

SECTION 15 PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreational opportunities and natural areas are important amenities that are a measure of and enhance the quality of life in the community. Vanderburgh County has over 2,740 acres that are developed as parks. Most of this land is within the City limits of Evansville. In addition to the existing park land, other recreational sites are provided through the private sector and schools. The existing facilities are described below.

STATE FACILITIES

In the Evansville Metropolitan Statistical Area, there are two state parks and two fish and wildlife areas that provide recreation opportunities to the residents of the region. A brief description of these facilities is provided below.

HARMONIE STATE PARK

Located in Posey County south of New Harmony on the Wabash River, was established in 1966 and contains 3,465 acres. Activities and facilities available include trails, camping, 11 family cabins, picnic areas and shelters, Olympic-size swimming pool, a boat launch, and interpretive programs.

HOVEY LAKE STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

Located in Posey County southwest of Mt. Vernon, is a natural area nestled in the Ohio and Wabash River floodplains. The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife began acquiring this property in 1940. The Hovey Lake area now covers approximately 6,963 acres and features a 1,400 acres oxbow lake, other smaller sloughs, marshes and extensive bottomland hardwood forests. Activities include hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife watching.

BLUE GRASS STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

Located on the border of Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, is a unique natural resource area; this land is a reclaimed strip mine. The Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area covers approximately 2,532 acres and features about 28 pits and lakes (600 acres of water). Activities include hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK

Located on U.S. 41 in Henderson County, Kentucky, contains 692 acres. Activities and facilities available include campgrounds, cottages, picnic shelters, trails, challenge course, 9-hole golf course, John James Audubon Museum and Nature Center, and interpretive programs. The museum houses a unique collection of Audubon's watercolors, oils, engravings, and personal memorabilia.

COUNTY PARKS

BURDETTE PARK

Located in unincorporated Perry Township, is the sole County Park. This 200-acre facility offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities, some of which are a dirt bike racing track, water slides, archery range, camping pads, overnight rental chalets, and an open air pavilion which can accommodate up to 1,000 people. Party houses are also available for rent, as well as the Discovery Lodge, which can accommodate up to 650 people. The long-range plan for the Park in cooperation with the University of Southern Indiana (USI), includes a paved bicycle and pedestrian trail which would extend from the Park to the USI campus.

CITY PARKS

While built to serve City residents, several of the facilities attract users from the County, as well as the surrounding area. The City of Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provides nearly 2,170 acres of public parks and recreational facilities. The park and open space system inside the City limits is based on the Original City Plan of 1926 by Harland Bartholomew which provided the framework for the core concept: Evansville as a City in a Park.

The extensive properties the Parks Department manages and maintains are listed by their addresses, acreage and attributes on Table 15-6 and shown on Map 15-9. The park locations are classified by function, size, and facilities.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Classification System for park and recreation facilities categorizes park facilities according to size and the population that is served by the facility. According to the NRPA Classification criteria, the City Department of Parks and Recreation operates:

- 7 Regional Parks that include 2 boat launches, ice rink, soccer complex;
- 11 Community Parks that include baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields and swimming pools;
- 5 Golf Courses that include 2, 18-hole and 3, 9-hole courses;
- 30 Neighborhood Parks - with baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, rollerdrome and swimming pools;
- 2 Nature Preserves - a mature hardwood forest and a wetland;
- 2 segments of the Pigeon Creek Greenway, currently 3.2 miles long; and
- 1 Special Use Facility – C.K. Newsome Community Center.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional Parks are defined as facilities that offer visitors the opportunity to spend an entire day or weekend enjoying a variety of activities/amenities and experience a change of environment. The NPRA standards recommend a desirable park size of 50 acres, with 75 acres optimal. A typical regional park would be located within an hour's drive and often serve adjacent communities. Some of the regional parks in the City system are:

MESKER PARK ZOO

Located on the City's west side and sits on the highest point within the City limits. Called the "zoo with a view", this 67-acre facility offers naturalistic wild animal exhibits with over 700 animals representing over 200 species. Opened in 1928, the Zoo has the distinction of being both the oldest zoo in Indiana and the largest in land area. It is also an accredited facility by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. The Zoo has its own Master Plan.

MESKER MUSIC AMPHITHEATER

The amphitheater is adjacent to both Helfrich Golf Course and Mesker Zoo. The seating capacity is 5,500 with an additional 3,000 capacity on the lawn. While publicly owned, the Amphitheater is privately managed by SMG, to book and promote events.

ROBERTS MUNICIPAL STADIUM

Was built in 1957 and renovated in 1990. The seating capacity of the facility is 13,000 and the parking lot has 4,000 parking spaces. While publicly owned, the stadium is privately managed by SMG, to book and promote events.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are defined as those having several amenities that allow a visitor to spend a half-day. Typically, community parks are strategically located throughout the community, and allow group activities and recreational opportunities, often serving several neighborhoods. Community parks should have good access from primary and collector roads, and be linked together by the greenway network.

GOLF COURSES

Golf courses provide specialized, land-intensive facilities. The larger Evansville courses are developing several naturalized areas to accommodate more wildlife. The public courses are in comparable condition to the private courses, and fees are competitive. The Evansville area is well served by the availability of both public and private golf courses. In addition to the four public owned golf courses and two public par three courses, there are four private golf facilities. Helfrich, Fendrich and McDonald's golf courses are adjacent to regional or community parks, which offer an opportunity for providing combined park experiences. Should

a new regional park be developed, a new golf course would not have to be included because the community is currently well served for golf facilities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and are the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They often create a 'sense of place' that unites the unique character of the site and neighborhood. Typically, neighborhood parks are at least five acres. Ease of access, and a reasonable walking distance from adjacent neighborhoods are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. Frequently, neighborhood parks are developed adjacent to a school site in order to share facilities. Given the importance of location, new neighborhood park sites should be integral to the development process and connected to other system components.

NATURE PRESERVES

Natural resource areas and corridors are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources. Nature preserves in Evansville include the old-growth forest at Wesselman Woods and the wetlands in Howell Park.

WESSELMAN WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

This National Natural Landmark and State Nature Preserve encompasses the eastern 200 acres of Wesselman Park. The nature preserve offers six miles of marked nature trails through bottomland hardwood forests and successional fields. A section of the historic Wabash and Erie Canal crosses the preserve. The Wesselman Woods Nature Center also has indoor displays, a hands-on area, wildlife observation area, library, classrooms, and a gift shop. The Center is owned by the City and operated by Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve Society, a non-profit organization.

CLEM FRANK NATURE PRESERVE

A three-acre woodland deeded to the Four Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area (Four Rivers RC&D). Placing the Preserve in a land trust, guarantees that it will never be disturbed. The Western Terrace Neighborhood Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Four Rivers taking responsibility for the maintenance of the Preserve.

CORRIDORS

The Greenway as a corridor is a continuous open space system linking neighborhoods, community facilities, parks, and other open spaces providing:

- bicycle and pedestrian routes for recreation;
- restoration of the ecological balance of the corridor's natural systems; and

-- amenities and attractions that encourage both local use and tourist visitation.

The proposed Greenway system for Evansville, when fully developed, will provide over 40 miles of 10-12 foot wide paved off-street paths and natural resource corridors. A 1994 Greenway Master Plan outlines a development process and identifies funding mechanisms for implementing a phased greenway development program.

PRIVATE-NON PUBLIC PROGRAM

There are many examples of cooperation by the Department of Parks and Recreation with the private sector. Concession stands at activity centers within the parks system are operated privately. Concession rights are granted by bid and a percentage of the gross income is returned to the Department. Examples of other areas that are under contract to the private sector are golf courses, driving ranges, and batting cages.

ASSESSIBILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements became effective on January 26, 1992. All new facilities designed and constructed must be accessible. Physical barriers in existing public accommodations must be removed if readily achievable. If not, alternative methods of providing services or equivalent experiences must be offered if those methods are readily achievable. The Parks Department continues to address accessibility criteria.

TABLE 15-6: INVENTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATION SITES

MAP	PARK/FACILITY NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	COURT	FIELD	PLAY-GROUND	POOL
	SPECIAL FACILITIES:						
1	C. K. Newsome Community Center	Heidelbach Ave. & Walnut St.	.5	X		X	
	CORRIDORS:						
2	Pigeon Creek Greenway & Canoe Launch	Pigeon Creek at Heidelbach/along levee	1.6 miles				
3	Riverfront	Riverside Dr.	13.5 (1.5 miles)				
	REGIONAL PARKS:						
4	Angel Mound Boat Launch	Lynn Rd.	29				
5	Burdette – County Park	Nurrenbern Road	160	X	X	X	X
6	Dogtown Boat Launch	Old Henderson Road	23				
7	4-H Center	W. Boonville New Harmony Rd.	192	X	X	X	
8	Goebel Soccer Complex	N. Green River Rd., N of Heckel Rd.	68		X		
9	Mesker Amphitheater & Zoo	Mesker Park Dr.	573			X	
10	Roberts Stadium, Swonder Ice Rink, & Hartke Pool	Division St. & Boeke Rd.	3				X
	COMMUNITY PARKS:						
11	Bosse Field	N. Main St. & Morgan Ave.	.5		X		
12	Evansville State Hospital Grounds	Vann Ave. & Lincoln Ave.	63		X		
13	Garvin & Pool	Heidelbach Ave. & Morgan Ave.	87	X	X	X	X
14	German Township Booster Club	Big Cynthiana Road	9.5		X		
15	Howell & Pool	Barker Ave. & Broadway Ave.	50	X	X	X	X
16	Igleheart & Lloyd Indoor Pool	N. 1 st Ave. & Campground Rd.	87	X	X	X	X
17	Kleymeyer & Driving Range	N. 1 st Ave. & Diamond Ave.	101		X	X	
18	McCutchanville Community Assoc.	Petersburg Rd., N of Viehe Dr.	26		X	X	
9	Mesker	Mesker Park Dr.	*			X	
19	Moutoux	St. Joe Ave.	113		X		

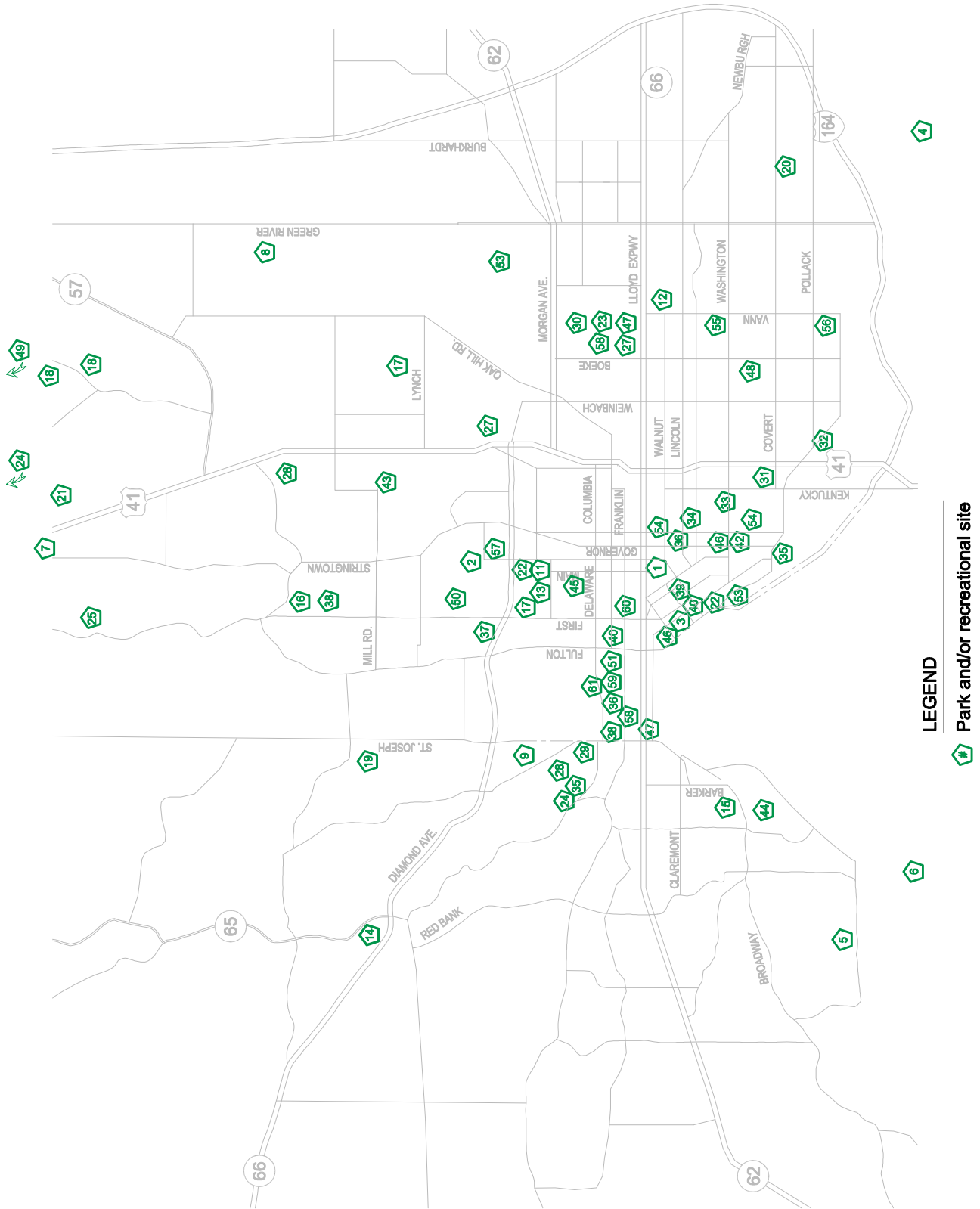
MAP	PARK/FACILITY NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	COURT	FIELD	PLAYGROUND	POOL
20	Price	Covert Ave., E of Green River Rd.	25		X	X	
21	Scott Civic Club	Radio Ave.	22	X	X	X	
22	Sunrise	Waterworks Dr. & Veteran's Memorial Pkwy.	8			X	
23	Wesselman	N. Boeke Rd.	75	X	X	X	
	GOLF COURSES:						
24	Cambridge -18 holes	Off U.S. 41 N and Volkman Rd.	166				
25	Clearcrest Pines - 18 holes	Darmstadt Rd.	105.78				
26	Eagle Valley - 18 holes	Petersburg Rd.	117.09				
27	Fendrick -18 holes	Diamond Av. & U.S. 41 N	110				
28	Hamilton - 9 & 18 holes	Petersburg Rd.	200				
29	Helfrich -18 holes	Mesker Park Dr.	169				
15	Howell - 9 holes-par 3	Barker Ave. & Broadway Ave.	40				
30	McDonald - 9 holes	E. Morgan Ave., E of Villa Dr.	100				
23	Wesselman - 18 holes-par 3	N. Boeke Rd	**				
	NATURE PRESERVES:						
15	Howell Wetlands	Tekoppel Ave. & Broadway Ave.	20				
23	Wesselman Woods	N. Boeke Rd.	200				
	NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS:						
31	Akin	Parkside Dr. & Taylor Ave.	9	X		X	
32	Anthony Oates & Pool	Sunburst Blvd. & Beech Dr.	5	X		X	X
33	Bayard	S. Kentucky Ave. & Bayard Park Dr.	10			X	
34	Bellemeade & Carver-Ridley Rollerdomes, & Rochelle Pool	Morton Ave. & Lincoln Ave.	10	X	X	X	X
35	Caldwell	S. Governor St. & Sweetser Ave.	1	X		X	
36	Casselberry	9 th Ave. & W. Virginia St.	1			X	
37	Diamond Valley	4 th Ave. & Fulton Parkway	6	X		X	
38	Eleventh Ave.	11 th Ave. & W. Virginia St.	2	X		X	
39	Fourth and Main	Fourth Ave. & Main St.	.1				
40	Fulton	Fulton Ave. & W. Franklin St.	5	X		X	

MAP	PARK/FACILITY NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	COURT	FIELD	PLAYGR OUND	POOL
41	Golfmoor	Golfmoor Road	15	X	X	X	
42	Goosetown Mini	Putnam St. & Jefferson St.	.25			X	
29	Helfrich & Pool	St. Joseph Ave. & Maryland St.	12		X	X	X
43	Homestead	Evergreen Ave. & Homestead Ave.	1		X	X	
44	Howell Mini	Broadway Ave. & Emerson St.	.5			X	
45	Jacobsville Mini	Baker Av. & W. Maryland St.	.4			X	
46	Line Street	Line St. & Bellemeade Ave.	.1			X	
47	Little Westside Nut Club	11 th Ave. & W. Indiana St.	2	X		X	
48	Lorraine & Pool	S. Boeke Rd. & Adams Ave.	5		X	X	X
49	Scott Township	Schlensker Rd.	34.32				
50	Sheridan	Sheridan Rd., S of Fairway Dr.	3		X	X	
51	Sixth Av.	6 th Ave. & W. Virginia St.	3			X	
52	Stevenson	Cherry St. & S. Morton Ave.	.6			X	
53	Stockwell	Stockwell Rd., N of Theatre Dr.	10	X	X	X	
22	Sunset East	Sunset Ave. & Adams Ave.	3.3			X	
54	Tepe & Pool	S. Garvin St. & Monroe Ave.	2		X	X	X
55	Vann	Vann Ave. & Bayard Park Dr.	3			X	
56	Vann-Pollack	Vann Ave. & Pollack Ave.	10	X	X	X	
57	Vectren Treescape	Heidelbach Ave. & Olmstead Av.	1			X	
58	Westside Library	W. Franklin St. & Wabash Ave.	3				
59	Westside Nub Club (Lamasco Skate Pk.)	7 th Ave. & Columbia St.	9.2		X	X	
60	Willard Library	1 st Ave. & Division St.	3				
	TOTAL ACRES		3127.64				

* Part of Mesker Regional Park

** Part of Wesselman Community Park

Parks & Recreational Sites



PARK ACREAGE ASSESSMENT AND PROJECTED NEEDS

Residents of Evansville and Vanderburgh County have an estimated 3,781 acres of land available for recreational use in the immediate area. This total acreage is a combination of land in the City and County park systems, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, private schools and universities, state recreation areas and private facilities as shown in Table 15-10A.

TABLE 15-10 A: PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION ACREAGE: 2004

	City	Unincorp. County	Total
Acres in Park System	2,126	160	2,286
Acres in School District	258	27	285
Acres at Private Schools & Colleges	350	150	500
Acres in State Areas	<u>210</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>710</u>
TOTAL	2,944	837	3,781

A general standard for the desired amount of open space has been established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). This acreage standard recommends that 25 acres of parks/open space be provided per 1,000 people. Table 15-10B shows the current and projected land needs to meet the NRDA standard. When comparing the total park land in the County with the acreage recommended based upon the standard, the County could have a projected deficiency of 308 acres by Year 2025. The development of the Pigeon Creek Greenway and park acreage to be purchased should significantly increase the amount of park land. However, the County and the City are still expected to be short of the recommended parks/open space standard.

TABLE 15-10 B: ACREAGE REQUIRED TO MEET NRPA OPEN SPACE STANDARDS*

	2004	2025
City of Evansville	3,039 Ac.	n/a
<u>Vanderburgh County</u>	<u>4,298 Ac.</u>	<u>4,606 Ac.</u>

*Standard based on the requirement of 25 acres per 1000 population.

Additional land for recreational use is provided through an agreement with the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. This agreement between the Parks Department and School Corporation allows joint use of school facilities for after hours and for summer recreational use (Page 13-7, Schools).

NEED FOR NEW PARKS

Unincorporated Vanderburgh County is severely lacking in park facilities. Burdette Park, the only public park in the County, is a quality regional recreation center. However, one large park facility cannot fulfill the recreational needs of all County residents. Several smaller, strategically located neighborhood parks are needed to provide public recreation areas and open space within reasonable walking distance from higher density residential areas. The preferred location for these parks is in or near the suburban area, so that these new facilities will be accessible to many County residents.

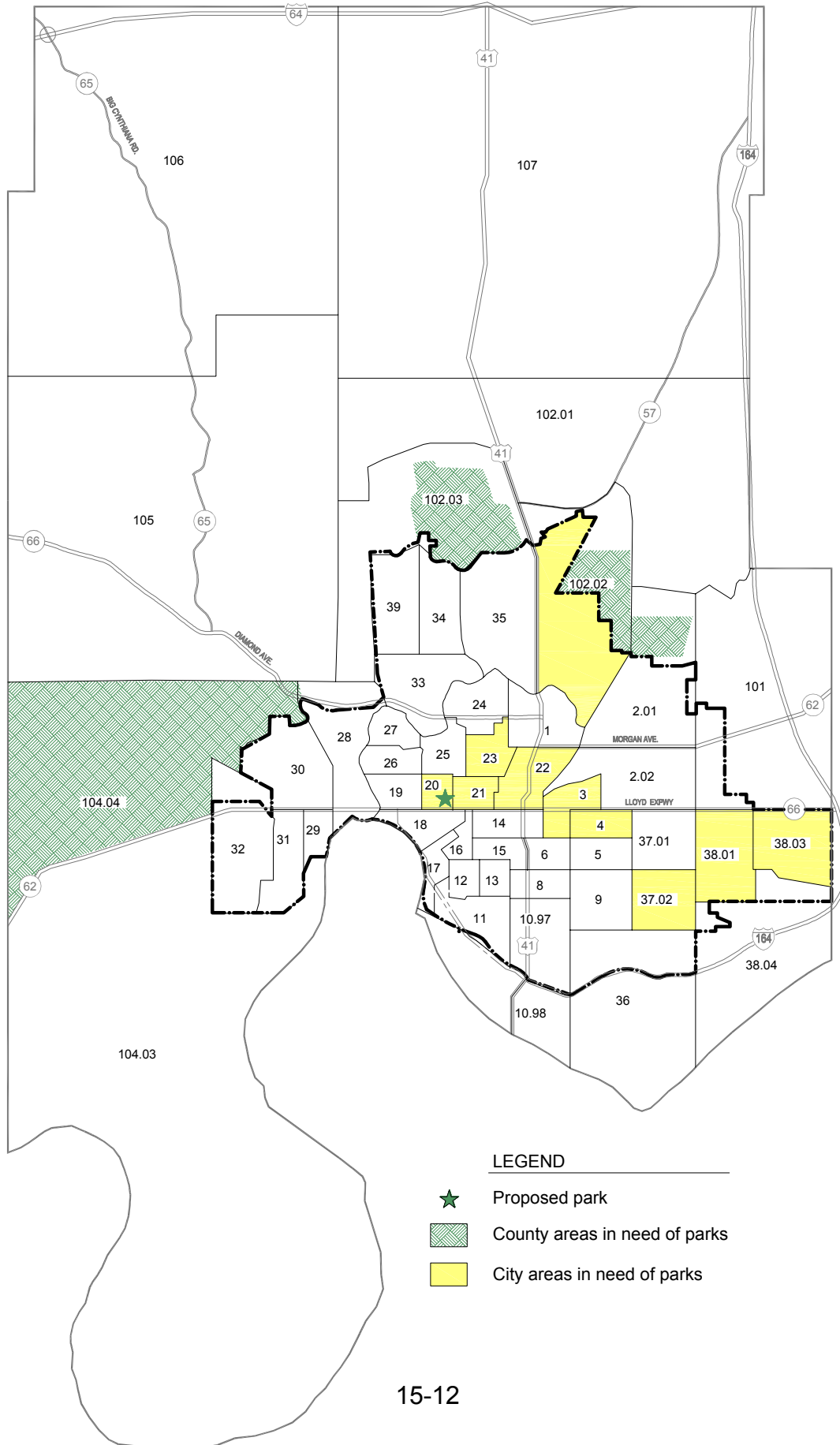
As shown on Page 15-12, unincorporated Center Township contains two areas where existing population density is high. Both of these areas are recognized as U.S. Census Bureau as Census Designated Places (CDP). The Highland CDP, located north of the City, has a population over 4,107 and the Melody Hills CDP, located northeast of the City, contains nearly 3,066 residents. Considering this population, these areas both have a need for a County neighborhood park.

Based on the population projections for Year 2025 in this Plan, unincorporated Perry Township is expected to have the largest unincorporated township population in the County that does not already have a recreation facility. The U.S.I. campus offers some recreational opportunities. However, for the purpose of this analysis, the campus is not considered to be a community park. It is recommended that unincorporated Perry Township, shown on Figure 15-12, should have at least one new neighborhood park to meet the recreation needs of its residents by Year 2025.

Examination of Page 15-12 illustrates that there are two heavily populated areas of the City that do not have park facilities. One large area covering three census tracts on the eastern side of the City (Tracts 37.02, 38.01, and 38.03) is generally bounded by Vann, Washington Avenue, Green River Road, Lloyd Expressway, the City limits, and, Covert Avenue contains 15,714 people. Based on existing population, this area is recommended to have first priority for placement of new park facilities in the City. Within this area, Census Tracts 38.01 and 38.03 would be the best location for a new park, as Tract 37.02 is immediately adjacent to an existing City park.

The other heavily populated area that lacks park facilities covers six census tracts in the northeast portion of the urban core (Tracts 3, 4 and 20-23). This area contains 13,908 people and has an irregular boundary. The major surrounding streets are Morgan Avenue to the north, Boeke Road to the east, Lincoln Avenue and the Lloyd Expressway to the south, and Oakley Street to the west. Due to its population, a new park in this area is also recommended. The proposed Jacobsville neighborhood park is to be located in Census Tract 20. Tracts 3, 4 and 23 have a City park adjacent to their boundaries.

Areas In Need of Parks



PARK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parks Department has its own planning process to determine current and future needs. As part of this process, the 2003-2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, is the most recent planning document for the City park system. The following information summarizes the recommendations of the Parks Five-Year Master Plan.

STRATEGIC EXPANSION OF THE PARK SYSTEM

Given the socio-economic and geographic changes that have taken place in the Evansville area in the past decade, some park system expansion is proposed. As the City has continued to gradually lose population, the unincorporated areas of Vanderburgh County have gained new residents. These residents are under-served by the existing park system. For the areas that have been identified in the City and the unincorporated County as under-served by regional and community park facilities, a site selection search in partnership with the community constituents, would identify potential sites for these facilities.

New Regional Park and Community Park

The Master Plan proposes several study areas in northern and western Vanderburgh County as possible locations for a new regional park and a new community park.

New Family Aquatic Center Proposal

Create a new family aquatic center that provides a mix of play features and age group use. A potential location for this facility would be north of the City to be connected with the proposed regional park.

PROPOSED PARK FACILITIES AND NEEDS

Pigeon Creek Greenway

In 1980, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a plan for a Pigeon Creek Greenbelt Park. It proposed a linear park, including a paved bicycle/pedestrian trail located along the Ohio River and Pigeon Creek levee system to be developed in conjunction with the levee flood protection project. Funds for the development of the park were never allocated.

Due to increased community interest and need for additional park space, the Army Corps of Engineers Plan for the Greenbelt project was updated and revised in 1993. The new plan, The Evansville Greenway Passage Master Plan, expands the original concept to create a 40 mile trail system within the City of Evansville, including linkage trails that will extend to nearby facilities and neighborhoods. There are two completed sections of the trail:

- From the Heidelbach Canoe Launch following the levee along Pigeon Creek to just west of the First Avenue bridge; and
- Along the downtown riverfront from Casino Aztar to Waterworks Road.

Future sections of the Greenway to be constructed in the short term are:

- From just west of the First Avenue bridge following the levee along Pigeon Creek to the Ohio River and the downtown;
- Along the abandoned Hi-Rail Railroad line, west of U.S. 41, from Walnut Street to Bayse Street south of Riverside Drive; and
- From the Waterworks along the levee/I-164 to Angel Mounds State Historic Site.

The existing and future greenway routes are shown on Page 15-15. Segments shown on the map that are not described above are considered to be long term.

Development of the Greenway will provide an extensive trail for walking, jogging, biking and rollerblading. The project will connect Garvin, Kleymeyer, Lamasco, Sunset and Sunrise Parks allowing uninterrupted access from the near north side of the City to the Ohio River. In addition to use of the trails, access to Pigeon Creek would provide ideal recreational opportunities for canoeing, fishing and wildlife observation.

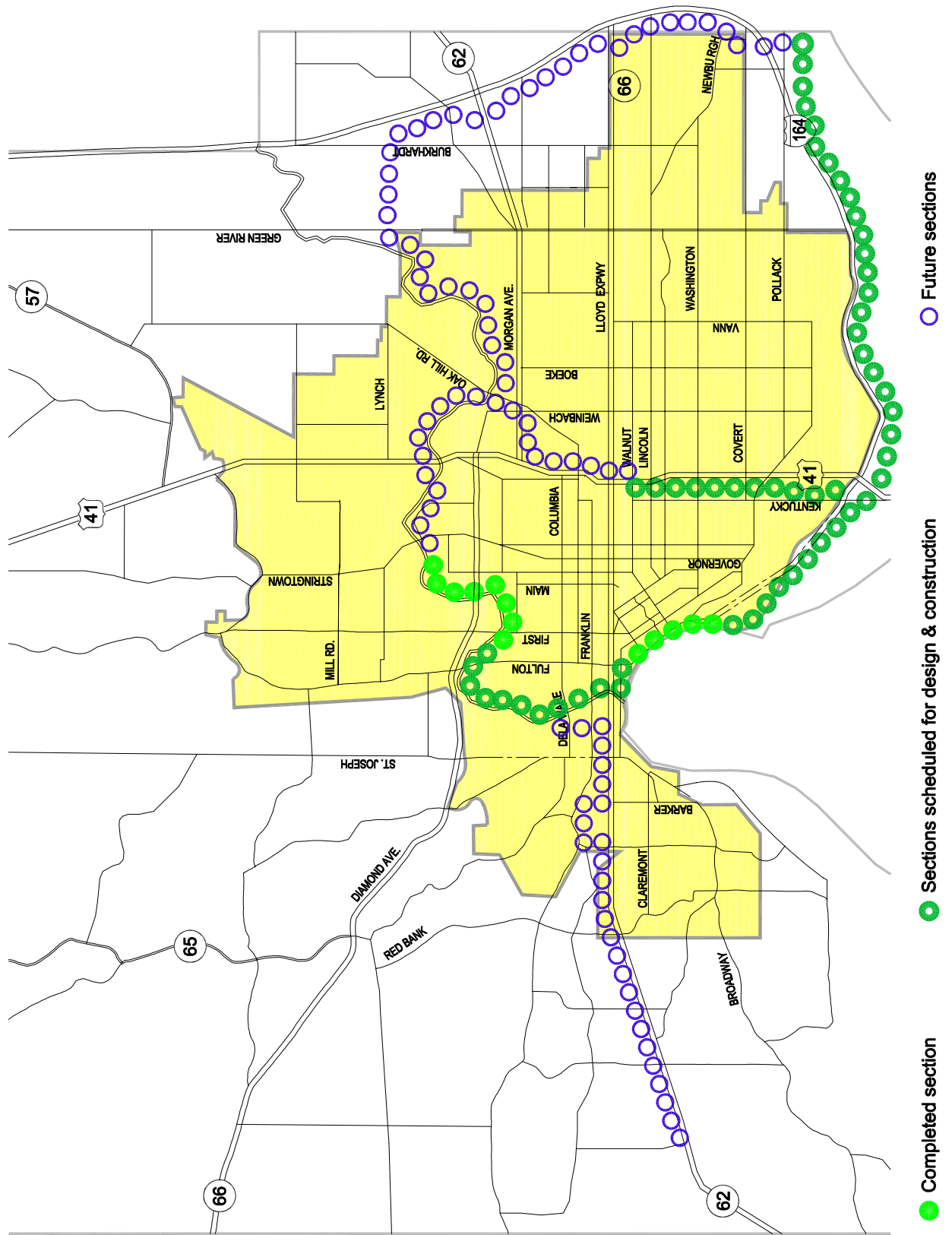
The Greenway has been designated a National Recreational Trail (NRT). This recognition is for exemplary trails of local and regional significance as a response to providing opportunities for all Americans to enjoy the outdoors and improving the quality of life in their community. The NRT program is administered by the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service with help from many other partners. The NRT program supports designated NRT's with an array of benefits, including promotion, technical assistance, and access to funding. Its goal is to promote the use and care of existing trails and stimulate the development of new trails to create a national trail network.

The American Discovery Trail is another national trail effort that is routed through Southern Indiana including 21 miles in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. A portion of this trail route will follow the Greenway along the riverfront. This trail will be a multi-use path extending from Delaware to California. A principle goal of the American Discovery Trail route is to connect as many National Trail System and local/regional trails as possible.

Jacobsville Neighborhood Park

The redevelopment plan for this area characterized the Jacobsville neighborhood as lacking in green space. The Willard Library grounds represent nearly all the green space that exists in the area. However, due to expansion of an adjacent industry, the neighborhood is separated from this green space and access to it is indirect. The Plan recommends a new 2.4 acre park by closing Garfield Avenue between West Illinois and West Indiana Streets.

Pigeon Creek Greenway



RECREATION ACTION PLAN

SOURCE: 2003-2007 PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

GOALS

Consolidate the City's park resources and connect them together with a highly visible and accessible web of open space corridors sustaining the image of a "City Within a Park".

Create quality of life opportunities by providing safe environments and affordable programs to enhance fun, fitness, and education for residents of all ages in our community.

OBJECTIVES

Provide sufficient open space and natural areas to meet present and future needs of City and County residents and locate these resources to serve the populated areas.

Incorporate recreational opportunities not otherwise available in the Evansville area in the park system where compatible, and improve the quality of current recreational programs where possible.

Adequately maintain, staff, and fund existing facilities and programs before adding new programs and facilities, and in budgeting for new programs and facilities, incorporate funding mechanisms for their long-term viability.

Establish park districts as a means to consolidate separate, though adjacent park sites, to achieve critical mass for economy of scale in management and shared resources.

POLICIES

Continue evaluating each park site for ADA and safety concerns, and make improvements as the parks undergo programmed rehabilitation.

Hire additional staff and institute new management initiatives to ensure that the existing system is serving the needs of the population before new facilities are added.

Develop innovative funding sources and creative partnerships with both public and private sector entities to facilitate park and open space land or facility acquisition, management, and program development.

Sustain the strong system of parks and facilities that currently exists and develop a higher level of maintenance.

Establish additional bike/pedestrian corridors and linkages as well as natural resource corridors.

Make greenway and park connections by including them in plats for new development.

Expand the park system with strategic emphasis on serving the under-served areas within the Evansville City limits and the unincorporated areas of Vanderburgh County.

Develop a new regional park in the Darmstadt area of the County.

Renovate and upgrade the neighborhood aquatic centers to balance resource demands and increase participation.

Merge the City and County Parks Departments because the unincorporated areas of Vanderburgh County are under-served by parks.

Maintain American Zoological Association Accreditation for Mesker Park Zoo.

Acquire property on the State Hospital grounds, develop a pedestrian bridge over Lloyd Expressway, and improve the trail connection to Wesselman Woods.

Acquire adjacent property and expand the Goosetown Mini Park.

Construct the Downtown to First Avenue, Sunrise Park to U.S. 41, and Hi-Rail sections of the Pigeon Creek Greenway.

Construct an interpretive center at the Howell Wetlands.

Apply to list the Gresham Home on the National Register of Historic Places.

POLICIES

SOURCE: COMMUNITY/AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Encourage/coordinate with neighborhood associations to assist in park maintenance.

Investigate changes to the Subdivision Ordinance to establish a threshold criteria for requiring land dedication for parks and recreation in new residential developments.

Develop incentives and other mechanisms that would encourage easements for trails and greenways, where appropriate, to be granted in new developments.

Investigate the feasibility of and support the co-location of trails within wide overhead transmission line easements.

Maintain an adequate, well-equipped and accessible playground adjoining each elementary school.