



Washington Indiana 5 Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

2018-2023

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

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**Washington Parks and Recreation Department
5-Year Master Plan**

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Washington Parks and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan

Introduction

Welcome to the 2018 Recreation Master Plan of the Washington Parks and Recreation Department (WPRD). This plan is established to serve as guidelines for the department in providing quality recreation to our visitors. This planning effort is part of our ongoing commitment to assuring that the parks remain a vibrant respite from the stresses and demands of modern life. To make sure that happens, we must take an objective look at who we are, what we offer, and who we serve. In this plan we will examine the complex, and often confusing, role our organization plays in providing recreation opportunities to a clientele that is not always the same as the citizens of the Washington area we serve. As we proceed with this planning process we will examine some of the perceptions, and misperceptions, that exist in our communities concerning our department.

Mission Statement

We have seen our mission evolve over the years into one in which the mission of the Washington Parks & Recreation is to “enrich the community and the lives of Washington residents and to provide and/or facilitate quality recreational and leisure opportunities and enhance visitor experiences by providing safe, clean, well-maintained park facilities for the community’s use and enjoyment.”

Much of the operation of Washington Parks & Recreation is based on the principle that parks are for people. Ours is not a pristine, natural setting that must be preserved from man, but rather it is a largely artificial creation of man that was designed to give people a place to play and get away from the day-to-day stress of modern life. Our land, air and waters are all natural resources, but are arranged into this particular setting by human design, for human endeavor. We have systems in place internally and with outside agencies to apply sound science to management of fisheries, and have a high level of interest in clean water technology and strategies.

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Definition of the Planning Area

The planning area for the Washington Parks and Recreation Department is Eastside Park, South Park, Longfellow Park and the Sports Complex. Washington Parks and Recreation remains committed to making our facilities and services available to anyone, regardless of resident status or physical/mental ability.

Goals of the Plan

After much discussion, the Washington Parks & Recreation staff and the Park board have agreed on the following goals for the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

- Gather feedback and input from as diverse a group of Washington residents as possible, and report it in an accurate manner.
- Create a plan that is dynamic, and provides pertinent, useful information and guidance for the next five years in Washington.
- Present the plan and gain its acceptance within Washington community.
- Present the master plan to the Mayor and City Council for approval.
- Use the plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants.

Organization

Formed under IC 36-10, the Department represents the Parks and Recreation interests of Washington under Parks and Recreation Boards formed under Code of Ordinance 30.18. Thus, the organization operates under the auspices of a park board made up of 6 members that serve staggered four-year terms. Board is made up of: two Democrats & two Republicans appointed by the Mayor, one School Board Member, appointed by the Washington School Board and one Library Board Member, appointed by the Washington Carnegie Library Board.

The Washington Parks & Recreation is currently administered by a Superintendent appointed by the Mayor. Under the Superintendent are divisions of Administration, Programs and Maintenance.

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Parks Department

Parks Office

The main office for the Parks Department is located in Eastside Park (403 Burkhart Drive, Washington Indiana 47501). Mailing address is 101 NE 3rd St. Washington In, 47501 phone number (812)254-6010 and email address is parksuperintendent@washingtonin.us

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

- The Washington Parks and Recreation Department will offer a level of service appropriate to the size and growth of the community.
- The Department will provide new opportunities for exercise, fitness and wellness for the community at large.
- The Department should act as a central part of daily life in the community, providing a city identity and a focus for the people of Washington.

Staff

- Park Superintendent: Kip Kelley
- Park Foreman: Eddie Cornelius

The Washington Parks and Recreation Department also employs two full time maintenance staff and three seasonal workers each year.

Volunteers

In these times of shrinking budgets, rising energy costs and increasing recreation demand, volunteers from Washington and the surrounding areas provide us with invaluable assistance by assisting us in maintenance and improving the parks themselves, and much more. Without our dedicated group of volunteers, we would not be able to provide the quality of parks that we currently enjoy. Our current pool of volunteers varies between 50-75 people from all walks of life, and every level of the social strata.

20th Century Chevy Club

The Washington Parks & Recreation Department has benefited tremendously from the creation of the 20th Century Chevy Club Fund under the Daviess County Community Foundation. The Club has an annual car cruise and show at Eastside Park which donates to the Foundation.

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Facility Inventory

Washington Parks and Recreation has an inventory of 6 parks, ranging in size from .3 to 41 acres (approximately 120 acres total park land). The Washington Park system is relatively old, with the oldest and largest property dating back to 1908. The age of the parks does not reflect the current condition of our equipment. The oldest park has been renovated in the last few years. In many cases, due to limited funds and staffing, features of the parks are in dire need of updating, replacement, or renovation. The following is a brief synopsis of the 6 Washington Parks:

EASTSIDE PARK:

Accessibility Assessment = 4

- Purchased or donated in 1908. 61 acres, including two 12-acre lakes. Features: four 20'x40" shelter houses, mini shelter, large screened in Pavilion, Kiwanis Cabin, Community Building, War Memorial, large playground with ADA accessibility, a miniature train, paddle boats, concession stand, basketball courts, horse shoe courts, corn hole courts, concrete walking trails around the perimeter, restrooms, benches, several picnic sites, permanent grills and several picnic tables.



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South Park

Accessibility Assessment = 1

- This park is 9 acres in size. Features: Basketball courts, soccer field, baseball fields, 20'x40' shelter house and a small older playground.



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Longfellow Park

Accessibility Assessment = 3

- This park is 12 acres in size. Features: two 20'x40' shelters, skate ramps, small playground, basketball courts, soccer field and softball field. This park is going to be the site for a new walking trail with work out stations.



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Sports Complex

Accessibility Assessment = 3

- Donated in 1993. This park is 35 acres in size and is the home of many self-funded sports programs (little league, soccer federation and the Washington High School baseball and soccer programs). Features: three 20'x40' shelter houses, tennis courts and a small playground.



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Revolutionary War Memorial

Accessibility Assessment = 1

- Donated in 1994. This is a little neighborhood park that is .3 acres in size. Features: Bench, flower garden and a Revolutionary Monument.



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Waterworld Of Washington Pool

Accessibility Assessment = 4

- This is the home of our municipal swimming pool; under direct control of the Mayor but maintained by the Parks Department. It is 1.75 acres in size. Features: Swimming pool, splash pad and concession stand.



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Current Programs

Washington offers a diverse array of programs that attract many kinds of users. Washington has responded to the needs of our community by providing spaces for other organizations to be able to run programs. The following is a snapshot of some of the recreation activities that have been offered by WPRD staff, or with other partners:

- Boys and Girls Little League Baseball (in cooperation with Little League of Washington): This organization provides a baseball league for ages 4 to 15 years old.
- Boys and Girls Soccer (in cooperation with Washington Soccer Federation): This organization provides a softball league for ages 8 to 16 years old.
- July 4th celebration: This celebration is the largest event that the city host. You can expect to have around 1000 plus people in attendance. This event has a carnival with rides, games and entertainment with fireworks on the night of the 4th.
- Back to School Bash: This event is for school age kids to enjoy a day full of fun. We host a fishing tournament along with some carnival type fun. This event has around 300 kids in attendance.
- 20th Century Car Show (in cooperation with the 20th century car club): This event has hundreds of cars and spectators. The club gives out trophies and plaques for best car.
- Easter Egg Hunt: This event has about 350 kids in attendance. The ages range from 2 to 10 years old. We hide 1000's of eggs for the kids to find.
- Home of many 5k runs (in cooperation with other organizations): These events are hosted by different local groups for a fund raiser.
- Christmas in the Park: This event we have visits with Santa and carriage rides through the 1000's of Christmas light displays in our park. Attendance is usually around 500 people.

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Budget

The WPRD has experienced several significant budget cuts from the City in recent years, and anticipates that this may be a continuing trend. This has a direct negative effect on several aspects of our operations and maintenance, including the number of staff hired, level of maintenance performed, replacement of vital equipment, and amount of new programs created. The following table shows the past three years of budget for WPRD by three main categories; operation and programming, maintenance, and capital projects.

YEAR	OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING	MAINTENANCE	CAPITAL PROJECTS
2016	\$525,553	\$51,500	\$32,000
2017	\$556,828	\$52,000	\$46,000
2018	\$630,776	\$99,500	\$42,000

Table 1: WPRD Budget

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Social and Economic Factors

Population in July 1st, 2018 Census: 12,114

- 51.3% Male & 48.7% Female
- Median resident age: 37.3 years
- 88.8% White; 4.6% Black or African American; 12.5% Hispanic or Latino; 6.4%
- The 2000 census population of Washington was 11,380 (1.1% increase from 1990)

Economy in Washington

- In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2013-2017 is 62.5%
- In civilian force, female, percent population age 16 years+, 2013-2017 is 55.8%
- Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000) is 25,141
- Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000) is 86,516
-

Housing

- Average household size in Washington: 2.43 (2010 Census)
- 4,588 total housing units (2010 census)

Education

- 81.2% of population High School or Higher (2010 Census)
- 14.5% Bachelor's degree or Higher (2010 Census)

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Accessibility

Statement of Accessibility for Washington

Don Williams / Building Commissioner for the City is the designated ADA coordinator. The WPRD makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable modification under the law for people with disabilities to all our programs, activities, and services. We strive to provide access for people with physical and mental disabilities.

Current Accessibility

Washington has accessible walkways, shelter houses, picnic areas and restrooms in our Parks and Facilities. Every activity available in the Washington Parks has been developed to be accessible to as many people as possible through one means or another, except for playing on our aging play structures.

Process on accessibility issues in Washington has been hampered over the years by a lack of funding, but some significant improvements have been made. Our newest accessible feature is our new playground at Eastside Park (2015). The playground was universally designed to allow ease of use to the greatest extent possible for all users.

Proposed Accessibility

Washington has a strong need to replace our old play structures. They do not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas. South Park and Longfellow Park need to be updated with age-appropriate play equipment that has safe and accessible surfacing underneath it, and accessible routes to the parking lots and other amenities. The bare minimum cost estimate for this kind of upgrade is \$100,000. "Ideal" amenities will cost a great deal more.

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Accessibility evaluation

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public services, including parks and other recreational facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Washington parks and recreation facilities has been conducted. In accordance with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walker aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below, and the accessibility rankings can be found in the table below.

Level 1: The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 2: The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking lot area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not accessible.

Level 3: The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

Level 4: The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

Level 5: The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environment to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

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Accessibility Ratings for Washington Parks & Recreation

COMMUNITY PARKS	ACCESSIBILITY RATING	TIMELINE FOR IMPROVEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Eastside Park	4	2025	\$100,000	Budget & Grants
South Park	1	2019	\$75,000	Budget & Grants
Longfellow Park	3	2020	\$50,000	Budget & Grants
Sports Complex	4	2026	\$50,000	Budget & Grants
Revolution War Memorial	1	?	?	?
WaterWorld of Washington Pool	4	NA	NA	NA

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Public Participation

Public Meetings

WPRD holds public meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7:00pm located in the Washington Council Chambers at 200 Harned Avenue Washington, IN. If anyone have any interest in any of the Washington Parks, we encourage your attendance.

Needs Analysis

Analysis Method

Since the WPRD is developing this master plan in house, we are using a simplified issue analysis method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from each method of public input (public board meetings), the input from the Park Board and the Park Staff. The issues were placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints, then turned into a coherent priority and action plan.

Issues from the Public Input (public board meetings)

- Playground renovation/new equipment/accessibility at South and Longfellow Parks
- More programs; especially family and youth oriented

Issues from the Board, Staff and Municipal officers (Mayor, City Council)

- Playground Renovation/New
- Add Programs
- New Shelter House
- Walk/Fitness Trails
- Basketball Courts Renovation
- Skate Park Renovation
- Tennis Courts Renovation
- Add two Water Fountains to Lake
- Upgrade Signage

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Action Schedule

Setting the timeline for this plan was difficult, as financial constraints are the deciding factor for almost all new development and maintenance for Washington Parks and Recreation Department.

Budget Year	Priority Item	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
2018	Skate Park Renovation	\$10,000	WPRD Budget
2018	Tennis Courts Renovation (1/2)	\$15,000	WPRD Budget
2018	Fitness Equipment at Longfellow Park	\$10,000	WPRD Budget and Grants
2018+	New Programs	\$3,000	WPRD Budget and Grants
2018	Basketball Courts Renovation	\$19,000	WPRD Budget
2019	Tennis Courts Renovation (1/2)	\$15,000	WPRD Budget
2019	Playground Renovation/New (South Park)	\$75,000	WPRD Budget
2019	Restroom Building Renovation Longfellow Park	\$15,000	WPRD Budget
2020	Playground Renovation/New Longfellow Park	\$50,000	WPRD Budget
2020	Paving Parking Lot (Kiwanis Cabin)	\$100,000	WPRD Budget and Mayors Money
2021	Paving Big Parking Lot (Eastside Park) 1/3	\$100,000	WPRD Budget and Mayors Money
2022	Paving Big Parking Lot (Eastside Park) 1/3	\$100,000	WPRD Budget and Grants

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2023	Paving Big Parking Lot (Eastside Park) 1/3	\$ 100,000	WPRD Budget and Grants
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Board Resolution Adopting Plan

WHEREAS, the Washington Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Washington 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 WASHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Washington 5-year Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities in Washington.

Passed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2018.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Superintendent

Board Member

Board Member

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Board Member