



newton county parks and recreation board

NEWTON COUNTY, INDIANA PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

brook | goodland | kentland | lake village | morocco | mount ayr | roselawn

september 2016
final plan

This publication has been prepared by the directive of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board. For clarification or any additional information, please contact the following:

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Prepared August 2015 - June 2016

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

for

Newton County
2016 - 2020

Prepared for:

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board

4117 South 240 West
Morocco, Indiana 47963

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Resolution 2016-01

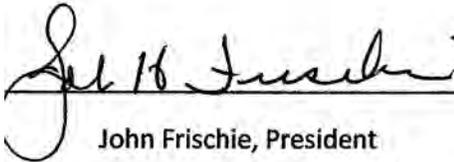
Whereas, the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board is desirous of providing a quality parks and recreation system for the residents of Newton County, Indiana; and

Whereas, in doing so, the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the importance of sound planning; and

Whereas, the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board has sought opinions and input from residents of Newton County in developing a five-year parks and recreation master plan; and

Whereas, the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board desires to make itself eligible to meet certain requirements for participation in grant programs.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board hereby accepts and adopts the 2016 – 2020 Newton County Parks and Recreation Master Plan as its official five-year parks and recreation master plan in accordance with guidelines set forth by the State of Indiana on this 13th day of June, 2016.


John Frischie, President

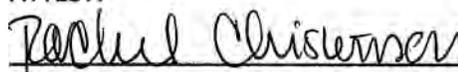

Doug Green, Vice President

Bethany Busboom, Secretary

Brent Klisiak, Board Member



ATTEST:

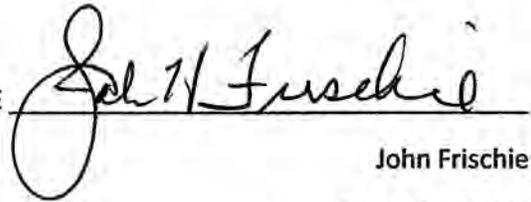


Rachel Christenson, Consultant

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 Newton County Parks and Recreation Board (Applicant) 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



John Frischie

Board President

SIGNATURE



Doug Green

Vice President

DATE: June 13, 2016

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CHAPTER 1: Introduction

Parks and open space are essential components to any community. The benefits of parks and open space, even in rural and agricultural environments, are diverse and immeasurably improve our quality of life. From strengthening our communities, improving our physical and psychological health, and making our county a more attractive place to live, the benefits of parks are truly endless.

Newton County, the 'youngest' county in the State of Indiana, is one of the few counties in the State of Indiana to have a parks and recreation board. This is the second Park and Recreation Plan prepared for Newton County, and the Park Board has the opportunity and responsibility to define its present park and open space system to create a better future for their children and generations to come.

Newton County is located in northwest Indiana. The county is bounded by Lake County and the Kankakee River to the north, Jasper County to the east, Benton County to the south, and Kankakee and Iroquois Counties of Illinois to the west. The county has a total area of 403 square miles, or 258,080 acres. The county seat is Kentland, which is located in the southern portion of the county.

The 2016-2020 Newton County Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared



Image 1.1: Newton County is located in Northwest Indiana, just south of Lake County.

by Mrs. Rachel Christenson, a parks and recreation plan consultant, and submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation (IDNR, DOR). This document will help the Park Board plan for parks and recreation for Newton County residents for the years 2016 to 2020.

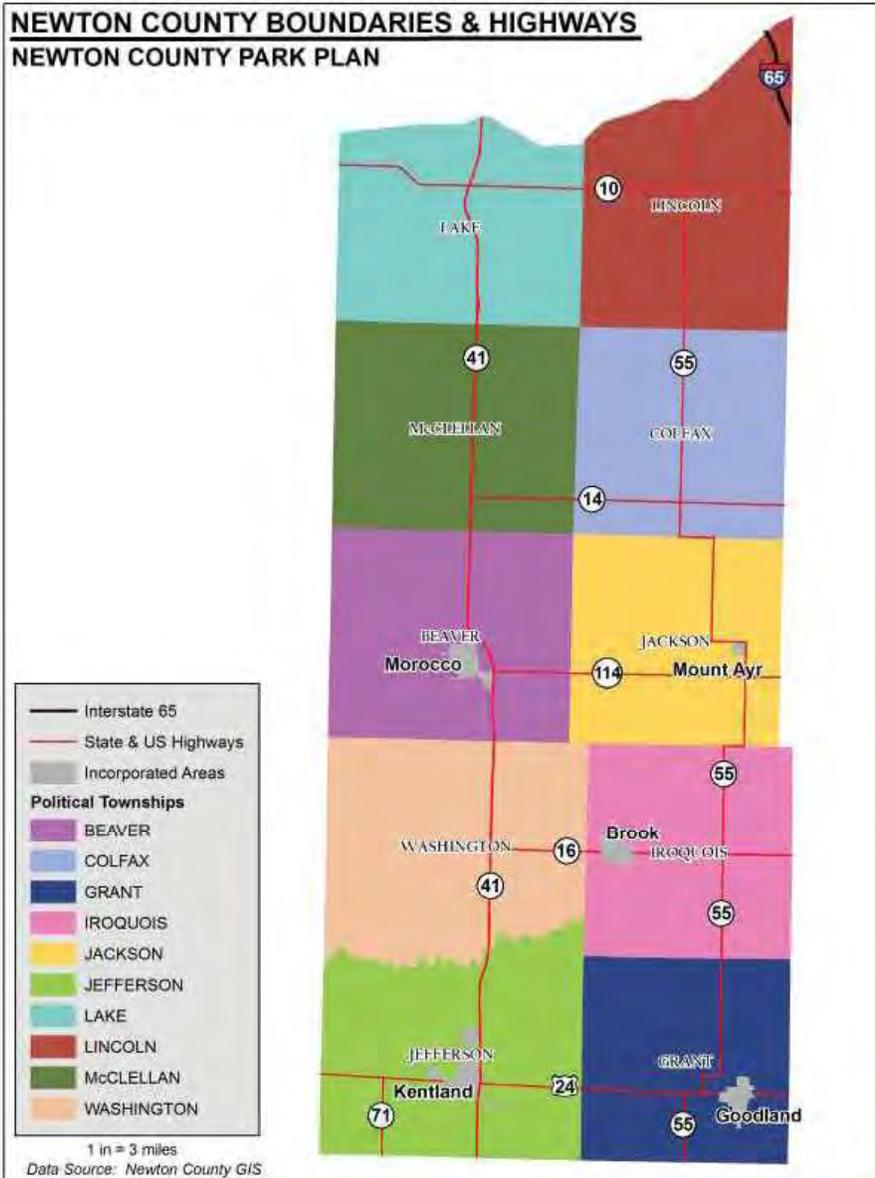


Image 1.2: Ten townships and five incorporated areas are located in Newton County.

Definition of Planning Area

The planning area of this park and recreation master plan are the official boundaries of Newton County. This boundary encompasses 403 square miles, or approximately 258,080 acres. The resident population in the planning area is 14,087 people.

Park Board Profile

History

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board was first established in 1985 by the Newton County Council. The board was given the power to acquire and develop sites, facilities, and park programs.

The Park Board consists of five members who serve four year terms. Two members are appointed by the judge of the circuit court, two members are appointed by the county council, and one member is appointed by the county commissioners. Additionally, a county extension agent or member of the county extension committee may serve as an ex officio member having all the rights of regular members. The Park Board meets publicly on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Morocco Government Center, located at 411 South 240 West in Morocco, Indiana.

The current Newton County Park Board consists of the following members:

Name and Position	Appointment	Address	Expiration Date
John Frischie President	County Council	507 North Ade Street Kentland, IN 47951	12/31/2018
Doug Green Vice President	County Council	6312 West 100 Morocco, IN 47963	12/31/2018
Bethany Busboom Secretary/Treasurer	County Commissioners	5307 West 950 North Lake Village, IN 46349	12/31/2015
Brent Klisiak	Circuit Court	3455 East 1100 North DeMotte, IN 46310	12/31/2019
Open			
Open (ex-officio member)			

Mission

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board is committed to providing facilities and services to meet the needs of the residents of Newton County. The Board is guided by the following mission: "The mission of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board is to partner with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to develop educational and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Newton County and the region."

Budget

Newton County does not have a dedicated tax rate for parks. For the past three years, the County Council has not injected any cash into the park budget. For 2016, the Park Board budget was approved by the County Council for \$30,885. However, as before, no money was appropriated. The Park Board is currently trying to address this with the County Council.

The Park Board generates some money by renting their current landholding for crop production. Income on this property varies from year to year. The Park Board also receives \$5,000 per year as a donation from the Newton County Landfill Partnership. The following table shows the Park Board budget for the past three years and the projected 2016 budget.

Year	Approved Budget
2013	\$0
2014	\$0
2015	\$0
2016	\$30,885

Staff

The Park Board contracts with an independent event coordinator who plans, coordinates, and conducts Park Board events. Duties include securing dates, locations, activities and sponsors, writing newspaper articles and blog posts, capturing photos, working with the Southshore Convention and Visitors Authority, and reaching out to similar groups and organizations. The event coordinator also serves as administrator for the Newton County Parks and Recreation Facebook page, website, and serves as a liaison to other groups and organizations, such as the Northwest Indiana Paddlers, Iroquois River Watershed, and town park boards.

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CHAPTER 2: Facilities and Programs

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board owns one 18 acre parcel in Roselawn, Indiana. However, this property is not developed or open to the public. Instead, the Board holds annual events that are held on properties managed by other entities.

Ice Fishing Derby

The Ice Fishing Derby is held at Murphy Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Children and adults are encouraged to attend. Prizes are awarded based on mystery weights in different age categories, and free prize drawings, snacks, and refreshments are also part of the event. In 2015, there were approximately 180 participants, which is the highest participation rate for this event since it began in the late 2000's.

Summer Fishing Derby

The Summer Fishing Derby is held at Murphy Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area the first weekend in June during IDNR's Free Fishing Weekend. Children and adults can fish without registration. Prizes are awarded based on mystery weights in various age categories. Free prize drawings, snacks, and refreshments are also conducted. In 2015, the Newton County Park Board

recorded 115 participants.

Everglades of the North Paddling Event

The Everglades of the North Paddling Event is conducted in July in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers at LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area. Special attention is paid to natural flora, fauna, and historical aspects of the river as highlighted in the Everglades of the North documentary. Filmmakers from the documentary have been on hand at past events relaying additional stories and information about the area's history.

Iroquois River Paddle

The Iroquois River Paddle event is conducted in coordination with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers and the Iroquois River Watershed Initiative. Participants enter the river at the State Road 16 Bridge next to the George Ade Historic Home and paddle down the river to the public access site at the Newton County Fairgrounds.

Blue and Gray Traveling Trophy

The Park Board is actively involved with encouraging the athletic departments at North Newton High School and South Newton High School by administering the Blue and Gray Traveling Trophy Program. Each high school varsity sport has a trophy, and each season, North Newton and South Newton have one game where they compete for their sports trophy. Trophies are kept in a special trophy case at each school.

Other events the Park Board is involved with, but do not organize, include the following:

Newton County Run Series

The "I Run This County" 5K Series consists of four runs at four different local events: the Morocco Homecoming, the Goodland Grand Prix, the Brook 4th of July, and the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair. Participants who complete three of the four events receive an "I Run This County" t-shirt. The series is funded in part by Newton County Step Ahead, grants from the Newton County Community Foundation, and the Coalition for a Drug-Free Newton County. Partners include Purdue Extension – Newton County, the Morocco Homecoming Committee, the Brook Youth Program, the Goodland Grand Prix Committee, and the Newton County Park Board.

Earth Night at the Fair

Earth Night at the Fair is hosted by the Newton County Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with Newton County Recycling and the Newton County Park Board. In 2015, the Park Board hosted a booth and sponsored t-shirts. Booths at the event allow participants to make crafts, participate in games, and get free snacks. A live animal show is the event highlight. Drawings for prizes are conducted throughout the evening.

Furthermore, the Park Board sponsors t-shirts for the annual 4H 5K, makes donations to each town's (or township's) little league program, and have purchased a time clock to be used by any Newton County organization or board for runs and walks.

Other Recreational Opportunities

There are several public recreational facilities in Newton County owned by entities other than the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board.

Newton County Fair Association

The Newton County Fair Association owns the Newton County 4H Fairgrounds located near Kentland, Indiana. Any member of the general public can become a stockholder in the Fair Association for a fee of \$15.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife

The LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area is located in northwestern Newton County. Originally established in 1952 as the Kankakee River State Park, it was determined later that the area was more suitable as a fish and wildlife area than a state park (LaSalle). The property was transferred from the Indiana Department of Recreation, Division of State Parks, to the Division of Fish and Wildlife in 1963 (LaSalle). Today, the LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area contains approximately 3,797 acres (Quality of Life). The site is bounded on the west by State Line Road, on the east by Highway 41, and bisected by the Kankakee River.

The Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area is also located in northern Newton County. The property supports a broad diversity of fauna including furbearers, waterfowl, upland game bird, shorebirds, song birds, and whitetail deer (Willow Slough). The site was purchased with money received from the sale of hunting licenses and funds received from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Willow Slough). The 9,956 acre site is also managed by the Indiana

Department of Recreation, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves

The Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve is located in the northern part of Newton County near the community of Lake Village. The 453 acre preserve is managed by the Indiana Department of Recreation, Division of Nature Preserves and is an example of the landforms and associated plant communities that were characteristic of the area south of the Kankakee River at the time of settlement (Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve). Prescribed fires are used to maintain the area.

There are several game bird habitat areas managed in the county. These include the following areas: the Prudential Game Bird Habitat Area northeast of North Newton Junior/Senior High School; the Clarence Triplett Game Bird Habitat Area and the Carlson Game Bird Habitat Area, both southwest of Morocco; the Donohue Game Bird Habitat Area in the southern part of the county between Kentland and Goodland; the Lyons Gamebird Habitat Area west of Mount Ayr.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for people and nature (About Us). The Kankakee Sands Preserve is a restoration project managed by The Nature Conservancy. The 7,800 acre preserve is home to some of the fastest declining bird species in North America and is considered a birder's and wildflower enthusiast's paradise (Kankakee Sands).

Prior to 1996, Conrad Savanna, Beaver Lake Prairie, and the Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area were separated by corn and bean fields. The properties were connected when The Nature Conservancy purchased 7,200 acres to create the Kankakee Sands Preserve (Kankakee Sands Project Office). In 2008, 400 additional acres were purchased to fill a gap between Kankakee Sands and Willow Slough (Filling Yet Another). These acquisition help unify the land and ensure plants and animals isolated on a single site will have a more natural bridge to interact, share genetic material and increase the vigor of the populations (Kankakee Sands Project Office).

There are three public trails that run through the Kankakee Sands property. The trails were opened in September of 2009 (Kankakee Sands Project Office). A Wet Prairie Trail can be found in the area called Unit K and features a 0.6 mile

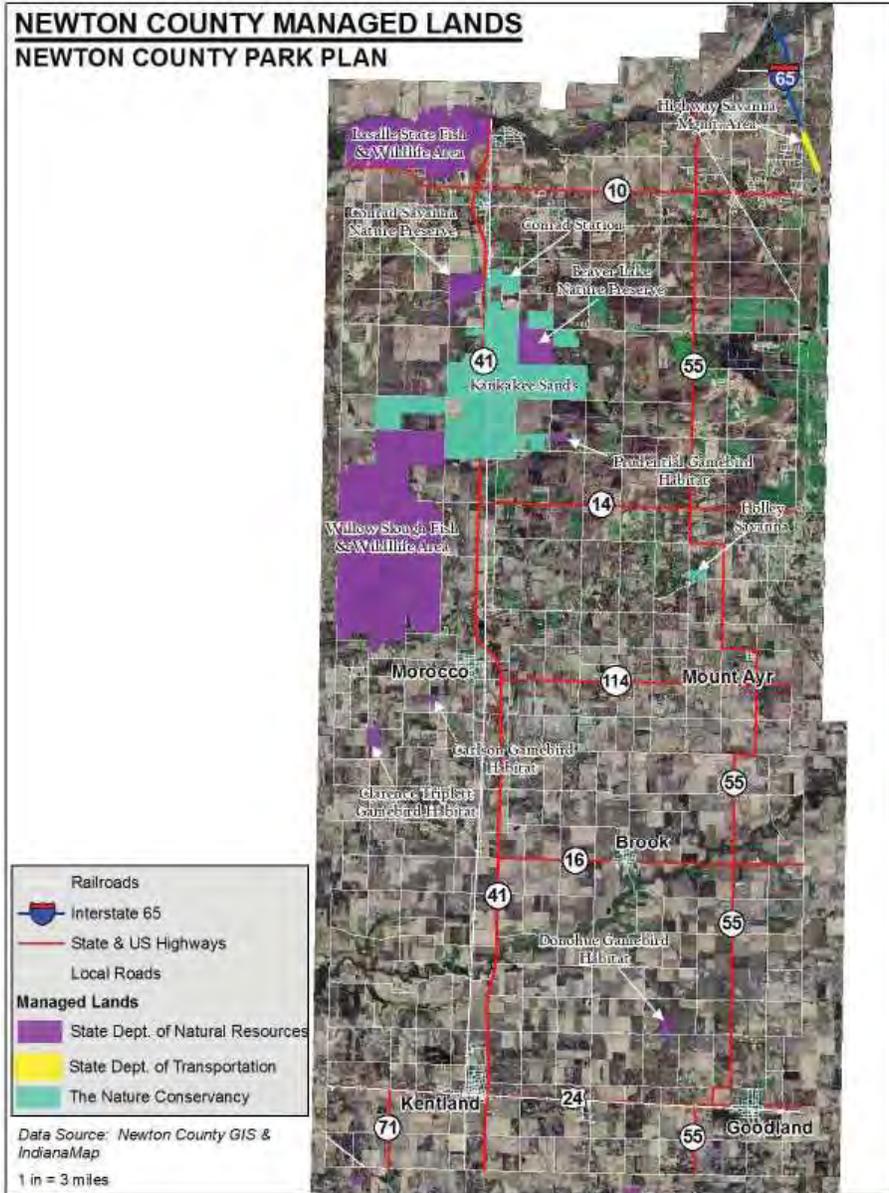


Image 2.1: The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy manage hundreds of acres of land within Newton County.

mowed trail through the wet prairie featuring sedges, wildflowers, amphibians, and an ephemeral pond. A Dry Prairie Sand Dune Trail can be found in the area called Unit B and features a 1.1 mile mowed trail through tall and short grass restorations and a dune with views of the Efromson Restoration and Beaver Lake Nature Preserve. Lastly, there is the Conrad Station Savanna

Trail, which is a 1.5 mile loop trail over moderate terrain that winds through black oak savanna, restored prairie, and the former community of Conrad.

The Conrad Station Preserve, located in northern Newton County near Lake Village, but east of Highway 41, is also managed by The Nature Conservancy. The 809 acre preserve includes the abandoned community of Conrad (Conrad Station Savanna). The town was originally platted in 1904, and remnant foundations from structures such as an old blacksmith shop, church, and school still exist (Conrad Station Savanna).

Lake County Parks and Recreation

Lake County Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages some parkland in northern Newton County as part of their Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park. The Marsh was originally acquired by Lake County Parks in 1977 with assistance from The Nature Conservancy (Grand Kankakee Marsh). Through the years the marsh has been developed and managed for wildlife as well as public use. Of the 2,069 acres owned by Lake County Parks, approximately 49 are located in Newton County (Grand Kankakee Marsh).

Municipal and Township Parks

There are also several municipal and township parks available in Newton County. These parks satisfy the recreational needs of the immediate population, whether it is a town or a township. The Town of Morocco and the Town of Kentland both have Park and Recreation Boards and well-maintained parks, baseball fields, and pools. Furthermore, the towns of Goodland, Brook, and Mount Ayr have public parks and war monuments. Lake Township and Lincoln Township in the northern part of the county both have baseball fields, soccer fields, walking paths and playgrounds.

Golf

The historic Hazelden Country Club is an 18-hole golf course situated on over 100 acres of land in Brook, Indiana. The course is adjacent to the historical home of George Ade and opened in 1910. The facilities include clubhouse, dining, and pro shop. The club serves members and the general public.

In the northern part of the county, the Lugene Links golf course is on the southern side of Lake Village. The 9-hole course offers a pro shop and is open to the public.

Camping

With the county located in such a rural area, it is no surprise there are an abundance of campgrounds. Of the largest include Oak Lake Family Campground in Fair Oaks and Lake Holiday Country Camping in Demotte. Both offer a lake, swimming, fishing, and recreational vehicle sites with full hook ups. Other campsites include the Pioneer Family Campground in Lake Village and Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in Morocco. There are two nudist colonies in the Roselawn area, the Ponderosa Sun Club and Sun Aura.

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CHAPTER 3: Natural Features and Landscape

Often times, parks are developed to preserve unique natural or landscape features found within a planning area. Newton County holds unique water features, mature woodlands, and uncommon geological features that may be worth preserving or developing into future park and recreation sites. Some conservation, preservation, and recreational providers have already acquired some of these unique landscapes.

Woodlands and Wildlife Habitat

Hardwood forests once covered several areas in the county, but the majority of this coverage has been removed to allow for agricultural production (US Department of Agriculture, 126). Because the land was extremely suitable for farming, most of the original hardwood forests were harvested for veneers and lumber, while some wooded areas were cleared without regard to market value or potential use.

Remaining woodland is scattered through the northern half of the county. Publicly owned woodland is primarily in the LaSalle State Fish and Wildlife Area and the Willow Slough State Fish and Wildlife Area.

The landscape for wildlife habitat has changed over the years. Buffalo and elk

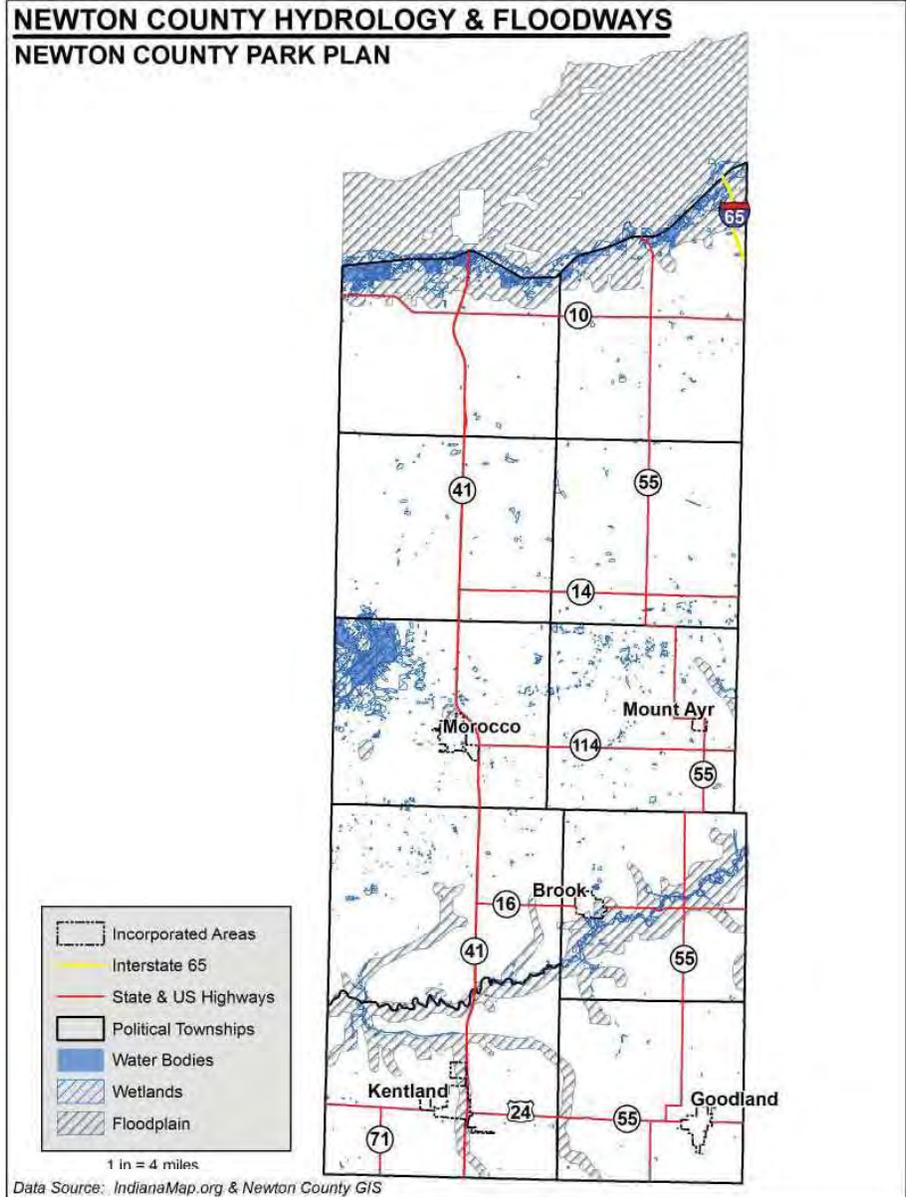


Image 3.1: The Kankakee River forms the northern border of the county, while the Iroquois River provides recreational opportunities in the southern party of Newton County. JC Murphy Lake west of Morocco is the only remaining lake in the county.

once roamed the county; forested areas housed deer, grouse and wild turkeys (US Department of Agriculture, 130). Wetland areas supported beaver, fox, mink, muskrat, and raccoon. Lakes were filled with northern pike and buffalo; Shallow water areas were inhabited by ducks, geese, hill cranes, and trumpeter

swans (US Department of Agriculture, 130). The area supported predators such as cougar, wildcats, and wolves (US Department of Agriculture, 130). As habitat began to be converted to other uses, the numbers of all these animals declined.

Wetland and Water Features

Newton County lies within the Kankakee River drainage basin. The northern third of the county drains westward through the Kankakee River (US Department of Agriculture, 4). The Kankakee River forms the northern boundary of Newton County and was once part of a 'Grand Marsh' stretching from South Bend, Indiana to Kankakee, Illinois. The marsh contained approximately one half million acres of marsh and swamp land and at some points was thirty miles wide. In 1858, the first of several drainage ditches were dug lateral and parallel to the river, and eventually, the Kankakee River was dredged and straightened (Jasper-Newton Counties Genealogical Society, Inc, 9). The bending and meandering river, once 250 miles long from South Bend to the Indiana-Illinois state line, was reduced to a straight and narrow drainage ditch approximately 85 miles long (Jasper-Newton Counties Genealogical Society, Inc, 9). By 1915, the marsh no longer existed.

Beaver Creek drains much of the central part of the county. The east-central part of the county is drained by Curtis Creek, which flows east into Jasper County and empties into the Iroquois River. The southern part of the county is drained by the Iroquois River, which flows westward and empties into the Kankakee River in Illinois. Much of the county is poorly drained and farm drain tiles and drainage ditches are used in low-lying areas to improve this situation (US Department of Agriculture, 4).

J.C. Murphy Lake is the only major lake in the county and is part of the Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area.

Natural Resources

Soil is most likely the single most important natural resource in Newton County. Livestock and crops are marketable products that depend on soil.

In the 1830's, a rock formation was discovered in southern Newton County, just east of Kentland. This formation was the result of a great upheaval that occurred between 360 million and 400 million years ago and has baffled geologists (US Department of Agriculture, 4). The force was great enough to pick up beds of aged rock 400 feet in height and stand them vertically 1500 feet

above where they should normally occur (US Department of Agriculture, 4). The county has been listed as the location of one of nature's geological wonders in texts dating back to the 1830s. Two theories regarding the history of the rock have been developed; one is that the upheaval was caused by volcanic activity. The more accepted theory involved a large meteorite that crashed at the site (US Department of Agriculture, 4).

The formation remained untouched until the 1890's but has since become a source of raw materials for the building of county roads. Since 1946 the rock has supplied most the crushed stone and agricultural limestone for northwest Indiana and east-central Illinois.

The first quarry at this site began operation in the 1890s; since then two additional quarries were opened. The only quarry still in operation is the one that was established last. The stone quarry has been mined in 40 foot layers and one part of the pit is seven layers deep.

Topography and Geological Features

Newton County can be divided into four major physiographic areas: the Kankakee Outwash Plain, the Iroquois Moraine, the Iroquois Lacustrine Plain, and the Tipton Till Plain (US Department of Agriculture, 3). The following descriptions of each of the physiographic areas can be attributed to the Soil Survey of Newton County, Indiana, produced by the US Department of Agriculture.

The Kankakee Outwash Plain is characterized by level relief with low meandering sand dunes or ridges that occur irregularly through the northern part of the county. Sand dunes consist of windblown material and vary in height from 1 to 30 feet. Much of this land was originally covered by marsh and shallow bodies of water. Beaver Lake was located in the southwest corner of the Kankakee Outwash Plain.

The Iroquois Moraine crosses the county in a southwest to northeast direction in an area just south of Morocco to an area just north of Mount Ayr. The southern part of the moraine is characterized by rolling topography, while on the north side it gently undulates. Much of the moraine has a sand cap that varies from a few inches to three or four feet in thickness.

The Iroquois Lacustrine Plain is oriented in a northeast-southwest direction near the Iroquois River. The topography is generally level with occasional low sand ridges.

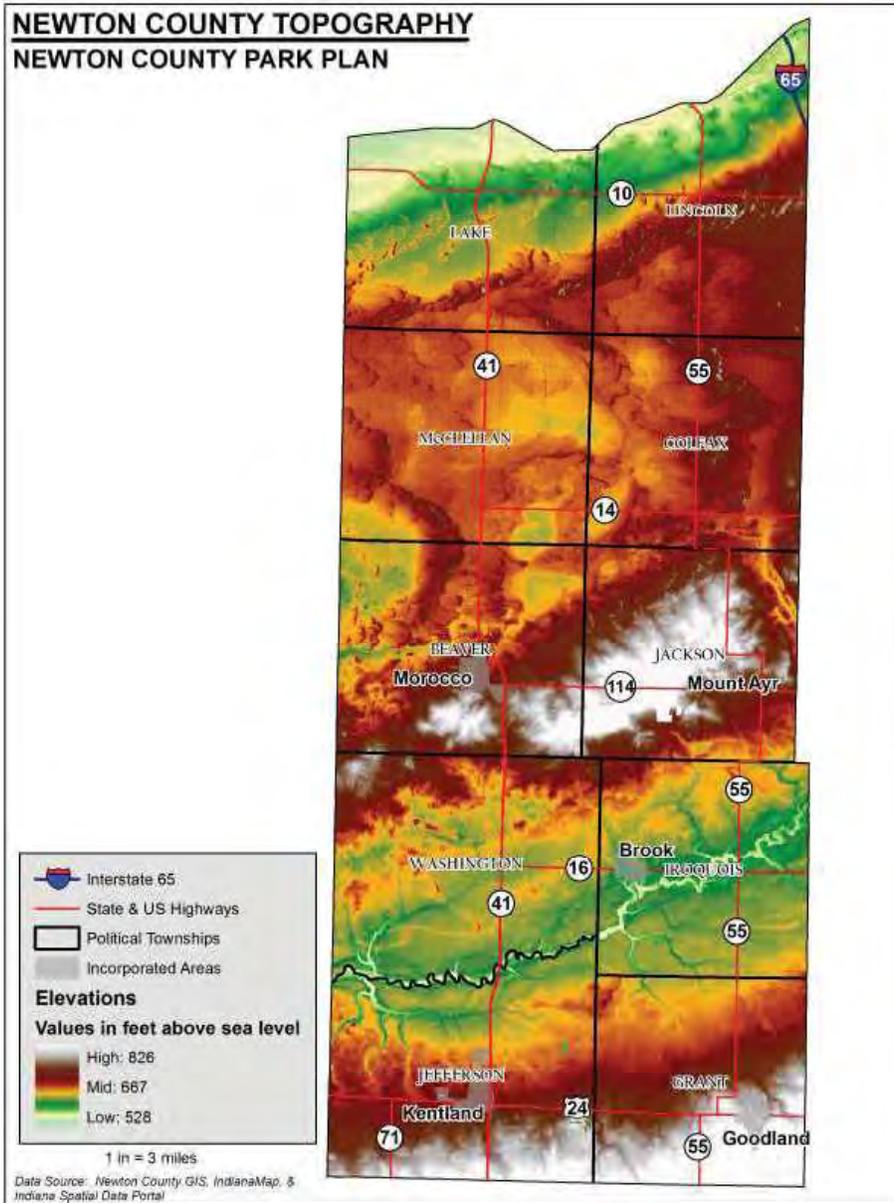


Image 3.2: Areas with the highest elevation include the center and far southern portion of the county. The lowest areas are found along the Kankakee River and the Iroquois River.

Tipton Till Plain covers the southern part of county. It is characterized by undulating topography except for an area along the Newton/Benton county line where the topography is rolling.

The average elevation of the county is about 655 feet above sea level. The highest point in the county is about 770 feet above sea level in Grant Township. The lowest natural point is in Lake Township, at 630 feet, where the Kankakee River flows into Illinois.

Soils

Nine different soil associations can be found within Newton County. A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils (Newton County Comprehensive Sewer and Water Plan, 25). It normally consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil, and is named after the major soil. The following information is derived from the county's Comprehensive Sewer and Water Plan.

The following soil associations are found in the northern part of the county:

Conrad, Wooten, Weiss Association: Found in the old Beaver Lake area, these deep, poorly drained, nearly level and coarse textured soils were formed in calcareous sands.

Maumee, Gilford, Rensselaer Association: This association, found along the Kankakee River, includes soils that are deep, very poorly drained, nearly level, coarse to medium textured soils that formed on broad sandy outwash plains.

Maumee, Newton Association: This soil association dominates the northern half of the county. Soils in this series are deep, poorly drained, and nearly level soils. They were formed from coarse to moderately coarse textured outwash plains.

Plainfield, Brems, Morocco Association: Pockets of this soil association can be found in the northern part of the county. This association is characterized by soils that are deep, excessively to somewhat poorly drained, nearly level to sloping coarse textured soils that are underlain with sand.

Mucks and Peats Association: Also found in various pockets in the northern part of the county, this soil association has soils that are deep to shallow, very poorly drained, nearly level organic soils underlain by peat, sand, or marl on uplands or broad outwash plains.

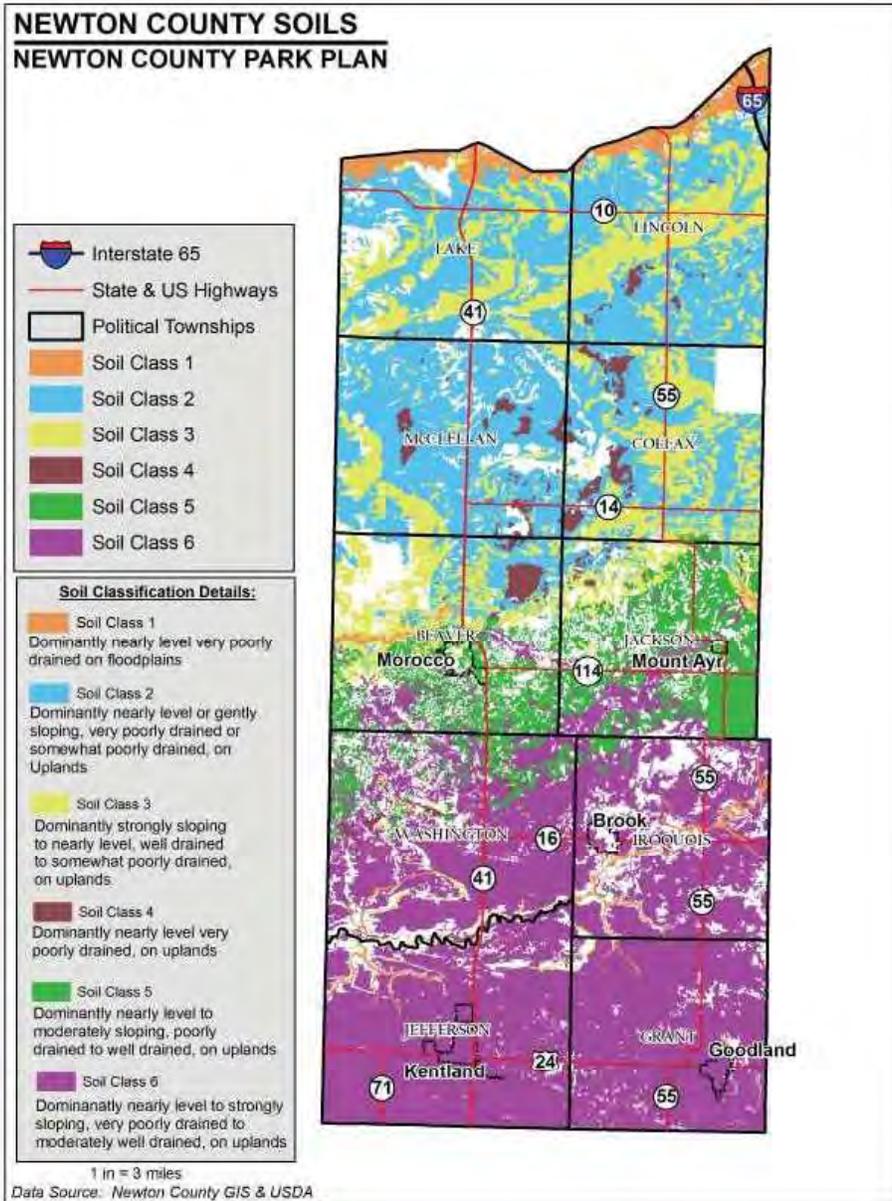


Image 3.3: The soils in Newton County vary greatly from the northern part of the county to the southern part of the county.

The southern half of the county is dominated by the following soil associations:

Parr, Miami Association: These soils are deep, well-drained, nearly level to moderately steep, medium to moderately coarse textured soils

underlain with loamy glacial till occurring on uplands.

Genesee Eel Association: Found along the Iroquois River, these soils are deep, well and moderately well-drained, nearly level soils formed from medium textured alluvium.

Rensselaer, Darroch Soil Association: Found north and south of the Iroquois River, this soil association is characterized by soils that are deep, poorly and somewhat poorly drained soils that are nearly level, moderately coarse to medium textured soils formed on sandy outwash plains.

Odell, Chalmers Soil Association: This soil association is found in the southernmost portion of the county. These soils are deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that are nearly level, medium to moderately fine textured soils underlain with loamy glacial till occurring on uplands.

While this map and information is useful for the general idea of soils in the county, it is not suitable for selecting a site of a particular park and recreation facility.

Climate

The temperate climate of Indiana provides an annual average growing season of 178 days, which is adequate to support a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses that allow for ample variation in the visual and natural environment.

The temperature varies widely from summer to winter with a 25 degree Fahrenheit average in January and an average of 72 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Winter temperatures have dropped to as low as -25 degrees Fahrenheit, but summer temperatures have reached as high as 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Precipitation is consistent through all the seasons but is slightly greater in the spring and summer than in the fall and winter. The total annual precipitation is about 37 inches. Approximately 62 percent of this falls in April through September. Thunderstorms occur about 39 days each year, with most occurring in June. The average snowfall is 28.3 inches. On average, 45 days of the year have at least one inch of snow on the ground.

In the winter, winds blow from the northwest, and in the summer, from the

southwest. The average windspeed is highest in March at 12 miles per hour.

Seasonal variations in climate mean a variety of recreational activities are needed to meet the demand for year-round recreational activities. Spring and summer provide opportunities for activities like picnicking, swimming, tennis, walking, baseball, and softball. Hiking, jogging, fishing, sledding, and ice-skating can be enjoyed at different times throughout the fall and winter. Such variation is ideal if the park or park system has the opportunity to support year-round activities.

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CHAPTER 4: Historical, Man-Made, and Cultural Features

The development of park and recreation sites can be influenced by the historical, man-made, and cultural features of a town or planning area. Historic features might include historic sites, markers, or local historical events. Man-made features can include elements such as farm buildings, highways, roads, schools, and railway corridors. Cultural features include culturally-based community identities or festivals. Some of these features may influence the way future park sites are developed in the county.

Historical Background

The Pottawatomie Indians originally inhabited Newton County. They did not have permanent homes but camped in groves and on knolls close to the Iroquois River where they got fish and fur. The Sioux, Iroquois, and Kickapoo Indians also visited the area, as they were attracted by game, fish, and furbearing animals.

The early settlers came to Indiana in the early 1800s, but only a few settled in the Newton County area. The first permanent settlements were along the Iroquois River and Beaver Creek. The settlers grew corn, wheat, and vegetables and used prairie areas as pastures for their cattle. Settlement was slow, mainly

because much of the county was swampland. Settlers began to drain the swampland in the 1850s.

In the northern part of the county, the first ditch was completed in 1853 and drained about 8,000 acres of what was once the largest body of water in Indiana

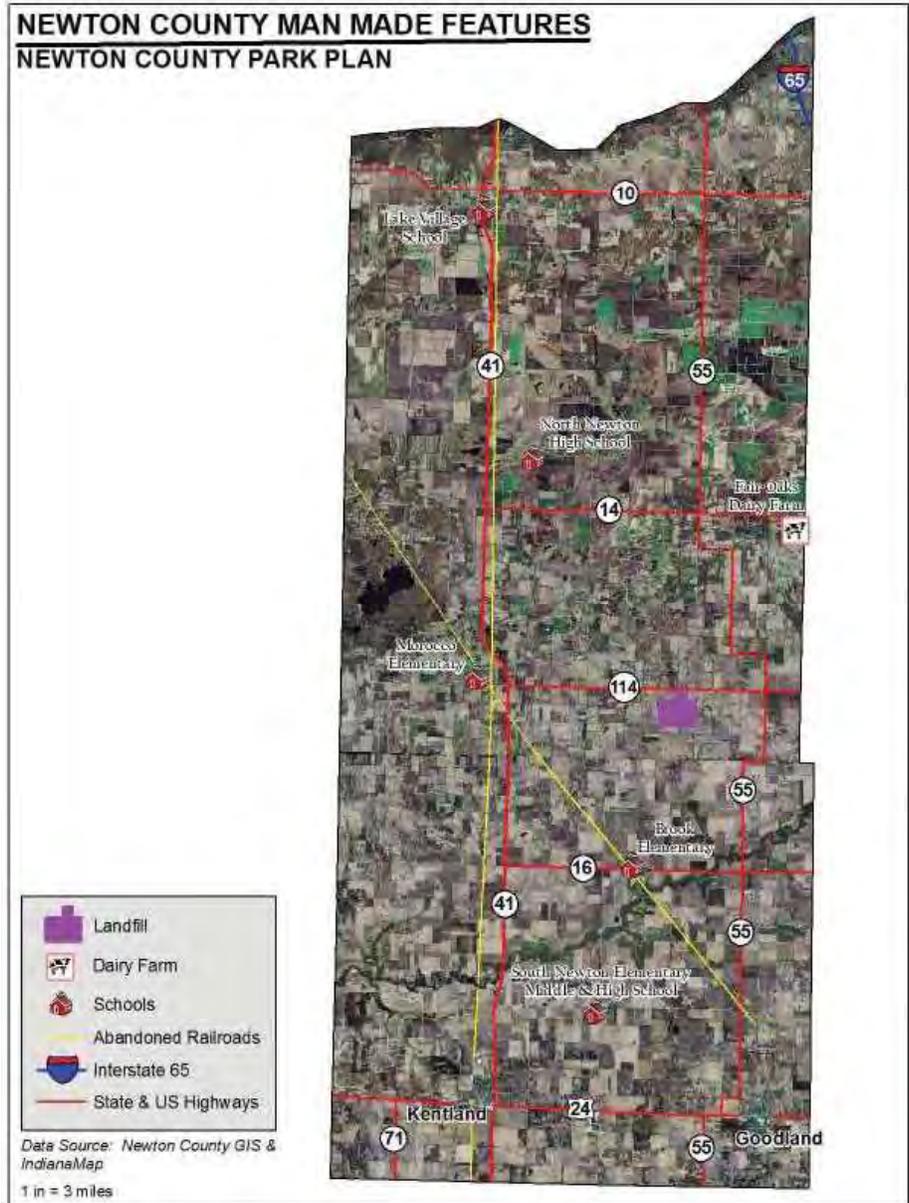


Image 4.1: As a primary rural and agricultural county with few major business developments, the Newton County Park Board has several opportunities to acquire park sites.

(US Department of Agriculture, 2). The lake was more than seven miles long, five miles wide, covered more than 16,000 acres, and the depth ranged from 12 to 15 feet (US Department of Agriculture, 2). The Indians called it "Beaver Lake" because of the abundance of beaver in the area.

Another unfavorable area to settle was a large prairie grassland area located in the southern part of the county (US Department of Agriculture, 2). Materials for fuel and home construction were not readily available in this area, and the constant hazard of prairie fires coupled with the fact that the sod was heavy and difficult to plow made this an unfavorable area. In 1950s, wealthy men from New York and New England moved to area and began the task of clearing the prairie grasses so land could be settled and farmed (US Department of Agriculture, 3).

The original Newton County was formed in 1835 but was consolidated with Jasper County in 1839.

The county was recreated in 1859 with the present boundaries and is the last county to be formed in the State. The county's namesake is Sergeant John Newton who, along with Sergeant William Jasper, served under General Francis Marion in the American Revolutionary War. Other states have adjacent Newton and Jasper Counties, as these two are remembered as a pair.

Morocco became the first town to be established in 1851, followed by Kentland in 1860, Goodland in 1866, Brook in 1866, and Lake Village in 1876.

The first railroad came to Newton County in 1859 and was instrumental in the building of Newton County (US Department of Agriculture, 3). The area had easy access to markets in Lafayette and agriculture began to expand. Crops produced included corn, oats, soybeans, hay, wheat, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, and fruits.

George Ade, the county's most celebrated native son, was born in Kentland in 1866. Mr. Ade was one of the leading newspapermen of Chicago at the Chicago Daily News and became one of America's foremost authors (Jasper-Newton Counties Genealogical Society, Inc, 106). He wrote a number of comedies and comic operas, but his best known piece is a book entitled "Fables in Slang" which was published in 1899 (Jasper-Newton Counties Genealogical Society, Inc, 106). After he became successful, Mr. Ade came back to Newton County and took up residence at "Hazelden," a country estate he laid out near the Town

of Brook. He died in Brook in 1944 at the age of 78.

Newton County has several listings on the Indiana National Register of Historic Places which include the following:

- George Ade House in Brook (also known as Hazelden House).
- Goodland-Grant Township Public Library in Goodland (also known as Mitten Memorial Building).
- McCarin-Turner House in Goodland (also known as the Gilman-Turner House).
- Scott-Lucas House in Morocco.
- Newton County Courthouse in Kentland.

Man-Made Features

Transportation and Circulation

There are approximately 120 miles of Federal and State roadways in Newton County. Federal Highway 41 and State Highway 55 facilitate most north-south travel. East-west travel is facilitated by Federal Highway 24 and State Highways 10, 14, 114, and 16. Approximately two miles of State Road 71 can be found in Newton County, just southwest of Kentland. The County has great access to Interstate 65; although there are no interchanges within the county, there are interchanges at State Road 10, State Road 114, and State Road 14, all just east of the Jasper County line.

Two public airports serve the county; Kentland Municipal Airport and the Lake Village Airport. They provide air freight and commuter services.

Railroads have played an important role in the development of agriculture in the county, enabling farmers to export grain to Chicago and other markets. At one time, four railroad lines serviced the county: a north-south railroad line runs from Kentland to Lake Village and parallels Federal Highway 41; an east-west railroad line runs from Goodland to Kentland and parallels Federal Highway 24; and two other rail lines cross the southwest and northeast corners of the county. The major rail companies are CSX Transportation and the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway.

According to the 2015 Indiana Department of Natural Resources Trails and Greenways Plan Update, no planned or potential trails have been identified in Newton County. However, there are approximately six open trails within the county, which place the entire population of Newton County within 7.5 miles of an open trail.

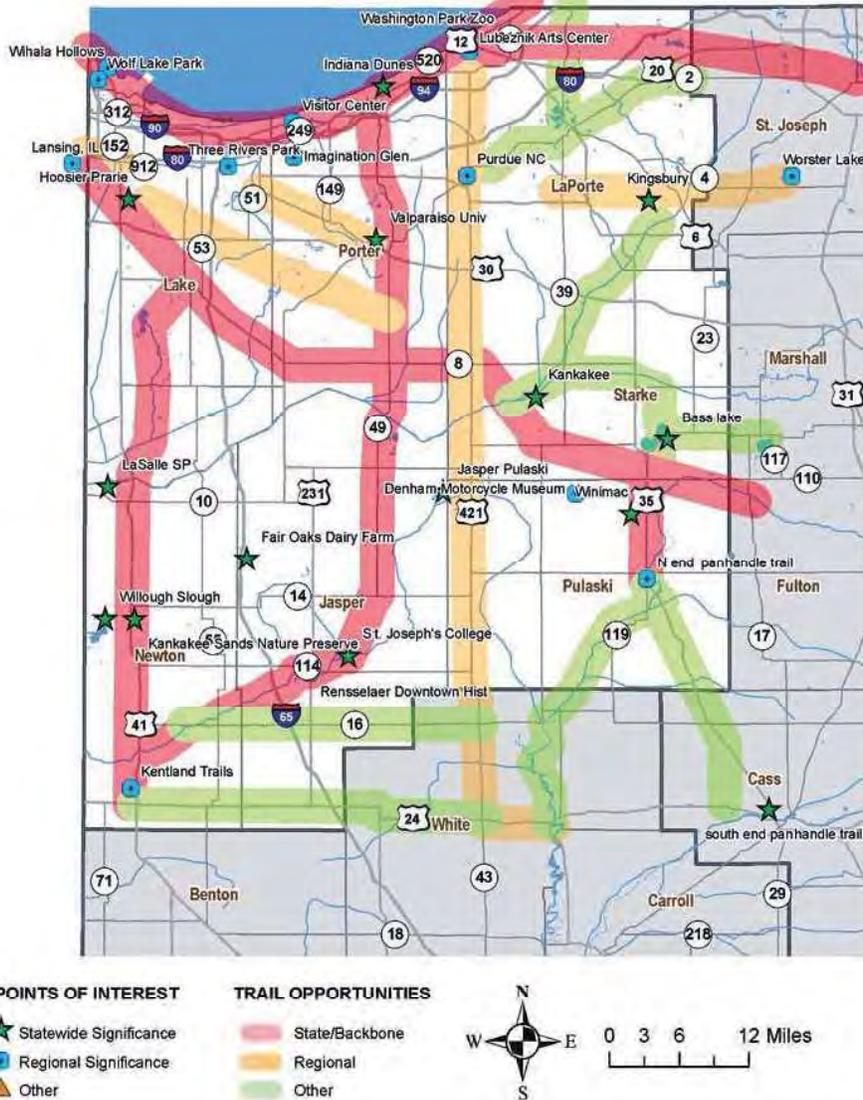


Image 4.2: Several Trail Opportunities were identified in the Newton County area in the 2010 NIRPC Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (Image Credit: Northwest Indiana Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan of 2010).

To the north, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has developed the Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan of 2010. Although Newton County is not included in the planning area, Newton County is immediately adjacent to the planning area and can be directly impacted by any trails developed as a result of this plan. The following information is derived from the Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan of 2010.

There are three trail corridors identified on the Priority Regional Trails and Corridors Map in NIRPC’s Plan that may directly impact Newton County. Although NIRPC considers these corridors ‘Low Priority’, it is prudent to consider these corridors when planning any trail corridors in Newton County. The NIRPC corridors include the following:

1. West Creek Corridor (23 miles): This proposed corridor would connect a series of planned Lake County parks along West Creek in west Lake County. This corridor would connect the Pennsy Greenway Trail to the Kankakee River Trail.
2. Southlake Corridor (18 miles): This proposed corridor will run through Lowell and Cedar Lake, connecting the Pennsy Greenway Trail to the north to the proposed Kankakee River Trail to the south.
3. Kankakee River Trail (60 miles): This is a proposed trail along the largest river in the region and would span from the Illinois/Indiana border through LaPorte County in northwest Indiana.

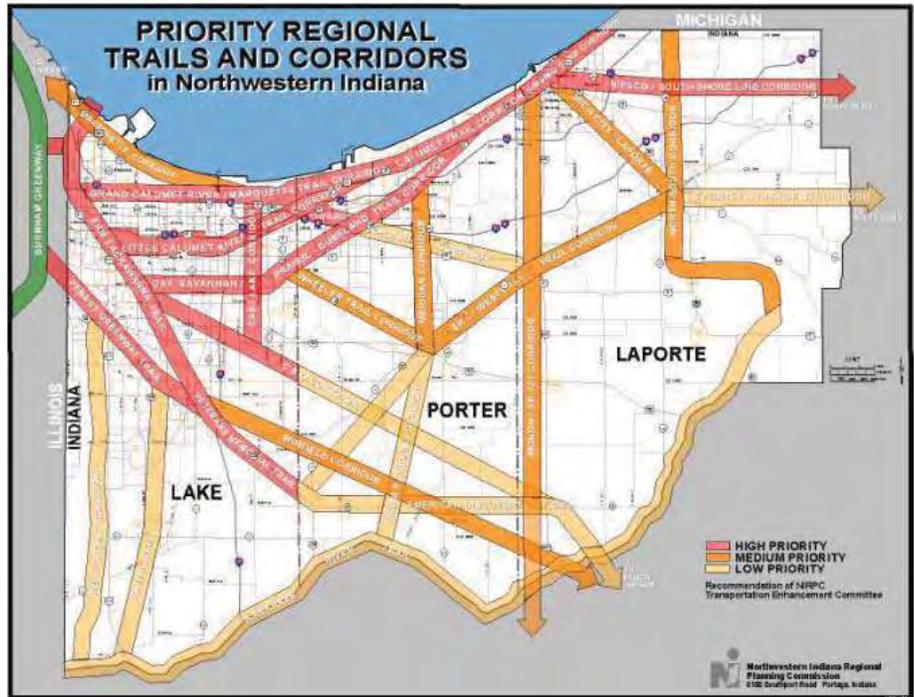


Image 4.3: Newton County has the opportunity to develop trails or bikeways that could link residents to Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, as well as the Chicagoland Region (Image Credit: Northwest Indiana Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan of 2010).

Schools

The public schools in Newton County are administered by the North Newton School Corporation and the South Newton School Corporation. In the northern half of the county, there are three elementary schools: Lincoln Elementary School in the Roselawn area; Lake Village Elementary School in Lake Village; and the Morocco Elementary School in the Town of Morocco. The elementary schools include grades Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. Just northeast of the Town of Morocco is the North Newton Junior-Senior High School, which includes grades Seven through Twelve. In the southern part of the county, all South Newton School Corporation schools have consolidated into one school that serves grades Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade.

Industrial & Business Parks

Fair Oaks Farms is a family owned dairy farm in northeast Newton County. The farm is a fine example of a successful agritourism business in Northwest Indiana and is one of the largest farms of its kind in the country. The farm attracts tourists with the Fair Oaks Adventure Center, where visitors can tour the dairy farm, see how the cows are cared for, and see the milking process. Visitors can also see live births at the birthing barn.

Newton County is also home to the Newton County Landfill owned by Republic Services. The landfill is located on the south side of State Road 114 just east of Morocco and north of Brook. The landfill is a major employer of the community and supports the community by contributing to parks and recreation facilities, including the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board.

There are five industrial parks with sites available in Newton County: the Airport Industrial Park in Kentland, the Batton Industrial Park in Kentland, the Ross Industrial Park in Kentland, the Kindig Industrial Park in Morocco, and the Molter Industrial Park in Goodland. There is also an available commercial business park in Roselawn called Lincolnview.

Cultural Background

The largest county-wide event is the Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair. The first Newton County Fair was held on the streets of Brook in 1920. It was organized by members of the County Farm Bureau. After a second successful fair in 1921, a committee was formed to select a larger site to be home to the fair, and the committee selected the current site which is along the Iroquois River just north of Kentland.

The Newton County Pun'kin Vine Fair became the first fair in the Midwest to present an outside ice show and the first to present the Radio City Rockettes on its stage (Connell). George Gobel, an actor and comedian who was best known for his weekly NBC television show, The George Gobel Show, made his debut on the stage of the Newton County Fair (Connell).

Entwined with the Pun'kin Vine Fair, the 4H Club in Newton County started in the early 1920s. Up until the 1960s, the club focused mainly on activities for the county's rural youth. The mid-sixties brought a change to all of this and added projects to interest children who lived in town (Jasper-Newton Counties Genealogical Society, Inc, 31). This trend remains to this day.

Over time, farming and agriculture have remained an important cultural component to the residents of Newton County; the vocational agriculture programs offered by North Newton and South Newton High Schools have given many students the opportunity become established in agriculture or a related field. Both schools have very active chapters of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), an organization that aims to teach high school aged children about the importance of the agriculture business.

Newton County also has its very own Community Band. Members include former high school band members and some who just enjoy getting together to perform. Anyone who is properly trained on an instrument can join.



CHAPTER 5: Social and Economic Factors

Newton County may just be the epitome of rural Indiana. Driving through the county, one encounters both small and large farms that have been owned by families for hundreds of years, family-owned grocery stores, and corn field after corn field. Each community has its own unique sense of pride and small town friendliness is ingrained in its residents. While the northern part of the county can be best described as a 'bedroom community' for those employed in Chicago and Lake County to the north, the population in the southern part of the county lives and works in their incorporated towns.

Population

In 2010, Newton County ranked 82nd in population in the State of Indiana with 14,244 people. Population estimates for 2014 show a population decrease of 0.6% with 14,156 people. The population is projected to further decrease in 2020 to 13,854 people, showing a growth rate of -0.3% (STATS).

According to STATS, 97.4% of the population in Newton County is white. The Hispanic population in Newton County is growing, with approximately 5.9% of the population reporting as Hispanic. This percentage ranks Newton County 45th out of 92 counties in the State of Indiana.

Population Distribution

There are five incorporated areas in Newton County and two Census-designated places (CDPs). A CDP can be defined as an area identified by the United States Census Bureau for statistical purposes, such as a populated area that lacks municipal government, but otherwise physically resembles an incorporated place. Newton County has two areas identified as CDPs: Lake Village and Roselawn. Approximately 35% of the population in Newton County lives within one of the five incorporated areas of Brook, Goodland, Kentland, Morocco, and Mount Ayr. An additional 35% of the population lives within the CDPs of Lake Village and Roselawn, leaving approximately 30% of the population living in unincorporated areas of the county. While the majority of the towns and townships have parks and recreation facilities, the Newton County Park Board serves a large part of the overall population.

Income and Poverty

The per capita income in 2014 was \$37,390, which is nearly \$2,200 less than the per capita income in the State of Indiana. Surprisingly though, the median household income in Newton County is higher than that of the State of Indiana, at \$51,285 and \$49,384 respectively. In 2014, 11.5% of the population of Newton County lived below the poverty line, which is well below the State average of 15.2%.

Employment

According to the 2010 US Census, the largest employment sectors include manufacturing (20%) and education (18%).

Retail trade (11%) and construction (10%) were also some of the largest employment sectors. Of those who commute to work, which is 97% of working population, it takes an average of 31.3 minutes to get to work. This high commute time should be taken into consideration when the Park Board is planning events; events planned for late evenings or the weekends may draw more participants.

In 2014, the total resident labor force in Newton County was 6,915 people, approximately 49% of the population. Approximately 7% of the labor force is unemployed; however, new figures by STATS Indiana for November 2015 show that the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.3%.

Education

According to STATS, the public school enrollment in Newton County during the 2014-2015 school year was 2,290 students. Approximately 85.8% of the

adult population in Newton County has a high school diploma or higher, which is slightly less than the state average of 87.6%. Adults with a bachelors degree or higher is only 9.1% of the population, which is much lower than the state average of 23.6%.

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CHAPTER 6: Accessibility and Universal Design

Park and recreation plans are affected by three pieces of legislation regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities: the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

The Architectural Barriers Act was the first federal law created that required that facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible to the public. Facilities built before the law was passed are not usually covered, but alterations undertaken after the law took effect are required to comply with the Act.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ensures access to programs and activities that are federally funded. The Act states that “no individual can be excluded from the participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, or under any program or activity conducted by an Executive Agency.” The Act requires specific actions from agencies, including a self-evaluation of its policies, facilities, programs, and services.

The most recent act to be passed that affects parks and park plans is Title

II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This Act extends the prohibition of discrimination in federally assisted programs established by Section 504 to all activities of State and local governments, including those that do not receive Federal financial assistance. The Act includes providing modifications to policies, practices, and procedures. This Act also requires that local governments like Newton County that have less than 50 employees in the entire government unit complete an accessibility self-evaluation or update a previous self-evaluation created under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The entity must also provide notice to the public about the entity's ADA obligations, non-discrimination requirements, and accessible services and facilities.

One method of eliminating physical and social barriers is through the use of Universal Design concepts. Universal Design is the design of products and environments for all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The concept is based on these seven principles:

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

The IDNR-DOR strongly encourages park boards to apply these concepts to their park systems, park sites, and programs. The IDNR-DOR considers the use of Universal Design in parks to be a critical best management practice.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board is committed to ensuring people of all abilities have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities. An Accessibility Self-Evaluation was completed as part of the planning process to alert the Board to any accessibility issues in their programs and activities. Information and guidelines that follow are taken from "Section 504 Guidelines for Federally Assisted Park and Recreation Programs and Activities" produced by the Department of the Interior. The Newton County ADA Coordinator is Mr. Raymond Chambers and can be reached at the following:

3218 West 100 North
Morocco, IN 46064

219-285-0833 Ext 5301
rchambers@newtoncounty.in.gov

Since the Park Board does not have any facilities developed and open to the public, Part II, the Checklist of Facility Accessibility, is not applicable but is included in this chapter for future reference.

Part I
Checklist of Administrative Requirements

Requirements	Standards	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
		Yes	No	N/A		
1. Designation of responsible employee	Recipients employing fifteen or more employees must designate a Section 504 coordinator.	X				
2. Adoption of grievance procedures	Recipients employing fifteen or more people must establish grievance procedures that provide for the submission and resolution of complaints from employees and program beneficiaries.	X				
3. Public notification requirements	3a. Any recipient employing fifteen or more employees must take initial and continuing steps to notify beneficiaries and employees that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap. All such notifications must be effective for those with impaired vision, hearing, and learning disabilities.	X				
	3b. Recruitment materials or publications containing general information that is made available to program participants, beneficiaries, applicants, and employees must contain an appropriate non-discrimination statement.	X				

**Part I
Checklist of Administrative Requirements**

Requirements	Standards	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
		Yes	No	N/A		
4. Assurances required	A recipient must provide assurance that its program operates in compliance with Section 504.	X			See "Assurance of Compliance Statement," in preface.	
5. Self-evaluation	5a. Recipients must consult with handicapped persons/organizations.	X				
	5b. The self-evaluation must cover programs, policies, practices, problems identified, and remedial step taken.	X				
	5c. Recipients employing fifteen or more persons must maintain on file the self-evaluation for three years after its completion.	X				
6. Transition Plan	A transition plan is required when structural changes to facilities are required, and it must include the following:			X	Since the Park Board does not own any properties at this time, no modifications need to be made.	
	1. Identification of physical obstacles in facilities.			X		
	2. Identification of methods used to achieve accessibility.			X		
	3. Schedule for achieving accessibility.			X		
	4. Identification of responsible official.			X		

Part II
Checklist of Facility Access

Requirements	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
	Yes	No	N/A		
1. PARKING LOTS/SPACES A. Reserved spaces - Number - Location(in relation to facility) - Vehicle access clearance - Signs B. Ramps/Curb Cuts - Location - Dimensions - Handrails/Handgrips C. Passenger loading/unloading - Spaces - Signage - Location			X X X X X X X X X X		
2. PUBLIC TELEPHONES A. Signs B. Clear floor space (wheelchair access) C. Reach D. Height E. Controls F. Equipment			X X X X X X		
3. DRINKING FOUNTAINS (Interior & Exterior) A. Location B. Clearance C. Height D. Spouts E. Controls			X X X X X		
4. ELEVATORS A. Automatic B. Location C. Doors D. Control Panel E. Emergency Communications F. Floor Identification			X X X X X X		

Part II
Checklist of Facility Access

Requirements	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
	Yes	No	N/A		
4. ELEVATORS (cont'd)					
G. Lobby Call Buttons			X		
H. Outside Floor/Direction Indicators			X		
I. Signs			X		
5. TOILET/BATHING FACILITIES					
A. Number (according to gender)			X		
B. Location			X		
C. Signs			X		
D. Doors – Fixtures – Dispensers					
- Stalls			X		
- Urinals			X		
- Lavatories/sinks/water closets			X		
- Tubs/showers			X		
E. Lockers					
- Number			X		
- Height			X		
- Clear floor space			X		
6. PICNIC AREAS					
A. Tables and Benches					
- Number Accessible to Wheelchairs			X		
- Location (adjacent to level paths)			X		
- Access to Open Space Areas			X		
- Back and Arm Rests			X		
B. Grills					
- Height of Cooking Surface			X		
- Location (adjacent to level paths)			X		
C. Trash Receptacles					
- Location (adjacent to level paths)			X		
- Safety and Facility of Equipment			X		
D. Picnic Shelters					
- Location (adjacent to level paths)			X		

**Part II
Checklist of Facility Access**

Requirements	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
	Yes	No	N/A		
6. PICNIC AREAS (cont'd) - Located near accessible water fountains, trash receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc			X		
7. TRAILS A. Surface B. Dimensions C. Rails D. Signs			X X X X		
8. SWIMMING POOLS & BEACHES A. Pools - Entrance to Pool Well (ramps/stairs) - Dimensions of ramps or stairs - Handrails at ramps or stairs B. Location - Accessible from Parking Lot - Access from Entrance through Bathhouse to Pool Deck C. Safety Features - Slip Resistant Surfaces - Warning Surface for Visually Impaired D. Beaches - Accessible Paths from Parking Area - Accessible Paths to Swimming Area - Handrails to Swimming Area			X X X X X X X X X X X		
9. PLAY AREAS A. Equipment - Accessibility around Apparatus - Apparatus Designed for the Handicapped B. Access to Equipment - Accessible from Parking Lot - Handrails			X X X X		

**Part II
Checklist of Facility Access**

Requirements	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
	Yes	No	N/A		
10. GAME AREAS					
A. Accessible by Firm and Level Paths (between game courts and within game areas)			X		
B. Accessible Paths from Parking Areas			X		
C. Equipment (height and dimensions)			X		
11. BOAT DOCKS					
A. Access					
- Accessible from Parking Lot			X		
- Handrails			X		
12. FISHING FACILITIES					
A. Access					
- Accessible from Parking Lot			X		
- Handrails			X		
B. Equipment					
- Handrails			X		
- Armrests			X		
- Bait Shelves			X		
- Fish Cleaning Tables (check height of table)			X		
C. Safety Features					
- Slip Resistant Surfaces			X		
- Warning Surface for Visually Impaired			X		
C. Signs			X		

**Part III
Checklist of Employment Practices**

Requirements	Standards	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
		Yes	No	N/A		
1. RECRUITMENT	The announcement process encompasses the following elements:					
A. Job Announcements	Nondiscrimination statement on announcements;	X				
	Announcements must be posted in accessible areas;	X				
	Announcements must be effectively announced to individuals who have disabilities that impair their ability to communicate.	X				
B. Interviews	Interviews must address the applicant's qualifications for the position. Recipients must not make inquiries about an applicant's handicap and its severity.	X				
2. Personnel Actions (Recruitment, Selection, Promotion, Hiring, Upgrading, etc.)	The criteria for processing personnel actions must not limit the eligibility of qualified handicapped employees.	X				
3. LEAVE ADMINISTRATION (Leave of Absence, Sick/Annual, Return from Leave of Absence)	Policies for granting leave must not adversely affect qualified handicapped employees.	X				
4. TRAINING (Internships, Apprenticeship, On-the-job Training)	Training programs must be administered in a manner that allows equal participation by qualified handicapped employees.	X				

**Part III
Checklist of Employment Practices**

Requirements	Standards	Compliance Status			Description	Modification
		Yes	No	N/A		
5. TESTING	Tests and other criterion must measure essential job requirements only.	X				
	Test must be job-related and nondiscriminatory towards persons with impaired communications abilities.	X				
6. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS & QUESTIONNAIRES	Pre-employment medical examinations are permissible only after conditional employment offers.	X				
	Test must be job-related and nondiscriminatory towards persons with impaired communications abilities.	X				
7. SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	Social & recreational programs sponsored by the recipient must be accessible to handicapped employees.	X				
8. FRINGE BENEFITS	Handicapped employees must be given the same employee benefits as non-handicapped employees.	X				
9. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS	Terms and practices of collective bargaining agreements must not contain provisions that limit the participation of qualified handicapped employees.	X				
10. WAGE & SALARY ADMINISTRATION	Employees with disabilities must not be offered different rates of compensation solely on the basis of handicap.	X				



CHAPTER 7: Public Participation

Public participation is an essential component of a credible, quality plan. The role of the public plays a large role in the development of a Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. Even though the Park Board has specialized knowledge on parks and park planning issues, it is impossible to know all the issues of importance for the residents and park visitors. Therefore, a vital task in the recreation planning process is to determine the wants and needs of the public. Public participation for the Newton County Parks and Recreation Plan was solicited from public meetings and a community survey.

Public Meetings

A public meeting was held on November 10, 2015 to gather input from the Newton County community. The meeting was held at the Newton County Government Center in Morocco, Indiana and started promptly at 6:00 pm. This site was chosen as it is a central location in Newton County that is easily accessible to the public. The meeting was advertised on the park's website, social media, and through email. Flyers were also distributed. The meeting drew 15 members of the public.

The meeting started promptly at 6 pm. Introductions were made and then a ParkLAND Analysis was conducted with participants. The ParkLAND (Liabilities,

Assets, Needs, and Dreams) Analysis allowed the public to identify some of the major issues facing the Park Board as well as how to build upon the current foundation of recreational facilities in the county. After the ParkLAND Analysis, participants completed a mapping exercise where they identified important community landmarks, community assets, tourist attractions, potential trails/trail connections, and areas lacking park sites or facilities.

Results of the ParkLAND Analysis are as follows.

Liabilities:

- Money
- Time
- Perception
- Not showcasing assets
- Not capitalizing on visitors and tourism
- Lack of knowledge on support assets (camping, dining, etc.)
- Lack of support facilities (bait, ammunition, food, etc.)
- Disjointed support groups

Assets:

- Good partnership with Convention Bureau Association (CBA)
- Revenue from farm ground
- Ample hunting and fishing areas
- Existing public grounds
- Diverse groups
- Transportation
- Waterways
- Sunsets
- Rural atmosphere
- Proximity to metropolitan areas
- Friendly people
- Dedicated stakeholders
- 4H shooting sports and sport fishing
- Fair Oaks Farms and agritourism
- Seasons and wildlife
- Nice local parks
- Fairgrounds
- Golf courses
- Stone quarry

Astrological opportunities
Schools
Historical society
Everglades of the North
George Aid
Horse and pony club

Needs:

A grocery and sports store
To expand on existing assets
Tie schools to local assets
Tie other groups and local residents to assets
Communication
Break away from individuals and individual organizations working in silos
Surveys and follow-up on events
Education and workshops
Get outside events into the county
Have better communication with Convention Bureau Association (CBA)

Dreams:

Recreation center with flexible space for weddings and banquets
Support facilities for recreation center
"Mount Newton" ski slope at the landfill
Indoor water park and hotel
A county-wide marathon called the Newton County Corn Cruise
Horseback riding trails
Cross-country skiing trails
Snowmobile paths
Motorcycle races
Camping at the fairgrounds
Riverwalk at the fairgrounds

Results of the mapping exercise are as follows. A map detailing these results will be included in the final draft.

Landmarks:

Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area
Fair Oaks Dairy Farm
Stone Quarry

George Ade Memorial Health Center

Tourist Attractions:

Fair Oaks Dairy Farm
Public lands
The Town of Goodland and their festivals
Ponderosa Sun Club in Roselawn area

Potential Trails:

Along State Road 10
Along US 41
Along State Road 24
Along the Iroquois River
Along the abandoned rail corridor from the Fairgrounds to the Town of Morocco
In the community of Thayer near the Kankakee River

Areas Lacking Park/Recreational Facilities:

Iroquois River Corridor
Roselawn area
Kankakee River Corridor
Kankakee Sands Area
The Town of Brook
The Town of Kentland
The Town of Goodland

Handouts were also available for meeting participants to write down input they were not comfortable verbalizing in the meeting. A summary of the handouts collected are as follows:

State government ground is an asset (such as Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area)
Libraries in every town is an asset
Need more solid Council support and funding
Microbrewery taste-testing
Publish resources available (town parks, etc) with contact information
Education
Seen nice set-up at Whiting Beach (concession, restroom, hall rental)
Dreams: running/bike trails

Community Survey

A survey designed to gain information about the recreation patterns, interests, and general opinions of the residents of Newton County was made available online from November 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, and 180 surveys were completed. A written survey option was not advertised. Key results of the survey are summarized below, and the complete results can be found in the Appendix.

The survey received 180 responses. The majority of the respondents (44%) came from Lincoln Township, but all portions of the county were represented, including Lake Township (24%) and Beaver Township (12%). More females (71%) than males took the survey (29%), but a variety of age groups were represented.

Many of the respondents were between the ages of 30 to 45 (51%) and had families with young children (60%). Teenagers and seniors were slightly underrepresented.

Over 87% of respondents indicated that outdoor public recreation areas and facilities were important or very important to their family, and some (25%) used facilities already existing in Newton County several times a year. Many (21%) indicated they used outdoor recreation facilities within the county two or more times per week, and a little less than half were somewhat satisfied with the facilities and services currently available to them within the county (42%). Most recreated close to home, with 68% of respondents driving only 15 minutes or less to get to a recreation area.

Respondents also indicated that while they did use park and recreation areas outside of the county, this was limited to several times a year (36%) to once or twice a year (31%). Overall, respondents were satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities available to them outside of the county (48%).

When asked to indicate the importance of several park and recreation functions, top responses included family oriented activities and events (76%), recreational activities such as picnicking and playgrounds (73%), and water access and water activities (64%). Park functions that seemed the least important to survey respondents included opportunities for learning about Newton County's heritage (41%) and the preservation and restoration of prairie, wetlands, and marshlands (59%).

When asked how to fund public parks, recreational facilities, and programs, respondents indicated that constructing revenue generating facilities (80%), property taxes (63%) or bonds (54%) were the preferred way of funding parks and recreation opportunities.

Full results of the survey can be found in the appendix.

Public Presentation of Plan

The final draft of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Plan was presented to the public at a regular park board meeting on June 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Newton County Government Center in Morocco, Indiana. No members from the public attended. Key findings and results of the planning process were reviewed with the park board.



CHAPTER 8: Needs Analysis

There is no exact science for determining the level of need for parks and recreation services. However, here are several analysis methods that can be used to analyze the recreational needs of a community. To analyze the recreation needs of Newton County, a combination of the Issue Analysis Method and the Level of Service (LOS) Method were used.

The Issue Analysis Method uses the information gathered for the master plan to identify and resolve needs, problems and conflicts. Issues are usually evident to the Park Board members and some appear during the public input process.

The Level of Service (LOS) Standards for Parks and Open Space is a method developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. This method guides communities so set local standards based on need, values, and expectations. A component of the method is to assess existing facilities, public input, and to prioritize needs.

Issues from Public Input

Input from the public meeting and public survey indicated that while residents were satisfied with the park and recreation opportunities available to them in Newton County, less than half used them regularly. Generally, the public

expressed that Newton County was not adequately showcasing its assets nor capitalizing on tourism. There is a lack of support assets and support facilities, and support groups are disjointed. The public also indicated a need for better communication between the Park Board and other governmental groups, recreational organizations, and tourism groups.

Issues from the Board

Members of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board had numerous ideas and issues concerning the needs of the county and the development of a county parks system. The main concern is securing a dedicated funding source from the county council. Having a reasonable and predictable annual budget will allow the board to plan for projects over a long period of time.

The Park Board would also like to capitalize on the uniqueness of rural Newton County. The agricultural and rural nature of the county lends itself to a wealth of tourism opportunities, especially being immediately adjacent to the heavily populated Lake County and nearby Porter County.

The Park Board is struggling with how to best develop the 18 acre site that is part of their landholdings. The Park Board also sees a strong need to help preserve and protect historic sites within the county.

The Park Board is very comfortable with the level of service they provide to the Newton County population in terms of the activities and events they undertake, but the board would like to pursue some capital improvement projects to further serve the county.

Indiana Standards

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation updates the Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. This document provides standards for outdoor recreation opportunities. To determine which areas have a surplus or deficit of outdoor recreation areas, a standard of 20 acres of local public outdoor recreation opportunities per 1,000 people is used. According to the standards set forth in the Indiana SCORP, Newton County's population of 14,244 should have approximately 285 acres of local public recreation areas.

Although the Newton County Park Board only has 18 acres in park space, the county is very unique in that it has several properties owned by the Indiana

Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy. The following chart illustrates just a few of the park and open space providers in the county and their current landholdings.

Park or Open Space Area	Acreage
Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area (IDNR)	9,956
Kankakee Sands	7,800
LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area (IDNR)	3,797
Conrad Station (TNC)	809
Conrad Savanna (IDNR)	455
Hazelden Golf Course	100
Grand Kankakee Marsh (LCPRD)	49
Newton County Park	18
<i>Total</i>	<i>22,984</i>

This acreage estimate is very low since it is only taking into account some the larger park, recreation, and open space areas in the county. Other sites that should be included in this estimate are township parks, municipal parks, public camping areas, open space areas at public schools, and cemeteries. However, with the park, recreation, and open space acreage already being so overwhelmingly high, it is not necessary to factor in some of these smaller areas.

The following chart compares the recommended park and open space acreage to the actual park and open space acreage in Newton County.

Indiana Standards	Newton County
Recommended Park Acreage for Newton County: 285	Actual Park Acreage for Newton County: 22,966
Recommended Acres Per Person: 0.02	Actual Acres Per Person: 1.6

Recommendations

The Newton County Parks and Recreation Board is charged with the challenging task of proving its value in a county with a wealth of park and open space lands. The Board is already managing its resources efficiently by hosting activities and events at sites owned and operated by other park and recreation providers.

The Newton County Park Board should aim to be a regional recreational provider, drawing both residents and visitors to Newton County. The Board

should focus on connecting the natural, agricultural and historical amenities of the county, and leave the basketball courts, playing fields and playgrounds to be developed by township and municipal park and recreation providers.

To achieve the overarching goal of becoming a regional recreation provider, the following goals and objectives were developed. Based on the public input process, board input, park and open space standards, and professional recommendations, these goals and objectives should guide the board as they develop the county's park and recreation system.

Financial Resources

Goal: Develop creative and responsible funding operations that generate financial resources that are utilized efficiently.

- Objective 1: Continue educating county council members and commissioners on the importance of parks and recreation projects in Newton County to help keep funding in the county budget for parks and recreation items.
- Objective 2: Consider developing a parks fund at the Newton County Community Foundation and encourage county residents to include Newton County Parks in their personal estate planning.
- Objective 3: Continue to develop partnerships with local businesses in the county that can provide funding.
- Objective 4: Utilize alternative funding sources, such as grants and sponsorships, to fund new initiatives.
- Objective 5: Ensure programs and future facilities are as self-sustaining as possible.

Public Awareness

Goal: Enhance resident awareness of Newton County Parks to facilitate a greater understanding of operations, programs, and opportunities.

- Objective 1: Work with community organizations to educate members about the role of Newton County Parks, accomplishments, and future goals.
- Objective 2: As new parks are acquired and developed, name the parks in a manner that reflect amenities, location, or the value of the parks department.
- Objective 3: Use park publications to raise awareness of the board and park system by including articles on the following: finance, profiles on staff members, profiles on board members, or information on programs and events.

- Objective 4: Work with local newspapers and other media sources to create interesting articles on the following: finance, profiles on staff members, profiles on board members, or information on programs and events.

Communications and Image

Goal: Develop an image that creates a unique character for Newton County Parks and develop effective communication sources that provide information to county residents in a way that is easy to understand.

- Objective 1: Continue to use the Newton County Parks logo on all materials related to Newton County Parks.
- Objective 2: Continue to update the Newton County Parks website to ensure it stays relevant and up-to-date. Ensure it gives detailed information on events and facilities as they are developed.
- Objective 3: Ensure all Newton County Parks publications have a unique style that becomes identifiable with Newton County Parks.
- Objective 4: Continue to develop Newton County Parks presence on social media.

Interagency Cooperation

Goal: Maximize opportunities to work with other organizations in the county to provide environmental management and improved parks and recreation services for Newton County residents.

- Objective 1: Collaborate with other agencies in the county in the marketing of Newton County Park events.
- Objective 2: Establish regular meetings with other local park and recreation boards, school boards, the Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy to review common issues and develop solutions beneficial to all parties.
- Objective 3: Work with municipal, township, state, and federal parks and recreation agencies to jointly develop projects.
- Objective 4: Work with surrounding counties to create linkages to recreational services and trails.

Land Acquisition

Goal: Acquire new lands and facilities to provide recreational opportunities, preserve natural areas, meet programming needs, or to meet administrative needs.

- Objective 1: Work with other public agencies and land trusts in acquiring lands that could offer joint use.
- Objective 2: Encourage resident's personal estate planning to include donations to the Park Board.
- Objective 3: Identify potential trail routes and parcels near trail routes that may be destinations.
- Objective 4: Identify properties for acquisition that are adjacent to other recreational facilities in the county that enhance existing parks.
- Objective 5: Identify properties with unique natural features, such as varied topography, vegetation, or geology.
- Objective 6: Identify properties with wildlife habitat and wetland ecosystems to preserve from future development.
- Objective 7: Identify properties with river frontage or stream frontage that can provide access to those features.
- Objective 8: Work with adjacent counties to provide linkages to recreational services and trails.



CHAPTER 9: Priorities and Action Schedule

Based on the public input, board input and professional recommendations, the Newton County Park Board was able to develop a five-year vision plan and identify priorities. The Action Schedule in this chapter establishes the priority in which the identified issues should be resolved over the next five years and beyond. The Action Schedule is based on current circumstances and is subject to change based on availability of anticipated funding and the timing of any unforeseen opportunities.

Priorities

The top priorities for the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board over the next five years are varied in scope. A top priority of the Board is to investigate historic sites and properties in the county that may be worth preserving. The Board feels it is their role and duty to ensure the story and heritage of Newton County is maintained and protected. Additionally, the Board will continue to develop and promote activities and programming at existing park and recreational facilities available in the county.

Like the last five year master plan, the Board still saw a need to develop an overall bicycle network to connect all the communities, state fish and wildlife areas, conservancy areas, and agritourism attractions. The Board would like to

continue to be a driving force to connect the unique features already available to the residents and visitors of the county. However, instead of focusing on a rails to trails project and land acquisition to develop off-road trail facilities, the Board will be focusing on developing and implementing an on-road bikeways network with maps and signage. A full bikeways study is recommended to analyze the existing road facilities to find those best suited for bicycle activity. The following kiosk sites have been identified through the public input in this plan update:

Kiosk Sites

Kiosk sites are important features of the bikeways plan as they are a resource to bikeway users. Ideal locations for kiosks are existing recreational areas, state fish and wildlife areas, conservancy areas, and agritourism attractions as these locations already provide many amenities to potential users, such as parking and rest areas. Kiosk sites are proposed in the following locations:

1. LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Area
2. A recreational area in the community of Lake Village
3. A recreational area in the community of Thayer
4. A recreational area in the community of Roselawn
5. Fair Oaks Dairy Farm
6. Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area
7. A recreational area in the Town of Morocco
8. A recreational area in the Town of Brook
9. The Newton County Fairgrounds
10. A recreational area in the Town of Kentland
11. A recreational area in the Town of Goodland

Park Areas

There are also some opportunities to develop park sites in Newton County. The Park Board has potential to partner with the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department to help develop the Newton County side of the Grand Kankakee Marsh.

The Newton County Parks Board also has the opportunity to develop the park property that was purchased in the Roselawn area. There are opportunities to work with the Lincoln Township Fire Department in the development of this site.

Furthermore, there are several historic sites in Newton County that have potential to be acquired by the Park Board and to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park Board is very interested in preserving the

County's historic resources for future generations.

Action Schedule

The following provides a description on how to interpret the Action Schedule:

Action Item

Action items were generated through discussions with the Park Board, the public participation process, the accessibility evaluation, and professional recommendations. Items are based upon what is needed for the park system, which may be more than what is financially achievable by the Park Board in this planning cycle. The Park Board should strive to accomplish these action items to the best of their fiscal ability according to priority and timing.

Priority

Each item has been ranked by importance based on high, medium, and low priority. The rankings were based on need and safety concerns as identified by the Park Board, public participation, and the accessibility evaluation. The priority and timing of action items in the action plan are based on ideal circumstances. Unforeseen circumstances, such as budget cuts, participation rates, or volunteer resources may impact the implementation of items on the list.

Timing

Timing of the Action Schedule is based on short, medium, and long term time frames. If an action item is not completed within the proposed time frame, it may become a higher priority item in the next time frame. The time frames are defined as follows:

- Short Term: 2016 – 2017
- Medium Term: 2018 – 2019
- Long Term: Into 2020 and into the next planning cycle

Responsible Party

To help support park development, some improvements must be made to county infrastructure. These improvements have been listed in the Priority and Action Schedule and responsible party identified. The Park Board and County Council should work together to ensure action is taken on these issues.

Potential Funding Source

The funding for the items listed on the Priority and Action Schedule will be

primarily dependent upon the budget of the Park Board, grants, park system generated revenues, and private donations. Due to the limited budget of the Park Board, it is essential to identify additional funding sources for each action item. A description of each source can be found in Chapter 10.

Action Item	Priority	Timing	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Cost Estimate
Historic Property Suitability Study	High	Short	Parks and Recreation Board	Budget	Will vary.
Acquisition of suitable historic properties	Low	Long	Parks and Recreation Board	LWCF, Budget	Will vary.
Development of a County Bikeways Plan	High	Short	Parks and Recreation Board	Budget, State Grants	Approx. \$40,000
Implementation of County Bikeways Plan	Medium	Long	Parks and Recreation Board	Budget	Will vary.
Development of 18 Acre Park in Roselawn	Low	Long	Parks and Recreation Board, Lincoln Township	LWCF	Will vary.



CHAPTER 10: Funding Opportunities

The following grants are administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation (INDR-DOR). These grants are available to municipalities or counties with a legally established park board, and it is strongly recommended to have an approved five year master plan on file with IDNR-DOR. The availability of these grants may change from year to year.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is organized and administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a matching grant program which provides grants for 50 percent of the cost for acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Only boards with an approved five year master plan are eligible to apply. Items eligible for LWCF include picnic areas, parks, water oriented activities, nature centers, trails, and roads and utilities to support parks and eligible design costs.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a matching assistance program which provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects may qualify for

assistance. The local program is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources through its Division of Outdoor Recreation. RTP funds may be used for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, acquisition of easements or property for trails, and other activities. The Indiana Recreational Trails Program will provide 80 percent matching, reimbursing assistance for eligible projects. Applicants may request grant amounts ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000.

The DNR Shooting Range Program

The DNR Shooting Range Grant Program offers assistance for the development of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery facilities available to the public. Those eligible include all units of government and agencies incorporated as 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations that are open to the public at least 20 hours per month. The intent of the program is to train the public, hunter education, and to provide additional safe places for target practice. Eligible projects include the development of backstops, target holders, field courses, classrooms, sanitary facilities, and accessible pathways. Land acquisition is not eligible for reimbursement under this program.

Hometown Indiana

Although the Indiana Hometown Grant is not currently funded, monies are potentially allocated every two years by the state legislature. The program was established to assist local agencies in meeting present and future recreation needs, preserving historic sites and structures, and community forestry projects. Indiana Hometown Grant monies are available to municipal corporations and require a 50 percent match. Projects include the purchase of property for recreation, the development of recreational facilities, construction of trails, and the interpretation of natural and historic resources.

The following funding sources and grants are not administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. Included are grants available from local and national foundations, businesses, and organizations. This list is not all-inclusive, and the availability, criteria, and deadlines may change from year to year.

Newton County Community Foundation

The Newton County Community Foundation is a collection of individual funds and resources given by local citizens to enhance the quality of life in their

community. Earnings from these separate funds aim to help the community respond to emerging problems and opportunities, as well as prepare for the future. To see if a project qualifies for funds, the Foundation should be contacted.

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CHAPTER 11: Plan Evaluation and Updates

On a yearly basis, it is recommended that the Park Board review and evaluate progress that has been made on the Five Year Park and Recreation Plan. This is necessary to help the Park Board maintain the ability to provide quality services and facilities. A periodic review of the master plan and the consideration of continual public input will help determine where to focus efforts and help to determine future projects.

Sometimes, there are unforeseen circumstances that may change the priorities of the five year planning period. If this happens, a plan amendment may be submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation. Formal amendments to the plan are only required if they involve projects proposed in grant applications requiring a five year master plan.

These amendments must be approved in writing by IDNR-DOR planning staff. To amend the master plan, the following items must be submitted to IDNR-DOR:

1. A brief explanation of the reason(s) for the amendment.
2. Documentation of the public input which went into the amendment process.
3. The new plan pages, containing any changes or additions.

4. A resolution passed by the park board adopting the plan as amended. This will make the revised plan an official document of the Park Board.

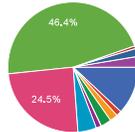
APPENDIX A: Survey & Survey Results

151 responses

[View all responses](#)

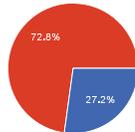
Summary

In which township do you reside?



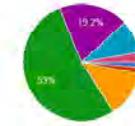
Beaver	18	11.9%
Colfax	2	1.3%
Grant	3	2%
Iroquois	4	2.6%
Jackson	2	1.3%
Jefferson	7	4.6%
Lake	37	24.5%
Lincoln	70	46.4%
McClellan	1	0.7%
Washington	3	2%
I do not reside in Newton County	4	2.6%

What is your gender?



Male	41	27.2%
Female	110	72.8%
Prefer not to answer.	0	0%

What is your age?



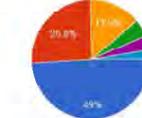
17 or under	2	1.3%
18-20	3	2%
21-29	19	12.6%
30-45	80	53%
46-55	29	19.2%
56-65	14	9.3%
66 or older	4	2.6%

Including yourself, how many people live in your household?



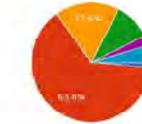
1	5	3.3%
2	28	18.5%
3	29	19.2%
4	44	29.1%
5	26	17.2%
Greater than 5	19	12.6%

How many of those are under the age of 18?



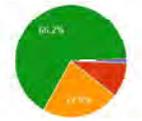
1	74	49%
2	39	25.8%
3	21	13.9%
4	7	4.6%
5	6	4%
Greater than 5	4	2.6%

Which of the following best describes your household?



Living alone	2	1.3%
Couple with children under 18 living at home	95	63.8%
Couple with no children under 18 living at home	26	17.4%
Single person(s) with children under 18 living at home	15	10.1%
Single person(s) with no children under 18 living at home	4	2.7%
Other	7	4.7%

How important are outdoor public recreation areas and facilities to you and your family?



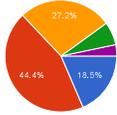
Don't know	1	0.7%
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How frequently did you use one or more park or recreation area WITHIN Newton County during the last 12 months?



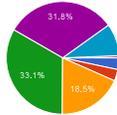
Two or more times per week	31	20.5%
Once a week	27	17.9%
Once or twice a month	40	26.5%
Several times a year	32	21.2%
Once or twice a year	16	10.6%
Not at all	5	3.3%
Never	0	0%

Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services that are currently available to you WITHIN Newton County?



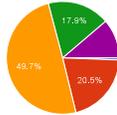
Not Satisfied	28	18.5%
Somewhat Satisfied	67	44.4%
Satisfied	41	27.2%
Very Satisfied	10	6.6%
Don't Know	5	3.3%

How frequently did you use one or more parks and recreation areas OUTSIDE of Newton County in the last 12 months?



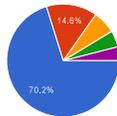
Two or more times per week	5	3.3%
Once a week	5	3.3%
Once or twice a month	28	18.5%
Several times a year	50	33.1%
Once or twice a year	48	31.6%
Not at all	14	9.3%
Never	1	0.7%

Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with public OUTDOOR areas, facilities, and services that are currently available to you OUTSIDE of Newton County?



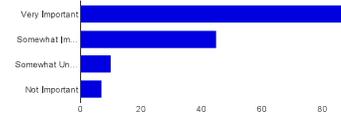
Not Satisfied	1	0.7%
Somewhat Satisfied	31	20.5%
Satisfied	75	49.7%
Very Satisfied	27	17.9%
Don't Know	17	11.3%

How long does it take you to get from your home to the park and recreation area where you most often recreate?



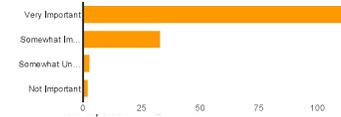
15 minutes or less	106	70.2%
15 - 30 minutes	22	14.6%
30 - 45 minutes	10	6.6%
45 - 60 minutes	7	4.6%
Over 60 minutes	6	4%

Flood Control [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]

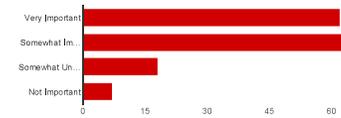


Very Important	89	58.9%
Somewhat Important	45	29.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	10	6.6%
Not Important	7	4.6%

Recreational Activities (picnicking, playgrounds, golf) [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]

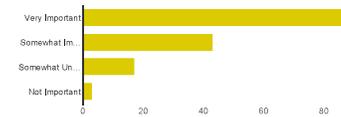


Opportunities for learning about our heritage (historic sites and events) [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



Very Important	62	41.1%
Somewhat Important	64	42.4%
Somewhat Unimportant	18	11.9%
Not Important	7	4.6%

Nature Preserves [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



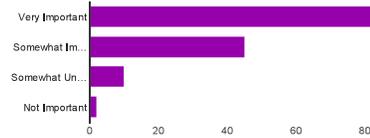
Very Important	88	58.3%
Somewhat Important	43	28.5%
Somewhat Unimportant	17	11.3%
Not Important	3	2%

Wildlife Preservation [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



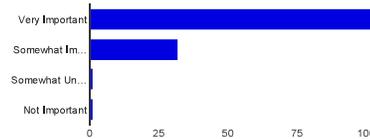
Very Important	87	57.6%
Somewhat Important	48	31.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	15	9.9%
Not Important	1	0.7%

Water access and water activities [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



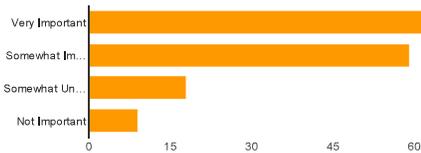
Very Important	94	62.3%
Somewhat Important	45	29.8%
Somewhat Unimportant	10	6.6%
Not Important	2	1.3%

Family oriented activities and events [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



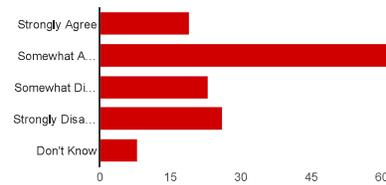
Very Important	117	77.5%
Somewhat Important	32	21.2%
Somewhat Unimportant	1	0.7%
Not Important	1	0.7%

Preservation and restoration of prairie, wetlands and marshlands [Please indicate the importance of each of these items:]



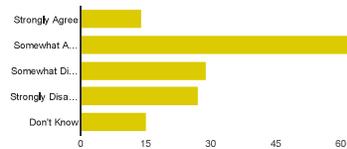
Very Important	65	43%
Somewhat Important	59	39.1%
Somewhat Unimportant	18	11.9%
Not Important	9	6%

Property taxes [Grants and donations are always the preferred way of funding parks and recreation. Over and above the availability of grants and donations, please indicate how you feel public parks, recreational facilities, and/or programs should be funded.]



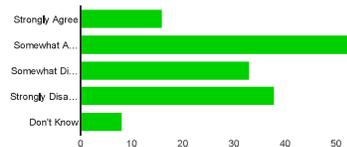
Strongly Agree	19	12.6%
Somewhat Agree	75	49.7%
Somewhat Disagree	23	15.2%
Strongly Disagree	26	17.2%
Don't Know	8	5.3%

Bonds to be paid by voter-approved property taxes [Grants and donations are always the preferred way of funding parks and recreation. Over and above the availability of grants and donations, please indicate how you feel public parks, recreational facilities, and/or programs should be funded.]



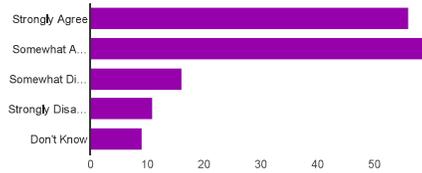
Strongly Agree	14	9.3%
Somewhat Agree	66	43.7%
Somewhat Disagree	29	19.2%
Strongly Disagree	27	17.9%
Don't Know	15	9.9%

User fees [Grants and donations are always the preferred way of funding parks and recreation. Over and above the availability of grants and donations, please indicate how you feel public parks, recreational facilities, and/or programs should be funded.]



Strongly Agree	16	10.6%
Somewhat Agree	56	37.1%
Somewhat Disagree	33	21.9%
Strongly Disagree	38	25.2%
Don't Know	8	5.3%

Build revenue-generating facilities at park sites [Grants and donations are always the preferred way of funding parks and recreation. Over and above the availability of grants and donations, please indicate how you feel public parks, recreational facilities, and/or programs should be funded.]



Strongly Agree	56	37.1%
Somewhat Agree	59	39.1%
Somewhat Disagree	16	10.6%
Strongly Disagree	11	7.3%
Don't Know	9	6%

If you have any additional comments, please use the space below to convey this information.

I have 0 in the household under the age of 18. It would not let me submit unless I choose an answer which would be a wrong answer.

Have more town soccer team to play other towns to get kids running more.

I would love to have a paved walking trail around the park.

We have property tax that are 3 times higher than Jasper county and we have nothing to show for it. The park that Roselawn already has isn't maintained very well, so I feel it isn't good idea to make another park if we can't keep up the one we have. I suggest we keep renting the land out for farm ground until we have the proper funding to maintain the park we have.

Question five does not let you answer 0, which is my correct response

I would like to see more spaces where families can take part on their own schedule, not an event as much as the facilities or spaces to visit. For example, you don't have to have an event at Turkey Run, but people can visit on their own schedule and hike, bike, canoe, etc. I feel Willow Slough is an untapped resource for encouraging family activities. Yes, you can fish or hunt there, but there are so many more missed opportunities. Why not create hiking trails with tree identification etc., have a nature center that people could visit and learn about the area. Build a YMCA where people have an indoor site to exercise and participate in wellness programs. Develop the Rails to Trails system and families or individuals can ride at their own leisure any time they can. Goodland park has no swings, there is nothing there for toddlers to do. At the very least I think we should have swings. I pass other parks in newton county and they all have swings and slides lots of things for toddlers. I think we need some of the things remington has. In just one of their parks they have 22 slides plus swings. In all of newton county I think Goodland has the least amount of things to do, maybe a splash pad like remington has.

I would love to see a walking trail and pool put in

Would love to have horse back riding trails in our County, preferably on the Northwest end of the County. Why is a 0 not present for this ? How many of those are under the age of 18? *

Nice and easy survey, looks good to me!

Please have more frequent patrols of parks.

More handicap accessibility and playgrounds. Bathrooms not porter potties. More picnic area shelters.

there is at least one park in Newton county that would be a great place to make trails for horse back riding Day Use.. everyone that owns a Horse in Newton county has to go out of the county to trail ride.. and we pay the park entry fee .. I know a lot of Horse people would LOVE to have trails close to home and they would pay to use them .. it would be a great revenue for the county!

The question: How many of those are under the age of 18? * I don't have any children under the age of 18 living at home with me. I had no choice but to mark the number one.

under the age of 18 living at home with me. I had no choice but to mark the number one. We need parks that are friendly to younger children such as toddlers. Most of the parks in our area are more for older kids and not safe or fun for little ones or so dirty I wouldn't let my child play on it

Since Willow Slough is located in Newton County I am hoping that Newton County officials could petition the State to cater more to public with the facilities at Willow Slough. The boat house is gone, the docks with rental boats are gone, the people coming here have vanished due to the lack of any kind of services at J.C. Murphy lake. As I understand the management is catering mostly to the duck hunters now and will actively deceive anglers in the summer time during peak times by having employees stand at the entrance telling people the campground is full when in fact it is not. I would love to see Willow Slough revived as it was once an economic asset to the town of Morocco and now it is barely used in the summer time. It makes no sense to me.

Would really love to have horseback riding trails in the county.

The back side of the walking track at the Lake Village firehouse needs better lighting at night.

Newton county has some excellent open spaces managed by Idnr & Inc. Newton county parks should try and tie these open spaces together with trails & new acquisitions. Also

look to provide camping and other overnight facilities for visitors to enjoy all the open space in the county. Take advantage of the beautiful streams in the county like Kankakee & Iroquois rivers with canoeing, kayaking, fishing, etc. develop parks with emphasis on counties rich natural heritage & farming & some active recreation.. Newton county has so much potential!

A splash pad and a walking path With lights would be great

The kids in northern newton county do not have a safe and fun place to hang out. Basketball courts and a public pool are two things that kids should have in this part of the county. A biking trail would also be great!

Your question, "How many of those are under the age of 18?" needs to have a choice of zero. I had to pick one because I couldn't submit the survey without answering that question.

I would like to see equestrian trails located in Newton County so families who ride don't have to travel hours to be able to ride safe trails.

It would be nice to have a splash pad or community pool in north Newton. Blue devils lagoon is wonderful but its far for those of us on the north end. A bike/jogging path would be great too and activities parents can do with their kids. Basketball courts, Frisbee golf nature hikes. The playground in Roselawn is great but there isn't a place where adults can interact with their kids. I would love to see something like the Parks dept. In Hendricks County, Indiana.

We have fantastic resources. I feel at times we could do more to highlight our area. Bicycle riding routes, even on under used county roads around Willow Slough, for example. Motorcycle gatherings where parks could be utilized etc.

I believe we should also raise property tax in Lincoln township to give more money to our town/ fire department/parks/ schools. The fire department is in desperate need of a new building.

Lincoln township has the smallest park in the county. Most other townships have access to more than one park also.

APPENDIX B: Flyers

LEAVE YOUR MARK

PARTICIPATE

Public Input Opportunities

for the development of the

Newton County Five Year Master Plan Update

Please join the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board to discuss ideas and opinions for the update of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Board needs your guidance on what your recreational needs are. Please share your opinion through the following public input opportunities:

November 10, 2015 @ 6:00 PM
Newton County Government Center
4117 South 240 West
Morocco, IN

November 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015
Online Public Input Survey
[Click here for link](#)

Questions? Contact the Newton County Parks and Recreation Board
4117 South 240 West, Morocco, IN
newtoncountyparkboard@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook.

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APPENDIX C: Meeting Sign-in Sheets



Public Input Meeting
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Please sign in!

Name	Town	Email Address
1. Frances Clark	Roselawn	tanigan@netnitco.net
2. Keron Clark	Roselawn	" " " " "
3. Ron Gann	Roselawn	ronald.gann@dotmail.com
4. Ray Chambers	Roselawn	rtvfd501@hotmail.com
5. John FRISCHIE	KENTLAND	frischie@embargo mail.com
6. Sue Frueh	Kentland	same ↑
7. Bethany Busboom	Lake Village	blbusboom@bcgfd.net
8. Richard Miller	Kentland	
9. Douglas P. Green	Morocco	dpgreen83@yahoo.com
10. Brent Klisiak	Roselawn	blt09@netnitco.net
11. Devin Green	Morocco	
12. Maria D'Ambrose	Brook	mdambrose@newtoncounty.in.gov
13. Deb Miller	Lake Village	debmillier37@gmail.com
14. Leticia A. Klisiak	Roselawn	blt09@netnitco.net
15. Pat Cahill	Lake Village	
16.		
17.		



Final Presentation of Plan
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
June 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Please sign in!

Name	Town	Email Address
1. Brent Klisiak	Roselawn	b1t09@netwico.net
2. Doug Green	Morocco	dgreen83@yahoo.com
3. Sara DeYoung	Lake Village	saraedeyoung@gmail.com
4. John H. Frischie	Kentlawns	frischie@wernbergmail.com
5. Rachel Christenson	Pendleton	rachristenson@gmail.com
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
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11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		

APPENDIX D: Public Comment Sheets



Public Comment Sheet
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Don't feel comfortable speaking up? Don't think we heard you? Tell us what's on your mind...

*Presms
running/bike trails*



Public Comment Sheet
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Don't feel comfortable speaking up? Don't think we heard you? Tell us what's on your mind...

*Seen nice set up AT Whiting
Beach - Concession + Restroom - Hall Rental*



Public Comment Sheet
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Don't feel comfortable speaking up? Don't think we heard you? Tell us what's on your mind...

1. Publish resources available - town parks, etc
with contact info - rules etc
2. Education

Rachael Christianson



Public Comment Sheet
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Don't feel comfortable speaking up? Don't think we heard you? Tell us what's on your mind...

- asset - Libraries in every town.



Public Comment Sheet
Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update
Newton County Government Center
November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Don't feel comfortable speaking up? Don't think we heard you? Tell us what's on your mind...

State govt ground (Asset) Willow Slough FWA
Needs: Move solid Council support and funding.

Micro brewery taste testing

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APPENDIX E: Resources & References

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