

CITY OF LEBANON, INDIANA

FIVE YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023 - 2028



April 2023





Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Five Year Master Plan 2023 – 2028

City Officials

Mayor Matthew Gentry
Tonya Thayer, Clerk-Treasurer

City Council

Mike Kincaid, President
Keith Campbell
John Copeland
Morris Jones
Sierra Messenger
Dick Robertson
Brent Wheat

Board of Park Commissioners

Laurie Gross, President
Brett Craig
Karen Galvin
Jessica Lollar
Shirley McClaine
Diane Scott

Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department

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Section 1: Parks Department, Facilities & Accessibility

LEBANON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The City of Lebanon has a long tradition of meeting the leisure and recreation needs of its residents. The Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department oversees and manages five parks with approximately 135 acres of open space and provides recreation programs and events that serve thousands of people yearly.

Matthew Gentry, Mayor
401 S. Meridian Street
Lebanon, Indiana 46052

John Messenger, Park Director
130 E. Ulen Drive
Lebanon, IN 46052

COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS

Keith Campbell (Park Commissioner/ Liaison)
John Copeland
Morris Jones
Mike Kincaid
Sierra Messenger
Dick Robertson
Brent Wheat

CLERK-TREASURER

Tonya Thayer

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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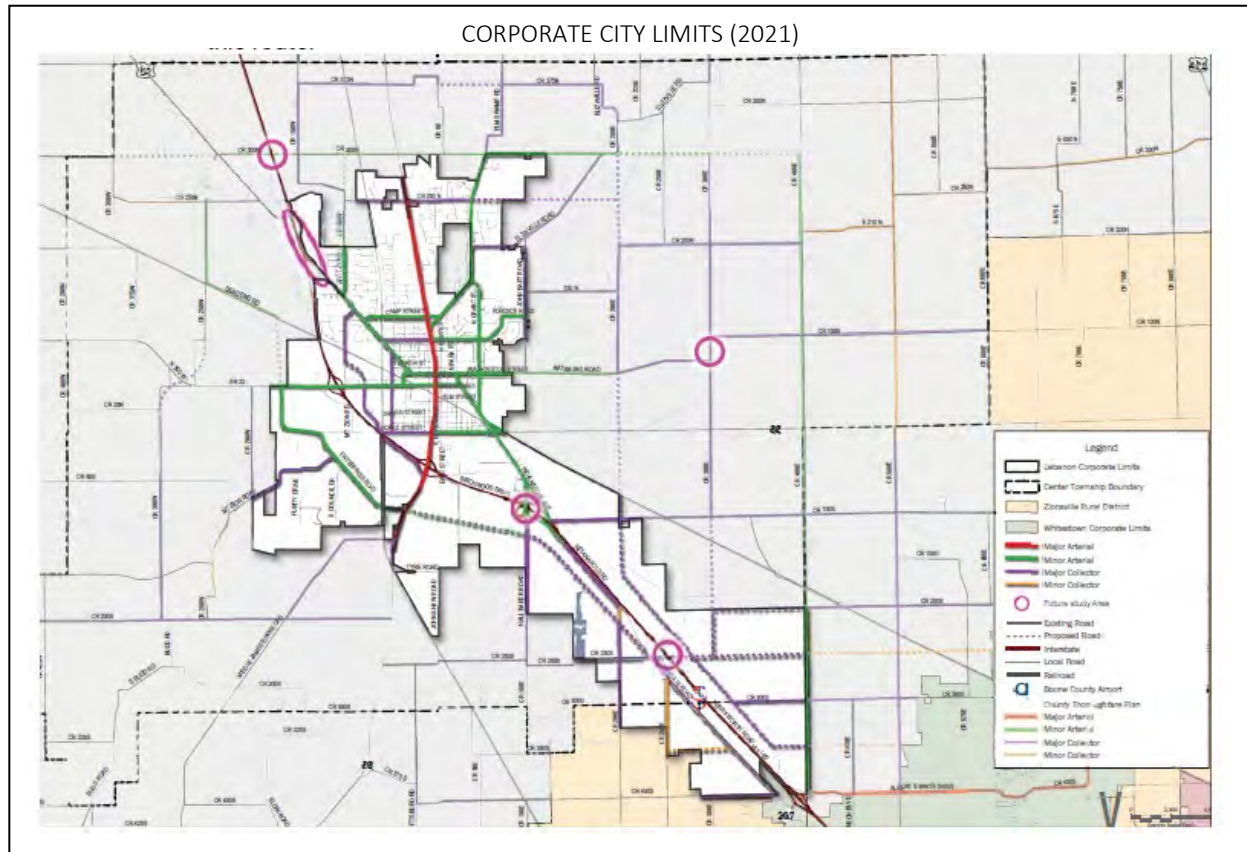
Department Mission and Goals

The Lebanon Parks & Recreation Department strives to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Lebanon and Boone County by assuring positive leisure experiences and creating recreational opportunities through the conservation and wise use of park land and facilities today and for the future.

The goal of this Comprehensive Five-Year Park System Master Plan is to continue to provide a practical guide for maintaining and growing park facilities and programs that contribute to the quality of life of our community.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area is defined as the Lebanon city corporate limits and roughly within two miles of the city limits.



ORGANIZATION

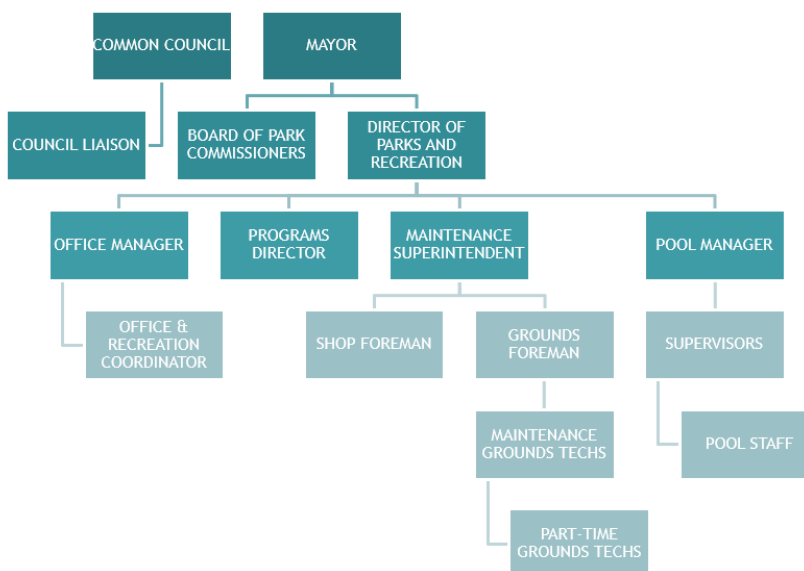
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

This six-member board is appointed. Four members are appointed by the mayor, and the School Board and Library Board appoint one member. The term is on a four-year rotating basis. The most basic and necessary function of the Board of Park Commissioners is to outline proposed goals and objectives that will provide the framework and direction within which the board will direct its future land acquisition, development, and recreational programming. The Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department and its Board operate under the provision of the "Indiana Parks and Recreation Law" (IC 36-10-3) in accordance with City Ordinance.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of seven full-time staff and 55 seasonal staff. Seasonal staff is hired as needed. The organizational chart is provided on the following page.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2017-2022

<i>Year</i>	<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Operating Supplies</i>	<i>Other Services & Supplies</i>	<i>Capital Outlays</i>	<i>Total</i>
2017	\$549,290.00	\$44,000.00	\$209,150.00	\$54,000.00	\$ 856,440.00
2018	\$618,010.00	\$60,500.00	\$258,250.00	\$85,000.00	\$1,021,760.00
2019	\$689,783.00	\$103,500.00	\$283,750.00	\$275,000.00	\$1,352,033.00
2020	\$759,965.00	\$103,500.00	\$283,250.00	\$275,000.00	\$1,421,715.00
2021	\$772,931.00	\$103,500.00	\$290,350.00	\$275,250.00	\$1,442,031.00
2022	\$914,351.00	\$103,500.00	\$289,350.00	\$203,000.00	\$1,510,201.00

The above chart illustrates past five years Park Department's budget.

1 - Personal Services

Staff levels were adjusted with a minimum cost of living. This includes a new recreation staff position in 2023 and maintenance staff position in 2024.

2 - Supplies

Expenses for supplies will increase with calculated inflation, increased recreational programs and preventative maintenance tasks.

3 - Other Services and Charges

Inflation rates were calculated for basic services such as utilities and telephone. Fees for professional services were listed for assistance in potential grant applications on proposed park developments. Cost for specific preventative maintenance tasks are also included.

4 - Capital Outlays

Listed Projects are proposed to be completed with funding as indicated if available. Gifts and donations should be pursued to offset costs for these improvements.

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department has been busy implementing major renovations and upgrades to existing park infrastructure over the last five years. Major projects include the following:

- Drainage at Memorial and Abner Longley (Topography)
- The development of the Conservation Pond Site Master Plan as a part of Abner Longley Park
- New accessible play area at Memorial Park
- Trail lighting along walking path at Memorial Park
- Design and installation of a new Dog Park located within Abner Longley
- Installation of a new Splash Pad at Abner Longley
- Restroom and paved Maintenance Barn area
- Maintenance Building addition
- Big 4 Trail extension
- Security: updated and added additional cameras at Memorial Park
- Parking lot at Reese Park
- New signage at all parks
- Resurfaced tennis courts converted to pickleball courts at Memorial and Abner Longley
- New basketball courts at Memorial Park
- Added multiple paved walking paths at Memorial Park
- Cabin restoration at Memorial Park
- Memorial Shelter renovation
- New digital sign in Memorial Park
- Civic Plus Software – online registration
- Renovation of baseball dugouts
- Remote Control (RC) Crawler Course at Abner Longley
- Exercise fitness equipment stations at Memorial Park
- Seashore Waterpark Improvements
 - All facades updated
 - Bathroom house renovation and inventory room
 - Rehabilitated the tower structure with the two large slides
 - Painted both pool vessels
 - Re-Caulked entire deck surface
 - New umbrella canopy's
 - Added concession tables
 - New sound system
 - Rehabilitated entire Kiddie area
 - New Motor in Wave Pool

The department has also implemented and revamped new recreation programs over the last five years. New programs that have been incorporated in the last five years include:

- Mother and Son Superhero party and pool party

- Spring and Fall Pickleball Leagues
- Pickleball Tournament – Summer and Fall
- Sand Volleyball Tournament
- Blanket Fort Building Contest
- Snowman Building Contest
- Pumpkins in the Park
- Princess Party
- Spring Scavenger Hunt
- Spring Break Fitness Challenge

EXISTING PARKS

The Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department oversees and manages five parks, the Big 4 Trail. The park system consists of approximately 135 acres of open space and provides recreation programs. The Department also maintains other city amenities and facilities that are not parks. The Planning Department and City Engineer's office are instrumental in identifying and coordinating trail and bike pathway connections within the city and infrastructure projects. The Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) was adopted by the city in December 2022 and identifies in detail bicycle and pedestrian inventory, trail connections and opportunities. This plan is focused on park facilities. Both plans were developed with input from all city departments and the public.

The future Stone Eater Bike Park, a new 110-acre mountain bike park, is currently in the planning process. This proposed site located two miles north of the city on U.S. 52 is not currently a part of the park system. It will become a part of the park system once it is open and operational. It is shown on the future park map for reference purposes.



The following chart summarizes individual park site amenities within the park system. Existing park facility descriptions and addresses are also included.

PARK SITE AMENITIES CHART

Park Location	Ballfield	Basketball Courts	Soccer Fields	Football Field	Tennis Courts	Fishing	Disc Golf	Pickleball	Volleyball	Open Space	Playground	Restrooms	Shelter	Picnic Area	Sledding Hill	Splashpad	Waterpark	Dog Park	Horseshoes	Trails (miles)
Abner Longley	1	1	2	1		Y	9	6	1	Y	2	2	2	Y	1	1		1	1	0.3
Brookshire									Y											
Memorial	1	2						8	1	Y		2	5	Y		1				1.1
Hot Pond						Y								Y						
Reese			**						Y					Y						
Rolling Meadow														Y						
Big 4 Trail																				10

** Lebanon Youth Soccer Association utilizes different field layouts depending on age group of leagues

Abner Longley Park - 1601 Longley Drive

This 70.5-acre community park is located on the south side of Lebanon. Site amenities are noted in the chart above. The dog park and Conservation Pond are located at the northeast end of the park. The dog park is made up of two fenced areas to handle small dogs or large dogs respectively. It requires a yearly membership which can be purchased at the department office. The East Street Sidepath in 2022 was continued south to Noble Street where it enters Abner Longley Park along the north property line and eventually angles southeast between the dog park and Conservation Pond connecting to Hendricks Drive.

Brookshire Arboretum - 2773 State Road 39

Brookshire is a 10-acre neighborhood park located on the southwest side of Lebanon. It is approximately 2 miles south of Interstate 65. The park is undeveloped at this time and includes a small gravel parking area and small maintenance shed. The department has augmented the existing tree canopy with native tree plantings.

Hot Pond – 700 E. Noble Street

Hot Pond Park is a 3.5-acre neighborhood park with a one-acre pond located at the corner of Noble Street and Pleasant Street on the south side of Lebanon. It is a community favorite for fishing.

Rolling Meadow - 1415 Thomas Drive

Rolling Meadow Park is a 0.36-acre mini park located within a subdivision. It is open green space with an accessible sidewalk from the street.

Memorial Park – 130 E. Ulen Street

Memorial Park is considered the gem of the city's park system located in the center of Lebanon. This 40-acre community park was established in 1920 and offers a wide variety of recreations options. It is home to Herr Cabin which is a memorial to Abigail Herr, an early settler, and The Daughters of the Revolutionary War. Other facilities in this park include:

- Seashore Water park: wave pool, lazy river, runout slide, regular slide, zero entry with slides and dump buck, concession area, accessible restrooms/showers and changing area
- War Memorial
- Herr Cabin
- Park Department offices
- New accessible playground

Reese Park – 705 Maple Drive

This 10.5-acre site is open lawn which is utilized by Lebanon Youth Soccer for practice and games.

The department also maintains other city owned properties such as the following:

- Vincennes University Gene Haas Training & Education Center (property leased from the city) 7.7 acres
- Downtown: Planting beds around courthouse area 2 acres
- Big 4 Trail (downtown to Thorntown) 9 miles
- Big 4 Trail (Abner Longley Park to Boone County Fairgrounds) 1.3 miles
- East Street Sidepath 2 miles

OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS AND PARTNERS

The Park Department also has a working partnership with the Lebanon Community School Corporation. Other notable recreation and program providers within the community include the following:

- Witham Family YMCA
- Lebanon Boys and Girls Club
- Ulen Country Club 18-hole Golf Course
- Lebanon School Corporation:
 - Harney Elementary
 - Hattie B. Stokes Elementary
 - Central Elementary
 - Perry Worth Elementary
 - Lebanon Middle School
 - Lebanon Senior High School
- (Future) Lebanon Fieldhouse: In October of 2022, construction began on a new private facility located on the southwest side of Lebanon at S.R. 39 and Interstate 65. It will anchor an entertainment and residential development. It will include a 270,000 square foot multi-sport facility operated by Card & Associates. This approximately \$115 million facility will incorporate eight sports courts for basketball and volleyball,

two football-size fields for lacrosse, soccer, and little league baseball. Additionally, hitting and pitching tunnels will be available. The facility will be open to the public but it is privately held and operated.

- 18-hole Golf Courses within 20-minute drive:
 - The Trophy Club
 - Cool Lake Golf Course
 - Golf Club of Indiana

EXISTING PARK PROGRAMS

In addition to the newer programs listed earlier, the department offers a variety of recreation programs designed to meet the community needs. Program offerings range from special events, festivals and recreation programs.

The Department teams with other city departments, government agencies, local groups and businesses, nonprofits, and service clubs to provide activities. They actively seek new partnerships and team members. Some of those partners include The Heart of Lebanon, Witham Family YMCA, Boone County Historical Society, Boone County Memorial Band, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Let's Go Sports, Boone County Senior Services, and Boone County Health Department.

Park programs list with affiliated partners:

- Virtual Programs: Snowman Building Contest and Blanket Fort Building Contest: 50 Participants
- Park Scavenger Hunt: 50 participants
- Fitness Programs in the Park: 20 – 30 participants
- Spring Pickleball League: 15 teams (30 players)
- Easter Egg Hunt: 250 – 300 participants
- Princess Party in the Park: 100 participants
- Co-Ed Softball League: 6 – 8 teams (90 players)
- June Swim Lessons: 60 participants
- Fall & Summer Pickleball Tournaments: 30 teams (60 players)
- Tiny & Jr. Rackets Ages 3-8 Tennis lessons with Let's Go Sports
- Tiny Hitters: Ages 3-5 Baseball Lessons with Lebanon Little League
- July Swim Lessons: 60 participants
- Mother-Son Event: 200 participants
- Daddy Daughter Dance: 350 participants
- Pumpkins in the Park: 250 participants
- Christmas in the Cabin: 200 participants with The Heart of Lebanon
- Christmas Parade: 30 – 40 floats, large crowd (500 or so) with The Heart of Lebanon
- Park Triathlon Challenge
- Hotdog Cart
- Community Day: free backpacks and school supplies, food, clothing, meals, and health care, hair cut, carnival games, and mental health care
- Trivia & Truths
- Concerts in the Park with Boone County Memorial Band

- Senior Olympics with Boone County Senior Services
- Lebanon High School and Middle School Athletic Groups
- Battle of the BBQ with Boone County Cancer Society
- Indiana Baseball League
- Lebanon Youth Soccer Association: fall and spring leagues
- Lebanon Youth Football Association: fall league
- Fourth of July Festival – 4th of July Committee and Symphony at Sunset Committee (Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra)
- Lincoln's Lebanon and Civil War Reenactment
- Colonial Days – Center Township Trustee
- Adult Lap swim at Lebanon High School
- Lebanon Kiwanis Fishing Derby
- Buick Olds Pontiac Cadillac Car Show

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements must be taken into consideration for every program and facility. The Department continually strives to achieve accessibility standards in all its program services, facility renovations and developments.

The City's ADA Coordinator is Derek Warren, Deputy Planning Director. His office is located at 401 S. Meridian Street, Phone: (765) 482-8845, Email: dwarren@cityoflebanon.org.

The City's ADA public notice and grievance policy procedures can be found on the city's website or by contacting the coordinator whose contact information is provided above.

Many improvements have been made to the existing sidewalk system within the city in the last five years which has connected more residents to park facilities. The city has continued to receive suggestions from the public about areas that need improvement and then has implemented accessible improvements. Several projects have included the new accessible play area within Memorial Park, renovated restrooms at the Cabin, repaved walking path in Memorial Park, added walkways to existing park features and accessible tables and benches.

Additionally, the East Street side path was recently completed which created an 8' wide asphalt path from Memorial Park to Washington Street adding lighting and accessible ramps at street intersections. The department works in tandem with the Planning and Engineering Departments to coordinate projects and maximize connections and budgets throughout the city. Examples include adding crosswalks, signage, accessible ramps and pedestrian signalization at intersections or entrance to parks.

The department provides reduced costs for fees, scholarships for programs as needed so that those who have special considerations are incorporated into the programs to allow everyone to participate. The department desires to be flexible in its programming and allows all skill levels and abilities to participate. They team with community partners to assist with program accommodations.

The department is continuing to pave existing paths that have deteriorated and add new accessible walking paths with accessible site amenities and to parking areas. The new walking paths and sidewalks will also provide connectivity to existing parks and neighborhoods. The recently adopted Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan addresses these connections. The city

continues to place a priority on extending the trail system due to the impact that connectivity has on the health and vitality of quality of life within a city.

On-going drainage improvements within parks will also assist in avoiding flooding of existing pathways and parking areas. These improvements are a part of the annual maintenance budget that is completed by staff.

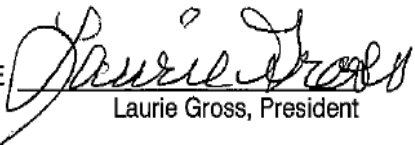
LEBANON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

130 E. Ulen Drive, Lebanon, Indiana 46052

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)**

The Lebanon Board of Park Commissioners (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE


Laurie Gross, President

SIGNATURE


John Messenger, Park Superintendent

Section 2: Community Profile

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Lebanon is in central Indiana in Boone County, approximately 35 miles northwest of Indianapolis. Centrally located within Center Township, Lebanon serves as the county seat for 12 townships, 7 incorporated towns, and numerous other small communities. Boone County is part of the 9-county area contiguous to Indianapolis.

Boone County was established in 1830 and was named after explorer and frontiersman Daniel Boone. Until 1828, the northwest portion of the county was the home and hunting grounds of the Miami Indians. The county was heavily wooded which was excellent hunting and fishing in the streams which eventually fed into the Wabash and White rivers. Most of the tribe was removed in late 1828 from the Thorntown reservation by the government. The tribe settled originally along Sugar Creek in Thorntown. Thorntown was a major Indian trading post.

Lebanon was established as the county seat in 1832. It was founded by General James Perry Drake and Colonel George L. Kinnard. Both men served in the Indiana Militia. The name of the town was derived from a group of hickory trees that reminded one of the early councilmen of the Cedars of Lebanon from the Bible. Abner Longley Park is named after one of the early settlers of the new county seat.

On February 11, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln stopped in Lebanon where he briefly spoke to the crowd. The actual site is commemorated by a historical marker in downtown Lebanon. The Boone County Historical Society (BCHS) presents a Civil War and military encampment reenactment festival every year at Memorial Park and honors the unique visit by the president.

The BCHS is located at the historic Cragun house at 404 W. Main Street. The home is a living history museum and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Strange Cragun built the home in 1893. He was a school superintendent and newspaper publisher who traveled extensively. His home still contains many of the original furnishings and items from his family's many travels. The Center Township Trustee sponsors Colonial Days Festival to celebrate the community's history every fall at Abner Longley Park.

FEATURES

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND LAND USE

The city consists of 15 square miles in Center Township. Boone County lies completely in the Tipton Till Plain. Overall, the county is generally level with mostly open agricultural land. Prior to the settlement of the county, the county was heavily wooded. A topographic ridge in the southwest section of the County serves as the division between the White River and Wabash watersheds. The main streams in the county are Sugar Creek, Eel River, Big and Little Eagle creeks, and Prairie Creek. Prairie Creek is the main creek which meanders through the city from northwest to southeast.

PHYSIOGRAPHY/SOILS

Lebanon is characterized by Brookston silty clay loam, Crosby silt loam, and Miami silt loam, which are deep neutral to medium acidic soil and which form on undulating slopes. There are numerous ditches and tile drains due to the extensive farming with the county and surrounding undeveloped areas of Lebanon. Staff continue to initiate drainage improvements within some parks caused by low elevation and poor draining clay soils through storm infrastructure and grading. Drainage infrastructure projects are planned within Memorial and Abner Longley to replace aging storm sewers. In addition, underdrains will be installed to alleviate ponding issues in some lawn areas caused by the low elevations and in broken storm sewer pipes.

The altitudes within the city range from 915 to 945 feet above sea level. As the Department continues to develop future parks and existing parks, consideration for the drainage patterns and soil types should be examined as a part of the due-diligence process to determine the best use of park land.

VEGETATION

Natural vegetation within the Lebanon area is typical of the Tipton Till Plain. It is characterized by second growth deciduous trees consisting of oak-hickory and beech-maple. American beech, sugar maple, black cherry, American elm, white ash, hickory, white and red oak are found in upland areas. Sycamore, cottonwood, silver maple, willow, and green ash are common bottomland species. Understory trees typically are redbud, dogwood, spice bush, honey locust, and elderberry.

Park staff monitor and evaluate tree canopy on a monthly basis within the parks. They remove trees damaged by disease and storm damage and plant replacement trees in the spring and fall depending on the species in order to maintain a healthy tree canopy for the future. The department monitors for invasive species such as Bush Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, etc., and initiates removal once it has been identified. Tree canopy within parks is well maintained and tree plantings are done annually. Staff coordinate with Purdue Extension service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division for training and grants. In lesser used open areas, the lawn grass height is left higher to reduce maintenance cost. In other areas, naturalized plantings have been incorporated.

CLIMATE

Lebanon has four well-defined seasons. The average daily temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation is normally greatest in late spring and early summer. The average annual total rainfall is 43.1 inches, while the average annual total snowfall is 17.8 inches.

TRANSPORTATION

Central Indiana is known as the “Crossroads of America.” Interstate 65 (I-65) conveniently accesses Lebanon with 3 interchanges and a fourth interchange is being studied. I-65 links the city to Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Atlanta. State Road 32 connects Lebanon to Crawfordsville to the west and Westfield, Carmel, and Noblesville to the east. Lafayette is 35 miles to the north. Indianapolis is 15 miles to the south.

Freight rail service is provided via CSX.

Indianapolis International Airport, Eagle Creek Airpark, and Indianapolis Executive Airport are all within an hour's drive. Indianapolis International Airport has been consistently rated as the top airport in the country by various travel groups and consumers. Indianapolis Executive Airport and Eagle Creek Airport accommodate smaller jets and charter service. Several trucking companies provide ample freight services to the city. The second-largest FedEx hub in the United States is less than an hour from Lebanon.



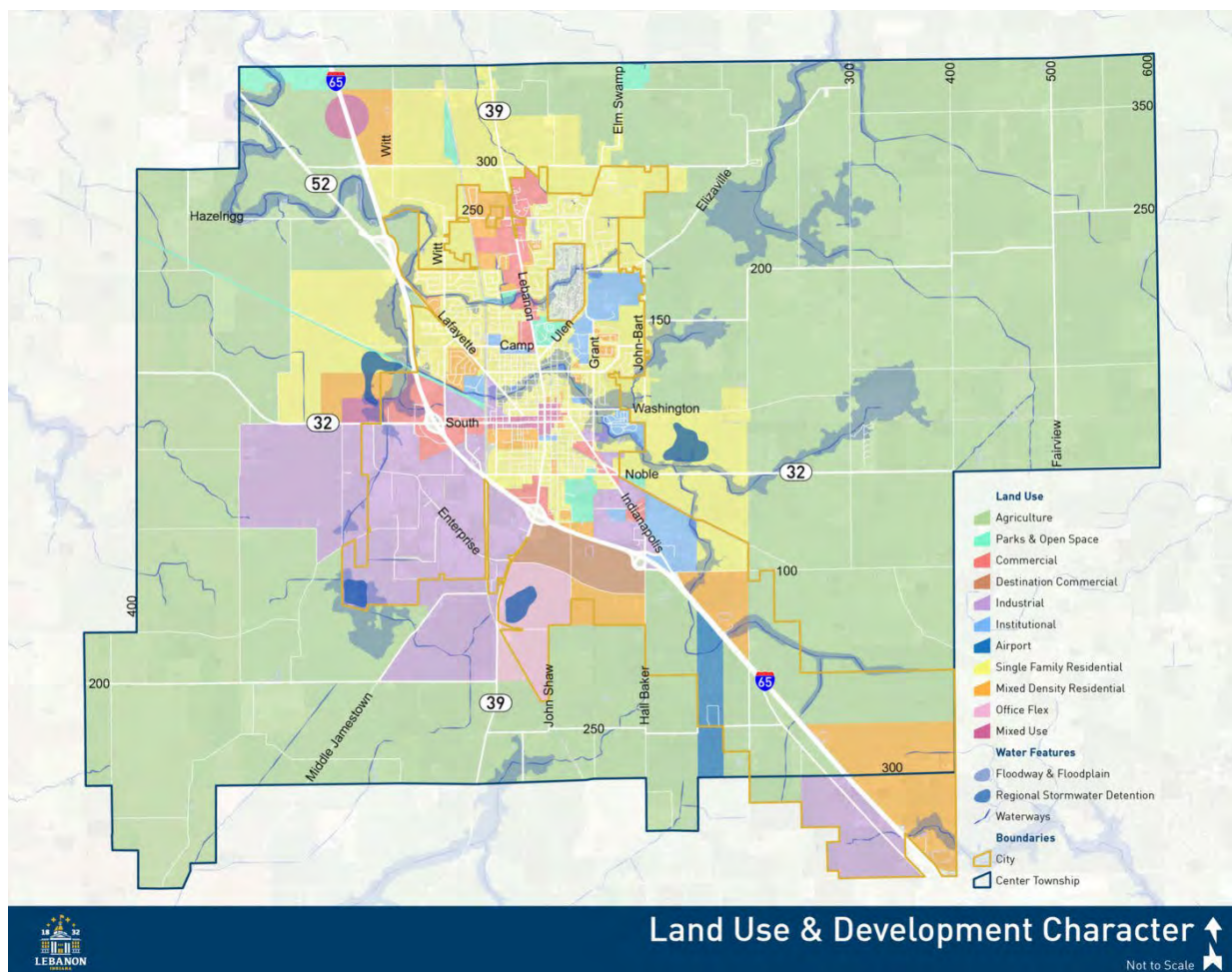
Graphics courtesy of Boone County Economic Development Corp

The various transportation corridors do create challenges for the expansion of bicycle and pedestrian corridors west across I-65 on the south west side of the community. The city has recently adopted a new Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan which addresses the condition of existing sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian connections

and infrastructure needs. Overall, the city's sidewalk and street infrastructure has received critical improvements and rehabilitation over the last ten years. This has improved accessibility and connections to the downtown area, parks, schools, retail and business areas. The city continues to partner with the Indiana Department of Transportation and Indiana Economic Development Corporation to provide critical transportation connections both for all levels of transit.

LAND USE

Most land use historically is agricultural outside of the developed areas within the city for business and residential use. New residential and economic development projects are planned in the future. The Lebanon Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2018 and identifies the existing land uses.



SOCIO AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

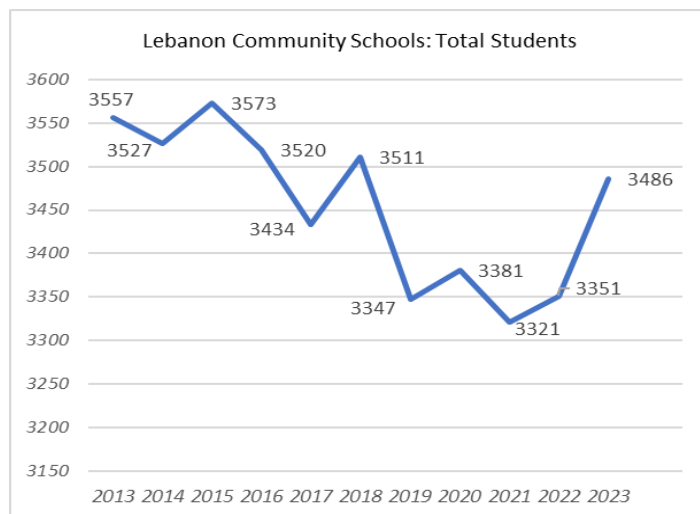
POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The US Census Bureau estimated the City of Lebanon's population in 2020 was 16,622, with the County's population being 70,812. It is estimated that this growth has continued in 22 and is estimate at 16, 840. Boone County from 2010 to 2020 is the second fastest growing county in Indiana at 25 percent behind Hamilton County per the Indiana Business Research Center.



The 2020 census data still reflects that adult age groups are evenly distributed. The median age is 39 years up from 37.5 years in 2010. As the over 25 age group increases, the need for additional recreation programming opportunities also increases, especially those that are multi-generational. The over 60 age group dropped in 2020 from 19.5 percent to 15.5. This age group consistently remains active users of the Memorial and Abner Longley parks.

These statistics further indicate over 64 percent of the population is a family unit with children. Lebanon Community School Corporation's enrollment dropped over the last five years by approximately 200 students but has rebounded in 2022-23.



SNAPSHOT OF DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of Households 2017-2021: 7,092

Average household size: 2.35

Median Age: 39 years

Median Household Income: \$56,862

Households living in poverty: 10.1%

EDUCATION

The data indicates that 88 percent of the population has received a high school diploma and over 23 percent have a bachelor's degree. These numbers have continued to minimally increase over a 20-year period.

The Lebanon Community School Corporation (LCSC) is the primary education provider within the planning area. Schools within Lebanon Community Schools:

- Harney Elementary
- Hattie B. Stokes Elementary
- Central Elementary
- Perry Worth Elementary
- Lebanon Middle School
- Lebanon Senior High School

Higher-education opportunities locally are available through within 40 miles:

- Purdue University, West Lafayette (37 miles)
- Butler University, Indianapolis (20 miles)
- Marian University, Indianapolis (20 miles)
- Indiana University Indianapolis (23 miles)
- Purdue University Indianapolis (23 miles)
- Ivy Tech Community College, Indianapolis (23 miles)
- Wabash College, Crawfordsville (24 miles)
- University of Indianapolis (28 miles)
- Indiana University Kokomo (34 miles)
- DePauw University, Greencastle (35 miles)
- DeVry University, Indianapolis (20 miles)
- The Art Institute of Indianapolis (15 miles)
- University of Phoenix, Indianapolis (23 miles)

Vincennes University operates the Gene Haas Training Center in Lebanon Business Park that provides advanced industrial machinery training and education for the manufacturing sector. It is one of only three in the nation that provide this type of education. There is a myriad of training programs available to potential employers and employees within the city.



ECONOMIC BASE

Lebanon has a solid economic base. According to the 2020 US Census and Boone County Economic Development, the county has a labor force of 39,748 people with 2 percent unemployment. The average commute time is 22 minutes. Lebanon's strategic location close to Interstate 65 attracts many residents who will be within a 30-minute drive of Lafayette and Indianapolis. The city recognizes the importance of quality of life and the impact of parks, trails and recreation on quality of life. The local business community and City Council are very supportive of the initiatives taken to enhance the city's park amenities and trails in order to attract people and businesses to the city.

The existing 1250-acre Lebanon Business Park is one of the few fully functional rail industrial parks in central Indiana. As mentioned earlier in this section, the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District will stimulate even more growth and employers to the area. The impact on city infrastructure, services and budgets will need to grow as the city continues its growth. The economic impact of these proposed developments will help support the city's growth.

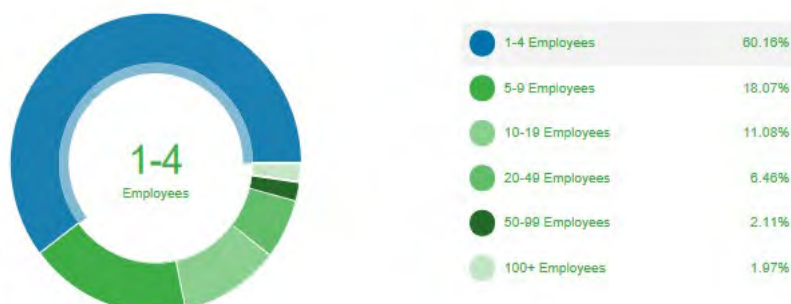
Currently, some of Lebanon's largest employers include:

American Ultraviolet	Ken's Foods
Boone County REMC	Lebanon Community School Corporation
Case New Holland	Maplehurst Bakeries
D-A Lubricant	Skjodt-Barrett Foods
Hachette Book Group USA	Witham Memorial Hospital
Hendrickson International	US Cold Storage
Kauffman Engineering	

LEBANON TOP INDUSTRIES BY JOBS

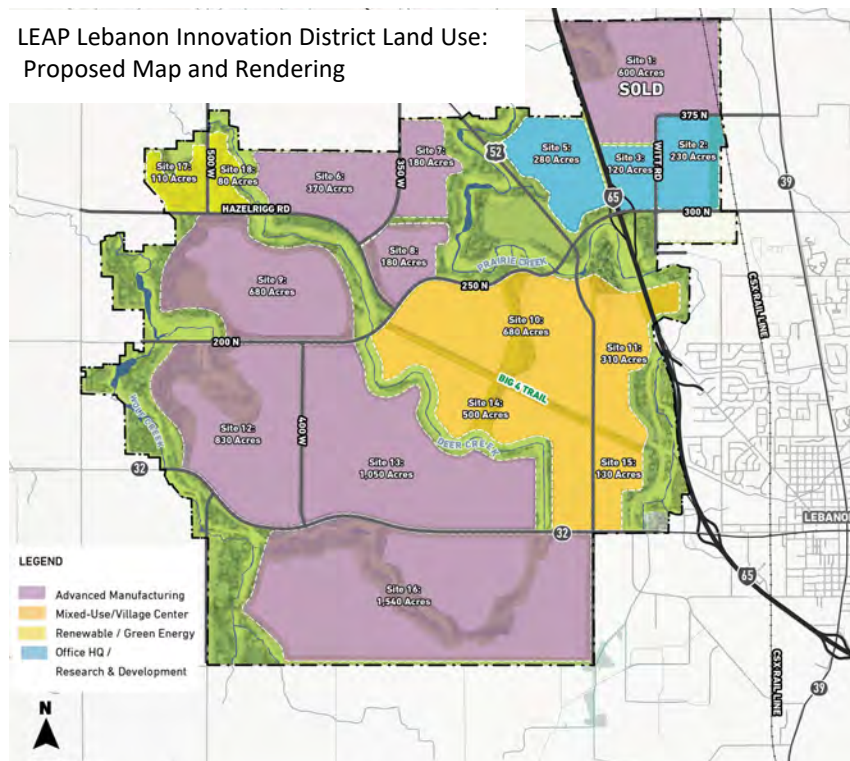


How many employees do businesses in Lebanon have?



The county has a labor force of 39,748 and an unemployment rate of two percent. According to Boone County Economic Development Corporation, the work distribution of total employees in Boone County is 38% blue collar and 61% white collar.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) Innovation and Research development will be developed on 11,000 acres near Interstate 65 and County Road (CR) 300 North. The district is named LEAP for Limited Exploration/Advanced Pace Lebanon Innovation District. Eli Lilly & Company has committed to a new \$2.1 billion facility on the east side of Interstate 65 and anticipates starting construction in the first half of 2023. Per the IEDC website, "The district is located on Indiana's I-65 Innovation Corridor. It will offer a diverse setting including mega-sites, advanced manufacturing, mixed-use and corporate campus opportunities. It will be a well-connected nexus central to the knowledge and innovation assets of both Indianapolis and Purdue's Discovery Park." With an experienced workforce of 1 million plus within a radius of 60 minutes, the location is ideally located 30 minutes from Indianapolis and Purdue University. The city annexed portions of the LEAP Innovation District in December 2022.

LEAP Lebanon Innovation District Land Use:
Proposed Map and Rendering

Other future developments include Waterford Development and The Fieldhouse. Waterford Development is a 2,000-acre planned unit development on the southeast side of Lebanon. It will stretch from CR 100 south to CR 300 South and from Interstate 65 to CR 400 E. The development includes a planned golf course; industrial and business districts, a mixed-use village development and hundreds of homes. The dedication of future park land and an extension of the Big 4 Trail are included.



The Lebanon Fieldhouse is part of a 95-acre development that includes a medical facility, restaurants, hotel, retail and residential. It will be privately run and managed and not owned by the city. Located on southwest side of Lebanon at State Road 39 and Interstate 65. The proposed Fieldhouse is a 270,000 square foot (sf) multi-sport facility to be operated by Card & Associates. The entire 95-acre campus is anticipated to be completed by 2028. See Section One for more details on the facility.

Cited Sources:

- US Census Bureau (2020)
- US Department of Labor
- US Department of Agriculture
- Indiana Business Research Center
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Boone County Economic Development (Graphic Credits and data)
- Boone County Historical Society
- City of Lebanon

Miscellaneous Web Resources:

- www.in.gov
- www.census.gov
- www.maps-n-stats (original source US Census Bureau)
- www.city-data.com
- www.genealogytrails.com
- www.stats.indiana
- www.ibrc.indiana.edu

Section 3: Trends in Parks & Recreation

TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

National

Current trends throughout the United States continue to focus on activities that can incorporate all members of the family, such as growth in fitness walking trails and individual sports, and there is still major emphasis on health and wellness programs. These have been increasing over the last twenty years and have been amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic.

In 2020, citizens sought outdoor space in unparalleled numbers to exercise and escape their homes. In some instances, communities saw 150 percent increases in park users on trails and open space according to a recent study from the Trust for Public Land. In some urban communities, park use was doubled. In the 2021 Outdoor Participation Trends Report by The Outdoor Foundation (TOF), they noted that the pandemic drove 7.1 million more participants to pursue outdoor activity than in 2019. This was the largest one-year increase they had ever recorded. The report noted that the frequency of participating in an outdoor activity continues to decline overall in spite of the pandemic. Casual participants, those participating less than once a month, grew to 33 percent of all participants up from 28 percent in 2010. Core participants, those participating more than once a week, fell from 40 percent of all participants in 2010 to just 33 percent in 2020.



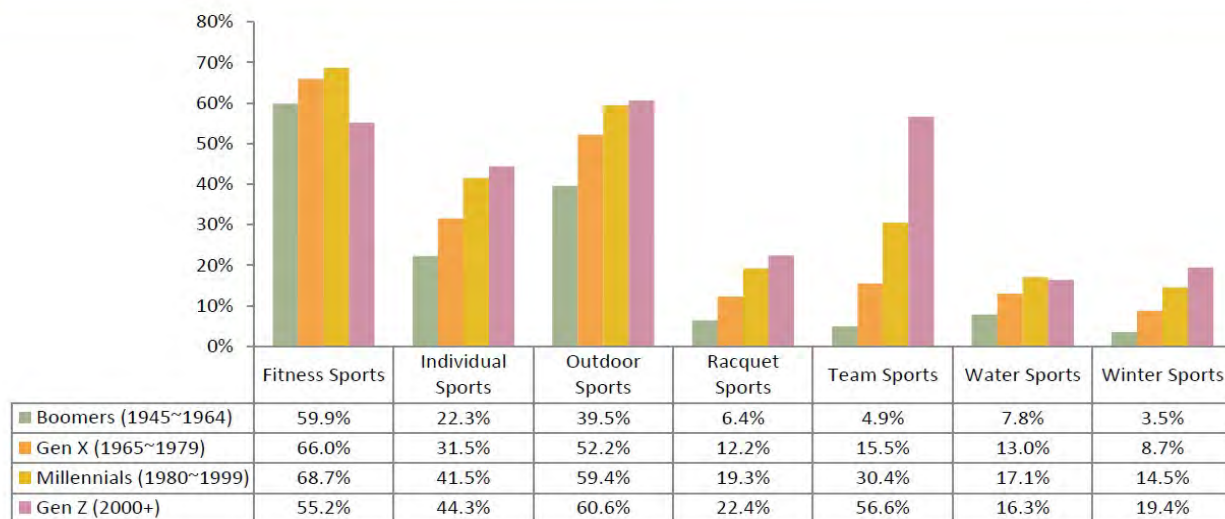
Indoor fitness and recreation centers were shutdown to limit the exposure to the virus and outdoor spaces were one plan that allowed for social distancing and interacting with others.

The impacts of the pandemic on revenue generation were catastrophic on some departments who lost over 90 percent of their revenue due cancelation of classes, programs, festivals, tournaments, and concerts, etc. Outdoor programming for fitness classes along with virtual programming helped fill the void created by indoor spaces being closed but did not replace critical revenue. The pandemic also created a greater focus on mental health. Being able to connect with others both virtually and outdoors became lifelines for many people.

In recent years, communities have focused on all aspects of wellness. This is evidenced by the fact that more people are walking, swimming, and exercising today more than ever before. This is also evidenced by the fact that schools, businesses, and hospitals are instituting wellness programs for all ages to encourage life-long fitness and to reduce health insurance costs.

Walking continues to be the most popular recreation activity enjoyed by approximately 109 million Americans according to the Sports Fitness & Industry Association (SFIA). Other top activities included running/jogging, swimming, pickleball triathlon (non-traditional/off-road), triathlon (traditional/road), kayak fishing, paddle boarding. Trail-related recreation activities according to the 2018 Outdoor Participation Report indicates a positive three-year trend for trail running, running/jogging/hiking, mountain biking, and BMX biking. Running/jogging/hiking was their most popular activity with 55.9 million participants.

2020 Participation by Generation



The trend of fitness continues to be confirmed by the Physical Activity Council's (PAC) - 2020 Participation Report which showed a consistent six-year trend of fitness sports participation around 67 percent. Other sport activity groups include the following

- Outdoor sports 50.7 %

- Individual sports 45.0 %
- Team Sports 23.4 %
- Water sports 13.6 %
- Racquet sports 13.0 %
- Winter sports 8.2 %

Racquet sports like pickleball, continue to experience unprecedented growth. According to the USA Pickleball Association, pickleball grew by 42% from 2019 to 2020 and 620% over the last six years. While pickleball is still growing fast, its 4.1 million players are still a fraction of the 21.5 million who play tennis. Another new growing court sport is pop tennis, which is played in a cage. It is estimated by SFIA, that there are over 68 million Generation Z in America (people born between 1997 and 2015) and they've been driving growth in all racquet sports. An impressive 22.4% of Gen Z played some form of racquet sports in 2020. Many departments have converted underused tennis courts to pickleball courts. The Department has converted tennis court at both Abner Longley and Memorial Park. A critical consideration when determining locations for pickleball courts is the proximity of residences to the courts. Pickleball has a harder plastic ball that makes a distinctive sound which is much louder than a felt tennis ball. Racquet sports attract participants of all ages.



Esports

One trend that is here to stay is the esports. Egaming is a generic term to describe amusement or recreation using a standalone video game, desktop computer or the intent with one or more players. The Esportz Network (a global esports/gaming news, and entertainment media company) reported in August 2021, that the global esports economy growth has been underestimated and will exceed \$2.5 billion in 2022. The major gap in projections was the

underestimation of growth in the mobile competitive play market. Straits Research was projecting in late summer 2022 that the United States market may reach \$5,74 billion by 2030.



Below is a snapshot of Esports participants data according to Entertainment Software Association in 2018.

- There are 2.5 billion gamers worldwide
- Over 166 million adults within the U.S. consider themselves gamers
- 64 % of U.S. households own a gaming device (PC or gaming console)
- There's an average of approximately two gamers per household in U.S.
- 56% of regular gamer play multiplayer titles
- 65% of games often play with another person, both in-person and online
- Over 84% of teens have access to a gaming console within their home
- 45% of gamers are females

The National Alliance for Youth Sports Poll indicated that 70 percent of kids stop participant in traditional sports by the age of 13. And 90 percent of 12–17-year-olds participate in playing video games. Gaming is one hobby that sticks with youth throughout their life.

The opportunity for park agencies is to provide recreational esports programming to capture children who are unable to participate in other sports. By providing places for gamers to gather and compete, it builds community and can be a multi-generational experience. Many parks' agencies have utilized esports, to reach youth. Should they excel, there are esports leagues at the collegiate level which also provide scholarships. Due to this growth, Ball State University announced in August 2021, it is partnering with Harena Data and the Indiana Sports Corporation to establish the Esports Combine. This event will be a virtual showcase where esports candidates from across the world can demonstrate their talents in front of the nation's top recruiters, potentially earning college scholarships for their sports.



Ball State is a major player began its varsity esports program as a part of its College of Communication, Information and Media in January 2021. They are a founding member of the Esports Collegiate Conference.

State Trends

From a regional or state perspective, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2021-2025 reflected many of the same popular national trends. The SCORP was completed prior to the pandemic. Top participation activities included walking, hiking, or jogging as the most popular with camping, hiking, fishing, boating/water skiing/sailing/wakeboarding rounding out the top five. Survey respondents also indicated that they participated in the following top five activities weekly: walking/hiking/jogging, bicycling, fishing, gardening, and swimming. Walking/running/jogging have been the top activity in Indiana for over twenty-five years and nationally since 1990. These trends are also consistent with citizens in Lebanon.

Activity Trends State of Indiana

	1989	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
1	Picnicking	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Hiking, Walking Jogging	Walking, Running, Jogging
2	Pleasure Driving	Picnicking	Fairs, Festivals	Fairs, Festivals	Camping	Camping	Camping RV Camping
3	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Picnicking	Fishing	Hiking Backpacking
4	Swimming	Camping	Camping	Nature Observation, Photography	Fishing	Swimming	Fishing
5	Fishing	Fishing Hunting	Picnicking	Camping	Swimming	Canoeing Kayaking Paddle Sports	Boating Wakeboarding Water Skiing Sailing
6	Bicycling	Bicycling	Swimming SCUBA Snorkeling	Fishing	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Bicycling	Picnicking, Barbecue/ Cookouts
7	Camping	Boating	Nature Observation, Photography	Picnicking	Golf	Hunting	Gardening Landscaping Yard Work
8	Nature Observation	Nature Observation	Playground Use	Bicycling	Bicycling	Fairs/Festivals Outdoor Concerts	Swimming Snorkeling Diving
9	Motor Boating	Playground Use	Bicycling	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Hunting	Boating Water Skiing Sailing	Bicycling
10	Golf	Off-road Motorized Vehicle Use	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Boating, Water Skiing, Personal Watercraft	Horseback Riding	Off-road Motorized Use	Golf

Indiana Department of Natural Resources SCORP 2021-25 Table 2.3

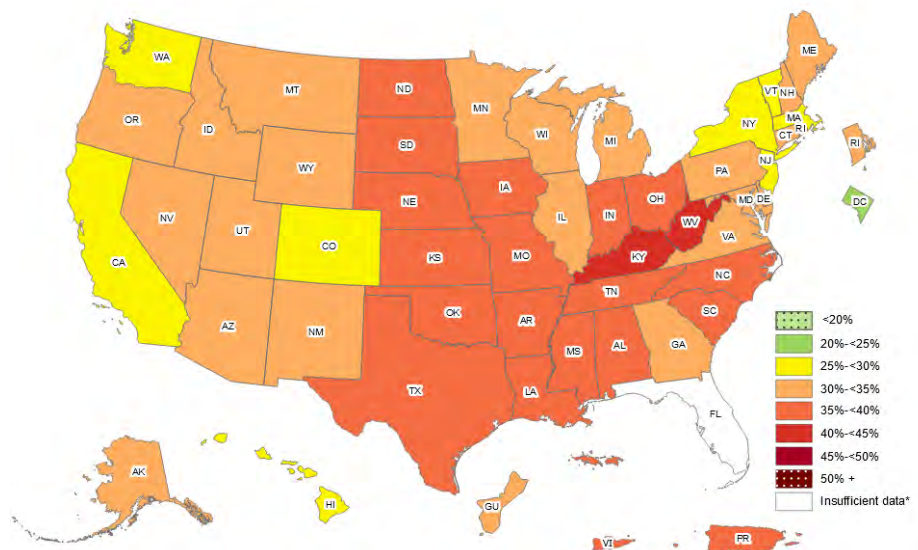
Swimming continues to be in the top ten activities in recreation. Over 27 million Americans over the age of 6 swam for fitness in 2018. This is up from 27.14 million in 2017. Aging pools are often replaced by aquatic centers that offer more than the traditional pool and diving well.

Aquatic trends in the parks and recreation industry include zero-depth pool entry, lazy river, water slides, natural lighting for indoor facilities, splash pads, large water structures, and larger pool areas that can allow for water polo, water fitness, and synchronized swimming. Splash pads also may be incorporated into the newer aquatic centers, or as amenity within community as an alternative to the larger aquatic center facility or pool. Splash pads are usually free to park users versus as a part of an aquatic center which has a user fee. In the last ten years, over 65% of respondents have added at least one splash pad within their park system. Lebanon installed their first splash pad at Abner Longley.

The Effects of Recreation on Wellness

Recreational opportunities and facilities have a profound effect on the health and wellness of a community. Ideally, through careful planning of green space, parks, facilities and programs, a community creates an environment that offers multiple opportunities and choices for healthy lifestyles – opportunities which easily incorporate physical activity into the daily lives of its citizens.

**Prevalence of Self-Reported Obesity among U.S. Adults
By State and Territory, BRFSS, 2021**



Statistics released by the Surgeon General indicate that 60 percent of the U.S. population is inactive or under active; conditions which have fueled the growing epidemic of obesity, diabetes, and related disorders. A growing body of evidence indicates that community design plays in fostering, or inhibiting, an active lifestyle. A few of the elements that have been identified as creating healthy, 'walkable communities' include:

- Safe and accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike paths.
- Transportation alternatives with pedestrian access to buses and transit systems.
- Safe, attractive, and convenient parks and recreation facilities.
- Shopping and services that can be accessed without automobiles.

Availability and accessibility of attractive bike paths, walking paths, exercise facilities and the overall aesthetics of an environment play a role in citizens determining the type and amount of physical activity in which they will engage.

The 2021 Annual Report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms that inactivity increases with age and is more common among women than men, and among those with lower income and less education than among those with higher income or education. Physical activity also declines dramatically with age during adolescence.

Supporting statistics:

- 60 percent of American adults are sedentary in 2021.
- Only 25 percent of adults and 27 percent of youth (grades 9-12) engage in recommended levels of physical activity.
- Children born today have a lower life expectancy than their parents.
- Indiana is ranked 40th in the nation by United Health Foundation in its 2020 *State Health Rankings* report due to the obesity levels of children and adults.

Any age, gender, and economic or cultural group can achieve greater health benefits by increasing physical activity. This public health challenge exists for every community in America. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population of Health Institute (UWPHI) collaborated to create the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program. This program is intended to help communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to be healthier in their schools, work places, and homes. The program ranks almost every county in America. In 2022, Boone County ranks 3rd out of 92 counties in Indiana based on the overall health of the county.

Resources:

- CDC - National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, *Overweight and Obesity*
- Esportz Network, August 13, 2021, “Esports Industry Growth Underestimated, Will Exceed \$2.5 Billion in 2022”
- The Outdoor Foundation, *2021 Outdoor Participation Trends Report*
- Physical Activity Council, *2020 Physical Activity Council’s Overview Report on U.S. Participation*
- Recreation Management Magazine, June 2020, Emily Tipping, “2020 State of the Managed Recreation Industry”
- Trust for the Public Land, 2020, *Trust for the Public Land Special Report: Parks and the Pandemic*
- United Health Foundation 2022 State Health Rankings
- United States Department of Health and Human Services – Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity

Section 4: Public Participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Community input is an invaluable aspect of the planning process and provides insight into the community that may otherwise go unrealized. It also fosters a sense of ownership and buy-in from the public as they see their input being incorporated. The Department has provided a variety of opportunities and formats for the community to participate.

During the development of the plan two methods were utilized to facilitate input: public meetings and questionnaires. Meetings were held with staff, park board, stakeholders and the public. Questionnaires were made available to the general public/.

Throughout the planning process, it was evident that the community is highly supportive of the Department as a whole and the critical role that parks plays in the quality of life that Lebanon citizens enjoy. The pandemic raised the public awareness of the quality of parks and services that are provided by the city. More people than ever utilized outdoor spaces and parks to escape from their homes to socialize, exercise and relax. For some residents, they discovered different parks within the community for the first time and for others visiting their favorite park was a part of their daily routine.

All public meetings were advertised in variety of local media outlets including the following: Lebanon Reporter Newspaper, local radio, social media outlets from the city and Park Department's and the city website. Park Board meetings are live-streamed on the Internet for the general public.

Consistent themes heard throughout the process includes:

- Great staff and community partners
- Diverse facilities and parks
- Appreciative of ongoing upgrades to park facilities and playgrounds
- Fiscally responsible
- Multi-generational activities and programs, need more
- Love our trails – keep connecting
- Keeping up with growth of community : more park land, budget and staff will be needed
- Enhance existing parking facilities
- Future indoor venue space for sports and programming
- Future parks needed as city continues to grow

All public input and park board meetings were held in the Lebanon City Council Chambers. Meetings were available to attend both in person and virtually and started at 7:00 pm. The dates below indicate opportunities for public input.

- December 16, 2021 – Stakeholder Meetings
- February 2, 2022 – Park Board Meeting
- February 23, 2022 – Public Input Open House, Herman B. Wells Community Center

- March 2, 2022 – Park Board Meeting
- April 6, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- June 2, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- August 3, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- September 7, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- October 5, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- November 2, 2022 – Park Board meeting
- February 1, 2023 – Park Board Meeting
- April 8, 2023 – Park Board Meeting

Stakeholder Meetings – December 16, 2021

The planning process included meetings with department stakeholders, community leaders, staff, city staff and citizens. These meetings were held at four different times to allow for attendees' flexibility. Those invited included all city departments: Street, Police, Planning, Redevelopment, Lebanon Schools, youth programming, youth sports, Heart of Lebanon, YMCA, City Council members, Park Board members, and Lebanon Utilities. A summary of these meetings comments follows. Notes have been combined from all stakeholder meetings. 22 people attended the stakeholder meetings out of the thirty invitees.

All groups were asked the same series of questions related to the Parks and Recreation Department.

1. Strengths of Department, Facilities and Programs

- Caring staff with attention to detail in their work
- Staff: friendly, helpful, collaborative
- Partners easy to work with
- Parks facilities are memorable
- Grounds are well maintained
- Parks are beautiful
- Staff is incredible: stretched with extraordinary effort to keep things maintained and programs at a high level: downtown square, 9 miles of trails, 8 parks, Vincennes University Training Center grounds, etc.
- Seashore Water Park – well maintained
- Innovative, different than other parks
- Signage in parks
- Green space
- Staff
- Well maintained, cleanliness, manicured,
- Wide variety of parks, use, and locations
- Affordable events and programs to for everyone to participate
- Amenities within parks
- Clean bathrooms
- Response time is very quick

-
- Support of Mayor, City-Council, and community
 - Safety
 - Public loves the department and the parks
 - Splash pads
 - Accessibility to get to park via walking and bicycling
 - Training
 - Security
 - Community pride in parks
 - Huge improvements in facilities and staff in last 10 years
 - Diversity of programming and types of parks
 - Flexibility and opens of park staff to new ideas and opportunities
 - Trails: Big 4
 - Multi-generational activities; promote a sense of community and family at events
 - Strong growth potential
 - Park impact fees will help with future development
 - Sharing facilities
 - Hiring students
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership within the community
 - Staying relevant
 - Always looking for new ways to meet the growing needs of community
 - Family environment

2. Current Challenges or Weaknesses of Department, Facilities and Programs

- Aging amenities
- Understaffed now and as system grows need more staff
- Utilities need to be upgraded within parks like electrical and drainage
- Indoor event space needed
- Homeless
- No programming for 20-30 year-olds
- No alcohol allowed in parks
- Need open spaces for sports: football, baseball, kickball, soccer
- Vandalism by unsupervised kids middle school age
- Rapid growth of community: will need additional park space, maintenance, funding equipment etc.
- Finances
- Communication: City departments - need a quarterly meeting to discuss things going on
- Land acquisition
- Declining participation in youth sports
- Connections through greenways
- Overall group/portal to coordinate community events
- Funding – maintenance downtown
- Damage/vandalism

- No indoor space which limits programming options
- Affordable rental room for small events/receptions
- Funding to sustain growth of new parks, staffing needs and programming
- Promotion of events/programs – need more
- Special needs: equipment,
- Toddler areas
- Aging infrastructure: electric, shelters, play equipment
- Drainage issues in Memorial par
- Nature education
- Adult sports
- Scheduling conflicts with other groups
- West side park location
- Interstate 65 acts as barrier for connectivity: pedestrian/bicycles.

3. Future Opportunities for Department, Facilities and Programs

- Partnerships with other groups like YMCA, etc.
- Programming
- Art trail
- Health and wellness: mental health YMCA
- Coordinate community activities
- Community Room – 200 people/rental/prep kitchen restrooms – meeting space, wedding receptions
- Fieldhouse with indoor sports for community
- Pickleball, volleyball
- Large open space for football, soccer, little league more parking, softball
- Large loop trail in Abner Longley Park
- Maintenance facility and equipment to support new parks on opposite sides of community: southeast and southwest.
- Big 4 Trail amenities: art, signage, benches, garden raised beds with vegetables
- TBL (The Basketball League) Semi-pro basketball team 2022 -partner with for activities
- Flag football
- Brewery and food trucks
- Alcohol allowed in parks for department sponsored events to attract younger crowd 25-35
- Abner Longley underutilized.
- Street Department location for a new skate park?
- Create identities of neighborhoods and tie to parks?
- Celebrate and build awareness of quality of life in Lebanon – parks are huge part of that
- Youth sports facilities: recreation fields
- Marketing potential land donation for future park land
- 1.4 mile Big 4 Trail connection
- Armory Building when vacated – will need improvements

- Partnerships
- Lap pool, diving well, swimming lessons in park facility not school
- E-sports programming and indoor meet area
- Handball/indoor racquetball courts/pickleball
- Ice skating
- Winter programming and activities both indoors/outdoors
- More basketball
- Artificial turf multipurpose fields
- Embrace Prairie Creek
- Winterfest downtown – programming to go between downtown and park sites
 - Christmas event as full day event
 - Carriage rides

Park Board Meeting – February 2, 2022

Deb Schmucker provided an overview of the master plan process and answered questions from the Board. Public input will begin this month starting with an open house on February 23. In addition, an online questionnaire was released in January to also gather insights from the public. Three people from the public attended.

Public Open House – February 23, 2022

22 Attendees answered questions at different stations to provide input during the open house. Below are the results.

1. Are parks important to quality of life? Yes: 21, No: 0
2. Does Lebanon need more parks? Yes: 19, No: 2
3. Does Lebanon need more trails/connections to parks? Yes: 21, No: 0
4. Does city adequately maintain existing parks and facilities? Yes: 21, No: 0
5. Does the city need more recreational programming? Yes: 18, No: 1, Maybe: 2
6. Does the city need more rental facilities such as community rooms or indoor recreation space? Yes: 20, No: 1
7. Tell us your FAVORITE Lebanon Parks and Recreation places, amenities, and programs

• Seashore Waterpark (5)	• Memorial Park (3)
• Pickleball (2)	• Reese Park
• Easter Egg Hunt	• Fishing at Hot Pond
• Walking Trail (3)	• Youth Soccer
• Pumpkins in the Park (2)	• Abner Longley
• Big 4 trail (2)	
8. Tell us about your CONCERNS about parks, maintenance, programs, or events
 - Conserving green spaces

- Keep up with growth
- Too much responsibility for other city entities besides parks
- No park west of railroad
- More staffing.
- Smoother roads. They are doing great job
- Safety of equipment
- Maintenance

9. Please share your top three programming needs for Lebanon's Parks

Program or Event	Votes
Music Events	14
Aquatic activities/classes	3
Educational Programs	3
Fitness classes	4
Intramural ADULT sports leagues	6
Intramural YOUTH sports leagues	2
Nature Programs	8
Performing Arts classes	4
Senior programs (age 60+)	5
Youth Camps	0
Festivals	7
Cultural Events	4
Sports Tournaments	5
Volunteers	3

10. Please share your top three Project or Capital Improvement needs for the parks in next five years

Project or Improvement	Votes
Seashore Water Park Expansion	5
Splash pads	2
Playground Equipment	2
Pickleball courts	4
Tennis courts	0
Basketball Courts	1
Volleyball Courts	0
Indoor Courts/facilities	8
Indoor Community Meeting Room	3
Soccer Fields	5
Softball fields	1
Baseball fields	0
Football Field	0
Trails	9
Skate Park	7
18-hole Disc Golf	3
E-sports Game Meeting Room	1
Amphitheater	9

11. Please share with us your BIG IDEA on how to improve or add park amenities, programs, and activities.
- Add a skate park in town near a neighborhood
 - Amphitheater (3)
 - Places to have wedding/parties “alcohol allowed”
 - Mom and me fitness classes during the summer
 - Concert Series in the Park
 - Pool open all year
 - Skate Park (3)
 - Alcohol license (4) and/or consideration of Alcohol license for special events
 - Born Learning trail – i.e., interactive activities placed along trail for young children to interact with parents
 - Story book walk
 - Cross country skiing path at Abner Longley
 - Light the night winter solstice lantern walk
 - Indoor sports areas
 - Indoor aquatic center
 - Indoor Pavilion
 - Ice rink
 - More programs for kids and families
 - Movie nights in the summer
 - Boccie ball courts
 - Outdoor music venue

12. If you had \$1,500 to invest in Lebanon’s parks and recreation system, how would you spend it?

<u>Total</u>	
\$ 11,500	Add or enhance existing facilities and amenities
\$ 9,000	Maintain existing parks and trails
\$ 6,500	Buy new park land
\$ 4,500	Add or enhance recreation programs

Park Board Meeting – March 2, 2022

John Messenger provided the Park Board with an update on the public open house in February. 22 people attended the open house. Deb will provide a detailed summary of input at the April meeting. The online questionnaire is available online and in hard copy form at the department office and city hall. As of early March, there had been over 275 people who had completed the questionnaire and attended meetings.

If the general public has any comments or questions, please contact the department offices. Two people were in attendance.

Park Board Meeting – April 6, 2022

Deb Schmucker provided a master plan update. She reviewed the public participation and multiple insights that had been gained from the public's comments. She encouraged the park board to think outside of the box for future programming and services as the community continues to grow including: new park facilities, programming such as e-sports, awareness of budget and staff needs as the city continues to grow.

Park Board Meeting – June 2, 2022

John Messenger provided a master plan update reviewing the continued progress with the action plan and priorities for the next five years. Opportunities for the public to comment and provide input on the master plan are ongoing and available at the department office. Four people attended the park board meeting.

Park Board Meeting – September 7, 2022

John Messenger indicated that the new accessible playground in Memorial Park grand opening would be later this month. This project is a direct result of previous master planning visioning. The Trails Master Plan update is also being completed by the Planning Department and is available for review. Additional comments are still being accepted by the department for the department master plan. Deb Schmucker was available to answer questions related to future planning project for 2023 in the master plan. In addition, she reviewed the action plan items and provided updates per input received. A brief discussion of the improvements for Abner Longley and Memorial Park was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Three people attended the park board meeting.

Park Board Meeting – October 5, 2022

John Messenger provided an update on projects and comments from the playground ground opening. There have been no additional comments on the master plan. Two people attended the park board meeting.

Park Board Meeting – February 1, 2023

Deb Schmucker reviewed and presented the master plan. There have been no additional comments on the master plan. Two people attended the park board meeting.

Park Board Meeting – April 3, 2023

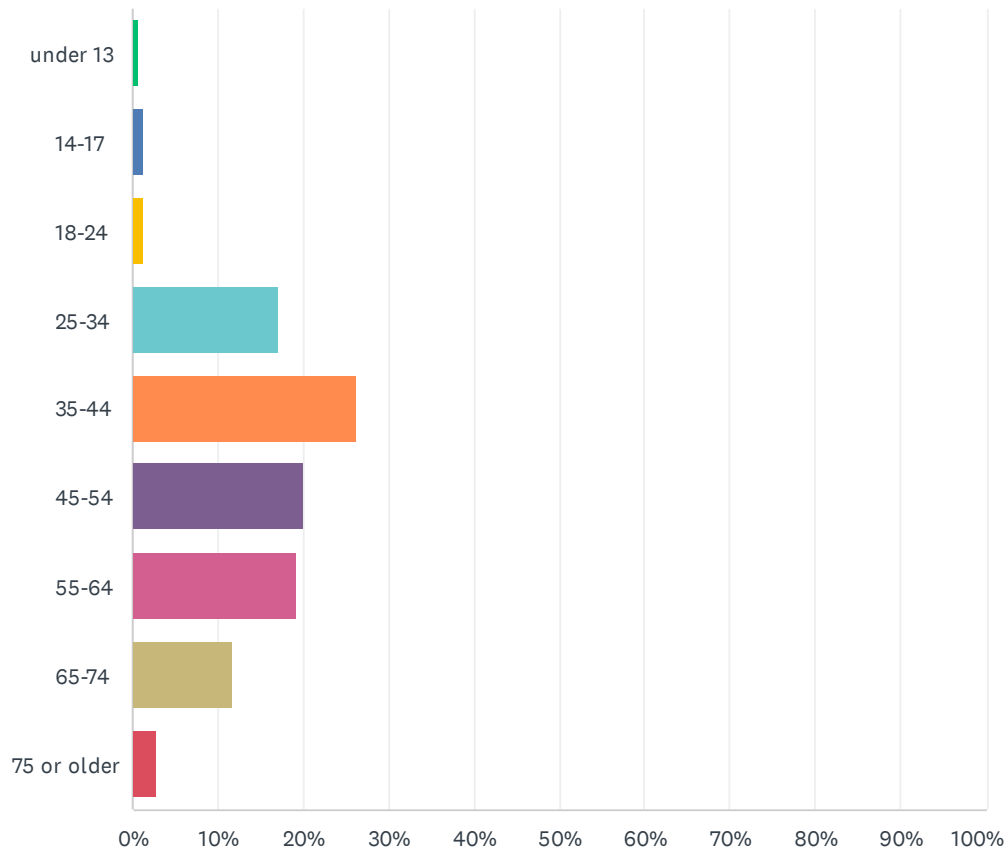
Deb Schmucker and John Messenger presented the resolution to formally adopt the Five-Year Park System Master Plan. The Park Board adopted the Five-Year Park System Master Plan.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

The department developed a questionnaire that was distributed online and made available in hard copy form at the park office. The questionnaire was available from January 5 through March 20, 2022. There were 333 participants. Individual questions data follows this page.

Q1 Which age group best describes you?

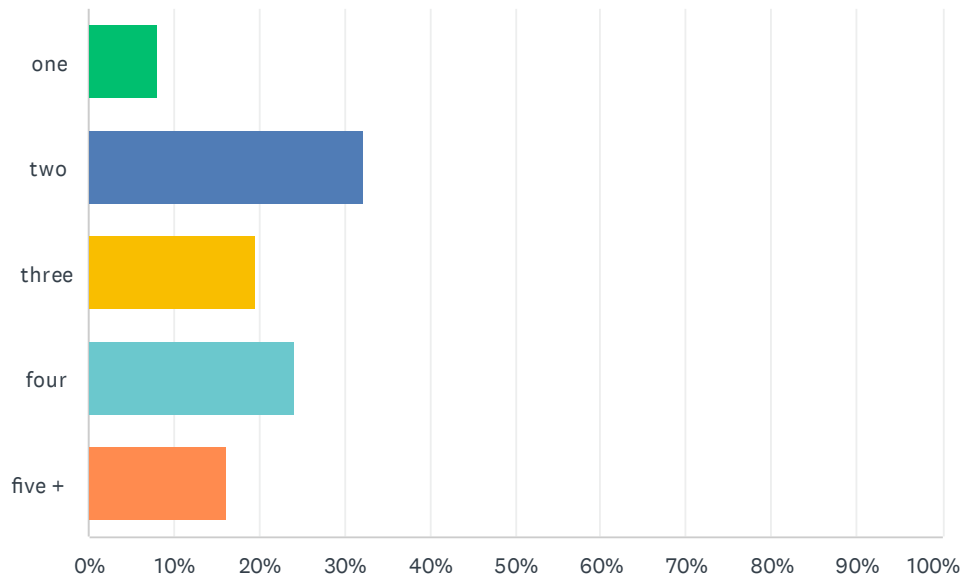
Answered: 333 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
under 13	0.60%	2
14-17	1.20%	4
18-24	1.20%	4
25-34	17.12%	57
35-44	26.13%	87
45-54	20.12%	67
55-64	19.22%	64
65-74	11.71%	39
75 or older	2.70%	9
TOTAL		333

Q2 How many people live in your household?

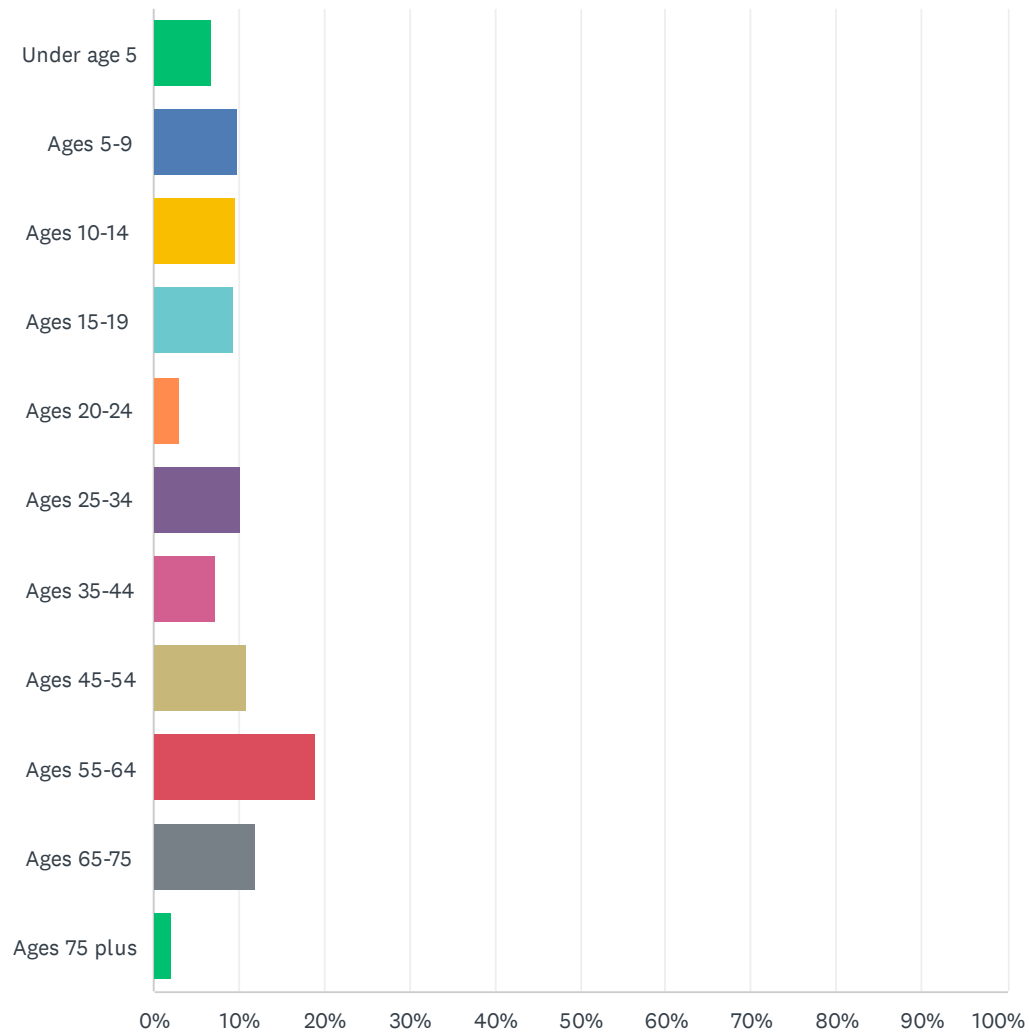
Answered: 333 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
one	8.11%	27
two	32.13%	107
three	19.52%	65
four	24.02%	80
five +	16.22%	54
TOTAL		333

Q3 Ages of People in Your Household

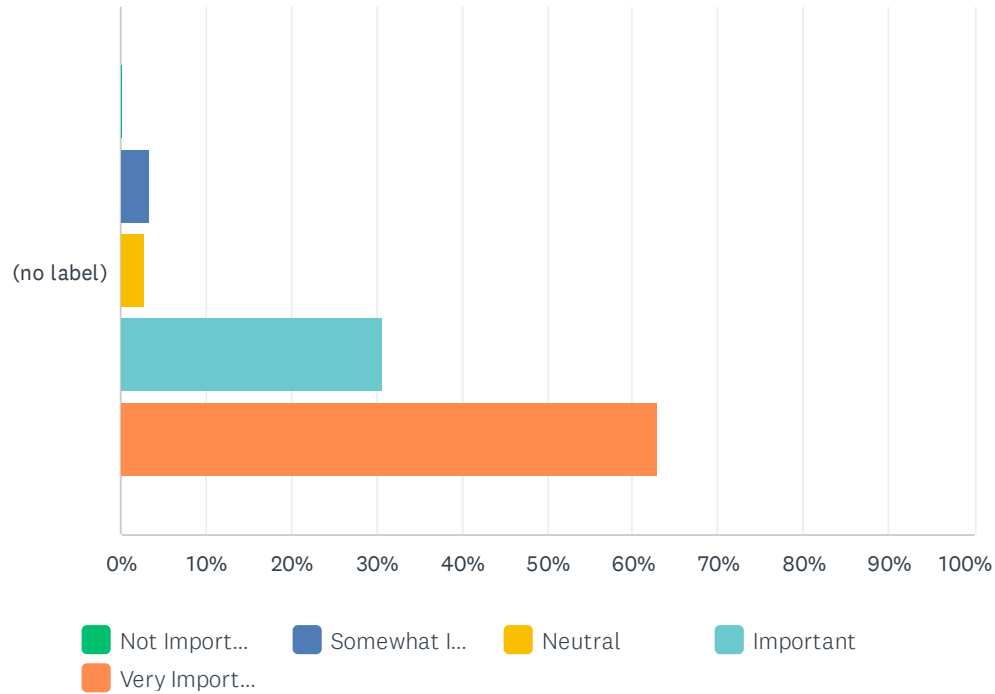
Answered: 333 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under age 5	6.91%	23
Ages 5-9	9.91%	33
Ages 10-14	9.61%	32
Ages 15-19	9.31%	31
Ages 20-24	3.00%	10
Ages 25-34	10.21%	34
Ages 35-44	7.21%	24
Ages 45-54	10.81%	36
Ages 55-64	18.92%	63
Ages 65-75	12.01%	40
Ages 75 plus	2.10%	7
TOTAL		333

Q4 How important are Parks, Recreation Services and Open Space to quality of life in Lebanon?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 1

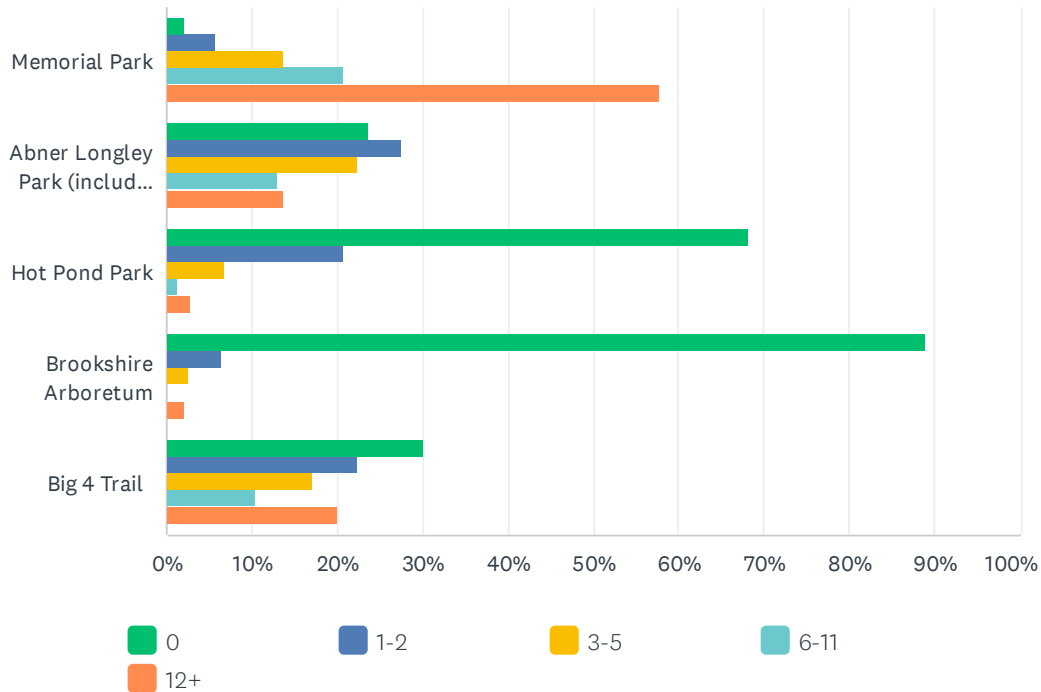


	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.30%	3.31%	2.71%	30.72%	62.95%	332	4.53
	1	11	9	102	209		

Q5 For each park/facility listed below, indicate how many times during the past 12 months you or the members of your household have visited that park.

Answered: 333 Skipped: 0

COLUMN A: How many times during the past 12 months have you or members of your household visited this park/facility?

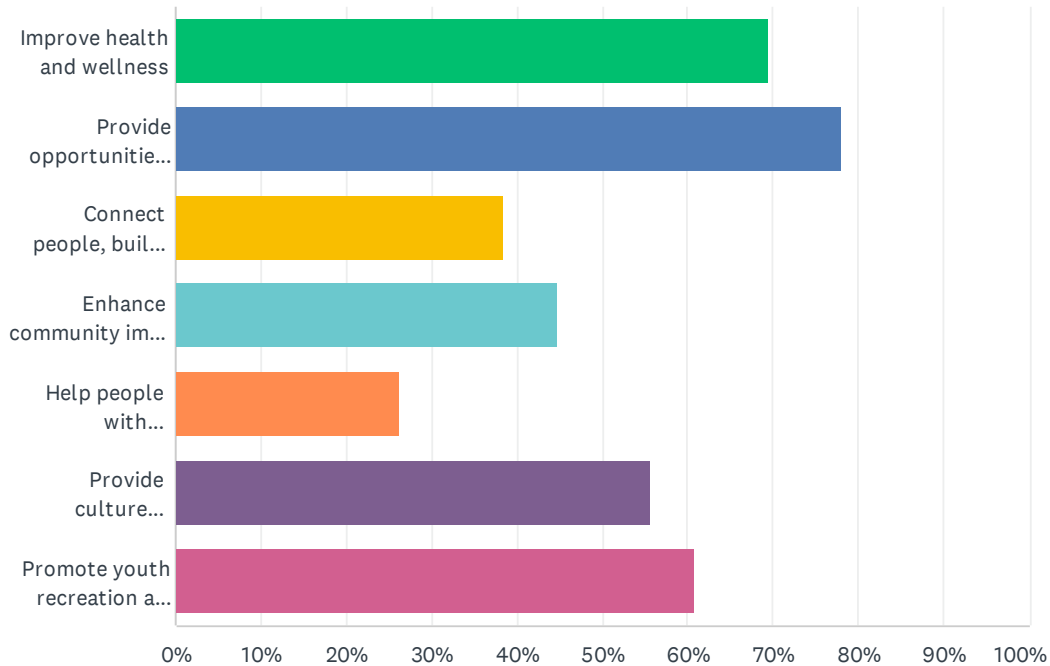


COLUMN A: How many times during the past 12 months have you or members of your household visited this park/facility?

	0	1-2	3-5	6-11	12+	TOTAL
Memorial Park	2.11% 7	5.72% 19	13.55% 45	20.78% 69	57.83% 192	332
Abner Longley Park (includes Conservation Pond/Dog Park)	23.62% 73	27.51% 85	22.33% 69	12.94% 40	13.59% 42	309
Hot Pond Park	68.28% 198	20.69% 60	6.90% 20	1.38% 4	2.76% 8	290
Brookshire Arboretum	88.85% 247	6.47% 18	2.52% 7	0.00% 0	2.16% 6	278
Big 4 Trail	30.10% 93	22.33% 69	17.15% 53	10.36% 32	20.06% 62	309

Q6 Which of these benefits of Parks, Recreation Services, and Open Space that are the most important to you?

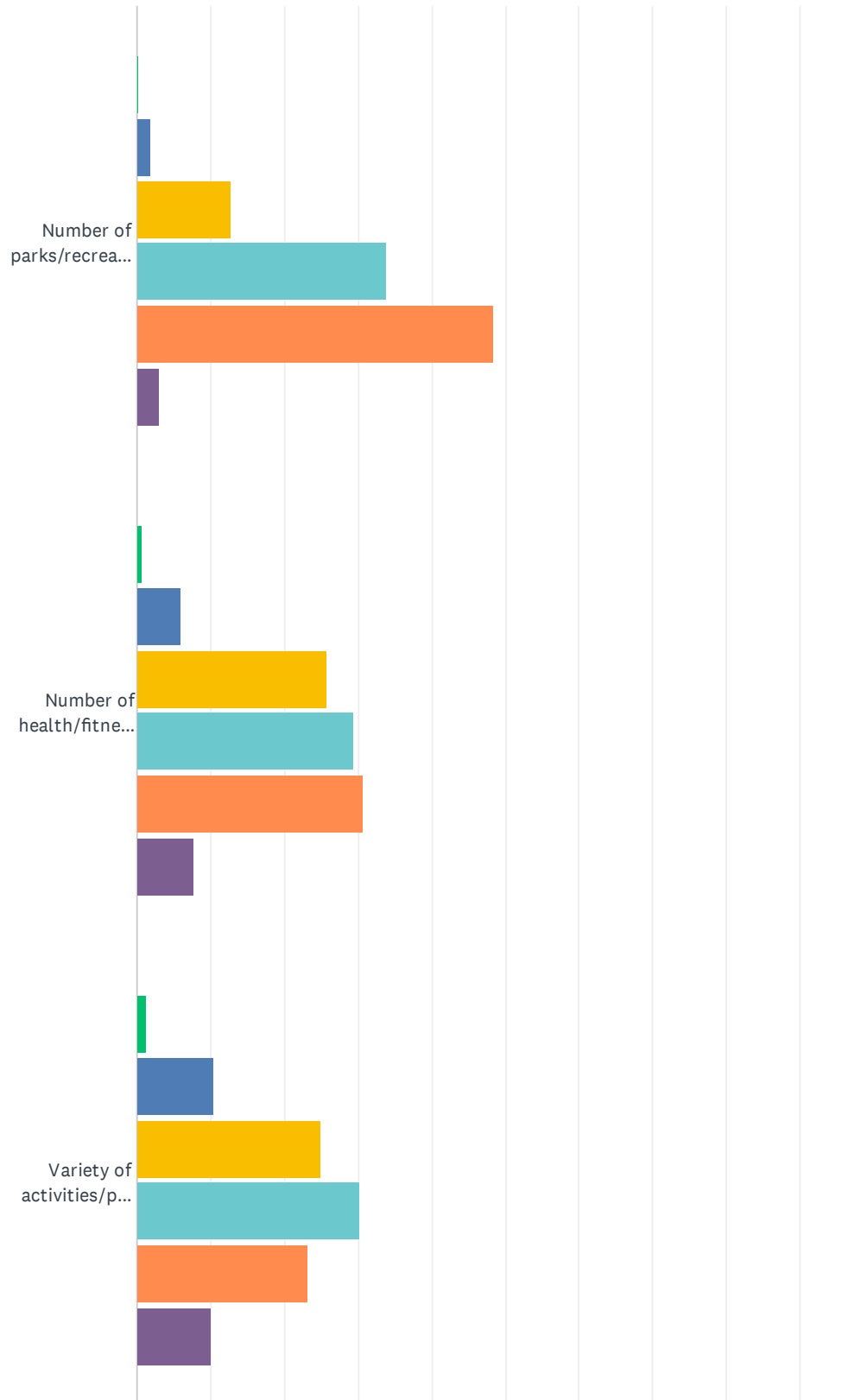
Answered: 331 Skipped: 2

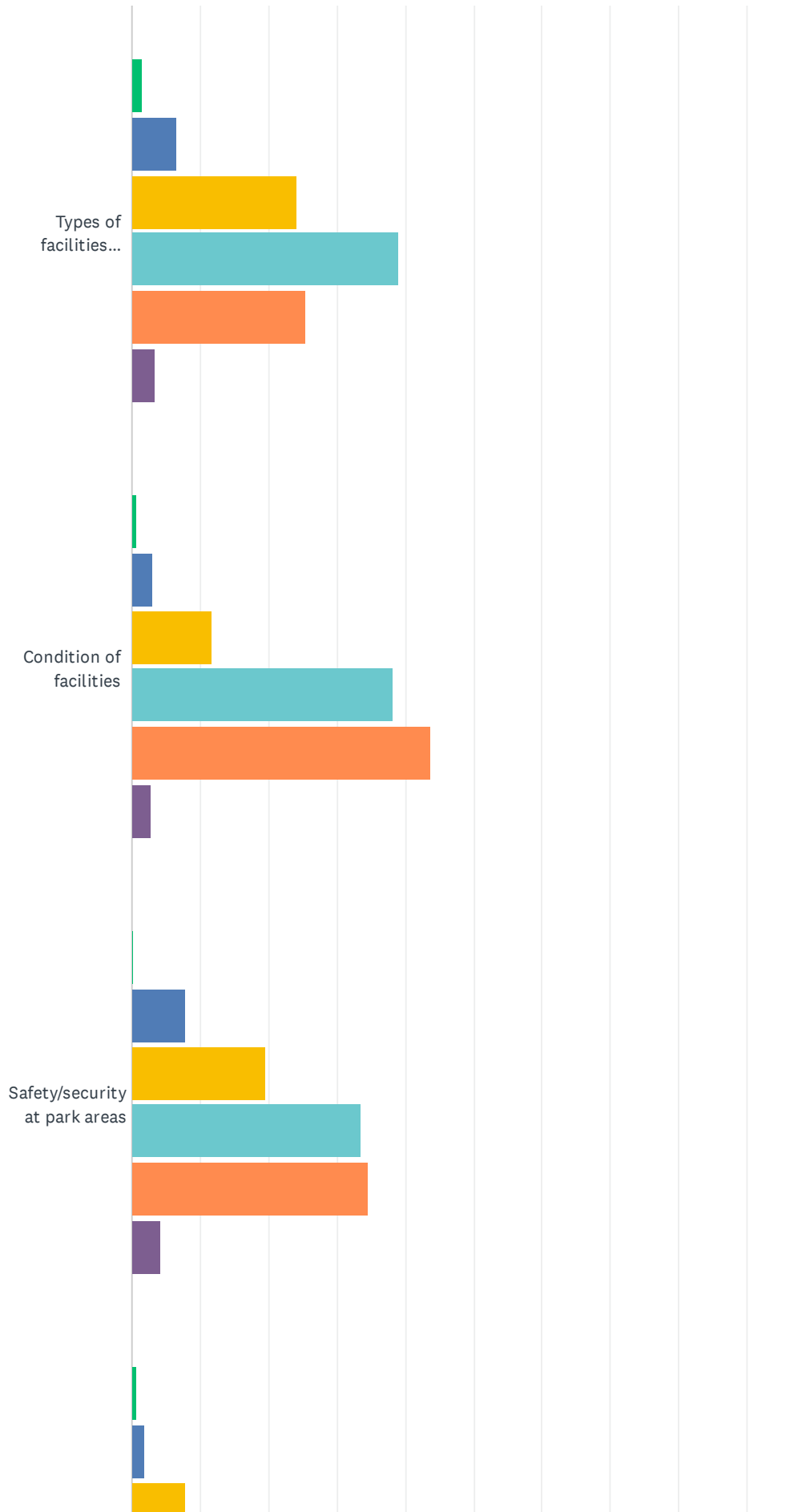


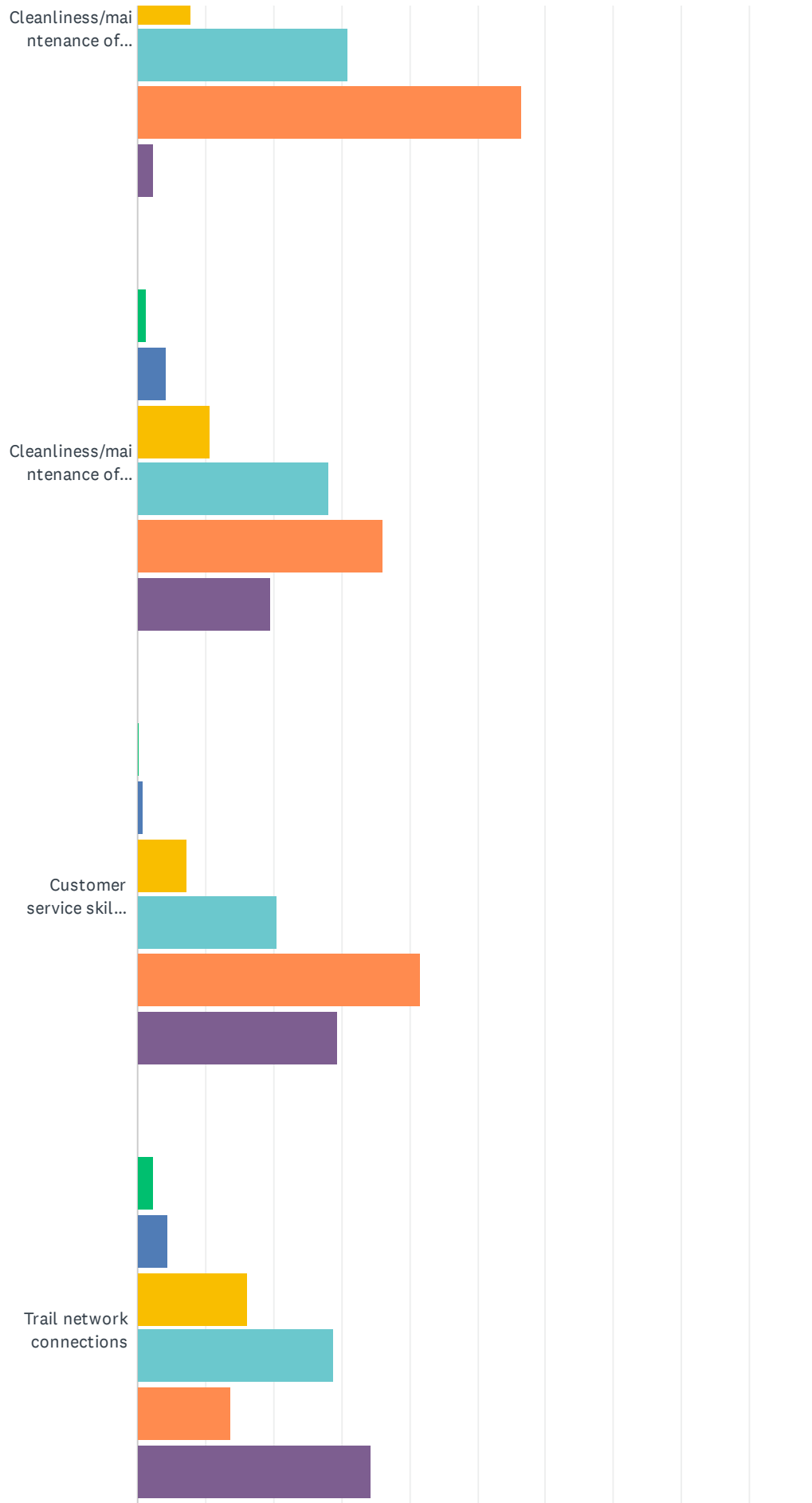
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improve health and wellness	69.49%	230
Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors	77.95%	258
Connect people, build stronger families and neighbors	38.37%	127
Enhance community image & sense of place	44.71%	148
Help people with disabilities remain active	26.28%	87
Provide culture activities, events and festivals	55.59%	184
Promote youth recreation and activity	60.73%	201
Total Respondents: 331		

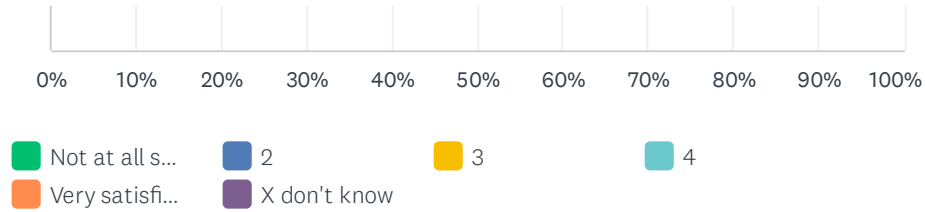
Q7 Please rate your satisfaction with the Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department on each of the following:

Answered: 333 Skipped: 0









	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED 1	2	3	4	VERY SATISFIED 5	X DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Number of parks/recreation opportunities available	0.30% 1	1.81% 6	12.69% 42	33.84% 112	48.34% 160	3.02% 10	331	1.00
Number of health/fitness opportunities available	0.61% 2	6.06% 20	25.76% 85	29.39% 97	30.61% 101	7.58% 25	330	1.00
Variety of activities/programs offered	1.22% 4	10.37% 34	25.00% 82	30.18% 99	23.17% 76	10.06% 33	328	1.00
Types of facilities available	1.52% 5	6.71% 22	24.09% 79	39.02% 128	25.30% 83	3.35% 11	328	1.00
Condition of facilities	0.61% 2	3.03% 10	11.82% 39	38.18% 126	43.64% 144	2.73% 9	330	1.00
Safety/security at park areas	0.30% 1	7.85% 26	19.64% 65	33.53% 111	34.44% 114	4.23% 14	331	1.00
Cleanliness/maintenance of park areas	0.60% 2	1.81% 6	7.85% 26	30.82% 102	56.50% 187	2.42% 8	331	1.00
Cleanliness/maintenance of restrooms	1.21% 4	4.24% 14	10.61% 35	28.18% 93	36.06% 119	19.70% 65	330	1.00
Customer service skills displayed by employees	0.30% 1	0.91% 3	7.29% 24	20.36% 67	41.64% 137	29.48% 97	329	1.00
Trail network connections	2.43% 8	4.56% 15	16.11% 53	28.88% 95	13.68% 45	34.35% 113	329	1.00

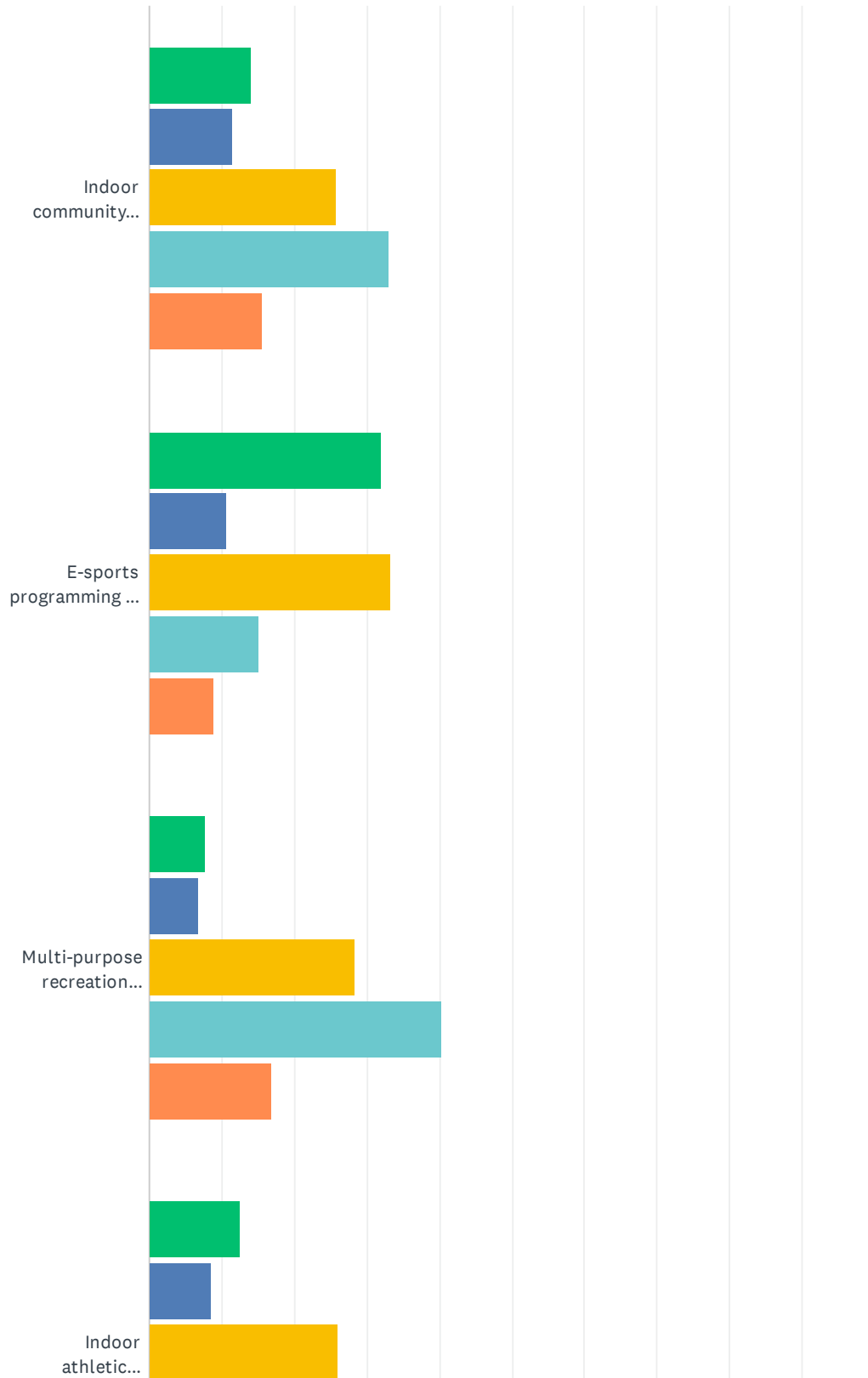
Q8 For each of the activities listed, which have you or the members of your household participated in the last 12 months in Lebanon?

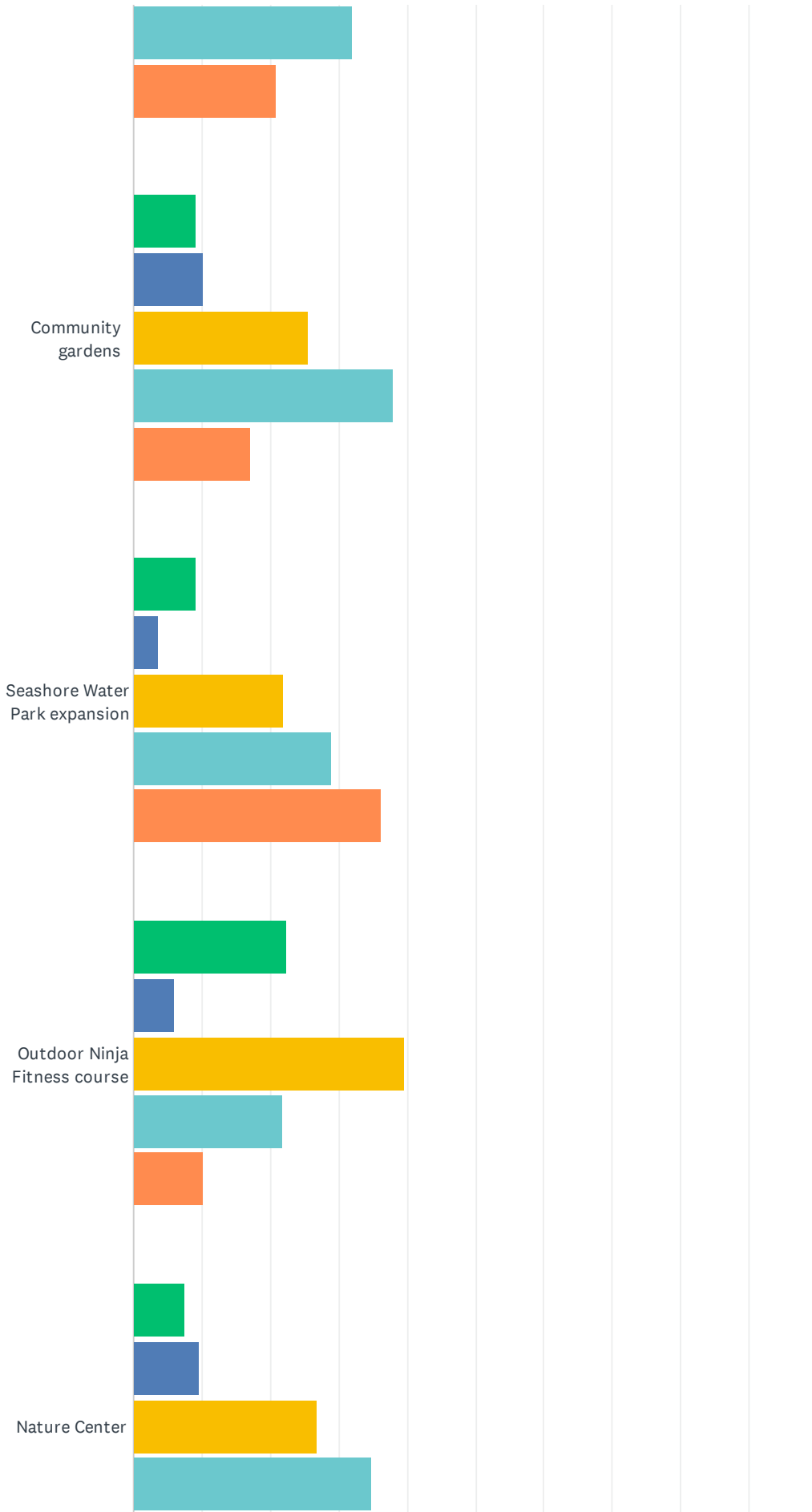
Answered: 326 Skipped: 7

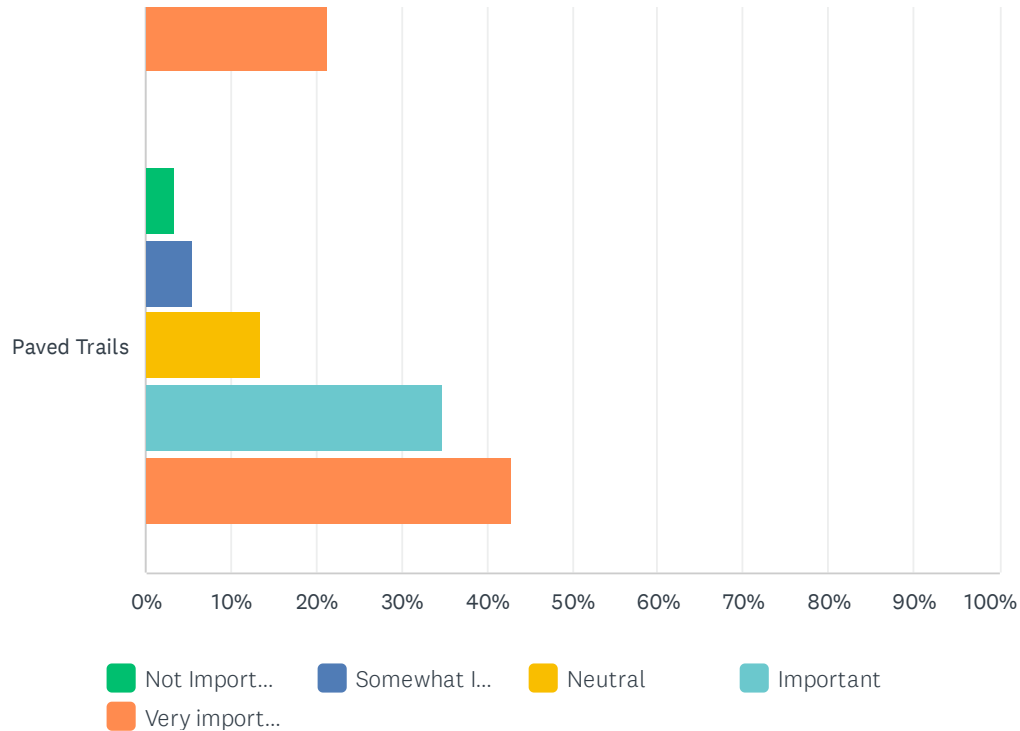
	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Walking for fitness or pleasure	100.00% 265	265
Attending events/concerts, festivals, parades, etc	100.00% 248	248
Festivals	100.00% 242	242
Swimming/water play at Seashore Water Park	100.00% 188	188
Using children's playground/play area	100.00% 183	183
Observing nature	100.00% 172	172
Bicycling	100.00% 160	160
Picnicking	100.00% 142	142
Hiking	100.00% 128	128
Splash Pad	100.00% 125	125
Walking to exercise your dog	100.00% 122	122
Running or jogging	100.00% 121	121
Outdoor Fitness Stations	100.00% 89	89
Playing youth league organized sports(baseball,softball,etc)	100.00% 73	73
Attending a recreation program or class	100.00% 58	58
Attending a fitness program or class	100.00% 33	33
Disc golf	100.00% 14	14

Q9 How important are the following future needs to you and/or your household?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 2



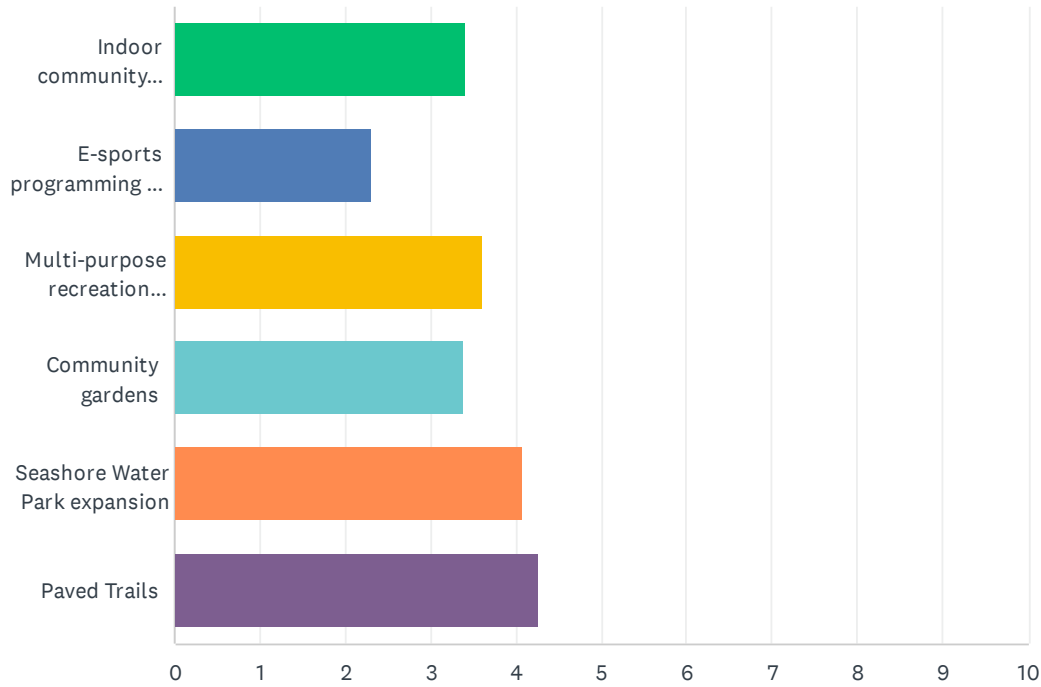




	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Indoor community gathering space	13.98% 46	11.55% 38	25.84% 85	33.13% 109	15.50% 51	329	3.25
E-sports programming for youth and young adults	31.99% 103	10.56% 34	33.23% 107	15.22% 49	9.01% 29	322	2.59
Multi-purpose recreation fields	7.69% 25	6.77% 22	28.31% 92	40.31% 131	16.92% 55	325	3.52
Indoor athletic facility	12.58% 41	8.59% 28	26.07% 85	31.90% 104	20.86% 68	326	3.40
Community gardens	9.26% 30	10.19% 33	25.62% 83	37.96% 123	16.98% 55	324	3.43
Seashore Water Park expansion	9.15% 30	3.66% 12	21.95% 72	28.96% 95	36.28% 119	328	3.80
Outdoor Ninja Fitness course	22.36% 72	5.90% 19	39.75% 128	21.74% 70	10.25% 33	322	2.92
Nature Center	7.43% 24	9.60% 31	26.93% 87	34.67% 112	21.36% 69	323	3.53
Paved Trails	3.38% 11	5.54% 18	13.54% 44	34.77% 113	42.77% 139	325	4.08

Q10 Please rank the following list with #1 being your top priority to develop in the next 5 years.

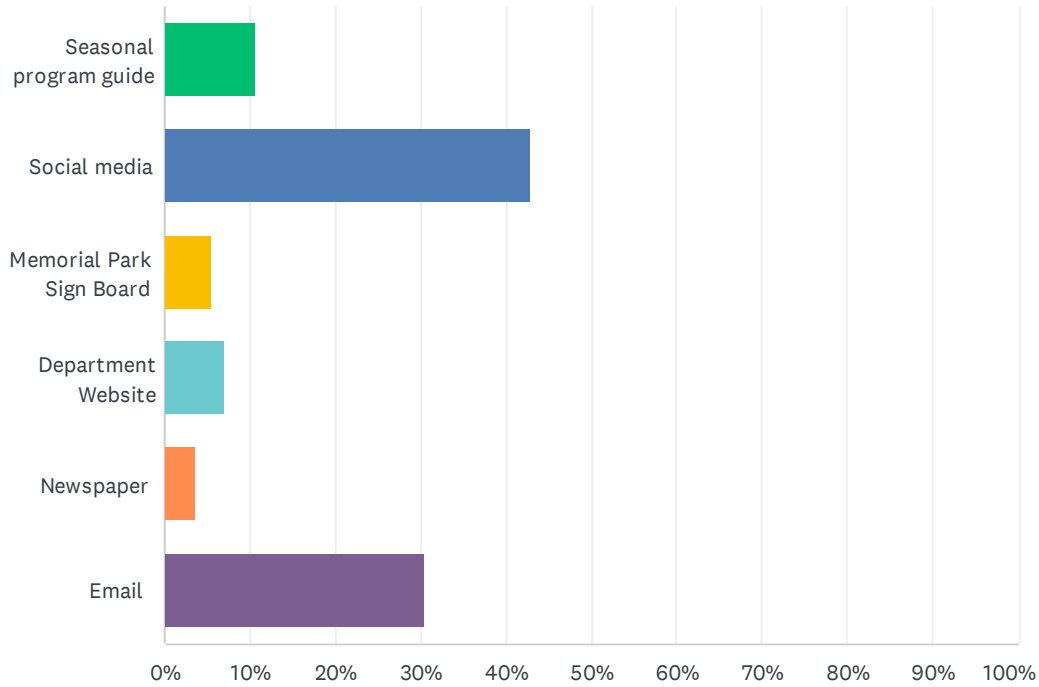
Answered: 329 Skipped: 4



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Indoor community gathering space	13.52% 43	16.35% 52	16.67% 53	20.44% 65	18.55% 59	14.47% 46	318	3.42
E-sports programming for youth and young adults	4.70% 15	7.21% 23	10.03% 32	13.48% 43	21.94% 70	42.63% 136	319	2.31
Multi-purpose recreation fields	11.11% 35	19.68% 62	21.90% 69	23.17% 73	14.92% 47	9.21% 29	315	3.61
Community gardens	7.96% 25	19.11% 60	22.93% 72	17.20% 54	19.11% 60	13.69% 43	314	3.39
Seashore Water Park expansion	29.41% 95	18.27% 59	16.10% 52	13.93% 45	11.76% 38	10.53% 34	323	4.08
Paved Trails	33.54% 109	20.92% 68	12.92% 42	12.00% 39	12.00% 39	8.62% 28	325	4.26

Q11 How do you prefer that Lebanon Parks & Recreation provide your household with information?

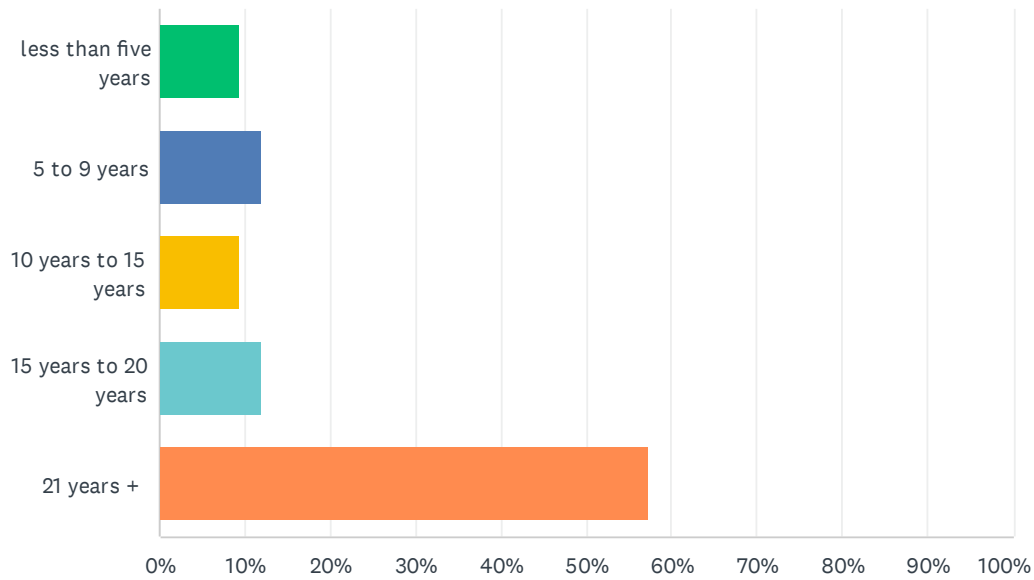
Answered: 331 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Seasonal program guide	10.57%	35
Social media	42.90%	142
Memorial Park Sign Board	5.44%	18
Department Website	6.95%	23
Newspaper	3.63%	12
Email	30.51%	101
TOTAL		331

Q12 How long have you lived in Lebanon?

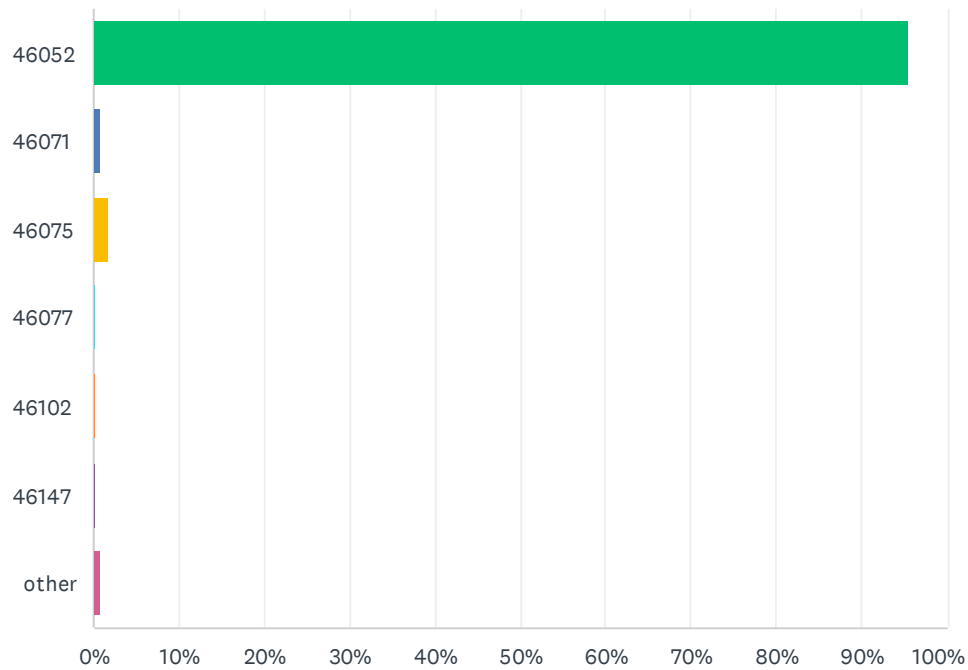
Answered: 333 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
less than five years		9.31%	31
5 to 9 years		12.01%	40
10 years to 15 years		9.31%	31
15 years to 20 years		12.01%	40
21 years +		57.36%	191
TOTAL			333

Q13 Please indicate your zip code?

Answered: 333 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
46052	95.50%	318
46071	0.90%	3
46075	1.80%	6
46077	0.30%	1
46102	0.30%	1
46147	0.30%	1
other	0.90%	3
TOTAL		333

Q14 You may use this space (or include another sheet) for any other comments or suggestions you would like to share with the Lebanon Parks & Recreation Department. Thank you for your assistance!

- Love the wonderful parks and the staff that keeps them wonderful. Utilize them daily and hope to continue to do so
- Dog Park Seating, shade, maybe even expanding the dog park and providing year around water access. Parks having rubber gravel and updated equipment. Larger restrooms.
- Keep up the great work!
- You are spending money as if you are creating it, pricing the older people out. Not very prudent.
- I like that I find out information from various sources. I'm not always checking the same place, so I appreciate seeing information multiple places. Email, the park sign and social media are the ones I see most.
- My family from out of town has stated that the parks available in town are very enjoyable.
- We don't currently use the parks a lot but have in the past and think it's incredibly important to have a good park system.
- I believe it would be good for our youth to have a skate park.
- Would also like to see the conservation club, hot pond, and Abner Longley more integrated. More picnic / shelter house areas Added features to dog park Weekly or monthly food trucks coming in for people to enjoy outdoor dining at the different parks
- Love the parks and what the department is able to do. More money should be devoted to parks even if it means higher property taxes
- As the city is growing, I prefer to keep our quaint little town just that. A safe, friendly town that remains as close to original and a hometown atmosphere. That's why my family and I love Lebanon. We don't want to be Carmel or Zionsville.
- Find a way to get more people involved with volunteering
- John Messenger does a really good job.
- Need to build baseball/softball facility
- My family would love to see more options of things to do with kids in the wintertime. We would love to not have to drive out of town to do indoor "active" things. I personally would love to see classes/programs offered throughout the year for children that are held at the park-our community has many homeschooling families that would take advantage of these opportunities for their children (outdoor art classes, learning about nature/bird watching, tinker garden types of classes, group games/physical activities, etc.) We love Seashore Water Park, and we would LOVE to see it expanded. We mostly frequent Memorial Park, however, we would love to see more opportunities for recreation added to the conservation

pond area. The grounds of memorial park are very well maintained and clean. My children enjoy the equipment and the green space. Thank you!

- Nature center and hiking/walking nature trails — studying surrounding flora and wildlife displays would be awesome! We love visiting nature trails and nature centers— where merchandise can be sold and Boone Co. needs their own hiking stick medallion designed and sold at the nature center and sold at downtown shoppes. Rv camping at hiking trails with kids/scouts camping/recreation site area as well. More farm markets and food stands in places that are easier locations for parking. We love the splash pad our younger grandkids think it's awesome! But the wave pool and slide pool is not an actual swimming pool and therefore rarely visited by ppl our age
- Your doing a good job!
- Connecting The Big 4 south into Whitestown and continuing to pave the gravel areas north of Lebanon. Connecting the conservation pond trail to the Splash Pad and Abner Longley Park! Currently, the locked fence doesn't allow you to exit. It would be great to have this feature.
- Thank you for all your hard work. Keep it up!
- I would love to see more disabilities playground equipment. My youngest grandson cannot play on a lot of what is available.
- Pickle ball classes and times court available would be helpful
- Rolling Skating Rink
- Start decorating parks like Frankfort does at Christmas so that we do not have to leave the city to see a nice Christmas display.
- The pickleball courts have been a great success. I hope when pool expands the new pickleball courts are completed before pool expansion. Thanks
- Rolling Meadows neighborhood park could use updates for safety and enjoyment
- A lap pool is our most needed option.
- No parks available over on big for trail side town
- Better lighting on paths at dark
- Please improve the disc golf at Abner Longley! Maintain the pickleball courts at Memorial Park and Abner Longley. Keep the Big 4 trail in good condition.
- More dog waste stations if possible.
- Thank you for taking the time to gather feedback from the community.

-
- Looking forward to getting the merry go round put back in Rolling Meadows. So thankful for picnic tables at Brookshire - this is our favorite place in Lebanon.
 - Hire and pay school police to work in the parks in the summer when they are not at school.
 - I would like to add that Lebanon needs an amphitheater style concert venue, similiar to Noblesville's venue on SR 32.
 - The bandstand needs attention. And the storage of chairs could be improved.
 - The bandstand at Memorial Park is showing its age; it would be nice to see it renovated.
 - Thanks for asking!
 - We need a skate park, so people are directed to one place to get together. instead of doing it where they are not supposed to
 - I strongly believe, with an indoor gathering space this could expand the opportunities for a new performance space for all of the local music ensembles. The benefit of this space could expand community performances for the LHS Band Program, Boone County Community Band, Boone County Youth Adult Orchestra, along with local smaller bands. The current outdoor performance site is alright, but not at all handicap accessible for those who have trouble waking, with a new Indoor gathering space it could be bustle to standard and to proper code. I feel as if music is a huge part of Lebanon, yet it's never expressed correctly in the sense of a proper performance site. I am somewhat pleased with the current situation of the Parks Department.
 - Would love to see more concert/performance space with adequate storage
 - Bandstand needs some work and updates.
 - Lebanon has some great parks. One thing that I think is missing is a park that feels like it is more in nature with more trees. I love hiking trails. Thanks again!!
 - I have lived here for only a few years and try to get to know what's going on in the community, but I didn't realize there was an arboretum in the area until this survey! I would also love to see more nature trails for hiking...there are great spots around, but all are almost 30 minutes away that I have found (I know that's dependent upon having the right land). Thanks for making this a great community!
 - We desperately need art appreciation and education!
 - Good job with Parks Maintenance. We walk to and from Memorial Park several times a week and everything is always very clean.
 - We absolutely need playgrounds that kids younger than 5 can play on. Currently ALL of the playground equipment (aside from baby swings) is for kids who are able to climb stairs independently. This type of equipment would also be beneficial for kids who have developmental delays in gross or fine motor skills as well. We have enough sports areas- not all kids play sports!

-
- We need a versatile Indoor space for performing. Music, plays, individual. We have SO much talent in this town and very few places to display it.
 - We need a indoor outdoor place for the youth to do. It could be an indoor or outdoor bike park skate park. Some especially indoors for winter. I am raising a young man and these types of places could help him in the future stay out of the wrong crowds. Give him a passion, build that passion.
 - Like many others in our community, I feel like we need something for the arts. It would be great to have a real outdoor performance space or amphitheater for the community band, dance & theatre groups, and other arts events to utilize. We've outgrown the tiny stage at memorial park. This seems like something you could even fundraise for within the community. I would donate to make this happen.
 - After moving here from another area, 2 things I really miss are nice indoor pools (VERY few around here) and an indoor walking track.
 - I appreciate the work put into our Parks and Recreation. Thank you!
 - I would like to see the Big 4 trail have a paved path all the way from Lebanon to Thorntown
 - Would love to have a small kids playground at Reece Park while older siblings are playing games/practicing.
 - The community needs a public performance space. The bandstand is barely adequate in its current iteration and if Lebanon wants to have a vibrant arts scene to complement the parks, a functional space for theater, dance and music groups is absolutely crucial. Groups are obliged to use the schools for all performances, and this is difficult at best. Public space for arts activities is needed in our parks.
 - I think it would be nice if the Parks Dept. offered a free summer recreation program for kid (tweens & young teens) from lower- & middle-class income families where they can do crafts & organized games. Also, I have read that many communities are having Nerf war games setting up courses sort of like the ones they have for laser Tag.
 - More parking at Reese Park for soccer!
 - Expand room at dog park w fountains that work
 - We love the parks and are so appreciative of them! We live in Morningside and, unfortunately, it's really almost hazardous walking downtown or any of the parks. There isn't a good connection from park to park. We bike a lot and walk downtown too but it's definitely not the safest.
 - A well designed/built skatepark would be nice to see at Memorial Park as there seems to be a fast growth lately in skateboarding. Especially within the youth community as not every child wants to be/only be involved in team sports. It's a great outlet for their mental/physical health and it's sad that almost every county around us has one except Lebanon.

- A swimming pool is needed at Southside. Please leave Memorial Park's pool as it is!
- I love LP& R! Love their comments to making the Parks and other areas in Lebanon beautiful!
- Please make Lebanon Street and specifically the northern end a much more enjoyable and safe place for the people walking and biking.
- Please pave the Big 4 trail.
- Thank you for keeping us informed and for promoting a fun, safe, and clean part area for all families
- We would love to see all the trees, in Memorial Park, identified with small plaques.
- Trails/Sidewalks linking parks and the Big 4 Trail need to be redone as they are in poor conditions in certain areas. Lighting for these paths is also required
- I wonder why our playgrounds are not handicap accessible. I keep hearing its coming, well where is it and i don't mean just a small play area i mean the whole playground in each park. A huge disservice is being done to our families with small children in strollers, our residents in walkers or wheel chairs and our older citizens who can't access the playground equipment with their grandchildren either because of lack of paved paths to the playground equipment or due the dirty, dangerous woodchips that are under the playground equipment.
- More infrastructure to arboretum.
- We have an Arboretum?!
- #11 signboard, social media/website and email are all needed methods.
- Need more information on Big 4 trail. Specifically, where is the closest place to get on trail from different points in the city? Where is closest parking area to use while enjoying trail?
- The pool is too small for the current population, we quit buying a membership because of how crowded it is.
- Expand RC Park Add flying RC field
- Would love to see more entertainment things to do with my children brought to Lebanon. Seashore Waterpark is fantastic, but it's not year around or large enough. 2 of my children cannot play sports because of health issues, so I would love something else to do in the community.
- Any additions you make for the community to improve outdoor activities and space would be wonderful! Thank you! :)
- Remove fence at old conservation club

-
- Driving range would be amazing!
 - Memorial Park is very well taken care of and is a top of the class facility. Only thing to add is an indoor fitness facility.
 - Would love to see the big 4 paved all the way to Thorntown!
 - I would love to see an indoor track for running/walking. The gyms and the Y have treadmills, but a track would be a nice alternative.
 - A paved walk from the shelter house at Abner Longley Park to the back side of the park. we use a wheelchair
 - Better lighting on the backside of Memorial Park is important. I walk rather early in the morning and with the trees and the lights not being bright it is darker than the rest of the park.
 - The parks department facilities are a very positive aspect of the Lebanon community. Lots of activities - space for private activities = well-kept grounds. Be proud and keep improving as possible.
 - The bandstand in Memorial Park is in desperate need of renovating. I would tear it down and start over. Needs a major overhaul.
 - Outdoor pickleball courts are a great asset to the community so hopefully those are built before Seashore Water Park would expand. Indoor would be nice, but I think the Fieldhouse should be liked for pickleball.
 - We just moved to the area, but we think a strong parks and recreation focus is vital to keeping a community growing and happy.
 - Keep up the great work! Keep mixing it up so that people continue to use our great parks. Thanks for keeping them looking good!
 - Please help to keep property taxes low.
 - Parks dept is fantastic
 - I would love the city of Lebanon to put some effort into creating a proper space for youth soccer. All we require is dry, flat land. Reese Park is already almost too small, but if the city can devote some funds to creating a better space, it will be well received. Parks department does a great job maintaining what we have, but we can always make improvements.
 - I take kids to nature centers/classes outside Lebanon. Hike/walk dog outside Lebanon. With community gardens please involve Boone County Community Gardens group. Let's get kids outdoors playing, learning about nature, & eating/growing healthy foods. Build a food forest within our parks. Please don't encourage more sitting for e-anything!
 - Would love an expansion on the playground, with rubber matted ground instead of mulch

-
- I think our Parks Dept staff are phenomenal! I think the biggest issue is security whether it be personal or for the park equipment. Vandals should be held accountable for damage. If you do t know who the individuals are then put their photo on the local Chatter pages just like LPD does. Broken/damaged equipment takes funds that could be used for improvements vs having to repair and replace. Put the security cameras you have to fill usage.
 - I greatly appreciate the cleanliness and quality of all the Lebanon park offerings. The Parks Dept. does a fantastic job! We need to continue to expand our offerings as important amenities and tremendous assets to our community in order to keep and attract young adults and growing families.
 - Love the events the park provides for the community
 - Please make the bandstand a priority for updates. As a member of the Boone County Community Band which plays in the bandstand several times each summer, I would like to see it updated to have back and side panels for better acoustics. Additionally, the grassy area in front of it becomes a soggy mess of standing water every time there's significant rainfall. The area at least needs a drainage solution, maybe additional soil to raise the ground level, combined with drainage pipes...alternatively, filling the area with rubber mulch like the playground area and adding a few benches would be great. I am certain we would perform at the bandstand as a fundraiser!
 - As the city expands South, I would Love to see the City acquire Boone's Pond and make a great place to take a Family
 - I'd like to see improvements made to the Big 4 Trail. We have it connect from downtown Lebanon to the 4h fairgrounds, however, some of the sections of sidewalk are in horrible unsafe condition along Indianapolis Avenue. I've been a HEAVY user of the trail between Sam Ralston trailhead going towards Thorntown over the past 4 years, yet I've never seen a safety officer patrolling the area.
 - We love Lebanon parks!
 - I think we need a webpage for Dog Park to assist with signing up dogs and their emotional support humans with QR codes on the posts at the parks.
 - The Staff members of the park need to work on their friendliness. I do not always feel welcome at memorial park with the employees there. It is also not a good environment when the boss is yelling at staff with people of the community around.
 - We love the Lebanon Parks! The dog park is a great facility and well-maintained. Would always love to see more trails through the community.
 - Paint the barns next to the baseball field black and gold
 - I would really love more lighting on the paths in the park. it is nice now, but there are still some dark parks. there are a good number of us who walk, run, and bike before the sun comes up. it would be nice to have it a little brighter. Thanks

- Thank you for making our town awesome!

<END OF QUESTIONNAIRE>

Section 5: Needs Analysis

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Determination of Recreational Needs

The needs assessment is a critical component of a parks and recreation master plan. A review of the current condition of the Lebanon Park system and recreational opportunities is vital so that the needs and deficiencies can be identified, and an action plan can be prepared to address those needs. It is equally important to look at future opportunities to address recreational trends, the changing needs of residents of Lebanon and to incorporate these needs into the action plan.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) former standards were based on 10 acres per 1,000 people and is generally recognized as outdated in today's recreation and open space planning. NRPA suggests an alternative approach, which allows each community to define its own recreation needs based on its own unique blend of social and economic characteristics. The NRPA system approach looks at three important social changes:

- 1) the need to accommodate different cultures.
- 2) the need to include citizen opinion in the process
- 3) the identification of the wellness movement.

These new guidelines from NRPA specifically looks at:

- Environmental Trends: pollution reduction, disappearing resources such as wetlands and forests and the greenhouse effect.
- Social Trends: the importance of wellness activities and desire to maintain diverse cultural heritage.
- Economic Trends: reductions in per capita leisure spending and the increasing cost of maintaining public facilities.
- Demographics Trends: marriage/divorce rates and growth of urban minorities.

Each community must review the guidelines individually in order to determine the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities and opportunities within their fiscal limits.

The Indiana State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2021-2026 identified Boone County as a critical county for outdoor recreation in their latest plan. The state SCORP has created their Level of Services (LOS) guidelines into three categories: Local, State/Federal and total (statewide).

- Local recreation acres are owned by municipal, township and county government as well as land privately owned but open for public use.
- State/federal recreation acres: land owned mostly by state or federal governments, and does include some non-profit sites (such as those owned by Land Trust) open for public recreational use.
- Total (Statewide) recreation areas: total of all statewide public recreation land that is owned by all the entities in the other two categories.

The State of Indiana took the above categories and created Level of Services (LOS) guides for publicly-owned parks, recreation and open space for all Hoosiers. Indiana's guidelines for outdoor recreation are in terms of acres per 1000 people are as follows:

- Local LOS: 20 acres per 1,000 people (0.02 acres per person)
- State/Fed LOS: 35 acres per 1,000 people (0.035 acres per person)
- Total (Statewide) LOS: 55 acres per 1,000 people (.055 acres per person)

The State differs from NRPA in its Level of Services by an additional 10 acres/1,000 people. Based on the State's LOS with 2020 Census Data there is still a deficit of recreation acres in the county and city. (SCORP charts are shown for reference and were based on 2018 estimated population).

Population 2020

Boone County 70,812

Lebanon 16,662

Boone County:

Recommended Recreation: 1,417 Acres

Actual (throughout County): 608 Acres

County Deficit: 808 Acres

Lebanon:

Recommended: 334 acres

Actual City: 155 acres (current)

Deficit: 179 acres



Table 3.1 LOCAL ACRES BY COUNTY

County Number	County Name	2018 Population (Estimated)	Recommended Acres; Local 20a/1000	Sum Of County Local Acres	Difference
1	Adams	35,636	712.72	356.97	(355.75)
2	Allen	375,351	7,507.02	5,853.33	(1,653.69)
3	Bartholomew	82,753	1,655.06	1,245.73	(409.33)
4	Benton	8,653	173.06	70.50	(102.56)
5	Blackford	11,930	238.60	104.35	(134.25)
6	Boone	66,999	1,339.98	607.97	(732.01)

Assessment of Recreational Needs

In Lebanon, three methods were used to evaluate the current, and future park along with the recreational needs. Standard-based needs depict what is needed based on a population number. Demand-based needs can be summarized as "what residents want" and represent what is most desired by the residents living in Lebanon. Resource-based needs depict what opportunities are available.

Standards Based: This approach uses the standards developed by NRPA in the mid-1990's, which are based on park acreage per 1,000 residents and specific number of recreation amenities per number of residents. These standards are then adjusted to determine a target Level of Service (LOS) for the City of Lebanon and used to assess the surplus or deficit of park acreage.

Demand Based: This approach uses public surveys, public input meetings, participation rates and usages to determine how the residents of Lebanon use and desire certain types of recreation facilities, park amenities and activities. Information is also used to help determine which land needs to be acquired, what facility provisions are needed and what programming needs to be provided.

Resource Based: This approach is based on the available resources to provide recreation opportunities, such as lakes, creeks, wetlands, open space, reuse of abandoned facilities, etc.

PARK DEFINITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department has chosen to utilize the NRPA standards to develop its own park development and location criteria. NRPA standards used are drawn from the NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Characteristics specific to Lebanon that were considered include: geography, water resources, proximity to parklands managed by others, schools and current park sites and facilities.

The following is a summary of each park type, location criteria, size, service area, population benchmarks and typical facilities.

Mini Parks

Purpose:

- Address limited recreation and or aesthetic needs.
- Serve as a recreational and/or beautification space where acquisition of larger parkland is not possible.

Location Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: less than a 1/4-mile service radius

Size Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: 2,500 sq. ft. to 1 acre

Service Area and Population:

- NRPA Standard: former standard was 0.1 - 0.3 park acres per 1,000 population

Facilities and Features:

- Play area for young children
- Benches and small picnic facilities
- Beautification/landscape highlights
- Utilize historic/cultural sites where available

Facilities and Features not included:

- Off-street parking
- Restrooms

Representative Sites:

- Rolling Meadows Park

Comments: Because of their limited recreation value and associated operational/maintenance issues, mini parks should be developed only as low maintenance beautification areas or small playgrounds for residents when no other space is reasonably available to a neighborhood park. The department is analyzing how best to utilize Rolling Meadows in the future due to difficult access and the adjacent homes.

Neighborhood Parks

Purpose:

- Unique site characteristics and features will help create a sense of place.

Location Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: 1/4-to-1/2-mile service radius

Size Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: 5 acres minimum, 5-10 acres optimal

Service Area and Population:

- NRPA Standard: 2 park acres per 1,000 population

Facilities and Features:

- Children's playground
- Hard surface play court
- Open lawn areas
- Picnic/sitting areas
- Security lighting
- Beautification/landscape highlights

Facilities and Features not included:

- Programmed active recreational activities that would overuse the park

Representative Sites:

- Reese Park
- Hot Pond

Comments: Reese Park is heavily used by Lebanon Youth Soccer.

Community Parks

Purpose:

- Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation and gathering needs.

Location Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: serves two or more neighborhood parks, 1/2-to-3-mile service radius

Size Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: acres minimum, 30-50 acres optimal

Service Area and Population:

- NRPA Standard: 3 park acres per 1,000 population

Facilities and Features:

- Large play structure
- Hard surface play courts
- Informal ball fields
- Open lawn areas
- Picnic/sitting areas, both individual and reservable
- Water play (swimming pool, wading pool, splash pad)
- Walking trails
- Security lighting
- Parking
- Beautification/landscape highlights

Facilities and Features not Included:

- Extensive programmed adult athletic use

Representative Sites:

- Memorial Park

- Abner Longley Park

Comments: Memorial Park and Abner Longley serve as community parks and are heavily utilized.

Natural Resource Areas

Purpose:

- Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and visual aesthetics

Location Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: none

Size Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: variable

Service Area and Population:

- NRPA Standard: former standard was 0.75 -1 acres per 1,000 population

Facilities and Features:

- Functioning ecosystem
- Wetlands
- Forests/woodlands
- Geologic features
- Protection of rare, threatened, or endangered species
- Wildlife habitat
- Interpretive exhibits
- Trails
- Utilize historic/cultural sites where available

Representative Sites:

- None currently

Comments: As natural resource areas become available, the Lebanon Parks should investigate the potential impacts to augment existing park facilities.

Specialty Areas

Purpose:

- Park land or facility with a specialized use or purpose

Location Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: none

Size Criteria:

- NRPA Standard: none

Service Area and Population:

- NRPA Standard: none

Facilities and Features:

- Unique or specialized facilities or features to serve purpose

Representative Sites:

- Future Stone Eater Bike Park

Comments: Specialty areas typically have specialized maintenance and operation requirements. Stone Eater Bike Park Plan is shown on the following page.

Future Stone Eater Bike Park Concept Plan

PARK ACREAGE NEEDS

The following chart identifies the park acreage needs based on Lebanon Park's Level of Service (LOS) standards and guidelines.

PARK SITES	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	EXISTING ACREAGE	GUIDELINES FOR 2023 POPULATION (16,923 pop. Est.)	RECOMMENDED ACREAGE 2028 POPULATION (18,230 est.)
<u>Mini Park</u> Rolling Meadow (0.36)	0.1 acre/1,000 population	0.36 acres	1.7 acres	1.8 acres
<u>Neighborhood Park</u> Brookshire (10) Hot Pond (3.5) Reese (10.5)	2 acres/1,000 population	23.5 acres	33.8 acres	36.5 acres
<u>Community Park</u> Memorial (40) Abner Longley (70.5)	3 acres/1,000 population	110.5 acres	50.8 acres	54.7 acres
<u>Specialty Areas</u> (Future) Stone Eater Bike	varies	110 acres	n/a	n/a

Note: (#) = park acres

Comments:

The city has continued to steadily increase in population over the last twenty years. The estimated population increase for 2028 was based on a conservative 1.5 percent annual increase over five years based on Indiana Stats Business Research. However, with the LEAP Innovation District annexation, the city anticipates that population may increase rapidly as residential communities come online over the next five years. It will be imperative that the department, city leadership and other city agencies work in tandem to plan for needed budget, staffing, maintenance and parkland needs as this growth occurs.

The zoning ordinances and park impact fees will assist the department in providing some land donations and fees, but it will not be able to keep pace with the proposed impacts of this economic impact. The department needs to be proactive in identifying strategic areas where they want to expand park services in underserved areas of the community and expand existing park sites where possible.

PARK SITE VISITS

Site visits were conducted at all park sites to review present conditions and potential improvements. This is important to help coordinate priorities with the actual parks.

Present: John Messenger and Deb Schmucker
Conducted: March 2022

Abner Longley Park

- Drainage improvements: grading, undersdrains, storm sewer
- Disc golf course
- Walking Path
- Future Amphitheater location
- Replace play area
- Remove storm damaged trees
- Design and build overlook areas at Conservation Pond
- Complete trail connection through park

Rolling Meadow Park

- Determine future use. Green open space may be better asset at this location.

Brookshire Park

- Drainage improvements
- Accessible walking path to new shelter
- Archeology report for dredge mound
- Improve parking area
- Add shelter

Memorial Park

- New shelter in play area
- Drainage improvements
- Replace band shelter
- Repave courts
- Storm underdrains

Reese Park

- Pave parking lot
- Path connection to SR 39

Hot Pond Park

- Benches
- Signage
- Path connection to Big 4 trail

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Identification of issues is the key to any park and recreation master plan. If the issues facing a park and recreation department can be defined, then they can be prioritized in an orderly manner. The process used in the development of Lebanon's Park and Recreation Master Plan attempted to reach as many residents as possible to identify and reach a consensus on the issues. The community is extremely supportive of the renovation and upgrades to the park system.

The key issues identified in the planning process were:

- ♦ Renovation, improvements, and maintenance of existing park facilities.
- ♦ Development of new parks and facilities to meet on going city growth.
- ♦ Trail connections
- ♦ Create recreational programming and activities families and teenagers.
- ♦ Promote healthy and positive lifestyles.

1. Budget

The department continues to monitor operations and expenses to maximize their budget. They are actively pursuing partnerships, sponsorships, and donations to augment and leverage their budget.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Monitor recreational programs and strive to have them be self-supporting as much as feasible.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and foundation on special projects.

2. Existing Parks and Facilities

Preserve, protect, and maintain existing parks and facilities were all key issues identified. Continue to maintain and improve existing facilities. The city anticipates massive growth over the next ten years. Collaborating with other departments and city officials to provide appropriate budget and staffing will be critical to maintain the highest levels of quality within the department.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Continuing to maintain and update existing facilities.
2. Fix drainage issues at Abner Longley, Memorial and Brookshire
3. Continue development at Conservation Pond
4. Walking path at Abner Longley
5. Amphitheater development at Abner Longley
6. Develop future donated land on east side in Waterford Development
7. Once all infrastructure and phases are completed and constructed, accept Stone Eater Bike Park into park system.



3. Trails

Continue to partner with the Planning & Engineering Department and other communities to further connections to Big 4 Trail.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. The Park Department continue their partnership with the City Planning Department on development and implementation of trails within Lebanon.
2. Connect existing internal park walkways with city sidewalks as a part of other road improvement projects.

4. Recreational Programs

Additional recreational programs for teenagers and youth were identified by the public as a need. In addition, the growth of the 18-34 years of age is a group that should be monitored to determine if this has an impact on current programming participation.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Expand private/public partnerships to enhance recreational programs.
2. Continue outdoor concerts, special events and festivals.
3. Expand accessible programs.
4. Expand family programming.
5. Promote programs for healthy lifestyles.
6. Investigate esports/egaming opportunities and community partners

5. Land Acquisition

There are several key areas for land acquisition to help address the deficiency of park land in Lebanon. In addition, land adjacent to existing parks should also be a priority for acquisition as opportunities arise.

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Continue to acquire recreation space through donations and new housing developments as they meet deficiency locations within the city.
2. Proactively identify potential larger land parcels for community park on west side of Interstate 65

Section 6: Action & Priority Plan

ACTION & PRIORITY PLAN

The action plan on the following pages demonstrates a road map for the next five years. The action plan is meant to be flexible to maximize the Board's ability to take advantage of funding opportunities in the future as they become available.

The city is actively planning and implementing trail connections throughout the community. The Planning Department leads trail development in partnership with the Parks Department. Thus, trail development costs are not included in the parks budget and action plan.

2023 - 2028 Action Plan Park Improvements

The following pages reflect the proposed action plan matrix for each individual year of the Master Plan. The action schedule outlines the proposed plan of action, site or facility, the estimated costs and possible funding sources.

**Proposed Plan
of Action**

Identifies the proposed implementation element established from the priority list.

Site or Facility

Identifies location for the proposed implementation element.

Some improvements require detailed investigation to determine a preliminary budget. These costs are denoted by the acronym TBD which means to be determined.

Priority Plan Future Park Improvements

	Location	Description
2023	Memorial	Pickleball Courts - renovate
	Memorial	New picnic shelter near play area
	Abner Longley	Renovate/replace existing play area
	Abner Longley	Overlooks at Conservation Pond
	Abner Longley	Disc Golf 18 holes
	Administration	Nature Programming
	Administration	Add maintenance staff (2)
2024	Abner Longley	Walking path with lighting
	Memorial/Abner	Music/concerts series more events
	TBD	Nature Programming
	Memorial/Abner	ADA walkways to features
2025	Memorial/Abner	Tree plantings
	Memorial/Abner	Drainage issues
	TBD	Program indoor space - add
	TBD	Skate Park design
	TBD	Nature Programming
	Memorial	Band Shell upgrade
	Brookshire	Drainage
2026	TBD	Skate Park Construction
	TBD	Master Plan new parkland east side (Waterford)
	TBD	Add Esports activities
	TBD	Master Plan new parkland east side (Waterford)
2026/27	TBD	Trail connection E/W over Interstate 65
2027	TBD	Purchase additional parkland
	TBD	Develop new parkland east side (Waterford)
2027	Memorial	Drainage
2028	Abner Longley	Drainage
	Total	

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of funding opportunities are available through grants and not-for-profit organizations to assist in the development and planning of programs and facilities.

President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund

- Formerly known as The Indiana Heritage Trust, which was established in 1992, to ensure that Indiana's rich natural heritage would be preserved and enhanced for present and succeeding generations. The purpose of the Harrison Conservation Trust is to acquire state interests in real property that are examples of outstanding natural resources and habitats or have historical or archaeological significance or provide areas for conservation, recreation, protection, or restoration of native biological diversity within the state of Indiana. Indiana Heritage Trust buys land from willing sellers to protect Indiana's Rich natural Heritage for wildlife habitat and recreation.

IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

- Indiana Trails Program: This program replaces the Recreation Trails Program in 2021. funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. It provides funds for the construction of trails, acquisition of easements or property for trail development, the development of trailheads and other support facilities, and the construction of bridges, boardwalks, and crossings. motorized and non-motorized trails and trails related projects. The program provides 80/20 percent reimbursement/match assistance for eligible projects (\$50,000 to \$250,000 maximum available). Application deadline is March 1.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund is a matching 50 percent reimbursing federal assistance program. Program provides a minimum of \$50,000 to \$250,000 maximum available for one project per year. Maximum amount may be increased dependent on current budget at Federal level. Application deadline is due June 1.
- Next Level Trails is open to local units of government and non-profit organizations. Eligible projects include regional or local trail construction, land acquisition, design and engineering, and trail amenities. Consideration is given to collaboration with other communities; project is a part of a national or multi-state trail system; connections with nature; trail accommodates multiple types of trails uses. Counties deficient in trail miles per capita and providing access to a population not within a five-mile radius are also criteria. The grant requires a minimum 20 percent match. Program provides a minimum of \$200,000 to \$2,000,000 maximum available for a local project per year. Maximum amount may be increased dependent on current budget at Federal level. Application deadline is due June 1.

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)

- Main Street Revitalization Program (MRSP) grants are funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The goal of the Main Street Revitalization Program is to encourage communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development efforts.

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program - Federal grant administered by INDOT. Transportation systems: i.e., trails, sidewalks and street improvements are typical projects. Additional activities may include on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation; developing safe routes for non-drivers; conversion of abandoned railroad corridors for trails; and historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. Funds 80 percent of construction cost with 20 percent match by applicant.
- Safe Routes to School Fund (SRTS) Federal grant: administered by INDOT. Non-infrastructure activities will be limited to a cost of \$75,000. Infrastructure projects will be limited to a cost of \$250,000. SRTS activities and projects must be programmed in the statewide transportation improvement program to receive federal funds. School must be within a two-mile radius of construction improvements project.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) -Division of Forestry

- Arbor Day Grant: \$500 - \$1000 grant. Any activity that assists in promoting Arbor Day.
- Urban Forest Conservation (UFC) Grants are intended to help communities develop long term programs to manage their urban forests. Grantees may conduct projects that target program development, planning and education are emphasized. Projects funded in the past include activities such as conducting tree inventories, developing tree maintenance, and planting plans, writing tree ordinances, conducting programs to train municipal employees and the public, purchase or development of publications, books, and videos, hiring consultants or city foresters, etc. Local municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and state agencies are eligible to apply for \$2,000 to \$20,000.

Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS)

- Small grants to promote the appreciation, presentation, conservation, utilization, and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana. INPS seek to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity, and environmental importance of indigenous species.

Other Resources for Park & Recreational Grants**■ Miracle's Grants for America's Children**

Up to \$5 million in grant money is available to schools and parks around the country who want to purchase new playground equipment through Miracle's Grants for America's Children program. Miracle, a playground manufacturer for over 80 years, awards grants for purchase of equipment based on an assessment of the current playground equipment proposal, size of project, and amount of grant funding available.

■ KaBOOM!

Dr. Pepper Snapple & KaBOOM! offer \$15,000 grants to qualifying U.S.-based organizations to be used toward the purchase of playground equipment that will be built using the KaBOOM! community-build model. These partners also offer \$750 grants to communities who want to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer, and more inviting. In addition, KaBOOM! And Dr. Pepper Snapple offers joint-use grants for communities who partner with schools to open recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours. These grants are solely for the expansion or creation of joint use agreements. There is a rolling deadline for this set of grants.

■ Shade Structure Grant Program

The American Academy of Dermatology's Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds. Each grant is valued at up to \$8,000, which includes the structure and installation.

■ Lego Children's Fund

Lego aims to help local and national non-profit organizations committed to helping children develop their creativity and learning skills through constructive play. It awards quarterly grants with special interest paid to collaborative efforts and in providing matching funds to leverage new dollars into the receiving organization. Typical awards range between \$500-\$5,000.

■ U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facility Grants

This grant program assists in the development of essential community facilities, primarily in rural communities with a population fewer than 20,000. Funds from this program can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. Funds can also provide for the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. Public entities such as municipalities, counties, non-profit corporations, and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

■ Let's Play Initiative

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group has made a three-year, \$15 million commitment, as part of KaBOOM!'s Let's Play Initiative, to help construct and improve playground areas. Municipalities and non-profit organizations with a playground or outdoor recreational space that is currently unsafe for children can apply for construction grants. The Initiative also offers Let's Play Completion Grants, which can be used toward the completion or improvement of an existing playground. This grant program has an

ongoing deadline. In addition, there are also opportunities for communities to partner with school districts to apply for Joint Use Grants to open school recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours.

- **KidsGardening.org**

The National Gardening Association has sponsored this grant for four years, aiming to support community organizations with child-centered garden programs. Priority is given to programs that have these components: educational focus or curricular/program, integration to reinforce academics, life skills, instruction, (e.g., nutrition, growing one's own food, learning to be responsible) developing environmental stewardship, and encouraging students to make positive choices for themselves and the planet. As the title implies, grants are available to states in the Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

- **Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants**

Opportunity for charities and state or local agencies to apply for Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants to facilitate and encourage the design, development, construction, and operation of new skatepark facilities, primarily located in low-income communities in the United States. Grant cycles are typical January and July of each year.

- **Community Facilities Grant Program (Federal)**

This program provides grants to communities with fewer than 20,000 residents to construct and renovate facilities used for public service, health care, recreation, community service and public safety. Funds are also used to purchase equipment that is needed to operate the facilities. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, municipalities, towns, districts, and tribal government agencies. Areas with the lowest population and income levels receive higher grant considerations. Up to 75 percent of the project costs are covered by the grant. The amount of funding is dependent on the median income and population of the applicant entity.

- **United States Department of Commerce**

Public Works Grants: A grant program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic development Administration. Funds can be used to revitalize expand, and upgrade a community's physical infrastructure to attract a new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs.

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program: This program provides technical, planning and infrastructure assistance in distressed economic regions.
www.eda.gov/programs/eda-programs.

- **Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (Federal)**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsors the state-administered Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Grants from this program are used to acquire real estate property for public use, demolish blighted structures, and construct and renovate public service facilities, recreational facilities, and public and private buildings. Funds are also used to support economic

development activities including assisting micro-enterprises. Grants are administered by states to cities and counties with fewer than 50,000 and 200,000 residents respectively. Up to three percent of the grant can be allocated to cover technical assistance and administrative expenses.

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING SOURCES

Below are some funding options that may be available to the Lebanon Parks Department and Board.

- Tax Incremental Financing
- Cumulative Building Fund
- Private Foundations
- Indiana Committee for the Humanities
- Indiana Arts Committee
- Indiana Department of Aging and Community Services
- Environmental Education Act, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Indiana Federal Property Program
- Indiana Department of Commerce
- Economic Development Administration
- Department of Education
- President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports
- Army Corps of Engineers
- The Nature Conservancy
- Acres, Inc.
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Lilly Community Assistance Program
- Fish America Foundation
- Memorial Giving
- Deferred Giving
- Capital Fund Drive Campaign

Funding strategies rely on a multiple of revenue options, not on one or two sources, to make the Park Department and individual programs more self-supporting. Park agencies across the country are successfully supplementing proceeds with alternate funding sources.

Advertising Sales: This revenue source is selling tasteful and appropriate advertising for park and recreation-related items such as program catalogs, and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent. This opportunity will expose the advertiser's product, information, or service to many people.

Catering Permits and Services: This is a license to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis for a specific period of time. A set fee or a percentage of food sales is returned to the Park Department.

Concession Management: Concessions come from retail sales or rentals of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. The Park Department contracts for the service or receives a portion of the gross percentage or a portion of the full revenue dollars, which incorporate a profit after expenses.

Cost Avoidance: The Park Department must take the position that it cannot be everything for everyone. The Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department must be driven by the market/demand and stay with the department's core mission. By altering its role as direct provider, the Park Department will save money as it decides whether to provide a particular facility or program. Savings could be realized through partnering, outsourcing, or deferring to another provider of a service and/or facility.

Easements: This revenue source is available when the Park Department allows utility companies, businesses, or individuals to develop an improvement below ground on its property for a set period of time and a set dollar amount, which is received by the Park Department annually.

Equipment Rental: The revenue source is available when equipment such as tables, chairs, tents, stages, bicycles, skates, roller blades, and other items are rented and used for recreation.

Entertainment Fees: This fee is on ticket sales for major entertainment venues such as concerts, tourneys, special events or sporting events. This fee is based on the earnings vendors receive from their ticket sales.

Foundation/Gifts: These dollars, raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations, are established with private donations to promote specific causes, programs, activities, or issues. They offer a selection of opportunities to fund projects such as capital campaigns, gift catalogs, fund-raisers, endowments, and sales of items.

Greenway Utility: When greenway utilities are established, they are used to finance the acquisition of greenways and greenway/trail development by selling the development rights underground for fiber-optic types of businesses.

Irrevocable Remainder Trusts: These trusts are set up with individuals who desire to leave a portion of their wealth to the Park Department in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over time. The Park Department may use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities, or programs designated by the trustee.

Land Trust: Many communities have developed land trusts to help secure and fund the cost of acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for open space and greenway purposes.

Licensing Rights: This revenue option allows the Park Department to license its name on all resale items that private or public vendors use when they sell clothing or other items containing the name of the Park Department. The typical licensing fee is 6 percent to 10 percent of the cost of the resale item.

Life Estates: This source is available when a person wants to leave his or her property to the Park Department in exchange for living on the property until his or her death. This revenue source is very popular for wealthy individuals because their estates will otherwise be heavily taxed upon their death, and their children might have to sell this property because of probate costs. This opportunity, which allows the individual to receive a fair tax deduction annually on

the property while leaving a life estate, is good for the Park Department because it does not have to pay for the land.

Merchandising Sales: This revenue source comes from the public or private sector on resale items from gift shops and stores for either all sales or a set gross percentage.

Naming Rights: Many cities have begun selling the naming rights for new buildings or renovations of existing buildings and parks to cover the associated development cost.

Non-Profit Land Holder: It can be very helpful to have a non-profit land holder to initially accept donations of land intended for open space and parkland. These can serve to facilitate tax benefits to the donors and can help to deal with acquisition timing issues.

Parking Fees: This fee applies to parking at selected destination facilities to help offset capital and operational costs.

Permits (Special-Use Permits): These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The Park Department either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service revenues.

Special Fund-Raisers: Many parks and recreation departments have annual special fund-raisers to help cover specific programs and capital projects.

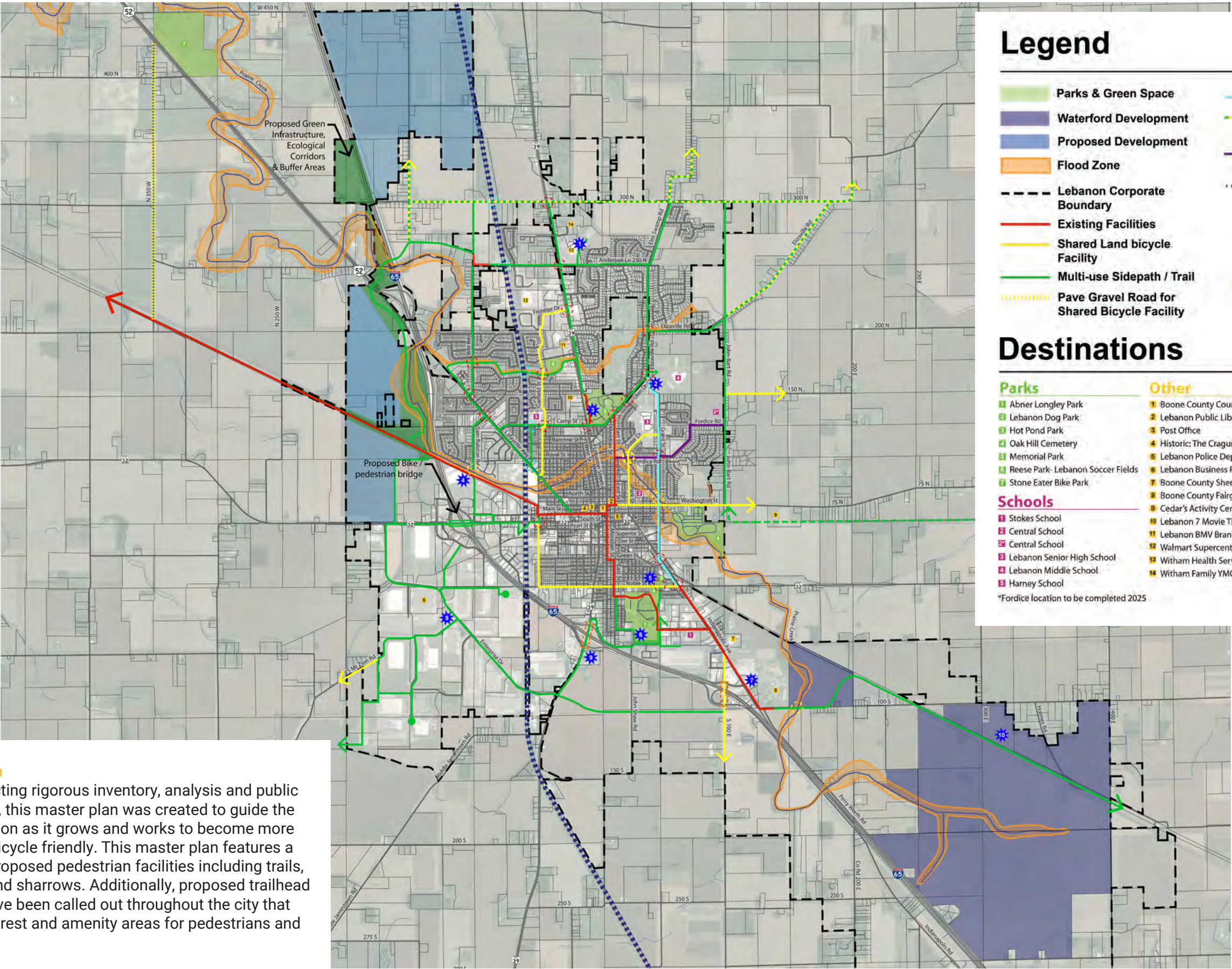
Ticket Sales/Admissions: This revenue source is based on accessing facilities for self-directed activities. These user fees help offset operational costs.

Utility Roundup Programs: Some park and recreation agencies have worked with their local utilities to set up a program that allows a consumer to “round up” the consumer’s actual utility invoice to the nearest dollar, with revenues being dedicated to parks and recreation.

The aforementioned potential funding sources are not intended as an exhaustive list of available sources. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Department will continue to research various federal grant-in-aid programs and private sector resources, which could be utilized in the development of park and recreation projects.

Section 7: Appendix

2022 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Map



Master Plan
After conducting rigorous inventory, analysis and public engagement, this master plan was created to guide the city of Lebanon as it grows and works to become more pedestrian bicycle friendly. This master plan features a number of proposed pedestrian facilities including trails, sidepaths, and sharrows. Additionally, proposed trailhead locations have been called out throughout the city that will serve as rest and amenity areas for pedestrians and cyclists.

