

# **City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022**



**A Comprehensive Master Plan by the La Porte Park Board and La Porte Park and Recreation Department**

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City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

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# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Introduction

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department has enjoyed many successes over the past five years. We adopted our first Greenways Master Plan in 2013. With this document in place, the City has started work on the Chessie Trail, which will provide safe transit for cyclists and pedestrians along a 1-mile stretch from Kiwanis-Teledyne Park located along Pine Lake to NewPorte Landing, a new retail development in the heart of the city. The fully-funded project will enter the construction phase in the spring of 2018.

The Department has dedicated two parks, including Unity Park, a 2-acre passive recreation destination along the eastern shore of Pine Lake. We also opened a mountain bike trail, added outdoor exercise equipment and a StoryWalk to an established walking trail, constructed a much-needed concession stand and restroom facility, installed new playgrounds in six parks and replaced lighting and made improvements to the community skate park.

Several exciting projects are underway or in the fund-raising stage, including the installation of a replacement irrigation system and clubhouse renovations at Beechwood Golf Course, a complete overhaul of the junior varsity baseball diamond at Clarke Park and an addition for restrooms, concession and storage at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater in Fox Park.

As we turn to the next five years, our focus will be set on the following objectives:

- Adhering to an aggressive, yet achievable, 5-year master plan;
- Increasing our role in improving the overall health and wellness of our citizens;
- Continuing improvements in infrastructure to address safety concerns;
- Increasing volunteerism in our department and throughout the community.

While we are still overcoming budget issues of the past decade, new funding sources such as the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte have created opportunities to add amenities and improve existing facilities in the coming years. The Healthcare Foundation, formed in 2016 after the sale of La Porte Hospital, has \$165 million in assets and will distribute 5 percent of those assets (over \$5 million) each year. We are also fortunate to have a strong Park Foundation, which contributes around \$80,000 per year to projects.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Definition of Planning Area

The planning area for the La Porte Park and Recreation Department is the same as the service area. The service area for our department does not stop at the city limits, but includes unincorporated development and small towns within the 46350 postal zip code. We offer and promote our recreation programming for students throughout the La Porte Community School Corporation. Past public input and user surveys have indicated that La Porte has a significant and important county user population, even if those users do not contribute directly to the taxes gathered from the city residents to support recreation. We remain committed to making our facilities and services available to anyone, regardless of resident status, ability to pay or disabilities and/or challenges.

### Goals of Master Plan

The 5-Year Master Plan Steering Committee agreed on the following goals for the 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan.

- Gather feedback and input from as diverse a group of residents as possible, and report it in an accurate manner;
- Use national recreation standards, combined with a careful needs analysis to create new priorities for parks and recreation in the city;
- Create a plan that is dynamic, and provides pertinent, useful information and guidance for the next five years;
- Present the plan and gain its acceptance within our community;
- Submit the master plan to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation, adhering to the required timeframe for a draft by January 15 and finalized plans by April 15, 2018;
- Receive approval from IDNR for eligibility for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs;
- Use the plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants.



*Yoga class on Stone Lake Beach.*

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Park Board/Department

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Board was established under the provisions of Section 201, Chapter 311, Article II of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for 1965. In 1982, the LaPorte Parks and Recreation Department was re-established under the current provisions of Indiana Code 36-10. This Act empowers the Board to plan, construct, operate and maintain recreation and park facilities. La Porte has a six-member board, with four board members appointed by the Mayor and serving staggered four-year terms, one board member appointed by the school board and one board member appointed by the library board. The current Park Board members are:

**Nicole Messacar, President**

Term ends: December 2019

**Rick Wright, Member**

Term ends: December 2017

**Ben Fout, Vice President**

Term ends: December 2020

**Sylvia Smith, Member**

Library Board Appointment

**Jessica Romine, Member**

Term ends: December 2018

**Mitch Feikes, Member**

School Board Appointment

Park Office

Address: 250 Pine Lake Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-326-9600

Fax: 219-326-7566

E-mail: [mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov)

Website: [cityoflaporte.com](http://cityoflaporte.com)

Beechwood Golf Course

Address: 2222 Woodlawn Drive, La Porte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-362-2651

E-mail: [cashmer@pga.com](mailto:cashmer@pga.com)

Website: [thebeechwoodgolfcourse.com](http://thebeechwoodgolfcourse.com)

Civic Auditorium

Address: 1001 Ridge Street, La Porte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-362-2325

E-mail: [bbinversie@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:bbinversie@cityoflaportein.gov)

Website: [laportecivicauditorium.com](http://laportecivicauditorium.com)

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Mission

To dedicate ourselves to preserve and manage our natural, cultural and recreational resources and to provide positive opportunities which meet the needs of our residents.

### Park Board's Departmental Vision and Goals

1. To maintain a diverse and comprehensive park and recreation system.
2. To offer recreational opportunities in cooperation/coordination with local agencies eliminating duplication of services.
3. To achieve quality maintenance at all parks and recreational sites.
4. To ensure fiscal responsibility and maximize sources of revenue in an effort to operate the Department in an efficient manner.
5. To retain a park board and staff of qualified personnel, which meet the needs of the Department.
6. To endorse professional training/development of park board and staff for growth and enhancement.
7. To promote community involvement to maintain 'pride in our parks' by effectively communicating through sound marketing practices.

### Staff

#### **Park Superintendent: Mark Schreiber**

- Hired: May 2012 (named Park Superintendent in June 2014)

#### **Recreation Director: Pam Carroll**

- Hired: July 1982 (named Recreation Director in August 2015)

#### **Office Manager: Roberta Mumaw**

- Hired: November 1992 (named Office Manager in August 2015)

#### **Administrative Assistant: Tabitha Aguilar**

- Hired: March 2016

#### **Maintenance Foreman: Mike Lemberis**

- Hired: April 1982 (named Maintenance Foreman in January 1989)

#### **Civic Auditorium Director: Brett Binversie**

- Hired: November 2014

#### **Civic Auditorium Administrative Assistant: Dawn Prater**

- Hired: May 1996

#### **Golf Pro: Kyle Cashmer**

- Hired: March 2010

#### **Golf Course Superintendent: Carlos Guerrero**

- Hired: March 2016

We also employ two full-time mechanics, six full-time park maintenance staff, two full-time Civic Auditorium maintenance staff, one full-time Beechwood Golf Course staff and dozens of part-time and seasonal employees each year.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Volunteers

In these times of shrinking budgets, rising energy costs and increasing recreation demand, volunteers from La Porte and the surrounding areas provide us with invaluable assistance by coaching youth sports, assisting us in maintaining and improving the parks themselves, and much more. Without our dedicated group of volunteers we would not be able to provide the quality of parks and programs that we currently enjoy. Our Department invites all interested persons to participate in our parks volunteer system; please contact Mark Schreiber, Park Superintendent, at 326-9600 for more information.

### La Porte City Park Foundation

The La Porte Park and Recreation Department has benefited tremendously from the creation of the La Porte City Park Foundation. Established in 1984, the Foundation acts to support our Department in promoting, improving and creating parks. The Foundation strives to help in educating the community and visitors about the city's parks. Foundation board members assist by administering gifts and bequests made to the Foundation and use such donations to improve existing park facilities or to create new parks. The Foundation acts to engage in charitable, scientific, educational, civic and horticultural activities as permitted under section 501(c) (3), (4), and (5) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The current president of the Foundation is Jim Magnuson; he may be reached through our Department. Donations, memorials, contributions or bequests to the La Porte City Park Foundation may be mailed to 250 Pine Lake Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350 or made on-line at [lpparkfoundation.info](http://lpparkfoundation.info).

## **Park Department History**

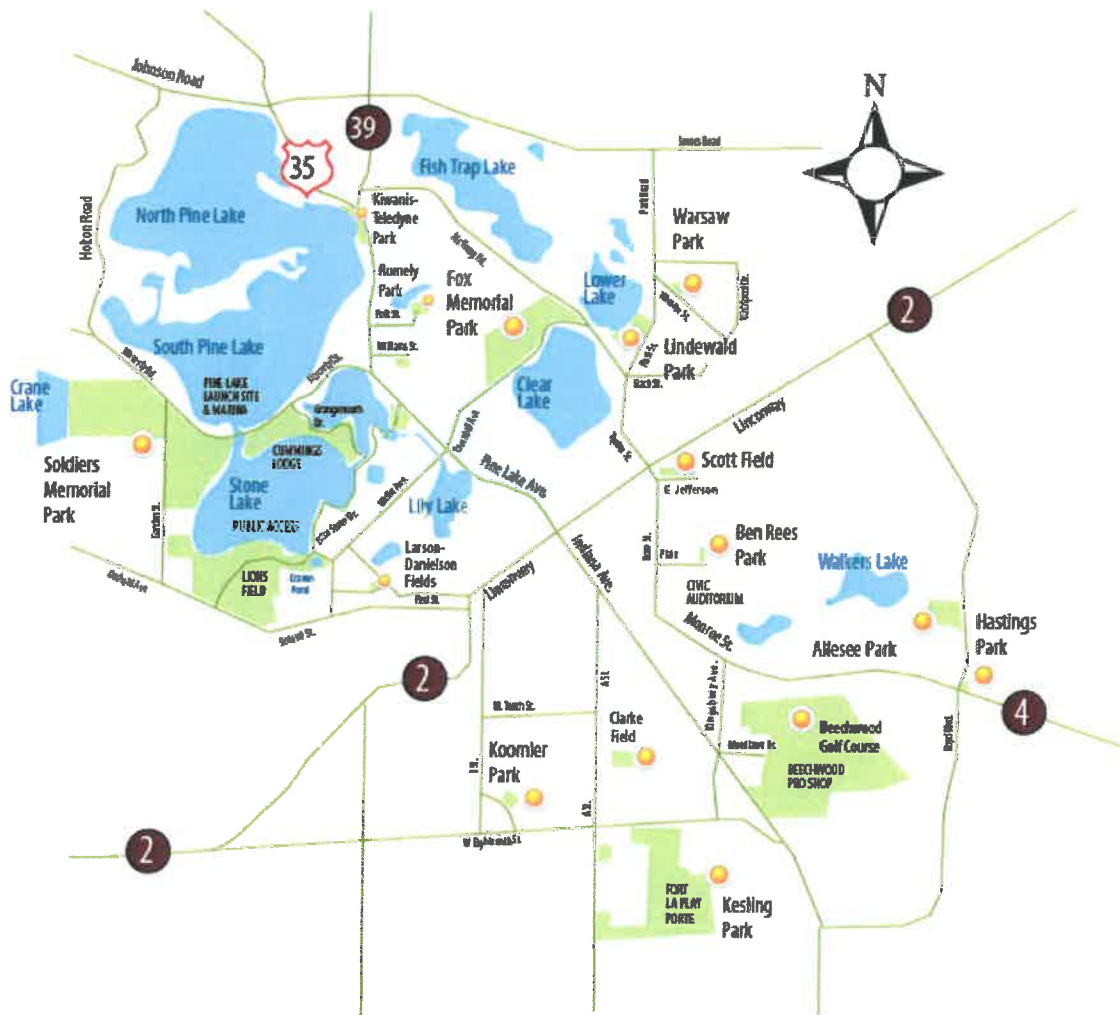
The history of the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department dates back to 1890 when the City purchased 9.4 acres on Lower Lake and named it City Park. In 1913, the Park Board was created by an act of the City Council and Fox Park was dedicated. In 1919, the City Band began playing in Fox Park and they still play every Wednesday night from Memorial Day through mid-August. La Porte has many lakes in the city limits and in the early 1900s ice was harvested in the winter. Around 1928, the land where an ice company once stood was condemned and made into park land now known as Soldiers Memorial Park. In 1930, the Civic Auditorium was formally dedicated as a gift from Maurice Fox. In 1931, the first nine holes of Beechwood Golf Course were opened and the additional nine opened within a year. The course was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fox. The 1940s saw the addition of monkeys and two black bears to Fox Park. However, both the monkeys and bears were removed within a decade. Through the 1950s, the Department acquired more land for park development. The 1960s brought new development and

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

technology. Cummings Lodge was built in 1966 and is still used today as a rental facility for weddings, graduation parties and family reunions. In 1967, lights were added to the baseball field in Fox Park making night games possible. The Department experienced significant growth from 1970-85. During this period, over 120 acres were added to the park system, a 15 percent increase. Major improvements were completed during 1997-1999 in conjunction with a \$3.2 million general obligation park improvement bond.

### Facilities/Programs

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department maintains 16 parks, an 18-hole golf course, the Civic Auditorium and eight other miscellaneous sites, totaling over 860 acres. At a current population of approximately 22,000, we provide about 39 acres of park land per 1,000 persons.



*NOTE: Unity Park located just south of Kiwanis-Teledyne Park. Foundation Square located in 800 block of Michigan Avenue in downtown. Not identified on map.*



## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

The following is the breakdown of park properties:

### **Regional Parks/Facilities:**

Soldiers Memorial Park  
Beechwood Golf Course  
Civic Auditorium

### **District Parks:**

Fox Memorial Park  
Kesling Park

### **Neighborhood Parks:**

Allesee Park  
Clarke Park  
Foundation Square  
Hastings Park  
Kiwanis-Teledyne Park  
Koomler Park  
Larson-Danielson Field  
Lindewald Park  
Rumely Park  
Unity Park  
Warsaw Park

### **Non-Park Properties:**

Ben Rees Park  
Scott Field

### **Miscellaneous Properties:**

Douglas Park  
Gleason Park  
Jackson Park  
Ludlow Park  
Marquette Park  
Ridgeway Park  
Rose-Maple Triangle  
Southmoor Road Right of Way

### Regional Parks/Facilities

**Soldiers Memorial Park** (556 acres) can be considered a 'regional park' serving the population in northern Indiana and southern Michigan. It is the largest city park and widely known for its forested beauty, water sports and organized recreational activities. The park encompasses all of Stone Lake, 140 acres and all but 628 feet of shoreline. The original name of the property was City Island, which was a four acre parcel purchased by the City in 1858. Over the next 100 years, the park grew through land donations and condemnations until the last parcel was acquired in 1958. The park was officially dedicated in 1928 as Soldiers Memorial Park.

The park provides a variety of active and passive recreational activities. The gently rolling terrain is approximately 85 percent woodlands and water. Access is available to Stone Lake, Pine Lake, Crane Lake and Craven Pond. Mountain bike and hiking trails have been developed through a stand of native trees, allowing active recreation and environmental education opportunities. Other recreation includes swimming, playgrounds, baseball/softball, volleyball, cross-country skiing, fishing and boating. Soldiers Memorial Park is also the site of the Department's main offices and the central maintenance facility.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Beechwood Golf Course** (60 acres) is a championship, 18-hole golf course built in the early 1930s as a gift from the Fox Family. It was designed by renowned architect William Diddle. The evidence of use by golfers throughout northern Indiana, southern Michigan and Chicagoland proves the fine quality the course still has today. Recent improvements include a new pavilion constructed in 2015 and state-of-the-art irrigation system installed in 2017.

**Civic Auditorium** was the second largest donation by the Fox Family to the City. The idea was conceived in 1928 and the structure was dedicated in 1930. The original 24,000-square foot structure contains a full basketball court/gymnasium, with seating capacity of 1,380 which is increased to up to 3,000 for stage productions. The lower level consists of a banquet room, kitchen, meeting rooms and a ceramics/pottery room.

In the 1930s and '40s, the Civic Auditorium was considered one to the finest convention facilities in the state. Organizations from all over came to use the Civic for their annual meetings and conventions. The Civic also hosted many high school basketball games and community events throughout the years. It was renovated in 1999, removing a bowling alley and updating the rest of the facility. Presently, the Civic Auditorium is a center for recreational programs and used for concerts, festivals, trade shows and other events.

### District Parks

**Fox Memorial Park** (170 acres) was donated by the Fox Family to the City in 1911 with only 15 acres. In the early 1900s, flowers, shrubs and trees were planted to further beautify the hills of mature oak, hawthorn and wild apple. The entire park was landscaped and strolling paths developed. During the 1970s, two federal land and water grants totaling \$400,000 were used to expand the park to its present size. Fox Memorial Park includes Clear Lake, which encompasses approximately 100 acres of the total park.

Today, Fox Memorial Park can be considered one of La Porte's finest district parks. The park still contains much of its scenic beauty. The trees planted in the early 1900s have matured to provide that scenic environment. Active recreational facilities have been developed at the park as the demand for such activities have increased. The park offers ball diamonds, playgrounds, picnic shelters, a boat launch, walking trail and skate park. It is also a popular fishing site. The Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, with seating overlooking Clear Lake, provides a venue for Arts in the Park summer concerts and special events.

**Kesling Park** (90 acres) was established in 1976 on the southern edge of the community. Like many of La Porte's other parks, it started with a small 2-acre land donation and grew through additional donations by Dr. and Mrs. H.D. Kesling and Dr. and Mrs. David Kesling to the present day size of 90 acres.

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The park was developed through the use of Land and Water federal grant programs in three main phases which concluded in 1980. Today, residents from all of La Porte enjoy the modern facilities. Active recreation includes ball diamonds, tennis courts, outdoor racquetball courts, community-built playground, volleyball, basketball, sledding hill, soccer fields and fitness trails. For the passive recreational users, Kesling Park offers picnic facilities, walking trail and nature trail.

A close association with Kesling Middle School exists with the Park Department. The two properties are adjacent and share open space and athletic venues. Kesling students annually assist with maintenance of the nature trail.

### Neighborhood Parks

**Allesee Park** (6 acres) is a neighborhood park on the south side of the city. It was developed adjacent to a housing subdivision to provide recreational facilities for the neighborhood. Facilities include a ball diamond, basketball half-court, walking trail, playground and shelter.

**Clarke Park** (6 acres) sets on two square city blocks that was donated to the City in the late 1930s. The park is generally surrounded with tall, mature fir evergreen trees that provide a buffer for the adjacent residential areas. The main recreational usages are two ball diamonds. The park also contains a playground and restroom/storage facilities.

**Foundation Square** (less than 1 acre) was constructed and donated to the City by the La Porte Park Foundation in 2005. Located on the same block as City Hall, the area provides green space and picnic areas for downtown residents and visitors.

**Hastings Park** (1 acre) was originally offered to the City in 1970 to be used as a tot lot. The area, known as the Monroe Tot Lot, was partially fenced and contained play equipment purchased through general park funds. In 2013, the Hastings family donated the property to the City and it was formally named Hastings Park. That same year, the La Porte Park Foundation donated a new playground and a wooden train play structure was added in 2017.

**Kiwanis-Teledyne Park** (2 acres) is located on the eastern side of Pine Lake and located at the intersection of U.S. 35 and State Road 39. The park was formed in 1965 as a training exercise by the National Guard while conducting a dredging operation on a lake channel. In 1981, a land donation of 2.5 acres doubled the size of the park. The local Kiwanis Club was responsible for the initial development of the park with a fireplace and picnic shelter. In 1990, with the assistance of an IDNR Indiana Waters Grant, Kiwanis-Teledyne Park was renovated with new facilities, including a new entrance drive, parking, restrooms, picnic shelter, walkway to the lake and fishing pier.

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**Koomler Park** (4 acres) was initially a play area developed by the federal government in the 1940s for children of the workers at the Kingsbury Ordinance Plant. In 1962, this land was transferred to the City for exclusive use as a park. Today, Koomler Park is a neighborhood park serving the residents of Maple Terrace on the south side of the city and offers a ball diamond, basketball court, playground and shelter.

**Larson-Danielson Field** (1 acre) was constructed in 1996 to replace the ball diamonds formerly located across Central Avenue. The small diamond, with the outfield fence just 150 feet from home plate, has been the perfect home for our Girls Coach Pitch Softball program in recent years.

**Lindewald Park** (9 acres) is considered LaPorte's first municipal park and was originally named City Park. The parcel of land on Lower Lake was purchased in 1890. The original parcel contained a notable grove of white oaks, of which a few stands of this native timber still remains. The park today, with its grove of mature trees, is a popular site for family reunions and picnics. Facilities include picnic shelters, playground, restrooms, ball diamond, basketball half-court and 12 lighted horseshoe pits.

**Rumely Park** (4 acres) is a neighborhood park that was purchased and developed entirely with HUD funding, Community Development Block Grant and Land and Water funds in 1980. It was actually a replacement park for the former Marquette Park, which is located four blocks away. This neighborhood park offers a basketball court, playground, picnic facilities and fishing in an adjacent pond.

**Unity Park** (2 acres) was officially dedicated Sept. 27, 2016. The park graces Pine Lake's eastern shore where the north and south portions of the lake meet, off Pine Lake Avenue. The main feature of the park is a seawall for fishing or watching sunsets.

**Warsaw Park** (less than 1 acre) is a small playground on the north side of the city. The triangular piece of land was donated to the city in 1946 and was developed in 1980 with funding from a federal grant. The fenced park offers open space, basketball half-court and play equipment for the neighborhood children.

### Non-Park Properties

Our Department maintains several other properties throughout the city that are owned by others and leased for use as parks.

**Ben Rees Park** (1.5 acres) rests on half of a square block located near the Civic Auditorium. The park was the site of the Fourth Ward School in the early 1900s. The school was demolished in the 1920s and the property was leased

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

to the City in 1952 for 99 years. The park was named in honor of Ben C. Rees, a local attorney and school board member. In the spring of 2003, a new playground and gazebo shelter were installed with the help of community volunteers and contributions. A walkway, drinking fountain and basketball court were also installed.

**Scott Field** (5 acres) was the result of another land donation of a developer. Originally, in the layout of Scotts Second Addition, green space in the middle of the new housing development was left as a neighborhood play area. The land was donated to School City of La Porte in 1923. It wasn't until 1952 that the Department entered a 99-year lease, for one dollar per year, with the school corporation. The park includes a playground, shelter, basketball court and ball diamond.

### Miscellaneous Parks

Our department maintains several other properties throughout the city. These are sites that are unsuitable to be developed as parks.

**Douglas Park** is a small triangular parcel along the west side of Rose Street.

**Gleason Park** is the largest triangle parcel along Rose Street at Rose Street and Linwood Street. It was given to the City in 1894 and included only part of the triangle north of Virginia Street. The remaining portion of the triangle was given to the City in 1927 on the condition it was to be used for park purposes only, never to be equipped or used for playground purposes.

**Jackson Park** is a small triangular parcel along the west side of Rose Street.

**Ludlow Park** is a small triangular parcel along the west side of Rose Street.

**Marquette Park** was created from a land donation from Dr. Rumely, a prominent businessman, in 1919. The site is a heavily forested hill, sloping down to a marsh area that is unsuitable for a park. It was renamed Rumely Park in 1968, but has been referred to as Marquette Park since 1980 when the new Rumely Park was built four blocks north.

**Ridgeway Park**, is a small triangular park located at Rumely Street and East Lincolnway. It was donated in 1893 by John Ridgeway.

**Rose-Maple Triangle** is a small parcel of land given to the City in 1894 on the condition that it be held and maintained as a public site forever without buildings.

**Southmoor Road Right of Way** is a linear greenway part of Southmoor Road right of way. The 1,000-foot long strip is mowed on a regular basis by the Park Department.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Recreation Programs

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department attempts to meet the individual and group needs and desires of the citizens. The Department is open to ideas and willing to try new programs. Our current recreational programs are diversified and provide equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, social status, economic need, sex, age, interest, or condition of life. Our current programs are re-evaluated both during and after programs in light of set objectives and public acceptance through program evaluations and participant evaluations.

The following is a snapshot of some of the recreation classes, programs and activities that have been offered in recent years:

- Aerobic Step Class
- Art Camp
- Babe Ruth Baseball
- Ballroom Dancing
- Barre Class
- Cal Ripken Baseball
- Ceramics
- Coed Slowpitch Softball
- Comic Book Project
- Girls Slowpitch Softball
- Golf
- Men's Basketball
- Men's Slowpitch Softball
- Music For Me
- Night Bike Rides
- Photography
- Pottery Wheel Throwing
- Senior Stretching
- Stained Glass
- Summer Playgrounds
- T-Ball
- Tennis
- Women's Slowpitch Softball
- Yoga
- Yoga on the Beach

The annual WinterFest, held every January, includes many of the events enjoyed over the past years as well a couple new twists. The events include Ice Sculpture Demonstrations, Family Ceramics, Cardboard Sled Races, "Snowball Softball" Adult Coed Tournament, Breakfast with the Birds, Yoga and Barre Classes, Chili Cook-off and Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
BASEBALL										
CR Major (11-12)	72 (6)	84 (7)	72 (6)	72 (6)	73 (6)					
Little L (10-12)						108 (9)	111 (9)	108 (9)	114 (9)	125 (10)
CR Minor (9-10)	96 (8)	85 (7)	84 (7)	91 (7)	86 (7)					
Machine Pitch (7-9)						119 (9)	115 (9)	91 (7)	97 (8)	69 (6)
CR Rookie (7-8)	94 (8)	98 (8)	96 (8)	78 (6)	77 (7)					
	262	267	252	241	236	227	226	199	211	194
Fall Major (10-11)	73 (6)	67 (6)	67 (6)	44 (4)	49 (4)					
Fall LL (10-12)						60 (5)	57 (5)	62 (6)	109 (10)	86 (8)
Fall Minor (8-9)	69 (6)	52 (4)	52 (4)	62 (6)	60 (4)					
	142	118	119	108	109	60	57	62	109	86
GIRLS SOFTBALL										
Senior (13-17)	36 (3)	34 (3)	34 (3)	38 (3)	37 (3)	35 (3)	43 (3)	40 (3)	53 (4)	76 (5)
Junior (10-12)	66 (5)	49 (4)	36 (3)	30 (3)	29 (3)	33 (3)	40 (3)	45 (3)	38 (3)	51 (4)
Coach Pitch (7-9)	48 (4)	62 (5)	64 (5)	49 (4)	30 (3)	18 (2)	25 (3)	33 (3)	27 (2)	17 (2)
	150	145	134	117	96	86	108	118	118	144
T-BALL										
T-Ball (5-6)	119 (10)	132 (12)	130 (12)	141 (12)	148 (12)	108 (9)	108 (8)	160 (8)	160 (8)	160 (8)
TENNIS										
Tennis Tots	6	17	34	46	30	23	27	31	28	38
Tennis School	68	128	106	102	100	146	191	199	229	260
	74	145	140	148	130	169	223	236	267	308

Above: Participation numbers for youth sports (2008-17).

Next page: Operating budgets (2013-17).

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Beechwood Golf Course</b>					
111 - Salaries	\$ 268,516.00	\$ 273,388.00	\$ 278,587.00	\$ 271,392.00	\$ 278,935.00
121-PERF	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 21,025.00	\$ 22,772.00	\$ 31,640.00	\$ 23,000.00
122-FICA	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 23,000.00
123-Unemployment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
211-Office Supplies	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
221-Operating Supplies	\$ 31,550.00	\$ 31,550.00	\$ 31,550.00	\$ 36,050.00	\$ 51,650.00
231-Repair/Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
241-Other Supplies	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 5,000.00
311-Professional Services	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00
321-Comm/Transp	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 4,000.00
331-Printing/Advertising	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 5,100.00
351-Utilities	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
361-Repair/Maint	\$ 12,200.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
391-Other Services	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
441-Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ -
	<b>\$ 439,016.00</b>	<b>\$ 444,713.00</b>	<b>\$ 471,059.00</b>	<b>\$ 484,882.00</b>	<b>\$ 466,885.00</b>
<b>Beechwood N/R Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>Civic Auditorium</b>					
111 - Salaries	\$ 141,232.00	\$ 143,516.00	\$ 142,736.00	\$ 147,970.00	\$ 154,442.00
121-PERF	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 20,200.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 21,012.00	\$ 23,000.00
122-FICA	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 13,600.00
123-Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
211-Office Supplies	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
221-Operating Supplies	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
231-Repair/Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
241-Other Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
311-Professional Services	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
321-Comm/Transp	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
331-Printing/Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
351-Utilities	\$ 54,100.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
361-Repair/Maint	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
391-Other Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
441-Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,900.00	\$ 15,900.00	\$ -
	<b>\$ 264,632.00</b>	<b>\$ 251,516.00</b>	<b>\$ 269,436.00</b>	<b>\$ 272,682.00</b>	<b>\$ 270,242.00</b>
<b>Civic N/R Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,405.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,405.00</b>	<b>\$ 86,572.00</b>	<b>\$ 87,000.00</b>
<b>Park and Recreation</b>					
111 - Salaries	\$ 557,343.00	\$ 561,133.00	\$ 574,630.00	\$ 586,497.00	\$ 608,173.00
121-PERF	\$ 54,500.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 61,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 67,000.00
122-FICA	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 54,000.00
123-Unemployment	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
211-Office Supplies	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
221-Operating Supplies	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
231-Repair/Maintenance	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 16,500.00
241-Other Supplies	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
311-Professional Services	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
321-Comm/Transp	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
331-Printing/Advertising	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
351-Utilities	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 31,300.00
361-Repair/Maint	\$ 35,450.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 27,625.00
391-Other Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
441-Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ -
	<b>\$ 829,793.00</b>	<b>\$ 811,633.00</b>	<b>\$ 875,130.00</b>	<b>\$ 895,497.00</b>	<b>\$ 886,598.00</b>
<b>Park N/R Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 70,000.00</b>
<b>Recreation N/R Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 231,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 260,500.00</b>



## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Park Improvements

#### **2013**

##### Beechwood Golf Course

Repainted clubhouse  
Purchased seven new golf carts  
Renovated club storage/repair room

##### Civic Auditorium

Upgraded stage fire suppression system  
Installed 6-inch water line  
Air handler repair

##### Parks

Purchased new mower  
Purchased pre-owned truck  
Replaced roof on Kesling Park Shelter #1  
Painted all Kesling Park shelters  
Installed fitness equipment at Kesling Park

#### **2014**

##### Beechwood Golf Course

Purchased five new golf carts  
Renovated sand traps on #9 and #18 holes

##### Civic Auditorium

Tuck pointing  
Steam trap/radiator repairs  
Purchased water softener

##### Parks

Constructed dugouts at Scharf Field  
Renovated 1<sup>st</sup> Street building  
Replaced roof on Scharf Field concession stand  
Painted Lions Field restrooms  
Painted Clarke Field concession stand  
Purchased new mower

#### **2015**

##### Beechwood Golf Course

Constructed pavilion  
Paved entry drive  
Purchased turbine blower

##### Civic Auditorium

Repaired roof  
Purchased new floor scrubber

##### Parks

Installed scoreboards at Kesling Park  
Painted ramps at skate park  
Purchased new truck  
Purchased new recreation van  
Installed security lighting at Scott Field  
Installed security lighting at Lindewald Park  
Constructed StoryWalk at Kesling Park  
Installed play structure at Lions Field  
Installed electrical upgrades at beach house  
Purchased two new mowers

#### **2016**

##### Beechwood Golf Course

Purchased 10 new golf carts

##### Civic Auditorium

Purchased 87 banquet tables  
Installed tankless water heaters

##### Parks

Installed scoreboards at Lions Field  
Installed scoreboards at Scharf Field  
Replaced sitting wall at Warsaw Park  
Installed play structure at Allesee Park  
Installed play structure at Rumely Park  
Installed flag light at Lindewald Park  
Installed electric vehicle charging station at Kesling Park  
Installed slide at Fox Park  
Installed fishing pier for Kiwanis-Teledyne Park  
Installed lighting in amphitheater parking lot  
Sealcoated parking lots at beach house, Cummings Lodge and Kiwanis-Teledyne Park  
Sealcoated walking trail at Allesee Park  
Installed irrigation system and park benches at Unity Park  
Constructed concession/restroom facility at Kesling Park  
Installed fencing at skate park

#### **2017**

##### Beechwood Golf Course

Installed double-row irrigation system  
Rebuild/serviced wells  
Purchased hover mower

##### Civic Auditorium

Purchased new utility vehicle  
Paved Ridge Street parking lot  
Installed outdoor musical instrument

##### Parks

Installed metal roof at Cummings Lodge  
Installed play structure at Koomler Park  
Installed play structure at Scott Field  
Constructed shelter at Koomler Park  
Sealcoated parking lots at Kesling Park  
Installed security lighting at amphitheater and Ron Reed Field  
Installed LED lights at skate park  
Installed benches, picnic tables, gliders, drinking fountain and lighting at Unity Park  
Installed outdoor musical instruments at Kiwanis-Teledyne, Unity and Fox parks  
Stained pergola at Kiwanis-Teledyne Park  
Replaced fencing at Ron Reed Field  
Replaced fencing at Lions Field  
Replaced fencing at Kesling Park ball diamonds  
Constructed on-deck cages at Larson-Danielson Field  
Installed wooden play structure at Hastings Park  
Installed benches at Fox Park amphitheater

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Additional Recreation Providers

The residents in and around La Porte are fortunate to have a variety of recreation opportunities available. The Park Department strives to keep in touch with the various agencies and organizations to maximize mutual benefits in the areas of recreation programming and facilities and to avoid duplication and conflicts. The following are key providers of recreation in the area:

**La Porte County Family YMCA:** Leading non-profit for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Members, as well as community members, enjoy swimming, racquetball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, exercise fitness classes, weight training and other activities. Also, the Y is a leading provider of childcare, offering all-day childcare as well as before and after school programs.

**La Porte County Parks:** Provide parks and trails for county residents as well as nature-based programming. Parks include:

- Luhr Park – nature center, hiking trails, picnic area, fishing;
- Creek Ridge – hiking, fishing, picnic area, playgrounds;
- Bluhm Property – picnic areas, fishing;
- Kankakee River Property – hiking, fishing;
- Red Mill Property – multiuse trails, fishing, picnic areas, playground;
- George R. Menkes Nature Preserve – undeveloped.

**Briar Leaf Golf Club:** 18-hole golf course located 3 miles north of La Porte on State Road 39. Includes youth and adult lessons, driving range and clubhouse with restaurant.

**Legacy Hills Golf Club:** 18-hole golf course located 1 mile north of La Porte off U.S. 35. Includes youth and adult lessons, driving range and clubhouse with restaurant.

**Valley Hills Golf Course:** 9-hole executive golf course located 6 miles east of La Porte on State Road 2.

To help meet the recreational needs of residents various private businesses and organizations offer recreational opportunities. Included in these groups are:

- Anytime Fitness, Curves, Fitness Plus, Go Aerial Fitness and Urban Fitness
- Dunes Volleyball Club
- La Porte Soccer Club
- Pop Warner Football
- Swanson Activity Center for Older Adults

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

In addition, within an hour's drive from La Porte, residents can visit the following state properties, owned and operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources:

- Bass Lake State Beach
- Indiana Dunes State Park
- Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area
- Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area
- Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area
- Potato Creek State Park
- Tippecanoe River State Park
- Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area

### Schools

Our reciprocal relationship with the La Porte Community School Corporation is vital to our Department. We are allowed to utilize school facilities at no cost while providing recreational venues for school activities. Examples with school programs using our parks include the La Porte High School golf team at Beechwood Golf Course, junior varsity baseball team at Clarke Park and cross country teams at Kesling Park. Additional science and physical education classes at Kesling Middle School often take "field trips" to the neighboring Kesling Park.

The La Porte Community School Corporation is in the midst of an aggressive building program, which includes a new intermediate campus to house grades 5-6 and 7-8 in separate buildings, a new Handley Elementary School and renovated Performing Arts Center at La Porte High School.

The high school offers 20 varsity sports, club sports and a variety of clubs and activities for students. The middle schools offer nine sports and variety of clubs and activities. The eight public elementary schools offer track, basketball and ring toss for fifth-grade students, as well various clubs and activities. Girls on the Run, a national fitness program for girls, is offered at all eight elementary schools as well.

The following is a brief inventory of school facilities in La Porte:

**La Porte High School:** Basketball gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, field house, indoor pool, football stadium, baseball field, tennis courts\*, track\*, soccer field\*, softball fields\* and tennis courts\*. (\* - all located adjacent to Kesling Park)

**Boston Middle School:** Basketball gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, football/soccer practice field.

**Kesling Middle School:** Basketball gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, football/soccer practice fields.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Crichfield Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field, outdoor education area.

**Hailmann Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field, baseball diamond, walking trail.

**Handley Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field.

**Indian Trail Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field, baseball diamond.

**Kingsbury Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field.

**Kingsford Heights Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field.

**Lincoln Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, open field.

**Riley Elementary School:** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, baseball field, open field.

**St. John's Lutheran School (Private):** Basketball gymnasium, outdoor basketball courts, playground, baseball field.



*Parker the Fox, our Park Department mascot, at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.*

## Natural Features and Landscape

### Topography

The City of La Porte lies on the northern border of the Kankakee River basin, in the Northern Lake and Moraine Region, along the Valparaiso Moraine. In La Porte County, the Valparaiso Moraine is essentially a ridge with maximum elevations varying from about 800 feet to 950 feet (245 to 290 m) near Springville. Lakes in the county are concentrated along the moraine ridge. The topography and geology of the moraine controls the lakes and the storage of water because it largely determines the topography, soils and aquifers in La Porte. Much of the study area does not contribute to Kankakee River flows under normal hydrologic conditions. The lakes of Center Township are glacial depressions (kettles) that only discharge to the south (Kankakee River basin) when water levels are high and the Lily Lake siphon is functioning.

### Geology/Soils

According to the USDA the following soils are present in La Porte:

<b>La Porte County, Indiana (IN091)</b>			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Br	Bourbon sandy loam	57.0	0.7%
Cd	Cheektowaga fine sandy loam	0.1	0.0%
ChB	Chelsea fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	28.1	0.3%
CoA	Coupee silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	1,190.2	13.8%
CoB	Coupee silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	306.5	3.5%
EsA	Elston loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	32.5	0.4%
EsB	Elston loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	2.7	0.0%
Gf	Gilford fine sandy loam	63.0	0.7%
HaA	Hanna sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	42.9	0.5%
Hh	Histosols and Aquolls	204.8	2.4%
Hk	Homer loam	18.7	0.2%
Ho	Houghton muck, drained	4.0	0.0%
Pa	Palms muck, sandy substratum	12.2	0.1%
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam	0.0	0.0%
Ph	Pinhook loam	11.1	0.1%
RIA	Riddles loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	8.4	0.1%
RIB2	Riddles loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	26.0	0.3%
RIC2	Riddles loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	22.4	0.3%
RID2	Riddles loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	33.6	0.4%
TcA	Tracy sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	206.6	2.4%

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

<b>La Porte County, Indiana (IN091)</b>			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
TcB	Tracy sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1,161.9	13.4%
TcC2	Tracy sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	1,054.1	12.2%
TcD2	Tracy sandy loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	222.1	2.6%
TcF	Tracy sandy loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes	185.7	2.1%
Tr	Troxel silt loam	111.2	1.3%
Ua	Udorthents, loamy	131.8	1.5%
Uc	Urban land-Coupee complex	2,226.8	25.7%
W	Water	1,178.0	13.6%
Wh	Washtenaw silt loam	112.1	1.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		8,654.6	100.0%

The soils in our area make it easy to develop and build trails, build new playground and recreational facilities. Construction of new homes and commercial buildings is also very well suited for this type of soil.

### Forest Resources

La Porte enjoys the presence of mature trees in all of its parks. The main forest resource resides in Soldiers Memorial Park with two stands. The East Stand is 64.02 acres and contains red oak, black cherry, shagbark hickory, white oak, ash, tulip and sugar maple. The West Stand is 59.98 acres and contains red oak, sugar maple, black cherry, sassafras, white oak, shagbark hickory, white pine and black locust. Our Department worked with the Forestry Division of the Indiana Department Natural Resources in 2012 on a plan to remove invasive plants and to harvest some of the timber in the forest. While it has yet to happen, the timber harvest is needed and will be prioritized over the next five years. Currently the forest is very mature which creates an issue that only trees that grow well in shade are populating the understory. The potential benefit is that the timber is valuable and once harvested could be financially valuable to the Park Department providing a source of funding to assess and remove invasive species from the park.

Fox Park sustained damage from a microburst in 2016, causing the loss of approximately 30 trees. We plan to take down additional dead or dying trees this summer. Though a volunteer effort, we removed 50 dead or dying trees from Beechwood Golf Course in the late fall, with plans to remove approximately 15 more in 2018. We have also been steadily removing trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer, with nearly all infected trees taken out of our inventory.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Water Resources

Urban lakes are important recreation and environmental resources to communities that are fortunate to have them. However, urban settings can present challenges for protecting a lake's environmental and recreational values. There are six lakes in the City of La Porte. The lakes are Pine Lake, Stone Lake, Harris Lake (also known as Hennessey Lake), Lily Lake, Clear Lake and Lower Lake.

We are planning to redevelop the shoreline of Clear Lake, beginning in 2018 with the reconstruction of Clear Lake Boulevard. The project includes a landscaped buffer to provide a measure of safety for pedestrians, cyclists and fishermen; as well as providing stormwater run-off filtration adjacent to Clear Lake. The reconstruction plan calls for the addition of off-road parking along the stretch, including 20 spots on the southwest corner of the lake which will ultimately serve a planned accessible fishing pier.

In recent years, we have been managing the presence of Eurasian Watermilfoil in all three recreational lakes – Pine, Stone and Clear. Our Department has applied and managed the treatments on Clear Lake, while the La Porte Area Lake Association has taken responsibility for Pine and Stone lakes. We have primarily been treating the invasive plant with herbicides. In 2017, we began to treat for Purple Loosestrife on Clear Lake as well.

## **Man-made, Historical and Cultural Features**

### Transportation

La Porte is a city of 21,732 residents (2017 estimate), which comprises approximately 20% of the county population. La Porte, the county seat of La Porte County, is situated in northwest Indiana, approximately a one-hour drive from downtown Chicago and a half-hour from South Bend. The southern edge of Lake Michigan is 12 miles to the north. Increased urbanization moving south and east of metropolitan Chicago along the lake will result in increasing recreational demands. La Porte is located within 5 miles of the 80-90 East/West tollway and within 10 miles of Interstate 94. The Norfolk Southern Lines run right through the center of the city and there are proposals for a new intermodal in Kingsbury.

Much of the grid of streets and sidewalks we use today was laid in the La Porte's boom during the Victorian era. This framework still provides great connection through much of our older neighborhoods, but the quality of the routes has deteriorated over time, resulting in many sidewalks that at best, don't meet accessibility standards, and at worst are impassible or missing. Budget challenges in earlier years resulted in a lack of investment in new sidewalks and maintenance of old ones. Since the passing of our Complete

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Streets Resolution in 2015, the city has leveraged funds from multiple sources to complete at least \$300,000 worth of sidewalk improvements on an annual basis. Last year we pooled federal, state and local funds as part of our 50/50 program to complete nearly three miles of sidewalk improvements, totaling over \$900,000 of construction. This system is a vast improvement upon prior years, but it is limited by a lack of good base data and an overall vision for citywide pedestrian accessibility.

We are working with the Planning Office to create safer routes to our parks and lakes, including a grant application for National Recreation and Parks Association's 10-Minute Walk campaign. Further, the development of our Greenways Plan and construction of trails and bike lanes will help to get citizens to our parks. One such instance, with the construction of the Chessie Trail, calls for a "hawk signal" to stop traffic along busy U.S. 35/Indiana 39 to allow bikes and pedestrians to cross.

### Cultural La Porte

In the 1670s, French explorers came to the area that was to later become La Porte County, from the north along the shores of Lake Michigan. This area had long been part of the Pottawatomie Nation which covered the distance from the Wabash River on the south to Lake Michigan on the north. The French explorers and fur traders that passed this way as well as the many settlers that came after them made use of a wide Native American trail that passed through the forest to the next prairie. This opening from forest to prairie was a legendary kind of passageway or door for these early pioneers and the French called this place "La Porte" which is French for "the Door." The town was officially founded in 1832. The city population has been around the same, approximately 22,000, for decades. The population is 83 percent white, though much of the heritage, such as that of Polish and German immigrants, has disappeared. The Hispanic population has been growing, 11 percent as of the 2010 census, and has had a cultural impact on the community.

### Arts and Music

La Porte has always supported a strong artistic community. The La Porte City Band has been playing at Fox Park since 1919. Arts in the Park, a local group of volunteers, coordinates live music, artwork and poetry every Wednesday and Thursday Memorial Day through Labor Day. The La Porte Little Theater Club was founded in 1925 and continues today. Many organizations rent the amphitheater in Fox Park and host different musical events such as Rock the Park, La Porte County Blues Festival and Fox Park Music Fest.

### Festivals

Big events during the year in La Porte are the Jaycees Fourth of July Parade, which takes place in downtown La Porte; the La Porte County Fair, which is the state's longest running county fair; and the Sunflower Festival, which



## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

takes place in September along Michigan Avenue in downtown. The festivals are increasingly important to the financial health of many non-profit organizations in La Porte as they are able to raise funds to be self-sufficient for the following year from the proceeds of fundraiser booths and vending/craft opportunities. The festivals also tie together all the cultural activities of the city.

### Social and Economic Factors

#### Population (2000-2010)

- According to the 2010 U.S. Census, La Porte had 22,053 residents.
  - 48.2% Male, 51.8% Female
  - Median Age: 36.2
  - 83.5% White; 3% Black or African American; 0.3% American Indian; 0.5% Asian; 11.2% Hispanic or Latino; 2.6% Some other race
  - 10.5% of population speaks a language other than English at home
- The population projection for 2017 is 21,732.

#### Economics

- Unemployment rate: 5.9%
- Median household income in 2015: \$34,900
- Persons below poverty level: 21.7%
- Largest non-agricultural employment area in La Porte: Manufacturing for males, healthcare for females

#### Housing

- Average household size in La Porte: 2.31
- 10,275 total housing units
- Homeownership Rate 56.8%

#### Education

- 84.4% of population high school graduate or higher
- 13.3% Bachelor's degree or higher

#### Socio-economic Summary

- La Porte has a higher number of people living in poverty than the state average, and also a lower than average level of education
- La Porte is equal to state averages in diversity
- The median age is lower than the state average
- The housing and economic characteristics for La Porte are near statewide averages

The implication of this data for parks and recreation is our Department must consider financial accessibility to parks and programs to avoid 'pricing out' the 22 percent of the population that lives near or below poverty level. This is done by basing activities at a breakeven pricing structure in an effort to keep costs down. We also seek sponsorships from local businesses to help offset

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

our costs and at times ask our program participants to do fund-raising. Additionally, we offer financial assistance and have had a significant increase in donations to our scholarship fund.

### Industry in La Porte

The city's industrial history was created around the early-day woolen mill industry and farm equipment manufacturing, founded in the 1840s and 1850s, and followed by the railroad, which entered La Porte in 1852. The arrival of the railroad prompted a period of rapid new growth for the community. Companies moved in and new ones were created, drawn by accessibility of raw materials and a large labor force. Over the decades, products produced included baby carriages, bicycles, wagons, wool, bread, slicing machines for the food industry, pianos, radiators, office furniture, picture frames, doors and windows, air ventilating machinery, machine tools, castings for jet engines, boxes, industrial film, plastic containers and cans. Airplane wings and tanks were built here during the years of World War II

Today, approximately 100 companies either manufacture or distribute products from the La Porte area. The Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation identifies the following companies as major employers:

Blue Chip Casino  
Franciscan – St. Anthony  
La Porte Hospital  
Sullair  
Hearthside  
Arconic  
Sullivan Palatek  
Vanair  
CVG – Sprague Devices  
Weil-McLain

AeroMetals  
Horizon Bank  
TP Orthodontics  
American Licorice  
American Renolit  
Fas Pak  
ATI Castings  
Nash Finch  
Monosol



*Bison in Unity Park to celebrate Indiana's bicentennial.*

## Accessibility and Federal Accessibility Standards

### Statement of Accessibility for La Porte

The City of La Porte has established a transition plan that recognizes its legal obligation to comply with the federally ordained Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that was enacted on July 26, 1990 and later amended effective January 1, 2009. This plan is set to ensure compliance with Title II of this Federal Law. Title II states that state and local governments will not discriminate against persons with disabilities, physical or mental, from participating in or benefiting from programs, services, or activities. The plan provides a means for complaints/discriminations to be addressed, monitored, and corrected.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with over 50 employees designate at least one individual to act as ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances or comments related to accessibility may contact the Engineering Department. All comments will be replied to within fifteen business days.

The procedure that follows was established to investigate any ADA complaint filed with the City of La Porte. All complaints should be filed within sixty (60) days of the alleged violation with the ADA Coordinator. A complaint must be in writing and include such information as name, address, and phone number of complainant, and location, date and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing are personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available upon request, to people with disabilities who require such alternatives.

Within 15 days of the complaint the ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolution. Within 15 days thereafter the Coordinator will respond in writing, or in such other format accessible to the complainant. The response will explain the position of the City of La Porte and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

Complainant may seek review of the Coordinator's response by written request filed by the complainant with the Board of Public Works and Safety within fifteen (15) days of receiving the Coordinator's response. Upon receiving the request for review, the Board of Works shall within thirty (30) days review the complaint and the response and either affirm or modify the coordinator's response. All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the ADA Coordinator, and their responses, shall be retained by the City of La Porte for one (1) year.

ADA Coordinator: Margaret Dickerson  
Address: 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350  
Phone: 219-362-2327  
Fax: 219-362-1325

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

E-mail: [adacoordinator@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:adacoordinator@cityoflaportein.gov)  
Website: [cityoflaporte.com](http://cityoflaporte.com)

### Park Department

Our Department does everything possible to accommodate persons with disabilities. There is at least one wheelchair accessible picnic table at shelter and others are available should a request be made. We have made an effort to increase accessibility in our parks and facilities and continue to work with the City Engineer and ADA Coordinator in those efforts. The Engineering Department is in the midst of a comprehensive self-evaluation of all City properties and programs.

The last full inventory on the City's parks was in 1994. However, with renovations or new construction, recommendations on accessibility issues are made. For example, the most recent was with the Beechwood Clubhouse renovation, which is starting in the spring. The recommendations are listed below:

#### **Accessible Route: Exterior**

- Changes in level: all items need to be addressed.
- Steps are located at the walk to the basement from the bottom parking area.
- There is a lip where the asphalt meets the concrete at the pro shop entrance.
- There are lips at both entrances (upstairs pro shop door and downstairs entrance door).

#### **Accessible Parking**

- Two spots are identified by the international symbol of accessibility signage in the closest proximity to the accessible entrance in the upper parking area.
- This area should be paved and one spot striped for van accessibility and the corresponding sign updated to reflect this.
- The lower parking area currently does not have any accessible parking.
- Two spots should be designated, one again being van accessible, closest to the accessible entrance with appropriate signage.

#### **Accessible Route: Interior**

- The door opening between the pro shop and the eatery is currently 2.5' and does not meet accessibility requirements.

#### **Entrances**

- Accessible entrances should be provided at the basement door and the pro shop door.
- These entrances will need signage showing the symbol of accessibility and direction provided from the parking areas to the entrances.

#### **Stair Handrailing**

- Handrails are required at both side of the stairs, currently there is only one handrail on one side that does not have extensions and does not meet clear floor space.
- Additional compliant handrail needs to be added to the other side
- Extensions need to be added to the existing handrail, 12" at the top and (1) tread plus 12" at the bottom.

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- Clear floor space between the rail and wall is at 4 1/2" and needs to be mounted closer to meet 1 1/2" clear floor space.

### Restrooms

- The current restrooms are far from meeting ADA standards, about every aspects will need to be addressed.
- I would suggest to build a new accessible unisex restroom.

### Alarms

- If emergency warning systems are provided they shall include both audible and visual alarms complying with this section.

### Signs

- Signs which designate permanent rooms and spaces need to be added in this facility to comply with all of the requirements of the ADA. These requirements include raised and braille characters, pictograms, finishing contrasts, mounting locating and height.

### Dressing and Fitting Rooms

- Dressing rooms shall have 24" x 48" fixed bench to the wall along the larger dimension. The bench shall be mounted 17" to 19" above the finished floor.
- Replace current bench in the women's dressing room with a bench that meets standards and move mirror meet standards.
- Replace current bench in the men's dressing room with a bench that meets standards and hang a mirror to meet standards.

### Sales and Service counters

- The sales counter in the pro shop is 41" high, exceeding the 36" max limit. A portion of the counter, a minimum of 36" in length and maximum of 36" in height, shall be provided or an auxiliary counter with the same dimensions should be located in close proximity to the main counter.
- Same goes for the beverage service counter in the eatery area.

Until a full evaluation of park properties takes place, we have a plan, supported by Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, to install an ADA-compliant kayak launch on Stone Lake. We are reevaluating our ADA parking spots as lots are sealcoated or upgraded and have added ADA spots to improve accessibility.



*ADA-compliant fishing pier in Kiwanis-Teledyne Park.*

## Public Participation

Our Department recognizes our mission of service provision to the community. The best way for us to provide service to the community is to ask what their needs, opinions and preferences are, and apply that information to all our future planning. For this master plan, we held seven public input sessions, one session for public officials and community partners and an on-line survey.

### Public Input Sessions

#### **Aug. 29, 2017, 5:30 p.m. Beechwood Golf Course, Focus: Beechwood Golf Course**

- Ten citizens in attendance.
- Suggestions included bunker renovations, including using higher quality of sand; removal of dead trees and strategic reforestation; improvements to driving range, which has been rendered unusable; clubhouse improvements and/or expansion; improvements to cart barn, including pouring a cement floor; replacement of old machinery in fleet; increasing marketing to attract new, potentially younger golfers; and changes to membership fees and daily rates.
- Many attendees commented on the outstanding quality of the course conditions, especially the greens, with some even stating the course was in the best shape in 50 years.

#### **Aug. 30, 2017, 6 p.m. American Legion Post 83, Focus: Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw parks**

- Seven citizens in attendance.
- Suggestions include finding ways to enforce the 20-mph speed limit on Truesdell Ave.; tennis courts in locations in addition to Kesling Park; creating better access to Scott Field from American Legion off Allen Street; lumber harvesting in Soldiers Memorial Park for management and profit; improving landscaping in parks with volunteer labor, such as high school clubs; adding ponds and fishing areas in and around Fox Park; removal of dead and dying trees in Fox Park; creating better accessibility at amphitheater at Fox Park, perhaps building tiers into the hillside for more stability; dog parks, perhaps at neighborhood parks such as Allesee or Clarke parks; and fixing flooding issues near Ron Reed Field.
- Some attendees mentioned enjoying family reunions at the shelter in Lindewald Park, while others expressed concerns over vandalism in all parks. Concerns were also expressed over the closure of Hoelocker Drive and the future development around Clear Lake.
- Future collaboration with the American Legion was discussed, including if the lease for Scott Field could be amended or some type of shared-use agreement could be established. Potential American Legion activities could be held on the back half of the park, including a summer festival for the entire community.

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### **Sept. 5, 2017, 5 p.m. Civic Auditorium, Focus: Civic Auditorium**

- One citizen and one Civic Auditorium Advisory Board member in attendance.
- Suggestions included kitchen renovation, including modernizing the equipment and adding a holding cabinet; gazebo, tennis courts or skating rink on the lawn area; increasing events, such as concerts and sports competitions; air conditioning on the main floor; new sound system and lighting for stage; and improved marketing of facility.
- It was pointed out the 87-year-old facility remains an asset to the community and needs to be maintained. The banquet/classroom space in basement is underutilized.

### **Sept. 6, 2017, 6 p.m. Cummings Lodge, Focus: Natural Resources and Land Use**

- Ten citizens were in attendance.
- Suggestions included increasing nature-based programming in the parks, such as environmental education courses; better signage at trail heads, including interpretive signage and trail maps; more clearly maintained or delineated trails; partnering with Cooperative Weed Management Areas for staff training; improved stormwater runoff management, including filter strips and constructed wetlands; lumber harvesting, with invasive species control; hiking trails north of Fox Park on former city landfill; conservation area for passive recreation adjacent to Lilly Lake, similar to Craven Pond; increasing park staff for maintenance; biological control for purple loosestrife (beetles); Phragmites control; open up and improve desirable views from roadways; dredging channels between lakes and wetlands; removal of riprap around Stone Lake; improvements to bridges over channels at Waverly Road and Weller Avenue; and watershed management approach to system of lakes.
- One of the attendees presented a plan to relocate Waverly Road away from Ski Beach, with the construction of a new bridge over the Pine/Stone lakes channel and also suggested public restrooms be constructed at Ski Beach and at the amphitheater at Fox Park.

### **Sept. 12, 2017, 6 p.m. Civic Auditorium, Focus: Recreation Programming**

- Eight citizens in attendance.
- Suggestions included water park; dog training class; improvisation class to teach youth speaking and listening skills; storytelling night for families; personal finance class for high school students; improved social media presence on Twitter and Instagram; posting flyers at high school about upcoming events and classes; TV/radio production class; more teen activities, possibly a teen center; expanding summer playground program, using summer interns as program leaders and finding sponsors to improve program while keeping it free to participants; ice skating at the Civic Auditorium; boating safety or paddling classes; movie nights at the Civic

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Auditorium or Fox Park amphitheater; live music in the parks; fly fishing class; family fishing days; car maintenance class; make space for youth and adults; and bus trips to destinations such as shopping, theater or Amish country.

- Discussion was held about bicycling and creating cycling culture in the community. Suggestions including a bike collaborative, teaching youth how to fix and maintain bicycles, and adding bike repair stations in parks and along trails.
- Overall direction of youth sports programs was seen as positive, although lagging numbers in tennis program was cause for concern.

### **Sept. 13, 2017, 6 p.m. Kesling Middle School Cafeteria, Focus: Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koomler parks**

- Twelve citizens and two staff members in attendance.
- Suggestions included reconstructing tennis courts in Kesling Park, possibly up to eight courts; pickleball courts; adaptable courts for both tennis and pickleball, possibly in Soldiers Memorial or Rumely parks; indoor tennis or pickleball, possibly at Civic Auditorium or in school facilities; inflatable “bubble” over tennis courts; improvements to walking trail parking lot in Kesling Park off 18<sup>th</sup> Street; and improved maintenance to nature trail in Kesling Park.
- Debate over merits of tennis and pickleball dominated the session, with each group making a case for its sport of interest.
- Wooden “train” play structure in Hastings Park was appreciated.

### **Sept. 19, 2017, 6 p.m. Cummings Lodge, Focus: Soldiers, Kiwanis-Teledyne, Larson-Danielson, Rumely and Unity parks**

- Eight citizens in attendance
- Suggestions included arcade, with rhythm and virtual reality games; go-cart track; dog park; fishing pier on Clear Lake; increasing presence on social media sites other than Facebook, such as Instagram and Snapchat; marketing programs to high school students using morning announcements; improvements to Fort La Play Porte; kayak rentals at Stone Lake; laser tag and/or paint ball course; cameras at the skate park to deter crime; and better infield dirt on ball diamonds.
- Program suggestions included fishing, dodgeball and basketball tournaments. Several attendees utilize the public boat launch on Stone Lake.
- Suggestion for more attractions at the Civic Auditorium, such as live music and boxing.

### **Sept. 20, 2017, 5:30 p.m. Park Office, Focus: City Council, Park Board, Community Partners**

- Ten representatives of community-partner organizations and/or citizens and three Park Board members in attendance.



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- Suggestions included lumber harvesting, with invasive species control; clearing hazards on trails; improved restroom facilities; exploring tourism aspects of facilities, programs and events; increased recycling program; improved marketing of parks; additional bike racks; wayfinding signage for hiking and mountain bike trails in Soldiers Memorial Park; improvements to Weller Avenue bridge over channel; nature interpretation programs in Soldiers Memorial and Fox parks; improvements to stormwater infrastructure to improve surface water quality for recreation; and seeking input from seniors and teens for potential programs.
- Park system, with Soldiers Memorial Park in particular, was praised by attendees. More investment in parks and facilities was urged.

### **Additional Input (From e-mails, mail or office visits)**

- Suggestions included improvements to the Link Park area of Soldiers Memorial Park, including a metal roof on the picnic pavilion, opening up the lake view and raising the tree canopy, paving the parking lot and adding restroom facilities; adding speed bumps and signage to slow traffic on Lakeshore Drive; signage to encourage proper litter and dog waste pick-up in parks; additional dog waste stations; additional trees, benches and a soccer goal in Koomler Park; creating tiers for amphitheater seating; clearing out wooded area between Truesdell Avenue and skate park; and leasing trucks, mowers and other maintenance equipment.

### Public On-Line Survey

We offered an on-line survey, through Survey Monkey, from Aug. 28-Sept. 19. We had 312 responses. The participants were a wide range of ages and 63 percent were women. The survey was advertised the same as the public input session, through traditional media, social media and a variety of community websites.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q1 Have you or any members of your household visited any City of La Porte parks and/or facilities during the past 12 months?**

Answered: 310 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.84%	294
No	5.16%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>310</b>

**Q2 If yes, approximately how often did you or any members of your household visit City of La Porte parks and/or facilities during the past 12 months?**

Answered: 312 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
20 or more visits	41.99%	131
1-5 visits	19.87%	62
6-10 visits	16.35%	51
11-19 visits	11.22%	35
Not sure	5.45%	17
I have not visited any parks or facilities in the past 12 months	5.13%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>312</b>

**Q3 Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of all of the City of La Porte parks and/or facilities you have visited?**

Answered: 312 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fair	47.12%	147
Good	37.82%	118
Poor	8.33%	26
Excellent	3.85%	12
I have not visited any parks or facilities in the past 12 months	2.88%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>312</b>

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q4 Have you or any members of your household participated in any programs or events offered by City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department over the past 12 months?**

Answered: 310 Skipped: 2

<b>ANSWER CHOICES</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	
No	58.71%	182
Yes	41.29%	128
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>310</b>

**Q5 If yes, how would you rate the quality of the programs in which you or any members of your household participated?**

Answered: 300 Skipped: 12

<b>ANSWER CHOICES</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	
I have not participated in any programs	56.33%	169
Good	25.67%	77
Fair	11.33%	34
Excellent	4.00%	12
Poor	2.67%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>300</b>

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q6 From the following list, please check all of the parks or facilities you or any members of your household have visited in the past 12 months:**

Answered: 297    Skipped: 15

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Kesling Park	72.73%	216
Stone Lake Beach (Soldiers Memorial Park)	62.63%	186
Fort La Play Porte (Kesling Park)	55.89%	166
Fox Memorial Park	52.86%	157
Civic Auditorium	50.84%	151
Cummings Lodge (Soldiers Memorial Park)	50.17%	149
Soldiers Memorial Park	42.76%	127
Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater (Fox Memorial Park)	39.06%	116
Lions Field (Soldiers Memorial Park)	25.59%	76
Kesling Park Ball Diamonds	21.21%	63
Mountain Bike Trails (Soldiers Memorial Park)	20.20%	60
Bill Reed Tennis Complex (Kesling Park)	16.84%	50
Kiwanis-Teledyne Park	15.15%	45
Beechwood Golf Course	14.48%	43
Thrills N Spills Skate Park (Fox Memorial Park)	14.14%	42
Scharf Field (Fox Memorial Park)	12.79%	38
Ron Reed Field (Fox Memorial Park)	12.46%	37
Clarke Park	10.77%	32
Unity Park	8.42%	25
Ben Rees Park	7.74%	23
Koomler Park	7.74%	23
Scott Park	7.41%	22
Rotary-Old-Timers Field (Soldiers Memorial Park)	6.06%	18
Foundation Square	5.39%	16
Larson-Danielson Field	5.39%	16
Allesee Park	5.05%	15
Lindewald Park	4.04%	12
Hastings Park	2.69%	8
Warsaw Park	2.36%	7
Rumely Park	2.02%	6
Total Respondents: 297		

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q8 For each of the following functions possibly performed by the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department, please indicate if you feel the function is very important, somewhat important, not important or not sure.**

Answered: 311 Skipped: 1

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Operating and maintaining parks and facilities	90.29% 279	7.12% 22	1.62% 5	0.97% 3	309	3.87
Providing programs for residents of all ages and families	76.38% 236	20.71% 64	1.62% 5	1.29% 4	309	3.72
Preserving the environment and providing open/green space	73.55% 228	22.58% 70	3.23% 10	0.65% 2	310	3.69
Providing places for outdoor sports programs	72.40% 223	23.38% 72	2.60% 8	1.62% 5	308	3.67
Providing trail systems (bike trails, walking/hiking trails)	67.42% 209	27.10% 84	4.52% 14	0.97% 3	310	3.61
Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities	51.46% 159	39.81% 123	6.80% 21	1.94% 6	309	3.41
Providing programs for specific ages (seniors, teens)	46.28% 143	44.01% 136	7.12% 22	2.59% 8	309	3.34
Providing places for cultural programs (arts, theater, dance, music)	47.42% 147	40.65% 126	9.35% 29	2.58% 8	310	3.33
Allocating resources equally to different neighborhoods of the city	44.95% 138	43.65% 134	7.17% 22	4.23% 13	307	3.29

**Q10 From the following list, please check all of the organizations you or any members of your household use for recreation activities?**

Answered 295 Skipped 17

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
La Porte County Parks	67.12% 198
City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department	63.39% 187
Public schools	50.51% 149
YMCA	38.31% 113
Churches	34.92% 103
Community youth sports programs (Pop Warner Football, La Porte Soccer Club, etc.)	22.37% 66
Health clubs	14.92% 44
Travel sports programs	9.83% 29
Other (please specify)	8.81% 26
Private schools	3.05% 9
Total Respondents: 295	

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q11 For each of the following facilities currently or potentially provided by the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department, please indicate if you feel the facility is very important, somewhat important, not important or not sure.**

Answered: 311 Skipped: 1

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Playgrounds	75.24% 231	22.15% 68	0.98% 3	1.63% 5	307	3.71
Walking/hiking trails	75.66% 230	19.74% 60	3.62% 11	0.99% 3	304	3.70
Community or regional parks	76.32% 232	19.08% 58	1.32% 4	3.29% 10	304	3.68
Nature preserves	66.67% 202	28.38% 86	2.97% 9	1.98% 6	303	3.60
Neighborhood parks	56.63% 175	36.25% 112	4.85% 15	2.27% 7	309	3.47
Picnic shelters	51.48% 157	42.62% 130	4.59% 14	1.31% 4	305	3.44
Boat launches (lake access)	55.45% 168	35.31% 107	6.27% 19	2.97% 9	303	3.43
Fishing access and docks	52.29% 160	38.89% 119	7.19% 22	1.63% 5	306	3.42
Fitness trails	47.51% 143	39.20% 118	10.63% 32	2.66% 8	301	3.32
Nature education centers	44.74% 136	43.42% 132	8.55% 26	3.29% 10	304	3.30
Outdoor stages or amphitheaters	47.19% 143	38.28% 116	10.56% 32	3.96% 12	303	3.29
Sledding hills	43.89% 133	43.23% 131	9.57% 29	3.30% 10	303	3.28
Baseball/softball fields	42.43% 129	45.39% 138	8.55% 26	3.62% 11	304	3.27
Outdoor basketball courts	38.69% 118	50.16% 153	8.20% 25	2.95% 9	305	3.25
Kayak launches	44.55% 135	38.61% 117	11.88% 36	4.95% 15	303	3.23
Mountain bike trails	42.05% 127	41.06% 124	13.91% 42	2.98% 9	302	3.22
Indoor basketball/volleyball courts	35.86% 109	45.07% 137	13.82% 42	5.26% 16	304	3.12
Splash pads	36.18% 110	42.11% 128	17.43% 53	4.28% 13	304	3.10
Camping areas	38.82% 118	37.17% 113	19.41% 59	4.61% 14	304	3.10

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Off-leash dog parks	33.99% 103	41.91% 127	20.13% 61	3.96% 12	303	3.06
Soccer Fields	26.97% 82	55.59% 169	13.16% 40	4.28% 13	304	3.05
Indoor swimming pools	35.41% 108	39.67% 121	19.67% 60	5.25% 16	305	3.05
Football fields	28.15% 85	48.34% 146	17.88% 54	5.63% 17	302	2.99
Outdoor swimming pools	33.99% 104	33.33% 102	26.47% 81	6.21% 19	306	2.95
Tennis courts	25.09% 67	49.44% 132	19.85% 53	5.62% 15	267	2.94
Outdoor ice rinks	26.89% 82	46.23% 141	20.33% 62	6.56% 20	305	2.93
Sand volleyball courts	21.64% 66	47.54% 145	23.61% 72	7.21% 22	305	2.84
Cabins	30.23% 91	30.56% 92	31.23% 94	7.97% 24	301	2.83
Golf courses	24.92% 76	34.10% 104	36.72% 112	4.26% 13	305	2.80
Skate parks	18.36% 56	47.54% 145	27.54% 84	6.56% 20	305	2.78
Miniature golf courses	21.19% 64	40.73% 123	31.13% 94	6.95% 21	302	2.76
Cross-country ski trails	18.75% 57	45.72% 139	28.29% 86	7.24% 22	304	2.76
Obstacle (Spartan) courses	21.85% 66	35.76% 108	32.12% 97	10.26% 31	302	2.69
Golf driving ranges	17.11% 52	39.80% 121	37.50% 114	5.59% 17	304	2.68
Indoor ice rinks	22.85% 69	32.12% 97	35.43% 107	9.60% 29	302	2.68
Lacrosse fields	14.10% 43	46.56% 142	29.84% 91	9.51% 29	305	2.65
Disc (Frisbee) golf courses	16.23% 49	39.07% 118	36.09% 109	8.61% 26	302	2.63
BMX tracks	13.58% 41	40.07% 121	37.09% 112	9.27% 28	302	2.58
Horseshoe pits	12.17% 37	41.12% 125	39.47% 120	7.24% 22	304	2.58
Horseback trails	16.78% 51	33.22% 101	40.13% 122	9.87% 30	304	2.57
Archery ranges	15.56% 47	34.44% 104	38.74% 117	11.26% 34	302	2.54
Outdoor racquetball courts	10.60% 32	37.42% 113	43.38% 131	8.61% 26	302	2.50
Pickleball courts	14.29% 38	24.44% 65	39.47% 105	21.80% 58	266	2.31

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q13 For each of the following programs currently or potentially provided by the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department, please indicate if you feel the program is very important, somewhat important, not important or not sure.**

Answered: 304 Skipped: 8

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
CPR/First-Aid courses	70.47% 210	21.81% 65	4.70% 14	3.02% 9	298	1.40
Before and afterschool programs	64.00% 192	27.67% 83	3.00% 9	5.33% 16	300	1.50
Youth baseball/softball/T-ball	57.48% 173	33.22% 100	4.32% 13	4.98% 15	301	1.57
Teen programs	56.57% 168	33.00% 98	5.39% 16	5.05% 15	297	1.59
Youth nature camps/courses	53.51% 160	37.12% 111	5.02% 15	4.35% 13	299	1.60
Youth science camps/courses	53.33% 160	35.00% 105	6.00% 18	5.67% 17	300	1.64
Lifeguarding courses	53.16% 160	33.55% 101	7.31% 22	5.98% 18	301	1.66
Youth art camps/courses	51.51% 154	35.79% 107	7.69% 23	5.02% 15	299	1.66
Youth sports camps/courses	49.49% 147	39.73% 118	6.06% 18	4.71% 14	297	1.66
Senior programs	50.34% 149	37.16% 110	7.77% 23	4.73% 14	296	1.67
Youth soccer	49.00% 147	38.33% 115	6.00% 18	6.67% 20	300	1.70
Youth basketball	46.15% 138	41.81% 125	6.35% 19	5.69% 17	299	1.72
Adult fitness (yoga, aerobics, etc.)	44.82% 134	41.81% 125	8.36% 25	5.02% 15	299	1.74
Child care	51.67% 155	28.00% 84	11.67% 35	8.67% 26	300	1.77
Youth fitness (yoga, aerobics, etc.)	44.82% 134	40.80% 122	6.02% 18	8.36% 25	299	1.78
Youth tennis	39.16% 103	42.97% 113	11.03% 29	6.84% 18	263	1.86
Youth flag football	32.55% 97	43.29% 129	15.77% 47	8.39% 25	298	2.00
Adult basketball	28.19% 84	45.64% 136	17.11% 51	9.06% 27	298	2.07
Youth dance	28.19% 84	43.96% 131	16.11% 48	11.74% 35	298	2.11



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Youth lacrosse	28.28% 84	40.74% 121	18.86% 56	12.12% 36	297	2.15
Adult tennis	23.85% 62	46.54% 121	20.77% 54	8.85% 23	260	2.15
Fine arts/painting courses	24.15% 71	44.90% 132	19.05% 56	11.90% 35	294	2.19
Pottery/Ceramics courses	26.01% 77	40.20% 119	21.62% 64	12.16% 36	296	2.20
Martial arts	23.99% 71	42.23% 125	21.28% 63	12.50% 37	296	2.22
Preschool music/dance	22.00% 66	45.67% 137	18.67% 56	13.67% 41	300	2.24
Adult soccer	20.54% 61	44.44% 132	23.23% 69	11.78% 35	297	2.26
Birthday parties	21.33% 64	39.33% 118	27.00% 81	12.33% 37	300	2.30
Adult dance	18.79% 56	41.28% 123	28.19% 84	11.74% 35	298	2.33
Adult day (bus) trips	20.47% 61	38.26% 114	24.50% 73	16.78% 50	298	2.38
Preschool tumbling	15.88% 47	41.89% 124	24.66% 73	17.57% 52	296	2.44
Pickleball	12.55% 32	24.71% 63	33.33% 85	29.41% 75	255	2.80

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**Q16 From the following list, please indicate areas where improvements could be made to existing City of La Porte parks and facilities:**

Answered 283 Skipped 29

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Restrooms	65.72%	186
Drinking fountains	50.53%	143
Playground equipment	45.58%	129
Sidewalks/pathways	45.23%	128
Beach	44.88%	127
Security lighting	44.52%	126
Parking	39.58%	112
Natural areas	34.63%	98
Benches	28.27%	80
Picnic tables	26.15%	74
Handicap accessibility/inclusive amenities	24.03%	68
Park entrance signs	22.61%	64
Baseball/softball fields	22.26%	63
Picnic shelters	21.91%	62
Outdoor basketball courts	21.91%	62
Sports lighting	21.20%	60
Bike racks	19.79%	56
Other (please specify)	19.43%	55
Access roads	16.96%	48
Skate park	13.78%	39
Golf course/clubhouse	10.95%	31
Tennis courts	8.83%	25
Total Respondents: 283		

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Q17 Please check all the ways you learn about City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department programs and events:

Answered 289 Skipped 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook	77.16%	223
Word of mouth	64.36%	186
City website (cityoflaporte.com)	47.75%	138
Park Department sign/message board	34.60%	100
Newspapers (print or on-line)	29.41%	85
School Corporation website (lpcsc.k12.in.us)	27.34%	79
School flyers	23.53%	68
Radio	16.96%	49
Twitter	6.57%	19
Chamber of Commerce	6.23%	18
Other (please specify)	5.54%	16
Convention and Visitors Bureau	3.81%	11
Total Respondents: 289		

### Q18 If you had \$100 in new funding, how would you allocate the \$100 among the following possible park needs for the City of La Porte? (The total of each line should not exceed \$100.)

Answered 243 Skipped 69

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Improvements and maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds and picnic areas	40	7,609	191
Development of new outdoor amenities, such as a splash pad or dog park	32	5,267	163
Development of bike trails	28	4,174	148
Improvements and maintenance of sports fields	26	3,644	142
Acquisition of additional parkland	27	3,511	129
Improvements and maintenance to the Civic Auditorium	22	3,043	136
Other	35	1,833	53
Improvements and maintenance to Beechwood Golf Course	11	1,163	102
Total Respondents: 243			

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Q19 Please check all of the reasons preventing you or any members of your household from visiting parks or participating in recreation programs provided by City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department:**

Answered 253 Skipped 59

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desired amenities or programs not offered	40.71%	103
Facilities are not well maintained	33.60%	85
Not aware of park locations or program offerings	27.67%	70
Safety concerns	24.90%	63
Not interested or too busy	23.72%	60
Other (please specify)	18.18%	46
Facilities do not have proper equipment	17.39%	44
Use facilities in other park systems	16.60%	42
Use other facilities in community	10.28%	26
Park locations not convenient	9.09%	23
Facilities or programs not handicap accessible	6.32%	16
Poor customer service by staff	5.14%	13
Total Respondents: 253		

### Public Presentation of Plan

A first draft of the master plan was presented to the Park Board at a public meeting on November 15 (four members of the public were in attendance). The Park Board then held a work session on December 5. The revised version was presented for approval at a public meeting on December 20 (three members of the public were in attendance) and then submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for review.



*Summer Playground program at Allesee Park.*

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Analysis

When assessing public input, whether from in-person sessions or on-line surveys, the difficulty comes with the diverse needs, wants and issues conveyed by the citizens. Passion for personal preferences, or even obsessions, are often reflected in many answers and comments.

However, themes always rise to the top and addressing those issues will be top priority over the next five year. Public input, as well as contributions from staff and community partners, will be reflected in the projects and programs.

The largest task is always maintaining and upgrading the parks and facilities already in place. While we are blessed with 16 parks, an 18-hole golf course and a large community auditorium, many of these amenities are decades old and modernizing and upkeep with limited funding is a challenge.

Funding must be appropriated to renovate and build restrooms, add drinking fountains and provide maintenance for ball diamonds, shelters and other heavily-used amenities. In order to accomplish our goals, our fleet of machinery – from trucks to mowers – needs to be upgraded and kept on a reasonable schedule of replacement.

We have been aggressively upgrading our playgrounds, with six new play structures installed over the past three years. The maintenance, renovation and ultimate rebuilding of Fort La Play Porte, a community-built wood structure installed in 1999, will be eminent. We will also look at new trends in play such as inclusive play areas and natural playscapes.

Being a community of many lakes, the lakefront properties are of great concern. Stone Lake Beach scored high in the on-line survey, both in current usage and priority for future improvements. With the dedication of Unity Park on Pine Lake and the City's commitment to redeveloping the shorelines of Clear Lake, making our lakes and shorelines accessible and desirable for recreation will be focus and, hopefully, funded. Water activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding have increased greatly on our lakes.

With the City's commitment to developing bikeways, following the adoptions of the Greenway Plan in 2013, we are dedicated to helping create a bike culture in our community. The Chessie Trail Phase I will be constructed in 2018 and Phase II is projected to be built in 2021. Along with our current offering of night bike rides, future possibilities include a bike share program and creation of a bike collective to instruct in repairs and offer low-cost bikes. Further development and promotion of the Mountain Bike Trails in Soldiers Memorial Park, with the Northern Indiana Mountain Biking Association and a potential local club, will also feed that culture as well as attract tourism.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

We also plan to piggyback off the City's new plan for gateway and wayfinding signage. The directional signage in particular will benefit our parks, attracting residents and visitors alike to our facilities. We will use this new set of signs and an opportunity to add to and update our signage, both leading patrons to and within our parks.

Tree maintenance, removal and replanting, along with stump removal must also be prioritized and funded over the next five years. We must also look at harvesting options and the use of donated labor and services to accomplish this large task.

Recreation programming will focus on sustaining successful programs while also keeping up with the trends and finding new ways to engage and serve our community. Environmental or nature-based programs and camps will be explored as will reaching underserved populations, such as seniors and teens, with events and classes.

In planning for recreation and facilities, we must stay focused on the mission of the newly established Healthcare Foundation of La Porte, "empowering our residents to live healthy and well in and around La Porte to become one of Indiana's top 10 healthiest communities by 2030."

We heard from many who simply were unaware of some parks and programs. We must develop a comprehensive marketing plan, using all of the tools available such as social media, website, traditional media and new technologies. These formats call for using videos, photos and personal testimonies to not just inform but persuade patrons to utilize our parks and participate in our programs. We must define our brand and be vigilant in meeting that standard.

### National Standards

According to the 1983 National Recreation and Park Association's "Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" by Dr. James Hall and Dr. James Mertes, a city the size of La Porte should have between 6.25 to 10.25 acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Since La Porte has approximately 22,000 residents, with a total of 43,000 living within the 46350 zip code, and approximately 860 acres of park land, we have ample park land for our population.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Priorities

With appropriations unable to cover all of our departmental needs, we must be creative and aggressive in finding new sources of funding to make these action items reality. Bonding for improvements – we have not had a dedicated Park Bond since the late 1990s – may not be available over the next five years. Therefore, we will look to the following funding mechanisms:

- La Porte Park Foundation
- Community grants from Healthcare Foundation of La Porte and Urban Enterprise Association
- Grants from other foundations and non-profit organizations
- Federal and state grants, such as Land and Water Conservation Fund and Lakes and Rivers Enhancement
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Donations from corporations, businesses, clubs and individuals
- Sponsorships and advertising agreements
- Naming rights
- Impact fees
- User fees, rental fees, concession fees
- Admission fees, parking fees
- Fund-raisers
- Merchandizing and licensing rights

After analysis of the public input and suggestions by the Master Plan Steering Committee and department staff, the potential projects and programs were categorized. Each was assigned a level of priority according to the following factors:

- Fiscal feasibility
- Available manpower and resources
- Existing facilities
- Need and overall impact on the community
- Practically

Once these factors were applied, issues were assigned a specific priority level.

**Priority A-Primary:** Feasible to implement in the next five years.

**Priority B-Secondary:** May be of primary or secondary importance but feasibility is questionable during the next five years.

**Priority C-Long Range:** Vision for consideration during the next 5-20 years.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Soldiers Memorial Park

- A Renovate interior of Cummings Lodge, including lighting, kitchen and restrooms
- A Renovate exterior of Cummings Lodge, including panel, windows and doors
- A Replace tables and chairs at Cummings Lodge
- B Construct restrooms at Mountain Bike Trails
- B Replace restrooms at Lions Field
- B Replace bleachers at Lions Field
- B Replace all dated fencing at Lions Field, including backstops
- A Replace sports lighting at Lions Field #1
- A Finish interior Lions Field concession stand
- B Renovate boat launch on Stone Lake
- B Construct viewing deck near Link Park Shelter
- B Pave parking lot at Mountain Bike Trails
- A Security lighting at Mountain Bike Trails parking lot
- B Pave parking lot at Lions Field
- B Develop plan for Craven Pond
- B Execute plan for Craven Pond
- A Add sand to Stone Lake Beach
- A Replace play structures at Stone Lake Beach
- A Install kayak lockers at Stone Lake Beach
- B Install accessible kayak launch at Stone Lake
- A Renovate interior of Stone Lake beach house concession stand
- A Renovate Stone Lake beach house restrooms
- B Install sound system at Stone Lake beach house
- B Purchase floating beach features such as slides/trampolines
- A Replace lifeguard stands
- B Pave parking lot off Grangemouth Road near Cummings Lodge
- A Replace bleachers at Rotary/Old-Timers Field
- B Construct concession stand at Rotary/Old-Timers Field
- A Develop and execute harvesting and invasive management plan for wooded areas
- C Reconstruction of Waverly Road, including channel bridge
- C Construct nature boardwalk in Hennessey Lake area
- B Restore and naturalize shoreline of Stone Lake along Lakeshore Drive
- C Construct multiuse trails along Waverly/Grangemouth/Lakeshore
- A Renovate Rotary Honor Garden Gazebo
- A Install new LED message board on Pine Lake Avenue sign
- A Sealcoat parking lot at Park Office and Maintenance Building
- A Replace Park Office phone system
- B Add A/V systems in Park Office conference room and at Cummings Lodge
- B Install fence and gate behind Maintenance Building
- A Sealcoat Cummings Lodge parking lot
- A Sealcoat Stone Lake beach house parking lot

### Beechwood Golf Course

- A Construct Gold tees on #6 and #9 holes
- A Paint cart barn
- B Replace floor in cart barn
- A Renovate (level) tee complete on #8 hole
- A Renovate clubhouse, including roof, HVAC and ADA-compliant restrooms



## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

- B Renovate kitchen in clubhouse
- A Renovate tee complex on #17 hole
- A Pave upper parking lot, including ADA-compliant spaces, and upper drive
- B Renovate driving range
- B Dredge ditch along #9 hole and ditch south of course
- A Sealcoat parking lot
- B Excavate ponds along #1 hole and add drainage
- B Renovate food counter/bar area in clubhouse
- C Renovate fairway on #17 hole
- A Construct retaining wall around tee box on #1 hole
- A Develop and execute plan to renovate bunkers
- C Repave cart paths
- A Renovate restrooms on #5 tee

### Civic Auditorium

- A Reconstruct south parking lots off Tecumseh Street
- B Replace sound system in gymnasium
- B Upgrade spotlights to LED
- A Install ceiling fans in gymnasium
- B Replace sidewalks adjacent to Ridge Street parking lot
- A Purchase 30 60-inch round tables
- A Purchase 30 30-inch by 96-inch banquet tables
- A Purchase 400 matching upholstered chairs
- A Replace wood tables with stainless steel in kitchen
- A Upgrade lighting in kitchen
- C Add gazebo or other structure for events on south lawn
- B Upgrade HVAC, including boiler conversion
- B Add air conditioning to main level
- C Renovate stage dressing rooms
- C Construct freight door/access for main floor events
- B Purchase homes for future parking lot expansion (as available)

### Fox Memorial Park

- B Reconstruct and expand parking lot off McClung Road
- A Reconstruct Clear Lake Boulevard, restore shoreline
- A Construct bike trail looping Clear Lake, extending into New Porte Landing
- A Install parking spaces near southwest corner of Clear Lake
- A Install fishing pier on southwest corner of Clear Lake
- B Construct splash pad
- A Construct addition to amphitheater, including restrooms, storage, dressing facilities and concession stand
- C Reconstruct seating lawn at amphitheater to create tiers
- B Install electric at #2 and #3 shelters
- A Replace amphitheater play structure
- A Replace Shelter #3 play structure
- A Renovate Scharf Field restrooms
- B Reconfigure and pave parking lot at Scharf Field
- B Replace sports lighting at Scharf Field
- B Rebuild Scharf Field concession stand
- C Replace sports lighting at Ron Reed Field

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

- A Renovate exterior of Ron Reed Field press box
- A Renovate interior of Ron Reed restroom/concession/storage building
- A Replace roofs on Ron Reed Field press box, dugouts and restrooms
- A Renovate gateway monument at Truesdell/McClung intersection
- A Convert Hoelocker Drive into boardwalk for nature/fishing access
- B Construct pavilion on Clear Lake
- A Connect east pond with Clear Lake and create wetland park
- B Pave parking lot at skate park
- A Clear brush from wood area between skate park and Truesdell Avenue
- C Develop plan for development of land north of park

### Kesling Park

- A Reconstruct tennis courts
- A Renovate exterior of brown storage barn
- A Replace bleachers (4) at ball diamonds
- B Install shade sails over bleachers at ball diamonds
- C Install sports lighting at ball diamonds
- A Build batting cages at ball diamonds
- A Renovate or rebuild Fort La Play Porte
- A Install wheelchair accessible swing
- B Install fence and gate behind Maintenance Building
- A Install security lighting along south drive
- A Construct outdoor fitness gym
- B Replace basketball court
- C Expand parking lot at ball diamonds
- C Construct "Challenger" accessible ball diamond
- A Renovate walking trail restrooms
- A Renovate Shelter #4 restrooms
- A Sealcoat walking trail

### Allesee Park

- B Replace ball diamond backstop
- B Pave parking lot
- A Construct tennis court
- A Sealcoat walking trail

### Ben Rees Park

- A Replace park signs
- A Sealcoat/stripe basketball courts
- A Replace play structure

### Clarke Park

- A Demolish #2 diamond
- A Renovate infield/add irrigation on #1 diamond
- A Replace fencing, including backstop, on #1 diamond
- A Construct dugouts and bullpens on #1 diamond
- A Replace bleachers (2) on #1 diamond
- A Construct accessible walkways to #1 diamond
- A Replace play structure
- C Construct parking lot

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

- A Renovate restroom

### Foundation Square

- B Pave walkways

### Hastings Park

- A Replace swing structure

### Kiwanis-Teledyne Park

- A Replace roof on restrooms
- A Develop and execute plan to address erosion and stormwater issues
- A Dredge under walking bridge to open inlet
- A Restore beach grasses
- A Construct trailhead for Chessie Trail Phase I
- A Renovate restrooms
- A Sealcoat parking lot

### Koomler Park

- A Sealcoat/stripe basketball court
- B Replace ball diamond backstop
- A Install security lighting
- B Install soccer goals

### Larson-Danielson Field

- A Install electric
- A Install scoreboard
- A Replace bleachers (1)

### Lindewald Park

- A Replace play structures and add border to playground
- A Renovate exterior of shed
- B Pave parking lot
- B Install bollards and regrade area between parking lot and basketball court
- C Create access to Lower Lake
- A Renovate restroom

### Rumely Park

- C Reconstruct parking lot
- C Replace walkways
- A Sealcoat/stripe basketball court
- A Renovate tennis court

### Scott Field

- B Install soccer goals
- A Add border to playground

### Unity Park

- A Sealcoat parking lot
- A Install shade sails over benches

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Warsaw Park

- A Replace play structure and add border to playground
- B Repair or remove perimeter fence

### Administration

- A Revise Department policy manual
- B Hire additional full-time Park Laborer
- A Develop marketing strategy
- A Create wayfinding signage for all parks and within larger parks

## Action Plan

### Soldiers Memorial Park

Renovate exterior of Cummings Lodge, including panel, windows and doors	\$25,000	Park Non-Reverting	2018
Finish interior Lions Field concession stand	\$5,000	Donation/Rec Non-Reverting	2018
Replace play structures at Stone Lake Beach	\$60,000	Park Foundation	2018
Add sand to Stone Lake Beach	\$35,000	Donation/Budget/ Other	2018
Replace bleachers at Rotary/Old-Timers Field	\$4,800	Park Non-Reverting Capital/Rec Non-Reverting	2018
Develop and execute harvesting and invasive management plan for wooded areas	N/A	Harvesting Contract	2018-2022
Install new LED message board on Pine Lake Avenue sign	\$26,000	Park Foundation/Rec Non-Reverting/CVB/Other	2018
Sealcoat parking lot at Park Office and Maintenance Building	\$3,000	Budget	2018
Renovate interior of Cummings Lodge, including lighting, kitchen and restrooms	\$10,000	Park Non-Reverting	2019
Replace tables and chairs at Cummings Lodge	\$2,000	Park Non-Reverting	2019
Install kayak lockers at Stone Lake Beach	\$20,000	Donation/HFL/CVB/Grants	2019
Install accessible kayak launch at Stone Lake	\$60,000	Donation/HFL/CVB/Grants	2019
Renovate Rotary Honor Garden Gazebo	\$18,000	Donation	2019
Replace Park Office phone system	\$3,000	Budget	2019
Add A/V systems in Park Office conference room and at Cummings Lodge	\$2,500	Budget	2019
Construct restrooms at Mountain Bike Trails	\$50,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Replace restrooms at Lions Field	\$122,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Replace bleachers at Lions Field	\$18,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Replace all dated fencing at Lions Field, including backstops	\$100,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Replace sports lighting at Lions Field #1	\$60,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Renovate boat launch on Stone Lake	\$40,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Construct viewing deck near Link Park Shelter	\$28,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Pave parking lot at Mountain Bike Trails	\$10,800	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Security lighting at Mountain Bike Trails parking lot	\$5,600	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Pave parking lot at Lions Field	\$54,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants	2020
Develop plan for Craven Pond	\$5,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants/ Donation	2020
Execute plan for Craven Pond	\$10,000	HFL/LWCF/Grants/ Donation	2020
Renovate interior of Stone Lake beach house concession stand	\$7,500	Park Foundation/Rec Non-Reverting	2021
Install sound system at Stone Lake beach house	\$2,000	Park Foundation/Rec Non-Reverting	2021
Replace lifeguard stands	\$1,000	Park Foundation/Rec Non-Reverting	2021
Pave parking lot off Grangemouth Road near Cummings Lodge	\$9,200	Park Foundation/Bond/Other	2021
Install fence and gate behind Maintenance Building	\$10,000	Budget	2021
Purchase floating beach features such as slides/trampolines	\$80,000	Park Foundation/CVB/HFL	2021
Construct concession stand at Rotary/Old-Timers Field	\$30,000	Park Foundation/Rec Non-Reverting	2021
Sealcoat Cummings Lodge parking lot	\$3,000	Budget	2021
Sealcoat Stone Lake beach house parking lot	\$8,000	Budget	2021
Renovate Stone Lake beach house restrooms	\$5,000	Budget	2022

### Beechwood Golf Course

Construct Gold tees on #6 and #9 holes	\$1,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2018
Paint cart barn	\$1,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2018
Renovate (level) tee complete on #8 hole	\$1,500	Budget/Non-Reverting	2018
Renovate clubhouse, including roof, HVAC and ADA-compliant restrooms	\$520,000	RDC	2018
Pave upper parking lot, including ADA-compliant spaces, and upper drive	\$20,000	RDC/Donation/ Other	2018
Replace floor in cart barn	\$20,000	Donation/Other	2019
Renovate kitchen in clubhouse	\$4,000	Budget/Non-Reverting/Other	2019
Renovate tee complex on #17 hole	\$2,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2019
Renovate driving range	\$25,000	Donation/Other	2019

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Dredge ditch along #9 hole and ditch south of course	\$15,000	Budget/Non-Reverting/Other	2019
Sealcoat parking lot	\$5,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2019
Excavate ponds along #1 hole and add drainage	\$5,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2020
Renovate food counter/bar area in clubhouse	\$10,000	Donation	2020
Renovate restrooms on #5 tee	\$5,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2020
Construct retaining wall around tee box on #1 hole	\$5,000	Budget/Non-Reverting	2021
Develop and execute plan to renovate bunkers	\$25,000	Budget/Non-Reverting/Other	2022

### Civic Auditorium

Purchase 30 60-inch round tables	\$3,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Purchase 400 matching upholstered chairs	\$13,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Upgrade lighting in kitchen	\$3,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Replace wood tables with stainless steel in kitchen	\$2,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Reconstruct south parking lots off Tecumseh Street	\$120,000	Non-Reverting/Donation/Other	2019
Install ceiling fans in gymnasium	\$20,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2019
Purchase 30 30-inch by 96-inch banquet tables	\$5,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2019
Replace sound system in gymnasium	\$100,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2020
Upgrade spotlights to LED	\$10,000	Non-Reverting/Donation	2020
Replace sidewalks adjacent to Ridge Street parking lot	\$5,000	Federal Grant	2020
Upgrade HVAC, including boiler conversion	\$660,000	Bond	2022
Add air conditioning to main level	\$700,000	Bond	2022

### Fox Memorial Park

Construct bike trail looping Clear Lake, extending into New Porte Landing	\$1.5 million	RDC/Federal Grants/HFL	2018-2021
Reconstruct Clear Lake Boulevard, restore shoreline	\$300,000	RDC	2018
Install parking spaces near southwest corner of Clear Lake	\$50,000	RDC	2018
Install electric at #2 and #3 shelters	\$5,000	Park Non-Reverting	2018
Renovate Scharf Field restrooms	\$5,000	Budget	2018
Renovate exterior of Ron Reed Field press box	\$2,500	Rec Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Renovate interior of Ron Reed restroom/concession/storage building	\$10,000	Budget	2018
Replace roofs on Ron Reed Field press box, dugouts and restrooms	\$8,000	Rec Non-Reverting/Donation	2018
Renovate gateway monument at Truesdell/McClung intersection	\$15,000	Donation	2018
Clear brush from wood area between skate park and Truesdell Avenue	\$2,000	Budget	2018

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Construct addition to amphitheater, including restrooms, storage, dressing facilities and concession stand	\$150,000	Donation	2019
Install fishing pier on southwest corner of Clear Lake	\$200,000	RDC/Federal Grants/HFL	2019
Replace amphitheater play structure	\$35,000	UEA	2019
Convert Hoelocker Drive into boardwalk for nature/fishing access	\$1.4 million	RDC	2019
Connect east pond with Clear Lake and create wetland park	\$3.1 million	RDC	2019
Construct splash pad	\$300,000	RDC/HCF/Donation	2020
Replace Shelter #3 play structure	\$30,000	UEA	2020
Reconfigure and pave parking lot at Scharf Field	\$120,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022
Replace sports lighting at Scharf Field	\$90,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022
Rebuild Scharf Field concession stand	\$80,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022
Reconstruct and expand parking lot off McClung Road	\$150,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022
Pave parking lot at skate park	\$25,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022
Construct pavilion on Clear Lake	\$500,000	RDC/HCF/Donation/Bond	2022

### Kesling Park

Replace bleachers (4) at ball diamonds	\$18,000	Park Non-Reverting Capital/Rec Non-Reverting	2018
Construct outdoor fitness gym	\$90,000	HFL/Grant	2018
Install wheelchair accessible swing	\$3,000	Donation	2018
Install security lighting along south drive	\$15,000	Budget/Park Non-Reverting	2018
Renovate or rebuild Fort La Play Porte	\$90,000-\$275,000	HFL/Park Foundation/Donations	2019
Build batting cages at ball diamonds	\$40,000	Donation	2019
Reconstruct tennis courts	\$120,000	HFL/Grants/Donations	2019
Sealcoat walking trail	\$4,000	Budget	2019
Renovate walking trail restrooms	\$5,000	Budget	2019
Renovate Shelter #4 restrooms	\$5,000	Budget	2019
Install shade sails over bleachers at ball diamonds	\$56,000	Rec Non-Reverting/Grants	2020
Install fence and gate behind Maintenance Building	\$10,000	Budget	2020
Replace basketball court	\$8,000	Park Foundation	2020
Renovate exterior of brown storage barn	\$40,000	Park Foundation	2021

### Allesee Park

Construct tennis court	\$30,000	HFL/Grants	2019
Replace ball diamond backstop	\$7,500	Park Foundation	2020
Sealcoat walking trail	\$2,000	Budget	2021
Pave parking lot	\$15,000	Bond	2022

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### Ben Rees Park

Replace park signs	\$800	Budget	2018
Sealcoat/stripe basketball courts	\$1,500	Park Foundation	2018
Replace play structure	\$30,000	Park Foundation	2022

### Clarke Park

Demolish #2 diamond	\$8,000	Donation	2018
Renovate infield/add irrigation on #1 diamond	\$30,000	Donation	2018
Replace fencing, including backstop, on #1 diamond	\$75,000	Donation	2018
Construct dugouts and bullpens on #1 diamond	\$8,000	Donation	2018
Replace bleachers (2) on #1 diamond	\$8,000	Donation	2018
Construct accessible walkways to #1 diamond	\$10,000	Donation	2018
Renovate restroom	\$2,500	Donation	2018
Replace play structure	\$35,000	Park Foundation	2019

### Foundation Square

Pave walkways	\$8,000	Park Foundation	2020
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### Hastings Park

Replace swing structure	\$2,000	Park Foundation	2018
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### Kiwanis-Teledyne Park

Replace roof on restrooms	\$10,000	Kiwanis Non-Reverting	2018
Dredge under walking bridge to open inlet	\$5,000	Kiwanis Non-Reverting	2018
Construct trailhead for Chessie Trail Phase I	\$20,000	Federal Grant/HFL	2018
Develop and execute plan to address erosion and stormwater issues	\$40,000	LARE	2019
Restore beach grasses	\$5,000	LARE/Kiwanis Non-Reverting	2019
Renovate restrooms	\$5,000	Budget	2020
Sealcoat parking lot	\$2,000	Budget	2021

### Koomler Park

Sealcoat/stripe basketball court	\$1,500	Park Foundation	2018
Install security lighting	\$6,000	Budget	2018
Replace ball diamond backstop	\$7,500	Park Foundation	2020
Install soccer goals	\$1,500	Park Foundation	2021

### Larson-Danielson Field

Install electric	\$2,250	Budget/Rec Non-Reverting	2018
Install scoreboard	\$7,500	Donation	2018
Replace bleachers	\$800	Park Non-Reverting Capital/Rec Non-Reverting	2018

### Lindewald Park

Replace play structures and add border to playground	\$50,000	UEA	2018
Renovate exterior of shed	\$5,000	Budget/Donation	2018
Renovate restroom	\$5,000	Budget	2020
Pave parking lot	\$40,000	Bond	2022



## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Install bollards and regrade area between parking lot and basketball court	\$7,500	Bond	2022
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### Rumely Park

Sealcoat/stripe basketball court	\$1,000	Park Foundation	2018
Renovate tennis court	\$10,000	HFL/Grants	2019

### Scott Field

Add border to playground	\$3,000	UEA	2019
Install soccer goals	\$1,500	Park Foundation	2021

### Unity Park

Install shade sails over benches	\$12,000	Donation	2018
Sealcoat parking lot	\$2,000	Endowment	2020

### Warsaw Park

Replace play structure and add border to playground	\$35,000	UEA	2021
Repair or remove perimeter fence	\$5,000	UEA	2021



*Volunteers painting at Fort La Play Porte in Kesling Park.*

### Fleet Replacement Plan

Pages 58-62 contain our 10-year fleet replacement plan for Park, Civic Auditorium and Beechwood Golf Course. The plan would be to replace the fleet using Capital funds provided through the budget or other available means. We are also exploring lease options.

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Park Department	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1987 International #1654 Truck										
1991 Aquatic Weed Harvester										
1991 Aquatic Weed Harvester Trailer										
1991 Toro Sand Pro 214										
1995 Toro 455-D 10' 6" Mower (1)										
1996 Case IH Tractor										
1997 Dodge Truck 4x4 (2)										
1997 GMC 1 Ton Truck										
1998 Beaver Creek Trailer										
1998 Toro Groundsmaster 72 325D Mower (3)										
1998 Toro Sand Pro 2030										
1999 Nomaco Trailer										
1999 Nomaco Trailer										
1999 Toro Groundsmaster Diesel Mower										
2000 GMC Pickup Truck										
2001 Chevy Truck 4x4										
2001 Chevy Truck 4x4										
2002 Ex Mark 72" Mower										
2004 Chevy 1 Ton Truck										
2005 Gator Bear Cat Chipper										
2005 John Deere 110 Back Hoe										
2005 John Deere 1600 Turbo Mower										
2005 John Deere Bunker & Field										
2007 John Deere 2320 Tractor										
2007 John Deere 2320 Tractor										
2007 John Deere Gas Gator										
2010 Dodge Avenger Car										
2010 John Deere Z Trak 72" Mower										
2011 Ford Truck										
2011 Ford Truck										
2011 John Deere Electric Gator										
2014 Dodge Ram ProMaster Van										
2014 John Deere 997 (R3)										
2015 Hustler Super 104 (R1)										
2015 Hustler Super 104 (R1)										
2016 Ram 2500 4x4 Truck (R2)										
Nomaco Trailer										
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$101,000</b>	<b>\$76,000</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>Civic Auditorium</b>										
2015 Floor Scrubber										
1999 Simplicity 18hp tractor mower/snowblow	\$15,000									
2003 GMC 2500 w/ plow attachment	\$30,000									
John Deere 60 inch diesel z-track			\$17,000							
Scissor lift model JLG 3246e2					\$20,000					
2014 Snow Blower Attachment										
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>Beechwood Golf Course</b>										
1988 Crushman truckster 3 wheel "2732"										
1989 Crushman truckster 3 wheel "97687"										
1989 National triplex mower 84										
1990 Toro 450-D Fairway mower										
1991 Club car carry all II "23"										
1994 Toro aerifier "171"			\$9,000							
1995 John Deere 970 w/ loader "808"				\$18,000						
1996 National triplex mower 84 "5459"										
1997 Ford 3030 tractor "1723B"										
1997 Ryan slitseeder "76248"										
1997 Tip greens spiker "97031"										
1998 6700D Toro fairway unit "80327"										
1998 Club car carry all II "57231"										
1998 Crushman truckster "18002261"										
1998 Giant truck vac. "98250017"										
1998 John Deere 855 "CH303D027836"										
1998 John Deere backhoe										
1998 Manitow lift Milt 9000 "1265-9"										
1998 Toro Greens Master "97100311"										
1998 Toro Sweeper "4404470184"			\$35,000							
1999 Buffalo Turbine 20hp "5424"										
1999 Toro 3100 Greenmaster "04353-90249"										\$35,000
1999 Toro 6700- D fairway "03805-80327"										
2000 Chevrolet dump truck w/plow K3500 "1GBJK34R5YF407768"										
2000 Sand Pro "988590147"										\$12,000
2001 John Deere Utility Mower "TC2653D081047"										
2002 Gator Utility- JWTFURF VGOFTURF017682										\$35,000
2002 Green Mower "220000424"										
2002 Green Mower "220000425"										\$35,000
2003 Top Dresser- JWTFURF "41003403"										
2004 3215 Fairway Mower										\$55,000
2005 Greensmower 3150 #250000524 (#5)										
2005 KAZ027 Kubota ZD Serial #54748										
2005 Progator 2020 (gas) TC2020A040220										\$17,000
2005 Sprayer Tank TC200GX030099										
2005 TX Turf Gator WOTURFD001989 (#2)										

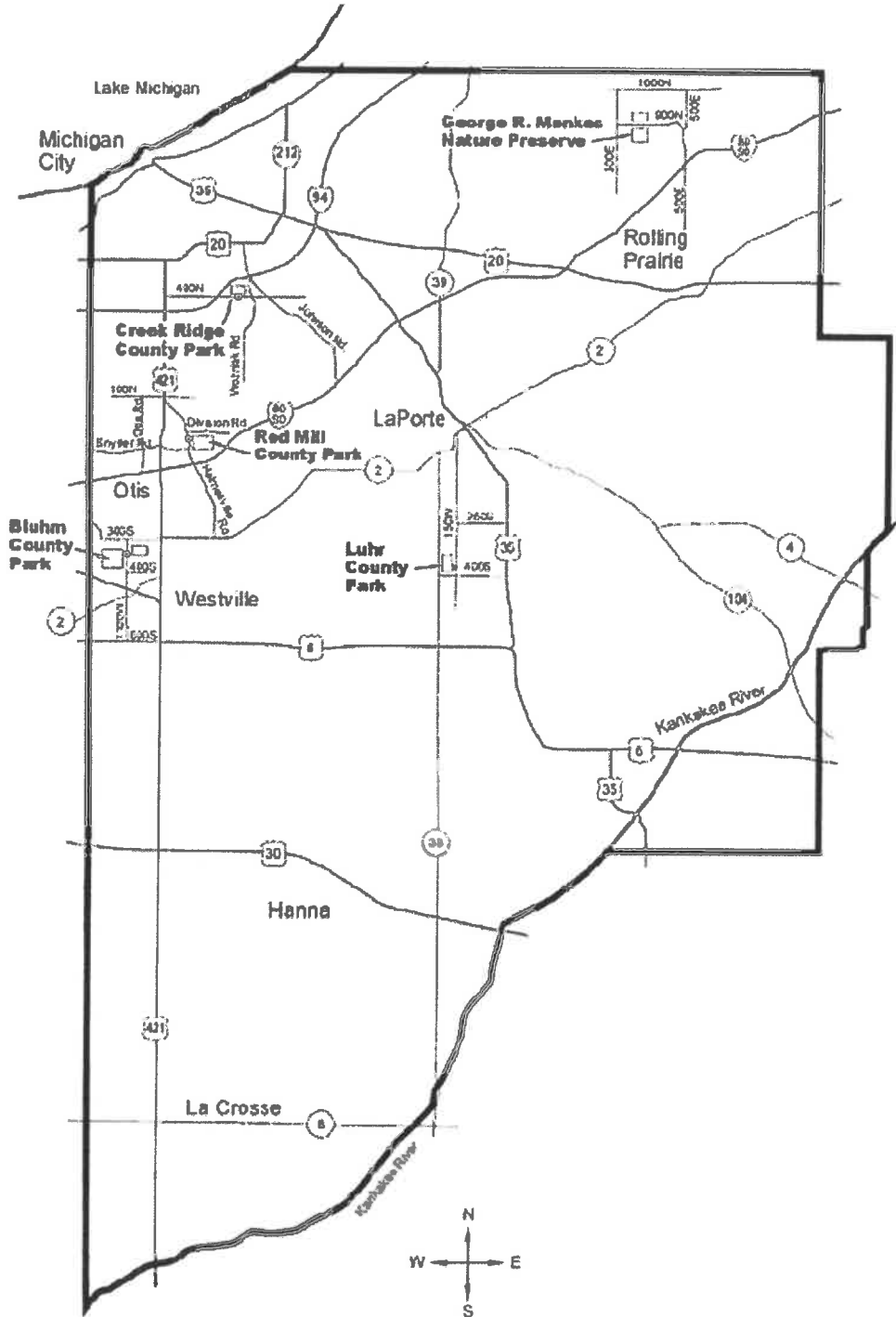
# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
2006 Jacobson Rotary Mower #6808002143										
2007 Smith Co. Model #7504- tournament roller (used) UE3723T999										
2010 Laste Articulator Serial #38210910										
2010 True Beverage Cooler Serial #6857272										
2011 Toro Greensmaster 3150Q Serial #04357- 311001378										
2012 J.D. 7500 Fairway Precision Cut Serial #1TC7500XJT050075										
2015 Agrimetal Blower - Ser. #33269										
2017 Air Force Hover Mower AF19-14310										
<b>ANNUAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>\$53,000</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>				
<b>Beechwood Golf Course Golf Cart Fleet</b>										
Cart Number/Serial Number/Year										
76/ AG9935-797020/1999	\$7,000									
71/ AG9935-797014/1999	\$7,000									
79/AG9935-797016/1999	\$7,000									
78/AG9935-797017/1999	\$7,000									
73/AG9935-797015/1999	\$7,000									
74/AG9935-797013/1999	\$7,000									
77/AG9935-797019/1999	\$7,000									
44/AG0032-918575/2000		\$7,000								
83/AG0032-918584/2000		\$7,000								
47/AG0032-918582/2000		\$7,000								
45/AG0032-918580/2000		\$7,000								
42/AG0032-918574/2000		\$7,000								
41/AG0032-918571/2000		\$7,000								
46/AG0032-918577/2000		\$7,000								
81/AG0032-918572/2000		\$7,000								
82/AG0032-918579/2000		\$7,000								
40/AG0032-918570/2000		\$7,000								
51/AG0330-302042/2003		\$7,000								
16/AG0330-302041/2003		\$7,000								
47/AG0330-302044/2003		\$7,000								
49/AG0032-918573/2003		\$7,000								
57/AG0330-302039/2003		\$7,000								
52/AG0330-302045/2003		\$7,000								
59/AG0330-302043/2003		\$7,000								



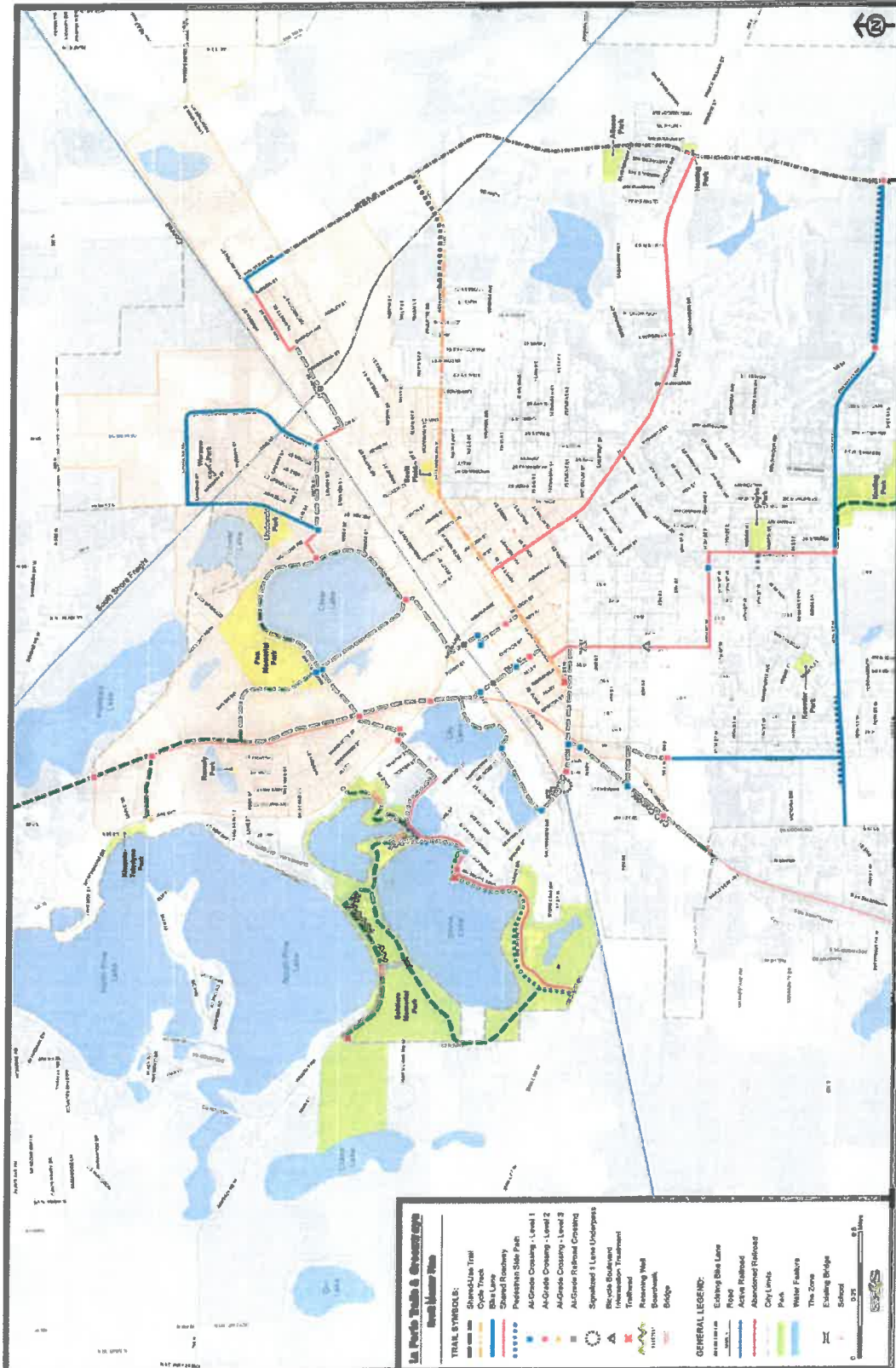
## Appendices

### La Porte County Map (Locations of La Porte County Parks)



# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## La Porte Trails & Greenways Master Plan



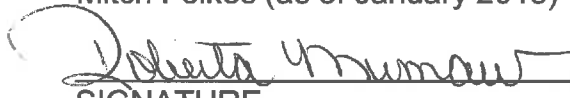


City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**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 City of La Porte Park and Recreation Board has 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  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT  
Mitch Feikes (as of January 2018)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE  
Roberta Mumaw

DATE 5-16-18

City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

**Board Resolution Adopting Plan**

WHEREAS, the La Porte Park and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of La Porte, 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 LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the La Porte 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 recreational opportunities in La Porte.

Passed and signed this 16th day of May, 2018.

ATTEST:

President  \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President  \_\_\_\_\_

Member  \_\_\_\_\_

Member  \_\_\_\_\_

Member  \_\_\_\_\_

Member  \_\_\_\_\_

## City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

### ***Newspaper notices, articles and meeting info***

#### Herald-Argus Brief

### **Input sought for park improvements**

- | Posted: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 5:05 pm

La PORTE — The city Park and Recreation Department has started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities with public input being sought to provide the framework and set priorities for those proposed improvements.

Public input sessions have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m. at Beechwood Golf Course (Focus: Beechwood Golf Course)
- Wednesday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 83 (Focus: Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw parks)
- Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5 p.m. at the La Porte Civic Auditorium (Focus: Civic Auditorium)
- Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (Focus: Natural resources and land use)
- Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6 p.m. at Civic Auditorium (Focus: Recreation programming)
- Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m. at Kesling Middle School Cafeteria (Focus: Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koomler parks)
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (Focus: Soldiers, Kiwanis-Teledyne, Larson-Danielson, Rumely and Unity parks)

While each of the sessions has a focus area, general comments about parks and recreation programming will be welcome as well, according to superintendent Mark Schreiber.

Additionally, a meeting of community stakeholders, such as the City Council, Park Board and other community partners will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the park office. The public is invited to attend this meeting but there will be no public comment.

City residents are encouraged to participate in an online survey available at [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation) beginning Monday. The department wants the master plan to reflect the desires and needs of the community, so responses to these questions are important, Schreiber said.

More information is available from the Park Office at 326-9600 or the superintendent at [mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

-From staff reports

# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## What's New, La Porte? Brief

December 17, 2017 Search..

**What's New, La Porte?**  
*Our community homepage*

Home   Obituaries   Community   Police/Fire   Sports   Education   Family   What's Going On   Our Heritage   Government   Free Classifieds

Home   Community   They're your city parks; help form their future at public meetings to create master plan

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**Ketel One  
1.7L 31.99**  
**Miller High Life  
or Busch  
18 pack cans 12.49**

### They're your city parks; help form their future at public meetings to create master plan

Aug 28th 2017   0 Comment



**City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
5-Year Master Plan (2018-22) Public Input Sessions**

Whether you play ball in them or walk through them, listen to music in them or swim in the waters off their beaches, the City of LaPorte's parks provide beauty and recreation for all. Now's your chance to help improve and preserve the parks in the years to come.

The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department has started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout the city. Your input is requested to provide the framework and set priorities for improvements.

Please attend one or more of these public input sessions:

- Tuesday Aug 29 5:30 p.m. at Beechwood Golf Course (focus: Beechwood Golf Course)
- Wednesday Aug 30 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 83 (focus: Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw parks)
- Tuesday Sept 5 5 p.m. at Civic Auditorium (focus: Civic Auditorium)
- Wednesday Sept 6 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (focus: natural resources and land use)
- Tuesday Sept 12 6 p.m. at Civic Auditorium (focus: recreation programming)
- Wednesday Sept 13 6 p.m. at Kesling Middle School Cafeteria (focus: Kesling, Altesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koornior parks)
- Tuesday Sept 19 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (focus: Soldiers, Kwanis, Teledyne, Larson-Danielson, Rumely and Unity parks)

While each of the sessions has a focus area, general comments about parks and recreation programming will be welcome at all sessions.

Additionally, a meeting of community stakeholders, such as the City Council, Park Board and other community partners, will be held Wednesday, Sept 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the park office, 250 Pine Lake Ave. The public is invited to attend this meeting, but there will be no public comment period.

All city residents are encouraged to complete an online survey available at [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation) beginning Monday, Aug 28. The department wants the master plan to reflect the desires and needs of the community; therefore, citizens' responses to these questions are very important.

For more information, call the park office at 219-326-9600 or email Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov).

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# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

[LaPorteCountyLife.com](http://LaPorteCountyLife.com) Brief



## City of La Porte Park and Recreation Master Plan Needs Public Input

*Written by City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department on August 24, 2017*

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department has started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. Public input is being sought to provide the framework and set the priorities for those proposed improvements.

Public input sessions have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, August 29, 5:30 p.m. at Beechwood Golf Course (Focus: Beechwood Golf Course)
- Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 83 (Focus: Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw parks)
- Tuesday, September 5, 5 p.m. at Civic Auditorium (Focus: Civic Auditorium)
- Wednesday, September 6, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (Focus: Natural resources and land use)
- Tuesday, September 12, 6 p.m. at Civic Auditorium (Focus: Recreation programming)
- Wednesday, September 13, 6 p.m. at Kesling Middle School Cafeteria (Focus: Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koomler parks)
- Tuesday, September 19, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge (Focus: Soldiers, Kiwanis-Teledyne, Larson-Danielson, Rumely and Unity parks)



While each of the sessions has a focus area, general comments about parks and recreation programming will be welcome as well.

Additionally, a meeting of community stakeholders, such as the City Council, Park Board and other community partners will be held Wednesday, September 20, at 5:30 p.m. at Park Office. The public is invited to attend this meeting but there will be no public comment.

All city residents are encouraged to take an on-line survey available at [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation) beginning Monday, August 28. The department wants the master plan to reflect the desires and needs of the community, therefore, the citizens' responses to these questions are very important.

For more information, call the Park Office at 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Facebook Posts

### Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

 City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department  
August 22 ·

We have started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. Public input is being sought to provide the framework and set the priorities for those proposed improvements. Check the flyer below for dates and times for public input sessions. We will also be uploading an on-line survey next week. We want the master plan to reflect the desires and needs of the community, therefore, the citizens' responses to these questions are very important. For more information, call the Park Office at 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov).



**City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
**5-Year Master Plan (2018-22) Public Input Sessions**

**Tuesday, August 29, 5:30 p.m. at Beechwood Golf Course**  
Focus: Beechwood Golf Course

**Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 83**  
Focus: Fox, Lindewald, Roes, Scott and Warsaw Parks

**Tuesday, September 5, 5 p.m. at Civic Auditorium**  
Focus: Civic Auditorium

**Wednesday, September 6, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge**  
Focus: Natural Resources and Land Use

**Tuesday, September 12, 6 p.m. at Civic Auditorium**  
Focus: Recreation Programming

**Wednesday, September 13, 6 p.m. at Kesling Middle School Cafeteria**  
Focus: Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koehler Parks

**Tuesday, September 19, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge**  
Focus: Soldiers, Kwanis, Teledyne, Larson, Danelson, Rumely and Unity Parks

**Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 p.m. at Park Office**  
Focus: City Council, Park Board, Community Partners (No Public Comment)

*On-line survey available at [www.cityoflaporte.com/116/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/116/Park-Recreation) beginning August 28 and continuing through September 19*

For more information, contact the La Porte Park and Recreation Department at (219) 326-9600, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/116/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/116/Park-Recreation)

3,370 People Reached

33 Reactions, Comments & Shares

19 Like	7 On Post	12 On Shares
1 Love	0 On Post	1 On Shares
1 Comments	1 On Post	0 On Shares
12 Shares	12 On Post	0 On Shares

146 Post Clicks

52 Photo Views	1 Link Clicks	93 Other Clicks
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#### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

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3370 people reached

Boost Post

7 1 Comment 12 Shares

Like Comment Share

# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
August 28

We will be conducting a public input session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Beechwood Golf Course (2222 Woodlawn Drive) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be Beechwood Golf Course. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

1314 people reached

Boost Post

1

1 Comment

Like Comment Share

1,314 People Reached

9 Likes, Comments & Shares

1 Likes 1 On Post 0 On Shares

6 Comments 4 On Post 2 On Shares

2 Shares 0 On Post 2 On Shares

48 Post Clicks

1 Photo Views 6 Link Clicks 41 Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
August 29

We will be conducting a public input session at 6 p.m. Wednesday at American Legion Post 83 (228 E. Lincolnway) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw parks. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

460 people reached

Boost Post

1 Share

Like Comment Share

460 People Reached

2 Likes, Comments & Shares

0 Likes 0 On Post 0 On Shares

0 Comments 0 On Post 0 On Shares

2 Shares 1 On Post 1 On Shares

15 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views 3 Link Clicks 12 Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 2

We have started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. Public input is being sought to provide the framework and set the priorities for those proposed improvements. Check the flyer below for dates and times for public input sessions. Please take the on-line survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPParksSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPParksSurvey). We want the master plan to reflect the desires and needs of the community, therefore, the citizens' responses to these questions are very important. For more information, call the Park Office at 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov](mailto:mschreiber@cityoflaporte.in.gov)

**City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
**5-Year Master Plan (2018-22) Public Input Sessions**

Tuesday, August 29, 5:30 p.m. at Beechwood Golf Course  
Focus: Beechwood Golf Course

Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 83  
Focus: Fox, Lindewald, Rees, Scott and Warsaw Parks

Tuesday, September 5, 5 p.m. at Civic Auditorium  
Focus: Civic Auditorium

Wednesday, September 6, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge  
Focus: Natural Resources and Land Use

Tuesday, September 12, 6 p.m. at Civic Auditorium  
Focus: Recreation Programming

Wednesday, September 13, 6 p.m. at Kesling Middle School Cafeteria  
Focus: Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koomler Parks

Tuesday, September 19, 6 p.m. at Cummings Lodge  
Focus: Soldiers, Kiwanis, Teledyne, Larson, Danelson, Rumel, and Unity Parks

Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 p.m. at Park Office  
Focus: City Council, Park Board, Community Partners (No Public Comments)

Please take the on-line survey available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPParksSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPParksSurvey) through September 19

For more information, contact the La Porte Park and Recreation Department at (219) 326-9600, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com](http://www.cityoflaporte.com) or [feedback@laporte.in.gov](mailto:feedback@laporte.in.gov)

**3,211** People Reached

**32** Reactions, Comments & Shares

<b>20</b> Like	<b>4</b> On Post	<b>16</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Love	<b>0</b> On Post	<b>1</b> On Shares
<b>6</b> Comments	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>5</b> On Shares
<b>5</b> Shares	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>4</b> On Shares

**81** Post Clicks

<b>25</b> Photo Views	<b>5</b> Link Clicks	<b>51</b> Other Clicks
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

<b>3</b> Hide Post	<b>1</b> Hide All Posts
<b>0</b> Report as Spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

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3211 people reached

Boost Post

4 1 Comment 1 Share

Like Comment Share



# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 4 ·

We will be conducting a public input session at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Civic Auditorium (1001 Ridge Street) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be the Civic Auditorium. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov)

446 people reached

Boost Post



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**446** People Reached

**0** Likes, Comments & Shares

**0** Likes **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Shares **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**5** Post Clicks

**1** Photo Views **1** Link Clicks **3** Other Clicks

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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## Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 5 ·

We will be conducting a public input session at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Cummings Lodge (350 Grangemouth Road) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be natural resources and land use. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov)

423 people reached

Boost Post

1



Like Comment Share

**423** People Reached

**1** Likes, Comments & Shares

**1** Likes **1** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Shares **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**4** Post Clicks

**1** Photo Views **2** Link Clicks **1** Other Clicks

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 11

We will be conducting a public input session at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Civic Auditorium (1001 Ridge Street) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be recreation programming. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

350 people reached

Boost Post



Like Comment Share

**350** People Reached

**1** Likes, Comments & Shares

**0** Likes **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**1** Shares **1** On Post **0** On Shares

**2** Post Clicks

**0** Photo Views **1** Link Clicks **1** Other Clicks

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 12

We will be conducting a public input session at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Kesling Middle School cafeteria as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be Kesling, Allesee, Clarke, Hastings and Koomler parks. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

356 people reached

Boost Post



Like Comment Share

**356** People Reached

**0** Likes, Comments & Shares

**0** Likes **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**0** Shares **0** On Post **0** On Shares

**2** Post Clicks

**0** Photo Views **1** Link Clicks **1** Other Clicks

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 18 ·

We will be conducting a public input session at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Cummings Lodge (350 Grangemouth Road) as part of the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. The focus of this session will be Soldiers, Kiwanis-Teledyne, Larson-Danielson, Rumely and Unity parks. For more information on the master plan process, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

411 people reached

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Like Comment Share

411 People Reached

2 Likes, Comments & Shares

0 Likes	0 On Post	0 On Shares
0 Comments	0 On Post	0 On Shares
2 Shares	0 On Post	2 On Shares

1 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	1 Other Clicks
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## Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
August 28

We need your input! We have started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. Public input is being sought to provide the framework and set the priorities for those proposed improvements. Please click on the link below to take the on-line survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/!LPParksSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/!LPParksSurvey). It should take about 15-20 minutes to complete. For more information on the 5-year master plan, visit [www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/136/Park-Recreation), call 219-326-9600 or e-mail Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber at [mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov](mailto:mshreiber@cityoflaportein.gov).

**City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
**5-Year Master Plan (2018-22) Survey**

Web survey powered by [SurveyMonkey.com](http://SurveyMonkey.com). Create your own online survey now with SurveyMonkey's expert certified FREE templates

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783 people reached

Boost Post

3

2 Shares

Like Comment Share

783 People Reached

7 Likes, Comments & Shares

3 Likes	3 On Post	0 On Shares
0 Comments	0 On Post	0 On Shares
4 Shares	2 On Post	2 On Shares

38 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views	23 Link Clicks	15 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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# City of La Porte 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan

Post Details

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**City Of La Porte Park and Recreation Department**  
September 18

Only three more days to take our on-line survey! We have started the process of preparing a master plan to improve parks and recreation opportunities throughout our city. Public input is being sought to provide the framework and set the priorities for those proposed improvements. Please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/t/LPParksSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/t/LPParksSurvey) to take the on-line survey. It should take about 15-20 minutes to complete and will be available through Wednesday. For more information on the 5-year master plan, call 219-326-9600 or visit [www.cityoflaporte.com](http://www.cityoflaporte.com).



## City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department 5-Year Master Plan (2018-22) Survey

Web survey powered by SurveyMonkey.com. Create your own online survey now with SurveyMonkey's expert certified FREE templates.

[SURVEYMONKEY.COM](http://SURVEYMONKEY.COM)

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2,216 people reached

[Boost Post](#)

Ken Allen, Bonnie Wilhelm and Karen Noll



Like    Comment    Share

**2,216** People Reached

**10** Reactions, Comments & Shares

**2** Like      **2** On Post      **0** On Shares

**1** Haha      **1** On Post      **0** On Shares

**1** Sad      **0** On Post      **1** On Shares

**0** Comments      **0** On Post      **0** On Shares

**6** Shares      **0** On Post      **6** On Shares

**48** Post Clicks

**0** Photo Views      **35** Link Clicks      **13** Other Clicks

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Outdoor Recreation  
402 W. Washington Street W271  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782  
317-232-4071 Fax: 317-233-4648  
[www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor)

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Mitch Feikes  
La Porte Park and Recreation Board  
250 Pine Lake Ave.  
LaPorte, IN 46350

Dear Mr. Feikes,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2018-2023 LaPorte Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2018 grant year**. A new plan will be due on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: [bbronson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bbronson@dnr.IN.gov).

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: [gbeiffuss@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:gbeiffuss@dnr.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Greg Beiffuss  
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner  
IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Mark Schreiber; Park Supt.