

# **Perry County Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

## **2019 To 2024**

A Comprehensive Master Plan by the Perry County Parks Board and  
the Perry County Parks and Recreation Department

Perry County Parks and Recreation Department

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## **Introduction**

Recreation is an integral part of a community's social, economic, and natural resource environment. Proximity and access to the enjoyment of nature and recreational facilities invigorates the human spirit and improves physical, mental, and social health. Participation in recreational activities has been shown to improve human health and development and reduce stress. Ample recreational opportunities reduce crime, and many businesses consider the quality of local parks, recreation, and open spaces when siting their facilities. Parks and recreational facilities can also build the local tourism industries by attracting visitors to the area. Although the development and maintenance of recreational facilities is sometimes secondary to infrastructure and economic development, recreational facilities must be made available for the overall development of the quality of life in the community. It is, therefore, in the best interests of the community to support the established boards in developing and managing the operation of quality parks and recreational facilities within their boundaries.

Establish in August of 1989, the Perry County Parks and Recreation Department undertakes the development and management of recreational facilities within the county that are not governed by other private, municipal or governmental entities. To continue doing this in an effective and efficient manner, the Perry County Parks and Recreation Department has developed this 5-Year Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan is designed to serve the county from 2019 through 2024. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to create a framework for county leaders and the Parks and Recreation staff to use as they chart the course for programming, maintenance and development of the park system over the next 5 years. The planning effort is also a means to obtain public input into the planning process of programming and developing park and recreation facilities for the Perry County Parks and Recreation Board and staff to stay attuned to specific interests of the citizens they ultimately serve. The plan itself serves as a foundation for budget projections, project prioritization and for grant applications

In order to be eligible for funding from various programs managed by the Department of Natural Resources, the plan is submitted to that agency's Division of Outdoor Recreation for approval. The plan is, therefore, prepared in conformance with the Planning Guidelines for Parks and Recreation, published by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

## **Definition of Planning Area**

The planning area for the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department (PCPRD) encompasses all of Perry County. The Perry County Parks & Recreation Department remains committed to making our facilities and services available to anyone, regardless of resident status, ability to pay, or physical/mental ability.

## **Goals of the Plan**

The Perry County Parks & Recreation Department has identified the following as goals of the 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

- Use the results from the public survey to expand the role of the PCRD.
- Enhance marketing to help citizens of Perry County to become more knowledgeable of county parks in general and the Parks Department specific.
- Create fund earning ventures to make the PCRD more self-sustaining.
- Create more walking trails at Eagles Bluff.
- Encourage the US Fish and Wildlife Service to eliminate the covenants and restrictions on property usage at Eagles Bluff.
- Develop more recreational opportunities for citizens of Perry county
- Clear and develop Allen Park.
- Present the plan and gain its acceptance within Perry County communities
- Receive approval from IDNR for eligibility for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs.
- Use the plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants

## **Park & Recreation Board/ Department**

### **Parks & Recreation Board**

The Perry County Park and Recreation Department was first established in 1965 and re-established by Ordinance 89-00-21 in August of 1989. The Perry County Parks and Recreation Board consists of five members with two appointed by the Judge of the Perry County Circuit Court, two members appointed by the Perry County Council, and one appointed by the Perry County Commissioners. Members and email address are as follows:

Warren Taylor - pccoroners@gmail.com

Bret Lutgring - bret.lutgring@lutgringbros.com

Cindy Taylor - cindytaylor429@gmail.com

Amanda Litherland - amandalitherlandirg@gmail.com

Cindi Taylor - spots105.7@att.net

The Perry County Park and Recreation Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Commissioner's Room of the Perry County Courthouse in Tell City, IN. A full-time Park Director and assistant are charged with the daily maintenance and operation of the county's park system and to further enhance the recreational opportunities within Perry County.

## **Parks & Recreation Department**

### **Perry County Parks & Recreation Mission**

- The mission of the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department is: “To provide park and recreation opportunities that serve the needs of Perry County residents and encourage and promote tourism.”

### **Perry County Parks & Recreation Five-Year Vision**

- Provide a high level of park and recreation services appropriate for Perry County’s current and planned socio-economic condition.
- Develop facilities and programs that address resident’s preferences for recreational activities.
- Serve as a coordinating body to help coordinate local and regional activities associated with park and recreation facilities and programs.

### **Parks & Recreation Office**

The main office of the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department is located:

65 Park Avenue  
Tell City, IN 47586

### **Parks & Recreation Staff**

County Recreational Director: Greg Hendershot

Phone: (812) 547-3453

Email: [perryparksnrec@psci.net](mailto:perryparksnrec@psci.net)

Website: <http://perrycounty.in.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation.aspx>

Assistant Director: Steve Braunecker

Phone: (812)547-3453

## **Facility Inventory**

Perry County Parks & Recreation has an inventory of five parks, ranging in size from 0.5 to 128 acres (approximately 138 acres total park land). The Perry County Parks system is relatively new, with the oldest property having been acquired in 1994. Some of the parks have had amenities added in recent years, but most are still in need of additions. The following is a brief synopsis of the five Perry County Parks:

### **Eagles Bluff Park & Overlook**

Eagle's Bluff Park is our largest facility, consisting of 128 acres. It borders Indiana state road 66 approximately one mile from Cannelton. Originally known as "The Overlook," this facility was created during the construction of the Cannelton Locks and Dam as a means of observing the construction process. The road through the park also served as the detour for State Road 66 during the construction of the Dam.

Acquired from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2000, this facility was renovated and reopened to the public in 2008. Situated on a bluff 200 feet above the Ohio River in Cannelton, this facility boasts the following amenities:

- Visitor's Center with handicap assessable restrooms and regional recreation information
- Observation Deck overlooking the Ohio River and Cannelton Locks and Dam
- 3 Walking Trails
- 2 handicap assessable Shelter Houses equipped with picnic tables and charcoal grills.





### Electra Crash Site Memorial Park



The Electra Crash Site Memorial Park is a 1-acre facility located in Millstone, IN. It is located on Millstone Road approximately 1 ½ miles from state road 166. This park was created as a memorial to the 63 people killed in the Northwest Orient Electra Airlines crash at this location on March 17, 1960. A 9 ft. tall granite monument stands at the head of a concrete circle centered directly above the original crater where the plane was buried. This property is not actually owned by the

Perry County Parks & Recreation Department. It is owned by a neighboring citizen. The memorial was created on the property by the Cannelton Kiwanis Club. The property was subsequently leased to the Kiwanis Club in 1994 for the purpose of maintaining the facility. Upon their dissolution in 1996, the lease was transferred to the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department.





### Wilkerson County Park

Wilkerson County Park is a 2.5-acre facility located in Rome, IN. In 1996, the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department acquired a small piece of land along the Ohio River in Rome for the purpose of building a public boat ramp. For 13 years, this facility consisted of only a boat ramp and parking lot. In 2009, the Wilkerson family donated 2 adjacent lots to the Parks & Recreation Department. Upon receipt of the land, this facility was developed and designated Wilkerson County Park. This park now includes the following amenities:

- Shelter House with picnic tables and charcoal grill
- Handicap accessible Restroom Facility
- Playground (CPSC compliant, not ADA compliant)
- Boat launch with handicapped access ramp



### Riverside Park

Riverside Park is a 3-acre facility located on the Ohio River in Magnet, IN on Magnet Valley Road. This facility has been serving the public since 1998, offering the following amenities:

- Shelter house with picnic tables and electricity
- Boat Ramp
- Handicap accessible restroom facility



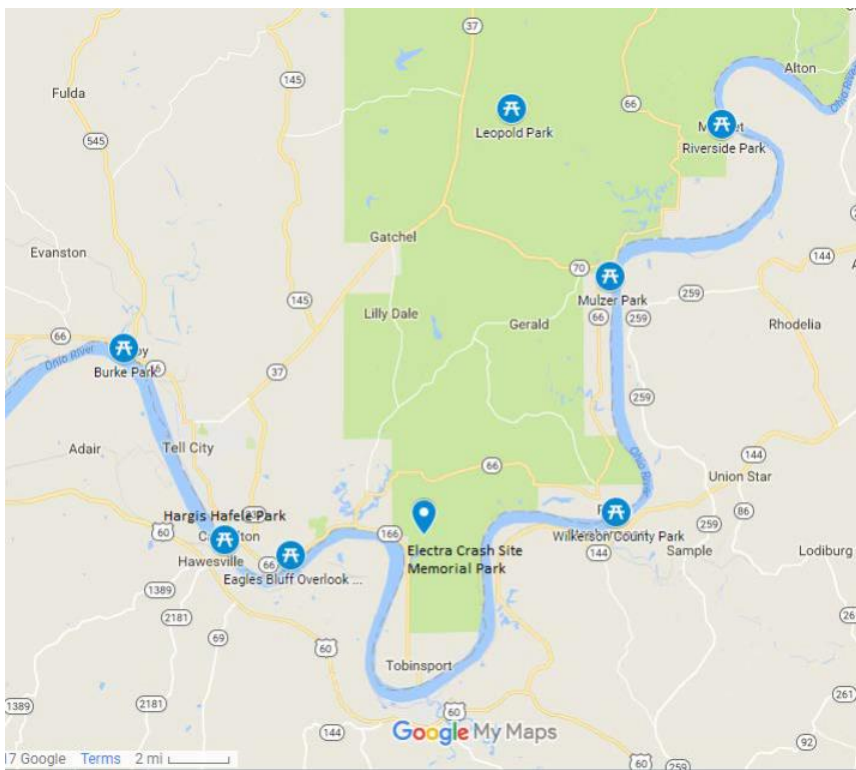


### Allen Park

Allen Park is a 0.5 acre plat of land that has not yet been developed. Donated in 2011 by a member of the Allen Family, this property is located along the Ohio River between Cannelton and Rocky Point on state road 66 just east of Lafayette Springs. Due to the size, topography, and location of the land, it is limited as to what this area may be used for. The Parks & Recreation Board envisions creating a “Rest Stop” for bicyclists traveling along State Road 66, equipping it with picnic tables.



PERRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
5-YEAR MASTER PLAN 2019-2024



### Additional Responsibilities

The Perry County Parks & Recreation Department is also responsible for custodial maintenance of three county-owned facilities, the former National Guard Armory, the Perry County Courthouse and the Perry County Detention Center. The National Guard Armory currently houses the county's Emergency Management Agency, and other county offices.

### Budget

The Perry County Parks & Recreation Department suffered a significant budget cut in 2012. Following a slight rebound in 2013, the budget has remained fairly stagnant. As a result of the specific line items cut and an increase in responsibilities, the stagnant budget has had a negative effect on our department. These negative effects include the level of maintenance performed, replacement or addition of vital equipment, and addition of programming. The following table shows the past five years of budget for the Perry County Parks & Recreation Department by three main categories; operations, maintenance, and capital projects.

PERRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
5-YEAR MASTER PLAN 2019-2024

Year	Operations	Maintenance	Capital Projects
2014	\$76,326	\$4,500	Unfunded
2015	\$77,073	\$4,500	Unfunded
2016	\$80,196	\$4,500	Unfunded
2017	\$86,522	\$4,500	Unfunded
2018	\$87,760	\$4,500	Unfunded

**Table 1: PCPRD Budget**

**Other Recreation Providers**

The following is a partial list of other recreation providers in Perry County:

- Hoosier National Forest (60,195 total acres) - 11 parks/facilities containing trails (hiking, biking, horse-back riding, multi-purpose), playground facilities, camping facilities, lakes, beaches, picnic shelters, and boat launches.
- Tell City Parks & Recreation (75 acres) – 8 parks containing a public swimming pool, playground facilities, picnic shelters, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball fields, paved walking trails, horseshoe pits, and a boat ramp. Various youth sports leagues are operated through these facilities.
- Hoosier Heights Country Club- Private 9-hole golf course for use of club members and invited guests. The facility also contains a driving range, swimming pool, and picnic area.
- Rocky Point Marina- Full service privately-owned marina on the Ohio River just above the Cannelton Locks & Dam offering boat and canoe rental, docking and launching ramps, camping, and gas.
- Perry County 4H Fairgrounds-is overseen by a separate board of officers and maintains a 50c3 status. Although named Perry County it is not owned by the county or fall under the jurisdiction of the Perry County Parks Department.
- Mulzer Park-located in Derby this park had recently been deeded to the Derby Association by the Perry County Parks Department. The park includes scenic view of

the Ohio River, a shelter house, boat ramp, boat dock, handicap assessable restrooms and a community center.

## **Natural Features and Landscape**

### **Topography**

Being dominated by the Hoosier National Forest the topography of Perry County is hilly and forested throughout. The Ohio River runs along the south border of the county and offers the opportunity for many water sport activities. The topography of Perry County lends itself very well to most kinds of outdoor recreation such as camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, kayaking and other water sports.

### **Geology/Soils**

A visitor to Perry County is likely to carry away two distinct impressions of the landscape of the county; one, a panorama of rugged tree covered hills; the other, a vista of the broad, fertile valley of the Ohio River. These two impressions single out visible aspects of the geological history of Perry County.

Beneath the upland areas and rocky hillsides are layers of rocks of several types-sandstone, shale, siltstone, limestone, coal, and clay. In the limestone, and in some of the shale, are fossilized shells resembling shells now found along warm seashores. In other shale, in the coal beds and in some sandstone, are fossils of large land plants of fernlike appearance. It does not take too much imagination to think of all these rocks as the hardened deposits of ancient streams, beaches, swamps, mudflat.

### **Forest Resources**

Perry County is the hilliest county as well as one of the most forested counties in Indiana as it features more than 60,000 acres of Hoosier National Forest. Central hardwoods, primarily oak and hickory, are predominate. The pine in the forest was planted primarily to restore eroding land and is not a native to the area.



### **Water Resources**

There are many surface water resources in Perry County. The Hoosier National Forest offers 5 watershed lakes; German Ridge, Saddle, Tipsaw, Celina and Indian are used for fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, hunting and other recreational activities. Other major watersheds are the Middle Fork of the Anderson River, Deer Creek, Middle Deer Creek, Oil Creek, and Poison Creek. The Ohio River is located on the south border of Perry County and usually impacts the low-lying areas in the flood plan during the spring season. The Cannelton Locks and Dam provides several miles of flooded inlets in Perry County. Little Deer Creek, Big Deer Creek, Millstone Creek, Poison Creek, and Oil Creek provide some of the best fishing and aquatic habitat in the state.

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

#### **Transportation Links**

Perry County is split north to south by state road 37 and east to west by Interstate 64. Most local traffic uses the state roads, county roads and municipal streets for daily travel. There is one railroad that passes through the municipality of Tell City. The railroad primarily provides a means of transportation for moving goods from the Perry County Port Authority to several industries in the southern part of the county. Plans are in place to expand the tourism use of the railroad in the future by providing theme excursions.

#### **Industry in Perry County**

The primary industry in Perry County is manufacturing. Over the decades this industry focus has evolved from furniture-based manufacturing to industry supporting the automotive industry in different capacities. This is followed by the medical and service industries respectfully in terms of employment.

#### **Cultural Perry County**

Perry County was formed on November 1, 1814 (two years before the state of Indiana was admitted to the Union) from Warrick Count. It was named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry who defeated the British squadron in the decisive Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. The Ohio

River made Perry County a focal point and settlers were drawn here due to plentiful supplies of natural resources and the area's scenic beauty

### Festivals

Perry County has several festivals throughout the year that highlight the cultural background of the different areas in the county. The Dogwood Festival is conducted during the month of April and is highlighted each weekend with different activities throughout the different communities. Shubael Little Pioneer village is a working pioneer village with all of its structures indigenous to Perry County. Several times a year the village is open to public tours. During the summer there is the Perry County 4-H Fair, Derby Fest hosted by the Derby Community Association and the Schweizer Fest in Tell City. During the fall there are several fall festivals events that again emphasize the uniqueness of the communities in the county.

### **Social and Economic Factors (from the 2010 US Census)**

Using STATSAMERICA as of the 2017 there were 19,081 people and 7,460 households, and 5,031 families residing in the county. The population density was 50 inhabitants per square mile. There were 8,618 housing units at an average density of 22.3 per square mile.

Of the 7,460 households, 30.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them. 67.4% were family households. 16.7 were married with children, 36.5% married without children, 8.8% single parents, 5.4% other and 28.2% were living alone. The average household size was 2.30.

The medium household income in 2017 was \$50,670 which is slightly lower than the Indiana average of \$54,181.

### **Population (2000-2010)**

- According to the 2010 US Census, Perry County had 19,338 residents.
  - 53% Male, 47% Female
  - Median Age: 41

- 96% White; 2% Black or African American; .2% American Indian; .4% Asian; 1% Hispanic or Latino; .1% Some other race
- The 2015 estimated population of Perry County was 19,347 people.

### **Economics in Perry County**

- According to the US Census Bureau, Perry County had a 6.7% unemployment rate in 2014
- Median household income in 2014 (dollars): \$47,309
- Families below poverty level: 12.7%
- Largest non-agricultural employment area in Perry County: Manufacturing; Second largest: Healthcare and Social Services
- Largest Perry County employment area: Manufacturing

### **Housing**

- Average household size in Perry County: 2.38
- 8,495 total housing units
- 12% of all units are vacant
- 48.5% owned with a mortgage or loan
- 28% owned free & clear
- 23.6% Renter Occupied

### **Education**

- 72.6% of population High school graduate or higher
- 2.8% Bachelor's degree or higher

### **Socio-economic Summary**

- Perry County has a higher number of people living in poverty than the national average, but also a lower than average level of education
- Perry County has a lower level of racial diversity than the state averages
- The median age is higher than the state average

- The housing and economic characteristics for Perry County are near statewide averages

The implication of this data for parks and recreation is that Perry County must consider financial accessibility to their parks and programs, to avoid ‘pricing out’ the 10% of the local population that lives near or below poverty level. Perry County is less prosperous with a lower than state average household income, and an equal than state average unemployment level. This economic status restricts Perry County from the option of applying additional bonds, taxes, and fees as needed for parks and recreation without undue economic burden to the majority of residents.

## **Accessibility and Universal Design**

### **Statement of Accessibility for Perry County**

“The Perry County Parks & Recreation Department makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable modification under the law for people with disabilities to all of our programs, activities, and services. We strive to provide access for people with physical and mental disabilities. Information on our commitment to accessibility is posted at all of our facilities, online, and at the Perry County Courthouse.”

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with over 50 employees designate at least one individual to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact:

Teresa Kanneberg, County Administrator

ADA & Title VI Coordinator

Perry County Courthouse Administration Office

2219 Payne Street

Tell City, IN 47586

(812) 547-2758

Email: [pccomm@psci.net](mailto:pccomm@psci.net)

All comments will be replied to within five business days

### **Current Accessibility**

Perry County has accessible walkways, shelter houses, picnic areas and restrooms in our parks and facilities. Every activity available in the Perry County parks has been developed to be accessible to as many people as possible through one means or another, except for play on our aging play structures. For universal design purposes, Perry County has adopted the policy of purchasing only accessible picnic tables and benches; ADA only requires that 50% of these amenities be accessible. Information about accessibility to programs, services, and facilities, as well as potential accommodations are posted in English and Spanish, (and soon Braille) in conspicuous locations in each building owned and operated by the Perry County Parks Department. Persons that have questions about the posted accessibility information are welcome to call the Perry County park staff at: (812) 719-1057 anytime during business hours.

Progress on accessibility issues in Perry County has been hampered over the years by a lack of funding, but some significant improvements have been made. Our newest accessible feature is the public restroom at the Riverside Park in Magnet. This restroom was universally designed to allow ease of use to the greatest extent possible for all users

### **Public Participation**

As part of the comprehensive master plan for the Perry County Parks and Recreation Department a survey questionnaire was developed to canvass different members of the Perry County Community. In 2015 questionnaires were sent home with children from the three elementary schools in the county; Meyers in Cannelton, William Tell in Tell City and Perry Central in the county. In addition, survey booths were set up for community input at the Perry County 4-H Fair, Derby Fest and the Schweitzer Fest. As a result, a total of 159 questionnaires were filled out and returned. Below is a summary of the survey results.

In all 39.6% of the questionnaires were returned from the cities of Tell City, 16.9% from Cannelton, 2.5% from Troy and 40.7% from the rest of the county representing 588 members of households ranging from birth to over 65 years of age. 76% of the respondents were employed full-time, 12.5% employed part-time, 3% retired and 7.5% were unemployed. 79.8% were married, 8.1% divorced, 6.2% single and 5.6% were living with a domestic partner or significant other. 79.9% were female and 20.1% male.

There seemed to be some confusion as to what parks respondents thought they were rating. Most of the questionnaires from Tell City and Cannelton appeared to focus on the parks in their respective cities. Most of the respondents felt that the existing parks are well maintained, and their sizes are adequate. However, the majority also felt that the number of parks sponsored activities were not adequate nor were they aware of such activities when offered. There appeared to be an increase negativity about the cleanliness of the restrooms, however it should be noted that most of the negative responses came from surveys received from members of the Tell City Community.

Respondents were not sure of the need for floating docks at the public boat ramps with only 41.5% answering yes. Most of the respondents indicated that they would like to see more trails developed in the county for people to enjoy. Less than half indicated the need to develop a public golf course in the county. There appeared to be a positive response supporting extending the public greenway from Tell City to Eagles Bluff & Overlook. 45.9% of the response supported the development of a safe, secure public firing and archery range.

In the summer of 2017, Purdue University and the Parks and Recreation Departments of Tell City and Perry County, along with the Perry County Development Corporation and their local partners, began a process of public engagement to inform the development of new 5-year Master Plans that will undergird each of the department's strategic initiatives between 2019 and 2024.

The purpose of the public engagement efforts was to gather data on community member's perceptions, opinions and experiences regarding their local parks. A survey (available online between August 11, 2017 and September 18, 2017) and a community forum May 29, 2018 via a two-hour community forum with 50 attendees from across Perry County was used to develop a clear picture on current park facilities and programs (public awareness, usage, quality, etc.) and offered a means to collect ideas for improvement and opportunities for a diversification of offerings.

During the forum the community was asked about what they would love to see and what they love about Tell City and Perry County Parks. Information gathered included topics such as facilities, trails, programs, safety, hours, costs, location and other attributes. This exercise helped surface the opportunities and challenges facing the park systems.



For this exercise, challenges represent the barriers or situations that presently affect the use of the parks. In contrast, opportunities represent the creative ideas or actions that community thinks can serve as solutions to current issues.

The summary of results of the survey fairly mirrored the previous survey conducted by the PCRD in 2015.

**See attached Tell City & Perry County Parks & Recreation Engagement Report** (Perry County Parks & Recreation Department information begins on page 130, section 5.8)

## Survey

Community Input was also collected through a 36-question survey available from 8/11/17 – 9/18/17. Leadership from the Perry County Development Corporation, both Parks and Recreation Departments and members of the Purdue team collaborated on marketing the survey. Multiple marketing approaches were taken including: newsletters, television, email, newspapers, press releases, and social media.

The results in the report include the data from a total of 1250 participants. None of the survey questions were mandatory, therefore some totals for questions do not add up to the total number of participants. A total of 856 respondents answered 100% of the survey. The number of respondents by each question is included throughout the report for reference.

## Demographics of Survey Participants

This section contains the demographic characteristics of the respondents of the online survey. It is important to mention that the following results only include data from the surveys 100% completed (856 respondents).

### Location

Respondents were asked to report their residential status (Tell City or not) and their mailing address zip code. Of the respondents to the Tell City question, 441 of 610 indicated that they lived in Tell City (72.3%) and 169 of 610 (27.7%) indicated that they lived outside the city limits. (Table 13).

**Table 1. Residence of Respondents as Reported by Respondents (Survey Question Q24: Do you live inside or outside the city limits of Tell City?)**

Answer	N	%
Inside City Limits	441	72.3%
Outside City Limits	169	27.7%
Total	610	71.2% of sample

Note: Given that 610 of 856 total respondents answered the question, 246 (28.7%) respondents chose not to reply.

A clearer picture comes from the respondent's zip code, 847 of 1250 respondents (67.7%) gave their zip code of residence. It means that 403 (32.2%) respondents chose not to reply. Perry County residents made up the vast majority (95.8%) of these respondents (807 of 832) (Table 1). Of the 3.2% of respondents that identified their residence as being outside of Perry County, many of them lived in these counties around Indiana: Crawford, Dubois, Lawrence, Orange, Pike and Spencer. (Table 14).

**Table 2. Residence by zip code of Perry County resident. (Survey Question Q22: Please enter your zip code)**

Zip Code	County	City	N	%
47586	Perry County	Tell City, IN	617	73.9%
47520	Perry County	Cannelton, IN	88	10.5%
47551	Perry County	Leopold, IN	31	3.7%
47515	Perry County	Bristow, IN	17	2.0%
47525	Perry County	Derby, IN	13	1.6%
47588	Perry County	Troy, IN	12	1.4%
47576	Perry County	Saint Croix, IN	8	1.0%
47514	Perry County	Branchville, IN	7	0.8%
47531	Spencer County	Evanston, IN	5	0.6%
47574	Perry County	Rome, IN	4	0.5%
47577	Spencer County	Saint Meinrad, IN	3	0.4%
42348	Other state	Hawesville, KY	3	0.4%
47635	Spencer County	Rockport, IN	2	0.2%
47611	Spencer County	Chrisney, IN	2	0.2%
47550	Spencer County	Lamar, IN	2	0.2%
47469	Orange County	West Baden Springs, IN	2	0.2%
47420	Lawrence County	Avoca, IN	2	0.2%
47513	Dubois County	Birdseye, IN	2	0.2%
47532	Dubois County	Ferdinand, IN	1	0.1%
47546	Dubois County	Jasper, IN	1	0.1%
47118	Crawford County	English, IN	1	0.1%
	Location did not find		12	1.4%
	<b>Total</b>		835	97.5 of sample

Not

## Needs Analysis

### What is Issue Analysis?

Since the PCPRD is developing this master plan in house, we are using a simplified issue analysis method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from each method of public input, the input from the park board and the park staff and identified common themes from each method and condensed those themes into underlying issues. The

issues were placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints, then turned into a coherent priority and action plan.

### **Issues from the Public Input**

- Playground renovation/new equipment/accessibility
- More programs; especially family and youth oriented.
- More parks; space for more open play space, ball fields, etc.
- More trails, i.e. greenways, etc.

### **Issues from the Board, Staff and Municipal officers**

- Accessibility of facilities, programs and policies: need to upgrade all to current ADA standards.
- Remove and replace outdated/unsafe play equipment
- Add programs strategically for youth, and families
- Lack of funding across the board
- Limited available/affordable new greenspace for parks

### **National Standards**

According to the 1983 National Recreation and Park Association's "Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" by Dr. James Hall and Dr. James Mertes, a county the size of Perry County should have between 6.25 to 10.25 acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Since Perry County has approximately 19,000 residents that suggests a 'recommended' minimum of 118.75 acres of land for outdoor recreation use. Perry County currently has approximately 48 acres of land in its service area. This leaves the APRD with a 70.75 acre deficit in developed open space.

### **What We Need**

- Consistent funding
- New and accessible play equipment
- More programs of many kinds

## **Priorities and Action Schedule**

Setting the priorities for this plan was difficult, as financial constraints are the deciding factor for almost all new development or land acquisition for the PCPRD. Capital improvements have been almost non-existent for the last 10+ years in PCPRD's parks, except for lands donated or bequeathed to the County.

### **Transition into the New Plan**

During the transition into the new planning period, the PCPRD will concentrate on maintaining the current level of the parks within its jurisdiction. We will all be exploring other funding options to help support our budget, i.e. fundraising, grants, etc.

#### Potential fundraising options during the transition period:

- Municipal bonds
- Sales taxes
- User fees
- Development impact fees/land donation requirements
- Creative partnerships (with private and public entities)
- Grants (Federal, State, Foundation, Non-profit, etc.)
- Donations
  - In-kind, service, and products
  - Bequests
  - Tax write-offs
  - Corporate donations
- Product sales (hats, t-shirts, etc.)

Fundraising will be critical; each of the action plan elements depends on having available funds to create it. Citizens of Perry County have provided input into what they want from parks and recreation for the next five years; now it is time to figure out a way to pay for it. One important consideration of the fundraising process is the old truism: "It takes money to make money." This is particularly true of the grants application process. Most grants have some variety of 'match', which requires that the grant recipient provide a required percentage

of the total cost of the grant funded project. The Land and Water Conservation Fund for example, provides a 50% reimbursement of the costs of approved projects; which means that PCPRD must raise in advance the rest of the money for any projects that we wish to build under this grant.

**Priorities for 2019 to 2024**

- Fundraising drive/transition period (first 12 months of plan period)
- Ensuring all parks within the department's responsibility are ADA compliant.
- Creation of new programs for families
- Installation of new, safe, accessible play equipment; using volunteers and donated materials as much as possible
- Development of new trails
- Exploration of all available/willing seller potential park properties countywide
- Purchase/donation/bequest of new parks lands countywide
- Development of all newly acquired parks for multiple-uses

The Perry County Parks and Recreation Board (Applicant) has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United State Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the ACT.

SIGNATURE  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

**Richard Newton**  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE  
APPLICANT SECRETARY

**Troy Leistner**  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE



***Board Resolution Adopting Plan***

WHEREAS, the Perry County Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Perry County Indiana, and

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

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

Passed and signed this        day of    February        , 2019    .

ATTEST:

**Richard Newton**

President

**Chris Goffinet**

County Attorney