

Recreation Plan  
Village of Nashville  
Nashville, Michigan

Parks Committee  
Village of Nashville  
Adopted 7-25-13

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Resolution

Village of Nashville

Resolution # 7-25-2013

Adoption of Revised Community Five Year Recreation Plan

WHEREAS, The Village of Nashville Parks Committee, an advisory committee body to the Village of Nashville, the duties of which shall be to develop a “Revised Village of Nashville Five Year Recreation Plan”, and

WHEREAS, With this authority the Village of Nashville Parks Committee has completed and submitted for review and adoption a “Revised Village of Nashville Five Year Recreation Plan”,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Nashville goes on record as adopting the above stated “Revised Village of Nashville Five Year Recreation Plan”.

Adopted: 7-25-2013

Moved by Trustee Fisher supported by trustee Hartwell.

Attested by Cathy Lentz  
Nashville Village Clerk

## INTRODUCTION

This Parks and Recreation Plan has been revised with the objective of designing and maintaining an adequate recreation delivery system in the Recreation Service Area (Village of Nashville, Maple Grove Township, Kalamo Township, Vermontville township and Castleton Township) through the year 2018.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to inventory existing recreational opportunities and facilities available to Nashville service area residents, identify problems and future needs, and establish a Parks and Recreation Plan which satisfies identified problems and generally assures adequate recreation services and facilities in a programmed systematic manner for both the present and expected future population. It is intended to be a policy guide for Village officials in developing efficient recreational services and facilities.

## SCOPE

This Recreational Plan evaluates the recreational needs of Nashville residents, for neighborhood and community wide parts, and prescribes a plan which accommodates and fulfills these needs.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In the original development of this plan the Village Council worked with the Village Planning Board, Village Department of Public Works, Village Parks Committee and a special Citizens Parks Advisory Committee to gather information, assess present facilities and recommend measures contained within the plan preparations and policy recommendations. Members of this Citizens Parks Advisory Committee were representatives of the Maple Valley Little League Association, Men's Softball League, Clowns Dreamland Park Initiative, Nashville Lions Club, Maple Valley Jaycees, Nashville Arts Coalition, Nashville Boys Scouts Groups, Maple Valley Syrup Association and the local Amish Settlement.

## RE-EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The purpose of the Nashville Community Recreation Plan, as stated previously, is to act as a policy guide in developing recreational services and facilities. To this end, it is pertinent that the plan is constantly re-evaluated to ensure an up-to-date document that meets the needs and desires of the community. Procedures for re-evaluation of this plan shall be that the Parks Committee re-evaluates the contents every five (5) years and do the following:

Advertise – public notice of 30 review period – set public hearing after review period

Hold public hearing – make any adjustments needed

Adopt new revised plan

Send copies to: South-central Michigan Planning Council; Barry County Planning; DNR Grants Management.

(must complete this process to be eligible for DNR Grants

## DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

### How Plan was originally developed:

In the summer of 1995, the Village Council purchased a piece of land which separated the two largest parks in Nashville, Riverside Park and the Lower River Landing, which both lay along the Thornapple River. With financial assistance received from a “Violence against Children” grant in the amount of \$7,500, the abandoned house, garage and debris were cleaned up and the area was filled in with clean landfill and seeded. With the initiation of this project, discussion ensued on the future use and unification of this land and the two parks that it separated. Concurrently, a local chapter of the Jaycees, which had begun work on beautifying Emory Parady Central Park the year before, undertook a Gazebo building and landscaping project, financed by the Village and donations, with assistance from the Village Department of Public Works. Also concurrently, a new civic group formed called Clown’s Dreamland. The aim of this group was to develop a modern playground to replace the outdated playground in Putnam Park, which also lies along the Thornapple River. The Clown’s Dreamland group has been actively raising donations for two years. In addition, a local chapter of Boy Scouts of America received the go ahead to spruce up a structure which was underutilized in the Upper River Landing Park. Also, the Nashville Lions Club expressed interest in a new project to improve Riverside Park and the adult softball league expressed interest in improving the baseball fields in Riverside Park. These groups have been actively raising money in the form of fund raisers.

With all of these concurring efforts to improve local parks, the Village Council saw the need for central coordination, education and additional funding. Discussion in council meetings pointed towards the need for a Five Year Recreational Plan to meet these goals.

### Major Steps (original plan only):

The first major step to reach a five year plan was to send the head of the Village Parks Committee to the M.M.L Parks and Recreation seminar in Detroit. At this seminar many helpful insights and information literature on developing a plan were received from a representative of the D.N.R.

The second major step by the Village Parks Committee was the gathering of information. This process took several forms. Review of D.N.R. materials and acquisition and review of recreational plans from several other communities was the first. Then a more active process began by contacting many community civic groups with the request for input on problems and solutions for our parks. Then a survey distributed through the local newspaper designed to get input from individual citizens on what was wrong with the parks and what they would like to see in the parks. Results of this survey will be available in a later portion of this document.

The third major step was analysis of the information gathering process. Taken into mind was:

- a. What we had in the way of parks
- b. Problems and needs in our park system. Input form Survey and Civic Groups.
- c. What we needed to do to get our park system to better service our community.
- d. What was feasible?
- e. How to get there. Five Year Plan Information and other materials

f. How to maintain the whole thing once we get where we should be, input from Village Parks Committee and Department of Public Works.

The fourth major step was the formulation of this five year plan, initial resolution of council approval, and submission to the D.N.R. for further input, recommendations and approval.

The last major step of this plan will be revision after return from the D.N.R. and final council approval of the plan.

Persons and Groups Involved (original plan only):

The primary group involved with this plan is the Village of Nashville Council. The council then assigned the Village Parks Committee to research and develop this plan with assistance of the M.M.L. and the D.N.R. The Village Parks Committee involved members of the civic groups including the Adult Softball League, Little League, Lions Club, Jaycees, Nashville Arts Coalition, Boy Scouts, Clowns Dreamland, individual citizens in the form of a survey, Maple Valley Syrup Association and a local Amish settlement to form their advisory group. Final approval of the plan had to go through the Village Council. Execution of the plan will involve the Village Council, the Parks Committee, many civic groups and the Village Department of Public Works.

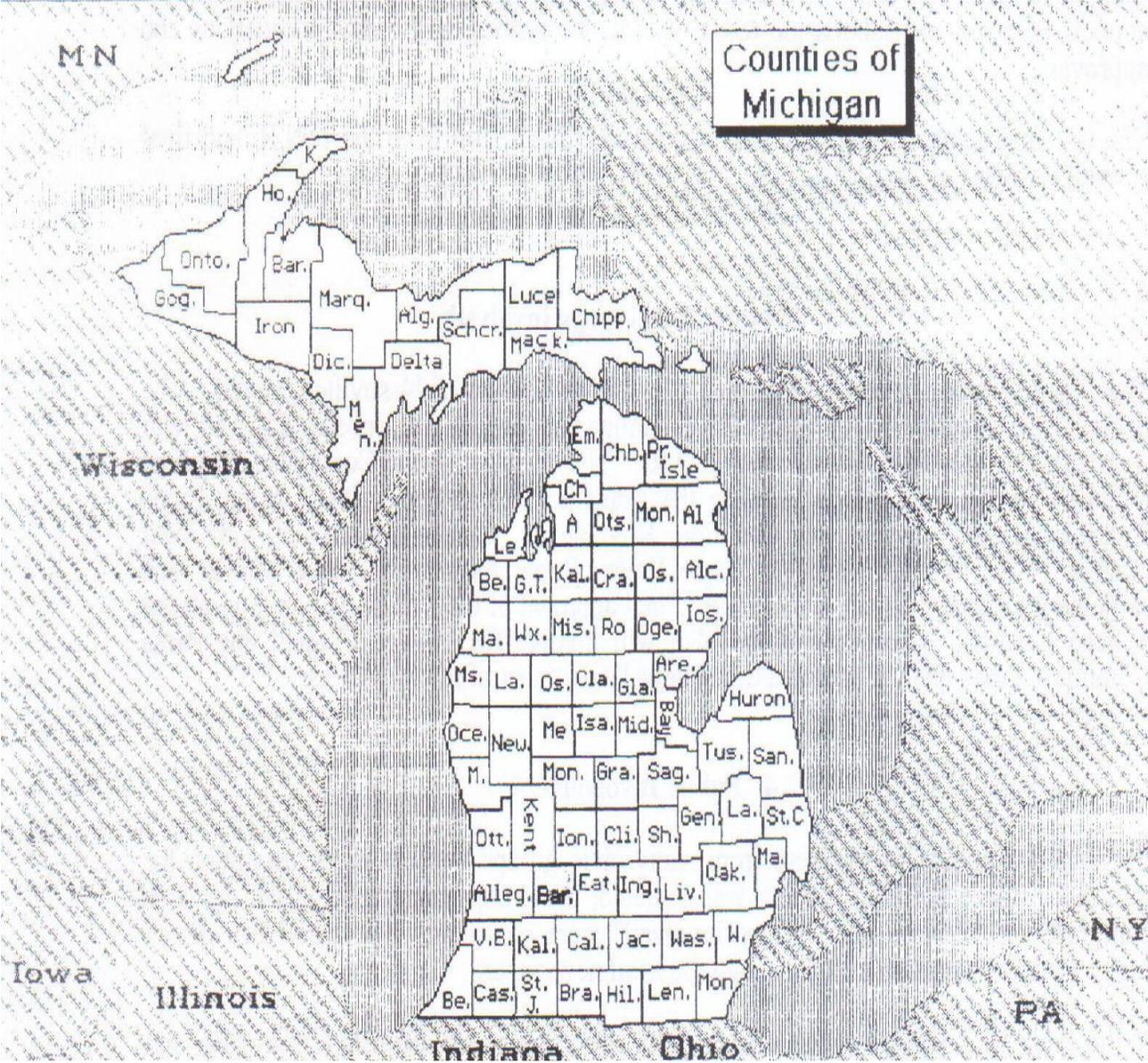
Public Involvement (original plan only):

Spontaneous public involvement from many civic groups was the main inspiration for this plan. Once the plan process was initiated, the groups mentioned in the previous paragraph on "Persons and Groups Involved" were consulted. For individual citizen input, a survey was distributed through the local newspaper.

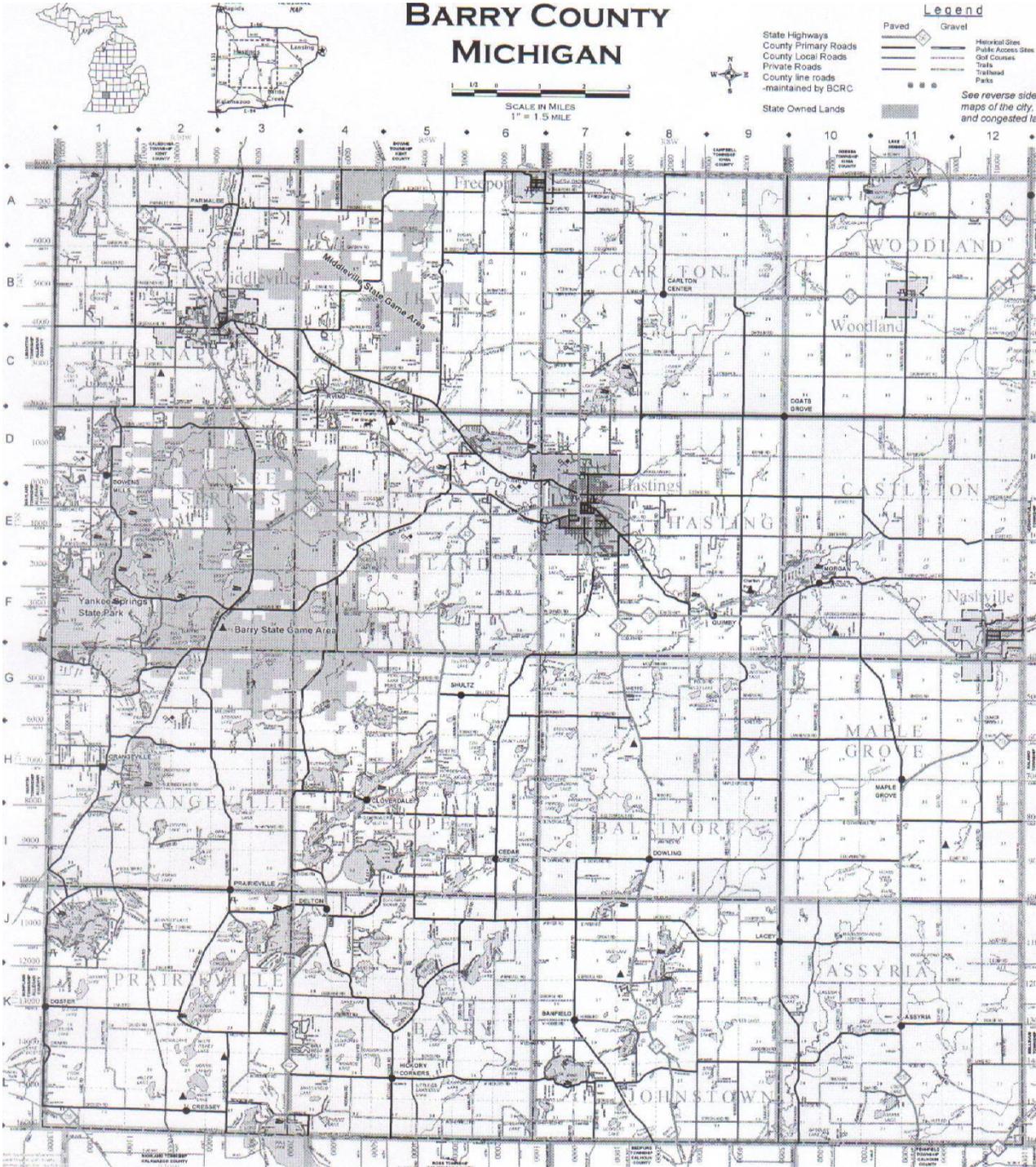
In the eventual execution of this plan, most of these groups will contribute both labor and finances to the completion of this plan.

As the plan becomes reality, civic groups and the Department of Public Works will maintain the gains made through the execution of this plan.

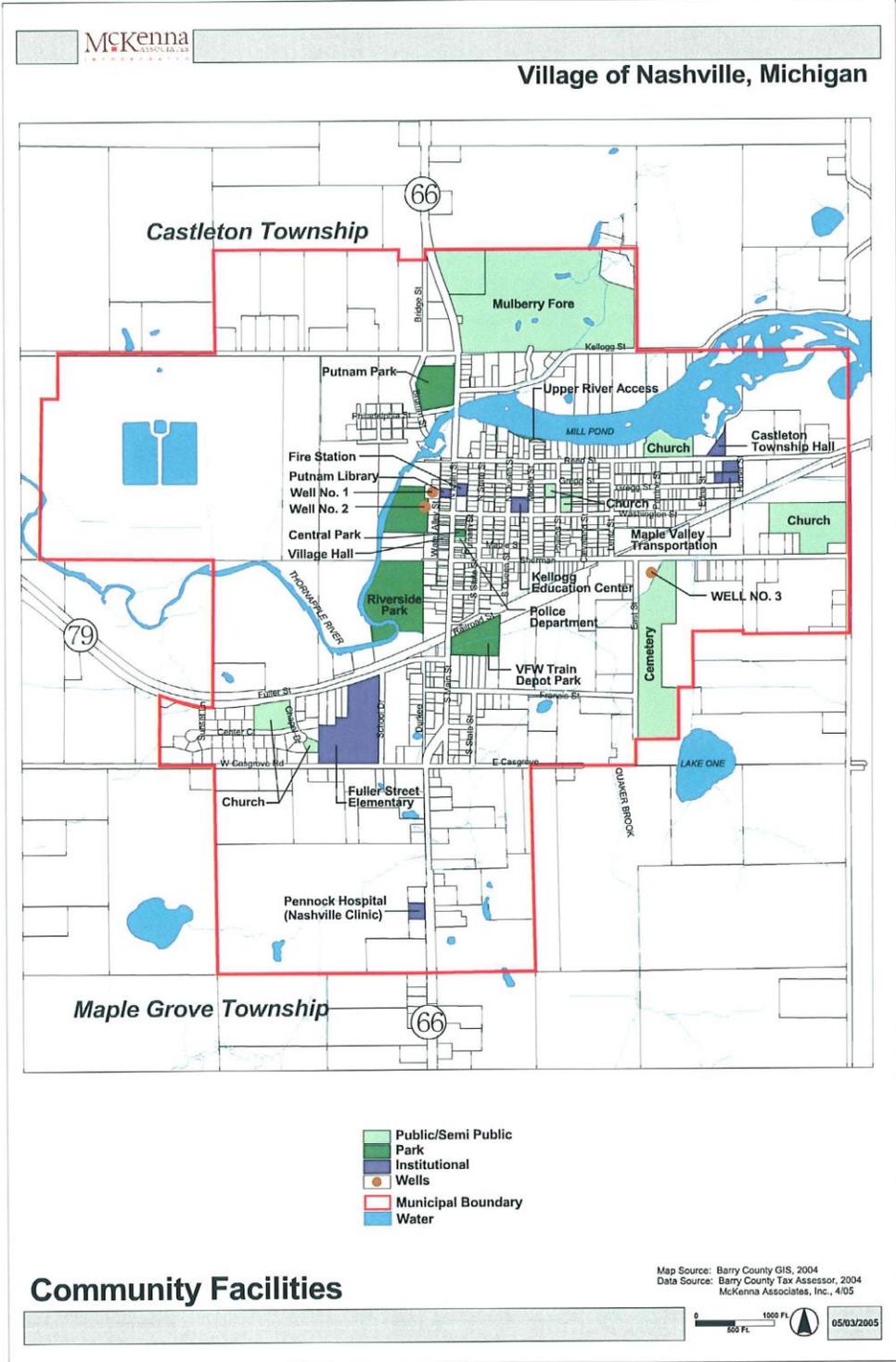
MAP 1 – MICHIGAN



MAP 2 – BARRY COUNTY



MAP 3 – VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Physical Characteristics

Location: The Village of Nashville, founded in 1869, lies along the banks of the Thornapple River in eastern Barry County in the lower peninsula of Michigan (see map 1). The Village of Nashville lies along the east line of Barry County, approximately center of the north/south orientation of that line (see map 2). The village borders the western line of Eaton County to the east (see map 3). The village extends into Maple Grove and Castleton Townships. The village lies 12 miles east of Hastings, 21 miles north of Battle Creek and 30 miles southwest of Lansing. It is at the intersection of state highways M-79 and M-66. The Thornapple River passes through the middle of the village.

Climate: Nashville has a humid continental climate with 120-180 frost free days. Some other climate features can be found in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – GENERAL CLIMATE FEATURES

Avg Jan Temp (F) <u>Low</u>	Avg Jan Temp (F) <u>High</u>	Avg July Temp (F) <u>Low</u>	Avg July Temp (F) <u>High</u>	Average Temp (F) <u>Year</u>	Average Precip (in) <u>Year</u>	Average Snowfall (in) <u>Year</u>	Days with Precip <u>Year</u>	Average Relative Humidity <u>Year</u>	Clear Days <u>Year</u>
19	32	63	83	50	31	37	133	68	80

Terrain Features: The Village of Nashville lies on a flood plain. To the north of the bridge, the Thornapple River is narrow and back to its original size after the removal of the dam in 2010 with wetlands along its banks. South of the bridge the river below the new weirs is narrow and runs south along the western sector of the Village and exits to the west. In the east sector of the village a small creek draining Lake One (outside the village limits) combines with Quaker Brook, which runs along the southern village to drain into the Thornapple River in the west sector of the Village. Hills rise in the far northern and far southern sector of the village. Along the river below the weirs is mainly wooded flood plain.

Soil: The top soil predominantly covers sand and gravel with some interspersed clay.

MAP 4 – EXISTING LAND USE

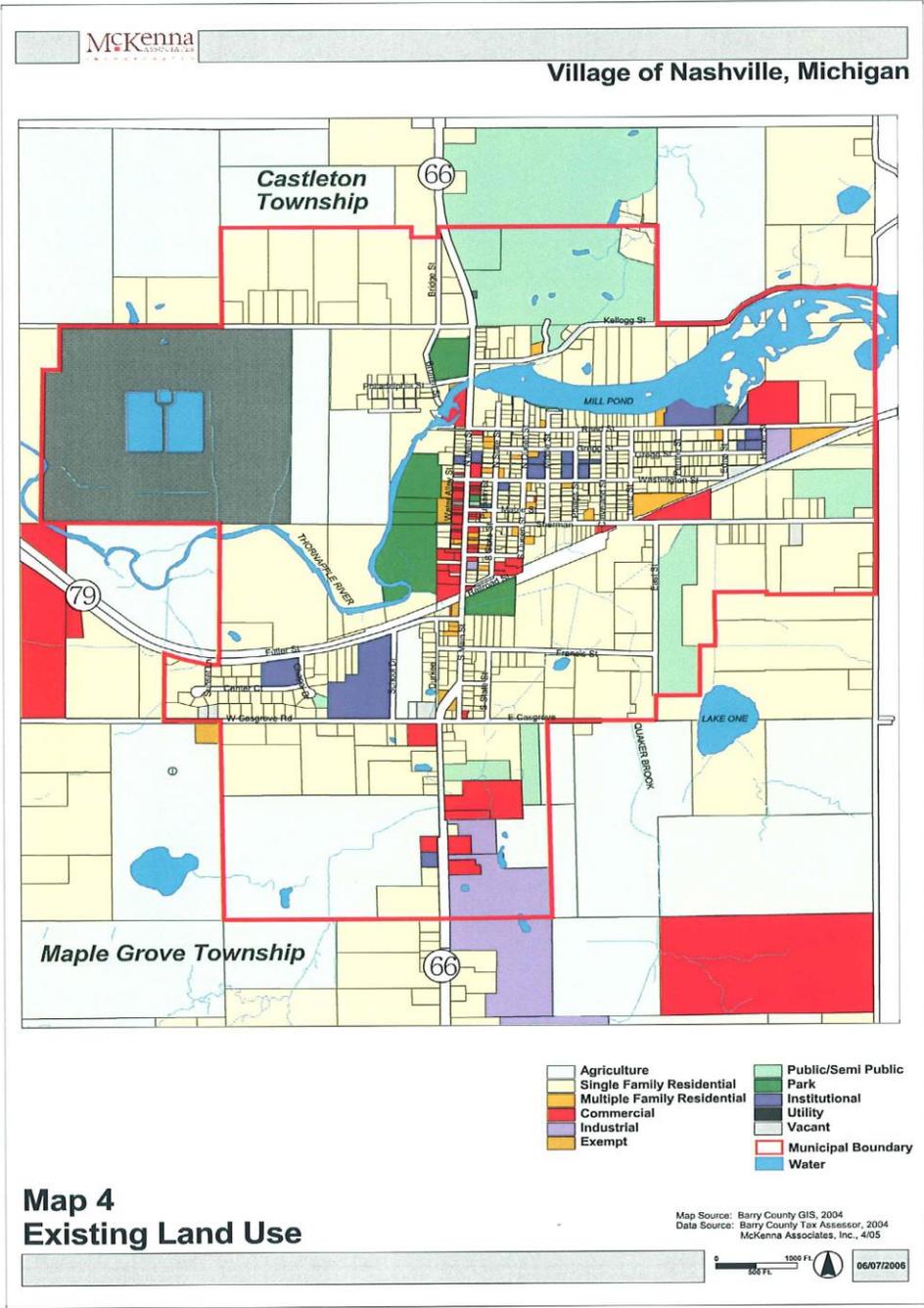
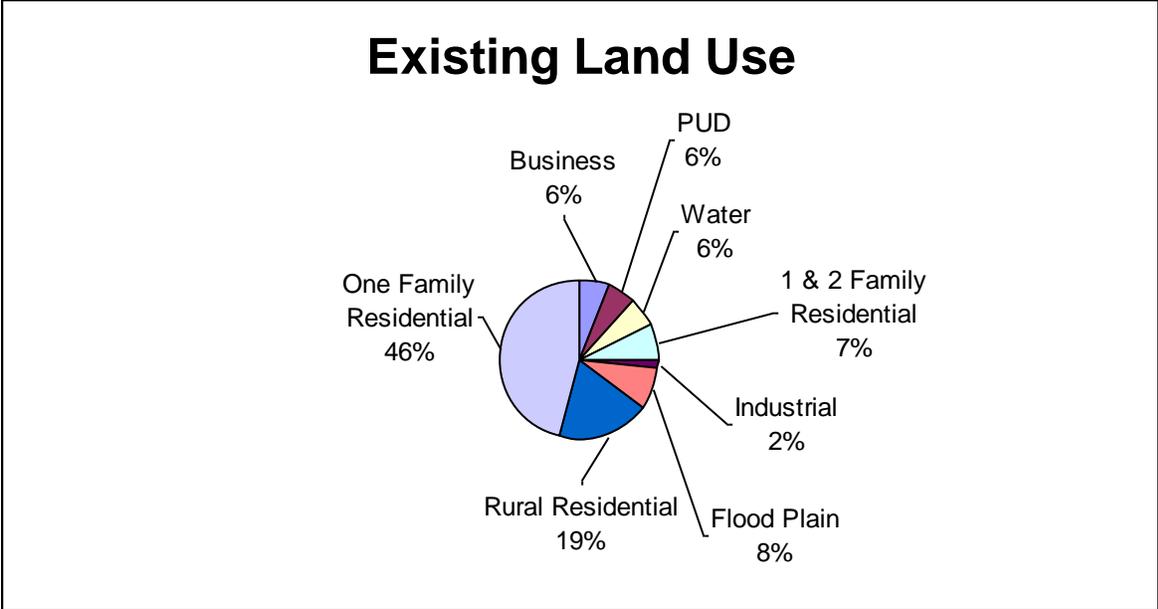


CHART 1 – EXISTING LAND USE



Social Characteristics

Population: The population of the village had increased slowly but steadily since 1940 until the 1990’s when it leveled off and now in 2010 it has started to drop slightly. Population figures for the two townships that Nashville exists within include the population of the Village. These figures show slightly greater growth in the surrounding community of Maple Grove Township but a slight decline in population in Castleton Township.

TABLE 2 – POPULATION OF NASHVILLE & TOWNSHIPS

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Nashville Village	1,279	1,374	1,525	1,558	1,628	1,654	1,654	1628
Castleton Twp	2,105	2,340	2,511	2,611	3,290	3,390	3,475	3,431
Maple Grove Twp	937	923	1,068	1,111	1,358	1,398	1,471	1,593

The Village of Nashville’s population has not grown over the last 10 years. As the economy worsened over the last few years, the Village in fact has lost residents.

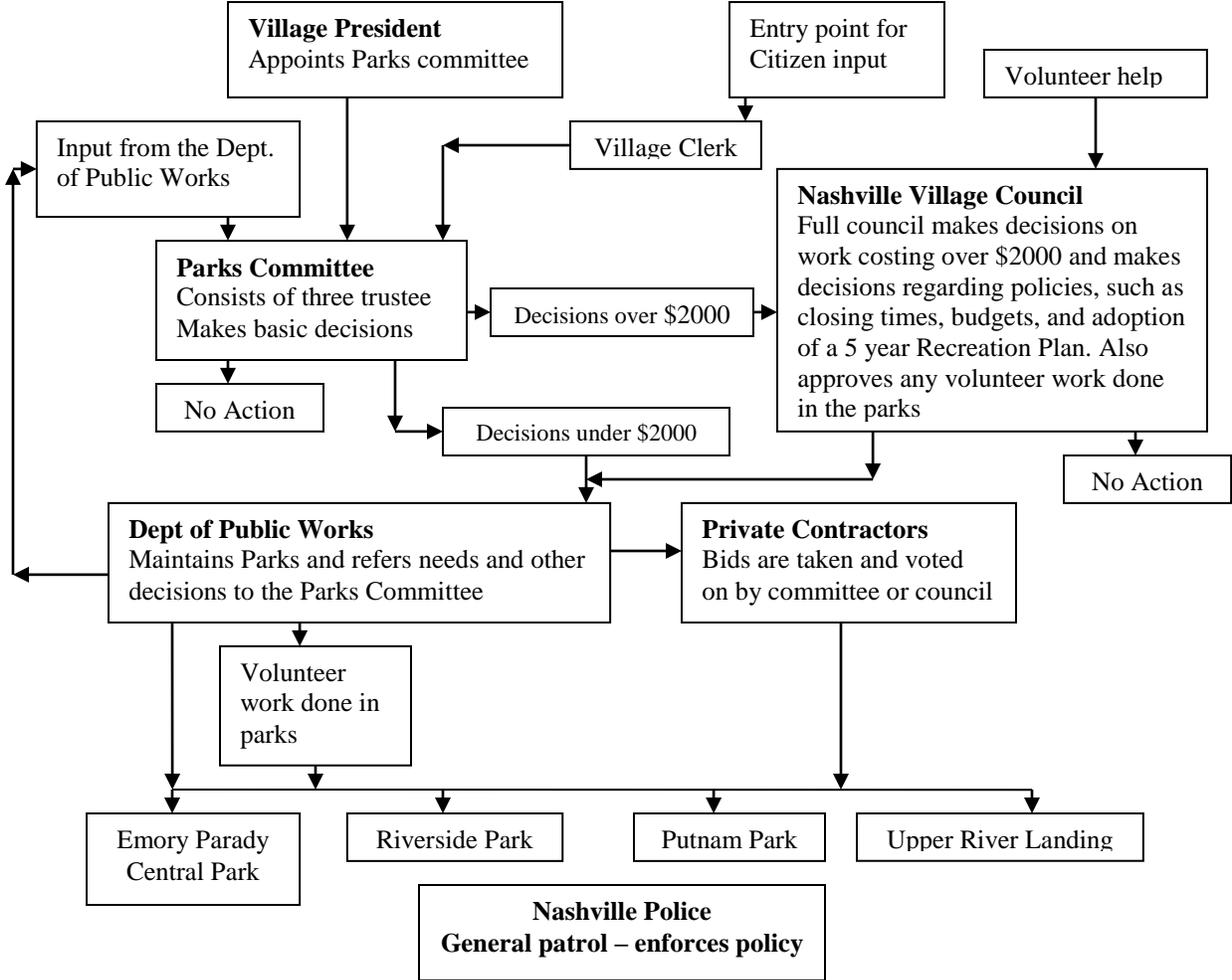
Socioeconomic Conditions: The population of Nashville is now just under 1630 people, predominantly working class. Often described as a bedroom community, the vast majority of the work force must find employment in neighboring communities at least 12 miles away, since the village has sparse industrial development, just a few employing less than 10 persons each. Industries of the past have not been replaced sufficiently. Notable is the high poverty levels, with over a third (38.7%) of the children and just under 15% of the elderly living below the poverty level. The rural village is surrounded by farmlands which mainly produce corn, soy, cattle, dairy and swine. Low agricultural sale prices and high farm overhead make it increasingly difficult on local small farmers, contributing to high poverty levels surrounding the village. Decreases in the quality and quantity of union jobs in surrounding towns creates a poor job market for high school graduates, often leading to low paying work and high poverty levels among young couples with children.

TABLE 3 – CENSUS POPULATION STATISTICS  
Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce 2010 Census

Population .....	1628
Family Households.....	444
Median Family income.....	\$46,250
Non-Family Households.....	262
Non-Family Median income.....	\$17,143
Per capita income.....	\$17,642
Income below poverty level.....	23.5%
Children below poverty level.....	38.7%
65 and over below poverty level.....	14.7%
Families below poverty level total....	15.8%
Housing units.....	706

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

CHART 2 – PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE / MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



### Park Management (See Chart 2)

The parks of Nashville are overseen by the Parks Committee which consists of three Council Trustees appointed by the Village President. In general, the parks are maintained by the Department of Public Works, who regularly mow the grass, plow snow and do any repair work that they notice is needed. Problems noted by citizens are forwarded to the village clerk, who passes them directly to the Parks Committee who then instructs the Department of Public Works to make necessary maintenance. Problems beyond the scope of the department and below \$2,000 are directly contracted by the Parks Committee, who takes bids on the job and select a contractor. Problems above \$2,000 are taken to the full council with a recommendation by the Parks Committee. In this case, if approved, bids by contractors are taken and decided on by the full council. If not approved, alternatives are offered by the Parks Committee or no further action is taken.

Several special cases must be noted where a community civic group sponsors a certain portion of the park system. They volunteer labor and raise money to help maintain their certain sponsored area. The Lions Club sponsors Putnam Park, where they occasionally will put in a new tree, put in play equipment or some other small activity. The football leagues will help by painting football lines in the outfield areas of the ball field. The Jaycees sponsor Emory Parady Central Park; they built a gazebo and landscaped some of the park. The Maple Valley Syrup Association helps maintain the Sugar Shack in Putnam Park. In all these cases the Village Council is petitioned for approval of the project and the DPW overlook the progress of the project.

### Recreational Activities Management

The Village of Nashville does not have a recreational director. The Village is also not involved in the actual management of any recreational activities. Pee Wee Football is handled by the parents of that group. The Maple Valley Syrup Association runs all activities that take place in Putnam Park's Sugar Shack, where maple sap is processes into maple syrup. Fishermen and women are only under the direction of the D.N.R. requirements and guidelines. Some of the other civic groups have picnics, games, etc. that might occur on village property. In all of these cases, these civic groups require permission by the Village for any use of Village property. Otherwise park and playground use is very individualized, only directed by parents.

Outside, of Village parks, the Maple Valley School system manages its recreational activities, overseen by an athletic Director, and appointed coaches on their own properties. Several churches also offer some recreation activities on their own properties, such as basketball tournaments.

### Operating Budget

The operating budget of parks is determined by the Budget Committee which consists of three council trustees appointed by the Village President. The Parks Committee can only make recommendations during the budget writing process, but can also make appeals at the council meetings were the budget is approved, since the budget must be approved by the full council. If cost run over budget during the year then the full council must approve an amendment to the budget. The additional moneys would come from another department, typically the General Fund.

### Administrators Staff

The Village of Nashville is managed by the Village Council, which consists of seven elected council trustees, one of which is elected to be the Village President.

There is no Village Manager in Nashville, but the office is run by the Village Clerk and the Treasurer, both of whom are appointed to their positions by the Village President.

The Department of Public Works is a position hired by council as is the other Department of Public Works positions.

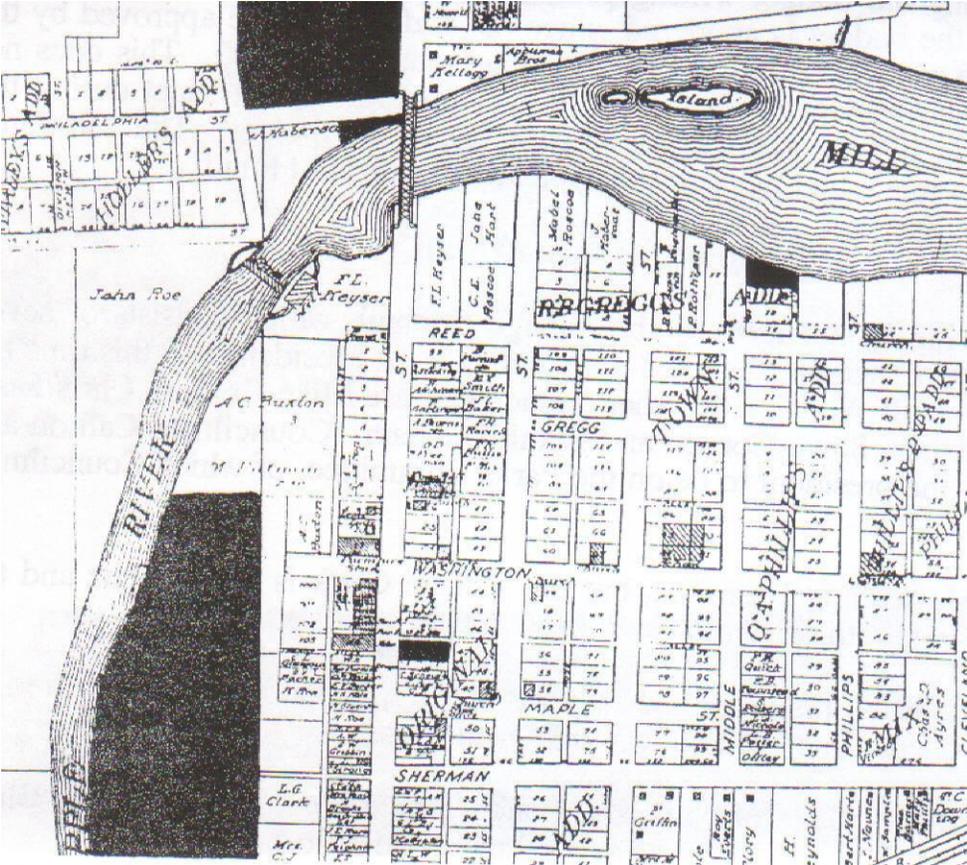
Parks are policed by the Village of Nashville Police, which consists of a Police Chief, one full time officer and several part time officers.

### Relationship with other agencies

The Village of Nashville Parks Committee interacts with several Village units, such as the Village Council, the Planning Board and the Treasurer. Interaction of the Parks Committee outside of the Village has been with the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Barry County Recreational Staff.

RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

MAP 5 – LOCATION OF EXISTINGS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



(PARKS ARE IN BLACK)

CHART 3 – PARKS AS A PERCENTAGE OF AREA

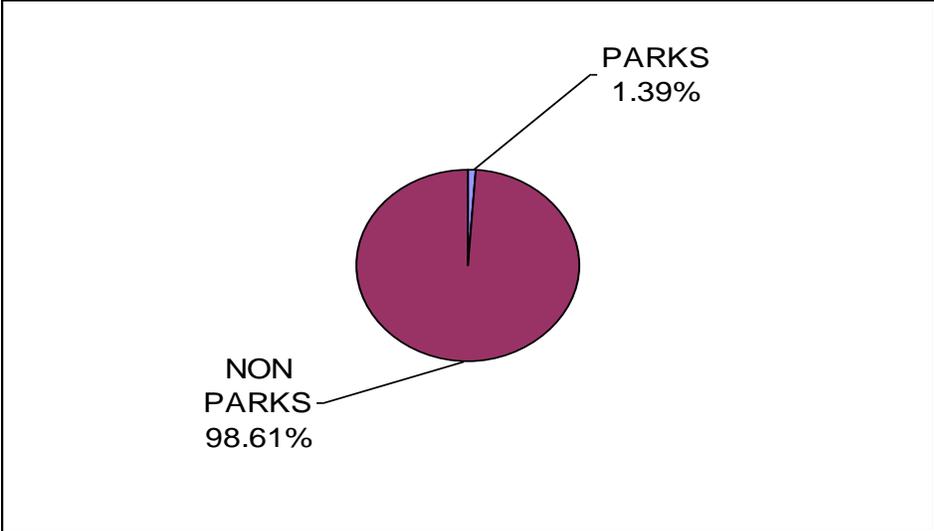


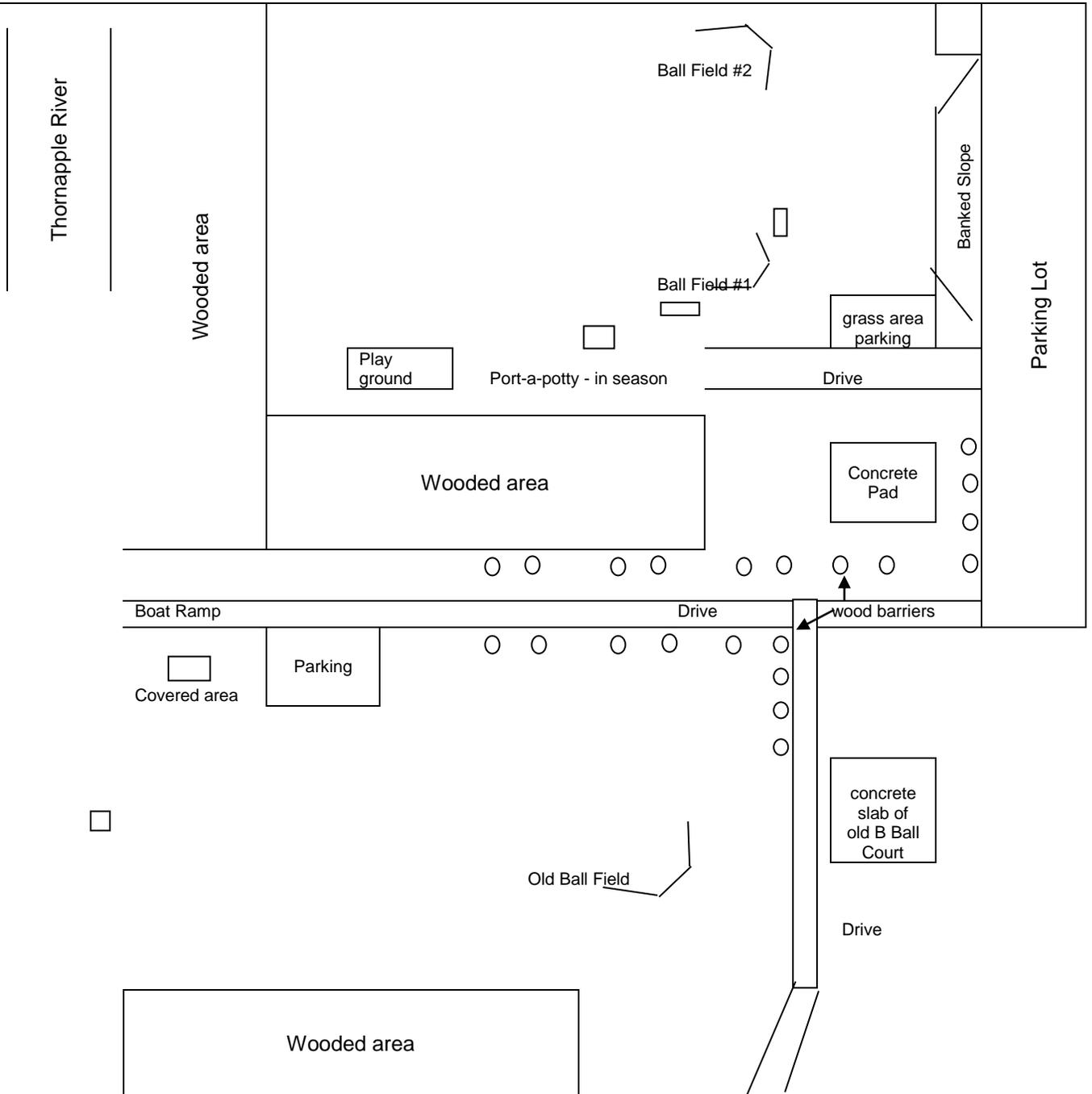
TABLE 4 – RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

Facilities	In Parks	Others in the Community	Condition
Basketball Courts			
Half Court	2	5 at Baptist Church	good
Full Court	0	1 at High School, 1 at elementary School	
Tennis Courts	1	none	reconditioned
Volley Ball Courts	none	School Gym Multipurpose	
Sand Volleyball	none	none	
Baseball Fields			
Official	none	2 at High School	
Little League	2	1 at Baptist Church	good
Football Fields			
Official	none	1 at High School	
Pee Wee - <i>practice</i>	1	1 at Fuller Elementary School	good
Soccer	none	High School Football Field	
Golf			
18 hole	none	1 Public course	
Driving Range	none	none	
Running Track			
Official	none	1 at High School	
Dirt	none	1 at Fuller Elementary School	
Softball Fields	2	Same as Little League	good
Trails			
Rails to Trails	none	Dirt Trail developed by Rails to Trails	
Other Trails	1 crude	none	very rough
Playgrounds	2	2 at schools	good
Boat ramps	2	none	needs more parking
Fishing Dock	none	none	
Horseshoes	4	none	good
Picnic Pavilion	1	none	good
Concession booth	none	1 at High School Football Field 1 at Fuller Elementary Schools	
Restrooms	none	several at schools	Use port-a-potty's
Pools	none	none	
Horse Tie-ups	none	none	
Ice Skating Rink	1	none	Removable in Riverside Park
Sledding run	1	none	good
Outdoor Theatre	none	none	
BBQ's	2	none	good
Farmer's Market	none	none	

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

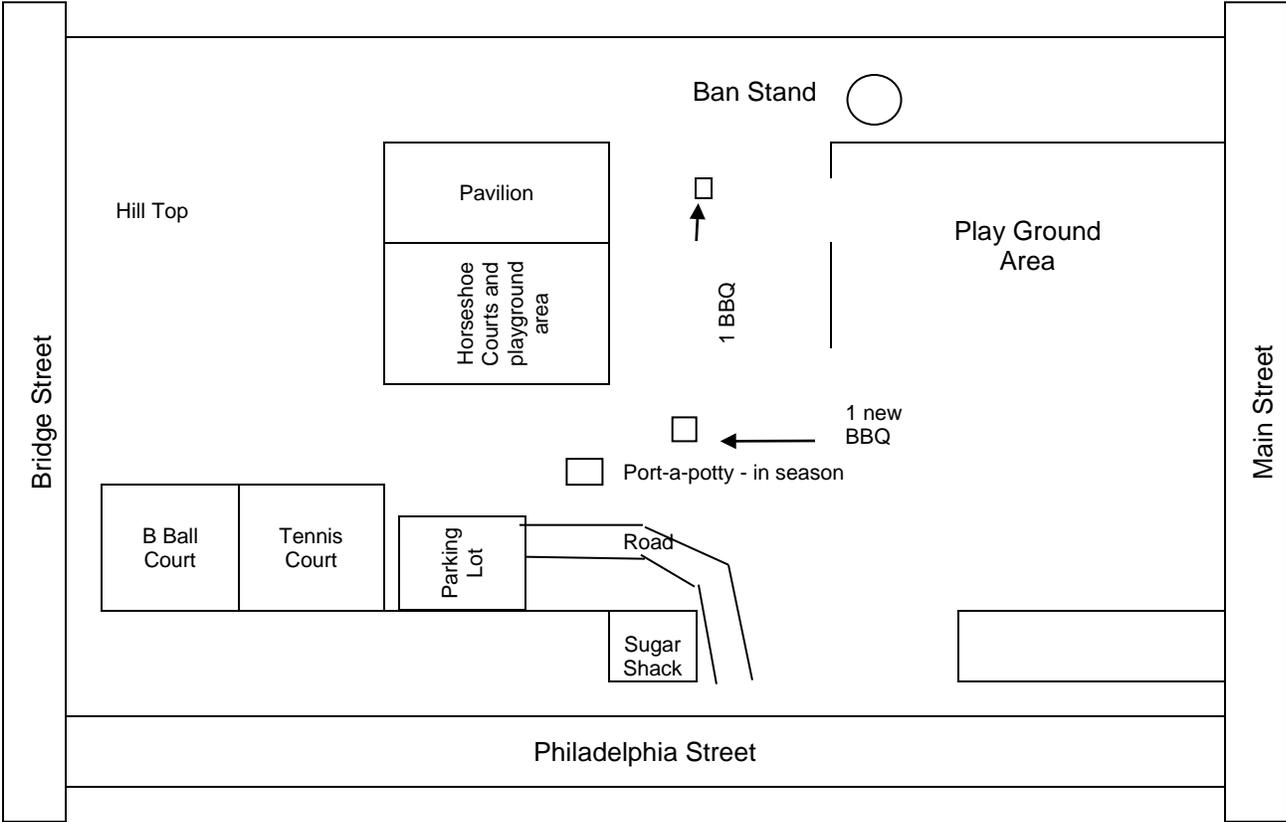
Nashville's Park System consists of four parks. From Largest to smallest: Riverside Park, Putnam Park, Emory Parady Central Park and Upper River Access. Each park will be generally described.

MAP 6 RIVERSIDE PARK:



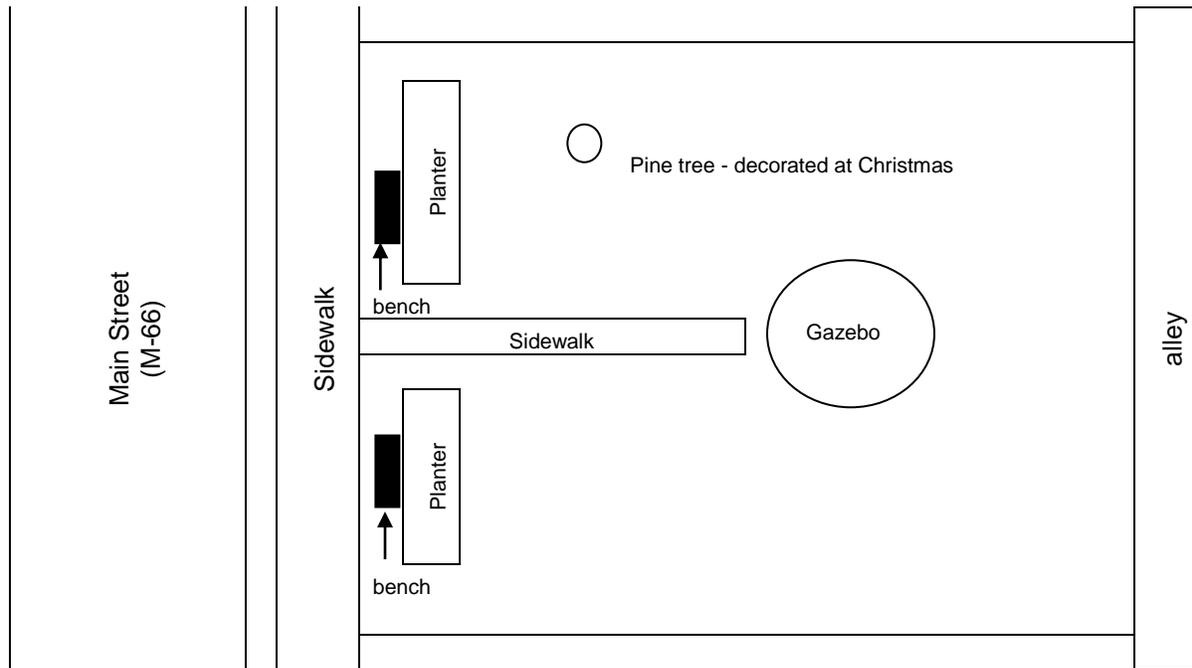
Riverside Park is the largest of Nashville's Parks. It contains two ball fields, an undeveloped mowed grass field, a small playground, the lower river access boat ramp, a crude foot path that follows the river and a large natural area. The baseball fields are used for practice and games by the local Pee Wee and Little League baseball teams in the spring and the Pee Wee football teams in the fall. The Lower River Access ramp is in good condition. New wood barriers have been placed to define the drives in the park. The playground only has a couple of pieces of play equipment. The park is very open and sunny.

MAP 7 PUTNAM PARK:



Putnam Park, the second largest of Nashville's Parks, contains many large trees and comes off of a high hill all the way down to the river's edge. It is very shady and cool due to the overgrowth of large trees. It has one tennis court and one basketball court which is a converted tennis court completed a few years ago. The playground in the park has play equipment which has been updated over the last few years. The picnic pavilion is in good shape after a recent rebuild due to storm damage. The park slopes to the river with 150 feet of frontage, without so much as a foot path to walk down to the river. There are 4 horseshoe courts that have been redone and a new playground area that was built in 2010-2011. The community building was removed in 2013 and will be replaced in the near future with new bathrooms and a parking lot.

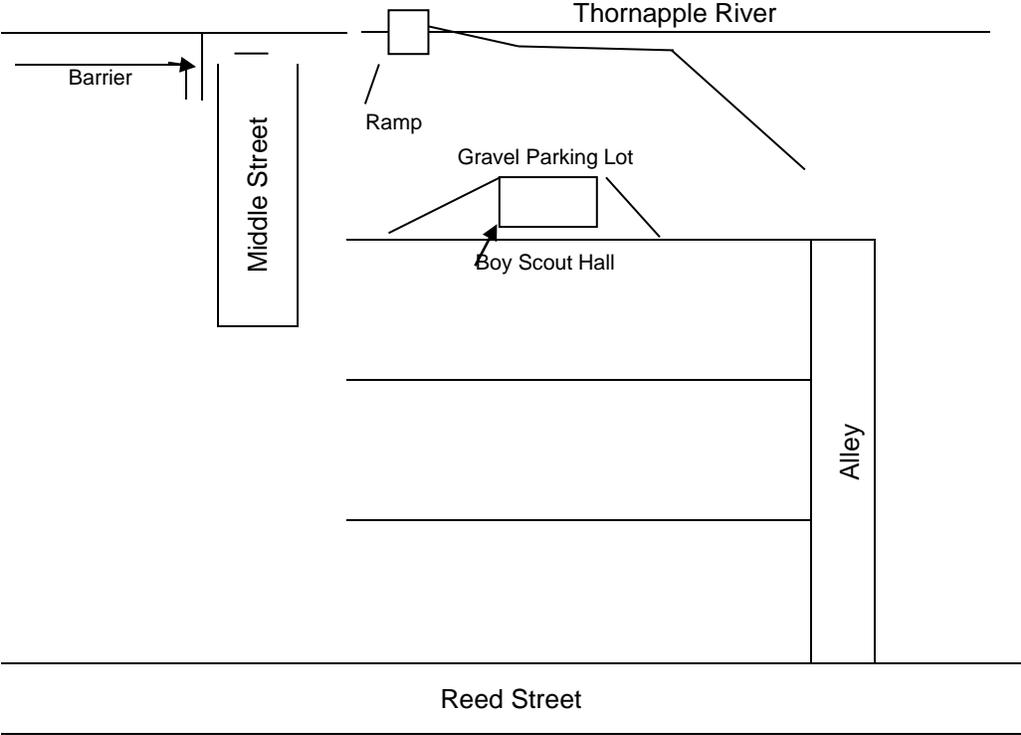
MAP 8 EMORY PARADY  
CENTRAL PARK:



Emory Parady Central Park is so named because it is in the center of the downtown business district and was renamed by the council in 2017 to include Emory Parady due to his federal and local history. It is the only Nashville park that is not adjacent to the Thornapple River. It consists of a large village lot in the middle of town. It has a wood gazebo, built by the Jaycees and paid for by the Village. This same community organization has also done some landscaping and the Village has removed some large trees to open the area up more.

The park is underutilized due to the fact that there is not much there to do. The gazebo has been fitted with some electric outlets that are used for music or sales that sometimes take place in the park. It is also occasionally used for outdoor church or wedding services held by local residents. Also a pine tree has been planted here that is decorated at Christmas time along with the gazebo. In 2010 two new benches were placed in front of the park, one by the local Kiwanis Club and the other by the Harvest Festival Committee. In 2012 a ramp was added to the gazebo for easier access for the elderly. The park is in good repair.

Map 9 UPPER RIVER ACCESS



The Upper River Access is so named because it contains a ramp for boaters above the newly placed weirs. The ramp was redone in 2010 with a grant after the dam was removed. It is now in great shape

## CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Village does not organize recreational programs and does not have recreational staff. Different community organizations organize their own programs within the Village parks. The baseball and softball groups, Lions Club, Pee Wee Football, etc. have organized their own activities. Local individuals such as fishermen are not organized by the Village.

## RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Before going into specific recreational needs, general goals need to be stated. The Nashville parks need to provide better and more diverse recreation, but they also need to stimulate tourism as well as economic and residential development. Since the community is economically poor, there is a low tax base and therefore little money for development. In this case, a little has to go a long way to create the kind of park system that Nashville needs. Also, we need development that requires little maintenance. As added input a community survey was performed through the local newspaper. Below is the tabulation of the survey.

TABLE 5 – COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS (done for previous plan – 1996)

RESPONSE	#
Do nothing at all	1
More trash cans	1
More playground equipment for children	6
Safer playground equipment for children	2
Keep kids from hanging around park at night - curfew	1
A dock for fishing	3
Teen dances or other teen activities	1
Horseshoe court	1
Sliding hill	2
Another ball field	3
More tournaments	1
Bowling	1
Ice skating rink	3
Remove water tower in Putnam Park	1
Privacy fence for house adjacent to Putnam Park	1
Update tennis courts	1
Restroom facilities	3
Brighten up Putnam Park	1
A "Rails to Trails" project on the old tracks	1
Bike - Roller Blade - Walking trail	5
Safety fence in front of baseball dugouts	2
Picnic pavilion and picnic tables by ball fields	3
Picnic tables near boat launch	2
Play area near boat launch	1
Swimming/wading pool	1
Open up community bldg in Putnam Park for activities	1

Major Recreational Needs (very general):

1. Create better access to the Thornapple River with diversified recreational activities.
2. Create areas of modern recreational more suited to current needs.
3. Creation of types of recreation which stimulate tourism and residential development.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

Goals to accomplish in the Next 5 years

Improvements for Riverside Park

1. Place 2 hitching posts
2. Add Pavilion
3. Add new permanent restroom
4. Replace playground equipment

Improvements for Putnam Park

5. Thin trees
6. Build a parking area in the area where the old community bld was to serve the lower park area.
7. Renovate the Band Stand
8. Replace Fencing
9. Additional lights at basketball court
10. Reseal asphalt on basketball court
11. Add new permanent restroom
12. Add ADA Fishing Deck
13. Add a Lookout tower play structure
14. Build a second parking area by basketball / tennis courts.

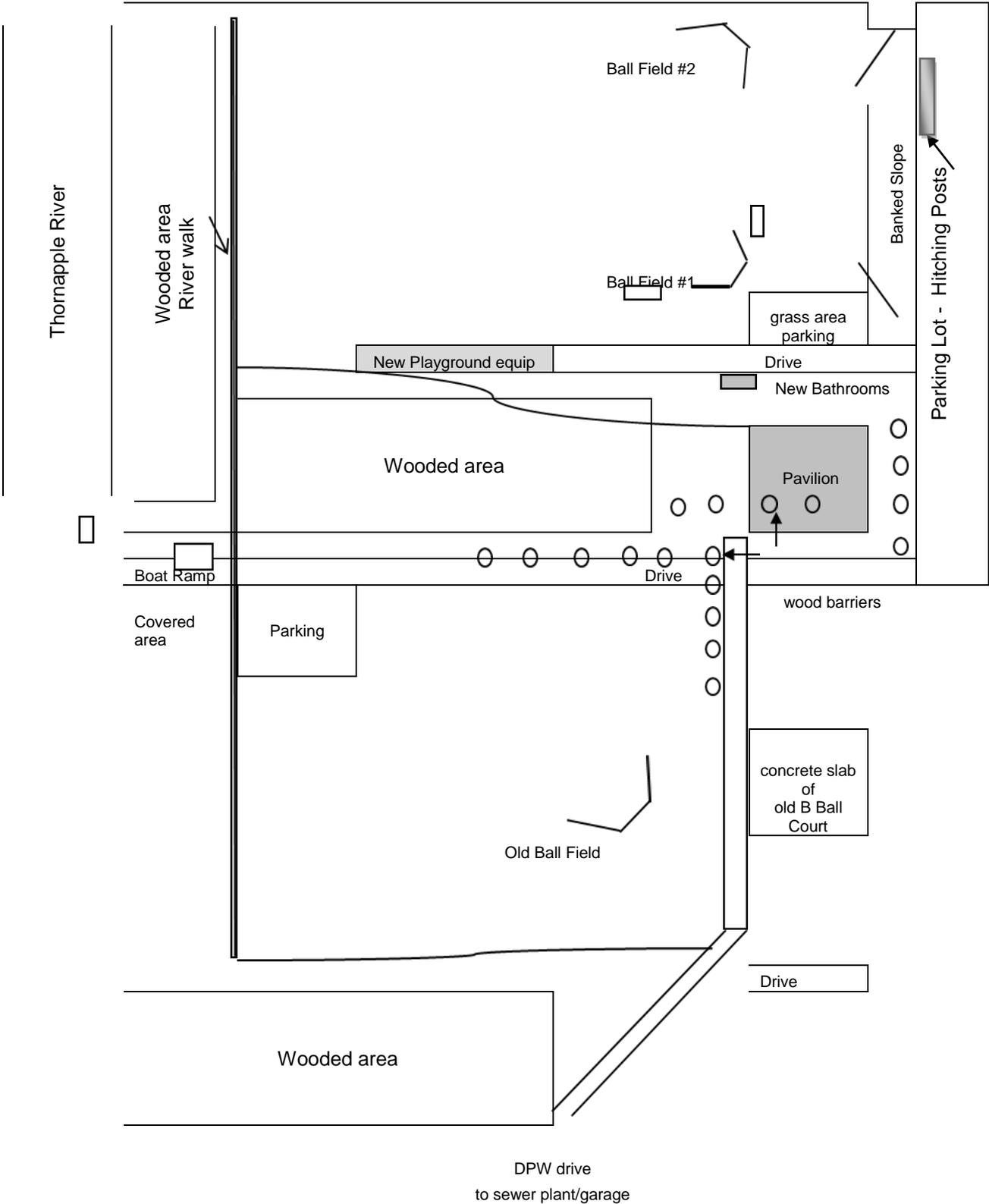
Improvements for Emory Parady Central Park

15. Add 2 picnic tables
16. Add ashtray/butt drop at front of park

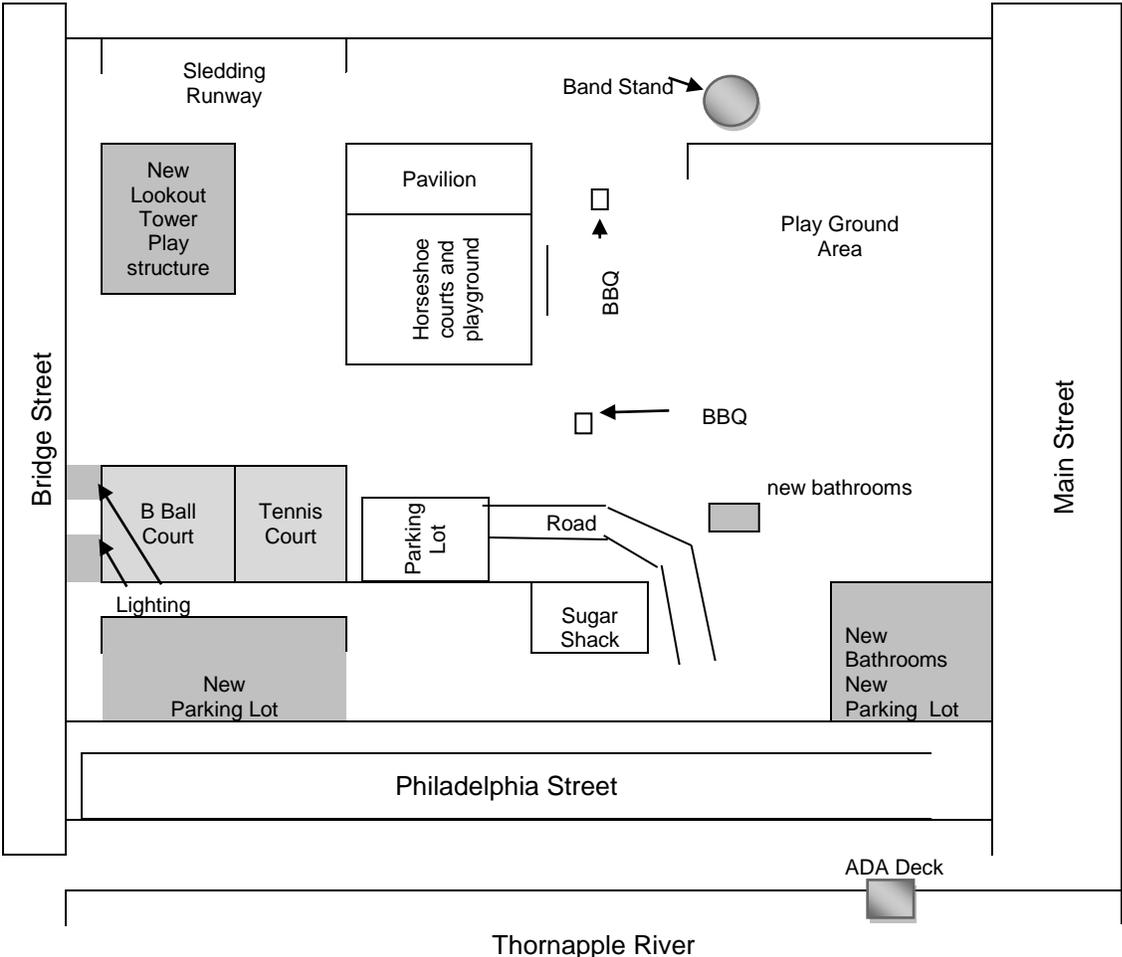
Maintenance of Upper River Access

17. Add ADA Fishing Deck

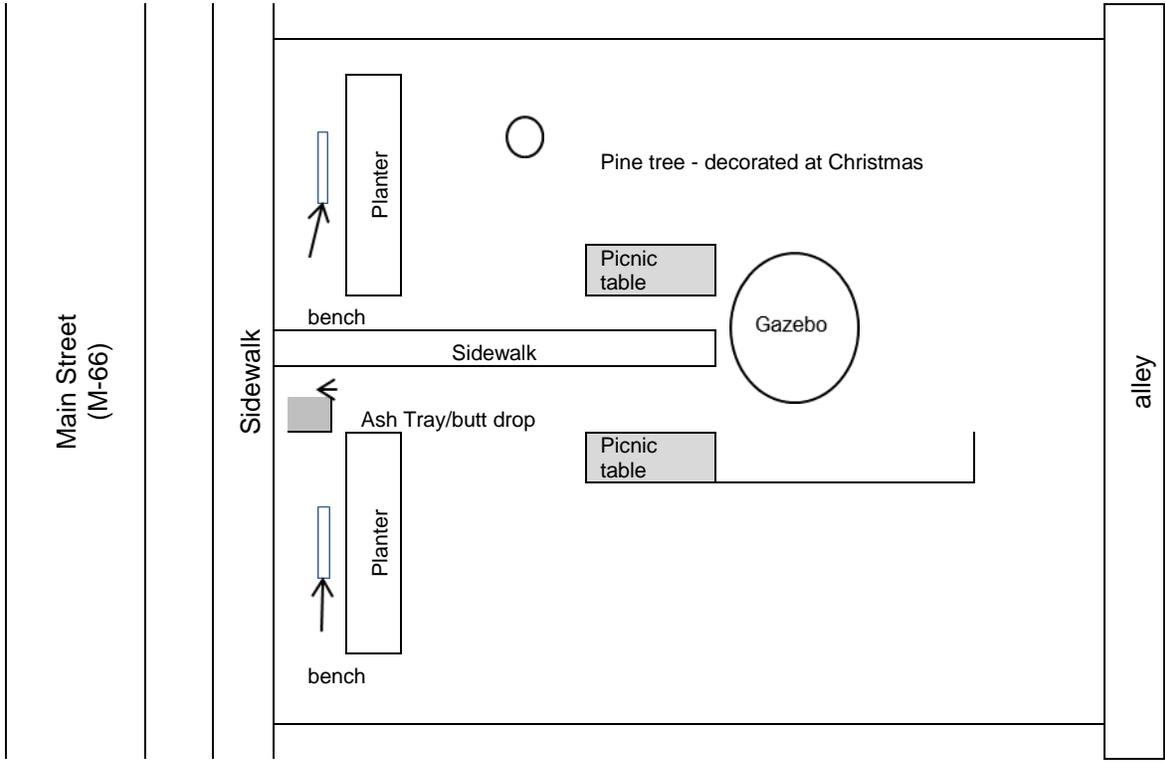
MAP 10 RIVERSIDE PARK ACTION PLAN



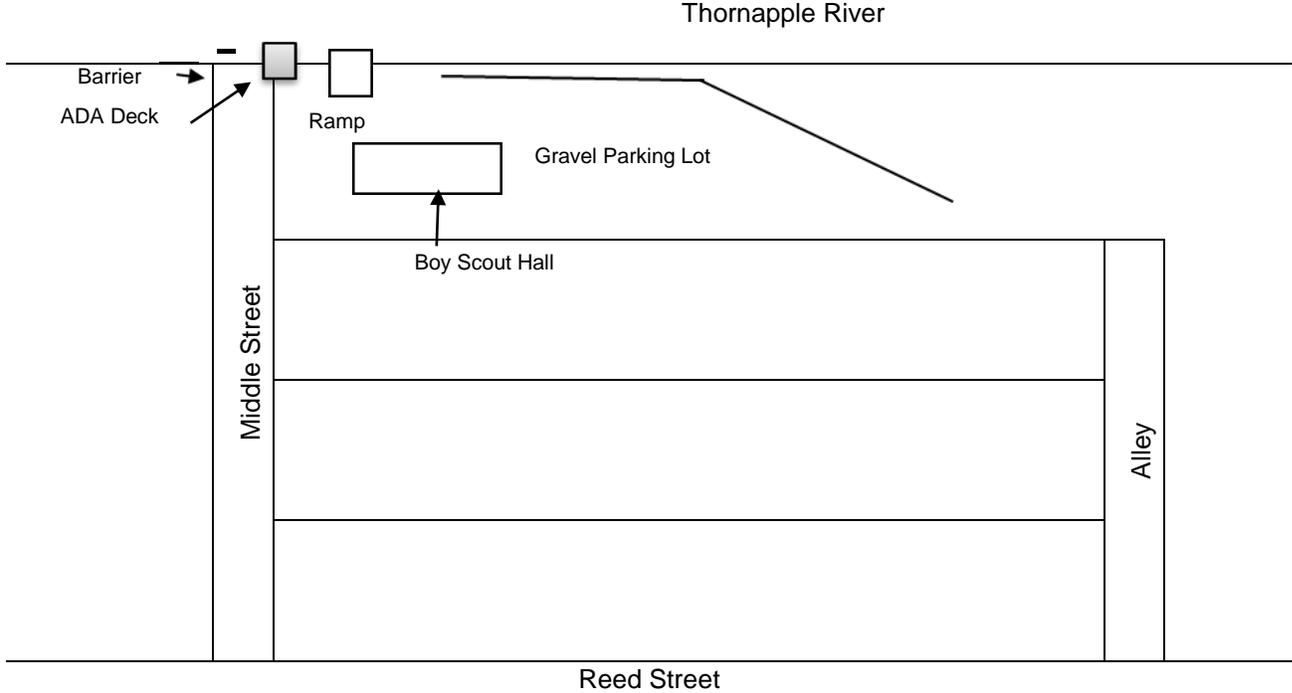
MAP 11 PUTNAM PARK ACTION PLAN



MAP 12 EMORY PARADY CENTRAL PARK  
ACTION PLAN



MAP 13 UPPER RIVER ACCESS ACTION PLAN



Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS)

The Capital Improvement Schedule, on this page, is intended as a general time map which best meets Nashville’s recreational goals. Realistically, actual improvements will vary to some extent from the CIS. As amendments to the CIS are needed, the committee will make these changes to the CIS in the same manner that the Village Council uses when budget amendments are needed during the fiscal year. Since a combination of Village staff, volunteers and contractors will be utilized, and since there are such a large variety of goals to be met, delays and opportunities will require amendments to the CIS.

TABLE 6 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

PROJECT	EST COST	FUNDING SOURCES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>RIVERSIDE PARK</b>							
2 Hitching posts	\$500	Village		X			
Pavilion	\$10,000	Grant/Village			X		
Permanent restroom	\$10,000	Grant/Village			X		
Playground Equipment	\$3,500	Grant/Village				X	
River walk	???????	Grant					Beyond
<b>PUTNAM PARK</b>							
Thin trees	\$500	Village	X				
Parking lot – Old Com. bld	\$10,000	Grant/Village	X				
Renovate Band Stand	\$10,000	Village	X				
Replace Fencing	\$3,000	Village/MDOT		X			
Additional Lights – Bball Crt	\$3,000	Village		X			
Reseal Asphalt – Bball Crt	\$5,000	Village			X		
Permanent restroom	\$10,000	Grant/Village			X		
ADA Fishing Deck	\$8,000	Grant/Village				X	
Lookout Tower play structure	\$15,000	Grant/Village					X
New Parking lot - by courts	\$10,000	Grant/Village					X
<b>EMORY PARADY CENTRAL PARK</b>							
2 Picnic Tables	\$300	Village	X				
Ashtray/butt drop	\$100	Village	X				
<b>UPPER RIVER ACCESS</b>							
ADA Fishing Deck	\$8,000	Grant/Village				X	
Cub Scout Hall???	???????	Village					Beyond

The overall implementation and coordination of the CIS will be managed by the Parks Committee, which will function administratively in the same manner as described in Chart 2 on page 17.

## BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM

### Rational for each action in action program

Starting with action #1 in Riverside Park and ending with action #12 at the Upper River Access:

#### RIVERSIDE PARK

1. The village has frequent visits from the Amish population in the area and would like to accommodate them by placing 1-2 hitching posts in the vicinity of Riverside Park. This would give them parking spot specifically made for them and allow them access to the Central Business District.
2. Currently Riverside Parks does not have any covered area for picnic tables or other items and a pavilion in this park has been requested by several area residents. This park is home to several softball tournaments and would benefit from a covered area to accommodate the players and their fans.
3. Currently Riverside Park rents Port-A-Potty's during the summer months. Having permanent ADA bathrooms would just be a plus for those wanting to use Riverside Parks several recreation areas for any length of time.
4. Riverside Park has a few playground structures but they are old and out of date. An updated playground area that would include ADA play equipment (not currently available at this site) would be used by the children attending the softball tournaments along with the children that live in this downtown area.
5. The placement of a river walk has long been a dream of area residents. The village has a portion of the Paul Henry Trail that runs nearby the Riverside Park area and the addition of a river walk to extend the trail would be enjoyed by many who travel the trail and by local residents alike.

#### PUTNAM PARK

6. The Village plans to thin out the trees in Putnam Park to make the area sunnier and less prone to mosquitoes. Now the park is very shady and full of mosquitoes.
7. An old community building (previous water pump station) was recently removed from the corner of Putnam Park. This is a perfect area for a new parking lot to provide convenient parking and would include handicap parking spot(s) for the Putnam Park area. Currently all parking is located by the Tennis/Basketball courts and the park is not easily accessible to visitors who cannot walk a great distance and only holds about 10 cars. A new parking lot in this area would help resolve these issues.
8. The renovation of the Band Stand in Putnam Park has been needed for many years. The public wish is to see it stay in the park so a complete renovation is needed and would keep this land mark available to the park going public for many years to come.
9. Currently Putnam Park is fenced on all sides but the fencing is old and rusty. The need to replace the fencing is a must as this keeps the children safely away from the highway, other roadways and nearby neighbors. This project may be partially completed by MDOT when they

complete some road work on M-66 in 2014 and need to move the current fencing along M-66 anyway.

10. The addition of additional lighting at the back of the Putman Park basketball court would be helpful during tournaments that continue into the evening and would also help the police to be able to see that part of the park better at night.

11. The basketball courts occasionally need to be resurfaced the village tries to do this every few year. This next time the village would like to add a substance to the surface that will make the courts less slippery for the safety of the players.

12. Currently Putnam Park rents Port-A-Potty's during the summer months. A permanent ADA bathroom has not been available since the Community Building was shut down and then removed. Having permanent bathrooms would just be a plus for those wanting to use Putnam Parks several recreation areas for any length of time.

13. Currently there is not a fishing deck at this site (Putnam Park) and children and adults alike stand on the M-66 Bridge to fish. If a dock was built a small distance away from the bridge it would remove the possible hazard of anyone getting hit by a car as this bridge is a major highway/Main Street through the village. Making the dock handicap accessible would open up fishing to groups of people who could not otherwise fish in Nashville.

14. At the top of the hill in Putnam Park was the site of an old water silo which was a hazard and an eyesore which was removed several years ago. It was a large metal container that crowned this areas highest point making it a favorite spot to see the whole area. Building a new Lookout Tower keeps the view, and replaces the old water silo with a safe structure on which to view the village. The climbing play structure is appealing to teenagers as well as adults who wish to view what can only be seen from that vantage point above the trees.

15. Building an additional parking lot for the Putnam Park tennis/Basketball Court is needed because the current lot cannot hold enough cars to accommodate the court when in use by a large group or tournament. The present lot can only hold about 10 cars.

#### EMORY PARADY CENTRAL PARK

16. The locals use Emory Parady Central Park as a lunch hangout and the addition of 2 picnic tables would be useful to the lunch crowd and other activities during the afternoon such as children hanging out – studying or playing games.

17. As Emory Parady Central Park gets used more and because the Village has recently made all the parks tobacco free zones the need for an ash tray / butt drop is needed to help keep the litter down.

#### UPPER RIVER ACCESS

18. Currently there is not a fishing deck at this site (Upper River Access) and children and adults alike stand in the boat ramp to fish. If a dock was built a small distance away from the boat ramp it would remove the possible hazard of a fisherman being caught on the boat ramp by a loading or unloading boat enthusiast. Making the dock handicap accessible would open up fishing to groups of people who could not otherwise fish in Nashville.

19. The Cub Scout hall is located on this property but is no longer in use by the scouts. The village would like to see it used in some way in the future and is looking into options for this building.

#### PRIORITY RATIONAL

Priority was assessed based on a combination of factors. The largest priority was given to projects that were needed yesterday, in other words, long past due as far as safety and community outcry. Another factor was the need to blend the amount of money spent over the five years to give the village and community groups enough time to generate ongoing funds. As a result some good things were put off until the final year so that the plan was financially realistic and not incur debt. Another factor was that certain projects had to be done as a natural beginning to another project, while others were support systems for other projects.

2014: The village has 5 projects that are in the works for this year. The village plans on thinning out the trees in Putnam Park and hopes to finish the site where the community building was removed and make a paved parking lot for the parks use – along with completing the renovation of the Band Stand. In Emory Parady Central Park the plan is to add 2 picnic tables and an ash tray / butt drop. Most of these projects can be done within our current budget and be village funded.

2015: This year the village will install 2 hitching posts by Riverside Park along with updating the fencing around Putnam Park and adding lights at the basketball court. These projects are within the village's budget and with the help of MDOT can be done by the village funds.

2016: The village will reseal the basketball court hopefully to make the surface less slippery. The village is hopeful that this year will also see the acceptance of grant applications that will allow the Village to build a new pavilion and permanent ADA restrooms in both Riverside Park and Putnam Park. Grant money will be needed to complete most of these projects and the village will need time to look for and prepare for these projects

2017: The plan for this year is to have grant money available to update the playground equipment in Riverside Park and install the ADA Fishing Docks at both Putnam Park and the Upper River Access point. Grant money will be needed to complete these projects and the village will need time to look for and prepare for these projects

2018: The village is looking at applying for a large grant or several smaller grants to help complete the proposed plans for a lookout tower and a new parking lot by the basketball courts. This is a large undertaking but much needed projects to clean up and bring Putnam Park up to its potential. Grant money will be needed to complete these projects and the village will need time to look for and prepare for these projects

We are sure by year 5 the Five Year Recreation Plan will have been amended several times by year five and if not all of our projected plans have been accomplished we will keep pursuing these goals in future years.

Beyond: the possible building the River walk in Riverside Park and finding a new use for the current Cub Scout Hall are future goals that the village is unable to add into the schedule at this time. Grant money will be needed to complete the River walk project and the village will need time to look for and prepare for these projects

## CONCLUSION

This recreational plan is an assessment of what exists, what is needed and a realistic five year recreational plan to provide adequate recreational facilities for the Village of Nashville and surrounding areas. This recreational plan is not only realistic in its execution, but can be maintained properly with Nashville's current administrative and management structure. The proposed recreational improvements will improve the quality of living in Nashville and provide for all major recreational needs in a cost efficient manner.