



Town of Bristol Parks Master Plan Public Open House Summary Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Stations

The Bristol Park Board held a public open house at the Bristol Public Library to receive the community's input about Bristol parks for the update of their 5-Year Parks Master Plan. There were 26 attendees of the open house, most of the attendees being Bristol residents with a couple that either live or work in Elkhart County outside of Bristol. There were six stations for participants to provide their input. The first four stations were dedicated to a Bristol Park that asked attendees to write down new amenities they would like to see added to the park and existing park features that need to improve/enhance. The fifth station used feedback frames for participants to indicate their support for potentially new park programs or activities. The sixth station was to support the Bristol 2030 Comprehensive Plan that had participants indicate what they would like to see in Bristol in 2030.

A summary of the public's input are provided below for each of the stations.

1. **Grand Vision of Hermance Park**

New Amenities:

- Wetlands and bird habitat
- Piers for fishing
- Hold adventure races
- Kayak club and/or center
- Beach area for kids
- Bee or bird garden
- Place for paddleboard (sup) 'parking'

Improvements to the Park Features:

- Remove the IN DNR ramp
- Improve building for events – receptions
- More river access for both boats and kayaks (separate accesses)
- Maybe a better sign to the park so it entices people to drive down
- Grassy area for picnics
- Rentals for kayaks and boats

2. Grand Vision of Cummins Park

New Amenities:

- New kid's climbing equipment
- Movie in the Park
- Tennis league
- Convertible courts for multiple sports
- Restrooms
- Large climbing wall
- Music on the River
- Friday night food truck
- Music on river

Improvements to the Park Features:

- More handicap accessible picnic tables and equipment
- More bike type exercise equipment
- Fitness in the park (yoga, cardio drumming, pilates)
- Pickleball
- A lot of dead trees need down
- In-ground sprinkler system

3. Grand Vision of Memorial Park

New Amenities:

- Art shows
- Flea market, craft fairs
- Decorate Main Street for Holidays
- Fountain
- Farmer's Market
- Pretty lights at night

Improvements to the Park Features:

- Buy the lot next to the park and expand the park
- Add more memorial signs to honor Bristol residents, famous or influential
- Nicer benches
- More lights
- Have tree lighting and decorate here for everyone to see, not at the fire station
- New sign to sit higher to be seen from entire intersection

4. Grand Vision of Congdon Park

New Amenities:

- Music on the river
- Movie night
- Develop the riverbank for a canoe and kayak landing
- Restrooms
- Road races/bike races
- Music on the river
- Disc golf course
- Family fun nights
- More equipment for kids
- Stuff for teens like a skate park
- Bee or bird garden
- Food trucks

Improvements to the Park Features:

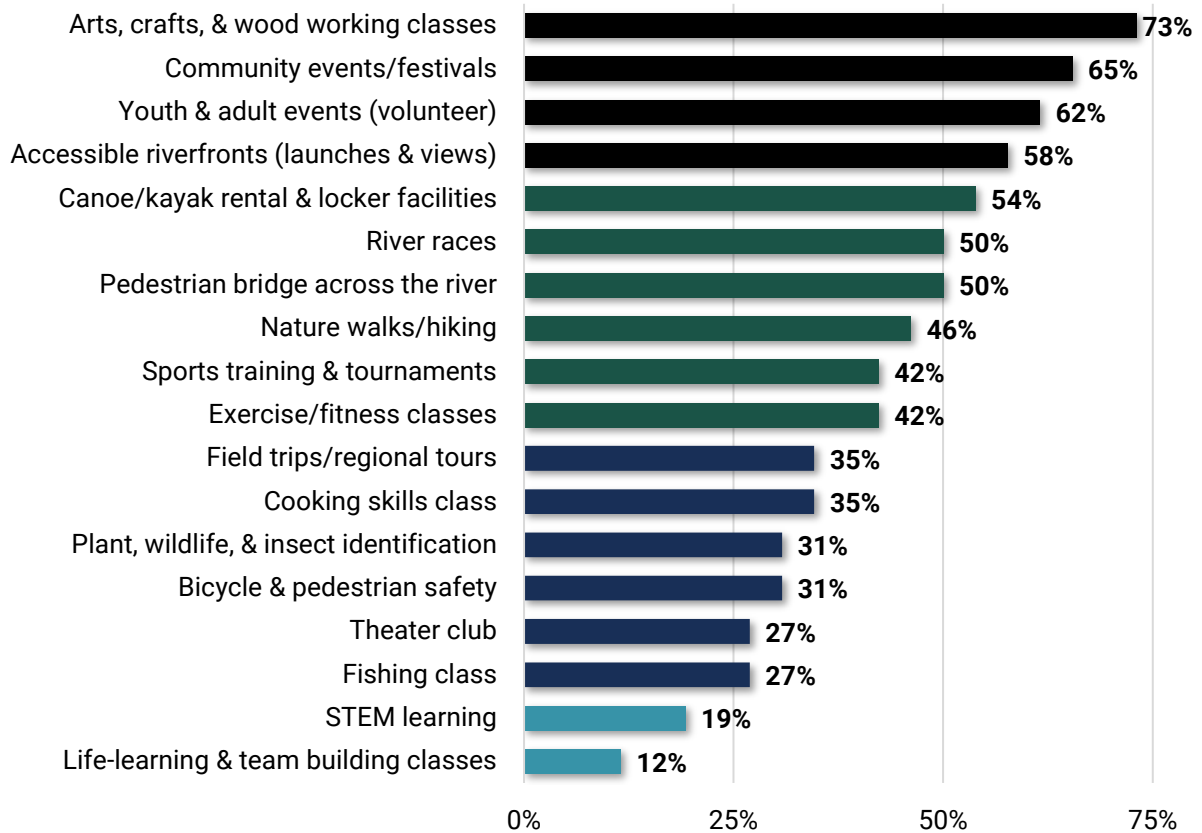
- More landscaping
- Make the river more accessible and keep park woods removed
- Better lighting
- Steps repaired
- Information boards
- Hire outside contractor to do repairs
- Summer program for children

5. Grand Vision of Bristol Parks – Programs & Activities

The next station asked participants to indicate their support for new Parks programs and activities by sliding small tokens into the slots provided on the feedback frames. There were 18 programs or activities provided on the feedback frames. The proposed programs and activities were identified from the Park Board members and the community's response to a public input survey question that asked what type of programs they would like to see Bristol Parks provide for the community. Participants were asked to drop one token per slot and could vote for their support for as many of the 18 programs or activities as they wished. The chart below summarizes the public's support for the new programs or activities they would like to see Bristol Parks provide. The top four programs or activities the 26 participants would like to see Bristol Parks provide were:

- Arts, crafts, and wood working classes (73%),
- Community events/festivals (65%),
- Youth and adult events-volunteer opportunities (62%), and
- Accessible riverfronts-launches and views (58%).

What is your "Grand Vision" of Bristol Parks?



Grand Vision of Bristol in 2030 – WOW/NOW

The last station participants provided their input on was asking their grand vision of Bristol in 2030, what they would like to see in Bristol in 2030. This station supported the Bristol 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Participants were asked to write down one thing they would like to see in Bristol as the "WOW" using a blue sticky note and then wrote down what's preventing that thing from happening today as the "NOW" using an orange sticky note. For reference, below are the responses participants said were their WOWs and their corresponding NOWs.

WOW	NOW
1. Entertainment center – live shows	Money
2. Restaurants: good food	Red tape
3. Bike trail through Town	Funding & resistance from property owners

WOW	NOW
4. Fix the south corner "Bump Out" at SR 15 & Vistula St	INDOT unwilling to work on it
5. Food trucks @ parks	Is there a permit?
6. Piers, dock access from river to Main Street	Landscape and access from Main Street
7. Restaurant (sit down, not fast food) for evening	Demand
8. Coffee shop/bakery	Demand
9. Update/maintain fire hydrants	Money and people power ("manpower")
10. Decorate Main Street for Holidays	Money and manpower
11. Downtown restaurant (fine dining)	No dining that works as "dinner and show"
12. Redbox	Lack of leadership and funding
13. Food trucks in Town	Lack of vision
14. Nice restaurant/bar	N/A
15. Decorate for the Holidays	N/A
16. Real pharmacy	N/A
17. Event center for receptions	N/A
18. Pedestrian friendly Main Street with festivals, market, and events	Finish the bypass (we have the money)
19. Clean up Laurents general store	Communication and volunteers

Common Themes:

- Variety of quality restaurants or sit down establishments (coffee shop/bakery) in Town/downtown – 5 people
- Vibrant "Main Street" & Decorate for Holidays – 3 people
- Event center – 2 people
- Food trucks in Town or Parks – 2 people
- All other responses (bike trail, SR 15/Vistula intersection, access to river from Main Street, update fire hydrants, redbox, pharmacy, clean up general store) – 7 people

6. Next Steps

The next scheduled Parks Master Plan Steering Committee meeting will be March 9, 2020 at 5 PM in the Bristol Public Library Meeting Room.

7. Open House ended at 8 PM.