STREETSBORO

PARKS AND RECREATION

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

JAN 2019

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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MISSION

The mission for the Department of Parks and Recreation is to conserve the natural environment through parks and open space as well as provide balanced, sustainable and accessible recreation opportunities and facilities.

VISION

The vision for the future of parks and recreation is the foundation for characterizing its future. The vision is to enhance and preserve parks and recreation services, lands, and facilities through high standards and innovation that positions Streetsboro as a leading community and a great place to live, work, and play.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the City of Streetsboro prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the community to be utilized as a broad based strategic planning tool for the entire city to provide direction for the next 10 years and provide a vision for the long-term development of the park system. Since the document only outlined a ten year plan, but few items from the plan had been completed, the City prepared an update to this document.

This updated document serves as a property and facilities planning tool and a management and programming tool directed towards all levels of department administration and staff, along with legislative boards and commissions. The document will identify and integrate the benefits of properly planned properties, facilities, and programs that lead to the improvement of the quality of life within the community and will improve the City's economic competitiveness. The City desires for the document to be informative, in summary form, and easily read and understood by all.

This updated Master Plan is committed to the City of Streetsboro's goals to:

• Provide parks and recreation services that are essential to the livability and economic health of the community.

• Create a balanced, accessible and integrated system of open spaces, recreation facilities and recreation programs that serve current and future residents and visitors.

STATEMENT OF PROJECT SCOPE

The foundation of this report is based on community and stakeholder input compiled by the City, City staff member's guidance and Environmental Design Group's planning process. Planning activities include:

• Access the community, City and stakeholder input to identify the vision, values, and issues into facility and program needs, operational issues and opportunities.

• Review background information and assemble resource inventory of Streetsboro's existing public lands, parks and recreation facilities, private recreation facilities, unique natural and cultural resources, and potential development open space set-aside.

• Assessment of park and facilities, comparing them with recognized standards and identify specific goals to meet the community's needs and priorities in terms of land, facilities and programs.

• Develop a city-wide concept for a balanced, accessible and integrated system of open space, trails, recreation facilities, recreation programs, parks, and facilities that serve current and future residents and visitors.

• Define a strategy for implementation of the plans. Develop a 10-year time line for phased implementation, funding strategies and develop a series of action steps as a guide for implementation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In order to gather input and gain a consensus on key strategies, interviews with community leaders and advisory committee members were held. These meetings provided a mission and vision for parks and recreation in Streetsboro and insight into community values, facility program needs, and operational and maintenance issues. In addition, a survey was offered to the public and two presentations to the public were made to present information and gather feedback from citizens at large. This feedback was critical in determining the community's desired level of park and recreation services and goals for greenways and open space in the City.

DATA GATHERING

The process began by inventorying existing public lands, parks and recreation facilities, private recreation facilities, unique natural and cultural resources and potential open spaces. Potential neighborhood trail and greenspace connections within the City and to regional facilities were identified. The City of Streetsboro provided updated base mapping and background data such as census demographics, city mapping, comprehensive plans, zoning code, park and recreation areas, private recreation lands, public easements/ right-of-way and other information useful for the study.

SITE RECONNAISSANCE

The consultant spent considerable time at each park site to record and become familiar with existing facilities and conditions. An overall map showing the location of parks, schools, and natural and cultural resources in Streetsboro was updated. In addition, a detailed inventory matrix of overall available facilities, individual park site descriptions, and inventory/analysis maps are provided in the resource inventory and analysis section of the report.

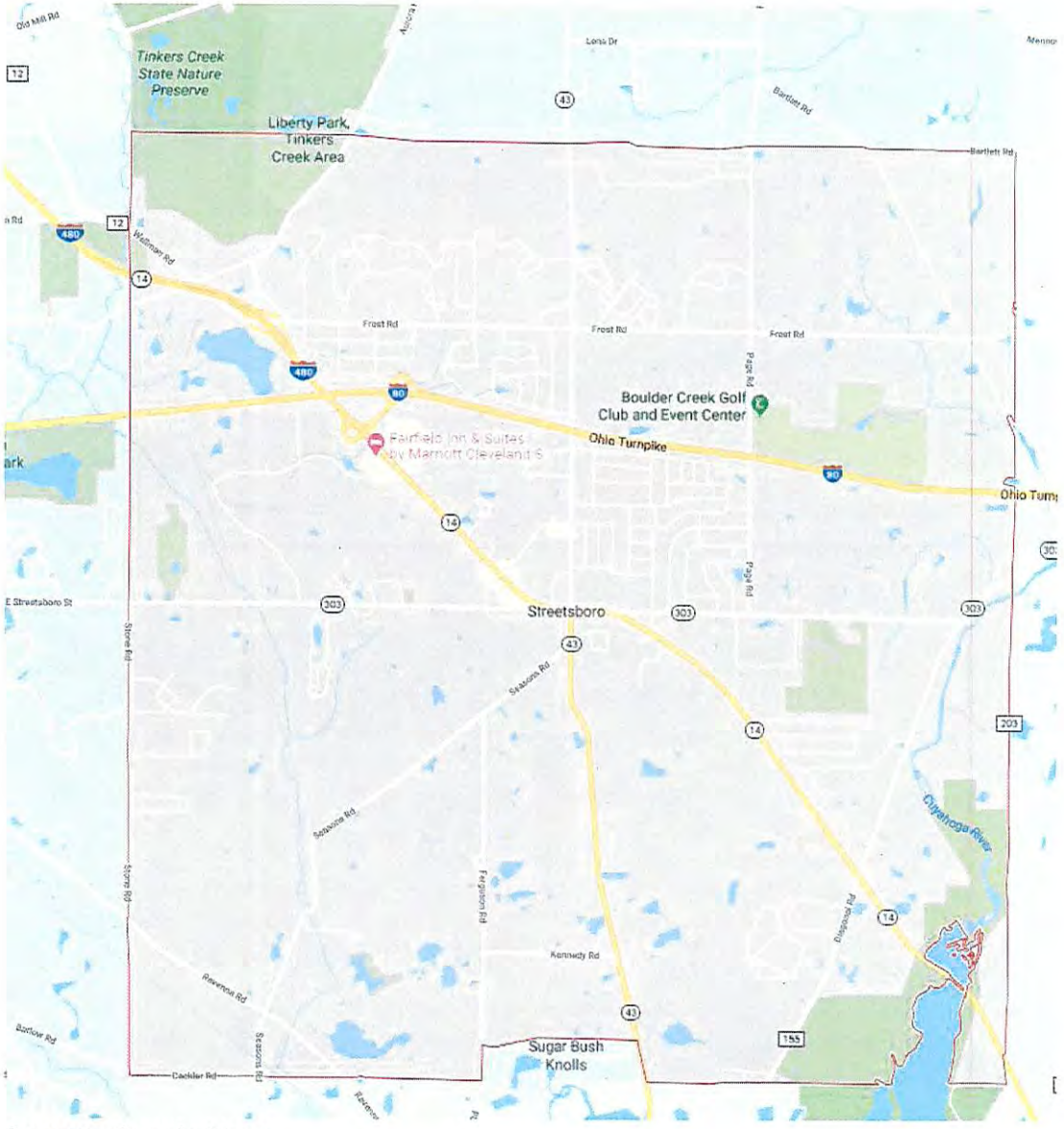
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The City of Streetsboro, located in Portage County, is a rapidly growing community. The City is at the crossroads of major traffic routes including Interstate 80, and State Routes 303, 14 and 43.

The City of Streetsboro's Parks and Recreation history started in 1969 when the Parks and Recreation Board was established. Since then, they have made continuous advances in providing parks and recreation facilities for its residents. Over the years the park staff has grown from a director in 1976 to a full time combined Parks and Recreation/ Senior Center director with three full time employees. The Department operates three city parks and offers numerous programs for all age groups and interests. Recently the City has seen a remarkable increase in participation of programs, especially adult and youth basketball programs, open gym, spring soccer, and adult softball among others.

The City strives to provide recreation programs of the highest standard possible. Great care goes into making each program deliver a positive experience for those involved. They also try to keep costs to a minimum to participants and continually work toward using the available resources to offer a variety of programs.



Source: Google Maps

EXISTING SCHOOLS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PARKS

STREETSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION
The current Parks and Recreation offices are located at 9307 State Route 43. This is a new location as of 2018. The majority of programming for both seniors and parks and recreation is currently offered out of this building. Parks and Recreation recently moved from its location at the City Hall complex, just southeast of this location. The previous location offered some additional field space, which the current location does not provide.

City of Streetsboro currently has four park holdings, two of which were included in the original master plan and two parks were newly acquired after the 2007 Master Plan was prepared. These parks are described in more detail in later portions of this document. They include:

- City Park
- Wilcox Park
- Thomas Heritage Park
- Beck Preserve

PORTAGE COUNTY PARK DISTRICT SITES
+/- 236 ACRES

The Portage County Park District completed a Comprehensive Plan in 2016. This document was reviewed in the planning process and is discussed in more detail later in this document.

Portage County Park District currently operates 236 acres of land within Streetsboro including:

Seneca Pond (48-acres)
Verna Beck Tract (58-acres)

Seneca Pond is located at 515 Mondial Parkway and provides a 10-car limestone parking lot, picnic tables, information kiosk, and hiking trails. This property was acquired through a partnership with Western Reserve Land Conservancy who received it through a donation from an area property developer and businessman. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife has a fishing management agreement with the Park District and will assist with monitoring and lake management.
It is an oasis of woods, wetlands and wildlife of the Tinker's Creek watershed nestled in an industrial park and against the turnpike. More than a mile of hiking trails have been created with plans to add a fishing dock. The name "Seneca Ponds" is a nod to the Seneca District of the Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts, whose scouts have helped the Park District with numerous park improvement projects over the years, including the development of this park.

In January of 2018, Portage County Park District acquired 130 acre parcel located on Ravenna Road in an effort to move closer to their Tinkers Creek Greenway project. The goal of this project is to provide a north and south trail linkage to create an ecological buffer against pollution from potential development affecting Herrick Fen Nature Center. The long term goal is to provide a north-south bike trail that would follow the Tinkers Creek floodplain and railroad tracks.

The site, known as the Gressard property contains a 31-acre spring fed lake. The Portage Park District also will manage a 59-acre Beck Fen on the north side of Route 303 in Streetsboro between Route 14 and Hudson's eastern border. The fen was acquired by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, then transferred to the Portage Park District, Public access is not planned for this land, but rather it will serve as a protection of wetlands.

SCHOOL CAMPUS
The school campus has changed since the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The school campus is now split into two locations: a high school campus at 8585 State Route 14 and a lower school campus off of Kirby Lane.

The addition of the new high school has modified the composition of the existing school campus located adjacent to City Park on Kirby Lane. The buildings located at this campus in addition to the administration building now include:

Henry Defer Intermediate School
1895 Annalene Drive
(playground, basketball hoops, & open lawn)

Middle School
1900 Annalene Drive
(grass football field & cinder track stadium)

EXISTING SCHOOLS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PARKS

Elementary School
8955 Kirby Lane
(Two playgrounds & open lawn)

All four schools at the lower school campus are accessed by vehicles from Annalane Drive. Sidewalks link the schools but numerous conflicts exist between pedestrians and vehicles. A pedestrian connection to City Park is not provided and should be included in the master plan. North of the middle school is a woodland area that could be used as an outdoor recreation and education area. A new high school complex was built in 2016.
In addition to the new school the site includes a stadium with football/soccer field, track, and track and field events. The land surrounding the developed area is natural and lends itself to park amenities such as a playground and trail system that could connect to adjacent neighborhoods. A cross country course could also be routed through this area.

In addition, Wait Primary School, previously located on Frost Road, has closed. The property has been sold to a new entity and is currently being utilized as KidsLink, a neurobehavioral center. The existing playground structure remains behind the building. This space would be an ideal public/private partnership to serve as a neighborhood park to service the residential neighborhood to the north.

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

BOULDER CREEK GOLF CLUB
Open to the public, this 18 hold golf course is located off of Page Road in northeast Streetsboro. The course features the same bent grass greens used by August National. According to Boulder Creek's website, the course "is built on 200 acres of spectacular land that was the end result of the ice age. Over 100 feet of elevation changes and the unique contour of the property make it one of the most beautiful golf courses in Ohio. Each hole was painstakingly built to the natural topography, utilizing the natural features of the property to their fullest advantage."

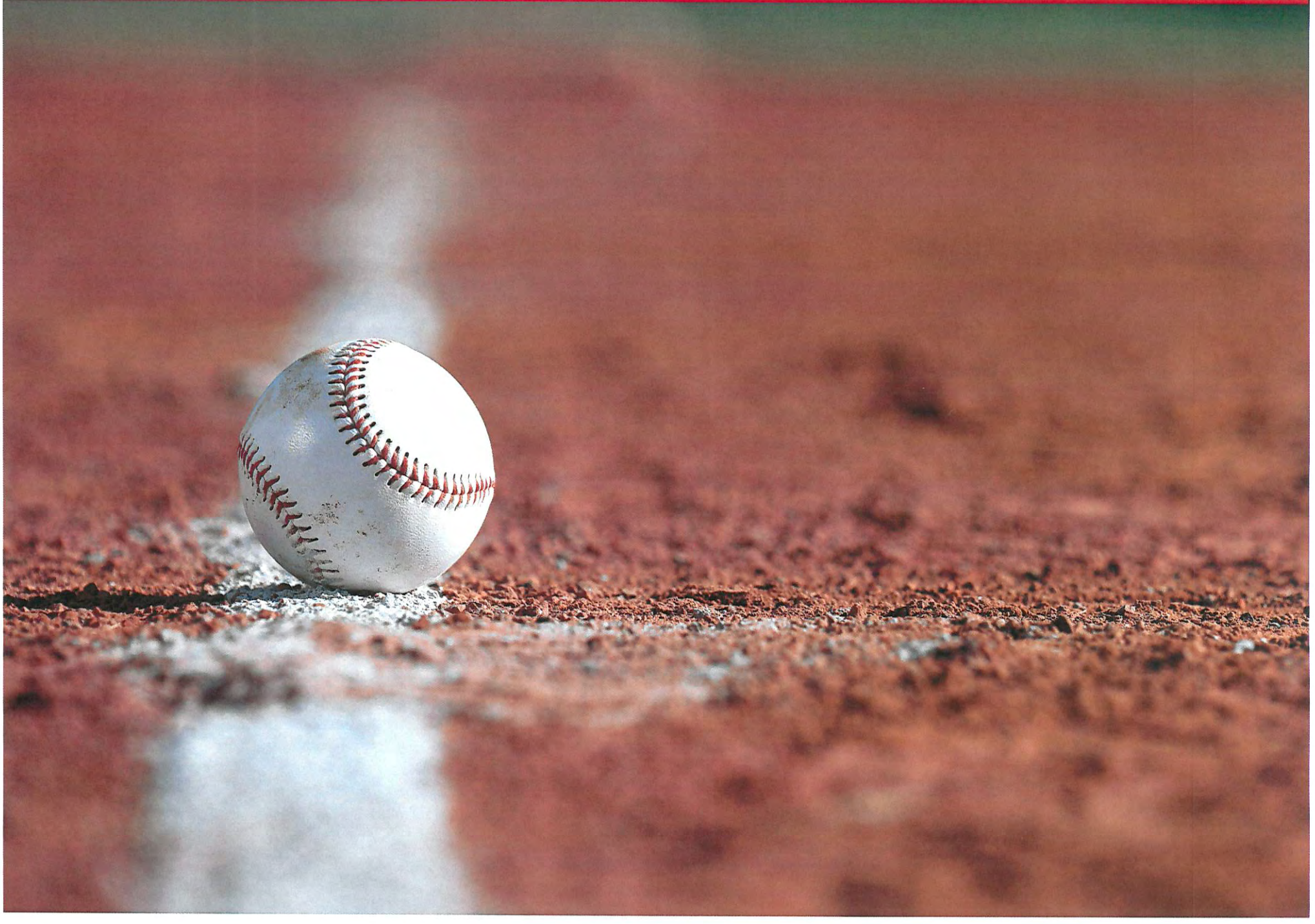
STREETSBORO KOA
Streetsboro KOA offers 260 camp/RV sites, 14 cabins, a playground, a swimming pool and fishing. Additional recreational attractions consist of beach on the spring-fed lake, camp fires, general store, and restroom facilities. The site is approximately 165 acres in size and is located off of Route 303 on the western side of the city.

WOODSIDE LAKE PARK
Woodside Lake Park is a 70 acre campground and picnic park located on Frost Road. It offers campsites for RV's and tenters, pavilion rentals, swimming, fishing, and boating on the 4-acre lake.

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL CLUBS
The City has numerous private recreational clubs that offer an extensive list of active and passive recreation opportunities:

Planet Fitness
Zip City
Streetsboro SNAP Fitness
Western Reserve Racquet & Fitness Club
Lisa's School of Dance
Little Explorers

CITY PARK



CITY PARK

8980 Kirby Lane

SIZE: 116 Acres

FACILITIES:
9 baseball/ softball diamonds, 1 Large Soccer Field, 2 youth soccer fields, 2 basketball hoops, 2 tennis courts, 2 restroom facilities, concessions area, 2 rentable pavilions, 3 playground structures, 0.5 miles of paved walking path, 0.5 miles of trails and grass paths, sharing library, children's garden, skate park, maintenance building, driveway and parking lots, and playgrounds.

City Park currently serves as Streetsboro's only "Community Park." It is bound by Route 303 to the north, Kirby Lane to the west and a housing development to the south.

Since the adoption of the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the following improvements have been made to City Park:

- Installation of a rain garden - 2010
- 0.5 mile gravel walking path installed - 2011
- Installation of scoreboard on softball field #5 - 2011
- Installed homerun fence on softball field #5 - 2011
- 1st playground structure installed - 2012
- Multi-age playground structures installed (NatureWorks grant) - 2013
- Swing set installed - 2014
- Creation of soccer fields - 2015
- Addition of 3rd playground - 2016
- 2 batting cages installed - 2016
- Automatic restroom door locks - 2017
- Paved the 0.5 mile gravel walking path - 2017/2018
- Installation of covered dugouts on 3 baseball/softball fields - 2018
- Addition of second rentable park pavilion - 2018
- Paved lower parking lot - 2018

The majority of these improvements have been completed internally by the Parks and Recreation Staff.

Numerous active recreational uses are offered at City Park. Baseball/ softball diamonds are well used and offer excellent opportunity for youth athletic programs. Recently, the fields have been utilized for weekend long softball and baseball tournaments due to the number of ballfields located in one location and the close proximity to restaurants, hotels, and the freeway system.

Due to increasing participation, the athletic facilities are reaching their full capacity. Soccer fields are located between baseball diamonds and receive moderate use. Camps are offered to teach fundamentals of soccer, basketball and tennis. In addition, the city offers flag football on two of the fenced ball fields. Two tennis courts are located in the park and received periodic use. Tennis programs consist of either camps or leagues depending on the participation level. Converting these courts to pickleball could increase usage and provide an additional amenity. Increased basketball opportunities would be gained by adding an official court with striping.

PLANNED WALKING PATH
The department has started implementing a plan to offer over two miles of walking paths and trails with in City Park. Once completed the path system will connect to the housing development located to the south of the park property by way of a pedestrian bridge. Formalized pedestrian paths have been implemented in the form of concrete walks and the secondary entrance drive is used as a walking path. There is potential to create a trail system that links to internal park amenities and the neighboring school grounds, new high school campus, neighborhoods and future city-wide trail system.

PROGRAMMING
Three parent-run, non-profit organizations,

provide Baseball/Softball, Soccer and Tackle Football for the community and utilize City Park and their home fields. These organizations help provide materials for the care of athletic fields and aid in Capital Improvement efforts.

City Park is also home to the departments Summer Day Camp, Running Club, youth soccer program, adult softball leagues and more. Family Days is also held at this location.

Un-programmed activities include a skate park, pavilions, basketball court, playgrounds and open lawn areas. The skate park has been a heavily used addition to the park. Vandalism and controlling bicycles started off as a problem, however in recent years these problems have subsided.

PARKING

The main entrance to the site is at the intersection of Annalane Drive and Kirby Lane. This intersection is also the main entrance to the Streetsboro Elementary School and its parking lot. Due to the congestion in that area, City Park's main entrance should be considered for relocation. The current entrance drive bisects the site, dividing the northeast boundary of the active recreation area and working its way past the maintenance building to the park's primary parking lot. During peak use times the existing parking lots are at full capacity and often overflow onto lawn areas. A secondary drive is located off of Route 303 and connects the main drive at field #7. Access from Route 303 may be an ideal location for a new main entrance to the park.

In addition to the active recreational activities offered, woodlands and wetlands are present on the site. The wooded area northeast of the ball fields has the potential for increased use as a passive recreational area with picnic tables, shelters, woodland nature paths, bird watching and interpretive areas. North of the woodland is a meandering stream that could be enhanced by restoring its margins with native floodplain vegetation, providing an educational opportunity, increase habitat creation, water quality protection and reduce maintenance costs. North of the stream, the gently sloping hillside offers views to the stream and woodland below. Due to the important role these areas play in the community, care should be taken that their key natural resources and characteristics are preserved.

WILCOX MEMORIAL PARK

WILCOX MEMORIAL PARK

LOCATION: 859 State Route 303

SIZE: 22 Acres
FACILITIES:
Multi-age fenced in playground, picnic area, sharable library, parking lot, open space

Wilcox Park is located north on Route 303 and west of Route 43. Numerous natural resources are present on the site including floodplain and wetland areas, tributary of Tinkers Creek, and upland hillsides.

Currently the park offers a multi-aged playground with a parking lot, and port-o-let. Its close proximity to Thomas Heritage Park to the south, residential neighborhood to the west and east, and industrial and commercial land uses to the north lend itself to being developed into a community park. Opportunities exist to expand the park north toward the residential neighborhood and industrial development to provide both active and passive recreation. In addition, a potential trail connection to the future Tinkers Creek greenway trail would add significant recreational value to the park. An internal pedestrian trail system should be developed to highlight the natural features by incorporating wetland boardwalks, interpretive signage, and wildlife observation areas.

The northern portion of the site is an open field and is an ideal location for additional sport field space. As this park develops as a community park, additional amenities that compliment the fields should also be included such as restroom facilities, pavilion, additional parking areas.

THOMAS HERITAGE PARK

THOMAS HERITAGE PARK

LOCATION: 1050 State Route 303
SIZE: 108 Acres
FACILITIES:
Parking lot, dog park, picnic areas, fishing pier, cell phone tower with access drive, wooded trails

Thomas Heritage Park is a newly acquired park since the 2007 Master Plan. The land was acquired in 2011. There has been some controversy with this property with many residents desiring the land to remain parkland while others have wanted to see it sold for a residential development

Thomas Heritage Park boast large un-developed acreage of woods containing both deciduous and evergreen trees. This wooded area is home to multiple species of native animals that include: White Tail Deer, Red Fox, rabbit and a nesting Bald Eagle. The small fishing pond allows for catch and release of blue gill, largemouth bass and catfish. The fishing pond is stocked annually for the department's annual Youth Fishing Derby. The existing fishing pier is not accessible and is in need of repairs.

A large beaver pond is located in the southern portion of the property. This section of the property lays with the 1/3 that is of the land categorized as flood plans. This provides the department with multiple recreational and educational opportunities.

The park contains a gravel entry drive and parking lot that services the park amenities. This limited access prohibits many from being able to access this park's amenities. Access and parking into the park should be developed in order to provide accessible entry points and access to amenities.

The focal point of this park is a newly developed dog park, installed in 2013, with areas for "large" and "small" dogs. Owners can let their pets off leash while relaxing on a bench inside the play area which is approximately 130' x 160'. This feature was installed by the Parks and Recreation Department with the assistance of a local company.

A sled riding hill was utilized on the western portion of the site but recently a cell phone tower was added in this area. An alternate location should be provided for the sled riding hill to provide a place for residents to continue with this winter activity. Other winter activities should be encouraged on this property including cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

The property would also be ideal for a cross country course routing for both the middle and high school teams with they varying terrain.

Thomas Heritage Park is located directly east of Beck Preserve. These two parcels are connected by proximity but should also be connected through a trail system comprised of a combination of asphalt, aggregate, and boardwalk trails to provide access for residents to view and experience the natural amenities on both properties. Preservation of the Thomas Heritage Park land also provides a buffer that aids in the protection of the natural features of the Beck Preserve.

The natural features and varying terrain of this parcel also make it an ideal location for a disc golf course. Routings can take advantage of topography and varying ecosystems for an interesting and challenging course routing.

BECK PRESERVE

BECK PRESERVE

LOCATION: State Route 303
SIZE: 116.58 Acres
(103 Acres Protected Wetland)
FACILITIES: Unique Flora, Fauna, and Animals

The Beck Preserve is located on State Route 303, south of Wilcox Park and west of Thomas Heritage Park. It is a property with many unique natural features. The property is located in the Lower Cuyahoga River watershed and the project falls within the Tinkers Creek subwatershed, the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River watershed in the Lake Erie Basin. The property contains a mix of vegetation including, forested wetlands.

In 2010, Davey Resource surveyed a total of three wetlands comprising approximately 33.1 acres, 25.9 of which are Category 3 wetlands. Drainage from the site moves south into a tributary to Tinkers Creek.

Nearly 4,035 LF of a tributary to Tinkers Creek, a primary tributary to the Cuyahoga River, can be found crossing the Property.

In June of 2012, the City of Streetsboro received a Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) Grant, in partnership with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) and Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). The purpose of the grant was to preserve, in perpetuity, high quality wetland resources and a tributary to Tinkers Creek. The grant was utilized to purchase the property from a private owner and transfer the ownership to the City of Streetsboro to protect its features with an environmental easement. This Protection Plan only pertains to approximately 103 of the 116 acres (See Appendix 1: Beck Preserve Western Reserve Land Conservancy Documents).

Per the WRLC Report, the property is home to Ohio's largest population of the State endangered American high bush cranberry (Viburnum trilobum), which in Ohio and northwestern PA is restricted to glacial fens. This population is found in what can be characterized as a Speckled Alder Poison Sumac Golden Ragwort Sedge Fen. Deep peat is present in many sections of the fen.

BECK PRESERVE

The following rare species have been documented on the Property by various entities and include:
Highbush Cranberry (Viburnum Trilobum)
Water Avens (Geum rivale)
Tiger Beetle (Cicindela rufiventris)
Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)

The property contains numerous wetland indicator species including:
Buttonbush
Fringed sedge
Swamp milkweed
Turtlehead
Smallhead rush
Skunk cabbage
Tufted loosestrife
Broadfruit bur-reed

Many threatened and endangered species have also been identified on the property. These include:
Northern Log Eared Bat
Indiana Bat
Massasauga
Smooth Green Snake

Several easements have been recorded on the site. These include:
Electric easements
Oil and gas leases
Highway right of way easement
Conservation easement
Two active wells and two plugged wells

The property also includes a barn with a lean to addition. According to the Portage County Auditor, the barn was built in 1910 and is approximately 2,016 square feet (36' x 64'). In 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department had Ohio Barn and Salvage, a barn wood salvage company, evaluate the barn wood. Per the evaluation, the barn is predominantly native beech hardwood with white ship lap pine siding with a concrete foundation. The lean t=o materials are similar. The barn is clear of farm related debris, but has water damage.

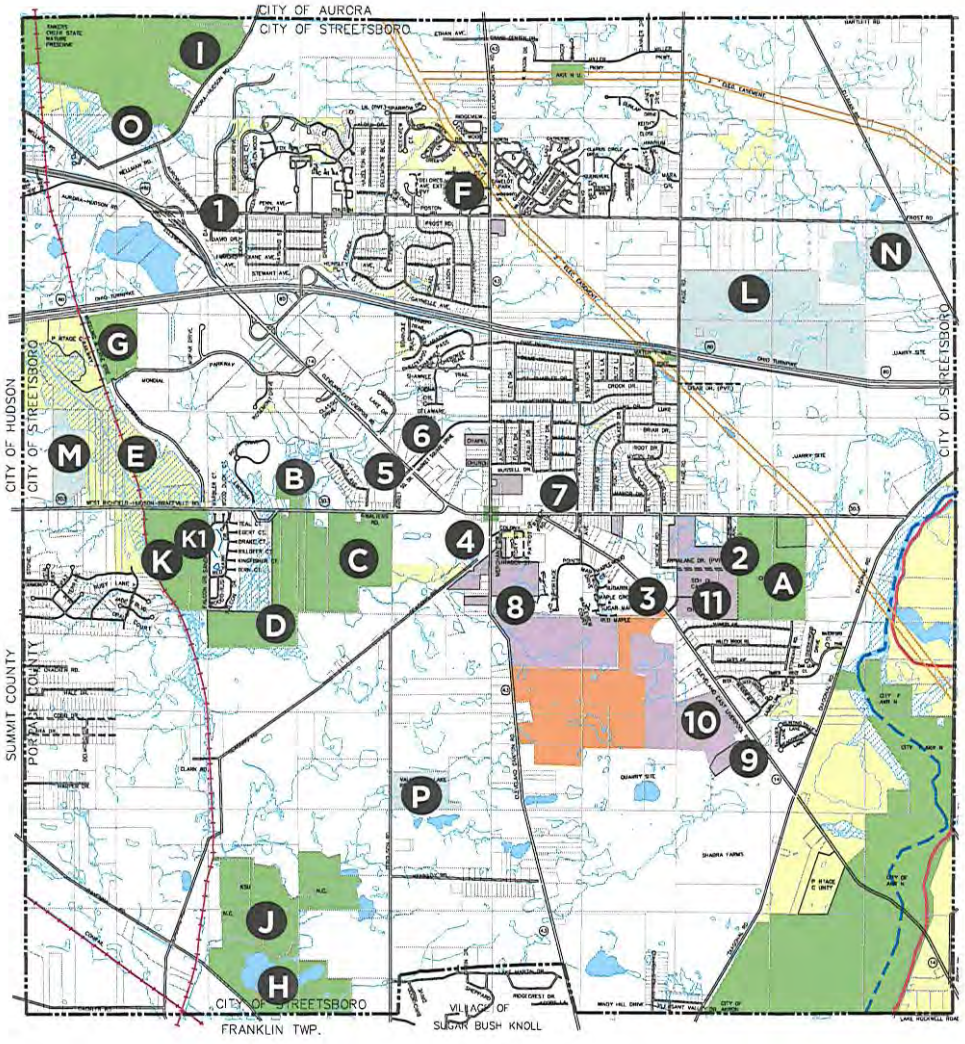
The City of Streetsboro would like to renovate the barn when funds become available in order to utilize the facility as a space that could be rented out or utilized for hosting community events. An architect should evaluate the condition of the barn to assess the modifications that would be required to complete this upgrade.

A small parking area, approximately 10,000 square feet, is permitted per the WRLC documents. It would be located near the barn but restricted to a 1.1-acre building area (See Appendix 1: Beck Preserve Western Reserve Land Conservancy Documents). Park amenities including the barn, limited parking, trailhead (pergola), and a waterless restroom would be restricted to this upland old field habitat and require minimal shrub/tree clearing.

The City's Park and Recreation Department will be responsible for implementing all management activities and will clearly delineate wetland/stream boundaries.

Despite the City's plans, there is currently no access to this property.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE & INVENTORY MAP



- FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (MEADOWVIEW)
- STATE, CITY PARKS, CITY OF AKRON PROPERTY
- PRIVATELY OWNED PARK OR GREENSPACE
- OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- INSTITUTIONAL, CITY/COUNTY PROPERTIES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND CEMETERIES
- RIVERS, LAKES, PONDS
- FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT

- STREAMS, CREEKS AND DRAINAGEWAYS
- CUYAHOGA RIVER 'WATER' TRAIL
- EXISTING BERM
- UTILITY EASEMENT
- RAILROAD TRACK

Natural and Cultural Resources

1. City Hall - Temporary Location
2. Pierce Streetsboro Library
3. Visitor's Center
4. Streetsboro Crossings
5. Heritage Plaza
6. Market Square Plaza
7. Streetsboro Plaza
8. Streetsboro Cemetery
9. Evergreen Cemetery

Streetsboro Schools

10. Streetsboro High School
11. **School Campus**
    Streetsboro Middle School (6-8)
    Henry Defer Intermediate School (4-5)
    Streetsboro Elementary School (K-3)

NORTH 0' 750' 1500' 3000'
GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=1500'-0"

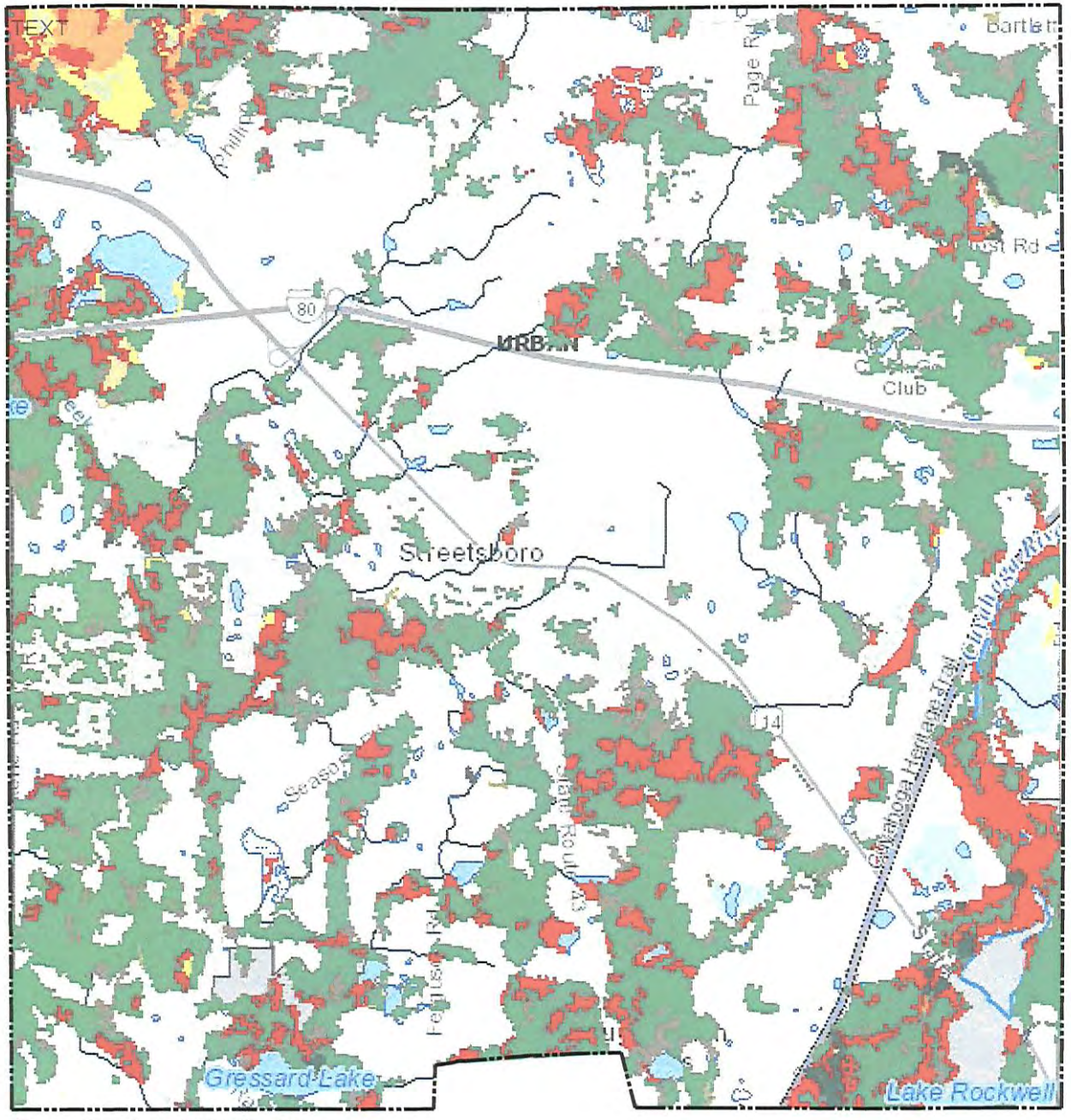
Streetsboro Parks

- A City Park (116 acres)
- B Wilcox Memorial Park (22 acres)
- C Thomas Heritage Park (108 acres)
- D Beck Preserve (116 acres)
- E Beck Fenn (54 acres)
- F Vantage Point Park (6.33 acres)
- G Seneca Pond (Portage County Parks) (48 acres)
- H Gressard Property (130 acres)
- I Tinker's Creek State Park and Nature Preserve (ODNR) (1,150 acres)
- J Herrick Fen Nature Preserve (ODNR/ Nature Conservancy) (140 acres)
- K Gott Fen (31.36 acres)
- K1 Gott Fen Expansion (55 acres)

Private Recreational Facilities

- L Boulder Creek Golf Course
- M KOA (62.67 acres)
- N Woodside Lake Park (70 acres)
- O Private Recreational Club
- P Valley View Lake Resort

NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY MAP



LEGEND

Forested Land

- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Scrub Shrub

Wetlands

- Palustrine Forested
- Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
- Palustrine Emergent

- Streams, Creeks and Drainage Ways
- Rivers, Lakes, Ponds

NTS

NORTH

Source: Ohio Coastal Atlas Map Viewer
ODNR - Office of Coastal Management

UNIQUE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

TINKERS CREEK STATE PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE

Tinkers Creek State Park and Nature Preserve is located in the northwest corner of Streetsboro and is a hub for passive recreational activities in the area. Their land holdings combined encompass approximately 1,150 acres. The State Park, of approximately 370 acres, features recreational opportunities such as plant and wildlife observation, fishing, hiking, and picnicking. However, most of the park is maintained as a swamp and marshland providing habitat for migratory birds. It is the home of numerous wildlife including bass, crappie, catfish, herons, ducks, beavers and bald eagles. Some active recreational opportunities are provided such as a cross-country skiing, playground, horseshoes and volleyball courts. The Nature Preserve features extensive marshes, numerous nature trails, boardwalks, and observation deck.

HERRICK FEN NATURE PRESERVE

Herrick Fen is located on Seasons Road in the southwestern portion of the city. A fen is a peat-forming wetland fed by sources other than precipitation, usually upslope sources and groundwater. This unique wetland supports diverse plant and animal communities and provides improved water quality, outstanding wildlife habitat and reduces flooding.

Herrick Fen Nature Preserve is a 140 acre site consisting of numerous fen communities and is owned by the Nature Conservancy and Kent State University. Public access to the sensitive fens is provided by a small parking lot, nature paths and a boardwalk system. Consideration should be given to linking the preserve to a future city-wide multi-use trail system and providing increased educational opportunities.

BECK FEN NATURE PRESERVE

Beck Fen Nature Preserve is located just south of I-80 and is approximately 10 acres in size and features high quality fens. Dominated by sedges, it is currently being threatened by non-native invasive plants. In addition, considerable development to the upland habitat adjacent to the fen by industrial and commercial development is threatening the health of the community. Currently, public access is not provided.

GOTT FEN

One of three high quality fens remaining in the upper watershed wetland network of Tinkers Creek. Currently, public access is not provided.

LAKE ROCKWELL

Located in the southeast corner of Streetsboro, Lake Rockwell has the potential to provide exceptional recreational opportunities on its 660 acres. The lake is owned by the City of Akron and serves as their water supply. It is fed by the Cuyahoga River, a federally designated American Heritage River. Continued protection of the buffer area adjacent to the lake should be a priority. Where possible, a multi-use or nature trail should be planned to provide access to the lake and the Cuyahoga River. This would ensure its views and natural resources can be utilized and interpreted. In addition, a non-motorized boat launch area should be considered.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The City of Streetsboro has many points of historical and cultural significance on which to build on and interpret. Among them are numerous historical homes and several farms, such as the Jack Burger Estate and Daybreak Lavender Farm. Two Indian burial mounds are believed to be within the city limits as well as three cemeteries - Streetsboro Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery and Cackler Cemetery. Today, the City Hall, Senior Center, and Pierce Streetsboro Library offer activities like piano and guitar instructions, fitness classes, dancing, open mike poetry and book discussion groups.

APPROACH

APPROACH

One of the most important tasks of the planning process is to determine the community's desired level of park and recreation service and to tie that level of service to a measurable growth indicator. Many factors go into that determination including future population levels, the age of population, the ability to fund improvements and to maintain those improvements over the long term, and the availability of parks within the greater area. In other words, the City must develop its own planning standard on how much and what type of parkland it desires to have in the future.

PUBLIC INPUT

The City planning process approached the public input component task in two ways. First, key community leaders, PRAC and residents were invited to share their vision and expectations for future parks within the City by answering a survey. The survey data was reviewed and analyzed in conjunction with the site inventory and analysis and the master plan was updated and conceptual park master plans were created. The second part of the planning process entailed gathering input on the plans from residents at a public meeting in order to prioritize improvements and understand funding options.

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PROGRAMMING

Based on the City of Streetsboro Comprehensive Master Plan dated May of 2014, the City of Streetsboro had a population of 16,028 people in 2010. In 2017, the population is calculated at 16,365 people and in 2030 the population is estimated to be 18,142 people.

According to the US Census Bureau, the City of Streetsboro is a family oriented community with predominantly middle aged working residents. The median age of the residents is 41.2 years. This information is utilized in the planning process to make sure that plans accommodate the types of users and amount of users into account.

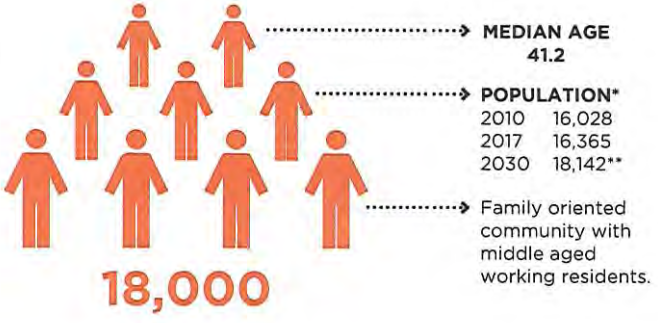
TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Current recreation trends were also evaluated for incorporation into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Across the United States, pickleball has become extremely popular especially amongst seniors. According to the USA Pickleball Association website, the sport of pickleball is exploding in popularity with the number of places to play doubling since 2010.

Currently, there are 4,000 locations on the USAPA's Places to Play map. The spread of the sport is attributed to its popularity within community centers, physical education classes, YMCA facilities and retirement communities. Existing tennis courts can cost effectively be converted into pickle ball courts, making it a low cost amenity to add to communities.

Disc golf is another sport that is on the rise in the United States and Ohio. Accordingly to the Disc Golf Association, it is one of the fastest growing sports with over 4,000 registered courses in the US and world. Like pickleball, disc golf is a low cost amenity that can easily be added to a park. Baskets and tee markers and land are the only amenities needed. Each course can be uniquely routed, taking advantage of the topography, vegetation and other unique features of a property (lakes, streams, views, etc.).

Across the country, youth activities continue to be on the rise with both community recreation sports and traveling sports growing in popularity. Families are choosing to be involved in structured activities for their children resulting in the increased need for indoor and outdoor fields space and indoor court sports. This holds true in Streetsboro.



* US Census Bureau
** City of Streetsboro Comprehensive Master Plan Draft, June 21, 2018

NRPA RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS STANDARDS

The use of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) planning standards for an ideal park system. The most current publication on park system planning by the NRPA, "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines" (1996), recommends a planning approach that establishes a level of service that is needs-based, facilities-driven, and land-measured. The scope of service for this report did not permit the full model approach recommended in this NRPA publication. However, several other methods were used to address the level of service criteria and to help determine the present and future recreation needs of Streetsboro. These included: 1) the total park area method, 2) the facility/population standards method, and 3) the proximity method.

As development occurs, all methodologies will adjust proportionately to accommodate additional needs for community parks, neighborhood parks, trail networks and athletic facilities. Other communities have adopted legislature requiring new developments to provide parkland proportionate to the proposed population increase and proximity to adjacent existing parkland. This is a valuable and progressive way to increase parkland with new developments.

PARKLAND	USER AREA	NRPA AREA POPULATION STANDARD	CURRENT
Neighborhood Parks	1/2 mile radius or 10 min. walk	1.5 acres / 1,000 population	30 acres
City-Wide Community Park	3 mile	6.5 acres / 1,000 population	110 acres
Total Park System	City-Wide	8 acres / 1,000 population	140 acres

Total Park Area Method

This method compares the quantity of parkland to the community-wide population base. The general accepted standard used to gauge minimum parkland adequacy is 10 acres per 1,000 population. Considerable discussion occurred during the 2007 Master Plan, which established the city standard of 28 acres of parkland per 1,000 population as a desirable and achievable goal. This standard will be maintained for the current master plan update. Streetsboro's current population of 13,900 (2005 estimate) and 2020 projected population of 17,940 will be rounded to 14,000 and 18,000 (respectively) for planning estimation purposes. Based on a population of 18,000, Streetsboro's goal is 504 acres of parkland. The following chart illustrates the adequacy of Streetsboro's parkland according to the estimated 2030 population (18,000). This does not include population numbers outside of the Streetsboro City limits.

CITY PARK 116 acres

WILCOX PARK 22 acres

THOMAS HERITAGE PARK 108 acres

BECK PRESERVE 116 acres

Streetsboro's Goal:

504 ACRES OF PARKLAND

NRPA RECOMMENDATIONS

Facility/Population Standards Method
This method will provide a comparison of local facilities to NRPA standards and determine any need for new facilities. The following chart illustrates the availability of different activities in Streetsboro compared to the projected demand for the same activities in 2030 (estimated population 18,000). This method is based upon population, not the Parks and Recreation service area. The last column (Adjusted Need) is recommends additional facilities that meet the local demand based on user surveys and staff observations.

Additional facilities recommended are:

- Playgrounds at each neighborhood park with a main facility located at City Park
- 5 soccer fields/flag football (2 full-size, 3 youth fields)
- Disc golf course
- Baseball/softball field lighting at City Park
- Winter activities: ice skating, sledding

Recreational Needs Analysis

Activity	Standard	Current Facilities	Facility Standard	Adjusted Need
Basketball (outdoor)	1/1,000 population	1	18	2
Youth Ball Field	1/3,000 population	9	6	-
Tennis Courts	1/2,000 population	2	9	2
Outdoor Pool	1/20,000 population	-	1	1
Volleyball	1/3,000 population	-	6	2
Soccer (w/goals)	1/3,000 population	3	6	5 (2 full, 3 youth)

NRPA RECOMMENDATIONS

Proximity Method
This method measures the adequacy of a community's parkland according to the park's proximity to the community population. Parks, playgrounds, and other public open spaces need to be located in close proximity to the user population. The accepted NRPA standard is that every person in the community should live within a 3 mile radius of a community park, 1/2 mile (or a 10 minute walk) to a neighborhood park, and 1/4 mile radius of a mini-park or school playground. The Proximity Map on the next page illustrates this proximity through 3, 1/2 and 1/4 mile service areas, depending on the park type. The population density of the residential areas of Streetsboro is shown in the background on the map with the purple/blue areas being the most dense and the green areas being less dense.

Community Parks are typically large in size (20-50 acres) and serve the recreational needs of the entire community. They provide amenities to multiple neighborhoods and have a service area of up to 3 miles. Access to the site should be conveniently located near collector or arterial streets and be easily accessible by a trail system. Ideally, the site should be geographically centered and have a strong relationship to the other park areas. The site's natural character should also be carefully considered during the acquisition and planning stages to ensure that unique qualities like vegetation, watersheds, views and topography are preserved or enhanced.

Neighborhood Parks are the basic unit of a park system. They are typically 5 to 10 acres in size and serve the recreational needs of a specific neighborhood. They can have both active or passive recreation opportunities or be geared to a specific user group. They should be centrally located in the neighborhood being served and be accessible by a trail system, sidewalks or residential streets.

The site should posses aesthetic qualities, since experiencing a pleasant outdoor environment is a primary recreational activity in neighborhood parks.

Mini Parks are usually under an acre in size and are used to fulfill the recreational needs of an isolated area. They can offer active recreation like playgrounds or be designed to fit a unique function like a rose garden, interpretive area or plaza adjacent to a shopping center. Their location should be based on a specific need rather than by population. The park should be easily accessible by sidewalks or residential streets and be linked to neighborhood parks by a trail system.

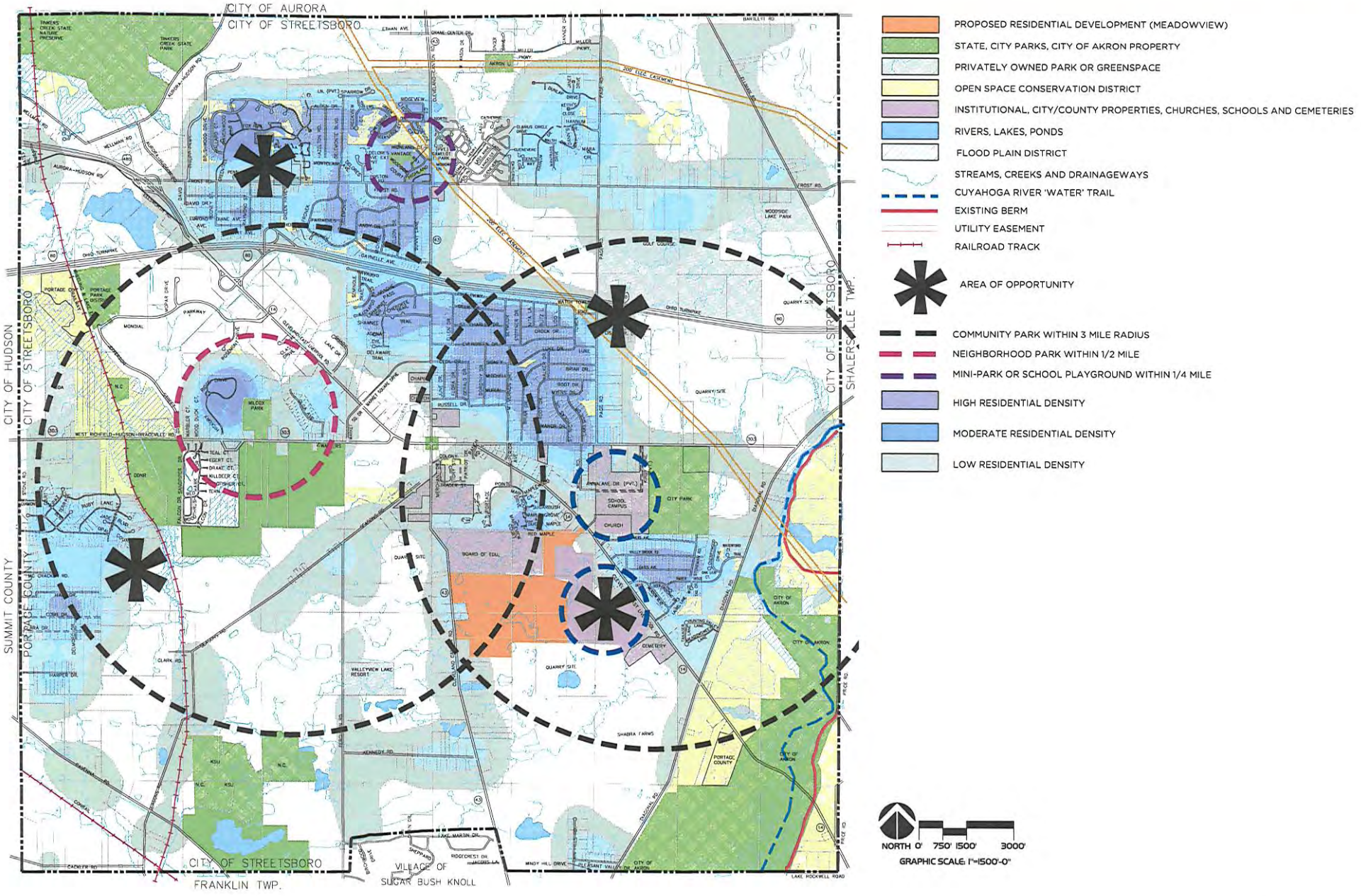
School Parks expand the recreation opportunities of the community by providing shared facilities and land area. Depending on the school and its location, recreation activities like playgrounds, open lawn, and athletic fields can be a joint use relationship with the school district and park system.

According to the map, the majority of the residential population falls within the community park radius. Only those on the far north and south edges of the City are outside of the service area. West edge of the city are outside the service area. Currently, Wilcox and Thomas Heritage Parks are neighborhood parks, but due to their potential both will be developed as community parks, creating a strong park core for the City. Many residents live outside the neighborhood, mini-park or school service areas. The proximity map also indicates areas of need for either neighborhood or mini parks based on current residential populations or projected population growth.

The new high school campus provides an opportunity for additional recreational opportunities in the form of playgrounds or a trail system that links to the surrounding residential neighborhoods and potentially even northeast across Route 14 to connect to the residential neighborhood to the east and the lower school campus and City Park.

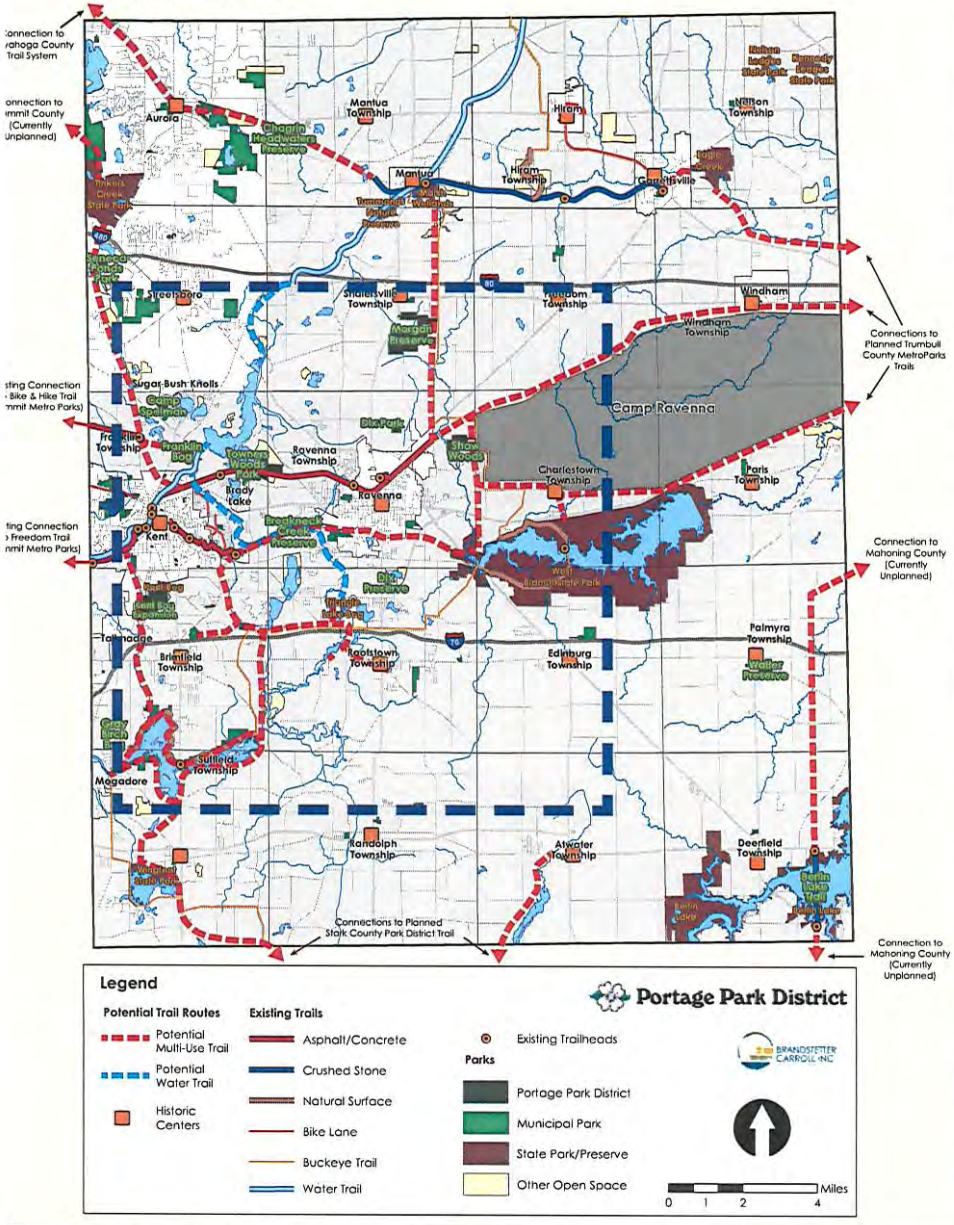
The Old Wait Primary School site provides another opportunity for a mini-park. The existing school playground facility remains and with a public-private partnership, could serve the neighborhood to the north.

NRPA RECOMMENDATIONS



Potential Future Trail Routes

Portage Park District Master Plan
Portage County, Ohio



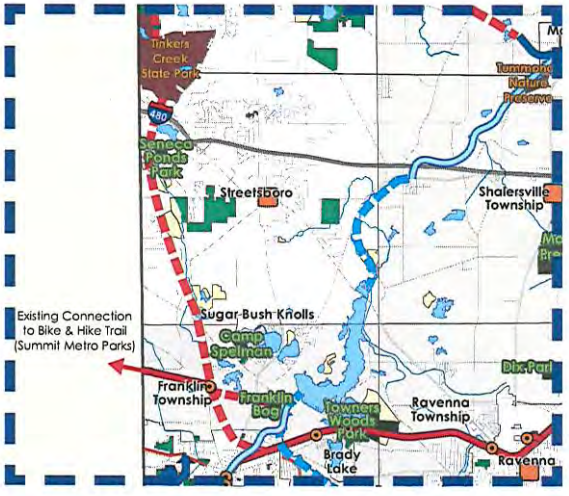
Potential Future Trail Routes Plan from Portage Park District Master Plan, 2016

In December 2016, the Portage County Park District completed a Master Plan for their land holdings. This document was reviewed in the planing process for Streetsboro's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Part of Portage County's planning process also included a public survey. Many of the survey answers aligned with the survey answers received from the City of Streetsboro's results. These results were used in the programming for the individual park master plans and trail connections. See Appendix 3 for more detail.

A summary of Portage County's data collection is provided here:

Most needed parks and recreation facilities for households were:
70% Walking & hiking trails
57% Paved bike trails
56% Natural areas/nature parks
51% Picnic shelters/picnic areas

The most needed recreation programs for households were:
43% Adult fitness and wellness
39% Cycling
34% Concerts
33% Fishing
32% 50+ Programs



PUBLIC INPUT

SURVEY

The public input portion of the process involved two items - a survey and public input meetings. In the summer of 2018, the City of Streetsboro Parks and Recreation in conjunction with their planning team, put together a list of survey questions to distribute to the public to gain input on the direction of the parks.

The survey was made available to the public throughout the months of July and August and was available in various digital and paper (hardcopy) formats:

Facebook
Parks and Recreation Department Web Page
Family Days Booth
Via Direct Email

The data was collected and tabulated. See Appendix 4 for complete survey data.

Which of the following activities/features/amenities do you wish Streetsboro would develop or improve? Choose all that apply.

76.1% Walking/Jogging
52.9% Bike paths along roadways
44.7% Outdoor Basketball Courts/Volleyball Courts
43.2% Indoor Basketball/Volleyball Courts
41.7% Playground / Natural Play Structures
35.9% Picnic/grilling
35.8% Neighborhood Park
32.0% Field sports (baseball, football, soccer)
24.6% Bridal/Horse Trails
23.8% Fishing
15.6% Public Archery Range
13.4% Disc golf course
8.9% Small Outdoor Amphitheater

75.7% of respondents feel that Streetsboro's parks are less quality than the parks in the surrounding area

70% of the respondents utilize Parks & Recreation programming throughout the year.

69% would like to see a rentable gathering space

62.8% of the respondents would like to see Parks & Recreation & senior services together in one shared location with expanded indoor recreation/field house

61.4% not enough passive park space, active park space or all types of park space

61% of respondents feel that there are not enough parks or the right amount of parks

53% of respondents felt it was important Streetsboro provided a pedestrian friendly environment that connects areas of Streetsboro to the greater regional trail system (example trails, bike paths, etc.)

PUBLIC INPUT

The second portion of the public input component involved public input meetings.

On September 26, 2018, the first public input meeting was held at Council Chambers. Environmental Design Group in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department delivered a presentation on the process to date for the Master Plan Update. The meeting was attended by approximately 20 people (See Sign In Sheet - Appendix 5). The consensus of the study indicates that the City of Streetsboro contains an ample amount of parkland to meet the needs of its residents, however, access and development needs to be provided to the park holdings so residents can benefit from the features at each park.

As part of this presentation, conceptual park master plans were presented for City Park, Wilcox Park and Thomas Heritage Park/ Beck Preserve. The plans showed a variety of improvements including access, parking, sports fields, and trail and boardwalk systems.

A combination of graphic boards and a PowerPoint presentation was presented. At the end of the presentation, an interactive exercise was conducted with those in attendance in order to prioritize the proposed improvements. Attendees were given "red" and "green" dot stickers and asked to place their "green" dots on improvements that they would like to see completed and "red" dots on improvements that they would not like to see completed.

Residents were informed that while the plans show improvements necessary to access and further develop the parks, the current Parks and Recreation budget can not support either the capital improvement or maintenance and operations of these proposed improvements.

As part of the interactive exercise, attendees were also give a "yellow" dot and asked to place it in one of three columns to show their level of support for a Parks and Recreation levy that would support the capital improvements, and operations and maintenance necessary to support these improvements, shown in the presentation.

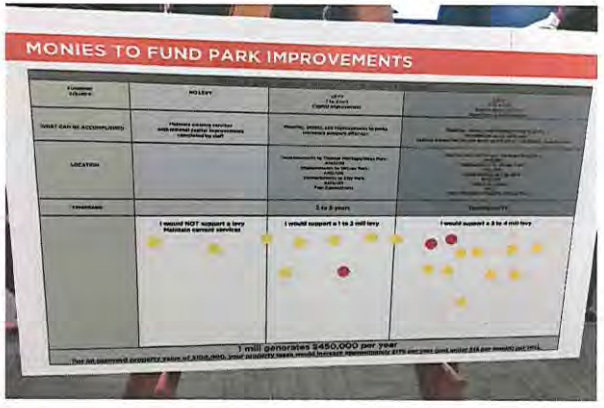
The choices included:

- No levy (maintain existing services with minimal capital improvements complete by staff)
- 1 to 2 mil capital improvement levy for 3 to 5 years (planning, access and improvements to parks and increased program offerings at Wilcox Park, City Park, Thomas Heritage/Beck Preserve, and Trail Connections); Operations and Maintenance would continue to be funded through the City's General Fund.
- 2 to 3 mil levy capital improvement and operations and maintenance for 3 to 5 years (planning, access and improvements to parks and increased program offerings at Wilcox Park, City Park, Thomas Heritage/Beck Preserve, and Trail Connections); This option also includes a recreation (field house) building without a pool.

The majority of residents were in support of a levy to support capital improvements for parks in Streetsboro including the maintenance and operations for these improvements.

Following the public input meeting, the PRAC met to review the feedback in order to finalize the Master Plan.

On October 23, 2018, the Final Master Plan was presented at a second Public Input Meeting held at City Hall. Finalized Conceptual Park Master Plans were presented for City Park, Wilcox Park, and Thomas Heritage Park/Beck Preserve and the Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The final concept plans are included in this document.



OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

History

The City of Streetsboro established a Parks and Recreation Board in 1969 as provided by section 755.14 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Board was designed to be five members, three appointed by the Mayor and two appointed by the School Board. The responsibilities were to equip, operate and maintain playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools or recreation centers. With no land and no staff, it was a proper beginning but slow to evolve. In 1972 approximately 90 acres of land, generally known today as City Park, was designated for public park use. (1)*

In 1973, a 0.5 mill levy was passed and used as the basis for the Parks and Recreation budget. In 1976, the Director's position was established and was to be filled by the Parks and Recreation Board. City Council authorized the sum of $1.00 per annum as a token salary. (2)*

No one was identified as accepting the position. In that same year, the .5 mill levy was renewed to provide for continued financial support. The Streetsboro Lions Club stepped forward in 1979 with a $1,161.00 donation to establish water services in City Park. The Lions Club also provided a picnic shelter for City Park during that same year.

In the early 1980's, $9,000 was accepted from the City to establish a Recreation Fund. During the same period, an application for a federal grant was submitted for 15.5 acres of land located in the southwest quadrant of City Park. In 1988, Steve Kolar was hired as the Park and Recreation Director. (3)*

A charter amendment in 1990 changed the manner in which appointments were made to the Parks and Recreation Board. As of this amendment, all five board members were to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. During this same year the City and the Schools authorized a joint license agreement for playgrounds on school grounds. (4)*

In 1992, the Streetsboro City Charter Section 14.03 was amended providing for the Parks and Recreation Director to be appointed by City Council and responsible to the Mayor. It also provided for removal of the Director by majority of City Council. The Parks and Recreation Board would have responsibility only for part time personnel. Parks and Recreation employees were added to the pay ordinance, and appropriation adjustments were made for a Parks Capital Improvements budget. (5)*

1996 showed that $230,000 was allocated for a NatureWorks Grant for construction of a toilet shelter building, walkways, and two new ball fields all located in City Park. (6)*

A contract was approved with Ted Manfrass for the design of these park improvements. (7)*

A theatre fund was established to operate under the Parks and Recreation Department, and Michele Harmel was confirmed as the new Parks and Recreation Director.

City Council approved all expenditures for Parks and Recreation as noted in an ordinance to award a $250.00 contract to Andrew Clark to direct the play "Peter Pan" during the summer of 1997. (8)*
In 1998 another ordinance was passed by City Council establishing the Parks and Recreation Department and its director. The director would be responsible to the Mayor, effectively abolishing the Parks and Recreation Board. (9)*

The director's salary increased from $22,250.00 to $27,450.00. (10)*

In the fees and charges arena, City Council authorized a reduction in the Park Impact Fee from $500.00 to $200.00 for each new development, whether single family or a sub division development.(11)*

City Council approved several individual contracts in 2000 for swing dance, playtime partners, basketball coordinator, spring theatre, concerts in the parks, and youth craft classes. A grant application was submitted to the Ohio Arts Council to request budget assistance for these programs. In 2001, City Council authorized construction of an addition to the storage building in City Park. (12)*

In 2002, City Council established a new department called "The Department of Public Grounds and Facilities". This department was to be responsible for maintaining City Buildings, Grounds, and Park Lands. (13)*

The park maintenance staff, formerly operating under the Parks and Recreation Department, was moved to the Department of Public Grounds and Facilities. Approval was given by City Council in 2003 for the construction of the Skatepark located in City Park. Individual contracts were awarded for concrete construction and apparatus.

City Council took a major step in 2003 by

establishing the "Citizens Committee for Public Recreational Land Use", an advisory committee of the City. "The committee was charged to take steps (...within the authority of the law...) to assess lands presently owned by the City and in private ownership, to determine suitability for active and passive recreation by City residents, to consider applicable funding sources for the acquisition and development of such public recreation lands, including drainage, to assist Council in allocating City recreational funds and funding sources, and to recommend to Council any other aspect of land use it deems appropriate and beneficial to the residents of the City."(14) Seven members were appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

In 2005, three properties were approved by City Council for option to buy, and then the authorization was reversed. (15) The reversal of the decision was based on the desire to wait for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be completed which would help determine what lands should be purchased.

In January 2006, The Parks and Recreation Director and Senior Citizens Director positions were combined into one job. Elaine VanHoose was appointed as the new "combined" director. (16)

During the summer of 2006, City Council authorized a "Request for Proposal" for the development of a Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. (17)*

Staffing

Staffing for the Parks and Recreation Department reached an all-time high in 2001 with three permanent positions and one seasonal. The director, clerk, and recreation supervisor were permanent positions, and the seasonal position was part of the grounds maintenance staff. In 2003, the non-salaried positions joined the union under AFSCME local 3811. At this time, the supervisor's position was renamed programmer, and it, along with the clerk position, fell under the same job classification, it remains that way today.

The maintenance of the parks falls under the Department of Public Grounds and Facilities. This department is responsible for maintaining public buildings, public grounds, and preparing and maintaining the parks for recreational activities and special events. With this much responsibility for public lands falling to one department, there are times when priorities require choices that result in a less-than-desired public image for public lands and/or public parks.

The department continues to operate with the director serving as the Parks and Recreation Director and the Senior Citizens Director. The subordinate staff filling the two other permanent positions, particularly the recreation programmer, continues to turn over, making it difficult to provide continuity, creativity, and consistency in recreational programming. Under the present organizational structure, with the clerk and the recreational programmer listed in the same job classification under the union contract, hiring and keeping a recreation programmer is difficult.

Programming Operations

Presently, programming activities take place at three indoor locations and outdoors at City Park. Indoor programming is found at Streetsboro Elementary, Defer Intermediate, Pierce Library, and the Parks and Recreation Department. The schools permit utilization of the cafeteria and gymnasiums.

The new combined Parks and Recreation Department, including senior services, also hosts programs. This location has been secured as a 3-year rental. Modifications are currently being made to these spaces in order to accommodate the current programming schedule for the Parks and Recreation offerings. Features now include a rentable studio and kitchenette for small parties and events. Despite the renovations, the space is smaller and inadequate to service the community members. This location should be considered a temporary solution.

Outdoor programming takes place at City Park. Tennis courts, the skatepark, baseball and softball fields, and the open field play areas are programmed at City Park.

Present programming, as well as historical programming, has been offered to all age categories. Some ages are served better than others because of (or lack of) interest, facilities and appropriate staff. Participation in programming has steadily increased. Presently the Parks and Recreation Department offers a multitude of recreation programming for all age groups.

Residents can find programming in many categories including toddlers, youth sports, adult sports, sport camps, fine arts, teen programs, youth classes, adult classes and several special events. Some of the special events include photography, travel

opportunities, holiday special activities, Safety Land, Paws-in-the-Park, Tiny Tykes track and field, and the NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition.

The Recreation Programming takes place throughout the calendar year and has the potential of expanding with the advent of more park land and required staff.

Funding and Accounting Practices Review
When the voters in Streetsboro approved a ballot issue in 1970 to have their community become an official "City" effective January 1, 1971, the area already had a colorful history dating back to 1798. There was the famous founder, Titus Street, the 1825 "original turnpike" from Cleveland to Wellsville, and recognition of Streetsboro as one of the major cheese producers in the United States producing over 600,000 pounds of cheese in 1873.

The City of Streetsboro literally exploded with development when the Ohio Turnpike opened in 1955 (with one of the few exists right at the edge of town). With the popularity of the automobile and Streetsboro's strategic location in proximity to Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown, the community began its rapid growth that continues today.

The establishment of a Parks and Recreation Board was approved in 1969, just prior to the "official City" declaration. The actual department emerged in 1972 when approximately 90 acres of land, (known as City Park) was designated for public park use. The ability to develop that land and offer recreation programming was realized in 1973 when a .5 mill levy was passed that provided the basis for the Parks and Recreation budget. The necessity of a Park budget was realized even in the infant days as Streetsboro developed into a city.

Records show that the .5 mill levy was renewed in 1976. In addition, donations from service clubs and private individuals were accepted, and an application for a federal grant was submitted to obtain additional land around City Park.

In the 1990's, City Council appropriated General Fund monies for part time labor in the Recreation Department. In the late 1990's, a NatureWorks Grant was submitted for capital improvements at City Park, and a park impact fee was established by City Council. For the last several years, the City's General Fund budget has been the primary resource for funding for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The history of the City of Streetsboro reflects several ways in which the Parks and Recreation Department was funded. It included
1) a levy;
2) private donations;
3) public organizational donations;
4) grants;
5) a park impact fee for developers;
6) the City's general fund;
7) the City's capital budget.

All of these are legitimate and effective ways to provide a budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. The key is to find an operative manner in which to provide funding, justify it, and most importantly, accomplish the declared tasks for which the budget was allocated.

Financial Sustainability Opportunities
Whenever the suggestion is made to develop a new site, acquire new property, buy new equipment, or expand existing lands or facilities, concern immediately follows based on the question, "How will we pay for these projects?" How is the community going to fund this capital project and possibility more importantly, how will the ongoing maintenance of the property or equipment be funded? The City of Streetsboro has accomplished these challenges in the past by taking advantage of some of the many funding opportunities available. To simply list them, they include:

Funding Source	Allocating Authority
1. General Fund	City Council
2. Park Levy	Ballot Issue
3. Impact Fees	City Council
4. Assessments	City Council
5. Bond Issues	Ballot Issue
6. Income Tax	Ballot Issue
7. Multiple Grants	
a. Nature Works, Ohio Department of Natural Resources	
b. Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal through	
1) ODNR	
c. Recreational Trails, ODNR	
d. Tea-21, Federal through ODNR	
e. National Scenic Byway Program, ODOT	
f. Ohio EPA Non-Point Source Management Program	
2) ODNR	
g. Clean Ohio Fund, ODNR	
h. Cooperative Boating Facility Grant, ODNR	

i. Ohio Water Trails Program, ODNR
8. Public/Private Partnerships
9. National Foundation/Organization Grants
10. In-Kind Services
11. Scholarships
12. User Fees

Grants are an excellent source of funding and one of the major requirements of grant applications is that the requested project be part of a planning document. By accepting this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a major hurdle in grant approval will have been accomplished.

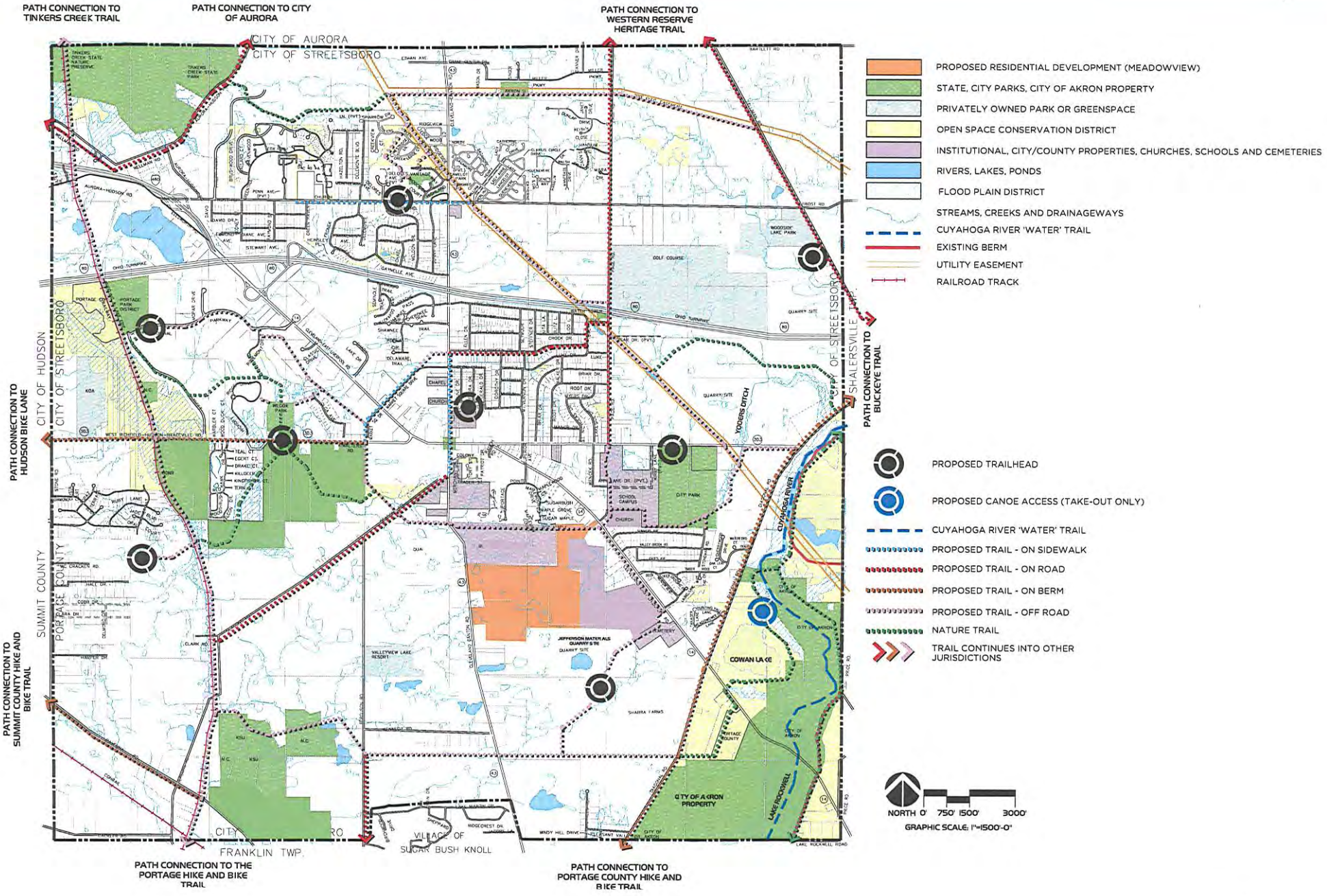
In general, State and Federal grants are awarded to communities to acquire new land or build new facilities and are less likely to provide operations and maintenance budgets for those improvements. There are State and Federal grants that address operations and maintenance, and those opportunities should be explored. Local funding though, of which there are many possibilities, is usually tapped to provide the funding source for operations and maintenance. This can be accomplished through partnerships, in kind services, a park levy, foundation grants, a bond issue, general fund allocations and user fees. One must keep in mind that while new developments, site improvements, and acquisition of new land will need financial stewardship, there are many opportunities available to communities to find appropriate funding.

Operations and Maintenance Staffing
The recommendations in this Master Plan for Parks and Recreation represent several different levels of commitment for operations and maintenance staffing. If City Council adopts an open space dedication policy, establishes a Conservation Zoning Overlay District, or adopts legislation that directs the City to preserve and/or acquire floodplain property for open space and trails, the immediate impact on operations and maintenance staffing would be minimal. These pieces of legislation are a terrific place to begin because it doesn't require immediate funding. At the same time, it establishes the direction the City desires to go in the future concerning open space and green space. By adopting this Master Plan, City Council will establish what is acceptable concerning open space in the city. It also means that a financial commitment will be required in the future to meet the goals of the plan. To succeed with a financial commitment in the future, the City must build a trust with the citizens. For example, when the floodplain properties are acquired with the intent to build trails on them, the trails must be built. When those goals are accomplished, the residents will develop a trust in the City that future goals will also be achieved.
That trust will lay the groundwork for confidence in future financial endeavors that will provide funding for acquisition, operations, and maintenance staffing. It is the residents after all who will provide the City with at least part of the necessary financing to acquire as well as develop and maintain the recommendations in this plan.

The funding plans recommended in this Master Plan are in addition to present day existing budgets. It must be recognized that the parks, public grounds and facilities in all of Streetsboro are being maintained by two people using outdated equipment. Everyone is constantly requested to do more with less, and this division of the Department of Public Service has been doing all they can with less and less.

This department cannot be stretched any further. If some of the actions recommended in this plan are adopted (i.e. acquire and construct additional community and neighborhood parks, continue to develop City Park's recreational amenities, provide active and passive recreational opportunities at Wilcox Park, and further develop Thomas Heritage and Beck Preserve, then more equipment and more man power will be required to build and maintain those areas. It will depend on what actions are accepted in the Master Plan to determine the amount of equipment or the number of additional man hours it will take to maintain the improvements. It would be extremely shortsighted to accept this Master Plan and not acknowledge the need to develop a funding plan in order to accomplish the stated goals.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE



THE PARK SYSTEM
A park system consists of several park classifications that include community, neighborhood, mini and school parks. Together with a network of trail and greenways, they create a system of recreation activities for the community.

THE TRAIL SYSTEM
The trail system is comprised of a variety of trail types, providing continuous connections throughout the greenway system. These trails take advantage of stream corridors, rail and utility right-of-ways, widened sidewalks, abandoned canal tow paths and lightly used roads. These lands are both public and private. Generally, multi-use trails will accommodate a variety of uses including walking, running, biking, roller blade skating, nature observation, and equestrian use. Trail surfaces are typically asphalt or compacted crushed stone. The trail surface should be barrier free and accessible to wheelchairs and other physically challenged users. The trails are predominately protected from motorized vehicles, either by their direct prohibition of off-road trails, or in the case of on-road trails a separate signed lane. Where trails share traffic lanes with cars, they should be well-marked with signs posted along the roadside. They will be developed with a variety of visitor amenities (such as trailheads) and are often planned in association with existing commercial developments that can provide visitor access.

Nature trails are often needed to connect the multi-purpose trails to environmentally sensitive areas and remote locations within the greenway corridor. Trail construction can be as simple as a mowed or cleared path.

GREENWAYS
Greenways are a linear connection along a natural or man-made feature often connecting people to places. Greenways offer recreational, ecological, and strong positive economic benefit for the communities they serve. Examples of greenways include: river and stream corridors, active and abandoned railroad right-of-ways, canal lands, utility corridors, shorelines, roads, and ridgelines. Not all greenways involve public access; many have value as privately owned corridors of natural habitat. Some greenways are not green at all. A railroad right-of-way through an industrial area might provide a critical greenway linkage as part of regional trails system. Greenways can provide tremendous recreational benefits while simultaneously supplying an alternative route to much needed infrastructure.

The greenway components proposed in this plan are primarily associated with the Cuyahoga River, Tinkers Creek, Lake Rockwell and the riparian corridors that feed them; rail lands, and utility easements. These areas are considered important as preservation of open space and ecological enhancement. The plan recognizes these areas as significant contributors to water and air quality, habitat, wildlife, and open space protection. The greenways identified as part of this plan will serve as a catalyst for local preservation and environmental enhancement efforts as a framework for crafting protection strategies. In addition, several quarry lands were considered as potential reclamation sites. These areas provide ecological restoration potential as part of their reuse and may prove feasible for recreation programs, such as mountain biking and fishing.

CITY PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Recommendation: Continue to develop City Park's recreational amenities and reconfigure the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems.

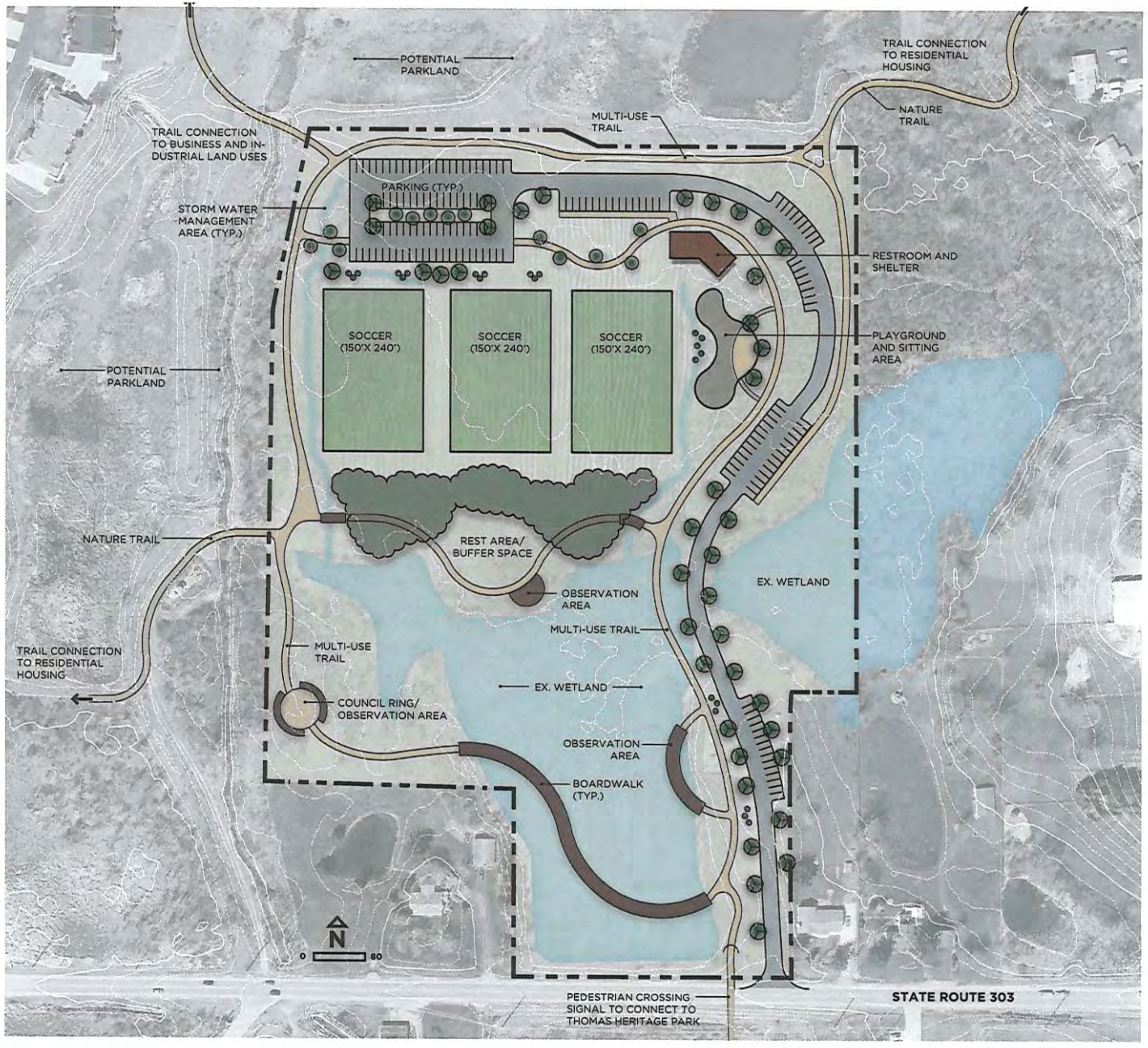
City Park is the center for active recreation in Streetsboro. Continuous growth in the City has lead to increased demand on the site's recreational facilities. Poor vehicular circulation patterns cause numerous conflicts between automobiles and pedestrians, and the limited number of parking spaces often leave visitors parking in lawn areas. To provide safe and efficient vehicular circulation, the Master Plan recommends relocating the main park entrance to the west of the existing police facility on U.S. Route 303. From the park entrance, the drive will meander over Yoders Ditch, through the existing woodland, and end at the existing parking lot. Several new parking lots are added to accommodate the increased demand from additional recreational activities and to provide adequate space for current facilities. At the existing vehicular entrance, a new parking lot will be added to service the shelter and skate park. and a turn around/drop off area will be provided. The existing drive could then be removed or dedicated to a pedestrian path with emergency/service access, thus making the connection from the school site to the park pedestrian friendly. The trail system will consist of a series of internal loops that connect to the various amenities. They will be multi-use trails, except in sensitive ecological areas, like the woodland, where nature trails are planned. Critical trail linkages are made to the school site, adjacent residential neighborhood and Cuyahoga Heritage Trail along Diagonal Road. Three youth soccer fields are planned north of the creek to alleviate the pressure on the existing baseball fields. In the existing woodland east of the baseball fields, picnic and shelter areas provide additional educational and wildlife observation opportunities. The school district's need to expand their campus has been resolved by locating the high school at an alternate location.

To facilitate the long term needs of the Parks and Recreation programming, including senior services and office space, a Field House has been proposed as a long term solution. This community facility could include the following:

Senior Center
- Parks and Recreation Offices
- Parks and Recreation Programming Space
- Indoor Field Turf (baseball/softball & soccer)
- Indoor Courts (Basketball and Volleyball)

A splash pad with associated pavilion/ restroom facility that could potentially be connected to the future community center

WILCOX PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN



Recommendation: Continue to develop Wilcox Park's recreational amenities to provide access to the park land and serve growing need for recreational field space

Wilcox Park is a 22-acre site that contains a small parking lot for a playground, wetlands, and upland areas. It is easily accessible by automobile and has good visibility from U.S. Route 303. Due to the mix of wetland and upland areas, it is recommended that the park be developed with both active and passive recreational activities. Approximately one-half of the site is a wetland and therefore dedicated to passive recreation and wetland education. Facilities recommended in this area include a wetland boardwalk, several observation overlooks, rest areas, and a council ring/observation area.

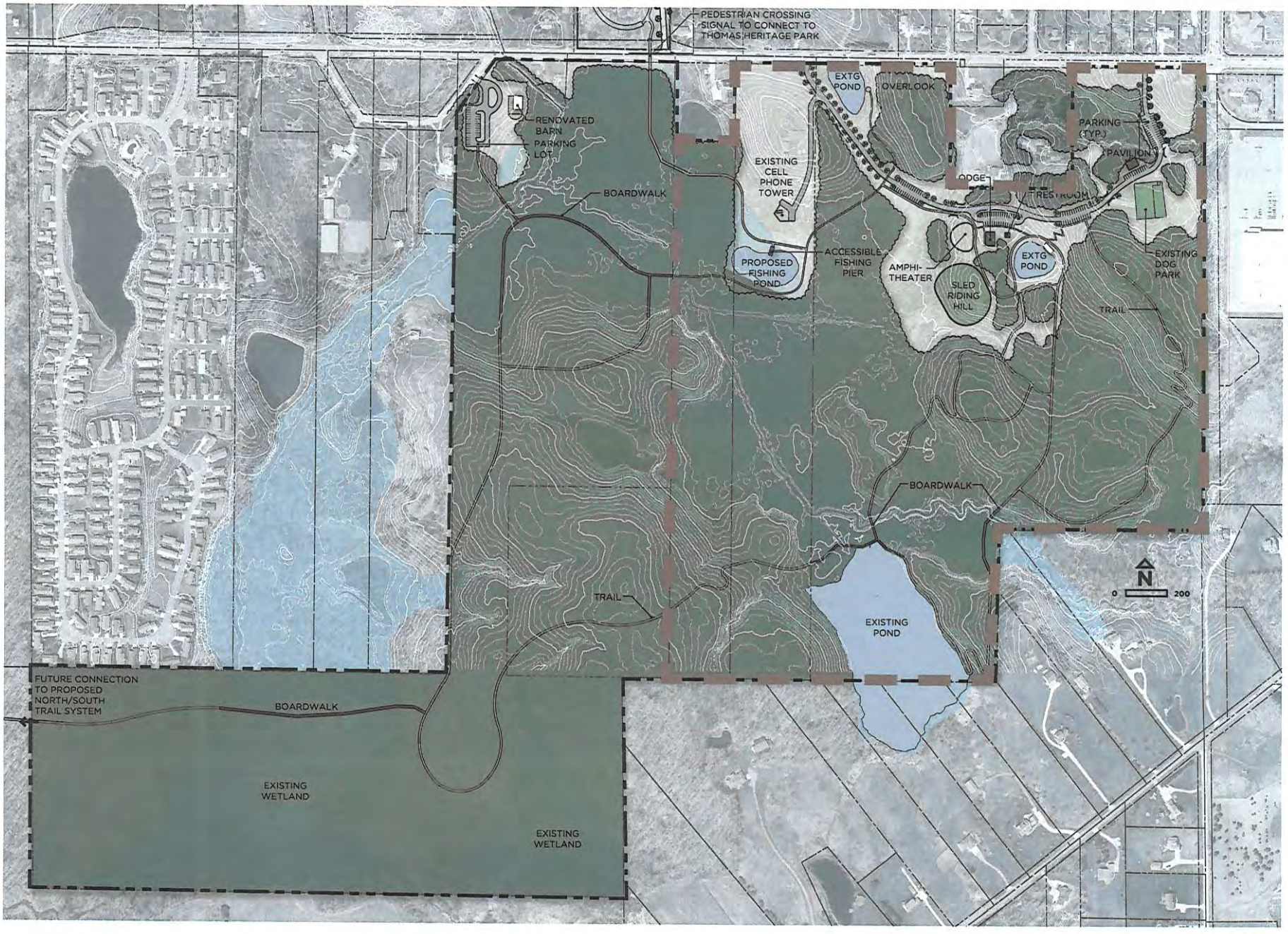
The upland area north of the wetlands is the area designated for active recreation. Amenities here include three youth soccer fields. A playground, sitting area, shelter and restroom combination are also provided. Vehicular access to the site consists of a curvilinear drive that meanders to the northern portion of the site. Small parking lots are placed along the drive to break up large expanses of parking and to provide convenient connection to the proposed amenities. To build on the ecological aspect of the site, bioswales are utilized to route stormwater away from the proposed parking areas and athletic fields to the existing wetlands.

Trail development consist of a three-quarter mile multi-use trail that meanders along the perimeter of the site. Where appropriate, overlooks are placed to view wetland wildlife and habitat. A nature trail that exits the southwestern portion of the site is recommended to expand the trail system, provide an additional connection to the adjacent neighborhood, and to create additional educational opportunities. A trail head would also be located at this site due to its potential linkages to the proposed bike lane on U.S. Route 303, connection to residential neighborhoods to the east and west, and to the industrial and commercial uses to the north. The connection of these two parks creates a substantial greenway connection that ties into not only Streetsboro's goals of connectivity and conservation, but also the Portage County Park District's goals.

Wilcox Park is also directly north of Thomas Heritage Park. This park should serve as a trailhead to link with future parks and trails to the north, east, and west, and to Thomas Heritage Park to the south. A traffic crossing signal would be necessary to cross Route 303.

Seek to acquire the adjacent wetlands, small stream and ponds. This additional property would increase the potential for recreational activities like fishing, wildlife observation and interpretive trails while also preserving sensitive ecological areas.

THOMAS HERITAGE CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN



THOMAS HERITAGE CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Recommendation: Develop Thomas Heritage Park to provide access to expand the existing features and provide amenities that

Thomas Heritage Park is a 102-acre site that contains a small parking lot and gravel access drive. The park contains the city's only dog park and a fishing pier that hosts the city's annual Fishing Derby. Thomas Heritage Park is easily accessible by automobile and has good visibility from U.S. Route 303. The property contains a mix of wetland and upland areas. The upland areas contain a varying habitat with both evergreen and deciduous growth. There used to be a Christmas tree farm on the site. Other natural features include several ponds, a beaver dam, and stream.

Due to the proximity to Beck Preserve and the natural features on both properties, the park is to be developed as a passive recreation park. Development at the park has been kept along the northern portion, along U.S. Route 303. Development of the parcel in this fashion keeps all of the natural features cohesive, providing protection to the Beck Preserve. Animals can continue their natural movements without be disturbed by cars.

Proposed facilities would compliment the existing elements. These include a larger shelter with a restroom, a shelter adjacent to the dog park, an amphitheater, and an additional pond with accessible fishing pier.

The existing entry drive would be extended to service the new amenities and additional parking areas would be provided throughout to accommodate the increased parking need that additional amenities would required. Small parking lots are placed along the drive in order to avoid large expanses of parking and to provide convenient connection to the proposed amenities. To build on the ecological aspect of the site, bioswales are utilized to route stormwater away from the proposed parking areas.

The larger proposed all-season shelter would include a restroom facility serviced by sanitary and electric. This shelter could be rented out by residents for small parties and gatherings. The shelter could also serve as a rental building for winter sports such as cross country skiing and snow shoeing. A fireplace or fire pit area could also be provided to compliment these winter uses.

The existing sled riding hill that was displaced by the placement of a new cell tower on the western portion of the site, has been relocated adjacent to the new shelter, reinforcing the use of the shelter as the "hub" of winter activity.

A small amphitheater is proposed to the west of the shelter. The amphitheater would be programmed by the Parks and Recreation Department for events like movie night. Parking issues will need to be monitored however, as the parking areas have not been sized for large events associated with the amphitheater.

The existing dog park currently has limited use during spring and fall due to the lack of electricity to provide lighting. The provision of both electrical and water would improve this amenity. The dog park could also be expanded to the south if the need arises. A smaller shelter has been located by the dog park to allow for gatherings and more formal picnic opportunities in this area.

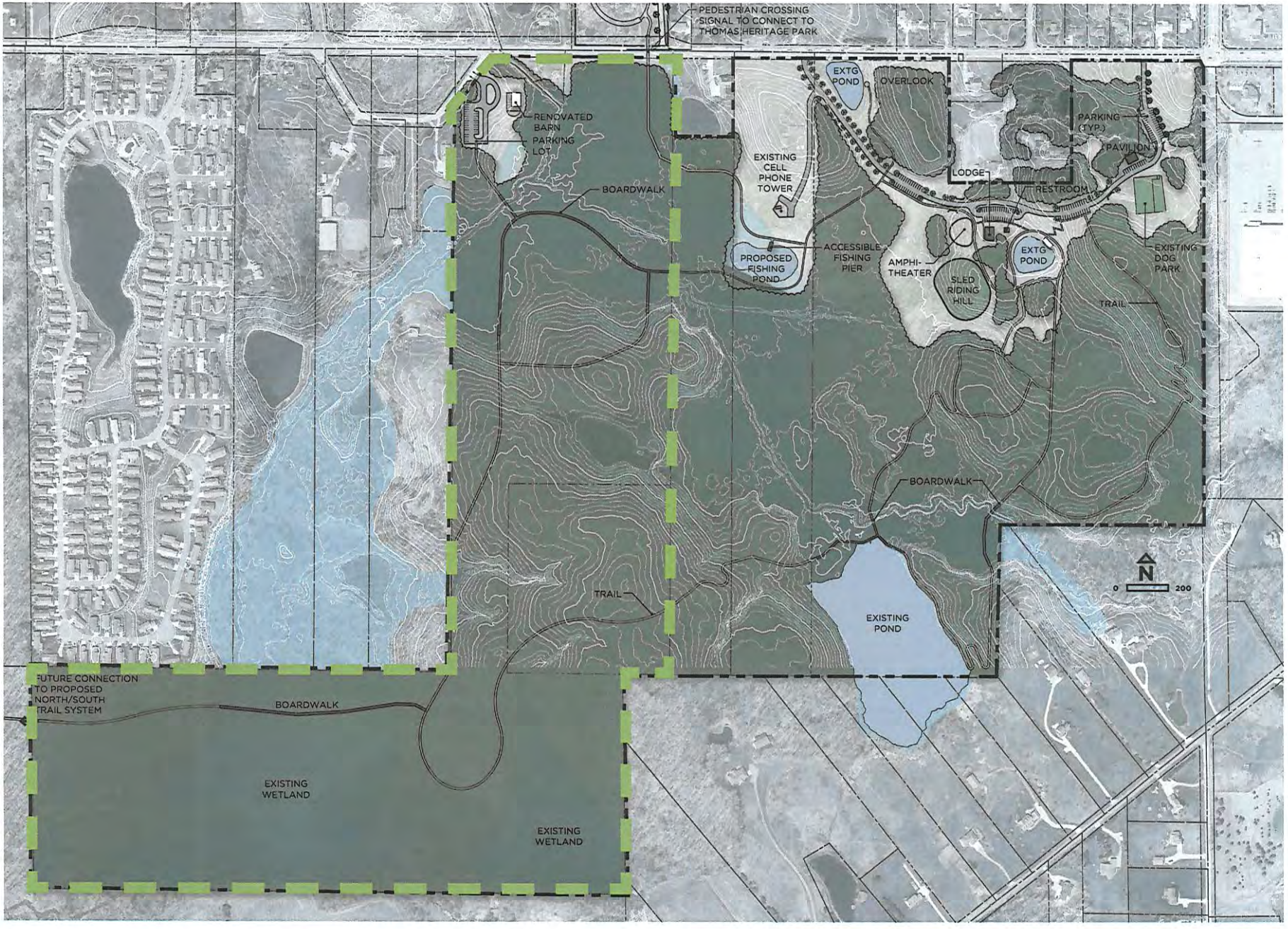
Trails which are currently mowed paths should be developed at different levels. Closest to the shelter, an asphalt loop trail is proposed to provide an accessible route to portions of the natural features and the proposed amenities like the amphitheater, large shelter, and fishing pond.

The existing fishing pier needs repairs (broken railings) and is not accessible. Repairs should be reviewed and provisions made to make this feature usable by all residents. A new pond with accessible fishing pier has also been proposed directly south of the existing cell phone tower to provide more fishing opportunities.

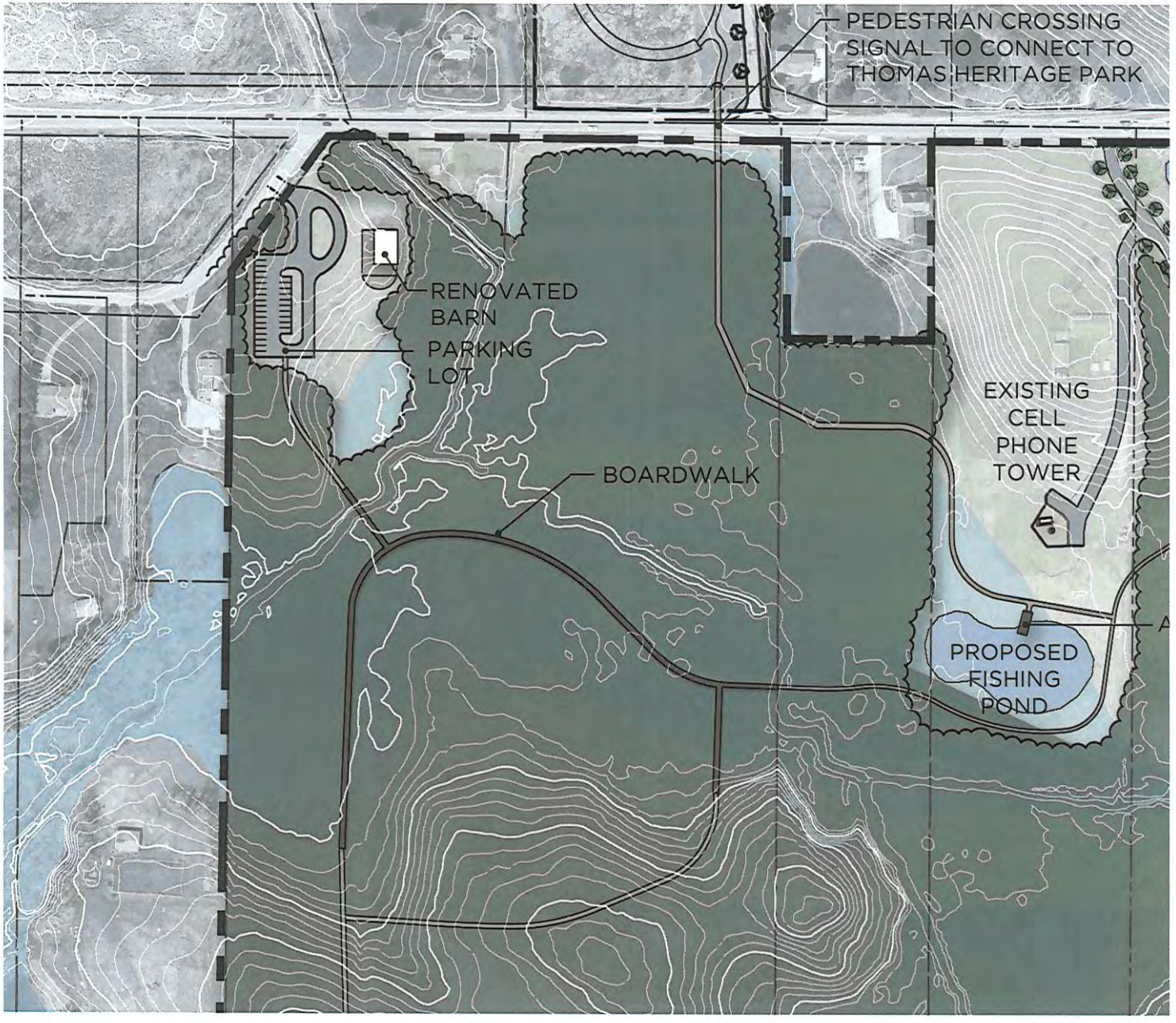
Thomas Heritage Park is the ideal location for a disc golf course. The course routing can take advantage of the varying topography and habitat, providing golfers with a unique experience. A disc golf course can be a draw for any park and increases the amount of "eyes" in a park adding an extra added layer of safety. This park is also ideal for a cross country course for both the high and middle schools. Like the disc golf course, the course can take advantage of the rolling topography and varying landscape. Ample parking is provided for spectators within the new lots.

Thomas Heritage Park is also directly south of Wilcox Park. By connecting these parks, a stronger north-south trail connection is made providing with future parks and trails to the north, east, and west, and to Thomas Heritage Park to the south. A traffic crossing signal would be necessary to cross Route 303. The connection of these two parks creates a substantial greenway connection that ties into not only Streetsboro's goals of connectivity and conservation, but also the Portage County Park District's goals.

BECK PRESERVE CONCEPTUAL PARK MASTER PLAN



BECK PRESERVE CONCEPTUAL PARK MASTER PLAN



BECK PROPERTY

Recommendation: Continue to protect the natural resources located at Beck Preserve, but enhance visitor opportunity by developing a trailhead and possible barn amenity

Beck Preserve is a 116-acre site with 103-acres conserved and protected in a conservation easement. The park currently is not open to the public. Development opportunities are limited to the approximately 13 acres located at the northwest corner of the property immediately adjacent to the existing barn.

The barn provides a unique opportunity to not only restore a historic feature within the city, but to also introduce an additional amenity and program for the Parks and Recreation Department. The barn, once renovated, could serve as a rentable space for smaller gatherings and weddings. A thorough analysis by an architect should be completed to make formalized plans for the opportunities and limitations of this structure. Electric service should be maintained or restored to the facility.

Parking facilities are permitted within this 13-acre area and are shown to accommodate both the proposed barn facility and a trailhead that would serve to connect Beck Preserve to Thomas Heritage Park. As with the other proposed parking lots, bioswales are utilized to be sensitive to ecologically sensitive areas.

Per the WRLC restrictions, the land within the conservation easement can only be developed in a certain way. Flush restrooms are not permitted on this property per the restrictions. The barn facility will have to be serviced by a

Natural features, including the high quality wetlands on site would be protected, but a trail system would provide access to these areas for pedestrians to enjoy by traversing a series of asphalt or limestone trails, bridges, and boardwalks.

The trail network through Beck Preserve also establishes an east-west connection to the proposed greenspace corridor that runs north-south along the western edge of Streetsboro connecting to Tinkers Creek State Park.

The park and greenspace buffer that continues to be developed around this property ensures that the natural features and animals within this property will be protected for residents to enjoy for future years to come.

The sensitive ecological nature of the park does not lend itself to the active recreation. These uses are better served at parks like Wilcox and City Parks.

IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS PLAN

10-year Timeline for Phased Implementation

• Develop/Further develop existing park holding by providing access and amenities so residents can enjoy the park land Develop portions of Wilcox Park. Refine the concept plan and prepare design development and construction drawings for park improvements. Provide infrastructure such as vehicular entrance drive, parking areas. Add both passive and active use activities such as soccer fields, relocated or new playground, wetland boardwalk, and trails. Attach a financial plan dedicated to the park's operations and maintenance. Accomplishing this major goal of the Master Plan will build trust and confidence with the citizens of Streetsboro.

• Expand recreational amenities at City Park. Refine the concept plan and prepare design development and construction drawings for park improvements. Realign the vehicular entrance and drive and provide parking for existing and proposed facilities. Add active and passive use activities such as playground, basketball court, shelters and trail system.

• Develop portions of Thomas Heritage Park. Refine the concept plan and prepare design development and construction drawings for park improvements. Provide infrastructure such as vehicular entrance drive, parking areas. Add passive and active use activities such as pavilion,

• Provide trail connections from Wilcox Park to neighboring residential, commercial, industrial uses and County parks site. Building this first section of Streetsboro's trail system will show progress in the mission and vision of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and build confidence with the citizens.

Summary of Potential Funding Sources and Strategies

Strategies
Successful implementation of this Plan will depend on the ability of the City to secure necessary financing. Besides the General Fund, the following sources of revenue available to the City:

Millage, Assessments, and Bonds:

Dedicated Millage: Special millages can be general revenue for specific purpose. In order to develop the park holdings as outlined, a 2.0 mill levy is recommended. Passage of a levy this size would provide the revenue necessary to complete the first phase of improvements at Wilcox Park, Thomas Heritage Park, and City Park and build confidence and trust with the citizens of Streetsboro. If successful, a future levy could be asked for to fund a Field House or Community Center.

Special Assessments: Special assessments are compulsory
contributions collected from the owners of property benefited
by specific public improvements to defray the costs of such
improvements.

Bond Programs: Bonds are one of the principal sources of financing used by communities to pay for capital improvements.

Grants:
Recreational Trails (RT) Program: The State of Ohio has set aside funds for the Recreational Trails Program;
the program requires a 20% match. Funds can be applied to land/easement purchase for trails, trail design and engineering, construction, maintenance and restoration projects, and trail facilities.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program: ODNR - The LWCF is a federal program aimed at providing resources to maintain, develop and preserve outdoor planning, acquisition and development of trails and stream corridors recreation resources. The program provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance.

Nature Works: ODNR **-** Established in 1993 when Ohio voters passed a statewide levy providing for the Ohio Parks and Resources Fund. The program requires a 25% match and can be used for acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of public park and recreation areas.

National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP): ODOT - Planning, acquisition and development of trails and stream corridors.

Ohio EPA Non-Point Source Management Program: Water quality
restoration solutions including greenway applications in critical areas (streams that do not meet chemical or biological water standards).

Clean Ohio Fund: The fund is voter-sponsored legislation enabling the State to issue bonds for numerous public improvements, including recreational trails.

Cooperative Boating Facility Grant: ODNR
Provides reimbursement assistance for acquiring, improving and/ or developing recreational boating access.

Ohio Water Trails Program: ODNR - Offers assisting with boating Safety Education Grant Funds, providing information and assistance designating water trails.

Private Sources:
Corporations, non-profit organizations, and foundations should be considered to help finance park and recreation related public improvement projects.

Partnerships:
Seeking to build the City's park system through partnerships with recreation focused agencies like ODNR, Portage Park District, the Nature Conservancy and others makes sound fiscal sense. It also helps build alliances that support mutual goals and ensures a sustaining environment for success.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: Develop a park brand
Actions:
Developing a unique image for Streetsboro Parks and Recreation will make all facets of the park system easily identifiable. This brand can be used on all literature, parks and recreation signage, and programming materials to provide a cohesive and recognizable look. Standards should also be developed and implemented for all park improvements to help standardize the aesthetic of the parks. Trailheads, site amenities, and shelters should follow these predetermined guidelines in order to create a sense of place within Streetsboro Parks.

Recommendation: Develop conceptual park master plans for newly acquired park land prior to the implementation of any improvements
Actions:
In order to analyze both the natural and phyiscal features of the property as well as evaluate how the new acquisition fits into the overall goals of the Streetsboro Park System, newly acquired lands should be professionally analyzed including a site inventory and analysis and the development of a conceptual park master plan that idenitifes and locates proposed park elements. This process will ensure that the park development meets community needs and ties into the overall park brand and mission. Improvements can also be priorized in relationship to any planned improvements on other park properties.

Recommendation: Connect parks, schools, openspace and trails to enhance and promote civic identity and community character
Actions:
The City should meet with the Portage Park District, County Engineer, Regional Planning Commission and neighboring municipalities to discuss aggressively pursuing bike way right-of-way widths along existing and proposed roadways in and around the City and connection to regional trails. Informally meet with property owners impacted by the trail plan to explain the concept and to make them aware of the need to acquire additional right-of-way and potential open space easements. City to prepare a prioritized list of bikeway segments. Utilize the list to match potential capital projects with funding sources. This will include general funds, grants and/or public/private improvement opportunities. Formalize zoning and development review procedures that includes the review of trails and greenways at an early stage in the development review process.

Recommendation: Prepare plans for known future parks to increase the number of community and neighborhood parks
Actions:
Parks and Recreation Department to further develop concept plans for future parks that consider the natural and cultural resources, community needs and aesthetics of the site. Prioritize various community and neighborhood park improvements and prepare cost estimates to enable the City to be continually prepared for grants and other funding opportunities.

Recommendation: Reorganize and expansion of the Parks and Recreation Department
Actions:
City officials and the Parks and Recreation Department to study the existing organizational chart for efficiency of operations of the Parks and Recreation Department. Evaluate the advantages/ disadvantages of the Senior Center as its own department. Evaluate the advantages disadvantages of park maintenance efficiency operating under a different department. Evaluate dedicated park maintenance staff for total park acreage, present and future, with national standards for communities of similar size. Recognize as park lands and facilities increase through implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Department of Public Service is responsible for an additional and entirely different set of public lands and buildings and also is a required City department.

Recommendation: Develop a Funding Plan
Actions:
Within a year of the adoption of the Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Department will prepare and submit capital improvement plans that will identify the timing and cost of potential parks, trails and greenway projects. These projects may be both public and private projects and be matched with a variety of funding sources. Update the capital plan every year with the guidance of Parks and Recreation Master Plan and current citizen needs. The City will update the Master Plan when it is apparent the existing document is no longer adequately guiding the capital planning process. The City will stay on top of grant opportunities and timing as well as use the Master Plan to prepare applications well in advance of the deadlines.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: Explore the potential and possibility of a capital improvements Park Levy, with a percentage dedicated to operations and maintenance
Actions:
As public input has indicated through both a survey and public input exercise, there is resident support for a capital improvements levy with a operations and maintenance component to support future development. While considering the appropriate timing, a levy should be considered in order to begin to implement the first phase of the park development outlined in the Conceptual Master Plans for City Park, Wilcox Park, and Thomas Heritage Park. This levy is recommended to be in the 2-mil range.

Recommendation: Adopt an open space dedication policy that expresses a preference for scenic open spaces that are integrated within new neighborhoods, open space that preserves and enhances larger setbacks along existing roads
Actions: Park Department to work with City Planners to determine how these policies may be integrated into the review process. City to explain the City's development preferences to potential developers and land owners.

Recommendation: Adopt a Conservation Subdivision Residential Zoning Overlay District to conserve natural resources, open space, and the rural character of the City
Actions:
Zoning Board to review and recommend open space and conservation alternatives for proposed subdivisions. Develop a public education strategy that helps community residents appreciate the benefits of conservation developments as an alternative to standard development practices. This may include a series of open forums with invited guests to present the benefits.

Recommendation: Adopt a Conservation existing wetlands, streams, steep slopes and farmland
Actions:
Establish conservation setback areas for all wetlands and streams. Define minimum buffer widths to help reduce harmful substances from entering watercourses, improve water quality, protect habitat, and to conserve the scenic and natural features of the land. Develop a steep slope ordinance that protects the natural topography and drainage patterns of the land by regulating construction activities in areas with slopes greater than 15%. Develop an initiative to protect the rural character of the city by encouraging farmland preservation. Potential measures include agricultural conservation easements, tax exemptions, transfer of development rights, and zoning in support of agriculture.

Recommendation: Preserve and/or acquire floodplain property for open space and trails
Actions:
Floodplain conservation and accessibility are vital components of a connected open space system. In addition to providing key open spaces, the preservation of floodplains has other regional benefits including storm water runoff protection, the provision for wildlife habitats, enhancement of the water quality and enhancement of the visual character of the city. Ideally, much of the floodplain, especially along Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River, should become part of the public domain for use by the larger community. Existing wetlands, streams, steep slopes and farmland. Establish conservation setback areas for all wetlands and streams. Define minimum buffer widths to help reduce harmful substances from entering watercourses, improve water quality, protect habitat, and to conserve the scenic and natural features of the land.

Recommendation: Plan major bikeway and trailroutes along Tinkers Creek and/or the existing railroad right-of-way, Diagonal Road, and utility easements
Actions:
The plan recommends a series of major trails that create a greenbelt around the perimeter of the city. The system utilizes railroad rights-of-way, publicly owned properties, stream corridors, trail easements, lightly traveled roadways and utility corridors. Trail types vary from on-road bike routes to nature trails. Together they provide a continuous loop that connects to destinations such as Tinkers Creek State Park, Herrick Nature Preserve, Lake Rockwell, and City Park to name a few. The first segment of the trail route follows the lightly used short line railroad that runs parallel to Tinkers Creek. The second segment links the south side of the city from Herrick Nature Preserve and Diagonal Road by the use of trail easements. On the eastern side of the city, the trail follows Diagonal Road, utility corridors and Page Road. To connect the loop on the north side, the trail system utilizes another utility corridor and tributary of Tinkers Creek.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation: Plan peripheral bikeway and trail connections in the following locations. Other key connections within the City include, but are certainly not limited to:

Actions:

- Off-road trail from Boulder Creek Golf Course northwest along the existing utility corridor to a tributary of Tinkers Creek.
- Along Mondial Parkway and behind retail buildings along U.S. 14
- Nature Trails along Tinkers Creek, Yoders Ditch and the Cuyahoga River
- An internal loop system that connects to Wilcox Park, School Campus, City Park, and the City Hall/Senior Center
- Bike routes or lanes along U.S. Route 303, Seasons Road, Ellman Road, Aurora Hudson Road and Ravenna Road.

Recommendation: Plan bikeway and trail connections to regional trails.

Actions:

Partner with neighboring communities, County Park District and public and private groups to aggressively pursue bikeway right of-ways along existing roadways and greenways for connection to existing and planned regional trails.

- Western Reserve Heritage Trail
- Cuyahoga Heritage Trail
- The Portage Hike and Bike Trail
- Tinkers Creek and Indian Creek-Case Parkway Trails

Recommendation: Build and maintain partnerships including the formation of a "Friends of Streetsboro Parks" support group

Actions:

The City has many partnerships in place with the school district and youth sports clubs and associations. The partnerships should be written with measurable outcomes that are agreeable and traceable. The City should adopt individual policies for each type of partnership in place: public/public partners, public/private partners and public/not-for-profit partners.

Other public/private partnerships should also be explored including the creation of a Friends of Streetsboro's Park group to work with the PRAC to support the development of the parks.

Park friends groups are established as independent voluntary local user groups with the purpose of being the principle forum for discussing views about the park and promoting more effective, beneficial usage of the park to the wider community. This group would not replace the PRAC, but rather work closely with them to support and develop the master plan components and park system. This group will also help support and facilitate public and private partnerships within the community.

FACILITY MATRIX

	Existing Parks						Streetsboro City Schools					Other Parks & Facilities										
Facility Type	Streetsboro City Park	Wilcox Park	Thomas Heritage Park	Beck Preserve	Gott Fen Expansion	Total in Park System	Streetsboro High School	Streetsboro Middle School	Defer Intermediate School	Streetsboro Elementary School	Old Middle School	Seneca Ponds	Verna Beck Tract	Gressard Tract	Tinkers Creek State Park	Streetsboro KOA	Woodside Lake Park	Boulder Creek Golf Course	Herrick Fen Nature Preserve	Sunny Slope	Planet Fitness	Wester Reserve Tennis
Swimming Pool - indoor																						
Swimming Pool - outdoor																						
Wateslide/Aquatic Play																				1		
Regulation Baseball Field	1						1															
Youth Baseball/Softball Field	6						1															
Adult Softball Field	2																					
Large soccer field w/goal	1						1	1			1											
youth soccer field w/goal	2																					
Running Track							1	1														
Paved Walking path	1																					
Crush limestone path												1										
Grass path	1		1																			
Open play area	1																			1		
Basketball Court - outdoor	1							1	1													
Basketball Court - indoor							1	1	1	1	1											
Golf																		1				
Disc Golf																						
Playground	2	1							1	1					1	1	1					
Tennis Court - outdoor	2																					
Outdoor Fitness Equipment																						
Indoor Fitness Equipment																					1	1
Outdoor Amphitheater																						
Off Lease Dog Park			1																			
Pet Friendly Park	1	1	1														1					
Sled Hill																						
Picnic Area	1	1	1									1			1	1	1			1		
Open Pinic Pavilion	2														1	1	1			1		
Volleyball - outdoor																	2					
Concession Stand	1						1									1	1	1				
Restroom	2														1							
Natural Area	1	1	1									1			1		1		1			
Fishing			1									1			1	1	1					
Boating																						
Pond/River/Stream			1									1			1	1	1			1		
Historic Features																						
Sitting/Viewing area	1	1	1												1		1	1		1		
Total Acres	116	22	108									48	58.5	129				200				