Park System: Draft Vision, Goals & Objectives:

- **Vision Statement:**
  To preserve and enhance the quality of the environment so that our community embodies a “city within a park.”

- **Goals & Objectives:**
  - Continue to enhance the city parks and recreation facilities.
  - Enhance the unique role each park plays in the total experience of Fort Thomas.
  - Explore methods of linking parks and open spaces with schools, commercial areas, civic centers and neighborhoods.
  - Work collectively with the schools and other groups to provide for recreational opportunities.
  - Maximize opportunities to foster partnerships and share investment to enhance parks, trails, and gateways.
  - Identify recreational uses and facilities that are missing from the current offering and collaborate to meet those needs (such as a splash park, zip lines, camping/glamping, ropes course, climbing wall, skate park, pump track, etc.).
  - Invest in Tower Park as a regional destination.
  - Invest in the enhancement and maintenance of existing assets (park infrastructure, structures, etc.)
  - Enhance connectivity of and accessibility to community parks for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles).
  - Encourage community stewardship through citizen advisory/volunteer groups and a tool to make it easier to volunteer.
  - Encourage stronger social media presence to inform residents of assets and invite visitors to Ft. Thomas.
  - Enhance online scheduling tools so park assets (fields, shelters, etc.) can be utilized/scheduled/reserved more easily and efficiently.
  - Encourage budget allocation for capital and operation (including maintenance, staffing, programming, and fundraising for capital projects).

Survey Snapshot (as of January 8th, 2018)

- **Park Enhancement Priorities**
  - Festivals - 55%
  - Concerts - 53%
  - Aquatics (pool, splash pad, etc.) - 52%
  - Children Events - 47%
  - Pedestrian Links/Connections to/from Parks - 45%
  - Recreation/Sports Leagues - 41%
  - Native Landscape - 39%
  - Enhance/Add Trails - 36%
  - Community Gardens - 36%
  - Fitness Classes - 35%
  - Playgrounds - 32%

- **Amenities that draw you to Ft. Thomas Parks**
  - Playgrounds (66%)
  - Trails (65%)
  - Events (65%)

- **Amenities that draw you away from Ft. Thomas Parks**
  - Adjacent restaurants/retails (56%)
  - Events (55%)
  - Trails (52%)
  - Splash Parks/Pools (47%)

- **Willing to volunteer with an organized program**
  - Special Events (52%)
  - Parks & Trail Maintenance (40%)
  - Recreation Sponsored Events (32%)
Safe Routes to Parks

- Access to green space ties directly to an individual’s health and well-being.
- Communities are working on strategies to make it easier and safer for people to be physically active.
- Those who live closer to parks will visit them more often. Those who are unable to walk to parks are less likely to visit them and are therefore deprived of the many benefits that parks offer. It is essential that parks be easily accessible to all citizens.
- The National Recreation and Park Association believe that the key to ensuring accessibility to parks is through creating safe routes to parks within our communities.

- There are physical and social barriers that make walking to parks undesirable.
  - Proximity (route to a park should be 1/4 mile (5 minutes) and no longer than 1/2 mile (10 minutes)).
  - Lack of infrastructure (i.e., sidewalks)
  - Crime/safety concerns
- Removing barriers and making parks accessible to everyone is a goal that is being addressed by park professionals across the country.
- 31% of Ft. Thomas is within 1/4 mile (5 minute walk) to the closest park
- 70% of Ft. Thomas is within 1/2 mile (10 minute walk) to the closest park
- 30% of Ft. Thomas can not easily access a park

How Ft. Thomas Compares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Name</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Parks Acre</th>
<th>Park Percent</th>
<th>Park Acres Per 1,000</th>
<th>Land Area Acre</th>
<th>Land Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lexington1</td>
<td>295,803</td>
<td>6,077</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>181,536</td>
<td>3.35%</td>
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<td>Cincinnati3</td>
<td>296,943</td>
<td>6,820</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>49,883</td>
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<td>Columbus3</td>
<td>787,033</td>
<td>10,847</td>
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<td>138,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland3</td>
<td>396,815</td>
<td>3,130</td>
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<td>49,726</td>
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<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>835,060</td>
<td>6,124</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>126,924</td>
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<td>Fort Mitchell1</td>
<td>8,207</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Thomas1</td>
<td>16,325</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery1</td>
<td>10,251</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>Mariemont1 (Village)</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.9</td>
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<td>Kenton2</td>
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<td>102,560</td>
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<td>Boone2</td>
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<td>Campbell2</td>
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<td>Total2</td>
<td>278,531</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>260,230</td>
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</table>

Analysis completed by Human Nature (January 2018), park acres do not include schools, natural areas or undeveloped park land.