

**TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-02-25

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A 2014-2018 PARKS,
RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN FOR THE TOWN
OF ST. JOHN, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

WHEREAS, the Town of St. John, Lake County, Indiana, has established, by appropriate enabling Ordinance, under applicable Indiana Law as amended from time to time, a Department of Parks and Recreation in the Town, which Department is governed by its duly appointed Board of Park and Recreation (hereinafter "Park Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Park Board is aware and had been advised of the provision of the Indiana Code relating to Parks and Recreation that adoption of a St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is required to address, identify, and plan the Park and Recreation needs of the residents of the Town of St. John; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board oversees and establishes the rules, responsibilities and plans for the provision of park and recreation needs for the residents of the Town of St. John by and through in part its adopted St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board seeks to continue to provide aesthetic and functional park and recreation facilities and programs to the residents of the Town of St. John to meet the physical, social, psychological and communal recreational needs of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board recognizes and acknowledges the importance of planning in order to meet the physical, social, psychological and communal recreation needs of the residents of the Town in the provision of aesthetic and functional park and recreation facilities and programs to said residents while remaining continuously aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities, recreational programs and functional facilities operated and conducted by the Town of St. John Department of Parks and Recreation in its programs for the benefit of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board acknowledges the requirements of applicable law to adopt a St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, and in such recognition, has updated and prepared a current St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation of the Town in conformance with applicable law, as well as to meet the objectives of the Town Park Board set forth hereinabove; that a copy of the current proposed St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan presented to the Town Park Board for the Town Department of Parks and Recreation for the time period of 2014 to 2018 is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION, AS FOLLOWS:

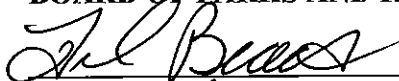
SECTION ONE: That the Town of St. John Board of Parks and Recreation hereby approves and adopts the *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* as attached hereto presented to it for such approval consideration for the time period of 2014 to 2018 as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in the Town of St. John, Indiana, for the time period stated. Further, the Town of St. John Park Board hereby directs the annual review of the adopted *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* by the Town Department of Parks and Recreation, and its Administrative Staff, for report recommendation to the Town Park Board, with an update of the goals and objectives to be presented annually to the Town Park Board by Park Department personnel on the status of meeting the goals and objectives of the adopted Master Plan.

SECTION TWO: That the duly adopted *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* is hereby directed to be published, and copies of same are required to be distributed to the Members of the St. John Town Council, Town Clerk-Treasurer, Town Manager, Park Department Administrative Staff, with copies available for the public, if requested. The Parks Superintendent is directed to undertake such distribution, and report compliance with such distribution to the Town Park Board thereafter.

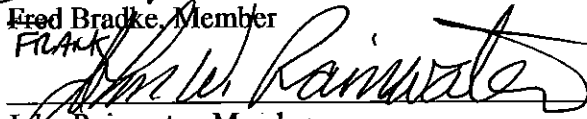
SECTION THREE: That this Resolution shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and adoption, in conformance with applicable law.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION THIS 25th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.

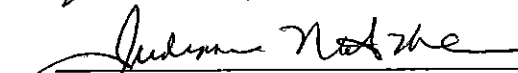
**TOWN OF ST. JOHN,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA,
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**



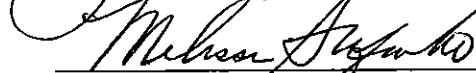
Fred Bradke, Member
FRACK



John Rainwater, Member



Judeanne Natzke, Member



Melissa Stafanko, Member

ATTEST:

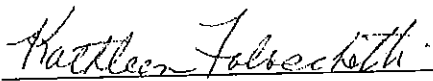

Park Board Secretary

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

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

SIGNATURE 
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Frank Bradke
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

Kathleen Falaschetti
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE: February 25, 2014

Frank Bradke
Park Board President
St. John Park and Recreation Board
9350 Hack St., Bldg. #2
St. John, IN 46373

February 13th, 2014

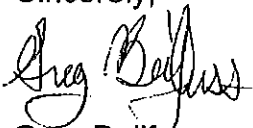
Dear Mr. Bradke,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2014-2018 St. John Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community is now eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office. A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2019, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

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.

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.

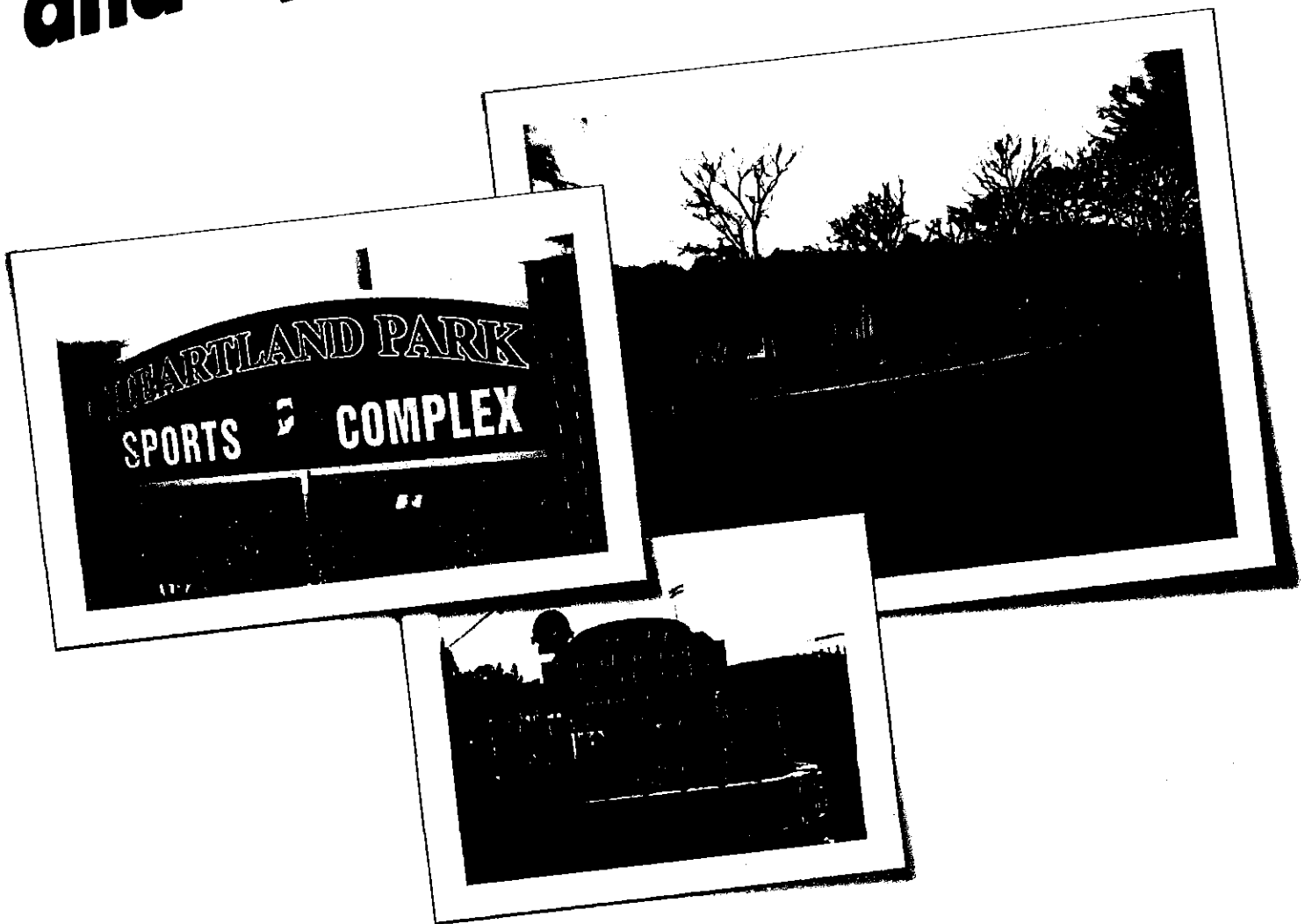
Sincerely,



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

ECC – Chip Sobek, Park Supt.

2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan



**Town of St. John, Indiana
Department of Parks and Recreation**

2014-2018 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

TOWN OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**APPROVED BY ST. JOHN PARK AND RECREATION BOARD AT REGULAR BOARD
MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2014**

TOWN COUNCIL:

MICHAEL J. FORBES	PRESIDENT
LARRY BUSTAMANTE	VICE PRESIDENT
MARK BARENIE	MEMBER
KENNETH D. GEMBALA	MEMBER
GREGORY J. VOLK	MEMBER

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS:

FRANK BRADKE	PRESIDENT
JOHN RAINWATER	VICE PRESIDENT
JUDEANNE NATZKE	MEMBER

CLERK TREASURER SHERRY P. SURY

TOWN ATTORNEY DAVID M. AUSTGEN

TOWN MANAGER STEVE KIL

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION:

9350 HACK STREET, BLDG. #2
ST. JOHN, INDIANA 46373
VOICE: 219-365-6236
FAX: 219-558-2032

1-PLAN SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Master Plan for the St. John, Indiana Parks and Recreation system is a continuing objective of the Town of St. John to maintain a guide for the present and a vision for the future through sound planning and periodic internal and citizen review.

Federal and State requirements mandate periodic updates of community parks master plans to maintain eligibility for certain grants from National Park Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This 2013-2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space master Plan represents an update to the original 1997-2001, 2002-2007, and 2008-2012 Master Plans.

PLANNING METHODOLOGY

The following planning methodology was utilized for the development and update for the Parks Master Plan:

- Determination of the characteristics, perception, and desires of the existing and potential park system user population and the identification of real and perceived needs/gaps in recreational and open space resources relative to that population.
- Evaluation of the appropriateness of current resources, objectives, and plans to meet the needs of the system's constituency.
- Conceptualization of an array of park system components, linkages, and imagery that builds upon the achievements to date, and carries on the sustaining vision of an integrated community resource of open space, facilities and programs.

Based upon the above planning methodology, the master plan is organized as follows:

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

A process of inventory and analysis was established to determine the context of the existing St. John park system. Each of the park facilities was visited, inventoried, and evaluated. In addition, the natural/cultural features and demographics of the planning area were analyzed.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Park system needs were determined through issues analysis and review of state & national standards. A public participation process was utilized to help ensure that the plan will be responsive to recreational and leisure needs of the community and to the vision that resident have for their park system. The public participation process included a community preference survey, a parks planning workshop, and a public meeting. The survey was distributed to every household in St. John to gather information on perceived needs, potential improvements, and vision for the future of the park system. Survey responses were used to determine the characteristics, perceptions, and desires of the existing /potential park system user population and the identification of real/perceived needs or gaps in recreational/open space resources relative to that population.

The workshop session provided community member with an opportunity to set goals and priorities to guide the development of the plan.

EVALUATION

The 2008-2012 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was used as a base upon which the Plan Update builds. The planning process included the study of the previous plan recommendations to determine their appropriateness and/or success upon evaluation.

VISION PLAN

Once community needs and desires were established and the existing system evaluated, a Vision Plan was developed for the park system. This portion of the plan provides the Park Board and other community leaders with an overall vision for the future of the parks, open space and recreational system.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan identifies short-term improvements or planning activities and established a priority system, taking into account considerations of revenue, funding and phasing.

The Mission Statement and Summary of Goals serve as the policy basis for the Master Plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of the St. John Park and Recreation Board is to create and responsibly manage a town-wide system of parks, open space, and cultural resources, and to provide recreational, cultural, and educational programs based on these resources to enhance the quality of life for all St. John citizens.

SUMMARY OF GOALS

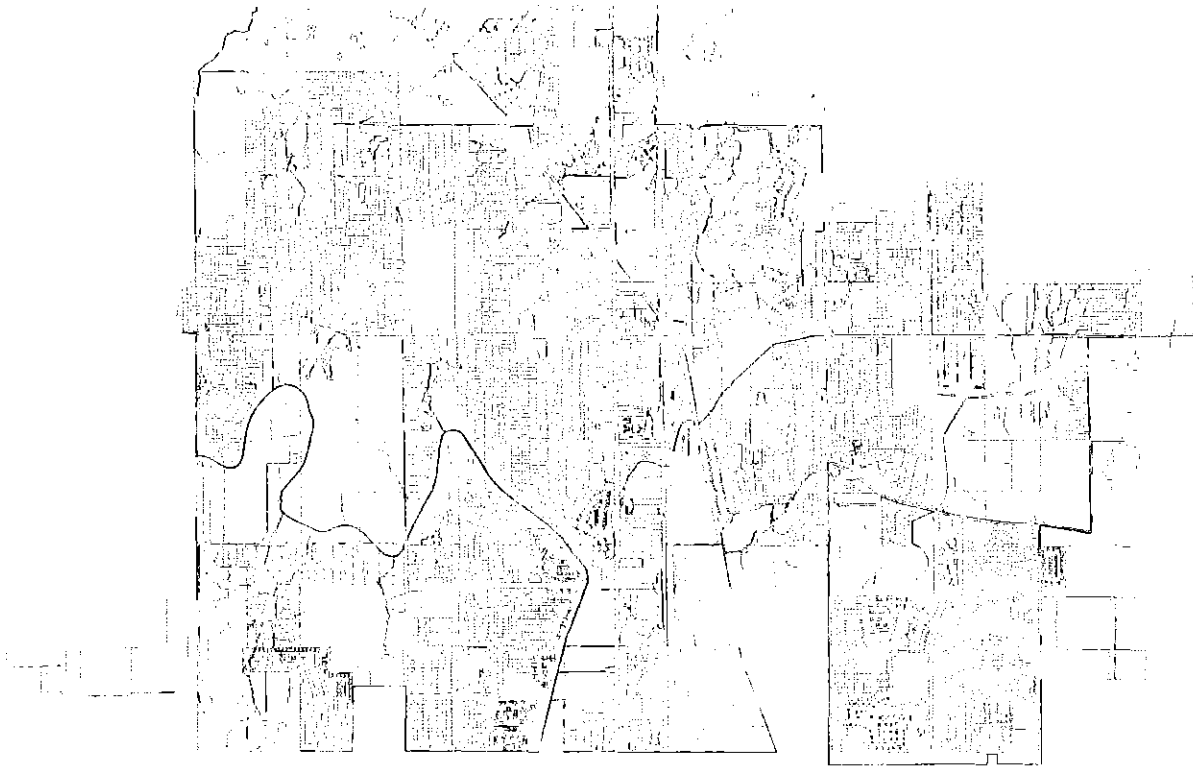
Goals for the Master Plan derive from the Mission Statement and the ongoing experience of providing for the recreational and open space needs of St. John citizens:

- a. That sufficient open space and natural areas be available to meet the present and futures needs of St. John residents, and that these resources are located in relation to the population throughout the town.
- b. That community scaled park site(s) be acquired and developed to provide a variety of recreational experiences to all St. John residents, while strengthening the sense of community.
- c. Those recreational opportunities not otherwise available in St. John are considered for inclusion in the park system where compatible, and that the quality of current recreational programs judged successful and appropriate be improved where possible.
- d. That outdoor education programs be provided that encourage environmental awareness and interaction between people and nature.
- e. Those interpretive programs are provided that give residents a framework of the community's cultural and historic origins.
- f. That cultural resources and programs be provided that give residents an opportunity to participate in the arts.
- g. That all visitors to park facilities and participants in park programs have a positive, enjoyable, and safe experience.
- h. That existing facilities and programs be adequately maintained, staffed, and funded before adding new programs and facilities, and that new program and facility budgets incorporate funding mechanisms for their long-term viability.
- i. That innovative funding sources and creative partnerships be developed with both public and private sector agencies and groups to facilitate park and open space land or facility acquisition, management, and program development.
- j. That information promoting public awareness and identification of the St. John park system is effectively disseminated.
- k. That the St. John Parks and Recreation Board be an advocate for federal, state, and local agency and private sector initiatives that support the park and open space mission of the department.

It is important to note that these goals are not numbered to indicate a particular priority or order, but to aid in organization and reference.

St. John is located to the north and west of Crown Point, In Lake County, Indiana (see Map 1). Lake County is considered to be urban in the aggregate, though much of the southern portion of the county maintains a rural character. St. John is considered to be part of the “Tri-Town” area, which consists of the towns of Schererville, Dyer and St. John. Fueled by in-migration for Illinois, the Tri-Town area is the fastest growing portion of Lake County. The planning area for the St. John Parks and Recreation Board is the Town Water and Sanitary District Boundary (see Map 2).

Town of St John 2013 Borders



Map2: Town of St. John Planning Area

A major highway, US 41, runs north/south through the center of St. John. This highway is also known locally as Wicker Avenue. The town is also traversed by CSX and Conrail rail lines, which are both active lines serving local industry.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The land that became St. John was purchased by the United States from Native Americans in 1832. Starting in 1834, government surveyors began surveying the area into sections and townships. It was in 1837 that John Hack, a German immigrant, settled in the area. Hack’s initial 40-acre homestead was located one-half mile east of the present US 41 and south of Joliet Street. Hack later purchased additional land near the intersection of US 41 and 93rd Avenue.

Hack built the log cabin structure on his property in 1839, which was the first Catholic Church in Lake County. In 1843, John Hack donated a portion of his homestead that contained the church and cemetery to the Bishop of Vincennes. The Church later returned a portion of the land back to the Hack family to be used as a cemetery. The log cabin church was moved to its present site south of the intersection of US 41 and 93rd avenue by St. John the Evangelist Church.

In 1846, the residents of the settlement, then known as Prairie West or Western Prairie, petitioned for a post office to be named St. John in honor of Hack for his devotion to the Church

NATURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Much of the original natural features of Lake County have been lost to development. Prior to urbanization, the northwestern corner of the county (including the St. John area) was primarily covered in grassland, with extensive marsh and wet prairie areas. Uplands were covered with mesic prairie, oak-savanna- oak-hickory forest, and a few small areas of beech-maple forest. A band of dune and swale habitat surrounded the shore of Lake Michigan.

Lake County is broken into three physiographic units:

- Calumet Lacustrine Section, which occupies the northern portion,
- Valparaiso Morainal Area, which occupies the central portion; and
- Kankakee Outwash and Lacustrine Plain, which covers the southern portion.

The Town of St. John lies in the Valparaiso Moraine Section.

The town is also physically divided by the Continental Divide. Bull Run and the St. John creeks which continue to from West Creek drain to the south, while the creeks to the east and north of the town drain to the north. The Bull Run Creek is controlled by the Lake County drainage Board, which has established a 60-foot protection zone from the center of the creek.

St. John has several small lakes and ponds that are scattered throughout the town. Many are on private properties but several are located on park properties. Not suitable for boating, these water bodies add to the landscape and provide fishing opportunities for the Town of St John's people.

Climate is somewhat moderate in the planning area, with fluctuations in the daily temperature moderated by nearby Lake Michigan. Average daily (maximum) temperature is 76 degrees Fahrenheit in August, while the average daily minimum temperature is 25 degrees Fahrenheit in February. Rainfall averages 35 inches annually.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, there are no significant natural areas located within the St. John planning area.

MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

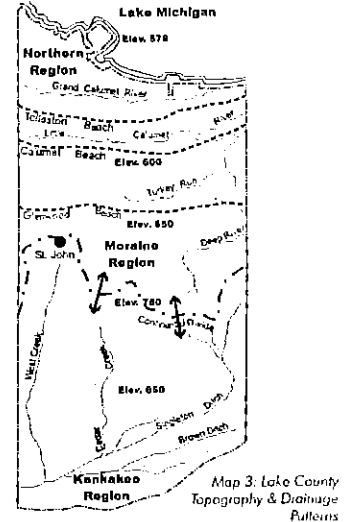
The only significant historical open-space site is the John Hack Cemetery. The cemetery is located one block south of the intersection of US 41 and 93rd avenue on Joliet Street. Another highly visited site is the Shrine of Christ Passion located on US 41 that is run by the local Catholic Church. Much of the town was farmland and has now developed into a fast growing community.

Roads are a major problem along with two railroads which separate the town, not allowing continual access from one point to another. US 41 and the two railroads run north to south with only two east west streets that run completely through the town from east to west. This separation makes any connection from park to park nearly impossible.

St. John does not have a major industrial park and businesses are generally restricted to US 41. This also is restricted with poor accessibility with limited turn lanes on a very busy road. These barriers limit access to most parks other than by auto.

St. John has a number of neighborhood parks with four large parks. One an athletic complex housing baseball, volleyball, softball and flag football; a second which has no athletic fields, a requirement of the deed to the town, that has a walking trails, playground and host special events such as Boo Bash and Christmas in the Park. A third park in a new subdivision host many of our summer recreation programs and has an amphitheater where summer concerts are held. This park takes advantage of some of our local theatre groups and a ballet troop and is included in the summer performance. Parking is limited to prevent major or large venue activities. The fourth large park contains the start of our longest bike/ walking path connecting to out sports complex.

section two
plan context



SCHOOLS & OTHER OPEN SPACE/ RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Students from the Town of St. John attend the following public schools:

- Lake Central High School
- Hanover Central High School
- Grimmer Middle School
- Clarke Middle School
- Kahler Middle School
- Kolling Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School

Lake Central High School, Clarke Middle School and Kolling Elementary School are the three facilities located within the town. These schools and associated recreational/athletic facilities are for student use only and are not typically open to the public.

In addition to public schools, the community is home to Crown Point Christian School, an evangelical school headed by a parent-owned association and St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, a Roman Catholic school.

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There are two private golf courses located in the St. John planning area and an Ice Arena/Gymnastics Training Center that is open to the public:

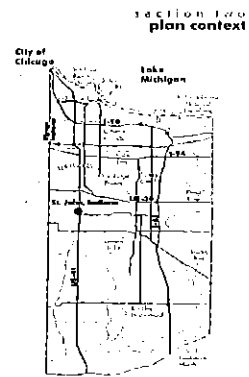
- Cedar Creek Family Golf Center
- Palmira Golf & Country Club
- Midwest Training & Ice Center

OTHER REGIONAL SPACE RECREATIONAL & OPEN FACILITIES

In addition to the St. John Park and recreational system, there are a variety of other public and private recreational recourses available to local resident. Residents of St. John, and Northwest Indiana, can take advantage of their proximity to both Indiana-based amenities and those found across the border in Illinois. Within a one-hour's driving distance, St. John residents can access the Indiana Dunes national Lakeshore, The Dunes State Park, Buckley Homestead & Deep River County Parks, and the recreational and Cultural amenities of the Chicago Area.

GEOGRAPHY

St. John is located at 41°26'54"N 87°28'36"W 41.448229°N 87.476672°W. According to the 2010 census, the town has a total area of 11.48 square miles (29.7 km²), of which 11.39 square miles (29.5 km²) (or 99.22%) is land and 0.09 square miles (0.23 km²) (or 0.78%) is water.



3-DEFINING THE CONSTITUENCY & ITS NEEDS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

POPULATION

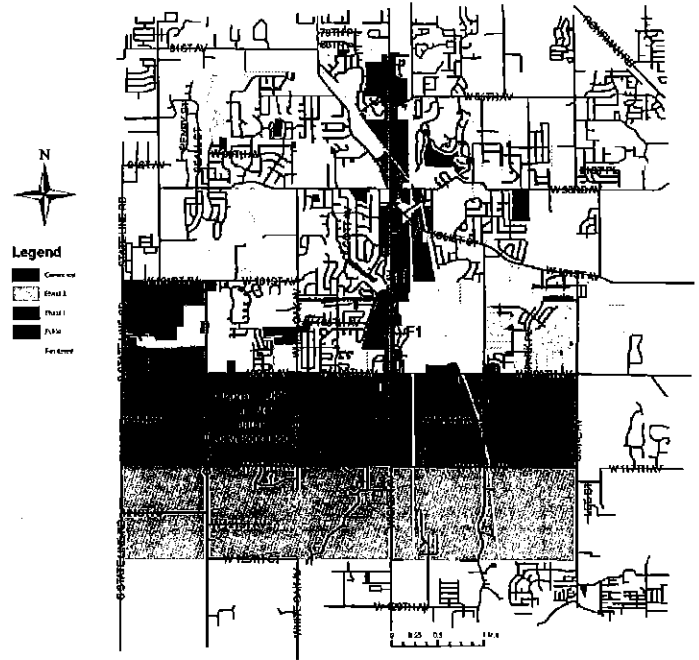
St. John is considered as part of the “Tri-Town” area of Lake County along with the towns of Schererville and Dyer. Throughout the 1990’s and into the 21st century, the Tri-Town area and especially St. John was the fastest growing segment of Lake County.

Collectively, the Tri-Town area population grew by 32% between 1990 and 2000. Individually, St. John saw the highest percent increase of the three towns. This growth continues as the population of St. John increased to more than double since 2000. The 2010 Census for population of St. John is 14,839. This growth significantly outpaced both Lake County and the State of Indiana.

Much of the population growth seen in St. John can be attributed to the continued in-migration of residents from Illinois and the Chicago Suburbs. In the past two decades, many communities in both Lake and Porter Counties have developed into suburbs for the Chicago area.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- Significant increases in population suggest increased demand for facilities and programs.
- Many new residents have relocated from the Chicago suburbs and are accustomed to highly developed park districts, facilities and programming.



o Map 5: Town of St. John Growth Potential

HOUSING & FAMILIES

The total number of households continues to increase in St. John at a rapid rate through 2010. This brings the total household to 4,800. The increase in households, which outpaced the population growth suggest that household size continued to decrease during the 1990’s. This observation can be correlated with the decrease in average household size during the same period from 3.22 to 2.99 from 1990 to 2000 but has leveled to 2.96 thru 2010. The average household in St. John is still significantly higher than that of the remainder of the State at 2.53 (persons/household).

According to the St. John Department of Building and Planning, the number of housing units in St. John continues to increase as the economy recovers. Assuming that housing demand levels and an average household remains the same, new residents can be expected in St. John and will increase each year as well.

Implications for park and recreation:

- The average household size is maintaining, and there are more households. This trend suggests continued demand for new housing.
- Increases in single-parent and female headed households suggest increased demand for after-school and summer youth programs.

Demographics: 2010 census

As of the 2010 census, there were 14,850 people, 5,047 households, and 4,225 families residing in the town. The population density was 1,303.8 inhabitants per square mile (503.4 /km²). There were 5,201 housing units at an average density of 456.6 per square mile (176.3 /km²). The racial makeup of the town was 93.5% White, 1.3% African

American, 0.1% Native American, 1.3% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 2.4% from other races, and 1.2% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 8.2% of the population.

There were 5,047 households out of which 40.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 75.5% were married couples living together, 5.6% had a female householder with no husband present, 2.6% had a male householder with no wife present, and 16.3% were non-families. 13.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.94 and the average family size was 3.25.

The median age in the town was 40.2 years. 27.3% of residents were under the age of 18; 6.3% were between the ages of 18 and 24; 23.6% were from 25 to 44; 31.2% were from 45 to 64; and 11.3% were 65 years of age or older. The gender makeup of the town was 49.9% male and 50.1% female

Education

St. John is served by both the Lake Central School Corporation and the Hanover Community School Corporation. Four of the ten Lake Central schools are located in Saint John. These include:

- Lake Central High School
- Lake Central Freshmen Center
- Kolling Elementary School
- Clark Middle School

In addition to public schools, the community is home to Crown Point Christian School, an evangelical school headed by a parent-owned association and St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, a Roman Catholic school.

AGE

The “graying” of the population is an important issue facing many communities. The 2010 census showed that 11.3% of the St. John Population was over the age of 65 compared to 13% for the rest of the state. This indicates a slightly younger population in a still increasing but limited housing market.

These statistics can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the maturation of the “Baby Boom” generation and medical advances that have increased the average life span. In addition, several communities within the Town of St. John have marketed their facilities specifically to seniors and older adults, which have attracted new seniors to the community.

Implications for park and recreation:

- The senior population has unique exercise and recreational needs that vary considerably from that required for younger populations. Walking and sitting areas are very important, especially in conjunction with areas that provide interesting activities to observe.
- Demand for senior and adult programming will increase as the population increases and life styles allow healthier activities to a later age.

PUBLIC INPUT

Citizen participation in crafting a vision for the future of the St. John park system is an important goal of the Park Board. Several methods were employed in order to gain an accurate and instructive cross-section of the public attitude regarding local parks and recreation issues. These methods included a community preference survey and a community planning workshop.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

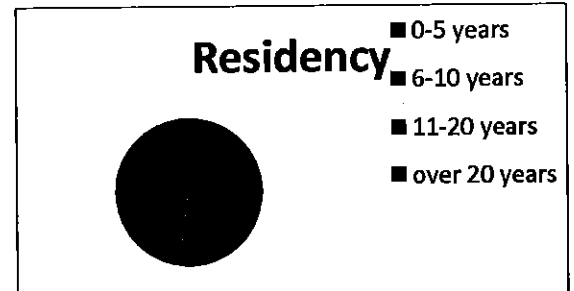
A community preference survey was utilized to balance the interest of constituency groups and interested citizens with a random sampling of the overall St. John population. Community survey forms were mailed to every postal customer with a St. John address. Approximately 5700 forms were distributed, with 975 responses returned for a 17% participation rate. Many of participating residents were very enthusiastic about park and recreation issues and were willing to provide written comments in addition to answering the prepared survey questions.

Several methods were built into the survey to ensure that the survey responses represented an accurate cross-section of the St. John population.

Survey respondents were asked to identify where they lived in St. John based upon the division of the town into four geographic zones (see map). These areas were divided by US 41 and 93 Avenue. The map indicates the percentage of reposes from the four zones selected.

Survey respondents were also asked to identify the length of time as a St. John resident. 27% were 0 to 5 years, 25% were 6 to 10 years, 25% were 11 to 20 years, and 23 % were more than 20 years. (See chart #1)

Chart 1: Residency years from survey.



RESULTS

The following pages summarize the survey responses.

- The survey indicated a need for adult and senior programming and a place to hold programs.
- The survey showed the need for additional programming in many areas and a facility to initiate such programs.
- The survey reassured that the majority of patrons felt that the parks were being properly maintained. 87% were at least somewhat satisfied with the maintenance program of the parks. Funding and the economy are reasons for the slight decline in satisfaction of residents. There is still some room for updating some older equipment. General landscaping marked concerns for others.
- The survey indicated a strong desire to incorporate more bike and walking trails, develop exercise and fitness programs.
- The survey reassured satisfaction on the direction the Parks and Recreation system is progressing on its improvements and upgrades.
- The survey showed that residents would like more picnic areas established. Shelters and shaded areas were the largest request.
- The survey indicated that the adult age group(s) most likely to use recreation programs or showed the most interest to participate in new programming.
- The survey indicated that offering rental space was agreed by 55% to 45% apposed.
- The survey revealed the need for better advertisement of programs and events. It showed a lack of awareness in the community that some program even existed. Better and more frequent communication is needed.
- The survey showed that the brochures and water bill flyers (63%) were the primary source of receiving information and website (23%), followed by the newspapers at (14%). This indicated an increase in website interest.

Special meetings:

PLANNING WORKSHOP

The second component of the participation process included a two planning workshops for members of the public to meet with the planning team and the park board to discuss future priorities for the system. The workshops took place in May 2012 and November, 2012 prior to the regular Park Board meeting for November. Members of the public were asked to attend along with the Park Board. These workshops were not attended well and only a few personal requests came out of the meeting. On May 2, 2012 the Lions club held a meeting in which they invited other organizations to attend such as Chamber of Commerce and special interest group which gave good input for the development of the parks in St. John. These meetings and the over 900 surveys returned with comments gave ample information to apply to the plan.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Introductions and Background:

- *Why plan?*
- *Review of Planning Process*
- *Expectations for the evening*

Large Group Session:

- *Results of the Community Survey*

Small Group Session:

- *Prioritizing park system goal for the next five years-three areas: 1-areas of improvement, 2-new activities, and 3- park system new feature.*
- *Options for implementing park system goals*

Reconvene Large Group:

- *Reports and list from small groups*
- *Discussion*

Conclusion and Wrap-up

Following a brief presentation of the results of the community survey, the workshop participants were asked to help prioritize park system goals for the next five years. A series of potential plan goals were identified based upon the results of the community survey. Each participant was asked to review the potential goals to select the goals that they thought were most important to the town and the park system. Once the participants had prioritized the goals, the group discussed options for implementing the park system goals.

4-PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The St. John Department of Parks and Recreation is overseen by the four-person Board of Park Commissioners. The Board consists of four members, appointed by the town, who serve four-year terms. It is an independent policy-making body, with bipartisan appointment process. It was established in 1996.

The Parks and Recreation Board conduct public meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. It is at these meetings that policies, financial allocations, and special projects are discussed. Additional public hearings and special task force committees are frequently utilized to receive public input on specific projects and community needs.

Park Board Membership:

- Frank Bradke-president
- John Rainwater-vice president
- Judeanne Natzke-member

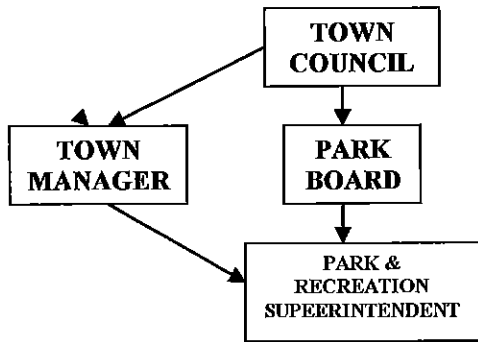


Chart 2: Existing Management Structure.

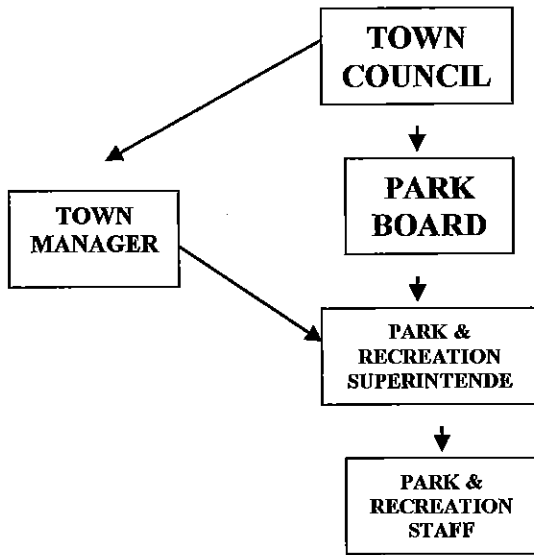


Chart 3: Proposed Management Structure.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & RECREATION-JOB DESCRIPTION

GEORGE "CHIP" SOBEK, CPRP

A full-time Parks & Recreation Superintendent was hired in 2003 to develop recreation programs and maintain the parks of St. John. Duties include the following:

- Overseeing maintenance activities for all park facilities and equipment.
- Plan, develop, implement and manage recreation programming.
- Maintain office and paperwork.
- Oversee department budget.
- Coordinate with Park Board, Town Council, and Town Manager.

EXISTING PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

The NRPA Classification System for park and recreation facilities categorizes park facilities according to size and the population that is served by the facility.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The St. John Parks and Recreation Board maintains two parks that can be classified as a community park: Heartland Park and Lake Hills Park. There is another park that could be classified as a community park, but are not controlled directly by the Parks and Recreation Board. Civic Park is under the control of the Town Council and not the park board due to the way the land was deeded to the town.

According to NRPA standards, community parks may include opportunities for both active and passive recreation, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, walking trails, picnic areas, or nature viewing areas. The desirable size for a community park is larger than 25 acres.

The existing community parks can be described as follows:

HEARTLAND PARK, located on White Oak Avenue in the far southwest of the town. This 40-acer facility includes four (5) baseball fields, four (5) softball fields, one (1) Babe Ruth field, six (6) sand volleyball courts, a playground area and a multi-use trail. Three concession stands are centered in the ball fields; the park includes a house and a pole barn for storage of equipment.

LAKE HILLS PARK is a new addition to the park system featuring approximately 27 acres of land and a 30 acre pond. A club house in on the property used for special events, a 400 seat amphitheater overlooks the lake; a multi-use trail runs through the park. Playground equipment, a fishing pier, and a parking lot are also amenities of the park. The park is located on the northeast part of town on 85th avenue.

CIVIC PARK is a central park which contains four ball fields, a playground area, two pavilions for picnics, a basketball court, tennis court and a concession stand for baseball.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS

The Town of St. John contains 24 facilities classified as neighborhood parks, ranging from just over one acre to 14 acres. According to NRPA Classification System, neighborhood park uses may include recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, picnicking, and playgrounds. The desirable size for a neighborhood park is larger than 15 acres, though these parks can come in a variety of sizes.

Neighborhood parks in St. John include:

Edgewood Estates Park This 5.0 acre park facility can be accessed from West 90th Avenue. Park features include a play structure and swing set. Kilkenny Estate Park (2.0 acres) is located adjacent to the north, but is undeveloped.

Fairway Park A 1.3 acre facility, located on Prestwick Place. This park features include a play structure, benches and picnic tables. A portion of a lake from adjacent property is located at the site providing opportunities for enjoying nature interpretive exercises.

Heldt Park Located in the Saddle Creek subdivision contains a playground structure, swings and small shelter. The park has entrance to the bike bath though the subdivision.

Heron Lake Park Located on Osage Drive features a playground structure and splash pad. A large Sled hill provides winter recreation. This is a 1.5 acre park with parking lot.

Homestead Acres Park 1 Access from Olcott Avenue and Hedwig Drive is the oldest part in St. John park system. The park includes a 2.8 acre pond, a picnic shelter, various play structures and swings. This is a 6.7 acre facility located adjacent to Hunter's Run Park to the east witch is undeveloped.

The Bull Run Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail will begin at this park.

Homestead Acres Park 2 is 2.6 acres located off of Hedwig Drive at Bull Run. This park is currently unimproved, but maintained.

Lancer Park Located on Schaeffer Drive. This is a 1.2-acre park includes a basketball court, play structures, swing sets, picnic shelter and tables.

Lantern View Estates Park Located off of Lantern View Lane is approximately 2.4 acres. Park features include play structures and benches. The park sign is visible from the street for access.

Larimer Park A 4 acre park adjacent to a pond. Park features include a play structure, swings and slides, merry-go-round, basketball court, two ball fields and picnic shelter with table. Park is located on Larimer and Woodland Drives.

Leah Park Located in the Lake Hills subdivision at Hillside Drive & Whitewater Crossing. This 4 acre park contains a play structure, swing set, picnic tables and a pond. A bike and pedestrian path is connected to the Lake Hills Park trail.

Lindsay Park is an addition to our parks with a fork of the lake hills trail passing through the playground and picnic area.

Louis Estates Park is undeveloped containing a two acre pond for fishing.

Patnoe Park/White Oak Mannor Parks These adjacent parks comprise 5.1 acres of parkland. Two soccer fields, a play structure and swings are featured in the park. Located at 105th and White Oak Avenue, these parks are also adjacent to Heartland Park.

Prairie West Park Set on a 12 acre parcel, these parks has a large pond, picnic shelter with tables, benches, play structure area, and parking lot. This park is used for special events and the Town's Festival of Lights. This park is located on 93rd Avenue.

Rainwater Park is another addition to our parks and quarter acre lot park donated by a resident contain a playground area.

Saddle Creek Park is a 1.4 acre subdivision park new to our system. This park contains a playground and a picnic area.

Schilton Hills Park This is a 2.2 acre park located on Franklin and Farmington Drive. The park features a picnic shelter with tables, play structure, swings, bike rack and grill.

Silverleaf Park is another park new to our park system. This 3.5 acre park contains a playground and picnic area.

Sun Meadows Park This 11 acre park contains a large marsh and wetland area. Also included is a swing set, play structure and picnic tables. Park access is off Snowberry Lane.

Timberlane Park A 1.2 acre park with a looped trail. The park features a play structure, swings picnic table and benches. Access is from 90th avenue.

Ventura Estates Park A 3.5 acre park located on Dena Court. The park contains a playground structure, swing set, and picnic table and pond.

	CIVIC PARK	HEARLAND PARK EXT	KEILMAN FIELD	EDGEWOOD	FAIRWAY ESTATES	THE GATES PARK	HEARLAND ESTATES	HELDT	HERON PARK	HERON LAKE	HOMESTEAD FIELDS	HOMESTEAD	HUNTERS ACRES	LAKE HILLS	LANCER	LANTERN VIEW	LARNER WOODS	LINDSAY	LOUIS ESTATES	PAYNOE	PRAIRIE	SADDLE WEST	SCHILLON CREEK	SILVER LEAF	SUNMEADOWS	TIMBERLAKE	VENTURA	VENTURA ESTATES	WHITE OAK MANNOR	EST. UNIT PRICE	EST. TOTAL VALUE	
ATHLETIC FIELDS																																
Baseball field	3	4	1			1									1															10	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
Basketball Court	1												1		1															3	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Bleachers	8	8	2			4																								22	\$ 500.00	\$ 11,000.00
Dug-out	6	8	2			2																								18	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Horseshoe pits													2																	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Soccer field					3																									3	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Tennis court	1																													1	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Sand Volleyball court						6						1																		7	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Softball field						5									1															6	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 360,000.00
Flag Football field																		2												2	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
PARK FURNISHINGS																																
Barbeque grill	2							1		1	1				1						1		1							8	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00
Bike rack	1	2				4	2	1		6							1				1		1	1						20	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,000.00
Bird houses				4																				2						6	\$ 25.00	\$ 150.00
Drinking fountain-dbl							1																							1	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Drinking fountain-single		2				1							1																	4	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Fishing pier												1																		1	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Field lights	3	4	1			5																								13	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 260,000.00
Permanent bench	4	2		2	2		2	4	2	6	4	2	2		2	1		1	3		1				2					42	\$ 500.00	\$ 21,000.00
Picnic table fixed		1			1			3										2					2	1						10	\$ 650.00	\$ 6,500.00
Picnic table-wood	14				2	14	1		6	2	12	3			5				12	1					1					73	\$ 300.00	\$ 21,900.00
Picnic table-metal		8										9				3														20	\$ 700.00	\$ 14,000.00
Pole light	1	1	1			1		1			1	1			1			1	1		1									11	\$ 750.00	\$ 8,250.00
Shower spray/ fountain												1																		1	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00

Splash pad									1					1											2	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 80,000.00			
Park sign	1		1			1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 56,000.00			
Walking / bike trail		1				1	1		1	2	1	1				1	1						1	11						
Flag pole		3				4								2				1	1					11	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,500.00				
Fence		1																						1	2		\$ 125,000.00			
PLAY EQUIPMENT																														
	A	B	C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Swing sets-two																								1			1	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
Swing sets-four	1	1	1	1				1	1	2			1	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	2	1	21	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Bouncing spring				2						1			3	1		1	1				3						12	\$ 350.00	\$ 4,200.00	
Climbing apparatus				1					1				1	1	1		1	1		1	1			1	1		11	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	
Large slide	1															1											2	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00	
Log roll	1											1	1						1	1				1	1		7	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,100.00	
Merry-go-round	1															1											2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Play apparatus 2-5 year		1							1											1				1	1		5	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	
Play apparatus 5-12 year	1	1	1	1				1	1	1			1	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	17	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 595,000.00	
Space arch													1														1	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00	
PARK STRUCTURS																														
Announcers box	2	1	1				1																				5	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
batting cage	2	1																									3	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Club House												1															1	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Concession stand	1	1				2																1					5		\$ 220,000.00	
Rest room	1	1																				1					3	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	
House							1																				1	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
Parking lot-paved	2	1				2				1	1		1									1					9			
Parking lot-gravel			1	1	1											1											4			
Pavilion	2							1		1	1			1		1					1	1	1				10	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
Pole barn							1																				1	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	
Storage building		2				2																					4	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	

PARK EQUIPMENT	A	B	C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
Pond aeration fountain																			1	1							2	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		
flower bed							2	1					4	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	16	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 16,000.00		
Pond										1			1					1	1	1							5				
Scoreboard	3	4	1				3																				11	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 33,000.00		
Storage box	3						2																				5	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00		
Trash container-portable	12	12	1	1	2	3	14	1	3	2	7		5	1	1		1	1		1	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	81	\$ 120.00	\$ 9,720.00	
Trash container-fixed											6		3					1			3	1					14	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,100.00		
Lightning detector	1						1																				2	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 30,000.00		
LARGE ITEMS																															
Office chairs																											4	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00		
Computer																											2	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		
Copy machine																											1	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00		
Desk																											2	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00		
Digital camera																											1	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00		
File cabinet																											4	\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00		
Gator vehicle																											1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00		
Riding mower																											1	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00		
Television																											1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		
Tractor																											1	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00		
Truck 851																											1	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00		
Weed wacker																											2	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00		
Wheel barrel																											1	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		
Chain saw																											1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		
18 foot trailer																											1	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		
Parking lot lights		6																									6	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 15,000.00		
Park lighting										1			4	2			1			1	8		1				18	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 45,000.00		
ESTIMATED TOTAL																														\$ 4,481,970.00	

<u>PARK NAME</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE</u>
Bike Trail	6.19	\$278,550.00
Edgewood	4.9	\$220,500.00
Fairway	1.53	\$68,850.00
Gates	1.44	\$64,800.00
Gates	1.42	\$63,900.00
Gates	1.03	\$46,350.00
Gates	1.16	\$52,200.00
Heartland	42.8	\$1,926,000.00
Heldt	1.02	\$45,900.00
Heron Lake	1.5	\$67,500.00
Heron Lake	2.48	\$111,600.00
Homestead Acres I	9.62	\$432,900.00
Homestead Acres II	5.46	\$245,700.00
Homestead Acres III	9.98	\$449,100.00
Hunters Run	2.57	\$115,650.00
Kilkenny	2.08	\$93,600.00
Lake Hills	38.81	\$1,746,450.00
Lake Hills	1.19	\$53,550.00
Lake Hills	1.48	\$66,600.00
Lancer	0.99	\$44,550.00
Lantern View	2.77	\$124,650.00
Lantern Woods	3.32	\$149,400.00
Larimer	3.96	\$178,200.00
Leah	2.8	\$126,000.00
Louis Estates	2.05	\$92,250.00
Patnoe	1.73	\$77,850.00
Prairie West	11.59	\$521,550.00
Saddlecreek	0.54	\$24,300.00
Schillton Hills	2.2	\$99,000.00
Silver Leaf	2.06	\$92,700.00
Soccer Fields (gates)	19.53	\$878,850.00
Sun Meadows	10.93	\$491,850.00
Timberlane	1.19	\$53,550.00
Ventura Estates	2.47	\$111,150.00
White Oak	4.68	\$210,600.00
TOTAL	209.47	\$9,426,150.00

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Department of Parks and Recreation facilities serve a variety of users and programs within the St. John community. The following chart highlights the various recreational programs that take place in the Department of Parks and Recreation facilities. Since the hiring of a full time Parks and Recreation Superintendent, additional programs have been established along with sponsored organizations other than the Park Board, and are held in the park facilities.

<u>PARK</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>
HEARTLAND PARK	YOUTH BASEBALL GIRLS SOFTBALL BABE RUTH BASEBALL CO-ED VOLLEYBALL RECREATION PROGRAMS
PATNOE PARK	YOUTH SOCCER FLAG FOOTBALL
LAKE HILLS PARK	HAUNTED HOUSE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES FISHING DERBY RECREATION PROGRAMS
PRAIRIE WEST PARK	FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS EASTER EGG HUNT MOVIES IN THE PARK RECREATION PROGRAMS
CIVIC PARK	YOUTH BASEBALL
LAKE HILLS PARK	RECREATION PROGRAMS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BOOBASH

Chart 4: Program use in parks.

ANALYSIS OF EXHISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMMING

Since the approval of the 2008-2012 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the St. John Department of Parks and Recreation has worked to implement many of the items included in the Action Plan. These improvements include:

- Installation of concession stand, to softball fields of Heartland Park.
- Repair and upgrade of lights to softball fields and baseball fields in Heartland Park.
- Replaced and or upgraded play structures in Patnoe Park, Fairway Park, Lancer Park, Larimer Park, Patnoe Park, and Timberlane Park.
- Installed signage to several parks
- Various life-cycle upgrades and replacements to park system infrastructure.
- Installed play structures to Lindsay Park, Rainwater Park, Silver leaf Park, and Sun Meadow Park.

ANALYSIS

There are several standard, nationally accepted planning models for determining the parks and recreation needs of the community. Regardless of the method chosen, it must combine the supply and demand components of the plan to determine what additional open space and recreational opportunities should be provided.

This analysis was based upon a combination of national standards and a thorough issues analysis. Although the level of service (LOS) standards analysis would have provided additional insight, the lack of staffing at local parks facilities made this type of analysis difficult.

As illustrated in the chart below, the Town of St. John is exceeding National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards for physical recreation and open space supply.

This applies on the system-wide, the community park, and the neighborhood park levels. Regional and Metropolitan level parks were not analyzed, because it is assumed that these facilities are outside the scope of the town's Parks Board and are provided by larger bodies, such as a county, state or federal parks.

This type of supply standard does not, however, take into account whether parks and recreational facilities are meeting community needs. The issues analysis, in combination with the park system inventory/analysis process was the basis for this insight. Using the results of the survey, the public workshop, and various meeting with the Park Board and Town Council Members, it was possible to determine potential areas of improvement, expansion, or notable success within the system.

Facility Type	Recommended Supply (NRPA) per 1,000 populations	Existing supply per 1,000 population
Overall Park System	6.25-10 Acres	26.125 Acres
Community Parks	5-8 Acres	13.24 Acres
Neighborhood Parks	1-2 Acres	7.95 Acres

Reoccurring themes in both the community survey and the public workshop included:

- **More recreational programming**-expanded recreational programs for all age groups. This includes youth, seniors and teens. Active sports and fitness program led request.
- **More cultural opportunities**-for cultural and community-based events through park facilities. These types of events would benefit from use of current facilities and upgrades of others.
- **Connectivity between parks**-the need to continue to develop features that make the parks easier to access, such as bicycle and walking paths and open space corridors.
- **Main housing building**-an identifying structure to house the Parks and Recreation department, offices and programs.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement took effect on January 26, 1992. All new facilities designed and constructed for occupancy later than that date must be accessible.

Physical barriers in existing public accommodations must be removed if readily achievable. If not, alternative methods of providing services or equivalent experiences must be offered if those methods are readily achievable.

ADA sidewalks have been installed to achieve this accessibility in several of our parks: Patnoe, Heartland, Prairie West, Edgewood, Larimer, Schillton Hills, Sun Meadows, Timberlane and Civic Parks have all been upgraded.

In 1993, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed a self-evaluation for conformance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The DPR operates and maintains 28 parks. Physical accessibility to all these parks, playgrounds, comfort stations, and water fountains has not yet been fully achieved, but improved. It remains a goal of the Department of Parks and Recreation to fully comply with accessibility criteria.

Improvements, additions and new park structures are required by the Town of St John Parks and Recreation Department to ADA Compliant. Contractor and playground suppliers are asked to have their equipment and installations follow all proper guidelines. All playground structure are in compliance for surfacing and ADA use. Information or questions about any of our structures can be address through the Town of St John Parks and Recreation Department.

5- VISION PLAN

The Vision Plan portion of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan provides community leaders with an overall vision for the future of the St. John Park, open space and recreation system.

It includes recommendations for both physical improvements and policy changes to inform the community leadership on the Parks Board and Town Council. Many of these recommendations can be achieved in the short-term, using funds that are readily available, while implementation of the others will require finding innovative sources and crafting of partnerships with other communities and agencies.

VISION PLAN INITIATIVES

Connected system of Parks and Open Space Resources—St. John currently has a network of many smaller parks and recreational resources spread throughout the community. Many of these parks are located within existing residential subdivisions and are the result of the Town acquiring land from *private* developers though the impact fee process. Suburban development patterns have created a transportation system that is disconnected and illogical. Many of the recreational resources present in the town are isolated and access is difficult using the existing network.

It is proposed that St. John continue to develop a network of corridors to provide pedestrian and bicycle connections to neighborhoods and between park sites. This connection system of open space and parks can be based upon resources that already exist within the community, including drainage coursed, utility corridors, and existing thoroughfares.

DRAINAGE COURCES

Bull Run and West Creek are legal drains with platted easements. This watercourse system has been identified in the Lake County Parks and Open Space Master Plan as a potential 14-mile long natural resource and trail corridor that could link rapidly growing western Lake County communities with potential major park sites. Successful realization of this corridor is dependent on individual communities along its length being able to manage adjacent development in a way that the corridor is protected and enhanced as a public resource. These and other drainage coursed can become linked open space and corridor trail systems that add amenity value to adjacent development.

A portion of Bull Creek Greenway will soon be under construction, linking Homestead Acres Park I to Heartland Park

UTILITY CORRIDORS

Major gas and electric power easements cross St. John, providing an open space resource and an opportunity for continuous bicycle-pedestrian trails that link residential neighborhoods, parks, shopping, and employment areas. Certain land use activities, such as agriculture are not interrupted by these corridors. When development of such land occurs, however, careful planning can result in a dedicated open space corridor that benefits the development with open space while providing trail connectivity between neighborhoods and districts.

A portion of the Utility Corridor Greenway will connect to the Bull Creek Greenway, creating the linear connection between parks using the utility corridor and a drainage way.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS & THOROUGHFARE PLANNING

To create a truly “livable” community, development & thoroughfare planning must be in sync with open space & recreational planning.

It is proposed that bicycle and pedestrian facilities be incorporated into the community's thoroughfare plan so that when a roadway is upgraded or a subdivision is developed, these facilities are included as a part of the improvements. Various communities within the State of Indiana have incorporated bicycle and pedestrian facilities directly into their thoroughfare planning process. For example, both Delaware and Hamilton Counties have used thoroughfare planning to create usable transportation and recreational connections between neighborhoods and parks, schools, etc.

The subdivision development process provides another opportunity for increasing usable green space and creating a connected and visible park system for the residents of St. John.

Although the town's impact fee system has provided funding and land for new park facilities, it recommended that the subdivision design process identify opportunities for providing enhanced open space and pedestrian & bicycle connections through that process.

The town's comprehensive plan is an opportune time to control ordinance and identify ways to include open space components within the process. Like the city of Carmel, Indiana, St. Jon has a control ordinance to require that developers set aside a specific percentage⁴ of overall land to be used for internal connections and open space. In addition, the city and county thoroughfare plans require that the development donate right-of-way and install appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities along adjacent roadways.

CONNECTIONS TO SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEMS

The communities of Northwest Indiana having been working together for some time developing a first-class regional system of trails and greenways. It is proposed that the Town of St. John Partner with its surrounding neighbors in the future development of the system.

Two projects currently in the early stages of planning provide opportunities for St. John residents to be directly connected to the larger regional network of trails.

1. VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BIKE TRAIL-This trail provides an opportunity for the residents of St. John to connect with Crown Point and Hebron. The 15-mile corridor is planned to include various war memorials, including one dedicated to the Revolutionary War near the intersection of US 231 and US 41. The Crown Point Parks Department is identified project sponsor.
2. PENN CENTRAL CORIDOR via CLINE AVE-The Penn Central Corridor trail would connect the communities of Crown Point, Schererville, Dyer, and on into Illinois via the former Penn Central Railway Corridor. St. John residents could access this trail via a connector trail along Cline Avenue, tying in near Rohrman Road in Schererville.

CONSOLIDATED SPORTS COMPLEX AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY

The development of the new athletic facilities at Heartland and Patnoe parks continues to provide a consolidated sports complex and recreation area for St. John.

The development of five baseball fields, five softball fields and a Babe Ruth field have been completed. The Ice arena is also under operation through private business. Patnoe Park has flag football fields used by private contracted leagues.

It is further recommended by the Park Board to develop a community building on the Heartland Park property to provide a facility to house recreational programs and the Parks and Recreation Department.

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL PARK

Following the analysis of the community survey and the public workshop, it was evident that the residents of St. John are interested in more cultural activities within their parks and recreation facilities.

In recent years, Prairie West Park and Lake Hills Park have been used to accommodate such activities and events such as fishing derby and Easter egg hunt. With the addition of Lake Hills Park and its amphitheater, other events such as

concerts in the park and the haunted house have been added. With more improvements to this and other parks such as pavilions, parking and electrical upgrades, St. John residents will enjoy future events.

Art Fairs, picnic space and recreation programs can now be part of the upgraded parks. Scenic landscapes lure wedding parties for picture taking.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMING

With the hiring of a Parks supervisor, recreation programs have been added for the residents of St. John. Although programs are limited at this time due to space, all ages are being considered in a variety of possibilities. The development of a recreational facility will enhance additional programs and accommodate the growing population. Adding such a facility at the Heartland Park property, would add to the development of a complete sport and recreation complex.

Additional sports fields have been added to assist local groups in sport participation in baseball and soccer. Added ponds in several of the new parks also provide fishing opportunities for all ages.

A splash park has been added to Heron Lake Park with suggestions for additional splash parks to accommodate the growing population. A sled hill has also been completed to add other opportunities for families to enjoy recreation.

MARKETING, PUBLIC INFORMATION, & IMAGE.

Signage is ongoing as a directive to increase the visibility of the town's parks. Upgrades to old signage and new signs for new parks are being installed with uniform logos. This will help identify the parks system in a consistent manner.

The Parks and Recreation supervisor has developed a brochure to promote programs and events happening in the town. Website information is now in place to further the awareness. Newspaper articles are reported to help in this area as well. From survey analysis, additional advertisement and awareness is needed. Part of this awareness is to get the Parks and Recreation Department and identity of its own that residents would look for.

MAINTENANCE/FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The existing St. John parks have a varying degree of development and maintenance. The rapid growth and expansion of the parks, it will be necessary to find additional funding to maintain the quality level of the St. John parks. Upgrading old equipment must be maintained to assure safety of the St. John residents. Additional staffing to achieve this quality level must be considered.

PARK DESIGN/MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

It is recommended that the Parks Board and staff work with community members to develop individual master plans and designs for each park facility based upon the input of park users and neighbors. In this manner, the park users will be more excited about their neighborhood parks and be willing to support that park's development.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION

The Parks and Recreation Superintendent is a certified professional. It is recommended that additional staff would also be certified and maintains their certification through training and service. This will demonstrate the desire to have quality, professional staff for the residents of St. John.

6-IMPLEMENTATION & ACTION PLAN

The priority issues facing the St. John Parks Board have been identified and the long-range vision developed. The Action Plan Section of this report establishes the manner in which priority issues will be resolved in the next five years, taking into account considerations of revenue, funding, and timing.

PRIORITIZATION & PHASING

Vision Plan recommendations and action items have been prioritized according to need and available resources. Three phases have been developed for implementation.

- Items in the 5-year phase of the plan are of immediate need and can be accomplished using available or projected resources. These items are included in the action plan, which identifies specific projects, estimated cost, and potential funding sources.
- The 10-year phase of the plan includes items that may be accomplished using available or projected resources within 5 to 10 years.
- Vision Plan (20 year phase) item include recommendations for projects and policy changes that can be implemented over a long-range period. The resources necessary to complete these projects man not are available at the presents, but grants, innovative funding methods, and creative partnerships can make them possible.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for Action Plan items will be primarily dependent upon local revenue, impact fee revenue, grants, bonds, and cost sharing through strategic partnerships. Other activities may be funded through the proposed Parks Foundation or private sponsorship and donations.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES/ MECHANISMS

Potential sources of funding for action plan items include:

- **General Revenue:** The town of St. John can utilize a variety of sources of funding from within the town budget.
- **Parks & Recreation Impact Fee:** The Parks and Recreation Impact Fee were established in 1997 to ensure that parks and recreation facilities keep up with the pace of new residential development within the community. The impact fee funds can be used to fund new park facilities or expansion of existing ones, but cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies within the system.
- **Bonds:** The town may wish to initiate a bond issue to pay for large improvements that cannot be covered using existing funds.
- **Private Donors/Organizations:** The department of Parks and Recreation should seek out private donations of land, funds, and amenities to aid in the maintenance and improvement of the park system. In addition, local organizations can become an integral part of the park system by organizing fund-raisers, park maintenance outings, or by helping sponsor new park features.
- **Grants:** Grants are available fro the State of Indiana and federal Government, along with from private organizations. Most parks and recreation grants are highly competitive and require matching funds to prove that they are capable of undertaking the project. These grants can be used provided the funding is available at the time the grants are offered, subject to the review of the park board and Town Council.
- **Tree City USA:** The town is working on becoming a Tree City USA which would possibly provide funding for the planting of new trees in the parks for additional beautification and replenishment of lost trees do to age and storm damage each year.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan presented on the following page is organized according to year, facility, planned improvement, estimated cost, and potential funding. A funding summary illustrates the proposed use of each type of potential funding source by year and a total for the master plan. It is important to note that the estimated cost are only estimates and may change as a project develops.

In addition, the Action Plan includes a variety of recommended items that consist of a combination of improvements (not identified individually for each facility). These unit priced items include:

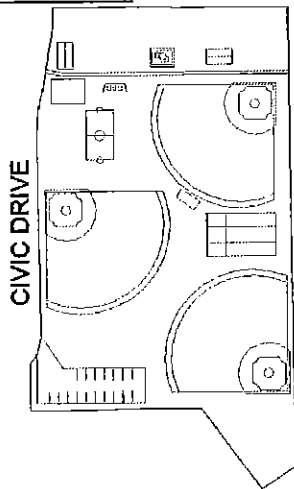
- Picnic tables \$600
- 2-5 year playground \$15,000
- 5-12 year playground \$35,000
- Litter receptacle \$200
- Benches \$600
- Climbers \$3,500
- Swing sets \$7,000
- Plants and shrubs seasonal
- Trees seasonal

Installation, safety surfacing and ADA accessibility are additional cost to new installation and replacement.

PARK NEEDS FOR 2013-2017

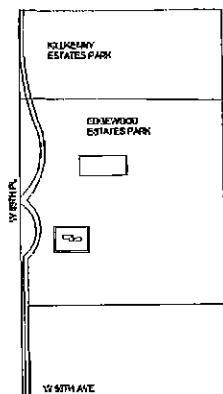
Park boards list of needs and ongoing repairs—

CIVIC PARK:



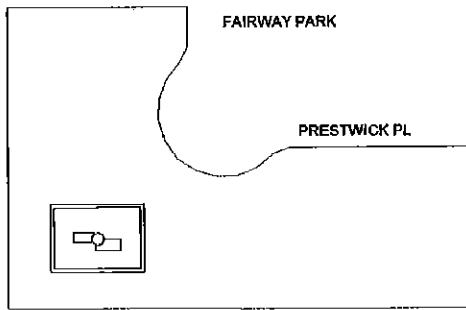
- REPLACE OLD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- FIX OLD T-BALL FIELD
- FIX UP PARKING AREA
- ADD TREES AND PICNIC AREA

EDGEWOOD ESTATES PARK



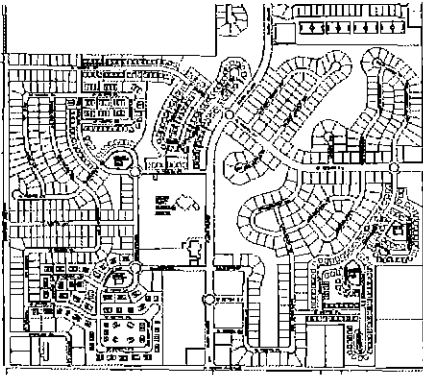
- UPGRADE ENTRANCE LANDSCAPE AND PARKING

FAIRWAY PARK



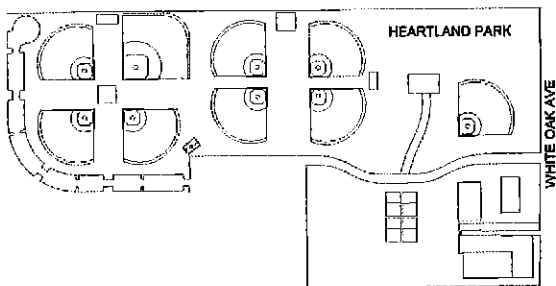
- REPLACE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND SWINGS
- ADD BUILT IN PICNIC TABLES

GATES SOCCER FIELDS



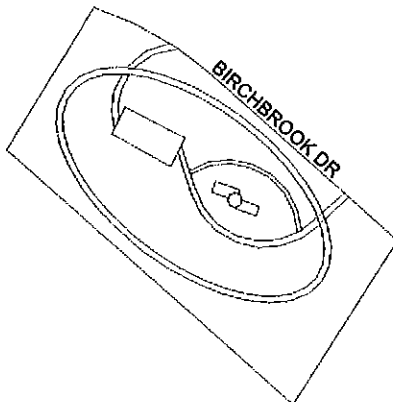
- MAINTAIN PARKING AREA
- FIX ENTRANCE TO PARKING AREA
- MAINTAINING FIELDS

HEARTLAND PARK



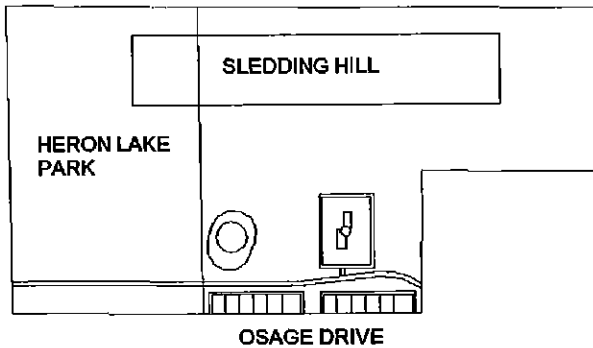
- SEALCOAT PARKING LOT AND REPAIR
- TEAR DOWN HOUSE AND REMOVE SEPTIC TANK
- DEVELOP COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR PROGRAMS
- ADD TREES

HELDT PARK



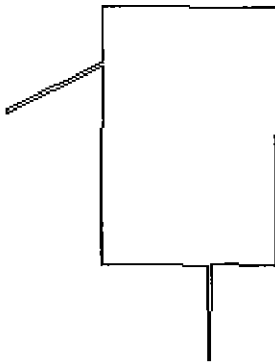
- ADD BUILT IN PICNIC TABLE
- PAVE WALKWAY

HERON LAKE PARK



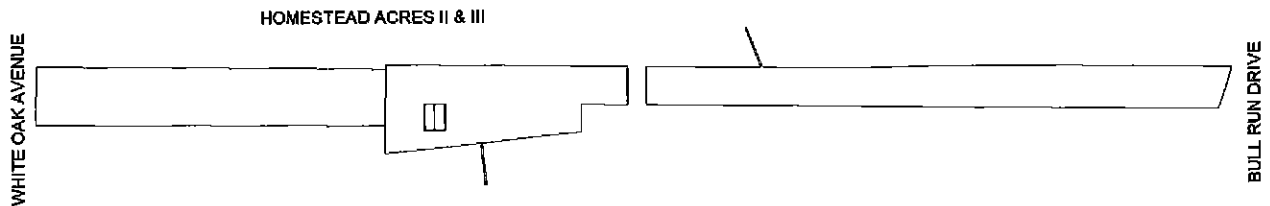
- PAVE PARKING AREA
- ADD TREES AND LANDSCAPE
- ADD SMALL PAVILION
- UPDATE SPLASH PAD

HOMESTEAD VILLAGE PARK



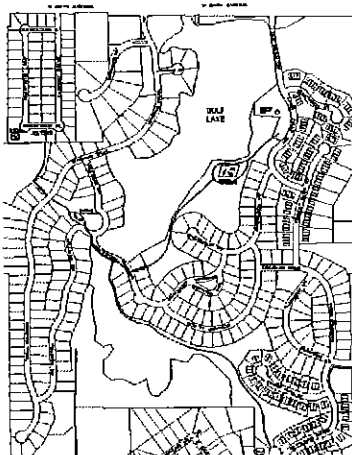
- REMOVE, COMBINE AND REPLACE SWING SETS
- ADD NEW PIECE OF PLAYGROUD EQUIPMENT
- FIX FOOF OF PAVIALION
- ADD TREES
- INSTALL PARK SIGN AND LANDSCAPE

HOMESTED ACRES 2&3



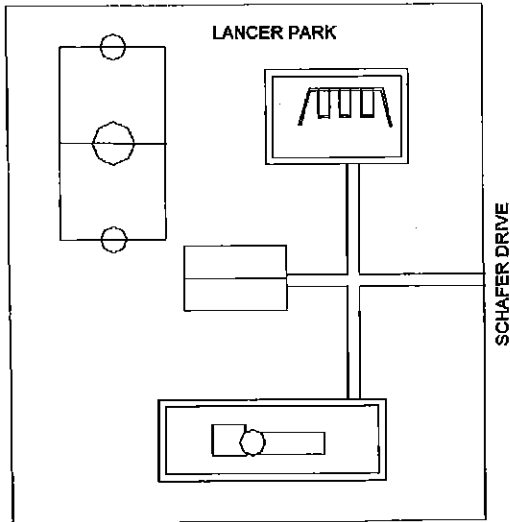
- MAINTAIN BIKE/WALKWAY
- ADD MILEAGE MARKERS TO PATH

LAKE HILLS PARK



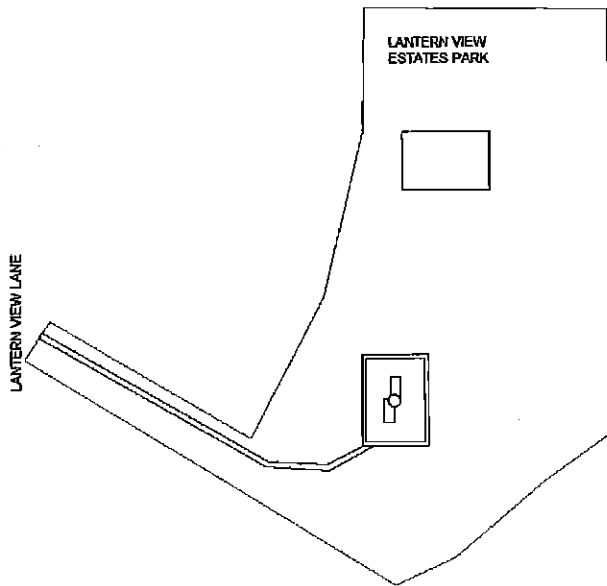
- REMOVE SPLASH PAD AND MOVE TO DIFFERENT LOCATION
- UPGRADE VOLLEYBALL COURT AREA
- MAINTAIN BIKE/WALKWAY
- MAINTAIN AMPHITHEATRE
- MAINTAIN PIER
- MAINTAIN OR REMOVE CLUBHOUSE
- PLANT NEW OAK TREES FOR FUTURE
- UPGRADE AREA ON HILL NORTH OF AMPHITHEATRE
- PUT IN PARK SIGNS

LANCER PARK

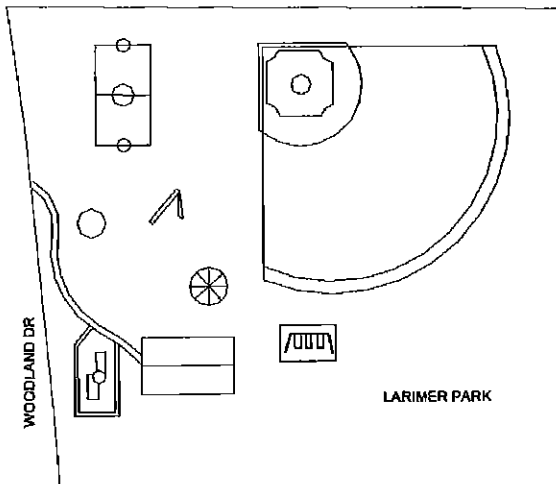


- UPGRADE SWING SET
- MAINTAIN BASKETBALL COURT

LANTERN VIEW PARK



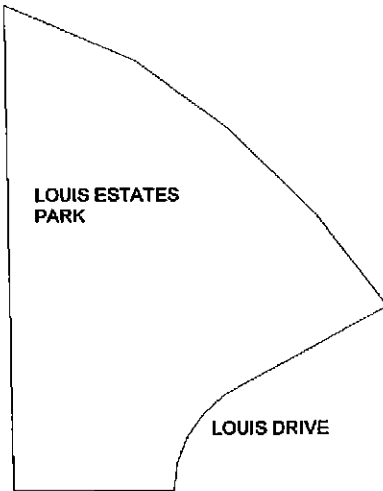
- ADD SWING SET
- UPGRADE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



LARIMER PARK

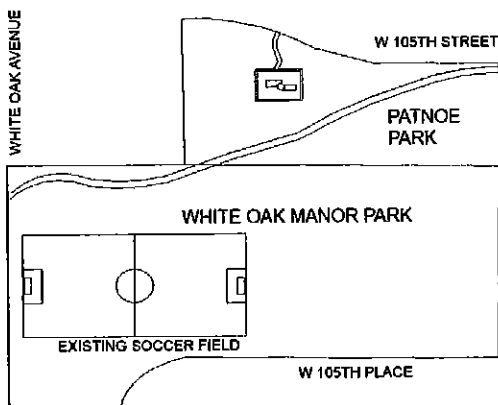
- REMOVE OLD SLIDE AND MARRI-GO ROUND
- UPGRADE SWING SET
- FIX PAVILION FOOF
- FIX UP BALL FIELD OR REMOVE
- UPGRADE BASKETBALL COURT OR REMOVE

LOUIS ESTATES PARK



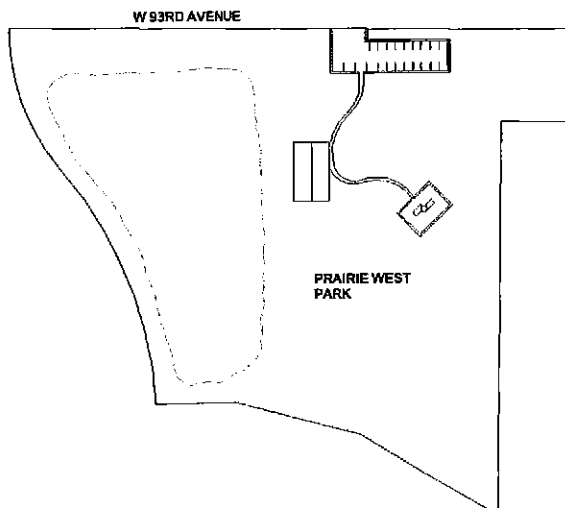
- MAINTAIN POND

PATNOE PARK/WHITE OAK MANNOR PARK



- PUT IN PARKING
- DEVELOP FOR PROGRAMS

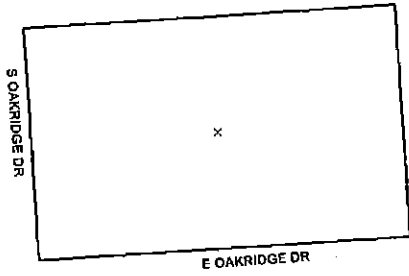
PRAIRIE WEST PARK



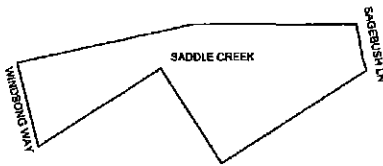
- ADD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS
- SEALCOAT PARKING AREA
- UPGRADE PAVILION
- ADD TREES

RAINWATER PARK

- MAINTAIN

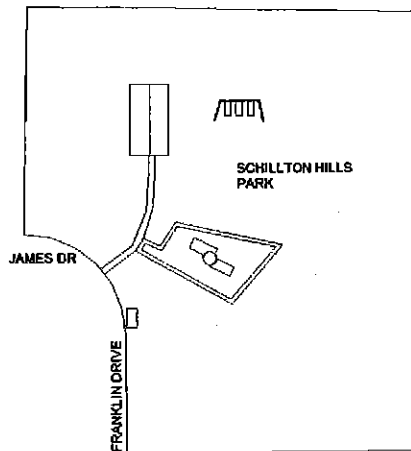


SADDLECREEK PARK



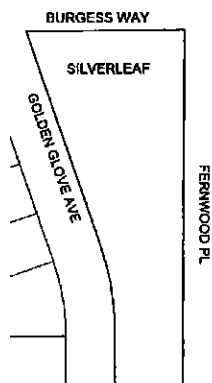
- UPGRADE TREES
- PAVE PATH AND MAINTAIN

SCHILTON HILLS PARK



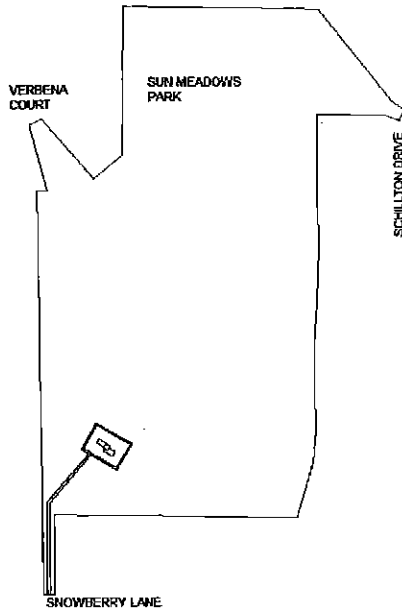
- FIX FOOF ON PAVILION
- PEPLACE AND UPGRADE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- REPLACE SIGN

SILVERLEAF PARK



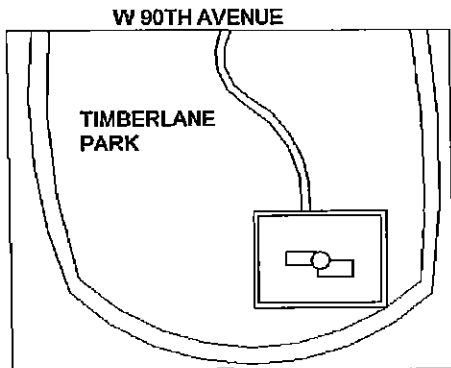
- MAINTAIN TREES
- DEVELOPE PICNIC ARE

SUNMEADOWS PARK



- MAINTAIN

TIMBERLANE PARK



- REMOVE OLD SWING SET
- ADD NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT
- MAINTAIN PATH

VENTURA PARK



- FIX FENCE
- MAINTAIN

OTHER YEARLY NEEDS:

- ALL PARK PLAY AREAS NEED MULCH EVERY YEAR TO BE MAINTAINED
- LANDSCAPING OF SIGN AREAS NEED TO BE MAINTAINED
- PICNIC TABLES NEED TO BE REPLACED EACH YEAR
- CONTINUE TO UPGRADE ADA ACCCESIBILITY TO ALL PARKS
- CONTINUE TO ADD MORE PROGRAMING TO COVER A LARGER VARIETY OF AGE GROUPS AND INTEREST.

POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK SYSTEM:

- SMALL COMMUNITY BUILDING IN HEARTLAND PARK WOULD BE GOOD FOR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS OF ALL SORTS FOR ALL AGES. THIS LOCATION ALREADY IS AN ESTABLISHED RECREATIONAL AREA, HAS A PARKING LOT AND PROPERTY. THIS BUILDILNG WOUL ALSO SERVE AND THE DEPARTMENTS OFFICES AND REGISTRATION.
- ADD ADDITIONAL SMALL PARKS TO SUBDIVISIONS IN NEED AS FUNDING ALLOWS
- ADD ADDITIONAL BIKE/WALIKNG TRIAL TO FURTER CONNECT MORE PARTS OF TOWN AS FUNDING ALLOWS

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

The landscape development item is intended to be a yearly, on-going process of installing or upgrading landscape features in existing parks and facilities. It is recommended that a portion of the capital funds be set aside to allow this type of development outside the maintenance of existing landscape features.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT

The equipment maintenance & replacement item is suggested to serve as a set-aside of capital funds to ensure that existing facilities, equipment, and amenities can be properly maintained. This item would also be an annual part of the budget and aid the Department of Parks and Recreation in its goal of maintaining a safe and first-class system.

Summary and Analysis

The information gathered to put this report together shows a bright future for the Town of St John. A continuous growth of the town can provide excellent opportunities for the Parks and Recreation Department. As funding allows, the needs and wants of the residents can be addressed along with a vision to expand on the advantage of parks and recreation to the overall development and well-being of the Town of St John. Parks can provide a tool for a healthier environment for our kids, adults and seniors. Our parks should be a focal point for potential business to want to be part of. Programing is important to provide opportunities for socialization, creative development, cultural appreciation, and healthier mind and bodies. The Town of St John has an opportunity to meet these needs and provide a quality Department that all can be proud of.

**Department of
Parks & Recreation**

9350 Hack Street
St. John, Indiana 46373



**Chip Sobek
Superintendent**

(219) 365-6236 Office
(219) 558-2032 Fax

The town of St. John is taking a survey to incorporate information for a 5 year master plan for the Parks and Recreation Department 2012 to 2017. We appreciate your input and value your concerns and suggestions. Please complete this survey and return it with your water bill or mail to the address below.

1. Does your family currently participate in park sponsored programs? 286 Yes 591 No

2. Is there any reason you and your family do not use our parks and/or programs?

3. What group of programs would you participate in?

- PRESCHOOL 153
- YOUTH 214
- TEEN 128
- ADULT 502
- SENIOR 341

4. What recreational programming would you like to see? Check all that apply.

- EXERCISE AND FITNESS 289
- EDUCATIONAL 235
- CULTURAL AND ARTS 249
- DAY AND WEEKEND TRIPS 300
- PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS 130
- SENIOR PROGRAMS[LIST] 199
- TEEN PROGRAMS [LIST] 75
- YOUTH PROGRAMS[LIST] 108
- OTHER [PLEASE LIST] 67

5. What facility improvements would you like to see in parks and recreation?

Check all that apply.

- COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING 328
- TENNIS COURTS 167
- PICNIC AREAS 196
- BIKE TRAILS/WALKING TRAILS 551
- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT 170
- OTHER [PLEASE LIST]

6. Do you feel there is a need for community rooms for rent?
(Special events, meetings, etc.) 450 Yes 374 No

7. Are your parks maintained properly and adequately equipped?

356 Yes 238 Somewhat 94 No If no, list parks and improvements

8. Are recreational programming needs being met? 247 Yes 335 Somewhat 124 No
If no, what improvements would you suggest? _____

9. Through which means are you aware of parks and recreation programs from the current promotions?

- BROCHURES 555
- WEBSITE 123
- NEWSPAPER 198
- OTHER _____

10. How many years have you been a resident of St. John

- 0 TO 5 YEARS 265
- 6 TO 10 YEARS 240
- 11 TO 20 YEARS 237
- MORE THAN 20 YEARS 221

11. What section of St. John do you reside in? Check one.

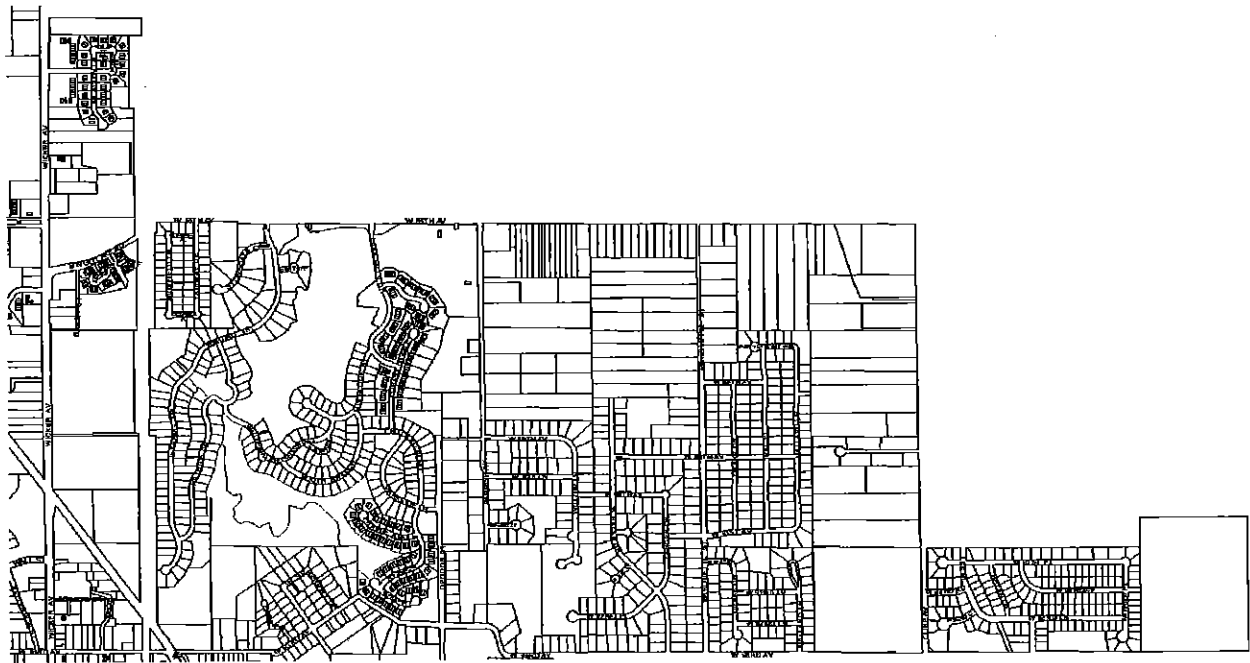
- NORTH OF 93RD AVE. & WEST OF ROUTE 41 247
- NORTH OF 93RD AVE. & EAST OF ROUTE 41 160
- SOUTH OF 93RD AVE. & WEST OF ROUTE 41 334
- SOUTH OF 93RD AVE. & EAST OF ROUTE 41 162

Please submit by March 31, 2012 to: "Survey"
9350 Hack Street, Bldg. 2
St. John, IN 46373

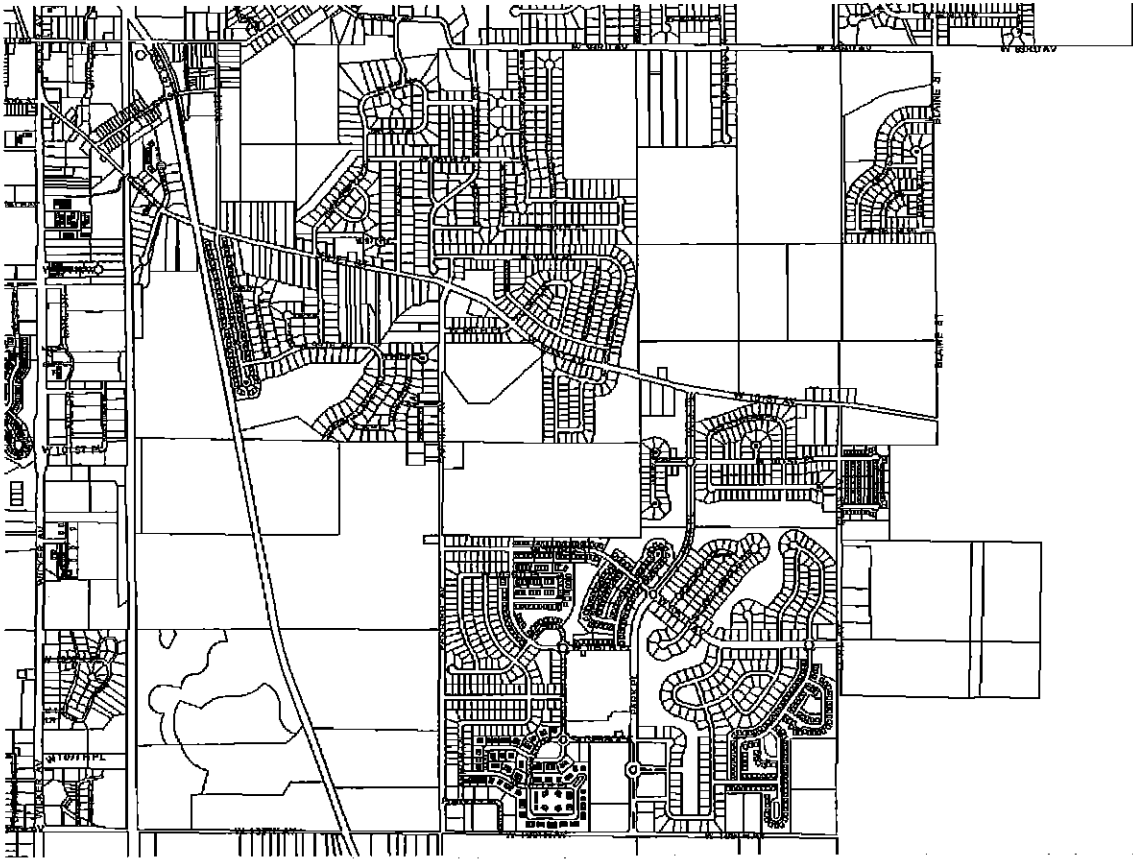
BE A PART OF YOUR FUTURE
THANK YOU!

AREA MAP LOCATION OF ST. JOHN PARKS

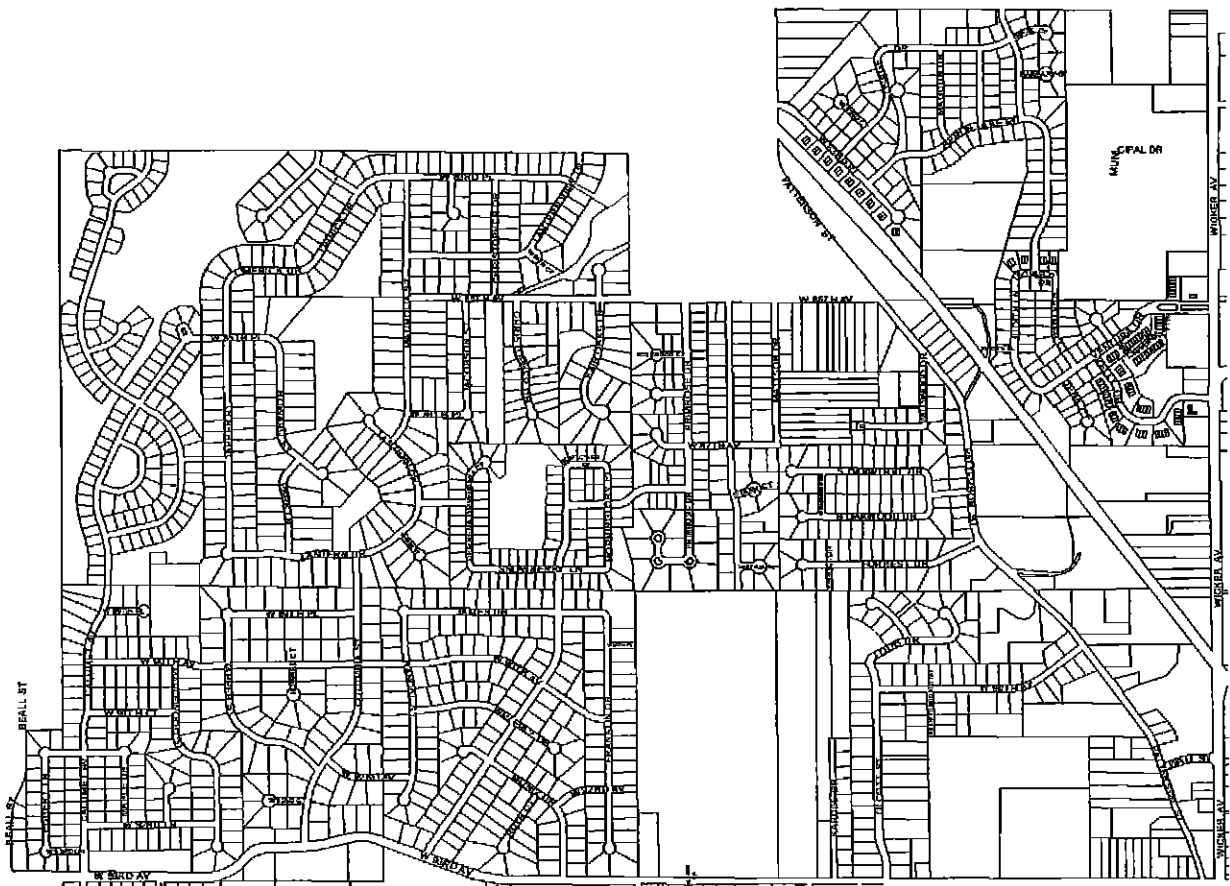
NORTHEAST



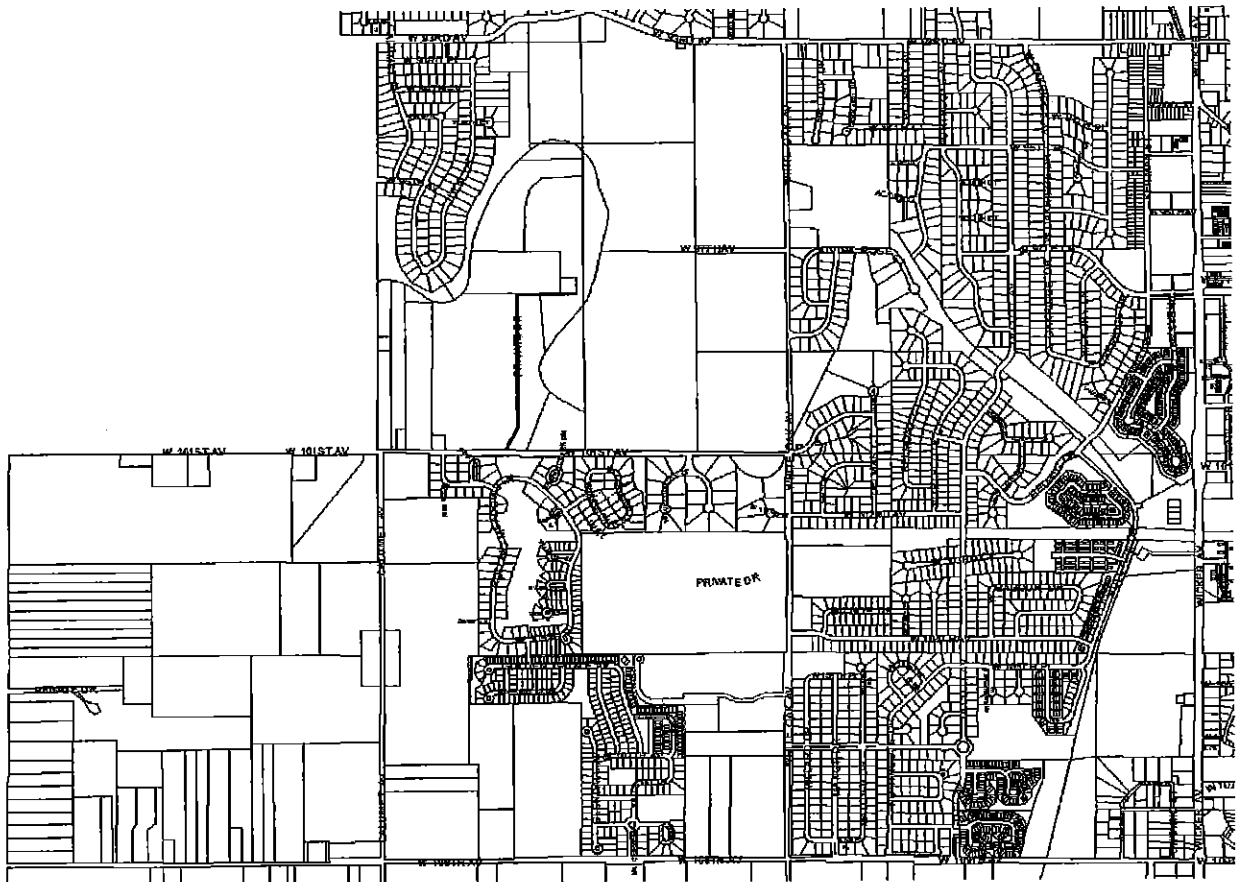
SOUTHEAST



NORTHWEST



SOUTHWEST



**TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-02-25

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A 2014-2018 PARKS,
RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN FOR THE TOWN
OF ST. JOHN, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

WHEREAS, the Town of St. John, Lake County, Indiana, has established, by appropriate enabling Ordinance, under applicable Indiana Law as amended from time to time, a Department of Parks and Recreation in the Town, which Department is governed by its duly appointed Board of Park and Recreation (hereinafter "Park Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Park Board is aware and had been advised of the provision of the Indiana Code relating to Parks and Recreation that adoption of a St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is required to address, identify, and plan the Park and Recreation needs of the residents of the Town of St. John; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board oversees and establishes the rules, responsibilities and plans for the provision of park and recreation needs for the residents of the Town of St. John by and through in part its adopted St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board seeks to continue to provide aesthetic and functional park and recreation facilities and programs to the residents of the Town of St. John to meet the physical, social, psychological and communal recreational needs of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board recognizes and acknowledges the importance of planning in order to meet the physical, social, psychological and communal recreation needs of the residents of the Town in the provision of aesthetic and functional park and recreation facilities and programs to said residents while remaining continuously aware of the value and importance of leisure opportunities, recreational programs and functional facilities operated and conducted by the Town of St. John Department of Parks and Recreation in its programs for the benefit of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Park Board acknowledges the requirements of applicable law to adopt a St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, and in such recognition, has updated and prepared a current St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation of the Town in conformance with applicable law, as well as to meet the objectives of the Town Park Board set forth hereinabove; that a copy of the current proposed St. John Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan presented to the Town Park Board for the Town Department of Parks and Recreation for the time period of 2014 to 2018 is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION, AS FOLLOWS:

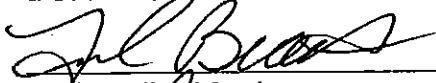
SECTION ONE: That the Town of St. John Board of Parks and Recreation hereby approves and adopts the *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* as attached hereto presented to it for such approval consideration for the time period of 2014 to 2018 as its official plan for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in the Town of St. John, Indiana, for the time period stated. Further, the Town of St. John Park Board hereby directs the annual review of the adopted *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* by the Town Department of Parks and Recreation, and its Administrative Staff, for report recommendation to the Town Park Board, with an update of the goals and objectives to be presented annually to the Town Park Board by Park Department personnel on the status of meeting the goals and objectives of the adopted Master Plan.

SECTION TWO: That the duly adopted *2014-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* is hereby directed to be published, and copies of same are required to be distributed to the Members of the St. John Town Council, Town Clerk-Treasurer, Town Manager, Park Department Administrative Staff, with copies available for the public, if requested. The Parks Superintendent is directed to undertake such distribution, and report compliance with such distribution to the Town Park Board thereafter.

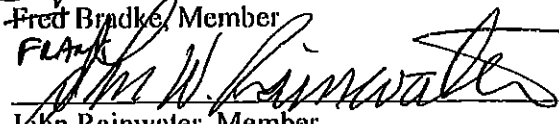
SECTION THREE: That this Resolution shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and adoption, in conformance with applicable law.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION THIS 25th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.

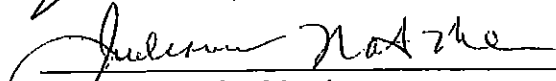
**TOWN OF ST. JOHN,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA,
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**



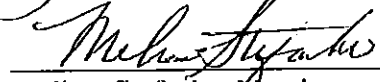
Fred Brudke, Member



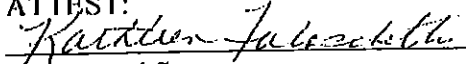
John Rainwater, Member



Judeanne Natzke, Member



Melissa Stafanko, Member

ATTEST:


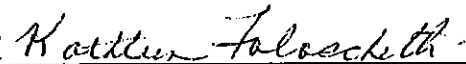
Park Board Secretary

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

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

SIGNATURE 
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Frank Bradke
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

Kathleen Falaschetti
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE: February 25, 2014

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Michael R. Pence, Governor
Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Outdoor Recreation
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Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782
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www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor

Frank Bradke
Park Board President
St. John Park and Recreation Board
9350 Hack St., Bldg. #2
St. John, IN 46373

February 13th, 2014

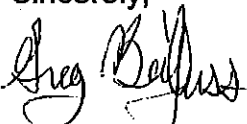
Dear Mr. Bradke,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2014-2018 St. John Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community is now eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office. A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2019, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

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.

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.

Sincerely,



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

ECC – Chip Sobek, Park Supt.