

CICERO, INDIANA | Five Year Parks Master Plan 2017 -2021 Final Report

March 2017



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Below is a comprehensive list of those who contributed to the Master Planning process.

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Rusty Miller, Vice President and District 2 Representative
Chris Lutz, District 1 Representative
Craig Penwell, District 3 Representative
Brett Foster, At-Large Representative

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LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Butler Fairman & Seufert, Inc. (BF&S) is pleased to present the 2017-2021 Cicero 5-Year Park Master Plan to the citizens and administrators of the Town of Cicero, Indiana. This report is the product of a collaborative effort by city staff, BF&S design professionals, the Cicero 5-Year Park Plan Advisory Committee, the Cicero Friends of the Park, and members of the community. It is intended to serve as a guide for future recreational development within Cicero Parks System.

The plan presents a comprehensive approach to proposed park facility improvements, accessibility recommendations, playground safety recommendations, staffing improvements, and program recommendations. Decisions were based on a process that consisted of a town-wide inventory, a needs analysis process, public input, cost analysis, and development of proposed facility maps. The resulting recommendations leaves the Town with a clear vision and actions items to implement over the next 5 years.

BF&S is very appreciative to have been able to assist the Town of Cicero in this planning effort and looks forward to the implementation of these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted on the 21st day of March 2017,

Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, Inc.

Alan L. Hamersly, P.E.



Jason G. Griffin, P.L.A.



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SECTION I: Introduction

I. INTRODUCTION

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I. INTRODUCTION

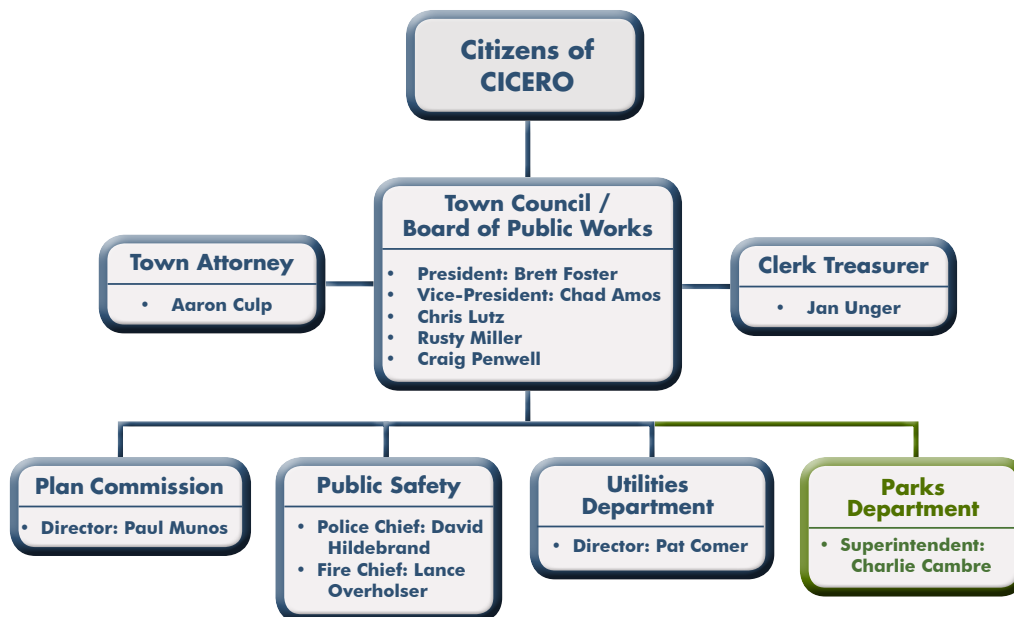
Parks Department Organization

Parks Department Description

The park superintendent, Charlie Cambre, is the only full time permanent staff member for the Cicero Parks Department. The park superintendent directs all activities within the Cicero Parks System and reports to the Town Council. There is one council liaison assigned to the Parks Department. There is currently no established park board, but the Town Council serves in that capacity. A non-for profit, Friends of the Park group works with the parks department to organize volunteers and raise money for projects.

The parks department employs one permanent part-time administrative assistant and two permanent part time maintenance staff. Throughout the year seasonal staff is hired to help with additional maintenance and supervisory needs.

Cicero Organizational Chart



Parks Department Organizational Chart



I. INTRODUCTION

Planning Area

Cicero is located in Hamilton County. Hamilton County is comprised of 256,640 square miles and is located in the central part of Indiana. Cicero is one of eight incorporated communities in Hamilton County and is located approximately 25 miles north of Indianapolis.

The planning area is defined as the 2.12 square miles located with the Cicero town limits. However, Cicero is located in a rural community and also serves citizens located outside the Town Limits. Therefore the planning area has also been defined to include the approximately 55 square miles of Jackson Township.

Additional users of the parks facilities are also drawn from outside the planning area. Citizens from Sheridan and Baker's Corner are known to come to Cicero and use the pool facilities due to a lack of having their own facilities. People from outside of Hamilton County are drawn to Morse Reservoir and the recreational opportunities that it offers, including those that fish from the shores of Red Bridge Park.

Hamilton County does have their own park department and provides facilities for citizens to use. Strawtown Koteewi Park, Rookery Preserve, and Morse Park and Beach are all located within close proximity to Cicero. The City of Noblesville is also located just south of Cicero and offers nearby amenities and programs.

The Town of Cicero currently has 4 parks facilities within the planning area: Community Park (18.7 acres), the Sports Complex (22.0 acres), Jackson Street Boat Access (0.09 acre), and Red bridge Park (5.6 acres). The current facilities total approximately 46 acres.

See the following page for the Planning Area Map.

I. INTRODUCTION

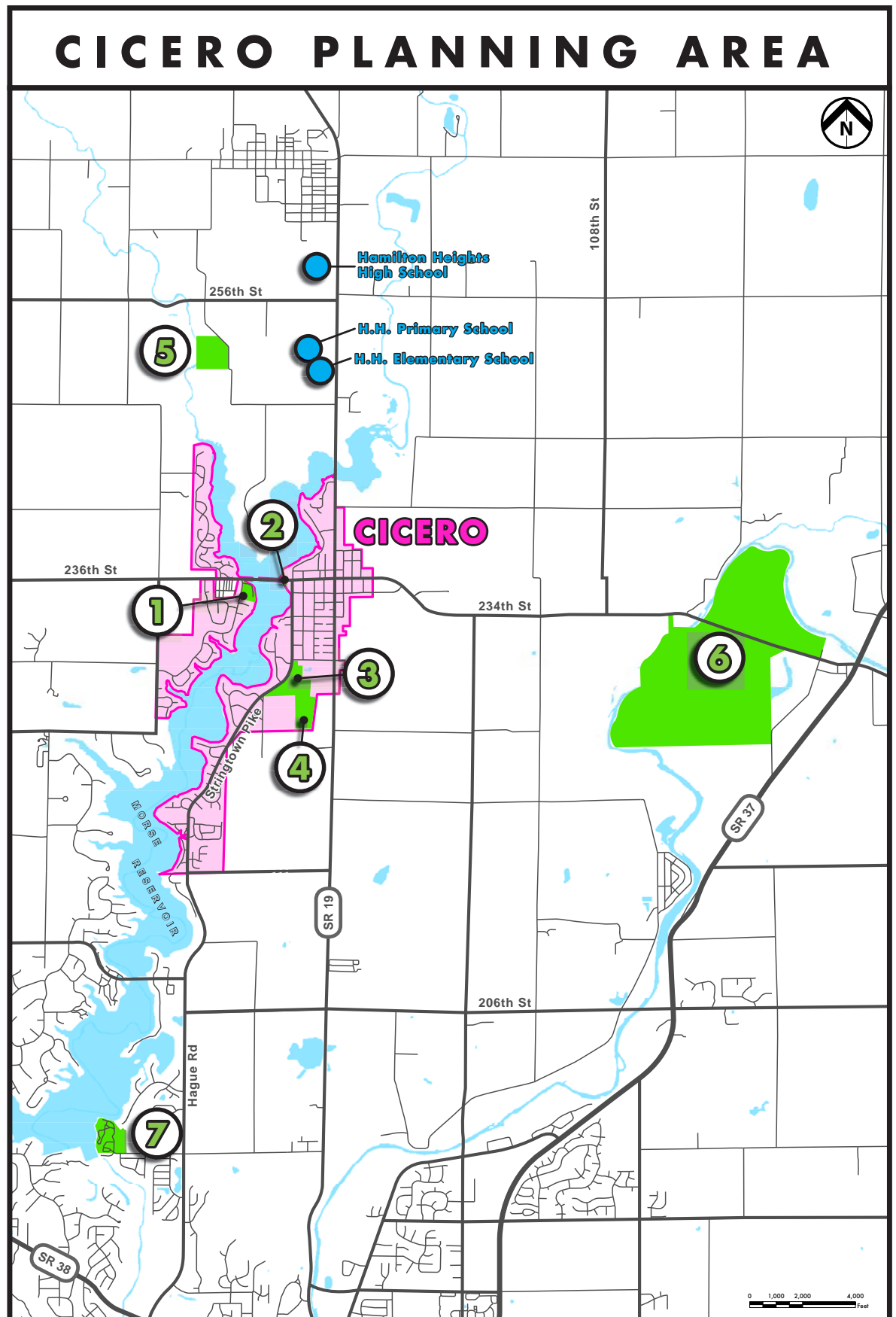
Cicero Park

Directory

1. Red Bridge Park
2. Jackson Street Boat Access
3. Community Park
4. Sports Complex

Hamilton County Park Directory

5. Rookery Preserve
6. Strawtown Koteewi Park
7. Morse Park and Beach





SECTION 2: Goals & Objectives

2. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Cicero Parks Department Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Cicero through the continued development and maintenance of Cicero's Parks and Recreation service.

Goals of the Community

The Town of Cicero would like to see the community become more of a destination for visitors and people seeking to establish a new place of residence. The Town recently completed a downtown revitalization plan to look at ways to increase aesthetics, draw more businesses, and create better connections. In addition the Town was part of a cooperative effort between the Towns of Arcadia, Atlanta, and Cicero as well as Hamilton County to create a regional trail master plan that would connect all 3 communities, the City of Noblesville and other destinations within the county.

Goals of the Master Plan

In keeping with the theme of Cicero as a destination, the Parks Department sees the overriding goal for the next five years as to help attract more users to the parks and Town of Cicero by offering quality facilities and programs. Some ways to accomplish this would be through providing better lake access and programming related to water activities, updating older facilities, and providing better awareness of available facilities and programs.

This plan will outline needs for more staff to allow for more programming, additional staff to provide community awareness of programs and events, the need to provide better water access in Red Bridge Park, the need to update existing facilities in Red Bridge Park and Community Park to comply with ADA and playground safety standards. New facilities will also be proposed in Red Bridge Park and Community Park to attract more users to the area.

In addition the plan will make sure that a safe and accessible parks system is provided. An ADA transition plan is created and a playground safety audit was performed as part of this plan.



SECTION 3: Community Features

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

Natural & Landscape

Cicero has a mix of agricultural, residential and commercial land uses and is located on the northern end of Morse Reservoir. Most land within the Town limits of Cicero has been developed or is used for cropland. There are only a few pieces of unused open land that could be developed for park use. The parks department acquired the NRG property within the last 5 years. It is an approximately 9 acre, grassed, open field and is located immediately east of Community Park. It is currently leased by the parks department. Another open area that might be available for development is located just east of Morse Reservoir along Main Street, south of Buckeye Street (235th Street), and north of Neal Street. Additionally the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority owns a set of railroad tracks running through Cicero. The main track is still active, but there is an area next to the main set of tracks that was abandoned. This may be available for development of a greenway connection.

Morse Reservoir flows/runs from the north to the south dividing the Cicero community east and west. The reservoir has a surface area of about 1500 acre and the normal pool elevation is 810 feet. There is approximately 35 miles of shoreline and 7 miles of navigable waterway. Several Creeks feed Morse Reservoir. Cicero Creek, Little Cicero Creek, Bear Slide Creek, and Hinkle Creek all drain into Morse Reservoir. The drainage area of Cicero Creek at the dam is 214 square miles. Cicero Creek is the outflow of Morse Reservoir and drains into the White River.

Largemouth Bass, Small-mouth Bass, Crappie, Catfish, Spotted Bass, White Bass, and some Walleye are found in Morse Reservoir. Morse Reservoir is especially known for having a large population of large mouth bass. A bass tournament was hosted by the parks department each year until it became too burdensome for the park superintendent to meet the requirements of the tournament each year. It has since been taken over by The Marina Limited Partnership (TMLP). Opportunities to partner with TMLP or host the tournament again would be contingent on adding a program coordinator to the parks staff.

Hamilton County topographic information indicates that it is mainly of a flat plain that is divided by the west fork of the White River and by several small creeks, streams and drainage ways. The county is entirely within the drainage basin of the west fork of the White River. Flat slopes typify this area and soils that are generally poorly, drained, glacial tills.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

The normal pool elevation of Morse Reservoir is approximately 810 feet above sea level. Flooding from Morse Reservoir has been witnessed two times in the last 25 years. Each event has seen the lake level rise approximately 1 foot and water inundated the Marina Building each time. Because Morse Reservoir is managed by Citizens and supplies water to the City of Indianapolis, periods of drought can be more difficult and more frequent than flooding. Over the last 25 years there have been 6 incidents of lowered water level. This equates to a drought even approximately every 5 to 6 years. Typically the water level will drop down about 10 feet at Red Bridge Park. Because the depth of the water is only about 4 feet where the boat slips are located, this means that the boats typically have to be removed at these times.

Cicero is located in the Eastern Corn Belt Plains Region of the Level III Ecoregions of the United States. The tree species located within the existing parks are predominately River Birch, White Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Cypress, Linden, Walnut, Hackberry, Oak Amur Maple, and Red Maple. There is only one Ash Tree located within the properties that the parks department manages and for this reason the Emerald Ash Borer has not been an issue like in other parts of the state. The parks department will need to continue to monitor the progress of Asian Long Horned Beetle. The Asian Long Horned Beetle is an invasive species making its way across the Eastern United States and currently has made its way to Ohio. It has several different species that it feeds on, but Maple trees are the predominant favorite of the Asian Long Horned Beetle. Steps will need to be taken to manage the existing maple trees, when the Asian Long Horn Beetle makes it to Indiana. The park department has a small tree nursery located on the Community Park Property and this will help with biodiversity and replacing trees throughout the park system. Within the last several years there has been a push to add more Oak Trees around the perimeter of the walking trail in the Sports Complex.

At this time the parks department does not manage any natural areas and does not have many problems with invasive plant species. Algae builds up in the reservoir in late July and August. Typically the Algae build up has been far enough away from the shore of Red Bridge Park to not cause any significant problems to fishing or the boats that are docked at the park.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

Man-made, Historical, & Cultural Features

Jackson Township was established when White River Township was divided in 1883 and it is one of the central northern tiers of townships in Hamilton County located between White River Township on the east and Adam Township on the west.

Cicero is the largest community in Jackson Township and is approximately 10 miles north of Noblesville, the county seat. There are three main access corridors into Cicero: U.S. 31, U.S. 37, and S.R. 19. U.S. 31 is located five miles west and is accessed by 236th St. running east west. U.S. 37 is located three miles east and is accessed by 234th which also running east to west. S.R. 19 which runs north/south is the primary commuting corridor between Cicero and Noblesville.

As mentioned previously the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority (HHPA) railroad runs through the Town of Cicero. The railroad was formerly known as the Nickel Plate Railroad. The HHPA line is approximately 37 miles of track from Tipton to Indianapolis and was purchased in 1995. The Hoosier Heritage Port Authority provides oversight and maintenance of the railroad line and Indiana Transportation Museum was the operator of the line up until this year. The Indiana Transportation Museum ran regular historic rail excursions along the tracks as well as charters for businesses and organizations.

The Town has a good network of sidewalks in the urban core and most of the neighborhood streets have minimal vehicular traffic which makes them acceptable for beginning level bike riders. Jackson Street, which goes through the downtown business district, has wide sidewalks with site furnishings and on-street parking. This provides for an enhanced pedestrian experience. The vehicular traffic along Jackson Street makes it difficult for beginning bike riders to access the core business district. The Town has started the back bone of a green-way system. A separated, shared-use trail connects Community Park to residential neighborhoods south of the park along Stringtown Pike. Several of the neighborhoods have sidewalks linking to the trail and others still need to have sidewalks added. The City of Noblesville has shelf ready plans that will eventually construct a shared-use trail from the end of Cicero's shared-use trail at 216th Street to an existing shared-use trail that ends at the Noblesville Intermediate School (Just south of 206th Street). This proposed trail will link the two communities and Community Park to the County's Morse Beach Park. Along Jackson Street / 236th is a separated causeway across Morse Reservoir for pedestrians and bike riders and this links the west side of downtown to Red Bride Park. The County has plans to add separated path west along 236th Street all the way to US 31.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

The County, Cicero, Atlanta, and Arcadia all partnered on a master plan to connect Noblesville, Cicero, Acadia, Atlanta, and Straw-town Koteewi Park via shared use path. This plan was completed in early 2016. Once constructed this trail will connect Cicero to the County's Strawtown Koteewi Park and Noblesville's Potter's Bridge Park. The path will also connect Cicero north to Hamilton Heights High School, Hamilton Heights Elementary School, Hamilton Heights Middle School, Indiana Academy, and the Communities of Atlanta and Arcadia.

Once all shared-use path plans are realized it appears that there will be a few gaps. One gap in connection will be between the east end of the causeway paralleling Jackson Street and Community park where the Town's shared use path system along Stringtown Pike begins. The other gap would be between the east end of the causeway along Jackson Street through the downtown and to the proposed shared-use path along SR 19.

Commercial areas are focused in the downtown area along Jackson Street and along the east and west sides of State Road 19 transportation corridor. The residential areas surround the reservoir and the downtown area and continue to expand towards the east and the west. Agriculture areas are still predominant within the Cicero community on the outer edges of the corporate limits and in the outlying contiguous areas.

Hamilton Heights School Corporation has three schools located north of Cicero on S.R. 19. The high school is located approximately 2.25 miles north of Cicero and the elementary school is approximately 1.5 miles north of Cicero. The parks department does not currently have a legal joint use agreement between the schools and the parks to allow public use of the grounds when school is not in session, but the school system is accommodating to the public. The high school has six tennis courts and 2 soccer fields. The elementary school has several soccer fields and practice fields. Youth soccer is provided through the school corporation and alleviates the need for Cicero to provide this program. The middle school is located in Arcadia and may be closed due to the estimated cost of updating the current facility and a reduction in the number of students in the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. The middle school has a small football field and youth football is provided at this facility. Should the middle school be closed, the field is still available for youth football programs. The High School opens its indoor pool to the public once a week and allows the public to use its indoor gymnasium from 6:30pm to 8:30pm throughout the week.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

The Indiana Academy is also located north of Cicero on SR 19. The Indiana Academy is owned and managed by the Seventh Adventist Church. It is a private, Christian, boarding school for grades nine through twelve. It has its own campus covering 500 acres and includes dorms, administrative offices, classrooms, and a working farm.

Events in Cicero are usually handled either by "Our Town Cicero" or the Friends of the Cicero Parks. "Our Town Cicero" is a community organization that helps strengthen the downtown by promoting local businesses and partnerships. They have an events committee and the Parks Superintendent is part of this committee. Several events are hosted in the parks each year and vendors are allowed to set up booths following a vendor application and fee. The Friends of the Cicero Parks is a not-for-profit group organized to raise funds for projects in the parks. Several events are organized each year by the group.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

Socio & Economic Factors

The 2010 U.S. Census indicates that the population of Cicero was 4,812 and increased by 10.5% since the 2000 census. The U.S. Census projects that the population growth from 2010 to 2015 will be less drastic than the period from 2000 to 2010. The projected population of Cicero by the U.S. Census in 2015 was 4,891 and is only a 1.6% increase in 5 years. According to Indiana.hometownlocator.com the population of Cicero on July 1, 2016 was 5,110 and this is just slightly higher than the projected population by the U.S. Census. Based upon historical population and projected housing growth from the Town's Planning department it is estimated that the population will grow by 75 people in 2017, 150 people in 2018, and then 250 people in years 2018 to 2021. This means the projected population in 2021 would be 6,085 people.

The Jackson Township Trustee lists the current total population of Jackson Township as 10,192. In contrast, Hamilton County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Cicero has not experienced this same population increase as the rest of the county and is not expected to at this time. As long as Cicero's current facilities meet national recreation standards based upon current population, it would be reasonable to assume that there will not be a huge increase in the number of facilities required in five years.

City-data lists the median resident age for Cicero at 43.0 years of age compared to the Indiana average of 37.3 years of age. Approximately 26% of the population is over the age of 55 according to the U.S. 2010 Census. Due to the significant amount of citizens that appear to be aging in the community, the parks department needs to make a push to remove accessible barriers for its citizens in the coming years. Many older residents currently own golf carts and depend on them to get around town. The Town should also consider providing programs that would provide benefits to an older community.

The U.S. 2010 Census indicates that approximately 28% of the population is under the age of 19. There seems to be a significant gap between the under age 19 and over 40 years old population. You would expect to see a drop in population from ages 20 to 24 from graduates leaving to attend College, but we do not see an increase of those people coming back or a large population of younger adults moving to the Cicero Area.

City-data estimated median household income for 2013 to be \$52,720 and is above the Indiana average of \$47,529. The U.S. Census indicates that there are 1,409 households located in the Cicero area within the last 12 months. Of the 1,409 households located in Cicero, the U.S. Census indicates that there are 41 having income below the poverty level.

3. COMMUNITY FEATURES

The major employers for Cicero and Jackson Township are Hamilton Heights School Corporation, Indiana Academy, and Beck's Hybrids. All of these are located just north of the Cicero Town Limits and as indicated earlier, would be linked to Cicero via the proposed Northern Hamilton County Trail.

Cicero is uniquely positioned for retail and non-retail businesses to develop. This is due to Cicero being the midway point between Kokomo and Indianapolis. Travel time from Cicero to Kokomo and Indianapolis is approximately 40 minutes and this presents numerous market opportunities for companies seeking to serve both markets.

Businesses seeking to relocate or to start a new business often look at favorable market opportunities, but they also look at what amenities are available for their workers. Parks and quality of life initiatives are a key tool in attracting and retaining top-level workers. In keeping with the Town's overall goal, this means that Cicero can also use its parks and recreation opportunities to attract these businesses to its community over others.

Successful communities have a sufficient number of commercial and retail establishments and private homes to house their inhabitants and to give them places to produce and consume goods. Home buyers prefer homes close to parks, open space, and greenery. Research has proven that a property's value increases by 5% at the minimum when it is located within 500 feet of a park. This 5% value is a conservative number and if the park is considered excellent it can add as much as 15% value to home within 500 feet of the park. Large parks can even contribute value to homes within 2000 feet of a park. Not only does this mean that homes close to parks are more sought after, but it also means that Cicero will be able to take in more revenue from the higher property taxes associated with these homes.

A second factor that directly contributes to the economic increase of a community is its ability to host quality festivals, concerts, and athletic events. Not only are funds raised by the event, but local businesses see an increase in tourists and new money being spent at their establishments. Local users who spend money at or near the park are just users who are not spending their money somewhere else in the community, but the more users from outside the community that can be attracted to Cicero through events helps the local economy which also means the more demand for new business.

All of these factors add up to the Town of Cicero being able to maintain steady growth and attract new citizens to its community.



SECTION 4: Park Inventory

4. PARK INVENTORY

Parks Department Growth Trends

The park department continues to add new features and amenities as the budget allows. In the last 8 years a new trail was installed along Stringtown Pike from Community Park to 216th Street, a dog park was added, a beach volleyball court was added, walking trails were added around the sports complex, new playground equipment was added in Community Park, and a new parks office was added in Community Park. Additionally 6 acres of open space was acquired adjacent to Community Park. The budget appears to be steadily growing as well. The parks department has the unique opportunity to raise funds through gas sales at the marina. Very few other parks department around the state have this built in revenue stream.

Public perception is that the parks are well maintained and there are a few facilities that need to be updated. This is good, but while facilities and budgets are increasing, staffing has not increased. Most of the staffing spends there time just maintaining the facilities that they have. Additionally, programming and services have not grown in the last 5 years and remain very minimal.

There is another development that has occurred in the last 5 years. The use of golf carts on public roadways has been allowed in the community and the number of households with golf carts is on the rise. There is a public perception of conflicts from some users. Many golf cart owners believe there needs to be an allowance of golf carts on park property and especially on multi-use trails. This is an issue that will need to be addressed with a clear defensible policy and the possible addition of amenities related to golf carts.

Existing Park Facilities

The Cicero Park Department operates and manages 4 parks sites within the Cicero Town Limits that total approximately 46 acres of land. The 4 park sites are: Community Park, the Sports Complex, the Jackson Street Boat Access, and Red Bridge Park. The park department also maintains the multi-use trail located along String Town Pike from Community Park to 216th Street. There are several community events held throughout the year on these properties as well as some minor programs.

Community Park

Community Park was dedicated to the Town in 1976. It was originally called Tri-Town Park. This 18-acre Park is located on the southeast side of town and is the second largest in the Park System. There are no existing water recreational facilities at this park but it does have a wide variety of things to do.

This park has many amenities that include public shelters, tennis and basketball courts, sand volleyball court, softball and baseball fields, infant and youth playground equipment, a dog park, and a walking trail that connects to the Stringtown Pike Trail System.

4. PARK INVENTORY

This co-host events such as the Lights Over Morse Lake Fireworks Festival, co-Hosts Concerts in the Park, Regional and State Softball Tournaments; a community fair, and is an outstanding location for reunions and large summer get-togethers.

This park has year round maintenance up-keep. The park is mowed twice weekly in the spring and once weekly during the summer and fall. Playground areas receive safety mulch at least once annually.

Facilities Located in Park

- **Shelters**

The 4 open shelters that were located in the park have been replaced with one large 40' x 54' open shelter. The shelter has 18 picnic tables (1 ADA and 17 regular) and is available any time for public use. Family reunions or large events are welcomed, but due to the frequency of use, the parks department encourages reservations. There is no cost to use the shelter, but donations are welcome.

- **Baseball and Softball Fields**

These fields were originally constructed by the residents of Cicero sometime around 1979. There are three fields; baseball, softball and a peewee field. These fields are used by the local Hamilton Heights Amateur Sports Association. The Parks Department maintains these fields and is available for local, state and regional tournaments.

- **Tennis Courts**

Community Park has two asphalt tennis courts for public use. These courts are well used during the summer day and are also lit for evening play. The surface of the courts is in disrepair and has several cracks. The last time the tennis courts were resurfaced was 12 years ago and a new surface is currently needed. Tennis lessons and tennis leagues are not provided at this time. Another possible use for the courts is pickle ball, but this is not provided either at this time.

- **Dog Park**

This is an approximately 65' x 60' grassed area with an approximately 4' tall fence. There is a double gate in the front and a single gate in the back. There is currently only one enclosed area, but the grass surface does not appear to be worn at this time. The site is fairly sunny at this time, but two trees have been planted within the enclosure to provide future shade. The parks department does not currently require that dog owners provide current shot records to enter the dog park and there is no security access code to enter the dog area.

- **Basketball Courts**

There are 2 asphalt basketball courts located within Community Park. One of the courts meets standards for a high school basketball court and is approximately 84' long x 50' wide. The second court is more for recreational use and measures 60' long x 45' wide. They are lit for evening use and are available at any time for citizens to use.

4. PARK INVENTORY

- **Playground Equipment**

Community Park has the most diverse and extensive selection of playground equipment found in the parks system. There are 3 play areas for different age groups as well as several additional pieces currently in the park. There are two playground areas for ages 5-12. The first is irregular in shape and is approximately 11,200 square feet. The second playground area for 5-12 years of age is approximately 55' x 65' in size. The under 2 years of age playground is approximately 80' x 80' square and has a fence around the play structures. A thorough playground safety study was completed for all play equipment and can be found in the appendix.

- **Walking Trails**

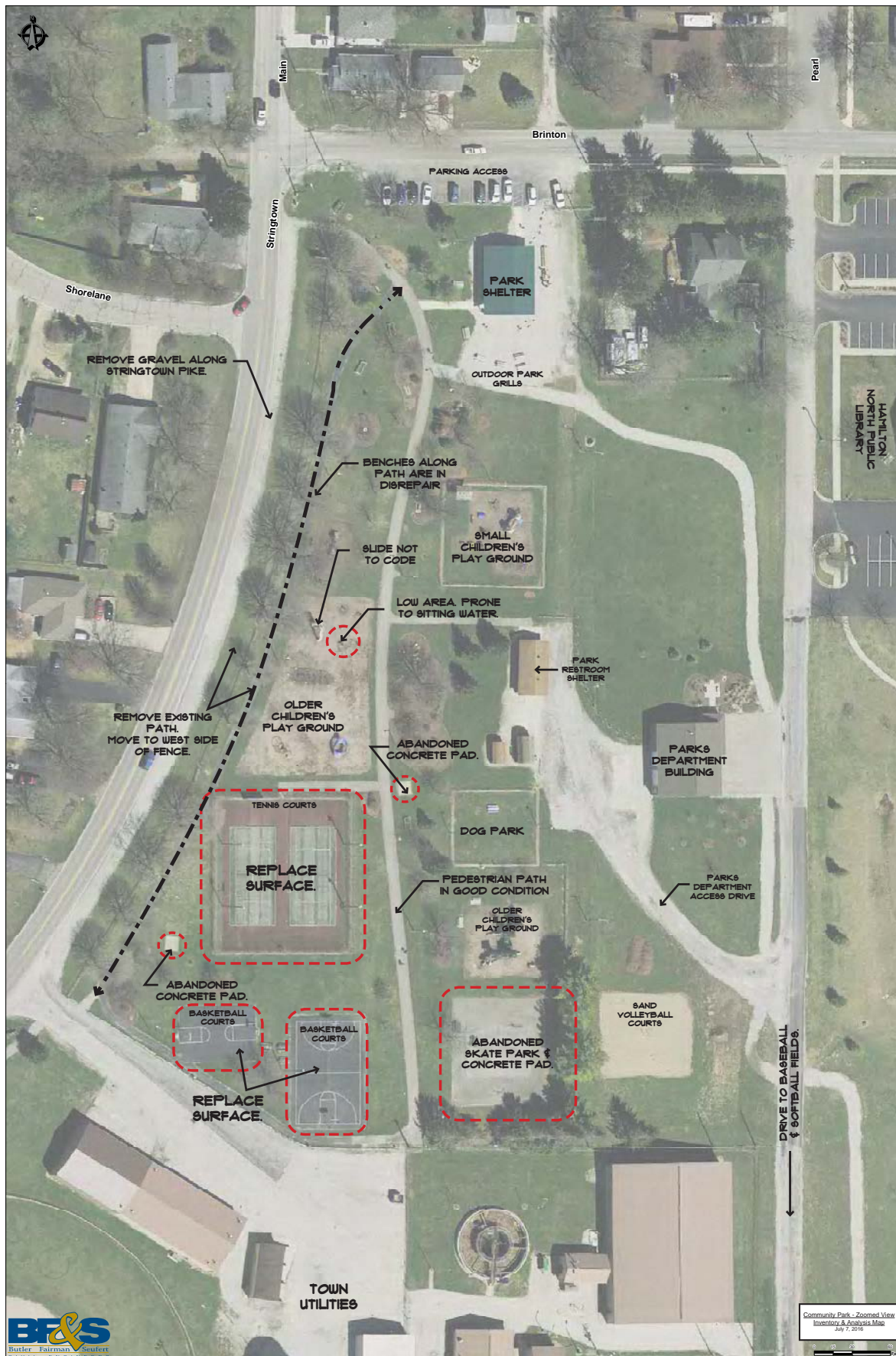
There is approximately 0.6 mile of walking trail located within Community Park. Two of the trails are asphalt surface and one of the trails is stone surface. The asphalt trails range in width from 6 feet to 8 feet wide and are 0.3 mile in length. The stone trail is 9 feet wide and approximately 0.3 mile in length. The stone trail connects Community Park to the Sports Complex and its trail system.

- **Park Office and Maintenance Facility**

In 2009 the Town of Cicero constructed a new Park Office and Maintenance Facility. It is located within Community Park along Pearl Street. The building has an office for the Park Superintendent, a reception area, a break room, and a large storage area with double doors on both sides of the building for pulling maintenance equipment through.

See the following page for the Community Park Inventory Map.

4. PARK INVENTORY



4. PARK INVENTORY

Sports Complex

In 1999, the Town acquired 22 acres located southeast of the Community Park. In 2002 the Town of Cicero invested in the development of a Park Improvement Plan focusing on the 22 acres. This plan defined necessary elevations, erosion control, drainage and grading information, for the ball fields, and parking.

In 2003 the Town of Cicero contracted an Architectural Firm to design the proposed Sports Complex design for the recreational ball fields, soccer fields, concession stand and press box. The Sport complex is managed and run by HHASA baseball through a contract with the Town. The Parks Department assists the HHASA with some maintenance. Parks mows the grounds twice a week in the spring and once a week in the summertime. The infields are mowed twice a week during active use.

- **Ballfields**

There are 5 ballfields within the Sports Complex. Two of the fields measure approximately 38'-40' from the pitcher's mound to the home plate and would be considered softball fields. Two of the fields measure approximately 46' from the pitcher's mound to the home plate and would be considered little league fields. The fifth field measures 60.5 feet from the pitcher's mound to the home plate and would be considered a Babe Ruth League field. The drainage for the fields is not working adequately and will need to be addressed.

- **Concession Stand**

Just north of softball field #1 is where the concession facility is located. The building is approximately 75' long by 45' wide. Dual windows provide patrons food choices without a long wait. Inside the concession facility is a commercial level kitchen that provides all the necessary concessions for any size event. Additionally there is some storage area located in the concession building.

- **Walking Trails**

The parks department used an IDNR Recreation Trail Program grant to install stone walking trails around the exterior of the Sports Complex property. The trails are approximately 0.75 miles in length and 12 feet wide. They are in fairly good shape and only need to have a few areas dressed with additional stone. People also seem to be surprised that the trails are there due to their location. Some directory signage may be needed in Community Park and on the Park website to let people know they are available to use.

See the following page for the Sports Complex Inventory Map.

4. PARK INVENTORY



4. PARK INVENTORY

Jackson Street Access

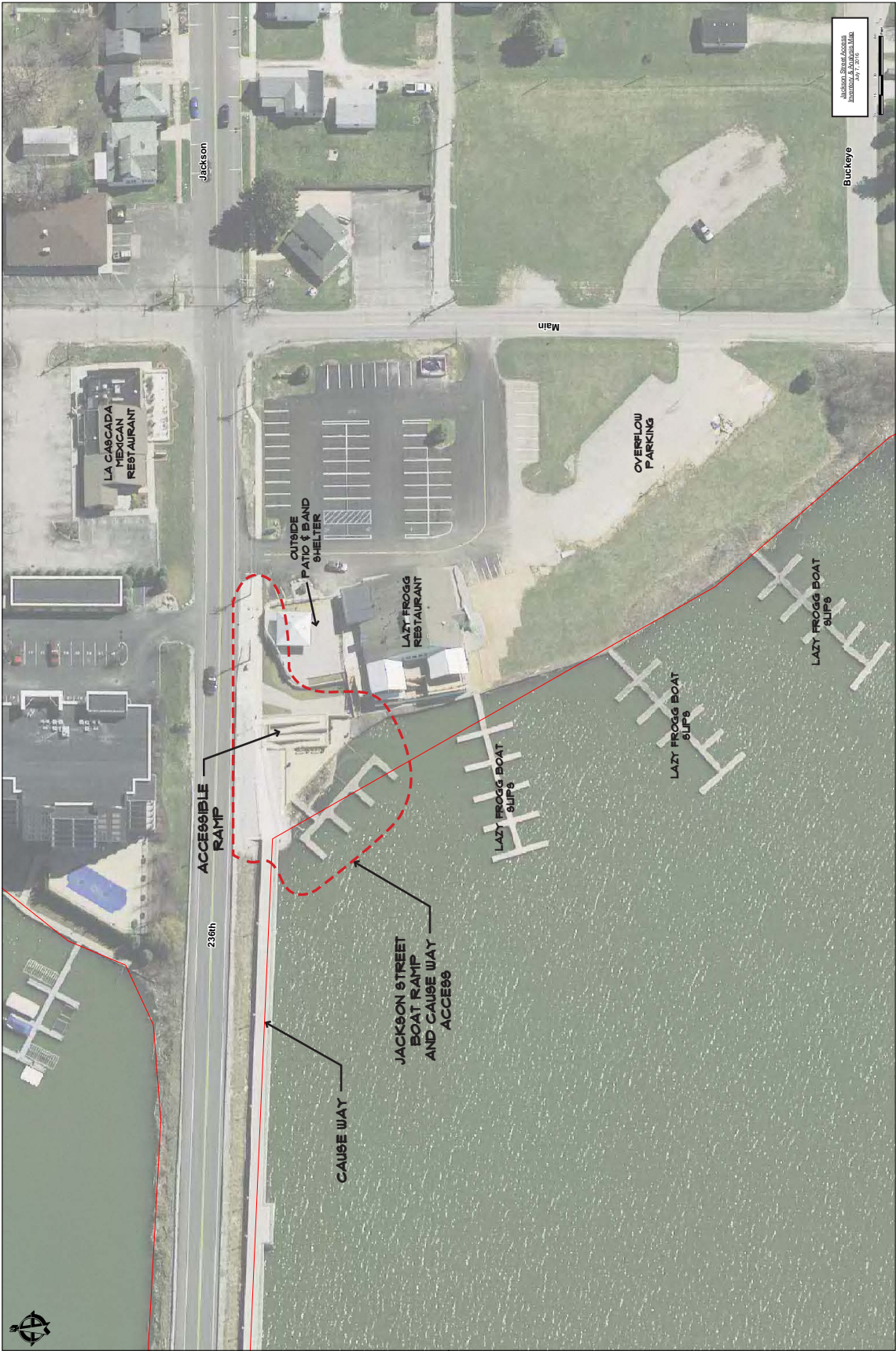
The Town of Cicero discovered it owned a small piece of property on Morse Reservoir. The property was too small to construct a boat ramp but was large enough to build a public access point for the residents of Cicero and visitors alike.

In 2007 the Town applied for and received grant funding of \$65,000 from the Hamilton County Convention of Visitors Bureau for the construction of this park. Construction began and was completed in 2009. The Park includes, ADA ramps, sidewalks, and boat slips for folks to park their boats and enter town. This park has made a direct impact on economic development for the downtown district of Cicero.

This park is connected to Red Bridge Park via the Causeway Boardwalk that runs parallel to 236th on the South Side.

See the following page for the Jackson Street Access Inventory Map.

4. PARK INVENTORY



4. PARK INVENTORY

Red Bridge Park

Red Bridge Park is located on the west side of Morse Reservoir and just south of 236th Street. The park is approximately 5.6 acres with water frontage on the east side for boat slips. This park has many amenities that include a community center, pool, marina with boat slip rental, public restroom, outdoor gazebo, walking path and playground equipment for the younger of age. This park has year round Maintenance up-keep.

This park also host several annual festivals and events such as the Lights Over Morse Lake Fireworks Festival, HNCC Triathlon, Rod Run Antique Car Show, The Summer Concert Series and the Fish Indiana Kids Fishing Day.

The park land is leased from The Marina Limited Limited Partnership (TMLP) which was founded by Allen Rosenberg, Sr.. This group also owns and operates the private marina on Hague Road just north of Carrigan Road. Several of the facilities in Red Bridge Park were actually developed by TMLP. . The TMLP through the park lease has input on the number of boat slips that Cicero is allowed to have at Red Bridge Park and the price of the fuel that Cicero sells at Red Bridge Park. Cicero is only allowed to have an emergency boat launch at Red Bridge Park. As stipulated in the lease, boats owned by the public are not allowed to launch from Red Bridge Park.. This policy includes kayaks and canoes, although it is difficult to enforce and control the launching of small boats that do not need a ramp. Only certain food items are allowed to be sold from the marina shop and pool facility.

- **The Historic Lafayette Trace**

A plaque commemorating a part of Indiana history can be found in this park. Cicero established in 1938) was one of the first stops on the Lafayette Trace. The Lafayette Trace extended from Indian Villages near present day Greenville, Ohio to Fort Ouiatenon which is now Lafayette, Indiana.

Created by Indians, it was used by European trappers and traders probably as early as 1717. By the early 1800's it was a principal route for the migration of settlers into Indiana.

It was officially surveyed as a State Road in 1830. Cicero was platted in 1835 where the Trace crossed Cicero Creek or approximately where the current causeway crosses over Morse Reservoir on Jackson Street.

- **Community Center**

The Community Center was built in 1987 and is open for use and rental year round. It is utilized by various community groups and organizations such as the Hamilton North Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, IDNR, sports clubs, church groups, for their weekly, monthly and annual meetings.

This center is also available for rental for weddings, receptions, retirement and graduations and other gatherings. A ball room dancing class is held in the Community Center.

It is also used by the local Planning Agencies such as the Town Council, BZA and Plan Commission for large meetings as necessary.

4. PARK INVENTORY

- The Marina

The marina received a facelift in 1999 when the Parks Department constructed 60 new boat slips and remodeled the marina office. The boat slips are high quality deck with lighting at each landing point. These boat slips are available for rental by Cicero and non-Cicero residents who enjoy the outdoor water recreation of Morse Reservoir.

In 2004 the Parks Department installed two new fuel stations that provide 24/7 fueling availability. The Marina Office offers a variety of fishing/boating items and fuel for purchase.

- Community Pool

The Community Pool was built in 1985 and has been enjoyed by the resident and non-residents. The pool is a compliment to Morse Reservoir as another water activity. The pool and wading pool area has a capacity of 168 people. There is a spiral slide, low diving board and wading area. There also is a bathhouse for pool and boating guests. Also available is a small concession that offers miscellaneous food and drink items. Anyone who visits Red Bridge Park can enter the Pool and purchase snack items.

- Walking Path

A 0.25 mile walking path was constructed in 2002 and wanders over the terrain of Red Bridge Park. This path is just a small part of the overall plan to provide walking trails throughout Town. This has set the pathway for numerous flower gardens and landscaping projects to be installed along its way. In 2007 a 10' x 16' landscaping Arbor with a porch type swing was installed along this trail.

- Playground Pieces

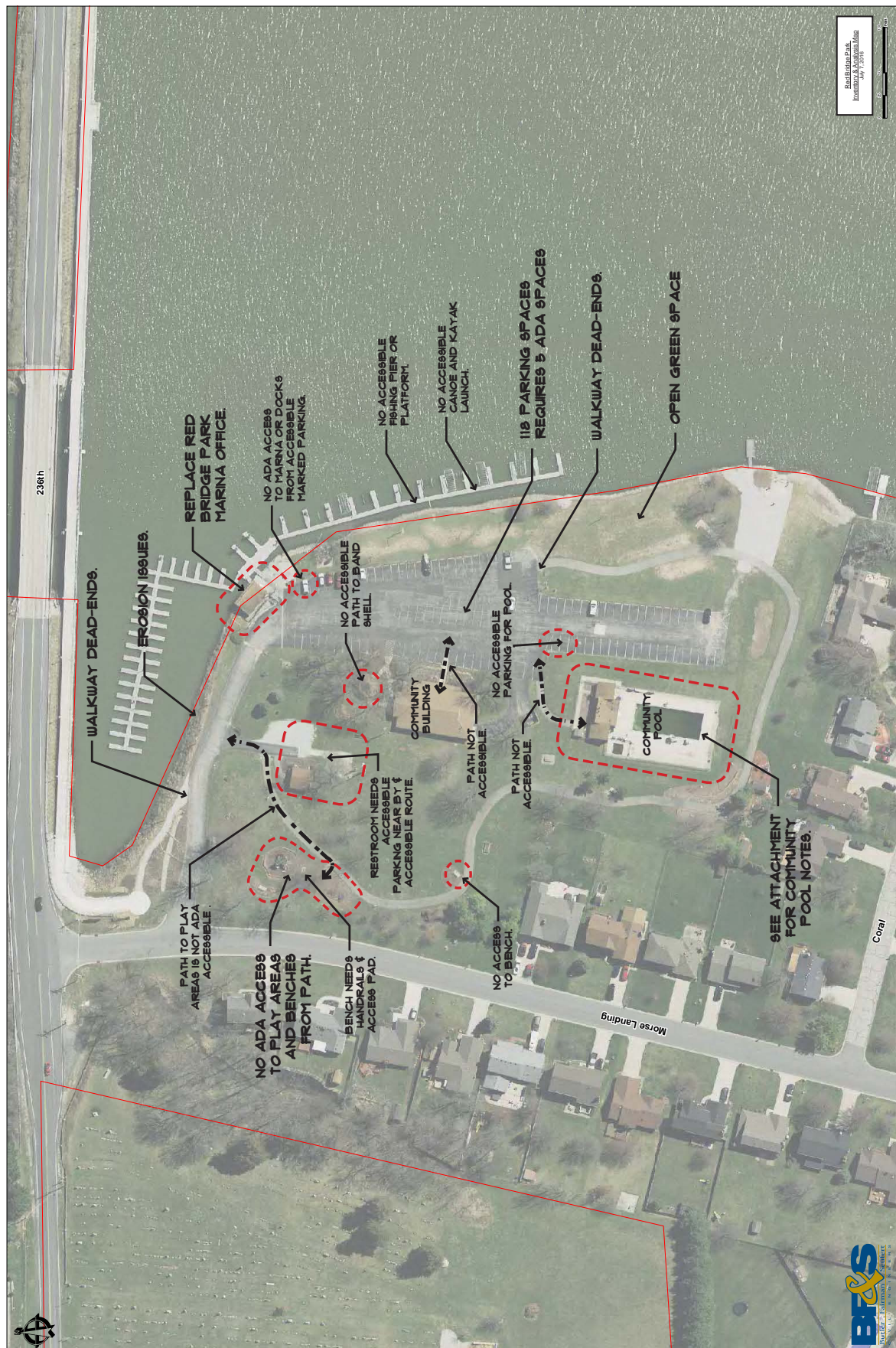
Installed in 2003 this playground piece has been a tremendous addition to Red Bridge Park. It is intended for children from ages 2-5. Complementing this is piece is an infant / children swing set combination. A thorough playground safety study was completed for all play equipment and can be found in the appendix.

- Outdoor Gazebo

The gazebo, which is located on the north side of the community Center, is a charming touch to Red Bridge Park. It is large enough to place a half a dozen tables or provide the setting for the Friends of the Park Summer Concert Series.

See the following page for the Red Bridge Park Inventory Map.

4. PARK INVENTORY





SECTION 5: Accessibility

5. ACCESSIBILITY

ADA Coordinator

The Town of Cicero does not employ 50 or more employees and is not required to have a designated ADA coordinator. Charlie Cambre acts as the ADA information contact for the Cicero Parks Department.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

The consultant met with Cicero Parks Superintendent to review the inventory of existing facilities in the park system. The parks department has done a good job of consistently installing new accessible facilities since the year 2000. Several conditions were observed during the field visit with the Parks Superintendent. These were noted as needing addressed for ADA compliance. The Consultant then came back and did an independent review of the parks facilities. A "smart level" was used to confirm the existing slopes on various access routes throughout the park system. Additional facilities not meeting ADA requirements were noted.

A table was then created showing the condition not meeting ADA requirements and the action required to solve the condition. The cost of each action is provided, an assumption of the funding source to pay for the action, and an approximate year that the park department will address the condition that is not in compliance.

Please see the table on the next page for the Cicero Parks ADA transition plan.

5. ACCESSIBILITY

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

LOCATION	CONDITION	ACTION REQUIRED	ESTIMATED YEAR	ESTIMATED COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Red Bridge Park	Installed ADA Parking	None / Completed	1992	–	–
Red Bridge Park	Installed Accessible Playgrounds	None / Completed	2000		
Community Park	Installed Accessible Playgrounds	None / Completed	2009-2012	–	–
Red Bridge Park	Installed Accessible Swings	None / Completed	2013	–	–
Community Park	Installed Accessible Swings	None / Completed	2013		
Community Park	Installed Picnic Shelter w/ Firm and Stable Pad, ADA Table	None / Completed	2013	–	–
Sports Complex	Installed ADA Walking Paths	None / Completed	2014	–	–
Town	Adopted Grievance Policy	None / Completed	2016	–	–
Town	Adopted Public Notice of ADA Requirements	None / Completed	2016	–	–
Red Bridge Park	Pool access path (over 5%)	Re-grade Path	2017	\$8,000.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Pool restroom access (less than 36" wide)	Move partitions to allow 36" wide access aisle	2021	\$1,200.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	No ADA pool lift chair	Install lift (Bought Lift 2012)	2017	-	In-Kind Labor
Red Bridge Park	No Pool ADA parking	Add sign and stripe parking spot	2017	\$520.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Community Center and Gazebo access route	Re-grade path to community center	2017	\$2700.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Access path to playground (over 5% slope)	Re-grade Path	2017	\$4000.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Playground equipment access	Level surface, move access panel, access route, transfer point height	2017	\$3000.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Access path to restroom (over 5% slope)	Re-grade Path	2017	\$3000.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	ADA parking for playground	Pave parking, stripe, and add sign	2017	\$7300.00	Parks Budget
Red Bridge Park	Park benches (50%)	Pour firm and stable pad for 3 benches, add arm rests to 3 benches	2020	\$2200.00	Parks Budget

5. ACCESSIBILITY

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

Red Bridge Park	Marina docks (path over 5% slope)	Re-grade access path, adjust gang plank slope (8.33% Max or 80' Gangway)	2019	\$15,000.00	Parks Budget
Community Park	Playground access	Provide firm and stable access route to under 2 years area	2017	\$450.00	Parks Budget
Community Park	Playground access	Provide firm and stable access route to 5-12 age area	2017	\$1,250.00	Parks Budget
Community Park	Dog park access	Provide firm and stable access to dog park	2018	\$650.00	Parks Budget
Community Park	Picnic tables (sitting in lawn area)	Add firm and stable access route and pad	2021	\$350.00	Parks Budget
Community Park	Park benches (50%)	Pour firm and stable pad, add arm rests	2019	\$2,200.00	Parks Budget
Sports Complex	ADA Parking	Firm and stable surface, stripe, add signage	2020	\$9500.00	Parks Budget
Sports Complex	ADA Viewing Pad	Firm and Stable Surface	2019	\$2500.00	Parks Budget

5. ACCESSIBILITY

Public Notice of ADA Requirements

Information is required from the Town on this topic.

ADA Grievance Procedures

Information is required from the Town on this topic.

5. ACCESSIBILITY

ABA/ ADA/ Rehab Act - Section 504

The Town has signed and the assurance of accessibility 504 form. This assures that the Town is complying with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. PUb. L, 93-112 and the Department of the Interior Regulations 43 CFR 17, Subpart B.

See the following page for the executed form 504.

**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 Cicero** (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

Chad Amos
(President's Printed Name)

SIGNATURE _____

Jan Unger
(Clerk-Treasurer's Printed Name)

DATE: _____



SECTION 6: Public Participation

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In an effort to gain as much input from the members of the community, there were several methods used for this process. These formats included a on-line survey, creating an advisory committee, and hosting a public meeting. A combination of these methods produce a more realistic vision of the community's parks and recreational needs.

Random Sample

On-line Survey

A random sample method of public participation seeks out an undefined group of people in the community. The more people the random sample method reaches, the more reliable the information gathered will be. The Advisory Committee and Consultants created an on-line public survey which was accessible through the Town of Cicero's website and a work station set-up at the public input meeting. It was also shared through the Friends of the Park and Town's Facebook page, to attain a broader group of people.

The survey was available to the public for 2.5 weeks from July 22nd, 2016 to August 10th, 2016. A total of 147 people responded to the survey in this time period. This was almost triple the number of responses that were received from the 2010 5-Year Parks Master Plan.

A total of 17 questions were asked on the survey. As expected most of the respondents lived within Cicero, but we had 22 responses from people living in Hamilton county and 4 people who lived outside the county. This shows that the reservoir does attract users from outside the community. Most of the respondents had lived in Cicero for over 15 years, but the second highest group of respondents had lived in Cicero for 1 to 5 years. This provides a nice mix of new ideas and ideas from those who have been around the community for a while. The highest response came from households with 3 to 5 people living there.

Over 65% of the respondents use the existing parks facilities on a daily or weekly basis. By contrast under 1% of respondents never used a park facility. The most used facilities indicated was walking paths at over 72%. The second most used facility is the playground equipment. Priority to any repairs or accessibility issues should probably address these facilities first.

Eating out, water related activities, and walking / jogging were the top 3 activities selected by respondents. Eating Out was the number one answer and visual observations of people parking at Red Bridge Park and eating in their cars was often observed during the daytime.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Since the parks department does not offer many programs right now, a question was posed on what type of programs current users would like to see. The number one answer was family movie nights at 57%. There were also quite a few "write-in" answers for more music events in the parks and swim lessons. By contrast the question asking how often people participate in a park program or event indicated the 39% of people only participate on a yearly basis. This might be a result of not enough programs being offered. The number one event that people attend by far over all others is the 4th of July Celebration which only occurs yearly. Over 60% of respondents indicated that they would like to see a weekly farmer's market added and over 50% indicated more musical events in the park.

The top three facilities that people would like to see added to the parks system are a splash pad, additional trails, and a canoe / kayak boat launch. The number one facility requested was a splash pad at 60%.

The survey responses indicated that the number one reason that people do not use the Cicero Parks and Facilities more often was that 52% were not aware of what was available. Yet, 78% said they learn about Parks and Recreation Programs and activities through Facebook and social media. This indicates that there needs to be better efforts on marketing the parks department to the public through social media. The website needs to have more information with interactive maps and perhaps a staff person needs to be added to help with marketing.

Respondents rated a having a quality Parks System as very important to a community with over 60% saying they would rate a quality park system as the most important for a community. Answers were mixed on the rating that people gave the current park system. Most people only rated the system between 5 to 8 out of 10. The highest answer was a 5 at 21%. This shows that there needs to be some investment in the current parks system.

A copy of the survey and the responses received is available in the appendix.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Non-Random Sample

Advisory Committee

A non-random sample method seeks out a specific group of people or develops an organized form of communicating with the citizens in order to gather information. An advisory committee was created consisting of the Parks Department Superintendent, two members of the Friends of the Park group, one Town Council Member, the director of the Cicero / Jackson Township Plan Commission, and the President of the Hamilton Heights Athletic Sports Association. There were a series of 4 Advisory Committee meetings planned to review the major stages of the design and planning process.

Public Meeting

During the inventory and analysis phase of the project, the Consultants held a public meeting at the Cicero Community Center on July 14, 2016. The meeting was provided as a public open house and the consultant was available for a 4 hour period to meet with anyone who wished to stop by. Additionally the meeting overlapped by one half hour with the Friends of the Park meeting to maximize input. In total 15 members of the public showed up to the open house.

Members of the public could fill out the public survey at a laptop provided. Maps were provided of the existing facilities to get a sense from the public as to what was currently working well and those things that needed attention.

Most people felt that the current park system was well maintained, but there could be improvements to the ball field maintenance for the three fields closer to Stringtown Pike (Community Park. Better access between the ball fields and better parking was also a concern. In general Community Park needed a little bit of a face lift and the trail within Community Park along Stringtown Pike was in bad shape due to root damage. Several comments were heard regarding shade for the small children's playground. It was felt that a large splash pad would be a good addition to Community Park. The largest complaint heard was that many were unaware of the walking trails around the Sports complex and some of the other amenities in Community Park. It was felt after some discussion that a directory sign located at the front of the park might help people to know what is located in Community Park and the Sports Complex.

Attendees indicated that Cicero is a golf cart community. Several inquiries were made about using existing trails for golf carts or adding facilities for golf carts.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The largest complaints heard about the Sports Complex area was the drainage of the fields during large rain events and that the stone trails needed to have a little extra stone added in some spots to address rutting.

Attendees again indicated that Red Bridge Park was well maintained. It was felt that the pool needed some updates to attract more users. It was mentioned that it would be nice to replace the pool, but did not know if budget was a factor. Shade, better chairs, and more activities for smaller children was heard as a need for the pool. The bathrooms also needed some updates. One attendee indicated that a place to dock your boat and bring them to pool would also be nice. The attendee did not feel comfortable letting younger children swim in the lake from their boat. Another attendee echoed the same sentiments. The docks at the marina were always full and there was no place to really come to the park by boat and dock. They felt it would be nice to not have to get in your car to come use the facilitates at red bridge park. Access to the lake was another big concern to attendees. Much of the existing lake front is taken up by rented boat docks and much of the park area along the lake is taken up by parking. There currently is no place to picnic along the lake front that has unimpeded views of the lake. The only picnic table along the lake front is next the Marina where it is busy and looks out onto boat rentals. Many people sit in there cars and eat while viewing the lake.

Several people from the neighborhood next to Red Bridge Park stopped by the open house. They felt that an access sidewalk or path was needed to the neighborhood. Currently they have to walk in the street all the way to the main entrance of the park and a small cut-through would be helpful. They also indicated that the playground in Red Bridge Park was kind of small and did not offer much alternatives for children. They indicated that if they wanted to let their kids play, then they got in their car and went to Community Park.

The Friends of the Park Group attended the last half hour of the public open house. The Friends Group is non-for-profit and they help organize fund raisers and events for the Parks Department. They helped fund an accessible playground piece in Community Park. On member indicated that better water access is needed. It was felt that the Community Center in Red Bridge Park was not used often enough for programs and classes. The pool should offer water aerobics for older adults and swim lessons for kids.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Draft Plan Public Presentation

The presentation of the draft plan was held at the Cicero Community Center on September 8, 2016.

There were 9 members of the public in attendance in addition to 2 council members and the Park Superintendent.

Attendees were in favor of the action items and proposed facility maps that were presented. There were some questions as to whether movie nights in the park would work since several churches and the library had tried these without much success.

Some attendees did not like the fact that the old spiral slide in community park might have to be removed due to safety standards.



SECTION 7: Needs Analysis

This plan uses two types of methods to satisfy the needs analysis for the community. Standards for park and open spaces developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association is used to establish a base line of facilities that are needed and then issue analysis is used to further resolve the needs identified by the community through public participation.

Below is a table showing the current level of service provided by facilities located in the Cicero planning area and how this compares with national standards for parks and open space. The table also looks at a projected population for Cicero five years from now and the amount of facilities that would be required to meet the needs of that population

7. NEEDS ANALYSIS

Needs Indicated by Issue

Community Spray Park

Adequate Pool Facilities

- Size
- Modernize
- Shade
- Increase Attendance
- Activities for Younger Children

Red Bridge Park Water Access

- Trail Along Water's Edge
- Shelter/Picnic Opportunities Near Water
- Kayak / Canoe Launch
- Secure Boat Slips
- Marina Building
- Reduce Size of Parking Area Next to Lake

Programming

- Need More Recreation Programs at Community Center
- Family Movie Night
- More Music Events
- Swim Lessons
- Water Aerobics
- Farmer's Market

Community Park Play Ground

- Shade for small children's area

Red Bridge Park - Increase Play Ground Size and Provide Community Access

Sport Complex

- Trails
- Ball field Drainage
- Access of Community Park Fields from Sports Complex
- Public Awareness of Facilities

Golf Cart Access to Trails / Golf Cart Facilities

Tennis Court Surfacing

Public Awareness of Park Facilities, Events, and Programs

7. NEEDS ANALYSIS

Staffing Needs

A park department staff is usually required to handle responsibilities in the four categories of maintenance, operations, programming, and administration. The current staff's responsibilities seem to be heavily weighted towards maintaining the 46 acres of existing park property. The staff's responsibilities will only grow over time as the Town grows in population. In order to meet the needs of the public, additional staffing will be needed to help with programming, events, and maintenance. This will allow the superintendent to concentrate on administration and operations.

As mentioned previously there is only one full time employee on the Cicero parks staff. According to the National Recreation and Park Association's 2016 Field Report, a typical park and recreation agency has 7.4 full time staff members per 10,000 residents. This would suggest that Cicero should have close to 4 full time employees.

To further analyze the current staffing needs, a comparison with other small communities around the state of Indiana was prepared. Communities with similar populations and that are also located near a body of water were placed in a side by side comparison (see table below). The City of Monticello, which is closest in population to Cicero and currently has approximately 40 acres of land to maintain (an additional 20 acres in development), employs 3 full time staff. It additionally has a part time program director, a part time administrative assistant, and additional seasonal staff.

Based on the previous information provided the consultant would recommend that the Cicero Park's consider adding a staff member in the next year to provide help both with programming and marketing. The park department may also want to consider adding a full time employee to help with maintenance.

7. NEEDS ANALYSIS

	CICERO, IN	SYRCAUSE, IN	MONTICELLO, IN	CULVER, IN	WARSAW, IN
POPULATION	5,110	2,865	5,362	1,391	14,042
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES					
Superintendant	1	1	1	1	1
Program Director		1			1
Maintenance Supervisor/Director		1			1
Administrative Assistant					1
Maintenance Staff			2		13
PART TIME EMPLOYEES					
Maintenance Supervisor					
Program Director			1		
Maintenance Staff	2			1	
Administrative Assistant	1	1	1		
Administrative Staff		3			
Seasonal Maintenance Staff		2	8	1	7
Pool/Beach Seasonal Staff		8	24	13	14
Summer Intern Program				1	
Custodian		1			

Another thing to consider, the Cicero Park Superintendent is 62 years old and has been with the city of Cicero for 25 years. According to U.S. Census Bureau the average retirement age in the United States is currently about 63 years old and the age at which Social Security Benefits are unreduced is gradually rising to age 67. Based upon this information it would be logical to assume that the current superintendent might retire in next 5-10 years. Hiring another full time employee in the near future might allow them to learn about the current Cicero park facilities and provide consistency in any transitional period.



SECTION 8: PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS

8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS

Community Park

- Park Entrance

Create a sense of arrival and a sense of place at the park's entrance along Brinton Street. Design an entrance node with a park identification sign and park directory map.

- Pedestrian Access

Re-align the pedestrian trail along Stringtown Pike to the west side of the park's tree line. Provide a sidewalk from the intersection of Stringtown Pike and Brinton Street heading east to the park's parking area along Brinton Street. Improve and provide sidewalks from the park's central pedestrian path to the multiple playground areas that comply with ADA standards.

- Tennis & Basketball Courts

Re-surface and re-paint the tennis and basketball courts.

- Playground Area & Equipment

See the Summary of Playground Inspections, located in the Appendix, for playground area and equipment improvements for Community Park.

- Site Engineering & Regrading

Improve the park's drainage patterns by channeling rainwater away from the playground areas, pedestrian paths, and recreation facilities into designated infiltration locations.

- Splash Pad

Install a splash pad in the open area east of the small children's playground area.

- Accessible Seating

Provide ADA accessible seating to 50% of all park benches and picnic tables. This will be accomplished by providing arm rests to benches, bench seats meeting the required height and depth, provide a firm and stable surface next to park benches for wheelchair at a minimum 30" x 48" space, and offer space at the end of picnic tables for wheelchair users to easily pull up to the select tables.

- Multi-Purpose Field

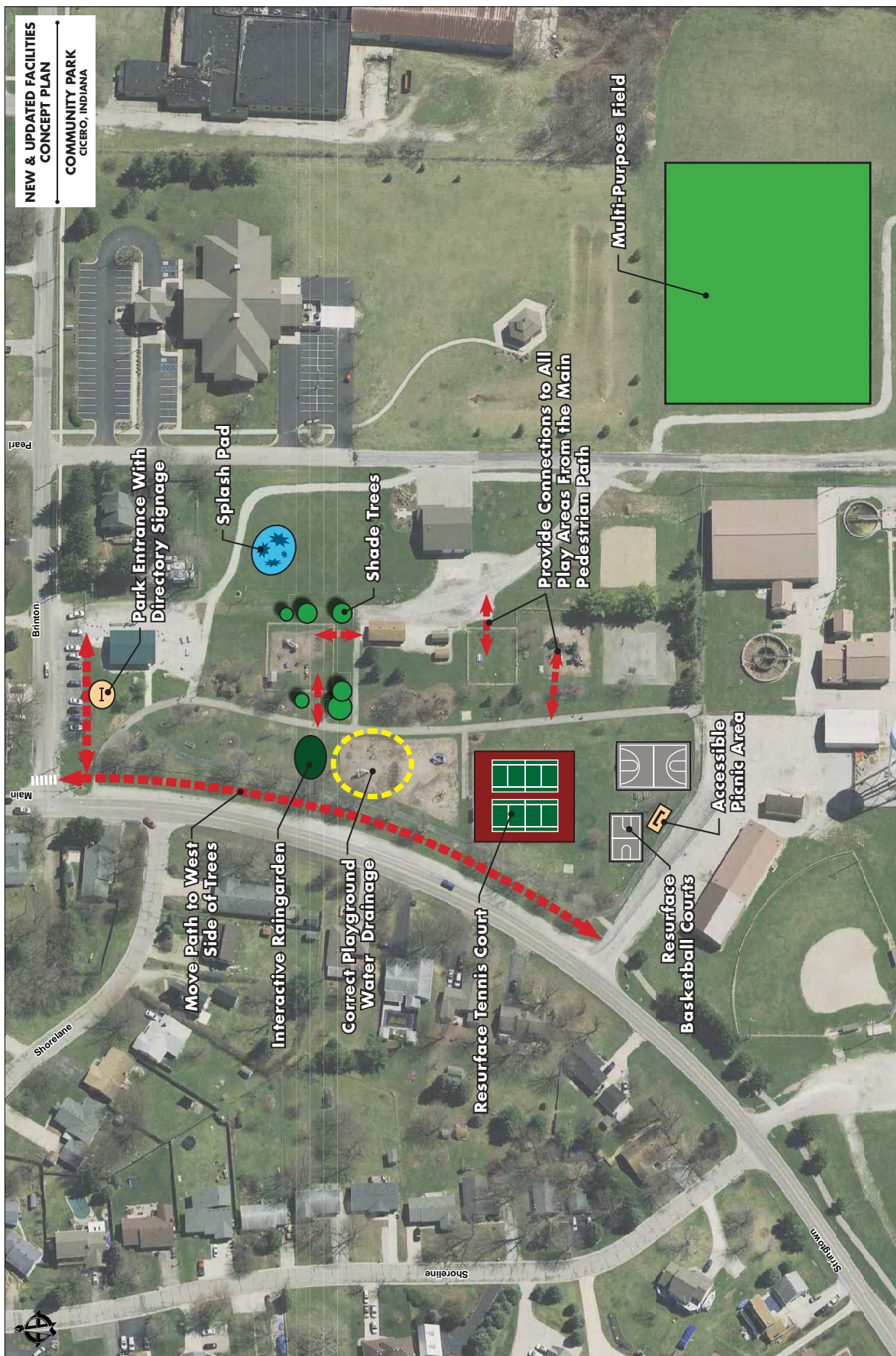
Develop the open space south of the public library into a designated multi-purpose field for outdoor recreation.

- Landscaping

Install shade trees near the small children's playground area. To the north of the older children's playground area, implement an interactive raingarden that will serve as an educational tool and correct the drainage issues in the immediate area.

See the following page for the Community Park Proposed Facilities Map.

8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS



8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS

Sports Complex

- Parking Lot

Improve the parking lot surface and provide designated accessible parking spaces. This will provide the hard surface required for accessible parking needs in order to comply with ADA standards.

- Pedestrian Access

Provide a defined pedestrian path from the east to west of the southern edge of the parking lot area. Create a pedestrian path connection that will connect the northwest edge of the Sports Complex to the southeast edge of Community Park.

- Playground Area & Equipment

Enlarge the playground area, and provide a well defined edge with appropriate surface material.

- Site Engineering & Regrading

Improve the southern most baseball field's drainage patterns by re-grading the surface and channeling rainwater away from the field and out towards the native planting areas.

- Outfield Barrier

Install a tall outfield fence at the northwest softball field. This will offer extra safety from home run hits beyond the fence towards the playground area, the outdoor batting cage, and the concession stand.

- Stadium Seating

Provide ADA viewing pads near all stadium seating.

- Landscaping

Establish native planting areas surrounding the baseball and softball diamonds. This not only will provide an aesthetic appeal and habitats for native insects and small animals , it will reduce the need for maintenance, watering, and fertilizers.

See the following page for the Sports Complex Proposed Facilities Map.

8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS



8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS

Red Bridge Park

- **Parking Lot**

Improve the parking lot surface and provide designated accessible parking spaces located at the playground area along the north edge of the park as well as the swimming pool area parking. This will provide the hard surface required for accessible parking needs in order to comply with ADA standards. Convert excess parking spaces and along the east edge of the park near the reservoir and the south edge near the public swimming pool and convert those areas into to green space. The green space along the east edge of the park will provide users with a larger area to enjoy the reservoir. The green space along the south edge will be reinforced to allow overflow parking to accommodate large events as well as more space for free recreation.

- **Pedestrian Access**

Re-grade path from the parking lot to the swimming pool entrance to comply with ADA standards. Create a pedestrian connection from Morse Landing Drive into the park. Implement a pedestrian path connecting the causeway trail, wrapping along the reservoir's edge and joining up to the existing path at the southern end of the park to create a loop system.

- **Playground Area & Equipment**

Add Linear Path Playgrounds along the loop trail.

See the Summary of Preliminary Playground Inspections, located in the Appendix, for playground area and equipment improvements for Red Bridge Park.

- **Swimming Pool**

Make adjustments to the existing restrooms to meet ADA standards. Install an ADA pool chair lift. Modernize the swimming pool and toddler pool to meet current standards. Provide shade structures.

- **Marina**

Construct a new marina building. Replace existing access ramp to a switch back ramp in order to meet ADA standards.

- **Retaining Wall**

Replace existing rip-rap wall with an improved retaining wall to prevent further erosion.

- **Landscaping**

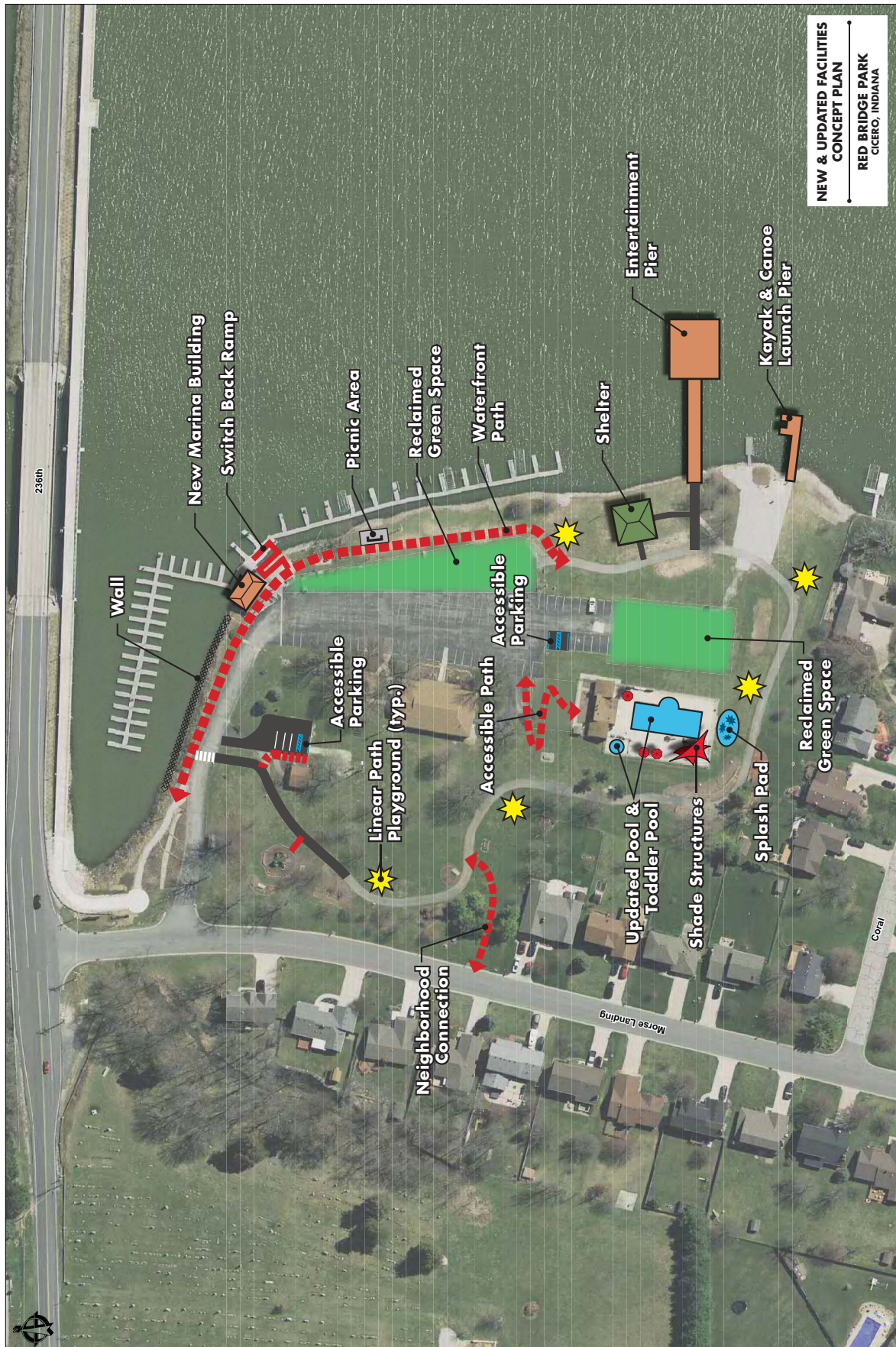
Provide native planting areas surrounding the baseball and softball diamonds. This not only will provide an aesthetic appeal and habitats for native insects and small animals , it will reduce the need for maintenance, watering, and fertilizers.

- **Additional structures**

Construct an Entertainment Pier. Install a Kayak and Canoe Launch with ADA accessible launches. Construct a public Shelter building along the edge of Morse Reservoir.

See the following page for the Red Bridge Park Proposed Facilities Map.

8. PROPOSED FACILITIES MAPS





SECTION 9: Priorities & Action Plan

9. PRIORITIES & ACTION PLAN

Priorities and Action Plan Schedule & Cost Estimate

The priorities and action plan has been developed from a combination of the ADA Transition Plan and Needs Analysis. The Park Superintendent and the Consultant worked with the Five Year Plan Advisory Committee to determine which projects/actions were the highest priority to the community and those that might be developed later. The highest priority projects/ actions were then analyzed against the available Park Department and Town budget to determine which projects should be first in the action plan. Highest priority actions that could not be completed in 2017, were then pushed back to 2018, and 2019 depending on budget. Finally the rest of the actions were placed into 2020 and 2021.

The action plan takes a conservative approach to completing the actions identified. Funding for each action is only assumed to be from the Park Budget, Town Budget, or grants that have already been secured. Should funding from park impact fees or grant funding become available, then this will allow for extra funding to complete the action plan quicker.

Please note that since the ballfields in the Sports Complex are leased by a baseball league from the Town and are to be maintained by the league, the drainage issues relating to the ballfields at the Sports Complex were not addressed in the action plan. The only responsibility the Parks Department has in maintaining the ballfields at the Sports Complex is mowing the grass. The Town Council is aware of the drainage issues and is in the process resolving the issues at the Sports Complex. The Town Council is working with a contractor and the baseball league at this time.

See resulting priorities and action plan on the next page.

9. PRIORITIES & ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY / ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

PRIORITY	SITE / LOCATION	DESCRIPTION / ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE
RECOMMENDATIONS 2017				
1	Programming	Add Program & Marketing Staff Member	TBD	Park Budget
2	Programming	Update Parks Department Website	TBD	Park Budget
3	Programming	Partner with Other Organizations	TBD	Park Budget
4	Red Bridge Park	Neighborhood Access	\$ 8,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
5	Red Bridge Park	Accessible Playground Parking (3 Areas)	\$ 15,000.00	Park Budget
6	Red Bridge Park	Accessible Path to Pool	\$ 9,000.00	Park Budget
7	Red Bridge Park	Splash Pad	\$ 60,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
8	Red Bridge Park	Fishing / Entertainment Pier	\$ 150,000.00	Park Budget/Place Based Investment
9	Programming	Family Movie Night (@ Red Bridge Park)	TBD	Park Budget
2017 Total			\$ 242,000.00	
RECOMMENDATIONS 2018				
1	Programming	Music Events (@ Red Bridge Park)	TBD	Park Budget
2	Red Bridge Park	ADA Kayak Launch	\$ 15,000.00	Park Budget
3	Red Bridge Park	Retaining Wall	\$ 175,000.00	Park Budget
4	Programming	Community Center Programs (@ Red Bridge Park)	TBD	Park Budget
2018 Total			\$ 190,000.00	
RECOMMENDATIONS 2019				
1	Red Bridge Park	New Marina Building	\$ 150,000.00	Park Budget
2	Red Bridge Park	Accessible Path to Boat Slips	\$ 20,000.00	Park Budget
3	Red Bridge Park	Reclaim Parking Areas	\$ 55,000.00	Park Budget
2019 Total			\$ 225,000.00	
RECOMMENDATIONS 2020				
1	Programming	Swim Lessons + Water Aerobics (@ Red Bridge Park)	TBD	Park Budget
2	Red Bridge Park	Waterfront Path	\$ 55,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
3	Red Bridge Park	Shelter	\$ 95,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
4	Red Bridge Park	Playground Pods (5 Total)	\$ 66,500.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
2020 Total			\$ 216,500.00	
RECOMMENDATIONS 2021				
1	Programming	Farmers' Market (@ Red Bridge Park)	TBD	Park Budget
2	Community Park	Tennis/Basketball Court Re-Surface	\$ 120,000.00	Park Budget
3	Community Park	Playground Drainage + Interactive Raingarden	\$ 17,500.00	Park Budget
4	Community Park	Accessible Picnic Area	\$ 1,000.00	Park Budget
5	Community Park	Path Along Stringtown Pike	\$ 75,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
6	Community Park	Shade For Small Kids' Area	\$ 7,000.00	Park Budget
7	Community Park	Multipurpose Field	\$ 500.00	Park Budget
8	Community Park	Splash Pad	\$ 150,000.00	Park Budget/Impact Fee
9	Community Park	Accessible Connections Paths	\$ 2,500.00	Park Budget
10	Community Park	New Park Entrance + Directory Sign + Trailhead	\$ 5,000.00	Park Budget
2021 Total			\$ 378,500.00	

* Programming needs and events cost will be determined by Parks Department Staff

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Funding Opportunities

Existing Budget

As mentioned previously the Parks Department has the unique opportunity to generate revenue through its gasoline sales and dock rental fees at the marina. The Parks department makes approximately \$50,000 profit on fuel sales and approximately \$50,000 profit on dock rentals for a total of \$100,000 annually. Any additional funds needed to complete the action plan in each fiscal year will come from funds that the Town Council has at its disposal for projects.

Park Impact Fees

As part of the Five Year Park Plan, Umbaugh and Associates, assisted in developing park impact fees for the Town of Cicero. Based upon projected population growth from new housing development and then projected deficits in park amenities due to that population growth fees can be established to help in assisting the Town to maintain national standards.

Eight amenity types were identified as being deficient and then the impact fee advisory board chose the four most important amenities for the Town to concentrate on over the next 10 years.

Based upon the impact fee calculation the Town would charge approximately \$604 per each new single-family unit and would generate approximately \$634,703 in new capital costs for multi-use paths, spray-grounds, park shelters, and neighborhood playgrounds. See the accompanying park impact fee document for more information.

Place Based Investment Funds (PBIF)

The Indiana Office of Tourism Development and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) provides competitive matching grant program that supports community and economic development projects across the state. Projects that promote quality of life, improve tourism experiences and develop multi-purpose gathering areas are eligible.

Projects should seek to maximize investment and collaboration by local governments, economic development organization, Indiana Main Street Organizations, and community

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foundations.

Grant amounts available are between \$20,000 and \$50,000 dollars. The locals must match the grant amount by 1:1.5 with a minimum of 1:1 being cash match and the other 0.5 compromised of eligible in-kind and cash. See the IOCRA website for more information

The Town of Cicero has secured a \$50,000 PBIF grant for their fishing / performance/ event pier in Red Bridge Park and is scheduled to be installed in 2017.

Cicero Friends of the Park

The non-for profit group, Cicero Friends of the Park, has historically raised between \$5,000 to \$10,000 through events and fund raisers that have been available for use by the Parks Department for facility improvements. These funds could also be used to develop new programs for the community.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal financial assistance program administered through IDNR. It provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Funds for this program come primarily from federal off-shore oil lease receipts. The program is administered at the federal level by the National Parks Service (NPS), but is operated at the state level by IDNR. Individual projects typically receive \$10,000 to \$200,000 in funds. Only legally established park boards with an approved 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan are eligible to participate. Applications are available on or after March 1 and are required to be submitted or post-marked by June 1 of each year.

Contact for LWCF:

Bob Bronson

State & Community Outdoor Recreation Planning Section

Division of Outdoor Recreation

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

402 W. Washington Street, Room W271

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Final Plan Public Presentation

The final master plan presentation was held at the Cicero Town Staff Meeting on March 16, 2017. Each Council Member and the Clerk-Treasurer were provided with a copy of the 5 Year Plan. The 5 Year Plan was then made available for viewing at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office prior to adoption.

Final Comments

9. PRIORITIES & ACTION PLAN

Cicero Town Council Resolution

The adoption of the plan was held on March 21, 2017 at a Cicero Town Council Meeting.

See the next page for a copy of the signed resolution.

PARK BOARD PLAN ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the **Cicero Town Council** is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Cicero, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE **CICERO TOWN COUNCIL**, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Indiana.

Passed and signed this 21st day of March, 2017.

ATTEST:

Town Council President

Town Attorney



APPENDIX

