



2024-2030

Master Plan

Our Future is Bright

DRAFT



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Chapter I

Introduction

Mission

Bristol Parks strives to keep the town beautiful, giving residents a place for recreation and relaxation

The Town of Bristol has many assets and features that makes it an attractive place for individuals, families, and businesses to call home. The town is positioned off the St. Joseph River that enhances the community's quality of life with picturesque views and recreational opportunities.

Throughout the year, residents can enjoy the several community parks, town events and festivals and discover all that Bristol has to offer. The town also is home to many manufacturing industries that contributes to economic development opportunities in Elkhart County. These quality of life assets and features will continue to play a vital role in attracting and retaining residents and businesses.

More people are valuing and choosing to live in a community that supports a lifestyle and quality of life that appeals to them rather than the type of jobs available in that area. Although the Town of Bristol does have many assets and features that can appeal to prospective residents and businesses, it is imperative that the Town look to enhance these assets to a higher quality and build those desirable recreational amenities that people value to make Bristol a more attractive place to live, work, and play.

Chapter I

Introduction

Purpose of the Master Plan

As the Town looks to grow and define its community image, it is imperative that a detailed review of the Town's parks and recreational facilities be done to establish a comprehensive view of the opportunities and challenges the community needs to offer a high-quality hometown for its residents. The Bristol Park Board understands the need to update their five-year parks master plan to reflect the current conditions and community's aspirations.

These plans will prioritize the community needs, gauge their vision and aspirations and serve as a guide to the Town to ensure new amenities, facilities, and programs supports the interests and needs of the community. The Parks Master Plan should be used to guide the Town of Bristol to plan and program for high-quality parks and recreational services. The plan analyzes the Town's existing conditions that includes social and economic factors, natural and cultural features, historical assets, and other elements that affect the usage and needs of Bristol Parks. Public engagement is important to provide guidance on how they currently use the parks and future aspirations to use the parks.

Chapter I

Introduction

Definition of Planning Area

The Town of Bristol is one of five towns located in Elkhart County, Indiana. The land area of Bristol includes approximately 4 square miles in Washington Township.

Bristol parks and outdoor recreational lands make up approximately 161 acres of the town's land area. The planning area consists of the Bristol Town limits and a 10-mile radius to include Washington Township and parts of York Township, and Edwardsburg, Michigan.

Nearby cities include Elkhart, Goshen, Nappanee, Warsaw, Plymouth, Mishawaka, South Bend, and Edwardsburg, Michigan. Nearby towns include Middlebury, Wakarusa, Millersburg, New Paris Syracuse, Winona Lake, Bremen, Bourbon, LaPaz, Lakeville, Osceola, and Roseland.



Chapter II

Existing Conditions

CONTEXT

The landscape of Elkhart County, Indiana was formed over 12,000 years ago following the last ice glacier melt. This melt caused Elkhart County to have a flat, slowly draining marshes and swampy conditions. According to the Physiographic Division of the Indiana Geological Survey of Indiana University, Elkhart County resides in the Northern Moraine and Lake Region, and is primarily within the St. Joseph River Basin. The River Basin drains into Lake Michigan and ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean.

NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

The major water resource in the Town of Bristol is the St. Joseph River. The St. Joseph River traverses from Michigan, enters Elkhart County near the Town of Bristol, through the northern portion of Elkhart County, and flows into Lake Michigan. Other water resources include the Little Elkhart River and Menges Ditch. The Little Elkhart River flows east to west through Bristol on the north side of Vistula Street/State Road 120 into the St. Joseph River. Menges Ditch starts near the Industrial Park on Earthway Boulevard and runs west through Elkhart County and eventually flows into the St. Joseph River.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

The terrain in Bristol varies in topography that is divided by the St. Joseph River. Areas south of the river sit on a bluff above the St. Joseph River. Areas of the town that are north of the river are on lower land and experience frequent flooding during heavy rainfalls. In particular, Hermance Park frequently floods.

The 2018 flooding in February severely damaged the park pavilion. Majority of the pavilion was underwater and necessitated for replacement of the refrigerator, stove, tables, chairs and other interior items. The Town lost substantial revenue from rentals of the pavilion and was forced to cancel the Summer Program. The Town plans to construct a new pavilion at a different site.

The climate of Bristol, like other communities in northern Indiana, can drastically change within a season. The annual average rainfall in Bristol is approximately 39 inches. This may bring high humidity levels in the summer and frequent rainfalls throughout the spring and fall seasons. The average high temperature in the summer is 83 degrees Fahrenheit with July typically being the hottest month. The average low temperature in the winter is 17 degrees Fahrenheit with January being the coldest month. The first freeze typically occurs in the beginning of October and the last freeze typically occurs at the beginning of May.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL FEATURES

In the charming Town of Bristol, you'll discover a treasure trove of historical gems:

- The majestic Solomon Fowler Mansion at 1105 W. Vistula Street is a stunning example of Italianate architecture, proudly the only historic home on the National Register of Historical Places.
- St. John of the Cross Episcopal Church at 601 E. Vistula Street is another proud member of the National Register of Historical Places.
- Memorial Park not only offers serene beauty but also tells tales of Underground Railroad bravery. It's a must-visit spot on the Indiana Historical Markers tour, paying tribute to the esteemed Tommy Thompson, a beloved former teacher.
- Indiana Heritage Cathcart Cemetery is a resting place for pioneers like the Cathcarts and Nicholsons, brave soldiers from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.
- Bristol-Washington Township School, a.k.a. Bristol High School, has its own spot on the National Register of Historical Places. Once a bustling hub of education, it now houses the Elkhart County Historic Museum, echoing with stories of the past.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Bristol Public Library is a haven for bookworms, snug in the heart of downtown Bristol. Bursting with 41,000 books, plus free Wi-Fi, tech labs, and movie nights, it's a hub of wisdom for all ages. Kids can dive into book clubs and artsy fun, while groups can snag the meeting room for their own gatherings.

But wait, there's more! The legendary Bristol Opera House steals the spotlight, wowing crowds for over a century! Run by the Elkhart Civic Theatre, this majestic spot serves up dramas, comedies, musicals, and special spectacles, treating 300 lucky peeps to a front-row pass to pure magic.

Enter the Elkhart County Historic Museum & Genealogical Library – a treasure trove nestled in downtown Bristol, once home to Bristol High School. Free to roam, this museum sees 6,000 history buffs yearly, boasting publications, research digs, educational programs, and exhibits flaunting over 30,000 artifacts and 100,000 documents. Dive into 20,000 years of Elkhart County's tales! Plus, it's a pit stop along the Elkhart County Heritage Trail, flaunting a quilt garden that switches up its patchwork design yearly.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Bristol Homecoming – This three-day community event takes place in July at Congdon Park and is recognized as one of Indiana's oldest festivals, dating back to 1883. Activities include a parade, carnival rides, food, arts and crafts, the selection of a Homecoming Queen, the Persons of the Year Award, and ends with a firework display over the St. Joseph River. This event typically attracts 7,000 to 10,000 attendees annually.

Trucks / Treat

Christmas Tree Light Ceremony – the Tree Light Ceremony gathers over 150 community members. The lighting ceremony occurs at the Bristol Fire Department on the corner of Washington Street and Elkhart Street. Attendees can meet Santa Claus, write letters to Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and amazing cookies.

In September, - the town hosts the Annual Corn Dog Festival sponsored by Monogram Foods, the largest corndog producer in the US.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Population Trends

	Decennial Census				Annual estimates	
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2021	2022
Bristol	1,133	1,382	1,602	1,789	1,788	1,787
Twnship	5,136	7,019	6,945	6,892	6,918	6,930
Elk County	156,198	182,791	197,559	207,047	207,066	206,890

Bristol’s population growth has slowed primarily to lack of new housing. The rapid expansion of manufacturing and other commercial growth has raised land prices to levels which make residential use difficult cash-flow. The Town’s comprehensive plan envisions residential growth north of the river and is interested in facilitating residential growth.

Race and Ethnicity

The Town of Bristol, Washington Township, as well as Elkhart County’s population has been classified as predominately White over the last decade. Bristol’s African American population, though, saw a small incline from 2010 to 2017, while its Asian population decreased very minimally. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and American Indian and Alaska Native populations remained virtually the same from 2010 to 2017.

The Hispanic population in Bristol represents approximately 8 percent of the community residents that had a 23 percent increase between 2000 and 2017.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Disability

Bristol has 14.2 percent of its population classified as disabled (higher rate than Washington Township and Elkhart County), and of those classified as disabled, 4.8 percent are 65 years or older.

Poverty

Bristol's poverty rate (based on population for whom poverty status is determined) increased from 5.9 percent in 2000 to 10.2 percent in 2012 and again to 15.1 percent in 2017. Of the 15.1 percent, children under the age of 18 had the highest percentage increase at 28.1 percent. Bristol's poverty rate is higher than both Washington Township's (10.4 percent) Elkhart County's (13.8 percent) but near the state's which is 14.6 percent. The poverty rate of Hispanics or Latinos in Bristol Town is significantly lower than Elkhart County (24.4 percent) and state (25.6 percent) at 7.7 percent.

Educational Attainment

From 2000 to 2017, the percent of high school graduates has decreased minimally by 1.6 percent. Bristol holds the highest percentage of individuals who are high school graduates or higher at 89.3 percent. The Township shows estimated potential to approach the state average (24.6 percent) for bachelor's degree or higher in 2017, with a projected 22.9 percent. Both the statistics for high school graduates and bachelor-degree holders are higher in Washington Township than in Elkhart County as a whole. Bristol has the highest percentages of individuals ages 25 years and older with some college experience or an associate degree (24.7 percent) in comparison to the Township and county.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Housing

Housing Types – According to the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates, the majority of units (79.3 percent) are single-family detached. Less than two (2) percent of housing is single-family attached, majority of these homes likely reflecting condominiums. 3.4 percent of Bristol’s housing stock is multi-family housing with three or four units. The Town does have approximately seven (7) percent with 10 or more units.

Occupancy Rates & Tenure – The percentage of occupied housing units in Bristol decreased from 96.4 percent in 2000 to 82.5 percent in 2010 but increased again by 2.3 percent in 2017. Similarly, occupancy trends in Elkhart County reflect the Town’s, decreasing from 94.8 percent in 2000 to 90.3 percent in 2010 with a slight increase (1.4 percent) in 2017. The vacancy rate in the Town of Bristol increased 4.7 percent between 2000 (3.6 percent) and 2017 (15.2 percent). Vacancy rates in the Washington Township area increased approximately 4.7 percent from 6.7 percent in 2000 to 11.4 percent in 2017. The percentage of owner-occupied housing units increased 7 percent from 57.9 percent in 2000 to 65.1 percent in 2017. Alternatively, the percentage of renter-occupied housing units decreased 7.2 percent from 42.1 percent in 2000 to 34.9 percent in 2017. The Washington Township has seen an opposite trend in its housing tenure with a decrease by 4.1 percent in the percentage of owner-occupied housing units and a 4.1 percent increase in renter-occupied housing units.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Housing -continued

Homeowner vacancy rates in Bristol increased by 1.5 percent from 1.3 percent in 2000 to 2.7 percent 2010. The rental vacancy rate increased substantially by 25.2 percent from 3.4 percent in 2000 to 28.6 percent in 2010. However, in 2017, the Town was recorded have a 14.7 percent vacancy rate for both renters and 7.5 percent homeowners.

Average Household Size & Households by Type – The average household size in Bristol has declined only slightly since 2000. The Town’s average household size was 2.56 in 2000 and declined to 2.47 in 2017. This is lower than the national average (2.64) and state average (2.55). According to the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates, approximately 64 percent of occupied housing units are occupied by one (1) or two (2) people (31.6 percent 1-person and 32.6 percent 2-person). The number of non-family households grew over 7 percent from 31.7 percent in 2000 to 38.8 percent in 2017. The percentage of families with children decreased by 4 percent from 29.6 percent in 2000 to 25.6 percent in 2016. The percentage of families with no children, however, increased by four (4) percent from 70.4 percent in 2000 to 74.4 percent in 2017.

Chapter II

Existing Conditions

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Housing -continued

Household Income – Household Income is an indicator of economic health in an area or population, and is the total income of all persons living in a household over the age of 15. Although the majority of households in Bristol earn less than \$50,000, the share of earnings in the same cohort has been increasing since 2000. Households earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 in the Town have steadily been declining but there was a slight upturn for households in the Washington Township between 2000 and 2017. The share of households earning between \$100,000 and \$199,999 increased notably in Bristol, the Washington Township, and Elkhart County. Similarly, households earning \$200,000 or more increased by nearly two (2) percent in Bristol between 2000 and 2017, and increased by over three (3) percent in the Washington Township.

Jobs to Household Ratio – The jobs to household ratio gauge the distribution of employment opportunities and workforce (those actively employed) population across a geographic area. A ratio between 1.0 and 1.5 indicates a community has approximately an equal balance of jobs and housing. A ratio of less than 1.0 indicates a community has more housing than jobs; whereas, a ratio greater than 1.5 indicates a community has more jobs than housing

Chapter III

Parks & Recreation

Facilities

HERMANCE PARK

Located on 2.5 acres off the St. Joseph River, north of Vistula Street, Hermance Park is known as the “River & Pavilion Park.” Hermance Park was the Town’s first park in 1959 and was donated by the then Bristol Conservation Park. This park offers a nonsmoking pavilion with two handicap accessible restrooms, and a fully equipped kitchen that can be rented out for events such as wedding receptions and family reunions. Approximately up to 150 people can be accommodated in the pavilion. Other amenities include picnic facilities, a fishing pier, and a canoe/kayak/boat launch site. The Town held the Summer Children’s Program at Hermance Park that runs for six weeks during the summer. A disadvantage of this location is the park is located in a lowland and experiences frequent flooding during heavy rainfalls. The Town currently does not have floodplain management systems or remediation in place in the event of a flood at the parks. This causes limited access to the playground equipment and parking lot. The Town is pursuing to conduct a feasibility study of Hermance Park to evaluate the park experience and needs. Although there are handicap accessible restrooms at Hermance Park, there are several barriers limiting the access for those with a handicap or disability. There are no sidewalks from the parking lot to the playground equipment and there are no accommodations to make the canoe/kayak launch handicap accessible. The Town needs to install ADA approved signage and provide ADA compliant picnic tables. Lastly, the groundcover for the playground area needs to be upgraded to ADA approved material.

Park address: 300 E. Vistula Street

Chapter III

Parks & Recreation Facilities

HERMANCE PARK BOAT LAUNCH

The Hermance Park Boat Launch is a 1,755 square foot concrete launch site with two ramps located on the St. Joseph River at the end of Apollo Street. Ramps are accessible to launch a canoe, kayak, and small boats and enjoy a 25-mile paddle trip of scenic views to the City of South Bend, and an additional 48 miles through Michigan to Lake Michigan. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) owns the Canoe/Kayak Launch. The Town would like to see the ramp enhanced to accommodate those with disabilities. Apollo Street is partially an asphalt road and turns to gravel at the drive entrance to the parking lot. The parking lot is a small-unpaved lot with benches positioned along the river for park users to enjoy the scenic views of the river and watch the wildlife. There are several aspects of the Hermance Park Boat Launch the Town would like to see improved to improve the user's experience. First, the parking area is small and inadequate to serve the volume of users wanting to access the launch. Second, although the Town installed signage to direct users in docking their canoes, an on-site traffic control plan needs to be implemented to mitigate the pinch points at the entrance/exit of the access site and park where Apollo Street meets Vistula Street.

Park address: 300 E. Vistula Street

Chapter III

Parks & Recreation Facilities

CUMMINS PARK

Located on 3.5 acres, behind the Elkhart County Historical Museum, Cummins Park is known as the “Sports & Splash Pad Park.” Cummins Park is the second town park built in 1976 and named after long-time resident and former Bristol Fire Chief, Cloyce Cummins. Known as the “Sports Park” for its inclusion of pickle ball courts and a full-size basketball court. Cummins Park also features a 0.2 asphalt walking trail that loops around the park. A splash pad complete with six sprayers and is open to the public from 9 am to 9 pm between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. A swing set was installed in 2014 and signage noting the park rules. An historical feature remains in Cummins Park known as the Indiana Heritage Cathcart Cemetery. This historical cemetery contains the graves of two of Bristol’s early pioneers, the Cathcart’s and the Nicholson’s, who also served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The Park has portable handicapped accessible restrooms.

Several improvements are needed to enhance the experience of park users. Improvements include offering better views of the river, adding more picnic tables, and repairing the basketball and tennis courts surfaces. ADA improvements include adding an accessible playground equipment, surface material underneath playground equipment, and adding paved pathways from the parking lot to the pavilion, splash pad, and other park amenities.

Park address: 400 W. Vistula Street.

Chapter III

Parks & Recreation

Facilities

CONGDON PARK

Located on 5 acres north of the St. Joseph River off North Division Street, Congdon Park is known as the “Family & Events Park.” Congdon Park was the third Town park built in 1987, named after the long-time Congdon family. Congdon Park is the largest Town Park and home to the popular Bristol Homecoming Festival held in July. Additional town events include the Movies in the Park, car shows, and others.

Users can take advantage of the park’s open space to enjoy scenic views from all angles of the Park of the St. Joseph River. Congdon Park features a wooden bandshell-style gazebo capable of hosting wedding and other family parties that holds up to 50 people and cost \$50 reserve. Congdon Park is open to the public. The gazebo contains several electrical outlets. Near the Park’s entrance there are three electrical outlet centers for live performances. Congdon Park also features a 0.25-mile asphalt trail that loops around the park’s perimeter to take advantage of the river frontage, as well as a pedestrian access point off Division Street with a wooden stairwell. There are pet waste containers and lampposts along the trail as well. There are two modern playground equipment including the Karsyn Bell pirate ship, park benches, picnic tables, park usage signage, and a wooden platform fishing pier to fish in the St. Joseph River.

There are several aspects of the park that need to improve. Additional ADA upgrades include paved pathways to the playground equipment and back entrance of the pavilion. Additionally, make upgrades to the surface material underneath the playground equipment. This part of the community sits in a lowland and can experience flooding during heavy rainfalls.

Park address: 200 N. Division Street.

Chapter III Parks & Recreation Facilities

MEMORIAL PARK

Located at the busiest intersection in downtown of West Vistula Street and State Road 15, this 0.28-acre urban park is the Town's fourth and smallest park. Known as the "Community Events Park" for being the designated location for many of the Town's events and special community presentations. Amenities include an electronic messaging sign, a gazebo with a swing, benches, walkways, and a water fountain. The park received its name to honor long-time residents of Bristol. One honoree is a teacher at the former Bristol High School, Tommy Thompson. Another historical feature is the commemorative plaque (part of the Indiana Historical Markers tour) regarding a court case of an Underground Railroad incident in Bristol.

There are several disadvantages with Memorial Park as there is no public parking available in the immediate vicinity. There are no restrooms or picnic tables.

Park address: 81 E. Vistula Street.



Chapter III

Parks & Recreation Facilities

RABER GOLF COURSE

Raber Golf Course is a Town-owned public golf course that offers 150 acres of three 9-hole courses of varying greens and fairway conditions. The Raber Golf Course property was designed by John Raber and opened in 1967. Raber Golf Course features a clubhouse, pro shop, open shelter with picnic tables, and a corporate meeting room. The pro shop features a selection of clothing, shoes, bags, clubs, and accessories. The facility also has practice putting greens. There are no tee-times and the course offers nice greens and fairways that are great for beginner golfers.

Golf Course Address: 1417 W. Vistula Street.

LIEBER NATURE PRESERVE

Lieber Nature Preserve, also known as “Pipewort Pond Nature Preserve,” is a 135-acre state-protected nature preserve located off County Road 23 north of downtown Bristol and the Indiana Toll Road. The Preserve features a cranberry bog, wildlife viewing, broadwalk, and a variety of Indiana’s endangered and threatened plant species. The Preserve also features a nature study and a 1.5-mile hiking trail that loops around the native prairie habitat. The preserve is open for public use. The Indiana Division of Nature Preserves of IDNR owns the Nature Preserve.

Lieber Nature Preserve address: 51737 County Road 23, Bristol, Indiana.

Chapter IV

Park Facilities maps

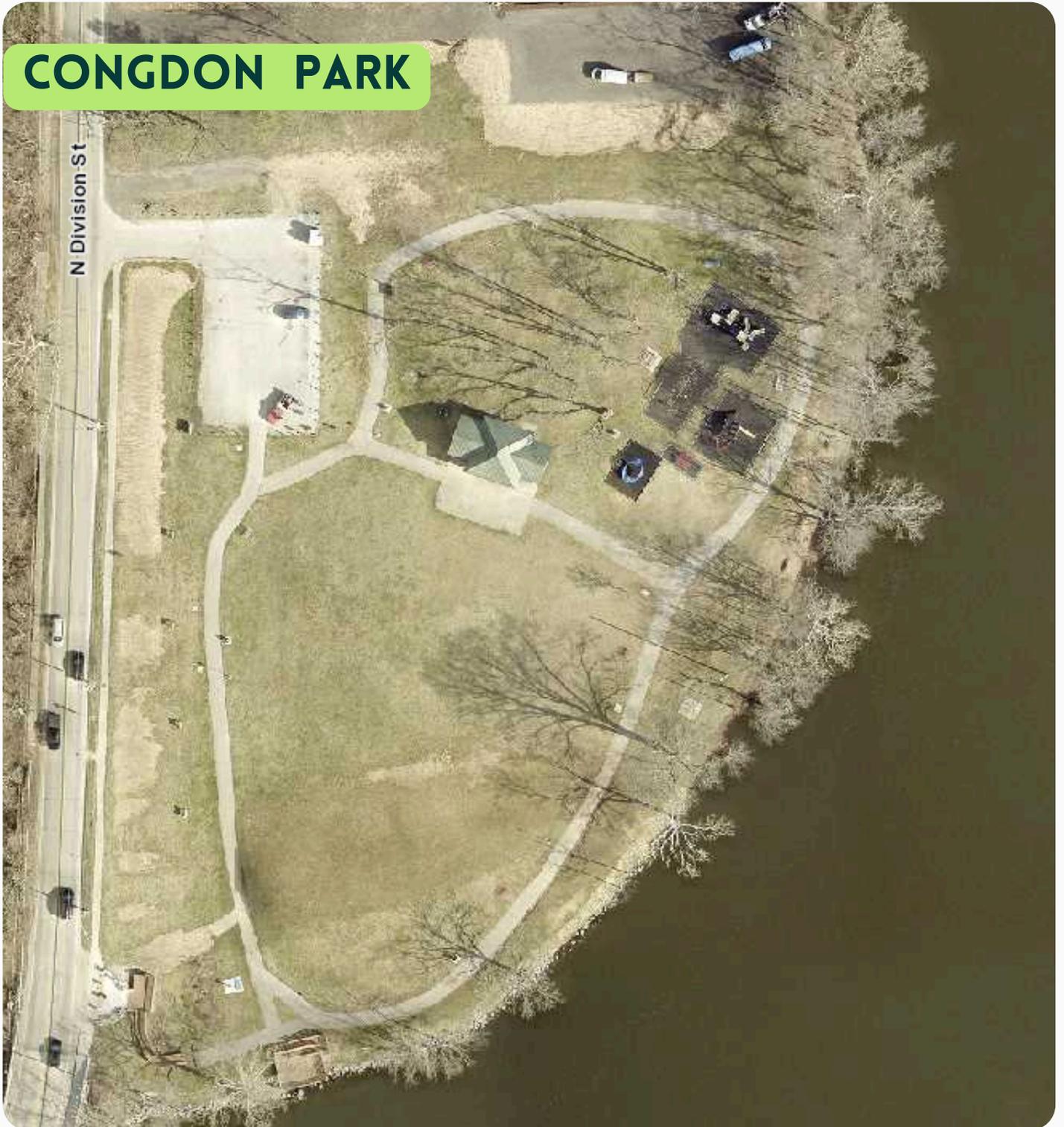
CUMMINS PARK



Chapter IV

Park Facilities maps

CONGDON PARK



Chapter IV

Park Facilities maps

HERMANCE PARK & BOAT LAUNCH



Chapter IV

Park Facilities maps

MEMORIAL PARK



Chapter V

Public Participation

Public input meeting was held on September 5, 2024 at the Bristol Public library.

Draft plan was available on the Town website for public review and opportunity to submit ideas.

Needs Analysis

ACREAGE & PARKLANDS LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

According to the 2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review, the Town of Bristol should have approximately 10 acres of land for outdoor recreation use per 1,000 residents and one park for every 2,181 residents served. The Town of Bristol's population in 2018 was 1,686 residents (2018 Census Annual Population Estimate) and the population for the service area, which includes Washington Township, in 2018, was 7,269 residents (8,955 total). According to the population projections provided in the Town's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the Town's population is projected to grow to 1,819 residents and 7,436 residents in Washington Township (9,255 total). Using 2019 aerial photography and Elkhart County parcel records, the Town's four parks and public golf course totals approximately 161 acres of land for recreational use. There is an additional 382 acres of recreational lands provided in the service area that includes: 222-acre Bonneyville County Park and 135-acre Lieber Nature preserve.

Using the NRPA Acreage and Park LOS standards, the Town would need approximately 92 acres of land for outdoor recreation use and four to five parks in the service area based on their current and projected population. The Town of Bristol has adequate amount of acreage for outdoor recreational use with 543 acres of recreational land and six parklands in the service area. NRPA Park Metrics suggests park agencies should also have an annual operating expenditure per capita of \$78.69, have a revenue to operating expenditure of 27 percent, and eight full-time employees per 10,000 residents.

Chapter VI

Needs Analysis

PARKS & PROGRAMMING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Additional needs analysis was conducted utilizing a summary of the Park Board's identification of improvements needed and the public's responses from the survey and public open house. During the development of the plan, the Park Board hosted meeting to identify the areas of Bristol Parks needing improvements. The kickoff meeting to the planning process had the Board identify their aspirations for Bristol Parks and identify what is preventing that from being a reality. The common items mentioned was to get the summer program active again and conduct a feasibility study to repurpose Hermance Park to accommodate it frequently flooding. A second meeting was held to identify what the Park Board thought were the major challenges for their park and recreation system and the goals to address those challenges. This accomplished in a "round robin" style that each Park Board member stated major challenges and goals.

Chapter VI

Needs Analysis

Top Priority needs include:

- Make the river more accessible at the parks
- Create a new position with the Town of Bristol to oversee the management of Bristol Parks
- Continue to upgrade park and recreational facilities and amenities to be ADA accessible for all user needs
- Evaluate the best use of the parks that experience frequent flooding and mitigate the impacts
- Restructure the Bristol Summer Program

Chapter VII

Action Plan

It is the mission of the Bristol Park Board to create a park and recreational system that is accessible to all residents, supports active living lifestyles, and is attractive to draw new families and individuals to call Bristol home. Providing a high-quality park system will enhance Bristol's quality of life and vibrancy and show why Bristol is more than a working community but is a high-quality hometown. This chapter provides the framework for realizing Bristol's grand vision of their park and recreational system with specific recommendations addressing the community's challenges and programmatic and event enhancements. Recommendations were identified from the public input survey, the public open house, and the Steering Committee-Park Board meetings. Concluding this chapter is the priority action schedule to guide the Park Board over the next five years in implementing the action strategies and acquiring funding from applicable sources.

Chapter VII

Action Plan

CUMMINS PARK

PROPOSED AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

- Create a surfaced parking lot
- Expand the splash pad features and concrete base
- Install shade sails over seating areas
- Install a new climbing wall
- Organize fitness and aerobic classes such as yoga, cardio drumming, and Pilates.
- Continue to upgrade park and recreational facilities and amenities to be ADA accessible for all user needs
- Organize various events and festivals that may include art shows, craft fairs, a farmer's market, food trucks, movies-in-the-park, and music performances
- Establish a regular landscaping maintenance program that evaluates tree removal, removal of overgrown brush, and replanting of landscapes,
- where appropriate Install new landscaping, seating, lighting, art and decorations, informational boards, and permanent restroom facilities
- Install an in-ground sprinkler system
- Larger Parking area
- Improve playground equipment fall zones
- Resurface basketball court

Chapter VII

Action Plan

CONGDON PARK

PROPOSED AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

- Expand the playground equipment to be accessible for toddler-aged children
- Continue to work toward ADA compliance
- Replace playground fall zone
- Replace fishing platform
- Explore the feasibility to add a disc golf course
- Continue to upgrade park and recreational facilities and amenities to be ADA accessible for all user needs
- Organize various events and festivals that may include art shows, craft fairs, a farmer's market, food trucks, movies-in-the-park, and music performances
- Establish a regular landscaping maintenance program that evaluates tree removal, removal of overgrown brush, and replanting of landscapes, where appropriate
- Install new landscaping, seating, lighting, art and decorations, informational boards, and permanent restroom facilities
- Install an in-ground sprinkler system
- Remodel or replace pavilion
- Remodel kayak launch
- Repair Pavilion

Chapter VII

Action Plan

HERMANCE PARK

PROPOSED AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

- Conduct a multi-year plan development to study the best use for the park space
- Enhance the fishing pier area
- Create a center to support a canoe/kayak rental system and locker facilities
- Continue to upgrade park and recreational facilities and amenities to be ADA accessible for all user needs
- Establish a regular landscaping maintenance program that evaluates tree removal, removal of overgrown brush, and replanting of landscapes, where appropriate
- Install new landscaping, seating, lighting, art and decorations, informational boards, and permanent restroom facilities
- Assess the riverbank to provide access to the St. Joseph River for a canoe/kayak launch
- Wetland planting project
- Increase parking area

Chapter VII

Action Plan

MEMORIAL PARK

PROPOSED AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

- Expand and improve the park by acquiring the contiguous properties to the alleyway
- Install new landscaping, decorative lighting, and seating
- Continue to upgrade park and recreational facilities and amenities to be ADA accessible for all user needs
- Organize various events and festivals that may include art shows, craft fairs, a farmer's market, food trucks, movies-in-the-park, and music performances



Action Plan Schedule

BRISTOL PARKS & RECREATION ACTION PLAN

MEMORIAL PARK

Action strategy	Estimated Costs	Time frame
Coordinate with the property owner to purchase the adjoining parcels to expand and enhance Memorial Park	\$15,000	2025

CUMMINS PARK

Action strategy	Estimated Costs	Time frame
Resurface Basketball court		2025
Splash Pad drainage improvement		2024 fall

Action Plan Schedule

BRISTOL PARKS & RECREATION ACTION PLAN

CONGDON PARK

Action strategy	Estimated Costs	Time frame
Expand the playground equipment to be accessible for toddler-aged children	\$15,000	
Upgrade the pavilion		

HERMANCE PARK

Action strategy	Estimated Costs	Time frame
Increase parking area		2025

Action Plan Schedule

BRISTOL PARKS & RECREATION ACTION PLAN

GENERAL PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Action strategy	Estimated Costs	Time frame
Create a Town Parks Manager position	\$35,000	
Enhance the communication and promotion of parks using informational boards, Facebook, publications, and word of mouth	\$15,000	
Organize various events and festivals that may include art shows, craft fairs, a farmer’s market, food trucks, movies-in-the-park, and music performances		
Install new landscaping, seating, lighting, art and decorations, informational boards, and permanent restroom facilities		
Evaluate the best use of the parks that experience frequent flooding and mitigate the impacts		Time frame
Establish a landscape maintenance program that evaluates tree removal, removal of overgrown brush, and replantings		