

**PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA**

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# **FIVE-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026**



**APRIL, 2022**

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**PUTNAM COUNTY PARKS BOARD**  
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Extension

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# Introduction

## Five-Year Plan Leadership Team

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# Introduction

## Putnam County Parks Board

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**Plan Completed 4/8/2022**

# Introduction

## Putnam County Parks Board Current Funding & Assets / Future

The Putnam County Parks Board, formed in July, 2021, currently owns nothing, has no budget and offers no programming. While it's essential as an extension of county government and as the governing body of the four-organization outdoor recreation collaborative described later, financially it is toothless until the collaborative proves itself and a funding levy is created by the County Council – a strategy of this plan, with a goal of creating the levy no later than 2025. County funding for outdoor recreation has support from residents participating in the public input sessions for this plan – see page 63.

To make progress now through 2025, 1.) the former People Pathways Committee has incorporated as Putnam Parks & Pathways (3P), and its budget and programming supports the County Parks Board and will support this plan; 2.) Friends of the Park of Putnam County (FOTP), the county parks foundation, reorganized in 2021 with a heavy focus on funding County Parks Board initiatives via this plan; and 3.) the Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), with reliable revenue from the county innkeepers' tax, has become FOTP's primary funder and a major 3P funder.

In 2022, the CVB is offering FOTP a grant, matching gifts to its endowment \$1-for-\$1 up to \$50,000. If the CVB continues this annually for five years, 2022 – 2026, as part of its strategic plans, and if FOTP can annually match it, this alone will grow the FOTP endowment to \$500,000 by 2026. The Putnam County Community Foundation will be engaged for support. The endowment could total more if FOTP raises more than the match. The annual draw from the growth of this endowment will be one source to locally augment the county levy in perpetuity.

CVB revenue is used to promote the county's tourism-related assets to encourage visitation and economic development. To be clear, its three-year (2022 – 2024) focus on outdoor recreation development is a stop-gap – to financially support the creation of a broad partnership charged with creating/developing/expanding/maintaining venues/programs that ultimately will expand Putnam County's tourism offerings and appeal.

Once the levy is established, the CVB will be a partner in funding the county's outdoor recreation promotion effort through a return to county promotion/marketing in 2025, with the levy and other funding sources outlined in this plan providing reliable, adequate funding for ongoing outdoor recreation development. A goal for the CVB's next strategic plan, that begins in 2025, is to continue to include the \$1-for-\$1 grant match, to grow the FOTP endowment through 2026.

The 18-mile People Pathways trail system is the only land considered a county park now, and it will become the purview of the County Parks Board. The Putnam County Board of Commissioners holds deeds to sections of People Pathways outside of Greencastle. The City of Greencastle holds deeds to sections of the Pathways inside city limits. The National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. holds deeds to some parcels inside and outside of Greencastle; however, nearly all deeds will be transferred to the county/city as gifts when those gift(s) can be used as a match for grant funding. As part of an early strategy of this plan, the Putnam County Board of Commissioners and Putnam County Council will work with the County Parks Board to determine what other assets will become part of its purview.



## Methodology for this Plan

In 2021, Purdue Extension partnered with the Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance and the Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to conduct the Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities program.

Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces: Creating Healthy Communities (EVPS) is a Purdue University Extension Signature Program focused on engaging communities to improve access to healthy foods and active living opportunities through public spaces. It highlights the connections between the built and natural environments and health by merging theories of community health and community development within a community planning workshop setting. The Putnam County workshops utilized the Community Capitals framework (Flora & Flora, 2006), which describes community in terms of seven types of assets: social, human, natural, built, financial, cultural, and political.

Five public engagement activities led by the Purdue team of seven, in-person meetings with town councils in every Putnam County town, interviews with every town clerk and members of local parks boards, and meetings with civic organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary and chambers of commerce, in particular) resulted in this plan.

In addition, a countywide survey was completed by 726 residents (two percent of the total Putnam County population) to complement the efforts of the 113 individuals who attended the in-person and virtual workshops. The full survey results were provided to the Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau which, throughout 2021, built a coalition of local organizations that will lead, implement, fund, and promote this plan and its outcomes.

The coalition created outdoor recreation-related strategies through the documented public feedback that resulted in this plan submission to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The extensive public input caused the first draft of this plan to be overly ambitious. Even though more than 30 strategies were removed and “parked” in Appendix B as consideration for the 2027 – 2031 five-year plan, the County Parks Board and collaborating organizations are keenly aware that this plan remains extremely ambitious. The groups view the size and scope as a challenge and look forward to accomplishing a lot by year-end 2026. We believe Putnam County is up to this challenge.

## Final Public Presentation of this Plan

On January 13, 2021, copies of the first draft of this Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Master Plan were placed at the Putnam County Visitors Center. A copy was emailed to each of the five town clerks in the county, each member of the Putnam County Council and the Board of Commissioners, every person attending the in-person EVPS session led by Purdue, the director of Main Street Greencastle, the director of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, the director of Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area, board members of the Greencastle Arts Council, Greencastle Mayor, director of Greencastle Parks and Rec, and each of the nearly 50 board members of the four collaborating organizations. Because the four organizations share a staff, phone and email contact information for the director were included with every email. Many email responses were received, and all were encouraging, offering support.

## Goals of this Plan / Staff Description

The purpose of this plan is to outline how the newly formed Putnam County Parks Board, through a four-organization collaboration, will

1. leverage outdoor recreation to increase quality of life for residents,
2. attract visitors and
3. **bolster economic development** in Putnam County

by creating/hosting/sustaining outdoor recreation programs and facilities accessible to everyone.

**A note about economic development:** Recreation, in all its outdoor forms, is about having fun. Creating venues for Putnam County residents to have fun attracts non-residents who visit for an hour, a day, a weekend, or longer. While visiting, they purchase local goods and services, developing the local economy. As visitation increases, enterprising residents can capitalize on the tourism audience by creating new goods and services – restaurants, inns, hiking/running/camping outfitters, ice cream shops, bike stores, etc. Four Putnam County towns stand to gain enormously from the economic development aspect of outdoor recreation through this plan – **Roachdale and Russellville**, through development of the B&O Trail (*Objective 2, Strategies 3 & 7*), **Reelsville**, through creation of the “World’s Largest Covered Bridge” (*Objective 2, Strategy 14*) and **Clinton Falls**, through creation of the Boardwalk Trail (*Objective 2, Strategies 3 & 9*). Bainbridge, Cloverdale, Greencastle, and all areas of the county also will benefit from these, and no doubt more directly through strategies in future plans. However, the county has to start somewhere, and it is important to point out how successful accomplishment of goals in this plan will impact the economies of four of the county’s smaller towns.

The four organizations listed below agree on these additional goals:

1. Gather feedback and input from as diverse a group of Putnam County residents as possible and report it in an accurate manner.
2. Use national recreation standards and a careful needs analysis to create new strategic priorities for outdoor recreation in Putnam County.
3. Create a dynamic plan with pertinent, useful information and guidance for the next five years.
4. Present the plan and gain its acceptance within the Putnam County community.
5. Submit the master plan draft to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Outdoor Recreation by January 15, 2022, with a finalized plan submitted by April 15, 2022.
6. Gain IDNR eligibility for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant programs.
7. Use the plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants.

A robust outdoor recreation team and plan is an imperative investment in and for Putnam County. Without question, facilities and recreational offerings impact successful and attractive civic life by encouraging and providing opportunities for individuals to grow and thrive physically, mentally and socially. This plan provides a roadmap for investments of time and capital that result in myriad opportunities.

In 2022, Putnam County will launch the effort it built throughout 2021. As has been said, four organizations are sharing a staff and headquarters to coordinate their efforts to create/expand/fund/promote outdoor recreation venues and programs. This plan outlines the goals and outcomes anticipated by the collaborators who will fulfill the following functions:

1. The **Putnam County Parks Board** members are the **governors**. The board is an extension of county government. At this point, governing means creating the county’s five-year master plan for outdoor recreation and being responsible for ensuring the goals of the plan are achieved through partnering organizations.

2. Allison Leer is a member of the County Parks Board because she chairs [Putnam Parks & Pathways](#) (3P), and the ordinance that created the Parks Board includes 1.) that the chair of Putnam Parks & Pathways will always be a member of the Parks Board and 2.) that the CVB director will serve as the board's executive director. Both ensure the three organizations work collaboratively. At this point, that means the 3P board and volunteers are the [doers](#). The nearly 20-person group will work with the County Parks Board to implement this five-year plan. Through most of the term of [this](#) plan, 3P is the primary vehicle to achieve the goals.
3. [Friends of the Park of Putnam County](#) (FOTP) is the [funder](#). As the 501(c)(3) county parks foundation, it will work with the County Parks Board to understand the costs of each year of the five-year plan, and it will lead fundraising to meet those costs. This plan will be the focus of FOTP's development, growth and fundraising efforts.
4. The [Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) (CVB) is the county's marketing arm, and its role is to promote the outcomes of the five-year plan – social media, website development, print material, advertising is what the effort will get from the CVB in its role as the [promoter](#). In the short-term, defined as 2022 through 2024, the CVB is providing the headquarters, staffing and funding to launch and stabilize the four-organization effort so it works cohesively, lives on and accomplishes local quality-of-life goals for decades through outdoor recreation initiatives. The CVB, which operates by three-year strategic plans, will create a new plan in 2022, once this plan is approved by the IDNR, that will outline its annual financial, staffing and programmatic support of Putnam County outdoor recreation.

## Needs Analysis

The Putnam County Parks Board developed this master plan in-house, with support from Purdue's Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces (EVPS) team, and it used a simplified method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from each method of public input, and the input from public, individual and board meetings, and identified and condensed common themes into underlying issues placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints.

Putnam County residents were encouraged to "dream big," and they did. The "world's largest covered bridge" over US-40 is a decades-long, multi-million-dollar project, as is a B&O Trail across the top of the county and the Boardwalk Trail included in this plan. "Activating" the county's waterways and covered bridges, and developing a county park in the 400 acres around Glenn Flint Lake, also are multi-year efforts with considerable cost. Every strategy in this plan addresses the high-priority outdoor recreation-related needs Putnam County residents identified. More than 30 lower-priority needs have been "parked" in Appendix B for consideration in the next five-year plan.

Strategies related to expensive, long-term needs included in this plan are first steps. The County Parks Board and collaborating Putnam County organizations are keenly aware of funding limitations and the time some of this plan's priorities will require for completion. At the same time, the County Parks Board agrees these large projects benefit local quality of life and must be started if they are to be completed.

With that goal, this five-year plan outlines strategies the County Parks Board, and its broader team, will use to take the first steps, with the long-term goal being successful completion of "big dreams" expressed by residents. While not a strategy of this plan, financial analysis and benchmarking will be an ongoing, annual part of this plan and, no doubt, the five-year plans that follow.



## Scoping: Man-Made Historical and Cultural Assets

Putnam County has remarkable natural assets to leverage for outdoor recreation. In the west central part of Indiana, it is midway between Indianapolis and Terre Haute and the Illinois state line. Interstate 70 and US-40 run through the southern half of the county, making it an attractive stop for people traveling east/west through the US, whether on a direct route on I-70 or a slower, scenic drive on the Old National Road. State Road 231, the “college highway,” bisects the county north/south and runs directly through Greencastle, the county seat.

The county is home to [Harris Sugar Bush](#), Indiana’s largest maple syrup producer; [Hilltop Orchids](#), a more than 50-year-old orchid breeder and the largest orchid farm in the Midwest; and [C Bar C Expo Center](#), the largest equestrian facility in Indiana, with a more than five-acre arena under roof.



*Retail store at Harris Sugar Bush*

Adding to the cultural fabric is [Hobbit Gardens Erth \(sic\) Gathering Center](#), 30 acres of woods, ravines and pastures, with herb, perennial and vegetable gardens organically and sustainably grown; [Lincoln Park Speedway](#) and [Putnam Park Road Course](#), auto racing facilities appealing to two very different markets; [Old Hickory](#), [Tiger Pointe](#) and [Clover Meadows](#) golf courses add to the relaxed, rural atmosphere; the [Putnam County Museum](#) is a treasure trove; the [Putnam County Playhouse](#) delights theatre-going audiences year-round; the [Putnam County Library](#) houses one of the state’s top genealogical research departments; and the [Townsend/Layman Museum](#), in Putnamville, reflects Hoosier life before statehood.

The second-longest contiguous portion of the Indiana section of the [National Road Heritage Trail](#) (NRHT) meanders through Putnam County. This Putnam County section is called People Pathways and is used for walking, running, biking, and fitness/nature-related events.

Indiana’s first cross-state, multi-use trail project, the NRHT’s nearly 20 miles in Putnam County are part of what will be a more than 150-mile trail from the state’s east side, in Richmond, to the west, in Terre Haute. In Greencastle, the county seat, it runs alongside Big Walnut Sports Park and the DePauw Nature



*Mill Pond residents on People Pathways on Walking Club Mondays*

Park. The NRHT follows retired railroad lines close to US-40. It also is part of United States Bike Route 50, designed to eventually be a contiguous bike path from Washington D.C. to San Francisco.

[People Pathways](#) is a network of 17-plus miles of dedicated trails and shared routes through the county. Trail highlights include the Greencastle to Fillmore Trail, the Sports Park link from the east side of Greencastle to Big Walnut Sports Park, a loop trail at Big Walnut Sport Park, the Albin Pond Trail, the Putnam Nature Trail from Greencastle to Limesdale, and the Campus Link Trail that connects the Area 30

Career Center, Ivy Tech Community College, Greencastle Middle and High schools, and DePauw University. Nearly \$2 million has been committed for the development of this trail system to date.

Walkable from downtown Greencastle, the 25-acre [Robe-Ann Park](#) features an Olympic-size swimming pool with water slide and diving well, the Emerald Palace super playground, picnic areas, lighted ball diamond, lighted tennis courts, a skate park, and paved pathways. Its new bandshell, at the bottom of one of the Park's rolling hills, is home to the weekly summer music series, ParkFest, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2023. Robe-Ann includes lots of picnic tables and three shelters, home to many family, organization and public events. Admission to the Park is free.

The 80-acre [Big Walnut Sports Park](#) offers 10 soccer fields, three little league baseball diamonds, three girls softball diamonds, an adult softball diamond, and an NCAA/Babe Ruth baseball diamond, several of which are lighted for evening use. The park is home to a 19-hole disc golf course through rolling hills and woods, the Keith Carr Basketball Court, a dog park, the Haymaker Pine Grove, three picnic shelters, and a 1.28-mile perimeter walking pathway.

The [DePauw Nature Park](#)'s nine-mile moderately trafficked loop trail features a quarry lake, wildlife and bird-watching. Its trails are rated as moderate, offer a number of activity options and are accessible year-round. Dogs are welcomed, but must be on leash. Between 1917 and 1977, the Nature Park was the site of a limestone quarry. Dormant for decades, the 458 acres of land and adjacent property transitioned into being the Nature Park's 520 acres in 2004. The Park includes the Manning Environmental Field Station, outdoor classrooms, the Rolland Welcome and Activities Center, an amphitheater with limestone block seating from the former quarry, the Prindle Institute for Ethics and its Bartlett Reflection Center.



*Bird Watching along quarry rim at the DePauw Nature Park*



*DePauw students at the Ullem Campus Farm*

Greencastle's 22-acre [Jaycee Park](#) offers a fishing pond, picnic areas and shelter house are open to guests with no admission charge.

DePauw's 12-acre [Ullem Family Campus Farm and Center for Sustainability](#) features multiple crop fields and a greenhouse for year-round growing. A multi-purpose center for sustainability is used for teaching and educational resources, food preparation and processing, and farm outreach programming.

The farm has become a thriving operation with an annual harvest of more than 10,500 pounds of sustainably grown produce for DePauw dining and local hunger-relief organizations. It positions DePauw as a national leader in innovative education related to sustainable agriculture, food and energy for rural and urban settings. It is a laboratory for scientific and entrepreneurial experimentation where students, professors and community members develop models that conserve natural resources.



[U.S. Bike Route 50](#) (USBR50), along with USBR35 and USBR36, was approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation as a national bike route through Indiana. It spans east to west across the state — from Terre Haute to the Ohio border. As mentioned earlier, it is part of a national network of bike routes, and will eventually link San Francisco to Washington, D.C. Through the Hoosier State, cyclists enjoy a scenic tour of significant Indiana historic and natural areas and bicycle-friendly communities in Clay, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Marion, Putnam, Vigo, and Wayne counties.

For close to a century, four tall concrete silos unofficially represented the agricultural roots of Putnam County. Growing from the ground along the primary east/west railroad line through the county seat, the four side-by-side pillars served as grain storage for the feed store that still operates in their shadow.

The silos, which serviced life along the Pennsylvania Railroad, now front Veterans Memorial Highway, which took the place of the rail line. [Indiana's largest mural](#) uses them as its canvas. The design includes an American Eagle as a salute to the veterans the highway honors; peonies, Indiana's state flower and a prolific bloomer in Putnam County.

One silo reflects the county's agricultural heritage, and a source of present-day pride, with the face of a black angus cow framed by the greens and golds of corn stalks, and a horse and red barn on a background reflecting the rows and golden color of a large field at harvest.



*Installation of the Silo Mural on Veterans Memorial Highway*

The third silo reflects the county's longtime affair with music. Today, live bands play in Putnam County every night of the week. Two months-long summer music festivals crescendo in a fall weekend event that draws thousands to the Courthouse Square. The list goes on and includes fourth-graders in the county being provided with violins and instruction by DePauw music faculty and students. The brown wood of a violin dominates the silo, encircled by a brass-colored French horn.

The largest silo, closest to the intersection of the highways, has two dominant cultural symbols of local life – a deer and a covered bridge. In six nature parks, Putnam County has abundant wildlife and more land in protected nature preserves than any county in Indiana (see the following Natural and Landscape Assets section). It also has nine remaining covered bridges from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and more than 50 dot the rural landscape within an hour's drive of this mural which also highlights the county's rich history in wild mushroom growing and hunting with lush, brown morel mushrooms highlighting the brown coat of the deer and the wooden floor of the red covered bridge.

Three of Putnam County's [nine historic covered bridges](#), the Pine Bluff, Rolling Stone and Baker's Camp bridges, are within 10 minutes of each other. Pine Bluff was built in 1886, Baker's Camp in 1901 and Rolling Stone, whose name came from a boulder in Big Walnut Creek, which it spans, was built in 1915.

The Cornstalk Covered Bridge was built in 1917 and gets its name from the creek it crosses. Both the bridge and creek are named for Peter Cornstalk, Chief of the Eel River Tribe of Native Americans, who once inhabited the area. The site known as Chief Cornstalk's Village, "Snakefish," is located 1.3 miles

northeast of the bridge; an Indiana Historical Marker recognizing Chief Cornstalk is located in Parkersburg, approximately two miles northwest of the bridge.

In southwest Putnam County are the Houck and Dick Huffman covered bridges, two of the three oldest that were built in 1880. The Dick Huffman Covered Bridge was called the Wekty Bridge when it was built, taking its name from the nearby Wekty Mill along Mill Creek.

The restored Houck Covered Bridge is unique in that the road now goes around it, and the section of road leading to and from it is paved parking. This bridge takes its name from the Houck family, owners of the surrounding land when the passage was constructed over Big Walnut Creek. Atop a hill northeast of the bridge is the Boone-Hutcheson Cemetery. It is the final resting place of Daniel Boone's sister and sister-in-law, the wife of Squire Boone, and their families.



*Inside the Houck Covered Bridge*

The Dunbar and Oakalla bridges are in the center of the county. One of the three oldest, built in 1880 by farmers with timber cut on the Dunbar farm, Dunbar is a Burr Arch, two-span bridge, with an unusual arrangement of open-air "windows." The Oakalla, built in 1898 by Joseph J. Daniels, gets its name from the former Oakalla Station along the old Big Four Railroad.

Edna Collings Covered Bridge is the "newest" and is also called "Edna Collins Bridge" and "Baby Bridge" due to its age and length. It was built in 1922 to span Little Walnut Creek and, ironically, it replaced a concrete bridge washed out in high water. Local lore claims it's haunted by a mother and child.



*The Edna Collings Bridge, in Clinton Falls, is one of nine historic covered bridges in Putnam County*

Not far from the Dunbar Bridge and downtown Greencastle is an architecturally stunning structure referred to as the [Big Four Arch Bridge](#), leading to the incorrect assumption it contains four arches. With only three arches, the bridge derives its name from the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (known as the Big Four Railroad), which it originally carried over Little Walnut Creek. The open-spandrel arch

bridge was built in the early 1900s as part of Big Four's double-tracking of its railroad.

Railroads have moved people to and from the area for more than a century. The Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County preserves, restores and promotes numerous architecturally important structures and valuable historic icons that make this place unique. Its work has resulted in the naming of [14 historic districts](#) around the county, many with walking tours available any time via an app.



*The DePauw University campus*

Greencastle is America's Classic College Town because [DePauw University](#) has made it so since 1837. Two blocks south of downtown, the school and Greencastle enjoy a "communiversity" as Former President Mark McCoy dubbed it so accurately.

[Eli's Books](#), DePauw's student bookstore, is downtown, drawing the community together and offering students, residents and guests the highest-grossing

Starbucks in Indiana. [Music on the Square](#), on the east side of the Courthouse Square, strengthens the cultural fabric of the shared community by connecting adult and student learners with music makers, creators and innovators. DePauw students use the practice space and the University shares guest artists for intimate musical performances...artists like Yo-Yo Ma, who opened the venue and comes back every summer.

In return, Greencastle provides a home for 2,300 DePauw students from more than 40 states and 30 countries. The nearly 700-acre, wooded campus also offers the [Prindle Institute for Ethics](#), which adds as much to the community, and to the dozens of reasons to visit this place, as the [Green Center for the Performing Arts](#), the [DePauw School of Music](#) and the [Peeler Art Center](#).

The oldest, existing campus building, [East College](#), was built in 1877. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is one of dozens of sites that make DePauw a wonderful place for guests to visit, relax and be part of this Communiversity.

The University's [McKim Observatory](#) was built in 1884, when the president of Indiana Asbury University's board of trustees was Washington C. DePauw. Today, the facility is on the National Register of Historic Places and remains an excellent example of a well-equipped late 1800's observatory. While it houses many of its original instruments, McKim is used by DePauw astronomy students and for independent research projects. During two-hour stargazing events, hosted twice monthly during the school year by DePauw's astronomy department, guests are invited to use the equipment, and additional telescopes, at no charge to see and learn about the night skies.



*McKim Observatory, built 1884*

An area ideal for stargazing, [Camp Friend](#)'s mission is to serve all youth by offering an excellent outdoor experience. The 62-acre venue includes primitive and developed campsites and two shelter-houses that



host large education, nature and family events. Camp Friend offers hiking trails, movie nights, run/walk events, playground, and basketball court.

Many of these places and events will be part of the county's outdoor recreation programs and expansion. Ownership of them isn't necessary and, in most cases, partnership is preferable. For example,

- The nine covered bridges could, with participation from the County Commissioners, be designated county parks, providing a mechanism for maintaining, promoting and maximizing their use in such ways as input/out-take areas for kayaking, tubing and canoeing.
- Putnam County already is home to the second-longest continuous section of the National Road Heritage Trail. Expanding it, as one continuous trail completely across the county, is part of this plan.
- McKim Observatory and DePauw students and faculty associated with astronomy could host star-gazing events in venues all over the county...including at a remote covered bridge.
- Harris Sugar Bush, the state's largest maple syrup maker, could advise on maple tree tapping in parks/along trails and host educational programs in those areas.
- Partnerships with the DePauw Nature Park could include engagement with students and faculty in its Environmental Fellows and Sustainability Leadership Program who could use areas countywide for projects, vs areas solely on campus, benefitting the broader public.
- A partnership with Hobbit Gardens could see herb gardens installed in parks/along pathways, with programming created to plant, harvest and use those herbs in a wide variety of ways.
- Camp Friend is managed by a local non-profit corporation whose board hosts some annual events and rents the park's facilities for others. Engaging that board in creation of a park plan that encourages it to view the facility as more of a traditional county park, and teaming with it in a supportive way, could benefit the facility and the county's outdoor rec efforts by creating and providing unique offerings that could be promoted as only available at Camp Friend.
- There will be many partnerships with Greencastle Parks & Rec, especially within Robe-Ann Park and Big Walnut Sports Park, the county's flagship parks. A new director was just hired and has yet to start, but the county's outdoor recreation team is ready to welcome him.

The County Parks Board's next steps, to activate the "coulds" above and much more, is included in the strategies section of this plan.



## Scoping: Natural and Landscape Assets

Putnam County has a lot of county outdoor recreation space to work with. This is the county's first master plan for outdoor recreation, and the County Parks Board's intent for these first five years is to focus on developing partnerships and developing outdoor recreation venues and programs from them. Aside from People Pathways, there currently is no county land owned, or identified, for use as a county park(s). The four outdoor recreation boards need the initial five years to maximize what's currently available, most of it under the care of other organizations, and use those development opportunities to learn to work together and how best to develop public outdoor recreation spaces.

For example, the 400 acres around Glenn Flint Lake and the nine covered bridges are managed by groups interested in maximizing the properties via additional outdoor recreation-related development. The County Parks Board will learn about park development and begin momentum by working with those two groups, in addition to groups managing the 18-mile People Pathways trail system, DePauw University, which owns the 500-acre DePauw Nature Park, and existing park boards in Putnam County towns wanting a bigger team and help with local town parks. All of this builds a larger, countywide team of outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and experiences, that will be important when the county approaches its second five-year plan.

The terrain of northern Putnam County is mostly flat; rolling hills become more evident in the center and southwest portions of the county. The northern area has Raccoon Creek and Mill Creek. Big Walnut Creek drains the upper part of the county, flowing southwestward into Parke County, where it is captured in the Cecil M. Harden Lake.

On the corner of four townships on the Parke and Putnam County lines, once the center of the thriving rural town of Portland Mills that was settled in the early 1800's, is a low-traffic boat ramp offering easy launch for kayaks and canoes to access Raccoon (Cecil M. Harden) Lake.

The highest point in the county is in the northern half. A gradual rise to 980 feet/299 meters ASL is two miles southwest of the town of Bainbridge.



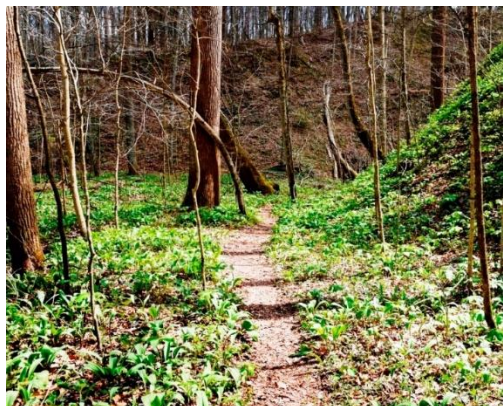
*Kayaking in Portland Mills*

The Walnut Fork of the Eel River is in the southern part of the county, with tributaries of Little Walnut, Warford Branch and Deer Creek. Walnut Creek drains the east central part of the county, flowing south-southwestward into Owen County.

Crossing the creeks prompted numerous covered bridges to be constructed in the 1800s and early 1900s. Nine remain today, making Putnam County second only to its western neighbor, Parke County, in terms of Indiana counties with the existing historic structures.

The county's soil consists of clay, sand, rocks, gravel, shale, coal, and limestone which is still being excavated; however, there are numerous retired quarries that impact "parked" strategies of this plan. Putnam County is 486 square miles, with 311,040 acres. On the north is Montgomery County; Hendricks and Morgan counties are to the east; Owen and Clay counties are to the south; and Clay and Parke counties to the west.

Putnam County has more acreage in protected nature preserves than any Indiana county. The Big Walnut Natural Area, a designated National Natural Landmark managed by The Nature Conservancy and IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, is a scenic 2,700 acres among the rolling hills and steep ravines of Big Walnut Creek Valley. Within it is the Hall Woods Nature Preserve, Fortune Woods and two distinct trails.



*Tall Timbers trail in the Big Walnut Natural Area*

Predominantly a mesic upland forest with lowland or floodplain forest occasionally interspersed along many ravines, the lowland species that thrive here include silver maple, sycamore, buckeye and tulip trees. In the more mesic upland areas sugar maple, white oak, hickory, white ash, and cherry trees are dominant. A noteworthy feature in the upland forest is the remarkably high frequency of large white oak. There also is a thick understory where many specimens of sassafras, dogwood, beech, and spicebush can be found.

Hall Woods Nature Preserve, within the larger Big Walnut Natural Area, is a Registered National Natural Landmark. Big Walnut has been identified as among the best quality stream segments in Indiana. Portions also contain fine stands of old-growth trees. The Hemlock Ridge Trail contains high-quality examples of mesic floodplain, upland and ravine forest communities. It also contains a stand of eastern hemlock, a rare conifer more commonly found much farther north. Big Walnut Creek, one of Indiana's most natural waterways, forms the northern boundary of the preserve.

At Fortune Woods/Hemlock Ridge Nature Preserve, the initially grassy Tall Timbers Trail leads from field to ridgetop, offering aerial views of Big Walnut Creek – aerial views also enjoyed by bald eagles, which are plentiful here. The trail's two-mile loop gently slopes to the creek bed, and stairs lead back to an adjacent ridge. This preserve offers dramatic ravines, several types of high-quality forests with towering hardwoods and uncommon and beautiful wildflowers such as the Indian cucumber root, the guyandotte beauty, showy orchis, blue cohosh, Virginia bluebells, jack-in-the-pulpit, and large-flowered trilliums, along with rare ferns like Goldie's fern.

A registered National Natural Landmark, Fern Cliff Nature Preserve's steep forested, sandstone cliffs, lush wooded ravines and a profusion of ferns and bryophytes make it a botanist's floral paradise. Its 157-acre mesic upland forest is dominated by oak, beech, hickory, sugar maple, ash, wild cherry, tulip, and other trees, and its abandoned sandstone quarry was the source of the greenish glass that made the first Coca-Cola bottles so remarkable. The preserve is open for hiking, photography and bird watching on its moderate to rugged terrain.



*Sandstone quarry walls inside Fern Cliff Nature Preserve*



*Clinton Falls*

An idyllic setting, Clinton Falls serves as the name of the small town and the waterfall along Little Walnut Creek in the northwest part of the county. Originally called Booneville until 1874, when a traveling salesperson suggested it be changed to Clinton Falls in honor of the falls and Clinton Township.

Deer Creek Fish and Wildlife Area, near Putnamville, is a 2,161-acre park featuring excellent hunting, fishing and hiking over rolling agricultural land and mature oak-hickory woods. An upland and forested habitat, shallow impoundments and Deer

Creek attract songbirds, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, turkey, and deer. In addition, wild berries, nuts and spring and fall mushrooms may be gathered at times that don't conflict with turkey hunting season.

Deer Creek winds through the south portion of the property, with a low-head dam, historic iron bridge and a concrete creek crossing. An unnamed creek crosses the north portion of the property, feeding a four-acre pond offering fishing for bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie.

All hunting at Deer Creek requires the use of non-toxic shot. Deer, quail, rabbit, squirrel, dove, woodcock, waterfowl, and wild turkey are plentiful. In spring, turkey hunting is allowed. In fall, waterfowl and dove hunting are permitted. Furbearer hunting is permitted during furbearer season, and trapping is permitted in fall. Hunting areas and fishing accessible to persons with disabilities are available.



*Young heron in the large blue heron rookery at Deer Creek FWA*

Putnam County has three lakes. Cagles Mill Lake was built in 1952 as Indiana's first flood-control reservoir, protecting the Eel and White River watersheds. Mill Creek feeds the 1,400-acre lake, home to Cataract Falls inside Lieber State Recreation Area (SRA). A main attraction on this lake, in southern Putnam



*Eagle nest at Cagles Mill Lake, where eagles are plentiful*

County, are bald eagle nests to which the birds return every season. There is plentiful hiking, picnicking and fishing, as well as hunting in season. In the 1800s, the future Lieber SRA was populated by Native American bands of the Miami, Shawnee and Potawatomi. In 1809, what was left of the great Miami Indian Confederacy sold the now southern one-third of Indiana to the US government, when the 10 o'clock Treaty Line, which passes through Lieber SRA, was laid out.

The 371-acre Glenn Flint Lake, in north-northwest Putnam County, is home to game fish. Lake renovation removed large numbers of carp more than 20 years ago. The lake was then stocked by the IDNR with many spawning-age fish that have taken well to a near-perfect environment. Bluegill anglers do well here in the spring, and the fall bite is good. Little Walnut Creek Conservancy District owns the lake, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife manages the fishery at Glenn Flint.

Heritage Lake is an unincorporated community with a population of around 3,000. The community in eastern Putnam County surrounds the shores of this largely private namesake lake of 320 acres.



## Definition of Planning Area / Social and Economic Factors

The Putnam County Parks Board planning area includes the entire county.

1. Larger towns – Bainbridge, Cloverdale, Fillmore, Reelsville, Roachdale, Russellville, in particular, are a focus because they have existing parks and, in most cases, park boards that would benefit from and welcome countywide collaboration. Unincorporated rural areas between these towns also are included, such as
  - a. the area along Little Walnut Creek, from the Houck Covered Bridge north to Fern Cliff Nature Preserve and on north to Glenn Flint Lake,
  - b. the area that forms the retired B&O Railroad bed across the northern edge of the county, from east of Roachdale where it comes in from Hendricks County, to west of Russellville, where it continues into Parke County,
  - c. locations of murals, which need an enduring mechanism for maintenance,
  - d. the areas immediately around the county's nine historic covered bridges, and
  - e. the People Pathways trail area, from Limedale southwest to Reelsville and the Clay County line, most of which is owned by the county but yet to be developed.
2. As the largest community, county seat and only city, Greencastle has its own parks system and parks board with its own five-year plan. While Greencastle is not outside the jurisdiction of the Putnam County Parks Board, this plan mainly focuses on areas outside the city.
3. Some plan strategies refer to connections between Greencastle built assets and the continuation or expansion of successful parks and recreation amenities and events into the future county parks system.

The goals of this plan, as stated earlier, are to

- leverage outdoor recreation to increase quality of life for residents,
- attract visitors and
- bolster economic development in Putnam County

by creating/hosting/sustaining outdoor recreation programs and facilities accessible to the entire community.

The Park Board's audience is Putnam County residents. Its mission is increasing residents' quality of life through outdoor recreation initiatives. Only by successfully accomplishing the goals for residents can the county's team then leverage outdoor recreation to attract visitors and bolster economic development.

All data used in this section was derived from the ACS 2015-2019 five-year summary and the 2020 census when possible. The Purdue Center for Regional Development's Putnam County Data Snapshot also was used, which compiles data from multiple sources. Note that additional information from the 2020 census is expected in early 2022. The COVID19 Pandemic may have impacted Putnam County's demographic information, especially in the areas of employment and income.

Putnam County is 482.7 square miles and is located in west-central Indiana, between Indianapolis and Terre Haute, connected to both by I-70, a major US transportation route which crosses the county. The agriculture industry covers 197,619 of the county's 307,453 acres, as well as contributing \$111,617,000 annually to the local economy.

In 2020, the county's population was nearly 37,500. Population density was 76 residents per square mile. Between 2010 and 2019, the county's population experienced a one percent decline. Of the 15,280 housing units in Putnam County, 71.6 percent were reported to be owner occupied in 2019.

Putnam County's racial composition was 91.4 percent white, non-Hispanic or Latino. The second and third largest racial groups were Black or African-American and Hispanic or Latino, at 3.8 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. Those of two or more races, 1.5 percent, Asian, 1.2 percent, and American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 0.4 percent, comprised the smallest three reported racial groups.

The highest level of education attained by age 25 was high school for 42.4 percent of the population, with 11.1 percent having no high school education. Roughly an equal number of residents have had some level of college education, with 21.3 percent having some college education, 8.4 percent reporting having earned an associate's degree, and 16.8 percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

In 2019, 13.6 percent of those under age 18 lived in poverty. The total population in poverty was 10.5 percent. The median household income was \$61,047. Major occupational categories in the county were transportation/material moving (13%), office and administrative support (10%), management (9%), production occupations (9%), and sales and related occupations (9%). These five occupations composed 9,372 jobs, while all other occupations in the county composed 9,755 jobs.

Housing and transportation costs dominate household expenses, as housing costs consume 23 percent of income, and transportation costs consume 28 percent. As of 2019, unemployment was 3.5 percent, which was an 18-year low.

In terms of age distribution, the approximately 37,500 residents closely mirror statewide demographics apart from college age persons, who rank higher no doubt because of DePauw University.

<b>Putnam County Population Estimates by Age, 2020</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in County</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in State</b>
<b>Preschool (0 to 4)</b>	1,874	49	5.0%	6.1%
<b>School Age (5 to 17)</b>	5,343	50	14.3%	17.0%
<b>College Age (18 to 24)</b>	4,963	27	13.2%	9.7%
<b>Young Adult (25 to 44)</b>	9,144	39	24.4%	25.7%
<b>Older Adult (45 to 64)</b>	9,664	41	25.8%	24.9%
<b>Seniors (65 and older)</b>	6,481	47	17.3%	16.5%
<b>Median Age</b>	39.0			Median Age = 38.0

So what does this mean? Extrapolating very broadly,

1. Putnam County is in a convenient location, near the state's largest metro area, with three major highways making it easily traveled by residents and easily reached by guests. All new outdoor recreation amenities can easily be reached by car. Making them easily reached by non-motorized transport will be an ongoing part of the county's five-year plans in perpetuity.
2. The county is heavily agricultural, translating to 1.) lots of undeveloped space that can be leveraged for new recreation opportunities for residents and 2.) unique space of interest to both halves of the tourism market – "city folks" wanting a slow-paced getaway and "small towners" wanting to visit places within their comfort zone. Putnam County has the space to work with.

3. The fundraising audience of individuals is encouraging, with those of a giving age (“older adult” and “seniors”) numbering 16,000+ or nearly 45 percent of the population. Outdoor recreation amenities designed for broad audiences, and in all corners of the county, could find funding from individual residents.
4. Aside from the Putnam County Community Foundation, there are no private or public foundations in the county, making local grant funding extremely limited. It will be important to create sustainable funding sources to successfully pursue the strategies and goals of this plan and all future ones, and this plan begins to address that.
5. The continual low unemployment number indicates residents have jobs. Because many are in manufacturing, in facilities with multiple shifts, families will be interested in outdoor recreation options inclusive of weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but evenings and weekends remain prime time.
6. With slightly more than 10 percent of county residents living in poverty, program/admission costs are important to keep in mind, as is how the county goes about funding outdoor recreation. However, significant improvement in outdoor recreation amenities and quality of life require dependable, sustainable funding; and county funding was supported by residents participating in the public input sessions for this plan – see page 63.

Midway through completion of this plan, the intent is for the outdoor recreation organizations to have proven their value, reliability and importance. The Putnam County Ordinance that established the County Parks Board adopted Indiana Code 36-10-3, which includes a “Finance” section, IC-36-10-3-19, indicating “the territory within the boundaries of the county comprises a special taxing district for the purpose of levying special benefit taxes for park and recreational purposes. The County Council shall determine and provide the revenues necessary for the operation of the department or for capital expenditures not covered by the issuance of bonds by 1.) a specific levy to be used exclusively for these purposes; 2.) a special appropriation; or 3.) both these methods.” This plan refers to this funding as the County Outdoor Recreation Levy, and it outlines additional funding avenues.



## Public Participation Process



A series of online and in-person public participation workshops were conducted to gather Putnam County residents' input for this five-year overall plan. Three initial visioning workshops were offered at separate times and in different formats at the Putnam County 4-H Fairgrounds to allow opportunities for community members to share current assets and opportunities related to Placemaking, Active Living and Healthy Eating in Putnam County. Workshops and online events were attended by a total of 113 participants across all meetings.

During each of the three visioning sessions, participants were provided an overview of appreciative inquiry and the Community Capitals. On October 5, 2021, 13 residents participated in a two-hour community visioning virtual session through the Zoom platform. Participants were separated into three groups (Placemaking, Active Living, and Healthy Eating) and each was facilitated by Purdue Extension. This workshop was facilitated utilizing the Google JamBoard application where participants compiled assets and opportunities under each of the seven Community Capitals (Human, Social, Cultural, Natural, Financial, Political, and Built).

On October 7, 2021, two two-hour community visioning sessions were held in person, with a total of 48 participants again separated into three groups (Placemaking, Active Living, Healthy Eating) and each group facilitated by Purdue Extension. The primary activity in these workshops was facilitated utilizing a sticky wall technique where participants compiled assets and opportunities under each of the seven Community Capitals. At the conclusion of each of the three visioning workshops, participants categorized opportunities based on themes within each Community Capital. Participants voted on one theme within each Community Capital that they felt should be the focus of the next two workshops. Participants completed a survey evaluation after each visioning workshop to provide feedback on the overall process and experience. See the appendix for a record of the assets and opportunities that were developed under each Community Capital.

On October 28, 2021, the second session of the two-hour community workshop series allowed participants to prioritize identified strategies within each theme. Participants were separated into three groups (Placemaking, Active Living, and Healthy Eating). Each was facilitated by Purdue Extension. A total of 27 participants categorized the strategies that were identified in the visioning sessions into Impact/Effort grids. The Impact/Effort grids allowed participants to identify if each strategy would have a low or high impact on the community and whether it would take a low or high effort to accomplish.

This activity helped determine which strategies could be implemented in the short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-4 years), or long-term (5+ years); or which strategies should not be included in the Five-Year Master plan. At the conclusion of this workshop, strategies were identified that would then be included in the action plan and further developed in the final workshop.

On November 9, 2021, a final two-hour community workshop hosted 25 participants with the purpose of completing action plans for each identified strategy. Participants were separated into three groups (Placemaking, Active Living, and Healthy Eating), each facilitated by Purdue Extension. Each group completed an action planning Excel document identifying an action schedule with evaluation metrics and communications needed for each identified strategy. For each strategy, a timeline was developed; potential funding sources and responsible parties identified; indicators of success, data collection methods and responsible parties for evaluation identified; and communication methods, communication recipients and responsible parties identified. At the conclusion of the workshop, action plans were completed for Placemaking, Active Living and Healthy Eating groups.



In addition, staff from the Putnam County CVB held in-person meetings with town councils in every Putnam County town, interviews with every town clerk and members of local parks boards, and meetings with civic organizations. Beyond EVPS sessions, CVB staff gathered input from the following:

- September 20, 2021: Presentation to [Putnam County Chamber of Commerce](#) Director Brian Cox, covering the planning process, desire for business participation, anticipated outcomes, benefits of the process, and the impact implementation of the final plan will have on business and employee recruitment and retention.
- September 22, 2021: Presentation to [Greencastle Rotary](#). Thirty-seven members participated in a Q&A about the planning process, importance of participation and the impact implementation of the final plan will have on quality of life.
- September 23, 2021: Presentation to [Greencastle Kiwanis](#). Seventeen members participated in a Q&A about the planning process, importance of participation and the impact implementation of the final plan will have on quality of life.
- October 6, 2021: In-person meeting with [Rod Weinschenk, director of Greencastle Parks & Rec](#), to discuss the planning process and need for involvement/leadership in it.
- October 7, 2021: Conversation with [Kelly Maners, Cloverdale Town Clerk](#) about planning process, desired plan outcomes and need for local leadership. Follow-up email included graphic with dates for in-person sessions and URL for online survey for use on social media and as an email attachment.
- October 8, 2021: Conversation with [Bobbi Boller, Bainbridge Town Clerk](#), and then [Jayna Haldeman, town clerk in Fillmore](#) about planning process, desired plan outcomes and need for local leadership. Follow-up email included graphic with dates for in-person sessions and URL for online survey for use on social media and as an email attachment.
- October 11, 2021: Conversation with [Debbie Sillery, Roachdale Town Clerk](#), and then [Martha Mandleco, town clerk in Russellville](#), about planning process, desired plan outcomes and need

for local leadership. Follow-up email included graphic with dates for in-person sessions and URL for online survey for use on social media and as an email attachment.

- October 12, 2021: Presentation to [Cloverdale Town Board](#) on planning process, need for town engagement and leadership at in-person input sessions and in promoting the online survey.
- October 20, 2021: Presentation to [Roachdale Town Council](#) on planning process, need for town engagement and leadership at in-person input sessions and in promoting the online survey.
- November 4, 2021:
  - In-person meeting with [Bill Dory, Greencastle mayor](#), to discuss the planning process and need for involvement/leadership in it.
  - Presentation to [Fillmore Town Council](#) on planning process, need for town engagement and leadership at in-person input sessions and in promoting the online survey.
- November 11, 2021:
  - Presentation to [Bainbridge Town Council](#) on planning process, need for town engagement and leadership at in-person input sessions and in promoting the online survey.
  - In-person meeting with leaders of [Friends of Lieber SRA](#) to discuss the planning process, need for involvement/leadership in it, possible partnership, and to share ideas.
- November 15, 2021: Presentation to the [Putnam County Board of Commissioners](#) on planning process, need for engagement and leadership.
- November 16, 2021: Presentation to the [Putnam County Council](#) on planning process, need for engagement and leadership.
- November 17, 2021: Presentation to [Russellville Town Board](#) on planning process, need for town engagement and leadership in promoting the online survey.

# Priorities and Strategic Action Plan

This plan focuses on six objectives with multiple strategies for completion.

## Objective 1: Make it Fun by Building the Putnam County Outdoor Recreation Team and Culture

7 Strategies	Page #
5 short-term . . . . .	25
1 medium-term . . . . .	33
1 long-term . . . . .	38

## Objective 2: Make it Unique by Planning, Creating and Developing Outdoor Recreation Amenities

16 Strategies	Page #
5 short-term . . . . .	26
8 medium-term . . . . .	33
3 long-term . . . . .	38

## Objective 3: Make it Happen by Funding the Outdoor Recreation Amenities, Team and Culture

5 Strategies	Page #
2 short-term . . . . .	28
2 medium-term . . . . .	36
1 long-term . . . . .	39

## Objective 4: Make it Come Alive by Building an Outdoor Recreation Brand

5 Strategies	Page #
3 short-term . . . . .	29
2 medium-term . . . . .	37
0 long-term	

## Objective 5: Make it Inclusive Through Strategic Partnerships with Mutual Gain

5 Strategies	Page #
3 short-term . . . . .	29
1 medium-term . . . . .	37
1 long-term . . . . .	39

## Objective 6: Make it Productive and Truly Enhance Putnam County Quality of Life

5 Strategies	Page #
4 short-term . . . . .	31
1 medium-term . . . . .	38
0 long-term	

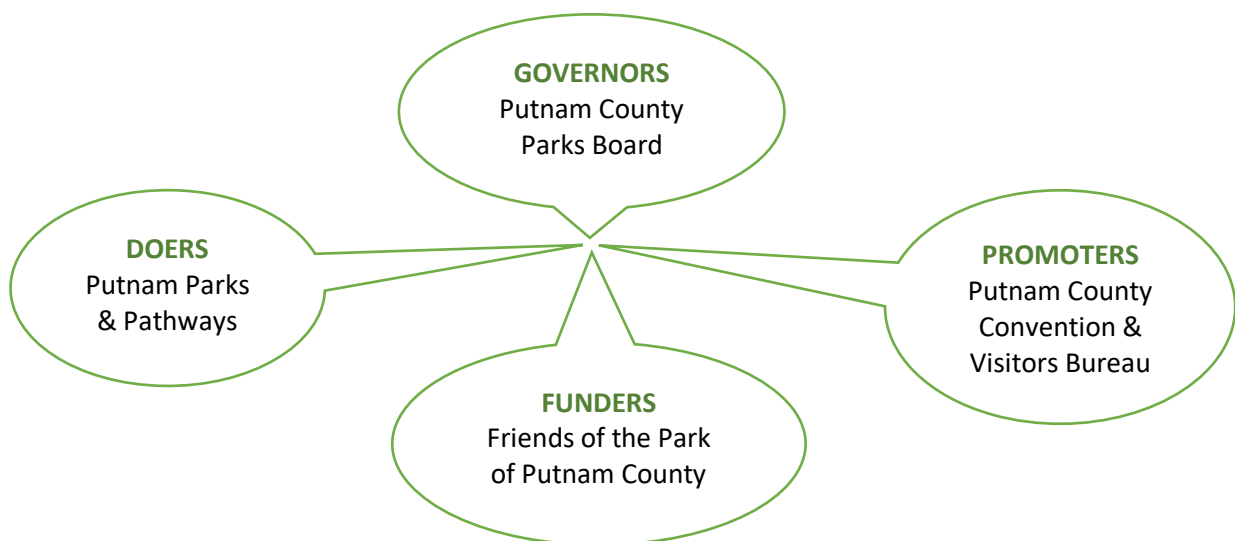
# Priorities and Strategic Action Plan

## Objective 1: Make it Fun by Building the Putnam County Outdoor Recreation Team and Culture

### Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)

#### Strategy 1: Continually identify/seek needed skill sets and seat appropriate members of the Friends of the Park, Putnam Parks & Pathways and Convention & Visitors Bureau boards of directors

Strong leadership and followership are critical to this plan's success. Current board members must constantly identify unique skill sets and recruit appropriate board/committee members and volunteers. Each board chair, with the staff, will be responsible to identify and meet leadership/volunteer needs. Communication will be one-on-one and among the leadership of each board. Success will result in continually active, growing, dynamic board leadership, collaboration and followership.



#### Strategy 2: Create and maintain a strong leadership structure of board and committee members within PUTNAM PARKS & PATHWAYS

Of the four organizations collaborating on Putnam County outdoor recreation, Putnam Parks & Pathways has an intentionally broad focus, a board able to grow to any size, and the ability to create committees and sub-committees to address any need. The County Parks Board is restricted to five members, the CVB board to 11 members with a focus on tourism development, and the Friends of the Park board is focused on fundraising. As needs arise, the 3P board is designed to adapt. To address goals of this plan, the 3P board will

##### 1. Develop a volunteer recruitment and training mechanism

To create a much-needed volunteer corps to build and sustain the goals of this plan, Putnam Parks & Pathways will create a Volunteer Committee and coordinate volunteer recruitment and training through it. Success will include the number of volunteers trained, the number of training programs offered and the number of attendees. 3P will communicate opportunities for engagement with churches, civic groups, DePauw, Ivy Tech, Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, and Master Gardeners, and others via social media, newsletters and networking.

##### 2. Increase the presence of public art, murals and sculptures in outdoor recreation venues

Putnam Parks & Pathways will create an Arts Committee to recommend and oversee public art installations/programs in outdoor recreation areas. The Putnam County Mural Project is taking the lead on murals throughout the county, and it will be invited to become a subcommittee of the Arts Committee. Program assistance could come from the Greencastle Arts Council and



CastleMakers. Funding could come from the Putnam County Community Foundation, Indiana Arts Commission, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and perhaps DePauw. 3P will monitor success by creating/staffing the committee, the number of new pieces or new programs. 3P will promote these online and in print material. 3P and the CVB will communicate new installations, and the overall offering, to residents and art lovers via maps, social media and the web.

**3. Create an Education Committee to create, manage, partner on EDUCATION-RELATED events**

See Objective 6, Strategy 3.

**Strategy 3: Budget to maintain and improve existing and new outdoor recreation property/venues**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will include a maintenance line in its annual budget that appropriately maintains existing and all newly developed property. The County Parks Board and Friends of the Park will assist in ensuring the budget is adequate. Success will be obvious in how well outdoor rec property is maintained. Communication will be from users to 3P in terms of what's needed/wanted and from 3P to the CPB and FOTP in terms of what is accomplished.

**Strategy 4: With the Putnam County Commissioners and County Council, discuss and decide what current county land/venues are to be managed/owned by the County Parks Board**

The County Parks Board will meet first with the Putnam County Commissioners, then the Council, to decide the county property the two government entities want the Parks Board to oversee (People Pathways, covered bridges, murals, etc.) and the definition of "oversee" – ownership, management, etc. Discussions will include the intent of the four-organization outdoor recreation collaborative to prove itself over two years (2022 – 2023) with the goal of the county instituting a funding levy in 2024/2025 to provide financial sustainability and help creating a County Parks Department. Communication will be through public meetings covered by local media.

**Strategy 5: Integrate outdoor recreation efforts with DePauw University's Sustainability Leadership Program**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will integrate goals with DePauw's Sustainability Leadership Program through sponsorship of the program and its student initiatives, including those of the Environmental Fellows Program. Success includes student and faculty involvement in 3P initiatives and strategies of this plan. Funding will come from 3P, and communication will be in person.



*The director of DePauw's Sustainability Leadership Program is a member of the Putnam Parks & Pathways board of directors to encourage integration of programs*

**Objective 2: Make it Unique by Planning, Creating and Developing Outdoor Recreation Amenities**

*Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)*

**Strategy 1: Create a plan in five-, 10- and 15-year increments focused solely on trail development (not multi-acre parks)**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will use every possible source to complete this long-term strategy that begins in 2022 and continues for years. It will focus on

1. the **B&O Trail** across the top of the county (*Objective 2, Strategies 3 & 7*),
2. the **boardwalk trail** from the Houck Bridge north to Glenn Flint Lake (*Objective 2, Strategies 3 & 9*),
3. **activation of the county's waterways** through creation of "blueways," AKA water trails (*Objective 3, Strategies 4 & 4a*),
4. the **"world's largest" covered bridge** over US-40 (*Objective 2, Strategy 14*), and, among others,



5. **making People Pathways a continuous path across Putnam County, completing the National Road Heritage Trail southwest to Clay County.** Work with the NRHT to plan and prioritize route options SW to Clay County. Prioritize route options, identify and approach property owners about land acquisition to continually refine the route and plan that will be implemented in 2023 and beyond. The purchase of options to buy land is part of this strategy. 3P will lead the effort and monitor success in terms of land/options purchased in and near Reelsville for trails and closing all segment gaps currently existing in the People Pathways trails system. 3P will measure short-term success by completing the CSX crossing in Limesdale and opening a continuous path from Greencastle to Manhattan Road. Long-term success will be the number of trail miles developed. Certain portions of trails may be on-street; however, a long-term goal is to eliminate on-street trails. 3P will communicate with land owners one-on-one and perhaps in public meetings to explain the benefits of completing the NRHT through Putnam County.

**5a: Begin the completion of People Pathways' "Campus Link Trail" segment**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will coordinate segment completion with the City of Greencastle. Funding is dependent on the success of the 2022 Next Level Trails grant application, and work likely will continue through 2023. Communication will include updates to online and print material sources. Success will be completion of this trail segment.

Success will be how the plan enhances, integrates and connects the county's outdoor recreation venues and how it connects with regional outdoor recreation initiatives. Like the goal of gaining countywide support for a County Parks Department, accomplishing this goal will add additional support/vision for creating a Putnam County funding levy.

**Strategy 2: Create a plan to establish 400 acres along Glenn Flint Lake as a park and approach the Camp Friend Board of Directors about a similar plan**



*Glenn Flint Lake in northwest Putnam County*

The Little Walnut Creek Conservancy District, County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will collaborate on funding a plan to establish the property along Glenn Flint Lake as a county park, with the goal of beginning plan implementation no later than 2024. The 400 acres were intended to be a county park in the 1970s. Whether the park becomes county-owned will be decided. Funding will come from a variety of sources, including grants. Community news outlets will be notified as property development progresses. The CVB will promote the venue, targeting bass anglers and other appropriate markets.

**Strategy 3: Buy county park land, increase access to natural resources and connect existing areas**

In the near term, 2022 and 2023, "county park land" is synonymous with land for trails, especially the extension of People Pathways. In the mid-term, 2023 - 2025, it likely is synonymous with land for other trail systems inside Putnam County, such as the B&O Trail and Boardwalk Trail outlined in this plan. In the long-term, in 2026 and beyond, it will become synonymous with true multi-acre parkland. Funding will be the responsibility of the County Parks Board, with support from Friends of the Park. The number of acres purchased will be the primary indicator of success, tracked by the County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways. County residents will be informed by the County Parks Board and 3P at public hearings and meetings and through media.

**Strategy 4: Move and restore the retired Penn Railroad Freight Depot as 1.) a Pathways trailhead along the Campus Link Trail and 2.) a venue to appreciate the silo mural**

A combination of funding from Putnam Parks & Pathways, Friends of the Park, the CVB, the Heritage Preservation Society, and grants will be used by 3P to implement this. Success will be when the depot is moved, restored and in use. 3P will communicate with the countywide community via social media.



*The former Penn Railroad Freight Depot will be moved to the SW corner of state roads 231 and 240 to serve as a trailhead and area to enjoy the silo mural across Veterans Memorial Highway*

**Strategy 5: Construct mountain bike trails**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will seek grant funding and support from Friends of the Park to plan and construct a mountain bike trail on currently-owned Pathways land from Manhattan Road west toward Reelsville as a way to begin “activating” that land for later trail use. Success is defined as new trail construction, and this will be monitored by 3P, which will communicate with mountain bikers specifically, as well as trail users generally, via social media, maps, print material, and the county’s outdoor recreation website. The Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) will promote this to tourism markets.

**Objective 3: Make it Happen by Funding the Outdoor Recreation Amenities, Team and Culture**

*Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)*

**Strategy 1: Friends of the Park will develop a five-year plan and board structure to successfully build and grow an endowment fund inside FOTP to create financial sustainability, support of increasingly large outdoor recreation-related grants and an additional local funding source**

Endowment-building will be the responsibility of Friends of the Park through mentoring from counties with successful parks foundations. FOTP will create and build its own endowment fund and a board committee structure to grow and manage it. Success will be board committees developed, creation of an investment and other policies, funds raised, engagement with the Putnam County Community Foundation, and pursuit of ongoing CVB \$1-for-\$1 matching funds for endowment. Communication will be to mentoring counties, prospective donors and grantors through personal communication by Friends of the Park staff.

**Strategy 1a: This Friends of the Park plan will include creation of a full-time paid staff** (can be one person, and can be shared with other collaborating organizations for other duties) no later than 2026 to oversee an increasingly sophisticated and enduring fundraising program – an essential additional source of locally-assisted financing of this and future plans.

**Strategy 2: Successfully raise a minimum of \$265,000 in state/national grant funding in 2022 - 2026**

Friends of the Park and the County Parks Board will pursue funding through Indiana's Next Level Trails grant, IDNR, Indiana Finance Authority, OCRA, and state/federal funding being identified. Success will be total funds raised with minimum annual goals of \$20k in 2022 and 2023, \$50k in 2024, \$75k in 2025, and \$100K in 2026. Communication will be to grantors through grant applications and communication from Friends of the Park/County Parks Board staff.

## Objective 4: Make it Come Alive by Building an Outdoor Recreation Brand

### Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)

#### Strategy 1: Create and maximize one distinct brand used for all marketing related to Putnam County outdoor recreation

The Putnam County CVB and Putnam Parks & Pathways will fund this. The county's outdoor recreation brand will leverage the 3P organization as its "face." The County Parks Board and Friends of the Park will share in, and support, the brand as one cohesive collaboration. A county-focused retail products program is part of this strategy in 2023 or 2024 – notecards, postcards, t-shirts, baseball caps, etc. sold from the Visitors Center and perhaps the restored depot trailhead. 3P and the CVB will track success, defined by info requests, logo usage and consistency, creation of a website, branded signage, and retail products. 3P, the CVB, Friends of the Park, and the County Parks Board will communicate the brand to local, regional and statewide residents through meetings, radio, *Banner Graphic* newspaper, social media, branded signage, *National Road* magazine, travel magazines, and state tourism avenues among many others. A media kit to promote the brand, talking points, key points like the four-organization collaboration, and web address will be helpful.



*The Putnam Parks & Pathways logo is part of a comprehensive, professionally created branding guide all Putnam County outdoor recreation initiatives will follow*



*Examples of Putnam Parks & Pathways-branded signage and retail products*

#### Strategy 2: Complete a comprehensive website for Putnam County outdoor recreation

Funding and content will be the responsibility of the Putnam County CVB, whose staff also serves as staff for the county's three outdoor recreation-focused organizations. With the county's brand established, the website will be a one-stop source for information on parks, trails, waterways, the county's covered bridges, camping, etc. The site will serve as the home/source of linked social media promotion/outreach. 3P will measure success through Google analytics and communicate with the County Parks Board and partner organizations about trends and resident/consumer interest.

#### Strategy 3: Create a three-year CVB strategic plan outlining how it will fund the county's outdoor recreation effort and promote existing and new aspects of it

The CVB will be a primary funding source for the four-organization outdoor recreation collaboration from 2021 through 2024. By 2025, the goal is to have established additional local funding sources, such as the Friends of the Park endowment and the levy created by the County Council. A funding collaboration with the Putnam County Community Foundation also will be sought. The CVB operates on three-year strategic plans, and the plan created in 2022 will focus extensively on supporting the county's outdoor recreation effort through funding and promotion. Success will be continual growth and success of the outdoor recreation collaborative and its outcomes. Communication will be among the four board chairs, combined board meetings and through the shared staff.

## Objective 5: Make it Inclusive Through Strategic Partnerships with Mutual Gain

### *Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)*

#### **Strategy 1: Share the vision and intention of creating a Putnam County Parks Department**

No funding needed, just time from the County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways. Meet with the Greencastle mayor, City Parks Director and parks boards in towns with parks boards to discuss a vision for a County Parks Department that would include, among other things, oversight of Greencastle Parks and town parks countywide. When appropriate, meet in public forums with the Greencastle Parks & Rec Board and town councils/parks boards countywide to further the discussion, laying groundwork for creation of a plan and future implementation of it. Success will be formation of a County Parks Department in 2025. Communication will be with other boards, groups and individuals through face-to-face meetings, email and calls.

**Strategy 1a:** This process lays groundwork for promoting creation of a County Parks Department to the County Commissioners and County Council. This process will be used to **create a countywide team that supports creating a County Parks Department, providing voices and leverage in funding it later, through the levy, as part of this plan.**

#### **Strategy 2: Integrate plans with/join/engage with contiguous counties & state/regional/national groups for mutual gain, funding, labor, and programming**

Minimal funding needed. Time from the County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways is essential. Success will be determined by 3P in terms of the number of partner organizations. Groups will include owners/managers of the Putnam County nature parks and preserves/FWA's/SRA's; local chapters of conservation organizations such as Quails/Ducks Unlimited; trails/outdoor rec groups in contiguous counties, such as Crossroads Trails; local clubs and organizations such as the Heritage Preservation Society, Master Gardeners, PC Public Library, Greencastle Arts Council, beekeepers, native plant, 4-H, Soil & Water Conservation District; state and county agencies such as the Big Walnut Watershed, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Indiana Land Trust; and state and national foundations, organizations such as Re-Leaf and the Trail Towns program, and land trusts, through meetings for partnership and funding requests by Friends of the Park, the County Parks Board and 3P staff. Indicators of success will be collected by 3P and the County Parks Board in terms of number of connections made and outcomes from them. Communication will be with other boards, groups and individuals through face-to-face meetings, email and calls.

#### **Strategy 3: Work to connect all town park boards inside Putnam County (communications, coordination in 2022-2023) and complete and pursue a needs assessment (in 2023-2024) to maintain and enhance existing playgrounds and amenities and pursue ADA compliance**

Minimal funding needed. The County Parks Board staff will lead this. Success will be a minimum of two well-attended meetings between the town parks boards annually. Friends of the Park, non-profit organizations and grants may be used to implement the assessment recommendations. The number of ADA compliant playgrounds will be tracked by the County Parks Board to indicate success. It will lead communications with municipalities, other parks boards and users of the parks system. Communication will occur in person, through community news outlets, maps and print material to town parks boards through emails and calls from the County Parks Board staff.



## Objective 6: Make it Productive and Truly Enhance Putnam County Quality of Life

### Short Term Strategies (1-2 years)

#### Strategy 1: Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor recreation venues

The Putnam Parks & Pathways Events Committee will communicate and partner with organizations to encourage multiple kinds of exercise in outdoor rec venues – walking, hiking, wheelchair use, biking, cross-country skiing, specialized health and fitness programs – for a wide variety of audiences. Success will be the number of events hosted, number of participants, achieving outcomes of the event organizer(s), and funds raised and/or number of donors, if the event is a fundraiser. The 3P Events Committee and event organizers will collect indicators of success. They also will communicate event information to potential participants locally and regionally through in-person opportunities, social media, Putnam County Public Library's e-newsletter, and the City of Greencastle's public calendar. Events could include casual bike programs for beginners, exercise programs in the parks/senior exercise programs, a series of annual biking/running events (e.g., Pedal Putnam/Rokicki 5K/Mud Run/County Amazing Race/Revive Relay for Life/Trail Run/Iron Man & Woman), disc golf.



*The first Pedal Putnam series of bike rides in 2021 attracted nearly 150 riders of all skill levels*

#### Strategy 2: Organize/Support ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED events in the parks and on pathways

The Putnam Parks & Pathways Events Committee will work individually and with event organizers to leverage outdoor rec venues for entertainment-related events, such as movie nights, to expose the brand to as many audiences as possible. Success will be the number of events hosted, number of participants, and perhaps funds raised and/or number of donors, if the event is a fundraiser. The 3P Events Committee also will communicate event information to potential participants locally and regionally through in-person opportunities and social media. Organizers will be responsible for communicating information about events through their channels. The CVB will promote to tourism markets.



*Entertainment/Fundraising opportunities could include events like the holiday-time Forest of Lights at Fair Oaks Farm in northwest Indiana*

### Strategy 3: Organize/Support EDUCATION-RELATED events in the parks and on pathways

The Putnam Parks & Pathways Education Committee will create and work with other groups to host education events in outdoor rec venues. 3P and the CVB will promote the events to targeted audiences locally and regionally through in-person opportunities and social media. Success will be the number of events hosted, number of participants, and perhaps funds raised and/or number of donors, if the event is a fundraiser. Event examples include:

- **Guided Wildflower Tours** - Putnam Parks & Pathways' Education Committee will partner with local wildflower experts/aficionados to accomplish this and will serve as a funding source. Success includes the number of participants and their responses to a survey. 3P and the Putnam County CVB will communicate program information to Putnam County residents, those of contiguous counties and tourism markets through releases/social media.
- **Bird-Watching Programs** – 3P's Education Committee will partner with local birdwatchers to accomplish this strategy and will serve as a funding source. Indicators of success, communication responsibility and targets mirror those above.
- **Star-Gazing Programs** – 3P's Education Committee will partner with DePauw's astronomy department faculty and students to accomplish this and will serve as a funding source. Indicators of success, communication responsibility and targets mirror those above.
- **Environmental Programs** – 3P's Education Committee will partner with staff at DePauw's Manning Environmental Field Station to accomplish this and will serve as a funding source. Indicators of success, communication responsibility and targets mirror those above.
- **Horticulture/Gardening Clinics** – 3P's Education Committee will partner with Putnam County Master Gardeners and the Purdue Extension to accomplish this and will serve as a funding source. Indicators of success, communication responsibility and targets mirror those above.
- **Meditation Walk** – 3P's Education Committee will partner with DePauw's Bartlett Reflection Center and perhaps local clergy to accomplish this and will serve as a funding source. Success, communication responsibility and targets mirror those above.



*The floor of Hall Woods becomes a carpet of Virginia Bluebells every spring, presenting unique educational and tourism opportunities for Putnam County*



*The pond inside Greencastle's Jaycee Park is a popular fishing spot and ideal for clinics*

- **Make Musical Instruments/Sounds Made in Nature** – 3P's Education Committee will be responsible to secure partners/grant funding that could involve branded signs instructing individuals how to make a certain sound or what to look for that is making the sound they are hearing. Communication to outdoor recreation users will be at the venue. Indicators of success and targets mirror those above.
- **Fishing Clinics, Watershed Programs and more.**



**Strategy 4: Encourage use of outdoor recreation venues, and engage a broader team of county outdoor recreation enthusiasts/leaders, by financially sponsoring events led by other groups**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will financially support events using Pathways, in particular, and outdoor recreation venues in general, to encourage use, identify and engage with outdoor enthusiasts/leaders and to build the county's outdoor recreation brand. Event organizers can become potential candidates for the county's outdoor recreation leadership structure – on boards or committees. Event sponsorship will be decided by the 3P Events Committee and come from 3P's events budget. Success will be stand-alone groups' use of the 3P logo as a result of 3P funding, as well as board engagement. Communication will be from the 3P Events Committee to event organizers.

**Strategy 4a: Support/Sponsor organizations leveraging outdoor recreation events/venues to RAISE FUNDS**

Extending the above strategy, organizations hosting fundraisers will be responsible for reaching out to the 3P Events Committee. Organizers will collect and share data, to include the number of participants and funds raised. Putnam Parks & Pathways will communicate information about the events, as appropriate, as a way to build the outdoor recreation brand.

**Objective 1: Make it Fun by Building the Putnam County Outdoor Recreation Team and Culture**

*Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)*

**Strategy 6: Institute an "Adopt a Bridge" program that focuses on the nine covered bridges as a way to activate them for outdoor recreation use and to better maintain the historic structures**



*A coat of paint would preserve and improve the appearance of the Dick Huffman Covered Bridge in southwest Putnam County*

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways Volunteer Committee will create a program and standards before seeking sponsorships through volunteers, scout programs, churches, and the public to launch an "Adopt a Bridge" program. Indicators of success will include the number of adopted locations and what the "adopters" accomplish annually. The goal is bridge maintenance and "activation." 3P communication will be with community news outlets, sponsors, county, city, high school groups, FFA groups, and 4-H groups.

**Objective 2: Make it Unique by Planning, Creating and Developing Outdoor Recreation Amenities**

*Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)*

**Strategy 6: Connect to Clay County by completing the National Road Heritage Trail southwest through the county**

Begin implementing the plan created in *Objective 2.Strategy 1*. Thrive West Central, Next Level Trails grant, Friends of the Park support, and Putnam Parks & Pathways funding will be used. 3P will lead the effort and monitor success in terms of land purchased in and near Reelsville for trails. 3P will communicate with parks system users and the public via social media, maps, print material, and the website.

**Strategy 7: Begin connecting to existing Hendricks and Parke County trail development via development of the retired B&O rail line in northern Putnam County**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will apply for a Next Level Trails grant, among other funding sources, to implement this. Success will be a trail plan, then the number of trail miles developed. This will be a decades-long project monitored by 3P and the County Parks Board. A multi-county pathway with extensive programming, it will attract a large audience of outdoor recreation enthusiasts and enormous economic development potential to northern Putnam County, especially Roachdale and Russellville (see page 7). 3P will communicate about the project via one-on-one meetings with landowners and with the Russellville and Roachdale town boards.

**Strategy 8: Establish 400 acres along Glenn Flint Lake as a park**

Begin implementing the plan created in *Objective 2.Strategy 2*. Complete it in 2025. The Little Walnut Creek Conservancy District, in collaboration with the County Parks Board and the Putnam County Board of Commissioners, will decide if the property along Glenn Flint Lake should be a county-owned park; however, park development will begin regardless of ownership. There are several amenities, including a woods, the lake and boat launch. Funding will come from a variety of sources, including grants. Community news outlets will be notified as property development progresses. The CVB will promote the venue, targeting bass anglers and other appropriate markets.

**Strategy 9: Begin development of the Boardwalk Trail from the Houck Bridge north to Glenn Flint Lake**

Work with the County Commissioners, IDNR, Little Walnut Creek Conservancy District, and others to begin development of the Boardwalk Trail to maximize the outdoor recreation potential of Little Walnut Creek, be an incredible economic development generator for Clinton Falls (see page 7), “activate” one or two historic covered bridges, provide a non-motorized vehicle route to Fern Cliff Nature Preserve, and connectivity to the proposed park at Glenn Flint Lake. Another decades-long project, this venue will be a source of extensive outdoor recreation programming. Identify and approach property owners about land acquisition to continually refine the route.



*An example of a boardwalk trail*

The purchase of land and land options is part of this strategy. The County Parks Board and 3P will lead the effort and monitor success in terms of land options purchased along Little Walnut Creek. 3P and the CPB will communicate with landowners one-on-one and perhaps in public meetings to explain the benefits to Putnam County quality of life. Fundraising will be through Friends of the Park, corporate giving, individual philanthropy, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy, and state/federal grants. Communication will include updates to online park maps, print material and the website in coordination with the CVB.

**Strategy 10: Create pickleball courts and game amenities**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will use the County Outdoor Recreation Levy and Friends of the Park support to implement this. Success will be the number of courts created and amenities (patio space, grills, seating, etc.) constructed around them. 3P and the CVB will communicate with users of the parks system, county residents, and tourism markets via social media, maps, the website, and print material.

**Strategy 11: Install doggie bag dispensers along trails**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will seek funding to implement this. 3P will measure success by the number of dispensers installed and will communicate with users of the parks system and county residents via social media, maps, the website, and print material.

**Strategy 12: Support the creation of additional Story-Walks**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will collaborate with Purdue Health & Wellness and the Putnam County Public Library to install/track additional Story-Walks throughout the county. Purdue Health & Wellness will communicate with the County Parks Board on success and expansion, as well as with local news outlets.

**Strategy 13: Enhance outdoor recreation areas through unique plantings/programs to increase educational, recreational and tourism potential**

The County Parks Board, with help from partners, will install these live environmental enhancements. Potential funding sources include Quail Forever, Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District, Indiana Native Plant Society, IDNR, and donations. With experience gained from the “Adopt a Bridge” program outlined in a previous strategy, and assistance from the 3P Volunteer Committee, the County Parks Board also will explore an “Adopt a \_\_\_\_” program to help with funding. Part of this strategy will include education about where food comes from. Putnam Parks & Pathways, along with the County Parks Board, will track the number of installations to determine success. The CVB, County Parks Board and 3P will communicate the enhancements to potential users via online and print avenues.

Enhancements could include

- Plantings of all 50 trees native to Indiana to establish outdoor recreation as a Putnam County “destination”
- pollinator gardens
- community gardens
- orchards, berry patches, foraging woods
- tree tunnels
- wildflower gardens
- a regional hub for the Re-Leaf program
- This strategy could extend the memorial tree plantings along Veterans Memorial Highway.

Partners could include

- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners
- DPU’s Sustainability Leadership Program
- Greencastle’s Sustainability Council
- Tree City USA, Arbor Day Foundation
- conservation groups, scouts, school PTOs
- Putnam County Farm Bureau, community gardeners, Putnam County Pantry Coalition
- IDNR Division of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy
- local businesses, adjacent property owners
- the Putnam County Hospital/WIC (allied health partners), among others



*Flowering spring trees along Greencastle's Veterans Memorial Highway, each a memorial to a Putnam County veteran*



## Objective 3: Make it Happen by Funding the Outdoor Recreation Amenities, Team and Culture

### Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)

#### **Strategy 3: Work with county government to establish the County Outdoor Recreation Levy**

Investments in quality public outdoor recreation facilities are key to local quality of life, business recruitment and employee recruitment/retention and tourism development. Dividends are higher in Putnam County because outdoor recreation correlates highly with student recruitment/retention, and Putnam County is home to DePauw University and an Ivy Tech campus. **In 2022**, meet with the Council and Commissioners to determine if covered bridges, murals, and anything else should be considered a county park. **In 2023**, after one year of collaboration among the four outdoor recreation organizations, and after there are concrete successes, the County Parks Board will work with the County Council to lay groundwork for creation of an outdoor recreation levy by 2025 to provide another, and sustainable, local source of outdoor recreation funding – in addition to Friends of the Park fundraising, grants from the CVB, Putnam County Community Foundation, and state/regional/national sources. Making the case is the responsibility of the County Parks Board and the countywide team it will assemble (see *Objective 5.Strategy 1a*). Many strategies in this plan, particularly creation of a County Parks Department, rely on creation of this funding from local dollars supporting local quality-of-life initiatives. Grantors look favorably on local financial support. The indicator of success is creation of the funding through the County Council. Communication will be the responsibility of the County Council and County Parks Board, working together to make the case to county residents by outlining the successes, future and ongoing potential and benefits.



#### **Strategy 4: In 2024, begin implementing the county's waterways plan (that includes a boardwalk trail along Little Walnut Creek and kayak/tube use). In 2024, create input and out-take areas along waterways for kayak and tube access at covered bridge locations**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will lead the planning. They will join county government to pursue grants and local fundraising to implement this. Any new waterway activations will constitute success and will be tracked by 3P and the County Parks Board. 3P and the CVB will communicate with users of the parks system, county residents and tourism markets via social media, maps, the website, and print material.

#### **Strategy 4a: In 2025, build small parks/access around covered bridges to activate them and accommodate kayak launch and public parking**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will pursue grants and the County Outdoor Recreation Levy to establish new, small park areas around/under/adjacent to any of the nine historic bridges where such a venue would enhance outdoor recreation. Indicators of success will include the number of properties, access points and parking spots. 3P and the County Parks Board will communicate with community news outlets when complete and update information online and in print material.



## Objective 4: Make it Come Alive by Building an Outdoor Recreation Brand

### Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)

#### Strategy 4: Create branded signage and maps for current trails and cycling routes

Funding will come from the Putnam Parks & Pathways budget, Friends of the Park, non-profits, sponsors, and the Putnam County CVB. Indicators of success, collected by 3P, will include the number of branded signs and maps. Communication will be to users of the trails through media outlets by 3P.

#### Strategy 5: Ask city and town boards to assist with maintenance of parks & trails within city/town limits

No funding is required for this. Success will be collected by the County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways in terms of money invested by the Bainbridge, Cloverdale, Fillmore, Roachdale, and Russellville town boards in their local park systems. Communication will be from 3P staff to local park board members and local government officials through meetings for funding requests, social media and communication vehicles of the town clerks.



Cloverdale Community Park, in Cloverdale

## Objective 5: Make it Inclusive Through Strategic Partnerships with Mutual Gain

### Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)

#### Strategy 4: Gain more education/knowledge of the Big Walnut Watershed Alliance

Putnam Parks & Pathways will attempt to integrate its work with the Alliance for mutual gain. This watershed is approximately 271,000 acres and lies mostly within Boone, Hendricks and Putnam counties. It is dominated by agricultural land use, with the exception of a few towns and the City of Greencastle. Two of its five goals are to:

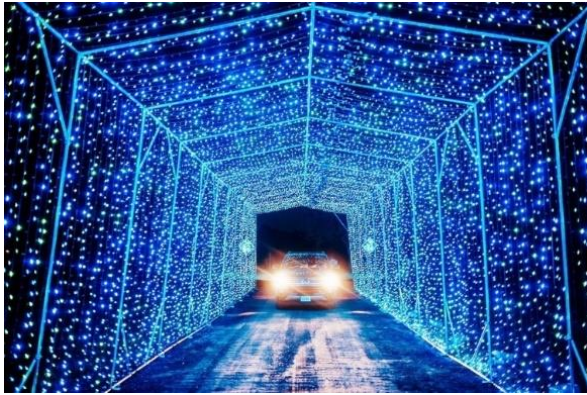
- 1.) "Protect and enhance important and unique natural aspects of Big Walnut Creek and its watershed including endangered species and high-quality natural areas" and
- 2.) "Develop public awareness about how individual activities and actions impact the watershed."



Success includes open communication, one-on-one meetings, perhaps the number of participants in the Big Walnut Watershed Alliance, and involvement in its work and programs. 3P will communicate appropriate information about the Big Walnut Watershed Alliance to its base through news releases and social media. [<https://www.bigwalnutwatershed.org/index.html>]

## Objective 6: Make it Productive and Truly Enhance Putnam County Quality of Life

### Medium Term Strategies (3-4 years)



*An example of what a lighted covered bridge could look like*

#### **Strategy 5: To “activate” covered bridges and generate funding, encourage holiday decorations and holiday market at parks and covered bridges**

Local town park boards/Adopt-a-Bridge groups will coordinate the holiday decorations and encourage school groups, civic groups, businesses, churches, etc. to create/install decorations. This is linked to the “Adopt a Covered Bridge” program (*Objective 1.Strategy 6*). Putnam Parks & Pathways will promote to residents to better activate the nine covered bridges for outdoor recreation. Freewill donations at host sites could fund the activities, businesses could sponsor or there may be funds from the Indiana Arts Commission or Greencastle Arts Council. The CVB will

be responsible for promotion via news releases and social media throughout the county, state and regionally. 3P will monitor success by tracking the number of attendees.

## Objective 1: Make it Fun by Building the Putnam County Outdoor Recreation Team and Culture

### Long Term Strategies (4-5 years)

#### **THIS BRINGS IT ALL HOME...Strategy 7: Create a staffed County Parks Department for programming and property management/maintenance**

In 2025, the County Parks Board will work with the Greencastle Parks & Rec Dept, County Commissioners and County Council, and town park boards countywide, leveraging funds from the new county levy and perhaps the Putnam County Community Foundation and Friends of the Park, to establish a staffed County Parks Department. The goal is to move responsibility for outdoor recreation development from the four volunteer boards launching this effort and place it with a paid staff that will be programmatically supported by those four boards and financially supported by an ongoing partnership that includes the county, Friends of the Park and others. Success indicators will be the creation of a County Parks Dept, programs led, number of staff hired, number of participants attending programs, number of properties and facilities managed, total budget established, and quantifiable maintenance and improvements. The County Parks Board will provide updates and presentations to county residents.

## Objective 2: Make it Unique by Planning, Creating and Developing Outdoor Recreation Amenities

### Long Term Strategies (4-5 years)

#### **Strategy 14: Begin construction of a covered bridge over US-40 in Reelsville as an extension of People Pathways and to create a county outdoor recreation icon**

Springing from the plan created in *Objective 2.Strategy 1* in 2022, the County Parks Board, in partnership with Putnam Parks & Pathways, the CVB and the County Commissioners, will use funds from Friends of the Park, an Indiana Department of Transportation infrastructure grant, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy, among MANY others to construct a covered bridge – likely the “world’s largest.” Perhaps THE

example of dreaming big, this long-term project's goals are 1.) to create an outdoor recreation amenity that can be linked to People Pathways, 2.) [be an economic development generator for Reelsville \(see page 7\)](#), 3.) give the county another asset to encourage tourism, 4.) "activate" Putnam County's stretch of the National Road and engage with the many National Road-affiliated groups, 5.) expand and promote the county's covered bridge brand, and more. The CVB will coordinate communication via a variety of media to promote outdoor recreation to tourism markets.

#### **Strategy 15: Extend People Pathways to Greencastle's Jaycee Park**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will work with the city to acquire funding from multiple sources to complete the trail extension with the goal of connecting Jaycee Park with the planned YMCA and providing outdoor exercise options to complement/extend the Y's indoor offerings. The updated trail will be communicated to users online and via print material. Success will be creation of the extension.

#### **Strategy 16: Establish an off-leash dog park at Jaycee Park or other area**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will collaborate with the Putnam County Humane Society and Greencastle Parks and Recreation to identify the location and installation of a new off-leash dog park. Fundraising will include grants. Once completed, communication will go to community news outlets and dog owners via social media and the website.

### **Objective 3: Make it Happen by Funding the Outdoor Recreation Amenities, Team and Culture**

#### **Long Term Strategies (4-5 years)**

#### **Strategy 5: Continually build a savvy, sophisticated fundraising program**

The five-year Friends of the Park plan (*Objective 3.Strategy 1*) created in 2022 will be considered "evergreen" and continually updated as the collaborating organizations become increasingly savvy and enjoy new and extended relationships with individuals, grantors and outdoor recreation organizations in contiguous counties, statewide, regionally, and nationally. All of these will be leveraged to create an increasingly sophisticated, successful and ongoing fundraising program. Success is a paid staff member(s), an increasing number of funding avenues, pursuit of them, and funds raised. Communication will be led by FOTP staff (*Objective 3.Strategy 1a*), coming from county-based people and organizations with the greatest likelihood of success.

### **Objective 4: Make it Come Alive by Building an Outdoor Recreation Brand**

#### **NO LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (4-5 years)**

### **Objective 5: Make it Inclusive Through Strategic Partnerships with Mutual Gain**

#### **Long Term Strategies (4-5 years)**

#### **Strategy 5: Partner with The Nature Conservancy to create additional trails in Fortune Woods (part of the Big Walnut Natural Area)**

Putnam Parks & Pathways funding will be used in a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, County Parks Board, Friends of the Park, North Putnam School District, and Roachdale and Bainbridge parks boards to implement this project that will be used to develop a relationship with The Nature Conservancy. With more land in protected nature preserves than any Indiana county, creating this

relationship is important to Putnam County outdoor recreation development in areas all over the county because of The Nature Conservancy's nationwide experience in programming and site development. Success will be a trail plan and development that will be tracked by 3P. It and the CVB will communicate with parks system users, tourism markets and county residents via social media, maps, print material, and the website.

## Objective 6: Make it Productive and Truly Enhance Putnam County Quality of Life

*NO LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (5+ years)*



## Action Schedule of Objectives & Strategies

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O4.S1	2021	Create a distinct county outdoor recreation brand	CVB	\$ 15,000	CVB
O1.S5	2021	Integrate outdoor rec efforts with DPU's Sustainability L'ship Prog	3P	\$ 12,000	3P/CVB
	2021				
			<b>2021 Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>	
	<b>2022</b>				
O1.S2.3	2022	Create a 3P Education Committee	3P	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S4	2022	With Commissioners/Council, decide what is managed/owned by Parks Board	CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S1	2022	Create a trail development plan in 5-, 10- and 15- year increments	3P & CPB	\$ 2,500	3P
O2.S4	2022	Move Penn RR freight depot/prep site	3P	\$ 100,000	3P, FOTP, CVB, Heritage Pres Soc, grant
O3.S1	2022	Friends of the Park creates 5-year plan/Pursues \$50,000 CVB Match	FOTP	\$ -	Unneeded
O4.S2	2022	Launch a comprehensive Putnam County outdoor rec website	CVB, 3P	\$ 12,000	CVB
O4.S3	2022	Create 3-yr CVB strategic plan to complement outdoor rec/this plan	CVB	\$ -	Unneeded
O3.S3	2022	Work w/county government to determine purview of Parks Board	CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S3	2022	Budget to maintain/improve existing/new property/venues	3P	\$ 35,000	3P
O2.S1.5a	2022	Begin completion of People Pathways "Campus Link" trail	3P & City	\$ 25,000	3P
O3.S2	2022	Raise \$20k in state/national grant funding (5-yr min of \$265,000 total)	FOTP	\$ (20,000)	FOTP
	2022		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 154,500</b>	
	Ongoing				
O1.S1	2022+	Seek & seat appropriate FOTP, 3P and CVB board members	staff	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S3	2022+	Buy "park" land for trails	3P	\$ 25,000	CPB, FOTP
O4.S1	2022+	Leverage brand guidelines/build distinct outdoor rec brand for county	CVB, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S1	2022+	Share the vision of creating County Parks DEPARTMENT	CPB, 3P, FOTP, partners	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S2	2022+	Join/Engage w/regional/contiguous county groups for mutual gain	3P, CPB, FOTP	\$ 1,000	CPB, FOTP
O5.S3	2022+	Connect all Putnam County town/city parks boards for communication/coord	CPB	\$ 1,000	CPB

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O6.S1	2022+	Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S3	2022+	Organize/Host EDUCATION-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S4	2022+	Encourage use of outdoor rec venues through financial sponsorship	3P Events Cmte	\$ 5,000	3P
O6.S4a	2022+	Financially support orgs using outdoor rec venues as fundraisers	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
			<b>2022 Ongoing Total</b>	\$ 54,500	
			<b>2022 Grand Total</b>	\$ 209,000	
	<b>2023</b>				
O1.S2.1	2023	Develop 3P volunteer recruitment training	3P Vol Chair	\$ 1,500	3P
O1.S2.2	2023	Increase public art in outdoor rec venues	3P Arts Chair	\$ 5,000	3P
O2.S1.5a	2023	Complete People Pathways "Campus Link" trail	3P & City	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S2	2023	Create plan to establish park in Glenn Flint Lake 400 acres	LWCCD, 3P, CPB	\$ 15,000	FOTP, grant
O2.S2	2023	Approach Camp Friend BOD about creating a long-term plan for that park	CFBOD, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S4	2023	Restore Penn RR freight depot	3P	\$ 100,000	3P, grant
O2.S5	2023	Construct mountain bike trails	3P	\$ 25,000	FOTP, grant
O3.S3	2023	Work w/county government to lay groundwork for creation of outdoor rec levy	CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O3.S2	2023	Raise \$20k in state/national grant funding (5-yr min of \$265,000 total)	FOTP	\$ (20,000)	FOTP
	2023		<b>Total</b>	\$ 126,500	
	Ongoing				
O1.S1	2023+	Seek & seat appropriate FOTP, 3P and CVB board members	staff	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S2	2023+	Maintain strong 3P leadership & committee structure	3P officers	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S3	2023+	Continue budgeting to maintain/improve existing/new property/venues	3P	\$ 35,000	3P
O3.S1	2023+	Friends of the Park pursues 5-year plan & \$50,000 CVB Match	FOTP	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S5	2023+	Continue integrating outdoor rec efforts with DPU's Sustainability L'ship Prog	3P	\$ 12,000	3P
O2.S3	2023+	Buy "park" land for trails	3P	\$ 25,000	CPB, FOTP
O4.S1	2023+	Leverage brand guidelines/build distinct outdoor rec brand for county	CVB, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S1	2023+	Share the vision of creating County Parks DEPARTMENT	CPB, 3P, FOTP, partners	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S2	2023+	Join/Engage w/regional/contiguous county groups for mutual gain	3P, CPB, FOTP	\$ 1,000	CPB, FOTP

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O5.S3	2023+	Connect all Putnam County town/city parks boards for needs assessment	CPB	\$ 1,000	CPB
O6.S1	2023+	Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O6.S2	2023+	Organize/Host ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O6.S3	2023+	Organize/Host EDUCATION-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O6.S4	2023+	Encourage use of outdoor rec venues through financial sponsorship	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O6.S4a	2023+	Financially support orgs using outdoor rec venues as fundraisers	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
			<b>2023 Ongoing Total</b>	\$ 86,500	
			<b>2023 Grand Total</b>	\$ 213,000	
	<b>2024</b>				
O2.S4	2024	Open Penn RR freight depot as trailhead	3P	\$ 20,000	3P, FOTP, CVB, Heritage Pres Soc, grant
O1.S9	2024	Institute "Adopt A Bridge" program for nine covered bridges	CPB, 3P	\$ 18,000	FOTP, grant
O2.S7	2024	Begin connecting Hendricks w/Parke County via B&O Trail development	CPB, 3P	\$ 20,000	Next Level Trails, FOTP, CPB, 3P
O2.S8	2024	Begin developing 400-acre park at Glenn Flint Lake	CPB, 3P	\$ 100,000	LWCCD, FOTP, grants
O2.S9	2024	Begin developing Boardwalk Trail from Houck Bridge to Glenn Flint Lake	CPB, 3P	\$ 25,000	FOTP, grants
O2.S10	2024	Create pickleball courts/game amenities	3P	\$ 50,000	FOTP, grants
O2.S12	2024	Begin supporting the installation of more StoryWalks	3P	\$ 5,000	3P, FOTP
O2.S13	2024	Begin unique plantings program along trails/in parks	CPB, 3P	\$ 10,000	3P, FOTP
O3.S4	2024	Begin implementing county waterways plan	CPB, 3P	\$ 15,000	3P, FOTP
O4.S4	2024	Begin branded signage program along trails/in parks	3P, CPB	\$ 15,000	3P, FOTP
O4.S5	2024	Ask city/town park boards to assist w/park maintenance/expansion	CPB	\$ 5,000	FOTP
O3.S2	2024	Raise \$50k in state/national grant funding (5-yr min of \$265,000 total)	FOTP	\$ (50,000)	FOTP
	2024		<b>Total</b>	\$ 233,000	
	<b>Ongoing</b>				
O1.S1	2024+	Seek & seat appropriate FOTP, 3P and CVB board members	staff	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S2	2024+	Maintain strong 3P leadership & committee structure	3P officers	\$ -	Unneeded

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O1.S3	2024+	Continue budgeting to maintain/improve existing/new property/venues	3P	\$ 45,000	3P
O1.S5	2024+	Continue integrating outdoor rec efforts with DPU's Sustainability L'ship Prog	3P	\$ 12,000	3P
O3.S1	2024+	Friends of the Park pursues 5-year plan & \$50,000 CVB Match	FOTP	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S3	2024+	Buy "park" land for trails	3P	\$ 100,000	CPB, FOTP
O4.S1	2024+	Leverage brand guidelines/build distinct outdoor rec brand for county	CVB, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S1	2024+	Share the vision of creating County Parks DEPARTMENT	CPB, 3P, FOTP, partners	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S2	2024+	Join/Engage w/regional/contiguous county groups for mutual gain	3P, CPB, FOTP	\$ 1,000	CPB, FOTP
O5.S3	2024+	Connect all Putnam County town/city parks boards for needs assessment	CPB	\$ 1,000	CPB
O6.S1	2024+	Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S2	2024+	Organize/Host ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S3	2024+	Organize/Host EDUCATION-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S4	2024+	Encourage use of outdoor rec venues through financial sponsorship	3P Events Cmte	\$ 5,000	3P
O6.S4a	2024+	Financially support orgs using outdoor rec venues as fundraisers	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O3.S3	2024+	Continue working w/county gov't on groundwork for creation of outdoor rec levy	CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
			<b>2024 Ongoing Total</b>	\$ 196,500	
			<b>2024 Grand Total</b>	\$ 429,500	
	<b>2025</b>				
O5.S1	2025	Share the vision of creating County Parks DEPARTMENT	CPB, 3P, FOTP, partners	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S6	2025	Complete NRHT from Greencastle to Clay County	3P, CPB	\$ 1,500,000	Next Level Trails, Thrive WC, FOTP
O2.S8	2025	Finish developing 400-acre park at Glenn Flint Lake	CPB, 3P	\$ 100,000	LWCCD, FOTP, grants
O2.S11	2025	Install doggie bag dispensers along trails	3P	\$ 20,000	3P, FOTP
O3.S3	2025	Work w/county government to create outdoor recreation levy	CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O3.S4a	2025	Build small parks at appropriate covered bridges/kayak launches	CPB, 3P	\$ 40,000	CPB Levy
O5.S4	2025	Engage with Big Walnut Watershed Alliance	CPB, 3P	\$ -	Unneeded



Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O6.S5	2025	"Activate" covered bridges via holiday decorations/lights	CPB, 3P	\$ 18,000	CPB Levy
O1.S7	2025	Create a staffed County Parks Dept	CPB	\$ 200,000	CPB Levy, grants
O3.S2	2025	Raise \$75k in state/national grant funding (5-yr min of \$265,000 total)	FOTP	\$ (75,000)	FOTP
	2025		<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,803,000	
	<b>Ongoing</b>			\$ 1,803,000	
O1.S1	2025+	Seek & seat appropriate FOTP, 3P and CVB board members	staff	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S2	2025+	Maintain strong 3P leadership & committee structure	3P officers	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S3	2025+	Continue budgeting to maintain/improve existing/new property/venues	3P	\$ 45,000	3P
O3.S1	2025+	Friends of the Park pursues 5-year plan & \$50,000 CVB Match	FOTP	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S5	2025+	Continue integrating outdoor rec efforts with DPU's Sustainability L'ship Prog	3P	\$ 12,000	3P
O2.S3	2025+	Buy "park" land for trails	3P	\$ 100,000	CPB, FOTP
O4.S1	2025+	Leverage brand guidelines/build distinct outdoor rec brand for county	CVB, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S2	2025+	Join/Engage w/regional/contiguous county groups for mutual gain	3P, CPB, FOTP	\$ 1,000	CPB, FOTP
O5.S3	2025+	Connect all Putnam County town/city parks boards for mutual gain	CPB	\$ 1,000	CPB
O6.S1	2025+	Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S2	2025+	Organize/Host ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S3	2025+	Organize/Host EDUCATION-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S4	2025+	Encourage use of outdoor rec venues through financial sponsorship	3P Events Cmte	\$ 5,000	3P
O6.S4a	2025+	Financially support orgs using outdoor rec venues as fundraisers	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O2.S7	2025+	Continue connecting Hendricks w/Parke County via B&O Trail development	CPB, 3P	\$ 20,000	Next Level Trails, FOTP, CPB, 3P
O2.S9	2025+	Continue developing Boardwalk Trail from Houck Bridge to Glenn Flint Lake	CPB, 3P	\$ 100,000	FOTP, grants
O2.S12	2025+	Continue supporting the installation of more StoryWalks	3P	\$ 5,000	3P, FOTP
O2.S13	2025+	Continue unique plantings program along trails/in parks	CPB, 3P	\$ 10,000	3P, FOTP, CPB levy
O3.S4	2025+	Continue implementing county waterways plan	CPB, 3P	\$ 15,000	3P, FOTP
O4.S4	2025+	Continue branded signage program along trails/in parks	3P, CPB	\$ 30,000	CPB levy

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O2.S14	2025+	Begin construction on covered bridge over US-40	CPB	\$ 100,000	CPB levy, grants
			<b>2025 Ongoing Total</b>	\$ 476,500	
			<b>2025 Grand Total</b>	\$ 2,279,500	
	<b>2026</b>				
O2.S15	2026	Extend People Pathways to Jaycee Park	3P	\$ 35,000	FOTP
O2.S16	2026	Establish an off-leash dog park at Jaycee or other park	3P, CPB	\$ 10,000	FOTP, CPB levy
O3.S5	2026	Hire a staff member(s) for fundraising	FOTP	\$ 75,000	FOTP, CPB levy
O5.S5	2026	Create more trails in Fortune Woods w/The Nature Conservancy	3P, CPB	\$ 25,000	FOTP, grants
O3.S2	2026	Raise \$100k in state/national grant funding (5-yr min of \$265,000 total)	FOTP	\$ 100,000	FOTP
	2026		<b>Total</b>	\$ 245,000	
	<b>Ongoing</b>			\$ 490,000	
O1.S1	2026+	Seek & seat appropriate FOTP, 3P and CVB board members	staff	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S2	2026+	Maintain strong 3P leadership & committee structure	3P officers	\$ -	Unneeded
O1.S3	2026+	Continue budgeting to maintain/improve existing/new property/venues	3P	\$ 55,000	3P
O1.S5	2026+	Continue integrating outdoor rec efforts with DPU's Sustainability L'ship Prog	3P	\$ 12,000	3P
O3.S1	2026+	Friends of the Park pursues 5-year plan & \$50,000 CVB Match	FOTP	\$ -	Unneeded
O2.S3	2026+	Buy "park" land for trails	3P	\$ 100,000	CPB, FOTP
O4.S1	2026+	Leverage brand guidelines/build distinct outdoor rec brand for county	CVB, 3P, CPB	\$ -	Unneeded
O5.S2	2026+	Join/Engage w/regional/contiguous county groups for mutual gain	3P, CPB, FOTP	\$ 1,000	CPB, FOTP
O5.S3	2026+	Connect all Putnam County town/city parks boards for mutual gain	CPB	\$ 1,000	CPB
O6.S1	2026+	Organize/Host FITNESS-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S2	2026+	Organize/Host ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S3	2026+	Organize/Host EDUCATION-RELATED events in outdoor rec venues	3P Events Cmte	\$ 10,000	3P
O6.S4	2026+	Encourage use of outdoor rec venues through financial sponsorship	3P Events Cmte	\$ 5,000	3P
O6.S4a	2026+	Financially support orgs using outdoor rec venues as fundraisers	3P Events Cmte	\$ 2,500	3P
O2.S7	2026+	Continue connecting Hendricks w/Parke County via B&O Trail development	CPB, 3P	\$ 20,000	Next Level Trails, FOTP, CPB, 3P

Objective#. Strategy#	Budget Year	Plan Strategy	Lead Entity	Potential Cost	Potential Funding Source
O2.S9	2026+	Continue developing Boardwalk Trail from Houck Bridge to Glenn Flint Lake	CPB, 3P	\$ 100,000	FOTP, grants
O2.S12	2026+	Continue supporting the installation of more StoryWalks	3P	\$ 5,000	3P, FOTP
O2.S13	2026+	Continue unique plantings program along trails/in parks	CPB, 3P	\$ 10,000	3P, FOTP, CPB levy
O3.S4	2026+	Continue implementing county waterways plan	CPB, 3P	\$ 15,000	3P, FOTP
O4.S4	2026+	Continue branded signage program along trails/in parks	3P, CPB	\$ 30,000	CPB levy
O2.S14	2026+	Continue construction on covered bridge over US-40	CPB	\$ 250,000	CPB levy, grants
			<b>2026 Ongoing Total</b>	\$ 636,500	
			<b>2026 Grand Total</b>	\$ 881,500	

## Board Resolution Adopting this Plan

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Parks Board is aware of the outdoor recreation needs of the residents of Putnam County, Indiana, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning to meet the needs of its citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PUTNAM COUNTY PARKS BOARD**, by unanimous declaration, does adopt this Five-Year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Putnam County, Indiana.

Passed and signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

ATTEST:

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Ben Fox, President

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Holly Cook, Vice President



## Accessibility and Universal Design

The Putnam County Parks Board, Putnam Parks & Pathways, Friends of the Park of Putnam County, and the Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau support the American with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations in serving individuals with disabilities as they collaborate to create outdoor recreation programs and facilities.

Programs and facilities will be offered on a non-discriminatory basis. The designation “accessible” indicates access for wheelchair users in compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (ADA), and self-evaluations will be conducted regularly on all county-owned outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

A thorough evaluation of all facilities and programs will be completed with an ADA specialist or coordinator in the future to ensure the most current requirements are being met. We are aware future grant funding eligibility may be dependent on having completed an ADA compliance evaluation.

All new construction or improved outdoor recreation facilities will be designed and completed in accordance with Accessibility and Universal Design Rules providing that funding is available to complete the entire improvement project.

With guidance, we will create a written plan to address ADA needs. When updating existing facilities, we will complete and adopt an ADA Transition Plan. Further, we will follow the county’s Grievance Procedure, overseen by the Putnam County Board of Commissioners, posting a Title VI Complaint Form on the website to learn of areas of special concern.

# Accessibility Compliance Sign-Off Sheet

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH  
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);  
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);  
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (As Amended)**

The Putnam County Parks Board has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Ben Fox, president

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Holly Cook, vice president

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

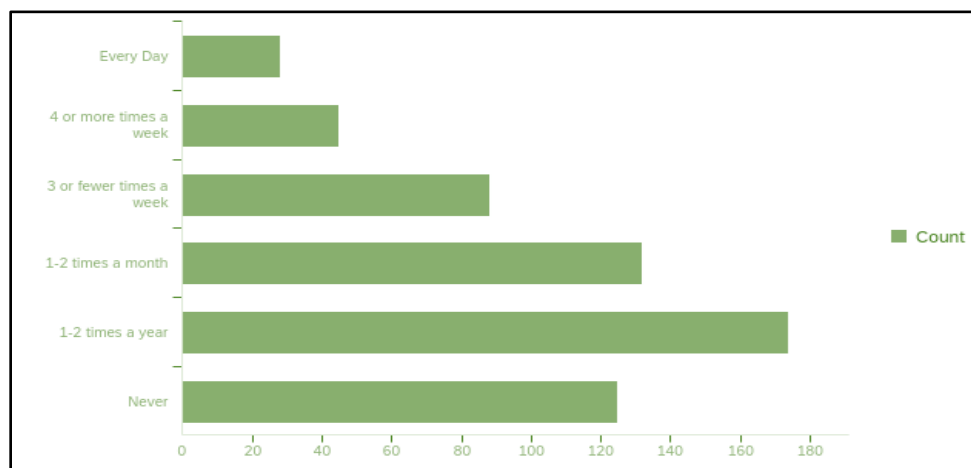
## Public Survey Summary

The Putnam County Parks and Recreation Survey was available to the public from October 8, 2021 to November 26, 2021. The total number of responses was 726. The survey was available online, announced through the *Banner Graphic* newspaper and social media affiliated with the Putnam County Visitors Center, Purdue Extension, Putnam Parks & Pathways, Friends of the Park of Putnam County, individual board members of these organizations, and town clerks in Putnam County's five towns. The survey was available on paper at the Putnam County Visitors Center and Putnam County Purdue Extension office. Paper responses were entered by Purdue Extension staff.

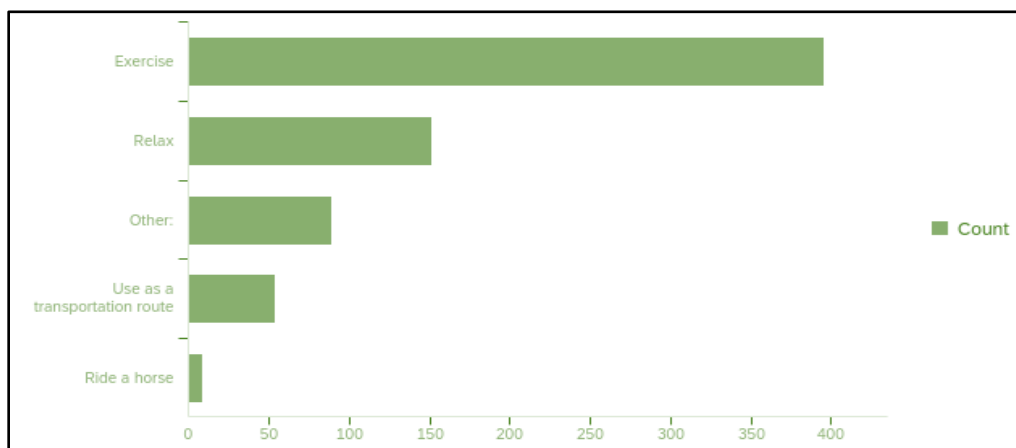
The survey covered topics including baseline of use and future planning/demographic information. Charts/tables below summarize the data. The survey instrument and data are available in the Appendix to this report.

### Baseline of Use

#### Use of People Pathways



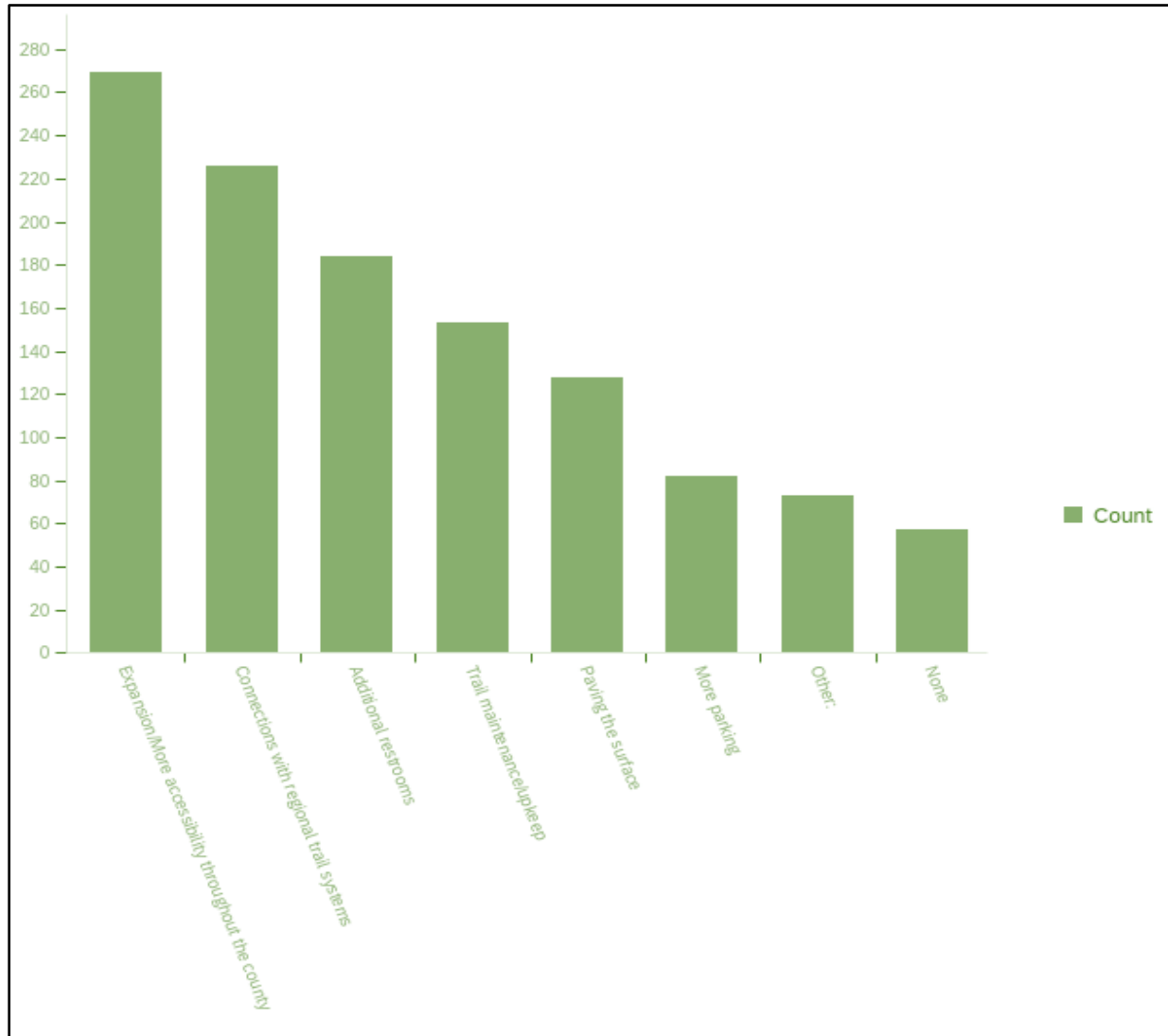
#### Typical activities on People Pathways



### Other response summary

- Bicycling
- Dog walking
- Walking
- Do not use

### Suggested improvements to People Pathways

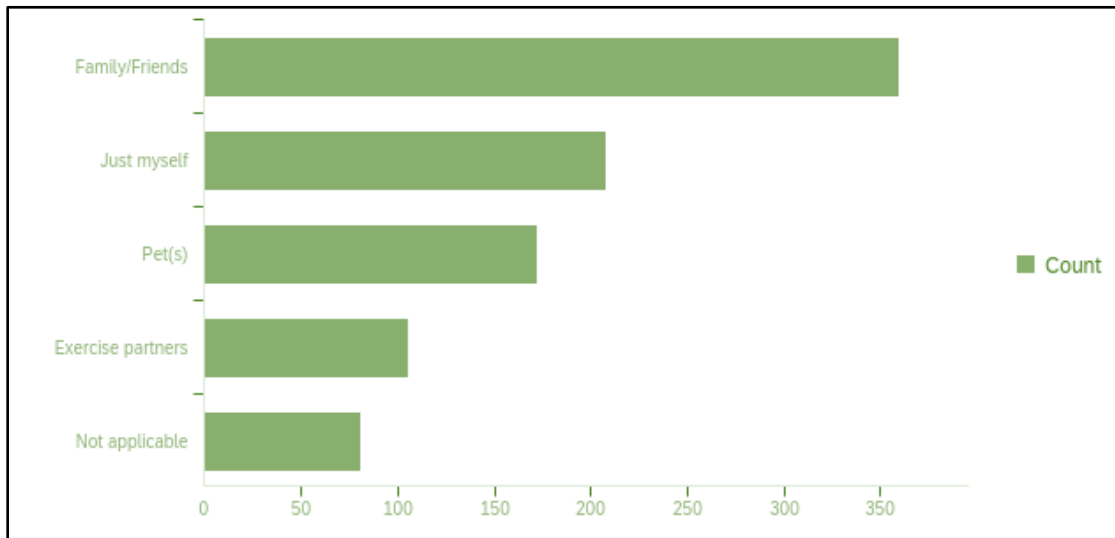


### Other response summary

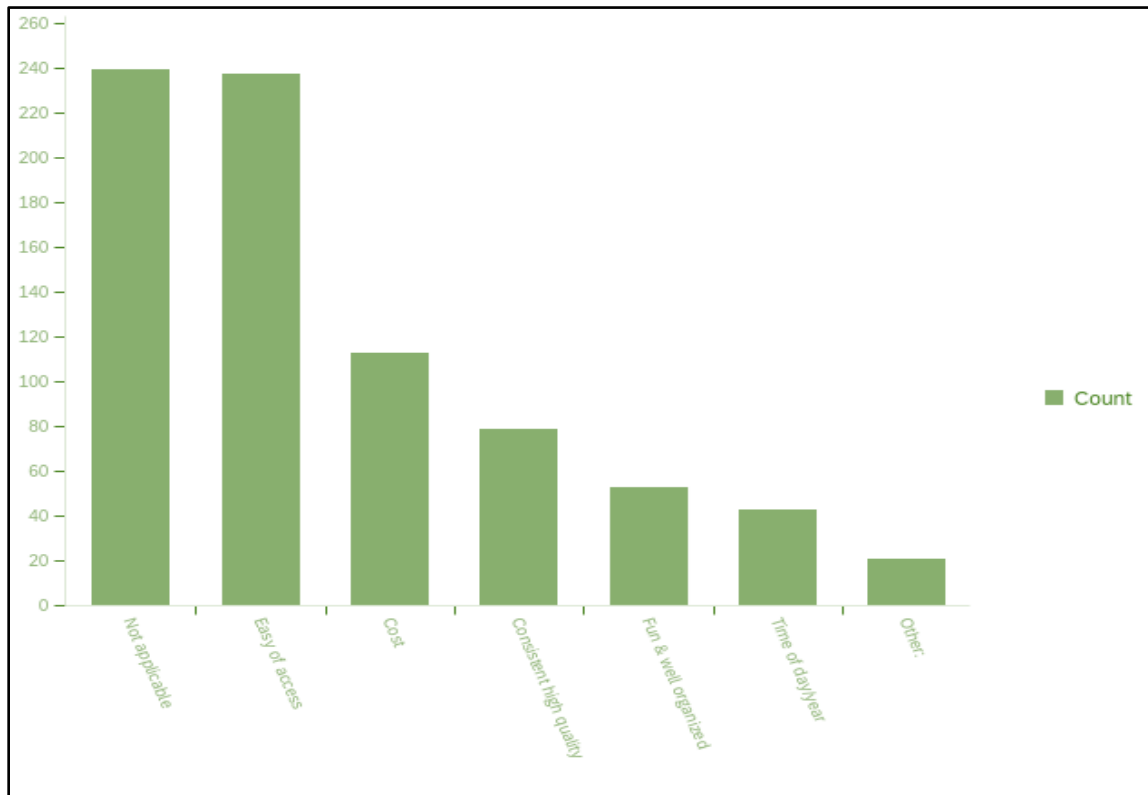
- Add benches/seating
- Connect to amenities/trails
- Include wayfinding signage for the trail and to amenities and access points
- Install and manage garbage bins, especially for dog waste
- Improve accessibility and safety
- Enhance natural resource management (removing invasive plants, planting desirable trees, shrubs, plants)



### Most often enjoy People Pathways with



### Like about recreational programs/activities on People Pathways



### Other response summary

- Unaware of programming
- Expand programming options

### Frequency of use for outdoor recreation / enjoyment

Park/Recreation Area	At least twice a week	1-2 times a month	1-2 times a year	Never	Total
DePauw Nature Park	80	204	214	49	547
Robe-Ann Park	78	195	191	74	538
Big Walnut Sports Park	49	148	211	129	537
McCormick's Creek State Park (in Owen County)	7	43	281	199	530
Turkey Run State Park (in Parke County)	7	51	307	165	530
Raccoon State Recreation Area (in Parke County)	6	75	227	220	528
Shades State Park (in Montgomery County)	0	32	202	289	523
Lieber State Recreation Area	9	67	215	229	520
McCloud Nature Park (East of Roachdale, in Hendricks County)	2	27	127	361	517
Fern Cliff Nature Preserve	1	19	150	347	517
Cloverdale Park	7	17	54	437	515
Dunbar Covered Bridge	13	36	156	308	513
Owen-Putnam State Forest	4	15	77	416	512
Glenn Flint Lake	6	11	44	451	512
Big Walnut Natural Area (Hall Woods & Fortune Woods NE & SE of Bainbridge)	1	27	117	367	512
Shakamak State Park (in Clay County)	0	7	99	405	511
Roachdale Park	3	14	24	470	511
Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area	5	31	90	385	511
Hemlock Ridge Nature Preserve (SE of Roachdale)	0	6	32	471	509
Houck Covered Bridge	6	30	141	332	509
Jaycee Park	5	24	107	371	507
Portland Mills (NW of Clinton Falls)	1	8	50	448	507
Baker's Camp Covered Bridge	3	16	89	398	506
Cornstalk Covered Bridge	2	6	57	436	501
Oakalla Covered Bridge	3	37	105	356	501
Edna Collings Covered Bridge	3	18	121	358	500
Dick Huffman Covered Bridge	2	10	65	423	500
Russellville Park	2	4	18	473	497
Pine Bluff Covered Bridge	1	9	66	416	492
Rolling Stone Covered Bridge	2	6	68	416	492
Other:	11	8	7	27	53
Other:	0	1	3	25	29
Other:	0	1	2	23	26

### Other locations summary

- Avon Washington Township Park
- Camp Friend
- Cataract Falls
- Concrete Bridge over CSX tracks between Greencastle & Fillmore
- Corps of Engineers' property adjacent to our property
- Crawfordsville - Milligan Park
- Gibbs Park (Hendricks County)
- Heritage Lake
- In Greencastle
- Multiple People Pathways area in Greencastle, Fincastle
- OWL trail. Used weekly before poison ivy took over
- Park at Ridpath (small park in our neighborhood)
- Pathways in Greencastle connecting the DePauw Nature Park to Big Walnut Sports Park, such as the path along Hwy 240 and the path between Tacoma Dr. and Shadowlawn Ave.
- People Pathways
- People Pathways trail in Greencastle
- Portland Arch
- Private woods
- Putnam Co. Fairgrounds
- Sugar Creek
- The family property is in the Glenn Flint Watershed so anything that happens there impacts the water quality of the streams on our property
- The trail that goes through the wooded area and out by the pond close to the state police station
- Vandalia Trail from Coatesville to the east



*DePauw Nature Park*

## Future Use

### Preferences for future outdoor recreation facilities

Facilities	Would use at least once a month	Would use at least one time per year	Would use as least once every three years	Would never use	Total
Boardwalk trails along a creek(s)	259	191	34	37	521
Nature center(s)	105	220	99	97	521
Trail system that connects with those of neighboring counties	185	181	57	98	521
Picnic areas	141	239	78	62	520
Canoe/Kayak launch/out-take areas	118	220	66	114	518
Mountain bike trails	84	94	72	268	518
Open water swimming areas	156	157	61	144	518
Stand up paddle boarding/sailing/kayaking/canoeing area(s)	99	158	75	186	518
Zipline/Obstacle course	102	174	85	157	518
Tree tunnel(s) on a trail(s)	159	171	63	124	517
Dog park	124	85	40	267	516
Playground designed for 2-5 year-olds	99	81	44	292	516
Primitive camping sites	48	127	68	272	515
Community garden area(s)	88	120	58	249	515
Amphitheater(s)	58	211	100	145	514
Restrooms/Rest areas/Shelter pavilion(s)	214	194	58	48	514
Disc golf	36	95	61	321	513
Horseback riding paths	27	55	50	381	513
Pickleball courts	83	98	52	280	513
Playground designed for 6-12 year-olds	130	99	45	239	513
Tennis courts	52	95	60	306	513
"Glamping" sites	47	149	80	236	512
Volleyball courts	37	92	63	320	512
Skatepark(s)	47	39	33	392	511
Baseball/Softball fields	53	74	70	313	510
Basketball courts	69	96	65	280	510
Horseshoes	20	79	76	333	508
Other:	34	6	6	23	69
Other:	10	3	1	21	35
Other:	4	0	0	17	21



## Other Facilities Summary

- Adult pump track for cycling
- Albin Pond Rd to Round Barn Rd
- All-weather soccer field
- Bike paths
- Bike storage
- Biking trails
- Birding (and hunting-free zones)
- Book nooks
- Exercise trail
- Finished People Pathways trail along SR 240
- Fishing area
- Geocaching
- Hiking trails
- Hitching post area for horses
- Indoor recreation area
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor track
- Kids pump track for cycling
- More Pickleball courts
- Natural Footpaths
- Nature areas
- Need public playground in Putnamville area
- Outdoor workout area
- Paved bike trails, especially connecting places in the community
- Permanent Pickleball lines on tennis courts
- Plant information station
- Protected or clearly marked bike paths that connect to downtown centers and other places of interest.
- Increased integration of Fairgrounds
- Rock climbing and bouldering
- Sand volleyball
- Singletrack running trails
- Soccer/Foot golf course
- Swing set
- Trail on Heritage Drive at Heritage Lake (County-Owned)
- Trail/sidewalk/bike path west of Greencastle (West Walnut area)
- Walking/jogging trail around Quarry Pond
- Waterpark

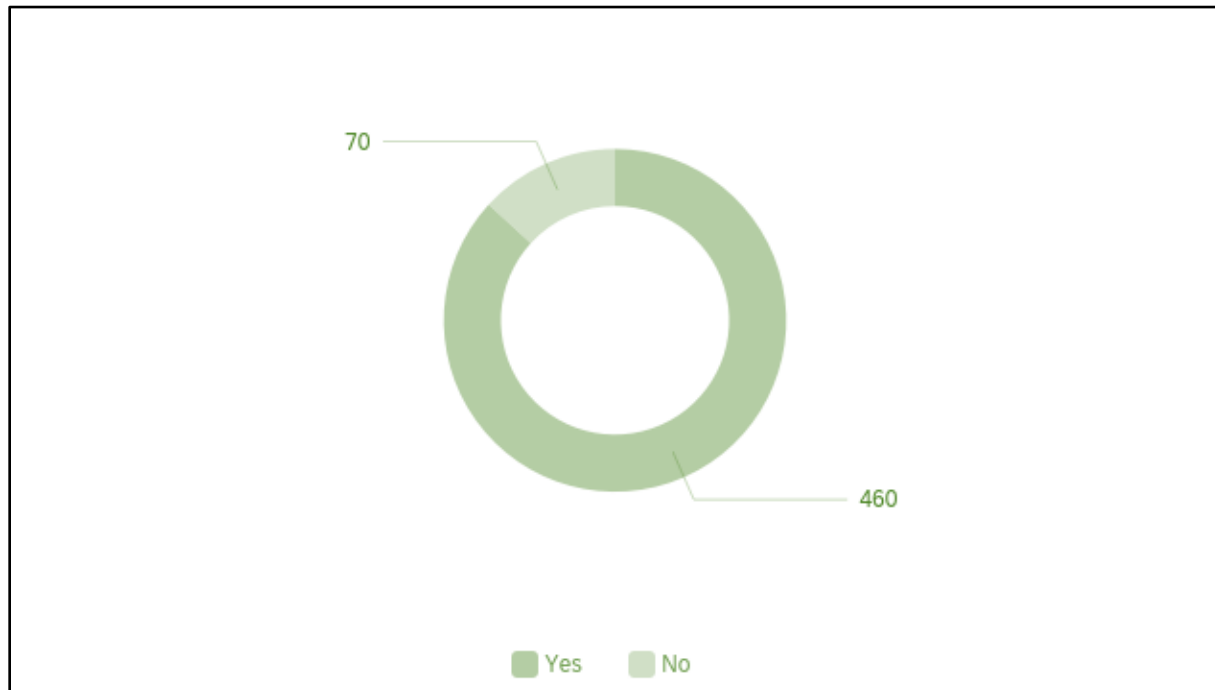
## Preferences for future outdoor programs

Programs	Would use at least once a month	Would use at least one time per year	Would use as least once every three years	Would never use	Total
Festival(s)/Concert(s)	204	224	57	37	522
Guided star gazing	86	202	68	162	518
Guided wildflower tours	78	189	73	177	517
Guided nature hikes	85	184	83	165	517
Exercise/Work-out, such as running/fitness tips & tricks and bicycle fitness ideas	179	150	71	116	516
Pollinator/Wildlife habitats	114	171	62	168	515
Guided bird watching	63	143	71	237	514
5K/10K/Half-Marathon(s)	62	176	62	214	514
Fishing	108	149	55	201	513
Public art	120	173	82	136	511
Mud run(s)	42	98	58	311	509
Other:	15	9	1	20	45
Other:	2	4	1	14	21
Other	1	1	0	15	17

## Other Programs Summary

- Arts and craft workshops
- Bicycle Races
- Big Walnut Creek Kayak Tours
- Butterfly and Hummingbird watching
- Climbing wall
- Covered Bridge driving tour
- Dog Parks
- Duathlon events
- Family bike rides
- Fruit trees along the paths and sidewalks
- Group bike rides
- Kayak Launch on Big Walnut Creek, Rolling Stone Bridge to Bakers Camp Bridge
- More Picnic Areas
- Natural playground equipment
- Organized bicycle rides
- Outdoor art classes
- Outdoor yoga
- Sculpture Park
- Shooting areas for archery and firearms
- Side-by-Side Trails
- Soggy doggy, other dog activities
- Teen activity center
- Trail designed for seniors, help station, restrooms, benches
- Ultra-marathon opportunity

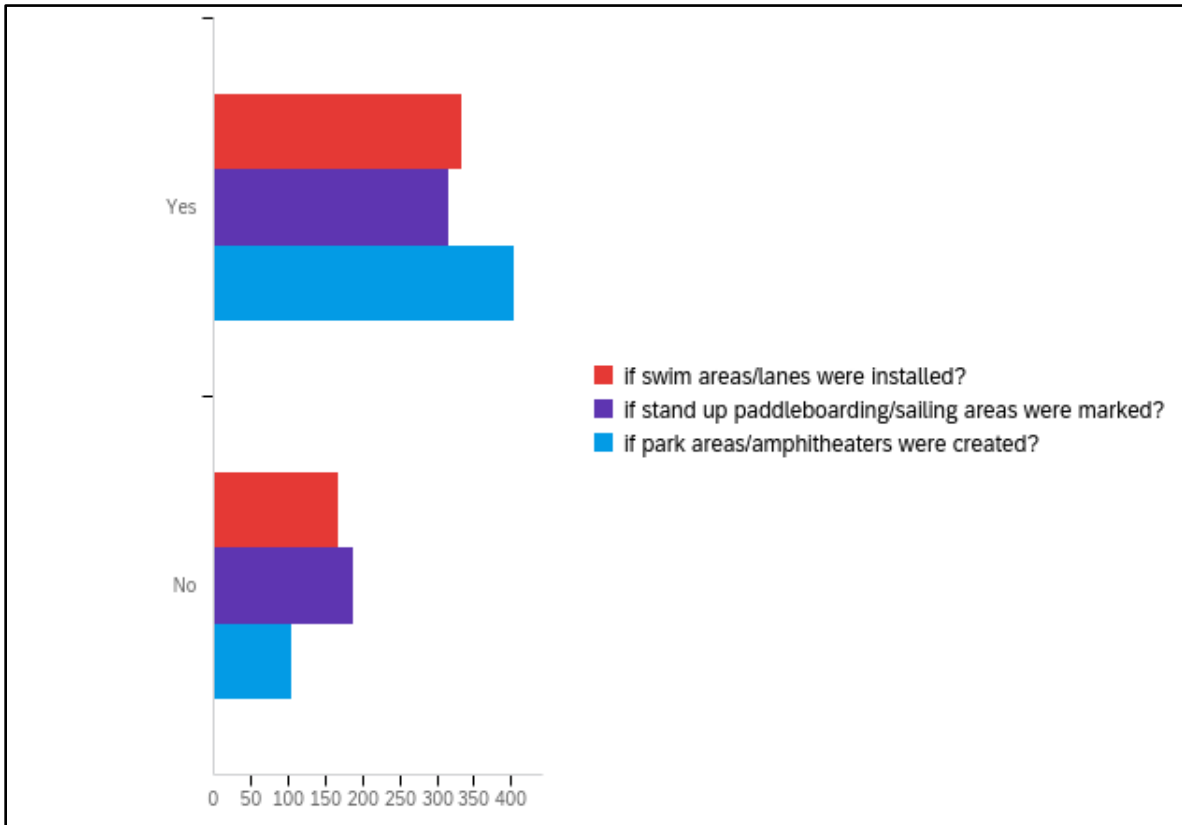
## More trails in Putnam County



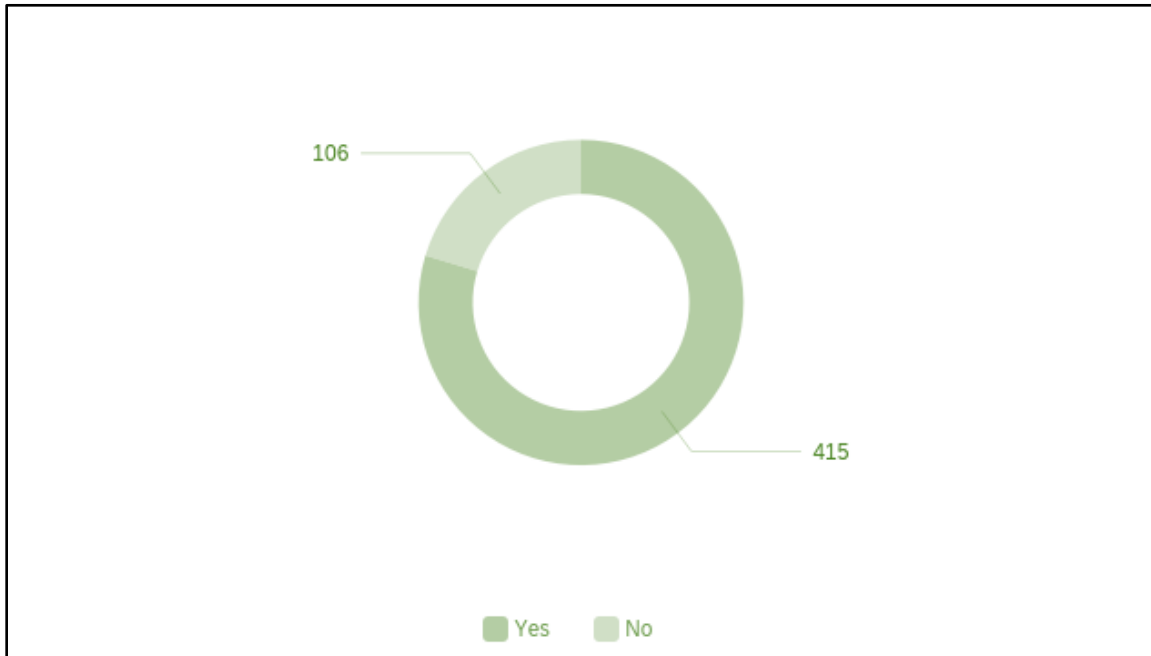
### Location of new trails



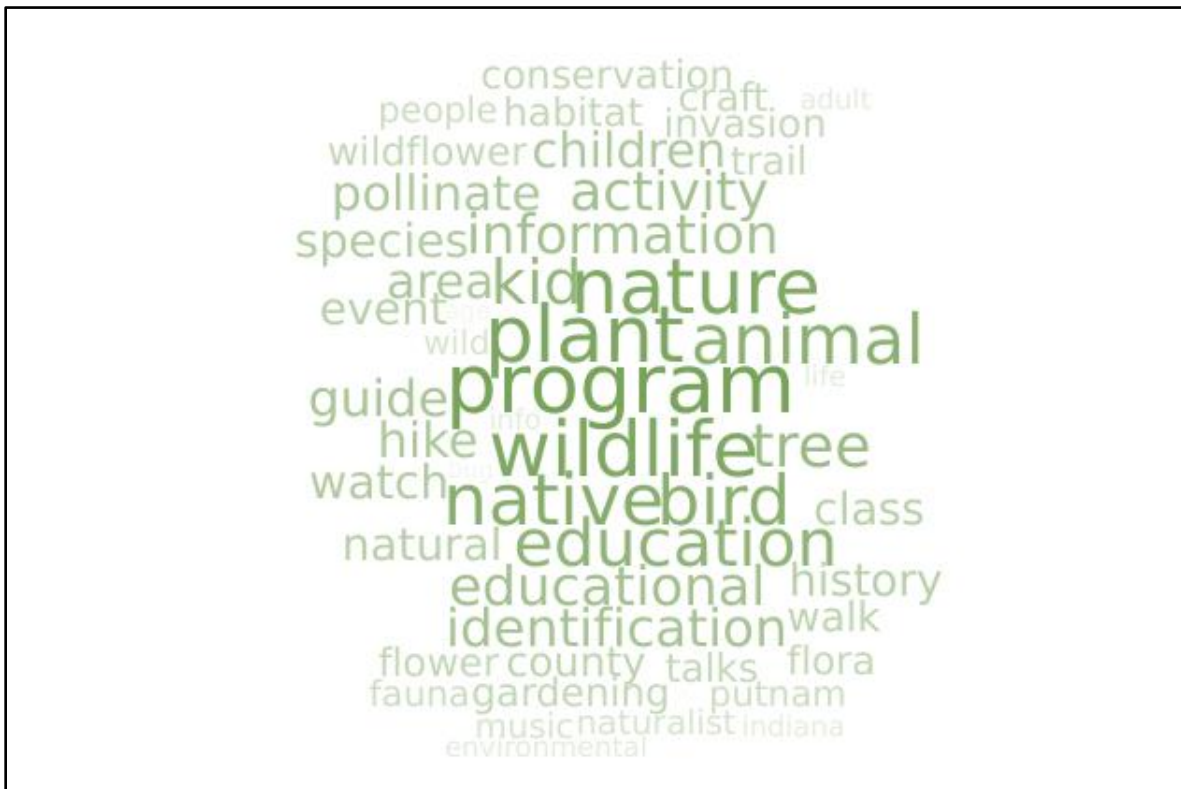
## Visit an abandoned quarry in Putnam County



### Frequent new nature center(s) in Putnam County

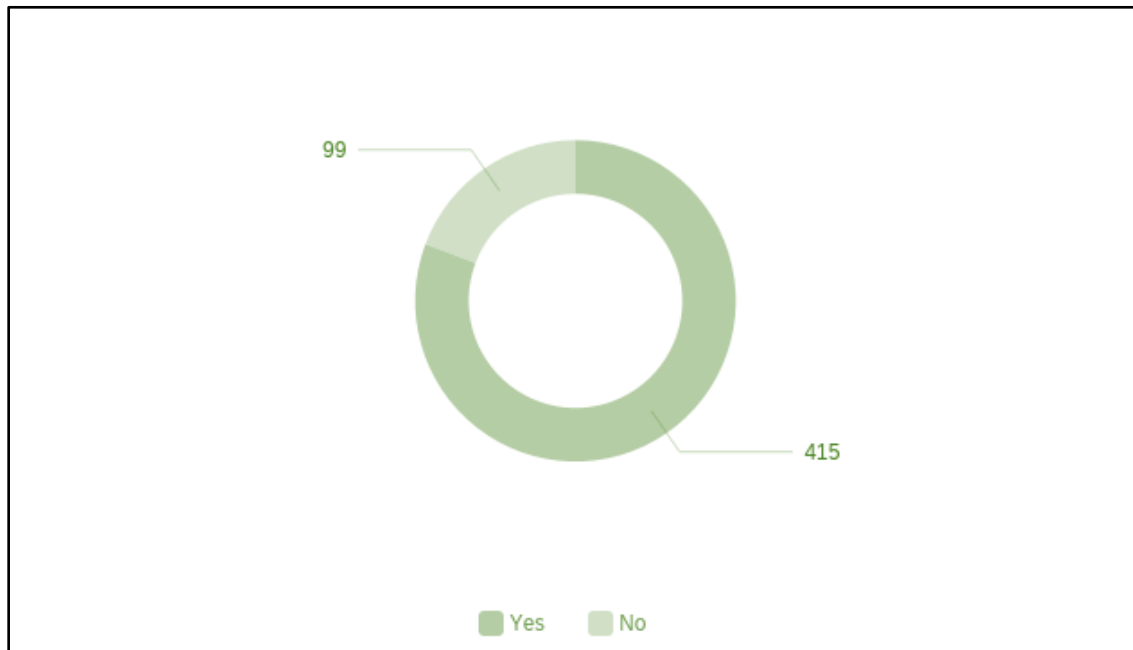


## Nature center programming





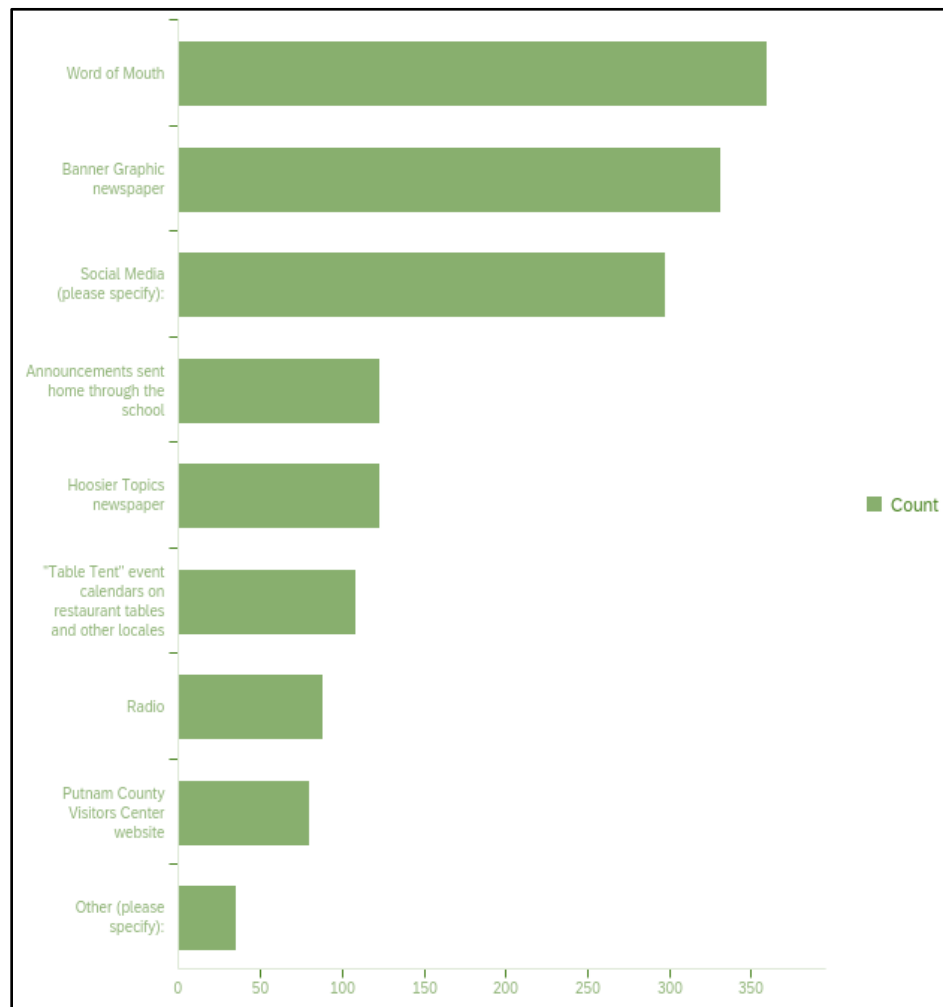
## More parks for outdoor recreation in Putnam County



## Location for parks



## How obtain information about outdoor recreation programs/services in Putnam County



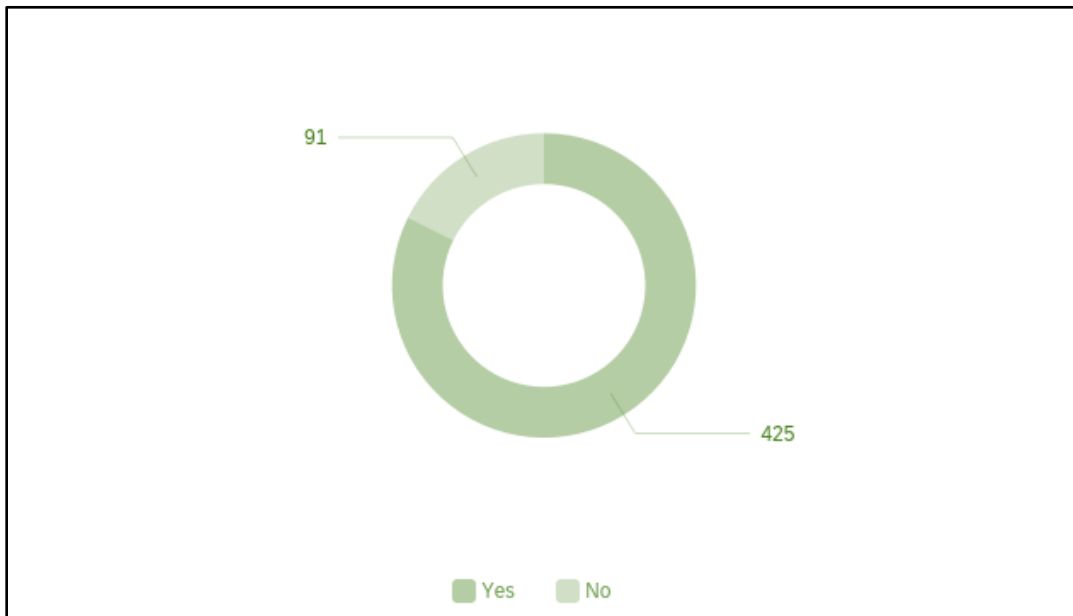
### Social media summary

- Chatter sites
- DePauw University
- Email newsletter
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Master Gardeners
- Parks department Facebook page
- People Pathways
- Purdue Extension
- Visitors Bureau

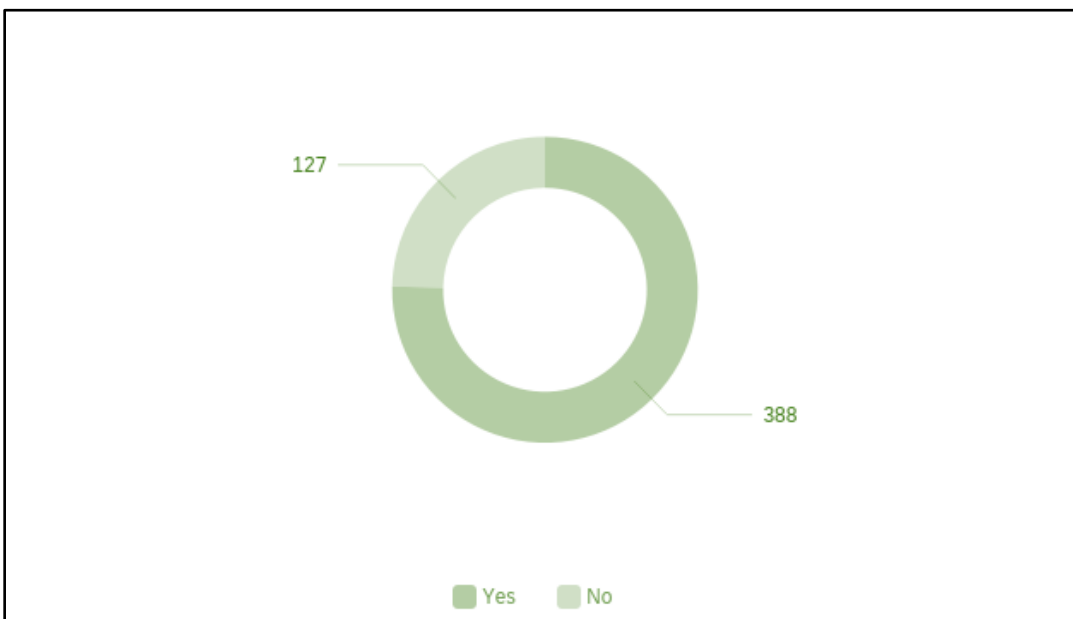
### Other summary

- All-trails app, Strava
- Brochures
- Maps
- City of Greencastle
- DePauw University
- Email newsletters from organizations
- Facebook Groups
- Flyers at nature park center and around town
- Instagram
- internet searches
- Putnam County Convention and Visitors' Bureau emails
- Utility bills

**Outdoor recreation is important enough for the county to increase its financial support**



**Willing to pay a new tax/levy or user fee to help pay for improvements in outdoor recreation within Putnam County**



## Demographics

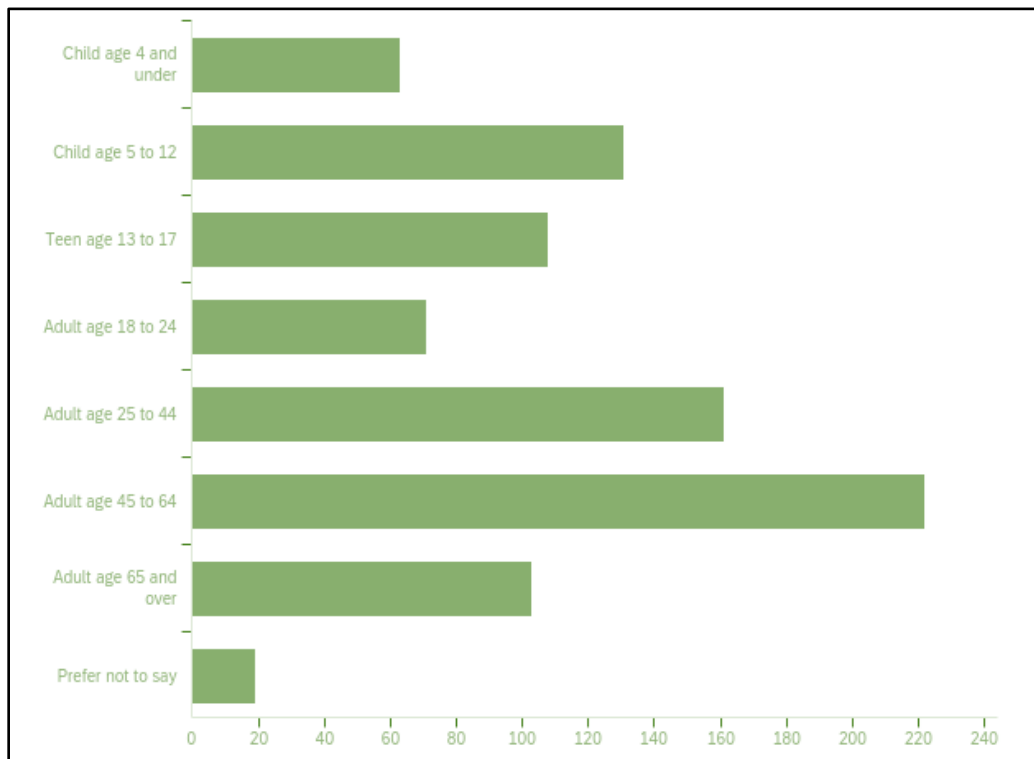
The survey collected information on the respondents' age, household ages, gender, race, household income, education level, and residence. The following represents the responses to these questions. U.S. Census statistics for Putnam County are included to provide a comparison between the survey respondents' demographic characteristics, and the characteristics of Putnam County.

### Age

The age of respondents varied as follows:

Answer	%	Count
18 to 24 years	4.67%	24
25 to 44 years	33.27%	171
45 to 64 years	43.58%	224
65 and over	16.54%	85
Prefer not to say	1.95%	10
Total	100%	514

### Households by Age



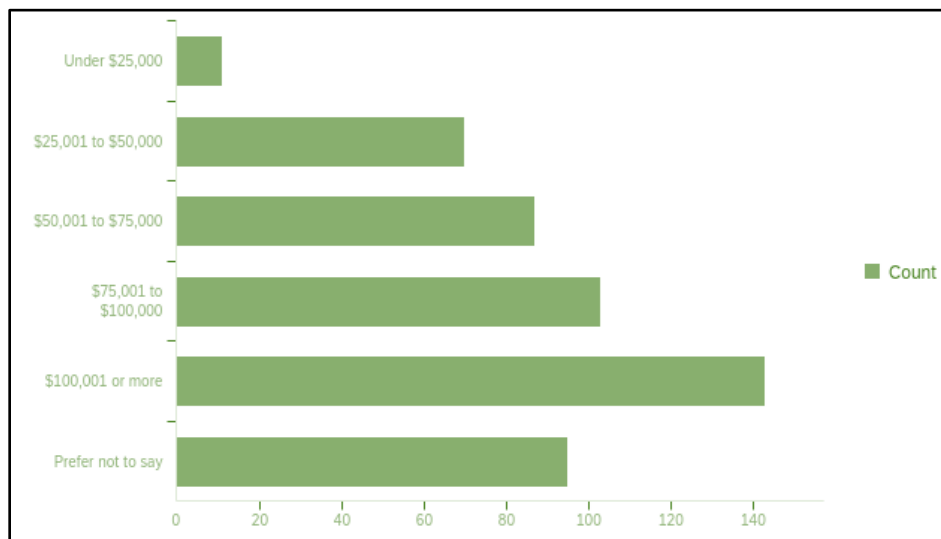
## Gender

Answer	%	Count
Female	64%	327
Male	30%	154
Prefer not to say	5%	24
Other	1%	7
Total	100%	512

## Race

Answer	%	Count	Putnam Co Census %
White	89%	456	93%
Prefer not to say	7%	37	-
Two or more races	2%	9	1.5%
Asian	1%	4	1.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	3	0.4%
Black or African American	1%	3	3.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0	Z (value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown)
Another race	0%	0	-
Total	100%	512	

## Annual Household Income





## Education

Answer	%	Count
Less than high school	0%	1
High school graduate (includes GED)	9%	48
Some college, no degree	13%	69
Technical degree	3%	13
Associate's degree	9%	48
Bachelor's degree	30%	154
Master's degree	21%	109
Doctoral degree	9%	46
Prefer not to say	5%	24
Total	100%	512

## Residence

The survey asked for ZIP codes to determine residence. The responses indicated that 92.4 percent of respondents lived within the Putnam County zip codes of Greencastle, Cloverdale, Coatesville, Roachdale, Reelsville, Bainbridge, and Putnamville. The highest percentages of respondents came from Greencastle at 69 percent. The remaining 7.6 percent of respondents lived outside of Putnam County.

## Conclusion

The contents of this document reflect the results of three open houses, three public working group meetings, a public survey that received 726 responses, numerous presentations, and hours of discussion and review by the Putnam County Parks Board. The document reflects a significant effort to engage Putnam County residents and community collaborators in developing the goals, objectives and strategies to develop outdoor recreation facilities, amenities and programming in Putnam County.

## EVPS Public Participation Summary

### Session 1 (Virtual)

Total: 13

Gender	Ethnicity	Race
7 females	13 non-Hispanic	10 White
6 males		1 Asian
		1 Black or African American
		1 Prefer not to answer

### Session 1 (In-Person-AM)

Total: 30

Gender	Ethnicity	Race
11 females	21 non-Hispanic	25 White
16 males	3 Hispanic	2 Prefer not to answer
3 no response	3 Prefer not to answer	3 no response
	3 no response	

### Session 1 (In-Person-PM)

Total: 18

Gender	Ethnicity	Race
12 females	17 non-Hispanic	17 White
6 males	1 no response	1 Two or More Races

### Session 2 (In-Person)

Total: 27

Gender	Ethnicity	Race
8 females	20 non-Hispanic	20 White
14 males	2 Prefer not to answer	2 Prefer not to answer
5 no response	5 no response	5 no response

### Session 3 (In-Person)

Total: 25

Gender	Ethnicity	Race
11 females	20 non-Hispanic	20 White
11 males	2 Prefer not to answer	2 Prefer not to answer
3 no response	3 no response	3 no response

**Total Attendance: 113**

# Appendix A

## Assets for Active Living, Placemaking and Healthy Eating

### Active Living Assets

#### Political

- Greencastle Tree Board
- State/Federal Representatives from Putnam County
- Putnam County Park Board
- County Council
- County Commissioners
- Town Councils
- Conservancy Districts
- County official buy-in
- Cross organization linkages (Parks, county commissioners, lawyers, businesses Main St.)

#### Human

- Quail Forever
- Putnam County Master Gardeners
- Public School Teachers
- Already committed “exercisers”
- Greencastle Board of Park Commissioners
- DePauw Bonner Scholar Program
- DePauw Fraternities & Sororities (Greek Life)
- Bonner Scholars
- Putnamville Correctional Facility
- Greencastle Sustainability Commission
- Two Universities (DePauw & Ivy Tech)
- Beyond Homeless
- More resources for women/children (homeless)
- Educational Needs--Opportunities to teach
- School groups/clubs
- Citizen/residents who have skills in outdoor recreation planning

- Students community service for credit
- Sheriff Trustees
- People of DePauw University
- Generational family connections
- Regional Archery Championships in Cloverdale
- Bob Beck Geography Professor IUPUI
- Experienced fundraisers
- The Nature Conservancy for education events, signage

#### Financial

- Corporate Support
- Convention & Visitors Bureau
- OCRA Community Development Block Grant
- Friends of the Park
- Community Foundation grant programs
- DePauw Alumni
- Natural Products-orchards/maple syrup
- DePauw Bonner Scholar Community Fund-any programs that need funds toward community projects
- 100+ Men/Women Who Care
- Putnam County Community Foundation
- Business & Industry
- Utility Green Programs
- CVB funding
- DNR Grants
- Families ready to donate properties
- Leaders ready to coordinate recreation planning
- experienced fundraisers
- United Way of Central Indiana
- Civic League (funders) Arbor Day and Concert sponsors -- Great fundraisers

## Cultural

- First Fridays-live music
- Jazz at the Duck
- Inclusive for all families. A place that everyone feels welcome
- Food!
- History of community fundraising-support: DePauw/IBM/Buzzi Unicem
- Story Walks
- History Walks
- Roachdale Rib & Blues Fest
- Summer Concert Series
- Historic Districts
- DePauw
- Schools
- Ivy Tech
- Arts Council
- Farmers Markets
- Putnam County Museum
- Large/numerous Music Festivals -- Music is HUGE!
- Library lends fishing pole
- Bike Share
- Amphitheater in the Quarry DePauw Nature Preserve
- Silo Mural
- Life Cycles Program
- Story Walks

## Built

- C Bar C
- Community Bike Share
- Covered Bridges connecting waterways
- Story Walk-library
- Noon Hoops @ Big Walnut Sports Park
- 19-hole disc golf course @ Big Walnut Sports Park
- Bike trails @ Jaycee Park
- Fishing Pond @ Jaycee Park
- Life Cycles--bikes for those without transportation
- CSX abandoned rail-Cloverdale
- Forest Park-10 acres pollinator plot

- Keith Carr basketball court
- People Pathways
- Pathways multi-use trails-"linear park"
- Bob York Splash Park
- Pathways system
- Sports Park
- Rural County roads mainly near waterways
- Greencastle Municipal Parks system: Robe Ann/Big Walnut Sports Park/Mary Rogers Field Park/Calbert Way Park (Greencastle to Fillmore trailhead)/Maple Berry Park/Ballard Family Park/Jaycee Park/Ivy Tech in Rokicki Park/DePauw Nature Park/People Pathways
- DePauw Observatory
- DNR Property
- Nature Conservancy Property
- Skate Park
- Park Pool
- Variety of Parks including state parks
- Covered Bridges connecting waterways
- Greencastle Aquatic Center
- Camp Friend/Boy Scouts
- Putnam County Fairgrounds
- Camp Friend-Facilities
- Putnam Park Road Course
- Golf Courses
- Bike Trails @ Jaycee Park
- Big Walnut Sports Park
- Schools
- Public Boat dock @ Glenn Flint Lake
- DePauw University
- Private & Government Facilities
- Community Center-Roachdale/Russellville/Reelsville/Bainbridge
- Disc Golf @ Big Walnut sports park - soccer, baseball, suitable for regional tournaments, dog park
- CVB, Main St. Greencastle, Chamber of Commerce, Putnam Parks & Pathways,

and county parks board are all co-located

- Sidewalks
- DePauw Ullem Farm
- 1.2-mile mountain bike trail
- Bird watching towers
- Signage

#### Natural

- Public lands
- DPU Nature Park
- Big Walnut Creek
- Eel River
- Raccoon Creek
- Abandoned Quarries
- Nature Park
- Fern Cliff
- Community Gardens
- Connected Communities via trail systems
- Better use of water features (quarries & creeks)
- Pollinator gardens 10+
- Tree giveaway every spring
- Hendricks County Park-McCloud Nature
- Big Walnut Nature Preserve
- Hunting & Fishing-areas for opportunity
- DePauw Nature Center
- Variety of wildlife & plants
- *Crane Rookery Hemlock Grove*
- Birdwatching areas
- Lieber Park
- Tall Timbers
- Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife
- Cloverdale School woods
- Hunting & Fishing @ Deer Creek
- Lieber SRA
- DePauw Nature Park
- Eagles Mill Lake
- Glenn Flint Lake-360 acres available for park development
- Fortune Woods/Hemlock Ridge
- Fern Cliff Nature Preserve

- Robe Ann Park
- Hemlock Ridge
- Hall Woods
- Corps of Engineer Property
- Easy Access to natural resources
- Private Preserves
- Fishing spots
- Navigable streams
- Lieber State Rec Area Hiking, Boating, Fishing, Paddling
- Creeks/rivers/lakes
- Natural areas are set aside (Jaycee Park, Big Walnut etc.) Currently designated lands for natural areas lead the state
- Wooded land

#### Social

- Gobin Summer Enrichment Program
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Greencastle Civic League
- Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis clubs
- Greencastle Summer Music Fest
- Community Gardens
- Lieber Park Friends Group
- Wildlife Education
- Moore's Bar Run Clubs
- Music & Art
- Kayak @ Big Walnut
- Newspapers & Radio
- Local schools like FFA
- Active Beekeepers group
- Putnam County Family Nature Group
- Family Play Days
- Bike with a Biologist
- Crossroads Trail Regional Network
- Noon Hoops @ DePauw
- Retirement home residents
- 4H Programs & Clubs
- Pedal Putnam
- Community that uses trails
- Community that appreciates outdoors
- Community Facebook pages
- Churches



- Civic League
- Eagles
- VFW
- American Legion
- Tri Kappa
- Carr Run
- Rokicki Run
- 4th of July Run
- Hobbit Gardens events

- Master Gardener classes
- Big Walnut Bird Club
- Cooperative Visionary leadership
- Cloverdale Conservation Club
- Speaker series featuring world-famous speakers that are free
- Putnam County Museum has natural history in its mission statement
- DePauw

## Placemaking Assets

### Political

- Parks Boards
- Town Councils
- Political Support for Change/Improvements of Resources
- Leadership & Collaboration of CVB
- Cooperative Organizations: CVB, County Commissioners, County Council,

- Chamber, Main St., People Parks & Pathways, Friends of the Parks
- Interest in Updating Ordinances to Promote Placemaking
- Statewide/National Support from Institutions for Placemaking Efforts

### Human

- Purdue Extension
- Putnam County Fair and 4-H Association
- Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area
- Endangered Species (Indiana Lactating Bat)
- Church Groups
- Comprehensive Services Center
- Scout Troops
- DePauw University
- Heart of the People
- Volunteer power
- Makerspace
- Our Preschools & Kindergartens
- Good People to Help Support this Process
- DePauw Students for Action & Volunteers
- Co-workspace
- Regional Collaborators – Thrive, DNR, Nature Conservancy

- Local Media (Newspaper & Radio)
- Greencastle Civic League
- Friends of the Park
- Putnam County Community Foundation
- Big Walnut Watershed Alliance
- An Existing Greencastle Parks & Rec Department
- Cloverdale & Bainbridge Town Parks Currently Exist
- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners
- Putnam County Mural Project
- Reelsville Community Center
- Some Wayfinding Signage in County
- The 4-Organization Collaboration Inside the Visitors Center – Friends of the Park, Putnam Parks & Pathways, County Parks Board, and Convention & Visitors Bureau

## Financial

- DNR
- Lilly Endowment
- State Grants
- Faith Based Organizations
- Convention & Visitors Bureau Involvement
- Federal Grants
- Engage Community Foundation and Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Visitors to DePauw – alumni
- Little Walnut Creek Conservancy District – Special Taxing District
- IPRA
- An Established County Parks Foundation
- Putnam County Community Foundation
- Creative Placemaking Grants (NEA, IHCD, IAC, etc.)
- Newly Established Bike Program for Those in Need
- 100 Men & 100 Women Who Care

## Cultural

- Music Fest
- DePauw University School of Music
- Putnam Co. Playhouse
- DePauw University Peeler Art Center
- Trail Art
- Arts Council
- Public Art
- Schools
- Historical – Covered Bridges, Preserves, & Quarries
- Park Fest (Holiday Lights & Winter Fest)
- Old Cemeteries
- Silo Murals
- Award Winning Writers, Poets, & Visiting Authors to DePauw University
- Putnam Co. Museum
- Collaboration with the National Road Heritage Trail
- Sugar Maple Farm

## Built

- Tree & Plant ID at Camp Friend
- Lieber State Recreation Area
- Big Walnut Sports Park
- Highways (231, 36, 240, & 40) & Interstate 70
- Fairgrounds & Fair Board
- Connect Assets
- C Bar C
- Race Tracks
- Parks in Greencastle & DePauw
- Band Shelters
- Covered Bridges
- Bike Trail
- People Pathways Trail Systems
- Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Reelsville Community Center
- All the Parks in Putnam County
- Prindle Institute & DePauw Natural Park (Retreat Location)
- Many Covered Bridges & Nature Preserves have Greenways & Paths to Safety Connect
- Intact Courthouse Square
- Wayfinding Signs
- Murals
- DePauw University
- Existing Entertainment Venues
- Cloverdale Conservation Club
- Robe Ann Park Aquatic Center
- Golf Courses
- Historic Communities
- Skate Park
- DNR Shooting Range
- Putnam Road Course

- US 40 is a National Scenic Byway
- McKim Observatory
- Restored Freight Depot as Trailhead & Place to View Silo Mural
- Chandler's Orchard

- Camp Friend – 70-acre park operated by Boy Scouts
- New Storybook Trails with Library
- Some Girl Scout & Boy Scout Projects
- Gravel & Paved Roads

#### Natural

- Big Walnut
- Fern Cliff
- Hall Woods
- Hemlock Ridge
- Small Camping Areas
- Hiking Trails at Camp Friend
- DePauw Nature Park
- Lieber State Recreation Area
- Nature Preserves
- Creeks to Kayak
- People Pathways
- More Natural Resources than any other county, more community activities, use what we have: DePauw, the buzz bomb at the courthouse, 9 covered bridges, famous or haunted homes

- Beautiful Natural Areas – owned by agencies willing to partner
- Heritage Lake
- Racoon Lake
- Abandoned Quarries & Rail Beds to Maximize
- More Land in Protected Nature Preserves than any Indiana County
- 400 acres on Glenn Flint Lake the Conservancy District Wants to Make a Park
- Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area
- Portland Mills, providing kayak access to Raccoon Lake

#### Social

- Golf Courses
- DePauw Center for Diversity & Inclusion
- Community Centers
- Wedding & Event Centers
- Rib Fest
- First Fridays
- Lilly Connection
- DePauw University Athletics
- Putnam County Remove Invasive Plants (PC RIP)
- Robe Ann Park
- Cloverween
- Rodeo
- Conspire
- Main St. In Greencastle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays
- C Bar C
- Craft Wine Bars & Wine Tasting Dinners

- *Banner Graphic* & Radio Station
- Restaurants
- Social Organizations: Rotary, Boy/Girl Scouts, Church Groups
- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners
- Sport Leagues
- Heritage Preservation Society
- Concrete Corn Hole Boards
- Youth Football League
- Youth Spring & Fall Base/Softball
- Greencastle Civic League
- Youth Soccer Group
- Camp Friend
- Frisbee Golf
- Summer Enrichment Camp
- Historic Districts Signage – City & Heritage Preservation Society

## Healthy Eating Assets

### Political

- New Park Board
- School free/reduced lunches
- DePauw
- Mayor Dory
- Parks/pathways board
- Superintendents
- City Council
- County Council
- Greencastle Parks/Rec department
- County plan/zoning board

### Human

- Farming community
- Purdue Extension educational programs
- Library programs
- After school programs for all schools
- Shopping/purchasing locally
- Wellness/food related majors at DPU
- Master Gardeners
- Wolf Beach farms education/waste reduction
- Hobbit Gardens
- Conspire/JD
- South Putnam FFA
- Putnam County Pantry Coalition (works with Gleaners)
- DePauw student sustainability fellows
- Putnam County Hospital
- Mobile food pantry (Gleaners)
- Parks board
- DePauw basketball workshops, Earth Day celebrations, indoor walking track
- Putnam County Non-Food Pantry
- Community dinners thru Edge 21
- Local farmers, beef, pork, lamb
- Putnam County 360 Coalition

### Financial

- DePauw University
- Putnam County Community Foundation
- Company medical plans
- United Way of Central Indiana
- Factory's dollars
- Wellness program for businesses (financial incentives)
- Putnam County Hospital
- Lions Club
- DPU Alumni investments in Restaurants
- City of Greencastle

### Cultural

- Farmers market (Saturdays)
- Cloverdale Farmers market
- Farmers market (all communities)
- Music fest
- Farm to fork
- First Fridays
- Taste of Putnam County
- DePauw Harvest Festival
- Houck Bridge dinner
- Almost Home outdoor wine dinners
- County fair
- Culture of community
- Myers Market
- Churches
- Trails group, People Pathways

## Built

- DePauw University farm
- Community garden(s)
- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- First Baptist Church Giving Garden
- Food Pantries (maybe 12 total)
- Gleaners distribution relationship
- Concession stands at ball parks
- After school program youth education (Greencastle schools)
- School gardens
- Bike path to Kroger and Walmart
- Non-food pantry
- Farmers markets
- Free or reduced lunch
- DePauw free food trucks
- DePauw C-Stores
- Harris Sugarbush maple syrup
- Bridges oligarch
- Taco Wapo/Meyers Market
- Hoover Dining Hall/Bon Appetit (open to community)
- Conspire and Food Pantry/community space
- Some water fountains on paths and nature park
- Homeless shelter, Home Away, food pantry
- Multiple food trucks (outside of Greencastle)
- Food boxes
- 1 community pool, DePauw pool, 1 state park pool

## Natural

- Fishing
- Access to fishing, hunting, gardening
- Honey producers
- Meat processors
- Foraging in nature park
- Apple and pear trees to forage, choke berries
- Chandler's orchard
- Lots of greenspace/open space for gardens
- Big walnut Watershed project
- Farm store fronts
- Lots of food waste for compost
- Trails APP for mobile phones called Crossroads Trail

## Social

- Library education opportunities
- 360 Coalition
- Healthy eating programs with Putnam County Hospital and Purdue Extension
- Monday Clubs
- Rotary Club
- Putnam Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
- Elks & social fraternity groups
- Library for resources
- First Friday's concerts downtown
- Annual 4th of July celebrations in multiple communities
- Ames Family annual event
- Masonic lodge, Lions club, Moose
- Bikeshare program thru Library
- Trail connectivity to Hendricks Co.



## Opportunities for Active Living, Placemaking and Healthy Eating

### Active Living Opportunities

#### Political

- Policy
  - Park Board ownership of county parks
  - Appropriate leadership
  - Form County Parks Department
  - Maintenance
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
  - Updated/Coordinated development standards for city/county/towns
  - Connect with other park boards

#### Human

- Education and Programming
  - Mental Health Awareness Programs
  - School-based: 1) Encourage teachers to teach outside 2) Support Outside activities at schools (during and after school)-Add activities to curriculum
  - Putnam County Community Foundation Leadership classes and seminars
  - Involve low-income population for healthy activity
  - Pollinator field behind North Putnam H.S.
  - 4-H Healthy Living Education
  - Bike/Pedestrian Safety-traffic training/traffic laws at trail crossings
- Incentivize Physical Activity
  - Workplace benefits-can there be benefits for businesses/factories for

sponsoring trails/parks & encouraging employees to utilize trails/parks

- Corporate support for employees who bike/ride to work

#### • Music

- Abundant amateur musical talent
- Try to attract music into county recreation areas (eg. something similar to Civic League Music in the Bandshell)

#### • Access

- New & Expanded Shared-use agreements for pools, tracks.
- Trails accessible by everyone

#### Financial

##### • Local Funding

- Partial City/Town funding-ask city & town boards to assist with maintenance of parks & trails within their city/town limits
- Encourage factories to add natural areas
- Partnerships-\$\$\$\$ & promotion
- City & County tax funding
- EDIT (economic development income tax) for grant funding
- Active conservation groups working in the county for funding & labor
- Trail Runs--5K-10K for \$\$\$
- Continue Towns & Gowns (unofficial partnership between Greencastle & DePauw)
- Golf Scramble for Parks & Rec

- External Funding
  - State/Federal funding for trail development
  - Large & active endowment through Friends of the Park to offer development grants

## Cultural

- Cultural Programming
  - Exercise programming in the parks - perhaps outside of Robe Ann (yoga, etc.)
  - Astronomy/dark sky education/stargazing
  - Senior exercise programs
- Trails and Connections
  - Mountain bike trail
  - Connection to Clay & Vigo counties via trails
  - Connect Trails with water, w/parks, w/ downtown, & all towns
  - Integration of trail use & other destination points with existing public transportation system (buses that are bike rack equipped)
  - Trail Rest Stops
  - Extend pathway to Jaycee Park
  - Extend Putnam Nature Trail to Reelsville
  - Must connect hospital and fairgrounds via paths
  - Connect existing trails to each other
  - Create entrances & welcome spots for waterways & river access, link with covered bridge locations (Wild Wood)
  - Pave paths
  - Plan for extension of B & O Trail in northern Putnam County

- Support existing local biking, running, & hiking groups
- Casual bike programs for beginners

## • Inclusion

- Connecting with more minority groups-inclusion & diversity
- Encourage inclusion
- Promoting safe spaces to practice their religion
- Encourage community art in the parks to reduce vandalism
- Completing trail through county: east to west to finish National Road Heritage Trail
- CSX abandoned rail from C Bar C to downtown Cloverdale
- Trails to connect Greencastle with the other communities
- Blueways between Covered Bridges
- Horse Rest Stop along 1-70 -- connect to local trails
- Wayfinding signage
- Equestrian activities related to or sponsored by C Bar C
- Off-road vehicle trails
- Vandalia trail connection
- Connectivity of County fairgrounds to Big Walnut
- Connect the "built" more (greenways, paths)
- Develop trail heads with restrooms on trails
- A boardwalk along Little Walnut Creek from Houck Bridge North to Fern Cliff Nature Preserve & North to Glenn Flint Lake
- Connect Greencastle to DePauw Nature Park entrance by sidewalk & bike lane

- Finish People Pathway
- Clay Co. Trail Connection
- access to creeks for fishing
- Amenities
  - Create a Putnam Co petting zoo w/animals native to Indiana
  - Treehouses/natural playground
  - Additional Dog Park
  - Zip Line
  - Bike Share System
  - Restore Penn Depot-relocate to Campus Link Trail for Welcome Center
  - Bike Repair stations
  - Mountain Bike Trail
  - Support Outdoor areas at every school
  - Sand volleyball court (in process)
  - 2nd shelter @ Roachdale
  - Complete Campus Link Trail (fill in the gap!!)
  - Ice skating rink
  - Water stations
  - Build a sledding/skiing facility
  - Public Infrastructure-sidewalks to promote walking
- Signage
  - Educational Signs-put signage along trails educating about the area, flora, fauna, history, etc.
  - Mark the edge of Glacier that runs through county
  - Educational signage for all sites
  - Coordinated design for signage
  - Tree ID @ Fortune Woods
  - Interactive sculpture & art
  - Storyboard at Fern Cliff NP
- Creek Access points
- Projects-scouts/4H/ youth groups (construction of improvements)
- Additional Trails @ Fortune Woods/Hemlock Ridge
- Bike Hostels
- Restrooms on People Pathways
- Public Kayak/Canoe/tubes Launch Points to Big Walnut Creek and covered bridges
- Ziplines/Adventure Park in Quarries
- More water access (creeks, ponds, & Lakes)
- Boardwalk trails along creeks
- electric bike assists to the bike share program
- Solar power/LED for lighting around walkways the trails/parks
- Smoothie shops on trails
- Community gardens on trails
- Picnic stops on trails
- Doggie bag dispensers on trail
- ADA playgrounds
- Total off leash dog park
- Accessibility
  - Cell Service
  - Remove structures that impede access to facilities
- Sustainability
  - New buildings on parks lands should be more LEED certified buildings
  - Beautification Days!
  - Plan and manage trails in way to enhance natural habitats
  - Less grass yards

## Natural

- Access
  - Nature Centers
  - Event Spaces-Use natural resources to create space for events, similar to the natural amphitheater @ DePauw Nature Park
  - Open school pools for community lap swim & water aerobics
  - Recycling-trees, leaves, paper, plastics
  - Buy land-increase access to natural resources and connect existing areas
  - Public access, events, promotion of Glenn Flint & Heritage Lake (open to public)
  - Abandoned Quarries - fishing, beaches (eg. Russellville)
- Native Habitats
  - Plant all 50 trees of Indiana, focus on native trees
  - Tree plantings along People Pathways Trails
- Land Acquisition
  - Purchase land along B & O
  - Land gifts adjacent to parks

## Social

- Events
  - Disc Golf events
  - Rock climbing center
  - Roller/Ice rink
  - Kayak Launch
  - Pedal Putnam Bike Ride
  - Revive Relay for Life cancer walk

- Polar Plunge
- Scavenger Hunt-bring youth to the parks by inspiring them to look for specific flora & fauna at different seasons
- Rokicki 5K run/walk July 4th
- Series of annual biking & running events
- Rec Leagues
- Trail Run
- Mud Run
- County Amazing Race
- Movies in the Park
- Iron Man & Iron Women

- Promotion/Connections
  - Single "brand" used for all county marketing
  - Engage the public
  - Promote walkable aspects of Greencastle
  - Integrated plans with connecting counties & regional groups
  - Advertise or cover park/trails access points in newspapers, on radio, and social media
  - Combine local, live music
  - Encourage Walk to School days
  - Promote existing assets in one place
  - Web page-communication
  - Maps-cycling
  - Work with Adventure Cycling Association
- Educational Programming
  - DNR mushroom, wildflower, tree walks & ID
  - Architectural Walks

## Placemaking Opportunities

### Political

- A willingness to establish a tax that funds the county's outdoor recreation efforts
- Cooperative relationships between the County Park Board & town park boards
- Continuing co-wide support
- Smaller Communities/Towns
- Makes it All Better
- Work in Process

### Human

- Program Development
- Parks Staff
- Creation of County Parks Department to Manage Property and Create Programming
- Training & Education

### Financial

- Parks Foundation
- Public Income Resource
- Private Income Resources
- Grant Opportunities
- Community Foundation
- Taxes
- Fees for Services

### Cultural

- Program Development
- Trail Enhancements
- Arts
- Festivals
- Collaboration & Inclusion

### Built

- Trail Expansion, Development, & Enhancement
- Maximizing Covered Bridges
- Trails
- Water Access
- Facility Enhancement
- Specialty Attractions
- Major Roads Involved
- Park Development & Enhancement
- Construction

### Natural

- Trail Expansion, Development, & Enhancement
- Developing Natural Attractions
- Developing Retail Attractions
- Natural Resource Management
- Green Initiatives
- Water Trail Development

### Social

- Program Development
- Volunteer Network
- Activities
- Building Social Capital
- Increased Public Transportation
- Advertising County to Broader Audience
- Events
- Family Activities
- Communications



## Healthy Eating Opportunities

### Political

- Environmental Change
  - Community wellness council
  - Integrated comprehensive plan--> recreation and open space adopted by municipalities

### Human

- Education
  - Cooking classes/community kitchen
  - Native plant awareness
  - Horticulture education
  - educating people on where their food is from
  - Pair exercise with how to refuel or replenish
  - Education on healthy eating in school
  - Healthy cooking clinics -people leave with pots & pans or such
  - Working with school groups
  - Partner with Putnam County Hospital on health workshops
  - Local food directory
  - Vending/concession education and healthy options
  - YouTube library of cooking demonstrations, healthy adaptations of recipes, library of healthy alternatives to popular recipes, ways to cook seasonally

Financial (none discussed)

Cultural (none discussed)

Natural (none discussed)

### Built

- Water
  - Water/dog fountains
  - Water stops on trails
  - Water fountains on trailheads
  - Bottle refilling stations
- Food/Grow & Go Food
  - Mobile pantries
  - Could FFA run sports concessions with healthy food?
  - Local food for schools
  - gardening classes
  - Community gardens within Robe Ann
  - First Friday's having healthier diversified food trucks, indoor facility year-round
  - Edible forests (Berry bushes and fruit trees)
  - Local forging woods/park walks
  - Orchard Parks (and tours)
  - Food drives/healthy food accessibility
  - Seed saving library from community garden
  - Health check trucks/mobile clinics
- Social Activities
  - Food garden competitions
  - Yoga on the trail
  - Outdoor activity venues with water features
  - Tours of local farms
  - Board game nights or community spaces in the healthier restaurants

## Appendix B

### “Parked” Strategies for Consideration in the Next Five-Year Plan

#### **Design and build a low-cost boutique inn for long-distance trail users to rest or stay overnight**

The National Road Heritage Trail, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy and especially private investment will be used by Putnam Parks & Pathways and the County Parks Board to implement this. A plan, location and construction of the inn will constitute success. Progress will be monitored by Putnam Parks & Pathways. It and the CVB will communicate via social media, maps and website with neighboring and regional states, trail users, tourism markets, and county residents.

#### **Promote business opportunities near parks and along trails to leverage outdoor recreation for economic development**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will work with the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, the West Central Indiana Small Business Development Corp and the County Parks Board to sponsor a workshop, and perhaps an ongoing series, on business creation opportunities. Business examples include electric and traditional bike rental, a smoothie shop, dog bakery, campground, bike/ski/hike outfitter, zipline/adventure area, off-road vehicle trail, cross-county ski rental, specialty restaurant(s), boutique inns, and camping facilities. The workshop(s) will be targeted to current/potential business owners and potential entrepreneurs. Communications will leverage state economic development/tourism agencies.

#### **Plant pollinator fields in outdoor recreation areas and for educational purposes at schools**

Responsible parties include Greencastle Sustainability Council, FFA groups and Putnam Parks & Pathways. Potential funding sources include the Purdue Extension/Master Gardener Program and grants. Putnam Parks & Pathways will oversee data collection related to the indicators of success, which includes the number of fields, size of fields and number of organizations/groups involved in creating the fields. Putnam Parks & Pathways will communicate information about the fields with Putnam County residents through news releases, social media and the website.

#### **Install native plant species signs promoting the Putnam Parks & Pathways brand**

Potential funding will be the responsibility of Putnam Parks & Pathways and should coordinate with Master Gardeners, Putnam County RIP, Girl/Boys Scouts, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Native Plant Society, and Nature Conservancy for assistance. Potential funding sources include SWCD mini grants, Indiana Native Plant Society grant, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy, and Thrive West Central. Indicators of success will be collected through 3P and Master Gardeners in terms of the number of branded signs. Communication will be to users of the amenities through branded signage provided by Putnam Parks & Pathways.

#### **Create a wildflower/pollinator corridor with INDOT on I-70**

The County Parks Board will promote this idea to INDOT as another icon of Putnam County outdoor recreation, offering to share expense with INDOT. Funding may include the County Outdoor Recreation Levy. Putnam Parks & Pathways and the County Parks Board will track the number of installations to determine if this strategy is successful in generating use and visitation. If wildflower/pollinator corridors are established, Putnam Parks & Pathways, the CVB and the County Parks Board will promote them to county, state and regional visitors via online channels and print material.

### **Create seasonal festivals, likely in the spring or summer to avoid the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival in the fall**

The County Parks Board and CVB will be responsible for coordinating and promoting the availability of outdoor recreation venues. The festivals may provide their own funding, in addition to charging for use of space; however, the CVB is a potential funder. Putnam Parks & Pathways and the CVB will collect indicators of success, which include the number of events and number of attendees. Event organizers will be responsible for promotion, and the CVB will communicate information about the festivals with regional states through news releases and social media.

### **Improve communications/media coverage of County Parks Board/Putnam Parks & Pathways' activities/events/assets**

Potential funding will be the responsibility of Putnam Parks & Pathways and the CVB. Indicators of success are media placements by the CVB, Putnam Parks & Pathways and event hosts. Communication by the CVB and event hosts will be through social media, newspaper, radio, website links, TV (Gerry Dick's "Inside Indiana Business"), and other channels.

### **As appropriate, pave the trails throughout the county**

This strategy will require IDNR, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy, funds from Friends of the Park, and the Putnam County Community Foundation. Putnam Parks & Pathways will implement the pavement of trails where appropriate and track success via the number of miles of paving laid. It will communicate with users of the parks system via social media, maps, print material, and the website. The CVB will communicate with tourism markets.

### **Encourage all Putnam County communities to participate in Walk-to-School days**

Parent Teacher Organizations and Putnam Parks & Pathways may fund this strategy. Schools are responsible for implementation. Principals will coordinate with Purdue Extension, Putnam Parks & Pathways, Putnam County Hospital, and DePauw University Health Services on implementation. Putnam Parks & Pathways will track the number of students participating as a measure of success. Communication with the schools will determine the best path for communication between parents, teachers and administrators.



*Sporting People Pathways water bottles during Walk-to-School Day 2021 at Deer Meadow Elementary School in Greencastle*

### **Add more shelters, rest stops, picnic stops, and public restrooms along trails and in parks**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will use the County Outdoor Recreation Levy to implement this strategy. Success will be measured by the number of new restrooms, shelters, picnic areas, and rest stops constructed. Data will be collected by Putnam Parks & Pathways. Parks system users will receive notice from Putnam Parks & Pathways as print material is updated to reflect new amenities.

### **Use natural resources to create space for events, similar to the natural amphitheater at the DePauw Nature Park**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will use funds from Friends of the Park, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the County Outdoor Recreation Levy to implement this. The establishment of spaces will

indicate success, and data will be collected by Putnam Parks & Pathways. County residents will receive social media communications from Putnam Parks & Pathways regarding new spaces.

#### **Install more visible crosswalks on pathways crossing major roads**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will apply for funding from the Indiana Department of Transportation and county and city budgets. It will coordinate with nonprofit organizations, state, county and city government, and private businesses, including railroad companies. Indicators of success include the number of crosswalks installed. When projects are completed, Putnam Parks & Pathways and the County Parks Board will communicate in community news outlets and updated online and print material.

#### **Partner in updating/coordinating zoning/development standards for city/county/towns**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will collaborate with town/city/county plan commissions and zoning authorities to update ordinances, development standards and zoning associated with parks and recreation. The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will work with plan commissions to conduct public hearings/meetings of related bodies.

#### **Pursue county EDIT (economic development income tax) funding**

No funding required for this strategy. Indicators of success will be collected by Putnam Parks & Pathways and Friends of the Park staff in terms of funds raised and local engagement. The communication method will be with the County Commissioners through public and in-person meetings for funding requests by the County Parks Board, Putnam Parks & Pathways and Friends of the Park.

#### **Build a nature center near/alongside one of the nature parks/preserves**

The County Parks Board will identify potential locations to site, design and build the nature center, including investigating a partnership/collaboration with the DePauw Nature Park. Funding for the nature center will include grants, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy, the Putnam County Community Foundation, and Friends of the Park. The CVB will support promotion and communications. Success will be construction of the facility.

#### **Open/Acquire retired quarries for outdoor recreation use**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will investigate locations and use county-owned Sullivan Lake as a model for development and management. Funding will include grants identified for property re-use, rental and user fees. Indicators of success will include the number and types of sites and number and types of amenities. Putnam Parks & Pathways and the CVB will be responsible for communication to local and tourism markets.



*The retired limestone quarry inside the DePauw Nature Park includes trails around the rim and on the quarry floor*

#### **Explore outdoor activity venues with water features**

The County Parks Board, in collaboration the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Putnam Parks & Pathways, will investigate options and opportunities for outdoor activity venues with water features. Indicators of success will include the

number of venues established. Funding will include grants. Outdoor activities will be communicated via social media in coordination with the CVB.

#### **Use municipal well field protection areas as county park space for prairie/pollinator areas and walking trails**

The County Parks Board will partner with municipal water source owners on this. Through partnerships, it will seek funding from Quail Forever, Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District, Indiana Native Plant Society, IDNR, and donations. The County Parks Board will track the number of sites planted and the miles of trails created to determine success. The CVB, County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will communicate the new locations to potential users via online and print material.

#### **Pursue targeted development of parks to activate and make more productive use of stormwater/runoff/flood zone management/wetlands**

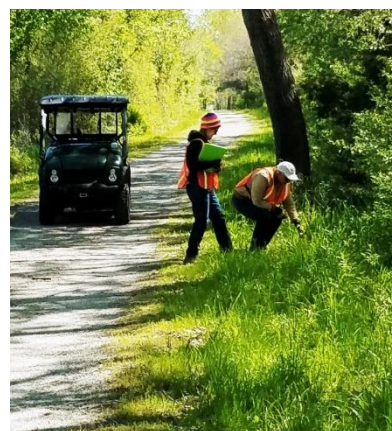
The County Parks Board, County Commissioners and County Council can receive guidance and technical assistance from the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District and Purdue Extension to identify potential sites. EDIT funds and Friends of the Park grants will be used to implement development. The County Parks Board will track the installation(s) and determine success. It and Putnam Parks & Pathways will promote these parks via online channels and print material targeted to users.

#### **Use solar/wind energy to power park facilities**

The County Parks Board will work with the County Commissioners and County Council on potential funding from DePauw alumni, DePauw's Sustainability Leadership Program, various REMCs, and federal funding to install solar/wind energy devices as a way of promoting the mission of environmental sustainability. CastleMakers may help locate resources. These facilities will be communicated via maps and print material distributed to end users by Putnam Parks & Pathways and the CVB. Success will be determined by Putnam Parks & Pathways, tracking how many energy sources are installed.

#### **Remove invasive species on county park land**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will lead in reaching out to the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management (SICIM) to complete the survey and plan to host weed wrangles on county land. It will work with Putnam County Remove Invasive Plants (PC RIP) to host weed wrangles. Volunteers will include scout groups, community service groups and members of the corps established by an earlier strategy in this plan. Potential funding sources include donations, grants and IDNR funds. PC RIP will monitor success by tracking the number of weed wrangles and participants. It also will promote the events via news releases and social media to county residents.



*An invasive species assessment was completed by the SICIM along all 17.3 miles of People Pathways in 2021*

#### **Enhance seed-saving library**

Through potential funding and collaboration from/with DePauw University, the Putnam County Public Library, Master Gardeners, Purdue Extension, and local businesses, the existing seed-saving library system will be expanded. The partners will assist with publicizing to community members and plot owners at community gardens through information at the Putnam County Public Library, DePauw University, Master Gardeners, Purdue Extension, local businesses, Farmers Markets, Soil & Water Conservation District, and social and local media. Success will be assessed by tracking the number of people who use the seed library.



**Encourage factories to add natural areas**

No funding necessary for this strategy. The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will conduct targeted outreach to businesses and track the number of new natural areas created. Communication largely will be private outreach to large land-holding businesses.

**Encourage workplace benefits (i.e., benefits to businesses for sponsoring trails and parks and encouraging employees to utilize trails and parks). Encourage corporate support for employees who walk/bike to work**

A partnership of businesses, Putnam Parks & Pathways, County Parks Board, Putnam County Hospital, branches of Hendricks Regional Hospital in Putnam County, and Purdue Extension will be responsible for this. Funding sources include insurance carriers of local companies and human resource directors promoting increases to Health Savings Accounts through employee participation in active living programs. 3P and Purdue Extension will track indicators of success, which include the number of businesses engaged or offering support, dollars contributed and number of employees participating. Purdue Extension, Putnam County Health Department, the county hospital, and 3P will communicate about a workshop to bring human resources staff together to discuss needs and offer resources

**Encourage public-private partnerships for financial and in-kind benefits**

Potential funding will be the responsibility of Friends of the Park and Putnam Parks & Pathways through sources at Heartland Automotive, local banks, Tractor Supply, Duke, REMC, Co-Alliance, Chiyoda, Walmart, regional employers, LoneStar/Buzzi Unicem, etc. Indicators of success will be collected by Putnam Parks & Pathways and Friends of the Park in terms of the number of partner organizations, funds raised and in-kind gifts. The communication method will be with local employers through meetings for partnership and funding requests by Putnam Parks & Pathways and Friends of the Park staff.

**Expand the Heritage Preservation Society's self-guided street tours in its historical districts app program**

The CVB will work with the Heritage Preservation Society to determine the number of new routes to develop in Putnam County. Combined, they can promote the self-guided tours via news releases and social media throughout the county, state and regionally. The Heritage Preservation Society could potentially fund this program via Indiana Landmarks and its existing funding avenues.



*Guided walking tour of residential architecture in one of Greencastle's historic districts*

**Create a designated bike route plan**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will collaborate with county and city government to create a bike route plan. Indicators of success will include the number of routes created. The County Parks Board, Putnam Parks & Pathways and CVB will communicate with news outlets, county and municipal government offices, business, tourism markets, and county residents when the plan is complete.



**Connect the county to the DePauw Nature Park entrance by sidewalk and bike lane**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will coordinate the effort, in collaboration with DePauw, the city and county highway departments and INDOT. Funding will include grants, the County Outdoor Recreation Levy and Friends of the Park support. Communication will include updates to online park maps, the website and print material.

**Install a bikeshare system and repair stations**

Putnam Parks & Pathways will utilize funding from grants, and possibly DePauw University. The number of stations installed will be monitored by 3P and will indicate success. 3P will communicate with bicyclists and users of the trail system via social media, maps, the website, and print material.

**Add electric bike assists to bike share system**

Pending the expansion of paved trails, Putnam Parks & Pathways will pursue grant funding to add electric bikes to the bike share program. Putnam Parks & Pathways, along with the Convention & Visitors Bureau, will promote this program via online channels and print material to county residents and the state and regional tourism market.

**Install water bottle/dog bowl filling stations, for users and pets, at trailheads**

*Pet owners make considerable use of People Pathways, and more robust accommodation could increase usage*

Putnam Parks & Pathways will coordinate funding, development and evaluation of new water stations in coordination with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the 4-H Dog Club. This strategy will be funded and implemented along trails and in parks by Putnam Parks & Pathways, in partnership with the 4-H Dog Club and the Putnam County Humane Society. It will track fountains installed as the indicator of success. Once water stations are installed, 3P communication will target community members and park users, particularly ones who enjoy outdoor recreation with pets, through the Putnam County Humane Society, branded signage/maps on the trails showing water stations and through social media.

**Develop trail/sidewalk connectivity from the county fairgrounds to Big Walnut Creek**

Funding sources include the City of Greencastle, its parks and recreation department, Putnam County Fair and 4-H Club Association, Friends of the Park, and Putnam Parks & Pathways. 3P will partner with the City of Greencastle for implementation. Success will be a trail plan and trail installation tracked by 3P. It and the CVB will communicate with parks system users, tourism markets and county residents via social media, maps, print material, and the website.

**Support the removal of structures that impede outdoor rec access to facilities or creeks**

The County Parks Board and Putnam Parks & Pathways will use funding from the IDNR to implement this. Removal of the Big Walnut Creek Low-Head Dam near the 4-H Fairgrounds is the main indicator of success. County residents will receive communication regarding this strategy from the County Parks Board via public notice, social media and news releases.