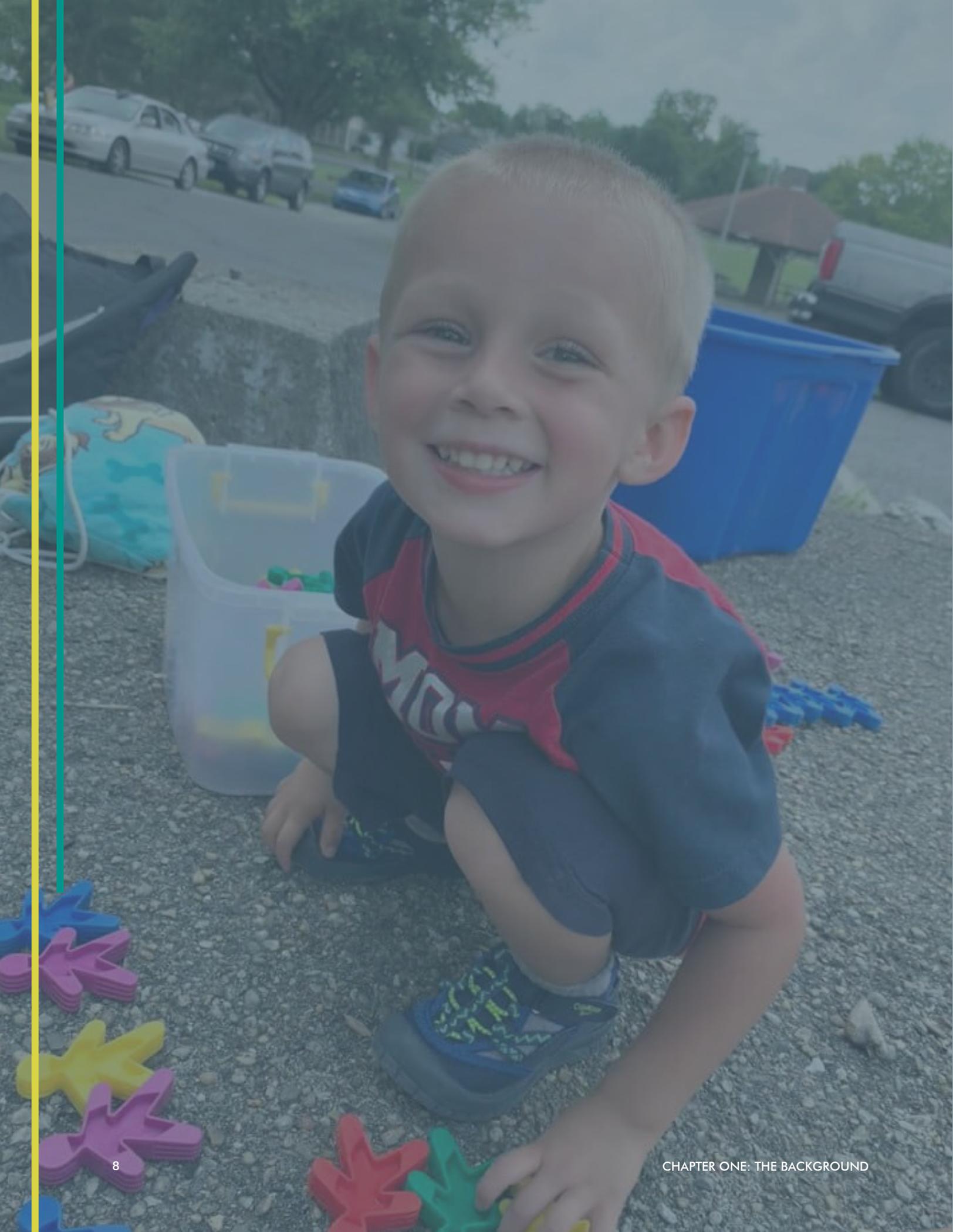


CHAPTER ONE

THE BACKGROUND





PLAN PURPOSE

The *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* is intended to build upon the community's vision to **GROW** the City's built environment, **CONNECT** the City's destinations, **PROTECT** the City's natural resources and **CELEBRATE** the City's offerings and accomplishments.

To stay competitive as both a place to live and work, the City of Richmond will need to rise to meet its new potential. In addition to the City's rich history, and natural and cultural assets, Richmond's parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs serve as critical building blocks for the future.

Beginning in 2018, Richmond leaders began a collaborative process to update the City's comprehensive plan. As the City's collective guidance document for future growth and development, the comprehensive plan serves as a roadmap for effective decision-making in both private development projects and community initiatives. *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*, the City's new comprehensive plan, was developed for the community, and citizen engagement played a huge role in the plan's development and review. Over the course of 12 months, the Richmond Rising movement was used to gather the input, ideas, concerns, and suggestions of hundreds of Richmond residents, business owners, and stakeholders. The plan resulted in 12 priority action steps that ranged from marketing efforts to long-range planning and development projects.

Today, Americans spend more time in outdoor recreational activities than ever before and the demand for recreation and leisure activities is increasing for nearly all age groups. Therefore, it was no surprise that two of the priority projects from the Richmond Rising process focused on planning for the ongoing success of Richmond's parks, open spaces and recreational programming options.

With the last long-range parks master planning document dating back to 2009, the *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* is the City of Richmond's opportunity to reflect on their successes, assess the current conditions, anticipate future community needs, and chart a realistic road map for the future of the City's parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs as well as the Parks and Recreation Department as a whole.

The City of Richmond is focused on maintaining and growing the city's quality of life, which is supported today by its diverse people, collaborative organizations, welcoming neighborhoods, and rich cultural amenities. This *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* is the City's chance to identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City. The *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* is intended to build upon the community's vision to GROW the City's built environment, CONNECT the City's destinations, PROTECT the City's natural resources and CELEBRATE the City's offerings and accomplishments.

The *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* outlines a 5-year vision for the development, improvement, maintenance and operation of the City's entire park and recreation system. While specific in its focus, it should also be seen as a complement to the City's 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan*. Together, the documents outline goals, strategies and action steps that allow all Richmond leaders, department heads, business owners, community stakeholders and residents to work together to grow the population and workforce, build systems that support the community, connect the city's destinations and districts, protect the region's natural assets, and celebrate Richmond's unique history and culture.

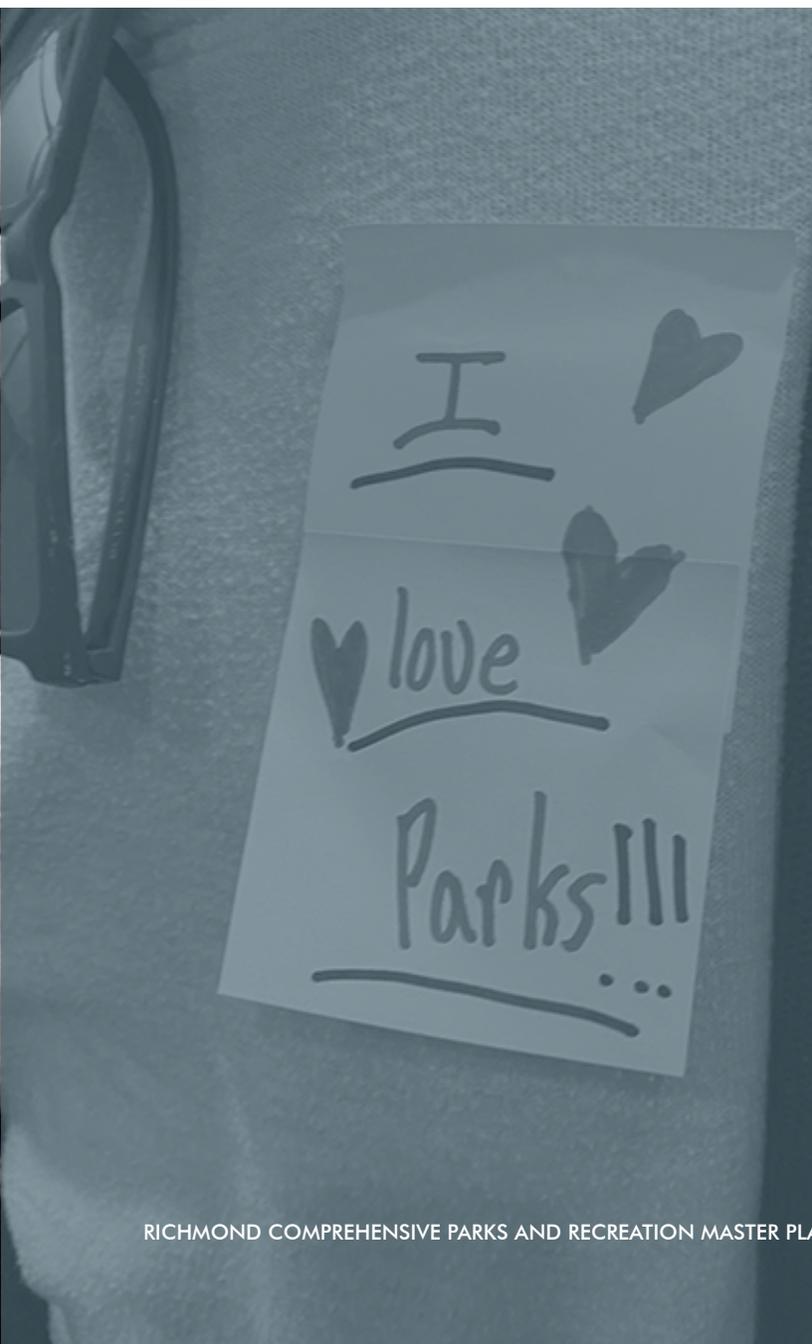
This 2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is the City's chance to identify how parks and recreational programs can become a critical tool in the revitalization and growth of the City.

WHY PLAN FOR PARKS?

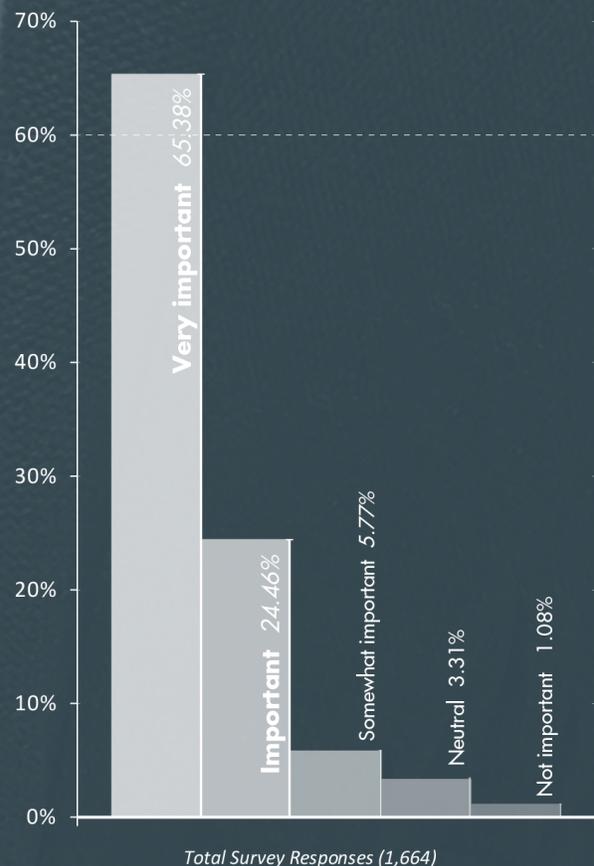
THE BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Throughout the *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* process, the City's parks, open spaces and recreational programs were identified as an asset to residents and a key factor in the City's current and future quality of life. Richmond's parks and open spaces allow residents to experience the City in new and different ways, and the recreational programs provide opportunities for nearly all age demographics to educate themselves, relax or find a creative outlet.

During the planning process for the *2020 Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan*, a community-wide survey was used to gather input on the City's parks and recreation system. Out of 1,748 survey respondents, nearly 90% stated that parks, open spaces and recreational services were important to the quality of life in Richmond.



How important are parks, recreation services and open spaces to the quality of life in Richmond?



*While individual residents can easily point to parks playing an important role in their life, it is sometimes difficult for them to pinpoint why. **Based on both national and regional research and key findings, parks, open spaces and recreational programs, can be easily tied to a city's economic value, a community's overall health and environmental wellbeing, and the enhanced quality of life community-wide.***

ECONOMIC VALUE

In addition to being one of the top three reasons businesses and residents use to justify relocation, parks, open spaces and recreational programs are also integral to the improvement of local tax revenues, balanced utility costs and the increased property values. Across the country, private properties that are within 500-feet of a park and/ or open space have shown a 5% increase in property values.¹ Depending on the size of the park and the available amenities, parks can also drive visitors to an area, which increases tourism spending at local businesses such as hotels, restaurants and retail stores.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Parks and open spaces offer a variety of health and environmental benefits. In addition to providing places for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together, parks are proven to improve air and water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife. Trees and green spaces within urban parks remove up to 7 million tons of toxins from the air annually at a value of \$3.8 billion to cities.² Parks and recreation programs provide low or no cost recreation alternatives that encourage physical activity to improve one's health and wellbeing. Physical activity can reduce or prevent many physical and mental health problems. Parks also reduce the costs of healthcare: maintaining a healthy weight saves \$1,500 per person in healthcare costs per year.² By making outdoor recreation more accessible and providing safe and attractive places for individuals and families to exercise and play, parks bring people and nature together.

¹ <https://conservationtools.org/guides/98-economic-benefits-of-parks>

² <https://cityparksalliance.org/about-us/why-city-parks-matter/>

Parks, open spaces and recreational programs have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community. Throughout history, parks and open spaces have been a central component of rural and urban cities, and this physical and emotional connection to parks and recreational opportunities continues to grow stronger. Ensuring that Richmond’s parks, open spaces and recreational programs are adequately maintained and improved over the next five years, will help to ensure the success and vitality of the City as a whole.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey estimates that 15 percent of children 6 to 19 years old are overweight or obese. Among 2 to 5-year olds, 1 in 10 is overweight or obese.³ Surprisingly, even in light of these frightening statistics, school districts across the country have been curtailing recess—or eliminating it altogether. Parks, trails, open space and recreational programs are an opportunity to supplement the more formal learning opportunities offered within any given school system.

City park systems offer children safe places to play outside of school hours, organize free or affordable facilities for engaging in health and wellness activities, and provide social opportunities and chances to connect youth to their peers. These open spaces, facilities and programs not only provide a series of formal and informal activities, but they offer the opportunity for children to prepare for the future. Through parks and park department offerings, the number of adverse childhood experiences, such as injury, depression and disease can be lowered across a community.

PROMOTING EQUITY

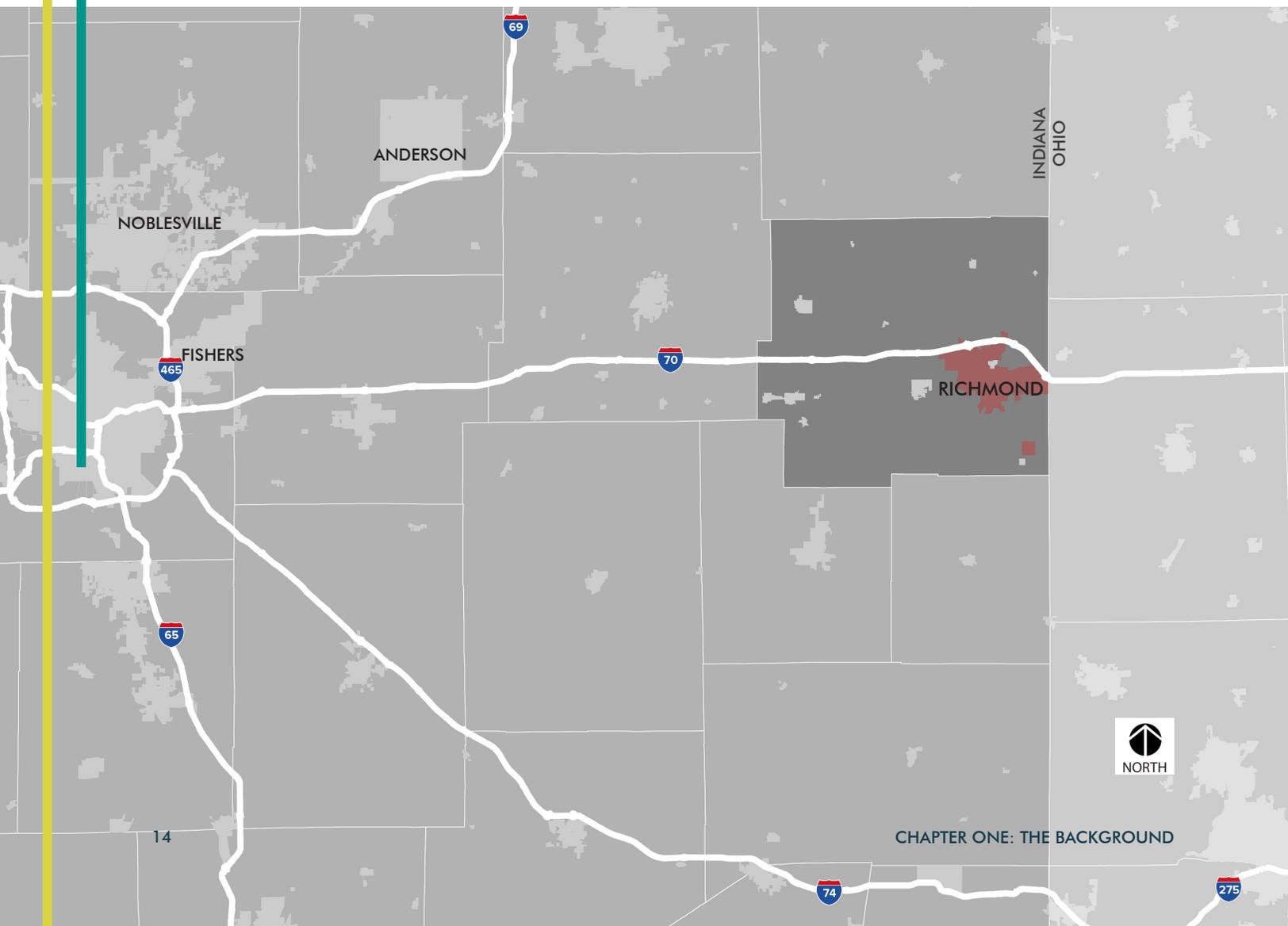
Parks, trails, open spaces and recreational programs are a physical reflection of the quality of life in a community. They contribute to the sense of place offered within Richmond. As a result, parks can enhance a community’s identity and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in any given area. Parks are inclusive spaces that even the playing field and provide opportunities for people to recreate and engage with one another regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation or income level.

³ “Prevalence and Trends in Overweight Among US Children and Adolescents, 1999-2000.” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 288(14),

SYSTEM CONTEXT

The City of Richmond has always been at the center of activity. As the county seat of Wayne County, and the only urban center in east Central Indiana, Richmond is the primary service provider for the larger region. Richmond's location on the border of Indiana and Ohio provides accessibility to Dayton, Ohio (45 minutes); Indianapolis, Indiana (60 minutes); and Cincinnati, Ohio (90 minutes). With Interstate 70 nearby and U.S. 40 and 27 running through the city, Richmond has always been and will continue to be the Eastern Gateway of Indiana.

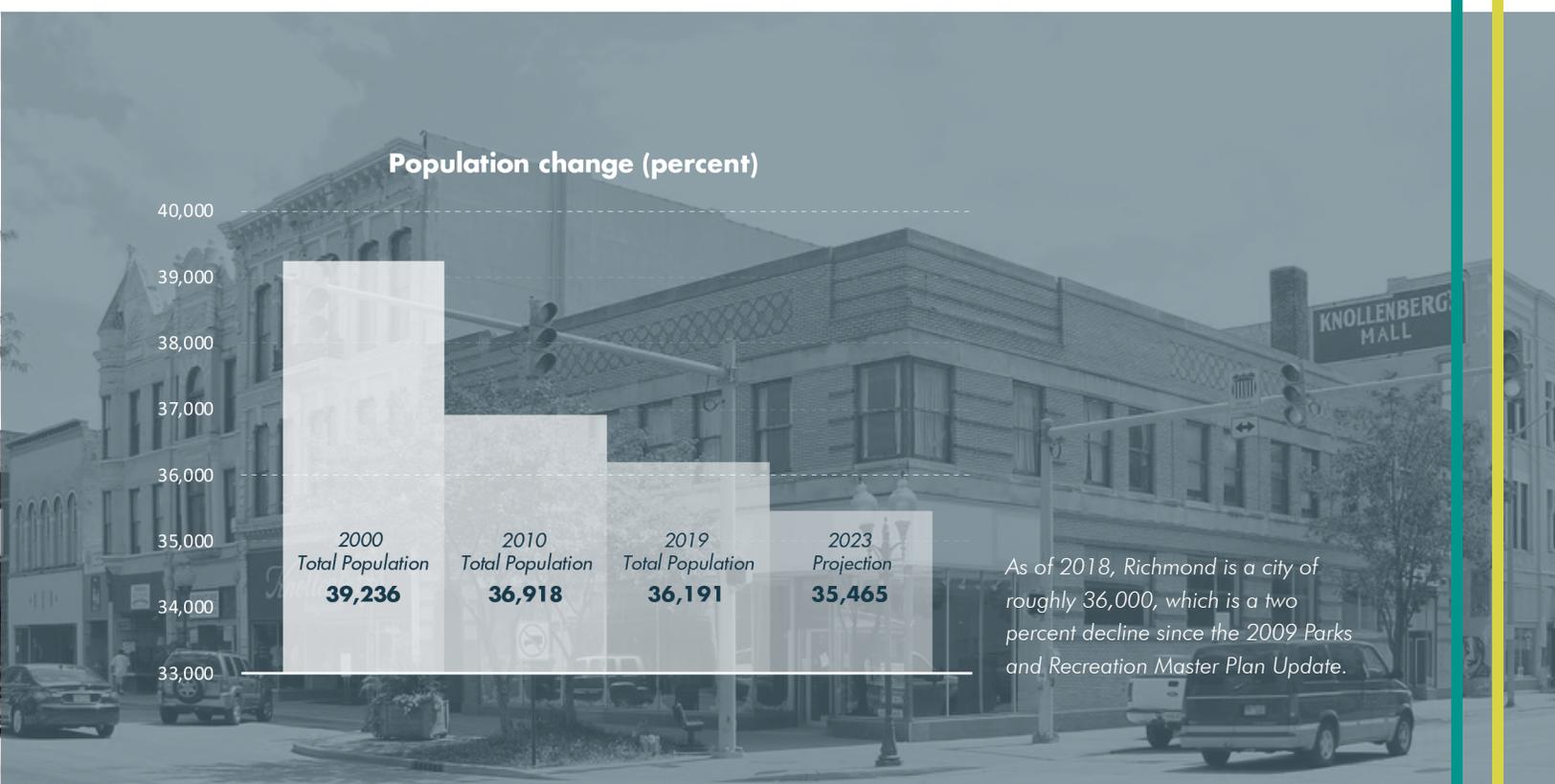
With a modest beginning as a settlement town along the Whitewater River to a terminal point along the National Road, Richmond has historically been a trading and transportation center for the Midwest. From those early years as a route through the Midwest, the city rose to become home to manufacturing giants such as Davis, Mo-to mower, Dille-McQuire, and F&N. In addition to its manufacturing ties, the city boasts a rich history in the arts and music. American architect John Hasecoaster and piano and phonograph manufacturer Henry Gennett both called Richmond home. However, the City wasn't just a place for manufacturing and music entrepreneurs; Richmond also fostered a love and appreciation for horticulture. Historically, the city has been the home to premier rose growers and marketers of cut roses, such as Hills Roses, since 1881.



Today, the City of Richmond is at a critical turning point. As of 2018, Richmond is a city of roughly 36,000, which is a two percent decline since the 2009 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*. The transportation routes and river access points that once set Richmond apart from other communities, have become barriers to growth and community prosperity. For years, the City, not unlike many other Midwestern communities, focused on vehicular transportation routes that drew interest away from providing connectivity for pedestrians or cyclists. Evolving development patterns took the focus off of the community’s core, leaving central areas such as downtown and along the riverfront to fend for themselves. As the economy flourished and then receded, the City’s job markets fluctuated, relocated, or simply closed. The City of Richmond is committed to facing these national, regional and local challenges head on.

As a component of the 2019 *Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan* process, City leaders, community stakeholders and the general public stated their commitment to maintaining and growing the city’s quality of life by relying on the City’s diverse people, collaborative organizations, welcoming neighborhoods, and rich cultural amenities. The City’s parks, open spaces and recreational programs are a defining component of the City’s Action Plan for change.

To be successful, the 2020 *Richmond Comprehensive Parks Master Plan* needs to account for the city’s past, present, and future. While this planning document is focused on identifying a path for the future, it is imperative to start with a solid understanding of where the department has been, what they have been working on and where the largest achievements have occurred. This requires an understanding of the history of the community and the parks system, past and ongoing planning efforts at both a City and system level, and a celebration of past and current achievements. These elements greatly inform and provide direction for the development of the Department’s aspirations and goals for the future.



PARKS HISTORY

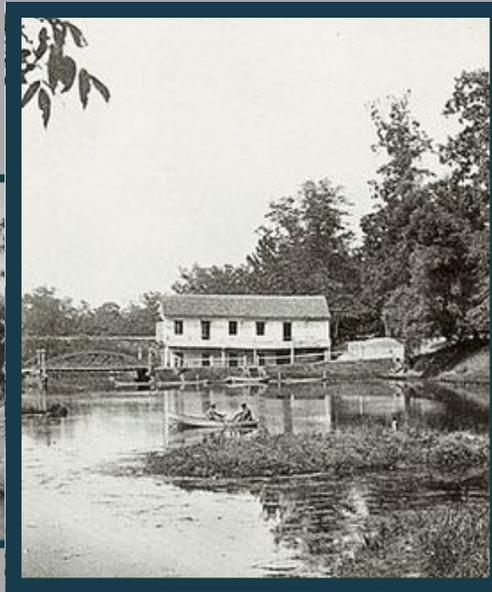
The Richmond Park System owes its beginning to the generosity of the citizens who lived on South 10th Street. These individuals built their homes with a park area in mind. The houses on each side of 10th Street were set back far enough to leave a large area, which was covered with huge elm trees. Located on South 10th Street, between South A and South C Street, South 10th Street Park was given to the City when the area was first platted in 1853.

Since the neighbors of South 10th Street established South 10th Street Park, the Richmond Parks System has grown and expanded exponentially. The following timeline tracks significant events in the growth and development of the City's Parks and Recreation system from 1853 to today.

1850

1853- South 10th Street Park

South 10th Street Park platted and dedicated to the City of Richmond.



GLEN MILLER PARK

Far Left Source: The Indiana Album
Left Source: Wayne Co. Tourism Bureau
Bottom Source: Morrison Reeves Library
Right Source: Richmond Rose Garden



1885- Glen Miller Park

City of Richmond purchased one hundred eighty-four acres of wooded land east of Richmond from Colonel John Miller. The last name of the former owner and the natural topography of the area provided the name for the park, "Glen Miller."

1899- Swicker Park⁸

Swicker Park was named in honor of the then President of the Southside Improvement Association. Prior to being established as a park, the area was once a cemetery and in 1885 the remains of those buried here were moved to other locations.

1880

**Estimated. The actual date of establishment is unknown.*

1900

1900- Former Starr Park

Formerly located on both sides of the North 10th Street overpass, the 1.4-acre Starr Park dates back to the beginning of the city. This park was sold in 1952.

1911- Mary Scott Park

Originally part of the Peacock Farm, the City purchased the 4 acres located off West Main on NW 7th Street for \$3,000 in an effort to establish a park within each area of the City. Named for avid park volunteers Frank and Mary Scott, the site was furnished with a ball diamond and a log cabin for City Girl Scout troops.



MARY SCOTT PARK

Left Source: City of Richmond

DON MCBRIDE STADIUM

Right Source: Pal Item



Clear Creek Park

Above Source: Earlham College

1936- Clear Creek Park

The 39 acres was acquired from Earlham Cemetery Association for \$1,400 in the early 1900's. It was immediately developed by the Parks Department with the installation of horseshoe courts, softball diamonds, and the Municipal hardball stadium.

1937- McBride Stadium

The ballpark has hosted four minor-league baseball teams over the years including the Richmond Roses (1946-48), the Richmond Robins (1949), the Richmond Tigers (1950-52) and the Richmond Roosters (1995-2005), as well as the Richmond High School, Seton Catholic Cardinals and Earlham College teams.

1930

1950

1952- Former Starr Park Property Sold

The land, including the former Hoover Cemetery was purchased by the State of Indiana to facilitate the construction of the North 9th Street overpass. The remaining land, which was not used for overpass right of way, was given back to the City of Richmond and is now maintained as open space.

1956- Joseph H. Hill Memorial Park

Joseph H. Hill leased 7 acres of land at the corner of Peacock and NW 13th Street. The land, and its constructed fields were home to the local Little League Ball Park and is home to the Richmond Evening Optimists Youth Programs.

Joseph H. Hill Memorial Park

Left Source: Google Earth Imagery

Middlefork Reservoir

Bottom and Right Source: City of Richmond
Far Right Source: Google Earth Imagery



1960- East Side Lions Park

Formerly the Starr School, the land was donated to the parks department for the purpose of building a neighborhood park in the area of North 15th Street between C and D Streets. The Richmond Lions Club donated \$3,500 for the development of amenities such as a playground, basketball court and backstop. Today, local neighbors refer to this park as 'Starr Park'.

1961- Berryfield Park

Located at the far north edge of a housing development, the site provides recreation on a limited scale to local area residents.

1962- West Side Lions Park

Formerly the site of Sevastapol School the site was purchased for the Richmond Community School system in a continued effort to give neighborhoods a park within walking distance for their children. The local Lions Club was instrumental in the development of this park by donating \$2,300, which paid for site amenities including a basketball court, playground and small baseball diamond.

1963- Middlefork Reservoir

The 400 acres of land has been leased to the City by the American Water Works for recreational purposes. In an ongoing partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the property offers an excellent 177-acre lake for limited recreational uses including fishing and boating.

1960

1965

1966- Freeman Park

Located at the foot of the North 12th Street hill along the middle fork of the Whitewater River, this 31-acre park was gifted to the City by Mrs. Gath Freeman through Earlham College.

1968- Scantland Park

The George Scantland Park was donated by Mr. George Scantland through the Richmond Lion's Club. Located on South 13th and 14th Streets, off of S H Street, it is now a Richmond Power and Light substation site.



FREEMAN PARK
Left Source: TSWDG



SPRINGWOOD LAKE PARK
Left and Above Source: Google Images



1970- Springwood Lake

Located on Waterfall Road off Sheridan Street and between US 27 North and the C & O Railroad, this property was developed by Will Rodefield as early as 1933 and was later sold to the Conservation Club in 1948. The property was a center of activity within Richmond and only declined when swimming was prohibited and Conservation Club membership declined. Obtained by the City through a Federal Open Space Grant, the property includes a large shallow lake as well as a natural swamp area for study.

1972- Cordell Municipal Pool

In an effort to provide a well-rounded recreation program for the city, an Olympic size swimming pool was built at the corner of West Main and 13th Street within the Clear Creek Park property.

1972- Highland Lake Golf Course

Designed by John Budzale, Highland Golf Course was established north of Richmond and east of US 27 on Highland School Road and provides a modern 165-acre, 18-hole golf course.

1970

1975

1976- Bicentennial Park (Fossil Park)

Located off of Bridge Avenue within the flood plain of the Whitewater River, the purpose of the park is to provide for passive recreational and educational pursuits through access to the peaceful environment of the river and the geological significant outcropping of limestone in the river valley.

BICENTENNIAL PARK

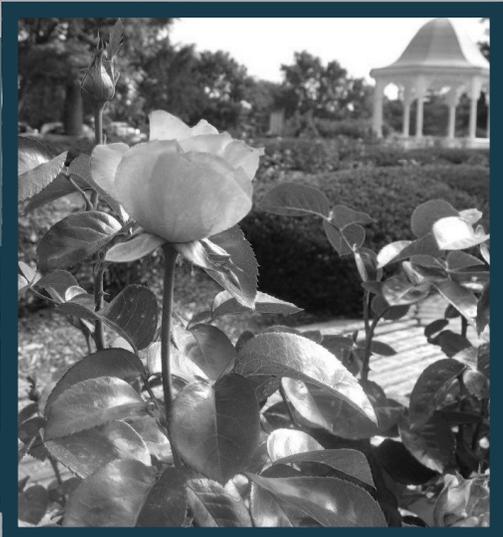
Left Source: TSWDG

RICHMOND ROSE GARDEN

Bottom and Right Source: Richmond Rose Garden

CARDINAL GREENWAY

Far Right Source: Pal Item



1987- Richmond Rose Garden

The first public rose garden was planted to honor the City's rose heritage. The Richmond Rose Garden, the Richmond Friendship Garden, and E.G. Hill Memorial Rose Garden still exist today in Glen Miller Park.

1993- Cardinal Greenway

Cardinal Greenway, Inc. purchased 60 miles of former railroad corridor from CSX Transportation Corporation to develop a rails-to-trails recreational linear park covering five counties in Eastern Indiana: Wayne, Randolph, Henry, Delaware, and Grant. The purchase paved the way for the future corridor, which now spans 62 miles from Marion through Muncie to Richmond in East Central Indiana and as of 2018 was the state's longest rail-to-trail project.

1990

2000

2000- Veterans Park*

Located near Main Street and Sim Hodgkin Parkway on the east side of the Whitewater River. The park, which honors area veterans for their service to their country, was established during Sally Hutton's mayoral administration during which time she showed commitment and support to the park property by investing in the area's improvements and long-term maintenance.



VETERANS PARK

Left Source: Wayne County
Bottom Source: Wayne County



STARR GENNETT AREA

Above Source: Wayne County

2007- Starr Gennett Building

In 1916, a six-story building for the manufacture of phonographs and records was erected and was subsequently given to the City in later years. In 2007, as part of its ongoing effort to promote and celebrate the music legacy of Starr Piano Company and its subsidiary, Gennett Records, the Foundation inaugurated the Gennett Records Walk of Fame to honor those who recorded for Gennett Records and whose work contributed significantly to American history.

2009- Playful City USA award

Playful City USA was a recognition program, running from 2007 to 2017, that recognized and honored the cities and towns that ensured kids in their communities, particularly kids from low-income families, were getting the balanced and active play they need to thrive. Richmond was recognized for making the community a national role model, leading the way for play, and growing the next generation of healthy and productive adults.

2005

2010

2013- Wernle Park

Located at east of S 13th Street on Wernle Road, the site was acquired through land donations from Wernle Homes, Inc. Development. Currently the 27-acre site features a retention pond which is managed by the Richmond Sanitary District.

WERNLE PARK

Left Source: Google Earth Imagery

JACK ELSTRO PLAZA

Bottom and Right Source: City of Richmond
Far Right Source: Visit Indiana



2015- Playful City USA award

2015- Jack Elstro Plaza

Located at 47 N. Sixth Street, Jack Elstro Plaza opened to the public nearly two years after being documented as a Stellar Communities project through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Stellar Communities program. The park is named for longtime Richmond Common Council member Howard "Jack" Elstro, who died in July 2014.

2015

2016

2016- Playful City USA award

2016- Riverside Trail (National Road Heritage Trail)

In partnership with Richmond's Society for the Preservation and Use of Resources (SPUR), a paved 10-foot-wide trail from North 12th Street to North 24th along the East Fork of the Whitewater River and a trail head were constructed through a Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trail Program grant.

2017- Playful City USA award

2020

2021 Whitewater Gorge Connector Trail

By the end of 2021, the Whitewater Gorge Connector Trail will provide a paved connection from the north end of the Whitewater Gorge Trail to the South end of the Cardinal Greenway.



RIVERSIDE TRAIL

Left Source: Wayne County

The Loop

Bottom Source: City of Richmond



WHITewater GORGE TRAIL

Above Source: Wayne County

2019- The Loop

A multi-modal connectivity project included in the City's 2013 Stellar Communities Strategic Investment Plan, "The Loop" consists of a protected bike path to the south side of East Main Street from First to Seventh streets, the west side of North Seventh Street from East Main to Fort Wayne Avenue and the east-side of North 10th Street from the 10th Street Park to North E Street. Phase Two, which consists of bike paths running along Fort Wayne Avenue, North E Street and East Main from Seventh to 10th streets, is anticipated to be complete by 2022.

2019

ONGOING WORK

PREVIOUS PLANS/ INITIATIVES SUMMARY

Richmond has a long and rich tradition of community and facilities planning. This timeline serves as a graphic representation of the efforts put forth by the community to guide, and prepare for future development and redevelopment opportunities. While each plan was thoroughly reviewed for the wealth of knowledge it offers, this timeline serves to highlight the overarching purpose of each document.

2006

City of Richmond Comprehensive Plan 2006- A document that was being used as a policy guide for making informed decisions that affect the community, the City's previous comprehensive plan identified economic development, job creation, physical appearance of the community, community services, community resources, and sense of City identity and pride as the six most pressing issues during the time the plan was completed.

2009

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2009-2013- A guide for providing parks and recreation in and around the City of Richmond, this document's action plan outlines strategies for 5 categories including facilities, services, markets, community, and stewardship.

2011

Transportation Plan 2011- The plan establishes a vision to, "provide a framework for an integrated multi-modal transportation system that will guide City policies and priorities and improve the quality of life in Richmond." The framework is one that centers on the creation of a complete streets system where transportation planning evolves, becoming less automobile-centric.

2013

2013 Stellar Strategic Investment Plan- A regional planning process that resulted in earning the Stellar Communities designation in 2013, the Mission Statement reads, "Positively enhance the quality of life for the entire region by making improvements in the district, leveraging strategic partnerships and creating gateways to surrounding emerging districts for sustainable quality living and economic vitality." The strategic investment plan outlines 10 projects including the creation of Elstro Plaza; rehabilitation of the former YMCA building into Music City Place senior apartments; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along East Main, Seventh and 10th streets; facade work along East Main Street; owner-occupied home rehabilitation in the Vaile neighborhood; and development of downtown living spaces.

2014

2014 Richmond Farmers Market: Recommendations for Revitalization-

In response to the City's 2013 Stellar Communities designation, seniors from Earlham College's Environmental Studies program collaborated with City officials to identify recommendations and best practices to assist the City's strategic planning and decision-making process for the future Farmer's Market.

2015

Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan 2015- This plan builds upon the success of the Cardinal Greenway and aims to provide a complete system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The purpose is two-fold: first, to further non-vehicular transportation and recreation; and second, to improve the local quality of life offered by the City of Richmond.

2018

2018 Middlefork Master Plan- Seniors from Earlham College's Environmental Studies program collaborated with Richmond Parks and Recreation Department staff to define revitalization needs at Middlefork Reservoir. The report focused on identifying site challenges and City wants and needs through a community engagement process.

2019

2019 Richmond Rising: A Community Action Plan- The Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan serves as the City's comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan is a guidance document for future growth and development over the next 10 to 20 years. It serves as a roadmap for effective decision-making in both private development projects and community initiatives for the public good. Key components of the Comprehensive Plan include a snapshot of current conditions, a vision for the future, and recommendations of how to achieve the vision and goals outlined within the document.

CARRYING FORWARD THE MOMENTUM

SYSTEM AND DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The City not only has a rich parks and planning history, but the Parks and Recreation Department has been gaining momentum since the completion of the *2009 Richmond Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*. This momentum has allowed for an increase in park property, linear feet of trails, and park programming opportunities and attendance. This momentum has not only fueled the department over the last decade, but it will continue to drive Department leaders and staff forward into the future.

While the accomplishments of both the Parks and Recreation Department's teams and individuals are numerous, in a presentation to Richmond Common Council in early 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department highlighted twelve transformative projects completed in 2019 throughout the City.

Center City

Construction of the first phase of Richmond's Loop was completed and the Parks and Recreation Department immediately began providing ongoing maintenance services. Additionally, the year-round maintenance and growing operations provided by the floral team ensured that planters and planting beds within Center City were visually appealing.

Richmond Senior Center

Currently providing for approximately 1,000 members, the Richmond Senior Center received facility and amenity improvements such as paint, furniture, and HVAC units. Outdoor improvements were undertaken as well including tree and landscape pruning and cleaning of pickleball courts.

Whitewater Gorge

Specifically, within Veterans Park and the Starr Gennett area, improvements have been made to site landscaping and site security systems. Additionally, to increase the awareness and celebration of these key historic and cultural entities, the City has worked to increase programming opportunities by supporting programs such as the Richmond Shakespeare Festival and Memorial Day events.

Starr Park/ East Side Lions Park

Starr Park received minor improvements including a new shelter, grill and trashcans. Additionally, retaining wall improvements have been provided along the perimeter of the park.

Equipment

The Department was able to purchase new maintenance equipment including a mowing trailer and four new mowers.

Highland Lake Golf Course

Significant improvements were undertaken at Highland Lake Golf Course including new landscaping, new signage and building improvements that addresses the banquet room, bathrooms, and clubhouse. The course is home to many local high school teams and as of 2019 the IU East Girls Golf team as well as local high school teams.

Mary Scott Park

The park received minor improvements including a new ADA ramp, new safety fall surfacing around the swing set and the removal of the deteriorated concrete area in front of the cabin and retaining wall.

Elstro Plaza

The focus of 2019 has been to increase the use and programming of Elstro Plaza. The support of local events and celebrations including the International Food Festival, Chalkfest, outdoor movies and recreation opportunities such as the outdoor game tables have ensured that the plaza remains a fixture within the community.

Richmond Farmers Market

Participation by both vendors and the community has continued to increase at the City's Farmers Market. Since 2017 the total vendor sales have been reported nearing \$410,000 and City collected vendor fees are approaching \$36,000.

Clear Creek Park

As one of the City's flagship parks, the area received several improvements including eight new pickleball courts, perimeter drainage and landscaping improvements, and a new shelter with electrical service. The Cordell Municipal Pool and McBride Stadium also received needed improvements.

Middlefork Reservoir

New landscaping, new mulch and a new playground were key improvements at Middlefork Reservoir in addition to a new deck and repaired service center porch. Maintenance and amenity improvements were also conducted on the boat docks and slips in anticipation of the boat fleet coming in 2020.

Glen Miller Park

Improvements to key facilities and amenities took place including the bandshell, Rose Garden, Mack Shack and former golf course area, new recreational options such as the new gaga ball pit and music garden. Improved landscaping and the removal of invasive species also became a focus for the park area.



RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Prior to 1941, the parks department was under the sole guidance of the Mayor. On February 27, 1941 Mayor J. R. Britton appointed a Board of Park Commissioners for the first time. The Board was made up of four appointed members and was granted a budget of \$27,000 for the first year of operations. The Board's early efforts were directed toward contract negotiations for food and ride concessions at Clear Creek and Glen Miller Parks, the City's flagship properties. On August 1, 1983 the Richmond City Council adopted an ordinance (#28-1983), which established the Park Board under the provisions of Indiana Statute 36-10-3.

Today, The Richmond Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of four appointed individuals based on their interest in and knowledge of parks, open space, and recreational programming. In addition to the four board members, there is also one City Council liaison appointed to the group. Through monthly meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month and open to the general public, the Parks Board sets policy and gives direction to the park system and is directly charged with the stewardship of 23 parks, one municipal pool, five specialized facilities, numerous recreational fields, over 250 recreational programs and play amenities, five multi-use trails, and an operating budget of approximately \$3 million dollars broken down into six separate reverting and non-reverting funds.

Together the Parks and Recreation Board, city leaders, department staff and team members and community partners work to:

- maintain the City's parks, trails and spaces to the best of their ability;
- serve the community of all ages and abilities;
- provide positive quality recreational opportunities for everyone;
- be an inspiration of destination; and
- ensure that parks are at the forefront of why people visit or move to the City of Richmond.

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Board works collaboratively with staff to provide for the positive development and well-being of the Richmond community through the provision of parks, greenways, trails and recreational programming and facilities, while working in cooperation with other service providers and partners in the community to maximize all available resources.

Richmond Parks and Recreation Board Mission Statement

The Parks and Recreation Board works hand in hand with department staff on a daily basis to ensure that the City’s long and short-term goals around parks, open spaces and recreational programs are realized. While the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the various department teams are different and distinct, they can generally be separated into the following broad responsibilities.

TASK	Park and Recreation Board	Department Staff/ Teams
Long- term goals	Approves	Drafts, recommends and provides input and follow up
Short-term goals	Monitors	Establishes and carries out as a part of daily activities
Capital Purchases and Improvements	Approves	Researches, prepares requests and makes recommendations
Capital Investment Decisions (building renovations, leasing, expansions etc.)	Makes decisions and assumes responsibility	Researches and makes recommendations; Some members of staff can also sign contracts if given authority
Inventory and supply purchases	Establishes policy and yearly budget	Purchases according to board policy and maintains an adequate audit trail
Major repairs/ purchases	Approves	Obtains estimates and prepares recommendations
Minor repairs/ purchases	Establishes policy and yearly budget	Authorizes repairs/ expenses up to prearranged amount
Emergency repairs	Works with Department Leadership	Notifies Board chairperson and acts with concurrence from chair
Cleaning and Maintenance	-----	Sets schedule and preforms duties
Programming and amenity fees	Adopts policy	Develops and recommends fee schedules
Billing, credit and collections	Adopts policy	Proposes policies and implements action steps
Hiring of staff	-----	Approves all hiring
Staff development and assignments	-----	Implements development programs and assignments
Termination of staff	-----	Makes final determinations
Staff Salaries	Allocates line item for salaries in yearly budget	Researches and makes recommendations
Staff evaluations	Evaluates the Department Superintendent	Department Superintendent evaluates direct reports and direct reports evaluate other staff

Specific information on the roles and responsibilities of both the Parks and Recreation Board and the department staff can be found on the following pages.

RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

The Richmond Park Board, by ordinance, operates under the First-Class City Park Law. The State statute (36-10-3) establishes the executive department of public parks in First Class cities/towns and provides that the Board of Park & Recreation shall have exclusive government, management, and control of all park and recreation areas within the City/Town, subject only to the laws of the State.

The duties of the Board are outlined under SECTION 10 and are as follows:

- a) The board shall:
 - 1) exercise general supervision of and make rules for the department;
 - 2) establish rules governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public;
 - 3) provide police protection for its property and activities, either by requesting assistance from state, municipal, or county police authorities, or by having specified employees deputized as police officers; the deputized employees, however, are not eligible for police pension benefits or other emoluments of police officers;
 - 4) appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties;
 - 5) establish standards and qualifications for the appointment of all personnel and approve their appointments without regard to politics;
 - 6) make recommendations and an annual report to the executive and fiscal body of the unit concerning the operation of the board and the status of the park and recreation programs in the district;
 - 7) prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other executive departments of the unit; and
 - 8) appoint a member of the board to serve on another kind of board or commission, whenever a statute allows a park or recreation board to do this.
- b) In a municipality, the board shall fix the compensation of officers and personnel appointed under subsections (a)(4) and (a)(5), subject to IC 36-4-7-5 and IC 36-4-7-6.

Also under SECTION 11 the powers of the Board are outlined as follows:

- a) The board may:
 - 1) enter into contracts and leases for facilities and services;
 - 2) contract with persons for joint use of facilities for the operation of park and recreation programs and related services;
 - 3) contract with another board, a unit, or a school corporation for the use of park and recreation facilities or services, and a township or school corporation may contract with

the board for the use of park and recreation facilities or services;

- 4) acquire and dispose of real and personal property, either within or outside Indiana;
 - 5) exercise the power of eminent domain under statutes available to municipalities;
 - 6) sell, lease, or enter into a royalty contract for the natural or mineral resources of land that it owns, the money received to be deposited in a non-reverting capital fund of the board;
 - 7) engage in self-supporting activities as prescribed by section 22 of this chapter;
 - 8) contract for special and temporary services and professional assistance;
 - 9) delegate authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary;
 - 10) prepare, publish, and distribute reports and other materials relating to activities authorized by this chapter;
 - 11) sue and be sued collectively by its legal name, as the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board, with the service of process being had upon the president of the board, but costs may not be taxed against the board or its members in any action;
 - 12) invoke any legal, equitable, or special remedy for the enforcement of this chapter, a park or recreation ordinance, or the board's own action taken under either; and
 - 13) release and transfer, by resolution, a part of the area over which it has jurisdiction for park and recreational purposes to park authorities of another unit for park and recreational purposes upon petition of the park and recreation board of the acquiring unit.
- c) The board may also lease any buildings or grounds belonging to the unit and located within a park to a person for a period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. The lease may authorize the lessee to provide upon the premises educational, research, veterinary, or other proper facilities for the exhibition of wild or domestic animals in wildlife parks, dining facilities, a bathhouse, skating facilities, dancing facilities, or amusement rides generally found in amusement parks. A lease may be made for more than one (1) year only to the highest and best bidder, after notice that the lease will be made has been given by publication in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

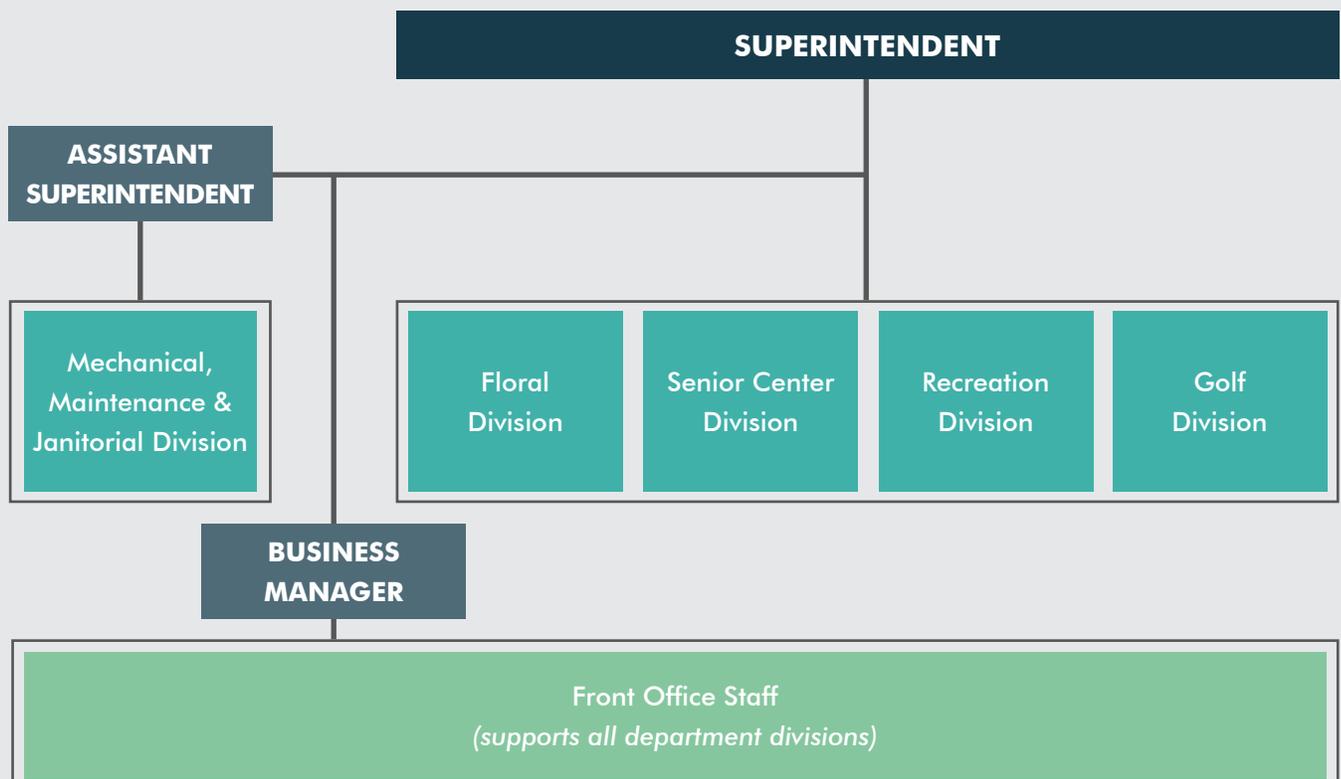
RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

While the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board serves primarily as a governing body, the Parks and Recreation Department staff ensures that each of the City's parks, facilities and recreational programs run smoothly on a daily basis. Today, the City's Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of 23 full-time staff members, and 10 part-time staff members. Additionally, up to 100 seasonal staff members are added over the course of the year to increase maintenance and operations capacities.

The Parks and Recreation Department is managed by a Parks Superintendent and an Assistant Parks Superintendent. Together, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent work towards communication with department staff, the Parks and Recreation Board, City Council, City Departments and the media. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are supported by in-office staff positions who work daily to provide complete customer service, whether in person, over the phone, or through written correspondence.

Currently, staff members are divided into six divisions, each serving a specific purpose within the comprehensive system. All department teams currently report directly to the Parks Superintendent, with the exception of the Maintenance and Janitorial Division who report to the Assistant Superintendent.

RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Golf Division

The Golf Division is responsible for overseeing the daily operations and maintenance of the Highland Lake Golf Course. In addition to the maintenance of buildings and grounds, the team is also responsible for programming, marketing and community-wide partnership development.

Floral Division

The Floral Division is responsible for cultivating, growing and maintaining the City's landscape beds and established planting areas. Additionally, the members of this team participate in community programming opportunities as related to landscaping and environmental protection.

Mechanical, Maintenance and Janitorial Division

The Mechanical, Maintenance and Janitorial Division is responsible for the daily care and upkeep of the City's parks, facilities and recreational amenities. Additionally, they are tasked with identifying and planning for long-range improvements and equipment upgrades.

Recreation Division

The focus of the Recreation Division is to provide quality, positive recreation opportunities, which enhance the well-being of the diverse citizenry of Richmond. Overseeing the organization and facilitation of the City's community programs including JUKO, Little JUKO, and JUKO Rocks! as well as events such as outdoor movies, the egg hunt and City Arts on Fire are critical responsibilities of this team. The City's Farmer's Market and Sports and Recreation Programs are also included as a critical component of the Recreation Division. The Recreation Division also serves as a liaison to community organizations such as City Arts, Family Earth Day and the EARN Program.

Senior Center Team

The Senior Center division oversees the daily operations and programming activities held at the Richmond Senior Center. The responsibilities of this group include oversight of the organization's Senior Council, facilitation of senior activity meetings, as well as presentations tours to guests, partners and potential donors.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

By teaming up, parks agencies can help cities do a better job of meeting citizens' demands for more and better parks in the face of limited public resources. Parks agencies can tap into a wide range of natural partners to support their activities. While City departments, community organizations and major businesses are obvious potential partners, the Department can also reach out to parents with children in parks-sponsored programs, participants in adult recreation programs, adults who use facilities on a casual basis, and neighborhood groups that advocate for city services. These represent a power base that can be mobilized for park maintenance, community programming and even local park advocacy events when needed.

The City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Department currently has partnerships with City departments, local businesses and community organizations. In most cases these partnerships include a donation of in-kind resources or supplies by the Department in exchange for supplies, resources and volunteer time. Most of these partnerships provide the Department with additional resources that are targeting maintenance efforts throughout the year. In addition to maintenance initiatives, some partnerships have resulted in additional funding being directed to the Department. Through direct donations of equipment including lighting, flagpoles, mulch, and stone, and funding solicitation on behalf of the Department, additional capital resources have been generated.

While many of the Department's relationships result in the sharing of resources, at times the Department provides services or resources without receiving a benefit in return. These instances, while few, result in the Department expending time, energy and resources in areas that may not be a recreational priority. With Department staff and budgets facing consistent pressure, it is important to make sure that Department resources are being used in strategic ways. By ensuring that existing partnerships can be strengthened and new partnerships can be created the resources and capacity of the Department can grow.

PARK PARTNERS

City of Richmond Street Department
City of Richmond Sanitation Department
Richmond Municipal Landfill
Richmond Fire Department
Richmond Police Department
Wayne County Fairgrounds
Midwest Industrial Park
Rose Garden Committee
Wayne County Soil and Water District
Center City Development Corporation
Downtown Business Group
Depot District
Cope Environmental Center
Hayes Arboretum
Wood Block Press
Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park
Committee
Star Gennett Foundation
Women of Wayne Republican Party
Rotary Club of Richmond
Richmond Friends School
Test Middle School
Hibbard Middle School
Recycling Center
Early College Collation
Wayne County Community Corrections
Richmond Pickleball, LLC
Richmond Lion's Club
Hills Pet Nutrition
Amigos Richmond
Seton Community Schools
Richmond Community Schools
Richmond Jazz/ Hitters Hangout, LLC

