

5-year Plan Final for Bristol Indiana Parks - Rev2 March 17, 2015

Community Information

Community Name: **Town of Bristol, Indiana**

Community's Home County: Elkhart County

Address of Park Department (If applicable) or Municipal Building:
303 E. Vistula St., PO Box 305, Bristol, Indiana 46507

Phone Number of Park Department (If applicable) or Municipal Building:
574-848-7007

Fax number of Park Department (If applicable) or Municipal Building:

Year Plan Created: 2015

Plan Author Information

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Park Board Information

Park Board President's Name: Linda B. Powell

Park Board President's Term Expiration: 2015

Address: 223 E. Vistula St., Bristol, IN 46507

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Park Board Vice-President's Name: Scott Dreamer

Park Board Vice-President's Term Expiration: 2018

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Park Board Member's Term Expiration: 2017

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Name: N/A

Park Board Ex-Officio Member's Term Expiration:

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List the paid staff of the Park Department

Short Job Description (Park Maintenance):

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Definition of Planning Area: Planning area is Town limits plus 10 miles radius, to include balance of Washington Twp., part of York Twp, and some of the area extending to Edwardsburg, MI, on the north. Data from 2014 Park Survey, 30% of users Town residents, 34% Washington Twp., 12% York Twp. and 1% other. While other areas do not presently contribute, Board plans to meet with Township Trustees to discuss possible funding from them for park operations and maintenance.

Source: Bristol Town Manager's maps

Natural Features and Landscape The Town of Bristol, Indiana has a total area of 3.82 square miles of which 3.69 square miles is land and 0.13 square miles in water. The principal surface water feature in the northern part of Elkhart County is the St. Joseph River. This river enters the county from Michigan in the northeastern part of the county, near Bristol. It then flows west across the county. The St. Joseph and Little Elkhart Rivers converge behind the Herman Park Pavilion in Bristol. The South side of the Town is located on a bluff above the St. Joseph River. The North side of the Town is across the St. Joseph River and is on lower land, sometimes subject to flooding. The Town is located in the valley of the famed Bristol Fruithills, which lie southeast of the Town. The legends and scenery of the Fruithills are the inspiration for many artists and authors.

Source: Wikipedia

Why might these features be important to your park system?

Both Hermance and Congdon Parks are located below the bluff adjacent to the St. Joseph and Little Elkhart Rivers. Some areas can be limited in access due to occasional flooding, such as the playground equipment and parking lot of Hermance Park and the fishing pier in Congdon Park. Due to the IDNR boat launch site in Hermance Park, the area surrounding the park is under the management of the IDNR. Surveying our park trees, we have found a number of Ash trees that have been infested by the Emerald Ash Borer. An ongoing program, began in 2014, included the removal of a number of Ash trees in our parks. Another natural feature we are working on, is the river bank in Congdon park. The river bank is full of scrub bushes, vines, poison ivy, and trees needing to be trimmed. Our goal is to make an attractive view of the river for all to enjoy. We will be taking into consideration the possible flooding and how we can best protect the river bank.

Man-Made, Historical and Cultural:

List some of the historical/cultural features in your community:

The Elkhart County Historical Museum and History/Genealogical Library is located in down town Bristol and offers a variety of programs and exhibits for all ages. The Elkhart County Historical Society headquarters and the Rush Memorial Center are both located in the same building as the Museum, and is in front of Cummins Park, which contains the Splash Pad and the historic Cathcart Cemetery which contains the grave of a Revolutionary soldier is located adjacent to Cummins Park which is located behind the Elkhart County Historical Museum. These features draw many visitors to the Town from other local communities as well as out of state and introduce visitors to the well-maintained and historic setting.

The Bristol Homecoming is held in July each year in Congdon Park, which was built to host the event. The Homecoming Queen and Person or Persons of the Year are chosen and honored in the large Homecoming Parade held in downtown Bristol. The event lasts for three days, ending with a massive fireworks show over the river, viewed from Congdon Park and all over Town. Thousands of people from the local communities come to Bristol for this event.

The still operating historic over 100 year old Bristol Opera House is located in downtown Bristol and offers a full season of plays and presentations presented by the Elkhart Civic Theatre, who own and maintain the building.

The local Amish Community is located just a few miles outside of Bristol and attracts visitors to Bristol as they follow the Quilt Garden tour each summer, including a quilt garden located outside the Elkhart County Historical Museum in front of Cummins Park.

The Graves et al V. Indiana Historical Marker is located in Memorial Park. This park is located at the corner of SR 15 and SR 120 in Bristol. The marker commemorates a court case involving the Underground Railroad. Also located in Memorial Park, the Electronic Community Billboard sign highlights events and information on the busiest corner of Town - at SR 120 and SR 15 South. The Park is an oasis of green space on the busiest corner in Bristol.

Why might these features be important to your park system?

As a small town, Bristol is fortunate to have well-maintained unique parks and places which make Bristol a destination for residents as well as out-of-town and out-of-state visitors. In fact, in the survey and stakeholder comments, it was expressed a number of times how well the parks are maintained. The local restaurants and shops benefit financially from the influx of those who come to attend Bristol events both in the parks and in the downtown area.

Visitors to the Elkhart County Historical Museum, which is in front of the Cummins Park attracts visitors to the Park. An annual quilt garden and quilt exhibit at the Museum is a stop on the Official Amish Country Quilt Tour. The Splash Pad for Children is also located in Cummins Park.

The yearly July Bristol Homecoming in Congdon Park includes a well-attended fireworks event, a Parade, and a Carnival, attracts thousands of visitors each summer. The Pavilion can be rented for inexpensive events, like a wedding.

The historic marker in Memorial Park is a stop on the Indiana Historical Markers tour, and offers a comfortable green space in the heart of downtown with a swing, benches and a drinking fountain to symbolize an historic one. The Electronic billboard is a reminder of upcoming events.

The Bristol Opera House attracts visitors from surrounding areas for the frequent plays and other presentations by the Elkhart Civic Theatre Group.

The Splash Pad in Cummins Park has become a very popular family destination with picnic tables, benches, and a covered pavilion for rent.

The pavilion in Hermance Park offers an inexpensive place to hold family reunions.

Social and Economic Factors (Possible Sources: US Census, StatsIndiana, Chamber of Commerce, City-Data.com, etc)

Total community Population: 1602

Community members median age: 36.4

Percentage of community living at or below poverty level: 13.1% (Indiana statistic)

Number of community members under the age of 5: 126

Number of community member over the age of 65: 230

Number of community members over the age of 5 with a disability: N/A

Breakdown of community by race: 87.9% White; 2.1% Black or African American
10.2% Hispanic or Latino (of any Race); 0.7% American Indian & Alaska Native.

1.5% Asian; 0 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander;

4.6% Some Other Race; 3.1% Two or more Races

Median Household Income: \$42,875. (from 2010 Census)

Largest Employers in Area:

Robert Weed Plywood, Utilimaster, Fabric Services, Satellite Industries, Monogram Foods, Hi-Tec Housing, Inc.

Discuss how these social and economic factors in the community affect the provision of parks and recreation:

Only 13.1% of community members live at or below the poverty level, according to Indiana statistics. The community consists of mostly working families and retired persons. There is a local elementary school and an average population of school aged children. Middle school and high school aged attend school in Elkhart, about 10 miles away. Due to an expanding industrial base, jobs are plentiful in the community with people relocating here for new jobs.

Bristol Parks offer walking paths with Doggie waste stations, basketball, tennis courts, fishing and boating areas which serve a wide range of ages. The Bristol Park Board sponsors a no-fee summer program for children ages kindergarden through age 12. The Splash Pad, playground equipment and picnic tables and benches at Cummins Park offers a no fee family activity destination, and the open picnic shelter can be reserved for a small fee. The Congdon Park Gazebo rents for just a \$50 fee. allowing for a very affordable wedding or reunion event. The Hermance Park Pavilion can also be rented for a reasonable fee by residents and a slightly higher fee by non-residents. Both working families and retired citizens are very active in the various park activities, including Friends of the Parks and the Homecoming Committee who plan and run these very popular annual events. In the Park Board survey of 2014, a number of Bristol residents expressed interest in becoming involved in volunteer nature, historical, musical and hobby based presentations in the parks.

The Park Board has also met with the Bristol Library and the Elkhart County Historical Society in regard to co-sponsoring programs such as discovering the history of Town and of your home, as well as coffee and tea Old-Timers discussion groups.

The Park Board has ordered handicapped picnic tables for the parks, and will actively continue to add ADA approved signage, equipment and ramps for the Parks.

Park Department Information and Facility Inventory

List all park properties owned and/or operated by the Community, and provide the following information for each one:

Hermance Park: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

Hermance Park is the River & Pavilion park and is located in downtown Bristol at the north end of Apollo Street, and north of S.R. 120 on the southeast side of the St. Joseph River.

The park includes a non-smoking pavilion with 2 restrooms. It may be rented out for various events, such as wedding receptions and family reunions, and is equipped with a kitchen, tables and chairs. 125 to 150 people can be accommodated at the facility

South and east of the pavilion is a grassy area with picnic tables on concrete slabs and new modern playground equipment. Four lights are used for evening recreation.

For many years, dating back to the early 1900's, Hermance Park was home for the Bristol Homecoming. (This well-attended event, comparable to a fair, is now held in Congdon Park, due to the growing attendance.) The Pavilion entrance became handicapped accessible with a ramp in 2012. A new smoking station and bench have been added at an appropriate distance from the pavilion.

A number of events are held in Hermance Park, including the yearly Bridge to Bridge race. The 2008 US Canoe Association National races were also held here. Kayakers and Canoe fans use the river access to paddle up the river to Michigan.

The no-fee Summer Children's Program is held in this Park for six weeks each summer with a director and assistant director.

The Town of Bristol is 762 feet above sea level, however, the five acre plot is lowland and can occasionally flood at times, limiting access to the playground equipment and parking lot.

Hermance Park and the adjoining I.D.N.R. owned St. Joseph River access share a parking area which consists of gravel and hard packed soil. The parking area begins off the east side of Apollo Street, approximately 15 feet south of the St. Joseph River and ends to the east, approximately 15 feet off the Little Elkhart River. The St. Joseph and Little Elkhart River conjoin behind the Hermance Park Pavilion. New Park rules signs were erected in 2013.

Disadvantages:

The wooden picnic tables are old and stained and need replacing with the new metal picnic tables like those now in Cummins and Congdon Parks. Area could use additional lighting. The parking area is small, considering the amount of boat traffic that frequents the river access. Park is lowland and can flood at times. A number of diseased Ash trees had to be removed from the Park. The Park Board has compiled a check list of changes/improvements to be made to comply with ADA Accessibility standards, including providing ADA approved paved access to the Pavilion and playground equipment from the Parking lot, and ADA approved signage in this and all parks. More handicapped picnic tables will be added. The ground cover for the playground area will need to be ADA approved material.

St. Joseph River Bristol Access Site Open daily from sunrise to sunset

This widely used access site has a cement boat ramp located on the St. Joseph River at the north end of Apollo Street. It is used by both visitors to the access site and Hermance Park visitors. The I.D.N.R erected a new improved ramp a few years ago. .

Four metal park benches are facing west in grassy areas for relaxation and fishing purposes along the St. Joseph River. Between the Little Elkhart River and the east end of the parking area is a picnic table and two portable restrooms, one handicapped accessible. There are two dumpsters for waste collection; one for the use of river access visitors and one for the Pavilion.

Disadvantages:

The parking area is relatively small and inadequate considering the large amount of boat traffic that frequents the area. Signs have been erected in the park to direct docking of boats. However, a traffic control plan needs to be implemented to ease the entering and exiting of the access site and park where Apollo Street meets Vistula Street (S.R. 120). Parking along north side of Vistula Street east on Apollo St. to St. Rd. 15 North needs to be controlled to prevent obstruction of traffic view of driver exiting onto Vistula Street from Hermance Park.

Congdon Park: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

Congdon Park is the Family and Events Park and home of the Bristol Homecoming Festival each year. It is located on the north bank of the Joseph River along N. Division St., directly northeast of the bridge. Factors that make this park appealing for the Homecoming include: the scenic view of the river and openness of the park, providing an ideal location for placement of rides and food booths. It was the 3rd Park, acquired by Bristol in 1987, to host the annual Homecoming.

It was named for Earl Congdon, whose family for three generations owned the Congdon Drug Store in down town Bristol. It is a four acre plot, part meadow and part woodland.

A wooden bandshell-style gazebo with a concrete floor hosts such events as weddings and parties and will hold approximately 40-50 people. Two wooden picnic tables and benches are located inside the gazebo. There are electrical outlets in the gazebo, and 3 electrical outlet centers are located on west side of the park by Division Street. The Gazebo can be reserved for \$50; the rest of the park is still open to the public.

A lighted asphalt walking path loops 1/4 of a mile around the perimeter of the park which includes frontage on the river. Doggie waste containers are located at each end of the loop. Two sets of modern playground equipment, including the Karsyn Bell Pirate ship are located in the park. New color-coordinated metal park benches, picnic tables and waste containers mounted on cement slabs are located near the play equipment and in other areas around the park. A wooden fishing platform is located at the south end of the park. There are both a regular and a handicapped restroom near the parking lot. A dumpster is nearby. New signage with park rules has been installed at each end of the park. There are woods along the perimeter of the park.

Public events held in the park include the annual July Homecoming, car shows, Pay it Forward event, Second Chance Dog Rescue events, Movies in the Park & others.

There are two accesses to the park. One is located on the far south side of the park and is accessible by foot only via a wooden staircase that leads to the path just north of the bridge. The other access is the paved parking area that has approximately fourteen parking spaces, including two handicapped spaces. The cement steps to the front of the gazebo were widened in 2013. The back of the gazebo is accessible at ground level.

Disadvantages:

There is no beach area, dock or landing along the river. The natural woodlands have been maintained behind the playground equipment to discourage children approaching the river. There is no foot ramp access directly off Division Street for disabled patrons or individuals with strollers. They must enter through the ground level parking lot area at the north end of the park. Part of the park is low land and can flood at times. After consulting with the DNR, portions of the river bank have been cleared of brush and poison Ivy to allow access to the river bank.

The Park Board has compiled a check list of changes/improvements to be made to comply with ADA Accessibility standards, including providing ADA approved paved access to the Pavilion, fishing pier, picnic area and playground equipment from the Parking lot, and ADA approved signage in this and all parks. More handicapped picnic tables will need to be added. The ground cover of the playground area will need to be of ADA approved material.

Cummins Park Open daily from sunrise to sunset

Cummins Park was acquired by Bristol in 1976 from land donated to the Town by Howard Rush in the early 1970's. Originally called Centennial Park, the name was later changed to honor Cloyce Cummins, long-time Bristol resident and former Bristol Fire Chief.

The Park is located in downtown Bristol directly behind the Elkhart County Historical Museum (Rush Memorial Center) on West Vistula St. (State Road 120), It is a 3 acre plot edging the south side of the St. Joseph River. The park offers a wooded view of the St. Joseph River accessible by foot only.

Man-made trails at one time led to the river through the wooded area for fishing or to enjoy a view of the river. The asphalt-paved parking lot is used by both Rush Memorial Center visitors and employees and Cummins Park visitors. There is a new graveled parking area located directly south of the tennis courts behind the newly installed Splash Pad (2013) and northwest of the Rush Memorial Center. Directly north of the parking lot and west of the tennis courts is a short asphalt road leading to the basketball courts. There is an open picnic shelter consisting of an concrete slab with a new metal roof.

The Splash Pad has four new color-coordinated metal picnic tables and four benches and two trash cans on cement pads in close proximity to the cement area of the water feature equipped pad. A small building on the west side of the Splash Pad contains the pump and electronic control equipment. The Splash Pad runs from 9am to 9pm during the season from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. There is a regular and a handicapped portable restroom at the site. A swing set was added in 2014. New signage was installed with the rules of the park in 2013. On the east end of the park is a Indiana Heritage designated Cathcart cemetery which is surrounded by a white picket fence. A Revolutionary War soldier is buried there. Handicapped picnic tables have been added.

Disadvantages:

Inadequate parking was alleviated in 2014 with the installation of a new paved lot. Access to view the river is difficult. Vegetation needs to be cleared and a walking path installed to replace a temporary one which has disintegrated. There is no playground equipment in this park, other than Splash Pad and a swing set. More picnic tables or benches need to be added inside the shelter to accommodate the crowds visiting the Splash Pad. The basketball court needs to be moved to Congdon Park for events there. The Tennis courts need some repair, and perhaps a backboard for single players.

The Park Board has compiled a check list of changes/improvements to be made to comply with ADA Accessibility standards, including providing ADA approved paved access to the Pavilion, fishing pier, picnic area and playground equipment from the Parking lot, and ADA approved signage in this and all parks. More handicapped picnic tables will need to be added. The ground cover of the playground area will need to be of ADA approved material.

Memorial Park Open daily from sunrise to sunset

Memorial Park is the Community Events Park, Bristol's fourth and latest park. The property for the park was acquired by the Town in July, 2004 and is located on the corner of State Rd. 120 and State Rd. 15 in the downtown area. The Park was named Memorial to honor such revered citizens as long-time Bristol High School teacher Tommy Thompson. A memorial plaque honoring Thompson is located there.

A colorful electronic sign detailing community events and activities is now prominently placed in the park in the green space on the busiest corner in town. A small gazebo containing a swing, is located here. There are metal benches and trash cans. A drinking fountain is in the park, reminiscent of the old-time drinking fountain located there years ago. Paved sidewalks provide access to the swing, benches and fountain.

Community presentations are held here, such as when a permanent Indiana Historical plaque commemorating a legal decision that involved Bristol in an Underground Railroad incident was installed.

Memorial is the smallest of the parks, only about 90 x 100 feet, but it is an oasis of green on this very busy corner. A sign with Park rules is posted.

Disadvantages:

There is no parking in the immediate vicinity, although a nearby lot, if it could be acquired by the town, could provide some parking or an expansion of the park. There are no restrooms, no picnic tables. Park sign needs to be updated to ADA standards.

Raber Golf Course Hours are set by Facility Management

Raber Golf Course is located on the south side of S.R. 120 west, on the outskirts of the Bristol Town limits. The golf course was donated to the Town in 1988 by Mr. Ra ber. It is a self-supporting facility, contracted to a manager who runs it.

The course is for the novice golfer, offering 27 holes, a modern clubhouse and pro shop which offers refreshments, motorized golf carts and putting greens. There is a open shelter to the west of the parking lot. It has a roof and a cement floor and picnic tables for use by for groups using the course. The rates are reasonable. There is a small meeting room in the rear of the clubhouse.

The course is at a good location for area residents of Elkhart County to attend without traveling a great distance.

Disadvantages:

Course is not too challenging. May need additional ball washers at all tees. The meeting room does not enough have tables or chairs for a group larger than eight. Al though considered park property, it is managed by an outside firm.

List the approximate yearly total budget by year for your department for the past several years.

This year: (2014) \$134,410.00

Last year (2013) \$130,002.00

The year before that: \$123,534.00

Major sources of budget and/or revenue: Property taxes & park rentals

Non-reverting funds helped build the Splash Pad. June and December releases of tax revenue is a negative factor in spending for park programs, since timing is off for park expenses during spring and summer months. Occasional donations from local citizens have been used to purchase some playground equipment.

Short list of discussion of other sources of recreation lands or facilities in or around your community:

Bristol Little League

Bristol's "Field of Dreams" was established in 1992. Paul and Pamela Nielsen donated about 25 acres located south of C.R. 8 and C.R. 27 to the league in 1991. There are five different fields that are reserved for T-ball, Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, Softball and Big League Senior Baseball. There is a concession stand which is staffed by parents and volunteers. There are restrooms. The adequate sized parking lot is dirt with a steel locked gate.

Disadvantages

Parking lot surface may need to be upgraded.

Bristol Elementary School Playground

The Bristol Elementary School is located at 705 Indiana Avenue. This is Bristol's only school located inside the town, and was built in 1956. It has been recently updated with newer modern play ground equipment.

Disadvantages

The playground not visible from the Main streets. There is uncertainty if the playground is open during non-school hours. Based on previous inquiries from the local elementary school principal, the Park Board will be scheduling a meeting with the local school system for arrangements for fully legal, official, public access to the school playground equipment during non-school hours. Park Board President Linda Powell will contact the school before school closes for 2015 summer vacation.

Bonneyville Mill County Park

The Bonneyville Mill Park is located 3 miles east of Bristol, Indiana. The park is open to the public year around for picnics, walking and winter sports, like cross-country skiing and sledding. The mill is open to the public from May through October 10am to 5pm. Guided tours may be scheduled Tuesday through Saturday. No fee. The annual one-day Mill Festival held in September does have a parking fee. For the past several years, a November Holiday in the Park was been held with mill tours, open gift shop, visits with reindeer. Kids' Crafts are held in the Old Schoolhouse also on the property. The Elkhart County Parks also hold a number of programs here during the year, such as a cast iron cooking event, a maple syrup education event, and various others.

Disadvantages

Park located 3 miles outside Bristol and no public transportation available. There are no bike or hiking trails leading from Town to the Park.

Bristol Teen Club

The Bristol Teen Club is located in the Open Door Center on the corner of W. Vistula Street and State Road 120 in a building opened by the Bristol Methodist Church. It is open for after school and summer and special events activities on selected days for teens, ages 12 and up. It is sponsored by the Church and offers homework assistance, video games, and other activities inside. There is an area for basketball practice available outside in the parking lot.

Disadvantages

It is only open limited days and hours.

Senior Activities at Bristol United Methodist Church

In coordination with the REAL Nutrition lunch program for those over 60 years of age, the Bristol United Methodist Church is open Monday thru Thursday during the afternoon for seniors who have gathered for lunch to socialize and play various games. The church is located in downtown on the corner of Vistula Street and State Road 120. There are also twice weekly senior exercise class held at their Open Door facility

Disadvantages:

The program is not available on Fridays, weekends or holidays.

Bristol Indiana (Washington Township) Public Library

The library offers a number of programs for children of all ages, including as well as teens, and a book club, craft/knitters group, and a writer's support group for teens as well as adults. Library is open from 10am-8pm Monday through Thursday, 10am-5pm on Friday, and 10am-3pm on Saturday. A Friends of the Library group sponsors fundraising events during the year, such as cupcake & pies contests, and book and holiday sales.

Disadvantages:

The library is closed on Sundays.

The Elkhart County Historical Museum and History/Genealogical Library:

The Elkhart County Historical Museum and History/Genealogical Library is located in downtown Bristol. A variety of programs and exhibits are provided for all ages. There is no fee to visit the Museum; but some programs do have small fees for participation. It is open from 9am-5pm Tuesday through Saturday and closed on Sunday and Monday. The Genealogical Museum has limited hours but is also available by appointment.

Disadvantages: The museum is closed on Sunday and Monday. The History/Genealogical Library has special limited hours. Not all the areas of the museum are air conditioned.

The Historic Bristol Opera House

The Bristol Opera House in downtown Bristol at 210 E. Vistula Street (St. Rd. 120) is owned and operated by the Elkhart Civic Theatre Group. During their yearly season, plays range from dramas, comedies, musicals and special performances. Other events are also held there during the year. Ticket prices are reasonable and there are discounts for students and seniors. The auditorium has 300 seats.

Disadvantages:

There is limited parking in the immediate downtown area. Not all the areas of the theatre are air-conditioned. More restrooms needed.

The Middlebury Indiana Park System:

Middlebury Indiana located about 10 miles east of Bristol, Indiana has an extensive Park System and many activities, including a yearly "Old Timers" gathering, a garden club, park programs and tours.

Disadvantages:

These events are at some distance from Bristol, There is no public transportation to attend the events.

Zion Church Monthly Free Breakfasts and Clothing give-away:

The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 20943 CR 6 in Bristol, Indiana. It offers a Cafe Compassion free community breakfast on the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30 to 10:30am. Also Clothed in Compassion clothing giveaway from 9am to noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

Accessibility and Universal Design

What programs and facilities in your park system are currently accessible?

Some facilities are at ground level, and a ramp has been provided to access the Hermance Pavilion. Handicapped picnic tables have been recently added. However, the Park Board has prepared a check list of accessibility issues to be added to the Plan as budgeting allows. See Needs Analysis and Action Plan for more details.

What methods does your park board or department use to notify the public about ADA's nondiscriminatory requirements, and accessible facilities programs and services in your park system?

Current Park accessibility information is made available at the Town Hall or in brochures.

New information is supplied to the local media.

Who on your staff would a member of the public contact if they had a question, comment, or issue with accessibility in your park system, programs, or activities?

Name/Job Title: Linda B. Powell Park Board President

Address: 303 E. Vistula St., Bristol, IN 46507

Phone number: 574-848-1707

E-mail: asasgrandma@gmail.com

A hard copy with original signatures of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 504 Accessibility Compliance Form will be sent in to the DNR-Outdoor Recreation Local Master Planner when this plan is finalized: Has the Form been signed, dated, and a hard copy sent in to DNR-OR? Yes. Park Board has compiled a check list of those accessibility issues that must be addressed and has added them to the five year plan and beyond for making those changes as they can. The Park board has received documents containing the latest ADA accessibility guidelines to use in making changes and updates and is aware of what changes and improvements need to be made.

Public Participation NOTE: IDNR-OR requires at least one random public input method (a survey) and one non-random method (stakeholder interviews or public meeting):

Bristol Park Board chose to do a random public input survey

Random Question Public Surveys were distributed in June, July and August of 2014, with a return date of August 15, 2014. 100 surveys were distributed at the Town Hall, Bristol Library and businesses in Bristol. Surveys were also distributed at the 100th Celebration Party for the Town of Bristol in August, 2014 at the Town Hall. The surveys were advertised in the local print and online newspapers: Ellkhart Truth, Bristol Bugle and Bristolsun.com during July and August. They were also advertised on the Town Electronic Sign during the survey period. Survey was also published online at Bristolsun.com.

50 public surveys were completed and summarized.

A synopsis of the comments from the Random Public Survey.

Random Public Survey: In the last 12 months, 60% have used Congdon Park, 40% Cummins, 32% Hermance, and 16% Memorial. Respondents mentioned using the parks for Weddings, reunions and picnics. 16% rated the parks Excellent, 68% good, 16% average and 2% poor. They suggested including new programs such as Nature/Wildlife Education and Historical Programs, as well as combining Environmental Education in conjunction with the Bristol Elementary School. Music and Movie events in the parks were another activity the respondents would like to see more of in the Parks. 34% wanted to see a Fitness Park/Exercise Programs, and 22% would like to improve the walking trail at Cummins Park. They stressed having programs and trails wheelchair accessible. Some thought a skate park would be good for teens.

Bristol Park Board chose to do stakeholder interviews to meet the 2nd requirement, since Town Meetings are sparsely attended.

Number of Stakeholder: people/groups interviewed: 22 Stakeholders interviewed at their offices or places of business during the months of October and November, 2014. There were high levels familiar with the Bristol Parks: 100% Congdon, 85% Cummins and Hermance, and 65% Memorial and would recommend the parks to their clients customers. 85% were familiar with the July Homecoming and 65% for the Splash Pad and 60% for the weddings or reunions. Pavilion Kitchen upgrade need was identified.

Negative issues in the Parks: No baseball diamond, park river bank improvement, no tie-up area for boats, need more/better restrooms, limited activities for adults, activities not all that well publicized, need wildlife programs, need direct phone line in park to fire and police departments, free wi-fi connection needed, more trash cans, tennis courts repair, high pavilion rental cost, better lighting, need upgrade park signage.

Positive Issues in the Parks:

Clean, airy and well-kept, lots of improvement lately - keep up the good work; nice playground equipment and facilities; Good trash receptacles and playgrounds; Splash pad very well cared for; great place for families to spend time together; Parks are clean; everything close to center of Bristol; like the fishing pier; safe place; park buildings very reasonable to rent; summer program for kids positive and keeps them busy; beautiful river, good playgrounds and splash pad, pavilion, tennis courts and basketball court.

Improvement suggestions: Nature/Wildlife programs, Historical events, story swapping grounds, horticulture, wine tasting in the park, work with Civic Theatre for movies and music events.

Stakeholder surveys were advertised along with Random Public surveys in local media during summer of 2014. Stakeholder interview was online and available at Town Hall & Library.

Public Meeting to present Plan to Bristol Indiana Town Council.

A Public meeting was held to present the draft of 5 year plan to Town Council and the Public at regular monthly Town Council meeting on December 18, 2014 at 7pm at Town Hall. There was a final followup special Park Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 6pm at the Town Hall. The public was invited to review a draft of the Bristol Parks 5-Year Plan at that time. Notice of this meeting (which will replace regular monthly Park Board meeting of Jan. 14, 2015) was posted at the Town Hall 48 hours before the meeting. Written Notice of this meeting was provided on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2014 to local media: The Elkhart Truth and the Bristol Bugle.

Due to extremely bad weather (a huge snowstorm that evening) only 3 members of the Public came to the meeting to review the 5-year Plan. Their suggestions were to renovate the stairway into the Park and to replace and update the Park signs. These are repairs that are already planned for Spring, 2015. The plan was posted on the Town Website for download and a copy to review was available to pick up at the Town Hall. Based on many informal discussions with community residents, the Park Board received very favorable comments regarding the list of needs and plans for action.

All the Public suggestions have been reviewed to determine that they have all been either added or were on the current list to do or for future consideration.

Needs Analysis

Your community's total acres of local parks and recreation land is: approx 14 Acres. Your community's total population by the most recent US Census is: 1602 people. Top five most common needs or desires expressed by the public are:

1. Permanent or better Restrooms.
2. Upgrade Walking Trails
3. Upgrade Kitchen at Hermance Pavilion
4. Institute more park programs to draw public participation, such as Nature/Wildlife, Movies & Music.
5. More sports activities, could be baseball, exercise equipment, skate/bike park.

The top five most common needs or desires as listed by the park board/park staff:

1. Permanent or better restrooms
2. Upgrade Kitchen at Hermance Pavilion
3. Upgrade walking trails & continue to upgrade benches, picnic tables and trash cans and support bike trail from Bristol, Indiana to Middlebury, Indiana.
4. Repair Tennis Courts and move basketball court to Condgon Park.
5. Attract more members for Friends of the Park and Volunteers for activities.
6. Continue to update checklist for park improvements to meet as many as possible of the current ADAPark accessibility standards. Pick specific items to work on based on budget and resources available.

If your community could list just one large "dream" amenity or facility (regardless of cost) to create in the next ten years, what would it be?

Provide permanent or better restrooms for all the parks. "Dream" project's name and possible location: Rough guess cost estimate for the "dream" project? \$100,000.

Community Map showing location of Parks (Possible sources: MapQuest,

Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, Local/County GIS Office/Planning Department) Attach a single-sheet 8-1/2" x 11" map to the final version of this plan, and highlight the locations of your parks, as well as any future potential sites for parks. See Pg. 29 for Google Map.

Priorities and Action Plan Schedule: Public input has been factored into this list.

Using both your public input and park board top five lists of expressed parks and recreation needs, combine the two lists to create a single top priority list (maximum of ten priorities) of action items, and list them in rough priority order below (#1 being the highest priority, down to #10 being the lowest priority):

1. Permanent or Better Restrooms at Cummins Park
2. On-going placement of pathways, metal benches, handicapped picnic tables, trash cans, playground equipment and ground surface and updated signs to meet current ADA standards of Accessibility in a planned and organized way based on the budget.
3. Tennis Court Resurfacing
4. Upgrade kitchen & ceiling at Hermance Park
5. Restore walking trail at Cummins Park and support future bike trails from Bristol Indiana to Middlebury, Indiana.
6. Fitness Park at Cummins Park or Hermance Park
7. Move Basketball Court to Congdon Park
8. Bike/Skate Park at Cummins or Hermance Park
9. Support establishment of recycling area for brush and limbs to make into mulch.
10. Irrigation from river of Town Parks

Year	Site of work	Action taken	Cost Estimate	Potential Source of Funds
2015	Cummins	Drawings for Restrooms & quote	\$65,000	Potential Donor & Volunteer work
2015	All Parks	On-going placement benches, picnic tables and trash cans	\$4,500	Park equipment fund
2015	Cummins	Tennis courts repair and resurfacing & possible backboard	\$12,000	Park Repair fund
2015	Hermance	Upgrade kitchen & ceiling at Hermance Park Pavilion	\$10,000	Maintenance Park fund
2016	Cummins	Get quote Restore Walking Trail along river	\$15,000	Maintenance Park fund
2016	Cummins or Hermance	Get quote for Fitness Park	\$100,000	New equipment fund and/or donors
2017	Cummins	Move basketball court from Cummins to Congdon	\$30,000	Maintenance Park fund
2018	Cummins or Hermance	Get quote for bike/skate park	\$50,000	New equipment fund and/or donors
2019	To be determined	Support establishment of recycling area for brush and limbs to make into mulch.	\$10,000	Maintenance Park fund
2017	All Parks	Irrigation of all Parks	\$6,500	Maintenance Park fund
On-going	All Parks	In early 2015, Park Board made checklist of the changes and improvements that need to be made to provide On-going placement of pathways, metal benches, handicapped picnic tables, trash cans, playground equipment and ground surface and updated signs to meet current ADA standards of Accessibility. 1st project for 2015: Order more handicapped accessible picnic tables . 2nd project for 2015: Determine what sign changes need to be made. 3rd project: Draw up a detailed plan for addressing each of the accessibility issues for the parts listed by the most necessary with estimated costs and timelines.	As funds are budgeted and available.	Maintenance Park Fund and donations from the community.

Final Public Presentation of the Plan

After the plan has been finished up to this point, it's time to have the public verify that they agree with all the previous public input and the resulting action plan. To do this, simply set aside time during the next regularly scheduled park board meeting for public comment, and invite the same participants from your earlier public input methods to return, listen to the final results of the plan, and provide their final comments.

-Time and date of final public presentation of the plan: Special & Regular Park Board Meeting Jan. 7, 2015 - -Location: Bristol Town Hall - 6pm
- Number of members of the public in attendance: Discuss/List the primary comments made by the public during the meeting here: (1-2 paragraphs or a bulleted list)

Due to extremely bad weather, only 3 members of the Public came to the meeting to review the 5-year Plan. Their suggestions were to renovate the stairway into the Park and to replace and update the Park signs. These are repairs that are already planned for Spring, 2015.

FINAL PAPERWORK:

A hard copy with original signatures of the park board resolution adopting the plan should be sent in to the DNR-Outdoor Recreation (DNR-OR) Local Master Planner when this plan is finalized: Has the form been signed, dated, and a hard copy sent to DNR-OR (Circle one answer) YES - Will be included with Submission.

An example of the form is in the appendices of the "IDNR Planning Guide for Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans" available for free download online at:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/2603.htm>.

Locations of Present Bristol, Indiana Parks - Jan. 2015

Source: Google Maps, 2015.

