



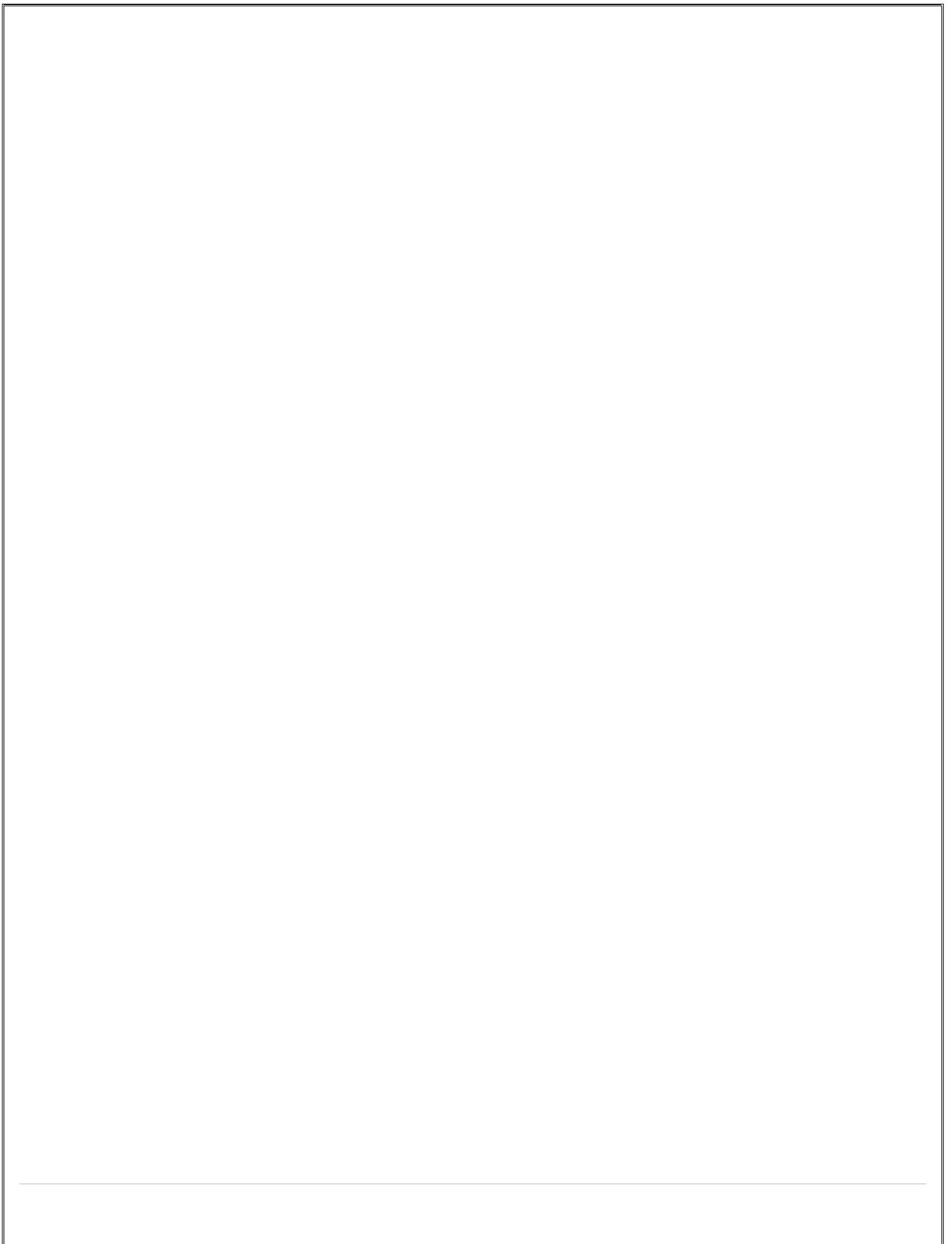
Parks ♦ Public Spaces ♦ Historical Areas ♦ Cultural Areas ♦ Trails ♦ Streets ♦ Waterways

Town of Newburgh, Indiana Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2023—2027

Newburgh Board of Parks and Recreation

Parks ♦ Public Spaces ♦ Historical Areas ♦ Cultural Areas ♦ Trails ♦ Streets ♦ Waterways





2023 - 2027 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan



**Town of Newburgh, Indiana
23 West Jennings Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Warrick County**

**Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6
Newburgh, IN 47629**

**Phone: 812-853-1720
Fax: 812-853-1727**

Acknowledgements

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board would like to thank our Advisory Board Members, the dedicated Town staff and Newburgh Town Council for their work, support and guidance during the preparation of this document. Additionally, we would like to recognize the many citizens who answered surveys, participated in the focus groups, and offered comments which help provide context and direction to the future of the Newburgh Park System.

Newburgh Town Council

Steve Shoemaker (District I)
Allyson Shelby (District II)
Stacie Krieger (District III)
Anne Rust Aurand (District IV)
Leanna K. Hughes (At-Large)

Town of Newburgh Administration

Christy Powell, Town Administrative Manager
Andrea Balboni, Facilities Coordinator
Tavi Wydicks, Zoning Administrator
Kelley Gustafson, Civil Town Assistant
Gerald Bowser, Maintenance Superintendent
John Heck, Street Superintendent

Parks Advisory Board

Shirley Moore
Joe Kuhn
Tammy Kollker
Heather Cutrell

Legal and Engineering

Chris Wischer, Town Attorney
Drew Flamion, Town Engineer

The 2023-2027 Town of Newburgh Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was authored by:

Andrea Balboni
Facilities Coordinator
P.O. Box 6
Newburgh, IN 47629

Office: 812-518-1151
Cell: 812-202-3103
Email: abalboni@newburgh-in.gov

Master Plan Approved by Parks Board on March 1, 2023
Master Plan Adopted by Town Council on March 7, 2023
Maser Plan Adopted by Parks Board on April 5, 2023

RESOLUTION 2023-03

OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF NEWBURGH, INDIANA
ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE UPDATED
TOWN OF NEWBURGH, INDIANA
2023-2027 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Park and Recreation Board is duly appointed and acting for the Town of Newburgh, Indiana pursuant to I.C. 36-10-3-1-et seq; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana statute, the Town of Newburgh Park and Recreation Board has created a 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (hereinafter "Master Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newburgh has duly published notice of public hearing on the updated Master Plan pursuant to statute; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Newburgh Park and Recreation Board is to create and responsibly manage a system of parks, open space and cultural resources and to provide recreational, cultural, and educational programs based on these resources for the use and enjoyment of Newburgh residents; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Park and Recreation Board seeks Federal, State and local grant funds to augment its limited financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board needs a plan of action to establish policies, assess community needs for recreational and leisure activities and evaluate current conditions of facilities to meet the changing needs and wants of the community; and

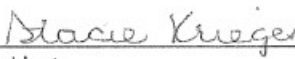
WHEREAS, the Newburgh Park and Recreation Board feels that it is in the best interest of the Town of Newburgh, Warrick County, Indiana to adopt and approve the updated Town of Newburgh Master Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Newburgh accepts the provisions and recommendations and officially adopts and approves the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing updated Town of Newburgh Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan shall be consulted and utilized as applicable in all matters before the Newburgh Park and Recreation Board.

ADOPTED on this 7th day of March, 2023

TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF NEWBURGH



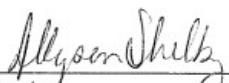
President



Member



Member




Member

ATTEST:



Nannette Angel, Clerk-Treasurer



Mensor

RESOLUTION 2023-01

OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF NEWBURGH, INDIANA
ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE UPDATED
TOWN OF NEWBURGH, INDIANA
2023-2027 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is duly appointed and acting for the Town of Newburgh, Indiana pursuant to I.C. 36-10-3-1-et seq; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana statute, the Town of Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board has created a 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (hereinafter "Master Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newburgh has duly published notice of public hearing on the updated Master Plan pursuant to statute; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is to create and responsibly manage a system of parks, open space and cultural resources and to provide recreational, cultural, and educational programs based on these resources for the use and enjoyment of Newburgh residents; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board seeks Federal, State and local grant funds to augment its limited financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board needs a plan of action to establish policies, assess community needs for recreational and leisure activities and evaluate current conditions of facilities to meet the changing needs and wants of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board feels that it is in the best interest of the Town of Newburgh, Warrick County, Indiana to adopt and approve the updated Town of Newburgh Master Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Parks and Recreation Board of the Town of Newburgh accepts the provisions and recommendations and officially adopts and approves the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing updated Town of Newburgh Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan shall be consulted and utilized as applicable in all matters before the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board.

ADOPTED on this 5th day of April, 2023

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, TOWN OF NEWBURGH


Member


Member


Member


Member


Member

Greg Beilfuss - Chief Planner
IDNR – State Parks: Community Grants and Trails
402 W. Washington St., W298
Indianapolis, IN 42204-2782
(317) 232-4071

April 21st, 2023

Mary Ann Wilsbacher
Newburgh Park Board
PO BOX 6
Newburgh, IN 47629

Dear Mary Ann,

The DNR Division of State Parks planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2023-2028 Newburgh Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2023 grant year.** A new plan will be due on November 15th, 2028 at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact our grant section chief as soon as possible about future grant applications. The grants staff can assist in your grant application process. They can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: nsimmons@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of State Parks. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
Chief Planner - IDNR Division of State Parks, Community Grants and Trails

ECC – Andrea Balboni, Town of Newburgh

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Introduction

This 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan represents an update to the 2018-2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Newburgh Town Council on March 28, 2018 and by the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board on April 5, 2018.

The Town of Newburgh Parks Master Plan is a planning tool that the Newburgh Parks Board and staff relies heavily upon to guide its programs and services for the public. This is a dynamic working document that the Parks Board, Town Council and staff refers to often. As with any 'quality of life' program, citizen input is crucial to gauging which direction the Town should focus funding. In this Master Plan we utilized public input surveys, held three (3) public forums, and met with two (2) community groups to gather information from our service area with the objective of producing a plan that will use and protect our natural resources, develop and grow our parks system and the programs we offer with a prioritized, unified vision and funding plan.

The Parks Master Plan conforms to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Resources Park Master Plan Guidelines, updated July 21, 2022.

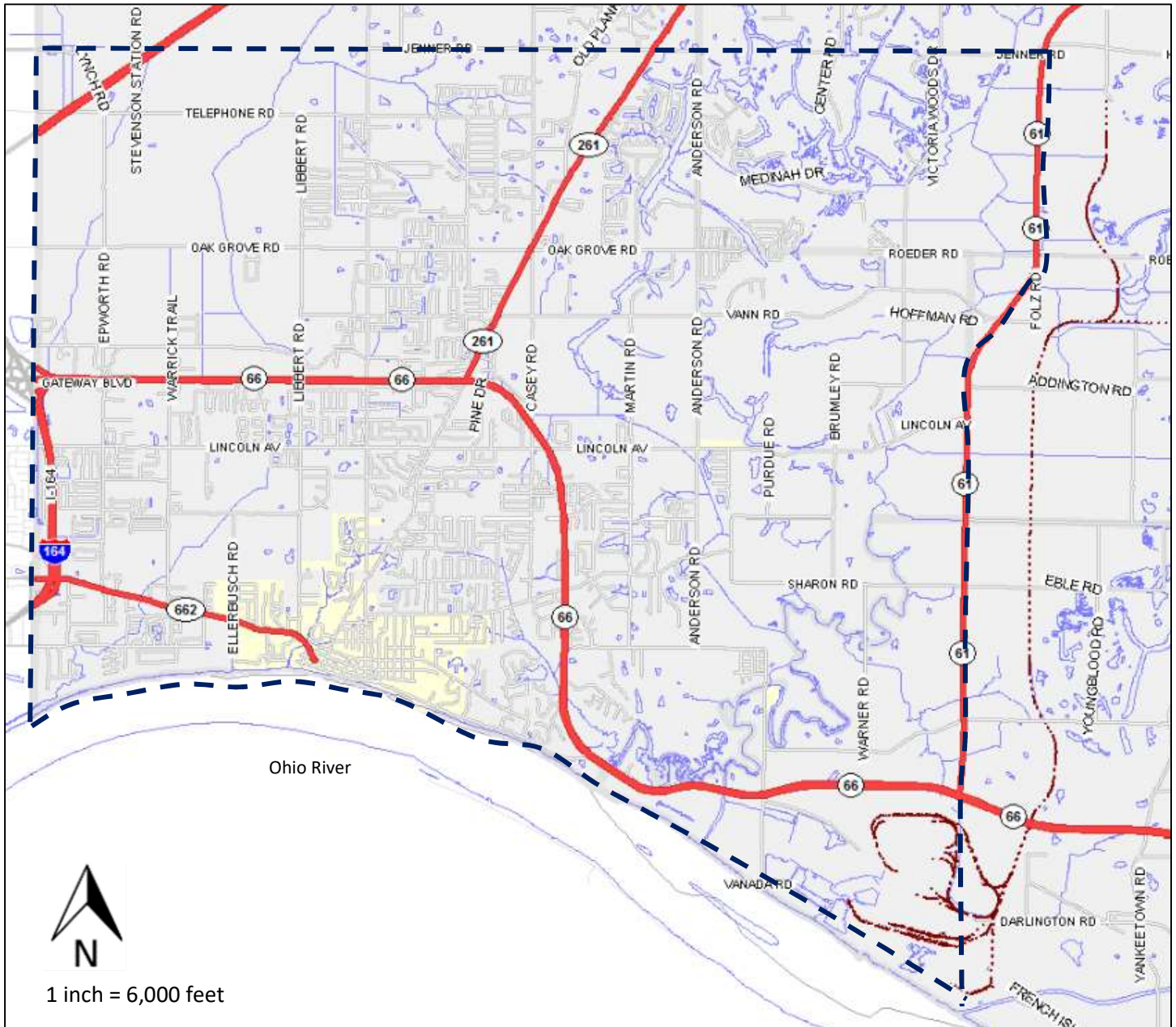
Purpose of the Plan

The Newburgh Parks Board is the primary provider of parks, recreation and open space needs for residents of the Town of Newburgh and the surrounding area. Planning is accomplished through the development of a Master Plan and this plan was given clear purpose with the following points:

- It will gather feedback and input from Town of Newburgh residents along with surrounding county residents and report the information in an accurate manner.
- It will aid Newburgh in recognizing the importance of wise utilization and preservation of its natural resources.
- It will help to broaden the community's view of itself in terms of the use of these natural, man-made, historical and cultural resources for recreational activities.
- It will help to determine the recreational needs of Newburgh, identify sites or areas to meet these needs, and to develop methods and programs to preserve and/or develop these sites and areas.
- It will assist the community in recognizing the importance of good fiscal planning in the utilization of public funds.
- It will maintain an up-to-date master plan to assist the Parks Board in promoting the parks goals and obtaining grant funding.

Ideas on how to provide these services with a limited tax base include:

1. Requesting partnerships for funding from Warrick County organizations like Warrick County Economic Development, Warrick Parks Foundation, Warrick Trails, Ohio Township and Warrick County Redevelopment Commission.
2. Charging different rates for in-town and out of town residents for rentals within the Newburgh Park System.
3. Continue working with Newburgh Park Pals to obtain sponsorships, donations and volunteering services to help maintain and fund the parks.



Map 2: Map of Newburgh's Planning Area

Newburgh Parks Board and Administrative Offices

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of four (4) at-large members and one (1) designated member of the governing body of a school corporation. The four (4) at-large members are appointed by Town Council and each serve staggered four-year terms with no more than two (2) members being of the same political party. The school corporation member is appointed by the Warrick County School Board and serves a four-year term. A Town Council liaison is also assigned to the board annually. The Board is an independent policy-making body with a bipartisan appointment process. In addition to the Parks Board, there is also an appointed group of Parks Advisory Board Members whose role is to advise the Parks Board. These are appointed annually by the Town Council. Along with the members and the Town Council Liaison, the Facilities Coordinator and Town Attorney (or associate) attend each Parks Board meeting.

Parks Board Structure

Mary Ann Wilsbacher, Board President
119 West Jennings Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: wilsbacher2@aol.com
4 Year Term: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024

Wanda Kavanaugh, Board Vice President
32 Williams Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: wfkavanaugh@aol.com
4 Year Term: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022

Randy Wheeler, Board Secretary
100 Water Street #2
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: rwheelernews@sbcglobal.net
4 Year Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025

Ron Keller
201 Sharon Road
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: ronalkeller@rocketmail.com
4 Year Term: January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023

Susan Melfi, School Board Ex Officio Member
503 Water Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-853-1720
Email: indianamelf1@wowway.com
4 Year Term expires January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025

Allyson Shelby, Town Council Parks Board Liaison (Non-Voting)
100 East Jennings Street
Newburgh, IN 47630
Phone: 812-459-6570
Email: ashelby@newburgh-in.gov

Park Board Powers and Responsibilities

1. The Board shall have the power to perform all acts necessary to acquire and develop sites and facilities and to conduct such programs as are generally understood to be park and recreation functions. In addition, the Board shall have the powers and duties listed in I.C. 36-10-3.
2. The Board shall prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of Town government as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts. The Board may accept gifts, donations and subsidies for park and recreation purposes.

Parks Board Mission Statement

The Newburgh Parks & Recreation Board strives to preserve, protect, and manage natural, historical, and recreational resources and facilities in order to offer leisure activities and programming in which all citizens can participate.

The Parks Board and staff are dedicated to fiscal responsibility and efficiency through proper planning. The Board is committed to pursuing cooperation and partnerships with fellow departments, volunteers, groups, and agencies in the community to achieve these philosophies.

Parks Board Public Meetings

The Newburgh Parks Board conducts public meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at Town Hall (23 West Jennings Street, Newburgh, IN), unless otherwise posted. At these meetings policies, financials, ongoing and future projects and park conditions are discussed.

Each of the Board Members has an area of reporting. The current Board has divided up the areas of reporting as follows:

- AMAX Fields – Facilities Coordinator
- Kiwanis Community Park – Facilities Coordinator
- Lou Dennis Community Park – Ron Keller
- Old Lock and Dam Park (North Side) – Randy Wheeler
- Old Lock and Dam Park (South Side) – Susan Melfi
- Overlook Park – Wanda Kavanaugh
- Rivertown Trail – Mary Ann Wilsbacher
- Veterans Monument Park – Facilities Coordinator

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board History

The Parks Board was first created on March 25, 1969 by Ordinance Number 3, 1969 (see *Appendix A*), stating under the provisions of Section 201, Chapter 311, Article II of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for 1965, there is hereby established a Department of Parks and Recreation composed of a Board of Park and Recreation, a Superintendent, and such other personnel as the Board shall determine. The Board of Parks and Recreation would be composed of four members selected by the Newburgh Town Council President to serve four-year terms with staggered term expirations. The ordinance also allowed for the Parks Board to create an Advisory Board composed of citizens interested in the Newburgh Parks System.

The first Parks Board meeting took place on April 10, 1969 with Ruby Harris (4-year term), Leon Crenshaw (3-year term), Dr. Victor Jordan (2-year term) and Dick Kixmiller (1-year term). The first motion made by the Newburgh Parks Board was by Dick Kixmiller to appoint Dr. Victor Jordan as the first Parks Board President and Ruby Harris as the Parks Board's first Secretary. Discussion was had about the proposed land (now known as Lou Dennis Community Park) and how to go about designing and building a community pool. Additional discussions were had on the responsibilities of the Parks Board and for which areas in Town they would be responsible.

On December 22, 1970, Ordinance No. 5, 1970 - *An Ordinance Amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 3, 1969, Establishing a Department of Parks and Recreation by Increasing the Number of Members of the Board of Parks and Recreation to Five* (see *Appendix A*) was presented and approved by the Newburgh Town Council. The ordinance stated that the Board shall be composed of four members and a member of the Newburgh Library Board ex officio, that is selected by the Newburgh Library Board. In 1971 the first Library Appointment, Len Davis, was added to the Parks Board.

On March 23, 1971, Ordinance No. 71-3 (see *Appendix A*) was presented and approved by Town Council. This ordinance amended Section 1 of Ordinance 3, 1969 by correcting the citation of the Enabling Act.

July 11, 1989, Ordinance 1989-17 - *An Ordinance Recreating the Department of Parks and Recreation in the Town of Newburgh, Indiana* (see *Appendix A*) was approved by the Newburgh Town Council. Pursuant to the provisions of Indiana Code 36-10-3, the Newburgh Department of Parks and Recreation were recreated. Per the new ordinance, four members would be appointed by the President of Town Council, and no more than two members shall be of the same political party. One ex officio member would be appointed by the Library District Board and the Library District Board shall fill any vacancies of their ex officio member. Note was given that ex officio board members have all the rights of regular members, including the right to vote.

On September 11, 2003, the Newburgh Town Council, with the recommendation from Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board, created the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Town Council stated that the Advisory Board members did not have to live in Town, did not have any voting rights, and would be selected by Town Council. The first Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was made up of five (5) members (Mary Jo Huff, Mike Patterson, Willie Schuette, Matt Timmel and Joe Gagon). The Advisory Board was created after discussions surrounding the creation of the 2003-2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan suggested creating an advisory board filled with residents and non-residents who could use their skills and knowledge to help guide the Parks and Recreation Board.

In 2010 the Town Council waived any political party requirements of the Park Board members with Ordinance 2010-02 (see *Appendix A*). Stated in the ordinance the Town found it necessary to invoke the waiver allowed by Indiana Code §36-10-3-4.1 due to the absence of persons who are willing to serve on the Town Park Board who satisfy any or all of the requirements.

In 2015 Newburgh Ordinance 2015-01 (see *Appendix A*) was established to recreate the Newburgh Parks Board keeping all requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3. The updated ordinance removed the Library District Board ex officio member and replaced them with an ex officio member appointed by the governing body of the Warrick County School Corporation. The new ordinance stated that no more than two (2) members shall be of the same political party and that all members including the ex officio shall be residents of the Town of Newburgh. The new ordinance also laid out the terms of each member, the election of officers and the Board's powers and responsibilities.

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Advisory Group

The Advisory Board has no governance responsibilities, are selected based on their skills, knowledge and passion for the Newburgh Parks System, and are appointed by Newburgh Town Council. The members of the Parks Advisory Board offer advice that can assist the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board achieve their goals.

Shirley Moore

Town Resident and Former Parks Board Member (2007-2009)

318 Cypress Street, Newburgh IN 47630

Joe Kuhn

Town Resident and Newburgh Parks Pals Board President

908 Woodridge Court, Newburgh, IN 47630

Tammy Kollker

Town Resident and Town Merchant

110 Locust Street, Newburgh, IN 47630

Heather Cutrell

Town Resident, Historic Preservation Commission Member, and Park Pals Board Vice President

1121 Jefferson Park Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630

A Memorandum of Newburgh Town Council and Newburgh Park Board Operating Procedures

There is an undated, memorandum between Town Council and Parks Board titled *A Memorandum of Newburgh Town Council and Newburgh Park Board Operating Procedures*. The memorandum states that Parks Board shall act as a manager for the various Town parks, operating with its own budget with Council approval. The memorandum has five statements outlining the procedures for Lou Dennis Community Park, Contracts (Amax lease is included in this section), Old Lock and Dam Park, Park Personnel and Programs and Growth. This memorandum is outdated and needs to include the additional parks within the Newburgh Park System.

Even though the memorandum has not been updated, the relationship between Newburgh Town Council and Newburgh Parks Board has not changed. The Parks Board continues to act as manager to all seven (7) of the parks located within the Newburgh Park System. Newburgh Town Council recognizes that the Parks Board is the deed owner on two (2) of the seven (7) parks, but as the financial party responsible for management of tax payer's dollars, they expect to be advised of any major building projects, large repairs and grant submissions. Even with park revenue projects and/or private donation projects; at the end of the project the Town of Newburgh becomes financially responsible for any overages and future maintenance costs.

Town of Newburgh Administrative Offices

The Town of Newburgh does not have a dedicated Parks Department. The Town Manager, Facilities Coordinator, Zoning Administrator, Maintenance Department, Street Department and the Clerk-Treasurer's Office all assist in the management of the Newburgh Parks System. See *Chart #1* on page 10 for the organizational structure of Newburgh Town Staff and Newburgh Parks Board, in regard to Parks and Recreation Services.

Newburgh Town Hall

Address: 23 West Jennings Street, Newburgh, IN 47630.

Phone: 812-853-1720

Fax: 812-853-1727

Website: www.newburgh-in.com

All email correspondence for parks can be emailed to the Facilities Coordinator at abalboni@newburgh-in.gov.

Town Manager: Christy Powell

Phone: 812-853-3578

Email: cpowell@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: October 19, 2015

Park Duties: Provides management direction and oversight.

Facilities Coordinator: Andrea Balboni

Phone: 812-518-1151

Email: abalboni@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: May 25, 2016

Park Duties: Management responsibility for all services and activities within the Newburgh Parks System. Manages administrative functions and cooperative relations with local, federal, regional, non-profit partners, local communities and citizen groups. Manages the planning, construction and maintenance of park facilities. Maintains facility leases, contracts, budgeting and reporting as well as directs overall parks operations. Provides staff support for the Newburgh Park System. Develops and implements parks policies, procedures, and fee schedules. Maintains close support with the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board and Newburgh Park Pals and attends all Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board meetings and meetings as needed for the Newburgh Park Pals. Provides administrative assistance to the Town Manager and Newburgh Town Council.

Zoning Administrator: Tavi Wydicks

Phone: 812-853-2728

Email: twydicks@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: October 1, 2012

Park Duties: Storm water maintenance within the Newburgh Park System. Handles new hire paperwork for seasonal employees and provides staff support for the Newburgh Park System.

Civil Town Assistant: Kelley Gustafson

Phone: 812-490-1192

Email: kgustafson@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: July 14, 2021

Park Duties: Maintains rental facilities and provides staff support within the Newburgh Park System, as well as provides administrative assistance to the Facilities Coordinator and Zoning Administrator.

Maintenance Superintendent: Gerald Bowser

Phone: 812-490-0068

Email: gbowser@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: October 23, 1997

Park Duties: Chief Operator of the Lou Dennis Community Park Splash Pad and maintains all park areas and facilities, as well as Town facilities.

Janitor: Don Kissel

Email: dkissel@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: March 26, 2012

Park Duties: Janitorial services and assisting Maintenance Superintendent when needed.

Street Superintendent: John Heck

Phone: 812-853-6648

Email: jheck@newburgh-in.gov

Hired: May 25, 1989

Park Duties: Maintains and repairs all routes to and from the Newburgh Park System. Maintains parking lots, trees, stormwater, snow removal and assists with event setup.

Clerk/Treasurer: Nannette Angel

Phone: 812-853-7111

Email: nangel@newburgh-in.gov

Term: 2020-2023

Park Duties: Oversees Park budget, payroll, and cash collection.

Chief of Police: Eric Mitchell

Phone: 812-853-1723

Email: emitchell@newburghpd.org

Hired: August 27, 2009

Park Duties: Monitors and patrols the Newburgh Parks System. Attends Parks Board meetings and/or committee meetings when needed and assists Facilities Coordinator with Special Event requests.

Fire Chief: Nick Donnan

Phone: 812-853-7651

Email: nick.donnan@newburghfire.com

Start Date: April 2004

Park Duties: Monitor AEDs and schedule AED and first aid trainings for staff.

Town Attorney: Chris Wischer

Town Engineer: Drew Flamion

Direct Staff

Seasonally, the Town of Newburgh employs a number of people for Lou Dennis Community Park. This includes anywhere from four to six staff members that work between 20-30 hours per week, May through September. In the past, the Town has hired a seasonal maintenance worker that works weekend hours to assist with rentals, maintenance of the parks, operation of the splash pad and making sure restrooms along the trail system are stocked and operational.

Volunteers

Volunteers from Newburgh and the surrounding areas provide us with invaluable assistance by helping maintain and improve our parks system and provide programs within the parks. Without these volunteers we would not be able to provide the quality of parks and programs that we currently enjoy. The Parks Board has around 100 volunteers every year that help with the Ohio River Sweep, landscaping, dog waste pickup on the trail, and the Fortress of Fun maintenance.

Recommendations

The four previous master park plans have recommended the creation of a full-time staff position for the Parks System. In the past, the services of Town employees have been increased to meet increased administrative and maintenance demands posed by park expansions. An extensive desire for park programming, greater publicity of park offerings, fundraising, volunteer scheduling, maintaining social media presence, coordination efforts and administrative needs along with an aging community park require additional manpower. Along with these needs, parks come with their own specialized knowledge when it comes to safety, care and maintenance. The functions or their coordination were largely performed by the Town Manager, Administrative Assistant, and the Maintenance Superintendent.

To fully realize the potential of the parks and to make sure they are properly cared for and maintained, the Town of Newburgh created the Facilities Coordinator position. This position is a year-round dedicated staff member who oversees the maintenance of all Town owned facilities, including the seven parks within the Newburgh Parks System. The Town of Newburgh also hired a part-time Civil-Town Assistant to help with the seven rental facilities within the Newburgh Park System and hires a seasonal maintenance staff member. The creation of the Facilities Coordinator and Civil-Town Assistant positions has helped with the management and project coordination within the parks, but a year-round dedicated park maintenance staff member is needed. The current Maintenance Superintendent maintains all parks facilities and Town facilities, which splits the time and can lead to delays or in hiring out of repairs.

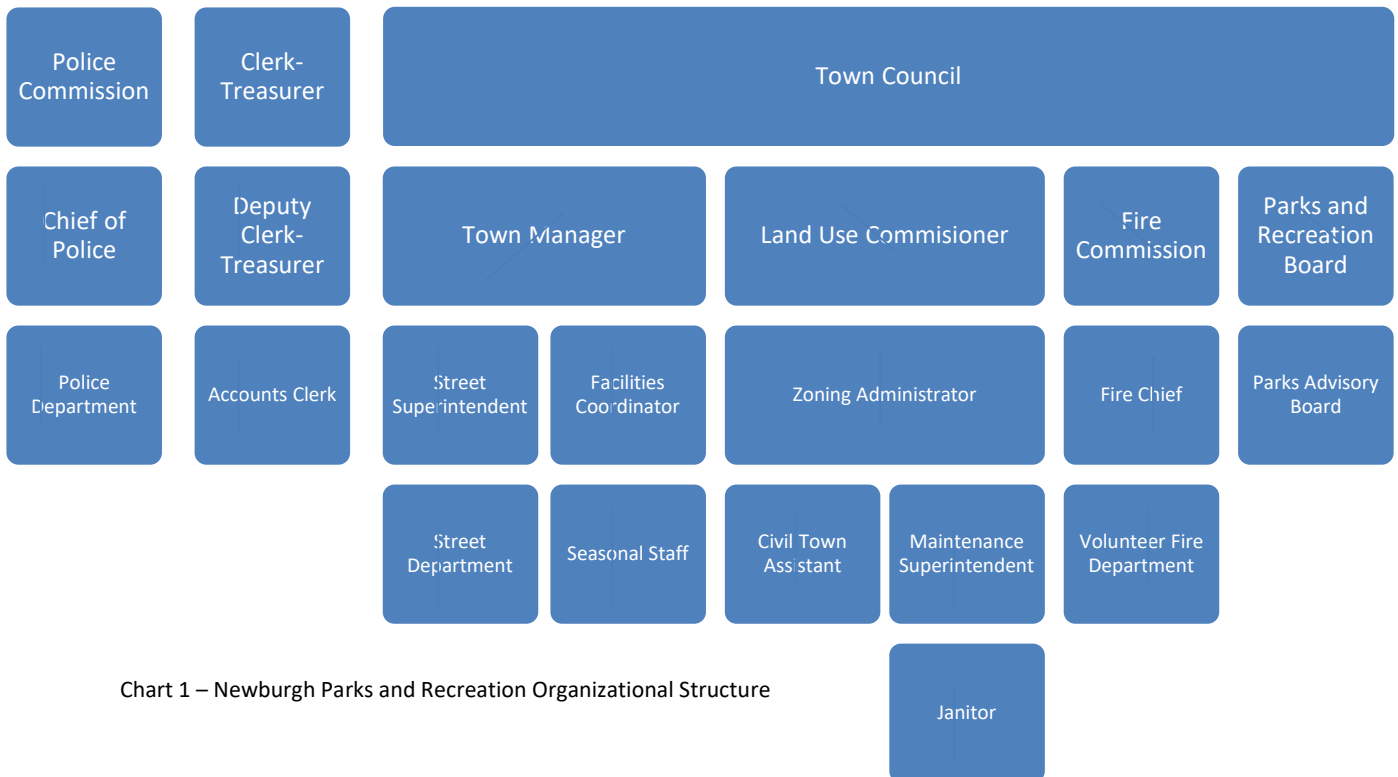


Chart 1 – Newburgh Parks and Recreation Organizational Structure

Progress Since the Last Plan

As stated in the Introduction, the Newburgh Parks Board and staff relies heavily upon their Master Plan to guide them. The 2018-2022 Master Plan was a well-worn guide over the past five (5) years with the majority of their top ten list completed, as shown below:

1. Continued Maintenance – Will always be in progress but major projects and repairs were completed
2. Rivertown Trail Expansion – Completed in 2020
3. Continue Developing Fundraising Group known as Park Pals – Completed
4. Add Additional Restrooms within the Newburgh Park System – Added five (5) restrooms
5. Lou Dennis Community Park Renovations – Phase I completed in 2021
6. Add Splash Pad to the Newburgh Park System – Completed in 2021
7. Increase Utilization of Parks – Added amenities and events throughout the parks
8. Add Additional Parks – Completed (added 1.83 to Overlook lease and added 1 mile to Rivertown Trail)
9. Take Over Operations of Newburgh Locks and Dam – Pending
10. Construct Amphitheater at Old Lock and Dam Park – Completed in 2020

In addition to the 2018-2022 Top Ten List the Newburgh Town Council, Parks Board and staff have been busy within the Newburgh Park System.

2018

- January 10, 2018 Newburgh Town Council voted 3/0 to close the Newburgh Community Pool and on February 1, 2018 Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board voted 5/0 to close the Newburgh Community Pool (see news articles in *Appendix K*).
- Newburgh Parks Board and Newburgh Town Council banned tobacco usage within the Newburgh Park System with Ordinance 2018-04: An Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking and the Use of Tobacco Products and E-Cigarettes in Public Parks (see news articles in *Appendix K*).
- Ordinance 2018-09: An Ordinance Establishing Civil Fines for Violations of Ordinances Prohibiting Smoking, Tobacco and E-Cigarettes, was created to add a fine for violating the non-tobacco within parks ordinance.
- Department of Natural Resources Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions was added to the AMAX Athletic Fields and Lou Dennis Community Park deeds.
- Sledding was banned from Old Lock and Dam Park hill (see news articles in *Appendix K*). Sledgers are redirected to Overlook Park. Signage has been added to both parks.
- Park Pals received its 501c3 status.

2019

- Security cameras were added to Old Lock and Dam Park
- Newburgh Parks Board requested that Town Council move forward with the bond to renovate Lou Dennis Community Park
- Town Council approved Ordinance 2019-08 – An Ordinance to Create a New Chapter 116 of the Newburgh Code of Ordinances for the Purpose of Regulating Mobile Food Units. This new ordinance allowed food trucks to park in Old Lock and Dam Park, Lou Dennis Community Park, the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead and various other points around Town (see news articles in *Appendix K*).
- Overlook Park had permanent signage warning park users of the sink hole and fencing was place around the sink hole for safety.
- 1.83 acres was added to the existing lease at Overlook Park.
- Overlook Park was declared a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Work days were coordinated to remove invasive species and trainings were hosted up at the park on how to spot and remove invasive species.

2020

- Rivertown Trail Phase IIIA was completed which added one-mile to the Rivertown Trail making the trail a total of 3.84 miles (see news articles in *Appendix K*).
- The Town of Newburgh received \$40,000.00 from the Alcoa Foundation along with \$38,815.75 from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to remove all trash only receptacles and change to dual trash and recycling receptables (see *Figure 1*). All trash receptacles in Lou Dennis Community Park, Old Lock and Dam Park and all receptacles along the Rivertown Trail were converted (see news articles in *Appendix K*). A recycle receptacle was placed up at Overlook Park but the heavy metal receptacles with lids were left due to animal activity. There are no trash receptacles at Veterans Monument Park, and AMAX and Kiwanis are leased by individual groups and maintain their own trash and recycle. The Town of Newburgh was awarded the 2020 Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Award for Green Project of the Year for the recycle project (see *Appendix B*).
- March 28, 2020 Tornado went through Old Lock and Dam Park (See *Appendix K*)
 - Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47 received a new clay tile roof, new gutters and windows were repaired.
 - Both the East and the West Restrooms received a new roof. East clay and West asphalt.
 - East Lockmaster Cottage and West Lockmaster Cottage received roof and window repairs.
 - The flag pole was damage and removed with a brand new flag pole put in.
 - Damaged trees were removed.
 - The garage next to the cottages was destroyed but a new garage was built in its place.
- Stone building located in Old Lock and Dam Park received a new roof.
- Allen Family Amphitheater was built and opened for public use (See *Appendix K*). The Town of Newburgh was awarded the 2020 Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Placemaking Award (see *Appendix B*).
- Televisions were added to the Lockmaster Cottages.
- Gene B. Aurand Trailhead was given an update from Warrick Trails and St. Vincent/Ascension. Along with the exterior renovation, an additional restroom was added, heat and air were added to both restrooms, a cuddle station was added to the woman's restroom, a covered porch was added to the structure and additional parking was created.
- In Overlook Park, small plant plaques were placed, temporarily, around the park to label the plants for trainees and the public to see.



Figure 1 – Dual Trash and Recycle Receptacle

2021

- The Log Cabin was razed in February, with portions of the cabin saved and stored to be used at a later date.
- The Rivertown Trail Committee was dissolved and the Newburgh Parks Board will take over the task of reporting, monitoring and maintenance of the trail. Parks Board requested that one member of the Advisory Board be connected to Warrick Trails or that a member from Warrick Trails give updates to the Newburgh Parks Board.
- Newburgh Parks Board and Newburgh Town Council created an exempt list of groups that are given free rentals of the facilities located within Old Lock and Dam Park.
- Vending machines were added to Lou Dennis Community Park and Old Lock and Dam Park
- Lou Dennis Community Park Phase I was completed which added a splash pad, a new playground, three additional restrooms and an event room into the Newburgh Parks System. Phase I also saw the existing basketball court razed and a new one built, along with additional parking and staff rooms added.

- Old playground equipment (not the Fortress of Fun) was surplus and removed from Lou Dennis Community Park.
- Cameras were added to Lou Dennis Community Park and the Aurand Trailhead.
- The Little Red Brick Building was converted into an additional restroom and multi-purpose room in Old Lock and Dam Park.
- WIFI was added to the Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47, the Lockmaster Cottages and the Lou Dennis Community Park office space and staff room.
- Part of the Gene B. Aurand Trailhead interior was remodeled into office space.
- A lease was created between the Town of Newburgh and Historic Newburgh, Inc. (HNI) to allow HNI to use the office space and storage within the Gene B. Aurand Trailhead building.
- Nine additional benches were added along the trail. Eight of those benches were donated to the Park System.

2022

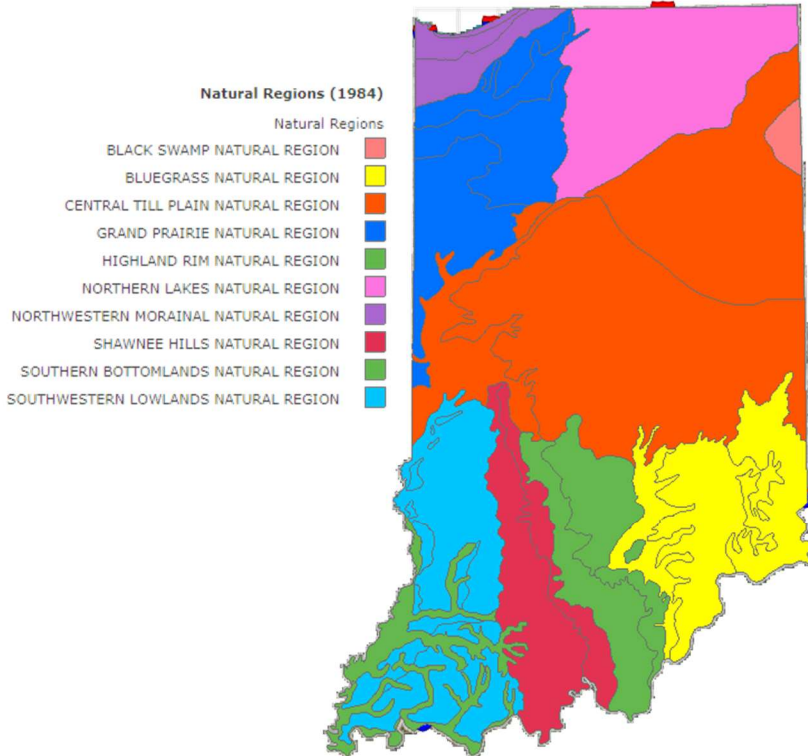
- Veterans Monument was damaged during a traffic accident and was repaired.
- Lockmaster Cottages received a fresh coat of interior paint and rooms were built into the basement of each cottage to allow renters shelter during bad weather.
- QR Signage was added to parks to direct park users to the Park Pals donation site.
- Gutter Guards were added to facilities within the park system that were in need of extra gutter protection.
- Three new shade structures were donated through American Academy of Dermatology, Neutrogena and an anonymous donor and placed around the splash pad at Lou Dennis Community Park
- Six benches and six picnic tables (2 that are handicap accessible) were added to Lou Dennis Community Park.
- Kiwanis Club of Historic Newburgh, Newburgh Park Pals and individual donors raised funds to build a rentable picnic shelter in Lou Dennis Community Park. This picnic shelter was dedicated in May of 2022.
- Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 received ramp repairs and new interior epoxy flooring.
- The Town of Newburgh entered into a Memorandum of Agreement between Historic Newburgh, Inc. to maintain landscape areas along the Rivertown Trail and other areas within Town.
- The Town of Newburgh received funding from Warrick County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that will allow for 2023 renovations on Historic Bridge #264.
- Newburgh Park Pals received funding from Warrick County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that will allow for a third shelter to be built in Lou Dennis Community Park.

Natural Landscape Features

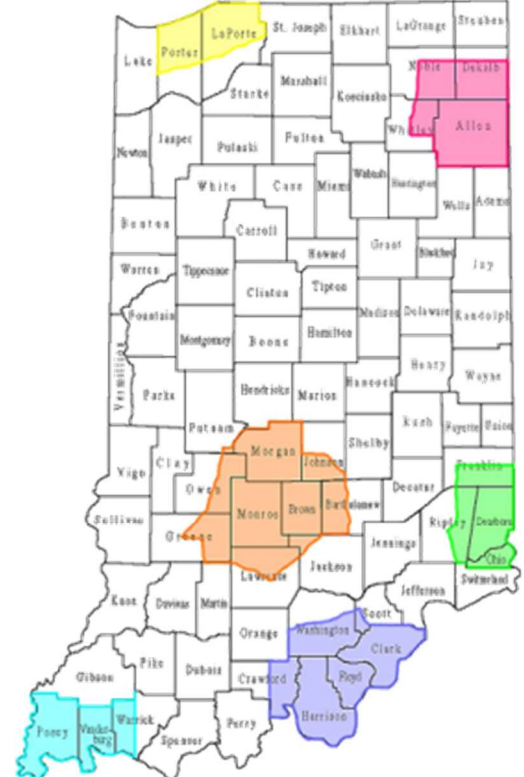
Natural Regions

Warrick County is within three of Indiana's natural regions: The Southern Bottomlands, Southwestern Lowlands and Grand Prairie Natural Region (see Map 3). According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Southwest Bottomland Forest portions of Warrick County are part of the Forest Legacy (see Map 4). The Forest Legacy is a program established by Congress as part of the 1990 Farm Bill to help identify and protect environmentally important forest lands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

Map 3: Indiana Natural Regions



Map 4: DNR Forest Legacy



Topography

The topography in Warrick County includes fertile bottomlands and rolling pastures to hilly uplands with areas of forests. The average elevation of Warrick County is 436 feet with a minimum elevation at 360 feet and a maximum elevation at 660 feet. The highest point in the county is just north of Lynnville while the lowest point is the downstream end of the Ohio River below Newburgh. The Town of Newburgh has approximate elevations between 360 feet to 482 feet. In terms of its soils, Warrick County has four major regions: thick loess deposits, discontinuous loess over weathered sandstone and shale, silty and clayey luicustrine deposits and a small area of alluvial and outwash deposits. The Town of Newburgh exhibits subtleties of all these described features.

Significant Nature Areas

There is one significant nature area within the planning area, known as Friedman Park. Warrick County along with neighboring Pike and Vanderburgh Counties has significant natural areas including the Interlake State Recreation Area, Wesselman Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands, Angel Mounds State Historic Site and the Sugar Ridge Recreation Area.

Invasive Insect Species

When it comes to invasive species within the Newburgh Park System, the Newburgh Parks Board is taking a proactive approach. One of the most talked about invasive insect species is the Emerald Ash Borer. Six ash trees can currently be found within the Newburgh Parks System, one in Old Lock and Dam Park and five in Lou Dennis Community Park. The Emerald Ash Borer has become more active in southwestern Indiana and is a threat to the six ash trees within the Newburgh Parks System. The five trees within Lou Dennis Park currently shade the Fortress of Fun and allow for much needed relief from the sun on hot summer days. In 2016, the ash trees were tested and no signs of the Emerald Ash Borer were found. The six trees received their first treatment in 2016 to protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer and were given additional treatments in 2018, 2020 and 2022. The treatment is recommended every two years for ten years to ensure the safety of the trees. Additional invasive insect species have not been identified within the Newburgh Parks System.

Invasive Plant Species

In 2019, The Town of Newburgh started working with the Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to identify invasive plant species at Overlook Park, especially around the lake. The Vanderburgh County SWCD identified the following invasive species surrounding the lake in Overlook Park:

- Tree of Heaven
- Multiflora Rose
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- English Ivy
- Winter Creeper
- Privet
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Bradford/Callery Pear
- White Mulberry

In addition to identifying the invasive species, SWCD offered treatment method and timing of treatment for best effective control. In May 2019, the Town of Newburgh staff, Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District, Purdue Extension Warrick County, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and volunteers had a work day out at Overlook Park. The area around the lake was cleaned up to allow better access to the lake and to remove as many invasive plant species as possible. There are still invasive plant species at Overlook Park, but the Town continues to work with Vanderburgh SWCD and other organizations on identifying invasive plants and removing them.

Recommendations

- The Town of Newburgh Street Superintendent along with additional staff from the Newburgh Street Department, Administrative Office and Parks Board members will attend invasive species seminars and training to help with identifying any threats to the trees and vegetation in the Newburgh Parks System.
- A full tree inventory is needed of the Newburgh Parks System along with an assessment of any invasive species within the parks.
- The Town of Newburgh needs to continue their relationship with the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management organization as well as work with local and state agencies that will help keep them up to date on programs, volunteers and grants.

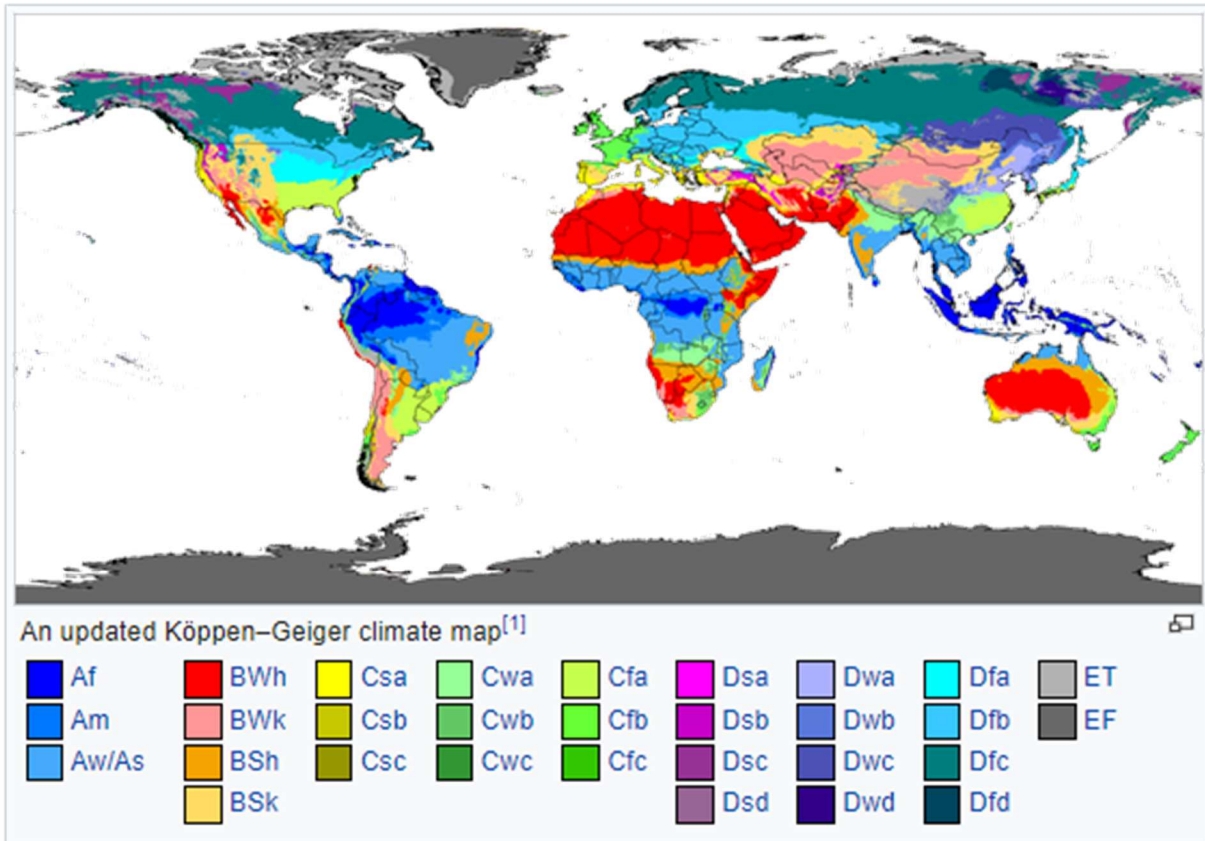
Climate

The climate in the planning area is moderate in the region, with fluctuations in the daily temperature influenced by the warm moist air masses from the south. Newburgh's position at the southern tip of the state allows for a Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification (see Map 5) of Cfa (humid subtropical climate), whereas most of the state is in the Dfa rating (humid continental hot summers with year-round precipitation). The Classification of Cfa is broken down into three sections:

C = Temperature of warmest month greater or equal to 50 degrees Fahrenheit and temperature of coldest month less than 64.4 degrees Fahrenheit but greater than 26.6 degrees Fahrenheit

f = Precipitation more evenly distributed throughout the year

a = temperature of warmest month 71.6 degrees Fahrenheit or above



Map 5: Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification

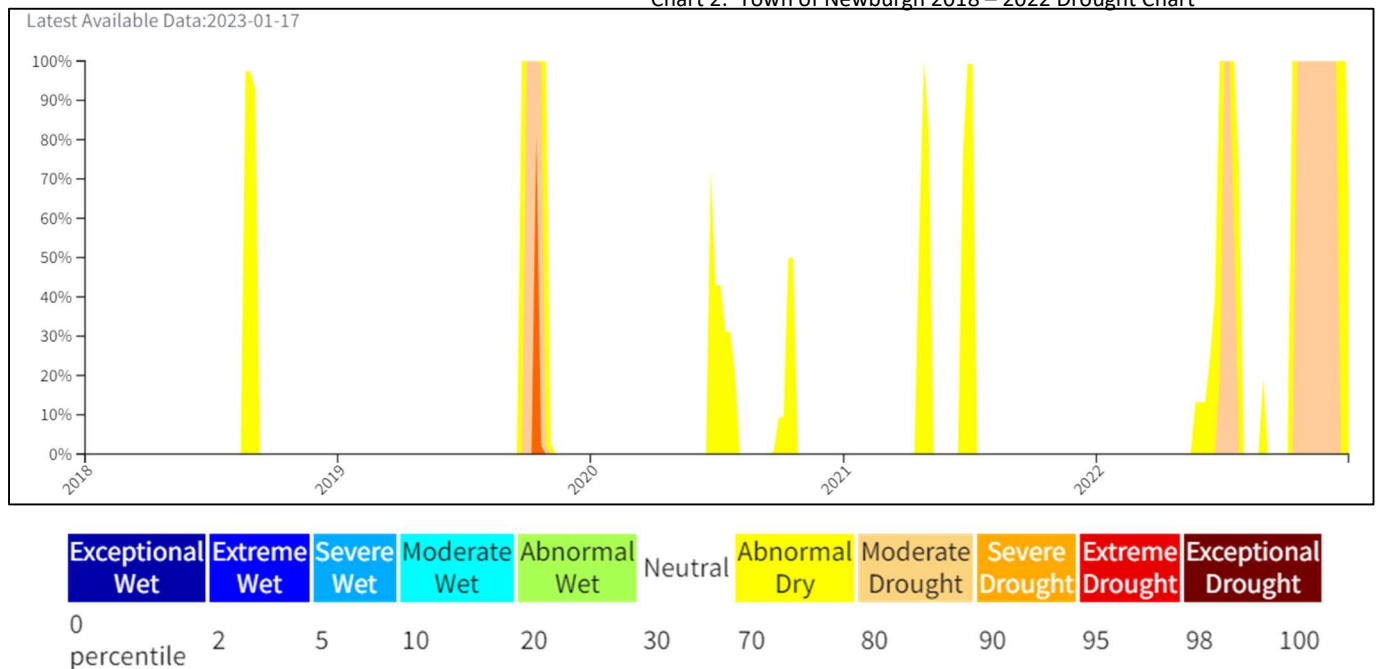
Newburgh is in the USDA hardiness zone of 6b, whereas most of the state is in the hardiness zones 5b-6a. According to Weatherspark.com, Newburgh experiences extreme seasonal variation in the perceived humidity. The muggier period of the year lasts 4.2 months, from May to September, during which time the comfort level is muggy, oppressive or miserable at least 18% of the time. The month with the muggiest days in Newburgh is July, with 21.5 days that are muggy or worse. The month with the fewest muggy days in Newburgh is January with zero days that are muggy or worse. Newburgh's hot season lasts for 3.9 months, from the end of May to the end of September, with an average daily high temperature above 79 degrees Fahrenheit. The cold season lasts 3 months, from the end of November to the end of February, with an average daily high temperature below 51 degrees Fahrenheit. The average low in the coldest month, January, is around 27 degrees Fahrenheit while the average highest temperature in the hottest month, July, is 88 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages 39.8 inches

annually with the month of May having the most average rainfall (4.5”) and August being the month with the least average rainfall (2.5”). Snowfall averages 8.59 inches annually, although just like the rainfall, it fluctuates from year to year.

From 2018 to 2022 the Town of Newburgh has had episodes of drought (see Chart #2), with 2022 having the largest span of drought starting in mid-May and running through December. Where irrigation was not installed, staff had to water to ensure new plantings did not dry out, but some areas of grass and some new plantings were lost. The Town of Newburgh and Newburgh Parks and Recreation Department are addressing those areas and installing permanent irrigation to ensure those areas to not suffer in the future. The two areas with turf grass in Lou Dennis Community Park, have held up well to the heat and use and additional areas within the park have been considered for turf grass.

In order for park users to continue enjoying park amenities, additional shade structures have been installed at Lou Dennis Community Park, trees were planted along the Rivertown Trail and with the Fortress of Fun being the most shaded play feature in the area, reconsideration has been made on moving any new amenities away from that area.

Chart 2: Town of Newburgh 2018 – 2022 Drought Chart



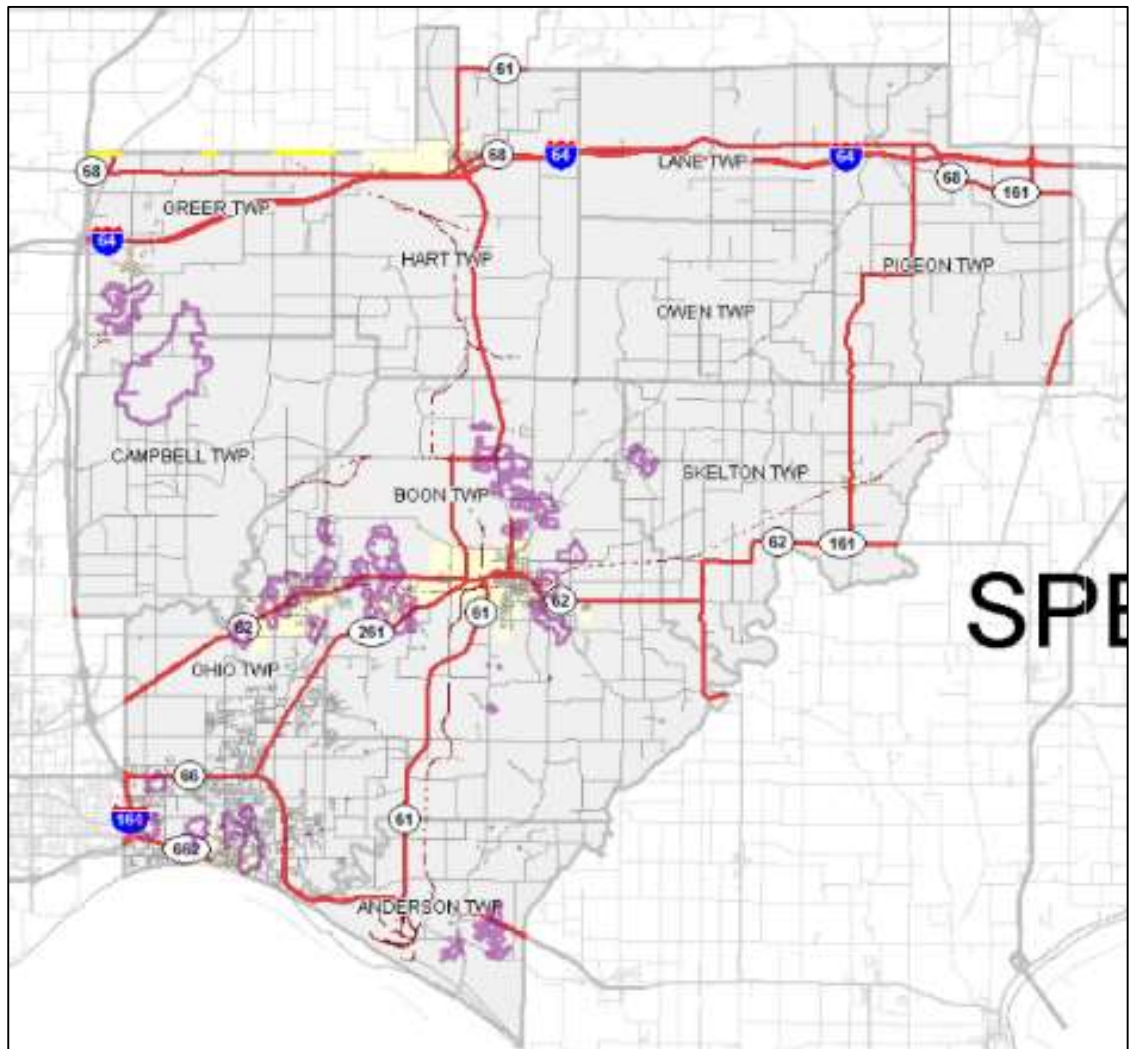
Existing play structures and surfaces become hot to the touch under extreme hot days. Caution signage has been installed around all play structures and appropriate footwear is required to protect feet from getting burned. On days with a heat index of 100 degrees or more (over 90 degrees with 60 percent humidity), play equipment and the splash pad have been closed to the public.

During large rain events, the focus is always on the Ohio River (see page 20). Flooding in other areas of Town do occur but are minimal compared to the rising river. The Rivertown Trail, Old Lock and Dam Park and New Lock and Dam Park are the parks effected the most by rising river levels. When large rain events occur, these parks are usually closed. The Town of Newburgh is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Community and our Stormwater Board and Zoning Administrator take large rain events and the storm drain

system very seriously. Constant updates and cleaning of drains are done to ensure Town roads, sidewalks and parks are well drained and can continue to stay open. If park areas do pool water, those areas are closed off to ensure the safety of the public and to protect the soil underneath.

Mining

The settlement of the Town, at its current location, was influenced by the presence of the Ohio River, which in turn aided the development of the Town in its early years as an important river port. The geographical conditions present in the natural landscape influenced the development of both the local mining industry and the agricultural community. As strip mining for coal became a cost-effective means for the retrieval of coal, activity in the underground mining (see Map 6) industry has subsided. Strip mining of coal continues to be the livelihood for many County residents today. The effects of strip mining have significantly influenced the natural landscape of the Warrick County area. Mine reclamation efforts of yesteryear were not as environmentally protective as today's plans and the remains of excavations left by mining efforts are apparent today.



Map 6: Warrick County GIS Underground Mining Areas in Purple

Water Resources

The Ohio River is the most significant natural landscape feature associated with the Town of Newburgh and the identified planning area. Newburgh is located on the northern shore at mile 778 (see Figure 2), where the river is approximately 2,000 feet wide. The border between Indiana and Kentucky is about 200 feet out from the banks. At the top of the banks there is a narrow, approximately two-lot deep shelf and then there is another steep rise. From there, the elevation of the town gradually rises away from the river.

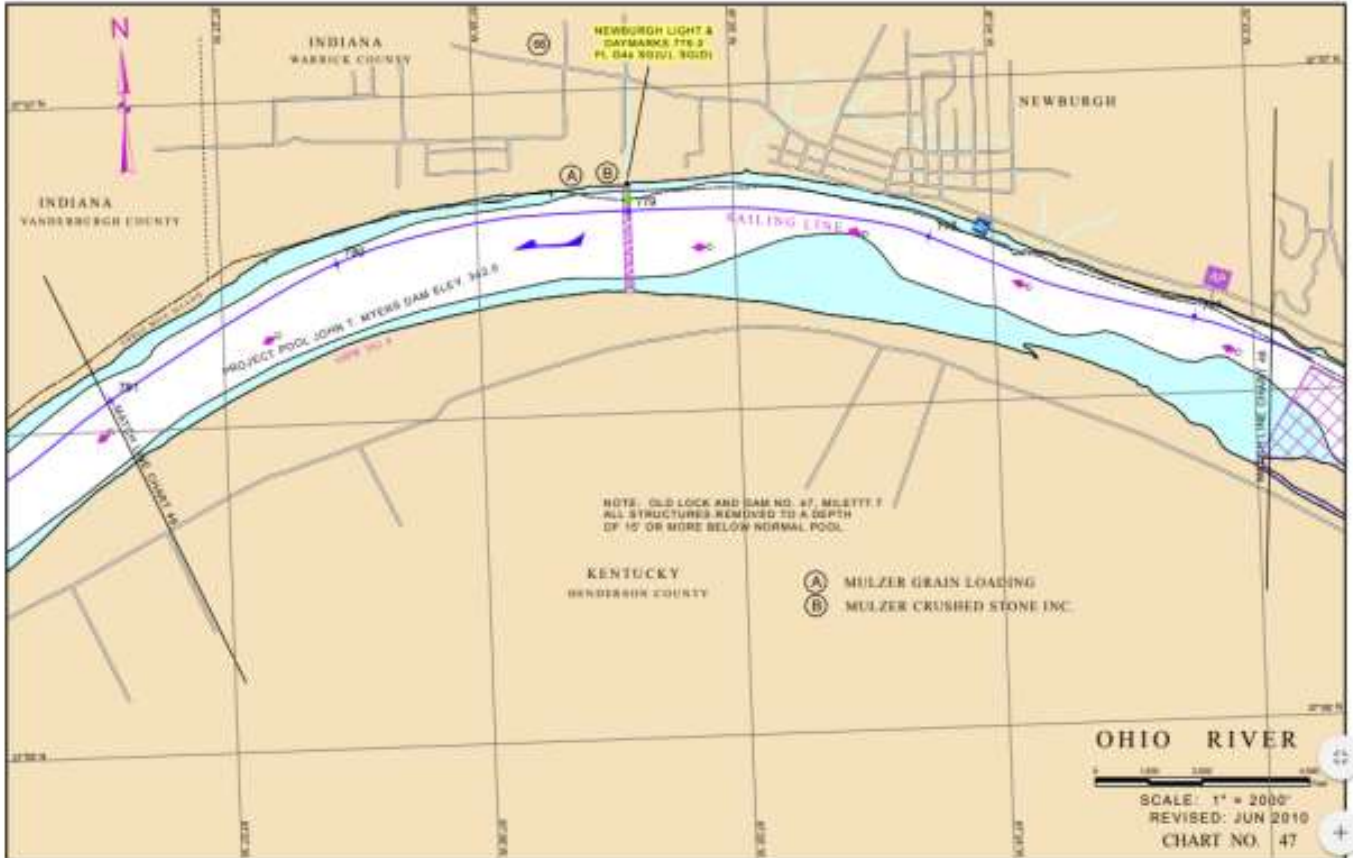


Figure 2: Ohio River Navigation Chart. Chart No. 47. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

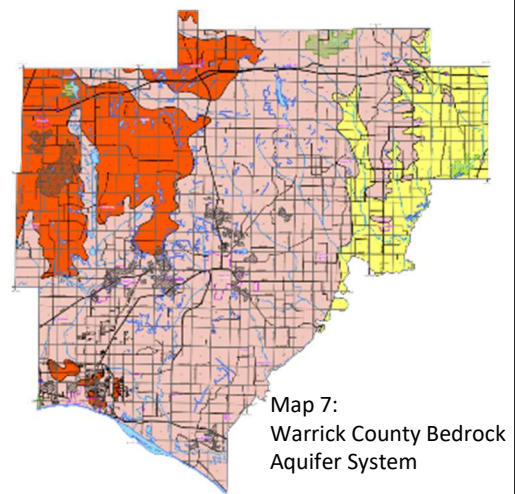
Having such close access to the water has allowed for multiple parks to be constructed along the river. The Town of Newburgh has two (2) of the three (3) phases of the Rivertown Trail that follow the Ohio River. The Rivertown Trail allows residents and visitors to walk, run and bike all while enjoying the views of our greatest resource. As you follow the Rivertown Trail you travel through Old Lock and Dam Park and Overlook Park. Old Lock and Dam Park houses the Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47, public restrooms, the boat ramp and the boat dock on the south side and the Lockmaster Cottages, Little Red Brick House and the Allen Family Amphitheater on the north side. Another park located along the river is Overlook Park. Overlook Park has spectacular views of the river and the working Newburgh Locks and Dam.

River bank erosion and possible bank failure is an issue that the Town has dealt with in the past and will have to continue monitoring in the future. Any area located along a water way will have to contend with erosion issues and the Town has conducted several meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers on the status of Newburgh's banks and continue to use best practice methods when maintaining the banks. A current issue with correcting certain problems along the bank is the presence of endangered mollusks in the area. According to U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, at the turn of the century the Ohio River was home to 127 of the 297 freshwater mussel species native to North America. Since that time, eleven (11) mussel species have become extinct and forty-six (46) are classified as endangered or species of concern. The loss and decline of certain species can be attributed to human changes in their environment and non-native species.

Besides the Ohio River, there are two other waterways in the Newburgh area. The first is the unnamed tributary that runs through the Great Ravine. The Great Ravine is a ravine that runs north and south just west of center of the Town. The Town has installed a historic bridge (Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264) that is part of the Rivertown Trail near the tributary's confluence with the Ohio River. This is a uniquely exciting feature added to the trail system that helps with tourism and promotion of the Town's historic charm. The second waterway in the Newburgh area is Cypress Creek and the remnants of Cypress Beach to the east of Town. Cypress Beach was a natural beach below rock cliffs located near the mouth of Cypress Creek, but was destroyed by the construction of the Newburgh New Locks and Dam at that location. However, Cypress Creek and its associated system of wetlands remain.

Warrick County is made up of three Bedrock Aquifer Systems (see *Map 7*), the Carbondale Group Aquifer System, McLeansboro Group Aquifer System and the Raccoon Creek Group Aquifer System. The Town of Newburgh has two of the three Aquifer Systems, the McLeansboro Group and the Carbondale Group. Newburgh, like Warrick County, is mostly made up of the Carbondale Group Aquifer System which in Warrick County the thickness ranges from 0 to about 350 feet. Bedrock deposits include mostly shale and sandstone with some limestone and commercially important coal. The McLeansboro area of Newburgh and Warrick County have a thickness from less than one foot to about 160 feet. This aquifer system deposits consist primarily of shale and sandstone with clay, limestone, coal and siltstone.



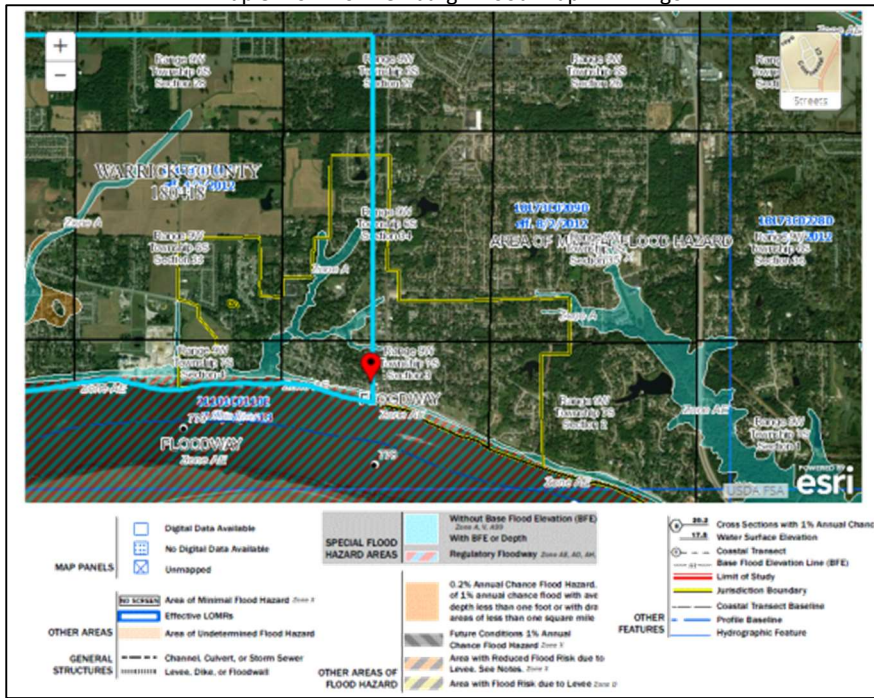
How Natural Landscape Features Affect Parks

The Ohio River and the climate are the two biggest factors that affect the Newburgh Park System. Due to the moderate climate, Newburgh Park System users can be outside for most of the year which means the parks are mostly used year-round. The draw of the Ohio River brings residents and visitors to our Rivertown Trail, Overlook Park and to Old Lock and Dam Park. Each park has views and/or access to the river.

River access does mean occasional flooding, but according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the majority of the Town of Newburgh is in an area of minimal flood hazard which can be attributed to the elevation of the town (see *Map 8*). The Town of Newburgh was originally built on a bluff which keeps it high and dry and out of the 100-year flood plain. Due to the elevation of the Town, a levee system is not needed.

Even with the Town in an area of minimal flood hazard, flooding can still occur. The most recent large flooding event occurred in February 2018 (see news articles in *Appendix K*) with the Ohio River cresting on February 28th at 50.12 feet. A state of emergency was declared by Newburgh Town Council on that same day.

Map 8: Town of Newburgh Flood Map. FEMA.gov.



The river flooded four sections of the Rivertown Trail. The section of the trail to first go under water was the section that runs across the unnamed tributary in the Great Ravine. Water Street Overlook, the Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264 (see *Figure 3*), and the Great Ravine were completely under water. The second section was the part of the trail that runs in front of the Old Lock and Dam building (see *Figure 4*), the third was a small section of the trail on Water Street (see *Figure 5*) across from the Town Hall building (23 West Jennings Street), and the fourth was a small area across from the Water Street condos (see *Figure 6*) located at 100 Water Street.



Figure 3
Historic Bridge No. 264
Under Water
2018



Figure 4
Trail in front of Old Lock and Dam
Control Building No. 47 Under Water
2018



Figure 5
Trail in front of Town
Hall Under Water
2018



Figure 6
Trail on Water Street Partially
Under Water
2018

Old Lock and Dam Park was also affected by the flood waters and required the road that runs through the park, French Island Trail, to be closed. The south side of Old Lock and Dam Park, including the basement of Old Lock and Dam building and the boat dock area were completely under water. This flood also saw the Newburgh Locks and Dam completely under water, which has only occurred one other time since their creation in 1975.

Flooding of this nature has many implications on the parks, the first being the safety of the public. As flood waters rise, people come to look at the water and take pictures. The Town of Newburgh and the Newburgh Parks Department has to take measures to keep the public safe and away from the flood waters. Road closures, trail closures and park closures are done to ensure their safety.

With the south side of Old Lock and Dam Park flooded, the Old Lock and Dam building was unable to be rented. Renters that had already secured the space had to be moved to Preservation Hall (another rental space owned by the Town), moved to a different date or refunded their money.

As flood waters receded, cleanup efforts were made around Town and in the parks along the river. Cleanup efforts were mostly done by the four (4) man crew on the Street Department but the Maintenance Department, Janitorial Staff, and even Administration Staff pitched in to help with the cleanup efforts. In total, 468.50 hours of manpower was used to clean up after the 2018 flood, with nine (9) of those hours being overtime hours. The only major damage done was a small section of the trail on Water Street was washed out underneath and that was repaired by a third-party contractor. The facilities within Old Lock and Dam Park, the other sections of the trail and the historic bridge did not suffer any permanent damage.

Flood mitigation on the south side of Old Lock and Dam Park would be difficult given the existing slope of the esplanade and boat ramp, but flood barriers and/or drainage solutions could be used on south side street/trail portion and the north side of the park. The two small areas of the Rivertown Trail that flood during high water events, should be examined to see if their slope could be increased, drainage added and or the banks stabilized. Water Street Overlook and the Historic Bridge No. 264 will continue to flood due to natural flow of the Great Ravine, making the main focus of that area continued maintenance and stabilization.

Man-made, Historical, and Cultural Landscape Features

Man-made Features

Local Roads

The planning area is served by a variety of state and local roadways. State Road 66 crosses through Ohio Township, to the north of Newburgh. This collector highway provides connectivity to the City of Evansville to the west and the City of Rockport to the east. State Roads 261 and 61 both provide connections from the planning area to Boonville, the Warrick County Seat. State Road 662 parallels the Ohio River and is part of the Ohio River Scenic Byway (see *Figure 7*). The route begins at the intersection of I-69 west of the Town Limits and continues east to Ellerbusch Road, where it becomes a local roadway and continues in an eastward direction until it intersects with SR 66. Through the Town limits, the roadway is identified as Jennings Street and French Island Trail. The Town of Newburgh assumed ownership and maintenance responsibility from INDOT of what is now Jennings Street and French Island Trail. This acquisition was prompted by the Town's desire to control heavy truck traffic through the historic district. Significant other local roadways include Water Street, State Street, West Main Street, Jefferson Street, and Bell Road.



Sidewalks

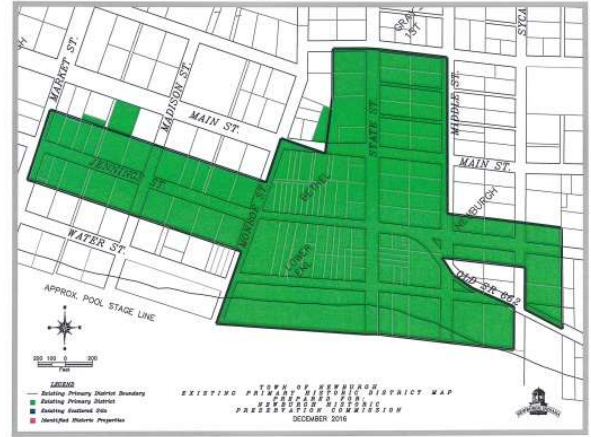
The Town of Newburgh has 13.5 miles of sidewalks. The Town maintains a sidewalk inventory and has a Sidewalk Committee that meets to discuss existing and new sidewalks within Town limits. Sidewalks within Town limits are repaired and replaced based on condition and new sidewalks are added as subdivisions and road work is completed. As Warrick County continues to grow, connecting Town parks and Town residents to County sidewalks and/or bike lanes is a priority for the Parks Department. Not only will additional sidewalks allow county park users more access to Town parks, but it will allow Town residents access to public facilities and county parks. Increased sidewalks and bike lanes will also allow park users to commute via bike or foot, cutting down on vehicle usage and freeing up parking spaces. Parks Board will continue to work with MPO, INDOT, Warrick Trails and Warrick County on the need for park accessibility outside of Town limits.

Historic Downtown District

Newburgh has retained much of its compact, historic downtown along the Ohio River. The downtown area's Core Historic Preservation District (see *Map 9*) is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and contains the original plats of Sprinklesburgh and Newburgh. The Old Cumberland Church, which served as Town Hall until 2006, is also on the National Register for Historic Places and has been renamed Preservation Hall. Preservation Hall recently went through a two-phase renovation that included historic repairs, water infiltration protection and renovation of the downstairs space. The historic fabric of the community coupled

with the scenic vista of the Ohio River has created a tourism magnet for area downtown merchants and area businesses.

Since the Historic Downtown District is a developed commercial area, the area serves as a recreational destination in and of itself. The Rivertown Trail connects it to other areas along the Ohio River and brings thousands of walkers and tourists. The nature of the commerce in the Historic Downtown District is such that these merchants, which have joined up to create a Merchants Collective, have a fiscal interest in recreational offerings and facilities that are connected to the downtown area. This relationship is reinforced by numerous cultural events utilizing the downtown and nearby park resources.



Map 9: Downtown Newburgh Historic Core District

Brownfields

A brownfield is a property in which the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Town of Newburgh does not have any brownfields located within Town limits.

Neglected and/or Abandoned Properties

The Town, in the past has had neglected and/or abandoned properties that have seen the homes razed through blight programs. Those properties have remained in the original property owner's name. The Town of Newburgh has not pursued these properties as potential park sites, and at this time does not plan on pursuing them for the Newburgh Park System.

Locks and Dams

The US Department of Interior surplused the old Lock and Dam No. 47 site to the Town of Newburgh in 1979. All the original structures at the site are intact and have since been renovated by the Town. They include two lockmaster homes, the original control building as well as other ancillary buildings used in the lock and dam operation. These structures, along with the land and additional structures around them, form the Old Lock and Dam Park.



Figure 8: Newburgh Locks and Dam.
Lrl.usace.army.mil

The new Newburgh Locks and Dam (see *Figure 8*) is a significant landmark in greater Newburgh, located upstream from the Town at mile 776.1 below Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This river navigation tool controls the level of the Ohio River; it is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and is truly an engineering marvel. The Navigation locks are located on the right descending bank on the Indiana side of the river. The upper pool maintained above the dam extends upstream for a distance of 55.4 miles. In addition to defining the character of the New Locks and Dam Park, the view of the Newburgh Locks and Dam is an important feature of Overlook Park and sections of the Rivertown Trail. The new Locks and Dam is also a popular fishing location, while the park features a picnic shelter, green space and a playground.

Historical Features

Johnson's Raid on Newburgh

Newburgh was the first town north of the Mason-Dixon Line to be captured by the confederate forces during the Civil War. On 18 July 1862, a brash young Kentuckian with aspirations to military advancement, Adam Rankin "Stovepipe" Johnson, used a rowboat and a small flatboat ferry to lead a group of approximately thirty men across the Ohio River from Kentucky to Newburgh, Indiana. Landing on the waterfront, unoccupied at lunch time, Johnson and his men seized a small store of weapons from a riverside warehouse and bluffed a group of some eighty Union soldiers convalescing in a nearby hotel into surrendering their weapons. Johnson's men then looted a few homes and stores, paroled their prisoners, and returned safely across the river with their booty. The entire action lasted only a few hours and no shots were ever fired since Newburgh's defenders were tricked into thinking the town was surrounded by cannons. In reality, the "cannons" were an assemblage of a stove pipe, a charred log, and wagon wheels, giving Commander Johnson the nickname "Stovepipe Johnson". There is a plaque along the Rivertown Trail that marks the site and describes the raid (see *Figure 9*). Each year, to remember Newburgh's involvement in the Civil War and to honor those from Newburgh who served, the Newburgh Museum hosts Newburgh Remembers events.



Figure 9: Newburgh Captured Historical Marker. Wikipedia.com

Historic Properties

The Town of Newburgh currently has 179 residential and commercial properties that have a historical rating with the state. There are about 72 residential homes, commercial properties, municipal buildings, cemeteries and other properties in Town that have green historic markers detailing the history of those properties. The Woman's Club of Newburgh keeps a record of all green historic markers and a brochure and self-guided walking tour of some of those properties can be found at Historic Newburgh, Inc. (715 State Road 662 W, Newburgh, IN 47630) or on their website at historicnewburgh.org.

Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264

During Phase II of the Rivertown Trail expansion, the rehabilitated Warrick County Historic Bridge No. 264 (see *Figure 10 on page 26*) was added to allow the trail to cross the "Great Ravine". Constructed in 1920, the bridge originally was located on Warner Road in Warrick County to allow traffic to cross over Cypress Creek (see *Figure 11 on page 26*). The bridge is 98 feet by 13.4 feet and is constructed of metal 6 panel bolt-connected polygonal Warren pony trusses. The bridge's extreme makeover included reassembling, sandblasting, painting and planking, all following strict historical restoration standards.



Figure 10:
Warrick County Historic
Bridge No. 264
Newburgh Museum Photo



Figure 11:
Warrick County Historic
Bridge No. 264.
Previous Location

Cultural Events

Newburgh capitalizes on its historic character and its location on the Ohio River to attract large crowds to several popular events. These events are an important part of the recreational offerings of Newburgh and many of them rely on park resources. The majority of the events hosted throughout Town are organized by local groups that have a close relationship with the Town of Newburgh. The Town of Newburgh and these local groups work closely together to continue the annual events all while thinking up new programs, events or activities to bring to the Town. Those groups include:

Downtown Newburgh Business Collective

The Downtown Newburgh Business Collective, also known as The Collective, strives to bring together people, partnerships, and possibilities for a strong and thriving business district! The Collective's aim is to improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Downtown Newburgh. The Collective works with the Town of Newburgh each year to bring events to Downtown Newburgh and will see many of the attendees walking and eating along the trail, taking in the views of the Ohio River.

Historic Newburgh, Inc.

Historic Newburgh, Inc. (HNI) designs, organizes, promotes and helps strengthen our economic district through their daily work and special events. Each year they host at least five (5) events that bring residents and tourists to our area. HNI utilizes the Newburgh Parks System facilities and works closely with the Town of Newburgh on events, grants, donations, sponsorships and historic preservation of our historical rated properties and districts.

Newburgh Arts Commission

The Newburgh Arts Commission's goal is to promote the arts and the facilities that give the arts a venue. The Newburgh Arts Commission is the primary user of the Allen Family Amphitheater, located in Old Lock and Dam Park, and brings yearly concerts to the venue.

Newburgh Community Theater, LTD.

The Newburgh Community Theater performs on average 2 shows a year at locations throughout Newburgh. The shows bring in residents and visitors to the area providing an economic boost for our shops and restaurants.

Newburgh Museum

Newburgh Museum is located at 503 State Street and is run by a group of docents that assist with telling the history of the Town of Newburgh. The mission of the Newburgh Museum is to preserve, exhibit and educate all visitors about the history and culture of Newburgh and the surrounding area's unique river town heritage. Along with the permanent displays about the Town's founding, the main exhibit at the museum is changed every few months. In addition to the museum, the Museum Board and volunteers works closely with the Town to ensure historical elements of our parks are being preserved and promoted.

Newburgh Neighbor Grant Program

The Newburgh Neighbor Grant Program is a matching grant program that assists property owners in restoring and rehabilitating their owner-occupied homes with the Newburgh Historic District. The grant program relies on donations to fund their program and hosts a yearly Music Festival that puts local artists along the Rivertown Trail for attendees to stroll and take in the music. In addition to the Music Festival, the Newburgh Neighbor Grant Program is looking to add additional yearly events to bring in donations.

Newburgh Park Pals, Inc.

Park Pals, Inc. is a non-profit organization, established in August of 2018, to enhance the public's enjoyment of the Newburgh Park System along with assisting the Town and Newburgh Parks Board in preserving, protecting and growing the parks. Park Pals is made up of friends and neighbors in Newburgh that are passionate about maintaining and improving the Town of Newburgh's parks which serve all Newburgh and the surrounding areas through fundraising and awareness. Each year they host events to increase utilization within the Newburgh Park System. Park Pals nine Board of Directors, members, and a Park Board member meet once a month to discuss fundraising opportunities, grants, park projects and events.

Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association

The Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association, Inc. (SWIMGA), a nonprofit organization formed to educate the community about proper horticultural practices, in cooperation with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and in conjunction with Purdue University Master Gardener Program, shall: Educate members and the general public on horticultural techniques; demonstrate proper gardening, tree care, lawn care, and pest control techniques as recommended by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service; provide service to the community through improving the environment, helping others to build and maintain gardens and empowering the community to a healthy lifestyle through gardening. SWIMGA has two flower bed locations within Town, Lou Dennis Community Park and a section of the Rivertown Trail. The flower bed location at Lou Dennis Community Park has a map of plantings and information about those plantings available for the public to view.

Southern Indiana Region British Car Club

Since 1995, Southern Indiana Region British Car Club (SIR BRIT) has been around to promote appreciation of British cars and provide technical support to our members. Each year, SIR BRIT makes a charity donation to another non-profit organization. SIR BRIT holds an annual car show at Old Lock and Dam Park and after each event donates a portion of their proceeds to the upkeep and maintenance of the park.

Warrick County Indiana Pride

Warrick Pride seeks to bring together members of the LGBTQ+ Community to celebrate who they are, what they can accomplish, and the spirit of Pride in Warrick County in southern Indiana.

They support the laws of antidiscrimination in housing, employment, healthcare, retirement, and basic human rights. Warrick Pride seeks to empower the LGBTQ+ Community as an advocate for basic human rights, cultural diversity, and gender identity concerns. They desire to work within our community to further LGBTQ+ diversity, cultural progress, and visibility and welcome allies who support these goals.

They seek to educate their neighbors to better understand our culture and encourage kindness. They will strive to increase visibility in our community and with area businesses. Warrick County Indiana Pride holds a yearly festival, for which Old Lock and Dam Park has been used.

Warrick Trails

Warrick Trails is a donor-supported trail system that connects neighborhoods, schools, parks and retail establishments throughout Warrick County, offering a unique and desirable lifestyle amenity to both residents and businesses alike. By providing safe walking and cycling routes to residents seeking to engage in healthy activities, Warrick Trails promotes and encourages better health and wellness, and allows residents to get outdoors and enjoy nature and an active lifestyle. For businesses, Warrick Trails stimulates local economy by connecting residents to their places of business, and attracts quality employees by making Warrick County a more desirable place to work and live. The Town of Newburgh and Newburgh Parks and Recreation share a close relationship with Warrick Trails. Warrick Trails donated

money towards Phase III of the Rivertown Trail, raised funds for the renovation of the Aurand Trailhead and attends Parks Board meetings, as needed, to give updates on the overall trail system and ideas for Newburgh.

Woman's Club of Newburgh

The Woman's Club of Newburgh is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of its members. The Club's purpose of education and charity is accomplished through fostering interest among the members in social, economic, cultural and civic affairs of the community. The Woman's Club of Newburgh hosts several events throughout the year and has a yearly grant application process. The Town of Newburgh Parks Board has applied for this grant in years past, most recently in 2017, for improvements to the former Newburgh Community Pool.

The Town of Newburgh, Boards/Committees and the groups listed above host the following events each year:

- **Rivertown Trail 5K**

The Rivertown Trail 5K is an annual event that takes place every May and raises money for continued Rivertown Trail upkeep and maintenance. The race utilizes the Rivertown Trail, Overlook Park and the Old Lock and Dam Park. The event is run by the Rivertown Trail 5K Committee and funded by sponsors and the Town. Due to COVID-19, the race has been cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The Committee and the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board are looking to bring back this race in 2023.

- **Miscellaneous Races**

Besides the Rivertown Trail 5K several other races take place on the Rivertown Trail each year. Each race is different, with race miles spanning from one (1) to a little over three (3). Each race must be permitted by the Town of Newburgh and their dates are set on the calendar to ensure multiple races do not occur on one given day.

- **Wine, Art & Jazz Festival**

The Historic Newburgh Inc. Wine Art & Jazz Festival is a two-day event that takes place in mid-May. The event includes wine and beer tastings, an art festival, food and entertainment. There is a charge to attend the event which takes place in the Old Lock and Dam Park and is organized by Historic Newburgh, Inc. Due to COVID-19, this event has been cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Historic Newburgh, Inc. is working on ways to bring this event back safely in the upcoming years.

- **Farmers Market**

The Farmer's Market, in the past, was held on the green space located to the west of the Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 in Old Lock and Dam Park. The Farmers Market relocated to a local merchants parking lot on Water Street, across from the Rivertown Trail. Residents and visitors can browse a variety of vendors that sell produce, meats, handmade items, dog treats, flowers, herbs and jewelry. The Farmer's Market is organized by Historic Newburgh, Inc. and runs from the beginning of June to the end of August.

- **Community Wide Yard Sale**

The Town of Newburgh hosts a community wide yard sale each year, usually in June, that allows residents of the Town and surrounding areas to register their yard sale with the Town. A map and description of each yard sale is made up and posted on social media outlets and is available at Town Hall. During the Community Wide Yard Sales, Historic Newburgh Inc. and merchants around Town

take advantage of people coming and going through the Town and host sidewalk sales and store events.

- **Ohio River Sweep**

The date (usually mid-June) for the Ohio River Sweep is chosen each year by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). The event takes place in cities and towns along the whole length of the Ohio River. The Town of Newburgh is responsible for signing up volunteers within the community, planning the community event, collecting trash, disposing of the trash and reporting back to ORSANCO. ORSANCO supplies all trash bags, gloves and t-shirts for the event. Due to COVID-19 this event was cancelled in 2020 but in 2021 and 2022 the event was brought back in the form of Mini-Sweeps. The Town of Newburgh hosts one Mini-Sweep a month from May through October. This allows the Town to have the events at different times of day and to keep the group sizes small.

- **Fireworks & Evening in the Park**

Hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc. the Fireworks & Evening in the Park used to be Newburgh's Fourth of July celebration but was moved to Labor Day due to the launch area (Old Lock and Dam Park Boat Ramp) usually being under water in July. The fireworks take place in Old Lock and Dam Park and the event is free with VIP buttons for purchase for better fireworks viewing. French Island Trail is blocked off and food vendors, bands and games are set up. The event can swell to over 10,000 people and has been selected as one of the best places to celebrate Fourth of July by Best Things Indiana in 2017. Due to COVID-19, the fireworks were cancelled in 2020. In 2021, the fireworks were brought back but were moved from Old Lock and Dam Park to Newburgh Junior Baseball League Mulzer Fields, just west of Newburgh Town limits, due to flooding of the launch area. In 2022, Historic Newburgh, Inc. announced that they would not be holding the annual fireworks due to volunteer shortage, the ongoing issues with the river levels and funding. Historic Newburgh Inc. will reevaluate the fireworks event, moving forward.

- **Newburgh Remembers**

Newburgh Remembers is a civil war reenactment of the Newburgh Raid. The event is organized by the Newburgh Museum and includes a cotillion ball, sutler village, Civil War skirmish, trial reenactment, lady's afternoon tea, cannon fire and a historic homes tour. Newburgh Remembers primarily takes place in Old Lock and Dam Park but events are also hosted in Preservation Hall and in the gym of St. John the Baptist Catholic School or Rolling Hills Country Club. Due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled in 2020 and scaled back in 2021 and 2022, but the Museum is looking for ways to continue with honoring and remembering the Newburgh Raid in the upcoming years.

- **Ladies Tea**

With the Newburgh Remembers events being put on hold, the Newburgh Museum wanted to continue with Ladies Tea and has hosted the event each year since 2020 but adding different eras for the tea theme each year. In 2023 the theme for the Ladies Tea is Suffrage and Women's Right to Vote.

- **The Burgh**

The Burgh is an annual community-building event that promotes police and fire community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The event includes local vendors, local businesses, children's games, emergency vehicle tours, safety demonstrations, food and activities. The event takes place every year in September in the Old Lock and Dam Park and is hosted by the Newburgh Police Department and the Newburgh Volunteer Fire Department.

- **Sir Brit Car Show**
The Sir Brit Car Show is a two-day event hosted by the Southern Indiana Region British Car Club at the end of September each year at the Old Lock and Dam Park.
- **Ghost Walks**
The Ghost Walks through Historic Downtown Newburgh are organized by Historic Newburgh Inc. and take place in mid-October. This three-day event guides groups through the streets of Newburgh stopping at certain locations along the path to tell of Newburgh's haunted past.
- **Halloween Illuminations**
Hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc., Halloween Illuminations is a nightly self-guided tour of the woods along the Historic Red Bridge on the Rivertown Trail. Family friendly ghosts, carved pumpkins and lights illuminate the trail.
- **Theater Shows**
The Newburgh Community Theater hosts on average two (2) shows each year with the dates changing year to year. Shows are performed at locations throughout Newburgh.
- **Newburgh Celebrates Christmas**
Newburgh Celebrates Christmas is a two-day event organized by Historic Newburgh Inc. on the first weekend of December. Characters and Musicians stroll the streets dressed in Charles Dickens costumes, roast chestnuts on an open fire and show the way to games and activities around Town. There is also a Historic home tour and a Festival of Trees of event in Preservation Hall.
- **Newburgh Winterlights**
Hosted by Historic Newburgh, Inc., Newburgh Winterlights is a nightly self-guided tour of lights along the Rivertown Trail from the Aurand Trailhead, across the Historic Red Bridge, through the woods and out onto the Water Street Overlook. Visitors experience a magical display of lights, hot chocolate, family activities and food.
- **Downtown Newburgh Nights**
Downtown Newburgh Nights is a seasonal monthly event hosted by the Downtown Newburgh Merchant Collective and Historic Newburgh Inc. This event sees downtown businesses staying open late, food trucks, music, family activities and games. A small section of State Street is closed off to allow for attendees to sit, eat and listen to music.
- **Chocolate Walk**
Hosted by Historic Newburgh Inc. the Newburgh Chocolate Walk is an annual event that gives all proceeds to the Newburgh Area Food Pantry. For ten dollars (\$10) participants are given a bag and participating merchants hand out candy at their shops. During the event merchants have sales, activities and giveaways.
- **Pride Festival**
Warrick County Indiana Pride hosted their first festival in 2022 and will continue to host the festival in Old Lock and Dam Park. The festival featured vendors, food trucks, non-profit informational booths, music, and shows.
- **Newburgh Music Festival**

The Newburgh Music Festival is hosted by the Newburgh Neighbor Grant Program and is an annual event that hosts games, activities, karaoke and a Porch Fest along Water Street. Water Street is closed during the event and event participants can walk the whole width of Water Street (not just the trail portion) listening to local musicians on porches up and down the street. The Porch Fest ends around 7PM and the party finishes up at Town Hall with a band playing until 10PM

Social and Economic Factors

Population Statistics

According to the 2020 United States Census; Newburgh, Indiana is a town of 3,344 residents that reside in 1,623 households, for an average household size of 2.1; which is comparable to neighboring Chandler city (2.3), Boonville city (2.3), Evansville city (2) and the state (2.3). Newburgh saw a slight decrease in population from 2010 to 2016 of 0.75% but population in Newburgh grew by 1.3% between 2016 and 2020. Neighboring cities, Boonville and Chandler, each had a substantially larger increase in population from 2016 to 2020 (due to annexation) with Boonville city increasing by 8.5% and Chandler increasing by 9.2%. Warrick County also saw an increase in population between 2016 and 2020, growing by 3.1%.

The population in Newburgh is made up of 2,655 adults, 554 of whom are seniors, and 689 residents 17 years or younger. Warrick County's population is 64,570 in which 47,330 residents are adults, 10,594 of whom are seniors, and 17,240 that are 17 years or younger. The Town of Newburgh's adult population is 79.40% of its total population compared to Warrick County's adult population of 72.29%.

With new subdivisions being built all throughout Warrick County, Indiana Business Review 2010-2050 population projections, show Warrick County growing more than forty percent (40%) while Vanderburgh and Gibson Counties are projected to grow 0-9.9%, Spencer and Pike Counties are projected to have a 0.01% to 9.9% decline, and Posey County is projected to have a 10% loss if not more.

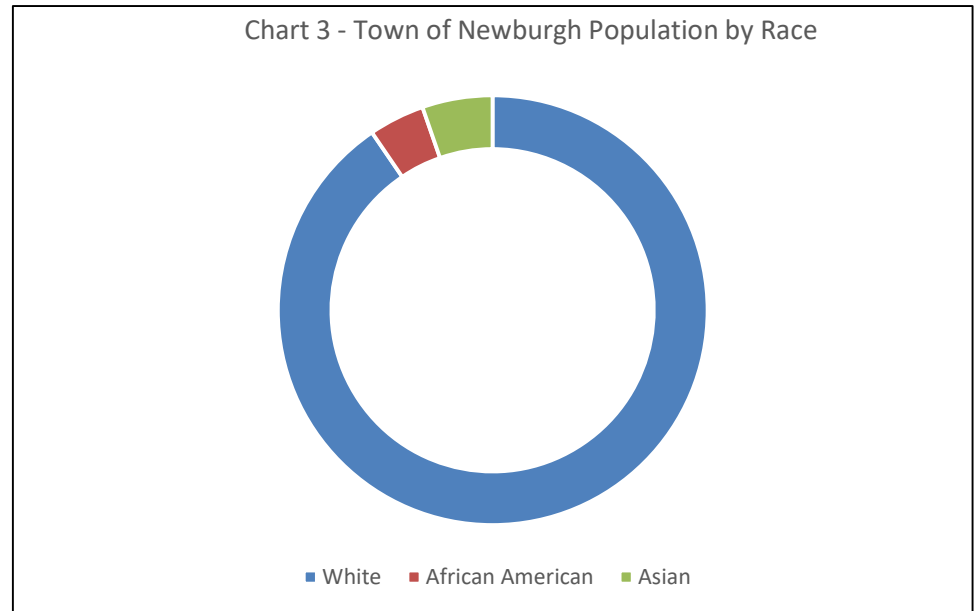
The Town of Newburgh is mostly an established community with only a few areas left for development. The Town approved two (2) subdivisions within Town limits in 2018/2019, adding about eighty-four (84) lots. After those two subdivisions are built the Town will only have one (1) existing area left for development. World Population review shows Newburgh growing no more than 0.06% over the next seven years. Annexation is a way to increase the Town's tax base and population but recent changes in annexation laws and required procedures makes annexation difficult. Voluntary annexations, supported by more than fifty percent (50%) of those in the annexed, can be pursued as these opportunities present themselves.

Implications and recommendations for parks and recreation:

- With an increase growth within the planning area and surrounding Warrick County, the Town of Newburgh Parks System will experience a greater demand for park services.
- Greater demand for park services and increased use of current park facilities means increased maintenance, noise and litter. Overcrowding of parks can lead to a decreased enjoyment of the parks.
- Creating an in-town and out of town rate for current events, rentals and admissions will help increase revenue which will help with overall maintenance of the Newburgh Park System.
- Working with local organizations, cities and counties; park projects, outside of Town limits, can be supported that could be utilized by both Town and out-of-town residents.

Race

Newburgh's residents, when broken down by race (see *Chart #3*), form a homogenous group that is representative of Warrick County, but less diverse than Indiana as a whole. In Newburgh, 90.51% of residents are White, 5.30% Asian, 4.19% African American, 0% Hispanic or Latino (of any race), 0.0% American Indian and Alaska Native, no Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0% Other Race, and 0% Two or more races. The racial diversity of Newburgh continues to keep pace with the county (90.4% white) and lags significantly behind the state as a whole (77.3% white). As new subdivisions are built and residents move into Newburgh, diversity within the Town is expected to increase.



Age

Newburgh's median age continues to mature increasing from age 33.33 in 1990 to 39.10 in the year 2000, jumping to 42.1 ten-years later in 2010, and increasing to 48.9 in 2020. Newburgh's median age of 48.9 is older than the median age of Evansville (37.7), Boonville (40.2), Chandler (36), the state (38.2) and Warrick County (41.5). Newburgh's median age increased between 2000 and 2010 as the proportion of Newburgh residents aged 45 and over increased from 40.4% to 46.2%. That increase continued from 2010 to 2016 with the Newburgh residents aged 45 and over increasing to 50% of the population. From 2016 to 2020 the Newburgh residents aged 45 and over increased to over half of the population at 55.92%. As the median age continues to go up, the increase of residents aged 45 and older will continue to be the majority within Newburgh.

This gain in the proportion of the middle-aged and seniors appears to have come at the cost of younger adults aged 25-44, whose proportion dropped to 22.8% in 2016 and to 20.2% in 2020. Seniors over 65 increased from 14.4% to 18.2% in 2016 and decreased slightly in 2020 to 16.6%. The percentage of residents under the age of 5 in 2016 was 4.2% which was a decrease from the 2010 census of 6.2%. The percentage of residents under the age of 5 increased slightly in 2020 to 4.5% but our residents 0 to 14 make up only 11.5% of Newburgh's population.

These statistics can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the maturation of the "Baby Boom" generation and medical advances that have increased the average life span. The "small town atmosphere" that Newburgh provides appeals to residents who are less likely to move, including those who have lived in Newburgh for generations. With a lack of growth and residents staying in Newburgh, the median age will continue to increase within Newburgh over

the next twenty years. These factors influence the availability of new housing for young residents. The result is increased housing demand in the surrounding Ohio Township that fills the housing gap for younger families.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- The adult population has unique exercise and recreational needs that vary considerably from the younger population needs. Safe walking and sitting areas are important, in conjunction with areas that provide interesting activities to observe. The Rivertown Trail will help meet these needs.
- Cultural programming, such as festivals, performances and regular organized activities, provide venues for interaction and stimulation.
- Demand for senior and adult programming will increase as the population continues to age.
- The pool of volunteers for the parks system could increase due to retirees in the area. Working with Newburgh Park Pals, Newburgh Senior Center and other surrounding senior organizations could help collect volunteers and get a better understanding of their needs for the Newburgh Park System.
- Increase in the population of younger residents in surrounding Warrick County, along with children/grandchildren of our adult/senior population, suggests increased demands for facilities and programs in Newburgh to serve the younger population.

Sex

Newburgh’s population is 52.90% male while 47.10% are female. Newburgh’s median male age of 45.6 is higher than Boonville (39.8), Chandler (34.7), the state (36.5) and Warrick County’s (40.9). The median age for females in Newburgh is older than the male residents at 52.4 and is significantly higher than the female median age of Warrick County (42.1), Boonville (40.4), the state (39.1) and Chandler (37.3); but is keeping in trend with females being older than the males within each area.

Disability

Newburgh’s disability rate for 2016 could not be found, but according to the 2010 census; Newburgh’s disability rate was 15.2% which was higher than the now 14.3% disability rate. Newburgh’s disability rate is slightly higher than the state (13.5%), Chandler city (14.2%), and Warrick County (12.5%) but is less than Boonville city (16.3%).

Implications for parks and recreation:

- With a slightly higher disability rate, increased awareness is needed to ensure all parks, events, programs and activities are accessible to all.

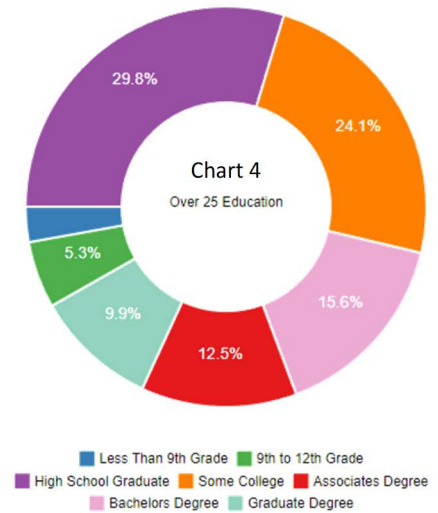
Education and Employment

The Town of Newburgh has 2,323 Newburgh residents aged 25 years or older; 2,137 of them have graduated high school with 291 receiving an associate’s degree, 363 receiving a bachelor’s degree and 229 receiving a graduate degree (see *Chart #4*). According to worldpopulationreview.com, the highest rate of high school graduation within Newburgh is among the 25 years and older African American and Asian population with a 100% high school graduation rate.

Many Newburgh residents (71.9%) work for a private for-profit company, 10.7% work for non-profit companies, 10% work for local, state or federal and the other 7.4% are self-employed. The average travel time for Newburgh workers is 18 minutes, as many Newburgh residents work in Evansville, with 79.7% of residents driving to work

alone, 11.4% carpool, and 4.8% walk. The top ten (10) major employers, according to the Economic Development Coalition of Southwestern Indiana, in the area include:

- Deaconess Health System (6,500 employees)
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (5,400 employees)
- Ascension St. Vincent Health System (3,529 employees)
- Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (3,452 employees)
- Berry Global (2,699 employees)
- University of Southern Indiana (2,604 employees)
- Koch Enterprises, Inc. (1,800 employees)
- SKANSKA (1,650 employees)
- Alcoa Warrick Operations (1,575 employees)
- T.J. Maxx (1,200 employees)



All employers listed are located outside of the Town and outside of the Planning Area.

Implications for parks and recreation:

- The increased working population suggests increased need for recreation and leisure opportunities during off work hours and the weekends.
- The Rivertown Trail and other pedestrian improvements provide more opportunities for residents to exercise before or after commuting to/from work.

Poverty, Median Household Income and Household Type

Newburgh’s poverty rate is unchanged since 2016, staying steady at 10%. Newburgh’s poverty rate is less than neighboring Boonville’s poverty rate of 12.1%, Chandler’s rate of 14.1%, Evansville’s rate of 19.5% and Indiana’s rate of 11.9%. The unemployment rate for Newburgh is 3.7% which is the same for Boonville, Chandler and Warrick County and slightly higher than the state (2.20%). The median household income for Newburgh is \$56,611 versus Chandler’s median household income of \$53,056, Boonville’s of \$43,060 and Evansville’s of \$42,600. Warrick County has a median household income rate of \$73,482 and a poverty rate of 6.9%. Rate of home ownership in Newburgh is 84.8% which is higher than the state (69.9%).

Implications for parks and recreation:

- These figures indicate that reasonable fees for park rentals, programs and services are not likely to pose concern among the park user group.

Inventory of Existing Parks

The Newburgh Park System has an inventory of seven (7) parks, ranging from 0.9 acres to 19.43 acres, with a total of 64.74 acres. The Newburgh parks range in age from 1944, when 11 of the 16 lots in Kiwanis Community Playground was obtained, to 2019 when 1.84 acres was added to the Overlook Park lease. Due to limited funds and staffing, features of the parks are in need of updating, replacement or renovation.

The Parks within the Planning Area will be categorized using the NRPA Classification System. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Classification System for park and recreation facilities categorizes park facilities according to size and the population that is served by the facility. As noted in the 2021-2025 Indiana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Indiana SCORP), the basic NRPA classifications include:

- **Mini-Park:** Has a service area with less than a quarter-mile radius, and approximately a quarter-to-half acre per 1,000 people.
- **Neighborhood Park:** Has a service area between a quarter-mile and half-mile radius, with population up to 5,000. Has 15-plus acres, equaling 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Community Park:** Has a service area with a 1-mile to 2-mile radius (would normally include several neighborhoods), and is 25-plus acres, which equals 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Regional/Metropolitan Park:** Has a service area of one hour's driving time (would normally include several communities), and is 200-plus acres, which equals 5.0 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Regional Park Preserve:** Has a service area of one hour's driving time (would normally include several communities), and is 1,000-plus acres. A total of 80% of this land would be reserved for natural resource management and conservation, and 20% for recreational development. The number of acres per 1,000 people for a regional park preserve would vary widely depending on the property available.
- **Linear Park, Special-Use Area, or Conservancy Area:** No applicable guidelines were set in the document.

The following is a list of all parks located within the Planning Area:

Mini-Parks

There is one accessible Mini-Park within the defined planning area, which is owned by the Town of Newburgh but not operated by the Newburgh Parks Department and cannot be tailored by the Parks Board.

Kiwanis Community Playground (2.25 acres) – 524 Filmore Street



Figure 12 – Kiwanis Community Playground

The Kiwanis Community Playground has been owned by the Town of Newburgh since 1944 when eleven (11) of the sixteen (16) lots, that make up the park, were obtained. In 1945, three (3) additional lots were obtained and in 1957 the remaining two (2) lots were added to the park. Restrictions on all of the warranty deeds state that the Town of Newburgh can never permit the real estate to be used for any purpose except as a public playground or as a site for a Community Building and must never have another name except for Kiwanis Community Playground. Before the current usage of the park, the park served as baseball fields for the community. In 2006 with the development of larger fields in the county, Newburgh Kiwanis Club requested the removal of the fields and buildings and built the Kiwanis Community Building and a track for Newburgh Elementary School.

Kiwanis Community Playground is located within the Town limits, and is open to the public but is not operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. The Park is leased from the Town of Newburgh jointly by Newburgh Kiwanis Club and the Warrick County School Corporation. There are sixteen (16) lots that make up the 2.25 acres with Kiwanis leasing three (3), Warrick County School Corporation leasing ten (10) and jointly sharing three (3) lots that make up the gravel parking lot. On the 2.25 acres there is a shelter with restrooms, a track on site that is used by Newburgh Elementary School, the Kiwanis Community Building and a gravel parking lot. The Park is well sized for a mini-park and it is positioned ideally within a residential neighborhood. See Figure 12.

Neighborhood Parks

There is one accessible Neighborhood Park within the defined planning area, which is owned by the United States Government but operated by the Town of Newburgh.

Overlook Park (19.43 acres) – 6877 Highway 66

Formally known as, Indian Hill Overlook Park, this is a historic site that was once utilized by Indigenous peoples of America and later was the site of the estate of a prominent local family, the Schmidt's. Dating back to at least 1897, the hill above Cypress Beach was referred to as "Indian Hill" and was destination area for Newburgh residents to picnic, fish, hunt and camp. Many local companies used Indian Hill as a yearly retreat for their employees. In 1923, Evansville attorney Paul H. Schmidt and his wife, Samuella, started construction on their summer Spanish-style six (6) room home, taking full advantage of the striking views of the Ohio



Figure 13 – Schmidt Home.

River. The home was completed in 1924 and for the next ten (10) years the Schmidt's hosted a wide variety of events and fundraisers at Indian Hill Lodge. In February of 1933, the Indian Hill Lodge burned down along with the Schmidt's priceless heirlooms, signed books, and artwork. The Schmidt's were determined to rebuild a fireproof home on site. A two-story, pueblo-style, ten (10) room home with a basement (see Figure 13) was designed and built with reinforced concrete, brick, tile and stucco. The home was completed in November 1933 with a full article in the Evansville Press on November 19, 1933. The Schmidt's erected pillars marking the entrance to the property from old Highway 66, in which "Indian Hill" is carved into those pillars (see Figure 14).

When construction for the new Locks & Dam 47 was begun by the Army Corps in 1966 at the site of Cypress Beach, the Schmidt property, perched high above the dam, was purchased. The Corps offered to sell the house with the stipulation it be moved. Finding no takers, the house was razed in 1970.

In 2005, after almost four (4) years of negotiations with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the 17.6-acre property on Hwy. 66 was leased to the Town of Newburgh for 25 years (August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2030). In 2019, 1.83 acres of abutting United States



Figure 14 – Indian Hill Columns

Government property was leased for 25 years (June 25, 2019-June 24, 2044) by the Town with the intention to utilize the property. Compliance reports are sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers each year on both leases to update the Corps on repairs, projects, expenses and insurance.

In 2021, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee approached the subject of changing the name of the park due to the controversy and historically incorrect use of the word “Indian”. The term does not accurately reflect the origin of the people to whom it refers and has also absorbed negative and demeaning connotations. In October of 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board met with Todd Mahooty, a resident of Warrick County and an enrolled member of Taos Pueblo in New Mexico (which is one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in the United States). Todd Mahooty stated that out of respect for the other 570 plus federally recognized tribes that are currently in the United States, he could not speak for them all, so would only be speaking for himself, his name, and his family. Not much is known about the origins of Overlook Park when it comes to the indigenous people who once inhabited the area. Since not much is known about the site, Todd Mahooty recommended naming the site specifically for the tribe that was to be ‘honored’ by use of “Indian Hill”. If the tribe could not be located, Todd Mahooty recommended removing “Indian” altogether and/or replacing with Indigenous or Native American. The Parks Board agreed that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee should continue with their research and move forward with the name change. Diversity and Inclusion members have spoken with Angel Mounds State Historic Site and the Indiana Native American Affairs Commission to get their thoughts and recommendations on the name change. Until a new name is selected, the Parks Board will remove “Indian Hill” when referencing the park and call the 19.43 acres, Overlook Park. Due to their historical significance, the 1924 pillars bearing the name “Indian Hill” will not be removed. Design and purchase of educational/interpretive signage will be done to educate the public on the history of the park, the pillars and the name change.

The park features parking, restrooms and picnic facilities surrounded by woods. Twin stone pillars remain at the entrance to the site as does an original stone wall (see *Figure 15*). There is an overlook (see *Figure 16*) that gives an unmatched view of the Ohio River and the Newburgh Locks and Dam. In 2011, ALCOA donated funds for the installation of two interpretive signs and various plantings. The park provides a much-needed nature connection to the Newburgh Parks System.

Surrounded by woods and original stone features, the park is in need of a tree assessment, invasive plant species control and masonry work. In addition, new picnic tables, interpretive signage and bathroom upgrades are needed within the park.



Figure 15 – Overlook Park Stone Wall



Figure 16 – Newburgh Locks Overlook in Overlook Park

Community Parks

There are three (3) Community Parks accessible to Newburgh Park Systems users. Lou Dennis Community Park is owned and operated by the Newburgh Parks Board, Old Lock and Dam Park is owned by the Town of Newburgh and managed by the Newburgh Parks Board and Friedman Park is owned and operated by Warrick County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Lou Dennis Community Park (11.66 acres) – 402 Park Drive

The Lou Dennis Community Park, on the property once known as Kuebler's Garden, is located on Park Drive which is off of Jefferson Street near the center of the planning area. Lou Dennis Community Park is compiled of multiple lots and the Newburgh Pool Fund started collecting deed for these lots, starting in 1969 in hopes of building a community pool. In March of 1971, The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board received \$111,076.39 in Land Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to acquire the 11.66 acres from the Newburgh Pool Fund and named the new park, Newburgh Community Park. The Newburgh Community Pool was built in 1972, with funds raised by the community, and celebrated forty-five (45) years of service in 2017. After forty-five (45) years in service, the Newburgh Community Pool was closed in 2018 due to age and the pool was removed in 2020 to make way for Phase I of the Park's redevelopment. In 2018, as part of the LWCF requirements, a Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions was recorded (2018R-008302) on the property. Lou Dennis Community Park is owned and managed by the Newburgh Parks Board.

Newburgh Community Park was renamed the Lou Dennis Community Park in 2012 in honor of Emmy Lou Dennis (see *Figure 17*). Lou Dennis was an incredible community volunteer serving on the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board for twenty-two (22) consecutive years. Lou started off as the Library Appointment in 1986 and remained the Library Appointment until she took over for an outgoing member in 2000. Lou served on the Parks Board until the end of 2007. Lou was presented the key to the Town of Newburgh in 1990, in 2012 (in honor of her 80th birthday) the Newburgh Community Park was renamed the Lou Dennis Community Park, and "Emmy Lou Dennis Day" was declared on November 9, 2013.



Figure 17 – Emmy Lou Dennis

In 2019, the Town of Newburgh staff met with architect, Jason Barisano, at LA+D to create a Master Plan (see news articles in *Appendix K*) for Lou Dennis Community Park (see *Figure 18*). The Park was laid out into four (4) phases:

- **Phase I:** Remove the existing pool, renovate the bathhouse building, build a splash pad and playground, increase parking, add signage and remove the basketball court to be rebuilt in Phase II.
- **Phase II:** Build basketball court and pickleball court by the existing tennis courts, add a trail loop around the park, add fitness pods around the trail, build two pavilions and construct a new maintenance shed.
- **Phase III:** Remove the Fortress of Fun and build a new play structure.
- **Phase IV:** Put in a water feature.



Figure 18: Lou Dennis Community Park Master Plan

Figure 19: Lou Dennis Community Park Updated Master Plan



The Town of Newburgh and Newburgh Parks Board held multiple meetings to discuss the phases for the park and was given feedback on the project. During the meetings it was decided that the basketball court would be removed and rebuilt in Phase I, but would not go by the tennis courts (see *Figure 19*). This compromise meant less parking was added to the project, but would help eliminate potential noise issues for the residents that abut the property.

In order to move forward with Phase I, the Town of Newburgh issued a Park Bond and was allotted 1.8 million to begin construction. Ground breaking for Phase I was on June 18, 2020 (see *Figure 20 and Appendix K*) and Phase I was officially opened on June 5, 2021 (see *Figure 21*).



Figure 20: Lou Dennis Community Park Groundbreaking



Figure 21: Lou Dennis Community Park Grand Opening

Phase I saw a splash pad and new playground equipment added to the park, in addition to three large shade structures and extra seating (see *Figure 22 - 27*). The seating consists of two (2) concrete benches and two (2) limestone benches. Each of these benches marks one of the four (4) corners of the former Newburgh Community Pool. The basketball court was removed and rebuilt and the parking lot was reconfigured. Along with the building of the structures, the area around the new playground was regraded and existing drainage issues in that area were fixed.



Figure 22: Lou Dennis Community Park Phase I Aerial View

Photographed by HWC Engineering



Figure 24: We-Go-Round

Figure23: Half Balls and Roo Playhouse



Figure 26: Flower Dumping Buckets

Figure 25: Concord Climbing Rope

Figure 27: Embankment Slide



In addition to the outside structures, the former guard/pool house saw a complete renovation, turning the structure into a community building. The building has four (4) public restrooms, a seasonal staff room, maintenance office, equipment room, and a rentable event room. The heated and air-conditioned event room can accommodate forty (40) guests and comes with counter space, a sink, refrigerator, tables, chairs

and large windows to view the splash pad and playground area. The event room also serves as a community room for multiple events each year at the park. The walls within the event room are decorated to pay honor to Lou Dennis, the former Newburgh Community Pool and those who made the park a reality, and the Ohio River (see Figures 28, 29 & 30).

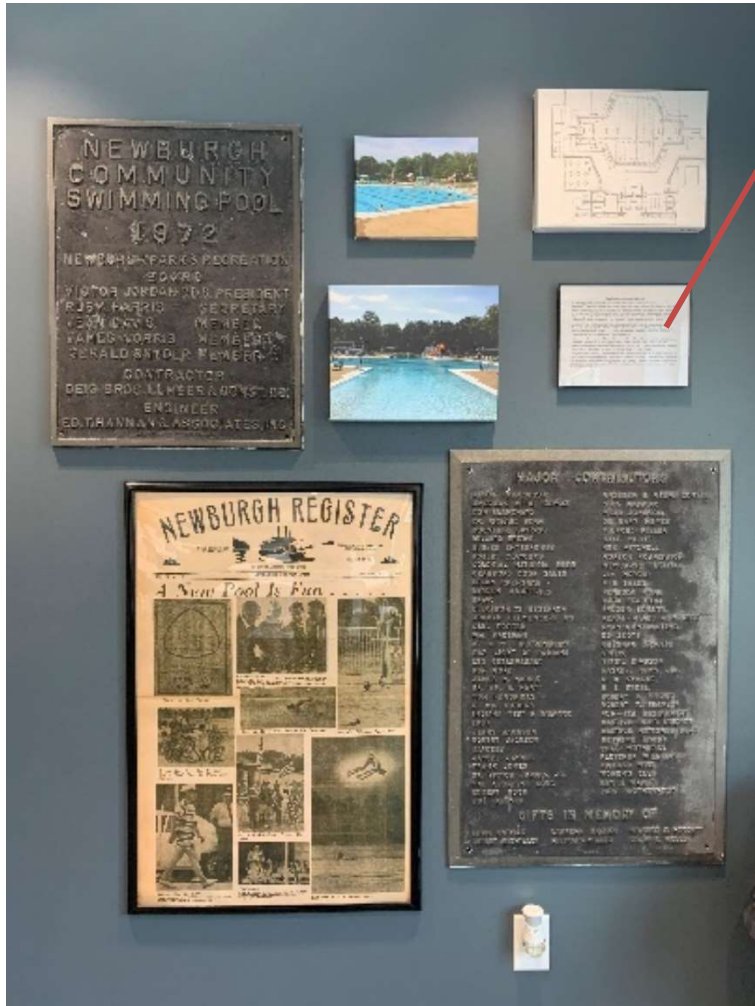


Figure 28: Pool Dedication Wall

Newburgh Community Pool

In 1966 a group of Newburgh Jaycees had the idea of building a swimming pool in Newburgh. They brought the idea to the Newburgh Town Council, who approved, and they quickly started a door-to-door campaign to raise the funds to purchase land and build a swimming pool. The Newburgh Jaycees involved multiple other organizations including: Jaycee Jaynes, The Newburgh Women’s Club, the Newburgh Business Men’s Association, Kiwanis, the Youth Foundation, The American Legion and the Welcome Wagon.

After three years of fundraising, the next step was for the Town to create a Parks and Recreation Board. On March 25, 1969 the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board was formed and later that year the 11.7 acres of land off of Jefferson Street was purchased as the future home of the Newburgh Community Pool.

Between the Department of Natural Resources Land Water Conservation Funds, the funds donated to the project by local organizations and businesses, and Town funds, the Newburgh Community Pool was dedicated on June 18, 1972. Admission charges were set at 75 cents for adults and 50 cents for children under 12 years of age.

The pool was maintained and cared for by the Town of Newburgh for 45 years, receiving at least three major renovations to keep the pool open to the public. After 45 years of service, the Newburgh Community Pool was closed after the 2017 season due to age and problems that could no longer be repaired. This led to the plans for a complete renovation of the Lou Dennis Community Park.

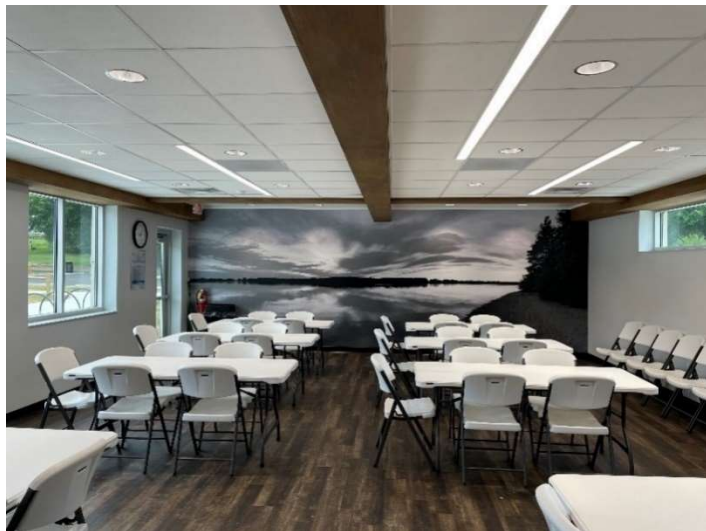


Figure 29: Ohio River Vinyl Wall Mural



Figure 30: Lou Dennis Dedication Wall

Fortress of Fun

During construction and operation of the new splash pad and playground, the Town of Newburgh had two assessments done on the existing Fortress of Fun by the manufacturer of the playground, Leathers and Associates, and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. The Fortress of Fun (see Figure 31) is a wooden structure that is a complex of play spaces that offer challenging skill development and exercise for younger children. The structure was designed by Leathers and Associates and constructed in five (5) days in 1998 by community volunteers. Leathers and Associates of Ithaca, New York, works closely with communities to build one-of-a-kind projects. They have years of experience and an excellent record of providing safe, well-designed playgrounds.

The Leathers and Associates assessment of the Fortress of Fun concluded that the playground has been well cared for over the years, but is becoming dry and brittle and showing signs of rot. This is typical of wood play structures built in the 1990's and was originally given a ten (10) to fifteen (15) year life span. In addition to the wood issues, framing is starting to fail at some



Figure 31 – Fortress of Fun

connections and it does not meet with current ADA requirements. It is Leather and Associates professional recommendation that the playground should be replaced as opposed to some form of renovation. Along with the assessment, construction costs for a new play structure were given.

A second assessment was done by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector, not affiliated with Leathers and Associates. The assessment, done by Certified Playground Safety Inspector Andrea Halbig, did not give an overview or recommendations but assessed individual areas and put each area into a Priority Safety Concern Category. The assessment corresponds with Leather and Associates assessment that the playground should be replaced as opposed to some form of renovation.

Newburgh Park Pals, Town staff and Newburgh Parks Board have put together a committee to address the Fortress of Fun issues and to start working on designs for a new play structure. Newburgh Parks Pals raised funds to create new design for the Fortress of Fun, which will be created in 2023, and will assist Park Pals starting a capital campaign to raise funds for a new play structure.

Kiwanis Club of Historic Newburgh Shelter

In 2021, Newburgh Park Pals, Kiwanis Club of Historic Newburgh and individual donors raised enough funds to build one of the two shelter houses (see Figure 32) within the Lou Dennis Community Park Master

Plan. In 2022, three additional umbrellas were purchased and eight (8) picnic tables and six (6) benches were purchased for the park.

In late 2022, Newburgh Park Pals received grant funding to build a second shelter house at the park, along with running electricity to both shelters. Along with the shelter project, walkway improvements and fencing will be addressed.



Figure 32 – Kiwanis Club of Historic Newburgh Picnic Shelter

With the information from the Fortress of Fun assessment, one of the two shelters already built, a grant for a second shelter, and watching how the park is being used now that the splash pad and new playground are open; the Newburgh Parks Board updated the phases within the Lou Dennis Community Park Master Plan.

- **Phase II** – Build the second picnic shelter, add electricity to all three (3) shelters at the park, renovate part of the Fortress of Fun, add additional play features to the park
- **Phase III** – Increase parking, renovate tennis courts and add pickleball striping to the courts
- **Phase IV** – Add additional play structures to the park
- **Phase V** – Add trail loop around the park and add fitness pods around the trail.
- **Phase VI** – Create walking trail loop through the wooded area of the park

Phase II - VI will continue to move forward depending on funding and will also require earthwork and drainage work to be done.

In addition to the Phase I amenities, the community building, the new shelter house, and the Fortress of Fun the park also includes a toddler playground, a shelter built in 1975, two tennis courts, a volleyball court, and green space. Lou Dennis Community Park is ideally located and programmed as a community park but at 11.66 acres, it is much smaller than NPRA recommendations.

Old Lock & Dam Park (13.4 acres) – 525 East Highway 662

Originally, a functioning wicket type lock and dam system, the Newburgh Dam began construction in 1921 and was fully operational by 1928. In the 1950's the Corps Engineers undertook the project of replacing wicket type dams and in 1975 Newburgh's new lock and dam was fully up and running. Old Lock and Dam Park was acquired by the Town of Newburgh in 1979 after being surplused by the United States Government in 1978. The Quitclaim Deed (18638) has easements, reservations, exceptions, restrictions, conditions, and covenants that must be upheld forever. One such condition is the use and maintenance of the property is exclusively for public park or public recreation purposes in perpetuity. Owned by the Town of Newburgh, Old Lock and Dam Park is managed by the Newburgh Parks Board.

The original lock and dam system had a powerhouse (operation building and offices), two lockmaster dwellings, a garage, oil and paint house, two hose houses, a warehouse, and a pump house (see *Figure 33*

on page 44). The warehouse was used by the Town of Newburgh as a maintenance facility until a new facility was constructed around 1999 on First Street and the existing facility in the park was razed due to age. The hose houses have been removed but the oil and paint house has been converted into Town storage, the pump house was converted into a public restroom, the garage has been replaced and the lockmaster dwellings and powerhouse have been renovated as Town rental facilities. Old Lock & Dam Park, with access from French Island Trail, is a 13.4-acre facility located adjacent to the Ohio River. French Island Trail (State Route 662) splits the park into north and south sections.

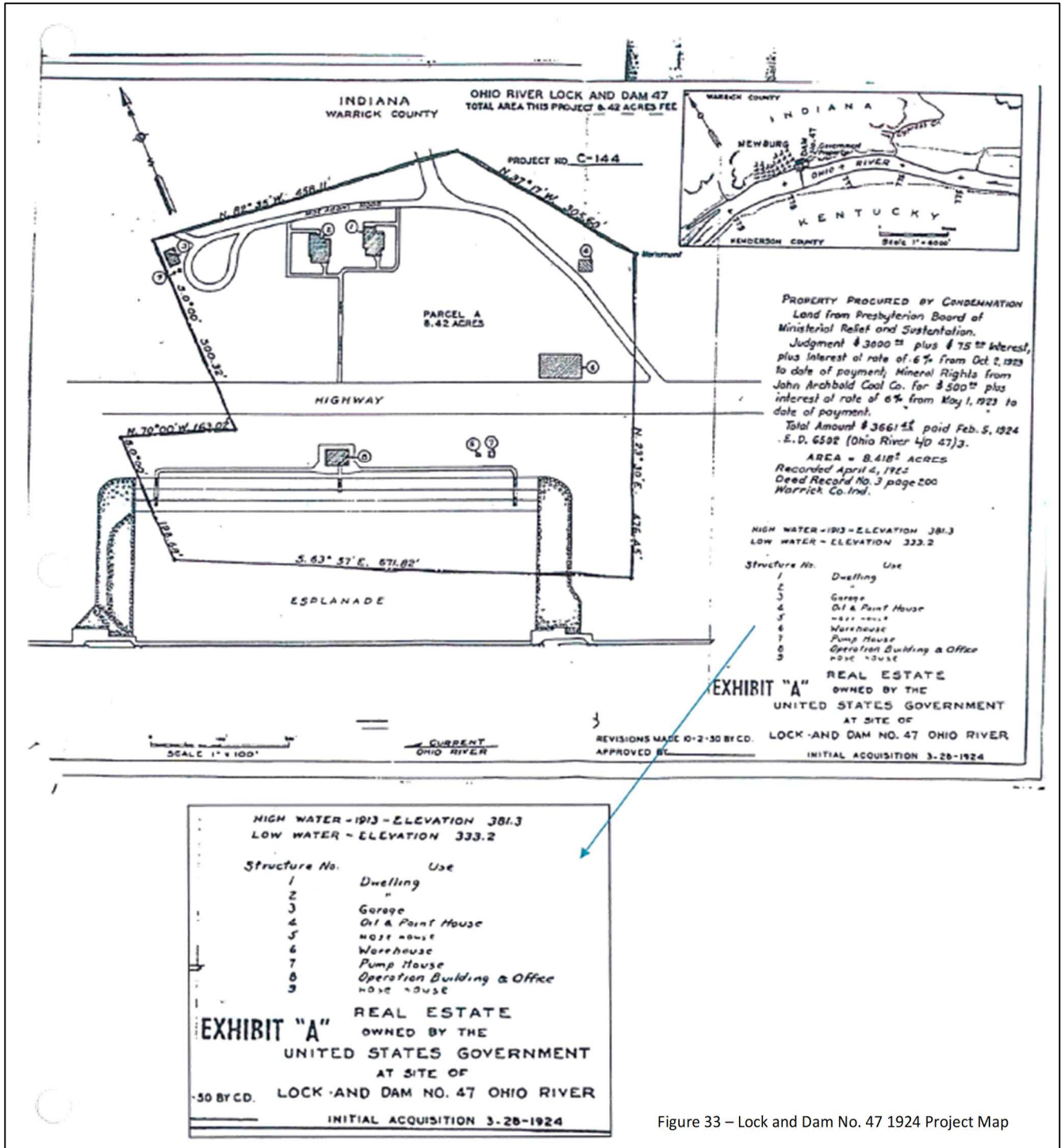


Figure 33 – Lock and Dam No. 47 1924 Project Map

Old Lock and Dam South Side

Rivertown Trail

Approximately 825.3 feet of the Rivertown Trail runs through the south side of Old Lock and Dam Park. This section of trail has three public restrooms on the south side and one additional restroom on the north side. This park also allows for ample parking for trail users to park and picturesque views of the Ohio River.

Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47

The Old Lock and Dam Control Building No.47 (see *Figure 34*) was the powerhouse for the old wicket type lock and dam system and is now a popular figure along the Rivertown Trail. The Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 was renovated in 2009 and has 800 square feet of event space inside along with two restrooms, a fully functioning kitchen, a sound system and storage space. The Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 is rented almost every weekend for private events and serves as the hub for large events in Town.



Figure 34 – Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47

The Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 has received a new roof, some window updates, ramp repairs, new flooring and new paint within the last five (5) years. The building will need upgrades to the original plumbing system, a new sound system, and concrete work around the building within the next five (5) years. Within the next ten (10) years, the ADA accessible ramp will need to be replaced and the attic area will need new flooring, paint and storage options.

Three Public Restrooms

Old Lock and Dam Park has three restrooms on the south side of the park. A single restroom is located in the former pump house and the other two are in a single building built during the park renovations in 2009. The restrooms are ADA accessible and are kept open all year long, depending on freezing temperatures. The Town of Newburgh is looking into renovations for the bathrooms to keep them open all year long.

Esplanade and Boat Dock

The original Lock and Dam system had an esplanade on the backside of the building abutting the Ohio River, but did not allow for easy boating access. On February 13, 1989, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave permission to the Town of Newburgh to construct a public boat launching ramp from the esplanade and removable floating dock (see *Figure 35*) on the right bank of the Ohio River, at Mile 777.8. The ramp and boat dock allow boaters easy access to the Ohio River, but is

not accessible when river levels increase. The boat dock is installed and removed, weather permitting, by the Town of Newburgh staff and sees damage from year to year.

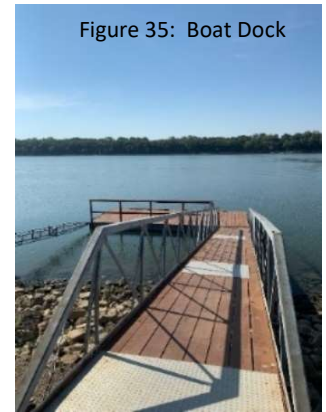


Figure 35: Boat Dock

In 2022, the removal of the boat dock showed significant damage to the structure. The dock will be assessed to see if it can be repaired or if another dock will have to be constructed. The original designs for a boat ramp were for a permanent ramp and not a removable ramp. The request was denied by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1989 as was the request to allow boats to launch at night. The Town of Newburgh has reached back out to the Army Corps of Engineers and has been given permission to move forward with designs. The Army Corps of Engineers have not given any type of approval but stated that the Navigation Section would be open to looking at designs for a permanent boat dock. The Town of Newburgh Engineer will be working with the Army Corps while creating potential designs. In addition to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services have been contacted to see if anything additional would need to be done for a permanent boat dock.

In addition to the boat dock, the original esplanade is in need of repair. The Town of Newburgh Engineer is working on temporary and permanent fixes to the structure. A daily parking fee or boat ramp pass is required to park on the esplanade and/or launch a boat.

Old Lock and Dam North Side

Historically, this section of the park was defined by the sculpted bluffs constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the original Lock and Dam No. 47. The May 2011 flooding and landslide have distressed many of these features since the bluffs/hills that the Lockmaster Cottages sit up on, had to be reconstructed. The north side of Old Lock and Dam Park features panoramic views of the Ohio River and in order to enhance those views, the Newburgh Arts Commission in 2019 worked with local utility companies and residents, next to the park, to have the overhead wires buried on the north side of the park (see news articles in *Appendix K*). A plaque was placed within the park that states “*The beautification of Old Lock and Dam Park burial of lines provided by K&M Specialty Russ and Debbie Welder*”. Burial of overhead lines on the south side of the park cannot be done due to the type of lines and flooding that occurs on the south side. In addition to the Ohio River views, the north side of the park features the following facilities:

Lockmaster Cottages

There are two cottages (see *Figure 36*) located on the north side of Old Lock and Dam Park. The dwellings were used by the Lockmaster and the Lockmaster Assistant while the Locks and Dam No. 47 were in operation. Built in 1928, the



Figure 36: Lockmaster Cottages

cottages received a renovation in 2009 and were made public for overnight stays. Each cottage (East Lockmaster Cottage and West Lockmaster Cottage) comes fully furnished, can sleep eight people and linens are provided. There are three bedrooms – one with a queen bed, one with a full bed, and one with two twin beds. There is a full Murphy bed and television in the living room, two full baths, WIFI access and emergency shelters in the basement. The East Lockmaster Cottage has a washer and dryer located in the basement and each of the kitchens are fully equipped with dishes, flatware, pots, pans, and cooking utensils. The cottages are completely ADA accessible.

The Lockmaster Cottages have had recent repairs and repainting and within the next five (5) years will need door replacements, window replacements and work on the plumbing system that services both cottages.

Little Red Brick House

The Little Red Brick Building, also known as the Ice House, Tack House, or the Mortuary Museum; originally sat at 519 W. Jennings Street but was moved to the Old Lock and Dam Park in 2017. The property on which the Little Red Brick Building originally sat was sold and the new owners wanted to make use of the land. The building was donated to the Town, by the property owners, with the condition that the Town had to move the building. The house



Figure 37: Little Red Brick House

is believed to have been built as early as 1820 and throughout the decades, additions were built onto the structure and the original brick structure was not visible. It is thought that a fire in the early 1960's helped unveil the building. The Little Brick Building was moved from its original location to the Old Lock and Dam Park in 2017 by public donations and grants. See *Figure 37*.

In 2020, through the use of Town funding and donations, the Little Red Brick House interior was renovated into two separate spaces. The first space, with its own access, is a climate-controlled ADA accessible restroom. The second space, with its own access, is a climate-controlled storage room with sink access. This space can be used by renters of the Allen Family Amphitheater as setup space or a ticket booth.

Within the next five years, the Little Red Brick House will be in need of a new roof as well as electrical work, that will allow for outlets to be accessed from the exterior of the building. The available electrical will allow local groups and renters of the facility access to electric for their events, without running electrical cords from the inside or from the Allen Family Amphitheater.

Allen Family Amphitheater

An amphitheater located within the Newburgh Parks System has been a dream of the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board since the 1989 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. After

approximately five years of fundraising and applying for grants, the Newburgh Arts Commission was able to raise enough funds to build the Allen Family Amphitheater (see *Figure 38*).

The 24' x 41' stage can accommodate up to sixty-five (65) musicians and their instruments. There are three (3) rows of concrete seating that can accommodate one hundred twenty-four (124) people and meets all ADA requirements. The majority of seating will be unlimited grass seating to accommodate blankets and lawn chairs. The amphitheater is equipped with lighting and a Stage Wiring Access Box (SWAB) for use with user's sound systems. There are 20-amp receptacles, 16 outlets on stage, and additional outlets in the mechanical room located behind the stage. The Allen Family Amphitheater meets Dark Sky Initiative requirements as well as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements. Restrooms are located on the south side and north side of the park and there are two ADA parking spaces located next to the amphitheater.



Figure 38: Allen Family Amphitheater

Gazebo

Built in 1999, the gazebo (see *Figure 39*) was donated to the Town of Newburgh and was an Eagle Scout Project between Allan Patterson and BSA Troop 305. The Gazebo is used for many events throughout the year such as weddings, small musical performances but is open to the public, year-round, to allow for mid-day picnics or as a resting spot along the trail. The gazebo is in need of small repairs and staining. There have been ideas to move the structure closer to the Allen Family Amphitheater, but no decision has been made at this time.



Figure 39: Gazebo and Control Building No. 47

Storage Facility

Originally the oil and paint house (see *Figure 40*), the storage facility located within the park has a unique look compared to the other buildings within the park. The stone exterior matches the retaining wall (see *Figure 41 on page 51*) that surrounds it and is used by the Town of Newburgh for event storage. Better utilization of the storage facility could see the structure used as a future concession stand or restroom.



Figure 40: Stone Storage House

Maintenance Garage

In 2020, a tornado took down the maintenance garage that was located within the park. The Town of Newburgh installed a slightly larger garage in the space and it is now used as our Maintenance Superintendents workshop. The workshop has been equipped with electric, insulation, air and heat and does not have many needs at this time.

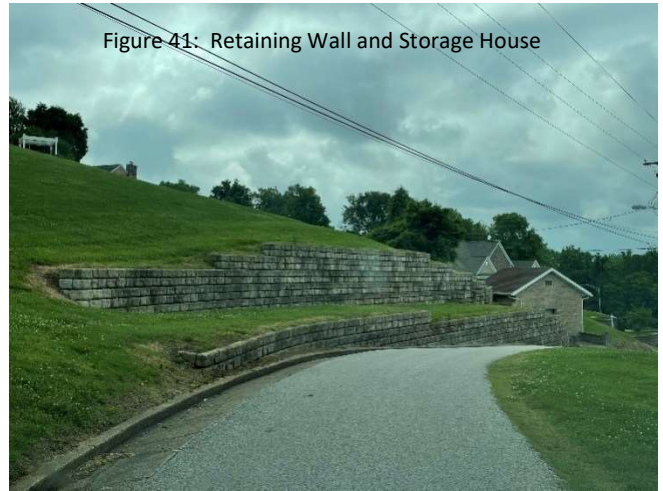


Figure 41: Retaining Wall and Storage House

Historic Log Cabin

At the time of the, 2018-2022 Master Plan there was an historic log cabin located on the north side of Old Lock and Dam Park. The historic cabin was donated to the Town of Newburgh in 1987 by the Kroeger family. The log cabin (see *Figure 42*) was originally located on State Route 61 just west of Alcoa. The cabin was disassembled, each log was numbered, repairs were done and then the cabin was reassembled down the bank from where John Sprinkle's (founder of Newburgh) first cabin was built. The cabin predates the 1840's and the move and repairs were helped by donations.



Figure 42: Kroeger Log Cabin

Due to its age, the log cabin started showing signs of decay and the west side of the cabin started to fail. The Town of Newburgh had several assessments of the cabin done and even spoke with the original donor of the cabin, William Kroeger, in an attempt to see what could be done to save the cabin. After much deliberation, Newburgh Town Council decided to raze the cabin, but try to save as much of the usable materials as possible. On December 22, 2020, a motion was made to contract with Mike Bailey from Bailey Construction Co. to demolish the log cabin, save the salvageable logs and chimney stone, store them in the Main Street parking lot with a timetable not to exceed two years.

On February 8, 2021 Bailey Construction Co. completed the demo of the log cabin and storage of the salvageable materials (see *Figure 43*). The following materials were saved and stored in the Main Street parking lot:

- Three pallets of sandstone from the chimney
- Eight bundles of cedar shakes from attic
- Nine random doors and four old windows
- Roughly 400 square feet of historic barnwood; there is one pile of eight-foot boards and one pile of six-foot boards mixed together with shorter boards
- There are 16 floor joists 2" x 16'
- 33 reclaimed logs

Figure 43: Log Cabin Materials in Storage



The original storage date for the salvaged materials in the Main Street parking lot was February 8, 2023 per the December 22, 2020 Town Council motion. After a year and a half of deciding on what to do with the salvaged materials and the now vacant concrete pad; on September 14, 2022 at a regular scheduled Town Council meeting (see *Appendix K*), Town Council voted to give local residents, who wish to restore the log cabin, six (6) months (March 14, 2023) to raise the estimated \$114,000.00 to build a new replica. On January 11, 2023 after multiple discussions between staff, Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board and Town Council, Town Council agreed to extend the fundraising time frame by six (6) months. The group who wishes to build a replica have until July 11, 2023 to secure the funding.

The Town Administrative Manager and Facilities Coordinator have met with architects and engineers to think of ideas on how to use the salvageable materials, if the fundraisers cannot raise the funds to build a replica. Ideas include park signage, restrooms but with a log cabin façade, possible play equipment or mini log cabin for children to play in. The concrete foundation on which the log cabin once sat is still located within the park, but the garden next to the slab has been removed by the local group that planted the garden.

Friedman Park (180 acres) – 2700 Park Blvd, Newburgh, IN

Friedman Park is owned and operated by the Warrick County Department of Parks and Recreation and opened to the public in 2017/2018. The park includes an amphitheater, picnic pavilions, biking, nature and walking trails, a playground, an event center, dog park and ample open space.

Special Use Parks

There are four (4) Special Use Parks located within the Newburgh Parks System but only one is located within Town limits. Veterans Monument is located in Town, owned by the Town of Newburgh and managed by Newburgh Parks Board. AMAX Athletic Fields is owned by Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board but managed by dual leases and is located outside of Town limits. Mulzer Fields Park is located outside of Town and is not owned or managed by the Town of Newburgh or Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board and Vann Road Park is owned and managed by the Warrick County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Veterans Monument Park (0.9 acres)

State Road & Bell Road, Newburgh, IN 47630

The land, formerly known as “The Point”, was purchased by the Town of Newburgh in 1999 and annexed into the Town of Newburgh in 2001. Veterans Monument Park is owned by the Town of Newburgh but operated and maintained by the Newburgh Parks Board. Veterans Monument Park site was dedicated in 2006, introducing the concept drawing to the public. In July of 2008 the park was completed and dedicated to honor veterans of all service branches from all U.S. wars and conflicts. The park had a monument plaza erected to honor all veterans from the past, the present and the future. Bricks can be purchased to honor a veteran and placed around the monument. See *Figure 44*.



Figure 44 – Veterans Monument Park

AMAX Athletic Fields (13.26 acres) - 5800 Outer Lincoln Ave

The AMAX Athletic Fields are owned by the Newburgh Parks and Recreation but not operated by the Newburgh Parks Board. AMAX Athletic Fields were acquired by the Parks Board in 1979. The Quitclaim Deed (23675) came with covenants that the Newburgh Parks Board must uphold. The main two being, the name “AMAX” shall appear in the official designation of the real estate and no permanent buildings besides clubhouses and bleachers can be constructed on the property. In 1981, the Newburgh Parks Board received Land Water and Conservation Funds (\$50,000) to build soccer fields, baseball fields, football fields, parking lots and a concession stand with restrooms and storage. In 2018, as part of the LWCF requirements, a Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions was recorded (2018R-008303) on the property. The soccer fields are leased from the Town of Newburgh and run by the Newburgh Youth Soccer League and the football complex is leased by Castle Youth Football League. The current contracted lease started in 2007 and is good through 2027 (20 years). The fields are located at Outer Lincoln Avenue



Figure 45 - AMAX Fields. Newburgh Youth Soccer

and Anderson Road, at the western edge of the planning area. Publicly accessible portions of the park include a picnic shelter, four soccer fields, a football field, a shelter house and a small playground. See *Figure 45*.

Warrick Trails has approached Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board on transferring ownership of the park to Warrick Trails. The transfer would be an in-kind donation for grant purposes of extending their trail system from Vann Park to AMAX Athletic Fields. After the trail was extended, the park would be transferred over to Warrick County Park and Recreation. This would allow for the park, which is located within the county, to be operated by the same municipality that oversees the infrastructure around the park. The Facilities Coordinator has discussed options with Indiana's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Grants and Trails Division on what a transfer would mean for Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) restrictions and legal is looking into deed restrictions and speaking with Warrick Trails and Warrick County.

Mulzer Fields Park (12 acres) – 9511 W. State Route 662, Newburgh, IN 47630

The Mulzer Fields Park, not owned or operated by the Town of Newburgh or the Newburgh Parks Board, is accessible to the Newburgh Park System users and contains two upper-age-group baseball fields with associated baseball amenities, but no playgrounds, open fields or other type of recreation amenities.

Vann Road Park (75 acres) – 5399 Vann Road, Newburgh, IN 47630

Vann Road Park, also known as Newburgh Sports Complex, is owned and managed by the Warrick County Department of Parks and Recreation. Vann Road Park houses thirteen softball/baseball fields which are used by Newburgh Baseball and Newburgh Girls Softball leagues along with hosting tournaments for schools and other leagues. In addition to the softball/baseball fields, the park will include ten (10) pickleball courts that are expected to open sometime in the spring of 2023.

Linear Parks

There is one Linear Park located within the Newburgh Parks System but an additional Linear Park is located outside of Town limits but within the Planning Area.

Rivertown Trail (3.84 miles) – 715 W Highway 662, Newburgh, IN 47630 (B. Gene Aurand Trailhead)

The Rivertown Trail (see *Figure 46*) is owned by the Town of Newburgh and managed by the Newburgh Parks Board. The trail was constructed in three phases between 2008, 2011 and 2020. Currently, the Trail extends the entire length of Newburgh from New Locks and Dam Park to the east, south of Overlook Park, through the Old Lock and Dam Park and the downtown plaza, through the Water Street Overlook, across historic bridge #264, to the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead, crossing over Yorkshire Drive, following Yorkshire Drive to Lamey Lane, continues north of Driftwood Parke subdivision and then continues down State Route 662 along Mulzer Fields park and ending at Pollack Avenue (future site of the proposed Trails at Covert Ave). Warrick County Trails assisted the Town of Newburgh with half of the match needed for the INDOT/LPA grant for the third phase.



Figure 46 – Rivertown Trail along Water Street

Along the Rivertown Trail are green space locations, outside of the parks that the trail runs through, for park usage. There is around a quarter of an acre near the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead. Water Street Overlook (see *Figure 47*) area has beautiful views of the Ohio River along with benches for sitting and watching the barges go by or taking a break from walking the trail. From the Water Street Overlook to the Downtown Plaza there are sections of green space that offer resting spots along the trail. Right past the Downtown Plaza there is a half-acre of green space known a “Harbour Pointe” (see *Figure 48*), lot 2, that could be ideal for a small pocket park but has conditions, restrictions, reservations, and protective covenants (2014R-004257) attached to it. The only enhancement that is allowed in that green space, and has been done, is the placement of benches. Past Harbour Pointe is a half-acre of green space where the trail splits. This location currently houses a small garden, birdfeeders and benches.



Figure 47 – Water Street Overlook



Figure 48 – Harbour Pointe and Trail Split Green Space

The B. Gene Aurand Trailhead is the only trailhead along the Rivertown Trail. The history and date of construction on the building is unknown, but in 2008 the Town of Newburgh purchased the property for the Rivertown Trail. The building received a partial renovation adding a public restroom for trail users along with storage for the Newburgh Museum. The additional space was dedicated to the very first fire truck that the Town of Newburgh purchased and is still on display to this day.

Figure 49 – B. Gene Aurand Trailhead



In 2020, Warrick Trails and Ascension St. Vincent upgraded the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead (see Figure 49) to include a shaded patio area, a second restroom, painting and branding of the trailhead, picnic tables and benches and additional parking. The grand reopening of the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead took place on October 1, 2020.

In 2022, the Town of Newburgh received funding from the Warrick County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for renovations to be completed on the red bridge known as Historic Bridge #264. The renovations will include repairing the pinning system, the boards and repainting the structure.

Warrick Wellness Trail – Wellness Trail, Newburgh, IN 47630

Warrick Trails is a donor-supported trail system (see Map 10) that connects neighborhoods, schools, parks and retail establishments throughout Warrick County, offering a unique and desirable lifestyle amenity to both residents and businesses alike. By providing safe walking and cycling routes to residents seeking to engage in healthy activities, Warrick Trails promotes and encourages better health and wellness, and



allows residents to get outdoors and enjoy nature and an active lifestyle. For businesses, Warrick Trails stimulates local economy by connecting residents to their places of business, and attracts quality employees by making Warrick County a more desirable place to work and live.

Map 10 – Warrick Trails
Warricktrails.org

Level of Service Analysis

The Indiana SCORP further notes that these guidelines were meant to be flexible benchmarks, not an absolute number. Level of Service (LOS) analysis should take into account the unique aspects of individual communities. Level of Service also measures demand for recreation opportunities, current parks and recreation resources, and the needs and preferences of the community residents. Indiana has used the NRPA guidelines as a benchmark since they were first published, but has created their own LOS guidelines for park and recreation open space. Indiana divides the current supply of recreation acreage into three categories:

- **Local (County, Township, City or Town) recreation acres:** Land owned by municipal, township and county governments, as well as land privately owned but open for public use.
20 acres per 1,000 people (.02 acres per person)
- **State/federal recreation acres:** Land owned mostly by State or federal governments, and does include some non-profit sites (such as those owned by Land Trusts) open for public recreational use.
35 acres per 1,000 people (.035 acres per person)
- **Total (Statewide) recreation acres:** Total of all statewide public recreation land that is owned by all entities in the other two categories.
55 acres per 1,000 people (.055 acres per person)

Using Indiana's LOS guidelines, Warrick County is assessed as follows:

- **Local (County, Township, City or Town) recreation acres:**
 - **Acres by County** - Of the 92 counties in the state, 60% (55 counties) are deficient in local-level public outdoor recreation acres. Warrick County (county number 87) meets recommendation with recommended acres needed set at 1,251.34 and the sum of county local acres to be 1,901.42; putting the difference of acres in the positive at 650.08.
 - **Acres by Region** - Warrick County is grouped with Vanderburgh County, Gibson County and Posey County. By grouping the four regions together the total acres needed per population is 6,050.66 but the region only has 5,778.36 acres, leaving a deficiency of 272.30 acres.
- **State/federal recreation acres:**
 - **State and Federal Acres by County** – Warrick County's recommended State and federal government acres is 2,189.85 but has 7,914.10 acres, putting the county 5,724.26 acres ahead of their recommendation.
 - **State and Federal Acres by Region** – Warrick County, Vanderburgh County, Gibson County and Posey County grouped together, have a recommended acreage of 10,588.66 but have a total of 26,544.68 in State and federal government acreage. This puts the region 15,956.03 acres above their recommendation.
- **Total (Statewide) recreation acres:** Out of 92 counties, 53 counties in Indiana meet DNR's recommended total LOS of 55 acres of public or land per 1,000 people. Of these 53 counties, 28 counties (28%) actually meet all three LOS recommendations – Local, State/federal and Total (statewide). Warrick County is one of those 28 counties. See *Map 11*.

Using Indiana's LOS for local recreation acres, the Town of Newburgh with a population of 3,344 has a recommendation of 66.88 acres needed, but only has 64.74 acres (that is an additional 2.83 acres since the last master plan) and only 32.69 acres, if you remove AMAX Athletic Fields and Overlook Park, due to their location being outside of Town limits. The Town of Newburgh does not have any State parks located within Town limits but does manage 19.43 acres of federal land outside of Town. There is a deficiency of acres in all three of Indiana's LOS areas.



Map 11: Indiana State Level of Service Map ■ Meets Recommendation ■ Does Not Meet Recommendation

The tables below show the NRPA Park Classifications, recommended supply, existing supply and the appeared overage/(shortfall).

Table 1 shows the analysis based on the Town of Newburgh’s residents of 3,344 and the Town owned parks within the Town limits. Mini Parks include Kiwanis Community Playground and the Community Parks include Lou Dennis Community Park and Old Lock and Dam Park. Mini Parks recommend having one-fourth of an acre per 1,000 population where a Community Park recommends between 5-8 acres per 1,000 population. In order to calculate the recommend acreage for Community Parks, we used 6.5 acres per 1,000 population.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1,000 population)	Existing Supply	Overage/(Shortfall)
Mini Parks	.25 AC * 3.34 = .84 AC	2.25 AC	1.41 AC
Community Parks	6.5 AC * 3.34 = 21.71 AC	25.06 AC	3.35 AC

Table 1 – NRPA Standards based on the Newburgh Town limits.

Table 2 shows the analysis based on the planning area residents of 24,458 and all parks available to the planning area residents within the planning area. The Mini Parks include the Kiwanis Community Playground, the Neighborhood Parks include Overlook Park and the Community Parks include Lou Dennis Community Park, Old Lock and Dam Park, and Friedman Park. Mini Parks recommend having one-fourth of an acre per 1,000 population where a Community Park recommends between 5-8 acres per 1,000 population. A Neighborhood Park recommends between 1-2 acres per 1,000 population. In order to calculate the recommend acreage for Neighborhood Park, we used 1 acre per 1,000 population.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1,000 population)	Existing Supply	Overage/(Shortfall)
Mini Parks	.25 AC * 24.46 = 6.12 AC	2.25 AC	(3.87 AC)
Neighborhood Parks	1 AC * 24.46 = 24.46 AC	19.43 AC	(5.03 AC)
Community Parks	6.5 AC * 24.46 = 158.99 AC	205.06 AC	46.07 AC













Table 2 – NRPA Standards based on the planning area of park users.

The parks located with Town limits have an overage of acres required, where the parks located within the planning area fall short of the acreage needed except when it comes to Community Parks. Community Parks have an overage both in-town and within the Newburgh Parks Planning Area.

Inventory forms of all Newburgh owned or operated parks were completed on site and are available in Appendix C. A map (see *Map 12*) showing the location of all parks within the Planning Area can be found on page 57.



Map 12 – Parks within the Newburgh Parks System. Scribblemaps.com

-  Amax Athletic Fields
-  Old Lock and Dam
-  Friedman Park
-  Kiwanis
-  Lou Dennis Community Park
-  Mulzer Fields
-  New Lock and Dam
-  Overlook
-  Vann Road Park
-  Aurand Trailhead
-  Veterans
-  Rivertown Trail

Current Programs

Newburgh Parks System resources serve a variety of programming needs; the only programming sponsored by the Parks Board is sponsored brick purchases at Veterans Monument Park, Lou Dennis Community Park and Allen Family Amphitheater along with rentals of the Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47, Lockmaster Cottages, Allen Family Amphitheater, Lou Dennis Community Park Event Room, and the Lou Dennis Park Shelter House and Kiwanis of Historic Newburgh Shelter. The most interesting programming takes the form of events held within the parks sponsored or organized by outside organizations/groups. These are described in detail in the Man-made, Historical and Cultural Features section on page 22.

The three most active leagues in the area are Newburgh Youth Soccer, Castle Youth Football, and the Newburgh Junior Baseball; none of these utilize Parks Board or Town operated facilities. The Kiwanis Club and Newburgh Elementary operate their own programming at Kiwanis Community Playground, which they lease from the Town.

Other Recreational Providers

Public and Parochial Schools within the Newburgh Parks System

- Newburgh Elementary School
- Sharon Elementary School
- John H. Castle Elementary School
- Castle North Middle School
- Castle South Middle School
- Castle High School
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School

For the most part, school facilities are available for public use. Further coordination between the Town and Warrick County Schools may reveal operational and resource-sharing efficiencies.

Public Recreational Facilities outside of the Planning Area

The following recreational facilities are outside of the Planning Area but are public and can be utilized by the Newburgh Parks System user base.

- ALCOA Soccer Field in Newburgh, Indiana
- City Lake Splash Park, playground, shelter and parks in Boonville, Indiana
- Richards Community Pool in Boonville, Indiana
- Scales Lake Park located in Boonville, Indiana
- Johnson Park in Boonville, Indiana

Private Recreational Facilities

The following recreational facilities can be utilized by the Newburgh Parks System user base as permitted by their operators.

- Victoria National Golf Club (members only)
This is a world-class 418-acre golf course and club that hosts the PGA Tour United Leasing Championship, located northwest of the planning area.
- Rolling Hills Country Club (members only)
Par-4 golf course, tennis, and swimming club located northwest of the planning area.

- Camp Brosend (open to the public for a fee)
Christian faith-based summer camp and retreat located in a wooded area midway between IN 261 and SR 66.

Other Destinations

The following destinations are within a one hour driving distance for the Newburgh Parks System user.

- The Evansville Parks System in Evansville, IN
The Evansville Parks System coordinates and oversees the operation of 67 parks and 21 recreational facilities encompassing more than 2,500 acres of land
 - Community center
 - Three (3) golf courses
 - Thirty-Five (35) trail systems
 - Shelter rentals
 - Five (5) city swimming pools
 - A Sports Department offering flag football, volleyball, sand volleyball, soccer, softball, and pickleball
 - Swonder Ice Arena which offers public skate sessions, hockey leagues, figure skating and a fitness center
- Dunigan YMCA in Vanderburgh County
- Ascension St. Vincent YMCA in Vanderburgh County
- Burdette Park in Vanderburgh County
- Angel Mounds State Museum and Historical Site in Evansville, IN
- Wesselman's Park in Vanderburgh County
- Quail Crossing Golf Course
Par-4 golf course located northwest of the planning area in Boonville, Indiana.
- Ferdinand, Indiana Park System
Ferdinand Park System has three parks; Old Town Lake is used for hiking, fishing, recreation and shelter rentals; 18th Street Park has a playground, walking trails, horseshoe pits, basketball court, volleyball court and softball fields; and 5th Street Park has a playground, softball, baseball and soccer fields
- The Henderson Parks System in Henderson, KY
The Henderson Parks System coordinates and oversees the operation of 24 public spaces.
 - Parks, municipal golf course, downtown water feature, community pool, community center and shelter
- Lincoln State Park in Spencer County
- John James Audubon State Park in Kentucky
- Smothers Park in Owensboro, Kentucky
- Ashumbala Nature Preserve in Kentucky

Accessibility and Federal Accessibility Standards

Statement of Accessibility for Newburgh

“The Town of Newburgh Parks Board makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable accommodation under the law for people with disabilities to all of our programs, activities and services. We strive to provide access for people with physical and mental disabilities. Information on our commitment to accessibility is posted at all our facilities, online and at Town Hall.”

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with more than fifty (50) employees designate at least one person to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. As a best management practice, The Town of Newburgh has designated our own ADA coordinator, Town Administrative Manager Christy Powell. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact Town Administrative Manager Christy Powell at 812-853-1720; cpowell@newburgh-in.gov. All comments and inquires will be replied to within five (5) business days.

Appendix D includes Ordinance No. 1992-9 – *An Ordinance Concerning the Employment of Qualified Disabled Persons and Establishment of a Grievance Procedure*, Resolution 2013-01 – *A Resolution Adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Standards for Accessible Design and Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way*, Resolution 2013-02 – *A Resolution Adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Pedestrian Facilities In the Public Right-Of-Way Transition Plan*, Resolution 2017-03 – *A Resolution Adopting a Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Plan for the Town of Newburgh*, and Resolution 2020-12 – *A Resolution of the Newburgh Town Council Acknowledging and Rejecting Discrimination in Newburgh*.

On October 28, 2020 the Newburgh Town Council moved to create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee and on January 27, 2022 Town Council approved the first three (3) residents on the Committee to a one-year term. The Committee is composed of seven members; Town Administrative Manager, Town employee, two (2) Town Council members and three (3) Town residents or owners of a business located with the Newburgh Town limits. The Committee shall meet once a month, all members of the Committee are voting members and the Town Attorney (or associate) will attend each meeting. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was formed to review the Town’s policies in order to better serve the individuals of the Town and in an attempt to meet the purpose of eradicating prejudice and practices of individual discrimination. The Committee has met monthly to discuss a wide range of topics but accessibility within the Town facilities and parks is an ongoing discussion. The Committee will be requesting funds from Newburgh Town Council to update the ADA Transition Plan and Title VI Implementation Plan and conduct a facilities assessment.

Current Accessibility/Self-Assessment

Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board Meetings

Auxiliary aids to accommodate disabilities are available at all Parks Board meetings. The William F. Kavanaugh Council Chambers located at Town Hall, where the majority of Parks Board meetings are held, is wheelchair accessible and was updated in September 2022 to allow for visual aids and accessibility to virtually attend meetings and live stream the meetings, if needed.

AMAX Fields

The AMAX Fields are owned by the Town of Newburgh but leased to Newburgh Youth Soccer League and Castle Youth Football League. On the soccer complex side there are three (3) paved and marked accessible parking spaces. The remainder of the lot is gravel surfaced. An accessible walkway is provided to the concession/picnic shelter and restrooms, with the majority of the fields visible but closer access would be ideal. The southern portion of the soccer complex, owned by Newburgh Youth Soccer League, contains an extra field and gravel overflow parking. This entire section is not ADA accessible.

The football complex side has a gravel parking lot but there are four (4) paved and marked accessible parking (one of which is van accessible). ADA compliant pathways are provided to the bathroom and locker room facilities, concessions and bleachers. There is no ADA compliant pathway to the picnic shelter. The multi-level playground structure is not accessible, is not on ADA compliant surface and does not have ADA compliant access.

Kiwanis Community Park

The Kiwanis Community Park is owned by the Town of Newburgh but is leased by Kiwanis Club and the Warrick County School Corporation. There is a large gravel parking lot with no accessible spaces or space markings. The sidewalks have some ramps but lack ramps at the building entrances. There is no accessible walkway to the asphalt track. There is ADA access to the shelter/concession building and ADA access to the restroom facilities.

Lou Dennis Community Park

The Lou Dennis Community Park was and continues to be partially accessible, but is currently under renovation and each phase of the renovation brings the park closer to complete ADA compliance. There are three (3) marked accessible spaces which are van accessible located at the front of the community building. Three (3) of the four (4) restrooms are ADA compliant and Phase I of the renovation made sure that the splash pad and new playground were fully accessible. Both the playground and the splash pad are on ADA compliant playground surfacing, a We-Go-Round was installed that allows for wheelchair access, the new slide is metal which will allow children with cochlear implants to safely enjoy the slide, handicap swings were installed, sensory panels were included in the playground area, and an aquatic access wheelchair (see *Figure 50*) is available at the splash pad for the public to use. Phase IA saw the installation of a shelter house which is accessible by an ADA compliant walkway from the front of the building, but could use a second ADA compliant walkway to access the side parking lot if needed. Two (2) of the eight (8) picnic tables under the shelter are wheelchair accessible. An ADA walkway is needed to access the basketball and tennis courts from the parking lot.



The Fortress of Fun Shelter House is accessible by an ADA complaint walkway but does not have any picnic tables that are wheelchair accessible. The Fortress of Fun is not

ADA accessible or on ADA compliance playground surfacing. There is no ADA walkway to the other playground equipment, which is not on ADA compliant surfacing, and is not itself accessible. There is no ADA walkway to the soccer field, volleyball court or open field areas. The tennis courts are fenced in and wheelchair access is not easily achievable. The back parking lot is used for auxiliary parking and has gravel surfacing.

Some ADA corrections can be easily achieved (adding ADA accessible walkways), but the state of other accessibility conditions in the area are reflective of the age of the facilities and will continue to be corrected as the renovations continue.

Old Lock and Dam Park

The north half of Old Lock and Dam Park is ADA accessible as are the two Lockmaster Cottages, Little Red Brick House and the Allen Family Amphitheater. The cottages were renovated and ADA accessible bathrooms and sleeping arrangements were added to the downstairs area along with ramp access. The Little Red Brick house has ramp access and the bathroom inside is ADA accessible. The Allen Family Amphitheater has two (2) handicap parking spots (one is van accessible) located next to the facility and ramp access to the stage and to the seating area. Concrete pads are located on either side of the concrete seating to allow for wheelchair access.

The south half of Old Lock and Dam Park is mostly accessible. The green space, flag pole, east restroom and Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 are all ADA accessible via ADA accessible pathways. The east restroom and Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 are also fully ADA accessible on the inside. The pathway to the west restroom is the original stone walkway and a concrete ramp added in 2009. The stone pathway is starting to show signs of age and needs to be replaced to continue to be ADA compliant and the 2009 ramp needs to be replaced to meet ADA criteria. The parking lot, in front of the Control Building, is paved and there are four (4) accessible reserved spaces provided including van accessible spaces. There are no picnic tables on site that accommodate wheelchairs or that are on hard, level surfaces. Ramp access to the lower plaza and boat launch area is only accessible by vehicular ramps and ramp access to the floating dock is provided, but the slope depends on the water level on the Ohio River.

Overlook Park

Overlook Park has one accessible parking space (van accessible) but an additional space should be provided based on the number of spaces at the parking lot. An accessible walkway is provided to accessible bathroom facilities, including an accessible water fountain, along with access to the overlook and to the connection with the Rivertown Trail. There are no picnic tables on site that accommodate wheelchairs or that are on hard, level surfaces. There are two interpretive signs which do not include auxiliary aids for those with visual impairments.

Rivertown Trail

The Rivertown Trail is ADA compliant to the best knowledge of those preparing this plan. This includes 3.84 miles of asphalt trail and accessibility at the following facilities: B. Gene Aurand Trailhead (accessible bathrooms, accessible water fountain, and 1 van accessible space), Downtown Plaza, Old Lock and Dam Park, Overlook Park. Informational and directional signage includes braille. There are three interpretive signs along the trail which are not equipped with auxiliary aids for those with impaired vision.

Veterans Monument Park

Veterans Monument Park is ADA compliant with one (1) parking space that is marked accessible parking and is van accessible. There is ADA compliant access up to and on the monument. There is no park development behind the monument.

Park Budget

The Newburgh Parks budget for 2023 is \$239,427.66. This includes:

- \$94,652.00 – Salaries
- \$49,089.51 – Benefits
- \$16,450.00 – Supplies/Fuel/Maintenance
- \$79,236.15 – Contractual Services/Utilities/Insurance/Repairs
- The Parks Board has no independent debt and does not pay any rent

In addition to the Parks budget there are two (2) Cumulative Capital Improvement Funds (CCIF) for the parks. There is Parks CCIF which is for Lou Dennis Community Park and has \$23,000 for 2023 and Lock CCIF which is for Old Lock and Dam Park and has \$30,000.00 for 2023.

Recent Budget Changes

The Newburgh Parks Board budget in 2018 was \$140,307 and in 2019 the budget was increased to \$148,007 and stayed at \$148,007 for 2020. In 2021 the budget was reduced to \$148,000 and 2022 the budget was increased to \$210,609.92. The difference between the 2021 and 2022 budget was due to a 5% increase in salaries, increase in benefits and additional seasonal staff. The budget between 2022 and 2023 was increased by \$28,817.74 which was mostly due to an increase in contractual services, utilities, insurance and benefits.

As expenses continue to rise and property tax revenue remains stagnant, the Town must appropriate funds on a priority basis. Placemaking and quality of life services remain very high on this list of priorities and the Town and Parks Board must work diligently to pursue external sources of funding.

Budget Funding

The Parks Department budget funding comes mainly from property taxes but funding is also generated from rentals of the Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47, both Lockmaster Cottages, the Allen Family Amphitheater, the Lou Dennis Event Room, the Shelter House and Historic Kiwanis Club Picnic Shelter at Lou Dennis Community Park. On March 10, 2021 the Newburgh Town Council took the Newburgh Arts Commission and Newburgh Parks Board Recommendation and made a motion to create an exempt list of organizations that do not have to pay the rental fee at the Allen Family Amphitheater, Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 and the Lockmaster Cottages as well as create a forty-percent (40%) non-profit rate. The exempt list of organizations are as follows:

- Friends of Newburgh
- Historic Newburgh, Inc.
- Newburgh Museum
- Newburgh Park Pals
- Newburgh Theater Group
- Old Dam Band

Potential Funding Sources

There are many issues facing the Parks Board and the priorities have been outlined in the Priorities and Action Plan Schedule (page 77). The major issue is providing ongoing park resources for 24,458 park users on a tax base of 1,623 households.

Funding for plan recommendations will be primarily dependent upon local revenue, grants, bonds and cost sharing through strategic partnerships. Additional funding may be sourced through Park Pals, private sponsorship, donations and fundraising drives. Potential funding sources include:

Rentals– The Newburgh Parks System has seven (7) rental facilities, four (4) in Old Lock and Dam Park and three (3) in Lou Dennis Community Park. Old Lock and Dam Park and Lou Dennis Community Park each have their own restricted funds to which the rental revenue and expenses are added to and pulled from. Creating an in-town and out-of-town rate could potentially increase the revenue brought in. Another way to increase rental revenue is to remove the exempt list of organizations that receive free rentals or impose a cleaning and utility fee to cover expenses.

Boat Ramp Fee – Currently, use of the boat ramp cost five-dollars (\$5.00) per day or users can purchase a yearly pass. Incoming revenue from the boat ramp goes into the Old Lock and Dam restricted fund and is used for yearly maintenance and repairs of the ramp and the dock. The fee could be increased to bring in additional revenue, but with ramp being under water more and more these days, usage of the ramp and dock are limited.

Trail Fee – Currently, organizations that want to host walks or races along the Rivertown Trail do not pay any fees, except for police detail. A fee could be set in place for use of Town barricades, race signage and notification of residents and trail users.

Trail Donation – Done in other areas that have large trail systems, putting in a donation box at the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead or other sites along the trail could bring in donations that could be used to maintain the trail.

Park Pals – Fundraising efforts by Park Pals will bring in some donations that can be used for special projects.

Bonds – The Town of Newburgh took out a 20-year bond in 2020 to pay for Phase I of Lou Dennis Community Park. Paying that bond off as the years go and then keeping the bond in rotation will allow for the Town to pay for continued park renovations and projects.

Grants – Grants are available from the State of Indiana, the Federal Government and from private organizations and should be sought to assist in park projects.

Public Participation

Public input for the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update included four components:

1. Two surveys/questionnaires. The first survey/questionnaire gauged the public satisfaction with present conditions, gathered information on the need for additional or improved facilities, determine the structure of recreational programs and to gather demographic information. The second survey/questionnaire was focused on the Fortress of Fun and asked specific questions on the use of the play structure and what type of structure should replace the Fortress of Fun. The survey/questionnaire had space on the back for children to draw what they would like to see at Lou Dennis Community Park (see *Appendix E* for both surveys)
2. Three public forums to discuss the needs and wants of residents and park users within our service area.
3. A community group presentation to go over the survey data and discuss the needs and wants of the individuals when it comes to the Newburgh Park System.
4. An advertised public meeting at which the draft plan was shared and comments on the plan were accepted and considered.

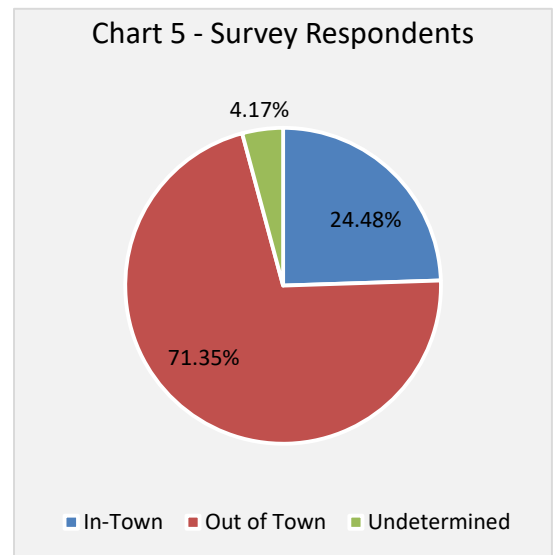
Parks and Recreation Survey

The Newburgh Parks Board created a survey to try to reach as many people as possible within the planning area. The survey asked the public nine (9) questions pertaining to the Newburgh Parks System along with demographic information. The survey was sent out to all Town of Newburgh occupied households that have an active sewer account (1,681) via the Spring 2022 Newburgh News of Note newsletter. The survey was available at all public forums, available at Town Hall and a link to the survey through SurveyMonkey.com was posted online via Facebook (4.1K followers) and the Town website.

The results from this survey are found in the following charts and paragraphs of this section. Written comments were also solicited in addition to the questions answered in the survey. The respondent's written comments are incorporated in this report. The raw data generated as a result of this survey was presented to the public at all three public forums.

Survey Respondents

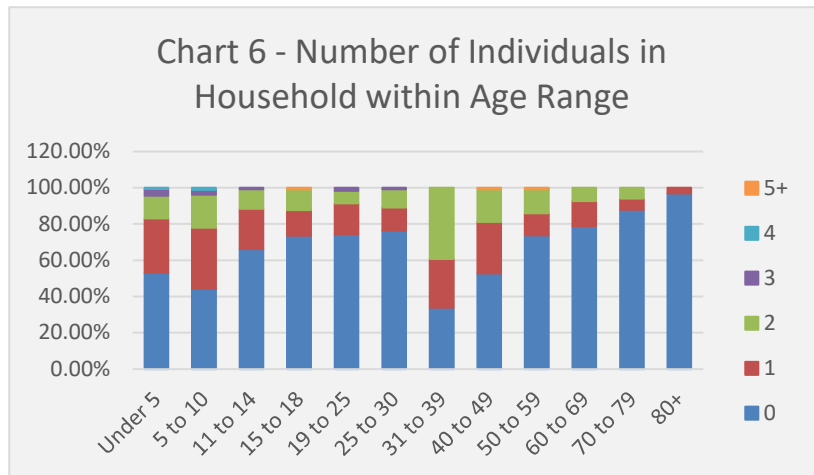
Of the 192 surveys (see *Chart #5*) that were returned 24.48% were from within Town limits compared to the 71.35% from outside the Town limits (4.17% did not leave demographic information). Within the out-of-town survey respondents, 60.42% lived within the Planning Area, 3.65% lived within Warrick County but outside of the Planning Area, and 7.29% lived outside of Warrick County. Warrick County, including the Town of Chandler, City of Boonville, and the Town of Newburgh is populated with 63,989 residents according to the 2020 population estimates contained in the 2020 US Census. It is approximated that the greater area's population served by the Newburgh Park System is a population of 24,458 which includes the Town of Newburgh and is known as the Newburgh Park System Planning Area.



Respondent Household Age Distribution

Of the 192 surveys that were returned, the age distribution accounted for 514 people, averaging 2.67 per household. Of the 514 people within the 192 households the ages were broken down as follows:

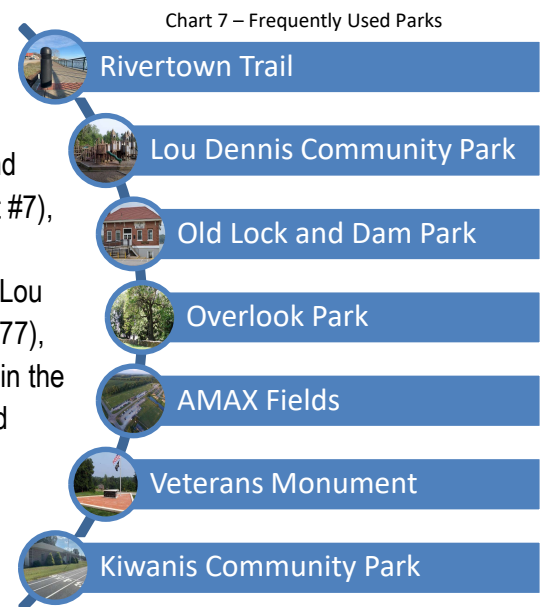
Under Age of 5	75
Ages 5-10	86
Ages 11-14	41
Ages 15-18	32
Ages 19-25	30
Ages 25-30	26
Ages 31-39	96
Ages 40-49	60
Ages 50-79	65
80+	03



This data (see *Chart #6*) seems to represent that the majority of the respondent’s households have school aged children. Family events, programs or activities should be introduced that would benefit all family age groups and allow more families to use the park areas together. The chart also shows that a large majority of the respondent’s are middle aged to seniors and adding more walking trails, exercise stations and or programming to the parks would benefit these age groups. The 15-18 age group is the smallest of the school aged children group, but represents a group that is underserved (teenagers) within the park system. Programs, events, activities or dedicated areas should be considered to cater to this age group to get them more involved and aware of the Newburgh Park System.

Specific Park Usage

Survey respondents were asked how frequently members of their households use the following parks AMAX Fields, Kiwanis Community Park, Lou Dennis Community Park, Old Lock and Dam Park, Overlook Park, Rivertown Trail, and Veterans Monument. Using a weighted average (see *Chart #7*), the Rivertown Trail (3.56) is by far the most used park with Kiwanis Community Park being the least used park (1.29). Lou Dennis Community Park (3.15), Old Lock and Dam Park (2.77), and Overlook Park (2.11) round out the top used Parks within the Newburgh Park System, and were known to be the top used parks due to their location within Town, amenities and their use within most Town events. AMAX Fields (1.81) and Veterans Monument (1.31) round out the bottom three and were expected to be in the bottom three due to them being Special Use Parks.



Newburgh Park System

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the parks within the Town of Newburgh. Feedback was needed on how well does Newburgh provide parks, area new locations needed for parks in Newburgh, does Newburgh need new facilities at existing locations and should new programming or activities be provided by Newburgh. As for Newburgh doing a good job of providing parks, Newburgh was given an average rating of 3.6 out of 5. Outdated, rundown, underfunded, and not enough amenities were cited as the reason for the score. Respondent's results seem to be tied when it came to Newburgh needing new facilities at existing parks and should Newburgh provide additional program/activities; each getting a rating of 4.1 out of 5.

Below is a list of facilities, if added, the respondents would use. Each of the facilities listed below received more at least two (2) or more write-in responses:

1. Community Swimming Pool
2. More Playgrounds
3. Dog Park
4. Bike Lanes
5. More Swings
6. Sidewalks that Connect Parks
7. Batting Cages
8. Community Garden
9. More Soccer Fields
10. Water Bottle Filling Stations
11. Frisbee Golf
12. Outdoor Exercise Areas
13. Another Splash Pad within the Newburgh Park System
14. More Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis)
15. More Bathrooms
16. Pickleball Courts
17. Additional Rentable Shelters
18. Picnic Areas

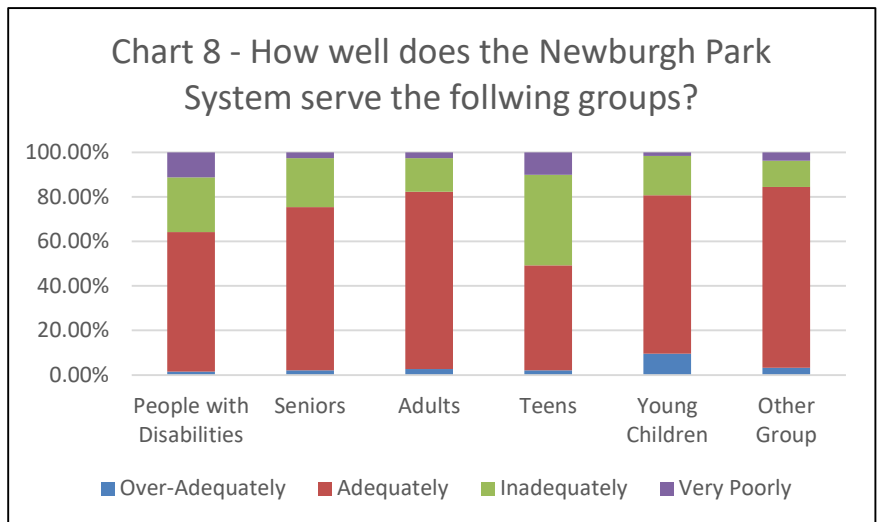
The top five (5) write-in responses were more swing sets within the Newburgh Park System, more bike lanes, a dog park, more playgrounds within the Newburgh Park System, and a community swimming pool. More swing sets and playgrounds are two (2) of the top items that the Parks Board and the Town would like to see within the Newburgh Park System. A dog park has been added to Friedman Park which is thirteen miles from the Town of Newburgh and centrally located within the Newburgh Planning Area. More trails for trail users (walkers, runners and/or bikers) is an issue that the Parks Board wants to continue working on with Warrick Trails and Warrick County. When it comes to a community pool within the Newburgh Park System, the Town of Newburgh partnered with the University of Southern Indiana and had a Feasibility, Sustainability and Marketing Study done for a community pool. Focus Groups were held, surveys were sent out, information was collected, municipalities with community pools were contacted, and Newburgh Community Pool revenue and expenses from 2010 to 2017 was shared; all to compile the data to see if Newburgh should install a swimming pool. Issues that were addressed in the finished study include:

- There are other recreational needs within the Newburgh Park System that need to be addressed before a community pool is built.
- Ninety percent (90%) of the focus groups and surveys respondents wanted a pool but only eight percent (8%) would donate towards a pool, only nineteen percent (19%) would volunteer to discuss ideas and only fifty-four (54%) supported a tax increase to build a pool.
- The scope of the project needs to be extended outside of the Town of Newburgh.
- An aquatic center should be built instead of a standard community pool to stay open longer and bring in the revenue needed to maintain the structure.
- Capital Campaign and Funding concerns. From 1930s – 1970s public swimming pools were heavily funded by federal infrastructure grants (Newburgh Community Pool was one of these pools).

Due to all the issues presented during the study, the Town of Newburgh and Newburgh Parks Board decided that before a new community pool could be installed, that the other recreational needs within the Newburgh Park System and updating Lou Dennis Community Park needed to occur. The Lou Dennis Community Park Master Plans have always saved a green space that could be used in the future for a community pool, but focus will be on maintaining and updating the existing parks and facilities and working with the county, should they decide to move forward with building a community pool.

Park System Accessibility

The survey asked the question, “How well does the Newburgh Park System serve the following groups?”: The groups listed were: people with disabilities, seniors, adults, teens, young children and other. Chart #8 shows how 187 of the 192 survey respondents answered that question. People with disabilities (11.23%) and teens (10.16%) are the two most underserved groups, receiving the highest percentage in the “Very Poorly” category. Teens also received the highest percentage (40.64%) as the most “Inadequately” served group. Teens, being the second highest in “Very Poorly” served and highest in “Inadequately” served is an issue that the Newburgh Parks Board has known and been discussing. Reaching out to local teens and adding features that will be used by this group in future park plans, will increase teen utilization within the park and reduce deficiency in this area. As discussed in the accessibility section (page 60) there are accessibility issues within the Newburgh Park System. The Newburgh Parks Board and staff are working on these issues and as the park system grows, new adaptable, diverse and inclusive play structures, seating, and items are being installed.



The Other Group (81.28%) was the most “Adequately” served group with Adults (79.68%) and Seniors (73.26%) as the next top two groups to be adequately served. When it comes to Adults, Seniors and Others being adequately served, the Rivertown Trail is quoted as the park that is used most by these groups. The Rivertown Trail offers almost three miles of safe and fully accessible walking and biking space for these groups.

Young children (9.63%) were the most “Over-Adequately” served group with the next closest “Over-Adequately” group being Other Group (3.21%). Lou Dennis Community Park and AMAX Athletic Fields are two of the seven parks that are dedicated to just children and are the two parks used most by children. Adding walking loops or exercise pods within these parks might allow for adults, seniors and even teens to utilize the parks in addition to the young children. Adding equipment to any park, even if geared towards another group, might help bring other groups to that park if they are all able to utilize some aspect of the park.

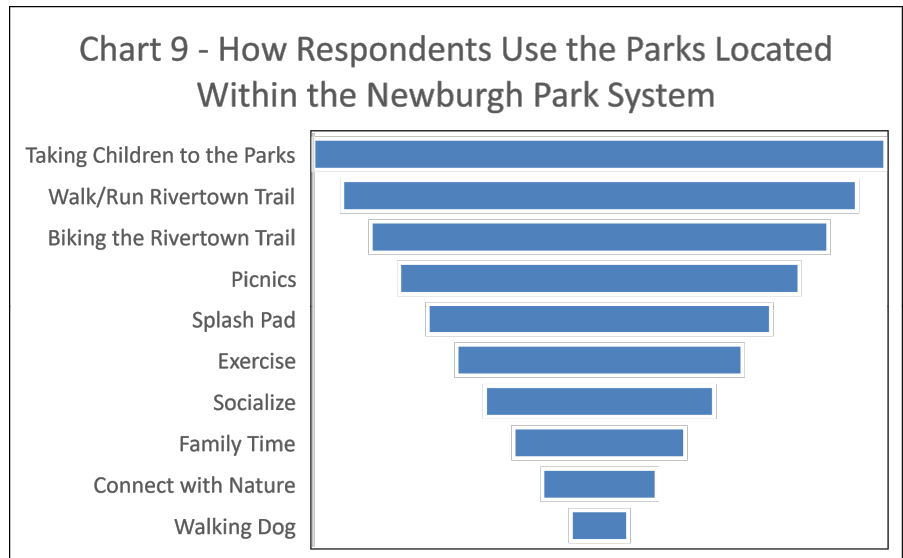
Overall, each group scored highest in “Adequately” out of the four (4) available choices with lower percentages in “Very Poorly”. Looking at the overall data, focusing on teens and people with disabilities should be the focus of Parks Board in order to get the parks ADA compliant and provide a safe space for teens to hang out.

Park Usage

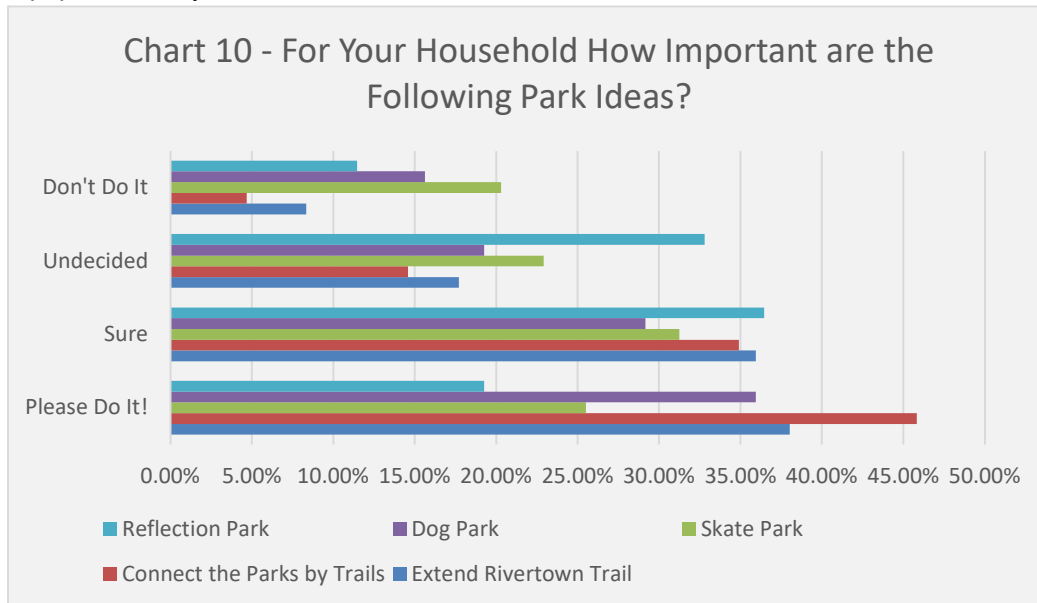
The respondents were asked how they use the parks located within the Newburgh Park System. Of the 192 respondents, 331 answers were given to this question. Chart #9 shows the top ten ways that the respondents use the Newburgh Park System. Taking children to the park, children playing, burn off excess energy, kids, playground, etc; all of these answers were categorized into “Taking Children to the Parks” and was the number one way that the respondents use the parks. The Rivertown Trail has the next top two answers with respondents using the trail specifically for walking, running and biking. This response shows that adding additional trails to connect the parks or loops to extend mileage along the trail is a smart choice as more trails will be available for use. Ways the park is used that received little mention was: tennis, pickleball, basketball courts, river access, events and programming. Renovating the two tennis courts and possibly even expanding the courts to allow for pickleball could enhance court usage. The basketball courts recently underwent a renovation, but with only one basketball court within the whole Newburgh Park System, access to the courts is difficult.

Additional Parks

In past master plans, extending the Rivertown Trail, skate park, and dog park have always been mentioned by



survey respondents, public forum attendees and even listed as a vision for the Newburgh Park System within the master plans themselves. The latest survey asked of those three parks, along with connecting the parks by trails and a passive park for reflection and relaxation, which would they most like to see (see *Chart #10*). Connect the Parks by Trails (45.83%) received the highest in the “Please Do It” category with Extending the Rivertown Trail (38.02%) coming in second. Trail usage with the Newburgh Park System is a popular activity and one the Parks Board should continue to build on.



Skate Park (20.31%) rated the highest among survey respondents within the “Don’t Do It” category. With teenagers being an underserved group within the Newburgh Park System, a skate park has always been seen as a way to give teens something to do within the park system. According to an online Modern Gentlemen article published on August 5, 2021, roughly 70% of all skateboarders are younger than 18 with 13% being between 18-24 years old. Roughly 77.1% of skaters are male while 23.9% are female; and the gap gets greater when you look at “core” versus casual skaters with 83.4% of core skaters being male. In the 2018-2022 Parks Master Plan, GoSkate.com was cited as showing an 85% decrease in Google searches for skate parks from 2004-2017 and stated that skateboarding was currently in decline. According to multiple searches but citing the Modern Gentleman article, skateboarding is seeing a rise in popularity. According to the article, several factors are leading to the rise in skateboarding popularity such as COVID (people have more time on their hands, less work, and want to be outdoors), the stigma that only misfits and punks skateboard is gone, and there is a greater female interest in skateboarding. Additional research states that the rise in skateboarding popularity also could be due to its addition to the Olympics in Tokyo 2020 and the use longboards. Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation is currently building a 27,000 square-foot concrete park that will include bike zones, bowls for skating, ride-on-ledge space, and seating. The skatepark will be an accessible all-wheel park; which includes wheelchairs, bikes, rollerblades and skateboards. The skatepark will be located in downtown Evansville next to the Mickey’s Kingdom playground and the Newburgh Museum; which is a sixteen (16) minute drive for Newburgh Park System users.

Reflection Park received the highest percentage in both “Undecided” (32.81%) and “Sure” (36.46%). This statistic is the same as the last 2018-2022 Parks Master Plan. Originally, the thought was to put a passive

park with landscaping, benches and potentially a fountain on 0.25 acres on the Rivertown Trail. This would allow for another stopping point along the trail and for people to come sit and relax. Renderings were completed, but due to deed covenants adjacent residents would not sign off on the project. The landscaping and fountain were withdrawn but the benches were still placed on the site overlooking the Ohio River. With no path to the benches or signage, the small park is underutilized. Looking for additional spots along the trail or within existing parks to place a passive area will allow for this concept to become a reality.

Adding a dog park to the Newburgh Park System fell in the middle of the other park ideas mentioned. This could be due to the two-acre dog park, known as Pippero Pup Park, that opened up at Friedman Park in April of 2022. Friedman Park is located about 6 miles from Newburgh Town limits and is within the Newburgh Parks Planning Area.

Park Improvements

In the 2022 survey, respondents were given a list of twenty-one (21) park improvements and asked how important those improvements were to them (see *Chart #11*). Respondents were asked to choose between “Don’t Do It”, “Undecided”, “Sure”, and “Please Do It!”.

The top five park improvements that survey respondents would like to see (Please Do It!) are Movies and Music at the Allen Family Amphitheater (53.65%), Replace the Fortress of Fun (51.04%), Park Beautification (42.19%), Mini-Playground at Overlook Park (36.46%), and Mini-Playground at Aurand Trailhead (34.90%).

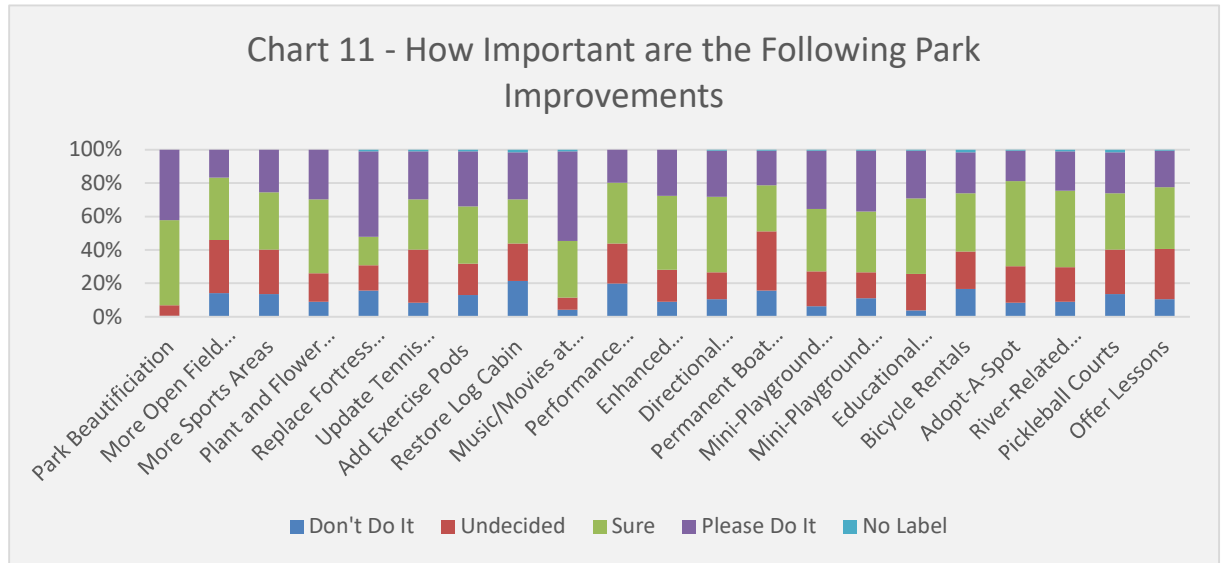
On March 10, 2021, the Newburgh Town Council waived Allen Family Amphitheater fees for local groups like Historic Newburgh Inc., Newburgh Park Pals, Newburgh Theater Group, Old Dam Band and Newburgh Arts Commission in hopes of them putting on more events at the amphitheater. Newburgh Parks Board is working with Newburgh Park Pals to increase programming (45.31% in “Sure” category) not only at the amphitheater but within all of the seven parks.

Park beautification, also number one in the “Sure” category at 51.04%, is a top priority for the Newburgh Parks Board. Recently the Newburgh Town Council has created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Historic Newburgh Inc. (HNI) to plant and maintain certain areas around town. Most areas are planters scattered throughout the downtown area but the biggest section is approximately 400 feet of landscaping along the Rivertown Trail between Monroe and State Street. Additional areas can be added to the MOU as well as additional work by Town staff and third-party contractors. In addition to this, Adopt-A-Spot areas (51.04% in “Sure” category) is another way that areas within the Newburgh Park System can continue to be maintained. The Town of Newburgh already has an active Adopt-A-Spot Program. Master Gardeners have two Adopt-A-Spot areas that they maintain within the park system. First is the flower bed at Lou Dennis Community Park and the second is the flower bed at the Rivertown Trail split on French Island Trail across from Sycamore Street. Advertising the program more, along with signage could increase the communities’ desires to adopt areas within the parks.

Mini-Playgrounds at Overlook Park and Aurand Trailhead have been a wish of the Newburgh Parks Board for many years. With adults and seniors being the majority of the users of the trail, adding a playground at

either end will hopefully increase family usage of the trail, giving a clear goal at either end for kids and families to walk to.

Replacing the Fortress of Fun not only showed up on the top five “Please Do It” but also ended up on the top five of “Don’t Do It” (15.63%). The Fortress of Fun was built in 1998 by the community and discussion about the future of the structure is attached to strong memories. The Fortress of Fun has had two (2) assessments and one (1) review by a contractor and two (2) of the three (3) state the structure should be removed and rebuilt with the third not giving an opinion just states what needs to be corrected.



The top five park improvements that survey respondents do not want to see (Don't Do It) are Restore Log Cabin at Old Lock and Dam Park (21.35%), Performance Challenges along the Rivertown Trail (19.79%), Bicycle Rentals (16.67%), Permanent Boat Dock (15.63%) and Replace Fortress of Fun (15.63%). Performance challenges and bicycle rentals were ideas brought up by individual community members but due to the survey results, should not be something that is pursued by the Parks Board. A permanent boat dock has been applied for in the past and denied by the Army Corps of Engineers due to the distance between the proposed boat dock location and the locks and dam. Due to the survey results, this topic should be not addressed to the Army Corps within the next five years. The log cabin that was once located in Old Lock and Dam Park continues to be a topic of discussion. Town Council has yet to make a decision on the replacement of a log cabin. Approval is needed by Town Council before the individuals wanting to fundraise for the project can begin. Continued maintenance, use of space and use of facility are all issues that need to be addressed.

Public Forums

The first public forum was held on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 6:00PM at Newburgh Town Hall (see *Appendix F*). The public forum was advertised in the Spring 2022 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. In attendance at the June 30th public forum was three Park Board Members, one Park Advisory Member, one Town Council Member, the Town's Facilities Coordinator, two Town residents and one Warrick County Council member. The first public forum was centered around a 41-slide show presentation (see *Appendix G*) that gave forum participants information on what a 5-year Master Plan is and how the Parks Board and staff use the plan, Town and Parks Board structure, Town limits versus the Parks Planning Area, the seven parks located with the Newburgh Park System, the 2018-2022 Top Ten List, and the 2023-2027 Parks Survey Results. Main discussion (see *Appendix H*) during and after the slideshow centered around a community pool, Fortress of Fun, Rivertown Trail, Picnic Tables, Old Lock and Dam Park, and a Community Garden. An article on the first public forum discussion was placed in the July 7, 2022 Warrick County Standard (see *Appendix K*). The main take away from the first public forum was a creation of a possible Top Ten list for the 2023-2027 Parks Master Plan:

1. Continued Maintenance
2. Increase the Number of Swings within the Newburgh Park System
3. Create a Space for 10–15-year-old Children to Play and Hang Out
4. Resurface the Tennis Courts at Lou Dennis Community Park
5. Extend the Trail West
6. Extend the Trail North on Ellerbush – Create a Walking Bridge over State Route 662
7. Increase Programming and Connection with the Ohio River
8. Redesign the Fortress of Fun
9. Create a Ropes Course
10. More Picnic Tables within the Newburgh Park System

The second public forum was held on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 11:00AM at Lou Dennis Community Park (see *Appendix F*). The public forum was advertised in the Spring 2022 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. The second public forum had fifteen citizens in attendance plus all five Parks Board Members, one Parks Board Advisory Member, the Town Manager and the Civil Town Assistant. Of the fifteen citizens present, one was a Town resident, nine lived within the Parks Planning Area, two lived within Warrick County and two lived in Vanderburgh County. Instead of a slideshow presentation, this public forum was setup more like a meet and greet with handouts available for the public and Parks Board and staff on hand to answer any questions. Items discussed (see *Appendix H*) during this public forum were GaGa Ball Pits, Obstacle Courses, Rebuilding Fortress of Fun (as is), small splash pad down by the Ohio River, Take a Book/Leave a Book area, community pool, and several requests from teens. The teens in attendance stated they would like to see an area dedicated for them that allowed for them to play checkers, cornhole, ping pong, a place to sit and socialize, a skate park, more open fields, food trucks and even hosting entrepreneur nights.

The third public forum was held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Newburgh Town Hall (See *Appendix F*). The public forum was advertised in the Spring 2022 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. The third public forum had thirteen people in attendance, with 9 of those in attendance adults and four of them children. While the adults listened to the information presented and

participated in public discussion, the children drew their dream playground, played a game and given snacks. The nine adults in attendance were made up of three Parks Board Members, one Town Council member, five members of the public. Two members of the public live in Town limits, one lives outside of Town limits but within the Planning Area and the other two participants did not give their address. Also in attendance at the public forum was the Facilities Coordinator and one member of the media. The public forum footage was not broadcasted or printed. The third public forum was centered around a 45-slide show presentation that gave forum participants information on what a 5-year Master Plan is and how the Parks Board and staff use the plan, Town and Park Board structure, Town limits versus the Parks Planning Area, the seven parks located with the Newburgh Park System, the 2018-2022 Top Ten List, the 2023-2027 Parks Survey Results, and the topics that were discussed at the previous two public forums. Main discussions (see *Appendix H*) during the public forum were connecting the basketball courts, at Lou Dennis Community Park, to the parking lot via a concrete walkway. Currently there is a worn path in the grass and a concrete walkway would stop the path from becoming muddy. A concrete path is also needed from the parking lot to the new shelter house. The family of four at the public forum stated that they use the basketball courts a lot and adding a fence would also prevent the ball from going into the parking lot. The two in-town residents discussed how much they like Phase I of Lou Dennis Community Park and know that there are more phases to come but want to make sure green space is kept at the park. Discussion was added about extending the trail system, connecting St. John's Catholic Church to Lou Dennis Community Park through the wooded area via trails, adding an obstacle course, adding performance challenges along the trails, adding teen areas and adding swings or playgrounds along the trail. A community pool was discussed as was updating the sidewalks within Town. One participant asked the Facilities Coordinator and Park Board Members what they think park users will see within the next five-years. The Facilities Coordinator and the Park Board Members agreed that in the next five-years they believe park users will see pocket parks along the trail, a teen area, the Fortress of Fun will be replaced, some type of obstacle course or older playground area will be built, GaGa Ball Pit will be built, Lou Dennis Community Park will move into Phase II and Phase III, additional restrooms in the downtown area that could serve the Rivertown Trail users, taking over operations at Overlook Park and continued maintenance and improvements within all the parks.

Community Group Presentation

On the second Tuesday of each month, local groups come together to discuss their groups, memberships, upcoming events, and topics within Newburgh. These groups include: Town of Newburgh, Newburgh Park Pals, Historic Newburgh, Inc., Merchants Collective, Newburgh Museum, Newburgh Arts Commission, Newburgh Chandler Library, Kiwanis of Historic Newburgh and Newburgh Community Theater. At the postponed meeting on August 16, 2022 the Facilities Coordinator presented the six attendees there with the Public Forum Information (see *Appendix I*). The Facilities Coordinator discussed the information provided and asked participants to send her an email with what they would like to see within the Park System within the next five years. Discussion was had on the relationship with these groups and the parks and how moving forward, they can all work together when it comes to programming and events. Issues that were discussed after the presentation:

- Adding additional restrooms to Newburgh, especially between the Aurand Trailhead and Old Lock and Dam Park. There are no bathrooms within that approximate 1-mile of the Rivertown Trail and it would not only be a benefit to trail users but to the local downtown merchants as well
- On busy trail days, having the trash cans emptied more often
- Replacement of the west side Town entry sign

- The log cabin area

Historic Newburgh Inc. (HNI) had their monthly meeting on August 22, 2022. At the meeting, member Stacy Cobb (with permission from the Facilities Coordinator), handed out the Public Forum Information and asked members to write down ideas or suggestions that they would like to see within the Newburgh Park System. On Friday, August 26, 2022 the following information was sent to the Facilities Coordinator:

- More lighting on the Rivertown Trail
- Better parking at AMAX Athletic Fields and fill in the potholes
- Street lights that define the Town limits
- No pool
- Add shade to the benches along the Rivertown Trail
- Wayfinding signs (It will help collaborate signs and will show parks, stores, restrooms and restaurants)
- More public restrooms on the Rivertown Trail

Public Forum and Community Group Presentation Conclusions

The overall themes and takeaway from the public forums were as follows:

1. Out of all three public forums; twenty-seven (27) participants attended with five (5) of those participants living within Town limits.
2. Lou Dennis Community Park was the main topic of discussion at all three (33) public forums.
3. Continued maintenance is an important topic for Parks Board members and participants.
4. Adding additional areas within the Newburgh Park System that focus on 10–15-year-old children and teens are needed. These areas could be a hang out area, ropes course, or an obstacle course.
5. Additional seating and picnic tables are needed throughout the Newburgh Park System.
6. Additional swings are needed within the Newburgh Park System along with additional play structures like a gaga ball pit or other structures.
7. Trail extensions and river programming are topics people would like to see.
8. The Fortress of Fun was discussed at length and is a topic that the public is passionate about.
9. The public would like to see a community pool within Warrick County.
10. Address ADA issues within the Newburgh Park System.

Needs Analysis

Since the Town of Newburgh Parks Board is developing this master plan in-house, we are 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 Parks Board, the Town of Newburgh Staff and identified common themes from each method and condensed those themes into underlying issues.

Issues from Public Input

The top five issues from the public input are:

1. The need for more amenities within the Newburgh Park System (obstacle course, ropes course, gaga ball pit, more swings, more picnic tables)
2. Restoration of the Fortress of Fun
3. Trail extension
4. Park restrooms opened all year
5. A place for pre-teen and teenagers to use

Issues from Parks Board and Town of Newburgh Staff

The top five issues from the Park Board and Town Staff input are:

1. Lack of funding
2. Deciding how to proceed with the Fortress of Fun in Lou Dennis Community Park
3. Creating pocket parks and adding amenities to parks through the Newburgh Park System
4. Creating a safe space for pre-teens and teens to hangout within the Newburgh Park System
5. Moving forward with Phase II of Lou Dennis Community Park

The Newburgh Park System has 64.74 acres of available park space which is just shy of the recommended 66.88 acres needed, based on Indiana's LOS for location recreation acres. Within the Planning Area the parks fall short when it comes to Mini Parks and Neighborhood Parks but there is an overage when it comes to Community Park acreage, thanks to the addition of Friedman Park within Warrick County. The Town of Newburgh, as it sits now, does not have a chance to obtain additional acreage to add to the park system. In order for the park system to grow for the residents within the Planning Area, Warrick County and/or surrounding cities or towns would need to increase their park acreage.

What the Newburgh Parks System Needs

1. Funding for capital improvements, regular and continued maintenance and park programming
2. Dedicated personnel for the Newburgh Park System
3. Full tree inventory and invasive plant species assessment
4. New amenities within the current parks
5. An increased connection between the Newburgh Parks System and the Ohio River
6. New and accessible play equipment and accessible routes between amenities

Priorities and Action Plan Schedule

The vision for the Newburgh Parks System is that of a network of well-kept, beautiful parks that connect the community to its greatest resource, the Ohio River. This vision is based on the recurring themes that came from each form of public input and discussion. This vision should be considered the mission statement for the future development of the parks system. Along with this vision, the Newburgh Parks Board and the Town of Newburgh Staff have identified 10 priorities that should be addressed within the next 5 years.

2023-2027 Priorities

Below are the top 10 priorities for the Newburgh Parks Systems with #1 being the highest priority and #10 being the lowest priority:

1. Removal of all unsafe play equipment; preparation of all play areas for new usage
2. Hire dedicated personnel for the Newburgh Park System
3. Update all walkways to and from amenities and facilities to be ADA compliant
4. Do a complete inventory and assessment of all trees and plants within the Newburgh Park System
5. Update restrooms within the Newburgh Park System to allow facilities to remain open year round
6. Continue moving forward with the Lou Dennis Community Park Master Plan phases
7. Add additional swings sets, playgrounds, trails and amenities to the Newburgh Park System
8. Increase utilization and programming within the Newburgh Park System
9. Create a safe space for pre-teens and teenagers to come together outside in nature
10. Take over ownership of Overlook Park and Overlook Park Extension

Action Plan Schedule

The Action Plan Schedule will help guide the Newburgh Parks Board and the Town of Newburgh in achieving their 10 priorities.

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
2023	Invasive Species Training, Workshops, Seminars	Facilities Coordinator	Approximately \$100 - \$400 depending on cost of program and attendees	Park CCIF
2023	Playground Design at Lou Dennis Community Park	Park Pals, Inc.	\$10,600	Park Pals Restricted Funding
2023	Update Restrooms within the Newburgh Park System to allow facilities to remain open year-round	Facilities Coordinator and Maintenance Superintendent	\$40,000 - \$60,000	Newburgh Park Budget Lock CCIF Park CCIF
2023	Rebuild Old Lock and Dam Log Cabin	Parks Board and Town Council	Estimated Cost \$120,000	Private Donations, Park Pals, Lock CCIF
2023	New Sound System for Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47	Facilities Coordinator	\$2,000 - \$5,000	Lock CCIF Park Budget Park Pals Fundraising

2023	Add Swing Set to Aurand Trailhead	Facilities Coordinator	Depends on size of swing set; Estimated Cost \$5,000 - \$15,000	Park Pals Fundraising
2023	Tree Inventory	Facilities Coordinator	Unknown Reach out to IDNR's Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) program for help with tree inventory, expert information, and potential grants	Newburgh Park Budget
2023	Meet with AMAX and Kiwanis lessees to make sure all lease requirements are being met and to assess any needs they may have	Facilities Coordinator Legal	TBD	Newburgh Youth Football Newburgh Soccer Newburgh Kiwanis Warrick County School Corporation Park Budget
2023	Old Lock and Dam Park Plumbing	Facilities Coordinator Maintenance Superintendent Town Engineer WWTF Superintendent	\$10,000 - \$50,000	Lock CCIF Park Budget Sewer Budget
2023	Overlook Park History	Facilities Coordinator Legal	\$500	Park Budget
2023	Gazebo Repairs	Maintenance Superintendent	\$800	Lock CCIF
2023	Historic Bridge #264 Repairs	Town Administrative Manager Town Engineer	\$100,000	Warrick County ARPA Grant Town ARPA Funding
2023	Phase II of Lou Dennis Community Park (second shelter house, running electricity to two of the three shelters, landscaping updates, fencing near basketball courts)	Facilities Coordinator and Project Manager	Approximate cost \$200,000	Warrick County ARPA Grant (\$100,000) Town AARP funds, Park CCIF
2023	Official Change Name of Indian Hill Overlook Park	Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Facilities Coordinator	\$200	Newburgh Park Budget
2023	Design Trail Connecting St. John's Church to Lou Dennis Community Park through the connected wooded area	Facilities Coordinator, Warrick Trails, Park Pals	\$5,000	Newburgh Park Budget Park CCIF Park Pals Warrick Trails

2023	Repair/Replace Faded or Broken Park Signage	Facilities Coordinator	Estimated \$2,500	Newburgh Park Budget Lock CCIF Parks CCIF
2023-2024	Create an updated Memorandum between Newburgh Town Council and Newburgh Parks Board Operating Procedure	Facilities Coordinator Legal	Staff Hourly Rate Legal Cost	Newburgh Park Budget Newburgh Town Budget
2023-2024	Part of Phase II of Lou Dennis Community Park (removal of all unsafe play equipment and preparation of play area)	Town of Newburgh Facilities Coordinator	Save the donor bricks, the animated features and the wooden squares decorated by children; save any new features purchased (swings/slides); estimated cost \$15,000	Newburgh Park Budget Park CCIF
2023-2024	Assess Park Rental Rates; Create In-Town vs. Out-of-Town Rate	Facilities Coordinator, Civil Town Assistant, Parks Board, Town Council	Staff Hourly Rate	Newburgh Park Budget
2023-2024	Renovations to Scout Shelter	Facilities Coordinator	Approximate cost \$50,000	Park CCIF
2023-2024	Little Red Brick House Roof Replacement	Facilities Coordinator	Estimated Cost \$8,000	Lock CCIF Newburgh Park Budget
2023-2024	New Doors and Windows on Lockmaster Cottages	Facilities Coordinator Historic Preservation Commission Maintenance Superintendent	Estimated Cost \$20,000	Lock CCIF Newburgh Park Budget
2023-2024	Apply for Grants for Trail attaching St. John's Church to Lou Dennis Community Park	Facilities Coordinator Park Pals Warrick Trails	\$1,000	Newburgh Park Budget Park CCIF
2023-2025	Tree and Plant Assessment in all Seven Parks	Facilities Coordinator and Town Administrative Manager	Estimated Cost \$7,000	Newburgh Park Budget
2023-2025	Teen Area	Parks Board, Facilities Coordinator	Cost depends on what is provided for this area; Estimated cost \$5,000 to \$15,000	Newburgh Park Pals, Lock CCIF, Donations, Grants
2023-2025	Create Designs to Turn Stone Storage Area into Restrooms or Concession Stand	Facilities Coordinator	Design Cost Estimated at \$3,000	Lock CCIF Newburgh Park Budget

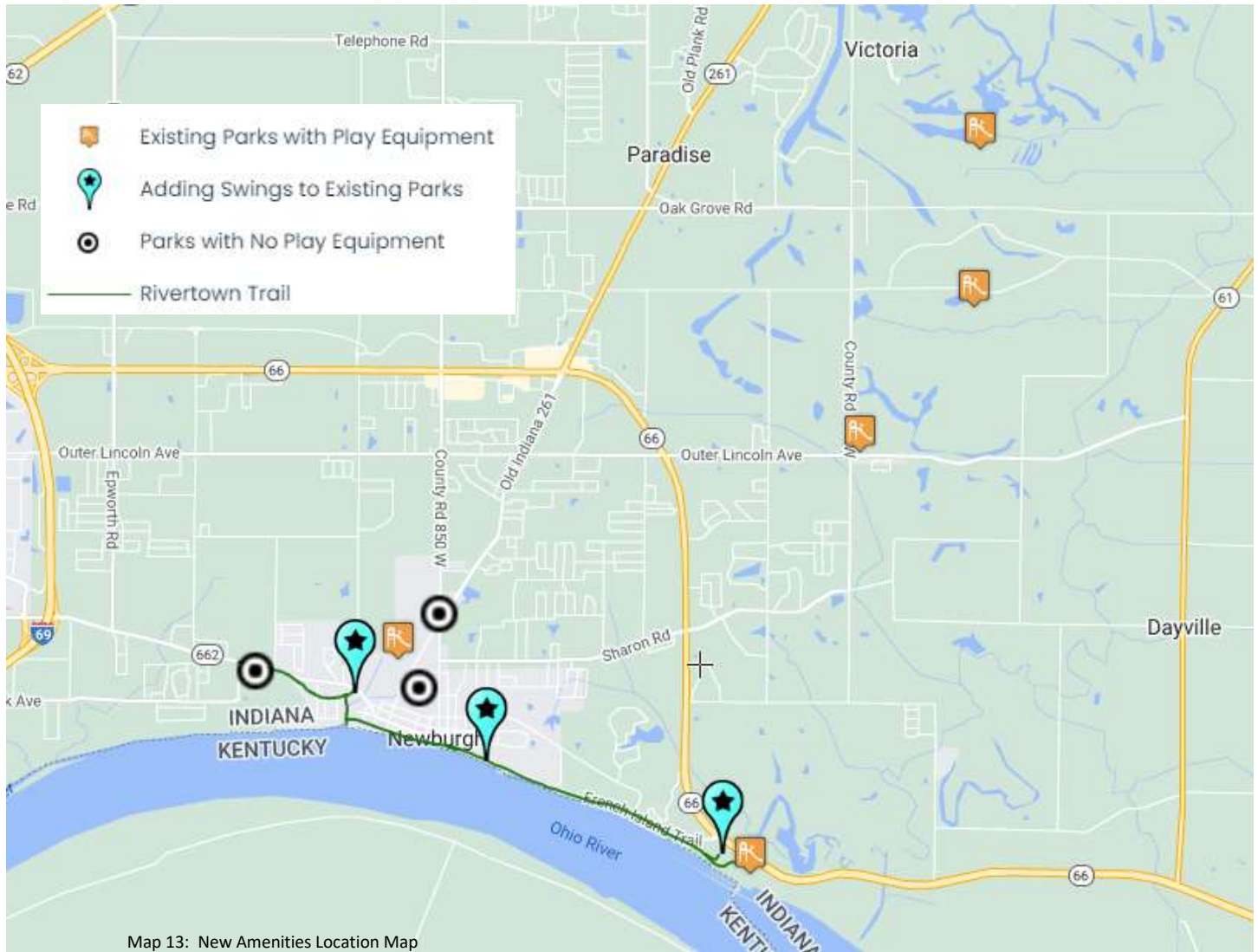
2023-2025	Compile Designs and Cost for Concrete and Masonry Work of Old Lock and Dam Park Esplanade	Facilities Coordinator Town Engineer	Design Costs Estimated at \$10,000	Lock CCIF Newburgh Park Budget Town Budget
2023-2026	Update all walkways to and from amenities and facilities within Lou Dennis Community Park, Old Lock and Dam Park, Rivertown Trail, and Veterans Monument to be ADA compliant	Facilities Coordinator	Varies on the price of concrete and length of walkways; also varies on cost of materials within historic areas (like Old Lock and Dam Park) Costs can range from \$5,000 to \$30,000	Newburgh Park Budget, Lock CCIF, Park CCIF
2023-2026	Update all walkways to and from amenities and facilities within AMAX Athletic Fields and Kiwanis Community Playground to be ADA compliant	Facilities Coordinator and League Presidents	Varies on the price of concrete and length of walkways; Costs can range from \$5,000 to \$15,000	Newburgh Youth Soccer, Castle Youth Football Newburgh Kiwanis Warrick County School Corporation Park Budget
2023-2027	Replace Picnic Tables and Benches through Newburgh Park System	Facilities Coordinator	Estimated Cost \$1,000 - \$3,000 per table and/or bench	Newburgh Park Budget Lock CCIF, Parks CCIF, Donations
2023-2027	Increase Utilization and Park Programing	Facilities Coordinator, Parks Board, Park Pals, Historic Newburgh, Inc.	Cost depends on event and/or programming Estimated Cost \$1,000 to \$20,000	Newburgh Park Budget, Lock CCIF, Parks CCIF, Historic Newburgh, Inc, Park Pals, Other Entities, Grants
2023-2027	Yearly Assessment of Grass at Lou Dennis Community Park	Facilities Coordinator Maintenance Superintendent	Depends on repairs or replacement; estimated cost \$1,000 - \$5,000	Park CCIF
2023-2027	Create Programming to Connect Newburgh Park System to Ohio Rover	Facilities Coordinator, Zoning Administrator	\$5,000	Newburgh Park Budget Town Budget Stormwater Budget
2024	Add Additional Swing Set to Lou Dennis Community Park	Facilities Coordinator	Depends on size of swing set; Estimated Cost \$5,000 - \$15,000	Park CCIF
2024	Hire Dedicated Janitor for Rentals and Park Amenities	Zoning Administrator and Maintenance Superintendent	Depends on if part- time or full-time; estimated cost \$20,000 to \$40,000	Newburgh Park Budget Lock CCIF Park CCIF
2024-2025	Hire dedicated maintenance position for all Town facilities including park facilities and amenities	Town Administrative Manager, Maintenance Superintendent, Zoning Administrator	Depends on if part- time or full-time; estimated cost \$40,000 to \$60,000	Newburgh Park Budget Lock CCIF Park CCIF Civil Town Budget

2024-2025	Construct Trail Connecting St. Johns' Church to Lou Dennis Community Park	Facilities Coordinator Warrick Trails Park Pals	Estimated Cost \$70,000-\$100,000	Park Budget Park Pals Warrick Trails Grants
2025	Meet with Local Park Stakeholders to get assessment of Newburgh Park System	Facilities Coordinator Parks Board	\$100	Newburgh Park Budget
2025	Part of Phase III of Lou Dennis Community Park (renovate tennis courts)	Facilities Coordinator	Cost depends on if we fix the surfacing and restripe or if we redo the surfacing Estimated Cost \$20,000 to \$100,000	Newburgh Park Budget Park CCIF, Park Pals Fundraising, Grants, Donations
2025	Add Swing Set to Overlook Park	Facilities Coordinator	Depends on size of swing set and approval from Army Corps of Engineers; Estimated Cost \$5,000 - \$15,000	Park Pals Fundraising
2025-2026	Start designing on Phase V and Phase VI of Lou Dennis Community Park (add Trail Loop and fitness pods around the trail and trail loop within wooded area)	Town Administrative Manager and Facilities Coordinator	Design and engineering work; Estimated Cost \$50,000	Warrick Trails, Grants, Donations, Park Pals Fundraising, Newburgh Park Budget, Park CCIF
2026	Add Swing Set or Swinging Benches to Old Lock and Dam Park	Facilities Coordinator	Depends on size of swing set; Estimated Cost \$5,000 - \$20,000	Park Pals Fundraising
2026	Part of Phase III of Lou Dennis Community Park (increase parking)	Facilities Coordinator and Newburgh Parks Board	Costs depends on where parking lot is extended and/or if existing back gravel parking lot is paved; Estimated costs \$30,000 to \$120,000	Newburgh Park Budget, Park CCIF Park Pals Fundraising, Grants, Donations
2026	Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 Ramp Designs	Facilities Coordinator Town Engineer	Estimated Costs \$5,000	Lock CCIF Town Budget
2027	Part IV of Lou Dennis Community Park (add additional play structure)	Facilities Coordinator	Depends on location and size of structure; Estimated Costs \$239,500	Newburgh Park Budget Park CCIF, Park Pals Fundraising, Grants, Donations
2027	Old Lock and Dam Control Building No. 47 Ramp Replacement	Facilities Coordinator Town Engineer	\$20,000 - \$80,000	Lock CCIF Town Budget

Unknown (2023-2027)	Take Over Operations of Overlook Park	Town Administrative Manager and Facilities Coordinator	Cost for legal work, recording, etc. Approximate Cost \$3,000	Newburgh Park Budget, Civil Town Budget
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New Amenities Location Map

Currently out of the eleven (11) parks within the Planning Area, only five (5) have play structures located on site; AMAX Athletic Fields, Friedman Park, Lou Dennis Community Park, New Lock and Dam Park, and Vann Road Park. Out of those five (5) parks only two are located within the Newburgh Park System; AMAX Athletic Fields and Lou Dennis Community Park; and only one of them is located within Town Limits, Lou Dennis Community Park. By adding swings or play structures to three (3) existing park locations (Overlook Park, Old Lock and Dam Park, Aurand Trailhead), the Newburgh Park System will be able to offer more play structures to the park users (see *Map 13*).



Play structures located in Lou Dennis Community Park include the new playground built in Phase I, the toddler playground and the Fortress of Fun. The continuation of the Lou Dennis Community Park will see more play structures being built within the park. The new amenities will range from swings to possible obstacle and/or rope courses as well as new play structures. The Park will also include a walking trail around the perimeter of the park, but trail placement has not been decided at this time. Placement of these amenities within the park is still in the early phases but Figure 51, on page 81, shows possible locations for these amenities.



Figure 51 – New Amenities within Lou Dennis Community Park

Additional amenities that could be added to the Newburgh Parks System are a teen area and a log cabin. At this time, what the teen area would look like and what park it would be located in, is unknown. The log cabin replacement would go back in the original location of the log cabin at Old Lock and Dam Park, but that structure depends on funding.

Final Public Presentation of the Plan

The submittal process for the 2023-2027 Newburgh Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was presented. The outline is as follows:

- Draft plans will be available for review at the Facilities Coordinator's office at Newburgh Town Hall.
- The draft plan will remain available for review and comment until November 7, 2022.
- The draft plan will be sent to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation no later than November 14, 2022.
- The final plan must be adopted by the Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board and Newburgh Town Council no later than April 15, 2023.

Public Meeting

The public meeting was held on October 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM at Town Hall (see *Appendix J*). The Final Public Presentation was advertised in the Fall 2022 newsletter, the Town Facebook page, the Town website, posted at Town Hall and sent to all media contacts. Present at the meeting were the Facilities Coordinator, two (2) Parks Board Members and one (1) resident of Newburgh.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft of the 2023-2027 Newburgh Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan draft to the public. At the public meeting, a slide show was created to highlight all the implications, recommendations, the top five (5) issues from the public, the top five (5) issues from the Parks Board, what the needs of the Newburgh Park System, and the 2023-2027 Priorities. Dialog was opened to the attendants The following was discussed:

- Time line for hiring dedicated park staff.
- Replanting trees after a tree is removed.
- In-town and out-of-town rates and how that would work, when that would be implemented and how will the addresses be verified.
- Working with organizations outside of Town and helping them with playground/park projects.

Public Comment

The 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Draft was available for review at Town Hall, on the Town website and on the Town's Facebook page. Comment cards, phone numbers and email addresses were made available to the public for comment. No comments were submitted to the Facilities Coordinators Office or to any Park Board Members by the November 7, 2022 deadline.

