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CITY OF PICKERINGTON

LIST OF CREDITS

- **Mayor**
 - David Shaver
- **City Council**
 - Brian Wisniewski, President Pro Tempore
 - Jeff Fix
 - Ted Hackworth
 - Cristie Hammond
 - Heidi Riggs
 - Michael Sabatino
 - Keith Smith
- **Parks and Recreation Board**
 - Wes Campbell, Chairman
 - Dale Frazier, Vice Chairman
 - H. Lynn Boetcher
 - Susan Green
 - Yulanda Hammond
- **City Staff**
 - Judith Gilleland, City Manager
 - Steve Carr, Parks and Recreation Director
- **Consultant**
 - Edsall & Associates LLC
Landscape Architects/Planners

A Resolution Adopting the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the City of Pickerington (Resolution No. 2006-75R) was passed by City Council on December 19, 2006, and became effective January 18, 2007.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

• HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- 1808 - The first settlers arrived in the area.
- 1815 - Abraham Pickering acquired an 80 acre tract and laid out the original plat of old Pickerington. Initially the village was named Jacksonville in honor of General Andrew Jackson's victory over the British at New Orleans.
- 1827 - Name changed to Pickerington to honor Mr. Pickering for his generosity and regard for public welfare.
- 1881 - Pickerington incorporated as a village.
- 1900's - Amateur baseball played in the Doval race track oval. The Pickerington IOOF Lodge band played during the summer and was a featured attraction at the Memorial Day and Labor Day homecoming celebrations.
- 1920's - A golf club formed and developed a course in the area that now includes Meadbrook Homes. The Beals Lake Addition was started as a recreational and commercial venture with a 3.5 acre lake on Milnor Run for swimming and fishing.
- 1941 - Land for Victory Park donated to the village by A.S. Good and Dr. S.B. Taylor to be used for recreation and civic purposes.
- 1964 - Pickerington School Board acquired 14 acres adjacent to Victory Park for multi-sports fields which created the first park/school facility in Pickerington.
- 1989 - The official Pickerington seal featuring the Zeller Smith Covered Bridge designed by Nancy Brackbill, a local resident, was adopted.
- 1991 - Pickerington became a city.
- 1996 - The City was designated by the Ohio Legislature as the "Violet Capital of Ohio."
- 1996 - A Park, Recreation, Open Space and Gateway Plan was prepared for Pickerington.
- 2006 - Edsall & Associates LLC retained to prepare a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the City of Pickerington.

• GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Previous planning programs and reports have embodied a number of goals and objectives that relate to the development of park and recreation facilities which are as relevant today as when they were originally prepared.
- **2001 Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan prepared by Dodson-Stilson and City Staff**
 - Land Use Goals
 - Plan future land use so as to best utilize the remaining, undeveloped land in a manner compatible with existing uses and to help achieve and maintain a balance of land uses compatible with future infrastructure, transportation and economic vitality of the community.
 - Land Use Objectives
 - Support preservation and expansion of Pickerington Ponds and enhance park system.
 - Encourage planned developments which increase general quality of parks and open space.
 - As development occurs, parks and open space need to increase to balance overall development.
 - Measures need to be taken to ensure that the rural character of the planning area is not lost due to future development. Incentives to maintain as much of the parks and open space as possible need to be developed so as not to lose this element which contributes to the high quality of the planning area's living environment.
 - Transportation Goals
 - Identify existing and forecast traffic demand and plan for the appropriate modifications to the current transportation system. Planning additional roads or widening of existing corridors should both consider the aesthetics experienced by the traveler and the residents. Alternative modes of transportation such as bike-lanes and paths, connecting corridors with pedestrian walkways, park and ride, etc. should be encouraged. Upgrades should happen in accordance with future land uses designated throughout the planning area. Transportation systems should address the downtown corridor as a destination point, not as a major transportation corridor.
 - Transportation Objectives
 - Encourage expansion of bikeways and link to existing routes.
 - Encourage sidewalks, street trees and tree lawns to enhance pedestrian movements.
 - Residential Development and Neighborhood Goals
 - Sidewalks should be integrated along major roadways in a manner that will not hinder the rural character of the area. Perhaps through paving types, vegetation and limiting sidewalks to one side of the roadway would help to both preserve the rural character and provide a unifying theme to the area.
 - Develop a variety of housing, including senior housing, while preserving structures and areas of historical significance. Planned communities with a pedestrian connector to parks, recreation and schools should be encouraged. Growth should be linked to development of infrastructure (water, sanitary and storm sewers). Enforce zoning codes.

- Residential Development and Neighborhood Objectives
 - Preservation of existing trees should be encouraged with new development.
 - Enhance the pedestrian circulation and rural theme in residential areas through the use of interconnected bike and pedestrian pathways.
 - The open space requirements should be sufficient enough and ideally located so as to provide for the maximum use of a future park connector system.
 - Sidewalks should be developed along collector roads from large residential developments, which lead to public spaces such as parks, schools and the downtown.
 - Neighborhood design should consider the aesthetic character of the planning area and encouraged to take full use of natural characteristics in each new development.
 - Incorporate indigenous vegetation within neighborhoods along the pedestrian and bikeway corridors to help maintain the rural character and neighborhood integrity when necessary.
 - Link residential areas with parks, schools and commercial zones through the development of open space corridors. Efforts to connect these areas using pedestrian corridors could satisfy both the need for sidewalks as well as enhance rural character of the planning area.
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goals
 - Develop parks or green spaces within neighborhoods. Plan and identify pedestrian corridors, bike paths, greenways and parks to create a contiguous system. Existing wooded areas should be preserved. Green belts should be used wherever non-compatible land uses are adjacent to one another. Developers should be required to set aside a percentage of their project's land for parks and greenways.
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Objectives
 - Measures should be taken to increase park space, as development occurs in order to balance overall development.
 - Within newly platted subdivisions, land incorporated should be useable, both within the neighborhood as well as within the community's park system.
 - Bike paths and pedestrian corridors should be planned within the existing and future development of the planning area. Efforts should be made to obtain public easements within existing development and encourage future developments to provide for connectors to the planned greenways.
 - Recreation activities within the park system should reflect the needs of the people who use them. More activities such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields and basketball courts, should be provided to maintain an appropriate ratio between the many age groups and varied interests within the planning area.
 - Open space should be mandated in the design of future developments to include buffering the potentially incompatible uses adjacent to those developments. The amount and type of buffering should be based upon the intensity of development between the adjacent uses (ie. residential/commercial vs. residential/industrial).
 - The open space system should take advantage of any natural characteristics within the planning area. Creeks, ravines, wetlands, etc. will not only provide some of the most pleasant spaces to experience but will also help to maintain the rural character inherent to the planning area. Preserving as much of these areas as possible is to the advantage of everyone.
- **2005 Growth Management Assessment and Strategy prepared by McBride Dale Clarion.**
 - Regional Partnership Goals
 - The City will develop regional multi-jurisdictional partnerships to address issues that transcend City boundaries, such as economic development and traffic as well as parks and open space.
 - Coordinating with schools and Violet Township on parks planning, pedestrian planning and transportation planning are examples of the importance of a multi-jurisdictional approach to planning.
 - Cost of Growth Goals
 - New growth will pay its fair share of the cost of providing infrastructure needed as a result of that new growth. Cost of growth considerations will help guide land use planning and decisions.
 - Pickerington should require that new growth fund the public improvements (including parks) that are needed to serve that new growth. Impact fees allow the City to at least partially implement that policy.
 - Parks and Recreation Goals
 - City will provide a linked parks and recreation system for its residents.
 - Complete the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan identifying improvements and facilities needed for both current and future populations as well as methods of funding and implementation.
 - Future parks and recreation planning should also focus on parks "connectivity," meaning that park and recreation facilities should be viewed as a system whereby facilities are connected to each other, to neighborhoods and to civil facilities such as schools, wherever feasible.
 - As the City of Pickerington continues to mature and grow, one way to promote community quality of life and livability is to make it friendlier for pedestrians. A pedestrian orientation also helps promote the connectivity of the City, and can be especially effective when coordinated with parks and school planning. The City has begun efforts to explore a City-wide pedestrian strategy using the widened Diley Road as a pedestrian spine, and those efforts should be continued.

• PLANNING ATTRIBUTES/THE “BENEFITS”

•• Historical Premises

- The establishment of a Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is an investment in a community's current and future citizens, both young and old. The establishment of a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space System has historically shaped the very character of a community.
- Since 1857 when the officials of New York City commissioned the landscape architect/architect team of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux to design New York's Central Park, public parks have come to be recognized as essential institutions for the health, welfare and happiness of America's population.
- In the 21st century, parks and recreation are once again being recognized as a significant benefit to everyone's "quality of life", whether it is of an economic, environmental, or health and fitness benefit. The development of a first class park and recreation system helps to create an environment that promotes community pride and enhances community attractiveness which enhances the City's economic development program.

•• Economic

- Economic benefits of parks and recreation involve the retention as well as the attraction of businesses to a City (particularly high tech and service industries), increase in property values based on affinity of property to park facilities, serve as a catalyst for reinvestment of property and promoting travel and tourism. Open space makes economic sense. Open space is good for business. Study after study shows that communities with protected open space enjoy greater economic vitality than communities that do not protect their natural resources and parks.
 - Proximity to greenways, rivers and trails can increase sale prices, the marketability of adjacent properties and promote faster sales.
 - In the neighborhood of Cox Arboretum, in Dayton, Ohio, the proximity of the park and arboretum accounted for an estimated five (5%) percent of the average residential selling price of homes.
 - The realtors in Worthington, Ohio advised the Parks and Recreation Department they could sell a home similar to others in the community for \$10,000.00 more when that home was located near one (1) of the City's parks.
 - Increases in property values results in increased tax values. Park and open space investments often pay for themselves in a short period of time, due in part to increased property tax revenues from higher values of nearby property.
 - It was noted in a previous study, Whetstone Park and the Olentangy River were estimated to account for 73.5% of the selling prices of homes in the Whetstone Park area of Columbus. Conclusions showed that properties where the homes faced the park sold for between seven (7%) percent to twenty-three (23%) percent more than homes one (1) block from the park.

•• Environmental

- In any community, there is need to balance land development with open space. Preservation of natural resources, whether they be rivers, streams, topographic features, wetlands, woods, outstanding vegetation masses or unique habitats should be an important consideration in the planning of a community. Citizens benefit from sound environmental planning.
 - Greenways limit and control air pollution.
 - Green space is essential for recharging our aquifers.
 - Greenways maintain wildlife habitats and natural systems.
 - Greenways prevent pollution of surface and ground waters.
 - Trees and vegetation help reduce noise and dust and absorb pollutants.
 - One (1) shade tree may save the energy cost equivalent of four (4) air conditioners operating all day.

•• Health & Fitness

- Research on understanding and promoting physical activity is at an early stage, but some interventions to promote physical activity through schools, work sites and health care settings have been evaluated and found to be successful. Companies are realizing the benefits of healthy employees, both in increased efficiency and decreased health insurance claims. Greenways help promote fitness by providing convenient opportunities for exercise, such as walking and jogging.
 - Positive and enjoyable recreation experiences can decrease stress and psychological tensions.
 - Physical activity promotes employee fitness and improves health which reduces health care costs and lost work time.
 - Each additional mile walked or run by a sedentary person would give him or her an extra twenty-one (21) minutes of life.
 - General Electric found that employees who exercised were absent from work forty-five (45%) percent fewer days than those who did not.
 - Physical activity enhances mental health, fosters healthy muscles, bones and joints and helps maintain function and preserve independence in older adults.
 - Regular participation in physical activity appears to reduce depression and anxiety, improve moods and enhance ability to perform daily tasks throughout the life span.

- Physically active older people typically benefit from lower blood pressure, increased muscle strength, joint flexibility and lower total cholesterol levels than do less active people.
 - Higher levels of regular physical activity are associated with lower mortality rates for both older and younger adults. Even those who are moderately active on a regular basis have lower mortality rates than those who are least active.
 - A regular, preferably daily regimen of at least thirty (30) to forty-five (45) minutes of brisk walking, bicycling, or even working around the house or yard will reduce your risks of developing coronary heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer and diabetes.
- **Community/Quality of Life**
- Community pride is generated through leisure and park facilities. When communities compare themselves to one another, they almost always compare each other based on their evaluation of their levels of open space, recreation facilities and leisure program development.
 - Open space enhances our quality of life including recreation, education, aesthetic and spiritual enrichment.
 - Quality of life is increasingly cited as a major factor in corporate location decisions. In 1996 Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal noted recreation opportunities as the second most important quality of life location criteria. Labor factors, business costs and geographic factors were other considerations.

EXISTING FACILITY INVENTORY/EVALUATION

• NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS

- Based on the 1995 National "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines," Pickerington's existing parks may be classified based on size, character of development and radius or area served. Parks currently not developed have (ND) after the name. A community's park system typically includes:
- Mini Parks
 - Neighborhood Parks
 - Community Parks
 - Sports Complexes
 - School Parks
 - Greenways/Natural Resource Areas/ Preserves
- **Mini Parks:** The smallest park type may be as small as 2,500 S.F. to one (1) acre or less than five (5) acres. Mini parks typically serve a residential area 1/4 mile or less in radius. The development character of mini parks is characterized by passive facilities including landscaped areas, seating areas, playgrounds or unique recreational needs/sites. Mini parks usually are not large enough to accommodate off-street parking or programmed activities. The only areas in Pickerington that would qualify as mini parks are shown on the Existing Facilities map under the heading of Special Features/Facilities. Such facilities include:
- Gazebo Park - located at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Columbus Street and North Center Street, the area is used for special events and festivals.
 - The Plaza - located just west of the Carnegie Library, which is the home of the Pickerington Violet Township Historical Society, on the south side of West Columbus Street. The Plaza is a landscaped outdoor seating area which provides a linkage between the Olde Pickerington Village Center and Victory Park.
 - Pickerington Senior Center - located on Hereford Drive just south of Sycamore Creek Park, the center is used for a variety of senior activities.
 - Kerr Indian Mound - located on the north side of East Columbus Street/S.R. 256 just east of Timber Ridge Drive. The park preserves the Adena Indian Mound which is a significant archeological feature since no excavation has disturbed the mound's contents. The site affords a beautiful view of Pickerington and the surrounding area. Future considerations for this site should include expansion of the site, an interpretative facility to learn more about the Adena Indians and provisions for picnicking and parking.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Serves as the basic unit for a community's park system. Minimum size should be at least five (5) acres, up to ten (10) or more acres. Neighborhood parks serve a 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius area uninterrupted by non-residential streets. Neighborhood parks are generally not large enough to be used for programmed activities. Neighborhood parks usually include 50% active and 50% passive activities and may include seven (7) to ten (10) parking spaces. Neighborhood Parks are summarized in the Existing City of Pickerington Park Facilities tabulation. The three (3) existing neighborhood parks, including Colony, Willow Pond and Shawnee Crossing Parks, encompass a total of 17.1 acres. The current character of these parks are shown in the Existing Neighborhood Park photos. Areas served by each neighborhood park are shown on the Park/School Service Radii map.
- **Community Parks:** Community parks typically serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks and more than two (2) neighborhoods within a 1/2 to 3 mile radius. Community parks are served by non-local streets, arterial or collector streets and are usually thirty (30) to fifty (50) acres or more in size. Community parks include active and passive activities, especially group activities. Community parks may be designed for programmed athletic field events. Due to their size, off-street parking is an integral part of the community park development. These parks are also summarized in the Existing City of Pickerington Park Facilities tabulation and their current status is illustrated in the Existing Community Park photos. Service areas for the community parks are shown on the Park/School Service Radii map. The community parks include Victory,



COLONY PARK



WILLOW POND PARK



SHAWNEE CROSSING PARK



EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



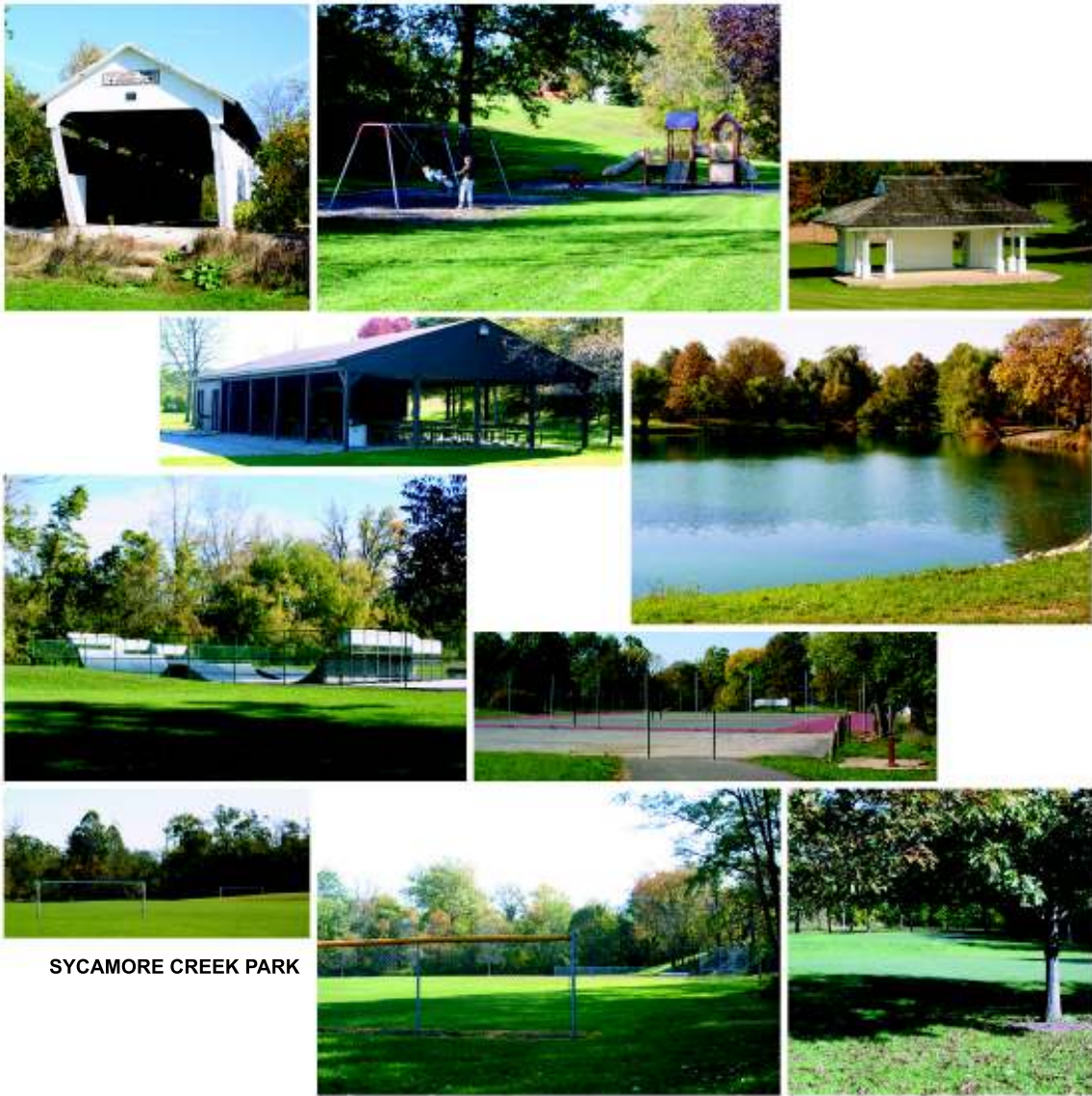
VICTORY PARK



SIMSBURY PARK



EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS



SYCAMORE CREEK PARK



PRESTON TRAILS PARK

EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS

EXISTING CITY OF PICKERINGTON PARK FACILITIES		[1] COLONY PARK	[2] WILLOW POND PARK	[3] VICTORY PARK	[4] SHAWNEE CROSSING PARK	[5] SIMSBURY PARK	[6] SYCAMORE CREEK PARK	[7] PRESTON TRAILS PARK	[8] DILEY ROAD BALLFIELDS
INDOOR									
OUTDOOR		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CLASSIFICATION		A (3)	A	B	A (3)	B	B/C	B (3)	D
LAND AREA: ACRES		3.12	6.95	6.48	7.03	37.31	50.48	35.0	4.2
PARKING		(1)	(1)	●	(1)	(1)	●	(1)	●
COURT GAMES	Badminton/Volleyball								
	Basketball			●			●		
	Tennis			●			●		
FIELD GAMES	Baseball						●		
	Football								
	Soccer						●		
	Softball						●		●
PICNICKING	Grills			●			●		
	Picnic Tables			●		●	●		
	Shelter Buildings			●			● (2)		
PLAYGROUNDS	Play Equipment		●	●		●	●		
	Open Play	●	●	●		●	●	●	
SITE IMPROVEMENTS	Concession Area								
	Restrooms			●			●		
	Site Furnishings		●	●		●	●		●
	Storage			●			●		
TRAILS	Hiking/Jogging/ Walkway		●	●			●	●	
WATER SPORTS/ FEATURES	Boating/Canoeing/ Skiing								
	Fishing		●				●		
	Swimming								
	Water Features		●	●	●	●	●	●	
WINTER SPORTS	Ice Skating/Hockey								
	Sledding/Tobogganing/ Skiing						●		
OTHER	Arboretum						●		
	Camping								
	Golf						●		
	Natural Areas				●	●	●		
	Skateboarding						●		

CLASSIFICATION KEY:

A Neighborhood Park
B Community Park
C Special Facility
D Sports Complex

SPECIAL NOTES/LEGEND:

(1) On Street Parking
(2) Gazebo
(3) Currently Undeveloped

[] Indicates Key Number
In Facilities Legend on
Existing Facilities Map



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
CITY OF PICKERINGTON, OHIO
EDSALL & ASSOCIATES LLC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • • • LAND PLANNERS • • • PLANNING CONSULTANTS
 754 NEIL AVENUE • • • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 • • • 614-221-0580

Simsbury, Sycamore Creek and Preston Trails Parks which encompass a total area of 129.27 acres. Both Victory and Sycamore Creek Parks have some unique existing facilities as noted below.

- Victory Park - unique facilities include a very nice veterans memorial, a fireplace in the large shelter building and a historic building that needs to be restored.
- Sycamore Creek Park - unique facilities include synthetic turf putting and pitching golf greens, the Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge, an arboretum with an ever expanding collection of plant materials, the Sycamore Park/Continental Amphitheater, the Barn where Friday Flicks are shown in the summer on the east side of the building and a three (3) acre stocked fishing pond.
- **School Park:** Parks combined with school sites. School parks may satisfy Neighborhood, Community or Sports Complex needs. Optimal size depends on intended use. Athletic field development should be oriented to youth versus adult uses. In general the elementary and middle school sites listed below help to serve neighborhood needs particularly with regard to children's playgrounds and open areas for free play. Characteristic types of facilities at most of these school sites include ballfields, basketball courts, pavement/court games, play structures and swing sets. Selected sites also have tetherball, picnic tables and soccer fields. School site utilization, however, is primarily limited to after school hours and over the summer. More formal school park arrangements should be pursued and are being discussed in relation to two (2) proposed new school sites.
 - Fairfield Elementary School
 - Harmon Middle School
 - Violet Elementary School
 - Heritage Elementary School
 - Diley Middle School
 - Pickerington Elementary School

The first three (3) school sites listed above are located in Violet Township and the rest are in the City of Pickerington.

- **Sports Complex:** Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields with associated recreation facilities. Desired size is a minimum of twenty-five (25) acres. Forty (40) to eighty (80) acres are more desirable. Fields are often illuminated. The Diley Road ballfields and soccer and softball fields at Sycamore Creek Park are the primary existing City of Pickerington sports complex type facilities. The Pickerington Youth Sports Complex is a non-profit facility operated by the Pickerington Youth Athletic Association (PYAA) and the Pickerington Area Soccer Association (PASA) which serves both Pickerington and Violet Township. The PYAA/PASA complex includes baseball, softball and t-ball fields as well as soccer fields for all age groups and football fields.
- **Natural Resource Areas/Preserves:** Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering. The City of Pickerington is well served in this category with two (2) major facilities owned and operated by the Metro Parks. These facilities include the Pickerington Ponds Wetlands Area to the west and Blacklick Woods Metro Park and Golf Course to the northwest.
- **Greenways:** Greenways link park system components together to form a continuous park environment. Greenways may include park trails, connector trails or on-street bikeways. Existing greenways are a part of Victory, Sycamore Creek and Simsbury Parks. Greenways will be considered in greater detail in relation to the proposed Park and Open Space Master Plan and the Bikeway Plan.
- **Existing Facility Summary:** The City of Pickerington currently has 17.1 acres of neighborhood parks and 129.27 acres of community parks for a total of 146.37 acres of public park and open space land. Of that total, Colony, Shawnee Crossing and Preston Trails Parks encompass 45.15 acres or almost 31% of the park land that is not developed.

• ADDITIONAL PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- The following listings summarize existing park and recreation facilities and programs that serve the community in addition to Pickerington's public park and school facilities. These listings include Violet Township Parks, the Metro Park District, private/commercial and special facilities as well as special events and festivals.
 - **Violet Township Parks**
 - Nelson Park
 - Harmon Road Park
 - **Metro/Regional Parks**
 - Buckeye Lake
 - Blacklick Woods Metro Park and Golf Course
 - Metro Parks Pickerington Ponds Wetlands Area
 - **Private/Commercial/Quasi Public Facilities**
 - World Gym
 - Power Shack
 - Dance Works
 - Hickory Lakes
 - The Swim Club
 - The Strike Zone
 - Flash Soccer Camp

- Pickerington Dance Academy
- Pickerington Youth Sports Complex
- **Golf Courses**
 - Pine Hills Golf Course - Carrol
 - Walnut Hill Golf Course - Columbus
 - Cumberland Trail Golf Course - Pataskala
 - Winchester Golf Course - Canal Winchester
 - Turnberry Golf Course - Pickerington/Columbus
 - Blacklick Woods Metro Park and Golf Course - Reynoldsburg
- **Special Events and Festivals**
 - July Fourth Celebration - Victory Park
 - Pickerington Violet Festival - Victory Park
 - DARE Golf Outing - Pine Hills Golf Course
 - Friday Flicks - Sycamore Creek Park Amphitheater
 - Relay for Life - Pickerington North High School Track
 - Lions Club Labor Day Parade and Fish Fry - Victory Park
 - Summer Concert Series - Sycamore Creek Park Amphitheater
 - Sycamore Park Summer Theater - Sycamore Creek Park Amphitheater
 - Old Pickerington Village Business Association (OPVBA) Events
 - Art Festival
 - Jazz and Rib Fest
 - Pet Fest and Pet Parade
 - Cruisin' to the Shoppe Hop

• PUBLIC FACILITY EVALUATION

- Objectives of this Master Plan regarding the evaluation of existing public facilities, particularly park and recreation areas, are as follows.
 - Determine the adequacy of existing park and recreation facilities on the basis of size; of location in relation to existing and future population; of site and equipment in relation to expressed community needs; and in meeting recreation and open space goals, policies and standards.
 - Evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities in relation to individual sites and the relationship of these sites to a comprehensive open space system for the City of Pickerington.
- **Size** - A majority of the park sites are inadequate based on recognized standards. Many sites are surrounded by development and can not be expanded. Future sites should be acquired that are in the middle to upper range of the spatial standards indicated in the open space standards section.
- **Location Related to Population** - Many of the existing neighborhood and community parks are located in proximity to the older developed areas of the City of Pickerington. While some of those parks are in reasonable proximity to residential areas, safe access for children is frequently impaired by the need to cross more heavily trafficked collector and arterial streets. Virtually all existing and emerging residential development areas north of the Conrail Railroad and State Route 256 are not served by neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are also lacking in areas south of the Conrail Railroad and west of Diley Road and in the southwest and southeast sections of the community.
- **Site and Equipment** - There is an apparent lack of site master planning prior to the development of various facilities or activities. The location of buildings, parking areas, service areas and recreational facilities frequently produces conflicts between uses. Other site and equipment factors noted which should be addressed include:
 - Walks or pathways to link facilities and activity areas.
 - Improve court game surfaces and related equipment.
 - Parking area paving and line striping for better organization and safer use.
 - Need to improve the surface character and turf quality of open play areas and many athletic fields. Irregular surfaces and drainage are apparent problems on a number of sites.
 - Children's playgrounds in parks and at the schools exhibit some of the playground hazards identified in a checklist prepared by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the National Playground Safety Institute (NSPI). The NRPA should be contacted for further information and details. Such hazards include:
 - Trip hazards.
 - Lack of maintenance.
 - Entrapment in openings.
 - Insufficient equipment spacing.
 - Protrusion and entanglement hazards.
 - Improper protective resilient surfacing.
 - Platforms with no or inadequate guardrails.
 - Absence of ADA accessible equipment.
 - Pinch, crush, shearing and sharp edge hazards.
 - Age-inappropriate activities based on developmental needs.
 - Equipment not currently recommended for public playgrounds.
 - Inadequate fall zones under and around or between equipment.
- **Other Factors** - The adequacy of existing facilities in relation to goals, policies, standards and the comprehensive open space system for the City of Pickerington is addressed in subsequent sections of this Master Plan.

OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

• STANDARDS CRITERIA

- Optimum, not maximum, use of all existing park and school areas should be an initial goal. Well maintained facilities are generally well used facilities. Better maintenance and use of existing facilities is the most economical first step that can be taken to provide facilities to meet current and even future recreation needs of residents of the Pickerington community.
- The development of open space standards for the City of Pickerington involved three (3) steps as outlined below.
 - Review and evaluate recognized national and state or regional recreation and open space standards.
 - Utilizing information gained from the survey and analysis of existing conditions, from interviews and from the Citizen Survey of recreational attitudes, interests and needs, equate local facilities against these recognized standards.
 - After modification and adjustment, define specific recreation and open space standards for the City of Pickerington.

• PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS

- The table titled Park and Recreation Facility Standards represents the synthesis of the three (3) steps noted above. These Standards, adjusted for the Pickerington community, are used in conjunction with the following evaluation of potential facilities to develop the Park and Open Space Master Plan and the Bikeway Plan.
- The total Existing Facility inventory for the City of Pickerington parks and open space is 146.37 acres. Currently, by definition of standards, there are no existing facilities in relation to the Sports Complex, Community Recreation Building and Park Reserve/Environmental Area facility classifications.
- Comparing existing and recommended facilities there are current deficiencies of 54 to 154 acres in 2006. The projected deficiencies in 2025 would be 119 to 264 acres. To meet future needs, acquisition of park and open space areas should proceed at a minimum rate of 6 to 15 acres per year. This does not include Linear Park/Greenway areas which would represent a substantial amount of additional acreage.
- Acquisition rates should be accelerated in the near term, however, to offset current acreage deficiencies and to reduce potential future acquisition costs due to the fact that land prices shall continue to increase as development accelerates. Desirable park and open space areas must be acquired in advance of actual need or they shall be lost to other types of land use.

• PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY STANDARDS

- A comparison of the existing facility column with the recommended facility column in the Park and Recreation Activity Standards table coupled with comments from the various means of public input gives a good indication of activity needs.
- The list of active facilities includes badminton, baseball/softball, basketball, boating, football, golf, handball/racquet-ball, skating, skiing, sledding/tobogganing, soccer, tennis, track and field and volleyball.
- Listed facilities that are considered to be passive include camping, fishing, picnicking, theater and trails.
- Types of facilities that may represent even greater needs than the recommended facility column indicates, either in the near or long term, include:
 - Baseball/softball fields may need additional facilities to satisfy practice and/or men's and women's activity/facility needs.
 - Football or flag football and may also include rugby or lacrosse depending on future demands.
 - Soccer may need additional facilities for same reason as baseball/softball and should greater program demands produce an increase in the number of teams.
 - Trails are likely to be in much greater demand, particularly for biking, walking and hiking or nature study, based on community input.
 - Volleyball, especially sand volleyball, is likely to require more facilities for reasons cited in relation to baseball/ softball.
 - Current needs of residents of Pickerington relative to boating, camping and fishing are generally satisfied by facilities in State or Metro parks or other area facilities.

• EXISTING SERVICE AREAS

- Service areas are a consideration in terms of both facility and activity standards. Distance and/or travel time factors are presented in each of the preceding tabulations. The map of Park/School Service Radii shows service radii for mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and neighborhood school parks (elementary and middle schools).
- It should be noted that "community" level facilities do tend to serve the corporate area of Pickerington
- Most neighborhood parks and neighborhood school parks in the City are located in the older developed areas of Pickerington and fall way short of adequately serving the north, southwest and southeast sections of the

**PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS
PICKERINGTON, OHIO**

FACILITIES	DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIZE STANDARDS • SPATIAL STANDARDS • SERVICE AREA RADIUS 	EXISTING FACILITY	RECOMMENDED FACILITY 2025 (1)	COMMENTS
SUBNEIGHBORHOOD PARK/MINI-PARK/PLAYLOT	HARD SURFACE AREA, MISC. FACILITIES, OPEN SPACE, PLAYGROUND, SITTING AREA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINIMUM 0.5 ACRE/1,000 PEOPLE (NO FIRM STANDARD IS APPLICABLE) • .25 TO 5 ACRES • UP TO 1/4 MILE 	GAZEBO PARK AND THE PLAZA	NONE	GENERALLY SERVES A SPECIAL NEED OR SPECIFIC GROUP SUCH AS TOTS OR SENIOR CITIZENS. NONE RECOMMENDED DUE TO HIGH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS. APPLY ACREAGE TO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK/PLAYGROUND/SCHOOL PARK	COURT GAMES, OPEN SPACE, PLAYFIELDS, PLAYGROUND, SITTING AREA. FOCUS ON INFORMAL ACTIVE/PASSIVE RECREATION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINIMUM 2.5 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE • 5 TO 20 ACRES • 1/4-1/2 MILE UNINTERRUPTED BY NON-RESIDENTIAL ROADS 	17.1 ACRES	75-100 ACRES	CENTERED IN NEIGHBORHOOD WITH SAFE WALK AND BIKE ACCESS. MAY DEVELOP AS A SCHOOL PARK FACILITY WHICH COMBINES PARKS WITH SCHOOL SITES. MAY BE ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL.
COMMUNITY PARK/PLAYFIELD	COURT GAMES, OPEN SPACE, PICNICKING, PLAYFIELDS, PLAYGROUND, TRAILS, NATURE STUDY, WATER RECREATION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0-8.0 ACRES/ 1,000 PEOPLE • 20 TO 100 ACRES • 1/2-3 MILES 	129.27 ACRES	125-200 ACRES	SERVES SEVERAL NEIGHBORHOODS. AREA OF DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WITH A BALANCE OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES. MAY SATISFY SPORTS COMPLEX NEED.
SPORTS COMPLEX	CONSOLIDATES HEAVILY PROGRAMMED ATHLETIC FIELDS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES TO LARGER AND FEWER SITES STRATEGICALLY LOCATED.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DETERMINED BY DEMAND. MINIMUM 25 ACRES. • 40-80 ACRES OPTIMAL • A COMMUNITY-WIDE FACILITY 	NONE	40-80 ACRES	STRATEGICALLY LOCATED TO SERVE THE TOTAL COMMUNITY. BEST ASSOCIATED WITH A COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER.
COMMUNITY RECREATION BUILDING	CRAFT ROOMS, GAME ROOMS, GYMNASIUM, MEETING ROOMS, AQUATIC FACILITIES, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, OFFICES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-5 SQ. FT. OF BUILDING/ PERSON TO BE SERVED • 39,000 TO 65,000 SQ. FT. • 3-5 MILES 	NONE	75,000 TO 125,000 SQ. FT. / 25-50 ACRES	MAY SERVE A LARGER AREA DEPENDING ON DIVERSITY AND SCOPE OF FACILITIES INCLUDED.
PARK RESERVE/ ENVIRONMENTAL AREA	NATURAL AREA FOR NATURE ORIENTED OUTDOOR RECREATION: VIEWING, NATURE STUDY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, CONSERVATION, SWIMMING, PICNICKING, HIKING, FISHING, BOATING, CAMPING, TRAILS. MAY INCLUDE LIMITED ACTIVE PLAY AREAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VARIABLE - SUFFICIENT AREA FOR RESOURCE TO BE PRESERVED AND MANAGED • 100+ ACRES • TOTAL COMMUNITY - 1/2 HOUR TRAVEL TIME 	NONE	(2)	DIVERSE OR UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS LAKES, STREAMS, MARSHES, WETLANDS, FLORA, FAUNA, TOPOGRAPHY. GENERALLY 80% OF AREA IS RESERVED FOR CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LESS THAN 20% USED FOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT. COMMUNITY NEED SATISFIED BY THE METRO PARKS PICKERINGTON PONDS WETLANDS AREA.
LINEAR PARK/ GREENWAY	AREA FOR ONE (1) OR MORE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION: HIKING, BIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, CANOEING, PLEASURE DRIVING - MAY INCLUDE ACTIVE PLAY AREAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VARIABLE - SUFFICIENT WIDTH TO PROTECT RESOURCE AND PROVIDE MAXIMUM USE • VARIABLE. 10 ACRES / 1,000 PEOPLE MINIMUM • NO APPLICABLE STANDARD 	INCLUDED IN PARTS OF SHAWNEE CROSSING, VICTORY, SYCAMORE CREEK, SIMSBURY AND PRESTON TRAILS PARKS.	(3)	BUILT OR NATURAL CORRIDORS SUCH AS UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY, ABANDONED RAILROADS, ROADS, FLOOD PLAINS, VEGETATION PATTERNS. LINKAGES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, COMMERCIAL AREAS AND PLACES OF WORK.
SPECIAL USE	AREA FOR SPECIALIZED OR SINGLE PURPOSE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: GOLF COURSES, NATURE CENTERS, ZOOS, MARINAS, ARBORETA, DISPLAY GARDENS, ARENAS, OUTDOOR THEATERS, GUN RANGES, SKI AREAS, OR AREAS THAT PRESERVE AND INTERPRET BUILDINGS, SITES AND OBJECTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VARIABLE • VARIABLE DEPENDING ON DESIRED SIZE • NO APPLICABLE STANDARD 	ARBORETUM AND OUTDOOR THEATER PART OF SYCAMORE CREEK PARK. HISTORIC BUILDING IN VICTORY PARK TO BE RENOVATED.	(4)	MAY INCLUDE PLAZAS OR SQUARES IN OR NEAR COMMERCIAL CENTERS, BOULEVARDS, PARKWAYS. GENERALLY LOCATED WITHIN COMMUNITIES.
TOTALS			146.37 ACRES	265-430 ACRES	

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) BASED ON A PROJECTED 2025 CITY POPULATION OF 25,000 PERSONS.
- (2) THE 180 ACRE PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY EAST OF PICKERINGTON ROAD AS SHOWN ON THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN INCLUDES A GREAT BLUE HERON COLONY WHICH SHOULD BE PRESERVED.
- (3) SHOULD INCLUDE WOODED AREAS AND FLOOD HAZARD AREAS ALONG BLACKLICK CREEK, SYCAMORE CREEK AND ALL TRIBUTARY AREAS.
- (4) NEEDS GENERALLY SATISFIED BY FACILITIES WITHIN THE REGION.

**PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY STANDARDS
PICKERINGTON, OHIO**

FACILITIES	SIZE STANDARDS	SERVICE AREA RADIUS	EXISTING FACILITY	RECOMMENDED FACILITY (1)	COMMENTS
BADMINTON	1 COURT/5,000 PEOPLE	1/4-1/2 MILE	NONE	5	MAY BE PROVIDED IN ASSOCIATION WITH VOLLEYBALL FACILITIES.
BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL	1 FIELD/2,000 PEOPLE	1/4-1/2 MILE	4	13	LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS AND ON SCHOOL SITES. LIGHTED FIELDS 1/12,000 PEOPLE. DOES NOT INCLUDE EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS USED ONLY BY SCHOOLS.
BASKETBALL	1 COURT/1,000 PEOPLE	1/4-1/2 MILE	2	25	LOCATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OR LARGER PARKS AND ON SCHOOL SITES.
BOATING	MAJ. BOATING: 100 ACRES OF WATER SURFACE/50,000 PEOPLE - ROWBOATING/CANOEING: 20 ACRES OF WATER SURFACE/25,000 PEOPLE	N.A.	NONE	(2)	LOCATE IN PARK RESERVE/ ENVIRONMENTAL AREA OR LINEAR PARK/GREENWAY.
CAMPING	1 CAMPGROUND PER 20,000 PEOPLE	N.A.	NONE	(2)	LOCATE IN PARK RESERVE/ ENVIRONMENTAL AREA OR LINEAR PARK/GREENWAY.
FISHING	MIN. 3 SURFACE ACRES/ LAKE LOCATED WITHIN 1 HOUR DRIVE (50 MILES) OF 20,000 PEOPLE	50 MILES	2 PONDS	(2)	LOCATE IN PARK RESERVE/ ENVIRONMENTAL AREA OR LINEAR PARK/GREENWAY.
FOOTBALL	1 FIELD/15,000 PEOPLE	15-30 MIN. TRAVEL TIME	NONE	2	LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS, SPORTS COMPLEXES AND ON SCHOOL SITES. PREFERENCE MAY BE FOR FLAG FOOTBALL RATHER THAN FULL SIZE FIELDS.
GOLF	18 HOLES/25,000 PEOPLE	½-1 HOUR TRAVEL TIME	NONE	(3)	STANDARD 9 HOLE ACCOMMODATES 350 PEOPLE/ DAY. 18 HOLE ACCOMMODATES 500-550 PEOPLE/DAY.
HANDBALL/ RACQUETBALL	1 HANDBALL COURT/ 20,000 PEOPLE	15-30 MIN. TRAVEL TIME	NONE	1	OUTDOOR USUALLY 3-WALL COURT.
PICNICKING	3 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE., 7 TO 14 TABLES/1,000 PEOPLE	N.A.	AREAS IN VARIOUS PARKS	75 ACRES/175-350 TABLES	LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS WITH SHELTERS. LIMITED FACILITIES IN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.
SKATING - ICE ARTIFICIAL RINK	1 RINK/30,000 PEOPLE - INDOOR	½-1 HOUR TRAVEL TIME	NONE	1	OUTDOOR DEPENDS ON CLIMATE. BEST PART OF MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY/ COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER.
SKIING - SNOW	NO FIRM STANDARD IS APPLICABLE - BASED LARGELY ON COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DESIRES AND NATURAL CONDITIONS	N.A.	NONE	NONE	DEPENDS ON CLIMATE. LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS.
SLEDDING/ TOBOGGANING	NO FIRM STANDARD. BASED ON COMMUNITY NEEDS/DESIRES/NATURAL CONDITIONS	N.A.	1	1	DEPENDS OF CLIMATE. LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS. EXISTING FACILITY IN SYCAMORE CREEK PARK.
SOCCER	1 FIELD/2,000 PEOPLE	1-2 MILES	3	13	SMALLER FIELD SIZES FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS. EXISTING FIELDS PRACTICE TYPE ONLY AND QUANTITIES MAY VARY.
SWIMMING - INDOOR POOL	1 POOL/20,000 PEOPLE	15-30 MIN. TRAVEL TIME	NONE	1	POOLS SHOULD ACCOMMODATE 3-5% OF TOTAL POPULATION AT A TIME.
SWIMMING - OUTDOOR POOL	1-25 YD. POOL/10,000 PEOPLE, 1-50 METER POOL/20,000 PEOPLE	15-30 MIN. TRAVEL TIME	NONE	2/1	MINIMUM OF 27 S.F. OF WATER/SWIMMER. RATIO OF 2:1 DECK:WATER. THE SWIM CLUB IS AN EXISTING COMMERCIAL FACILITY.
TENNIS	1 COURT/2,000 PEOPLE	1/4-1 MILE	5	13	BEST IN BATTERIES OF 2-4 COURTS. LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS OR ON SCHOOL SITES.
THEATER - OUTDOOR STAGE	1 STAGE/20,000 PEOPLE (NON-COMMERCIAL)	N.A.	1	1	LOCATE IN LARGER PARKS OR SPECIAL USE AREAS.
TRACK AND FIELD	1 TRACK/10,000 PEOPLE	15-30 MIN. TRAVEL TIME	NONE	2	FACILITIES ON SCHOOL SITES.
TRAILS	BIKING 1 MI./1,500 POP. RIDING 1 MI./10,000 POP. HIKING 1 MI./5,000 POP. NATURE 1 MI./10,000 POP.	N.A.	TRAILS IN VARIOUS PARKS	17 MILES 2.5 MILES 5 MILES 2.5 MILES	VARIOUS TRAIL TYPES MAY BE DEVELOPMENT AS COMBINED FACILITIES
VOLLEYBALL	1 COURT/5,000 PEOPLE	1/4-1 MILE	NONE	5	MAY BE HARD SURFACE OR SAND COURTS.

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) ALL QUANTITIES SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MINIMUMS. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES MAY BE REQUIRED TO SATISFY PRACTICE AND/OR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ACTIVITY/FACILITY NEEDS. TO A DEGREE, FACILITY NEEDS FOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL, FOOTBALL AND SOCCER/LACROSSE/RUGBY ARE OFFSET OR REDUCED DUE TO FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE PICKERINGTON YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND THE PICKERINGTON AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION.
- (2) MAJOR BOATING AND CAMPING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT BUCKEYE LAKE OR OTHER MAJOR REGIONAL PARK AND RECREATION AREAS.
- (3) EXISTING PRIVATE GOLF COURSES WHICH ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC APPEAR TO SATISFY CURRENT AND IMMEDIATE FUTURE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PICKERINGTON.

community as previously noted.

- There is a major need for neighborhood parks and/or neighborhood school parks to properly serve the City of Pickerington. Action should be taken immediately to locate and acquire suitable sites to best serve all residents. Advanced acquisition of sites before development forces land costs upward shall reduce the cost of future park development.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

• POPULATION PROJECTIONS

• U.S. Census Bureau - 2000

- General demographic characteristics for the City of Pickerington in the year 2000 show the following population age composition. The relative percentages for each age group are based on a total population of 9,792 persons.

• Under 5 Years	8.4%
• Between 5 and 19 Years	26.7%
• Between 19 and 65 Years	59.6%
• 65 Years and Older	<u>5.3%</u>
• Total	100.0%

• Growth Management Projections

- The Growth Management Assessment and Strategy report by McBride Dale Clarion emphasized the fact that over the next 20-30 years Pickerington will be faced with the aging of the "baby boomer" population which represents the 45-59 year age group in 2000. This age group was 18% of the total 2000 population or about 1,762 persons. Even a constant of 18% of the total projected population, the aging/senior population would be about 4,500 persons in the year 2025 or an increase of about 255%. This growth will need to be considered in future recreation programming, particularly since seniors are maintaining increasing levels of activity.

• Violet Township Projections

- The population of Violet Township is both significant and important in that many Township residents currently use parks in the City of Pickerington which increases demand and facility needs. Using the medium population projections in the Violet Township Economic Development Guide, the estimated 2005 Township population is 21,793 persons. This projection shows an increase to 31,093 in 2020 or approximately 34,193 in the year 2025. The increased facility need to serve this population for neighborhood and community park/playfield alone represents:

	2005	2025
• Neighborhood Park	65 Acres	103 Acres
• Community Park/Playfield	109-174	171-274

- To best serve the collective City of Pickerington and Violet Township populations, it will be essential for both governmental units to work together. A potential entity to achieve this would be a Joint Recreation District which is covered in a subsequent section of this report.

INTERESTS/NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• STUDENT INTERVIEWS

- Student interviews were conducted at the three (3) schools listed below. The intent of these interviews was to receive input from youth in the community relative to the Master Plan. Comments received are summarized in relation to each class that was interviewed. In total, approximately 100 students were involved in this process.

• Diley Middle School 5th Grade Class:

- What existing park and recreation facilities do you use?:
 - Preston Trails Park – Walking the dog.
 - Sycamore Creek Park – Church picnics and the skate park. Would like to have higher skate park ramps.
 - Victory Park – Walk along the stream, biking and the playground. Would like to have more play equipment for older kids.
- Activities/facilities you would like to see expanded or developed in the community:

• Slides	• Fountains
• Fishing	• Tetherball
• Boating	• BMX track
• Hunting	• More trails
• Paint ball	• Water park

- Indoor pool
- Golf course
- Water slides
- Soccer fields
- Video games
- Sledding hills
- Tennis courts
- Football fields
- Big tree house
- Athletic Center
- Gazebo/shelter
- Horseback riding
- Basketball courts
- Baseball diamonds
- Outdoor ice skating
- Wildlife observation
- Community gardens
- Sand volleyball courts
- Running/jogging track
- Play equipment in Colony Park
- More evergreen and shade trees
- New skate park with concrete bowls

•• Pickerington Ridgeview Junior High School Eighth Grade Class:

- What existing park and recreation facilities do you use?:
 - YMCA on Refugee Road
 - Groveport Recreation Center
 - Victory Park – Basketball courts
 - Sycamore Creek Park – Skate park and tennis courts
- Activities/facilities you would like to see expanded or developed in the community:
 - Golf
 - Arcade
 - Croquet
 - Petting zoo
 - Dance club
 - Coffee shop
 - Off road ATV
 - Indoor soccer
 - Fitness center
 - Shooting range
 - Swimming pool
 - Wilderness area
 - Indoor water park
 - Indoor ice skating
 - Recreation center
 - Indoor tennis courts
 - Sand volleyball courts
 - Indoor basketball courts
 - Meeting/hang-out space
 - Arboretum/tree preserve
 - Indoor/outdoor paint ball
 - Add a half pipe to the skate park
- How would you propose to cover the cost to provide facilities that you feel should be expanded or developed?:
 - Fund raisers
 - Special events

•• Pickerington Central High School Eleventh Grade Class:

- What existing park and recreation facilities do you use?:
 - High school tennis courts
 - Groveport Community Center
 - Pickerington Ponds Wetlands Area
 - Victory Park – Basketball court and shelter house
 - Sycamore Creek Park – Skate park and shelter house
 - Blacklick Woods Metro Park – Outdoor services and trails
- Activities/facilities you would like to see expanded or developed in the community:
 - Swings
 - Teen Club
 - Bowling alley
 - Amphitheater
 - Museum of art
 - More recycling
 - Ice skating rink
 - Basketball courts
 - Recreation center
 - Workout programs
 - Community olympics
 - Sand volleyball courts
 - Arts and crafts program
 - Under age/youth dance club
 - Trails that connect/sidewalks
 - Fun run/mini-marathon/5K and 10K
 - Indoor and outdoor swimming pools
 - Performance area for local bands such as Misfires and Grace and Alice in Wonderland
 - Expand/enhance programs such as movies in the park, tennis lessons, fitness, yoga, etc.
- How would you propose to cover the cost to provide facilities that you feel should be expanded or developed?:
 - Increase taxes
 - Sponsored events
 - Change boxes in stores

• COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

- The comments and observations summarized below were derived from input received during six (6) community interview sessions which were conducted at City Hall. A total of twenty-five (25) people were interviewed representing fourteen (14) organizations and governmental entities including:

- Residents
 - Biking Interests
 - Violet Township
 - Olde Pickerington Village
 - Pickerington City Schools
 - Parent-Teacher Organization
 - Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Pickerington Area Soccer Association (PASA)
 - Pickerington Youth Athletic Association (PYAA)
 - City of Pickerington
 - Mayor
 - City Council
 - City Manager
 - Finance Department
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Parks and Recreation Board
- At the outset a summary of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan was presented. An Interview Agenda was provided to assist in initiating discussion. At the end of each interview a copy of the Citizen Survey/What Do You Think was provided to each participant for them to complete and return to the City Parks and Recreation Department. The collective input from all six (6) interviews is as follows:
- **Current Conditions/Work in Progress:**
- Consideration should be given to joint funding of projects by the City of Pickerington and the Pickerington City Schools. The support base should be extended to include all households/people within the limits of the School District.
 - A citizens committee involving representatives from the City of Pickerington and Violet Township has been formed to explore the potential formation of a Joint Recreation District. The process is in the early stages of discussions.
 - Violet Township is conducting a telephone survey to determine community attributes and needs. The survey includes questions relating to parks and recreation. The results of the Township's survey and the City of Pickerington Citizen Survey will be shared.
 - Violet Township has acquired a second park which encompasses approximately four (4) acres on the north side of Chester Drive in the Eastchester Subdivision. Existing development includes a softball backstop, basketball court and open green space.
 - Field House at Pickerington Central High School used to be open to the community during selected morning, evening and weekend hours for open play, basketball and volleyball. Previously three adult basketball leagues used the field house. Due to space limitations there is only one basketball league now. People recognize the need for primary use of the field houses at both Pickerington Central and North High Schools but would like to see a renewal of use to some degree by the community.
 - Proposed development of a Multi-Purpose Community Recreation and Wellness Complex in Pickerington by Community Gathering of All People (CGAP). Proposed development includes a 75,000 square foot recreation and wellness center featuring indoor hockey, soccer, basketball, tennis, batting cages, physical fitness, jogging track, gymnastics, swimming, social service programs, banquet and meeting rooms, health care initiatives, summer day camp for children and after school programs for recreation and study. A 100 unit senior housing facility is also planned.
- **Existing Facility Use:**
- Many people use indoor facilities outside of the City of Pickerington due to lack of such facilities in the community. Representative indoor facilities include fields at the Continent, Sports Barn at Easton, Batters Box in Reynoldsburg, Sports Ohio near Dublin, Groveport Recreation Center and Jerry L. Garver Branch and Lancaster YMCA's.
 - The most frequently used City parks include:
 - Victory Park - shelter, children's play area and court games.
 - Willow Pond Park - paths around pond, seating for relaxation and children's play area.
 - Colony Park - open green space but primary notation of sidewalks in the Colony Park Subdivision which are used extensively.
 - Sycamore Creek Park - pavilions/shelters, grass paths in the arboretum area, paths, ball fields, children's play areas, putting and chipping greens, skate park, amphitheater and the covered bridge.
 - Other frequently used facilities relate to the Pickerington Youth Athletic Association (PYAA) and Pickerington Area Soccer Association (PASA) fields at the Pickerington Youth Sports Complex.
 - PYAA and PASA viewed as a great community asset.
 - PYAA uses gymnasiums in several schools for their basketball program.
 - PYAA and PASA generally address youth sports and the City of Pickerington handles adult sports.
- **Existing Programs:**
- Need expended youth and adult programs and facilities.
 - Need arts, crafts and pottery programs and facilities. Work with the Pop Arts Center.
 - The Halloween party is very successful. Need for basic and simpler programs and facilities.

- Lacrosse is very popular but need indoor facilities at home. Concerns about youth travel and potential accidents.
- Need to be more creative and offer greater diversity in activities. Would like to have garden plots and theater in the park.
- No real exciting programs due to lack of facilities. Need one place/location where diverse programs can be conducted.
- Popular programs include music and movies in the park at Sycamore Creek Park. Attendance could be improved with better marketing.
- Senior Center programs are more passive in nature. Need to expand options and opportunities for more active senior programs based on changing demographics.
- Current programming is good but stretched due to lack of facilities. Need to assess revenue stream for various programs and try to get many if not all to pay their own way.
- Need to market what the community is doing as well as existing facilities. Create promotions to inform the community. There are many good programs and facilities but "people don't know how to use them."
- Pickerington PTA's at Pickerington, Heritage and Violet Elementary Schools and Diley Middle School arrange trips to Hickory Lakes for recreation and education. Pickerington Elementary School has a 1/3 mile trail in a natural wetland area on the school site which is used for outdoor education.
- Downtown programs including the 4th of July, concerts and the Violet Festival are very popular. Emphasis to keep the integrity of Olde Pickerington and make downtown a focal point. Need more parking for events and facilities for trade shows and conventions.

•• Park/Open Space Needs:

- Need more tennis courts. Explore community use of tennis courts at the schools.
- Majority if users have to be transported to the parks. Not readily accessible by foot or bicycle.
- Provide more green space corridors and undeveloped open space. Preserve remaining existing woodlands. Develop prairies. Acquire land in advance at a potential lower cost.
- Address existing park areas first and how they may be development or improved to satisfy community needs. It is better to have one good/nice park than many mediocre parks.
- Need field facilities for league use that are playable. Sometimes lack of prompt service on diamonds increases scheduling problems due to rainouts. Need lighted fields to extend play times.
- A critical walk/bike path is programmed along Diley Road to the Pickerington Ponds Wetland Area by way of Wright and/or Long Road. This will provide additional linkages to a number of regional paths and facilities. Bike lane along S.R. 256 from Pickerington to Baltimore is good.
- Need better, expanded and safer walk/bike paths. Should require walks and bike paths in all new subdivisions developed to City standards. Major need for linkages/connectivity with and between parks, schools, neighborhoods/subdivisions and the downtown. Need a better path connection between Sycamore Creek and Victory Parks. Need a walking/jogging track for community use.
- General park related needs:
 - Develop site master plans and cost estimates/financing plans for all parks as is being done as part of this master planning process.
 - Develop better and consistent means of park identification. People currently may not know that an area is a park and find it difficult to locate a park.
 - Develop criteria for the dedication and development of park/open space land in subdivisions. Obtain land areas that may be used for a broader range of activities rather than just retention ponds or detention basins.
- Park facility needs:
 - Develop a dog park for community-wide use.
 - Address vandalism in parks. Remove graffiti immediately to help reduce reoccurrences.
 - Provide playground facilities for older children. Incorporate available play components to encourage both socialization/hanging out and physical activity.
 - Develop fields for lacrosse, softball, baseball, youth football and related activities. Provide adequate parking to service facilities. Work with PYAA and PASA on development and operation.
 - Develop more shelters. Provide enclosed shelters in selected locations for year around use that are heated and have some kitchen facilities. Use for family reunions and special events. Could be rented for meetings, seminars or conferences. Need to have a nice atmosphere. Better examples cited include Rising Park in Lancaster, Chestnut Ridge and the Hickory Lakes facility which accommodates about 350 people.

•• **Indoor Facility Needs:**

- An overwhelming majority noted the need for a Community Recreation Center which could accommodate/include:
 - Walking/jogging track and aerobics and fitness areas.
 - Tiffin, Groveport and Westerville cited as good examples.
 - Facilities for youth. An indoor area to socialize and hang out.
 - Open/interchangeable/divisible spaces for a wide range of uses.
 - Potential indoor ice hockey rink and/or an outdoor winter skating facility.
 - Indoor basketball, racquetball, soccer, rugby, tennis, volleyball, roller hockey, etc.
 - Location on a good transportation route that does not adversely impact residential areas.
 - Development on a sufficiently large site area to accommodate initial building development, potential future expansion, parking and space for a variety of outdoor activities.
 - Indoor pool
 - Youth, adult and senior use.
 - School use for swim teams. Currently use Garver and Lancaster YMCA facilities.
 - May also include an outdoor aquatic facility like Groveport. Potential consideration of City acquisition and improvement of The Swim Club as an outdoor facility.

•• **Financing Issues/Options:**

- There are currently unfunded mandates for a swimming pool and community recreation center.
- Whatever is done should be a joint City/Township effort. A Joint Recreation District is favored.
- Need to get an assessment of current user fees and the degree to which they cover programs.
- A Joint Park District funded by a specified millage would be good alternative. The township is also financially strapped and can only raise funds through a tax levy. Spreading potential costs related to a levy to support park and recreation facilities over the City of Pickerington, Violet Township and even the total area of the Pickerington School District could provide the necessary financial resources as a more affordable rate.
- Funding will need to be derived from a variety of sources in combination including:
 - Grants.
 - User fees.
 - Parks and recreation levy.
 - Income tax increases or rollbacks on credits.
 - Current City financial condition precludes general fund sources.
 - Property tax increases affect persons on fixed incomes and are not popular.

• **PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

•• **1996 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Gateway Plan Survey**

- Primary Types of Outdoor Activity Participation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking 71% • Special Events 56% • Picnicking 55% • Biking 29% • Tennis 23% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball 22% • Soccer 21% • Softball 20% • Playgrounds 19%
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- Future Outdoor Facilities Needed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Trails 33% • Pool Aquatic Center 23% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Paths 11% • Picnic Shelter 9%
--	---
- Future Indoor Facilities Needed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise Facilities 35% • Basketball Courts 13% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Rooms 7% • Racquetball/Weight Rooms 6%
--	---
- Support for a Ballot Initiative for Parks and Recreation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Mil Property Tax Bond 38% • .25% Income Tax Increase 16% • Do No Support 31% 	
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•• **2003 Park Facilities Master Plan Update Survey**

- Active Facilities Would Most Likely Use

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jogging/Walking 75.4% • Pool 64.2% • Bicycling 62.3% • Sledding 57.3% • Driving Range 44.6% • Play Equipment 40.8% • Ice Skating 36.2% • Putting/Chipping Green 32.3% • Rollerblading 26.9% • Camping 26.5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball 25.0% • Tennis 24.2% • Batting Cages 23.8% • Softball/Baseball 18.8% • Soccer 18.5% • Volleyball 16.9% • Frisbee Golf 14.6% • Skateboarding 13.5% • BMX Course 8.5% • Football 6.9%
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- **Passive Facilities Would Most Likely Use**
 - Nature Trails 77.3%
 - Picnicking 68.1%
 - Play Equipment 49.6%
 - Fishing 47.7%
 - Flower Gardens 36.5%
 - Open Space/Playfields 28.1%
 - Wetlands 20.8%
- **Facilities Would Like To See In Neighborhood Parks In Order of Preference**
 - Bicycling
 - Play Equipment
 - Picnicking
 - Open Space/Playfields
 - Putting/Chipping Green
 - Basketball
 - Softball/Baseball
 - Volleyball
 - Jogging/Walking Paths
- **Facilities Would Like To See In Community Parks In Order of Preference**
 - Jogging/Walking
 - Pool
 - Play Equipment
 - Picnicking
 - Sledding
 - Ice Skating
 - Driving Range
 - Fishing
 - Putting/Chipping Green
 - Basketball
 - Rollerblading
 - Tennis
 - Batting Cages
 - Soccer
 - Skateboarding
 - Softball
 - Frisbee Golf
 - Volleyball
 - BMX Course
- Eighty (80%) percent would support the City building and operating a community recreation center and would like to see it include the following facilities in order of preference.
 - Leisure Pool/Slides
 - Weight Equipment
 - Aerobics/Yoga Room
 - Cardio Equipment
 - Ice Skating
 - Gymnasium
 - Competitive Pool
 - Play Equipment
 - Childcare
 - Track
 - Climbing wall
 - Meeting Room
 - Tennis
 - Banquet Room
 - Game Room
 - Racquetball/Handball
 - Volleyball
 - Soccer
 - Senior Activities
- Ninety (90%) percent indicated the City should acquire right-of-way for walking/bike paths to link schools, parks and neighborhoods throughout the City.
- Eighty-three (83%) percent indicated the City should be proactive in acquiring additional parkland with about 73% wanting both active and passive parks, 21% wanting active parks and almost 5% wanting passive parks.

• 2006 CITIZEN SURVEY SUMMARY

- The Citizen Survey/What Do You Think? developed as a part of this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan was distributed to every fourth residential water billing address within the City of Pickerington. Of the 997 citizen surveys mailed out, 172 were returned for a response rate of 17.25%, which is a very credible sample. The complete detailed response to each question in the Citizen Survey is presented in the Appendix. Selected questions and a summary of responses are outlined below.
- **General Information**
 - The population age composition of respondents shows a relatively close correlation to the 2000 census data with:
 - 11.47% Under 5 years or preschool.
 - 27.96% Between 5 and 19 years or school age.
 - 50.53% Between 20 and 55 years or primary working age.
 - 10.04% Over 55 years or senior/Golden Buckeye.
 - Almost 91% of respondents own their homes and about 57% have lived in Pickerington for 1 to 10 years. Just under 37% have lived in Pickerington for 11 to over 20 years, with about 14% in the over 20 years group, indicating a very stable community.
- **Recreation Facilities**
 - Key age groups that people indicated were presently not being served by the Parks and Recreation Department include:
 - 28.77% Teens
 - 13.70% 30 to 55 age group
 - 10.96% Seniors
 - 6.85% 40 to 55 age group
 - 6.85% No group not served
 - Primary private or commercial facilities that people use in the area include the YMCA, The Swim Club, PYAA/PASA, World Gym and the Huntington Hills and Village of Sycamore Creek pools.
 - School facilities used most frequently include Pickerington Central High School and Pickerington, Violet and Heritage Elementary Schools. Activities cited at these schools were softball, tennis, soccer, basketball, playground and walking.
 - Other public facilities not in the City of Pickerington that were most frequently used include Blacklick Woods Metro Park, Groveport Recreation Center/Aquatics, Baltimore Pool, Chestnut Ridge Metro Park and the Canal Winchester Pool. Activities noted were biking, dog walking, golf, nature center,

playground, walking, picnicking and swimming.

- **Park Facilities/Programs**

- Almost 58% feel the City has adequate parkland while about 34% indicated more parkland is needed.
 - Just under 83% strongly agree or agree that recreation facilities and programs make Pickerington a more liveable community.
 - Overall 19% feel existing City of Pickerington parks and open space areas are very adequate and an additional 48% indicated they were somewhat adequate.
 - In the excellent to fair categories, respondents indicated that City park facilities that best satisfy their family's park, recreation and open space needs were, in order, Victory Park, Sycamore Creek Park, Diley Road Ball Fields and Willow Pond Park. Other than Victory and Sycamore Creek Park, a tremendous number of respondents indicated they do not use/know six (6) of the eight (8) park and recreation facilities listed. While this may largely be due to the undeveloped nature of at least four (4) of the parks, it does point out the need for the City to make residents aware of all potential park resources.
 - A detailed list of park improvements desired at seven (7) park sites is presented in the full Citizen Survey/What Do You think in the Appendix in the tabulation of question 4.b. under the heading of Park Facilities/Programs. The primary types of desired improvements cited are as follows:
 - Parking.
 - Restrooms.
 - Trails/Paths/Sidewalks.
 - Playgrounds/Equipment.
 - Cleanup/Vandalism Control.
 - Courts - Basketball/Tennis/Volleyball.
 - Swimming Pool/Aquatic Facility/Community Center
 - Site Furnishings/Structures - Benches/Picnic Tables/Grills/Waste Receptacles/Shelters.
 - In response to "what new or additional parks and recreation facilities should be offered in Pickerington" the top thirty (30) in order of preference were:

• Bikeways	• Sand Volleyball Courts
• Fitness/Jogging Trails	• Lighted Fields
• Nature Trails	• In-Line Skating
• Restrooms	• Basketball Courts
• Shelter Buildings (open)	• Dog Park
• Ice Skating	• Disc/Frisbee Golf Course
• Picnic Tables	• Wildlife/Nature Study
• Water Play Area/Splash Pad	• Benches
• Grills	• Off-Street Parking in Parks
• Shelter Buildings (enclosed)	• Baseball Diamonds
• Sledding/Tobogganing	• Softball Diamonds
• Play Equipment	• Soccer Fields
• Free Play Areas	• Amphitheater
• Tennis Courts	• Children's Court Games
• Stream Corridor Preservation	• Day Camp
- It is significant to note that about 67% of the facilities/activities listed above are like those indicated in the 1996 and 2003 surveys. Notable additions in this Citizen Survey are restrooms, water play area/splash pad, site furnishings, stream corridor preservation, dog park, off-street parking in parks and amphitheater.
- Almost 72% strongly agree or agree that the City of Pickerington should build and operate an outdoor pool.
 - Over 86% strongly agree or agree that the City of Pickerington should build and operate a community recreation center.

- **Financing Methods**

- Levels of agreement relative to different methods of potential financing are varied.
- In terms of those who strongly agree or agree:
 - Almost 89% favor financing using the Capital Improvement Fund coupled with existing revenues.
 - About 71% favor a combination of all methods noted.
 - Just over 41% favor a rollback of the .5% income tax credit.
- Relative to those who disagree or strongly disagree:
 - Over 78% do not favor financing through increases in property taxes.
 - Almost 73% do not favor financing through increases in the income tax.
 - Over 58% do not favor financing through a rollback of the .5% income tax credit.
- More than 91% strongly agree (60%) or agree (31%) that the City of Pickerington and Violet Township should work cooperatively to acquire and operate parks and recreation facilities. This may represent the best and most viable alternative relative to financing the acquisition and development of parks, recreation facilities and open space.

- **What Have We Left Out? What Else Can We Do To Improve Your Park and Recreation Services?**

- Fifty-five (55) handwritten comments were received. This equates to 32% of the respondents making such comments. Some of the recurrent issues or needs addressed in these comments include:
 - Need more parks and green space.
 - Need sidewalks in all areas of the community.

- Need to “advertise” more where all the parks are and what each one has.
- Need better facilities and programs for children and youth/teens in the community.
- Need an outdoor/indoor pool and community recreation center. Need a facility like Groveport.
- Need connectivity and the creation of a walk/bike path system that serves the entire community.

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL FACILITIES

• RESOURCE ANALYSIS

- The resource analysis involved a determination of the basic character of natural features and cultural factors as they relate to the Park and Open Space Master Plan for the community.
- Natural features evaluations were directed to the identification and location of areas best suited for preservation (limited use), passive recreation (moderate use) and active recreation (intensive use). Factors considered in the investigation of the natural resource base included soils, topography, water and vegetation.
- Areas of consideration regarding cultural factors included history, population location and character, land use trends, thoroughfares, utilities and current regulatory devices.
- Significant factors pertaining to natural features that help identify areas with characteristics that are best suited for parks and recreation facilities are outlined below.

• Natural Features

- The Natural Features plan illustrates a number of factors defined in the Natural Features Legend that were investigated and considered in relation to the definition of potential sites for proposed parks, recreation and open spaces shown on the Park and Open Space master Plan in the next section of this report.
- The 100 year flood plain and flood way areas shown on the plan were derived from Flood Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps. These designations represent areas along rivers and streams that are subject to flooding and should not be developed for uses other than agriculture or open space. Flood hazard areas are depicted along primary water courses including Blacklick Creek and Sycamore Creek as well as other lesser tributaries. These corridors are generally well suited for linear parks or greenways and may provide excellent linkages between various land use areas.
- The planning area is in the southeast section of the Upper Scioto Principal Watershed. Major watershed areas shown on the plan by the red lines relate to Blacklick Creek, George Creek and Sycamore Creek. The sub-watershed limits shown by the orange lines relate to lesser tributary areas of these watersheds.
- Wetlands are illustrated by dark green angular outlines and are scattered throughout the planning area. The largest is the Pickerington Ponds Wetlands Area.
- Existing wooded areas were defined through a review of aerial photographs for the City of Pickerington and its environs as well as field reconnaissance and observation. Many of the significant stands of mature trees and understory vegetation are found along stream corridors. Other significant wooded areas are shown in several locations from north to south on the east side of the planning area. Two of these areas are within the City of Pickerington. The first is just north of the Shadow Oaks subdivision and the second is east of Sycamore Creek Park and the Pickerington Hills subdivision. In so far as possible, wooded areas should be preserved through acquisition and conservation easements or related controls.

• Existing Soils

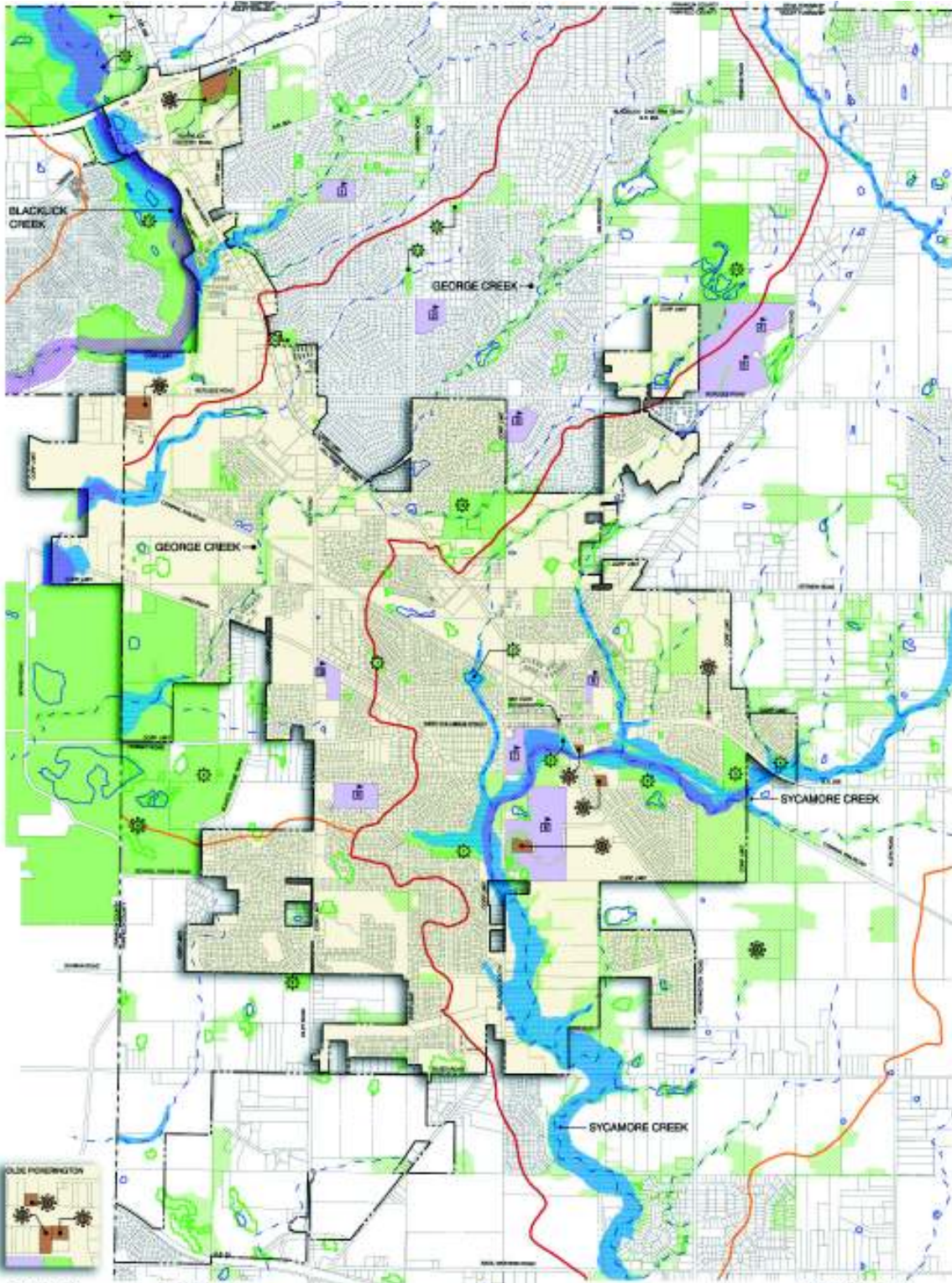
- The Existing Soils plan and Soils Legend highlight Hydric Soils within the planning area. Such soils are formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough to develop anaerobic conditions or a lack of oxygen in the upper soil strata. Hydric soils are one component in the definition of a wetland area. If coupled with hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology, the area would be classified as a jurisdictional wetland.
- While not all hydric soils are wetlands, they are poorly drained and may impose some limitation to development. As the plan illustrates, many hydric soil areas have been developed. Their potential impact on park, recreation and open space uses, however, is generally negligible. Many undeveloped areas to the northwest, east and southeast exhibit significant amounts of hydric soils. Development proposals that may be received in the future that relate to hydric soil areas should be carefully evaluated, particularly in terms of potential park and open space dedications.

• Existing Topography

- The Existing Topography plan illustrates a fairly consistent and uniform slope over the entire planning area from northeast to southwest. The plan's Topography Legend shows index contours at 50' intervals and intermediate contours at 10' intervals between the index contours. The overall change in elevation of the index contours within the planning area is 200'.
- The steepest slope areas are observed along stream corridors. Such areas should be protected as they are more prone to severe erosion and environmental problems when disturbed. There is a close correlation between flood plain and steeper slopes with some of the major wooded areas.

• POTENTIAL SITES/FACILITIES

- Potential sites are shown as Proposed Parks and Recreation Facilities in the General Legend on the Park and Open Space Master Plan. Potential facilities illustrated include park sites, community center sites, wooded greenway corridors and flood plain protection areas. Each site or facility is presented in the next section of this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.



- GENERAL LEGEND**
- PROPOSED/EXISTING CITY LIMIT
 - EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES
 - PROPOSED CITY WARD
 - SPECIAL FACILITIES
 - STREETS, LANES & PARKS

- CITY PARKS**
- 1 COLONY PARK
 - 2 WILSON PARK
 - 3 VICTORY PARK
 - 4 BARNES - CHERRY PARK
 - 5 BARNES PARK
 - 6 PICKERING TOWN & PARK
 - 7 SILEY PARK

- METRO/TOWNSHIP PARKS**
- 8 PICKERING TOWN & PARK
 - 9 BLACKICK WOODS METRO/TOWNSHIP & SOFT COURSE
 - 10 HANCOCK METRO/TOWNSHIP & SOFT COURSE
 - 11 RECREATION FACILITIES
 - 12 TOWNERSHIP SOFT COURSE
 - 13 THE PARKS
 - 14 PICKERING TOWN & PARK
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- SCHOOLS**
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- SPECIAL FEATURES/FACILITIES**
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NATURAL FEATURES



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
CITY OF PICKERINGTON, OHIO
EDSALL & ASSOCIATES LLC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • LAND PLANNERS • PLANNING CONSULTANTS
 754 NEIL AVENUE • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 • 614-221-0580

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

• PARK AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

•• Master Plan Criteria

- The intent of the Park and Open Space Master Plan is to develop recommendations that meet previously defined needs of the residents of the City of Pickerington. Both existing and proposed areas and facilities are shown on the Master Plan. Bikeways are also illustrated to better understand the comprehensive proposed connectivity of the plan but are covered in detail in the next section.
- The Master Plan is a vision for future improvement of existing facilities and the acquisition and development of future facilities. It will only be capable of being implemented over an extended period of time. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan contains both short and long range components and recommendations as presented in the following sections.
 - Short range plans relate to higher priority needs and involve a determination of potential types of open space acquisition and facility development that should be accomplished within a zero (0) to five (5) year period.
 - Long range plans include mid-range recommendations within a six (6) to ten (10) year time frame as well as recommendations encompassing a longer timeline from eleven (11) to fifteen (15) years. Long range plans relate to lower priorities and the designation of desired land areas for future open space acquisition and development.

•• Neighborhood Parks

- The plan features eight (8) proposed neighborhood parks in the south, northeast and northwest sections of the City of Pickerington or its immediate environs. The proposed locations relate to areas within the community that are not currently served by existing neighborhood parks or elementary school sites with playgrounds and related recreation facilities that may be used by the community. Two (2) of the sites relate to proposed new elementary schools. The City and the School District should work together on these sites to develop a true school/park complex in both instances.
- South neighborhood park sites are proposed in areas north of Busey Road and between Pickerington Road and Hill Road South as well as west of Hill Road South on the south side of Fairfield Drive. The latter site is a planned elementary school site and it is proposed that it be developed as a school/park site or facility. It is also proposed that the Diley Road Ballfields site be expanded by acquiring a 14 acre parcel south of the fields. This expanded area would help serve future development west of Diley Road and could accommodate additional sports fields as well as other neighborhood park types of facilities as noted in the Park and Recreation Facility Standards.
- Northeast neighborhood park sites are proposed in the following areas.
 - East of Pickerington Road, South of Stemen Road and north of the Willard Root Addition. The site selected should relate to an existing tributary water course and include as much of an existing wooded area as possible.
 - East of Hill Road North, west of Milnor Road, north of the Milnor Place subdivision and just southeast of the PYAA/PASA Sports Complex.
 - East of Milnor Road, west of Pickerington Road and south of Refugee Road.
 - East of Pickerington Road at the northwest corner of Refugee and Tollgate Roads across from the Huntington Hills subdivision. The site is about 61.6 acres and is the location of a proposed new elementary school. This is an excellent opportunity to develop an outstanding school-park facility.
- Northwest neighborhood park sites are proposed in the following areas.
 - South of Refugee Road, west of Diley Road/Hill Road South and southeast of the Pickerington Police Department. The site selected should relate to an existing tributary water course.
 - South of the Conrail Railroad, north of Long Road and west of The Landings subdivision.
 - A mini-neighborhood park is proposed related to the Cherry Hill subdivision detention basin located east of Diley Road and north of the Conrail Railroad. This site is along the planned Diley Road bike path and would be developed as funding becomes available. Potential facility development may include a small playground, a free play area and benches and picnic tables.

•• Community Parks/Community Center Sites

- A second component of the Master Plan relates to three (3) prospective sites for new or expanded community parks and/or a community recreation center. Portions of these sites would also be very suitable for sports complex development.
- East of Pickerington/Lockville Road including several parcels that encompass about 190 acres. This site would include a large wooded area east of the Pickerington Hills subdivision with a linkage along Sycamore Creek to Sycamore Creek Park. The central area is more open and connects to a wooded area to the south that features an existing Great Blue Heron colony.
 - The wooded area is an excellent stand of mature trees and understory growth that must not be lost. It is also an outstanding wildlife habitat.
 - The central open area is well suited for development of a community center and sports field complex.
 - The south area is also a mature wooded area with attributes that provide a habitat for Great Blue Heron that should be preserved at all costs.
- East of Hill Road South and just south of Pickerington High School Central which encompasses about 98 acres. This site features a wooded flood plain area along Sycamore Creek on the west side and open flatter ground on the larger eastern section of the property. The open area would be well suited for community recreation center and sports complex development.

- West of Diley Road, east of School House Road and just north of the Reserve at Pickerington Ponds subdivision. This site encompasses about 69 acres. The property is essentially an open farm field without any real natural attributes. It is, however, immediately east of the Pickerington Ponds Wetlands Area, separated only by School House Road. Linkages could readily be developed between the two areas. This property would work well for both a community recreation center and sports complex.
- All proposed community park/recreation center sites are located along arterial streets for ease of access and are of sufficient size to accommodate the recreation center building with potential expansion and parking as well as areas for sports fields, court games and other outdoor facilities.

•• Additional Master Plan Recommendations

- Acquire several parcels on the east and west sides of Hill Road South both north and south of Bridge Boulevard on the west side and northwest of the Pickerington Central High School site and southeast of the Ridgeview Junior High School on the east side. These areas encompass about 52 acres and provide an open space linkage between the schools and both Preston Trails and Victory Parks.
- Should the PYAA/PASA decide to sell the Pickerington Youth Sports Complex, the City should acquire the site as a community sports complex.
- Consideration should also be given to acquiring the 88 acre Hickory Lakes complex. It is an excellent natural resource and would accommodate a wide variety of community programs and activities. This would be a good opportunity for the City of Pickerington and Violet Township to work together to mutually satisfy community open space needs.
- Develop a splash pad to provide water recreation for children of all ages. Development would include spray rings, dumping buckets, water cannons, fountain sprays and other water features as well as safety surfacing, benches, waste receptacles and other amenities. The splash pad may be developed in a community park or in conjunction with a future community recreation center.

•• Greenways/Linear Parks

- Greenways or linear parks are natural corridors that extend through and out from communities which are created by local actions.
- Greenways connect open spaces, park and recreation areas, scenic countrysides and development areas. They provide recreation corridors for hiking, walking, biking, horseback riding and nature appreciation.
- Greenways or linear parks provide a number of benefits to the community including:
 - Ecological benefits through the provision of habitat and migratory corridors for plants, fish and wildlife.
 - Recreational benefits related to facilitating public access for nature walks, bird watching, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, bike trails and fitness courses.
 - Educational and cultural benefits by providing opportunities for people to learn about nature and affording connections to historic sites and cultural centers.
 - Economic benefits relate to the fact that scenic beauty, access to open space, recreational opportunities and cultural amenities contribute to an improved quality of life which brings economic benefits. Greenways and parks increase property values, increase the tax base by businesses locating in the community and promote tourism.

•• Flood Plains

- Floods cause significant damage to property and loss of life each year in the United States and in Ohio. An accepted standard for regulatory purposes under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the base or 100-year flood. The floodway includes the channel and adjacent bank areas required to convey the 100-year flood flow without significant increases in flood heights. The floodway fringe is the area adjacent to both sides of the floodway that may be inundated with slow moving or standing water during the 100-year base flood. Together the floodway and floodway fringe areas constitute the flood plain.
- Conservation and flood plain management measures should be enacted to retain flood plain areas in the City of Pickerington in its undisturbed state. Such measures protect the community from the hazards and costs associated with floods. Site design guidelines are intended to maintain the flood plain environment as close to its natural state as possible. Consideration should be given to control of stormwater runoff, siting of buildings or structures, location and use of open space areas, circulation and access and the natural landscape character.

•• Wooded Conservation Areas

- Woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to the community. Trees provide shade, scale and texture to spaces, energy conservation benefits, improved air quality, habitats for wildlife, protection of ground areas from erosion especially on slopes and contribute significantly to real estate values.
- Wooded areas along greenway/stream corridors include flood plain or steep slope areas that constitute a significant component of the Greenway/Linear Park system.

•• Protection of Greenways/Flood Plains/Wooded Conservation Areas

- Means and methods to protect these areas should be incorporated into the City's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. This will be further considered in the Action Program/Implementation section in relation to Regulations/Development Controls.

• **BIKEWAY PLAN**

•• **Planning Resources**

- The Bikeway Plan is a compilation of input from sources listed below plus on-site reviews and evaluations of selected corridors or routes in conjunction with the preparation of this Master Plan.
 - Mid-Ohio regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - 2003 Proposed Regional Bikeway System for Pickerington with review input from Erin Miller, Greenways Program Manager.
 - Metro Parks review input by Steven Studenmund, Strategic Planning Manager and John Watts, Resource Manager.
 - City of Columbus Parks and Recreation review input by Brad Westall, Bikeway Coordinator.
 - Fairfield Heritage Trail Association - Pickerington 2000 map with review input by Ira Weis.

•• **Bikeway Planning Criteria**

- Connectivity is the primary tenant of the Bikeway Plan. As expressed in interviews, the Citizen Survey and community input meetings, the goal of the Bikeway Plan should be that bikeways/trails should connect:
 - Parks
 - Residences
 - Government Offices
 - Shopping and Other Commercial
 - Senior Centers and Nursing Homes
 - Schools - Safe Routes To Schools Program
 - Churches and Other Religious Organizations
 - Other Bikeways/Trails to Connect With:
 - Trail along South Side of Refugee Road west of Gender Road
 - Future interurban route trail from Lancaster to Canal Winchester
 - Canal Winchester Trails, including Canal Winchester to Groveport
 - Blacklick Trail from Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds to Blacklick Park. This connector system would ultimately allow Pickerington residents to gain access to the Alum Creek, Big Walnut and Rocky Fork Trails. Much of the Alum Creek Trail is existing while the Big Walnut and Rocky Fork Trails are future trails.
- Bikeway Design Factors
 - Bikeways can and should:
 - Improve safety and quality of life.
 - Enhance integration and connectivity.
 - Increase accessibility and mobility options.
 - Types of Bicyclists
 - Contemporary thinking equates types of bicyclists to types of bikeway facilities.
 - A - Experienced traffic cyclist.
 - B - Basic/beginner.
 - C - Child cyclist/8+ years.
 - Types of Bikeway Facilities
 - Bike Path
 - Multi-use.
 - B/C Users.
 - Limited curb cuts.
 - Uninterrupted route.
 - Well designed and maintained.
 - Separated from vehicular traffic areas.
 - Shared Lane On Streets
 - B/C Users.
 - Residential areas.
 - 12' lanes - no special bicyclist provisions.
 - Traffic less than 2,000 vehicles per day and less than 30 MPH speed.
 - Paved Shoulder
 - A User.
 - Rural areas.
 - Shoulders 4'+ wide, paved and well-maintained.
 - Traffic over 2,000 vehicles per day and 40+ MPH speed.
 - Wide Curb Lane
 - A User.
 - Urban areas.
 - Minimum 14' lane, daily traffic 2,000 to 10,000+ vehicles per day and 40+ MPH speed.
 - Bike Lane
 - A/B/C Users.
 - Urban areas.
 - Traffic 2,000 to 10,000+ vehicles per day and 25-35 MPH speed.
- **Bikeway Plan**
 - Existing/Committed
 - Existing paved shoulder/bike lane along S.R. 256.
 - Existing bike path related to Sycamore Creek and Victory Parks and Ridgeview Junior High School.
 - Committed bike path along the west side of Diley Road which will soon be constructed.

- Proposed Bike Path
 - Bike paths shown on the Plan relate to stream/greenway corridors, utility corridors, potential rail-trail corridors, paths in parks and/or acquired easements.
 - Bike paths may also be related to thoroughfares, like the Diley Road bike path or as noted below.
- Proposed Bike Route/Lane
 - Bike routes/lanes are characteristically associated with streets and thoroughfares and thus vehicular traffic. This classification includes predominantly shared lanes, paved shoulders, wide curb lanes and bike lanes.
 - Wherever possible in the interest of safety and maximum user participation, bike paths should be developed along thoroughfares. This is most critical along high traffic volume/higher speed corridors such as S.R. 240, Refugee Road, Long Road, Busey Road, S.R. 256, Hill Road and Pickerington Road. This option should be incorporated into any road improvement or widening projects.
 - Plan implementation should be coordinated with capital improvement programs and all land development proposals. Realization of the system will take considerable time but is possible if approached in logical increments.

• NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLANS

•• Community Input/Program Development

- Two charette sessions were held to receive input from the community and particularly residents in proximity to the seven (7) park sites for which master plans were to be prepared. The information derived from the charettes represents the program for each park used to guide the development of the park master plan. The input from participants related to each park is summarized below. Comments related to Victory and Sycamore Creek Parks are derived from responses to "park improvements desired" in the Citizen Survey/What Do You Think?
- **Colony Park:**
 - A shelter building close to the playground that will accommodate 3-4 picnic tables.
 - Site furnishings including waste receptacles, benches, picnic tables and a drinking fountain.
 - A small playground with slides, swings and related play components. Painted metal structures are preferred.
 - Linkages within the park should preserve the green space while maintaining the privacy of neighbors that abut the park.
 - Link the north end of the park at Parkview Drive to the south end at Colony Park Drive with paths through the park for walkers, bike riders, people with strollers, wheeled toys and other park users.
 - Signs with posted park rules at both ends of the park. Rules should include:
 - No Alcohol
 - Clean Up After Pets
 - Parks Closes at Dark
 - No Grills/Open Flames
 - Elements that are not desired and should not be a part of the master plan include:
 - Lighting
 - Restrooms
 - Parking lots
 - Tennis or basketball courts
 - Field games such as soccer
 - Water features such as a pond
- **Willow Pond Park:**
 - Add a four (4) seat swing set including infant seats.
 - Check to determine if the pond may be overstocked with fish.
 - Parking related to the park is limited and not good on busy days.
 - Provide subgrade drainage in the playground area. It floods each time it rains.
 - Add a dock out into the pond with railings for easier and safer "kid fishing" time.
 - Repave the blacktop walking trail around the pond. There is a lot of broken pavement.
 - Thanks for adding trash cans in the park and for keeping the grass mowed last summer.
 - A larger water fountain would look better. The scale of the existing fountain does not fit the size of the pond.
 - Find ways to reduce or eliminate the goose population. They leave a mess on the trails and in the playground.
 - Need at least one additional bench by the playground. Also some more benches around the pond would be appreciated.
 - The water area going under Pruden Drive may need to be dredged out. Some kids walk out in the shallow area to fish which may be unsafe.
 - Add landscaping around the railings at the pond inflow and outflow points. Reseed grass areas around the pond. Plant tulips and other flowering bulbs in landscape bed areas.
 - Clean playground equipment and find ways to ensure that existing and new equipment is not vandalized. Possible consideration of some security lighting to keep vandals away.
 - Determine ownership and any proposed use of the open grass area on the west side of Hill Road between Pruden Drive and the Conrail Railroad. This area is about 1.23 acres and is relatively flat. It could potentially be used for picnicking, a small soccer field or a basketball court.
- **Shawnee Crossing Park:**
 - Preserve and protect existing wooded areas.

- Possible consideration of limited lighting primarily for security.
- Develop a playground with age appropriate areas and equipment.
- A gazebo with possible electrical service and a couple of picnic tables.
- Develop a walkway around the pond with benches at selected locations.
- Provide clean up of the park area through selective removal of debris and underbrush.
- Create nature trails along the stream corridor with a bridge over the stream to link the east and west sections of the park site.
- Develop a wetland habitat at the inflow area to the proposed pond. Include appropriate non-invasive flora that will encourage the influx of fauna associated with this type of environment.
- Create a retention pond rather than the dry detention basin. May be stocked with fish and have a fountain. People in the neighborhood had been told by the developer that there would be a pond.
- Elements that are not desired and should not be a part of the master plan include:
 - Public restrooms
 - Large shelters or pavilions
 - Parking lot - a possible exception would be east of the stream corridor on the north side of S.R. 256.
 - Metal playground equipment - it was pointed out that painted metal play equipment is the most durable and maintenance free. Color selection, such as the use of natural colors, would help to integrate the equipment into the park environment.
- **Simsbury Park:**
 - Close the park after dark. Use should only be from dawn to dusk.
 - Some potential uses for this site include nature study and overnight camping for scout groups.
 - Maintain the rural feel of the park site. Preserve and protect trees, minimize brush removal and limit the amount of mowed turf.
 - Develop a pathway system throughout the park to provide linkages between facilities and uses and for biking, jogging and aerobic exercise.
 - Develop a shelter/restroom building related to the proposed parking area south of the water tower. Provide tables and grills for picnicking and event administration.
 - Provide access between Simsbury Park and Sycamore Creek Park. The large culvert under the railroad is often used for this purpose. Details would have to be worked out with the railroad.
 - No vehicular entry or parking from the south end of Macfie Street or the east end of Mackenzie Drive. Pedestrian walkway entry only at these points with bollards to prohibit vehicular entry.
 - Parking would be in the north section of the park just south of the existing and proposed water towers. Vehicular access to the parking would be off of S.R. 256 at a point opposite Olde Mound Lane.
 - Maintain existing vegetative buffers behind homes along Simsbury Drive and in areas south of homes along Mackenzie Drive. Provide appropriate landscape buffers in open areas south of the lots along Mackenzie Drive.
 - It was noted that a primary use intended for this park is a disc golf course. Based on the assurance that the more natural rural character of the site would be preserved with this type of use, the participants felt disc golf would be a good park use.
 - Develop a small shelter or gazebo in the west section of the park in the vicinity of the walkway entry related to an extension of Macfie Street. Relate this to family activities such as a children's play area, a small court games area, horseshoe courts and walking trails.
 - Elements that are not desired and should not be a part of the master plan include:
 - Site lighting
 - Ponds or other water features
 - Parking off of Macfie Street or Mackenzie Drive
 - Active sports fields such as softball, baseball or soccer
- **Preston Trails Park:**
 - Desire is to have a park that is very attractive with limited active recreation.
 - Develop a playground that would relate to the 0-9 year age group primarily.
 - Landscaping along the walkways and a landscape buffer in areas where residential lots abut the park to maintain privacy for homeowners.
 - Continue the existing path on the south and east sides of the park around the park on the north and west sides. The path should be integrated into the Bikeway Plan as a connector.
 - Facilities or activities that are desired in this park include:
 - Gazebo/small shelter with grills and picnic tables.
 - An area for fishing along the creek or access to the creek.
 - Multipurpose open field area for frisbee, kite flying and free play.
 - Benches, waste receptacles, drinking fountain and related site furnishings.
 - Consideration of a retention pond in lieu of the existing dry basin detention and/or a rain garden.
 - Elements that are not desired and should not be a part of the master plan include:
 - Basketball or tennis courts.
 - Site lighting except possible security lighting related to any parking.
 - Parking not preferred but if necessary it should be a limited quantity with a landscaped buffer related to residential properties.
 - Vehicular access from Sycamore Creek Boulevard or Loraine Boulevard. Use these access points for pathways with bollards to control vehicular access.
 - Steve Carr indicated that this park site is a community park and that there is a significant need in the community for sports fields including softball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse and related activities. Based on the predominantly flat terrain which is conducive to sports fields, this will be a necessary component in this park. He has checked City Council, Planning Commission and Park Board minutes that relate to the time of this park dedication as well as the recorder's office for possible deed restrictions and found no stipulations or requirements that would preclude sports field. He

stated, however, that the Parks and Recreation Department and City officials want to be a good neighbor and would therefore endeavor to develop a master plan that would minimize possible adverse impacts on the neighborhoods and particularly residents abutting the park.

- **Sycamore Creek Park:**
 - Need more police patrol, better monitor teen activities and eliminate vandalism.
 - Desired improvements include:
 - Stock pond for better fishing.
 - Parking at the upper park level.
 - More restrooms/update existing.
 - Plant more trees/improve the landscaping.
 - Develop new or improved basketball courts.
 - Improve soccer and softball field conditions.
 - Better playgrounds/more swings/equipment for all ages.
 - Improve tennis courts which is in the process of being done.
 - General cleanup of the park site and woods along the creek.
 - Convert the horseshoe courts to a dog park and clean up the adjacent shelter house.
 - Site furnishings such as benches, grills, waste receptacles. Need benches and waste receptacles around the pond.
 - Remove the existing wood play equipment by the tennis courts as it is dangerous. Develop a new playground to serve the upper level of the park.
 - Expand the path system for better connectivity and linkages. Extend to create a loop system around and through the park. Repair/repave the path around the pond.
- **Victory Park:**
 - Need facilities/activities for adults.
 - Desired improvements include:
 - Fishing pond.
 - More and better parking.
 - More/updated/cleaner restrooms.
 - Spruce up the shelter house and clean tables.
 - Develop a teen center and an in ground swimming pool.
 - Walking, jogging, biking trails. Provide for pet walking on paths/trails.
 - Site furnishings such as grills, picnic tables, benches and waste receptacles.
 - Court surfacing/color coat/recondition both tennis and basketball courts and lighting.
 - Playground equipment - improve safety, more swings, more facilities for younger children and expand area and play options.
- **Neighborhood Park Master Plans**
 - **Colony Park**
 - Features a path system, shelter, playground and open space/free play areas.
 - Short Range Development
 - Playground.
 - Open/free play area.
 - Drainage improvements.
 - Western section of the walking/biking path.
 - Selected site improvements such as benches and waste receptacles.
 - Long Range Development
 - Park shelter.
 - Landscaping.
 - Balance of the path system.
 - Site improvements/furnishings.
 - **Willow Pond Park**
 - Features, in addition to existing facilities, an expanded playground, relocated park shelter, new large water feature, a fishing dock and repaved paths.
 - Short Range Development
 - Fishing dock.
 - Path repavement.
 - Playground expansion.
 - Selected landscape improvements.
 - Long Range Development
 - Shelter relocation.
 - Path development.
 - Large water feature.
 - Landscape improvements.
 - Site improvements/furnishings.
 - **Shawnee Crossing Park**
 - Features parking, park shelter, playground, pond and water feature, path systems, short grass prairie, pond side gazebo and rain garden with ornamental grasses and water plants.
 - Short Range Development
 - Parking.
 - Playground.
 - Rain garden.
 - Retention pond.



LEGEND

- PARK PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- EXISTING SHADE TREE
- EXISTING EVERGREEN TREE



PROPOSED SHADE TREE

- A PLAYGROUND
 - SLIDES
 - SWINGS
 - RELATED PLAY COMPONENTS
- B PARK SHELTER (FUTURE)

- C PARK ENTRANCE
- D LANDSCAPE BUFFER
- E WALKING/BIKING PATH
- F OPEN SPACE/FREE PLAY
- G DEWASHE IMPROVEMENT AREA

NOTE: ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE PICKNICK TABLES, BENCHES, WASTE RECEPTACLES, DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND SEWAGE.



3.12 ACRES

MASTER PLAN
COLONY PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
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LEGEND

- PARK PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- EXISTING SHADE TREE
- EXISTING ORNAMENTAL TREE

- PROPOSED SHADE TREE
- PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL TREE
- A FISHING DOCK
- B EXISTING POND

- D PLAYGROUND
- SLEDS
- SWINGS
- RELATED PLAY COMPONENTS
- E PARK SHELTER
- F PARK ENTRANCE
- G SUBSPREAD DRAINAGE
- H BRUSHWOOD PATH

- I LARGE WATER FEATURE
- J BALUNGS ON HEADWALLS
- K LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
- L RELOCATED WATER FEATURE
- M REPAIRS TO BRUSHWOOD PATH
- N DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT AREA
- O ORNAMENTAL GRASSES/WATER PLANTS

NOTE: ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE PICNIC TABLES, BENCHES, WASTE RECEPTACLES, DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND DISHARGE.

6.95 ACRES

MASTER PLAN
WILLOW POND PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
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LEGEND

— PARK PROPERTY LINE
 --- EXISTING TREE LINE

○ PROPOSED SHADE TREE
 A. BRUSH
 B. CAN PINK
 C. PARK SHELTER (FUTURE)

D. PLAYGROUND
 • SLIDES
 • SWINGS
 • RELATED PLAY COMPONENTS
 E. PARK ENTRANCE
 F. WATER FEATURE
 G. INCUBATION POND

H. LANDSCAPE BUFFER
 I. WALKING/BIKING PATH
 J. SHORT GRASS MEADOW
 K. BIRC LINE ALONG S.R. 226
 L. PROPOSED POROSIDE GAZEBO (FUTURE)
 M. ORNAMENTAL GRASSES & WINTER PLANTS

NOTE: ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE POND TABLES, DOCKS, WASTE RECEPTACLES, DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND GAZEBO.

0 30 120
 7.03 ACRES

MASTER PLAN
 SHAWNEE CROSSING PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
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- Selected landscape development.
 - Selected portions of the path system and bridges.
 - Long Range Development
 - Park shelter.
 - Pond side gazebo.
 - Short grass prairie.
 - Complete path system.
 - Landscape development.
 - Site improvements/furnishings.
- **Community Park Master Plans**
- **Victory Park**
 - Features, in addition to existing facilities, lighted basketball courts, improvements to the shelter and restroom buildings, car park improvements/expansion, playground improvements/expansion, path system and site furnishings.
 - Short Range Development
 - Includes all proposed improvements or new development.
 - **Simsbury Park**
 - Features new entrance drive and car park off of S.R. 256, large park shelter/restroom building, playground improvements, small park shelter, walking/biking path system, basketball court and an 18 hole disc golf course.
 - Short Range Development
 - Playground.
 - Basketball court.
 - 18 hole disc golf course.
 - Entrance drive and car park.
 - Entrance drive improvements.
 - Large shelter/restroom building.
 - Selected landscape development.
 - Selected site development/furnishings
 - Long Range Development
 - Small park shelter.
 - Landscape development.
 - Site development/furnishings.
 - Pedestrian underpass and Sycamore Creek bridge.
 - **Sycamore Creek Park**
 - Features, in addition to existing development, barn improvements, bridges at the pond, car park improvements, entrance drive improvements, new park shelter, new amphitheater building, new and improved playgrounds, fishing deck, U-15/travel size soccer field, service yard, water feature/fountain, covered bridge improvements, walking/biking path system improvements and expansion and maintenance building improvements.
 - Short Range Development
 - Fishing deck.
 - U-15/travel size soccer field.
 - New and improved playgrounds.
 - Selected landscape development.
 - New park shelter and amphitheater building.
 - Selected path improvements and expansion.
 - Car park improvements and expansion/entrance drive improvements.
 - Covered bridge, barn and maintenance building improvements and service yard.
 - Long Range Development
 - Bridges at the pond.
 - Water feature/fountain.
 - Landscape development.
 - Site improvements/furnishings.
 - Path improvements and expansion.
 - **Preston Trails Park**
 - Features bridge over Sycamore Creek, car park, park shelter, playground, community gardens, short grass prairie, open space/free play area, rain garden and walking/biking path system.
 - Short Range Development
 - Playground.
 - Bridge and car park.
 - Community gardens.
 - Selected path development.
 - Selected landscape development.
 - Selected grading and drainage improvements.
 - Long Range Development
 - Park shelter.
 - Rain garden.
 - Path development.
 - Short grass prairie.
 - Landscape development.



LEGEND

- PARK PROPERTY LINE
- - - EXISTING TRAIL LINE
- EXISTING SHADE TREE
- PROPOSED SHADE TREE
- EXISTING EVERGREEN TREE

- A CAR PARK
- B PLAYGROUND
- C PICNIC SHELTER
- D RELATED PLAY COMPONENTS
- E PARK SHELTER
- F PARK ENTRANCE
- G PARK RESTROOMS
- H VETERANS MEMORIAL

- I WALK/BIKEWAY PATH
- J OPEN SPACE/RECREATION PLAY
- K EXISTING WALKWAYS/BIKEWAY PATH
- L PROPOSED LIGHTED BASKETBALL COURTS

NOTE: ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE PICNIC TABLES, BENCHES, WHEELS, RECEPTACLES, DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND BIKING.



6.48 ACRES

MASTER PLAN
VICTORY PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
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LEGEND

- PARK PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- EXISTING SHADE TREE
- PROPOSED SHADE TREE
- PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL TREE

- A CAR PARK
- B PLAYGROUND
- SLEDS
- SNOWS
- RELATED PLAY COMPONENTS
- C PARK SHELTER (FUTURE)
- D PARK ENTRANCE
- E PARK SHELTER/REST ROOM

- F LANDSCAPE BUFFER
- G WALKING/BIKING PATH
- H EXISTING WATER TOWER
- I PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS
- J PROPOSED WATER TOWER
- K PROPOSED BASKETBALL COURT
- L PROPOSED 18-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE

NOTE: ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE PICNIC TABLES, GRILLS, BENCHES, WATER RECEPTACLES, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, AND SIGNAGE.

ASSISTANCE IN THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE DISC GOLF COURSE PROVIDED BY PAUL JOY, PRESIDENT, OF THE COLUMBUS FLYING DISC GOLF CLUB

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37.31 ACRES

MASTER PLAN
SIMSBURY PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
CITY OF PICKERINGTON, OHIO
EDSALL & ASSOCIATES LLC
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • LAND PLANNERS • PLANNING CONSULTANTS
 754 NEIL AVENUE • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 • 614-221-0580





• **PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

•• Park/City Landscaping

- Add landscaping to all parks to provide year-round seasonal color. Relate to plant massing and tree locations shown on the park master plans.
- Landscaping should be added to park land development for:
 - Adding shade
 - Buffering park edges
 - Adding seasonal interest
 - Define park uses/spaces
 - Renovation of natural landscapes/outdoor education
- Require street trees for all new subdivisions. Add street trees to existing barren residential and commercial areas.
- The recommended maximum spacing for street trees should be forty (40') feet.
- All street trees should be planted March 1 to June 1 or October 1 to December 1.
- All street trees should be planted in the tree lawn or behind the walk as approved by the City.
- No street trees should be planted closer to an electric, storm sewer, sanitary sewer or waterline than four (4') feet.
- All street trees should be shade trees or any species which normally attains a full-grown height of forty (40') to fifty (50') feet or more.
- All street trees should be of the same variety or for long streets should be grouped as to the same variety for several blocks as approved by the City.
- All street trees should be a minimum size at time of planting of 2 ½" caliper (diameter of tree trunk measured six [6"] inches above the ground or top of ball). All street trees should be balled and burlapped.
- All street trees should conform to the American Association of Nurserymen's Standards, Section 1.1.2 - Height of Branching or a minimum of six (6') feet at time of planting. All street trees should be matched.

•• Bikeway Development Guidelines

- Bike Path - 10' wide minimum.
- On-Street Bike Lane - 5' wide minimum.
- Sidewalk Bike Route Two-Way - minimum 10' wide.
- Sidewalk Bike Route One-Way - minimum 5' wide, 6' is ideal.
- Develop designated resting/staging areas/small parking areas with system maps/information for the community-wide bikeway system at selected locations in parks, on school sites or other appropriate locations determined by the City.

•• Develop a Comprehensive Playground Improvement Plan

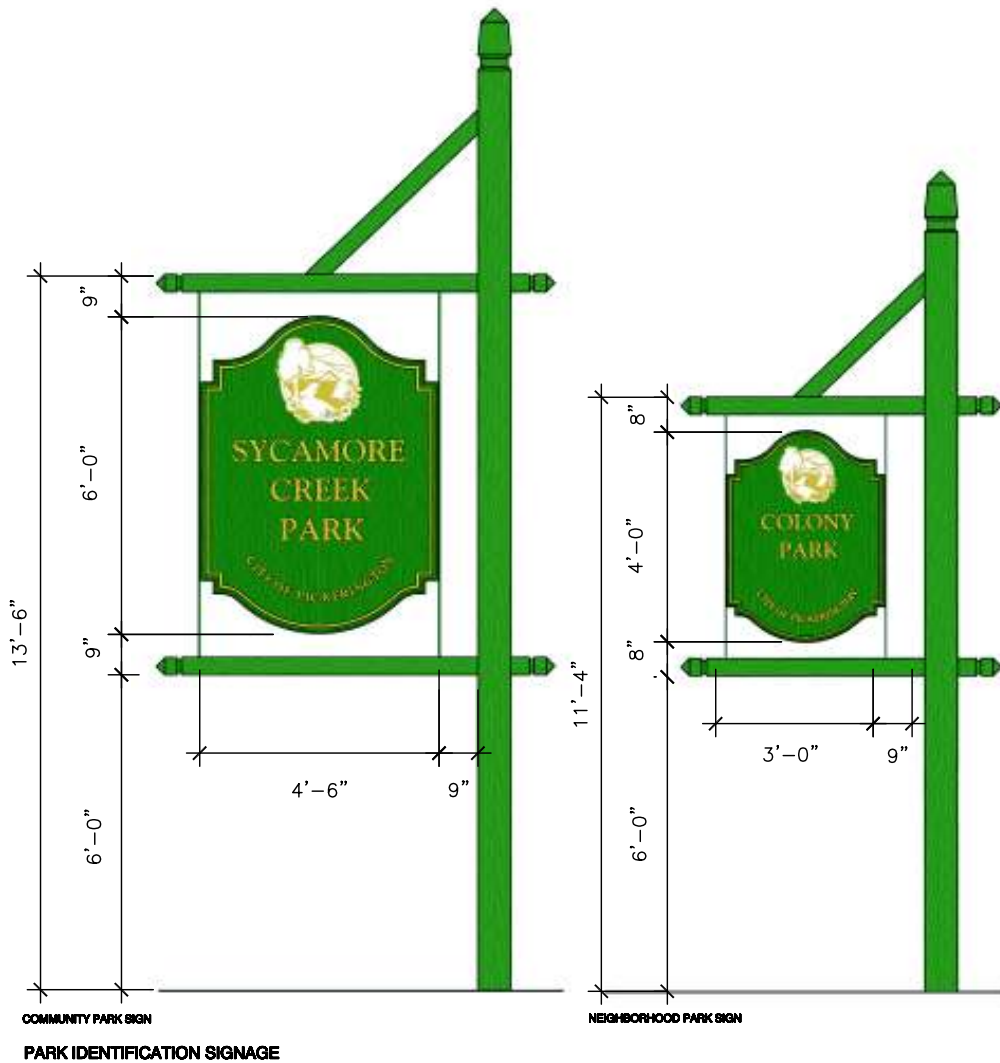
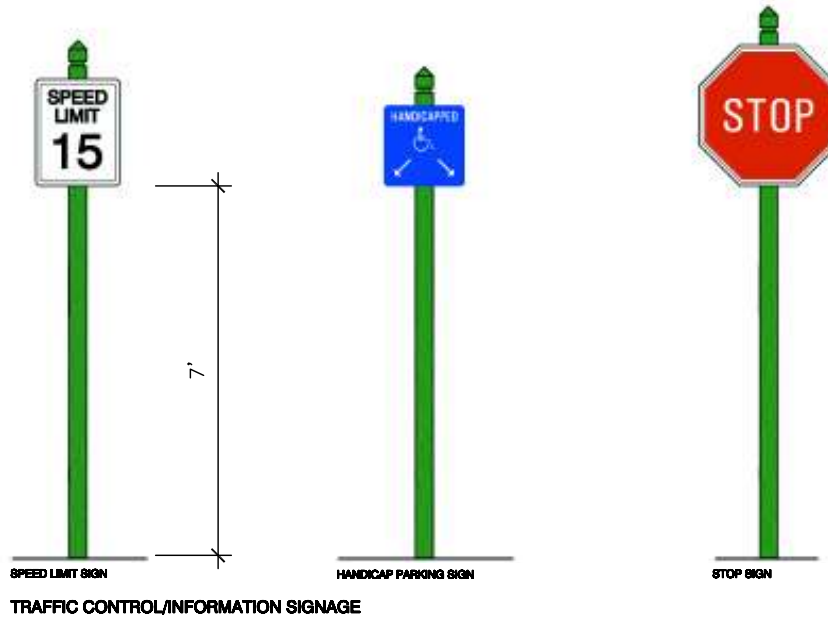
- Audit all playgrounds.
- Develop paved walk connections to all playgrounds.
- Wood play structures should be avoided due to high maintenance requirements.
- Integrate all play equipment into one (1) common area with ADA approved safety surface. Add subgrade drainage to all playground sub-surfaces to increase availability of use.
- Develop playgrounds at all neighborhood and community parks and on school sites. Incorporate play activities for pre-school and school age children. All playgrounds should meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards (CPSC) and National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI). All playgrounds should be checked for the following:
 - Eliminate trip hazards
 - Entrapment in openings
 - Insufficient equipment spacing
 - Improper protective resilient surfacing
 - Protrusion and entanglement hazards
 - Absence of ADA accessible equipment
 - Platforms with no or inadequate guardrails
 - Pinch, crush, shearing and sharp edge hazards
 - Age-appropriate activities based on developmental needs
 - Inadequate fall zones under and around or between equipment

•• Park Development/Signage Standards

- Add park signs to existing parks which currently are not signed.
- Add year round landscaping to park signage incorporating evergreen and deciduous shrubbery, ornamental grasses and perennials.
- Create standards/guidelines for Pickerington park facility identity. Standards should be included for benches, bicycle racks, landscaping, playground equipment, shelters and waste receptacles.
- Maintain park signage design standard. Locate park signs perpendicular to streets and double faced for better readability. The accompanying illustrations depict proposed standards for park signage.

• Restroom Facilities/Water Services

- Restrooms should be developed at all community parks.
- Where possible, shelters, concession areas and/or equipment storage areas should be integrated into restroom facilities for cost savings in construction, maintenance and operations.
- Drinking Fountains should be incorporated at all park sites where:
 - Picnic facilities are developed including neighborhood parks.



PARK SIGNAGE STANDARDS

- Active recreation facilities such as basketball and tennis courts.
- Programmed recreation such as soccer and baseball/softball recreation fields occur.

•• **Parking**

- All parking areas in parks should be curbed or have parking blocks.
- All off-street parking within parks should be developed with landscaping integrated into and around parking areas as "car parks."

ACTION PROGRAM/IMPLEMENTATION

- The implementation of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the City of Pickerington is an investment in every citizen in the community, young or old, homeowner or business owner. Park facilities and recreation programs are a very strong factor in a community's economic development. Such facilities and programs are a key indicator of the quality of life in the community and are a significant influence on prospective residents, businesses and industries in terms of deciding if this is the place to locate.

As previously indicated in this report, people who responded to the Citizen Survey favored financing using the Capital Improvement Fund coupled with existing revenues, a combination of methods noted and/or a rollback of the .5% income tax credit. Methods the people did not favor included any increase in property taxes, increases in the income tax and/or rollback of the .5% income tax credit. The strongest support expressed was for the City of Pickerington and Violet Township to work cooperatively to acquire and operate parks and recreation facilities. Major park and recreation improvements, however, can not totally be funded by most methods noted above. The recommendations made in this Master Plan may be funded through a combination of three (3) basic funding techniques noted below:

- **Regulatory Techniques/Development Controls:** Involves legislative/policy action by City.
- **Primary Funding Techniques:** Required for major land acquisition and major facility development such as bikeways, a community recreation center and recreational field development.
- **Secondary Funding Techniques:** Smaller, site specific improvements such as landscaping, picnic area development, playgrounds, shelters. Funding may involve multiple resources including partnership opportunities. Any major reliance on secondary funding sources may involve a significant investment of staff time to seek and administer potential funding programs.

• REGULATORY TECHNIQUES/DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS

- Plan Adoption
- Development Controls
- Interdepartmental Policies
- Property Acquisition or Leases
- **Plan Adoption:** It is recommended the Master Plan be adopted by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. Plan adoption is a very critical first step in enforcing Plan recommendations. The realization of the Master Plan depends on maintaining a close correlation between land use revisions, thoroughfare planning and improvements, development proposals, natural resource preservation and the open space, park and recreation needs of the community.
- **Development Controls:** Primary methods of controlling development are embodied in subdivision regulations and the planning and zoning code.
 - **Subdivision Regulations:** Existing regulations should be reviewed to ensure that they contain adequate measures to enforce the preservation of greenway corridors, flood plains, steep slopes and wooded conservation areas as depicted in the Master Plan.
 - **Planning and Zoning Code:** Existing City ordinances may need to be modified to incorporate general development guidelines as suggested in the Master Plan. Consideration should be given to:
 - **Performance Zoning** - A zone is defined by a list of permitted impacts (based on natural resource data and design guidelines) as opposed to permitted uses.
 - **Carrying Capacity Zoning** - Based on the ability of an area to accommodate growth and development within the limits defined by existing infrastructure and natural resource capabilities.
 - **Cluster Zoning/Planned Unit Development (PUD)** - Maintains regular zoning's ratio of housing units to acreage but permits clustered development through undersized lots, thus allowing for open space preservation. A PUD provision allows clustering for a large, mixed-use development.
 - **Preservation Overlay Zoning** - At discretion of municipality, overlay zones with development restrictions can be established to protect agricultural and natural areas, scenic views and historic neighborhoods.
 - **Existing Code Revisions:** Suggested items that should be reviewed and possibly revised are as follows.
 - **1258.15 Street Trees; Urban Forestry Fund:**
 - (a) Increase the minimum one and one-half inch caliper to two and one-half inch caliper. The cost differential is not that much but the visual and environmental impact is significant. Delete

"whenever possible" in the last sentence. This severely weakens the ability to enforce existing tree retention.

- (b) Raise the urban forestry fee per lot from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00. This relates to increasing the caliper size and a truer cost for the City to cover real costs to purchase, plant, care for/maintain and/or replace. The fee increase per year should be increased from 3% to 5% annually.
- (c) Language needs to be more specific and identify those sections that relate to "as otherwise required by these Codified Ordinances."
- **1258.23 City Maintained Detention Basins:**
 - Last Paragraph - Detention basins should not automatically be equated to providing "passive park areas." There should be requirements that additional land be provided as an adjunct to the detention basin for recreation facility development and/or the preservation of natural areas and woodlands. Recommend that the permanent access easement be increased from 20' in width to at least 30'-35' in width. This facilitates planting on both sides of a path and better buffers adjacent properties. Circumstances may also require that two (2) or more access easements be provided.
- **1258.27 Perimeter Mounding and Fencing; Trees:**
 - (b) Slopes on mounded areas should not exceed 4:1 and preferably 5:1. The crest should be at least 5'-10' in width and trees should be at least 6' in height and a little down slope from the crest.
 - (e) Flowering trees like evergreen trees should generally be planted 15' apart. Some larger Crabapple trees, however, may be spaced 20' apart.
- **1266.01 Purpose:**
 - (a) The purpose statement is outstanding.
- **1266.04 Tree Replacement:**
 - (a) Increase the number of replacement trees in the schedule categories (1)-(5) by one (1) tree each at the 2 ½" caliper or larger required size.
 - (b) In (5) a fee schedule should be established to define the "fee equal to the replacement cost of the affected tree(s)." The National Association of Arborists can assist in establishing values.
- **1282.07 Mandatory Requirements In Residential Districts:**
 - (a) If 20% open space is a "firm goal" then there should not be an allowance to decrease the area reserved to 15% despite alleged "site constraints."
- **1282.08 Flexible Requirements in Residential Districts:**
 - (a) The statement "equipped with the appropriate picnic tables, benches, and other outdoor furniture" implies but does not stipulate that the developer is to include some level of development with the provision of required open space. Many communities are requiring development in addition to land donation and this may be appropriate in Pickerington, particularly with respect to neighborhood parks. Certain conditions should apply to such development including:
 - Development must meet all City standards.
 - Development may include site furnishing as noted above plus playgrounds, shelters, walking/biking paths, parking, landscaping and other develop components as may be determined by the City.
 - (b) Bikeways should not be less than eight (8') feet in width under any circumstance. Pavement design should meet City standards. We recommend 6" of ODOT 304 compacted base with 1 ½" ODOT 402 and 1 ½" ODOT 404 asphalt pavement.
- **1282.14 Flexible Requirements In Commercial/Industrial Districts:**
 - (a) The way public open space provisions are written, the primary use of such open space is for storm water detention and/or marginal land related to excessive and unuseable slopes. This affords little or no "public" open space benefit. Detention and slopes should be the responsibility of the developer to handle. A positive example of a possible exception would be the pond development at Mill Run in Columbus and Hilliard. Here the paths and amphitheater are used extensively by the general public. If the "public open space" is not truly useable by the public, then fees-in-lieu schedules should be established commensurate with the true value of the commercial or industrial land. These fees could then be used to acquire open space, develop walkways/bikeways and/or develop park and recreation facilities.
- **1284.01 Flood Plain District (FP):**
 - (b) Suggest extending the limit of the official 100-year flood plain limit by at least 50' and preferably 100' on each side of the flood plain limit. This would greatly enhance open space preservation and facilitate broader public use of the corridor.

- **1286 Conditional Uses:**
 - Such uses should also have to make open space contributions as noted in relation to commercial/ industrial districts. An appropriate mechanism would be a fees-in-lieu schedule.
- **1290.06 Specific Off-Street Parking Requirements:**
 - (d)(1)(4) Parking requirements for athletic fields are extremely inadequate. For field and court games we recommend:

• Baseball/Softball	30 Spaces/Field
• Soccer/Rugby/Lacrosse	25 Spaces/Field
• Basketball	5-10 Spaces/Court
• Volleyball	10 Spaces/Court
 - (d)(2) Community Centers should have at least one (1) space for every 200 to 250 square feet of building area.
 - Other facility recommendations:

• Picnicking	1.5 Spaces/Table
• Playgrounds	5-10 Spaces
- **1296.01 Required Landscaping and Buffering:**
 - (c)(1) Appropriate Landscaping Material/Evergreen Trees:
 - White Fir and Hinoki False Cypress are questionable.
 - Eastern White Pine, Austrian Pine and Scotch Pine should be eliminated. White Pine is subject to problems due to air pollution and winter salt drift. The Pines are very susceptible to gall problems.
 - Recommend adding Colorado Green Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce. Selected upright Junipers may also be appropriate.
- **Appendix 1 Recommended Trees for Pickerington, Ohio:**
 - Recommend eliminating White and Green Ash due to potential Emerald Ash Borer problems. Also stipulate that Ginkos be male variety only.
- **Interdepartmental Policies:** City Departments may share in park construction costs when City-wide paving/construction contracts occur or easements such as for utilities are acquired which may also be used for a trail/greenway benefit.
- **Property Acquisition or Leases:** This may be accomplished through a number of means and methods:
 - **Lease:** Short or long term rental of land or property.
 - **Bequest/Life Estate:** Land owner retains ownership until death.
 - **Fee Simple Ownership:** Full title to land and all rights associated with the land.
 - **Outright Donation:** A donation by property owner of all interest in a particular property.
 - **Nonprofit Conveyance to Public Agency:** Nonprofit acquires and holds land until the City is able to purchase.
 - **Fee Simple/Leaseback:** Purchase of full title and leaseback to previous owner or others, subject to restrictions.
 - **Donation With Reserved Life Estate:** Land owner donates during their lifetime, but retains their lifetime use of property.
 - **Eminent Domain:** The right of government to take private property for public purpose upon payment of just compensation.
 - **Property Exchange:** Exchange of developed or undeveloped property for property which has specific park, recreation and open space value.
 - **Undivided Interest:** Ownership is split between different owners, with each fractional interest extending over the whole parcel. Each owner has equal rights to the entire property.
 - **Agency Transfer (Governmental):** Certain governmental agencies may have surplus property inappropriate for their needs that could be transferred to the City for park, recreation and open space use.
 - **Conservation Easement/ Development Rights:** A partial interest in property transferred to an appropriate non-profit or governmental entity either by gift or purchase. As ownership changes, the land remains subject to the easement restrictions.

● PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES

- Joint Park District
- Capital Improvement Program
- City Bond Issue
- City Income Tax
- Impact Fees
- Pickerington's Rank In The Region

- **Joint Park District:** Creation of a special tax district which has a separate board and administration to operate the facilities and activities in the District. Money is raised through a voter approved tax on property within the District. While there may be issues relative to the "control" of facilities, the formation of a Joint Park District should be given careful and complete consideration. Characteristically where open minds prevail almost any issue can be equitably resolved.

Provisions for the creation of a Joint Park District are defined in Chapter 755 Parks; Recreation of the Ohio Revised Code. A Park District may include a municipal corporation, board of township trustees, board of county commissioners as well as a school district. The Citizen Survey strongly favored joint participation in acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities by the City of Pickerington and Violet Township. Inclusion of the Pickerington School District should also be considered. While the City and School District have more existing facilities, Violet Township affords a much broader tax base for a Joint Park District.

- **Capital Improvement Program:** Yearly, regularly scheduled appropriation of City Capital Improvement (CIP) monies for major park, recreation and open space improvements. It is recommended there should be a Capital Improvement maintenance fund for regular maintenance of public investment in parks, recreation and open space facilities.

- **City Bond Issue:** Based on voter approval, this funding technique could permit the City to borrow money through the issuance of bonds. The money is repaid through income earned from the operation of improvements or from the City's budget. This option is not favored by Pickerington's residents.

Using tax valuations for the tax year 2005, the total revenue that would be generated by a one (1) mil property tax based on total taxable valuation would be:

• City of Pickerington	\$ 349,792.00
• City of Pickerington and Violet Township	\$ 878,333.00

- **City Income Tax:** A voter approved tax increase on resident income tax could be specifically targeted for park, recreation and open space acquisition and improvement. Income taxes are currently the largest revenue source for the City. The income tax rate is 1.0% on all income earned within the City as well as on income of residents earned outside the City, but with a credit or .5% rollback of the tax paid to another municipality. In terms potentially generating future revenues for parks and recreation the following alternatives should be given careful consideration.

- Elimination of half of the income tax credit or .25% would generate \$575,678.00 in additional revenues.
- Elimination of all of the income tax credit or .5% would generate \$1,151,355.00 in additional revenues.
- Enactment of an additional .25% income tax with no additional credit given to residents would generate \$1,189,049.00 in additional revenues.

- **Impact Fees:** Based on a recently enacted impact fee ordinance, parks and recreation will receive the following fees:

• New Single-Family Dwelling	\$ 1,560.00
• All Other Residential Uses	\$ 976.00

- An Impact Fee Study done for the City projects 195 new housing units and 743 people annually over the next ten (10) years. Depending on type of housing units developed, revenues could be in the range of \$190,320.00 to \$304,200.00.

- **Pickerington's Rank In The Region:** An article in the July 16, 2006 issue of the Columbus Dispatch comparing parks in sixteen (16) municipalities in central Ohio showed Pickerington's rank to be as follows in two (2) major categories.

- 13th in terms of park budget per capita at \$44.00. Groveport ranked first at \$679 per capita. The average was \$136.75 per capita.
- 10th in terms of residents per park acre at 90. Dublin ranked first at 30 residents per park acre. The average was 101 residents per park acre.

● SECONDARY FUNDING SOURCES

- Gifts Catalog
 - "Adopt A Park" Program
 - Intergovernmental Partnerships
 - Business Sponsorships/Donations
 - State and Federal Grant Programs
 - Capital Campaigns/Challenge Grants
 - Expand/Formalize a Volunteer Program
 - User Fees (For Operation/Maintenance)
 - Creation of a Parks and Recreation Foundation
- **Gifts Catalog:** A Gifts Catalog is a booklet/brochure which illustrates, describes, itemizes and prices specific leisure service and conservation needs. The creation of park development standard guidelines along with master plans for all park sites is a desirable way to attract gifts and donations.
- **"Adopt a Park" Program:** This is another vehicle for seeking donations for either construction improvements and/or maintenance of a park or portion of a park. This program may be attractive to neighborhoods, school groups, individuals and/or specific organizations such as baseball/softball or soccer leagues.
- **Intergovernmental Partnerships:** Pickerington has the opportunity to build upon and expand on several existing intergovernmental partnerships for both park and recreation development opportunities as well as program opportunities. Partnerships may involve other public authorities, educational institutions or private entities. Partnerships may entail land, joint fundraising, joint construction or joint facility usage/maintenance. Potential partners include but are not limited to:
- Metro Parks.
 - Violet Township Trustees.
 - Pickerington Local School District.
 - Fairfield Heritage Trail Association.
 - Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission.
 - Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
 - Cities of Columbus, Canal Winchester and Other Municipalities
 - Pickerington Youth Athletic Association (PYAA) and Pickerington Area Soccer Association (PASA).
- **Business Sponsorships/Donations:** Similar to an "adopt a park" program, individual businesses or as a group may sponsor improvements and/or programs or maintenance through donations to the City for parks and recreation.
- **State and Federal Grants:** Grants from State and Federal sources are often limited and extremely competitive. The most promising grant programs currently known are listed below. Details on each program and application forms may be reviewed on the web sites noted in relation to each program. It should be noted grants can often involve considerable staff time to prepare applications and administer.
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources Ohio Community Assistance Programs - www.dnr.state.oh.us/grants.htm. Programs noted include:
 - Division of Real Estate & Land Management:
 - NatureWorks
 - Clean Ohio Trails Fund
 - Recreational Trails Program
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - Division of Soil & Water Conservation
 - Urban Streams Program
 - Division of Watercraft
 - Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
 - Cooperative Public Boating Facility Projects
 - Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Safe Routes to Schools - www.dot.state.oh.us/saferoutes/default.htm.
 - ODOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Activities - www.dot.state.oh.us/programresource/multi-modal_other.htm.
 - ODOT Transportation Enhancements - www.dot.state.oh.us/programresource/transportation_enhancement.htm.
 - ODOT Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Large Cities - Surface Transportation Program (STP) - www.dot.state.oh.us/programresource/mpo+large_cities.htm.
 - ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program - www.dot.state.oh.us/bike/transenhance00.pdf.
- **Capital Campaign/Challenge Grants:** This approach may be targeted for a specific improvement which may involve a one-time donation. Monies may be established initially by Council, an individual organization or businesses for others to match a specified amount. A very specific master plan and construction budget is necessary for this method's success.

- **Expand/Formulate a Volunteer Program:** All municipal park and recreation departments simply could not exist without citizen volunteers. Volunteerism already is strong in Pickerington. Further encouragement and organization of such efforts should continue. Care must be taken that volunteer efforts fit into an overall Department goal for delivery of park and recreation services to maximize all parties efforts.
- **User Fees (For Operation/Maintenance):** User fees for the use of ballfields, shelters and other facilities or offered programs needs to be closely examined to ensure costs of use matches true cost of operations. Higher fees for non-residents should be encouraged. It is important with this method to carefully monitor customer services in relation to fees for services both in and outside of the City.
- **Creation of a Parks and Recreation Foundation:** Establishment of a specific foundation for donors to donate land and/or money to the City specifically for park, recreation and open space improvements and programs is recommended. If there are entities who would like to make contributions and ensure those donations are to be used strictly for such purposes, no such vehicle is established at this time in Pickerington.

The preparation and adoption of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is an extremely important initial step in the realization of a comprehensive system of open spaces, parks, recreation facilities and walkways/bikeways for the City of Pickerington. Implementation of the Master Plan will take time and will require patience and perseverance. The ultimate rewards will far outweigh the effort. Open space, parks and recreation are an important factor in the quality of life for all residents and are key to promoting economic development. The following quotation from Greensense published by the Trust for Public Land states the case very succinctly.

"In theory and practice, municipal bond rating is highly quantitative. Distilling a mass of data, rating agencies decide on a letter icon that signals their assessment of the likelihood that a debt issue will be paid off as promised. In a hypothetical issue of \$10 million for 20 years, the difference between Moody's Aa and Baa ratings can raise a community's borrowing costs by as much as 1%.

Robert Stanley, Moody's lead analyst for Connecticut, explains that the firm looks at four factors: the community's debt, its financial health, the socioeconomic picture, and administration. Synchronization of growth with the ability to finance necessary capital improvements to serve that growth is a key component of Moody's assessment under the last category, "administration".

Says Stanley, "This is where a community's management of open space and agricultural land and pacing of development comes into play. Do we see a strain? Will values increase to support the debt?" If values go up, but not fast enough, the result will be a mismatch in the ability to finance growth - a minus.

Although "quality of life" is not rated per se, qualitative factors do come into play.

Community improvements - parks, libraries, education - mean an attractive community where people will want to live and that means the community will be better able to meet its debts."

APPENDIX

• CITIZEN SURVEY/WHAT DO YOU THINK?

•• General Information

1. We live in/list Subdivision or Neighborhood Name:

• Melrose	28	• Shadow Oaks	3
• Preston Trails	13	• Willow Pond	3
• Sycamore Creek	11	• Manor House	2
• Pickerington Hills	10	• Milnor Place	2
• Stonebridge	10	• Pine Ridge	2
• Cherry Hill	8	• Shawnee Crossing	2
• Ra Mar	8	• Simsbury	2
• Windmill	8	• Carpenter Addition	1
• Colony Park	6	• Georges Creek	1
• Pickerington Run	6	• Huntwork Gardens	1
• Fox Glen	5	• Longview Acres	1
• Meadow Brook	5	• Olde Village	1
• Manchester	3	• No subdivision listed	28
• Pickerington Meadows	3		

2. We have lived in Pickerington for:

• Less Than 1 Year	10	5.81%	• 16-20 Years	12	6.98%
• 1-5 Years	61	35.47%	• Over 20 Years	24	13.95%
• 6-10 Years	37	21.51%	• No Response	1	.58%
• 11-15 Years	27	15.70%			

3. The following are the number of people in each age group who are living in our home:

• Under 5 Years	64	11.47%	• 20-29 Years	32	5.73%
• 5-9 Years	61	10.93%	• 30-39 Years	126	22.58%
• 10-14 Years	53	9.50%	• 40-55 Years	124	22.22%
• 15-19 Years	42	7.53%	• Over 55 Years	56	10.04%

4. We Own/Rent:

• Own	156	90.70%	• No Response	11	6.4%
• Rent	5	2.91%			

•• Recreation Facilities

1. What population age group/program do you feel is NOT presently being served by the City of Pickerington Parks and Recreation Department?

Age Groups:

• Preschool	3	• 10-15 years	2	• 30-55	10
• Children/Youth	3	• Teens	14	• 40-55	5
• 5-10 years	1	• 16-30	1	• Seniors	8
• 5-14 years	2	• Adults	2	• All	2
• 5-18 years	2	• 20+	1	• None	5
• 9-12 years	1	• 20s/30s	1	• Unsure	2
• 9-13 years	1	• 24-35	2	• No Response	99

Programs:

- Sidewalks 5
- The following programs were listed once: adult basketball league, arts & crafts, basketball courts, bicycle trails, bowling, health center, low income, recreation center, skating, swimming pool and tennis courts.

2. Do you or your family use private or commercial recreation/swimming/fitness facilities in the area?

• YMCA	19	• Columbus Gymnastics Academy	2
• The Swim Club	11	• Easton Chiller Ice Rink	2
• PYAA/PASA	10	• Lifetime Fitness	2
• World Gym	7	• Power Shack	2
• Huntington Hills Pool	6	• Scarborough East Tennis	2
• Village of Sycamore Creek Pool	5	• No Response	68
• California Fitness	4	• No or N/A	20
• Chevington Woods Pool	2		
• The following facilities were listed once: All Sports Batters Box, Broken Arrow, Columbus JCC, Columbus North Sports Complex, Curves, Dance Works, Fairfield Fish & Game, FLASH Soccer, Gold's Gym, Hickory Lakes, Hide-Away-Hills, Jefferson Country Club, New Albany Pool, Senior Center, Sports Barn and Wyandot Lake.			

3. Do you use School Facilities such as art rooms, athletic fields, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, auditorium or playgrounds?

• Pickerington Central HS	14	dog walking, softball, tennis courts, track & walking
• Pickerington Elementary	11	basketball, playground, soccer & softball
• Violet Elementary	9	basketball, playground & soccer
• Heritage Elementary	8	basketball, KIK, playground & t-ball
• Diley MS	3	basketball & playground
• Fairfield Elementary	3	basketball, baseball, playground & soccer
• Pickerington North HS	3	soccer, tennis & track
• Lakeview JHS	2	basketball & tennis
• Harmon MS	1	yoga
• Tussing Elementary	1	t-ball

4. Do you use other public park or recreation facilities NOT in the City of Pickerington?

• Blacklick Metro	27	biking, dog walking, golf, nature center, playground, picnicking, running & walking
• Groveport Rec Center/Aquatics	14	
• Baltimore Pool	7	
• Chestnut Ridge Metro	7	biking, dog walking, fishing, picnicking, playground, running & walking
• Canal Winchester Pool	4	
• Slate Run Metro	3	biking, dog walking, nature trails & picnicking
• Three Creek Metro	3	biking, dog walking, playground, picnicking, running & walking
• Highbanks Metro	2	hiking
• Pickerington Pond Metro	2	hiking
• The following parks were listed once: Berliner: softball; Deer Creek State; Far East Rec: basketball; Glacier Ridge Metro: running & walking; Lancaster Pool: swimming; Rising Park: hiking & picnicking; Sharon Woods Metro: hiking; Westerville Soccer Fields: soccer; and Willis Rec: basketball.		

5. Do you use church or religious affiliation sponsored recreation programs?

• Peace United Methodist	6	basketball, Boy Scouts & soccer
• Epiphany Lutheran	4	Luther League, VBS & youth programs
• Seton Parish	3	K of C and open gym
• Prince of Peace	2	POP Art classes
• Violet Baptist	2	basketball
• The following churches were listed once: Brice: preschool; Church of Our Lady: children's activities; Faith Lutheran: youth programs; Messiah Lutheran: dartball and softball; Pickerington Christian; Reynoldsburg United Methodist; and World Harvest: basketball.		

•• **Park Facilities/Programs**

1. Does the City of Pickerington have adequate parkland?

• Yes	99	57.56%	• No Response	15	8.72%
• No	58	33.72%			

2. Do City parks, recreation facilities and programs make Pickerington a more livable community?

• Strongly Agree	55	31.98%	• Strongly Disagree	8	4.65%
• Agree	87	50.58%	• No Response	11	6.40%
• Disagree	11	6.40%			

3. How do you feel about existing City of Pickerington parks and open space areas? Overall the present parks/facilities are:

• Very Adequate	33	19.19%	• Inadequate	7	4.07%
• Somewhat Adequate	82	47.67%	• No Response	13	7.56%
• Somewhat Inadequate	37	21.51%			

4a. Rate the following existing City Park facilities in terms of satisfying your family's park, recreation and open space needs.

	Excellent	Fair	Poor	Do Not Use/Know
• Colony Park	3	6	5	120
• Willow Pond Park	5	11	4	115
• Shawnee Crossing Park	3	2	2	125
• Victory Park	50	63	6	27
• Simsbury Park	5	4	3	133
• Sycamore Creek Park	41	51	5	51
• Preston Trails Park	5	6	10	109
• Diley Road Ball Fields	11	12	3	100

4b. Park improvements desired:

• Colony Park	
• More grass.	• It is just an open field.
• Need equipment.	• Swings and gym area.

- Willow Pond Park
 - Clean equipment.
 - No swing set available.
 - Don't know where this is.
- Shawnee Crossing Park
 - Needs cleaned up.
- Victory Park
 - More space.
 - More swings.
 - Better courts.
 - More seating.
 - More restrooms.
 - Better use of land.
 - Update restrooms.
 - Need a teen center.
 - Nothing for adults to do.
 - Install a swimming pool.
 - Spruce up shelter house.
 - Tennis courts poor quality
 - Cleaner closer bathrooms.
 - Clean tables and bathrooms.
 - Parking and more restrooms.
 - Safe hiking trail would be nice.
 - More open space and more grills.
 - Need more trash cans and parking.
- Sycamore Park
 - More trees.
 - More swings.
 - Update restrooms.
 - Improve basketball court.
 - Tennis court floor cracking.
 - Teenagers need monitored.
 - Resurface the tennis courts.
 - Stock pond for better fishing.
 - Trash cans around fish pond.
 - New gym equipment needed.
 - Tennis courts cracked and old.
 - More green space and activities.
 - Need more trees and trash cans.
 - More play equipment for all ages.
 - Need swings. We like the arboretum.
 - Better playground equipment and grills.
 - Parking at upper level and more restrooms.
 - Dog park. Area where dogs can go off line.
 - Nice trail, but don't feel safe unless with my pet.
 - Needs better mulch - very muddy after rainfall.
 - Clean up woods along creek, no brush dumping.
 - Better courts, field conditions and playgrounds.
- Preston Trails Park
 - Useless - nothing on site.
 - Not a park, just a green area.
 - Mow more often, more parking.
 - Play equipment or sports fields, etc.
- Diley Road Ball Fields
 - Need higher fences.
 - Dugouts: better field conditions.
 - Like two fields placed in the middle of nowhere.
- Parking on busy days not good.
- Security cameras to ensure new equipment is not vandalized.
- Better equipment and walking path.
- More play equipment for younger children.
- Restrooms need to be opened other times of year.
- Recondition tennis and basketball courts. Lights too.
- Need to improve tennis courts or at least paint the courts green.
- Walking, jogging, trails, bike path, pet walking path, fishing pond and in ground pool.
- Make play equipment safe for little kids, gaping holes between, instead of bars to contain little ones. I'm afraid my kids will fall.
- Play equipment with a slide by the tennis courts and duck pond.
- Wish trail would go all the way around and not just down the side.
- Trail around pond needs repaired, landscaping is often neglected.
- Need more police patrol - kids ride bikes on tennis court and the vandalism needs to be eliminated.
- Needs a lot of work. If cleaned up, it could be beautiful. The playground near the tennis court is dangerous.
- Bike path/walk path all the way around the park, better cleaning and upkeep, more playground equipment.
- Paddle boats, additional movie nights in summertime, start showing a little earlier in the year (May), also show movies for teenagers and adults.
- Better playground by tennis courts, security cameras to ensure new equipment is not vandalized, more benches and picnic tables throughout, make horseshoe pits into dog area and clean the shelter house beside it.
- Need playground, pond, tennis courts, basketball and shelters
- Live here, other than a trail there is no park. How about a children's play area?
- Need bigger fields for advanced softball players: B and A divisions

- General Comments
 - Better grills.
 - No more taxes.
 - More land/space.
 - Better tennis courts.
 - We need a city pool.
 - Public swimming pool.
 - Need indoor swimming.
 - Need community center.
 - Indoor swimming facility.
 - Where are most of these?
 - Public swimming and work out facilities.
 - More information about parks to the public.
 - A little more equipment and fix what is there.
 - You need to inform the public of all the parks.
 - The City of Pickerington needs walk and bicycle trails.
 - We need a rec center with pool, exercising, indoor soccer.
 - Where are all of these? Did not know there were so many.
 - Some of these parks are not developed and are just open space.
 - This is a joke. Land was donated. Why not provide a SAFE pond and facility.
- We would love to see a dog park or parks where pets are encouraged with trails, etc.
- Pickerington needs a public swimming facilities; also we could use a bike and walking trail.
- There is none for Milnor Place. Land next to North would be ideal. Virginia Homes owns - maybe we should buy back from them.
- Need a rec center open to the residents at a fair and reasonable cost for all families. \$100.00 or less for family per year. Basketball, baseball, football, fitness, swimming and dance.
- In terms of these types of facilities, I believe, more playgrounds should be made available on very small often unusable for anything else, parcels. Simply more free, open relatively inexpensive equipment should be considered.

5. What new or additional parks and recreation facilities should be offered in Pickerington?

• Bikeways	114	66.28%	• Benches	33	19.19%
• Fitness/Jogging Trails	105	61.05%	• Off-Street Parking in Parks	31	18.02%
• Nature Trails	79	45.93%	• Baseball Diamonds	30	17.44%
• Restrooms	72	41.86%	• Softball Diamonds	29	16.86%
• Shelter Buildings (open)	69	40.12%	• Soccer Fields	28	16.28%
• Ice Skating	68	39.53%	• Amphitheater	26	15.12%
• Picnic Tables	68	39.53%	• Children's Court Games	26	15.12%
• Water Play Area/ Splash Pad	64	37.21%	• Day Camp	23	13.37%
• Grills	62	36.05%	• Horseshoe Courts	20	11.63%
• Shelter Buildings (enclosed)	62	36.05%	• Football Fields	19	11.05%
• Sledding/Tobogganing	61	35.47%	• Cross Country Skiing	18	10.47%
• Play Equipment	52	30.23%	• Roller Hockey	17	9.88%
• Free Play Areas	50	29.07%	• Skateboarding/ Skate Park	17	9.88%
• Tennis Courts	50	29.07%	• Badminton Courts	14	8.14%
• Stream Corridor Preservation	50	29.07%	• BMX Biking	11	6.40%
• Sand Volleyball Courts	50	29.07%	• Concession Areas	11	6.40%
• Lighted Fields	46	26.74%	• Garden Plots	9	5.23%
• In-Line Skating	46	26.74%	• Shuffleboard Courts	9	5.23%
• Basketball Courts	44	25.58%	• Lacrosse/Rugby Fields	6	3.49%
• Dog Park	38	22.09%	• Horse Trails	5	2.91%
• Disc/Frisbee			• Bowling Alley	2	1.16%
• Golf Course	35	20.35%	• Fishing Ponds	2	1.16%
• Wildlife/Nature Study	35	20.35%	• Sidewalks	2	1.16%
• The following facilities were listed once: archery, ATV trails, bocce courts, camping grounds, chess board, indoor ice rink, indoor soccer, neighborhood parks, putting green, racquetball courts, shaded play areas, trap shooting and wildlife preserve.					

6. The City of Pickerington should build/operate a heated outdoor pool.

• Strongly Agree	72	41.86%	• Strongly Disagree	19	11.05%
• Agree	51	29.65%	• No Response	9	5.23%
• Disagree	21	12.21%			

7. The City of Pickerington should build/operate a community recreation center.

• Strongly Agree	89	51.74%	• Strongly Disagree	6	3.49%
• Agree	59	34.30%	• No Response	12	6.98%
• Disagree	6	3.49%			

•• **Financing Methods**

- Should the City of Pickerington decide to develop some of the facilities and programs indicated in the Master Plan, indicate your level of agreement with the various methods of potential financing.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
• Property Tax Levy	6	20	33	60
• Increase Income Tax	6	27	36	53
• Rollback .5% Credit	11	35	31	34
• Capital Improvement Fund w/existing revenues	50	61	5	9
• Combined Methods of Above	29	41	10	18
• List Other Financing Methods:				
• Donations	9	• Grants		3
• User Fees	9	• Sponsorships		3
• Developer Fees	4	• No Response		9
• Joint Funding w/Violet Township	3			
• Other financing methods that were listed once: advertising, bonds, facility rental, Fairfield County, fundraisers, green space requirement, impact fees and private funds.				

- Should the City of Pickerington and Violet Township work cooperatively to acquire/operate parks and recreation facilities?

• Strongly Agree	103	59.88%	• Strongly Disagree	3	1.74%
• Agree	54	31.40%	• No Response	8	4.65%
• Disagree	4	2.33%			

•• **What have we left out? What else can we do to improve your Park and Recreation services?**

- Connectivity between parks
- Enforcement of park curfew.
- More parking spaces and water fountains.
- Let Violet Township build own SCHOOLS!
- This town is full of kids that have nothing to do!
- Would like to see more about what's available: where.
- Please take a look at the Groveport Recreation Center.
- Just take a look at Dublin or Westerville. We suck in comparison.
- Police/Security at Skate Park; 911 boxes by pond and playgrounds.
- Programs and facilities for more mature adults i.e., 45-60 year olds.
- We haven't lived in area long enough to know what should be done.
- Designate an indoor facility (gym/play area) for children under the age of 10.
- I would want more park rangers for security, for educating people and peace of mind.
- More green space - Hickory Lakes. Volleyball, basketball, exercise equipment & materials.
- A place to walk, ride, swim, BBQ, play, seat, shade, landscaping, tennis, ice skating in winter.
- Create a citywide pedestrian/bike path system, since outside of subdivisions there are very few sidewalks.
- If Pickerington is going to make a name for it self, more modern/contemporary parks facilities must be built.
- Get developers to foot some of the \$\$\$. Increase new building fees, and get developers to develop more green space.
- Quit making changes that cost us tax dollars in the future. This questionnaire is a good example of wasted tax dollars.
- Nothing I can recall, if the city implements a recreation center this will greatly improve the quality of life for our residents.
- Keep parks that we already have clean. There is graffiti and obscenities written on walls and picnic tables at Victory Park.
- Train people to volunteer to be at parks and work with kids and teens so they have less time to cause trouble and wreak havoc.
- Having federal government declare land as National Park - save city and taxpayers lots of \$. Employ federal congressman to assist.
- We are concerned about the liability of starting a city pool, as well as competition from several pools that already are in existence.
- We love the parks and use them frequently. We have no complaints, but to me more parkland is always a wonderful idea. Thank you.
- You need to build more sidewalks because not everyone has a car. Most people do walk to work and most kids walk to school and work.
- I feel that the people of Violet Township should have the same tax structure as we do who live in the City of Pickerington. They enjoy all of the benefits of Pickerington with our paying!!!
- Income tax is good idea, however only residents within the city limits currently pay. So either open up income tax to non-city residents or have city residents have a reduced program fees.
- I'm not able to be objective on parks and recreation since I don't use them. However, I CANNOT afford any more taxes or the property taxes already in effect as I am on a fixed income!
- Our teenagers need places to hang out in Pickerington. A place where we could have local bands play, dances. Lets keep our kids in Pickerington. Teen drivers are safer if they stay in town!
- I believe you have missed the boat with a rec center. Most adults interested in fitness have memberships elsewhere. You would have to build something large enough and have charges to beat

- I think we need an indoor pool so the people of Pickerington don't have to travel to other towns for that. I would like something like a recreation center built in Pickerington like what they have in Westerville and Groveport.
- We need a free dog park in the area. Westerville had an amazing dog park but it is quite a far drive. The dog park in Canal is far too expensive. Based upon the "Pet Fest" turn out, there is clearly a market for a dog park in Pickerington.
- Paved walking path around pond at Sycamore Park. Have Sat. night activities in the park. Plays, music for teenage, decorate the parks for Christmas, have concert in amphitheater with the high school band and choir. Sell hot chocolate and coffee.
- We need to have a community center and an outdoor-indoor pool for the children and young adults. Pickerington has grown and we need to continue to support the community with parks and facilities so we don't have to use other community's facilities.
- It appears as if we are missing a commitment to park development. I've lived in 2 other cities, both were developing at the time, and both incorporated parklands in that development. I've yet to hear anyone running for public office discuss the subject???
- More park/green space in Pickerington. Take the next plot of land a Developer wants to put 4 homes per acre & make it green space. More of a presence by city employees at park facilities whether at concession areas or a park patrol by non Pickerington PD.
- To make the community more livable, the City of Pickerington and Violet Township need to build facilities on the north side of Pickerington. A heated community swimming pool, lighted courts for tennis and basketball, Dog Park and jogging and bike paths are sorely needed.
- Overall we wish the city had sidewalks everywhere possible to encourage walking and bike riding to and from businesses and neighborhoods. I would LOVE to walk from Melrose to Kroger, Drug Mart, and church, but there are only sidewalks in a few places; they are not consistently spaced throughout the area.
- Pickerington has not met the needs of the children in this community. Our children do not have sidewalks and nowhere to safely play in our neighborhoods. We need a community center where our children can play all sports and interact with each other to develop their social skills and to embrace the diversity that exists in this community.
- I think the city has adequate recreational facilities. This city has some of the highest school taxes and a strange method of collecting city tax. Times are hard now and people are more concerned with providing for their families and making ends meet than to be worried about recreational things that waste taxes and make life harder. I think things causing additional taxes should be left alone.
- A dog park could also be used for animal related events that could generate income for the city such as the one that occurs downtown Pickerington every September. Also outdoor paved-asphalted trails that could run thru city/county for several miles. These could be used for bicycles, electric/gas scooters, and mini-bikes. Recreational motorized vehicles that are not street legal. ATV dirt trails, BMX bike trails also welcomed.
- We need a facility like Groveport has; it accommodates all ages. You charge seniors to use the indoor facilities at schools. Why so? We need anything listed in number 5? We have so many Metro Parks close by for "open space" and picnicking facilities - YMCA - etc. Do you really think the other items in #5 - court games, additional facilities, etc. would be a need or as everything else, set aside idle. How about taking the old Big Bear store for a bowling alley!
- I believe a water park facility, similar to the Groveport facility is essential. The numerous families with kids, is over burdening the existing and costly pool. We do not use the Pickerington pool simply because memberships are way too expensive, and it is way too crowded. A new facility should provide for all stages of life via annual membership, some rent savings to Pickerington and Violet residents (i.e., conference/park rooms), but also allow for walk-ins.
- I like the Parks. I use Blacklick Park 3 to 4 times a week in good weather. I just don't want to pay more taxes. The average citizen gets taxed too much. Everyone wants more - schools put levies out until they cheat them through (3 ballots/the 3rd when no one turns out passes - we know we're being had), State runs in a debt, Federal Government threatens to take away Social Security etc. . . we are tired of getting taxed! I love parks - I use them, but if I have to pay more taxes I'd rather keep paying my 445/year to G.P Rec. Center and go to Blacklick. Thanks for asking.
- You need to "advertise" more where all the parks are and what each one has. I would really love to see a community recreation center. You could hold playgroups for kids; offer exercise classes and year round indoor pool. People could pay a yearly fee or maybe "pay as you go". Groveport allows non-residents to do activities and charges a little more money. It works! Pickerington needs a rec center. There are so many possibilities/opportunities to make money on a recreation center. People would feel more like a community if we had a place to meet and socialize.
- Those of us who live within City limits have always felt it is unfair to shoulder the brunt of all extra tax when everyone used the facilities. I feel programs should be totally free for city residents including admittance to the field house. The only exception would be a pool. Which should be highly discounted to city residents, not Violet Twp. and others who would use it. We do not use many park programs simply because we give too much as it is, and cannot send our grandchildren here. We use City of Columbus (through family) as they are much more reasonable and offer more.
- Start with Sidewalks! 2 children have already been killed this year due to no sidewalks. Subdivisions are being built with no connectors to a joining subdivision, in a sense, you are trapped in your own subdivision. You have to get in a car to safely go to the parks. There is only one sidewalk connecting Central High and the junior high. This sidewalk does not even connect to the largest subdivision, Sycamore Creek. How are these kids going to walk up Hill Rd safely to Central? Lets add a nice blacktop path to connect schools with subdivisions (similar to City of Dublin) and a sidewalk to the library!
- Our park system is woefully inadequate. I campaigned to live in Westerville solely because of the better park system. Glacier Park is a good start, but the city needs to help the Metroparks connect up with Blacklick and Three Creeks as their master plan indicates. Running, bike trails need to be built on all thruways like 204, 256, Refugee, Tussing, Hill. And out to places like Glacier Park and Pickerington Ponds. A community center like other nice suburbs in Central Ohio have would be great too. I would

- be happy to serve on a community Parks committee, Name: Karl Hanf, 783 Melrose Blvd, Pickerington.
- We have lived in Pickerington for almost 10 years and now have three small children. We were pleasantly surprised by all of the opportunities Park and Rec. provides. We love walking to the movies in the summer and sledding the hill in winter. Maybe next summer you could offer more G rated movies. When we ride bikes or walk to the duck pond (Sycamore) our children would love to slide or play, but the equipment is old and not as safe as we would like. In addition PYAA is getting a little expensive, maybe the town could offer a cheaper alternative for t-ball, baseball and soccer. Keep up the great work!! P.S. We really like the little explorer classes and yoga!!
 - Thank you for soliciting public input. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important our parks and recreation are to my family. I feel that a community recreation center combined with a pool outdoors (much like Westerville & Groveport) would be such an asset to Pickerington. I think that the services and activities that such a facility offers would really improve our living standard and be a huge selling point for new residents. Those of us with small children have limited recreation outlet (besides parks) that are right here in Pickerington. Unless one lives in a subdivision with a pool, the options are limited. I would love to not have to drive to Groveport or Canal Winchester to take my 2-year-old swimming. Thank you!
 - How many Master plans does the city have to have prepared? Check the files. Plans are prepared and then shelved because they are not carried thru. There's only so much people can afford. And what's the point of having the facilities, just to have the kids destroy, i.e.. restroom facilities. Keep the parks natural and serene. Keep out pets. Definitely no horse trails. Who wants to step in horse crap!! If you want BMX trails, skate boarding, etc. make separate facilities that don't interfere with quiet natural surroundings. And let those people who are looking for a place to drop their kids, or for babysitting, pay for it!! Since this is a city, and horses aren't permitted, who would you be making horse trails for? Get real! When it comes to climbing wall etc, you'd better consider the cost of insurance and liability.
 - I think a heated outdoor pool is not a good use of taxpayer's money. We should have an outdoor pool that is not heated. I think since we have areas in the City of Pickerington that are in Franklin County that we should ask Franklin County or the City of Columbus to help pay. For example the Turnberry Golf Course appears to be owned or paid for by the City of Columbus or Franklin County. Put the pool there. Also many residents pay City of Columbus taxes because we work in Columbus. Also what is Fairfield County doing with our money? We should ask Fairfield County to help build us a swimming pool. Note: I always tell people unless they plan to enroll their children into Pickerington Schools NOT to move to Pickerington because we have to pay for garbage pick up and our recreation department is almost nonexistent and our taxes are very high.



• DEVELOPMENT/IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

- The following estimates of cost for the various neighborhood and community park sites are a summary of detailed estimates on file with the Pickerington Parks and Recreation Department. Conditions that apply to each of the estimates include:

- Estimate does not include unknown utilities, tap fees, permits, unknown field conditions, electrical power distribution, site utilities unless otherwise noted, topographic surveys, geotechnical investigations and reports or professional service fees for preparation of design development plans, construction documents, contract administration/construction management/ observation and field testing.
- All amounts are based on prevailing wage rates and 2006 construction costs. Add 5% to 10% for each succeeding year of construction beyond 2006. See also footnotes.

•• COLONY PARK

I. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Site Improvements (1)	Subtotal A	\$	42,850.00
B. Pavements (2)	Subtotal B	\$	3,600.00
C. Landscaping (3)	Subtotal C	\$	200.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$	46,650.00
	10% Contingency (4)	\$	4,665.00
	Subtotal	\$	51,315.00
	15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$	7,697.00
	TOTAL (5)(6)	\$	59,012.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Site improvements include site furnishings, signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (2) Pavement includes asphalt path around the playground area.
- (3) Landscaping includes seeded lawns.
- (4) The contingency includes minor allowances for site preparation, layout and grading.
- (5) Represents a cost of \$.43/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (6) Estimate total does not include primary demolition, site preparation, grading and layout, storm sewer site utilities, the park shelter, four (4) picnic tables, two (2) bike racks, a drinking fountain with related water and sanitary sewer utilities, seven (7) shade trees, buffer planting and 1,255 S.Y. of walking/biking path which would be developed in future phases.

•• WILLOW POND PARK

I. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Site Improvements (1)	Subtotal A	\$	21,050.00
B. Pavements (2)	Subtotal B	\$	51,300.00
C. Landscaping (3)	Subtotal C	\$	3,300.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$	75,650.00
	10% Contingency (4)	\$	7,565.00
	Subtotal	\$	83,215.00
	15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$	12,482.00
	TOTAL (5)(6)	\$	95,697.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Site improvements include site furnishings, signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (2) Pavement includes asphalt walking/biking path.
- (3) Landscaping includes seeded lawns.
- (4) The contingency includes minor allowances for site preparation, layout and grading.
- (5) Represents a cost of \$.32/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (6) Estimate total does not include primary demolition and site preparation, grading and layout, storm sewer site utilities, two (2) picnic tables, any landscaping exclusive of seeded lawns, the fishing dock, shelter relocation, railings on headwalls, pond aeration, floating fountain, a drinking fountain with related water and sanitary sewer utilities and 3,000 S.F. of ornamental grass/water plants which would be developed in future phases.

•• SHAWNEE CROSSING PARK

I. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Site Improvements (1)	Subtotal A	\$	47,300.00
B. Pavements (2)	Subtotal B	\$	62,950.00
C. Landscaping (3)	Subtotal C	\$	47,200.00
D. Structures/Bridge	Subtotal D.	\$	37,500.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$	194,950.00
	10% Contingency (4)	\$	19,495.00
	Subtotal	\$	214,445.00
	15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$	32,167.00
	TOTAL (5)(6)	\$	246,612.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Site improvements include site furnishings, signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (2) Pavement includes part of the walking/biking path, asphalt drive, 10 parking spaces and wheel stops.
- (3) Includes landscape plantings in the existing basin that will tolerate intermittent periods of submersion related to storm water detention.
- (4) The contingency includes minor allowances for site preparation, layout and grading.
- (5) Represents a cost of \$.81/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (6) Estimate total does not include primary demolition and site preparation, grading and layout, storm sewer site utilities, six (6) picnic tables, any landscaping exclusive of 40% of the seeded lawns and detention basin improvements, the park shelter or gazebo which would be developed in future phases.

.. VICTORY PARK**I. DEMOLITION/SITE PREPARATION**

A. Demolition/Site Preparation (1)(2)	Subtotal A	\$ 47,850.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$ 47,850.00

II. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Grading & Layout	Subtotal A	\$ 72,775.00
B. Site Improvements (3)	Subtotal B	\$ 134,100.00
C. Pavements/Courts (4)	Subtotal C	\$ 168,230.00
D. Site Utilities/Storm/Water/Sanitary/Court Lighting	Subtotal D	\$ 45,000.00
E. Landscaping (5)	Subtotal E	\$ 35,725.00
F. Buildings/Structures (6)	Subtotal F	\$ 83,625.00
	SUBTOTAL II	\$ 539,455.00

SUBTOTAL I & II	\$ 587,305.00
10% Contingency	\$ 58,730.00
Subtotal	\$ 646,035.00
15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$ 96,905.00
TOTAL (7)	\$ 742,940.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Demolition includes removal of trees, fencing, pavements, structures and related work.
- (2) Site preparation includes clearing and grubbing and related work.
- (3) Site improvements include site furnishings, all signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (4) Pavements/courts include walking/biking path, asphalt drive and parking, wheel stops, court games and paver walks/surfaces.
- (5) Landscaping includes trees and seeded lawns.
- (6) Buildings/structures include renovation of the shelter and restroom buildings.
- (7) Represents a cost of \$2.63/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area including the area of the 56 car parking lot.

.. SIMSBURY PARK**I. DEMOLITION/SITE PREPARATION**

A. Demolition/Site Preparation (1)(2)	Subtotal A	\$ 70,000.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$ 70,000.00

II. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Grading & Layout (3)	Subtotal A	\$ 74,950.00
B. Site Improvements (4)	Subtotal B	\$ 111,800.00
C. Pavements/Courts (5)(6)	Subtotal C	\$ 144,920.00
D. Site Utilities/Storm/Water/Sanitary/Electrical	Subtotal D	\$ 34,900.00
E. Landscaping (7)	Subtotal E	\$ 174,600.00
F. Shelter/Restroom Building	Subtotal F	\$ 375,000.00
	SUBTOTAL II	\$ 916,170.00

SUBTOTAL I & II	\$ 986,170.00
10% Contingency	\$ 98,617.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,084,787.00
15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$ 162,718.00
TOTAL (8)(9)	\$ 1,247,505.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Demolition includes removal of trees, fencing, pavements, structures and related work.
- (2) Site preparation includes clearing and grubbing and related work.
- (3) Does not include potential removal of foreign material or controlled backfill of areas related to the proposed parking lot.
- (4) Site improvements include site furnishings, all signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area. Includes development of the disc golf course.
- (5) Pavements/courts include walking/biking path and court games.
- (6) Estimate does not include 5,100 S.Y. of asphalt drive/parking since the cost is already part of the FY-06 CIP budget.
- (7) Includes 51,900 S.Y. of lawns related to fairways on the disc golf course.
- (8) Represents a cost of \$.77/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (9) Estimate does not include 150 shade trees, 12 evergreen trees and the small shelter at the west end of the park which would be developed in a future phase. Costs do not include railroad crossing tunnel and/or bridge over Sycamore Creek.

.. SYCAMORE CREEK PARK**I. DEMOLITION/SITE PREPARATION**

A. Demolition/Site Preparation (1)(2)	Subtotal A	\$ 105,750.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$ 105,750.00

II. NEW CONSTRUCTION

A. Grading & Layout	Subtotal A	\$ 149,925.00
B. Site Improvements (3)	Subtotal B	\$ 152,540.00
C. Pavements (4)	Subtotal C	\$ 401,080.00
D. Site Utilities/Storm/Water/Sanitary	Subtotal D	\$ 30,000.00
E. Landscaping (5)	Subtotal E	\$ 81,400.00
F. Buildings/Structures (6)	Subtotal F	\$ 1,219,000.00
G. Pond Development/Aeration/Fountain	Subtotal G	\$ 24,000.00
	SUBTOTAL II	\$ 2,057,945.00

SUBTOTAL I & II	\$ 2,163,695.00
10% Contingency	\$ 216,370.00
Subtotal	\$ 2,380,065.00
15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$ 357,010.00
TOTAL (7)(8)	\$ 2,737,075.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Demolition includes removal of trees, fencing, pavements, structures and related work.
- (2) Site preparation includes clearing and grubbing and related work.
- (3) Site improvements include site furnishings, all signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (4) Pavement includes asphalt walking/biking path, asphalt drive and parking and wheel stops.
- (5) Landscaping includes trees, seeded lawns and landscape buffer planting.
- (6) Buildings/Structures include Fishing Deck, Barn Renovation, Proposed Shelter, Proposed Amphitheater, Large Shelter Renovation, Covered Bridge Renovation and Maintenance Building Renovation.
- (7) Represents a cost of \$1.24/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (8) Estimate does not include 1,970 L.F. of fencing along the property line from Hereford Drive to the southeast corner east of Hilltop Drive, 24 shade trees and two (2) bridges along the pond path which would be developed in a future phase. Costs do not include railroad crossing tunnel and/or bridge over Sycamore Creek.

.. PRESTON TRAILS PARK**I. NEW CONSTRUCTION**

A. Site Improvements (1)	Subtotal A	\$ 48,300.00
B. Pavements (2)	Subtotal B	\$ 81,600.00
C. Landscaping (3)	Subtotal C	\$ 60,000.00
	SUBTOTAL I	\$ 189,900.00
	10% Contingency (4)	\$ 18,990.00
	Subtotal	\$ 208,890.00
	15% Contractor Profit/Overhead	\$ 31,334.00
	TOTAL (5)(6)	\$ 240,224.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Site improvements include site furnishings, signage and playground development with wood fiber safety surface, subgrade drainage and concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground area.
- (2) Pavement includes asphalt walking/biking path.

- (3) Includes landscape plantings in the existing basin that will tolerate intermittent periods of submersion related to storm water detention.
- (4) The contingency includes some amounts for demolition, site preparation, layout and grading.
- (5) Represents a cost of \$.16/S.F. for initial development phase of the total park area.
- (6) Estimate does not include demolition, site preparation, grading and layout, two (2) benches, two (2) bicycle racks, two (2) waste receptacles, grills, picnic tables, drinking fountains/ hydrants, wheel stops, asphalt drive and parking, storm sewer site utilities, any landscaping exclusive of 20% of the seeded lawns and detention basin improvements, the bridge over Sycamore Creek and the shelter/restroom building which would be developed in future phases.

I. TOTAL PARK DEVELOPMENT COSTS:

A. Colony Park	\$ 59,012.00
B. Willow Pond Park	\$ 95,697.00
C. Shawnee Crossing Park	\$ <u>246,612.00</u>
Subtotal Neighborhood Parks	\$ 401,321.00
D. Victory Park	\$ 742,940.00
E. Simsbury Park	\$ 1,247,505.00
F. Sycamore Creek Park	\$ 2,737,075.00
G. Preston Trails Park	\$ <u>240,224.00</u>
Subtotal Community Parks	\$ 4,967,744.00
TOTAL (1)	\$ 5,369,065.00

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Total area of all seven (7) parks is 146.16 acres or 6,366,730 square feet. The total cost is \$36,734.16 per acre or \$.84 per square foot for initial development phase of all park areas.