

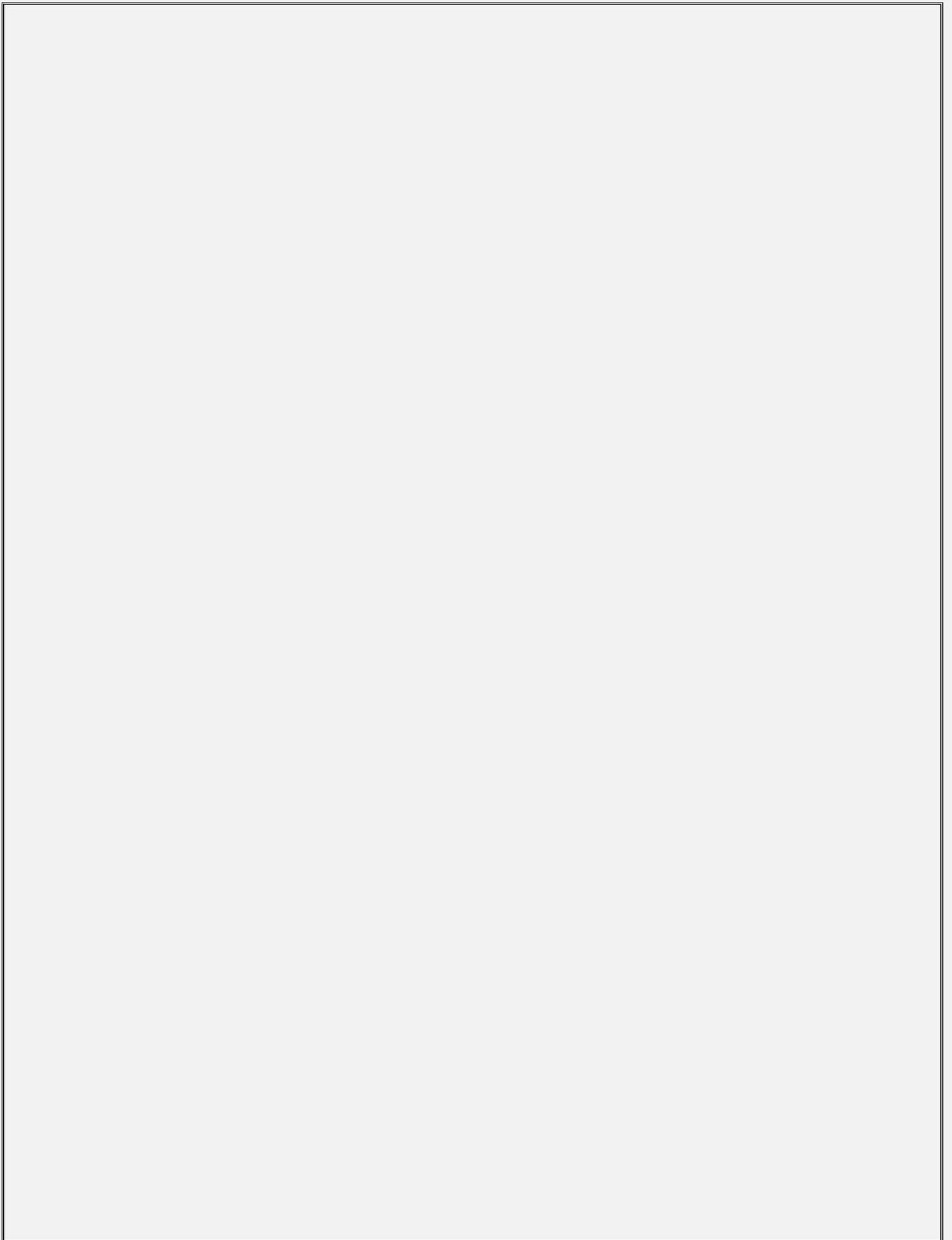


Parks ♦ Public Spaces ♦ Historical Areas ♦ Cultural Areas ♦ Trails ♦ Streets ♦ Waterways

Town of Newburgh, Indiana
 Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Master Plan
2018—2022
 Newburgh Board of Parks and Recreation

Parks ♦ Public Spaces ♦ Historical Areas ♦ Cultural Areas ♦ Trails ♦ Streets ♦ Waterways





2018-2022 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan



Town of Newburgh, Indiana
23 West Jennings Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Warrick County

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Master Plan Created in 2017
Master Plan Approved by Parks Board on January 4, 2018
Master Plan Adopted by Town Council on March 28, 2018

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Introduction

This 2018-2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan represents an update to the 2013-2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board on December 6, 2012.

The Town of Newburgh Parks Master Plan is a planning tool that the Newburgh Parks Department relies heavily upon to guide its programs and services for the public. This is a dynamic working document we refer to often. As with any 'quality of life' program, citizen input is crucial to gauging which direction we should focus funding. In this Master Plan we have surveyed random groups of citizens and community leaders. We have utilized public input surveys and have held two public forums to gather information from our service area with the objective of producing a plan that will use and protect our natural resources, develop and grow our parks system and the programs we offer with a prioritized, unified vision and funding plan.

The Parks Master Plan conforms to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Resources 2016 Park Master Plan Guidelines.

Purpose of the Plan

The Newburgh Parks Board is the primary provider of parks, recreation and open space needs for residents of the Town of Newburgh and the surrounding area. Planning is accomplished through the development of a Master Plan and this plan was given clear purpose with the following points:

- It will gather feedback and input from Town of Newburgh residents along with surrounding county residents and report the information in an accurate manner.
- It will aid Newburgh in recognizing the importance of wise utilization and preservation of its natural resources.
- It will help to broaden the community's view of itself in terms of the use of these natural, man-made and cultural resources for recreational activities.
- It will help to determine the recreational needs of Newburgh, identify sites or areas to meet these needs, and to develop methods and programs to preserve and/or develop these sites and areas.
- It will assist the community in recognizing the importance of good fiscal planning in the utilization of public funds.
- It will maintain an up to date master plan to assist the Parks Board in promoting the parks goals and obtaining grant funding.

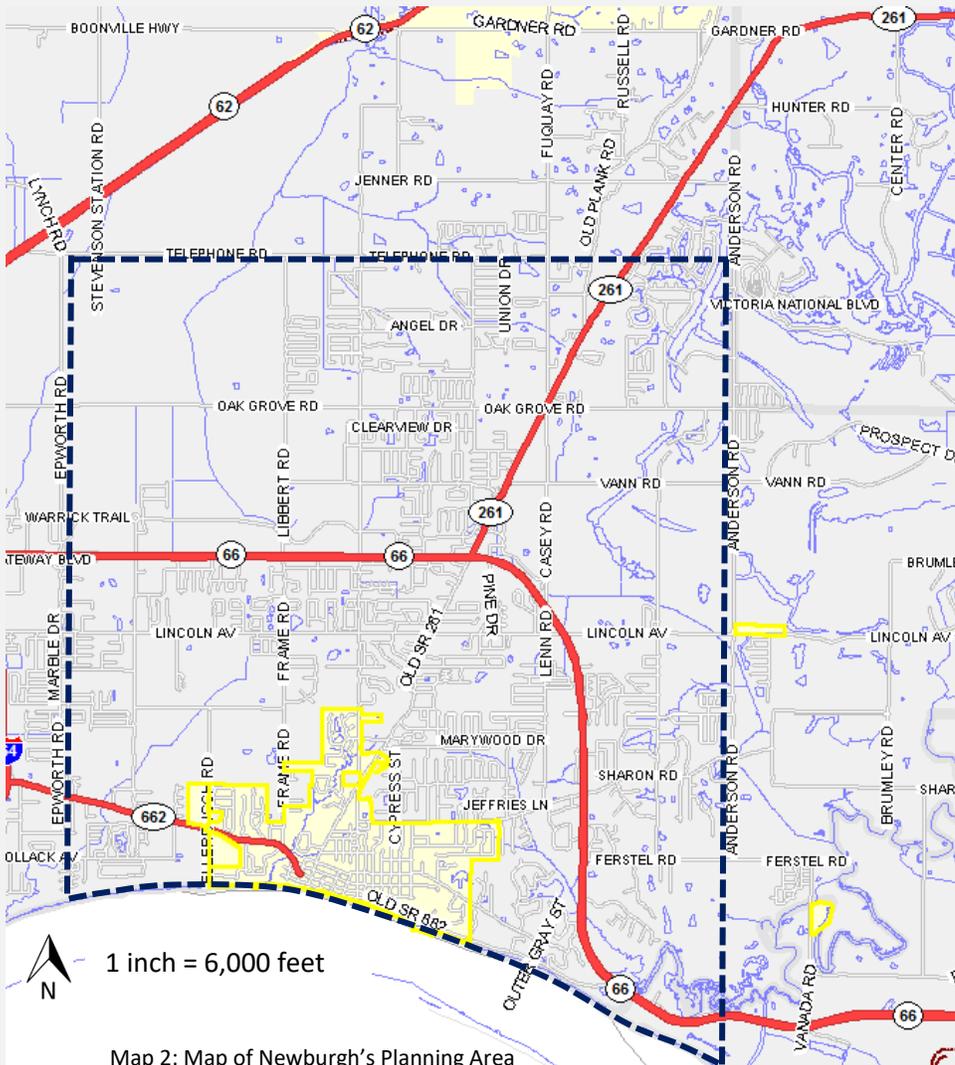
Definition of the Planning Area

The Town of Newburgh is located in the southwest corner of Warrick County, nestled against the banks of the Ohio River, just east of the City of Evansville (see Map 1). Newburgh is under the jurisdiction of the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation projects.

The Town of Newburgh is a bedroom community of 3,300 people (according to the 2016 StatsAmerica website serviced by the IU Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana's Kelley School of Business) which can swell to over 10,000 people during popular events like our Fourth of July Fireworks celebration, which was selected as one of the best places to celebrate Fourth of July by Best Things Indiana in 2017 (see article in Appendix A). While the town limits only encompass 1.5 square miles, the town's service area would include Warrick County (population 62,498) and portions of Vanderburgh County as well as other surrounding counties. Newburgh is a destination, and hosts thousands of tourists a month, who wish to soak in history, walk our scenic Rivertown Trail, shop our boutiques, dine, or host a gathering. With several wedding venues, photography studios and caterers in the area, Newburgh is also a popular wedding destination.



Map 1: Newburgh



Map 2: Map of Newburgh's Planning Area

The historic town and sweeping Ohio River views make Newburgh one of Warrick County's gems.

Our planning area is our town limits plus approximately a 2 mile radius minus the natural barrier of the Ohio River to the south. The planning area is loosely defined by the following boundaries: The Ohio River to the south, Telephone Road to the north, Anderson Road to the east and Epworth to the west. These limits include the incorporated town (highlighted in yellow) along with the surrounding Newburgh areas. See Map 2.

As the county experiences rapid development (population 59,689 in 2010 up to 62,498 in 2016), the town must face the challenge of providing parks and recreation services for a user base of 23,656 on a tax base of 1,488 households.

The Town of Newburgh's tax base will grow slightly in the years 2018 & 2019

with the addition of two (2) subdivisions adding about eighty four (84) lots. Annexation is another way to increase the Town's tax base but annexation at this time is not a feasible solution to capturing Parks and Recreation funding due to financial constraints of the Town.

Ideas on how to provide these services with a limited tax base include:

1. Requesting partnerships for funding from county organizations like Warrick County Economic Development, Warrick County Trails, Ohio Township and Redevelopment Commission.
2. Charging different rates for in-town and out of town residents for rentals and pool admissions.
3. Setting up a program (Park Pals) that allows for donations and volunteering services to help maintain and fund the parks.

Parks Board and Administrative Offices

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of five (5) members; four, at-large members appointed by the Town Council who each serve four-year terms and one (1) Warrick County School Board appointed member who serves a four-year term. A Town Council liaison is also assigned to the board annually. The Board is an independent policy-making body with a bipartisan appointment process. In addition to the Parks Board, there is also an appointed group of Parks Advisory Board Members whose role is to advise the Parks Board. These are appointed annually by the Town Council. Along with the members and the Town Council liaison, the Town Manager and Town Attorney (or associate) also attend each meeting. See Chart 1 for the organizational structure of the Parks Board and Town Staff.

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board History

The Parks Board was first created on March 25, 1969 (Ordinance Number 3) and stated that the Board of Parks and Recreation would be composed of four members selected by the Newburgh Town Council President to serve four-year terms with staggered term expirations. The ordinance also allowed for the Parks Board to create an Advisory Board composed of citizens interested in the Newburgh Parks System.

In 1989 ordinance 1989-17 repealed the previous ordinance (1969 Ordinance Number 3) and recreated the Department of Parks and Recreation according to the requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3. Per the new ordinance, four members appointed by the President of the Town Council were joined by one ex officio member appointed by the Library District Board. This ex officio would have all the rights to regular members, including the right to vote.

In 2010 the Town Council waived any political party requirements of the Park Board members (Ordinance 2010-02).

In 2015 Newburgh Code of Ordinance §32.001 was established to recreate the Newburgh Parks Board keeping all requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3. The recreation removed the Library District Board ex officio member and replaced them with an ex officio member appointed by the governing body of the Warrick County School Corporation. The new ordinance stated that no more than two (2) members shall be of the same political party and that all members including the ex officio shall be residents of the Town of Newburgh. The new ordinance also laid out the terms of each member, the election of officers and the Board's powers and responsibilities.

Park Board Powers and Responsibilities

1. The Board shall have the power to perform all acts necessary to acquire and develop sites and facilities and to conduct such programs as are generally understood to be park and recreation functions. In addition, the Board shall have the powers and duties listed in I.C. 36-10-3.
2. The Board shall prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of town government as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts. The Board may accept gifts, donations and subsidies for park and recreation purposes.

Parks Board Structure

Mary Anne Wilsbacher, Board President
119 West Jennings Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: wilsbacher2@gmail.com
4 Year Term: 2017-2020

Wanda Kavanaugh, Vice President
32 Williams Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: wfkavanaugh@aol.com
4 Year Term: 2015-2018

Randy Wheeler, Board Secretary
100 Water Street #2
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: rwheelernews@sbcglobal.net
4 Year Term: 2018-2021

Ron Keller
201 Sharon Road
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: ronalkeller@rocketmail.com
4 Year Term: 2015-2018

Kevin Reine, School Board Ex Officio Member
100 Fairfax
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: nbereine@wowway.com
4 Year Term expires 2018-2021

Stacie Krieger, Parks Board Liaison
703 Cypress Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: skrieger@newburgh-in.gov

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Advisory Group

Shirley Moore
318 Cypress Street, Newburgh, IN 47630

Susan Melfi
320 West Water Street, Newburgh, IN 47630

Parks Board Meetings

The Newburgh Parks Board conducts public meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at Town Hall (23 West Jennings Street, Newburgh, IN) unless otherwise posted. At these meetings policies, financials, ongoing and future projects and park conditions are discussed.

Each of the Board Members has an area of responsibility. The current Board has divided up the areas of responsibility as follows:

- Lou Dennis Park (Fortress of Fun & Newburgh Community Pool) – Ron Keller
- Indian Hill Overlook Park – Wanda Kavanaugh
- Old Lock and Dam Park (Old Lock and Dam Building & Boat Dock) – Randy Wheeler
- Old Lock and Dam Park (Lockmaster Cottages) – Kevin Reine
- Rivertown Trail – Town Manager & Mary Ann Wilsbacher
- AMAX Fields – Town Manager
- Kiwanis Community Park – Town Manager
- Veterans Monument Park – Town Manager

Mission Statement

The Newburgh Parks & Recreation Board strives to preserve, protect, and manage natural, historical, and recreational resources and facilities in order to offer leisure activities and programming in which all citizens can participate.

The Parks Board and Staff are dedicated to fiscal responsibility and efficiency through proper planning. The Board is committed to pursuing cooperation and partnerships with fellow departments, volunteers, groups, and agencies in the community to achieve these philosophies.

Progress since the Last Plan

- Funding for the westward expansion of the Rivertown Trail was approved and work will begin in 2019.
- Warrick County Trails has proposed a partnership with the Town of Newburgh to install shelters, restrooms and other amenities to the Rivertown Trail.
- Batting cages and concrete pad at Lou Dennis Park were removed.
- Lou Dennis Park landscaping was updated and portions of the landscaping are now maintained by volunteers.
- New boat dock has been built and installed.
- Slope stabilizing at Old Lock and Dam Park has been completed.
- A Facebook page was created for the Town of Newburgh along with a page for the Newburgh Community Pool. The Newburgh Community Pool also has an Instagram account.
- Park Pals has been established to raise funds for the park and gather a list of volunteers.
- Library Board appointment was replaced with a School Board appointment.
- Newburgh Community Pool was closed in 2018.

Town of Newburgh Administrative Offices

The Town of Newburgh does not have a dedicated Parks Department. The Town Manager, Administrative Assistant, Zoning Administrator, Maintenance Department, Street Department and the Clerk's Office all assist in the management of the parks system in Newburgh.

Newburgh Town Hall

Address: 23 West Jennings Street, Newburgh, IN 47630.

Phone: 812-853-1720

Fax: 812-853-1727

Website: www.newburgh-in.gov

All email correspondence for parks can be emailed to the Town Manager or Administrative Assistant.

Town Manager: Christy Powell

Phone: 812-853-3578

Email: cpowell@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: October 19, 2015

Park Duties: Strategy, management and reporting

Administrative Assistant: Andrea Balboni

Phone: 812-853-1720

Email: abalboni@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: May 25, 2016

Park Duties: Park programming, new hire orientation, and administrative duties

Zoning Administrator: Tavi Wydicks

Phone: 812-853-2728

Hired: October 1, 2012

Park Duties: Storm water maintenance

Maintenance Supervisor: Gerald Bowser

Phone: 812-853-1720

Email: gbowser@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: October 23, 1997

Park Duties: Maintain all park areas/facilities

Street Superintendent: John Heck

Phone: 812-853-6648

Email: jheck@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: May 25, 1989

Park Duties: Mowing, landscaping and event setup

Clerk/Treasurer: Jon Lybarger

Phone: 812-853-7111

Email: jlybarger@newburgh-in.gov

Term: 2016-2019

Park Duties: Maintain park budget

Deputy Clerk: Rosie McMichael

Phone: 812-853-7111

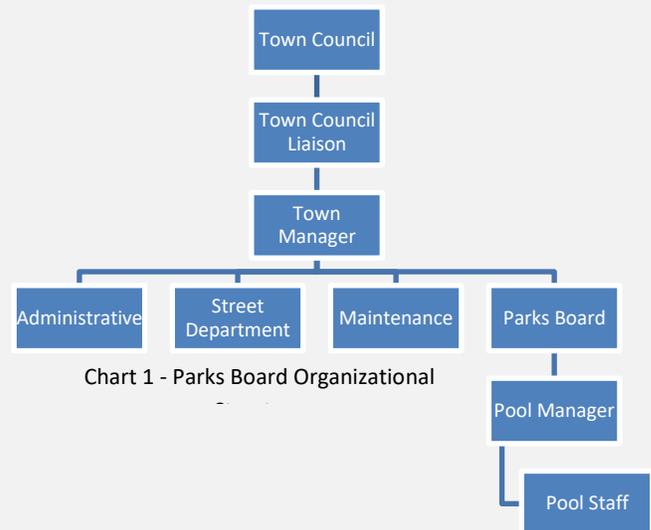


Chart 1 - Parks Board Organizational

Email: rmcmichael@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: June 20, 2016

Park Duties: New hire orientation, payroll, cash collections and data analysis

Chief of Police: Eric Mitchell

Phone: 812-853-1723

Email: emitchell@newburghpd.org

Hired: August 27, 2009

Park Duties: Monitor and patrol parks

Parks Board Attorney: Raymond Dudlo

Town Attorney: Chris Wischer

Town Engineer: David Hynes

Direct Staff

Seasonally, the Parks Board directly employs a number of people to operate the Newburgh Community Pool. This includes 1 Pool Manager, 1 Assistant Pool Manager, 20 Lifeguards and 4 Front Desk Staff. Each seasonal staff member works between 25-35 hours per week between mid-May and first week of August. At the time of this Master Plan, the Newburgh Community Pool is closed. While closed, no seasonal staff for the pool will be employed. Once the Newburgh Community Pool is up and running, staff will be hired.

Park Pals

The Parks Board is working on creating a group that will be known as Park Pals. Park Pals will be a non-profit organization established to enhance the public's enjoyment of the Newburgh public parks along with preserving, protecting and growing the parks. Park Pals currently has 5 Board Members and is working on their 501(c)3 status. Park Pals will allow the Parks Board to raise funds to help sustain the parks system as well as form a group of concerned citizens to volunteer when needed. For more information on Park Pals contact Town Hall at 812-853-1720.

Volunteers

Volunteers from Newburgh and the surrounding areas provide us with invaluable assistance by helping maintain and improve our parks system, assist with our swim programs and provide programs within the parks. Without these volunteers we would not be able to provide the quality of parks and programs that we currently enjoy. The Parks Board has around 100 volunteers every year that help with the Ohio River Sweep, the Fortress of Fun maintenance, Newburgh Dolphins Swim Team, and the Castle High School Senior Work Day. The Town of Newburgh and the Parks Board invite all interested persons to volunteer in our parks system; contact Town Hall at 812-853-1720 for more information.

Recommendations

The three previous park plans have recommended the creation of a full time staff position for the Parks Board. Instead, the services of Town employees have been increased to meet increased administrative and maintenance demands posed by park expansions. An extensive desire for park programming, greater publicity of park offerings, fundraising, volunteer scheduling, maintaining social media presence, coordination efforts and administrative needs along with an aging community park require additional manpower. Along with these needs parks come with their own specialized knowledge when it comes to safety, care and maintenance.

Currently the functions or their coordination are largely performed by the Town Manager, Administrative Assistant and the Maintenance Supervisor. To fully realize the potential of their efforts and to make sure they are properly cared for and maintained, a year round dedicated administrative staff member and a year round dedicated maintenance staff member is needed. This need will only increase as the size of the Town and the Park System increases.

Another possible solution to help with the overall maintenance and provide the public with more access to playgrounds, tracks and open areas is a joint use agreement with the Warrick County School Corporation. At this time, there is not a legal joint use agreement between the Town of Newburgh/Newburgh Parks Board and the Warrick County School Corporation. After discussing the pros of such an agreement it is advised that the Town of Newburgh along with the Newburgh Parks Board work with the Warrick County School Corporation to draw up an agreement between the two entities.

The Newburgh Parks Board and the Warrick County School Corporation are working together on a Memorandum of Agreement between the Newburgh Community Pool and Newburgh Elementary School. The document describes a cooperative relationship between the two parties to share a donated automated external defibrillator (AED). The Newburgh Elementary School will house the AED during the school year and the Newburgh Community Pool will house the AED while in session. With the Newburgh Community Pool currently closed, the AED will remain at Town Hall during the summer months and will go back to Newburgh Elementary School when school resumes. See Appendix B for the AED press release, news articles and proposed Memorandum of Agreement.

Natural Landscape Features

National Regions

Warrick County is within two of Indiana's natural regions: The Southern Bottomlands and Southwestern Lowlands. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Southwest Bottomland Forest portions of Warrick County are part of the Forest Legacy (see Figure 1). The Forest Legacy is a program established by Congress as part of the 1990 Farm Bill to help identify and protect environmentally important forest lands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.



Figure 1: DNR Forest Legacy

Topography

The topography in Warrick County includes fertile bottomlands and rolling pastures to hilly uplands with areas of forests. In terms of its soils, Warrick County has four major regions: thick loess deposits, discontinuous loess over weathered sandstone and shale, silty and clayey lacustrine deposits and a small area of alluvial and outwash deposits. The Town of Newburgh exhibits subtleties of all these described features.

The highest point in the county is 658 feet which is north of Lynnville while the lowest point, 342, feet is the downstream end of the Ohio River below Newburgh.

Significant Nature Areas

There are no official significant nature areas or nature preserves located in the planning area. Warrick County along with neighboring Pike and Vanderburgh Counties has significant natural areas including the Interlake State Recreation Area, Wesselman Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands, Angel Mounds State Historic Site and the Sugar Ridge Recreation Area.

Invasive Species

When it comes to invasive species within the Newburgh Park System, the Newburgh Parks Board is taking a proactive approach. One of the most talked about invasive species is the Emerald Ash Borer. Six ash trees can currently be found within the Newburgh Parks System, one in Old Lock and Dam Park and five in Lou Dennis Community Park. The Emerald Ash Borer has become more active in southwestern Indiana and is a threat to the six ash trees within the Newburgh Parks System. The five trees within Lou Dennis Park currently shade the Fortress of Fun and allow for much needed relief from the sun on hot summer days. In 2016, the ash trees were tested and no signs of the Emerald Ash Borer were found. The six trees received their first treatment to protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer and the second round of treatment will be given in 2018. The treatment is recommended every two years for ten years to ensure the safety of the trees.

Fundraising for Emerald Ash Borer treatment began with the first treatment in 2016, when the residents of Water Street took up a collection to raise the funds. A Tea and Style Show hosted by Park Pals was put together to raise the funds for the 2018 treatment. The Tea and Style Show not only brought in enough money for the 2018 treatment, but for the 2020 treatment as well. Continued efforts will be made to ensure funding is in place to secure treatment for the years that it is needed.

Additional invasive species have not been identified within the Newburgh Parks System, but additional training is needed to help with identifying invasive species.

Recommendations

The Town of Newburgh Maintenance Supervisors along with additional staff from the Newburgh Street Department, Administrative Office and Park Board members will attend invasive species seminars and training to help with identifying any threats to the trees and vegetation in the Newburgh Parks System.

A full tree inventory is needed of the Newburgh Parks System along with an assessment of any invasive species within the parks. A partial inventory will be done in April of 2018 along the Rivertown Trail by the Warrick County Extension Office as part of the Phase III extension.

The Town of Newburgh needs to register with the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management organization as well as work with local and state agencies that will help keep them up to date on programs, volunteers and grants.

Climate

The climate in the planning area is moderate in the region, with fluctuations in the daily temperature influenced by the warm moist air masses from the south. Newburgh's position at the southern tip of the state allows for a Koppen-Geiger Climate Classification of Cfa (humid subtropical climate), whereas most of the state is in the Dfa rating (humid continental hot summers with year round precipitation). Newburgh is also in the USDA hardiness zone of 6b, whereas most of the state is in the hardiness zones 5b-6a.

Average daily (maximum) temperature is 89 degrees Fahrenheit in July, while the average daily (minimum) temperature is 23 degrees Fahrenheit in January. Rainfall averages 45.7 inches annually and snowfall averages 9 inches annually, although it fluctuates from year to year.

Mining

The settlement of the Town at its current location was influenced by the presence of the Ohio River, which in turn aided the development of the Town in its early years as an important river port. The geographical conditions present in the natural landscape influenced the development of both the local mining industry and the agricultural community. As strip mining for coal became a cost effective means for the retrieval of coal, activity in the underground mining industry has subsided. Strip mining of coal continues to be the livelihood for many County residents today. The effects of strip mining have significantly influenced the natural landscape of the Warrick County area.

Mine reclamation efforts of yesteryear were not as environmentally protective as today's plans and the remains of excavations left by mining efforts are apparent today.

Water Resources

The Ohio River is the most significant natural landscape feature associated with the Town of Newburgh and the identified planning area. Newburgh is located on the northern shore at mile 778 (see Chart 2), where the river is approximately 2,000

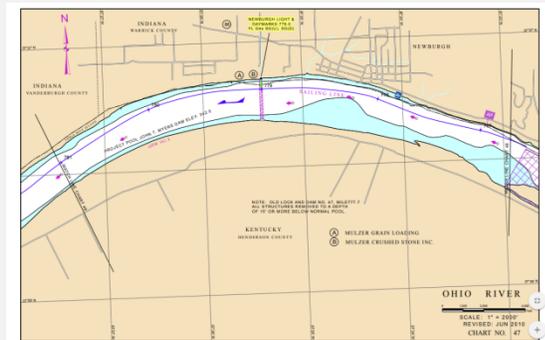


Chart 2: Ohio River Navigation Chart. Chart No. 47.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

feet wide. The boarder between Indiana and Kentucky is about 200 feet out from the banks. At the top of the banks there is a narrow, approximately two-lot deep shelf and then there is another steep rise. From there, the elevation of the town gradually rises away from the river.

Having such close access to the water has allowed for multiple parks to be constructed along the river. The Town of Newburgh has completed two of three phases of a trail that follows the Ohio River. The trail is known as the Rivertown Trail and allows residents and visitors to walk, run and bike all while enjoying the views of our greatest resource. As you follow the Rivertown Trail you travel through Old Lock and Dam Park. Old Lock and Dam Park houses the Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47 and the boat dock on the south side and the Lockmaster Cottages on the north side. The third park located on the river is Indian Hill Overlook Park (IHOP). IHOP has spectacular views of the river and the working Newburgh Locks and Dam.

Besides the Ohio River, there are two other waterways in the Newburgh area. The first is the unnamed tributary that runs through the Great Ravine. The Great Ravine is a ravine that runs north and south just west of center of the town. The Town has installed a historic bridge (Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264) that is part of the Rivertown Trail near the tributary's confluence with the Ohio River. This is a uniquely exciting feature added to the trail system that helps with tourism and promotion of the Town's historic charm.

The second waterway in the Newburgh area is the remnants of Cypress Creek to the east of town. Cypress Beach was a natural beach below rock cliffs located near the mouth of Cypress Creek, but was destroyed by the construction of the Newburgh New Locks and Dam at that location. However, Cypress Creek and its associated system of wetlands remain.

How Natural Landscape Features Affect Parks

The Ohio River and the climate are the two biggest factors that affect the Newburgh Park System. Due to the moderate climate, Newburgh Park System users can be outside for most of the year which means the parks are mostly used year round. The draw of the Ohio River brings residents and visitors to our Rivertown Trail, Indian Hill Overlook Park and to Old Lock and Dam Park. Each park has views and/or access to the river.

River access does mean occasional flooding, but according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the majority of the Town of Newburgh is in an area of minimal flood hazard which can be attributed to the elevation of the town (see Map 3). The Town of Newburgh was originally built on a bluff which keeps it high and dry and out of the 100 year flood plain. Due to the elevation of the town, a levee system is not needed.

Even with the town in an area of minimal flood hazard, flooding can still occur. The most recent flooding occurred in February 2018 with the Ohio River cresting on February 28th at 50.12 feet. A state of emergency was declared by Town Council on that same day.

The river flooded three sections of the Rivertown Trail. The section of the trail to first go under water was the section that runs across the unnamed tributary in the Great Ravine. Water Street Overlook, the Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264, and the Great Ravine were completely under water.



The second section was the part of the trail that runs in front of the Old Lock and Dam building and the third was a small section of the trail on Water Street across from the Town Hall building (23 West Jennings Street).

Old Lock and Dam Park was also affected by the flood waters and required the road that runs through the park, French Island Trail, to be closed. The south side of Old Lock and Dam Park, including the basement of Old Lock and Dam building and the boat dock area were completely under water. This flood also saw the Newburgh Locks and Dam completely under water, which has only occurred one other time since their creation in 1975.

Flooding of this nature has many implications on the parks, the first being the safety of the public. As flood waters rise, people come to look at the water and take pictures. The Town of Newburgh and the Newburgh Parks Department has to take measures to keep the public safe and away from the flood waters. Road closures, trail closures and park closures are done to ensure their safety.

With the south side of Old Lock and Dam Park flooded, the Old Lock and Dam building was unable to be rented. Renters that had already secured the space had to be moved to Preservation Hall (another rental space owned by the Town), moved to a different date or refunded their money.

As flood waters recede, cleanup efforts will be made around town and in the parks along the river. Erosion of banks, damage of property and debris left behind will not be known until the flood waters are gone. Parks that have been affected will continue to be closed to the public to ensure their safety.

Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Landscape Features

Man-made Features

Local Roads

The planning area is served by a variety of state and local roadways. State Road 66 crosses through Ohio Township, to the north of Newburgh. This collector highway provides connectivity to the City of Evansville to the west and the City of Rockport to the east. State Roads 261 and 61 both provide connections from the planning area to Boonville, the Warrick County Seat.



Figure 2: Ohio River Scenic Byway

State Road 662 parallels the Ohio River and is part of the Ohio River Scenic Byway (see Figure 2). The route begins at the intersection of I-69 west of the Town Limits and continues east to Ellerbusch Road, where it becomes a local roadway and continues in an eastward direction until it intersects with SR 66. Through the Town limits, the roadway is identified as Jennings Street and French Island Trail. The Town of Newburgh assumed ownership and maintenance responsibility from INDOT of what is now Jennings Street and French Island Trail. This acquisition was prompted by the Town’s desire to control heavy truck traffic through the historic district. Significant other local roadways include Water Street, State Street, Jefferson Street, and Bell Road.

Historic Downtown District

Newburgh has retained much of its compact, historic downtown along the Ohio River. The downtown area’s Core Historic Preservation District (see Map 4) is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and contains the original plats of Sprinklesburgh and Newburgh. The Old Cumberland Church, which served as Town Hall until 2006, is also on the National Register for Historic Places and has been renamed Preservation Hall. The first floor of Preservation Hall houses the Newburgh Museum along with a caterer’s kitchen and restrooms. The second floor of Preservation Hall is used as a rental space for events, weddings and meetings. The historic fabric of the community coupled with the scenic vista of



Map 4: Downtown Newburgh Historic Core District

the Ohio River has created a tourism magnet for area downtown merchants and area businesses. Since the Historic Downtown District is a developed commercial area, the area serves as a recreational destination in and of itself. The Rivertown Trail connects it to other areas along the Ohio River and brings thousands of walkers and tourists. The nature of the commerce in the Historic Downtown District is such that these merchants have a fiscal interest in recreational offerings and facilities that are connected to the downtown area. This relationship is reinforced by numerous cultural events utilizing the downtown and nearby park resources.

Locks and Dams

The US Department of Interior surplused the old Lock and Dam No. 47 site to the Town of Newburgh in 1978. All the original structures at the site are intact and have since been renovated by the Town. They include two lock master homes, the original control building as well as other ancillary buildings used in the lock and dam operation. These structures, along with the land around them, form the Old Lock and Dam Park.

Figure 3: Newburgh Locks and Dam.



The new Newburgh Locks and Dam is a significant landmark in greater Newburgh, located upstream from the Town. This river navigation tool controls the level of the Ohio River; it is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and is truly an engineering marvel. In addition to defining the character of the New Locks and Dam Park, the view of the Newburgh Locks and Dam is an important feature of Indian Hill Overlook Park and sections of the Rivertown Trail. The new Locks and Dam is also a popular fishing location. See Figure 3.

Historical Features

Johnson's Raid on Newburgh

Newburgh was the first town north of the Mason-Dixon Line to be captured by the confederate forces during the Civil War. On 18 July 1862, a brash young Kentuckian with aspirations to military advancement, Adam R. "Stovepipe" Johnson, used a rowboat and a small flatboat ferry to lead a group of

approximately thirty men across the Ohio River from Kentucky to Newburgh, Indiana. Landing on the waterfront, unoccupied at lunch time, Johnson and his men seized a small store of weapons from a riverside warehouse and bluffed a group of some eighty Union soldiers convalescing in a nearby hotel into surrendering their weapons. Johnson's men then looted a few homes and stores, paroled their prisoners, and returned safely across the river with their booty. The entire action lasted only a few hours and no shots were ever fired. There is a plaque along the Rivertown Trail that marks the site and describes the raid (see Figure 4). Each year, to remember Newburgh's involvement in the Civil War and to honor those from Newburgh who served, the Newburgh Museum hosts Newburgh Remembers. Newburgh Remembers is a weekend long event with battle reenactments, cotillion ball, ladies tea, and historic home tours.



Figure 4: Newburgh Captured Historical Marker.

Wikipedia.com

Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264

During phase II of the Rivertown Trail expansion the rehabilitated Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264 was added to allow the trail to cross the "Great Ravine". Constructed in 1920 the bridge originally was on Warner Road in Warrick County. The bridge allowed traffic to cross over Cypress Creek. The bridge's extreme makeover included reassembling, sandblasting, painting and planking, all following strict historical restoration standards. See Figure 5.



Figure 5: Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264.
Newburgh Museum Photo.

Historic Properties

The Town of Newburgh currently has 179 residential and commercial properties that have a historical rating with the state. There are about 163 residential homes, commercial properties, municipal buildings, cemeteries and other properties in town that have green historic markers detailing the history of those properties. The Woman's Club of Newburgh keeps a record of all green historic markers and a brochure and self-guided walking tour of some of those properties can be found at Historic Newburgh, Inc. (517 West Main Street, Newburgh) or on their website at historicnewburgh.org.

Cultural Events

Newburgh capitalizes on its historic character and its location on the Ohio River to attract large crowds to several popular events. These events are an important part of the recreational offerings of Newburgh and many of them rely on park resources. The majority of the events hosted throughout town are organized by local groups that have a close relationship with the Town. The Town of Newburgh and these local groups work closely together to continue the annual events all while thinking up new programs, events or activities to bring to the Town. Those groups include:

Historic Newburgh, Inc.

Historic Newburgh, Inc. (HNI) is a Main Street Community organization and they use the Main Street 4 Point Approach to bring life to our downtown community and our parks. HNI designs, organizes, promotes and helps strengthen our economic district through their daily work and special events. Each year they host at least 5 events that bring residents and tourists to our area. HNI utilizes the Newburgh Parks System facilities and works closely with the Town of Newburgh on events, grants, donations, sponsorships and historic preservation of our historical rated properties and districts.

Friends of Newburgh, Inc.

Friends of Newburgh, Inc. strives to assist and enhance the growth and development of the community of Newburgh so as to continue to improve the quality of life for the residents of the town and surrounding areas. Friends of Newburgh sponsors the Fiddler Fest which they host at the Old Lock and Dam building each year. The Friends of Newburgh has always been a huge supporter of our Parks System and when possible donates profits from the Fiddler Fest to the Parks System.

Newburgh Museum

Newburgh Museum is located in Preservation Hall in the core historic district of Newburgh. The Newburgh Museum is run by a group of docents that assist with telling the history of the Town of Newburgh. Along with the museum the Museum Board and volunteers annually stage a reenactment of Newburgh's involvement in the Civil War. The reenactment takes place over a weekend and utilizes the Old Lock and Dam Park. The museum works closely with the town to ensure historical elements of our parks are being preserved and promoted.

Woman's Club of Newburgh

The Woman's Club of Newburgh is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of its members. The Club's purpose of education and charity is accomplished through fostering interest among the members in social, economic, cultural and civic affairs of the community. The Woman's Club of Newburgh hosts several events throughout the year and has a yearly grant application process. The Town of Newburgh Parks Board has applied for this grant in years past, most recently in 2017, for improvements to the Newburgh Community Pool.

Newburgh Community Theater, LTD.

The Newburgh Community Theater performs on average 2 shows a year at Preservation Hall located in Newburgh's Core Historic District. The shows bring in residents and visitors to the area providing an economic boost for our shops and restaurants.

The Town of Newburgh, Boards/Committees and the groups listed above host the following events each year:

- **Ring in Spring! Tea and Style Show**

The Ring in Spring Tea and Style Show will take place for the first time in 2018. The Tea and Style Show will be an annual event that takes place every March and is presented by the Newburgh Park Pals. The Tea and Style Show is a way for the Park Pals to involve the local community, residents and visitors all while raising money for park events. The 2018 Tea and Style Show will see all proceeds going to the Emerald Ash Borer fund to help with the second treatment of the ash trees. The Tea and Style Show will continue each year to help fund the Emerald Ash Borer treatment and once that is complete, a new park project will be assigned to the event.
- **Rivertown Trail 5K**

The Rivertown Trail 5K is an annual event that takes place every May and raises money for continued Rivertown Trail upkeep and maintenance. The race utilizes the Rivertown Trail, Indian Hill Overlook Park and the Old Lock and Dam Park. The event is run by the Rivertown Trail 5K Committee and funded by sponsors and the Town.
- **Miscellaneous Races**

Besides the Rivertown Trail 5K several other races take place on the Rivertown Trail each year. Each race is different, with race miles spanning from one (1) to a little over three (3). Each race must be permitted by the Town of Newburgh and their dates are set on the calendar to ensure multiple races do not occur on one given day.
- **Wine, Art & Jazz Festival**

The Historic Newburgh Inc. Wine Art & Jazz Festival is a two day event that takes place in mid-May. The event includes wine and beer tastings, an art festival, food and entertainment. There is a charge to attend the event which takes place in the Old Lock and Dam Park and is organized by Historic Newburgh, Inc.
- **Farmers Market**

The Farmers Market is held in Historic Downtown Newburgh in a parking lot leased from a local merchant. Residents and visitors can browse a variety of vendors that sell produce, meats, handmade items, dog treats, flowers, herbs and jewelry. The Farmers Market is organized by Historic Newburgh, Inc. and runs from mid-May to the end of September.
- **Community Wide Yard Sale**

The Town of Newburgh hosts a community wide yard sale each year, usually in June, that allows residents of the town to register their yard sale with the Town. A map and description of each yard sale is made up and posted on social media outlets and is available at Town Hall. During the Community Wide Yard Sales, Historic Newburgh Inc. and merchants around town take advantage of people coming and going through the Town and hosts sidewalk sales and store events.
- **Family Nights at Newburgh Community Pool**

The Newburgh Community Pool hosts Family Nights every Friday night during the pool season. Admission is discounted, each night is given a different theme and local businesses sponsor certain nights. Sponsors can donate to the pool, pay admission for the night, purchase concessions for the night and/or plan games. The Newburgh Parks Department along with Town Staff and the Pool Manager organize the event. At the time of this Master Plan, the Newburgh Community Pool is closed. Family Nights will restart once a new pool facility has been built.
- **Ohio River Sweep**

- The date (usually mid-June) for the Ohio River Sweep is chosen each year by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). The event takes place in cities and towns along the whole length of the Ohio River. The Town of Newburgh is responsible for signing up volunteers within the community, planning the community event, collecting trash, disposing of the trash and reporting back to ORSANCO. ORSANCO supplies all trash bags, gloves and t-shirts for the event.
- **Movie Nights in the Park**
Hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc. Movie Nights in the Park take place in Old Lock and Dam Park once a month in the summer months. Historic Newburgh Inc. brings in live music before each movie and local sponsors provide food and treats for the attendees. The movie nights were moved to the Old Lock and Dam Park in 2018 due to the closure of the Newburgh Community Pool. In past years the movie nights took place in Lou Dennis Park and free swimming was offered two hours before the movie started. Location of the movie nights will continue at Old Lock and Dam Park until a new pool facility has been built.
 - **Fireworks & Evening in the Park**
Hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc. the Fireworks & Evening in the Park is the Newburgh's Fourth of July celebration that takes place in Old Lock and Dam Park. The event is free with VIP buttons for purchase for better firework viewing. French Island Trail is blocked off and food vendors, bands and games are set up. As previously stated before, the event can swell to over 10,000 people and has been selected as one of the best places to celebrate Fourth of July by Best Things Indiana in 2017 (see article in Appendix A)
 - **Newburgh Remembers**
Newburgh Remembers is a civil war reenactment of the Newburgh Raid. The event is organized by the Newburgh Museum and includes a cotillion ball, sutler village, civil war skirmish, trial reenactment, ladies afternoon tea, cannon fire and a historic homes tour. Newburgh Remembers primarily takes place in Old Lock and Dam Park but events are also hosted in Preservation Hall and in the gym of St. John the Baptist Catholic School or Rolling Hills Country Club.
 - **National Night Out**
National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The event takes place every year on the first Tuesday of August in the Old Lock and Dam Park.
 - **Fiddler Festival**
The Fiddler Festival takes place in late August in the Old Lock and Dam Park and is hosted by Friends of Newburgh. This annual three day event features deep fried catfish, additional food, arts, games, and rides.
 - **Sir Brit Car Show**
The Sir Brit Car Show is a two day event hosted by the Southern Indiana Region British Car Club at the end of September each year at the Old Lock and Dam. The club is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of fine British automobiles of all marques and vintages.
 - **Ghost Walks**
The Ghost Walks through Historic Downtown Newburgh are organized by Historic Newburgh Inc. and take place in mid-October. This three day event guides groups through the streets of Newburgh stopping at certain locations along the path to tell of Newburgh's haunted past.
 - **Harvest Festival & Ghostly Stroll**
Harvest Festival & Ghostly Stroll is a one day event hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc. that invites vendors and businesses to set up booths and hand out candy to trick or treaters after the children's costume parade. The event has been held in years past at Lou Dennis Park and in the Town Hall parking lot.
 - **Theater Shows**

The Newburgh Community Theater hosts on average three (3) shows each year with the dates changing year to year. All shows are performed in Preservation Hall.

- **Newburgh Celebrates Christmas**

Newburgh Celebrates Christmas is a two day event organized by Historic Newburgh Inc. on the first weekend of December. Characters and Musicians stroll the streets dressed in Charles Dickens costumes, roast chestnuts on an open fire and show the way to games and activities around town. There is also a Historic home tour and a Festival of Trees of event in Preservation Hall.

Social and Economic Factors

Population Characteristics

According to the 2016 StatsAmerica website serviced by the IU Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana's Kelley School of Business; Newburgh, Indiana is a town of 3,300 residents that reside in 1,488 households, for an average household size of 2.2, which is comparable to neighboring Boonville city (2.4), Evansville city (2.2) and the state (2.5). The overall rate of population growth from 2000 to 2010 was 2.37% with a slight decrease in population from 2010 to 2016 of 0.75%. Nearby Evansville's population declined from 2000 to 2010 by 3.42% and from 2010 to 2016 the population declined 0.5%. Neighboring Boonville city had a population of 6,246 in 2000 and in 2016 the population decreased to 6,186 (.96%).

With new subdivisions being built in Warrick County, neighboring towns and cities are seeing a slight decrease in population due to their residents moving to new housing. According to the Indiana Business Review 2010-2050 population projections show Warrick County growing 10-40% while Vanderburgh County is projected to grow 0-9.9% and Posey County is projected to have a 10% loss if not more.

The Town of Newburgh is mostly an established community with only a few areas left for development. The Town will see a slight increase in population between 2018/2019 with the addition of two (2) subdivisions, adding about eighty four (84) lots. After those two subdivisions are built the Town will only have one (1) existing area left for development. Annexation is another way to increase the Town's tax base and population but annexation at this time is not a feasible solution to capturing Parks and Recreation funding due to financial constraints of the Town.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- With an increase growth within the planning area and surrounding Warrick County, the Town of Newburgh Parks System will experience a greater demand for park services.
- Greater demand for park services and increased use of current park facilities means increase maintenance.
- Creating an in-town and out of town rate for current events, rentals and admissions will help increase revenue.
- Creating a joint use agreement with Warrick County Schools would increase playground, track and field access.

Race

Newburgh's residents, when broken down by race, form a homogenous group that is representative of Warrick County, but less diverse than Indiana as a whole. In Newburgh, 95.5% of residents are White, 2.4% Asian, 2.2% African American, 0.8% Hispanic or Latino (of any race), and there are no American Indian or Alaskan Native, no Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and no Other Race, or Two or more Races. The racial diversity of Newburgh continues to keep pace with the county (94.1% white) and lags significantly behind the state as a whole (84% white). As new subdivisions are built and residents move into Newburgh, diversity within the Town is expected to increase.

Age

Newburgh's median age of 45 is significantly older than the median age of Evansville (36.6), Boonville (40.7) and the state (37.4). Newburgh's median age increased between 2000 and 2010 as the proportion of Newburgh

residents aged 45 and over increased from 40.4% to 46.2%. That increase has continued from 2010 to 2016 with the Newburgh residents aged 45 and over increasing to 50% of the population which is significantly higher than the states average of 40.6%.

This gain in the proportion of the middle-aged and seniors appears to have come at the cost of younger adults aged 25-44, whose proportion dropped to 22.8% in 2016. Seniors over 65 increased from 14.4% to 18.2% and we suspect this trend which is higher than the state (14.3%) will continue to grow. The percentage of residents under the age of 5 in 2016 was 4.2% which is a decrease from the 2010 census of 6.2%.

These statistics can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the maturation of the “Baby Boom” generation and medical advances that have increased the average life span. The “small town atmosphere” that Newburgh provides appeals to residents who are less likely to move, including those who have lived in Newburgh for generations. These factors influence the availability of new housing for young residents. The result is increased housing demand in the surrounding Ohio Township that fills the housing gap for younger families. With lots available for development, Newburgh could see a growth in single family homes in the future that would increase younger families moving into the area.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- The adult population has unique exercise and recreational needs that vary considerably from the younger population needs. Safe walking and sitting areas are important, in conjunction with areas that provide interesting activities to observe. The Rivertown Trail will help meet these needs.
- Cultural programming, such as festivals, performances and regular organized activities, provide venues for interaction and stimulation.
- Demand for senior and adult programming will increase as the population continues to age.
- The pool of volunteers for the parks system could increase due to retirees in the area.
- Increase in the population of younger residents in surrounding Warrick County, along with children/grandchildren of our adult/senior population, suggests increased demands for facilities and programs in Newburgh to serve the larger younger population.

Disability

Newburgh’s disability rate for 2016 could not be found, but according to the 2010 census; Newburgh’s disability rate is 15.2% which is higher than the states disability rate of 13.5% and Warrick Counties disability rate of 11.3%. For residents 65 and older; Newburgh’s disability rate is 27.4% which is lower than both the state (37.4%) and the county (33.9%).

Implications for parks and recreation:

- With a slightly higher disability rate, increased awareness is needed to ensure all parks, events, programs and activities are accessible to all.

Poverty and Median Household Income

Newburgh’s poverty of 9.6% is significantly less than neighboring Boonville’s poverty rate of 19.7%, Evansville’s rate of 21.6% and Indiana’s rate of 14.1%. The median household income for Newburgh is \$46,953.00 versus Boonville’s median household income of \$40,879.00 and Evansville’s of \$36,330.00. Warrick County has a median household income rate of \$65,809.00 and a poverty rate of 7.5%.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- These figures indicate that reasonable fees for park rentals, programs and services are not likely to pose concern among the park user group.

Employment

The average travel time for Newburgh workers is 18.6 minutes as many Newburgh residents work in Evansville. The top 10 major employers, according to the Economic Development Coalition of Southwestern Indiana, in the area include:

- Deaconess Hospital (6,122 employees)
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (5,400 employees)
- St. Vincent Health System (3,529 employees)
- Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (3,452 employees)
- Berry Global (2,699 employees)
- University of Southern Indiana (2,604 employees)
- Koch Enterprises, Inc. (1,800 employees)
- SKANSKA/Industrial Contractors (1,650 employees)
- Alcoa Warrick Operations (1,575 employees)
- T.J. Maxx (1,200 employees)

Implications for parks and recreation:

- The increased working population suggests increased need for recreation and leisure opportunities during off work hours and the weekends.
- The Rivertown Trail and other pedestrian improvements provide more opportunities for residents to exercise before or after commuting to/from work.

Inventory of Existing Parks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Classification System for park and recreation facilities categorizes park facilities according to size and the population that is served by the facility. As noted in the 2016-2020 Indiana State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Indiana SCORP), the basic NRPA classifications include:

- Mini-Park: Has a service area less than a quarter mile radius, and approximately a quarter- to half acre per 1,000 populations.
- Neighborhood Park: Has a service area between a quarter- and half-mile radius, with population up to 5,000, and is 15-plus acres, which equals 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 population.
- Community Park: Has a service area with a 1- to 2-mile radius (would normally include several neighborhoods), and is 25-plus acres, which equals 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 population.
- Regional/Metropolitan Park: Has a service area of one hour's driving time (would normally include several communities), and is 200-plus acres, which equals 5.0 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 population.
- Regional Park Preserve: Has a service area of one hour's driving time (would normally include several communities), and is 1,000-plus acres. 80% of this land would be reserved for natural resource management and conservation, and 20% for recreational development. The acres-per-1,000 population for a regional park preserve would vary widely depending on the property available.
- Linear Park, Special-Use Area, or Conservancy Area: No applicable guidelines were set in this document.

The Indiana SCORP further notes that these classifications should vary depending on the characteristics of each community. A level of service analysis should include all parks facilities that are known to be publicly accessible. Inventory forms of all Newburgh owned or operated parks were completed on site and are available in Appendix C. A map (see Map 5) showing the location of all parks within the Planning Area can be found on page 32. The following is a list of all parks located within the Planning Area:

Neighborhood Parks

There is one accessible Neighborhood Park within the defined planning area, which is owned by the Town of Newburgh but not operated by the Newburgh Parks Department and cannot be tailored by the Parks Board.

Kiwanis Park (2.25 acres) – 524 Filmore Street



Figure 6 – Kiwanis Community Park.

The Kiwanis Park is owned by the Town of Newburgh, located within the Town limits, is open to the public but is not operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. The park is leased from the Town of Newburgh jointly by Newburgh Kiwanis and the Warrick County School Corporation. There are 16 lots that make up the 2.25 acres with Kiwanis leasing 3, Warrick County School Corporation leasing 10 and jointly sharing 3 lots that make up the gravel parking lot. On the 2.25 acres there is a shelter with restrooms, a track on site that is used by Newburgh Elementary School, the Kiwanis building and a gravel parking lot. The park is well sized for a mini/neighborhood park and it is positioned ideally within a residential neighborhood. See Figure 6.

Community Parks

There are 4 Community Parks accessible to Newburgh Park Systems users. Two of the parks, Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool and Old Lock and Dam Park, are owned and operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. Indian Hill Overlook Park is leased by the Town of Newburgh from the Army Corps of Engineers and is

maintained by the Parks Board. The New Locks and Dam Park is not owned or operated by the Town of Newburgh or the Newburgh Parks Board but is available to the Newburgh Park System User.

Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool (11.66 acres) – 402 Park Drive

The Lou Dennis Community Park is located on Park Drive which is off of Jefferson Street near the center of the planning area. This facility includes the Newburgh Community Pool (see Figure 7), two playgrounds, two tennis courts, one basketball court, one volleyball court, one soccer field, and a picnic shelter. The park also includes a community pool building that houses the guard room, concessions, restrooms and bath house.



Figure 7 – Newburgh Community Pool

In March of 1971, The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board received \$111,076.39 in Land Water Conservation Funds to acquire the 11.66 acres. The Newburgh Community Pool was built in 1972, with funds raised by the community, and celebrated 45 years in 2017. After 45 years in service, the Newburgh Community Pool was closed in 2018. The pool and the attached community pool building will remain close until a new pool is constructed.

One of the two playgrounds in Lou Dennis Community Park is the Fortress of Fun (see Figure 8). This is a special place within Newburgh Community Park that caters to children. The playground is a wood structure that is a complex of play spaces that offer challenging skill development and exercise for younger children. The project was built in 1998 by community volunteers. The project took five days to construct. Technical assistance for the development of the facility was provided by a design firm that specializes in unique playgrounds. Leathers and Associates of Ithaca, New York, worked closely with communities to build more than 1,600 unique, one-of-a-kind projects. They have years of experience and an excellent record of providing safe, well-designed playgrounds.



Figure 8 – Fortress of Fun

Lou Dennis Community Park is ideally located and programmed as a community park but at 11.66 acres, it is much smaller than NPRA recommendations. Any possible expansion of Lou Dennis Community Park would be an excellent service to the community. A renovation is clearly needed, both to renovate existing spaces and to correct significant ADA deficiencies.

Indian Hill Overlook Park (17.6 acres) – 6877 Highway 66

This is a historic site that was once an American Indian settlement and later was the site of the estate of a prominent local family, the Schmidts. In 1933, Evansville attorney Paul H. Schmidt and his wife, Samuella, built a pueblo-style fourteen room home (see Figure 9) with foot thick walls and a striking view of the Ohio River. Their structure replaced a home built in 1924 which had been destroyed by fire. The Schmidt's retained the pillars marking the entrance to the property from old Hwy. 66, and the name of the site, "Indian Hill," which is carved into those pillars.



Figure 9 – Schmidt Home.

When construction for the new Locks & Dam 47 was begun by the Army Corps in 1966 at the site of Cypress Beach, the Schmidt property, perched high above the dam, was purchased. The Corps offered to sell the house, with the stipulation it be moved. Finding no takers, the house was razed in 1970.

In 2005, after almost four years of negotiations with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the property on Hwy. 66 formerly known as the Overlook, was leased to the Town of Newburgh for 25 years (August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2030). The park has since been renovated and established as a popular passive recreation park along the Rivertown Trail.

The park features parking, restrooms and picnic facilities among the remains of the 1933 house and



Figure 10 – Indian Hill Overlook.

surrounded by woods. Twin stone pillars remain at the entrance to the site. There is an overlook (see *Figure 10*) that gives an unmatched view of the Ohio River and the Newburgh Locks and Dam. In 2011, ALCOA donated funds for the installation of two interpretive signs and various plantings. The park provides a much needed nature connection to the Newburgh Parks System. Utilization of this park could be improved by providing a pedestrian route to the lower level pond and installing simple amenities there.

Old Lock & Dam Park (13.4 acres) – 525 East Highway 662

Old Lock and Dam Park was acquired by the Town of Newburgh in 1979 after being surplused by the United States Government in 1978.

Old Lock & Dam Park, with access from French Island Trail, is a 13.4 acre facility located adjacent to the Ohio River. French Island Trail (State Route 662) splits the park into north and south sections. The Old Lock & Dam Park south features include a boat dock, parking, the Rivertown Trail and the historic Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47 (see *Figure 11*).



Figure 11 – Old Lock and Dam No. 47 building

The Old Lock and Dam Building No.47 was the powerhouse for the old wicket type lock and system and construction of the Newburgh Dam began in 1921 and was fully operational by 1928. In the 1950's the Corps Engineers undertook the project of replacing wicket type dams and in 1975 Newburgh's new lock and dam was fully up and running. The original lock and dam system had a powerhouse, lockmaster's quarters, storage buildings, workshops and fuel equipment. The powerhouse and the lockmaster quarters are the only structures still standing. The Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47 is a popular site and is rented almost every weekend for events.



Figure 12 – Lockmaster Cottages

Use of the boat launch requires a permit or a season pass that is available at Town Hall and the Old Lock and Dam Building No.47 can be rented through Town Hall (812-853-1720).

Old Lock & Dam Park north features panoramic views of the Ohio River as well as a gazebo, two cottages (see *Figure 12*), an historic log cabin with garden (see *Figure*

13), and the Little Red Brick Building (see Figure 14).

The Lockmaster Cottages were used by the Lockmaster and the Lockmaster Assistant while the Locks and Dam No. 47 were in operation. Built in 1928, the cottages received a renovation in 2009 and were made public for overnight stays. Each cottage comes fully furnished and can sleep eight people. There are three bedrooms – one with a queen bed, one with a full bed, and one with two twin beds. There is a full Murphy bed in the living room. There are two full baths. The cottages are ADA accessible. Daily linen service is provided. The kitchen is fully equipped with dishes, flatware, pots, pans, and cooking utensils.

The historic log cabin was donated to the Town of Newburgh in 1987 by the Kroeger family. The log cabin was originally located on State Route 61 just west of Alcoa. The cabin was disassembled, each log was numbered, repairs were done and then the cabin was reassembled down the bank from where John Sprinkle's (founder of Newburgh) first cabin was built. The cabin predates the 1840's and the move and repairs were helped by donations. The garden is maintained by the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association.



Figure 13 – Log Cabin

The Little Red Brick Building, also known as the Ice House, Tack House, or the Mortuary Museum; originally sat at 519 W. Jennings Street but was moved to the Old Lock and Dam Park in 2017. The property on which the Little Red Brick Building originally sat was sold and the new owners wanted to make use of the land, so they donated the building to the Town with the condition that the Town had to move the building. The house is believed to have been built as early as 1820 and throughout the decades, additions were built onto the structure and the original brick structure was not visible. It is thought that a fire in the early 1960's helped unveil the building.



Figure 14 – Little Red Brick Building

The Little Brick Building was moved from its original location to the Old Lock and Dam Park in 2017 by public donations and grants. The Little Brick House is still in its renovation phase and will eventually be used as the ticket house to the proposed amphitheater.

Historically, this site has been defined by the sculpted bluffs constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the original Lock and Dam No. 47. The May 2011 flooding and landslide have distressed many of these features. The two cottages can be rented and are charged on a nightly basis with a discount given for weekly rentals. Rentals are coordinated through Town Hall (812-853-1720).

The New Locks and Dam Park (6.7 acres) – 6855 State Road 66

The New Locks and Dam Park is located at the Newburgh Locks and Dam. It is not owned by the Town or operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. This park is owned and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. The park is within useful distance of the Newburgh Park System user base. The park includes a large grassy field, playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, shelter house (see Figure 15), restrooms, ample parking and informational kiosks explaining the function of the Newburgh Locks and Dam.



Figure 15 – New Locks and Dam Shelter

Linear and Special Use Parks

There are 3 special use parks and 2 linear parks accessible to Newburgh Parks System users. The three owned by the Town of Newburgh/Newburgh Parks Department include:

Veterans Monument Park (0.9 acres)

State Road & Bell Road, Newburgh, IN 47630

Veterans Monument Park is a small park with a monument plaza erected to honor all veterans from the past, the present and the future. Bricks can be purchased to honor a veteran and placed around the monument. All brick purchases can be made through Town Hall. See Figure 16.



Figure 16 – Veterans Monument Park

Rivertown Trail (2.84 miles) – 715 W Highway 662, Newburgh, IN 47630 (B. Gene Aurand Trailhead)

The Rivertown Trail was constructed in two phases between 2008 and 2011 and a third phase is planned to bring the trail west to Pollack Avenue, in Warrick County, starting in 2019. Currently, the Trail extends almost the entire length of Newburgh from New Locks and Dam Park to the east, south of Indian Hill Overlook Park, through the Old Lock and Dam Park and the downtown plaza and finally through the Water Street Overlook to the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead.

The Phase 3 of the proposed trail (see Figure 17) will start at the current pedestrian bridge near the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead, cross over Yorkshire Drive, follow Yorkshire Drive to Lamey Lane, continue north of the Driftwood Parke subdivision and then continue down State Road 662 along Mulzer Fields Park and stop at Pollack Avenue. Warrick County Trails is assisting the Town of Newburgh with half of the match needed for the INDOT/LPA grant and will be constructing trailheads along the proposed and existing trail. Vanderburgh County is starting a “road diet”, also known as a lane reduction, on Covert Road that will allow for bike lanes on the north and south side which are anticipated to connect to the Rivertown Trail at Pollack Avenue, which could continue the trail west.



Figure 17 – Rivertown Trail Phase 3

AMAX Athletic Fields (13.26 acres) - 5800 Outer Lincoln Ave

The AMAX Athletic Fields are owned by the Town of Newburgh but not operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. AMAX Athletic Fields were acquired by the Town in 1979 and in 1981 received Land Water and Conservation Funds (\$50,000) to build soccer fields, baseball fields, football fields, parking lots and a concession stand with restrooms and storage. The soccer fields are leased from the Town of Newburgh and run by the Newburgh Youth Soccer League and the football complex is leased by Castle Youth Football League. The current contracted lease started in 2007 and is good through 2027 (20 years). The fields are located at Outer Lincoln Avenue and Anderson Road,



Figure 18 - AMAX Fields. Newburgh Youth Soccer

at the western edge of the planning area. Publicly accessible portions of the park include a picnic shelter, four soccer fields, a football field and a small playground. See Figure 18.

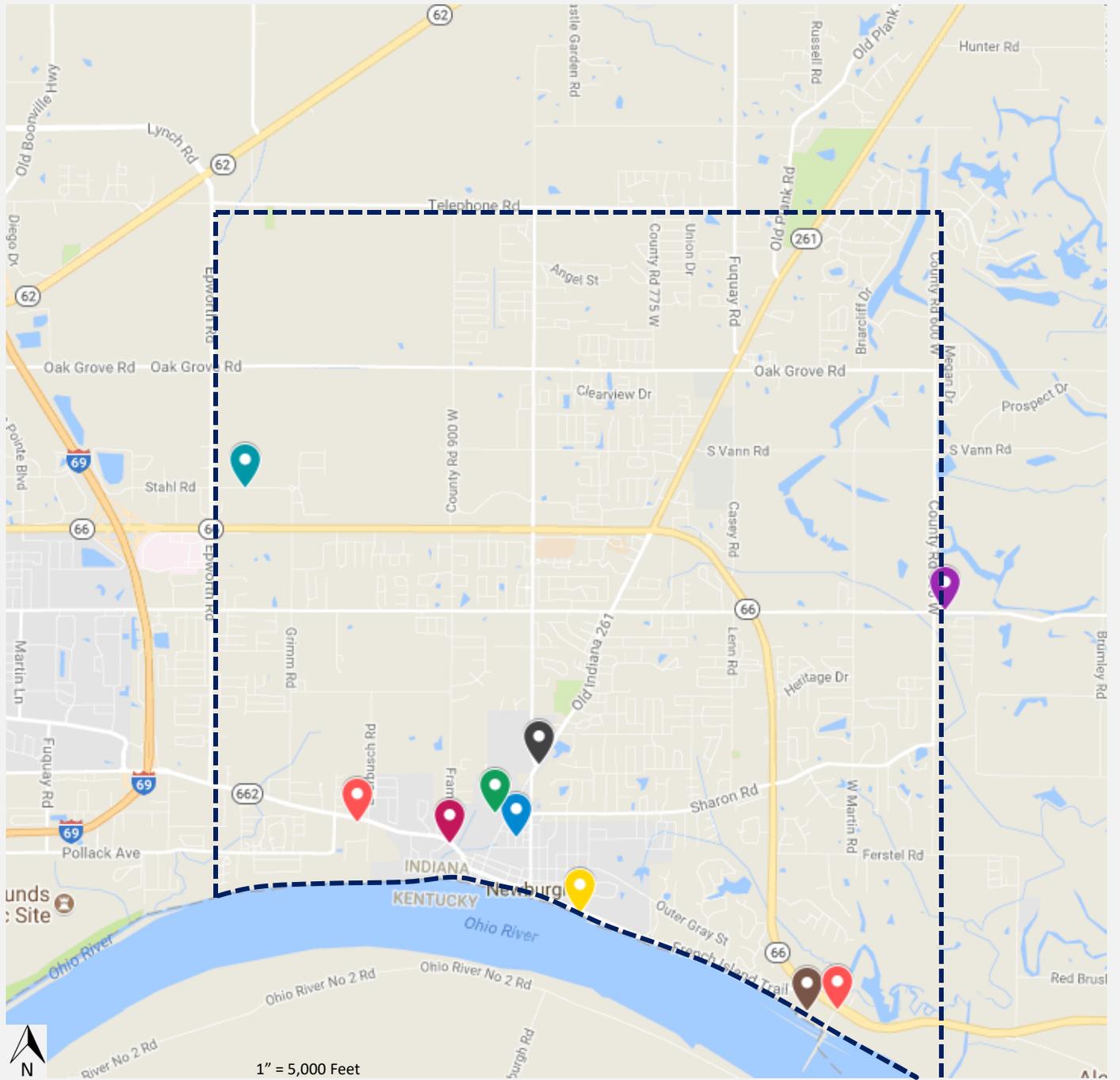
The two parks not owned or operated by the Town of Newburgh are:

Mulzer Fields Park (12 acres) – 9511 W. State Route 662, Newburgh, IN 47630

The Mulzer Fields Park is accessible to the Newburgh Park System users and contains two upper-age-group baseball fields with associated baseball amenities, but no playgrounds, open fields or other type of recreation amenities.

Warrick Wellness Trail – Wellness Trail, Newburgh, IN 47630

Trail system connecting Warrick County, the first installment is located off Epworth Road and connects to Vann Road. Eventually the trail will connect throughout Warrick County to the Rivertown Trail.



Map 5 – Parks within the Newburgh Parks System. Google Maps.

-  Kiwanis
-  AMAX Fields
-  Lou Dennis Park
-  Indian Hill Overlook Park
-  Old Lock and Dam
-  Veterans Monument Park
-  B. Gene Aurand Trailhead
-  Newburgh Locks & Dam Park
-  Mulzer Fields Park
-  Warrick Wellness Trail

Park Budget

The Newburgh Parks Department budget for 2018 is \$140,307.00. This includes:

- \$64,790 – Salaries/Benefits
- \$16,427 – Supplies/Fuel/Maintenance
- \$59,090 – Contractual Services/Insurance/Repairs
- The Parks Department has no independent debt and does not pay any rents.

Recent Budget Changes

The 2018 Parks Board budget was \$201,917.00 which was \$3,583 dollars more than the 2017 Parks Board budget (\$198,334) but is \$40,603 less than the 2016 Parks Board budget (\$242,520). Due to the Newburgh Community Pool closure the Parks budget was decreased by \$61,610.00; \$44,210 was removed from salaries and benefits, \$5,400 was removed from supplies and \$12,000 was removed from contractual services.

Aside from the pool, as expenses continue to rise and property tax revenue remains stagnant, the town must appropriate funds on a priority basis. Placemaking and quality of life services remain very high on this list of priorities and the town and Parks Board must work diligently to pursue external sources of funding.

Budget Funding

The Parks Department budget funding comes mainly from property taxes but funding is also generated from rentals of the Newburgh Community Pool, Old Lock and Dam building, Lockmaster Cottages and the Shelter House at Lou Dennis Park.

Potential Funding Sources

There are many issues facing the Parks Board and the priorities have been outlined in the Priorities and Action Plan Schedule (page 49). The major is providing ongoing park resources for 23,656 park users on a tax base of 3,300 residents.

Funding for plan recommendations will be primarily dependent upon local revenue, grants, bonds and cost sharing through strategic partnerships. Additional funding may be sourced through Park Pals, private sponsorship, donations and fundraising drives. Potential funding sources include:

Rentals– Rentals for Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47, Lockmaster Cottages, and the Lou Dennis Park Shelter bring in monthly revenue. Increasing their rates and/or adding an in-town and out of town rate to these facilities could increase the revenue brought in.

Park Pals – Membership to Park Pals will bring in some donations that can be used for special projects or supplies needed for the parks.

Bonds – The Town may vote to initiate a bond to pay for large improvements such as the much needed renovations to Lou Dennis Park.

Grants – Grants are available from the State of Indiana, the Federal Government and from private organizations and should be sought to assist in park projects.

Current Programs

Newburgh Parks System resources serve a variety of programming needs; the only programming sponsored by the Parks Board is sponsored brick purchases at Veterans Monument Park, swim lessons, swim team, and rentals of the Newburgh Community Pool, the Old Lock and Dam Park building, Lockmaster Cottages, and the Lou Dennis Park Shelter House. The most interesting programming takes the form of events held within the parks sponsored or organized by outside organizations/groups. These are described in detail in the Man-made, Historical and Cultural Features section on page 17.

The three most active leagues in the area are Newburgh Youth Soccer, Castle Youth Football, and the Newburgh Junior Baseball; none of these utilize Park Board operated facilities. The Kiwanis and Newburgh Elementary operate their own programming at Kiwanis Community Playground, which they lease from the Town.

Other Recreational Providers

Public and Parochial Schools within the Newburgh Parks System

- Newburgh Elementary School
- Sharon Elementary School
- John H. Castle Elementary School
- Castle North Middle School
- Castle South Middle School
- Castle High School
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School

For the most part, school facilities are available for public use. Further coordination between the town and Warrick County Schools may reveal operational and resource-sharing efficiencies.

Public Recreational Facilities outside of the Newburgh Parks System

The following recreational facilities are outside of the Newburgh Parks System but are public and can be utilized by the Newburgh Parks System user base.

- ALCOA Soccer Field
- Vann Road Field Park
- Friedman Park

Private Recreational Facilities

The following recreational facilities can be utilized by the Newburgh Parks System user base as permitted by their operators. The operators of these facilities may be willing to collaborate with Newburgh Parks on programming:

- Victoria National Golf Club (members only)

This is a world-class 418-acre golf course and club that hosts the PGA Tour United Leasing Championship, located northwest of the planning area.

- Rolling Hills Country Club (members only)

Par-4 golf course, tennis, and swimming club located northwest of the planning area.

- Camp Brosend (open to the public for a fee)

Christian faith-based summer camp and retreat located in a wooded area midway between IN 261 and SR 66.

Other Destinations

The following destinations are within a one hour driving distance for the Newburgh Parks System user.

- The Evansville Parks System in Evansville, IN
The Evansville Parks System coordinates and oversees the operation of 65 parks and 21 recreational facilities encompassing more than 2,500 acres of land.
 - Parks, 4 golf courses, 7 city swimming pools, a Sports Department and Swonder Ice Arena
- Dunigan YMCA in Vanderburgh County
- Downtown Evansville YMCA in Vanderburgh County
- Burdette Park in Vanderburgh County
- Angel Mounds State Museum and Historical Site in Evansville, IN
- Wesselman's Park in Vanderburgh County
- City of Boonville-City Lake Splash Park, playground, shelter and parks
- Quail Crossing Golf Course
Par-4 golf course located northwest of the planning area in Boonville, Indiana.
- The Henderson Parks System in Henderson, KY
The Henderson Parks System coordinates and oversees the operation of 24 public spaces.
 - Parks, municipal golf course, downtown water feature, community pool, community center and shelter.
- Lincoln State Park in Spencer County
- John James Audubon State Park in Kentucky
- Smothers Park in Owensboro, Kentucky
- Ashumbala Nature Preserve in Kentucky

Accessibility and Federal Accessibility Standards

Statement of Accessibility for Newburgh

“The Town of Newburgh Parks Board makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable accommodation 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 our facilities, online and at Town Hall.”

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with more than 50 employees designate at least one person to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. As a best management practice, The Town of Newburgh has designated our own ADA coordinator, Town Manager Christy Powell. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact Town Manager Christy Powell at 812-853-1720; cpowell@newburgh-in.gov. All comments and inquires will be replied to within five business days.

Appendix D includes Ordinance No. 1992-9 (employment of qualified disabled persons and establishment of a grievance procedure), Resolution 2013-01 (adoption of ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Standards for Accessible Design and Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way), Resolution 2013-02 (adoption of the ADA Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way Transition Plan), the Parks Board ADA Implantation Plan and a copy of the ABA/ADA/Rehab. Act of 1973 Section 504 Accessibility Compliance Sign-off sheet

Current Accessibility/Self-Assessment

Auxiliary aids to accommodate disabilities are available at all Parks Board meetings.

Rivertown Trail

The Rivertown Trail is ADA compliant to the best knowledge of those preparing this plan. This includes 2.84 miles of asphalt trail and accessibility at the following facilities: B. Gene Aurand Trailhead (accessible bathrooms, accessible water fountain, and 1 van accessible space), Water Street Overlook and Downtown Plaza. Informational and directional signage includes braille. There are three interpretive signs along the trail which are not equipped with auxiliary aids for those with impaired vision.

Old Lock and Dam Park

The north half of Old Lock and Dam Park is ADA accessible as are the two cottages. The cottages were renovated and ADA accessible bathrooms and sleeping arrangements were added to the downstairs area.

The south half of Old Lock and Dam Park is mostly accessible. The green space, bathrooms and Old Lock and Dam building are all ADA accessible. The Parking lot is paved and there are 6 accessible reserved spaces provided including van accessible spaces. There are no picnic tables on site that accommodate wheelchairs or that are on hard, level surfaces. Trash can heights should be checked for ADA compliance. Ramp access to the lower plaza and boat launch area is only accessible by vehicular ramps and ramp access to the floating dock is provided, but the slope depends on the water level on the Ohio River.

Lou Dennis Community Park

The Lou Dennis Community Park is in need of refurbishment and is partially accessible. There are 3 marked accessible spaces which are van accessible, and ADA compliant walkways are provided to a picnic shelter, the pool facilities and the restrooms (which are ADA compliant). The Fortress of Fun is not ADA accessible or on ADA compliance playground surfacing. There is no ADA walkway to the other playground equipment, which is not on ADA compliant surfacing, and is not itself accessible. There is no ADA walkway to the soccer field, basketball court, the open field areas, or the tennis courts. The tennis courts are fenced in and wheelchair access is not easily achievable. The three auxiliary parking lots are gravel surfaced. There are no picnic tables on site that accommodate wheelchairs. Trash can heights should be checked for ADA compliance. The Newburgh Community Pool bathhouse does have a handicap stall in each bathroom and the pool itself does have a zero entry, making it accessible.

Some ADA corrections can be easily achieved (adding ADA accessible walkways), but the state of other accessibility conditions in the area are reflective of the age of the facilities and should be corrected along with a planned general refurbishment of the park.

Indian Hill Overlook Park

Indian Hill Overlook Park has one accessible parking space (van accessible) but an additional space should be provided based on the number of spaces at the parking lot. An accessible walkway is provided to accessible bathroom facilities, including an accessible water fountain, along with access to the overlook and to the connection with the Rivertown Trail. There are no picnic tables on site that accommodate wheelchairs or that are on hard, level surfaces. Trash can heights should be checked for ADA compliance. There are two interpretive signs which do not include auxiliary aids for those with visual impairments.

Veterans Monument Park

Veterans Monument Park is ADA compliant to the best knowledge of those preparing this plan. There is one marked accessible parking space that is van accessible. There is ADA compliant access up to and on the monument. There is no park development behind the monument.

Kiwanis Community Park

The Kiwanis Community Park is owned by the Town of Newburgh but is leased by Kiwanis and the Warrick County School Corporation. There is a large gravel parking lot with no accessible spaces or space markings. The sidewalks have some ramps but lack ramps at the building entrances. There is no accessible walkway to the asphalt track. There is ADA access to the shelter/concession building and ADA access to the restroom facilities.

AMAX Fields

The AMAX Fields are owned by the Town of Newburgh but leased to Newburgh Youth Soccer League and Castle Youth Football League. On the soccer complex side there is one accessible parking space, but additional spaces should be added based on the lot size. The remainder of the lot is gravel surfaced. An accessible walkway is provided to the concession/picnic shelter and restrooms, with the majority of the fields visible but closer access would be ideal. The southern portion of the soccer complex contains an extra field and gravel overflow parking. This entire section is not ADA accessible.

The football complex side has gravel parking lots but there are 4 paved and marked accessible parking (one of which is van accessible) and 1 accessible parking lot which is not paved. ADA compliant pathways are provided to the bathroom and locker room facilities, concessions and bleachers. There is no ADA compliant pathway to the picnic shelter. The multi-level playground structure is not accessible, is not on ADA compliant surface and has not ADA compliant access.

Public Participation

Public input for the 2018 to 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update included three components:

1. Two public forums to discuss the needs and wants of residents and park users within our service area
2. A survey/questionnaire to gauge the public satisfaction with present conditions, gather information on the need for additional or improved facilities, to determine the structure of recreational programs and to gather demographic information.
3. An advertised public meeting at which the draft plan was shared and comments on the plan were accepted and considered.

Public Forum

The first public forum was held on March 14, 2017 at 5:30 PM at Newburgh Town Hall (see Appendix E). The public forum was advertised in the Spring 2017 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. The Newburgh Parks Board was in attendance as well as representatives from the Newburgh Arts Commission, Rivertown Trail committee members, 25 members from the public, the Town Zoning Administrator and Parks Board Council Liaison.

The first public forum was set up into 5 stations: Parks Board Master Plan, Park Pals, Reflection Park, Rivertown Trail, and the Amphitheater Complex. An introduction was made by the Town Council Liaison and then a brief description of each station. The public was then free to visit each station to give their ideas, concerns, wants and to hear what is currently happening with each project.

The second public forum was held on September 20, 2017 at 5:30 PM at Newburgh Town Hall. The public forum was advertised in the fall 2017 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. The Newburgh Parks Board was in attendance along with 5 members of the public.

The second public forum (see Appendix E) was an open forum to discuss the Master Plan and the concerns and wants of the public. A bullet point list was prepared for facilitators to guide the forum. Each participant was then given \$100 in "Parks Money" to distribute into 10 issues the parks are facing each year. The participants to put their "money" where they would like to see the most change/work done within the parks system. The 10 issues were:

- Maintenance & Salaries
- Upgrades
- Entertainment
- Amphitheatre
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Splash Pad
- Redo Lou Dennis Park
- More Playgrounds
- Additional Trails

Public Forum Conclusions

The overall themes and takeaway from the public forums were as follows:

- Rivertown Trail is well used and a draw for the community. There is a significant desire to extend the trail west.
- Security, maintenance and beautification of the Rivertown Trail were discussed. A Trail Ranger and an Adopt-A-Spot program were suggested.
- Lou Dennis Community Park and Newburgh Community Pool are heavily used, but showing their age and badly need to be updated. The twentieth anniversary of the Fortress of Fun is in 2018 and suggestions were given on how to raise awareness, money and support.
- There was enthusiasm for a splash pad to be built in Town. There were several suggestions as to the location of the splash pad with the river front and Lou Dennis Park being the two most popular.
- There is a desire for a performance pavilion within the Town. The proposed amphitheater would provide venue space for various festivals, concerts, performances and help position Newburgh as a “Destination for the Arts”.
- There is a desire for a dog park.
- There is a desire for a skate park. This would reduce misuse of downtown infrastructures and provide a place for teens to hang out.
- The trolley that once was available for rent around Town was discussed. It’s deeply missed. Ideas were suggested to raise funds to restore the current trolley or purchase a new one.
- There was discussion on building a Community Center in town that would include outdoor space for a small playground and open space for the children of the area.
- Better park maintenance and beauty reconnecting with the Ohio River, reconnecting with nature and bringing awareness about the Newburgh Parks System were discussed.

During the second public forum 8 people (4 citizens and 4 Parks Board Members) participated in the “money” activity. The total dollar amount that was distributed was \$800 and the money went into the following issues:

- Maintenance & Salaries - \$220 (27.5%)
- Upgrades - \$60 (7.5%)
- Entertainment - \$40 (5%)
- Amphitheatre - \$140 (17.5%)
- Dog Park - \$10 (1.25%)
- Skate Park - \$10 (1.25%)
- Splash Pad - \$40 (5%)
- Redo Lou Dennis Park - \$160 (20%)
- More Playgrounds - \$80 (10%)
- Additional Trails – \$40 (5%)

The activity showed that the participants understood that maintenance and salaries were a large part of the Parks Board yearly budget and that redoing/updating Lou Dennis Park was the number one priority with the Skate Park and Dog Park falling last on the list.

Parks and Recreation Survey

The Newburgh Parks Board created a survey (see Appendix F) to try to reach as many people as possible within the planning area. The survey asked the public 12 questions pertaining to the Newburgh Parks System along with demographic information. The survey was sent out to all Town of Newburgh occupied households that have a active sewer account (1,331 copies) via the Spring 2017 Newburgh News of Note newsletter. The survey was also

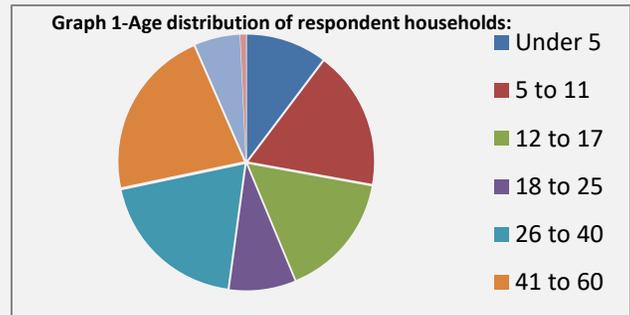
sent to one parochial school (300 copies), was available at both public forums, available at Town Hall and a link to the survey through SurveyMonkey.com was posted online via Facebook and the Town website.

The results from this survey are found in the following graphs and paragraphs of this section. Written comments were also solicited in addition to the questions answered in the survey. The respondents written comments are incorporated in this report. The raw data generated as a result of this survey was presented to the public at the public forum held on September 20, 2017.

The percentage of respondents living within the Town limits was 43% compared to 57% living outside the Town limits. Warrick County, including the Town of Chandler, City of Boonville and the Town of Newburgh, is populated with 62,498 residents according to the 2016 population estimates contained in the 2010 US Census. It is approximated that the greater area's population served by the Newburgh Parks system is a population of 25,000 which includes the Town of Newburgh and the southern portion of Ohio Township. The survey was returned by 281 individuals and the results are as follows:

Respondent Household Age Distribution

Of the 281 surveys that were returned the largest age distribution in respondents households is 41 to 60 (22%) and 26-40 (20%). The next largest age groups are 5 to 11 (18%) and 12 to 17 (16%). This data (see Graph 1) seems to represent that the majority of the respondent's households have school aged children. Family events, programs or activities could be introduced that could benefit both age groups and bring more families to the park areas.



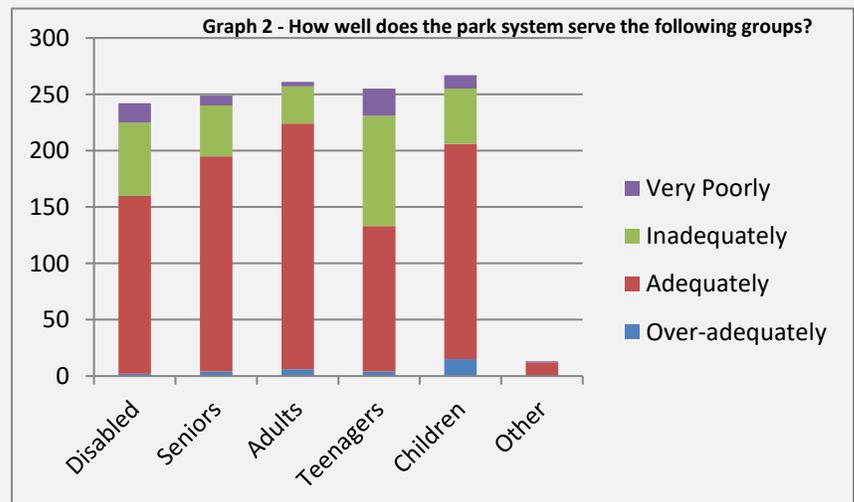
The two lowest age distribution groups were 18-25 (8%) and 61-75 (6%). You can see by Graph 1 that teenagers are the most underserved group according to the respondents.

Programs, events or activities should be considered to cater to these age groups to get them more involved and aware of the Newburgh Parks System.

Parks System Accessibility

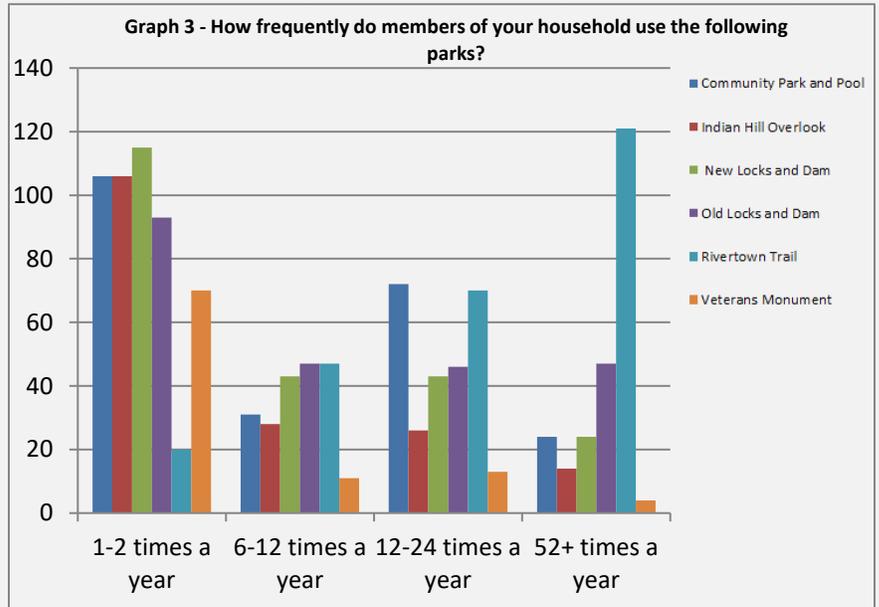
As discussed in the accessibility section (page 36) there are accessibility issues within the park system.

Graph 2 shows that the disabled are the second most underserved group according to the respondents. Addressing the accessibility issues laid out in the accessibility section will reduce deficiency.



Specific Park Usage

Survey respondents were asked how frequently members of their household use the following parks (see Graph 3): Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool, Indian Hill Overlook, New Locks and Dam, Old Locks and Dam Park, Rivertown Trail and Veterans Monument. The Rivertown Trail was by far the park that was used the most often throughout the year. Most of the respondents visited each park at least once a year, with the Veterans Monument getting the least amount of visitation. Hosting more cultural and awareness events at the Veterans Monument could draw more visitors to the park. The New Locks and Dam and Indian Hill Overlook Park are also two under utilized parks. More directional signage along the Rivertown Trail might increase visitation to the parks. Due to our respondents age



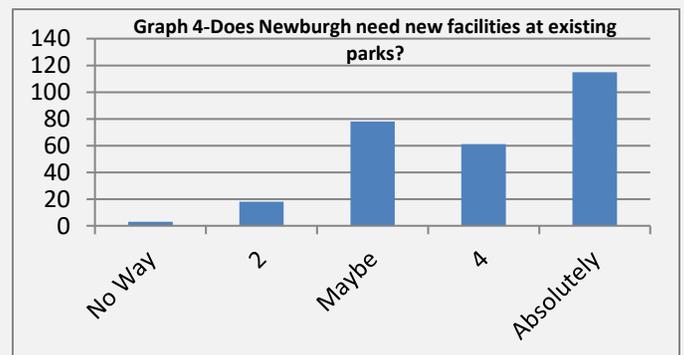
groups, Lou Dennis Community Park should be the park that is utilized the most, since it is the one park most geared towards school age children. With the Fortress of Fun being 20 years old in 2018 and the Newburgh Community Pool celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2017, outdated equipment could be to blame and should be updated.

Newburgh Parks System

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the parks within Newburgh. Feedback was needed on how well does Newburgh provide parks, are new locations needed for parks in Newburgh, does Newburgh need new facilities at existing locations and should new programming or activities be provided by Newburgh.

As for Newburgh doing a good job of providing parks, respondent's answers were in the middle with 10% answering "No Way" and 11% answering "Absolutely". Upgrades and Repairs were cited as the reason why some respondents were not happy with the current parks. Almost two-thirds of respondents favor expansion of the Parks System.

Respondent's results seemed to be tied when it came to providing new parks at new locations with 32% stating "Maybe" and 33% stating "Absolutely". Rivertown Trail extension was the largest request with redoing Lou Dennis Park being a close second. New facilities at existing locations was an "Absolutely" (41%) with



repairs, upgrades and restrooms being the top three requests.

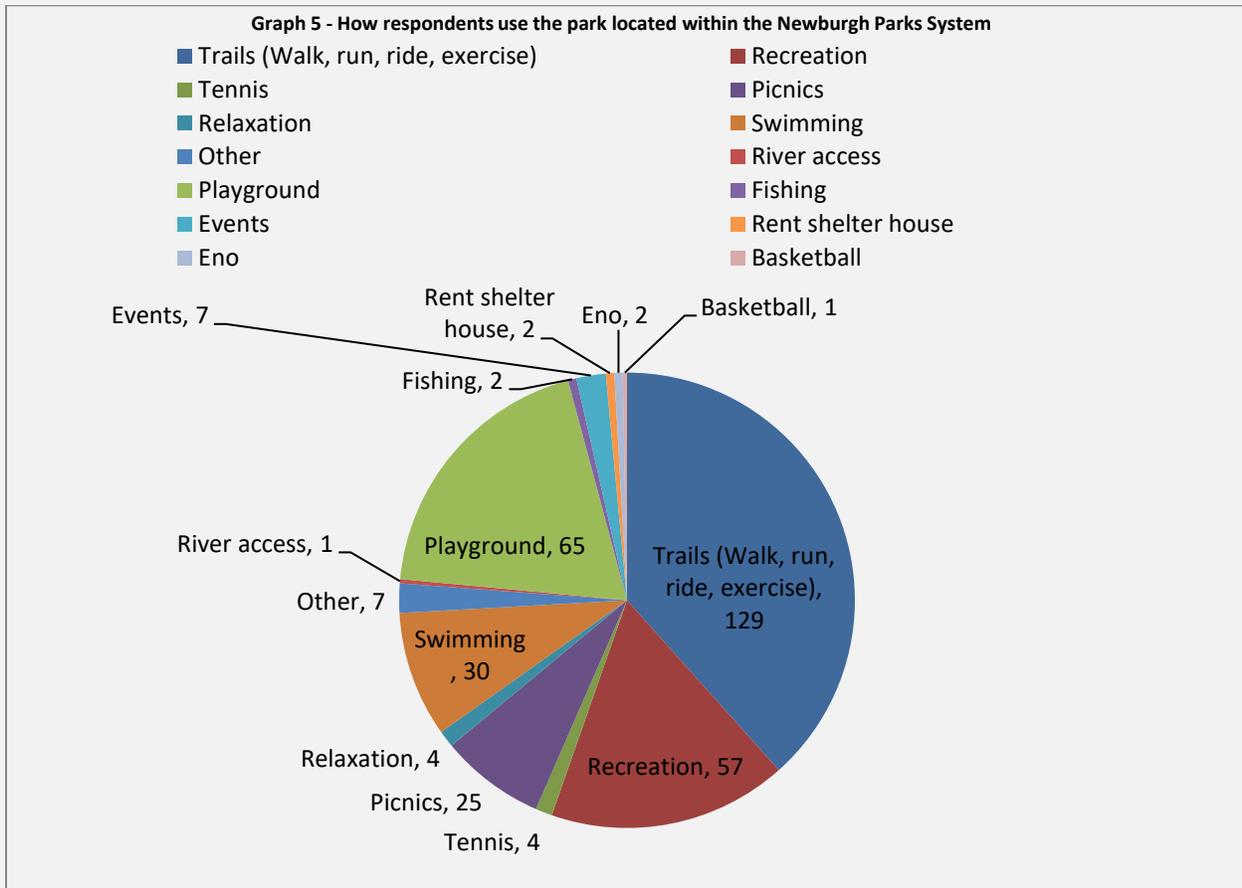
Additional programs and activities (see Graph 4) were highly recommended. Table 1 shows facilities, activities and/or programs, if added, the respondents would use. The top five were a splash pad (23%), more trails/extension of the Rivertown Trail (13%), family/kid events (9%), upgrades (6%) and more playgrounds (5%).

Table 1 – Park Facilities and Programs that, if added, the respondent would use

Response Item	Frequency	Total Percent
More trails / RTT Ext.	39	13%
Fountain	2	1%
Dog park	12	4%
Splash park	69	23%
Tennis court	2	1%
Indoor Walking Facility	1	0%
Tennis lessons/league	5	2%
Ampitheatre	12	4%
Maintenance of existing	6	2%
Rollerblading	1	0%
Ping Pong	1	0%
Shelter house	4	1%
Fitness (Yoga, Tai Chi, etc.)	8	3%
Skate Park	4	1%
New park	13	4%
Music Events	10	3%
Art Events	4	1%
Pet Events	2	1%
Youth leagues/teams	8	3%
More pools	5	2%
Family/Kid Events	25	9%
Frisbee Golf	2	1%
Volleyball Court	1	0%
Picnic Areas	5	2%
Upgrades	19	6%
Pickleball	4	1%
Bike rentals	2	1%
Open areas	4	1%
More playgrounds	14	5%
Bike paths/lanes	5	2%
Public golf course	1	0%
Batting cages	1	0%
Public fishing locations	1	0%
Campground	1	0%
Additional route spaces	1	0%
No response	32	11%
Total	294	100%

Park Usage

The respondents were asked how they use the parks located within the Newburgh Parks System. As shown by graph 5 the majority (38% or 129 of the respondents) use the Rivertown Trail as a way to walk, run, ride their bikes and exercise. This shows that the phase III expansion of the Rivertown Trail is a smart choice as more trails will be available for use. The least popular numbers included tennis, relaxation, fishing, basketball and river access. Renovations to the current tennis and basketball courts could enhance activity at those locations. Fishing and river access could be increased by directional signage placed around to show current fishing and river locations. Additional benches, maximizing views of the Ohio River and additional quiet spots along the river would allow for more relaxation spots for users.



Additional Parks

In the past two parks master plans skate park, amphitheater, nature park, dog park and Rivertown Trail extension have always been mentioned as a vision for the Newburgh Parks System. The latest survey asked of those parks, along with a passive park for reflection and relaxation, which they would most like to see (*see Graph 6*). The Rivertown Trail extension was number one with 61% (171 of the respondents) wanting the trail to expand. A nature park and an amphitheater were next in line with a dog park not far behind.

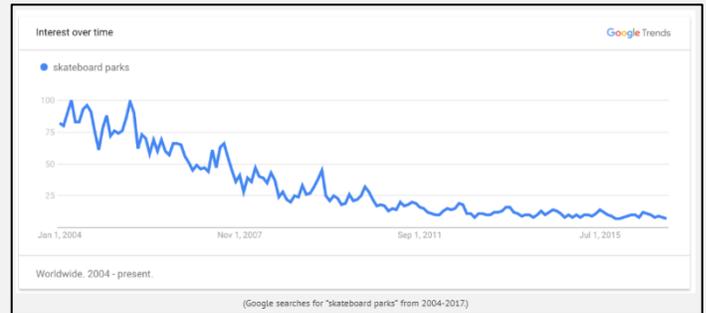
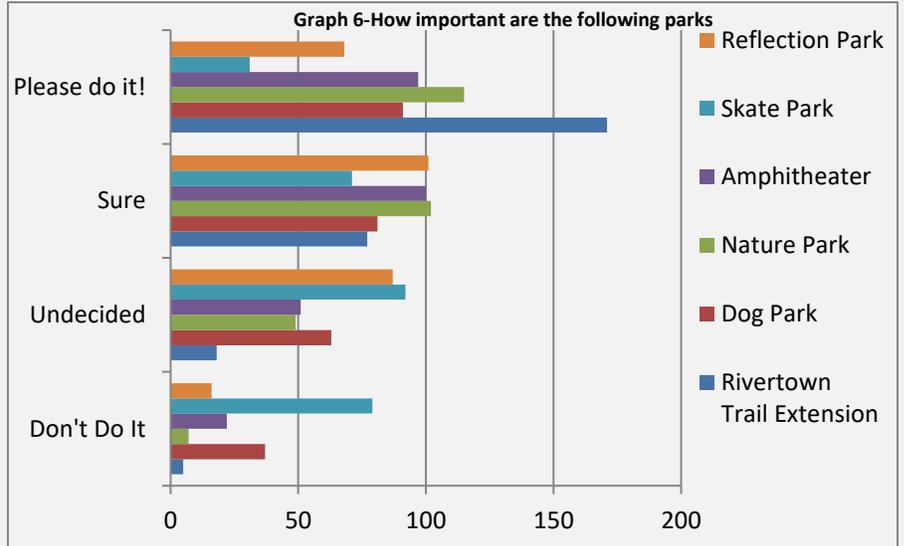
The Rivertown Trail extension is set to start in 2018 and an amphitheater is currently in the funding process. A nature park and dog park would require additional land that neither the Parks Board nor the Town currently have. In order to expand the Parks System for such parks, land would need to be obtained.

In this most recent survey the skate park idea did not get as many votes as it has in the past. With teenagers being an underserved group within the park system, a skate park has always been seen as a way to bring them into the area. According to an article on GoSkate.com skateboarding is in decline. GoSkate.com did a google trend search of

skate parks and there was an 85% decrease (see Graph 7) in searches for skate parks from 2004-2017. GoSkate.com gave the following signs that skateboarding is on the decline:

- Skateboard companies are closing
- Skate parks are less crowded
- Online searches are down
- Skateboarding involvement is down in nearly every age group.

With skateboarding currently in decline, it is important for the Parks Board to research recreational needs and/or programming that would help bring teenagers to the area but also be aware that like skate parks, trends come and go.

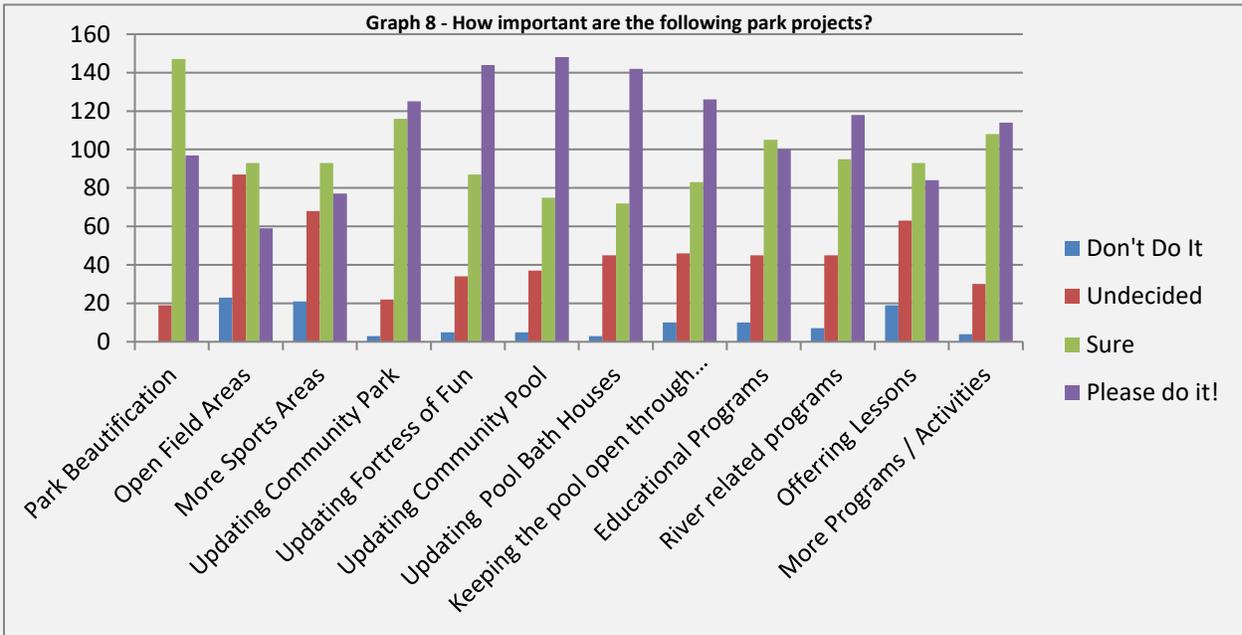


Graph 7 – Decrease in skate park searches on Google. GoSkate.com

Reflection Park results were mostly between “Sure” and “Undecided”. A small piece of land, about 0.25 acres on the Rivertown Trail with river views, is owned by the Town of Newburgh. Renderings and talk has started about putting in a passive park with landscaping, benches and potentially a fountain at that location. This would allow for another stopping point along the trail and also for a place for people to come and sit and relax.

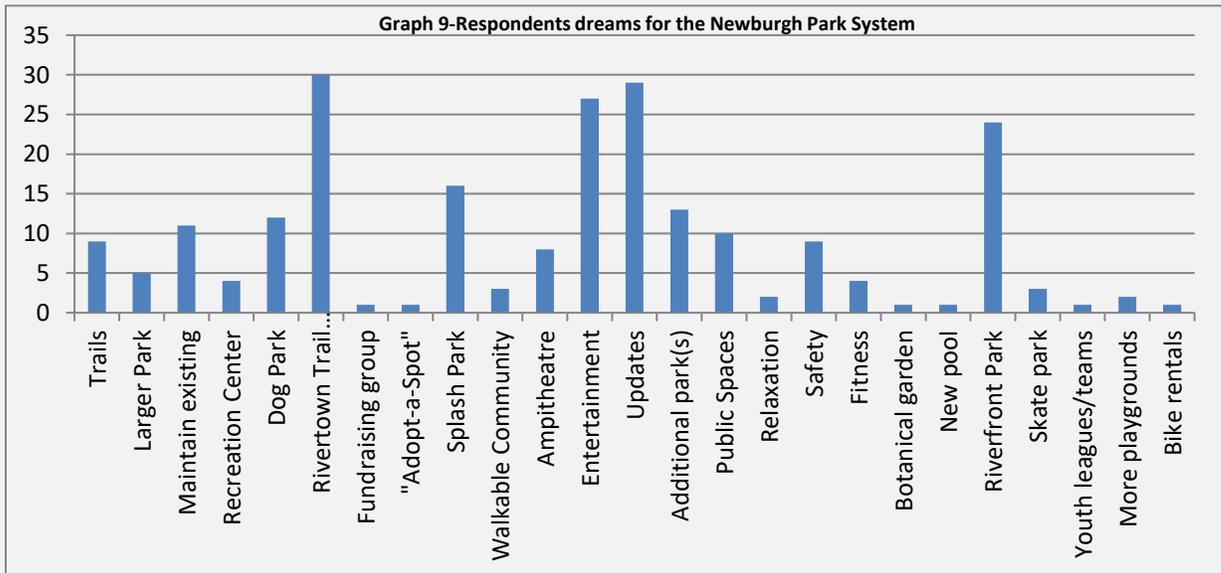
Lou Dennis Community Park

The respondents of the survey were given a list of programs or projects and were asked how important each of them was to them for the Parks Board to accomplish. Updating Lou Dennis Community Park, updating the Fortress of Fun, updating Newburgh Community Pool and the pool bathhouses were the four that people wished would happen the most (see Graph 8). With the Fortress of Fun hitting 20 years and the Newburgh Community Pool just celebrating their 45th year, the Parks Board must address the issue of the aging park.



Respondents Dreams and Wishes for the Newburgh Parks System

Respondents were asked what their dreams and wishes for the Newburgh Parks System were (see Graph 9). The Rivertown Trail expansion, updates to the parks, more entertainment, a riverfront park and a splash pad were the top five wishes.



Needs Analysis

Since the Town of Newburgh Parks Board 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 Parks Board, the Town of Newburgh Staff and identified common themes from each method and condensed those themes into underlying issues.

Level of Service Analysis

A level of service analysis was done based on NRPA standards as stated in the Existing Parks Section (page 26). The Town of Newburgh's total acres of local parks and recreation land is 61.91 acres and the total population by 2016 IU Business School census is 3,300 residents. The tables below show the NRPA Park Classifications, recommended supply, existing supply and the appeared overage/(shortfall).

Table 2 shows the analysis based on the Town of Newburgh's residents of 3,300 and the Town owned parks within the town limits. Neighborhood Parks include the Kiwanis Community Park and the Community Parks include Lou Dennis Community Park and Old Lock and Dam Park.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1,000 population)	Existing Supply	Overage/(Shortfall)
Neighborhood Parks	2 AC * 3.30 = 6.60 AC	2.25 AC	(4.35 AC)
Community Parks	8 AC * 3.30 = 26.40 AC	25.06 AC	(1.34 AC)

Table 2 – NRPA Standards based on the Newburgh Town limits.

Table 3 shows the analysis based on the planning area residents of 23,656 and all parks available to the planning area residents within the planning area. The Neighborhood Parks include the Kiwanis Community Playground, AMAX Athletic Fields and the New Locks and Dam Park. The Community Parks include Lou Dennis Community Park, Indian Hill Overlook Park, and the Old Lock and Dam Park.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1,000 population)	Existing Supply	Overage/(Shortfall)
Neighborhood Parks	2 AC * 23.65 = 47.30 AC	2.25 AC	(45.05 AC)
Community Parks	8 AC * 23.65 = 189.20 AC	49.36 AC	(139.84 AC)

Table 3 – NRPA Standards based on the planning area of park users.

The Newburgh parks located within town limits have a shortage of neighborhood parks by 4.35 acres and a shortage of community parks by 1.34 acres. The same shortage can be said for the neighborhood parks (45.05 acres) and community parks (139.84 acres) within the planning area.

Issues from Public Input

The top five issues from the public input are:

1. Adding a splash pad to the Newburgh Parks System
2. Extending the Rivertown Trail/adding additional trails
3. Increasing family and kid events
4. Maintain/Upgrade the existing parks
5. More parks within the Newburgh Parks System

Issues from Parks Board and Town of Newburgh Staff

The top five issues from the public input are:

1. Sell a 30 year bond (or shorter) to redesign Lou Dennis Community Park
 - a. Fix drainage issues
 - b. Increase parking
 - c. Save/expand/rebuild the Newburgh Community Pool with a splash pad and adequate sound system
 - d. Replace/expand Fortress of Fun with composite wood-like material
 - e. Put in year round restrooms at Lou Dennis Park
 - f. Replace shelter house with two to three shelters
 - g. Upgrade volleyball, tennis and basketball courts
2. Connect Lou Dennis Community Park to the Rivertown Trail and make Lou Dennis Community Park a Trailhead
3. Add additional year round bathrooms to Old Lock and Dam Park and Rivertown Trail
4. Continue developing the fundraising group known as Park Pals
 - a. Create a logo
 - b. Create a board of directors
 - c. Obtain 501(c)3 status
 - d. Work with local merchants and the Town to create events to help raise money for the Newburgh Parks System
 - e. Gather a base of volunteers to help with park maintenance and events
5. Increase utilization of all parks

Priorities and Action Plan Schedule

The vision for the Newburgh Parks System is that of a network of well-kept, beautiful parks that connect the community to its greatest resource, the Ohio River. This vision is based on the recurring themes that came from each form of public input and discussion. This vision should be considered the mission statement for the future development of the parks system. Along with this vision, the Newburgh Parks Board and the Town of Newburgh Staff have identified 10 priorities that should be addressed within the next 5 years.

Priorities

Below are the top 10 priorities for the Newburgh Parks Systems with #1 being the highest priority and #10 being the lowest priority:

1. Continued Maintenance
2. Rivertown Trail expansion
3. Continue developing fundraising group known as Park Pals
4. Add additional restrooms within the Newburgh Parks System
5. Lou Dennis Park renovations
6. Add a splash pad to Newburgh Parks System
7. Increase utilization of all parks
8. Add additional parks
9. Take over operations of New Locks and Dam Park
10. Construct the amphitheater at Old Lock and Dam Park

Action Plan Schedule

The Action Plan Schedule will help guide the Newburgh Parks Board and the Town of Newburgh in achieving their 10 priorities. Appendix G shows a map of the Newburgh Parks System with Rivertown Trail westward expansion and Reflection Park added in.

2018

Park	Action	Estimated Cost	Potential Source of Funds
Rivertown Trail	Continue working with neighbors on park design for Reflection Park	n/a	n/a
Rivertown Trail	Tree inventory along the trail		
Rivertown Trail	Project Bid Letting for Phase III	n/a	n/a
Rivertown Trail	Trailheads put in along the trail with possible restrooms	\$200,000.00	Warrick County Trails
Lou Dennis Community Park	Close Newburgh Community Pool	n/a	n/a
Lou Dennis Community Park	Obtain preliminary sketch and cost of park and pool redo	\$2,500.00	Fundraising & Town of Newburgh
Lou Dennis Community Park	Continue working with the community and designers to finalize plans on the Lou Dennis Community Park	n/a	n/a
New Locks and Dam Park	Talk with Army Corps of Engineers on taking over park operations	n/a	n/a
Old Lock and Dam Park	Newburgh Arts Commission and Historic Newburgh Inc. to continue fundraising for amphitheater	n/a	n/a
Old Lock and Dam Park	Obtain quotes for Old Lock and Dam No. 47 building floor	n/a	n/a
Old Lock and Dam Park	Obtain quotes for signs that let visitors know they are entering a park and park hours	n/a	n/a
Old Lock and Dam Park	Install Park signage	Labor	Town of Newburgh
Old Lock and Dam Park	Lower speed limit through the park to 25 mph	Labor	Town of Newburgh

All Parks	Gather ideas for splash pad within Newburgh Parks System	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Discuss events, programs, or activities to boost utilization of the parks	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Discuss directional signage to parks & gather quotes	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Start discussion between Parks Board and Parks Board Attorney about a possible Joint Use Agreement with the Warrick County School Corporation	Legal Fees	Town of Newburgh
All Parks	Register Newburgh Parks online to receive updates and trainings for all Park Board members and staff	Unknown	Town of Newburgh
All Parks	Participate in trainings to keep all Park Board Members and Staff up to date	Unknown	Town of Newburgh
All Parks – Park Pals	Continue developing Park Pals and start paper work to become a 501(c)3 organization	\$300.00	Park Pals

2019

Park	Action	Estimated Cost	Potential Source of Funds
Rivertown Trail	Install Fence at Reflection Park	\$3,500.00	Town of Newburgh
Rivertown Trail – Phase 3	Westward expansion	1.1 Million	INDOT Transportation Grant, Warrick County Trails and Town of Newburgh
Lou Dennis Community Park	Continue working with the community and designers to finalize plans on the Lou Dennis Community Park	n/a	n/a
Lou Dennis Community Park	Fundraise for the Lou Dennis Community Park	n/a	n/a
Lou Dennis Community Park	Address Drainage Issues within Lou Dennis Community Park		Town of Newburgh
New Locks and Dam Park	Take over operations of New Locks and Dam Park	\$10,000/year	
Old Lock and Dam Park	Newburgh Arts Commission and Historic Newburgh Inc. to continue fundraising for amphitheater	n/a	n/a
Old Lock and Dam Park	Fix crack in Old Lock and Dam No. 47 building floor	\$4,000.00	Town of Newburgh
Unknown	Construct splash pad within Newburgh Parks System	\$100,000.00	Grants and private donations
All Parks	Continued discussion on park utilization	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Install directional signage	\$8,500.00	Town of Newburgh & Grants
All Parks	Discuss any additional restroom needs within the parks system	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Enter into a Joint Use Agreement with Warrick County Schools	unknown	n/a
All Parks	Continued Training	unknown	n/a
All Parks – Park Pals	Continue Growing Park Pals and apply for grants	\$150.00	Park Pals

2020

Park	Action	Estimated Cost	Potential Source of Funds
Lou Dennis Community Park	Construct Lou Dennis Park-Phase I	3.6 Million	Bond and grants
Old Lock and Dam park	Construct amphitheater – Phase I	\$500,000	Private donations/LWCF
All Parks	Continued Discussion on park utilization	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Continued Training	unknown	Town of Newburgh
All Parks	Gather Census data for Master Plan 2023-2027	n/a	n/a
All Parks – Park Pals	Continue Growing Park Pals	\$150.00	Park Pals

2021

Park	Action	Estimated Cost	Potential Source of Funds
Lou Dennis Community Park	Construct Lou Dennis Park-Phase II	1.5 Million	Bond and Grants
Old Lock and Dam Park	Newburgh Arts Commission and Historic Newburgh Inc. to continue fundraising for amphitheater phase II	n/a	n/a

All Parks	Continued Discussion on park utilization	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Continued Training	unknown	Town of Newburgh
All Parks	Start Working on Master Plan for 2023-2027	n/a	n/a
All Parks – Park Pals	Continue Growing Park Pals	\$150.00	Park Pals

2022

Park	Action	Estimated Cost	Potential Source of Funds
Lou Dennis Community Park	Construct Lou Dennis Park – Phase III	1.3 Million	Bond and Grants
Old Lock and Dam Park	Construct amphitheater – Phase II	\$100,000.00	Private donations and grants
All Parks	Continued Discussion on park utilization	n/a	n/a
All Parks	Continued Training	unknown	Town of Newburgh
All Parks	Complete Master Plan 2023-2027 by December	n/a	n/a
All Parks – Park Pals	Continue Growing Park Pals	\$150.00	Park Pals

“Dream Project”

The dream of the Newburgh Parks Board in the next 5 years, even the next 10 years, will be renovating Lou Dennis Community Park. Lou Dennis Community Park has been around for at least 45 years, with the Newburgh Community Pool opening on June 18, 1972. The current Fortress of Fun was built in 1998 and is 20 years old. The basketball courts, volleyball courts and tennis courts are also starting to show signs of age. As indicated in the Accessibility Section, the older park is not accessible to many that have disabilities. The dream of the Newburgh Parks Board in the next 5 years would be to start the process of renovating the Lou Dennis Park, and in 10 years the dream would be to have a completely renovated accessible park.

- The first step in renovating Lou Dennis Community Park would be closing the Newburgh Community Pool. This step was completed in 2018 when the pool was closed due to safety issues with the aging pool. A public forum was held on the pool closure and the minutes and proposed park layout are available in Appendix H.
- The renovation of the park would start with correcting drainage issues. The land was donated to the Town of Newburgh and has always had drainage problems. Underground pipes were installed to correct the issue but due to their age, are starting to fail.
- Parking has always been an issue at Lou Dennis Park and the new parks vision would include increased parking and better flow.
- Adequate amount of restrooms would be an important part of the park design.
- New Playground that is ADA accessible and made with sustainable materials.
- Two new shelter houses to bring in additional rental income and better serve users.
- Updated basketball courts, volleyball court and tennis courts.
- All new Newburgh Community Pool that includes a splash park. The new pool would include all new bathhouses, restrooms, guard house and storage. A diving board and slides are both desired and designing the pool to accommodate both would be ideal. A whole new splash pad/wading pool area is one of the biggest dreams of the Newburgh Parks Board and the public.
- Shade is a must and new shade structures would be a must at the Newburgh Community Pool.
- Install a new and adequate sound system at the Newburgh Community Pool.

Final Public Presentation of the Plan

The public meeting was held on December 7, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. Present at the meeting were the Parks Board, one member of the Parks Advisory Board, six Administrative Staff and six members of the public. The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft of the 2018-2022 Newburgh Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to the public. At the public meeting, the past five year accomplishments were presented along with a brief description of the layout of the plan. The top five issues from the public and from the Parks Board along with the top ten priorities were presented to the public. Dialog was opened to the attendants for discussing the top ten priorities for the next five years.

The following was discussed:

- The Rivertown Trail westward expansion
- Changing the Rivertown Trail priority from “westward expansion” to just “expansion”
- Funding for the amphitheater at Old Lock and Dam Park
- Park Pals and obtaining 501c3 status
- Places the public would like to see additional bathrooms
- Lou Dennis Community Park
- Adding additional parks to the Newburgh Parks System and what those additions would cost the Town of Newburgh over time
- Adding Pickleball marking to our tennis courts

The submittal process for the 2018 to 2022 Newburgh Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was presented. The outline is as follows:

- Draft plans will be available for review at the Newburgh Administrative Assistant’s office at Newburgh Town Hall.
- The draft plan will remain available for review until January 4, 2018 at which time the draft plan will be finalized at the regularly scheduled Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board meeting.
- The draft plan will be sent to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation no later than January 15, 2018.
- The final plan must be adopted by the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board no later than April 15, 2018.

