

Plymouth Indiana 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026

A Comprehensive Master Plan by the Plymouth Park Board
and the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department

Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department

1660 N. Michigan Street

Plymouth, IN 46563

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Prepared by: Plymouth Park Department Park Board and Staff

Table of Contents

Cover Page.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
Definition of the Planning Area.....	3
Goals of the Plan.....	3
The Park Board/Department.....	4
Park Staff.....	6
Park Descriptions.....	7
Current Programs.....	10
Natural Features and Landscape.....	10
Man-made, Historical and Cultural.....	11
Social and Economic Factors.....	12
Accessibility and Universal Design.....	13
Public Participation.....	16
Needs Analysis.....	16
Action Schedule.....	19
Appendices.....	22
Public Survey.....	24
Map of Plymouth, Indiana.....	32
Section 504 Compliance Form.....	35

Definition of the Planning Area

The planning area for the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department is the same as the service area. The service area for the City of Plymouth does not stop at the city limits, but includes a buffer area of rural land that extends about ten miles from the city center. Past public input and user surveys have indicated that Plymouth has a significant and important rural user population, even if those users do not contribute directly to the taxes gathered from the city residents to support recreation. The Plymouth Parks and Recreation remains committed to making our facilities and services available to anyone, regardless of resident status, ability to pay, or physical/mental ability.

Goals of the Plan

After much discussion, the Plymouth Park Department staff and the Park Board have agreed on the following goals for the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

- Gather feedback and input from as diverse a group of Plymouth residents as possible and report it in an accurate manner.
- Create a plan that is dynamic and provides pertinent, useful information and guidance for the next five years in Plymouth.
- Present the plan and gain its acceptance within Plymouth communities
- Receive approval from IDNR for eligibility for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs.
- Use the plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants

The Park Board/Department

The Plymouth Park and Recreation Department was established on March 27, 1967 when an ordinance was passed by the Plymouth City Council. Four members of the Parks and Recreation Board are subject to appointment by the mayor. The Appointments are four-year terms and in staggered succession so two terms will not expire in the same year. There shall be no more than two of one political party serving under appointment. Other voting members include one representative from the Library Board and one representative from the school board, accounting for the six-member board.

The original Park Department was established under the provisions of Section 201, Chapter 311, Article II of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for 1965. In 1992, the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department was re-established under the current provisions of Indiana Code 36-10, Chapter 3.

Current Park Board Members

Dave Morrow, President
920 Angel Street
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: 4 year - ending 12/31/23

Laura Mann, Secretary
718 E. LaPorte Street
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: 4 year – ending 12/31/22

Alex Eads
236 Evergreen Dr.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: 4 year – ending 12/31/24

Mike Kershner, Vice-President
15440 12th Road
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: Appointed by School Board

Adam Lukenbill
2527 Hillcrest Ave.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: Appointed by Library Board

Cayla Wade
328 Ewing St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Term: ending 12/31/25

The Park Department

Park Office

The main office for the Park Department is located at 1660 N. Michigan Street Plymouth, Indiana. The phone is (574) 936-2876. E-mail: parks@plymouthin.com

Website: www.plymouthin.com

Mission Statement

- The Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department shall strive to develop and maintain quality parks and facilities; to preserve open/natural space; and to provide recreational programs and services which will enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all the citizens of Plymouth.

Park Board's Departmental Vision and Goals for the Next Five Years

- Navigate in a post-COVID world focusing on health and safety.
- The Plymouth Park and Recreation Department will offer a level of service appropriate to the size and growth of the community.
- The Department will provide new opportunities for exercise, fitness and wellness for the community at large.
- The Department should act as a central part of daily life in the community, providing a city identity and a focus for the people of Plymouth.

Navigating forward during the COVID-19 pandemic

While the country and our community continue to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Plymouth Park Department is pushing forward to continue to offer programs and activities with safety in mind more than ever. 2020 was a rough year for everyone and that includes the Plymouth Park Department. We had to cancel many of our time-honored traditions that we hold dear such as the Daddy Daughter Dance and Haunted Grounds. Family reunions that have met in Centennial Park for the last 100 years couldn't hold their reunions in order to keep their families safe. As we look forward into this post-COVID world, we are adjusting activities and events in order to keep everyone healthy-as reasonably as we can. This includes more events in the open-air facilities we have, less food items at events that aren't individually packaged, offering hand sanitization stations, among other actions. These are measures that we will continue to develop and adjust as community spread of COVID-19 ebbs and flows.

Staff

Park Superintendent: Michael Hite
Hired: 9/27/2004

Recreation/Pool Director: Abby Collins
Hired: 10/05/2020

Maintenance Supervisor: Dave Cooper
Hired: 10/14/1997

Office Manager: Jenny Sickmiller
Hired: 8/16/2004

City Forester/Maintenance: Cameron Arnold
Hired: 9/14/2007

Full Time Maintenance
Doyle Keller: Hired 10/30/2015
Greg Carroll: Hired 3/1/2017

The Plymouth Park and Recreation Department also employs three full-time park staff persons, four part-time maintenance staff, approximately sixteen seasonal employees and twenty life guards each year.

Volunteers

In these times of shrinking budgets, rising energy costs and increasing recreation demand, volunteers from Plymouth and the surrounding areas provide us with invaluable assistance by leading programs, coaching and officiating youth sports, assisting us in maintaining and improving the parks themselves, and much more. Without our dedicated group of volunteers, we would not be able to provide the quality of parks and programs that we currently enjoy. While the numbers in the year 2020 were an exception because of the COVID19 pandemic, the public is ready to start volunteering again and we anticipate high volunteer numbers for the next 5 years.

Facility Inventory

Plymouth has an inventory of ten parks, ranging in size from 0.5 to 120 acres (approximately 200 acres total park land). The Plymouth Park system is relatively old, with the newest property having been dedicated in 2015, and the oldest/largest of the Plymouth parks acquired in 1916. The age of the parks and much of their equipment creates special problems for accessibility, maintenance and development. In many cases, due to limited funds and staffing, features of the parks are in dire need of updating, replacement, or renovation. The following is a brief synopsis of the ten Plymouth parks and our Greenway Trail.

Centennial Park:

This is the largest most highly developed park in the park system. The Park Office is located in Centennial Park, with an address of 1660 N. Michigan Street. Centennial Park contains a wide variety of active recreational facilities including lighted baseball and softball, lighted basketball, lighted tennis courts, playgrounds, shuffleboard, horseshoes, a skate park, swimming, as well as passive recreational facilities such as picnic areas and shelters, nature trails and fishing. This community park is the focal point of public recreation in the City and County. Each Labor Day Weekend, the Plymouth Blueberry Festival is held in the park attracting thousands of visitors, and has become the largest 4-day festival in the Midwest.

Centennial Park also has a state-of-the art baseball diamond called Bill Nixon Field, with an address of 351 Becknell Avenue. The park staff and the Plymouth High School Athletic Department maintain the field by grooming it for Plymouth High School competition.

Centennial Park provides the City's only public swimming pool located at 1500 Grand Avenue. The pool underwent a major renovation including a new heating system and restoration of the pool's interior surfaces in 1985. In 2016 the pool received a face-lift with a new liner and improved locker room area. More than 300 children learn to swim at this facility each year, which makes it one of the most important and popular summer recreational facilities in the city. All good things must come to an end, as they say, and that end is near for our public pool. Renovating the pool is something we would like to do within the next 5 years. From the information we gathered in this process, we realize it is also a priority for the citizens of Plymouth to develop a plan for our next steps.

Magnetic Park:

This area consists of seventeen acres located on the Yellow River, mid-way between Centennial Park and Downtown Plymouth. Magnetic Park contains the Conservation Clubhouse located at 720 Magnetic Parkway, a historic structure offered by the Park Department for year-round programs and rental. The Park also contains a play area, picnic sites, and a small fishing pond. The absence of shelters, paved game courts, adequate circulation and lighting precludes maximum use of this important community-neighborhood recreation facility. A historical spring house in the form of a wooden /stone gazebo provides an interesting focal point within the park.

Packard's Woods Park:

This is located on the City's west side at 1235 W. Harrison Street. The Park was originally 5.5 acres and was increased to 12.5 acres and now offers two (2) lighted softball diamonds, picnic areas, shelters, basketball courts, parking and playgrounds. A new all-inclusive play structure was added in 2015 and is named Freedom Park. It has been a huge improvement to the Packard's Woods area. In 2019 new inclusive swings were installed with the pour in place surfacing.

Gill Park:

Is on the City's east side, 310 E. Adams Street, and includes several small residential parcels and a 3-acre tract for a total site of 4.8 acres. Gill Park has been assembled over the years by the City's acquisition of residential properties located in the flood plain of the Yellow River. Gill Park contains one baseball diamond and has access to the Yellow River. A new bridge was constructed over the Yellow River leading to River Park Square in October of 2020, connecting the two parks and keeping with our goal to make all of our parks easily accessible with one another.

Hand Park:

This locale is comprised of a 2 acre parcel park and 1.5 acres from the former Webster Elementary School located at 120 Webster Avenue, which is now used as a recreation center. This facility is increasing as an important neighborhood/community recreation center in the southeast area of the City. Facilities at the park and recreation center include a play field, playground, restrooms, basketball and a baseball diamond.

Poplar Street Park:

Is comprised of two lots (815 Poplar Street), in a small residential development on the southwest side of the city, totaling about ¼ acre. The Park includes a small play structure and a seating area.

Dixon Lake Property:

The City of Plymouth owns approximately 400 feet of frontage on Dixon Lake located 1.5 miles southwest of Plymouth. Originally, a beach house, swimming, boating and fishing were available. Currently, Dixon Lake is leased to the DNR for 20 years and has a boat launching area.

Founder's Park:

This is located off of Jefferson Street behind the Blueberry Festival office. This small park has stationery exercise equipment for public use.

River Park Square:

River Park Square is located one block east of the downtown area, between Garro and LaPorte streets. This park has a performance stage, small splash pad, a rock fountain and a concession building with attached restrooms. RPS is used by the Plymouth Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. It has been an asset to the Park Department and has been utilized quite often by the Plymouth community. We are currently working on Phase II of RPS where we will see the addition of several new features, including: Veteran's Plaza, a natural themed playground, a new shelter and the continuation of the Greenway Trail. Exciting things are in store for River Park Square.

Price's Memorial Park:

This is the newest acquisition of the Plymouth Park Department and is located at 205 Plymouth-Goshen Road. Bob Price donated the facility to the Park Department in October of 2015. Price's Memorial Park is located on the North side of Plymouth off of Plymouth Goshen Trail. On the 13 acre property there is a pond that consists of approximately 3 acres. There are two shelters and one gazebo. There is a playground on the property as well as a house that is rented out.

Greenway Trail:

The trail is approximately 2.7 miles in length and 10 feet in width for the main trail. The surface of the bikeway/walkway is bituminous pavement from Jefferson Street to the south side of Riverside School on Baker Street. The path begins at Jefferson Street, passes through Founders Park, crosses over the Yellow River by bridge and into Magnetic Park and follows alongside the banks of the Yellow River once again crossing and linking to the existing Randolph Street path, and continues north over the north section linking to an existing road, which is used as a bike trail in Centennial Park, while still continuing alongside the river to the east until another split at the sledding hill. The trail splits west onto an existing trail west of the sledding hill and the eastern split continues east over the third bridge to the edge of the Riverside School property where it splits again. Scenic rest areas or "nodes" are constructed at various locations along the trail and contain benches and trash receptacles on a brick paved surface outside of the main paved trail. This path promotes a healthy lifestyle, provides educational nature study, and is

free and accessible to anyone at their convenience. The trail is used 12 months out of the year. In the winter time the Park Staff plows snow from one half of the 10 foot wide trail and leaves the other side with snow so cross country skiers can enjoy the beautiful scenery during the winter months. In October of 2020, a beautiful, new pedestrian bridge was installed on the Greenway Trail between Gill Park and River Park Square. This is doing something that has been a goal of the Plymouth Park Department for many years, which is to connect as many of our parks together as we can. We are still working very hard on expanding the Greenway Trail to make it even more accessible for community members and visitors to Plymouth.

Current Programs

Plymouth, Indiana offers many different programs for the citizen of our wonderful city. We work with different organizations and volunteers to develop and maintain different programs, all with the same goal in mind; to benefit and enhance the lives of people living in our community. Following is a list of just some of the programs and events we offer for the local residents:

- Over 400 youth participate in the Junior League Baseball program.
- The public pool is open from May until August. We offer morning and evening swimming lessons for children beginning at age 3.
- Other leagues that use our facilities are: Plymouth Horseshoe Club, Plymouth Shuffleboard League, Youth and Adult Softball Leagues and Plymouth Tennis League
- We currently offer a day camp program during the summer months. This gives the opportunity for local children to spend the day in the park safely supervised by qualified day camp counselors. The number of campers that we have continues to rise, and 2021 was our most attended summer yet.
- The Park Department offers many free holiday events to the Plymouth community. We have free events for Easter, Halloween and Christmas, along with other events throughout the year.
- There are free exercise classes offered at our Webster Recreational Facility two nights a week and they have maintained a steady following.
- Yoga at River Park Square is held Saturday mornings during Farmer's Market
- A Daddy Daughter Dance is offered every February and is a very popular event.
- A Mother/Son Event in the Spring
- The mayor puts on a month of entertainment at River Park Square during August.
- Each Labor Day Weekend the Blueberry Festival is held in Centennial Park. It is a huge undertaking and is the largest 4-day festival in Indiana
- The Latin Fest is held every year and is heavily attended

Natural Features and Landscape

Physiography

Plymouth has beautiful natural features that bring a lot to our local area. The beautiful Yellow River flows through the City. There are several bridges over the river and the Greenway Trail meanders along the mighty Yellow. A rain garden was created along the Yellow River, behind the tennis courts in Centennial Park. We partnered with the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation to complete the project. This has alleviated some water pooling issues we were having and cuts down on erosion along the banks. The city of Plymouth has approximately 60% tree canopy coverage with Maple and Oak being the most prominent tree species. The Yellow River winds through the heart of Plymouth and is directly connected to and shapes five (5) of the parks within the Plymouth Parks Department. Floating and kayaking the river is a popular summer pastime and has prompted the installation of two kayak launches to connect Centennial Park to River Park Square. With the recent donation of six (6) kayaks, the Plymouth Park Department is looking towards expanding its involvement in water sports.

Intergovernmental communication with Marshall County is crucial, as that entity is the point of contact when there is something obstructing the Yellow River. Fallen trees and river dams do make up most of the blockage issues. Most of the city's Greenway Trails run alongside the Yellow River. These trails tend to be dense with shrubs, flowers, and trees, which provide shade and cover but also issues with fallen trees. In 2021, a high-wind storm blew a large tree over which crashed into a wooden bridge along the Greenway Trail. That section of the trail was closed for about one week, but promptly addressed and repaired internally by the Park Department maintenance staff. As a proactive measure, the park superintendent and city forester frequently discuss removal and/or trimming of trees to stay ahead of dead/dying trees.

All the topographic features and surface sediments in and around Plymouth are the result of glacial action and of more recent modifications by wind, running water, and weathering during the last few thousand years. Plymouth lies near the center of the Northern Lake and moraine region comprising roughly the northern three tiers of counties in Indiana. Specifically, the Plymouth area lies on the eastern edge of the Maxinkuckee (glacial) Moraine, a low, irregularly-surfaced ridge of several miles breadth that formed at the fluctuating margins of waning glacial ice. Thus, the topography of particularly the western and northwestern portions of the Plymouth area is characteristically morainic with a finely undulating surface of little more than 50 feet of local relief and having an average altitude of about 810 feet. The outwash materials at the time of their deposition also surrounded or buried isolated blocks of glacial ice which upon melting left most of the pond-to-lake-size depressions. Much of the area northeast, east and south of Plymouth has been termed the "outwash plain" and "outwash plain transitional to moraine". Partly because of the complex local relations between outwash plain and moraine ridge, little distinction in topography is evident between the two units.

The narrow shallow valley of the Yellow River crosses the moraine at and near Plymouth and modifies the topography already described. The modern, comparatively flat flood plain is hardly more than a quarter of a mile wide and lies about 35 feet below the average upland surface. Some older flood plain levels may be preserved as terraces and may account for the intermediate elevations between the lowest flood plain levels and the upland surface.

With the Yellow River shaping our most prominent parks, flooding is a concern for the Park Department. The Conservation Clubhouse, a frequently rented and highly utilized building, is a 2-level structure that sits near the river along Magnetic Parkway. The basement has flooded in the past and continues to be a concern with the uptick in extreme weather. River Park Square was built in an area that frequently floods and was specifically designed to replace houses in the floodplain, provide a new park and greenspace, and withstand flooding. Future plans to continue developing this park and extend the Greenway Trails does factor in the flooding issues.

Garlic mustard and bittersweet are invasive plants that can be found in this area. The park does have a rain garden in Centennial Park along the Greenway Trail. Seeing as this area floods often, it does require frequent upkeep to maintain the space after a flood.

Man-made, Historical and Cultural

Cultural

Because the percentage of Plymouth citizens of Hispanic origin continues to rise, the Plymouth Park Department is striving to reach that population. There is a very large number of citizens of Hispanic origin that rent out our facilities. Baptisms and Quincineras are two very important events in lives of our Hispanic neighbors. The Webster Center has proven to be an ideal venue for those celebrations. Word of mouth and a friendly staff has helped get the word out about the availability of the Webster Center to rent for such events. The Plymouth Park Department also hosts a "Latino Festival" each summer. Hundreds of citizens come to River Park Square to sample authentic cuisine, browse the vendor area and listen to traditional Latino music. Booths are also set up to discuss local social services that are available to everyone in our community. It is a good place to gather information for those who may be new to our community.

Transportation Links

Plymouth, Indiana is located at the intersection of US 30 & US 31, about 25 miles south of the metro South Bend area. The South Bend International Airport and I-80/90 is an easy commute. Indianapolis is located 100 miles south on US 31. Chicago is about 80 miles west. Most local traffic uses the country roads and municipal streets for daily travel. The city of Plymouth

continuously analyzes street and sidewalk conditions and sets annual goals for updating these crucial infrastructures. As businesses and homes continue to be built along the outskirts of the city, new sidewalks are installed. The park department is looking towards adding more Greenway Trails to connect more of the parks together with easy-to-access and ADA accessible sidewalks/trails. Packard's Woods is the park on the west-side of the city that the department is currently analyzing a logical extension of the trail system to this area. An area of concern will be crossing the railroad that runs from the north to the south side of the city with no under or over pass. New construction on the north side of Centennial Park, Centennial Crossings, has also prompted the extension of the trail system to the north, across Plymouth-Goshen Trail, and with future connection to Price's Memorial Park.

Industry in Plymouth

Many patrons of our Parks are hardworking individuals employed by one of the many businesses in our area. The Plymouth Community School Corporation employs many of our patrons and the teachers and support staff take advantage of many of our summer programs. There are also several factories in Plymouth as well as restaurant and service industry jobs. In the late 1950's, a group of citizens felt that employment within the city of Plymouth should be developed. The Plymouth Industrial Development Corporation, PIDCO for short, was formed. The purpose was to secure land to build buildings and rent them to new companies, or to loan money to new companies if they would locate in Plymouth. Some of the earlier companies were: Bomarko, Young Door, Panelcraft and MidAmerica Containers. Many new jobs have been provided for Marshall County people through the efforts of PIDCO which is still growing and attracting new businesses to the Plymouth area. The addition of Pretzels, Inc., Indiana Wheel Co., and the most recent addition in Divert, Inc., an organic recycling company who has purchased the Redevelopment Commission's manufacturing center on Pioneer Drive, as well as expansions at CTE Solutions, Bomarko, Zentis, and Hoosier Tire, Plymouth continues to have a booming industrial park.

Plymouth Parks Department History

The Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department was established on March 27, 1967 when an ordinance was passed by the Plymouth City Council. The original Park Department was established under the provisions of Section 201, Chapter 311, Article II of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for 1965. In, 1992, the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department was re-established under the current provisions of Indiana Code 36-10, Chapter 3. In the early part of the 20th century, the area known as Centennial Park at the north edge of Plymouth was a fair ground. In 1970, then Mayor Chuck Glaub proposed adding seventy-five acres across the river. This area was purchased by the City of Plymouth and was added to the park. The newly acquired property was joined to the original by a covered bridge. In the year 2020, Mayor Mark Senter and the Plymouth Park Board named that part of Centennial Park,

"The Charles O. Glaub Addition" recognizing former Mayor Glaub for his foresight in planning. Magnetic Park, located along Yellow River, was developed in the 1930's. Through the Works Project Administration (WPA) of the federal government, a club house was built in the park that is still used for many activities today. In 1964 a group of citizens formed a committee and raised enough money to construct a public pool. This is the same facility that is used today by hundreds of people during the summer. Throughout the years the Plymouth Parks continued with expansion adding Hand, Founders, Gill, Packard, and Poplar Street parks. In 2014 Plymouth Parks opened up River Park Square, a park located in the middle of downtown Plymouth. A complete restoration happened in 2015 to the playground located at Packard's Woods Park. The new playground is all-inclusive and is named Freedom Park. Continuing with the progressive tradition of adding new parks, our newest acquisition is Price's Memorial Park. We are looking forward to continuing the rich history of the Plymouth Park and Recreation Department into the future.

Social and Economic Factors (Data from 2020 Census.gov website)

Population

- Plymouth had 10,214 residents.
- 48% Male, 52% Female
- White alone, not Hispanic/Latino; 70%, Hispanic Origin; 24.5%
Black or African American alone; 1.7, Two or more races; 2.5%,
Asian alone; 0.6%, White alone; 87.9%
- 11.7% of population under 65 years of age has a disability
- 19.9% of population speaks a language other than English at home

Economics in Plymouth

- Median household income 2015-2019 estimated \$37,610
- 79.1% are high school graduates or higher

Housing

- Average household size in Plymouth (persons per household): 2.5
- Median gross rent, 2015-2019: \$696
- Addition of Centennial Crossing housing development in 2021: 240 units

Education

- 79.1% of population High school graduates
- 17.2% Bachelor's degree or higher

Accessibility and Universal Design

Statement of Accessibility for Plymouth

Residents with disabilities must be considered in the preparation of any recreational plan. We feel like we are doing a very good job for the residents of Plymouth and all of its visitors. According to the most recent 2020 Census data, 11.7% of the population in the City of Plymouth have a disability of varying nature. The U.S. Census categorizes disability as an individual that has a long-lasting physical, mental or emotional condition. The condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, learning or remembering. The condition can also impede an individual's ability to go outside or participate in activities alone. The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with over 50 employees designate at least one individual to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. As a best management practice, the city attorney serves as the ADA coordinator for the City of Plymouth. If there are ever any questions, grievances or concerns, please contact Sean Surrisi at 574-936-2948.

The Plymouth Park Department takes our citizens with disabilities very seriously. We have many areas within our park system that are accessible for those in wheelchairs or walkers. For more information, please call our Park Office at 574-936-2876 and ask for the Office Manager or Superintendent and they will direct you to areas including:

- Hoosier Old Wheels Pavilion and play structure
- Plymouth Pool with handicap lift
- Park Office
- Conservation Club House
- Webster Center
- Young Amphitheater
- Dixon Lake boat launch
- Freedom Park all-inclusive playground
- Poplar Street Park
- Several picnic tables
- Nixon Field

- “B” League Diamond
- “C” League Diamond
- Pony League Diamond
- Centennial Park
- Freedom Park
- River Park Square

Proposed Accessibility

Plymouth has a strong need to replace many of our current play structures to become totally ADA compliant. Luckily, we are will be seeing two new playgrounds constructed in the next year that will make long strides in our goal to make all of our areas accessible to everyone. A new playground at the Hoosier Old Wheels shelter will increase safety, as the old playground was requiring more than our general maintenance to continue to be safe. The new playground will have paved sidewalks as well as safety surface placed. We will also be constructing a brand-new playground area at River Park Square in the near future, using all of the safety features needed to be ADA compliant. Along with the playground, wide, paved paths will be constructed for easy access to the park’s features for those in wheelchairs or walkers.

The Plymouth Park Department was able to install a new kayak/canoe launch at River Park Square and make it handicapped accessible for those wanting to float the river.

On March 26, 2012, the City adopted its Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan: Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, a document which identifies and prioritizes pedestrian intersections throughout the City that are in need of repair and rehabilitation. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the City creates reasonable, accessible paths of travel in the public right-of-way for everyone, including people with disabilities. The plan addresses needed improvements to many sidewalks leading to and from the City’s parks. Such improvements will be made in order of priority as funds become available. The completion of such improvements will further enhance the accessibility of the City’s parks.

Public Participation

The Park Department developed a survey and encouraged citizens to complete it. The survey was active on the website [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) for one month, July 15, 2021-August 15, 2021. Residents received links to the survey in their monthly water bills. A paper survey was also offered to each resident or non-resident who wished to fill one out. The medium in which we received the majority of our responses was through the Plymouth Park Department’s Facebook page. Facebook has been a wonderful tool for us to get our messages and events to a large number of people in a short amount of time. We will be continuing to use social media as a way to easily communicate with community members in the next 5 years.

Below you will find some survey highlights and the entire survey will be included later in this report.

Survey Highlights:

- 83.25% of respondents use the park system more than once a month
- 71.29% of respondents used River Park Square in 2020
- 67.45% of respondents live inside the city limits
- 67.45% of respondents would rate the park system as High/Very High quality
- 97% of respondents think we need a new pool
- The most common response (67.6%) of what citizens typically do in the park was walk/run/jog.

An open public meeting was held on August 2, 2021 at the Conservation Club House and advertised by the local radio station WTCA on their website and on-air spots. The Pilot News also publicized the meeting as well as Max 98.3 online and on air. The Park Department Facebook page also promoted the meeting in the weeks/days beforehand. There was one citizen present and he spoke of the importance of trail development to connect parks to one another. While the Park Board was disappointed in the poor turn-out, there was constructive conversation about trails.

The second open public meeting took place on September 7, 2021 at the Conservation Clubhouse and was advertised by the local radio stations and new organizations listed above. Twelve citizens attended and one citizen sent a letter because he was unable to make the meeting. Two citizens were in attendance to advocate for the pickle ball players in the community. They are looking to add more courts. A gentleman also suggested to the Park Board that they look into the option of a baseball/soccer sports complex, stating that it is getting difficult to find enough practice fields, and it could possibly bring in some revenue for the City. The baseball scoreboard at the C-League diamond was also brought up as needing to be replaced. One woman spoke about the importance of swim lessons in our community and advocated for making those still easily accessible when we are thinking of what to do with the public pool. A mother spoke about how slippery the splash pad at River Park Square gets sometimes with the algae. A letter from a citizen encouraged the Park Board to think of our future trail endeavors not only as recreation amenities, but also transportation connections throughout the City-easily connecting neighborhoods, parks and schools. The Park Board was pleased with the turnout and will take each and every suggestion under advisement.

The rough draft of the 5- year plan was put on display at the Plymouth Park Department, the Plymouth City office, and the Plymouth Public Library from December 2021 through February 2022. During this time, the citizens have another opportunity to review the plan and make any other suggestions for the final plan.

Needs Analysis

Since the Plymouth Park Department is developing this master plan in house, we are using a simplified issue analysis method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from each method of public input, the input from the park board and the park staff, and identified common themes from each method and condensed those themes into underlying issues. The issues were placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints, then turned into a coherent priority and action plan.

Issues from the Public Input

- Extend the Greenway Trail
- Expand disc golf course
- Renovate “Kiddie Kingdom” in Centennial Park
- New pool facility
- More activities for teens
- More outdoor seating throughout parks
- More pickleball courts

Issues from the Park Board and Staff

- Construct a new pool facility of some sort
- Extend the Greenway Trail
- Replace and expand the storage building called the chicken coop
- Remove and replace outdated/unsafe play equipment
- New office space to include Recreation Director’s office and meeting area
- Make all areas of the park ADA accessible
- Improve basketball courts by pool
- Plan for a new Recreation Center that can handle large events

What we need

- Consistent funding throughout this 5 year period

Priorities and Action Schedule

Setting the priorities for this plan was difficult, as financial constraints are the deciding factor for almost all new development of Plymouth Parks.

Transition into the New Plan

During the transition into the new planning period, the Plymouth Park and Recreation Department will concentrate on fundraising of all types, with an eye toward increasing the current Plymouth Parks non reverting Capitol Improvement Fund.

Potential fundraising options during the transition period:

- Creative partnerships/inter-local agreements
- Grants
- Donations
- In-kind, service, and products
- Bequests
- Tax write-offs
- Naming rights

Fundraising will be critical; each of the action plan elements depends on having available funds to create it. Citizens of Plymouth have provided input into what they want from parks and recreation for the next five years; now it is time to figure out a way to pay for it. We must keep in mind that, for example, many grants that are available need some type of “match” for an entity to be eligible. Therefore, current budget projections must reflect this opportunity. We should also look to partner with other entities and combine efforts to realize the same goals.

Priorities for 2022-2026

- Develop free standing youth tennis and pickle ball courts
- Develop a new pool
- Develop new office space
- Install ADA compliant walkways to all shelters
- Fundraising
- Develop new trails to connect parks and City neighborhoods
- Renovate or replace Kiddie Kingdom
- Develop more seating areas throughout the parks
- Develop more activities for teenagers
- Greater outreach and programs for the Hispanic community

Plymouth Park Department Action Schedule

Budget Year	Priority Item	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
2022+	Fundraising for further development of the Park	Park Board, staff, volunteers, and grant writers	Estimated cost \$3,000+ for advertising, promotions, and grant writing	Donations from the community, local businesses: grants
2022-2026	Greenway Trail connectivity	Park Board, staff, and city	Estimated cost \$1,000,000+	TE Grant, other grants, city and park budget
2022-2026	Continue development of River Park Square	Park Board, staff, redevelopment, and City	Estimated cost \$400,000+	Redevelopment \$, park budget and grants.
2022-2026	Develop ADA compliant walkways to pavilions	Park staff and volunteers.	Estimated cost \$50,000+	Donations, park budget, grants, and help from city sidewalk crew
2023	Development of new pool With a combination splash pad	Park Board, staff, volunteers, and grant writers	Estimated cost \$5,000,000+	Donations, park budget, grants, and bonds
2022-2026	Develop new office space to include Rec. Director and meeting area	Park Board, Park Staff	Estimated cost \$300,000	City and Park Budget
2024	Refurbish restrooms at Price's Pond, Freyman, and Hoosier Old Wheels	Park Board, staff, volunteers, and grant writers	Estimated Cost \$300,000 +	Donations, grants, and park budget
2022-2026	Upgrade all playgrounds that have unsafe equipment and replace	Activity Director, Maintenance staff, Superintendent	Estimated Cost \$30000	Grants, Park Budget, and donations
2023	Develop free standing youth tennis and pickle ball courts	Park Board, staff, and volunteers	Estimated Cost \$110,000	Grants, Park Budget and donations
2026	C-League and Pony diamond Light replacement	Superintendent	\$225,000	Park budget and donations
2022-2026	Develop an outreach program for our growing population of our Hispanic Community	Park Board, Superintendent, Activities Director and Staff	\$10,000	Park budget and donations
2023	Additional equipment for the Dog Park	Superintendent and maintenance dept.	\$5,000	Donations
2024	Upgrade the skate park	Superintendent, Park Board, and volunteers	\$20,000	Park budget and donations
2024	New storage building replacing the chicken coop	Superintendent, Park Board, and volunteers	\$80,000	Park budget, grants, and donations
2022-2024	Internet or WIFI at each park	Park staff, IT company	\$15,000	Park budget
2022-2026	Investigate expanding tax base	Park Board		

PLYMOUTH PARK DEPARTMENT 5 YEAR PLAN SURVEY

Posted by Kathy Bottorff in [News](#)

July 15, 2021



Plymouth Park Superintendent Mike Hite and the Plymouth Park and Recreation Board invite the public to participate in the 2022-2027 5-Year Plan survey.

All hopeful recipients of state grants must submit their 5-year plan to the State of Indiana to be eligible for any grant opportunities.

The short survey will be active for one month, July 15, 2021 through August 15, 2021. The survey is easily accessible using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XY27GR2>.

Information about the survey will also be included with all water bills for the City of Plymouth, but it is not exclusive to those living inside the city limits. Paper copies of the survey are available at the Plymouth Park Department Office, located at 1660 North Michigan Street, Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:00.

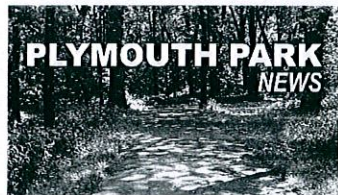
The Plymouth Park and Recreation Board will also be holding two public meetings to discuss the 5-Year Plan. Those will be held immediately following the August 2, and September 7, Park Board meetings at the Conservation Clubhouse.

More information on the public meetings will be released closer to the dates. Please contact the Park Office, 574-936-2876 with any questions.

Public Input Sought for Plymouth Park Board's 5-Year Plan Update

Posted by Kathy Bottorff in [News](#) AM1050 WTCA

on July 27, 2021



The Plymouth Park and recreation Board will meet Monday, August 2 at 5 p.m. in the Conservation Club House.

Immediately following the regularly scheduled August meeting the Plymouth Park and Recreation Board will be holding a public meeting to discuss ideas regarding the 5-year plan. The Park Board will be updating their current 5-year plan to be eligible to apply for grants Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

While the 5-year plan is a road map of where the parks are planning to go, it's not set in stone. There are many reasons to create a master plan, including but not limited to:

- Formulating a written framework for future action that acts as a guide for sensible facility and service development
- Providing community input opportunities
- Ensuring that the public actually wants the facilities that are developed
- Providing an opportunity to share information about your programs and facilities with the public
- Giving a clear sense of direction for the park system
- Improving funding opportunities

The Park Board members want to hear from the citizens who fund the parks through taxes and citizens who use the parks. They will be looking for suggestions of implementing new activities, extending current facilities such as a trail, the need for improvements, constructing new facilities and apparatus.

The Plymouth Park and Recreation Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:00. Meetings are held at the Conservation Clubhouse located at 720 Magnetic Parkway.

If you have any questions, please contact the Plymouth Park Department at 574-936-2876

Plymouth Pilot News, Monday, 9/6/21

Plymouth Park Department looking for comments on 5 year plan

There will be one more public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7 to discuss the Plymouth Park and Recreation Department's five year plan.

The Park Board urges the residents of Plymouth to come and discuss what you and your family would like to see happen in the next five years regarding the City of Plymouth's Park and Recreation Department. Please come to the Conservation Clubhouse (720 Magnetic Parkway) at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7 and join us for our meeting.



Plymouth Park Board Looking for Public Comments on Five-Year Plan

Posted on September 7, 2021 Author Anita Goodan

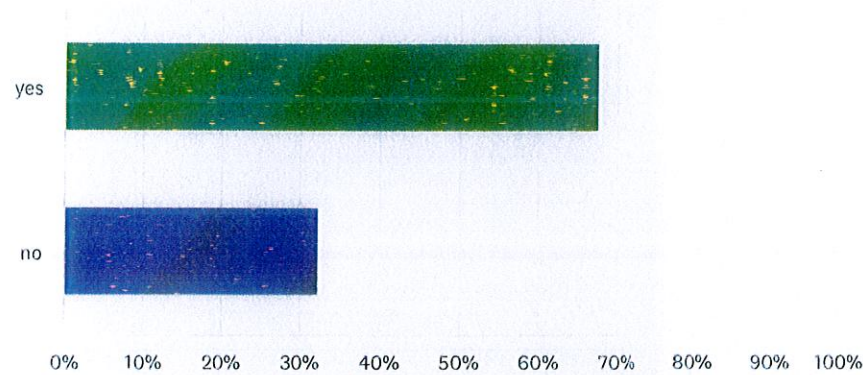
The Plymouth Park Board members will be accepting additional public comments tonight concerning their proposed five-year plan.

This is an opportunity for residents to put in ideas for projects in the park systems in the City of Plymouth over the next five years.

Tonight's meeting is at 5 p.m. ET at the Conservation Clubhouse at 720 Magnetic Parkway. If there are questions, call 574-936-2876.

Q1 Do you live inside the Plymouth city limits?

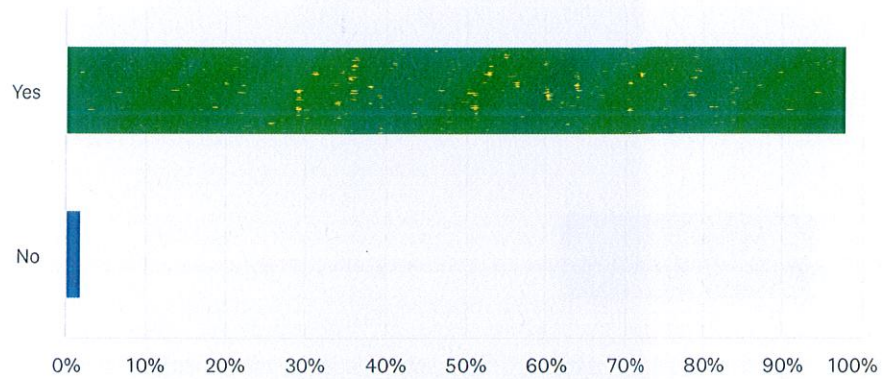
Answered: 433 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
yes	67.67%	293
no	32.33%	140
TOTAL		433

Q2 Do you live in Marshall County?

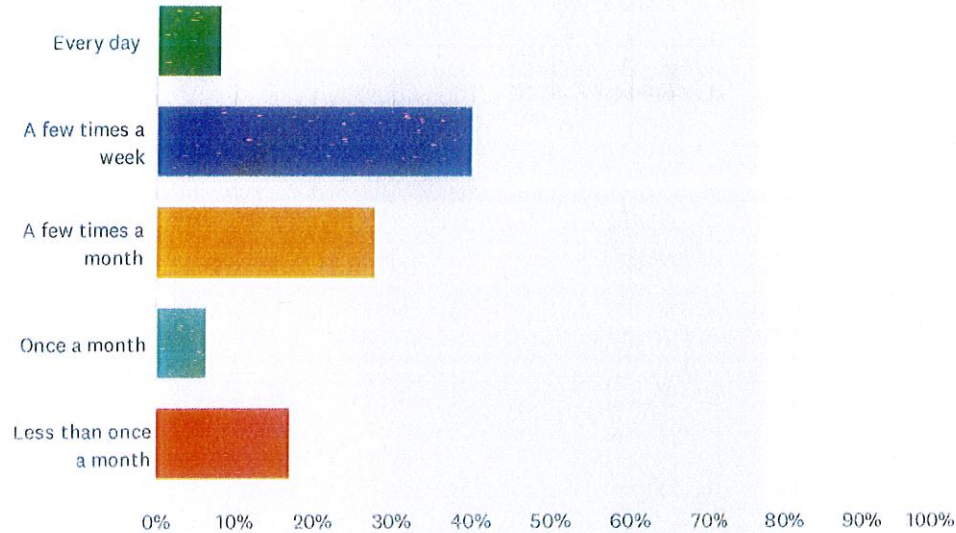
Answered: 433 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.15%	425
No	1.85%	8
TOTAL		433

Q3 How often do you use the Plymouth Park System (parks, games, events)?

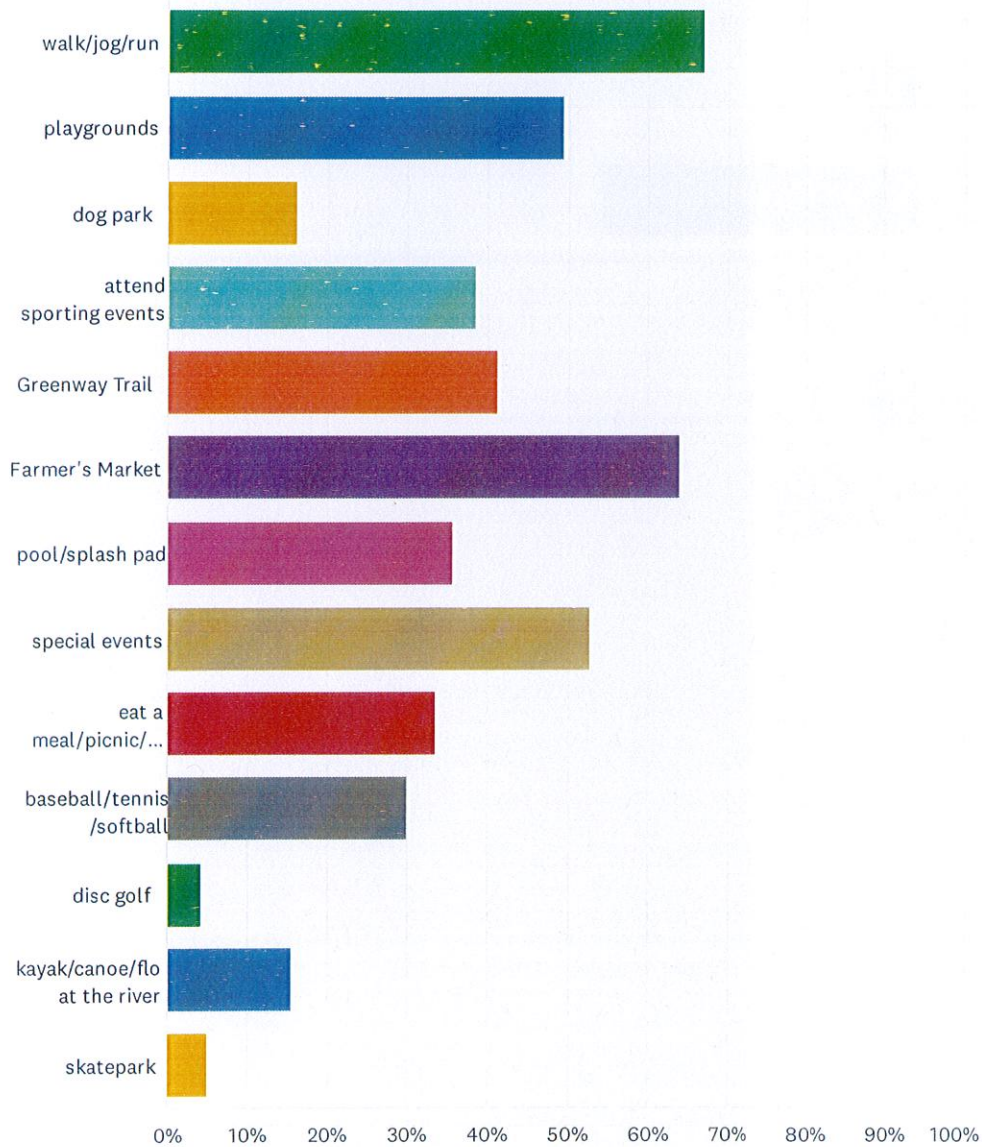
Answered: 433 Skipped: 1

**ANSWER CHOICES****RESPONSES**

Every day	8.08%	35
A few times a week	40.18%	174
A few times a month	27.94%	121
Once a month	6.47%	28
Less than once a month	17.32%	75
TOTAL		433

Q4 What activities do you typically do in the parks?

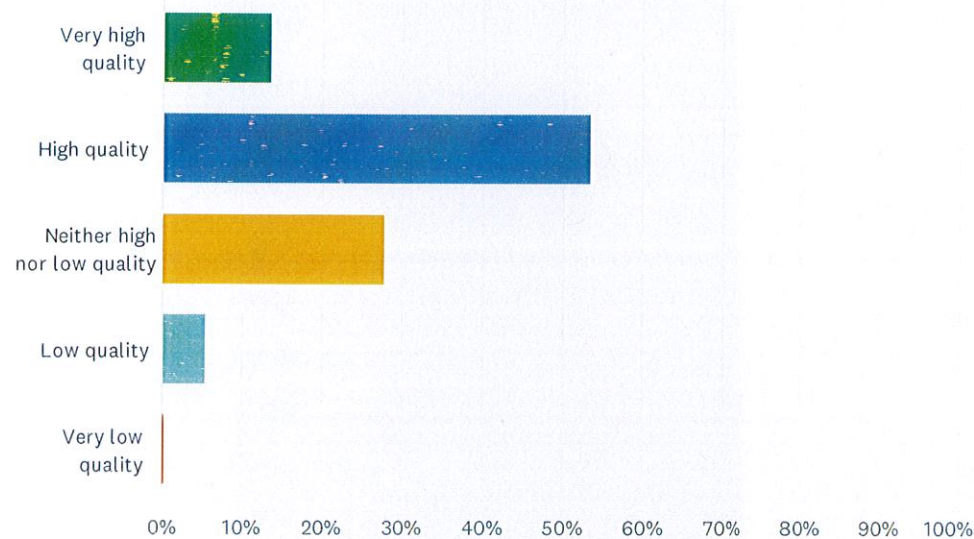
Answered: 428 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
walk/jog/run	67.06%	287
playgrounds	49.53%	212
dog park	16.12%	69
attend sporting events	38.55%	165
Greenway Trail	41.36%	177
Farmer's Market	64.02%	274
pool/splash pad	35.75%	153
special events	52.80%	226
eat a meal/picnic/family reunion	33.64%	144
baseball/tennis/softball	30.14%	129
disc golf	4.21%	18
kayak/canoe/float the river	15.65%	67
skatepark	5.14%	22
Total Respondents: 428		

Q5 How would you rate our Park system?

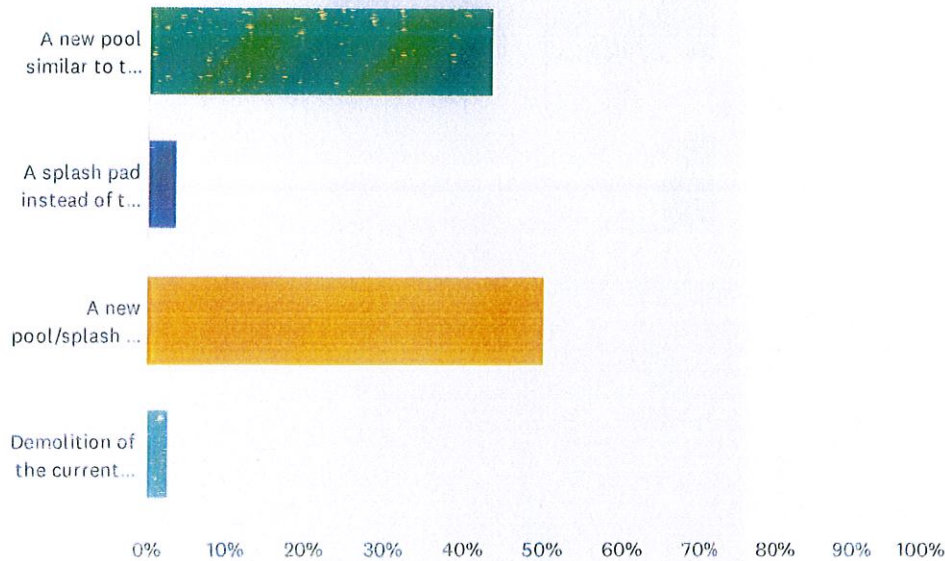
Answered: 433 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very high quality	13.63%	59
High quality	53.58%	232
Neither high nor low quality	27.94%	121
Low quality	5.54%	24
Very low quality	0.46%	2
Total Respondents: 433		

Q6 Public Pool: What would you like to see happen in Centennial Park regarding possible pool renovations?

Answered: 403 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES

A new pool similar to the current set up (pool, kiddie pool, diving board/slide)

A splash pad instead of the public pool

A new pool/splash pad combination

Demolition of the current pool and nothing added

RESPONSES

43.42% 175

3.72% 15

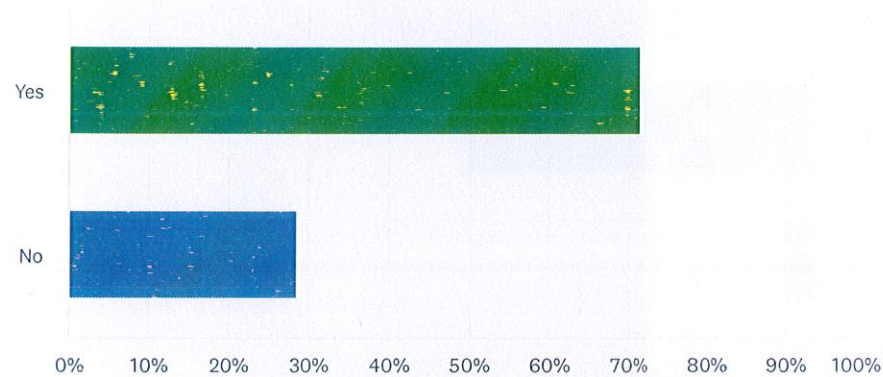
50.12% 202

2.73% 11

TOTAL 403

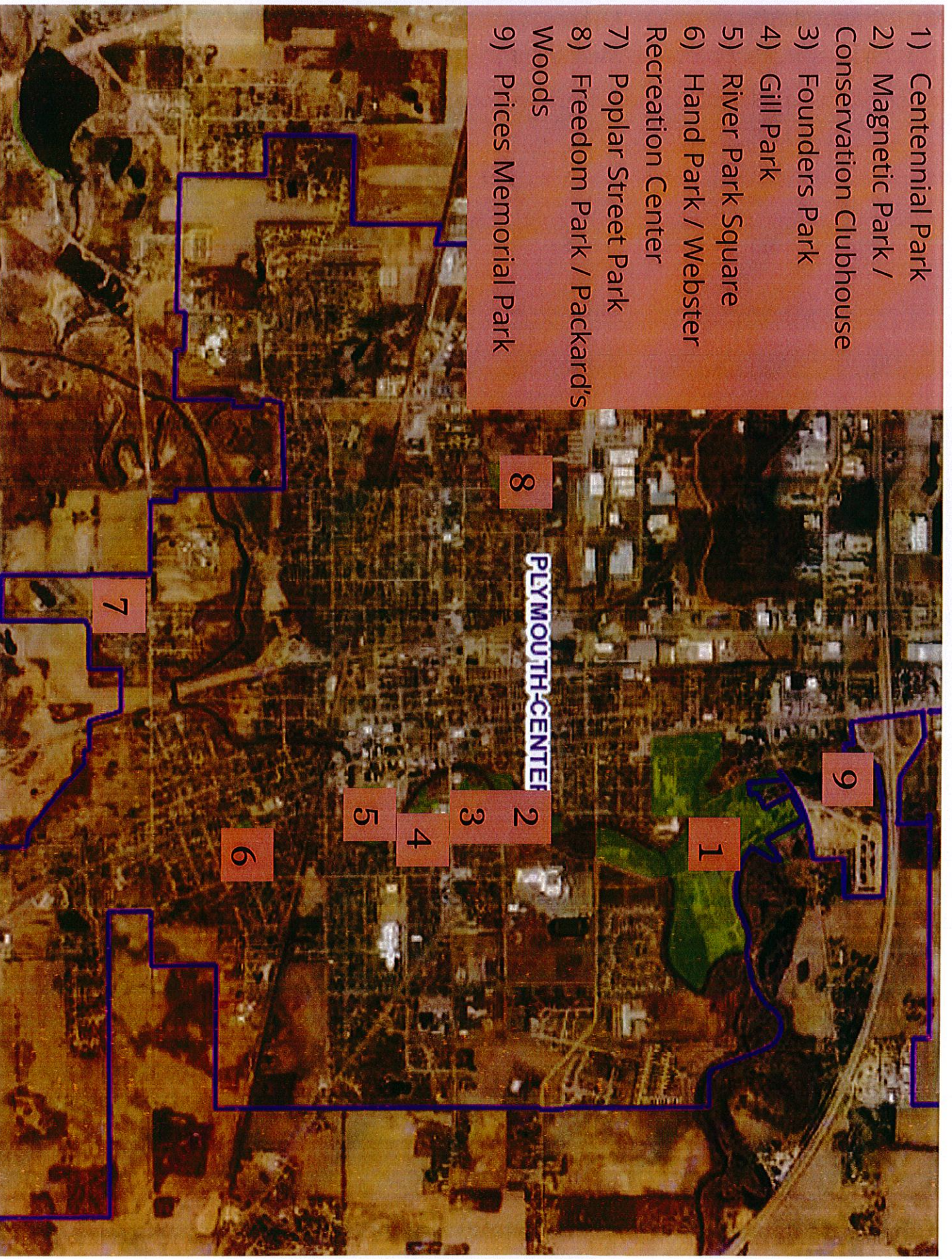
Q7 Did you attend one of the events at River Park Square this year?

Answered: 434 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	310
No	28.57%	124
TOTAL		434

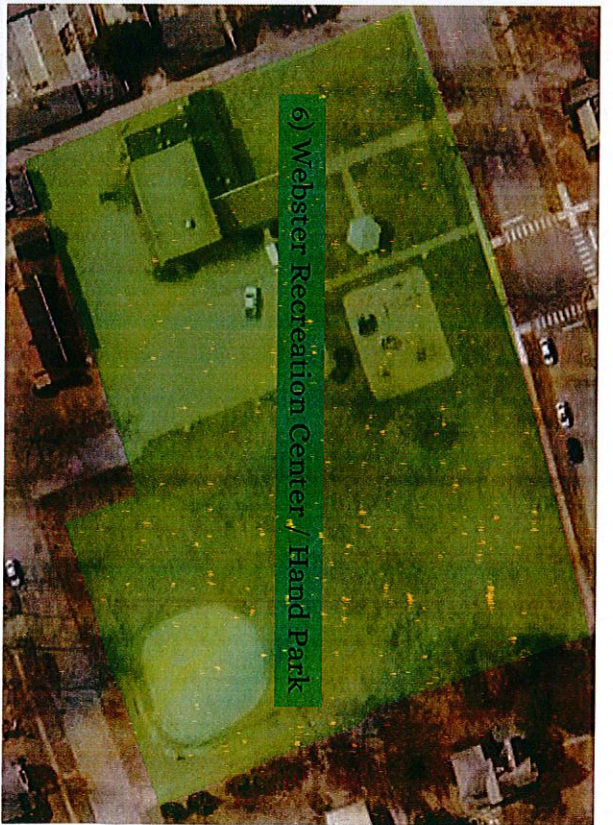
- 1) Centennial Park
- 2) Magnetic Park / Conservation Clubhouse
- 3) Founders Park
- 4) Gill Park
- 5) River Park Square
- 6) Hand Park / Webster Recreation Center
- 7) Poplar Street Park
- 8) Freedom Park / Packard's Woods
- 9) Prices Memorial Park



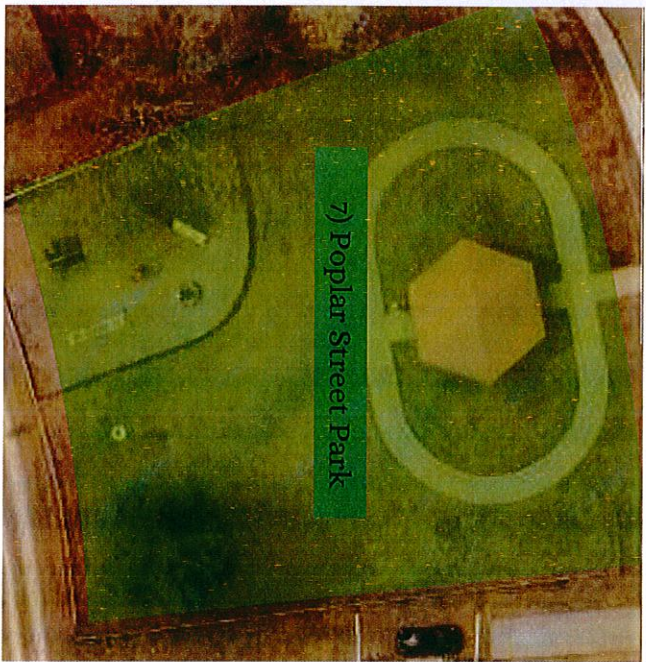




5) River Park Square



6) Webster Recreation Center / Hand Park



7) Poplar Street Park



8) Packards Woods / Freedom Park



9) Prices Memorial Park

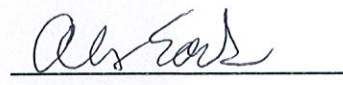
ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior and have completed their self-evaluation of the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department and it is our intent to comply with these guidelines and act to the best of our ability.

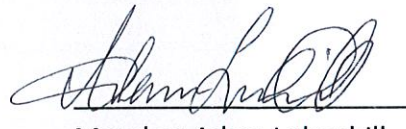
Passed and signed 12/6/21

PLYMOUTH PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

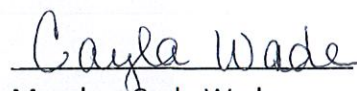

President, Dave Morrow


Member Alex Eads


Vice President, Mike Kershner


Member Adam Lukenbill


Secretary, Laura Mann


Member Cayla Wade

Attested: 
Park Superintendent, Mike Hite