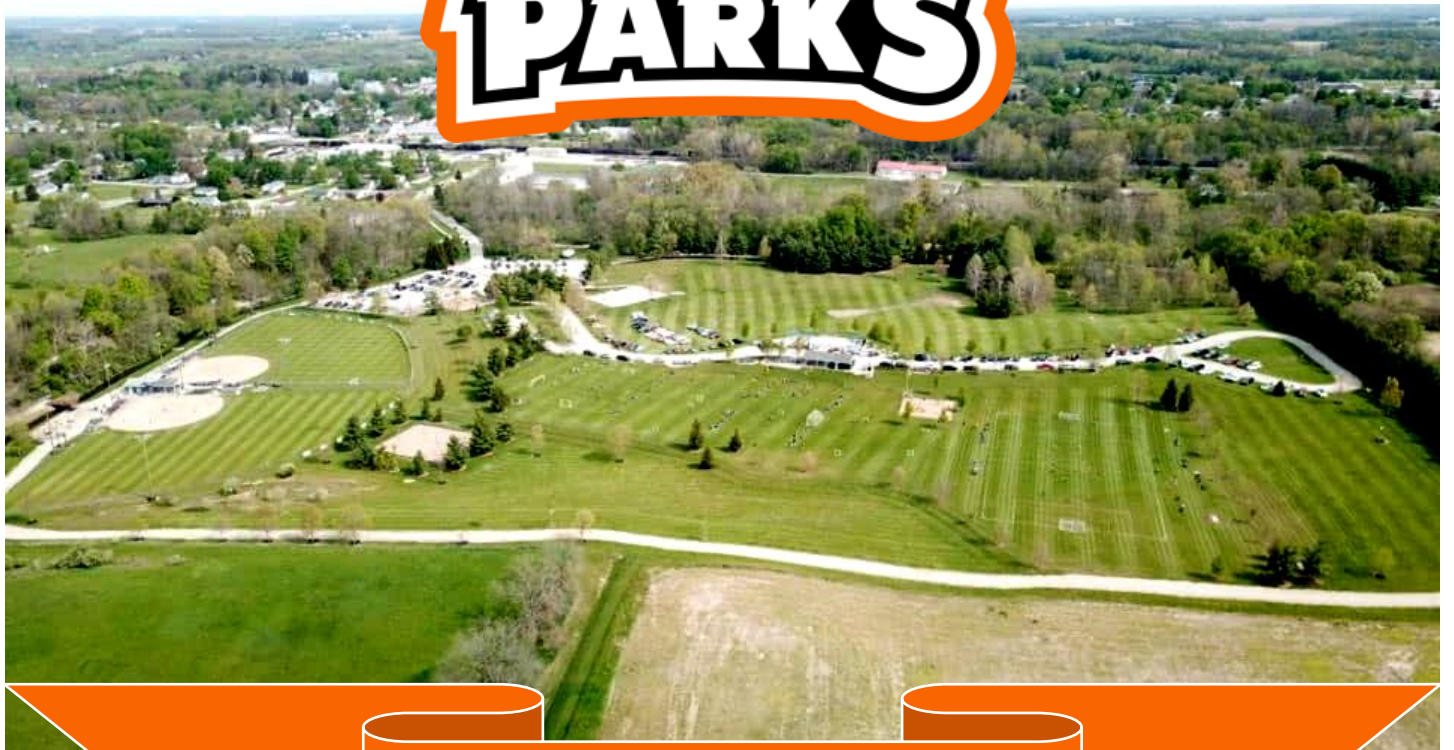


**TOWN OF ALBION
PARKS & RECREATION
FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN**



**Albion Parks & Recreation Board
Casey Myers,
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
2023—2029**



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2023—2029 MASTER PLAN

Planning year – 2023
Action Plan – 2024-2028
Expiration – 2029

ALBION PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Greg Bricker
Rex Gallmeyer
Phil Gibson
Phil Jacob
Monty Morr
Stan Tipton

Park Board 2023

In compliance with IC 36-10-3

Tim Kiebel (R), President
Term expires 1/1/2026
616 Walnut Drive
Albion, IN 46701

Dan Gagen (D)
Term expires 1/1/2027
501 N York Street
Albion, IN 46701

Bev Fitzpatrick (D), Secretary
School Board appointee
Term expires 1/1/2027
3351 N Arthur Drive
Albion, IN 46701

Tiffany Parker (D)
Term expires 1/1/2027
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Albion, IN 46701

Justin Diehm (R)
Term expires 1/1/2025
1134 E Main Street
Albion, IN 46701

ALBION PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY
J. Darrick Brinkerhoff



ALBION TOWN COUNCIL (2023)

Vicki Jellison—President
Don Shultz—Vice President
John Morr
Darold Smolinske
Zane Gray

ALBION TOWN MANAGER

Jacob Ihrie
(260) 636-2246

MASTER PLAN ASSEMBLED BY:

Lori Gagen
Catchy Creations LLC
P.O. Box 11
Albion, IN 46701
(260) 564-4556



PLANNING AREA

The Albion Parks Department planning area is the Town of Albion. Residents, businesses, and government entities that reside within Albion's town limits were considered during the planning process.

Albion attracts visitors from outside town limits, in part due to the county's top attraction (according to the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau), Chain O'Lakes State Park.

Visitors also make Albion a destination on their way to Black Pine Animal Sanctuary.

The region itself is a haven for all kinds of outdoor recreation, including fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, hunting, hiking, and trails.

For these reasons, some analysis for the planning process does consider all of Noble County.

The Albion parks system is comprised of three parks. Each is considered within this plan and is the subject of proposed action plans.

- [Hidden Diamonds Park](#)
- [Valleyview Park](#)
- [Owen Park](#)



REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY

Land Water Conservation Fund

We hereby request eligibility to participate in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program administered by Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

TOWN OF ALBION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

211 E. Park Drive
Albion, IN 46701
(260) 636-2246

Park Board President: Dan Gagen

The Albion Parks and Recreation Board was established under the provisions of Indiana Code 36-10 in 1949. This Act empowers the board to plan, construct, operate, and maintain recreation and parks facilities. By virtue of the powers vested in our Board by the Indiana General Assembly we agree, if approved, to abide by all applicable State and Federal laws and the provisions outlined in the Guidelines for Local Agencies in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Adopted and signed the 14 day of November, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Town of Albion Parks & Recreation Board:

Dan Gagen

President

[Signature]

Vice President

Bev Fitzpatrick

Secretary

Member

[Signature]

Member

Attested:

[Signature]

Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

Bev Fitzpatrick

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 11/14/2022



RESOLUTION

DRAFT

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION





ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

In the spring of 2022, the Town of Albion, Indiana, set forth to develop a five-year parks and recreation master plan for the Town of Albion Parks and Recreation system. Successful completion of the master plan will ensure that Albion Parks and Recreation is eligible for various funding opportunities that require a parks master plan to be in place. The planning process continued into 2023 to ensure quality and ample time to include input from all stakeholders.

This master plan is an outline of the proposed actions and goals of Albion Parks & Recreation for the next five years. It is a collaboration of independent research, public input, and the interests of the Albion Parks & Recreation Board. The Town of Albion Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan should be reviewed annually to ensure that ongoing goals and activities are in line with the framework of the plan. After five years, this plan will expire, and a new plan should be drafted to maintain congruence between departmental development and town priorities.

This plan is not a legal document. It is meant to provide consistency across the terms of the Albion Parks & Recreation Board members, acting as a point of reference for these individuals, as well as members of the public. It is separated into six sections to make it easier for the reader to access the information used to develop the action plan:

- **Section One: Introduction.** In this section, the framework of the plan and the planning process is outlined. The planning area is defined to establish the scope of the plan. The goals and purposes of the plan from the perspective of the Parks Board are also articulated.
- **Section Two: Existing Conditions.** In this section, the context of the town and county are laid out. This includes a review of the physical, historical, and cultural aspects of the planning area. An analysis of the social and economic conditions is also presented.
- **Section Three: Public Participation.** This section summarizes the public participation process employed through the planning process. This includes a community survey, as well as the data collection methods utilized and an analysis of the resulting data.
- **Section Four: Action Plan.** This section outlines the final recommendations, in addition to identifying the priority level, tentative schedule, costs and funding sources. Members of the Parks & Recreation Board agreed upon the final recommendations based on survey results and board goals.
- **Section Five: Appendices.** In this section, additional documentation, which has been cited throughout the plan, is provided for verification.

PARKS DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Based on discussion with the Town of Albion Parks & Recreation Board, and members of the Parks Department, the mission statement for the Albion Parks & Recreation Department is as follows:

It is our mission to enrich the lives of our residents by providing the best possible recreational areas and facilities for our community.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives below reflect those of the Albion Parks and Recreation Board of Directors, Park Superintendent, and staff, as well as stakeholders who engaged in the creation of the plan:

1. To provide a process that enables users of the parks system to be heard, inform, and have an impact on the creation of action plans for continued park maintenance and enhancement.
2. To provide a guideline for the leadership of Albion Parks that provides a path forward and informs decisions about the prioritization of enhancements over the next five years.
3. To help leadership of Albion Parks “filter” new opportunities to determine if they fit within the strategies already defined or should be tabled to a later date for consideration.
4. To inform budgetary decisions and ensure investments by the Town of Albion reflect what residents say they want for their community.
5. To inform outside parties interested in partnering with Albion Parks of the current work plan to help avoid “mission drift” and provide a basis of understanding for interested parties.
6. To communicate investment opportunities to grant makers and others who have an interest in investing in projects about what might meet the desires of residents and fit within the priorities and abilities of the Albion Parks Department.
7. To inform other stakeholders across Noble County about what Albion Parks is doing and plans to do in the future to help avoid duplicity of services and amenities and identify opportunities to collaborate.
8. To help expedite decision making processes by providing a plan to work by.



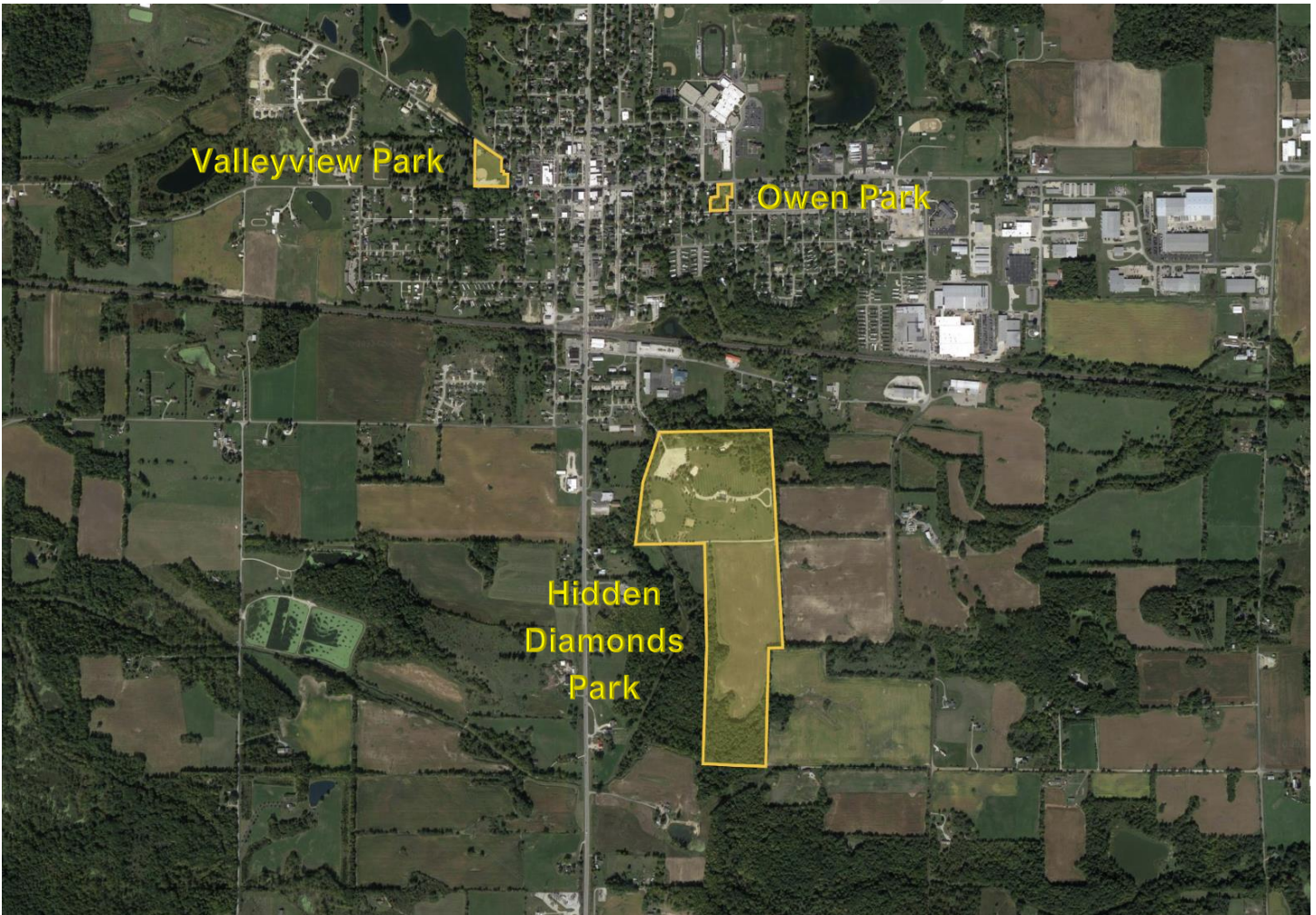
SECTION TWO: EXISTING CONDITIONS



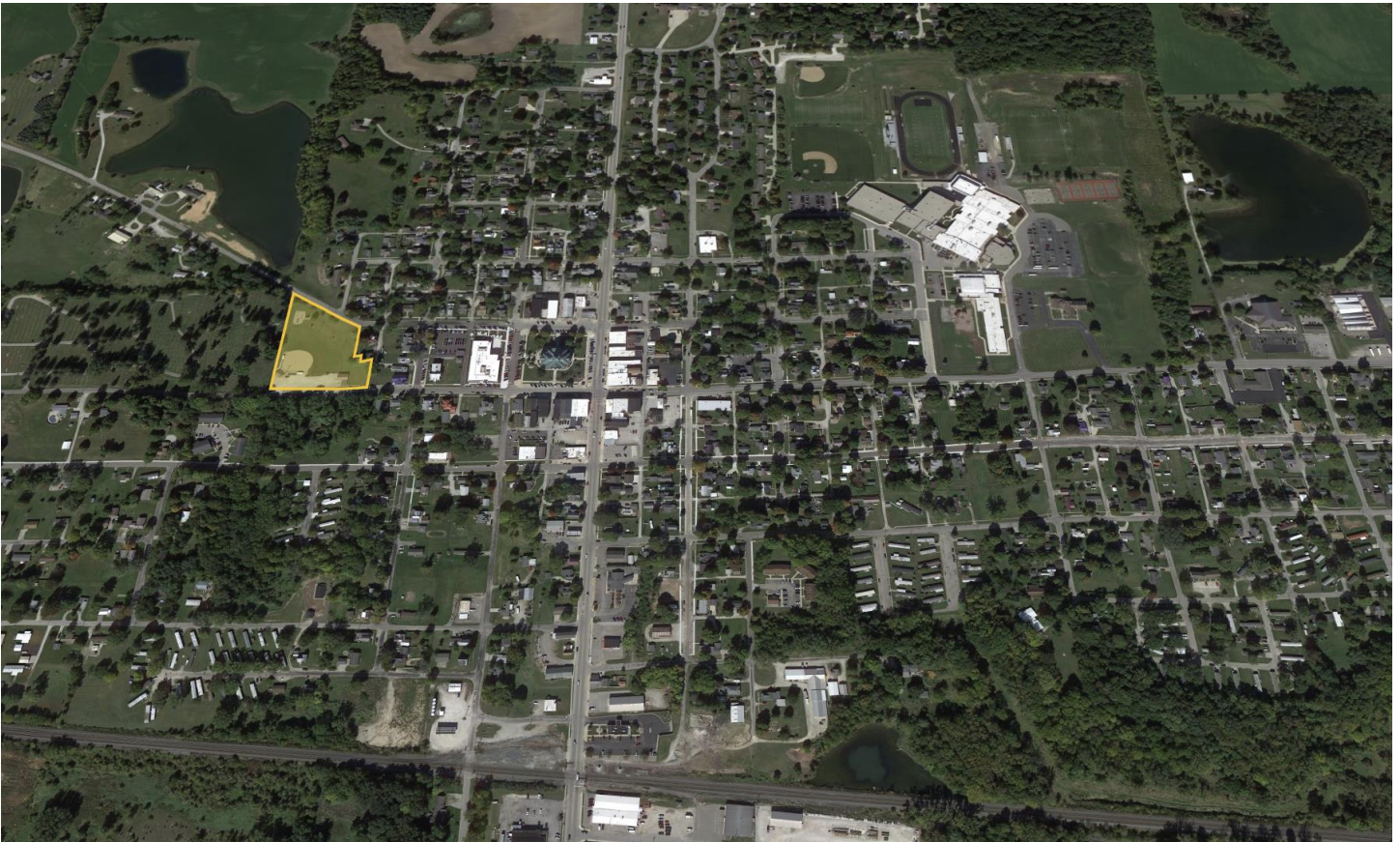
CURRENT PARK SYSTEM

Overview

The Albion Parks Department maintains three public parks within the Town of Albion: Hidden Diamonds Park, Owen Park, and Valleyview Park. Owen Park was the first to be developed, followed by Valleyview, then Hidden Diamonds.

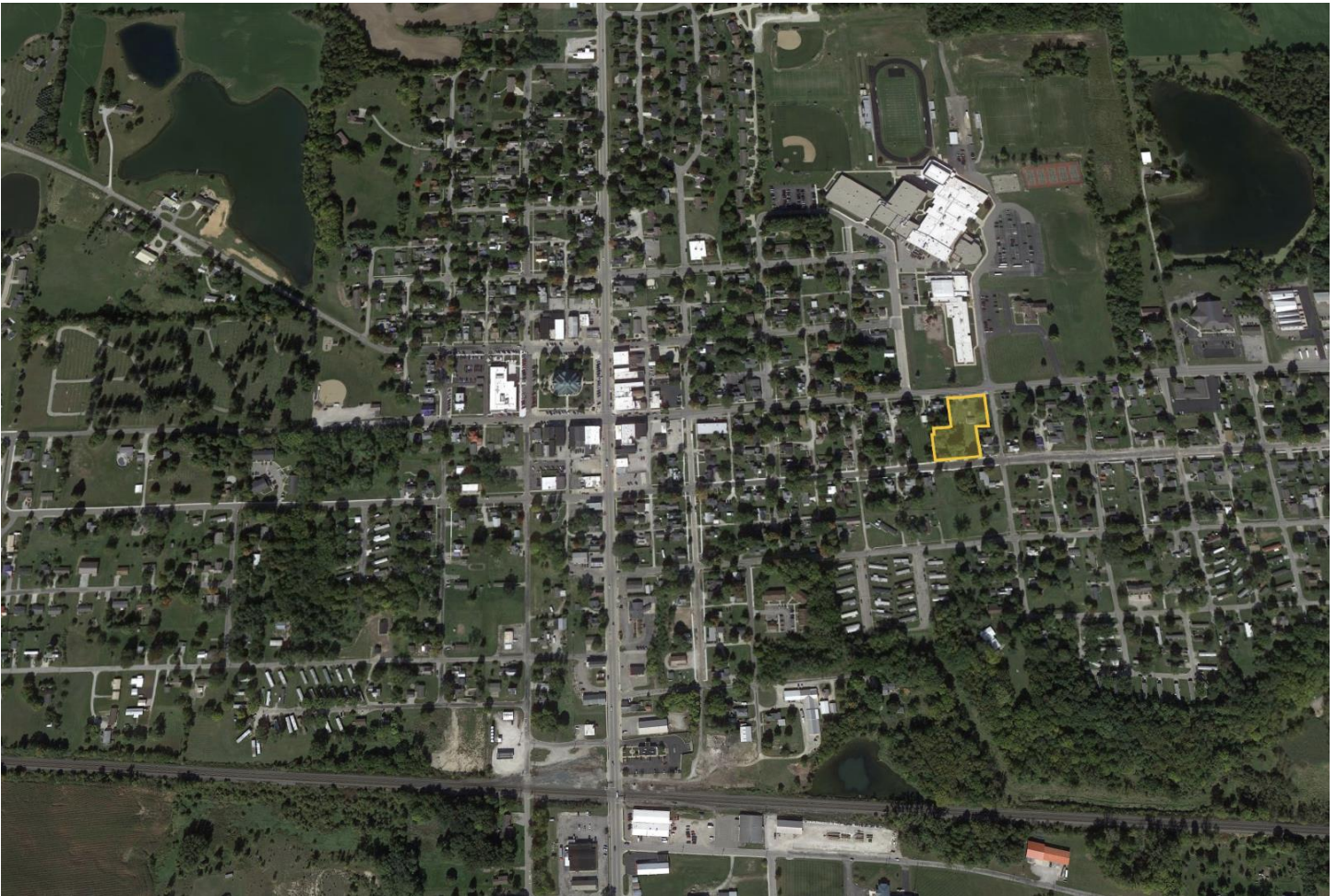


Valleyview Park



Valleyview Park, located at 411 West Main Street, encompasses about 3.6 acres developed primarily for use as a baseball and softball diamond. The location, adjacent to Rose Hill Cemetery, offers a quiet setting and features a playground as well. It is within easy walking distance via a downhill sidewalk from the town's historic courthouse square. Ample off-street parking is provided to accommodate league play.

Owen Park



Owen Park, located at 504 East Main Street, is situated on the east side of town, directly across from the Central Noble Schools campus. The park is easily accessed by sidewalks from both residential neighborhoods and the historic courthouse square. There are no designated adjacent parking areas, however off-street parking is available on the south edge of the property along Hazel Street.

Comprised of about 1.2 acres, of which about 0.8 acres can be used for park activities, Owen Park sits in a low valley, somewhat like a "bowl", in a residential neighborhood. It has good visibility from East Main Street, also known as State Road 8.

Owen Park offers a covered picnic area in an open-air pavilion, restrooms, and hills enjoyed in winter for sledding. There is also a 9/11 monument in the park.



Hidden Diamonds



Albion's largest park is located at 200 Weber Road on the southeast side of town. Hidden Diamonds Park is accessible by vehicle and pedestrians. Sidewalks connect the park to residential areas and downtown. This 77-acre park features a wide variety of amenities including trails, sports fields and courts, pavilions, a splash pad, games, disc golf courses, a radio-controlled (RC) vehicle course, plumbed restrooms, a playground, a butterfly garden, bird feeders and houses, and more.

Hidden Diamonds, due to its size and natural features, has seen the more enhancements in recent years than other parks.

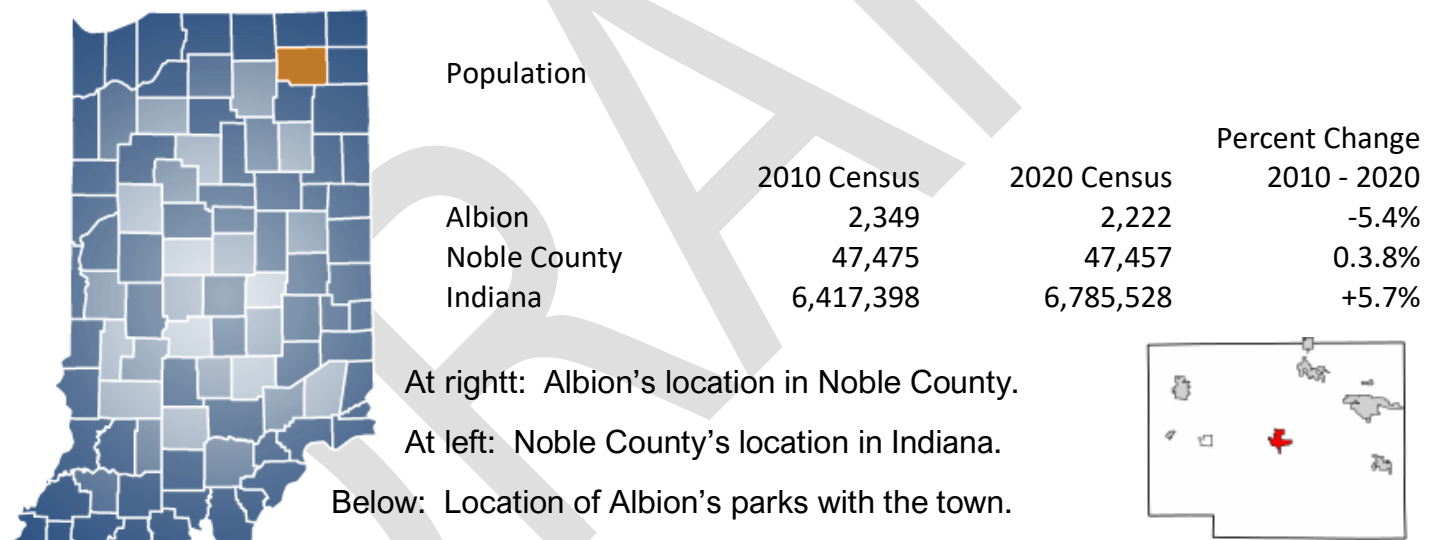
Natural features include gently rolling hills, a landscaped drainage ditch traversed by walking bridges; wooded hiking, walking, and biking trails; mature pine trees, native deciduous trees, and native wildlife.

CONTEXT

The Town of Albion resides in both Albion and Jefferson townships in Noble County. Albion is in Northeast Indiana. It is the county seat, with the Noble County Courthouse and Courthouse Annex anchoring the center of town and serving all Noble County. Covering 1.91 square miles, with a population density of 1,163 people per square mile, the town is called the “Gateway to Chain-O-Lakes” in reference to Chain O’Lakes State Park, located about four miles south of town just off of State Road 9.

Chain O’Lakes State Park reports more than 250,000 people pass through the main gate annually. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the park reported a record of over 272,000 people, about 8.5% of which traveled from out of state to enjoy the outdoor recreational assets the park provides.

The Town of Albion experienced a decline in population of 5.4% between 2010 and 2020, as did Noble County, with a decline of -3.8%, according to the 2020 Decennial Census. Other communities in Noble County saw small increases in population, with the largest countywide decline taking place in the unincorporated areas of the county. This has been anecdotally attributed to a lack of broadband connectivity outside of municipalities.



- 1. Hidden Diamonds Park
- 2. Valleyview Park
- 3. Owen Park

03/08/2021 - 04/02/2021



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Impact on Albion Parks

The park system has a direct impact on the likelihood of population growth and the economy. According to many studies and reports published in recent years, the trend of people following jobs has shifted. People today tend to search for a “place”, then seek employment.

Albion’s population has been trending younger. Noble County’s average age is 38.9 years while just 28.9 years, a trend in contrast with what many other small towns are experiencing. Locals believe this is happening for a variety of reasons that include the number of jobs in manufacturing, many of which pay much higher wages than other sectors. Noble County ranks 4th in the nation for concentration of jobs in manufacturing, according to Be Noble Inc., the local economic development agency. The local cost of living is relatively low (22.2% below the U.S. average according to BestPlaces.net) and home prices are affordable. According to a Housing Study commissioned in 2018 (by the Noble County Economic Development Corporation, conducted by Purdue University Center for Regional Development), the median built year of housing units in Noble County was 1973, with 70% of all housing units built prior to 1989. Albion has a high number of homes built prior to 1960, which provides an affordable option for first-time home buyer and may account for the younger demographic.

Local amenities, including popular restaurants, a brewery, quality schools, location, and outdoor recreational opportunities were also cited by residents for reasons to live in Albion. Albion’s proximity to Fort Wayne allows it to be a ‘bedroom community’ for families as well, with easy access to large city attractions and amenities without the higher cost of living.

Be Noble Inc. reported record numbers of business attraction leads received over the three year period from 2020-2022. Companies from across the United States are looking to relocate, specifically to Northeast Indiana, largely due to a business-friendly environment, high quality of life (in part based on outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities), affordable cost of living, and location – in the Crossroads of America. As quickly as housing starts can grow, Albion’s population and the local economy will grow as well.

Be Noble Inc. entered into a partnership with the Housing Resource Hub in 2022 and brought together the Housing Coalition of Noble County to develop a Noble County Housing Strategy that will spur housing growth faster than may otherwise occur. The overall objective of the coalition is to approach the development of housing in a way that is similar to attracting industrial development; to identify potential development sites, developers, and explore partnerships and collaborations to develop funding stacks that make housing development feasible and result in affordable housing options that meet the market potential.

One of Albion’s target housing growth areas lays adjacent to Hidden Diamonds Park. This poses opportunities to consider accessibility enhancements such as trails and sidewalks and higher levels of engagement at the park. Hidden Diamonds Park would likely provide walkability to downtown Albion should housing be developed in the area targeted.

Another significant development locally is the expansion of high quality, fiber optic internet. LigTel Communications, a company founded and operating in Noble County since 1896, is leading the way to expand 2G symmetric fiber optic broadband connectivity across all of Noble County. As the network grows, the county is expected to attract even more new housing and business development, bringing more patrons to Albion’s Park systems.

The Albion Town Manager has expressed interest in creating a public wi-fi hotspot at the courthouse square in Albion. Albion Parks might also explore similar opportunities within Hidden Diamonds Park, if not all parks as well. LigTel has shown a great commitment to community development and support, so could be a very willing partner.

Increasing tax rolls may ultimately provide more funding to execute the park’s strategic action plans.

Income

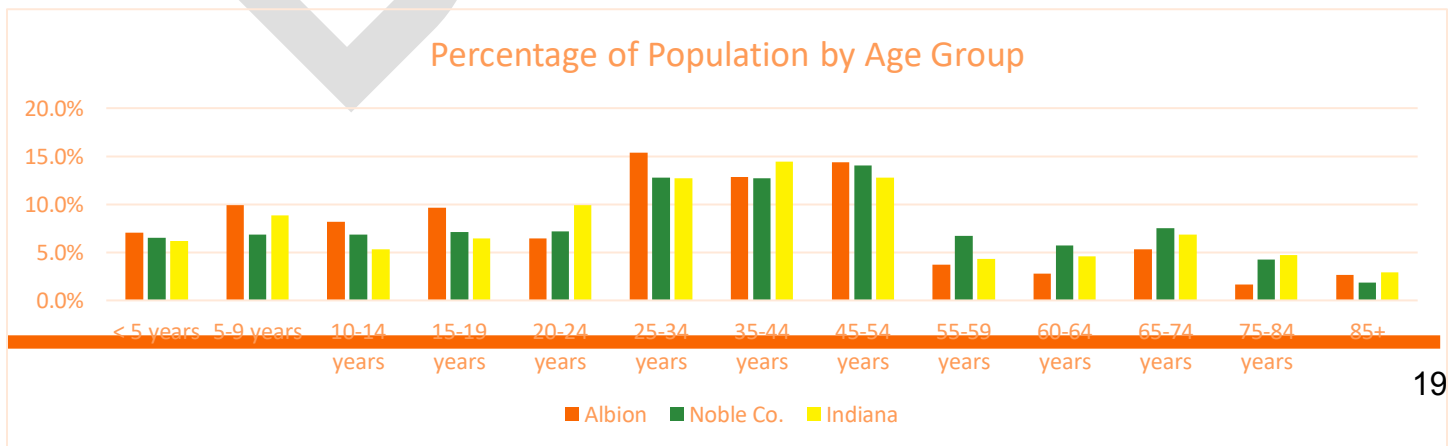
The median household income in Albion is \$54,271. Married couple families enjoy a much higher median household income of \$87,237. The rate of poverty has decreased since the last ACS and sits at 10.6%, below the state rate of 12.2% (2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates). Many of the amenities at Albion’s Parks are free now and should continue to be free and affordable to serve the community into the future.



Population

The 2020 Decennial Census indicated a population loss of 127 persons in Albion from 2010 to 2020. The population decline is largely attributed to a lack of new housing starts by local economic developers, supported by the 2018 Noble County Housing Study and a 2019 Northeast Indiana Housing Study (commissioned by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, conducted by Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc.) As a result of population decline in Noble County, Albion, and Noble County communities, supported the development of a partnership with The Housing Resource Hub.

The chart below breaks down the 2020 population by age group for Albion, Noble County, and Indiana. This data shows Albion has a higher percentage of younger people reside in Albion than reside in Noble County or Indiana. The median age in Albion is 28.9, compared to Noble County’s median age of 38.9, and Indiana’s median age of 37.8. In 2014, Albion’s median age was 35.7, showing a significant shift to a population of younger people.





Race

91.6% of Albion’s residents identified as “white alone” in the 2020 Decennial Census.

Label	Albion town, Indiana
Total:	2,222
Population of one race:	2,100
White alone	2,036
Black or African American alone	13
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	8
Asian alone	12
Some Other Race alone	31
Population of two or more races:	122
Population of two races:	115
White; Black or African American	3
White; American Indian and Alaska Native	45
White; Asian	12
White; Some Other Race	55
Population of three races:	7
White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	3
White; Black or African American; Some Other Race	1
White; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian	3

Disability

Approximately 11% of Albion’s population (approximately 244 residents) identified as having a disability in the 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. which is 2.7% lower than Indiana (13.7%). It is important for Albion Parks Department to continue to place a high priority on providing quality accessibility and recreation for park users with disabilities.

Social & Safety Supports

As the center of Noble County, Albion’s residents are supported by a strong network of non-profit organizations. The county boasts a notable reputation for extraordinary collaborations. A new

community center, Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center, opened its doors about 2.5 miles west of downtown Albion in 2021. The Center’s mission is to provide an affordable, safe, and accessible learning, recreation and community center for all ages and abilities. Augusta Hills has been identified as a possible partner that could possible provide programming that would incorporate travel to the Albion Parks system.

Educational Attainment

15.4% of Albion’s residents aged 25 or older have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 27.2% statewide. 83.9% of Albion residents aged 25 or older have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 89.3% statewide. (2106-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.)

Central Noble Schools experienced a change in leadership at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. Staff have expressed in meetings with Albion STAR Team (Albion’s Main Street organization) an interest and desire to become more engaged in the community. For example, at Halloween 2022, faculty members and students partnered with Albion STAR Team to engage in Trunk or Treat and play roles in a Live Clue game that took place in historic downtown.

Similar partnerships may be possible with Albion Parks and offer an opportunity for further exploration for consideration of possible summer programming led by students, volunteerism at park-sponsored events, etc.

In 2022, Noble County saw the launch of the iSMART Lab, a new Industry 4.0 manufacturing technology learning lab located in Kendallville that serves high school students at Central Noble and 12 other schools across Northeast Indiana, adult learners, and more. Focused on providing training in the technologies required for today’s occupations within the industrial and healthcare sectors, in particular, the iSMART Lab is a key component in an array of talent retention and development efforts. This and similar local education initiatives stand to help Albion and Noble County remain resilient and to see advancements in individuals’ earnings and disposable income. All of which is to say Albion Parks have opportunity to attract more park users and a growing demand for park programs, for which users may be willing to pay fees.

Employment

The rate of employment in Albion grew from 2014 (55.4%) to 2020 (65.6%) according to 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Noble County boasts one of the highest concentrations of employment in manufacturing in the nation. Nearly four of every ten jobs in the county are in the manufacturing sector, a fact that played a key role in the community’s resiliency during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although unemployment rose to a high of 28.7% in April 2020, it dropped nearly back to pre-pandemic levels by January 2021 (3.8%). By December 2021, the unemployment rate in Noble County was just 1.3%. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.)



A continued strong industrial sector, as well as local efforts by educators and economic developers, to create a talent development system that produces a work-ready talent pipeline stand to support the local economy and Albion Parks' plans to enhance and grow.

Occupations

The most common job groups, by number of people living in Albion are Production Occupations (537 people), Office & Administrative Support Occupations (126 people), and Sales & Related occupations (97 people). (2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.)

Major Albion Employers

- Dexter
- Central Noble School Corporation
- Bosch
- Parker-Hannifin
- Mobex Global



As noted previously, many local employers are adopting Industry 4.0 technologies in the workplace that is altering the way people work and the skills they need. These changes mean Albion Parks may wish to explore opportunities to partner and provide programs that expose youth to local employment opportunities by enabling local employers to be sponsors. Programs might include a field trip to a workplace or employer representative on site to meet youth.

Income

The Median Household Income for 893 households in Albion grew from \$42,829, recorded in the 2018-2023 Master Plan, to \$51,531 (2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.) This represents an increase of more than 20%.

33% of Albion's households fall into a median income range of \$25,000-\$49,999. Another 32% have a median household income of \$75,000 or more. About 15% of households have a median income of less than \$10,000.

Incomes are expected to continue to rise with the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies in local workplaces, since the higher skill jobs offer higher wages.

NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

Natural factors affecting Albion Parks maintenance

Noble County lies in the four quadrants formed by the intersection of a line of latitude 41°24' north of the equator, and a line of longitude 85°26' west of Greenwich. The intersection of these lines falls at Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion, near the geographical center of the county.

Albion is a part of the Northern Lakes Natural Region formed thousands of years ago by several periods of glaciation. Prior to settlement, this region was characterized by a diversity of ecosystems, which would have included forests, prairies, oak savannas, wetlands, lakes, streams, marshes, swamps, and bogs.

As a result of development, and the installation of drainage tile to create suitable ground for farming, many water bodies have been drained or dramatically decreased in size. Additionally, forests have been cleared and prairies plowed, resulting in a significantly altered landscape from pre-settlement times.

All three Albion parks pose challenges in terms of maintenance, due to topography and the conditions described above. Some large hills make mowing and maintaining a healthy cover of grass challenging. Specific types of lawn mowing equipment must be used to prevent damage to the ground and cover. However, these same natural features and the beauty they provide have enabled creative use of natural features. For example, a tree nursery has been used within the design of a few disc golf holes at Hidden Diamonds Park.

In another area of Hidden Diamonds, where the side of a hill adjacent to a popular walking path was continuously washing out, a site was selected for the installation of a new butterfly garden. Made possible through a partnership with Albion Rotary Club members, new soil was installed, along with plants, grasses, and bushes. Mulch was also added to make ongoing maintenance easier and to make garden paths for visitors to explore. The park system gained a beautiful Monarch Waystation (www.monarchwatch.org) while addressing a challenging maintenance issue.



After years of damage from the Emerald Ash Borer, there are few, if any ash trees left in the parks. They were replaced with other types of trees in recent years.

Albion Parks are also home to many trees that require annual pruning. To help address this need, in the face of limited staff resources, inmates from nearby [Chain O' Lakes Community Re-Entry Center](#) assist park staff by providing labor at no charge to cut trees and gather brush. The brush is then chopped into mulch that is used to create and maintain landscapes in the parks.

The Black Ditch, which runs through a portion of Hidden Diamonds Park, was washing out over many years, eroding the ground, and widening the ditch near a parking lot. The area was difficult to



maintain, posed a safety risk to park patrons, and temporary fixes simply failed to stop the erosion. In 2019, Albion Parks partnered with the Noble County Surveyor to complete a \$100,000 project to address the issue.



The park and surveyor came up with a plan to use a stone mat, allowing grass to grow through the rocks while preventing further erosion. After three years, the project became the “talk” of Northern Indiana because of the collaboration and results.

An area in the south portion of Hidden Diamonds has very poor soil (clay and muck) with low-lying areas of erosion. This underutilized area is now slated to be transformed with the installation of another mile or so of grass walking trails. Many patrons have expressed preference for the walking trails for their softness and low impacts while walking.

In that same area, a wetland restoration project has been planned. Two wetlands will be developed that will be three feet deep and cover two to three acres of this largely underutilized area at Hidden Diamonds. The 20-acre farm field there now will be planted with prairie grass and wildflower mix. Albion Parks will partner with Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever to create a newly restored, natural space for wildlife to thrive and patrons to enjoy. The project is made possible by a collaboration that includes U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Town of Albion, and Albion Redevelopment Commission.

There are many Autumn Olive bushes in the parks that will require working with local agencies to form a better plan for maintenance. Several trees have also died in recent years, which led to creating a tree sponsorship program allowing patrons to purchase a tree in the name of a loved one to be planted in the park. Businesses may also purchase trees for dedication and planting at the park of their choosing.

Topography & Soils

The soil in the region consists of glacial material more than 450 feet deep in some locations, and it is not uncommon to find surface topography with 100-150 feet of elevation change.

Professor W. B. VanGorder, a former superintendent of Albion public schools, is credited for the often referenced description of the underlying strata in the area. As cited in *The Eighteenth Report of the State Geologist (1893)*: “During the boring for gas at Albion, a very accurate and complete record was kept by Prof. W. B. VanGorder...He furnished the following section, which including the overlying drift, shows the lineaments of our geology to a depth of 1,914 feet.”

According to Professor VanGorder’s report, underlying the drift (total depth of 375 feet) are the following formations, in the order named:

- Devonian black slate, 65’
 - Hamilton and corniferous limestone, 65’
 - Oriskany sandstone, 5’
 - Lower helderberg, 168’
 - Water lime (containing crystals of gypsum) 152’
 - Niagara limestone, 400’
 - Niagara shale, 20’
 - Clinton (red from presence of hematite) 30’
 - Clinton shale, 16’
 - Medina, 59’
 - Hudson River limestone and shale, 85’
 - Hudson River shale, 200’
 - Utica shale, 156’
 - Utica slate, 94’
 - Trenton limestone, 24’
- Total: 1,914 feet**

Given the variety of ecosystem types, it is not surprising to find a variety of soil types, ranging from fertile, well-drained soils to extremely poorly drained soils. The quality of peat found in the area ranks foremost in Indiana. These soils and slopes are important for consideration by Albion Parks Department, as they may indicate appropriate locations for buildings and can direct where trails and other features and amenities should be sited.

Prominent soils in Albion include, but are not limited to: Glynwood silt loam, Rawson loam, Morely silt loam, Morley silt clay loam, Pewamo silty clay loam, and Rawson, Morley, and Miami loams. Noble County has an abundance of natural and man-made water elements. The Elkhart River, including both the north branch and the south branch, is the lone primary river, and is fed by numerous creeks, streams, drainage ways, and other tributaries.

There are also many natural and man-made lakes near Albion, including (but not limited to): Skinner Lake, Sand Lake, Bowen Lake, Long Lake, Mud Lake, Rivir Lake, Millers Lake, Bartley Lake, and Norman Lake. Noble County is touted as the home of 117 lakes by Visit Noble County (tourism bureau).



MAN-MADE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Albion and the surrounding communities in Noble County have seen settlement since 1832, beginning at Wolf Lake, where settlement was sparked due to the trail linking Fort Wayne and Goshen (roughly US 33).

The communities within Noble County serve primarily as farming and manufacturing communities. Chain O' Lakes State Park is a well-known, beloved landmark that draws visitors from all over the region and out of state. It has routinely been voted by readers of Fort Wayne Newspapers as the Best Park and Best Attraction in the region.



Albion markets the community as the “Gateway to Chain O’ Lakes,” which provides many opportunities to capitalize on visitors, most of whom visit Albion’s restaurant, brewery, and retailers, not necessarily the town’s parks. The parks must provide recreational opportunities not available at Chain O’Lakes in order to expect engagement from state park visitors. The decisions to add disc golf, pickleball courts, and a splash pad are good examples of the kinds of amenities that may draw more out-of-town users to the parks system. Playground equipment that is accessible would be another such opportunity to draw more users.

Albion has also been recognized as the home to one of the Top 10 Most Beautiful Courthouses in Indiana¹ and ranked number 8 in a poll by Visit Indiana to gain recognition as having one of the Best Main Streets.² These accolades are credited for drawing patrons to the Albion Parks from a wider audience than just town residents and have influenced planning of the development of trails, disc golf courses, accessibility, and other amenities throughout and affecting the park system. More signage to raise awareness of Albion’s parks might also help increase engagement of people drawn to the courthouse square and related, local events.

Walkability and trail systems have been at the forefront of many developers in Noble County. Noble Trails has been actively constructing a trail system that currently connects Rome City and Kendallville. It will soon be expanded to connect Kendallville to Avilla. There have been some unofficial local conversations about adding trails from Albion to Chain O’Lakes State Park, and from Albion to Black Pine Animal Sanctuary. These conversations offer opportunities for Albion as well.

The City of Kendallville won a \$2M PreservINg Main Street grant in 2021 to transform and preserve the city’s historic downtown Main Street corridor. As part of the grant project, Indiana Humanities also provided funding support to create a walking tour, bringing attention to the city’s walkability.

¹ Official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy project to select the ten most beautiful courthouses in Indiana, sponsored by several Plainfield, Indiana organizations, 2016. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/146037746@N05/collections/72157676110506145/>.

² Visit Indiana, 2021. <https://www.visitindiana.com/best-of-indiana/winners/best-main-street/>

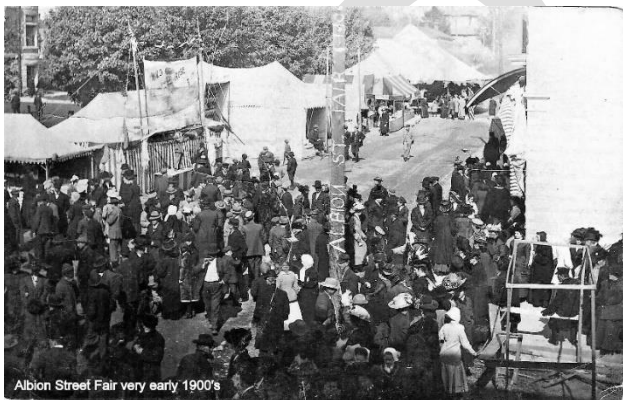
These and other projects in nearby communities can serve as inspiration to Albion Parks to identify opportunities to collaborate and bring attention to the walkability that connects amenities, downtown, neighborhoods, and parks in Albion.

Albion is a walkable community that benefits from continuous improvements. Community Crossings grants that help fund the town's street improvements require construction of additional ADA-compliant sidewalks. As these projects are completed, they provide active transit accessibility to neighborhoods. Recently, for example, the section of sidewalk that connects the school was recently enhanced to improve the accessibility to Owen Park. Planned additions to Hidden Diamonds Park have been developed with accessibility at the forefront, highlighted by the planned location of a proposed skate park, a site selected due to its proximity to an existing ADA-accessible restroom.

INDOT also has plans to reconstruct a section of road and culvert at Owen Park to, in part, improve accessibility.

County & Town History

Before European settlement in Noble County, Miami and Pottawatomie Indians were the only residents. In 1838, most of those tribes were removed from the area and relocated to reservations west of the Mississippi River. The first European settlement was at Wolf Lake, which was found on the trail that connected Fort Wayne and Goshen. Many of the county's European settlers arrived between 1830 and 1840 at Perry's Prairie, near Ligonier. The area was free of thick forest and the soil was rich and ideal for farming.



Albion Street Fair very early 1900's

Noble County was officially formed in 1836. Albion, the county seat of Noble County, was laid out in 1846 and was incorporated on July 6, 1847. At its peak, Albion's Courthouse Square and surrounding blocks boasted an Opera House (recently saved from pending demolition, now a law office under continuing restoration), professional offices, a variety of retail stores, and livery stables (succeeded by service stations). At one time or another, the town also boasted a movie theater, sweet shop, jewelry store, pharmacy, doctors and dentists, shoe store, barbershops, and more.

Albion retained the courthouse, which has been wonderfully maintained, and a sizeable jail facility east of town, as well as a busy industrial park. In 2022, Noble County celebrated the opening of the new Noble County Annex on the west side of the historic square where nearly all county government offices, except judicial, are now located. Additional restoration projects taking place at the Courthouse during 2022-2024 will further protect and preserve the structure and consolidate all judicial offices.

The ability for commuting workers to enjoy walkability from the workplace to parks is one Albion Parks might capitalize upon through marketing and signage.



The Courthouse Square and its adjoining blocks are benefiting from a stable economy and programs such as Albion’s Façade Grant, which helps cover costs of building upkeep and façade restorations and improvements. The Albion STAR Team, a “Main Street” organization, exists to help encourage economic vitality and honor and preserve historic integrity. Downtown has a very low vacancy rate, unlike most other small communities in the region.

Established in 1977 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and operated by Main Street America, the Main Street program emphasizes a four-point strategy – Organization, Promotion, Design/Projects, and Economic Development – which the Albion STAR Team implements. In early 2022, the STAR Team leadership was approved to serve as the Board of Directors of the Courthouse Square Preservation Society, Inc., and will ensure the mission of that organization continues. In July 2022, the Albion STAR Team partnered with Albion Parks & Recreation to enhance the town’s Fourth of July celebration.

In addition to the Albion STAR Team, the Albion Parks & Recreation Department is also pleased to serve and enhance the town’s history. More specifically, they assist with the organization, set-up, and clean-up of several large events, including the Chain-O-Lakes Festival and Fourth of July Celebration. The Albion Parks Department also facilitates decorating in town for the winter holidays. Albion Parks is encouraged to seek out opportunities to become more intentional about exploiting these relationships and the possibilities they pose to seeking more funding streams.

Historical Features

Albion properties on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Noble County Courthouse (Indiana Historical Bureau Historic Marker Site)
- Noble County Sheriff’s House/Old Jail Museum
- Albion Courthouse Square Historic District (roughly bounded by Highland, Oak, and Hazel streets, and the alley east of Orange St.)

Roads & Highways

The major roads and highways running through Albion are State Road 8 (east-west) and State Road 9 (north-south). As state-owned roadways, the Town of Albion has little ability to make significant changes to quality, crossings, and associated sidewalks. Fortunately, these roadways are kept in good condition with good quality, accessible crossings, and signals at the main intersection, making it possible to access all parks.

Bike lanes do not exist on Albion roads or streets, though some bike traffic is seen largely due to the proximity of Chain O’Lakes State Park, which draws a variety of outdoor and biking enthusiasts. Those visiting by bicycle enjoy easy access to Albion Parks, since traffic patterns are not generally hazardous to biking on the shoulder of local roads and streets.

Albion’s East Industrial Park is a vibrant contributor to the local economy. The lack of walkability to and from town is, however, a barrier to providing access to the parks for out-of-town workers, except by vehicle. There is no sidewalk along the primary roadway, SR 8, between the industrial park and residential areas that connect to downtown.

Education

Central Noble Community Schools serve the Town of Albion as well as residents in Albion, Jefferson, York, and Noble Townships. The school district includes the following public schools: Central Noble Elementary and Central Noble Junior/Senior High School in Albion and Central Noble Primary in Wolf Lake.

The school system and properties are well-maintained, with significant upgrades to one of the oldest buildings at the Albion campus approved for funding by the Albion Redevelopment Commission using tax increment financing (TIF) funds.

Central Noble High School juniors and seniors are able to participate in a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the Impact Institute in nearby Kendallville.

Parents who prefer private school options will find them at Oak Farm Montessori School and St. Mary’s in Avilla, and St. John’s Lutheran School in Kendallville.

LOCAL AMENITIES

Hospitals and Health/Family Services

Albion does not have its own hospital. The nearest area hospital is Parkview Noble located in Kendallville. The town is served by facilities specializing in healthcare-related services. They include:

- Bowen Center, mental health facility
- Northeastern Center of Albion, mental health clinic
- Hickory Treatment Center, addiction recovery center
- Parkview Physicians Group, family medicine
- Albion Family Dentistry
- Ragan Chiropractic Clinic, chiropractor and wellness services
- Roush & Will, optometrists
- We Care Clinic, primary care providers for employees
- Hidden Ego Fitness, 24/7 gym
- Noble Strength, 24/7 gym and weightlifting facility; corporate wellness partner



Libraries

Albion is home to the Noble County Public Library, central branch. The library features a wide array of traditional services as well as The Bridge, a state-of-the-art “maker space” featuring sublimation, 3D printing, Glow Forge, Silhouette, CNC, large format poster printer, sewing and embroidery machines, and other production equipment and materials. The library also offers patrons the ability to borrow small office equipment, household tools, and other less traditional library materials.

The library systems across Noble County offer opportunities that might be explored to provide programming at the parks.

Attractions & Entertainment

- Historic Courthouse District (“the square”)
- Old Jail Museum
- Chain O’ Lakes State Park
- Black Pine Animal Sanctuary
- Noble County Saddle Club
- Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center
- Albion Parks & Recreation

Festivals & Events:

- Albion STAR Team Summer Kick-Off / Cruise-In, early June on the square
- Chain-O-Lakes Festival – Held the first full week of June on the square
- Fourth of July Celebration – Fireworks and vendors, held at Central Noble Schools campus
- Albionopoly –Held the last Friday in July on the square
- Fall Celebration & Cruise-In – Held mid-September on the square
- Scare on the Square & Trunk or Treat – Held close to Halloween on the square
- Christmas in the Village – Held the first Friday in December on the Square

ACCESSIBILITY

The Town of Albion has a Transition Plan that serves as a planning and implementation reference with regards to Indiana Department of Transportation’s (INDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. While the plan does identify an ADA Coordinator, grievance policy, and methodology, the town is continuing to put forth effort to include more public communications regarding accessibility and has taken action to increase the scope of self-evaluations to encompass non-street, public facilities such as parks, buildings, restrooms, programs, and services, as well as site furnishings and other considerations.

The Town of Albion offers a sidewalk network that connects its parks, schools, businesses, and other public facilities within the town limits.

In addition to providing individual descriptions of the town’s three parks “Section 4: Park Inventory and Recommendations” more specifically identifies recent accessibility improvements in the parks and outlines where they may fall short of ADA guidelines.



SECTION THREE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



SURVEY RESULTS

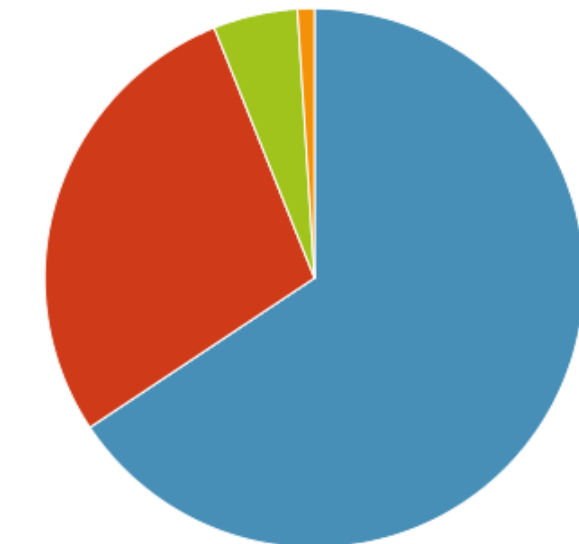
A survey posing 15 questions, with opportunities for additional comment, was made available for users of Albion parks from March 24 through May 15, 2022 (See Appendix A). The survey was available in hard copy and online, and was promoted through the Albion Parks Department’s (new in 2022) website, in a blog post and on a dedicated landing page, and on the department’s Facebook page (and shared by other local organizations). The survey was custom designed and branded using Wufoo forms software.

The online survey received a total of 99 responses. One hard copy was delivered to the Albion Town office, though many were made available at the Town Municipal Building and Noble County Public Library. The results of the survey helped shape the action plan provided in Section Five. The parks board considered this information, as well as information provided during public meetings, while forming the Action Plan to serve for the the next five years. The results of the survey are summarized below. (See Appendix B for survey essay question responses.)

Where do you reside?

66% of survey respondents live in Albion (46701 zip code). Another 28% live outside of Albion, but still in Noble County. 6% live outside the region.

Respondent's residence

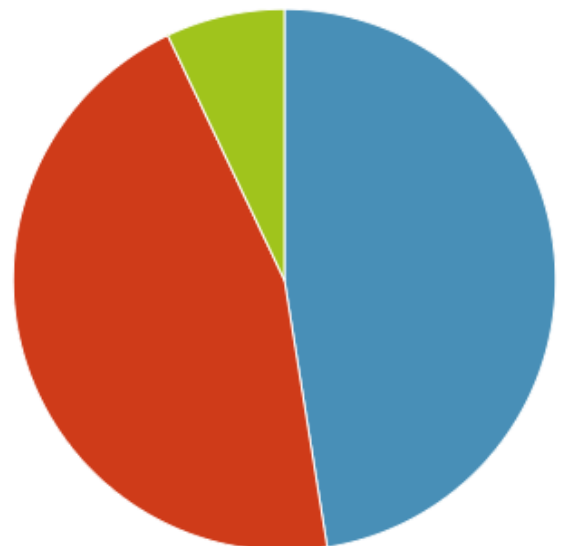


- Albion (46701)
- Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN
- Outside of Noble County IN
- Outside of Indiana

How well informed are you about Albion's parks, features, amenities, and opportunities?

Only seven survey respondents (<7%) described themselves as “Not well informed”.

How well informed



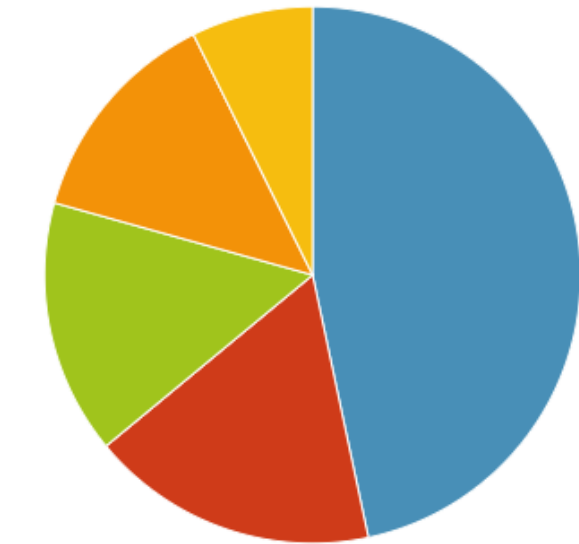
- I know a little bit
- Well informed
- Not well informed



How do you usually obtain information about Albion's parks? Please check all that apply:

Facebook is the most referenced source.

Source of info



- I follow Albion Parks & Recreation on Facebook
- I call, email, or ask someone else
- I read a local newspaper(s)
- I go to the albionparks.com website
- Other

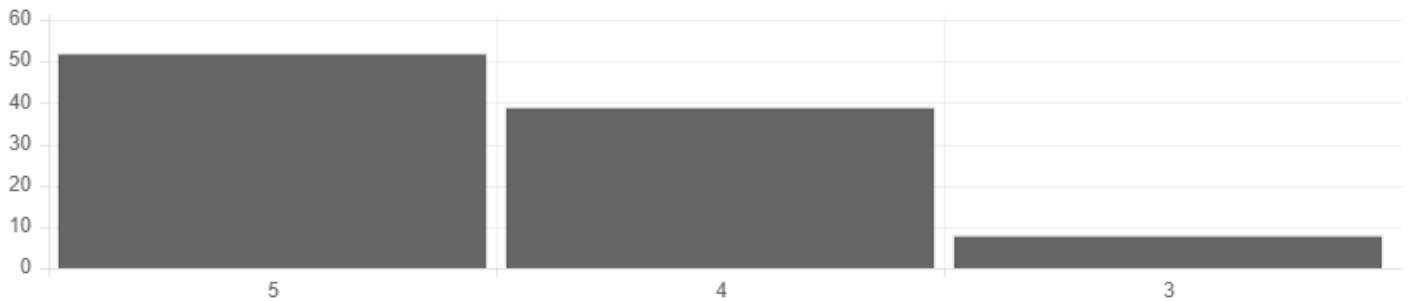
Other ways you keep informed?

- Google search
- Casey Myers
- Town of Albion Facebook page
- Community members / meetings

Albion Park Department's overall performance (one to five stars)?

Zero survey respondents rated performance as one or two stars, and the majority responded with four or five star ratings.

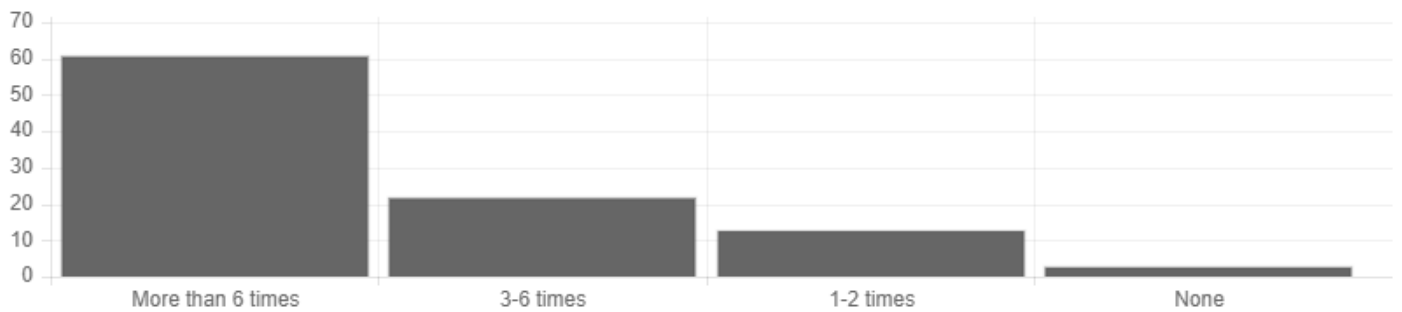
Overall Performance (1 to 5 Stars)



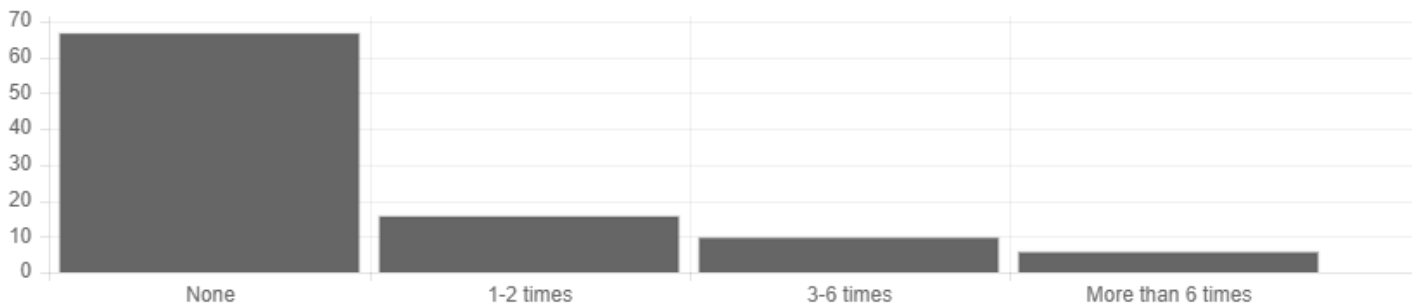
Have you or a member of your household visited any of Albion’s parks over the past 12 months?

Scales at left on graphs below measure percent of respondents. Clearly, Hidden Diamonds Park remains the most-utilized park in Albion. Most survey respondents indicated no one in their household had visited Valleyview Park during the previous 12 months. Approximately 8 of every 10 respondents had not visited Owen Park over the previous 12 months. These trends have remained the same since the previous 5-Year Master Plan survey was conducted.

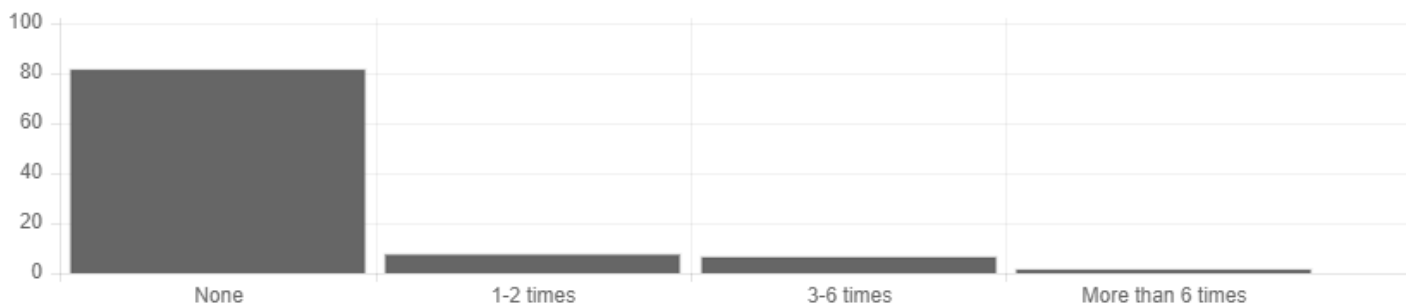
Hidden Diamond Visits in 12 months



Valleyview Visits 12 months



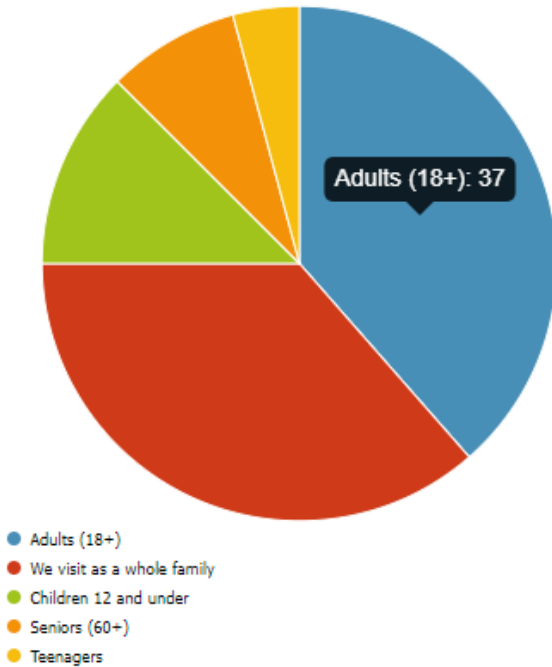
Owen Park Visits 12 months





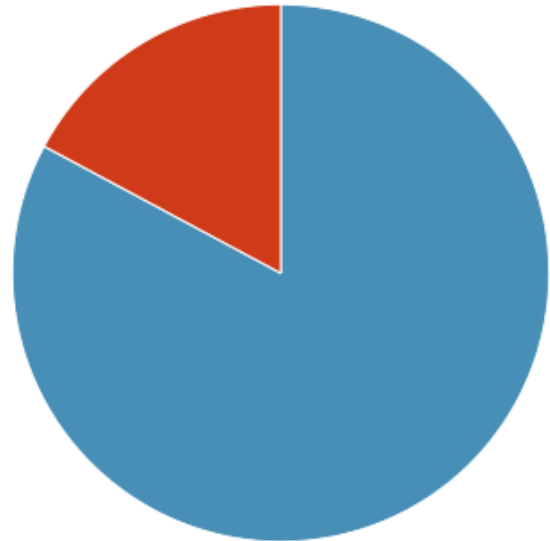
In your household, who is the most frequent user of Albion parks?

Ages of household park patrons



Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?

Encountered Barriers?



Comments about “barriers encountered”:

- We do need "caution- flying discs" signs on the walking trails
- Towards the beginning of the one mile limestone path there is a very steep incline. Rocks slip under feet when going up or down. Which is a fall risk for older patrons. Possibly make it stepped on all of it or just half.
- Speed bumps hate them
- Pave drive to splash pad
- Replace volleyball court it is never used with Put-Put and a side walk leading to it.
- Need security light at end of drive to top of the hill
- Sometimes the mosquitos are so thick at Hidden Diamonds on the disc golf course, we choose not to go. I realize the only solution is probably more pesticides which isn't a great thing either... just part of it I guess.
- Not sure if this is what you mean, but as a homeschool family we don't always hear about the opportunities for youth sports and camps.
- Not enough baseball and softball fields for all practices and games.
- I don't use the paths when it is dark just for safety reasons.
- I don't think I'd walk the paths by myself. Seems very secluded at times. Seen sketchy people hanging out.
- Bees

Please rate the quality of the following, based on your most recent visit:

	Blank or I don't know	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Security	28	31	26	12	2
Restrooms	17	46	27	7	2
Fitness, sports & game gear	22	47	25	3	2
Pet Amenities	30	41	18	9	1
Parking	9	55	28	7	0
Lighting	26	33	34	6	0
Signage	11	52	31	5	0
Playgrounds & equipment	14	51	30	4	0
Benches & Seating Areas	6	48	42	3	0
Stewardship of Natural Features	9	61	26	3	0
Shelters & Pavilions	8	61	28	2	0
Buildings upkeep	10	60	27	2	0
Lawns & groundskeeping maintenance	11	75	11	2	0
Trash collection	17	58	23	1	0

Please give us your feedback about the availability of the following amenities:

	Blank or I don't know	Too Few	Just Right	Too Many
Paved Trails	24	39	35	1
Unpaved Trails	20	12	64	3
Baseball & Softball Fields	21	11	61	6
Soccer & Football Fields	26	13	53	7
Basketball Courts	24	20	53	2
Pickleball Courts	48	11	38	2
Sand Volleyball Courts	47	8	43	1
Disc Golf Holes	27	14	58	0
Playgrounds	11	23	64	1
Pet-friendly Areas	34	10	53	2
Campsites	30	22	45	2
Splash Pads	6	11	80	2
Nature Areas	16	18	63	2
Picnic Areas	13	17	67	2
Restrooms	10	25	62	2
Drinking Fountains	23	28	47	1



Which of these community events, sponsored (in part) by Albion Park Department? Check all that you have attended:

Youth Baseball/Softball

51

Participants

Youth Soccer

32

Participants

4th of July Fireworks event

82

Participants

Parks offer benefits to a community. Of the following benefits, please choose your TOP 5 most important reasons to have quality parks in Albion:

Top 5 responses:

1. Improved physical health and fitness.
2. Improved quality of life.
3. Preservation of and access to natural resources.
4. Attachment to and sense of community.
5. Improved sense of wellbeing.

Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years.

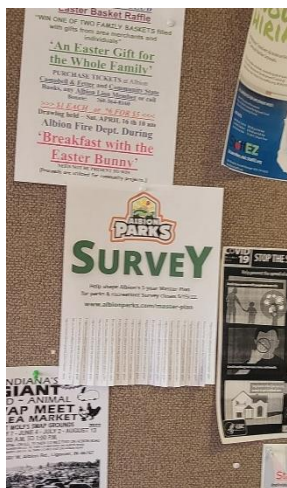
Relevant responses:

- Parking when high use of park is a train wreck.
- Our family really loves the splash pad. Maybe making that bigger would be amazing. We also loved that it's a gated area. Makes it so much easier to take all the kids and not have to worry about them running off.
- More disc golf holes! And maybe better drainage or something in the muddy areas. Hard to walk thru those areas no matter what time of year it is.
- Get companies, local groups, churches, youth groups, and school groups involved in programs that will create excitement and funding creating new experiences at the parks.
- It would be nice to have some landscaping with perennial flowers.
- I do think there should be something posted (unless I missed that info on the website) about bounce houses welcome for pavilion parties and which location works best.
- Dog park.
- Currently disc golf events can only accommodate around 12 players in a shotgun start format. Any more and the holes become congested and players are blindly throwing at each other. More holes in the new trails and fields would allow us to run bigger events, which brings \$\$ to the community. The local disc golf club is always ready to help the parks expand.
- Continued additions to the nature walking paths, such as resting benches. Better, bigger signage for parking and directions. Yearly sanding and stain/ painting of wooden spectator bleachers, benches and bridges.

- Nature observation signs for birds and wildlife information.
- Consistent quality maintained improvements. Programs for children and seniors.
- Community pool.
- Camping spots both primitive and hook-ups.
- Better volleyball nets.
- Another 18 holes (or more) disc golf course, with more woods utilized!
- Access road to the wooded disc golf course.
- Mountain biking trail.
- An additional 9 holes added to the disc golf course is very important to bringing new and experienced disc golfers to the course and also promoting outdoor physical activity.
- Acquire more land to expand the park system.
- A bicycle trail would be fun. Get information out to the community. Have walking groups. Yoga groups.

SURVEY SUMMARY

The vast majority of survey respondents indicated they live in Albion (46701 zip code area) or outside of Albion but still in Noble County.



Among respondents, the most frequent visitors to the parks are adults (age 18+) or whole families. Pre-teens represent the next largest user of the parks (likely due to youth sports leagues, when they may not always visit with their whole family), followed by seniors (60+), then teenagers.

Facebook is the most cited source for information about the Albion parks. Many respondents noted having a personal relationship with Casey Myers, park superintendent, which also affects their knowledge of opportunities within the park system. The park's new website was not cited as a main source of information; however, it was only launched a few weeks ahead of the survey.

It is also clear from survey results and comments that Hidden Diamonds Park remains the most utilized park in Albion. This was also the case when the community was surveyed for the previous 5-Year Master Plan. Valleyview Park and Owen Park offer fewer recreational options and amenities, which is likely why fewer people use those facilities. Even so, there are some opportunities for future investments and considerations.

Based on feedback about “quality” of the parks, some people perceive an opportunity for improvements around “Security” and “Pet Amenities”, in particular. Open-ended comments further illustrate concerns that might be described as “security”-related, such as comments about “discs flying” around walking trails, “rocks slipping” under foot in some areas of steep inclines (fall risks), a lack of security lighting in some areas, and general use of the park (Hidden Diamonds) “after dark”.

Though some comments point to a lack of “Pet Amenities” in one part of the survey, no respondents suggested any improvements related to pets when given an opportunity to elaborate.

Where respondents were provided with the opportunity to offer open-ended comments, a notable number gave positive feedback. Some suggested hosting more community events at Hidden



Diamonds Park (movie night, business-sponsored events, etc.) while others expressed a desire to see more investments made in disc golf and paved trails.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public meetings were held during this Master Plan development. The first, on April 11, 2022 (see publication of public notice in local newspaper in Appendix C) was attended by all members of the Parks Department Board of Directors; Casey Myers, Superintendent; and Vicki Jellison, President of the Albion Town Council. Four additional community members and one member of the media were also present. Following a brief PowerPoint presentation (see slides in Appendix D) narrated by Lori Gagen, Catchy Creations LLC and Myers. Everyone present was provided with an opportunity to speak without limitations on topics. (See sign-in sheet and meeting minutes in Appendix E.)

As a general summary of feedback, the following notes were captured for inclusion in this plan:

- A citizen requested an overview of the Park Department budget, provided by Myers.
- Myers confirmed upon inquiry that cemetery (Rose Hill) maintenance is not within the Park Department budget; that is managed under a separate budget.
- Boardwalks for the wetland area suggested
- A driveway and parking lot to the wetland area under development suggested
- The wetlands project received general positive support
- The addition of at least nine more disc golf holes was suggested
- As part of wetland area development, fall planting to prairie plants was suggested
- Myers mentioned discussions with adjacent land owner to acquire more land are underway
- A sidewalk, away from traffic, over the bridge was suggested
- Addition of 73 limestone on trails was suggested for erosion control
- Positive feedback on grass trails was received; noting they are not “muddy”
- Jellison noted positive comments are received routinely from people in and out of town

A second public hearing, following the development of this plan in “draft” form, was held November 14, 2022, at the Albion Municipal Building. (See proof of public notice of hearing in Appendix F, sign-in sheet and meeting minutes in Appendix G.)

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Overall, park users seem very satisfied with the overall performance of Albion Parks Department, the amenities provided, the quality of those amenities, and (where applicable) costs of utilization. Yet, there are several opportunities for improvement that seem to rise to the surface from public input that the Park Department should take into consideration over the next five years. In brief, they include:

- Security – more lights, signage, erosion control on paths
- Pet Amenities
- Restrooms – more distribution
- Paved paths – more accessibility
- New activities – for teens, sponsored by businesses
- Rental policies – greater scope of what/how parks might be utilized

SECTION FOUR: ACTION PLAN





ALBION PARKS ACTION PLAN

Below is the Action Plan list of projects approved by the Albion Parks Board based on opportunities identified through the development of this Master Plan including recent changes in the community (demographics, wealth, etc.), efforts of other stakeholders in the area, public survey results, public hearing comments received in July and November 2022, and input from the Board of Directors.

A project's inclusion in the Action Plan is not meant to indicate that the project has been approved for completion by either the Albion Parks Board or the Albion Town Council, nor does it indicate funding has been secured. The Albion Park Department and Board will focus their energy on prioritizing the projects listed, identifying existing and potential funding sources, and seeking the appropriate approvals to execute. Not all projects are guaranteed to be completed, but all are considered part of the vision for the Albion Parks Department continued development efforts over the next five years.

(HD=Hidden Diamonds; VV=Valley View; OP=Owen Park; TBD=To Be Determined)

Year	Project Description	Site(s)	Est. Cost	Funding Source
2023	Add more way finding signs	HD & VV	\$1,000	Budget
2023	Add new maintenance barn with water, bathroom & office	HD	\$90,000	TIF & Budget
2023	Expand butterfly garden	HD	\$1,000	Donations
2023	Partner with local organizations to provide summer camps and other programs	All	\$2,000	Budget
2024	Add outdoor fitness equipment along trails	HD	\$7,000	Parkview Grant
2024	Build skateboard park	HD	\$155,000	Donations
2024	Create a space for art in the park	All	\$2,000	Budget & Grants
2024	Replace old bridges with new, wooden bridges (Eagle Scout project)	HD	\$6,000	Budget
2024	Replace roofs, add steel	All	\$10,000	Budget
2024	Update ball diamond fencing	VV	\$20,000	CEDIT & TIF
2025	Add new drinking fountains/bottle refill	HD	\$4,000	Budget
2025	Add public wi-fi and security camera system	HD & VV	\$10,000	CEDIT
2025	Expand grass and paved trails; increase ADA accessible	HD	\$40,000	LWCF Grant
2025	Pave some of the existing trails; increase ADA accessible	HD	\$60,000	Grants
2026	Add more playgrounds/playground equipment	HD & VV	\$15,000	Donations
2026	Add pavilion to seat 200-300 people	HD	\$20,000	Corporate Sponsor

2026	Install ADA playground equipment	HD	\$80,000	Grants & Trustee
2027	Add a 9-hole disc golf course	HD	\$12,000	Donations
2027	Add a portable ice-skating rink	TBD	\$40,000	Donations
2027	Add boardwalk near wetlands area	HD	\$35,000	CEDIT, TIF, Grants
2027	Add dog park in the downtown area	TBD	\$20,000	Donations
2027	Add more security lighting	All	\$3,000	Budget
2028	Acquire more land	TBD	\$150,000	BUND, TIF & CEDIT
2028	Add an amphitheater with restrooms	HD	\$250,000	LWCF, State Grants
2028	Add concrete corn hole tournament space; host tournaments	OP	\$10,000	Budget & Trustee
2028	Add new pedestrian bridge next to driveway entry	HD	\$25,000	Grant & TIF



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Public input

Website

Home About Us Camping Disc Golf Rentals Parks Splash Pad News Contact

Master Plan

Participate in the survey and/or public meeting for chances to win a prize package valued at over \$100! Light refreshments will be provided at the hearing. (Two winners will be drawn summer 2022.)

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

In the spring of 2016, the Town of Albion commissioned Region 3-A Development & Regional Planning Commission to provide a five-year parks and recreation master plan for the Town of Albion Parks and Recreation system.

In the spring of 2022, Albion Park Department has launched an effort to update the five-year master plan. Successful completion and maintenance of a master plan ensures that Albion is eligible for various funding opportunities that require a parks master plan to be in place.

The master plan outlines proposed actions and goals of Albion Parks & Recreation for the next five years. It is a collaboration of independent research, public input, and the interests of the Albion Parks & Recreation Board. The plan is reviewed annually to ensure that ongoing goals and activities are in line with the framework of the plan.

This plan is not a legal document. It is meant to provide consistency across the terms of the Albion Parks & Recreation Board members, acting as a point of reference for these individuals, as well as members of the general public.

SURVEY

Help shape Albion's 5-year Master Plan for parks & recreation!

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 11, 2022
6:00 PM
[Albion Municipal Building](#)

[5-Year Plan 2016-2021](#)

© 2022 by Town of Albion. Created by Gatchy Creations LLC. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact us](#)

Albion Park Department
Cassy Myers, Superintendent
211 E. Park Drive, Albion, Indiana 46701

Facebook

Albion Parks & Recreation
★ Favorites · April 8 · 🌐

Please join us for the public hearing on our new masterplan.

When: Monday April 11, 2022 6 PM

Where: Albion Municipal Building 211 East Park Drive Albion IN 46701

What: Discussion on future plans, needs and wants for the future.

If you cannot join please feel free to do an online survey.
<https://www.albionparks.com/master-plan>

ALBIONPARKS.COM
5-Year Master Plan | Albion Indiana Parks
Albion Parks 5-Year Master Plan will be updated during 2022. The public is invited to participat...

3 Likes · 2 Shares

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

Albion Parks & Recreation
★ Favorites · March 28 · 🌐

Informational tear off tabs are located at Village Foods, Noble County Courthouse, CSB Bank, Campbell and Fetter Bank and the Albion Library.

Paper surveys will be located at Albion Municipal Building and Albion Library.

Albion Parks & Recreation is seeking public input to help shape the next 5-Year Master Plan. Take our survey and plan to attend the public hearing on Monday, April 11 at 6 PM at the Albion Municipal Building, 211 E Park Drive in Albion for chances to win prize packages valued at over \$100 each! Details and survey at <https://www.albionparks.com/master-plan>

You, Chris Magnuson, Mark Richard Hunter and 4 others · 6 Shares

Love Comment Share

Write a comment...

DRAFT



Paper survey

TOWN OF ALBION
 Albion Parks Department
 211 East Park Drive • PO Box 27
 Albion, IN 46702
 (260) 636-2246 • (260) 564-1976



Albion Park Department 5-Year Master Plan Survey

Help inform and shape the Albion Park Department 5-Year Master Plan by participating in this brief survey. Share your contact info at the end to be entered to win a prize!
 To take this survey online, go to www.albionparks.com/master-plan. Surveys close 5/15/2022.

Where do you reside? (Please choose one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Albion (46701)	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside of Noble County IN	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside of Indiana

How well informed are you about Albion's parks, features, amenities, and opportunities?

<input type="checkbox"/> Not well informed	<input type="checkbox"/> I know a little bit	<input type="checkbox"/> Well informed
--	--	--

How do you usually obtain information about Albion's parks? Please check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> I follow Albion Parks & Recreation on Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> I go to the albionparks.com website
<input type="checkbox"/> I read a local newspaper(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> I call, email, or ask someone else
Other: _____	

Rate Albion Park Department's overall performance: ☆☆☆☆☆

Have you or a member of your household visited any of Albion's parks over the past 12 months?

	None	1-2 times	3-6 times	More than 6 times
Hidden Diamonds Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owen Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valleyview Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In your household, who is the most frequent user of Albion parks?

<input type="checkbox"/> Children 12 & Under	<input type="checkbox"/> Teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (18+)	<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors (60+)	<input type="checkbox"/> We visit as a whole family
--	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	---

Please rate the quality of the following, based on your most recent visit:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	I don't know
Buildings upkeep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewardship of natural features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lawns and groundskeeping maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benches and seating areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shelters and pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitness, sports, & games gear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Please give us your feedback about the availability of the following amenities:

	Too few	Just right	Too many	I don't know
Paved trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unpaved trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball & softball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer & football fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand volleyball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc golf holes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet-friendly areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campsites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Splash pads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking fountains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What, if any, amenities do you feel are missing from the parks?

3

Share your feedback about the level of donation required for exclusive use of:

	Too low	Just right	Too high
ADA compliant restrooms at Hidden Diamonds Park = \$35/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Truelove Pavilion at Hidden Diamonds Park = \$35/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owen Park & Pavilion = \$35/day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Share your feedback about the level of donation required for camping overnight at Hidden Diamonds Park:

	Too low	Just right	Too high	I don't know
Full Hook-ups = \$20/night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primitive (no hook-ups) = \$10/night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?

Yes No

If you said yes, please explain: _____

Which of these community events, sponsored (in part) by Albion Park Department? Check all that you have attended:

Fourth of July Fireworks in Albion Youth soccer (NASA) Albion youth baseball/softball

4

Parks offer benefits to a community. Of the following benefits, please choose your **TOP 5** most important reasons to have quality parks in Albion:

<input type="checkbox"/> Improved physical health and fitness
<input type="checkbox"/> Improved sense of wellbeing
<input type="checkbox"/> Improved quality of life
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of and access to natural resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Attachment to and sense of community
<input type="checkbox"/> Attraction of investment to the community
<input type="checkbox"/> Attraction of visitors to the community
<input type="checkbox"/> Increased property values

Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!

Provide your contact information if you wish to be entered to win a prize package!

All responses to this survey will remain anonymous; your responses will not be attributed to you or shared publicly. We will draw a winner after surveys conclude this summer and notify the winner(s).

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

You are invited to attend public hearings to share more in-depth feedback. Find details at www.albionparks.com/master-plan.

5



APPENDIX B – Survey participant responses

Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
55	2022-03-31 19:53:53 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	Yes	Bees	
73	2022-04-18 09:32:18 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	Yes	I don't use the paths when it is dark just for safety reasons.	
11	2022-03-24 17:14:19 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	Yes	Not enough baseball and softball fields for all practices and games.	
17	2022-03-24 23:08:00 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	Yes	Not sure if this is what you mean, but as a homeschool family we don't always hear about the opportunities for youth sports and camps.	

Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
51	2022-03-30 10:59:03 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	Yes	Sometimes the mosquitos are so thick at Hidden Diamonds on the disc golf course, we choose not to go. I realize the only solution is probably more pesticides which isn't a great thing either... just part of it I guess.	





Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
12	2022-03-24 19:34:17 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	Yes	Towards the beginning of the one mile limestone path there is a very steep incline. Rocks slip under feet when going up or down. Which is a fall risk for older patrons. Possibly make it stepped on all of it or just half.	
86	2022-04-18 19:46:50 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	Yes	I don't think I'd walk the paths by myself. Seems very secluded at times. Seen sketchy people hanging out.	A bicycle trail would be fun. Get information out to the community. Have walking groups. Yoga groups.
40	2022-03-29 16:08:03 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	3	No		Acquire more land to expand the park system.



Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
93	2022-05-01 17:05:52 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		An additional 9 holes added to the disc golf course is very important to bringing new and experienced disc golfers to the course and also promoting outdoor physical activity.
81	2022-04-18 15:34:22 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	Yes		Another 18 hole (or more) disc golf course, with more woods utilized! Access road to the wooded disc golf course. Mountain biking trails.
18	2022-03-25 01:26:23 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		Better volleyball nets
32	2022-03-29 11:42:48 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		camping spots both primitive and hook-ups
72	2022-04-18 09:30:59 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		Community pool





Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
9	2022-03-24 16:31:50 -0500	Outside of Noble County IN	5	No		Consistent quality maintained improvements. Programs for children and seniors.
14	2022-03-24 19:52:02 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		Continue in a positive direction of growth and improvement. Albion has some of the cleanest and best parks in Noble County and the surrounding area.
4	2022-03-24 09:35:57 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	No		Continued additions too the nature walking paths, such as resting benches. Better, bigger signage for parking and directions. Yearly sanding and stain/ painting of wooden spectator bleachers, benches and bridges. Nature observation signs for birds and wildlife information.
79	2022-04-18 10:51:31 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	Yes	We do need "caution- flying discs" signs on the walking trails	Currently disc golf events can only accommodate around 12 players in a shotgun start format. Any more and the holes become congested and players are blindly throwing at each other. More holes in the new trails and fields would allow us to run bigger events, which brings \$\$ to the community. The local disc golf club is always ready to help the parks expand.



Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
69	2022-04-15 12:49:45 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		Dog park
41	2022-03-29 18:38:10 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	No		Don't have anything
76	2022-04-18 09:46:27 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		I do think there should be something posted (unless I missed that info on the website) about bounce houses welcome for pavilion parties and which location works best.
80	2022-04-18 12:23:54 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		I enjoy this park and all the new things it has brought over the years
47	2022-03-30 01:17:03 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		I feel overall we have a great amount of parks for the size of the town, I live next to the Valley view baseball diamond and that park is small but works for younger children.
44	2022-03-29 22:09:35 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		I'm very impressed with Hidden Diamonds! I can't speak into the other parks, but hidden diamonds is very enjoyable, well thought out, and offers more than most any other parks in our area.
36	2022-03-29 13:22:46 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		It would be nice to have some landscaping with perennial flowers.





Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
62	2022-04-03 20:25:03 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		Keep Casey Myers in charge and compensate him well. He loves his town and his job. It shows. Get companies, local groups, churches, youth groups, and school groups involved in programs that will create excitement and funding creating new experiences at the parks.
6	2022-03-24 12:34:56 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		Love Hidden Diamonds Park! It is always well maintained. We enjoy the trails so much and sledding in winter months.
94	2022-05-01 18:26:01 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		More disc golf holes! And maybe better drainage or something in the muddy areas. Hard to walk thru those areas no matter what time of year it is.
58	2022-04-02 14:35:13 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		N/a
97	2022-05-11 11:32:21 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		Our family really loves the splash pad. Maybe making that bigger would be amazing. We also loved that it's a gated area. Makes it so much easier to take all the kids and not have to worry about them running off.



Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
54	2022-03-30 18:19:37 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		Outstanding facilities and amenities for a community the size of Albion. Keep up the great work!
46	2022-03-29 23:37:06 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		Parking when high use of park is a train wreck.
31	2022-03-29 10:05:06 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	4	No		The question above about which sponsored events I have attended needs a 'none' selection. I have not attended any of these, but cannot submit the survey without selecting something.
99	2022-05-15 23:38:30 -0500	Albion (46701)	3	No		The Town Of Albion spends entirely too much money on these amenities. It is a waste of citizen tax dollars to continue funding the Parks Department at its current level. Cities with three times our population have less. Yes they are nice, but by no means is the city getting a good ROI (return on investment).
43	2022-03-29 22:00:56 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		We love the park. Our family rents the pavilion every year for our reunion. You do a great job. Thank you





Essay Survey Question
RESPONSES

Entry Id	Date Created	Where do you reside?	Albion Park Department's overall performance:	Have you encountered any barriers in the parks that prevented you or someone you know from participating?	Please explain	Please share any comments or experiences you feel are important to Albion Park Department's ability to improve over the next five years. Thank you!
16	2022-03-24 22:08:45 -0500	Albion (46701)	5	No		We love the trails and bridges!
70	2022-04-15 20:27:52 -0500	Albion (46701)	4	Yes	Speed bumps hate them Pave drive to splash pad Replace volleyball court it is never used with Put-Put and a side walk leading to it. Need security light at end of drive o. Top of the hill	Yes
28	2022-03-28 07:58:43 -0500	Outside of Albion, but still in Noble County IN	5	No		You all do an amazing job with our parks! We are lucky to have you!



APPENDIX C – Public notice April public hearing

Tax ID 35-0436930
General Form No. 999 (Rev. 2)

Prescribed by State Board of Accounts

To: KPC Media Group Inc
P.O. Box 39, KENDALLVILLE, IN 46755

TOWN OF ALBION* To: ALBION NEW ERA

NOBLE, Indiana Order #: 2072680

PUBLISHER'S CLAIM

LINE COUNT

Display (Master) must not exceed two actual lines, neither of which shall total more than four solid lines of the type in which the body of the advertisement is set -- number of equivalent lines

Head -- number of lines	1
Body -- number of lines	30
Tail -- number of lines	1
Total number of lines in notice	32.0

COMPUTATION OF CHARGES

32.0 lines, 1.0 columns wide equals 32.0 equivalent lines at 0.7461 cents per line.

Additional charges for notices containing rule or tabular work (50 per cent) of above amount	\$
Charge for extra proofs of publication (\$1.00 for each proof in excess of 2)	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM	\$23.88

DATA FOR COMPUTING COST:

Width of single column in picas - 9.9 Size of type - 7 point
Number of insertions: 2

Pursuant to the provisions and penalties of IC 5-11-10-1, I hereby certify that the foregoing account is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due, after allowing all just credits, and that no part of the same has been paid.

I also certify that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, of the same column width and type size, which was duly published in said paper ALBION NEW ERA. The dates of publication being as follows:
03/30/2022, 04/06/2022

Additionally, the statement checked below is true and correct:

Newspaper does not have a Web site.

Newspaper has a Web site and this public notice was posted on the same day as it was published in the newspaper.

Newspaper does a Web site, but due to technical problem or error, public notice as posted on _____

Newspaper has a Web site, but refuses to post the public notice.

Claim No. _____ Warrant No. _____

I have examined the within claim and hereby certify as follows:

That it is in proper form.

That it is duly authenticated as required by law.

That it is based upon statutory authority.

That it is apparently correct incorrect

I certify that the within claim is true and correct; that the services there in itemized and for which charge is made were ordered by me and were necessary to the public business

S

ON ACCOUNT OF APPROPRIATION FOR

Appropriation No. _____

ALLOWED _____

IN THE SUM OF \$ _____

PUBLIC NOTICE
Meeting To Discuss the Albion Parks Five-Year Masterplan

The Albion Parks Department is hosting a public meeting to discuss a new Five-Year masterplan. The public hearing will be held on Monday April 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Albion Municipal Building located at 211 East Park Drive, Albion IN 46701.

A Five-Year Park Masterplan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to apply for federal grant funding for both land and water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trail Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs could possibly assist the Parks Department with meeting goals designed with the approved Albion Parks Masterplan.

The public is invited to join the discussion to shape how Albion Parks Department allocates resources. For further information please contact Casey Myers, Albion Parks Superintendent, at 260-584-1978 Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 4 PM or by email: albionparksdept@frontier.com.

ANE 2072680/3/30/4/6/hspxp

Date: 04/06/2022

KELLY CRAGER
Title: Legal Clerk





APPENDIX D – Public Hearing Presentation

5-Year Master Plan

PUBLIC HEARING

April 11, 2022



Public hearing

1. Please sign in
2. Please silence phones

Agenda:

- Objectives of new 5-Year Master Plan
- Quick review of the past five years
- Open the floor to hear your questions/feedback





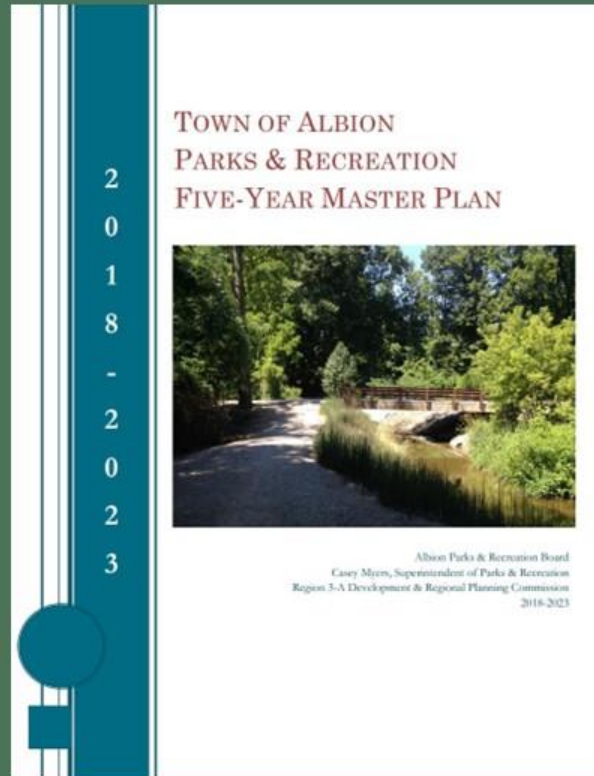
Objectives of new 5-Year Plan

The master plan:

- Ensures eligibility for funding (from DNR and others)
- Provides a guide to prioritize actions and goals
- Creates accountability to ensure activities are in line with what taxpayers want and the board has approved
- Provides consistent reference point for all working partners (public, parks, town, etc.)



Review of the past five years

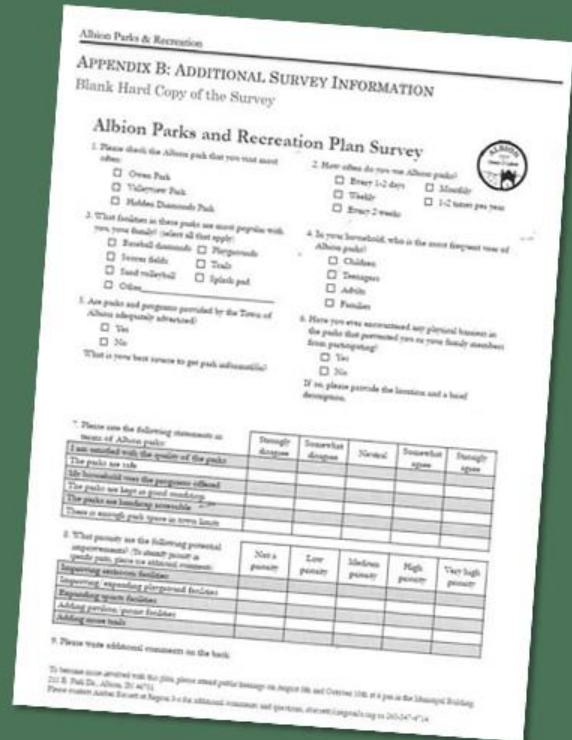




2018 public input

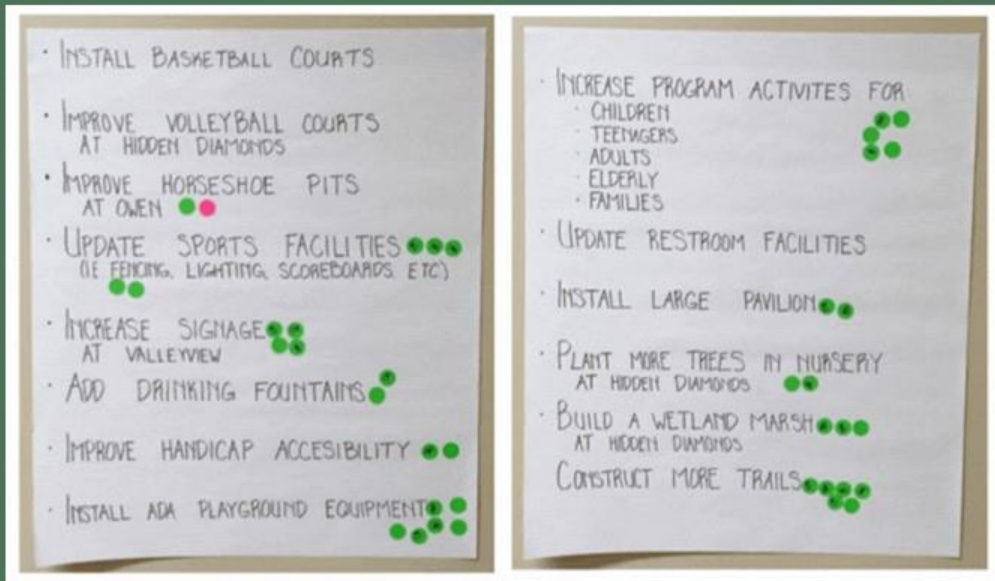
SURVEY RESULTS:

- Construct more trails
- Expand sports facilities
- Improve playground facilities
- Improve parking



2018 public input

PUBLIC HEARING 2018





2018 public input

SURVEY RESULTS:

- Construct more trails
- Expand sports facilities
- Improve playground facilities
- Improve parking

PUBLIC HEARING INPUT

- Construct more trails
- Install ADA compliant playground equipment
- Increase programming
- Increase signage at Valleyview
- Update sports facilities
- Build a wetland marsh at Hidden Diamonds



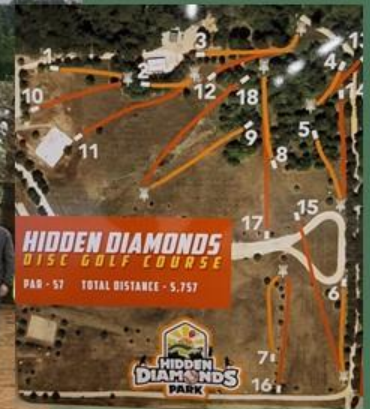
Construct more trails

- Added one-mile walking trail
- Added .33 mile hiking trail



Expand / update sports facilities

- New pickleball courts
- New basketball court & backboards
- New disc golf holes, tees & signage



Playground equipment updates





Improvements didn't stop there...



Other improvements 2018-2022

- New markers at Rose Hill Cemetery
- New chess & checkers board
- New drinking fountain
- Expanded shade & seating area at splash pad



Other improvements 2018-2022

- Upgraded & new restrooms
- Bird houses added
- New trash barrels
- ADA parking enhancements



Other developments 2018-2022

- Erosion control project
- New sign at Hidden Diamonds
- New branding for department



Projects underway in 2022

- Wetlands project – enhanced walking trail
- Butterfly garden
- New website, enhanced online services
- Looking at land acquisition



We want to hear from you!

www.albionparks.com/master-plan

Survey open through 5/15/22





Time for Public Comments

Please state your name and connection to Albion
Parks & Recreation. Thank you!



APPENDIX E – April hearing participants & minutes

MEETING SIGN UP SHEET: ALBION PARK Board Public Hearing MASTER PLAN DATE: 3

NAME	ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER
1. <u>CASEY MYERS</u>	<u>302 Billase Drive Albion IN 46701</u>
2. <u>Joe Smith</u>	<u>1728 Lechmanor Dr. Fort Wayne IN</u>
3. <u>Danah Bende</u>	<u>715 South SPRING ALBION, IN</u>
4. <u>Vicki Gellison</u>	<u>402 W Highland St Albion</u>
5. <u>Paul Gager</u>	<u>501 N York Albion</u>
6. <u>Matt Pette</u>	<u>312 E. High Corbett</u>
7. <u>R.C. Smith</u>	<u>Albion</u>
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
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Albion Park Board
April 11, 2022
211 East Park Drive
Albion IN 46701

CALL TO ORDER: Dan called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Dan Gagen
Zane Gray
Erika Hile
Tim Kiebel
Bev Fitzpatrick

OTHERS: Casey Myers – Park Superintendent, Scott Fetters – U. S Fish and Wildlife phone in, Russell Smith, Joe Smith, Lori Gagen, Randy Gunder, Vicki Jellison.

1. Casey went over financial with the board.
2. Scott Fetters did a phone in and updated the park board on the wetland project. He would have some figures for the next board meeting. Scott wanted to have Jack Owen locate the tile size that is needed to get costs around. The board also wanted a price on the pond number 3 cost.
3. The board was awarded \$2,000.00 from the Noble REMC Environment Grant to be used for the wetland project.
4. Fireworks fundraising is going well. Around \$3500 has been raised
5. Casey requested an emergency roof repair at Valleyview Park. The announcer area on top of the roof has made the concession stand roof bad. Casey has 3 quotes and all of them will get the job done within 30 days. Yoder Roofing was \$7,000 and was the lowest quote. Tim made a motion to have a brown steel roof installed and the top torn off with the park paying for the dumpster, Erika seconded the motion, passed 5-0.

Public Hearing Masterplan

- ¶ Dan called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

- ⌵ Lori Gagen did a presentation on the accomplishments the park board has completed over the last 4.5 years.
 - a. Added 1 mile grass trail
 - b. Added a hiking trail
 - c. Upgraded restrooms
 - d. Upgraded additional handicapped parking
 - e. Expanded a seating area near the splash pad with a chess, checker board and a shade structure.
 - f. New drinking fountain
 - g. Added new disc golf concrete pads and signage
 - h. Added pickleball courts
 - i. New signage around trails.
 - j. Added over 300 ton of stone to the trails and parking lot
- ⌵ Lori added that the public hearing is to take place for people to have comments. She also noted that a survey is on the park Facebook page that directs you to the albionparks.com page so you can fill out a survey for the masterplan.
- ⌵ Lori mentioned that a new updated 5-year masterplan will allow the park to write grant to the DNR for trails, wetlands and more.
- ⌵ Lori opened the floor for comments.
 1. Randy Gunder asked if the board had discussed the idea of a pedestrian's bridge next to the car bridge so walkers can be safer. The board will take that into consideration.
 2. Joe Smith mentioned he liked the trails and thought we needed more. He thought some paving on trails would be a good idea.
 3. Russell Smith asked the board if the wetland project will affect the budget much. Casey mentioned that in 22 years the park has never went over budget and has always maintained the best interest of the park and town taxpayers. The board thought the phase 1 would not have a big impact on the budget.
 4. Matt Getts asked Dan Gagen what his top goal would be for the next 5 years and Dan had mentioned that the completion of the wetland project would be his top priority.
- ⌵ With not other comments the board closed the public hearing at 6:33pm with Tim making the motion and Zane second, passed 5-0.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Casey read the minutes from the March 2022 meeting. Dan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tim, and passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS: Tim made a motion to approve the accounts payable vouchers from March, submitted and reviewed, seconded by Erika passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Dan moved for adjournment, motion made by Bev, seconded by Tim, passed 5-0. There being no further business to be brought before the board in regular session, adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M. The next regular scheduled meeting is on Monday May 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Albion Municipal Building 211 East Park Drive Albion.



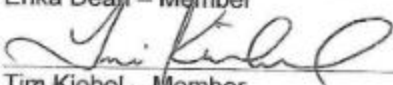
Dan Gagen, President



Zane Gray, Vice President



Bev Fitzpatrick – Secretary

Erika Dean – Member


Tim Kiebel – Member

APPENDIX F – Public notice November public hearing



OFFICIAL AD PROOF

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run in **Albion New Era** on the dates indicated below. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at **(260) 347-0400**.

Notice ID: FFGHnxcppFexV1gkh9hi | Proof Updated: Oct. 21, 2022 at 02:06pm EDT
 Notice Name: Copy Parks Masterplan Public Notice | Publisher ID: 2078123

This is not an invoice. Below is an estimated price, and it is subject to change. You will receive an invoice with the final price upon invoice creation by the publisher.

FILER	FILING FOR
Jacob Ihrie albionmanager@frontier.com (260) 636-2246	Albion New Era
Columns Wide: 1	Ad Class: Legals
10/26/2022: Governmental Agencies Notice	15.50
Subtotal	\$15.50
Tax %	0.00
Total	\$15.50

Public Notice Meeting To Discuss the Albion Parks Five -Year Masterplan

The Albion Parks Department is hosting a public meeting to discuss a new Five-Year Masterplan. The public hearing will be held on Monday November 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Albion Municipal Building located at 211 East Park Drive, Albion IN 46701.

A Five-Year Park Masterplan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to apply for federal grant funding for both the land and water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trail Program. DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs could possibly assist the Parks Department with meeting goals designed with the approved Albion Parks Masterplan.

The public is invited to join the discussion to review revisions made to the rough draft before resolving to adopt the Five -Year Masterplan. For further information please contact Casey Myers, Albion Parks Superintendent at 260-564-1976 Monday – Friday from 8 AM – 4 PM or by email albionparkdept@frontier.com.

ANE.10/26.hsoaxlo



APPENDIX G – November hearing participants & minutes

MEETING SIGN UP SHEET: Albion Park Board Meeting DATE: 11/14/22
NAME ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

1. JAMIE HOWARD 5844 N 200W, ALBION 248 242 4856

2. Zane Gray 701 Taylor Ln Albion 248 343 1314

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TOWN OF ALBION

Albion Parks Department
211 East Park Drive • PO Box 27
Albion, IN 46701
(260) 636-2246 • (260) 564-1976



Albion Park Board Minutes
Nov 14, 2022
211 East Park Drive
Albion IN 46701

CALL TO ORDER: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Dan Gagen
Bev Fitzpatrick
Justin Diehm
Tim Kiebel

OTHERS: Casey Myers – Park Superintendent, Jaimie Howard, Zane Gray, Lori Gagen.

1. Dan called the public hearing on the review the final draft of the masterplan. Lori Gagen owner of Catchy Creations LLC that helped put the masterplan together started the hearing out explaining the plan. There are a few things that Lori and Casey will be updated before the plan is submitted to the DNR.

Discussion took place on the survey results. Lori discussed the action plan that was put into place for this plan. Lori and Casey will finalize the draft with some phone number updates and a few small details.

Tim made a motion to close the meeting at 6:25, seconded by Tim, passed 4-0.

2. Jaimie Howard was in attendance to discuss the possibility of fundraising for an ADA playground that would be installed at Hidden Diamonds Park. Jaimie handed out some information and pictures of what the equipment may be and cost. The board thought it was a great idea to pursue. Jaimie offered to form a committee. Casey would also serve on the committee. The potential location could be next to the existing playground near the parking lot. Justin made a motion to allow a committee to be formed, Tim seconded the motion, passed 4-0.
3. Casey updated the board on the wetlands. Jack Owen Excavating will be starting soon.



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4. Casey told the board the concrete in the dugouts will be poured soon by Pulver Concrete.
5. The South ball diamond dugout got damaged in the big windstorm. Casey will have a local contractor build the new dugout made out of 4x4;s instead of fence posts. The dugouts are 30 years old and were ready for updating.
6. Casey noted that the Christmas decorations will be going up the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
7. Casey reported that the water will be turned off soon.
8. The parking area will be built in the coming weeks for the RC track.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Casey read the minutes from the October 2022 meeting. Bev made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tim, and passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS: Justin made a motion to approve the accounts payable vouchers from October and November, submitted and reviewed, seconded by Dan passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Dan moved for adjournment, motion made by Justin, seconded by Bev, passed 4-0. There being no further business to be brought before the board in regular session, adjourned the meeting at 6:57 P.M. The next regular scheduled meeting in December will be canceled due to lack of business.

 Dan Gagen, President

 Tim Kiebel, Vice President

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Bev Fitzpatrick – Secretary

Erika Dean – Member

Justin Diehm – Member
