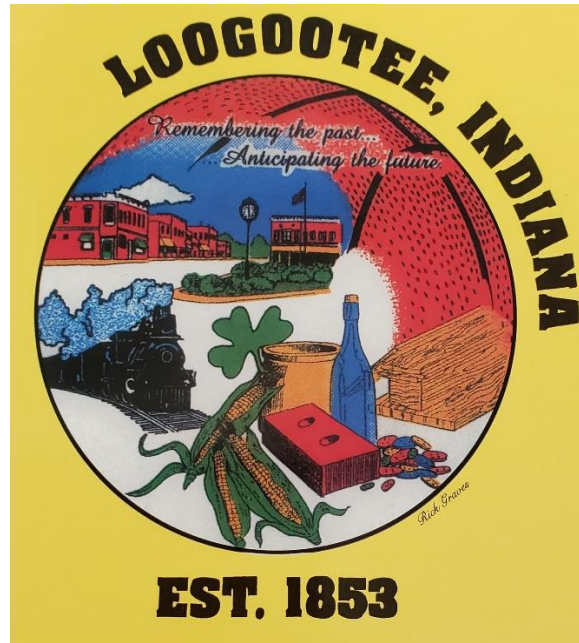




PARKS & RECREATION

2021-2025

Master PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION...	1
DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA...	1
GOALS OF THE PLAN...	1
LOOGOOTE PARK BOARD...	2
MISSION STATEMENT...	3
STAFFING...	3
VOLUNTEERS...	3
PARTNERSHIPS...	3
FACILITY INVENTORY...	4
CURRENT PROGRAMS...	4
BUDGET...	5
OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES...	5
NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES...	6
TOPOGRAPHY...	6
FOREST AND VEGETATION RESOURCES...	6
WATER RESOURCES...	7
MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL INFORMATION...	7
TRANSPORTATION LINKS...	7
LOOGOOTE INDUSTRY...	7
PARKS DEPARTMENT HISTORY...	8
CULTURE OF LOOGOOTE...	8
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS...	9
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS...	9
HEALTH AND WELLNESS...	11
ECONOMIC IMPACT...	11
ACCESSIBILITY AND FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS...	12
STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY IN LOOGOOTE...	12
ADA SELF-ASSESSMENT...	12
CITY PARK...	12
LOOGOOTE SQUARE AND FOUNTAIN...	13

CITY POOL...	13
PROPOSED ADA PROJECTS...	13
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION...	14
PUBLIC SURVEY...	14
PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS...	16
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS...	16
SUMMARY OF INTERESTS...	17
NEEDS ANALYSIS...	17
PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE...	22
APPENDICES...	25
CITY MAP...	25
ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE SIGN-OFF...	26
PARK BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTION PLAN...	27
PUBLIC SURVEY QUESTIONS...	28

INTRODUCTION

The Loogootee Master Plan is a plan set in place to assist with the further development of recreational and leisure facilities, services, and amenities in Loogootee, Indiana. A collaborative effort was made with the Loogootee Park Board, Mayor Noel Harty, City Employee Bo Wilson, and the author of the plan, Jameson Hibbs. The Loogootee Park Board and City have a keen interest in providing exceptional parks and recreational facilities to the current residents of Loogootee and Martin County. They also want to assist with the regional effort to increase the attraction of Martin County and the Hoosier Uplands Region for workforce development. This plan demonstrates the need for recreational opportunities through department assessments and public input. The Park Board and the City of Loogootee knows this Master Plan is not concrete, but is the roadmap to create diverse and universal facilities that will impact all citizens of Loogootee.

DEFINITION OF THE PLANNING AREA

Loogootee is located on the western edge of Martin County, Indiana. There are several neighborhoods that are located just outside of the city limits. Just five miles away there are several hundred homes located near West Boggs Lake and most of which utilize Loogootee as their main source of necessities. The residents near this reservoir along with numerous nearby residents are all located in Daviess County, Indiana which expands the service area of Loogootee into the adjacent county. Taxes are not collected on these residents outside of the city limits and Martin County does not receive any tax base on the residents outside of both the city and county limits. However, Loogootee still chooses to provide recreational benefits to these residents and wants to continue to expands on the recreational opportunities without decree of taxable status.

GOALS OF THE PLAN

There are several goals for this master plan as Loogootee moves forward. These goals currently are:

- Create an internal needs assessment based off feedback from city employees, park board members, and city officials
- Garner and utilize public input to better understand the needs and wants of the planning area.
- Review and use National Standards and a needs analysis
- Create a prioritized action schedule accorded to both the public input and the internal needs analysis
- Provide an overall plan that is relevant, realistic, and useful for the city of Loogootee to implement in the next five years.
- To provide momentum for future years of planning, development, and meeting needs of users.
- Create and gain approval of the Loogootee citizens

- Meet all requirements of the INDNR Master Planning
- Utilize the plan to harbor funding sources such as but not limited to the Land Water Conservation Fund.

THE PARK BOARD/DEPARTMENT

The Loogootee Park Board was established in 19?? Under the Indiana Code 36-10-3.

Members:

Karen Slaven

Don Greene

Ron Gilbert

Justin Clark

Gary Arvin

The Loogootee Parks Department is operated through the direction of the park board. The board meets once per month at the Loogootee City Hall.

Contact Information:

Email Address

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Mission Statement

The Loogootee Park Board shall maintain, improve, and enhance recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

Staff

The Loogootee Parks Department staff is small and seasonal due to the size of the department and facilities. The Loogootee Pool requires a seasonal manager, whom is hired by the park board, that oversees the operations of the pool. That oversight includes the lifeguards required to operate a pool during open hours.

Maintenance to the parks facilities is conducted by the Loogootee Public Works Department. This department is responsible for maintenance of all aspects of Loogootee City Properties. The Public Works Department consists of a superintendent along with nine city employees. The superintendent of this departments assists the park board with planning and facilitating projects within the park properties and also coordinates the basic maintenance of park properties. The Parks & Recreation Fund is utilized to pay the Public Works wages when work is being performed on park properties.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a huge aspect of operations for the Loogootee Parks. Even though appointed, the park board members receive no direct compensation for serving and are essentially volunteers. In small cities such as Loogootee, it's imperative that park boards create and utilize a volunteer base in order to functionally provide programs, hosts fundraisers, and enhance their facilities. Loogootee Park board has received ample volunteers in the past and one primary example was for the City Pool Rehabilitation project. Numerous local volunteers assisted with a variety of fundraisers and events in order to secure the necessary funds to remedy the issues with the pool. These volunteers were able to achieve their objectives and the goal providing the community with a pool was restored.

Partnerships

Partnerships are an important aspect for small city parks. Loogootee Park Board oversees a unique property located in the center of town called the Fountain and the Square. Various organizations want to assist with the enhancement of this focal point and have partnered with Loogootee to improve the aesthetics of this location. One such current organization is the Loogootee Beautification Board. The Loogootee Mainstreet is a second organization and is in it's infancy of development. Combined, all three of these parties have great potential to enhance the overall quality of appearance and services offered by various city departments and private enterprise.

Facility Inventory

Loogootee Parks has a diverse range of facilities for a small town. On the west side of Loogootee, the department operates the ??? acre City Park, City Pool, skate park, and ?? acres of open space. These facilities are in close proximity of one another but are separated by city streets. In the center of Loogootee, the park board oversees the Loogootee Fountain and Square. A block to the south, the city owns a potential new park facility but is currently underdeveloped and a parking lot. As with most parks with age, surfacing, equipment, and structures need to be replaced or updated. The Loogootee Park Board and city employees have taken some important steps to update the park, but a small budget and available resources slows progress. The following is a brief overview of the services and amenities offered at these facilities.

- The City Park provides a few amenities for users. It consists of a moderate sized playground that recently has expanded with new equipment. The playground does provide swing sets with ADA swings, slides, and climbing elements but the surfacing of the playground is currently peagravel which does not meet ADA standards. The City Park provides two separate parking areas totaling 49 spaces. The west parking lot provides ADA access to the west shelter house and to the ADA swings. The second shelter is located in the center of the park with no ADA access. The east parking lot provides ADA parking but not ADA pathway is present in the park to access features. The east and west parking lots currently do not connect with any hard surface pathway.
- Across the street from the City Park, you'll find the Loogootee City Pool. The pool has undergone renovation in 2015. The pool is designed to meet the needs of all ages and is used to provide summertime programming. Concessions, restrooms, and other amenities are found in the pool building. The pool building is an older structure that lacks sufficient air flow and currently does not possess any HVAC system. The pool area has ample room for users but does not offer any shade structures for the summer heat.
- Adjacent to the pool is a small fenced in skate park. The skate park was established in ??? and offers limited features. Although it's a great concept and service, the usage and impact is minimal upon current assessment and inspection.
- Located in the center of Loogootee, you'll find the fountain area. The fountain was first constructed in 1980 and is currently a priority for replacement. This space provides a small common area displaying historical information on past Martin County residents. Old benches are present but no shade is available for users. There is ramp available on the north side of the fountain.
- Just south of the fountain is the small Loogootee square. This area is currently undergoing a facelift with assistance from the Loogootee beautification board. This space is also open common area space that provides a focal point for visitors or passing traffic. Both the fountain and square are commonly used for small group gatherings.
- Directly south of the fountain and square is a city owned property that has the potential to be city center park. Currently used as a parking lot, this property could serve as a multi-functional setting.

Current Programs

The Loogootee Park board has offered limited programs in the past. The park board is very interested in providing ample programs, events, and activities. Unfortunately, these are limited due to minimal funding sources and minimal staffing or volunteers. The following are programs and/or events that have been offered by the Parks Board.

- Loogootee Park board has assisted in past years with the Loogootee Christmas Tree Lighting.
- In the past, Loogootee Parks have partnered with the Loogootee Library to provide Reading In The Park for Pre-K participants.
- At the Loogootee City Pool, swimming lessons have been provided by various instructors in the past several years.
- Food Truck Saturdays was a recent event started with great success. Volunteers were a major role in planning and facilitating this event.
- The Loogootee City Pool has also provided a Back to School Splash.

BUDGET

The Loogootee Park Board operates on a very small tax based budget of only \$109,000. This amount applies to the Loogootee Park Board through the cities' general fund and has a very slight annual increase. This budget is expected to pay for the operations at the pool, maintenance of park facilities, and potentially any capital improvements on park facilities. This annual budget is quickly allocated to current operations and the maintenance of current facilities. However, it's in hope that with this plan the park board and city administrators can begin to envision how to increase and/or advance the budget in order to meet the needs exhibited by this plan.

Due to the budget constraints, Loogootee Park Board has utilized several fundraising campaigns in the past for capital improvements such as the City Pool. Various fundraising concepts such as cookouts, bake sales, Talent Contests, and other ideas have been utilized. Fundraising mechanisms would be a great method for the park board to continue in order to gain credibility for project development and accrue the necessary funds for completion of priorities.

Other Recreational Providers

Loogootee residents do have the various recreational options within a short driving distance. First, West Boggs Park is just 3.9 miles north of Loogootee along U.S. Highway 231. This outdoor facility is operated by the Daviess Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Department and opened in 1972. This facility is a regional destination that provides outdoor recreational opportunities such as camping, fishing, waterfowl hunting, multi-use trails, shelter houses, swimming beach, playground, and plenty of open space. Recently, West Boggs Park began operating a more diverse schedule of programs and events to serve the local population as well as attract additional regional users to the facility. This park has a

variety of options for Loogootee residents, but the distance still remains a small barrier for many local citizens.

The Loogootee High School does provide access to the public for use of their track. This caters to residents that are looking for a location to walk, jog, and/or run. This location offers no shade to users or other leisure opportunities for diverse use.

Churches around Loogootee have small playgrounds for their congregation, Sunday Schools, or educational programs. These are fenced off and not accessible to the public.

Loogootee is very fortunate to be located on the western edge of some fantastic Indiana topography. Just east of Loogootee you can find beautiful vistas, various bodies of water, and many outdoor recreational opportunities. The Hoosier National Forest, Martin State Forest, and other state properties provide ample hiking, hunting, fishing, and nature based environments for Loogootee Residents to utilize.

Not too far from Loogootee you will also find Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area. This Indiana DNR property covers 8,000 acres and provides ample hunting and fishing opportunities. Camping is available on site along with two boat ramps to the 1,000 acre Dogwood Lake. Various ponds around the facility also provide fishing access. There is also a public access site along the East Fork of the White River on the southern edge of this property.

NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPE

Topography

The topography of Loogootee is overall flat. This is conducive to most recreational services and facilities. There are small drainage areas around Loogootee for storm water and while most of these are through private property, one does border the edge of the City Park. The topography varies quickly once you leave Loogootee to the north, east, or south.

Forest and Vegetation Resources

Due to the smaller size of Loogootee and public parks, there is not much presence or diversity of trees located on the public areas. There are numerous shade trees throughout the city, along small corridors and in most private yards. The City Park does possess a few large mature oak trees. One of which is growing along the edge of the west parking lot and beginning to cause issues with the asphalt. The northern edge of the city park has a quick and steep slope down to a drainage and that slope is covered in honeysuckle and autumn olive. Replacing this invasive vegetation with native species would be beneficial and could possibly be used as an educational component in the park. Planting of additional trees in the park could also be beneficial to provide shade and increase the aesthetics of the facility.

Water Resources

There are no major water resources through Loogootee. There are several swales that are used to navigate storm water during major rain events. The Loogootee is near several public access points to water resources. There are several public boat ramps to the East Fork of the White River within a short driving distance from Loogootee. West Boggs Reservoir is also just north of the city. These resources do not directly impact Loogootee.

MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL

Transportation Links

Loogootee sits in the midst of a large transportation network. In the center of the city, U.S. Highway 231 and U.S. Route 50 intersect creating a vast network for Loogootee. These two major highways connect much of southern Indiana commerce by intersecting with various other major roadways. Most of the local traffic utilizes one if not both of these major highways for daily travel. Many businesses in Loogootee are directly accessed via one of these two highways. Interstate 69 is also a nearby major transportation link for Loogootee. One exit is directly to the west along US Route 150 and the second exit is to the north along US Highway 231. I-69 connects Loogootee to southwestern Indiana and up through Indianapolis. Loogootee also has a railway passing through. This railway line is slightly to moderately and potentially provides shipping services to regional businesses.

Loogootee has a sidewalk system throughout the city. Much of the sidewalk is still used and accessed by various residents, however there are numerous areas in where the sidewalk is not a safe nor accessible measure of travel.

Loogootee and Martin County Industry

Sitting on the western edge of Martin County, Loogootee is located at the crossroads of two major highway systems and near two exits of Interstate 69. Loogootee is located ten miles south of Crane Naval Base. Just outside the gates of NSA Crane, the Westgate Tech Park provides industries with available space to serve the needs and contracts of the armed forces and the federal government. There is a percentage of this tech park located in Martin County and much of the Martin County land is still available for commercial development. However, government contracts extend to various towns around NSA Crane and Loogootee. A steady percentage of Martin County and Loogootee residents are either employed by NSA Crane or with one of the services contracted with the US Government at NSA Crane.

Loogootee and Martin County also play host to a variety of entrepreneurs, small corporations, and LLC's. Many of these businesses provide unique services to both local communities and also specific markets throughout the region. Many of these local businesses extend their mission by assisting with the development of our local youth. One of which has even undergone partnership with the local school corporation to provide a systematic learning real time business for high school students. Loogootee is also home to several banks, engineering services, convenient stores, gas stations, and restaurants.

Martin County provides goods and services to the surrounding agriculture community. Much of the ground surrounding Loogootee has been altered for various farming practices. This includes but not limited to an expansive Amish and Mennonite population that primarily live in the adjacent Daviess County but much of this populations utilizes Loogootee as their main source for necessities. Various contracted services are also found throughout the Amish and Mennonite community which provides Loogootee and Martin County with ample choices for residential and commercial development.

Martin County is also the home of two gypsum plants. These companies produce material for interior furnishing such as dry wall, wallboard, ceiling tiles, and various other materials. Both of these companies provide Loogootee and Martin County residents with career based occupations and create a vast network that utilizes Loogootee services.

Loogootee Parks Department History

The Loogootee Parks Department was formed in ????? under the IN Code 36-10-3-4. The Loogootee Park board assists the city of Loogootee with overseeing the operations at three city owned recreational facilities. The board also assists with programs, events, and various beautification projects around the city. Any new property owned by, acquired, donated to, or otherwise under the ownership of Loogootee that is deemed recreational facility, will fall under the guidance and oversight of the Loogootee Park Board.

Culture of Loogootee

Founded in 1853, Loogootee is a mix of European descent. The city retains its small town values and as with most rural cities, towns, and counties, Loogootee exhibits a strong traditional culture rooted to family, community, patriotism, and faith. This predominately faith based community is home to twelve churches that provide sanction to a large number of residents. These organizations of faith provide community programs, structure, assistance, and potential partnerships for various organizations.

Proud of its history, Loogootee is home to one of the top winningest coaches in Indiana basketball history. This legacy feeds the “Hoosier Hysteria” and places basketball along with other very successful team sports as a top priority for many Loogootee residents and public figures. Many of the Loogootee youth participate in sporting activities which helps cultivate the perception of community and team orientated concepts.

Loogootee has a number of community members that continually strive to lead this community with progressive vision and purpose. Without neglecting their roots, these exuberant individuals of varying ages continually search for methods to provide citizens with the latest technology, trends, services, and avenues for growth and prosperity. Collaborating and creating methods and opening avenues for growth has been on the forefront of several new and existing organizations in recent years.

Nearby, a large Amish and Mennonite community resides. This unique culture exhibits a more traditional approach to community and lifestyles. This lifestyle is predominately agriculture but has an expansive and growing base for contracted construction, building, and material services. There is potential for this cultural base to utilize Loogootee Parks if certain programs were available that would entice their lifestyle and culture.

Festivals and Events

The Loogootee Summerfest is a three-day festival held annually the 3rd weekend of June and offers the community an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities for all ages. Small rides and games are available for the youth, music is provided for adult entertainment, and food vending is available to encompass the unique experience. The most anticipated activity of the festival is the parade held on Saturday evening which allows various local businesses and organizations a chance to show their support of the festival. Various organizations collaborate and assist with this festival. Many of which are non-for-profits that utilize this time as a vital fundraiser to support their functions throughout the year. This festival plays an important role in the comradery and community engagement for Loogootee.

Loogootee also hosts an annual Christmas Parade, Christmas Stroll, and Christmas Tree lighting. The Christmas stroll provides an affable event for local businesses to open their doors for holiday spirit and the important concept of keeping it local. Many of these businesses depend on this event as a large contributor to their annual revenue. The parade has a long standing tradition in the city and boasts a vast participation. The various entities that participate in this event exhibit hometown pride and an overwhelming sense of value and belonging.

According to the recent Martin County Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan, 85% of Martin County residents indicated that events are important to them but only 29% believe there are enough adult activities and only 39% believe there are enough children activities. Loogootee has the potential to provide other festivals and/or events due to the location, size, and assets. The network of available citizens and organizations provides potential for collaboration and fulfillment of the void of ongoing events within Loogootee.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

(According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Indiana Business Research Center)

Loogootee, Indiana Population as of 2019 was 2,700 people which is 26.2% of the 10,255 people that reside in Martin County. Martin County as a whole is on a gentle population decline of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019.

Of the 10,255 residents in Martin County the following data applies:

• Ages 0-4	5.8%
• Ages 4-17	16.4%
• Ages 18-	24 7.4%
• Ages 25-44	22.3%
• Ages 45-64	27.6%
• Ages 65+	20.6%
• Median Age	37.9

Martin County is located in rural Indiana and is predominately white. However, there are pockets of cultural diversity within and surrounding the county. To the west, you will find a large segment of Amish and Mennonite that thrive in the adjacent Daviess County. Many of these residents utilize Loogootee as

their primary destination for necessity. Not too far away in Washington a large Hispanic population brings a workforce to some agricultural areas within Martin County and Loogootee.

Household Types of Martin County (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates)

🍃 Number of households in 2018	4,198
☀ Married with children	17.4%
☀ Married w/out children	32.2%
☀ Single Parents	8.1%
☀ Living Alone	30.1%

Economics of Martin County

Housing (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 year estimates)

🍃 Total Housing Units in 2019	4,828
🍃 Owner Occupied	3,323 69.2%
☀ Median Value (2018)	\$111,100
🍃 Renter Occupied	875 18.2%
☀ Median Rent	\$408

Education (Indiana Dept of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates)

🍃 School Enrollment 2019/2020 reported	1,441
☀ Pubilc	1,441
🍃 Adults (25+ in 2018 ACS)	7,089
☀ With High School Diploma or higher	85.5%
☀ With B.A. or higher degree	13.4%

Income and Poverty (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, IN Family Social Services Administration, IN Dept of Education)

🍃 Per Capita Personal Income (annual) 2019	\$39,207
🍃 Median Household Income in 2018	\$55,444
🍃 Poverty Rate in 2018	11.8%
☀ Poverty Rate among children under 18	15.6%
🍃 Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families 2019	11
🍃 Food Stamp Recipients in 2019	665
🍃 Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients 2019/2020	712

Labor Force (STATS IN, using from the IN Dept of Workforce Development)

🍃 Total Resident Labor Force	5,380
☀ Employed	5,239
☀ Unemployed	141
🍃 Annual Unemployment Rate	2.6
🍃 October 2020 Unemployment Rate	3.2

The above information represents Martin County as a whole. But due to the small population of the county and the city of Loogootee, these figures are an accurate representation for the Loogootee Parks

Department to analyze. Taking into account that this data is pre-COVID 19, we can ascertain that the Loogootee Park Board should look at providing leisure services at a very minimal cost to the public. This is due to the small population of both Loogootee and Martin County but also due to the assessment of the overall earnings minus the Technology Industry jobs that are available due to the Westgate Tech Park near NSA Crane.

At the same time, it would be of good service for the Loogootee Park Board to provide recreational opportunities within close proximity to all city residents. Such provisions could increase the overall outdoor play of the youth and adults ultimately increasing the health and wellness of the community. The inclusion of pocket parks, trails, and other leisure opportunities universally designed would create diverse recreational opportunities within walking distance of city residents.

Health and Wellness

According to the Martin County Quality of Place Plan, Martin County ranks 2nd in the state per capita for diabetes and 3rd in the state for adult obesity which is currently estimated at 40% of adult residents. A recent county survey reported over 90% of residents view themselves as healthy. The patient to primary care physician ratio is 5,113:1 in Martin County. Due to this information, it would be recommended that the Loogootee Park Board offer leisure services to help reduce these inflated numbers. Partnering with local healthcare providers would be essential in addressing this issue. 95% of the people that assisted with this Martin County Quality of Place Plan stated that being healthy is very important. Within the same plan, 95% of the respondents indicated that exercise helps the quality of life and 71% desire more adult recreation. There are currently three private fitness gyms available within Loogootee. Parks & recreation departments have the ability to provide outlets for both physical and mental wellness issues. The Loogootee Park Board would benefit residents by looking at objectives that cater to diverse ages and user groups in order to improve the overall wellbeing of local residents.

The Martin County Quality of Place Plan lists recommended recreation objectives along with health and wellness objectives that were indicated through analysis of their data. The recreational objectives that are relevant to the Loogootee Park Board are:(listed on page 29 of that plan)

- Recreational Objective 4.1 – Increase indoor and outdoor recreation events through revitalizing current spaces and developing new venues for both recreational and cultural events.
- Recreational Objective 4.3 – Increase resident and visitor access to walking/biking trails and recreational facilities.

These two objectives quickly express the implications and measures needed to be taken by area recreation providers.

Economic Impact

Parks and recreation facilities provide essential services to communities through a variety of opportunities that increase the vitality of the local economy. The weight of the impact will vary on the amount of recreational services offered by the parks department. It may be modest or an immense impact that will be direct, indirect, and induced. Direct impact would be any revenue generated directly at the facilities. This could be from programming, pool operations, fundraising, or a variety of revenue generating avenues. The indirect impact would be the money spent in the local community due to people utilizing the recreational venues. This would include fuel, food, recreational supplies, and other

miscellaneous purchases. The induced impact would be the increased in revenue generated at local businesses that in effect pay employees that in turn pay rent or a mortgage, purchase groceries, insurance, and other life essentials. The level of impact varies greatly upon the parks ability to serve local needs, and the ability for the local economy to take advantage of the increased participation.

Parks also play an important role in attracting new businesses into communities. A qualified workforce desires to live in communities that supply ample recreational options for themselves and their families. Businesses interested in investing into communities realize that quality of place attracts this workforce therefore look at communities that have such amenities and services to offer. In essence, parks have the capability to contribute an incalculable impact on the local economy.

Loogootee currently has facilities that provide a modest impact on the local economy. The City Pool provides direct impact on the department and does attract users from outside the city. The fountain facility provides a picturesque view downtown and attracts the attention of a few passerby tourists. However, Loogootee Parks realize the need to improve leisure availability along with an increase of impact and plans to utilize this master plan the step in a direction of growth.

ACCESSIBILITY AND FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Statement of Accessibility for Loogootee

Self-Assessment

Like all small towns, Loogootee is making an assertive attempt at keeping their facilities accessible to all individuals. Progress is present and the most recent renovations to the pool demonstrates the forward planning and awareness to serve all citizens. The Loogootee Park Board understands that they need to continue their efforts in transitioning their facilities to meet the needs of all users of their city. A facility assessment was conducted as part of this plan in order to see what amenities and services need to be included in order to progress with ADA compliancy.

Below is an assessment of the non-compliance issues and of each facility along with a breakdown of current compliancy for each location.

City Park

- Playground
 - ☀ Pea Gravel surfacing
 - ☀ No Border
 - ☀ No pathway access from either parking area
 - ☀ Inadequate fall zones on some elements
- East Shelterhouse
 - ☀ No ADA access from either parking areas
- West Shelterhouse
 - ☀ No ADA access to grill
- West Parking Lot

- ☀ Requires larger ADA parking pad
- ☀ Very limited access to amenities inside park facility
- 🟢 East Parking Lot
 - ☀ Requires larger ADA parking pad
 - ☀ No direct access to any park amenities

The Loogootee Park board realizes these are barriers thwarting the usage of the city park. They plan to overcome these issues over time and exceed standards.

Estimated costs of basic compliance is a minimum of \$45,000. Funding sources to assist with these efforts may come from a variety of sources such as grants, donations, operating budget, loans, and possibly local government bonds.

The City Park does currently meet some ADA requirements. They do provide one ADA parking spot in each of their two parking areas. The west parking lot does have a compliant access pathway to the west shelterhouse and restroom. ADA compliant picnic tables are present at the shelters. Their swing set also offers compliant structures to include everyone.

Loogootee Square and Fountain

- 🟢 No accessible parking for access.
- 🟢 Entrance ramp does not meet ADA standards
- 🟢 No ADA seating available

City Pool

The City Pool has undergone major transformation in recent years. This mold included many ADA requirements in order to completely serve local needs. Currently, the pool could better meet accessibility requirements by adding additional inclusive and universal play elements to meet a variety of needs.

Proposed Accessibility Projects

The city of Loogootee and the parks department are moving to remove any barriers that currently exist for ADA compliancy at their facilities. The progress to compliancy of ADA standards has been hampered by lack of available funds for vast infrastructure upgrades. However, the city of Loogootee wants all amenities to be conducive for use by all citizens, so it's important to address the non-compliant issues in this plan and also in other city endeavors. The city plans to cultivate partnerships to address some of the issues with the fountain and square area, so it would be important that these partners are also aware of the accessibility issues and assist with planning to meet standards. Utilizing adaptive technologies and new design concepts will assist with the achievement of ADA compliancy. These endeavors will increase the quality of the services offered in Loogootee and assist with the overall attractiveness and versatility of the city. Setting high standards will demonstrate that Loogootee is prepared to serve all citizens with varying needs and interests. Estimated costs to enhance this area to include ADA compliancy will

depend on the magnitude of the allocated budget. Minimal costs could be \$10,000 but could be upwards of \$25,000 if new features and amenities are added to this space.

The park board and the city of Loogootee proposes to incorporate ADA routes beginning in the City Park. Connecting both parking lots with the available amenities such as the playground and shelters is a great start. But, just connecting to a playground with inaccessible surfacing isn't enough, so the park board plans to include a new accessible playground surfacing. The new accessible route can act as the playground border on at least one side of the site and this route will be able to connect the parking areas to the shelter houses. This route will also be part of an overall walking trail design that will encompass the entire perimeter of the City Park. This ½ mile trail will be accessible and connect all features of this facility. The park board will also include routes and hard surface pads to the grills at the shelter houses, isolated seating areas, and to any new playground elements that could be installed in the future. Overall costs of these proposed projects will be a minimum of \$125,000. The projects can be set in phases in order to accommodate funding as it is acquired. The normal operating budget will not be sufficient to cover the costs of these improvements. The park board will need to look into grants, donations, partnerships, bonds, fundraisers, and other means of funding sources.

The City Pool would benefit the community by including more diverse and universal play structures. These types of structures could be finite in sound and touch, which would elaborate the experience for those that require a different type of or excelled experience in these senses. Inclusive elements and designs are frequently found in pools, playgrounds, seating areas, and other sectors of park facilities. Inclusion of accessible seating and shade structures could benefit community members and allow users with varied medical conditions an opportunity to enjoy the pool facility.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Loogootee Park Board and the city of Loogootee recognize the importance incorporating needs and wants of the community into their facility planning. The best way to serve the community in this regard is to give the community platforms to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions. To include the public views, opinions, and interests we used three methods of public participation. One was an online public survey through SurveyMonkey, the second was a public input meeting, and the third was a short comment period for draft review.

The online public survey was the primary method of gathering public input data. Data was collected starting September 8, 2020 and ended on December 16, 2020 and within this three-month period 88 participants responded to the 29 questions in this survey. These questions were constructed to pull popular opinion on specific facilities, programs, current funding, along with potential projects, facilities, and funding mechanisms. We wanted to know the usage rates, existing barriers, safety concerns, accessibility concerns, and overall appearance of the park facilities. Six basic demographic information questions were asked and an average of six people skipped these questions. The following is a quick summary of facility use:

City Park

- 88 usable responses for the survey showed that 50% of the participants use the Loogootee Park properties once or twice per month.
- On a scale of 1-5 with five being exceptional, the City Park was rated a 3.1

- The use of the City Park varies but it responses strongly suggest that the playground is the number one reason for visiting. Picnicking and relaxing are also popular activities in the park.
- The majority of the respondents (65.52%) stated they visit the park with their children/grandchildren. 16% state they don't visit the park and 8% states it depends on the activity.
- Restrictions and/or barriers for park use
 - ☀ Limited equipment for small children
 - ☀ No ADA access
 - ☀ Not enough amenities
 - ☀ Lack of Shade on playground
 - ☀ Too far from home
 - ☀ Unsafe environment This is the major barrier for public use.

Fountain and Square

- One of scale of 1-5 with five being exceptional, the Fountain/Square is rated at 2.63
- According to responses not many respondents utilize the fountain area. According to answers this is due to:
 - ☀ Lack of shaded seating
 - ☀ Unattractive structures
 - ☀ Unsafe location

City Pool

- Use of the pool is low according to the respondents. 65.52% of the 87 respondents stated they never use the pool. 19.54% use it once per month, 10.34% use it 1-3 times per month, 3.45% use it 1-5 times per month, and only one person uses it 5+ times per month.
- Of the responses, 37.33% rates the City Pool as Good at meeting their needs. 30.67% state Fair, 22.67% stated Poor and 9.33% stated excellent.

Additional Facilities and Services

The public input survey was also used to obtain the public opinion on various new ideas for facilities, services, and possible programs. These ideas were based on popular ideas that are utilized in various city and town parks around the Midwest that provide citizens with leisure experiences. Question 15 in the public input survey asked people to rank their level of interest (from No Interest to Extremely Interested) of several ideas and/or concepts. The following prioritized list is constructed by adding the number of Slightly Interested through Extremely Interested and discounting those that declared No Interest.

1. Farmers Market – by a wide margin
2. Trail system throughout Loogootee
3. Tie – New City Center Park; Shade and landscaping around the fountain

4. Additional playground equipment
5. Adult fitness equipment
6. Tie – Dog park; Trail system linking other communities
7. Community Garden

This list demonstrates the willingness of the community to participate in new and additional facilities, services, and amenities that could be offered by the park board and city of Loogootee. The Farmers Market is the most popular concept and could also be an additional funding method for the city park board.

Programming

Participants were asked if they had participated in any past programming. Of the 61 respondents, 44 attended the Christmas Tree lighting, 0 attended the Reading in the Park, 5 participated in Swimming Lessons, 7 participated in the first Food Truck Saturday, and 5 participated in the Back to School Splash at the pool.

Question 18 of the survey asked respondents to state their level of interest about possible programs. Answers were in the form of No Interest, Slight Interest, Interested, Very Interested, and Extremely Interested. The following results were obtained by adding discarding the number of answers of No Interest and adding all possible levels of interested

1. Music Event
2. Adult Programs/events
3. Kids Programs/events
4. Healthy Living Programs
5. Dive-in Movies at Pool
6. Swimming lessons
7. Volleyball Tournaments

Public Input Meeting

One October 21, 2020, we hosted a public input meeting at the Loogootee Town Hall in the City Council Room. Two park board members were present, the Mayor of Loogootee, the Public Works Superintendent, and one citizen. Due to the lack of attendees, the plan progress was discussed summarized to the park board and city employees. Accessibility issues, possible barriers, upgrade ideas, funding, and the public input survey (to date) was discussed. The group was presented with possible ideas and concepts that would alleviate the ADA barriers and provide inclusive play. Other ideas were posed that would increase the usage of the facilities.

Focus Group Questionnaire

Two focus groups were emailed questionnaires. The Loogootee Beautification Board and the Loogootee Mainstreet. The Beautification Board is an established board and is assisting with various objectives around the city. The Maintstreet is still in the process of establishment as a legitimate Mainstreet but were still willing to take the questionnaire.

Both focus groups were asked similar questions pertaining to their perspective of the existing park facilities and how their organization could assist the park board with progress. Both organizations

expressed that the City Park should be the number one priority for improvements. They slightly varied in order of the facilities following the City Park, but analyzing the entire questionnaire it's obvious that all facilities are sought to be valuable.

Suggestions by the groups slightly vary and are as follows:

- Beautification Board

- Address issues with volleyball court
- Walking/jogging path for adults to use while children are at play
- Inclusion of a splash pad at the pool would greatly increase usage and versatility
- A new fun box at the skate park along with benches, competitions, and events to appeal to the youth
- Immense landscaping at the fountain/square area

- Loogootee Mainstreet

- More community events to get people to the park
- Visibility and promotions for both the pool and the skate park
- The schedule for current improvements of a new fountain will be a great start

Both of these groups are willing to assist the park board with volunteering for projects and events. The Loogootee Mainstreet is its infancy as an organization but is willing to work within their capacity upon growing as an organization. The Beautification Board is willing to include funding assistance upon their availability and acquisition. When asked about one great project that could benefit the community, one group responded with more events, promotions, and appeal to get people to the City Park. The other mentioned the new park idea in the center of town that would serve additional Loogootee residents and increase the aesthetics of the center of town.

Summary of Interests

It's easy to see a consistent theme throughout the different public input methods. By comparison of use, barriers, and suggestions, we can quickly compile the basic issues to address.

1. Accessibility to new and additional play areas for all ages.
2. Make the locations more attractive.
3. Continuing and adding additional events/programs to attract and promote usage.
4. Shaded seating at both the City Park, Pool, and Fountain/Square.
5. Reduce safety concerns with facilities.
6. Add services and amenities to existing facilities increase public participation.
7. New facilities, services, and amenities to better impact all residents of Loogootee

NEEDS ANALYSIS

In order to determine the needs analysis, we must first identify the needs addressed by the public through various methods along with the capabilities and limitations expressed by the Park Board and the Loogootee Employees. By analyzing the information, common themes can be applied to the needs analysis and action schedule of this plan. Consistent information was received through the input phase of this plan, and the analysis will demonstrate those common themes. This exploration also assists our

efforts with determining and prioritizing projects based on funding constraints, safety concerns, accessibility issues, and lack of available leisure opportunities. The evaluation also portrays ideas, concepts, and methods to enhance the quality of park resources to meet the needs of both the public and the city of Loogootee.

City Park

Based on the public input, we know there are several issues to be addressed at the City Park. We know that most people visit the park for the playground and utilize the spaces with children and/or grandchildren. Results tell us that people utilize the park for other services too such as picnicking, relaxing, gatherings, volleyball, and reading. Our survey does state that none of the 88 respondents use the skate park. Respondents tell us that such barriers exist such as the lack of feeling safe, lack of accessibility, lack of amenities for smaller children, lack of shaded areas, and the lack of adult oriented services. It's also mentioned that the location of this park is too far from their residence for easy access.

Questions requesting applicable feedback based on user needs and their suggestions for improvement are present throughout the plan. Many suggestions were commonly repeated and should be prioritized appropriately. Such suggestions are;

- ◆ Additional age appropriate playground equipment
- ◆ Walking paths
- ◆ ADA accessibility
- ◆ Additional seating
- ◆ Clean attractive facility
- ◆ Additional security patrol
- ◆ Adult activities
- ◆ Programs and events

These suggestions were also present on the survey completed by the Park Board members along with the city staff. The needs expressed by all interested parties tie themselves into several projects. First, it would be of great interest to increase the playground equipment and include elements conducive for younger children. Simultaneously, the park board could resurface the playground with an ADA surfacing to increase the diversity of the playground. This project could be followed by creating a pathway leading from both parking areas to the playground and the both shelter houses. This pathway could be the inside border of the playground holding in the new playground surface material. Benches under small shade structures could be placed along this sidewalk to include the desired seating. This access would initiate the plan to address ADA compliancy for the Park Board and City of Loogootee.

This sidewalk could also be the first phase of a larger vision of constructing a walking/jogging path around the perimeter of the park. Through site visits for the creation of this plan, it is determined that there is a possibility of a ½ mile walking/jogging trail around the perimeter of City Park that would meet the needs expressed by Loogootee residents. This path would also assist Martin County by meeting some of the recreation and health and wellness objectives expressed in the Martin County Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan. There is also an expressed desire and need for a bi-county trail system between Martin and Daviess Counties. The path in the Loogootee City Park could benefit such a vision as the eastern terminus of a bi-county collaboration.

The City Park currently only provides volleyball as an attraction for adolescents and adults. The volleyball court could be dated with very little funding required. Volunteers could also be found by placing a public notice for a volleyball upgrade workday. It would also be beneficial for the park board to research other adult focused amenities. Examples could be concrete structures such as cornhole boards or ping pong tables.

The City Park could also benefit from some small scale landscaping concepts. One such concept that would assist with managing storm water from hard surfaces such as parking lots, shelters, and pathways are raingardens. These landscaping concepts add numerous benefits to a facility including pollutant and storm water mitigation, pollinator habitat, educational components, and increase the visual aesthetics of the facility. Once established, they are very little maintenance and can reduce the overhead of basic maintenance of a facility.

Safety is often expressed in the public input survey. Law enforcement should be notified of this public information which can address some of the safety concern. However, as the park board increases the versatility of the City Park, and more people are utilizing this facility then there will be a reduction in any suspicious or unlawful behavior at the facility. It would also be beneficial to use signage to educate people on keeping the park clean. Possibly place additional trash receptacles at convenient places for both facility users and also city staff.

The Skate Park is nearer to the Pool, but we're going to include it in the City Park section of this plan. Public participation in the skate park is not very high according to public input. This could be due to the limited responses received for the survey or it could be a general lack of participation. This information indicates a possible lack of interest, but it would not be recommended to take any service of facility away without conducting further participation analysis. Visual inspections, additional surveys directed at just the skate park, and other efforts could indicate the overall use of this service. However, if it were to be determined that a new use for this space is necessary, activities such as pickleball or basketball should be considered.

The park board would also benefit from an inclusive design project that would safely link the City Park to the City Pool. This could be part of a trail phase that would give safe access across the city street that may include flashing crosswalk signs, stop or yield signage, or even the possibility of an overhead bridge crossing. This would tie together the two main facilities and present an appeal of inclusion.

City Pool

The City Pool was a major focus for the park board, city of Loogootee, and the local community in recent years. Major efforts were taken to restore the pool and keep this facility operational for the public. Reviewing various inputs reflect the need to additional attention to be directed at the pool facility. Survey results state that the vast majority of respondents do not utilize the pool and those that do are not visiting on a regular basis. The park board has concerns with the basic function of the pool building, lack quality HVAC system, inadequate counters, concession space, and overall appeal. Other issues exhibited from public input are lack of available shaded seating, short operational hours, and universal seating/accommodations. Survey data also expresses the need for pricing strategies to include family passes that could possibly attract additional families to the facility. The need for children and adult programming is expressed throughout the public input section and pool programming could assist with meeting this demand.

Accommodating the needs of the pool could be expensive endeavors, however it is the only facility that can be self-sufficient. So investing in infrastructure, amenities, and services could render a great return on investment. Prioritizing projects that provide an incentive for use and promote increased usage will allow for redevelopment of existing structures and the possibility of development of new amenities. Some solutions could be to begin with longer evening hours in order to attract paying customers at peak times after work. Expand the pricing options to include family passes. Provide new and inclusive seating and table options for adults. Programming options could also be included to increase pool usage. Movie nights, water volleyball, swimming lessons, foam parties, and other activities could incentivize use. Fitness classes that cater towards a variety of ages and abilities could greatly impact our area. Health and wellness programs would also meet objectives stated in the *Martin County Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan*. Applying these measures that require little upfront and operations expenditures would increase the overall revenue at the pool facility. This increase in revenue could then be applied to building upgrades that accommodate the need of the park board and basic operations.

Loogootee Fountain and Square

The fountain and the square are two icons of the City of Loogootee. They possess an effect of perception upon the passerby and can determine a level of appeal to visitors. Public opinion and park board surveys indicate that these areas have concerns that need to be addressed. First, and although this isn't well known by the general public, Loogootee will be replacing the actual fountain thanks to grants and funding assistance from various organizations. This will decrease maintenance costs and increase the display offered at the fountain. Other areas of concern addressed by public opinion is lack of available shaded seating, accessibility, and landscaping. By addressing each of these public concerns, the not only will the attractiveness of this area vastly increase, but also the usage by the general public.

Updating this area to increase usage and also to increase the aesthetics to viewers can be accommodated with careful planning and the cultivation of partnerships with various special interest groups. It would be a wise first step to collaborate with potential partners and declare a distinctive vision, purpose, and design of the area prior to major reconstruction. The Loogootee Beautification Board would be a great organization to assist with possible design and implementation of landscaping and seating. 4H clubs could be another possible partnering organization to assist with development of landscaping and would include educational components for community youth. The Loogootee Mainstreet could assist with increasing the accessibility by including ADA parking, compliant ramp, and an inclusive layout of the around the fountain area. Research should be conducted to find the most lucrative and attractive style of shade to accommodate the seating. A prime example are shade sails, which are trendy and create an attractive appeal to an open air facility. They are vibrant in color and depict fun yet relaxed atmosphere. Concrete benches possess longevity and can include various designs, colors, and deflect vandalism. Seasonal arrangements could increase the diversity and appeal of the area.

Additional Facilities

It is apparent in both the public input section and through department meetings, that Loogootee lacks leisure opportunities for the entire city. It's proven that the quality of life greatly increases when people live within walking distance of a park facility. Close proximity creates an avenue to enjoy recreational opportunities and spend leisure time outside rather than alternatives. Due to the location of the City Park and Pool on the west side of the city limits, it's obvious that citizens living in the center and east

sections of Loogootee are underserved. The park board would like to initiate a research phase of locating possible locations for pocket parks and/or other recreational facilities.

One such location that is currently owned by the city has been under review by city officials to transform the property into a park. This facility is located in the center of the city and could serve numerous residents with recreational opportunities. A universal design of this facility could include various ages and interests and increase the vitality and quality of place in Loogootee.

One of the major issues addressed by the Park Board is the lack of funding and manpower available to expand these facilities. The parks department budget is primarily consumed with basic maintenance and labor expenses. The City Pool requires several seasonal staff and the revenue from the pool is barely enough to cover the expenses for that facility. So in order to accommodate the needs of the Loogootee residents, the park board and city need to identify potential funding sources. There are various options such as fundraisers, sponsors, fees, and tax inclusions, however that then addresses the secondary concern of lack of manpower. It's not easy to plan and facilitate a fundraising event and it would require numerous events in order to encumber the costs associated with large scale projects. Sponsors could be an option that would require less time and a modest amount of effort. However, there are not many potential sponsors in a small community so it could be difficult to acquire enough funding for large scale projects. There is an option of a tax increment, but that would not currently be popular with the citizens of Loogootee due to various tax increases currently taking place. There are community grants and partnerships that are available for the park board to acquire and utilize. It might be beneficial to identify key projects and programs that would have a quick return on investment.

Trail systems are some of the most utilized amenities that are offered by parks & recreation departments. Trail systems help link major attractions in town and cities and create health and wellness incentives for citizens to enjoy. A Loogootee trail system would assist in safe access to park facilities for residents and increase the vitality of health and wellness components that are much needed in Martin County. Numerous cities, towns, and counties throughout Indiana are implanting trail systems to increase the quality of place while also improving the quality of life for residents.

Programming

Communities enjoy the comradery present during activities, programs, and events. Once suggestion often present in the public input forum of this plan is increasing the programming at the park. The park board could research and identify various levels of programs to introduce at this facility. These programs could range from educational, partnerships, or just providing a facility meeting the requirements for an organization to host an event. As the park board introduces universal and inclusive design and play concepts, the attractiveness of the facility will entice additional programs to take shape. The park board could also update and/or introduce amenities that will attract programs. Volleyball tournaments, pickleball tournaments, and cornhole tournaments are just three examples of what could happen in the park with very little effort by the park board and city of Loogootee. These events could also be fundraisers for the park board to assist with their need of locating funding initiatives. Food truck Saturdays could easily be equated at the City Park and the City Pool to promote usage of these facilities and also create a funding mechanism for the park board.

Music events are a very popular option depicted in the public input survey. Music is a way to bring communities together and provide family oriented events that increase the pride exhibited by

communities. This is also a chance for local young talent to demonstrate their skills to friends and family while improving their abilities and skillsets. These events can also incorporate adult and kid oriented activities that are an expressed need of the community. Wine and beer festivals along with kids games, crafts, and educational components can broaden the impact of these events. Music events can also attract various forms of fundraisers for the park board and/or various community organizations. This enhances the credibility of both the park board and the city of Loogootee.

PRIORITIES AND ACTION SCHEDULE

Depicting the action schedule is a tough endeavor due to the notorious barrier of funding. Currently, the Loogootee Park Board has little financial ability to incorporate vast improvements to existing facilities and even less to incorporate new facilities on undeveloped city owned properties. However, knowing the community needs and the desired outcomes warranted by the park board, it's good to focus a step by step process that could lead to adequate funding and to new development.

First, it would be important for the park board to allocate time for fundraising efforts to increase plausibility of the projects depicted in the action schedule. This will be a vital step towards benefiting both the parks department and ultimately the community. There are several fundraising concepts that could be applied. Some of which are a combination of modestly priced facility improvements that would create fundraising concepts. Some of these ideas include but not limited to:

- 🍀 Sponsorships
 - ☀️ Pool sponsors
 - ☀️ Volleyball court sponsor
 - ☀️ Various programming
 - ☀️ Playground
 - ☀️ Pathway
 - ☀️ Shelters
- 🍀 Naming Rights
 - ☀️ Shelters
- 🍀 Municipal Bonds
- 🍀 Grants
 - 🍀 Federal
 - 🍀 State
 - 🍀 Community
 - 🍀 Crowdfunding
- 🍀 Donations
 - ☀️ Tax write-offs
 - ☀️ Volunteer time
 - ☀️ Corporate donations

- ☀ Material
- 🍃 Pricing strategy – user fees
- 🍃 Programs
 - ☀ Tournaments
 - 💧 Cornhole – donated or small investment in materials
 - 💧 Volleyball – updated volleyball court to attract teams
 - 🍃 Vendor fairs/Community Yard Sales/ Food Truck Days
 - 🍃 Music events

Second, it would be beneficial to cultivate partnerships with various special interest groups and collaborate on exact vision, purpose, and actions that will address the needs and issues presented in this plan. Focusing efforts on the needs of the community will reflect genuine servitude that is demonstrated by the park board members and partnering organizations. These partnerships can assist with fundraising events, provide forms of funding assistance, and increase the volunteer base for project/event management. Potential entities and organizations for partnerships could be:

- 🍃 Loogootee Beautification Board
- 🍃 Loogootee Mainstreet
- 🍃 Loogootee Chamber of Commerce
- 🍃 Martin County Tourism Commission
- 🍃 County Parks & Recreation Department
- 🍃 Martin County Community Foundation
- 🍃 Various Martin County First Responders
- 🍃 Various health and wellness providers;
 - ☀ Healthcare clinics
 - ☀ Gyms
 - ☀ Health and wellness clubs/groups
- 🍃 Loogootee Schools
- 🍃 Private enterprise

Third, once lucrative funding concepts are implemented and partnering organizations share common interests and process, then it will be time to expand on the major public needs at the various public facilities. Reaching this segment of the timeline could happen at any point during the duration of this Action Schedule. It's important to remember that these timelines are not set in concrete but simply a road map of how to get to an end result. There are various routes, obstacles, and bridges to build in order to fulfill the actions.

Priorities for 2021-2025

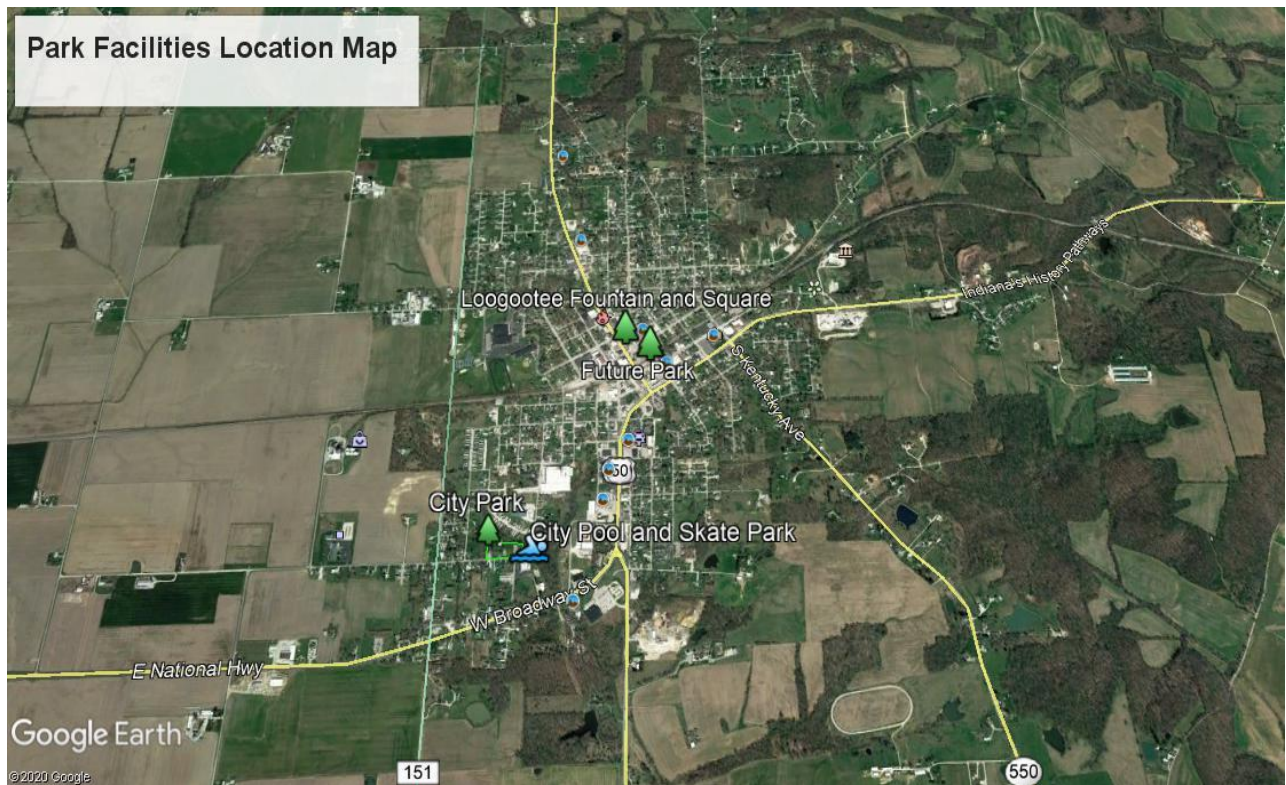
- ☀ Develop fundraising concepts to increase financial capability
- ☀ Develop and cultivate partnerships with various organizations

- ☀ Create new programs for various ages and abilities
- ☀ Further analysis on the future of the skate park; possibly expansion or redevelopment
- ☀ Locate and apply for various grants
- ☀ Increase accessibility at the City Park to the all amenities
- ☀ Increase accessibility at the Fountain/Square including parking and seating
- ☀ Add playground elements for younger ages
- ☀ Replace playground surfacing with accessible surface
- ☀ Provide health and wellness components at facilities; such as walking/jogging paths, adult fitness equipment
- ☀ Improve the services at the pool; both inside the building and outside amenities
- ☀ Utilize landscaping concepts and designs to improve aesthetics of facilities and to assist with storm water mitigation
- ☀ Plan and begin development of existing undeveloped properties

ACTION SCHEDULE AND PRIORITY TIMELINE			
Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source(s)
2021-2025	Create and initiate fundraising strategies	\$500-\$5000	Park Fund, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners, Sponsors
2021-2023	Introduce new amenities and upgrade existing amenities for fundraising programs	\$5,000	Park Fund, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners, Sponsors
2021-2022	Create accessible routes to amenities in City Park	\$20,000	Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Community Partners, Volunteers
2021	Continue assessment and feasibility of skatepark		City Staff, Park Board, Pool Staff, Surveys
2021-2025	Initiate health and wellness concepts in facilities		Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Community Partners, Volunteers, Sponsors, Crowdfunding
	Adult Fitness Equipment; install near playground for safety & access	\$25,000	
	City Park 1/2 Mile Perimeter Trail; three phase process, utilize accessible routes	\$100,000	
	Update volleyball court - fundraising program addition	\$5,000	
	Additional sporting courts; concrete cornhole boards, pickleball courts, basketball	\$5,000-\$50,000	
	Health and Wellness Programming at City Pool and/or City Park	\$500-\$2000	Community Partners, Donations, Grants, Volunteers, Sponsors
2021	Replace old fountain infrastructure with new fountain infrastructure	\$25,000	
2022-2023	Expand and/or renovate City Park shelter(s) for attractive meeting destinations	\$15,000	Park fund, Sponsors, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners
2022-2025	Expand on programming availability at facilities	\$2,500-\$20,000	Sponsors, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners
2022	Install new 2-5 year old playground elements	\$12,000-\$20,000	Park fund, Grants, Donations, Volunteer Labor,

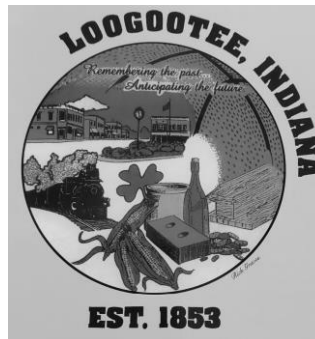
2022	Replace current playground surfacing w/ ADA surfacing - use new accessible route as border, pour concrete curbing around remaining border of playground	\$25,000	Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Volunteers Labor, Community Partners
2022	Create Accessible Parking and route to fountain area	\$15,000	Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners, Crowdfunding
2022	Create accessible and shaded seating around fountain	\$10,000	Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners, Crowdfunding
2022-2025	Landscaping concepts at City Park and Fountain/Square	\$5,000+	Park Fund, Grants, Donations, Volunteers, Community Partners,
2023	Begin research phase of Loogootee city trail system and multi-town system	\$2,500	Park Board, Volunteers
2024	Cooling system at City Pool building	\$20,000	Park Fund, Grants, Donations
2024	Expand and/or enhance concession services at City Pool	\$2500- \$10,000	Park Fund, Donations, Sponsors,
2025	Expand facilities with new dog park	\$30,000	Park Fund, Grants, Crowdfunding, Sponsors, Community Partners, Donations
2025	New City Center Park - accessible amenities, services,	\$600,000	Grants, Sponsors, Crowdfunding, Community Partners, Donations, Park Fund

APPENDICES



ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE SIGN-OFF SHEET

BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN



Loogootee Parks Master Plan

Park Use

1. How often do you use the park properties in Loogootee?

☐

Everyday

☐

Once or Twice per month

☐

1-5 times per week

☐

Never

☐

3 or fewer times per week

2. How would you rate the current park? 1 being Poor and 5 being Exceptional



3. What do you typically do at the park? (check all that apply)

☐ Use the Playground	☐ Read
☐ Play Volleyball	☐ Skateboard
☐ Picnic	☐ Use open space
☐ Relax	
☐ Other (please specify)	

4. With whom do you typically visit the park with?

☐ Family (children/grandchildren)	☐ Just myself
☐ Friends	☐ I don't visit the park
☐ Varies upon activity	

5. Is there anything that restricts or prevents you from using the park?

6. Do any of the following barriers keep you from using the park more often? (check all that apply)

☐ Location - too far from home
☐ Not enough accessible equipment
☐ Not enough accessible parking
☐ Lack of safety
☐ Other (please specify)

7. What would you recommend be included to better meet your needs?

8. How would you rate the fountain area?

N/A

9. Do you feel the following items would increase your usage of the fountain area? (check all that apply)

☐ Shaded seating

☐ Landscaping

☐ Artwork (statues, murals, ect)

☐ Other (please specify)

10. How often do you or your children use the city pool? (Please keep in mind the restrictions of COVID 19)

☐ 1-5 times per week

☐ Once per month

☐ 5+ times per week

☐ Never

☐ 1-3 times per month

11. How well does the pool meet your needs?

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Poor

12. What could be included to improve the pool?

13. If the following existing items were being considered for replacement or upgrade, please give each a priority rank. (1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority)

,



Pool Building Updates (Cooling system)

,



Skate Park Upgrade

,



Fountain Area (Shade structures, landscaping, seating, ect.)

,



Landscaping in the Park

,



Shade Structures over the playground

14. Suggestions on upgrades to existing facilities?

15. If the following projects were being considered, please rank the level of your interest: No Interest, Slight interest, interested, very interested, extremely interested

	No Interest	Slight Interest	Interested	Very Interested	Extremely Interested
Trail System throughout Loogootee	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New City Center Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shade and landscaping around the fountain	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trail system linking to other communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Farmers Market	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional Playground Equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult Fitness Equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Garden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dog Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. Please rank the same projects on how they would impact your usage.

	No Impact	Slight Impact	Impact	High impact	Extreme Impact
Trail System Throughout Loogootee	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New City Center Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shade and Landscaping around the fountain	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trail system linking other towns	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Farmers Market	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Additional playground equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult fitness equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Garden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dog Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

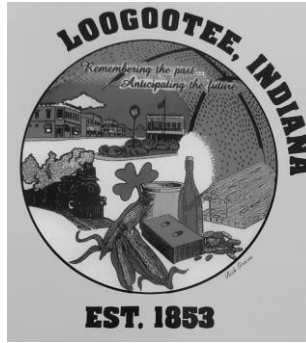
17. Have you taken part in the following programs?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Christmas Tree Lighting | ☐ Food Truck Saturday |
| ☐ Reading in the park for Pre-K | ☐ Back to School Splash at the pool |
| ☐ Swimming lessons | |

18. Please state your level of interest about the possible programs listed below.

	No Interest	Slight Interest	Interested	Very Interested	Extremely Interested
Music Events (Concerts)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Kids Programs/Events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult Programs/Events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Healthy Living Programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volleyball Tournaments	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dive-In Movies at Pool	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Swimming Lessons	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

19. Do you have any programming ideas for the park board?



Loogootee Parks Master Plan

Funding

20. Would you like for Loogootee to invest more money into parks?

☐ Yes

☐ Depends on improvements

☐ No

☐ Don't use the parks

☐ Maybe

21. Loogootee Parks Department has a very small budget; After first applying for any grants, how would you recommend the city pays for the improvements?

☐ Sponsors

☐ Shelter Reservation Fee

☐ User Fees

☐ No Increase needed

☐ Small city park use tax

☐ Unwilling to pay anything for parks

22. Would you be willing to volunteer to assist the park board and the following

☐ Fundraising

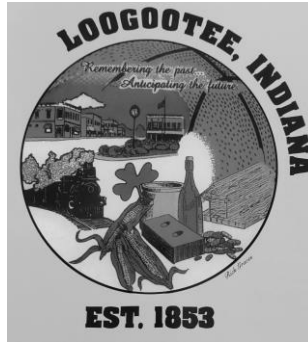
☐ Promotion of amenities and programs

☐ Construction of projects
Installation of projects

☐ Landscaping

☐ Servitude as a park board member

23. If you could change one thing about Loogootee Parks, what would it be?



Loogootee Parks Master Plan

About You (optional)

24. What is your approximate age?

☐ Under 18

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65+

25. What is your living arrangement?

☐ Single

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Married

☐ Domestic Partners

☐ Room mate

26. What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ No Answer

27. What is your employment status?

☐ Unemployed

☐ Retired

☐ Employed Part-Time

☐ Employed Full-Time

28. What is the number of children living in your household?

☐

None

☐

One

☐

Two to three

☐

Four or more

29. What is your approximate household income?

☐

Under \$15,000

☐

Between \$15,000 and \$29,999

☐

Between \$30,000 and \$49,999

☐

Between \$50,000 and \$74,999

☐

Between \$75,000 and \$99,999

☐

Between \$100,000 and \$150,000

☐

Over \$150,000