



**Bargersville, Indiana**  
**5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan**  
**2023 – 2027**

A System-wide Master Plan by the  
Bargersville Parks and Recreation Board and the  
Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department

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Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Definition of the Planning Area.....	4
Goals of the Plan.....	5
The Parks and Recreation Board/Department .....	7
Parks and Recreation Board .....	7
Parks and Recreation Department.....	7
Facility Inventory .....	8
Parks and Trails Map.....	10
Current Programs .....	11
Budget .....	11
Table 1: BPRD Budget .....	12
Other Recreation Providers .....	12
Natural Features and Landscape.....	13
Topography.....	13
Forest and Vegetation Resources.....	14
Water Resources.....	14
Man-made, Historical and Cultural .....	15
Transportation .....	15
Industry in Bargersville .....	16
Bargersville Parks Department History .....	17
Cultural Bargersville.....	17
Social and Economic Factors (from the 2020 US Census) .....	18
Population (2010-2020) .....	18
Economics in Bargersville.....	19
Housing.....	19
Education.....	19
Socio-economic Summary.....	20
Accessibility and Federal Accessibility Standards .....	20
Statement of Accessibility for Bargersville .....	20



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

Current Accessibility .....	21
Proposed Accessibility .....	22
Public Participation .....	22
Park Board, Town Council and General Stakeholders.....	23
Community Survey.....	23
Final Public Presentation of the Plan.....	26
Summary/Comparison of Public Input .....	27
Needs Analysis .....	27
What is Issue Analysis? .....	27
Issues from Public Input.....	27
Issues from Board, Staff and Town officers; Plus Benchmarking and SWOT Analysis .....	27
National and State Standards .....	28
What We Need .....	29
Priorities and Action Schedule .....	29
Transition into the New Plan.....	30
Priorities for 2023-2027 .....	31
Appendices	
Bargersville Regional Map.....	33
SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis .....	34
BPRD System-wide Action Schedule .....	36
Community Benchmarking; Bargersville; Whitestown; and Danville, IN ....	39
Accessibility Compliance Sign-Off Sheet .....	40
Board Resolution Adopting Plan .....	41
BPRD Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups.....	43
Community Survey.....	44
Public Input Meeting.....	59
Newspaper notices, articles, sign-in sheets and meeting information .....	60



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Introduction

The Town of Bargersville is 20 miles south of downtown Indianapolis and is located in Johnson County. Established in 1850, Bargersville has always been recognized as a small community rich in agriculture. The “small town” feel is still evident within Town limits but has experienced exponential growth in recent years due to proximity and connections to I-69, SR-135, and CR-144. The Town recently went through a rebranding and is focusing on preserving the agricultural history while planning for the current and future development via the tagline “A Growing Legacy”. The Bargersville Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan is intended as guidance for the Department’s growth and development. The plan also takes information from the “Bargersville VISION 2040 Comprehensive Plan”, adopted by the Town of Bargersville on July 14, 2020.

## Definition of the Planning Area

The service area for the Town of Bargersville has expanded more than 10-fold, after a large annexation to the west in 2010. This increased the service area from a 1.1 square mile area to more than 18 square miles. The Town of Bargersville now has East/West borders from Honey Creek Rd to Banta Rd/ I-69 and North/South borders from Stones Crossing to 300 N. As shown by the map, the southwest portion of Bargersville is largely agricultural while the northwest is transitioning into a denser residential area. The map includes the existing parks, light green shaded areas. The existing parks are more centrally located, and land acquisition and system growth are key themes in this *Master Plan*. Growth of the Parks and Recreation Department will have a significant impact on not only current and future residents, but also economic development opportunities bringing in non-residents for park use. We anticipate a direct impact between economic development and park usage as the Town continues to grow and more parks and facilities come online.



## Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

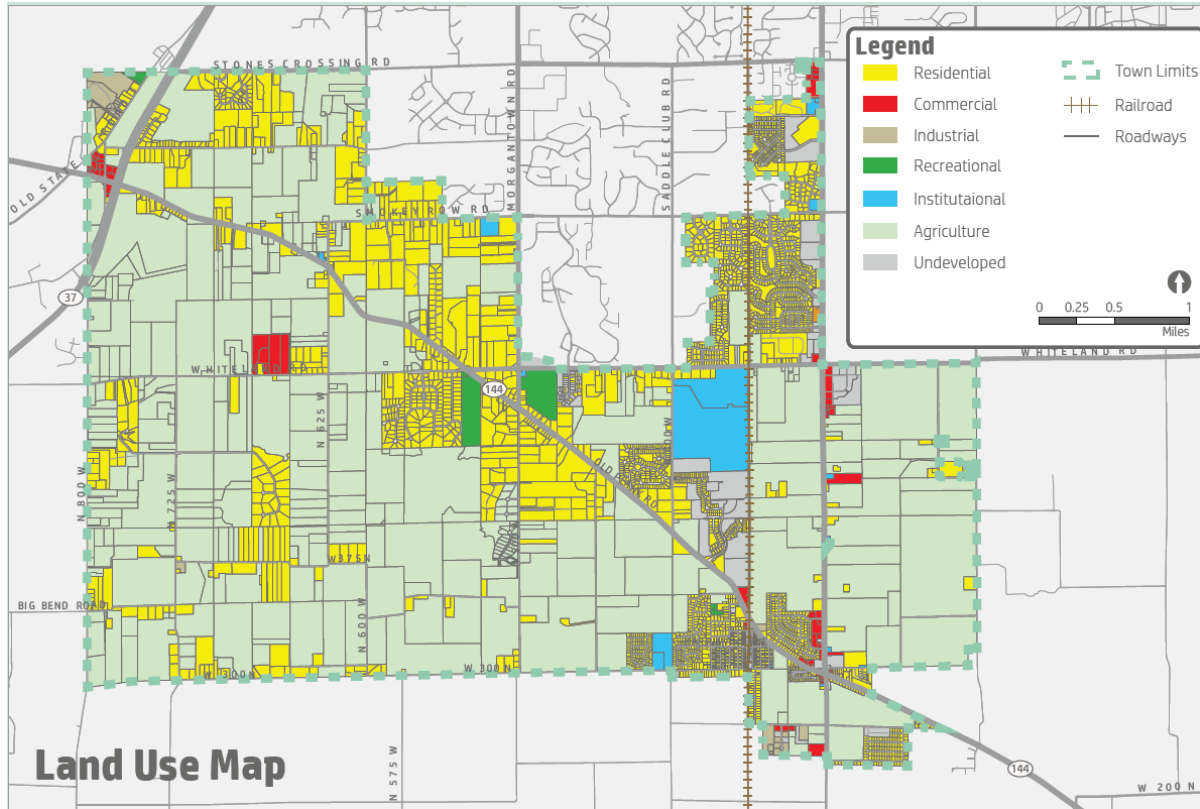


Figure 1: Bargarville Land Use Map from Vision 2040

### Goals of the Plan

The Master Plan Goals and Objectives were not only identified for this planning effort but also includes connectivity to the *Vision 2040 Bargarville Comprehensive Plan*. Points of emphasis of the Master Plan includes:

#### Measures of “Success”

- Both a vision for where the Department is going and a way to measure the journey to get there (performance measures).
- Operational support to implement the plan
- Achieve consensus from stakeholder groups for implementation; ensure the plan fits into the larger vision



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Key Issues/Challenges**

- Operational capacity vs. population growth
- Land and facility expansion and/or acquisition (trails, park land, amenities, etc.)
- Department development (functional organizational chart, staffing standards, etc.)

### **Overarching Goals**

- Roadmap and justify what makes sense
- Completion of Kephart Park
- Defined trail system and corresponding terminology and design standards
- Vision for how to reach beyond the downtown focus
- Use parks to define the community's health
- Trails need to be a part of connectivity (to neighborhoods, within Town, and to other communities)

In addition to the goals defined for the 5-Year Parks Master Plan, the importance of Parks and the connection to the Town's Comprehensive Plan was identified in seven objectives as part of the overall parks and recreation vision.

1. Review open space requirements as part of the subdivision control ordinance to encourage diverse types of open space systems.
2. Continue planning efforts that support the identification of new parks and improvements, such as the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Recreation Impact Fee Study.
3. Implement Kephart Park.
4. Provide additional winter activities and programs, such as a seasonal ice-skating rink.
5. Increase awareness of activities and events that are happening in Bargersville.
6. Implement highly requested facilities such as a splash pad and/or dog park.
7. Work with partners to develop an indoor recreation facility and/or complex.



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

It is important to point out that since initial discussions of the Goals of the 5-Year Master Plan and the planning and acceptance of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, some of these items have already been addressed such as the completion and implementation of Kephart Park in July 2023.

## The Park Board/Department

### Parks and Recreation Board

In May 2022, the Town Council and Town of Bargersville established a Department of Parks and Recreation, controlled by a Parks and Recreation Board pursuant to provisions of IC 36-10-3. A special taxing district was also created that includes all territory within the Town’s corporate boundaries.

The Parks and Recreation Board has a four-member board that serves staggered four-year terms. The Town Council waived the requirement that not more than two of the four members be affiliated with the same political party as necessary due to the absence of people who are willing to serve on the park board and satisfy all requirements. The prior Parks Advisory Commission was abolished through a repealed Ordinance in 2022.

The current Bargersville Parks and Recreation Board is:

Keith Cecil, President	Term: May 2022 to December 2023 <i>Reappointed for Jan 2024-2027</i>
Ronda Ankney, Vice President	Term: May 2022 to December 2025
Kelly McCarry	Term: May 2022 to December 2024
Mary Pack	Term: January 2023 to December 2026

### Department of Parks and Recreation

The office for the Department is located in the Town Hall, located at 24 N Main Street, Bargersville. The phone is (317) 422-3136.

Email: [parks@Bargersville.in.gov](mailto:parks@Bargersville.in.gov) Website: [Bargersville.in.gov/parks](http://Bargersville.in.gov/parks)



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Staff**

The Department hired the first full-time employee, a Director of Parks and Recreation in January 2023. The Parks Department workload is supported by part-time and seasonal park employees and relies heavily on the Bargersville Street and Wastewater Departments for daily and ongoing operations. Town events also utilize the Marketing and Community Relations Coordinator and volunteers. It is planned to hire a full-time Parks Maintenance Staff person in 2024.

Park Director: Kris Wilson

Hired: January 2023

### **Volunteers**

The Town relies on the Bargersville Main Street organization and local volunteers to help with Town events. As the Town and the Parks Department grow, we will begin to build a volunteer database as well as volunteer opportunities through a variety of networks. These networks include but are not limited to newly formed service organizations such as the Bargersville Rotary Club and communication with the Center Grove School District.

### **Facility Inventory**

Bargersville has an inventory of five parks, ranging from .07 to 18.84 acres (approximately 22.6 total acres total park land) and one small Community Center. The Bargersville Park system is relatively new, with the newest property, Kephart Park being opened in July 2023. Although the park system is fairly new, the Community Center is outdated and is only used for basic operations and rentals. The newest park in the system, Kephart Park has quickly met its fair share of challenges including keeping up with demand. The amount of traffic in the new Kephart Park creates special problems in maintenance. In many cases, due to limited staffing, the Parks Department relies on the availability of other departments for repairs and upkeep. The following is a brief synopsis of the parks and facilities:





Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

**Kephart Park** (3936 W CR 144; 18.84 acres)

- Purchased by the Town in 2015
- Undeveloped land until 2022, construction 2022, open July 2023
- Features a SplashPad, accessible playground structures, play mounds and swings, 8 pickleball courts with bleachers, 2 pavilion shelters with tables and a permanent grill, and trail connectivity

**Legacy Plaza** (12 Main Street; .07 acres)

- Located adjacent to Town Hall, formerly known as Founders Fountain
- Brick paver pathway with personalized bricks
- Benches honoring all military branches and the Indiana National Guard

**Switzer Park** (47 North Street; .5 acres)

- Purchased by the Town in 2015
- Located on the west side of Bargarville on CR144, within .25 miles of downtown
- Features full basketball court, multi-level playground, covered pavilion, picnic tables and benches

**Windisch Park** (248 N. West Street; 3.09 acres)

- Purchased by the Town in 2005
- Located near corner of West and North streets, within two blocks of downtown
- Features a paved 1/5-mile trail with Storywalk and benches, multiple accessible playground structures with swings, picnic tables, Little Library

**Witt Park** (147 S East St; .14 acres)

- Located in southeast corner of downtown, next to First Christian Church
- Features a fenced playground area, playground structures with swings, shade structure, picnic tables, benches and Little Library.

**Bargarville Community Center** (14 W Old South Street)

- Operation of facility taken over by Parks Dept January 2023
- Features a 75-person capacity multi-use room with kitchenette (refrigerator, microwave, and counterspace), two restrooms



Bargserville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### Trail Inventory

There are approximately 8.5 miles of pedestrian trails and pathways provided to residents. The longest pathway is the Whiteland Road Walking Path, approximately 2.75 miles in length. The shortest walking path is the Bargserville Old Plank Path at .1 mile long. Additional trails and connectivity (Sawyer Walk housing development and South Central Soccer Academy Trail) were in development at the time of this *Master Plan* writing. As shown in Figure 2, trails do not currently connect to each other and there is a desire to see the development of new trails with connectivity to existing trails with the goal of providing safe walkable routes to the downtown area. A focus on trails on the north and west part of Bargserville as the town continues to develop.

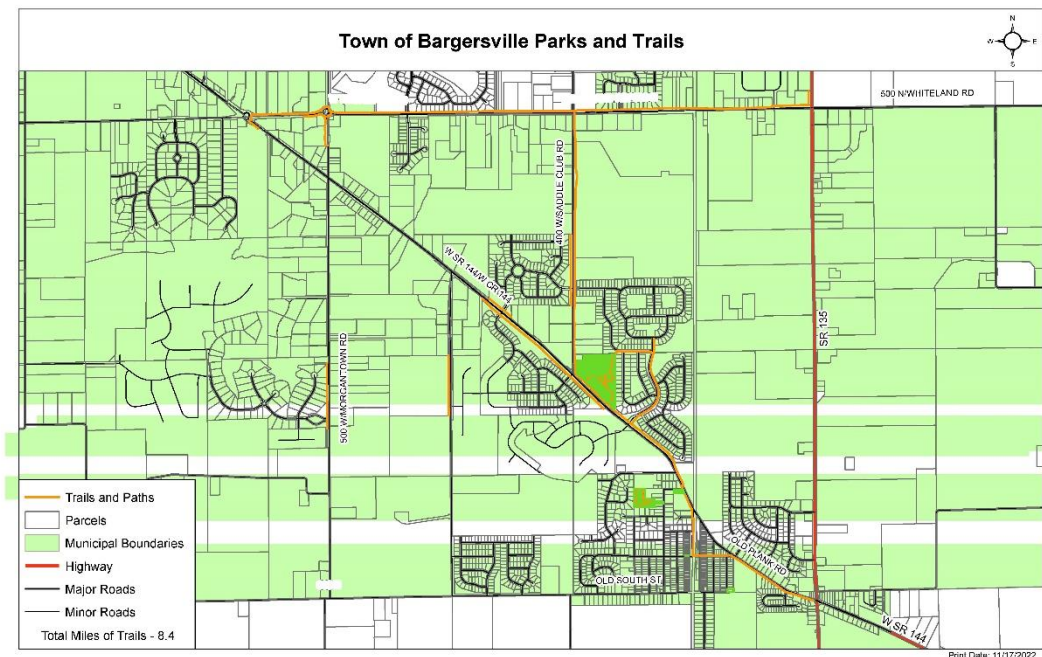


Figure 2: Bargserville Parks and Trail System

The number one “unmet” need determined by public input is paved pathways/trails. As trail development occurs in Bargserville, a hierarchical approach will be taken when creating the system to priorities primary, secondary and tertiary and greenway corridors. Once implemented, loop and spine trails/routes can be emphasized as part of an overall wayfinding and pedestrian network. With the rapid growth and development of Bargserville, it is important



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

to keep focus on making connectivity a high priority in proposed developments. Additionally, the Parks Department will need to identify additional funding sources to develop more trails.

### **Current Programs**

With the Department being in its infancy, there are very few programs and events offered. The Parks Department supports five Town events, mostly geared toward families. Current recreational opportunities include privately run youth organizations and privately owned businesses. The Parks and Recreation Department has begun to build partnerships with these organizations but there is a need to add more program and event opportunities as the population grows and diversifies. At the time of the *Master Plan* development, the Umbarger Plaza project had complete design and was scheduled to go out to bid which will provide another space for community events and gatherings such as concerts and movies. The following is a snapshot of some of the events and offerings offered by Town staff, volunteers or with our partners:

- Summer Concert Series (*beginning 2024*)
- Breakfast with the Bunny (*Town event*)
- Harvest Moon Fall Festival (*Town event*)
- Trunk or Treat (*Town event*)
- Santa Train (*Town event*)
- Farmers Market (*Bargersville Main Street event*)

In addition to the existing park system, residents also have close access to the City of Franklin's Parks and Recreation system, which includes 11 parks, Aquatic Center, Recreation Center, dog park and amphitheater. Also in close proximity is the City of Greenwood's park system, which includes 14 parks, 20 miles of trailways, and community center (among other amenities).

### **Budget**

The BPRD budget is in a state of change and adjustment with the recent development of the Department. A Parks Donation Fund was established in 2023 to capture donations, naming opportunities and sponsorship dollars. There is a desire and need to grow services which will require a larger operational budget in



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

staffing, operations and capital projects. The following table shows the first budget with the following fiscal year proposed budget.

Year	Salaries and Benefits	Operations and Supplies	Maintenance	Capital Projects	Capital Projects (not in operating budget)	Operating Budget Total
2023	\$145,303	\$75,800	\$47,000	\$126,000	n/a	\$394,103
2024 (Projected)	\$230,099	\$70,800	\$161,000	\$235,000*	\$235,000	\$461,899

Table 1: BPRD Budget

**Other Recreation providers**

The following is a partial list of other recreation providers in the Town of Bargersville:

- Anytime Fitness – *Membership/daily pass required*
- Bargersville Wellness – *Private and drop-in Yoga Classes*
- Center Grove Bantam Football League Corp - *Youth Football*
- Center Grove School Corporation – a few Town events utilize School District property via rental fee.
- Cornerstone Fitness Studio – *Membership/daily pass required*
- District 135 Fitness – *Membership/daily pass required*
- South Central Soccer Academy - *Youth Soccer*

**Future Partnerships**

It is important for the Department to develop partnerships to meet current and future demands. Partnership opportunities include the Center Grove School Corporation as well as the Center Grove Bantam Football League. While there is not currently a written Joint Use Agreement between the Town and Schools, it has been briefly introduced as a future concept. This agreement could allow the sharing of facilities and large equipment as well as options such as personnel/maintenance labor sharing, partnering on grants and capital improvements, storage agreements and community events (ie school supply drive, watch parties). In the future there could be an internship/apprentice program for students interested in sports, recreation or event management.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

At the time of this *Master Plan*, a partnership between the Town of Bargarville and the South Central Soccer Academy (SCSA) was being further developed. The partnership includes construction of a public multi-use trail around the property to be constructed Summer 2024. Additional projects include the purchase of some of the property and utilizing the soccer property for programs and events.

## **Natural Features and Landscape**

With the Park Department being in its infancy and the staff being relatively new, there are few specific nature-related challenges and opportunities. After further research with other town employees, there have not been any localized flooding or drainage issues in the parks within the last five years. Approximately 6-7 years ago, a flooding issue was addressed at Windisch Park by creating a small detention area. Since that development, Windisch Park has not experienced any flooding. Although less than a year old, Kephart Park will need significant re-seeding in the Spring, which will fall under warranty. The overall landscape plan and development of a maintenance plan for Kephart Park will be an ongoing focus in the first few years of operation. Specific areas that are being evaluated within Kephart Park are the initial landscape and irrigation plans, the middle detention pond, and the wooded area. There were not any natural changes that were brought up during the public input, but a capital project of cleaning out dead trees and cleaning out the woods at Kephart Park is anticipated in the first year of this Master Plan. Removal of dead trees along with a forestry mow will allow space for evaluation of future trail placement throughout the wooded area of Kephart.

The following concepts are taken from the *Vision 2040 Bargarville Comprehensive Plan*.

### **Topography**

Bargarville is relatively flat and intensely used for agricultural purposes. As development is considered within the planning area, there may be certain



Bargsersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

environmental constraints that limit the types of development that is compatible with specific areas. A vast majority of the Town contains agricultural land. The southwest portion of Bargsersville is largely designated for agricultural uses. It will be important to identify potential areas throughout the Town of Bargsersville to designate as park areas that can be developed as well as preserved as natural areas.

### **Forest and Vegetation Resources**

There is a large amount of wooded areas, specifically to the west and south that comes up from Morgan-Monroe State Forest. These areas of vegetated areas and forests provide habitats for wildlife, beautiful scenery, and potential amenities for residents. The development of the I-69 corridor will alter some of the natural areas, but have also identified some potential wooded areas that could be designated as natural park space.

The construction and opening of Kephart Park provided an opportunity to preserve some of the existing woods on the property. The Department has worked with forestry services and environmental consultants for recommendations and a plan to clear out dead trees and forestry mow the area to promote growth as well as options to control invasive species.

### **Water Resources**

There are a number of Creeks and Brooks within Town limits, none of which would be considered major waterways. Creeks within Town limits that are designated as floodplains include Salem Brook, Bluff Creek, Mallow Run, Crooked Creek, Banta Creek, Kinder Run, Travis Creek, Henderson Creek, Scotts Creek and Utterback Branch. There are only three relatively small waterways within the planning areas, of which are designated as floodplains: Roberts Ditch, Gilmore Creek, and Young's Creek (all east of State Road 135) and Honey Creek (north of Smokey Row Road adjacent to SR 135). The Parks Department plans to introduce potential trail development and expansion in legal drain easements in the timeframe of the Master Plan and hopes to apply for an Indiana Trails Program grant in to assist in further development of the trail system.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## **Man-made, Historical and Cultural**

### **Transportation**

As a fast-growing community, Bargarville is poised to play an important role in transportation. Bargarville is primarily between the newly developed I-69 (formerly SR37) and SR 135. Most local traffic uses county roads maintained by Johnson County and municipal streets for daily travel. There is one railroad that passes through downtown Bargarville. The proximity of Indianapolis and I-65 (both within 20-mile distance) provides convenient access to local and regional corporations as well as residents and visitors.

Bargarville does not have a complete sidewalk system in all portions of the downtown area. As street and utility projects are developed, creating accessible sidewalks is listed and added as a high priority. The Town performs a sidewalk rating annually to evaluate the condition and ADA compliance. Repairs and replacements of ramps and sidewalk sections are scheduled on a priority basis. As Park staffing and resources become more available, the department will begin to do similar assessments to trails and sidewalks within the park system. Using an existing evaluation tool will assist in the consistency of rating and prioritizing the trail system. Currently, most trails in the park system are in very good condition. The trail at Windisch Park has some areas in fair to poor condition and repaving needs to be prioritized in the Capital Improvement project list. Accessible routes within park property (to playgrounds) were addressed and improved in 2018 at Witt and Windisch Parks when playgrounds were replaced.

In addition to the development of parks being part of the tech review, the Town Ordinance now calls for required open space and/or sidewalks or paths for new construction of subdivisions and commercial projects. Although there is trail connectivity to the newly constructed Kephart Park, residents are not always able to walk or bike there using city streets without having to cross a major highway. The Town has recently requested adding a push button LED flashing crosswalk system across CR144 to designate a crossing area to Kephart Park. As more



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

development opportunities arise in Bargersville, including construction of the Umbarger Plaza, pedestrian crossings and connectivity have been prioritized. The Town has had discussions with INDOT and the Railroad regarding developing areas and pedestrian crossings. Future trail development may include DNR grant proposals with INDOT and Railroad recommendations to coordinate efforts toward better pedestrian access.

### **Industry in Bargersville**

Bargersville was first platted in 1850 and was more notable in 1906 when the railroad was extended. Historically an agriculturally based area, Bargersville has seen exponential growth over the last decade and continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in Indiana. Much of the growth has been residential in nature and has potential of commercial growth at the I-69 interchange and areas near the intersection of CR-144 and SR-135.

### **Lifecycle and Maintenance of Park Amenities**

The evaluation of amenities as well as preventative maintenance is a new priority action for the Parks Department. Since the department now has dedicated staff, focus has been on getting baseline information on all equipment and amenities so that a life-cycle plan can be developed. A complete inventory and lifecycle plan will fit in with the Parks Department being incorporated into the Town's new asset management software. The software is a new Town project, and thus implementation for the Parks Department will be added in as an action item during this Master Plan.

The current preventative maintenance plan lacks detail and actual preventative maintenance (just playground inspections). A full plan with details needs to be created in order to keep park amenities in good shape. All playground equipment at each park is relatively new (2018 for Witt and Windisch Parks) and is in good condition without any needs for replacement. Two other locations, the Community Center and Legacy Plaza, have some renovations and repairs that need to be prioritized in the Action Plan.





Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

The main facility that needs some renovation is the Community Center. Although some improvements were made in 2023 when the department took back control of the building (ie. lighting, security cameras, door access, parking lot safety), most other improvements were cosmetic. Additional needed renovations include construction of ADA restrooms and more efficient and appropriately sized HVAC system, and repair/replacement of doorway structures. These renovations are reflected in the Action Plan and will be addressed in the first half of the Master Plan.

Legacy Plaza has some small items, such as lighting that needs to be replaced. Most of the accent lighting of the fountain rocks have been stepped on or broken off from people walking through the area. Having a preventative maintenance and replacement plan going forward will help in balancing expenditures and plan for the future.

The most recent public input in 2023 focused on adding restrooms to neighborhood parks and shade or covered areas to Kephart and Windisch Parks. Some of these items will be addressed in the first year of the Master Plan while future capital improvement projects will be determined by usage of the parks and lifecycle of equipment.

### **Bargarville Parks Department History**

The Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department was established in 2022 after a push to develop and operate the property which is now Kephart Park. The need for the creation of a Parks Department as well as funding opportunities became evident in the ongoing growth of the Town.

### **Cultural Bargarville – Arts, Music, and Festivals**

There is room for growth and development of cultural activities in Bargarville as there currently is not a lot offered. The construction of Kephart Park and future Umbarger Plaza lends itself to locations for such cultural activities. Public feedback and surveys suggested activities highlighting music and the arts in Bargarville. The Parks Department entered into a contract to begin a Free



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

Summer Concert Series in 2024 which will bring live music to the downtown area. Special events such as movie nights are being explored with the possibility of borrowing assets from neighborhood Parks Departments. The anticipated opening of Umbarger Plaza in late 2024 will provide an additional space for small events such as an art fair or plein-air art day.

The Harvest Moon Fall Festival is the only Town-sponsored festival in Bargersville which takes place on the third Saturday of September. The festival ties together an artesian based market, kid zone including petting zoo and face painting, car show and concert. Additional festivals and events in town are operated by private organizations such as Mallow Run Winery's Wine at the Line 5k and Summer Concerts and Taxman Brewing's "Death by Taxes" festivals and a free concert by Bargersville Main Street. These private events help provide activities that the current staff of the Parks and Recreation Department are not able to achieve. The BPRD desires to add more social and cultural events for residents and visitors and plans to utilize Festival Country and other grant opportunities to help fund new ventures.

## **Social Economic Factors (from the 2020 US Census and 2023 ESRI data)**

### **Population (2010 – 2020)**

- According to the 2020 US Census, Bargersville had 9,590 residents. ESRI Report had population in 2023 at 11,094.
  - 50.3% Male; 49.7% Female.
  - Median Age: 39.
  - 92.5% White; 2.5% Black or African American; 1.6% Asian; some other race.
  - 3.1% report themselves as being of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (of any race); up from 2.0% in 2010.
  - 4.5% of the population under age 65 reported having a disability
  - 3% of population speaks a language other than English at home.
- The 2020 Census shows over a 100% population increase since 2010 with projections of continued growth through 2027.



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Economics in Bargersville**

- According to the July 2022 Office of Workforce Development, Johnson County had an unemployment rate of 2.4%
- Median household income in 2023 (dollars): \$103,982
- Persons below poverty level: 9.7%
- Largest non-agricultural employment area in Bargersville: Manufacturing  
Second largest: Health Care/Social Assistance

Although the median income has increased over the last few years, there is still a poverty level just under 10%. There are four areas that can be identified as the most populated areas of town at or near poverty level. All of these areas are within Old Town Bargersville and are made up of apartments or subsidized housing, many of which have an aging population. This data does not change what the Parks Department is focusing on or providing. There is little to no programming and very few offerings have a fee associated with it. Partnerships with the Johnson County Public Library and meetings of the Bargersville Senior Citizens are shared through the Parks Department. With the addition of Umberger Plaza, additional events such as free summer concerts will be offered to all residents. As the Department grows, a variety of programs highlighting all areas, especially the existing aging population and new younger residents with children will be offered. As an integral department within the Town's organization, the importance of Parks, natural spaces, and activities continue to be at the forefront of future development discussions.

### **Housing**

- Average household size in Bargersville: 2.82
- 3,904 total housing units
- 86% of households are owner occupied.

### **Education**

- 96% of population High School graduate or higher
- 46% Bachelor's Degree or higher



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Socio-economic Summary**

- Bargarville has a level of education that is higher than average as well as a higher median household income.
- The median age is lower than the state average, but trends seem to remain consistent over the next five years.
- The housing and economic characteristics of Bargarville are higher than statewide averages.
- Bargarville continues to experience a fast-growing population and is one of the fastest growing in Johnson County and the state of Indiana.

The implication of this data for parks and recreation is that Bargarville has a higher Market Potential Index than surrounding communities and the state as a whole. Bargarville residents exhibit a high SPI (Spending Potential Index) for all recorded activities in the categories of Entertainment/Recreation Fees and Admission and Sports, Recreation and Exercise Equipment. The highest average amount spent in these areas include membership fees for social/recreation/health clubs, and fees for recreational lessons or participant sports and the purchase of exercise equipment and gear, hunting and fishing equipment and bicycles. These high SPI trends tie back to the desire for more amenities, especially trails as indicated by the feedback received from public input sessions.

### **Accessibility and Federal Accessibility Standards**

#### **Bargarville Statement of Accessibility**

The Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department is determined to provide reasonable modification to all program, events and services under the law for people with disabilities. Information on the Department and Town's commitment to accessibility is posted online and at Town Hall.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with more than 50 employees designate at least one person to act as ADA compliance



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

coordinator for the entire government unit. As part of the Town of Bargersville's adopted ADA Transition Plan, the town has identified an ADA Coordinator that serves as the point person for the public's interaction, including park-related accessibility. The ADA Coordinator is the Director of Development, Joe Csikos. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact Mr. Csikos at (317) 422-3104 or [jcsikos@Bargersville.in.gov](mailto:jcsikos@Bargersville.in.gov).

### **Current Accessibility**

The Town of Bargersville ADA Transition Plan was adopted in 2019 and included public involvement from seven special services organizations including:

- Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services, Indianapolis
- Central Indiana Council on Aging Inc, Johnson County
- Gateway Services, Franklin
- Johnson County Special Services, Franklin
- Self-Advocates of Indiana, Bloomington
- The Arc of Indiana, Indianapolis
- IRMG, Fort Wayne

The Transition Plan included a compilation of all of the Town's facilities and were coded on a priority system for improvements, but parks were individually analyzed for all components including equipment, shelters, multi-use pathways and accessible routes.

The park system evaluation identified ADA improvements related to:

- Accessible routes
- Ground surface
- Parking
- Ramps and handrails
- Signage
- Transfer supports
- Transfer systems or ramps



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

All playground surfaces are considered accessible per ADA guidelines. Both Witt and Windisch Parks had an accessible path to the playgrounds added when equipment was replaced in 2018. All of the neighborhood parks (Switzer, Windisch, and Witt) have mulch as the play surfacing. The playground surfacing at Kephart Park is poured in place. While all of the existing surfaces are accessible per ADA guidelines, future parks and developments should include surfacing such as the poured in place. Additionally, if funding is available, surfacing at the neighborhood parks could be replaced with poured in place.

### **Proposed Accessibility**

In addition to accessible sidewalks, pathways and trails being a high priority in tech review meetings, annual sidewalk ratings are done by the Town's Street Department. The ratings provide data and drive a priority list of areas to be repaired. In addition to maintenance based on sidewalk ratings, sidewalks and pathways are added into annual Community Crossing Grant applications.

### **Public Participation**

The BPRD realizes that in order to offer optimum service to the community, we need to involve residents and community groups to determine future planning of the department. For this master plan, we used three methods of public input, followed by a final public comment period. A final public comment period was used to double-check the accuracy and completeness of feedback-gathering.

### **Interviews and Focus Groups**

Interviews and focus group meetings were conducted by Zec Eight during the Master Plan update process. Engaged stakeholders included Town Council, members of the Parks Advisory Board (prior to Parks Board formation), Development Director, Street Department Director, Redevelopment Commissioners, Bargarville Main Street, Center Grove Bantam Football League, South Central Soccer Academy, Central Indiana Bicycling Association, Franklin Community Schools, Greenwood/White River Rotary Club, Festival Country Indiana, Rock the Block Run, Johnson County Community Foundation, and special



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

interest group representatives. Key themes identified by focus groups included (in no particular order):

COUNCIL & PARK BD

- Park land acquisition and amenity development
- Connectivity within the Town and to the I-69 corridor
- Town residents are underserved in terms of parks and recreation
- Financial support needs to diversify
- There is an opportunity to grow smart

GENERAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Downtown is a growth opportunity
- Indoor recreation space is missing
- Needs to find its parks and recreation niche
- Unmet needs such as cultural and recreational activities that highlight mental health and stress reduction, creating community gathering spaces and events, more park land and destination facilities
- Growth while leveraging funding sources through partnerships, grants and sponsorships

**Community Survey**

The IDNR requires a random method of gathering public input, therefore; an online survey was conducted online using Microsoft Forms. The survey instrument had 17 questions and covered demographics, park use, programs, barriers to participation, types of park use and funding preferences. Questions that offer multiple choice options (such as a list of preference of future amenities) were obtained from the top responses from the public survey conducted during the Master Plan update in 2021.

The survey was introduced at the Town's Trunk or Treat event on October 27, 2023 with an advertised deadline of December 15, 2023. The survey was highlighted on the Town's website, listed and boosted on the Town and Park social media platforms, and advertised through the *Daily Journal*. The numbers and summary of responses were:



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- There were 444 surveys completed.
- The average respondent was female, 35-44 years of age, and have lived in Bargarville 1-4 years.
- The condition of the park(s) averaged 4.58 on a 5-point scale, with most respondents visiting Kephart Park.
- Approximately 28% of respondents requested adding shade to Kephart Park as a maintenance/Capital Improvement need.
- The most common reasons preventing people from using the parks more often were not knowing the location of parks or trails, lack of features, and lack of pathways to get there.
- The Town of Bargarville programs/events attended were the Farmers Market followed by the Harvest Moon Fall Festival with events being rated an average of 4.14 on a 5-point scale.
- The most important park or facility features to provide were paved and natural trails, greenspace and indoor recreation space.
- Over 61% of respondents felt the acquisition and development of pathways should be the focus of BPRD spending as their top two priorities. Development/construction of new amenities and acquisition of new park land were the next top priorities at 35% each.
- Top unmet needs included Indoor Recreation, Paved Trails, Natural Trails, Aquatics, and Adult Fitness & Wellness
- The top 3 rated Most Important Recreation Programs/Services were closely ranked, Adult Fitness & Wellness Programs, Nature Programs, Summer camps and programs, although the top 7 were very closely rated.

Pathways and trails seemed to be a reoccurring concept throughout the Community Survey. Top responses for the most important park feature as well as the top unmet need was paved pathways and nature trails. The desired need for connectivity and growth of the Bargarville Trail system is a priority for the Department. Since the last public participation, the Town has addressed connectivity to the trail system by requiring trails and accessible sidewalks to be reviewed and required during the planning process. The Parks Department will be developing a map of potential trails and will implement the growth of the trail





Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

system as funding sources become available. Some of these funding sources may include LWCF and Next Level Trails Grants, the Indiana Trails Program, as well as local organizations and Johnson County Community Foundation.

Indoor recreations space was another reoccurring concept which ranked one of the top unmet needs in Bargersville. While the BPRD regained management of the Community Center in 2023, it mainly is used as a meeting space and is available for rentals. Additional indoor space would allow top recreation programs and services to be offered such as Adult Fitness & Wellness and Summer Camps and Programs. These programs may be offered as staff and resources increase with department growth as well as partnerships are developed.

A more detailed summary of the online public survey is available in the Appendix on page 25. A complete copy of the results and comments is available by request.

### **Public Meeting**

A public meeting was held on January 16, 2024 in Town Hall. The meeting was publicized in the Daily Journal and on social media and the Town’s website. The meeting had an attendance of 14 community members and 6 Town or Park Board members, 4 staff and 1 individual representing local media. The meeting was an open house format with a brief synopsis of the purpose of a Master Plan and display boards to intercept public opinion. Display board questions represented mirrored questions from the community survey. Results for three areas (Top Unmet Needs, and Most Important Park or Facility Features and Most Important Programs and Services aligned with the Community Survey and previous public outreach. A summary of the displays is below and a copy of the display boards is available in the Appendix on page 58.

<b>Top Unmet Needs</b>	<b>Park/Facility Features</b>	<b>Programs/Services</b>
1. Natural Trails	1. Paved Trails	1. Special Events
2. Paved Trails	2. Natural Trails	2. Adult Fitness/Wellness
3. Nature Areas	3. Indoor Recreation Space	3. Outdoor Adventure



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

Each participant was given \$2000 in \$500 increments and asked how they would like Parks funding focused over the next five years. A total of \$43,000 was 'spent' by participants.



During initial public outreach of the Master Plan, a public meeting was held virtually by Zec Eight Insights on December 8, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting had 10 registered community members, excluding Town staff and individuals representing local media. The meeting included a presentation of a SWOT Analysis, example benchmarking data points, Farmer’s Market user intercept surveying results, and live polling with Q&A.

**Final Public Presentation of the Plan**

On January 19, 2024, copies of the final draft of the Bargersville 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan were placed at Town Hall with comment sheets and phone contact information. The plan was also posted on the Town’s website with email and phone numbers available for comments. The comments submission deadline was February 2, 2024. No comments were received.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Summary/Comparison of Public Input**

When comparing past public input, common themes begin to emerge. The following are the most common themes (in no particular order):

- Connectivity from subdivisions/neighborhoods to parks and downtown
- Indoor recreation and meeting space
- More parks and natural area for play and gathering
- More events and programs

### **Needs Analysis**

#### **What is Issue Analysis?**

The BPRD is developing this master plan internally and is using a simplified issue analysis method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from each method of public input, the input from the Park Board and Town Council, and identified common themes from each and identified underlying issues. These issues were placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints, then turned into a coherent priority and action plan.

#### **Issues from Public Input**

The number one issue from initial public input was the need to finish Kephart Park, which was completed in July 2023. Some other underlying issues after the completion of Kephart Park include:

- General refresh and update of all parks
- Downtown amenities
- Trail and sidewalk connectivity

After consideration of the opening of Kephart Park, the public continues to identify the need for acquiring and developing trails and greenspace. This also was the top focus for funding preference over the next five years.

#### **Issues from Board, Staff, Town Council; Plus Benchmarking and SWOT Analysis**

- A lot of park space in old Town area
- Growth potential of town and parks
- Limited personnel, budget and capacity for operations and maintenance



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- Lack of park land to the north and west
- Recent ordinance updates that require public space(s)
- Residents have a high priority for park land and trails
- Collective vision and willingness to implement
- Prioritize land acquisition, even if not developed right away
- Threat of growth outpacing operational capacities
- Small town mentality with a fast-paced growing community

**National and State Standards**

According to the National Recreation and Park Association’s Metrics, jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 people average 12.9 acres of park land per 1,000 residents and 3 miles of trail. While Bargersville currently has more miles of trail than the national average it is considerably lower than agencies in the Great Lakes Region. The number of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is significantly lower than both the national and Great Lakes Region average. As indicated throughout this plan, it is imperative that Bargersville looks to acquire more land and diversify the location throughout the town limits.

Metric	Bargersville	All Agencies	Jurisdictions Serving Less Than 20,000 People	Great Lakes Region Parks and Recreation Agencies
Residents per Park	2,143	2,323	1,233	1,707
Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	2.3	10.4	12.9	12.4
Miles of Trail	8.5	14	3	12

Johnson County is considered a critical county for public outdoor recreation acreage according to Indiana’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). At the county level, this indicates that Johnson County as a whole does not have the recommended outdoor-recreation acres of 55 acres per 1,000 residents.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

The Town of Bargarville could also be considered at a critical level for the Local Level of Service (LOS). The SCORP has a local Level of Service recommendation of 20 acres per 1,000 residents. With Bargarville’s current population, we would have a deficiency of 532 acres of recommended local outdoor recreation acreage.

	<b>2023 (ESRI) Population</b>	<b>Recommended Acres; Total 20a/1000</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Bargarville</b>	11,106	222.12	22.64	<b>(199.48)</b>
	<b>2018 (IN SCORP) Population</b>	<b>Recommended Acres; Total 55a/1000</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Johnson County</b>	156,225	8592.38	6,010.38	<b>(2582.00)</b>

**What We Need**

- More parks and park space
- Funding sources for land acquisition
- Consistent funding for operations and maintenance
- Accessible routes and trails between amenities
- More programs and events

**Priorities and Action Schedule**

The BPRD set major priorities established in the Master Plan and study done for 2022-2026. Updating the plan for the current year was difficult as the Department has experienced extreme development and exponential growth in the community. Bargarville Parks and Recreation has been an established department with official Park Board for one year and has been in a sprint to catch up with trends, capital improvements as well as the opening of Kephart Park and the upcoming Umbarger Plaza project.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### **Transition into the New Plan**

During the transition into the new planning period, the BPRD will concentrate on the establishment of policies, SOPs, the development and recording of routine maintenance and operation systems, as well as creating new amenities, trails, and parks for the Town of Bargarville. The duration of this transition period is from now until the end of 2024.

#### Current and future potential fundraising options during the transition period:

- General Obligation bonds
- Development impact fees
- User fees
- Partnerships
- Grants
- Donations
- Naming Rights

#### Potential funding options for future growth:

- Build, Operate Transfer (BOT model)
- Business Improvement District (BID)
- Consistent Bonding
- Economic and Community Development Funds (Community Development Block Grant through OCRA, Johnson County Community Foundation)
- Food and Beverage Sales Tax
- Friends Group
- Grants
- Land Leases on Park Property
- Partnerships
- Tax Increment Financing

The development of operational systems as well as funding opportunities will be at the forefront of this plan, as any newly created department or business would expect. The need for ongoing and consistent funding/fundraising will be



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

important as all elements in the action plan have either capital or ongoing maintenance and operations expense implications. Bargersville officials and residents have indicated what they want from parks and recreation for the next five years and the Town and Department will need to be financially prepared for opportunities that present themselves. This is particularly true of many grant applications that have a “match” requirement, which requires the grant recipient provide a required percentage of the total cost of the grant funded project. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, for example, provides a 50% reimbursement of the costs of approved projects, which means that Bargersville will need to have *all of the matching funds in advance* for any projects that we wish to build under this grant.

**Priorities for 2023 to 2027**

- Ongoing development of parks department
- Emphasize collaboration and partnerships
- Focus on land acquisition, park land development, and funding strategies
  - Development of Umbarger Plaza
  - Potential ideas of future major park development include a dog park, a fitness/wellness center, seasonal ice rink, mountain bike track, destination playgrounds
  - Expansion and connectivity of town-wide trail system
- Enhance the Bargersville brand and awareness as a high quality-of-life recreation destination

**See BPRD System-wide Action Schedule in Appendix.**



Bargasville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

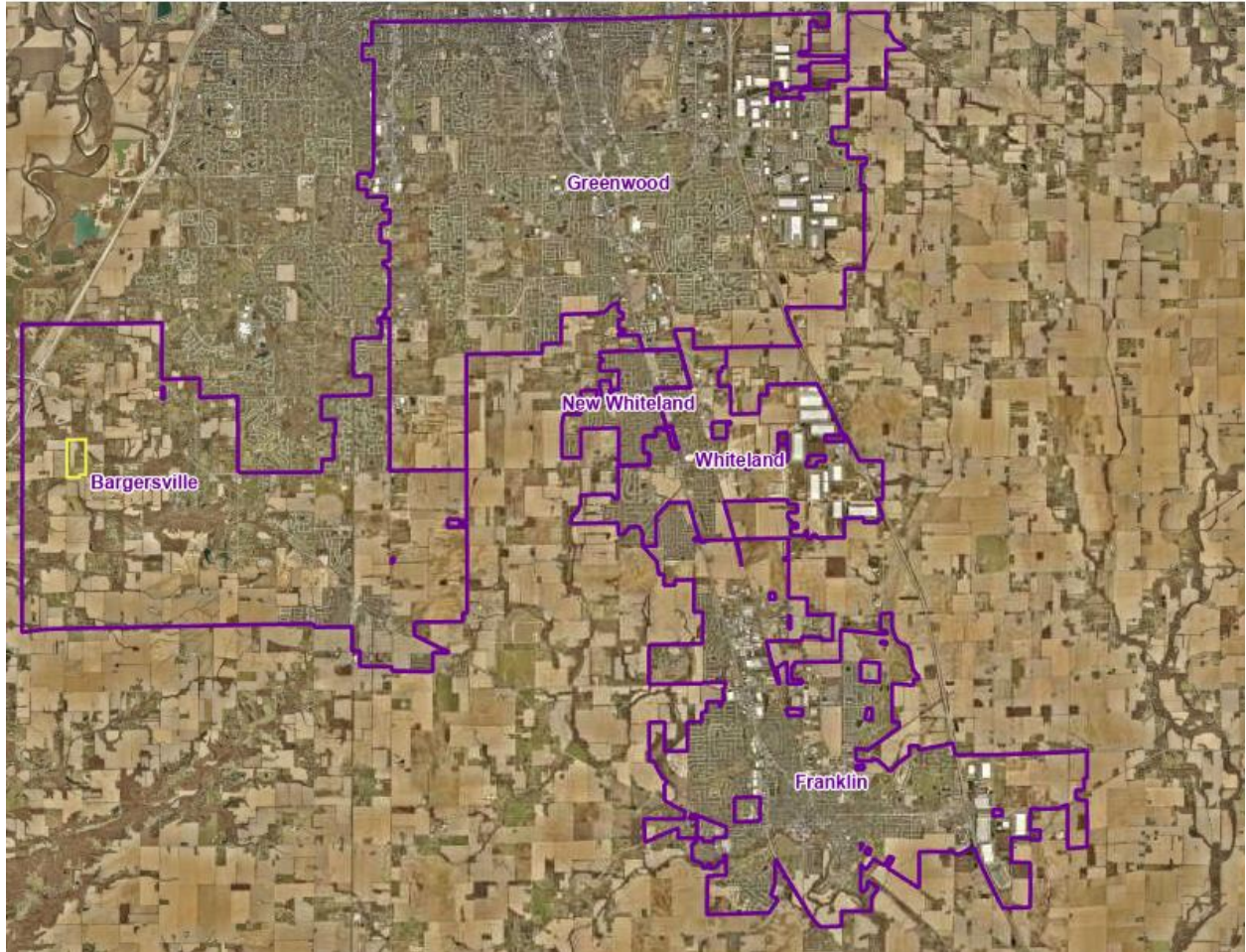
## **Appendices**





Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Bargarville Regional Map





Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Staff SWOT Analysis

### Town of Bargarville Parks and Recreation System

#### INTERNAL FACTORS

##### Strengths:

- There is a lot of park space in the old Town area; a lot of places for families to play on the playgrounds.
- There is a walking trail started toward Highway 44 (received funding to expand trail network); we have a little momentum.
- Parks and connectivity are two large priorities of the Council (specific focus; especially for attracting residents, quality of life, etc.)
- We have a lot of growth potential.
- We have a partnership with the library for a story walk.

##### Weaknesses:

- Personnel, budget, and capacity for operations and maintenance.
- Contracting oversight and just contracting process in general.
- The ability to project staffing needs when new park land comes online.
- Lack of park land to the north, west.
- Not any dedicated parks and recreation staff (FTE is from a combination of many different people).
- Finding funding for projects.
- Do not have formal partnership agreements.

#### EXTERNAL FACTORS

##### Opportunities:

- Areas to the north are built out; the opportunities exist in Bargarville.
- Ordinance updates are being developed so new development will provide public space(s) that align with our classifications.
- Not competing with other service providers that already exist; we need to build better relationships and opportunities to partner.
- Leveraging other service providers.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- Aligning community expectations with operations.
- Further developing the parks department.
- What are people traveling to do?
- Working with the realtor community to identify what they want to see and promote in terms of Town development.
- Working with the Tourism Bureau to enhance the opportunities to the west of town (connectivity especially).
- Physically connecting destinations.
- Leveraging the Home-A-Rama event and the attention we will receive.
- Agritourism.

### **Threats**

- Growth outpacing operational capacities.
- Small town mentality with a fast-paced growing community.
- Gated community development (one in the works currently).
- Available park land is disappearing.
- Home-A-Rama event will most likely accelerate housing pressure.

**Bargersville Parks & Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan Action Plan**

Priority Item	Focus Year					Lead Entity	Implication(s)
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
<b><i>Ongoing Development of Parks Department</i></b>							
Hire a Parks and Recreation Director	<b>x</b>						Dedicated park staff capacity
Hire support staff to fulfill programs & events and systems development functions			<b>x</b>				Dedicated park staff capacity
Hire a Parks and Recreation Maintenance Manager		<b>x</b>					Dedicated park staff capacity
Hire additional needed support staff based on staffing/functional gaps	<b>x</b>						Dedicated park staff capacity
Develop a system asset inventory with purchase/install date, expected life expectancy, current lifecycle, and current replacement costs			<b>x</b>			Director of P&R	Operations and maintenance planning.
Develop departmental standard operating procedures for all functions	<b>x</b>						Operations and maintenance planning.
Conduct a knowledge, skills, and abilities assessment for the Parks Board to understand existing skills and potential gap areas that need to be filled via board member recruitment			<b>x</b>			Director of P&R, Park Board	Governance
Create an annual Park Board workplan			<b>x</b>				Governance
Conduct annual Park Board training that includes bringing in an outside resource(s) for assistance			<b>x</b>			Director of P&R, Park Board	Governance
Conduct at least one joint Park Board-Town Council work session annually			<b>x</b>			Park Board, Town Council	Governance
Benchmark industry levels of service (LOS) metrics annually.			<b>x</b>				Performance metrics
<b><i>Emphasize collaboration and partnerships</i></b>							
Hold a similar providers roundtable annually to discuss partnership opportunities and overall goal planning		<b>x</b>					Leveraging resources
Collaborate with similar organizations and clubs to expand public services				<b>x</b>			Leveraging resources
Continue to collaborate with Bargersville Main Street for public events.	<b>x</b>						Leveraging resources

Seek partnership opportunities with library system, school district and local businesses such as Taxman and Mallow Run to help provide recreational events, programs, and services via sponsorships and facility use agreements.		x				JC Public Library, Center Grove Schools, Private businesses	Leveraging resources
Collaborate across boundaries with other jurisdictions such as Morgan County to provide recreation services and facilities/amenities.				x		Park Board, Morgan County Commissioners, MC Parks, JC Parks, Franklin Parks	Leveraging resources
Work with the local health systems to provide health-sponsored trails and pathways			x			Park Board, Johnson Memorial, Community Health	Leveraging resources
Work with Johnson County to preserve green space				x			Leveraging resources
<b><i>Focus on land acquisition, park land development and funding strategies</i></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>		
Utilize residential development growth to focus on smaller neighborhood parks and pathway connections			x				Development support
Adopt park classification system terminology and associated design standards such as neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and signature parks.		x					Targeted acquisitions and design standards
Ensure feasibility studies/business plans are conducted before any new large capital development occurs			x				Operations and maintenance planning
Adopt trails/pathways hierarchy and focus on primary, secondary and tertiary corridors and design standards	x						Development support
Complete Kephart Park master plan's implementation	x						
Complete the Umbarger Plaza project (community gathering location with amphitheater) and implementation		x					New destination experience
Add a destination facility(s) to the system that can include: mountain bike/pump track, tag facilities, seasonal ice rink, dog park, destination playgrounds, etc. that create a regional draw and will enhance the local economy					x		New destination experience
Continue implementing improvements and design standards based on the ADA Transition Plan's findings.	x					Director of P&R, Street Dept, ADA Coordinator	ADA improvements

Create a policy for how each funding source is to be used as more funding sources are utilized for the system (e.g., general fund, non-reverting fund, Food & Beverage Tax, Recreation Impact Fees, etc.)			x			Park Board, Town Council	Financial transparency
Utilize recreation impact fees to reduce identified park land and trail deficiencies	x					Park Board, Town Council	System enhancements
Utilize the BOT model for recreation facility or amenity development				x		Park Board, Town Council	System enhancements
Pursue a food and beverage tax as the economy grows with new residential development and transportation corridors.					x	Park Board, Town Council	System enhancements
Consider establishing a non-profit Friends Group to assist with fundraising and project support.				x			System enhancements and advocacy
As the Town grows, consider utilizing BIDs and TIF districts to help enhance the park system.					x	Town Council, RDC	System enhancements
<b><i>Enhance the Bargersville brand and awareness as a high quality-of-life recreation destination.</i></b>	<b><i>2023</i></b>	<b><i>2024</i></b>	<b><i>2025</i></b>	<b><i>2026</i></b>	<b><i>2027</i></b>		
Work with the realtor industry to have promotional materials available when residents move into the community.		x					Public awareness building
Create a social media presence for the Bargersville park system	x						Public awareness building
Revamp park department website and registration process.		x					Public awareness building
Create a stratified marketing and communications plan that identifies target audiences, the messages that will be shared with them, and the mechanisms in which the messages will be communicated.			x			Director P&R, Marketing & Comm. Relations Mgr	Public awareness building
Make a concerted, intentional process to engage land owners about the possibility of donating land to be preserved and used for public recreation purposes.				x			Public awareness building



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### Community Benchmarking: Bargarville; Whitestown; and Danville, IN

Community	Bargarville, IN	Whitestown, IN	Danville, IN
Population*	10,717	11,958	10,927
Median household Income (2021)*	\$93,742	\$102,005	\$83,931
% population growth since last Census*	12.0%	17.4%	3.4%
Number of Parks	5	4	7
Total Acres of Public Park Land	23	111	166
Miles of Trails	8	13	20
Number of Full-time employees	1	8	7
Total yearly park budget	\$461,899	\$1,300,000	\$813,678

\*Statistics taken from US Census 2022 Estimates

If you divide each community's yearly park budget by their population, you get the yearly park expenditure per resident; a measure that allows you to compare how much financial support each community affords their parks. This calculation does not consider impact fees for new construction or any existing bonds. Whitestown spends \$108.71 per resident, Danville spends \$74.46 per resident, while Bargarville spends the least, at \$43.10 per resident. Cross-comparing the communities becomes simple once the data is arranged like this. Bargarville can now see that they are seeing extreme growth, and high median income, while significantly behind in acreage, budget and amenities when compared to Whitestown.



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Accessibility Compliance Sign-Off Sheet

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:**

**ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended); SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended); AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)**

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

SIGNATURE: Keith Cecil  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT  
Keith Cecil  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE: Breanne Barger  
SECRETARY  
Breanne Barger  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE: 1/12/24





Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## Board Resolution Adopting Plan

~~FARY~~ RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BARGERSVILLE, INDIANA  
PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT REGARDING A  
COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation District Board of the Town of Bargersville, Indiana (the "District") is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of the Town of Bargersville, Indiana;

WHEREAS, the District realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of the residents of the Town of Bargersville and has undertaken the preparation of parks and recreation master plan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parks and Recreation District Board of the Town of Bargersville, Indiana as follows:

1. The District adopts the Town of Bargersville Five Year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan, attached hereto, made a part hereof and marked as Exhibit "A", as its office plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in the Town of Bargersville, Indiana.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Parks and Recreation District Board of the Town of Bargersville, Indiana this 9 day of February, 2024.

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Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

AYES

Keith Cecil  
Keith Cecil, President

Ronda Ankney, Vice President

Kelly McCary  
Kelly McCary

Mary Pack  
Mary Pack

NAYS

Keith Cecil, President

Ronda Ankney, Vice President

Kelly McCary

Mary Pack

Attest:

Addey N. Hendrickson  
~~Bruanne Barger, Secretary~~  
Addey N. Hendrickson



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

## **BPRD Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Group**

### **Elected Officials (Town Council and Parks Board)**

1. What are the strengths of the Bargersville parks and recreation system that we need to build on for this plan?
2. What do your constituents/colleagues say about parks and recreation services in Bargersville? Do you agree with their assessments and opinions?
3. Where does parks and recreation fit in terms of overall community priorities and values?
4. Are there problems or challenges in the community that you believe recreation programs and services can help solve or alleviate?
5. Are there any underserved populations in the community?
6. How should the future growth or changes of the system be funded/financed to keep up with the growth/changes of the community?
7. If you could change one thing about the system over the next five years, what would it be?
8. Is there anything else you want to add to this conversation or have documented?

### **General Stakeholders**

1. What are the strengths of the Bargersville parks and recreation system that we need to build on for this plan?
2. Do you have any ideas for changes, additions, or improvements for programs, services, and/or facilities in the community for the future?
3. Are there problems or challenges in the community that you believe recreation programs and services can help solve or alleviate?
4. What are the unmet needs of the community in terms of parks and recreation?
5. Are there any underserved populations in the community?
6. Are there organizations in the area that the Town should consider partnering with?



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

7. If you could change one thing about the system over the next five years, what would it be?
8. Is there anything else you want to add to this conversation or have documented?

## **Community Survey**

The first community survey was implemented by Zec Eight Insights and launched at the end of October 2021 at the Town's Halloween event. The survey closed on December 22. A total of 472 responses were collected via community events, social media marketing, and leveraging relationships associated with project stakeholders. The following items were asked on the questionnaire.

### **Residency**

- Town Resident
- Non-Resident w/ zip code

### **Program or Sponsored Event Participation**

- Participation in Town-sponsored programs or events

### **Number of Programs or Events Participated In**

- 1-3 Events
- 4-6 Events
- 7+ Events

### **Program/Event Ratings**

- Quality of programs or events

### **Park or Facilities Visited/Used in a Typical Year**

- Legacy Plaza (Town Hall area)
- Switzer Park
- Windisch Park
- Witt Park



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

**Maintenance and/or Capital Improvement Needs**

- Indication of maintenance and/or capital improvement needs at the parks/facilities they typically use

**Participation Barriers in using parks, programs or events more often (listed in order of most common responses)**

- I do not know what is being offered
- I do not know location of parks
- Lack of pathways to get there
- Parks lack the right equipment
- Facility not offered
- Too far from residence
- Use/facilities of other agencies
- Lack of quality programs
- Program not offered
- Lack of parking
- No time to participate
- Other (please specify)
- Security is insufficient
- Parks are not well maintained
- Use programs of other agencies
- Lack of/insufficient childcare
- Operating hours are not convenient
- Poor customer service by staff
- Fees are too high
- Registration process is difficult

**Preferred Marketing and Communication**

- Facebook
- Email
- Town website
- Direct mail



Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- Town newsletters (electronic)
- Word of mouth from friends and neighbors
- Facility/park signage
- Instagram
- Next Door app
- Twitter
- Newspaper (print)
- Newspaper (online)
- Public meetings
- Other (please specify)
- Conversations with staff
- YouTube

**Most Important Park/Facility Features (listed in order of most common responses)**

- Paved pathways/trails
- Nature trails
- Playgrounds
- Spraygrounds/splash pads
- Amphitheaters
- Dog parks
- Indoor recreation space
- Outdoor pools
- Community meeting/gathering spaces
- Pavilions/picnic areas
- Neighborhood parks
- Indoor pools
- Natural areas
- Community gardens
- Basketball courts (outdoor)
- Multipurpose fields
- Tennis courts



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- Pickleball courts
- Diamond fields (baseball, softball)
- Lawn game areas
- Nature centers
- Other (please specify)
- Rectangular fields (football, soccer, rugby, etc.)
- Sand volleyball courts

**Most Important Programs or Services**

- Farmers markets
- Adult fitness and wellness
- Special events
- Youth sports
- Summer camps and programs
- Aquatics
- Youth fitness and wellness
- Arts and culture
- STEM
- Nature programs
- After school programs
- Performing arts
- Outdoor challenge/adventure program
- Adult sports
- Older adult programs
- Programs for teens
- Programs with your pets
- Programs for people with disabilities
- Cycling programs
- Before school programs
- Other (please specify)



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5-Year Master Plan

**Unmet Need**

- Paved pathways/trails
- Adult fitness & wellness
- Nature trails
- Spraygrounds/splashpads
- Amphitheaters
- Aquatics
- Indoor recreation space
- Dog parks
- Outdoor pools
- Playgrounds
- Youth sports
- Community meeting/gathering spaces
- Arts and culture
- Natural areas
- Special events
- Pavilions/picnic areas
- Indoor pools
- Summer camps and programs
- Community gardens
- Youth fitness and wellness
- Neighborhood parks
- Farmers markets
- After school programs
- Adult sports
- Pickleball courts
- Tennis courts
- Cycling programs
- Diamond fields (baseball, softball)
- Programs for people with disabilities
- Multipurpose fields





Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

- Programs for teens
- Nature programs
- STEM
- Older adult programs
- Performing arts
- Basketball courts (outdoor)
- Basketball courts (indoor)
- Rectangular fields (football, soccer, rugby, etc.)
- Outdoor challenge/adventure programs
- Nature centers
- Lawn game areas
- Programs with your pets
- Sand volleyball courts
- Before school programs

### **\$100 Prioritization**

- Development/construction of new amenities/facilities
- Acquisition and development of pathways and greenways
- Acquisition of new park land and open space
- Development of new programs and events
- Improvements/maintenance of existing parks and amenities

### **Overall Satisfaction – overall value household receives from Town recreation services and parks**

- Five-point scale

### **Demographics**

- Age (<18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55- 64, 65-74, 75+)
- Gender
- Years Lived in Bargarville



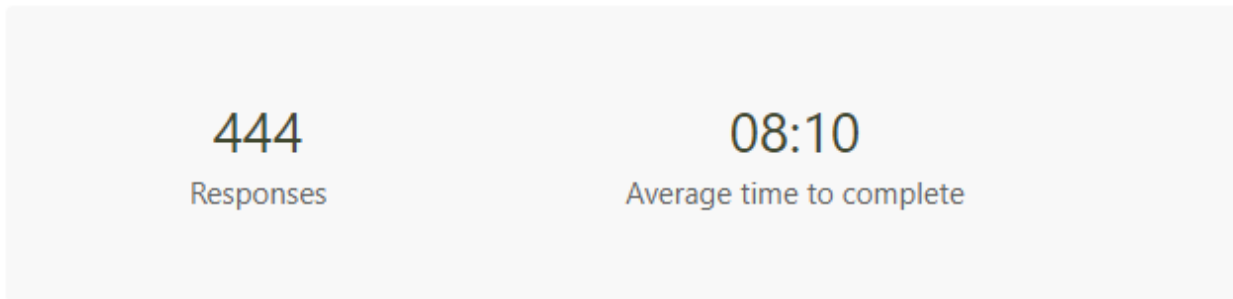
Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

### Community Survey – Updated Instrument

A second community survey was created to obtain updated responses from residents. Questions were formulated based on general information obtained from the initial survey in 2021.

The updated survey was introduced on October 27, 2023, at the Town’s Trunk or Treat event. The survey was shared through various medias to get as many responses as possible. Surveys were available at Town events, on various social media platforms, the Town website and by the Daily Journal. The survey ended December 15. While full anonymous responses are available by request, a summary of results is below:

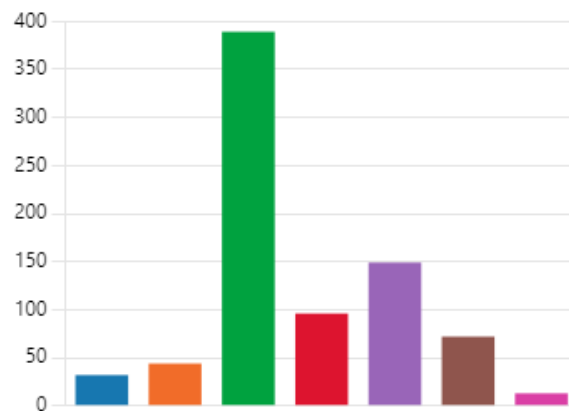
## Bargersville Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment



1. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following parks/facilities during the past 12 months.

[More Details](#)

● Bargersville Community Center	32
● Legacy Plaza	44
● Kephart Park	389
● Switzer Park	96
● Windisch Park	149
● Witt Park	72
● Other	13





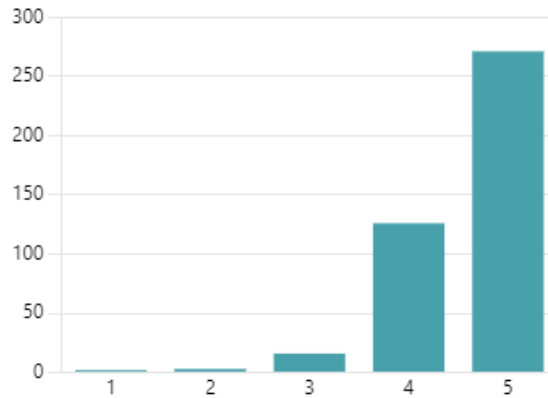
## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

2. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being excellent, what was the condition of the park(s) when you visited? Skip to the next question if you have not attended any programs or events.

[More Details](#)

Insights

4.58  
Average Rating



3. Are there specific maintenance and/or Capital Improvement needs that you suggest at current parks or facilities?

[More Details](#)

Insights

203  
Responses

Latest Responses

*"More seating/shaded areas by the splash pad"*

*"No gravel paths, all paved"*

57 respondents (28%) answered **shade** for this question.

Word cloud content:

- areas at Kephart
- older parks
- splash pad
- kephart park
- Fenced in parks
- Windisch park
- park benches
- shade at kephart
- trails
- shaded areas
- need at Kephart seating and shade
- shade over playground
- pickleball courts
- play areas
- Water park
- shade parents
- shade needs** (largest)

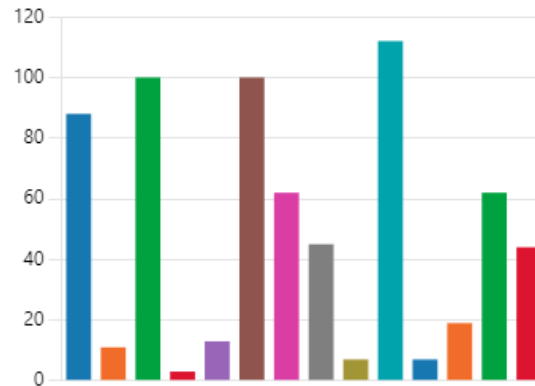


## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

### 4. What reasons have prevented you or other members of your household from using Bargersville Parks more often?

[More Details](#)

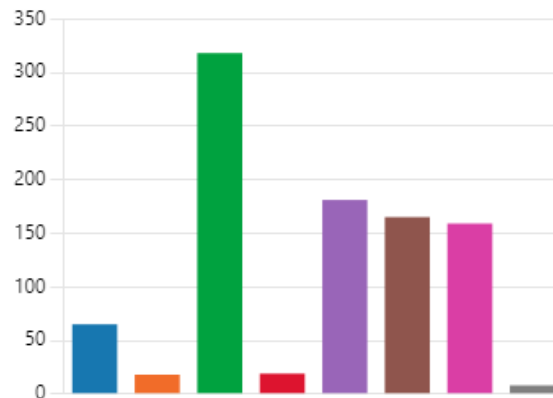
● Do not know location of parks	88
● Facility not offered	11
● Lack of features we want to use	100
● Lack of handicap accessibility	3
● Lack of parking	13
● Lack of pathways to get there	100
● Lack of restrooms	62
● No time to participate	45
● Parks/trails are not well maintai...	7
● Not aware of parks or trails loca...	112
● Security is insufficient	7
● Too far from home	19
● Use parks/trails in other cities	62
● Other	44



### 5. Have you or any member of your household attended any of the Town of Bargersville programs/events during the past 12 months?

[More Details](#)

● Storytime with JCPL	65
● Breakfast with the Bunny/DIY Eg...	18
● Farmers Market (Bargersville Ma...	318
● National Night Out	19
● Harvest Moon Fall Festival	181
● Trunk or Treat	165
● Santa Train & Holiday Market	159
● Other	8





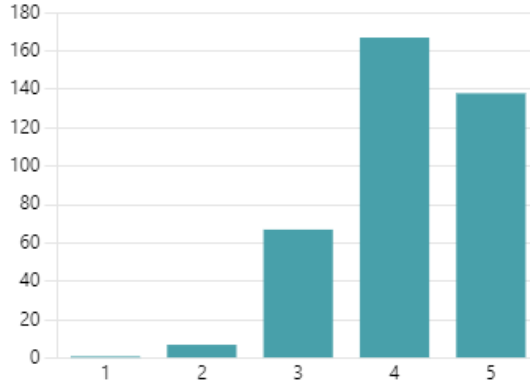
## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

6. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being excellent, what was the quality of programs and events you have attended?  
Skip to the next question if you have not attended any programs or events.

[More Details](#)

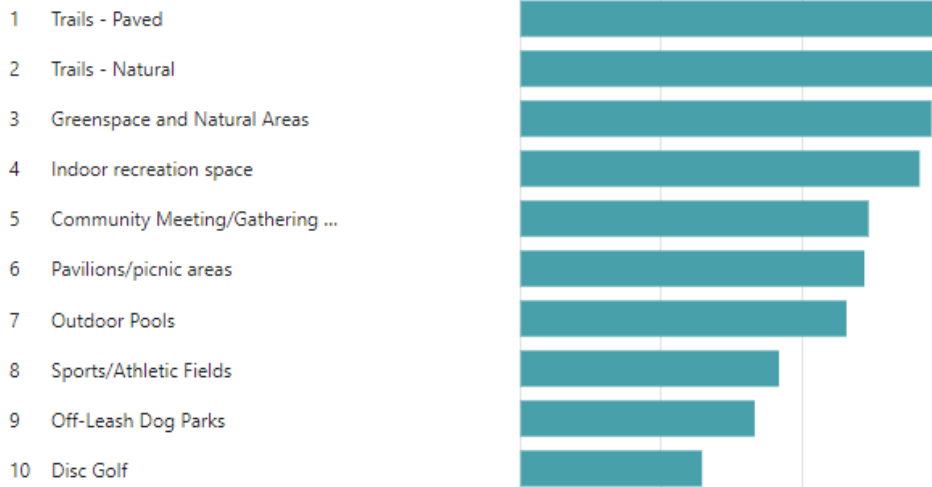
Insights

4.14  
Average Rating



7. What are the **Most Important** Park or Facility Features to provide? (Please rank in order of importance).

[More Details](#)





## Bargarville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

8. Where do you feel the Parks Department should focus it's spending over the next several years? Please rank in the order of importance

[More Details](#)



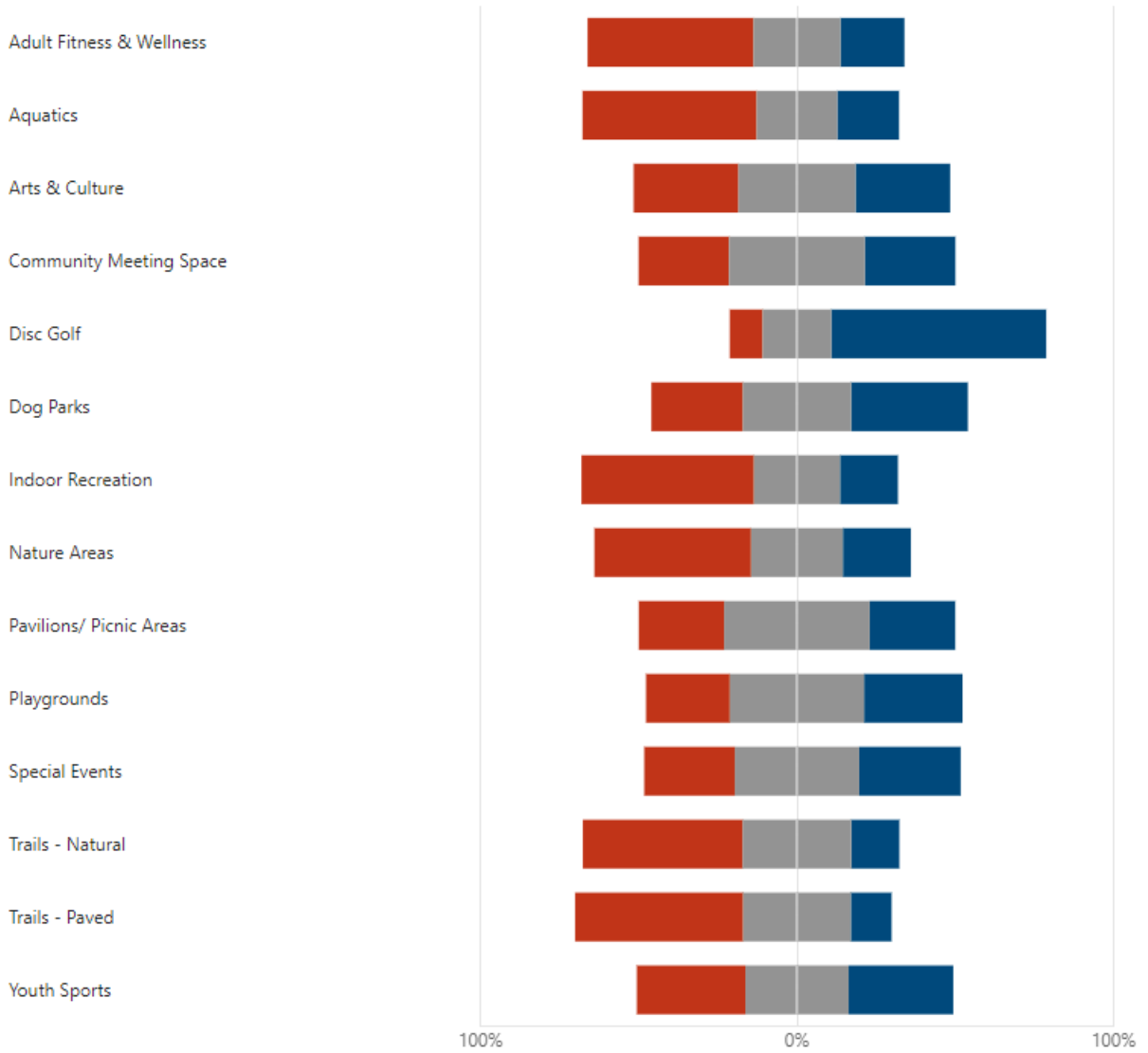


## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

### 9. What are the **Top Unmet Needs** in the Bargersville community?

[More Details](#)

■ Top Unmet Need   ■ Second Unmet Need   ■ Third Unmet Need

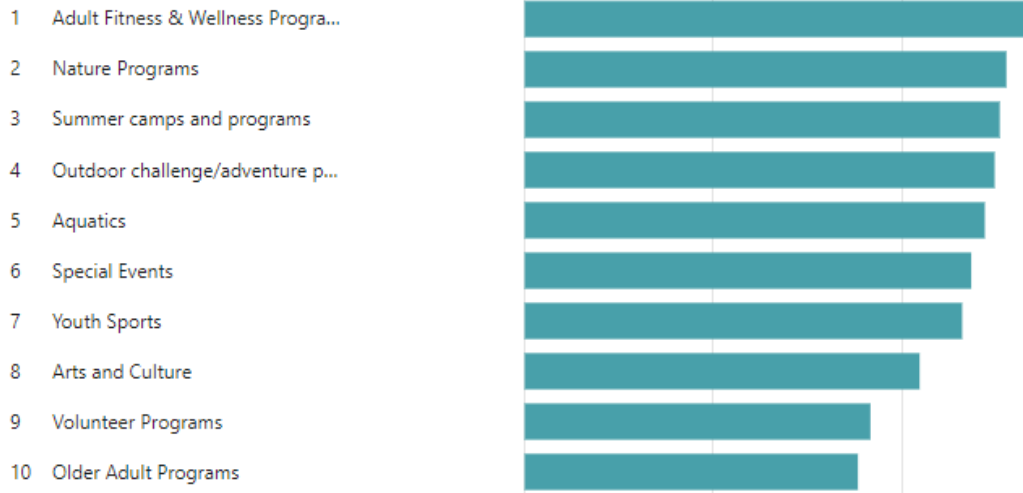




## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

10. What are the Most Important Recreation Programs/Services you would like the Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department to provide? (Please rank in order of importance).

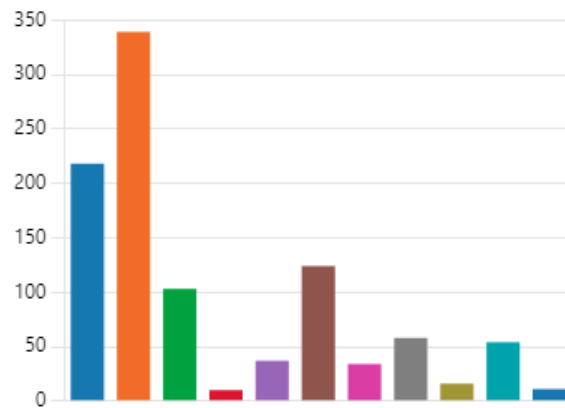
[More Details](#)



11. What is your preferred communication preference to learn about program and event offerings, information and updates?

[More Details](#)

● Email	218
● Facebook (Parks or Town)	339
● Instagram	103
● X (formerly Twitter)	10
● Nextdoor App	37
● Town of Bargersville Website	124
● At Events	34
● Flyers/Signs posted at Parks and...	58
● Newspaper	16
● Friends and Neighbors	54
● Other	11







## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

12. Do you have any additional feedback that would be helpful for the Parks Department as it plans for recreation services over the next five years?

[More Details](#)

Insights

143

Responses

Latest Responses

*"Outdoor movie nights, skate park, special holiday events, need a public libr...*

*"Pave gravel path from Morningside to Kephart Park"*

Of the 143 responses the need for trails/connectivity and facilities/amenities/parks were suggested in 70 different comments.

13. Are you a resident of Bargersville?

[More Details](#)

Insights

Yes	373
No	71





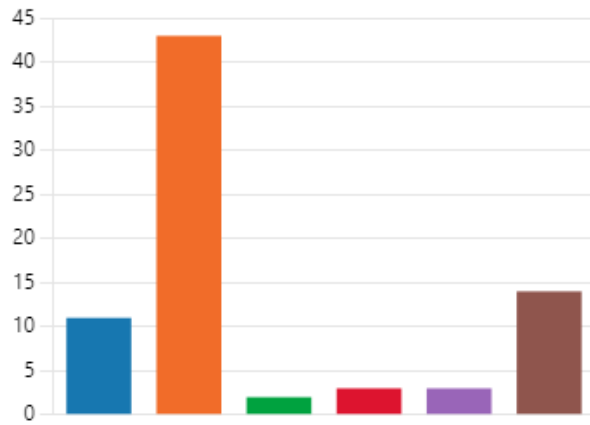
## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

14. If you are not a resident of Bargersville, what town/city do you reside in?

[More Details](#)

Insights

Franklin	11
Greenwood	43
Martinsville	2
Trafalgar	3
Whiteland	3
Other	14

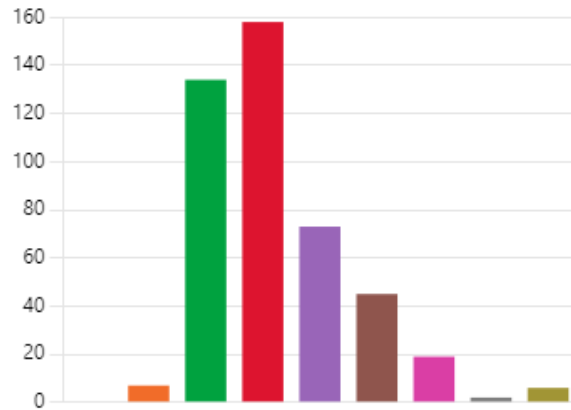


15. How old are you?

[More Details](#)

Insights

Under 18	0
18 - 24	7
25 - 34	134
35 - 44	158
45 - 54	73
55 - 64	45
65 - 74	19
75+	2
Prefer not to say	6





## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

16. By what gender do you identify?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Male	107
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Female	326
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Non-binary	0
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Prefer not to say	10

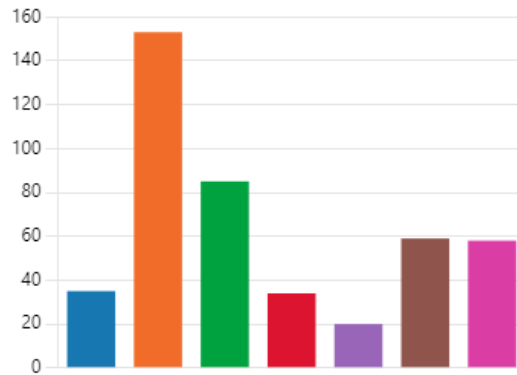


17. How many years have you lived in Bargersville?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> <1 year	35
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> 1 - 4 years	153
<span style="color: green;">●</span> 5 - 9 years	85
<span style="color: red;">●</span> 10 - 14 years	34
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 15 - 19 years	20
<span style="color: brown;">●</span> >20 years	59
<span style="color: pink;">●</span> I do not live in Bargersville	58



### Public Input Meeting – Display Boards

What are the **MOST IMPORTANT** Recreation Programs and Services to Provide?

Team & Member Programs	Swims	Job and Career
Land Programs	Gifts and Programs	Outdoor Recreation Programs
Team Sports	Summer Camp and Programs	Volunteer Programs
Team Sports	Other	Other

**TOWN OF BARGERSVILLE**

What are the **MOST IMPORTANT** Park or Facility Features to Provide?

Community Center	Pro Golf	Indoor Dog Shelter
Greenhouse and Nature Area	Off-leash Dog Parks	Outdoor Pools
Pavilions, Picnic Areas	Tennis and other courts	Walking Paths
Park Trails	Other	Other

**TOWN OF BARGERSVILLE**



## Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan



### Newspaper notices, articles, and meeting info

#### Newspaper articles

Daily Journal; “Bargersville residents help shape park priorities”; January 17, 2024 (copy of article included [here](#))

Daily Journal; “Bargersville updating master parks plan, seeking input”; November 29, 2023 (copy of article included [here](#))

Daily Journal; “Master plan: Bargersville should hire parks employee, add programming”; May 18, 2022 (copy of article included [here](#)).

Daily Journal; “Bargersville residents help shape future of parks”; January 18, 2022 (copy of article included [here](#)).

#### Newspaper meeting notices

Daily Journal; “Residents invited to share input on Bargersville’s park master plan”; January 9, 2024 (copy of article included [here](#))

Daily Journal; “The Bargersville Parks Advisory Board is meeting Monday at 5 p.m. to discuss the town’s Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.”; May 13, 2022 (copy of article included [here](#)).



Bargersville Parks and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan

**Meeting Notices**

Public Input Meeting Notices were posted on the Town and Parks website and social media platforms five times over a two-week period. The social media posts were also picked up and shared by the Daily Journal the week prior to the January 16, 2024 meeting.

Town of Bargersville Facebook Page; “PUBLIC MEETING: The Town will host a public meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7PM to discuss the Parks Master Plan. In order to participate, you must register in advance. This is a great opportunity for community members to ask questions and to give input/feedback.”; December 2, 2021 (copy of notice included [here](#)).

Town of Bargersville Twitter ‘X’ Page; “There will be a public hearing at the next Parks Advisory Board meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5PM to discuss the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Comments may be submitted ahead of time by emailing parks@townofbargersville.org.”; December 2, 2021 (copy of notice included [here](#)).

**Virtual Public Forum**

December 8, 2021 6pm-7pm via Zoom, 10 registered community members

**Public Survey and Notices**

Online survey available October 27, 2023 – December 15, 2024.

- Introduced in-person via QR code at Town’s Trunk or Treat
- Featured on the Town’s website in the month of November.
- Highlighted on social media 4 times along with boosted posts to a 10-mile radius around Bargersville to include the Johnson County area.