



# **Portland Park Plan**

## **Portland, Indiana**

**5-Year City Park Master Plan  
2022-2026**

# A Comprehensive Master Plan by the Portland Park Board and the Portland Park Department

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### Introduction

The City of Portland, Indiana is committed to preserving an excellent recreational park system for the enjoyment of all. A comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan is an important part of achieving this goal. Towards that end, Portland has developed this 5-year park system master plan for 2022-2026.

The planning process itself, including the knowledge and experience gained by local citizen stakeholders, was perhaps more important than the actual document itself. The planning process, which included a park survey and public discussion meetings, helped residents consider how Portland's Park system adds to the day-to-day experience of life in a small rural Indiana community. The experience gained by residents will help make improvements to the current parks and develop future needs of the parks in the community.

To be noted in this park plan the organizations, City of Portland and Portland Park Board were impacted negatively and positively by the Novel CoronaVirus (COVID-19) in 2020. The Park Board decided in March of 2020 to close all park facilities to include restrooms, drinking fountains, playgrounds and shelters to the general public for the safety of all citizens. This continued as state health and local health orders were lifted to allow the park board to safely open the park facilities. The Park Board further decided to delay the opening of the Portland Water Park until after July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and close before Labor Day. Many organizations who utilize the parks either cancelled or delayed their sport seasons. Over the first several months of stay home orders from state and local health officials did draw many citizens to the local trails for walking and bicycling. As many sports organizations youth and adult returned to play in 2020 the park board mandated all organizations to have COVID-19 protocols in place for safety of the participants and spectators. These safety plans were to be reviewed by the local health department and submitted to the mayor's office at city hall before starting their season. Many organizations had to limit the number of spectators for social distancing, adjust game times, remove bleacher, and add infectious cleaning standards.

In 2021, all parks opened with no restrictions and all organizations were able to return to normal schedules and capacity. As a result of the national labor shortage in 2021 the Portland Water Park was challenged with staffing resulting in the park board approving to close the water park on days when staffing levels were low for lifeguards and even closing the water park early in August as high school and college students returned to school.

### ***Acknowledgements***

This 5-year master plan represents the collaborative efforts of a number of passionate and committed people. Thanks to the City of Portland Park Board, the Mayor, City Officials, and the Superintendent of Portland Streets and Parks for their support in developing this plan. Thanks also to the community program and activity leaders and supporters, mostly volunteers, for information and photos used to describe the many wonderful programs available to people of all ages in Portland's

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wonderful community parks. The work group committee responsible for developing the most of this plan includes:

Beverly Arnold—Coach, Jay County Swim Team  
Missy Bader—Manager, Portland Water Park  
Kyle Cook—Executive Director, Jay Community Center  
Steve Craig—Community Advocate for Pickle Ball  
Lori Aker-Ferguson—Clerk-Treasurer, City of Portland, Indiana  
Mary Franklin—Community Advocate for the Shuffleboard Courts  
Brian Ison, Portland Park Board General Member  
Chet Franks Commissioner Jay County Pee Wee Football  
Brian Ison—President, Portland Junior League Baseball  
Randy Miller—Manager, Portland Rockets Baseball  
John Moore—Treasurer, Jay County Trails Club  
Roger Prescott—Community Advocate for the Shuffleboard Courts  
Brett Resler—Community Advocate for Disc Golf  
Eric Rogers—Executive Director, Arts Place Inc.  
Tabby Sprunger—Executive Director, Jay County Chamber of Commerce

## Definition of the Planning Area

Past public input and user surveys have indicated that Portland parks have a significant and important rural user component, even if they do not contribute directly to taxes gathered to support recreation. The Portland Park Board is committed to making park facilities and services available to all visitors.

The planning area for the Portland Park Board (PPB) is the same as the service area. The service area for the City of Portland does not stop at the city limits. Due to the unique nature of the City of Portland as the seat of county government and an important focus of public services and infrastructure, the service area also includes rural Jay County.

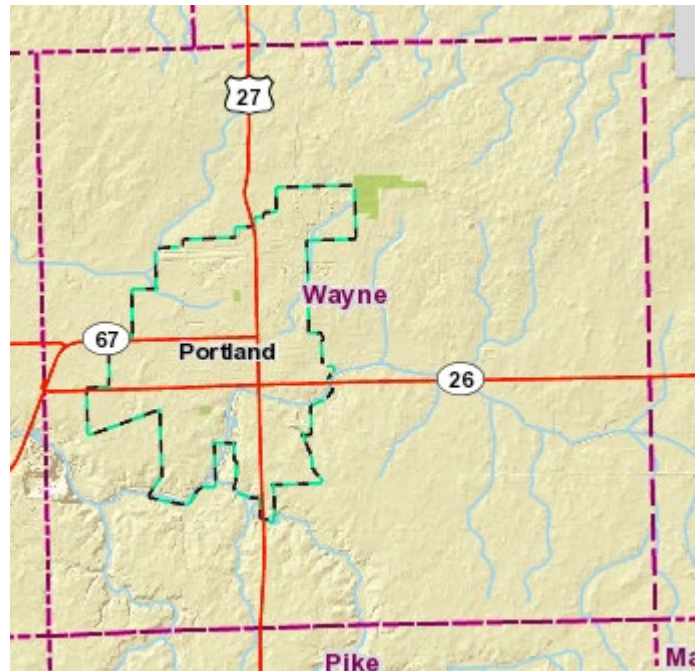


Figure 1. The City of Portland is located in Wayne Township, Jay County, Indiana. (from Elevate!)

## Goals of the Plan

The Portland Park Board, with significant input and discussion from community stakeholders, 3<sup>rd</sup> party program managers, the public, the mayor's office, Park Department, and many others, has identified the following objectives for a community 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan:

- **Active Lifestyle** - Preserve Portland's Park system as a visible, enabling part of active outdoor lifestyles for the benefit of people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Public Awareness** - Increase public knowledge and appreciation of Portland's Park system and the impressive number of park-based programs and program participants.
- **Programs** - Promote awareness of Park Based Programs in Portland parks (Note: Many other programs like scouts, 4-H, soccer, etc., do not use city parks.)
  - 17 significant organized park-based programs
  - 320 program leaders (e.g., coaches, managers, officials, advocates), mostly volunteers, give thousands of community service hours annually



- More than 2,200 participants, mostly young people.
- **Program Coordination** – Increase coordination between the city and 3<sup>rd</sup> party programs to make more efficient, effective use of park facilities, and to improve child safety and mitigate liability risk.
- **Community Leadership** – Local participation in developing a park plan expands the cadre of knowledgeable leaders who value active community programs.
- **Priorities** - Use public input and discussion to identify and confirm park and recreation priorities and objectives.
- **Resource Allocation** - Use identified priorities and objectives documented in this plan to guide future park management and budget allocation decisions.

## The Park Board and Park Department

### The Park Board

The Park Board was re-established in 1987 according to the requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3. Portland has a five-member board that serves staggered four-year terms. Current Portland Park Board membership as of January 2021 is:

Shauna Runkle, Board President

Term: 2018-2022

Giles Laux Board Vice-President

Term: 2018-2022

Chris Compton, Board Secretary

Term: 2019-2023

Brian Ison

Term: 2019-2023

Glenn Bryant

Term: 2020-2024

### The Park Department

#### Park Office

The main office for the park department is located at 215 S. Wayne Street, Portland, IN 47371. Phone: 260.726.4077.

E-mail: Tom Leonhard <streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net> 260-726-4077

Matt Shawver <parksmanager@thecityofportland.net>

Website: <http://www.thecityofportland.net/index.php?id=park>

#### Mission

The Mission of the Portland Park Department is to provide informed, professional stewardship of Portland's amazing park system by maintaining and preserving the parks for the enjoyment and enrichment of the greater Portland community.

### The Park Board's Vision and Goals for the Next Five Years

- **Park Maintenance** - The Portland Park Department will maintain a clean, safe, inviting, and accessible park system for all to enjoy. Chronic maintenance issues (e.g., poor parking at Sportland, bad drainage at Haynes Park) will get attention.
- **Upgrades** - The Department will continue to make incremental improvements to the features, accessibility and visual "curb appeal" of park facilities.
- **Programs** – Increase child safety and reduce liability risk by pro-actively bolstering coordination and oversight of non-governmental 3<sup>rd</sup> party programs in Portland parks, including run/walk events, music and entertainment, arts and crafts, baseball, softball, football, swim team, shuffleboard, and others.
- **Innovation** - The Park Board will continue to evaluate new options for exercise and fitness like pickleball.



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- **Trails** - Designated pedestrian/bicycle connections among parks, and safe routes between parks and other public venues including schools, Arts Place, the Jay Community Center, the library, and the hospital.
- **Schools** – The City of Portland and Jay School Corporation are considering a joint use agreement based on experiences from other Indiana communities.

### Staff

Superintendent of Streets: Tom Leonhard: Position held since 2018

Manager of Parks: Matt Shawver: Position held since 2018

Park Department staff includes one full-time grounds maintenance staff person and 5 temporary employees for seasonal mowing and grounds keeping, especially in the summertime, between April and October. The parks are considered “closed” for most regular program activity from November through March.

Seasonal water park staff include a full-time manager and about 20 to 24 staff, most of whom are lifeguard qualified. A small number of staff who may not be lifeguard qualified help with the gate and concessions. All water park staff help with cleanup and maintenance as needed. Also, street department staff help as needed, including handling heavy pool chemicals and other activities.

### Program Volunteers

The Portland/Jay County community benefits greatly from programs that take place in City parks and are available to local city and area residents but are almost entirely not directly funded by local government. For the most part, these programs are administered and operated by 3<sup>rd</sup> party volunteers and non-profit paid staff of community service organizations. These people give generously of their time to lead programs as teachers, coaches, supervisors, managers, assistants, officials and administrators for a variety of youth sports leagues and other programs that use Portland parks. Without these dedicated volunteers and non-profit employees it would not be possible to have the amazing rich variety of quality park programs enjoyed today.

The current number of 3<sup>rd</sup> party program staff, including volunteers and non-profit paid staff, number around 450 dedicated people supporting up to 3,000+ children and adults. See the table of programs offered in Portland parks listed in a later section.

The Portland Park Department recognizes and appreciates the many thousands of hours of time donated annually by volunteers and non-profit paid staff each year. All interested people who are able to donate time to help operate and administer park-based programs are invited to contact the Park Office at 260-726-4077 for more information about volunteer opportunities.

### Volunteers with Portland Parks

In addition to the 400+ volunteers and non-profit employees who run public program activities in Portland's parks. Volunteers of the parks serve multiple roles from organizing youth and adult sport activities, maintaining baseball and football fields to including landscaping, painting buildings, picking up litter, field maintenance and cleaning restrooms. There are groups of volunteers who maintain walking/hiking trails, picking up litter in parks. Other volunteers/organizations assist the park system with purchasing equipment for fields and activities that is not budgeted by the park board. Over the past 5 years several organizations either assisted with the purchase or fundraised to purchase batting cages, scoreboards, signage, sidewalks, and safety nets. These organizations and individuals helped to improve the condition and appeal of Portland Parks.

### Park Inventory

The City of Portland Park system consists of six city parks ranging in size from 4 to 51 acres for a combined total of about 97 acres of park land. Unlike many small rural towns that struggle to adequately maintain marginal park facilities, Portland is fortunate to have an exceptional park system. Hudson Family Park and the new 2016 Portland Water Park, are among the best small town park facilities anywhere in the U.S.

The Portland Park system is well established and continually improving. The newest property, now Hudson Family Park, was donated in 2001 and completed as a city park in 2011. A new state-of-the-art water park just opened in 2016 but is located on the same site as the old 1960 community pool, so no new land was added.

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The major park related challenge now facing the City of Portland is to sustain the level of excellence people have come to expect. The following is a brief synopsis of the six parks of the Portland Park system:

- **Haynes Park** – 5 acres. Portland’s most iconic neighborhood park. This park includes classic park features including playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, barbecue grills, and large trees. Popular for generations as a gathering place for friends and family social events, it scores well on the park survey as one of the most frequently visited and best regarded of all Portland’s parks.
- **Hudson Family Park** – 51 acres. The newest, largest and most popular of Portland’s parks, occupies 47 acres of land and a 4-acre lake. HFP has many features that contribute to its popularity, including an amphitheater used seasonally for entertainment competitions and events. The park also has a variety of trails and topographical features including a sledding hill, but without the sports fields and courts of other parks. In 2021 Disc Golf was added to the park.
- **Milton-Miller Park** – 4 acres. The smallest and least often visited Portland Park according to the park survey. An older park on Portland’s north side, it includes a softball field and tennis courts that are not heavily used. It is located near senior housing and local industry. The park has significant deferred maintenance. Because it is not heavily used, it could potentially serve as a test bed for new park programs without significant disruption.
- **Sportland (Portland Memorial) Park** – 17 acres. Also known as Portland Memorial Park, Sportland hosts a number of youth sports programs in the southwest quadrant of Portland. Seasonally, it is one of the most heavily used of Portland’s parks because it has four ball diamonds and other sports fields, all or most of which are sometimes in active use concurrently. In addition to ball fields, there are playgrounds, shuffleboard courts, and other park facilities. Sports activities draw large crowds on game days when parking can be challenging.
- **Portland Water Park** – 6 acres. The Portland Water Park is the newest Portland Park, just completed and opened in 2016. The Water Park is a signature amenity of the Portland Park system because it is new and has several popular, modern features, including a lazy river, beach entry, lily pads, dump bucket, and competition swim lanes. Parking was significantly expanded from what was available at the old pool to better handle more guests, as well as crowds of competitors and spectators at practice events and swim competitions.
- **Weiler-Wilson Park** – 14 acres. Another sports themed park, this one is co-located near Hudson Family Park and the new Portland Water Park. Taken

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altogether, the 3 parks make up a complex of about 70 acres with a range of activities to accommodate nearly anyone. Weiler-Wilson Park includes 3 ball diamonds and other features that can sometimes contribute to significant crowding on game days, though parking is not as constrained as at Sportland.

Further details about each Portland Park is included in sections that follow.

## Haynes Park

Haynes Park is one of Portland's oldest and most iconic neighborhood parks. Conveniently located near the hospital and shopping. It has several classic park features including playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, barbecue grills, a basketball court and large trees. Haynes is popular as a gathering place for social events like family reunions and birthday parties.



Haynes scores well on the Portland Park survey as one of the best known, most frequently visited and best regarded of the city's parks.

<b>Park Name</b>	Haynes Park
<b>Park Location</b>	600 West Votaw Street, Portland, IN
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net">streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net</a>
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	A smaller (5 acres), classic, neighborhood park with limited parking and no significant athletic or entertainment venue. Popular for picnics and playgrounds. Specific details listed below.
<b>Metrics</b>	N/A
<b>Schedule</b>	Open year around during daylight hours.
<b>Issues</b>	As an older, classic park, Haynes Park has many old oak trees that provide shade, however there are several dead limbs that present as a safety concern. This Park is one of the oldest parks to have newer playground equipment and most of this equipment has aged and needs repair/replacement in the next 5 years. There is an old baseball field that has limited use due to grass growing in the sand and the size of field does not permit regular season play due to no marked outfield and limited infield space. This park does have 3 shelter houses that provide areas for family and corporate gatherings. This park has some concerns with drainage after heavy rain and accumulations that has led to flooding. There has been some work done in this area of town for flood control however does remain a concern.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on the Portland Park Department for maintenance, grounds keeping, utilities, and trash and litter removal.
<b>Other</b>	Located in a residential area and assisted living, shopping, and the hospital.

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Facility/Feature Type	Check if Available at this Park
Amphitheater, concert venue	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	X
Basketball court	X
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	X
Campground	
Disc Golf	
Dog park	
Fishing	
Football field(s)	
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	X
Lake/Pond/River	
Open space	
Path, unpaved	
Pickleball	
Picnic shelter	X
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	X
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	
Track	
Trail, paved	
Volleyball	
Winter activities (e.g., hill for sledding, skiing, pond or rink for skating)	



## Hudson Family Park

Hudson Family Park was completed in 2011. Built on donated land, it is the newest, largest, and most modern of all Portland parks. It is a family-themed park with facilities for a range of wholesome outdoor activities. Located in the southeast part of the city, across the Salamonie River from Weiler-Wilson Park, the park includes an amphitheater, playground, dog park, sledding hill, and numerous trails and natural areas.



Children's playground at Hudson Family Park.

The Park was designed to address a range of activities not directly supported at other Portland parks. As a result, there is very little overlap with activities supported in other parks. On the other hand, it has basic park facilities including bathrooms, playgrounds, parking, and other features common to most parks in the system.

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Hudson Family Park</b>
<b>Park Location</b>	500 South Wayne Street, Portland, IN
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net">streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net</a>
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	A modern, state-of-the-art, family-oriented community park with recreational trails, outdoor entertainment venue, water and topographical features, playgrounds, dog park, parking, and much more. Hudson Family Park lacks traditional sports fields and courts, but often hosts walk/run events, festivals, and arts and entertainment programs and concerts.
<b>Metrics</b>	Size: 51 acres including a 4-acre lake. Ample parking and open-air grass seating area for crowds of 600+ people. The most visited of all Portland's parks is for its range of activities other than seasonal sports competitions.
<b>Schedule</b>	Open year around during daylight hours, after dark by exception.
<b>Issues</b>	This is a complex park for a small city. Upkeep is not always as timely as it might be. Maintenance programs could perhaps be augmented with volunteer resources. With the number of small plants and ornamental grasses this park does consume many labor hours to provide maintenance during the growing season. Many of the plants to include the roses have not been properly cared for and have died since planting when park opened. This park needs replanting and adding additional trees for shade.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for all cleanup, maintenance, grounds keeping, storm damage repair, etc.

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<b>Other</b>	Park activities assume availability of city services, public safety, liability coverage, safe walking and biking routes among parks, etc.
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Facility/Feature Type	X if Available at this Park
Amphitheater, concert venue	X
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	
Basketball court	
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	X
Campground	
Disc Golf	X
Dog park	X
Fishing	X
Football field(s)	
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	
Lake/Pond/River	X
Open space	X
Path, unpaved	X
Pickleball	
Picnic shelter	X
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	
Track	
Trail, paved	X
Volleyball	
Winter activities (e.g., hill for sledding, skiing, pond or rink for skating)	X

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## Milton-Miller Park

An older park on Portland's north side, it includes a softball field that is not much used. Unique features include location near senior housing and local industry. This park has significantly deferred maintenance. Because it is not heavily used, it can potentially serve as a test bed and incubator for new park programs.

In addition, the softball field could be refurbished to take some pressure off more heavily used fields at Sportland and Weiler-Wilson parks. Coordination with the organizations that run softball and baseball activities would be needed. Managing distributed league activities across multiple parks poses challenges that may make this impractical. On the other hand, using this field for practice and *ad hoc* activities like church leagues and company/organization teams could help relieve occasional overcrowding at other parks. Unfortunately, Milton-Miller is among the most frequently vandalized of all the parks.



<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Milton-Miller</b>
<b>Park Location</b>	1400 North Franklin Street (North Franklin Street at West Lafayette Street), Portland, IN.
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	Milton-Miller is the smallest of Portland's parks. Even so, it includes a baseball field, playground, tennis/pickleball courts, picnic facilities, restrooms and parking.
<b>Metrics</b>	A 4-acre park with paved parking for up to 30 vehicles.
<b>Schedule</b>	April through October.
<b>Issues</b>	According to the park survey, this is the least used and least popular of Portland's parks. There are several issues with this park not being used. The location is near an industrial park and there are several apartment complexes near this park. This Park has limited amenities to include a baseball/softball field that has not been used by local organizations due to lack of outdoor lighting, spectator seating, concession stand and proximity restrooms. There is a shelter house on this location that is rarely used and located a distance from the parking lot. There is an old tennis court in this park that has asphalt with many cracks and is not suitable to use for recreational activity.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for all cleanup, maintenance, grounds keeping, trash removal, storm damage repair, etc.
<b>Other</b>	This Park may be a suitable candidate for volunteer assisted maintenance or repurposed into greenspace for other activities.



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Facility/Feature Type	Check if Available at this Park
Amphitheater, concert venue	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	X
Basketball court	
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	
Campground	
Disc Golf	
Dog park	
Fishing	
Football field(s)	
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	
Lake/Pond/River	
Open space	
Path, unpaved	
Pickleball	
Picnic shelter & facilities	X
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	X
Track	
Trail, paved	
Volleyball	
Winter activities (e.g., hill for sledding, skiing, pond or rink for skating)	



## Sportland Park (Portland Memorial Park)

Sportland Park has hosted youth sports leagues for generations. It is one of the most popular and heavily used of all Portland's parks. That's because the park has multiple ball fields that are sometimes all in use at the same time. In addition to ball fields, there are playgrounds, shuffleboard courts, and other park facilities. Taken all together, these activities draw large crowds, especially on game days.

Many longtime Portland and Jay County residents have fond memories of seasonal team play at Sportland as kids growing up in/near Portland, or their children or grandchildren as kids. Its where young people hone their team sports skills and create lasting childhood memories in small town Indiana.

People's perceptions of parks are mostly formed as people visit the parks. Since most people visit Sportland while other people are also visiting the park, there can be a shared perception that it is crowded, and parking is scarce. The perception of crowding can be somewhat mitigated by a combination of factors, including more parking control, staggered event start times, improved signage and marking, and parking lot repair and expansion.



<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Sportland</b> (Portland Memorial Park)
<b>Park Location</b>	S. Western Avenue and Blaine Pike (southwest Portland)
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net">streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net</a>
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	Sportland Park is a sports themed park with several ball fields used by youth team sports programs and events, including T-ball, Pee Wee Football, as well as the Portland Rockets semi-pro baseball team.
<b>Metrics</b>	17-acre park with 4 ball diamonds, a football field, with limited parking when multiple concurrent games are being played.
<b>Schedule</b>	Open year around. Most usage is seasonal.
<b>Issues</b>	Many people would like to see expansion and upgrades here, including more paved parking to accommodate game day crowds. The appearance of playing fields and related infrastructure could be improved. With leadership, vision, and careful coordination, volunteers and seasonal employees could make a significant difference.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for most maintenance, repairs, cleanup, upgrades, grounds keeping, etc.
<b>Other</b>	There is potential growth in this park with space to locate a pickleball court near the shelter house located near one of the baseball fields.

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Facility/Feature Type	Check if Available at this Park
Amphitheater, concert venue	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	X
Basketball court	
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	
Campground	
Disc Golf	
Dog park	
Fishing	
Football field(s)	X
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	
Lake/Pond/River	
Open space	X
Path, unpaved	
Pickleball	
Picnic area, shelter	
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	
Track	
Trail, paved	
Volleyball	
Winter activities (e.g., hill for sledding, skiing, pond or rink for skating)	

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## Portland Water Park

The Portland Water Park first opened May 28, 2016, replacing the old community pool in use since 1960. In 2020 the Portland Pool opening was delayed due to the Novel Corona (COVID-19) Virus. Visitor capacity to reduced to 25% at the beginning of opening the park then gradually increased to 50% capacity per state and local health orders. In 2021 the water park was challenged with staffing of lifeguards due to the national labor shortage. The water park was closed by mid August due to high school and college students returning to school.



In 2020 and 2021 Portland Water Park was unable to schedule special events such as adult water aerobics, morning laps and be reserved for private functions due to COVID-19 protocols with capacity and shortage of lifeguards.

In 2020, Jay County Swim Team was able to hold virtual swim meets with limited spectators in attendance. In 2021, the Jay County Swim Team was able to return to limited swim meets with several events being held virtually.

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Portland Water Park</b>
<b>Park Location</b>	304 S Hayes St, Portland, IN 47371. Phone 260-726-6653
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net">streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net</a>
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	Family oriented, state-of-the-art public water park and swimming pool with facilities for swim competitions. Highlights include beach entry, dump bucket, lazy river, large water slides, lily pads, large deck area, snack bar, and many other family-oriented features.
<b>Metrics</b>	2019 season, 23,481 total visitors, 2020 10,225 (decrease due to COVID-19 restrictions with social distancing) and 2021 12,251 visitors with some restrictions due to late start and closing early due to national labor shortage.
<b>Schedule</b>	Seasonal, Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hours vary by day of the week, staff availability, school calendar, weather, etc.
<b>Issues</b>	Issues include bath house water pooling, slippery floors, and limited retail counter space.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

<b>Dependencies</b>	The Portland Water Park is owned, administered and operated by the City of Portland, Indiana. It is dependent on city government for management oversight and availability of paid staff.
<b>Other</b>	This is the only Portland Park facility directly staffed, controlled, and supervised by Portland Park Department employees.





## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Facility/Feature Type	X if Found at this Park
Amphitheater	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	
Basketball court	
Bathhouse with showers, changing rooms	X
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	
Bleachers, spectator seating	X
Campground	
Disc Golf	
Dog park	
Fishing	
Football field(s)	
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	
Lake/Pond/River	
Open space	
Path, unpaved	
Pickleball	
Picnic shelter	
Playground	
Pool (swimming)	X
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	
Track	
Trail, paved	
Volleyball	
Features (dump bucket, water slides, competition swim lanes)	X
Winter activities (e.g., skiing, skating, sledding)	

The Water Park is the only park in the Portland Park system that charges admission, tracks attendance, and operates mostly with paid staff. It is also the most technical and high maintenance of all the park facilities. In spite of the challenges, the Water Park serves as a source of great satisfaction and pride for the entire community.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026





## Weiler-Wilson Park

The sports themed component of a major park complex near Portland's town center, including Hudson Family Park and the new Portland Water Park, the whole park complex is often quite busy in the summertime. Weiler-Wilson Park is primarily sports oriented, including baseball fields and basketball courts. This is a popular place for baseball and softball practice, games, and tournaments. The park is often at capacity in the summer and some expansion may be warranted.



<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Weiler-Wilson Park</b>
<b>Park Location</b>	419 E 1st Street (South Wayne Street at East First Street), Portland, IN.
<b>Contact</b>	Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net">streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net</a>
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	One of Portland's 3 largest parks, this one feature three baseball/softball diamonds. It is used primarily for Junior League Baseball and Softball and Jay Community Center for T-ball.
<b>Metrics</b>	About 15 acres, this park has 3 ball diamonds.
<b>Schedule</b>	Open year around, but with most program activity taking place in the spring and summer months.
<b>Issues</b>	Like most of Portland's older parks, Weiler-Wilson has some deferred maintenance and could benefit from an overall refresh.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for all cleanup, maintenance, grounds keeping, damage repair, etc.
<b>Other</b>	As with other Portland parks, Weiler-Wilson could benefit from organized, coordinated efforts by volunteers and seasonal staff to spruce up its overall appearance.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Facility/Feature Type	Check if Available at this Park
Amphitheater, concert venue	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	X
Basketball court	X
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	
Campground	
Disc Golf	
Dog park	
Fishing	
Football field(s)	
Golf course/range	
Horseshoe pits	
Lake/Pond/River	
Open space	
Path, unpaved	X
Pickleball	
Picnic shelter/facilities	X
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	
Skateboard feature	
Soccer fields	
Splashpad	
Tennis court(s)	
Track	
Trail, paved	
Volleyball	
Winter activities (e.g., hill for sledding, skiing, pond or rink for skating)	

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026



## Park-Based Recreation Programs and Activities

The Portland/Jay County community has a robust and long-standing tradition of 3<sup>rd</sup> party led outdoor sports and arts, crafts and entertainment activities. For the purposes of this document, 20 such programs have been identified (see table further below).

The park-based programs involve about 450 activity leaders including coaches, umpires, referees, instructors, and administrators, and over 3,000 participants of all ages, genders and abilities. These are big numbers considering they represent only programs that use Portland Park facilities. Many other organized, non-governmental, non-school programs with equal or even greater numbers of leaders and participants take place at dozens of non-park locations around Portland and throughout Jay County. Examples include scouts, 4-H, soccer, volleyball, indoor pickleball, basketball, music, dance, arts/crafts, and many, many more.

Many of the seasonal organized park-based programs (e.g., swim team, baseball, softball, arts and crafts) are oriented towards children and young people. These range from pre-Kindergarten through adult minor league baseball programs to fewer formal activities often associated with mature adults like shuffleboard and horseshoe.

More recently, people have come forward to advocate for newer sports activities to be played in Portland parks including disk golf and pickleball. These are games that can be played by people of many age groups except for young children. The programs are described in more detail in the appendices.

3<sup>rd</sup> party park-based activity programs identified during development of this plan are listed in the table that follows . . .

## Programs in Portland Parks

No.	PROGRAM	Staff		Participants		Description
		Low	High	Low	High	
1	Arts in the Parks	32	32	365	365	Arts Place
2	Baseball; Portland Junior League Baseball and Softball	75	100	225	300	Brian Ison
3	Disc Golf	none	none	t.b.d.	100	Established in 2020
4	Jay County Middle School Cross Country	6	8	15	90	uses Weiler-Wilson Park and Hudson Family Park facilities
5	Jay County High School Patriots Cross Country	2	5	15	30	JCHS cross country uses Hudson Family Park for some practice activities
6	Outdoor Concerts and Events	30	30	500	500	Presented by Arts Place
7	Pee Wee Football (Jay County Pee Wee Football)	40	40	160	160	Youth football league; Touch pre-K thru grade 2; Tackle grades 3-6
8	Pickleball	2	3	6	10	Most activities are indoors at Jay Community Center
9	Rockets Baseball	5	10	30	50	Randy Miller, Manager
10	Running Events; 5K, Half-Marathon, etc.	15	20	75	150	Jay Community Center
11	Shuffleboard	3	3	8	16	Informal organization
12	Soccer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Does not use Portland parks. Plays at Jay Waste Mgmt. (JCC)
13	Softball; CoEd Softball	15	20	125	165	Jay Community Center
14	Summer Day Camp	12	15	60	150	Jay Community Center
15	Swim Team (Jay Co. Swim Team)	27	32	100	125	Bev Arnold
16	T-Ball (Boomer T-Ball and Coaches Pitch, Sportland)	15	18	75	150	T-Ball ages 3-4, Coaches Pitch 5-6, June-July (6 weeks)
17	Trails (Jay Co. Trails Club)	5	10	150	300	Kelly Baggs Trail
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1834</b>	<b>2486</b>	

## Park Budget

As with most local governments, the Portland Park Department finds itself constrained with respect to its annual operating budget. However, when it became clear in 2013 that the old Portland Pool could not continue operation without major renovation, city government and community leaders stepped up to establish an *ad hoc* Public-Private-Partnership. In short order, the community demonstrated remarkable community spirit in establishing a funding plan to completely replace the

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

failing 50+ year old community pool with a completely new, updated, modern Portland Water Park as a signature amenity of the Portland Park System.

Annual Portland Park System budget amounts are listed in the table below.

Year	Total Budget	Operations & Maintenance	Capital Projects
2009	\$292,824	\$201,659	\$91,165
2010	\$325,471	\$262,394	\$63,077
2011	\$269,300	\$212,989	\$56,311
2012	\$242,926	\$159,219	\$83,707
2013	\$180,513	\$159,521	\$20,992
2014	\$378,080	\$346,297	\$31,783
2015	\$201,232	\$195,732	\$5,500
2016	\$268,860	\$208,860	\$60,000
2017	\$275,393	\$235,393	\$40,000
2018	\$265,500	\$225,000	\$40,000
2019	\$363,989	\$323,989	\$40,000
2020	\$370,756	\$330,756	\$35,000
2021	\$371,395	\$331,395	\$35,000

Table 1: Portland Park Department Budget

The new Portland Water Park was built in 2015-2016 at a total cost of about \$3.4 million. Of this amount, \$1.2 million came from community fund raising initiatives. The remaining \$2.2 million was budgeted separately from the annual park budget. The combined public-private effort to fund the new water park demonstrates the positive, can-do spirit of the community and its strong commitment to sustaining one of the better small town park systems in the state.

## Natural Features and Landscape

### Topography

The topography of Jay County, including the City of Portland, is gently rolling to flat. There is not much grade from high ground to low so drainage can be an issue. The original landscape of the area was interspersed with swampy areas. The Limberlost Swamp, made famous by the writings of Gene Stratton-Porter, and the Loblolly Marsh near Bryant are two of the best-known examples that lie partly or wholly in Jay County.

Hudson Family Park has some natural topographical features that were further enhanced as part of park construction. Three of Portland's parks, those being Hudson Family Park, Portland Water Park, and Weiler-Wilson Park, are all located along the banks of the Salamonie River as it flows through Portland. All three parks are subject to some minor river flooding as a result. Haynes Park has chronic drainage issues<sup>1</sup> with standing water and muddy conditions in the spring/summer of most years.

Portland's topography lends itself well to most types of outdoor recreation. Hudson Family Park has one of the few sledding hills in the community.

### Geology/Soils

Portland soils do not pose significant problems to construction or development, but care should be taken to prevent large-scale building development of the flood-prone areas along the Salamonie River. In addition, given the city's long history, some areas in or near the current city limits have served as waste dump sites in the past. This must always be considered for any major new construction projects.

### Forest Resources

Around the city, some of the trees and neighborhood sidewalks date from public works projects during the 1930's great depression. Portland parks have some grand old oak trees, maples, and poplar trees. The relatively few ash trees found on park land have been damaged by emerald ash borers. Dead and damaged ash trees are

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<sup>1</sup> A solution to drainage issues at Haynes Park is not trivial. Standard field drainage techniques (e.g., plastic field tile) involve excavation that may damage trees and would add to annual maintenance.



managed or removed from parks as needed and as weather and soil conditions permit.

Portland Parks would benefit from adding young trees and shrubs, especially where the oldest, largest trees may be past their prime and soon may be candidates for major trimming or removal. Tree and shrub planting initiatives are among potential projects for volunteers interested in improving the appeal of Portland's parks.<sup>2</sup>

### Water Resources

There are only a few surface water resources in Portland. The city is part of a larger watershed that flows into the Salamonie River at various points. A few small branches and man-made ditches and storm drains add to the flow as it passes through the city. The Salamonie River, which flows through Portland, has impacted the city with river flooding several times in the last few years. The following is a snapshot of surface waters in Portland.

- Hudson Family Park Lake – 4 acres; stocked lake with fishing access. A small, man-made lake that contributes to the appeal of Hudson Family Park
- Salamonie River – There is potential for greater use of the Salamonie River corridor in Portland for trails and water access. Exploiting the riverbank areas for additional recreational opportunities is a strategy for keeping structures from being built in flood prone areas adjacent to the river. Recently, within the last few years, there have been efforts to keep the riverbanks clear of vegetation to increase the flow rate through town in an effort to mitigate flooding. This is particularly true just to the southeast of the intersection of Blaine Pike and West Water Street where the river makes a sharp bend to the south. This bend in the river tends to slow the water's flow through town and may contribute to river flooding in Portland.

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<sup>2</sup> Contact IDNR's Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) Program, Carrie Tauscher, about urban tree advice, grants, and plantings: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/2854.htm>.

## Man-made, Historical and Cultural

### Transportation Links

Portland is served by Indiana State Roads 26 and 67, as well as U.S. Highway 27. Highways 26 and 67 both have the capability to carry traffic to Interstate highways in Ohio and Indiana within about 30 minutes. U.S. Hwy 27 intersects with Interstate highways within about an hour in either direction, to the north or south. While 30 to 60 minutes is not close, it does illustrate how quickly local traffic can integrate with high volume Interstate highways. The relative proximity of major Interstate highways means that manufactured and agricultural goods from Portland/Jay County have ready access to urban markets.

For the most part, Portland's highway and rail corridors do not significantly limit safe pedestrian/bicycle access due to a number of mitigating factors including city speed limits, rail traffic restricted to 5 mph throughout Jay County, and traffic lights and marked pedestrian crosswalks at major intersections. However, more signage is needed to remind motorists about sharing the road. For example, reminders of Portland's ordinance mandating motorists observe 3-foot clearance from bicycles on city streets.

Long term Portland bicycle and pedestrian projects include the Northside Pedestrian/Bicycle Greenway Project that has a new pedestrian crosswalk between Haynes Park and the Jay County Hospital campus. The new crossing will greatly improve the safety of crossing highway 26/67, West Votaw Street, east of Walmart on the City's west side. Due to traffic volume and a 40 mph speed limit, this is one of the most dangerous road crossings in Portland and lies immediately next to Haynes Park, one of the most popular parks. This project is now scheduled for spring/summer 2017. So, it should be completed a few months after publication of this 5-year plan.

Daily local traffic tends to use country roads and city streets. For those who work in the local area, commute times of less than 10 minutes are common. Portland has freight rail service from the southwest that serves agribusiness and surface mining activities on the southwest side of town. The Portland Municipal Airport is a hub for private pilots, local corporations, helicopter ambulance service, and several small air charter services. Residents who travel to Portland parks are generally able to walk, bike, or drive there without using major highways.

### Industry in Portland

Portland's Industrial Park area was created as an economic development project after the 1980's nationwide recession. There are now several small to medium size factories and assembly plants in Portland, an assortment of specialty agribusiness

and food production plants, and more under development. Several of the factories and plants operate multiple shifts, which contributes to growing demand for recreation and team building opportunities in the evenings and outside traditional park and recreation hours.

### Portland Parks Department History

Portland gradually developed into the small Indiana city of 6,200 we see today. Portland is known historically as an agriculturally dominated community but maintains a relatively diverse economy. Light industry benefits from an inexpensive labor force, low taxes, and available land with a full range of city services in and near the city. Some turnover has occurred as “buggy whip” manufacturing gave way to automobile parts for assembly plants in Ohio and Indiana.

Although not much discussed, it remains to be seen how the transition to electric autonomous driving vehicles will impact the auto parts industry. Portland’s auto parts industry supplies parts for conventional vehicle technology using conventional brakes and transmissions. While it is unlikely this technology will become quickly obsolete, change is coming that will have unpredictable and unintended results.

### History of Railroad Transportation Routes

Jay County/Portland benefitted from railroad growth and development after the civil war. For a time Portland was situated at the intersection of rail lines travelling in all 4 directions, north/south and east/west. The north/south railroad right-of-way was abandoned in the 1990’s. At the time, community leaders did not envision the benefits of recreational trails, and so the right-of-way was broken up and ceded back to local landowners. A Jay County Trails Club has recently been formed to attempt to salvage the important social and economic opportunities resulting from recreational trails.

### Cultural Portland

Portland has been through a number of booms and busts. One of the most significant booms was a brief oil and natural gas boom at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Roughly about 1886-1910. The gas boom brought a lot of periods “high

tech” gear to the area, including a variety of early internal combustion engines. Today there is a very large annual antique engine show in Portland that attracts thousands of visitors from around the U.S. and internationally. Although other communities dispute the claim, this is still considered by many to be the largest antique engine show and swap meet in the world.

### Arts

Portland has always supported the arts and crafts. Arts Place is headquartered in Portland, with satellite sites in Ohio and other Indiana counties. Among other things, Arts Place runs annual “Arts in the Parks” programs. See the sections on park-based programs for more information.

### Music

Portland’s music scene is very eclectic and happening. Community organizations that promote concerts and competitions include the Jay County Fair Board, Arts Place, the Jay County Chamber of Commerce, and Jay County Schools.

### Festivals

The two big events during the year in Portland are the Jay County Fair, including the Jay County 4-H Fair, and the antique tractor and engine show. However, there are many, many other festivals and events that contribute to an extremely rich range of cultural activity.

## **Social and Economic Factors from the 2020 U.S. Census and Related Sources**

### Population, 2020

- Portland had 6,320 residents according to the 2020 U.S. Census, up 97 from 6,223 in 2010
  - 50.3% Male, 49.7% Female
  - Median Age 38.3
  - 93.5% White (89.2% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino)
  - 13.8% of the population under age 65 reported a disability (8.6% national)
- Portland’s peak population was in 1970 at 7,115 residents
- Population projections for 2030 are not available at this writing

### Economics in Portland

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- For 2021, Portland had a ~3.0% average (est.) unemployment rate
- Median household income in 2019 dollars: \$38,281 (\$62,843 national)
- Percent of population in poverty (2019 est.): 15.5%
- Largest employment categories in Portland, IN:
  1. Manufacturing/Transportation
  2. Retail trade
- Poverty rates are high in all categories

### Housing

- Average household size in Portland: 2.3 (2020)
- 2,574 occupied housing units (2020)
- 61.8% owner-occupied housing
- \$71,100 median value of owner-occupied housing (\$217,500 national)
- Little new housing: 0.8% housing built since 2009 (5.2% national)

### Education

- 84.8% High school graduate or higher (88% national)
- 7.9% Bachelor's degree or higher (32.1% national)

### Computer/Internet

- 78.7% households have a computer (90.3% national)
- 66.6% households with broadband Internet (82.7% national)

### Socio-economic Summary

- Portland has a higher poverty rate than the national average (15.5% vs. 10.5%)
- Portland is less diverse than state and national averages
- Resident median age is only slightly higher than Indiana state average (38.3 vs. 38 years)
- Housing and economic characteristics for Portland are below state and national averages
- Substance abuse is a significant problem in the City of Portland and throughout the region
- 

The implications of these statistics for Portland parks include:

- Accessibility – Survey results do not show significant park accessibility issues, but statistics indicate accessibility must always be a key consideration
- Drugs – Statistics indicate active, year around vigilance and policing of parklands are warranted
- Appearance – Keeping parks trimmed, painted, and trash free can discourage crime and may indirectly help the community grow and prosper

- Active Lifestyle – Statistics imply that seasonal access to affordable active outdoor programs, including the many established park-based programs, is very important for the long-term economic vitality of the community

## Accessibility and Universal Design

### Statement of Accessibility for Portland

The Portland Park Department makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable modification under the law for people with special access needs.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires local governments with over 50 employees to designate at least one individual to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. Portland government is not that large. Anyone with concerns or comments related to accessibility may contact Tom Leonhard, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, [streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net](mailto:streetsuperintendent@thecityofportland.net), or any representative of Portland City Government.

The Portland Park Department coordinates with area organizations that support or advocate for the disabled. In addition, the Park Department is continually assessing park facilities. The following areas were evaluated, and the results are bulleted below:

- Policies: Park Rules and Regulations; Facility Use and Rental Requirements; and the Recreation Activities Program Brochure – compliant with ADA except for availability of Braille copies of documents or alternatives, such as electronic copies or on CD-ROM
  - Estimated cost of compliance depends on media and quantity
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Park Based Recreation Programs and Activities: ADA compliance is expected
- Portland Park System Sites and Facilities – Currently ADA compliant or with plans to become compliant subject to constraints including funds availability

### Current Accessibility

514 park survey responses did not explicitly describe special accessibility impediments. However, the Portland Parks Department is aware of wheelchair challenges traversing gravel parking lots. In addition, an accessible fishing dock at Hudson Family Park would be helpful for some residents having special access needs. Portland has replaced some old play structures that did not meet Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas. Most park bathroom facilities have also been updated within the past few years. Overall, park facilities are mostly accessible to people of all ages and abilities.



### Proposed Accessibility

Progress on accessibility issues in Portland has been steady over the years, with some significant improvements being made, particularly at the “new” parks, i.e., Hudson Family Park and the Portland Water Park. A primary goal for this 5-year plan is to focus more attention, including accessibility, on older parks that received less attention over the past decade when most attention was focused on “new” parks.

Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering as of March 2017 is developing a city-wide ADA and Title 9 compliance plan for the City of Portland. This includes all intersections, sidewalks, and city buildings. The Water Park is included but it was designed and built to ADA compliant specifications. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration do not have a specific timetable for implementation. It is only necessary to show progress each year. Projects like Safe Routes to School and the Northside Pedestrian/Bicycle Greenway count as working towards compliance. We are also doing residential ADA compliant sidewalks throughout the city as we can work them each year.

Persons that have questions about accessibility are encouraged to call the Park Department at 260-726-4077 during regular business hours.

## **Public Participation**

The Park Department recognizes our mission of service provision to the community. The best way for us to provide service to the community is to ask what their needs, opinions, and preferences are, and apply that information to all our future planning. For this master plan, we used three methods of public input, followed by a final comment period to double-check all our earlier opinion-gathering.

### Public Meetings

The Park Board held one public meeting. This meeting was advertised for a week prior to each meeting via newspaper articles and notices, and public service announcements via a local radio station, and our website. The numbers and response for each meeting were:

- September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm, Fire Department – Council Chambers
  - 21 citizens in attendance, plus 2 park board members and the Chief of Portland Police.
  - Park plan committee members shared the survey results and goals from the current 2017-2021 park plan, goals of the park board for the upcoming 5-year plan and preliminary survey results along with the timetable the park board approved with completing the new park plan.

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- Mitch Sutton Chief of Portland Police was on hand to give a report on vandalism at the parks and how the police department patrols the parks for security.
- Representative from the Portland Rockets semi-pro baseball team was on hand to advocate for changes to the Sportland Park that houses Runkle-Miller Park with concerns for parking and accessibility at the park.
- Local citizens spoke in favor of the park board to develop a budget for each park to determine improvements and capital purchases.
- Meeting was scheduled for 90 minutes. Ray Cooney from the local newspaper “The Commercial Review” was on hand to file a report in local newspaper of highlights from the meeting.

### Park Survey (paper and online)

The IDNR requires a random method of gathering public input. PPB adapted a version of the short mail survey from IDNR for distribution throughout the community. The survey instrument had 12 questions, and covered demographics, park use, programs, barriers to participation, types of park use. The survey was advertised in advance through the same methods used to advertise public meetings. (See Appendices for a copy of the Survey). A link to the online version of the survey was shared with the key stake holders to share with their participants, in addition to the link available on the City of Portland website and social media pages for Portland Jr. League, Jay Community Center, Jay County Pee Wee Football, Jay County Schools, The Portland Foundation and John Jay Center for Learning. The survey was available for the public from July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 and the deadline for completion was August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Paper copies were made available at city hall. The numbers and summary of responses were:

- There were 515 completed surveys resulting from 5 hardcopy survey forms and the remaining 509 surveys were completed online
- 69% of total respondents reside in Portland.
- Of the respondent's majority visit the Hudson Park (94%), followed by Haynes Park (57.9%) and Portland Water Park (54%).
- The parks are used more seasonally with most months with most week visiting the parks. While visiting the parks 67.5% are using the playground equipment followed by 66.7% indicate using the trails for biking and walking. Of the supervised activities/organizations that use the parks the top 4 activities used/visiting the parks are Portland Jr. League (50.8%) Jay County Pee Wee Football (23.1%) Soccer (recreational and travel 22.6% and Arts in the Parks (21.9%).

Detailed survey results are included in the appendices.

### Focus Groups

Focus groups were not used due to excellent representative survey participation. In addition, a Community Park Plan Committee made up of park stakeholders was widely and directly involved in developing much of the information included in the plan and served with commitment as a knowledgeable and motivated focus group. Participants include:

Beverly Arnold—Coach, Jay County Swim Team  
Missy Bader—Manager, Portland Water Park  
Kyle Cook—Executive Director, Jay Community Center  
Steve Craig—Community Advocate for Pickle Ball  
Lori Aker-Ferguson—Clerk-Treasurer, City of Portland, Indiana  
Mary Franklin—Community Advocate for the Shuffleboard Courts  
Brian Ison, Portland Park Board General Member  
Chet Franks Commissioner Jay County Pee Wee Football  
Brian Ison—President, Portland Junior League Baseball  
Randy Miller—Manager, Portland Rockets Baseball  
John Moore—Treasurer, Jay County Trails Club  
Roger Prescott—Community Advocate for the Shuffleboard Courts  
Brett Resler—Community Advocate for Disc Golf  
Eric Rogers—Executive Director, Arts Place Inc.  
Tabby Sprunger—Executive Director, Jay County Chamber of Commerce

### Public Presentation of Plan

The latest hardcopy draft of the Portland 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for review at City Hall from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021-August 27<sup>th</sup> 2021. Comment sheets and contact information were provided. A PDF copy of the plan was also posted on the park department web page with e-mail and phone numbers available for comments. A public hearing on the survey results was provided on Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 with over 10 residents in attendance. The following was presented:

- Current plan with date to expire.
- Goals of the current plan
- Results from the prior survey in 2012-2016.
- Results from the public survey conducted July 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Portland City Police Chief Mitch Sutton was present and updated attendees of recent calls regarding vandalism and drugs in the parks.

### Summary/Comparison of Public Input

#### Emerging Themes

Common themes from survey responses and public discussion include, in no particular order:

- Security and vandalism in the parks. Residents noted in the survey concerns with safety in the parks and needing local police to patrol parks during all hours of the day.
- Lack of updated equipment and variety of equipment in all parks. Concerns were expressed about newer playground equipment at Hudson Park and lack of swings and other equipment at Haynes and Milton-Miller Park.
- Lack of shelter houses in all of the parks.
- Sportland Park needing gravel parking lot to be paved and adding more access to Pee Wee Football field with sidewalks and less gravel. Improvements to the Portland Rockets field to include renovations to restrooms and concession stand.
- Maintenance of all parks to include landscaping, adding more trees and signage.
- Expanding current trails for walking and bicycling.
- Better coordination by the City Park Department with organizations using the parks such as youth sports, Arts Place and community events. park-based programs, especially in scheduling facilities at times of high demand
- Add facilities and equipment for emerging new sports like disk golf and pickleball
- Increasing Park budget to cover expenses.
- Addition of a splash pad for the community to use for no admission fee.

### **Needs Analysis**

Since the Portland Park Board is developing this master plan with the assistance of local volunteers, at an estimated savings of at least \$10,000, we are using a simplified issue analysis method to determine park system needs based on inference from gathered input. This analysis collected results from each method of public input such as the park survey, input from the park board, park staff, city officials, program

leaders, and the public, and then identified common themes from all sources. The issues were arranged in a priority order based on reasonable expectations of achievability and other constraints, then suggested a multi-year action plan.

### Issues from the Park Board, municipal officers, and staff:

- Accessibility
  - Continue ongoing efforts to identify ADA issues and upgrade facilities to current ADA standards.
  - Removing gravel parking lots to convert to asphalt or concrete.
- Aging trees in parks that present as a safety concern. Improve Park appearance and cleanliness within resource limits
- Safety and security are high priorities in Portland parks
  - Periodically review policing policies and procedures for the parks
  - Consider cost-effective measures like use of security video cameras
  - Police presence in the parks
- Upkeep and maintenance in all the parks to include aging equipment, facilities and landscaping.
- Limited budget to cover current expenses includes payroll, repair and replacement. The capital projects budget has not significantly increased since a prior park plan to address some of the needs expressed by the community and park board.
- The waterpark needs major repairs of current tiles, mildew in restrooms and concessions stand. There needs to be additional financial assistance provided by the city to cover these expenses.

### How much park space?

According to national guidelines from the National Recreation and Park Association, Portland should have between 6.25 and 10.25 acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Because Portland has approximately 6,200 residents plus another 2,000 outside the city limits who regularly use Portland parks (extrapolated from survey responses), that suggests around 50-80 acres of land for outdoor recreation use. With 97 acres of park land in the service area, Portland exceeds recommended guidelines.

Nearly all Portland residents reside within less than 15 minutes' walk time or a 5-minute bicycle ride from one or more Portland parks. In addition, park features are

popular and heavily used, including playgrounds, sports fields/courts, paths/trails, and water features for swimming and fishing. There is no “wasted” space.

The impressive set of features at Hudson Family Park and the new Portland Water Park, together with the central location of the two parks and ancillary features like convenient parking results in a very positive park situation. The community is obviously and rightfully proud of its park system.

Based on the thoughtful input received from all sources, and in light of the status enjoyed by Portland’s parks, a list of priorities and an action plan are presented in the next section.

## Priorities and Action Schedule

Identifying priorities that work for everyone is always a challenge. As in most cases, priorities tend to be most influenced by those who participate. In the case of this plan, public comments and survey responses made it relatively clear what people think is important. Input was gathered from a broad spectrum of the community. The “price of admission” was as little as 10-minutes or less to complete a park survey.

### Transition to the New 5-Year Plan

The biggest change for this 5-year planning period is from major park development capital projects (i.e., Hudson Family Park in 2009-2011 and the Portland Water Park in 2015-2016) to routine park system operations and maintenance. No further capital development projects of comparable magnitude are anticipated for the foreseeable future. But, in the aftermath of major development projects that produced a large new park and a new flagship amenity, there is a lot of deferred maintenance at the older parks that needs to be addressed.

In this context, the major themes for the new 5-year planning period include:



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

1. Shift the focus of attention from new development (e.g., Hudson Family Park, Portland Water Park) to “steady state” park system operations and management of equipment and facilities.
2. Catch up on deferred maintenance and boost the visual appeal of heavily used older parks (e.g., Sportland (a.k.a. Portland Memorial Park), Weiler-Wilson),
3. Continue to make evolutionary progress with ADA upgrades and addressing safety and vandalism concerns by local citizens.
4. Working with the city council and mayor with developing a park budget to cover the rising costs for repairs and maintenance of the current parks and capital expenditures.
5. The Waterpark has brought many challenges over the past 5 years to include staffing, maintenance, and repairs. The Park board and parks department will need to develop a plan to address some of the current problems and have a separate budget to cover these expenses.
6. Better coordination with 3<sup>rd</sup> party, park-based programs.

### Priorities for 2021 to 2025

Not listed in any priority. The following list is a result of public input on a survey, city officials and Portland Board.

Sportland - (a.k.a. Portland Memorial);

- restore ball fields and facilities (restrooms, storage and concession stand) to provide a clean and attractive facility. City Park Board, Parks Manager and representatives from Portland Rockets to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of facilities with highest priority based on safety, access by community and clean facilities. Actions to be taken will include and not be limited to painting, upgrade facilities and additional structures.
- begin implementing an incremental, multi-year series of upgrades including refurbish and expand spectator seating to include transition gravel to sidewalks for access and safety exploring the addition of shelter house to areas of baseball/softball fields used by Men's and Co-ed league and Jay County Pee Wee Football. City Park Board, Parks Manager and representatives from Men's and Co-Ed Softball league and JC Pee Wee Football to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of facilities with highest priority based on safety, access by community and clean facilities.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

- Exploration of adding Pickleball Courts with partnership and/or recommendations from area activist for Pickleball and Jay Community Center. City Park Board, Parks Manager, and representatives from activist for Pickleball to work on a plan to add a minimum of one court with emphasis on sustaining and repairs of facility for use of all citizens of Portland.

### Hudson Park-

Exploration of additional shelter houses and/or gazabos located in areas through the park. Local not for profit organizations or local business/manufacturing could be used as a source of funding for additional buildings.

Addition of group activities for youth such as Gaga Ball. Such funding for these projects could be provided by local not for profit organizations and business/manufacturing.

Utilization of green space in park for youth and adult activities with emphasis of adding soccer fields.

- Utilization of the amphitheater by local organizations for events. Park Board and city officials to work with local and regional groups with promotion of events.
- Provide a clean and attractive park for citizens to enjoy. City Park Board, Parks Manager to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of facilities with highest priority based on safety, access by community and clean facilities. Emphasis will take place on landscaping and additional Trail and walking path at Hudson Park-
- Exploration of expansion of current trails and walking paths in parks. Park board and city officials to work with local Trails Club to identify public needs by adding to current trail system and determining a county wide trail system with other municipalities.
- Upkeep with current paved walkway in Hudson Park to add benches, landscaping, trash reciprocals and dog waste bins for users.
- Determine proper signage and trail markings on current trails.
- trees/shrubbery native to this area.

### Portland Water Park-

- Exploration of a splash pad to be constructed in and around the area of the waterpark.
- City Park Board, Parks Manager to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of pool and shower/restrooms and concession stand with highest priority based on safety, access by community and clean facilities.
- Park Board and City Council to address the rising costs of maintenance of the pool and develop a line item in budget to address replacement and repairs to the pool.

### Haynes Park-

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

- City Park Board, Parks Manager to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of playground equipment with highest priority based on safety and access.
- Provide a clean and attractive park for citizens to enjoy. Emphasis will take place on landscaping and concern with aging of trees to either trimmed or removed due to safety concerns.

Addition of group activities for youth such as Gaga Ball. Such funding for these projects could be provided by local not for profit organizations and business/manufacturing.

Remaining parks: Milton-Miller and Weiler-Wilson (Portland Jr. League diamonds)

- City Park Board, Parks Manager, and representatives from Portland Jr. League to work on a plan for repairs or replacement of facilities with highest priority based on safety, access by community and clean facilities. Actions to be taken will include and not be limited to painting, upgrade facilities and additional structures.
- Park board and Parks Manager to determine future use of Milton-Miller Park and greatest needs for the community.

Security and Vandalism of all parks to be addressed by Parks Manager, Mayor and Portland Police dept. In the survey many comments were addressed by citizens with concerns with broken equipment and facilities, drugs and homeless individuals residing in the local parks. City officials will address these concerns on an ongoing basis and determine use of security cameras, opening/closing of facilities for use by the public and address the ongoing costs due to vandalism.

Use Public-Private-Partnerships to seek and use volunteers, donated materials, and grants to the extent practical for maintenance and upgrade projects

Park Board and Parks Manager to coordinate facility use and current/future needs of area organizations utilizing parks system. These organizations may range from youth sports (JC Pee Wee Football, Portland Jr. League, Jay Schools, JC Summer Swim Club) and not for profit organizations (Portland Arts Place, Jay Community Center, Jay County Trails Club) and adult activities (Portland Rockets, Men's/Co-Ed Softball, Shuffleboard, Pickleball and Disc Golf). These organizations will help support the goal for a volunteer system in Portland Parks. Goals for these organizations will help to track and report progress in achieving the objectives of the 5-year plan. Initiate safety and security policies for Portland parks.

To help ensure the appearance and overall condition of the Portland Park System:

- Quality Assurance – Parks will be inspected periodically by a park board member or designated representative(s) and a status report provided to the Park Board and the public
- The Park Department and Friends of Portland Parks will host an annual tour of the Portland Park System for Park Board members and the mayor

## **Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026**

- The annual tour will be considered a public meeting to be announced and open to the press and public
- The Police Chief, city officials, County Commissioners, Emergency Management Agency, School Corp., Health Department, Hospital, and park program leaders (e.g., JCC, Junior League, Arts Place, Swim Team, etc.) will be actively encouraged to attend
- Further details remain to be determined
- Subject to legal review

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### Portland Park Board System-wide Action Schedule (Summary)

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
<b>Each Year July-Sept 2017-2021</b>	PARK BUDGET - Develop complete budget request/ estimates for next year.	Park Dept., Park Board, Clerk Treas.	No direct cost. The best practice is to make larger projects visible and plan ahead	PPB budget. Discuss other options for major projects. Solicit input from the Friends-of group to help identify alternatives
<b>2017-2021 Multi-Year Increment Projects</b>	<b>Restore</b> Sportland (Portland Memorial), Develop a detailed plan to incrementally improve functional & visual appeal	Park Dept., Friends of Portland Parks, Stakeholder Groups	\$20K/yr x 5-yr = \$100K. Organize volunteers & seek donations to reduce direct costs	Donations from stakeholder groups, local business, grant-making organizations, other sources
<b>2017-2021 Multi-Year Increment Projects</b>	<b>Upgrade</b> Sportland, Develop a detailed plan for more parking, seating, shelters, etc., Incremental	Park Dept., Program Reps, & Friends of Portland Parks	\$40K/yr x 5-yr = \$200K. Organize volunteers & seek donations to reduce direct costs	Donations from stakeholders, local businesses, bequests, grantmaking organizations, etc.
<b>2017-2018</b>	Establish Program COORDINATION & OMBUDSMAN functions	Park Dept., Park Board, Mayor	No direct cost unless it is determined that additional city or park staff resources are needed for the functions	PPB budget. Discuss other options. Volunteers? Use "Friends of Portland Parks" volunteers for parts of the functions?
<b>2017-2018</b>	Form a "Friends of Portland Parks" volunteer group	Park Dept., Park Board, Mayor, Park Program Reps	No direct cost unless it is concluded new resources are needed	Discuss options. Develop a DRAFT charter for the Volunteer group. Seek startup advice from advocacy groups
<b>February each year 2017-2021</b>	Trim/prune trees & shrubs, all parks, winter is the best time for this activity each year	Friends of Portland Parks & Park Dept.	\$250/yr = \$1,250 over 5-years for equipment (e.g., loppers, pruners, saws, bags, etc.). Pro tree service if needed	PPB budget, volunteers, donations, grants, foundation matches, etc. Pro tree service costs t.b.d. where needed
<b>2018</b>	Update signage at Portland Memorial Park to "also or only" show Sportland	Park Dept., Park Board	\$100-\$2,500 depending on option(s) selected	PPB budget, in-kind service donation, Friends-of group, Park based programs, other options?
<b>Oct-Nov each year 2017-2021</b>	Factor Lessons Learned into operating plans for next season.	Park Dept., Park Board	No direct cost. Best management practice	Invite public comments
<b>Spring 2017</b>	Haynes Park, DRAINAGE report, recommendations, and cost estimates	Park Dept., Park Board	Add estimate to 2018 budget; Add project to 2018 task plans	PPB Budget; In-kind or service donations from local building contractors
<b>2018</b>	Haynes Park, Implement DRAINAGE project	Park Dept., Park Board	Cost to be determined based on report findings	PPB Budget; In-kind or service donations, fund raising, explore all likely options
<b>2017-2021 Multi-Year Increment Projects</b>	<b>ADA Upgrades</b> - Incrementally upgrade to current ADA rules	Park Dept., Park Board, Ombudsman	\$6K/yr x 5-yr = \$30K. Organize volunteers & seek grants and donations to reduce direct costs	Donations from stakeholder groups, local business, bequests, grantmaking

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
				organizations, other sources
<b>2017-2018</b>	Initiate public planning discussion of safe pedestrian & bike routes among parks & key 3 <sup>rd</sup> party activities	Park Board, Friends of PP, Mayor, Street & Park Dept., Ombudsman	Minimal cost for public discourse	Not applicable
<b>2017</b>	Maintenance Projects	Park Dept., Park Board, Mayor, Ombudsman	\$112,000. See list below.	PPB budget, donations, fund raising, foundation matches, etc.
<b>May 2017</b>	Water Park, Bolster business functions and protocols for new season	Park Dept., Park Board	\$0. Maintain positive cash flow to help recoup Water Park operating costs	Use lessons learned to boost efficiency where possible
<b>Annual 2017-2021</b>	Annual Quality Assurance tour of Portland Park System for Park Board, Mayor, media, and public	Park Dept., Park Board, Ombudsman, Friends-of, Park Programs	Low cost, \$200(?). Increase visibility & status of Park System within local govt., media & the public	Low cost, not prohibitive. Activity pays benefits by raising awareness on many levels
<b>Annual 2017-2021</b>	Annual Safety Review of Portland Park System	City Police, Park Dept., Mayor, Park Board, EMA, health dept, media, Hospital	Low cost, \$200(?). Increase visibility & status of Park System with first responders, media & the public	Low cost, not prohibitive. Activity pays benefits by raising awareness and increasing readiness with emergency responders
<b>2019</b>	Pedestrian/bike trail from JRDS & East Elementary to Water Park & Weiler-Wilson	Park Dept., Park Board, Mayor, Ombudsman	\$50K, most may be offset by donations or other funding sources	Non-PPB city budget, donations, fund raising, foundation matches, etc.



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

2018-2021 Park Projects		
1.)	Roof at Amphitheater	\$ 17,500.00
2.)	Concrete sidewalk for Pee Wee Football field	\$ \$4,800
3.)	Portland Jr. League diamonds concrete sidewalk	\$ 4,200.00
4.)	Metal roof on all shelter houses in parks	\$ 16,250

Total for all projects	\$ 42,750
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Total money budgeted for 2021
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Capital outlays	\$ 35,000.00
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Repairs & maintenance	\$ 40,000.00
-----------------------	--------------

\$ 75,000.00
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Capital expenses have been reduced by city council over the past 3 years. Capital expenses are reviewed by the board at meetings and prioritized by needs in each park.

## Appendices

### *Portland, Jay County, Regional Map*

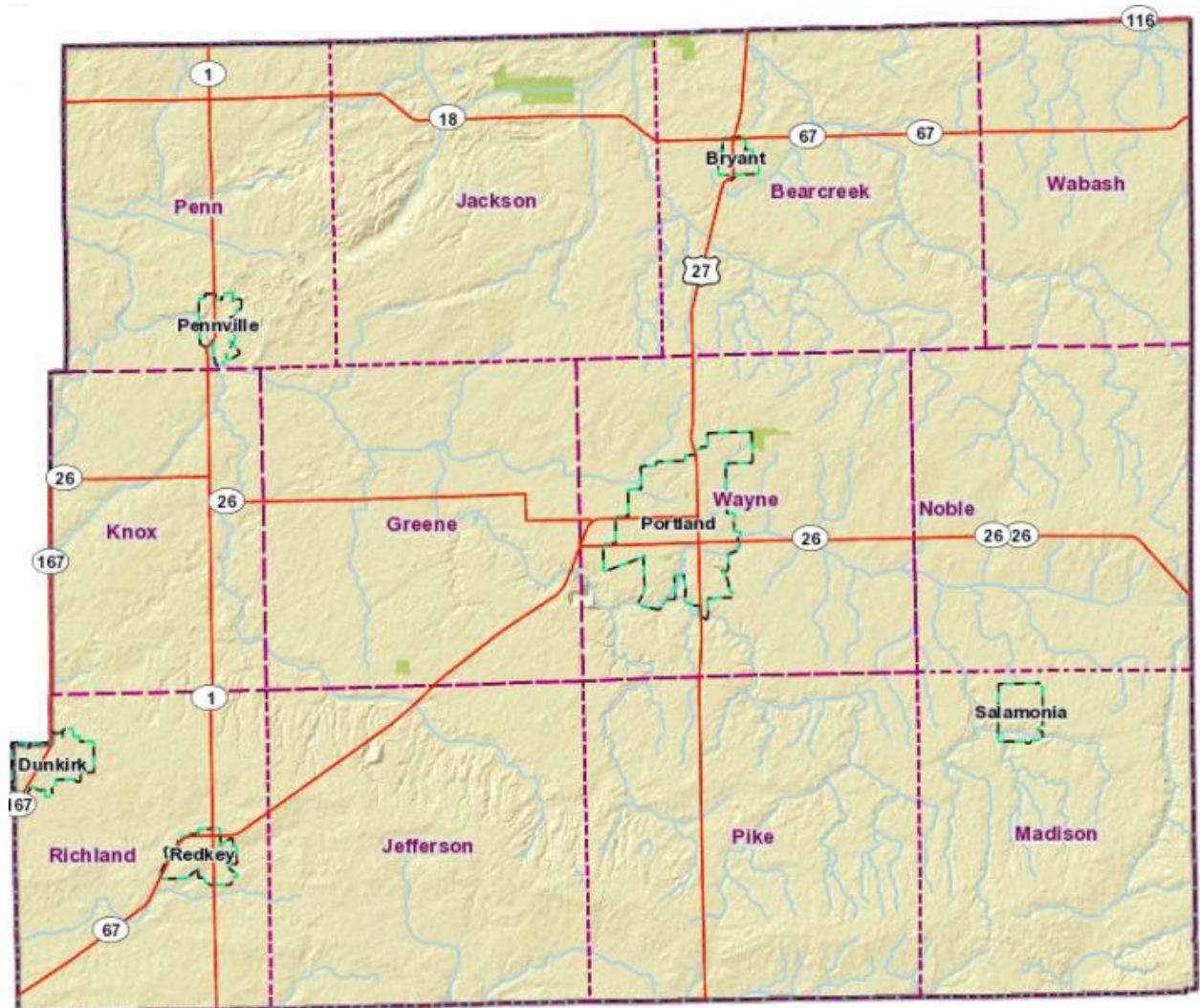


Figure 2: Jay County, Indiana, showing cities/towns, townships, major roadways and drainage. (from Elevate!)

**Accessibility Compliance Sign-Off Sheet**

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

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

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Ison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "I".

APPLICANT PRESIDENT  
(Brian Ison)

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Runkle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "R".

APPLICANT SECRETARY  
(Shauna Runkle)

DATE: January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Board Resolution Adopting Plan**

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

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

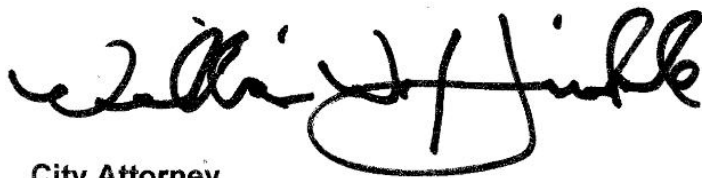
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PORTLAND PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Portland 5-year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Portland, Indiana.

Passed and signed this 7th day of December 2021.

**ATTEST:**



**President**



**City Attorney**



**City of Portland**

321 North Meridian Street  
Portland, IN 47371



## 2021-PPB-Survey

### **Portland Park Board (PPB) 2021 Community Park Survey, Portland, Indiana. (260) 726-4077.**

**Please complete this survey about Portland community parks. Survey responses are anonymous and confidential. Results will be used for a new Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Community Parks Master Plan for the years 2022-2026. Estimated time needed to complete the survey is about 5 minutes.**

**Drop off or mail completed surveys to Portland City Hall at the address above.**

**Or, take the survey online at <http://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6417720/0112854903dd>**

**1) Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **2) Do you live in Portland, Indiana**  
☐ YES  
☐ NO, but I live in Jay County  
☐ NO, I live outside Jay County

## Park Use

### 3) What do you usually do at the Park? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Use playgrounds
- ☐ Use trails to walk/run/bicycle
- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Use sports fields, courts, facilities
- ☐ Picnic, use pavilions
- ☐ Attend public events
- ☐ Attend private events
- ☐ Attend amphitheater events
- ☐ Attend waterpark
- ☐ Other (what?): \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) How often do you visit Portland Parks?

- ☐ Often - most weeks, seasonal
- ☐ Occasional - most months, seasonal
- ☐ Infrequent - 4-times/year or less

### 5) What parks do you visit? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Haynes (near hospital)
- ☐ Hudson Family Park
- ☐ Milton-Miller (by north water tower)
- ☐ Portland Water Park (pool)
- ☐ Portland Memorial (Sportland, SW)
- ☐ Weiler-Wilson (central, ball diamonds near waterpark)

## Participation

### 6) Do you or other household members participate in organized, supervised activities that take place in Portland parks? If yes, check all below that apply. If no, skip to the next question.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5K walk/run, half marathon       | <input type="checkbox"/> Stars in the Park (Jay Co. Chamber event)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts in the Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Co. Swim Team                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Jr. League              | <input type="checkbox"/> JCC sporting teams                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pee Wee Football                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Schools sporting events (Cross Country) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer (recreational and travel) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's and Co-Ed Softball         |  |

### 7) I would like to see the following added to Portland Parks (check all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More accessible play equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> More routes among parks and to Arts Place, Community Center, Jay Co. Library, schools, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More trails/paths              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More bleachers/shelters        |  |



## Preferences

8) Prioritize park administration and management below by entering “1” for your top Priority, next gets “2”, and so on. Only the top 5 will be used. If you choose a "suggestion or comment" as a top 5 pick, describe it in the next sub-section.

Priority	PARK ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT category
	Maintenance: No damaged equipment, everything serviceable. Includes mowing, p working utilities, clean and stocked bathrooms, trash and debris removed, signage drainage, landscaping, and seasonal opening/closing.
	Appearance: Park grounds, facilities, and equipment are clean and painted. Nothing rusted, faded, littered, or dying/dead.
	Safety: Park features have signage and are maintained for safety.
	Access: Park facilities accessible to all, including seniors, small children, and handic Handicap (e.g., ADA) accessibility standards met or planned. Park administration v coordinate with schools, JCC, JC Library, Arts Place, and others to designate safe r sidewalks, trails and other connections between park facilities and with public ven
	Activities: Park administration will do what is reasonable and practical to encourag organizations, including sports leagues and arts/crafts programs, to offer safe, sup activities at Portland parks. Organizations that use Park (continued...) facilities will observe Park standards of conduct, safety, decorum, including consistent oversigh people working with children.
	Suggestion or comment (If ranked as one of your Top-5, briefly describe in the ne section below)

**9) If you ranked a SUGGESTION or COMMENT as one of your Top-5 items above, please briefly describe it (e.g., 20 words or less) on the lines below:**

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**10) What is your age?**

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 – 55
- ☐ Over 55
- ☐ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**11) If I could add or change one thing about Portland parks it would be (describe):**

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**12) Is there an activity or equipment you would recommend adding to the parks? (briefly describe):**

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**Thank you for completing the 2021 Portland Park Board community survey!**

☐

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Newspaper notices, articles, sign-in sheets and meeting info

### Newspaper articles

Commercial Review

Park planning

Board is working on document for next five years

Ray Cooney, Editor and publisher

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:47 AM

Pictured is the cover of the 2017-2021 master plan for Portland's parks. With that plan expiring at the end of the year, Portland Park Board is in the process of developing its next five-year plan. The board plans to review questions for a public survey at its April 6 meeting as part of the process of completing the new plan by the end of the year. (Graphic provided)

Pictured is the cover of the 2017-2021 master plan for Portland's parks. With that plan expiring at the end of the year, Portland Park Board is in the process of developing its next five-year plan. The board plans to review questions for a public survey at its April 6 meeting as part of the process of completing the new plan by the end of the year. (Graphic provided)

It's time for a new plan.

With the city's five-year park plan expiring at the end of the year, Portland Park Board on Tuesday discussed the procedure it will go through in creating a new plan for 2022 through 2026.

The board also heard three pitches for support of various projects in the city's parks.

John Moore, who has volunteered to help lead the process of working on the five-year park plan along with park board member Brian Ison, talked about some of the goals of the current plan. Those included keeping the parks well maintained, creating a "friends of" the parks group, bolstering coordination with third parties for programs, considering new park options and expanding park trails.

Ison reviewed the schedule for creating the new plan, noting that the survey questions will be ready for the board to review next month. The parks survey will then be made available to the public in June to gather input about the city's facilities. The plan calls for a draft of the five-year plan to be completed by September, with final approval slated for December. The plan will then be turned in to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for approval.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Questions in the survey for the current park plan asked what activities residents typically did at the parks, how often they visited parks and what additions would be best for the facilities.

Moore emphasized the importance of the plan and the parks in general.

“The parks are really, really very heavily used,” he said, noting the many programs that provide activities for children and adults. “It’s a wonderful, wonderful community resource.”

Park survey is open  
Results will be used to help create master plan  
Ray Cooney, Editor and publisher  
Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:46 AM

The park board is ready for input.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday unveiled its community park survey that is part of the process of creating a new five-year master plan for the city’s parks.

The survey is open to anyone who uses the city’s parks and includes questions about the most popular park activities and how frequently parks are used. It also offers respondents the opportunity to suggest ideas for improving the parks.

Surveys can be filled out online at [bit.ly/parksurvey21](https://bit.ly/parksurvey21) or via the city’s website at [thecityofportland.net](https://thecityofportland.net). Paper copies are available at city hall. (Information about the surveys will also be distributed with water bills.) It will remain open until Aug. 27.

Once the survey period is complete, park board members will review the data and schedule a public forum to discuss the results.

The survey is a required step in the process of creating the city’s five-year community park master plan, which must be turned in to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for approval. Park board’s schedule calls for having a draft of the plan complete by September, with final approval to come in December.

Park board members Shauna Runkle, Brian Ison, Giles Laux and Glen Bryant, absent Chris Compton, also heard an update from Portland Water Park Manager Missy Bader. She informed the board that the facility is open as much as possible

but that a shortage of lifeguards is still limiting hours. (The water park was open from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and noon to 7 p.m. on weekdays this week.)

Survey shows users of Portland Parks have many of the same goals as they did five years ago

Ray Cooney, Editor and publisher

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 9:55 PM

Priorities for those who use Portland's parks are much the same now as they were five years ago.

Portland Park Board member Brian Ison presented data from the nearly 500 completed parks survey Wednesday during a relatively quiet public hearing on the city's five-year parks plan.

The survey data — 496 had been filled out prior to Wednesday's meeting, with the survey ([bit.ly/parksurvey21](https://bit.ly/parksurvey21)) remaining open until Aug. 27 — shows Portland's parks are most frequently visited for the purpose of using playgrounds (67.8% of respondents) and walking/bicycling on trails (66.2%). (Those options were also at the top of the list in the 2016 parks survey.) No other choice cleared the 50% barrier, with the next highest attending the water park (45.8%) and picnicking/using pavilions (44.9%).

Hudson Family Park, which was completed in 2011, continues to be the most utilized, with 94.5% of respondents saying they visit that facility. Haynes Park (57.9%) and Portland Water Park (54.2%) were next highest, with Milton Miller Park lowest at 12.6%.

In terms of what park users would like to see added to facilities, trails and paths topped the list at 55.4%.

Additional bleachers and shelters, which was the top choice in the 2016 survey, was next at 39.1%, with more routes among parks and community facilities (schools, Arts Place, Jay Community Center, Jay County Public Library) at 38.1% and more accessible play equipment at 33.9%.

Among comments offered by park users, the most frequent were concerns about safety and vandalism. Suggestions including added trails/paths, adding sidewalks to replace stone paths and parking lots, installing a splash pad and pickleball courts, increasing adult programming, updating playground equipment, increasing use of the

amphitheatre at Hudson Family Park, improving landscaping and adding more shelters, picnic areas and trash bins.

In addition to the surveys, Ison and rural Portland resident John Moore, who is assisting with developing the plan, sought input from various groups that use the parks. Those include Portland Junior League, Jay County Pee Wee Football, Arts Place, Jay Community Center, adult recreational leagues, the Portland Rockets, Jay County Swim Club, Jay County Trails Club, Jay County Chamber of Commerce and Jay School Corporation.

Ison noted some of the improvements and changes that have been made to the park system during the current five-year plan — 2017 through 2021. Those include adding a disc golf course at Hudson Family Park, adding sidewalks at Weiler-Wilson, Portland Memorial and Haynes parks, removing the tennis courts at Milton Miller Park, installing a new scoreboard at Runkle-Miller Field and building a new concession stand and restroom facility in the softball diamond area at Portland Memorial Park. (Portland Water Park opened in 2016.)

Among goals listed for the 2022-27 plan are promoting parks-based programs and knowledge of park facilities, encouraging an active lifestyle, coordinating with groups that provide programming at parks and identifying priorities for future park management.

Park board member Glen Bryant, Ison and Moore heard only a handful of comments from those in attendance. Randy Miller, manager of the Portland Rockets, and Randy Fisher advocated for improvements to the Runkle-Miller Field facilities.

Steve Craig, an advocate for pickleball, suggested that in addition to setting targets for the park system as a whole, the board should also create individual goals for each of its parks. He also suggested pavilions, including a three-season shelter house, for Hudson Family Park.

Park board's next regular meeting is 7 p.m. Sept. 7, with complete survey results and a draft of the five-year plan to be presented. The board will then seek comments on the proposed plan, with a full draft document to be presented in November. Board members hope to approve the plan in December and submit it to Indiana Department of Natural Resource for approval in January.

Board OKs park goals  
Portland Park Board  
Ray Cooney, Editor and publisher  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:00 AM

Park priorities are set.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday approved its set of priorities for its five-year parks plan.

Brian Ison, who has spearheaded the plan along with John Moore, told his fellow park board members Shauna Runkle, Chris Compton, Glen Bryant and Giles Laux he felt the best way to approach the priorities is to look at them park-by-park rather than as a whole.

Suggested priorities for the parks included:

- Portland Memorial Park — Restore baseball and softball fields; begin implementing incremental, multi-year upgrades to refurbish and expand spectator seating and install sidewalks; and explore adding pickleball courts.
- Hudson Family Park — Explore adding shelter houses or gazebos; add equipment for youth activities such as gaga ball; utilize green space, possibly for soccer fields; better utilize the amphitheater for community events; keep the park clean and safe; explore expanding trails and walking paths, and make sure they are well-marked; and add trees and shrubbery.
- Portland Water Park — Consider adding a splash pad; work on a plan for repairs to facility as needed; and create a plan to address rising maintenance costs.
- Haynes Park — Develop a plan to repair or replace aging playground equipment; place an emphasis on landscaping and address concerns about safety issues caused by aging trees; and add equipment for youth activities.
- Weiler-Wilson Park — Work with Portland Junior League and other organizations to develop plans for repairs and replacement of facilities.
- Milton Miller Park — Determine the best future uses for the park and how it can best fulfill the needs of the community.

Overarching priorities for all of the parks including prioritizing security, addressing vandalism, continuing to build public-private partnerships and coordinating with organizations for park use. The priorities also suggest periodic park inspections by board members as well as an annual parks tour to review facilities.



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Board members unanimously approved the list of priorities to be added to the five-year plan. The board expects to improve the final plan at its December meeting.

**The Commercial Review, Jay County's Daily Newspaper  
P.O. Box 1049 Portland, IN 47371**

### Newspaper meeting notices

Copies of media notices not available.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### Sign-in sheets and agendas for public meeting to review survey results

#### Sign-in Sheet for Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 Meeting

Portland Park 5 year plan sign in sheet for public meeting Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Portland City Council Chambers  
office located in Portland Fire Station

Facilitators: Portland Park Board and John Moore Jay Co. resident

Name	address	phone#
Haleigh Clayton	1629 E Treaty Line Rd Portland, IN	260-251-5698
Gabby Duncan	8621 S 500E Portland, IN	260-251-8276
Katelyn Bihn	1102 E 400S Portland, IN	260-251-3613
STEVE CRAIG	826 E 400W	251-4780
Ray Cooney	306 W 12th St Portland	440-213-8801
NAVY FISHER	Portland	6-5040
Randy Miller	Geneva	260.703.2023
MITCH SUTTON	319 N MERIDIAN Portland IN	260-251-3664
Chelsea Lykins	165 E Grand St Dunkirk IN	260-251-9208
Marie Bruggeman	1767 N. 800 E. Portland, IN	260/251-7317
Will Strait	715 E High St Portland IN	260/703/10236
Tyler Reeves	1361 W 400 N	260-251-7110
Hunter Ingram	676 S 800 E	260-251-3067
JOHN MOORE	4576 N 450 E, PORTLAND	
Kyle Stont	3439 N 1100 W Pennville	260-251-3882
Emily Chumwith	5856 E 200 N Portland	260-703-0648
Madison Tetlow	210 W Penn Portland	260-251-2595

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Portland Park 5 year plan sign in sheet for public meeting Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Portland City Council Chambers  
office located in Portland Fire Station

Facilitators: Portland Park Board and John Moore Jay Co. resident

<u>Name</u>	<u>address</u>	<u>phone#</u>
Kylie Klopfenstein	1839 S Nan-Del Ln	260-729-2853
Eathan Dennis	129 W 300N	260-705-0754
Madison Eley	4325 E 200N	260-729-7972
Snea Bailey	1883 W. 200 S	260-251-9449

### Portland Park Programs

## **Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026**

This section includes descriptions of the 17 identified major organized programs that make use of Portland Parks. These programs are not operated or administered by the Portland Park Department. The programs are traditionally self-administered and operated by an assortment of non-profit organizations on public parklands using public park facilities. The programs depend on the availability of park facilities and services including parking, utilities (e.g., water, electricity), lighting, restrooms, seating, trash removal, grounds keeping, and playing fields, courts, trails, etc.

Overview descriptions of programs that use Portland parks are included in the pages that follow.

## Arts in the Parks

Arts in the Parks is a unique summer arts program that offers arts classes to children aged 6-12 throughout East Central Indiana. Classes are organized in dance, culinary arts, visual arts, storytelling, and theatre.

Arts in the Parks is designed to provide introductions to the arts for children of all ages. The primary focus of the program is achieved through workshops and classes that meet from one day to five days at various locations. Participants are asked to pay \$5 per class, or 6 or more classes for \$30. Scholarships are available for any family that qualifies for free or reduced meals.



**Kite Making - Come Fly Away!**  
In this popular Arts in the Parks class, students design their own paper kites and test fly them at Hudson Family Park.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Arts Place, Inc.
<b>Contact Name</b>	Eric Rogers, Executive Director
<b>Contact Information</b>	131 E. Walnut Street P.O. Box 804 Portland, IN 47371 (260) 726-4809 <a href="mailto:erogers@artsland.org">erogers@artsland.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Arts in the Parks is a unique summer arts program that offers art classes to children aged 6-12 throughout East Central Indiana. Classes are organized in dance, theater, culinary, and visual arts. Programs have about 26 staff and teaching artists with up to 500 participants.
<b>Schedule</b>	Arts in the Parks classes are offered during June and July.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Haynes Park and Hudson Family Park
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on Portland Park Dept. for public venue, basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking, trash removal, and liability coverage.
<b>Other</b>	Assume city services, emergency medical response, public safety, traffic management, crowd control, mosquito control and handicap accessibility available as needed.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### Baseball; Portland Jr. League Baseball and Softball League

The purpose of Portland Junior League (PJL) is to promote a safe learning environment for children and families to participate in youth baseball and softball. The league serves boys and girls 5 to 15 years old. This is recreational summer league with no tryout or cuts from a team. All who register will play, not including all-star or travel league teams.



PJL has 300 to 350 participants each year in baseball and softball. The organizations serves the greater Portland area, including Jay, Adams and Randolph counties. Games are held at Weiler-Wilson Park on the three little league diamonds just to the west of the new Portland Water Park. Participants pay \$55 to play 10-12 games including a tournament at the end of the season. Fees cover the cost of a team shirt, hat and general league expenses. Seasons start at the beginning of May and end in early July.

The Portland Junior League Baseball and Softball organization has a governing Board of Directors to oversee the Portland Jr. League Baseball/Softball Organization, to include setting policy, controlling financial resources and providing for the selection of quality coaches and other personnel required to administer the league. All board members and coaches are volunteers. Annual background checks are on file. General board members serve a 2yr term with no limit with no more than 18 members on the board. Board members are nominated by the board and are open to the general public. A sponsor may appoint a general member if a vacancy is available. General Board members serve a 2yr term with no term limits. The General Board consists of no more than 18 members including the Executive Committee.

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Portland Jr. League Baseball and Softball</b>
<b>Park Location</b>	Primarily Weiler-Wilson Park, 419 E 1st Street (South Wayne Street at East First Street), Portland, IN.
<b>Contact Name</b>	Board President Brian Ison, 260-251-7565 <a href="mailto:bison01@comcast.net">bison01@comcast.net</a> Board Vice-President Matt Ransom 937-903-2364 <a href="mailto:matransom76@gmail.com">matransom76@gmail.com</a>
<b>Contact Information</b>	Portland Jr. League Facebook page
<b>Metrics</b>	Baseball: 175 participants, 45 coaches. Softball 150 participants, 36 coaches. 84 staff as administration, umpires, assistants, leaders, etc. Participants play 10 to 12 games and a tournament from May to July. Games are played Monday - Friday from 5:30pm to 10pm. There is an occasional Saturday game scheduled and rainout games are rescheduled to Saturdays. While school is in session will limit to one game a night and limit to each team playing once a week. At the time when school is out of session each team will play an average of 2 games a week. There is an average of 26

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	teams in the league with 10 to 12 participants on each team.
<b>Schedule</b>	Season will start early May and end early July.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	The east diamond will see the greatest number of teams with an average of 6 boy and 4 girl teams ages 5-8. West diamond will have an average of 5 boy teams' ages 9-12 and 4 girls ages 9-12. Middle diamond will include 4 baseball teams ages 12-15 and 3 girl teams ages 12-15. Two of the age groups will have teams from Dunkirk participating in either baseball. The number of spectators varies depending on age groups and number of players on a team. There are no fees for spectators. Many teams will practice from April to end of season at various locations in Portland to include Sportland fields, PJL diamonds, East Elementary, North Diamond next to Milton Miller Park and diamond located at Haynes Park. Most teams will practice twice a week in April and once season starts reducing to once a week.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Portland Jr. League will depend on the City of Portland to mow the grass 1 to 2x a week, provide sand for diamonds, water/electricity for restrooms and concession stand, collection of trash daily, seating for spectators on all 3 diamonds and general spectator parking. City of Portland also provides general repairs to the concession stand, scoreboards, restrooms and dugouts. The parks dept. provides a basic lawn mower for the board of directors to use to drag and clean the diamonds. In addition, the parks dept supplies general bathroom cleaning products, paper towels/toilet paper and chalk to mark the foul lines.
<b>Other</b>	Portland Jr. League Board of Directors is responsible for providing all equipment for participants to include catcher's equipment and batting helmets. PJL has purchased the following items for the fields from 2017-2021 to include safety netting around the middle diamond paid by the league at a cost of \$11,000, pitching cage on west diamond paid by the league at a cost of \$3,000, batting cages in the center of the park at a cost of \$7,000 money was provided by a local resident. In 2020 the league was able to replace all 3 scoreboards on each diamond at at cost of \$9,500 with local support with sponsorships from 3 businesses/industries. In 2017 the league purchased a compact tractor to move sand to diamonds and prep diamonds using a fence drag. The cost of this tractor was \$13,000 paid by the league. In all of these projects no tax dollars were used. Other annual expenses incurred to support the league are awards, pay of umpires, liability insurance, equipment to drag and maintain fields, balls and pitching machines. The

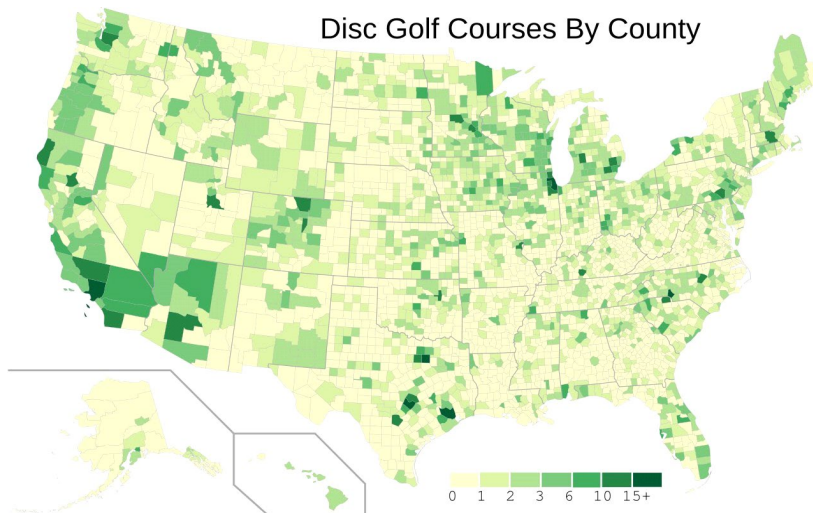


## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	concession stand is to help cover general expenses of the league. All items in the concession stand are property of the PJJL and receive no support from the City of Portland.
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## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026



### Disc Golf

Disc golf resembles traditional golf, but with a flying disc or Frisbee. It rarely requires a greens fee or golf cart, and you never get stuck with a bad "tee time." It can be enjoyed by people of any age, gender or economic strata. Many city parks have disc golf courses already set up. People are free to play as often as they like. Disc golfers without an established facility in their area often improvise courses in parks and green spaces.

In 2020 Portland Park Board accepted a grant from the Portland Foundation of \$10,000 for the purchase of the Disc Golf equipment. In 2021 local enthusiast and supporter of disc golf Brett Resler assisted the Portland Parks Dept with laying out the course and setting the baskets around Hudson Park. Park employees installed the concrete base and volunteers were used to setting the baskets. A total of 1000 volunteer hours were recorded in planning and setting up the course. The course is set up alongside the walking pathway into the wooded area of Kelly Baggs Nature Trail and along the sledding hill. Total area of this 18-hole course covers 17 acres.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Hudson Family Park Disc Golf Course
<b>Contact Name</b>	Brett Resler
<b>Contact Information</b>	918 N. Franklin St. Portland, In. 260-251-1929 brett_resler@yahoo.com
<b>Metrics</b>	The number of participants and volunteers is unlimited as this sport continues to grow in popularity. A club with weekly leagues and tournaments is envisioned.
<b>Schedule</b>	Disc Golf is a year-round sport.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Park
<b>Dependencies</b>	Basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking spaces, trash removal, liability coverage, etc.
<b>Other</b>	We hope to have a tournament stop for the Indiana state summer and fall series.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### Jay County Middle School Cross Country

The Jay County Middle School cross country program started in 1976. It includes boys and girls' teams from grades 6-8 and averages 40-50 athletes. The teams typically compete in about 13 events annually, ranging from a two-team dual meet to invitationals with 8-15 participant schools. Jay Co. Middle school has two coaches that work with the athletes during late July through the season which ends in early October. Before Hudson Family Park, Jay Co. Middle School had hosted their cross country meets in the Weiler-Wilson Park near the picnic pavilion and into the nature trails. The course now uses the previous area and the area inside Hudson Family Park. The new facility has allowed us to have safe parking for our spectators and buses as well as restroom facilities and drinking fountains.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County Middle School Cross Country
<b>Contact Name</b>	Steve Boozier
<b>Contact Information</b>	tsboozier@jayschools.k12.in.us
<b>Metrics</b>	In August and September each year, Jay County Middle School hosts 4-5 cross country meets at Hudson Family Park. Each meet has approximately 50-80 athlete participants, 3-4 coaches and 3-4 managers, as well as several parents there as spectators.
<b>Schedule</b>	See "Metrics" above.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Weiler-Wilson Park and Hudson Family Park. Trails, green space, restrooms, parking.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on Portland Park Dept. for grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking lots, trash removal, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Hudson Family Park is used for distance running and conditioning.



## Jay County High School Patriots Cross Country Program



The Jay County High School (JCHS) cross country program has been a part of Jay County Athletics since school consolidation in 1975. The Jay County Cross Country varsity program consists of boys and girls' teams. The teams typically compete in about 12 events annually. Patriots cross country teams conduct some training sessions at Hudson Family Park, but “at home” competitive events take place at the high school campus.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County High School Patriots Cross Country Program
<b>Contact Name</b>	Steve Boozier
<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="mailto:sboozier@jayschools.k12.in.us">sboozier@jayschools.k12.in.us</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	JCHS uses Hudson Park for Cross Country practices on a somewhat regular basis, about 25 times each year. Practice sessions typically involve about 2-5 coaches and managers and 115-20 athlete participants.
<b>Schedule</b>	Practice sessions normally take place in July-October subject to weather and other considerations.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park; Trails, green space, facilities.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on Portland Park Dept. for grounds keeping, trail maintenance, restroom facilities, parking, trash removal, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Although Hudson Family Park is not essential to the Patriots Cross Country program, the beautiful setting provides inspiration and a change of scenery that boosts the spirits of the athletes during long hours of training.





## ***Outdoor Concerts and Events Presented by Arts Place***



As one component of its performance programming, Arts Place presents occasional performances at Hudson Family Park Amphitheater. The events are designed to appeal to a broad family audience. Some events are presented free of charge, while others have ticketed admission. The 2021 amphitheater performances include concerts by the Dave Bennett Quartet and Vocal Trash.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Arts Place, Inc.
<b>Contact Name</b>	Eric Rogers, Executive Director
<b>Contact Information</b>	131 E. Walnut Street P.O. Box 804 Portland, IN 47371 (260) 726-4809 <a href="mailto:erogers@artsland.org">erogers@artsland.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Past performances at the amphitheater have attracted as many as 800 people for one of these concerts presented in a striking setting that includes a well-designed acoustic shell with a lovely small lake as its backdrop. .
<b>Schedule</b>	Arts Place performances at the amphitheater take place in the summer months.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on Portland Park Dept. for public venue, access to electric utilities, basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking, trash removal, and liability coverage.
<b>Other</b>	Assume city services, emergency medical response, public safety, traffic management, crowd control, mosquito control and handicap accessibility available as needed.

## Jay County Pee Wee Football

Jay County Pee Wee Football was established in 1971 by local businessmen Bob Hines and Frank Inman. The league is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation and is governed by a six-member Board of Directors and one commissioner. The league raised private funds to construct Hines-Inman Memorial Field, which was gifted to the City of Portland in 1998. The program has annual participation of approximately 120 Jay County youth ages Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The flag football league is divided into Pre-K & K and grades 1 & 2. The tackle football league is divided into grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6. Approximately 40 adult volunteer coaches participate in the league. Participants in flag football are asked to pay a \$20 enrollment fee and participants in tackle football are asked to pay a \$40 enrollment fee. Multiple participants from the same family are given a \$5 discount per participant. Volunteer coaches are background checked and must go through annual “Heads Up Football” training through USA Football.



<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County Pee Wee Football
<b>Contact Name</b>	Alex Hunstman President, Board of Directors
<b>Contact Information</b>	260-251-3391 Mobile
<b>Metrics</b>	Approximately 120 Jay County youth and 40 volunteer adult coaches annually participate in the league
<b>Schedule</b>	Games are played from Mid-August to Mid-October
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hines-Inman Memorial Field is used for the games, which are played on Saturdays. Practices are held at various places at Sportland Park and at the practice field at Jay County High School.
<b>Dependencies</b>	The league depends on the Portland Park Department for basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, spectator seating, parking lot, trash removal, and liability coverage.





### **Pickleball (Jay County Pickleball Players)**

Pickleball is a relatively new sport (e.g., about 30 years) that has gained a degree of national popularity. It combines some elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Most local play has taken place at the Jay Community Center (JCC) where up to 6 courts are often available, subject to other competing demands. More than 100 people school age to older adults have visited and played at JCC, where 15-20 people typically play most days.



Currently participants are playing indoors at Jay Community Center due to the lack of outdoor courts in Portland Parks. Park board members have discussed options to build a court in the existing park system, however due to lack of funding there has been limited progress. Estimates for constructing a court is \$26,000. Park board plans to work with local individuals to seek local and state funding/grants to help construct a court.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County Pickleball Players
<b>Contact Name</b>	Steve Craig
<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/983260301732524/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/983260301732524/</a> , or search for "JC Pickleball Players" on Facebook.
<b>Metrics</b>	100Pickleball players use indoor JCC facilities. The group seeks to expand the program to outdoor venues.
<b>Schedule</b>	Indoors at Jay Community Center
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	No outdoor facility.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Using Park facilities would depend on availability of suitable court areas and basic park services, including utilities, restrooms, trash removal, grounds keeping, parking, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Expanding the program to Sportland has been discussed. This would entail construction of courts near the shuffleboard area.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026



## Portland Rockets Baseball

The Portland Rockets is an amateur baseball Team founded in 1959, geared towards developing young baseball talent on and off the field.

The Portland Rockets call Runkle-Miller Field inside of Portland Memorial Park their “field of dreams.” In 57 years of history, the Rockets continue to provide Portland winning seasons, championships, and Hall of Fame Players.

Admission is free to the public for all regular season home games with a fun, family friendly atmosphere. Concessions and 50/50 Raffles are available at home games.

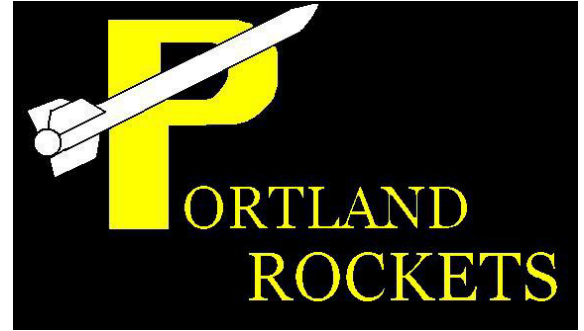


Figure 3: Rocket's infielder Alex Delk (2016)

<b>Organization Name</b>	Portland Rockets Baseball
<b>Contact Name</b>	Randy Miller – Club Manager
<b>Contact Information</b>	260-703-2003, <a href="mailto:ramiller15@embarqmail.com">ramiller15@embarqmail.com</a> , <a href="http://www.ballcharts.com/portlandrockets2010">www.ballcharts.com/portlandrockets2010</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	2 Coaches, 3 full-time volunteers, 30+ players a season. 20+ home games a season. Average of 40+ spectators.
<b>Schedule</b>	May – August with 40+ games a season.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Runkle-Miller Field, home games and practices
<b>Dependencies</b>	Players, Coaches, volunteers. Basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking spaces, concession stand. Sponsorships, private donations.
<b>Other</b>	Rockets games are free. Restrooms and concessions available.



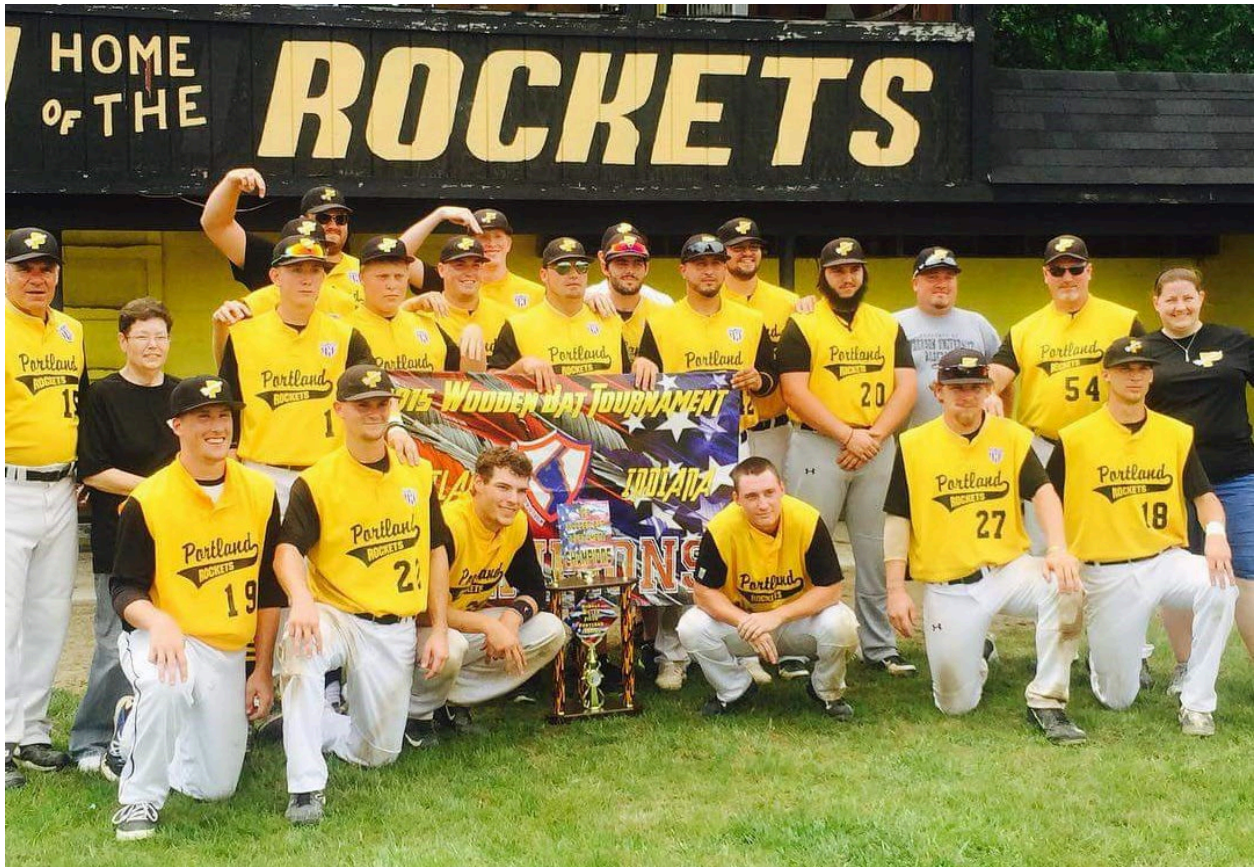


Figure 2: Portland Rockets 2015 World Baseball Congress Tournament Champions

**Running Events, JCC: Sprint to Spring 5k • Hudson Family Half-Marathon, 5k and Kids Run**



a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay Community Center
<b>Contact Name</b>	Kyle Cook & Mitch Waters
<b>Contact Information</b>	115 E Water St • Portland, IN 47371 • 260 726 6477 • <a href="mailto:Kcook@jaycc.org">Kcook@jaycc.org</a> • <a href="mailto:Mwaters@jaycc.org">Mwaters@jaycc.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 75-150 per race • Volunteers 15-20 • Races begin by Freedom Park along the river path and continue over the historic metal bridge into the paved Hudson Family Park Trails
<b>Schedule</b>	Sprint to Spring 5k is in early April on Saturday morning • Hudson Family Park runs are during September on a Saturday morning
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park • River Path • Trails
<b>Dependencies</b>	JCC relies on the Portland Park Department for the mowing of the lawn, restroom facility maintenance, trash removal, and other basic routine maintenance of the park. Hudson Family Park provides ample parking and activities for the entire family.
<b>Other</b>	EMT and the Portland Police Department play a key role in keeping participants safe crossing the road and those in need of medical attention.

**Shuffleboard**

Program information not provided.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

<b>Organization Name</b>	None
<b>Contact Name</b>	Roger Prescott,
<b>Contact Information</b>	Not provided.
<b>Metrics</b>	3 volunteers, 8-16 participants
<b>Schedule</b>	Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 to 12 noon.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Not provided.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Need court cleaned off and new lines on the court.
<b>Other</b>	Not provided.

## Soccer (Boomer Soccer)

There is no soccer program offered in Portland Parks at the present time. However, coaches will utilize the parks for practices during the season. It was mentioned in the public survey the lack of soccer fields in the City of Portland.

Park Board members have discussed several parks having green space that could be converted into smaller scale soccer fields for practice and younger ages to play. There is an opportunity to partner with City of Portland Parks and JCC to utilize green space for soccer fields.



However, the Jay Community Center (JCC) offers “Boomer Soccer” and flag football programs on 10 acres at 450 S and Como Road, near the Jay County Waste Management facility. There are 8 soccer fields and 2 flag football fields at that location. In addition to sponsoring and administering the programs, JCC furnishes concession, soccer and flag football equipment.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay Community Center
<b>Contact Name</b>	Kyle Cook & Mitch Waters
<b>Contact Information</b>	115 E Water St • Portland, IN 47371 • 260 726 6477 • <a href="mailto:Kcook@jaycc.org">Kcook@jaycc.org</a> • <a href="mailto:Mwaters@jaycc.org">Mwaters@jaycc.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Activity does not take place in Portland parks.
<b>Schedule</b>	Spring and Fall
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Portland parks aroused for local teams to practice.
<b>Dependencies</b>	JCC relies on Jay County Waste Management for grounds keeping services.
<b>Other</b>	JCC provides all concession, soccer and flag football equipment.



**Softball: Spring & Fall CoEd, JCC**



JCC provides two CoEd softball leagues for area adults. The spring season runs May-June, and the Fall season runs August-October. The Jay Community Center is committed to strengthening the health and social interaction of our community's families through sports, recreation, and fitness. JCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. There are other individuals who use the softball complex at Sportland Field to host Men's and Co-Ed leagues in the spring and fall. In 2020 and 2021 Jay Community Center has experienced a decrease in participation in league softball due to COVID-19 pandemic. Men's and Co-Ed leagues are supported by the parks for mowing the grass fields, restroom facilities and sand for infields. Volunteers provide groundwork for the infield and chalking diamonds for games.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay Community Center and Men's League Softball
<b>Contact Name</b>	Kyle Cook from JCC and Robert Cooper for Men's and CO-Ed Softball.
<b>Contact Information</b>	115 E Water St • Portland, IN 47371 • 260 726 6477 • <a href="mailto:Kcook@jaycc.org">Kcook@jaycc.org</a> • Robert Cooper number not provided.
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 150 • Volunteers 10
<b>Schedule</b>	Games played on Sundays during the early afternoon during May-June and August-October
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Teams utilize Sportland Park Adult Softball Field
<b>Dependencies</b>	JCC and Men's League relies on the Portland Park Department for the mowing of the lawn, restroom facility maintenance, herbicide treatments on the in-fields, trash removal, and other basic routine maintenance of the park. The Portland Park Department provides aluminum bleachers that roughly accommodate 160 spectators and parking lots with 100+ parking spots.
<b>Other</b>	With the number of families that use Sportland Park throughout the season, JCC would like to see more shelters and updating of the ball diamonds. Updates that would allow the park to be utilized for tournaments include more lights and extension of fences. Improved maintenance of infields would make less work for volunteers to get facilities game ready.

## Summer Day Camp

### Jay Community Center



Summer Day Camp is a premier summer programming for area youth. The camp spans the entire summer providing area youth with memorable experiences and a day care option that is affordable, safe and structured to area families. The camp operates Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. The cost is as little as \$10 per day per child. Jay Community Center is committed to strengthening the health and social interaction of our community's families through sports, recreation, and fitness. The Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

In 2020, JCC modified the Summer Daycamp program due to local and state guidelines with the COVID-19 pandemic by limiting the number of campers per day and limiting activities. Several families were working from home during the pandemic that resulted in decreased numbers of registrations. In 2020 the number of participants averaged 40 a day. In 2021, the numbers of registered campers did increase to near level pre-COVID. Utilization of the parks was limited in 2020 due to the Portland Water Park being closed and local parks with playground equipment were closed. Those activities resumed in 2021 with participation in the local parks and attendance weekly to the Portland Water Park.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay Community Center
<b>Contact Name</b>	Kyle Cook
<b>Contact Information</b>	115 E Water St • Portland, IN 47371 • 260 726 6477 • <a href="mailto:Kcook@jaycc.org">Kcook@jaycc.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 160+ Registered • 60 kids per day • 12-15 staff
<b>Schedule</b>	Summer Day Camp is a Summer program that runs from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and costs as little as \$10 per day
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park • Portland Water Park • Trails
<b>Dependencies</b>	Summer Day Camp regularly uses the trails, Hudson Family Park and The Portland Water Park. JCC relies on the Portland Park Department for the mowing of the lawn, restroom facility maintenance, trash removal, Staffing the pool, training lifeguards and other basic routine maintenance of the parks. Hudson Family Park provides ample parking and activities for the entire family.
<b>Other</b>	EMT and the Portland Police Department play a key role in keeping participants safe crossing the road and those in need of medical attention.



## Swim Team, Jay County Summer Swim Team



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The Jay County Summer Swim Team is a competitive team for ages 3 through the summer after high school graduation. Established in 1964, the Portland Porpoises were an integral part of the Jayland area. In 1991 the name was changed to the Jay County Summer Swim Team. Participants are welcomed from all over the county and even neighboring counties. The team averages approximately 100 plus swimmers each summer. Training takes place daily and 4 - 6 meets are held at the Portland Water Park. Team fees include \$35 registration (\$25 per additional family member) and the purchase of a Waterpark individual or family pass. A parent Board hires the two full time coaches, oversees fundraising activities, and coordinates the 25 - 30 adult volunteers needed to run swim meets.

The Jay County Summer Swim Team is **HUGELY successful** and very well regarded. It is part of the Wabash Valley Conference where it has won the Conference Relays fourteen times since 1982 and the Conference Championships eleven times since 1990. No other team in the Conference has won either event more times than Jay County. In fact, the Jay County Summer Swim Team has not lost a meet since the first meet of the season in 2012. Longtime coach, Bev Arnold, has been coaching the summer program since 1965. Since conception of the program Jay County Swim club has seen over 3,000 participants and 450 leaders.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County Summer Swim Team
<b>Contact Name</b>	Bev Arnold
<b>Contact Information</b>	PO Box 808, Portland, IN 47371 260-726-7043 <a href="mailto:bevarnold@jayco.net">bevarnold@jayco.net</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	25 - 30 volunteers needed to administer swim meets, 100+ athlete participants, and 2 coaches.
<b>Schedule</b>	Program runs from May 1 to the middle of July.
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Portland Waterpark and Jay County High School pool used for 70 practices (weather depending) and 4 - 6 meets annually.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depends on Portland Park Dept. for public venue, basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, one section bleacher spectator seating, parking spaces, trash removal, PA system, etc.
<b>Other</b>	This is a well-regarded, highly competitive, county-wide program with excellent Conference standing.



## T-Ball, Boomer T-Ball and Coaches Pitch



### Jay Community Center

Boomer T-Ball and Coaches Pitch is an instructional program offered by the Jay Community Center. The goal of the program is to provide area youth access to quality programming that promotes teamwork and sportsmanship while introducing the basics of baseball in a manner that is fun for the participants. Boys and girls ages 3-6 are encouraged to play and the cost is \$50. The registration fee includes the team jersey, MLB team hat, and baseball. The 3–4-year-old division will hit from the tee while the 5–6-year-old division is coaches pitch. The Jay Community Center is committed to strengthening the health and social interaction of our community’s families through sports, recreation, and fitness. The Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

In 2019 JCC and Portland Jr. League partnered to organize and develop the t-ball program. This agreement has allowed JCC to administer the registration fees and organize the teams. Portland Jr. League provided instruction to coaches to assist with practices and games. This partnership has continued in 2020 and 2021.

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay Community Center
<b>Contact Name</b>	Kyle Cook & Mitch Waters
<b>Contact Information</b>	115 E Water St • Portland, IN 47371 • 260 726 6477 • <a href="mailto:Kcook@jaycc.org">Kcook@jaycc.org</a> • <a href="mailto:Mwaters@jaycc.org">Mwaters@jaycc.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 120-150 • Volunteers 20-25 • Teams utilize Sportland for at least one practice per week per team & game play
<b>Schedule</b>	Six-week program starting in early June • Games played on Saturdays during the early afternoon
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Portland Jr. League diamonds
<b>Dependencies</b>	JCC relies on the Portland Park Department for the mowing of the lawn, restroom facility maintenance, herbicide treatments on the in-fields, trash removal, and other basic routine maintenance of the park. The Portland Park Department provides aluminum bleachers that roughly accommodate 100 spectators and a parking lot with 50 parking spots.
<b>Other</b>	N/A



### ***Trails, Jay County Trails Club***

The Jay County Trails Club is a nonprofit community service organization. The club's purpose is to promote recreational trails in Jay County. Trails make the parks more appealing, useful, accessible and educational. Trails consistently rank near the top of the list of popular park features in public surveys.



**Kelly Baggs Nature Trail, Hudson Family Park**

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

<b>Organization Name</b>	Jay County Trails Club
<b>Contact Name</b>	Samantha Thomas, 260-251-5514
<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="mailto:jaycountytrailsclub@gmail.com">jaycountytrailsclub@gmail.com</a> Jay County Trails Club PO BOX 126 Portland, IN 47371
<b>Metrics</b>	4 club officers. 6-10 volunteer staff and 300-400 participants on park trails. Trail popularity is increasing
<b>Schedule</b>	Programs vary throughout the year, including hiking, running and bicycling
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park has a range of popular trail features
<b>Dependencies</b>	Volunteer support
<b>Other</b>	Provide educational presentations for all ages on topics such as bike safety. Organizes and volunteers in local cycling and running events. Works with local government for pedestrian and bicycle safety

## **2021 Public Park Survey Results in Detail**

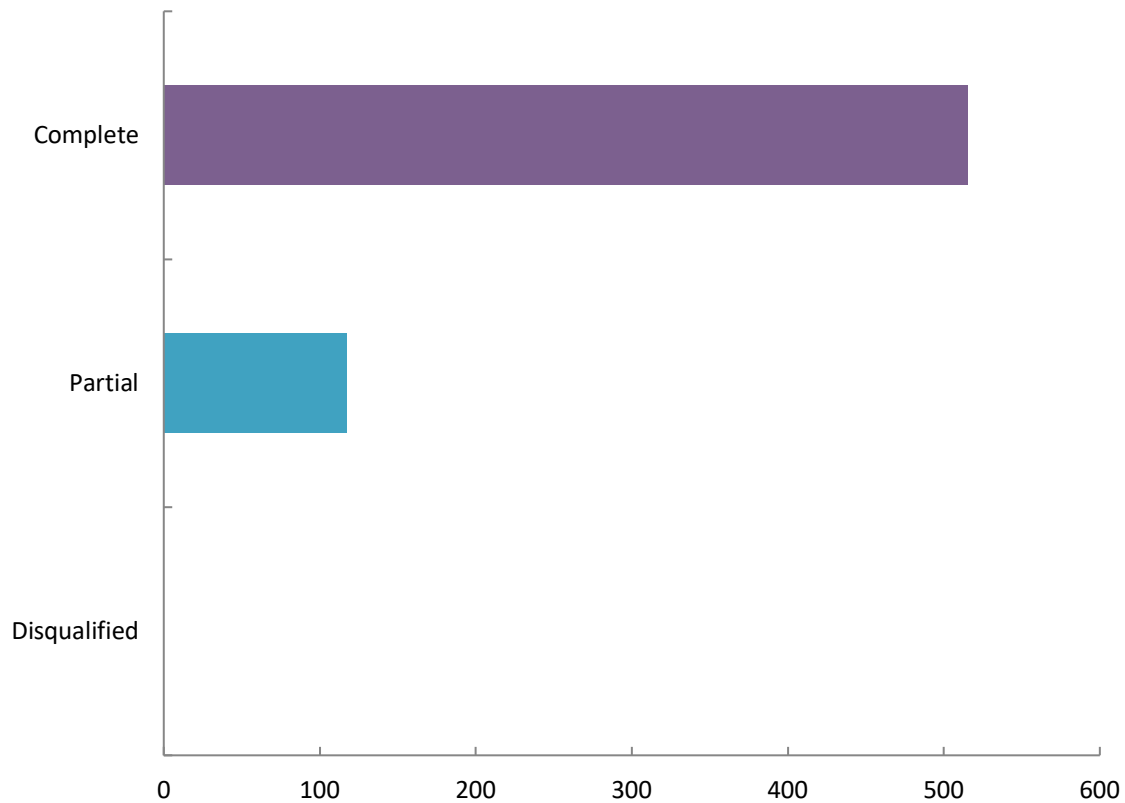
Survey report is included on the following pages.



# 2021 Portland Park Survey Report

2021-PPB-Survey

## Response Statistics



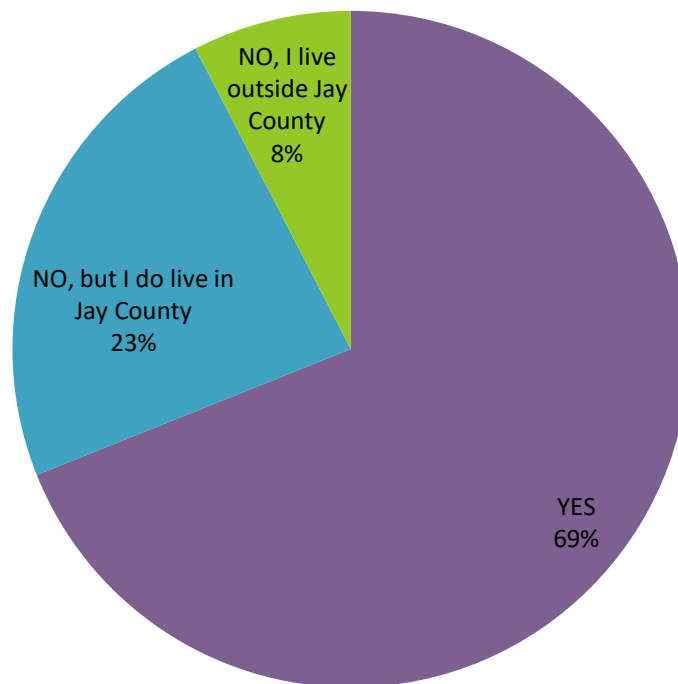
	Count	Percent
Complete	515	81.5
Partial	117	18.5
Disqualified	0	0

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### 1.What is today's date?

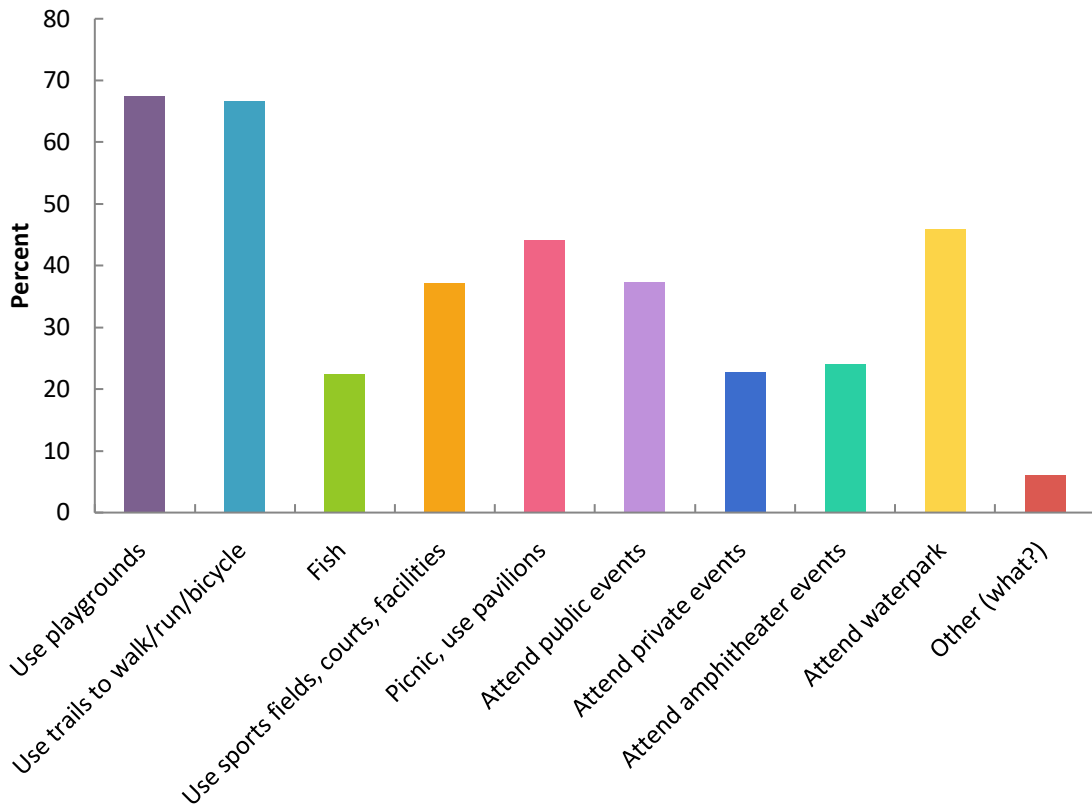
Earliest Date	Latest Date
July 01, 2021	August 27, 2021

### 2.Do you live in Portland, Indiana?



Value	Percent	Count
YES	69.0%	429
NO, but I do live in Jay County	23.5%	146
NO, I live outside Jay County	7.6%	47
	Totals	622

3.What do you usually do at the Park? (Check all that apply.)



Value	Percent	Count
Use playgrounds	67.5%	397
Use trails to walk/run/bicycle	66.7%	392
Fish	22.4%	132
Use sports fields, courts, facilities	37.2%	219
Picnic, use pavilions	44.2%	260
Attend public events	37.4%	220
Attend private events	22.8%	134
Attend amphitheater events	24.1%	142
Attend waterpark	45.9%	270
Other (what?)	6.0%	35

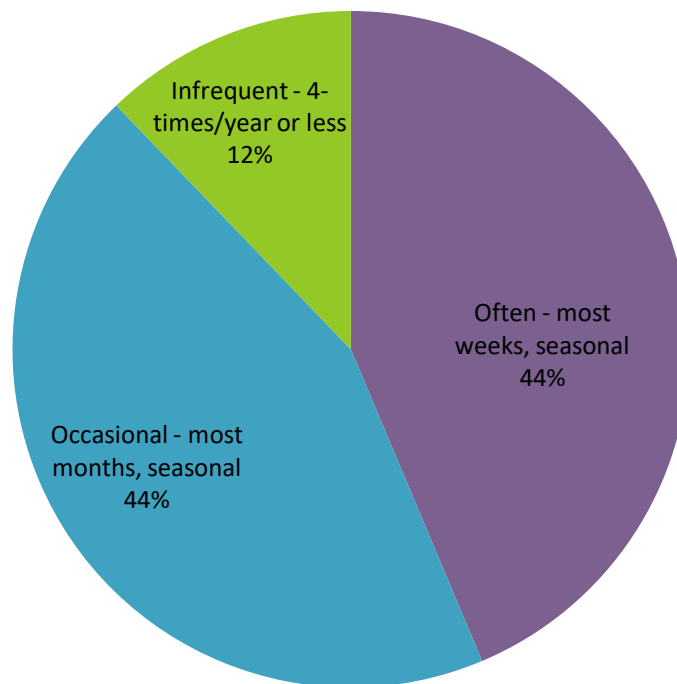
## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Other (what?)	Count
Dog park	5
Dog park	2
Arts in the Parks	1
Attend Portland Rockets Games	1
Baseball	1
Baseball and softball games	1
Bird watching, wildlife	1
Church	1
Disc golf	1
Dog Park	1
Dog Park	1
Dog park.	1
Frisbee golf	1
I don't	1
Jay schools sporting events (JH cross country), photo ops	1
Pickle	1
Picturestaken	1
Play pokemon	1
Rockets	1
Sit in car and eat lunch	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Sledding	1
Softball	1
Sporting events	1
The dog area	1
Walk around the lake	1
Walk my dogs	1
skateboard	1
walking dog	1
Totals	33

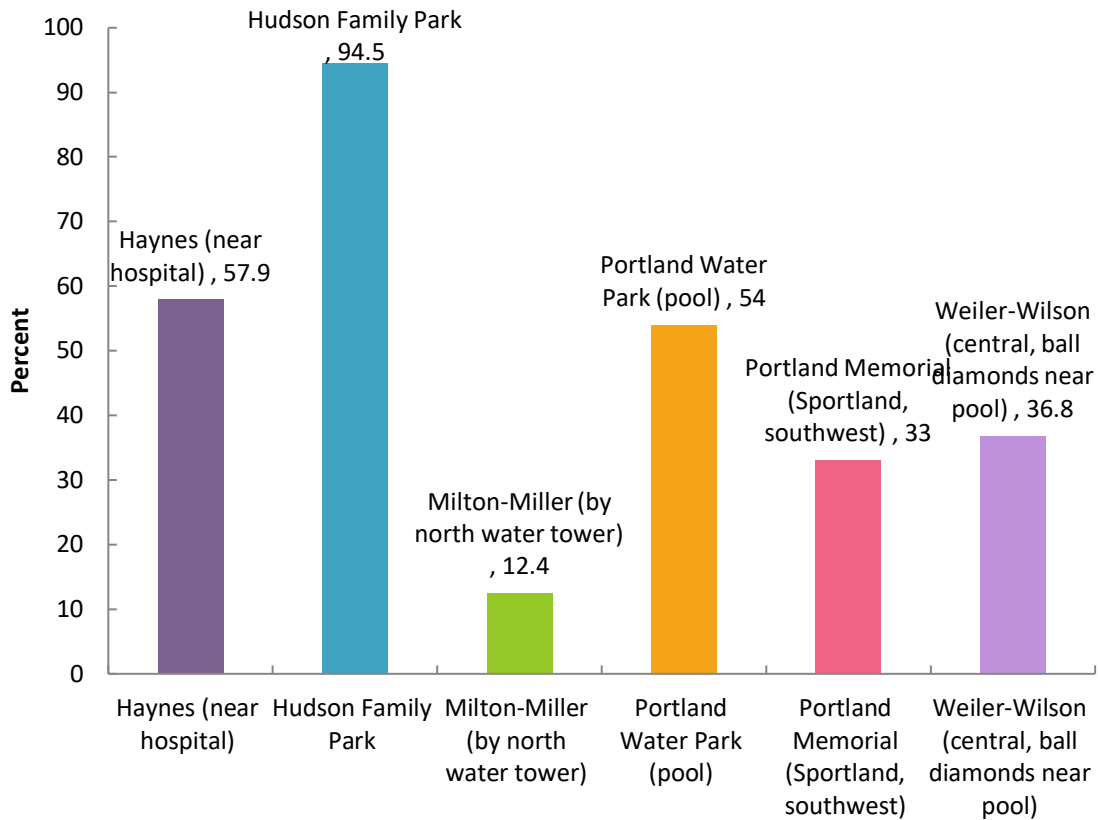
#### 4.How often do you visit Portland Parks?



Value	Percent	Count
Often - most weeks, seasonal	43.7%	258
Occasional - most months, seasonal	44.2%	261
Infrequent - 4-times/year or less	12.2%	72
	Totals	591

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### 5.What parks do you visit? (Check all that apply.)

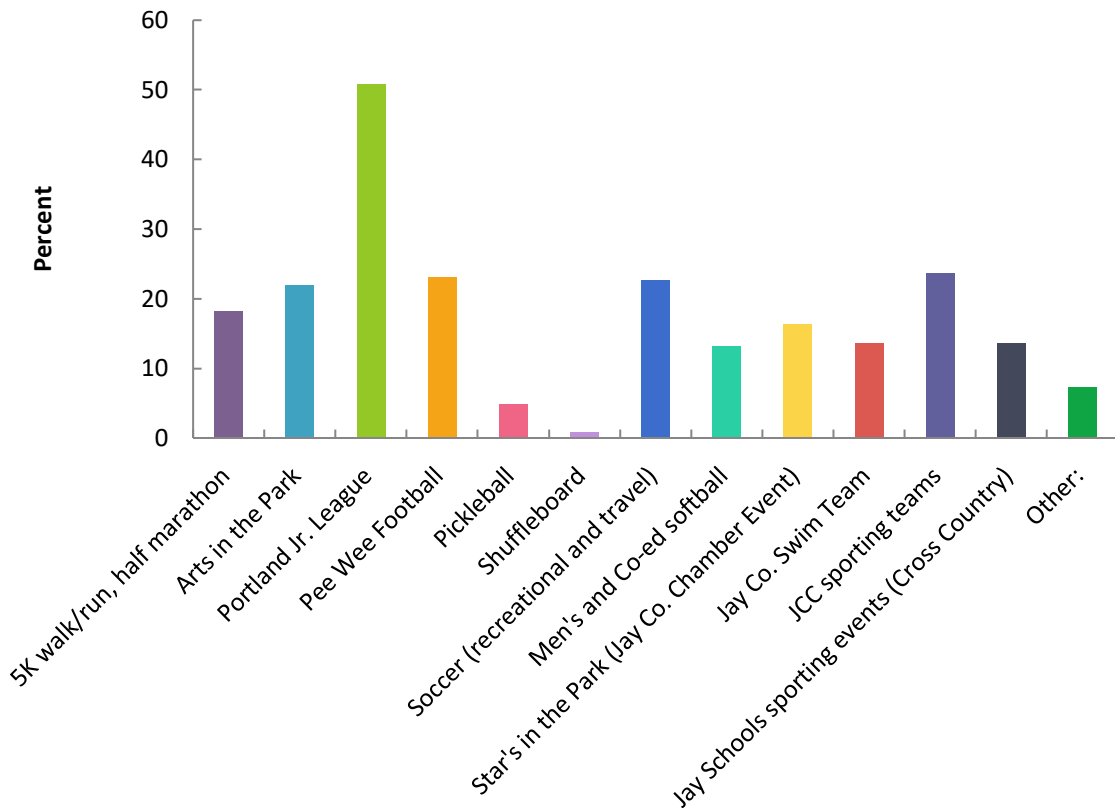


Value	Percent	Count
Haynes (near hospital)	57.9%	337
Hudson Family Park	94.5%	550
Milton-Miller (by north water tower)	12.4%	72
Portland Water Park (pool)	54.0%	314
Portland Memorial (Sportland, southwest)	33.0%	192
Weiler-Wilson (central, ball diamonds near pool)	36.8%	214



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

**6. Do you or other household members participate in organized, supervised activities that take place in Portland parks? If yes, check all below that apply. If no, skip to the next question.**



Value	Percent	Count
5K walk/run, half marathon	18.1%	72
Arts in the Park	21.9%	87
Portland Jr. League	50.8%	202
Pee Wee Football	23.1%	92
Pickleball	4.8%	19
Shuffleboard	0.8%	3
Soccer (recreational and travel)	22.6%	90
Men's and Co-ed softball	13.1%	52
Star's in the Park (Jay Co. Chamber Event)	16.3%	65

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Jay Co. Swim Team	13.6%	54
JCC sporting teams	23.6%	94
Jay Schools sporting events (Cross Country)	13.6%	54
Other:	7.3%	29

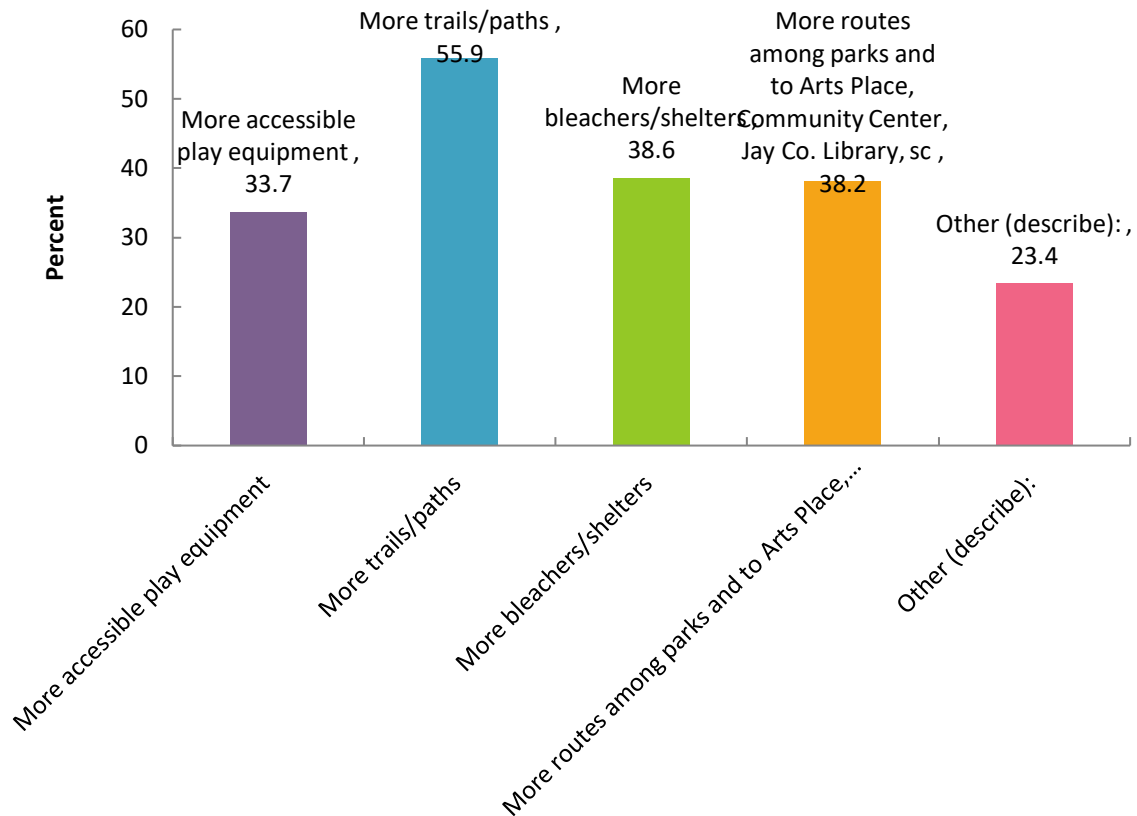
Other:	Count
Amphitheatre concerts	1
Arts Place Concert/ Jay Civic	1
Bicycle time trials	1
Bikers cruisin for a cure	1
Campus Life	1
I get people together to play basketball on week nights at the ball diamonds	1
Leisure	1
None	1
Portland Rockets	1
Portland Rockets Baseball	1
Practices for sports	1
Rockets	1
T ball	1
T- ball	1
baseball at Rockets	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

disc golf	1
library events	1
Totals	17

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### 7.I would like to see the following added to Portland Parks (check all that apply):



Value	Percent	Count
More accessible play equipment	33.7%	177
More trails/paths	55.9%	294
More bleachers/shelters	38.6%	203
More routes among parks and to Arts Place, Community Center, Jay Co. Library, schools, etc.	38.2%	201
Other (describe):	23.4%	123

Other (responses):	Count
Splash pad	5

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Pickleball courts	3
A (free) splash pad and pickleball courts	1
A free splash pad near the playground at Hudson so that the kids can go back and forth on the hot days	1
A rental cabin at Hudson Park, similar to the Redkey park cabin	1
A splash pad	1
A splash pad for kids to enjoy.	1
Added shade at ball diamonds. Canopy covers over bleachers. Ball diamonds could use fencing repairs	1
All parking lots to be paved. Signs telling people not to litter. Banning all loud music and vehicles from parks that are very close to people's homes. Or at least signs to remind people to be quiet and to disturb the people that live near by.	1
Another shelter near or at the playground of Hudson park. An exercise park for kids and adults that has an activity bar or equipment at different points. A second smaller playground at Hudson park that is shaded. A splash pad.	1
Baseball diamond surface upgrades. Look to Berne for example. The community employers will help, if someone understands and presents what is needed.	1
Bathrooms opened up at Sportland for when teams have practice during week	1
Better care of ball diamonds	1
Better drainage so ball fields don't wash away so bad	1
Better fields to play on at Sportland	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Better lights at sportland for men's softball should have used the lights from east jay football	1
Better maintenance of the Kelly Baggs trails	1
Better management and use of the water park.	1
Better restrooms. And ball diamond at Sportland	1
Better signs for disc golf as to what hole it is	1
Bigger dog park	1
Bigger playground for kids age 2 to play on at Hudson park	1
Bike trails	1
Bleachers need to be fixed. Another set for the south diamond would be nice.	1
Cleaner bathrooms	1
Dog park areas	1
Don't need more..... Better maintain what we have.	1
Equipment to be maintained. Don't add more to maintain until you can keep up with what you have.	1
For disability easy areas	1
Freeconcerts	1
Frisbee golf scorecard and or map on app.	1
Handicap accessible events	1
Handicapped accessible equipment	1
Haynes Park need to more clean were you dont find needles when little kids around when little kids find it its sad .	1



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

I would like to see improvements to the softball and baseball diamonds.	1
I would like to see more festival type events taking place in our parks. That typically brings me in to go to them. This could also draw in people from surrounding areas to see our parks.	1
Just better maintenance of the parks we have. We have so many I think making all the places working properly and safe is more important than just adding more stuff.	1
Lights around the entire pond at Hudson park, rock climbing and ziplining, bridge across Hudson Park pond, beautification and Jay County specific sculptures throughout the communities (have art students create them as a graded assignment covered by art progra funding).	1
MORE TRASH CANS!!!	1
Maybe a small water park to help minimize crowds areas at the current water park! May build another but smaller	1
Million \$	1
More ball diamonds for softball and baseball with some turf fields	1
More benches and tables	1
More community equipment like the frisbee golf course	1
More concerts at the amphitheater besides Christian music country music I would like to hear 80 &90 music and 70's music bands	1
More concrete or asphalt surfacing around ball diamonds..brick dust for fields	1
More dog parks and equipment	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

More equipment at the pool, such as a splash pad or bigger area for young children, such as little slide	1
More fish in ponds	1
More of a baby area	1
More pickle ball courts	1
More play ground equipment suitable for toddlers. And cleanliness	1
More security to stop the vandalism and feel safe	1
More shade	1
More shade at Hudson, too sunny and every time my son plays there he gets mad cuz slides burn him. So we end up at Haynes	1
More shade at the softball diamond	1
More sports	1
More things to do at Hudson park with all the open space that's out there	1
More trash cans	1
More trees and flowers. Less asphalt and sports venues.	1
More trees planted at Hudson park	1
Movie nights at amphitheater	1
New Restrooms and Concession Building at Runkle-Miller Field	1
New lights for sportland men's diamond	1
New rims on the other court	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Nice soccer complex	1
Not sure how to make this happen - but it would be great to somehow monitor the parks better to fight against vandalism and teenager abusing the playgrounds	1
Not sure. Parks are already pretty nice	1
Open restrooms	1
Outdoor park fitness equipment for adults	1
Outdoor yoga/fitness classes	1
Parking at jr league fields.	1
Parking lot paved at peewee football field and concrete finished at peewee field	1
Paved bike trails	1
Pickle ball courts	1
Pickleball	1
Picnic areas	1
Public free splash pads	1
Putting Putt Golf Course or add Frisbee Golf	1
Remodeled ball diamonds, foul ball nets, ball returns, working scoreboards and play equipment for kids	1
Seats looking over the water so we wouldn't have to sit on the ground to watch the pond	1
Shade on playground at Hudson park	1
Shading	1
Soccer Fields	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Soccer fields	1
Soccer fields in town, not at the landfill.	1
Some nice soccer fields in town. And some more baseball diamonds added.	1
Someone out there to make sure kids aren't destroying the parks or being rude. Some parents let there kids do whatever and others aren't even there.	1
Splash pad and more public events	1
Splash pad at Hudson Park.	1
Splash pad located at hudson park and play equipment updated at Haynes park	1
Splash pad!	1
Splash pad, holiday lights, better aesthetic (upkeep, landscape design)	1
Splash pad, pickleball courts	1
The frisbee golf was a great additions. It gives adults more options! I think sand volleyball could be really cool and give adults more options too.	1
Trails to connect parks	1
Water Trail. :D	1
Water pad for underprivileged children who's family cannot afford the water park	1
Water pads	1
Wheelchair access to the pond at Hudson Park	1
Workout equipment near play ground.( bikes, ellipticals) Kids can play, adults can excercise without losing site of kids at play. .	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

Zip line style playsets, more comfortable adult swings, mother and baby swings.	1
more amenities for cyclists	1
newer playground equipment	1
pickle ball courts	1
the nice squishy flooring like under the Hudson Park playground. The plastic and rubber strips and the wood chips my son likes to eat...	1
upgrade restrooms/concessions	1
Totals	118

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

**8. Prioritize park administration and management below by clicking or checking a “1” for your top choice, next gets “2”, and so on. Only the top 5 will be used. If you include a "SUGGESTION or COMMENT" as one of your top 5 picks, then briefly describe it further below in the next sub-section.**

Item	Overall Rank	Score	Total Respondents
Maintenance: No damaged equipment, everything serviceable. Includes mowing, painting, working utilities, clean and stocked restrooms, trash and debris removed, signage, drainage, landscaping, and seasonal opening/closing.	1	2,418	483
Appearance: Park grounds, facilities, and equipment are clean and painted. Nothing rusted, faded, broken, littered, or dying/dead.	2	1,981	481
Safety: Park features have signage and maintained for safety.	3	1,828	457
Access: Park facilities accessible to all, including seniors, small children, and handicap. Handicap (e.g., ADA) accessibility standards met or planned. Park administration will coordinate with schools, JCC, JC Library, Arts Place, and others to designate safe routes, sidewalks, trails and other connections between park facilities and with public venues.	4	1,768	471
Activities: Park administration will do what is reasonable and	5	1,512	470



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

practical to encourage organizations, including sports leagues and arts/crafts programs, to offer safe, supervised activities at Portland parks. Organizations that use Park facilities will observe Park standards of conduct, safety, decorum, including consistent oversight of people working with children.			
Suggestion or comment (If ranked as one of your Top-5, briefly describe below)	6	181	88

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

**9.If you ranked a SUGGESTION or COMMENT as one of your Top-5 items above, please briefly describe it (e.g., 20 words or less) in the box below:**

ResponseID	Response
5	Easy access to all areas. Parks just need to look clean and fresh.
16	Routine patrol around the parks, even the officer getting out of the car and checking things out. The younger kids would know they were safe and the older kids or adults who hang out and threaten or scare the younger ones, are there for drug deals, etc, may realize that they are being monitored.
36	Add more trails.
72	Paved parking lots, noise restrictions, no loud music or noisy vehicles. Signs to remind people about being respectful to neighbors.
83	City Sponsored adults leagues sports.
113	Safety is always first important when it comes to the children of our community.
122	More security presence and cameras. Don't feel safe there sometimes.
127	Adding pickleball courts
147	Please add a free splash pad
148	3 - MORE Trails.
153	Need electric in the south pavilion at Haynes park.
194	Support the investment put in the water park. Manage it better and provide consistant hours and access. As well as clean and stocked restrooms in all parks and make sure the facilities are OPEN, not locked up during evening hours when most of us take children to play.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

199	Haynes Park need alot of work . I feel everyone forget this park.when toddler are finding needles and stuff its sad .this needs fixed .
210	I believe a splash would be great for the youth here in portland. Albany and berne in the surrounding areas have one also
215	NA
216	Better and more easy acess for us disabled people.
237	Safety and overall appearance priorities.
249	I think it's important to dedicate resources to properly maintain park equipment and curb appeal.
254	Safety is a priority for and accessibility.
267	We need more Trails!! Signage and road markings should be kept in good repair and repainted on a schedule. A park dept. with group activities would be awesome!! We participate in Wells Co . Recreational events on a regular basis.
276	Love to see more bike/walking access in the area.
277	Bike trails
279	At Hudson part the big slides are cracked. Plus we need to barricade them somehow so the older children do not climb up them. That is a huge safety concern.
321	Nice pavilion with restrooms More signage for locating our parks and names of parks in large signs. Side note: The new portland signs are really nice looking but small and hard to see in some locations while driving into city.
327	Seating aims the pond, even elderly who want to just watch the pond you have to go to the other side to even do that why can't there be some

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	behind the play equipment to watch the pond while taking a break from playing
328	We love to go to organized activities as a family
333	Perhaps a water pad for the kids . And more handicap equipment
351	Need lights around walking area at Hudson Park. This is a safety concern. A lot of men, women, and young adults use this park to run early morning and it's hard to see running path. Everyone should feel safe and be able to see while at the park. Solar powered lights are costs effective and easy to maintain.
368	I think access for small children and handicap is one of my top picks. 2nd would be safety.
376	Maintenance falls within safety; which should always be considered first.
392	MORE TRASH CAN SO PEOPLE WILL PICK UP AND DISPOSE OF DOG POOP
397	Improvement s need to be done at Sportlamd. It is a disgrace to see the condition of this park and we have soany people come from out of town for the games.
402	Have activities for all people including your disabled people that's in homes
410	Would there be something you could do to keep teenagers from using the trails at Hudson park to have sex. My son and his friend seen 2 high school students having sex in the weeds along one of the trails.
411	Hudson park is beautiful! Most people have to travel to get there. I would love to see Haynes park get cleaned up and updated. Most family's can access this by foot in town.
431	It would be nice if they would keep the fields at sportland level and leveled with dirt
441	Should have things at sportlad facility to kill bees and wasps ect. Also should have some sort

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	boards or mats to lay down at opening of gates to cover up the standing water and mud to keep people from falling trying to get through to field
445	Handicap, seniors and babies show have more access to parks.
450	Better
451	Check out Bluffton Park Department...they offer so many unique and fun activities throughout the year but especially in summer to get people outside and playing at the parks! Simple and fun Like making bubbles day, sidewalk chalk art day, meet some animals, nature activities etc... call or message them them to see a list of their ideas
456	Soccer fields in town. Travel teams from out of town are amazed that we don't even have restrooms at the fields. Please visit Blackford County Soccer complex.
476	Better field conditions on the ball fields
483	Curb appeal / art sculptures / landscaping / cleanliness
484	I personally have never been approached about donating toward park maintenance or upgrades. I believe several families in the area would be happy to do so. Is there a booster club or something to bolster organized fundraising?
487	Peewee football field needs parking lot paved an concrete finished so handicap can reach bathrooms and kids dont get hit in parking lot
512	In field on ball diamonds needs weeds gone and ground work to look nice
517	More concrete.. less dirt and gravel
532	I would like to see more activities for children. I see other communities offer almost daily activities for the community (of all ages children through adult), mist if these are free. It's my understanding that organization, businesses, and donations are used too fund many if the

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	activities. My family drive out of county to attend activities.
535	A nice fenced area for toddler equipment would be nice
553	Modernize baseball fields for 13-16 year old Runkle-Miller field
555	Dust control for all stone parking lots or just pave them. Signs reminding park goers that the homes around the parks don't want to hear their loud engines or music when they come and go like it's a concert going drag strip.
557	Would definitely like to see the parks kept clean. Especially the restrooms tell Mike to keep them stocked with soap and toilet paper. Keep trash picked up, more police presence in the park would be great
560	Maintenance, appearance and safety should all be considered the same thing but are separate in the survey. I just want it to be known that regardless of what the surgery results are no one expects any of these to be lacking as they should all be parts of maintenance... To maintained equipment is to ensure it's working, in good safe order and is visually free from defects.
565	Just a clean and safe parks
568	Well light areas
576	The nature trails need cleaned up and more trails added. They are overgrown
580	Utilize all parks for activities and events.
584	We need more shaded areas on the play ground for children and families at Hudson park. The slides and equipment get very hot on summer days and make it unbearable to use.
585	It's important to maintain an aesthetic park in our beautiful Jay County. If we want other people to use our facilities, it's important to keep the park facilities well-maintained, including the necessary

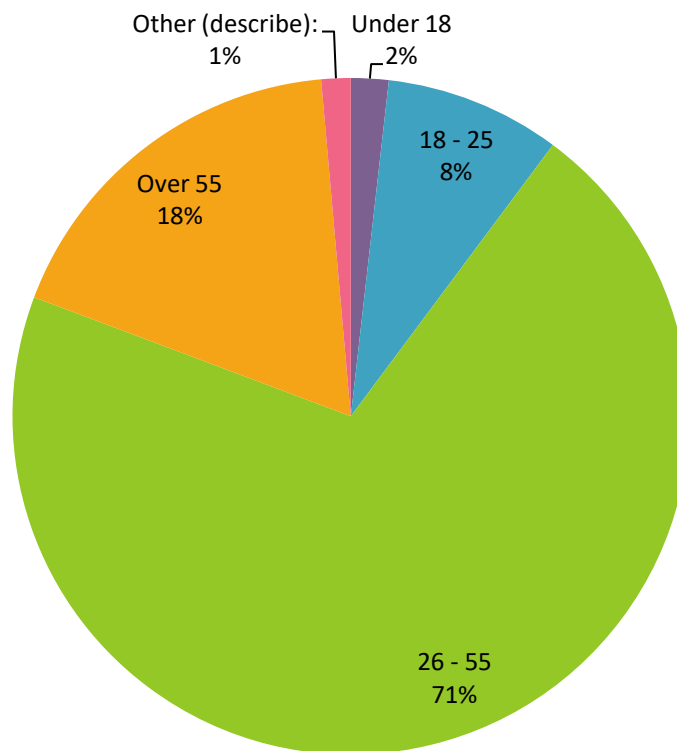


## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

	mowing, tree trimming, landscaping, painting, equipment repair.
601	Adults over seeing their kids while at park. Adult supervision!
608	If this is all done, I think everything else will be OK too.
609	Soccer Field(s) One of the parks needs to have a soccer field.
616	keep safety first, including hygiene
629	Running water in the concession stand. Working toilets more storage
632	Activities: I believe we shouldn't focus so much on governing the organization but rather do a better job at marketing the availability to use the grounds and include a contractual agreement outlining safety, supervision, profanity, tagging (for social media), and discounts for advertising means with local radio/newspaper/apps/websites/etc.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

### 10.What is your age?



Value	Percent	Count
Under 18	1.8%	9
18 - 25	8.4%	43
26 - 55	70.6%	362
Over 55	17.9%	92
Other (describe):	1.4%	7
	Totals	513

Other (describe):	Count
60	1
69	1

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

71	1
72	1
80	1
Totals	5

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

**11.If I could add or change one thing about Portland parks it would be (briefly describe):**

ResponseID	Response
1	Increase security, make ALL parks safe from vandalism.
5	Maintenance and groundskeeping at ballparks
6	Take out the frisbee football on the snow hill. This might be a problem with kids tubing down the hill in the winter time.
13	Have a little shelter area at dog park, for rain days when pup doesn't care to get wet and still play, but I do.
14	More enforcement of the age restriction on smaller playsets and/or the small child area of the pool.
15	Add more outdoor activities at the amphitheater.
16	More security..too many drug deals
17	Handicap accessible playground equipment
18	Take metal rails down on the east side of Haynes park.
19	More equipment for handicapped individuals
20	More lighting...benches....2 person swings
21	More for kids to do
24	More police presence. Visible security cameras and signs to indicate parks are under surveillance.
27	More handicap accessible! Pet dispenser bags!
32	Increased use of it by all
33	More trails, maybe thru the town.

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36	Add more trails.
39	Add more playsets. Whicker park in Bluffton would be a good place to look at for comparison. It is worth the drive from Portland to Bluffton to let me kids play at Whicker Park. If only we had that here!
41	More trails to walk!
45	More seating in pavilions
46	Take care of the staff so we can keep places operating like the pool
49	Cleaner restrooms
54	Not having to wait for bathrooms to be open half way into good weather. And closed when still could be decent weather before winter
57	More paved walking paths.
58	Canopies at the ball fields
60	Splash pad
62	Hudson park - needs more shade -playground equipment is in the sun and gets hot Waterpark - add on to 6ft area and maybe add some more shaded area - love the pool - manger does an outstanding job Hayes - spruce it up not appealing park - brighten it up
65	Move the Frisbee from the center of the sledding hill. That's dangerous
68	More lighting and police patrols
70	Nicer and cleaner restrooms.
72	Move all the sports away from the parks that are very close to people's homes. The noise, dust, litter, and the disrespect living close to one is awful. The loud people going in and out all hours is terrible. There needs to be a park noise ordinance. A city wide one would be great too.

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73	More monitoring to keep illegal/unsafe activities out. More hours for public pool use and swim lessons available.
74	Nothing to add
78	More shade at Hudson. Slides are too hot for kids to play on without getting burnt. We end up at Haynes unless it's crowded which it mostly is so we go home
81	Cameras or more patrolling or groups to keep an eye on things. Too much suspicious activity going on. Not only kids destroying things but drug deals and people "meeting up" to do inappropriate things.
87	Have bathroom accessibility during summer at sportland so baseball players can use bathrooms during practices alot of practices held almost daily at ball fields
88	Make them non smoking
89	More activity for all ages of kids
93	More playground equipment :)
94	Have more options for vending, golf cart / ATV paths
95	More supervision at busy parks like Hudson Park. Police patrolling more or park employees checking in more
96	Add a Splash pad
98	Cleaner more accessible restrooms
100	Upgrade the parks and make them look nice
103	Keep the addicts out of the parks, so its safe for all ages. Finding needels and baggies isn't safe. May be lock them up at night just a suggestion.
105	More basketball courts, and more activities for adults

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109	Updated materials for the ground at fenced in area at Haynes park. Parking at the junior league diamonds
112	More different things for kids...water pads...
113	Continue to add to Hudson park activities to utilize the wonder property of Hudson park.
114	More ponds more fish
118	Would like to see more low cost or free concerts at Hudson Park. Get businesses involved with sponsorship, Bluffton has several free concerts each year, why can't we?
121	More pavilions at Hudson park and also playground equipment. Love the fact we now have play equipment for disabled children . Need more benches and shade trees for seniors to sit and relax at the park.
122	More playground equipment
125	More little kids areas, toddler ages More older kids areas
127	Adding pickleball courts
128	Tube rope pull up hill
131	Soccer complex couple of nice fields
132	More equipment and things to do
140	Add Pickleball courts
141	It is very discouraging to know that vandalism has become a chronic issue in the parks.
142	More events at Hudson Park
144	Possibly install cameras to discourage some of the unsavory activities and vandalism. Large, easily visible posting of phone number to call if you notice inappropriate behavior/language.



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	Then have police check it out as quickly as possible.
146	If someone wants to have a birthday party at the park make the pavillions reserved! I plan my kids partys for there and a couple times they have had to be moved because someone else is there. Its extremely inconvenient expecially when you dont have numbers for parents to let them know.
147	a splash pad
148	More Trails. Longer Trails. Connected Trails.
149	Hudson park is great, but there is no shade over the playground
152	Free public splash pads for summer heat relief for those that cannot afford to attend Portland Water Park. Several individual stainless steel water troughs with drain plugs in the dog park that may be filled and emptied as needed by owners for dogs.
153	Keep the good maintenance up.
154	Bring back the skate park. Winchesters is badass.
157	Picnic tables to the area east of the ball diamonds, north of the pool where the trees are.
158	More things to do
162	Adding more in the dog park, and adding more in the open field at Hudson park!
163	A better dog park. Definitely needs some form of shade. Just seems pitiful. Also, more walking paths. The paths in bluffton are awesome. Just the same ole path at Hudson Park gets old.
165	Fix sidewalks to and from parks and other locations.
166	More security, with regular patrols.

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170	More walking paths
171	More trails
172	More trails
173	Most of the time when I go there with my family, the restrooms are locked. I understand that is for a reason, but it would be nice not to have to run all the way home (especially with little ones) to use the restroom.
174	Park security. More police patrol focused on juvenile delinquency.
176	I'd like to see the city invest to make better use of the amphitheater at Hudson Family Park. When it was built, there was a commitment that the city would commit funds for a concert series each year. I believe it would be possible and productive for the city to invest \$5,000 or \$10,000 to be matched by local sponsors to put on a summer concert series. (This funding would need to be in addition to the current parks budget.)
178	More benches for sitting
180	Heat the pool.
187	Fencing around Haynes park to keep children from running in the road.
199	Haynes Park to be cleaner cared about more .I feel like you all care that Park. There kids that area like it you can't take kids there cause of always finding druggy or needles at that Park
200	Do really great job.
201	Kids must be accompanied by an adult up to a certain age at the play grounds and older kids need to stay out of playground areas and have this enforced. Tired of hearing rude kids and PDA and cursing.
202	More public events and/or more public knowledge about those events

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204	More shade at Hudson park
205	Increased safety
206	Keep bathrooms open longer. My kids play baseball and cannot go to the restroom during practice at sportland because they are locked.
208	Hudson Park needs more age appropriate equipment that separates the older kids(12 and up) from the younger kids. 1 area 5yrs and under, 1 area 5-7yrs, 1 area 8-11yrs, and 1 area 12yrs and up. I love taking my granddaughter there but she is 7 so she would play in the bigger equipment area but there is always older kids/teens that are very rambunctious and I don't feel safe for her to be in there with the bigger kids.
210	Updated shelters with nice and fresh restrooms and picnic tables. Fort recovery which is 10 miles from us has beautiful parks with fresh smelling restrooms hand sanitizer dispensers throughout and beautiful shelters with resin tables
211	It'd be nice to be able to promote pride in our parks and to find the magic answer to how to get people to not destroy things/vandalize. Maybe a community outreach thing to have community members help "beautify" the parks or do seasonal deep cleans. I know some city employees are tasked with maintenance of the parks, but having community buy in may help reduce the vandalism/more than normal maintenance issues that sometimes arise.
212	Better maintenance of trails within the wooded areas. Mulch paths and maintain overgrowth throughout the year.
214	Better playground equipment and more equipment for the little kids and babies
215	Sanitation: I've found heroin needles in bathrooms at the park. I love taking my nephews (and dog!) to the park but Hudson park is the only one that I feel pretty comfortable in. I would also add a sand volley court! :) also the

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	maintenance of bees and parking at the peewee football field would be amazing.
216	Closer parking for disabled
218	Would like to see less vandalism with people stepping up when people are vandalizing the equipment.
219	I would really like a bike path, trails. Clean and safe parks.
221	To be clean and well maintained. Also to have more events for the family.
223	If I could add one thing to the parks it would be a free splash pad! Not all families can afford going to the water park every day. Also not all kids want to swim!
226	Safety concerns
228	More bike trails
236	Modern equipment at the smaller parks.
237	Bicycle riding should not be allowed in parks, especially Hudson.
238	Add a splash pad that doesn't require scheduled workers like the pool does. Can be open all summer.
241	More places for shade. The older people need shade. You could get more people out there with little kids and the older adults.
244	More to do for young adults
245	Fix the amphitheater to make it more useful. Lighting, changing area, deck on the back.
246	More Bathrooms open and clean
248	Updated and refreshed. The Haynes park is so far outdated and the Hudson park has no shade at all in the play area.

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250	Signs for disc golf needed
251	Better paths
255	Adding more safe trails would be nice. Also more community activities.
256	bathrooms open more
259	We need more trails !!! Restroom access is very limited.
265	City should look at increasing the Park Board's Budget, and allow for the Park Board to be included in the process
267	Keeping Vandalism at bay. More Trails!
268	Would love to have a long trail, like Cardinal Greenway for biking long distance.
269	Landscape
270	Wicker Park in Bluffton is a really nice park that can accommodate a lot of children at once without feeling crowded. They also have a mister. I feel you can get a lot of great ideas from their park. They have lots of unique pieces.
271	That druggies wouldn't use them and leave their paraphernalia behind (but I know you can't control that). That teenagers wouldn't draw lewd pictures all over them. That the teenagers would have a skate park to go to rather than hanging out in the kiddie areas while being rude and crude.
272	More play equipment, more parks dept. employees enforcing rules. Hudson Park has a large number of teenagers who gather in the play areas and adults smoking near children.
276	More accessible paths
280	I would have the restrooms be better kept and less drug activity at the parks. I would suggest there be consequences of fines or community service for people who are found to have been

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	vandalizing the restroom, property, or found to be doing drugs on the premises.
290	Add more swings to Hudson Park. In the big kid area and little kid area.
294	Add pickleball courts
296	More events would be nice. Bluffton has been doing super hero day, and princess day. I think trick or treating should be done here by having people bring cars and use trunks to hand out candy instead of having to go house to house. Winter activities like snow man contest would be fun or snow ball war. Just organized activities
298	Playground equipment for smaller children. Haynes needs updates for little kids. Splash pad would be wonderful at Haynes!
305	Add more activities or play items that will attract small kids and security for the bad seeds that want to vandalize items.
308	Adding dog parks around town
309	More trees or ascetics to look at, paved wood trails would be very nice
312	Maintenance. Restrooms are typically dirty and trash is notes around grounds and overflowing on trash cans.
316	It seems the restrooms are always locked. I know this it's done because of issues with vandalism and such at night but I think especially during times when parks are being frequented by families they should be unlocked and usable
318	Cameras and security
319	recreate the dog park at hudson park
320	Park safety , no trash or loitering of people on drugs
321	Nice pavilion with restrooms.

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327	Water park needs heated, Hudson needs seating around the pond Haynes needs more playground equipment,
328	Nothing. All the recent changes have been great.
332	Keeping dog park cleaned won't take dogs to much poop
333	Cameras up to catch the brats that vandalize the parks.
335	Appearance could be better such as weeds growing on the ball fields, dead grass spots and holes in the outfields. More attention to detail would go a long way!
336	Shade at Hudson park, can't get on the playground equipment when it's hot cause it's too hot.
340	Not adding more and taking care of the ones we already have.
344	Water park needs more seating
350	Maintain all parks to the standard that Hudson park is, and more seating for play area and pavilions.
351	Adding Splash pads, Pave nature trails so everyone can use these trails and not have to worry about getting muddy.
357	Make sure they are cleaner
360	Playground equipment at the ball diamonds
361	Keep them safe for the kids
362	Restroom to stay open longer
367	Equipment we don't have yet, and more accessible walkways around town for children, and side walks



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368	Access to the restroom during the daylight hours.
371	Definitely needs more pavilions at Hudson, for people wanting to do birthday parties or baby showers, things like that. Paving the trails inside the nature trails would also be nice and much easier for the elderly and handicapped to use and be able to walk though as well.
373	A Splash pad somewhere
375	Newer and more hands on equipment
376	More access to the water park.
383	make the figure 8 at Hudson Park clean in the winter.
384	I would add more resting area for people to sit and enjoy each other's company
387	I believe The bleachers at the park where the kids play ball need to have a cover of them to block the heat and possible rain the entire area needs updated. There definitely needs to be more trails for avid hikers
390	People would be more respectful of the parks and help keep them safe and clean
392	Make it prettier. Doesn't seem to be much done other than mowing - sometimes and not very well.
394	I would make sure all parts of the parks were accessible for everyone, whether it's wheelchair or just for young children.
397	More accessible to handicapped and senior citizens.
399	Make more playground equipment
400	Add shade over playground at Hudson. More hours of operation for water park, missed not being able to have bday parties there this year.

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	All in all the parks are well maintained and we appreciate using them.
404	Add free concerts
405	Canopy over the playground at Hudson Park. Dock or pier for easier fishing.
406	Prevention of vandalism to keep all parks in Portland presentable and welcoming to Portland and surrounding communities
409	more bike trails around town
410	Prevent the trails from being used for any kind of abuse. Especially young teens using the tall weeds along the trails to try and hide and have sex.
411	To have the in town parks be updated and cleaned. Hudson park is so beautiful but not in the down town area
413	The fancy rubber flooring added to Haynes park underneath the equipment so my son doesn't eat the wood chips.
418	Make the younger kids playground at Hudson park a little bigger so the younger kids don't have to play with the bigger kids and get ran over
423	More things to do play-wise for infants and the older children as well
425	Cleaner
429	For the city to take better care of sportland
432	Suitable for toddlers
435	More playground equipment and a place to get a drink of water
439	Lighting
441	Equipment and sand/boards/mats to keep ball fields at sportland safe

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442	The fields. Better maintained
444	Something for older kids.
445	inclusive playground
447	Portland pool needs more lawn chairs and umbrellas
449	more city participation in upkeep
450	Better field condition, and better lighting at ball fields.
451	More play equipment at Haynes park. A shade screen at all playground that are in the hot sun with no trees to shade them.
454	Need more shaded area at the Hudson play area.
456	See previous comments.
462	More new equipment like at the park beside the hospital and north water tower.
467	More sporting events
468	Ball diamonds need to be kept up, weeds everywhere restrooms need redone buildings need painted.
471	Our ball diamonds need updated with things like ball returns, foul ball nets and maybe a playset for siblings while games are going on
472	RC race track or go cart track
481	Just keep clean what we have
483	Baseball diamonds are dated and feel cheap/ugly/rusty. Same with the basketball courts. Add some tennis courts. Add an actual nice skate park.

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484	Ball parks would be made more presentable to encourage more visitors/tournaments/events to bring in money.
485	Ball diamond's lighting is outdated and needs improved.
486	Nicer ball fields.
487	Pave peewee field parking lot
492	The people who hang around being rude and vulgar.
497	Better ball diamonds. (Love the new scoreboards)
512	Take better care of them
514	Some organized 3 on 3 basketball tournaments at the ball park would be awesome a little updating on the courts I think we need some more closer to Hudson park.
517	Add another diamond across the bridge to allow hosting of tournaments
518	More waterpark hours
531	Portland needs safe biking paths
532	The offering of free )or very low cost) activities for community members.
536	More shade areas
541	More music varieties at the amphitheater
545	A path from Hudson Park to the high school along the river.
550	More security patrol by law enforcement. I dont feel safe at some parks with my children because of criminal activity in the community

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553	Hire a baseball architect professional for advice. Portland always wants the cheap way.
555	Less noise in general and dust from gravel lots. Traffic control when league sports have only one exit and entrance that causes congestion on the street for residents.
556	Keep adding things to do or upgrading at Hudson Park. It's clearly the center piece of Portland. I would eliminate a park to make more moneys available to Hudson park or do fundraising events to have more money available. I would rather have one amazing park then 6 decent out dated parks
557	More police presence
558	I've actually never been. To crowded.
560	More community sport equipment similar to the frisbee golf course. It adds value to our parks and since it has been put up I've seen many groups using it throughout the day almost on the daily promoting outdoor activities.
561	Add more things for both kids and adults to do. More play equipment and more trials
562	More trails to choose from
565	I love to see a splash pad
576	Clean up the trails, add trails
577	Better concessions!
580	Soccer fields in town, instead of out of town.
583	Splash park
585	More publicity. Allow your parks to be a drawing card to visit Jay County. Hudson Park is beautiful, quaint, and very inviting.
587	A safe trail for long distance biking and running would be great! I don't like taking my kids on

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	routes that include car traffic. Going around a pond several times in a row gets boring for them.
588	I'd add walking trails and add shaded areas to the dog park.
593	More walking for older people
594	More acceptable for handicap adults
595	Water fountains
596	Cleaner, more parking at ball diamonds, more seating and shelters, lower prices for water park when it's never open anyways, a splash pad added, more softball opportunities, instead of a million baseball leagues.
599	N/A
601	Hudson is nice but at times a lot teenagers get on trails and get goofing off.
602	Remove the gravel and other park maintenance stuff from the area between the ball diamonds and the pool - it is not attractive and does not make for a pretty view from the pool towards Hudson Family Park.
603	playset at the ballpark diamonds
604	People damaging facilities
605	Restrooms open more often. Of course this is cleaned and stocked more
606	Park staff should stop mowing grass into the pond at Hudson Park. This year has been the worst. It makes the pond look terrible & takes away from the beauty of that park.
607	Things for older kids and teenagers to play on. I know kids from YSB frequently visit the parks and it would be nice for them to have age appropriate activities.

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609	A soccer field would be added. It is needed and would be used frequently.
611	Nothing
612	keep woods cleaned up plant trees at ball diamonds get rid of city stock pile of sand by ball diamonds get rid of weeds, fertilize
615	Less vandalism so that park facilities can be enjoyed by all
616	Rockets restroom/concessions
617	diving boards at the portland waterpark
618	more clearly marked trails in Hudson park
619	having the restrooms unlocked at all time, maybe nicer/smooother parking lots at Haynes Park
627	We have wonderful parks. Just wish we didn't have to worry about the drugs and needles being left behind.
628	we love the parks
629	Nothing
632	Adding more attractions, up to date playground equipment ie grass turf. Mentions earlier in the survey.



**12. Is there an activity or equipment you would recommend adding to the parks? (briefly describe):**

Response ID	Response
1	Splash pad at Hudson Park Pickleball court at 1 or more parks
5	Diving Boards at the Water Park
8	Soccer fields would be my number one suggestions.
14	Tetherball, disc golf,
15	More trails
16	9 square in the air. 4 square.
17	Better signs and markers for disc golf
18	More events.
19	Wheel chair accessible swings
20	Gaga ball? Frisbee golf Rent items. Like croquet..yard darts...ect
21	A pool not water park
24	Equipment for senior citizens.
27	Put out golf people would live that! Or a batting cage!
32	Handicapped play equipment for all ages
33	Splash pad
36	Splash pad for kids.
39	See my last comment. Bring Whicker park equipment here.

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45	Music type items! Whicker Park in Bluffton has several plays items I've never seen in a park. The kids LOVED it.
49	More picnic tables and handicapped accessibility.
57	Outdoor fitness equipment for adults.
60	Gaga ball pit
63	Splash pad not inside the pool
65	Teeter totters
72	More trees and flowers. Less paved trails and sports courts of any kind. If you need some kind of trail, not asphalt trails, they are so ugly and hot. More enjoyable nature settings and quite activities. We have enough places for sports to be played.
76	Adding playgrounds equipment for those with disabilities. There are programs to help find the money.
81	Trees or shade in dog park area. Bigger area to attract more people and their pets.
88	Musical installations, equipment that is weather proof. I've seen them at other parks. It would be a nice addition. More bike/ walking paths for bikers and runners.
90	Disc golf
95	More and nicer basketball courts with lights that stay on past midnight
96	Add a splash pad
99	Cabin rental for private events at Hudson park
105	Basketball courts
108	at Hudson it would be nice to have a couple different play areas. Like Haynes park does. Maybe an area that is also fenced in.b
109	Splash pad
110	Christmas light displays

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112	Water pads
113	Pickle ball court which can also be used for multiple games and activities.
121	No not really. I love our parks.
124	pickle ball corts
127	Pickleball courts would be a good addition for people who would like a low impact activity most all could enjoy.
129	Zip line
132	Splash pad and more accessible equipment
133	Pickleball courts
140	Add Pickleball courts
141	More connectivity (e.g., trails, safe routes) for walking, biking, and wheel chairs among city parks.
142	Volleyball courts
147	a splash pad
148	Workout Equipment. Pull up Bars, Callisthenic equipment, etc. Or just more trails.
149	Splash pad
152	An ice skating rink that may be used during winter months.
153	Nothing
154	Skate park and biking trails/course. Various difficulties for biking courses. YouTube it..theyre badass
163	Not everyone can afford to pay for the pool. A splash pad, like many other towns are now doing, would be a nice addition.
165	more benches

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169	Would love to have more dedicated (and longer) walking trails, and add bike trails
170	More walking paths
171	Trails
172	Maybe some fitness equipment
174	Trails
175	Indoor swimming pool
176	A parks festival could be fun. It could be an event with some activity (cornhole tournament, disc golf tournament, wiffle ball, water balloon fight, etc.) at each park, concluding with a concert at Hudson Family Park. (Maybe there could be some sort of door prize drawing for those who visit all of the parks during that day. Or, there could be a park scavenger hunt.) The basic goal of such an event would be to get people out to all of the parks to see what they have to offer.
177	A splash pad, separate from the water park, and outdoor pickleball courts.
178	More community events held at amphitheatre
180	More performances/artists.
181	Down hill skiing
182	Putt Putt Golf Course a charge per person to use Course. Pickle ball courts. Shuffle board courts something for older citizens. Maybe 60's and 70's music and a beer tent event! Craft beer tasting and BBQ food truck festival! Outdoor skating Rink or Ice rink in the winter! Anyway to access or use the river for an event?
184	Splash Pad
186	Splash pad!
199	Park area
201	Tennis Courts
202	Movie nights at the amphitheater

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204	Better lights at men's softball diamond
206	Unlocked bathrooms
210	Concrete setups for cornhole and updated equipment at dog park
213	Splash pad at Hudson park
215	Sand Volleyball. I'd also LOVE tetherball!!!!
217	Splash pad
218	Would recommend putting in more handicapped playground equipment for children and adults with disabilities. Would also like to see a Generation swing seat put in at the two main parks. I think they would be very utilized by young parents with their young children.
219	Bike Path
229	More drinking fountains. Any community events.
236	More trails for hiking and/or walking.
237	No
238	Add a splash pad that doesn't require scheduled workers like the pool does. Can be open all summer.
241	Splash pad. It would be free and would bring a lot more people to the parks. More people would stay in Portland if there was more things to do at parks.
244	9 square
245	Shade area in dog park at Hudson.
248	Shade to Hudson park for kids not to be in blistering sun the whole time they play. Refresh and update Haynes park.
249	Skateboard park, splash park for kids
259	More trails!

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261	More wheelchair access
265	Pickle Ball
266	Foam padding across the entire concrete backstop at Runkle-Miller field.
267	Trails, Trails, Trails....
269	Splash pad
270	A splash pad that doesn't need to employ anyone to run would be nice. Also, a soccer field with a few permanent goals set up so kids can just bring a ball and play a game of soccer with friends.
271	Skate park. Accessible activities like at the park in Coldwater, OH
272	Splashpad, Improved/bigger play equipment
277	More bike trails
280	A nice splash pad would be a great addition.
287	Splash pad. Rental cabin for events. New basketball courts. Beautify the river and add paths along the whole length of the river
290	Teeter Totter, Marry-Go-Round
293	Workout
294	Pickleball
298	Splash pad and equipment for small children.
305	Tennis court, basketball court mainly to Hudson park.
308	Dog park agility equipment
309	Paved trails through the woods at Hudson park
313	New concession stand at Portland jr league

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315	More shaded areas near the playground equipment
316	Wheelchair accessible swing
317	Splash pad for little kids to enjoy in the summer
321	Pickle ball courts Splash pad.
323	Handicapped equipment
327	Hudson needs shade maybe just a sunshade would work is terribly hot there in the summer you can't even play there Water feature would be nice for kids to play in just a small one maybe a fountain with wading area idk
328	I love the frisbee golf. How fun. Also love the improvements to the nature trail
333	Swings for adults also. And a bounce pad .
335	A nice well lit tennis court/ pickle ball court
337	A splash page at Hudson or haynes
343	More swings and shade over equipment
347	More things for the dog park.
350	More seating in the play areas and seating/tables in the pavilions.
351	Splash pads More concerts More family activities/tournaments - fishing, corn hole, frisbee golf etc.
353	Handicapped accessible swings and sensory areas for children with autism. Be more inclusive.
362	A few more benches around trails so older pecan rest or for those who are trying to loose weight.
365	More stuff for littles
368	A small kids area.

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369	Hudson park - larger slide and add trees for shade
371	Pavilions
373	A splash pad
375	Splash pad
384	N/A
387	More things for the teenagers to do and again the bleachers need to have a cover over them or a roof
388	It would be nice if we were able to offer a splash pad open to everyone instead of just the pool
389	Lights for all ball diamonds at sportland
390	My grandson would probably
392	MORE TRASH CANS like there used to be!
404	Fishing tournaments for kids.
405	Merry go rounds, splash pads
406	I would recommend adding a splash pad, a young children's area with a small slide, and more water features to the water park. This would once again bring in more people from surrounding areas to visit the pool and town. If admission prices continue to increase, then I recommend adding another feature to the pool. I think it would be a great addition to add a very small slide that does not require riders to be 48 inches tall.
407	Disc golf
411	Just newer or painted/ cleaned up
413	Just a little more equipment in general because on a nice day it gets very busy and your kids get pushed around by other kids, especially Hudson, because it's such a nice park. I love the disc golf idea! That's cool.
418	More slides for the little ones and a small rock climbing wall for the little kids



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

420	Splash pad
423	More baby swings, more water fountains
425	Better water fountains
432	The ground being leveled like Hudson park everywhere
435	Scoreboard at sportland
440	More walking/running/bike paths
443	Better equipment for babies
445	Baby swings. Wheeler accessible playground equipment
447	Splash pad
450	More batting cages at all fields!!
451	Portland pool could use a separate fenced in area for babies and toddlers . Would love love love to see more zip line style tracks for kids at the parks. We've even seen one where you can sit on a circle seat hanging from the track instead of the typical handles you hang from and you push off from platforms at both ends. It's a stand alone feature not connected to the regular playset so it can be added to any park. These features are always busy at every park we go to
453	Splash pad
454	Swing benches for adults watching their children play.
457	Fall baseball/Softball
462	Merry go round, bouncy items
471	More tournaments at the ball diamonds to generate the funds for upgrades and remodeling of the grounds.
472	Better batting cages such as chain link fence
475	Play equipment at the little league diamond for younger kids

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484	Working stalls in bathrooms. More bleachers. better upkeep on potholes in and around fields. Working scoreboards.
485	Wiffle ball fields.
487	Keep soccer players off the peewee football field
493	More guidance signs or more recognizable guidance signs for nature trails
501	Skate park, bike trails.
502	Add additional play equipment for smaller children such as toddlers.
507	The double swings where you can swing and see your child too. So adult and child both have a seat.
509	slash pads
513	Ga ga ball pits
514	More Basketball and some volleyball would be great!!!
517	Tennis or pickle ball courts at Hudson park
522	More public events
524	Beach volleyball
528	Gaga ball pit, 9 square
529	Just more variety.
535	Toddler area!!!
539	More for handicap people
541	Outside exercise classes
545	Pickleball Court
550	Splash pad

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553	baseball for 13-16 year olds
554	Free splash pad for young children at the playground area
555	More trees and flowers. Less anything man made. Quiet so maybe animals and birds could be observed and enjoyed.
556	More paths or upgrade the Kelly Boggs natural trail. Could also Talk to the youth at the elementary and junior high level and ask them what they wanna see or do!
557	Not at this time
558	N/a
562	Sled rentals in winter
565	No you equipment is nice
570	Another shelter near or at the playground of Hudson park. An exercise park for kids and adults that has an activity bar or equipment at different points. A second smaller playground at Hudson park that is shaded. A splash pad.
576	Skateboard park
577	Better baseball fields
580	Sensory equipment for autism children.
581	Park workout equipment
583	Splash park
584	Shaded pavilions at Hudson park. Shaded play equipment. Maybe more trees.
585	Maybe have a frisbee golf tournament. A pickleball court would be a great addition to the park. It is becoming a big sport among the older generation.
586	More Pavillions or seating areas away from the play ground at Hudson Park. Stationary workout equipment near the equipment to allow adults to excercise while keeping children in line of sight. (Indianapolis park has this)
594	More seating

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2022-2026

596	Splash pad More softball opportunities instead of just jr league Bring back the Bike rentals
601	Swings for kids in wherlchairs
602	Groomed cross country skiing trails in Hudson Family Park and the Nature Preserve in the winter
604	At Hudson Family Park: chipping/putting green, small putt putt area
605	Tennis court and another dog area other than Hudson
609	Soccer
611	No
612	bike/walk trail
615	updated playground equipment
616	New storage at Sportland (baseball) help facilitate tournament play
617	a flatter place to skateboard and ride bikes
618	Giving tidbit fun facts along the trails
619	Maybe more swings for toddlers and older kids
627	Volleyball court would be a great addition
628	community picnic like communities in ohio do
629	No
632	<a href="https://www.123rf.com/photo_151213472_unique-kid-s-climbing-playground-equipment-at-public-park.html">https://www.123rf.com/photo_151213472_unique-kid-s-climbing-playground-equipment-at-public-park.html</a> . <a href="https://willygoat.com/products/bristol-oval-trike-path?variant=29424205856865&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_source=google&amp;utm_campaign=Google">https://willygoat.com/products/bristol-oval-trike-path?variant=29424205856865&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_source=google&amp;utm_campaign=Google</a> <a href="https://www.upworthy.com/playgrounds-for-senior-citizens-genius-idea">Shopping&amp;gclid=CjwKCAjwmqKJBhAWEiwAMvGt6GOfirda0FBnmPCiPIF87ucliphkJ-0wmXGEWfxa-BS-p9FTbVOcMBoCnj8QAvD_BwE</a> <a href="https://www.upworthy.com/playgrounds-for-senior-citizens-genius-idea">https://www.upworthy.com/playgrounds-for-senior-citizens-genius-idea</a> <a href="https://willygoat.com/products/single-station-sky-walker?pr_prod_strat=description&amp;pr_rec_pid=4547320676449&amp;pr_ref_pid=39350927360">https://willygoat.com/products/single-station-sky-walker?pr_prod_strat=description&amp;pr_rec_pid=4547320676449&amp;pr_ref_pid=39350927360</a>

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	97&pr_seq=uniform Most Importantly this!!! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94zBEcBrosU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94zBEcBrosU</a>
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### End of Survey Report