

City of Westfield Parks & Recreation



5 Year Comprehensive Plan

City of Westfield, Indiana
March 2025



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MASTER PLAN: 2024–2029

FEBRUARY 2025

Westfield Parks and Recreation Board

Julia Grimmer, President
Kurtis Baumgartner, Vice President
Mike Antrim
Mike Hall
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Westfield Parks and Recreation Department

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Board Resolution Adopting the Plan

RESOLUTION 25-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF WESTFIELD FIVE YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Westfield, Indiana ("City") is a duly formed municipal corporation within the State of Indiana, governed by its duly elected Mayor and Common Council ("Council");

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 24-08 and Ind. Code Section 36-10-3 eq seg., the Council created a City Department of Parks and Recreation ("Department") and a Parks and Recreation Board ("Board");

WHEREAS, Ind. Code Section 36-10-3-14 states that the Superintendent shall propose annually a plan for the operation of the Department and administer the approved plan;

WHEREAS, the Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the City's residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of the City's residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Westfield Parks and Recreation Board that:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are fully incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Board hereby approves and adopts the City of Westfield Five Year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as its official plan for the next five ⑤ years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Westfield.

Section 3. This Resolution is effective upon passage.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CITY OF WESTFIELD, INDIANA

Julia Grimmer, President

Kurtis Baumgartner, Vice President

Mike Antrim, Member

Mike Hall, Member

LeAnne Zents, Member

ATTEST:

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of the Five-Year Departmental Master Planning effort is to set the direction for the growth and development of the Westfield Parks & Recreation Department for years to come. With the establishment of the Department and completion of the initial Five-Year Plan, the city of Westfield is positioning itself to effectively offer the community the best recreational opportunities possible.

Mission Statement

It is the Parks Department's mission to enhance the quality of life by connecting the residents and visitors of Westfield to each other, the natural environment, and unique recreation opportunities.

Values

- Protect the Natural, Cultural and Historic resources of Westfield
- Collaborate and Connect with the community
- Enrich the community through connectivity
- Provide the highest level of recreation amenities

Outcomes

The Master Planning process provided a great opportunity for the newly established Westfield Parks & Recreation Department to be introspective while looking toward the future. In reviewing the existing status of the Department, they are a strong, influential service provider for the community, belying their small size. Prior to the official establishment of the Parks Department, the City of Westfield operated its parks from within the Department of Public Works, so while standard operations are not new, moving forward strategically as a new department with a new Parks Board has given Westfield Parks the opportunity to reach out to its stakeholders and the public early on to assess their needs and concerns. Discussions throughout the process centered on continuing to provide high level programs and continuing to provide innovative and creative new opportunities for the community. The facilities provided by the Department are strong, while also looking toward opportunities to add to the Department's acreage and strategically position itself for future growth.

Westfield Parks & Recreation

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Plan completed:
March 5, 2025

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Introduction

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Definition of the Planning Area

With a reported population of 82,540 in 2024, and estimated to be over 88,000 before the end of 2025, the city of Westfield is Indiana's fastest growing city, and the 6th fastest growing city in the US. Westfield city limits encompass more than 50% of the area within Westfield-Washington Township in Hamilton County.

As a northern suburb of Indianapolis, the service area for the City of Westfield is focused on the city limits, however it is understood that park users come from well beyond the city limits, throughout Washington Township (the likely future extent of city limits), from neighboring cities and towns, and beyond. Bordered on two sides by the cities of Carmel and Noblesville, plus the city edges of Fishers and Indianapolis are within about 5 miles of Westfield's city limits. The Grand Park sports complex, while not under the jurisdiction of Westfield Parks and Recreation, brings approximately 2.5 million visitors each year. In addition, the Monon and Midland Trace trails traverse through Westfield and connect to many of Westfield's parks via adjacency or additional connecting trails, bringing additional visitors to many of its parks.

Goals of the Plan

As a new entity, the Westfield Parks Department and Board's primary goals of this plan are to help the new board chart their course forward, document the initial state of Westfield Parks, and set a near-term plan for the next five years. Recognizing recent significant growth of the City, Department and Board acknowledge that the city has not been able to achieve a corresponding growth rate in park space. Acquisition of land is the largest challenge. With a majority of the allocated budget dedicated to park maintenance, it is the desire of the Westfield Parks Department to be eligible for grant funding that could be used for land acquisition, park maintenance, or major renovations. Ultimately, with the restraints of municipal budgets, the Parks Department wishes to become eligible to apply for grants that can be used to improve Westfield's park system.

In 2022, prior to becoming an official Parks Department, the City of Westfield developed an internal 5-year master plan, which included goals to provide all residents with easy access to parks, trails and recreational amenities, and planning for future growth. This planning process continued to evolve into the current planning effort as the city administration changed and decisions were made to establish a formal Park Board. Through the planning evolution, the following Goals for this Master Plan were decided:

1. Establish goals, direction, and definition for roles and responsibilities for newly established park board and department staff.
2. Continue to explore and encourage new and innovative partnerships
3. Determine if there are underserved areas of the city, including future growth areas, and explore opportunities to acquire land and/or facilities.
4. Explore opportunities for additional trail connectivity throughout the township
5. Evaluate the success and viability of existing programs and facilities.
6. Recognizing that our area is served by multiple recreation providers, continue efforts to coordinate activities in order to provide the best possible parks and recreation service to our community.
7. Continue ongoing maintenance improvements to our existing facilities.
8. Meet the requirements for DNR approval, and incorporation into the DNR's systems.

Mission

Enhancing the Quality of Life by connecting the residents and visitors of Westfield to each other, the natural environment, and unique recreation opportunities.

Values

- Protect – the Natural, Cultural, and Historic resources of Westfield.
- Collaborate and Connect – with the community
- Enrich – the community through connectivity
- Provide – the highest level of recreation amenities

Comprehensive Goals

- Of the board...to accomplish in the next 5 years
 - As a newly established entity, define roles and responsibilities and continue to learn the responsibilities of the Board and Park Department
 - Get the board members established in their roles and develop best practices for procedures
 - Establish proper relationship with new Mayor and City Councilors
 - Connect with the community through the master plan and ongoing meetings and other community activities
- Of the parks & recreation department...
 - Orderly transition from operating as a subset of DPW to a standalone department
 - Proper relationship between Park Staff and Board
 - Develop and evolve budget in conjunction with Board
 - Establish appropriate staffing model and fill new positions with experienced staff focused on propelling the Department forward
 - Strategic development of resources, including current developed and undeveloped parks, and project future needs for park development
 - Explore opportunities for program development and events in cooperation with like minded civic agencies and park departments

The Park Board / Department

The Board for the Westfield Parks and Recreation department was officially started in January of 2024. Previously, the City operated a Park Department within the Department of Public Works, with responsibilities for park property within the city and dedicated park staff holding responsibilities for other operations within the city's planning department, tree/plant maintenance, as well as operations and maintenance of the more traditional park properties and named trails. The City has conducted previous 5 Year Master Plans focused on parks and recreation, primarily functioning to determine growth patterns and needs associated with the requirements to establish and update their Park Impact Fee ordinance, as recently as 2022. Being a new Department, this is the first Comprehensive Master Plan incorporating the requirements of the IDNR guidelines for Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans. This plan utilizes data gathered and presented in the 2022 and previous plans, and incorporates the additional details and requirements of IDNR, including updated public input processes, stakeholder and public input, and more detailed look at broader features impacting the newly established Board for the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department.

Park Board Members

Julia Grimmer, President

Julia_grimmer@optum.com

Julia is the new President of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Board. She is also Associate General Counsel at Optum. She is an Indiana native and graduate of Indiana University McKinney School of Law and Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. As a corporate healthcare attorney, Julia supports businesses engaged in care delivery and population risk management. Outside of the office, Julia is an active member on multiple governing boards and is a hands-on volunteer with local habitat restoration efforts. She serves on the boards of Westfield Green Together and Covering Kids, and Families of Indiana, Inc., where she is also Governance Committee Chair. Julia volunteers throughout the year as a Park Steward at MacGregor Park in Westfield and for her home owners' association. She is the current President of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Board. Julia is motivated to demonstrate for her daughter a commitment to community service and that there are opportunities for all kids to be enriched through connections to nature.

Term expires – 2027

Kurtis Baumgartner, Vice President

Kurtisbaumgartner1@gmail.com

Kurtis serves as the new Vice President of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Board, and resides in Westfield, Indiana with his wife Kaitlin and their three children. He is a passionate advocate for enhancing services that support community vitality and well-being. Beyond the Westfield Parks board, Baumgartner has over 20 years of experience in parks and recreation and is a Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE), establishing him among the elite in parks and recreation leadership. As Chief Operating Officer

for Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR), Baumgartner oversees an award-winning agency recognized for its commitment to community engagement, innovative programming, and operational excellence. Baumgartner holds an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and Marketing from Goshen College. He also served nine years in the US Navy Reserve and was the honor graduate of boot camp and "A" school, and received the military excellence award.
Term expires – 2028

Mike Antrim, Mayoral Appointee

mikeantrim916@gmail.com

Mike Antrim is a Mayoral appointee on the Westfield Parks and Recreation Board. He has been a resident of Hamilton County since 1972 and has been a lawyer with Hamilton County's oldest and largest law firm, Church, Church, Hittle + Antrim, since his admission to the bar in 1975. Mike and his wife, both of their children, and all of their grandchildren proudly call Hamilton County home.
Term expires – 2025

Mike Hall, School Board Appointee

hallm@wws.k12.in.us

Mike Hall serves as the Westfield Washington School Board appointee to the Westfield Parks & Recreation Board. He serves as the Director of Operations at Westfield Washington Schools, bringing over 20 years of experience in educational administration. Known for his strategic vision and collaborative leadership style, Hall oversees vital district functions, including transportation, food services, safety, custodial services, and facilities management. Previously, he served as Principal at both Westfield Middle School and Monon Trail Elementary, where he led transformative initiatives to enhance school culture and foster community partnerships. Hall has several advanced degrees in education and administration, including Educational Doctorate (ABD) and Educational Specialist degrees from Oakland City University, MBAE from University of Indianapolis, MA in Education from Indiana Wesleyan University and a BA in Elementary Education from Purdue University.
Term expires – 2028

LeAnne Zentz, Mayoral Appointee

leannezentz@icloud.com

Blurb about LeAnne.

Term expires – 2026

LeAnne Zentz is an Indiana native, growing up in rural Shelby County in a small town called Boggstown. She graduated from Butler University '89, BA Business Administration. LeAnne and her husband Randy have resided in Westfield for 29 years. They have 3 adult daughters Sarah, Lauren and Abby. LeAnne enjoys her work at as a Real Estate Broker with Berkshire Hathaway. In her spare time, LeAnne loves to be outside in the garden and is dedicated to restoring native habitat for all wildlife especially pollinators. She and Randy embarked on a new venture in cut flower farming in 2024. LeAnne also volunteers as the Holiday New Toy Coordinator for Open Doors Food Pantry.

Park Department

Director: Christopher McConnell
 Recreation Program Coordinator:
 Maintenance Supervisor:

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Facility Inventory

The Westfield Parks & Recreation Department currently manages 9 developed parks, 4 undeveloped parks, which total about 175 acres. In addition, it manages 16.5 miles of named trails. The City's DPW operates connecting trails, side paths, multi-use paths, and sidewalks providing an additional 70 miles of connectivity throughout the city and between recreation amenities and parks. With the rapid growth of Westfield's population, it has not been able to keep up with a proportional amount of green and park space.

Current Programs

The Park Department has traditionally focused its efforts on properties and trails. A separate department within the City has put on community based events. Traditional park programming has been minimal through Westfield, focusing on partnerships and collaboration with overlapping and adjacent agencies and departments. The Westfield Washington Township Park Department has excelled in providing park programming at their own facilities as well as within Westfield Parks. The local Library has a good offering of programs, as do the Schools, youth sports organizations, Hamilton County Parks (operating 3 parks within the Township), and other adjacent park departments.

As the department grows, the initial intention based on feedback from the Board, Staff, and stakeholders, they would like to grow in their offerings, focusing on programs and events that aren't duplicative of programs provided by others. Initial focus will be coordinating with like minded agencies and collaborate on the best offerings available to the community, and allow the most appropriate entity to pursue those offerings.

Current Programs

The Parks Department has a unique approach to maintenance, choosing to rely on several contractors to perform the more mundane tasks. Since 2014, the most landscape services have been contracted out to several contractors in the industry. These tasks include mowing, landscape bed care, fertilizer and herbicide programs, irrigation maintenance, and janitorial services. This has allowed for a considerable savings to the Department by reducing overhead costs for equipment and staffing, while still maintaining a level of care that the community has come to expect. This approach has provided the opportunity for the small maintenance staff to be more project-focused on repairs and updates to park amenities and emergency situations.

Budget

Budget Summary

The Westfield Parks & Recreation budget is primarily funded through the General Fund (property taxes), County Option Income Tax (COIT) and a one-time impact fee. The impact fee is currently \$3,485.34 per new residential unit. The impact fee is adjusted annually, with incrementally higher fees taking effect each July 7.

Prior to 2024, Westfield parks were funded out of the City's Department of Public Works. Beginning in fiscal 2024 the Westfield Parks department's operating, programming and maintenance budget was \$2.14M, excluding capital improvements. The 2025 operating budget is \$3.44M, 70% of which is designated for maintenance. Note that the analysis of any budgetary trends will not be possible until the new parks department has operated independently from DPW for at least three years. Recent budgets are reflected in Table 1 below.

Over the last three years, \$8.75 million has been spent on capital projects, primarily focused on the development of trails, restrooms, habitat restoration, and major improvements at Simon Moon Park. An additional \$5.5M has been allocated for capital projects in 2025.

Year	Operations & Programming	Maintenance	Total
2023 (Expenses within DPW)	\$621,399	\$1,134,250	\$1,755,649
2024 (1st year w/ independent board)	\$1,007,814	\$1,134,250	\$2,142,064
2025 Projected Budget	\$1,024,522	\$2,417,424	\$3,441,946

Table 1: Westfield Parks & Recreation Operating Budget

Each year the staff compiles a list of major capital priorities. The current list includes the following projects:

Staff Priority	Est. Cost
1. Simon Moon Park, Phase II	\$5.5M
2. Grand Junction Band Shell	\$7.5M
3. Freedom Trail Restroom & Field Improvements	\$2.3M
4. West and North Master Planning & Improvements	\$20.0M
5. Osborne Park Master Planning & Improvements	\$4.4M
6. Newby Property Improvements	\$11.5M
7. Armstrong Park Masterplan & Improvements	\$5.5M
8. Trail Connectivity	\$10.0M

Giving and Foundation Information

The Department offers a variety of opportunities for the community to engage in philanthropy through the Parks. The following opportunities are listed on the department's website and available to the community:

Gifts

- Land donations are just one way to help the city build parks for all of our citizens to use.
- Gifts of money, the most popular method of charitable giving.
- Tree donations and dedications
- Gifts of certain property such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds.
- Estate gifts such as will bequests, life insurance, retirement plans, and other planning vehicles that may offer exceptional opportunities for leaving a lasting legacy for others.

Other opportunities for designated gifts through Westfield's online campaign include:

- Arbor day tree planting
- Osborne Bark Park development
- Prairie support
- Trail donations
- General Parks and Recreation donations

Foundation

Public input has indicated interest in a ‘friends of group’ or park foundation for Westfield Parks. This will continue to be researched by local volunteers in conjunction with Park Staff and City Administration.

Other Recreation Providers

There are nine different park departments throughout Hamilton County, with 3 overlapping jurisdiction in Westfield. Westfield Parks, Washington Township Parks, and Hamilton County Parks all have parkland and trails in and around Westfield. This can be confusing to the public at times, but all work together along with neighboring departments to provide high quality parks and recreation amenities to residents. Each department has its own focus and specialties, with some focusing on nature and natural history, others on programming and events, and many on active and passive recreation.

Several parks owned and operated by other civil entities are situated within Westfield’s city limits. Westfield-Washington Township owns MacGregor Park and provides recreational services within the park and throughout the township, including classes for all ages and summer camps. Hamilton County operates three parks within Westfield’s City planning jurisdiction—Cool Creek Park, Bray Family Homestead Park, and HC Farms—and provides many recreational activities throughout its parks system.

Other recreation providers include several school entities and private recreation providers and amenities. The City is served by the Westfield Washington Schools, as well as St. Maria Goretti School, a Montessori School, and the Union Bible College. Also, Guerin Catholic High School is located on the eastern boundary of the Township in Noblesville, but attracts students from throughout the County. Private recreation providers include Grand Park, YMCA, and a pickleball/racket club currently under development. Many of the neighborhoods within Westfield provide recreational amenities such as community pools, playgrounds, sports courts, open green space and other amenities as well. Some private businesses offer recreation amenities as well, such as a brewery/distillery that offers a dog park currently under development. While the schools and private entities are not public amenities, they do provide additional recreational resources within the community.

In a recent Parks and Recreation survey, many respondents were not clear of the ‘ownership’ of parks within Westfield city limits, and the ‘ownership’ (city vs. county vs. township) did not matter to them. In addition, with permeable city limits, residents do not feel confined to just Westfield’s parks. Carmel Clay parks, just south of Westfield, are reknown around the state. Many residents choose to visit parks outside of the city. The Westfield Parks and Recreation Department is building the quality of life through programming and facilities in order to ‘catch up’ to its neighbors.

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Background

02

Natural Features and Landscape

Topography

The topography in Westfield and Hamilton County in general is very flat, and has a long history of agriculture. Prior to significant agricultural development, the area was heavily wooded and contained large marsh lands. With developing agricultural practices, much of the old growth woodlands were removed and the wetland areas were significantly drained. This allowed for intensive agriculture throughout the city, and eventually led to extensive residential and commercial development throughout the southern and eastern portions of the city. Planning and Zoning efforts have been developed to try to preserve some of the agricultural heritage and open space throughout the city. Ultimately, for recreation purposes, there are few topographic obstacles to developing passive and active recreation spaces, as long as land can be acquired and preserved before or in concurrence with further commercial and residential development pressures. In order to create geographically 'interesting' landscapes, cut and fill or imported soil is required.

Water Resources

Though the entire city of Westfield is within the drainage basin of the west fork or the White River, it has very few water resources. Cool Creek and Little Eagle Creek are the only significant natural waterways within the city. There are several small streams and regulated drainage ways that have been channelized or manipulated to better accommodate agricultural and man-made development drainage. There are no significant lakes or ponds within the city beyond those created as part of commercial or residential development, or in private ownership. Seasonal flooding can occur here. To mitigate some of the seasonal flooding, portions of Grand Junction Plaza were designed to play a triple role in regional stormwater management, creek restoration, and recreation. Most of Westfield's parks are designed to withstand a 50-year flood event with minimal impact to park facilities.

Due to the limited amount of water within the City, and to minimize the need for irrigation, every new park design and renovation includes the use of native plant species wherever possible. Once established, these plants have evolved to thrive in the hot, dry (or occasionally wet) Indiana summers.

Geology and Soils

Three major soil types make up most of the city's soil structure: Crosby Brookston, Miami Crosby, and Shoals Genessee. Most soil types found in the city are typically poorly drained and have issues with wetness, which can have significant limitations on construction and recreation uses, including campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, paths, and trails. However, through appropriate site design, many of these limitations can be overcome for the development of recreational amenities.

The newly acquired Newby property is an example of how the Parks department 'plays to the strengths' of the existing land. This particular parcel of land was a former agricultural property along a portion of Cool Creek. Current plans for this property includes strategies to celebrate nature and its forces. Approximately 60% of the land is in either a flood plane or flood zone. Plans call for the areas most prone to flooding to be planted with wetland prairie mixes. Away from the flood-prone areas of the site, as much of the existing swath of mature shade trees will be preserved. This small forest is also the home of spring ephemeral species, such as *Podophyllum peltatum* (mayapples). Planned developed areas of the site will be placed safely out of the floodway and floodplain.

Forest and Vegetation Resources

Many of the old growth forests have been removed as agricultural development and subsequent commercial and residential development has spread throughout the city. Some pockets of forested area left are typically found in the agricultural areas as left over farm plots or small unfarmable wetlands. Other wooded areas have been protected by park development. The city has a wide variety of hardwood species, however the Emerald Ash Borer has killed or damaged a good portion of the ash trees in the area. Thus, care is being taken when planting trees in parks or with reforestation efforts to provide a diversity of species and eliminate ash from the plant palette. For example, more than 1,000 trees were planted in Phase 1 renovation of Simon Moon Park in 2024. Planted sizes of trees ranged from whips to 2.5" calliper of a variety of species to create varied layers and a more natural look.

Battling invasive species, especially *Lonicera maackii* (Amur honeysuckle), *Phragmites* (common reed), and *Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford' (Bradford pear), is a continuous effort. Parks maintenance personnel are trained to recognize these species. While presently there are no arborists on staff in Westfield, the maintenance staff has a goal of achieving a state arbor certification for at least two crew members in 2025.

Man-Made, Cultural, and Historical Resources

Westfield Parks Department History

The Westfield Parks and Recreation Department was formed in January, 2024 by the Common Council of the City of Westfield Ordinance 24-08, which passed with a vote of 7-0-0. Original board members are Mike Antrim, Kurtis Baumgartner, Julia Grimmer, and LeAnne Zentz. The school board appointee is Mike Hall. Chris McConnell is the first Park Director. Prior to the creation of the Parks Department, Chris McConnell was the Superintendent of Parks. Parks operations were formerly embedded within the Public Works Department.

Westfield Parks and Recreation manages eleven city parks and five named trails, including nearly eight miles of the Monon Trail as it passes through Westfield. Not including sidewalks, there are over 85 miles of trails throughout the city.

Grand Park is a 400+ acre sports campus, which includes over 30 multi-purpose fields, more than 25 diamonds, and an indoor events center. It is also the location of the Indianapolis Colts training camp. Although Grand Park is located in Westfield, it is managed separately from the rest of the city parks, and is therefore only mentioned briefly in this report. The City holds major events at Grand Park, such as Westfield Rocks the 4th, where large crowds are expected. Smaller-scale events are typically held at Grand Junction Plaza, which was specifically design to have a large outdoor gathering space.

Transportation Links

Westfield is well developed with good transportation corridors, including multiple US Highways and an accessible network of trails. The major road layout throughout Westfield is a grid system with neighborhood streets taking on a more curvi-linear pattern.

At a vehicular scale, Westfield is a miniature 'crossroads of America' where it is intersected by three US highways. US 31 connects Westfield with Kokomo 30 miles to the north, and Carmel and Indianapolis immediately south. Indiana 32 connects Westfield with Noblesville immediately to the east and Lebanon, 18 miles to the west. Indiana 38 cuts a diagonal through Westfield connecting the northern portion of the city to Noblesville and Sheridan, Indiana.

A trail network has also been developed throughout the city. Recent planning and zoning updates are also requiring developers to include networks of trails and multi-use paths with any new commercial or residential development. This will be important to all local parks to plan for and implement connections between new developments and along existing streets, especially to connect local parks, schools, shopping, and residential areas. As US highways and state roads have been improved over the last 15+ years, the city has worked to ensure pedestrian crossings have been incorporated into designs of new vehicular bridges and underpasses.

As the popularity of trail use increases, especially on 'through' trails such as the Monon and Midland Trace trails, safe crossings are important, as are connections between neighborhoods and trails. These amenities are used by more than just Westfield residents. The standards are also set high due to nearby Carmel Clay parks and trails.

Connections

The new Westfield Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining all city greenspace rights of way (ROW), and the design and implementation of new ROW and roundabout spaces. Personnel within the department also review, in collaboration with the planning department, all commercial and residential landscape plans during the permitting process. The city has placed a focus on ensuring neighborhoods are connected to major trails and parks. In conjunction with the Department of Public Works (DPW), gaps in connections are identified for future improvement projects.

Over the past five years, “safe crossings” of trails at major thoroughfares has been an area of focus. In 2020, during the pandemic, the Monon bridge over IN-32 was opened. A tunnel to take the Monon under 161st Street is slated for completion in 2025. Plans for a bridge of the Monon trail over 191st Street is planned for construction in 2027.

Feedback from the public survey indicated that some residents are frustrated with neighborhood sidewalks that do not connect to others, and trails that are sometimes closed due to new construction. The Parks Department and Westfield DPW continually work to alleviate these concerns from the residents. As Westfield continues to experience rapid growth, it is faced with the challenge of connecting new developments with the existing path and trail network. Each new housing development is required to provide frontage paths and sidewalks. DPW works to manage gaps between new neighborhoods and existing portions of the city to minimize gaps and maximize neighborhood connections.

Six of Westfield’s city parks are directly adjacent to major paved trails, providing excellent pedestrian and cycling connections for a majority of residents. As the city has expanded its boundaries to the northwest and west, trail connections have not been able to keep up with the city’s rapid growth. Raymond Worth, Osborne and Armstrong parks currently lack connections to the trail network.

Industry in Westfield

Prior to the turn of the century, agriculture was the primary industry in the northwestern portion of Hamilton County and Westfield-Washington Township. As agricultural land has been sold, much of it has been incorporated into Westfield's city limits. Along with this growth of the city, the agricultural lands have been converted to commercial and residential uses. The population and area within Westfield have increased more than 3-fold since the year 2000. Growing with the population, high intensity retail has also increased, mainly following the main thoroughfares through the city, especially along US31 which became a limited access interstate highway in 2019, and along IN-32 at the intersection of US31. Moderate density housing has in-filled much of the agriculture land outside of the commercial corridors. The city maintains a 'no annexation' policy, yet as agricultural land within Westfield-Washington Township become available, Westfield offers the new owners an option to be added to the corporate city limits. In anticipation of significant and continuing growth, the city has created Planning and Zoning regulations that encourage preservation of natural and cultural resources. Although healthcare, social services and retail establishments make up just over 30% of Westfield's businesses, no single industry dominates. Professional, hospitality, construction, financial services, and manufacturing comprise the next third of businesses. Less than one percent of businesses Westfield's city limits are classified as agricultural.

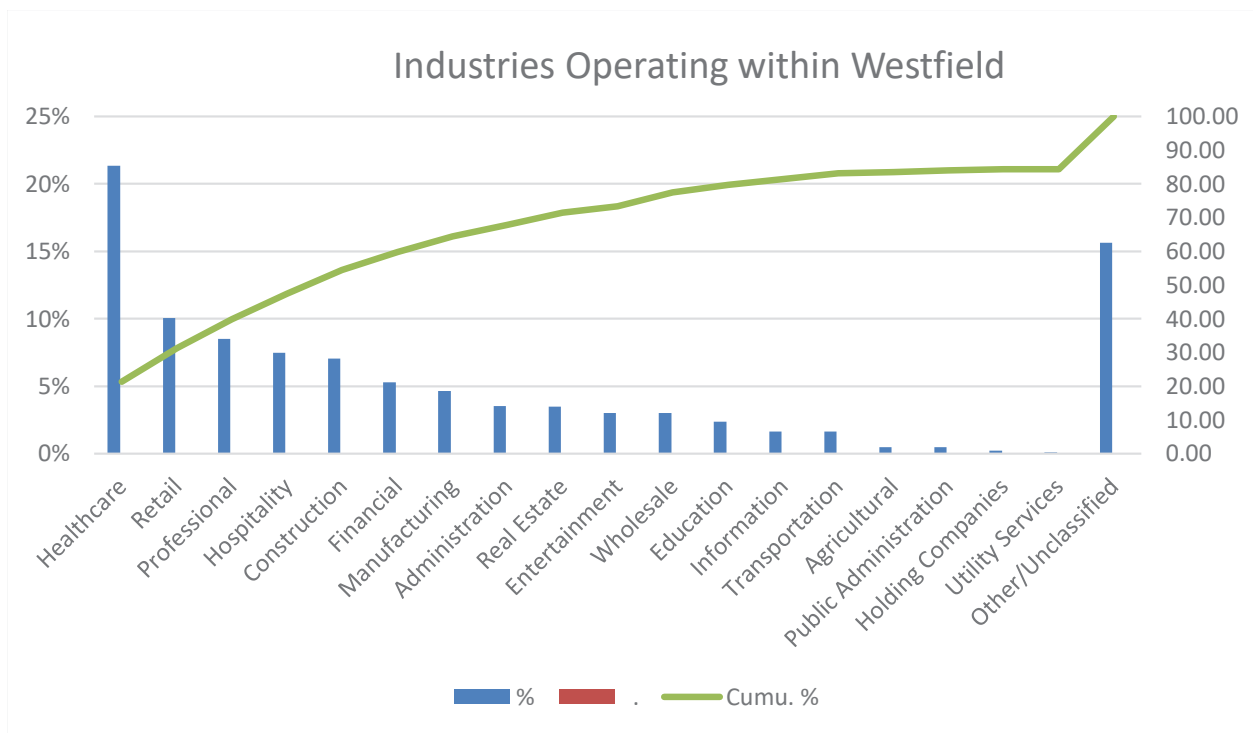


Figure 1: A wide variety of businesses operate in Westfield. Healthcare, retail and professional services comprise the top three.

Cultural Resources & History

Westfield has a strong agricultural history and deep-seated Quaker and Methodist roots. The area was well known as a stop for the Underground Railroad before the Civil War from the 1830's through 1863. As the city developed, religion was a centerpiece of the community, resulting in many small churches that can still be found throughout the area. The Town of Westfield was incorporated in 1834 and officially became classified as a city in 2008.

The City is served by the Westfield Washington School District, as well as St. Maria Goretti Catholic School, the Union Bible College, and [three] Montessori Schools. Guerin Catholic High School is located just beyond the eastern city limits in Noblesville, and attracts students from Westfield.

Arts

The City of Westfield hosts Movies in the Plaza on selected Fridays during the summer months. An Amateur Theater Company, Main Street Productions, is located in Westfield.

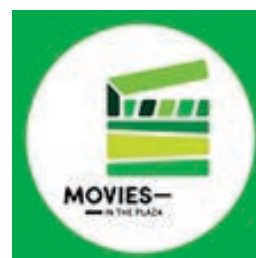
Music

Since the opening of Grand Junction Plaza, the city of Westfield has used the space to host many events, such as Jams at the Junction and Cuisine, Connect, Culture (music, dance and crafts).

Festivals and Events

In addition to arts and music activities, Grand Junction Plaza is a central hub for many Westfield events and activities, such as the Westfield Farmers Market, Creek Stomps, Trick or Treating at the Plaza, Westfield Lights, the Shamrock Drop, and the Just for Kids summer series. Other popular events include Barktober Fest, held at Asa Bales Park; the Donut Trail, held along Westfield trails with purveyors of sweets around Westfield; and the annual Melt the Trail 5K. During the summer months, "creek stomps" are offered at Cool Branch Creek as it flows through Grand Junction Plaza.

Larger scale events, such as Westfield Rocks the 4th, are held at Grand Park.



Social and Economic Factors

Population

Hamilton County has long been one of the fastest growing counties in the State and in the Nation. With Indianapolis and Carmel to the south, Noblesville to the east, and Fishers to the southeast, the growth began migrating north and northwestward through the county into Westfield. The city has seen rapid growth in both new commercial and residential development. Year-to-year growth between 2021 and 2023 has been 7.7%. A population forecast report for Westfield Washington Schools (McKibben Demographic Research, LLC. Population and Enrollment Forecasts, 2022–2023 Through 2031–32) estimated the school district's population would be 62,360 in 2030, however by the end of 2024, the population was already reported at 82,544 (sources: <https://worldpopulationreview.com> and City of Westfield). Given current growth trends, it is likely that Westfield will exceed the estimated population noted above by 2025. If the population growth is to slow slightly to 5% per year for the next five years, Westfield's population will likely exceed 100,000 before 2030 (See Figure 2). Westfield practices a 'no forced annexation' policy. Instead, as unincorporated property within Westfield Washington Township is sold, the owner is offered the opportunity to be encompassed within the city limits. As a result, the area of Westfield has grown from 26.84 square miles in 2010 to 31.10 square miles in 2020, a 15.87% increase. Many of the new housing units are multi-story apartment buildings and townhomes, resulting in a densification of Westfield's population, especially near the city center. In 2010, Westfield's population density was approximately 1,300 people per square mile. By 2020, the density had increased to 1,828 people per square mile, and 2025 estimates are over 2,650 people per square mile—double the average density of 2010. At the same time however, the acquisition of new park land has not kept up. Westfield, much like the rest of Hamilton County, has a seriously deficient amount of park space per person. The National Recreation and Parks Association's recommendation is 9.9 acres of park and open space per 1,000 people. Counting all "park space" in Westfield's city limits, including Hamilton County parks, it has less than 4.4 acres per 1,000 residents.

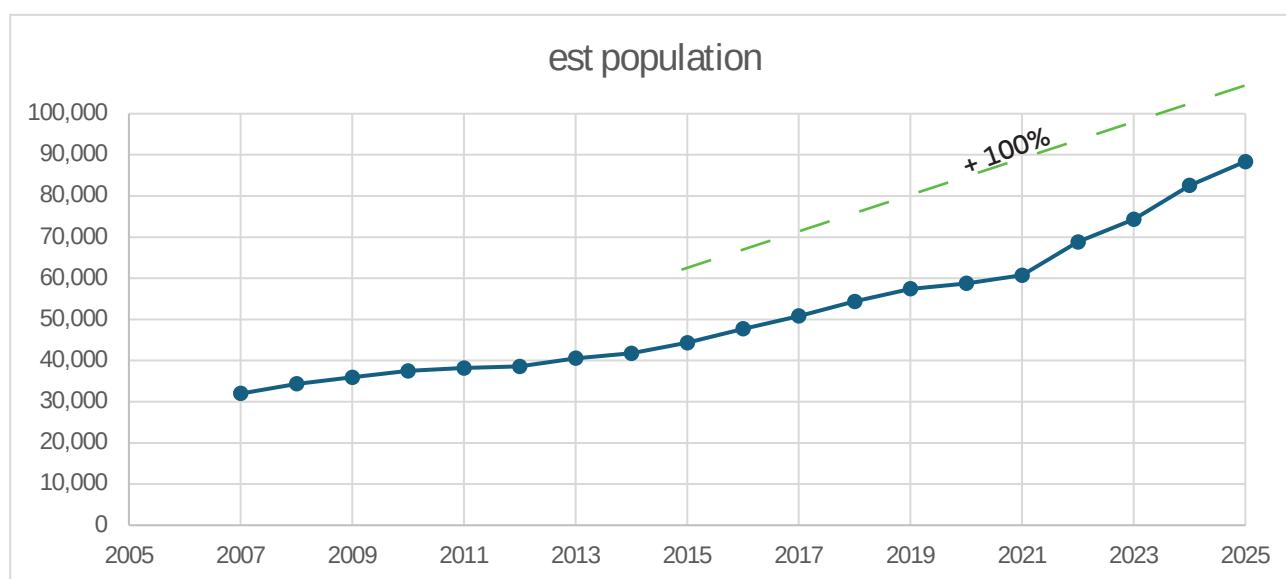


Figure 2: The population of Westfield has more than doubled since 2015. (City of Westfield, as of 2/17/25)

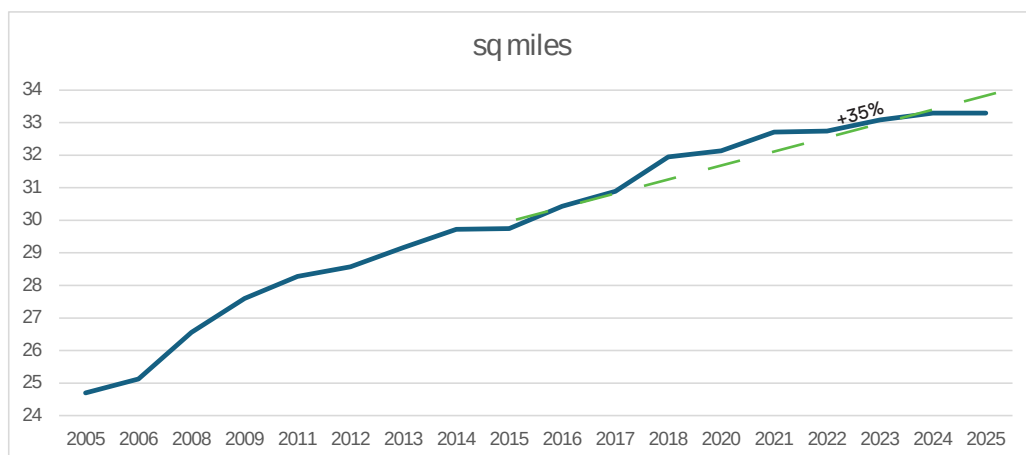


Figure 3: Between 2015 and 2025 the area of Westfield has increased by 35%, compared to a doubling of the population. (City of Westfield, as of 2/17/25)

Demographic Information

According to the 2020 census, the city's population was 46,410, however it should be noted that by the end of 2020, the City estimates the population was closer to 59,000. While the city's population has increased by approximately 50% since the 2020 census (currently over 88,000), the most recent demographic data shown below is from the 2020 US census. The median age in Westfield has risen from 34.7 in 2010 to 36.6 in 2020. There are two peaks in the City's population, representing a growth in the number of young families and senior citizens. As families have moved to Westfield, many grandparents have decided to move to the city to be closer to their grandchildren. Planned and new senior housing units in 2024 were over 250, adding to the more than 500 existing senior living units, according to the Indiana Age-Restricted Housing Analysis report for 2023–2024. As Westfield continues to attract seniors, attention will be given to adding park amenities and needs of both young families and mature adults, including items noted in the public meetings and survey such as accessible paths, athletic fields, and pickleball courts.

Social Characteristics	Westfield	Indiana	US
# of households	20,369	3,007,605	
# of families	15,231	2,653,596	
Average Household Size	2.69	2.49	2.55
Average Family Size	3.06	3.16	3.13
Economics			
Median Household Income	\$117,519	\$66,785	\$75,149
Per Capita Income	\$58,223	\$51,716	\$41,261
Individuals Below Poverty Level	4.1%	12.6%	11.5%
Housing			
Owner Occupied	79.8%	70.8%	64.8%
Renter Occupied	20.2%	29.2%	35.2%
Education			
High School Graduate	97.2%	90.4%	91.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	57.8%	29.6%	34.3%
Race			
White	84.0%	97.7%	75.3%
Black/African American	3.3%	12.4%	13.7%
American Indian	0.2%	0.5%	1.3%
Asian	3.3%	3.2%	6.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Other	2.8%	5.0%	--
Two or More Races	6.3%	8.3%	3.1%
Hispanic/Latino	6.5%	10.6%	19.5%

Table 2: Westfield City Demographics. (Census.gov)

Economics in Westfield

The current employment rate in Westfield is 97%, which is ten percentage points higher than Indiana. Many Westfield residents work outside the city limits. 1,844 establishments in Westfield employ 15,661 people. Seventy percent of those establishments each employ fewer than five people. Only 3 employers in Westfield have more than 500 employees, and none employ more than 1,000.

Housing

The number of housing units in Westfield continues to grow at 3.75% per year. Out of more than 20,000 dwellings, 76.96% are owner-occupied and 23.04% renter-occupied. Slightly more than 97% of all housing units are occupied. The median home cost is \$489,000 as of June 2024, compared to a \$246,289 in Indiana.

Education

Overall, the citizens of Westfield are well-educated. More than 95% of adults are high school graduates. More than 50% of its citizens hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. Westfield's public school system includes six elementary schools (grades K-4), one intermediate school (grades 5 & 6), one middle school (grades 7 & 8), and one high school (grades 9 – 12). With just under 10,000 students, the district is one of the top-rated public-school systems in Indiana. The US News and World Report Best High Schools report ranked Westfield High School 432nd in the nation and 8th in Indiana, with a score of 97.55 out of 100.

Socioeconomic Summary

Hamilton County and the City of Westfield each have lower than average overall racial diversity compared to Indiana and the US, though it is trending towards a more diverse population. For example, the percentage of Asian residents increased from 2.9% to 3.3% between 2010 to 2020.

It has higher average household income compared to state averages. The City has seen rapid growth in population and housing through 2023 (latest numbers reported), and is projected to continue growing over the next decade. Based on our public survey results, nearly 72% of respondents reported a household income greater than \$120,000. While poverty is not a significant issue in Westfield, the Department has, and will continue to provide discounts for services and programs on a case-by-case basis to accommodate special circumstances for those in need.

While from the outside looking in Westfield appears to be affluent, 13.3% of students attending Westfield Washington schools qualify for free or reduced fee school lunches (source: US News). According to the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) index, 25% of Hamilton County residents, and more specifically, 23% of residents in Westfield-Washington Township, cannot afford basic costs of living in their area (source: unitedforalice.org/stats-overview/Indiana).

Approximately 7.3% of public school students in Hamilton County are English Language Learners (ELL), which is higher than the state average of 6% (source: IN.gov/doe/it/data-center-and-reports/).



03

Self-evaluation on current accessibility

In 2015 the City of Westfield completed an ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan which evaluated public facilities, buildings, parks, walks, trails, and other City owned amenities, including those open to the public and identified by the City as having programs or services provided by the City. The Transition plan includes a detailed inventory of issues with recommendations, many of which have been implemented, to address issues for each facility and feature evaluated. The Self Evaluation and Transition Plan are available on the City's website.

Public Notice of ADA Requirements

The City of Westfield resolved to post required information regarding the ADA coordinator, notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and City of Westfield Government Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act on its website and other such locations as determined from time to time.

ABA/ADA Rehab Act: Section 504

ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT OF 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)

The City of Westfield (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE _____
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE _____
SECRETARY

(Secretary's printed name)

Statement of Accessibility

The Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities (WMCD) was established in 2022, and has been continued under the current administration and chaired by Nicole Southerland, with a mission to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities in Westfield by promoting lifecycle planning, inclusion, and access. The WMCD addresses current challenges people with disabilities in Westfield face and uncover quality solutions to break down barriers.

Current Accessibility

Westfield Parks has accessible walkways, picnic areas and restrooms in parks and facilities. Activities available in the Department's parks has been developed to be accessible to as many people as possible through one means or another. Information about accessibility to programs, services, and facilities, as well as potential accommodations are posted in conspicuous locations in each building owned and operated by the Department. Persons that have questions about the posted accessibility information are welcome to call the park staff at: (317) 804-3150 anytime during business hours.

While Westfield's parks endeavor to offer full ADA compliance, with most offering universal accessibility, Freedom Trail Park goes a step farther. The all-inclusive playground, along with the sensory garden, is specifically designed for children of all abilities and to provide a chance for all children to learn and grow while playing together. During the design of the play area, the Hamilton County Autism Support Group (HCASG) worked with the City of Westfield to ensure the features included are ones that children on the autism spectrum would prefer. An example is the inclusion of spinning and twirling features within the park's design. The equipment was built so more than one individual in a wheelchair can pass on the wide ramp

system leading to all play features. The swings also include handicap accessible swings instead of platform swings. The surfacing of the playground area, including the swing set, is artificial turf. Freedom Trail Park's all-inclusive playground and sensory garden were the first of their kind in the State of Indiana. It continues to be upgraded with new features and amenities in keeping with its goal.

Proposed Accessibility

The Department shall focus its efforts with future developments to meet or exceed all ADA Guidelines and regulations. This shall include park development, picnic shelters, furnishings, playgrounds, pathways, trails, equipment, and other new amenities. The Department will also strive to maintain accessibility to all existing facilities, programs, and information.

The City has also developed and conducted an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan utilizing resources from the Department of Justice as a guide. This will be used regularly to review existing parks facilities for ADA compliance.

A few parks have facilities that do not fully comply with ADA. Gravel parking at Raymond Worth Park has been on the City's target list for improvements beginning in 2022, and is scheduled for paving within the next year. Some other parks include large lawn areas and some spaces that are not accessible per ADA. When used, port-o-lets are located on pavement with flush transitions to ensure they are compliant. Occasionally, due to weather, some aggregate trails can wash out and other facilities may temporarily become inaccessible, however the Department endeavors to make necessary repairs as quickly as possible.

ADA contact information:

Michael Pearce, PE, Title VI Program Manager
2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, IN 46074
317-419-1594

mpearce@westfield.in.gov

Compliance information and complaint forms can be found on Westfield's website, www.westfield.in.gov



Public Participation

04

Public Participation

A combination of stakeholder meetings, public meetings and a public survey comprised the opportunities for public input in preparation for Westfield's five-year master plan. Residents of Westfield have traditionally shown a significant interest in parks and recreation and readily supported requests for input. As part of the preparation of this plan, a public meeting was held on September 17, 2024, which lasted for two hours. An online public survey was conducted between September 26 and October 14, 2024. Additional 2-hour stakeholder and public meetings were held on February 19th and 20th, respectively to present the final draft of the 5-year Master Plan for the City.

Stakeholder Meetings

Leading up to the initial stakeholder meetings, several meetings were held between May and November 2023 with the Park Director, previous Township Trustee (now Chief of Staff for the City), and the current Township Trustee, and community members prior to the establishment of the Park Board, with additional meetings held between January and June of 2024 as the Park Board Ordinance was adopted, members appointed, and board meetings got underway. Throughout this time, a new Mayor was elected, along with a full slate of new City Council Members. Prior to them taking office, a meeting was held to discuss the viability of establishing an official Park Board, what structure it might take, and introducing the need and processes associated with a Five Year Master Plan. Many of those discussions revolved around the structure of the proposed park department, potential involvement with the Township, and structure of the planning process. At those meetings, the development of a stakeholder group was discussed and determined to include some park board members, some city council members, and other community members known to be active and involved with the City's parks.

The first stakeholder meetings was held on August 28th, scheduled from 6:30 until 8:30, and lasted until after 9:00pm at the City Services Center. The second stakeholder meeting is scheduled to be held at the Parks Board's December meeting on December 4, 2024. Both were publicly noticed due to the number of elected officials and park board members invited, however no outside public members were in attendance. The following were general comments, results, and potential action items from those meetings:

- There is a need for park space in the northwest corner of the city.
- Individual parks were discussed along with the needs for each, as perceived by each stakeholder.
- The overall impressions of the new parks department are favorable, although time is needed for the new board to come fully up to speed.
- Restroom facilities are needed at several park locations that currently have only port-a-lets or no facilities at all.

The purpose of the planning process was discussed to provide a road map for priorities and development over the next 5 years, while also considering long term needs for park development within Westfield. The role and use of Park Impact Fees was discussed, with discussions given to the rapidly developing areas in the western portions of the City. Developer commitments for paths and trails as well as green space and recreational amenities have been incorporated into Zoning requirements, and most existing and planned neighborhoods have amenities such as pools, playgrounds, courts, and other park-like amenities. While

these are not considered Public Parks or Amenities, it was noted that recreation opportunities are provided in many, especially wealthier, communities. Focus is still strong to provide good connectivity and public parks and recreation amenities.

While many of the wealthier communities provide private or semi public amenities, it is critical to continue to provide for all residents throughout the city, with special consideration for older, smaller, less affluent and more dense neighborhoods that rely more heavily on public parks and trails.

The group discussed opportunities for further development of existing resources, but focused much of the discussion on proactively acquiring property in key locations to serve the growing areas of the city. This is key in the western areas where growth is predominant and city park property is minimal. Maintaining high levels of maintenance, upkeep, and service throughout existing parks and trails is extremely important. Continuing to connect trails and bike/pedestrian paths throughout the city is also a high priority with much already in detailed planning stages.

Prior to the planning process, Grand Park was solicited for ownership or private operations. During the plan, the City selected a private group to operate the facility, and further private development is in planning stated for property in and around Grand Park. Public trails continue to be maintained throughout the property.

Key Themes

- Property Acquisition
- Development of un/underdeveloped properties
- Reservable shelters
- Splash pads
- Providing Shade at facilities
- Passive Parks/Preserve Undeveloped, Natural areas
- Discussions have been floated between the Township and the City regarding the future of MacGregor Park, with the potential for the City to acquire the park
- The City is not focused on park programming as that is a saturated market with surrounding Departments and community groups, but rather focus on passive/self-directed park amenities
- Grand Park has been placed under different private operational organization, and potential need for Parks to provide fields that are more available to the public

Priorities

- Land Acquisition – Proactive acquisition where possible
- Complete Simon Moon Park Development
- Development of Armstrong & Osborne Parks
- Completion of items at Grand Park
- Accommodate increasing pressure on Splash pads and Shelters
- Be good stewards of Tax Dollars afforded to run the Department
- Department staffing is low compared to peers

Initial Public Input Meeting

A public meeting was held on September 17th, 2024, scheduled from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, however the meeting lasted until after 9:00pm at the Westfield Library. It was attended by 26 residents, 1 park board members, 1 city councillor, and 1 staff. Notice of the meeting was advertised per the City's public notice policies online and in the local paper the week prior and invitations were sent out via email to all email addresses in the department's and City's databases. The sign-in sheet is attached in the appendix.

The meeting focused on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Constraints, and as the discussion flowed, each of those categories flowed into one another. Everyone in attendance had attended programs or were frequent visitors of Westfield city parks or trails. Everyone was very supportive and complementary of the Department, facilities, and programs. A general summary of comments, questions, and input included:

- The existing pickleball courts at Quaker park are in need of resurfacing and other renovations.
- Additional pickleball courts are needed, because there is usually a wait for those at Quaker Park.
- Some attendees expressed concern for safe crossings on several of the City's paths.
- Concerns were voiced over the mayor's statement allowing golf carts to be driven on some paths. Most concerns centered around teen drivers of the carts.
- Teen programming is lacking.
- Attendees also expressed a desire for the City to provide safe connections (trails or sidewalks) between parks.

Public Input Survey

The Public Input Survey was open to the public between September 26 and October 14, 2024, via the on-line via Survey Monkey with links sent out through all of the department and the City's email lists through web blasts, as well as via all the City's and Neighborhoods' Social Media platforms, other city agencies, and the department's website. QR codes were posted at each at a variety of venues throughout the city as well. The survey consisted of 24 questions and sub-questions on the parks department, parks, trails and programs/events as well as 6 additional demographic questions, and can be found in Appendix 2. Detailed survey results are presented in Appendix 3.

We received 524 responses, representing over 1035 people within respondents households, to the survey and have reviewed the following data to help establish our action plan, priorities, and implementation strategies. A summary of the results are as follows:

- The most-visited parks were Quaker Park and Grand Junction Plaza and Park
- The most-traveled trails were the Monon and Midland Trace.
- Respondents voiced a desire for Agri-Parks and Art Gardens.
- The pickleball force is strong within the city.

Public Presentation of the Plan

The final draft of the plan was presented in a Stakeholder meeting on February 19, 2025 from 7:00 until 8:30 pm. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the priorities and action plans. Attendees included members of the Board, the City Common Council, and Department staff.

Additionally, the plan was presented in a public meeting held at City Hall on February 20, 2025 from 7:00 pm until 8:40 pm. A summary of each park was presented along with an assessment of the 'state of city' parks. Additionally, the Department's action plan was presented. Attendees were most interested in recent renovations to Simon Moon park, trail connections, safe trail crossings, plans for currently undeveloped park properties, and additional pickleball courts. In light of the City's deficiency in its amount of park space per 1,000 residents, there was a discussion about acquisition of new park lands. With the significant increase in the price of land in Westfield, the attendees agreed that they would prefer for the city to spend its dollars in developing properties it currently owns over spending money on additional land acquisition.

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Parks and Trails

05

Existing and New Facilities

The planning area coincides with the corporate boundaries of the city of Westfield. It is understood that the city parks are utilized by people beyond the corporate limits, and the planning process has taken that into consideration. However, the focus of the planning process is on residents and taxpayers within the city. It is anticipated that the city will continue growth to the north and west and long term may overlap the entire township. The City's growth will come through voluntary annexation as development and growth continues.

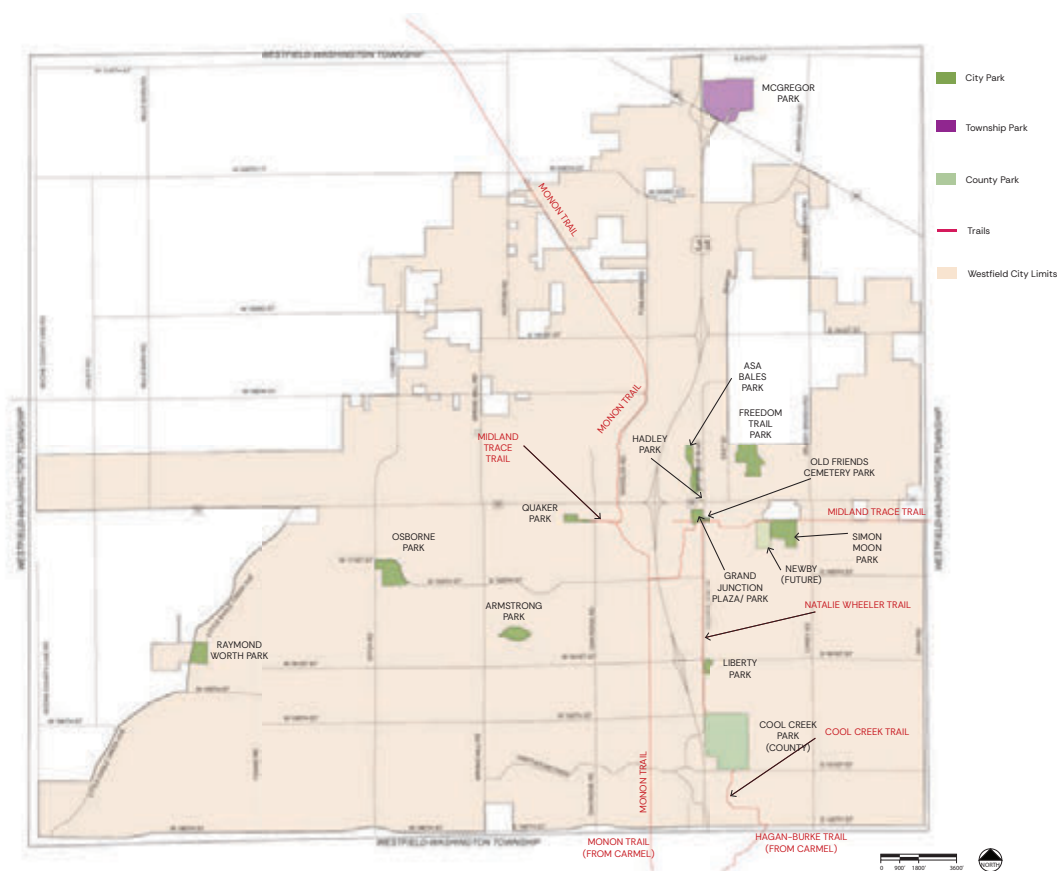


Figure 3: A map of Westfield City limits and parks within the limits.

The planning area is 31.1 square miles and has an irregular border due to voluntary annexation practices. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a more detailed city and regional map.

Westfield has a central downtown with locally owned businesses. The town has a rich history that includes a role as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Citizens of Westfield value a low crime rate, easy access to public services, manageable traffic, excellent schools, and high-quality public services. It is the intent of this plan to preserve those valued characteristics and enhance them where possible.

Key to Amenities

Activities

	Basketball		Fitness Stations		Rollerblading
	Boardwalk		Ice Skating (Seasonal)		Skate Park
	Covered Swing		Path - Gravel		Sledding (Seasonal)
	Disc Golf		Path - Paved		Sports Fields
	Equestrian Trails		Pickleball		Splash Pad (Seasonal)
	Fishing		Playground		

Services

	Accessible		Dog Waste Station		Portable Restroom
	Bike Parking		Dog Water Bowl		Restrooms
	Drinking Fountain		Parking		Trash Receptacle

Structures & Spaces

	Amphitheater		Historical Marker		Prairie Grasses
	Benches		Interpretive Signage		Shelter
	Farmers' Market		Open Lawn		Wetland
	Garden		Picnic Tables		Woods
	Gazebo				

Armstrong Park

16200 Countryside Boulevard

About Armstrong Park

Armstrong Park is an open grass land that can be used for unprogrammed recreational activities. A trail crosses the park site, connecting to the existing trail system in the Countryside Subdivision. This property allows for several options for future development. There is no direct parking to access Armstrong Park which the surrounding subdivision prefers. Any additional features may warrant the desire and need of a parking lot.

Acres: 15.41

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –



Rendering of proposed improvements



NOT TO SCALE



Asa Bales Park

205 West Hoover Street

About Asa Bales Park

Asa Bales Park is a linear park located in the heart of Westfield between Hoover Street and Main Street (IN 32). It features a skate park, playground, 3 rentable shelters, restrooms, natural amphitheatre, Anti-Slavery cemetery, and parking. A walking trail winds through the park and connects to Downtown Westfield and Grand Junction Trail.

Acres: 13.24

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –





NOT TO SCALE

N



Freedom Trail Park

500 Deer Walk Trace

About Freedom Trail Park

Freedom Trail Park is home to the Westfield Youth Sports Inc. youth football and lacrosse fields. It is also the site of the Rotary Club of Westfield's sensory garden, which surrounds an all-inclusive playground. The park is bordered by Cool Creek, wooded areas, and both riparian and prairie restoration areas. Access to the park is through a subdivision.

Acres: 29.53

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –





NOT TO SCALE



Grand Junction Plaza

Downtown Westfield

About Grand Junction Plaza

Grand Junction Plaza, in the center of Westfield, provides a central focus to the City's development plan while providing regional stormwater management of Grassy Branch Creek. The park includes plazas, pavilions, an outdoor performance venue, a cafe, children's play area, seasonal ice skating, and at the convergence of several bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Acres: 6

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –





Hadley Park

100 West Main Street

About Hadley Park

Hadley Park is an historic pocket park located at the corner of Main and Union Streets in the heart of downtown Westfield. It was established in 1995, and is dedicated to Roy O Hadley, a lifelong resident of Westfield. A landscaped structure, with a seating area, is available for rental. The beautiful flower gardens are maintained by the Hamilton County Master Gardeners.

Acres: .15

Current Amenities

Activities –

Structures and
Spaces –



Services –

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



Liberty Park

16001 Westfield Boulevard

About Liberty Park

Established in 2002, Liberty Park is a passive park at the corner of 161st and South Union Streets, adjacent to Cook Creek. The park features a boardwalk and observation deck overlooking a wooded wetland restoration area. A gazebo on site was constructed with materials reclaimed from an 1830s barn once located nearby. A gravel parking area provides access to the Natalie Wheeler Trail.

Acres: 5.2

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –

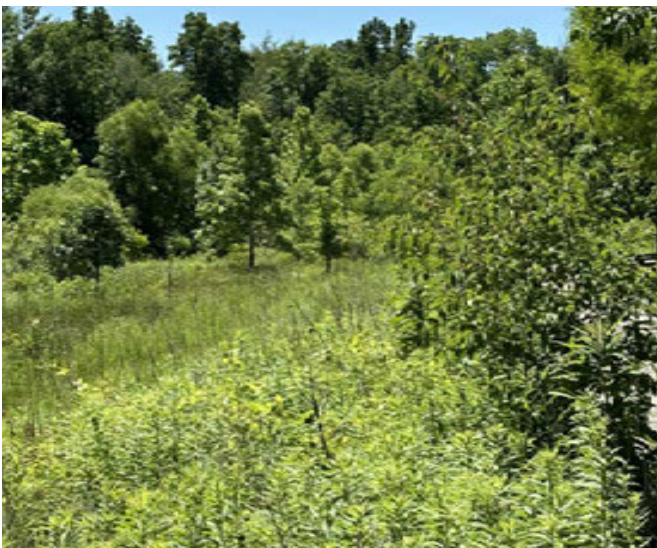


Services –





NOT TO SCALE



Newby Property

2510 East 171st Street

About The Newby Property

The City of Westfield purchased the Newby property in 2023. William Newby, who died in 2021, operated his farm stand on this property for decades. Designs for this property are ongoing after receiving public input in February 2024.

Acres: 25

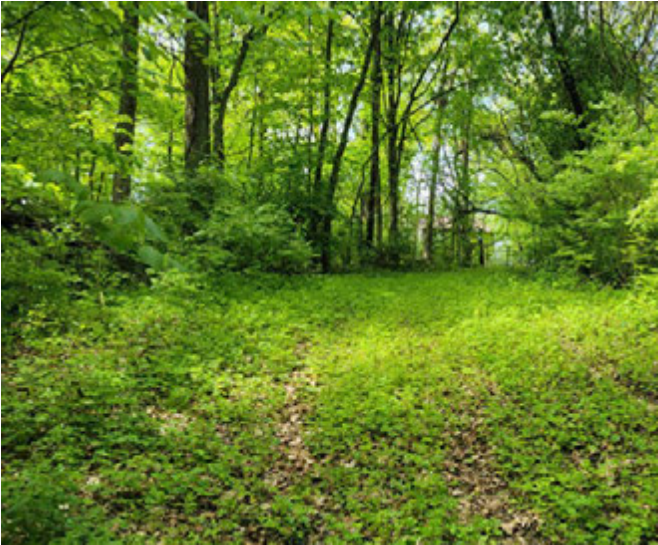
Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and
Spaces –

Services –



Concept: Agri-Park with Farmers' Market



Newby Property Master Plan
 City of Westfield
 11140 Westfield, IL 60174



Old Friends Cemetery Park

302 South Union Street

About Old Friends Cemetery Park

The Old Friends Cemetery Park, formerly known as Martha Doan Memorial Garden, is the site of the first cemetery in Westfield. The formal garden was established to commemorate Martha Doan and the trail system established by the Westfield Womens' Club in the 1960s. The Midland Trace Trail, with bike racks, a drinking fountain and waste receptacles, runs along the southern edge of the park.

Acres: .79

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –





NOT TO SCALE



Osborne Park

17001 Ditch Road

About Osborne Park

The land for Osborne Park was donated by the Westfield Washington School Corporation and is adjacent to Maple Glen Elementary School, at the corner of 169th Street and Ditch Road. This property is currently undeveloped.

Acres: 26

Current Amenities

Activities –

Structures and
Spaces –

Currently undeveloped
Development concept shown right

Services –

Proposed improvements for Osborne Park



NOT TO SCALE



Quaker Park

17501 Dartown Road

About Quaker Park

Quaker Park features a splash park, four rental shelters, a playground, restrooms, pickleball courts, the Born Learning Trail (for toddlers and preschoolers), and parking. With connections for the Midland Trace Trail and the Monon-Midland Loop, this park serves as a trailhead to the Monon Trail. It also is the home of an interactive dance and play arch.

Acres: 6.71

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –





Raymond Worth Park

16301 Little Eagle Creek Avenue

About Raymond Worth Park

These 30 acres of land on Little Eagle Creek Avenue were donated to the city of Westfield by the Wilfong Foundation. The land is situated at the intersection of a small creek which feeds into Little Eagle Creek. The mowed natural trails encourage pedestrian and equestrian use. Little Eagle Creek abuts property and runs through at some points providing opportunities for creek access.

Acres: 29.6

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and
Spaces –



Services –





Simon Moon Park

2710 East 171st Street

ABOUT SIMON MOON PARK

Extensive renovation of Simon Moon Park began in 2024. New features will include an outdoor education classroom, fishing piers, boardwalks, an updated playground, and an improved sledding hill. Access to the parking lot is from 171st Street. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be available from the Midland Trace trail along the north side of the park. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in late 2024.

Acres: 5.85

Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and
Spaces –



Services –





NOT TO SCALE



Woods At The Maples Park

Maple Knoll Subdivision

About Woods At The Maples Park

The land for the Woods at the Maples was donated by a nearby land developer. This fully wooded parkland is internal to the Maple Knoll subdivision and adjacent to a small retention pond. Previous timbering caused considerable damage to existing trees. Forestry recommendations are to limit park access for approximately 20 years to allow for the natural restoration of the woodland.

Acres: 6.2 acres

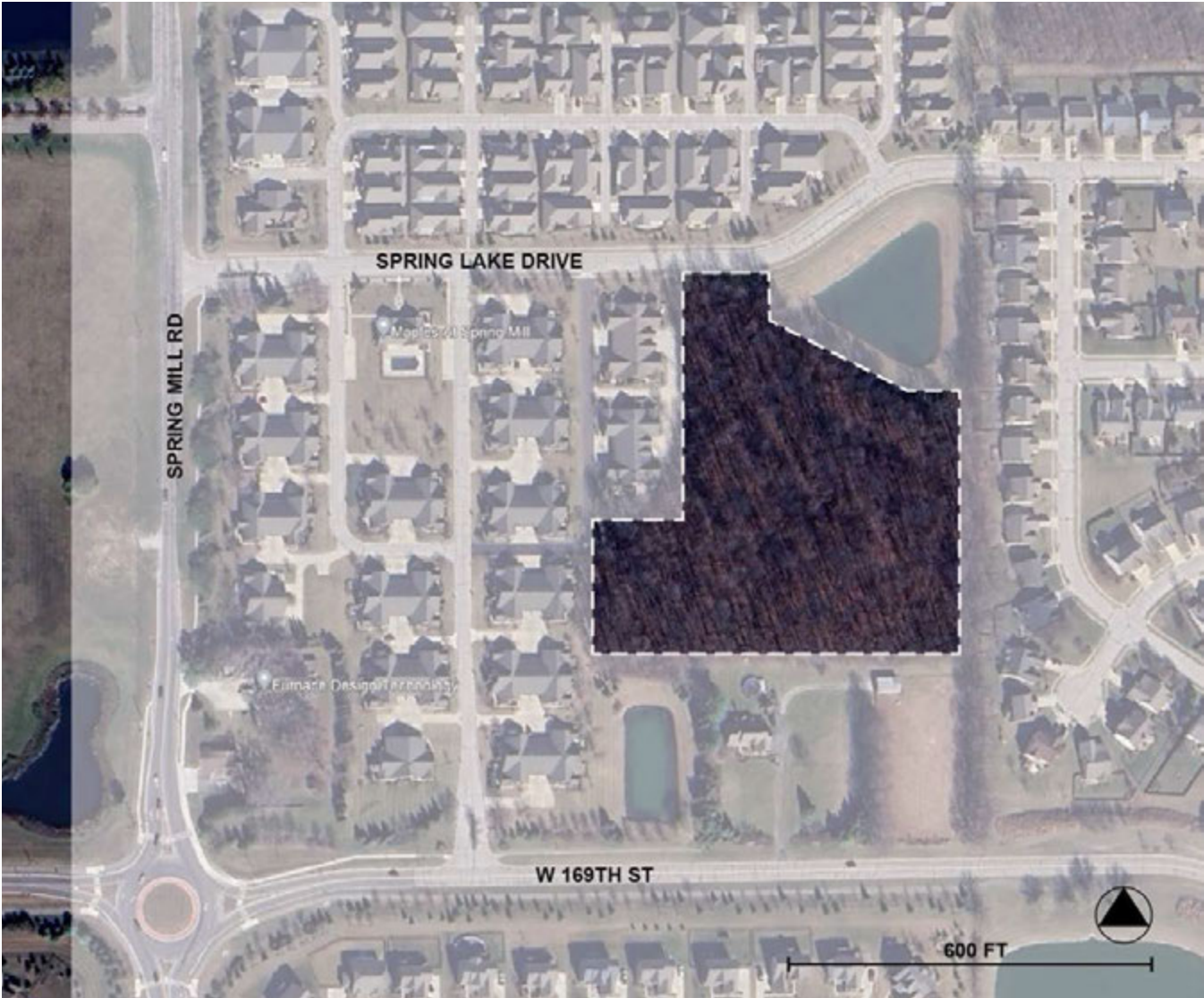
Current Amenities

Activities –

Structures and
Spaces –



Services –



Cool Creek Trail

About Cool Creek Trail

This 8'-wide asphalt trail runs from Cool Creek Park northward to 146th Street. It connects with the Natalie Wheeler Trail, the Midland Trace Trail, Grassy Branch Trail, and Carmel's Hagan Burke Trail.

Length: .9 miles



Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –

Grassy Branch Trail

About Grassy Branch Trail

This 12'-wide asphalt trail runs from Grand Junction Plaza to 169th Street. Future plans include connections with the Cool Creek Trail, Grand Junction Trail, Natalie Wheeler Trail, and Midland Trace Trail.

Length: .6 miles



Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –

Midland Trace Trail

About Midland Trace Trail

This 12'-wide asphalt trail runs from Gray Road to Westfield Boulevard, and From the Monon Trail to Sonoma.

Length: 4.96 miles



Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –

Monon Trail

About The Monon Trail

The Monon Trail, as it passes through Westfield, runs from 146th Street to 216th Street. It also connects with the Midland Trace Trail, Anna Kendall (at Quaker Park), and the Little Eagle Creek trails.

- Greyhound Pass Trailhead
- Quaker Park

Length: Approximately 8 miles



Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –

Natalie Wheeler Trail

About The Natalie Wheeler Trail

The Natalie Wheeler Trail spans a 2-mile length along Westfield Boulevard from Cool Creek Park to Grand Junction Plaza. It also connects with the Cool Creek Trail and Grand Junction Trail.

- Cook Creek Park
- Grand Junction Plaza



Current Amenities

Activities –



Structures and Spaces –



Services –

Action Plan

06

Priorities

In keeping with the Department's Vision and Mission, the top ten priorities for the department for the next five years are listed in order as follows:

1. Community – always serve the community to the best of our ability in concert with neighboring and overlapping like-minded organizations.
2. Budget – maintain fiscal responsibility in all future actions.
3. Facilities – maintain existing facilities to the best of our ability.
4. Staff – provide new opportunities for creativity and learning to staff.
5. Programs & Activities – maintain strong programs and activities, and work to make them more profitable where possible.
6. Facilities – development of any new property easily available to the park department, including land south of MacGregor Park, Monon Trail, and Midland Trace Trail.
7. Community – begin to instill an inherent process of promotion, increasing community awareness, and increasing community connectivity.
8. Facilities – look for opportunities for future park land acquisition, especially in the north and west of the township, and concentrate on building a year-round community building/center.
9. Budget – look for opportunities to increase and/or maintain a more consistent budget without placing undue burden on the community.
10. Community – continue to expand cooperative efforts with the City and County Park Departments.

Park & Trail Needs Analysis

We have analyzed this information after reviewing existing programs and facilities, public survey, public input, stakeholder input, and committee and park board input. Along with considerations for National Standards, neighboring and overlapping park departments, we have identified common themes relating to the core elements of the park department. Top priorities for the City are development of existing parkland, land acquisition, completion of trail connectivity, building safe trail crossings of major streets and highways, and preservation of existing facilities.

The needs analysis quickly turned into the Action Plan for the 5-Year Comprehensive Plan. Each park, trail, and facility as well as internal operations and programs were discussed related to their individual needs. Those needs are identified for each entity along with its priority for the department, potential budget range for implementation, and potential funding sources.

Initial Benchmarking: Selection

As a new parks department, it was decided to embark on a precursory benchmarking exercise with plans for a more in-depth analysis over the next year. The first step was to select cities for comparison. For the past three years, Westfield has scored in the 99th percentile in WalletHub's list of "Best Small Cities in the US." One of the first criteria for benchmark cities was to be ranked at the same level of Westfield (99th percentile). The second criteria included cities of similar population (50K – 100K). Since Westfield is striving to improve its walkability, bikability and increase its overall park space, the list of potential benchmark cities was further reviewed for those with better ratings in all three of those categories. The list of cities for future benchmarking include the following:

- Appleton, Wisconsin
- Bozeman, Montana
- Portland, Maine
- Bloomington, Indiana*

*Note: Although Bloomington, Indiana ranked below the 90th percentile in WalletHub's Best Small Cities list, it was kept on the list due to its Indiana location and its mature park system.

Initial comparisons of data reveal that Westfield is well behind its chosen peers in terms of park space per 1,000 residents. As recently as 2005, there was a notion in Westfield that it would continue to be a city of about 30,000 people. With its prior smaller population, the number of parks nearly met the "typical 1 park per 2,386 residents" noted by the National Recreation and Parks Association). Westfield with this population, Westfield should have about 12 parks. Land acquisition is the most basic element in creating new park space, but as the City's popularity has grown, so have land prices. As a result, the City's budgets constrain the amount of new land that can be acquired for new parks. With current population projections, Westfield would need to add 24 new parks to keep up with the 'typical' park density.

Action Plan Details

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
Armstrong Park				
Install native plantings to help with wet grass and drainage issues	1	\$75,000	\$100,000	● ● ●
Splashpad	1	\$500,000	\$750,000	● ● ●
Playground	1	\$350,000	\$600,000	● ● ●
Parking Lot	1	\$350,000	\$500,000	● ● ● ●
Pickleball Courts	1	\$250,000	\$500,000	● ● ●
Basketball Court	1	\$100,000	\$120,000	● ● ●
Return to natural area	1	\$50,000	\$75,000	● ● ●
Boardwalk	2	\$200,000	\$300,000	● ● ● ●
Frisbee Golf	2	\$25,000	\$50,000	● ● ● ●
Openlawn multipurpose area	1	\$200,000	\$250,000	● ● ● ●
Flex Building/Rental Facility with Restroom	3	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	● ● ●
Shelters	2	\$250,000	\$350,000	● ● ● ●
Fishing Access	1	\$75,000	\$125,000	● ● ● ●

Asa Bales Park				
Light for trails and shelters - Install Electricity and Water throughout park	2	\$400,000	\$500,000	● ●
Create art in park program	4	\$15,000	\$25,000	●
Tree Plantings to replace aging trees	1	\$25,000	\$30,000	● ●
Bike Racks	1	\$10,000	\$15,000	● ●
Golf Cart Parking	2	\$50,000	\$65,000	● ●
Shade at playgrounds	1	\$125,000	\$150,000	● ●
Restoration/Preservation of Cemetery	2	\$40,000	\$50,000	● ● ● ●

Funding Key: ● Budget ● Impact Fee ● Bond ● Grant ● Donor ● Volunteer ● In-House

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
Freedom Trail Park				
Permanent restroom facility	1	\$400,000	\$500,000	●●
Shelter with electricity	1	\$100,000	\$150,000	●●
Transition north sports field into dog park	3	\$200,000	\$250,000	●●
Replace Playground Equipment	1	\$750,000	\$800,000	●●
Add more shade structures	2	\$150,000	\$200,000	●●
Electricity/Technology	2	\$75,000	\$100,000	●●
Redevelop Multiuse Fields	1	\$400,000	\$500,000	●●
New Entry/Access Drive	3	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	●●
Better Wayfinding Signage at Hoover/East Street	2	\$10,000	\$15,000	●●

Grand Junction Plaza				
Band Shell	1	\$5,000,000	\$6,000,000	●●●●
Phase 2 Plaza Improvements	4	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	●●●●
Gate Closure Arms on Jersey Street	1	\$200,000	\$250,000	●●●●
Shade Structures	2	\$100,000	\$200,000	●●●●
Digital Kiosk	3	\$15,000	\$25,000	●●●●
Coordination with Adjacent Developers regarding Parking & ADA Parking	2			●

Hadley				
Community Programming Board	3		\$15,000	●●
Add/improve signage	3		\$10,000	●●
Centerpiece upgrade - art or kiosk	3		\$25,000	●

Liberty Park				
Trail Connections north and west in association with new Roundabout	2	\$100,000	\$150,000	●○
Restoration and extension of boardwalk for connectivity	2		\$500,000	●●
Interpretive Signage	2		\$20,000	●●

Key: ● Budget ● Impact Fee ● Bond ● Donors ● In-House ○ Transportation Fee ● Work with WHS

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
<u>Newby Property</u>				
4 Season Farmers Market	2	\$6,000,000	\$8,000,000	●●●
Agri-Park	1	\$150,000	\$200,000	●●●
Trails	1	\$400,000	\$500,000	●●●
Parking	1	\$500,000	\$750,000	●●●
Restroom	2	\$350,000	\$500,000	●●●
Shelters	1	\$200,000	\$350,000	●●●
Regional Detention	1	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	●●●
Community Gardens	1	\$450,000	\$600,000	●●●

<u>Old Friends Cemetery Park</u>				
Headstone & Cemetery Restoration	3		\$100,000	●●●

<u>Osborne Park</u>				
Trails/Walkway/Fishing around pond	1	\$350,000	\$450,000	●●
Plant trees and habitat areas	1	\$100,000	\$150,000	●●
Trail connections	1	\$50,000	\$75,000	●●
Open Play Space	1	\$200,000	\$250,000	●●
Parking	1	\$350,000	\$500,000	●●
Playground	1	\$400,000	\$800,000	●●
Splashpad	1	\$400,000	\$750,000	●●
Restroom	1	\$350,000	\$500,000	●●
Picnic Shelters	1	\$200,000	\$300,000	●●

<u>Quaker Park</u>				
Expand parking	2	\$250,000	\$350,000	●●
Pickleball Courts - Add 3	2	\$200,000	\$250,000	●●
Removal of Bocce Ball courts	2	\$5,000	\$10,000	●●

Key: ● Budget ● Impact Fee ● Bond ● Grant ● Donors ● Volunteer ● In-House

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
Raymond Worth Park				
Restroom	2	\$150,000	\$200,000	●●
Shelter	3	\$75,000	\$125,000	●●
Dredge pond for fishing	3		\$30,000	●●●●
Tent/ Primitive camping	2	\$50,000	\$75,000	●●●●
Habitat Restoration	1	\$15,000	\$20,000	●●
Trail signage	1	\$500,000	\$600,000	●●
Parking Upgrades, ADA, & Trail Expansion	2		\$500,000	●●
High Rope Course	4			●⊕

Simon Moon Park				
Implement Phase 2 Construction	1	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	●●

Woods Parcel				
Trailhead in 191st Street area to include land, restrooms & water	1	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	●●

Woods at the Maples Park				
Ash Tree Removal	3	\$5,000	\$10,000/yr	⊕

Road Crossing Improvements Study-DPW w/ Parks				
Planning/Study	1		\$400,000	

Key: ● Budget ● Impact Fee ● Donor ● Volunteer ● Concessionaire ⊕ Maintenance/Ops

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
Monon				
Interpretation - battery power rr station / telegraph / post office	2		\$75,000	 
Add additional Crossing Cameras	1	\$15,000	\$25,000	 
Add Trail Lighting	1		\$1,500,000	 
Safe Crossing - Greyhound Pass	2		\$3,000,000	  
Safe Crossing - 156th Street	2		\$500,000	  
Safe Crossing - 169th Street	2		\$4,000,000	  
Safe Crossing - Westfield Park Road	2		\$500,000	  
Safe Crossing - 181st Street	2		\$500,000	  
Safe Crossing - 186th Street	2		\$500,000	  
Safe Crossing - 191st Street (Grand Park)	1		\$7,000,000	  
Tunnel - 161st Street	1		\$7,000,000	  

Midland				
Trailhead at Kroger with shade	1	\$250,000	\$350,000	 
Add additional Crossing Cameras	1	\$15,000	\$25,000	 
Lighting - east of Union Street to Gray Road	2	\$825,000	\$1,000,000	 
Safe Crossing - Oak Ridge	1		\$4,000,000	  
Safe Crossing - Carey	1		\$5,000,000	  
Safe Crossing - Gray	1		\$4,000,000	  
Safe Crossing @ 32 at Jolietville	1		\$4,000,000	  
Safe Crossing @ Little Eagle Creek	3		\$2,500,000	  

Cool Creek Trail				
Connect to Liberty Park	1	\$250,000	\$300,000	  
Connection of Simon Moon to Cool Creek Park	1	\$5,000,000	\$6,000,000	  

Natalie Wheeler Trail				
SEC Trail Head development	1		\$450,000	 

Key:  Budget  Impact Fee  Transportation Grant  DPW

Location	Priority	Low Budget	High Budget	Funding Source
Policies and Procedures				
Mapping				●
Invasive Species Removal Plan				●
Mayor's Green Initiative				●
Encourage Private Property Naturalization				●
Marketing / Ad / Media Plan				●
ADA Compliance Plan Review/Update				●
Fishing / Water / Small Boating				●
Long term maintenance plans for parks and trails				●
Drone Policy				●
update of all poicies and procedures to reflect stand alone department				

Property Acquisition				
Northwest Area Property	1	\$7,500,000	\$10,000,000	●●
Southwest Area Property	1	\$7,500,000	\$10,000,000	●●
North/Northeast Property	1	\$7,500,000	\$10,000,000	●●
Considerations/Discussions with Township regarding MacGregor Park	1			Ⓜ
Considerations/Discussions with Schools about property acquisition	1			Ⓜ

Considerations for All Parks				
Pollinator gardens/plantings	2	\$10,000	\$25,000/ea	Ⓜ
Add or improve Interpretive Signage		\$2,500	\$5,000/ea	Ⓜ
Plant natives to replace invasive species		\$25,000	\$100,000	Ⓜ
Public Wifi at Facilities & Park Areas	1		tbd	
Hazard Tree Removal	1	\$7,500	\$10,000/yr	
Playground Updates		\$350,000	\$500,000/ea	
Teen Focused Amenities			tbd	Ⓜ

Other				
Light Pole banner/flower basket arms study size and number for new lights			tbd	Ⓜ
People mover / trolley/ transit / circulation between parks & Grand Junction			tbd	Ⓜ

Key: ● Budget ● Impact Fee Ⓜ Maintenance/Operations ● In-House Ⓜ Study In-House

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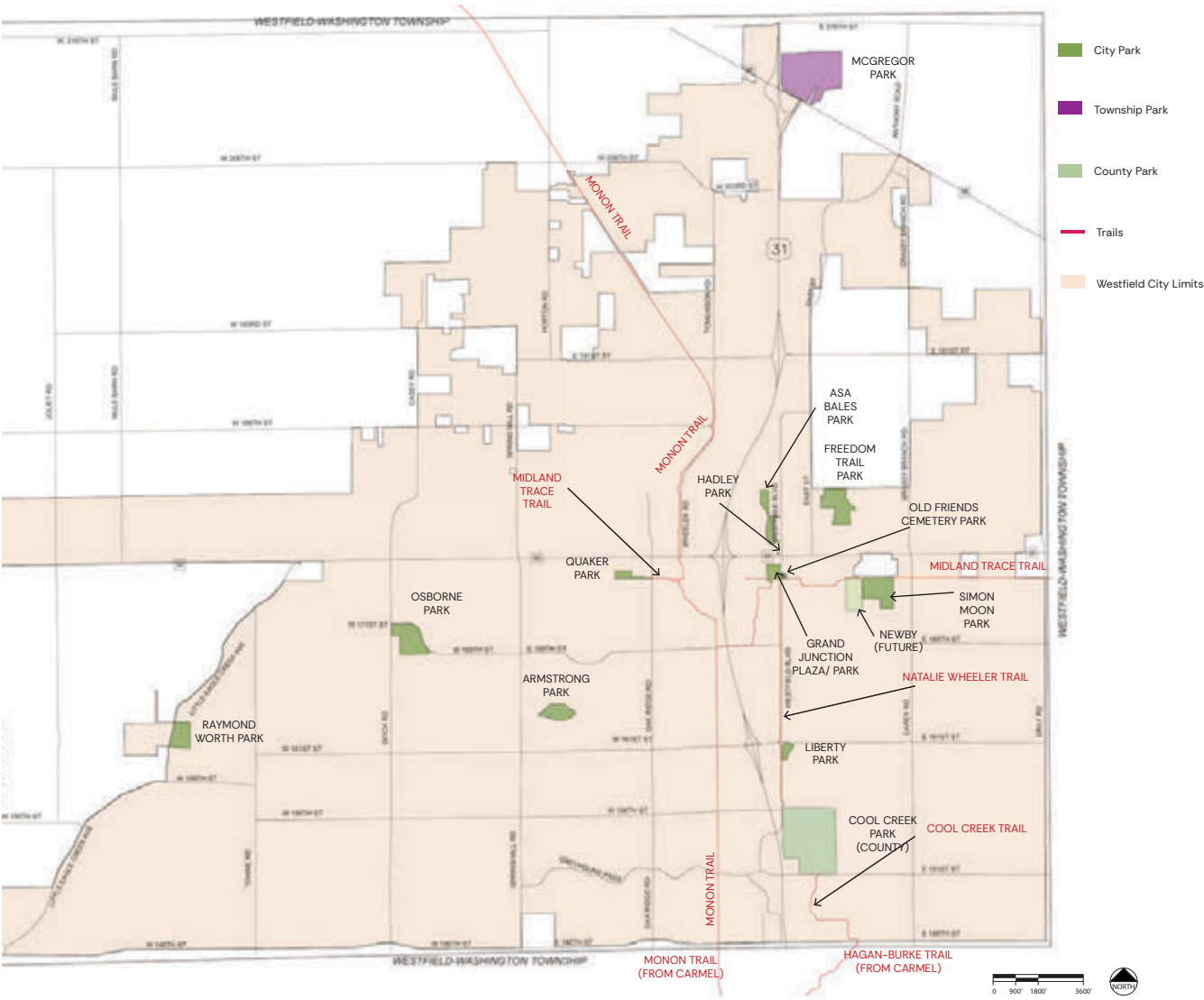
Appendices

07

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Appendix 1

Map of Westfield Parks and Trails



Appendix 2

Survey Questions

1.. Were you aware that Westfield has established a Park Board and state recognized Park Department this year? y/n

2.. How many times have you visited the following Westfield City parks in the past 12 months?

- a. Armstrong Park _____ # of visits
- b. Asa Bales Park _____ # of visits
- c. Freedom Trail Park _____ # of visits
- d. Grand Junction Park & Plaza _____ # of visits
- e. Hadley Park _____ # of visits
- f. Liberty Park _____ # of visits
- g. Old Friends Cemetery Park _____ # of visits
- h. Osborne Park _____ # of visits
- i. Quaker Park _____ # of visits
- j. Raymond Worth Park _____ # of visits
- k. Simon Moon Park _____ # of visits

3. How many times have you visited the following Hamilton County or Hamilton Township parks in the past 12 months?

- a. Bray Family Homestead Park _____ # of visits (county park)
- b. Cool Creek Park _____ # of visits (county park)
- c. MacGregor Park _____ # of visits (Township park)

4. How many times have you visited the following trails within Westfield in the past 12 months?

- a. Grassy Branch Trail _____ # of visits
- b. Cool Creek Trail _____ # of visits
- c. Midland Trace Trail _____ # of visits
- d. Monon Trail _____ # of visits
- e. Natalie Wheeler Trail _____ # of visits

5. With whom do you most often visit parks?

- a. Children
- b. Friends
- c. Grandchildren
- d. Grandparents
- e. It varies
- f. Just me
- g. My pet(s)
- h. Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

6. Please rate the quality of each park and its facilities:

- a. Armstrong Park
- b. Asa Bales Park
- c. Freedom Trail Park
- d. Grand Junction Park & Plaza
- e. Hadley Park
- f. Liberty Park
- g. Old Friends Cemetery Park
- h. Osborne Park
- i. Quaker Park
- j. Raymond Worth Park
- k. Simon Moon Park

Rating scale: *Very good, *Good, *Average, *Poor

7. Please rank your top 3 parks and its facilities in order of preference:

- a. Armstrong Park
- b. Asa Bales Park
- c. Freedom Trail Park
- d. Grand Junction Park & Plaza
- e. Hadley Park
- f. Liberty Park
- g. Old Friends Cemetery Park
- h. Osborne Park
- i. Quaker Park
- j. Raymond Worth Park
- k. Simon Moon Park

8. Please rate the quality of each Westfield Trail:

- a. Grassy Branch Trail
- b. Cool Creek Trail
- c. Midland Trace Trail
- d. Monon Trail
- e. Natalie Wheeler Trail

Rating scale = *Very good, *Good, *Average, *Poor

9. Is there a need for recreation style athletic facilities for youth or adult sports leagues or pick-up games, such as?

- a. Baseball/Softball
- b. Disc Golf
- c. Football/Soccer
- d. Pickleball
- e. Other Field Sports (Rugby, Lacrosse, Cricket, Field Hockey, etc.)
- f. Other [OPEN]

10. I would like to see City of Westfield Parks & Recreation add or develop the following things. Rank all that apply, with 1 being most important: (you do not need to rank all items on the list.)

- a. Agri-park/Community Gardens
- b. Art Gardens
- c. Basketball Courts
- d. Camping/RV Park
- e. Community Gardens
- f. Dog Park
- g. Event Space
- h. Fishing
- i. Fitness Course
- j. Gathering Spaces
- k. Ice Skating
- l. Natural Areas
- m. Nature Preserves
- n. Open Play Space
- o. Performance venue
- p. Pickleball Courts
- q. Picnic Shelters
- r. Playgrounds
- s. Pool
- t. Recreation Center
- u. Splash pad/Spray Park
- v. Tennis Courts
- w. Trails
- x. Trails Linking Communities
- y. Volleyball Courts
- z. Other [OPEN]

11. Are there areas of the city that are currently underserved by park facilities? If so, where? [Select all that apply.]

- a. No, all areas served well
- b. Northwest
- c. West
- d. Southwest
- e. North
- f. South

12. Based on your preferences for parks and recreational services & programs, what are the top 3 unmet needs for you and the persons in your household?

- a. Adventure facilities
- b. Agricultural/Farming education
- c. Archery ranges
- d. Campgrounds
- e. Community concerts
- f. Community gardens
- g. Fitness & wellness programs
- h. Nature centers / environmental education
- i. Nature trails
- j. Public art in parks
- k. Sports courts / fields
- l. Sports leagues

13. If you are under 18 years old, what are your favorite pastime activities?

- a. Active sports (soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, etc.)
- b. Passive sports (gaming, chess)
- c. Reading
- d. Singing / Dancing / Acting / Playing a musical instrument
- e. Hanging out with my friends
- f. Shopping
- g. Other [Open]

14. If you are under 18, what additional features or activities would you like to see in Westfield Parks?
[Open Response]

15. What current activities would you like to see more of?

- a. Adult Programming
- b. Concerts
- c. Creek Stomp
- d. Farmers Market
- e. Ice Skating
- f. Workout Wednesday
- g. Youth Programming
- h. Other [OPEN RESPONSE]

16. What makes Westfield's parks and trails unique from other communities?
[OPEN RESPONSE]

17. How do you learn about parks, trails and events in Westfield?

Community Meeting
e-newsletter
Facebook
Instagram
Newspaper
Nextdoor
Twitter / X
Westfield City Website
Westfield Welcome website
Other [OPEN RESPONSE]

18. Is the City of Westfield website (westfield.in.gov) informative and useful?

- a. Yes, Great Job!
- b. Good information presented well
- c. Information should be updated more frequently
- d. No, website is not helpful
- e. I haven't been to the website

19. Is the Westfield Welcome website (westfieldwelcome.com) informative and useful?

- a. Yes, Great Job!
- b. Good information presented well
- c. Information should be updated more frequently
- d. No, website is not helpful
- e. I haven't been to the website

20. Tell us what prevents you from visiting Westfield City parks more often:

- a. Too far from where I live
- b. No time to visit
- c. Lack of parking
- d. I'm not interested in the activities/facilities offered
- e. Facilities are not well maintained
- f. Security concerns
- g. I prefer parks outside of the city (Please specify which ones)
- h. The parks near me do not have the right equipment
- i. I do not know where the parks are
- j. Cost for programs/activities
- k. Other (please specify)

21. Knowing funding is always limited, which of the following are reasonable funding sources for City of Westfield to pay for new amenities in the parks?

- a. Donations
- b. Existing Budget
- c. Expanded park budget
- d. Grants
- e. Municipal Bonds
- f. New Taxes
- g. Park Impact Fees (fees assessed to new residential building permits)
- h. User Fees (for programs and special events)
- i. Other/Comments [Open]

22. Would you support a City of Westfield Parks & Recreation Foundation?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure

23. If you had \$100 to spend for Parks & Recreation facilities, how would you distribute funds for the following categories:

- a. Maintain existing facilities
 - b. Develop new amenities within existing parks
 - c. Invest in new park property
 - d. Develop new greenways/trails throughout the city
 - e. Develop new Recreation Center
 - f. Upgrade existing facilities
 - g. Provide additional options for programs/activities
- \$100 Total

24. Do you have any other comments for the City of Westfield Parks & Recreation Department?
[OPEN RESPONSE]

25. Are you a Westfield resident?

- a. Yes
- b. No

26. If you answered 'yes' to question #22, how long have you lived in the City of Westfield?

- a. <1 year
- b. 1-4 years
- c. 5-9 years
- d. 10-14 years
- e. 15-19 years
- f. 20+ years

27. What is your zip code?

[OPEN RESPONSE]

28. Gender

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Prefer not to say
- d. Prefer to self-describe: [OPEN RESPONSE]

29. What is your age?

- a. Under 18
- b. 18-24
- c. 25-34
- d. 35-44
- e. 45-54
- f. 55-64
- g. 65-74
- h. 75+

30. Please list the number of people in your household by age:

- a. 0-9 ___
- b. 10-18 ___
- c. 19-34 ___
- d. 35-55 ___
- e. 55+ ___

31. What is your employment status?

- a. Full Time
- b. Part Time
- c. Retired
- d. Student
- e. Unemployed

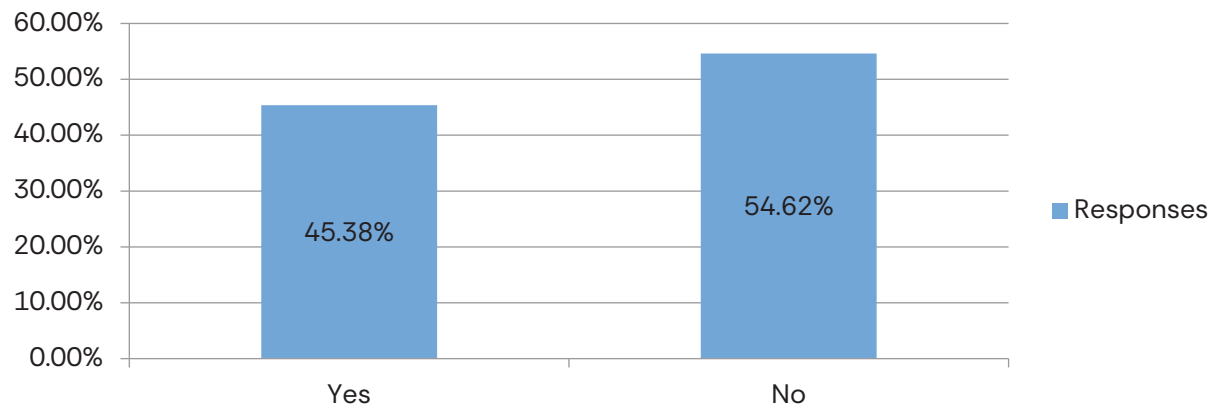
32. What is your annual household income range?

- a. Less than \$40,000
- b. \$40-80,000
- c. \$80-120,000
- d. \$120-160,000
- e. \$160,000+
- f. Prefer not to state

Appendix 3

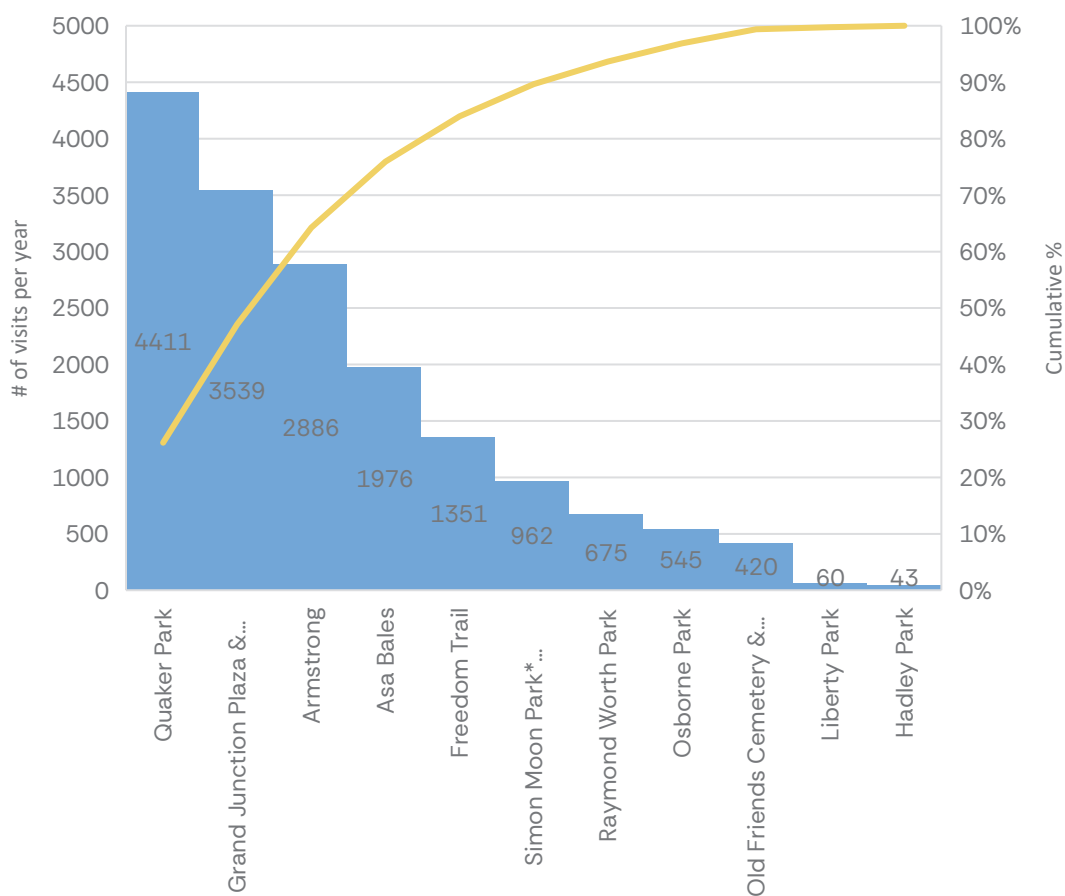
Survey Questions Results

Question 1: Were you aware that Westfield has established a Park Board and state-recognized Park Department this year?



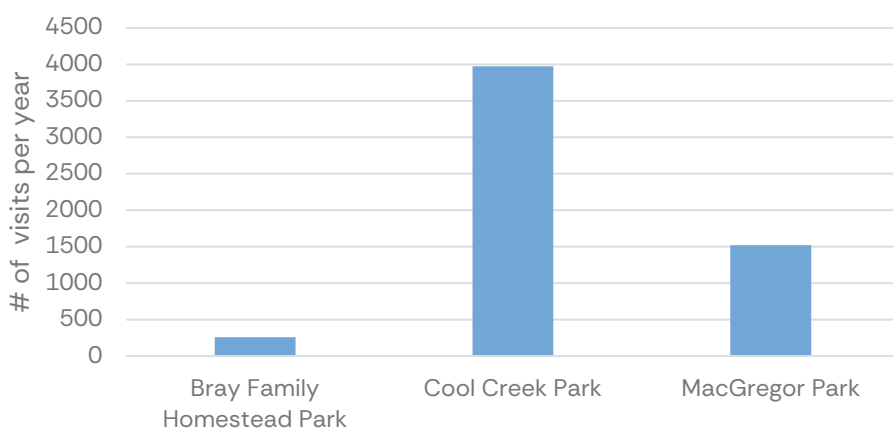
Question 2: How many times have you visited the following Westfield City parks in the past 12 months?

The following graph shows the collective number of annual visit to each park. 80% of all park visits reported were to four of Westfield’s parks: Quaker Park, Grand Junction Plaza & Park, Armstrong Park and Asa Bales Park. It should be noted that even though Armstrong Park is considered undeveloped, a considerable number of people still used the area for daily and weekly visits, notably for running or walking. The data also revealed that Liberty Park and Hadley Park were visited significantly less than any other parks.

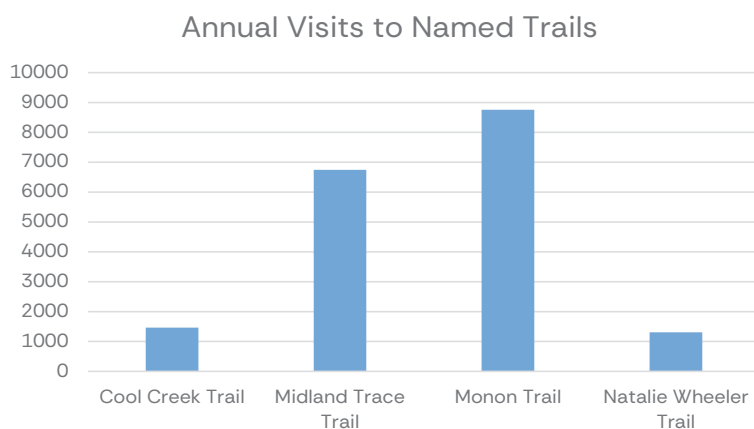


Question 3: How many times have you visited the following Hamilton County or Westfield Washington Township Parks? (Bray Family Homestead, Cool Creek, or MacGregor Park)

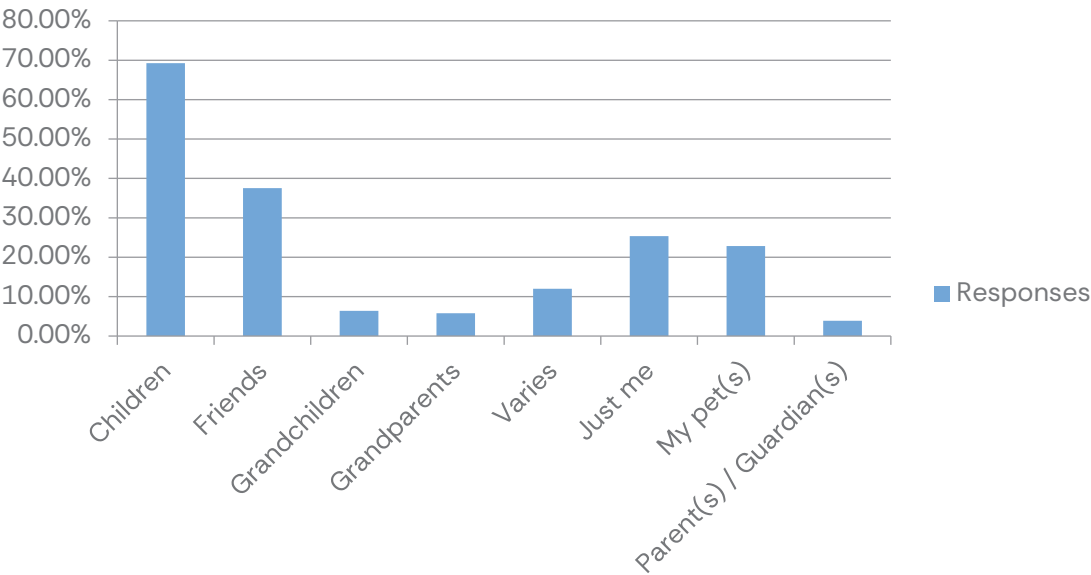
Survey respondents also took advantage of parks within Westfield's city limits that are operated by either Hamilton County or Westfield Washington Township.



Question 4: How many times have you visited the following trails within Westfield in the past 12 months?

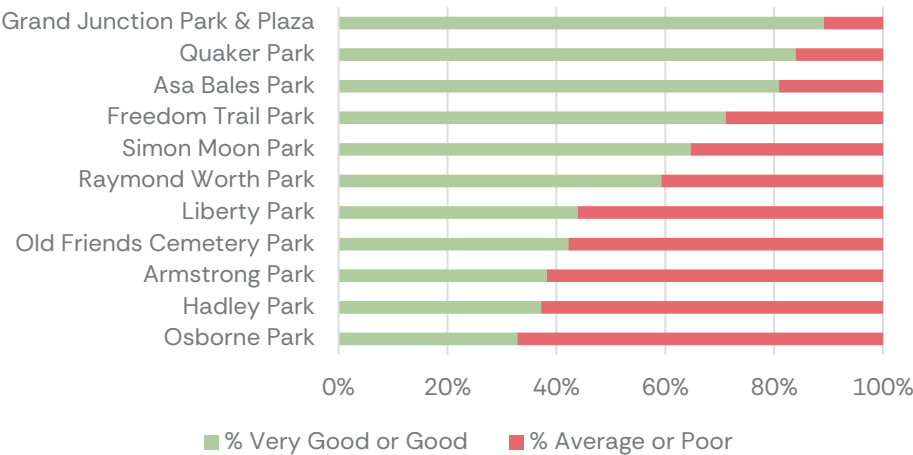


Question 5: With whom do you most often visit parks?

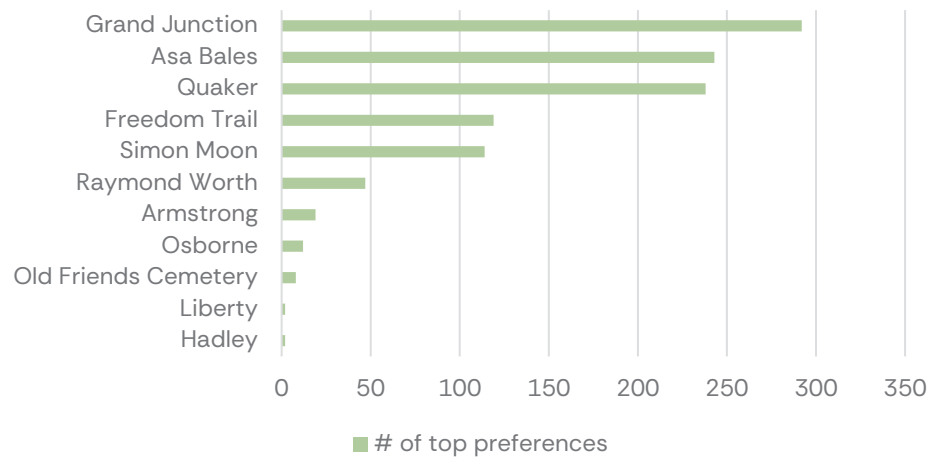


Question 6: Please rate the quality of each park and its facilities:

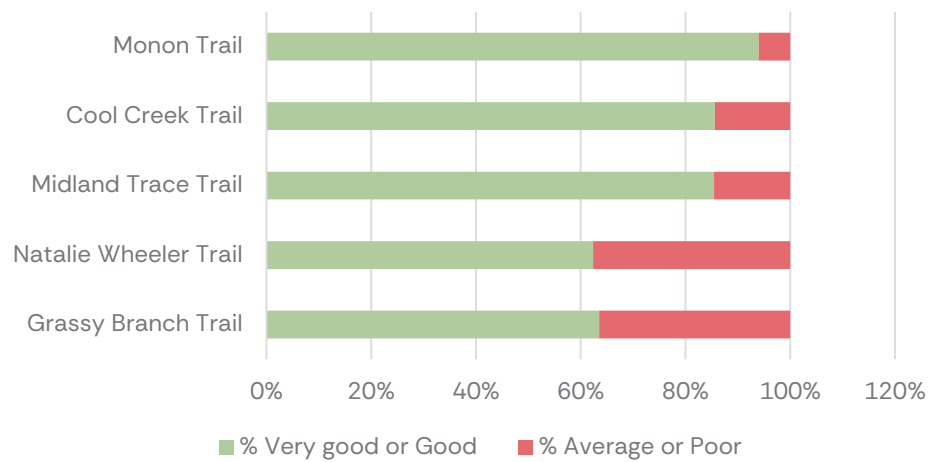
Q6: Quality of Park



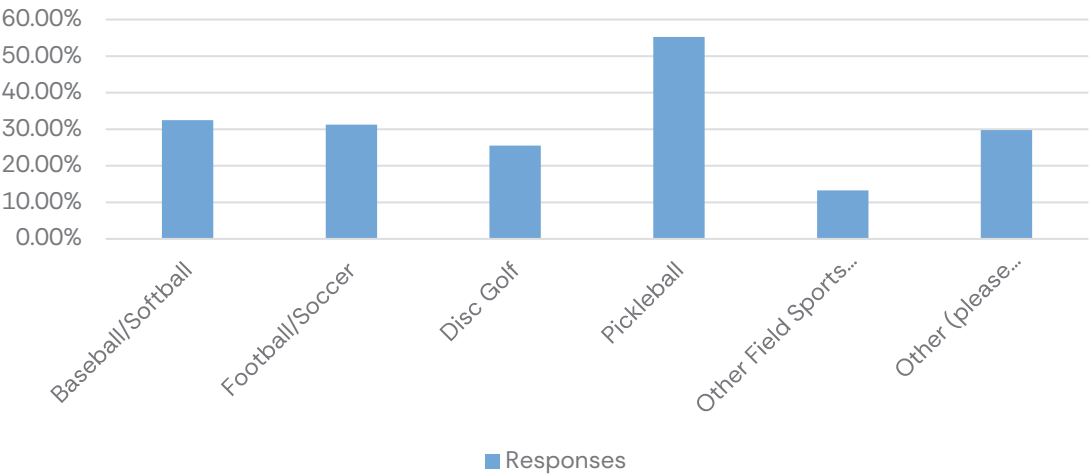
Question 7: Please rank your top 3 parks and their facilities in order of preference:



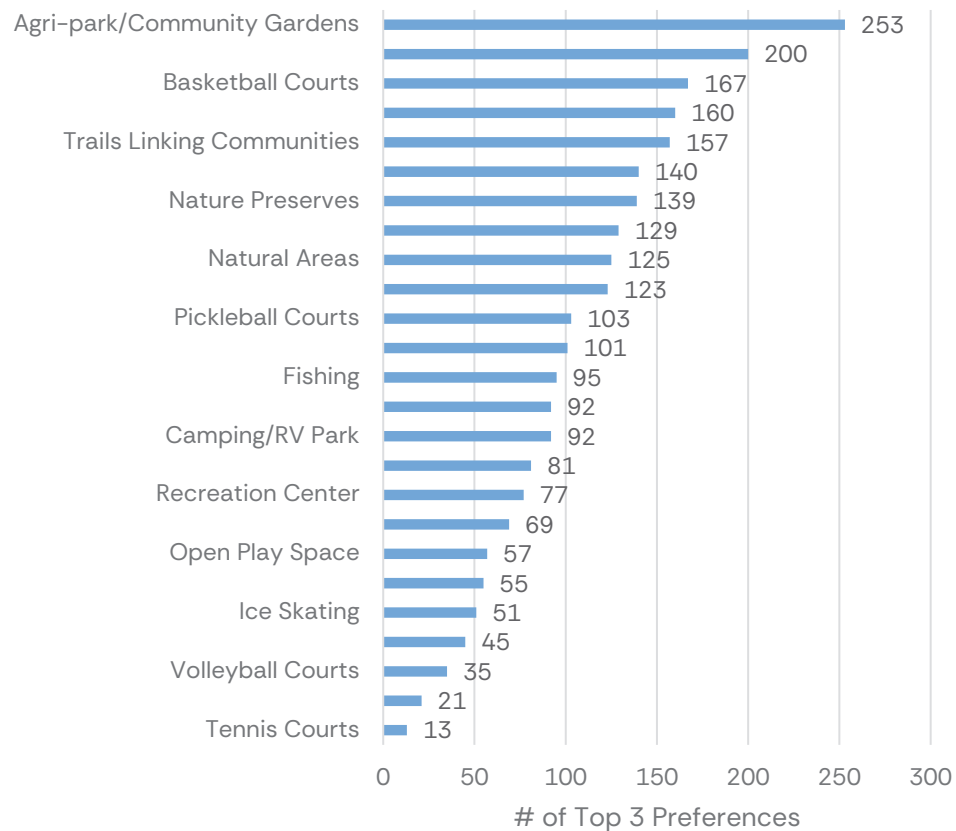
Question 8: Please rate the quality of each trail:



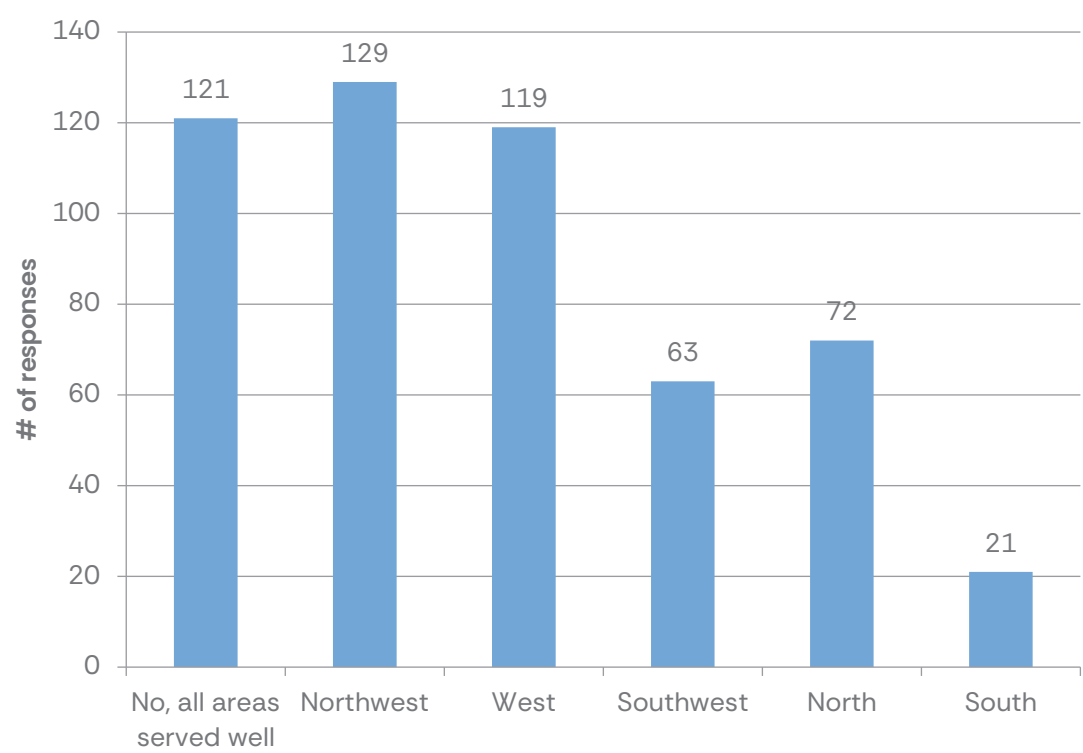
Question 9: Is there a need for public recreation-style athletic fields, adult sports leagues or pick-up games, such as...?



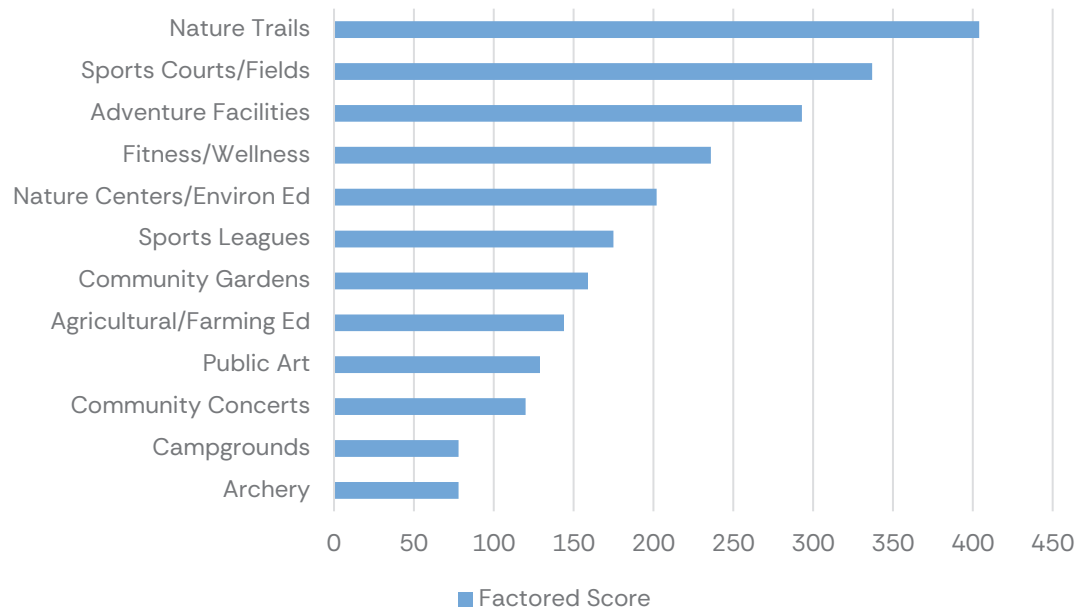
Question 10: I would like to see City of Westfield Parks & Recreation add or develop the following things. Rank all that apply, with 1 being most important: (You do not need to rank all items on the list.)



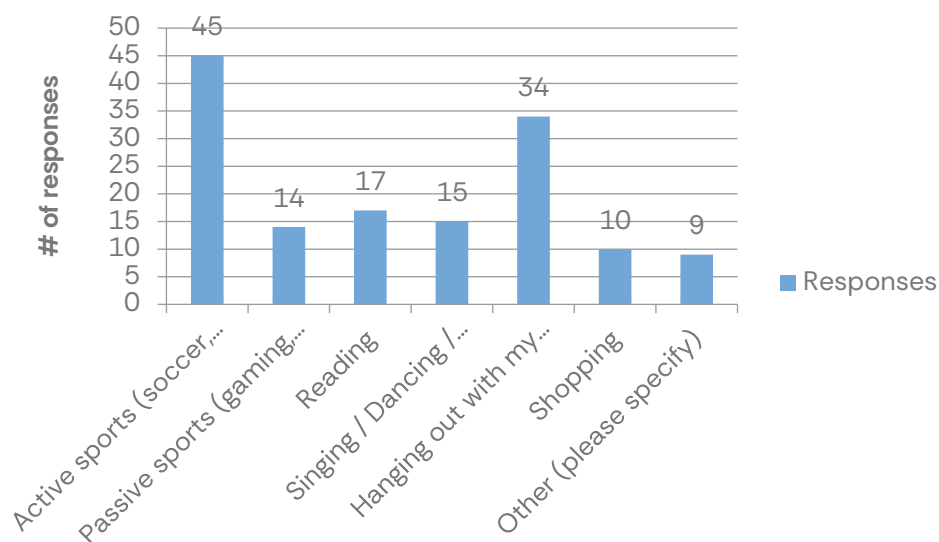
Question 11: Are there areas of the city that are currently underserved by park facilities? If so, where?



Question 12: Based on your preferences for parks and recreational services & programs, what are the top 3 unmet needs for you and the persons in your household?



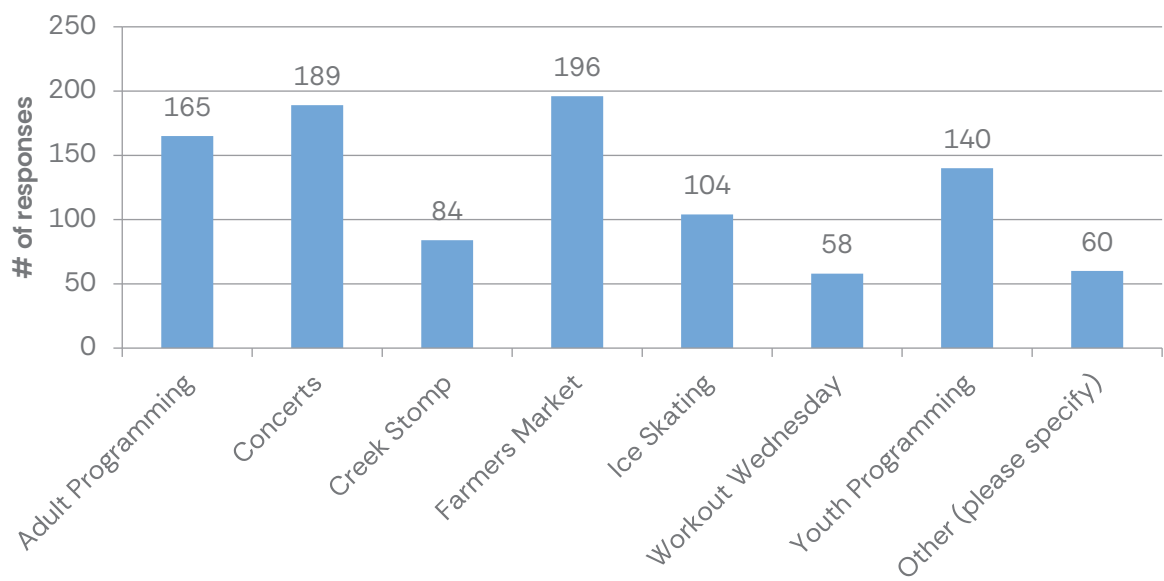
Question 13: If you are under 18 years old, what are your favorite pastime activities?



Question 14: If you are under 18, what additional features or activities would you like to see in Westfield Parks?

- More trails and more walkability
- Public pools
- Softball diamonds & sports fields
- Pump track/skate parks
- Pickleball courts
- Sports leagues for 7th-12th grade girls
- Places where teens can hang out or gather

Question 15: What current activities would you like to see more of?



Question 16: What makes Westfield's parks and trails unique from other communities? (Open Response)

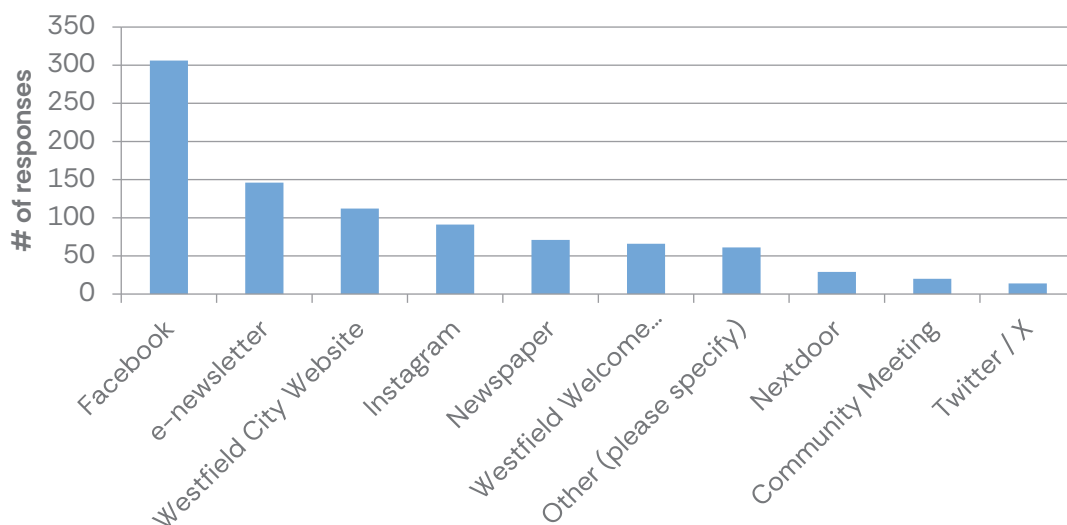
Positive Comments:

- The inclusive areas are nicely unique
- Love the walkability and trails. This is why we moved to Westfield
- A lot of new interest in parks is great
- Love Grand Junction. It feels cozy and communal.
- Our parks are not overpopulated
- Parks are creatively laid out
- We like that the city's heritage is woven through the parks.
- Like the willingness to ask the community for input.

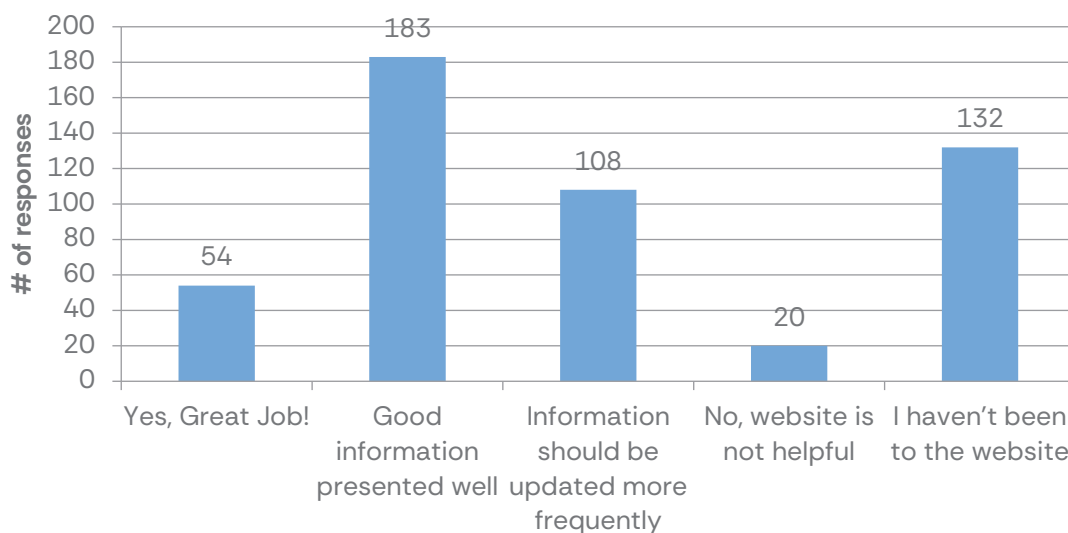
Opportunities for Improvement:

- Need larger tracts of land for parks
- Just not enough parks
- The west side of Westfield is an opportunity for nature preserves or small hobby farm parks.
- Lots of potential to grow here!
- Create a place for teens so they don't overtake the playgrounds
- Our parks are good, but not necessarily unique

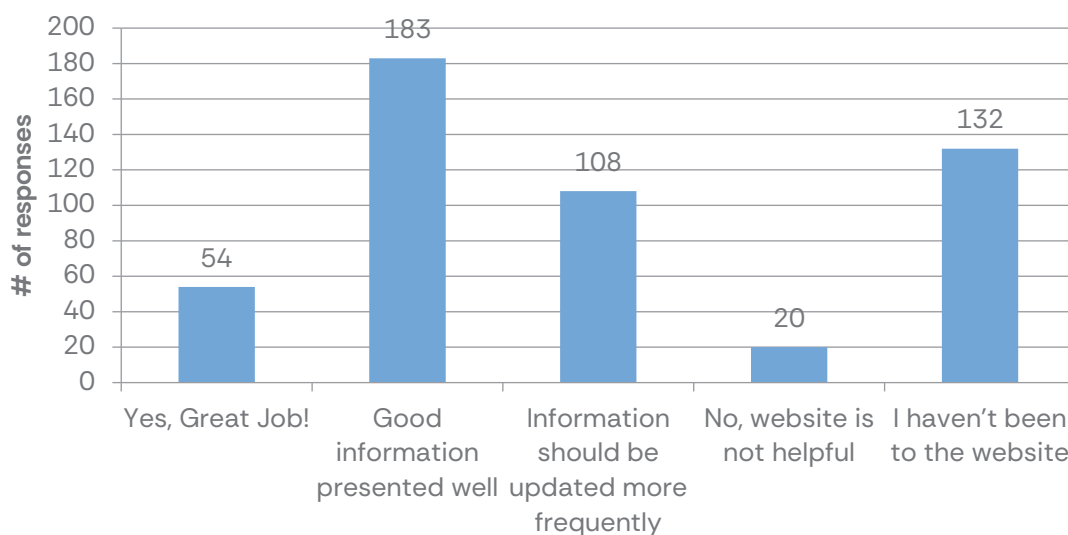
Question 17: How do you learn about parks, trails, and events in Westfield?



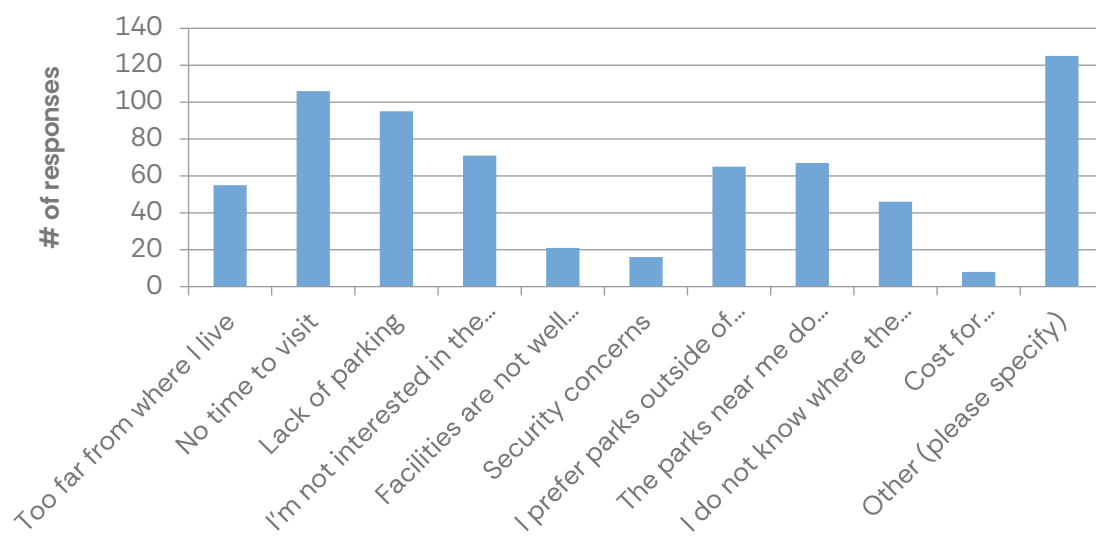
Question 18: Is the City of Westfield website (westfield.in.gov) informative and useful?



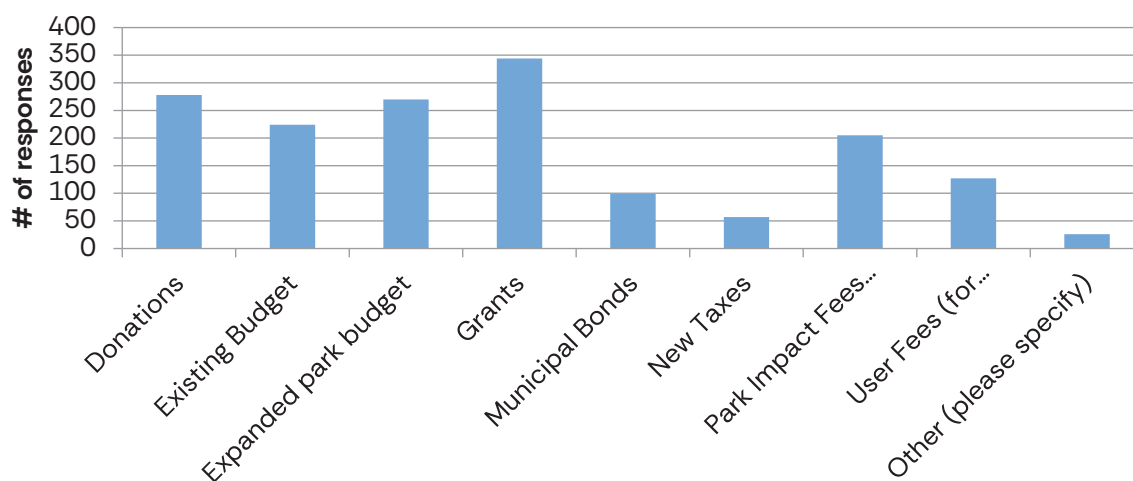
Question 19: Is the Westfield Welcome website (westfieldwelcome.com) informative and useful?



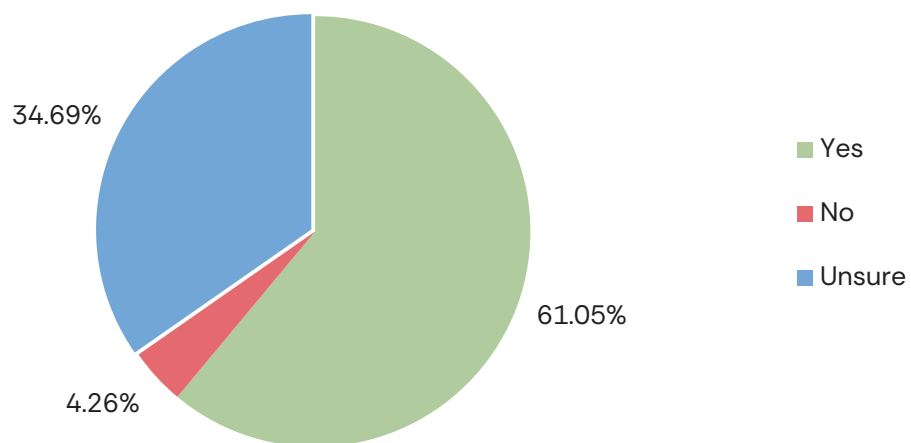
Question 20: Tell us what prevents you from visiting Westfield City parks more often:



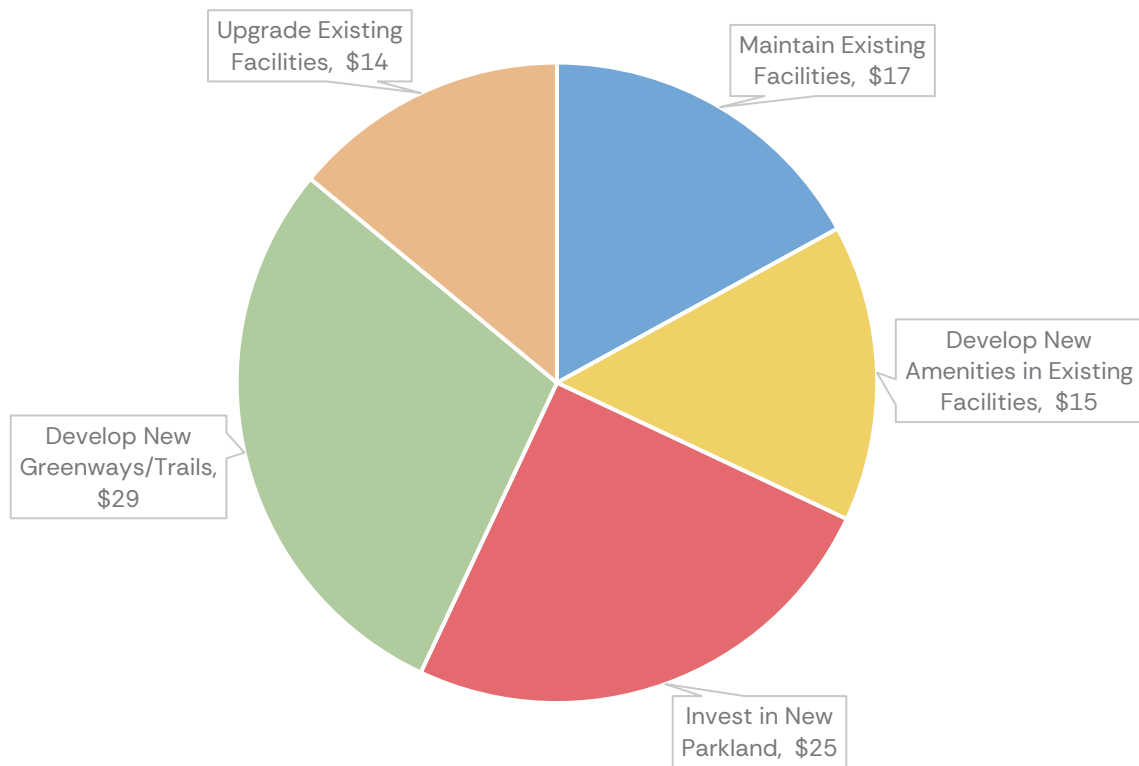
Question 21: Knowing funding is always limited, which of the following are reasonable funding sources for City of Westfield to pay for new amenities in the parks?



Question 22: Would you support a City of Westfield Parks & Recreation Foundation?



Question 23: If you had \$100 to spend for Parks & Recreation facilities, how would you distribute funds across the following categories? (Entered amounts should add up to \$100.)



Question 24: Do you have any other comments for the City of Westfield Parks & Recreation Department?

Positive Comments:

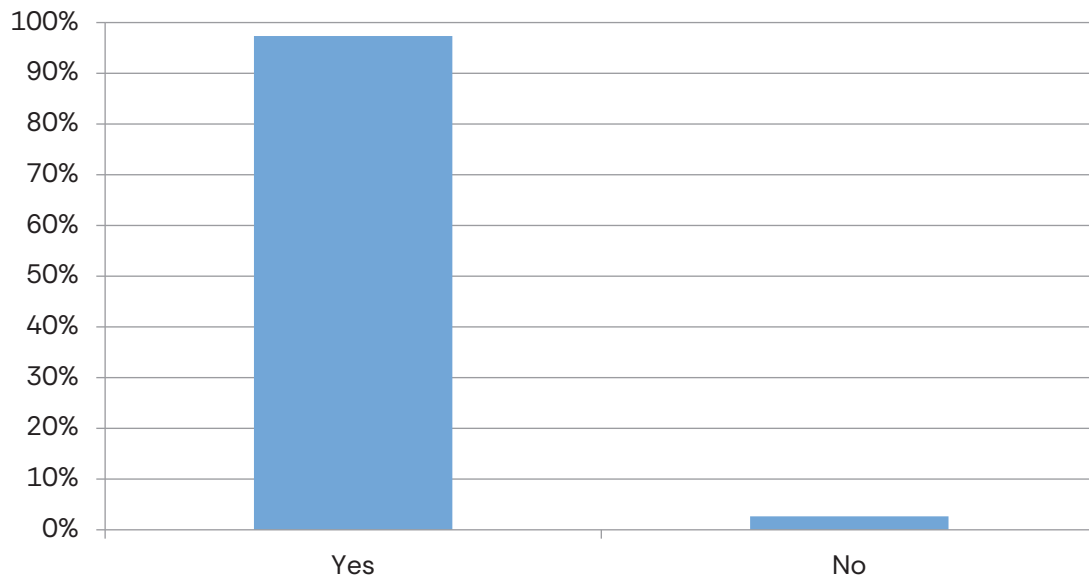
- I think Westfield is already doing a good job
- We love our parks in Westfield
- You are doing a good job
- We really enjoy being able to get around
- Looking forward to the development of Osborne park
- The existing parks have lots of potential. Please spend money on their upkeep before spending on new parks
- I am generally happy with the current park system. I would love to see more trail connections
- I can't wait for the new Simon Moon park to open!
- Excited! I would like to know more about the parks board and their service to the city
- Grand Junction is a great place to walk. Can you keep the lights on later for evening and night walkers?
- You guys rock!
- I love that you are doing this survey!
- Looking forward to an Agi-Park at Newby
- Love our parks and use them often for workouts and playing with my kids. It is a huge asset to the community
- (Many pro-golf cart comments)

Opportunities for improvement:

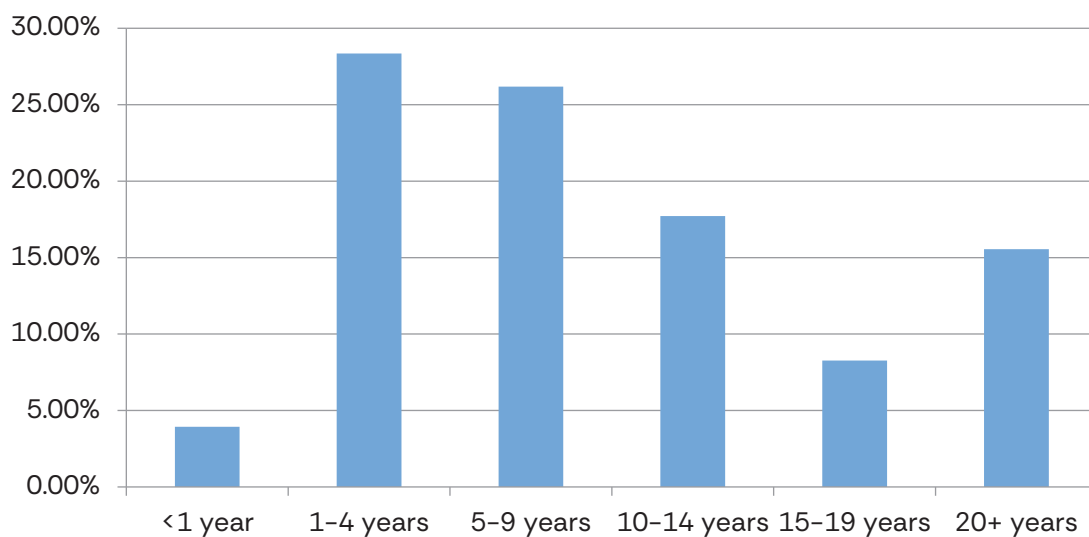
- A community this size should have a public pool
- Need one large park (besides Grand Park) that is 500+ acres
- Need more safe crossings across 32 so people can access amenities on the other side
- Connect the trails with the parks
- Need restrooms at ALL parks
- Need more pickleball courts
- Need a park for large dogs
- Every square inch of land seems to be used for commercial or residential use. It would be nice for more green space.
- Don't bulldoze all of the trees.
- It would be nice to have more drinking fountains at the parks
- Finding a place in Westfield for a mountain bike park would be great
- Please connect paths and sidewalks in the northwest part of the city. It isn't safe to ride or walk with kids when there are gaps in [completed] sidewalks.
- Need amenities for pre-teens and teenagers
- Wading ponds and places to fish would be great
- One of those safety towns where kids can learn how to safely cross roads and ride their bikes would be a great opportunity
- Our city is great for walking, but kids think this is boring
- (Many anti-golf cart comments)

Demographic Questions

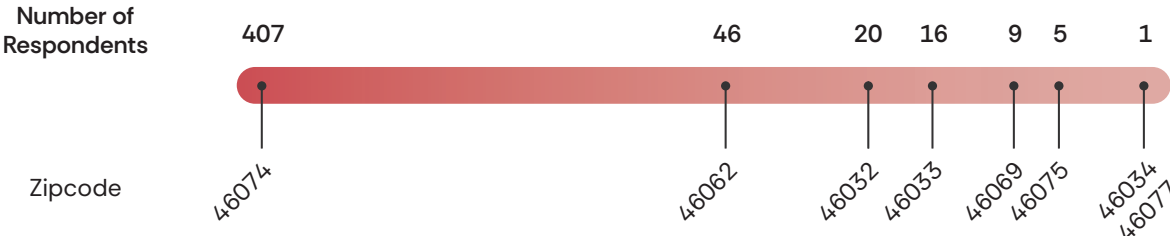
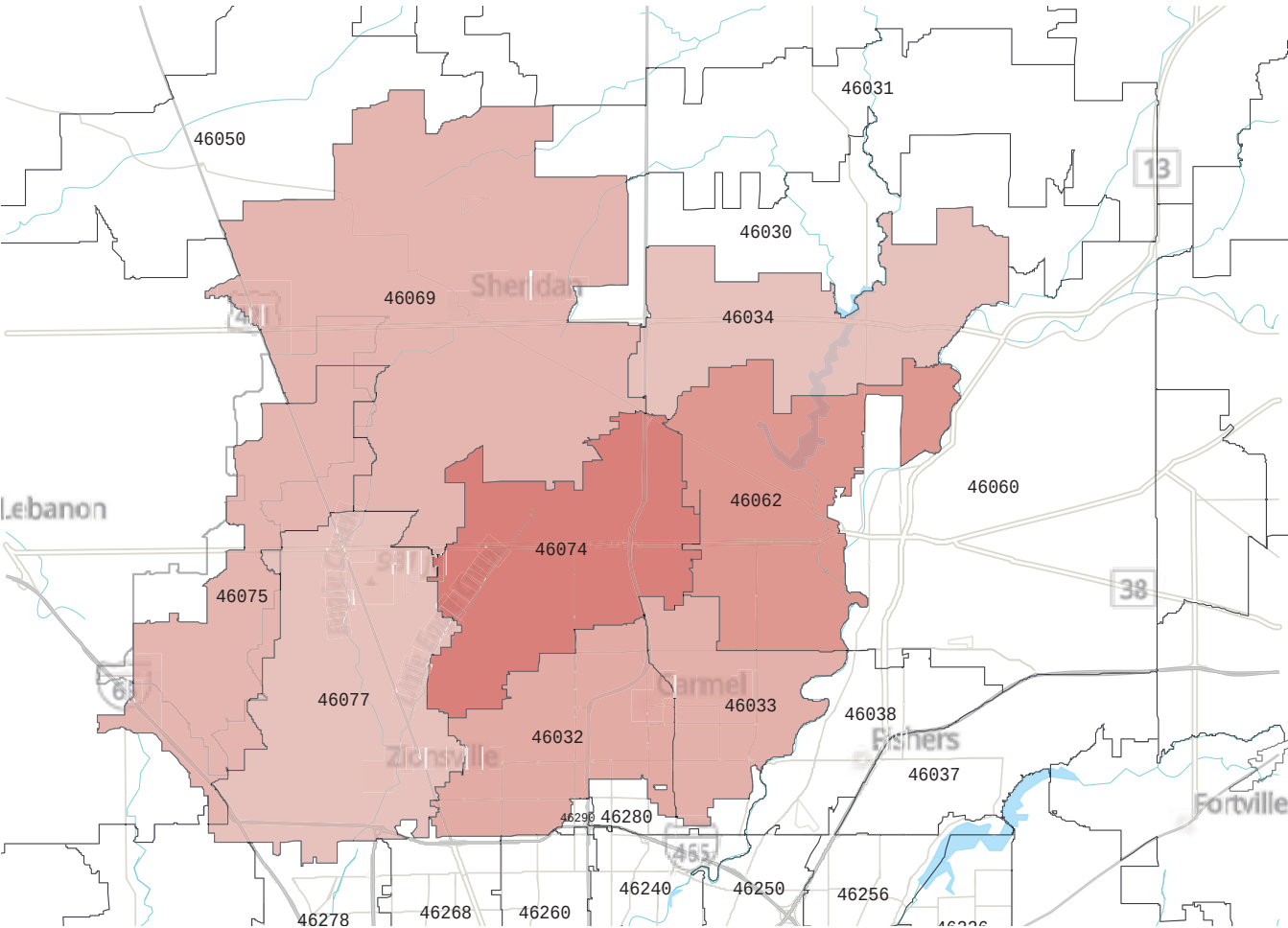
Question 25: Are you a Westfield resident?



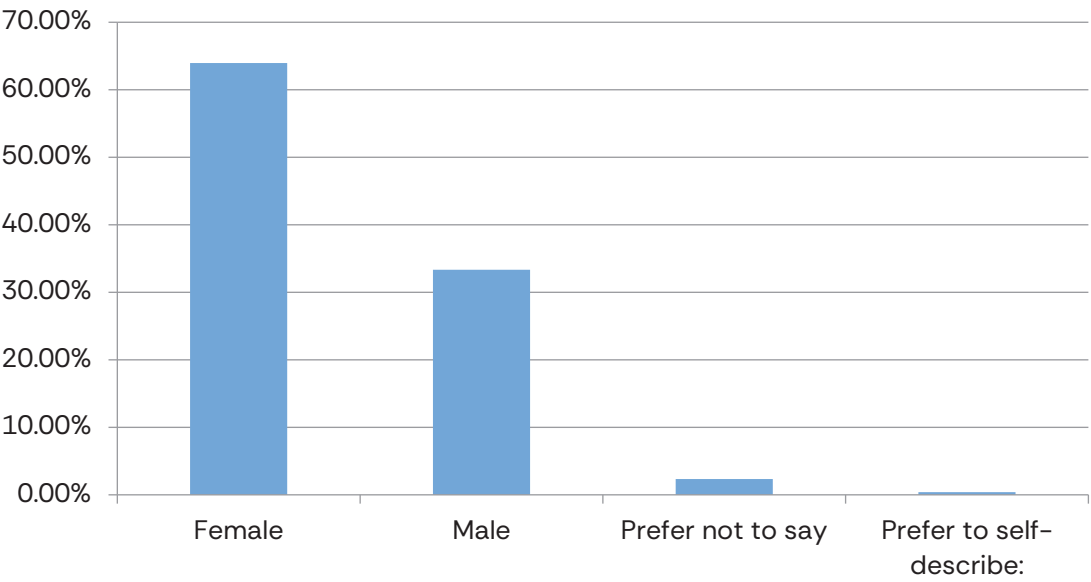
Question 26: If you answered 'yes' to question #25, how long have you lived in the City of Westfield?



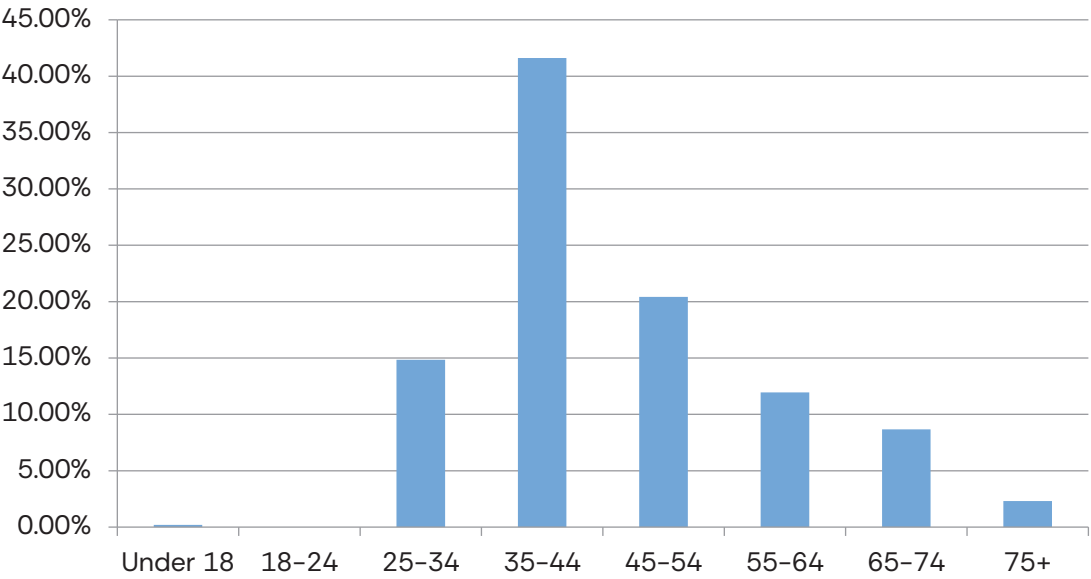
Question 27: What is your zip code?



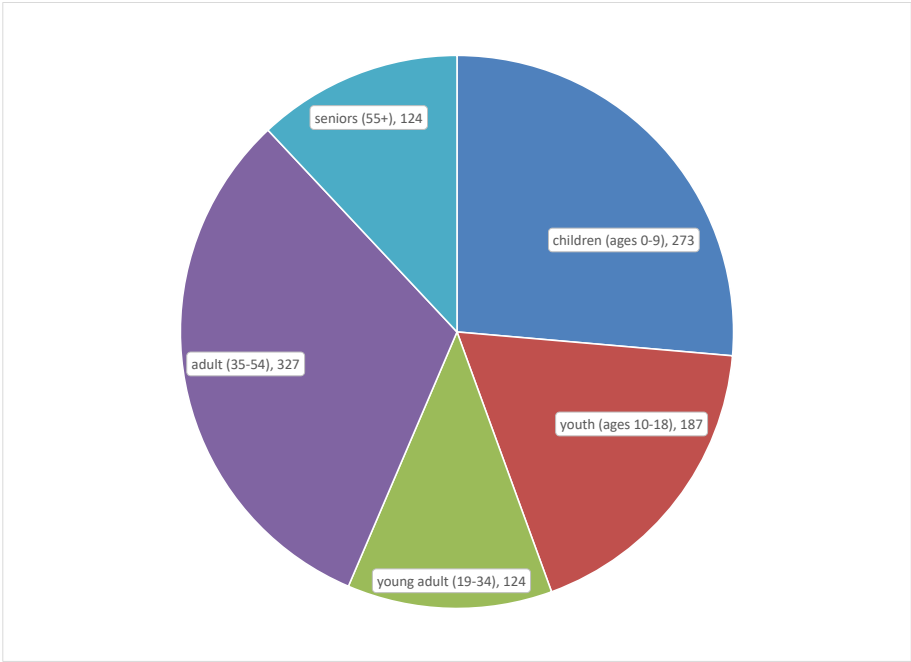
Question 28: Gender



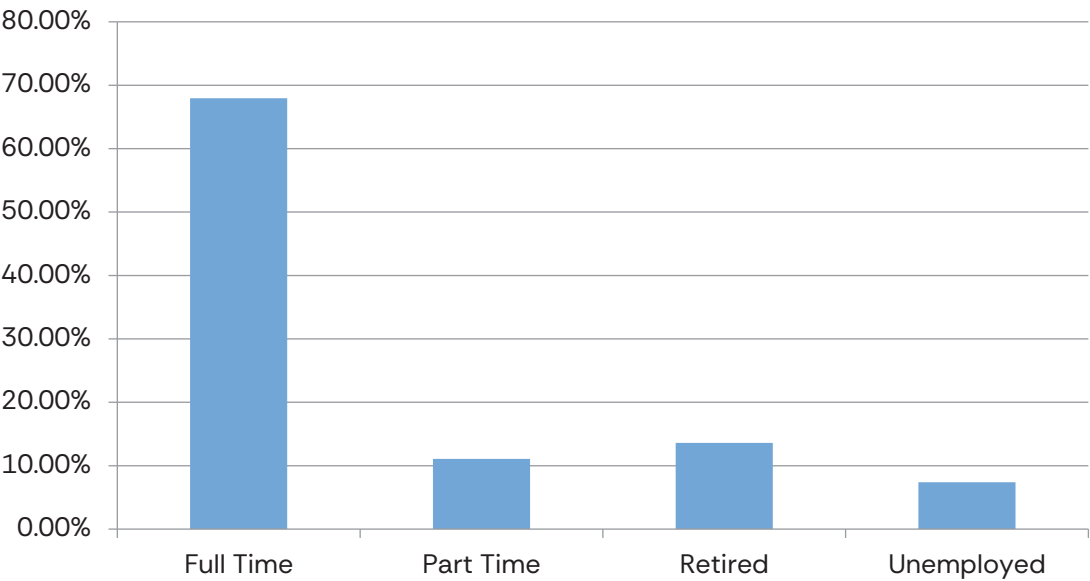
Question 29: What is your age range?



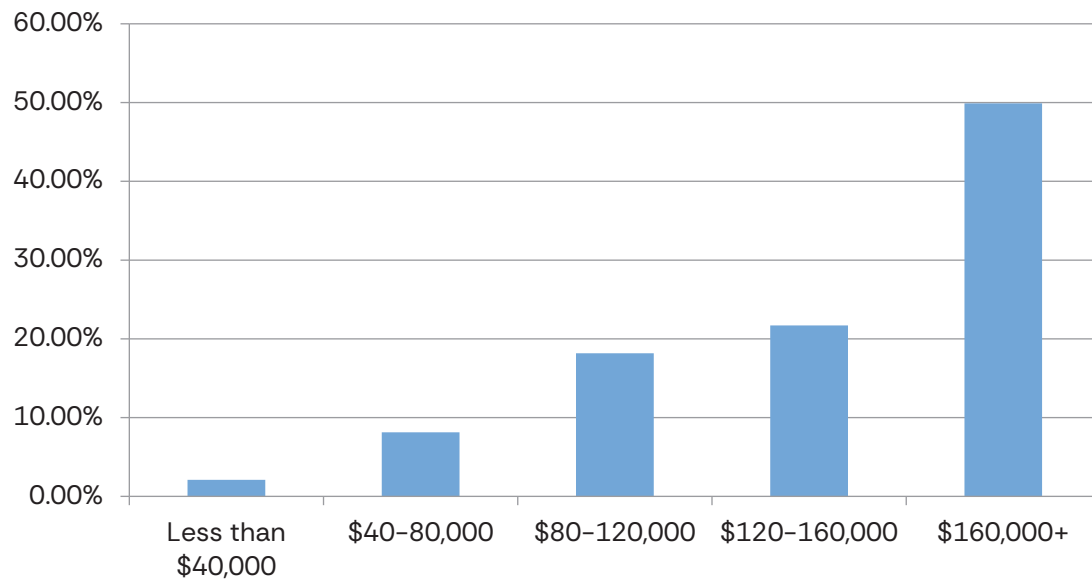
Question 30: Please list the number of people in your household by age:



Question 31: What is your employment status?



Question 32: What is your annual household income range?



Appendix 4

Public Meeting Attendance Sheets: September 17, 2024 (1 of 3)

Sign-In Sheet

Date: September 17, 2024

Project: Westfield Parks & Recreation
5-Yr Master Plan
Public Meeting #1



Name Email/Phone

Tammy Osborne	@gmail.com
PATRICK MAY	@gmail.com
LINDA MAY	@MAC.com
Rob Mattingly	@gmail.com
Derek Faulk	@gmail.com
Michelle (Mike) Faulk	@gmail.com
Vicky Horne	@gmail.com
Melody Wisely	@yahoo.com
Jennifer Campbell	@yahoo.com
Michael Campbell	@yahoo.com
Sara Hollin	@gmail.com
Diane By	@gmail.com
Liz Panyard	@gmail.com
Helene Hoen	@gmail.com
Marney Simon	@youarecurrent.com
Peggy Furniss	@gmail.com
Sara Perry	@gmail.com

Rick & Janice Hendershot	@gmail.com
Niesha Roy	gmail.com
Jim Garpinski	growers.com
Kimberly Noonan	@gmail.com
Rebecca Garpinski	gmail.com
Lyle & Sherry Overmyer	@hotmail.com

Public Meeting Attendance Sheets: September 17, 2024 (3 of 3)

[illegible]

Public Meeting Attendance Sheets: February 20, 2025 (1 of 1)

Sign-In Sheet

Date: February 20, 2025

Project: Westfield Parks & Recreation
5-Yr Master Plan
Public Meeting #2



Integrating people and nature®

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Monica Cannale	@gmail.com
Sarah Shuck	@comcast.net
Maggie Hunckler	@gmail.com
Paul Hunckler	@gmail.com
Julia Hudson Grimmer	@gmail.com
Marney Simon	@squarecurrent.com
Olivia Roy	@gmail.com
Vicki Hine	@gmail.com
Christine Sampia	@gmail.com