



Libertyville Parks Master Plan

June 2018 through May 2034

October 23, 2018

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Introduction

The Village of Libertyville developed this plan, shaped by the input of the community, to guide park development decisions for the next fifteen years.

Planning Process

The planning process covers four key stages including Analyze, Connect, Envision, and Implement. This Master Plan compiles the results of all four phases.

The planning process began in the winter of 2018 with an extensive inventory and analysis of the Village park and open space assets and social and economic context. Next, staff, stakeholders, the Steering Committee, Village Trustees, and the community provided awareness of the issues and needs facing the Village's parks and the recreation department through various platforms.

Upon completion of the inventory and analysis and community engagement phases, visioning sessions helped the planning team develop the comprehensive plan alternative strategies. After input from staff and Village Trustees, the alternative strategies were prioritized and incorporated into an

action plan that will be implemented over the next five years with an outlook to the next fifteen years.

Goals

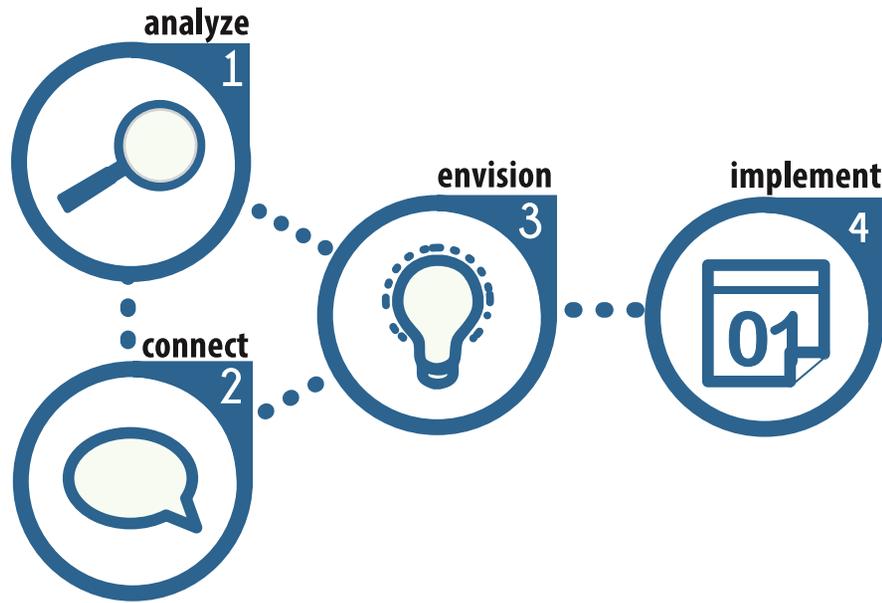
Goals for this Comprehensive Plan include:

- Assess existing park conditions.
- Determine community sentiment about existing services and facilities.
- Identify park needs.
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next fifteen years.

How to use the Plan

This Master Plan document should be used by the Village as a guide to implement the primary action items over the next fifteen years. The Action Plan should be thought of as a “working list” that will need to be updated annually.

STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT



Chapter One

Analyze: Inventory & Analysis

Chapter One provides a detailed inventory of all park land, open space, Village facilities, schools, trails and relevant adjacent land uses. All Village park assets are classified and quantified based on standards, size, location, and amenities. Chapter One also documents the level of service, equity mapping, and facility comparison.

Chapter Two

Connect: Needs Assessment

Chapter Two includes national, state, and local park and recreation trends. It also includes summaries of the online survey, stakeholder interviews, staff workshops, and community meeting.

Chapter Three

Envision: Alternative & Preferred Strategies

Chapter Three outlines the needs that arose during the Analyze and Connect phases. It provides the background of those needs, synthesizing the results from the previous phases into justification and background for future action items. Chapter Three also identifies the selected goals and strategies that shape the action plan.

Chapter Four

Implement: Action Plan

Chapter Four outlines the highest priority preferred strategies into a fifteen-year action plan. The action plan designates when strategies will occur and how to accomplish them.

Chapter Five

Appendix

Chapter Five contains Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Useful Life Criteria.

Village Profile

The Village of Libertyville covers approximately 9.17 square miles and serves a population of over 20,000 people. Located in central Lake County, the Village maintains more than 360 acres of recreation properties.

The Village of Libertyville properties include 18 parks, one natural area, and an indoor sports complex located throughout the Village. Additionally, the Village owns two public swimming pools that are located within the parks.

The Village is located within central Lake County. It includes Forest Preserve District of Lake County property and portions of Libertyville Grade School District #70 and Libertyville High School District #128. The DesPlaines River runs along a majority of the eastern border of the Village.

The Recreation and Sport Complex Department is funded through a combination of sources. User fees and real estate taxes provide the majority of funding. The Department receives additional funding through grants, rental fees, and sales.

Organizational Structure

The Recreation-Sports Complex Department is one of seven Village of Libertyville departments reporting to the Village Administrator. The Department is guided by the Parks & Recreation Committee comprised of three Village Trustees. This Committee reviews planning and action areas as well as providing direction and recommendations to the Department. Committee recommendations require approval or adoption from the Village Board, which has six elected Trustees and an elected Village President. The

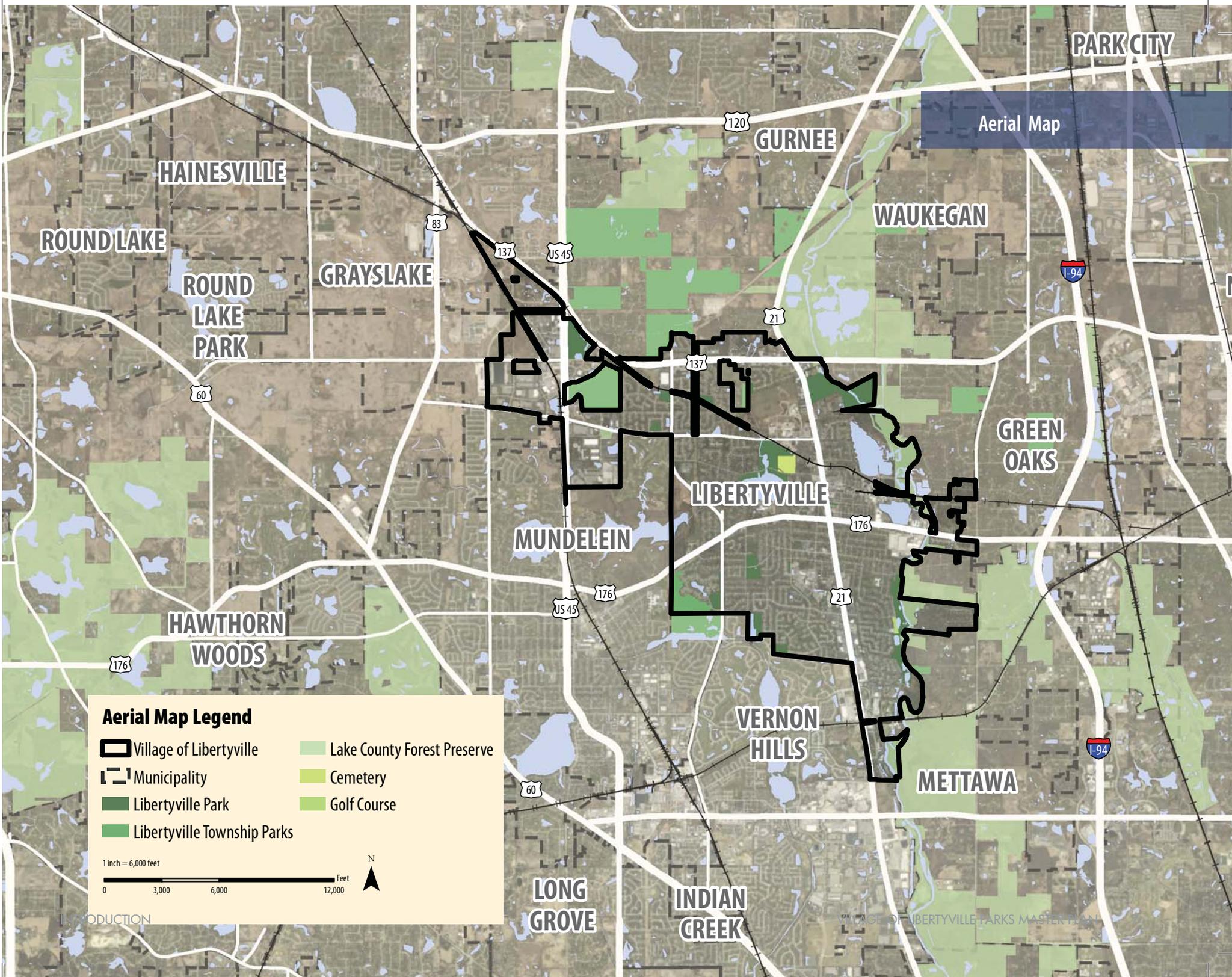
Department Director serves as liaison to the Committee and the Village Board.

Related Plans

Related documents referenced during the master planning process included:

- Village of Libertyville Parks & Recreation Master Plan (1995, 1999)
- Libertyville Comprehensive Plan (2005)

Aerial Map



Aerial Map Legend

- Village of Libertyville
- Municipality
- Libertyville Park
- Libertyville Township Parks
- Lake County Forest Preserve
- Cemetery
- Golf Course







Chapter One

Analyze: Inventory & Analysis



Overview

The Analyze: Inventory and Analysis Chapter of the report describes and illustrates the existing conditions of the Village of Libertyville. The information in this chapter is used to develop a baseline understanding of the Village's outdoor recreational assets.

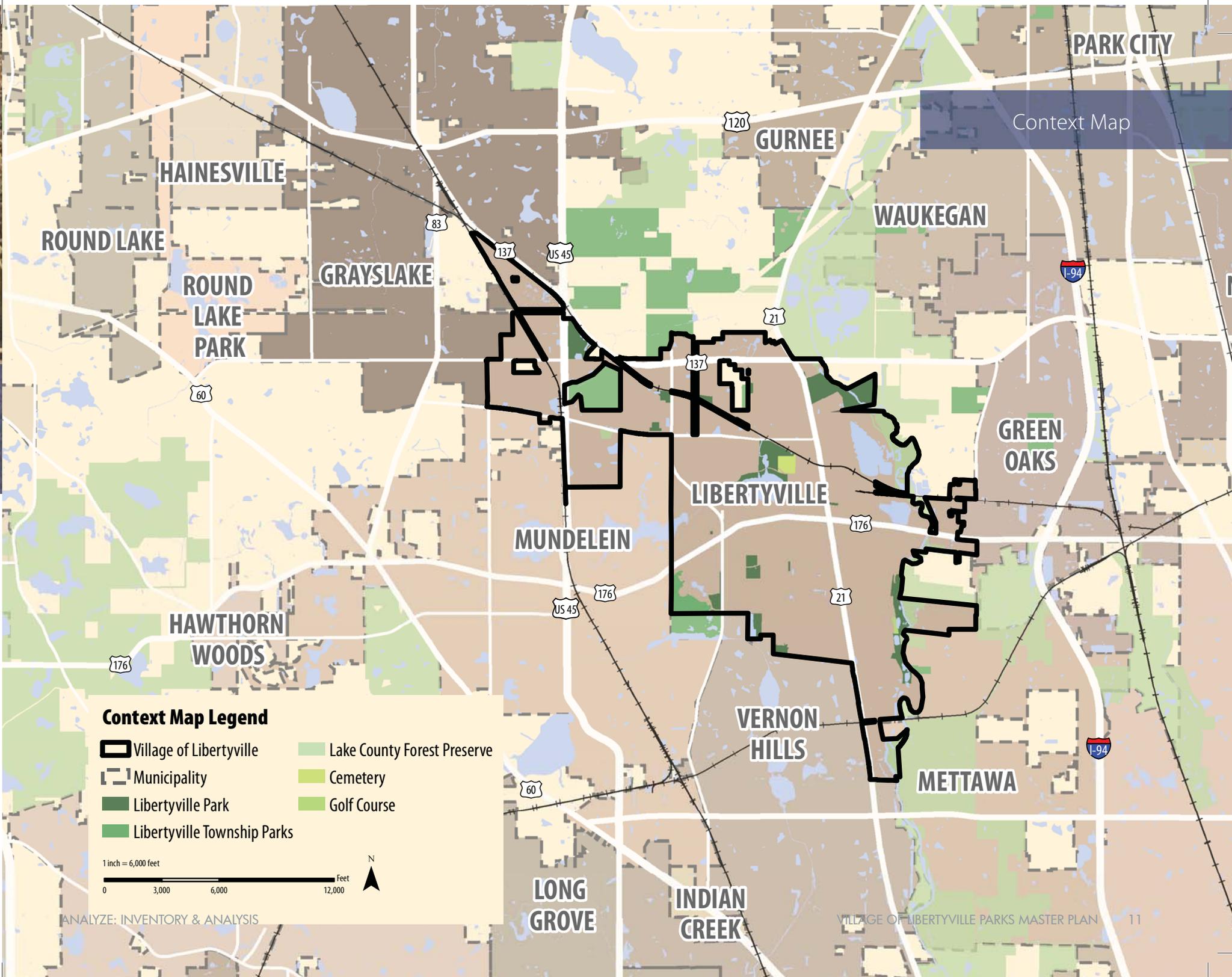
Purpose

This chapter documents the inventory and analysis accomplished during the “Analyze” phase of the park master planning process. This phase describes the context in which the Village operates, the recreation services they provide, and the patrons that utilize parks, facilities, and programs.

Included in the chapter is information that defines the community's demographic context and detailed maps of the Village that identify parks and other relevant land uses. This chapter also includes the level of service analysis for parks comparing the Village's total acreage of parks and open space to local, state, and national benchmarks. A distribution mapping analysis of the geographic locations of parks is also found in this chapter. This information provides insight into potential surpluses or deficiencies the Village has in terms of parks and open space.

Chapter Outline

- Demographics
- Existing Conditions
- Asset Inventory
- Park Classifications
- Park & Open Space Inventory Matrix
- Level of Service Analysis
- Acreage
- Distribution
- Mini Park Distribution Analysis
- Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis
- Community Park Distribution Analysis
- Overall Park Distribution Analysis
- Amenities



Context Map Legend

-  Village of Libertyville
-  Municipality
-  Libertyville Park
-  Libertyville Township Parks
-  Lake County Forest Preserve
-  Cemetery
-  Golf Course



Demographics

The demographics review utilized the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst Online (BAO) software to gather up-to-date demographic data necessary to gain a strong understanding of the Village and its context.

Summary

According to 2017 estimates, the Village of Libertyville has 20,432 residents living within its boundaries. Total population numbers from 2010 indicate the population is growing at an annual rate of 0.12%. The population is expected to continue growing into 2022, where the population is expected to reach 20,550. The Village's growth is slightly less than the state growth (0.17%) and is only one-seventh the national rate (0.83%).

There are 7,719 households within the Village boundaries. According to the U.S. Census, a household "includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence." Out of these 7,719 households, 72% (5,555) are families. A family is defined as a household in which one or more people are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The average household size is 2.61. This is slightly less than 2010 (2.63) and the number is projected to decrease further to 2.60 in 2022.

Age Distribution

With a median age of 45.2, Libertyville has a mature, aging population. According to 2017 estimates, 34.2% of the population is over the age of 55. This is projected to increase to 38.2% in 2022. This age group's growth mirrors that of the state and national trends. The aging, active adult and senior populations are and will continue to be a

major demographic. Since 2010, all age groups under 20 have decreased. This trend is also projected to continue into 2022.

Race and Ethnicity

According to ESRI, the Village has a diversity index of 21.9. The Diversity Index captures the racial and ethnic diversity of a geographic area in a single number, 0 to 100, and allows for efficient analysis of diversity throughout the United States. The Diversity Index is "the likelihood that two persons, selected at random from the same area, would belong to a different race or ethnic group." According to demographic estimates, 88.1% of residents indicate their race as White, which results in a low diversity index. The largest minority group within the Department boundaries are Asian Americans, with 7.0% reporting their race as "Asian Alone." Finally, 1.4% report as "Black Alone," 2.0% report as "Two or More Races," and 1.3% report as "Some Other Race Alone." The remaining 0.2% of the population reported their race as American Indian alone and 0.0% of the population is recorded as Pacific Islander.

TOTAL POPULATION

20,550
2022

20,432
2017

20,375
2010



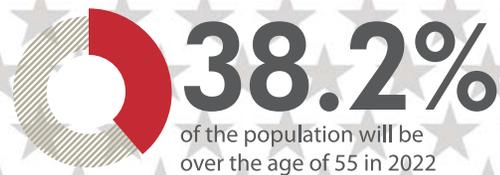
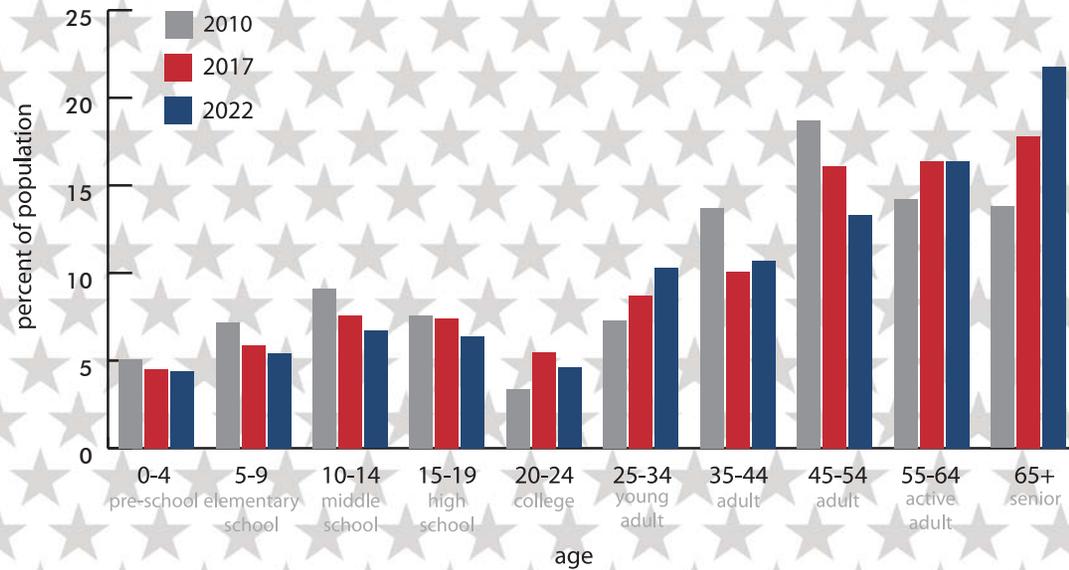
7,719
households



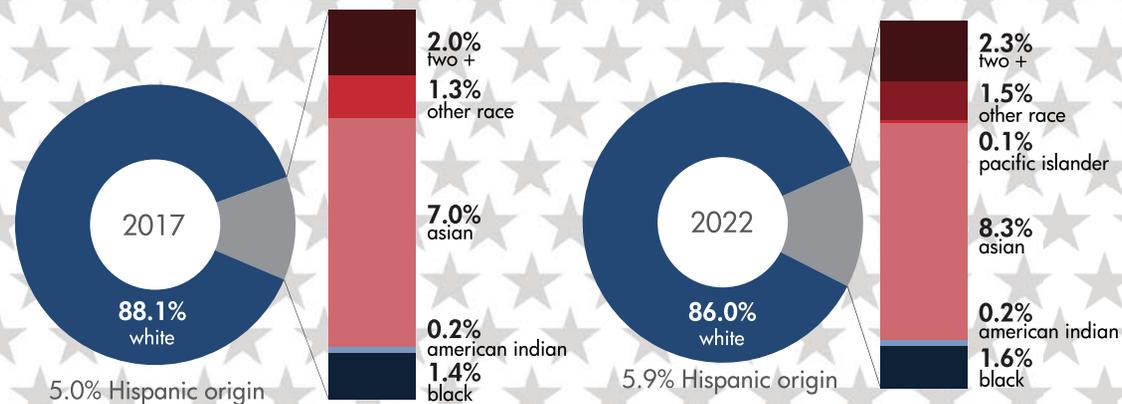
5,555
families

2.61
average household size

AGE DISTRIBUTION

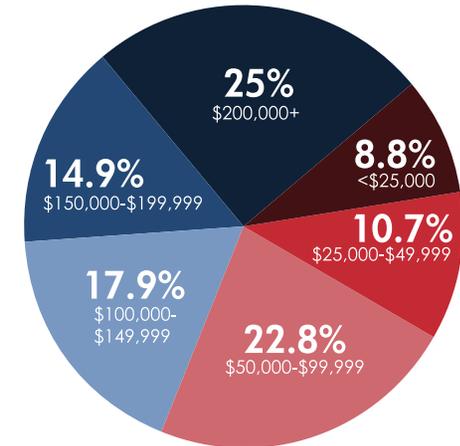


RACE / ETHNICITY



ANALYZE: INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

INCOME DISTRIBUTION



Income

One quarter of Libertyville's households earn more than \$200,000 per year, more than four times the state and national totals (6.7% and 6.1%, respectively). The 2017 median household income is \$116,974, which is nearly double the state median income (\$59,409) and more than double the national median household income (\$56,124). Median household incomes are projected to increase by an annual rate of 1.45% to \$125,689 by 2022.

Existing Conditions

The first step in the comprehensive planning process is to understand not only the context around the Village, but also the existing conditions found within the Village itself. This includes land use, open space and natural features.

Land Use

The Village of Libertyville is a mix of residential, commercial, office, industrial, and open space land. The Village predominantly consists of residentially zoned property. Most of these lots are designated for single-family homes, with multi-family development scattered throughout. Commercially-zoned property is concentrated along the stretch of Milwaukee Avenue that runs the length of the Village. Industrial use and office uses are generally located in the western and southern portions of the Village limits. The Libertyville Zoning Map can be found in the Appendix.

Open Space Providers

The Village is one of many open space and outdoor recreation providers within the community. The Forest Preserve District of Lake County provides regional active and passive recreation opportunities as well as conserves significant open space assets. Libertyville Township manages multiple properties within and adjacent to the Village. School districts also provide outdoor recreation opportunities at elementary, middle, and high school sites. The map to the right displays public and private open spaces within the Village of Libertyville boundaries.

Public Open Space

Department Open Space, Municipal Open Space, Forest Preserves, State and Federal Lands

The Village owns and manages more than 350 acres of active and passive open space. The Forest Preserve District of Lake County owns over 180 acres of open space within the Village's boundaries. Libertyville Township also owns a number of properties in and around the Village of Libertyville. Over 50 acres of their open space fall within the Village's boundaries.

Institutional Open Space

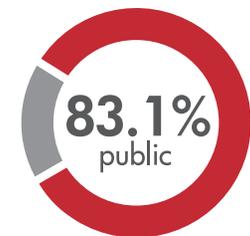
Elementary, Middle, and Senior High Schools, College and Universities

There are four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school serving Village residents. In addition to public schools, there are three private schools and one alternative education facility within the Village's boundaries. Over 90 acres of public and private school space is available to residents.

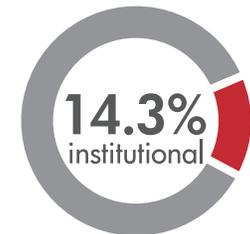
Private Open Space

Private Recreational Facilities, Cemeteries, Golf Courses

The Lakeside Cemetery falls within the Village boundaries and covers 17 acres of open space.



552.0 acres



94.8 acres



17.3 acres

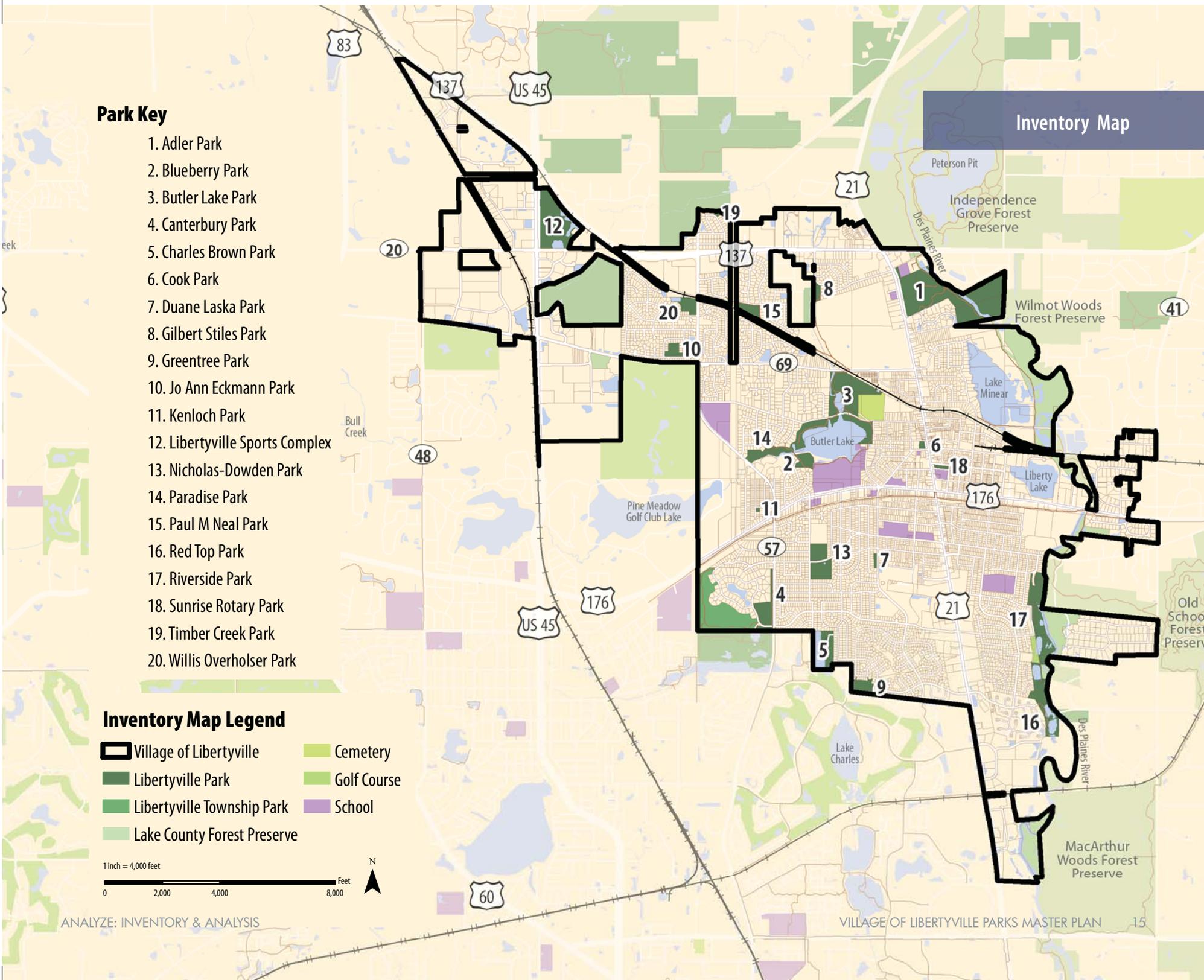
Inventory Map

Park Key

1. Adler Park
2. Blueberry Park
3. Butler Lake Park
4. Canterbury Park
5. Charles Brown Park
6. Cook Park
7. Duane Laska Park
8. Gilbert Stiles Park
9. Greentree Park
10. Jo Ann Eckmann Park
11. Kenloch Park
12. Libertyville Sports Complex
13. Nicholas-Dowden Park
14. Paradise Park
15. Paul M Neal Park
16. Red Top Park
17. Riverside Park
18. Sunrise Rotary Park
19. Timber Creek Park
20. Willis Overholser Park

Inventory Map Legend

-  Village of Libertyville
-  Cemetery
-  Libertyville Park
-  Golf Course
-  Libertyville Township Park
-  School
-  Lake County Forest Preserve





Asset Inventory

As a part of the planning process, we referenced the guidelines outlined by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) - Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines Manual.

NRPA recommends creating a park classification system to serve as a guide for organizing an agency's parks. Park, Recreation, and Greenway Classification Guidelines are expressions of the amount of land a community determines should constitute the minimum acreage and development criteria for different classifications or types of parks, open space, and greenways.

Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, School-Park, Community Park, Large Urban Park, and Sports Complexes are the six classifications for parks recognized by the NRPA. Commonly, School-Parks are included into the Neighborhood Park category and Large Urban Parks and Sports Complexes are included in the Community Park category.

These categories are based on size, function, and use. Mini Parks are the smallest size and most limited in function and use while Community Parks are typically the largest parks of a system and their many uses serve a variety of functions for the community. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA and included in the table to the right are Natural Resource Areas, Special Use, and Greenways or Linear Parks. The Undeveloped Parks category, while not recognized by NRPA, is a category included by the planning team for park sites that are not developed for meaningful access and recreation opportunities (pathways, trails, sports fields, play areas, etc.).

These classifications help the Village develop a comprehensive Level of Service analysis, which will follow this section of the report. In the park and open space inventory on the following pages, all amenities were quantified and noted in order to

understand the Village's total recreational offerings. The numbers in red text indicated an amenity is beyond its useful life, per the IDNR Useful Life criteria (found in the Appendix).

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

<i>Classification</i>	<i>General Description</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Size Criteria</i>	<i>Village of Libertyville Parks and Facilities</i>
Mini Park (M)	Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. These parks usually do not include parking. Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than 0.25 mile distance in a residential setting.	0.4 to 1.7 acres	Cook Park, Duane Laska Park, Kenloch Park, Sunrise Rotary Park, Timber Creek Park
Neighborhood Park (N)	Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, and trail systems. Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.	0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	3.9 to 30.2 acres	Blueberry Park, Canterbury Park, Gilbert Stiles Park, Greentree Park, Jo Ann Eckmann Park, Paul M Neal Park, Red Top Park, Riverside Park, Willis Overholser Park
Community Park (C)	Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks preserve unique landscapes and often serve the community as gathering places and general athletics. Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, multiple sport courts and fields. Serves broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Focus is on meeting community based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 0.5 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 10 acres.	Adler Park, Butler Lake Park, Charles Brown Park, Nicholas-Dowden Park
Natural Areas*	Conservation and wildlife areas, wooded areas and waterways that are maintained for the most part in their natural state.	Service radius is unlimited.	No applicable standard.	Paradise Park
Special Use*	Special use facilities focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. Often, these spaces, both indoor and outdoor, are designed as single-use recreation activities. Examples of special use facilities include golf courses, nature centers, recreation centers, and museums. Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities. Generally designed for active recreation and focus on meeting community based recreation needs.	No applicable standard.	Variable, depending on desired amenity.	Libertyville Sports Complex
Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks*	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	No applicable standard.	
Undeveloped Park	Lands owned by the agency, but not yet developed with any amenities to provide meaningful access to the site such as trails, seating areas, and other passive and active recreation amenities.	No applicable standard.	Variable.	

Level of Service Analysis

The Level of Service (LOS) analyses evaluate how well the Village's parks, facilities, and amenities are serving the current needs of the community. Level of Service is evaluated through four different avenues: acreage, square footage, distribution, and amenities.

The development of a Level of Service standard for parks and recreation began in the 1980s with the development of Levels of Standard for other infrastructure such as water, stormwater drainage, sewer systems, and transportation. These benchmarks provide agency officials with the ability to respond to growing communities, evolving demographics, and changing needs. However, it is important to note that these benchmarks are not strict rules that all communities should follow. These Level of Service benchmarks are simply another gauge for agencies to use when determining future needs and services.

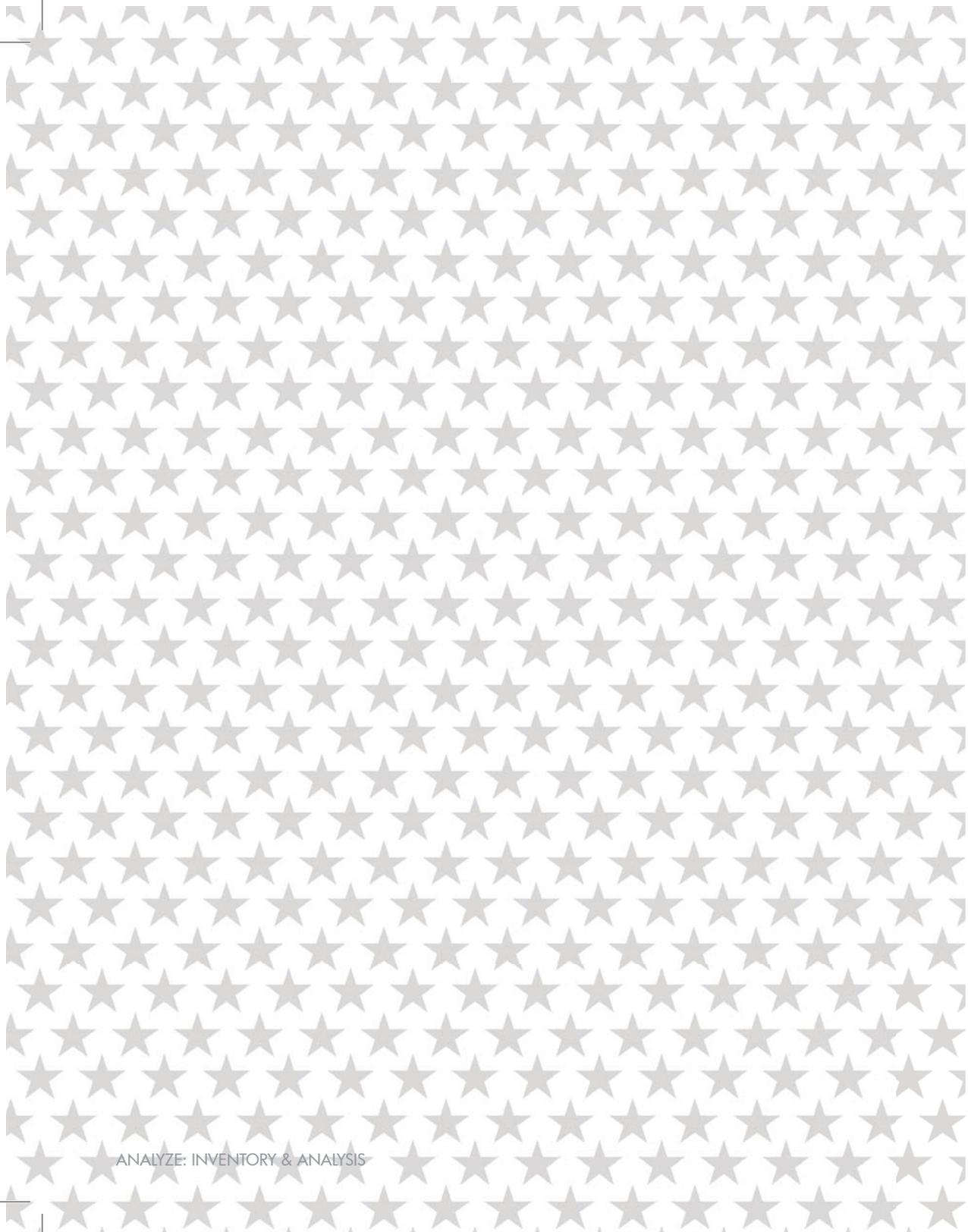
According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, the Level of Service is a quantification of the park and recreation delivery philosophy and policy of a community. Its basic utility is in meeting a legal and / or economic requirement of quality service and equity. As a basic rule, a Level of Service benchmark should:

1. Be practical and achievable.
2. Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout a community; there should be equal opportunity access for all citizens.
3. Reflect the real-time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities.

There are three different Level of Service measurements that help a community understand how equitable and comprehensive their current offerings are. These are:

1. **Acreage:**
 - A calculation of the minimum number of land required to provide all of the recreation activities, and facilities required to support such activities.
2. **Distribution:**
 - An evaluation of how equitable park and open space sites are placed throughout the community, as well as how accessible existing sites are to residents.
3. **Amenities:**
 - A calculation of the minimum number of amenities and facilities required to meet state and / or national averages.

Level of Service guidelines are developed by state and national agencies, including the NRPA. Historically, a Level of Service analysis has been limited to total park and open space acreage alone and did not include distribution, amenities, or indoor square footage.



The national standard for acreage Level of Service was 10 acres per 1,000 population, but as park and recreation planning developed, professionals saw the need to develop a more comprehensive benchmarking tool that could be adjusted for and specific to each community.

Because one size does not fit all, NRPA now recommends using more local and community-specific benchmarks. Park Metrics (formerly PRORAGIS) is NRPA's online management tool, designed for public park and recreation agencies.

This tool is a replacement for the NRPA standards that have guided land acquisition and development for the past 45 years. Through this tool, agencies have the ability to compare themselves and their standards with departments and agencies in their state or region. Agencies can also compare themselves to others based on factors such as total population, operating budget, area of agency, and number of full-time technical equivalent employees. These reports calculate actual numbers, based on real, similar agencies. Now, agencies can plan and benchmark with more applicable data than generic national averages.

Park Metrics has thousands of data points and more than 600 completed profiles. It is now the largest and most comprehensive collection of detailed municipal, county, state, and special district data. As more agencies add their data to the database, trends and patterns begin to emerge that help agencies plan and benchmark.

The following Level of Service analyses reference historical standards, Park Metrics, and local and regional-specific standards set by the State of Illinois and the planning team.

Acreage

Acreage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the recommended amount of land to provide the recreation activities and facilities required to support such activities.

The NRPA's population ratio method (acres / 1,000 population) emphasizes the direct relationship between recreation spaces and people and is the most common method of estimating an agency's level of service for park land and open space. In addition to the baseline of 10 acres / 1,000 population used in this analysis, the Park Metrics benchmarks are also used to understand how the Village compares to agencies of similar population size.

Based on the NRPA benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 population, 204.32 acres of Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park space is recommended for the District. The chart on the right designates these park assets as "Active Recreation Areas." With 312.84 acres of open space dedicated to Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park uses, the Village has a 108.52 acre surplus compared to this benchmark. Libertyville has a level of service of 15.31 acres per 1,000 population, which exceeds the NRPA recommended 10 acres per 1,000.

While the Village is exceeding NRPA's recommendations for total active recreation areas, it is deficient in mini park acreage. Libertyville has 5.63 acres of Mini Parks, resulting in a 4.59 acre deficiency. When including the Village's 56.0 acres of natural areas and special use properties, the Village's level of service increases to 18.05 acres per 1,000 population. Libertyville's acreage surplus also increases to 164.52 acres when including these land uses.

The Park Metrics database was referenced to understand how the Village of Libertyville compares to agencies

across the nation with similar population sizes. The Village has a population of 20,432. Out of over 600 agencies reporting, there were 13 agencies in the U.S. with populations between 19,000 and 21,000. Park Metrics provided information on the following level of service benchmarks:

- Total Number of Parks
- Total Park Acres
- Total Acres Managed
- Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents

The Village has 18 parks (not including Paradise Park or the Libertyville Sports Complex, see page 18 for property classifications) that total 312.84 acres, which matches the median number of parks and is significantly higher than the median 220 acres reported by Park Metrics. The median for total acres managed is 454 acres, which is more than Libertyville's 368.84 acres of managed lands. The Village falls within the upper quartile of agencies in terms of total parkland. This information is shown in the chart on the next page.

Regarding acreage level of service of all public open space in the Village of Libertyville, including institutional land, privately held land, open space by other public agencies, and Forest Preserves, a surplus of public open space exists. Park Metrics recommends 204.32 total public open space acres or 10.0 acres per 1,000 population. Libertyville exceeds the recommended acreage with 442.48 acres of open space and 31.66 acres per 1,000 population. This information is shown in the charts to the right.

Level of Service Analysis: 10 acres / 1,000 population

OWNED / LEASED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

Classification	Village Acreage (Total)	Village Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Mini Park	5.63	0.28	10.22	0.50	-4.59
Neighborhood Park	107.99	5.29	40.86	2.00	67.13
Community Park	199.22	9.75	153.24	7.50	45.98
Total Active Recreation Areas	312.84	15.31	204.32	10.00	108.52

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 20,432

ALL Village MANAGED OPEN SPACE

Classification	Village Acreage (Total)	Village Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Mini Park	5.63	0.28	10.22	0.50	-4.59
Neighborhood Park	107.99	5.29	40.86	2.00	67.13
Community Park	199.22	9.75	153.24	7.50	45.98
Natural Areas	11.10	0.54	0.00	0.00	11.10
Special Use	44.90	2.20	0.00	0.00	44.90
Greenways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Village Open Space	368.84	18.05	204.32	10.00	164.52

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 20,432

ALL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Classification	Village Acreage (Total)	Village Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Village Total Parks & Open Space	368.84	18.05	204.32	10.00	164.52
School Open Space	94.82	4.64	0.00	0.00	94.82
Forest Preserve Open Space	183.14	8.96	0.00	0.00	183.14
Parks & Open Space by Others	50.42	2.47	0.00	0.00	50.42
Total Public Open Space	646.80	31.66	204.32	10.00	442.48

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 20,432

Level of Service Analysis: Park Metrics Benchmark

OWNED / LEASED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

Classification	Village Acreage (Total)	Village Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Park Metrics Recommended Acreage	Park Metrics Average, Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Total Active Recreation Areas	312.84	15.31	228.84	11.20	84.00
Total Village Managed Open Space	368.84	18.05	228.84	11.20	140.00

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 20,432

Distribution

Planning areas are used for the analysis park distribution, land acquisition, and park facility redevelopment. Planning areas are delineated by major pedestrian barriers, including major roads or highways, railroad corridors, and extreme natural features.

In addition to the quantity of park and open space, the location and geographic distribution of the parks also offer an indication of how well a parks and recreation agency is serving its residents. Understanding where parks are located in relationship to residential development informs on who is underserved. This analysis may reveal the need for acquisition in underserved areas of the Village or may reveal that the Village is serving the residents well and should shift their focus into maintaining or updating existing assets.

Methodology

Planning Area boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access.

In the Village of Libertyville, the major arterial and collector streets, railroad, and Des Plaines River serve as the main pedestrian barriers. These pedestrian barriers resulted in 22 planning areas within the Village. Areas of the Village identified as “non-planning areas” are shown in gray and do not contain any residential development. They are not included in the analysis.

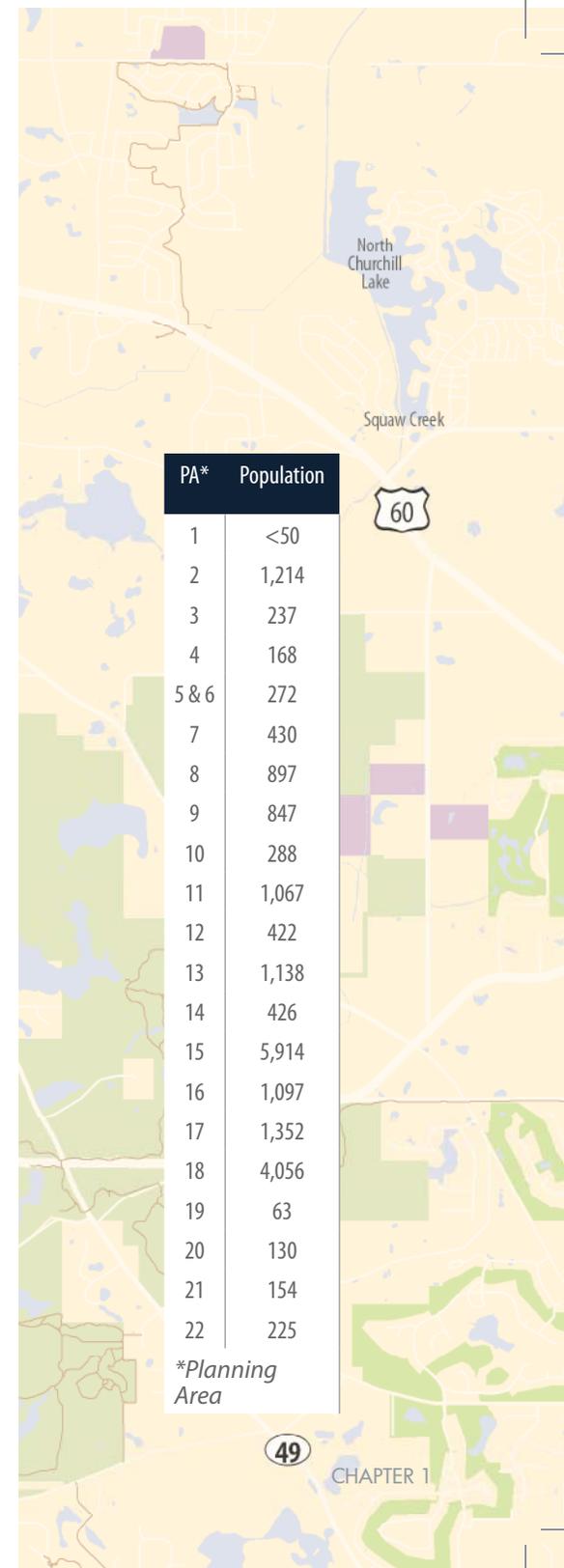
After dividing the Village into planning areas, the geographic distribution was analyzed. A service area, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, was created around each individual park. The shape of the service area is determined by analyzing the existing road

and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route of travel and distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter, half, or one mile.

The table on page 17 notes the recommended service area distances for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks. Natural Areas, Special Use Sites, and Undeveloped Sites are not included in the analysis.

Because Mini and Neighborhood Parks are considered walk-to or walkable destinations, service area buffers for these properties are truncated to the planning area boundary in which the park is located. For Community Parks, the boundaries were not truncated because these parks are seen as drive-to destinations.

Overlaying service maps reveal which areas are most and least served by the existing park system. The most served areas are illustrated by the dark orange, while the least served areas are illustrated by the lack of orange. The orange service area buffers overlap to form a gradient that illustrates the degree to which residents are served. The darker the orange, the better these residents are served. Residents who fall within the darker or opaque orange areas are served by multiple parks and their amenities. Demographics for each planning and service area further inform the level of service analysis.



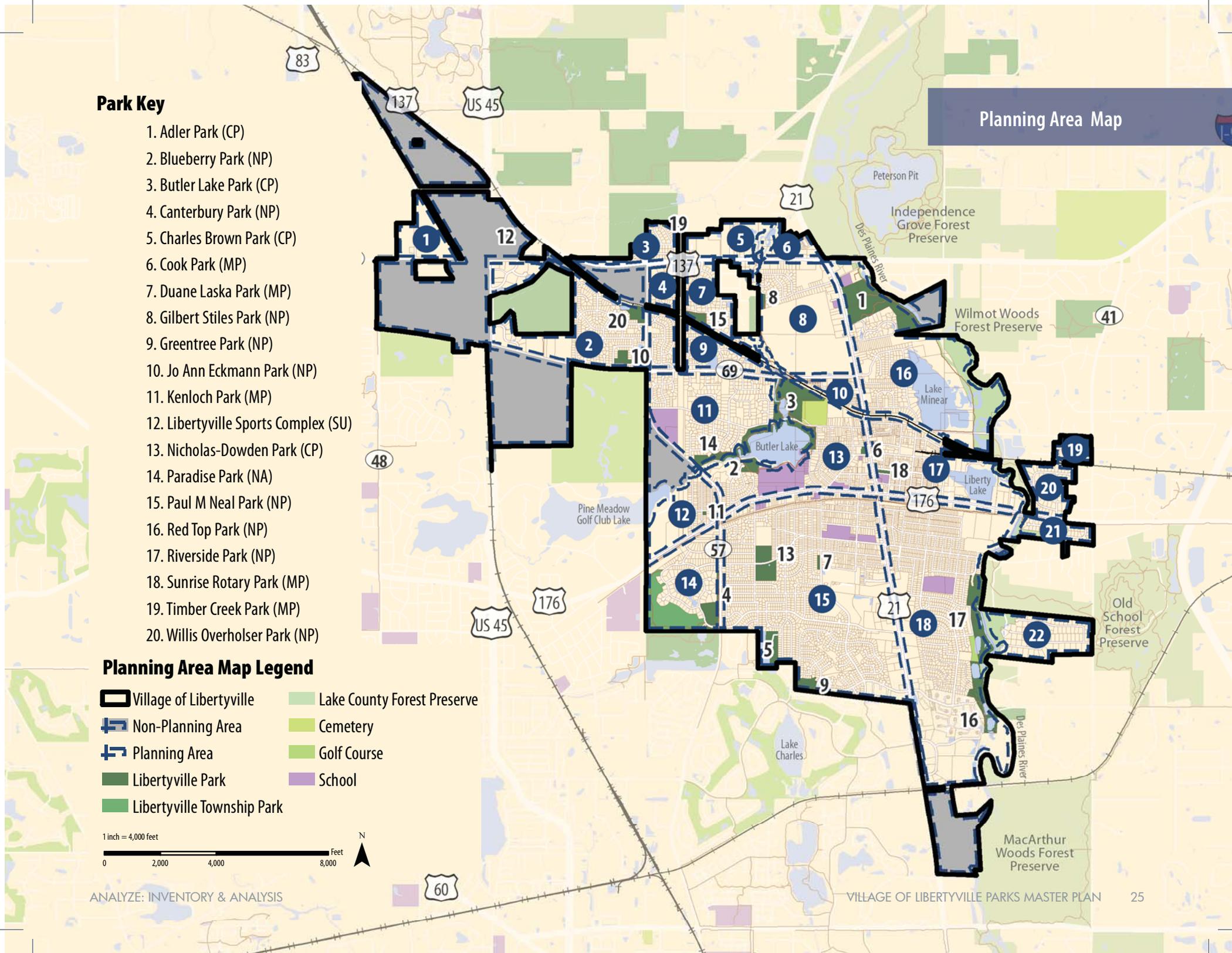
Park Key

1. Adler Park (CP)
2. Blueberry Park (NP)
3. Butler Lake Park (CP)
4. Canterbury Park (NP)
5. Charles Brown Park (CP)
6. Cook Park (MP)
7. Duane Laska Park (MP)
8. Gilbert Stiles Park (NP)
9. Greentree Park (NP)
10. Jo Ann Eckmann Park (NP)
11. Kenloch Park (MP)
12. Libertyville Sports Complex (SU)
13. Nicholas-Dowden Park (CP)
14. Paradise Park (NA)
15. Paul M Neal Park (NP)
16. Red Top Park (NP)
17. Riverside Park (NP)
18. Sunrise Rotary Park (MP)
19. Timber Creek Park (MP)
20. Willis Overholser Park (NP)

Planning Area Map Legend

-  Village of Libertyville
-  Non-Planning Area
-  Planning Area
-  Libertyville Park
-  Libertyville Township Park
-  Lake County Forest Preserve
-  Cemetery
-  Golf Course
-  School

1 inch = 4,000 feet



Mini Park Distribution Analysis

Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating opportunities.

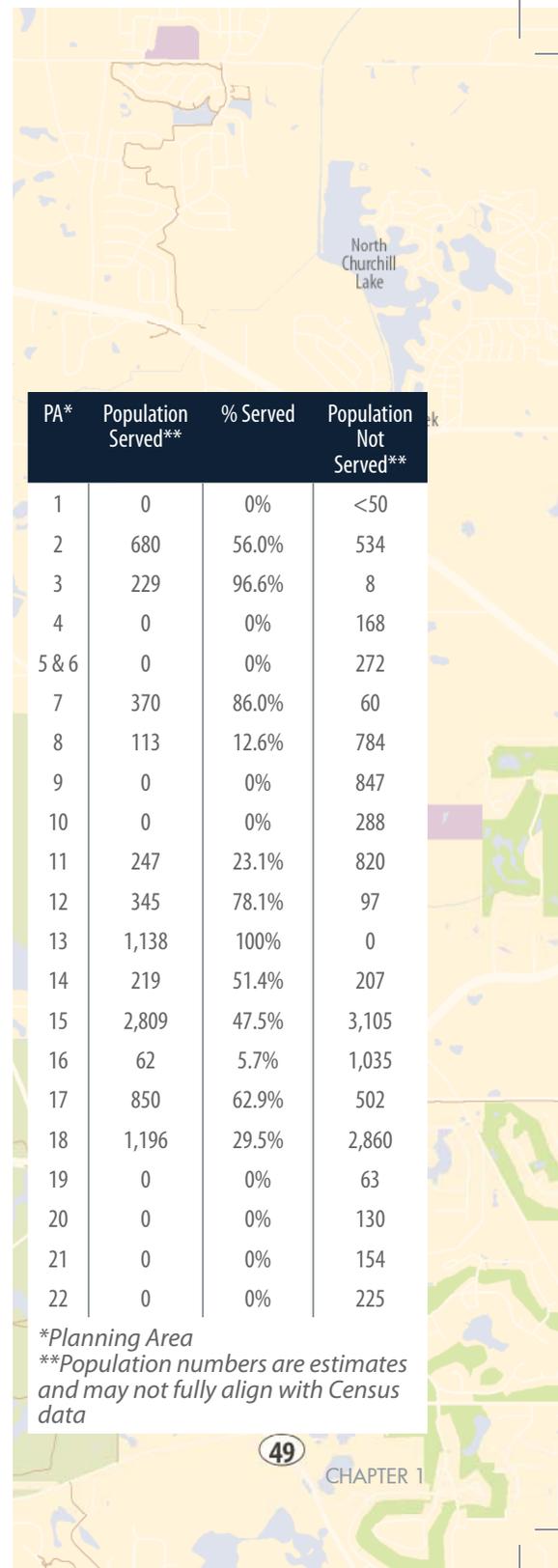
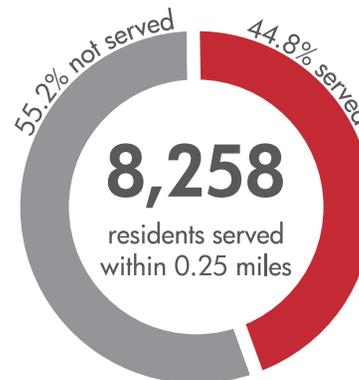
The purpose of the Mini Park service area study is to determine which planning areas are under-served by the Village's existing Mini Park land holdings. Currently, Libertyville has five Mini Parks that range from 0.4 acres to 1.7 acres in size. In all, the Village manages 5.6 acres of Mini Park land holdings.

The Mini Park service area map illustrates a 0.25-mile service radius (shown in dark orange) around each existing Mini Park.

This plan also illustrates a 0.25-mile service area (shown in light orange) for Neighborhood and Community Parks as these parks can also serve the function of a Mini Park for those residents within a 0.25-mile distance from the park. According to NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, Mini Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where Mini Park service is concentrated within the Village. Planning Area 15 is the best served with 2,809 residents or 47.5% of the planning area population residing within walking distance to a park. Nearly 100% of residents in Planning Areas 3 and 13 are served within a 0.25-mile radius, although those Planning Areas have smaller populations. Planning Areas 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are not served at all. All of these Planning Areas, except for Planning Area 9, have a population under 300 residents. Planning Areas 15, 16, and 18 stand out as having a high need with 1,000 residents or more unserved, despite the presence of open space in all three.

Overall, 44.8% of Libertyville residents live within a 0.25-mile walking distance to a park. This percentage of population served is slightly higher than the average level of service of 43.0% of the population served as observed by the planning team.



PA*	Population Served**	% Served	Population Not Served**
1	0	0%	<50
2	680	56.0%	534
3	229	96.6%	8
4	0	0%	168
5 & 6	0	0%	272
7	370	86.0%	60
8	113	12.6%	784
9	0	0%	847
10	0	0%	288
11	247	23.1%	820
12	345	78.1%	97
13	1,138	100%	0
14	219	51.4%	207
15	2,809	47.5%	3,105
16	62	5.7%	1,035
17	850	62.9%	502
18	1,196	29.5%	2,860
19	0	0%	63
20	0	0%	130
21	0	0%	154
22	0	0%	225

*Planning Area
 **Population numbers are estimates and may not fully align with Census data

Mini Park Distribution

Park Key

1. Adler Park (CP)
2. Blueberry Park (NP)
3. Butler Lake Park (CP)
4. Canterbury Park (NP)
5. Charles Brown Park (CP)
6. Cook Park (MP)
7. Duane Laska Park (MP)
8. Gilbert Stiles Park (NP)
9. Greentree Park (NP)
10. Jo Ann Eckmann Park (NP)
11. Kenloch Park (MP)
12. Libertyville Sports Complex (SU)
13. Nicholas-Dowden Park (CP)
14. Paradise Park (NA)
15. Paul M Neal Park (NP)
16. Red Top Park (NP)
17. Riverside Park (NP)
18. Sunrise Rotary Park (MP)
19. Timber Creek Park (MP)
20. Willis Overholser Park (NP)

Mini Park Service Area Map Legend

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| | Libertyville Township Park |
| | Lake County Forest Preserve |
| | Cemetery |
| | Golf Course |
| | School |

1 inch = 4,000 feet



Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis

Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.

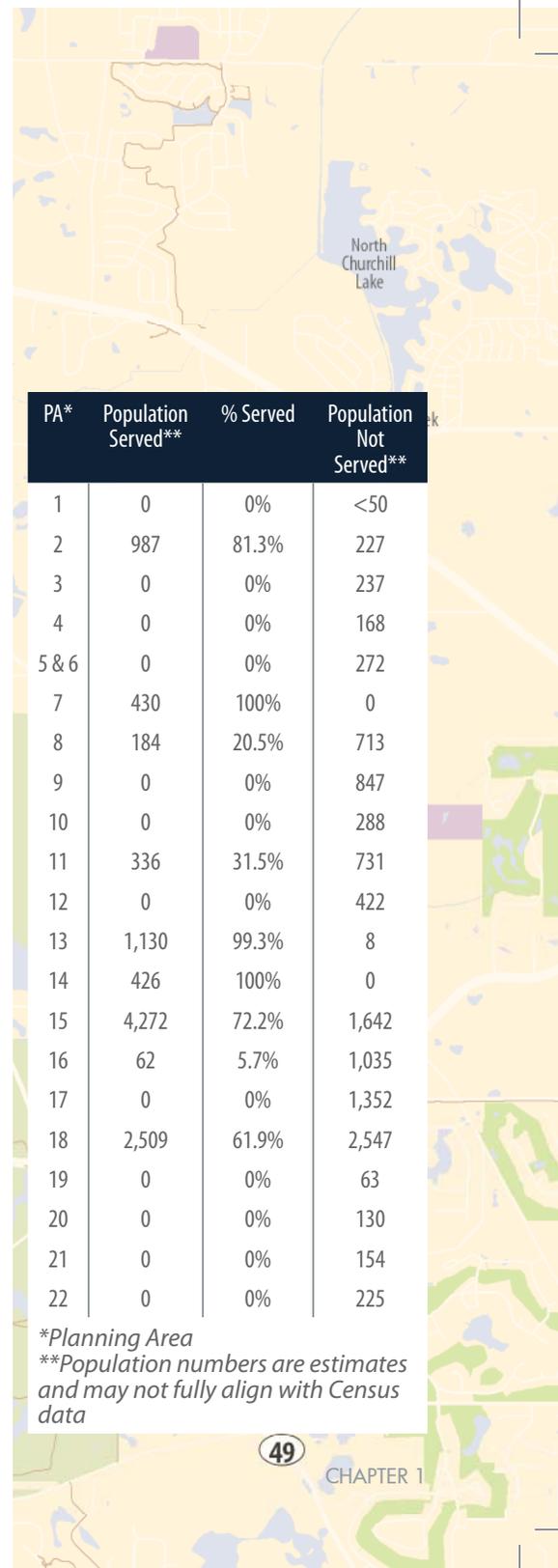
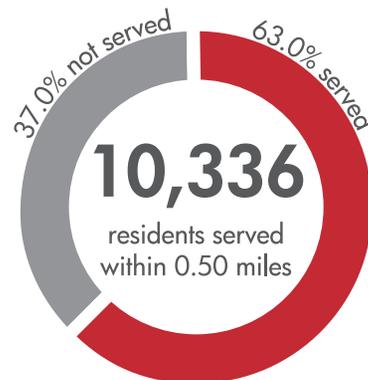
The purpose of the Neighborhood Park service area study is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the Village’s existing Neighborhood Park land holdings. Currently, Libertyville has nine Neighborhood Parks that range from 4.8 acres to 30.2 acres in size.

The Neighborhood Park service area map illustrates a 0.5-mile service radius (shown in dark orange) around each existing Neighborhood Park.

This plan also illustrates a 0.5-mile service area (shown in light orange) for Community Parks as these parks can also serve the function of a Neighborhood Park for those residents within a 0.5-mile distance from the park. According to NRPA’s Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, Neighborhood Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where Neighborhood Park service is concentrated within the Village. Planning Area 15 has the largest number of residents served at 4,272 (72.2% of the Planning Area). Planning Areas 7, 13, and 14 have 99% or more residents served. Planning Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are all completely unserved. Planning Areas 15, 16, 17, and 18 stand out as having the highest need with 1,000 residents or more unserved, despite the presence of open space in Planning Areas 15, 16, and 18.

Overall, 63.0% of Libertyville residents live within a 0.5-mile walking distance to a park. This percentage of population served is higher than the average level of service of 55.3% of the population served as observed by the planning team.



PA*	Population Served**	% Served	Population Not Served**
1	0	0%	<50
2	987	81.3%	227
3	0	0%	237
4	0	0%	168
5 & 6	0	0%	272
7	430	100%	0
8	184	20.5%	713
9	0	0%	847
10	0	0%	288
11	336	31.5%	731
12	0	0%	422
13	1,130	99.3%	8
14	426	100%	0
15	4,272	72.2%	1,642
16	62	5.7%	1,035
17	0	0%	1,352
18	2,509	61.9%	2,547
19	0	0%	63
20	0	0%	130
21	0	0%	154
22	0	0%	225

*Planning Area
 **Population numbers are estimates and may not fully align with Census data

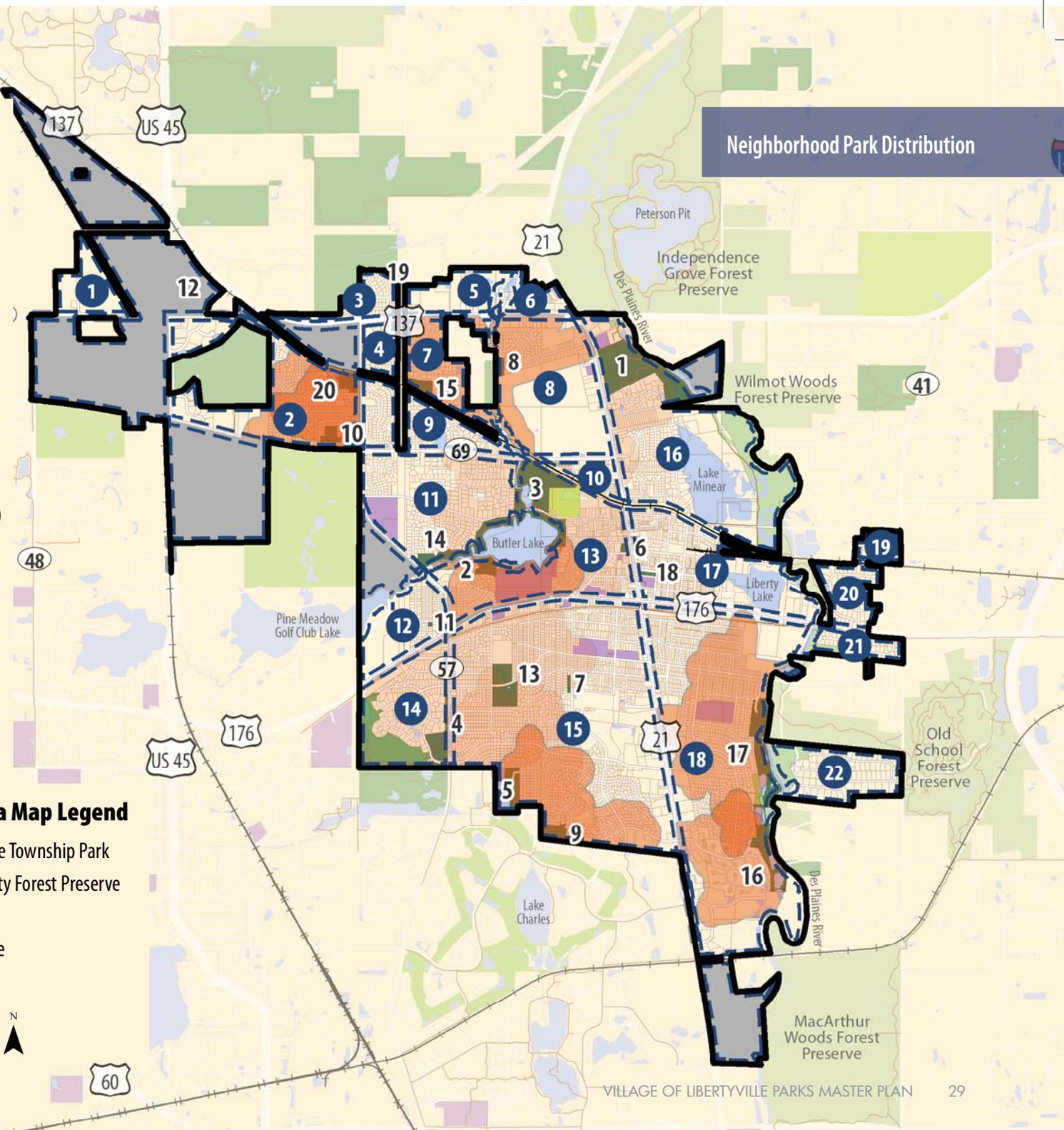
Neighborhood Park Distribution

Park Key

1. Adler Park (CP)
2. Blueberry Park (NP)
3. Butler Lake Park (CP)
4. Canterbury Park (NP)
5. Charles Brown Park (CP)
6. Cook Park (MP)
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14. Paradise Park (NA)
15. Paul M Neal Park (NP)
16. Red Top Park (NP)
17. Riverside Park (NP)
18. Sunrise Rotary Park (MP)
19. Timber Creek Park (MP)
20. Willis Overholser Park (NP)

Neighborhood Park Service Area Map Legend

- Village of Libertyville
- Non-Planning Area
- Planning Area
- 0.5-Mile Service Area
- Libertyville Park
- Libertyville Township Park
- Lake County Forest Preserve
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- School



Community Park Distribution Analysis

Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks preserve unique landscapes and often serve as event and recreational team sport spaces.

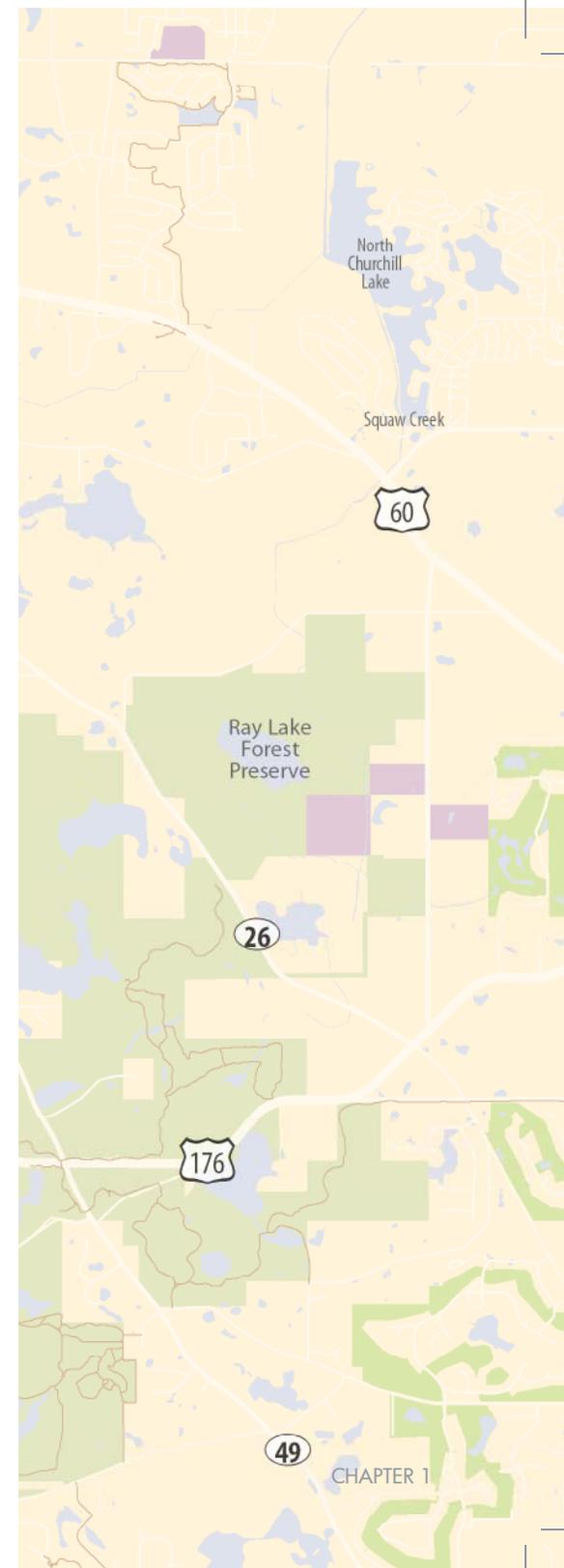
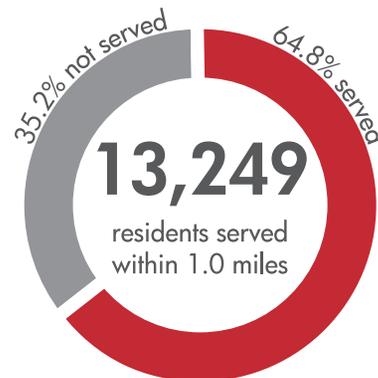
The purpose of the Community Park service area study is to determine the location of gaps in Community Park service area coverage. Currently, Libertyville has four Community Parks that range from 18.0 acres to 104.9 acres in size.

The Community Park service area map illustrates a 1.0-mile service radius (shown in dark orange) around each existing Community Park.

Unlike Mini and Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks are considered a drive-to recreation destination. Service areas are not limited to the boundary of the planning area in which they are located. These drive-to destinations cover multiple planning areas and are community destination for Village residents.

Overall, 64.8% of the Village has access to a Community Park asset within a 1-mile drive from where they live. The largest gaps occur outside the Village core in Planning Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22. The eastern halves of Planning Areas 16 and 17 are also underserved.

The total number of residents served by parks within a one-mile drive of their homes is only slightly lower than the 72.2% average level of service as observed by the planning team.



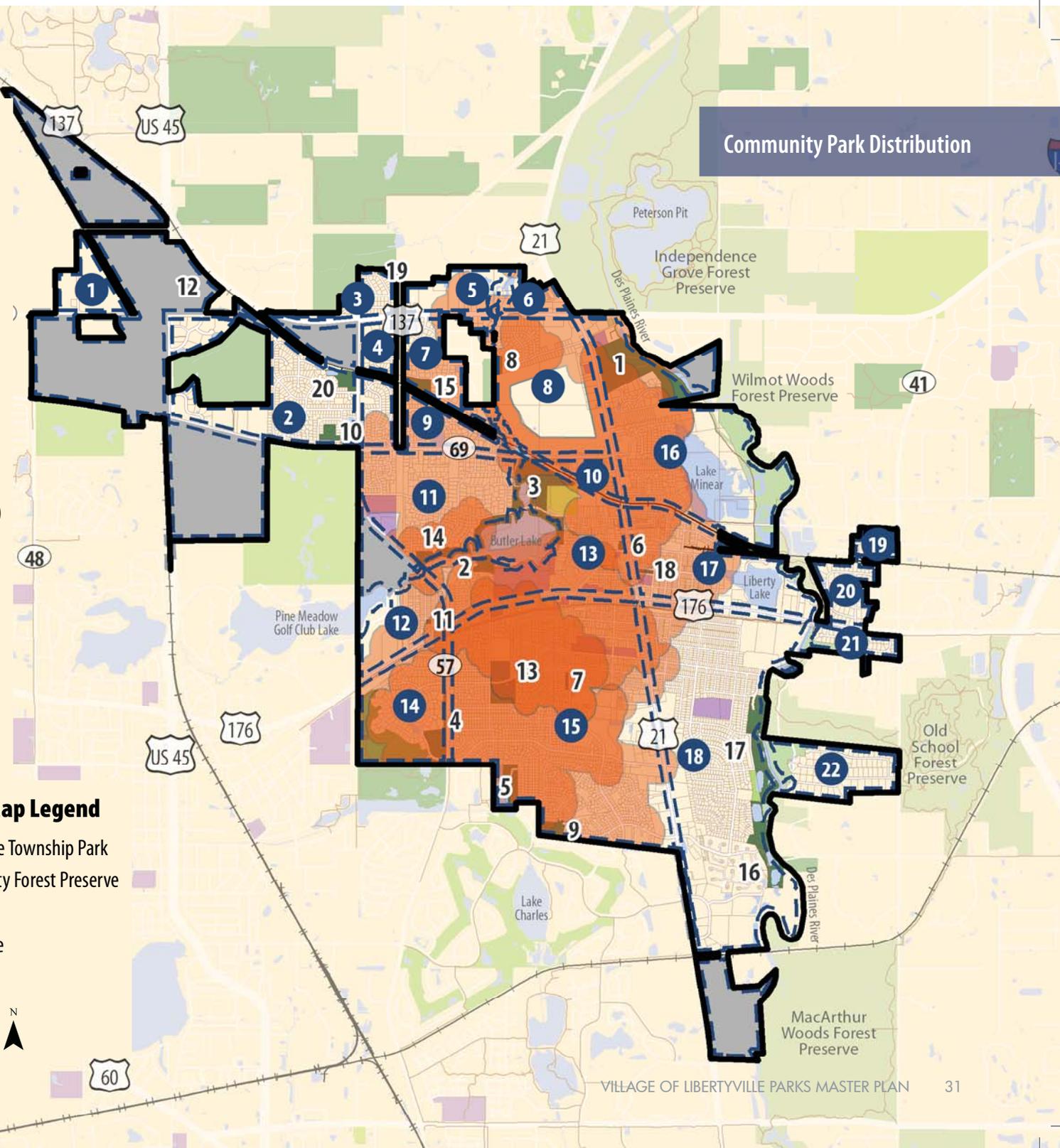
Community Park Distribution

Park Key

1. Adler Park (CP)
2. Blueberry Park (NP)
3. Butler Lake Park (CP)
4. Canterbury Park (NP)
5. Charles Brown Park (CP)
6. Cook Park (MP)
7. Duane Laska Park (MP)
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15. Paul M Neal Park (NP)
16. Red Top Park (NP)
17. Riverside Park (NP)
18. Sunrise Rotary Park (MP)
19. Timber Creek Park (MP)
20. Willis Overholser Park (NP)

Community Park Service Area Map Legend

- Village of Libertyville
- Non-Planning Area
- Planning Area
- 1.0-Mile Service Area
- Libertyville Park
- Libertyville Township Park
- Lake County Forest Preserve
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- School



Overall Park Distribution Analysis

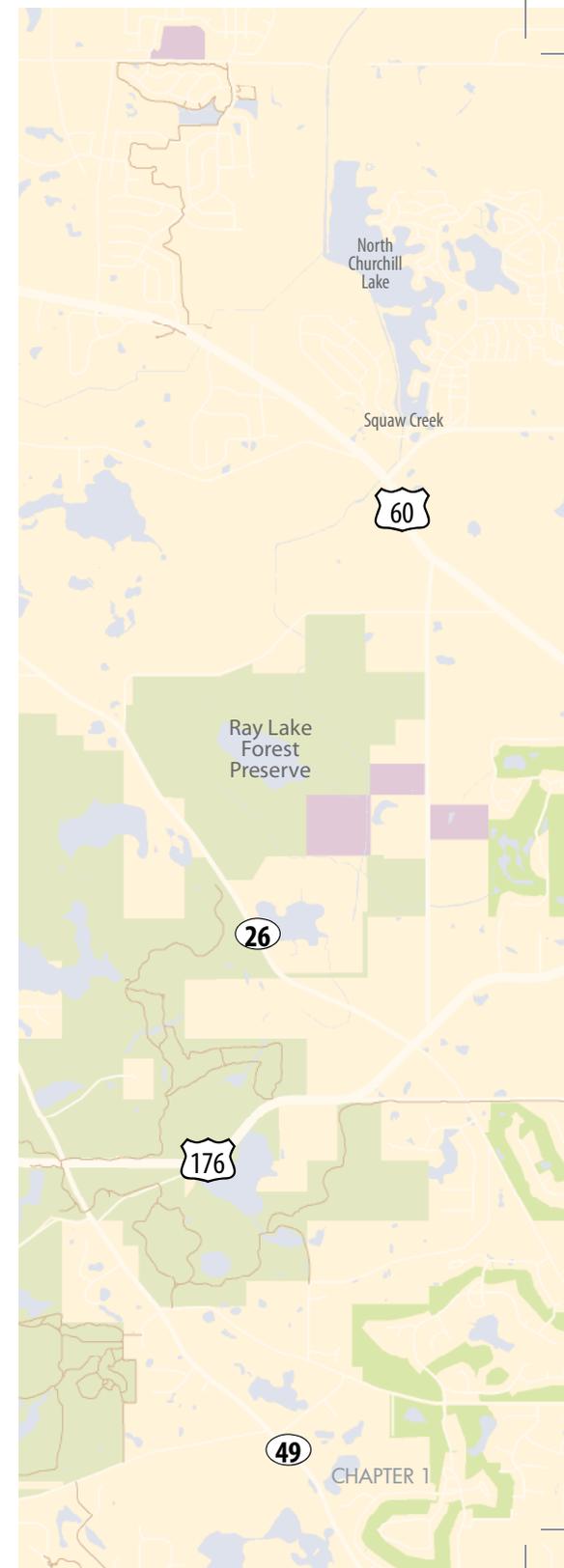
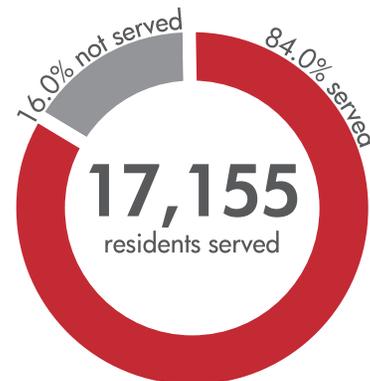
The Overall Service Area analysis illustrates the Village-wide deficiencies for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park assets combined.

The map on the right illustrates the service areas for all Mini (quarter-mile), Neighborhood (half-mile), and Community (1-mile) Parks. Per NRPA Guidelines, the Mini and Neighborhood Park service areas are truncated to the boundaries of the individual planning areas in which they reside. Community Parks are considered drive-to destinations, so those service areas are not truncated to the planning area boundaries. Natural Areas, Special Use facilities, Parkways, and Undeveloped land holdings are not included in this analysis.

The overall service area map illustrates the service areas for all Mini (0.25-mile), Neighborhood (0.5-mile), and Community Parks (1.0-mile).

Overall, 84.0% of Libertyville residents have access to a Mini, Neighborhood, and/or Community Park resource within the recommended distance of their homes. The largest areas of residential development not served by a Mini, Neighborhood, or Community Park exists in Planning Areas 2 and 22. Planning Areas 1, 8, 16, 17, 18, 119, 20, and 21 also have service gaps present. According to the planning team's database, the median Overall Distribution Level of Service is 89.8%. The Village's Level of Service 84.0% served just falls short of the median found in the planning team's database.

Although some gaps exist in Libertyville's service areas, recreation alternatives may be available to residents. Although Planning Areas 19, 20, 21, and 22 are isolated from the rest of the Planning Areas due to the Des Plaines River, there are two Forest Preserve properties adjacent to or nearby these residential areas. There are a number of Forest Preserve and Libertyville Township properties that are located outside the Village boundaries but within easy driving distance for residents.



Overall Park Distribution

Park Key

1. Adler Park (CP)
2. Blueberry Park (NP)
3. Butler Lake Park (CP)
4. Canterbury Park (NP)
5. Charles Brown Park (CP)
6. Cook Park (MP)
7. Duane Laska Park (MP)
8. Gilbert Stiles Park (NP)
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16. Red Top Park (NP)
17. Riverside Park (NP)
18. Sunrise Rotary Park (MP)
19. Timber Creek Park (MP)
20. Willis Overholser Park (NP)

Overall Service Area Map Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Village of Libertyville |  Libertyville Township Park |
|  Non-Planning Area |  Lake County Forest Preserve |
|  Planning Area |  Cemetery |
|  Service Area |  Golf Course |
|  Libertyville Park |  School |

1 inch = 4,000 feet



Amenities

In addition to park acreage and distribution, another measure of Level of Service is the total recreation amenities available to residents. These benchmarks come from the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics.

SCORP Comparison

This analysis takes into account useful life criteria as defined by the State of Illinois and defines those amenities that meet current useful life standards. Based on the Illinois SCORP, Libertyville meets or exceeds the recommended number of amenities for 13 of the 25 amenities outlined in the chart to the right. Amenities that meet or exceed the recommendation are identified by green text in the “Surplus / Deficit” column.

Items with red text noted in the “Surplus / Deficit” column are deficiencies. The 12 amenities with deficiencies, according to the comparison against SCORP averages are:

- Fishing Pier / Docks / Access: -7.3
- Playgrounds: -6.2
- Horseshoe Pits: -4.9
- Volleyball Courts: -3.5
- Tennis Courts: -3.0
- Basketball Courts: -1.1
- Shuffleboard Courts: -0.9
- Spray Grounds / Splash Pads: -0.6
- Skate Parks: -0.3
- Dog Parks: -0.2
- Golf Course (18-Hole): -0.2
- Golf Course (9-Hole): -0.1

SCORP Amenity Needs Analysis

Existing Population 2017

	Village of Libertyville			Illinois Facility Average		Surplus / Deficit
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet IL Average	IL Average # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Surplus / Deficit
WATER-BASED FACILITIES						
Fishing Pier / Docks / Access	1	1	0.05	8.3	0.41	-7.3
Canoe only access areas	3	3	0.15	0.8	0.04	2.2
Swimming Pools	2	2	0.10	0.6	0.03	1.4
Spray Grounds / Splash Pads	0	0	0.00	0.6	0.03	-0.6
TRAILS						
Multi-Use Trails	8	8	0.39	3.3	0.16	4.7
DAY USE FACILITIES						
Picnic Shelters	8	8	0.39	4.2	0.21	3.8
Playgrounds	17	2	0.10	8.2	0.40	-6.2
SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES						
Tennis Courts	7	7	0.34	10.0	0.49	-3.0
Basketball Courts	4	4	0.20	5.1	0.25	-1.1
Volleyball Courts	0	0	0.00	3.5	0.17	-3.5
Baseball Fields	15	15	0.73	5.3	0.26	9.7
Softball Fields	6	6	0.29	2.9	0.14	3.1
Football Fields	2	2	0.10	1.1	0.05	0.9
Soccer Fields	5	5	0.24	3.6	0.18	1.4
Golf Course (18-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
Golf Course (9-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.1	0.01	-0.1
Golf Driving Range	1	0	0.01	0.0	0.00	0.1
Ice Rinks	4	4	0.20	0.8	0.04	3.2
Horseshoe Pits	0	0	0.00	4.9	0.24	-4.9
Bocce Court	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
Shuffleboard courts	0	0	0.00	0.9	0.05	-0.9
Dog Parks	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
Frisbee Golf	9	9	0.44	0.2	0.01	8.8
Skate Park	0	0	0.00	0.3	0.02	-0.3
Field Hockey	1	1	0.05	0.0	0.00	1.0

Park Metrics Comparison

In addition to the SCORP averages, the planning team referenced NRPA's Park Metrics to identify how Libertyville compares to other agencies throughout the U.S. with populations between 19,000 and 21,000. The Park Metrics provided information about the total population per facility for swimming facilities, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, and ice rinks for agencies within this population range.

The table below compares the total number of Village-owned and managed facilities to agencies with similar populations. According to Park Metrics benchmarks, Libertyville meets or exceeds the total number of tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, football fields, and soccer fields.

Of the amenities measured, Libertyville is deficient in playgrounds by 7.8 and swimming facilities by 0.1.

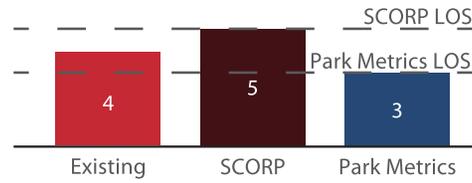
The charts below and on page 37 illustrate both state (SCORP) and national (Park Metrics) level of service benchmarks for key park amenities.

Park Metrics Amenity Needs Analysis

Existing Population 2017

	Village of Libertyville			Illinois Facility Average	Surplus / Deficit
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet Park Metrics median	Surplus / Deficit
WATER-BASED FACILITIES					
Swimming Facility (Outdoor)	2	2	0.10	1.1	0.9
DAY USE FACILITIES					
Playgrounds	17	2	0.10	9.8	-7.8
SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES					
Tennis Courts	7	7	0.34	5.1	1.9
Basketball Courts	4	4	0.20	3.3	0.7
Baseball Fields	15	15	0.73	6.2	8.8
Softball Fields	6	6	0.29	4.2	1.8
Football Fields	2	2	0.10	1.9	0.1
Soccer Fields	5	5	0.24	4.9	0.1
Ice Rink	4	4	0.20	1.8	2.2

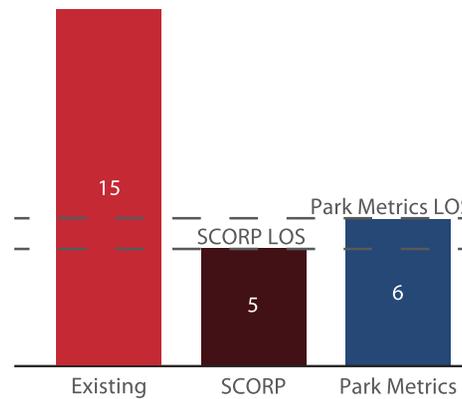
SCORP - Park Metrics Key Comparison Graphics - All Amenities Level of Service (LOS)



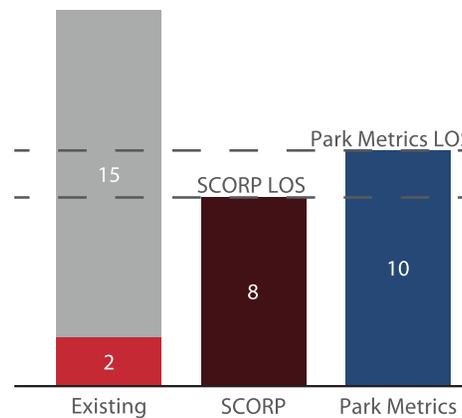
BASKETBALL COURTS



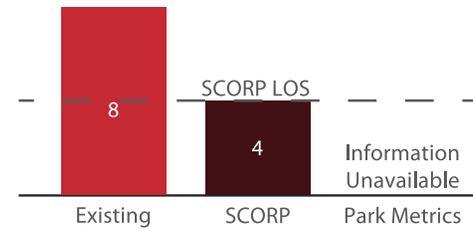
FOOTBALL FIELDS



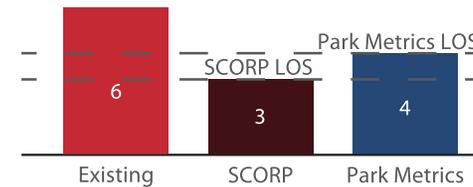
BASEBALL FIELDS



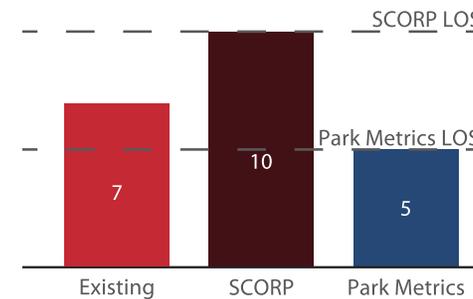
PLAYGROUNDS



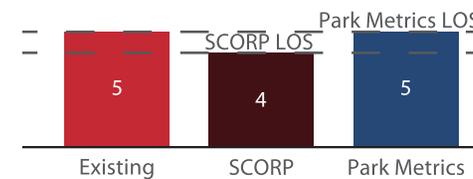
SHELTERS



SOFTBALL FIELDS



TENNIS COURTS



SOCCER FIELDS





Chapter Two

Connect: Needs Assessment



Overview

The Connect: Community Needs Assessment chapter outlines the recognized national, state, and local trends in the recreation industry. The chapter also includes summaries of all input received from Village residents and stakeholders.

Purpose

The purpose for understanding park and recreation trends is to determine probable demands for certain services and amenities. Recreation trend reports were compiled from nationally-recognized sources to explore spending, participation, and inactivity.

Knowing the trends and interests of various user groups is crucial to increase park visitation. Significant changes in specific activities (both increases and decreases) over the past two years are summarized. Summaries of all engagement sessions follow the national, state, and local trends report.

During the needs assessment phase of the master planning process, the planning team reviewed trends, facilitated a community meeting, conducted a community survey, and conducted workshops

with Village Recreation staff, Village Departmental staff, stakeholder groups, and the Park & Recreation Committee, including all Village Trustees. A website containing park information, a schedule of events, a survey link, and contact information was created for residents to access 24/7. The survey, available through the website for four weeks, gathered input from residents about their thoughts on parks, programs, and facilities. In all, nearly 800 residents, stakeholders, staff, and Committee members and Trustees participated in the community engagement.

Chapter Outline

- Methodology
- National Trends
- State Trends
- Local Trends
- Online Survey
- Stakeholder Input

METHODOLOGY

Review of Trends

National trends were derived from the 2017 Sports, Fitness and Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report that was facilitated by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (a top national researcher in the sports and fitness industry), as well as the 2017 Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report. State trends were derived from the 2015 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). ESRI's Business Analyst provided local recreation participation trends.

Community Meeting

Village of Libertyville residents were invited to attend a public meeting held on March 15, 2018. Residents participated in a consensus building activity in which they were asked focus questions. They were asked to come up with ideas which they discussed with the group. The group then clustered the ideas together to find similar themes and goals and cast votes on which items they found most important.

Online Engagement

Village residents were invited to participate in an online survey. In total, 741 people completed the survey.

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were held for specific interest groups relevant to the Village's Recreation & Sports Complex Department. These groups, facilitated independently of one another, were presented with a series of questions about goals, objectives, and desires of how groups might utilize the Village's parks and facilities in the future. Stakeholders were also asked for their opinions on the current state of the Village, especially the Recreation Department. Three meetings were held with a total of 18 participants.

Staff Workshops

Two workshops were held to gather input from administration, parks and facilities, and recreation staff members. Input was provided about their goals, objectives, desires, and hopes for the next fifteen years, as well as their opinions on the current state of the Village and Recreation Department.

Trustees Workshop and Committee Meetings

All Village Trustees participated in a workshop at the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on March 27, 2018. The planning team engaged the Trustees in a participatory workshop to allow for the opportunity to generate and prioritize ideas for potential improvements, additions, and goals for the Village's parks and recreational amenities over the next 15 years.

National Trends

Derived from the statistically valid surveys facilitated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with the Physical Activity Council and the Outdoor Foundation, the following data will help inform the planning team's recommendations.

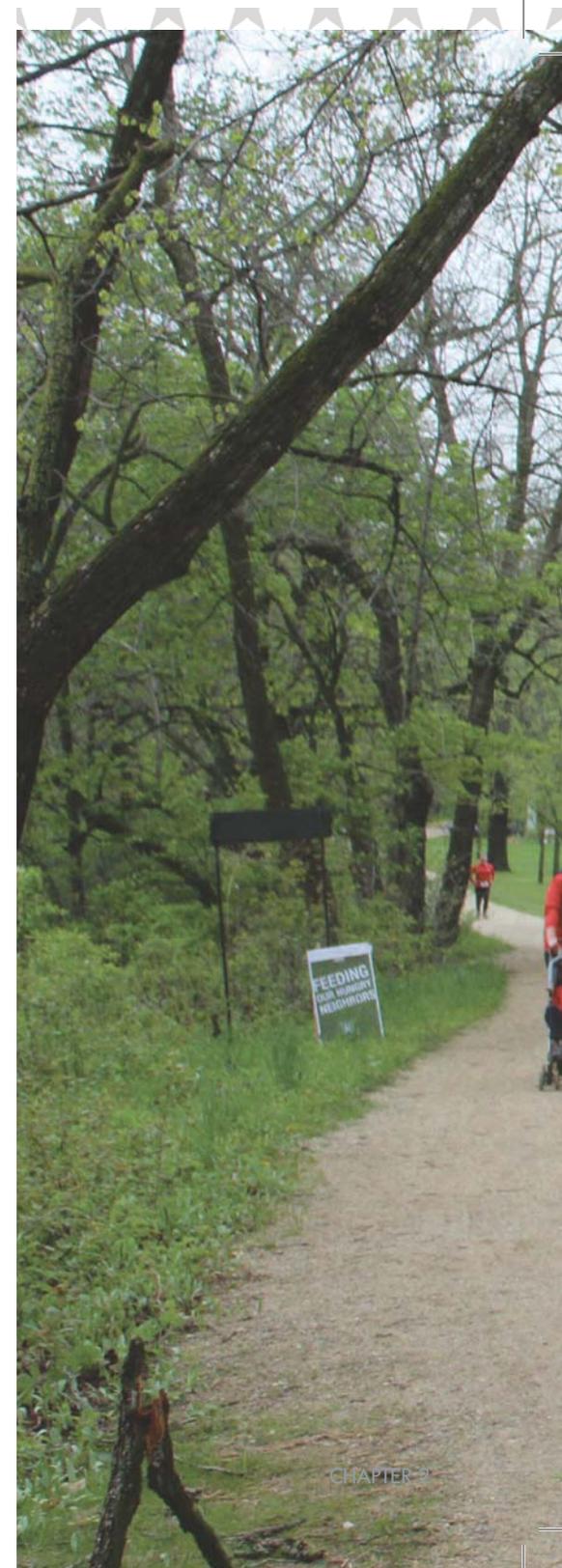
The Physical Activity Council (PAC) is a partnership of six major trade organizations in U.S. sports, fitness, and leisure activities. These organizations are the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), the National Golf Foundation (NGF), Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), the International Health, Racquet, and Sports Club Association (IHRSA), the Tennis Industry Association (TIA), the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and Snowsports Industries America (SIA).

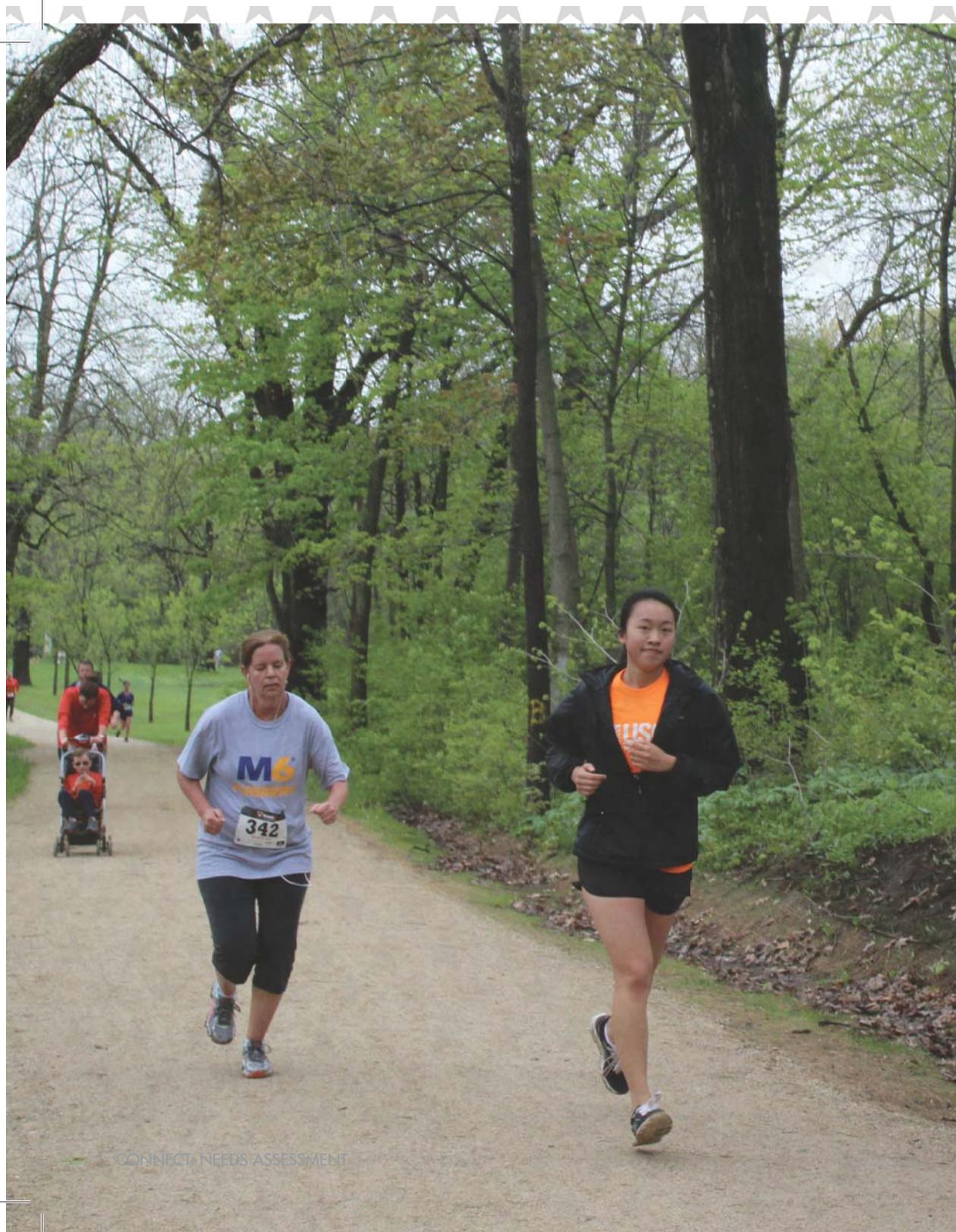
The PAC produces an annual Sport, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report providing information on participation, inactivity, spending, aspirational participation, and projections. The 2017 report compiled and analyzed 24,134 online responses. These surveys were then weighted against a total population of 296,251,344 ages 6 and older. The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region, population density, and panel join date. Other research incorporated in this chapter references the

Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, created by the Outdoor Foundation, in association with the Outdoor Industry Association. This annual report tracks American outdoor recreation trends with a focus on youth, diversity and the future of the outdoors. The 2017 report is based on an online interview of 24,134 individuals.

Sports and Fitness Participation

Leisure activity has fluctuated over the past six years, with 2016 showing an overall increase in total activity but a decrease in the number of both active and casual participants. The majority of Americans prefer participating in fitness sports followed by outdoor sports, individual sports, team sports, water sports, racquet sports, and winter sports. Among these categories, participation rates in fitness, outdoor, racquet, team and winter sports have increased over the past year. Individual and water sport participation decreased in 2016.





Activity participation is measured by core participation and growth. Core participants are defined as those who participate in a sport or activity on a regular basis. Based on core participation, the top ten activities in 2016 defined by number of participants, are:

- Walking for Fitness (50+ times/year): 73.4M
- Hiking (1+ times/year): 42.1M
- Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights) (50+ times/year): 33.3M
- Treadmill (50+ times/year): 28.4M
- Camping within 1/4 mile of vehicle/home (1+ times/ year): 26.5M
- Running/Jogging (50+ times/year): 25.6M
- Stretching/flexibility training/warm up/cool down/mobility (50+ times/year): 24.0M
- Weight/Resistance Machines (50+ times/year): 21.4M
- Wildlife Viewing more than 1/4 mile from Home/ Vehicle (1+ times/year): 20.7M
- Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface) (26+ times/year): 19.1M

In addition to referencing the current most popular activities by measuring core participation, the Overview Report also lists the growth of activities over one-, three-, and five-year periods. These predictions can be used to recognize ongoing recreation trends and predict future area of growth. The top ten core growth activities over the past three years are:

- Stand Up Paddling (18.2%)
- Adventure Racing (17.4%)
- Mixed Martial Arts for Competition (17.2%)
- Cardio Tennis (11.5%)
- Squash (9.7%)
- Trail Running (8.1%)
- Boardsailing/Windsurfing (7.7%)
- Hiking (Day) (7.1%)
- Boxing for Competition (6.6%)
- Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering) (6.4%)

As evidenced by the above lists of activities, outdoor fitness related activities are currently a popular form of recreation with four of the ten activities falling into this category based on number of participants. Aerobic activities are also popular with three in the top ten of this category. Growth trends however indicate a different, more diverse trend. The largest growth is occurring in individual sports (four activities in the top ten) with racquet sports, outdoor activities, and water sports each having two activities in the top ten growing activities.

These trends reveal that active people are increasingly looking for non-traditional health and recreation experiences that offer a fun physical, emotional, and mental experience. While the largest amount of growth is being seen in less traditional sectors, class-based group fitness and exercise programs remain strong and are expected to grow in popularity, albeit at slower rates.

While many Americans enjoy watching team sports, both in-person and on television, they are increasingly disinterested in participating in them for their fitness needs. Ultimate frisbee and touch football had the largest decrease in participation over the past three years with other team sports including basketball, soccer, softball, wrestling, volleyball, and track and field also declining. While team sport participation is declining as a whole, a few team sports are growing: rugby, roller hockey, and lacrosse.

Racquet sports such as squash, tennis, cardio tennis and pickleball have maintained popularity over the last three years. Pickleball in particular is a trend to watch, as it has been growing in popularity in the recreation industry but was overtaken in 2016 by cardio tennis in growth and had nearly equal participation.

The above findings are confirmed by the Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2017 which conducts an annual international survey among practitioners in the commercial, clinical, community, and corporate fitness industries. In their predictions for 2017, the majority of activities in the top ten and the top 20 could be described as fitness related, while other trends can be classified as outdoor sports or technology. 17 of the top 20 trends reported remained from the previous year but worksite health promotion, smartphone exercise apps, and outcomes measured all moved out of the top 20 trends for 2018.

- High-intensity interval training (HIIT uses short bursts of high-intensity exercise followed by short recoveries)
- Group training (motivational, instructor lead classes of five or more people)
- Wearable technology (activity trackers, smart watches, heart rate monitors, GPS trackers and smart eyeglasses)
- Body weight training (uses minimal equipment for cost savings)
- Strength training (common but limited to using weights, strength training is often incorporated into comprehensive exercise routines)
- Educated, certified, and experienced fitness professionals (training by third-party accredited exercise professionals)
- Yoga (utilizing a series of specific bodily postures for health and relaxation)
- Personal training (services provided by professionals with proper education, training, and credentials)
- Fitness programs for older adults (older, retired adults are increasingly healthier than previous generations and interested in participating in safe, age-appropriate exercise)

- Functional Fitness (uses strength training to improve balance, coordination, force, power, and endurance as applies to one's daily functions)

Outdoor Sports & Participation

According to the Outdoor Foundation 2017 Topline Report, almost half the U.S. population (48.6%) participated in one or more outdoor sport or activity. These 144 million people went on a reported total of 11 billion outings over the course of the year. While these numbers reflect an overall increase in participation, the number of outings declined as individual participation occurred less often. Compared to previous years, outdoor sports participation has increased. The largest increase last year compared to all other outdoor sports has been in BMX biking while Stand up paddling has had the most growth over the last three years. Running, jogging, and trail running has continued to be the most popular activity by participation for several years.

Across all age groups, running, jogging and trail running remained the top form of outdoor outings by both participation rates and frequency. Bicycling and fishing were also among the top five activities for all ages. The most popular activities for youth (age 6-24) determined by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging, and trail running (25.3% or 20.3M)
- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (22.6% or 18.2M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly) (19.5% or 15.6M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (19.0% or 15.3M)
- Hiking (15.5% or 12.5M)

The favorite activities for youth, based on frequency of participation, were running, jogging and trail running, bicycling, fishing, skateboarding, and camping.

For adults (age 25+), the most popular activities by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging, and trail running (14.8% or 32.0M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly) (14.6% or 31.5M)
- Hiking (13.7% or 29.7M)
- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (12.8% or 27.7M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (11.7% or 25.2M)

The top five favorite adult activities based on frequency of participation were running, jogging, and trail running, bicycling, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

Three-year growth trends indicated that the following ten activities have seen increasing participation and will likely continue to provide opportunities to engage more people in the future:

- Stand up paddling
- BMX bicycling
- Skiing (cross-country)
- Adventure racing
- Kayak fishing
- Boardsailing/windsurfing
- Trail Running\
- Triathlon (traditional/road)
- Hiking (day)
- Climbing (traditional/ice/mountaineering)

Three year trends also identified ten activities with declining participation in the last three years. In order of largest to smallest decrease, they are:

- Birdwatching more than 1/4 mile from home/vehicle
- Running/jogging
- Snowshoeing
- Wakeboarding
- Rafting
- Camping within 1/4 mile from vehicle/home
- Bicycling (road/paved surface)
- Wildlife viewing more than 1/4 mile from home/vehicle
- Scuba diving
- Canoeing

Engaging Inactives

An “inactive” person is defined by the Physical Activity Council as one who does not participate in any of the sports/activities covered in the PAC Overview Report. In the past year, 8.1 million Americans or 27.5% of the population, were inactive, reflecting a decrease in inactivity from last year with 0.2 million people becoming active. By age group, 6-12 year-olds are the least inactive with inactivity among 13-17 year-olds dropping to nearly the same levels. Of the eight age groups, only 35-44 year-olds saw an increase in percent of inactive population from 2015 to 2016. Americans over 65 have the largest rates of inactivity, reflecting the trend that people generally become more inactive as they age.

In order to understand how to engage inactives in sports and activities, the PAC survey lists “aspirational” activities that inactives are interested in participating in. For all age groups under 65, camping is within the top three aspirational activities. Swimming for fitness and bicycling are

also listed in the top ten for every age group and both are within the top five activities for all groups over the age of 12.

For inactives 6-12, other activities of interest focus on team sports such as, football, soccer and team swimming. As Americans age, interest in outdoor sports such as hiking, fishing and backpacking grows as does working out with weights and machines. Adults 65 and older list bird watching/wildlife viewing followed by fishing as their top aspirational activities. Hiking and camping are also within the top ten activities for this age group making four of the ten items focused on outdoor activities.

Active adults, as well as inactives, are interested in social programs and sports leagues as well as active recreation. Active Network recommends the following activities for adult recreation programs:

- Sports - Broomball, Inner Tube Water Polo, Pickleball, Wallyball
- Exercise - Zumba Gold, Dance Buffet, Kettlebells, Outdoor Fitness Technology - Beginner’s Guide to iPad, Social Media, Digital Photography
- Entertainment - Karaoke, Improv, Murder Mystery Dinners, Speed Dating, Wii for Seniors
- Art - Cooking, Drawing/Painting, Jewelry Making, Mixed Media Arts, Pottery, Quilting
- Professional/Other - Languages, Estate Planning, Self-Publishing, Brain Fitness, Voice-Overs, Memoirs

Many agencies are “branding” their active adult programs for younger populations than the traditional senior. Two local examples include Schaumburg Park District’s *Club 55* and *50 Plus!* at the Champaign Park District.

State Trends

Data from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is used to compare Department amenities to other Park Departments and Districts in the state of Illinois.

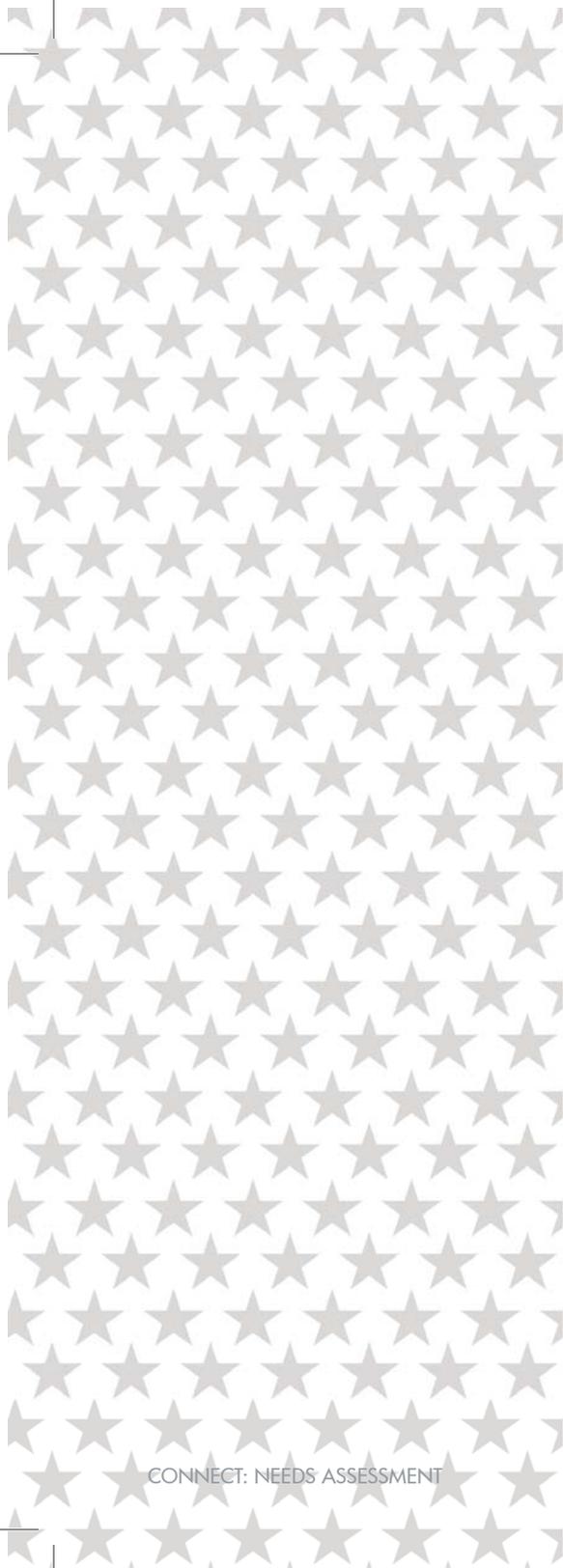
The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared as a five-year document by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain Illinois' eligibility to participate in the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program). Its purpose is to "evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois citizens and determine how best to meet those needs". The state's natural resources, recreational lands, facilities and socioeconomic factors are considered in this vision document.

A major finding in the 2015-2019 SCORP is the state's long-standing deficit of outdoor recreation lands and facilities. While Illinois has not been able to achieve the per capita equivalent of other states with more lands and fewer people, park and recreation agencies throughout the state consistently plan for and achieve a high level of excellence with the recreation opportunities they provide to their communities.

Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory

There are more than 1.5 million acres of outdoor recreation land in Illinois ranging from federal and state lands to schools and private commercial lands. Municipal agencies, which include park and recreation departments, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts and county-level park departments, provide a total of 350,915 acres of park sites. They also own 195,753 acres of natural areas and lease/manage another 15,612 acres of open space.

The state itself, primarily handled by the IDNR, manages offer 470,000 acres of open space throughout the state. State lands include parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas to name a few. Federal lands include the 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest and seven National Wildlife Refuges sites throughout the state. Other providers include schools, non-profits and private entities that provide unique outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Illinois. The lands managed



by these providers were not included in the SCORP.

Based on the 2015 Illinois Community Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory, there are approximately 347.08 acres and 17.9 park sites on average per community throughout the state. Typically, park districts provide more acreage and park sites than city/village recreation agencies.

Top trends across the state are pickleball, disc golf and splash pads. The increasing popularity of pickleball is in response to aging populations found in all communities across the state, while the popularity of splash pads is in response to the financial constraints of outdoor swimming pool renovations. The popularity of disc golf demonstrates a growing preference for alternative outdoor recreation activities. Foot golf is another example of an alternative outdoor recreation activity that has increased as golf course owners look for alternate uses for their assets.

Top Activities

The top activities identified by the IDNR community-wide survey were pleasure walking and observing wildlife/bird watching. Picnicking, using a playground, on-road bicycling and swimming at outdoor pools were also among the most prevalent activities for Illinois residents. Activities with lower participation numbers include lacrosse, pickleball, snowmobiling, trapping, in-line skating, sailing and cross-country skiing. Reasons for some sports having lower participation rates might include smaller interest groups, no available facility or that the trend is still growing, like pickleball.

According to the survey, city parks or county preserves are used most for visiting an amphitheater or band shell, softball/baseball, lacrosse, soccer and mountain biking. State parks are used most for tent camping, vehicle camping, hiking, motor boating and water skiing. Federal lakes or forests are primarily used for sailing, water skiing and motor boating. Hunting is the most prevalent reason residents visit and use private areas for recreation.

Attitudes about Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to rate the various factors they considered to be important when making decisions about engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities. Top contributing factors to respondent's decisions to participate in outdoor recreation activities include exercise/health, experience nature, have fun and spend time with family and friends.

Survey respondents indicated the primary role of parks and recreation facilities for Illinois communities is to preserve open space. Other primary roles include making the community more desirable, improving fitness, enhancing a sense of place and increasing property values. Most (56.3%) respondents believe that local, state and federal open space and recreation agencies are underfunded. The top two priorities for providers in the state, are the operation and maintenance of existing park facilities and long-term planning and management. The most important items in terms of park and open space development are recreational facility variety, followed closely by camping, trails, fishing, and boating facilities. Regional and community trails are also important to approximately 80% of respondents.

Outdoor Recreation Priorities

Priorities in the 2015-2019 State of Illinois SCORP are:

- Healthy people and communities
- Access to outdoor recreation
- Natural resource stewardship
- Conservation education
- Cooperative partnerships

Local Trends

Local recreation trends were derived from the Sports and Leisure Market Potential and Recreation Expenditures Report from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

This data is based upon national propensities to use various products and services, applied to the local demographic composition of the Village of Libertyville. Usage data was collected by Growth for Knowledge Mediamark Research and Intelligence, LLC. (GfK MRI) in a nationally representative survey of U.S. households. MPI (Market Potential Index) measures the relative likelihood of the adults in the specified area to exhibit certain consumer behavior or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average.

Based on projected population, the top ten recreational activities Libertyville residents will participate in include:

- Skiing (downhill)
- Tennis
- Hiking
- Pilates
- Golf
- Aerobics

- Bicycling (mountain)
- Yoga
- Weight lifting
- Ice skating

The number of MPIs over 100 for Libertyville is about double what the planning team typically finds. There are 24 activities that score over 100. This number of highly scoring activities bodes well for program expansion in the future, particularly in outdoor recreation-oriented activities. The growth of certain program areas in parks is a trend that is occurring in park and recreation systems nationwide.

Sports and Leisure Market Potential

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults/HHs	Percent	MPI
Participated in skiing (downhill) in last 12 months	78	4.3%	160
Participated in tennis in last 12 months	911	5.8%	152
Participated in hiking in last 12 months	2,346	14.9%	144
Participated in Pilates in last 12 months	605	3.9%	144
Participated in golf in last 12 months	1,955	12.5%	142
Participated in aerobics in last 12 months	1,811	11.5%	140
Participated in bicycling (mountain) in last 12 months	899	5.7%	140
Participated in yoga in last 12 months	1,616	10.3%	135
Participated in weight lifting in last 12 months	2,140	13.6%	134
Participated in ice skating in last 12 months	578	3.7%	134
Participated in jogging/running in last 12 months	2,791	17.8%	132
Participated in canoeing / kayaking in last 12 months	1,204	7.7%	132
Participated in swimming in last 12 months	3,160	20.1%	129
Participated in ping pong in last 12 months	854	5.4%	129
Participated in walking for exercise in last 12 months	5,415	34.5%	128
Participated in bicycling (road) in last 12 months	2,058	13.1%	128
Participated in Zumba in last 12 months	862	5.5%	128
Participated in Frisbee in last 12 months	904	5.8%	127
Participated in boating (power) in last 12 months	962	6.1%	122
Participated in soccer in last 12 months	781	5.0%	115
Participated in fishing (salt water) in last 12 months	722	4.6%	111
Participated in bowling in last 12 months	1,637	10.4%	109
Participated in baseball in last 12 months	767	4.9%	107
Participated in softball in last 12 months	532	3.4%	104

Online Survey

Residents shared their ideas for the next 15 years via an online survey.

The online engagement platform consisted of a webpage and online survey hosted through SurveyMonkey. Both were available 24/7 to provide information on the planning process and allow participants the opportunity to give input on programs, parks, and facilities at their leisure.

The survey consisted of fifteen questions. The platform served as a supplement to the in-person community meeting.

Participation and Traffic

Launched on March 7, 2018, the online platform was one method for engaging Village residents about parks, facilities, and programs. Over the three-week period, 741 people completed all or part of the survey. The average completion rate for the survey was 95%. In addition to links on the project website, the survey was shared at Connect Phase events and in the local newspaper.

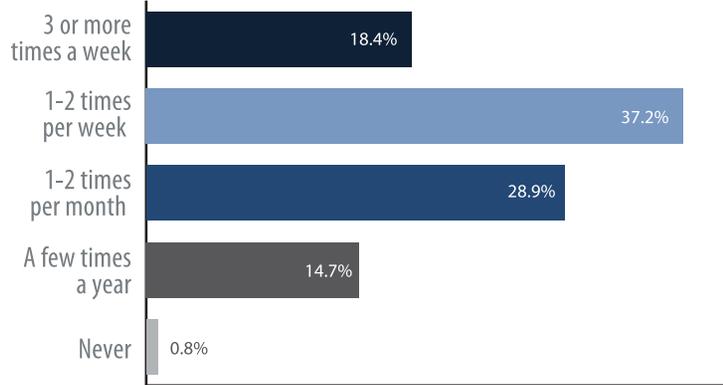
Topic Overview

The survey questions were divided into three overarching question groups: Parks, Facilities, and Programs. The survey was open for the full three-week period. All questions were optional and provided participants the opportunity to skip the question.

Responses

1. How often have you or your family visited or used any of Libertyville's parks in the last 12 months?

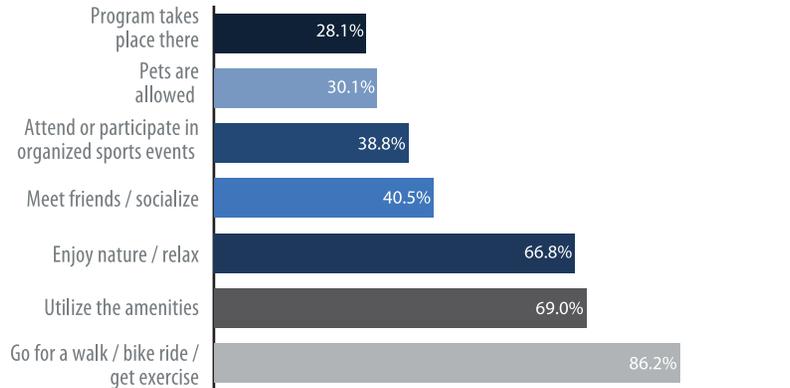
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Respondents who answered "Never" were directed to question 3. All other respondents were directed to question 2.

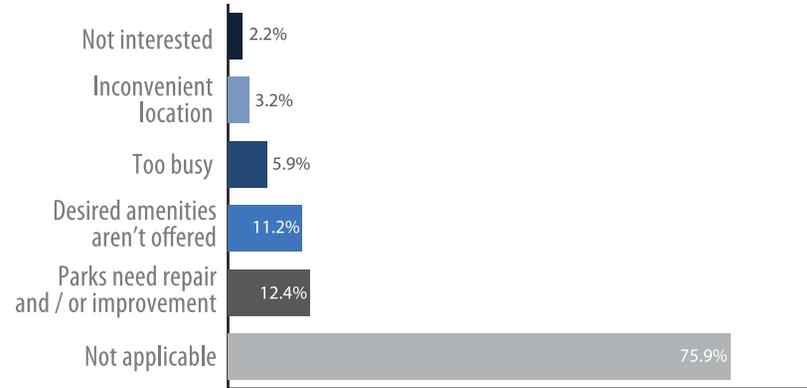
2. Why do you or your family visit or use Libertyville parks? (Pick all that apply.)

(Skipped: 3)



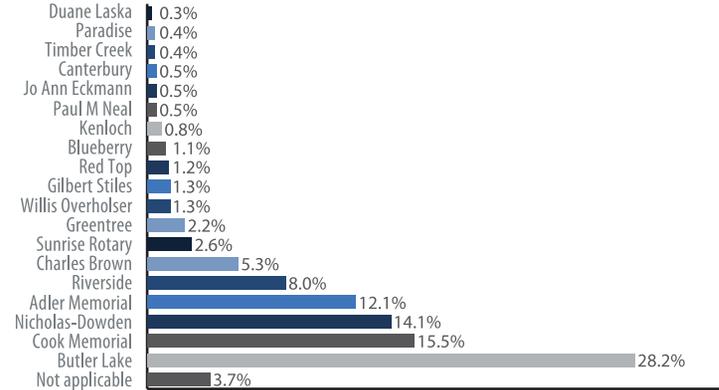
3. If you or your family don't visit or use Libertyville parks, why not? (Pick all that apply.)

(Skipped: 62)



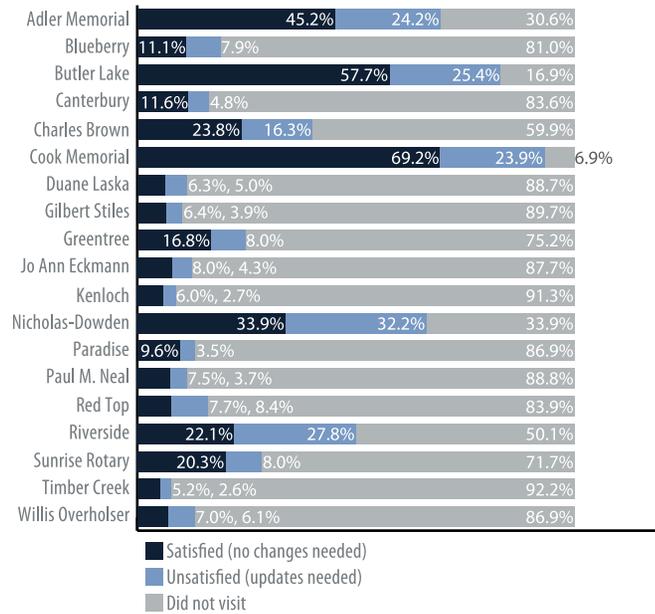
4. What is your favorite Libertyville Park? (Pick one.)

(Skipped: 3)



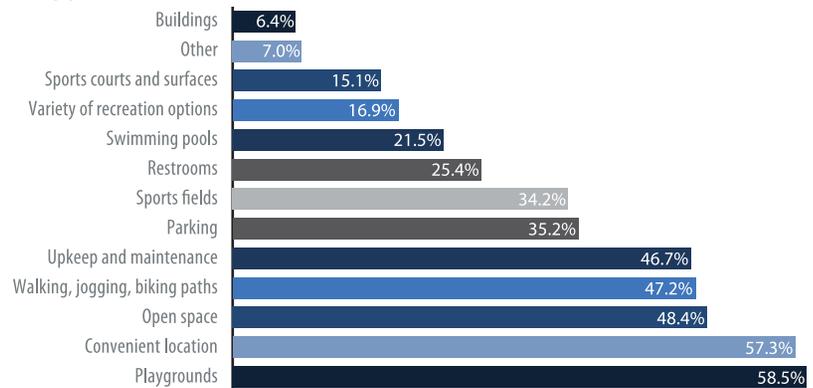
5. Of the Libertyville parks you or your family have visited or used in the last 12 months, how satisfied were you with the maintenance, conditions and amenities there?

(Skipped: 10)



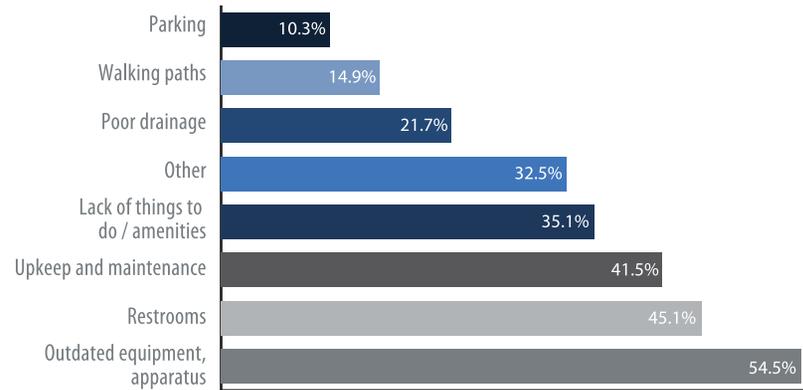
6. If you selected “Satisfied” with the maintenance, conditions and amenities at the parks you’ve visited, what do you like about the parks and amenities? (Select all that apply.)

(Skipped: 71)



7. If you selected “Unsatisfied” with the maintenance, conditions and amenities at the parks you’ve visited, what do you feel needs improvement? (Select all that apply.)

(Skipped: 196)



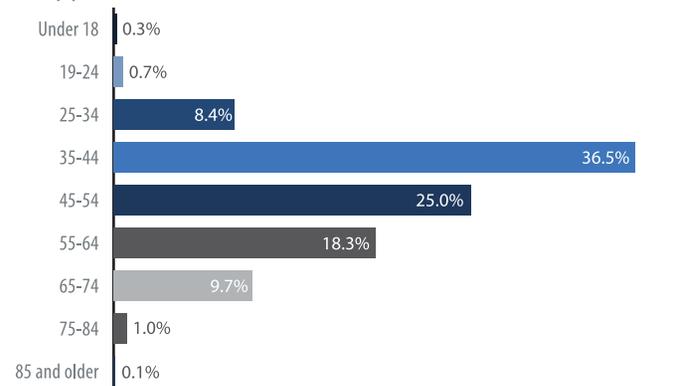
8. Are you a resident of Libertyville?

(Skipped: 9)



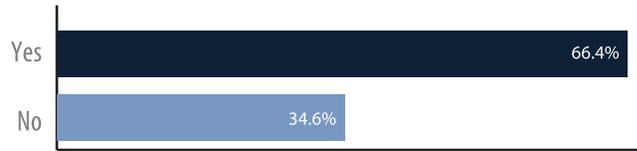
9. What is your age?

(Skipped: 9)



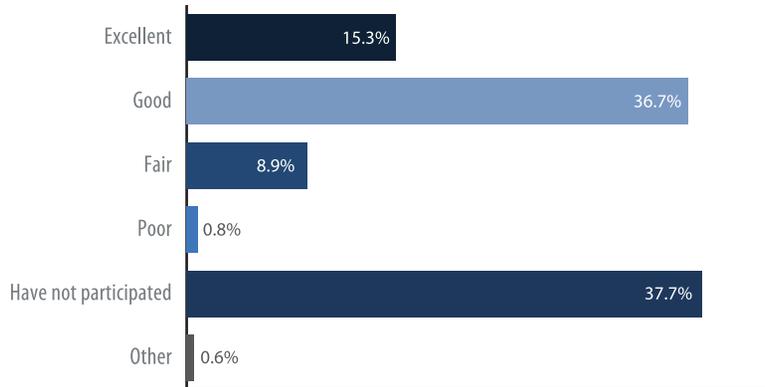
10. Do you currently have any children, ages 18 & under, residing in your household?

(Skipped: 8)



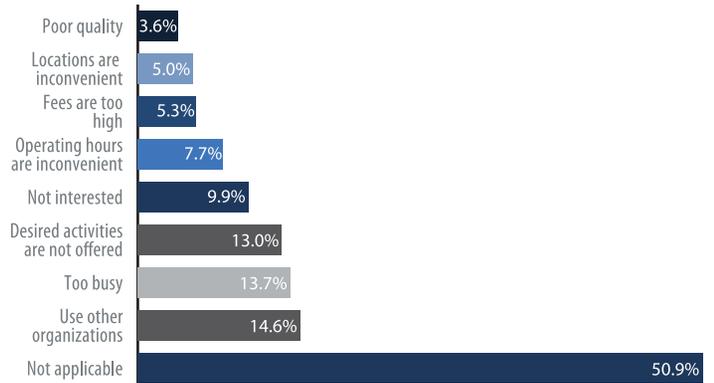
11. If you or members of your household participated in parks and recreation programs or activities in the last 12 months, how would you rate the overall quality of the parks and recreation offerings?

(Skipped: 41)



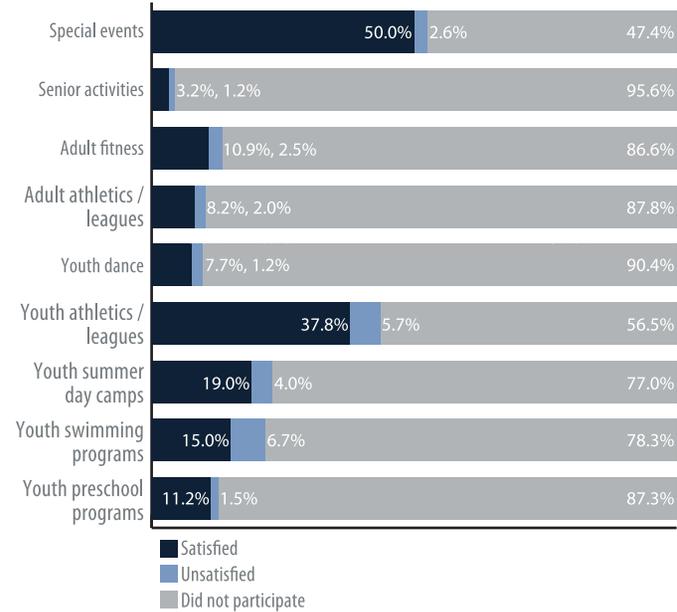
12. If you don't participate, why not? (Check all that apply.)

(Skipped: 77)



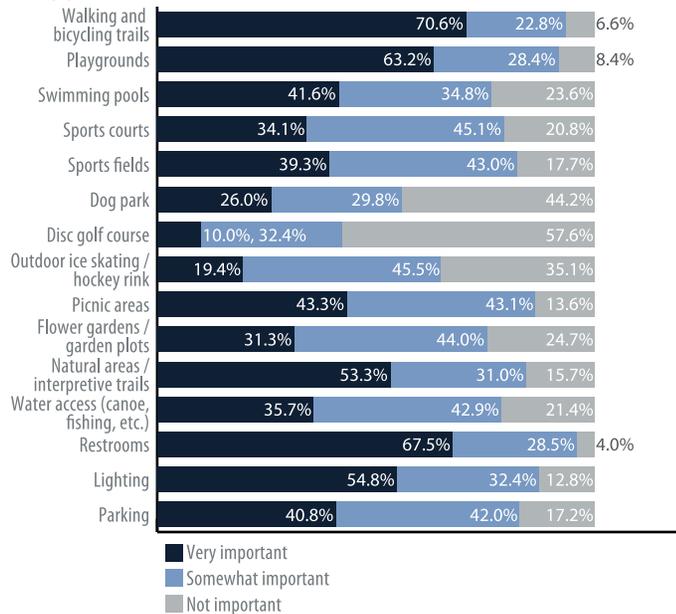
13. In what Libertyville recreation programs have you or members of your household participated in over the last 12 months and how satisfied were you with the program?

(Skipped: 71)



14. Please tell us how important it is to add or provide improvements to the following park activities or amenities:

(Skipped: 48)



Resident Comments

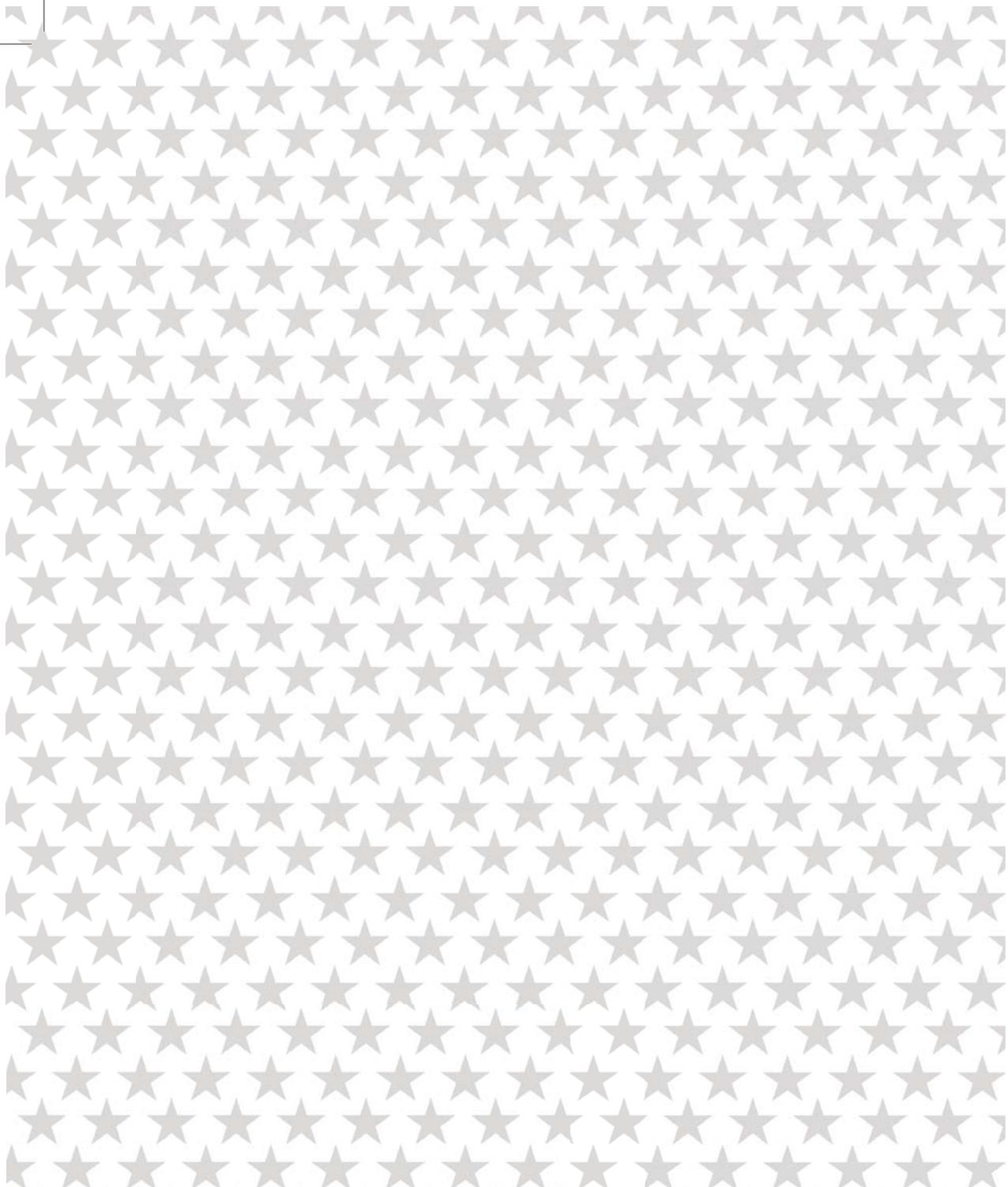
Questions 6, 7, and 11 also provided an “other” option that allowed respondents to provide additional information. Question 15 was a completely open ended question that asked “What is the biggest need for Libertyville’s parks and recreation for the next 10-15 years?” Respondents were limited to 500 characters, and 196 respondents skipped the question.

Answers for question 15 varied, but several themes were apparent. Maintaining the existing parks and open space was the most common topic. Residents would like to see Libertyville’s current parks remain public parks. They recognize that the population is growing and the need for open space will continue to grow in a similar fashion.

The second most popular theme was park updates. Not only did the inventory and analysis reveal that nearly all of Libertyville’s playgrounds are beyond their useful life, the residents recognized it too. Many respondents stated that they travel to neighboring Villages and Park Districts to utilize playgrounds. Their reasons being that their children are bored by Libertyville’s outdated playgrounds or they as parents are worried about equipment safety. In addition to playground comments, there were also many comments about sport court and field conditions. Several respondents would like to see sport court surfacing repaired and new artificial turf athletic fields. Respondents would also like to see a wider variety of amenities at the parks, with each park having its own unique features. They feel many of the playgrounds are the same from park to park and cater to young children. Residents would like parks to be appealing to all age groups and playgrounds to be inclusive of both preschool-age kids and older children. In addition to outdated park amenities, they feel that the pool facilities are outdated. Much like the parks, many residents travel outside of Libertyville to use other agencies’ pools.

A third major theme presented by survey respondents was trail safety and connectivity. Residents feel the parks themselves are not well connected. Parents do not want to let their children ride their bicycles to their nearest park because the trail route either conflicts with automobile traffic or is not present at all. Many respondents stated that they feel unsafe at roadway crossings. Better signage and signals at key intersections would be a step in the right direction to improve safety.

The remainder of the comments range from drainage improvements to more restrooms to better parking.



Stakeholder Input

The following summary is an overview of input received from the community meetings, stakeholder interviews, and staff workshops facilitated as part of the comprehensive master planning process.

Community Meeting

In addition to the public online engagement forum, a community meeting was held to gather input from residents. The community meeting was held on March 15, 2018 at Crawford House. Nineteen people attended.

Attendees were given a short presentation about the park planning process before delving into the focus group activity. Attendees were asked to first write down any or all ideas they had as they related to the focus question – “What priorities should the Village of Libertyville include in the fifteen-year master plan?” They were then asked to narrow down those ideas to their top three to five ideas and write them on large individual post-it notes.

These post-it notes were then read aloud and posted on a board in front of the group. Once all ideas were read aloud, similar ideas were grouped together into categories. The meeting had more than ten different categories of ideas. Once the ideas were grouped together and the

categories were labeled, attendees were then asked to take three dot stickers for the prioritization exercise. They were asked to post them on the idea(s) they believed should be the top priorities for the Village.

These dot stickers represented their “votes” for specific ideas or categories. Attendees could place all three stickers on one idea or place their stickers on three different ideas. They also had the option to place their dot sticker on a specific idea or on the category label, thus voting for all ideas under that category. The results of this activity are summarized below.

Retain and enhance natural character, outdoor pickleball courts, trails and bike paths, and new playgrounds were the top priorities in the community meeting. The top-voted category of retaining and enhancing natural character included many smaller ideas. These mostly focused on maintaining / protecting green space, increasing the use of native plants, creating swales to handle stormwater, and



providing more photographic opportunities for nature photographers. Residents voiced a desire for pickleball courts, both dedicated courts and tennis courts striped for pickleball. Votes for trails and bike paths focused on improved trail safety, increased connectivity between parks, and developing a trail system at Riverside Park. The fourth major topic to receive a significant number of votes was new playgrounds. Residents would like to see updated, specialized, accessible playgrounds. The remainder of the categories received two votes or less.

Stakeholder Interviews

Three separate stakeholder interviews were conducted on March 15, 2018 and included 18 representatives of local institutions and organizations. These individuals represented the Chamber of Commerce, Cook Memorial Public Library District, David Adler Music and Arts Center, Greater Libertyville Soccer Association, Lake County Forest Preserves, Libertyville Boys Football Club, Libertyville Civic Center Foundation, Libertyville Little League, Libertyville Township, Libertyville Warriors Lacrosse, MainStreet Libertyville, Libertyville Grade School District #70, Libertyville High School District #128, Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County, and St. Joseph Catholic School.

The participants at each stakeholder interview were asked the same three questions.

1. “With the existing recreational offerings, are there needs that aren’t being met? What are the needs and challenges facing the community in recreation today?”
2. “What new offerings should the Village consider over the next fifteen years? What are the trends? Are there service gaps?”
3. “Looking forward, are there expansions of partnerships or other relationships that can be better utilized?”

While stakeholders represented their respective organizations, several common issues and opportunities were identified for each focus question.

“With the existing recreational offerings, are there needs that aren’t being met? What are the needs and challenges facing the community in recreation today?”

- Parks are regularly utilized for practice, sporting events, and community events. While parks generally meet each organization’s needs, improving parking access, restroom availability, maintenance, scheduling, drainage, and storm shelter were common concerns.
- Importance of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks to connect parks to downtown, thus improving the walkability of Libertyville.
- Playgrounds and pool facilities are outdated and in need of repair. Integrate accessibility for persons with physical and / or intellectual challenges.
- Improve and expand usage of existing park facilities -- Adler Lodge and Crawford House.
- Establish tree replacement program in parks.
- Establish Park Design Criteria to clearly define appropriate programs and uses for each park.

“What new offerings should the Village consider over the next fifteen years? What are the trends? Are there service gaps?”

- Update playground and pool facilities; make all facilities accessible for children with special needs.
- Improve trail and sidewalk connectivity.
- Increase access to restroom facilities.
- Plan for trending sports / activities: ice sports, theater / arts, crossfit / American Ninja.
- Encourage sporting event attendees to visit downtown.

“Looking forward, are there expansions of partnerships or other relationships that can be better utilized?”

- Explore partnerships for natural area management.
- Clarify maintenance agreements between

Village and community organizations / institutions.

- Establish cleanup day and other opportunities for volunteer participation.
- Retain existing land holdings.
- Establish creative approach for funding park improvements, including grants, fee based revenues, etc.
- Conduct outreach / marketing study to quantify value of parks and recreation to assist in informing annual budgets.

Staff Workshops

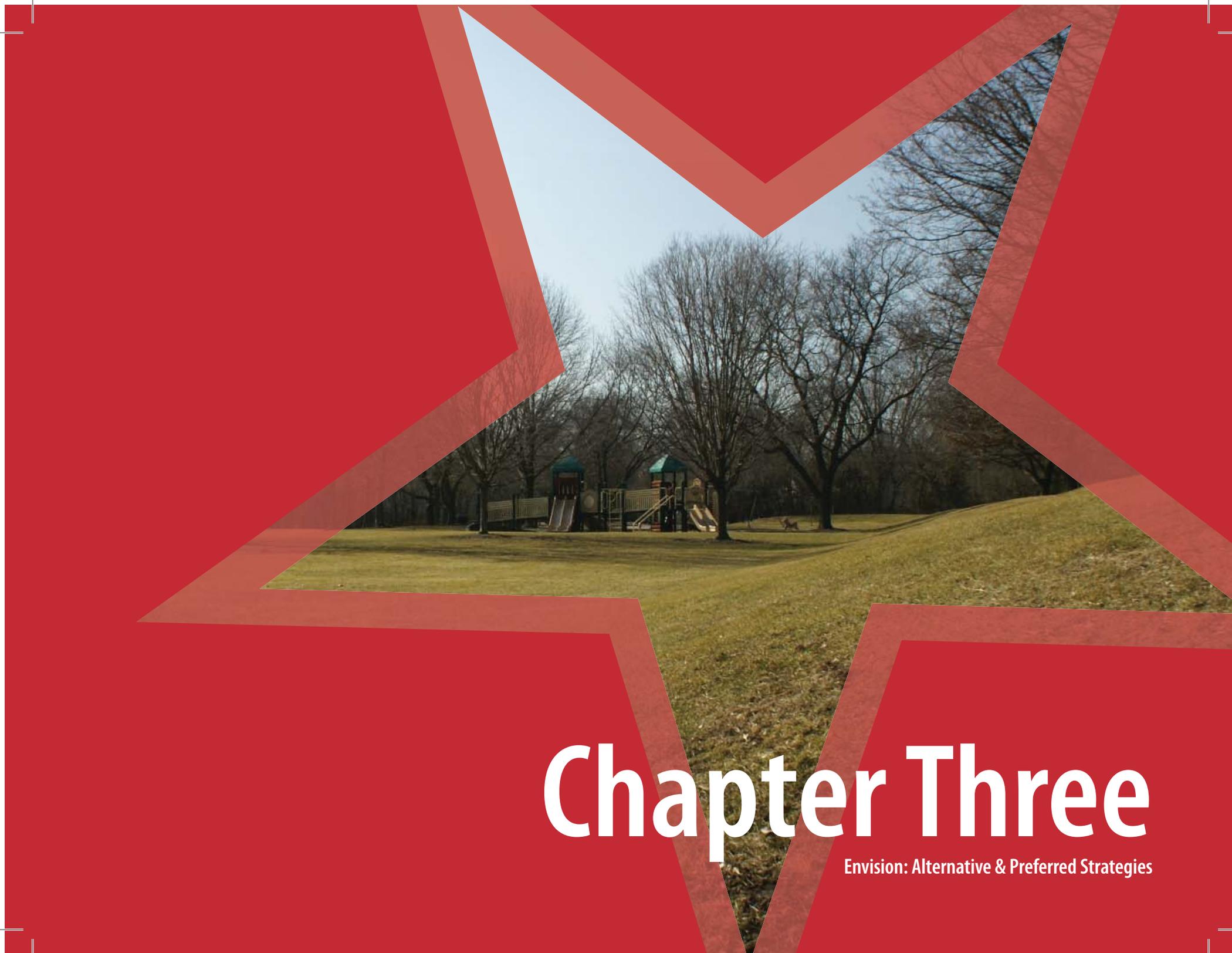
A staff workshop was held on March 15, 2018 and included 12 Village staff members. These individuals represented the Recreation and Sports Complex Department, Public Works Department, Administration and Finance Department, Community Development Department, Police Department, and Fire Department.

The staff workshops were completed with the same format as the community meeting. Attendees wrote down their answers to the focus question, narrowed down their top answers, and collectively grouped these ideas into categories. Participants then voted on their favorite categories or individual ideas using dot stickers.

The highest voted categories included financial planning / attainable funding, planning and collaboration, and new outdoor amenities / activities. With 11 votes, financial planning was the most popular category. Because Libertyville has a recreation department and is not a Park District, parks and recreation must compete with other departments within the Village for funding. Staff recognize this and feel that the Department must be diligent about exploring funding and grant opportunities for park improvement projects. They also believe

that thorough cost analyses should be completed for projects to ensure that the Department is getting good value for their dollars. Going hand-in-hand with attainable financial goals is the second highest voted category, planning and collaboration. Staff would like to see a multi-year, financially responsible capital planning effort. Collaboration includes working with the Village Comprehensive Plan, results from the stormwater study, and the Master Stormwater Plan. Planning and collaboration lead right into the third highest voted category, new outdoor amenities / activities. Staff voiced their desire to see a splash pad and outdoor theater somewhere in the Village. Also, they would like to see better utilization at Riverside Park, which could include a dog park at Riverside Golf Course. They stated that parks need to balance family's needs and expectations. What traditional elements need to stay in the parks and where can new or trending amenities be added? Young families, pre-teens, and teens also need to feel welcome at the parks. What have they been asking for in the parks that aren't already there?

The remaining categories that received five votes or less include update playgrounds, update facilities, connectivity, new indoor amenities, and going green.



Chapter Three

Envision: Alternative & Preferred Strategies



Overview

This Chapter documents the Envision: Alternative & Preferred Strategies phase of the parks master planning process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Envision: Alternative & Preferred Strategies Phase is to develop actionable items for the Village for accomplish over the next 15 years.

The project team conducted a visioning workshop to develop a series of strategies to address the opportunities revealed during the Inventory & Analysis and Connect phases. The strategies were organized under primary objectives to address the needs identified in the other phases. The charts on the following pages illustrate which portion of the previous phases each strategy as derived from. Following the visioning workshop, the project team met with the Libertyville Recreation and Sports Complex Department staff members to review and build upon the proposed strategies.

Staff worked through an initial prioritization exercise to identify high, medium, and low

priorities. Finally, the planning team met with staff and the Parks & Recreation Committee and other Village Trustees to review the initial priorities and determine the most preferred action items to implement over the next 15 years.

Chapter Outline

The chapter is organized by the defined themes as listed below.

- Strategies matrix
- Maintain and update existing parks and amenities
- Coordinate policy planning initiatives
- Retain and enhance natural character
- Expand and improve the trail system
- Increase park access
- Update park offerings to align with demographics and community interests
- Individual park strategies

Strategies Matrix

The strategies are organized under primary objectives to address the needs identified in the other phases. The following matrix illustrates which portion of the previous phases each strategy was derived from, including park inventories, demographics, and level of service data obtained during the inventory and analysis phase, and the website / online survey, stakeholder interviews, staff workshop, and community meeting input garnered during the connect phase.

Objective	Strategy	Inventory and Analysis			Connect			
		Park Inventories	Demographics	Level of Service	Website / Online Survey	Stakeholder Interviews	Staff Workshop	Community Meeting
Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities	Develop / update Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) / Capital Replacement Plan (CRP) yearly to prioritize repairs and schedule replacement of outdated amenities and equipment	X			X		X	
	Prepare master plans for key parks to determine program / recreational needs and guide park improvements, including repurposing of under-utilized areas and budgeting	X					X	
	Coordinate park master plans, updates, and improvements with Storm Water Study needs based on the Village Storm Water Study recommendations				X		X	X
	Prioritize existing parks updates and enhancements to be addressed on a group basis every five years	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Systematically schedule playground replacement in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Coordinate with sports affiliates to repair athletic support buildings				X	X		
Coordinate Policy Planning Initiatives	Evaluate funding resources and develop attainable funding strategy tied to parks and recreation recommendations / priorities	X				X	X	
	Establish friends group, parks foundation, openlands group, or other fundraising entity to establish private fundraising mechanism					X	X	
	Update Park Design Criteria	X			X			
	Develop and implement green / environmental policies and practices for park and facility improvements and projects	X			X		X	X
	Coordinate with current initiatives				X	X	X	
	Coordinate with local community organizations					X	X	

Objective	Strategy	Inventory and Analysis			Connect			
		Park Inventories	Demographics	Level of Service	Website / Online Survey	Stakeholder Interviews	Staff Workshop	Community Meeting
Retain and Enhance Natural Character	Coordinate open space protection and enhancement policies with development of Park Design Criteria	X			X		X	
	Establish tree replacement program in parks	X			X			
	Establish woodland management program for parks with significant woodland areas such as Adler, Butler, Charles Brown, etc.	X			X			
	Improve waterbody / shoreline stabilization and habitat	X			X			
	Construct interpretive trails / signage in natural areas				X			
	Integrate stormwater management recommendations	X			X			
	Integrate green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs)	X			X		X	
Partner with open space organizations to increase education on open space management, and to assist in fundraising and management						X	X	
Expand and Improve the Trail System	Participate in development of an update of the community wide trail and bikeway plan in coordination with other public agencies and committees, including expanded opportunities for regional connections				X			
	Establish Complete Streets Policy				X			
	Construct, improve, and add multi-use trails / paths within parks including looped and signed systems of varying distances and degrees of difficulty	X			X		X	X
	Increase sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to parks	X			X		X	X
	Work with other agencies to develop policies for connectivity that promote improving and expanding public trail systems associated with private development				X			
	Provide trail amenities that support trail use and improve visitor experience	X			X		X	
	Coordinate with bicycle advisory commission						X	
Coordinate with Village of Libertyville Comprehensive Plan						X		

Objective	Strategy	Inventory and Analysis			Connect			
		Park Inventories	Demographics	Level of Service	Website / Online Survey	Stakeholder Interviews	Staff Workshop	Community Meeting
Increase Park Access	Develop level of service (LOS) goals for park access			X				
	Evaluate land / cash ordinance			X				
	Strategically Acquire Land from New Development to create new parks			X	X			
	Partner with other providers to utilize or add mini parks	X		X	X			
	Conduct focused needs assessment for planning areas east of Des Plaines River (areas 19, 20, 21, 22)			X				
	Increase neighborhood park access for underserved populations (planning areas 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18), prioritizing efforts according to largest populations of underserved residents			X				
	Evaluate opportunities to improve pedestrian crossings and access to nearby parks for residents in underserved areas	X		X	X			
	Partner with other providers to allow resident use of non-Libertyville neighborhood parks and increase resident awareness of other offerings	X		X	X			
	Evaluate opportunities for park land acquisition			X	X			
	Undertake master plan effort to convert Riverside Park into a community park			X	X			
Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests	Evaluate addition of trending activities that align with demographic needs / interests		X		X	X	X	X
	Conduct focused surveys and develop focus groups		X				X	
	Improve distribution of park offerings, and consider adding tennis and basketball facilities	X			X			
	Coordinate program of practice fields / league sports				X	X		
	Prepare feasibility studies for new amenities		X		X	X	X	X
	Evaluate and add key amenities listed as deficient in the SCOPR comparison	X		X				
	Consider improving restrooms / extend usability	X			X			
	Consider improving parking lot lighting and sports field lighting	X			X			
	Consider adding outdoor pickleball facilities				X		X	X
	Consider adding dog park				X			
	Consider improving outdoor aquatics	X			X	X	X	X
	Consider adding specialty playgrounds	X			X			X
	Consider adding artificial turf fields	X			X			
	Expand and improve offerings for key demographics		X		X			X
Increase opportunities for outdoor performances				X	X			

MAINTAIN AND UPDATE EXISTING PARKS AND AMENITIES

Background

Libertyville parks are highly used with 55% of online survey respondents visiting a park weekly or more. Of those who don't utilize Libertyville parks, the main reason was the parks need repair and improvement. Of the parks in Libertyville's park system, only two playgrounds were installed within the last fifteen years. The desire to maintain and update existing parks and amenities was the only strategy identified at every stage of the inventory, analysis, and outreach process.

Develop / update CIP / CRP plan yearly to prioritize repairs and schedule replacement of outdated amenities and equipment

- Playgrounds
- Sports Courts
- Sports Fields

Prepare master plans for key parks to determine program / recreational needs and guide park improvements including repurposing of under-utilized areas and budgeting

- Master Plan: Nicholas-Dowden and Riverside / Red Top Parks
- Abbreviated Master Plan: Adler, Butler Lake, Canterbury Parks

Coordinate park master plans, updates, and improvements with Storm Water Study needs based on the Village Storm Water Study recommendations including:

- Nicholas-Dowden Park
- Jo Ann Eckmann Park
- Riverside Park

Prioritize existing park updates and enhancements to be addressed on a group basis every five years, considering:

- Existing amenity updates
- Improved and / or added parking
- Accessibility improvements
- Trail connectivity
- Addition of deficient or trending amenities

MAINTAIN AND UPDATE EXISTING PARKS AND AMENITIES

Systematically schedule playground replacement in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:

- Cook Memorial Park
- Adler Park
- Charles Brown Park
- Greentree Park
- Sunrise Rotary Park
- Blueberry Park
- Gilbert Stiles Park
- Jo Ann Eckmann Park
- Paul M. Neal Park
- Willis Overholser Park
- Kenloch Park
- Timber Creek Park
- Duane Laska Park

Coordinate with sports affiliates to repair athletic field support buildings

COORDINATE POLICY PLANNING INITIATIVES

Background

Since the Village of Libertyville is not part of a park district but instead operates its parks and recreation services as a Department of the Village, Parks and Recreation Department funding is derived by a small appropriation from the property taxes received by the Village. All other funding for parks and recreation operation are received through user fees. Many of Libertyville's neighbors are park districts which obtain revenue from taxes specifically allocated toward parks and recreation. Plans need to consider the current funding stream and opportunities for other funding sources. Creating an attainable and financially sustainable plan for parks and recreation was the highest priority at the staff workshop, followed by planning collaboration. The Village is in the process of conducting a Storm Water Management Study and Village Comprehensive Plan, and coordinating the Parks Master Plan with these two efforts was identified as a priority.

Evaluate funding resources and develop attainable funding strategy tied to parks and recreation recommendations / priorities

- Explore funding / grant opportunities
- Establish multi-year capital planning
- Evaluate other funding resources

Establish friends group, parks foundation, openlands group, or other fundraising entity to establish private fundraising mechanism

- Allow community members to participate in theming and donor opportunities

Update Park Design Criteria

- Evaluate parking opportunities and preferences
- Address internal accessibility to park amenities
- Establish guidance for appropriate amenities and programs for each park
- Develop amenity and site furnishing standards
- Coordinate with open space protection and enhancement objectives

Develop and implement green / environmental policies and practices for park and facility improvements and projects

- Establish dark-sky policy for park lighting
- Develop green building standards and achievable policies to guide park renovations
 - i. Recycled / recyclable building materials
 - ii. Stormwater management best practices
 - iii. Alternative power
 - iv. Organic turf maintenance
 - v. Parking for alternative fuels / electric vehicles

COORDINATE POLICY PLANNING INITIATIVES

Coordinate with current initiatives

- Coordinate with Village Storm Water Study
- Coordinate with Village Comprehensive Plan

Coordinate with local community organizations and commissions

- Sustain Libertyville Commission
- Fine Arts Commission on indoor or outdoor performance areas

RETAIN AND ENHANCE NATURAL CHARACTER

Background

Many residents at the community workshop said Libertyville's natural character was a contributing factor in their decision to move to and remain in the Village. Community workshop participants voted this category as the most important, and its importance was reiterated through the online survey and in the staff workshop.

Coordinate open space protection and enhancement policies with development of Park Design Criteria

- Protect and preserve existing open space; limit buildings, monuments, etc.

Establish tree replacement program in parks

- Remove and replace diseased or declining trees
- Plan for tree succession
- Implement new tree planting to increase tree coverage within parks, particularly at playgrounds

Establish woodland management program for parks with significant woodland areas such as Adler, Butler Lake, Charles Brown, etc.

- Remove invasive species
- Remove and replace dead, diseased or declining trees
- Establish list of approved native trees and plants for replacement based on soil type, light conditions, etc.

Improve waterbody / shoreline stabilization and habitat

- Stabilize areas damaged by erosion
- Test water quality and evaluate treatment options
- Evaluate waterbody health; consider dredging when needed for waterbody health
- Evaluate drainage patterns and consider drainage improvements if needed
- Remove invasive plant species and replace with native species; reduce mown lawn adjacent to waterbodies
- Evaluate aquatic species and supplement as needed for waterbody health

Construct interpretive trails / signage in natural areas

- Adler Park
- Blueberry Park
- Butler Lake Park
- Red Top Park
- Riverside Park

RETAIN AND ENHANCE NATURAL CHARACTER

Integrate stormwater management recommendations

- Adler Park
- Blueberry Park
- Butler Lake Park
- Charles Brown Park
- Nicholas-Dowden Park
- Paradise Park
- Redtop Park
- Riverside Park

Integrate green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs)

- Bioswales
- Native plantings – evaluate areas of unutilized lawn for conversion to natural landscape
- Permeable paving

Partner with open space organizations to increase education on open space management, and to assist in fundraising and management

- Forest Preserve
- Audubon
- Openlands
- Other agencies

EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE TRAIL SYSTEM

Background

The Village of Libertyville, in concert with the Libertyville Township and the Lake County Forest Preserve District, has developed and maintained miles of off-road bicycle routes and on-road bicycle routes. The most prevalent activity among online survey respondents (86%) was going for walk / bike ride / getting exercise. Expanding and improving the trail system was requested at every stage of the outreach process.

Participate in development of an update of the community wide trail and bikeway plan in coordination with other public agencies and committees, including expanded opportunities for regional connections

- North Shore Bike Path
- Des Plaines River Trail
- Casey Trail
- Libertyville Township Trails: Bull Creek, Timber Creek

Establish Complete Streets Policy

- Balance safety and convenience for all road users
- Improve pedestrian sidewalks and crossings
- Improve or add bike lanes and / or provide wide paved shoulders

Construct, improve, and add multi-use trails / paths within parks including looped and signed systems of varying distances and degrees of difficulty

- Adler Park
- Butler Lake Park
- Riverside and Red Top Parks

Increase sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to parks

- Provide continuous, well-connected sidewalks along at least one side of all public streets
- As funding allows, provide sidewalks on both sides of public streets

Work with other agencies to develop policies for connectivity that promote improving and expanding public trail systems associated with private development

- Municipalities
- County
- Forest Preserve

EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE TRAIL SYSTEM

Provide trail amenities that support trail use and improve visitor experience

- Distance and wayfinding signage
- Seating
- Fitness equipment
- Drinking fountains
- Bicycle racks
- Self-serve maintenance stations

Coordinate with bicycle advisory commission

Coordinate with Village of Libertyville Comprehensive Plan

INCREASE PARK ACCESS

Background

Libertyville has a surplus of open space acreage (108 acres) but park distribution has deficiencies throughout the planning area. 45% of residents have access to a mini-park (1/4-mile service area). 63% of residents have access to a neighborhood park (1/2-mile), and 65% of residents have access to a community park (1-mile). Overall, 84% of residents are served and 16% are not. Online survey results support the recommendation of increasing park access.

Develop level of service (LOS) goals for park access considering:

- Overall park to serve 90% of residents (increase from 84%)
- Mini parks, improving access to 60% or more (increase from 45%)
- Neighborhood parks, improving access to 75% or more (increase from 63%)
- Community parks, improving access to 75% or more (increase from 65%)

Evaluate land / cash ordinance

- Research other municipality's land /cash ordinances to understand local and regional context
- Modify land / cash ordinance as needed to require developers to provide mini parks (specifically within planning areas 11, 15, 16, and 18)

Strategically acquire land from New Development to create new parks, considering:

- Quality of the land
- Connectivity to other greenspace / trails / park land
- Future development plans

Partner with other providers to utilize or add mini parks

- Adjacent municipalities
- School districts
- County
- Forest Preserve

Conduct focused needs assessment for planning areas east of Des Plaines River (areas 19, 20, 21, 22)

- Currently, this neighborhood has no access to parks (mini, neighborhood, or community)
- Work directly with residents to determine if improved park access is desired.

INCREASE PARK ACCESS

Increase neighborhood park access for underserved populations (planning areas 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18), prioritizing efforts according to largest populations of underserved residents

- Planning Area #18 (2,547 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #15 (1,642 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #17 (1,352 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #16 (1,035 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #9 (847 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #11 (731 underserved residents)
- Planning Area #8 (713 underserved residents)

Evaluate opportunities to improve pedestrian crossings and access to nearby parks for residents in underserved areas

- Consider pedestrian activated crosswalks at major intersections near parks
- Consider path improvements at Charles Brown, Gilbert Stiles, and Paul M. Neal Parks
- Consider path connection from Kildare Avenue to Kildare Road
- Consider path connection over Bull Creek from Kildare Avenue to Gilbert Stiles Park

Partner with other providers to allow resident use of non-Libertyville neighborhood parks and increase resident awareness of other offerings

- School District
- Township
- County
- Forest Preserve

Evaluate opportunities for park land acquisition

- Land purchases
- Land swaps
- Partnerships / land share agreements
- Easement agreements
- Gifted / deeded properties

Undertake master plan effort to convert Riverside Park into a community park

- Evaluate benefits / concerns with converting Riverside into a community park
- If favorable, begin master planning effort and feasibility studies
- If master plan is approved by Village, pursue capital improvements

UPDATE PARK OFFERINGS TO ALIGN WITH DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Background

Demographics indicate a stable but aging population with modest declines in younger populations and modest increases in adult populations. Senior populations (65+) are anticipated to grow by 20% over the next five years as more seniors age in place. It was discussed during staff workshops that an increase in recreational offerings that align with demographics is needed. Additionally, aligning offerings with trending activities is another strategy for attracting and retaining families with children, which was an objective discussed during the Park and Recreation Committee workshop. The desire for providing new, unique offerings was reiterated at both the stakeholder interviews and the community meeting.

Evaluate addition of trending activities that align with demographic needs/interests

- Dog park
- Splash pad
- Pickleball
- Specialty playgrounds
- Bocce / baggo courts

Conduct focused surveys and develop focus groups

- Age group: teens, young adults, and active adults / seniors
- Demographic
- Planning area
- Recreation type

Improve distribution of park offerings, and consider adding tennis and basketball facilities

- Most of tennis and basketball facilities are in the south side of town
- Consider adding tennis and / or basketball facilities on the north side of town

Coordinate program of practice fields / league sports

- Consider relocating programmed adult sports (kickball, softball, etc.), possibly to Adler Park or Willis Overholser Park
- Establish designated fields for trending sports (lacrosse, etc.)

UPDATE PARK OFFERINGS TO ALIGN WITH DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Prepare feasibility studies for new amenities

- Pickleball
- Dog park
- Outdoor aquatics

Evaluate and add key amenities listed as deficient in the SCORP comparison

- Fishing piers (-7.3)
- Horseshoe pits (-4.9)
- Volleyball courts (-3.5)
- Tennis (-3.0)
- Basketball (-1.1)
- Shuffleboard courts (-0.9)
- Dog parks (-0.2)
- Golf course (-0.2)

Consider improving restrooms / extend usability

- Adler Park (consider keeping warming shelter restrooms open during the sledding season)
- Butler Lake Park
- Nicholas-Dowden Park
- Riverside Park

Consider improving parking lot lighting and sports field lighting

- Evaluate existing parking lot lighting and consider replacing or supplementing if needed
- Evaluate existing parking lots without lighting and consider adding
- Evaluate existing sports field lighting and consider replacing or supplementing if needed
- Evaluate existing sports fields without lighting and consider adding

UPDATE PARK OFFERINGS TO ALIGN WITH DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Consider adding outdoor pickleball facilities

- Stripe sports courts at Nicholas-Dowden or Riverside Park
- Conduct feasibility study for pickleball
- Consider adding permanent outdoor pickleball facilities

Consider adding dog park

- Conduct feasibility study for dog park
- Consider adding designated dog park

Consider improving outdoor aquatics

- Conduct feasibility study to determine outdoor aquatic center demand and market / cost recovery
- Repair and update pool facilities
- Consider outdoor splash pad / ice skating area
- Consider splash pad at Adler Park Swimming Pool or Riverside

Consider adding specialty playgrounds

- Coordinate master plan process to add specialty play facilities (nature based, fitness, and adventure-based play/recreation)
- Consider Adler, Butler Lake, Nicholas-Dowden, Cook, Sunrise Rotary, and Riverside Parks – Refer to “Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities”

Consider adding artificial turf fields

- Coordinate with storm water study to identify parks where stormwater capacity below turf fields could mitigate localized flooding
- Evaluate options for adding artificial turf fields

Expand and improve offerings for key demographics

- Develop focus groups for teens, young adults, and active adults/seniors
- Consider providing and increasing park amenities for specific demographics, located at key park locations that encourage intergenerational activities in coordination with development of trending amenities

Increase opportunities for outdoor performances

- Consider increasing opportunities for outdoor performances in parks
- Coordinate with other providers for outdoor performances
- Coordinate with other agencies regarding increasing indoor performance space

INDIVIDUAL PARK STRATEGIES



Adler Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Undertake an abbreviated master plan to guide park planning
- Create looped walking path along perimeter of park connected with Des Plaines River trail
- Add interpretive trails or nature walks
- Improve natural areas / integrate green infrastructure
- Fix erosion and drainage issues
- Expand programming of lodge during winter months (open restrooms, hot chocolate vendor, etc.)
- Add parking lot lighting at Adler Lodge



Blueberry Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Add interpretive trails or nature walks
- Improve natural areas / integrate green infrastructure
- Resurface basketball court



Butler Lake Park

- Undertake an abbreviated master plan to guide park planning
- Replace playground equipment / create destination playground
- Rehabilitate concession building (Odom Field)
- Rehabilitate sunken garden / improve drainage
- Integrate green infrastructure

- Address drainage issues / repair erosion damage
- Reduce lawn areas (pilot program)
- Increase natural areas around Butler Lake / remove invasive species
- Repair parking lot at fishing pier
- Implement ongoing lake management
- Improve accessibility (issues at bridges, steep slopes, etc.)
- Allow for equipment rentals: canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.
- Add interpretive trails or nature walks



Canterbury Park

- Undertake master plan to guide park planning
- Seek grant funding for park and path development
- Increase trail width to accommodate two-way bicycling traffic



Charles Brown Park

- Improve path connections / add accessible routes to amenities
- Replace playground equipment
- Resurface / replace basketball court
- Integrate green infrastructure



Duane Laska Park

- Replace playground equipment



Greentree Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Add basketball court and backstop



Cook Park

- Update playground ramp to comply with ADA
- Replace playground equipment / create destination playground
- Install a fully accessible playground with rubber surfacing



Gilbert Stiles Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Improve accessible access to playground
- Address erosion
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Improve access to park by adding paths and a pedestrian bridge over Bull Creek



Jo Ann Eckmann Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Integrate green infrastructure



Kenloch Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Integrate green infrastructure



Paradise Park

- Consider consolidating with Butler Lake Park
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Improve natural areas / riparian zones
- Replace asphalt path with concrete



Red Top Park

- Integrate green infrastructure
- Provide trail connection to Riverside Park
- Add interpretive trails or nature walks



Nicholas-Dowden Park

- Undertake master plan to guide park planning
- Replace playground equipment / create destination playground
- Integrate green infrastructure; focusing on south park – coordinate with stormwater plan
- Repair areas damaged by erosion
- Consider artificial turf ball fields (with detention below) – coordinate with stormwater plan
- Improve accessibility to ball fields
- Evaluate removing basketball courts / batting cages, etc. at south side
- Consolidate court sports on north side



Paul M. Neal Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Improve park access. Add pedestrian connection from Kildare Avenue to Kildare Road
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Replace asphalt path with concrete
- Consider adding basketball court



Riverside Park

- Replace playground equipment / create destination playground
- Undertake master plan to guide park planning
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Provide trail connection to Riverside Park
- Repurpose golf course
- Upgrade pool facilities as needed
- Upgrade tennis facilities as needed
- Add interpretive trails or nature walks



Sunrise Rotary Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Partner with St. Joseph Grade School for park improvements
- Consider adding summer water feature with winter ice skating



Willis Overholser Park

- Replace playground equipment. Consider play elements for autistic children (autistic child in neighborhood)
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Update site furnishings
- Replace asphalt paths with concrete
- Add park connection from Park Crest Court



Timber Creek Park

- Replace playground equipment
- Add trail connection from park to the Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve trail system
- Integrate green infrastructure
- Update site furnishings



Chapter Four

Implement: Action Plan





Action Plan

The Implement: Action Plan Chapter outlines the proposed tasks and projects for the Village of Libertyville.

Purpose

This chapter outlines the steps and potential timeline for implementing the Parks Master Plan strategies identified in Chapter 3 from the Envision phase. They were further refined and finalized through a review by the Village of Libertyville staff and Department Steering Committee members to develop the action plan. The Parks and Recreation Committee members and other Village trustees were given an opportunity to provide input as well. This action plan is to act as a guide to assist the Village with implementing the strategies over the next fifteen years and is organized as follows:

An at-a-glance Action Plan timeline with each year divided into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4) to provide a general idea of when each action or action item step might start or end within a given year.

A detailed summary of the action items is provided in a year by year list in chronological order from 2019 – 2034.

The action items are further organized within each year according to the following categories:

- planning and programs
- parks and open space

The Village of Libertyville is following a May 1 to April 30 fiscal year. Both the action plan summary and the action plan timeline are organized to represent this. The action plan should be updated annually based on CIP / CRP projects with budget and funding allocations. Some CIP projects may need to be completed in phases, contingent upon master planning, feasibility studies, and resource allocation.

Current

2018-2019
May 2018
to
April 2019

Year 1

2019

2020

Year 2

2020

2021

- Maintain and update existing parks and amenities
- Coordinate policy planning initiatives
- Retain & enhance natural character
- Expand and improve the trail system
- Increase park access
- Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests

Maintain and update existing parks and amenities	Bid and Construct Cook Memorial playground replacement
Maintain and update existing parks and amenities	Bid and Construct Nicholas-Dowden court resurfacing
Coordinate policy planning initiatives	Evaluate funding resources / develop attainable funding strategy
Coordinate policy planning initiatives	
Retain & enhance natural character	
Retain & enhance natural character	
Expand and improve the trail system	
Expand and improve the trail system	
Increase park access	
Increase park access	
Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests	
Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests	

	May June July Quarter 1	Aug Sept Oct Quarter 2	Nov Dec Jan Quarter 3	Feb March April Quarter 4
Prepare Master Plan for Nicholas-Dowden		→		
Coordinate parks master plans with Storm Water Study		Design and Engineer Adler Park playground replacement		Bid and Construct Adler Park playground replacement
Update Park Design Criteria / Develop environmental policies	→			
Establish Friends Group or other fundraising entity	→			
Establish tree replacement program in parks				Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Charles Brown)
Update trail / bikeway plan in coordination with other agencies and committees				
Evaluate land / cash ordinance	→			
Increase neighborhood park access to planning area #18 (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)	→			
				Consider striping sports courts for pickleball
	→			
Conduct focused surveys (teens, young adults, and active adults / seniors)	→			

	May June July Quarter 1	Aug Sept Oct Quarter 2	Nov Dec Jan Quarter 3	Feb March April Quarter 4
Design and Engineer Nicholas-Dowden		→		
		Design and Engineer Charles Brown Park playground replacement		Bid and Construct Charles Brown Park playground replacement
Establish woodland management program		Improve waterbody / shoreline stabilization and habitat	→	
Establish Complete Streets Policy	→			
Conduct focused needs assessment for areas 19, 20, 21, 22				

Year 3

2021		2022	
May June July Quarter 1	Aug Sept Oct Quarter 2	Nov Dec Jan Quarter 3	Feb March April Quarter 4
Bid and Construct Nicholas-Dowden	→		
	Design and Engineer Nicholas-Dowden Park playground replacement		Bid and Construct Nicholas-Dowden Park playground replacement
Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Nicholas-Dowden)			
			Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Blueberry)
Consider adding outdoor pickleball facilities			
			Conduct feasibility studies (outdoor aquatics)

Year 4

2022		2023	
May June July Quarter 1	Aug Sept Oct Quarter 2	Nov Dec Jan Quarter 3	Feb March April Quarter 4
Prepare Master Plan for Riverside / Red Top	→		
	Design and Engineer Greentree Park playground replacement		Bid and Construct Greentree Park playground replacement
Construct interpretive trails / signage in natural areas			

Year 5

2023		2024	
May June July Quarter 1	Aug Sept Oct Quarter 2	Nov Dec Jan Quarter 3	Feb March April Quarter 4
Design and Engineer Riverside / Red Top	→		
	Design and Engineer Blueberry Park playground replacement		Bid and Construct Blueberry Park playground replacement
Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Paradise)			
Consider adding dog park			

Maintain and update existing parks and amenities
 Coordinate policy planning initiatives
 Retain & enhance natural character
 Expand and improve the trail system
 Increase park access
 Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests

Year 6-10 2024-2029

Year 11-15 2029 - 2034

Recurring Items

Visionary Items (Funding Needed)

- Maintain and update existing parks and amenities
- Coordinate policy planning initiatives
- Retain & enhance natural character
- Expand and improve the trail system
- Increase park access
- Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests

	Year 6-10 2024-2029		Year 11-15 2029 - 2034		Recurring Items			Visionary Items (Funding Needed)		
Maintain and update existing parks and amenities	Bid and Construct Riverside / Red Top (2025)	Prepare Master Plan, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Butler Lake (2026-2029)	Prepare Master Plan, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Adler (2029-2031)		Develop / update CIP/CRP plan yearly	Prioritize park updates every five years		Prepare Master Plan, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Canterbury		
	Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct: Paul M. Neal, JoAnn Eckmann, Butler Lake, Gilbert Stiles, and Riverside Parks playground replacements		Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct: Sunrise Rotary, Kenloch, Timber Creek, Willis Overholser, and Duane Laska Parks playground replacements		Coordinate with sports affiliates to repair athletic field support buildings					
Coordinate policy planning initiatives					Coordinate with current initiatives	Coordinate with local community organizations				
Retain & enhance natural character	Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Riverside / Red Top)	Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Butler Lake)	Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Adler)		Coordinate open space protection and enhancement with Park Design Criteria	Integrate stormwater / best management practices	Partner with open space organizations to assist in funding / management			
Expand and improve the trail system	Construct / improve paths at Riverside / Red Top	Construct / improve paths at Butler Lake	Construct / improve paths at Adler		Increase sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to parks	Work with other agencies to develop policies for connectivity	Provide trail amenities			
Increase park access		Convert Riverside Park into a community park			Coordinate with bicycle advisory commission	Coordinate with Libertyville Comprehensive Plan				
	Increase neighborhood park access to #15 (west of Milwaukee, east of Butterfield, south of Park)		Increase neighborhood park access to #17 (east of Milwaukee, north of Park, south of rail)		Partner with other providers	Evaluate opportunities for park land acquisition	Evaluate opportunities to improve access to parks	Strategically acquire land	Increase neighborhood park access to planning area #16, 9, 11, 8)	
Update park offerings to align with demographics & community interests	Consider improving restrooms / extend usability		Consider adding tennis and basketball facilities		Conduct focused surveys and develop focus groups	Expand and improve offerings for key demographics	Coordinate program of practice fields / league sports	Increase opportunities for outdoor performances	Consider adding artificial turf fields	Prepare feasibility studies (pickleball, dog park)
	Consider improving parking lot lighting and sports field lighting		Consider improving outdoor aquatics		Evaluate addition of trending activities	Evaluate and add amenities listed as deficient in SCORP comparison	Consider adding specialty playgrounds			

Fiscal Year 1 (May 2019 Through April 2020)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- **Prepare master plan** for Nicholas-Dowden Park
- **Coordinate park master plans**, updates and improvements **with Storm Water Study** needs based on the Village Storm Water Study recommendations
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Adler Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct

Coordinate Policy Planning Initiatives

- **Update Park Design Criteria**
- **Develop and implement green/environmental policies** and practices for park and facility improvements and projects
- **Establish Friends Group or other fundraising entity**

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Establish tree replacement program in parks**
- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices (Charles Brown)**

Expand and Improve the Trail System

- Participate in development of an **update** of the community wide **trail** and **bikeway plan in coordination with other public agencies and committees**, including expanded opportunities for regional connections

Increase Park Access

- **Evaluate land / cash ordinance**
- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 18** (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- Consider striping sports courts for pickleball
- **Conduct focused surveys** for teens, young adults, and active seniors

Fiscal Year 2 (May 2020 Through April 2021)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- Design and Engineer Nicholas-Dowden Park
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Charles Brown Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Establish woodland management program**
- **Improve waterbody / shoreline stabilization and habitat**

Expand and Improve the Trail System

- **Establish Complete Streets Policy**

Increase Park Access

- **Conduct focused needs assessment for areas 19, 20, 21, 22**
- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 18** (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)

Fiscal Year 3

(May 2021 Through April 2022)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- Bid and Construct Nicholas-Dowden Park
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Nicholas-Dowden Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices** (Nicholas-Dowden and Blueberry)

Increase Park Access

- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 18** (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- **Consider adding outdoor pickleball facilities**
- **Conduct feasibility studies** (outdoor aquatics)

Fiscal Year 4 (May 2022 Through April 2023)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- **Prepare Master Plan** for Riverside / Red Top Parks
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Greentree Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Construct interpretive trails / signage in natural areas**

Increase Park Access

- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 18** (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)

Fiscal Year 5

(May 2023 Through April 2024)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- Design and Engineer Riverside / Red Top Parks
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Blueberry Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices** (Paradise)

Increase Park Access

- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 18 (east of Milwaukee, south of Park)**

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- **Consider adding dog park**

Fiscal Year 6 -10 (May 2024 Through April 2029)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Paul M. Neal Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2024-2025)
 - JoAnn Eckmann Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2025-2026)
 - Butler Lake Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2026-2027)
 - Gilbert Stiles Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2027-2028)
 - Riverside Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2028-2029)
- Bid and Construct Riverside / Red Top Parks (2025)
- **Prepare Master Plan**, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Butler Lake Park (2026-2029)

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices** (Riverside / Red Top)
- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices** (Butler Lake)

Expand and Improve the Trail System

- **Construct / improve paths** at Riverside / Red Top Parks
- **Construct / improve paths** at Butler Lake Park

Increase Park Access

- **Convert Riverside Park into a community park**
- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 15** (west of Milwaukee, east of Butterfield, south of Park)

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- **Consider improving restrooms / extend usability**
- **Consider improving parking lot lighting and sports field lighting**

Fiscal Year 11-15 (May 2029 Through April 2034)

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- **Prepare Master Plan**, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Adler Park (2029 - 2031)
- Systematically schedule **playground replacement** in order of visitation and age, and improve playground accessibility as follows:
 - Sunrise Rotary Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2029-2030)
 - Kenloch Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2030-2031)
 - Timber Creek Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2031-2032)
 - Willis Overholser Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2032-2033)
 - Duane Laska Park - Design and Engineer, Build and Construct (2033-2034)

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- **Integrate stormwater / best management practices** at Adler Park (2031)

Expand and Improve the Trail System

- **Construct / improve paths** at Adler Park (2031)

Increase Park Access

- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning area 17** (east of Milwaukee, north of Park, south of railroad)

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- **Consider adding tennis and basketball facilities**
- **Consider improving outdoor aquatics**

Recurring Items

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- Develop / update CIP / CRP plan yearly
- Prioritize park updates every five years
- Coordinate with sports affiliates to repair athletic support buildings

Coordinate Policy Planning Initiatives

- Coordinate with current initiatives
- Coordinate with local community organizations

Retain and Enhance Natural Character

- Coordinate open space protection and enhancement with Park Design Criteria
- Integrate stormwater / best management practices
- Partner with open space organizations to assist in funding / management

Expand and Improve the Trail System

- Increase sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to parks
- Work with other agencies to develop policies for connectivity
- Provide trail amenities
- Coordinate with bicycle advisory commission
- Coordinate with Libertyville Comprehensive Plan

Increase Park Access

- Partner with other providers
- Evaluate opportunities for park acquisition
- Evaluate opportunities to improve access to parks

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- Conduct focused surveys and develop focus groups
- Expand and improve offerings for key demographics
- Coordinate program of practice fields / league sports
- Evaluate addition of trending activities
- Evaluate and add amenities listed as deficient in SCORP comparison
- Consider adding specialty playgrounds

Visionary Items

Maintain and Update Existing Parks and Amenities

- **Prepare Master Plan**, Design and Engineer, Bid and Construct Canterbury Park

Increase Park Access

- **Strategically acquire land**
- **Increase neighborhood park access to planning areas #16, 9, 11, and 8**

Update Park Offerings to Align with Demographics and Community Interests

- **Increase opportunities for outdoor performances**
- **Consider adding artificial turf fields**
- **Prepare feasibility studies** (pickleball, dog park)





Chapter Five

Appendix

**IDNR Grant Administration Division
Per IPRA-Park & Natural Resource Management Section’s Recommendations**

USEFUL LIFE CRITERIA

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>Expected useful life</u>	<u>Evaluation Criteria – Factor</u>
<u>BB/Softball fields</u>	8-10 years	# Games/week, # Practices/week Grass infields? Maintenance Procedure/Standards Is site used for multiple uses, soccer, football? Is space used for organized or programmed events? Spectator considerations – bleachers Concession stands
<u>BB/Softball Field Lighting</u>	20 years	Pole Type (wood, steel, concrete) Wiring type (aluminum, copper) HID or incandescent fixtures Existing FC vs. new standards Accepted grounding systems? Panel Capabilities/Technology Electrical Code compliance
<u>Soccer Fields</u>	8-10 years	Usage rating A/B/C/D # games/week, # weeks/year, time of year, age of user
<u>Irrigation system</u>	20 years	Irrigated Y/N Usage # games per week Drainage considerations Maintenance standards/levels Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent? Is site used for multiple uses? Softball, BB or football

<u>Tennis Courts</u>			Lighted Y/N (Use BB Criteria)
Resurface	12-15 years		Surface clay, asphalt, other
Total Renovation	20-25 years		Color coat/overlay/rebuild Frequency of color coating Location – high water table Fencing material/posts Preventive maintenance Location: Water table concerns Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent? Are courts used for making ice?
<u>Basket Ball Courts</u>			Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12-15 years		
Total Renovation	20-25 years		
<u>Volleyball Courts</u>			Sand / Grass? Lighted Y/N Borders Bleachers/spectator area
<u>Shuffleboard</u>			Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12-15 years		
Total Renovation	20-25 years		
<u>Picnic Shelters</u>	25 years		Support structures: masonry, steel, wood Roof type: metal, asphalt, shingle, slate, cedar shake Construction type: post & beam, frame Historical value and consideration Preventive maintenance record Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent?
<u>Playgrounds</u>	15 years metal 10 years plastic 8 – 12 years wood		Meet Standards? ASTM, CPSC, ADA Daily usage by intended user group Location: school, or neighborhood park Surfacing Material Preventive maintenance record Border construction material Location: retention area/water?

<u>Boat Launch Ramps</u>	15-20 years	Construction materials, gravel, concrete Location i.e. Lake Michigan Annual Usage Is facility fee generating? Region
<u>Fishing Piers & Docks</u>	15-20 years	Original construction materials plastic, wood, aluminum Location i.e. Lake Michigan Annual volume/usage Winter removal and storage? Preventive maintenance record
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	25 years	Stand alone site?
Bathhouse	25 years	Heated for winter?
<u>Boathouse</u>	10-15 years	Attached to Community Center Y/N Mechanical room connected? ADA compliance Y/N Local Code compliance? Preventive Maintenance record Location i.e. Lake Michigan
<u>Restrooms</u>	Same as pools	Same as pools
<u>Parking Lots</u>		Gravel, asphalt or concrete
Resurface	10-12 years	Monthly volume and load use
Total Renovation	20-25 years	i.e. delivery trucks or garbage Spring use –heavy, moderate, light Seal coating frequency Preventive maintenance record Original construction design loads Location: flooding/water concerns Snow removal or salt use? Curbed or sheet drainage to edges
<u>Bike Paths</u>	Same as Parking lots	Same as Parking lots
<u>Interpretive Center</u>	Same as Bathhouse	Same as Bathhouse

