



**City of Portland, Indiana  
Jay County, Indiana**

**Request for Proposals to  
Develop a County-Wide  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

**July 15, 2017**

## **Request for Proposal/Qualifications**

**TO: Consulting Firms with Experience/Expertise in Developing Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans**

**FROM: The City of Portland, Jay County government, and Project Advisory Committee**

**PROJECT: County-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

The City of Portland, Indiana, was recently awarded a grant through a healthy communities initiative administered by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). The purpose of the grant is to develop a Community-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to support healthy, active lifestyles. 13 communities around the state have obtained similar grants in past years.

The City of Portland, Indiana, in partnership with Jay County government and a Citizens Advisory Committee, invites experienced, qualified consulting firms to submit Statements of Qualifications and Project Proposals for professional services to develop a top quality County-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for the City of Portland and all of Jay County, Indiana, in accordance with the purposes of the ISDH grant. The proposals and qualification statements will be used in selecting an expert consulting firm (the consultant) to lead the planning project.

Attached to this memo are the following:

- 1) Project Introduction
- 2) Explanation of Parties Involved
- 3) Preliminary Scope of Work
- 4) Preliminary Work Plan
- 5) Schedule of Selection
- 6) Requirements for Statement of Qualifications
- 7) Evaluation Criteria
- 8) Reference Documents: 1. ISDH Grant Application, 2. Portland 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

All responses will be reviewed for selection purposes. Your Proposal and Statement of Qualifications, with four (4) copies, should be received at the following address no later than 4:00 p.m., August 4, 2017. Submissions received after 4:00 p.m., August 4, 2017 will not be considered.

Sincerely,  
Randy Geesaman, Mayor  
The City of Portland  
321 North Meridian Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
(260) 726-9395

Cc: Chuck Huffman, President, Jay County Commissioners  
Rod Ashman, President, Portland Park Board

John Hemmelgarn, Director/Administrator, Jay/ Portland Building & Planning Department  
Advisory Committee Chair

## Project Introduction

Jay County 20/20 Vision, perhaps the community's most ambitious, wide-scale planning effort, was launched in 2009 with sustained, year-long participation by over 200 citizens. The results were published in April 2010 (see <https://goo.gl/GwylWd>). This document shows the community's interest in active lifestyles and a wholesome quality of life for all Jay County residents. In particular, recreational trails and routes are seen as important elements of regular outdoor activity.

Since 2010, there have been a number of successful follow-on efforts to continue refining the vision and plans for recreational trails and routes in the City of Portland and throughout Jay County. As a result of these efforts:

1. The Jay County Trails Club (<https://youtu.be/HUSLMyVYe6I>) was formed to promote local recreational trail infrastructure; and
2. Jay County is now included in Indiana's visionary trail routes map for the state of Indiana.

In addition, the City of Portland annually proclaims itself a bike friendly community by enacting a 3-foot safe distance rule for bikes on city streets, maintaining bike route signage and road marking, and adopting a new (April 2017) 5-year park and recreation master plan highlighting safe routes within and among city parks. A "City of Portland Urban Revitalization Plan 2016" ([https://thecityofportland.net/e107\\_images/file/20\\_portland\\_revitalization\\_plan\\_2016\\_small.pdf](https://thecityofportland.net/e107_images/file/20_portland_revitalization_plan_2016_small.pdf)) developed with the Chamber of Commerce and Ball State University suggests a "cultural loop" with walking and cycling encouraged among key public venues including museums, the arts, and the community library.

To further address remaining significant challenges, the primary goals of this project include:

1. **Understand** barriers to walking and bicycling in Portland/Jay County and **increase** opportunities for cyclists and walkers in the community.
2. **Increase** the number of people safely walking and bicycling for **everyday transportation** purposes such as commuting to work and/or **school**, and running errands.
3. **Provide guidance** and priorities for implementing **policies, programs** and **infrastructure** to support walking and bicycling with a wide range of funding and support.

## Explanation of Parties Involved

**The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH):** ISDH will provide grant funds for hiring a consultant to assist the community in the preparation of the plan.

**The City of Portland:** The City of Portland is the grantee receiving ISDH funds for the purpose of hiring a consultant to develop the plan. The City will name a project manager and primary point of contact with ISDH, County partners, including the Advisory Committee, and the Consultant. The City will oversee the overall project, hire the consultant, administer the contract and pay the consultant directly.

**Jay County:** The City of Portland is the County Seat for Jay County. As such, City and County governments share a long standing relationship. County government has pledged a portion of local matching funds for the state ISDH grant. A comprehensive community transportation network would not be complete if it did not include both the City and the County.

**Towns:** In addition to Portland and Jay County, the towns of Bryant, Dunkirk, Pennville, Redkey, and Salamonina will be included in the county-wide plan.

**The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Committee (The Advisory Committee):** The Advisory Committee is a broadly representative group of community stakeholders who will help guide and accomplish the planning process as identified in the project work plan.

**Consultant:** The Consultant will name a responsible project manager (PM) and primary point of contact with the City, County and Advisory Committee, presumably one person. The PM will be named in the contract and cannot be replaced unless agreed by all parties. The PM will lead the overall project on a daily basis, ensure that all requirements are met or on track, and ensure project resources, milestones, and deliverables are met and managed efficiently and effectively.

## Preliminary Scope of Work

### 1. Overall goals for the plan

- a. **Assess** the current state of biking and walking around the community
- b. Describe **programs** to **encourage** safety, education, awareness, and participation
- c. Recommend **policy** changes to further the goals of this effort
- d. Develop an **infrastructure** master plan with identified priority corridors and destinations
- e. Identify a range of implementation opportunities including:
  - i. Short term projects and long range opportunities
  - ii. Provide rough order of magnitude cost estimates for plan recommendations
- f. Identify and promote a range of benefits and values that bicycling and walking bring to the community and local business, both quantitatively and qualitatively
  - i. Highlight the benefits and responsibilities of utilizing public funds to implement parts of the plan
  - ii. Recommend educational and promotional means (including Bicycle Friendly Businesses)
  - iii. Explore a possible Economic Impact Study
- g. Identify groups to implement policy change and new projects with a strategy for ongoing oversight
- h. Identify potential funding sources
- i. Recognize railroad right-of-way and river/stream greenway opportunities and history
- j. Recognize existing Jay County trail segments in nature preserves, campuses and parks

### 2. Planning process expectations

- a. Gather significant **public** input from a range of stakeholders through:
  - i. Public meetings, all meetings will be documented
    1. West Jay – Minimum 2 meetings
    2. East/Central Jay – Minimum 2 meetings
    3. Final – Minimum one (1) final meeting at one (1) central location to review final product(s)
  - ii. Advisory Committee meetings, all meetings will be documented
    1. Minimum 6 working meetings
    2. Participants, including the consultant, may join via phone conference
  - iii. Community survey – Minimum 200 usable survey inputs
    1. A survey questionnaire, including inputs via an interactive map, will be used to obtain comments from the public.
    2. "Wikimapping.com" or similar is an example of technology used previously by other communities (e.g., Fishers, IN)
    3. Questionnaire – Hardcopy and online
    4. Maps – Hardcopy and online interactive to identify obstacles, routes, destinations, etc.
  - iv. Identify and engage all stakeholders
    1. Recreational – Bicycle riders, hikers, runners, walkers and others
    2. Institutions – Hospital, Schools, Colleges
    3. Community Groups – Churches, Neighborhoods, etc.

4. Private sector – Chamber, Development Corporations, etc.
  5. Public sector – County, City, Towns, Utilities
  6. Other identified stakeholders
  - v. Produce modules during development for review by the Advisory Committee
  - b. Leverage the ideas and momentum to energize the public and project stakeholders
- 3. Product expectations**
- a. Deliverables
    - i. All deliverable documents developed pursuant to this project shall be the sole and exclusive property of the City of Portland and Jay County and as such shall be considered public documents in the public domain.
    - ii. No proprietary or copyrighted material will be included in the deliverable documents.
    - iii. Final deliverable documents will be provided in commonly used editable formats (e.g., Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Google Maps), as well as adequate quantities of hardcopy documents for distribution and Adobe Acrobat versions for Web publication and electronic distribution.
  - b. Maps
    - i. Electronic, layered, viewable/searchable/printable via common, widely used applications like Google Maps
    - ii. County-wide bicycle and pedestrian network with current and planned elements clearly indicated
    - iii. Including all of Jay County, including the City of Portland, Towns, and rural areas
    - iv. Project priorities and phasing shown in layers
    - v. A bicycle and hiking user map, as a promotional piece for tourism and for use by residents
  - c. A narrative summarizing the plan
  - d. An Implementation timeline and a breakdown of general implementation costs
  - e. Infrastructure and sign standards to be used in the network
    - i. Utilize existing facility standards (NACTO, MUTCD, etc.)
  - f. Bicycle and pedestrian information for promotion and encouragement
  - g. Unique branding and wayfinding recommendations
  - h. A written communication strategy with recommendations for how to describe and promote the plan
  - i. A brief promotional illustrated marketing section which should be web based, printable, and compatible as a mobile device download
  - j. A short promotional video (e.g., YouTube)
  - k. A longer technical section, able to be produced separately, liberally illustrated with photos and tables
  - l. Tailor parts of the plan to the business community, new and old residents, and visitors
  - m. Prepare the community to pursue grant opportunities, specifically Safe Routes to School

**Preliminary Work Plan**

The firm selected will be involved in the following activities on behalf of the City, including the tasks necessary to create a County-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan and is flexible as needed:

**Existing Conditions Analysis**

The Consultant and the City will conduct a review of existing conditions that influence walking and bicycling within the study area. This task should include an inventory and analysis of policies, programs and infrastructure that currently impede or support walking and bicycling. A survey of residents in the community shall be conducted that quantifies the extent, barriers and opportunities for walking and bicycling within the community.

*The product of this task will be written narrative and associated maps, a summary of the physical inventory and analysis along with a summary of the results of the community survey.*

**Meet with the Advisory Committee and the Public**

This task will include advisory committee meetings at the beginning of the analysis task to gather committee input, a public meeting to gather comments from the analysis and a second advisory committee meeting towards the end of the analysis task to review the results of the public meeting and the final existing condition analysis.

*The product of this task will be the products necessary to conduct two (2) advisory committee meetings and two (2) public meetings (1 each at 2 locations) along with written summaries of each.*

**Prepare the draft plan**

The draft plan will be prepared based upon public input and discussions between the City, the Advisory Committee, and the consultant. The plan will include the findings of the analysis task along with recommendations for policies, programs, and infrastructure improvements. A map illustrating the proposed pedestrian and bicycle system will be included as part of the draft document.

*The product of this task will be copies of the draft plan for review and comment. Plan recommendations will include rough order of magnitude cost estimates for implementation.*

**Meet with the Advisory Committee and the Public**

This task will include two (2) advisory committee meetings during the production of the draft plan and two (2) public meetings (1 each at 2 locations) to review the draft document. The public meetings should also be used to solicit input necessary to help prioritize the recommendations of the plan.

*The product of this task will be the products necessary to conduct two (2) advisory committee meetings and two (2) public meetings (1 each at 2 locations) along with written summaries of each. Plan recommendations will include rough order of magnitude implementation cost estimates.*

**Develop the Plan Priorities and Prepare the Final Plan for Adoption**

The recommendations of the plan will be prioritized based upon the input gained in public meetings. The advisory committee will meet to discuss the plan priorities prior to the production of the final plan.

*The product of this task will include a prioritized list of recommendations of the draft plan. Plan recommendations will include rough order of magnitude implementation cost estimates. The product of this task will be the products necessary to conduct one (1) advisory committee meeting prior to the production of the final plan. The product of this task will also include the final plan document in both hard copy and electronic formats.*

**Implementation**

This phase involves the formal adoption of the final plan by the City along with a possible training session to assist in discussing the next steps for implementation.

*The products of this task will be training and/or discussion participation to answer questions about next steps for implementation.*

**Adoption**

The City and the County will each formally adopt the final plan as an amendment to the official City comprehensive plan and the County's official comprehensive plan, following the requirements necessary as per State code. This task will include one (1) advisory committee meeting to review the final plan and one (1) public meeting at a single location to review the final plan document with the general public.

*The products of this task will be the products necessary to conduct one (1) advisory committee meetings and one (1) single location public meeting along with written summaries of each.*



**City of Portland County-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Timetable 2017-2018**

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Before Plan Dev</b>												
Goals, Objectives and Plan Content		AC										
Consultant Selection		AC										
<b>Developing the Plan</b>												
Existing Conditions Analysis			AC	P(2)	AC							
Develop Draft Plan						AC		AC				
Develop Plan Priorities and Final Plan								P(2)	AC			
<b>Implementing the Plan</b>												
Formal Plan Adoption											AC P	

AC=Advisory Committee Meetings  
 P=Public Meetings/Workshops

**Schedule of Selection**

1. Send Request for Qualifications: July 14, 2017
2. Submit Proposal/ Statement of Qualifications: August 4, 2017
3. Review Proposal/Statement of Qualifications: August 7-15, 2017
4. Interview Short Listed Firms: August 15-18, 2017
5. Evaluation and Select Firm: August 21-25, 2017
6. Issue Notice of Award/Sign Contracts: August 31, 2017

**Requirements for Statement of Qualifications**

1. Name, address and brief description of firm
2. Resumes of key personnel to be assigned to this project
3. A one page narrative as to firm's interest, particular abilities and qualifications related to this project
4. Describe other projects designed by this firm and key personnel pertinent to this project. Include reference contact information
5. Provide examples of knowledge, expertise and/or experience with other related work
6. Provide evidence of having successfully worked with local stakeholders and stakeholder groups, especially the project advisory committees, on previous related community projects
7. Staff's proximity to Jay County

**Evaluation Criteria**

1. Past performance on contracts, including quality of work, timeliness, and cost control
2. Past successful collaboration with local stakeholders and stakeholder groups, especially the project Advisory Committee, on previous similar community-wide projects (e.g., Number of survey responses received with help of local stakeholders)
3. Capacity of the organization to perform the work within time limitations, taking into consideration the current planned workload of the firm
4. Specialized experience or technical expertise of the organization and its personnel in connection with the scope of services to be provided and complexity of the project
5. Approach to project, both in staff philosophy and innovative understanding of the project scope
6. Familiarity of the organization with this type of project based on past projects completed
7. Project management abilities in relation to scope and complexity of the project
8. Location of the firm in relation to Jay County; Willingness/ability to creatively use collaborative technology to mitigate distance separation and, when travel is necessary, combine activities to minimize single purpose travel

Attachments follow:

1. ISDH Grant Application, January 27, 2017
2. Portland Parks 5-Year Master Plan, March, 2017

**JANUARY 27, 2017**

**2017 INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION**

**Community-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Master Plan  
For the City of Portland, Indiana, and  
extending throughout Jay County, Indiana**

**Local Officials Supporting this Request**

**City of Portland, Indiana  
Mayor Randy Geesaman  
Key Contact Official**

[mayorgeesaman@thecityofportland.net](mailto:mayorgeesaman@thecityofportland.net)  
**(260) 726-9395**

**Jay County Commissioners  
Doug Inman, President**

**Local Not-For-Profit Supporting this Application**

**Jay County Trails Club  
Samantha Thomas, President**



City of PORTLAND  
PORTLAND, INDIANA

Randy D. Geesaman  
*Mayor*

Lori Ferguson  
*Clerk-Treasurer*

01/09/2017

01/09/2016

Pete Fritz AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N Meridian St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz

The City of Portland is pleased to submit this application for the 2017 Grant Funding Grant Application for the Preparation of a County- wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, for the City of Portland, County of Jay. We are working closely with the local Jay County Trails Club, for corridors that will be utilized by all of Jay County residents. Therefore, as a joint effort, we are working together to develop this application as evidenced by our letters of support.

The City will adopt design guidelines that incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths and greenways within the City of Portland in compliance with the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

Many factors influence the health benefits of walking, and biking on a dedicated place. Exercise improves the overall health of the public. The presence of walking trails and bike lanes have increased greatly and continues to grow. Further, these factors and others influence the viability of having a plan in place for the growing need of trails. There for the City supports the recommendations of this county wide plan.

As the Mayor of the City of Portland, I am writing to inform you that this project has the full backing and support of the City. With this letter, I am certifying that the City of Portland will meet all the necessary administrative requirements, [REDACTED] so that this planning effort will serve our entire Jay County.

Sincerely,

Randy D Geesaman  
Mayor City of Portland



**Jay County Commissioners**

*Doug Inman, Richard L. Huffman, Mike Leonhard*

**120 N Court St.**

**Portland, IN 47371**

**Phone (260) 726-7575 Fax (260) 726-6933**

January 9, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St., 2L  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

The Jay County Commissioners fully support the City of Portland and the Jay County Trails Club and their efforts to develop a Community-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Such a master plan would provide a road map for providing recreational opportunities for Jay County and its citizens that currently does not exist.

The master plan would assist in local efforts to improve the health of Jay County residents and would also serve as an economic development tool for the community.

I look forward to the Indiana State Department of Health's support of the City of Portland's and Jay County Trails Club's efforts.

Sincerely,



Douglas L. Inman  
President

Answers: 2017 GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION for the PREPARATION of a  
COMMUNITY-WIDE BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN  
For the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana, and extending throughout Jay County, Indiana  
January 27, 2017

1. Describe your community's interest in and need for a bicycle and pedestrian plan, including any planning documents addressing bicycle and pedestrian issues.

Portland is a small city in rural Jay County where recreational trails more than a couple miles long are 45 minutes away in other counties. Our county's health ranking is 80 of 92 Indiana counties. Even more shocking is the rate of "Access to Exercise Opportunities". The overall state average is 74.6% while Jay County's is measured at only 31%!<sup>1</sup> These are extraordinary numbers. The need for more accessible Active Living Facilities seems obvious, even urgent.

Jay County government and the cities and towns of Portland, Bryant, Dunkirk, Pennville, Redkey, and Salamonina all support healthy, active lifestyles to improve quality of life and attract young people and economic growth. Our community's vision for a wholesome quality of life and economic vitality is expressed in many policy and planning documents. Among these are "Jay County 20/20 Vision"<sup>2</sup> and, more recently, a "City of Portland Urban Revitalization Plan 2016" developed by Ball State University. Ongoing "Safe Routes to Schools" (now Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)) and Dutch-style bike share planning initiatives are expanding pedestrian and bicycle routes, loops, and trails that benefit all residents, particularly families, school children and seniors. In addition, the Jay County Trails Club has developed a series of proposed bike and pedestrian routes and recreational trails in the City of Portland.<sup>3</sup>

Lacking a community-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP), Jay County lost a golden opportunity to establish a strategic public trust when unused GRI rail line became available in the 1980's. As a result, Jay County is not linked with the state's longer trails. Other Hoosier communities took advantage of similar opportunities and developed significant recreational trails including the Cardinal Greenway and Monon trails. Today, these are popular attractions contributing to the health and prosperity of the respective host communities.

The Jay County Trails Club (JCTC)<sup>4</sup> is a local non-profit organization that grew out of Vision 20/20 goals to support community betterment objectives through recreational trails. As a result of recent JCTC efforts, Jay County is now included in the Indiana DNR's map of visionary trail routes for the state of Indiana. In addition, due in part to the efforts of JCTC, Portland annually proclaims itself a bike friendly community by: Having recently enacted a 3-foot safe distance

---

<sup>1</sup> Jay County Hospital, Community Education Manager, 1/17/2017 endorsement letter. See Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> "Jay County 20/20 Vision", The Portland Foundation, 2010, <https://goo.gl/GwyLwd>.

<sup>3</sup> Jay County Trails Club proposed bike/pedestrian routes & trails in the City of Portland, April 2014. See Appendix.

<sup>4</sup> Video, Jay County Trails Club: <https://youtu.be/HUSLMYVYe6I>

rule for bikes, maintaining bike routes damaged by winter snow removal, and adopting a new 5-year park and recreation master plan that highlights safe routes to and among city parks. The new 5-year park plan was developed at significant cost savings with the assistance of JCTC.

The need for a city based and county wide BPMP is critically important for these reasons:

- To enable and sustain Active Living;
- To improve workforce health;
- To stimulate Bike/Pedestrian Economic Development; and
- To bring Quality of Life Amenities to Hoosiers in Portland and Jay County.

2. What is your community's general vision for the next 20 years, and how will a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan contribute to achieving this vision?

Jay County is fortunate to have The Portland Foundation<sup>5</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest community foundation in Indiana. The Foundation led over 200 local stakeholders in the creation of "Jay County 20/20 Vision" in 2010. The 20/20 report contains this goal: "The Jay County community envisions a thriving environment for recreational and wellness opportunities."

A BPMP will be a big step forward in meeting that goal. A BPMP will compliment Jay County's existing robust portfolio of recreational programs, including dozens of Jay Community Center programs for youth, adults, and seniors, 20 Portland Park programs with 3,000 participants led by 450 volunteers, as well as 4-H, scouting, FFA, and many more. The numbers are amazing for a county of just 22,000 residents, including Portland's 6,200 residents.

The community aspires to be more bicycle friendly. Several businesses have been awarded bicycle friendly business status for bike parking and accommodations for cyclists. A December 2016 revitalization plan by Ball State University suggests changes to accommodate more bicycles and pedestrian walkways in Portland. The community would also like to establish longer county bike and hiking routes for alternative transportation choices and to support more active lifestyles.

3. Describe the current state of your community's transportation system, including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Highlight any projects your municipality has undertaken in the last 10 years to improve biking or walking in the community, e.g. building sidewalks or trails, painting bike lanes, or traffic calming.

Jay County consists of 384 square miles crisscrossed by 700 miles of county roads, of which 500 miles are paved. In addition, there are 70 miles of narrow 2-lane state highways and 50 miles of

---

<sup>5</sup> The Portland Foundation, <http://portlandfoundation.org/>



current and former railroad right-of-way, 25 miles of which remain active. Most of the Jay County highways and rail lines pass through Portland, where there are another +/- 50 miles of city streets. There are several significant waterways including the Wabash and Salamonie Rivers, and Limberlost Creek, a storied name made famous by the writings of Gene Stratton-Porter.

At present, there is no instance of railroad right-of-way being re-purposed as recreational trail in Jay County.

A few short trails have been built in parks and institutional campuses such as Loblolly Marsh, Hudson Family Park, and the Jay County Hospital. These modest 1-3 mile trails have stoked interest in joining separate trails and roadways into a more useful system to safely connect activity venues, parks, businesses and heritage sites with county population centers.

A 2016 Portland Park Survey completed for the new 5-Year Portland Park master plan shows trails are the most popular feature in Portland parks used by 69.7% of park visitors. Playgrounds were second at 60%. Trails and connecting routes were also the 2<sup>nd</sup> (52.9%) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (42.2%) most requested additions to Portland parks just after more park benches/shelters (54.7%).

A network of trails/routes would provide more walking and biking opportunities to encourage, enable, and challenge peoples' activity levels. Bright spots include:

- Ball State University's 2016 City of Portland Urban Revitalization Plan proposes an alternative transportation "Cultural Loop" connecting 9 civic attractions and destinations in downtown.
- A number of county bike and running routes have been informally identified.
- City and county governments have agreed in principle to placement of trail route signs.
- The City of Portland has about 2-miles of streets designated "Share the Road".
- Portland has upgraded sidewalks in high foot traffic areas and has added ADA access in business districts.
- 1.55 miles of paved trails in Portland's Hudson Park are among the best in the county.
- A ½ mile greenway trail connects schools, parks and activity venues near the river.
- A Portland "Safe Routes to School" (now PROWAG) plan is funded for construction.
- The Jay County Hospital has constructed a one mile public trail around its campus and into the adjacent Crownpointe assisted living facility.

A strategic, integrated, county-wide plan is needed to support grant funding applications and provide a framework and timetable for future development.

4. Are there any specific gaps, barriers, projects, or opportunities that you feel should be addressed in a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for your community?

Yes, indeed! Important points to be addressed in a comprehensive county-wide BPMP include:

- Community Enhancement – Develop safe designated routes among community gathering places including towns, neighborhoods, schools, activity centers and heritage sites across 850+ miles of state and local roadways, railways, and greenways in Jay County.
- Regional Connectivity – Connections with state and national recreational routes in adjacent jurisdictions is also highly desirable from the perspective of local quality of life, bicycle tourism and economic development.
- National Initiatives - A national network of recreational trails has recently gained significant attention and support. Our BPMP will increase our County's ability to justify and physically connect to these trails.
- Study Corridors - A map highlighting suggested county study "corridors" as a basis for a community-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan is attached as an appendix.
- Railways - A map of current and former county railways is also included as a reference.
- Application - Our BPMP will provide guidance for local politicians when determining future policies and establishing public budgets. It will also establish requirements for alternative transportation zoning standards in all new development projects.

A comprehensive BPMP will document options for enabling and encouraging more physical activity and ensuring that our children and families as pedestrians and bicyclists have safe routes, trails, and walkways throughout their community, and workers have safe, reliable alternative routes to and from their jobs. It is not acceptable to hear someone say they couldn't take a job or make it to work due to an automobile related issue only to learn that they live within 2-3 miles of their workplace.

5. Internal representation from various city departments contributes to a successful planning process and subsequent implementation. List how each department will contribute to the planning process and the implementation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Local political leadership representing the county and incorporated municipalities all have expressed interest and commitment to development of a community-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Non governmental entities, including the Jay County Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and industry, non-profit organizations, and many more have expressed their support, as evidenced by the support letters in this application.

The City of Portland's Police Chief and Superintendent for Streets and Parks will be sitting members of our BPMP steering committee. Their support and input in plan preparation and implementation is critical to our Plan's success. Our Jay County Commissioners will ensure the county engineer's participation in the steering committee and plan development for routes out in the county.

6. Support from elected officials is key to the planning process, including approval and implementation of the plan. How will your community inform and engage elected officials throughout the planning process?

Portland Mayor Geesaman has demonstrated his support of this City & County-wide BPMP by pledging funds exceeding the grant match requirement by 60% so that funds are available to plan Active Living corridors throughout Jay County. Mayor Geesaman has also garnered the support of the Community Foundation and the County Commissioners for implementation of this plan.

Our JCTC routinely collaborates with Mayor Geesaman and Jay County Commissioners. For example, we have briefed the new commissioners so they are fully aware of our activities, goals, and objectives.

In addition, JCTC recently worked with the City of Portland Park Board to develop a new 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Local elected officials are accustomed to working with the Jay County Trails Club on grant requests, legislation and planning projects. It is therefore expected that development of the BPMP will involve similar collaboration.

JCTC is accustomed to supporting initiatives such as this to ensure deadlines are met, stakeholders are briefed, and the public is kept informed directly and via local news media, including radio and newspaper, and via social media.

7. Describe your public outreach process for informing and engaging residents in your most recent planning effort.

During our Parks Plan development, JCTC coordinated with the mayor and park board to develop and circulate a community park survey. The survey was posted on the city website and hardcopies were distributed at City Hall and a number of public events, including hospital sponsored bike safety events. The result was 360 usable survey responses received, a 300% increase over the previous 5-year park plan. JCTC plan development progress briefings for the mayor and park board facilitated prompt plan adoption and State agency acceptance.

8. How does your municipality communicate with community members and stakeholder groups in order to share information and encourage participation in civic affairs?

Jay County and municipal governments have regular public meetings that are routinely covered by our local media. Our local newspaper, *The Commercial Review*, is committed to promoting and covering local public engagement opportunities. Our BPMP efforts will fully engage their services to “get the word out.” Special “town hall” style meetings are organized on an as-needed

basis to deal with topics of special interest. Civic organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Lions, and many other community service organizations often request speakers to address and inform their members regarding issues pertinent to communities in our City and County.

The county hospital has a community health advisory staff to interact with government and stakeholders for continued support and encouragement of wholesome physical activity for the community. The Portland Foundation and JCTC sometimes collaborate in linking community interest groups, events and civic leaders.

9. How does your municipality's current zoning and development code contribute to or detract from biking and walking for transportation and recreation?

Not much new housing development is happening in the incorporated areas of Jay County. However, most municipal streets and in-town portions of state highways have sidewalks. The sidewalks are not always in good repair and may not be ADA compliant, but officials are usually responsive if a case can be made for repair or replacement. Unfortunately, newer business development along state highways does not always include pedestrian access via sidewalks and paths. Our BPMP will provide zoning provisions for new development projects to include connectivity facilities for plan approvals.

Although very few businesses and industrial areas currently have bike racks, experience shows a visit from an outside advocacy group can spur changes. JCTC has found our industrial firms benefit from, and support construction of, facilities that promote a healthy and active workforce. A community-wide BPMP would have the effect of encouraging more sidewalks, trails, pathways, and bike racks across the community.

10. Are there currently any programs, events, or activities offered in your community to encourage walking, bicycling, or using public transit?

The mayor of Portland traditionally declares the month of May as "Ride your bike to work month" and promotes bike awareness as alternative transportation. JCTC is encouraging the school corporation to consider a "Walking school bus" program to get urban kids safely to elementary schools. JCTC hosts an annual bike tour of county communities, as well as an annual bike time trial race for families and individuals. There are numerous 5K's and half-marathons, including the Fire Cracker 5K, the Hudson half-marathon, Hummer memorial 5K, Dunkirk Glass Days 5K, Pennville Lions 5K, Matt Aker memorial 5K, the Color Run, Spook Run and the Night Run.

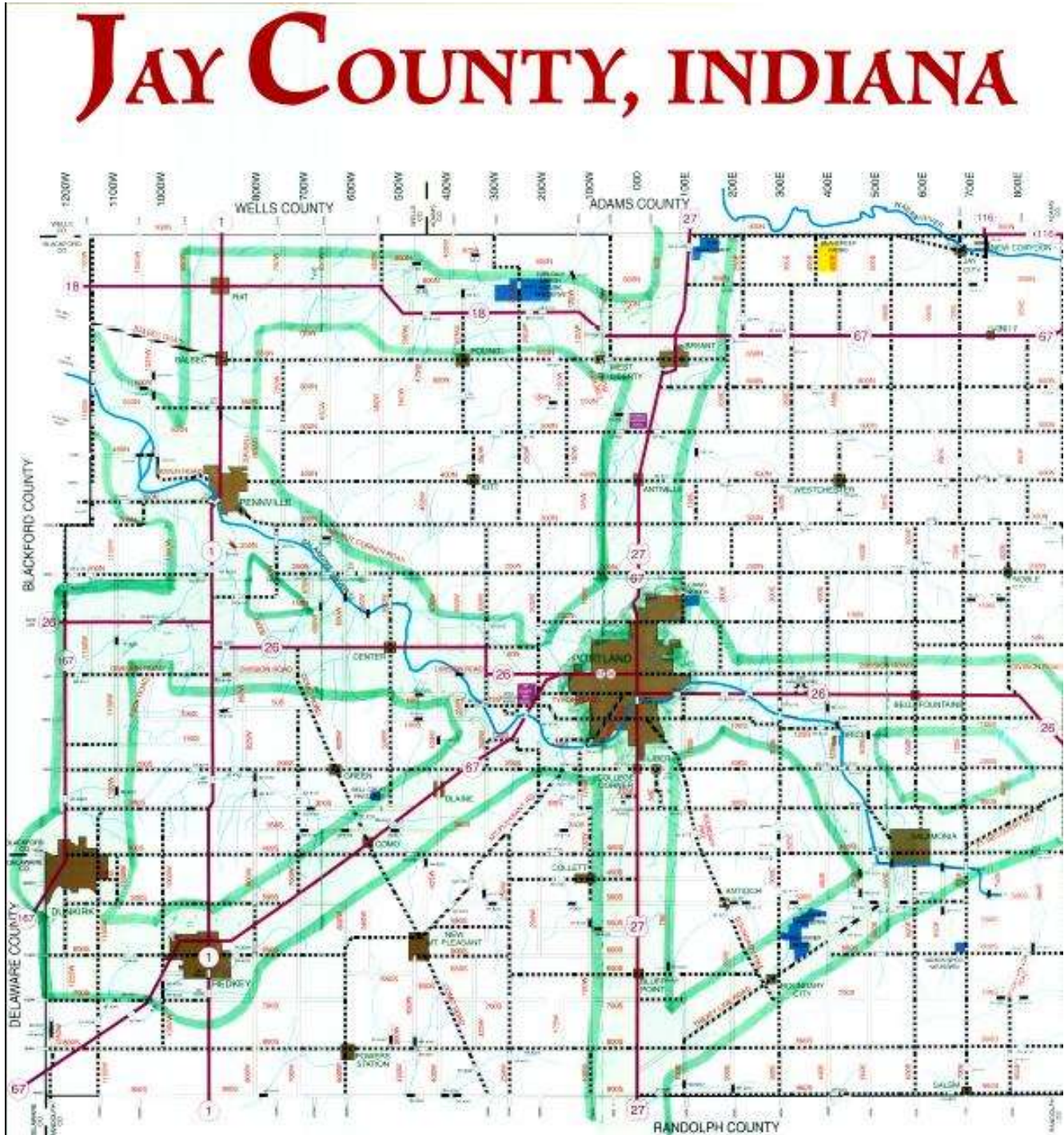
Public transportation options are limited, and are primarily aimed at seniors and those with special needs, many of whom use the service for travel to medical appointments and to get

personal provisions. Our BPMP will provide facilities that our seniors can use to promote their own active living and wellness.

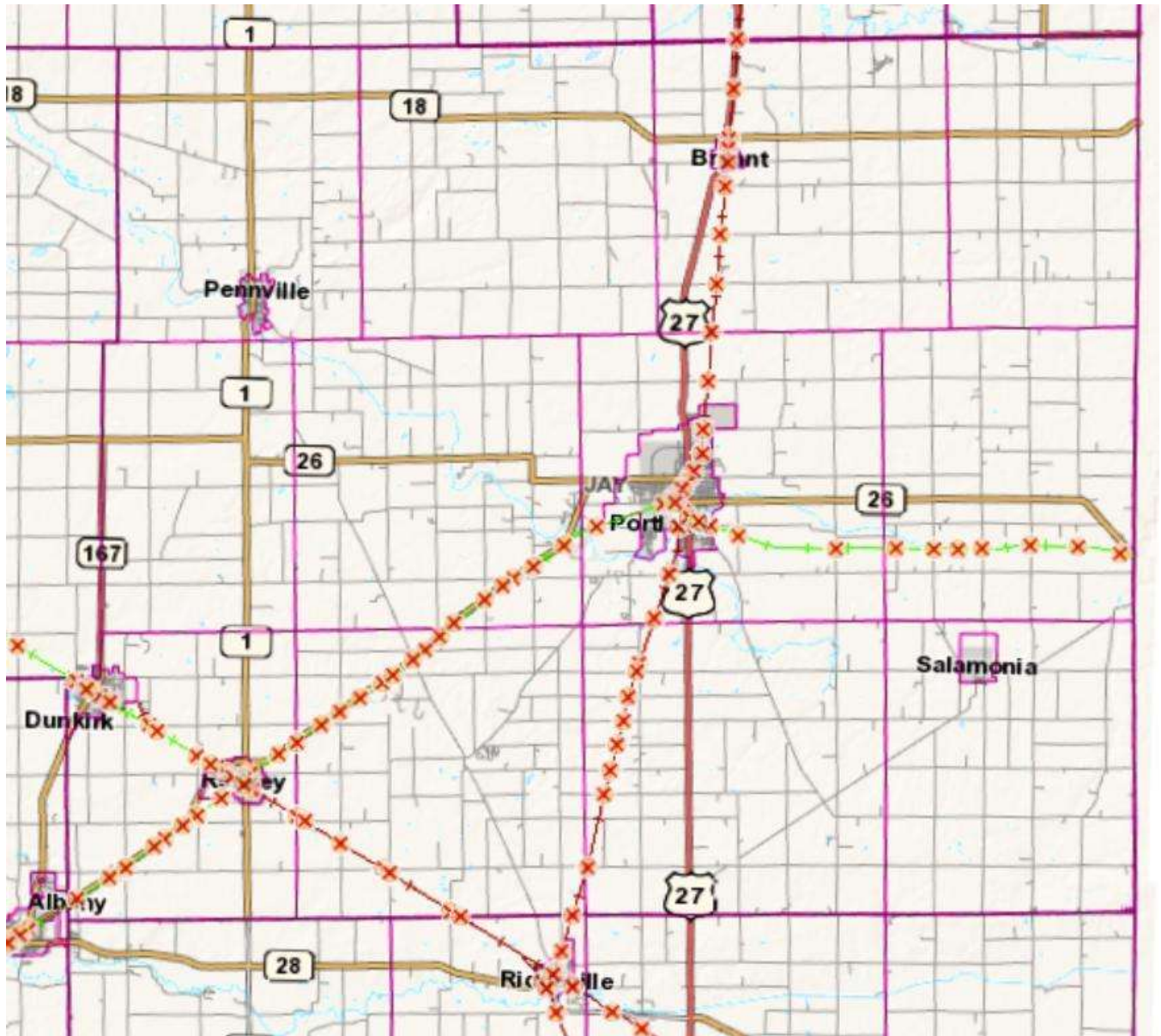
# Appendices

# Jay County Alternative Transportation Study Corridors

The map below lays out possible corridors for alternative transportation study as part of a comprehensive community-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan to be developed with participation and concurrence from local municipal and county leaders.



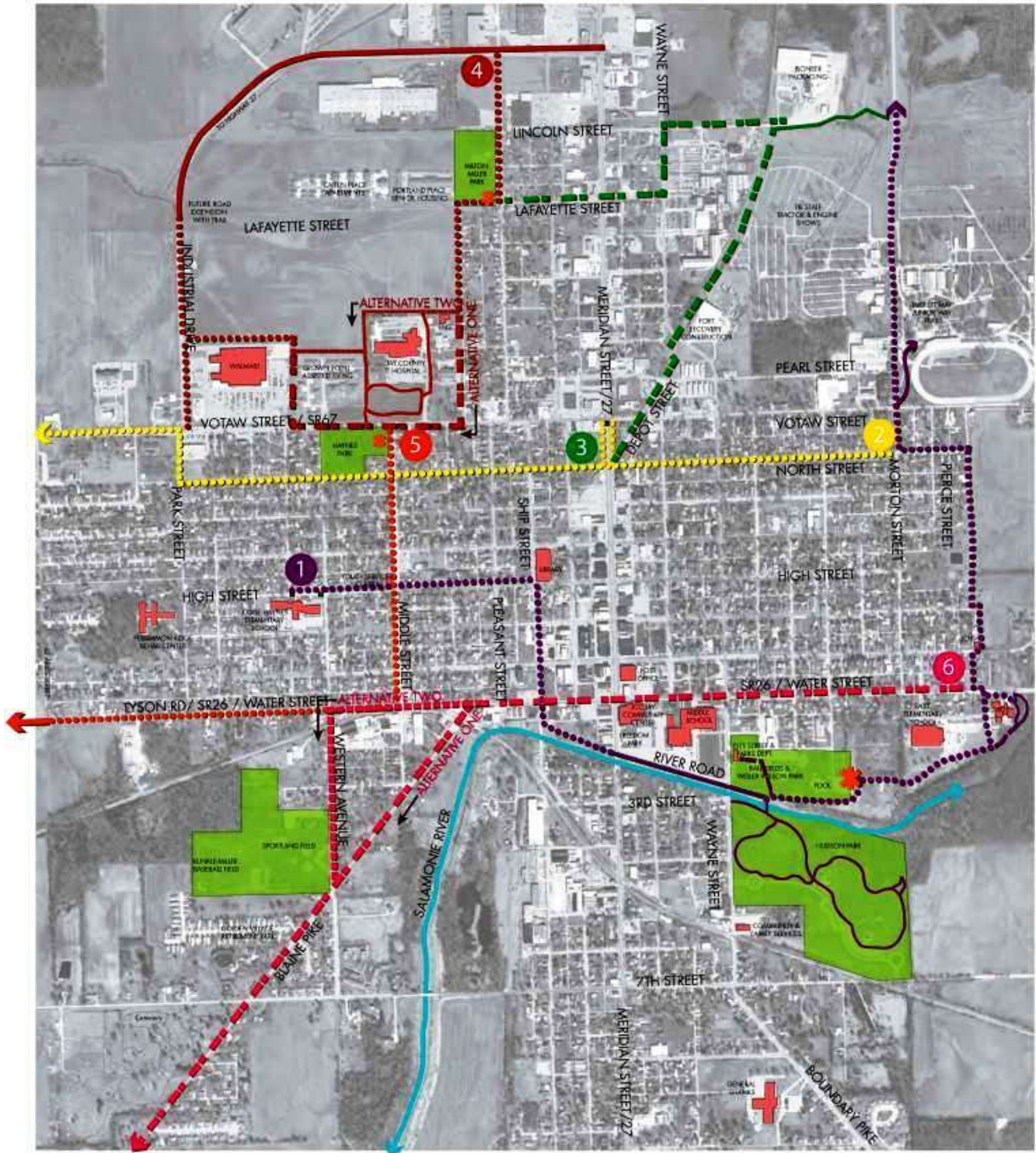
## Railroad Right-of-Ways in Jay County, Indiana





# Jay County Trails Club, Proposed Recreational Routes/Trails within the City of Portland, Indiana

April 2014



**KEY**

- DESTINATIONS
- OPEN SPACE
- CROSSING
- ✱ TRAILHEAD

**TRAILS**

- EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE
- ⋯ PROPOSED ROUTE
- - - ALTERNATIVE ROUTE
- ⋯ SECONDARY ALTERNATIVE

**ROUTES**

- ① SRTS/MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE 1
- ② BIKE/MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE 2
- ③ BIKE/MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE 3
- ④ BIKE/MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE 4
- ⑤ SRTS/BIKE TRAIL ROUTE 5
- ⑥ BIKE/MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE 6

## Listing of Jay County trails . . .

Jay County offers a variety of nature and/or recreational trails good for year-round hiking. Below is a list of trail options for those interested in spending time with nature.

NAME	INFORMATION
Bell-Croft Woods Nature Preserve, IDNR	.66 mile nature trail, 40 acres land area, CR 300 S, west of Hwy 67 and east of Como Road
Bibler Preserve, Acres Land Trust	1.2 miles of trail, 105 acres land area, 5504 S 400 E, Portland, IN
Jay County Hospital Campus Recreational Trail	1 mile loop, paved, Hwy 67, Portland, IN
Jay-Randolph Development Services (JRDS)	Recreational trail with a number of workout stations, 200 yards, JRDS campus, Hwy 26, Portland, IN
John Cring Memorial Forest, Earlham College	No defined trails, acreage unknown, located on County Road 100 E northeast of Portland
Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve, IDNR	Indiana's 250th dedicated nature preserve, 3.5 miles of trails, mostly rough, 440 acres, CR 250 W, half a mile north of Hwy 18, Bryant, IN.  The Loblolly Marsh was the heart of the Limberlost swamp at about 3% of the original total area.
Madison Township School Nature Preserve, Acres Land Trust	1 mile trail, 27 acres land area, 6076 S 700 E, Portland, IN
Portland City Trails	- Hudson Family Park, Trail of Trees, 1 mile, created as an Eagle Scout project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hudson Family Park, additional nature trails, 0.8 miles</li> <li>- Hudson Family Park, 1.5 miles paved recreational trail</li> <li>- JCTC Phase I, proposed half mile trail will join parks, a school, and county special needs development services</li> <li>- Downtown Cultural Loop, proposed, will join 9 cultural destinations around downtown Portland</li> <li>- Salamonie River Pathway, 0.5 miles, paved</li> </ul>
The Bird Sanctuary and Music of the Wild Preserve	Jay County road 900 North, trail not specified, Jay-Adams County Line Road, east of U.S. 27

## **LETTERS of ENDORSEMENT**

- 1. Town of Bryant**
- 2. Town Council of Pennville**
- 3. City of Portland, City Council**
- 4. City of Portland, Street & Park Superintendent**
- 5. Portland Police Department**
- 6. Jay County Hospital, Chief Executive Officer**
- 7. Jay County Hospital, Manager of Community Education**

- 8. The Jay School Corporation**
- 9. The Portland Foundation, Executive Director**
- 10. Tyson Foods, Inc., Plant Manager**
- 11. T.J.'s Bicycle & Moped, Owners**
- 12. Jay-Randolph Developmental Services, Inc., Executive Director**
- 13. Arts Place, Executive Director**



Town of Bryant  
107 East Main, Box 115  
Bryant, Indiana 47326  
Ph/Fax (260) 997-6620  
townofbryant@yahoo.com

---

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 2017

Pete Fritz AICP, RIA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2N Meridian St.  
Indianapolis IN. 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz

On behalf of, The Town of Bryant. We would like to express our support to the Jay County Trails Club for their development of a County wide bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Such a plan would provide, Activities for our citizens that many other communities already have.

We feel it would be a great asset to our community as well as the county. We feel trails may bring people to our communities rather than going to other counties with trails.

We would hope the Indiana State Department of Health, would support the efforts of the communities and the trails Club.

Sincerely

Scott Schoenli - President

Gregg Ellenberger - Vice President

Eddie Keihn Board member

---

# TOWN COUNCIL OF PENNVILLE

RODNE PENROD, MILLIE ELLIS, ALICIA CORWIN

105 N. WASHINGTON ST.

PENNVILLE, IN 47369

PHONE (260) 731-2801

Pete Fritz, AICP, R.I.A.  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

January 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Fritz,

I am writing to express our support on behalf of the Town Council of Pennville regarding the development of a County-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The development of a bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will promote a healthy and active communities; have positive environmental impacts; and increase the overall safety for those who wish to bike and walk.

Thank you for your attention, consideration, and time.

Sincerely,



Alicia Corwin  
Town Council Member



**City of PORTLAND**  
PORTLAND, INDIANA

01/25/2017

Pete Fritz AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N Meridian St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

Biking and walking infrastructure is a solution to local traffic congestion. Pilot studies have proven that people will chose biking and walking over driving for daily trips if the infrastructure is in place. Americans are already beginning to shift away from cars for daily transportation in favor of biking, walking. Our community needs to respond to attract new residents and businesses. Therefore, I fully support the City of Portland and the Jay County Trail Club development of a bicycle and trail plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Gibson  
City Council President



City of PORTLAND  
PORTLAND, INDIANA

01/25/2017

Pete Fritz AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N Meridian St  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

As the Street & Park Superintendent for The City of Portland, I am aware of how much our present trails, we currently have in the City are used.

People vary in age, and reasons for using our existing trails. They are used for recreation, relaxation, physical, and mental health. Because of these reasons, and many more, I am in complete support for the City of Portland and the Jay County Trails Club to apply for the Planning Grant. The mission to increase the amount of trails the city and county have, will also increase the enjoyment and health options for our citizens. This will add so much to the use and viability of our local city trails, which we want to continue to expand for everyone's enjoyment.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Myers".

Ryan Myers  
City of Portland Street & Park Superintendent



# PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

319 N. Meridian St.

Portland, Indiana 47371

Chief Nathan Springer

Asst. Chief Bart Darby

---

1/22/2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RIA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St. 21  
Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

On behalf of The Portland Police Department, I would like to share that we fully support The Jay County Trails Club on the proposal of the county wide bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Our community has large amount of Bicycle and Pedestrian traffic. Such a plan would not only provide recreational opportunities in a safe environment, but would also provide a safe way to work, and other areas of necessity for several citizens in our community.

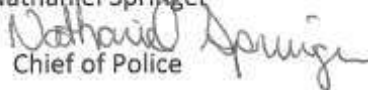
I personally know families, including mine that commute to other communities with our bicycles for recreational enjoyment. We enjoy the trails in our own community, but the trails in nearby communities are much longer. I personally would enjoy being able to stay closer to home and enjoy quality trails.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you

Nathaniel Springer

Chief of Police





Quality care by those who care



January 18, 2017

Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity

I am writing on behalf of Jay County Hospital to support the City of Portland and Jay County with their current project and grant application.

Jay County Hospital's mission is to promote health and wellness in the communities we serve while providing access to the highest quality, compassionate and trusted care.

The City of Portland and Jay County's mission directly supports Jay County Hospital's mission of improving the health of all we serve, through encouraging physical activity and community engagement.

The funds from the Indiana State Department of Health grant will help the City of Portland and Jay County with assistance from the Jay County Trails Club to reach its initiatives and will be a great stepping stone to making Jay County a healthier and stronger community. We are proud to support their initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Hyatt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David W. Hyatt, MHA, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jay County Hospital  
500 West Votaw Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
[dhyatt@jaycountyhospital.com](mailto:dhyatt@jaycountyhospital.com)



January 17, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St., 2L  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

I am writing on behalf of Jay County Hospital to support the City of Portland and Jay County with their current project and grant application. Jay County Hospital's mission is to be a progressive, comprehensive trusted health care leader dedicated to improving the health of all we serve, providing excellent, compassionate and cost effective care.

As the Manager of Community Education at Jay County Hospital, I support this endeavor and consider Jay County Trails Club an extremely positive asset to the community. They are constantly working to better the county and city paths to encourage physical activity and improved wellness. I'm including a chart that compares Jay County to the state of Indiana, in the areas of Exercise Opportunities, Obesity Rate, and Physical Inactivity Rate:

	Indiana	Jay County, IN
Access to Exercise Opportunities Rate	74.60%	31.00%
Adult Obesity Rate	31.30%	34.70%
Physical Inactivity Rate	26.80%	33.60%

Jay County would benefit from additional access to exercise opportunities to help improve both the physical inactivity and obesity rates within the county. Jay County has great local support through both the City of Portland and Jay County, and several community organizations, such as Jay County Hospital and the Jay County Trails Club. I am proud to support all efforts that work towards improving our community's health.

Sincerely,

Kristi Henry MS, RD  
Manager of Community Education  
Jay County Hospital  
500 West Votaw Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
khenry@jaycountyhospital.com

# The Jay School Corporation

1976 W Tyson Rd • P O Box 1239 • Portland, Indiana 47371-1511  
Phone (260) 726-9341 • Fax (260) 726-4959  
[www.jayschools.k12.in.us](http://www.jayschools.k12.in.us)

January 26, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St., 2L  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

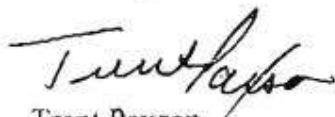
Dear Mr. Fritz,

The Jay School Corporation fully supports the City of Portland and Jay County for their efforts to develop a Community-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Such a master plan would provide a road map for providing recreational opportunities for Jay County and its citizens that currently does not exist. Furthermore improvement is needed on the bike path along Tyson Road. Students attend activities at Jay County High School use this path.

The master plan would assist in local efforts to improve the health of Jay County residents and would also serve as an economic development tool for the community.

I look forward to the Indiana State Department of Health's support of the City of Portland's and Jay County Trails Club's efforts.

Sincerely,



Trent Paxson  
Director of Curriculum

---

**JAY**

Jeremy Gulley, Superintendent  
Trent Paxson, Ed.S., Director of Curriculum

Brad DeRome, Business Manager/Treasurer  
Ann Van Horn, Special Education Director

January 9, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St., 2L  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

The Portland Foundation fully supports the City of Portland and the Jay County Trails Club and their efforts to develop a Community-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Such a master plan would provide a road map for providing recreational opportunities for Jay County and its citizens that currently does not exist.

The master plan would assist in local efforts to improve the health of Jay County residents and would also serve as an economic development tool for the community.

I look forward to the Indiana State Department of Health's support of the City of Portland's and Jay County Trails Club's efforts.

Sincerely,



Douglas L. Inman  
Executive Director





1/12/17

Pete Fritz AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz,

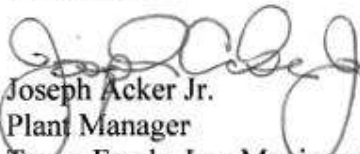
On behalf of Tyson Foods, Inc., I would like to express my support to the City of Portland and the Jay Country Trails Club for their development of a County-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This plan has proposed corridors which, when implemented, would provide great benefit for the residents of Jay County.

Currently, there is a section of the bicycle and pedestrian path running in front of our facility along Tyson Road beginning at Hwy 67 at Jay County High School and heading east to Water Street in Portland. We recognize this as an important asset to our city and is used by several of our team members on a daily basis who either walk or bike to work along this path. Expanding the existing trail system can only help to improve the quality of life for our team members and the citizens of Jay County.

On a personal note, I am an avid runner and bicyclist in my spare time. As such, I frequently use the trails in our community. They provide a venue for myself, my family and the members of our community to exercise in a safe and enjoyable setting. I have recently reviewed the Master Plan developed by Jay County and the Jay Country Trails Club at a recent fund raising event and was quite impressed. I am strongly convinced of the need to implement this plan to help ensure the future growth and viability of the City of Portland and Jay County.

If you have any questions regarding this, or if we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Thank you,



Joseph Acker Jr.  
Plant Manager  
Tyson Foods, Inc. Mexican Original  
Email: joseph.acker@tyson.com

**Tyson Mexican Original**  
1355 West Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371  
Phone: 260-726-1616 Fax: 260-726-3329 www.tyson.com



**T. J.'s Bicycle & Moped  
Sales & Service**

219-726-7682

311 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371

January 18, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St., 2L  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz:

TJ's Bicycle & Moped Sales and Service fully support the City of Portland and the Jay County Trails Club in their efforts to develop a County-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This plan has proposed trails for hiking, biking, walking and running that would provide a great recreational activity venue for Jay County residents.

Recreational activity is becoming prevalent in all aspects of everyone's life today. Being active can help reduce health insurance premiums for both corporations and individuals. As we travel through Indiana and other states you see citizens becoming more active in their free time. College graduates look for recreational activity options when deciding where to look for employment.

We are owners of TJ's Bicycle & Moped Sales and Service in downtown Portland, IN. Our customers comment they're purchasing bicycles to increase their recreational activity and would love to have bike trails close to them. We are true believers in "build the trails and they will be used".

We hope the Indiana State Department of Health will pick Jay County as their grant recipient.

Sincerely,

Tim and Jane Miller  
Owners



## Jay-Randolph Developmental Services, Inc.

**Jay County Center**  
901 East Water Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Phone: 260-726-7931  
Fax: 260-726-8184  
Toll-free: 877-726-7931  
Email: [jrds@jrds.org](mailto:jrds@jrds.org)

**Randolph County Center**  
974 East Base Road  
Winchester, IN 47394  
Phone: 765-584-2689  
Fax: 765-584-1346  
Toll-free: 877-584-2689  
Website: [www.jrds.org](http://www.jrds.org)



January 20, 2017

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
2 N. Meridian St. 2L  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz:

Jay-Randolph Developmental Services, Inc. (JRDS) supports the City of Portland and the Jay County Trails Club in their efforts to develop a Community-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This master plan would provide a roadmap for providing recreational opportunities for Jay County and its citizens that currently do not exist. It would assist in the local efforts to improve the health of Jay County residents and would also serve as an economic development tool for the community.

For the special needs clients of JRDS, it would provide a needed area for exercise. The recreational opportunities would help JRDS encourage health and well-being among our clients.

I am hopeful the Indiana State Department of Health will support the City of Portland and Jay County Trails Club efforts.

Sincerely,

James M. Sinclair  
Executive Director





Arts Place, Inc.  
131 East Walnut Street  
P.O. Box 804  
Portland, IN 47371

Voice: 260-726-4809  
Fax: 260-726-2081

[artsland@artsland.org](mailto:artsland@artsland.org)

[www.artsland.org](http://www.artsland.org)

Michele Goldman  
*President*

Wesley A. Schemenaur  
*First Vice President*

Thomas A. Knapke  
*Second Vice President*

Ruth Ann Widman  
*Treasurer*

Paula Sibery  
*Corporate Secretary*

Eric R. Rogers  
*Executive Director*

Blackford County  
Arts Center  
107 W. Washington St.  
P.O. Box 362  
Hartford City, IN 47348

Voice: 765-348-4154

Auglaize/Mercer Center  
207 East Spring St.  
P.O. Box 452  
St. Marys, OH 45885

Voice: 419-394-0707



January 16, 2017

Mr. Pete Fritz AICP, RLA  
Healthy Communities Planner  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition and Health  
2 N Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Fritz:

This letter is in support of the City of Portland and the Jay Country Trails Club for their development of a County-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Arts Place sees such a development as being highly beneficial for the residents of Jay County.

Interest in expanding and improving trails for walking and bicycling in Jay County continues to grow. That interest is of benefit to Arts Place and our constituency, who are oriented to concern for the quality of place and the experiences available in the community.

One example of this heightened interest is the recently completed "Portland Redevelopment Plan" from Ball State University. It proposes a "Cultural Loop" linking Arts Place and a number of other cultural sites including the Library, museums, etc., with downtown Portland. While this is not a Jay County Trails Club initiative, it is certainly an indication of the support identified through the community meetings that were a part of the BSU process.

If you have any questions regarding this, or if we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Rogers  
Executive Director  
[erogers@artsland.org](mailto:erogers@artsland.org)

## Fun, Wholesome Family Recreation Activities



### -- MEMBERSHIP FORM --

#### Jay County Trails Club (JCTC)

Members are supporting stakeholders eligible to vote in JCTC elections. Please check a membership category, donation, or observer as follows:

- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family or Organization
- \$5 Low income (e.g., student, retired)
- \$ Donation
- \$0 Interested observer

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check payable to Jay County Trails Club to:

Jay County Trails Club  
PO Box 126  
Portland, IN 47371

Or:

1. With a Web browser, go to: [portlandfoundation.org](http://portlandfoundation.org).
2. Click on the "DONOR MARKETPLACE" icon.
3. Find "Jay County Trails Club" in the "Health and Human Services" category.
4. Follow directions to donate (pay club dues) by credit card, debit card, or through PayPal.

JCTC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit group that supports the community oriented principles of *The Portland Foundation*.



## Why Trails?

The Indiana State Trails, Greenways & Bikeways Plan set a goal of having a trail within 7.5 miles or 15 minutes of all Hoosier residents by 2016. The plan also established a visionary system of statewide interconnected trail arterials.

Multi-Use trails in Jay County will:

- connect
- green
- develop
- preserve
- re-use
- attract

AND provide space for inexpensive intergenerational activity!

*Trails promote healthy lifestyles  
for Jay County residents*



*Aligned with  
Jay County's  
20/20 Vision*

## Jay County, Indiana



### Who We Are:

Jay County residents with a common vision formed the Jay County Trails Club (JCTC) in 2012.

**Purpose:** *To promote the economic, social and health benefits of recreational trails with a goal of establishing a trail system for current and future generations to enjoy.*

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday monthly  
7:00 p.m. The Portland Foundation  
All are welcome!

- Membership form on reverse
- Facebook presence

With support from . . .



## JCTC

### Goals and Objectives

are consistent with the Jay County 20/20 Vision of "a welcoming community with friendly neighborhoods, stimulating gathering places, and a rich cultural heritage." To help realize that vision, the JCTC will:

- Explore options for linking trails
- Preserve or assemble existing spaces
- Promote trails among communities and cultural heritage sites
- Support Portland trail plans as described in the 5-year park plan
- Build public support for trails
- Collect information about future plans for local rail lines
- Explore Public Private Partnership (PPP) options with government and non-profit organizations
- Fund raise for trails in Jay County
- Seek expert advice
- Work with the City of Portland



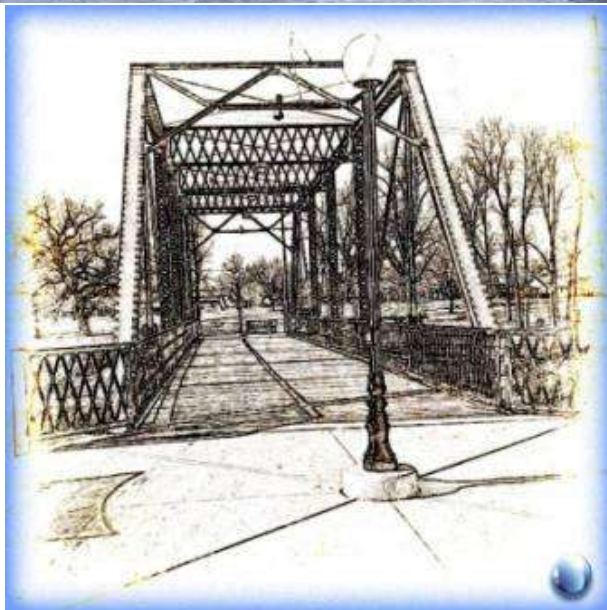
### From the Club President . . .

**Jay County has the opportunity to develop recreational trails that will attract businesses and residents.**

**Green space is a hot topic! Jay County trails can eventually connect with trails in other communities while providing terrific spaces for our own residents right now. Jay County will become a part of Hoosiers on the Move!**

*-Samantha Thomas, President  
Jay County Trails Club*

# Jay County Trails & Ways



## A TOAST TO TRAILS

*Jay County Trails Club Fundraiser*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015**  
**5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
Harmony Cafe  
121 N Meridian Street  
Portland, IN

**\$25 PER TICKET**  
To purchase, call: 260-251-5514

**INCLUDES:**

- Beverage, selection of Hors d'oeuvres (prepared in a woodburning stone oven), and desserts.
- Cash bar for Tasting Indiana Craft Beers and interesting Wines





**Portland, Indiana**  
**5-Year City Parks Master Plan**  
**2017 - 2021**

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

**Portland Park Department**  
215 S. Wayne Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
260.726.4077

**E-mail:** [rmyers@thecityofportland.net](mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net)

**Website:** [www.thecityofportland.net](http://www.thecityofportland.net)

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	4
Acknowledgements.....	4
Definition of the Planning Area.....	6
Goals of the Plan.....	6
The Park Board and Park Department .....	7
Haynes Park .....	14
Hudson Family Park .....	18
Milton-Miller Park.....	23
Sportland Park (Portland Memorial Park) .....	26
Portland Water Park .....	31
Weiler-Wilson Park .....	36
Park-Based Recreation Programs and Activities.....	42
Park Budget .....	44
Natural Features and Landscape .....	45
Man-made, Historical and Cultural .....	47
Social and Economic Factors from the 2010 US Census.....	50
Accessibility and Universal Design.....	52
Public Participation.....	53
Needs Analysis .....	57
Priorities and Action Schedule .....	59
Appendices .....	68
Portland, Jay County, Regional Map .....	68
Accessibility Compliance Sign-Off Sheet.....	70
Board Resolution Adopting Plan.....	71
State Acceptance.....	73
Portland Park Department Survey .....	75
Newspaper notices, articles, sign-in sheets and meeting info .....	79
Portland Park Programs .....	84
Arts in the Parks .....	85
Baseball, Jay County Jayhawks .....	87
Baseball; Portland Jr. League Baseball and Softball League .....	89
Disc Golf .....	92

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

East Jay Middle School Cross Country and Track and Field ..... 93  
Jay County High School Patriots Cross Country Program ..... 95  
Outdoor Concerts and Events Presented by Arts Place ..... 97  
Jay County Pee Wee Football ..... 99  
Pickleball (Jay County Pickleball Players) ..... 100  
Portland Rockets Baseball..... 103  
Running Events, JCC: Sprint to Spring 5k • Hudson Family Half-Marathon, 5k and  
Kids Run ..... 106  
Shuffleboard ..... 107  
Soccer (Boomer Soccer) ..... 109  
Softball: Spring & Fall CoEd, JCC ..... 111  
Stars in the Park – Talent Contest ..... 113  
Summer Day Camp ..... 116  
Swim Team, Jay County Summer Swim Team ..... 118  
T-Ball, Boomer T-Ball and Coaches Pitch ..... 119  
Trails, Jay County Trails Club ..... 120  
  
Survey Result Detail..... 122

# 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 2017-2021.

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 local residents will help build a pool of future community leaders.

## ***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 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 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

Dennis Dwiggins—Community Advocate for Pickle Ball

Lori Aker-Ferguson—Clerk-Treasurer, City of Portland, Indiana

Mary Franklin—Community Advocate for the Shuffle Board Courts

Donald C. Gillespie—Committee Chair, Member Emeritus, Portland Park Board

Doug Inman---Director, Pee Wee Football

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 Shuffle Board Courts

Brett Resler—Community Advocate for Disc Golf

Eric Rogers—Executive Director, Arts Place Inc.

Dean Sanders—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.

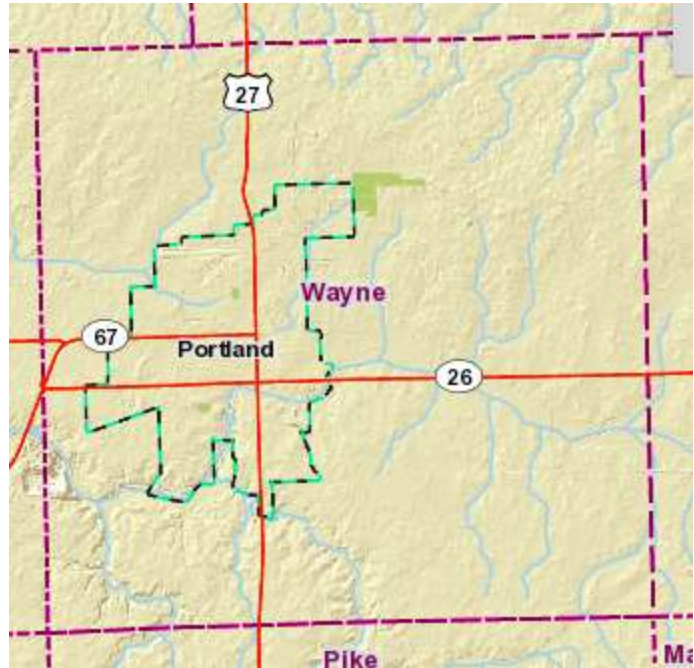


Figure 1. The City of Portland is located in Wayne Township, Jay County, Indiana. (from Elevate!)

## 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.)
  - 20 significant organized park based programs

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- 450 program leaders (e.g., coaches, managers, officials, advocates), mostly volunteers, give thousands of community service hours annually
- More than 3,000 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.
- **Volunteers** - Foster a “Friends of Portland Parks” volunteer program to improve and help sustain the appeal of the Portland park system at modest cost.
- **Park Management Functions** – Designate city staff resources of about 30-40 hours per month for: 1.) Coordination of park based programs, 2.) Support “Friends of Portland Parks,” and 3.) Perform Ombudsman functions.
- **Benchmark** - The plan will serve as a snapshot of the current state of Portland’s park system as a way to measure future progress.
- **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 2017 is:

Rod Ashman, Board President

Term: 2017-2020

Shauna Runkle, Board Vice-President

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Term: 2014-2017

Chris Compton, Board Secretary

Term: 2017-2020

Kristi Betts

Term: School Board Appointee, expires 2020

Giles Laux

Term: 2014-2017

### 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: [rmyers@thecityofportland.net](mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net)

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

#### Mission

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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.
- **"Friends-of" Volunteers** - Establish a "Friends of Portland Parks" volunteer program to assist with maintenance, administration, and upgrades in categories including landscaping, painting, cleanup, and fund raising.
- **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.
- **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. For example, the long anticipated Northside Pedestrian/Bicycle Greenway Project<sup>6</sup> will connect Haynes and Milton-Miller Parks via the hospital campus trail system (spring 2017).
- **Schools** – The City of Portland and Jay School Corporation are considering a joint use agreement based on experiences from other Indiana communities.

---

<sup>6</sup> The Northside Pedestrian/Bicycle Greenway Project is an 80/20 INDOT funded project with a total award not to exceed \$270,419 engineered by Butler, Fairman, and Seufert. The new trail is 0.24 miles in total length and will connect Haynes Park with Milton-Miller Park across the Jay County Hospital campus and Votaw Street-Hwy 26/67.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

### Staff

Superintendent of Streets and Parks: Ryan Myers

Position held since January, 2013.

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 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.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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.

### Friends of Portland Parks

In addition to the 400+ volunteers and non-profit employees who run public program activities in Portland's parks, the community may also benefit from establishing a "Friends of" group<sup>7</sup> for the park system. This may be a grassroots volunteer organization sponsored by the Park Board to organize volunteers willing and able to help with routine maintenance in Portland parks and help coordinate park based programs. From the survey we learned that about 21% of those who answered the question, roughly 66 people not already volunteering, said they would volunteer to help with park activities.

There are several options for how a "Friends of" group may be formed. For example, the chairperson of the Friends of Portland Parks may be a Park Board member, or the Friends of group could be chartered as a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), or the organization could be independently established as an independent non-profit organization with no specific ties to the park board. Money from fund raising activities could flow through the city clerk treasurer, through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity like the Portland Foundation, or directly to the Friends of organization if independently formed as a non-profit charitable organization.

Key benefits to having a robust Friends of Portland Parks volunteer organization to help with park related functions include increased numbers of park system stakeholders who will feel that they have a direct connection and a personal stake in Portland parks. In addition, a cadre of volunteers can help

---

<sup>7</sup> Friends groups are non-profit organizations established primarily to support a specific park or group of parks. More at: [https://www.nps.gov/partnerships/friends\\_groups\\_doc.htm](https://www.nps.gov/partnerships/friends_groups_doc.htm)

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

leverage the park budget to improve the condition and appeal of Portland parks at low cost to taxpayers.

### 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. Two in particular, 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.

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, it 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.
- **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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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. The 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 a number of popular, modern features, including a lazy river, beach entry, lily pads, dump bucket, and competition swim lanes, the Water Park had a very successful first season with almost 34,000 logged visits. 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 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 detail 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 a number of 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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<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 could benefit from additional tender loving care. The grounds can sometimes be wet and muddy, especially early in the season. Strong winds sometimes damage trees and can cause tree litter.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on the Portland Park Department for maintenance, grounds keeping, utilities, and trash and litter removal.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<b>Other</b>	Located near assisted living, shopping, and the hospital.
--------------	---



Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 amphitheatre, 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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<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 for its range of activities other than seasonal sports

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

	competitions.
<b>Schedule</b>	Open year around during daylight hours, after dark by exception.
<b>Issues</b>	This is a fairly 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.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for all cleanup, maintenance, grounds keeping, storm damage repair, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Park activities assume availability of city services, public safety, liability coverage, safe walking and biking routes among parks, etc.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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	
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	

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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





Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



**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 significant deferred maintenance. Because it is not heavily used, it can potentially serve as a test bed and incubator for new park programs.



As an example, volunteers have recently come forward to advocate repurposing some of the park’s underutilized tennis courts for newer, emerging activities like “Pickleball”.

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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<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.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<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.
<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 good candidate for volunteer assisted maintenance and repair projects. Managed and coordinated volunteer activities can make a big difference, particularly with cosmetic maintenance activities.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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	X
Picnic shelter & facilities	X
Playground	X
Pool (swimming)	
Shooting range	
Shuffleboard	

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

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 long time Portland and Jay County residents have fond memories of seasonal team play at Sportland as kids growing up

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

in/near Portland, or their children or grandchildren as kids. It's 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 at the same time that 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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<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, and Junior League, 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 big difference.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Dependent on Portland Park Dept. for most maintenance, repairs, cleanup, upgrades, grounds keeping, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Coordinated efforts directed towards a vision of what the park could be would help the overall appearance and functionality of the park. By using volunteers and seasonal staff, upgrades and improvements could

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

	be made at little cost to taxpayers
--	-------------------------------------

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)	

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 2017-2021



## Portland Water Park

The Portland Water Park first opened May 28, 2016, replacing the old community pool in use since 1960. In the first season, the new water park had nearly 34,000 visits! For a small city of 6,200 in a rural county of only about 21,000 people, this is remarkable. The numbers demonstrate Portland’s commitment to having a signature amenity in a robust public park system and to the spirit of Indiana small towns in general.



In addition to daily open swim times, scheduled activities include morning lap swimming and adult water aerobics. The water park can be reserved for private functions one evening each weekend.

3<sup>rd</sup> party program offerings include Jay County Swim Team practice events and swim meets. In 2016 the Portland Water Park hosted the Wabash Valley Conference Championships as a finale to the outdoor competitive swimming season.

Taken altogether, the facility is used extensively by most segments of the community throughout the summer swimming season. Those motivated by the calendar, like the swim team, ensure the facility is used continuously throughout the day.

<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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<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>	516 maximum concurrent bathers. 25 total staff. For 2016 season, 101 days: 33,826 total visits, 182 family passes, 57 single passes, and about 25,000 general admission incl. seniors and under 2 yrs.

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<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.
<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.



<b>Facility/Feature Type</b>	<b>X if Found at this Park</b>
Amphitheater	
Archery range	
Baseball/Softball field(s)	
Basketball court	
Bathhouse with showers, changing rooms	X
Bathrooms	X
BBQ grill(s)	
Bleachers, spectator seating	X

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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.

In the future, it may be beneficial to engage more community volunteers as friends of the Portland Water Park to help maintain the appearance of the facility. Benefits include lower maintenance costs, increased curb appeal, more community involvement, and an expanded group of supportive stakeholders.



**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

## 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>	Ryan Myers, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, <a href="mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net">rmyers@thecityofportland.net</a> , 260-726-4077
<b>Park Features/Facilities</b>	One of Portland’s 3 largest parks, this one features three baseball/softball diamonds. It is used primarily for Junior League practice and games.
<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.

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<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 2017-2021

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	

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 2017-2021



**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

## **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 less 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 with the possible exception of 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 . . .

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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; Jay Co. Jayhawks Baseball	32	32	60	60	Jay Community Center, Youth ages 8-14.
3	Baseball; Portland Junior League Baseball	90	90	175	175	Brian Ison
4	Disk Golf	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	Not formally established as of October 2016.
5	East Jay Middle School Cross Country and Track & Field Program	6	8	15	90	EJMS uses Weiler-Wilson Park and Hudson Family Park facilities
6	Jay County High School Patriots Cross Country	2	5	15	30	JCHS cross country uses Hudson Family Park for some practice activities
7	Outdoor Concerts and Events	30	30	500	500	Presented by Arts Place
8	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
9	Pickleball	2	3	6	10	Most activity is indoors at Jay Community Center
10	Rockets Baseball	5	10	30	50	Randy Miller, Manager
11	Running Events; 5K, Half-Marathon, etc.	15	20	75	150	Jay Community Center
12	Shuffleboard	3	3	8	16	Informal organization
13	Soccer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Does not use Portland parks. Plays at Jay Waste Mgmt. (JCC)

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

14	Softball; CoEd Softball	15	20	125	165	Jay Community Center
15	Softball; Portland Junior League Softball	78	78	150	150	Brian Ison
16	Stars in the Park	15	20	48	550	Chamber of Commerce
17	Summer Day Camp	12	15	60	160	Jay Community Center
18	Swim Team (Jay Co. Swim Team)	27	32	100	125	Bev Arnold
19	T-Ball (Boomer T-Ball and Coaches Pitch, Sportland)	15	18	80	120	T-Ball ages 3-4, Coaches Pitch 5-6, June-July (6 weeks)
20	Trails (Jay Co. Trails Club)	5	10	150	300	Phase-I trail access to Water Park (future estimate)
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>3,176</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 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
<b>2009</b>	\$292,824	\$201,659	\$91,165
<b>2010</b>	\$325,471	\$262,394	\$63,077

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<b>2011</b>	\$269,300	\$212,989	\$56,311
<b>2012</b>	\$242,926	\$159,219	\$83,707
<b>2013</b>	\$180,513	\$159,521	\$20,992
<b>2014</b>	\$378,080	\$346,297	\$31,783
<b>2015</b>	\$201,232	\$195,732	\$5,500
<b>2016</b>	\$268,860	\$208,860	\$60,000
<b>2017</b>	\$275,393	\$235,393	\$40,000

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.



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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>8</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 managed or removed from parks as needed and as weather and soil conditions permit.

The 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

---

<sup>8</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.

and shrub planting initiatives are among potential projects for volunteers interested in improving the appeal of Portland's parks.<sup>9</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 river bank 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 river banks 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.

## **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.

---

<sup>9</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>.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 period “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, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 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 2010 US Census**

### Population, 2010

- Portland had 6,223 residents according to the 2010 U.S. Census.
  - 47% Male, 53% Female
  - Median Age 39
  - 94.5% White
  - 12% of the population under 65 years of age had a disability
- Portland’s peak population was recorded in 1970 at 7,115 residents.
- The population projection for 2020 is about 6,100 based on present trends.

### Economics in Portland

- For 2016, Portland had a 5.0% average (est.) unemployment rate

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- Median household income in 2014 dollars: \$33,726
- Percent of population in poverty (2014 est.): 12%
- Largest employment categories in Portland: Manufacturing/Transportation; Second largest: Retail trade
- Jay County as a whole has the highest rate of child poverty in the state

### Housing

- Average household size in Portland: 2.32 (2010)
- 3,005 total housing units (2010), 62% owner occupied
- 57% of owners have a mortgage; 43% do not (2000)
- 7.6% vacancy rate (2016 est.)
- Very little new housing is being built

### Education

- 82.3% High school graduate or higher
- 8.1% Bachelor degree or higher (vs. 29.3% national average)

### Socio-economic Summary

- Portland has a higher poverty rate than the national average
- Jay County reportedly has the highest rate of child poverty in the state
- Portland is less racially diverse than the overall state averages
- The median age of residents is higher than the state average
- The housing and economic characteristics for Portland are below statewide averages
- As would be expected in a community with high rates of poverty and disability and a declining, older population, illegal drugs are a significant issue

The implication 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 Superintendent Ryan Myers ([rmyers@thecityofportland.net](mailto:rmyers@thecityofportland.net), 260-726-4077) 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

360 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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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 in 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 two public meetings. The meetings were advertised for a week prior to each meeting via newspaper articles and notices (See Appendices), fliers distributed around the community and posted in storefronts, and public service announcements via a local radio station, and our website. The numbers and response for each meeting were:



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- October 4, 2016, 7:00pm, Fire Department – Council Chambers
  - 10 citizens in attendance, plus 3 park board members and the Superintendent of Streets and Parks
  - Park plan committee members shared basics of the new master plan, and asked for feedback on perceived issues
  - “Pluses” included: range of park facilities and park based programs
  - “Deltas” (desired changes) included: More parking, improved maintenance, more robust and frequent trash and debris removal
- December 6, 2016, 7:00pm, Fire Department – Council Chambers
  - 7 citizens in attendance, plus 4 park board members and the Mayor
  - Discussion of how the plan was developed
- January 18, 2017, 12-noon, Portland Rotary Club, Harmony Café
  - 37 community thought leaders and activists in attendance, including Mayor Geesaman
  - 5-year plan overview and discussion, 25 minutes

### 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 21 questions, and covered demographics, park use, programs, barriers to participation, types of park use, and park funding. The survey was advertised in advance through the same methods used to advertise the public meetings. (See Appendices for a copy of the Survey). A link to the online version of the survey was included with monthly water bills to 2,600 households mailed in July and August, 2016, and the advertised deadline for completion was September 30, 2016. The numbers and summary of responses were:

- There were 360 completed usable surveys resulting from 150 hardcopy survey forms and 2,600 utility bills with the online link; A 13% response rate.
- The average respondent visited a Portland park often (e.g., most weeks), enjoyed multiple activities in the parks, especially walking the trails with family and friends, and thought Hudson Family Park was the best park with a rating of nearly 5-stars.
- The typical respondent was an adult female, age 26-55, living in Portland, with no children living in the home.

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

Dennis Dwiggin—Community Advocate for Pickle Ball

Lori Aker-Ferguson—Clerk-Treasurer, City of Portland, Indiana

Mary Franklin—Community Advocate for the Shuffle Board Courts

Donald C. Gillespie—Committee Chair, Member Emeritus, Portland Park Board

Doug Inman—Director, 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 Shuffle Board Courts

Brett Resler—Community Advocate for Disc Golf

Eric Rogers—Executive Director, Arts Place Inc.

Dean Sanders—Executive Director, Jay County Chamber of Commerce

## Public Presentation of Plan

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

The latest hardcopy draft of the Portland 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for review at City Hall from October 15, 2016, through November 30, 2016. 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. November 30<sup>th</sup> was comment submission cut-off. 12 e-mail written comments were received. A summary of comments received follows:

- High School and Middle School programs using Portland Parks were identified
- Plans call for Milton-Miller and Haynes parks to be connected partly by using the Jay County Hospital walking path in 2017. This project will also create a more robust pedestrian crossing for Highway 26/West Votaw Street between the hospital and Haynes Park.
- A photo of storm damage at Haynes Park was suggested for deletion
- Select details about park based programs were suggested for change
- Explicit recognition of the scale of park based programs was praised

### Summary/Comparison of Public Input

#### Emerging Themes

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

- More timely trash pickup and removal promptly after weekends and big events
- Chronic drainage issues at Haines Park
- Sportland needs more parking and seating, maintenance of playing fields, as well as an overall face lift (Note: Although Portland park visitors are not systematically counted, Sportland is considered one of the most heavily used parks.)
- More clean up, paint up, and fix up needed at all older parks
- More designated pedestrian and bike connections among parks and key public sites (e.g., schools, JCC, library, Arts Place) are needed
- Better coordination by the City Park Department with and among park based programs, especially in scheduling facilities at times of high demand
- Add facilities and equipment for emerging new sports like disk golf
- But, don't spend more taxpayer money for improvements

# 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 expectation of achievability and other constraints, then suggested a multi-year action plan.

## Issues from Public Input:

- Parks appearance and cleanliness, especially the older parks, does not compare favorably with more modern parks in Portland and elsewhere
- Parks need more timely trash collection and cleanup of wind-blown trash
- More attention to detail with maintenance of park equipment and facilities, including mechanical, electrical, structural and cosmetic
- Better signage telling how/where to submit comments and report problems
- A park system-wide activity scheduling and coordination function is needed to maximize use of park facilities like ball diamonds that are in demand by multiple programs at the same time for practice and game play
- Mobile phone tech can enable self-administration of park facility schedules for shelters, courts, ball fields, etc., at low cost and with better service to the public
- Drainage issues at Haynes Park are chronic and worth attention as it is a popular and highly visible park due to its location.
- More clearly designated safe pedestrian and bike connections among parks and key public locations (e.g., library, JCC, Arts Place, schools)
- More parking spaces on game days, particularly at Sportland (Portland Memorial)
- Sportland – A comprehensive, multi-year plan to systematically refurbish, modernize, and expand the fields and facilities at Sportland (a.k.a. Portland Memorial Park) is needed. (Public-Private-Partnership projects?)
- Sportland – Attention to detail. Some examples include:
  - Safety - Yellow plastic tile needed on outfield fences like Milton-Miller and Weiler-Wilson parks; Reduce trip hazards from disturbed soil not leveled after excavation

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- Park Usability - Ball diamonds need Turfice and/or Quick Dry; Grounds keeping issues on some ball fields where infield/outfields meet
- Capacity – Sportland is one of the most used parks for program activities; More parking, seating, and shelters are needed at Sportland to accommodate large crowds during peak season
- Program Coordination – System-wide schedule coordination needed; Playing fields at all parks are in demand by multiple programs for practice and game events
- Appearance – Parts of Sportland look like an unfinished construction site; Grounds need improvements (e.g., concrete pads under bleachers, mower used by volunteers needs repair or replacement)
- Cleanliness – Crowds leave litter everywhere. Prisoner trash collection crew? Volunteers? Summer youth employment? All of the above?
- Upgrades – Scoreboards and warning tracks needed for youth baseball tournaments, additional shelter(s) close to fields, foul poles on small diamonds, etc.

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

- Accessibility
  - Continue ongoing efforts to identify ADA issues and upgrade facilities to current ADA standards.
  - Seek grant funding as appropriate for ADA upgrades.
  - Continue to seek public comment about accessibility challenges.
- Improve park appearance and cleanliness within resource limits
- Sponsor and support a “Friends of Portland Parks” volunteer program to help improve the appearance and administration of parks at low cost
- The city should exercise more oversight of who provides park based programming to help ensure:
  - Consistent child safety standards are in place across all programs
  - Liability risk exposure is minimized
  - Programs that use Portland park facilities are ADA compliant
- 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

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- Consider a public awareness campaign to enlist help from the public to help keep parks clean and litter free
- Refine business functions at the Water Park

### 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**

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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:

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,
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,
4. Establish an “ombudsman” function within city government, especially the park department, and
5. Better coordination with 3<sup>rd</sup> party, park based programs.

It is estimated the two functions of coordinating 3<sup>rd</sup> party park programs and performing ombudsman activities will require about 360 hours annually, or an average of about 30 hours per month. This position may be performed as collateral duties of a city employee, as a new part-time position, or as a small group of 2-3 volunteers.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

The immediate near-term transition period, January-March 2017, provides a good opportunity to prepare for peak season before the weather breaks in April. This includes maintenance of mechanical equipment used for grounds keeping.

### Priorities for 2017 to 2021

- Sportland - Assertively cleanup, paint-up, fix-up Sportland (a.k.a. Portland Memorial) as a top priority; Start a multi-year initiative to restore ball fields, grounds, and facilities to a clean, safe and attractive state
- Also at Sportland, begin implementing an incremental, multi-year series of upgrades including refurbish and expand paved parking areas and spectator seating, add at least one more shelters, and many more small upgrades
- Use Public-Private-Partnerships to seek and use volunteers, donated materials, and grants to the extent practical for maintenance and upgrade projects
- Charter a “Friends of Portland Parks” volunteer program to help improve the appearance and organization of Portland’s parks
- Establish a 3rd party program coordination and ombudsman<sup>10</sup> function in the Park Department to:
  - Deal with park based programs (e.g., 15 major programs, up to 450 staff (mostly volunteers), and up to 3,000 participants (mostly children))
  - Jump start and oversee the “Friends of Portland Parks” volunteer group
  - Respond to park related ADA inquiries within 5 business days as required by state guidance for local park and recreation departments
  - Respond to public inquiries and folks seeking volunteer opportunities
  - Track and report progress in achieving the objectives of the 5-year plan
- Designate safe pedestrian and bike routes among parks and between parks and key community activity sites (e.g., schools, library, JCC, Arts Place)
- Initiate periodic review of safety and security policies for Portland parks

---

<sup>10</sup> Ombudsman – An advocate with significant independence assigned to coordinate responses to questions and concerns from the public.



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

- 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
  - The annual tour will be considered a public meeting to be announced and open to 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
- ADA - Continue evolutionary ADA park facility upgrades as needed (Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering is developing a city-wide ADA and Title 9 compliance plan for the City of Portland as of March 2017.)
- Water Park – Apply lessons learned from the first operating season

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

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

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
Each Year July-Sept  2017-2021	PARK BUDGET - Develop complete budget request/ estimates for next year.	Park Dept., Park Board, Clerk Treas.	No direct cost. 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
2017-2021 Multi-Year Increment Projects	<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 stake-holder groups, local business, grantmaking  organizations, other sources
2017-2021 Multi-Year Increment Projects	<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 stake-holders, local businesses, bequests, grantmaking organizations, etc.
2017-2018	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?
2017-2018	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
February each year  2017-2021	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
2018	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?

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
<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 comment
<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 stake-holder groups, local business, bequests, grantmaking 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

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
<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 2017-2021**

**2017 Park Projects**

1.)	Swing of faith handicap swing installation	\$ 18,500.00
2.)	Epoxy floors at pool	\$ 10,000.00
3.)	Put doors on showers at pool	\$ 2,200.00
4.)	remodel rockets restroom	\$ 18,000.00
5.)	concrete area at little league	\$ 5,000.00
6.)	Concrete at pee wee	\$ 5,000.00
7.)	build 2 pickle ball courts at sportland	\$ 36,000.00
8.)	Sidewalks at sportland	\$ 1,800.00
9.)	ADA complaint fishing pier	\$ 10,000.00
10.)	Concrete under bleachers, mens diamond	\$ 2,500.00
11.)	Sidewalks & concrete under bleachers at Rockets	\$ 3,000.00

Total for all projects      \$ 112,000.00

<b>Total money budgeted for 2017</b>
--------------------------------------

Capital outlays      \$ 40,000.00

Repairs & maintenance      \$ 38,000.00

Pool Const. fund      \$ 31,000.00

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

\$ 109,000.00
---------------

On a normal year expect to pay out \$13000 from repairs and maintenance

# Appendices

## Portland, Jay County, Regional Map

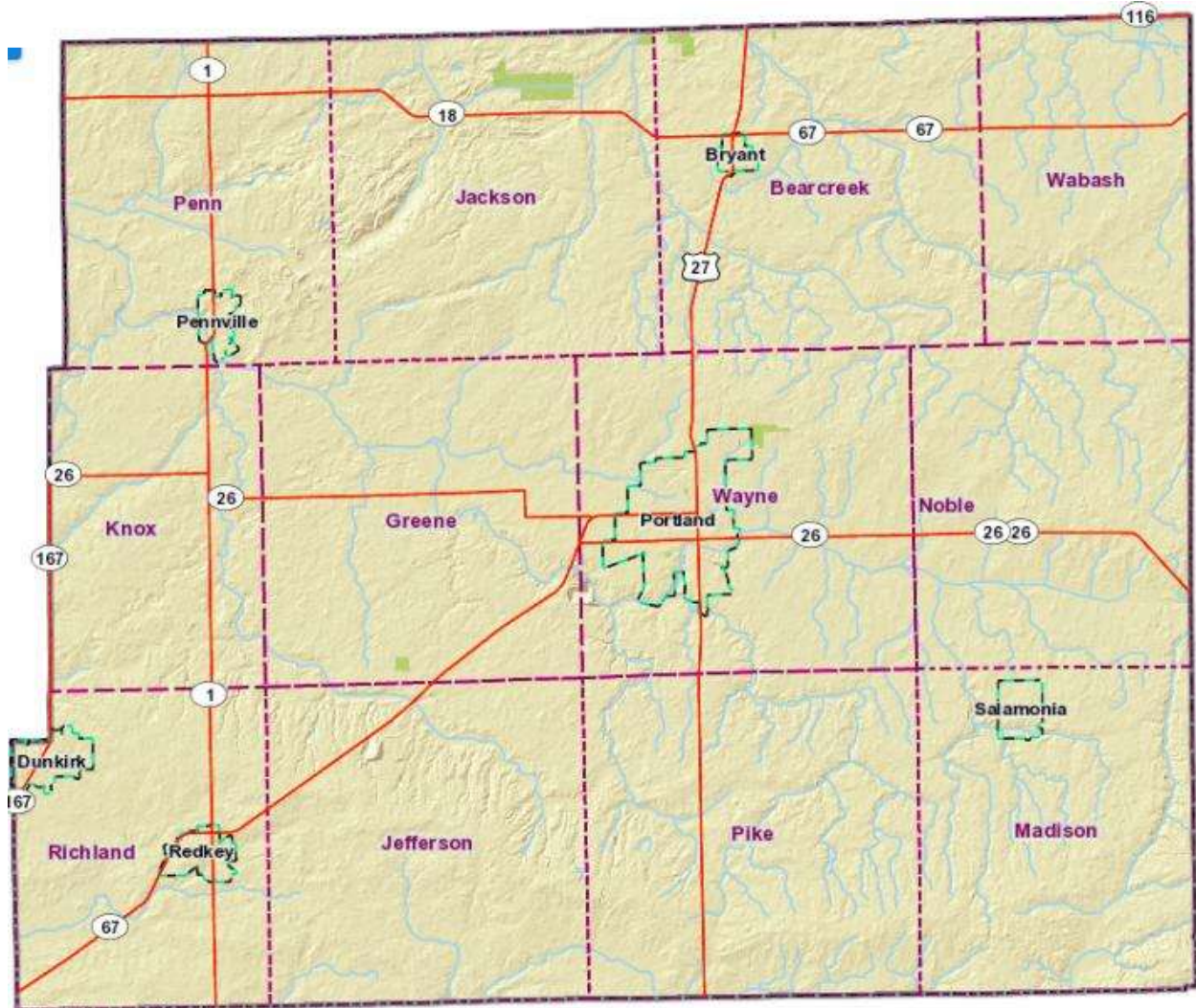


Figure 2: Jay County, Indiana, showing cities/towns, townships, major roadways and drainage. (from Elevate!)





***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 that reads "Rod Ashman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

APPLICANT PRESIDENT

(Rod Ashman)

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Compton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

APPLICANT SECRETARY

(Chris Compton)

DATE: March 7, 2017

***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

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

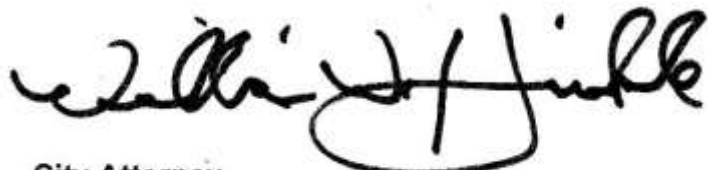
five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities  
in Portland, Indiana.

Passed and signed this 7th day of March, 2017.

**ATTEST:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Ashman". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

**President**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Hinkle". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

**City Attorney**

**City Attorney**

***State Acceptance***

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Eric Holcomb, Governor  
Clark, Cameron F., Director

Division of Outdoor Recreation  
402 W. Washington Street W271  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782  
317-232-4071 Fax: 317-233-4648  
[www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor)

Rod Ashman  
Portland Parks and Recreation Board  
215 S. Wayne St.  
Portland, IN 47371

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Mr. Ashman,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2017-2021 Portland Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community is now eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office. A new plan will be due on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: [bbronson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bbronson@dnr.IN.gov).

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: [gbeiffuss@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:gbeiffuss@dnr.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Greg Beiffuss  
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner  
IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Ryan Myers, Portland Park Supt.

An Equal Opportunity Employer  
Printed on Recycled Paper



## Portland Park Department Survey

215 S. Wayne Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
(260) 726-4077

Please complete this survey about Portland's parks. Responses are anonymous. Results will inform the new Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Master Plan for 2017-2021. Submit surveys at City Hall, mail to address above, or take the survey **online** at <http://www.thecityofportland.net/index.php?id=park> and click the survey link.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in Portland, Indiana?

- YES
- NO, but in Jay County
- NO, outside Jay County

### Park Use

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

- Use playgrounds
- Use trails to walk/run/bicycle
- Relax, watch games, fish
- Use sports fields, courts, facilities
- Use pavilions, picnic, barbecue
- Attend public events
- Attend private events
- Attend Hudson amphitheater events
- Visit the pool, swim
- Organized activities like sports teams
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you visit a Portland park?

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

Who goes along with you?

- Family (kids, grandkids, etc.)
- Friends
- Just myself
- All of the above

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

- Haynes (near hospital)
- Hudson Family Park
- Milton-Miller (by north water tower)
- Portland Water Park (pool)
- Sportland (southwest)
- Weiler-Wilson (west of pool, ball diamonds)

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Rate Portland parks you have visited by checking a star box in the table below: 5-stars = Excellent, 3-stars = Neutral, 1-star = Poor. Nothing checked = park not visited or no opinion.

<b>PARK</b>	<b>5-Stars</b>	<b>4-Stars</b>	<b>3-Stars</b>	<b>2-Stars</b>	<b>1-Star</b>
Haynes Park (near hospital)					
Hudson Family Park					
Milton-Miller Park (north, by water tower)					
Portland Water Park (pool)					
Sportland (southwest)					
Weiler-Wilson (central, near water park)					

### Participation

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.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5K Walk/Run, Half-Marathon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Arts in the Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Junior League Baseball<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pee Wee Football<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball | <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard<br><input type="checkbox"/> Soccer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Softball Leagues<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stars in the Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Swim Team<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|--|

Does anything limit your use of the parks?

- YES  
 What? \_\_\_\_\_
- NO

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

- More accessible play equipment  
 More trails/paths  
 More benches/shelters  
 More routes among parks and to Arts Place, JCC, the Library, schools, etc.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Park Resources

How should Portland pay for parks?

- Existing budget  
 New funding sources  
 Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Donations  
 Grants

Are you able to help organize/lead activities in the parks as a community volunteer?

- YES  
 NO  
 Already volunteer (As what?  
 \_\_\_\_\_)

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

Preferences

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

---



---

Optional if you **do not** live in Portland. Prioritize the list below. Your top pick gets a “1”, next gets a “2”, continuing through “3”, “4”, and “5”. Only the top 5 will be included.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>PARK ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>
	MAINTENANCE: No damaged equipment, everything serviceable. Includes mowing, painting, working utilities, clean and stocked bathrooms, trash and debris removed, signage, drainage, landscaping, and seasonal opening/closing.
	APPEARANCE: Park grounds, facilities, and equipment are bright, clean, and inviting. Nothing rusting, peeling, fading, decaying, littered, or dead/dying.
	ACTIVITIES: Park administration will do what is reasonable and practical to encourage organizations, including sports leagues and arts/crafts programs, to offer safe, supervised activities within Portland’s parks. Organizations that use Park facilities will observe Park standards of conduct, safety, and decorum, including consistent oversight of people working with children.
	SAFETY: Park features, including signage and equipment, will be designed, implemented, and maintained to ensure the safety of park visitors.
	ACCESS: Park facilities accessible to all, including seniors, small children, and the handicapped. Handicap (e.g., ADA) accessibility standards met or planned. Park administration will coordinate with schools, the Community Center, Library, Arts Place, and others to designate safe routes, sidewalks, trails and other connections between park facilities and with public venues.
	SUGGESTIONS and/or COMMENTS (Describe if this is one of your Top-5):



**About You (Optional)**

What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18 - 25
- 26 - 55
- Over 55

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Rather not say

Do you and your household:

- Rent your home/apartment?
- Own or buying a home?
- Live with others/relatives?
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children in your household?

- None
  - One or two children
  - Three or more children
- Children's ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Work status? (Includes self-employed.)

- Unemployed
- Work part-time
- Work full-time
- Retired

Do you or other household member(s) work in Portland, Indiana?

- YES
- NO
- Sometimes

***Thank you for your participation!***

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

### Newspaper articles

Commercial Review; “New plan presented for Portland parks”, October 4, 2016 (copy of article included here)

## New plan presented for Portland parks

[Caleb Bauer](#)

Tuesday, October 04, 2016 9:27 PM



The first draft of a new five-year plan was presented at Portland Park Board Tuesday evening. Park Board members discussed future plans, heard results and insights on the five-year plan survey and learned more about the current state of Portland’s parks. Members of the committee that developed the draft of the five-year plan identified a series of needs for Portland’s park system. John Moore, one of those who worked to develop the plan, presented a list of improvements identified by the committee and survey respondents as goals for the next five years. Moore said that uniformity among programs’ standards, including ethics, child safety and scheduling, could improve coordination between the 17 different programs offered at the parks. Some of the parks’ different programs include a youth baseball league, summer day camps, and pickleball leagues. “A little more of a common approach might be helpful going forward,” Moore said. The committee also suggested the creation of a “Friends of” Portland parks group that would plan and execute volunteer events to spruce up the parks and beautify them. Improved walking and biking routes at the parks, near schools and for other activities was also mentioned as a need to be addressed in the new plan. Moore also said survey respondents had mentioned the desire for more paved parking. There were 360 respondents to the survey, significantly more than the 83 who responded to the survey five years ago. The respondents identified a series of impediments to park use, including: wet and muddy conditions at Haynes Park, smoking near playground areas, public drug use, locked bathrooms, limited parking at sporting events, no disc golf, baseball diamond schedules not coordinated and poor special needs access to activities like fishing. The survey also showed that 95 percent of survey respondents had gone to Hudson Family Park. Sixty-six percent of the respondents said they are not volunteers, but might be willing to volunteer if asked.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Donald Gillespie, a former park board member who also worked on the plan, presented a baseline summary of Portland's parks. The city has six parks, which account for a total of 97 acres. Gillespie estimated the operating budget of all the parks at \$250,000 each year and explained that 17 major seasonal programs and activities occur at the different parks. He said most of the major programs are run by third parties, meaning the city doesn't have to cover their operating costs.

"Most programs right now that are currently being run in your parks are at no cost to the city, other than the maintenance, park facilities are no cost for the programming," Gillespie said. "Other communities are struggling with this same development, and we're very unique in this situation.

Board members Rod Ashman, Chris Compton and Kristi Betts, absent Shauna Runkle, also heard a short parks update from street and parks superintendent Ryan Myers. Myers said the water park had been winterized, and explained that he is still working with R.L. Turner to level the floor of the bathrooms. A new contractor will be sought to resurface the floor after R.L. Turner levels it out.

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 2017-2021**

Sign-in sheets and agendas for meetings (by date)

Sign-in Sheet for October 4. 2016 Meeting

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Discussion, Portland 5-Year Park Plan

October 4, 2016

NAME	POSITION	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Rod Ashman	Park Bd. President	1339 S. Marshall St.		<del>rod.ashman@portlandin.gov</del>
Chris Compton	Park Bd Secretary	1100 W. Hill St.		<del>chris.compton@portlandin.gov</del>
<del>Chris Compton</del>	<del>Park Bd</del>			<del>chris.compton@portlandin.gov</del>
Kristi Betts	Portland Park Bd.	404 W. Race St.	(202) 251-1111	kristi.p@portlandin.gov
Nancy Alvares	Supv. Streets & Parks		360-726-4677	n.alvares@portlandin.gov

Discussion, Portland 5-Year Park Plan

October 4, 2016

NAME	POSITION	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Debra Sawczak		1225 Knox Ave. Portman	202-726-1181	debra.sawczak@portlandin.gov
Kyle Sanders		1200 Main St. Portland	917-412-0595	k.sanders@portlandin.gov
Debra Sawczak		1225 Knox Ave. Portman	202-726-1181	debra.sawczak@portlandin.gov
Theresa James		1200 Main St. Portland	917-412-0595	th.james@portlandin.gov
Small Collins		1200 Main St. Portland	917-412-0595	small.collins@portlandin.gov
John Moore		457 E. 20th St. Portland	726-4587	john.moore@portlandin.gov

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

### Text of free radio info spot/PSA

Public Service Announcement ran on local AM/FM station WPGW. No transcript available.

### Text of insert for City utility bills July-August 2016

<http://thecityofportland.net/parks> Everyone is invited to complete a park survey. It takes 5-10 minutes. Survey responses are anonymous. Survey needs to be completed before October. The views of survey responders will be used in the new 5-year park and recreation plan for 2017-2021. – Park Plan Development Committee, Donald Gillespie and John Moore.

### Text of insert for City utility bills November 2016

A draft version of a new Portland Parks 5-Year Plan is available for viewing at Portland City Hall through November 30 prior to becoming final. In addition, an online copy of the proposed draft plan is available using a link from the Portland Park Department web site at <http://www.thecityofportland.net/parks>. Questions and comments may be directed to John Moore at [moore\\_lbj@hotmail.com](mailto:moore_lbj@hotmail.com), or 260-302-2326 mobile. If your time is limited, focus first on pages 41-49.

## **Portland Park Programs**

This sections includes descriptions of the 20 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 art 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. Classes are led by professional teaching artists and include a wide variety of subject media. Participants are asked to pay \$5 per class, or 4 or more classes for \$20.



**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 32 staff and up to and 365 participants.
<b>Schedule</b>	Arts in the Parks classes are offered during June and July.



**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	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.

**Baseball, Jay County Jayhawks**



Jay Community Center

The Jay County Jayhawk provides access to youth ages 8-14 looking to play competitive baseball. The Jayhawks will set their rosters in September, begin indoor practice in January and play games April-July. 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.

<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> • <a href="mailto:Mwaters@jaycc.org">Mwaters@jaycc.org</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 60+ • 32 staff, mostly volunteers • Jayhawks regularly use the Portland Junior League and Sportland baseball diamonds for games and practice.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<b>Schedule</b>	League play runs April to mid May and tournaments are played through July
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Portland Junior League • Sportland Park
<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 parks.
<b>Other</b>	Investment into the Junior League and Sportland ball diamond facilities would make it more attractive for out of town teams to come to Jay County for baseball tournaments. JCC can expand the Jayhawks brand but practice space and diamond availability



**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, Randolph, and Wells 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 James Myers, 260-726-5088, <a href="mailto:jamyers0@lycos.com">jamyers0@lycos.com</a>
<b>Contact Information</b>	Portland Jr. League website <a href="http://www.pjball.com">www.pjball.com</a>

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<b>Metrics</b>	Baseball: 175 participants, 48 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 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 most number of teams with an average of 6 boy and 5 girl teams ages 5-8. West diamond will have an average of 5 boy teams' ages 9-12 and 7 girls ages 9-15. Middle diamond will primarily support 4 boy teams ages 12-15. Two of the age groups will have teams from Dunkirk and Redkey participating in either baseball or softball. The number of spectators varies 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, PJI 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 reduce 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 on a daily basis, 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 to provide all equipment for participants to include catcher's equipment and batting helmets. PJI has purchased the following items for the fields: bases, hanging bat bags, fence guard, microphones/radio and sound mixer for PA system, siding for dugouts. Other annual expenses incurred to support the league are awards, pay of umpires, liability insurance,

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

	<p>equipment to drag and maintain fields, balls and pitching machines. The concession stand is to help cover general expenses of the league. All items in the concession stand are property of the PJJ and receive no support from the City of Portland.</p>
--	--



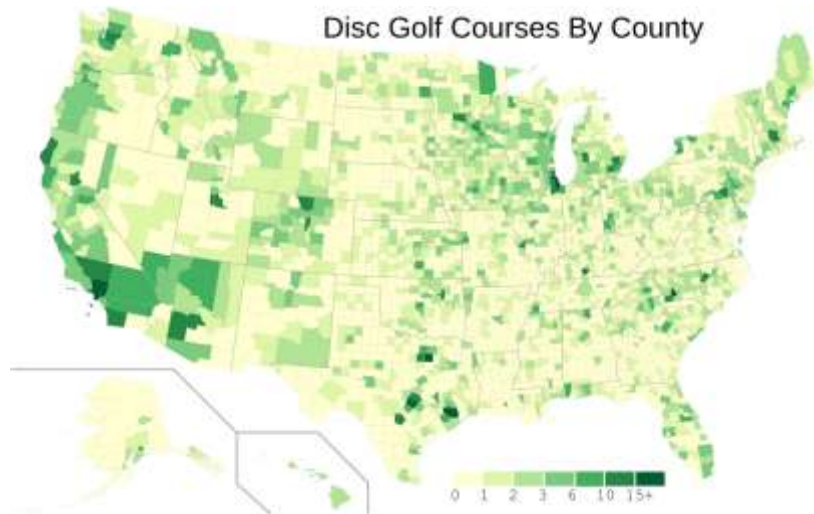
## Disc Golf

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.

One of the great features disc golf shares with traditional golf is that both are played in beautiful outdoor settings. A nine-hole disc golf course can be established on as little as five acres of land, and a championship-caliber 18-hole course on 30 to 40 acres. Disc golf courses can coexist with existing park facilities and activity areas. The ideal location combines wooded and open terrain with variable topography.

The sport continues to gain in popularity because it is fun for everyone!

<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>	We envision a course with no impact to existing facilities.
<b>Dependencies</b>	Basic grounds keeping, restroom facilities, parking spaces, trash removal, liability coverage, etc.
<b>Other</b>	Future growth depends on course quality. We hope to have a tournament stop for the Indiana state summer and fall series.



***East Jay Middle School Cross Country and Track and Field***



The East Jay Middle School (EJMS) 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. EJMS has two coaches that work with the athletes during late July through the season which ends in early October. Before Hudson Family Park, EJMS 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 busses as well as restroom facilities and drinking fountains.

The East Jay Middle School track team also makes use of Portland parks for conditioning and distance running. East Jay does not have an actual track and field area so our shot and discus athletes use the Weiler-Wilson Park to practice throwing. The distance runners often use the bike path through Hudson Family Park to condition and prepare for meets. The team as a whole uses the park for conditioning, such as by running the paths and running the large hill. East Jay Track and Field Team has approximately 60-90 athletes in grades 6-8 and 5 coaches.

<b>Organization Name</b>	East Jay Middle School Cross Country & Track and Field Program
--------------------------	--



**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<b>Contact Name</b>	Tammy Boltz
<b>Contact Information</b>	<a href="mailto:tboltz@jayschools.k12.in.us">tboltz@jayschools.k12.in.us</a>
<b>Metrics</b>	<p>From March until early May, East Jay uses Hudson Family Park 2-3 times per week for track practice including approximately 15-90 athletes, 5 coaches and 3 managers.</p> <p>In August and September each year, East Jay 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.</p>
<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>	Because EJ does not have a track and does not always go to JCHS for practice, 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 15-30 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.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



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

During the summer months, concerts and events that the entire family can enjoy are featured by Arts Place at the Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre! The Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre is a gem of the Portland park system and a focal point for entertainment events during the outdoor concert season.



Arts Place presents concerts and events at the Hudson Family Park atre. Events include significant touring performers, as well as local and regional artists. Schedules and types of events vary by year. Outdoor seating, concessions, restroom facilities and parking are available to the public in a beautiful outdoor setting.

<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 erogers@artsland.org
<b>Metrics</b>	Touring performers, local and regional artists present concerts and entertainment events. Average attendance is about 500 people at each event. In addition, about 30 volunteers and staff work each event.
<b>Schedule</b>	During summer and fall months (weather permitting).

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre and Concession Building
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on the Portland Park Dept. for public venue, basic grounds keeping, concession area, restroom facilities, parking, trash removal, and liability coverage.
<b>Other</b>	Assume city services, including emergency medical response, public safety, traffic management, crowd control, mosquito eradication and handicap accessibility are 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 five member Board of Directors. 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 160 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 \$30 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>	Bill Spahr President, Board of Directors
<b>Contact Information</b>	419-852-8859 Mobile
<b>Metrics</b>	Approximately 160 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 80 people aged 14 to 84 have visited and played at JCC, where 10 to 25 people typically play most days.



Portland/Jay County Pickleball opportunities are listed with the USA Pickleball Association at <http://www.usapa.org>.

In the spring of 2016, Steve Craig and other volunteers prepared outdoor courts on unused tennis and basketball courts at Milton-Miller Park near the north Portland water tower. As of September, 2016, some court surfaces are relatively rough and do not have permanent nets so players must provide and install their own nets. Ongoing, informal discussions with Park Department representatives have started to explore improvements at Milton-Miller, as well as potential expansion to Sportland.

Refer to the park survey in another section of this 5-year plan for more information about what survey responders say about Pickleball in Portland parks. Also note that much of the development of Pickleball facilities in Portland parks thus far has been by volunteers. This demonstrates the potential for committed volunteers to oversee Pickleball programs in Portland parks.

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<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>	80+ Pickleball players use indoor JCC facilities. The group seeks to expand the program to outdoor venues. 2016 outdoor participation is estimated at 2-3 staff and 6-10 participants.
<b>Schedule</b>	Current schedule info posted at <a href="http://www.usapa.org">www.usapa.org</a> .
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Milton-Miller Park (at north water tower).
<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. Current status as of September, 2016, assumes players provide their own equipment including nets which must be installed and removed by players.
<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 2017-2021





### ***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 the 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.



## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

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.

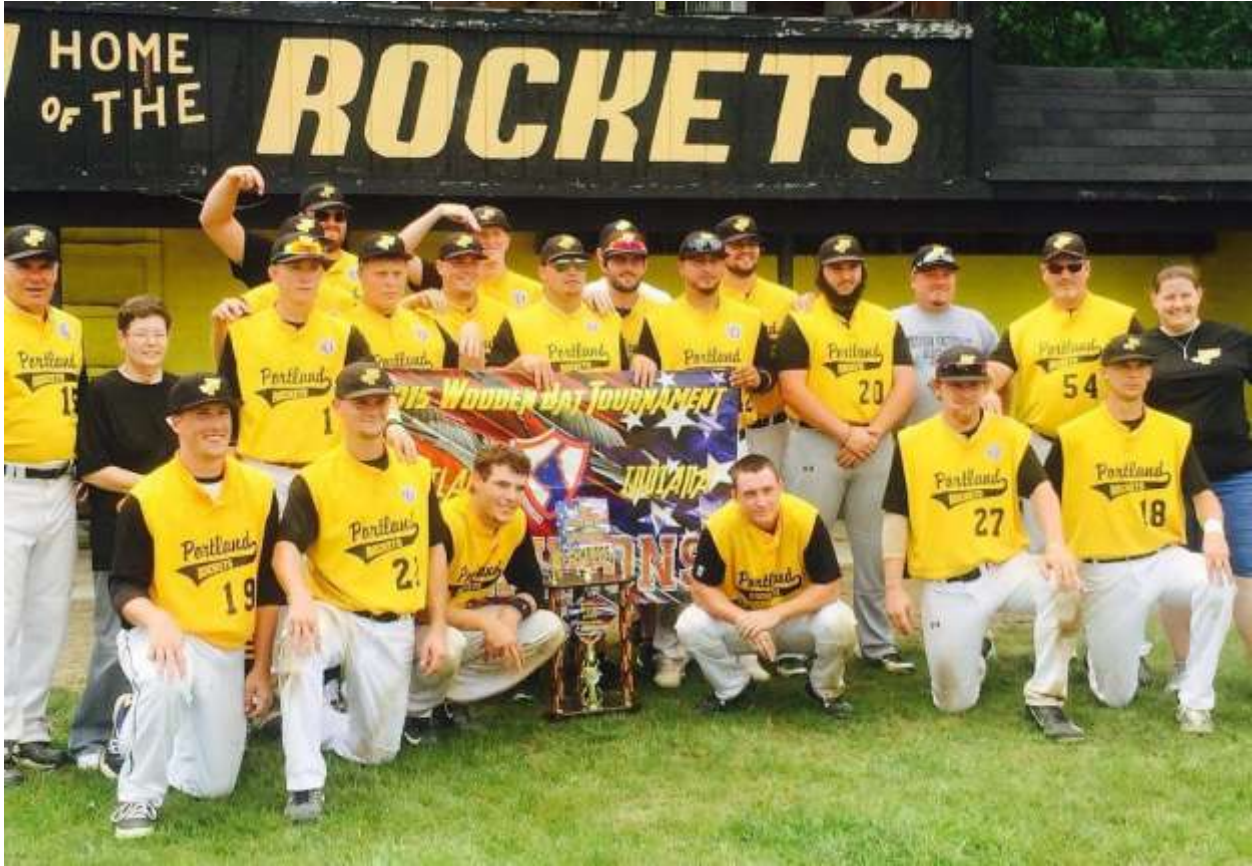


Figure 2: Portland Rockets 2015 World Baseball Congress Tournament Champions

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



Jay Community Center

The Sprint to Spring 5k is the capstone event for the Summer Slimdown weight loss competition and occurs in early April on a Saturday Morning. The Hudson Family Park races include a Half Marathon, 5k and Super Hero Hustle Kids Run that occur in mid September on a Saturday morning. The Hudson Family Park Races are also a part of the Corporate Challenge. The Half Marathon has attracted elite runners that have set impressive records. Fees for a 5k are \$20-25, Half Marathon \$35-\$45, and Kids Run \$10-\$15. The 5k's and Half Marathon are also part of the Run Jay County 5k Circuit. 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.

<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>

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

<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.

<b>Organization Name</b>	None
<b>Contact Name</b>	Mary Boozier, Roger Prescott, Ruth Ann Degler
<b>Contact Information</b>	Not provided.

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<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, it was listed as a program choice in the Parks survey and a number of respondents checked it as an activity their families take part in.



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 are not used for Boomer Soccer.
<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 league fee is \$150 per team. 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.

<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>

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="mailto:Mwaters@jaycc.org">Mwaters@jaycc.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Metrics</b>	Participation 125-165 • Volunteers 15-20
<b>Schedule</b>	Six week program • Games played on Sundays during the early afternoon during May-June and August-October
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Teams utilize Sportland Park fields 1, 2 & 3 for game play.
<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 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. Grading is needed around the Pee Wee Field and where tile was laid last year to improve the aesthetics and to reduce liability from potential falls. 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.

## Stars in the Park – Talent Contest

Stars in the Park started in 2013 as a local fund raising event for the Jay County Chamber of Commerce. Stars in the Park is a summer long talent contest that runs from May to August. Auditions are held in the spring to choose the best 48 contestants to compete in the Quarter Final Rounds. Top prize for the contest is \$1250. Stars in the Park is run through with the assistance of volunteers and sponsors in the Jay

County/Portland Community. Stars in the Park utilizes the Hudson Family Park Amphitheater for 5 of the 7 summer shows. The contest draws on average attendance of 300+ per show, with nearly 500 attending finals night.



Stars in the Park is an open talent show for any age and talent. Talents represented have included singers, dancers, instrumentalists, magicians, poets, and comics. The show is a great draw for tourism due to 60%-70% of the contestants are from outside of Jay County.



<b>Organization Name</b>	Stars in the Park
<b>Contact Name</b>	Jay County Chamber of Commerce
<b>Contact Information</b>	Jay County Chamber of Commerce – 260-726-4481

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<b>Metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 300+ average attendance, ranging from 250-550 per show</li><li>• 48 Contestants per season</li><li>• 4 Quarter Final Shows, 2 Semi-Final Shows, 1 Final Show</li><li>• \$2500 in prize money awarded each year</li><li>• 15-20 Volunteers per show</li></ul>
<b>Schedule</b>	Summer Program – May to August
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park Amphitheater
<b>Dependencies</b>	Depend on Park Board for venue, parking, volunteers, sponsors, amphitheater
<b>Other</b>	Handicap accessibility, concessions available.



Top Left: Dance Duo Maddie Blomke and Amarah Robles from Berne, IN

Top Right: Singer Samantha Chenoweth of Portland, IN

Bottom: Magician/Comedian, 2016 Stars in the Park Winner Dick Stoner, Stoner Magic Store, Fort Wayne, IN



## Summer Day Camp

### Jay Community Center

Summer Day Camp is 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. Each day your child receives two snacks and a lunch provided by the Jay School Corporation’s summer lunch program. 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.

<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 • 60-80 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



Images by Ray Cooney. The Commercial Review, used with permission.

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.

<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.

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

<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>	Depend 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

**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

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.

<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 80-120 • Volunteers 15-18 • 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>	Sportland Park fields 1 and 2
<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 Not-For-Profit 501(c)(3)



**Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021**

organization. The group’s goal is to build multi-purposed paved trails in Jay County. The Trail will be used to connect places of interests and communities in Jay County. To provide safe routes for travel. To increase the quality of life for our citizens.



File name: p116010010 photo above with  
 description here. Include appropriate  
 file name: p116010010 photo above with  
 description here. Include appropriate

**Figure 4: Portland Mayor’s Bicycle Month Declaration Ceremony**

<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>	Six founding members, 4 officers. Projected 5-10 staff and 150-300

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

	participants on connecting trails. These numbers will likely increase in the future.
<b>Schedule</b>	Programs vary throughout the year
<b>Park Facilities Used</b>	Hudson Family Park
<b>Dependencies</b>	Jay County Trails Club volunteers. Government and private donations
<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 safety regulations .

## Survey Result Detail

# Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

## Report for PPB-Survey-2704543

All Time

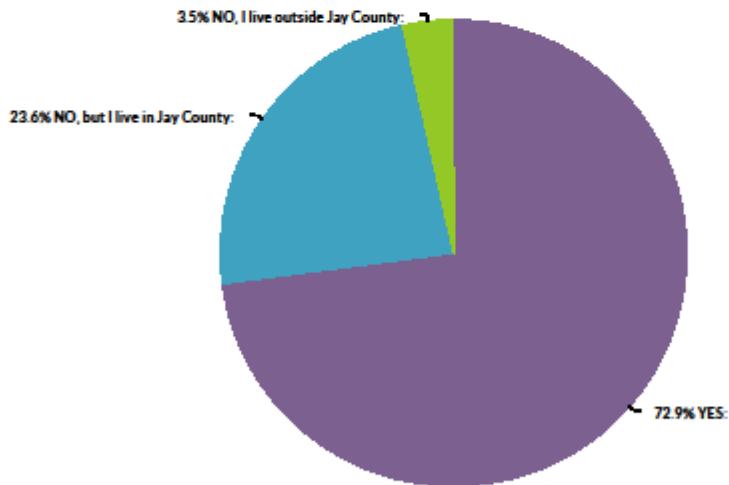
### Response Counts

Completion Rate:	100%		
		Complete:	359
		Total:	359

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

259 Total Responses | [Show Responses](#)

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

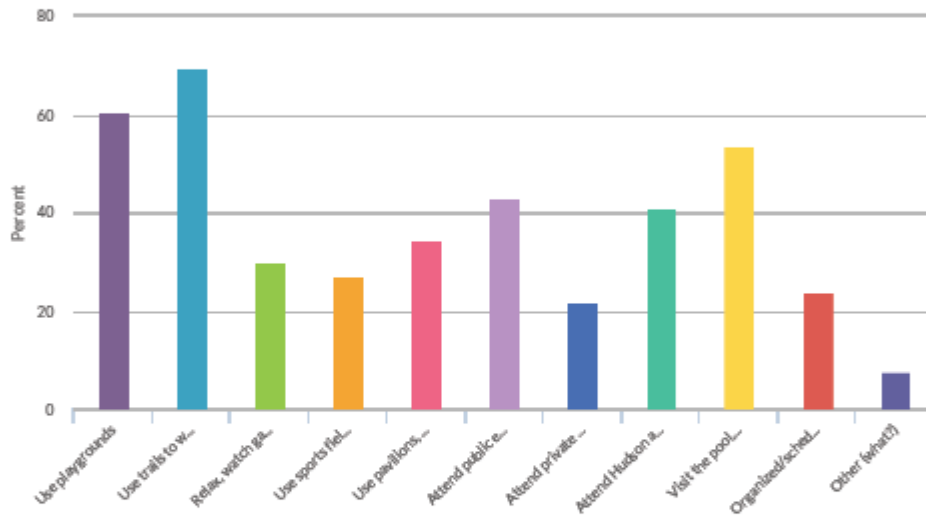


Value	Percent	Count	
YES	72.9%	188	
		Total	258

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Value	Percent	Count
NO, but I live in Jay County	23.6%	61
NO, I live outside Jay County	3.5%	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>258</b>

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

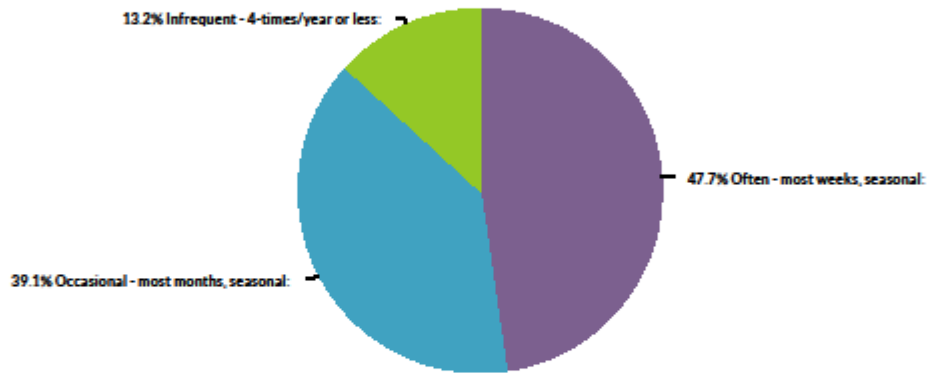


Value	Percent	Count
Use playgrounds	60.8%	211
Use trails to walk/run/bicycle	69.7%	242
Relax, watch games, fish	30.0%	104
Use sports fields, courts, facilities	27.1%	94
Use pavilions, picnic, barbecue	34.6%	120
Attend public events	42.9%	149
Attend private events	21.9%	76
Attend Hudson amphitheater events	40.9%	142

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Value	Percent	Count
Visit the pool, swim	53.6%	186
Organized/scheduled activities like sports teams	23.9%	83
<a href="#">Other (what?) (click to view)</a>	7.5%	26

### 4. How often do you visit a Portland Park?

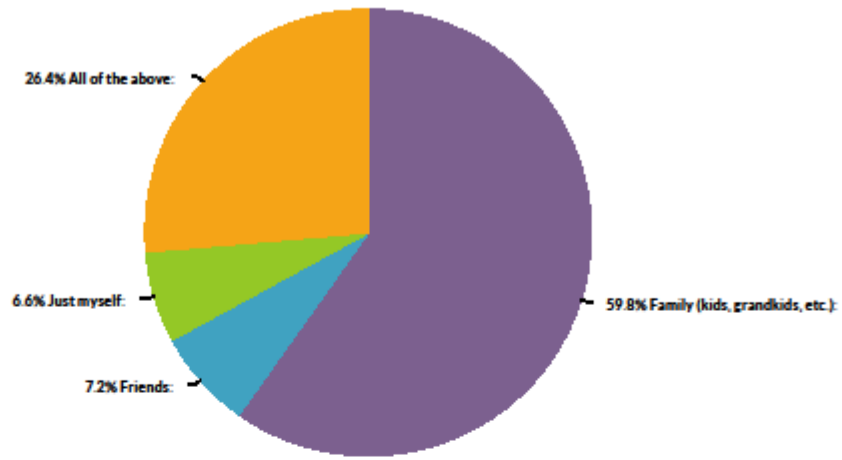


Value	Percent	Count
Often - most weeks, seasonal	47.7%	166
Occasional - most months, seasonal	39.1%	136
Infrequent - 4-times/year or less	13.2%	46
<b>Total</b>		<b>348</b>

### 5. Who usually goes along with you?



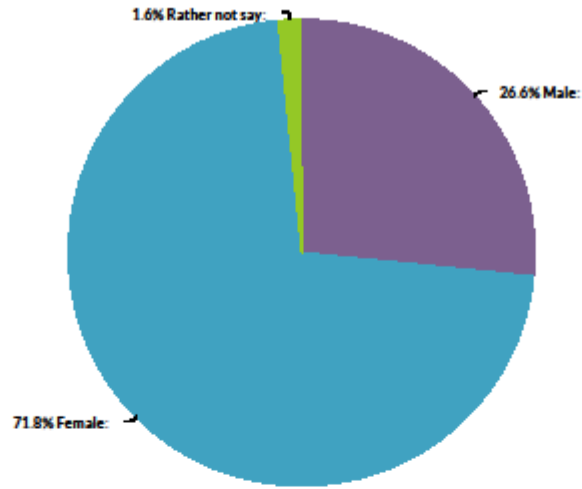
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Family (kids, grandkids, etc.)	59.9%	209
Friends	7.2%	25
Just myself	6.6%	23
All of the above	26.4%	92
<b>Total</b>		<b>349</b>

6. What parks do you usually visit? (Check all that apply.)

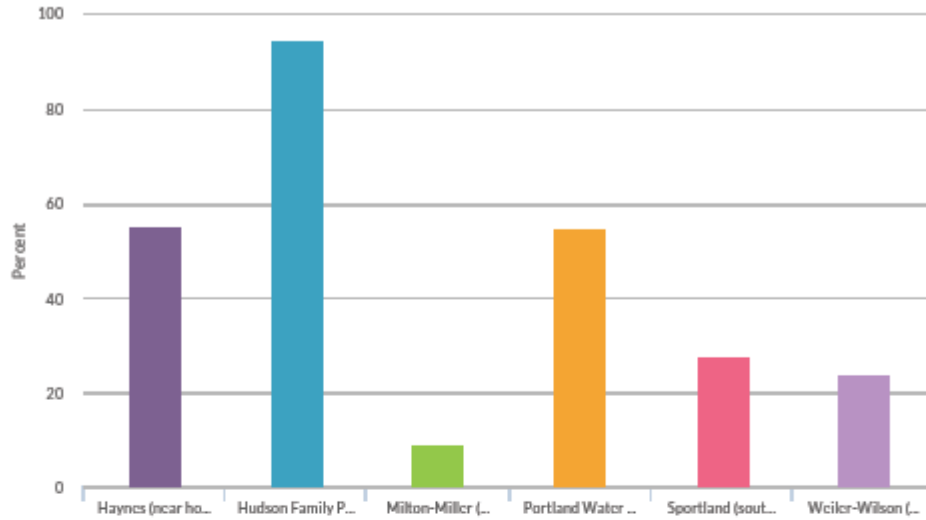
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Male	26.6%	81
Female	71.7%	218
Rather not say	1.6%	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>304</b>

18. Do you and your household:

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Haynes (near hospital)	55.5%	192
Hudson Family Park	94.5%	327
Milton-Miller (by north water tower)	9.0%	31
Portland Water Park (pool)	54.9%	190
Sportland (southwest)	27.7%	96
Weiker-Wilson (central, ball diamonds near pool)	23.7%	82

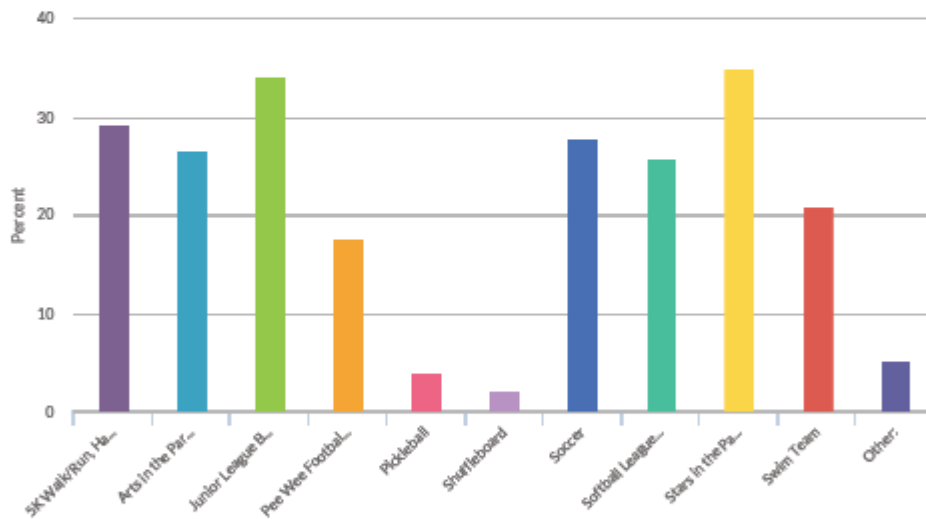
7. Rate Portland Parks you have visited by choosing up to 5-Stars (excellent) or as few as 1-Star (poor) from the list below. 3-Stars are neutral, neither good nor bad. If no stars are selected for a park it means you haven't visited the park or have no opinion.

	5-Stars	4-Stars	3-stars	2-stars	1-Star
Haynes Park (near hospital)	36 11.4%	128 40.4%	116 36.6%	27 8.5%	10 3.2%
Hudson Family Park	201 58.8%	111 32.5%	23 6.7%	5 1.5%	2 0.6%

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

	5-Stars	4-Stars	3-stars	2-stars	1-Star
Milton-Miller Park (north, by water tower)	4 1.6%	28 11.5%	102 42.0%	75 30.9%	34 14.0%
Portland Water Park (pool)	184 66.9%	60 21.8%	23 8.4%	4 1.5%	4 1.5%
Sportland (southwest)	14 5.6%	67 26.6%	128 50.8%	31 12.3%	12 4.8%
Weiler-Wilson (central, near water park)	13 5.6%	69 29.6%	98 42.1%	47 20.2%	6 2.6%

8. 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.

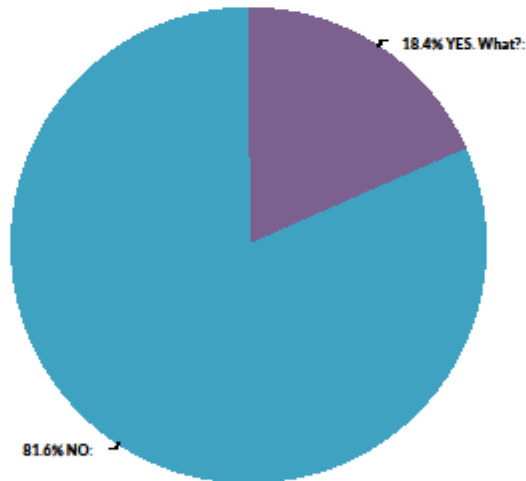


Value	Percent	Count
5K Walk/Run, Half-Marathon	29.3%	67
Arts in the Park	26.6%	61
Junior League Baseball	34.1%	78
Pee Wee Football	17.5%	40

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Value	Percent	Count
Pickleball	3.9%	9
Shuffleboard	2.2%	5
Soccer	27.9%	64
Softball Leagues	25.8%	59
Stars in the Park	34.9%	80
Swim Team	21.0%	48
<a href="#">Other (click to view)</a>	5.2%	12

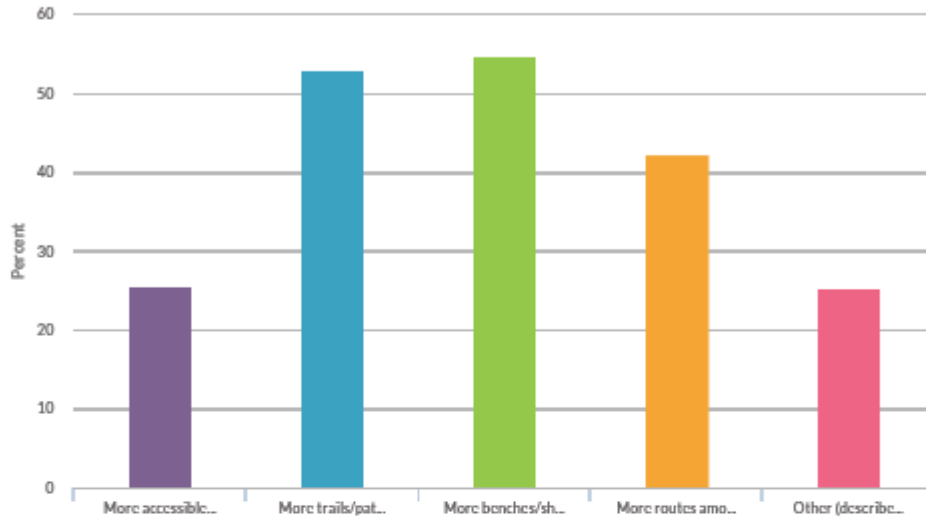
### 9. Does anything limit your use of the parks?



Value	Percent	Count
<a href="#">YES. What? (click to view)</a>	18.4%	60
NO	81.6%	266
<b>Total</b>		<b>326</b>

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

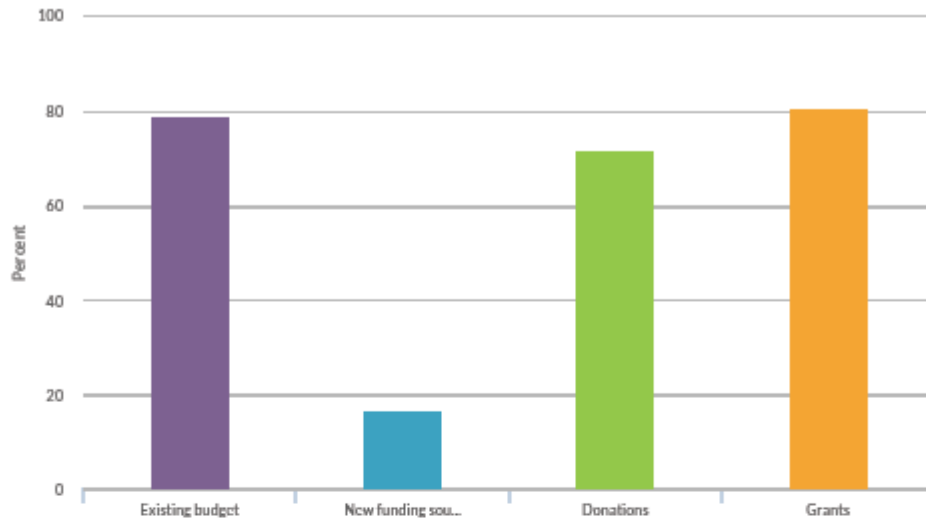
10. I would like to see the following added to Portland Parks (check all that apply):



Value	Percent	Count
More accessible play equipment	25.6%	74
More trails/paths	52.9%	153
More benches/shelters	54.7%	158
More routes among parks and to Arts Place, Community Center, the Library, schools, etc.	42.2%	122
<u>Other (describe): (click to view)</u>	25.3%	73

11. How should Portland pay for parks? (Check all that apply.)

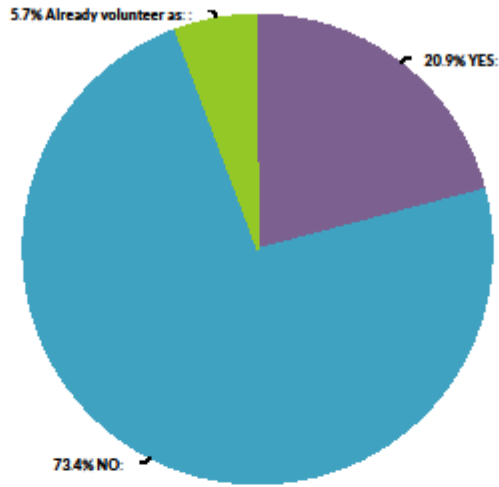
## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Existing budget	79.0%	249
<u>New funding sources. Describes: (click to view)</u>	16.8%	53
Donations	71.7%	226
Grants	80.6%	254

**12. Are you able to help organize/lead activities in the parks as a community volunteer?**

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
YES	20.9%	66
NO	73.4%	232
<u>Already volunteer as: (click to view)</u>	5.7%	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>316</b>

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



Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



148 Total Responses | [Show Responses](#)

14. Optional if you do not live in Portland. Prioritize the park administration and management items listed below by clicking 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.

Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
1	MAINTENANCE: No damaged equipment, everything serviceable. Includes mowing, painting, working utilities, clean and stocked bathrooms, trash and debris removed, signage, drainage, landscaping, and seasonal opening/closing.		878	182
2	APPEARANCE: Park grounds, facilities, and equipment are bright, clean, and inviting. Nothing rusting, peeling, fading, decaying, littered, or dead/dying.		814	184
3	SAFETY: Park features, including signage and equipment, will be designed, implemented, and maintained to ensure the safety of all park visitors.		725	176

|  
 Lowest Rank      Highest Rank

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
4	ACCESS: Park facilities accessible to all, including seniors, small children, and the handicapped. Handicap (e.g., ADA) accessibility standards met or planned. Park administration will coordinate with schools, the Community Center, Library, Arts Place, and others to designate safe routes, sidewalks, trails and other connections between park facilities and with public venues.		612	182
5	ACTIVITIES: Park administration will do what is reasonable and 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, and decorum, including consistent oversight of people working with children.		596	174
6	SUGGESTION or COMMENT (If ranked as one of your Top-5, briefly describe in the text box below)		30	16

Lowest Rank      Highest Rank

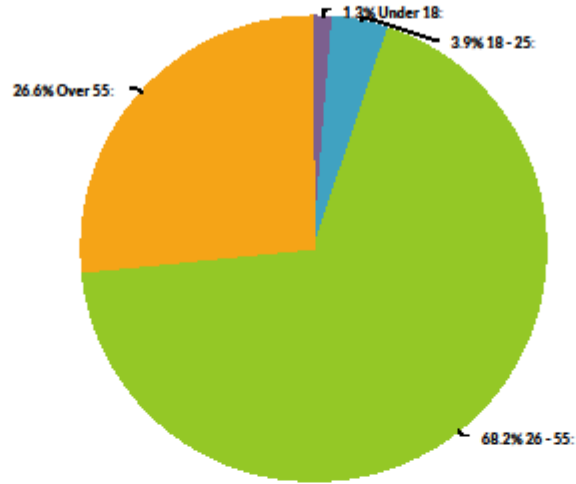
15. If you ranked a SUGGESTION or COMMENT as one of your Top-5 items above, then please describe it briefly (e.g., 20 words or less) in the box just below:



13 Total Responses | [Show Responses](#)

---

16. What is your age?

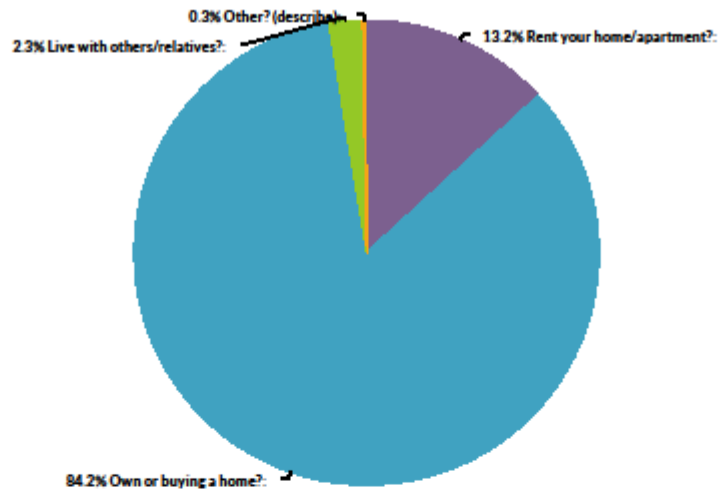


Value	Percent	Count
Under 18	1.3%	4
18 - 25	3.9%	12
26 - 55	68.2%	208
Over 55	26.6%	81
Total		305

---

17. What is your gender?

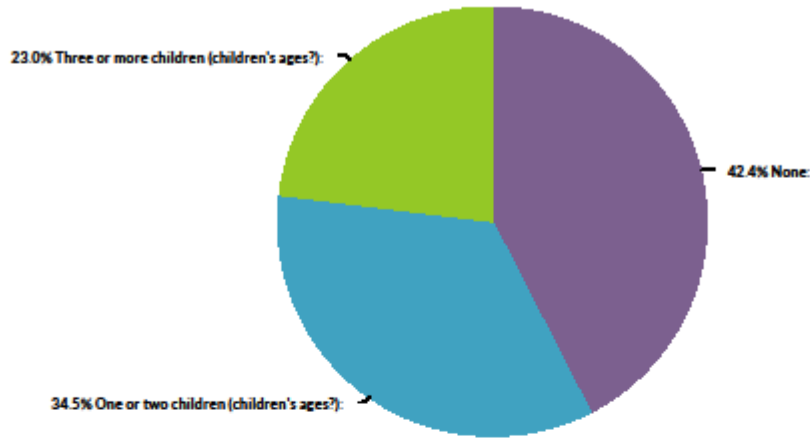
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Rent your home/apartment?	13.2%	40
Own or buying a home?	84.2%	255
Live with others/relatives?	2.3%	7
<a href="#">Other? (describe) (click to view)</a>	0.3%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>303</b>

19. Number of children in your household?

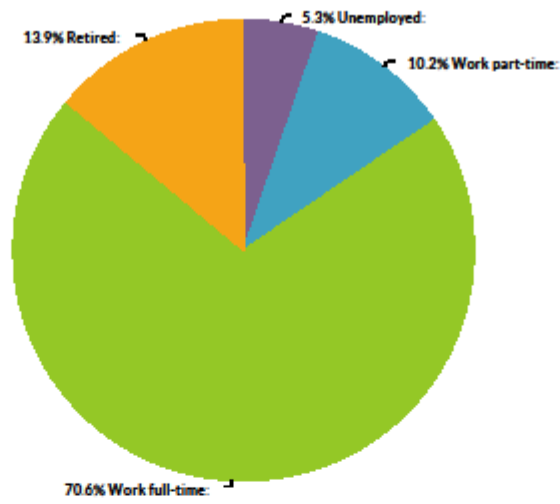
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
None	42.4%	129
<a href="#">One or two children (children's ages?) (click to view)</a>	34.5%	105
<a href="#">Three or more children (children's ages?) (click to view)</a>	23.0%	70
<b>Total</b>		<b>304</b>

20. Work status? (Includes proprietors, self-employed, seasonal, etc.)

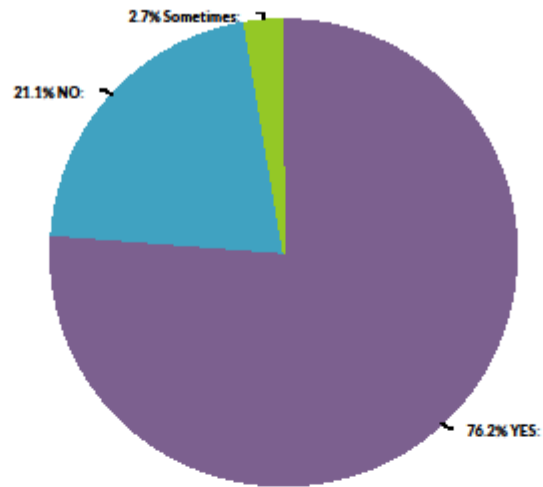
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
Unemploycd	5.3%	16
Work part-time	10.2%	31
Work full-time	70.6%	214
Rctired	13.9%	42
<b>Total</b>		<b>303</b>

21. Do you or other household member(s) work in Portland, Indiana?

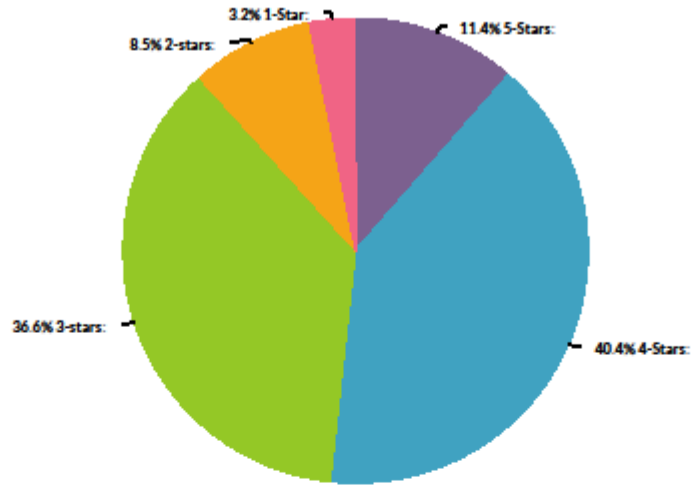
## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
YES	76.3%	228
NO	21.1%	63
Sometimes	2.7%	8
Total		299

### 22. Haynes Park (near hospital)

Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021

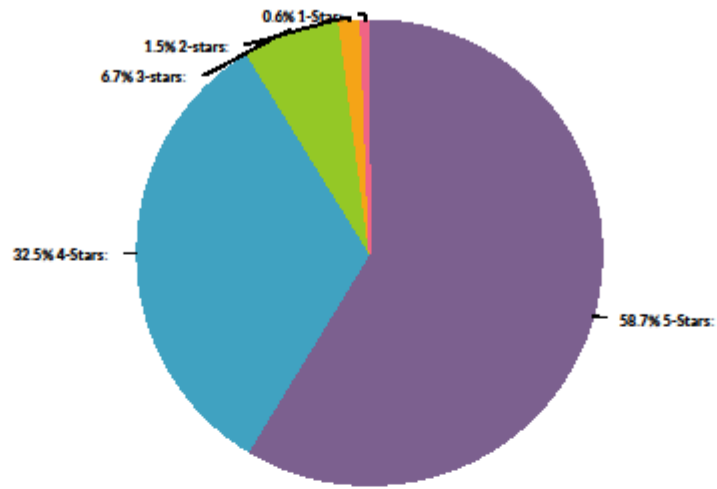


Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	11.4%	36
4-Stars	40.4%	128
3-stars	36.6%	116
2-stars	8.5%	27
1-Star	3.2%	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>317</b>

23. Hudson Family Park



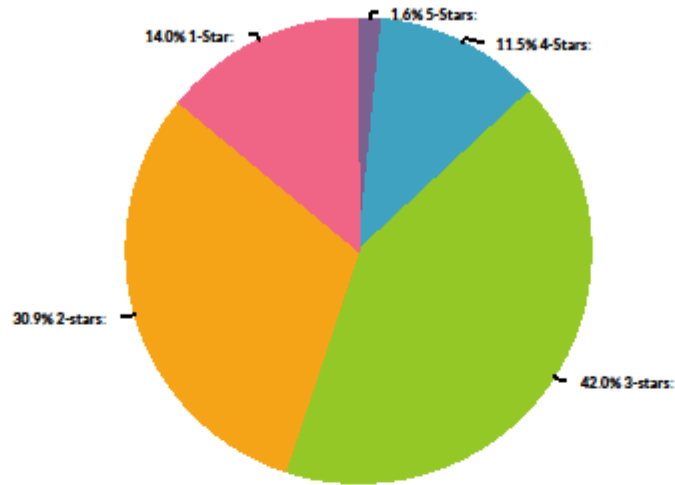
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	58.8%	201
4-Stars	32.5%	111
3-stars	6.7%	23
2-stars	1.5%	5
1-Star	0.6%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>342</b>

24. Milton-Miller Park (north, by water tower)

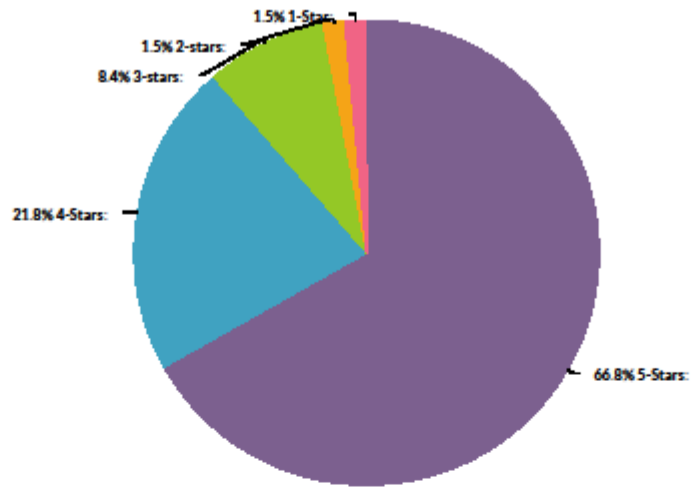
## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	1.6%	4
4-Stars	11.5%	28
3-stars	42.0%	102
2-stars	30.9%	75
1-Star	14.0%	34
Total		243

### 25. Portland Water Park (pool)

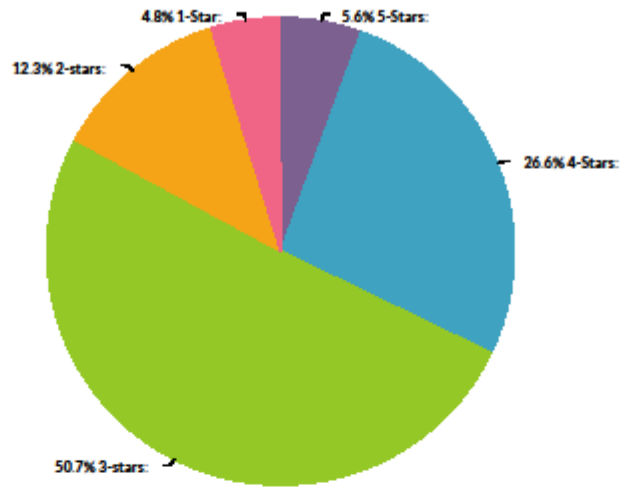
Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	66.9%	184
4-Stars	21.8%	60
3-stars	8.4%	23
2-stars	1.5%	4
1-Star	1.5%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>275</b>

26. Sportland (southwest)

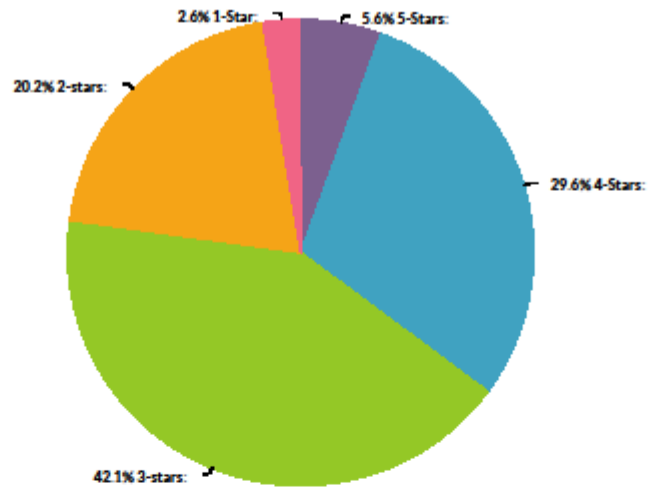
## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	5.6%	14
4-Stars	26.6%	67
3-stars	50.8%	128
2-stars	12.3%	31
1-Star	4.8%	12
Total		252

### 27. Weiler-Wilson (central, near water park)

## Portland, Indiana, 5-Year Park Plan 2017-2021



Value	Percent	Count
5-Stars	5.6%	13
4-Stars	29.6%	69
3-stars	42.1%	98
2-stars	20.2%	47
1-Star	2.6%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>233</b>