

2020-2025

# Huntertown Family Park 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN



Huntertown Family Park Board  
and Park Planning Committee  
Northeastern Indiana Regional  
Coordinating Council  
2020-2025



**Huntertown Family Park  
Five-Year Master Plan  
2020 - 2025**  
Year Plan Prepared: 2019-2020

**Park Board**

**President**

Dan Holmes

**Vice President**

Miles Wilson

**Secretary**

Julia Tipton

**Member at Large**

Marcia Holmes

**Member at Large**

Sherry Myers

**Term Expires**

No Term Limits

**Contact Information:**

Huntertown Family Park

P.O. Box 142

Huntertown, Indiana 46748

PH: (260) 437-8358

[www.HuntertownFamilyPark.com](http://www.HuntertownFamilyPark.com)

[info@huntertownfamilypark.com](mailto:info@huntertownfamilypark.com)

Huntertown Family Park is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that relies on donations for financial support and time to make the park a fun community gathering place.

**Prepared By:**

Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council

200 East Berry Street, Suite 230, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802

PH: (260) 449-7309



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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Organization of the Plan

This Huntertown Family Park 5 – Year Master Plan provides an outline of proposed actions and goals of the Huntertown Family Park Board for the next five years. It is a collaborative effort using independent research; public input from town residents; special interest groups; local business owners; and the interests and goals of the Huntertown Park Board and Planning Committee to clearly identify the needs of the community and to develop a practical plan of action. The Huntertown Family Park 5-Year Master Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that ongoing goals and activities align with the needs identified in the park plan. This plan will expire after five years, and it should be updated to maintain continuity between the park board and residents priorities.

This plan is written in such a way that local officials and residents with non-technical backgrounds will be able to use it effectively and without any professional assistance. This plan is not intended to be a legal document, but rather to provide guidance and a point of reference for the Park Board, as well as the general public.

The Plan consists of five (5) main sections, to help provide ease for the reader to access the information used to develop the Action Plans.

**1. INTRODUCTION:** This section will provide the framework of the plan and outlines the planning process. It is used to define the planning area and establish the scope of the plan. The Park Board’s vision and goals are identified and historical background, structure and budgetary constraints of the Huntertown Family Park are presented.

**2. EXISTING CONDITIONS:** An analysis of the present conditions of the existing park system will help to establish a context of the current needs and pinpoint future possibilities. This section will include a review of the physical, historical, and cultural features of the planning area. Additionally, it will examine demographic data, social and economic conditions and provide a summary analysis of the findings.

**3. INVENTORY:** To better understand the future needs of the park, an inventory of the existing assets must *first* be identified. This section will research facilities and amenities that are contained within the current park system as well as the programming that is offered at each site. Additionally, an overview of Accessibility and Universal Design (ADA) compliance efforts of the current park will be provided.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Public input is essential to understanding the unique characteristics of a community park system as well as useful for identifying its strengths and weaknesses. This section will summarize the public participation mechanisms used throughout the planning process and analyze the resulting data. Data came from a community survey, advertised public meetings, and comment sheets.

**5: ACTION PLAN:** Once the evaluation of existing conditions, inventory and level of need has been established – the Board will develop an Action Plan based on each task to be conducted and an estimated timeframe and resource(s) needed to accomplish the identified tasks.

## **1.2 Definition of the Planning Area**

The planning area for the purposes of this Plan is the area within the boundaries of Huntertown corporate limits, though it should be noted that residents of Perry Township and rural Northwest Allen County may also utilize the park.

There is one park located in Huntertown which is owned and operated by the 501(c) 3, Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. The Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. also owns 2.17 acres of undeveloped land on the east side of Coldwater Road approximately 1/3 mile south of Union Chapel Rd.

Huntertown Family Park is 27.453 acres and is located at the northwest corner of Old Lima Rd and Woods Rd. The park includes a walking path, dog park, two open air pavilions, a concession building with restrooms, small playground, GaGa pit, horseshoes, open air amphitheater, storage building, two picnic areas with grills and fire rings, and walking path through wetlands/woodlands.

Future park needs identified from a public survey conducted in 2010 include a splash pad, playground, and walking path. Results of a public survey conducted in 2019 show that public desires still include the above mentioned amenities, but also include a basketball court, improved parking, and an indoor pavilion/community building, among other improvements that will be identified in Chapter 4.

### **Nearby Park Areas:**

**Huntertown Elementary School** is part of the Northwest Allen County School District and is located just 950 feet north of the Huntertown Family Park on Old Lima Rd. It has two basketball courts, a soccer field, two tennis courts, and two playgrounds geared toward different age groups. There is not a cooperative agreement in place between the Park Board and Huntertown Elementary School, but the play areas are not fenced in at the school (with the exception of the tennis courts).

**Huntertown Lion's Club Baseball**, located adjacent to the Huntertown Elementary School just 950 feet north of the Huntertown Family Park on Old Lima and Gump Rds. There are three baseball fields and two t-ball fields located here. The baseball diamonds are left unlocked and are used regularly by the public when there are no games in progress.

**Bicentennial Woods**, located 3.5 miles northeast of Huntertown Family Park on the south side of W. Shoaff Rd, is owned by ACRES Land Trust whose mission is to protect local land. Bicentennial Woods is a nature preserve along Willow Creek with 2.6 miles of natural trails through woodland, meadow, and riparian areas.

**Cooks Landing County Park**, located kiddy-corner from Bicentennial Woods at the corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Rds. is a 4.35 park owned by Allen County Parks and Recreation. Amenities at this

park include an open air shelter, picnic tables, grills, woodlands, fishing and a soft shore boat access to the Cedar Creek, one of only three State Designated Scenic Rivers.

**Payton County Park**, located 2 miles east of Huntertown Family Park at 13928 Dunton Road, is owned by Allen County Parks and Recreation. Payton Park consists of 40 acres of old field, forest and wetland areas. Amenities include a picnic shelter, pit toilet, small pond, picnicking, and grills.

**Allen County Fairgrounds**, located 2 miles south of Huntertown Family Park, is a 77.2 acre property owned by the Allen County Fair. The property and its amenities are not open to the public, but there are several buildings available to rent for events, as well as the fairgrounds being used for the Allen County Fair by the local 4-H Clubs, craft bazaars, and Christmas in the Country events.

**Several additional recreational facilities** are located within a 5 miles of Huntertown Family Park including two ACRES Landtrust Nature Preserves; Tom and Jane Dustin and Vandolah Nature Preserves; Solomon Farms owned by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation; Parkview YMCA playground and multiuse trails; three additional elementary schools; and several neighborhood playgrounds.

Huntertown is a suburb of Fort Wayne and is considered to be mostly a commuter town. The Huntertown Family Park attracts visitors to the dog park, which is one of only three dog parks located within the Fort Wayne metropolitan area, as well as during the Huntertown Heritage Days festival, and the lighting of the Christmas tree which also has a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The population of Huntertown, according to the 2010 census data is 4,810. However, using Census Bureau American Community Survey Quick Facts from 2018, the population of Huntertown has increased by nearly 30% and is currently estimated to be 6,772 as of July 1, 2018.

### 1.3 5-Year Master Plan Steering Committee

To ensure that this Park Master Plan meets the needs of its users it was imperative that the plan be guided by representatives from all backgrounds. The Park Board reached out to various community members to encourage them to assist with park planning. Several joined the team and have been integral to this plan’s development.

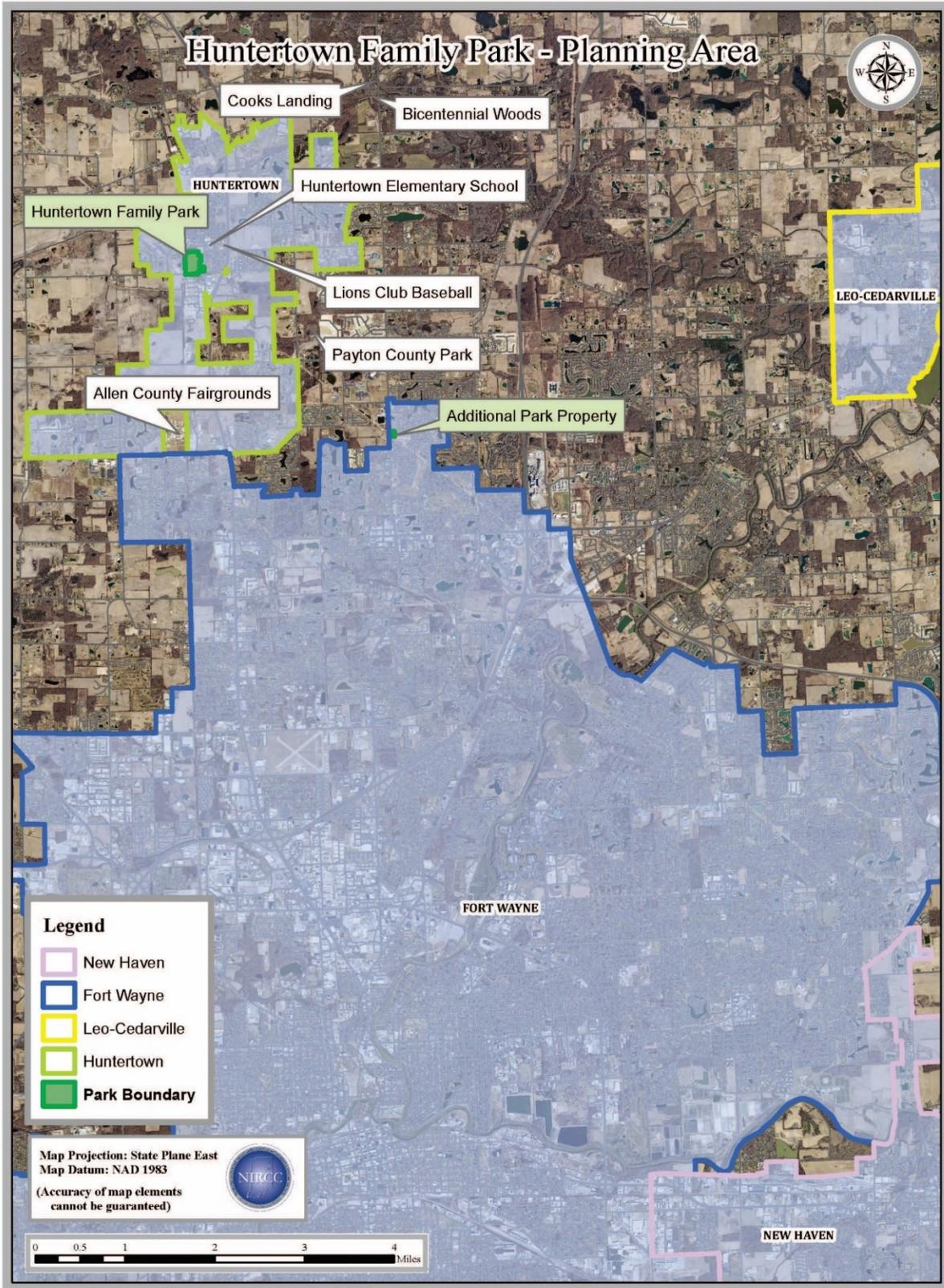
Name	Organizations	Title
Dan Holmes	Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc.	Park Board President
Marcia Holmes	Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc.	Park Board Member
Casey Stansifer	Huntertown Elementary School	Principal
Rob Green	Huntertown resident	Park Volunteer
Melissa Rinehart	Community Development	Park Volunteer
Heather Barth	ACRES LandTrust	Director of Advancement
Julie Horney	Huntertown Resident	Park Media Volunteer
Beth Shellman	Town of Huntertown	Town Manager
Louis Wyatt	KPC Media	Northwest News Editor
Phil Ginder	Huntertown Resident	Lion’s Club Softball – Past Director

## 1.4 Goals of the Plan

The goals of this Park plan are as follows:

- ❖ Analyze the accessibility of the Park and identify deficiencies to be addressed within the next phase of park development;
- ❖ Offer opportunities for the community to provide input on the park in order to prioritize their needs and wants to help guide the development of a park that meets the needs of a diverse community;
- ❖ Analyze community input to prioritize the development of park amenities and ensure funds be spent where they will have the most impact;
- ❖ Create a Plan that is dynamic, flexible, and provides pertinent and useful information on the park's future development to show the park's clear direction to potential funders.

Figure 1: Huntertown Planning Area



### 1.5 Park Board History

Friends of the Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. was established in 2013, and reestablished as a 501 (c) 3 organization in 2015 after Federal reporting rules changed. The Board began as a five member organization, but as members have moved on they have left vacant seats that have not yet been filled.

The Park Board currently meets weekly at the Huntertown Woodworkers shop on the north end of town. However, during the development of this Park Plan different Board options were discussed including meeting monthly; having an Executive Board that meets weekly and an Advisory Board that meets less frequently, or vice-versa. The Park Board President is currently seeking committed individuals to fill the vacant seats.

Below is a list of the Friends of Huntertown Park, Inc. Board of Directors as of the date of this Plan.

#### **Park Board**

##### **President**

Dan Holmes  
Phone: 260-437-8358  
E-mail: danholmes1944@gmail.com

##### **Members at Large**

Marcia Holmes  
E-mail: marciaholmes1946@gmail.com

##### **Vice President**

Miles Wilson  
E-mail:

Sherry Myers

E-mail: sherrymyersfw@gmail.com

##### **Secretary**

Julia Tipton  
E-mail: ctipton@gmail.com

### 1.6 Parks Staff

There is not any paid staff for the Huntertown Family Park. All maintenance, landscaping, bookkeeping, etc. are done by volunteers or the Park Board.

### 1.7 Park Board Vision and Mission Statement

The Board understands it is important to have a vision for Huntertown Family Park, which is shaped by the purpose of their organization and who they serve. Below are the Park Board's vision and mission for the Park.

#### ***1.7.1 Vision Statement***

The Park Board strives to provide a community park with year round activities, where people can take a walk, play ball, exercise their pet, enjoy music and community, as well as provide an educational environment while protecting the woods and wetlands located in the park for years to come.

### **1.7.2 Mission Statement**

With the understanding the Park Board's mission can change as the needs of the park, community, and town evolve, the mission of the Huntertown Family Park Board is to provide a space that meets the needs of all individuals and families to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational activities.

### **1.8 Local Government Structure**

The Huntertown Family Park is managed by the Friends of Huntertown Park, Inc. a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, but it started under the Huntertown Town Council.

Huntertown is an incorporated town governed by a five member Town Council, comprised of a Council President and four at large members. The Town Council develops Town Ordinances, establishes and has authority over the town budget, public facilities and services, capital improvements, and the appointment of boards and commissions serving in the Town's interest. The Town Council works continuously to improve the quality of life and place in the Town. The town also has an elected Clerk Treasurer, and a Town Manager.

When the park was housed under the Town Council, the Council made all final decisions regarding upgrades, maintenance and new amenities at the Park, at the recommendation of the Park Board. However, Dan Holmes, Park Board President felt the oversight was hindering the park's development, and the Town Council turned the park's deed over to the Friends of the Huntertown Family Parks, Inc., of which Mr. Holmes is President, in 2013 with the caveat that if the Park Board dissolves the Park must be re-deeded to the Town.

### **1.9 Park and Recreation Budget**

The funds acquired by Friends of the Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. are from donations made by local businesses and residents, and a \$25,000 grant from State Farm Insurance. The Huntertown Family Park does not receive any funds from the Town, however, they do receive water and waste water services at no charge. The majority of projects that have been completed within the park are a result of in-kind donations of labor and materials. Additionally, volunteers maintain the park by mowing, weeding, planting, painting, etc. Table 1 shows the Friends of the Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. budget from 2016 through 2019.

There have been several large scale projects since the Park's founding including a one mile sidewalk (\$57,000); playground (\$11,600); amphitheater (\$14,650); signage (\$3,800); gravel parking lot (\$1,800); restrooms at the concession building (\$20,500); rain garden (\$1,560); dog park (\$7,500); learning center (\$3,400); water and sewer lines (\$5,750).

**Table 1: Park and Recreation Budget 2014 - 2017**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>End Cash Balance</b>
2016	\$74,086.43	\$60,410.22	\$53,788.89	\$80,707.76
2017	\$80,707.76	\$57,620.64	\$42,229.91	\$96,098.49
2018	\$96,098.40	\$18,124.16	\$15,425.92	\$98,796.73
2019 (as of 03/16/19)	\$98,796.73	\$231.58	\$627.39	\$98,400.92

## **2.0 Existing Conditions**

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### **2.1 Natural Features and Landscape**

#### **2.1.1 Geology**

The landscape of northeastern Indiana is directly influenced by the last great glaciation which occurred over 14,000 years ago: the Wisconsinan glaciation. The glaciers filled and dammed rivers and flattened the rolling hills that were once present in northern Indiana. As the glaciers melted and retreated north they deposited rock, dirt, and sand that they picked up while traveling across the landscape. In the project area, scoured till-like sediments, locally capped by lacustrine silt and clay were left by the glaciers.

The bedrock in northern Indiana was deposited during the Devonian Period some 400 million years ago. The deposited rocks consist mostly of sedimentary rock. The predominate bedrock types of the project area are dolomite and limestone. The last lobe of the Wisconsin glaciation, the Erie Lobe, left a sequence of deposits known as the Lagro Formation, which is responsible for the clay-rich composition of the soil present within northern Indiana today. The surficial geology overlaying the composition of the bedrock in the project area consists of mostly silt, clay, loam or a combination of different soil types.

The project area is located within the Auburn Morainal Complex within the Northern Moraine and Lake physiographic region. The topography of the area is relatively homogenous. The average elevation is 840 feet above sea level. There are some areas where the slope of the land may slightly exceed 2% but overall the landscape of the project area is unremarkable.

#### **2.1.2 Natural Regions**

The project area is located within the Central Till Plain Physiographic Natural Region which is the largest natural region in Indiana as it covers nearly 1/3 of the state. The glaciers deposited great amounts of till leaving fertile soils and prime farmland.

Huntertown is located within the Auburn Morainal Complex physiographic division which is comprised of ridged till of eastern source and minor areas or outwash.

### ***2.1.3 Deciduous Forest***

Huntertown, Indiana is located within the Eastern Temperate Forest ecological region and is dominated by Beech, Maple and Basswood trees. Allen County is a quarantine zone for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) as designated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) due to several sightings of the invasive insect that has infested many Ash trees located within residential areas, and even large forest stands. The IN DNR EAB Locations Map does not show that there have been any sightings of the EAB in Huntertown and there are not currently any Ash trees located in the Huntertown Family Park. Though there has been a limited amount of loss throughout the Town in general.

### ***2.1.4 Hydrography***

Huntertown is located within the 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 04100003, named the St. Joseph River Watershed which is within the greater Maumee River Basin. The Maumee River Basin feeds into the Western Lake Erie Basin in Toledo. The Maumee River Basin is the largest contributor to the Great Lakes and as such is a sensitive watershed to pollution. Specifically, Huntertown is located within the 10-digit HUC 0410000308, named the Cedar Creek Watershed. The Cedar Creek is one of only three State Designated Scenic Rivers. There is not any surface water in or near the Huntertown Family Park.

Huntertown is located on the Eel River – Cedar Creek unconsolidated aquifer, which is the municipal water source for the town. Water production at the aquifer is measured at 450 gpm per two high-capacity wells.

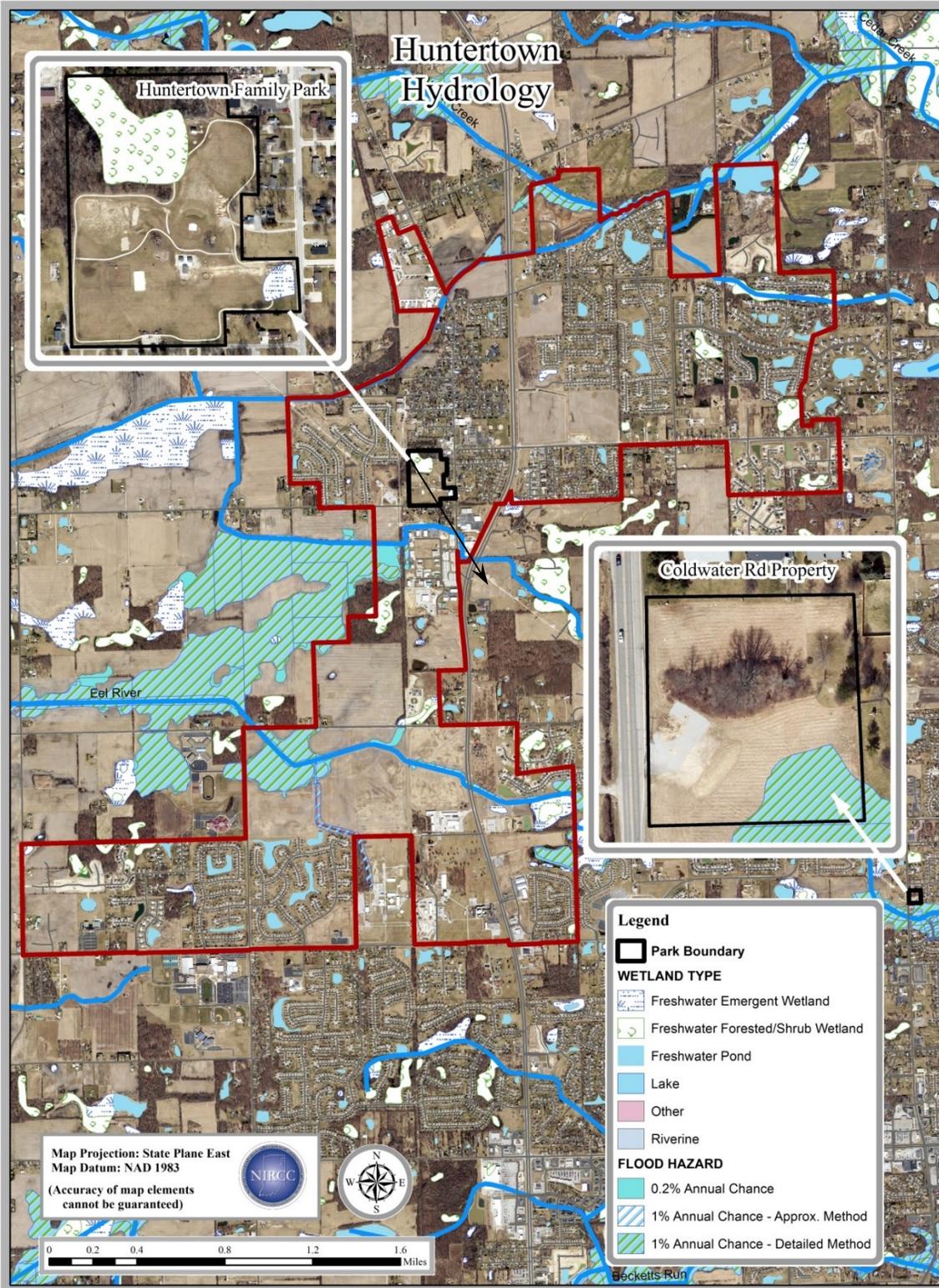
There are two areas within Huntertown Family Park identified as a wetland in the National Wetland Inventory (NWI). One is a 4.28 acre freshwater forested/shrub wetland located within the forested trail preserve at the park and the other is a 0.5 acre freshwater emergent wetland located in the southeast corner of the park near Old Lima Rd. The majority of soils located in these areas are hydric, as will be discussed in the next Section, and there are wetlands plants present in the forested wetland, but the smaller wetland has been converted to turf grass.

The park is not located within a floodplain.

The Coldwater Rd property is located within the 10 digit HUC 0410000308, the Lower St. Joseph River sub-watershed. The very southeast corner of the property is located within the 100 year flood hazard. This area is not able to be built on due to it being the location of a new high capacity electric tower.

Figure 2 below delineates the hydrology in, and around Huntertown.

Figure 2: Water Resources



### 2.1.5 Soils

There are eight different soil associations within property owned by the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc.; two of which are located in the Coldwater Rd property. Figure 3 shows the delineation of the various soil associations and Table 2 provides a description of each type of soil. The soils located in the parks range from very poorly drained to moderately well drained with slopes from 0% to 6%. Over a third of the soils located within the Huntertown Family Park are classified as hydric by the Natural Resources Conservation Service based on them meeting one or more field indicator of hydric soils in the United States.

**Table 2: Soil Association Descriptions**

Soil Association Symbol	Soil Association Name	Association Description	Location in Park	Percent of Park
CrA	Crosby loam	Somewhat poorly drained, medium runoff potential, nearly level, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is Loamy till. About 6 - 24 inches to water table and 20 - 40 inches to restrictive layer. 0 - 2% slope. Typical profile is loam over clay loam over loam. Soil is classified as hydric.	Located NW quadrant in the wooded wetland area of the park	1.30%
CsA	Crosby silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is loess over loamy till. About 6 - 24 inches to water table and 20 - 40 inches to the restrictive layer. 0-2% slope. Typical profile is silt loam (0-9") over clay loam (9 - 31") over loam (31 - 60"). Soil is classified as hydric.	Located in the SW quadrant of the park	3.40%
Lw	Palms muck	Very poorly drained, negligible runoff potential, nearly level. Parent material is herbaceous organic material over loamy glaciofluvial deposits. Zero inches to water table, and more than 80" to restrictive layer. 0 - 1% slope. Typical profile is muck (0-35") over loam (35 - 80"). Soil is classified as hydric and is classified as farmland of statewide importance.	Located in the SE quadrant of the park	8.20%
MrB2	Glynwood silt loam	Moderately well drained, classified as prime farmland, parent material is Wisconsin till derived from limestone and shale. About 12 - 24 inches to water table and 24 - 42" to the restrictive layer. 2 - 6% slope. Typical profile is silt loam (0-7") over clay (7 - 25"), over clay loam	Located in the southern half of the park; mostly in the SE quadrant	11.70%

Soil Association Symbol	Soil Association Name	Association Description	Location in Park	Percent of Park
		(29 - 79"). Not classified as hydric and is classified as prime farmland.	and in most of the Coldwater Rd property	
OfA	Oshtemo fine sandy loam, loamy substratum	Well drained, classified as prime farmland, parent material is loamy outwash. About 36 - 72 inches to water table and more than 80" to the restrictive layer. 0 - 2% slope. Typical profile is fine sandy loam (0-14") over sandy loam (14 - 50"), over stratified silt loam to sandy loam to loamy fine sand (50 - 60"). Not classified as hydric.	Located in the center of the park from the west to east boundaries and in the NW quadrant in the wooded area	53.90%
Rm	Rensselaer loam	Poorly drained, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is loamy outwash. About 0 - 6" inches to water table and more than 80" to the restrictive layer. 0 - 1% slope. Typical profile is loam (0-15") over clay loam (15-38"), over loam (38 - 42"), over stratified fine sand to silt loam (42 - 76") over loam (76-79"). Soil is classified as hydric.	Located mostly along the southern half of the NW quadrant in the wooded wetland area of the park	13.30%
Rs	Rensselaer silty clay loam	Poorly drained, classified as prime farmland if drained, parent material is loamy outwash. About 0 - 12" inches to water table and more than 80" to the restrictive layer. 0 - 2% slope. Typical profile is silty clay loam (Ap: 0-7") over silty clay loam (A: 7-14""), over sandy clay loam (2Bg1 - 2Bg3: 14 - 42"), over sandy clay loam (2BC: 42-51") over stratified silt loam to sand (2C: 51-70"). Soil is classified as hydric.	Located in the SW quadrant of the park	8.10%

Soil Association Symbol	Soil Association Name	Association Description	Location in Park	Percent of Park
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam	Very poorly drained, negligible runoff potential, nearly level. Parent material is Wisconsin till derived from limestone and shale. Zero - 12 inches to water table, and more than 80" to restrictive layer. 0 - 1% slope. Typical profile is silty clay loam (0 - 11") over silty clay (Btg1: 11 - 34") over silty clay (Btg2: 34 - 47") over clay loam (BCg: 47 - 57") over clay loam (Cg: 57 - 79").	Located in the SE quadrant of the Coldwater Rd property	n/a

Figure 3: Soil Type



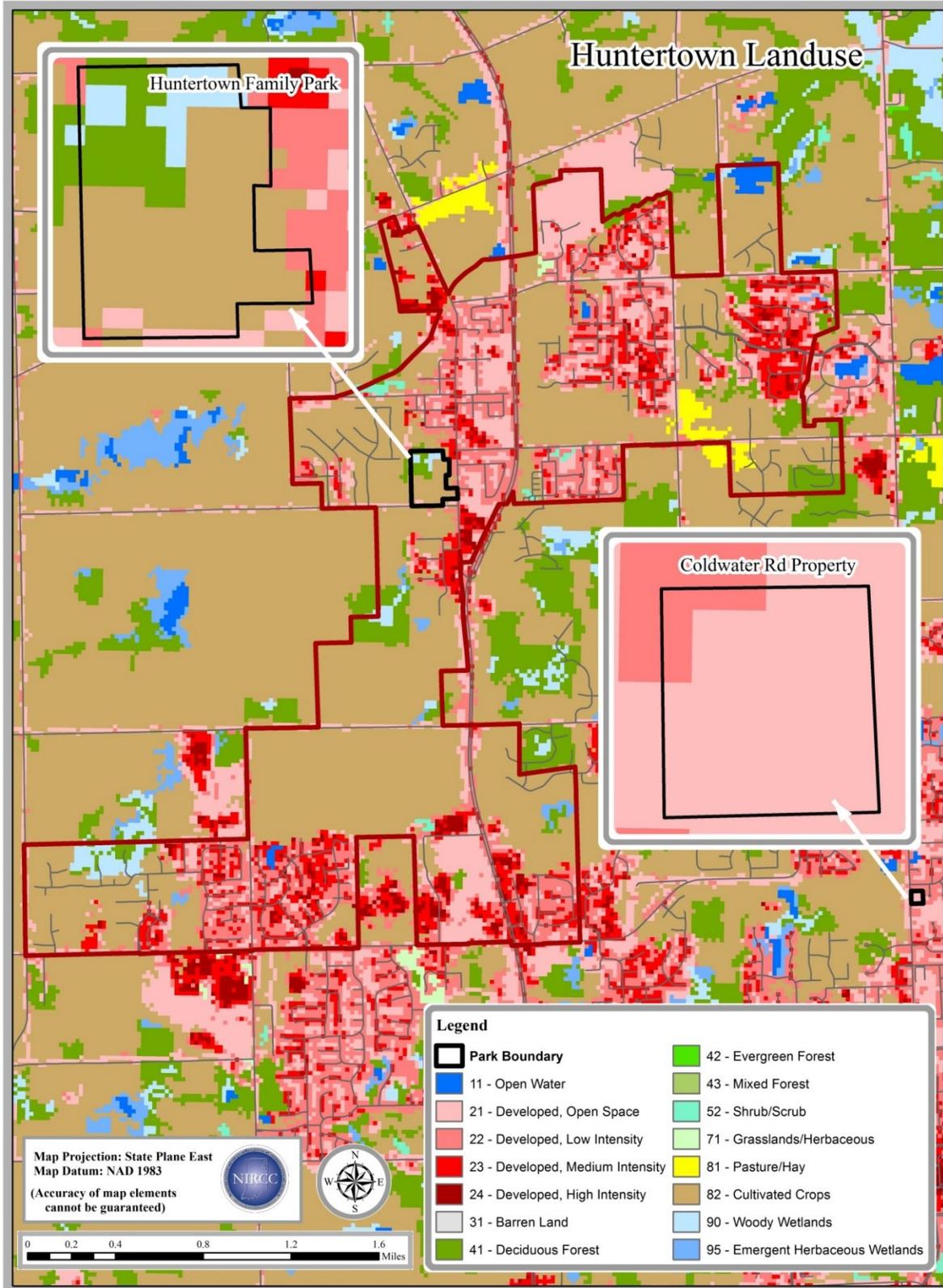
### ***2.1.6 Wildlife***

The predominate wildlife present within Hunteertown are deer, raccoon, squirrels, opossum, and coyote. There is a family of red fox present on the property. Many birds of prey are found in the area as well including owls and hawks. There are currently 73 species on the Indiana, Allen County Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species List, many of which would rely on habitats specifically located within, or adjacent to the Hunteertown Park. The State List can be found at [https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np\\_allen.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np_allen.pdf).

### ***2.1.7 Land Use***

According to the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) Allen County is dominated by agriculture land, with the exception of the Fort Wayne metropolitan area as can be seen in Figure 4 below. Hunteertown has become a commuter town to Fort Wayne over the past few decades, and has been built-up with many new neighborhoods, with many more currently being constructed or planned. As the land cover is changing so is the hydrology. Areas that used to never flood, are now flooding or ponding more regularly due to the change in the landscape and an increase in impervious surfaces. As can be seen in the land use map below, the Park is identified as cultivated crop land, which is was prior to being converted to the park, and deciduous forest and woody wetlands in the northwest quadrant of the park according to the NLCD. The Coldwater Road property is classified as developed open space and is adjacent to land classified as low intensity developed which makes this property ideal to offer for sale for commercial uses.

Figure 4: Land Use



## **2.2 Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Characteristics**

Huntertown was founded in 1837 by William T. Hunter along the old Lima Plank Road connecting Lima (now Howe, IN) and Fort Wayne. Huntertown was platted in 1869 and incorporated in 1966. State Road 3, a four lane highway, bypasses the heart of Huntertown but intersects the Huntertown town boundaries. Much of Huntertown is zoned for low density residential within an agriculture district which leaves it open for many different uses. Additionally, there are commercial and industrial zones along Old Lima Rd through the heart of Huntertown. Figure 5 shows the zoning map for Huntertown.

### **2.2.1 Commercial and Industrial**

Huntertown's main commercial center is located near the intersection of Old Lima Rd and S.R.3. This is the location of the Lima-Plank Mercantile shopping plaza with many different retail shops and restaurants. Located behind the plaza are several industrial businesses and a storage facility.

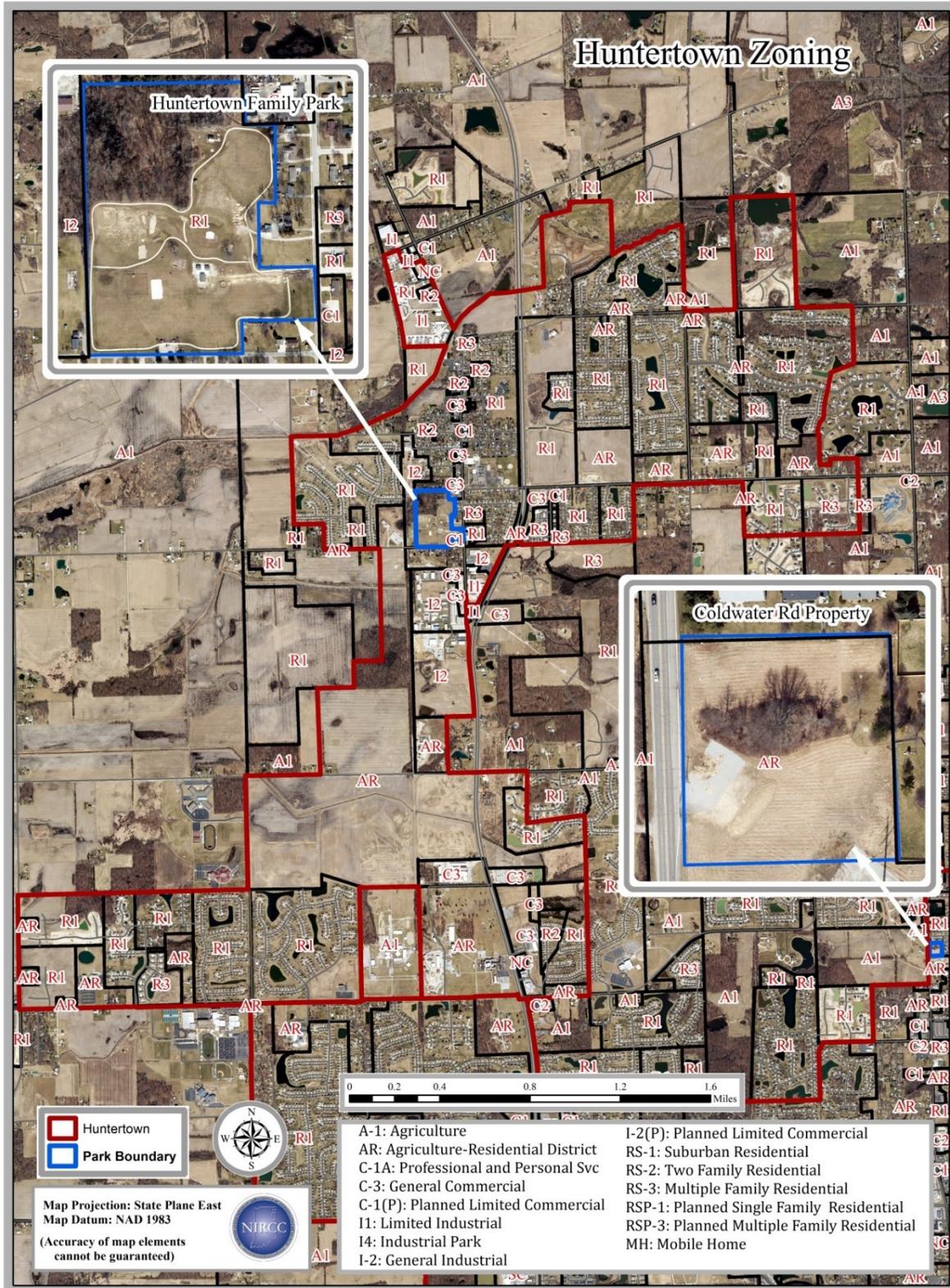
Further north, Old Lima Rd. is lined with a mixture of homes and businesses, the Fire Department, Huntertown Elementary School, and the Town Hall. The north side of town is where most of the industry is located. However, more neighborhoods are also beginning to line Old Lima.

### **2.2.2 Residential**

Huntertown's boundaries have expanded due to annexation of land that has been converted to residential. There are many neighborhoods scattered throughout the town. According to Zillow.com, the median home price in Huntertown is \$198,000. However, it should be noted that Huntertown has many homes valued at, or above \$1 million in some neighborhoods and large estates built on several acres further away from town center, as well as homes valued at less than \$100,000 located closer to Old Lima Rd and the Huntertown Family Park. The majority of the homes in Huntertown have been built within the past two decades as new neighborhoods are being built establishing Huntertown as a "bedroom community" to Fort Wayne.

Additionally, there are small farms located within the town boundaries.

Figure 5: Huntertown Zoning Map



### ***2.2.3 Transportation Links***

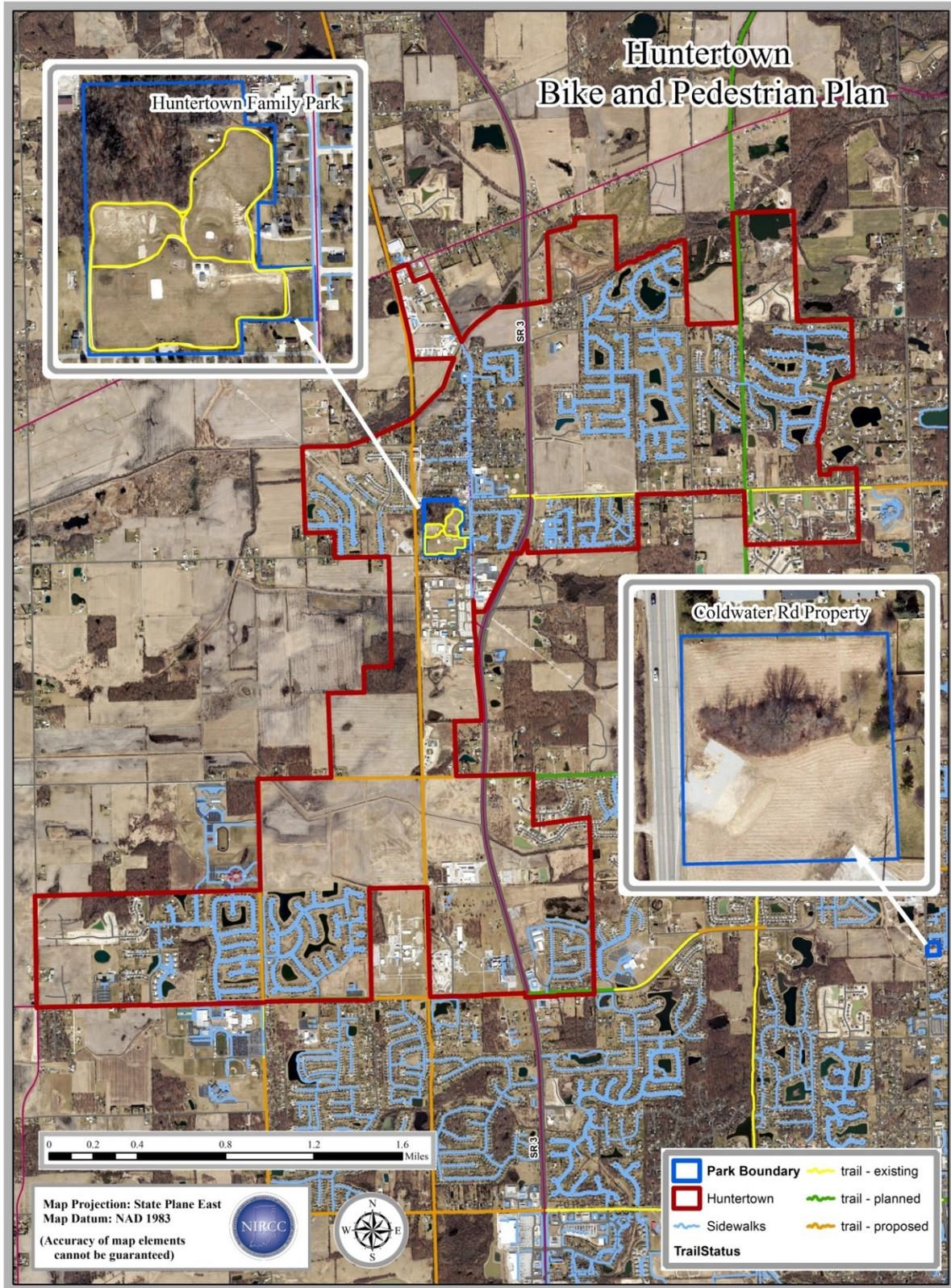
Huntertown was an important passageway for pioneers moving west. A road was built in 1847 after a large fire occurred one dry summer opening up a huge clearing through the thick wooded area. The road, named Lima, connected Fort Wayne to LaGrange County. By 1849 Lima Road was planked and opened up as a stagecoach route.

State Road 3 was built in the 1970's to bypass Huntertown town center. While it still runs through the boundaries of Huntertown, it allows traffic to flow swiftly and without the worry of heavy commerce, slow traffic, or school zones. S.R. 3 is a discontinuous state highway that connects Charlestown, IN near the Ohio River to Brighton, IN just 1.3 miles south of Interstate 80-90 along the eastern half of Indiana.

Huntertown has an extensive sidewalk system within its neighborhoods, as well as along old Lima Rd from just north of Cedar Canyons Rd south to the Lima-Plank Mercantile which provides an alternate means of transportation between the two ends of the town. In 2017 a 10 ft wide trail was completed on the south side of Gump Rd from Cedar Canyons Elementary School west to meet the existing sidewalk at Huntertown Elementary School. Huntertown is currently working on expanding their sidewalks along collector streets within its boundaries including connecting neighborhoods along Woods Rd to the adjacent Huntertown Family Park.

The Bike and Pedestrian Trail Plan compiled by the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council identifies a proposed wide lane along Old Lima Rd from S.R. 3 to Cedar Canyons Rd. This wide lane will accommodate bicycle traffic. Additionally, the Poka-bache State Visionary Trail will be passing through Huntertown within the next several years. Figure 6 shows the Bike and Pedestrian plan.

Figure 6: NIRCC Bike and Ped Trail Plan for Huntertown



### 2.2.4 Historic Hometown

According to the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD), of the 29 historic sites and structures identified in the Allen County Survey located within Hometown, six were rated as being “notable” and 23 were rated as contributing in terms of the site or the structure’s level of integrity, remaining historic fabric, alterations, additions, structure relocation, environment and associated history. In addition to the County Survey, two structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. Three of the historic structures listed in the County Survey are located within the Area of Potential Effect of the Hometown Family Park. These historic structures include:



- Houser Automotive: 15221 Lima Road (003-286-03104) - Contributing
- Myers Service Station: 15315 Lima Road (003-286-03116) - Contributing
- House: 15131 Lima Road (003-286-03061) - Contributing

### 2.2.5 Festivals

There are a few annual events held in the Hometown Family Park, however, only one of the events is hosted by the Park Board. These events mostly attract Hometown Residents but may pull individuals from surrounding communities. This subsection describes the various events hosted in Hometown.

#### 2.2.5.1 Hometown Heritage Days

The second week in August hosts the three day long Hometown Heritage Days festival every year. It was begun by a group of people looking to bring the community of Hometown together back in 1999. Since then the festival has grown and in 2007 the organizers became an incorporated 501(c)3 organization. A variety of activities take place during the three day festival including a parade; food and craft vendors; Lions Club Fish Fry; music; carnival rides; and fireworks. Much of the festival takes place in the Park, but some events are at the Hometown Firehouse or Sweet Sanity Ice Cream, located on Old Lima Rd north of the Park.

#### 2.2.5.2 Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Since 2016, the Friends of Hometown Family Parks, Inc. hosts the Lighting of the Christmas Tree event the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Park Board holds a writing contest with local grade schools where children write an essay about the meaning of Christmas to them. The authors of the top five essays will be given the privilege of “flipping the switches” to turn the lights on at the Park’s Christmas tree adjacent to Old Lima Rd. The event not only includes lighting the Christmas tree but a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate and coffee, and Christmas caroling. The event attracts approximately 500 people from the area.



### 2.2.5.3 Day in the Park

Huntertown Park Board hosted the first Day in the Park in September 2016 as a way to encourage people to enjoy the Huntertown Family Park. The Day in the Park was held in 2016 and 2018, and will likely be held in future years. The event attracted nearly 1000 people to the park and has included a BBQ cook-off competition, a car cruise-in, raffle, pony rides, vendors, chalk drawing contest, and silent auction.

### 2.2.5.4 Walk to Remember

The annual Walk to Remember, held at the Huntertown Family Park, is an event in October to commemorate National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day and raise funds to assist area hospitals support families that experienced the loss of an infant child. The Walk to Remember, Inc is an Indiana non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire hope and healing through remembrance for families experiencing the loss of a baby, to support area families on their grief journey, and to bring awareness to the community. The Walk to Remember typically attracts approximately 500 people to the park annually.

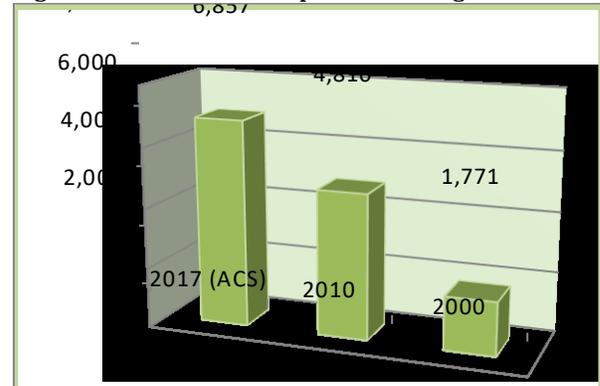
## 2.3 Social and Economic Factors

This Section will discuss the demographic and economic influences in Huntertown. All data described was taken from the 2010 Census or the 2017 American Community Survey unless otherwise stated.

### 2.3.1 Population

According to the U.S. Census the population of Huntertown was 4,810 as of April, 2010. The American Community Survey estimated the population to be at 6,857 in 2017 which is a 42% increase in population in seven years. The population growth in Allen County in 2017 was only 3% suggesting that Huntertown is attracting people to relocate to the rural community and that the Park's Board will need to work to meet the growing needs of the community. Figure 7 shows Huntertown's population changes since 2000.

Figure 7: Huntertown's Population Change



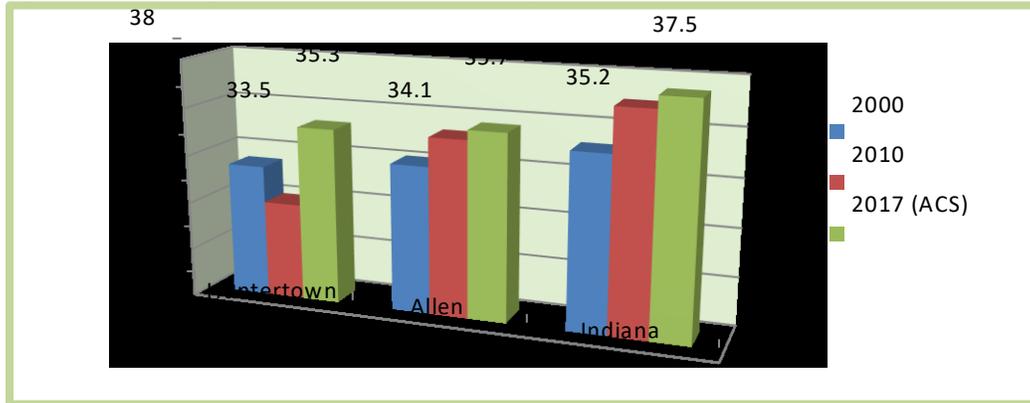
### 2.3.2 Age Distribution

The Town of Huntertown's population has a lower median age (median 32.3) when compared to Allen County (median age 35.7) and to Indiana as a whole (median age 37.5). The estimated median age of Huntertown in 2017 was 35.3 suggesting that the population has aged slightly. When compared to Allen County (28.6%) and the State of Indiana (26.7%), Huntertown has a higher proportion of the population under 19 (31.7%). Huntertown also has a higher proportion of the general population between the ages of 20 and 44 at 34.3% of the population, which is approximately

2% greater than Allen County and the State of Indiana. This suggests that majority of Huntertown’s population are families. Therefore, it is necessary for the Huntertown Park Board to update their facilities and amenities to meet the needs of families in the community. Figure 8 below shows the median age in Huntertown, as compared to Allen County, and Indiana from the 2000 and 2010 Census, and the 2017 American Community Survey estimates.

Table 3, shown below, shows the ages represented within the population of Huntertown, Allen County and Indiana as estimated in 2017.

**Figure 8: Median Age in Huntertown, Allen County, and Indiana**



**Table 3: Age Distribution in Huntertown, Allen County, and Indiana**

Gender and Age	Huntertown		Allen County		Indiana	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total population	6857		367,747		6,614,418	
Male	3420	49.88%	179,414	48.79%	3,258,279	49.26%
Female	3437	50.12%	188,333	51.21%	3,356,139	50.74%
Under 5 years	556	8.11%	26,219	7.13%	418,329	6.32%
5 to 9 years	670	9.77%	26,784	7.28%	440,339	6.66%
10 to 14 years	521	7.60%	26,862	7.30%	446,271	6.75%
15 to 19 years	426	6.21%	25,409	6.91%	458,738	6.94%
20 to 24 years	301	4.39%	24,964	6.79%	481,290	7.28%
25 to 34 years	934	13.62%	49,580	13.48%	849,743	12.85%
35 to 44 years	1114	16.25%	45,810	12.46%	821,580	12.42%
45 to 54 years	743	10.84%	46,941	12.76%	877,806	13.27%
55 to 59 years	364	5.31%	24,202	6.58%	451,103	6.82%
60 to 64 years	382	5.57%	21,347	5.80%	400,651	6.06%
65 to 74 years	577	8.41%	28,815	7.84%	557,797	8.43%
75 to 84 years	175	2.55%	13,940	3.79%	284,157	4.30%
85 years and over	94	1.37%	6,874	1.87%	126,614	1.91%

Median age (years)	35.3	35.7	37.5
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### 2.3.3 Race

The Town of Huntertown is less diverse than Allen County and Indiana as a whole as 88.5% of the population identify as white according to the ACS. However, it should be noted that over the past several years a large Burmese population has relocated to Huntertown and frequently use the Park. Table 4 below shows the distribution of races in Huntertown, Allen County and Indiana.

**Table 4: Distribution of Race in Huntertown, Allen County, and Indiana**

	Huntertown	Allen County	Indiana
<b>White</b>	6,070	274,344	5,534,759
<b>African American</b>	239	41,406	608,226
<b>Native American</b>	14	602	15,799
<b>Asian</b>	183	12,910	130,232
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	0	126	2,746
<b>Other</b>	4	590	151,500
<b>2 or More Races</b>	347	11,223	146,316
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>6,857</b>	<b>367,747</b>	<b>6,589,578</b>

### 2.3.4 Disabilities

The estimated population living with disabilities of any kind in Huntertown is 9.6% which is lower than that of Allen County (12.4%) and Indiana (13.8%). There is a higher margin of error in the disability estimates for Huntertown (2.1) than Allen County and Indiana (0.3 and 0.1 respectively). The people living with some form of disability in Huntertown are over the age of 35. However, that is not to discount people of all ages and all abilities for use of all Huntertown Family Park facilities and being an amenity for the use of the residents of NW Allen County, the Huntertown Family Park is required in Allen County through the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act. See table 5 for the distribution of people living with a disability in Huntertown, Allen County, and Indiana.

**Table 5: Distribution of Residents Living with a Disability**

Gender and Age	Huntertown	Allen County	Indiana
<b>% of Total Population</b>			
<b>Total population</b>	9.60%	12.40%	13.80%
<b>Under 5 years</b>	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%
<b>5 to 17 years</b>	0.03%	0.12%	1.12%
<b>18 to 34 years</b>	0.03%	1.57%	1.58%
<b>35 to 64 years</b>	5.20%	5.21%	5.74%
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	2.60%	1.84%	2.31%
<b>75 years and over</b>	1.20%	2.46%	3.00%
<b>Disability Type</b>			
<b>Hearing Difficulty</b>	4.60%	3.18%	3.94%
<b>Vision Difficulty</b>	1.20%	1.75%	2.47%

<b>Cognitive Difficulty</b>	1.61%	5.10%	5.19%
<b>Ambulatory Difficulty</b>	5.25%	6.15%	7.20%
<b>Self-Care Difficulty</b>	2.84%	2.14%	2.50%
<b>Independent Living Difficulty</b>	2.14%	4.16%	4.57%

### 2.3.5 Socioeconomic Factors

Median household income in Huntertown is significantly higher than Allen County at approximately 46% higher and Indiana at approximately 43% higher (see Table 6). The percentage of families living in poverty is also significantly lower in Huntertown than Allen County and Indiana at under 11% lower. This is likely due to the highly educated population living within Huntertown as However, it is notable that 96.3% of Huntertown’s adults have graduated from high school, which is significantly more than Allen County and Indiana residents as a whole. Additionally, 28.9% of adult residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher, which is also higher than Allen County of Indiana.

**Table 6: Income and Poverty Levels**

	<b>Huntertown</b>	<b>Allen County</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$74,575	\$49,124	\$48,737
<b>Median Per Capita Income</b>	\$32,241	\$25,485	\$24,593
<b>Per Capita Income as % of National Average</b>	67.90%	89.20%	86.10%
<b><u>Poverty</u></b>			
<b>All Families</b>	3.80%	15.50%	15.50%
<b>Under 18 yrs old</b>	7.10%	22.50%	22.10%
<b>18-64 yrs old</b>	4.70%	14.20%	14.70%
<b>Age 65+</b>	4.00%	6.70%	7.20%
<b><u>Education</u></b>			
<b>High school or greater</b>	96.30%	89.30%	87.60%
<b>Bachelor’s degree or higher</b>	28.90%	26.60%	23.60%

### 2.3.6 Unemployment

According to the US Census Bureau 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the unemployment rate for Huntertown’s population >16 years of age is 1.8%. Allen County has an estimated unemployment rate of 6.3% with a margin of error of +/-0.4% and Indiana has an estimated unemployment rate of 6.1% with a margin of error of +/-0.1%. As can be seen above and in Figure 9, the unemployment rate in Huntertown appears to be much lower than that of the County and State. This is likely due to Huntertown an being affluent “bedroom community” to Fort Wayne.

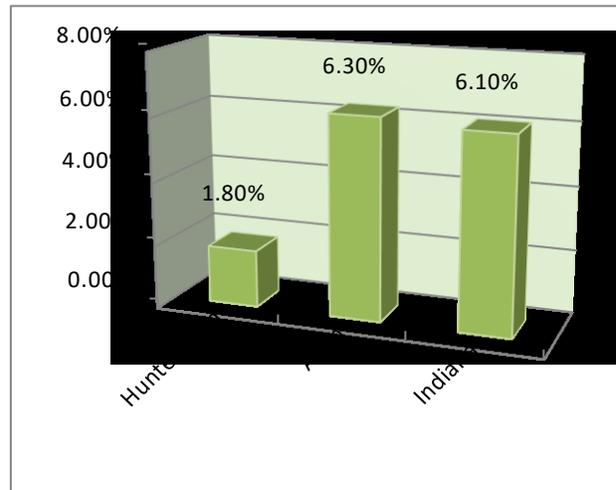
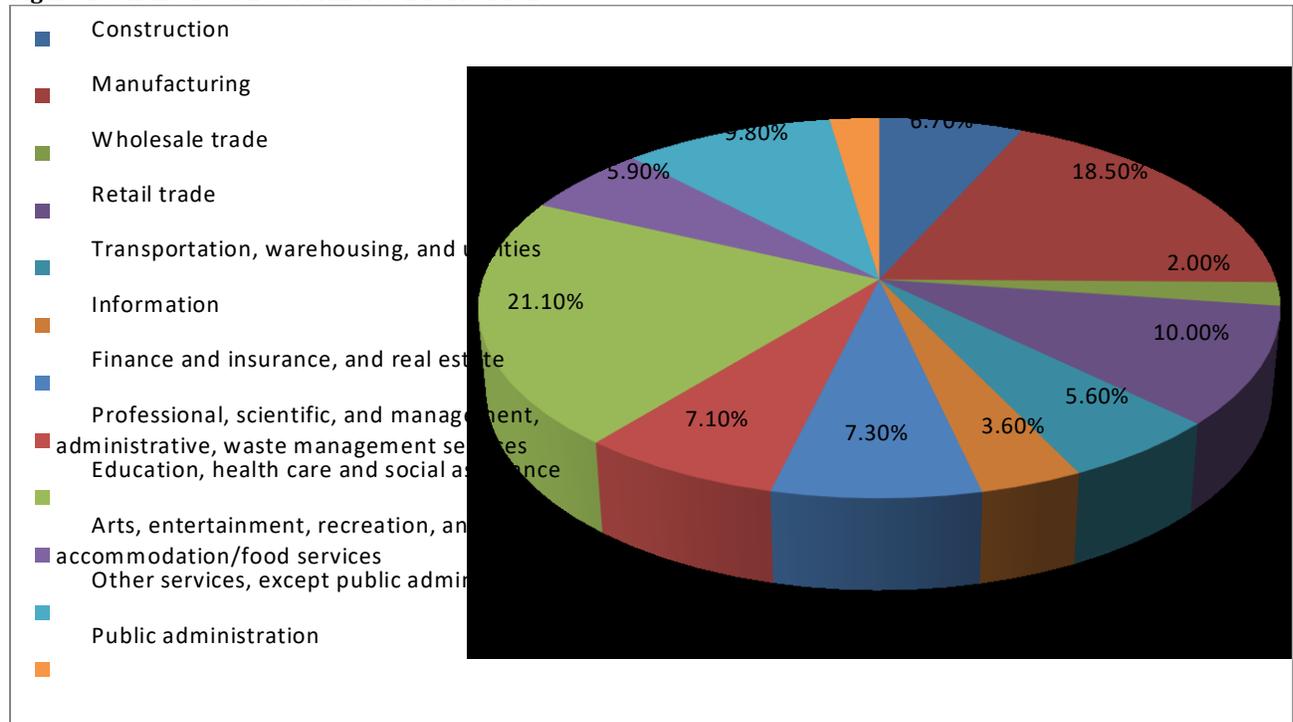


Figure 9: Percent of Population Unemployed

### 2.3.7 Occupations

The top three industries by employee in Huntertown include education, health care, and social assistance (21.10%), manufacturing (18.5%), and retail trade (10%). See Table 7 for details about Huntertown’s workforce and Figure 10 for the various industries Huntertown’s workforce is in. It should be noted that the mean travel time for workers in Huntertown is 25.7 minutes. It should also be noted that the ACS estimates only 5.2% of the residents of Huntertown work in Huntertown. That means that 94.8% of the population commutes outside of their place of residence for work. This implies that Huntertown may need to maintain, or even increase, their quality of place to retain their residents.

**Figure 10: Huntertown's Workforce Distribution**



**Table 7: Workforce Distribution by Occupation**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Civilian employed population 16 years and over</b>	<b>3,188</b>	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	1,241	38.93%
Management, business, and financial occupations:	475	14.90%
Management occupations	355	11.14%
Business and financial operations occupations	120	3.76%
Computer, engineering, and science occupations:	124	3.89%
Computer and mathematical occupations	29	0.91%
Architecture and engineering occupations	89	2.79%
Life, physical, and social science occupations	6	0.19%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations:	339	10.63%
Community and social services occupations	121	3.80%
Legal occupations	39	1.22%
Education, training, and library occupations	135	4.23%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	44	1.38%
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations:	303	9.50%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations	240	7.53%
Health technologists and technicians	63	1.98%
Service occupations:	462	14.49%
Healthcare support occupations	57	1.79%
Protective service occupations:	54	1.69%
Fire fighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors	43	1.35%
Law enforcement workers including supervisors	11	0.35%
Food preparation and serving related occupations	131	4.11%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	58	1.82%
Personal care and service occupations	162	5.08%
Sales and office occupations:	819	25.69%
Sales and related occupations	291	9.13%
Office and administrative support occupations	528	16.56%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations:	231	7.25%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0	0.00%
Construction and extraction occupations	130	4.08%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	101	3.17%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations:	435	13.64%
Production occupations	277	8.69%
Transportation occupations	101	3.17%
Material moving occupations	57	1.79%

### 2.3.8 Access to Exercise Opportunities

According to *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* ([www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)) Allen County ranks 46<sup>th</sup> out of 92 in the state for overall health outcomes. 79% of its population has reasonable access to exercise opportunities. Therefore; Allen County ranks slightly higher than the State of Indiana, as a whole, which estimates 75% of the average population has access to exercise opportunities. However, it should be noted that this may be because Fort Wayne, the County seat, has 87 parks covering 2,805 acres of parkland as well as several YMCAs, private gyms, county parks, and 116 miles of multi-use trails. Indiana top performers range in the 91% for access to exercise. *Note: Individuals are considered to have access to exercise opportunities if they 1) reside in a census block that is within a half mile of a park; 2) reside in an urban census block that is within one mile of a recreational facility; or 3) reside in a rural census block that is within three miles of a recreational facility.*

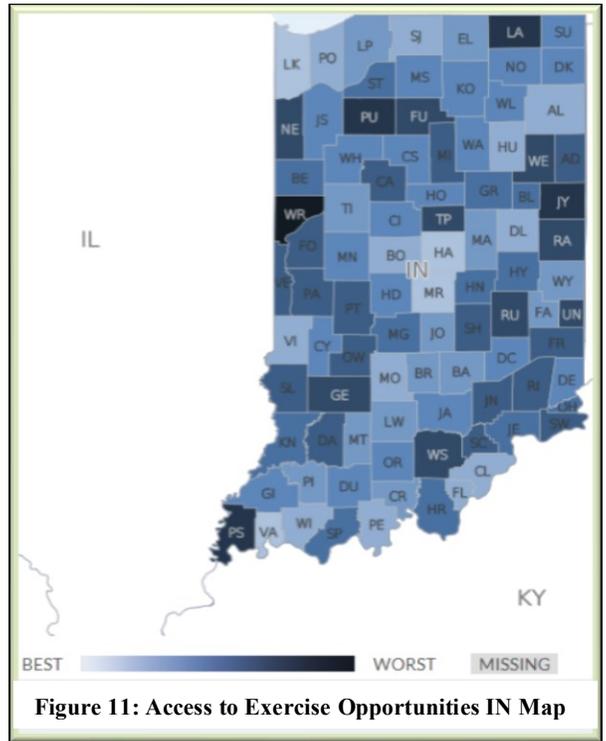


Figure 11: Access to Exercise Opportunities IN Map

Local, state and national parks, and facilities including gyms, community centers, YMCAs, dance studios and pools are included in the “Access to Exercise Opportunities” measure. It should be noted that these facilities are not available in Hometown, with the exception of the Hometown Family Park.

### 2.3.9 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Indiana is currently compiling data to update their 2016 – 2020 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which is a “resource that quantifies and analyzes the state’s outdoor recreation resources for social, environmental, health and economic benefit of citizens statewide”. The SCORP is intended to support local, regional, and state-level recreation decision making, as well as foster research, partnerships and cooperation among users, planners, government officials, nonprofits, and the private sector. It describes how Indiana has set a LOS of 0.02 acres of outdoor recreational space including parks, recreation, and open space available per person.



Figure 12: (SCORP) Local Outdoor Recreation Acres, by County

According to the SCORP, Allen County is short of recreational space available per person by 15%, or 1,089.67 acres.

### ***2.3.10 Summary of Findings***

Below is a summary of the findings related to the social and economic analysis that may have an effect on park planning:

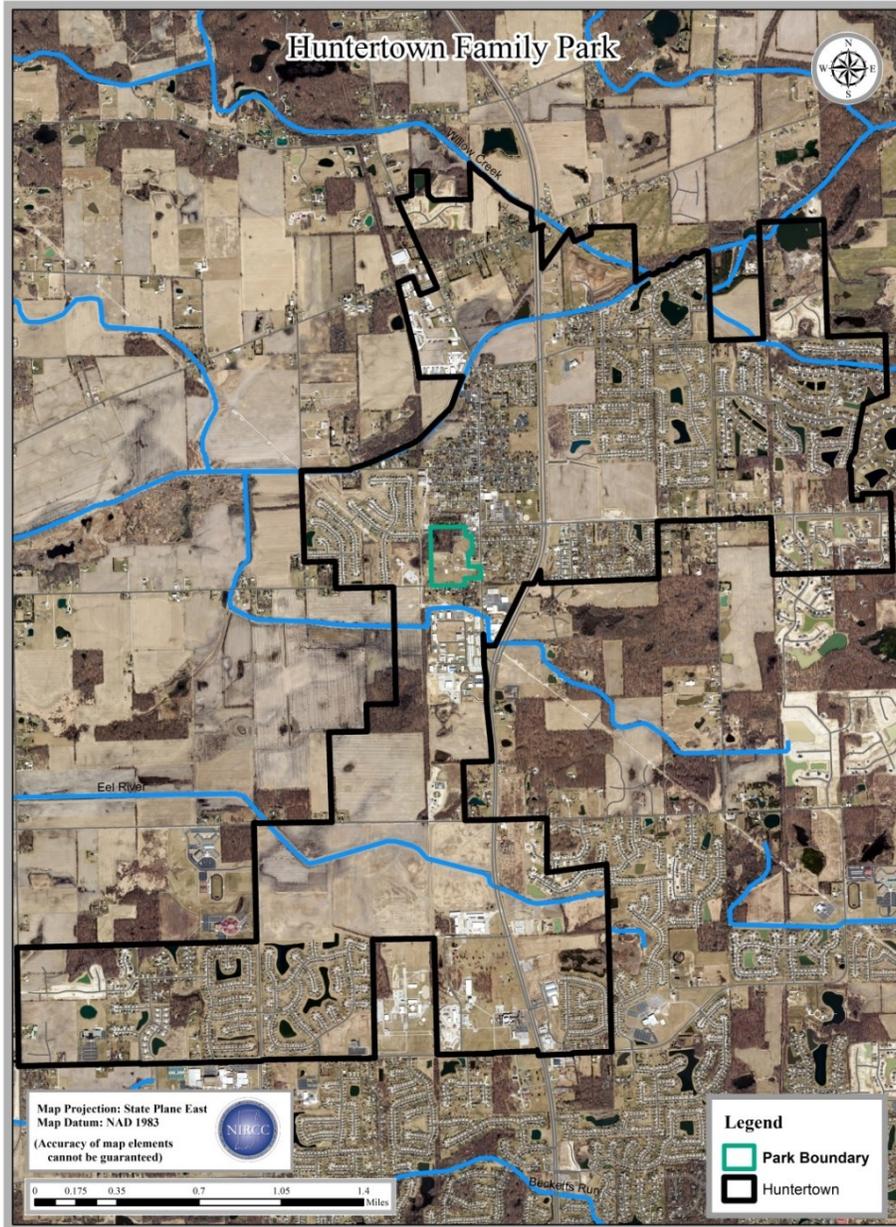
- The population of Huntertown is estimated to have increased nearly 387% since the 2000 Census
- The population is relatively stagnant with only an increase in mean age of 2.2 years since the 2000 census
- The population is mostly white however there is a significant Burmese population living in Huntertown.
- The median age of individuals in Huntertown is younger than the county and state
- The median income per household is significantly higher than the county and state
- The estimated percentage of individuals with disabilities is lower in Huntertown than in Allen County or Indiana, though the margin of error of the estimate is much greater
- The percentage of individuals with a high school diploma is much greater than Allen County and Indiana
- The percentage of individuals with a Bachelor degree or higher in Huntertown is only 1.4% higher than Allen County, but is 3.6% higher than Indiana
- The majority of workers in Huntertown are employed in Management, business, science, and arts occupations
- Access to exercise opportunities is greater in Allen County than much of the state of Indiana; however, since Huntertown does not include facilities included in the evaluation of access to exercise, Huntertown would likely score lower than Allen County as a whole.
- Allen County has been determined to be deficient in outdoor recreation space according to the 2016 - 2020 SCORP.

### 3.0 Inventory

#### 3.1 Parks Located within Huntertown

There is one park located within Huntertown: Huntertown Family Park which is 27.456 acres. The Park Board does own property outside of the town limits that they intend to sell for profit to improve the Huntertown Family Park. This park is available for use by the public whether they are Huntertown residents or not. Figure 11 below shows the location of the Huntertown Family Park.

Figure 11: Town of Huntertown Boundaries



### 3.2 Park History

As described in Section 1, the Huntertown Family Park was purchased by the Town of Huntertown in 2009 and turned over to the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. in 2013. The deed states that if the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. disbands the property gets turned back over to the town.

Nothing was built on the property until 2014 when a storage building was put on site to store lawn equipment and a sidewalk stretching the perimeter of the park was begun. Slowly, other amenities were added to the park. Section 3.3 below is an inventory of park amenities.

### 3.3 Park Facilities

#### 3.3.2 Huntertown Park

##### Huntertown Family Park

Location: Northwest corner of Woods Rd and Old Lima Rd.

Size: Approximately 27.453 Acres

**Figure 12: Park Facilities**

<p><b>Parking Lot (year built: 2012)</b></p> <p>Gravel Parking Lot approximately 3,367 square feet (37' x 91') on the north side of Woods Rd. Sidewalk on north end of parking lot that continues throughout the Park's perimeter. Port-o-John on the east end of parking lot.</p>	
<p><b>Informational Kiosks (year built ?)</b></p> <p>There are two kiosks on the north end of the parking lot. One displays the park's donors and the other is for park announcements. There is also a trash can, doggie bag dispenser and waste receptacle, and a donation box.</p>	

**Little Lending Library (Year Built: ?)**

Located approximately 180 feet east of the parking lot is a little lending library which is a “take a book – leave a book” program where people can leave books they have finished for someone else to enjoy, and pick up a new book to try out at the same time.



**Benches (Year Built: ?)**

There are four benches located along the sidewalk throughout the park. Three of the benches are Memorial benches where people donated to the park either for themselves or in the memory of a loved one and in return they received a plaque engraved to their specifications placed on the benches. One bench is a more simple style bench that does not include a plaque.



**Sidewalk (Year Built: 2014)**

The 6’ wide sidewalks were installed in 2014 and were one of the very first amenities added to the green space. The machine used to install the concrete sidewalks was unable to join the sidewalk segments and the segments have not yet been connected. This is something that will be remedied once funds are available so as to provide a continuous solid and stable surface throughout the park.



**Fire Pits (Year Built: ?)**

**Sitting Area (Year Built: ?)**

**Grill (Year Built: ?)**

There are two large walnut trees in the park, each with a gathering space underneath. The tree on the east side of the park includes three memorial benches, a picnic table, trash can, grill, and fire pit with firewood.

The tree on the west side of the park includes five memorial benches; a trash can, grill, and fire pit and firewood.



**Sand Volleyball Court (Year Built: ?)**

Sand volleyball court with two posts to hang a volleyball net. The court has many weeds and is low on sand not making it easy to dive and slide for the ball. More sand is needed and it needs weeded or the land should be converted to an amenity that will be used more frequently.



**Dog Park (Year Built: 2015)**

The dog park is the only free park for dogs within Allen County. It is fairly large at 100' X 100' and it has several obstacles for the dogs to play on as well as a pergola with two benches for dog owners to observe their animals and stay out of the sun. The dog park is used frequently.



**Area prepped for baseball diamond**

**(Year Built: ?)**

The northwest corner of the open green space in the park has been prepped to be turned into a baseball diamond. There used to be bases and a pitcher's mound, however those are no longer present and the area is becoming overgrown with grass and weeds. Local residents cut into the ground to form a make-shift pickleball court and the Burmese population frequently use this space for a different game that also involves using a net.



**Wooded Trail (Year Built: ?)**

There are approximately 8.2 acres of wooded wetland present in the northern portion of the park. Dirt and mulch paths have been formed through the woodland area. There are two interpretive signs located in the woods identifying dead Ash and Elm trees and discussing the invasive insects that killed them.



**Learning Shed (Year Built: 2018)  
Windmill (Donated and erected: 2017)**

The 20' x 24' shed was built to serve dual purposes including storage, and a learning center so that programs could be held there. It is a large open space inside. The building is not ADA compliant as there is not a solid and hard surface leading to the building from the sidewalk. Additionally, the entry to the building is not a flat and solid surface and does not meet ADA requirements.

The windmill is a donation from the historic local Fitch farm. It was assessed by an antique windmill expert and it is one of only a few windmills like it left in the area.



**Storage Shed (Year Built: 2016)**

The 12' x 12' shed was donated to the park and installed on site in early 2016. It stores park equipment.



**Amphitheater (Year Built: 2017)**

The amphitheater was built by volunteers. The project began in 2015 and was completed in 2017. The seating area is approximately 115' wide at its widest point. The concrete stage is 40' wide and 35' long at its longest point and 30' long at the edges.

There is not currently a sound system installed, but one has recently been purchased and will be ready for use in the 2020 recreational season.



**Open Air Pavilions (Year Built: 2015)**

There are two identical open air pavilions near the playground and concession building. The pavilions are 20' x 20' and each have four large picnic tables, and one child size picnic table. The pavilions can be rented for \$30 each or for \$50 for both. If they are not rented for a private event, they are open for the enjoyment of the public.

While the pavilions have a hard and solid surface, there is not a solid surface connecting to the concrete pad to the sidewalks so there is not a direct path for individuals to get from the parking lot to the pavilions. Additionally, there is not an ADA picnic table present.



**Concession/storage Building  
(Year Built: 2018)**

This concrete block building has a rolling window that can be used for concessions and two drinking fountains of different heights on the front. It has a rolling garage door on the west side of the building and two ADA compliant restrooms on the back side of the building. The building is a shell and is used for storage of tables, and chairs, as well as other park supplies.



**Playground (Year Built: 2015)**

The playground was erected in 2015 and is comprised of two child and two infant swings, a slide, two spring horses, a small climbing dome, and sand box. The play equipment is mostly geared toward younger children. The surface of the playground is mulched and confined to an area by 10" black plastic barricades. The playground is not ADA compliant as there is not a hard and solid surface at the playground, or leading to the playground from the parking area or sidewalks.



There are two benches located on the edges of the playground.

**Horseshoes (Year Built: 2015)**

There are two Horseshoe pits located east of the park pavilions. Players must have their own horseshoes to play the game.



**GaGa Ball Pit (Year Built: 2015)**

The Gaga ball pit was installed, along with a rules sign, in 2015. It is made of wood and was repainted by volunteers in the summer of 2019. The rules sign is currently in need of repair. The ball is not included so players must bring their own ball



**Rain Garden with Educational Signage (Year Built: 2019)**

A raingarden was designed and installed by a local Master Gardener in the summer of 2019. The garden includes stepping stones so people can enter the garden to interact with it. There is also an interpretive sign at the rain garden to explain its purpose.

The rain garden will collect stormwater runoff from the concrete pad around the pavilions.



**Donor Pavers (Year Built: 2018)**

To recognize the generous donors to the Huntertown Family Park, a space was created to showcase the names of the individuals, families, and businesses who donated. The concrete patio for the pavilions includes an area with engraved pavers.



There are several areas within the park that have construction materials including pipes, drains, fencing, concrete blocks, crushed stone, and other materials that should be cleared out of the space or barricaded in for public safety. Therefore, additional material such as fencing or an additional storage building may be necessary.

### **3.4 Park Programming**

The Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. Board and volunteers do not currently offer regular park programming. However, the park was utilized in 2019 by the local YMCA for a summer youth camp and the Summit City Disc Dogs Club started utilizing the park for its programs in 2019.

There is interest in offering regular concerts and movies in the park once the sound system is available at the amphitheater.

The Huntertown Park Board sponsors the Annual Lighting of the Christmas tree annually and has hosted two Day in the Park events as mentioned in Section 2. The Park Board would like to sponsor more community events in the future once they have the capacity to do so.

### **3.5 Other Recreational Facilities**

There are limited recreational opportunities in Huntertown directly. Beyond the Huntertown Family Park, the Lions Club hosts a baseball league near the Huntertown Elementary school on Gump Rd. The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne is located 4.7 miles from the Huntertown Family Park and offers programs for a fee, and has a play area with separate equipment for children of different ages. The City of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department occasionally offers summer programs in NW Fort Wayne. However, it is often still a 15 or more minute drive to the program location. Therefore, it is essential for the Huntertown Family Park to meet the needs of the growing Huntertown population.

### **3.6 Accessibility and Universal Design**

The Town of Huntertown is responsible to ensure that all activities and facilities offered by the local government are accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities. However, since the park is not owned by the Town, it is the responsibility of the Park Board to ensure that the Park's amenities meet ADA requirements. The Park Board is committed to ensure that all new facilities and renovations are constructed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### **3.6.1 ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan**

On January 21, 2013 the Town Council adopted the *Town of Huntertown's Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan* written by the consulting firm DLZ. However, since the Town does not own the Park it was not included in the Transition Plan. The Transition Plan did note that curbs and sidewalks throughout the town will need to be improved to meet ADAG and PROWAG standards. These updates throughout the Town will improve access to the Park as well.

An evaluation of the Park in Huntertown by NIRCC staff indicate that the park is not compliant with ADA regulations and as improvements are made, they will need to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ADA requirements.

#### **3.6.2 ADA Contact**

Information regarding the ADA nondiscriminatory requirements and accessible facilities programs and services in the Park should be directed to the Park Board President; those for the Town can be

acquired by contacting the Town of Huntertown's ADA Coordinator. Additionally, any grievances can be directed to the Park Board President for park related grievances or the ADA Coordinator for Huntertown regarding Town related grievances. Their contact information is below:

Beth Shellman  
Town Manager and ADA Coordinator  
PO Box 95  
15617 Lima Road  
Huntertown, IN 46748  
260-637-5058

Dan Holmes  
Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc.  
Board President  
PO Box 142  
Huntertown, IN 46748  
260-437-8358

## 4.0 Public Participation

Since the Huntertown Family Park is new within the last seven years, all amenities within the park are also new to the park, though not necessarily new materials. Most improvements have been made through generous donations of time, money, and skills. However, now that the park is becoming more established within the community it is important to make sure the improvements to the park meet the needs and wants of the community. Therefore, it was imperative to reach out directly to those who live near, and utilize the park for their input on how to make the park something everyone will love.

Public participation in the park planning process was conducted using several different means of data collection including an online public survey that was advertised in the Huntertown utility bills, in social media posts, at local shops, and requested to be advertised in the *Journal Gazette* and local *Northwest Allen News*. Additionally, the survey was advertised at the 2019 Heritage Days and people were given the opportunity to identify their preferences for improving the park at that annual Festival.

### 4.1 Public Meetings

The Huntertown Park board has historically met weekly as the park was new and many decisions needed to be made. The Park Board meetings have always been open to the public. However, there are currently only two Park Board members, Dan and Marcia Holmes, so they are not holding regular meetings. The 5-Year Master Park Planning Committee has been meeting monthly for the duration of the planning process. Sign in sheets and agendas for the planning meetings are in Appendix A. The Action Register in Section 5 of this Plan will address regular “housekeeping” that will need to be done in the future to establish a fully functional Park Board and for the Park Board to maintain transparency and consensus building in all decisions made for the Huntertown Family Park. There was not a specific public meeting held for the development of this plan, but rather the public was encouraged to participate in the planning process by providing their input on the park at the annual Huntertown Heritage Days festival held at the Park each year and by participating in the online park survey. The public was more engaged in providing input in this manner than is often seen at regular public meetings.

#### 4.1.1 Town Council Meeting

While the Huntertown Family Park is not part of the Huntertown Government, it is important that the Town Council stay involved in the Park as is primarily used by Huntertown residents and because there is a caveat in the deed stating the park land will be returned to the town should the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. disband. The Town Manager was on the Park Planning Committee and has been keeping the Town Council up to date on the planning process. The Council members each participated in the public input survey, as well as prioritized their desires for the park based on the results of the public survey. The Town Manager compiled the Council’s prioritization and presented their responses as one unit and is included in Section 4.3.

#### 4.1.2 Park Plan Public Meeting

As discussed above, a specific public meeting was not held. The IN Department of Natural Resources, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner was contacted to discuss alternative methods to gathering public input and notifying the public of the planning process for the Park. It was decided that having a booth at the annual Hunteertown Heritage days could serve as an alternate means of hosting an official public meeting due to the number of people that could be reached at the event. The Hunteertown Heritage Days annual festival was held August 8 - 11, 2019 and had various events at several different locations throughout Hunteertown, though the majority of the events were held at the Hunteertown Family Park.

The Park Board attended the annual Lions' Club Fish Fry on August 9, 2019 and presented information about the Hunteertown Family Park and the planning process. The public was then asked to identify their top three choices for new amenities to be added to the Park from a list of amenities the Park Board identified as possible additions. While the attendees at the fish fry were an older demographic, the top priorities included a splash pad (26); community building/indoor pavilion (17); and additional parking (11). The Park Board also had a booth at the Park during Heritage Days on Saturday, August 10, 2019. The Board was able to speak with several festival attendees about the mission of the Park Board and the planning process for future park development. Again, the public was asked to identify their top three priorities for the future of the park. Keeping in mind the demographic of the attendees at the Heritage Days festival at the park was families, overwhelmingly the number one priority was a splash pad with 65 votes; the next top three priorities include a basketball court (19); volleyball court (18); and baseball field (18).

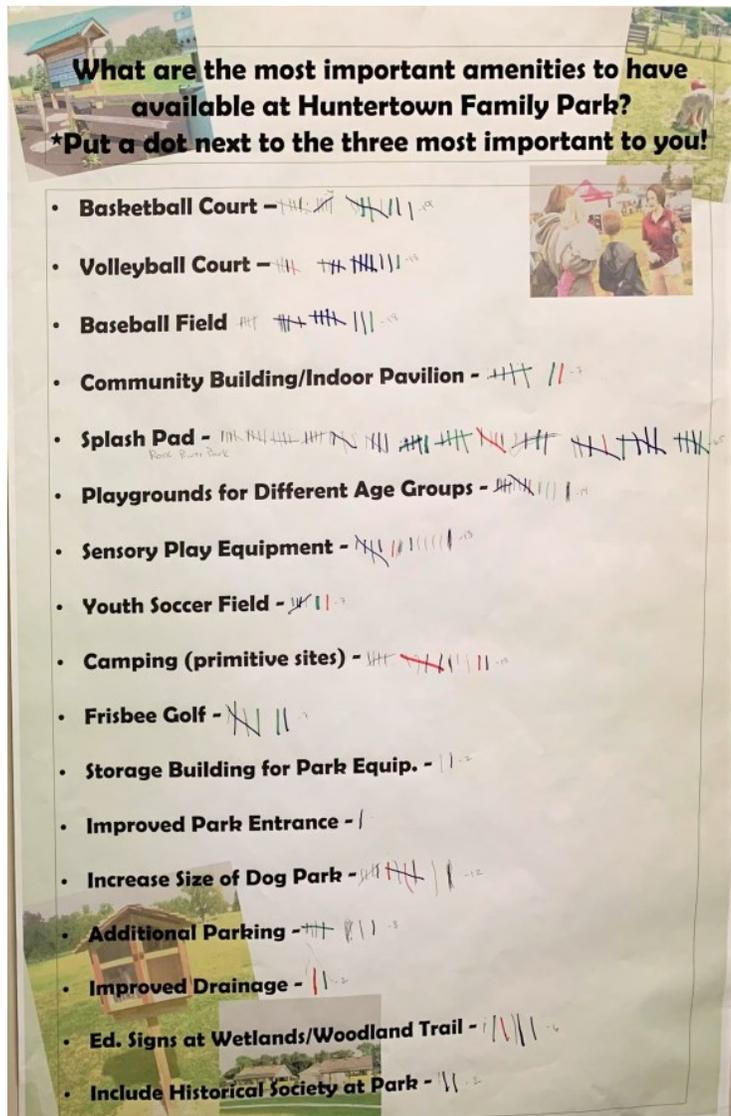


Table eight below shows the votes given to each amenity at the two community events mentioned above. As can be seen in the table, splash pad was voted number one by both demographics represented. However, among the other amenities listed, the two demographics did not agree on the importance of them.

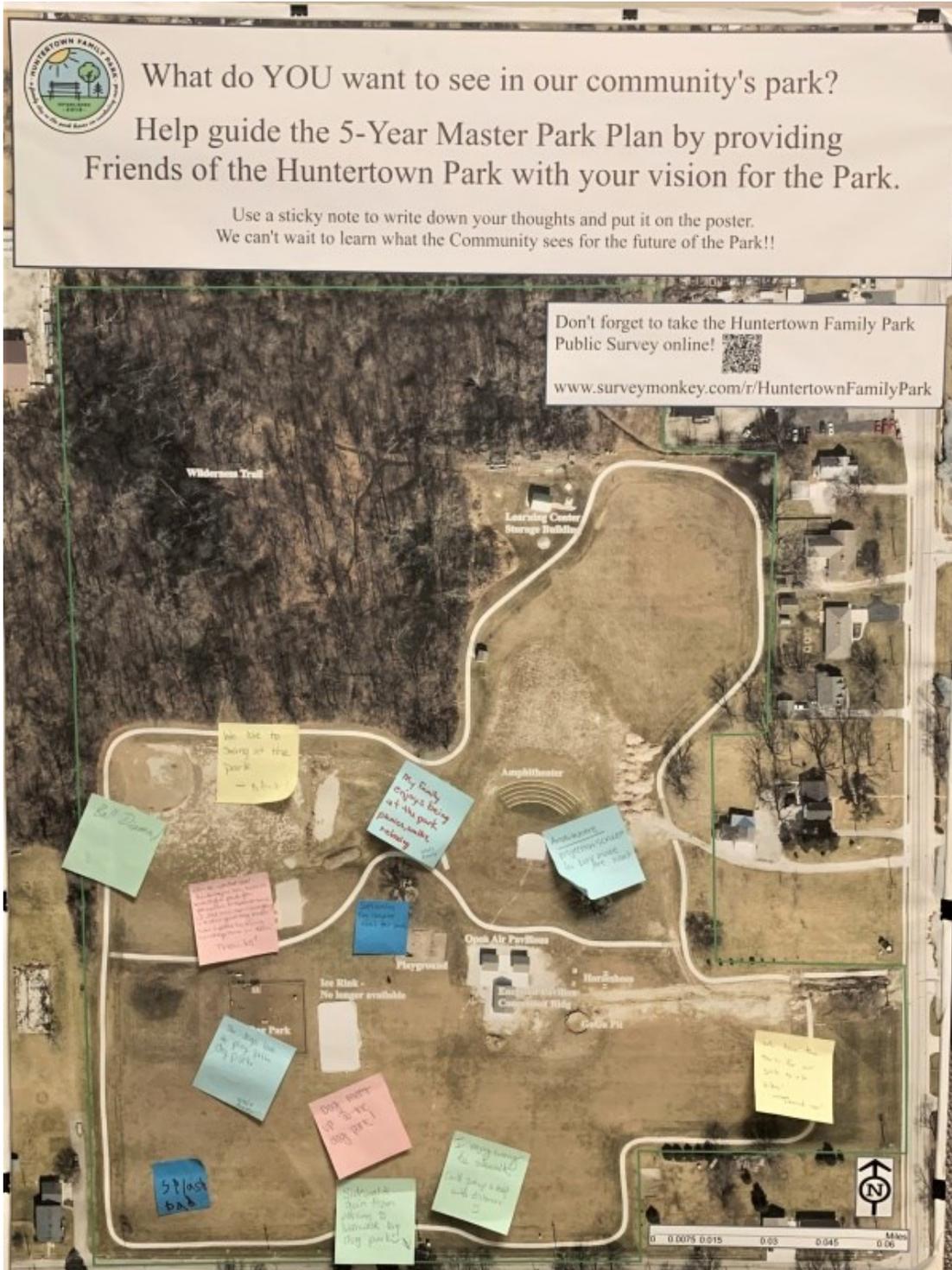
**Table 8: Results of Public Interactions at Heritage Days**

Amenity	Votes (08-09-19)	Votes (08-10-19)	Total
	Demographic- 50+	Demographic - Families	
<b>Splash Pad</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Community Building/Indoor Pavilion</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Playgrounds for Different Age Groups</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Basketball Court</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Volleyball Court</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>
Baseball Field	1	18	19
Sensory Play Equipment	6	13	19
Additional Parking	11	8	19
Increase Size of Dog Park	5	12	17
Primitive Camping	1	15	16
Ed. Signs at Wetlands/Woodland Trail	6	6	12
Frisbee Golf	4	7	11
Youth Soccer Field	1	7	8
Improved Drainage	3	2	5
Storage Building for Park Equipment	2	2	4
Include Historical Society at Park	2	2	4
Improved Park Entrance	2	1	3

(top priorities according to the public input at Heritage Days Festival are in bold)

In addition to the public identifying their priorities as described above, the public was given the opportunity to include additional thoughts on park improvements by writing a note on a sticky-pad and placing it on a large aerial photo of the park. Some additional thoughts on the park included putting up a projector and screen for free movie nights at the amphitheater, connector trails throughout the park, arranging a dog meet up at the dog park, and signage along the trail that identify various distances. However, several notes just mentioned how much the park is loved with statements like “we love to swing at the park”, “I’m glad my mom has a place to bring her dogs here in town”, and “we love the trails for our girls to ride bikes”. Figure 13 is a picture of the board with comment post-its placed on it.

Figure 13: Most Important Amenities Identified at Heritage Days Festival



## 4.2 Public Surveys

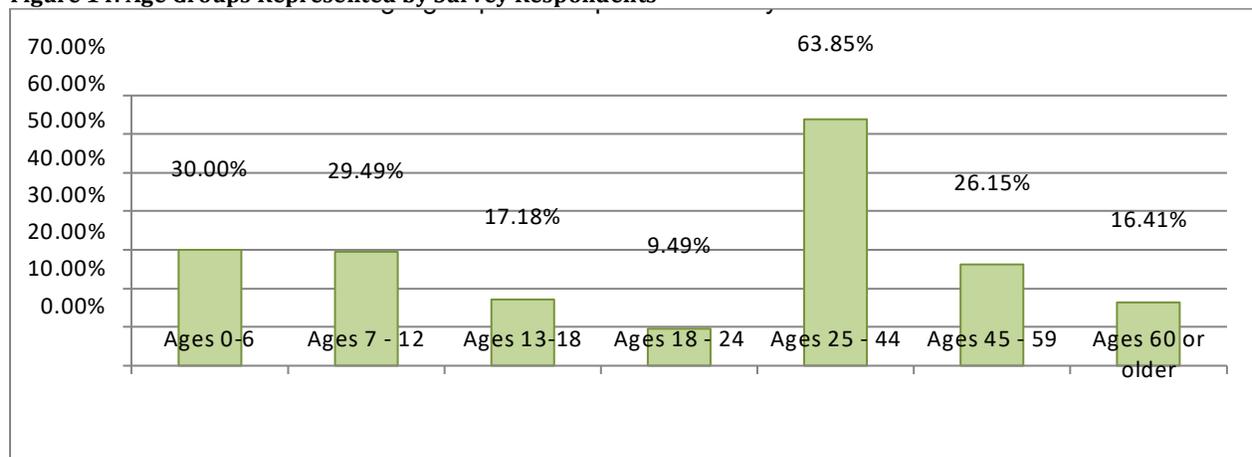
Two anonymous public surveys were created by the Park Planning Committee to determine the public's desires for the park, as well as understand what the public feels is most important for the park. One survey was created for adults and the other was created for youth, specifically grades 3 – 5). The surveys were created using Survey Monkey and were available only online unless otherwise requested. The below sections describe the surveys and their results.

### 4.2.1 Adult Public Survey

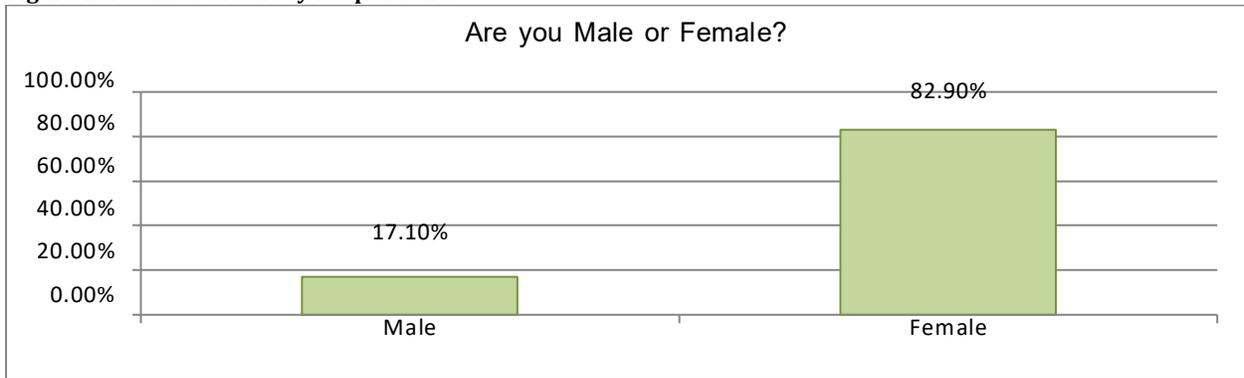
The link to the adult survey was shared via social media (i.e. Facebook), the Park website ([www.huntertownfamilypark.com](http://www.huntertownfamilypark.com)), in two of the Huntertown water utility bills, at local churches, at local businesses, and by word of mouth. The survey was three pages long and 16 questions with an average completion time of five minutes. There were 390 responses to the adult survey (5.7% of the population of Huntertown), and a 70% completion rate.

Of the surveys disseminated, all of the respondents identified the age groups represented in their household and it can be determined that the age group of those that completed the most surveys were between the ages of 25 and 44 (N=249). The next largest age group to complete the survey was between 45 and 59 years old (N=102). The adults who completed the survey represented 299 children 18 years old or younger. The respondents were overwhelmingly female at 82.9% of the 386 respondents were. The park is utilized by individuals and families that live outside of Huntertown, however 86.7% of the respondents live in the same township; Perry Township, and 59.74% of respondents live within the Town limits. Figures 14 - 16 below show the basic demographics of the individuals who completed the survey.

**Figure 14: Age Groups Represented by Survey Respondents**



**Figure 15: Gender of Survey Respondents**



**Figure 16: Where Survey Respondents Live**

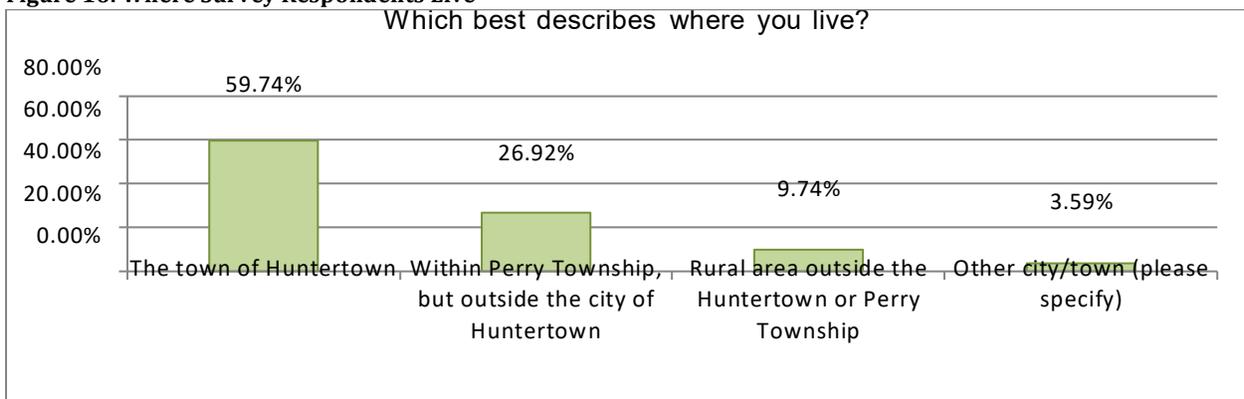
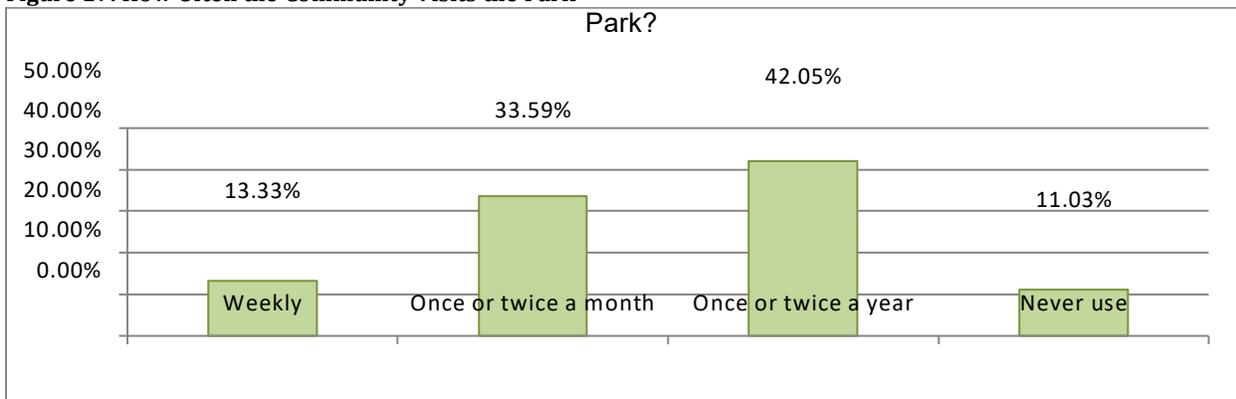


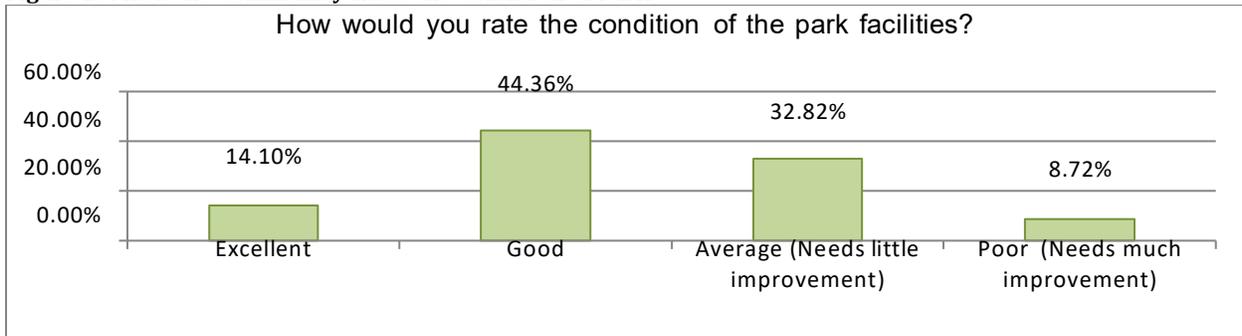
Figure 17 shows how often respondents use the park. As can be seen in the table below, many people use the park only once or twice per year (N=164). It can be assumed they come to the park during larger events such as the Huntertown Heritage Days, Lighting of the Christmas Tree, or for the Walk to Remember. However, 131 respondents said they use the park once or twice monthly, and 52 said they use it weekly. It is assumed those who use the park weekly live nearby the park.

**Figure 17: How Often the Community Visits the Park**



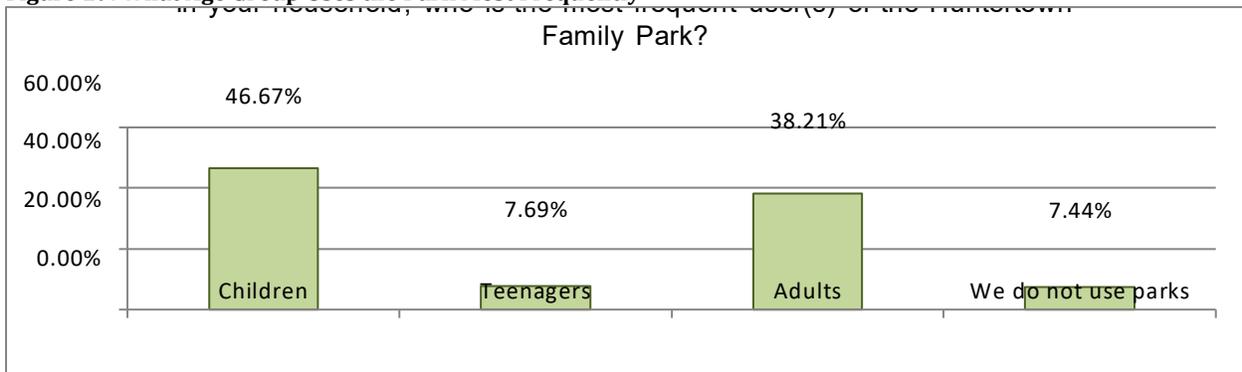
The survey asked how individuals rated the condition of the park. Most respondents noted the park is in good condition (N=173) though 44.4% of respondents said the park was either average (N=128) or poor (N=34). Fifty-five respondents said the park was in excellent condition. Table 18 below shows how respondents rated the condition of the park.

**Figure 18: How the Community Rates the Condition of Park**



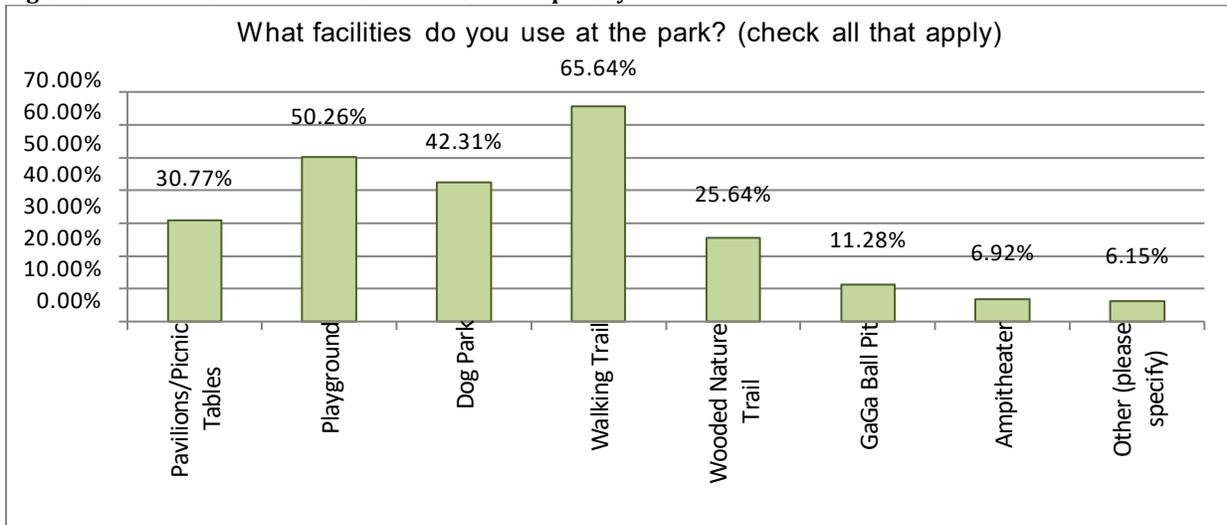
Survey participants were asked who in their household utilize the park the most. Respondents answered that children and adults use the park most frequently at 182 and 149 respectively. Only 30 respondents answered that teenagers use the park, and 29 said they do not use the park. Figure 19 shows how respondents answered who in their household use the park most frequently.

**Figure 19: What Age Group Uses the Park Most Frequently**



It is important to understand what facilities are currently being used at the park, so the Park Board can better understand what should be kept, renovated, upgraded, or removed all together. Therefore the survey included a question about which facilities currently at the park are used. The most used amenity is the walking trail around the park (N=256), other frequently used amenities include the pavilions/picnic area (N=120), playground (N=196), dog park (N=165), and nature trail through the woods. The results of this question can be found in Figure 20. Twenty-four respondents wrote in answers including those presented in Table 9.

**Figure 20: What Park Facilities are Used Most Frequently**

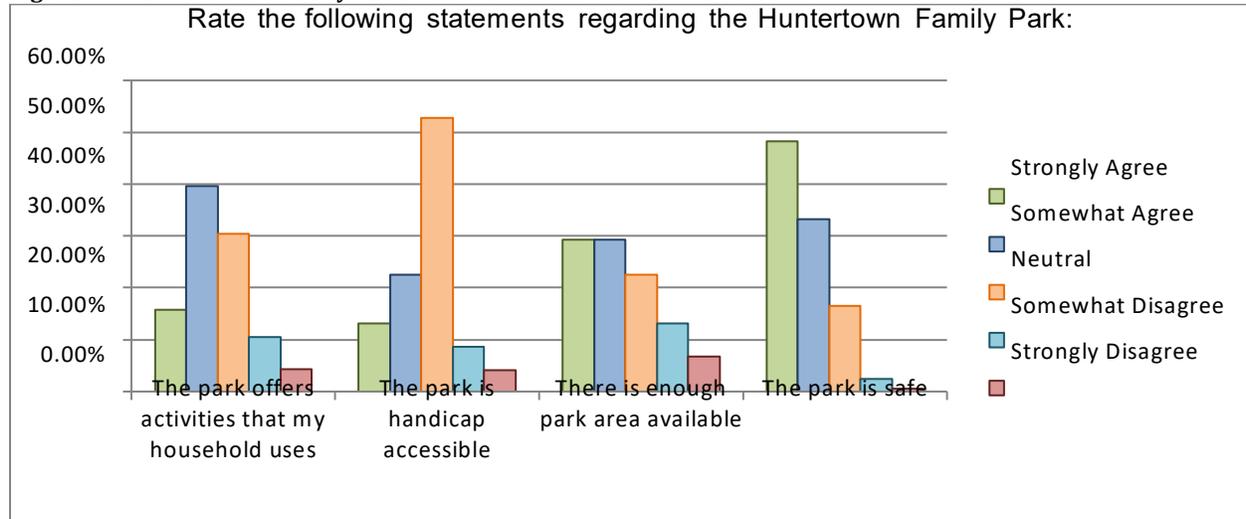


**Table 9: What Facilities are Used at the Park - Write-Ins**

What Facilities Do You Use at the Park - Write Ins	Number
Have not used it before	2
Ball diamonds	2
Only come to Heritage days carnival	3
Little Library	2
Horse shoe Pit	2
Ice Rink (the park no longer has this)	2
We've not used it because it doesn't seem like there's is much to do/or in bad shape	2
Fire pits	1
I used to walk the trails but they flood too often.	1
Open space	1
Food trucks	1
Have only come to see Santa.	1
Port a potty	1

To better understand how the public feels about the park and how they utilize it, the survey included a question about their level of agreement with four specific questions including whether the park offers suitable activities, it is handicap accessible, it offers enough space, and if the park is safe. Figure 21 shows the result of that survey question. Results indicate that most respondents believe the park is safe, many believe the park is large enough, and that it has activities they use. Most respondents answered they are neutral about whether or not the park is handicap accessible. When individuals answer neutral it is usually because they do not know for sure or do not have a need for the item being asked about.

**Figure 22: How the Community Feels About the Park and its Amenities**

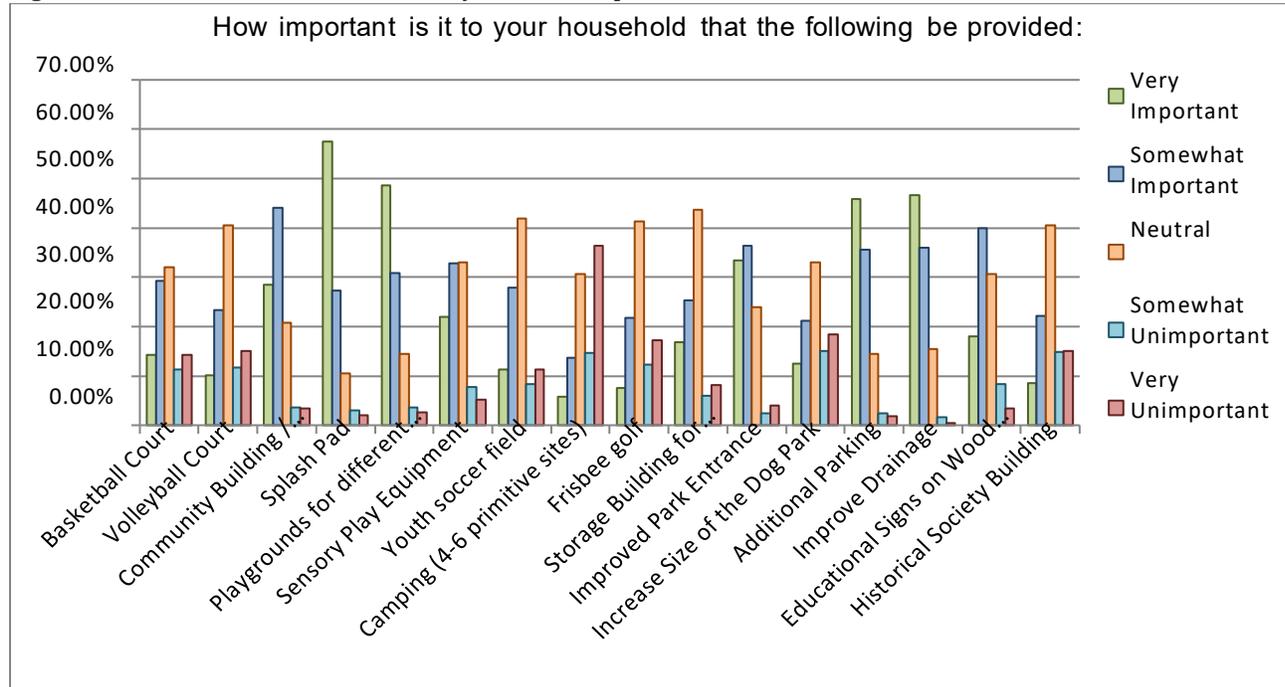


At the beginning of the planning process, the Park Planning Committee identified amenities they felt were either important, or may be interesting to add to the Huntertown Family Park. The public was then asked in the survey how important it is that these potential amenities be added to the Park. Overwhelmingly, the public feels adding a splash pad to the park is important as 329 of the survey respondents indicated as much, and 223 of those indicated adding a splash pad was very important to them. Additional parking and improved drainage were also important as 314 and 319 respondents, respectively indicated it was important to address those issues in the park. Finally, another important amenity to be added to the park according to the public survey participants is playgrounds geared toward different age groups (N=307). More respondents indicated it was very important to add age appropriate playgrounds (N=188) than to add parking (N=177) or improve drainage (N=180). The suggested amenities that were found to be somewhat or very unimportant to the survey respondents include primitive camping sites (N=195), increasing the size of the dog park (N=129), Frisbee golf (N=113), putting in an historical society building (N=115), and a volleyball court (N=101). Results of the survey question of which amenities are most important to add to the park are below in Figure 23.

Survey participants were given the option of writing in additional amenities which are shown below in Table 10. The most desired amenity was a public pool with 17 write-ins. Additional write-

ins include connecting and adding sidewalks, adding shade and drinking fountains at the dog park, and adding a basketball court.

**Figure 23: What Amenities the Community Feels are Important to Install**



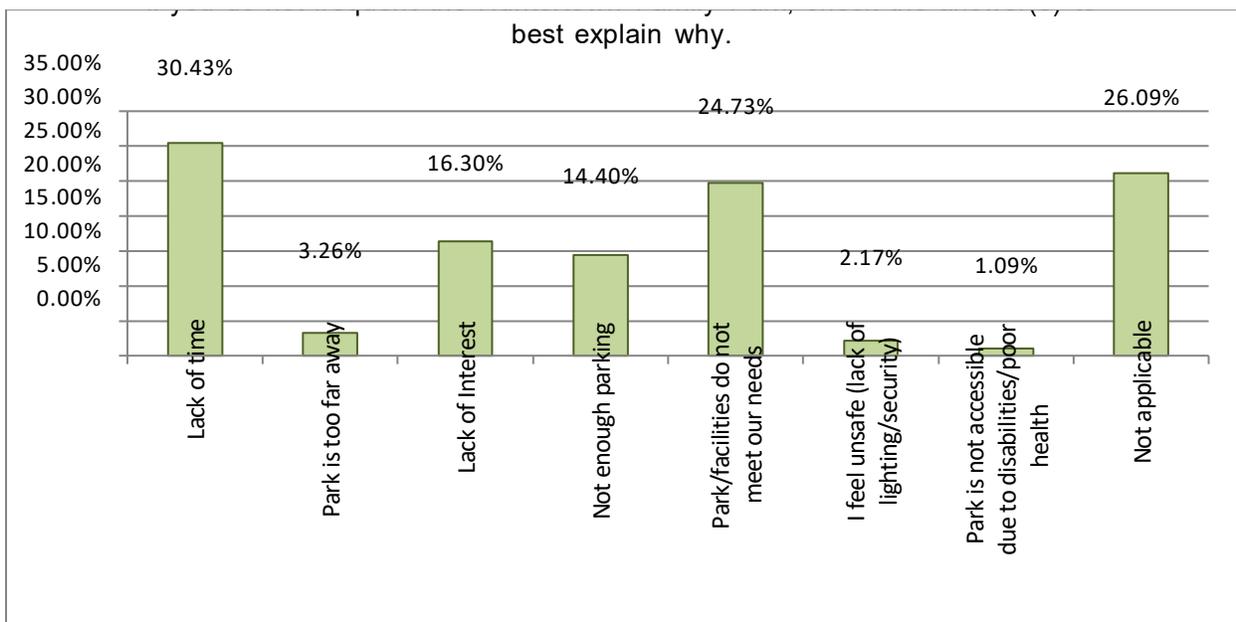
**Table 10: What Amenities to Add to the Park - Write-Ins**

How important is it to your household that the Huntertown Family Park provide the following:	Number
pool	17
Having all the sidewalks connected	4
More shade in the dog park and accessible drinking water in the dog park for dogs.	4
Sidewalks in front on house leading to Towne Square.	3
Hockey rink/Ice Rink	2
A direct sidewalk from the parking space to the playground would be helpful. It's difficult to drag 2+ small kids that far with or without a stroller.	2
Basketball is a must at a town park in my opinion. Especially in Indiana	2
Make all woodland paths better	1
I think the park should host more special events. Examples: concert in the park, jack-o-lantern walk, scavenger hunt, etc.	1
Adult outdoor exercise equipment!	1
Huntington has a Pump Trax for bikes and scooters. It provides great exercise and is a lot of fun. I really wish we'd have a pump track in Huntertown. Look it up. Pumptraxusa.com	1
Frisbee golf would be awesome, love the idea of camping sites too...also things like cement ping pong tables, corn hole etc. would be awesome. Adult swing benches are awesome also	1

How important is it to your household that the Huntertown Family Park provide the following:	Number
badminton	1
Need to move Huntertown baseball diamonds out there. Utilize park more and then Huntertown elem. can add in to their building.	1
Easier path for to get to dog park. Separate fenced in areas for large and small dogs	1
Sledding hill	1
Handicapped playground equipment would be great!	1
Would like to see use of the amphitheater space. As a thespian, I would be interested to know how to utilize the facility for plays, musicals or other theatrical events	1
Parking and access by biking or foot are the top two priorities in our opinion. Link to surrounding subdivisions via trails would increase usage. Maybe some Fall concerts?	1
A bathroom that isn't locked all the time is needed. Who wants to go to the park and can't use a decent bathroom	1
Add signage along Old Lima Rd.	1

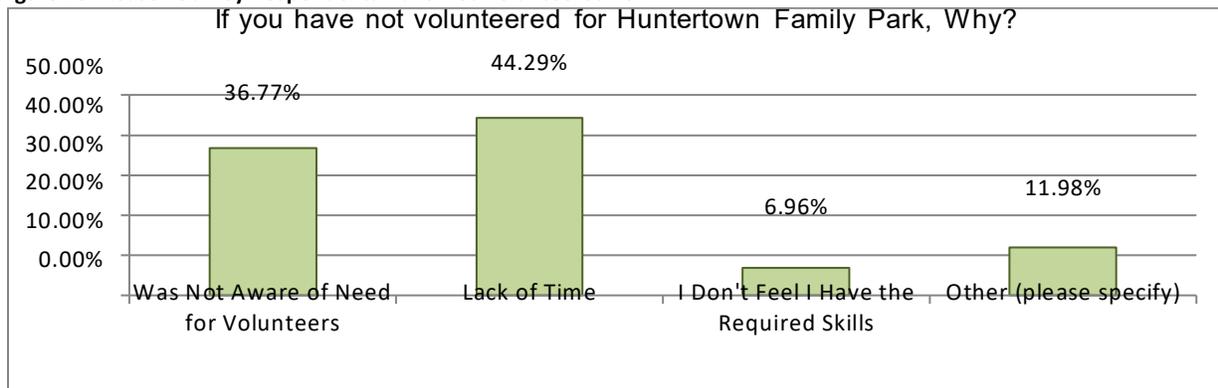
The survey included a question to determine why people do not go to the park more often. This will help the Park Board understand why 42% of the respondents answered that they only go to the park only once or twice a year. More respondents indicated they do not have enough time to go to the park (N=112), but of significance is that 91 respondents indicated the park does not meet their needs. Additionally, 60 respondents answered they lack interest in the park, and 53 respondents answered they don't go because of the lack of parking. Twenty-two survey participants skipped this question. Figure 24 shows the responses to the question of why people do not go to the park.

Figure 24: Reasons Why the Community Does Not Go To the Park More



Since the Friends of Hunteertown Family Parks, Inc. is a not-for-profit with very little budget, it only functions because of volunteers. Therefore, it was important to learn how many of the survey participants have volunteered for the park before, and if they have not volunteered, why. Of the 375 respondents to the question, 342 answered they had never volunteered for the Park before. When asked why people had not volunteered, the overwhelming answers were lack of time (N=159) and was not aware there was a need for volunteers (N=132). Survey participants were also given the option of writing in why they had not volunteered for the park before. There were 43 write-ins which include answers such as apathy (N=9), health issues (N=7), and busy caring for young children (N=3). Figure 25 shows how survey participants answered the question as to why they do not volunteer for the park, and Table 11 shows the write-in answers to the question.

**Figure 25: Reason Survey Respondents Have Not Volunteered For**



**Table 11: Reason for Not Volunteering – Write-Ins**

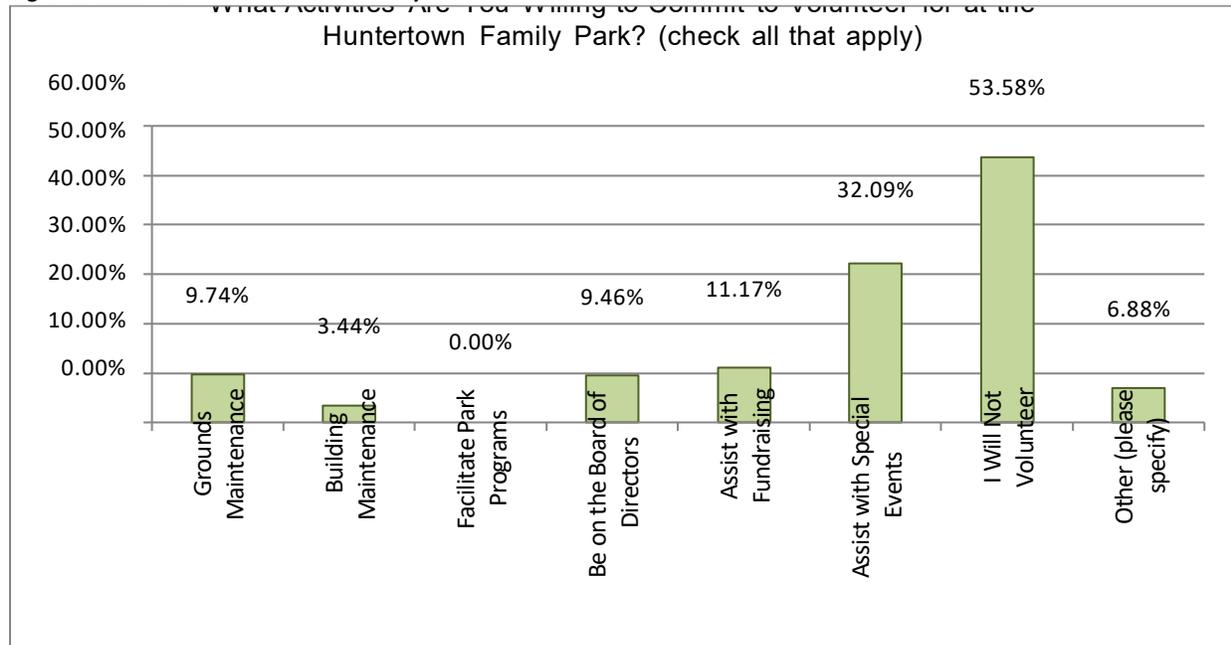
If you have not volunteered for Hunteertown Family Park, Why?	Number
apathy	9
health issues	7
Caring for Young Children	3
Just moved here	2
Age	2
Unsure if it could fit in schedule	1
I did not know about volunteering	1
Too busy at home	1
Haven't internally committed...need to just do it	1
What is needed?	1
Seems like a waste if the park is going to remain uninteresting, old, unkempt grassy areas	1
Seemed that park leadership had a narrow agenda, doing mostly what they wanted. For example, why build a pergola at a dog park? Not bad to look at but not much utility.	1
Just lazy	1
Pregnant and not helpful when I saw volunteer opportunities	1
Unsure of what was needed	1
I may	1

If you have not volunteered for Huntertown Family Park, Why?	Number
Live out of Town	1
The posted times on FB did not meet my schedule to do so	1
Husband involved	1
Filled out info online but never contacted	1

When asked if they would volunteer, 187 of the 349 respondents to this question indicated they would not be willing to volunteer at the park. However, 112 respondents indicated they would volunteer to assist with special events, 39 indicated they would assist with fundraising, and 34 indicated they would assist with grounds maintenance. Twenty-Four survey participants wrote in answers regarding what they are or are not willing to volunteer for at the park. Six respondents wrote in they are not willing to volunteer at this time, but other activities mentioned were environmental programs, financial support for the dog park, and softball administration. Figure 26 is a graph of what the respondents indicated they would volunteer for, and Table 12 shows what activities were written in as possible volunteer opportunities.

There was space in the survey for participants to leave their contact information if they were interested in volunteering for the park. Eighty-five survey participants shared their information with the Park Board in the hopes of volunteering for the park.

**Figure 26: What Activities the Community Will Volunteer For at the Park**

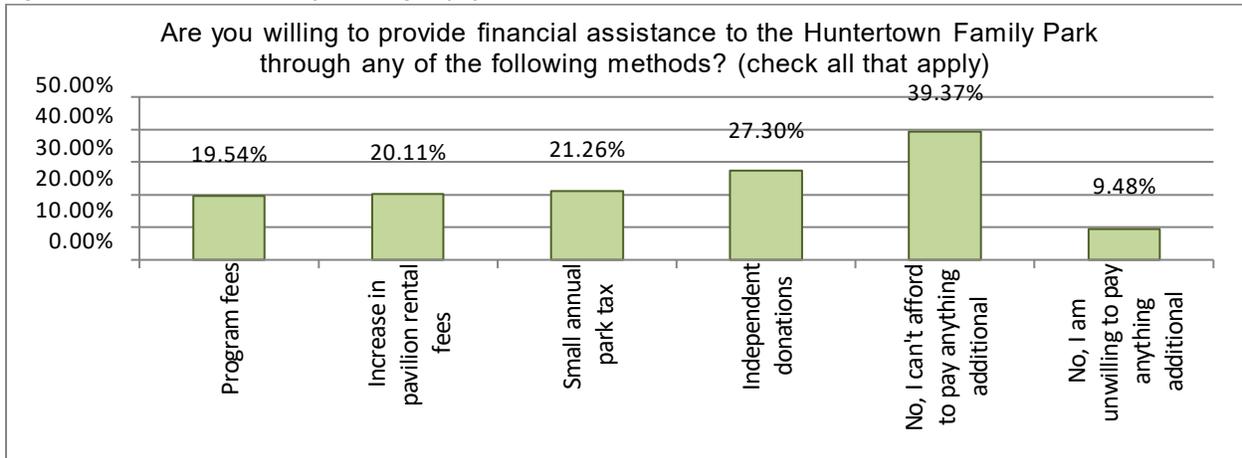


**Table 12: What Activities the Community Will Volunteer For – Write-Ins**

<b>What Activities Are You Willing to Commit to Volunteer for at the Huntertown Family Park? (check all that apply)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Not at this time	6
not sure	2
Could help with environmental education.	1
I would love to volunteer but at this time, time is an issue	1
If there was a bicycle pump track I would be more interested in helping	1
Softball administration	1
As my kids get older, I may be able to volunteer, but that isn't feasible at the moment.	1
Gardening/flowers	1
Kid friendly volunteer opportunities	1
Help build shelter and financially support water for people and dogs.	1
Dog park "lifeguard" (ensure dogs are staying safe and humans are decent to each other)	1
Already volunteer with Lions, Huntertown Soccer Club	1
Volunteering is dependent on time commitment. Board meets too often to be a real option for most people.	1
I currently volunteer in other areas.	1
Park clean up	1
I travel too much	1
Not mobile enough to handle most of this.	1

Finally, since the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and does not receive public dollars, funding maintenance and upgrades can be a challenge. Therefore, it is important to understand the community's willingness to financially support the park. The survey included a question on how participants are willing to provide financial assistance to the park. Many of the 348 respondents indicated they were unwilling or could not afford to pay anything additional (N=170), 95 respondents indicated that independent donations would be acceptable, a small user tax was found acceptable by 74 respondents, 70 respondents indicated they would pay higher pavilion rental fees, and 68 respondents indicated they would pay program fees. Table 27 shows the results about park funding.

**Figure 27: What the Community is willing to pay to Fund the Park**



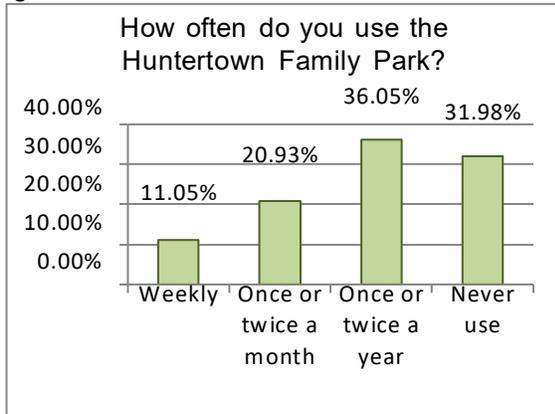
#### 4.2.2 Public Youth Survey

A survey was developed geared toward adolescent persons who might use the Huntertown Family Park. The NIRCC contractor writing the Plan for the Park Board presented the park planning process and the purpose of the survey to third, fourth, and fifth grade students who attend Huntertown Elementary on October 7, 2019. Each classroom was visited and children were encouraged to brainstorm on what their ideal park would look like. While brainstorming together, many children mentioned adding a seesaw to the playground, a soccer and football field, a ninja course, and even more parking. The Huntertown Elementary School Principal was on the Planning Committee and found this opportunity to be a tool to give the students a civics lesson and impress upon them how they can influence their community. Students were encouraged to complete the 16 question survey while at school which is the reason youth survey responses from 172 individuals were acquired. Male and Female youth were almost equally represented (52% male/48% female), and 81.5% of the youth respondents live in Huntertown. Of the 18.5% who live elsewhere 15 students live in Churubusco, two live in unincorporated Allen county, and five answered they live in Fort Wayne. However, of those who answered they live in Fort Wayne, they likely live within Huntertown boundaries but have a Fort Wayne mailing address. Below are the results of the survey disseminated to Huntertown Elementary students.

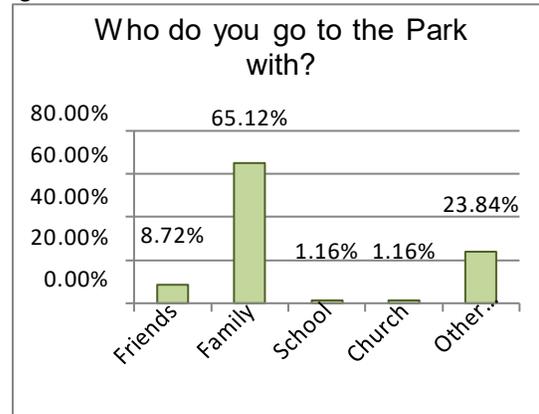
Students were asked how often they visit the Huntertown Family Park and their answers were almost reverse of what adults answered with the exception of more respondents stating they go to the park just a couple of times a year. Again, this is likely due to people attending the park for special events. Out of the 172 youth survey responses, 19 said they go to the park weekly, 36 answered they go once or twice a month, 62 answered they go once or twice a year, and 55 said they never go. Figure 28 graphically shows how youth answered the question of how often they go to the park. When students were asked who they go to the park with they overwhelmingly answered family (N=112), 15 students answered they go with friends, and school and church were each marked twice. Forty-one students wrote in answers which include family and pets; going with a lot of different people; scouts; and camp (the local YMCA held a day camp at the park during the summer of 2019). Figure 29 shows how youth

answered the question of who they visit the park with and Table 13 below is a list of all the write-ins from this question.

**Figure 28: How often Youth Use the Park**



**Figure 29: Who Youth Visit the Park With**

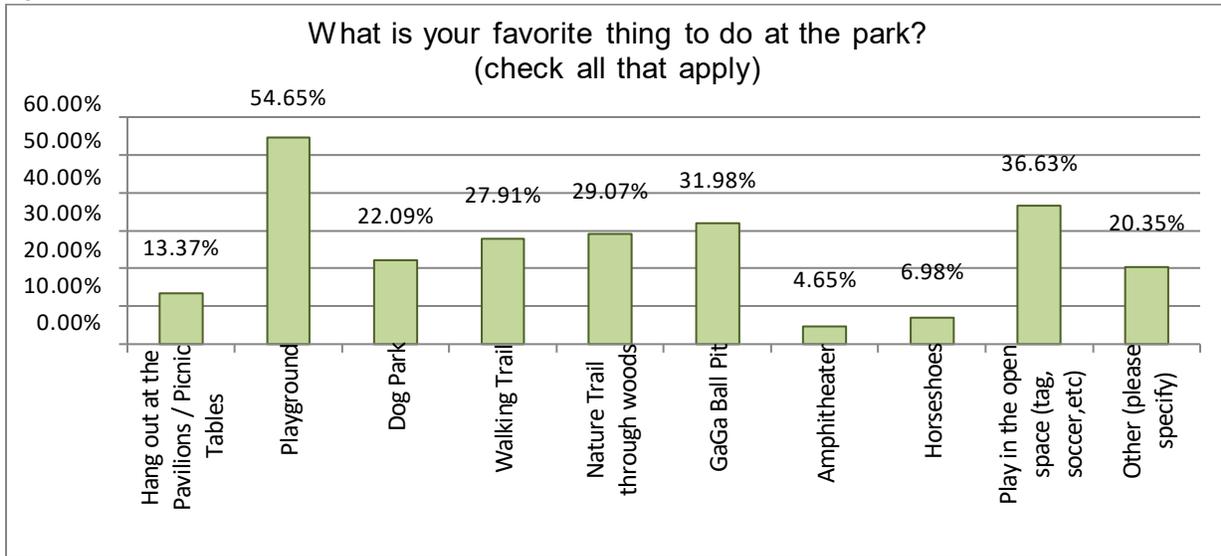


**Table 13: Who Youth Visit the Park with – Write-Ins**

Who do you go with?	Number
never been	26
friends and family	5
Family and pets	1
I go with a lot of people.	1
Joshua	1
scouts	1
Summer break sometimes	1
My aunt	1
Sadly, nobody. I am going to ask my mom to bring me there.	1
mom, baby sis, and a bff	1
camp	1
All the above	1

To understand how the younger generation uses the Park, they were asked what their favorite thing to do at the park is. The majority of youth answered their favorite thing to do at the park was play on the playground (N=94). However, many also answered play in the open space (N=63), GaGa Ball Pit (N=55), Nature Trail through the woods (N=50), and walking trail (N=48). Figure 30 shows how youth answered the question regarding their favorite things to do at the park. Survey takers were given the option to write in what they like to do at the park also. There were 35 write-ins which included playing football, playing tag, gymnastics, riding bikes, and more. Table 14 shows the write-ins for this question. It should be noted that some write-ins included amenities that are not located at Huntertown Family Park and students may have been confused with the playground located at the school.

**Figure 30: What Youth Prefer to Do at the Park**

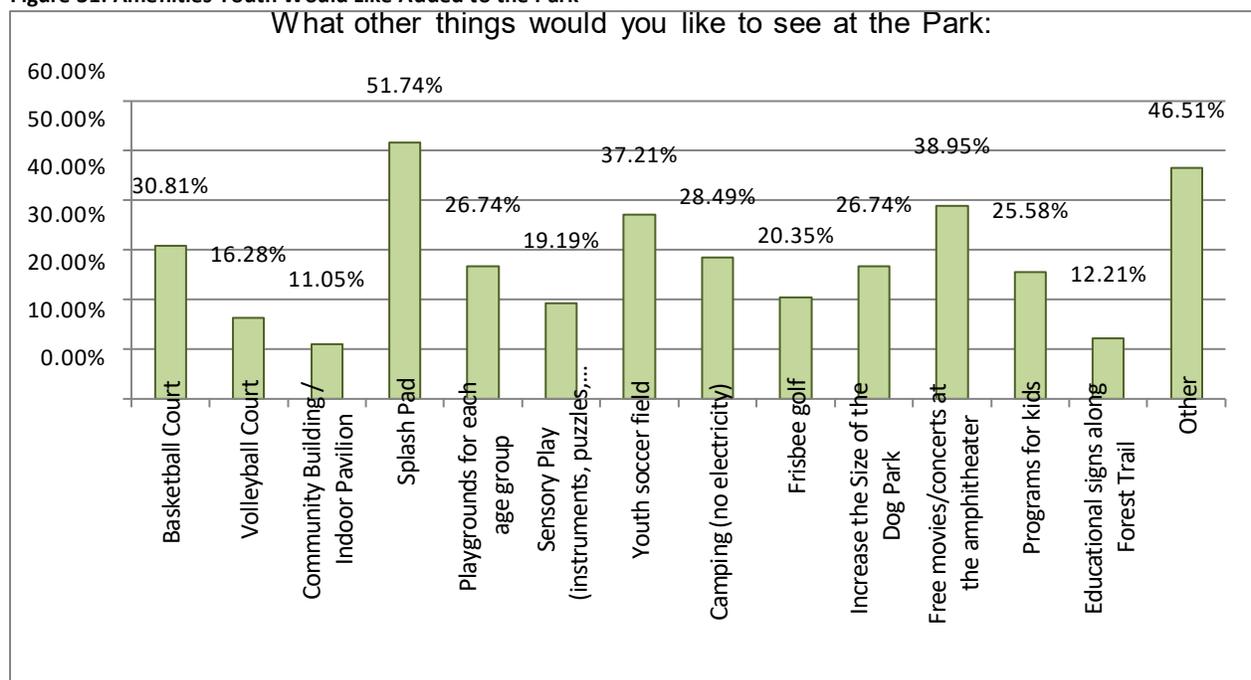


**Table 14: What Facilities Youth prefer to use at the Park – Write-ins**

What is your favorite thing to do at the park?	Number
football	3
play tag on the hill with friends/ play granny witch is like tag	2
practicing baseball in the big space of the park	1
everything is fun	1
I like to walk	1
none	1
gymnastics	1
swim	1
frisbee	1
play with family	1
seesaws, merry-go-round	1
home	1
underground play ground	1
pacing a ball to each other	1
stairs	1
Driving RC monster trucks.	1
ride bike in woods	1
CLIMBING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1
slide with my sis	1
bike ride	1
hang out and talk with friends	1
Splash pad needs to be built	1
zip line	1
None, I have never been there.	1

The youth survey participants were asked which of the potential amenities that were identified to be added to the Park they would like to see included in the park’s improvements. As with the adult survey, over half of the respondents indicated they would like a splash pad added (N=89). Other desired amenities include free movies/concerts (N=67) and a youth soccer field (N=64). Figure 31 below shows how youth respondents answered the question about what they would like to see added to the park. Students were given the opportunity to write-in other amenities not included in the list created by the Park Planning Committee. Eighty survey respondents wrote in 67 different amenities they would like to see added to the park ranging from a zip line, to a ninja course, to a tire swing. Table 15 is a list of all the other amenities youth respondents wrote in.

**Figure 31: Amenities Youth Would Like Added to the Park**



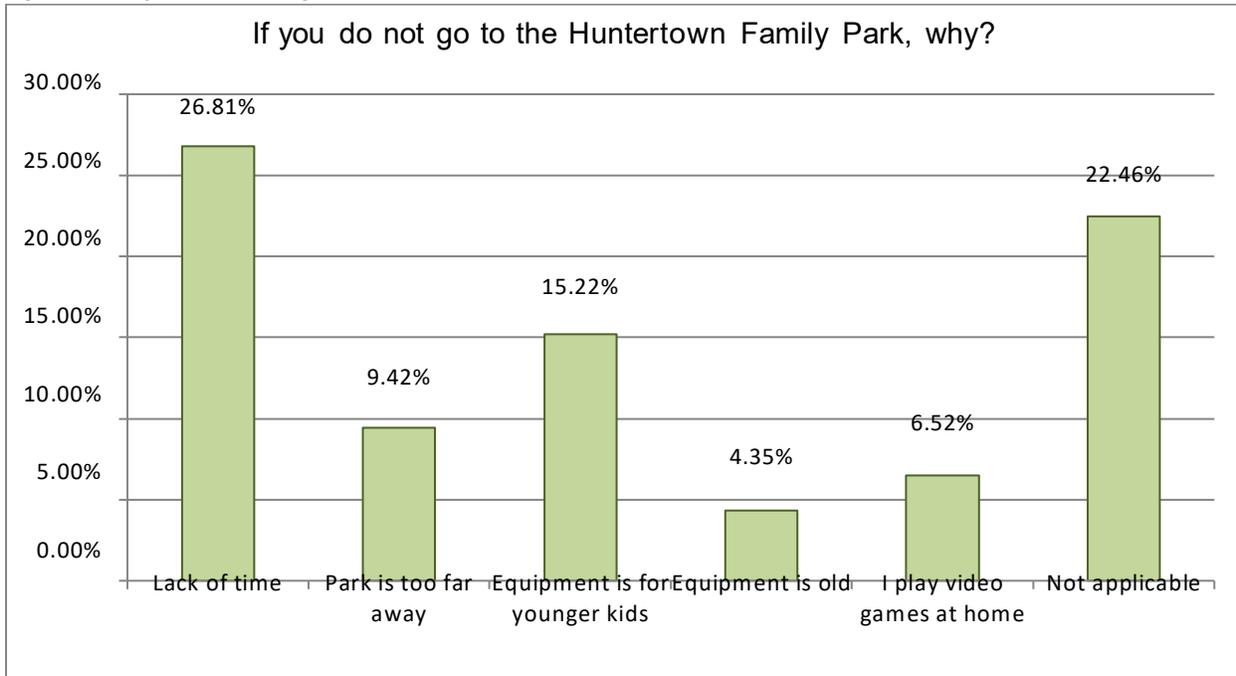
**Table 15: Other Amenities the Youth Would like Added to the Park (write-ins)**

<b>What other things would you like to see at the Park:</b>	<b>Number</b>
a zip line	8
football field	7
monkey bars	4
baseball	4
Soccer Field	3
seesaw	3
volleyball court (sand)	2
pool	4
BMX pump track	2
Minecraft building blocks.	1
a gaga ball on the side of the pit	1
nature center	1
longer trails	1
lake for swimming and fishing	1
ping pong like promenade parks	1
I have fun	1
a tent that connects to the trees.	1
bouncy house	1
tramp	1
balance beam	1
snakes shop	1
Hogwarts statue	1
nerf gun battlefield	1
more things in the dog park	1
huge puzzle	1
Never been	1
pool arcade	1
ninja course	1
giant slide	1
It will be fun	1
indoor soccer field	1
a slide down the bleachers in the amphitheater	1
slides going under the stair part	1
marile	1
chair at playground shade	1
In ground trampoline	1
Kickball field	1
Lots of Pokemon in Pokemon Go.	1
VR rocket ship	1
water side	1
hockey rinks	1
make it so ages 8 and up can go in the dog park.	1

<b>What other things would you like to see at the Park:</b>	<b>Number</b>
Zipline	1
skate park ramps	1
trampoline	1
a bike trail for kids who like to ride in the grass	1
I don't know I have never been	1
Restrooms!!!!	1
<i>Things to Climb</i>	
rock wall	2
prison play set for cops and robbers	1
Little cave with a few floors with slides and animals to play on.	1
a bunch of rocks and boulders to climb on	1
spider webs	1
add like a tower to the playground	1
Lots of climbing equipment	1
a big jungle gym	1
underground playground	1
playground equipment	1
<i>Things that Spin</i>	
merry-go-round	2
A big spiny diamond that people can ride at the new park.	1
spin pole	1
spin things	1
tire swing	1

Students were asked if they do not go to the Huntertown Family Park, why. Thirty-seven students indicated they do not have time to go to the park, 21 marked the equipment is geared toward younger kids, 13 marked that the park is too far away, 6 marked the park is too old, and 9 indicated they stay home and play video games instead. Figure 32 shows how students answered this question. Students were given the opportunity to write in a reason for not going to the park, and 43 respondents took advantage of that opportunity. Write-ins included being too busy, didn't know the park existed, it is boring, and the dog park is muddy. Table 16 lists the answers students wrote in about why they do not go to the park.

**Figure 31: Why Youth Do Not go to the Park**

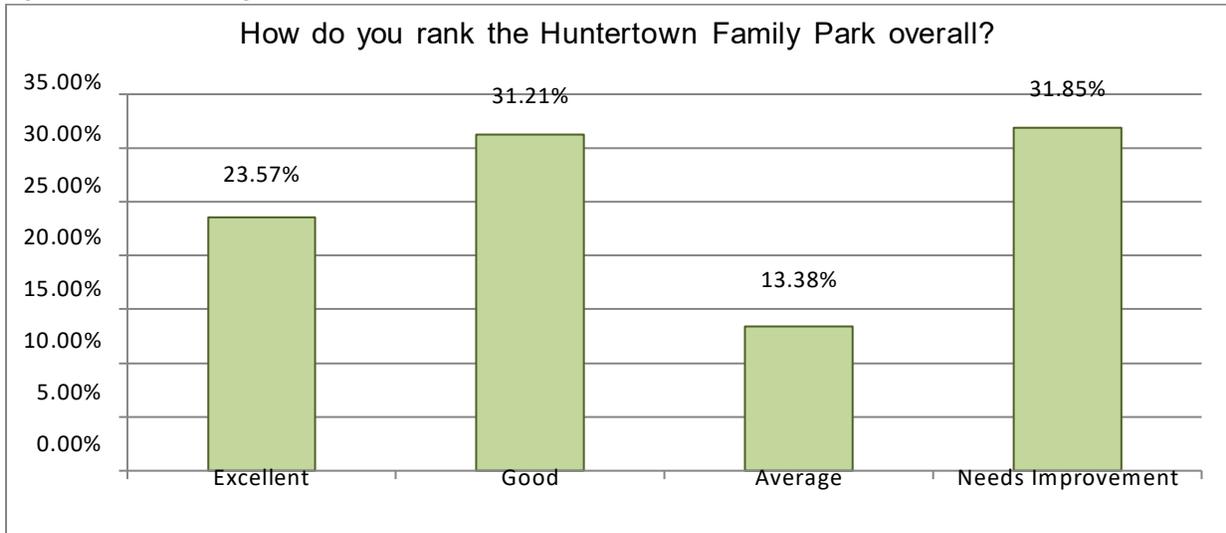


**Table 16: Why Youth Do Not Go to the Park – Write-Ins**

If you do not go to the Huntertown Family Park, why?	Number
Too busy	8
I never knew about it	6
I haven't gone yet because I don't know where it is.	5
There is very little equipment for the kids to play on and very little they can play on together	3
I have never been there	4
daycare	2
sometimes	2
it is really boring	1
we do not live close	1
The dog park is too muddy	1
I have seen it but it just doesn't look interesting to me	1
the equipment is not very fun	1
I don't go on school day because I have school the next day.	1
My parents are too busy	1

In an effort to learn how the youth in the area view the value of the park, students were asked to rank the Huntertown Family Park overall ranging from excellent to needs improvement. This question was answered by 157 students. Many students indicated the park needs improvement (N=50), 37 students ranked the park as excellent, 49 ranked the park as good, and 21 ranked the park as average. Figure 32 shows the percentages of students that ranked the Park in each category.

**Figure 32: Youth Ranking of the Park Overall**



Almost all the students who participated in the survey had been to another park, as 93% students answered yes to the survey question asking if they had. Students were then asked if there was anything they had seen at another Park that they would like to see in the Huntertown Family Park. Many of the answers overlapped with answers given to the previous question including a pool, merry-go-round, and rock wall. Table 17 lists all the responses from the students. Later in the survey, students were asked what one thing they would like added to the Huntertown Family Park. As can be seen in Table 18 below, there were several answers that matched the answers given regarding what they saw at other parks that they would like added to the Huntertown Family Park including a soccer field, football field, larger playground, seesaw, more swings, sports/kickball field, splash pad, monkey bars, pool and a zipline.

**Table 17: What do Other Parks Have that Huntertown Family Park should have?**

What did other parks have that you wished Huntertown Family Park had?	Number
a zipline	12
Teter-toter/seesaw	11
monkey bars	10
a soccer field	10
more and bigger playgrounds/equipment	9
more swings	6
football field	5
slides (giant or swirly)	5
food and drinks.	2
baseball or softball fields	2
kickball field.	2
gymnastics stuff	2
I spy set	1
Yes, a nature center so that people can learn about nature in the park like the kinds of plants, animals, and trees.	1

What did other parks have that you wished Huntertown Family Park had?	Number
Parkour course	1
work equipment	1
multiple activities like chalk drawing.	1
plain concrete spot to do pogo sticks and scooter tricks	1
ping pong	1
hills	1
Pane	1
A jumping thing	1
they had a lot to do	1
yes, there is a park called Leo Park and they have a balance beam.	1
a basketball court	1
wobbly bridges	1
A rocket ship and a free ice cream stand.	1
Dog park	1
NOT A MUDDY DOG PARK	1
a place where it is for birthday parties	1
plex fields	1
I wish it had virtual reality headsets	1
Yes, I wish Huntertown Family Park had a lower part so there could be slide carved in the sides of the lower part. <i>(I think they are referring to how Promenade Park is)</i>	1
a station were you can make crafts and beads	1
marile, and more	1
Trail	1
highheel side, pony ride and a book ride side	1
a treehouse.	1
Nature Structures/big rocks to play on	1
pizza places	1
I hope they add an ice rink that is bigger	1
A volleyball	1
hammock	1
sports fields	1
mini go carts with a helmet	1
More room for the dog and new things	1
a play car that is made up of bars like the one at the Huntertown school playground.	1
concerts	1
A trampoline	1
exercise area for adults and kids	1
<i>Things that Spin</i>	
merry-go-round.	8
a tire swing	7
yes, a spin pole	2
Yes at promenade park they have a big ball thing that spins and people can ride on it, spin it, or jump and hang on it.	2

What did other parks have that you wished Huntertown Family Park had?	Number
<i>Things to Climb</i>	
rock wall	6
Yes, a giant climbing rope dome and a spider web swing!!!!	2
things to climb on	2
ropes to climb up	
A fun climbing course or a obstacle course	
<i>Things with Water</i>	
Splash pads	9
a pool	3
It should have a water slide	3
There was a pool, sprinklers, and other water equipment to play with during summer.	2
They have water fountains,	

**Table 18: What One Thing Youth would like to Add to the Huntertown Family Park**

If there was one thing you could add to the Park, what would it be?	Number
A soccer field.	16
A splash pad.	13
A zip line.	11
football field	10
Monkey Bars	8
a pool	8
A new big playset (for different ages)	6
I don't know	5
A BASEBALL FIELD	4
A tire swing	4
seesaw	4
more swings	3
maybe like a few trampolines	3
rock wall	3
underground playground/slide	3
A basketball court.	3
it would be a balance beam	2
water slide	2
I would like a water park and a camping area.	2
BMX pump track	2
merry-go-round.	2
Sports fields	2
the sand pit	1
nature center, dog shows, and lake	1
Parkour course	1

If there was one thing you could add to the Park, what would it be?	Number
I would add some food trucks because sometimes after riding my bike I could get really hungry and thirsty	1
Scooter ramps	1
Minecraft building blocks, so we could play video games without playing video games.	1
I don't know it's pretty good the way it is	1
a race track for people who have bikes	1
a gaga ball on the side of the pit	1
animals	1
A plane to play in	1
rides	1
Hills	1
Frisbee golf	1
a little castle you can go in	1
Dog park	1
pacoswing	1
WATERPARK AND VOLLEYBALL	1
a five-story playground with a slide at the top that go all the way down to the bottom.	1
Rocket to the moon!	1
Instruments!!!	1
ice cream place	1
one more park	1
Hogwarts statue	1
never used	1
A pool. I love to swim! And in the winter, it could be a skating rink.	1
indoor POOL !!!!!	1
nerf gun battlefield	1
a pad	1
HUGE puzzle because everyone would meet new people and more teamwork	1
arcade, and concession stand	1
Virtual Reality	1
rock hill	1
ninja course	1
a slide under the stair area	1
mountain bike trails	1
everything	1
gymnastics stuff	1
It would be a 10 foot slide but it would be safe	1
I would increase the size of the park, more swings, a bench swing, get a bigger sandbox and next to it put a box that has a shovel and other sand activities, and a carousel, and an animal lookout near the trail	1
A GIANT climbing dome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1

If there was one thing you could add to the Park, what would it be?	Number
A three floored rope cave that spins around and there are seats and it would look lie a spinning plane but you spin with a steering wheel.	1
Golf	1
more room	1
big rocks and boulders to climb on	1
The thing they have at down town that egg thing	1
skate park ramps	1
Go cart that are pedal power	1
a slip and slide	1
More space for animals.	1
a spot for four square.	1
Nice bathrooms and drinking fountains	1

Students were asked what their favorite and least favorite things about the park are. The amenity that was written in the most as the favorite thing at the park was the open space to play in (N=17). With that, it is likely important to ensure there is always open space for people to utilize. Other top answers included the dog park and gaga ball pit with 15 write-ins each, swings (N=12) and walking trail (N=10). The least favorite things in the park included that there is very little playground equipment (N=15), the slide (N=10), and that there is not enough equipment in general (N=10). It should be noted that several students mentioned during the class room visits that the slide was old and not very slippery, and that the playground did not have much to do. Tables 19 and 20 list the answers students provided about their favorite and least favorite park amenities.

**Table 19: Youths Favorite Amenity at the Park**

What do you like best about the Park?	Number
That there is a lot of land/free space	17
the dog park	15
gaga ball pit	15
Swings	12
the walking trail	10
the play ground	8
The slides	7
the hiking/nature trail	7
all/everything	4
Springy horses.	3
That it is fun!	3
a volleyball court	2
steps/stairs	2
The soccer field	2
people / we could sometimes see our friends	2
I don't know	2
The sandbox.	2

What do you like best about the Park?	Number
not been there	2
chair under shade.	2
The dog park, although, it could use some improving	1
the side walk to run but you could add some improvements	1
It looks nice.	1
I always ride my bike there and I can see my school.	1
nothing	1
no use	1
Have not been there in a while	1
its nice and most of the time clean	1
What i liked at the park was that they had bars.	1
its a little bit cool	1
I like the spiny diamond.	1
That it had a lot of things to do.	1
I liked the tunnel with ladder	1
the concert pad, and picnic area	1
i like the bars	1
park	1
it has a lot of space for improvement	1
pretty	1
It had a skate park.	1
how there is stuff for all age	1
The rides (Heritage Days)	1
I just learned about the park.	1

**Table 20: Youths Least Favorite Amenities at the Park**

What do you like least about the Park?	Number
nothing	18
I have never been there.	15
not much playground equipment for older kids	15
I do not know?	13
slide	10
Not enough stuff!!!!!!!!!!!!	10
the sand pit	6
The swings.	6
dog park	4
Gaga ball pit.	4
how muddy the dog park gets when it rains	4
The playground	4
The open space, I think there could be a lot more equipment there	3
rocking horses	3
that there is not a splash pad	3
that it has a tiny playground with four okay five pieces of equipment	2

What do you like least about the Park?	Number
pavilion	2
the trails	2
It doesn't have a little baby or little kid playground.	2
everything	2
the slides were not polished	1
barley any equipment	1
I like all the equipment.	1
toys are a little old	1
waking	1
dogs are not so great when they are barking at you	1
the dog park is a waste of space you could put a pool in that space or a soccer field	1
That sometimes people bring dogs and I am allergic to them.	1
I don't really have a least cause it is all good	1
too windy to play some of the games	1
no hills, just flat grass	1
The park is a little bit small for me.	1
You can get hurt	1
It could hurt the animals	1
there is not a lot of people	1
less stuff	1
how there is only one slide	1
the nuts on the ground.	1
horse shoes	1
walk way	1
sometimes people say mean things	1
not a lot of things to do	1
monkey bars	1
When it rains a lot the walkway goes under water.	1
There are no food trucks	1
doesn't have lots of things for kids	1
I do not like that there is not an area where people can set up statues for history.	1
Dangerous to get to park. Sidewalks right next to the road	1
it is old	1
It just doesn't look interesting or fun	1

### 4.3 Analysis

After examining the results of the public outreach and the adult and youth surveys, the Huntertown Family Park Planning Committee gleaned information vital to improving the Huntertown Family Park to benefit and meet the needs and desires of the residents of Huntertown and the surrounding area. The following subsections will outline the main points gathered from the public as well as the priorities as measured by the Huntertown Park Planning Committee.

#### 4.3.1 Public Perception, Needs, and Wants

The below key points regarding the Huntertown Family Park were identified through public meetings and surveys.

- More adults visit the park than youth, but most of the 562 respondents never visit the park or only do so once or twice a year. This would lead one to assume that most visit the park during special events such as Day in the Park, Heritage Days, or the Lighting of the Christmas Tree.
- People do not visit the park mainly due to a lack of time. However, many do not visit the park due to it not meeting their needs (34% of respondents). This was determined by respondents who answered the park is geared toward younger children or the equipment is old, there is not enough parking, or directly stating the park does not meet their needs. If there are more activities, better parking, and completed projects resident's interest in the park may increase.
- Most people believe the park is in good condition. However, 31.85% of youth believe the park is in need of improvement, while only 8.72% of adults believe it to need improvement.
- Additional parking, improved drainage, improved park entrance, multiple playgrounds for different ages, and a splash pad are top priorities as each received votes from more than 50% of the adult survey respondents.
- Other priorities identified (most including the youth survey) are splash pad, educational signage on the forested trail, storage building (adult only), soccer/football field, indoor pavilion/community building, and sensory play equipment as each of received between 30% and 50% of the vote.
- The youth respondents indicated they utilize the playgrounds (55%), gaga ball pit (32%), and play in the green open space (37%) the most.
- Adult respondents indicated they utilize the walking trail (66%), playground (50%), dog park (42%), and pavilions and picnic tables (31%) the most.
- The Park Board is in need of a better means of soliciting volunteers as many respondents (91%) indicated they have not volunteered for the park before, and 44% indicated they were unaware of the need for volunteers or do not feel they have the required skills to volunteer and 47% of respondents indicated they are willing to volunteer for the parks and 85 respondents left the Park Board contact information in the survey.
- Many respondents indicated they will not pay anything to support the Park. However, 21% were in favor of a small annual tax, while the other respondents support raising rental and program fees and soliciting for donations.
- The Huntertown Family Park must be updated to current ADA standards including all parking areas, buildings, restrooms, sidewalks/trails, and play equipment to meet Federal requirements and the needs of Huntertown's aging and disabled population.

### 4.3.2 Priorities

The survey results were presented and discussed at a Park Planning Committee meeting on October 29, 2019. It was decided at that meeting that the top priorities as determined by the public, would be compiled into a ranking sheet for the Committee to decide their top ten priorities for Park improvements. Therefore, the top 19 survey results were put into a spreadsheet and forwarded to the Park Planning Committee, who then ranked the 10 most important amenities to include in the park while also considering the public survey responses, and the cost, longevity, and sustainability of the amenity. The Committee's answers were weighted with a Priority 1 receiving ten points and a Priority 10 receiving one point. Top priorities included maintenance and logistical type work such as additional parking, improved drainage and an improved park entrance. More exciting improvements to the park that received a high priority ranking include playgrounds appropriate for different age groups, a splash pad, and educational signage along the forested trail. Table 21 shows the ranking provided by each Committee member and the overall priority given to each of the amenities.

The Planning Committee met on February 11, 2020 to discuss the priority ranking that was completed. It was noted that some of the priorities identified by the Planning Committee were not in line with how the public responded on the survey. After much discussion the seven members present reprioritized the top amenities by placing a red dot next to their top two priorities, a blue dot next to their second top two priorities, a yellow dot next to their next top two priorities, and finally a green dot next to the next top two priorities. The final prioritization shifted the timetable of installing a few amenities only slightly. Below are some key points that came out of that discussion and Table 22 shows the result of the second Committee prioritization.

- The park rules are not clear to the individuals using the park and therefore, multi-lingual signs need to be installed at the park.
- While the splash pad is highly desired by the general public there are many pieces that must be considered prior to installing one including permits and operation and long term maintenance costs.
- Increasing the size of the dog park was a desired amenity by only 30% of the survey respondents, but there was much discussion about how the dog park is the only free one in the area and dog owners from all over come to the park. Therefore, adding a separate section for small dogs is important for the safety of the animals and the timeframe in which the dog park will be expanded was moved up.

Table 21: Planning Committee Priority Ranking

COMBINED PRIORITY RANKING BOARD - Huntertown Family Park																					
PARK ACTIVITY/AMENITY			#1		#2		#3		#4		#5		#6		#7		#8		#9		TOTAL POINTS (max =80)
	DESCRIPTION	Public Survey Results	R A N K	P O I N T S	Total PTS																
1	Additional Parking	81.34% (Adult Only)	2	9	1	10	1	10	1	10	2	9	2	9	1	10	3	8	3	8	83
2	Improved Drainage	82.64% (Adult Only)	0	0	5	6	2	9	2	9	1	10	1	10	2	9	4	7	1	10	70
3	Improve Park Entrance	69.71% (Adult Only)	3	8	2	9	10	1	10	1	3	8	3	8	3	8	2	9	2	9	61
4	Multiple Playgrounds for Different Ages	53.04%	4	7	3	8	9	2	4	7	4	7	7	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	51
5	Splash Pad	68.27%	0	0	4	7	3	8	3	8	5	6	6	5	8	3	10	1	0	0	38
6	Interpretive Signage at Forested Trail	35.09%	7	4	6	5	5	6	8	3	6	5	10	1	7	4	6	5	7	4	37
7	Increase the Size of the Dog Park	30.16%	8	3	0	0	7	4	6	5	7	4	0	0	4	7	1	10	9	2	35
8	Storage Building for Park Equipment	42.14% (Adult Only)	9	2	8	3	6	5	7	4	0	0	5	6	10	1	5	6	6	5	32
9	Community Building/Indoor Pavilion	41.80%	0	0	7	4	4	7	0	0	0	0	4	7	9	2	8	3	4	7	30
10	Basketball Court	30.17%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	10	1	9	2	6	5	9	2	10	1	17
11	Sensory Play Equipment	36.94%	1	10	0	0	8	3	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
12	Youth Soccer Field / Football field	38.16%	5	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	8	3	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
14	Primitive Camping	23.93%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	3

**COMBINED PRIORITY RANKING BOARD -  
Huntertown Family Park**

PARK ACTIVITY/AMENITY			#1		#2		#3		#4		#5		#6		#7		#8		#9		TOTAL POINTS (max =80)
DESCRIPTION	Public Survey Results	RANK	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Total PTS	
			O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O		O
			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
			N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
			T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T		
			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
15	Baseball Diamond	4 write ins (Youth Only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
16	Frisbee Golf	24.81%	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	Volleyball Court	24.87%	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18	Zip line/Ninja Course	13 write ins (Youth Only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Pool	20 write ins (Youth/Adult)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Weighted Scoring Guide</b>																					
<b>RANK</b>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10									
<b>= # Points</b>			10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1									

**Table 22: Final Planning Committee Priority Ranking**

COMBINED PRIORITY RANKING BOARD - Huntertown Family Park										
PARK ACTIVITY/AMENITY		Red		Blue		Yellow		Green		
DESCRIPTION	Public Survey % or Write-ins	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	Total POINTS
<b>Additional Parking</b>	81.34% (Adult Only)	6	48	1	6	0	0	0	0	<b>54</b>
<b>Improved Drainage</b>	82.64% (Adult Only)	7	56	1	6	1	4	0	0	<b>66</b>
<b>Improve Park Entrance</b>	69.71% (Adult Only)	1	8	4	24	0	0	1	2	<b>34</b>
<b>Multiple Playgrounds for Different Ages</b>	53.04%	0	0	3	18	3	12	2	4	<b>34</b>
<b>Splash Pad</b>	68.27%	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Interpretive Signage at Forested Trail</b>	35.09%	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Increase the Size of the Dog Park</b>	30.16%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Storage Building for Park Equipment</b>	42.14% (Adult Only)	0	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	<b>16</b>
<b>Community Building/Indoor Pavilion</b>	41.80%	0	0	3	18	1	4	1	2	<b>24</b>
<b>Basketball Court</b>	30.17%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Sensory Play Equipment</b>	36.94%	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Youth Soccer Field / Football field</b>	38.16%	0	0	0	0	3	12	2	4	<b>16</b>
<b>Primitive Camping</b>	23.93%		0		0		0		0	<b>0</b>
<b>Baseball Diamond</b>	4 write ins (Youth Only)		0		0		0		0	<b>0</b>
<b>Frisbee Golf</b>	24.81%		0		0		0		0	<b>0</b>
<b>Volleyball Court</b>	24.87%		0		0		0		0	<b>0</b>
<b>Zip line/Ninja Course</b>	13 write ins (Youth Only)		0		0		0		0	<b>0</b>

<b>Pool</b>	20 write ins (Youth/Adult)		0		0		0		0	0
<b>Weighted Scoring Guide</b>										
<b>RANK</b>		Red	Blue	Yellow	Green					
<b>= # Points</b>		8	6	4	2					

Based on the background of the Huntertown Family Park, the park survey, and the priority rankings by the Park Planning Committee, the following actions and/or amenities should be implemented within the next 10 years.

- Priority 1 (0 – 3 years)
  - Update the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. Board By-Laws
  - Establish a complete and functioning Park Board
  - Establish Park Committees/Advisory Boards to focus on marketing, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, etc.
  - Develop a Volunteer Coordination Plan
  - Develop a fundraising strategy/campaign
  - Update the Park to meet ADA requirements
  - Install multilingual signs (including Burmese)
  - Complete the trail system within the Park
  - Improve park entrance
  - Increase parking availability
  - Improve drainage to reduce flooding
  - Create updated playgrounds designed for different age groups (will include sensory play equipment and be ADA/ABA compliant)
  
- Priority 2 (3-5 years)
  - Install interpretive/educational signage along the wooded wetland trail
  - Build a storage facility for Park equipment
  - Increase size of dog park
  - Construct a Community Building/Indoor Pavilion
  
- Priority 3 (5 – 8 years)
  - Install a multi-use sports field (football, soccer, etc)
  - Install a splash pad
  - Install a basketball court
  
- Priority 4 (5-10 years)
  - Install Frisbee golf
  - Reassess and update Park Plan

## **5.0 Action Register for Implementation**

An action register was created to help guide the implementation efforts to improve the Huntertown Family Park and help with park budgeting. The action register is divided into several different sections including Park Programming, Park Board and Administration, and Huntertown Family Park amenities. Table 23 below shows the actions necessary to meet the needs and desires of the residents of Huntertown and the surrounding area.

**Table 23: Park Improvement Action Register**

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Potential Source of Funding
<b>Park Programming</b>				
Park Programs	Reach out to local organizations about hosting camps and other programs at the Park	2020	Varies	Operating Budget; Program Fees; Private Donations; Program/Event Sponsorships
	Offer free bi-monthly movies/concerts at the amphitheater	2021 years	\$2,500	
<b>Park Board</b>				
Park Board Membership	Update the Huntertown Family Park, Inc. By-Laws	Ongoing	N/A	Volunteer Hours
	Maintain a five-person membership at all times			
	Ensure elections are held biannually at a minimum			
	Determine a reasonable time and frequency for all Board members to attend meetings to ensure a quorum is always present			
	Determine various Advisory Boards to lead tasks such as fundraising, maintenance, volunteers, etc.			
Park Board Ordinance Revision	Limit membership to two-year terms	Ongoing	N/A	Huntertown Family Park Board
	Assign responsibilities to each Park Board position (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer)			
	Stipulate a quorum is present at each meeting			
	Develop an agenda for each meeting			
	Have a sign in sheet at each meeting			
	Maintain thorough and accurate minutes for each meeting			
Park Board Budget	Ensure a Park Board Budget is developed and approved by the Park Board annually	2021	N/A	Huntertown Family Park Board

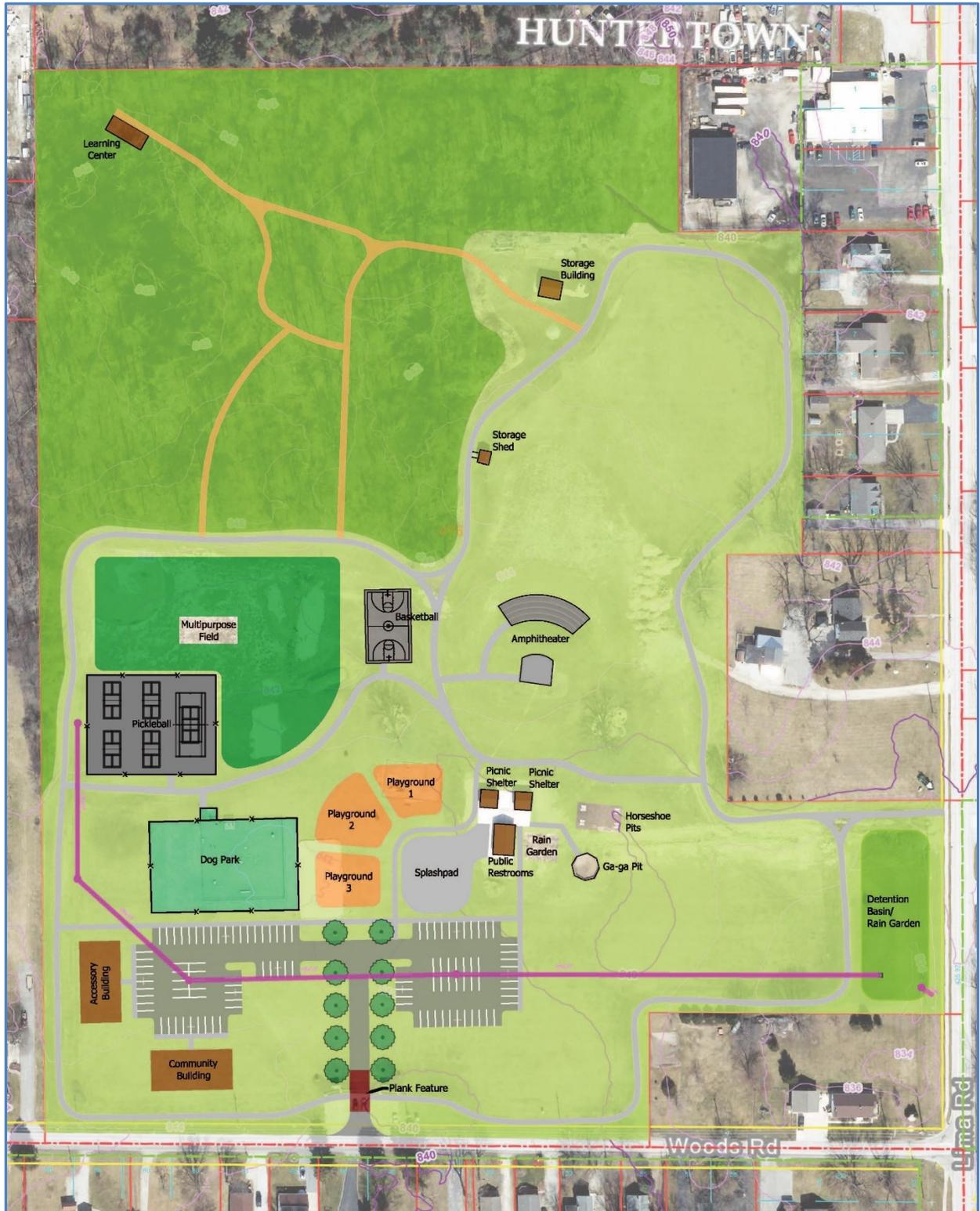
Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Potential Source of Funding
Volunteers	Determine Volunteer needs and roles (refer to Advisory Boards)	2020	Varies	Volunteer Hours
	Develop a volunteer recruitment and retention plan for the Park	2020	Varies	Volunteer Hours
<b>Huntertown Family Park Amenities</b>				
Ensure the Park Meets the Needs of All People regardless of Physical Ability or Language Barriers	Install a hard and solid surface to all park amenities.	1 - 3 years	\$50,000	Operating Budget; Private Donations; Community Foundation; AWS Foundation
	Upgrade Playground Subsurface to be an ADA/ABA Compliant material	1 - 3 years	\$10,000	
	Connect existing sidewalks for a continuous hard and solid surface around the park.	2021	\$25,000	
	Upgrade Parking Lot to Include Handicap Parking	1 - 3 years	\$260,000	
	Install Multilingual Park Rule Signs	1 - 3 years	\$20,000	
Improve Playground	Improve, update, and/or replace playground equipment/ensure playgrounds for multiple age groups and ADA and ABA compliance	1 - 3 years	\$70,000	Operating Budget; AWS Foundation; Private Donations; Community Foundation
	Include interactive/sensory equipment	1 - 5 years	\$10,000	
Increase Usability and Aesthetic Appeal of the Park	Install Pet Waste Stations Around the Trail in the Park	2021	\$1,250	Operating Budget; Private Donations; In-Kind Volunteer Hours
	Improve the Park Entrance and clearly Identify the Park from Old Lima	1 - 3 years	\$10,000	
	Improve drainage throughout the park to eliminate ponding and flooding	1 - 3 years	\$24,000	
	Install Interpretive/educational signs along the wooded wetland trail	3 - 5 years	\$3,000	

Objective	Actions	Time-Frame	Cost Estimate	Potential Source of Funding
	Construct a storage building for park equipment	3 - 5 years	\$7,500	Operating Budget; Private Donations; Community Foundation; In-Kind Volunteer Hours
	Increase the size of the dog park by adding an additional pen for smaller breed dogs	3 - 5 years	\$5,000	
	Construct a Community Building/Indoor Pavilion to host programs and be available for rent	3 - 5 years	\$150,000	
	Install a multi-use sports field that can be used for soccer, football, other games or just open green space for people to play in	5 - 8 years	\$5,000	
	Install a Splash Pad	5 - 8 years	\$125,000	
	Install a Basketball Court	5 - 8 years	\$75,000	
	Install a minimum of five pickleball courts with lights	5- 10 years	\$182,000	
	Install Frisbee Golf Course	5 - 10 years	\$5,000	
	Reassess Community needs and Update the Park Plan	2025	N/A	Park Board and NIRCC

**5.2 Completed Huntertown Family Park Schematic**

Huntertown Resident, and local engineer, Derek Frederickson, volunteered to take the priorities identified through the public survey and Huntertown Family Park Planning Committee and put them together to visually represent what the park would be after all desired improvements were implemented. Below is that design plan in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Huntertown Family Park Schematic



## **6.0 Final Public Comment Period of Master Park Plan**

The Huntertown Family Park Planning Committee reviewed the final draft of the Park Plan in the spring of 2020. After some revisions to the Plan it was presented to the Park Board and it was approved in August 2020. After Park Board approval, the final draft of the Master Park Plan was presented to the public through various ways to reach the maximum number of individuals during the public health crisis created by Covid-19. The full park plan was available for review by the public on-line on the Huntertown Family Park website (<https://huntertownfamilypark.com/>) and a link to the Park Plan was provided on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/huntertownfamilypark/>) and posts were made to solicit for public comments three times between September and October. The final Park Plan was also shared on Well Grounded Café's Facebook page, and was shared on-line and via email to families who attend Lifehouse Preschool in Huntertown. A printed copy of the Action Register, the final Park schematic showing anticipated improvements, and the link to view the entire document was available at the following locations through September 2020, until October 18, 2020: Huntertown Town Hall; Well Grounded Café (local coffee shop); and at the First Friday concert series in the park on September 4 and October 2, 2020.

Thirty-three comments were received. Many included compliments on the in-depth analysis and fine detail of the Park Plan, there were advocates for adding a splash pad, more parking, and frisbee golf, all of which are included in the action register for the park. However, there were several specific comments including the need for more shade, resting areas, and water fountains, and the need for more maintenance and clean-up including the piles of construction materials in the back of the park. Of significance is the 18 requests for Pickleball courts to be added to the park. After much discussion within the Park Board and the local pickleball club, it was decided that courts were added to the action register for the park.

## **7.0 Plan Evaluation**

The Park Plan is a living document that will need to be evaluated annually to determine the effectiveness of the action register, progress in addressing priorities, and if public needs have changed over time. The Action Register of the Plan will be evaluated annually at the April meeting to measure progress in achieving the objectives and actions outlined, as well as reassess the priorities given to each action. While all Park Board meetings are open to the public, the April meeting will have additional advertising via social media and Northwest News to encourage the public to attend and provide their input on the Park Plan and the progress of Park improvements.

## **8.0 Board Resolution Adopting Plan**

The Huntertown Family Park Master Plan will be adopted by the Friends of Huntertown Family Parks, Inc. Board upon final approval of the IN DNR on (XXX).

## Appendices

**Appendix A – Media Outreach**

**Huntertown Family Park**  
October 18, 2020 · 🌐

**PARK NEWS x 2**  
 -Monday is the final opportunity to make comments on the Proposed 5-Year Plan! See the Events page on the website.  
 -Sign up at link below to help with the Halloween in the Park events October 30th and 31st:  
[https://m.signupgenius.com/...](https://m.signupgenius.com/)

M.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM  
**SignUpGenius - Mobile**

👍 3 3 Shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

**Huntertown Family Park**  
October 7, 2020 · 🌐

The 5-Year Master Park Plan is finally complete after an extensive survey and public input period. Please take time now to review the final draft Park Plan at our website and provide any additional comments via the email address provided there. The poster below is also at the Town Hall and Well Grounded. Your comments are very valuable to ensure the Huntertown Family Park meets the needs of all! Only comments sent via email will be counted in the final Park Plan.  
[www.hunt...](http://www.hunt...) See More

**HUNTERTOWN**

The Park's Final Comment Period Closes this Week!

Review the Proposed Plan and take action at:  
<https://huntertownfamilypark.com/events>

👍❤️ 28 3 Comments 13 Shares

**Huntertown Family Park**  
October 16, 2020 · 🌐

Monday is the deadline for public comments. Posting here doesn't count. Email yours today!  
 Find a copy of the Plan and email address here:  
[www.huntertownfamilypark.com/events](http://www.huntertownfamilypark.com/events)

**HUNTERTOWN**

The Park's Final Comment Period Closes this Week!

Review the Proposed Plan and take action at:  
<https://huntertownfamilypark.com/events>

👍 You, Kaylie Slate and 2 others 8 Shares

**Huntertown Family Park**  
October 5, 2020 · 🌐

FLASH! Dan Holmes and the Park Board need your feedback this week on the Proposed 5-Year Plan. For example, did someone suggest a Pickle Ball Court? Since this did not come up on the survey, ya gotta send Kyle an email requesting it to be considered. Find all the info via the link below and thanks a bunch!  
<https://huntertownfamilypark.com/events>



34 12 Comments 11 Shares

Like Comment Share

View 8 more comments Oldest ▼

**Huntertown Family Park**  
September 26, 2020 · 🌐

The 2019 survey results have been tabulated, new Park Board finalized, snazzy schematic developed aaaaaaand, the final opportunity to provide feedback on the Park's Proposed 5-Year Plan ENDS VERY SOON! View the report and provide feedback to our fabulous consultant Kyle (email is on the page linked below). Of particular interest may be pages 49-53. Fundraising and Park amenities will follow from this wonderful Plan.  
<https://huntertownfamilypark.com/events>



78 12 Comments 21 Shares

Browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/huntertownfamilypark/>

Page Name: **Huntertown Family Park**  
 Username: @huntertownfamilypark

Post Date: October 21 at 12:41 AM

Text of Post:
   
The Huntertown Family Park Planning Committee thanks everyone in our community who took the time to complete our 2019 Park Survey. We had a tremendous response rate and already have begun analyzing the data. Your efforts from the online survey, providing feedback at our booth at Heritage Days, and surveys from our local schools will help to create an even better place for everyone (young and young at heart) to enjoy! Results to follow!



Engagement: 12 Likes, 1 Share

Community Stats:
 

- 1,533 people like this
- 1,554 people follow this

About:
 

- Phone: (260) 437-8358
- Typically replies within a few hours
- Website: www.huntertownfamilypark.com
- Page created - May 13, 2015

Page Transparency: Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content.

Footer: Privacy · Terms · Advertising · Ad Choices · Cookies · More · Facebook © 2019



Well Grounded Cafe

October 18, 2020 · 🌐

...

Sorry to be such a broken record. ..but it is really important to review park 5 year plans and email Kyle at the county by Monday. The email can be short..basic.. to the point..or whatever you have time for. There are still 5 packets and large poster in cafe Monday Thanks!

<https://www.facebook.com/1435601216742862/posts/2409215092714798/>



Huntertown Family Park

October 16, 2020 · 🌐

Monday is the deadline for public comments. Posting here doesn't count. Email yours today!

Find a copy of the Plan and email address here: [www.huntertownfamil...](http://www.huntertownfamil...) See More

👍 4



Well Grounded Cafe

October 16, 2020 · 🌐

...

It is crunch time! comments will be taken until October 19th. (Monday) The 5-Year Master Park Plan is finally complete after an extensive survey and public input period. Please take time now to review the final draft Park Plan on the Park's website and provide any additional comments via the email address provided there. The poster below is also at the Town Hall and Well Grounded. Your comments are very valuable to ensure the Huntertown Family Park meets the needs of al... See More



👍 3

3 Comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Most Relevant ▾



Well Grounded Cafe

September 27, 2020 · 🌐



Please review..share with friends... comment by emailing Kyle. DNR needs this complete. Could help with \$\$ needed. Click on event tab if it doesn't load for you.



**Huntertown Family Park**

September 26, 2020 · 🌐

The 2019 survey results have been tabulated, new Park Board finalized, snazzy schematic developed aaaaaaaand, the final opportunity to provide feedback on the P... See More

👍 1



Well Grounded Cafe

September 26, 2020 · 🌐



Please look at the plan and send your comments. Big poster size plan is in the cafe for viewing. Please share widely. Very important for our community. Check it out this Friday at our First Friday concert. The last for the season. This is so important. Please send your comments before oct 11. The DNR needs our comments. Could be tied to future \$\$\$\$\$\$



**Huntertown Family Park**

September 26, 2020 · 🌐

The 2019 survey results have been tabulated, new Park Board finalized, snazzy schematic developed aaaaaaaand, the final opportunity to provide feedback on the P... See More

👍 7

1 Share

Kyle Quandt  
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council  
260-449-7309  
Kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us

August 12, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Huntertown Family Park Board and Advisory Committee are in the process of developing a 5-Year Master Park Plan and the public is encouraged to provide their input to ensure the Park meets the desires of the people who use it. The Park Board is asking that local residents take a short public survey to help guide the planning process. The online survey can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntertownFamilyPark](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntertownFamilyPark) and will be available until October 18, 2019.

The Huntertown Family Park Board has contracted with the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) to write the 5-Year Master Park Plan. NIRCC, the Regional Planning Office for Allen, Adams, Wells, and DeKalb counties offers Park Planning services free to its member communities.

A 5-Year Master Park Plan is vital to creating a useful and vibrant Town Park as well as improving the quality of place for local residents. The goals of the Huntertown Family Park Plan are to analyze the accessibility of the Park and identify deficiencies to address within the next phase of park development; offer opportunities for the community to provide input on the park to prioritize the public's needs and wants; analyze community input to prioritize the development of park amenities and ensure funds be spent where they will have the most impact; and create a Plan that is dynamic, flexible, and provides pertinent and useful information on the park's future development and can be used to show the park's clear direction to potential funders.

"It is our goal to ensure the Park we are building will be enjoyed by everyone within the diverse community of Huntertown and the surrounding area" said Dan Holmes, Park Board President, "a day in the park will leave an everlasting mark for a kid and his family and we are thrilled to be working to improve everyone's experience here at the Huntertown Family Park".

To find out more information about the Huntertown Family Park, like it on Facebook and visit their website at [www.huntertownfamilypark.com](http://www.huntertownfamilypark.com).

###

## JG THE SCOOP

Monday, August 12, 2019 1:10 pm

### Verbatim: Huntertown Family 5-Year Master Plan

The following was released on Monday, August 12, 2019:

The Huntertown Family Park Board and Advisory Committee are in the process of developing a 5-Year Master Park Plan and the public is encouraged to provide their input to ensure the Park meets the desires of the people who use it. The Park Board is asking that local residents take a short public survey to help guide the planning process. The online survey can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntertownFamilyPark](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HuntertownFamilyPark) and will be available until October 18, 2019.

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To find out more information about the Huntertown Family Park, like it on Facebook and visit their website at [www.huntertownfamilypark.com](http://www.huntertownfamilypark.com).



#### More The scoop

- ▶ Allegiant to offer nonstop flights to Sarasota August 13, 2019 7:08 am
- ▶ Verbatim: Huntertown Family 5-Year Master Plan August 12, 2019 1:10 pm
- ▶ Verbatim: Public input sought on outdoor emergency warnings for severe weather
- ▶ Verbatim: Commissioners OK contract to create virtual emergency operations cen
- ▶ Verbatim: YLNI Farmers Market expands August 9, 2019 8:40 am
- ▶ Verbatim: City of Fort Wayne launches web-based traffic map August 8, 2019 9:5
- ▶ Verbatim: NE Indiana Regional Partnership gets matching grant August 8, 2019 9
- ▶ Verbatim: Parking-garage work to limit Jefferson Boulevard section for 8 months A
- ▶ Verbatim: Saint Francis announces naming of research center August 7, 2019 1:0
- ▶ Verbatim: Combined sewer overflow warning today August 6, 2019 1:12 pm
- ▶ Verbatim: State police launch Drive Sober campaign August 6, 2019 7:49 am
- ▶ Verbatim: Hokcomb announces grants for enforcement at school-bus stops August