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# Chesterton Parks & Recreation

Master Plan Update – 2008-2012

*Prepared for:*

**Chesterton Parks & Recreation**  
Chesterton, Indiana

March 2009



# Chesterton Parks & Recreation

## Master Plan Update – 2008-2012

*This report documentation was prepared under contract for Chesterton Parks and Recreation by:*

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Mishawaka, Indiana 46544*

*Prepared for:*  
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Chesterton, Indiana 46304

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*March 2009*



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section A:

## Credits & Study Team





Section A: Credits & Study Team

**Town of Chesterton**

*Town Council*

Emerson DeLaney .....President  
Jeff Trout ..... Vice President  
James G. Ton ..... Member  
David Cincoski..... Member  
Sharon Darnell..... Member

*Clerk-Treasurer*

Gayle S. Polakowski

*Plan Commission*

Fred Owens .....President  
Sigmund Niepokoj ..... Vice President  
Jeff Trout ..... Member  
Michael Bannon..... Member  
George Stone..... Member  
Thomas Kopko..... Member  
Emerson DeLaney ..... Member

*Board of Zoning Appeals*

Fred Owens .....President  
Kimberly Goldak ..... Vice President  
Sigmund Niepokoj ..... Member  
James Kowalski..... Member  
Brandon Kroft ..... Member  
Gail Murawski ..... Secretary  
Charles Lukmann.....Town Attorney

**Chesterton Parks and Recreation**

*Chesterton Parks & Recreation Board and Term Expiration*

Vincent Emanuele, President .....2013  
John Kroft, Vice President .....2010  
Roy Flaherty, Secretary .....2009  
Eric Witt, Member .....2012  
Sharon Darnell.....Town Council Liaison  
Charles Lukmann ..... Town Attorney

*Park Administrative Staff*

Bruce Mathias ..... Superintendent  
Hilary Thomas ..... Administrative Assistant

*Master Planning Task Force (RIF Advisory Committee)*

Vincent Emanuele.....Chesterton Park Board  
Paul Shinn.....Shinn Homes  
Rick Hokanson ..... RE/Max-First Choice  
Mike Orlich .....Chesterton Building Commissioner  
Bruce Mathias ..... Park Superintendent

*Master Plan Consultant*

Charles F. Lehman, ASLA, FRSA  
President, *Lehman & Lehman, Inc.*  
Landscape Architecture and Planning  
Mishawaka, Indiana



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2007-2011

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Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section B:

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## Section B: Table of Contents

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| By Ruth V. Russell, Department of Recreation and Park Administration,      |        |
| Indiana University   |        |



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“The Excellent City Park System – What Makes It Great and How to Get There”,  
Published by *The Trust for Public Land*, Written by Peter Harnik  
“High Performance Boards: Luck of the draw or by design?”  
By J. Thomas Lovell, Jr., CPRP, Parks & Recreation, July 2004

### Section O – Glossary



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section C:

## Foreword



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## Section C: Foreword

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### Foreword

With increased urbanization consuming free and open spaces in our state and area, it is to the advantage of each and every citizen of every spectrum of the society to preserve lands for present and future generations. With increased leisure time, it is becoming more important to provide for sufficient parkland and recreational opportunities and facilities accessible to the total community.

When attempting to develop a park and recreation plan in a rapidly growing urban area such as Chesterton, the availability of potential lands and the expense of acquiring such are of utmost consideration. Available lands suitable for park and recreational use diminish as communities expand. Although public recreation does not generate additional revenue directly to the municipality, new urban development planned with open spaces reserved for recreational activities does promote stable real estate values. Recreation also contributes to the physical and social development of persons of all ages, and therefore adequate recreation land promotes better communities.

An influx of single and multi-family housing developments will increase the need for public recreation lands, but at the same time makes the necessity of acquisition of available land urgent before it comes under residential or industrial development. Such open spaces are still available; however, financing it may present a problem.

The master plan sets forth Chesterton's park and recreation needs. It is concerned with present and potential park land and recreational facilities owned by public agencies. Although it is understood that the total recreation needs of the populous are much broader than this limitation, the facilities made available by a municipality should allow for those, which cannot be provided by commercial or residential areas. Through the use of public lands, such basic land and recreational needs can be satisfied. The acquisition and development of a quality park and recreation system, that meets the needs of all citizens and would further encourage the wise use of land, water and human environments, are goals set forth by this community and its park and recreation board.

In response to these goals, the Town of Chesterton has recently approved their first Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance which will benefit the Town and community in the future by keeping pace with the population growth while maintaining the level of recreation standards adopted. The Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance provides that future populations will pay the costs to maintain the same level of recreational services at little or no costs to the current taxpayers.

This park & recreation update blends the findings and recommendations of the recreation impact fee study with the current master plan components of the park & recreation system for the Town of Chesterton.

— Charles F. Lehman, ASLA, FRSA  
*President, Lehman & Lehman, Inc.*



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section D:

## Resolution



Section D: Resolution

## Resolution Adopting the Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2008-2012

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreational needs of the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Porter County;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional parks and recreational facilities and programs to the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Porter County and to meet their needs, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizenry, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is continually aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities and recreational programs and facilities to the future of the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department, its programs and services, and to the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Porter County;

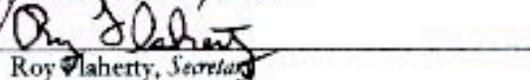
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the *Chesterton Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2008-2012*, dated March, 2009, as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Chesterton, Indiana, over the next five years. The Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is committed to an annual review and update of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

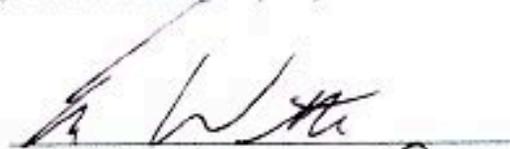
Passed and signed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, Two Thousand Nine (2009)

**Chesterton Park and Recreation Board:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Emanuel, *President*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Kroft, *Vice President*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Flaherty, *Secretary*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Witt, *Member*

*Attested:*  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Mathias, *Superintendent*



# Section E:

## Executive Summary



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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### **Introduction to Study's Approach (Goals)**

Lehman & Lehman, Inc. feels that master planning is undertaken in order to achieve clearly defined strategies and objectives, and to provide recommendations for action on identified future needs tied to those objectives. We believe that the continual participation of the public in the planning process is essential. From a user's perspective, personal involvement in the identification of problems, needs, desires, and ultimately decisions, is much healthier than reacting to decisions already made by management.

The planning process needs to be continuous and must be sensitive to changes of conditions, needs, new information and opportunities. This document should not be considered the "final" plan, which can become irrelevant and stagnant. With annual reviews by the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board planning will remain a productive ongoing process facilitating future actions.

The planning process for the recently approved Recreation Impact Fee (RIF) Ordinance offered insight into the changing needs, trends and events since the current Master Plan was approved in 2005. Therefore, the focus of this update to the Master Plan was to bring it into alignment with the direction of the Recreation Impact Fee (RIF). Much of the findings from the RIF, as well as the Town's Comprehensive Plan, were used as reference for this study.

### **Public Participation**

During the planning process of the Recreation Impact Fee Study and the Park Master Plan Update, a series of public meetings were held. The Impact Fee Study Advisory Committee met and discussed community needs, current facilities and community level of service. Each of these meetings were publicly advertised and open to the public. Meeting Minutes from these public meetings can be found in the Appendix.

As part of the Recreation Impact Fee process the proposed plan (which is made part of the Park Department's Master Plan Update) was presented to the Plan Commission and Town Council. These Meeting Minutes can be found in the Appendix.

The dates for the above-mentioned public meetings are as follows:

- Recreation Impact Fee Advisory Committee Meetings (2007) – April 12, May 17, June 26, July 31, August 15, August 30, September 11, September 17.
- Plan Commission Presentation – September 20, 2007
- Town Council Presentation – September 24, 2007



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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In addition to the above-mentioned meetings, a presentation of the Park & Recreation Master Plan Update was shared at a Park Board Meeting on March 4, 2008. This public meeting was advertised with limited community members in attendance. There was no public comment or response lifted regarding the Master Plan Update.

### Master Plan Highlights

Through public participation and work sessions with the Parks & Recreation Board, the Master Planning Task Force (RIF Advisory Committee), and the Park Superintendent, a master plan directive has been established for the next five years. While this document will call out in detail the individual actions recommended in the near future some of the larger highlights are listed below.

**Establishment of Community Level of Service** – As a part of the Recreation Impact Fee study the Town established the recreational community level of service for the Chesterton community. These standards became effective with the passing of the town's first Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance. With these standards and by using the existing recreation inventory, surpluses and deficiencies were determined for both the current population as well as the future population.

### The Five Year Action Plan

The action plan, established as a part of this master plan, is organized in action years. It is the intention of the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board and Staff to conduct an annual review of this plan and to make adjustments in response to current issues and information.

The Departmental Annual Report should include not only the physical accomplishments over the past year, but also should note the number of programs (services) offered to the public along with the number of participants.

The Chesterton Park and Recreation Board and Staff should continually search for additional funding sources, grants, gifts from corporate foundations, and other methods of creative financing to assure implementation of the Action Plan outline herein. (Refer to Section M for the Action Plan.)



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## Section E: Executive Summary

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### Other Resource Studies

#### Chesterton Recreation Impact Fee Study – Fall 2007

The Town of Chesterton, through its Park Board, conducted a recreation impact study, which was concluded with a formal ordinance adopted by the Town Council in the Fall of 2007. Through this study an updated park inventory was done along with the establishment of Recreational Community Level of Service. This formed the basis to determine current recreation deficiencies and a 10-year projection of future needs based on the forecasted population growth.

##### *Park Facilities – Community Level of Service*

##### *CURRENT NEEDS*

The number and types of recreational facilities currently having a deficiency and those needed in the future were determined using the standards established (Community Level of Service) in the Recreation Impact Fee plan. To overcome current deficiencies (including both the basic and non-basic park amenities), the Town needs to add the following recreation components over the next ten-year period through funding outside of recreation impact fees (note the basic park amenities have been shaded in green):

- 2.13 – baseball fields
- 0.17 – softball fields
- 0.42 – running / walking track
- 0.57 – volleyball courts
- 0.70 – skate / bike park
- 0.70 – climbing / challenged elements
- 0.26 – park shelters
- 0.50 – park restrooms
- 0.25 – interpretive center
- 0.25 – environmental center
- 0.83 – recreation center (neighborhood)
- 0.50 – community playground
- 0.13 – neighborhood playground
- 0.13 – skating rink (hockey)
- 0.25 – skating area (non-hockey)
- 0.36 – swimming / aquatics facilities
- 0.42 – sprayground / splashpad
- 0.21 – golf course / driving range
- 0.31 – dog park
- 0.21 – maintenance facility (satellite)
- 1.91 – miles of trails / pathways
- 19.85 – acres of park / open space



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Forecast Funding for Current Recreation Component Deficiencies

| Project Description                 | Quantities | Project Amount      | Funding Source(s) |                            |             |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                     |            |                     | Grants            | Capital Improvement Budget | Bonds       | Donations         | CEDIT             |
| Baseball Diamonds                   | 2.13       | \$ 159,757          |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 159,757        |
| Softball Diamonds                   | 0.17       | \$ 10,407           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 10,407         |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)        | 0.57       | \$ 2,825            |                   |                            |             | \$ 1,299          | \$ 1,526          |
| Park Shelters                       | 0.26       | \$ 10,407           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 10,407         |
| Park Restrooms                      | 0.50       | \$ 42,846           |                   |                            |             | \$ 42,846         |                   |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)     | 0.50       | \$ 42,846           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 42,846         |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)          | 0.13       | \$ 5,854            |                   |                            |             | \$ 5,854          |                   |
| Sprayground / SplashPad             | 0.42       | \$ 37,561           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 37,561         |
| Dog Park Area                       | 0.31       | \$ 6,260            |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 6,260          |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles) | 1.91       | \$ 381,630 *        | \$ 300,000        |                            |             |                   | \$ 81,630         |
| Park / Open Space Acres             | 19.85      | \$ 446,734          |                   |                            |             | \$ 446,734        |                   |
|                                     |            | <b>\$ 1,147,129</b> | <b>\$ 300,000</b> | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 496,734</b> | <b>\$ 350,395</b> |

Prepared by: Chesterton Parks and Recreation and Lehman & Lehman, Inc.

\* Current Trail Grant is for 0.776 miles

### **TABLE I – Funding Distribution to fund Current Deficiencies**

#### *Implementation Schedule – For Raising Current Deficiencies to Community Level of Service*

The following Table (*Table 2*) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified current deficiencies. At the bottom of this table is a summary of all recreation components. Only the recreation components related and factored into the Recreation Impact Fee are summarized on an annual basis.



## Section E: Executive Summary

### Current Deficiencies Implementation - Non-Recreation Impact Fees

Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost | Current Deficiency | Component Costs          | 2007      | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013       | 2014          | 2015       | 2016          |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| A   | B                   | C                  | D                        | E         | F          | G          | H          | I          | J          | K          | L             | M          | N             |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000           | 2.13               | \$ 159,757               |           |            | \$ 79,878  |            |            |            |            | \$ 79,878     |            |               |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000           | 0.17               | \$ 10,407                |           |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 10,407  |               |            |               |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000           | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000           | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000           | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)                                   | \$ -4,123           | 0.13               | \$ -41,733               | \$ -4,123 | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123     | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123     |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000            | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000            | 0.57               | \$ 2,825                 | \$ 283    | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283        | \$ 283     | \$ 283        |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)                                      | \$ -400,000         | 0.70               | \$ -69,520               |           |            |            |            |            | \$ -34,760 |            |               |            | \$ -34,760    |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements                                       | \$ -35,000          | 0.70               | \$ -24,345               |           |            |            |            |            | \$ -24,345 |            |               |            |               |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000           | 0.26               | \$ 10,407                |           |            | \$ 10,407  |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000           | 0.50               | \$ 42,846                |           |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 42,846  |               |            |               |
| Interpretive Center   | \$ -100,000         | 0.25               | \$ -100,000              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -100,000   |            | \$ -100,000   |
| Environmental Center  | \$ -250,000         | 0.25               | \$ -100,000              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -100,000   |            | \$ -100,000   |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue   | \$ -250,000         | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)                                   | \$ -250,000         | 0.03               | \$ -62,634               |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               | \$ -31,317 | \$ -31,317    |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000           | 0.50               | \$ 42,846                |           |            |            | \$ 42,846  |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000           | 0.13               | \$ 5,854                 |           | \$ 5,854   |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Shooting Ranges (Neighborhood)                                      | \$ -2,500,000       | 0.13               | \$ -313,000              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            | \$ -313,000   |
| Shooting Range (Neighborhood)                                       | \$ -2,500,000       | 0.26               | \$ -626,000              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            | \$ -626,000   |
| Swims (Infl.) / Amusement Facilities                                | \$ -3,500,000       | 0.26               | \$ -1,250,000            |           |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -1,250,000 |            | \$ -1,250,000 |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000           | 0.42               | \$ 37,561                |           |            |            |            | \$ 37,561  |            |            |               |            |               |
| Golf Course 18-hole   | \$ -4,000,000       | 0.21               | \$ -840,000              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            | \$ -840,000   |
| Driving Range   | \$ -1,000,000       | 0.21               | \$ -208,673              |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            | \$ -208,673   |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000           | 0.31               | \$ 6,260                 |           |            |            | \$ 6,260   |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hub)  | \$ -2,500,000       | 0.00               | \$ -                     |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)                                  | \$ -250,000         | 0.21               | \$ -52,500               |           |            |            |            |            | \$ -26,250 | \$ -26,250 |               |            |               |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000          | 1.91               | \$ 381,630               |           | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403     | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403     |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500           | 19.85              | \$ 446,734               |           | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637     | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637     |
|   |                     |                    | Current Deficiency Total |           |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |            |               |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       |                     |                    |                          | \$ 4,456  | \$ 102,351 | \$ 186,782 | \$ 145,603 | \$ 168,836 | \$ 157,359 | \$ 186,268 | \$ 1,616,218  | \$ 822,678 | \$ 1,562,771  |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only |                     |                    |                          | \$ 283    | \$ 98,177  | \$ 182,609 | \$ 141,429 | \$ 129,884 | \$ 92,323  | \$ 145,577 | \$ 172,201    | \$ 92,323  | \$ 92,323     |

**TABLE 2 – Implementation Schedule for Current Deficiencies**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the deficient recreational components:

**Chesterton Park** – Baseball Diamond, Park Restrooms

**Dogwood Park** – Volleyball Court

**New Park Facility** – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball Diamond, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park



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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### *FUTURE NEEDS*

To meet the projected 2016 new growth, and after taking the existing inventory into account and factoring in that the current deficiencies will be met, the Town will need to add to its park system the following recreation components over the next ten-year period (note the basic park amenities have been shaded in green):

- 1.56 – baseball fields
- 2.09 – softball fields
- 1.26 – multi purpose fields
- 0.26 – soccer fields
- 0.21 – running / walking track
- 1.52 – basketball goals
- 0.78 – volleyball courts
- 0.35 – skate / bike park
- 0.35 – climbing / challenged elements
- 3.13 – park shelters
- 1.25 – park restrooms
- 0.13 – interpretive center
- 0.13 – environmental center
- 0.42 – recreation center (neighborhood)
- 1.25 – community playground
- 1.56 – neighborhood playground
- 0.06 – skating rink (hockey)
- 0.13 – skating area (non-hockey)
- 0.18 – swimming / aquatics facilities
- 0.21 – sprayground / splashpad
- 0.10 – golf course / driving range
- 0.16 – dog park
- 0.08 – maintenance facility (satellite)
- 2.50 – miles of trails / pathways
- 81.34 – acres of park / open space land

Recreation impact fee proceeds can be used for these future needs noted above to meet the recreational needs of the projected 10-year population growth.

The Impact Cost to Fund 2016 Needs has been established to be \$3,068,056. There is a Non-Local Revenue, through donations, anticipated by the Town over the next ten years, which is calculated to be \$153,226 (refer to Table 3) that will need to be deducted from the Impact Costs leaving an adjusted Impact Costs of \$2,914,790 (refer to Table 4). This adjusted Impact Cost is then divided by the anticipated number of residential building permits over the next 10 years (2,490) to determine the Recreation Impact Fee amount.



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**TABLE 3 – Applied Facilities Costs to overcome Current Deficiencies & Future Needs**

| Applied Recreation Impact Fee Summary:   | Current (2007)                                     | Future (2016)                                  |
|--|--|--|
| <b><i>Recreation Impact Fee applying only the Basic Park Amenities PLUS 100% of the Park / Open Space Land Acres</i></b> | <b>Costs Needed to Remove Current Deficiencies</b> | <b>Infrastructure Costs to Fund 2016 Needs</b> |
| <b>Total Recreational Facility Costs for Basic Park Amenities plus 100% of Land / Open Space:</b>                        | <b>\$ 1,147,129</b>                                | <b>\$ 3,068,056</b>                            |
| <b>Less Non-Local Revenue from Anticipated Land Donations over the next 10 Years</b>                                     | -----  | <b>\$ (153,266)</b>                            |
| <b>Adjusted Impact Costs</b>   | -----  | <b>\$ 2,914,790</b>                            |
| <b><i>Calculated Recreation Impact Fee Adjusted Impact Costs / 10-Yr Building Permits</i></b>                            | -----  | <b>\$ 1,171</b>                                |

Note that even though only basic recreation components (plus land) have been included in the recreation impact fee calculations, consideration should be given to include all components in future recreation impact fee calculations through annual reviews of the recreation impact fees and/or through implementation of the Department's Five Year Master Plan Update.

*Implementation Schedule – Future Anticipated Needs Based on Community Level of Service*

The following Table (Table 4) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified future needs. These needs are fundable via Recreation Impact Fees. At the bottom of this table is a summary of all recreation components. Only the recreation components related and factored into the Recreation Impact Fee are summarized on an annual basis.



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**Future Infrastructure Needs Implementation - Recreation Impact Fees** Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost      | Future Need     | Component Costs         | 2007         | 2008                 | 2009                 | 2010                 | 2011                  | 2012                 | 2013                 | 2014                 | 2015                 | 2016                   |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| A   | B                        | C               | D                       | E            | F                    | G                    | H                    | I                     | J                    | K                    | L                    | M                    | N                      |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000                | 1.56            | \$ 117,321              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      | \$ 75,000            | \$ 42,321              |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000                | 2.09            | \$ 125,142              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       | \$ 60,000            |                      |                      |                      | \$ 65,142              |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000                | 1.26            | \$ 44,071               |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | \$ 44,071              |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000                | 0.26            | \$ 9,071                |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      | \$ 9,071             |                      |                      |                        |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000                | 0.00            | \$ -                    |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      |                        |
| <del>Recreation - Centers - (Comm.)</del>                           | <del>\$ -400,000</del>   | <del>0.14</del> | <del>\$ -20,855</del>   |              | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del>  | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del> | <del>\$ -2,312</del>   |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000                 | 1.52            | \$ 7,592                |              | \$ 844               | \$ 844               | \$ 844               | \$ 844                | \$ 844               | \$ 844               | \$ 844               | \$ 844               | \$ 844                 |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000                 | 0.78            | \$ 3,911                |              | \$ 435               | \$ 435               | \$ 435               | \$ 435                | \$ 435               | \$ 435               | \$ 435               | \$ 435               | \$ 435                 |
| <del>Skate/Bike Park - (Neighborhood)</del>                         | <del>\$ -100,000</del>   | <del>0.35</del> | <del>\$ -34,763</del>   |              |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -34,763</del> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                        |
| <del>Climbing - Challenge Elements</del>                            | <del>\$ -35,000</del>    | <del>0.35</del> | <del>\$ -12,167</del>   |              |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -12,167</del> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                        |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000                | 3.13            | \$ 125,142              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       | \$ 62,571            |                      |                      | \$ 62,571            |                        |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000                | 1.25            | \$ 106,371              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | \$ 106,371             |
| <del>Interpretive Center</del>                                      | <del>\$ -100,000</del>   | <del>0.13</del> | <del>\$ -20,855</del>   |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -20,855</del>  |
| <del>Environmental Center</del>                                     | <del>\$ -250,000</del>   | <del>0.13</del> | <del>\$ -93,857</del>   |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -93,857</del>  |
| <del>Childcare - Entertainment - Venue</del>                        | <del>\$ -250,000</del>   | <del>0.00</del> | <del>\$ -</del>         |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -</del>        |
| <del>Recreation - Centers - (Neighborhood)</del>                    | <del>\$ -250,000</del>   | <del>0.42</del> | <del>\$ -112,855</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -112,855</del> |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000                | 1.25            | \$ 106,371              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | \$ 106,371             |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000                | 1.56            | \$ 70,392               |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      | \$ 70,392            |                        |
| <del>Skating Rink - (Neighborhood)</del>                            | <del>\$ -2,500,000</del> | <del>0.06</del> | <del>\$ -156,428</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -156,428</del> |
| <del>Skating Area - (Comm. - Ice Skating)</del>                     | <del>\$ -3,000,000</del> | <del>0.12</del> | <del>\$ -327,848</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -327,848</del> |
| <del>Swims - (Dist.) - Aquatics - Facilities</del>                  | <del>\$ -3,500,000</del> | <del>0.18</del> | <del>\$ -635,714</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -635,714</del> |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000                | 0.21            | \$ 18,771               |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | \$ 18,771              |
| <del>Golf Course - 18-hole</del>                                    | <del>\$ -4,000,000</del> | <del>0.10</del> | <del>\$ -417,143</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -417,143</del> |
| <del>Driving Range</del>  | <del>\$ -1,000,000</del> | <del>0.10</del> | <del>\$ -104,285</del>  |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -104,285</del> |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000                | 0.16            | \$ 3,129                |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | \$ 3,129               |
| <del>Maintenance - Facilities - (Hub)</del>                         | <del>\$ -2,500,000</del> | <del>0.00</del> | <del>\$ -</del>         |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -</del>        |
| <del>Maintenance - Facilities - (Station)</del>                     | <del>\$ -250,000</del>   | <del>0.10</del> | <del>\$ -26,500</del>   |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      | <del>\$ -26,500</del>  |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000               | 2.50            | \$ 500,569              |              |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      | \$ 125,142           | \$ 125,142           | \$ 125,142           | \$ 125,142             |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500                | 81.34           | \$ 1,830,204            | \$ -         | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356            | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356             |
|   |                          |                 | Future Deficiency Total | \$ 4,970,216 |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                      |                      |                        |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       | \$ -                     | \$ -            | \$ 206,952              | \$ 206,952   | \$ 206,952           | \$ 206,952           | \$ 241,713           | \$ 341,689            | \$ 341,164           | \$ 341,164           | \$ 332,094           | \$ 540,057           | \$ 2,552,644           |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only | \$ -                     | \$ -            | \$ 204,634              | \$ 204,634   | \$ 204,634           | \$ 204,634           | \$ 204,634           | \$ 327,205            | \$ 338,847           | \$ 338,847           | \$ 329,776           | \$ 537,740           | \$ 715,951             |

**TABLE 4 – Implementation Schedule for Future Needs**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the noted future recreational components:

**Chesterton Park** – Volleyball Courts, Park Shelters

**Dogwood Park** – Park Restrooms, Park Shelters

**New Park Facility** – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball and Softball Diamonds, Multi-purpose Fields, Soccer Fields, Basketball Goals, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park

### Population Growth

The population growth forecast over the next 10-year period is summarized in the following tables. The projected growth rate starts out slow at the beginning of the 10-year period (1.15% in 2007) and grows at a faster rate at the end of the 10-year period (9.12% in 2016).

Also noted are the projected new building permits. Over the 10-year period (2007-2016) the population is forecast to increase by approximately 6,399 persons. This new population figure results in 2,490 new building permits over the same 10-year period.



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**Table 5 – Current and Projected Population and Building Permits Growth**

Town of Chesterton Population

Current and Projected – All Development Potential (Town Limits + 50% of Projection outside of Town)

Population Scenario: Town Plus

2000 Census of Persons per Household = 2.57

|                              | 1990  | 2000   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Town of Chesterton     | 9,124 | 10,488 | 12,041 | 12,378 | 12,520 | 12,739 | 13,052 |
| Annual Growth Rate (Est.)    |       |        |        |        | 1.15%  | 1.75%  | 2.45%  |
| Households (at 2.57 / house) |       | 4,081  | 4,685  | 4,816  | 4,872  | 4,957  | 5,078  |
| Total New Households         |       |        |        | 26     | 55     | 85     | 121    |
| Growth Per Year (Persons)    |       |        |        |        | 142    | 219    | 312    |

|                              | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Town of Chesterton     | 13,476 | 14,035 | 14,758 | 15,695 | 16,896 | 18,425 | 20,378 |
| Annual Growth Rate (Est.)    | 3.25%  | 4.15%  | 5.15%  | 6.35%  | 7.65%  | 9.05%  | 10.60% |
| Households (at 2.57 / house) | 5,243  | 5,461  | 5,742  | 6,107  | 6,574  | 7,169  | 7,929  |
| Total New Households         | 165    | 218    | 281    | 365    | 467    | 595    | 760    |
| Growth Per Year (Persons)    | 424    | 559    | 723    | 937    | 1,201  | 1,529  | 1,953  |

| Year            | New Building Permits | New Pop.     |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 2007            | 55                   | 142          |
| 2008            | 73                   | 219          |
| 2009            | 99                   | 312          |
| 2010            | 165                  | 424          |
| 2011            | 218                  | 559          |
| 2012            | 281                  | 723          |
| 2013            | 365                  | 937          |
| 2014            | 467                  | 1,201        |
| 2015            | 595                  | 1,529        |
| 2016            | 760                  | 1,953        |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>3,113</b>         | <b>8,000</b> |
| <b>Average:</b> | <b>311</b>           | <b>800</b>   |

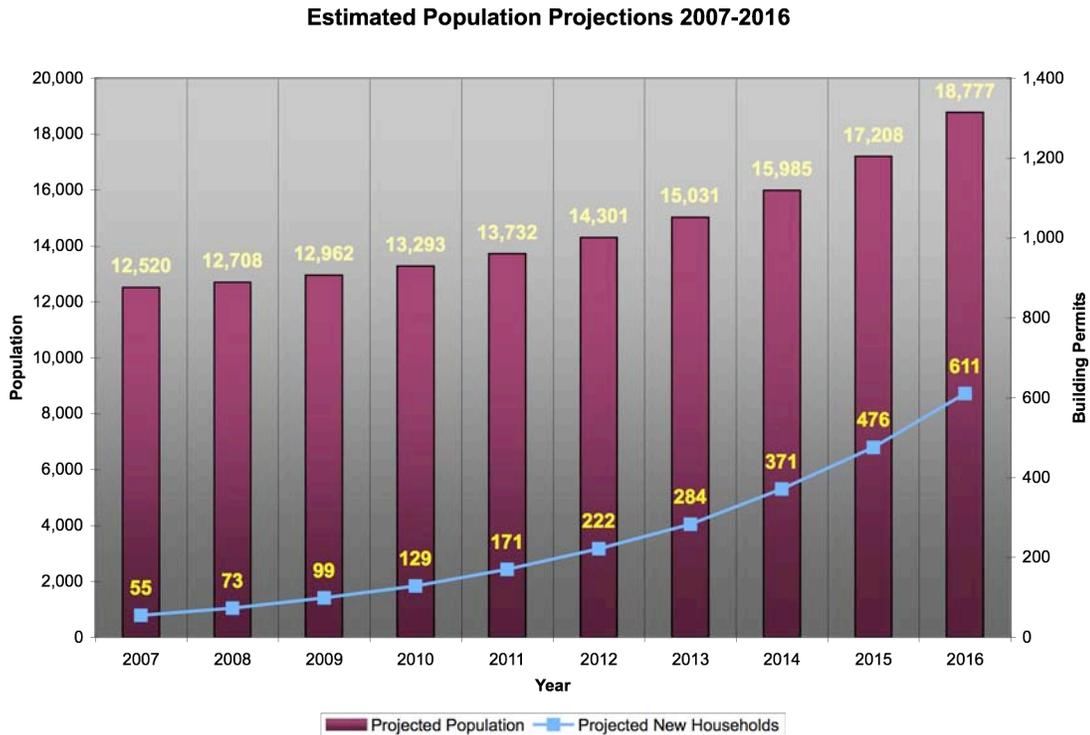
5.16% = assumed average annual growth rate

Data taken from Census Information and Projections from Discussions with Recreation Impact Fee Advisory Committee and the Town of Chesterton

|  |       |                            |      |      |
|--|-------|----------------------------|------|------|
| Projected Growth Rate for 10 year Period = | 51.6% | 10 Year Growth within Town | 2490 | 6399 |
| Projected Annual Growth Rate =             | 5.2%  |                            | 635  | 1632 |
| 2000 Census of Persons per Household =     | 2.57  |                            | 3121 | 8021 |

|                             | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016   | 10-Yr Avg |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Projected Annual Growth % = | 1.15% | 1.75% | 2.45% | 3.25% | 4.15% | 5.15% | 6.35% | 7.65% | 9.05% | 10.60% | 5.16%     |

**Figure 1 – Chart Illustrating Anticipated Population Growth 2007-2016**





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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Adapted with information taken from: Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 Hoosiers Moving Forward, prepared by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, January 2007.

#### Parks and Recreation: An Essential Service

Parks and recreation is fun and enjoyment...but it goes beyond just the fun. It is fundamental to the quality of life for all people, communities and our environment. The value of parks and recreation has been identified many times as a factor in determining the “good life”.

With the obesity epidemic and the fight against a sedentary lifestyle, the value of recreation both inside and out of doors is even more important to our citizens today. In a recent report from the Trust for America’s Health, Indiana is the ninth most obese state, 26% of adults do not participate in regular exercise. The direct connection between the health of our communities and the opportunities provided for an active, healthy lifestyle is a basic human need.

When considering outdoor recreation, whether you look at the economic benefits of increased property values or the enhanced self-esteem gained by an individual from participating in a special event or through becoming active and healthier, or you look at the community awareness strengthened by a festival, or gain better understanding of the stewardship of land, we are now more than ever an essential service.

A grassroots effort to promote public awareness of the existence and provision of parks and recreation activities is essential. Some simple suggestions to help with this effort:

- Write opinion pieces for your local newspaper, cable TV and other community bulletin boards.
- Make sure that your facility is well represented on your municipal, county or State web site.
- Make sure your brown signs with your park names and arrows with directions are posted and visible.
- Keep your services in the minds of communities by using banners, radio ads, etc.
- Provide strong customer service and quality management at our parks and facilities.
- Visit [www.inpra.org](http://www.inpra.org) for IPRA’s “An Essential Service” presentation prepared by Steve Doniger, Director, Valparaiso Parks and Recreation and Chuck Lehman, President, Lehman and Lehman.

There are many parks and recreation opportunities available throughout the State of Indiana. Whether referring to a bike trail, walking trail, pristine pond at a state park or an elaborate aquatics facility, you see what Joseph Lee (“Father of the Playground Movement” and National Recreation Association president 1910-37) means in the quote: “Play for adults is recreation...the renewal of life; for children it is growth...the gaining of life”.



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While no one can reasonably deny the benefits of parks, recreation and the environment, we still must understand the attitudes and opinions of the users of parks and recreation facilities to help us wisely direct our future economic and advocacy efforts.

Let's continue to invest in the future and fulfill the dreams of the families in our Indiana communities. Services provided through parks and recreation are essential, appreciated and limitless.

Indiana has moved into a tie with South Carolina for eighth in national obesity ranking. Additionally, Indiana ranks 13<sup>th</sup> for adult diabetes and 20<sup>th</sup> for hypertension (Trust for America's Health, 2006). Each of these conditions can be prevented or delayed by making healthy lifestyle choices. As providers of outdoor recreation opportunities, we are prime players in the fight against the increase of disabling chronic conditions that could cost individuals and taxpayers millions of dollars to control and treat. By providing opportunities for individuals to meet essential physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs, facilitators of outdoor recreation also play an important role in the long-term economy of their communities.

Although we must include all age groups in our plans, we need to pay special attention to serving our aging population. Admittedly, the prevalence of chronic diseases and conditions increases as a population ages; participation in outdoor recreation can contribute to a healthier lifestyle, which can help prevent or delay many conditions associated with aging. These include heart disease, cancer and stroke (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004). When addressing the needs of older adults, we need to consider challenges associated with balance, mobility, hearing and vision loss, and greater propensity for injury. According to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the median age in Indiana is 36.1 years old, 11.9% of Hoosiers are 65 or older, and 1.3% are 85 and older. The percentage of people 65 and older has remained steady for at least two years; however, the portion 85 and older has increased slightly. These statistics show the importance of considering the State's significant senior and aging mid-range populations when planning for and making decisions about future recreational opportunities.

Fortunately, accessibility and universal design are already high priority issues in our State. Indiana offices promote exceeding the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and considering the use of universal design, both for future improvements and alterations to current buildings and for new construction. "Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design" (Center for Universal Design, 2006). Universal design includes but is not limited to accessibility; it is a performance- or usability-based design that promotes a product or environment that can be used by a broad spectrum of people (children, elderly, vision or mobility impaired, etc.) (National Center on Accessibility, Universal Design Education On-line, 2004). The benefits of universal design will extend beyond the older population into the realm of citizens with physical or cognitive disabilities. More than 13 percent (13.4%) of Indiana residents 21 to 64 years old reported having a disability in 2005 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). Park and trails professionals in Indiana have expressed a keen desire to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities and limitations by implementing universal design at their properties. Communities should address the needs of the entire user population and strive to include as many representatives as possible in the planning of a proposed facility, activity, or program.



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Effective planning that includes universal design will pave the way for individuals of all ages and abilities to be actively involved in outdoor recreation throughout our State.

Another issue faced by communities and facilities managers is how to pay for planned improvements. Grants are one way. Several are administered by IDNR:

- Indiana Heritage Trust
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund
- Shooting Range Program
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)
- Hoosier Riverwatch Water Monitoring Equipment Grants
- Lake and River Enhancement Program
- Lake Michigan Coastal Program
- Community Forestry Grant Programs

To learn more about grant programs administered by IDNR go to <http://www.IN.gov/dnr/assistance/grantresources.html>.



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section F:

## Progress Evaluation



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## Section F: Progress Evaluation

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### Facilities and Equipment Progress Evaluation

The Chesterton Park and Recreation Board submitted, in 2000, a Master Plan synopsis of their actual accomplishments in the area of acquisition and development that reveals significant progress:

**Thomas Park** – A 3-year brick-paving project has been completed. Along with the brick paving there has been some landscaping done.

**Waskom Park** – This park received a 600' drainage system; this was put in to insure that flooded areas of surface water could drain off.

**Duneland Prairie Bike Trail** – Some landscaping was accomplished. This was done at the beginning of the bike trail (Jackson Park) and at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. We also planted over 75 different species of trees at various intersections and along 2 miles of the bike trail.

**Coffee Creek Park** – A two-sided sledding hill was constructed. Fencing along the upper edge and down the two sides was installed to prevent injuries. Also installed was a split rail fence around the parking lot. Finished boardwalk to parking lot, and added lookout deck over Coffee Creek.

**Dogwood Park** – One new L-shape shelter has been added. Our softball fields have been reconditioned, and a 45' fence was installed. Plans for a new maintenance building have been approved and construction was started in the fall of 2004. Also added was a full-length volleyball court.

**Kipper Park** – Additional wood carpet was installed to maintain 1' of carpet.

**Chesterton Park** – Two shelters were taken down. In reference to the master plan, the need for sidewalks to shelters and new park benches are not needed. Additional mulch was added and all the lumber has been stained. In addition, a 600' outfield fence was installed for the baseball field.



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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Accomplishments and Changes 2003 – 2007

#### 2003

- Coffee Creek Park fencing for sledding hill
- Installed new GIS system for Park Department computer
- Planted eighty-three trees on the bike trail
- Constructed new storage shed in Thomas Park
- A six-hundred foot water line installed on west side of Dogwood Park
- New fence and electronic gate system installed in Dogwood Park
- General Maintenance

#### 2004

- Five-year Master Plan draft completed
- Replaced engine in 1997 truck
- Remodeled business office
- Revamped old dump truck
- New maintenance building delivered to Dogwood Park / footings installed
- General Maintenance

#### 2005

- High School Building Trades class donated labor to build Maintenance Building at Dogwood Park
- Five-year Master Plan completed
- Bricks installed at Thomas Park
- Shelter in Coffee Creek Park torn down
- General Maintenance

#### 2006

- Installed handicap ramp at Coffee Creek Park
- Developed & constructed new adult softball fields, including lighting, fencing, roadway/access lighting and stray ball deflection fencing at Dogwood Park
- Installed sanitary sewer and water for Maintenance Barn at Dogwood Park
- Granite Fountain installed at Thomas Park
- Landscaping at Coffee Creek and Chesterton Park completed
- Received Eastman Kodak Grant
- Acquired Olde Towne Park
- General Maintenance

#### 2007

- Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance approved
- Dogwood Park renovations continue
- Softball fields work continues
- Coffee Creek deck repaired
- Purchased new mower
- Purchased new truck
- General Maintenance



Section F: Progress Evaluation

## Sources and Dollars Spent for Infrastructure Improvements, Land Donations, and Park Department Revenue

The following is a tally of the dollars and their sources for infrastructure improvements, park land donations to the Town, and Park Department Revenue over the last five-year period for the Chesterton Parks and Recreation.

Town of Chesterton Parks Department

Source: Town of Chesterton

### General Description of Sources and Amounts of Money Used to Pay for Infrastructure During the Previous 5-Years [IC 36-7-4-1318(b)(6)]

| Infrastructure Expenditure   | Revenue Source  | Amount (Approx.)    | Year               |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Dogwood Park West:</b> Installation of new parking lot and expansion of current parking lot including entrances and exits; install new drainage system to facilitate approximately 40 ac. of park land; excavate area for new retention pond for park land; develop & construct new adult softball fields including lighting, fencing, roadway/access lighting & stray ball deflection fencing; install sanitary sewer & water for Park Dept. Maintenance Barn. | 2005 Chesterton Park Bond Issue   | \$ 1,650,000        | 2006-2007          |
| Horseshoe Deck   | Park Gift Fund  | \$ 4,000            | 2007               |
| Coffee Creek Park Handicap Ramp  | Park Budget & Kodak Grant   | \$ 4,000            | 2006               |
| Thomas Park Renovation   | Inheritance from Estate of Leslie Pratt   | \$ 140,000          | 2002-2004 and 2006 |
| Park Dept. Garage Extension  | Donation from Joe Wagner  | \$ 28,000           | 2003               |
| Park Dept. Maintenance Building  | CEDIT Funds and High School Building Trades class donation of labor (costs do not include value of labor) | \$ 12,000           | 2005               |
| Park lot in Westwood Subdivision   | Developer donation  | \$ 30,000           | 2002               |
|  | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$ 1,868,000</b> |                    |

**TABLE 6 – General Description of Sources and Amounts of Money Used to Pay for Infrastructure During the Previous Five Years**



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### **The Planning Consultant**

The Chesterton Park and Recreation Board secured the professional services of Charles F. Lehman, ASLA, President of *Lehman & Lehman, Inc.*, to coordinate with the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board in order to complete the *Chesterton Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan Update 2008–2012*.

This Master Plan document follows the guidelines outlined by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. This Master Plan makes Chesterton eligible for state/federal grants & funding, but, even more importantly, it allows for the establishment of a guideline toward new horizons for the Chesterton Parks Department and the Community.

The process of establishing the Chesterton Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance provided much useful information required for the Master Plan Update.



# Section G:

## Agency Profile



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## Section G: Agency Profile

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### **History of Chesterton Park Department**

For many years the park and recreation needs of the citizens of the Town of Chesterton were fulfilled through the direction and guidance of a Park and Recreation Committee. This committee was formed in the late 1930s by a town ordinance.

This ordinance only gave the committee the authority to provide recreational facilities and not the authority to fund their activities. Acquisition of Thomas Centennial Park and Chesterton Park was made possible through the efforts of the Town Trustees and concerned citizen groups. Individuals and community organizations obtained equipment and facilities through donations of labor and funds. The Park Committee members with the help of one part-time employee handled maintenance of a minor nature. Tasks as moving and structure repair were normally contracted to area businesses. Later, in the middle 1940s a summer recreation program was established offering youngsters an opportunity for summer-time arts and crafts, small group games and large group activities. This required the services of a part-time recreation director and several high school-age assistants. Also, during this era ice-skating was offered when weather permitted.

This method of operation did not permit the park programs to progress as well as desired mainly because funds for operation were sporadic and always insufficient for orderly growth. Thus, through foresight on the part of dedicated and energetic citizens the Chesterton Board of Parks and Recreation was established in 1969 under The Park and Recreation Law of 1955 (Acts of 1955, Chapter 311). The Park Board now had all authority granted under the State Law to secure funds and provide facilities.

Following this, using the Chesterton Utilities land the Park Department added Coffee Creek Park. Programs were enlarged with many new activities added.

Possibly, the most effective act on the part of the Park Board was the purchase of twenty acres of ground for the development of Dogwood Park. This purchase permitted Chesterton to double the park acreage, add much needed facilities, and most importantly, put the Board in a position to purchase a second tract of land adjacent to Dogwood Park containing 40 acres, out of which 30 of the 40 acres are now purchased.

Final payment on the last 10 acres was made in July 1995. The purchase and development of this additional acreage has allowed Chesterton to provide the citizenry a park and recreation program, which will surpass the short-range needs and equal many of the long-range needs.

Jackson Park was developed in 1991. The land was donated through a coalition of the Porter County Commission and Robert and Patricia Jones.



## Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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Kipper Park was developed in 1992. One lot in Westchester South Subdivision was donated for park use by a developer.

Duneland Cove Park was developed in 1992. Roberts Development donated three acres in Duneland Cove Subdivision for park use. In 1993 the park was named Waskom Park. The Park Board dedicated the park to Robert L. Waskom in appreciation of his 26 years of service as Park Superintendent.

In 1993 the Town Council assigned 46.37 acres of the abandoned EJ&E railroad right-of-way for park use. The goal of the Park Board was to develop a paved 3.17-mile trail to include walkways, bikeways and passive uses.

In March of 1998 Golf View Subdivision was platted and about .95 acres of land was donated to Chesterton Parks.

Presently, the Board employs a full-time Park Superintendent, Park Secretary, two full-time Maintenance staff, Director of Summer Recreation, Director of Adult Softball, Director of Summer Tennis Program, Director of the Duneland Swim Club, and maintenance employees and assistants to the Director of various programs.

The Chesterton Park Board, with continued concentration on the needs of the citizens and a desire to preserve open space as always, will be their past, present and future priority.

With an agreement between the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board, Town Council and Advisory Plan Commission, in October 1990 the Town Council passed an Ordinance to provide the establishment of a Regulation for Park and Recreational Land. This Ordinance is under Subdivision Regulations.



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## Section G: Agency Profile

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The current Chesterton Park Board members, along with committee assignments and expiration dates of terms, are listed below:

| <b>Member Name and Address</b>  | <b>Term</b>  |
|---|--------------|
| Vincent Emanuele, President<br>1617 Fox Point Drive<br>Chesterton, IN 46304   | 1/09 – 12/13 |
| John Kroft, Vice-President<br>108 Wilson Street<br>Chesterton, IN 46304       | 1/06 – 12/10 |
| Roy Flaherty, Secretary<br>1413 W. Porter Avenue<br>Chesterton, IN 46304      | 1/05 – 12/09 |
| Eric Whitt, Member<br>1545 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Chesterton, IN 46304 | 1/08 – 12/12 |

The Chesterton Park Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at Dogwood Park. At this time, the Board makes policy and operational decisions, approves requests for use of park facilities, receives updates on departmental activity and approves the annual budget. The meetings are open to the public.



## Goals & Objectives

- Chesterton's goal is to provide a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreational facilities that serve the needs of our adults, seniors, young adults and children of our vastly growing community.
- New residential and commercial development in our town is generating the demands for parks, recreation facilities and open space. As a result, the local residents are, in some cases, forced to leave the town limits when seeking recreational programs and facilities.
- In order to provide these facilities needed by the growing population the town will continue to seek equitable methods of funding.
- The Park Board members, Park Superintendent and Park staff have taken note of the services provided by other surrounding towns and cities. They have listened to the pulse of the local residents and are now prepared to recommend a course of action through the Five Year Plan. The parks personnel play an integral role in collecting public information and serves as a sounding board for new ideas. Although public attendance at Park Board meetings has been minimal, residents receive updates through the Town's local newspaper.
- The availability of funding to provide resources and recreational facilities is a critical issue. Alternate funding sources such as user fees, impact fees, grant funds, developing partnerships with other agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector need to be considered for the future of our parks.
- As a Park Department we need to preserve and maintain our existing assets, the maintenance and operations of our parks to realize the importance to create additional indoor and outdoor facilities and programs must remain paramount in budget consideration.
- With the recent adoption (Fall 2007) of the Town's first Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance, the town and the Park Department have established a community level of service. Current deficiencies have been identified with a funding strategy in place for the next 10-years. New development will provide the funding through recreation impact fees for maintaining the community level of service with the new growth.

## The Park Law

The Chesterton Parks Board, by Ordinance 84-03, operates under the Second Class Town Park Law. The State statute (36-10-3) establishes the executive department of public parks in First Class Cities/Towns and provides that the Board of Parks and Recreation shall have exclusive government, management, and control of all parks and recreation areas within the Town/Town, subject only to the laws of the State. A copy of Ordinance No. 84-03, passed and dated February 13, 1984, can be found in the Appendix of this document.



## Section G: Agency Profile

### Who's Responsible the Board or the Administrator?

The following table helps to define the respective roles of a Park Administrator and the Park Board:

| TASK  | PARK BOARD  | PARK ADMINISTRATOR  |
|---|---|---|
| Long-Term Goals (more than one year)                  | Approves  | Recommends and provides input   |
| Short-Term Goals (less than one year)                 | Monitors  | Establishes and carries out   |
| Day-to-Day Operations                                 | No Role   | Makes all management decisions  |
| Budget  | Approves  | Develops and recommends   |
| Capital Purchases                                     | Approves  | Prepares requests   |
| Decisions (building, renovations, leasing, expansion) | Makes decisions, assumes responsibility                               | Recommends (could also sign contracts if given authority)                 |
| Supply Purchases                                      | Establishes policy and budget for supplies                            | Purchases according to board policy and maintains an adequate audit trail |
| Major Repairs   | Approves  | Obtains estimates and prepares recommendation                             |
| Minor Repairs   | Policy should include amount that can be spent without Board approval | Authorizes repairs up to prearranged amount                               |
| Emergency Repairs                                     | Works with administrator  | Notifies Board chairperson and acts with concurrence from chair           |
| Cleaning and Maintenance                              | No Role (oversight only)  | Sets schedule   |
| Fees  | Adopts Policy   | Develops fee schedule   |
| Billing, Credit and Collections                       | Adopts Policy   | Proposes policy and implements  |
| Hiring of Staff                                       | No Role   | Approves all hiring   |
| Staff Development and Assignment                      | No Role   | Establishes   |
| Firing of Staff                                       | No Role   | Makes final termination decisions   |
| Staff Grievances                                      | No Role   | The grievances stop at the administrator                                  |
| Personnel Policies                                    | Adopts Policy   | Recommends and administers  |
| Staff Salaries  | Allocates line item for salaries in budget                            | Approves salaries with recommendations from supervisory staff             |
| Staff Evaluations                                     | Evaluates administrator   | Evaluates other staff   |

*Park Board and Administrator Newsletter, Aspen Publishers, 1991.*



## Department Staff

| <i>Name</i>   | <i>Title</i>             |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Bruce Mathias | Superintendent           |
| Hilary Thomas | Administrative Assistant |

## Department Divisions

### Administrative

Under the direction of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Administrative Division works toward communication with Department Staff, Park Board, Town Council President, Town Council, Controller's Office, Town Departments and Media. The Superintendent concentrates on budget, personnel, management, supervision, program and parks planning, grants, maintenance, and community relations.

The Administrative Division consists of one full-time position, besides the Superintendent. The Division is responsible for processing department business. This division provides complete customer service, whether in person, over the phone, or through written correspondence. Communication with employees, other Town Departments, and outside vendors is essential to complete payroll, personnel, purchasing, and accounts payable / receivable functions.

### Maintenance

The Chesterton Park Department maintains all fourteen (14) developed parks and recreational sites on a regular basis, including the 3.10 miles of the multiuse trails/pathways.

General maintenance during summer hours consists of regular grass cutting, tree pruning, weed whipping, preparing softball fields for play three to four days a week, plant bed weeding, shelter repairs, and maintenance on mowers, trucks, whips, etc.

The Chesterton Park & Recreation Board has a cooperative agreement with the Duneland School Corporation to perform the maintenance at Chesterton Park, i.e. mowing the grass, color coating the tennis courts, maintaining the baseball diamond, etc. In return, the schools use the facilities.



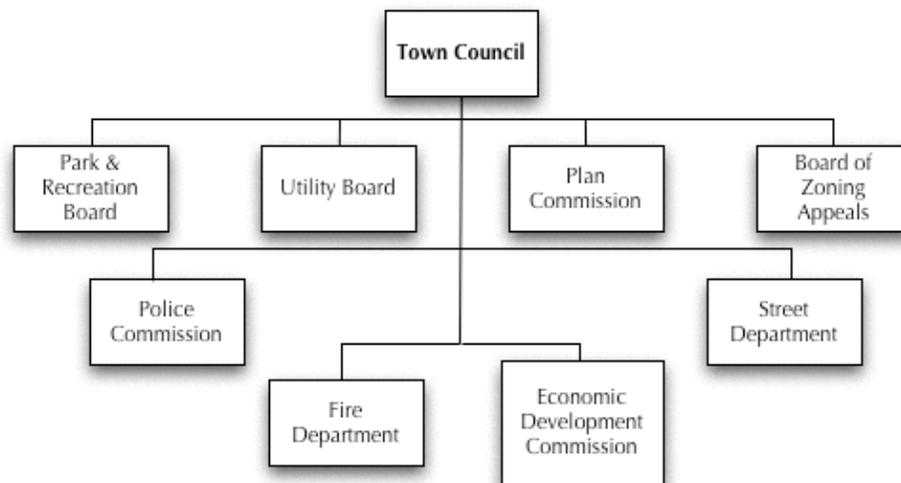
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## Section G: Agency Profile

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### Town of Chesterton Organization Structure

*The Town of Chesterton is currently organized as follows:*



### Compliance with State and Federal Regulations

#### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush. The adoption of the ADA occurred after two decades of effort to remove the barriers, caused not just by physical features of the environment, but by attitudes and misconceptions toward people with disabilities.

The ADA law is an attempt to achieve inclusion in society for individuals with disabilities. It does this by codifying requirements that create the conditions to permit individuals with disabilities of all kinds equal access to all parts of society. The ADA differs from the individual state discrimination laws in that it has a more sweeping range and applies retroactively to existing facilities.

The ADA law will be enforced as individuals file complaints against businesses and organizations that do not meet code. In order not to create undue hardship, the law provides for the establishment of a



## Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2008-2012

reasonable plan of action that clearly indicates intent to achieve compliancy over a reasonable period of time. A transition plan that is being implemented is the best protection should a complaint be filed.

It is helpful when working with the ADA to approach it as a means of creating new possibilities. Working to comply with the law can “enlarge your view” and open up new opportunities for your organization. As you achieve compliancy, you will be better able to utilize persons with disabilities as employees as well as appeal to an enlarged clientele.

In order for the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department to be eligible for future Federal / State funding assistance, it will need to complete an ADA Self-Evaluation. These Self-Evaluations, as well as the Town of Chesterton’s *Policy Statement; Rights and Protections The ADA Affords Disabled Persons;* and *Architectural Barriers Checklist* can be found in the Appendix of this document. The related elements of implementation of ADA Transition Plans have been included in the Action Plan.

## Departmental Budget Analysis

The following is a tally of the Park Department revenues 2001-2006 for Chesterton Parks and Recreation.

Town of Chesterton Parks Department  
**Park Department Revenues – 2001-2006**

Source: Town of Chesterton

| YEAR                                 | Taxes           | Financial Inst. | Excise Tax    | CEDIT        | Misc.         | Parks Receipts | TOTALS          |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2001                                 | \$ 208,397.06   | \$ 2,172.00     | \$ 26,896.48  | \$ -         | \$ 36,090.50  | \$ -           | \$ 273,556.04   |
| 2002                                 | \$ 218,284.26   | \$ 1,046.00     | \$ 24,473.94  | \$ 2,944.34  | \$ 10,384.25  | \$ -           | \$ 257,132.79   |
| 2003                                 | \$ 185,520.02   | \$ 3,249.00     | \$ 17,967.38  | \$ 2,934.05  | \$ 214,102.60 | \$ -           | \$ 423,773.05   |
| 2004                                 | \$ 272,183.08   | \$ 2,451.00     | \$ 22,940.75  | \$ 3,334.42  | \$ 19,273.16  | \$ -           | \$ 320,182.41   |
| 2005                                 | \$ 196,901.09   | \$ 1,981.00     | \$ 15,933.11  | \$ 2,843.04  | \$ 49,948.73  | \$ 1,795.00    | \$ 269,401.97   |
| 2006                                 | \$ 304,597.02   | \$ 1,446.50     | \$ 10,295.65  | \$ 2,185.49  | \$ -          | \$ 1,510.00    | \$ 320,034.66   |
| 2007                                 | \$ 22,312.53    | \$ 1,446.50     | \$ 32,178.59  | \$ 2,191.59  | \$ -          | \$ 1,875.00    | \$ 60,004.21    |
| <i>(2007 data through 31-Jul-07)</i> |                 |                 |               |              |               |                |                 |
| TOTALS                               | \$ 1,408,195.06 | \$ 13,792.00    | \$ 150,685.90 | \$ 16,432.93 | \$ 329,799.24 | \$ 5,180.00    | \$ 1,924,085.13 |

**TABLE 7 – Park Department Revenues**



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section H:

## Community Description



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## Section H: Community Description

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### History of the Town of Chesterton

*Reprinted February 15, 2007, from <http://www.chesterton.net/#History>*

The Potawatomi Tribe occupied the Chesterton area immediately prior to the influx of explorers and settlers. In the 1600s, French Canadian explorers found the Potawatomi to be “relatively sedentary” forest dwellers who farmed, hunted, fished and trapped in the fertile, swampy Calumet River region. English settlers arrived at the beginning of the 18th century, intermingling with the French traders and priests. The Potawatomi suffered through the French and Indian War (1755-1763) and the Revolutionary War ten years later. Some of the Potawatomi intermarried with French and English settlers and continued to live in the region, while others were forced west to reservations in Iowa and Oklahoma after the Black hawk War of 1835.

The first white settler to the area was Joseph Bailly, a French fur trader. He established a home and fur trading post in 1822 to do business with the Potawatomi Tribe. The original site and some of his buildings are preserved and open to the public at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Mau-Me-Nass, a Potawatomi woman was the first owner of land in what is now Chesterton. She received the land from a government treaty. It passed on to her father, Pier Moran, and eventually to the Thomas family. In 1852, the William Thomas family platted the original downtown area of 46 lots into a village they named Calumet, which is now the original platted area of the Town of Chesterton.

The arrival of the Michigan Southern and the Michigan Central railroads into Westchester Township in 1852 was the incentive for the Thomas family to plat the Town. A railroad station was established in Chesterton. Since it was the only station in Porter County until 1872, the Town became an important railroad-shipping center. At one time, the Michigan Central ran 24 trains a day through the Town.

In 1872, brickyards were established in an area called Hageman, which is now a part of Porter. As the railroads continued to expand westward, they based many section bands at Chesterton and area farmers did a thriving business supplying wood to the railroads for engine fuel. The wood yard was established on land provided by the Thomas family. The yard area eventually became Thomas Centennial Park. The section hands were mostly of Irish descent, and, in 1857, the railroad assisted them in establishing the first church in Chesterton, St. Patrick's.

Chesterton was first incorporated on October 5, 1869, ending the use of the former name, Calumet. The first post office in Porter County was established at Coffee Creek, east of Morgan Park, in 1833. Jesse Morgan, the patriarch of the Morgan klan, came to the area in that year and remained postmaster until 1853. He had a stage house on old Chicago Road that ran through his farm. Thus, Calumet and Coffee Creek became almost synonymous until the incorporation of Chesterton in 1869. Some of the earliest businesses in Chesterton were the Thomas Wiesemann's Resale Stand, Dr. Hiram Green's drug store, and Horace Pratt's blacksmith shop. The M. Smith & Son building was the oldest mercantile location in Town.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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The community continued to grow and prosper over the years. When C. O. Hillstrom moved his organ factory to Chesterton from Chicago in 1880, it became the main industry in Town. The market for their organs was worldwide. Other industries also came to Chesterton and thrived until the panic of 1893 forced the closing of much of Chesterton industrial base. However, the Town survived and began a slow recovery and growth with the coming of the new century.

In the early 1900s, Chesterton served as a major commercial hub of activity in the area between Chicago and Michigan Town. The development of a major brickyard, several railroads, and the electric interurban line contributed to the ability of the area to support both residential and commercial development. The rebuilding of the downtown, which burned in 1902, with brick buildings also contributed to the image as the center of commerce in the area.

One cannot disregard the impact of the steel industry to the growth and prosperity of the area. US Steel Works opened its first mill in 1905 creating employment opportunities for residents and potential residents who could easily commute to jobs at the Gary mills. This trend continued, when National Steel constructed its newest facility in the late 1950's and Bethlehem Steel opened its doors in the mid 1960s.

Water transportation was also a vital component of job stimulation for Chesterton residents. Created in 1961, the Indiana Port Commission began dredging of the harbor in 1967 at Burns Harbor for one of the largest and most active lake ports in the Great Lakes system.

In 1923, one of the most significant and long lasting events took place influencing the future of the Town of Chesterton. In this year, the Indiana Dunes State Park was established resulting in the acquisition, in 1925, of 440 acres of land. In 1966, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established and additional lands continued to be added to the State and National Parks.



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## Section H: Community Description

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### Location of the Town of Chesterton

The Town of Chesterton, in Porter County, Indiana is between the shores of Lake Michigan and the city of Chicago. Chesterton is part of the Duneland Communities Statistical Area.



#### Distances from Chesterton, Indiana

| <b>Town / Location</b> | <b>Miles</b> |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Chicago, IL .....      | 47           |
| Detroit, MI.....       | 238          |
| Fort Wayne, IN.....    | 118          |
| Indianapolis, IN ..... | 162          |
| South Bend, IN .....   | 53           |
| Springfield, IL .....  | 219          |
| Toledo, OH .....       | 204          |

### Natural Features

*Taken from Chesterton Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2005-2009.*

The physical characteristics of the natural environment have influenced the development of Chesterton. Physical characteristics include both limitations and advantages. The physical characteristics considered in this study include the topography and drainage, floodplain, wetlands, vegetation, climate and soils.

#### Topography and Drainage

Chesterton is located in north central Porter County at approximately 41 degrees, 37 minutes north latitude and 87 degrees, 4 minutes west longitude, and is situated just south of the Lake Michigan shoreline. The majority of the community is on a somewhat level plain gradually sloping from elevations as high as 660 feet above mean sea level (msl) in the southeast area of Town along the northern fringes of the Valparaiso moraine, to approximately 630 feet above msl near the Little Calumet River to the north of the Conrail tracks. There is also a slight east-to-west down slope across the southern areas of Town. The most northern section of the community, north of the Little Calumet and I-94 lies in the Lake Border moraine. This narrow moraine is situated in an east-west position and abruptly rises to nearly 680 feet above msl along East Oak Hill Road. Lake Michigan is at 585 feet above msl just to the north of that



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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area, with higher dune areas near the lakeshore. Chesterton's official elevation is 640 feet above msl. Chesterton is drained by small creeks and streams (ditches) that flow principally from south to north emptying into the east branch of the Little Calumet River, which crosses the northern boundaries of the Town. The waters entering the Little Calumet River make their way west to where the river empties into Lake Michigan at Burns Harbor. The most important of the drainage ways are Coffee Creek, serving the eastern portion of the Town, and Peterson Ditch, serving the western portion.

A major portion of the drainage needs of the Town has been addressed with the construction of the Peterson Ditch Project. This drainage improvement project was designed to eliminate a significant portion of the drainage problems of the older portion of the Town where some combined sewers had not been separated, as well as provide drainage for the southern and western more densely developed portions of the Town.

### Floodplain

The drainage ways form significant amounts of floodplain within the Town of Chesterton, chiefly along the Little Calumet River and Peterson Ditch. In general, these areas should not be built on and should be incorporated into open space. Where floodplains are used for development, structures must be elevated above the 100-year floodplain elevation, per Federal Emergency management Administration (FEMA). These requirements are covered in detail in Town Code. Detailed FEMA area maps and engineering studies should be used to determine floodplain areas. The topographic and 100-year floodplain maps are located at the Town hall.

### Wetlands

Wetlands in Chesterton have been indicated on the National Wetlands Inventory Map. These areas cannot be built on without special planning and permission from the United States Army corps of Engineers, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The wetlands are an important natural habitat for plants and animals, and contribute to groundwater recharge and flood control. In most cases, it is desirable to incorporate wetlands into the open space plan of the Town.

### Vegetation

Chesterton's original groundcover was predominately hardwood forest. Forest areas were cleared for lumber and fuel for the railroad, and for the establishment of farmland. The early Town fathers developed neighborhoods with tree-lined streets in the early 1900s. Trees and vegetation remain vital today for both aesthetics and environmental purposes. The vegetation promotes storm water infiltration and cleansing. The air is purified and cooled by the trees and vegetation the community retains and plants. The Town of Chesterton proudly boasts its Tree City USA status since 1996. The Coffee Creek center development has been awarded environmental merits for its use of green space area or vegetation for storm water management and environmental and recreational benefit.



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## Section H: Community Description

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### Climate

Chesterton's climate is warm to hot in the summer and cold and snowy in the winter. Areas nearest to Lake Michigan can be markedly cooler at times during the summer when the winds are occasionally from the north. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year and is adequate for most crops on most soils in the surrounding farmland. From the late fall through winter, snow squalls of Lake Michigan are frequent and total snowfall is generally heavy. In some years a single prolonged storm can produce more than two feet of snow on the ground, and strong winds can create deep drifts.

In the summer the average temperature is 71°F, and the average daily high temperature is 82°F. In winter the average temperature is 27°F, and the average daily minimum temperature is 19°F. Extreme temperatures can range from approximately 26° below zero to approximately 100° Fahrenheit. The monthly extremes for average high and low temperature are 31.8/15.6 degrees in January and 83.2/61.4 degrees for July.

The total annual precipitation averages 39.4 inches. Most of the precipitation, 24 inches, or 60%, usually falls in April through September. Thunderstorms occur on about 45 days each year, with most occurring in the summer season. Average seasonal snowfall is 47 inches, but can vary widely from year to year depending on the number of lake effect snows that occur. The average relative humidity in mid afternoon is about 65%. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 80%. The sun shines 70% of the time possible in summer and 45% in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average wind speed is highest in March at 12 miles per hour. The average growing season based on days above 32°F is 149 days based on a 90% probability of occurring. The growing season can be as long as 184 days.

The annual total precipitation amount occurring on an average varies from 33.1 to 45.2 inches. The average number of days with 0.10 inch or more of precipitation is 82. These rain days are well balanced across the year, except for April, which on an average has 10 such days.

Chesterton's climate provides year-round recreational opportunities. Lake Michigan provides the beach and swimming during the warm months. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Indiana Dunes State Park provide trails for use all year, including cross-country skiing in the winter.

### Soils

Many soil characteristics are determined by the type of material on which it develops; others are due to climate, living matter, topographic relief, and time.

Most soil types in the planning area have significant limitations for septic filter fields and for many types of construction. Soils with the poorest capability for development and drainage are co-located with wetlands and floodplains, and should usually be incorporated into the Town open space area.

The Chesterton area is covered by two general classifications of soils as listed on the General Soil Map of Porter County, Indiana, published by the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The majority of the land categorized as Whitaker-Milford-Del Rey is described as nearly



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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level, somewhat poorly drained, and poorly drained loamy and silty soils on lake plains, terraces and outwash plains. A second, related soil type extends up through the Town along SR 49 with east and west boundaries extending out from SR 49 about one-half mile. Its northern limit is about one-half mile south of the Little Calumet River. This soil type is Elliot-Markham-Pewamo and is described as nearly level to gently sloping, well drained, to very poorly drain silty soils on till plains and moraines.

Analysis of the detailed soil map indicates that careful planning for surface and near surface soil water content must be done before building roads or structures in the southern and southwestern areas of the Town. The areas to the east of SR 49 appear to be of soil types more acceptable to road and building construction. There are exceptions to these general statements in each area. The detailed characteristics of each of these soil types can be referenced in the *Soil Survey of Porter County, Indiana*, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. A copy is maintained by the Town Engineer.

### Land Use

The Town of Chesterton and the surrounding future land use planning area have been forecast to have a significant population growth in the coming decades. In 1990 the Census had its population at 9,124. In 2000 the Census had its population at 10,488. It is estimated by the Town Planning Department that the population at the end of 2005 was at 12,041.

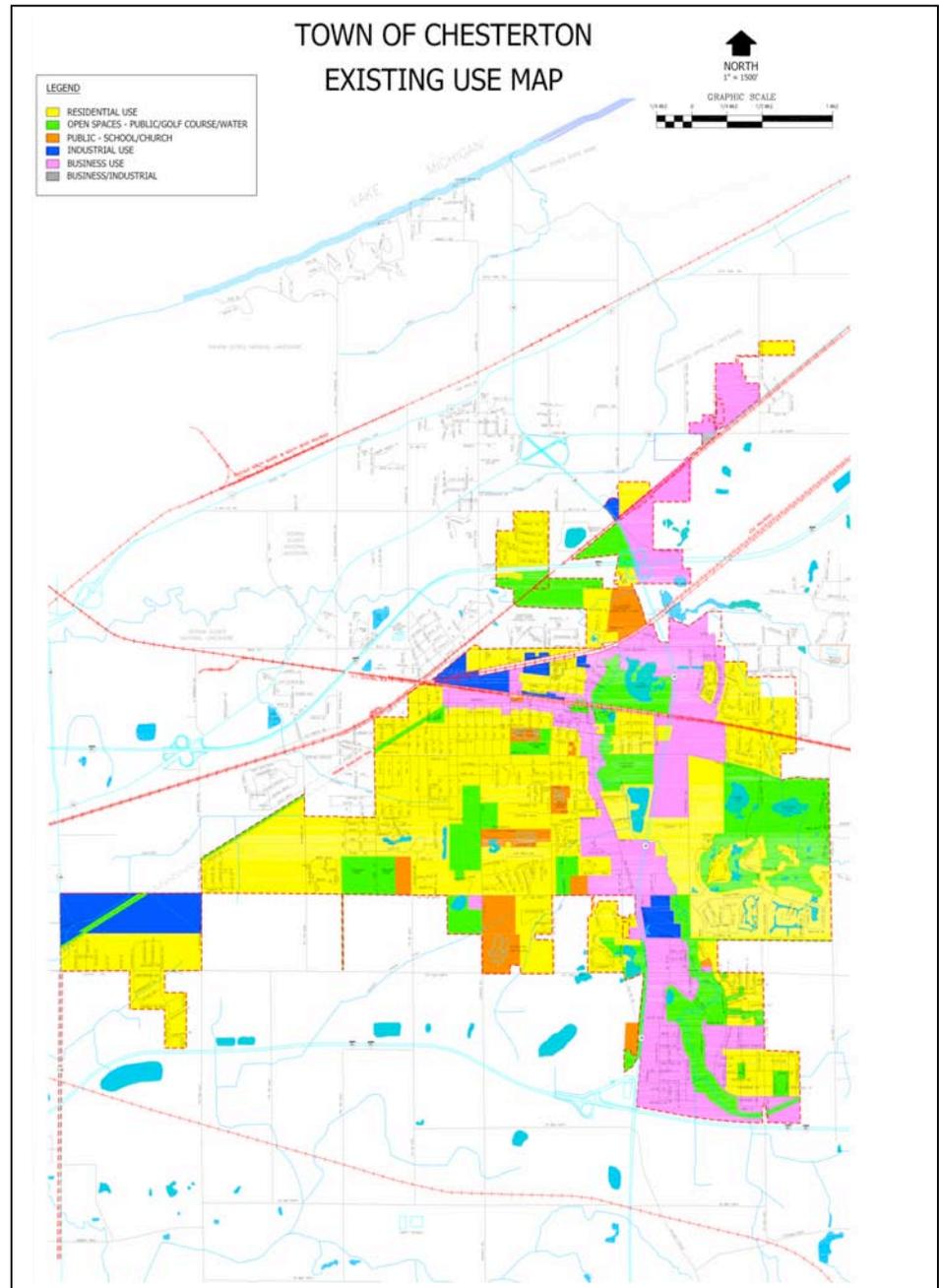
The Town's Comprehensive Plan contained many useful inventory maps. The Existing Use Map shown in Figure 2 is this map's illustration. This plan illustrates the existing land uses from the 2004 Comprehensive Plan along with the boundaries of the Town.



Section H: Community Description

**FIGURE 2 –  
Chesterton  
Existing Use Map**

Source: Town of  
Chesterton  
Comprehensive Plan



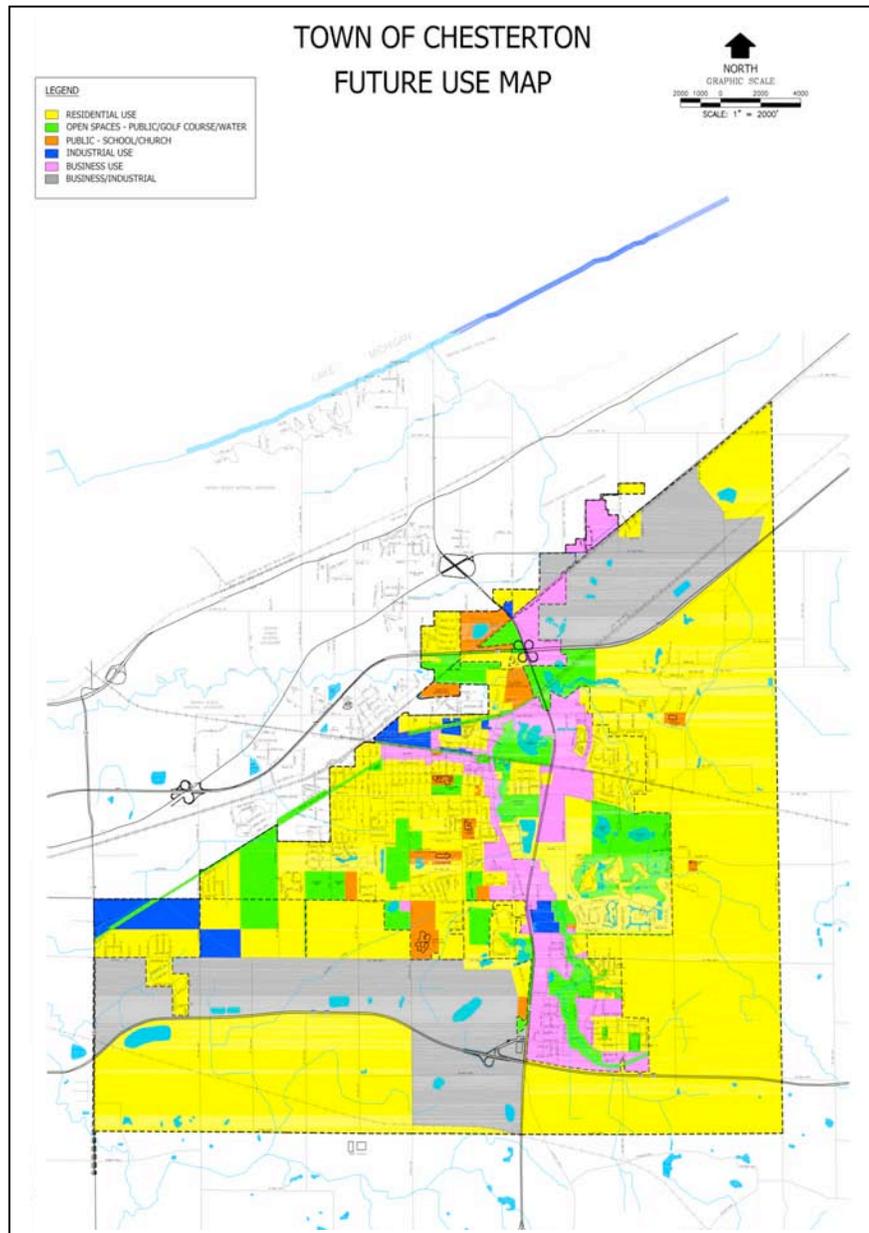


## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

The Town's Comprehensive Plan acknowledges the future growth of the Town and this is illustrated in Figure 3, Future Use Map. This Map illustrates the potential build out of the Town including all of the Chesterton Future Land Use Planning Area.

**FIGURE 3 –  
Chesterton  
Future Use  
Map**

Source: Town of  
Chesterton  
Comprehensive Plan





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## Section H: Community Description

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### **Concluding Remarks**

The data collection and analysis of social economic demographics, environmental issues and physical conditions of the land were obtained from a variety of sources including the Town of Chesterton Comprehensive Plan, the Duneland School Corporation, the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2005-2009, and others noted.

Chesterton is situated in the wide and shallow little Calumet River valley in the northwestern corner of Porter County. It occupies a position at the eastern edge of the immense Chicago-Calumet socio-economic area, and it is anticipated that the sprawl of the Chicago-Calumet complex will continue eastward portending tremendous growth for the Town in the next decade.

With increased urbanization consuming free and open spaces it is to the advantage of everyone to preserve lands for present and future generations. With increased leisure time it is becoming more important to provide for sufficient parkland and recreational opportunities and facilities accessible to the total community.

When attempting to develop a park and recreation plan in a rapidly growing urban area such as Chesterton, the availability of potential lands and the expense of acquiring such are of utmost consideration. As communities expand available lands suitable for park and recreational use diminishes. Although public recreation does not generate additional revenue directly to the municipality, new urban development planned with open spaces reserved for recreational activities does promote stable real estate values. Recreation also contributes to the physical and social development of persons of all ages, and therefore, adequate recreation land promotes better communities through better quality of life.

### Master Planning Study Area

The study area of this Five-Year Master Plan follows the area used in both the Town's comprehensive Plan and the Park's Recreation Impact Fee Study. (Refer to the previous page.)



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Government and Services

#### Town Council

James G. Ton..... District 1  
Jeff Trout..... District 2, Vice-President  
David Cincoski..... District 3  
Sharon Darnell..... District 4  
Emerson DeLayne..... District 5, President  
Gayle S. Polakowski..... Clerk-Treasurer

#### Plan Commission

Fred Owens..... President  
Sigmund Niepokoj..... Vice-President  
Michael Bannon..... Member  
George Stone..... Member  
Jeff Trout..... Member  
Thomas Kopko..... Member  
Emerson DeLaney..... Member

#### Board of Zoning Appeals

Fred Owens..... President  
Kimberly Goldak..... Vice-President  
Brandon Kroft..... Member  
James Kowalski..... Member  
Sigmund Niepokoj..... Member  
Gail Murawski..... Secretary

#### Board of Parks and Recreation

Vincent Emanuele..... President  
John Kroft..... Vice President  
Roy Flaherty..... Secretary  
Eric Witt..... Member  
Sharon Darnell..... Town Council Liaison  
Bruce Mathias..... Park Superintendent  
Charles Lukmann..... Attorney

#### Law Enforcement

21 sworn Police Officers

#### Fire Protection

12 Firefighters  
20 Volunteer Firefighters  
1 Fire Station  
1 Tanker  
3 Engines  
1 Tower Truck  
1 Brush Truck  
1 All-Purpose Vehicle  
1 Rescue Truck  
1 Fire Safety Trailer  
3 Chief's Vehicles  
1 School & Inspection Vehicle

#### Sewage Treatment

Chesterton Sewage Plant

#### Waste Disposal

Able Disposal

#### Water

Indiana American Water

#### Natural Gas / Electric

Northern Indiana Public Service Company  
(NIPSCO)

#### Telephone

Verizon



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## Section H: Community Description

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### Hospital & Medical Care Services

#### Hospitals

Porter Memorial Hospital .....Valparaiso  
St. Anthony's Hospital.....Michigan City  
St. Mary Medical Center .....Hobart  
Methodist Hospital..... Merrillville  
The Community Hospital .....Munster  
Intensiva Hospital of NW Indiana ..... Hammond  
St. Catherine Hospital..... East Chicago  
St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Ctr. .... Hammond  
St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Center .....Dyer  
LaPorte Hospital..... LaPorte

#### Educational Facilities

##### Public

Duneland School Corporation  
    1 – High School  
    3 – Junior High Schools  
    5 – Elementary Schools

##### Private

Chesterton Montessori School  
Duneland Montessori Academy  
Fairhaven Baptist Academy  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church School  
Sylvan Learning Center

#### Colleges, Universities & Technical Institutions

Indiana University Northwest .....Gary  
Ivy Tech State College .....Gary  
Purdue University Calumet..... Hammond  
Purdue University North Central..... Westville  
Valparaiso University .....Valparaiso



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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Transportation

#### Highways

Direct access is provided via IN-249. Along with this direct port access, four major interstates transect Northwest Indiana including I-65, I-80, I-90, I-94, offering routes to both coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and Canada. In addition, Chicago I-55 and I-57 connect Northwest Indiana with other Midwest and southern destinations.

#### Local Airports

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport are all easily accessible from Burns Harbor/Portage. The Gary/Chicago International Airport, 14 miles away, has the second-longest runway in the Chicago metro area and serves more than 65,000 flights per year.

#### Railways

In addition to being centrally located for highways, Chesterton is also a focal point for freight rail and passenger rail. The Town is currently served by three Class I railroads, CSX, N.Y. Central, and Michigan Central, and the South Shore Railroad. The South Shore Line rail passenger service is the last electric interurban line in the nation and transports 3.4 million passengers annually from Chicago to as far as South Bend, Indiana. *Source: www.chestertonin.org*

#### Bus Services

Scheduled bus service is available in Gary, Indiana. Access to the principal airports is available through an area shuttle service. *Source: Comprehensive Plan, Chesterton, Indiana, 2004*

### Major Industries

| Employer                  | Employees |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| ISG-Burns Harbor          | 6000      |
| National Steel-Portage    | 1400      |
| AM Corp.-Chesterton       | 180       |
| Signature Graphics        | 65        |
| Paulson Oil of Chesterton | N/A       |
| Duneland Schools          | N/A       |
| Able Disposal             | N/A       |



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## Section H: Community Description

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### Communications

#### Newspapers

- Chesterton Tribune (daily)

#### Television

All major television networks are available to residents of the Town of Chesterton with signals originating in Chicago. Cable and satellite service is also available. Stations include:

- W04CQ Channel 4
- W54BK Channel 54
- WLS-TV Channel 7
- WTTW Channel 11
- W24AW Channel 24
- WYIN Channel 56
- WMAQ-TV Channel 5

#### Radio

Radio stations located in Chesterton and several stations in neighboring Chicago provide news and music to a variety of listeners.

##### FM Stations

- WDSO 88.3 FM
- WLJE 105.5 FM
- WBEW 89.5 FM
- WHLP 89.9 FM

##### AM Stations

- WNDZ 750 AM
- WIMS 1420 AM
- WLS 890 AM
- WIND 560AM

### Financial Institutions

#### Banks

- Centier Bank
- Horizon Bank
- JP Morgan Chase Bank
- Fifth Third Bank
- TCF National Bank
- Standard Bank and Trust Co.
- First State Bank of Porter
- 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank
- First National Bank



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Fraternal and Civic Organizations

Fraternal and Civic organizations in Chesterton include the Chamber of Commerce, the Moose Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, and the Chesterton Fraternal Order of Police.

### Population

Population studies are an important part of the analysis of the current condition and future expectations of the community. An analysis of a community's population provides background information necessary to determine future park and recreation needs. The trends of population characteristics over the recent past give insight to the future needs of the community. On the following pages are population statistics for the Town of Chesterton and Porter County to help determine future needs for public recreation infrastructure, facilities and services.

#### Town of Chesterton Population

#### Current and Projected – All Development Potential (within the Town Limits)

2000 Census of Persons per Household = **2.57**

|                              | 1990  | 2000   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Town of Chesterton     | 9,124 | 10,488 | 12,041 | 12,378 | 12,520 | 12,708 | 12,962 |
| Annual Growth Rate (Est.)    |       |        |        |        | 1.15%  | 1.50%  | 2.00%  |
| Households (at 2.57 / house) |       | 4,081  | 4,685  | 4,816  | 4,872  | 4,945  | 5,044  |
| Total New Households         |       |        |        | 26     | 55     | 73     | 99     |
| Growth Per Year (Persons)    |       |        |        |        | 142    | 188    | 254    |

|                              | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Town of Chesterton     | 13,293 | 13,732 | 14,301 | 15,031 | 15,985 | 17,208 | 18,777 |
| Annual Growth Rate (Est.)    | 2.55%  | 3.30%  | 4.15%  | 5.10%  | 6.35%  | 7.65%  | 9.12%  |
| Households (at 2.57 / house) | 5,172  | 5,343  | 5,565  | 5,849  | 6,220  | 6,696  | 7,306  |
| Total New Households         | 129    | 171    | 222    | 284    | 371    | 476    | 611    |
| Growth Per Year (Persons)    | 331    | 439    | 570    | 729    | 954    | 1,223  | 1,569  |

Data taken from Census Information and Projections from Discussions with Recreation Impact Fee Advisory Committee and the Town of Chesterton

Projected Growth Rate for 10 year Period = 42.87%  
 Projected Annual Growth Rate = 4.29%

|                             | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 10-Yr Avg |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Projected Annual Growth % = | 1.15% | 1.50% | 2.00% | 2.55% | 3.30% | 4.15% | 5.10% | 6.35% | 7.65% | 9.12% | 4.29%     |

**TABLE 8 – Town of Chesterton Population**



## Section H: Community Description

### Population Statistics

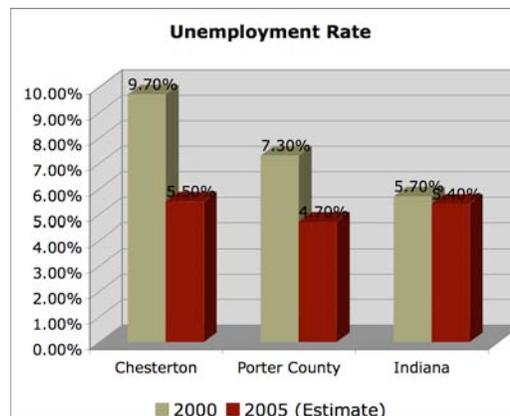
As noted in the previous Table 8, the total population for the Town of Chesterton for the 2000 Census was 10,488. Of the total households (4,039), 71% are families, nearly 69% of which are owner-occupied homes. The average household size is 2.69 persons. School enrollment, from preschool through college, stands at 3,030. The census also shows 3.1% of Chesterton families live in poverty.

The following charts show the population by Employment Status and Age Group.

*Source: Factfinder, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau*

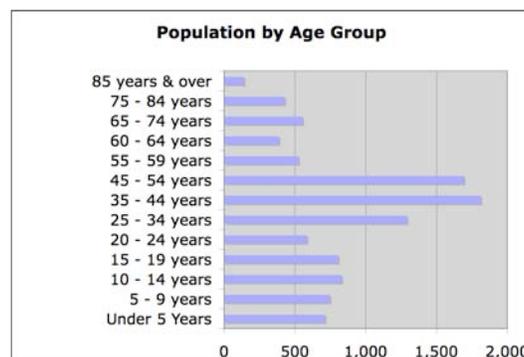
### Employment Statistics

This Census Bureau estimate for Chesterton, Porter County and the State of Indiana, indicates an overall decline in the unemployment rate, as shown in this chart. This would be of great benefit to the entire population.



### Population by Age Group

The following chart shows the breakdown by age group. The largest population groups are 35-44 and 45-54 years of age indicating a large percentage of the population to be in the age-range of young families.





## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Recreation

The Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide variety of facilities, programs and services that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of people of all ages. Parks and Recreation facilities have become as important to Chesterton families as every other neighborhood service.

Local Private Recreation Facilities include Coffee Creek Conservancy, The Courts, and Duneland Health. Brassie Golf Course is a public course while Sand Creek is a private golf course.

Other recreational facilities include the Duneland Health Club and the YMCA.

### Regional Public Recreational Opportunities

#### Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park, Gary – Michigan City, Indiana

One of the great prides of the region, this impressive stretch of Lake Michigan shore includes beaches, sand dunes, bog, wetlands, woodland forests, even an 1830's French Canadian homestead and a working 1900 era farm. The park spans the counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte and contains approximately 15,000 acres - 2,182 of which are located in Indiana Dunes State Park

#### Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Porter, Indiana

Sunset Hill Farm County Park is a beautiful 235-acre park complete with prairie land and wooded hiking trails. The front of the park is utilized for festivals and events while the back is left for nature to take its course. Many students throughout the County have participated in education programs, which help to promote a respect and understanding for earth's natural resources.

The land at Sunset Hill Farm was a gift of Colonel Robert Heffron Murray, a businessman by profession, but a farmer by heart. He and his wife, Sue Horton Murray, purchased the initial acreage in 1934. Five more parcels were added between 1945 and 1954.

Sunset Hill Farm became well known to Northwest Indiana residents when it began selling milk in 1939 - a gallon was 30 cents! By 1970, 400 gallons a day was being produced. That year, milk stopped being sold directly to the public. It was shipped to Dixie Dairy in Gary who continued distributing the milk until 1978. Upon Murray's death in 1972, the farm was left to Purdue University, which relinquished ownership to Porter County.

Additional recreational opportunities are provided by Portage Parks, Valparaiso Parks and the Michigan City Parks Department.



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section I:

## Inventory



## Section I: Inventory

### Existing Recreation Facilities

Chesterton presently has seven developed parks on 142.91 acres, in addition to the Prairie Duneland Trail. All the parks offer a wide variety of activities. The following pages offer reviews that summarize the more important aspects of each park.

The fourteen (14) public parks in the Town of Chesterton range in size from 0.3 acres (Kipper Park) to 60 acres (Dogwood Park). The types of facilities available in each park also vary widely. As can be seen in the spreadsheet, the activities or facilities are listed per park. Also shown is ownership of public facilities. The public parks consist of one (1) community park, nine (9) neighborhood parks, one (1) block park (tot lot), and three (3) special park settings.

### Facility Infrastructure Inventory

| FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY   |                                       |                                       |                               | Basic Park Amenities - Core Components |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------|---|
| Town Wide Analysis (All Facilities) |                                       |                                       |                               | PARKS*                                 |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             | SCHOOLS**     |                        |                     | OTHER***                  |                          |      |   |
| Facility                            | Current Facilities in the Park Dept.* | Current Facilities within the Comm.** | Total Inventory of Facilities | Chesterton Park                        | Coffee Creek Park | Crocker Park | Dogwood Park | Dunewood Estates Property | Golfview Park | Jackson Park | Kipper Park | Morningside Park | Olde Towne | Prairie Duneland Trail | Thomas Centennial Park | Waskom Park | Westwood Park | Chesterton High School | Bailey Elem. School | Westchester Middle School | Chesterton Middle School | YMCA | Other (Brassie CC, Other Playgrounds in Zone) |
| Baseball Diamonds                   | 1.00                                  | 4.00                                  | 5.00                          | 1.00                                   |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               | 2.00                   |                     | 1.00                      | 1.00                     |      |   |
| Softball Diamonds                   | 4.00                                  | 3.00                                  | 7.00                          |  |                   |              | 4.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               | 2.00                   | 1.00                |                           |                          |      |   |
| Multi Purpose Fields                | 5.00                                  | 5.00                                  | 10.00                         | 2.00                                   |                   |              | 2.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        | 1.00        | 2.00          |                        |                     |                           | 2.00                     | 1.00 |   |
| Soccer Fields                       | 6.00                                  | 2.00                                  | 8.00                          |  |                   |              | 5.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        | 1.00        | 1.00          | 1.00                   | 1.00                |                           | 0.00                     |      |   |
| Tennis Courts                       | 6.00                                  | 12.00                                 | 18.00                         | 5.00                                   |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        | 1.00        | 10.00         | 0.00                   | 2.00                | 0.00                      |                          |      |   |
| Running / Walking Track (Comm)      | 0.00                                  | 1.00                                  | 1.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     | 1.00                      |                          |      |   |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)         | 11.00                                 | 12.00                                 | 23.00                         | 4.00                                   |                   |              | 4.00         |                           |               | 1.00         |             |                  |            |                        |                        | 2.00        |               | 0.00                   | 4.00                | 4.00                      | 4.00                     |      | 0.00  |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)        | 1.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 1.00                          |  |                   |              | 1.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)      | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements       | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Park Shelters                       | 6.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 6.00                          | 1.00                                   |                   |              | 5.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Park Restrooms                      | 2.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 2.00                          | 1.00                                   |                   |              | 1.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Interpretive Center                 | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Environmental Center                | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue         | 2.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 2.00                          |  |                   |              | 1.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        | 1.00                   |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)   | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)     | 2.00                                  | 3.00                                  | 5.00                          | 1.00                                   | 1.00              |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        | 1.00                |                           |                          |      | 2.00  |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)          | 3.00                                  | 1.00                                  | 4.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               | 1.00         |             |                  |            |                        |                        | 1.00        |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      | 1.00  |
| Skating Rinks (hockey)              | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Skating Area (non-hockey)           | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Swim. Pool / Aquatics Facilities    | 0.00                                  | 3.00                                  | 3.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               | 1.00                   |                     |                           | 1.00                     | 1.00 |   |
| Sprayground / SplashPad             | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Golf Course 18-hole***              | 0.00                                  | 1.00                                  | 1.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      | 1.00  |
| Driving Range***                    | 0.00                                  | 1.00                                  | 1.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      | 1.00  |
| Dog Park Area                       | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hub)        | 1.00                                  | 1.00                                  | 2.00                          |  |                   |              | 1.00         |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               | 1.00                   |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                                  | 0.00                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            |                        |                        |             |               |                        |                     |                           |                          |      |   |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles) | 3.10                                  | 0.80                                  | 3.90                          |  |                   |              |              |                           |               |              |             |                  |            | 3.10                   |                        |             |               |                        |                     | 0.80                      |                          |      |   |
| Park / Open Space Acres             | 142.91                                | 141.50                                | 284.41                        | 8.00                                   | 12.00             | 3.40         | 60.00        | 0.70                      | 1.50          | 2.00         | 0.30        | 1.15             | 0.50       | 46.37                  | 2.00                   | 3.00        | 1.99          | 20.00                  | 12.50               | 20.00                     | 2.00                     | 2.00 | 85.00   |

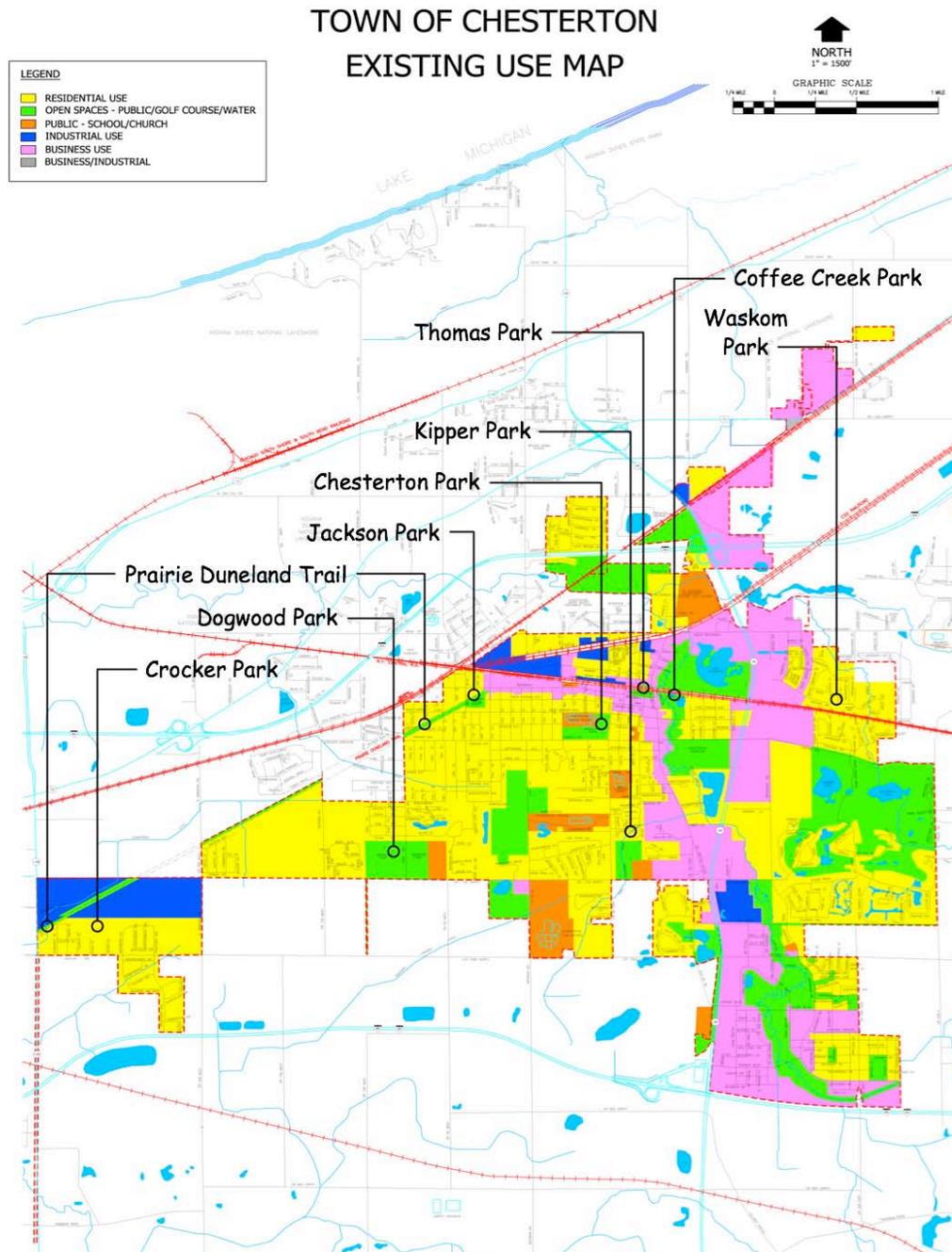
\* Current Facilities Data updated from the Park and Recreation Master Plan from 2005-2009 Master Plan Inventory. Only Inventory Used to factor current level of service.  
 \*\* Current Facilities Inventory found within the community provided by schools and other providers.  
 \*\*\* Includes YMCA, Brassie Golf Club, and other playgrounds in the zone

Table 9 – Facility Infrastructure Inventory



# Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

Figure 4 – Town Map of Park Facilities





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## Section I: Inventory

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### Park Locations and Descriptions

Chesterton Parks has both developed and undeveloped park land, as listed below. Park descriptions and aerial maps of the developed parks follow.

#### Developed Parks

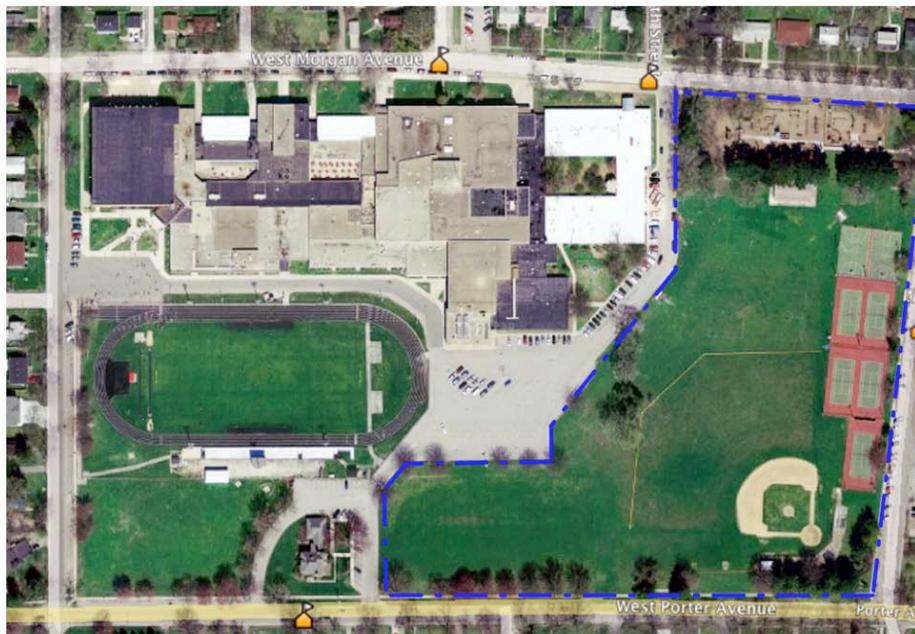
Chesterton Park  
Coffee Creek Park  
Dogwood Park  
Jackson Park  
Kipper Park  
Prairie Duneland Trail  
Waskom Park  
Thomas Centennial Park

#### Undeveloped Parks

Crocker Park  
Dunewood Estates Property  
Golf View Park  
Morningside Park  
Old Town Park  
Westwood Park

### Chesterton Park

Chesterton Park is an 8-acre site adjacent to Chesterton High School at the northwest corner of Porter and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The park offers a variety of recreational facilities for all ages. Lighted tennis and basketball courts, softball & baseball fields, group picnic shelters, barbecue grills and a grassy playground area for children. Chesterton Park offers a summer recreational program for ages 6 and up, which includes arts and crafts as well as planned play activities.





## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Coffee Creek Park

Coffee Creek Park is a 12-acre park located in the northeast section of Town along the creek, just north of Morgan Avenue and east of Calumet. This is the only park that provides water-based recreation. The tubing hill is a popular attraction during the winter months. Also available are four mini-shelters, a playground and grassy areas.





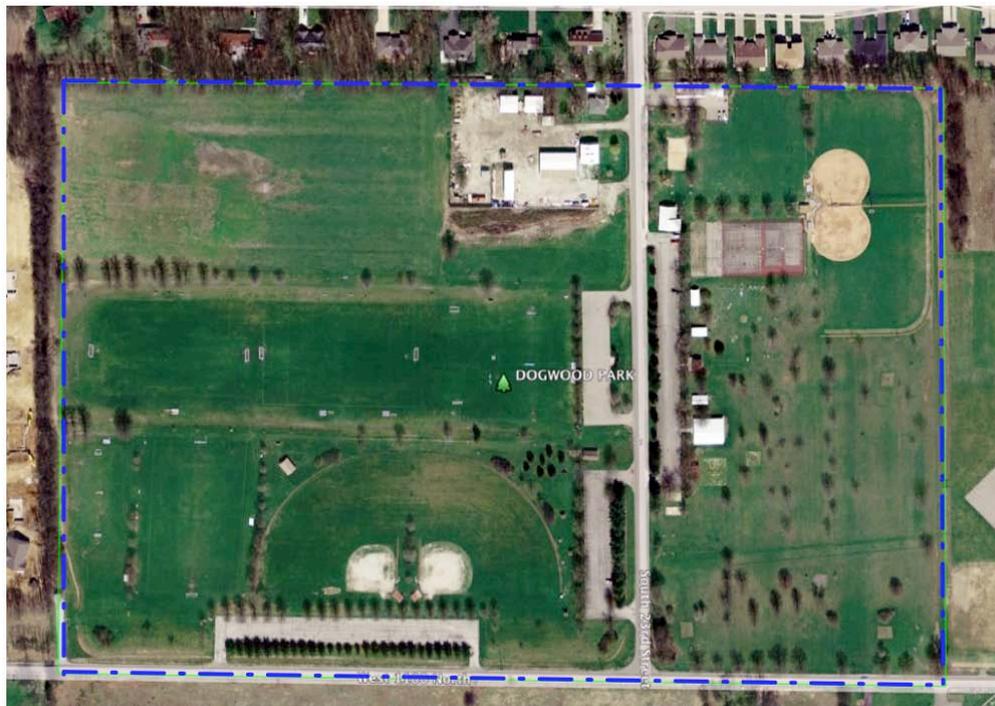
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## Section I: Inventory

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### Dogwood Park

Dogwood Park, a 60-acre site located in the southwest section of Town of both sides of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and on the north side of County Road 1100 North, is the largest of the parks and offers the most in recreational facilities for all ages. Softball and multi-purpose fields, tennis and basketball courts, group picnic shelters and barbecue grills, mini-shelters, a five-hole chip & put course with sand greens, horseshoe courts, a 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-mile fitness & exercise trail with 18 workout stations, and a grassy playground area for children. The Park Department offers a summer softball program for men, women and mixed leagues. The Duneland Soccer Club uses the multi-purpose fields for soccer games in the spring and fall months and has co-hosted the White River State Regional Soccer Games (now called the Hoosier State Games) for the past few years. The Duneland Festival Committee holds their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration at Dogwood Park. This community-sized park continues to offer activities for small groups as well as large sized events.





## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Jackson Park

Jackson Park is a 2-acre site located at Jackson and Morgan, which abuts the bike trail and the 44 acres the trail runs through and serves as the parking lot for trail users.





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## Section I: Inventory

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### Kipper Park

Kipper Park is a 0.3-acre site located within the Westchester South subdivision on Olivia Lane. This total includes a play-gym, swings, benches, a mini-shelter and a half-court basketball setup.





## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Prairie Duneland Trail

The Park Department acquired 46.37 acres of the abandoned EJ&E railroad right-of-way, which was developed into a walking / bike trail in conjunction with the Regional Bikeway Path.





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## Section I: Inventory

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### Robert L. Waskom Park

Robert L. Waskom Park is a 3-acre site located at the southwest end of Duneland Cove subdivision on Michael Drive, which offers a variety of recreational facilities for all ages. There is a playground area for children, two mini-shelters, a basketball court and a tennis court.





## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Thomas Centennial Park

Thomas Centennial Park is a 2-acre site located in the downtown section of Chesterton at the northwest corner of Broadway and Calumet, and contains one of the most visible symbols of the community, the Gazebo. This park hosts, annually in September, the Wizard of Oz festival. This festival has become a very popular event for the Chesterton residents and visitors. The park Department sponsors flea markets during the months of June, July, August and September, which has been well received and proven successful. Throughout this park there are lights, benches, picnic tables and a winding concrete sidewalk. Summer family films and gazebo entertainment are unique features of this beautiful park. The gazebo is also available for weddings.





Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section J:

## Maintenance



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Park Maintenance

The image of the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department relates to how well its parks and facilities are maintained. Parks are known to be the welcome mat of cities and towns. Therefore, a visitor's first impression is critical. Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department is fortunate to have beautiful parks and staff dedicated to its works and to the City.

Park maintenance procedures and practices can be summarized as follows:

- Centralized
- Maintenance reviews conducted through daily site visits
- Trash pick-up of all park areas
- Winter snow plowing of all parks as well as some other municipal properties
- Annual inspections are conducted on all park facilities

It is important that the Maintenance Division continue to evaluate its role and purpose and make adjustments so that policies & procedures can be developed to enhance park maintenance efficiency.

### Maintenance Strategy

Park grounds maintenance involves turf maintenance, tree maintenance, structure maintenance, landscape maintenance and litter control.

- Turf Maintenance – includes mowing, trimming, fertilization and chemical application.
- Tree Maintenance – includes watering, pruning and insect control.
- Structural Maintenance – includes shelter houses, restroom facilities, playground equipment, fence lines, park trails, bleachers and parking lots.
- Equipment Maintenance – includes trucks, tractors, front-end loader, mowing equipment and all other mechanical equipment as required.
- Landscape Maintenance – includes mulch application, trimming and flower displays throughout the town.
- Litter Control – (on all park sites) includes trash barrel collection and hand pick up work.

The following recommendations are based on review of existing maintenance practices. The recommendations are divided into four (4) basic categories for each division:

1. Operations
2. Facilities
3. Equipment
4. Staff



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Operations

The maintenance operations of the Parks Department are in good working order, requiring only a few changes. Recommendations are as follows:

It is recommended that an Operations and Safety Manual for maintenance practices be developed. Such a manual would provide direction in areas of responsibility and procedures. It would also be an excellent tool for new employee orientation and training.

Additionally, the development of a landscape maintenance program and schedule would help identify what needs to be done, where it should be done, and most importantly, when it should be done, and by whom.

The old methods of administering the operations of the Park and Recreation Department are not as productive and efficient in today's high-tech age. It is recommended that that Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department consider implementing a computer-based maintenance management program. Goals of such a system would be:

1. Facilitate better long and short term park planning and provide for more accurate monitoring of park maintenance activities.
2. Increase the cost effectiveness of maintenance practices and improve maintenance scheduling.
3. Provide management with more accurate and complete information on which to base budgets and make decisions.

A computerized "Parks Maintenance Management System" (as published in Trends by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service) includes nine basic components:

- Task Definitions
- Activities
- Inventory
- Accomplishment Units
- Quality Standards
- Service Levels
- Methods and Procedures
- Standard Crew Complement
- Productivity Standards

It is through such a management system that short-term planning and resource allocations can be determined along with long-term strategic decisions. In the short term it serves as an overall check on performance and budget results. Long term, it will aid in decisions on staffing, equipment purchases, budget forecasting, etc.

It is recommended that the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department investigate the possibility of computerizing its maintenance operations.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Facilities

The facilities in the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department are in various stages of maintenance attention. In general, and over time, all of the park facilities will require an upgrade. In order to implement an upgrade, budget resources and needs lists will be required.

Once the facilities have been upgraded to a satisfactory level, it is recommended that a preventative maintenance program be developed and implemented. A Building and Structure Checklist form should be developed and reviewed on an annual basis, thus providing time to plan and budget for repairs and renovations. Items in the checklist may include structural conditions, roofing, mechanical systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, doors, windows, planting, and landscape.

### Equipment

The Park Department's maintenance vehicles and equipment were found to be in good condition. Vehicle / equipment replacement has been an ongoing program in the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department. It is important to have the proper maintenance equipment and vehicles to complement the staff in its duties and responsibilities.

Because some vehicles and their equipment are in service longer than their expected life, it is recommended that a service log system be developed. By tracking the maintenance and repairs on each piece of equipment, the replacement program can be better organized. "Trouble" pieces of equipment can be moved up in the replacement program, and each piece can be better evaluated for the suitability of the job required.

### Staff

It is a good practice to review each new development, facility, or program to determine and anticipate any potential impact it may have on the maintenance staff.

A few recommendations for maintenance staff include:

1. Continuation of staff training and education programs.
2. Development of a staff manual with:
  - staff training
  - operations procedures
  - job descriptions
  - maintenance policies
3. Training for emergency procedures. When an accident occurs in a park, often the maintenance staff is the only park personnel in the area; therefore, each person should be knowledgeable of first aid emergency procedures.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Safety Rules

#### General Rules

1. Safety glasses must be worn when using: weed whip, edger, chainsaw, wood chipper, or any other equipment judged to present an eye hazard.
2. Safety vests must be worn when working on or near roadways or when transporting equipment on roads (example: driving the Toro to City Hall)
3. Flashers on equipment must always be on when you are on public roadways.
4. Under no condition should safety devices be removed from equipment.
5. Empty paint cans, aerosol cans, paint thinner, brush cleaner, must be placed in the marked containers.
6. All gasoline cans must be returned to the safety cabinet every night.
7. You are expected to evaluate your work assignment and select the proper safety equipment for the job. *If you are not sure, ask!*
8. Report and unsafe equipment to the safety man.
9. Never fill any gas tank with the engine running.
10. Never adjust any mowers or other power equipment with the engine running.
11. Look before you back up.
12. Never stand up on any piece of equipment while in operation.
13. Never borrow any piece of equipment without the supervisor's permission.
14. No speeding or horseplay on any piece of park equipment.
15. Keys must always be removed when leaving a piece of park equipment unattended in a park.
16. Extreme caution should be used whenever working along the edge of a body of water, especially when mowing.
17. Never allow anyone to ride on a mower or tractor.
18. Anyone being transported in the back of a truck must be seated either on the floor of the bed or on an approved seat.
19. No walkman-type devices are allowed while on the clock.
20. Check out all equipment prior to using it (belts, blades, oil level, brakes, tire pressure).



## Section J: Maintenance

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21. Never clear a clogged mower chute with the machine running.
22. Extra caution must be used when mowing damp or wet grass or hilly areas. Don't use a machine in an area it's not designed for.
23. Report any and all injuries and equipment malfunction or damage immediately.
24. Radio must always be on to answer your calls.
25. Follow all posted road signage (speed limits, etc.).
26. Pace yourself throughout the day and ask for help when lifting – macho men end up disabled.

*There is no substitute for common sense. When in doubt, ask!*

## Maintenance Work Forms

On the following pages are sample maintenance forms used for Work Requests and Work Orders. A revised version of these forms would be helpful to the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department for processing and tracking its maintenance activities.







## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Design Strategies to Deter Vandalism

#### Building Design

- Design informal gathering areas to insure orderly flow, supervision, and natural surveillance.
- Attach equipment to floors with sunken bolts.
- Remove all unnecessary hardware close to the ground level.
- Minimize exposed plumbing pipes and accessories.
- Avoid recessed entry-ways.
- Place entrances where highly visible.
- Ladders necessary for access to the roof should be located inside.
- Include a secure room whenever possible to provide storage for special use groups, thermostat, etc.
- Use recessed gutters and internal down spouts.

#### Walls

- Should be made of fireproof material whenever possible.
- Easily repainted surfaces.
- Legitimate graffiti areas.
- Recess hardware into walls and cover with protective plate.
- Rough textured walls.

#### Windows

- Sky lights may be substituted for windows.
- Eliminate windows on the back of buildings or those on woodland sides.
- Use break resistant windows (Plexiglas or lectern, etc.).
- Windows should be sealed.
- Openings should be narrow to prevent entry.
- Place windows high above reach of potential vandals whenever possible.
- Minimize glass around play areas.
- Avoid large areas of glass.
- Remove or avoid useless windows.
- Windows should not open outward.

#### Lighting

- Provide ample interior and exterior lighting to deter vandals (entrances, parking lots, etc.).
- Interior fixture should be recessed.
- Fixtures should be located high above reach.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Doors

- Should consider visibility for location.
- Material should be heavy and solid (including frames).
- Automatic closers when appropriate.
- Eliminate as much exterior hardware as possible.
- Consider installing a middle post for double doors.
- Metal plate should be welded to metal door.

### Restrooms

- Walls should have an easily cleaned surface.
- Eliminate mirrors.
- Use block walls as partitions.
- Make plumbing as inaccessible as possible.
- Avoid low placement of screen vents.
- Locate away from external entrances.
- Sinks should be supported on three sides.
- Avoid overhead braces across stalls or utilize a wide or ungraspable one to discourage swinging.

### Roof

- Use standing seam metal with severe slopes wherever possible.
- Avoid asbestos, composition, and wood shake shingles on one or two story buildings.
- Make access difficult.

### Fences

- Minimum height of 8 feet.
- Should be transparent (wrought iron or chain link).
- Eliminate unnecessary fences.
- Fence around public areas that are off limits at certain times.
- Gates at trail / access ways.

### Landscaping

- Provide adequate visibility to all entrances.
- Avoid using gravel or stones near buildings (that may be thrown).
- Do not plant so close to building that they can provide access to the roof.
- Carefully select places where shrubbery is to be planted so as not to provide hiding places.
- Protect young teens with guards.
- Plant trees and bushes not easily burned, broken, or climbed.
- Establish buffer area between formal play areas and school buildings.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Miscellaneous

- Install signs at 7ft. heights when allowable.
- Routed wooden signs are hard to deface.
- Refrain from metal signs as much as possible as they tend to attract marksman and thrown rocks.
- Flowers in a raised bed around a sign help protect it.
- Design fire hydrants that require a special tool to operate.
- Secure covers or manholes and use covers with little resale value.
- Use tamper-proof screw and fastener when possible.
- Utilize audible alarms.

## Suggested General Playground Maintenance Checklist

### General Upkeep of Playgrounds

- Check the entire playground area for miscellaneous debris or litter.
- Check for missing trash receptacles and for those, which are full.
- Check for any damage (i.e., any broken or missing components) to equipment or other playground features caused by vandalism or wear; for example, check for any broken or missing handrails, guardrails, protective barriers, or steps or rungs on ladders, and for damage to any fences, benches, or signs on the playground.

### Surfacing

- Check for equipment that does not have adequate protective surfacing under and around it and for surfacing materials that have deteriorated.
- Check loose surfacing material for foreign objects or debris.
- Check loose surfacing material for compaction and reduced depth, with special attention to heavy use areas such as those under swings and slide exit regions.

### General Hazards

- Check all equipment and other playground features for any hazard that may have emerged.
- Check for sharp points, corners, and edges; for example, check the sides and sliding surface of slide chutes for sharp or rough edges caused by deterioration.
- Check for protrusions and projections.
- Check for missing or damaged protective caps or plugs.
- Check for potential clothing entanglement hazards, such as open S-hooks.
- Check for pinch, crush, and shearing points or exposed moving parts.
- Check for trip hazards, such as exposed footings on anchoring devices and rocks, roots, or any other environmental obstacles in the play area.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Deterioration of Equipment

- Check all equipment and other playground features for rust, rot, cracks, and splinters, with special attention to possible corrosion where structures come in contact with the ground.
- Check for unstable anchoring of equipment.

### Security of Hardware

- Check for any loose or worn connecting, covering, or fastening hardware devices; for example, check the S-hooks at both ends of suspending elements of swings and all connection points on flexible climbing devices for wear.
- Check all moving parts, such as swing bearing hangers, for wear.

### Equipment Use Zones

- Check for obstacles in equipment use zones.

### Drainage Systems

- Check the entire play area for drainage problems, with special attention to heavy use areas such as those under swings and slide exit regions.

## **Summary Characteristics of Organic & Inorganic Loose-Fill Materials & Unitary Synthetic Materials**

### Organic Loose Material

- Wood chips, bark, mulch, etc.

### Fall Absorbing Characteristics

- Cushioning effect depends on air trapped within and between individual particles, and presupposes an adequate depth of material.

### Installation / Maintenance

- Should not be installed over existing hard surfaces (e.g., asphalt, concrete).
- Requires a method of containment (e.g., retaining barrier, excavated pit).
- Requires good drainage underneath material.
- Requires periodic renewal or replacement and continuous maintenance (e.g., leveling, grading, sifting, raking) to maintain appropriate depth and remove foreign matter.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Advantages

- Low initial cost.
- Ease of installation.
- Good drainage.
- Less abrasive than sand.
- Less attractive to cats and dogs (compared to sand).
- Attractive appearance.
- Readily available.

### Disadvantages

The following conditions may reduce cushioning potential:

- Environmental conditions: rainy weather, high humidity, freezing temperatures.
- With normal use over time, combines with dirt and other foreign materials.
- Over time, decomposes, is pulverized, and compacts.
- Depth may reduce by displacement due to children's activities or by material being blown by wind.
- Can be blown or thrown into children's eyes.
- Subject to microbial growth when wet.
- Conceals animal excrement and trash (e.g., broken glass, nails, pencils, and other sharp objects that can cause cut and puncture wounds).
- Spreads easily outside of containment area.
- Can be flammable.
- Subject to theft by neighborhood residents for use as mulch.

### Inorganic Loose Material

- Sand and gravel.

### Fall Absorbing Characteristics

- Cushioning effect depends on air trapped within and between individual particles, and presupposes an adequate depth of material.

### Installation / Maintenance

- Should not be installed over existing hard surface (e.g., asphalt, rock).
- Method of containment needed (e.g., retaining barrier, excavated pit).
- Good drainage required underneath material.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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- Requires periodic renewal or replacement (e.g., leveling, grading, sifting, raking) to maintain appropriate depth and remove foreign matter.
- Compacted sand should periodically be turned over, loosened and cleaned.
- Gravel may require periodic break up and removal of hard pan.

### Advantages

- Low initial cost.
- Ease of installation.
- Does not pulverize.
- Not ideal for microbial growth.
- Nonflammable.
- Materials are readily available.
- Not susceptible to vandalism except by contamination.
- Gravel is less attractive to animals than sand.

### Disadvantages

The following conditions reduce cushioning potential:

- Environmental conditions: rainy weather, high humidity, freezing temperatures.
- With normal use, combines with dirt and other foreign materials.
- Depth may be reduced due to displacement by children's activities, and sand blown by wind.
- May be blown or thrown into children's eyes.
- May be swallowed.
- Conceals animal excrement and trash (e.g., broken glass, nails, pencils, and other sharp objects that can cause cut and puncture wounds).

#### Sand:

- Spreads easily outside of containment area.
- Small particles bind together and become less cushioning when wet; when thoroughly wet, sand reacts as rigid material.
- May be tracked out of play area on shoes; abrasive to floor surfaces when tracked indoors; abrasive to plastic materials.
- Adheres to clothing.
- Susceptible to fouling by animals.

#### Gravel:

- Difficult to walk on.
- If displaced onto nearby hard surface pathways, could present a fall hazard.
- Hard pan may form under heavy traffic areas.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Unitary Synthetic Materials

- Rubber or rubber over foam mat or tiles, poured in place urethane and rubber compositions.

### Fall Absorbing Characteristics

- Manufacturer should be contacted for information on Critical Height of material when tested according to ASTM F1292.

### Installation / Maintenance

- Some unitary materials can be laid directly on hard surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.
- Others may require expert under-surface preparation and installation by the manufacturer or a local contractor.
- Materials generally require minimal maintenance.

### Advantages

- Low maintenance
- Easy to clean.
- Consistent shock absorbency.
- Material not displaced by children during play activities.
- Generally low life cycle costs.
- Good footing (depends on surface texture).
- Harbor few foreign objects.
- Generally no retaining edges needed.
- Is accessible to the handicapped.

### Disadvantages

The following conditions may reduce cushioning potential:

- Initial cost relatively high.
- Under surfacing may be critical for thinner materials.
- Often must be used on almost level uniform surfaces.
- May be flammable.
- Subject to vandalism (e.g., ignited, defaced, cut).
- Full rubber tiles may curl up and cause tripping.
- Some designs susceptible to frost damage.



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## Section J: Maintenance

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### Playground Safety

The safety of each individual piece of playground equipment as well as the layout of the entire play area should be considered when evaluating a playground for safety. The installation and maintenance of protective surfacing under and around all equipment is crucial.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has long recognized the potential hazards that exist with the use of public playground equipment. A Commission study of playground equipment-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms indicated that the majority resulted from falls from equipment. These were primarily falls to the ground surface below the equipment rather than falls from one part of the equipment to another part.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has produced *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* (Pub. No. 325), which includes technical safety guidelines for designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining public playgrounds, a copy of which is available online at [www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/pub.aspx](http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/pub.aspx).

Although the guidelines are not legal standards, in actual practice they might as well be. What happens when a child is hurt and a lawsuit is brought is that the courts look at the “state of the art.” And, the “state of the art” in playground equipment is the CPSC guideline. Failure to comply is likely to be considered negligence.

The installation of fall-absorbing ground cover is extremely important. Failure to install an acceptable (by the CPSC) fall-absorbing material under play equipment may be considered negligent no matter what other circumstances are present at the time of an accident.

A large number of lawsuits are pending in this general area of “Playground Safety.” The Chicago Park District settled out of court for \$2.9 million in the case of a child who was injured in a fall onto an asphalt surfaced playground. This information is provided, not as an authoritative commentary on the liability issue, but rather as historical facts for your review and understanding. Further, we strongly recommend a program of retrofitting to correct existing safety problems in the parks. The liability exposure is a growing concern and should be appropriately addressed.

When retrofitting, the safety surfacing should be installed as follows:

- A. Protective Surface Area: Install with a minimum of six feet in all directions from all stationary equipment and seven feet in the direction of motion from such equipment as slides. The direction of motion for whirls is all the way around. In the case of swings, seven feet is added to the swing seat in its fully extended (horizontal) position.
- B. No Encroachment Zone: For pieces of equipment this area extends six feet in all directions from the protective surface area. No other structure shall infringe on it. If two or more units are installed in the same protective surface area, the minimum distance between stationary pieces is twelve feet. Direction of motion footage is to be added to twelve feet.
- C. Ground Hazards: In the course of play there is a tendency for holes to develop in some play area surfaces, especially under swings, at the foot of slides, around whirls, etc. These should be kept filled. There should be no exposed concrete footings to trip over or fall into.



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section K:

Issues



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## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

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### Strategic Issues

With the study of the Recreation Impact Fees (RIF) for the Town of Chesterton new strategies have been outlined for the next ten-year period (2007-2016). The RIF study established “community level of services” for park and recreational components (i.e. ball fields, acres, trails, etc. per population standards). These established levels of services will play a role in defining park and recreation infrastructure with the anticipated and forecasts of residential growth.

The RIF Study determined several elements that will carry importance in the development and implementation of this master plan.

1. **Population Growth** – There is a forecast of population growth both in and around the Town of Chesterton. This new growth will quite possibly desire to be annexed into the Town for the infrastructure and services provided by the Town.
2. **Community Level of Service** – The established community level of service has identified current deficiencies and, with growth projections, future needs.
3. **Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance** – The approved RIF ordinance, approved in fall 2007, will serve as a funding source for park and recreation infrastructure over the coming decade with the anticipated residential growth forecasts.
4. **Partnerships Opportunities** – With the potential for growth there carries of additional impact on other community services and facilities. With such impacts also opens the potential for “partnerships” to be strengthen or established. Residential growth may cause the development of new school facilities that allows for the developments of park/school relationships. Also, by teaming with residential developers a partnership-relationship can be considered with the developer installing certain park infrastructure components for credit against their impact fees.
5. **Recreational Services and Resources** – With the current levels of services offered by the Parks Department there will become a higher need of recreational programming and related services. With the demand for expanding programs and services the Department will need to consider expanding and training staff and/or look at options for outsourcing such services to other “partners” in the community.

The Park and Recreation Department should consider four such principles that would be inclusive of the planning structure and recommendations.

- ❖ OVERALL RECREATIONAL COMMITMENTS MUST REMAIN WITH THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWN
- ❖ EXISTING AND PROPOSED FACILITIES SHOULD SUPPORT MULTIPLE USES AND/OR JOINT USES/OWNERSHIP FACILITIES, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION ON ENHANCING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS
- ❖ REVENUE GENERATION



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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### ❖ MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

These principles all reflect the goal of good stewards of resources, let them be fiscal, physical, or environmental. These principles can serve as a ‘filter’ in evaluating the recommendations of the priority and action plans.

## Trends & Conditions Affecting Parks & Recreation Planning – The Global View

Strategic planning is worthless unless there is first a strategic vision, a clear image of what is to be achieved, which organizes and instructs every step toward that goal. That strategic vision must be developed in the context of information that is likely to affect contemporary society. Social trends are then analyzed for future input on local leisure services.

### National Trends

- There is a definite shift from an industrial society to an information society.
- Innovations in communications and computer technology will accelerate the pace of change.
- In the information age, the focus of manufacturing will shift from the physical to more intellectual functions on which the physical depends.
- There is a shift from the specialist who is soon obsolete, to the generalist who can adapt.
- The more technology introduced into society, the more people will aggregate, will want to be with other people; movies, rock concerts, shopping.
- High-tech robots and high-touch quality circles are moving into our factories at the same time - and the more robots, the more circles.
- There is a shift from being an isolated, self-sufficient national economy to being part of a global economy.
- Long term plans must replace short term profit.
- There will be an increased demand for quality in all items purchased, buying for the longer term.
- State and local governments are the most important political entities in America.
- American culture is decentralizing, and as this occurs, diversity and differences are stressed instead of similarities.
- Local communities are tackling difficult problems and achieving solutions where the federal government has failed.



## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

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- Neighborhood groups are becoming more professional.
- The most visible aspect of the whole decentralization trend is the decentralization of people. City dwellers are moving to small towns and rural communities.
- There is a reclamation of America's traditional sense of self-reliance after four decades of trusting institutional help.
- The growth in fitness and health directly parallels the change from an industrial economy to an information economy.
- With the increase in business start-ups has come a new appreciation for the contributions of small businesses to the U.S. economy.
- Self-help in the food area means more home and urban gardening, food cooperatives, and farmers' markets.
- People whose lives are affected by a decision must be part of the process of arriving at that decision.
- The new leader is a facilitator, not an order giver.
- The failure of hierarchies to solve society's problems forced people to talk to one another - and that was the beginning of networks.
- Networks have emerged as a critical social form.
- More Americans and more new jobs are in the south and west. This shift from north to the south is two different stories: 1) the decline and stagnation of mature industries in the northeast; 2) the growth and development of new industries in the southwest.
- The multiple-option nature of the United States is addressed to our own individuality; we have greater and greater opportunities for self-expression in education, religion, the arts, and in our work as well as the marketplace.



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## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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### Recreation & Park Trends Analysis

*Adapted with information taken from:*

Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan, St. Joseph County Regional Parks, *prepared by Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands, Indiana University in association with Rundell Ernstberger Associates, May 1998.*

Dynamic changes now underway will have a dramatic impact on the policies and management of American cities. Gone are the days for local governments when revenues were plentiful and public officials could merely adjust tax rate to balance budgets, and when public programs were unquestionably increased in response to citizen demands for more services. The many changes taking place in our society have made it necessary to reevaluate the scale and mix of public services, as well as how they are financed (Kemp, 1990).

Profound changes are affecting all levels of government services provision. Public park and recreation providers face the changes more directly than many public services. Often these programs are the brunt of government “downsizing”, while being pressured to add more services and facilities. This “thinning of the blood” increasingly applies to many local government park and recreation departments throughout the country. And, in spite of increasing pressures to reduce government expenditures, the demand for leisure services is at an all time high. With the increasing commercialization of the “leisure experience”, the traditional providers and services provided have changed, but the need for well managed public park and recreation programs is as strong as ever. The key to managing the change is to understand the trends and issues impacting leisure service provision while designing services to meet the changes head-on. “The challenges of change are evident, obvious and numerous. Our role as leaders in the parks and recreation movement is to select those that are most critical and manage a strategic response to each” (Balmer, 1991).

A public recreation and park department must not move forward without taking into account societal, economic and technological changes. These changes will alter the very nature of the types of services offered and in the manner in which they are delivered. The clearer the understanding of the trends and issues impacting the delivery of services, the better park and recreation services provided in Chesterton.

The Park Board and Department Administrators have a responsibility to both determine and respond to change. Beyond the need for agency survival and effectiveness is a leadership responsibility of a coordinated view of the future so that they may ultimately become architects of change – creating a preferred future for residents through strategic management.

A number of far ranging societal trends that impact recreation services include:

1. The need to better define the economic impact of recreation opportunity.
2. The need to manage increasing costs and decreasing resources in recreation services.
3. The effects of technology and science on prolonging life and sedentary lifestyles.



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## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

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4. The growth of nontraditional families and changing social relationships.
5. The changing roles of federal and state government in funding support for outdoor park development.
6. The health/wellness industry growth including employee wellness services, health maintenance organizations and health providers offering wellness services.
7. Environment/ecology issues such as management of decreasing open space and increased demands for open space/natural areas.
8. Demographic factors such as an aging population and diversifying ethnic makeup of the country.
9. Travel/tourism demand increasing including the new demands of eco-tourism.

### Top Ranked Trends

Identifying trends and issues impacting recreation and park provision is not an easy task. Recreation and park departments survive in a web of complex environments which include changing demographics, unclear funding sources and increased private competition. For a modern recreation and park provider such as the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department to survive, it must identify the trends and issues most impacting the provision of service.

A recent comprehensive study of trends and issues in local government recreation and park departments was completed at Indiana University's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1992. The study identified trends having an extreme and great impact on local government recreation and park agencies.

#### *Extreme Impact*

1. Deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure
2. Increasing crime (violence, drug use, vandalism, gangs) in communities and parks
3. Declining park and recreation budgets relative to costs
4. Increasing competition for shrinking federal, state and local tax resources
5. Massive public sector debt

#### *Great Impact*

1. Neglect of children
2. Greater cultural diversity (growing and more influential huge growth in Hispanic population/minority populations)



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3. Greater difficulty in providing equal opportunity for leisure to all people
4. Declining quality of life and livability of urban areas (insufficient open space, deteriorating city)
5. Greater division between “haves” and “have-nots”
6. Increased public demand for participation, accountability and productivity in government

### *Solutions*

Merely identifying the trends and issues is not enough. The next logical step to the study was to project solutions which deal with emerging trends and issues. Key solutions suggested from the research include:

1. Ensuring that adequate finance for capital development exists by the creation of greater citizen support, the exploration of other funding sources and improved long-range planning.
2. Spending priorities with increasingly tight budgets should focus on maintaining service quality over quantity. Programs serving disadvantaged groups and self-supporting programs should be emphasized.
3. Parks should be made safe places by keeping them filled with programs and people, through united community efforts such as Park Watch and through attention to design and security.
4. Public park and recreation services would best strengthen their political position and shape policy through building local citizen and inter-organizational constituencies. A database indicating the benefits of parks, recreation and leisure to community development and health should be developed, while education and training of staff would ensure political skills are developed.
5. The way to obtain funding in the face of competition from other community services is to work with other agencies. Maintaining visibility in the community and interpreting the benefits of parks and recreation is necessary.
6. Park and recreation services should be managed more like a business in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and marketing techniques, but without the profit motive. A balance would be required between taxed and earned revenues to ensure public welfare roles of parks and recreation are maintained.
7. Board and staff training should be a priority funding item in order to maximize effectiveness, even in times of budget shortages.



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## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

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### Accessibility

One of the goals of the Parks Department is to provide parks and programs for all citizens of the community, regardless of age, sex, physical or mental capabilities, or socio/economic position. Persons with disabilities are present in every community. Most are active, working, and taxpaying citizens who expect to participate in their community, as does anyone else.

Who are the disabled? They are persons with temporary or permanent physical disabilities who have limited mobility. They are persons who have diabetes, heart conditions, arthritis or rheumatism, impairments of the upper extremities, high blood pressure, or multiple sclerosis. They are persons who may have been physically disabled since birth or recently acquired through military combat or accidents. The disabled may include the elderly or a toddler with a mobility problem.

The needs of all park patrons cannot be ignored when planning parks. It is important to remember that all community members may, at one time or another, require a more accessible environment.

Parks may be made accessible to the mentally challenged and physically disabled by employing the same designs and principles used in making buildings barrier-free. In any renovation or new construction, it is recommended that particular attention be given to the following:

1. All buildings in parks should be constructed according to the Accessibilities Guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – specifications for barrier-free design.
2. All trails, driveways, and parking lots should blend to a common level.
3. Picnic tables are often difficult for a person in a wheelchair to use because the benches are attached to the table, forcing the person to eat at the end where the leg room is usually insufficient. Moving the supports that hold the tabletop and benches farther into the center, thereby creating more leg room at each end, can easily rectify this.
4. Barbecue grills that are elevated about 32 inches off the ground or are adjustable in height are most ideal.
5. Water fountains and spigots should have hand-operated controls and should likewise be about 32 inches high. They are most accessible when they feature a basin which extends outward.
6. Ramps may be extended across the sandy areas to allow access to the water at the swimming beach.
7. Mentally challenged, physically disabled, and non-disabled children can use the same playground equipment if appropriate designs are incorporated.
8. In developing interpretive programs, special efforts should be made to accommodate those who suffer from sensory losses. Programs should contain items requiring the use of all senses,



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especially touch, taste, and smell. The intellectual level of the group should be considered, particularly when presenting a program to the mentally challenged. Park staff should consult with the group leader prior to the start of the program to determine how to gear the presentation for the particular group. To ensure that all visitors with disabilities are treated appropriately, it would be helpful to have Park staff attend in-service training for the purpose of learning about some of the common disabilities and what types of special treatment, if any, they require.

Committees of individuals with disabilities and their advocates should be formed as advisors when any special park facilities are being planned for these groups. In general, it is best to avoid anything that would call attention to a person's disability. Above all else, the park should not be designed for the handicapped only. All possible efforts should be made to integrate the persons with disabilities into the mainstream of life.

### **Privatization**

A financing and service delivery alternative that combines many of the advantages of the approaches is privatization. The privatization concept is based on public/private partnerships. The key is that both sides gain, but neither benefits at the expense of the other. The private sector gets a business opportunity, enhanced by the use of tax benefits. The public sector gets a needed service at a lower cost than otherwise possible, and if desired, eventual ownership of the facility that provides the service.

Certain types of projects can be constructed by the private sector more efficiently and at a lower cost than if the identical project is constructed by the public sector. This is because the private sector does not have to abide by the bureaucratic procedures and procurement regulations of federal, state, and local funded projects, and through operational efficiencies realized through economies of scale.

The private sector, pursuing a legitimate "service contract" with a local government unit, is also eligible for tax benefits not available to tax-exempt municipalities. The benefits include ACRS depreciation, tax credits, and the deductibility of interest payments on the debt used in the project financing. When private sector construction and operational savings are combined with available tax benefits, the lower project costs which result can be shared with the local community in the form of lower user fees, while providing a fair return on the investment to the private sector.

While many local government officials are still frowning over the cutbacks in federal grants and state support for capital-intensive infrastructure projects, some see a brighter future. Advisors to public officials are formulating creative and innovative financing approaches. Public officials and their advisors are becoming familiar with these alternative approaches, learning where and when the different concepts make sense. Equally important, they are discovering how to blend the concepts together to provide the most cost-effective form of service delivery to the public.



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## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

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### Revenue Management

Operating our public park systems and continuing to provide an array of public leisure experiences to the citizenry is an increasingly complex, difficult task for most public park and recreation systems. Conflicting priorities for limited tax dollars usually result in appropriations at all levels of government which are not keeping pace with the cost of operating a parks and recreation department.

In addition to improving the cost effectiveness of the department, it is extremely important to examine all potential sources for generating supplemental support. And, clearly, the self-generated revenues from fees and charges must be carefully considered.

Pressures on public parks and recreation managers to generate a higher percentage of income from user fees have intensified since the 1970s. This pressure is in marked contrast to the preceding two decades in which large infusions of tax dollars resulted in the rapid expansion of park systems around the country and a relaxation of generating revenues from fees and charges. During those two decades, government endeavored to serve everyone at little or no direct cost to the park user or program participant. But now, taxpayers are calling for less taxes and more “pay as you go” financing of recreation services under which users bear more of the cost of specialized services they enjoy. Therefore, the need for more aggressive revenue management is evident.

### Recreation, Parks and Open Space Guidelines

*Adapted from Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 Hoosiers Moving Forward, Prepared by Indiana Department of Natural Resources.*

In 1983 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published a classification system and recommendations for park acreages per 1,000 people within each of those systems. The basic guidelines are:

- **Mini-Park:** Service area, ¼ mile radius, 1 acre or less, ¼ to ½ acres/1,000 population
- **Neighborhood Park/Playground:** Service area ¼ to ½ mile radius with population up to 5,000, 15-plus acres, 1.0 to 2.0 acres/1,000
- **Community Park:** Service area 1 to 2 mile radius (several neighborhoods), 25-plus acres, 5.0 to 8.0 acres/1,000 population
- **Regional/Metropolitan Park:** Service area one hour driving time (several communities), 200-plus acres, 5.0 to 10/0 acres/1,000 population
- **Regional Park Reserve:** Service area 1 hour driving time (several communities), 1,000-plus acres (80% of land reserved for natural resources management and conservation, 20% for recreational development), variable acres/1,000 population



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- **Linear Park, Special Use Areas, and Conservancy Areas:** No applicable standards

*(Lancaster [Ed.], National Recreation and Park Association, 1983)*

The NRPA guidelines have remained the standard for baseline recommendations. NRPA has always said that the recommendations should guide outdoor recreation planning and should remain flexible. In 1996 the NRPA began to shift away from this population ratio method to a level-of-service system of recommendations. Level of service (LOS) is a strategic planning process that considers the demand for recreation opportunities within the community, current resources available, and opinions and views of the population. Indiana Department of Natural Resources relies more heavily on the use of an LOS system to assess the outdoor recreation needs in Indiana; they also refer back to the 1983 guidelines.

By comparing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities and the supplies currently available, the IDNR is able to determine standards for acres per 1,000 people for Indiana. Standards currently in place are:

- **Counties:** 20 acres per 1,000 people (0.02 acre per person) of public local recreation acres (i.e., owned by township, municipal, county, and privately owned but open for public use)
- **Indiana Regions:** 35 acres per 1,000 people (0.035 acre per person) of public regional recreation acres (i.e., owned by State or federal entities)
- **State:** 55 acres per 1,000 people (0.055 acre per person) of public recreation acres (i.e., a total of all acres in the above categories)

## Park Standards & Needs

The establishment of standards or a recreational “Community Level of Service”, as adopted in the recent Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance, helps to evaluate current deficiencies and future needs of the community. These “standards” should be used as guidelines and be considered minimums in assessing the recreational needs of the community. The standards typically relate to acreage and populations being served (not necessarily the ages of the population or the level of incomes, etc.) These standards form a base line from which need-analysis can be performed. The analysis of this study will utilize the national standards but will relate the analysis with the Community Level of Service for Chesterton.



## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

### Park Classifications

Within a park system there exists many different types of park facilities, sized to serve various populations. Within these varied facilities many different programs and functions can take place. The park system needs to have and maintain a variety for a balanced park and recreation program.

Authorities have differed on the ratio between acres and populations served for the various park classifications.

The standards from Purdue University will be used as a part of this study's analysis. These standards have been used and proven realistic throughout the State of Indiana. These tables can be found below and on the following pages.

#### COMMUNITY PARK STANDARDS...

|                               |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Size</b>                   | Minimum of 10 acres and ideally would contain 25+ acres. 7.0 acres per 1,000 persons.  |   |   |
| <b>Service</b>                | People served through this park would be between 5,000 - 10,000. Access to this park via biking or driving to serve the entire city. 1 to 2 mile service radius. |   |   |
| <b>Purpose</b>                | To provide an actively dominated recreation area with moderate amount of managed undeveloped land that draws from a community-wide service area.                 |   |   |
| <b>Characteristics</b>        | Variety of land forms<br>Moderate slopes<br>Tree cover<br>High use capacity<br>Good drainage capabilities  |   |   |
| <b>Conceptual Development</b> | 30 - 50% = Active recreation uses<br>23 - 40% = Passive recreation uses<br>10 - 20% = Special facilities uses<br>10 - 20% = Undeveloped areas                    |   |   |
| <b>Typical Facilities</b>     | Playfield<br>Open Play Areas<br>Arboretum<br>Swimming Pool<br>Trails   | Playground<br>Picnicking<br>Golfing<br>Community Center | Court Games<br>Fishing<br>Winter Sports<br>Wooded Areas |



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### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK STANDARDS...

|                               |   |                                    |                              |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Size</b>                   | The size of a Neighborhood Park would be 4 - 15 acres or 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons.   |                                    |                              |
| <b>Service</b>                | People served through this park would be between 4,000 - 5,000. Access to this park would primarily be by foot traffic. A service radius of 1/4 to 1/2 miles should be considered.  |                                    |                              |
| <b>Purpose</b>                | To provide group activities, individual-oriented activities and passive recreational facilities for all age groups within walking distance of urban neighborhood residents.   |                                    |                              |
| <b>Characteristics</b>        | Two types of neighborhood parks are common: School-Park Site and Standard Neighborhood Park. These two parks both meet the recreational needs of the neighborhoods. The Park-School facility provides the highest recreational potential and the most efficient use of the land and widest scope of recreational opportunities. |                                    |                              |
| <b>Other Characteristics</b>  | High use capacity and accessibility<br>Relatively flat land with good drainage<br>Intensive development of park areas<br>Development in conjunction with schools where possible   |                                    |                              |
| <b>Conceptual Development</b> | 40 - 80% = Active recreation uses<br>10 - 30% = Passive recreation uses<br>0- 5% = Undeveloped areas  |                                    |                              |
| <b>Typical Facilities</b>     | Playground<br>Open Play Areas<br>Neighborhood<br>Activities   | Playfields<br>Swimming Pool Center | Court Games<br>Sitting Areas |



Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

**BLOCK PARKS (Mini-Parks, Vest Pocket Parks) STANDARDS...**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Size</b>                   | Minimum of 1 acre or less and ideally would contain 1 - 5 acres or 1/2 acre per 1,000 persons.  |
| <b>Service</b>                | People served through this park would be between 500 - 2,500. 1/4 mile service radius.  |
| <b>Purpose</b>                | To provide limited recreational and sitting area in a small scale park setting for sub-neighborhood area.   |
| <b>Characteristics</b>        | High-use capacity and accessibility<br>Facilities requiring small tracts of land for development<br>Flat land and good drainage characteristics<br>Few barriers to walking access |
| <b>Conceptual Development</b> | 60 - 100% = Active recreation uses<br>10 - 20% = Passive recreation uses<br>0% = Undeveloped land   |
| <b>Typical Facilities</b>     | Playgrounds                      Shelter<br>Small Court Areas              Tot-Lots   |

**SPECIAL RECREATION AREA STANDARDS...**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Size</b>               | Varies, can range from 5,000 square feet to several acres in size  |
| <b>Service</b>            | Community-wide   |
| <b>Purpose</b>            | To provide preservation and public access to significant points of interest to the community.  |
| <b>Characteristics</b>    | Presence of significant community features<br>Historical, cultural and ecological interests  |
| <b>Typical Facilities</b> | Historical or Cultural Sites              Natural Areas<br>Monuments                      Single Use or Purpose Facilities<br>Wooded Educational Sites      Small Urban Parks that provide passive and relaxing areas of green within the urban fabric |



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### RECREATION STANDARDS: POPULATION RATIO METHOD

#### *SPACE STANDARDS FOR **DISTRICT PARKS***

(Suggested space standards for various units within the park. The minimum size is 20 acres.)

| Facility or Unit                       | Area in Acres         |               |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
|  | Park Adjoining School | Separate Park |
| Play apparatus area – preschool        | .35                   | .35           |
| Play apparatus area – older children   | .35                   | .35           |
| Paved multipurpose courts              | 1.25                  | 1.75          |
| Tennis complex                         | 1.00                  | 1.00          |
| Recreation center building             | *                     | 1.00          |
| Sport fields                           | 1.00                  | 10.00         |
| Senior Citizens' area                  | 1.90                  | 1.90          |
| Open or "free play" area               | 2.00                  | 2.00          |
| Archery range                          | .75                   | .75           |
| Swimming pool                          | 1.00                  | 1.00          |
| Outdoor theatre                        | .50                   | .50           |
| Ice rink (artificial)                  | 1.00                  | 1.00          |
| Family picnic area                     | 2.00                  | 2.00          |
| Outdoor classroom area                 | 1.00                  | 1.00          |
| Golf practice hole                     | *                     | .75           |
| Off-street parking                     | 1.50                  | 3.00**        |
| SUBTOTAL                               | 15.60                 | 28.35         |
| Landscaping (buffer and special areas) | 3.00                  | 6.00          |
| Undesignated space (10%)               | 1.86                  | 3.43          |
| TOTAL                                  | 20.46                 | 37.78         |

\* = Provided by Jr. or Sr. high school

\*\* = Based on 330 cars @ 400 sq. ft. per car

(Source: *Recreation Planning and Design* by Seymour M. Gold, 1980 McGraw-Hill, Inc., Appendix to the book)



## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

### Park Type and Acres

The Chesterton Park System is made up of parks categorized into the “community”, “neighborhood”, and “block” types. There are a variety of “special” park types in the system. These distinctions, along with their related acreages, are noted in the table below.

| <b>Chesterton - Park Inventory</b>                             |               |   |
|--|---------------|---|
| <b>Park Department Facilities</b>                              | <b>Acres</b>  | <b>Park Type</b>                            |
| Chesterton Park  | 8.00          | Neighborhood                                |
| Coffee Creek Park  | 12.00         | Neighborhood                                |
| Dogwood Park   | 60.00         | Community                                   |
| Jackson Park   | 2.00          | Special                                     |
| Olde Towne   | 0.50          | Special                                     |
| Kipper Park  | 0.30          | Block                                       |
| Prairie Duneland Trail   | 46.37         | Special                                     |
| Robert L. Waskom Park  | 3.00          | Neighborhood                                |
| Thomas Centennial Park   | 2.00          | Neighborhood                                |
| Crocker Park   | 3.40          | Neighborhood                                |
| Dunewood Park  | 0.70          | Neighborhood                                |
| Golfview Park  | 1.50          | Neighborhood                                |
| Westwood   | 1.99          | Neighborhood                                |
| Morningside Park   | 1.15          | Neighborhood                                |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>142.91</b> |   |
| <b>Other Facilities Acres:</b>                                 |               |   |
| Brassie Golf Club  | 212.00        | Private/Public                              |
| Coffee Creek Preserve  | 160.00        | Conservancy                                 |
| YMCA   | 4.50          | Private/Public                              |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>376.50</b> |   |
| <b>School Facilities / Open Space Acres:</b>                   |               |   |
| Chesterton High School   | 20.00         | <i>Note: not all property is Open Space</i> |
| Bailly Elementary School                                       | 12.50         |   |
| Westchester Middle School                                      | 20.00         |   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>52.50</b>  |   |
| <b>Park Type</b>   | <b>Acres</b>  | <b>Percentage</b>                           |
| Community Park Acres   | 60.00         | 41.98%                                      |
| Neighborhood Park Acres  | 33.74         | 23.61%                                      |
| Block Park Acres   | 0.30          | 0.21%                                       |
| Special Park Acres   | 48.87         | 34.20%                                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | <b>142.91</b> | <b>100.00%</b>                              |
| Totals Do <b>Not</b> Include “Other”/“School” Facilities Acres |               |   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>571.91</b> |   |



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Park Standards for Site Acreage & Type

The table below is the *Park Standards for Site Acreage and Type* for the Chesterton Park System. This table forecasts park acreage needs by type based on population standards per park type. Using the **National Standards (NRPA)** for acres per park type the data is analyzed on 2007 and 2016 population projections. Using the **National Park Standards** there is a shortage of park land forecasted in both 2007 and 2016 for Block, Neighborhood, and Community Park sites as indicated in the table below.

#### LAND INVENTORY - CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

| Town Wide Analysis                         |                           |                        |                         |                             |                       |                            |  |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Estimated 2007 and Projected Populations = |                           |                        |                         |                             |                       | 12,520                     | 18,777                                   |
| A  | B                         | C                      | D                       | E                           | F                     | G                          | H  |
| Park Type                                  | Typical Park Size (Acres) | Total Existing Acreage | Acres Standards / 1,000 | Current Acreage Stds./1,000 | Current Acreage Needs | 2007 Surplus or Deficiency | 2016 Needed if current deficiency IS met |
| Block Park                                 | 1 to 5                    | 0.30                   | 0.50                    | 0.02                        | 6.26                  | (5.96)                     | (9.09)                                   |
| Neighborhood Park                          | 4 to 15                   | 33.74                  | 3.00                    | 2.69                        | 37.56                 | (3.82)                     | (22.59)                                  |
| Community Park                             | 10 to 70                  | 60.00                  | 7.00                    | 4.79                        | 87.64                 | (27.64)                    | (71.44)                                  |
| Special Park                               | 0.5+                      | 48.87                  | 0.50                    | 3.90                        | 6.26                  | 42.61                      | 39.48                                    |
| Total Surplus or Deficiency                |                           | 142.91                 | 11.00                   | 11.41                       | 137.72                | 5.19                       | (63.64)                                  |

Data updated from the Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Using the Current Land Inventory as the Standard for Park Land and Open Space  
the Acres Standard per 1,000 persons would be = **11.41**

#### LAND INVENTORY - COMMUNITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

| Chesterton Acres Standard   |                        |  |                    |                            | 2016 Pop.                                |         |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--|---------|
| Estimated 2007 Population = |                        |  |                    | 12,520                     | 18,777                                   |         |
| I                           | J                      | K  | L                  | M                          | N  |         |
| Park Type                   | Total Existing Acreage | Community Level of Service - Acres Standards / 1,000 | 2007 Acreage Needs | 2007 Surplus or Deficiency | 2016 Needed if current deficiency IS met |         |
| Total Surplus or Deficiency |                        | 142.91   | 13.00              | 162.76                     | (19.85)                                  | (81.34) |

**Table 10 – Land Inventory**



## Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

### Park Standards for Facilities

Just as there are Standard for Park Acreage, there are also Standards for Recreation Facilities based on population. The Standards adopted by the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board have been used to produce this chart. It should be noted that the number of existing facilities include those of the Chesterton School system.

#### FACILITY INVENTORY AND NEEDS

Basic Park Amenities – Core Components to be applied to Recreation Impact Fees

| Town Wide Analysis (All Facilities) |                                       |   |                                       |                                       |                                       |                               |  |                            |   |  | 12,520                                  |   | 18,777 = Projected 2016 Pop. |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| A                                   | B                                     | C                                       | D                                     | E                                     | F                                     | G                             | H  | I                          | J   | K  | L                                       | M                                       |                              |  |
| Facility                            | Chesterton Community Level of Service | Community Level of Service / 1,000 Pop. | Current Level of Service / 1,000 Pop. | Current Facilities in the Park Dept.* | Current Facilities within the Comm.** | Total Inventory of Facilities | Community Level of Service 2007 Population | 2007 Surplus or Deficiency | Current Deficiencies (Community Level of Service) | Community Level of Service 2016 Population | 2016 Needs if current deficiency IS met | 2016 Needs (Community Level of Service) |                              |  |
| Baseball Diamonds                   | 1/4,000                               | 0.25                                    | 0.08                                  | 1                                     | 4                                     | 5                             | 3.13                                       | (2.13)                     | 2.13  | 4.69                                       | (1.56)                                  | 1.56                                    |                              |  |
| Softball Diamonds                   | 1/3,000                               | 0.33                                    | 0.32                                  | 4                                     | 3                                     | 7                             | 4.17                                       | (0.17)                     | 0.17  | 6.26                                       | (2.09)                                  | 2.09                                    |                              |  |
| Multi Purpose Fields                | 1/3,000                               | 0.33                                    | 0.40                                  | 5                                     | 5                                     | 10                            | 4.17                                       | 0.83                       | 0.00  | 6.26                                       | (1.26)                                  | 1.26                                    |                              |  |
| Soccer Fields                       | 1/3,000                               | 0.33                                    | 0.48                                  | 6                                     | 2                                     | 8                             | 4.17                                       | 1.83                       | 0.00  | 6.26                                       | (0.26)                                  | 0.26                                    |                              |  |
| Tennis Courts                       | 1/3,000                               | 0.17                                    | 0.48                                  | 6                                     | 12                                    | 18                            | 2.09                                       | 3.91                       | 0.00  | 3.13                                       | 2.87                                    | 0.00                                    |                              |  |
| Running / Walking Track (Comm)      | 1/30,000                              | 0.03                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 1                                     | 1                             | 0.42                                       | (0.42)                     | 0.42  | 0.63                                       | (0.21)                                  | 0.21                                    |                              |  |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)         | 1/1,500                               | 0.67                                    | 0.88                                  | 11                                    | 12                                    | 23                            | 8.35                                       | 2.65                       | 0.00  | 12.52                                      | (1.52)                                  | 1.52                                    |                              |  |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)        | 1/8,000                               | 0.13                                    | 0.08                                  | 1                                     | 0                                     | 1                             | 1.57                                       | (0.57)                     | 0.57  | 2.35                                       | (0.78)                                  | 0.78                                    |                              |  |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)      | 1/18,000                              | 0.06                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.70                                       | (0.70)                     | 0.70  | 1.04                                       | (0.35)                                  | 0.35                                    |                              |  |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements       | 1/18,000                              | 0.06                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.70                                       | (0.70)                     | 0.70  | 1.04                                       | (0.35)                                  | 0.35                                    |                              |  |
| Park Shelters                       | 1/2,000                               | 0.50                                    | 0.48                                  | 6                                     | 0                                     | 6                             | 6.26                                       | (0.26)                     | 0.26  | 9.39                                       | (3.13)                                  | 3.13                                    |                              |  |
| Park Restrooms                      | 1/5,000                               | 0.20                                    | 0.16                                  | 2                                     | 0                                     | 2                             | 2.50                                       | (0.50)                     | 0.50  | 3.76                                       | (1.25)                                  | 1.25                                    |                              |  |
| Interpretive Center                 | 1/50,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.25                                       | (0.25)                     | 0.25  | 0.38                                       | (0.13)                                  | 0.13                                    |                              |  |
| Environmental Center                | 1/50,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.25                                       | (0.25)                     | 0.25  | 0.38                                       | (0.13)                                  | 0.13                                    |                              |  |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue         | 1/50,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.16                                  | 2                                     | 0                                     | 2                             | 0.25                                       | 1.75                       | 0.00  | 0.38                                       | 1.62                                    | 0.00                                    |                              |  |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)   | 1/15,000                              | 0.07                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.83                                       | (0.83)                     | 0.83  | 1.25                                       | (0.42)                                  | 0.42                                    |                              |  |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)     | 1/5,000                               | 0.20                                    | 0.16                                  | 2                                     | 3                                     | 5                             | 2.50                                       | (0.50)                     | 0.50  | 3.76                                       | (1.25)                                  | 1.25                                    |                              |  |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)          | 1/4,000                               | 0.25                                    | 0.24                                  | 3                                     | 1                                     | 4                             | 3.13                                       | (0.13)                     | 0.13  | 4.69                                       | (1.56)                                  | 1.56                                    |                              |  |
| Skating Rinks (hockey)              | 1/100,000                             | 0.01                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.13                                       | (0.13)                     | 0.13  | 0.19                                       | (0.06)                                  | 0.06                                    |                              |  |
| Skating Area (non-hockey)           | 1/50,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.25                                       | (0.25)                     | 0.25  | 0.38                                       | (0.13)                                  | 0.13                                    |                              |  |
| Swim. Pool / Aquatics Facilities    | 1/35,000                              | 0.03                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 3                                     | 3                             | 0.36                                       | (0.36)                     | 0.36  | 0.54                                       | (0.18)                                  | 0.18                                    |                              |  |
| Sprayground / SplashPad             | 1/30,000                              | 0.03                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.42                                       | (0.42)                     | 0.42  | 0.63                                       | (0.21)                                  | 0.21                                    |                              |  |
| Golf Course 18-hole                 | 1/60,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 1                                     | 1                             | 0.21                                       | (0.21)                     | 0.21  | 0.31                                       | (0.10)                                  | 0.10                                    |                              |  |
| Driving Range                       | 1/60,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 1                                     | 1                             | 0.21                                       | (0.21)                     | 0.21  | 0.31                                       | (0.10)                                  | 0.10                                    |                              |  |
| Dog Park Area                       | 1/40,000                              | 0.03                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.31                                       | (0.31)                     | 0.31  | 0.47                                       | (0.16)                                  | 0.16                                    |                              |  |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hub)        | 1/50,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.08                                  | 1                                     | 1                                     | 2                             | 0.25                                       | 0.75                       | 0.00  | 0.38                                       | 0.62                                    | 0.00                                    |                              |  |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)  | 1/60,000                              | 0.02                                    | 0.00                                  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                             | 0.21                                       | (0.21)                     | 0.21  | 0.31                                       | (0.10)                                  | 0.10                                    |                              |  |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles) | 1 mile / 2,500                        | 0.40                                    | 0.25                                  | 3.1                                   | 0.8                                   | 3.90                          | 5.01                                       | (1.91)                     | 1.91  | 7.51                                       | (2.50)                                  | 2.50                                    |                              |  |
| Park / Open Space Acres             | 13 ac / 1,000                         | 13.00                                   | 11.41                                 | 142.91                                | 141.5                                 | 284.41                        | 162.76                                     | (19.85)                    | 19.85   | 244.11                                     | (81.34)                                 | 81.34                                   |                              |  |

\* Current Facilities Data updated from the Park and Recreation Master Plan from 2005–2009 Master Plan Inventory. Only Inventory Used to factor current level of service.

\*\* Current Facilities Inventory found within the community provided by schools and other providers.

**Table II – Facility Inventory and Needs**



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Acreage Needs for Recreation Facilities

Based on the preceding table, certain recreational facilities are needed to meet various population scenarios. An analysis was done to determine the size of the recreational facility to better facilitate its location in an existing park site or new park site. This analysis is summarized in the table below, Acreage Needs for Recreation Facilities.

#### *Acreage Needed for New Facilities – Community Level of Service*

The new recreation components that will fill both the current deficiencies and future needs will occupy some land area for their development. Keep in mind that the new components can be sited within existing park land as well as in new park land. The preceding Table 11 indicates the approximate acreage required for each of the recreation components that make up the deficiencies. This information states that the current deficiencies will require approximately 63.84 acres (or applying just the basic park amenities would require 19.28). The future needs will need to have approximately 51.65 acres (or applying just the basic park amenities would require 29.38).

**Table 12 – Acreage Needs for Recreation Facilities**

#### ACREAGE NEEDS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

| Facility  | Approximate Acres Required for Facility | Acres with a 15% Contingency Added | 2007 Facility Needs | 2007 Acres Needed | 2016 Facility Needs | 2016 Acres Needs of Future Populations |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| A   | B                                       | C                                  | D                   | E                 | F                   | G                                      |
| Baseball Diamonds   | 3.23                                    | 3.71                               | 2.13                | 7.91              | 1.56                | 5.81                                   |
| Softball Diamonds   | 2.25                                    | 2.59                               | 0.17                | 0.45              | 2.09                | 5.40                                   |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | 2.07                                    | 2.38                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 1.26                | 3.00                                   |
| Soccer Fields   | 2.07                                    | 2.38                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 0.26                | 0.62                                   |
| Tennis Courts   | 0.17                                    | 0.20                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 0.00                | 0.00                                   |
| Running / Walking Track   | 2.07                                    | 2.38                               | 0.42                | 0.99              | 0.21                | 0.50                                   |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | 0.20                                    | 0.23                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 1.52                | 0.35                                   |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | 0.10                                    | 0.12                               | 0.57                | 0.06              | 0.78                | 0.09                                   |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)  | 0.35                                    | 0.40                               | 0.70                | 0.28              | 0.35                | 0.14                                   |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements   | 0.10                                    | 0.12                               | 0.70                | 0.08              | 0.35                | 0.04                                   |
| Park Shelters/Gazebos   | 0.10                                    | 0.12                               | 0.26                | 0.03              | 3.13                | 0.36                                   |
| Park Restrooms  | 0.10                                    | 0.12                               | 0.50                | 0.06              | 1.25                | 0.14                                   |
| Interpretive Center   | 0.75                                    | 0.86                               | 0.25                | 0.22              | 0.13                | 0.11                                   |
| Environmental Center  | 1.50                                    | 1.73                               | 0.25                | 0.43              | 0.13                | 0.22                                   |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue   | 3.00                                    | 3.45                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 0.00                | 0.00                                   |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)   | 1.50                                    | 1.73                               | 0.83                | 1.44              | 0.42                | 0.72                                   |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)   | 0.50                                    | 0.58                               | 0.50                | 0.29              | 1.25                | 0.72                                   |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | 0.30                                    | 0.35                               | 0.13                | 0.04              | 1.56                | 0.54                                   |
| Skating Rinks (hockey)  | 2.00                                    | 2.30                               | 0.13                | 0.29              | 0.06                | 0.14                                   |
| Skating Area (non-hockey)   | 0.26                                    | 0.30                               | 0.25                | 0.07              | 0.13                | 0.04                                   |
| Swim. Pool/ Aquatics Facilities   | 3.00                                    | 3.45                               | 0.36                | 1.23              | 0.18                | 0.62                                   |
| Spraygrounds / SplashPads   | 0.50                                    | 0.58                               | 0.42                | 0.24              | 0.21                | 0.12                                   |
| Golf Course 18-hole   | 135.00                                  | 155.25                             | 0.21                | 32.40             | 0.10                | 16.19                                  |
| Driving Range   | 30.00                                   | 34.50                              | 0.21                | 7.20              | 0.10                | 3.60                                   |
| Dog Park Area   | 3.00                                    | 3.45                               | 0.31                | 1.08              | 0.16                | 0.54                                   |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hub)  | 2.00                                    | 2.30                               | 0.00                | 0.00              | 0.00                | 0.00                                   |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)  | 1.00                                    | 1.15                               | 0.21                | 0.24              | 0.10                | 0.12                                   |
| Multi-use Trails (assume 30' wide easement)                                   | 4.01                                    | 4.61                               | 1.91                | 8.80              | 2.50                | 11.54                                  |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | NA                                      | NA                                 | NA                  | NA                | NA                  | NA                                     |
| <b>Total Acres Needed to Accommodate ALL of the Recreation Components</b>     |   |                                    |                     | <b>63.84</b>      |                     | <b>51.65</b>                           |
| <b>Total Acres Needed to Accommodate just the Basic Recreation Component:</b> |   |                                    |                     | <b>19.28</b>      |                     | <b>29.38</b>                           |



Section K: Park & Recreation Issues

## Summary of Facilities

Implementation Schedule – For Raising Current Deficiencies to Community Level of Service

The following Table (Table 13) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified current deficiencies. At the bottom of this table is a summary of all recreation components. Only the recreation components related and factored into the Recreation Impact Fee are summarized on an annual basis.

**Current Deficiencies Implementation - Non-Recreation Impact Fees** Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost     | Current Deficiency | Component Costs                       | 2007                | 2008                | 2009                | 2010                | 2011                | 2012                 | 2013                 | 2014                    | 2015                  | 2016                 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A   | B                       | C                  | D                                     | E                   | F                   | G                   | H                   | I                   | J                    | K                    | L                       | M                     | N                    |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000               | 2.13               | \$ 159,757                            |                     |                     | \$ 79,878           |                     |                     |                      |                      | \$ 79,878               |                       |                      |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000               | 0.17               | \$ 10,407                             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      | \$ 10,407            |                         |                       |                      |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000               | 0.00               | \$ -                                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000               | 0.00               | \$ -                                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000               | 0.00               | \$ -                                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Recreation - Centers - (Comm)</del>                            | <del>\$ 100,000</del>   | <del>0.12</del>    | <del>\$ 41,724</del>                  | <del>\$ 4,173</del>  | <del>\$ 4,173</del>  | <del>\$ 4,173</del>     | <del>\$ 4,173</del>   | <del>\$ 4,173</del>  |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000                | 0.00               | \$ -                                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000                | 0.57               | \$ 2,825                              | \$ 283              | \$ 283              | \$ 283              | \$ 283              | \$ 283              | \$ 283               | \$ 283               | \$ 283                  | \$ 283                | \$ 283               |
| <del>Shuttle/Bike Park - (Neighborhood)</del>                       | <del>\$ 400,000</del>   | <del>0.70</del>    | <del>\$ 69,520</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       | <del>\$ 34,760</del> |
| <del>Climbing - Challenge Elements</del>                            | <del>\$ 35,000</del>    | <del>0.70</del>    | <del>\$ 24,345</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 24,345</del> |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000               | 0.26               | \$ 10,407                             |                     |                     | \$ 10,407           |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000               | 0.50               | \$ 42,846                             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      | \$ 42,846            |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Interpretive Center</del>                                      | <del>\$ 100,000</del>   | <del>0.15</del>    | <del>\$ 15,000</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 15,000</del>  |                      |
| <del>Environmental Center</del>                                     | <del>\$ 250,000</del>   | <del>0.25</del>    | <del>\$ 107,800</del>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      | <del>\$ 107,800</del>   |                       |                      |
| <del>Childcare-Entertainment-Venue</del>                            | <del>\$ 250,000</del>   | <del>0.00</del>    | <del>\$ -</del>                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Recreation - Centers - (Neighborhood)</del>                    | <del>\$ 250,000</del>   | <del>0.25</del>    | <del>\$ 62,604</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 31,302</del>  | <del>\$ 31,302</del> |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000               | 0.50               | \$ 42,846                             |                     |                     |                     | \$ 42,846           |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000               | 0.13               | \$ 5,854                              |                     | \$ 5,854            |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Skating Rink - (Neighborhood)</del>                            | <del>\$ 2,500,000</del> | <del>0.13</del>    | <del>\$ 313,000</del>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 313,000</del> |                      |
| <del>Skating Area - (Neighborhood)</del>                            | <del>\$ 300,000</del>   | <del>0.35</del>    | <del>\$ 75,000</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 75,000</del>  |                      |
| <del>Swims - (Neighborhood)</del>                                   | <del>\$ 3,500,000</del> | <del>0.36</del>    | <del>\$ 1,251,000</del>               |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      | <del>\$ 1,251,000</del> |                       |                      |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000               | 0.42               | \$ 37,561                             |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 37,561           |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Golf Course - 18-hole</del>                                    | <del>\$ 4,000,000</del> | <del>0.21</del>    | <del>\$ 844,600</del>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 844,600</del> |                      |
| <del>Driving Range</del>  | <del>\$ 1,000,000</del> | <del>0.21</del>    | <del>\$ 210,600</del>                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         | <del>\$ 210,600</del> |                      |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000               | 0.31               | \$ 6,260                              |                     |                     | \$ 6,260            |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Maintenance - Facilities - (Hub)</del>                         | <del>\$ 2,500,000</del> | <del>0.00</del>    | <del>\$ -</del>                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| <del>Maintenance - Facilities - (Station)</del>                     | <del>\$ 250,000</del>   | <del>0.21</del>    | <del>\$ 52,650</del>                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 52,650</del> | <del>\$ 52,650</del> |                         |                       |                      |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000              | 1.91               | \$ 381,630                            |                     | \$ 42,403           | \$ 42,403           | \$ 42,403           | \$ 42,403           | \$ 42,403            | \$ 42,403            | \$ 42,403               | \$ 42,403             | \$ 42,403            |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500               | 19.85              | \$ 446,734                            |                     | \$ 49,637           | \$ 49,637           | \$ 49,637           | \$ 49,637           | \$ 49,637            | \$ 49,637            | \$ 49,637               | \$ 49,637             | \$ 49,637            |
|   |                         |                    | Current Deficiency Total \$ 4,953,322 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |                         |                       |                      |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       |                         |                    |                                       | \$ 4,456            | \$ 102,351          | \$ 186,782          | \$ 145,603          | \$ 168,836          | \$ 157,359           | \$ 186,268           | \$ 1,616,218            | \$ 822,678            | \$ 1,562,771         |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only |                         |                    |                                       | \$ 283              | \$ 98,177           | \$ 182,609          | \$ 141,429          | \$ 129,884          | \$ 92,323            | \$ 145,577           | \$ 172,201              | \$ 92,323             | \$ 92,323            |

**TABLE 13 – Implementation Schedule for Current Deficiencies**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the deficient recreational components:

**Chesterton Park** – Baseball Diamond, Park Restrooms

**Dogwood Park** – Volley Ball Court

**New Park Facility** – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball Diamond, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Implementation Schedule – Future Anticipated Needs Based on Community Level of Service

The following Table (Table 14) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified future needs. These needs are fundable via Recreation Impact Fees. At the bottom of this table is a summary of all recreation components. Only the recreation components related and factored into the Recreation Impact Fee are summarized on an annual basis. An option for consideration, an annual 2.50% inflation factor has been figured into the annual tallies as the last line in the table.

**Future Infrastructure Needs Implementation – Recreation Impact Fees** Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost | Future Need | Component Costs | 2007         | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016         |
|---|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| A   | B                   | C           | D               | E            | F          | G          | H          | I          | J          | K          | L          | M          | N            |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000           | 1.56        | \$ 117,321      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 75,000  | \$ 42,321    |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000           | 2.09        | \$ 125,142      |              |            |            |            |            | \$ 60,000  |            |            |            | \$ 65,142    |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000           | 1.26        | \$ 44,071       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 44,071    |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000           | 0.26        | \$ 9,071        |              |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 9,071   |            |            |              |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000           | 0.00        | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |
| Running/J-Walking-Track-Commo                                       | \$ 400,000          | 0.21        | \$ 20,852       |              | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312   | \$ 2,312     |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000            | 1.52        | \$ 7,592        |              | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844     | \$ 844       |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000            | 0.78        | \$ 3,911        |              | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435     | \$ 435       |
| Shelter/Bike Park/Neighborhood                                      | \$ 400,000          | 0.35        | \$ 140,762      |              |            |            |            | \$ 34,762  |            |            |            |            |              |
| Challenges-Elements   | \$ 35,000           | 0.35        | \$ 12,363       |              |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 12,363  |            |            |              |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000           | 3.13        | \$ 125,142      |              |            |            |            |            | \$ 62,571  |            |            | \$ 62,571  |              |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000           | 1.25        | \$ 106,371      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 106,371   |
| Interpretive-Center   | \$ 400,000          | 0.13        | \$ 50,452       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,452    |
| Environmental-Center  | \$ 750,000          | 0.13        | \$ 93,852       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 93,852    |
| Outdoor-Entertainment-Venue   | \$ 750,000          | 0.00        | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -         |
| Recreation-Center-Neighborhood                                      | \$ 250,000          | 0.43        | \$ 112,852      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 112,852   |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000           | 1.25        | \$ 106,371      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 106,371   |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000           | 1.56        | \$ 70,392       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 70,392  |              |
| Shooting-Ranges-Indoor  | \$ 2,500,000        | 0.06        | \$ 156,428      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 156,428   |
| Skating-Area-tron-hockey  | \$ 300,000          | 0.13        | \$ 37,543       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 37,543    |
| Swim-Pool-/Aquatics-Facilities                                      | \$ 3,500,000        | 0.18        | \$ 625,711      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 625,711   |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000           | 0.21        | \$ 18,771       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 18,771    |
| Trail-Connector-18-hole   | \$ 4,000,000        | 0.10        | \$ 417,141      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 417,141   |
| Traverse-Range  | \$ 4,000,000        | 0.10        | \$ 418,285      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 418,285   |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000           | 0.16        | \$ 3,129        |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 3,129     |
| Maintenance-Facilities-Hubs   | \$ 750,000          | 0.00        | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -         |
| Maintenance-Facilities-Satellites                                   | \$ 350,000          | 0.10        | \$ 36,500       |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 36,500    |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000          | 2.50        | \$ 500,569      |              |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 125,142 | \$ 125,142 | \$ 125,142 | \$ 125,142   |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500           | 81.34       | \$ 1,830,204    | \$ -         | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356 | \$ 203,356   |
| Future Deficiency Total   |                     |             |                 | \$ 4,970,216 |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       |                     |             |                 | \$ -         | \$ 206,952 | \$ 206,952 | \$ 206,952 | \$ 241,713 | \$ 341,689 | \$ 341,164 | \$ 332,094 | \$ 540,057 | \$ 2,552,644 |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only |                     |             |                 | \$ -         | \$ 204,634 | \$ 204,634 | \$ 204,634 | \$ 204,634 | \$ 327,205 | \$ 338,847 | \$ 329,776 | \$ 537,740 | \$ 715,951   |

**TABLE 14 – Implementation Schedule for Future Needs**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the noted future recreational components:

**Chesterton Park** – Volleyball Courts, Park Shelters

**Dogwood Park** – Park Restrooms, Park Shelters

**New Park Facility** – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball and Softball Diamonds, Multi-purpose Fields, Soccer Fields, Basketball Goals, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section L:

## Priorities



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## Section L: Priorities

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### Priority Criteria

After careful analysis of the issues identified by the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department and the Consultant, and through discussions with the Town the following are identified priority criteria. Each of the various items are assigned a priority according to the following factors:

1. Financial Feasibility
2. Available Manpower
3. Existing Facilities
4. Need and Overall Impact on the Town
5. Practicality

### State Planning Priorities: The Tie-In

#### Outdoor Recreation Priorities for Providers and Stakeholders

*Adapted with information taken from: Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 Hoosiers Moving Forward, prepared by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, January 2007*

The following priorities have been established based on the survey data analysis, focus group discussions, and interviews with park and outdoor recreation professionals.

1. Promote long-term planning, budgeting and evaluation for recreation sites, facilities, and equipment maintenance and replacement. Consider:
  - Life cycle
    - Preventative maintenance
    - Projected increased upkeep costs as sites, facilities or equipment age
    - Renovations/replacement for changing user needs
    - Demolition, removal or recycling
    - Replacement costs for end of life cycle
  - Changing demographics
    - Universal design
    - Adaptability for changing trends



## Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2007-2011

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- Cultural diversity
- Increasing or decreasing user/server populations
  - Decreases in user travel time
  - Fluctuations in tourism
  - Local population variations
- 2. Investigate non-traditional methods of funding and cost reduction. Consider:
  - Not-for-profit organizations
  - Private groups/“Friends of...” groups
  - Sponsorships
  - Naming rights
  - Donations/In kind
    - Monetary
    - Services
    - Products
      - Land
      - Buildings
      - Equipment
    - Bequests
    - Endowments
    - Volunteers
    - Partnering
- 3. Improve marketing of current and proposed recreation opportunities to local communities, tourists, marginal consumers and prospective stakeholders to increase site awareness, user population and revenues. Consider:
  - Product, planning, promotion, and price
  - Targeting audiences
  - Multi-media sources
  - Effective outreach to the target population



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## Section L: Priorities

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- Benefits to consumer and economy
    - Public presentations
    - In-house presentations
  - Public education and awareness of current or proposed outdoor recreation opportunities
  - Sharing ownership
  - Networking with outdoor recreational specialists
  - Networking with professionals in tangential fields (e.g., health and wellness, engineering and education)
4. Research, develop and implement capital projects that are pertinent to the community and mesh effectively with existing facilities.
- Develop and submit a five-year master plan to the Division of Outdoor Recreation
    - Advocate public participation in the planning process
    - Assess local community needs
      - Stakeholder surveys and focus groups
      - User and non-user surveys and focus groups
      - Community diversity discussions
  - Remain aware of grant availability, criteria, and application process to ensure grant submissions are complete, accurate and meet mandated guidelines
  - Avoid duplicating facilities or programs in surrounding area
  - Include land acquisition as often as possible
  - Review and parallel national, regional and local initiatives and trends, following benchmark examples
5. Increase multi-use trails systems. Consider:
- Extremely high demand for pedestrian-friendly facilities
  - Connections to desirable locations, such as parks, schools, existing trails, historic attractions, business districts and residential areas
  - Including multiple natural settings (e.g., woodlands, wetlands, prairies, streams)
  - Signs, safety, maps/guides (hard copy and Internet), and future maintenance



## Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2007-2011

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- Universal design
- 6. Facilitate meeting consumer needs for low-cost, close-to-home, minimal equipment expenditure, and natural-talent-oriented outdoor activities and opportunities. Consider:
  - Facilities/programs designed for
    - People seeking social interaction
    - Low socioeconomic-status individuals
    - Persons with disabilities or limitations
    - Overweight/obese population
    - Aging population, particularly those with increased chronic conditions and their related limitations
  - Passive and extreme recreation opportunities



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section M:

## Action Plan



LEHMAN & LEHMAN



## Section M: Action Plan

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### **Proposed Action Plan**

The issues have been identified, synthesized, and ranked by priority.

The proposed Action Plan may need to be modified and adjusted as indicated by available resources. It is intended to be a flexible working document, and some adjustments should be anticipated.

The annual departmental reviews should include those elements of the Master Plan deemed feasible for that given year. Quantifiable benchmarks should be forecast for progress evaluation, based on a reasonable time frame.

The following pages reflect the Action Plan for 2007 – 2016, organized as follows:

- Facility Costs to Overcome Deficiencies and Future Needs
- Implementation Schedule for Current Deficiencies
- Implementation Schedule for Future Needs
- Funding Sources for Current Deficiencies
- Funding Distribution to fund Current Deficiencies

The cost estimates of the recreational amenities to overcome both the current deficiencies and future needs were estimated by establishing facility costs for each of the recreation components. The information in Table 15 illustrates the estimated costs required for both the current deficiencies and future needs.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

| Town Wide Analysis (All Facilities)  |                         | 12,520  |   | 18,777                             | Projected 2016            |                      |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Facility   | Current Park Facilities | Facility Costs<br>(assuming on existing land) | Components to Remove Current Deficiency                             | Costs to Remove Current Deficiency | Components for 2016 Needs | Costs for 2016 Needs |
| Baseball Diamonds  | 1                       | \$ 75,000                                     | 2.13  | \$ 159,757                         | 1.56                      | \$ 117,321           |
| Softball Diamonds  | 4                       | \$ 60,000                                     | 0.17  | \$ 10,407                          | 2.09                      | \$ 125,142           |
| Multi Purpose Fields   | 5                       | \$ 35,000                                     | 0.00  | -                                  | 1.26                      | \$ 44,071            |
| Soccer Fields  | 6                       | \$ 35,000                                     | 0.00  | -                                  | 0.26                      | \$ 9,071             |
| Tennis Courts  | 6                       | \$ 40,000                                     | 0.00  | -                                  | 0.00                      | -                    |
| Running / Walking Track (Comm)   | 0                       | \$ 100,000                                    | 0.42  | \$ 41,735                          | 0.21                      | \$ 20,857            |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)  | 11                      | \$ 5,000                                      | 0.00  | -                                  | 1.52                      | \$ 7,592             |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)   | 1                       | \$ 5,000                                      | 0.57  | \$ 2,825                           | 0.78                      | \$ 3,911             |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)   | 0                       | \$ 100,000                                    | 0.70  | \$ 69,558                          | 0.35                      | \$ 34,762            |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements  | 0                       | \$ 35,000                                     | 0.70  | \$ 24,345                          | 0.35                      | \$ 12,167            |
| Park Shelters  | 6                       | \$ 40,000                                     | 0.26  | \$ 10,407                          | 3.13                      | \$ 125,142           |
| Park Restrooms   | 2                       | \$ 85,000                                     | 0.50  | \$ 42,846                          | 1.25                      | \$ 106,371           |
| Interpretive Center  | 0                       | \$ 400,000                                    | 0.25  | \$ 100,163                         | 0.13                      | \$ 50,057            |
| Environmental Center   | 0                       | \$ 750,000                                    | 0.25  | \$ 187,806                         | 0.13                      | \$ 93,857            |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue  | 2                       | \$ 750,000                                    | 0.00  | -                                  | 0.00                      | -                    |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)  | 0                       | \$ 750,000                                    | 0.83  | \$ 626,019                         | 0.42                      | \$ 312,855           |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)  | 2                       | \$ 85,000                                     | 0.50  | \$ 42,846                          | 1.25                      | \$ 106,371           |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)   | 3                       | \$ 45,000                                     | 0.13  | \$ 5,854                           | 1.56                      | \$ 70,392            |
| Skating Rinks (hockey)   | 0                       | \$ 2,500,000                                  | 0.13  | \$ 313,009                         | 0.06                      | \$ 156,428           |
| Skating Area (non-hockey)  | 0                       | \$ 300,000                                    | 0.25  | \$ 75,122                          | 0.13                      | \$ 37,543            |
| Swim. Pool / Aquatics Facilities   | 0                       | \$ 3,500,000                                  | 0.36  | \$ 1,252,037                       | 0.18                      | \$ 625,711           |
| Sprayground / SplashPad  | 0                       | \$ 90,000                                     | 0.42  | \$ 37,561                          | 0.21                      | \$ 18,771            |
| Golf Course 18-hole  | 0                       | \$ 4,000,000                                  | 0.21  | \$ 834,692                         | 0.10                      | \$ 417,141           |
| Driving Range  | 0                       | \$ 1,000,000                                  | 0.21  | \$ 208,673                         | 0.10                      | \$ 104,285           |
| Dog Park Area  | 0                       | \$ 20,000                                     | 0.31  | \$ 6,260                           | 0.16                      | \$ 3,129             |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hub)   | 1                       | \$ 750,000                                    | 0.00  | -                                  | 0.00                      | -                    |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)   | 0                       | \$ 350,000                                    | 0.21  | \$ 73,036                          | 0.10                      | \$ 36,500            |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)  | 3.1                     | \$ 200,000                                    | 1.91  | \$ 381,630                         | 2.50                      | \$ 500,569           |
| Park / Open Space Acres  | 142.91                  | \$ 22,500                                     | 19.85   | \$ 446,734                         | 81.34                     | \$ 1,830,204         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  |                         | <b>\$ 4,953,322</b>                           |   | <b>\$ 4,953,322</b>                |                           | <b>\$ 4,970,216</b>  |
| Basic Park Amenities – Core Components to be applied to Recreation Impact Fees |                         |   | Cost of Facilities Needed to Remove Current Deficiency (2007):      |                                    |                           | \$ 4,953,322         |
|  |                         |   | Cost of Facilities Needed to Accommodate Future Development (2016): |                                    |                           | \$ 4,970,216         |
|  |                         |   | Total Facility Costs:   |                                    |                           | \$ 9,923,539         |

**TABLE 15 – Facilities Costs to Overcome Deficiencies and Future Needs**

The facility cost estimates were based on current construction estimates and those of actual projects. These facility costs are broad estimates at this point in time since there will be many variables effecting the costs depending upon the component's location and quality level of the facility.

The following Table (Table 16) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified current deficiencies.



## Section M: Action Plan

### Current Deficiencies Implementation – Non-Recreation Impact Fees

Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost | Current Deficiency | Component Costs | 2007         | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013       | 2014          | 2015        | 2016         |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| A   | B                   | C                  | D               | E            | F          | G          | H          | I          | J          | K          | L             | M           | N            |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000           | 2.13               | \$ 159,757      |              |            | \$ 79,878  |            |            |            |            | \$ 79,878     |             |              |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000           | 0.17               | \$ 10,407       |              |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 10,407  |               |             |              |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000           | 0.00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000           | 0.00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000           | 0.00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Swimming/Play/Play-Search-Comms                                     | \$ -100,000         | 0-02               | \$ -11,235      | \$ -4,123    | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123  | \$ -4,123     | \$ -4,123   | \$ -4,123    |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000            | 0.00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000            | 0.57               | \$ 2,825        | \$ 283       | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283     | \$ 283        | \$ 283      | \$ 283       |
| Skate/Bike Park (Neighborhood)                                      | \$ -100,000         | 0-70               | \$ -69,568      |              |            |            |            |            | \$ -34,779 |            |               |             | \$ -34,779   |
| Climbing / Challenge Elements                                       | \$ -25,000          | 0-70               | \$ -17,500      |              |            |            |            |            | \$ -8,750  |            |               |             | \$ -8,750    |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000           | 0.26               | \$ 10,407       |              |            | \$ 10,407  |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000           | 0.50               | \$ 42,846       |              |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 42,846  |               |             |              |
| Interpretive Center   | \$ -400,000         | 0-25               | \$ -100,000     |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               | \$ -400,000 |              |
| Environmental Center  | \$ -250,000         | 0-25               | \$ -62,500      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -107,806   |             |              |
| Outdoor Entertainment Venue   | \$ -250,000         | 0-00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Recreation Centers (Neighborhood)                                   | \$ -250,000         | 0-03               | \$ -62,500      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               | \$ -313,000 | \$ -313,000  |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000           | 0.50               | \$ 42,846       |              |            |            | \$ 42,846  |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000           | 0.13               | \$ 5,854        |              | \$ 5,854   |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Skating Area (Ice Skating)  | \$ -2,500,000       | 0-12               | \$ -300,000     |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               | \$ -113,000 |              |
| Skating Area (In-line Skating)                                      | \$ -300,000         | 0-25               | \$ -75,000      |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             | \$ -75,000   |
| Swim / Pool / Aquatics Facilities                                   | \$ -3,500,000       | 0-36               | \$ -1,260,000   |              |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -1,252,032 |             |              |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000           | 0.42               | \$ 37,561       |              |            |            |            | \$ 37,561  |            |            |               |             |              |
| Coil Course (40' hole)  | \$ -4,000,000       | 0-21               | \$ -840,000     |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             | \$ -840,000  |
| Driving Range   | \$ -1,000,000       | 0-21               | \$ -210,000     |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             | \$ -210,000  |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000           | 0.31               | \$ 6,260        |              |            |            | \$ 6,260   |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Maintenance Facilities (Hubs)                                       | \$ -250,000         | 0-00               | \$ -            |              |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Maintenance Facilities (Satellite)                                  | \$ -350,000         | 0-21               | \$ -73,500      |              |            |            |            |            | \$ -36,518 | \$ -36,518 |               |             |              |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000          | 1.91               | \$ 381,630      | \$ 42,403    | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403     | \$ 42,403   | \$ 42,403    |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500           | 19.85              | \$ 446,734      | \$ 49,637    | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637  | \$ 49,637     | \$ 49,637   | \$ 49,637    |
| Current Deficiency Total  |                     |                    |                 | \$ 4,953,322 |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |             |              |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       |                     |                    |                 | \$ 4,456     | \$ 102,351 | \$ 186,782 | \$ 145,603 | \$ 168,836 | \$ 157,359 | \$ 186,268 | \$ 1,616,218  | \$ 822,678  | \$ 1,562,771 |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only |                     |                    |                 | \$ 283       | \$ 98,177  | \$ 182,609 | \$ 141,429 | \$ 129,884 | \$ 92,323  | \$ 145,577 | \$ 172,201    | \$ 92,323   | \$ 92,323    |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs with Annual Inflation Factor of 2.5%  |                     |                    |                 | \$ 290       | \$ 100,632 | \$ 187,174 | \$ 144,965 | \$ 133,131 | \$ 94,631  | \$ 149,216 | \$ 176,506    | \$ 94,631   | \$ 94,631    |

**TABLE 16 – Implementation Schedule for Current Deficiencies**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the deficient recreational components:

- Chesterton Park – Baseball Diamond, Park Restrooms
- Dogwood Park – Volley Ball Court
- New Park Facility – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball Diamond, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park

The following Table (Table 17) represents a tentative implementation schedule in meeting the baseline of service for the identified future needs. These needs are fundable via Recreation Impact Fees.



## Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

### Future Infrastructure Needs Implementation – Recreation Impact Fees

Note: The various components not a part of the Impact Fee Calculations have been crossed out in the list below.

| Component   | Component Unit Cost     | Future Need     | Component Costs       | 2007         | 2008                | 2009                | 2010                | 2011                 | 2012                | 2013                | 2014                | 2015                | 2016                  |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| A   | B                       | C               | D                     | E            | F                   | G                   | H                   | I                    | J                   | K                   | L                   | M                   | N                     |
| Baseball Diamonds   | \$ 75,000               | 1.56            | \$ 117,321            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     | \$ 75,000           | \$ 42,321             |
| Softball Diamonds   | \$ 60,000               | 2.09            | \$ 125,142            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      | \$ 60,000           |                     |                     |                     | \$ 65,142             |
| Multi Purpose Fields  | \$ 35,000               | 1.26            | \$ 44,071             |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 44,071             |
| Soccer Fields   | \$ 35,000               | 0.26            | \$ 9,071              |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     | \$ 9,071            |                     |                     |                       |
| Tennis Courts   | \$ 40,000               | 0.00            | \$ -                  |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     |                       |
| <del>Interpretive/Challenge-Tracks (Common)</del>                   | <del>\$ 100,000</del>   | <del>0.24</del> | <del>\$ 24,000</del>  |              | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del>  | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del> | <del>\$ 2,312</del>   |
| Basketball Goals (outdoors)   | \$ 5,000                | 1.52            | \$ 7,592              |              | \$ 844              | \$ 844              | \$ 844              | \$ 844               | \$ 844              | \$ 844              | \$ 844              | \$ 844              | \$ 844                |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)  | \$ 5,000                | 0.78            | \$ 3,911              |              | \$ 435              | \$ 435              | \$ 435              | \$ 435               | \$ 435              | \$ 435              | \$ 435              | \$ 435              | \$ 435                |
| <del>Skate/Bike-Park (Neighborhood)</del>                           | <del>\$ 100,000</del>   | <del>0.35</del> | <del>\$ 34,762</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 34,762</del> |                     |                     |                     |                     |                       |
| <del>Challenge-Elements</del>                                       | <del>\$ 35,000</del>    | <del>0.32</del> | <del>\$ 11,200</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 11,200</del> |                     |                     |                     |                     |                       |
| Park Shelters   | \$ 40,000               | 3.13            | \$ 125,142            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      | \$ 62,571           |                     |                     | \$ 62,571           |                       |
| Park Restrooms  | \$ 85,000               | 1.25            | \$ 106,371            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 106,371            |
| <del>Interpretive-Center</del>                                      | <del>\$ 400,000</del>   | <del>0.13</del> | <del>\$ 50,000</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 50,000</del>  |
| <del>Environmental-Center</del>                                     | <del>\$ 750,000</del>   | <del>0.13</del> | <del>\$ 93,000</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 93,000</del>  |
| <del>Outdoor-Entertainment-Venue</del>                              | <del>\$ 750,000</del>   | <del>0.00</del> | <del>\$ -</del>       |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ -</del>       |
| <del>Recreation-Center (Neighborhood)</del>                         | <del>\$ 750,000</del>   | <del>0.42</del> | <del>\$ 312,000</del> |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 312,000</del> |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)                                     | \$ 85,000               | 1.25            | \$ 106,371            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 106,371            |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)  | \$ 45,000               | 1.56            | \$ 70,392             |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     | \$ 70,392           |                       |
| <del>Skating-Rink (Neighborhood)</del>                              | <del>\$ 2,500,000</del> | <del>0.06</del> | <del>\$ 156,428</del> |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 156,428</del> |
| <del>Skating-Area (non-Neighborhood)</del>                          | <del>\$ 200,000</del>   | <del>0.14</del> | <del>\$ 27,543</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 27,543</del>  |
| <del>Swim-Pool (Aquatics-Facilities)</del>                          | <del>\$ 5,500,000</del> | <del>0.14</del> | <del>\$ 625,211</del> |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 625,211</del> |
| Sprayground / SplashPad   | \$ 90,000               | 0.21            | \$ 18,771             |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 18,771             |
| <del>Club-Center (Neighborhood)</del>                               | <del>\$ 1,000,000</del> | <del>0.14</del> | <del>\$ 147,544</del> |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 147,544</del> |
| <del>Driving-Range</del>  | <del>\$ 1,000,000</del> | <del>0.10</del> | <del>\$ 104,205</del> |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 104,205</del> |
| Dog Park Area   | \$ 20,000               | 0.16            | \$ 3,129              |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$ 3,129              |
| <del>Maintenance-Facilities (Dubs)</del>                            | <del>\$ 750,000</del>   | <del>0.00</del> | <del>\$ -</del>       |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ -</del>       |
| <del>Maintenance-Facilities (Satellites)</del>                      | <del>\$ 350,000</del>   | <del>0.10</del> | <del>\$ 36,500</del>  |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     | <del>\$ 36,500</del>  |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles)                                 | \$ 200,000              | 2.50            | \$ 500,569            |              |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     | \$ 125,142          | \$ 125,142          | \$ 125,142          | \$ 125,142            |
| Park / Open Space Acres   | \$ 22,500               | 81.34           | \$ 1,830,204          | \$ -         | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356           | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356          | \$ 203,356            |
| Future Deficiency Total   |                         |                 |                       | \$ 4,970,216 |                     |                     |                     |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     |                       |
| Implementation Costs Per Year (includes ALL Components above)       |                         |                 |                       | \$ -         | \$ 206,952          | \$ 206,952          | \$ 206,952          | \$ 241,713           | \$ 341,689          | \$ 341,164          | \$ 332,094          | \$ 540,057          | \$ 2,552,644          |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs Per Year based on RIF Components Only |                         |                 |                       | \$ -         | \$ 204,634          | \$ 204,634          | \$ 204,634          | \$ 204,634           | \$ 327,205          | \$ 338,847          | \$ 329,776          | \$ 537,740          | \$ 715,951            |
| Adjusted Implementation Costs with Annual Inflation Factor of 2.5%  |                         |                 |                       | \$ -         | \$ 209,750          | \$ 209,750          | \$ 209,750          | \$ 209,750           | \$ 335,385          | \$ 347,318          | \$ 338,021          | \$ 551,183          | \$ 733,850            |

**TABLE 17 – Implementation Schedule for Future Needs**

The following park sites are suggested to facilitate the noted future recreational components:

- Chesterton Park – Volleyball Courts, Park Shelters
- Dogwood Park – Park Restrooms, Park Shelters
- New Park Facility – Park/Open Space Acres, Baseball and Softball Diamonds, Multi-purpose Fields, Soccer Fields, Basketball Goals, Playground, Sprayground, Multi-Use Trails, Park Shelters, Dog Park

The Town anticipates the possibility of having donations of \$600,000 available over the next ten years to fund park land deficiencies. The current deficiency for land is \$446,734. If the anticipated donations were applied towards this deficiency cost the balance would be \$153,266 that would be considered “non-local revenue”.



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### Anticipated 10-Year Funding Sources available for Park Acreage

| Anticipated Sources                      | Amount              |
|--|---------------------|
| Donation (Wright)                        | \$ 60,000           |
| Donation (Rossman)                       | \$ 150,000          |
| Coffee Creek Development                 | \$ 250,000          |
| Donation (20 acres - Olson Farm)         | \$ 140,000          |
| <b>TOTAL AVAILABLE NON-LOCAL REVENUE</b> | <b>\$ 600,000</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL DEFICIENCY IN LAND COSTS</b>    | <b>\$ (446,734)</b> |
| <b>DIFFERENCE = NON-LOCAL REVENUE</b>    | <b>\$ 153,266</b>   |

### Current Available Funding Sources available for Infrastructure

| Source   | Amount           |
|--|------------------|
| Park Gift Fund   | \$ 50,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 50,000</b> |
| <b>Components that could be implemented using this fund.</b> |                  |
| Partion of the Vollyball Courts                              | \$ 1,299         |
| Park Restrooms   | \$ 42,846        |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)                                   | \$ 5,854         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 50,000</b> |

**TABLE 18 – Funding Sources for Current Deficiencies**

**Table 18** indicates there is adequate funding anticipated over the next ten years to fund the current deficiencies through the available grants, donations, gifts, and CEDIT, and that there will not be a need to include the costs of these improvements in the park budget or bonding, as indicated in Table 19.

#### Forecast Funding for Current Recreation Component Deficiencies

| Project Description                 | Quantities | Project Amount      | Funding Source(s) |                            |             |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                     |            |                     | Grants            | Capital Improvement Budget | Bonds       | Donations         | CEDIT             |
| Baseball Diamonds                   | 2.13       | \$ 159,757          |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 159,757        |
| Softball Diamonds                   | 0.17       | \$ 10,407           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 10,407         |
| Volleyball Courts (outdoors)        | 0.57       | \$ 2,825            |                   |                            |             | \$ 1,299          | \$ 1,526          |
| Park Shelters                       | 0.26       | \$ 10,407           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 10,407         |
| Park Restrooms                      | 0.50       | \$ 42,846           |                   |                            |             | \$ 42,846         |                   |
| Playgrounds (Comm./Destination)     | 0.50       | \$ 42,846           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 42,846         |
| Playgrounds (Neighborhood)          | 0.13       | \$ 5,854            |                   |                            |             | \$ 5,854          |                   |
| Sprayground / SplashPad             | 0.42       | \$ 37,561           |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 37,561         |
| Dog Park Area                       | 0.31       | \$ 6,260            |                   |                            |             |                   | \$ 6,260          |
| Multi-use / Nature Pathways (miles) | 1.91       | \$ 381,630 *        | \$ 300,000        |                            |             |                   | \$ 81,630         |
| Park / Open Space Acres             | 19.85      | \$ 446,734          |                   |                            |             | \$ 446,734        |                   |
|                                     |            | <b>\$ 1,147,129</b> | <b>\$ 300,000</b> | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 496,734</b> | <b>\$ 350,395</b> |

Prepared by: Chesterton Parks and Recreation and Lehman & Lehman, Inc.

\* Current Trail Grant is for 0.776 miles

**TABLE 19 – Funding Distribution to fund Current Deficiencies**



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### **Chesterton Parks & Recreation Action Plan**

The following Action Plan outlines the course of action for the priority issues facing the Park Department. This Action Plan is organized as follows:

- Plan of Action – Identifies the current deficiency and/or future need.
- Quantity (Units) – Identifies amount of deficiency and/or future need.
- Park Site(s) – Indicates to which site or facility the Action relates.
- Division or Site (Budget) – Indicates the budget being affected.
- Total Costs – Indicates what estimated costs could be anticipated for the Action.
- Funding Source – Indicates from where funding will come.
- Year of Action – The year the Action is anticipated to be implemented.



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Insert Action Plan (Page 1)



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Insert Action Plan (Page 2)



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Insert Action Plan (Page 3)



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Insert Action Plan (Page 4)



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## Section M: Action Plan

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### **Parks and Recreation Funding**

Many are the demands on City government to fund the variety of programs provided to the public sector. Following, is a brief description of the principal resources available to the Park and Recreation Board for implementing programs for recreational purposes.

#### **NRC — Non-Reverting Capital Funds**

Non-Reverting Capital Fund Accounts are created for the purpose of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements. All proceeds from the sale of Parks and Recreation Department property and equipment plus special user fees as established by the Parks and Recreation Board shall be deposited into this capital fund.

#### **NRO — Non-Reverting Operations**

Non-Reverting Operating funds are created for park purposes from which expenditures may be made by appropriation by the Parks and Recreation Board. All receipts from program participation, event admissions, concessions, rentals, sales of merchandise and food, user fees from golf operations and revenue generated by park operations throughout the park system and rental fees from enclosed facilities shall be deposited into said special non-reverting operating fund.

#### **CP — Civil City Personnel**

Each year a significant portion of the Civil City budget is devoted to personnel expenses. These expenses include base salaries, overtime pay, longevity pay based on number of years employed, medical and life insurance benefit coverage, and PERF (Public Employee Retirement Fund) contributions.

#### **CO — Civil City Operations**

In addition to the annual appropriation for personnel expenses, the Park Department receives each year from Civil City funds a budget amount for operations for the upcoming year. This money is used to cover maintenance costs associated with park upkeep, departmental office operating expenses, and costs associated with promoting and running the recreation program and special events.

#### **COIT — County Option Income Taxes**

Adopted by county councils, city councils and towns, this income tax raises funds for new spending for all local units except schools.

#### **CEDIT — County Economic Development Income Taxes**

Revenue raised by CEDIT must be used for economic development projects or public capital projects.

#### **SA — City Special Appropriation**

The City may also, from time to time, appropriate money toward Park Department projects and improvements from other town revenue sources. These sources might include money from the town's Community Development Block Grant budget (CDBG). Also, funds needed to match grant requests are sometimes appropriated from a City matching funds line item.



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### **GD — Gifts and Donations**

Donations of money, land, and time are important resources to the Park Department. Many recreation activities and special events would not occur if such donations were not received from individuals, service clubs, and businesses. Also, land donations to the park system have been received since early in the history of the Park Department and, where advantageous, these land donations should be encouraged and received by the Park Board.

### **GOB — General Obligation Bonds**

General obligation bonds, which are retired by tax money, provide a funding source for implementation of large scale projects or improvements. The Park Board can not exceed a set percentage (2%) of the assessed valuation of the taxing district. Public hearings must be held and approval is required by the City Council.

### **RIF — Recreation Impact Fees**

Chesterton has adopted a Recreational Impact Fee Ordinance that allows for the new housing developments to assist in the funding of facilities (based on identified recreational standards) to serve that particular population growth. This funding source is not to be used for current facility deficiencies.

### **HIF — Highway Impact Fees**

Similar to the Recreation Impact Fee funding source, the City's Highway Impact Fees can be used for trail development within road right-of-ways.

### **LWCF — Land and Water Conservation Funds**

Administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation, these funds are used most predominantly for park development of outdoor recreation facilities. These grant funds can be utilized to finance up to 50% of the cost of eligible projects and are awarded annually. To qualify for LWCF funds, a city/town must have a park and recreation board established in accordance with state statutes and have an approved Park and Recreation Master Plan.

### ***SAFETEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act***

On August 10, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

SAFETEA-LU builds on the initiatives established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of 1998 (TEA-21) and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), which were the last major authorizing legislation for surface transportation. This new Act combines the continuation and improvement of current programs with new initiatives to meet the challenges of improving safety as traffic continues to increase at record levels, protecting and enhancing communities and the natural environment as we provide transportation and advance America's economic growth and competitiveness domestically and internationally through efficient and flexible transportation.



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*Significant features of SAFETEALU include:*

- A new environmental review process for highways, transit, and multimodal projects which applies to new projects advanced with environmental impact statements and can be applied, if DOT elects, to projects advanced with other environmental documents, thereby streamlining the environmental review process.
- Projects are prohibited on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and all possible mitigation is used.
- A pilot program for non-motorized transportation and Safe Routes to School.
- Significant new environmental requirements for the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning process.
- Modifications intended to provide greater flexibility in transportation planning and air quality conformity, without reducing protection for air quality.
- A total of \$370 million is provided through 2009 to continue the program to develop and maintain trails for recreational purposes that include pedestrian, equestrian, bicycling and non-motorized snow activities as well as off-road motorized vehicle activities.
- The conduct of a Wildlife Vehicle Collision Reduction Study of methods to reduce collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife, and report to Congress within 2 years on causes, impacts, and solutions. A manual of best practices is due 1 year after report to Congress. The Secretary is required to develop a training course for transportation professionals.\*

\* Sources: [http://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=2828&pge\\_id=1854](http://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=2828&pge_id=1854) and <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>

### **IHT — Indiana Heritage Trust**

The Indiana Heritage Trust was created to fund the purchase of natural areas for public use. Funded by the sale of environmental license plates and donations, the money is used for land acquisition. A Project Committee reviews the proposed projects submitted to the Heritage Trust Committee, which in turn recommends approval by the Governor. The Trust Committee members are appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. A portion of the Heritage Trust funds are available to the Division of Outdoor Recreation for the purchase of land that meets established criteria. Projects could include greenways and land for trails.

### **RTP —Recreational Trails Program**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.

### **HPF — Historic Preservation Fund Program**

Each year, the U.S. Congress appropriates approximately \$37 million to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) The HPF provides matching grants to encourage private and non-federal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide, and assists State, local governments, and Indian tribes with expanding



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and accelerating their historic preservation activities nationwide. HPF grants serve as a catalyst and "seed money" for preserving and protecting our nation's irreplaceable heritage for this and future generations.

### **Hoosier Riverwatch Water Monitoring Equipment Grants**

Equipment grants are available for volunteer groups interested in monitoring the water quality of local rivers and streams. The grants, administered by the DNR's Hoosier Riverwatch, will help as many as 60 groups establish education and river stewardship programs throughout the state. Non-profit groups, public agencies, environmental clubs and schools are among those eligible for grants. Since 1996, approximately 155 volunteer groups have received equipment and have started monitoring local waterways. This year, 10 grants are reserved for elementary schools to encourage participation in stewardship among young people.

### **LARE — Lake and River Enhancement**

The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards. To accomplish this goal, the LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects.

### **UFC — Urban Forest Conservation Grants**

The Urban Forest Conservation (UFC) Grants are intended to help communities develop long term programs to manage their urban forests. Grantees may conduct any project that helps to improve and protect trees and other associated natural resources in urban areas. Community 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. Certified Tree Cities may spend up to 20% of the grant funds on demonstration tree planting projects. Local municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and state agencies are eligible to apply for \$2,000 to \$20,000.

### **OG — Other Grants**

Other grant sources, besides the traditional recreation related ones sponsored by the state and federal government, exist for park improvement projects. Also, there are urban forestry grants available and grants from the Indiana Arts Commission that can be related to park and recreation projects. Private companies are also often sponsors of foundations and grant programs that may be related to an aspect of park and recreation such as tree planting, aid to handicapped persons, or programs for disadvantaged youth. Companies also sometimes sponsor volunteer programs to the community with their employee or executive resources.



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### Funding Sources

- A. Indiana Department of Transportation
- B. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation
- C. Indiana Committee for the Humanities
- D. Indiana Arts Commission
- E. Indiana Department of Aging and Community Services
- F. Indiana Federal Property Program
- G. Indiana Department of Commerce
- H. Indiana State Board of Health
- I. U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
- J. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- L. U.S. Armed Services
- M. U.S. Department of Education
- N. President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports
- O. Green Thumb, Inc.
- P. The Nature Conservancy
- Q. Acres, Inc.
- R. The Trust for Public Land
- S. National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources
- T. Fish America Foundation
- U. Capital Fund Drive Campaign
- V. Memorial Giving
- W. Deferred Giving

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

The proposed Action Plan may need to be modified and adjusted as indicated by available resources. It is intended to be a flexible working document, and some adjustments should be anticipated.

The annual departmental reviews of its Objectives should include those elements of the Park and Recreation Master Plan deemed feasible for that given year. Quantifiable benchmarks should be forecast for progress evaluation, based on a reasonable time frame.



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### Parks & Recreation Program Evaluations

The Chesterton Park and Recreation Department Master Plan will be implemented through its action plans, which call for improvements, additions and modifications to programs as well as sites and facilities. There needs to be means by which current and future programs can be evaluated. We have included evaluation tools, listed below, to assist in the measurement of program implementation.

To adequately evaluate park programs it is necessary to measure BOTH their *efficiency* and *effectiveness*.

Efficiency is the most common type of evaluation and is done via analysis of records, ratings, checklists, appraisals, audits, and studies. Ideally, these measurements are done on a continual basis for ongoing evaluation.

Evaluation to determine a program's effectiveness is done to measure the effect of that program on the participants. Attitude scales, case studies, observation and questionnaires are tools often used for this effectiveness evaluation. They are often overlooked because their usefulness is not fully recognized and because they are more difficult to process. Information gained from the evaluation of effectiveness is extremely useful and well worth the effort.

The following chart outlines various data-gathering tools used for evaluation. Any evaluation is more beneficial when objectives and questions are established prior to the selection of evaluation tools. The more tools used to address the same question, the better the quality of the data information obtained. The tools can also be used to evaluate two sides of an issue.

### Evaluation Data-Gathering Tools Matrixes

Two matrixes which illustrate the measurement tools in addressing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the park programs follow this page.

*\*These matrixes are taken from a seminar given by Dr. Ruth Russell, Associate Professor and Assistant Chairperson, Department of Recreation and Park Administration, Indiana University, at the Annual State Conference of the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association, September 24, 2004.*



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**MEASURES OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS**

| <b>Instrumentation</b>       | <b>What Is Measured</b>   | <b>Assumption</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Attitude Scales</b>       | Learned ways of thinking and feeling.   | Assumed that a participant's attitude will indicate program behavior and thus enjoyment.     | Before the scale can be trusted it must be sure of reliability, validity, and objectivity. |
| <b>Case and Field Study</b>  | A specific program or participant, in-depth and all-inclusive                 | Assumed that complete understanding of an entity will reveal why or why not it is effective. | Very time consuming, requires some research skills.  |
| <b>Sociogram</b>             | Internal nature of groups, attainment of sociological performance objectives. | Assumed to indicate how participants are affected by their involvement in a program group.   | Can also be useful in dividing participants into comparable groups.                        |
| <b>Behavior Observation</b>  | Recreational skills, actions, behavior of program participants.               | Assumed that a change in behavior at end of program reflects program effect.                 | Requires extreme objectivity.  |
| <b>Opinion Questionnaire</b> | Program appeal and popularity   | Assumed that a popular program is an effective program.                                      | Such measures do not always truly indicate program effect.                                 |

**MEASURES OF PROGRAM EFFICIENCY**

| <b>Instrumentation</b>       | <b>What Is measured</b>  | <b>Assumption</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Program Records</b>       | Attendance, participant hours. Same or different participants, program variety, etc.                               | Assumed to indicate meeting of constituency interest   | Low attendance or lack of variety may indicate lack of need rather than poor program   |
| <b>User Rating</b>           | Physical attractiveness of program sites, schedule suitability, staff attitudes, crowdedness, etc.                 | Assumed that attractive sites, convenient schedules, perky staff, etc. attract participants.               | May wish to look at the number of potential users who stay away because of these.  |
| <b>Standards Checklists</b>  | Desired safety levels, desired participant-to-staff ratios, desired number of programs, etc.                       | Assumed that maintaining a certain level of standards will attract more participants.                      | Important to look not only at preset standards but also participants' perceptions of these standards; criteria can often be vague. |
| <b>Self-Appraisals</b>       | Need for programs, supervisory and leadership competency, managerial style, organizational size and configuration. | Assumed that certain types of agency characteristics are directly associated with more efficient programs. | Must be conducted with objectivity and unbiased care to be worthwhile.   |
| <b>Financial Auditing</b>    | Program expenditures and income.   | Assumed that high expenditures and low income are inefficient.   | Depends on the financial resources of the agency.  |
| <b>Time-and-Motion Study</b> | Staff time and energy expenditures   | Assumed that low staff time commitments and much program productivity are efficient.                       | Depends on newness and creativity of the programs.   |



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|    | A<br>Plan of Action  | B<br>Quantity (Units) | C<br>Park Site(s)                       | D<br>Division or Site (Budget) | E<br>Total Costs | F<br>Funding Source   | Five - Year Plan |            |            |            |            | Remaining Years - Current RIF Plan |            |            |            |
|----|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|    |  |                       |   |                                |                  |                       | 2008             | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013                               | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       |
| 1  | Baseball Diamonds  | 3.69                  | Chesterton Park and New Park            | Departmental                   | \$ 277,078       | CEDIT, RIF            |                  | \$ 79,879  |            |            |            |                                    | \$ 79,879  | \$ 75,000  | \$ 42,321  |
| 2  | Softball Diamonds  | 2.26                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 135,549       | CEDIT, RIF            |                  |            |            | \$ 60,000  | \$ 10,407  |                                    |            | \$ 65,142  |            |
| 3  | Multi Purpose Fields   | 1.26                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 44,071        | RIF                   |                  |            |            |            |            |                                    |            | \$ 44,071  |            |
| 4  | Soccer Fields  | 0.26                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 9,071         | RIF                   |                  |            |            |            | \$ 9,071   |                                    |            |            |            |
| 5  | Basketball Goals   | 1.52                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 7,592         | RIF                   |                  |            |            |            | \$ 7,592   |                                    |            |            |            |
| 6  | Volleyball Courts  | 1.35                  | Dogwood Park                            | Departmental                   | \$ 6,736         | Donations, CEDIT, RIF |                  |            |            | \$ 1,413   | \$ 1,413   | \$ 1,413                           | \$ 2,497   |            |            |
| 7  | Park Shelters  | 3.39                  | New Park, Chesterton Park, Dogwood Park | Departmental                   | \$ 135,549       | CEDIT, RIF            |                  | \$ 10,407  |            |            | \$ 62,571  |                                    |            | \$ 62,571  |            |
| 8  | Park Restrooms   | 1.75                  | Chesterton Park, New Park               | Departmental                   | \$ 149,217       | Donations, RIF        |                  |            |            |            | \$ 42,846  |                                    |            | \$ 106,371 |            |
| 9  | Playgrounds (community)  | 1.75                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 149,217       | CEDIT, RIF            |                  |            | \$ 42,846  |            |            |                                    |            | \$ 106,371 |            |
| 10 | Playgrounds (neighborhood)   | 1.69                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 76,246        | Donations, RIF        | \$ 5,854         |            |            |            |            |                                    | \$ 70,392  |            |            |
| 11 | Sprayground / Splashpad  | 0.63                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 56,332        | CEDIT, RIF            |                  |            |            | \$ 37,561  |            |                                    |            | \$ 18,771  |            |
| 12 | Dog Park area  | 0.47                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 9,389         | CEDIT, RIF            |                  |            | \$ 6,260   |            |            |                                    |            | \$ 3,129   |            |
| 13 | Multi-use Pathways (miles)   | 4.41                  | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 882,199       | Grants, CEDIT, RIF    | \$ 42,403        | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 42,403  | \$ 167,546                         | \$ 167,546 | \$ 167,546 | \$ 167,546 |
| 14 | Additional Park Acres  | 101.19                | New Park                                | Departmental                   | \$ 2,276,938     | Donations, RIF        | \$ 252,994       | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993                         | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993 | \$ 252,993 |
|    |  |                       |   |                                |                  |                       |                  |            |            |            |            |                                    |            |            |            |
| 15 | Update Policies and Procedures including Policies on Equipment Replacement, etc. | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Administrative                 | \$ -             | N/A                   |                  |            |            |            |            |                                    |            |            |            |
| 16 | Expand Staff with growth needs (over 5 years, one full time)                     | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Administrative                 | \$ 120,000       | Dept. Budget          |                  |            | \$ 40,000  | \$ 40,000  | \$ 40,000  |                                    |            |            |            |
| 17 | Establish a Marketing Strategy and Plan  | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Administrative                 | \$ 7,500         |                       |                  |            | \$ 7,500   |            |            |                                    |            |            |            |
| 18 | Update and Refine Town-wide Greenways Master Plan                                | N/A                   | System-Wide                             | Administrative                 | \$ 18,000        |                       |                  |            | \$ 5,000   | \$ 5,000   |            |                                    |            |            |            |
| 19 | Budget for Staff Continuing Education (over 5 years)                             | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Departmental                   | \$ 7,500         | Dept. Budget          | \$ 1,500         | \$ 1,500   | \$ 1,500   | \$ 1,500   | \$ 1,500   |                                    |            |            |            |
| 20 | Upgrade Park Web Site and Link through Town's Home Page                          | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Departmental                   | \$ 1,500         | Dept. Budget          |                  |            |            |            |            |                                    |            |            |            |
| 21 | Upgrade Park Maintenance Equipment Department-wide                               | N/A                   | N/A                                     | Departmental                   | \$ 50,000        | Dept. Budget          | \$ 10,000        | \$ 10,000  | \$ 10,000  | \$ 10,000  | \$ 10,000  |                                    |            |            |            |
| 22 | Establish uniform signage at park facilities                                     | N/A                   | All Parks                               | Departmental                   | \$ 20,000        | Dept. Budget          |                  | \$ 5,000   | \$ 5,000   | \$ 5,000   | \$ 5,000   |                                    |            |            |            |





|    | A<br>Plan of Action   | B<br>Quantity (Units) | C<br>Park Site(s)         | D<br>Division or Site (Budget) | E<br>Total Costs | F<br>Funding Source              | Five - Year Plan |           |           |           |          | Remaining Years - Current RIF Plan |      |            |            |  |  |
|----|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|--|--|
|    |   |                       |                           |                                |                  |                                  | 2008             | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012     | 2013                               | 2014 | 2015       | 2016       |  |  |
| 23 | Expand Neighborhood Partnerships (Adopt-A-Park)   | N/A                   | N/A                       | Departmental                   | \$ -             |                                  |                  |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 24 | Establish a volunteer program strategy  | N/A                   | N/A                       | Departmental                   | \$ -             |                                  |                  |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 25 | Upgrade technology hardware and software (over 5 years)   | N/A                   | N/A                       | Departmental                   | \$ 7,500         | CEDIT                            | \$ 1,500         | \$ 1,500  | \$ 1,500  | \$ 1,500  | \$ 1,500 |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 26 | Development of a new Community Center   | N/A                   | Chesterton Park           | Departmental                   | \$1.5m           | Bond                             |                  |           |           |           |          |                                    |      | \$ 750,000 | \$ 750,000 |  |  |
| 27 | Park Improvements / Renovations Walking lights in conjunction with High School, equipment fencing, new tennis and Basket Ball courts, lighting for courts, relocate small baseball fields | N/A                   | Chesterton Park           | Departmental                   | \$ 150,000       | Bond                             | \$ 150,000       |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 28 | Park Improvements / Renovations / New play equipment  | N/A                   | Coffee Creek Park         | Departmental                   | \$ 30,000        | CEDIT                            | \$ 30,000        |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 29 | Park Improvements / Renovations /Connection to bike trail   | N/A                   | Crocker Park              | Departmental                   | \$ 50,000        | Dept. Budget/<br>CEDIT/Donations |                  |           |           | \$ 50,000 |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 30 | Park Improvements / Renovations /walking light  | N/A                   | Dogwood Park              | Departmental                   | \$ 50,000        | Dept.<br>Budget/CEDIT            |                  |           |           | \$ 50,000 |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 31 | Park Improvements / Renovations / Volleyball court or Basketball court  | N/A                   | Dunewood Estates Property | Departmental                   | \$ 10,000        | Dept. Budget                     |                  |           | \$ 10,000 |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 32 | Park Improvements / Renovations Playground equipment, bike path connection  | N/A                   | Golfview Park             | Departmental                   | \$ 40,000        | Bond                             | \$ 40,000        |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 33 | Park Improvements / Renovations Expand Bike Trail, Skate Park   | N/A                   | Jackson Park              | Departmental                   | \$ 20,000        | Bond                             | \$ 20,000        |           |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 34 | Park Improvements / Renovations / New equipment   | N/A                   | Kipper Park               | Departmental                   | \$ 30,000        | CEDIT                            |                  | \$ 30,000 |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 35 | Park Improvements / Renovations /Playground safety surface update   | N/A                   | Olde Town Park            | Departmental                   | \$ 20,000        | Dept. Budget                     |                  | \$ 20,000 |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 36 | Park Improvements / Renovations / Landscaping, remove bathrooms   | N/A                   | Prairie Duneland Trail    | Departmental                   | \$ 5,000         | Dept. Budget                     | \$ 2,500         | \$ 2,500  |           |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |
| 37 | Park Improvements / Renovations / Screening wall, finish landscaping  | N/A                   | Thomas Park               | Departmental                   | \$ 15,000        | Dept.<br>Budget/Donations        | \$ 5,000         | \$ 5,000  | \$ 5,000  |           |          |                                    |      |            |            |  |  |





Section M: Action Plan

|               | A<br>Plan of Action  | B<br>Quantity (Units) | C<br>Park Site(s) | D<br>Division or Site (Budget) | E<br>Total Costs | F<br>Funding Source | Five - Year Plan |            |            |            |            | Remaining Years - Current RIF Plan |            |              |              |  |  |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
|               |  |                       |                   |                                |                  |                     | 2008             | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013                               | 2014       | 2015         | 2016         |  |  |
| 38            | Park Improvements / Renovations / Tennis Courts - Cohor Coat Tennis and Basketball Courts  | N/A                   | Waskom Park       | Departmental                   | \$ 15,000        | Dept. Budget/CEDIT  |                  | \$ 10,000  | \$ 5,000   |            |            |                                    |            |              |              |  |  |
| 39            | Park Improvements / Renovations / New Equipment  | N/A                   | Westwood Park     | Departmental                   | \$ 40,000        | Bond                | \$ 40,000        |            |            |            |            |                                    |            |              |              |  |  |
| 40            | Conduct Playground equipment safety and maintenance audit  | N/A                   | System-Wide       | Departmental                   | \$ -             | N/A                 | \$ -             | \$ -       | \$ -       | \$ -       | \$ -       |                                    |            |              |              |  |  |
| 41            | Increase nature interpretive projects such as educational signage and plant/tree markers for new sites   | N/A                   | System-Wide       | Departmental                   | \$ 10,000        | Bond/Volunteers     | \$ 2,000         | \$ 2,000   | \$ 2,000   | \$ 2,000   | \$ 2,000   |                                    |            |              |              |  |  |
| 42            | Join Indiana Park and Recreation Association, to increase networking and receive latest information of park management and funding opportunities | N/A                   | N/A               | Administrative                 | \$ 750           | Dept. Budget        | \$ 150           | \$ 150     | \$ 150     | \$ 150     | \$ 150     |                                    |            |              |              |  |  |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |                       |                   |                                | \$ 4,932,934     |                     | \$ 607,917       | \$ 477,350 | \$ 441,172 | \$ 503,542 | \$ 483,554 | \$ 495,894                         | \$ 506,943 | \$ 1,382,532 | \$ 1,560,747 |  |  |



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Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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# Section N:

## Appendix



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## Section N: Appendix

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### Reference Sources Used in This Study

1. Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010 Hoosiers Moving Forward, prepared by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, January 2007.
2. Park Board and Administrator Newsletter, Aspen Publishers, 1991
3. [www.chesterton.net/#History](http://www.chesterton.net/#History)
4. Chesterton Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2005-2009
5. Town of Chesterton Recreation Zone Improvement Plan 2007-2016
6. Town of Chesterton Comprehensive Plan, 2004
7. Factfinder, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau
8. Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan, St. Joseph County Regional Parks, 1998

### Appendix Items

1. IDNR Approval Letter
2. Resolution
3. Department of Interior Section 504 Guidelines for Federally-Assisted Park and Recreation Programs and Activities
4. Ordinance 84-03
5. Indiana Recreation Facilities Inventory Update Sheets (SCORP)
6. ADA Self-Evaluation Checklists for Parks & Recreation Agencies
7. Town of Chesterton Policy Statement
8. Town of Chesterton Rights and Protections The ADA Affords Disabled Persons
9. Town of Chesterton Architectural Barriers Checklist
10. Newspaper articles on the Master Plan Process
11. Meeting Minutes of Public Meetings
  - Town Council
  - Advisory Plan Commission
  - Park Department Board of Directors
  - Park Department Recreation Impact Fee Committee
12. Recreation Impact Fee Progress Report
13. Town of Chesterton USGS Topography Map
14. Town of Chesterton USGS Soil Map
15. Town of Chesterton USGS Wetland Map
16. *Public Park and Recreation Trends: A Status Report*, by Ruth V. Russell, Department of Recreation and Park Administration, Indiana University
17. *The Excellent City Park System, What Makes It Great and How to Get There*, Published by The Trust for Public Land, Written by Peter Harnik
18. *The Seven Measures of an Excellent City Park System: A Self-Assessment Test*, Published by The Trust for Public Land, Written by Peter Harnik
19. *@ Issue: High Performance Boards, Luck of the draw or by design?* By J. Thomas Lovell, Jr., CPRP



Chesterton Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update 2008-2012

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Mr. Vincent Emanuele  
Park Board President  
Chesterton Park and Recreation Board  
1415 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chesterton, IN 46304

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Mr. Emanuele,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2008 -2012 Chesterton Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. A new plan will be due on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: [bbronson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bbronson@dnr.IN.gov).

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: [gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss  
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner  
IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Pam Guild; Lehman and Lehman, Inc.

## Resolution Adopting the Chesterton Parks Master Plan Update 2008-2012

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreational needs of the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Potter County;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is desirous of providing aesthetic and functional parks and recreational facilities and programs to the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Potter County and to meet their needs, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizenry, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is continually aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities and recreational programs and facilities to the future of the Chesterton Parks and Recreation Department, its programs and services, and to the residents of the Town of Chesterton and Potter County;

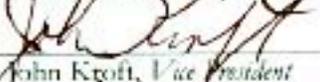
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chesterton Park and Recreation Board, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the *Chesterton Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2008-2012*, dated March, 2009, as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Chesterton, Indiana, over the next five years. The Chesterton Park and Recreation Board is committed to an annual review and update of the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.

Passed and signed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, Two Thousand Nine (2009)

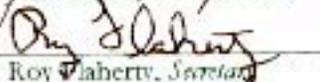
### Chesterton Park and Recreation Board:



Vincent Emswacht, *President*



John Kroft, *Vice President*



Roy Flaherty, *Secretary*



Eric Witt, *Member*

Attested:



Bruce Mathias, *Superintendent*

**Chesterton Park Department**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 7, 2009**

**Those in Attendance:** President Vincent Emanuele, Vice-President John Kroft, Secretary Roy Flaherty, Member Eric Witt, Park Superintendent Bruce Mathias, Liasion Sharon Darnell, Administrator Hilary Thomas

Vincent Emanuele called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the assemblage with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve March minutes was made by John Kroft. Seconded by Roy Flaherty. Motion passed. March minutes approved.

**Comments from the Public**

**Sergio Perez from Duneland Flyers** to request use of Dogwood East. Vincent stated that State Park Little League has primary use. Need to work out scheduling with them. As per discussion. Roy reiterated that they are the primary group, they help maintain the fields and make donations. Sergio stated that he and his players are tax paying citizens and should be entitled to equal use of the fields. As per discussion. Vincent suggested to use Westchester. Sergio stated that he did that last year and received no response. Vincent suggested to talk to the school superintendent and it is used by other traveling teams. As per discussion. Eric stated that these leagues have been in earlier in the year requesting use of the fields. As per discussion. Concerned that State Park was taking up all time from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Vincent also suggested Jackson Parks by the elementary school, a field there can be used. Baily was also suggested, but State Park is using those fields as well. Sergio will work and try to get access to other fields in the area first, and try to work out scheduling with Audra Peterson with State Park.

**Florian Steuich and Bill Mullin from Skate Park.** Bill presented the Board with updated designs of the proposed Skate Park. Explain the designs to the Board. As per discussion. Primary quote a little pricey. Going back for new. Vincent asked if he had been contact with the various apprentice's for labor work. Bill stated that they were in discussion with them, looking good. More fundraisers to be organized. One group donating a TV, George's to provide food. 1-4 on the pad on Saturday afternoon, invite everyone. All business' that have donated to the Skate Park project be given a sign. \$17,177.00 Materials needed are \$14,059.00. Invoice given to Bruce. Leaves \$3100 left over. Have funds for down payment, not coming to park anymore for funds. Will be doing some fundraising. As per discussion. Need to raise another \$4K-\$5K to get it going. Get permission for the 9<sup>th</sup> for fundraising. Hilary to get permit's for them. Will get materials in about 6 weeks.

A motion to provide Skate Park \$14,059 for materials was made by Eric Witt. Seconded by John Kroft. Motion passed. Money approved.

**Chris Newton from Rotary Club.** Needs special permission from the Park Board to provide popcorn for movie night in Thomas Park. Also needs permission to do a drawing. Drawing to be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Presented Board with Permit and Liability insurance.

A motion to provide Rotary Club with a letter of permission and waiver of any fees was made by Roy Flaherty. Seconded by John Kroft. Motion passed. Letter approved.

**Tama Pickford** for swim club. Pleaded her case to the Board about the disagreement between Coach Jim and her husband during the Fall season.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Drywall, heater, plumbing, water lines are all done at the new maintenance barn. Santa House has been stored away. Connections still being done at maintenance barn. Master Plan is done, need Board signatures. Roy has been painting.

### **Comments from the Board**

 Roy Flaherty presented a resolution to the Park Master Plan for 2008-2012. Read the resolution to the Board.

 A motion to adopt the resolution as read was made by Roy Flaherty. Seconded by John Kroft. Motion passed. Resolution adopted.

John Kroft asked if there has been any developments with FEMA. Roy spoke with Mark O'Dell and was told that they have approved half the funding for the project. We will have to pay for the last half, but then send the bill to FEMA and get reimbursed. Bernie questioned if FEMA was even going to replace the boardwalk. According to Bruce, they will replace everything.

### **Approval of Claims**

A motion to approve April claims was made by Roy Flaherty. Seconded by John Kroft. Motion passed. April claims approved.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by John Kroft. Seconded by Roy Flaherty. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President Vincent Emanuele

  
April 7 2009  
Date

**ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE  
SECTION 504  
OF THE REHABILITATION ACT  
OF 1973**

The CHESTERTON PARK + RECREATION BOARD (Applicant) has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

SIGNATURE:

*Vincent A. Emanuele*

PARK BOARD PRESIDENT

VINCENT A. EMANUELE

(PRESIDENT'S PRINTED

NAME)

SIGNATURE:

*Roy P. Flaherty*

PARK BOARD SECRETARY

*ROY FLAHERTY*

(SECRETARY'S PRINTED

NAME)

DATE:

4-7-09