

FOWLER PARKS & RECREATION

FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN
2017-2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Fowler serves as the county seat of Benton County, Indiana. It is located on U.S. Highway 52 approximately 100 miles southeast of Chicago and 100 miles northwest of Indianapolis. (See Map, page 3) The town was incorporated in 1875 and named for Moses Fowler a prominent local business man and landowner. The town covers 1 square mile and has a total population of 2,317 according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

Town and Park Board Structure

Fowler has a government structure typical of Indiana towns. The town has a five member town council elected by registered voters. The voters also elect the town's clerk-treasurer who is responsible for the town's financial matters. The council holds its meeting on the first and third Mondays of each month. These meetings are open and allow for public participation.

The Fowler Park Board consists of six members who are appointed by the Fowler Town Council. The park board's primary responsibilities include the supervision of the park department, establishing rules for governing the use of the park by the public, preparing the annual budget for the parks department and making recommendations to the Fowler Town Council concerning the operation of the park and recreation programs in the town.

The parks department receives funding from several sources. The two primary sources are the property tax levy and the pool user fees. Together these sources accounted for over 89% of the department's income in 2015. Other income sources include concessions, excise tax, and shelter use fees and donations. A copy of the parks budget for 2016 is attached in Appendix 1.

Plan Development

The Fowler Parks Master Plan has been created to establish goals and an action plan for the future of the Fowler Parks Department. It will be used as a basis for community leaders to make informed and thoughtful decisions on policies and regulations that help steer the department towards its goals.

In 2016, the Fowler Parks Board realized the need to update its Master Parks Plan. The Board worked with the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission to help develop and compose the plan. The public was invited to attend a special public hearing on December 4, 2016, as well as regularly scheduled park board meetings to provide input into the development of the master plan. A survey of the public's attitudes concerning the park was also conducted in 2016. The park board welcomes public input and involvement in all aspects of the parks department

Definition of Planning Area

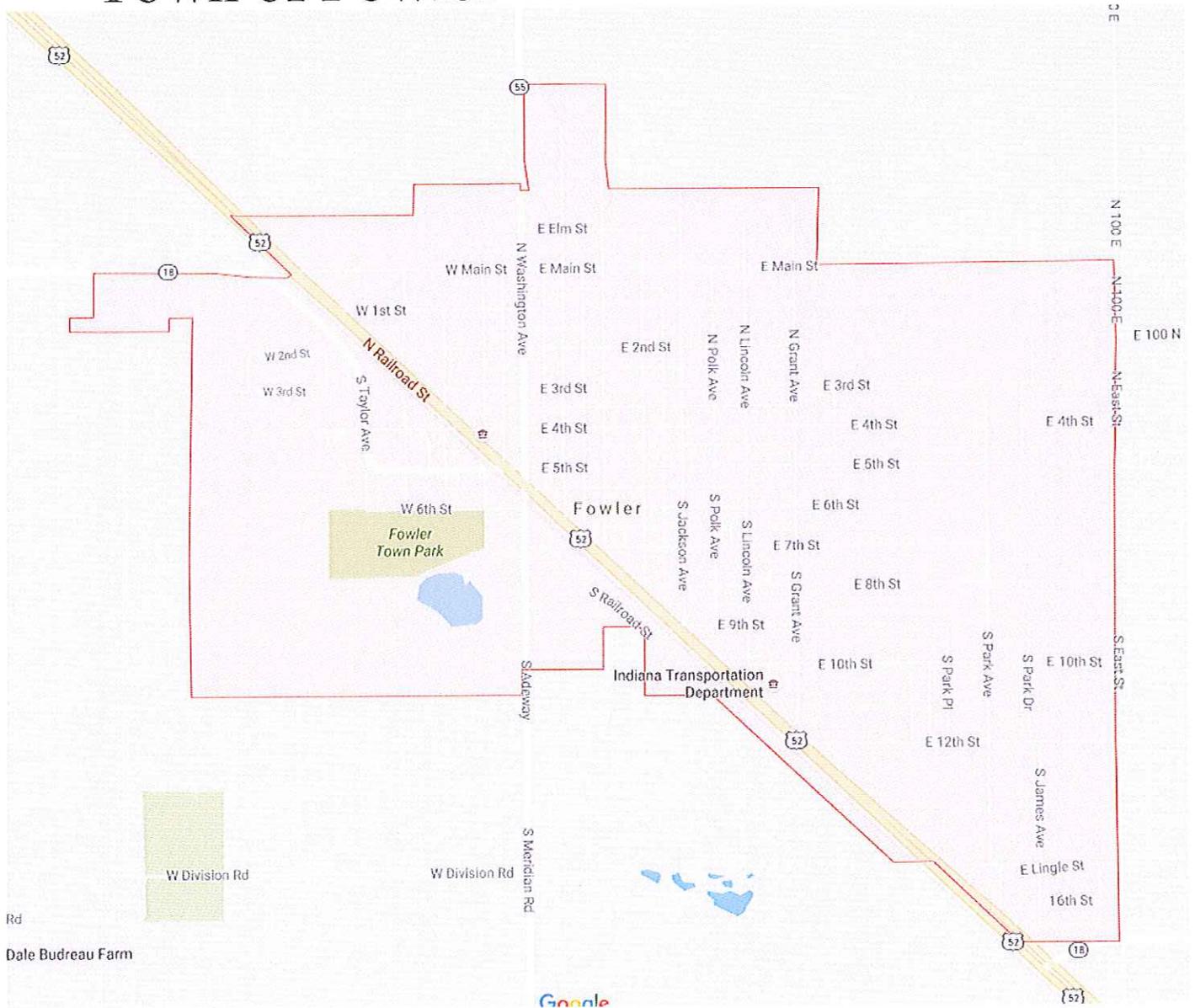
The planning area for the Fowler Parks Board includes the incorporated area of the Town of Fowler. For planning purposes, the Master Parks Plan also incorporates a one mile buffer area around the town since people in this area also partake of amenities and programs available at the park on a regular basis. (See Map page 4)

Goal of the Master Plan

The goal of the “Fowler Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan” is to establish goals and objectives for the Fowler Parks Department for 2017 through 2021. The plan will create a work plan for the park board to follow for the next five years in order to improve the parks and services provided to town residents.



Town of Fowler



EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION

In order to plan for the future of the Fowler Parks, an evaluation of the existing parks and services must first be completed. This will assist the parks department in determining the strengths of their park department and what areas might need to be addressed. This section discusses the currently available parks and recreation programs available in Fowler.

Fowler Park

The Town of Fowler presently has one park, the Fowler Park. The park is owned by the Town of Fowler and is located on the west side of town. The park has 7.42 acres which includes a 4 acre pond. (See Park Map, page 7, Aerial Photo, page 8 and Park Pictures, Appendix 2)

Park Amenities

The park offers many amenities for the community. (See Inventory, Appendix 3) There are 4 shelters in the park including one enclosed shelter. All of the shelters have electric service but are not equipped with running water or heating or cooling. The shelters are used from April through October for various uses such as family reunions, weddings, birthday parties, etc.

One of the main attractions of the park is the 250,000 gallon swimming pool. It is the only swimming pool in a 30 mile radius and draws people from several surrounding communities. The swimming pool also has a zero-depth swimming pool. This allows access for children of all ages and to those with physical disabilities. Swimming lessons are available at the pool during the summer. The Benton Eels Swim Team practices and holds meets at the facility also

Another attraction is the large playground area. The playground area includes a smaller fenced in area with toddler play equipment. Other amenities at the park include a quarter mile walking path, a pond, an asphalt basketball court, two asphalt tennis courts, a baseball/softball field, and a large open area.

A skate park has been recently added to the park. Equipment included in the skate park includes 2 rails and several large ramps.

Highland Park encompasses approximately a quarter block on Jefferson Street in Fowler. This park offers additional greenspace for residents and is reserved for a quiet park.

Park Programs

Fowler Parks offers several programs and family oriented events for the community. The parks department always celebrates Arbor Day with the local schools with activities at the park including wood carving, identifying trees and planting a tree. Annual traditions of the Fourth of

July festival bring residents to the park to celebrate with a flea market, carnival, softball tourney, fireworks, and a small celebratory ceremony. The parks board enjoys celebrating Halloween with the community through Fright Night with costume contests, hot dogs, and family oriented activities.

Fowler Town Park: Aerial Photo



Highland Park: Aerial Photo

ADA Compliance

Many improvements have been made at Fowler Park in recent years to make the park more accessible to all park visitors. There are two handicapped park spaces with curb cuts that meet American Disabilities Act requirements. The main walkway through the park was paved required by ADA regulations. Major improvements have been done at the restrooms and the swimming pool bath house to make the facilities accessible to everyone. A zero depth pool was also added to allow disabled visitors to enjoy swimming. Pictures of the improvements are below.

Currently all shelters and pavilions meet ADA requirements. The Main Shelter and North Shelter all have direct access, the park board addressed the issue of access and have eliminated the 2-3" step to get into the shelters. All shelters now have ADA accessible picnic tables. The park board also built a deck on the east side of the main pavilion with accessible ramp and sidewalks.

Park History

The Fowler Park is built on land that was originally used by as a plant to make clay tiles. Three large kilns and a long shed ran from one end of the ground to the other to provide space for drying the tiles. The lake (pond) now in the center of the park was formed from where the clay was excavated for the tiles. After the clay deposits were exhausted, the plant closed and the land was vacant. Children used to slip onto the site and swim in the pond. On September 22, 1911, the 12 ½ acres of the property were sold to Henry and ParZada Copenhaver for \$1,800. Three houses on the site were not sold because they contained three houses where the hired help lived.

The Copenhaver's built a horse barn on the site where the shelter house now stands. They also discovered that the pond was spring fed into the ditch and built a large ice house close to where the small children's playground is now. They sold ice to Fowler and the surrounding towns from 1913 to 1924.

After the ice house business closed, the Copenhaver's started dreaming of having a park for the community children. Trees were set out along the edge of the pond by Mrs. Copenhaver, her sons, and hired help and these trees are now the big trees in the park. They had boats on the pond and had many hours of fun fishing for carp. They also rented the grounds for festivals and carnivals.

In the fall of 1923, they began to dig a swimming pool that would be filled from the existing springs and well. However, their eldest son died before much was completed and the development of the park came to a standstill until 1930. In 1930 they tore down the old icehouse, moved a small house to the site, built a miniature golf course, rented boats for \$0.25 an hour, and charged \$0.10 an hour for fishing. Their dreams for the park did not move forward however, due to the Depression. All they had saved was gone and they also lost their youngest son in an auto accident.

After being asked by the town attorney many times, the Copenhaver's sold the property to the Town of Fowler in January, 1941 for \$2,500 with the understanding that the ground would

never be used for anything other than a park. Mrs. Copenhaver died a couple days after selling the property. Later Mr. Copenhaver sold additional land to the town for the park. This ground is where the ball diamond is today. The ground joins land that was sold to the Business Men's Association on December 12, 1939 for \$1.00 by the Fowler Estate. The swimming pool now sits on that property.

Five Year Progress Evaluation

The Fowler Parks Board has made substantial progress in improving the parks over the last five years. Following is a list of many of the improvements that have been completed:

- Pool leak, drainage system and decking were repaired and completed.
- New picnic tables and pool furniture were purchased.
- Pond was treated and aesthetic appeal was improved.
- Tennis courts were redone.
- Park restrooms were renovated and made ADA accessible.
- Fountain was added to the pond.
- Pavilion was made ADA accessible.
- Deck was installed on Main shelter.
- Chemical building was repainted.
- The Parks Department Gator was replaced.
- New fencing was installed at the ball diamond.
- Baseball/Softball building was repainted.
- Two new shelters were built.
- Fireplace was removed in the pavilion.
- Removed West Shelter House.
- The gazebo was painted and a new roof was installed.
- New benches were purchased and are being placed throughout the park.
- New trees added to park.

NATURAL, MAN-MADE, AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Another important factor to consider when developing a master plan is features on the landscape (natural, man-made, or cultural) that either provide or hinder recreational opportunities. Following is a discussion of existing features which may affect recreation in Fowler.

Natural Features

The Town of Fowler lies in a physiographic region of Indiana called the Tipton Till Plain. Created as a result of glaciation during the last Ice Age, the Tipton Till Plain is known for its flat to gently rolling landscape. The soil and landscape has produces some of the richest and most productive agricultural lands in Indiana and the United States. However, the natural landscape does not offer many features such as hills, caves, or woodlands that are normally associated with recreational activities. There are no rivers or creeks that run through Fowler. The natural landscape does offer significant open land surrounding the Town of Fowler. This land is now currently being used for agricultural purposes. In the future some of this property could conceivably be used for future park space.

Man-Made and Cultural Features

There are many man-made and cultural features on the landscape that provide recreational opportunities or may be available in the future. The Fowler Park includes a 4 acre man-made pond that is available for fishing. Other recreational opportunities in town include the playground at the Catholic school. The Benton County Country Club also operates a nine hole golf course next to the park. The restored Fowler Theater is also an important recreational facility within the town.

Highland Park and the property encompasses approximately a quarter block on Jefferson Street in Fowler and offers additional greenspace for residents to enjoy.

U.S. 52 which bisects the town is a man-made feature that may be hindering use of the park. The highway separates the town park from a majority of the population. In recent years, a push button crossing signal has been installed and the crosswalk has been repainted.

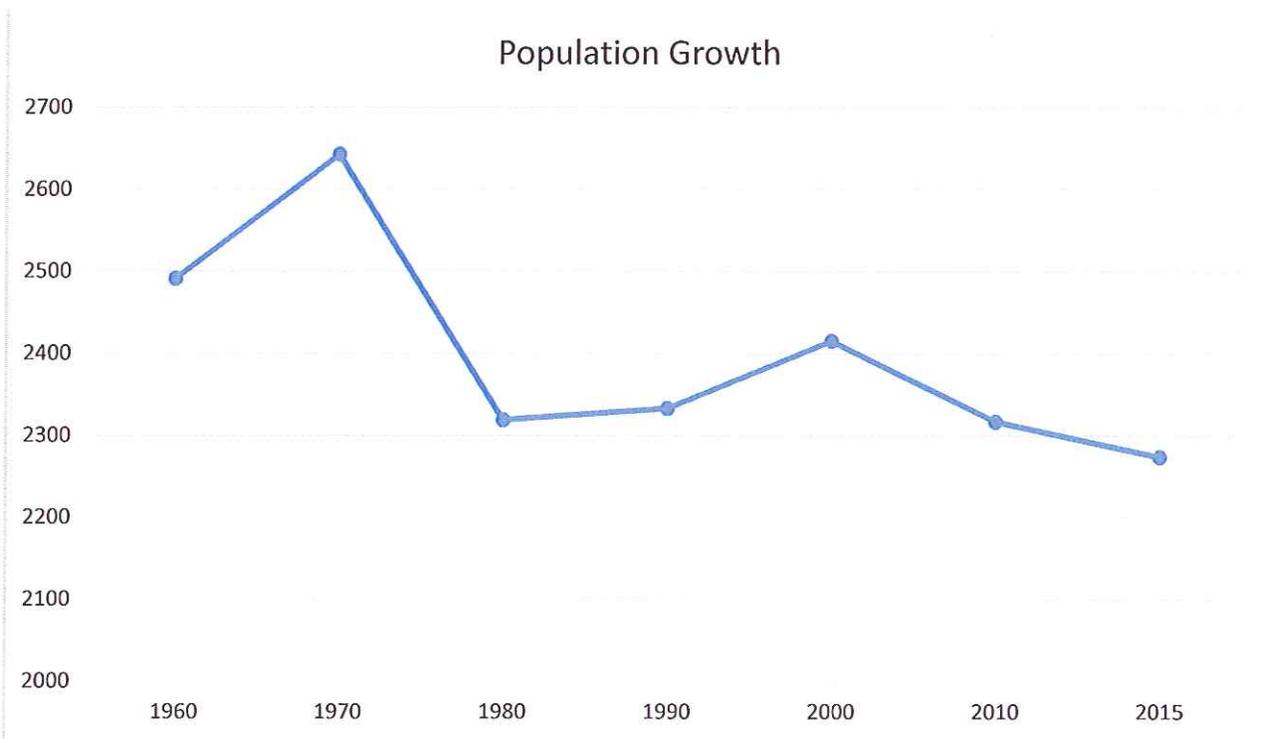
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

In order to plan for the future, it is essential to understand the community’s characteristics and the population being served. Population growth trends, income levels, age levels, and other characteristics all affect the recreational needs of a community.

Total Population and Population Growth

The 2015 American Community Survey Population Estimate reported Fowler’s population as 2,274 residents. This is just under a 2% decrease in the town’s population from the 2000 Census. Overall, the population of the town has remained relatively stable during the last 40 plus years. The average population over the last six census reports is 2,420. The Town of Fowler and Benton County are pursuing economic development opportunities but the effect of these efforts on future population growth cannot be accurately projected. It is presumed that the town’s population will continue to remain relatively stable for the foreseeable future.

Year	Population
1960	2,491
1970	2,643
1980	2,319
1990	2,333
2000	2,415
2010	2,317
2015	2,274

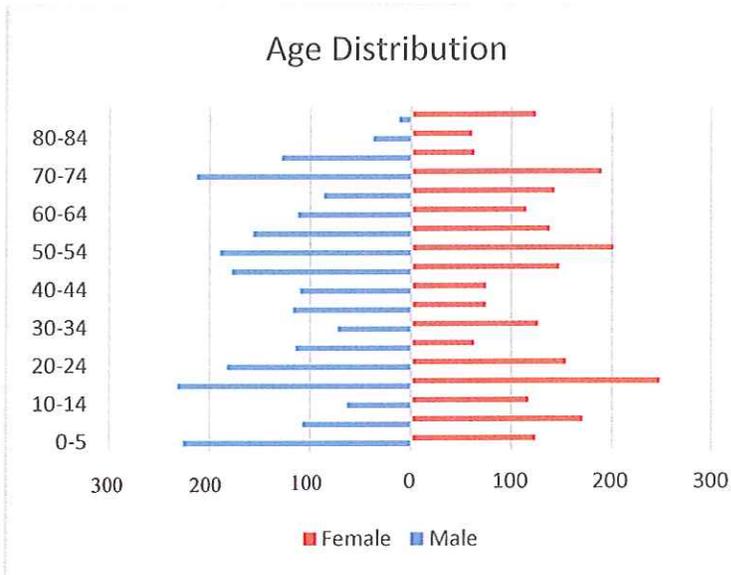


Source: U.S. Census

Population Distribution

A look at the distribution of the town’s population reveals that the highest population densities are on the east side of town. (See Population Density Map, page 14) The lowest concentration of people is along U.S. 52. The southeast corner of the town has been seeing the most growth in recent years. The town’s largest multi-family housing complex is located in this area. If the parks department considers adding park space in future years, population growth areas should be a factor in selecting future park sites.

Age



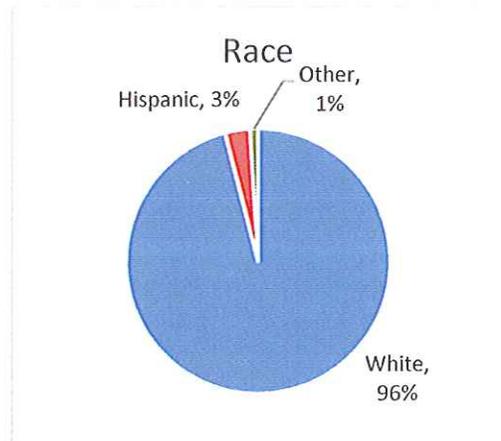
The median age for the Fowler population is 44.3 years. This compares to an average age for the State of Indiana of 37 years. Approximately 17% of Fowler’s population is below the age of 15, and 23% of the population is over the age of 65. For Indiana, 21% of the population is under age 15 and 13% is over age 65. The largest age group is 15-19 which accounts for 10.3% of the population. The smallest age groups are the 80-84 group which accounts for 2.1% of the population and the 85+ age group which makes up 3%. The age

of the population is an important consideration when planning for parks as people in different age brackets tend to enjoy dissimilar recreational activities. With an older than average population, the demand for activities for seniors may be high.

Race

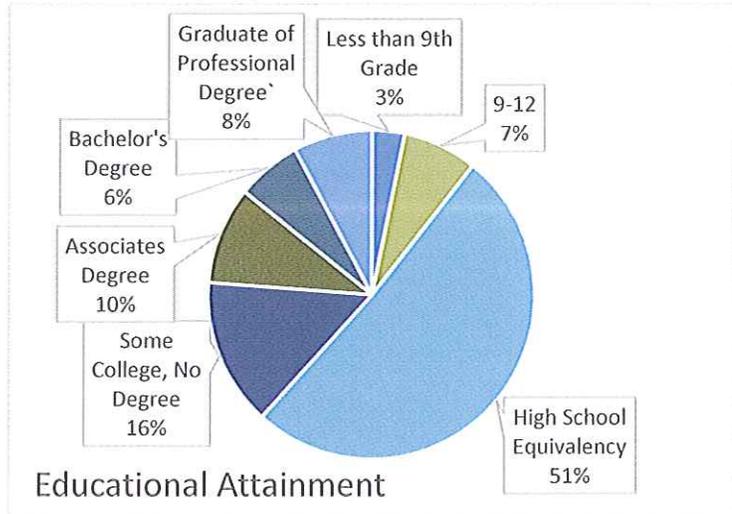
A community should evaluate its racial and gender composition when preparing a park plan. Different cultures often prefer different recreational activities.

Fowler has a small minority population. Just over 96% of the population is reported as white, non-Hispanic. Hispanics comprise the largest minority population and account for 3% of the total population.



Educational Attainment

Approximately 92% of Fowler’s population 25 or older has a high school diploma compared to 86% of Indiana’s population. Approximately 24% of the population in Fowler has a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. The state’s percentage with a bachelor’s degree or higher is 22%. Educational attainment may influence the kinds of recreation demanded, the type of volunteer services provided, park donations, and other important factors for the park board to consider.



Source: 2010 ACS

Disabled

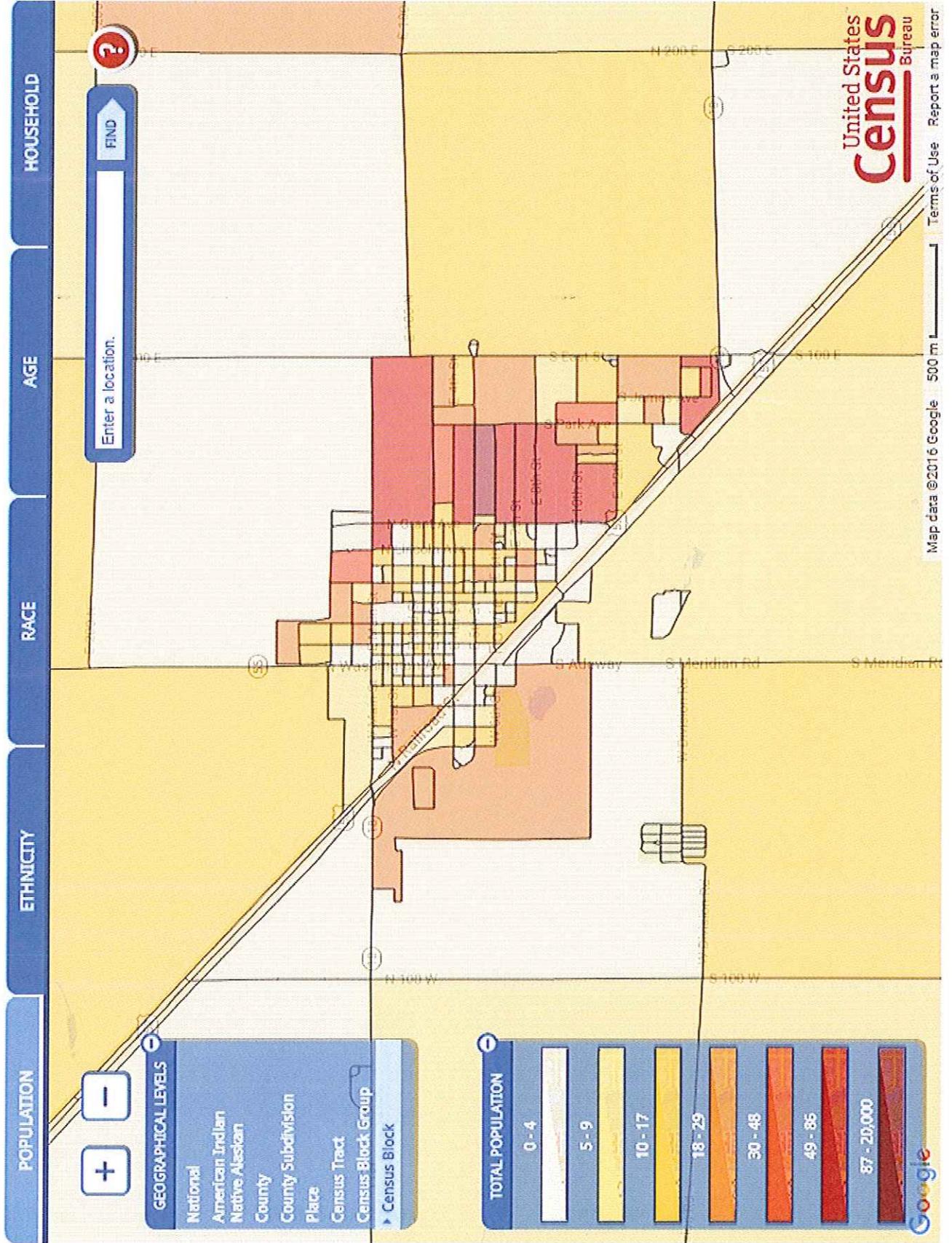
The size of the disabled population is important to plan for in park development. Programs, equipment, and facilities need to meet the special needs of the disabled population. 2000 Census figures report that 6% of Fowler residents have a physical disability and 2% have a mental disability. 2010 data was not available.

Economic Indicators

According to the 2014 American Community Survey, the median household income for Fowler was \$43,945. This was below the Benton County (\$46,909), state (\$48,737) and national (\$53,482) median household income levels. The poverty rate in 2014 was 13.4% for Fowler compared to 15.5% for Indiana. The unemployment rate for Benton County in September, 2016 was 4.3% which was below the state unemployment rate of 4.6%.

Economic indicators can be a sign of the potential for donations within a community for park services. Based on income information it is likely that Fowler will need to rely on grants and other outside income sources to fund many of their proposed projects.

Fowler Population Density Map



POPULATION

ETHNICITY

RACE

AGE

HOUSEHOLD

+

-

GEOGRAPHICAL LEVELS

- National
- American Indian
Native Alaskan
- County
- County Subdivision
- Place
- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- ▶ Census Block

TOTAL POPULATION

0 - 4

5 - 9

10 - 17

18 - 29

30 - 48

49 - 86

87 - 20,000



Enter a location.

FIND

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Bureau

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PUBLIC INPUT

Public input is an essential element in preparing a plan for the Fowler Parks Department. The park and recreational programs are provided for the public and are intended to meet the public's recreational needs and desires. In order to learn and understand those needs and desires, the Fowler Parks Board utilized two methods, a public survey and a public hearing.

Public Survey

Fowler has conducted public surveys with each plan update. This enables the public to give their opinion on current facilities and thoughts for future plans and upgrades. The survey used for this update was distributed in April 2016. The survey was sent to all town residents in the town's monthly newsletter. While the town did not receive as many responses as hoped, the responses they did receive provided valuable information for the park board to incorporate into the Master Plan.

The survey had a good response and most viewed the parks favorably. (See 2016 Survey Results, Appendix 4) Use of the park was distributed fairly evenly with most people using often and occasionally. Most believed there should be additional recreational improvements made. The items with the most negative response were the pond and restrooms. Respondents were most satisfied with park maintenance and recreational items. Comments on the surveys showed the most support for treating the pond, bike and walking paths, movies in the park, and greater accessibility.

The survey received 108 completed surveys which allowed much more public input into the planning process. The most used activities were the swimming pool, picnic areas, and playground. The survey showed strong support for capital improvements with 66% favoring improvements. Respondents felt general maintenance was above average, natural features were adequate, recreational facilities were above average, and other facilities, mainly restrooms were adequate or dissatisfied.

Public Hearing

The park board also held a public hearing to obtain input for the park plan. The meeting was held on December 5, 2016 at 4:00 and a public notice was published in the local newspaper. Documentation of the meeting is included in Appendix 5.

Public Goals

After evaluating the public input into the planning process, the following items were identified as the public's main priorities for the park.

- Improve Accessibility- new sidewalk from street to East Shelter.
- Tables and Benches- continue purchasing new tables for the Main Pavilion and begin replacing benches throughout park in memorial or donation campaign.

- Improve Lighting throughout Park.
- Restroom Improvements- Create a plan to make restrooms more aesthetically pleasing.
- Add additional recreational amenities- Frisbee golf.

NEEDS ANALYSIS AND GOALS

The needs analysis section of the plan combines the previous supply and demand sections of the plan to analyze what additional recreational opportunities or improvements to existing amenities should be provided by the Fowler Park Department and will set goals to meet these opportunities.

Method

The Issue Analysis method of needs analysis was chosen to evaluate the recreational needs of the community. This form of analysis uses information collected for the plan to identify and resolve needs, problems, and conflicts. The Issue Analysis method was chosen because of the town's limited finances to do a more technical evaluation. There were also obvious issues the board believed needed to be addressed.

Needs Identified

Information collected for the plan indicated several issues that need to be addressed by the Park Board.

Restrooms: The restrooms were recognized by 49% of the public as the number one area needing improvement. There have been some improvements to make them handicapped accessible but additional work is needed. The park board believes there needs to be additional restrooms built to meet the needs of the park.

Pond Improvements: The pond is the historical center of the park. The public survey identified the pond as the second area that needs improvement. 31% of survey respondents felt the pond needed improvements. The main issues were the aesthetic appearance of the pond and erosion occurring around the pond. Moss and algae were also noted as issues for users at the pond.

Picnic Areas: The picnic areas are a popular amenity at the park. Survey results revealed it was the most used amenity after the swimming pool. It was also recognized by 19%, as an area of improvement. Respondents noted the need for more and newer tables to improve the picnic area.

Walking Paths: The 2015 survey revealed the public's desire for improved walking paths. The analysis of the age demographics showed that Fowler has an aging population. Walking is a popular activity for older people and should be in more demand in the future. People would also like to see additional lighting on the path and an extension of the already existing path with possible distance markers.

Tennis Courts: The tennis courts are not the most heavily used item in the park. The courts were recently replaced. Survey results showed that 88% of the people who said they used the tennis facilities thought they needed to be improved by the addition of a backboard.

Playground Equipment: Several of the survey respondents thought that the playground was another great asset; however some of the equipment needs attention.

Goals

After evaluating the existing park facilities, the local features, the population, public input, and evaluating the needs, the park board has identified seven major goals. Below is a description of each of these major goals.

1. The park board has determined that restroom improvements will be a first priority. Improvements include fresh paint and windows to help improve overall appearance and public appeal.
2. Aesthetic and continued improvements are a priority for the board. Improvements will take place at the pavilion with new paint on the walls and ceiling. The board will also address the leaking roof at the guard house. They will explore repairs or replacement based on need. New roof and siding or improvements to the pony league concession stand are also planned as well as painting the pool guard house and concession stand.
3. The board is continuing its work to make the park accessible by all. The next venture is to install a sidewalk from the street to the East Shelter.
4. A concern of residents was the current lighting at the park. The board would like to see all lighting at the park updated to LED fixtures to create a well-lighted park. The board is exploring grant opportunities through power providers for this project.
5. The board would like to add new recreational amenities to the park for the public's enjoyment. This would include an additional basketball court and a 9 hole Frisbee golf course.
6. The board is working to replace the existing benches throughout the park with a capital campaign to fund this project. They hope to see businesses and individuals purchase benches through donations, the board hopes to see several benches through the park recognizing local partners. New picnic tables are also planned for the Main Pavilion, again another opportunity for local partners to work with the parks board.

ACTION PLAN

To accomplish the stated goals the town has established the following plan of action. Projected costs and possible funding sources have been identified.

5-Year Action Plan

Year	Project	Potential funding source	Projected cost
2017	Upgrade park restroom	Budget	\$5,000
	Sidewalk to the east shelter house	Budget	\$2,500
	Fix leak in roof on pool bath house	Budget	\$5,000
	Paint walls and ceiling in pavilion	Budget	\$10,000
2018	Led lighting	Budget/ Grant	\$20,000
2019	New mower	Budget	\$16,000
	Paint guard house and concession stand	Budget	\$15,000
2020	9 hole Frisbee golf course	Budget/Donations	\$5,000
	New basketball court	Budget	\$15,000
2021	New roof and siding at pony league park	Budget/Donations	\$15,000
	New picnic tables in pavilion	Grants	\$30,000
	New park benches	Donations	\$12,000

The park board has also been thinking of more long range projects for years after 2021. This provides a great direction for future park development.

Statement of Accessibility and Universal Design

When implementing this action plan the Town of Fowler recognizes the need to ensure that all its programs, activities, and facilities are available to all residents in the community. The Town of Fowler will follow a non-discriminatory policy that no individual will be excluded from the participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. (See Section 504 Form, Appendix 6) The town will also provide equal opportunities to disabled citizens as set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. All projects constructed by the park board will meet ADA requirements.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF PLAN

A draft copy of the Fowler Park Plan has been made available to the public to receive comments and suggestions. The plan was placed on the Town of Fowler's web site and copies were placed in several busy locations around town and people were asked to provide comments on the plan.

The comments received about the plan are attached in Appendix 7.

APPENDIX 1
Park Board Budget

Appropriation Report

Posted Items

All History

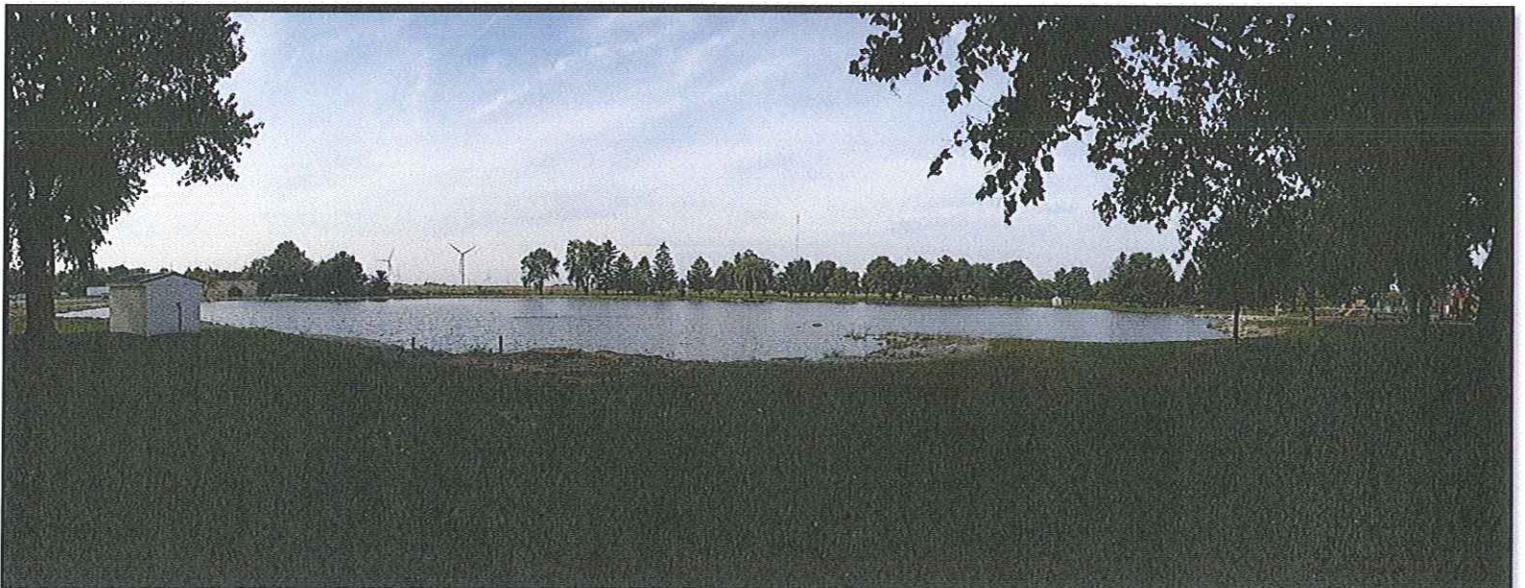
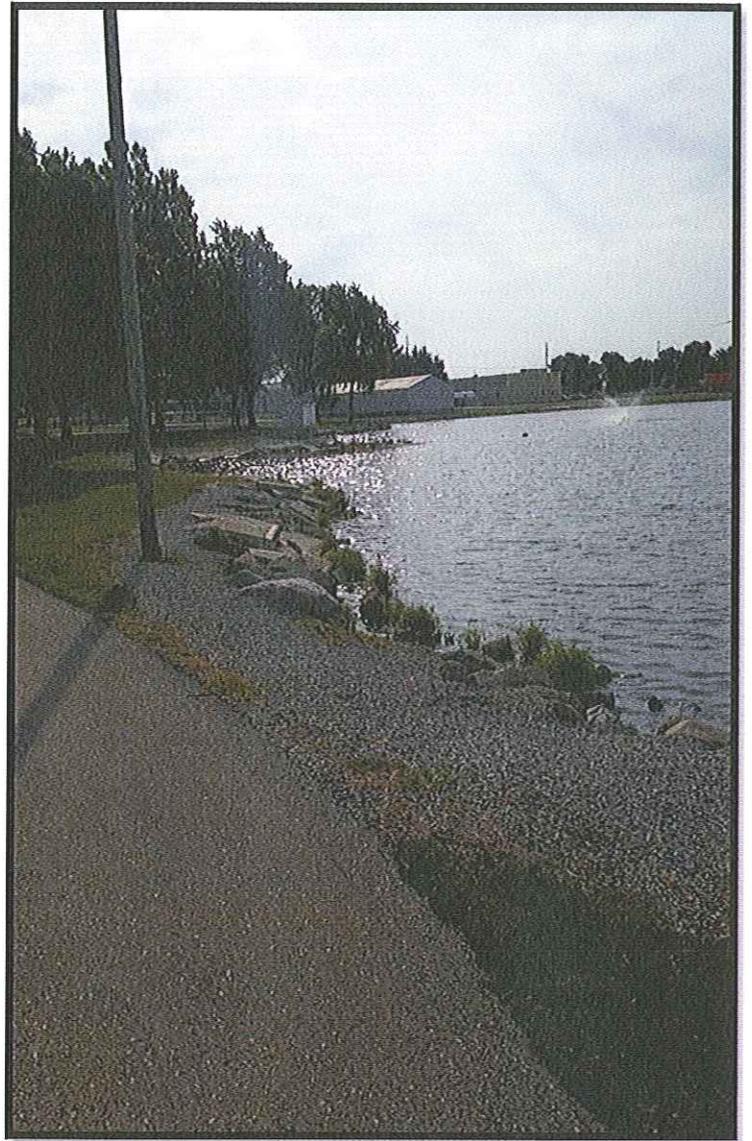
Fund 204

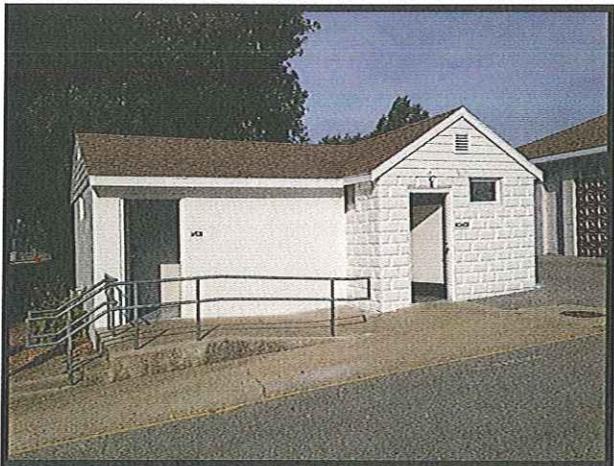
Grouped By Fund, Department

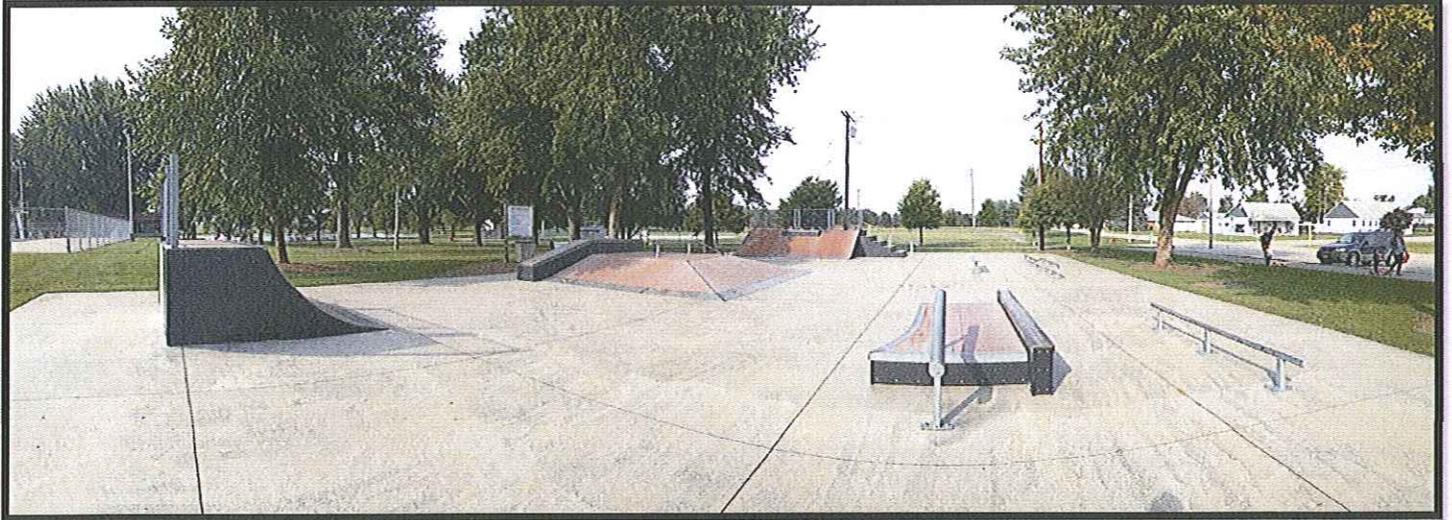
Ordered By Appropriation

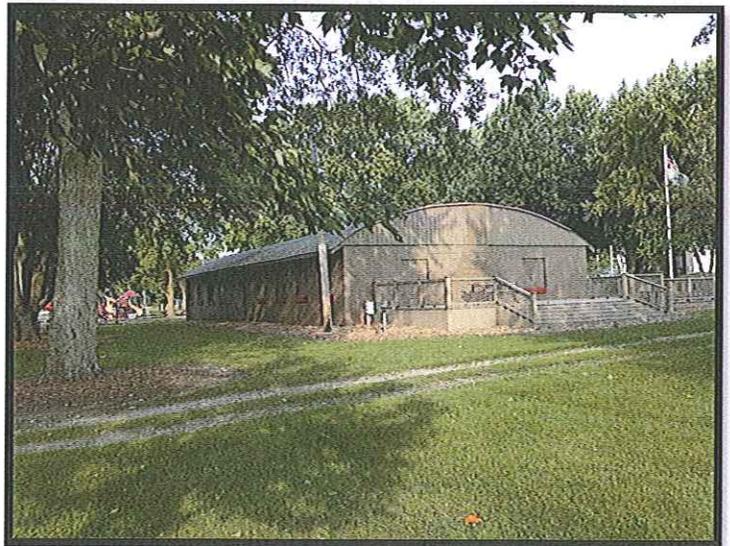
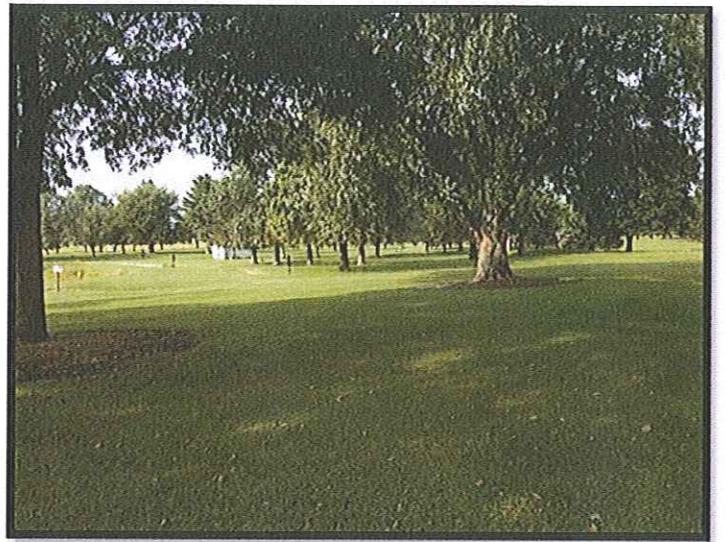
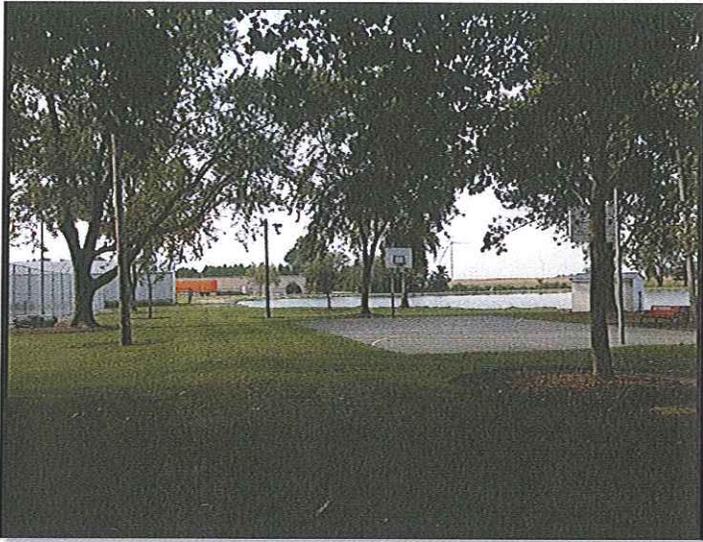
APPROP	TITLE	FORWARDED	CURRENT	TRANSFRD	ADDL/ADJ	ENCUM	EXP-MTD	EXP-YTD	LIQ NOT EXP FWD	UNENCUM BAL	UNEXPEND BAL	% LEFT
**Fund 204												
**Department 001												
204001111.000	PARK - PARK SALARIES	0.00	57431.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1728.00	52082.78	0.00	5348.22	5348.22	9.31%
204001131.000	PARK - EMPLOYER'S FICA	0.00	4410.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132.20	3984.45	0.00	425.55	425.55	9.64%
204001135.000	PARK - PARK BENEFITS	0.00	2100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2100.00	2100.00	100.00%
204001210.000	PARK - OFFICE SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*** neg
204001220.000	PARK - OPERATING SUPPLIES	0.00	18232.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.05	7673.45	0.00	10558.55	10558.55	57.91%
204001230.000	PARK - REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	10767.86	22050.00	0.00	0.00	3400.00	45.12	8815.95	-3700.00	16901.91	20301.91	73.13%
204001240.000	PARK- OTHER SUPPLIES	0.00	2205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	2204.00	2204.00	99.95%
204001310.000	PARK - PROFESSIONAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*** neg
204001320.000	PARK - COMMUNICATION &	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*** neg
204001330.000	PARK - PRINTING & ADVERTISING	0.00	331.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.00	0.00	267.00	267.00	80.66%
204001340.000	PARK - INSURANCE	0.00	5804.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2417.54	0.00	3386.46	3386.46	58.34%
204001350.000	PARK - UTILITY SERVICES	0.00	4862.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	780.89	3527.87	0.00	1334.13	1334.13	27.43%
204001360.000	PARK - REPAIRS &	5776.00	16155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00	8831.62	0.00	13099.38	13099.38	59.73%
204001370.000	PARK - RENTALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*** neg
204001381.000	PARK - OTHER SERVICES &	809.30	9024.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	909.44	7270.88	0.00	2562.42	2562.42	26.05%
204001440.000	PARK - IMPROVEMENTS OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*** neg
204001450.000	PARK - MACHINERY &	0.00	13981.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13981.00	13981.00	100.00%
204001459.000	PARK - SALES TAX PAYMENTS	0.00	221.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	199.82	1144.15	0.00	-923.15	-923.15	*** neg
204001520.000	PARK - TRANSFERS OUT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	328.50	0.00	-328.50	-328.50	*** neg
SubTotal Department 001		17353.16	156806.00	0.00	0.00	3400.00	4164.52	96142.19	-3700.00	70916.97	74316.97	44.79%
SubTotal Fund 204		17353.16	156806.00	0.00	0.00	3400.00	4164.52	96142.19	-3700.00	70916.97	74316.97	44.79%
*** GRAND TOTAL ***		17353.16	156806.00	0.00	0.00	3400.00	4164.52	96142.19	-3700.00	70916.97	74316.97	44.79%

APPENDIX 2
Fowler Park Pictures









APPENDIX 3

Indiana Recreation Facilities Inventory



PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

State Form 54531 (4-11)
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Dear Outdoor Recreation Provider / Planner,

The following pages are Facility Inventory Sheets that the IDNR, Division of Outdoor Recreation uses to update our facility inventory database for the State of Indiana. This database is essential for establishing a record of the current supply of outdoor recreation opportunities in our State. The information is used for completing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which is a prerequisite for receiving Land and Water Conservation Fund grant money. Another use of the database is to answer questions from the public. For example, "Do you have a list of camp grounds in "a specific area" of the state?" or "Do you have a list of good lakes for swimming?" The facilities inventory is also used in our GIS information that can be accessed via the internet.

As you can see, having a comprehensive up-to-date inventory benefits outdoor recreation at all levels.

We would appreciate it if you could fill out the pages that apply to your facilities to the best of your ability. Although most responses require a checkmark or a number, the more information a provider or planner can include on these forms, the better our picture of Indiana will be and we will be better able to make sound objective decisions concerning the future.

We ask that you fill out a Facility General Information sheet for each facility (e.g., park, school, marina, etc.) and any other applicable sheet. For example, a park may have General Facility Information, Athletic Areas, Picnic and Playground Areas, Camping or Lodging Facilities, Trails, and Educational or Community Facilities sheets; while a golf course would complete the Facilities General Information and the Golf Facilities question.

It is only necessary to complete the questions that are pertinent to each facility. One reason for implementing this style of inventory sheet is to decrease the amount of paper that is used for a facility with just a few amenities. If you print the sheets, you only need to print the ones you will use and you can duplex (doubleside) them.

You can e-mail gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov for a Word copy of the inventory sheets to complete and return electronically.

If you have any questions, comments, or need assistance completing the facility inventory sheets, please, contact

Greg Beilfuss
Outdoor Recreation Planner
IDNR, Division of Outdoor Recreation
402W West Washington Street, W-271
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4071
gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov

Thank you for helping us maintain a current inventory of the outdoor recreational opportunities in the State of Indiana!

Sincerely,
Greg Beilfuss

FACILITY GENERAL INFORMATION			
Site code		Name of site Fowler Town Park	
Address (number and street, city, state, and ZIP code) Fowler IN 47944			
Primary telephone number (765) 884-0570		Primary e-mail address	Site URL
Name of owner Town of Fowler		Name of manager John Budreau	
Type of facility: (Please check one)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park / Recreation Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic / Cultural Site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Nature Preserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing / Boating Access Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping / Trailer Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife Area		
Type of area: (Please check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Township	
Time Open: <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round			
Total acres 7.42	Land acres 3.42	Water acres 4	Wetlands acres

PICNIC AND PLAYGROUND AREAS	
Is there a Picnic Area on this site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a Playground on this site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

ATHLETIC AREAS		
Site code		
Please record "Number of" each of the following:		
AMENITY	CHECK IF THIS SITE HAS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING	MULTI-USE (check, if applicable)
Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fields		
Baseball / Softball Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courts		
Basketball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:		

CAMPING OR LODGING FACILITIES

Is there a Campground on this site? Yes No

GOLF FACILITIES

Is there a Public Golf Course on this site? Yes No

SHOOTING OR ARCHERY FACILITIES

Is there a Public Shooting Range on this site? Yes No

Is there a Public Archery Range on this site? Yes No

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Is this site open for any Winter Activity use? Yes No

TRAILS

Are there any Trails located on this site? Yes No

If Yes, please contact Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Outdoor Recreation for addition to Trails Inventory.

WATER

Is there a Pool on this site? Yes No

Is there a Splash Pad, Water Park, or other Water Feature? Yes No

Is there a Pond, Lake, River, or Creek on this site with public access? Yes No

Notes:

:

APPENDIX 4

2016 Fowler Park Survey and Results

Fowler Park Survey

Question 1	Yes How Often	93 Very Often	No Often	15 Rare	Never				
Question 2	Swimming	BBAI	Picnic Areas	Baseball	Softball	Tennis Courts	Playground	Skateboarding	Other: Walking, Fishing
			8	51	8	8	50		Biking, Walking, Fishing, 4th of July, Church Services, 7 jogging/running, relaxing, pond, shelter house
Question 3	Swimming Pool	Pavilion	Playground Equipment	Pon	Ball Diamond	Restroom	Other		
	2	20	12	34	7	51	Dog area, water fountains, new scoreboard, new tables		
Question 4	Yes	45	No	29					
Type	walking/biking Path, Wi-Fi, Campground, Dog Area, roller skating, larger skateboard area, more activities for special needs patrons, frisbee golf, campsites with electric/water hook-ups, splash pad, handicap access to pond, more programs, greater accessibility at park, another bball court, more lighting, miniature golf, backboard for tennis courts								
Question 5	Male	40	Female	67					
Question 6	Live in Fowler	96	Benton Co.	7					
Question 7	# in household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
		22	47	17	9	7	2	1	
Question 8	Yes	71	No	33					
What Type of Activity	Concerts, Chruh Services, Move at park, pool parties, dances, Halloween, 4th of July, art fairs, festivals, car shows, fishing contests, swimming exercise programs for adults, wine/bier garden, community picnic, baseball club, talent shows/open mic night, pet events favorites: movie, music, pool parties								

Level of Satisfaction	Excellent	Above Average	Adequate	Dissatisfied	No Opinion
General Maintenance	32	43	16	1	
Natural Features	22	31	31	6	2 Pond
Recreational Facilities	22	41	23	2	
Other Facilities	8	17	39	21	5 Restrooms

Other Comments

- Clean and Safe
- Restrooms need improvement
- Concrete Dumped on bank of pond, safety hazard Golf course pumps too much water from it, erosion around pond
- more pavilions and benches
- Running/walking trails path with distance markers to increase fitness and wellness
- Flashers to cross 52 for walking path to access park
- moss at pond is not good for fishing, algae issue
- Sidewalk improvements for park access
- playground equipment gets hot in sun, need some shade
- need pet waste receptacles around walkway
- more campgrounds
- more bbq stands around pavilion
- Playground needs upgraded
- more Parking
- Install fence around pond

Town of Fowler
Park and Recreation Master Plan
Public Input Survey 2016

The Fowler Park Board is requesting your input as part of their preparation of a Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. The Park Board is creating this plan as part of an effort to improve and increase the recreational opportunities in Fowler. Please help by completing the following survey and returning it to the Fowler Town Hall by 3:00 p.m., July 5, 2016. A drop box is available at the Town Hall or it can be mailed to:

Fowler Town Hall
307 E 5th St.
Fowler, IN 47944

You may also email it to clerk@townoffowler.com

1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often Occasionally Rarely Never

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming Basketball Picnic Areas Baseball Softball

Tennis Courts Playground Skateboarding

Other Biking

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond Restrooms Other

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes No

If yes, what type? Biking Path, WIFI

5. Are you Male Female

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler

7. How many people are in your household? _____

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? Concert, Church services

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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often Occasionally Rarely Never

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming Basketball Picnic Areas Baseball Softball

Tennis Courts Playground Skateboarding

Other _____

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond Restrooms Other _____

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes No

If yes, what type? _____

5. Are you Male Female

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler

7. How many people are in your household? 2

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often Occasionally Rarely Never

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming Basketball Picnic Areas Baseball Softball

Tennis Courts Playground Skateboarding

Other walking

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond Restrooms Other dog area

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes No

If yes, what type? All of those listed plus a dog-friendly area.

5. Are you Male Female

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler

7. How many people are in your household? 2

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often Occasionally Rarely Never

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming Basketball Picnic Areas Baseball Softball

Tennis Courts Playground Skateboarding

Other

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond Restrooms Other

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes No

If yes, what type? _____

5. Are you Male Female

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler

7. How many people are in your household? 2

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often Occasionally Rarely Never

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming Basketball Picnic Areas Baseball Softball

Tennis Courts Playground Skateboarding

Other _____

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond Restrooms Other _____

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes No

If yes, what type? _____

5. Are you Male Female

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler

7. How many people are in your household? 5

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

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You may also email it to clerk@townoffowler.com

1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes on occasion No _____
If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?
Very Often _____ Often _____ Occasionally Rarely _____ Never _____
2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.
Swimming _____ Basketball _____ Picnic Areas Baseball _____ Softball _____
Tennis Courts _____ Playground _____ Skateboarding _____
Other _____
3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.
Swimming Pool _____ Pavillion _____ Playground Equipment _____ Pond ?
Baseball/Softball Diamond _____ Restrooms Other _____
4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes _____ No
If yes, what type? _____
5. Are you Male _____ Female
6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler _____
7. How many people are in your household? 2
8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes _____ No _____ Do Not Know - depends!
If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No _____

If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?

Very Often Often _____ Occasionally _____ Rarely _____ Never _____

2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.

Swimming _____ Basketball _____ Picnic Areas _____ Baseball _____ Softball _____

Tennis Courts _____ Playground _____ Skateboarding _____

Other: Fishing

3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.

Swimming Pool _____ Pavillion _____ Playground Equipment _____ Pond

Baseball/Softball Diamond _____ Restrooms _____ Other _____

4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes _____ No

If yes, what type? _____

5. Are you Male Female _____

6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler _____

7. How many people are in your household? 2

8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes _____ No

If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? _____

Town of Fowler
Park and Recreation Master Plan
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1. Do you use the Fowler Park? Yes No
If Yes, how often do you and your family use Fowler's park and recreation facilities and programs?
Very Often _____ Often Occasionally _____ Rarely _____ Never _____
2. Please check the recreational activities that you participate in the most in Fowler. If you select "other" category, please include your activity beside the category.
Swimming Basketball _____ Picnic Areas Baseball _____ Softball _____
Tennis Courts _____ Playground Skateboarding _____
Other _____
3. Please identify the areas where the greatest needs for improvements are necessary. If you select "other" category, please include your area beside the category.
Swimming Pool Pavillion Playground Equipment Pond _____
Baseball/Softball Diamond _____ Restrooms Other _____
4. Should there be additional recreational capital improvement acquisitions made? (i.e. biking paths, roller skating, campground etc.) Yes _____ No _____
If yes, what type? _____
5. Are you Male _____ Female
6. Do you live: In Fowler In Benton County, but outside of Fowler _____
7. How many people are in your household? 2
8. Would you and/or your family attend special activities at the park? (i.e. movie at the park, pool parties, dances, etc.)? Yes No _____
If yes, what types of activities would most interest you or your family? All stated above

APPENDIX 5

Public Hearing Documentation

APPENDIX 6

Public Presentation Information

APPENDIX 7
Section 504 Compliance Form

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)**

The Town of Fowler Parks Department (Applicant) had read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE: _____

John Budreau, Park Board President

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

APPENDIX 8
Park Board Resolution

RESOLUTION _____

Town of Fowler Five Year Park Master Plan Adoption

WHEREAS, the Town of Fowler Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Indiana, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF FOWLER PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Town of Fowler Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Indiana.

Passed and signed this 4th day of December, 2016.

ATTEST:

John Budreau, Park Board President

Park Board Member