas, Oil, Tires	4,757	5,797	6,500	7,000	8,457	8,443	10,780	11,800	8,095
Maint. Supplies	12,375	11,842	10,950	13,570	12,146	13,249	15,007	14,989	18,569
Paint	931	1,000	1,000	1,368	728	1,160	1,207	1,300	1,981
Attorney	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	900	1,200	1,200
Telephone/Travel	1,283	1,168	1,300	1,216	972	1,551	2,076	1,938	1,967
Printing & Advertising	255	346	0	259	247	195	457	199	490
Electric	7,526	6,847	6,050	7,665	8,908	7,795	8,795	9,418	9,485
Gas	911	445	900	764	2,178	1,482	1,192	1,884	1,689
Water/Sewage	1,816	1,753	3,600	2,042	2,414	3,364	6,337	0,565	7,539
Repair Services	10,180	8,623	8,150	9,175	5,280	15,720	13,907	18,388	15,994
Tree Maintenance	2,500	2,425	2,650	2,300	3,370	3,475	2,650	5,130	4,076
Uniform Service	1,212	1,432	1,800	1,444	1,753	1,547	1,267	1,520	1,092
Subscriptions & Dues	359	275	350	329	160	260	135	135	375
Total Expenditure	\$154,426	\$154,155	\$162,974	\$167,912	\$178,403	\$187,376	\$197,000	\$212,261	\$224,970
Cap. Expenditures	0	0	0	\$29,741	\$60,381	\$125,000	\$146,074	\$169,290	\$58,965

1 Year Change In Spending 9% Increase  
 9 Year Change In Spending 48% Increase

NOTE: THIS REPORT IS A SUMMARY REPORT OF EXPENDITURES ONLY. FOR FULLER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF WABASH OFFICE OF FINANCE.

Cap. Expenditures For 2010 include The Purchase Of A New Utility Tractor and Riverwalk Engineering



POOL	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Managers	\$0,000	\$9,703	\$9,710.00	\$10,110	\$10,632	\$11,850	\$12,000	\$12,600	\$12,700
Seasonal Help	31,007	34,140	31,550	31,237	34,345	37,886	39,298	35,000	34,237
Office Supplies	250	0	400	284	125	0	50	17	372
Repair Supplies	6,497	5,342	5,500	5,487	7,826	4,918	12,107	6,426	15,749
Paint	1,440	2,000	1,200	200	2,274	257	3,786	2,000	2,237
Chemicals	7,205	7,512	8,000	8,795	7,783	9,288	8,974	10,860	10,000
Telephone	521	853	650	551	898	677	704	753	877
Printing & Advertising	296	307	350	476	355	0	402	32	533
Electric	4,374	6,488	6,500	6,686	6,500	7,930	7,726	8,239	7,585
Gas	2,220	2,388	4,650	4,930	4,520	3,157	3,650	3,632	3,170
Water & Sewage	4,150	2,640	8,050	4,972	5,571	4,526	5,846	6,686	5,980
Repair Services	5,550	7,999	8,100	8,256	9,998	8,154	11,370	17,345	9,574
Misc. Equipment	614	654	400	578	1,713	733	458	2,026	1,090
Total Expenditure	\$72,166	\$79,701	\$86,680	\$80,428	\$92,328	\$87,059	\$102,571	\$105,826	\$104,660
Cap. Expenditures	0	\$20,000	\$100,000	0	\$10,968	\$92,553	\$82,786	0	\$9,000
1 Year Change In Spending									
8 Year Change In Spending									
	1% Decrease								
	45% Increase								

City of Wabash Park Department Master Plan

*Park 2010*

PAID NO. 1  
03/16/2010 07/28/21  
MARCH 2010

APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE CITY OF WABASH, INDIANA  
APPROPRIATION REPORT  
MARCH 2010

APPROPRIATION	FUND TITLE	FORWARD	CURRENT	TRANSF	ADJ	ENCL	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE	EXCISE
<b>** DEPARTMENT SUMMARY *</b>																	
2000011200	1000PARK-SUPERINTENDENT	6.00	46000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000011200	1000PARK-FORWARD WAGES	6.00	32700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000011300	1000PARK-REASONAL HELP	6.00	7330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000012200	1000PARK-HEALTH INSURANCE	6.00	9000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000012300	1000PARK-PEN	6.00	9000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000012400	1000PARK-PICA	6.00	13000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000012500	1000PARK-OFFICE SUPPLIES	6.00	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022100	3000PARK-CLAS. ON. TRIPS	6.00	16000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022200	3000PARK-REPAIR #	6.00	1900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022300	3000PARK-PART	6.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022400	3000PARK-ATTORNEY	6.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022500	3000PARK-TEL. LEADERS TRAVEL	6.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022600	3000PARK-PRINTING/REPRINTING	6.00	4000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022700	3000PARK-LEADERS/OVERTIME	6.00	6000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022800	3000PARK-EL. ELECTRIC	6.00	13000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000022900	3000PARK-HP/PC/O	6.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030100	3000PARK-WATER SERVICE	6.00	7500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030200	3000PARK-REPAIR SERVICE	6.00	18000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030300	3000PARK-TREE MAINTENANCE	6.00	5000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030400	3000PARK-LANDSCAPE SERVICE	6.00	5000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030500	3000PARK-SUBSCRIPTIONS/CD'S	6.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030600	4000PARK-PARK SPECIAL	6.00	20000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030700	4000PARK-MASTER PLAN UPDATE	6.00	20000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000030800	4000PARK-REVENUE/TAXES	6.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
** Department Subtotal																	
Fund Subtotal	304	6.00	277700.00	6300.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
** GRAND TOTAL **		6.00	277700.00	6300.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00

*Note: Part + Part 1 = Park Dept total Budget*

Pool 2010

PAGE NO. 1  
03/16/2010 07:28:30

APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE CITY OF WABASH, INDIANA

APPROPRIATION REPORT

MARCH 16, 2010

APPROPRIATION FUND SUMMARY	TAX RATE	FORWARDED	CURRENT	TRANSFERS	ADJ. BAL.	ENCUM.	EXP. MTD.	EXP. YTD.	CHECKED BAL.	UNEXP. %
<b>** DEPARTMENT SUMMARY *</b>										
2040711.000	100000-CO-MANAGERS-WAGE	1.00	13200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13200.00	100%
2040712.000	100000-REARONAL HELP	0.00	41300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41300.00	100%
2040713.000	100000-REARONAL HELPA	0.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	100%
2040712.000	999900-OFFICE SUPPLIES	0.00	380.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	380.00	100%
2040721.000	800000-REPAIR PARTS	0.00	13000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13000.00	100%
2040722.000	800000-PAINT	0.00	2300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2300.00	100%
2040724.000	200000-CHEMICALS	0.00	12000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12000.00	100%
2040731.000	300000-TELEPHONE	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	100%
2040732.000	300000-PRINTING/ADVERTISING	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	100%
2040731.000	300000-ELECTRIC	0.00	3500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3500.00	100%
2040732.000	300000-APPROX	0.00	4000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4000.00	100%
2040731.000	300000-WATER-SERVICES	0.00	4000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4000.00	100%
2040731.000	300000-REPAIR SERVICES	0.00	15000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15000.00	100%
2040742.000	600000-ASST. EQUIPMENT	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	100%
<b>** Department Subtotal *</b>										
		7	138300.00	2233.00	0.00	0.00	490.00	3000.00	172019.42	87%
<b>* Fund Subtotal 204</b>										
			128300.00	2233.00	0.00	0.00	490.00	3000.00	128319.42	87%
<b>*** GRAND TOTAL ***</b>										
			128300.00	2233.00	0.00	0.00	490.00	3000.00	128319.42	87%

## Appendix B: Stakeholder Interview Guide

City of Wabash Parks Department  
2010 Master Plan Update  
Stakeholder Questionnaire

Name:  
Date & Time:  
Interviewer:

What organization do you represent?

How familiar are you with Wabash City Parks?

How does your organization use the Wabash Park System?

Have you visited the Parks? Which Parks do you visit? How often?

What do you like most about the Parks?

What do you like least about the Parks?

Do you think there are any specific recreational needs in Wabash County and surrounding counties that could be met by the Wabash City Parks?

What do you think should be the primary purpose of the Parks?

Please rank in order of priority:

\_\_\_ Preservation of natural areas and wildlife habitat

\_\_\_ Provide outdoor recreational facilities

\_\_\_ Provide outdoor education programs

\_\_\_ Preserve historical and cultural features

\_\_\_ Provide history education programs

\_\_\_ Other purpose(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any specific programs, services or facilities you would like to see offered at the Wabash Parks?

Do you see a need to develop any of the following facilities at the Parks over the next 5-10 years?

Facility	Yes	No	Comments
Sports Fields			
Tennis Courts			
Basketball Courts			
Paved Trails			
Accessible Trails			
Skate Park(s)			
Picnic Shelter(s)			
Reservation System for Picnic Shelters and other facilities			
Multi-purpose Indoor Pavilion			
Nature Center			
Outdoor Ice Skating Rink			
Unpaved Mountain Bike Trail			
Dog Park(s)			
Historical Displays			
Reconstructed Historical Structures			
Interpretive signage—Nature			
Interpretive signage—History			
New Trails Connecting Existing Trails			
Other			

Do you think Parks users would be willing to pay fees to use new Parks facilities and programs?

Do you think park and recreation services should be self-supporting, supported by taxes, or a combination of both? Why?

The Department has hosted some events over the years, such as the ACS Relay for Life, Herb Festival, Chili for Charity Cook-off, and the Old Boys Toys Expo. Have you attended any of these events? Which ones?

Are there any types of events you would like to attend if offered at the Parks?

Do you know of any organizations, clubs or private businesses that could gain mutual benefit by partnering with the Parks? How?

Do you have any ideas how the Parks Department could improve its public image or increase its public awareness?

Do you think the Parks should do more to promote their historical features and educate visitors about those features?

Do you have any suggestions about how this could be done?

Is there anything I have not asked you, need to ask you, or you want to share with me?

**Appendix C: Newspaper Articles**



# Study on city parks gets under way



ROB EDWARDS / Plain Dealer

**MEETING** — Above: Jeff Dillon, Eppley Institute for Park and Public Land at Indiana University-Bloomington, discusses what some of the findings were from a short survey at a public hearing for the Wabash Parks Department five-year master plan Wednesday evening. Below: Wabash resident Kim Mattern makes a comment during a public hearing on the Wabash Parks Department five-year master plan Wednesday evening at city hall.

## University officials help park department

BY JOSEPH SLACIAN  
jslacian@wabashplainsider.com

Where will the Wabash Park Department be in the next five years?

Officials from Indiana University's Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Land were in Wabash this week to help local officials in trying to answer just that question.

Jeff Bransford and Jeff

Dillon oversaw an hour-long public hearing to gather information that could be used for the city's five-year master plan.

The pair sought information on the strengths of the park department, as well as opportunities it will have and things officials need to consider about the parks in the coming years.

"We hear a lot about the generosity of the people in this town and their willingness to work together," Dillon said. "That's not what we're hearing in a lot of other communities."

In fact, the positive attitude of the people of Wabash topped the list of the strengths in this area.

Also on the list were such things as strong staff in the park department and strong administrators, both in the city and on the park board, who are willing to listen.

The department's willingness to work together with the Wabash City Schools District and the Wabash County YMCA also are other positives. Bransford and Dillon were told.

But not everything discussed was positive.

Concern over the infrastructure of the Honeywell Pool was discussed at length, as was the need for new equipment at some of the 10 parks around the



community.

Park Superintendent Todd Titus noted that the pool was built in 1961, and that much of the underground piping is original.

The infrastructure, most

agreed, will need to be replaced somewhere in the future. When, no one was certain.

"The city has done, over

See PARKS / Page A1



# Parks: Pool attendance has been down in recent years

Continued from Page A1

the years, a very good job of keeping the pool up," Titus said. "But there are things there, there is infrastructure there that you can't see, that is original infrastructure. I'm talking about original piping. It's 49 years old.

"Some spring we're going to be into a repair mission which is very expensive, if some things aren't done before that happens. I think the pool, right now, appears to be fine. It was fine when we shut it down last fall. We cross our fingers every spring."

Attendance at the pool has been down in recent years. But, it was noted, there are several reasons for that, including the weather, fewer children living in the area and more backyard pools around the community.

Changing demographics of the city, Dillon said, was evident when the pair toured the various parks around the community. Broadmoor Park, he noted, had grass growing as high as a swing.

"That just shows it hasn't been used in a while," he said.

The pair also spent time discussing extending River

Walk, which could begin later this year.

A successful River Walk development, Dillon suggested, could mean the city may want to think about redeveloping the area between downtown and the Wabash River.

The public hearing, the first of two scheduled for work on the master plan, is just part of the planning process.

Dillon and Bransford interviewed some area residents about their views of the park system prior to the meeting.

Information gleaned from the interviews and the public meeting will be combined into a survey which will be sent to random residents in the coming weeks. Those asked to take the survey will receive a card with information on how to take it online or how to request a hard copy of the survey to be filled out and returned.

A second survey will be available for all residents to take. Details on that survey will be announced later.

Results from the two surveys will be compared as the pair are working on the master plan.



ROB EDWARDS /  
Plan-Deer  
**DISCUSSING  
THE FINDINGS**  
— Jeff Dillon,  
Eppley Institute  
for Park and  
Public Land  
at Indiana  
University-  
Bloomington,  
discusses what  
some of the  
findings were  
from a short  
survey at a  
public hearing  
for the Wabash  
Parks Depart-  
ment five-year  
master plan  
Wednesday  
evening.

Bransford and Dillon will return in four to six months to discuss the results and their views for the master plan during a second public meeting.

**Jim**  
**BANKS**  
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Right to Life Friends of Jim Banks



## Clean-up, changes key to parks' futures

### Master plan unveiled during board meeting

BY JOSEPH SLACIAN  
j.slacian@wabashplaindealer.com

The City of Wabash must "prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing resources" over the acquisition of new facilities, according to the preliminary draft of the Park Department Master Plan.

The plan was unveiled Wednesday night during a meeting of the Board of Park & Recreation and representatives from the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Land.

The recommendation was one of four findings in the preliminary plan.

"An abundance of findings from the planning process suggest that the Wabash Park System forces on continuing the level of service it currently provides rather than expanding it," the report continued.

Other priorities in the plan, unveiled by Eppley Institute co-director Jeff Bransford, include:

- Responding to and anticipating the changing

See FUTURES / Page A4

## Futures: Plan formulated from meetings, survey

Continued from Page A1

park use pattern.

- Continuing to foster a network of support with key groups within the city

- Seizing opportunities to connect with the community.

The plan was formulated from a series of one-on-one meetings with local residents, a public meeting, results of an invitation-only survey, and a survey opened to the community.

Prioritizing, Bransford said, is important "especially considering the decreasing population, the economic situation, the number of human resources available to the department, the number of financial resources and public support."

Bransford said the prioritization must be made in areas such as maintenance of the Honeywell Pool.

Park Superintendent Todd Titus agreed that prioritization is important, but stressed that "we're not in a crisis situation."

"When the pool shut down in August, everything was running fine," he said. "But that pool is 50 years old and some of that infrastructure has not been touched in 50 years."

Administrations, over the years, have done good jobs in keeping the pool running well, he continued, taking care of repairs as needed.

"That 50-year-old pool," he said, "I'd put it against any other 50-year-old pool that hasn't had major renovations."

But, he added, the city should consider putting together a maintenance plan that looks at various options and costs for repairs.

Bransford said in talks with the public and results

from the survey, "it is evident the pool was an important part of the community."

Titus noted that not only do Wabash residents use the pool, it draws people from communities such as Huntington and Peru.

The Master Plan is required by the state for communities that may apply for landmark or conservation funds, Bransford said. The

plan that is now being developed is an update of the 2004 plan.

Work on the final, five-year action plan is progressing and should be finished in the next few weeks, Bransford said.

Once complete, it will be available for public review and input. Once that input is received, the report will be finalized and filed with the state for final approval.

In Sports: Northfield wrestlers take Super 8 tourney title. **Page B1**

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**MONDAY**  
JANUARY 17, 2011



# Wabash Plain Dealer

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## Park Master Plan available

**Proposal now ready for public review**

**BY JOSEPH SLACIAN**  
[jslacian@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:jslacian@wabashplaindealer.com)

A proposed Master Plan for the Wabash Park Department is available for public inspection at Wabash City Hall and the Wabash

Carnegie Public Library. The plan — developed by the Eppley Institute of Parks and Public Land at Indiana University, in conjunction with the Wabash Park Department and Wabash Park Board — offers suggestions of what the department should focus on in the next five years.

Park Superintendent Todd Titus said, "I think the Eppley Institute did a good job covering the whole scope of things."

The plan, on which the public can comment on through Feb. 9, offers four key areas in which the department should tend to:

■ Continue to foster a network of support with key groups.  
■ Seize opportunities to connect with the community.  
■ Prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing resources over the acquisition of new facilities.  
■ Respond and anticipate changing parks and recreation use patterns.

The suggestions were reached following a series of interviews with members of the public, two surveys and two public meetings of the past eight months. One of the key suggestions from the meeting was maintaining and improving the current resources and facilities.

"An abundance of findings from the planning process suggest that the Wabash Park System focus on continuing the level of service it currently provides rather than expanding it," the report said. "A decreasing population, economic

See PLAN / Page A6

**Pulse** of Wabash  
Online access available to home subscribers  
All home delivery subscribers of the Wabash

## Plan: Titus reminds the public the Master Plan is a guideline

Continued from Page A1

recession, lack of human resources for additional management, and public support of such a policy all provide a strong basis for this strategy."

The department, the report notes, also must meet the demand of an aging population.

"Accessibility will be a growing consideration," it concludes. "Additionally, shifting demands for certain facilities such as trails may need to be recognized."

Programs from such as the Wabash County YMCA and other groups also may affect the use of the Wabash park system, the study contends. The report stresses the

need to maintain relationships with groups such as the Y.

"The existing network can be used to leverage the organization of volunteerism around the park system in general," it said.

Finally, the report says the department must consider ways to better connect the city with a variety of trails.

"With the development of River Walk Park, an additional anchor will be added to the system of trails in the community," it said. "But beyond the physical connections, the opening of River Walk Park can also support the development of a social and economic connection to downtown Wabash and beyond."

Titus reminded the public that the Master Plan is merely guidelines for the city, the department and the park board.

"Nothing is set in cement," he said.

The Park Board will consider the Master Plan at its Feb. 9 meeting. It will then be presented to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Such plans are needed, Titus said, when applying for various state and federal grants that will help pay for various programs.

It also helps the City Council during the budgeting process, letting it see the various needs of the department and how to budget. Those interested in making

comments on the plan may do so four ways:

In writing to the Wabash Park Department, c/o Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN 46992.  
By e-mail at [parkdept@cityofwabash.com](mailto:parkdept@cityofwabash.com)

By telephone at 563-4171.  
In person at Wabash City Hall.

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# Opinion

A 5 / WABASH PLAIN DEALER / WWW.WABASHPLAINDEALER.COM / TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011

## What do you think?

We want to hear your opinions, too. Here's how to get your voice heard.  
**Fax** 260-563-0816  
**Mail** Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 100, Wabash, IN 46787

## our take

### Take time to review, comment on park master plan

Wabash residents need to take a few minutes and visit either Wabash City Hall or the Wabash Carnegie Public Library to review the Wabash Park Department's master plan.

The plan, eight months in the making, is designed as a planning guide for the park department and the city council for the next five years. It is required by the Department of Natural Resources to be reviewed, revised and updated every five years.

Perhaps the key to the study is the suggestion the city work maintaining and improving the existing facilities.

Those findings, as were all the findings in the study, were the result of several public meetings, interviews and public and private surveys conducted by the Eppley Institute

of Parks and Public Land at Indiana University.

Preparing for an aging population and fostering relationships with the YMCA and other organizations also are important for the park department to prepare for in the coming years. Connecting the city through a city of walkways and trails also is suggested.

The report hits the needs for the city on the head.

The Honeywell Pool, for example, is 50 years old and has all the original infrastructure still in place. We have been blessed with the pool remaining open all these years. But, let's face it, one day that might not be the case. If or when the day the pool no longer is operational, the city needs to have plans in place for how to handle the

situation.

The suggestions in the report are all things that the park board, as well as the DNR, should have input on from the public.

We strongly urge local residents to review the report and offer comments in writing to the Wabash Park Department, c/o Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN 46792.

Comments also may be made via email: parkdept@cityofwabash.com; via telephone, 563-4171, or in person at Wabash City Hall.

Comments are needed by Feb. 9, when the department will consider approval of the plan before it is submitted to the DNR. Take a few minutes, review the plan, and let the department know what you think.

Local residents express their views to the editor.

Dear Editor: Adopted in 17 United States, stating what the government may not do. Anything is forbidden. A "do" is forbidden separation of church and state. Adopted in 1 clearly states: "Congress shall an establishment the free exercise

**Appendix D: Public Meeting Sign-in Sheets**

Wabash, IN Master Plan Update Apr 14, 2010  
Public Meeting Sign-In

	Name	Organization
1	Kristina Lynn	Parks Board Attorney
2	Steve Weir	School board/parks board
3	JOHN GILPIN	CITY COUNCIL
4	Joe Sencian	WABASH Rain Demore
5	Kerri Mattern	Park Board Member
6	Brian Campbell	Park Board Member
7	Bill Stauffer	Park Board
8	Jan Barrow	Pine Forest
9	Judd J...	Park Dept.
10	Kaitlyn Salb	
11	John Salb	Park Board Member
12	Bob Vandergriff	City of Wabash

**PARTICIPANT SIGN IN**

NAME	ZIP CODE	AFFILIATION (optional)
JOSEPH SLACIAN	46992	Wabash Plain Jordan
Bob Vanlegdenham	46992	Mayor City of Wabash
John Hill	46992	Park Dept.
Steve Wein	46992	Park Board
John SAB	46992	Park Board
Jon Baker	46992	Park Board
Brian Campbell	46992	Park Board
Kimberly Probst	46992	Wabash County Chamber of Commerce

Wed 08 Dec 2010



Wabash Park Master Plan Community Meeting

## Appendix E: Survey Announcement / Press Release

June 1, 2010

Wabash, Indiana

The City of Wabash Parks Department, in partnership with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University, will be surveying area residents. The intent of the survey is to allow citizens an opportunity to share their ideas, needs, and desires regarding the Wabash Parks system. In this way, the park system hopes to make better use of future facilities and attractions that will be created around existing natural elements such as the Wabash River and the Wabash "Reef" geology formation.

Postcards with the survey website address and other information will be mailed within the next month to the homes of a random sampling of Wabash residents. The Eppley Institute will compile all responses and provide a report of the results to the Wabash Parks Department.

The survey is part of a larger public engagement effort as part of the master planning process and also includes stakeholder interviews and public meetings.

Established in 1993 by Indiana University's Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies, the Eppley Institute partners with recreation, park, and public land organizations to enhance access, choice, and quality of natural, cultural, and recreational experiences.

Contact:

Jeffrey Bransford, 812-856-3870



## Appendix F: Survey Postcard



Institute for Parks and Public Lands  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
501 N. Morton St., Suite 101  
Bloomington, IN 47404

The Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, along with the City of Wabash, would like to invite you to complete a survey on the Wabash Parks System. Your participation will provide Wabash the ability to meet the needs of the public they strive to serve.

To complete the survey online, please go to the URL below.

**<http://eppley.org/wabash>**

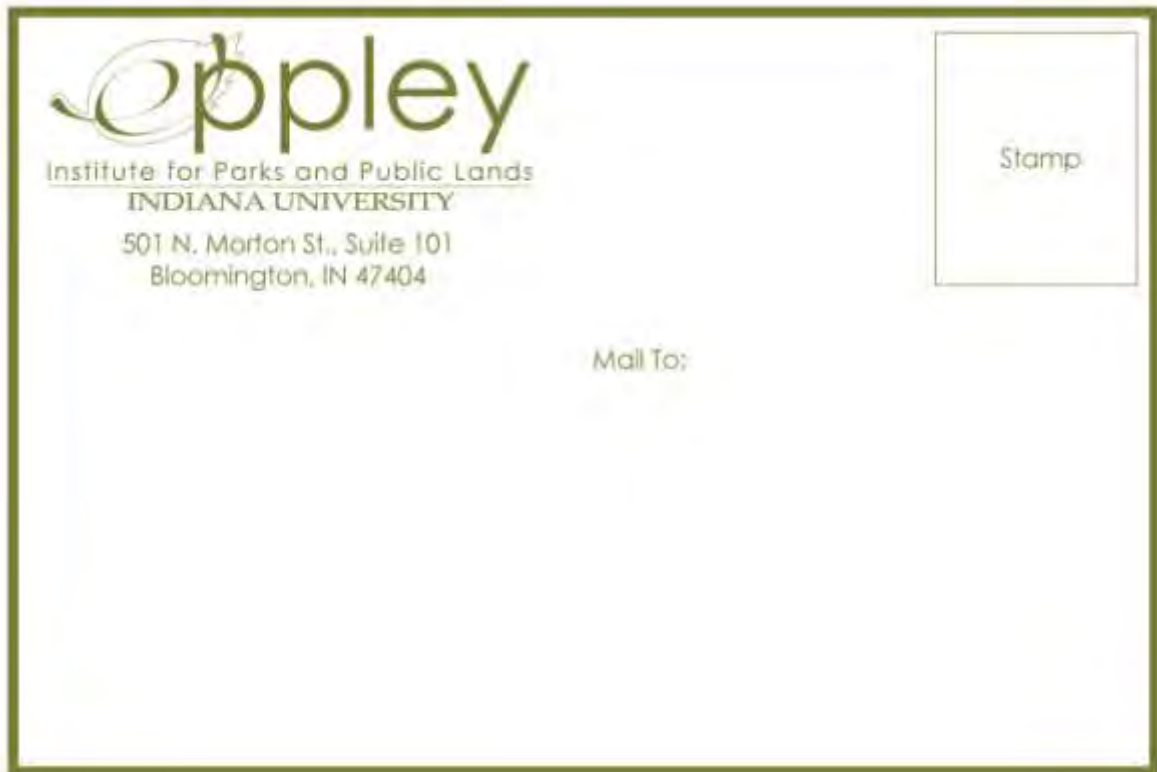
Enter the **access code** that appears underneath your name on the front of this postcard, and then follow the survey instructions.

Your answers will be completely confidential. If you prefer to answer the questionnaire on paper, you may request a paper survey by calling 812-855-3095. All surveys must be completed by July 15, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact the Eppley Institute at [eppley@eppley.org](mailto:eppley@eppley.org) or (812) 855-3095.



## Appendix G: Survey Reminder Postcard



**eppley**  
Institute for Parks and Public Lands  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
501 N. Morton St., Suite 101  
Bloomington, IN 47404

Stamp

Mall To:

As you may recall, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, along with the City of Wabash, invited your household to complete a survey about the Wabash Parks System. If you have already completed a survey, thank you for your participation and please disregard this postcard. If you have not yet completed the survey, we encourage you to do so. Your participation is an important part of a comprehensive five-year planning process to maintain and enhance park services in the community.

To complete the survey online, please go to the URL below:

**[www.eppley.org/wabash](http://www.eppley.org/wabash)**

Enter the access code that appears underneath the return address on the front of this postcard, and then follow the survey instructions. The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to August 31, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, or if you prefer to respond with a paper survey, please contact [eppley@eppley.org](mailto:eppley@eppley.org) or 812-855-3095. You may also contact Todd Titus or John Salb at the Wabash Parks and Recreation Department with any questions. Thank you again.



## Appendix H: Survey Instrument

# Wabash, IN Public Survey

## Welcome

### WELCOME

On behalf of the City of Wabash, thank you for participating in this survey about the park and recreation resources in your community. This survey is being administered by the Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands at Indiana University and will aid in the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your community. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be anonymous.

If you were assigned an access code, you will enter it on the next screen. It will not be associated with your contact information or your responses. Responses will be kept secure at the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands. Individual responses will never be attributed to an identified individual. The Eppley Institute will compile all responses and provide a report of the results to the City of Wabash.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact the Eppley Institute at [eppley@eppley.org](mailto:eppley@eppley.org) or (812) 855-3095.

Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands

501 N. Morton St., Suite 101,

Bloomington, IN, 47404

### PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary; you may refuse to participate without penalty. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty and without loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

### Access Code

1. If you were provided an access code, please enter it below.

(include dashes, e.g. 999-999-999)

City of Wabash Park & Recreation Survey

2. Prior to completing this survey, were you aware that the City of Wabash had a Parks Department?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

3. The Wabash Parks Department manages a variety of parks and facilities. They are listed below. Please select all of the ones you were aware of prior to taking this survey.

- City Park
- John Drook Memorial Bike and Skate Park
- Broadmoor Park
- Honeywell Park
- South Side Park
- Charley Creek Park
- Paradise Springs Historical Park
- Hanna Park

4. Please rate each of the following types of facilities by their importance to you and your household.

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know
Playgrounds					
Outdoor basketball courts					
Indoor basketball courts					
Golf courses					
Disc golf courses					
Baseball fields					
Softball fields					
Soccer fields					
Football fields					
Picnic areas					
Picnic shelters					
Swimming pools					
Spray parks					
Dog parks					
Paved trails					
Unpaved trails					
Horseshoe pits					
Tennis courts					
Fitness centers					
Ice skating rinks					

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know
Skate parks					
BMX bike parks					
Community centers					
Fishing areas					
Boat ramps					
Historical sites					
Educational signs					
Natural areas					

5. Consider the following types of park and recreation facilities. How often do you and members of your household use them?

	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times a week	Daily
Indoor athletic/fitness facilities					
Outdoor soccer/football fields					
Outdoor softball fields					
Outdoor baseball/little league fields					
Skate park					
Disc golf course					
Trails					
Picnic shelters/areas					
Playgrounds					
Outdoor basketball courts					
Outdoor tennis courts					
Fishing areas					
Cultural or performing facilities					

6. How often do you and members of your household use:

	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to youth					
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to adults					
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to families					
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to seniors					

7. How often do you or members of your household visit each of the following sites within the Wabash Parks System?

	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily
City Park					
John Drook Memorial Bike and Skate Park					
Broadmoor Park					
Honeywell Park					
South Side Park					

	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily
Charley Creek Park					
Charley Creek Trail					
Paradise Springs Historical Park					
Paradise Springs Riverwalk Trail					
Hanna Park					

8. Approximately how much total money per MONTH do you and members of your household spend on recreation activities?

- Less than \$10
- \$11 to \$20
- \$21 to \$50
- \$51 to \$100
- \$101 to \$250
- Over \$250
- Don't know

9. Please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following aspects of the Wabash Park System.

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
Playgrounds					
Outdoor basketball courts					
Disc golf courses					
Baseball/little league fields					
Softball fields					
Soccer/football sports fields					
Picnic shelters/areas					
Honeywell Park swimming pool					
Trails					
Tennis courts					
Stake park					
Fishing areas					
Historical sites					

10. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the Wabash Parks System?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

11. What could the Wabash Parks Department do to serve you and your household better?

12. Pretend you are a City Official with an additional \$100 available to spend on the Wabash Parks System. It is your decision on how to spend it. How would you distribute the funds among the categories below? (Must sum \$100)

- Improvements and maintenance of existing city-owned parks and recreation facilities
- Acquisition of new park land and open space
- Construction of new outdoor athletic fields and courts (e.g. softball, soccer, tennis)
- Construction or development of new indoor facilities (e.g. fitness centers, indoor courts)
- Acquisition and development of new walking and biking trails
- Total



13. If forced to choose, how would you prioritize the following categories for attention and funding?

(Please mark each option in the desired order: 1 to 4)

- Park and recreation facilities targeted to YOUTH
- Park and recreation facilities targeted to ADULTS
- Park and recreation facilities targeted to FAMILIES
- Park and recreation facilities targeted to SENIORS

14. The swimming pool at Honeywell Park is approximately 50 years old, and while it has received periodic above-ground maintenance its subsurface components are expected to require a large financial investment in coming years to address major deficiencies. Considering the potential cost, the role the Honeywell Pool plays in the community and the alternative swimming facilities available in or close to Wabash, which option would you recommend to the City?

- Continue to make limited repairs until an issue emerges that requires a financial investment, even if more expensive than if repaired in the near future.
- Proceed with rehabilitating the pool in the short term to maintain the same level and quality of experience and so as to avoid a large unexpected cost later.
- Proceed with a comprehensive reconstruction and improvement of the pool in the short term to provide new, additional, and innovative features (such as wave pools, splash pads, and/or a spray park).
- Continue to make only the repairs needed until an issue emerges, at which time allow the pool to close permanently.

15. Consider the following list of major projects and investments that are currently or potentially facing the Wabash Parks System. If it were up to you, how would you prioritize them?

(Please mark each option in the desired order: 1 to 5)

- Development of a riverfront trail and park on the Wabash River
- Development of additional trails to link parks, schools, and other attractions
- Rehabilitation of the swimming pool at Honeywell Park
- Installation of updated playground equipment in parks
- Development of parkland adjacent to existing skate park and YMCA

16. In what ways would you like the Wabash Parks System to be different five (5) years from now?

17. Have you ever volunteered your time to the Wabash Parks Department? If so, about how many hours of time did you volunteer in the past 12 months?

- Have never volunteered
- Have volunteered, but not in past 12 months
- 1 to 20 hours

- 21 to 100 hours
- Over 100 hours

18. What is the zip code of your household?

19. Please select the category that best describes the industry (or industries) of the ADULTS in your household. (Select all that apply.)

- Accounting
- Advertising
- Aerospace / Aviation / Automotive
- Agriculture / Forestry / Fishing
- Biotechnology
- Business Services (Hotels, Lodging Places)
- Computers (Hardware, Desktop Software)
- Communications
- Construction / Home Improvement
- Consulting
- Education
- Engineering / Architecture
- Entertainment / Recreation
- Finance / Banking / Insurance
- Food Service
- Government / Military
- Healthcare / Medical
- Internet
- Legal
- Manufacturing
- Marketing / Market Research / Public Relations
- Media / Printing / Publishing
- Mining
- Non-Profit
- Pharmaceutical / Chemical
- Research / Science
- Real Estate
- Retail
- Telecommunications

20. Please indicate the education level of the ADULTS in your household. Indicate the number of adults for each category. Select one response for each adult.

- Some high school
- High school or GED
- Some college
- Bachelor's degree

- Post-Bachelor's degree
- Prefer not to answer

21. Please indicate the age of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

- 0-2
- 3-5
- 7-10
- 11-13
- 14-18
- 19-25
- 26-50
- 51-70
- 71 and over
- Prefer not to answer

22. Please select the category that best describes the gender of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer

23. Please indicate the category that best describes the race/ethnicity of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian

24. What is your total household income before taxes?

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 or over
- Prefer not to answer

Thank You

25. If you would like to be contacted about volunteering for the Wabash Parks Department, please provide the information below. This information will not be associated with your survey responses.

- First Name
- Last Name
- Street Address
- City
- State
- Postal Code
- Email Address
- Phone Number

You may also contact [parkdept@cityofwabash.com](mailto:parkdept@cityofwabash.com) for volunteer information.

**Appendix I: Random Sample Survey Results**

1. If you were provided an access code, please enter it below. (include dashes, e.g. 999-999-999)

2. Prior to completing this survey, were you aware that the City of Wabash had a Parks Department?

Item	Count	Percent %
Yes	38	97.44%
No	1	2.56%

3. The Wabash Parks Department manages a variety of parks and facilities. They are listed below. Please select all of the ones you were aware of prior to taking this survey.



Item	Count	Percent %
City Park	39	100.00%
Paradise Springs Historical Park	38	97.44%
Charley Creek Park	33	84.62%
John Drock Memorial Bike and Skate Park	31	79.49%
Hanna Park	29	74.36%
South Side Park	27	69.23%
Honeywell Park	25	64.10%
Broadmoor Park	19	48.72%

4. Please rate each of the following types of facilities by their importance to you and your household.

Item	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know	Total
Playgrounds	25.6% 10	20.5% 8	17.9% 7	33.3% 13	2.6% 1	39
Outdoor basketball courts	43.6% 17	20.5% 8	20.5% 8	12.8% 5	2.6% 1	39
Indoor basketball courts	52.6% 20	13.2% 5	18.4% 7	10.5% 4	5.3% 2	38
Golf courses	35.9% 14	15.4% 6	20.5% 8	23.1% 9	5.1% 2	39
Disc golf courses	23.1% 9	30.8% 12	25.6% 10	12.8% 5	7.7% 3	39
Baseball fields	35.9% 14	23.1% 9	17.9% 7	20.5% 8	2.6% 1	39
Softball fields	31.6% 12	31.6% 12	13.2% 5	21.1% 8	2.6% 1	38
Soccer fields	25.6% 10	20.5% 8	23.1% 9	25.6% 10	5.1% 2	39
Football fields	43.6% 17	23.1% 9	17.9% 7	10.3% 4	5.1% 2	39
Picnic areas	2.6% 1	7.7% 3	48.7% 19	41.0% 16		39
Picnic shelters	2.6% 1	10.3% 4	41.0% 16	46.2% 18		39
Swimming pools	10.3% 4	23.1% 9	30.8% 12	35.9% 14		39
Spray parks	35.9% 14	15.4% 6	5.1% 2	15.4% 6	28.2% 11	39

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Dog parks	51.3% 20	15.4% 6	10.3% 4	12.8% 5	10.3% 4	39
Paved trails		7.7% 3	38.5% 15	48.7% 19	5.1% 2	39
Unpaved trails	10.5% 4	18.4% 7	42.1% 16	26.3% 10	2.6% 1	38
Horseshoe pits	55.3% 21	36.8% 14		5.3% 2	2.6% 1	38
Tennis courts	35.9% 14	25.6% 10	20.5% 8	17.9% 7		39
Fitness centers	10.3% 4	25.6% 10	43.6% 17	17.9% 7	2.6% 1	39
Ice skating rinks	46.2% 18	23.1% 9	12.8% 5	10.3% 4	7.7% 3	39
Skate parks	48.7% 19	15.4% 6	20.5% 8	12.8% 5	2.6% 1	39
BMX bike parks	51.3% 20	17.9% 7	15.4% 6	10.3% 4	5.1% 2	39
Community centers	2.6% 1	10.3% 4	43.6% 17	43.6% 17		39
Fishing areas	35.9% 14	10.3% 4	25.6% 10	25.6% 10	2.6% 1	39
Boat ramps	36.8% 14	21.1% 8	21.1% 8	15.8% 6	5.3% 2	38
Historical sites	5.1% 2	12.8% 5	48.7% 19	30.8% 12	2.6% 1	39
Educational signs	5.1% 2	10.3% 4	56.4% 22	23.1% 9	5.1% 2	39
Natural areas		2.6% 1	38.5% 15	59.0% 23		39



Average %	27.2%	18.1%	26.4%	23.9%	4.3%	1,087.0
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5. Consider the following types of park and recreation facilities. How often do you and members of your household use them?

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times a month	A few times a week	Daily	Total
Indoor athletic/fitness facilities	28.2% 11	35.9% 14	17.9% 7	15.4% 6	2.6% 1	39
Outdoor soccer/football fields	59.0% 23	20.5% 8	15.4% 6	5.1% 2		39
Outdoor softball fields	61.5% 24	35.9% 14	2.6% 1			39
Outdoor baseball/little league fields	60.5% 23	23.7% 9	10.5% 4	5.3% 2		38
Skate park	79.5% 31	12.8% 5	5.1% 2	2.6% 1		39
Disc golf course	59.0% 23	20.5% 8	12.8% 5	7.7% 3		39
Trails	7.7% 3	46.2% 18	33.3% 13	12.8% 5		39
Picnic shelters/areas	7.9% 3	57.9% 22	31.6% 12	2.6% 1		38
Playgrounds	33.3% 13	33.3% 13	25.6% 10	5.1% 2	2.6% 1	39
Outdoor basketball courts	61.5% 24	23.1% 9	7.7% 3	7.7% 3		39
Outdoor tennis courts	61.5% 24	30.8% 12	5.1% 2	2.6% 1		39

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Fishing areas	61.5% 24	15.4% 6	17.9% 7	5.1% 2	39
Cultural or performing arts facilities	13.2% 5	36.8% 14	42.1% 16	7.9% 3	38
Average %	45.8%	30.2%	17.5%	6.2%	0.4% 504.0

6. How often do you and members of your household use:

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily	Total
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to youth	23.7% 9	47.4% 18	13.2% 5	15.8% 6		38
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to adults	7.7% 3	48.7% 19	30.8% 12	12.8% 5		39
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to families	7.7% 3	51.3% 20	23.1% 9	17.9% 7		39
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to seniors	43.6% 17	35.9% 14	12.8% 5	7.7% 3		39
Average %	20.6%	45.8%	20.0%	13.5%	0.0%	155.0

7. How often do you or members of your household visit each of the following sites within the Wabash Parks System?

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily	Total
City Park	7.9% 3	57.9% 22	21.1% 8	13.2% 5		38
John Drook Memorial Bike	82.1%	12.8%	2.6%	2.6%		39

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and Skate Park	32	5	1	1		
Broadmoor Park	89.7% 35	7.7% 3	2.6% 1			39
Honeywell Park	53.8% 21	35.9% 14	5.1% 2	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	39
South Side Park	79.5% 31	15.4% 6	5.1% 2			39
Charley Creek Park	38.5% 15	51.3% 20	10.3% 4			39
Charley Creek Trail	30.8% 12	43.6% 17	25.6% 10			39
Paradise Springs Historical Park	2.6% 1	56.4% 22	35.9% 14	5.1% 2		39
Paradise Springs Riverwalk Trail	7.7% 3	46.2% 18	33.3% 13	12.8% 5		39
Hanna Park	83.8% 31	10.8% 4			5.4% 2	37
Average %	47.5%	33.9%	14.2%	3.6%	0.8%	387.0

8. Approximately how much total money per MONTH do you and members of your household spend on recreation activities?

Item	Count	Percent %
\$101 to \$250	9	23.08%
\$21 to \$50	9	23.08%
\$51 to \$100	7	17.95%
\$11 to \$20	5	12.82%
Don't know	4	10.26%
Less than \$10	4	10.26%
Over \$250	1	2.56%

9. Please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following aspects of the Wabash Park System.

Item	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know	Total
Playgrounds	2.6% 1	5.1% 2	48.7% 19	28.2% 11	15.4% 6	39
Outdoor basketball courts	5.1% 2	7.7% 3	23.1% 9	12.8% 5	51.3% 20	39
Disc golf courses	2.6% 1	5.1% 2	23.1% 9	25.6% 10	43.6% 17	39
Baseball/little league fields	2.6% 1		20.5% 8	30.8% 12	46.2% 18	39
Softball fields	2.7% 1		16.2% 6	24.3% 9	56.8% 21	37
Soccer/football sports fields	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	17.9% 7	28.2% 11	48.7% 19	39
Picnic shelters/areas	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	56.4% 22	38.5% 15		39
Honeywell Park swimming pool	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	33.3% 13	33.3% 13	28.2% 11	39
Trails	2.6% 1	5.1% 2	48.7% 19	35.9% 14	7.7% 3	39
Tennis courts	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	20.5% 8	28.2% 11	46.2% 18	39
Stake park	2.6% 1	2.6% 1	12.8% 5	17.9% 7	64.1% 25	39
Fishing areas	7.7% 3	2.6% 1	12.8% 5	17.9% 7	59.0% 23	39
Historical sites	2.6%	5.1%	38.5%	43.6%	10.3%	39

	1	2	15	17	4	
Average %	3.2%	3.4%	28.7%	28.1%	36.6%	505.0

10. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the Wabash Parks System?

Item	Count	Percent %
Good	20	52.63%
Excellent	9	23.68%
Fair	9	23.68%

11. Pretend you are a City Official with an additional \$100 available to spend on the Wabash Parks System. It is your decision on how to spend it. How would you distribute the funds among the categories below? (Must sum \$100)

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Improvements and maintenance of existing city-owned parks and recreation facilities	20.00	100.00	31	58.87
Acquisition of new park land and open space	0.00	100.00	12	32.08
Construction of new outdoor athletic fields and courts (e.g. softball, soccer, tennis)	0.00	100.00	11	19.09
Construction or development of new indoor facilities (e.g. fitness centers, indoor courts)	0.00	50.00	15	14.67
Acquisition and development of new walking and biking trails	0.00	100.00	26	44.62

12. If forced to choose, how would you prioritize the following categories for attention and funding?

Value	First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Average Rank
Park and recreation facilities targeted to seniors	4	5	8	21	3.2
Park and recreation facilities targeted to families	18	15	5	1	1.7
Park and recreation facilities targeted to adults	2	5	18	13	3.1
Park and recreation facilities targeted to youth	15	13	7	3	1.9

13. The swimming pool at Honeywell Park is approximately 50 years old, and while it has received periodic above-ground maintenance its subsurface components are expected to require a large financial investment in coming years to address major deficiencies. Considering the potential cost, the role the Honeywell Pool plays in the community, and the alternative swimming facilities available in or close to Wabash, which option would you recommend to the City?

Item	Count	Percent %
Proceed with a comprehensive reconstruction and improvement of the pool in the short term to provide new, additional, and innovative features (such as wave pools, splash pads, and/or a spray park).	18	46.15%
Proceed with rehabilitating the pool in the short term to maintain the same level and quality of experience and so as to avoid a large unexpected cost later.	14	35.90%
Continue to make only the repairs needed until an issue emerges, at which time allow the pool to close permanently.	6	15.38%
Continue to make limited repairs until an issue emerges that requires a financial investment, even if more expensive than if repaired in the near future.	1	2.56%



14. Consider the following list of major projects and investments that are currently or potentially facing the Wabash Parks System. If it were up to you, how would you prioritize them?

Value	First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Fifth Priority	Average Rank
Development of parkland adjacent to existing skate park and YMCA		5	6	4	23	4.2
Development of a riverfront trail and park on the Wabash River	18	9	5	5	2	2.1
Installation of updated playground equipment in parks	3	6	9	14	6	3.4
Development of additional trails to link parks, schools, and other attractions	7	7	13	7	5	2.9
Rehabilitation of the swimming pool at Honeywell Park	11	12	6	8	2	2.4

15. Have you ever volunteered your time to the Wabash Parks Department? If so, about how many hours of time did you volunteer in the past 12 months?

Item	Count	Percent %
Have never volunteered	29	76.32%
Have volunteered, but not in past 12 months	6	15.79%
1 to 20 hours	3	7.89%

16. What is the zip code of your household?

Item	Count	Percent %
46992	36	92.31%
46992-3805	1	2.56%
46992-4027	1	2.56%
46992-7934	1	2.56%

17. Please select the category that best describes the industry (or industries) of the ADULTS in your household. (Select all that apply.)

Item	Count	Percent %
Don't work	9	23.08%
Education	8	20.51%
Other	7	17.95%
Healthcare / Medical	5	12.82%
Manufacturing	5	12.82%
Accounting	3	7.69%
Construction / Home Improvement	3	7.69%
Finance / Banking / Insurance	3	7.69%
Retail	3	7.69%
Aerospace / Aviation / Automotive	2	5.13%
Computers (Hardware, Desktop Software)	2	5.13%
Engineering / Architecture	2	5.13%
Non-Profit	2	5.13%
Agriculture / Forestry / Fishing	1	2.56%
Business / Professional Services	1	2.56%
Consulting	1	2.56%
Food Service	1	2.56%
Internet	1	2.56%
Marketing / Market Research / Public Relations	1	2.56%

Media / Printing / Publishing	1	2.56%
Telecommunications	1	2.56%

18. Please indicate the education level of the ADULTS in your household. Indicate the number of adults for each category. Select one response for each adult.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Some high school	0	1	5	0.40
High school or GED	0	2	15	1.13
Some college	0	2	18	1.06
Bachelor's degree	0	2	19	1.11
Post-Bachelor's degree	0	2	14	1.14
Prefer not to answer	0	5	3	1.67

19. Please indicate the age of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
0-2	0	2	6	0.67
3-5	0	1	4	0.25
7-10	0	2	7	0.71
11-13	0	1	6	0.50
14-18	0	1	5	0.60
19-25	0	2	8	0.75
26-50	0	2	14	1.50
51-70	0	2	25	1.64
71 and over	0	2	8	1.13
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00

20. Please select the category that best describes the gender of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Female	0	4	38	1.29
Male	0	3	36	1.19
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00

21. Please indicate the category that best describes the race/ethnicity of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
White/Caucasian	1	6	38	2.32
Black/African American	0	0	3	0.00
Hispanic/Latino	0	3	4	0.75
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	3	0.00
American Indian	0	1	4	0.25
Other	0	0	3	0.00
Prefer not to answer	0	0	2	0.00

22. What is your total household income before taxes?

Item	Count	Percent %
Prefer not to answer	12	30.77%
\$100,000 or over	6	15.38%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	6	15.38%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	5	12.82%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	3	7.69%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	3	7.69%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2	5.13%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	1	2.56%
Under \$20,000	1	2.56%

## Appendix J: Non-Random Sample Survey Results

1. Prior to completing this survey, were you aware that the City of Wabash had a Parks Department?



Item	Count	Percent %
Yes	42	97.67%
No	1	2.33%

2. The Wabash Parks Department manages a variety of parks and facilities. They are listed below. Please select all of the ones you were aware of prior to taking this survey.

Item	Count	Percent %
City Park	43	100.00%
Paradise Springs Historical Park	43	100.00%
John Drook Memorial Bike and Skate Park	38	88.37%
Charley Creek Park	37	86.05%
Honeywell Park	37	86.05%
Hanna Park	32	74.42%
South Side Park	31	72.09%
Broadmoor Park	28	65.12%



3. Please rate each of the following types of facilities by their importance to you and your household.

Item	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Don't Know	Total
Playgrounds	11.6% 5	20.9% 9	32.6% 14	34.9% 15		43
Outdoor basketball courts	26.2% 11	26.2% 11	33.3% 14	11.9% 5	2.4% 1	42
Indoor basketball courts	38.1% 16	19.0% 8	21.4% 9	19.0% 8	2.4% 1	42
Golf courses	33.3% 14	28.6% 12	23.8% 10	11.9% 5	2.4% 1	42
Disc golf courses	38.1% 16	21.4% 9	26.2% 11	11.9% 5	2.4% 1	42
Baseball fields	19.0% 8	11.9% 5	28.6% 12	40.5% 17		42
Softball fields	24.4% 10	17.1% 7	29.3% 12	29.3% 12		41
Soccer fields	30.2% 13	16.3% 7	34.9% 15	18.6% 8		43
Football fields	26.2% 11	14.3% 6	31.0% 13	26.2% 11	2.4% 1	42
Picnic areas	2.3% 1	4.7% 2	34.9% 15	58.1% 25		43
Picnic shelters	2.3% 1	4.7% 2	34.9% 15	58.1% 25		43
Swimming pools	11.6% 5	11.6% 5	30.2% 13	46.5% 20		43
Spray parks	28.6% 12	9.5% 4	26.2% 11	16.7% 7	19.0% 8	42

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	12	4	11	7	8	
Dog parks	32.6% 14	23.3% 10	25.6% 11	16.3% 7	2.3% 1	43
Paved trails	4.7% 2	20.9% 9	30.2% 13	44.2% 19		43
Unpaved trails	9.3% 4	27.9% 12	27.9% 12	30.2% 13	4.7% 2	43
Horseshoe pits	38.1% 16	33.3% 14	19.0% 8	4.8% 2	4.8% 2	42
Tennis courts	18.6% 8	18.6% 8	39.5% 17	20.9% 9	2.3% 1	43
Fitness centers	16.7% 7	23.8% 10	31.0% 13	26.2% 11	2.4% 1	42
Ice skating rinks	33.3% 14	28.6% 12	26.2% 11	9.5% 4	2.4% 1	42
Skate parks	50.0% 21	9.5% 4	26.2% 11	11.9% 5	2.4% 1	42
BMX bike parks	59.5% 25	9.5% 4	16.7% 7	9.5% 4	4.8% 2	42
Community centers	11.6% 5	11.6% 5	46.5% 20	30.2% 13		43
Fishing areas	35.7% 15	11.9% 5	40.5% 17	11.9% 5		42
Boat ramps	39.0% 16	14.6% 6	29.3% 12	14.6% 6	2.4% 1	41
Historical sites	7.0% 3	11.6% 5	39.5% 17	41.9% 18		43
Educational signs	4.8% 2	23.8% 10	42.9% 18	28.6% 12		42

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Natural areas	2.3% 1	9.3% 4	44.2% 19	41.9% 18	2.3% 1	43
Average %	23.3%	17.3%	31.2%	26.1%	2.2%	1,186.0

4. Consider the following types of park and recreation facilities. How often do you and members of your household use them?

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times a month	A few times a week	Daily	Total
Indoor athletic/fitness facilities	11.9% 5	26.2% 11	21.4% 9	19.0% 8	21.4% 9	42
Outdoor soccer/football fields	39.0% 16	34.1% 14	17.1% 7	9.8% 4		41
Outdoor softball fields	60.0% 24	30.0% 12	10.0% 4			40
Outdoor baseball/little league fields	51.2% 21	19.5% 8	14.6% 6	12.2% 5	2.4% 1	41
Skate park	81.0% 34	11.9% 5	7.1% 3			42
Disc golf course	65.9% 27	9.8% 4	12.2% 5	9.8% 4	2.4% 1	41
Trails	7.1% 3	31.0% 13	38.1% 16	19.0% 8	4.8% 2	42
Picnic shelters/areas	7.3% 3	68.3% 28	19.5% 8	2.4% 1	2.4% 1	41
Playgrounds	19.0% 8	42.9% 18	28.6% 12	9.5% 4		42
Outdoor basketball courts	43.9% 18	39.0% 16	14.6% 6	2.4% 1		41

Outdoor tennis courts	57.1% 24	16.7% 7	11.9% 5	14.3% 6		42
Fishing areas	58.5% 24	24.4% 10	14.6% 6	2.4% 1		41
Cultural or performing arts facilities	23.8% 10	23.8% 10	35.7% 15	16.7% 7		42
Average %	40.3%	29.0%	19.0%	9.1%	2.6%	538.0

5. How often do you and members of your household use:

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily	Total
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to youth	9.5% 4	42.9% 18	28.6% 12	14.3% 6	4.8% 2	42
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to adults	4.8% 2	35.7% 15	33.3% 14	16.7% 7	9.5% 4	42
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to families	4.8% 2	33.3% 14	35.7% 15	23.8% 10	2.4% 1	42
Any park and recreation facilities targeted to seniors	51.2% 21	24.4% 10	22.0% 9	2.4% 1		41
Average %	17.4%	34.1%	29.9%	14.4%	4.2%	167.0

6. How often do you or members of your household visit each of the following sites within the Wabash Parks System?

Item	Never	A few times per year	A few times per month	A few times per week	Daily	Total
City Park	2.4% 1	46.3% 19	31.7% 13	12.2% 5	7.3% 3	41
John Drook Memorial Bike and Skate Park	80.5% 33	12.2% 5	4.9% 2	2.4% 1		41
Broadmoor Park	87.5% 35	10.0% 4			2.5% 1	40
Honeywell Park	42.9% 18	33.3% 14	19.0% 8	4.8% 2		42
South Side Park	80.0% 32	15.0% 6	2.5% 1	2.5% 1		40
Charley Creek Park	23.8% 10	54.8% 23	16.7% 7	2.4% 1	2.4% 1	42
Charley Creek Trail	21.4% 9	50.0% 21	21.4% 9	4.8% 2	2.4% 1	42
Paradise Springs Historical Park	4.8% 2	45.2% 19	42.9% 18	4.8% 2	2.4% 1	42
Paradise Springs Riverwalk Trail	7.3% 3	43.9% 18	36.6% 15	7.3% 3	4.9% 2	41
Hanna Park	85.0% 34	12.5% 5	2.5% 1			40
Average %	43.1%	32.6%	18.0%	4.1%	2.2%	411.0

7. Approximately how much total money per MONTH do you and members of your household spend on recreation activities?

Item	Count	Percent %
\$51 to \$100	13	30.95%
\$101 to \$250	12	28.57%
\$21 to \$50	8	19.05%
Over \$250	4	9.52%
\$11 to \$20	2	4.76%
Don't know	2	4.76%
Less than \$10	1	2.38%

8. Please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following aspects of the Wabash Park System.

Item	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know	Total
Playgrounds	2.3% 1	11.6% 5	41.9% 18	37.2% 16	7.0% 3	43
Outdoor basketball courts	2.4% 1	16.7% 7	35.7% 15	14.3% 6	31.0% 13	42
Disc golf courses	4.8% 2		11.9% 5	38.1% 16	45.2% 19	42
Baseball/little league fields	4.8% 2	2.4% 1	23.8% 10	50.0% 21	19.0% 8	42
Softball fields	4.8% 2	4.8% 2	19.0% 8	40.5% 17	31.0% 13	42
Soccer/football sports fields	2.4% 1	4.8% 2	19.0% 8	47.6% 20	26.2% 11	42
Picnic shelters/areas	2.4% 1	7.1% 3	42.9% 18	45.2% 19	2.4% 1	42
Honeywell Park swimming pool	7.0% 3	11.6% 5	25.6% 11	44.2% 19	11.6% 5	43
Trails	4.7% 2	7.0% 3	39.5% 17	46.5% 20	2.3% 1	43
Tennis courts	2.3% 1	4.7% 2	18.6% 8	39.5% 17	34.9% 15	43
Stake park	4.8% 2	4.8% 2	9.5% 4	19.0% 8	61.9% 26	42
Fishing areas	4.8% 2	4.8% 2	26.2% 11	11.9% 5	52.4% 22	42
Historical sites	2.3%	2.3%	32.6%	48.8%	14.0%	43

	1	1	14	21	6	
Average %	3.8%	6.4%	26.7%	37.2%	26.0%	551.0

9. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the Wabash Parks System?

Item	Count	Percent %
Good	24	55.81%
Excellent	13	30.23%
Fair	4	9.30%
Poor	2	4.65%



10. Pretend you are a City Official with an additional \$100 available to spend on the Wabash Parks System. It is your decision on how to spend it. How would you distribute the funds among the categories below? (Must sum \$100)

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Improvements and maintenance of existing city-owned parks and recreation facilities	10.00	100.00	37	58.76
Acquisition of new park land and open space	0.00	100.00	17	25.00
Construction of new outdoor athletic fields and courts (e.g. softball, soccer, tennis)	0.00	25.00	9	7.22
Construction or development of new indoor facilities (e.g. fitness centers, indoor courts)	0.00	100.00	9	18.33
Acquisition and development of new walking and biking trails	0.00	100.00	33	44.58

11. If forced to choose, how would you prioritize the following categories for attention and funding?

Value	First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Average Rank
Park and recreation facilities targeted to families	24	13	3	2	1.6
Park and recreation facilities targeted to seniors	2	8	9	23	3.3
Park and recreation facilities targeted to adults	5	3	21	12	3.0
Park and recreation facilities targeted to youth	12	17	8	3	2.1

12. The swimming pool at Honeywell Park is approximately 50 years old, and while it has received periodic above-ground maintenance its subsurface components are expected to require a large financial investment in coming years to address major deficiencies. Considering the potential cost, the role the Honeywell Pool plays in the community, and the alternative swimming facilities available in or close to Wabash, which option would you recommend to the City?

Item	Count	Percent %
Proceed with a comprehensive reconstruction and improvement of the pool in the short term to provide new, additional, and innovative features (such as wave pools, splash pads, and/or a spray park).	27	62.79%
Proceed with rehabilitating the pool in the short term to maintain the same level and quality of experience and so as to avoid a large unexpected cost later.	13	30.23%
Continue to make only the repairs needed until an issue emerges, at which time allow the pool to close permanently.	3	6.98%

13. Consider the following list of major projects and investments that are currently or potentially facing the Wabash Parks System. If it were up to you, how would you prioritize them?

Value	First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Fifth Priority	Average Rank
Development of parkland adjacent to existing skate park and YMCA	4	6	4	4	24	3.9
Rehabilitation of the swimming pool at Honeywell Park	22	7	4	5	4	2.1
Development of additional trails to link parks, schools, and other attractions	5	4	20	9	3	3.0
Development of a riverfront trail and park on the Wabash River	7	19	6	6	3	2.5
Installation of updated playground equipment in parks	5	6	7	17	7	3.4

14. Have you ever volunteered your time to the Wabash Parks Department? If so, about how many hours of time did you volunteer in the past 12 months?

Item	Count	Percent %
Have never volunteered	31	72.09%
Have volunteered, but not in past 12 months	10	23.26%
1 to 20 hours	1	2.33%
21 to 100 hours	1	2.33%

15. What is the zip code of your household?

Item	Count	Percent %
46992	41	97.62%
46990	1	2.38%

16. Please select the category that best describes the industry (or industries) of the ADULTS in your household. (Select all that apply.)

Item	Count	Percent %
Manufacturing	9	20.93%
Non-Profit	9	20.93%
Other	8	18.60%
Education	7	16.28%
Healthcare / Medical	5	11.63%

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Business / Professional Services	4	9.30%
Entertainment / Recreation	4	9.30%
Engineering / Architecture	3	6.98%
Real Estate	3	6.98%
Retail	3	6.98%
Communications	2	4.65%
Consulting	2	4.65%
Don't work	2	4.65%
Finance / Banking / Insurance	2	4.65%
Government / Military	2	4.65%
Legal	2	4.65%
Media / Printing / Publishing	2	4.65%
Telecommunications	2	4.65%
Advertising	1	2.33%
Agriculture / Forestry / Fishing	1	2.33%
Business Services (Hotels, Lodging Places)	1	2.33%
Construction / Home Improvement	1	2.33%
Internet	1	2.33%
Marketing / Market Research / Public Relations	1	2.33%
Transportation / Distribution	1	2.33%
Utilities	1	2.33%

17. Please indicate the education level of the ADULTS in your household. Indicate the number of adults for each category. Select one response for each adult.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Some high school	0	3	3	1.33
High school or GED	1	5	14	1.93
Some college	1	2	22	1.27
Bachelor's degree	1	2	22	1.32
Post-Bachelor's degree	1	2	12	1.25
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00

18. Please indicate the age of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
0-2	0	2	6	1.17
3-5	1	2	5	1.20
7-10	0	4	10	1.30
11-13	0	2	8	1.00
14-18	0	2	8	1.13
19-25	0	2	7	1.29
26-50	1	2	24	1.71
51-70	0	2	19	1.63
71 and over	0	2	3	1.33

Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00
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19. Please select the category that best describes the gender of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
Female	0	3	41	1.49
Male	1	4	41	1.68
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00

20. Please indicate the category that best describes the race/ethnicity of ALL INDIVIDUALS in your household. Indicate the number of individuals for each category. Select one response for each individual.

Item	Low	High	Count	Average
White/Caucasian	1	5	42	2.83
Black/African American	0	0	1	0.00
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	1	0.00
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0.00
American Indian	0	0	1	0.00
Other	0	4	3	1.67
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	0.00

21. What is your total household income before taxes?

Item	Count	Percent %
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11	25.58%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	8	18.60%
\$100,000 or over	6	13.95%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	6	13.95%
Prefer not to answer	5	11.63%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	4	9.30%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	2	4.65%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1	2.33%

## Appendix K: Maps and Site Assessments

- Map 1.0 Wabash Vicinity
- Map 1.1 Broadmoor Park
- Map 1.2 Charley Creek Park
- Map 1.3 City Park
- Map 1.4 Hanna Park
- Map 1.5 Honeywell Park
- Map 1.6 Paradise Spring Park
- Map 1.7 Southside Park
- Map 1.8 John Drook Memorial Mike & Skate Park
- Map 1.9 Trail Plan Map
- Map 1.10 Field of Dreams Private Park