

PENDLETON/ FALL CREEK PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Town of Pendleton, Indiana

Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan

Effective Dates: January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2004

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

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Town of Pendleton, Indiana

INTRODUCTION

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

Summary

The Pendleton-Fall Creek Parks and Recreation Board contracted with the Madison County Council of Governments (MCCOG) to develop a Five-Year Master Plan that incorporated the visions, dreams and expectations of the community. As part of the charge from the Park Board, MCCOG was requested to look beyond the ordinary to create a plan that would be unique to Falls Park and its special natural features. Responding to that charge and challenge created an opportunity for many diverse committees, groups, and individuals to have input into the planning process.

From its initiation, the planning process incorporated comments and suggestions from this diverse group of participants and sought to integrate the best ideas into the final plan. The end result synthesized these ideas with field data, working notes, and the practical realities of site limitations to achieve the common goal of improving the park system for the Pendleton community. Throughout the process, the Park Board listened, debated, reasoned, and decided upon a final plan that reflects a sound vision and a renewal of Pendleton's rich heritage.

Introduction

From its historic beginning as the initial county seat in 1823, the Town of Pendleton — nestled within the northern-most section of the township on Fall Creek — has created a unique quality of life and spirit of community. This unique character has expressed itself through generations of pioneers who have endeavored to blend the man-made landscape with the natural environment.

Historically, Pendleton has been one of the most picturesque areas of Madison County. Its park system began when B.F. Phipps, a well known pioneer and hardware merchant, presented a park project proposal to the town board in 1918 to take advantage of this natural beauty. The board eventually consented, creating a park fund from a newly instituted tax levy. The Falls Cannery donated part of the park grounds, and the board purchased the remainder of the land at a cost of \$5,500.

Since its creation in the early twentieth century, Fall Creek Park has attracted visitors from all over Central Indiana. With its playgrounds, tourist camp, pool, flowers, duck pond, and overall scenic beauty, the park has continued to serve a wide variety of interests and uses for over three quarters of a century. Given this distinctive heritage, the development of this five-year Park Plan presents an opportunity to continue in the community's tradition of interweaving the fabric of the natural and built environments.

Indiana/ Madison County Loctional Map



Figure 1



Town of Pendleton, Indiana

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

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Community Background

While the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has established standards for recreational use, the NRPA has also acknowledged that its standards “address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved” (**Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines**, page 11). The standards provide a guideline for relating recreational needs to a spatial analysis. However, they also allow for flexibility and common sense planning based upon local needs for the future. Nonetheless, standards and guidelines should not be founded on arbitrary criteria solely on the basis that they reflect local preferences. It is important that sound judgement, reflection of need, attainability, acceptability, and sound analysis be an integral part of the development of standards process for the local park or recreation board.

Given the lack of hard data or numbers pertaining to the usage of park facilities, the demand analysis for this park plan will involve utilizing the following as resources: location and physical characteristics, public meetings, special citizen study committees, surveys, board input, information from the superintendent, and demographic data. Other sources of information include the SCORP, the NRPA, special studies on wetlands and water corridor recreation, and other community resources. The resultant analysis is based upon interpretation and synthesis of these information sources, sound judgment, and intuitive reason rather than on quantitative comparisons.

Location

Pendleton is located along Fall Creek, 27 miles northeast of Indianapolis and 10 miles south of the center of Anderson (See Figure 2: Pg. 5). Situated in a primarily agricultural region of east central Indiana, Pendleton is the fastest growing and closest Madison County community to Indianapolis on Interstate 69.

Geographically, Pendleton’s park district includes approximately 46.1 square miles of Fall Creek Township. The three southern townships represent 23.3 percent, or 105 square miles, of the land in Madison County. Most of the land in the three townships is used for agricultural purposes, and each township has an incorporated community that is the focal point for that specific area (See Figure 3: Pg. 6). Pendleton is the largest of these three incorporated communities, representing a southern center from both a geographic and a recreational standpoint.

Natural Features

Pendleton is primarily characterized by flat to gently rolling plains, with overall elevations ranging from 820 feet to 880 feet above sea level. Madison County was part of the state formed by glacial blankets, and its present landforms are a result of glacially deposited sand, gravel, and subsequent water erosion with little influence from the underlying bedrock. Numerous minerals such as limestone, gravel, sand, and clay lay underneath the ground in abundant supply. Limestone is present near the surface in some areas and can be used for decorative stone and for flagstone. Gravel and sand are more abundant in the county than limestone, and many locations are sufficient for commercial extraction. In recent years, Madison County areas depleted of their commercial value for resource extraction have become ideal locations for either recreational or residential development.

Madison County/ Pendleton Locational Map

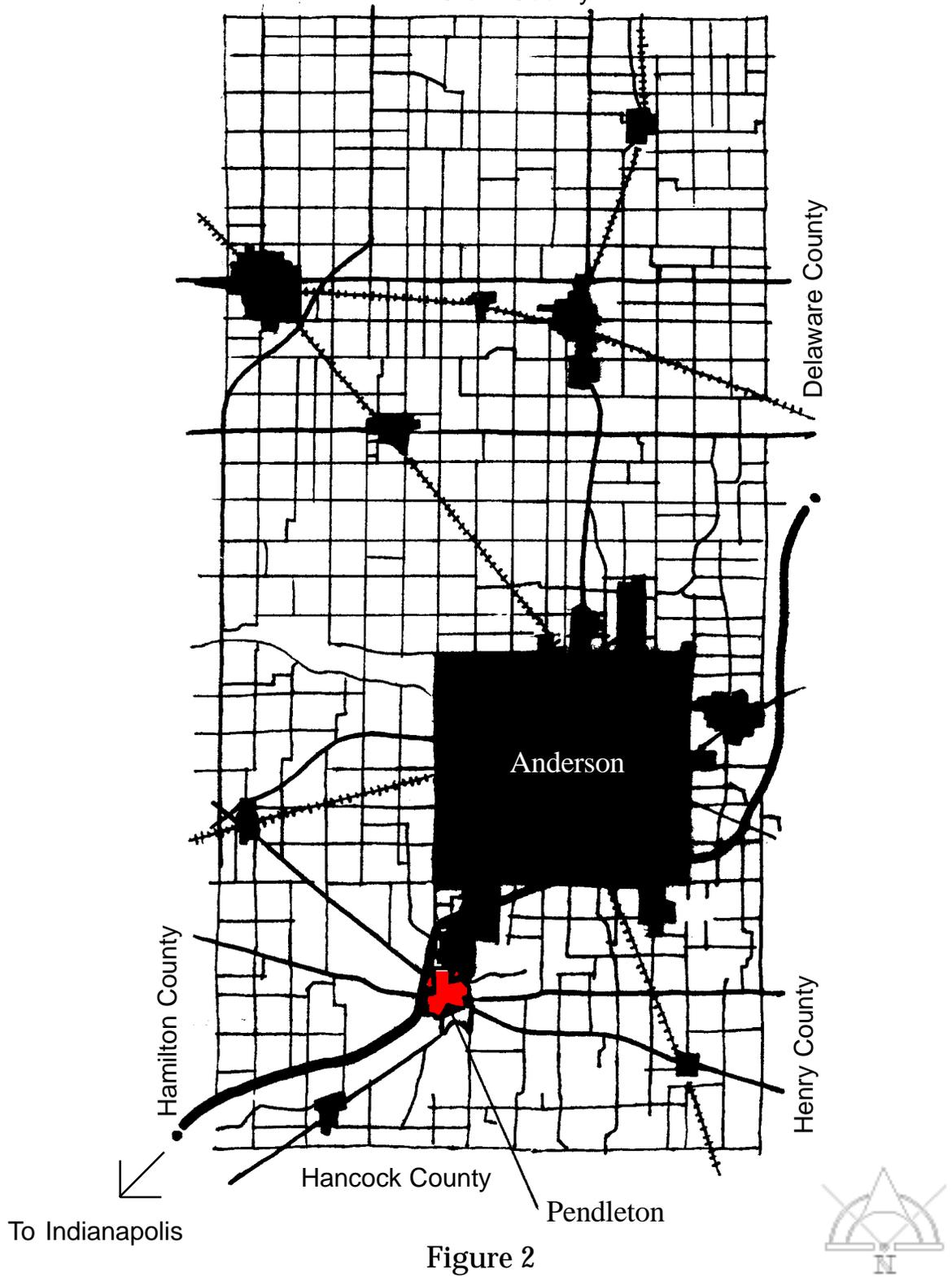
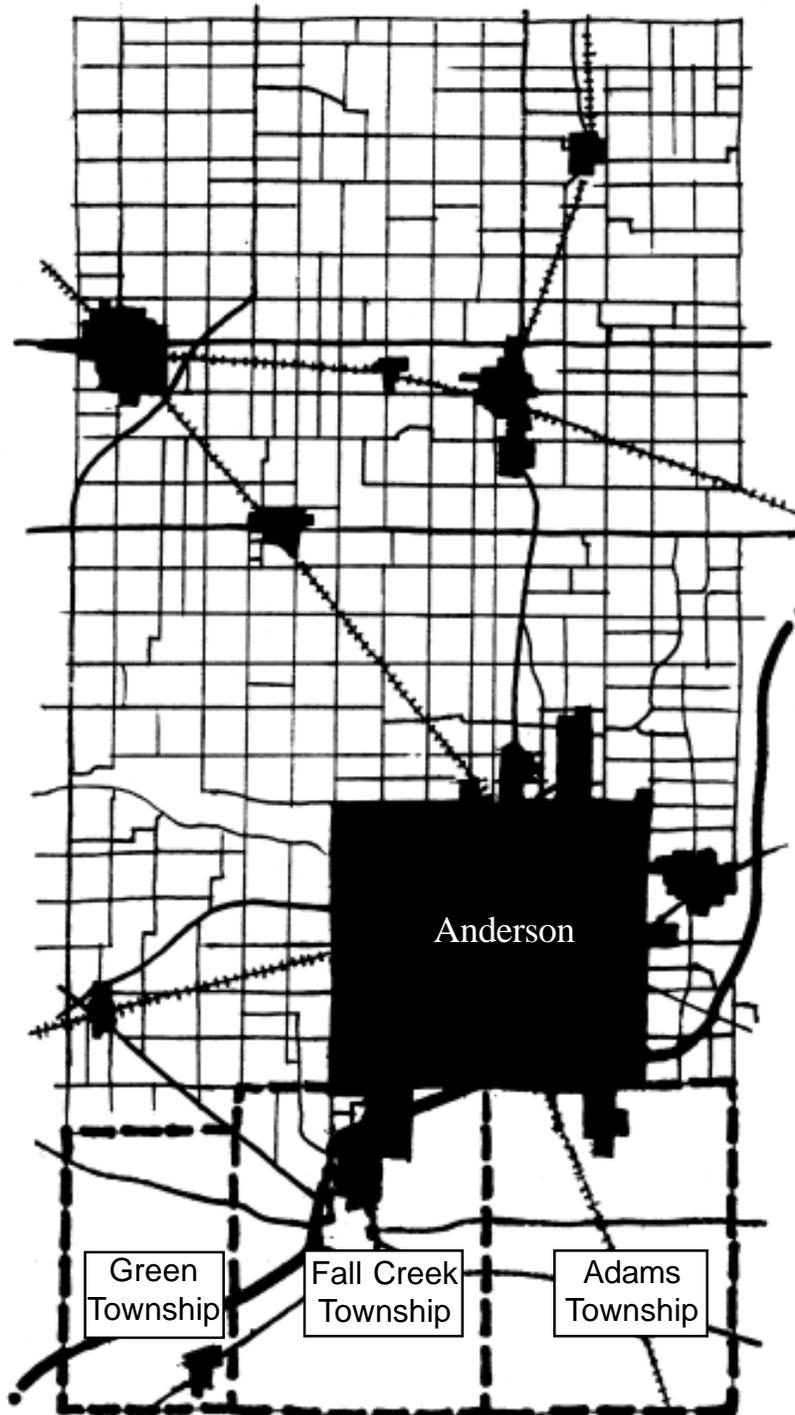


Figure 2

Pendleton Park Jurisdiction and Service Area Map



Note: The Pendleton Park System is funded only by Fall Creek Township, however is heavily utilized by the three southern townships.



Figure 3

The soils in the county range from very wet to modestly wet soils and are capable of supporting development depending upon drainage and wastewater needs. Soils in the park range from those capable of supporting minimal development to those with severe constraints on development (See Figure 4: Pg. 8).

Fall Creek winds through Pendleton for approximately 3 miles, descending from the eastern entry point in the community at an elevation of 860 feet to an elevation of 822 feet at its southern corporate boundary. This major descent in elevation allows for swift movement of the water, most pronounced within the park at the falls and the dam. The changing contour of the floodway and floodplain gives the park its most outstanding natural amenity - the falls.

The floodplain of Fall Creek ranges from 90 feet in width to just over 1,620 feet through the town area (See Figure 5: Pg. 9). As the creek channel meanders through the town, slopes rise gently to a primarily flat, level terrain on the upland areas of both sides of the creek. Certain slopes are much steeper in grade at selected points along the creek, found mostly along the northern bank. In general, these slopes tend to be small compared to those further west and adjacent to the White River in northwest Anderson.

Land adjacent to Fall Creek within the town has been developed with the exception of those grounds north and east of the park. Part of this property was purchased by the park district in 1992 and is a wetland. Additional wetland areas lie north of the creek and to the east of the Conrail line adjacent to an agricultural field. The visual amenities afforded to this area are significant if development either remains natural or is shielded from the creek channel. Prior improvements along the channel in town have been, for the most part, residential encroachments that have minimally detracted from the natural beauty of the creek channel.

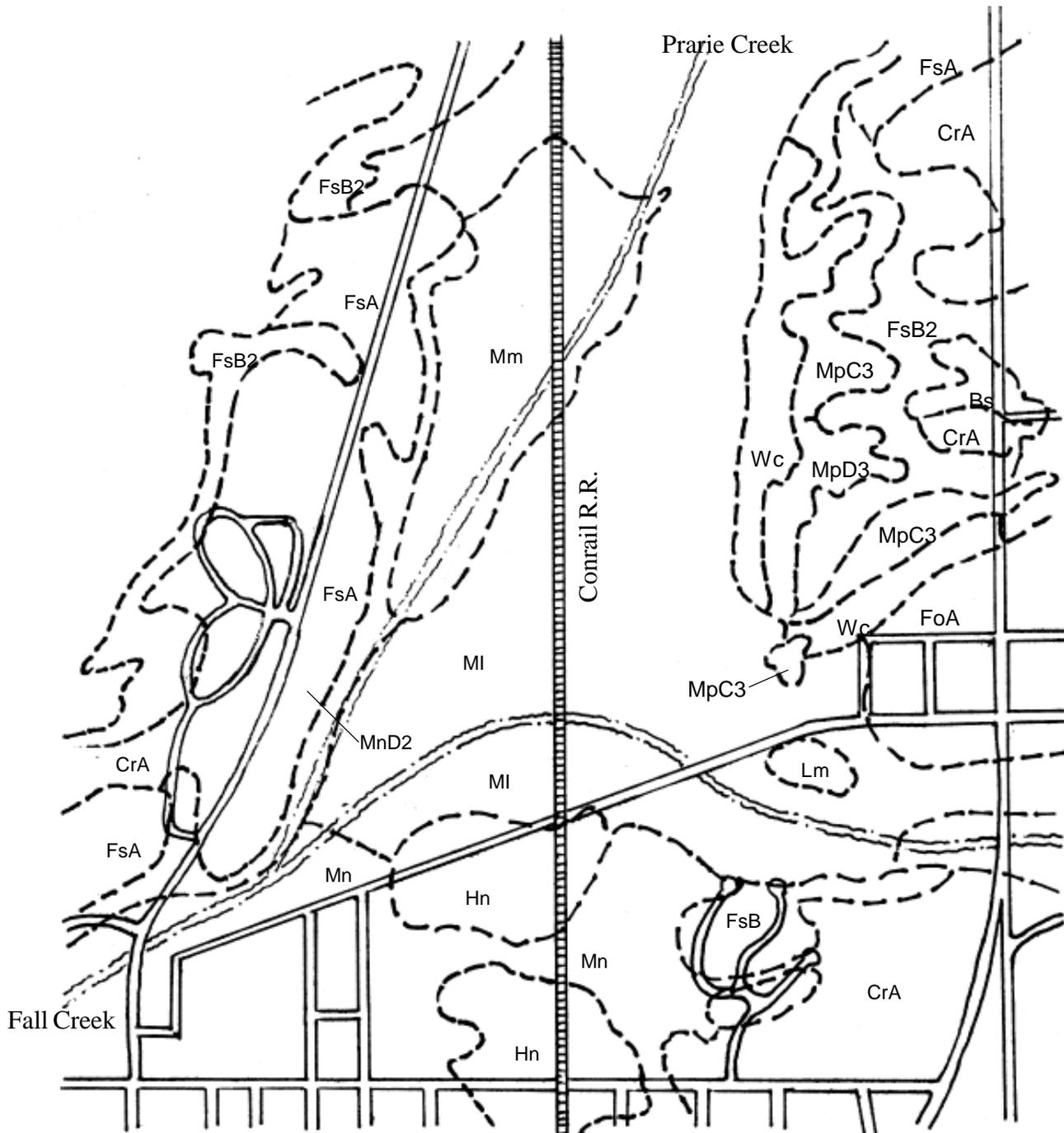
A description of how these natural features affect recreation potential will be discussed in the Chapter: *Facilities and Programs*.

Climate

Fall Creek Township and Pendleton are characterized by four well-defined seasons, by frequent changes in temperature and humidity, and by nearly ideal rainfall. Average monthly precipitation recorded over a forty-year period indicates that February and July are the coldest and warmest months, with the average temperature falling in at 50.9 degrees Fahrenheit. The area averages 38.0 inches of precipitation annually, with April and May being the wettest months. In addition to this precipitation, the area averages 21 inches of snowfall, normally occurring in January - the coldest month. The temperate climate provides an annual average growing season of 178 days, which is adequate to support a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses that allow for ample variation in the visual and natural environment. This wide and disparate variation in vegetation type can prove to be an asset when planning for recreational uses - particularly those more passive in nature.

Seasonal variations in climate mean a variety of recreational activities are needed to meet the demand for year-round recreational activities. Spring and summer provide opportunities for activities like picnicking, swimming, tennis, walking, baseball, and softball. Hiking, jogging, fishing, sledding, and ice-skating can be enjoyed at different times throughout the fall and winter. Such variation is ideal if the park or park system has the opportunity to fund year-round facilities.

Falls Park Soils Classification Map

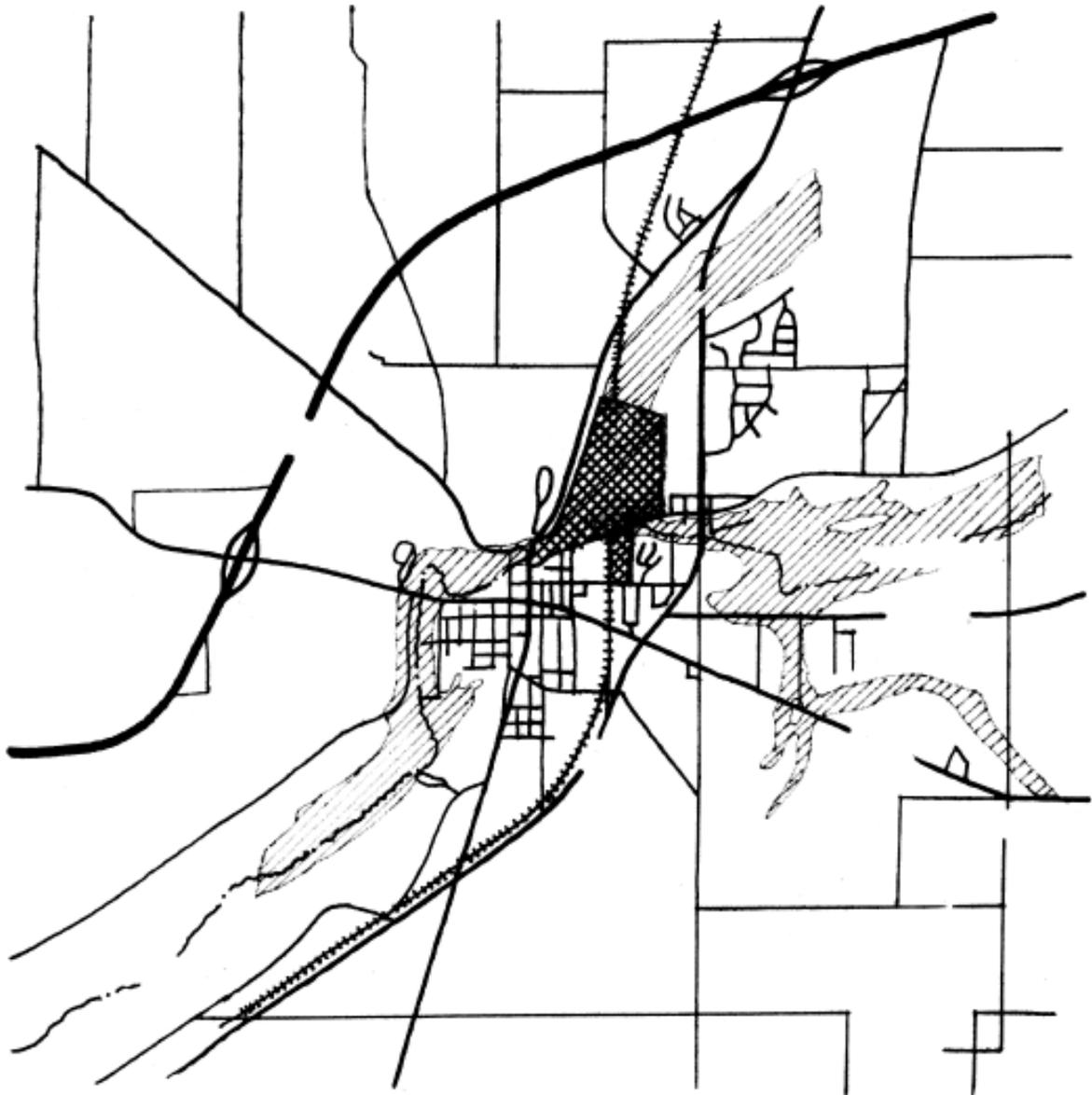


FsA : Slight Constrinat. Erocion Control
 MI : Severe Constrainat.Hihg Water Table and Flooding
 Mn : Severe constraint. Poor Drainage
 MnD2 : Erosion Control on Slopes
 Hn : Moderate. High water table.

Figure 4



One Hundred Year Floodplain Map



FEMA One Hundred Year Floodplain

Figure 5



Town of Pendleton, Indiana

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

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Community Characteristics

Existing Population

A service population for this park district can be difficult to ascertain, because it encompasses not only the southern three townships of Madison County, but numerous patrons from the Lapel and Anderson areas as well. Although Fall Creek Township and the Town of Pendleton comprise the taxing unit upon which local funding is based, estimates used in this five-year park plan will be based upon all three townships — Green, Fall Creek, and Adams (See Figure 3: Pg 6).

Fall Creek Township (10,114 people) and the Town of Pendleton (2,755 people) have a combined population of 12,869. When Green Township (2,863) and Adams Township (3,688) are taken into account, the park service district population totals 19,420 people.

It is important to recognize that this township figure includes the population of the Pendleton Reformatory, since available census data does not separate Reformatory figures from the general population. However, in 1999 the reformatory represented 1,672 or 12.9% of the total township figure. This analysis will not distinguish this number except where intuitively reasonable, given general demographic knowledge of the area.

For the most part, Fall Creek Township consists of highly educated, affluent, and large families. While many areas in Madison County lost population in the past decade, the Pendleton/Fall Creek park jurisdiction (Fall Creek Township) grew at a rate of 13.9%. This rate was almost 9.5% higher than the growth rate for the entire state of Indiana. When combined with Green, Fall Creek, and Adams Townships, the figures drop to a more modest growth rate of 8.7%; yet only Adams Township had a decrease in its number of residents.

Part of the growth rate numbers can be explained by the out-migration of moderate-to-high-income families from Anderson. This is partially supported by the fact that housing starts in the townships surrounding Anderson increased by 37.6% from 1980 to 1990. Housing data also denotes the average median home value in Fall Creek Township to be 41% higher than the county as a whole (\$61,900 as compared to \$43,700).

Out-migration, however, does not account for the increase in population due to the large childbearing capacity of the township's residents. Simply stated, the township will continue to have an increase in population due to the higher number of adults of childbearing age within the park's jurisdiction. This fact is further supported by the ratio of males to females in the township and town.

Neither the declining trend in total population or the upward trend in the aging population should adversely impact the future usage of Fall Creek Park. According to the number of new housing starts, school enrollment figures, and area growth rates, the township and surrounding areas should continue to provide Fall Creek Park with large numbers of people seeking recreation and relaxation.

Table 1 : Population/ Sex/ Race/Age

	Madison County	Fall Creek Twshp.	Pendleton
Total Population	131,360	12,869	2,755
Native	129,755	12,009	2,300
Foreign Born	914	45	9
Born in State	78.0%	78.5%	82.3%
Male	63,932	7,225	1,032
Female	66,737	4,829	1,277
Race			
White	119,316	10,814	2,304
Black	11,106	1,094	0
Native American	343	64	1
Asian	595	42	2
Hispanic	1,313	97	10
Other	351	40	2
Age			
0 to 4 years	8132	594	127
5 to 17 years	23,540		437
18 to 24 years	12,055	1,304	204
25 to 44 years	39,019	4,751	467
45 to 64 years	30,167	2,370	434
16 years and over	104,556	9,842	1,822
21 years and over	94,869	9,056	1,667
65 years and over	19,195	1,099	466
85 years and over	2,007	143	102
Median Age	34.8	33.7	37.3

Numbers indicated in bold are projections and estimates gleaned from sources other than the 1990 Census.

Table 2 : Household and Family Characteristics/ Housing Units

	Madison County	Fall Creek Twshp.	Pendleton
All persons in households	125,486	9,239	2,191
Number of Households	49,700	3,410	905
Family Households	35,804	2,715	604
Married	28,617	2,355	473
With own children under 18			221
Single Parent Household			69
Female Household	5,688	274	110
Non-Family Households	14,000	695	301
Householder living alone	12,385	616	278
65 years and older	5,843	280	149
Female	4,798	218	125
Persons per:			
Household	2.52	2.71	2.42
Family	3.01	3.08	3.03
All Housing Units	53,353	3,573	976
Occupied Housing Units	49,804	3,410	905
Vacant Housing Units	3,509	163	71
All Owner Occupied Housing Units	36,395	2,905	643
All Renter Occupied Housing Units	13,409	505	262

Numbers indicated in bold are projections and estimates gleaned from sources other than the 1990 Census.

Table 3 : Income and Poverty Status

	Madison County	Fall Creek Twshp.	Pendleton
Per Capita Income	\$20,939	\$12,179	\$13,369
Median Income			
Households	\$33,970	\$35,605	\$29,167
Families	\$33,332	\$41,126	\$35,600
Non-Family Households	\$14,398	\$17,716	\$16,795
Total Persons for whom poverty status is determined	125,156	9,126	2,174
Total Persons with income below poverty level	14,423	444	110
Under 18 years	5,846	146	25
65 years and older	1,760	27	14
Families with income below poverty level			
Number	3,709	110	23
Percent	10.3%	4.0%	3.8%

Numbers indicated in bold are projections and estimates gleaned from sources other than the 1990 Census.

Table 4 : Education/ Employment/ Veteran

	Madison County	Fall Creek Twshp.	Pendleton
Total in preprimary schools	2,121	219	51
Total in elementary or high school	22,436	1,897	412
Percentage in private schools	5.3%	2.0%	1.2%
Total in college	6,514	487	96
Total number of persons 16-19 years	8,217	567	119
Total not enrolled in school or high school graduate	833	90	7
Employed	284	11	5
Unemployed	199	7	1
Not in Labor Force	344	72	1
Total number of persons 25 years and older	84,886	8,219	1,541
Percent high school graduate	73.5%	76.4%	78.8%
Percent with Bachelors degree	11.7%	11.8%	15.3%
Total persons 16 years and over	102,265	9,788	1,812
Male	49,450	6,093	787
Female	52,815	3,695	1,025
Labor Force	66,760	4,696	1,111
Employed	65,080	169	38
Unemployed	1680	4,527	1,073
Total workers			
Percent using own transportation	93.1%	95.2%	93.0%
Percent carpool	13.2%	11.5%	11.5%
Percent using public transportation	0.5%	0%	0.2%
Total veterans 16 years and older	15,600	1,606	291
65 years and older	3,697	226	90

Numbers indicated in bold are projections and estimates gleaned from sources other than the 1990 Census.

Town of Pendleton, Indiana

PARK BOARD STRUCTUREINTRODUCTION

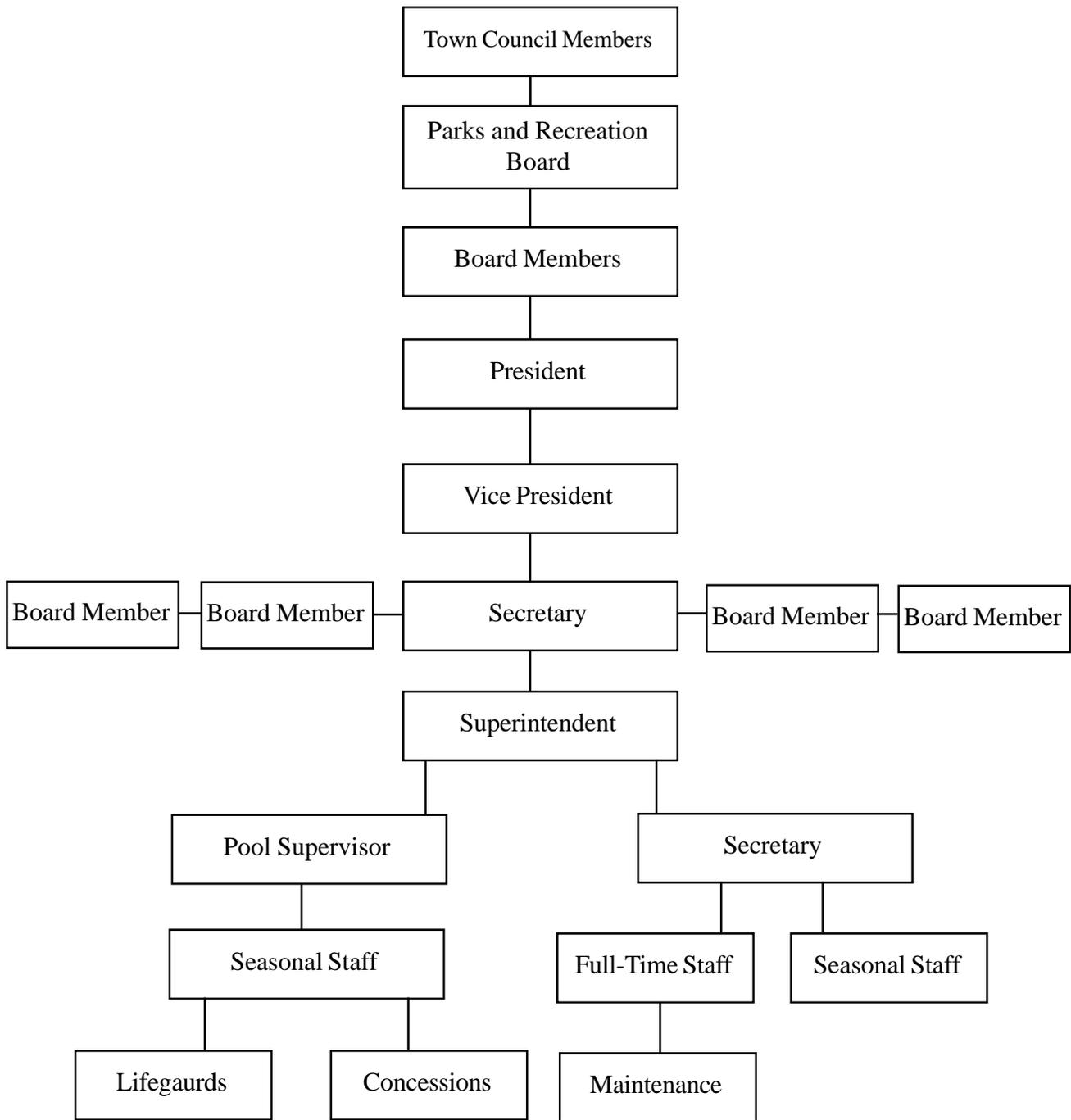
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Park Board Profile

Throughout the planning process the Pendleton-Fall Creek Parks and Recreation Board was continually involved. From the initiation of Independent Study Committees on key issues to the public presentation of the plan, the Board and the Superintendent have been active. A cursory glance at Board minutes and their interactive participation through goals and objectives development helped to define the plan along with public participation.

Terms of Office	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
President Steve Cherry	_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>12/31</u>	_____	_____
Vice President Jeanette Isbell	School Board Appointment						
Secretary Norma Gasparovic	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>12/31</u>
Treasurer Linda Johnson	Town Clerk Treasurer						
Park Superintendent Ron Barnhart	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Kurt Kahl	Circuit Court Judge Appointment						
Eric Reske	Library Appointment						
Maurice Crull	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>12/31</u>	_____
Jack Hanna	_____	_____	_____	<u>12/31</u>	_____	_____	_____

Town of Pendleton Organizational Chart



Town of Pendleton, Indiana

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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Goals and Objectives

Tradition has influenced the community in its decision-making and served as the catalyst for creating a new vision for the utilization of recreational facilities. The following objectives capsule a “Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan” initiated by Pendleton civic leaders, local governmental officials, and a variety of individuals and organizations throughout the general public.

Goal One:

Encourage and promote greater utilization of park facilities by all citizens regardless of age, gender, or physical capabilities.

Goal Two:

Link recreation, wildlife, and nature preservation to overall development activities within the Pendleton community.

Goal Three:

Create interesting and challenging recreational activities and programs for community residents and sustain and improve existing activities and programs.

Goal Four:

Develop practical, usable design and implementation concepts for the entire Parks and Recreation system.

Goal Five:

Enhance the aesthetics of the park system while blending it with the natural and man-made environment.

Goal Six:

Promote a sense of appreciation for the unique past of Pendleton.

Goal Seven:

Inspire and create a perception of local distinctiveness within the greater regional area of Central Indiana, including Madison County.

Goal Eight:

Establish newly revitalized and expanded parks and recreational areas that reflect through their development the unique identity of the Pendleton community.

Town of Pendleton, Indiana

FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

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Facilities and Programs

Regional Park Usage

Although the central region of Indiana boasts the largest number of residents throughout the state, the area also contains the least amount of public-sector recreational lands available. Documentation of this fact can be found in “**Indiana Outdoor Recreation 1989: An Assessment and Policy Plan**” [*Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 1989* (SCORP)]. According to the SCORP, central Indiana has long been identified as an area of concern in terms of its lack of state outdoor recreation plans and strategies. In addition, the SCORP further elaborates on the lack of regional and county recreational areas.

While the central region is in need of more recreational space, the greatest deficiencies tend to be in small rural communities. This scarcity is especially noticeable in southern Madison County, where only the towns of Pendleton and Lapel have public park facilities. For instance, Pendleton, with a population of 2,755, actually serves three townships (Green, Fall Creek, and Adams) with a combined population 19,420.

These three townships share considerable resources, from a unified school system to a Regional Wastewater District. Yet all recreational activities sponsored by any publicly owned entity take place in Fall Creek Park. Citizens within these townships utilize the park on a regular basis for fishing, baseball, softball, picnicking, festivals, and a host of other activities.

Transportation Network

Fall Creek Park and Pendleton are located two miles south of Interstate 69 on Old State Road 67 (See Figure 6: Pg. 21). Pendleton’s proximity to Interstate 69 and its commuting distance to the Indianapolis MSA make it ideal for future growth, as suburbs continue to expand outward from Indianapolis and Marion County. Part of the network linking Pendleton to other points lies at the convergence of four highway facilities near the eastern edge of the community. These routes are U.S. 36 and State Roads 38, 9, and 67.

A substantial county road network supports the federal and state roads that service the area. These facilities are almost entirely improved and make access from the three townships to the centrally located park space extremely easy. State and county roads connecting nearby northern Hancock County further enhance access to the area.

Area Boundaries

Fall Creek Park is nestled within the northwestern quad of Pendleton (See Figure 6: Pg. 21). Presently bordered by public right-of-ways and public and private land on all sides, the area covers approximately 145 acres. Elevation levels in the park range from a high of 879 feet above sea level at the Conrail line to a low of about 850 feet in the balance of the park. Figure 5 (Pg. 9) depicts a large segment of the park lying within the 100-year flood plain.

Natural Features of the Planning Area

Falls Park truly benefits from the surrounding natural landscape that comprises the park. In total, the land area of the park is about 135 acres, with plans to acquire more as it becomes available. The park is proportionately sectioned off into use areas, with both Fall Creek and an active railroad serving as physical dividing points. The different sections support different use activities.

Currently, the southern (48) acres of Fall Creek Park, which are more open with sparsely populated mature trees, support the following activities: Softball, Little League, Babe Ruth baseball, fishing, picnicking, outdoor cooking, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming, jogging, walking, and playground recreation. Other usage includes club functions, family reunions, civic activities, gardening, and historical museum displays.

The largest portion of land in the southern half of the park (28) acres incorporates general-use activities like picnicking, fishing, jogging, reunions, and future playground facilities. Within this general-usage zone is a 1.5-acre, stone bottom pond fed by Fall Creek, ranging in depth from 4 to 15 feet. This pond supports indigenous fish and ducks. This area is adjacent to town development.

An additional ten (10) acres is used for baseball and softball fields, and an additional seven acres are shared for swimming, tennis, volleyball, and basketball. A (3) acre strip of land bordered by the creek on the north and the east, the Conrail line on the west, and Huntsville Road on the south is wooded, low area that presently serves no direct function. It is a goal of the park board to maintain such areas not in use as natural amenities to the rest of the park.

The forty (40) acres north of Prairie Creek, bounded by Old State Road 9 to the west and the Conrail line to the east, has been developed primarily with trails that maintain a more primitive and natural appearance on the landscape. This acreage is densely wooded and contains several areas of palustrine wetlands. This acreage also offers handicapped accessibility on the trails as well as several picnic areas.

In 1992, the Park and Recreation board acquired a 42.1-acre area east of the Conrail line and border by Huntsville Road on the south and State Road 67/9 to the east. Plans have been developed to construct a permanent Baseball/ Softball/ Soccer Complex on this new acreage. Construction is set to begin in the Fall of 2000 or Spring of 2001. After this new sports complex is finished, the existing baseball and softball fields will be removed and returned to a passive recreation area. This acreage is bisected by Prairie Creek and encompasses a large palustrine wetland, a pond, and an upland area. Continuation of the trail network will eventually reach into this area and connect the new Sports Complex with the rest of the park. Figure 7 (Pg. 22) shows the type of wetlands that exist in Falls Park.

Cultural and Historic Features of the Planning Area

Due to the foresight of the current Parks and Recreation Board as well as boards in the past, the vast majority of the park acreage remains in a natural state that serves as an amenity for the rest of the park. The recreational potential for these lands has not been maximized allowing for future growth to take place. The few cultural and manmade features that affect the planning area are well integrated into the parks system because of this foresight and planning. Among these features are

an old stone quarry that has been allowed to revert back to a more natural looking pond. The other is the falls area and the bridges that span the creek. The falls continue to be the central focus of the park and are an integral part of the history of Pendleton and Madison County. The falls and the area just below the falls were the original swimming pool for the Town of Pendleton. The history books state that as:

“News about the new pool spread, people from within the county and from all over the state, many of whom had never heard of Pendleton, flocked there to swim in the pure water of an outdoor pool.”

The falls and old swimming pool area continue to attract visitors and have subsequently taken on a new role. They have now become the main fishing area that services the park. A picture of the falls also serves as the emblem for the Town of Pendleton and will continue to be the identifying feature of this area of Madison County.

Falls Park Locational Map

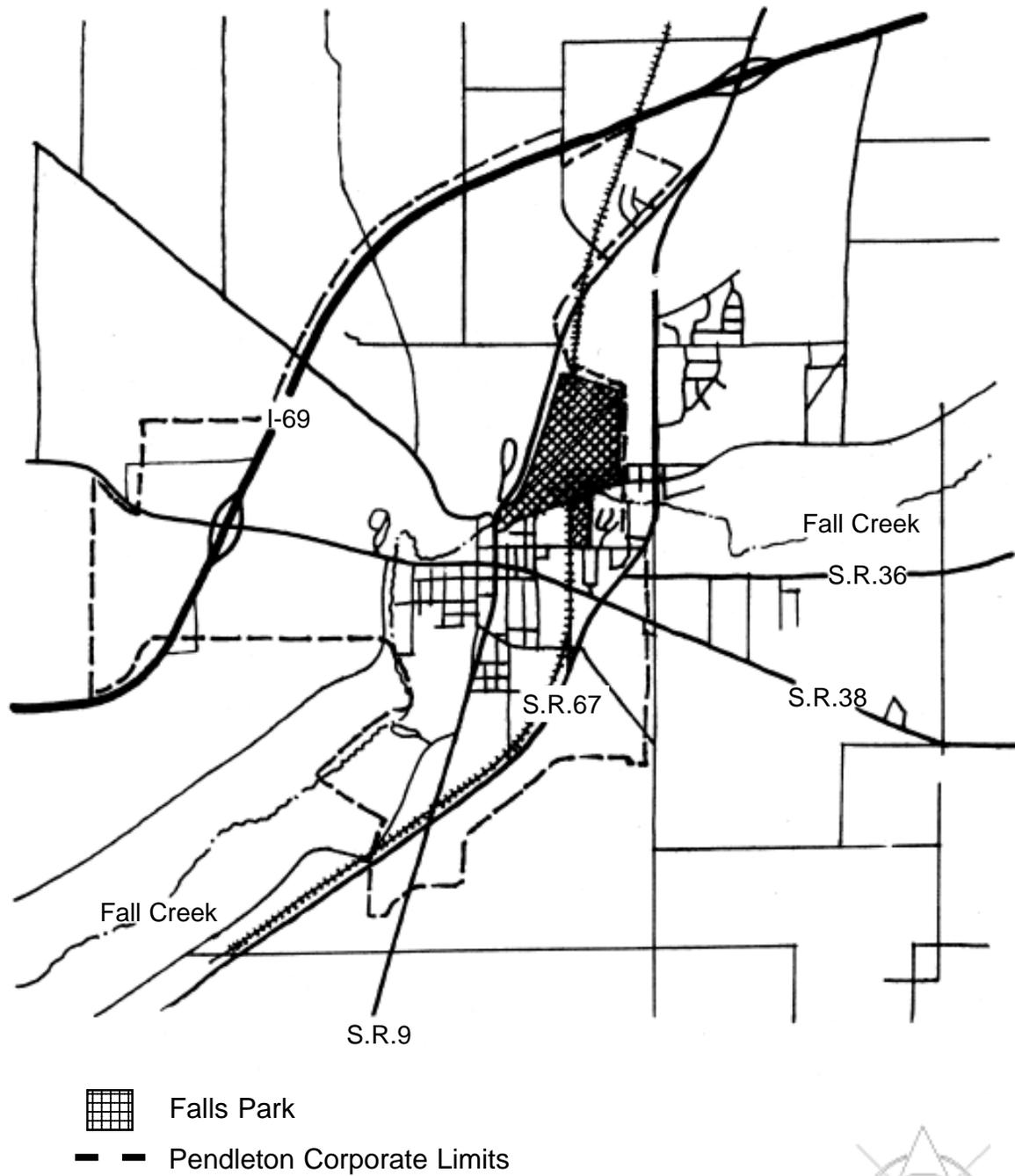
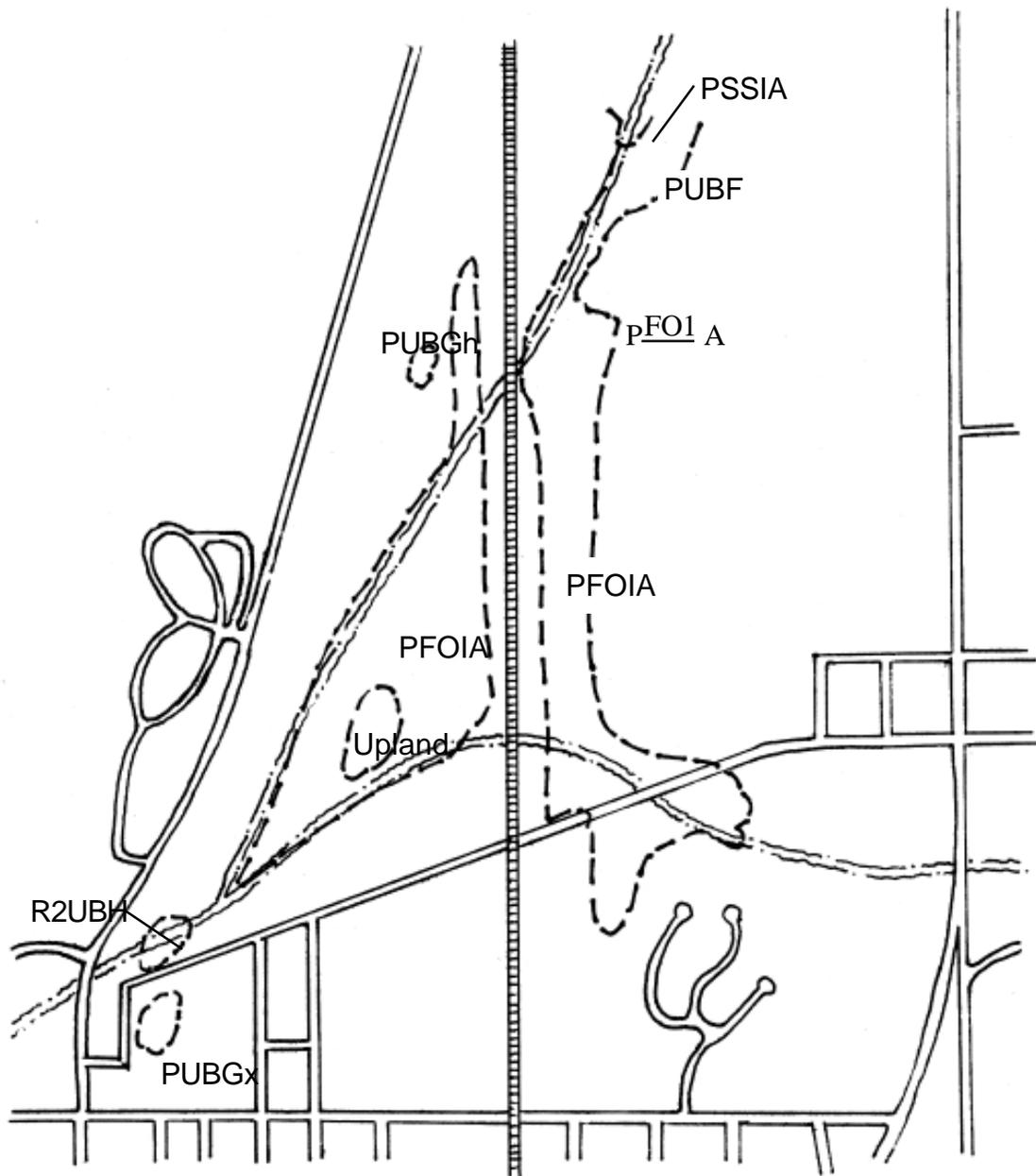


Figure 6

Wetland Areas of Falls Park Map



Primary Wetland Coverage:
PFOIA- Palustrine wetland & Deciduous Broadleaf Fores. Wildlife Habitat.
Secondary Wetland Coverage:
R2UBH
PUBGx
PSSIA
PUBF
PFOIA A
EM

Figure 7



Current Facilities

Falls Park is divided up into three main areas 1) the Original Falls Park Acreage, 2) the North Forty Acreage, and 3) the Sports Complex. (Refer to Figure 8: Pg. 26)

Original Falls Park Acreage

A) Falls and existing bridge. It is proposed that this bridge be replaced with a more historical looking bridge.

B) Old Swimming Area/Falls. The falls are literally the central focus of the existing park and are an integral part of the history of Pendleton and Madison County. This was evident through comments from the Park Board, the Superintendent, through a park survey, and in public gatherings/meetings. To adequately address this concern, the Park Board will be studying the engineering and the landscape architecture design requirements for improvements in further detail. Because of its natural beauty and central focus, the emphasis on aesthetic preservation is a priority.

C) Existing Baseball Diamonds. This area currently consists of several baseball fields. It is proposed that these fields be removed to allow this area to revert to an open field, as recommended by the park board.

D) Hoppes Field. This existing field shall remain, but the outfield fences shall be removed to allow for the existing park to be open.

E) Gravel parking lot. This lot exists, but it is proposed that the lot be made uniform and landscaped. The lot as shown will hold 100 cars, and will help service the north forty site by way of the connecting footpath.

F) Trails. These trails, located along both sides of the creek, shall be stabilized and will support joggers, walkers, and wheelchairs. It is recommended that these trails be the location of several fitness stations, as requested by the park board.

G) Community Building.

H) Playground Equipment

I) Gazebo/ Picnic Shelter House

J) Swimming Pool

K) Tennis Courts

L) Conservation Building.

North Forty Acreage

- A) Potential enlargement of existing pond at north end of site,** with added island in center of pond. It is recommended that this proposal be carefully examined, since existing site conditions may make an expansion exceedingly difficult. In addition, this expansion would kill all the existing pond inhabitants, and so may require special efforts to move and preserve existing pond life.
- B) North end of site.** This end of the site is a medium intensity passive recreational area, equipped with a trail system, picnic tables, and trash receptacles. The trail through this area consists of a stabilized sub-base, with a resilient surface appropriate for walking, jogging, and with the ability to support people in wheelchairs. The trails in this area would not be appropriate for bicycles. This area also contains a picnic shelter capable of holding 30 persons.
- C) Parking lot.** This lot, holding sixty cars, services the north end of the site. Besides supporting the passive recreational activities of the north end of the site, this lot provides a pick-up space for groups using the "primitive" trails of the environmental education area. The lot is designed to facilitate the turning radius of a school bus.
- D) Entry to the north end of the site.** This entry has a gate and is locked after park hours (dusk). The road leading from the entry to the parking lot is landscaped as a buffer from the adjacent residences.
- E) Old Barn.** This barn is used as a storage/ maintenance building. This facility is screened and fenced. The fencing used is wood and painted brown to match the shelter buildings.
- F) Property line adjacent to residences.** This boundary between the park and the adjacent residences is landscaped as a visual buffer, both for the residents and patrons of the park.
- G) Early growth area.** These areas of the site are currently in an early succession stage of Upland growth as depicted in Figure 7 (Pg. 22). These areas were farmed about 10 years ago. It is proposed that these areas be allowed to revert to a natural status. These areas will be of great educational interest as part of the proposed environmental education trails.
- H) Primitive trail.** The lower portion of the site is a designated wooded wetland. All the trails through this area are of a low impact nature, providing the opportunity for an environmental educational area. These trails may require boardwalks in various locations since the ground water level is high. This area is flooded 50-60 percent of the year.
- I) Prairie Creek.** This creek bisects the site, and is about 10-15 feet wide. This creek is a known beaver habitat. Due to the low-lying nature of the creek, it is prone to flooding.
- J) Old railroad bed.** This old railroad bed runs the length of the site on the west edge. This bed is approximately 10-15 feet above the site. The park does not currently own this rail bed all the way to Fall Creek, but it is strongly recommended that acquisition of this land be considered, as this rail bed is the only means of connecting the Northern end of the site to the existing park with a stabilized trail.

K) South area of site. This area is a wet, broadleaf deciduous forest that is a designated wetland. This area of the site is only used as a minimal intensity environmental educational center, due to the extreme sensitivity of the site. A trail guide and tree identifying markers are currently being prepared for this area.

Sports Complex

A) Little League Baseball Field (3 Fields)

B) Softball Field (2 Fields)

C) Babe Ruth Baseball Field (1 Field)

D) Practice Field. This facility is designed to allow for multiple uses as a soccer/football field if desired. The added flexibility for multiple uses will provide the opportunity for more participation and perhaps tournament play.

E) Soccer/ Football Field

F) Concessions Stand. This facility houses restrooms, concessions stands, meeting rooms with storage, depending on the scope of the building.

G) Center Plaza. This central area of the complex links together all the fields, and is a place where people can sit, eat, and connect the concessions building to the fields. This area shall be landscaped with canopy trees, smaller flowering trees, understory shrubs, and flowerbed areas.

H) Flagpoles. These flagpoles will mark the entrance into the tournament facility.

I) Drop-off Area. This drop-off area is designed so that parents can drop off and pick up their children without having to drive through the parking lot. Separating this traffic flow from the parking lot also creates a safer pedestrian environment.

J) Parking lot. This lot could be either gravel or asphalt. As designed, each parking area will support almost 300 cars. This number could easily be increased or decreased as needed. The parking areas adjacent to the entrance into the fields shall be reserved for handicapped parking, and will be equipped with wide spaces and ramps as per ADA.

K) Overflow parking. It is recommended that there be overflow parking for 100 cars. This area will be stabilized, but will be grassed.

L) Warm up areas.

M) Bleachers. Each field is equipped with 2 sets of bleachers, each capable of holding 40 people as designed. This capacity could be easily increased.

N) Dugouts. The construction of the dugouts is to be from split-block. Storage areas have been designed into the ends of the dugouts to hold field equipment.

CURRENT FACILITIES OF FALLS PARK MAP

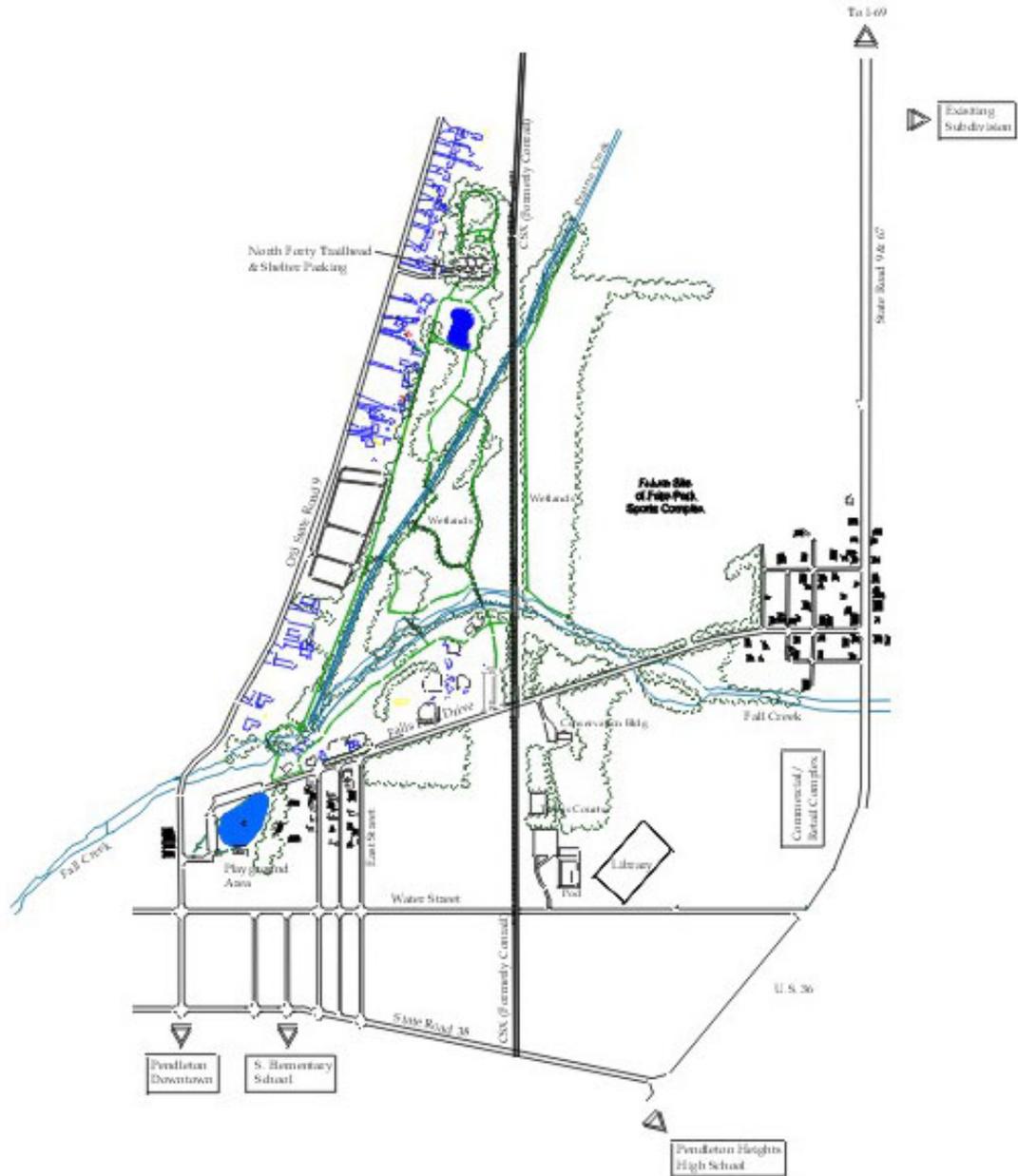


Figure 8



Town of Pendleton, Indiana

CITIZEN INPUT

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

Citizen Input

Pendleton has benefited from a wide range of experts and citizens throughout its planning process. Public input on the park plan has been broad and continual from newspaper coverage and public meetings to a survey distributed throughout the town. The synthesis of these influences and the analysis of these issues have formed the key approach to planning for the small number of improvements necessary in the Parks System and the community at-large.

A Recreational Needs Survey was distributed at the beginning of the planning process to residents of the Town of Pendleton. Specific questions on the survey aimed at getting respondents to address the lack of necessary recreational facilities as well as improvements needed to existing facilities. The majority of the responses indicated that the general public did not feel there was a lack of necessary recreational space, but given the introduction of new programs and activities and the improved maintenance and upkeep of existing equipment, the residents will be satisfied with their existing parks system.

The survey was the basis for the majority of the public input into the planning process. The survey results often reinforced what the Park Board has identified as needs or concerns in the existing recreational facilities. As a result of the survey the Parks Board was able to determine where to focus the necessary improvements and best spend their allocated budget. The Park Board also identified potential safety hazards that need immediate attention. A majority of the survey responses indicated that the general public and residents of Pendleton are frequent users of Falls Park throughout the year because of the diverse nature of the park facilities. The number one event that brings people into the park is Baseball, Softball, and Little League events. The state and condition of these existing facilities was also perceived as the biggest improvement needed by the Parks and Recreation Department. This was also an issue addressed in the previous 'Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan.' As a result, construction of new Baseball and Softball facilities is slated to begin in Fall of 2000 or Spring of 2001. The number one activity most often engaged in was walking and jogging because of the extensive network of trails throughout the park. According to survey responses, the primary reason people did not visit the park system was a lack of variety or interest in the number of activities aimed at different age groups, from children to adults. Some general comments and suggestions from the surveys include:

- Have bands perform in the gazebo in the summertime.
- Have tree identifiers, and bird and animal information placed along the trails.
- Have local residents tell folklore tales to increase interaction between the elderly and younger populations.

A series of 'Public Input Meetings' were also held in Pendleton to gauge support and interest, and to gather the residents ideas on the direction or improvements the Park Board should be undertaking. The first of these meetings was held on December 15, 2000. At this initial meeting residents openly discussed their concerns and ideas for Fall Park and aided the Park board in forming goals and objectives to be accomplished in the next five years over the life this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Some of the issues discussed at this first meeting were:

- Improved parking facilities.
- Fixing and/or replacing the existing playground equipment.
- Increasing the number of picnic tables and picnic areas.

Overall the public was pleased with the quality of the existing facilities, but indicated that there needed to be a better effort put towards overall maintenance and upkeep of existing equipment and facilities including:

- Cleaning out the pond and fixing the Lighthouse structure.
- Doing a better job of trash pick-up along the trails and creek.
- Maintaining cleaner and more accessible restrooms and water fountains.
- Keeping flowerbeds weeded and cared for.

The second of the public input meetings was held on February 16, 2000. The information gathered at the first public meeting was presented back to the public to ensure that all concerns were recorded and being addressed. In addition to this, the Park Board asked the public to present ideas on what additional facilities are needed in Falls Park. Some of the suggestions included:

- More restrooms
- A permanent concession stand
- Horseshoe facilities
- An archery range
- Ice skating facilities

In recent years, the people of Pendleton have explored options for expanding and revitalizing Fall Creek Park to increase recreational opportunities while maintaining its essentially pristine condition. Community leaders have carefully preserved the park's natural beauty while celebrating that beauty through amenable recreational activities. Within this five-year plan, the Park Board has enlisted strategies that are designed to satisfy the needs of both man and nature. These strategies were recorded by the Park Board and will be addressed based on overall interest by the public, as well as by the requirements and feasibility of adding these facilities to the existing park.

Town of Pendleton, Indiana

SECTION 504

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

Americans with Disabilities Act

Required Adaptations — Survey Results Summary

Prior to conducting inspections to determine handicap accessibility of public facilities, Pendleton district leaders had already begun renovations to accommodate ADA guidelines. Detailed information was gleaned during the compilation of this Park Plan, and final improvements are slated for completion by the fall of 1995. Among corrections to be made, the Park Board specifically will address the following issues:

Parking

At least one space should be designated as "Van Accessible" for each Public facility.

Access Route

To the maximum extent feasible, access routes should coincide with the route for the general public

Handrails/Grab Bars

Handrails should be provided on both sides of ramp segments; therefore handrails and the adjacent wall should be free from sharp or abrasive elements

Drinking Fountains

The water flow must be directed so that the trajectory is parallel or nearly to the front of the unit Wall or post - mounted cantilevered units do have a clear knee space between the bottom of the apron and the floor at least 27" high, 30" wide and 17" to 19" deep; freestanding units should also clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow a person in a wheelchair to approach the unit facing forward

Restroom Facilities

When lavatories and mirrors are provided at least one must comply with 4.19

Signage

Regulation concerning signage, should be added and/or revised

Detectable Warnings

According to ADA regulations, detectable warnings must be installed throughout the facility.

Section 504— Accessibility Compliance

Introduction

This chapter is to document that the Pendleton Park board and the facilities of the Pendleton Park system are in, or are working toward becoming in compliance with the guidelines of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This chapter is broken down into four sections:

- I. Administrative compliance requirements.
- II. Facilities compliance requirements.
- III. Employment practice compliance requirements.
- IV. Compliance checklist.

Information and guidelines discussed in this chapter are taken from the “Section 504 guidelines for federally assisted park and recreation programs and activities,” by the Department of the Interior.

I. Requirements for Administrative & Programmatic Compliance

1. Recipients employing fifteen or more employees must designate a Section 504 Coordinator.

Status: In Compliance. The section 504 coordinator has been designated as Mr. Ron Barnhart, the Pendleton superintendent of parks.

2. Recipients employing fifteen or more employees must establish grievance procedures that provide for the submission and resolution of complaints from employees and program beneficiaries.

Status: In Compliance.

- 3a. Any recipient employing fifteen or more employees must take initial and continuing steps to notify beneficiaries and employees that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap. All such notifications must be effective for those with impaired vision, hearing, and learning abilities.

Status: In Compliance.

- 3b. Recruitment materials or publications containing general information that is made available to program participants, beneficiaries, applicants, and employees must contain an appropriate non-discrimination statement.

Status: In Compliance.

4. A recipient must provide assurance that its program operates in compliance with Section 504.

Status: In Compliance. (See "Assurance of Compliance" statement, signed by the Pendleton park board president and secretary, **page 48**)

5. Self-evaluation:

- 5a. Recipients must consult with handicapped persons/organizations.

Status: In Compliance. An on-site self-evaluation was conducted on **April 05, 2000**. The handicapped advocate was Mr. Bill Raney, a resident of Madison County. Mr. Raney, confined to a wheelchair, toured Pendleton's park facilities with representatives from the Madison County Council of Governments, and aided greatly in the generation of the needs discussed later in this chapter.

- 5b. The self-evaluation must cover programs, policies, practices, problems identified and remedial steps taken.

Status: In Compliance. The remainder of this chapter, as well as the action plan of this Park Plan documents this compliance.

- 5c. Recipients employing fifteen or more persons must maintain on file the self-evaluation for three years after its completion. Must include the following:

- a. Identification of physical obstacles in facilities

Status: In Compliance. See section two of this chapter.

- b. Identification of methods used to achieve accessibility.

Status: In Compliance.

- c. Schedule for achieving accessibility.

Status: In Compliance.

- d. Identification of responsible official.

Status: In Compliance. The official responsible for overseeing achievement of accessibility of the Pendleton Park system is Mr. Steve Cherry, president of the Pendleton Park Board.

- 6. A transition plan is required when structural changes to facilities are required and it must include the following:

- a. Identification of physical obstacles in facilities

Status: In Compliance. See section two of this chapter.

- b. Identification of methods used to achieve accessibility.

Status: In Compliance. See section two of this chapter.

- c. Schedule for achieving accessibility.

Status: In Compliance.

- d. Identification of responsible official.

Status: In Compliance. The official responsible for overseeing achievement of accessibility of the Pendleton Park system is Mr. Steve Cherry, president of the Pendleton Park Board.

II. Requirements for Facilities Compliance

The comments in this section will only deal with facilities found to be out of compliance during the self evaluation held on **April 05, 2000**. For a complete listing of facility compliance, see the checklist at the end of this chapter.

1. **Parking Lots/Spaces.** General note: all handicapped spaces need to be clearly marked on the pavement as well as with signage.

- a. **Number.** The number of handicapped spaces available in relation to the entire park is sufficient, as well as available spaces in the different activity areas.

Recommendation: At the Community Building, the Conservation Building, and at the Ball Fields the number of available handicap spaces needs to be doubled as well as properly striped and marked with appropriate handicap signage. This will be accomplished when these areas are repaved in accordance with the Priority Action Schedule.

- b. **Vehicle access clearance.**

Status: In Compliance. Continue to strip and designate handicap accessible spaces.

2. **Facility accessibility/walkways.**

- a. At entrance to Community building there needs to be a 5' level landing at doorway.

Status: A landing will be installed in accordance with the Priority Action Schedule.

- b. **Entrance gate to pool:** The building is at absolute minimum width. While not technically a violation, it is cumbersome and should be widened for easy wheelchair access. A minimum width of 36" is recommended.

Recommendation: To widen side gate to at least 36".

- d. **Ball Feilds:** There is no hard surface path that connects any areas of the ball fields to the parking area.

Recommendation: To provide 60" wide paved connection from the parking lot to the bleachers, concession stands and restrooms.

- e. **Brick pathway from Community building to Museum:** This brick path has two problems: first, the rocks and split rail fence that line the walk both overlap into the path, impeding access.

Recommendation: Provide a ramp from street level to brick pathway for accessibility.

- f. **Museum:** There is no access to the creek area in front of the Museum. While access may not be strictly required, this area is one of the highlights of the park, and access should be provided both to the rock outcropping at the creek-side, and the concrete walkway along the edge of the old pool.

Status: This area is currently slated to be repaved. When this area is repaved the paths will provide accessibility to all of these areas. In accordance with the Priority Action Schedule.

- g. **Duck Pond:** A curb cut or ramp is needed to provide access from street level to the sidewalk around the duck pond, across from the museum.

Remedy: To provide a small ramp up from street level to the sidewalk.

3. **Public telephones.** The public telephone located next to the Community building is in a square booth, and is not accessible.

Status: In Compliance.

4. **Play areas.** Tall slides at play equipment near the duck pond and near the Conservation Building need signage preventing small children from playing on them without direct adult supervision.

Remedy: To provide signage.

4. Toilet/bathing facilities.

- a. At the Conservation Building, the bathrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors.

Remedy: To provide signage.

- b. At the Ball Fields, the bathrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors. Also, the pipes are exposed underneath the sinks.

Remedy: To provide signage and necessary equipment.

- c. At the Pool Building, the exterior restrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors. Also, the pipes are exposed underneath the sinks.

Remedy: To provide signage and necessary equipment.

- d. At the Community Building, the exterior restrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors. Also, the pipes are exposed underneath the sinks and a mirror needs to be added to the Mens Restroom.

Remedy: To provide signage and necessary equipment.

- e. At the Playground Area, the restrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors. Also, the pipes are exposed underneath the sinks and a mirror, soap dispenser and dryer need to be added .

Remedy: To provide signage and necessary equipment.

- f. At the North Forty Trailhead, the restrooms lack signage on the exterior doors as well as on the interior stall doors. Also, the pipes are exposed underneath the sinks and a mirror, soap dispenser and dryer need to be added .

Remedy: To provide signage and necessary equipment.

III. Employment Practices Compliance Requirements

1. **Recruitment.**

- a. Job announcements: non-discrimination statement must appear on announcements.

Status: In Compliance.

- b. Job announcements: announcements must be posted in accessible areas.

Status: In Compliance.

- c. Job announcements: announcements must be effectively announced to individuals who have disabilities that impair their ability to communicate.

Status: In Compliance.

- d. Interviews: Interviews must address the applicant's qualifications for the position. Recipients must not make inquiries about an applicant's handicap and its severity.

Status: In Compliance.

2. **Personnel actions.** The criteria for processing personnel action (recruitment, selection, promotion, hiring, upgrading, etc.) must not limit the eligibility of qualified handicapped employees.

Status: In Compliance.

3. **Leave administration.** Policies for granting leave (leave of absence, sick, annual, return from leave of absence) must not adversely affect qualified handicapped employees.

Status: In Compliance.

4. **Training.** Training programs (internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, etc.) must be administered in a manner that allows equal participation by qualified handicapped employees.

Status: In Compliance.

5. **Testing.**

- a. Tests and other criterion must measure essential job requirements only.

Status: In Compliance.

- b. Tests must be job-related and nondiscriminatory towards persons with impaired communication abilities.

Status: In Compliance.

6. **Medical examinations/ questionnaires.**

- a. Pre-employment medical examinations are permissible only after conditional employment offers.

Status: In Compliance.

- b. Medical history questionnaires must not request information as to the nature or severity of an applicant's handicap.

Status: In Compliance.

7. **Social/recreational programs.** Social/recreational programs sponsored by the recipient must be accessible to handicapped employees.

Status: In Compliance.

8. **Fringe benefits.** Handicapped employees must be given the same employee benefits as non-handicapped employees.

Status: In Compliance.

9. **Collective Bargaining Agreements.** Terms and practices of collective bargaining agreements must not contain provisions that limit the participation of qualified handicapped employees.

Status: Not Applicable.

10. **Wage and salary administration.** Employees with disabilities must not be offered different rates of compensation solely on the basis of handicap.

Status: In Compliance.

10. **Wage and salary administration.** Employees with disabilities must not be offered different rates of compensation solely on the basis of handicap.

Status: In Compliance.

IV. Compliance Checklist (see checklist)

Town of Pendleton, Indiana

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

Issues Narrative

While the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has established standards for recreational use, the NRPA has also acknowledged that its standards 'address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved.' (**Recreation, Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines page 11**). These standards provide guidelines for determining recreational needs and allow for flexibility in planning for the future. Through discussions with the Park Board and the Park Superintendent, it was possible to generate a list of priority actions the Park Board would like to accomplish in the near future. Other than the proposed new developments and trying to stay within a limited budget, the most important issue for the Park system is the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. During the past year, community input has indicated an interest in renovating the pool and existing buildings, more walking and biking trails, more baseball diamonds, and improved restroom facilities. In addition, routine items such as sidewalks, parking areas, and equipment must also be maintained for suitable and continued usage by park patrons. The following is a list of what the Park Board would like to accomplish in the effective time of this Master Plan Update.

Old Swimming Area/Falls/Pond: The falls are the central focus of the existing park and are an integral part of the history of Pendleton and Madison County. This was evident through comments from the Park Board, the Superintendent, through the park survey, and in public gatherings/meetings. Because of its natural beauty and central focus, the emphasis on aesthetic preservation will be a priority. General maintenance and trash pick-up are the main priorities for these areas of the park.

Compliance with 504 Regulations: As part of the park plan, a survey was completed for existing compliance and non-compliance with 504 regulations. A complete listing of those items can be found in Part IV: Checklist of Facility Accessibility of the Section 504- Accessibility Compliance.

Perform Maintenance Tasks: A number of survey responses, as well as direction from the Park Board, indicated that sidewalks, trail clean-up, fixing existing playground equipment, increased parking areas, and the lighthouse were the most important general maintenance items. The key indicator for scheduling improvements to these facilities is need and over-all cost. Sidewalks and parking facilities need to be reconstructed at several locations throughout the park. Areas placing the greatest demand on the park system will be addressed first.

New Developments: As part of the previous Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and through survey responses, the need to increase the number of Softball/Baseball and Soccer facilities has been identified. The process to develop a new sports complex to meet those needs has been underway for the last five years. Construction has been slated to begin in the Fall of 2000 or Spring of 2001. As a continuation from the previous Five-Year Master Plan and as a way to better integrate the new Sports Complex, trail systems are being completed in the North Forty Acreage. These trail systems will also connect to the new park facilities. In combination with the general maintenance of the existing playground equipment, the park board plans on replacing some of the playground equipment. In an effort to improve the general maintenance of the park, a larger and better-equipped maintenance building will be constructed at a more centralized location. This building will allow the park employees better access to equipment and the space needed for upkeep of the maintenance equipment.

Priority Action Schedule

<i>Year</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Cost Est.</i>	<i>Potential Funding Source</i>
2000	Falls Park	Replace Playground Equipment	\$15,000	MOM's Group
2000	Falls Park	Fix Lighthouse foundation and add agitating fountains.	\$50,000	Kiwanis Group, South Madison County Community Foundation.
2000	Falls Park	Purchase new Grills	\$3,000	Park Budget/ Lion's Club
2001	Falls Park	Construct new Maintenance Building	\$50,000	Park Budget
2001	Falls Park	Cnstruction of North Forty Trails & Repave Community Building Parking Lot and Conservation Building Parking Lot, and walks around 'Falls' area. Construct sidewalk ramp in front of pond.	\$200,000	TE Grant/ South Madison County Community Foundation Grant
2002	Falls Park	Complete Sports Complex	\$2,500,000	TE Grant/ Build Indiana Funds/ Lilly Grant
2002	Falls Park	Swimming Pool Renovations	\$200,000	Park Budget
2002	Falls Park	Stock fishing ponds.	\$10,000	Park Budget/ D.N.R. Grant
2003	Falls Park	Construct new sidewalk and parking area in front of Museum.	\$75,000	Park Budget

Town of Pendleton, Indiana

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Submitted to the Department of Natural Resources
by Madison County Council of Governments

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the Town of Pendleton, Indiana and,

WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Board, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in the Town of Pendleton.

Passed and signed _____ (date)

PRESIDENT

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The _____ (Applicant) has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United States Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the Act.

SIGNATURE _____
Applicant President

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE _____
Applicant Secretary

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE _____