



# Parks & Trails Plan



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## OUR COMMUNITY

Hundreds of township residents, business owners, and visitors participated in the creation of the Parks & Trails Plan. Their contributions and engagement brought value to the drafting of the plan and will lead to the future success of our community.

*Thank you.*

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# **PARKS & TRAILS PLAN**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Miami Township is a vibrant community which values the ability of residents to access plentiful, high-quality parks and other recreation amenities. The Parks & Trails Plan document is a reflection of the community's desires to increase access to, and the quality of, important public spaces. This plan was driven by community engagement and best-practice research developed by the Miami Township Community Development Department. Before the adoption of this plan, Miami Township has not benefited from a codified planning document for our parks network. The purpose of developing this plan is to identify several high-level goals and associated objectives to improve park facilities, operations, maintenance, and funding mechanisms to support the parks network. The Parks & Trails Plan presents demographic information about our community, inventories existing park conditions as well as operations and maintenance benchmarks, details the community engagement which informed the recommendations in the plan, and finally codifies and explains the specific actions which will be taken to improve the parks network.

## METHODOLOGY

The Parks & Trails Plan is designed as a reflection of the needs and wants of the Miami Township community. To achieve this, multiple rounds of surveys of Township residents were conducted. In the first survey, participants were asked questions about their general satisfaction levels with the parks network as well as information about how they accessed park space. This survey was available online for a period of four weeks. Information gathered from the first round of surveying informed the broad direction of the Parks & Trails Plan goals and objectives. In the second survey, participants were asked to rate their support for various park features and amenities for each individual park in the network. This survey was also available online for a period of four weeks. The results gathered from this survey inform the specific infrastructure improvement recommendations found in Chapter 4 of the plan.

A third supplementary public workshop event asked participants to map out desired park features for individual parks based on the data gathered from the second survey. Residents had two opportunities to participate in the public workshop. Finally, a fourth round of public engagement helped ensure that parks network stakeholders agreed with the finalized recommendations made in the Parks & Trails Plan. This final survey sought to engage park users and rate how personally important each Objective of the plan is to them. This survey was also available online for a period of four weeks.

In addition to data gathered from public engagement, plan goals and objectives are informed by best-practice research. Organizations which focus on how to best manage park spaces provide comparative data derived from parks networks across America. The National Recreation and Parks Association, Trust for Public Land, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Complete Streets Coalition provide guidance for managing access to parks, park infrastructure and programming, park sustainability, park operations benchmarking, and the role that parks play in public health. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provides guidance on how to incorporate the state's impressive recreational trail infrastructure into local parks. Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and Five Rivers Metro Parks are local organizations which provide additional guidance for managing park infrastructure and securing funding to implement these best practices. A broad range of individual park master plans from municipalities and townships across Ohio were also reviewed and key elements were incorporated into the Parks & Trails Plan.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An inventory of existing park conditions revealed several key findings about Miami Township's park network. Less than half of existing park infrastructure is considered in "good" condition, meaning not requiring repair or maintenance within one year. Benches, hiking trails, grills, baseball diamonds, and bike racks are primarily in good condition across the parks network. Shelters, restrooms, picnic tables, trash receptacles, off-street parking, and lighting are typically considered in "fair" condition with some parks needing immediate attention in these areas. Much of this infrastructure requires major maintenance or even repairs/replacement within one year but is currently in working order. The shelter and play equipment at Crains Run, the basketball courts and play equipment at Cromer, and the play equipment at Zengel, Miami View, and Waldruhe parks are considered in "poor" condition and need immediate repairs or replacement. The first Goal of this plan is essentially a comprehensive list of recommended infrastructure improvements for each park in the network to **bring all park features into "good" condition while expanding recreation options by adding new amenities and new park locations.**

The second Goal of this plan focuses on how accessible the parks network is to our community. Accessibility refers to not only the physical act of getting to and from park locations, but also to the ability of park-goers to use and enjoy all park amenities within a park. An analysis of the pedestrian infrastructure in Miami Township shows that significant gaps exist which might deter residents from fully enjoying the parks network. Ideally, all Township residents would be located close enough to a park to walk there within 10 minutes. In Miami Township, only about 63percent of households meet this criteria for adequate access to our parks network. This increases slightly to about 68percent when nearby parks in neighboring jurisdictions are included. A major recommendation stemming from this analysis is that **Miami Township should develop a full-fledged Active Transportation Plan to further improve pedestrian access in the community.** Residents should be able to enjoy all features and amenities regardless of physical ability. **Miami Township should prioritize bringing all existing park infrastructure into compliance with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.** New park features should be designed to promote access for all members of the community.

To facilitate the installation and maintenance of new and existing park features, as well as maintain the 296 acres of land within the parks network, **Miami Township must employ dedicated park personnel and commit dedicated park funding commensurate to the recommendations of this plan.** A series of operational benchmarks for park systems is developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and utilized in similar park master plans. Using data gathered from park systems throughout the country, NRPA projects national median levels of key park operations benchmarks. Miami Township employs far fewer Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) park employees per 10,000 residents than the national median. The same is true when comparing communities of similar size. **Increasing personnel levels in the Parks Department will support the infrastructure and maintenance recommendations in this plan.** Miami Township expends far fewer park operations dollars per capita than the national median, spending just \$11.96 annually per resident on parks compared to the national median of \$93.01 annually per resident. Increasing personnel levels will of course begin to close this funding gap. Apart from direct spending by Miami Township, **the Parks Department can utilize a wealth of funding resources to supplement park operations expenditures.** A detailed report of such funding resources is included in the full Parks & Trails Plan document. The fourth Goal of this plan further recommends that the Parks Department develop a comprehensive funding plan which utilizes federal, state, and local funding resources to **increase the effectiveness of Township spending by amplifying it with grants and public-private partnerships.**

As Miami Township implements the strategies within the Parks & Trails Plan, it is important to **engage park system stakeholders to build brand recognition, encourage advocacy, and foster community backing for park programs.** Applying branding elements to park features will identify Miami Township parks as part of a cohesive recreation network. Our community can enjoy a sense of pride in our parks as volunteers for community-led programming such as educational activities and community gardens. Miami Township can inform residents of exciting new recreation opportunities by connecting through social media and interacting with parks-focused clubs and social groups. Parks can be a place for our community members to connect with one another, with nature, and with themselves.



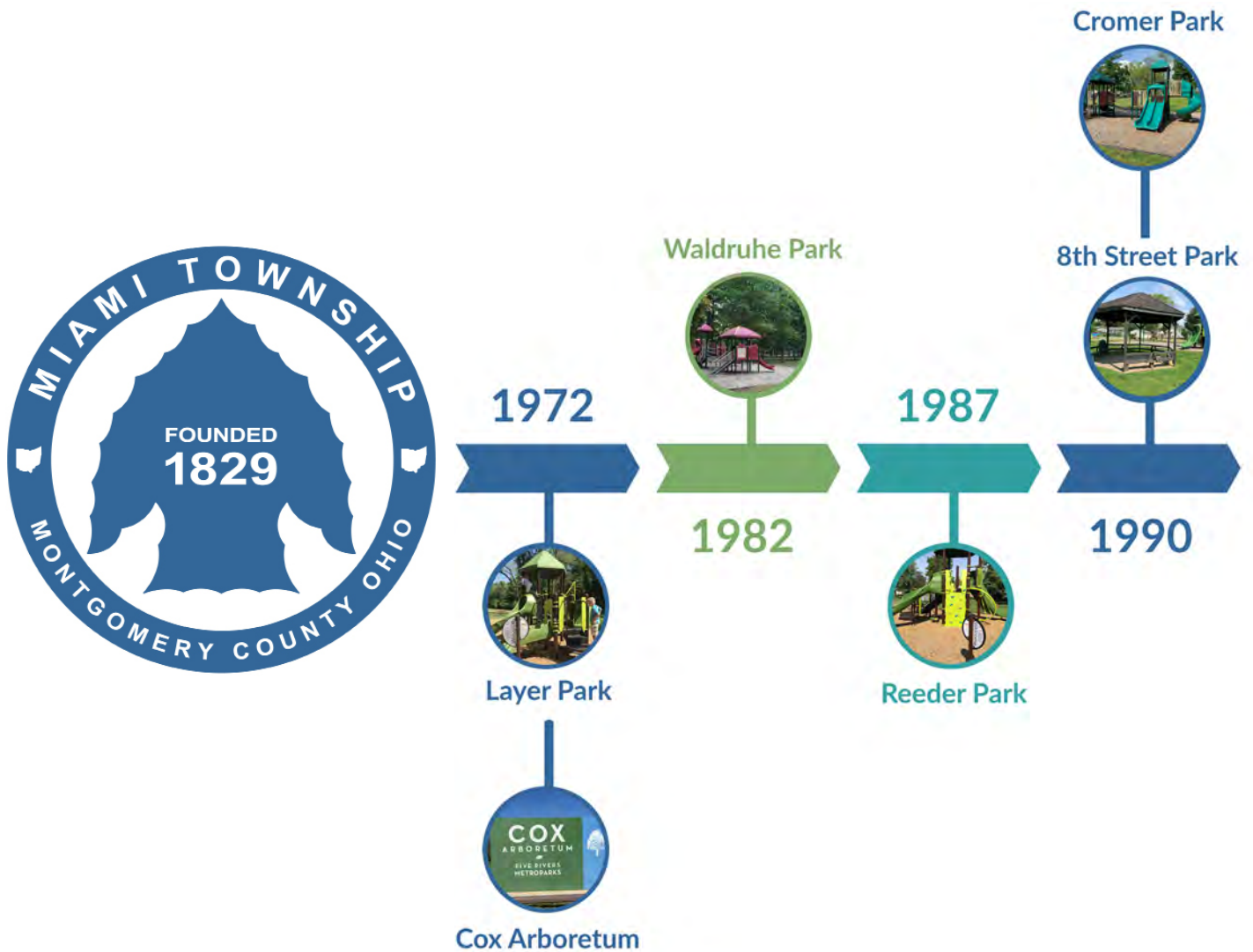
# **PARKS & TRAILS PLAN**



# CHAPTER 1: OUR COMMUNITY

# HISTORY

In recognition of the need for open green space and recreation to foster a healthy and thriving community, the Miami Township Parks Department was established in 1972. Over the years, Miami Township’s parks system has grown through several donations of open space meant to be used by the community new parks. Of the twelve public parks in Miami Township, nine are maintained by Miami Township, two by Five Rivers MetroParks, and one by Austin Landing. More information about each park can be found later in this plan. Below is a timeline of the history of Miami Township parks.



Miami Township maintains 140 acres of park land spread across the community. Each park serves a different purpose within the community and has its own set of needs. To best prepare for the future of our parks, and to best hear the thoughts of the community for which the parks exist, the Miami Township Parks & Trails Plan was initiated.



## WHY WE PLAN FOR PARKS

Miami Township is a unique community. No two communities are exactly the same, so no two community parks plan should be exactly the same. In an ideal world, all 30,848 residents would attend each park planning meeting to share their vision for the future of our parks system. The University of Dayton Arena seats 13,000 people, so we would need to host two and a half meetings there to get everyone's opinion!

Knowing that 100percent participation is impossible, the Community Development Department and Public Works Department have worked to draft the Parks & Trails Plan while inviting the public to participate along the way through several surveys and public planning workshops. Residents have provided vital feedback that has been taken carefully into consideration throughout the drafting of this plan.

Through previous community engagement efforts, Miami Township has shown overwhelming support for parks and trails planning. In the Kickoff Survey published as part of The Plan, Miami Township's 2022 Comprehensive Plan, when asked where the township should focus our planning efforts, the number one answer by a wide margin was 'Parks and Recreation Space'. When asked what land uses or infrastructure were needed in the township, 'Public Outdoor Recreation/Bike Paths', 'Public Green or Plaza Space', and 'Sidewalks' were supported overwhelmingly.

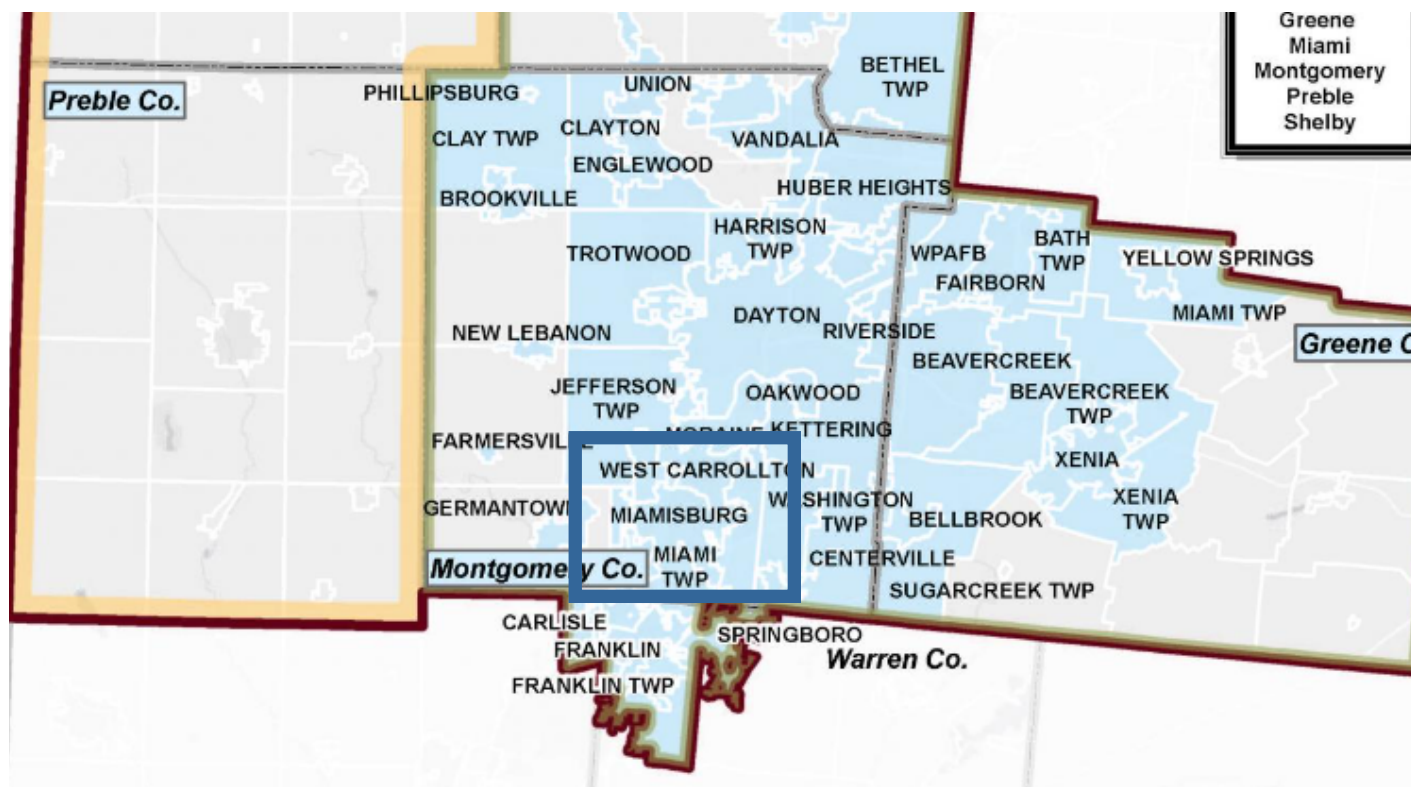
## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The following Community Description is intended to provide a snapshot of the geographic and socioeconomic condition of Miami Township. The data in this section provides insight to establish a common understanding of what our community needs and wants.

### OUR PLACE IN THE REGION

Miami Township is located in the southern most portion of Montgomery County, and shares jurisdictional borders with 12 other communities; Miamisburg, Moraine, West Carrollton, Jefferson Township, German Township, Carlisle, Franklin Township, Springboro, Clearcreek Township, Washington Township, Centerville, and Kettering.

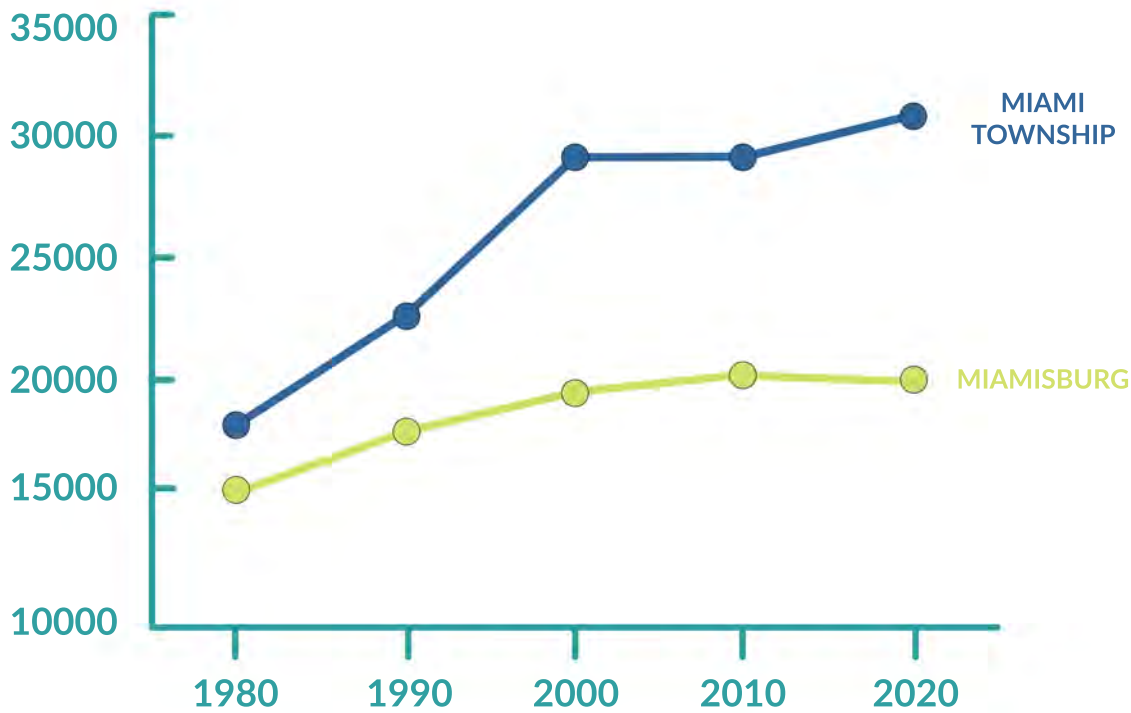
Miami Township is a member of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, the metropolitan planning organization covering seven counties encompassing the Dayton metropolitan area.



### POPULATION

Miami Township’s population has nearly doubled since the parks department was first established in 1972. With this growth, the need for additional open space has grown. The dual nature of Miami Township’s growth pattern, an agricultural west side and an urban/suburban east side, led to the majority of township residents living in clusters within the eastern half of the Township land area.

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Miami Township	18,076	22,610	25,706	29,131	30,828
	-	+25.0%	+13.7%	+13.3%	+5.8%
Miamisburg	15,304	17,834	19,489	20,181	19,923
	-	+16.5%	+9.3%	+3.6%	-1.3%
Montgomery County	571,674	573,809	559,062	535,153	537,309
	-	+0.4%	-2.6%	-4.3%	+0.4%



Understanding the composition of our community is vital to successfully planning for the future of our parks, particularly the age distribution in the township. Our local census data confirms the national trend that our population is aging. The retirement age cohort grew at a much faster rate than any other. Miami Township parks must address the needs of an aging population while also positioning ourselves to attract a younger population.

## MEDIAN AGE

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Miami Township	31.4	32.9	34.7	37.1	37.8
Miamisburg	30.3	33.3	36.4	39.2	40.1

At a rate slightly behind our population growth, Miami Township has experienced a growth in housing stock. The majority of this growth comes from an increase in multi-family housing options on the east side of the community.

The increase in population at a greater rate than housing growth can also be attributed to the stark drop in housing vacancy rates. Beyond the many direct and indirect economic benefits of low vacancy rates in a community, it also means that people want to live here.

## HOUSING OPTIONS

	Miami Township		Montgomery County
Total Units	13,671	-	-
0 Bedrooms	214	1.6%	1%
1 Bedroom	1,625	11.9%	11%
2 Bedrooms	3,723	27.2%	28%
3 Bedrooms	6,189	45.3%	43%
4 Bedrooms	1,675	12.3%	15%
5+ Bedrooms	245	1.8%	2%

## HOUSING OCCUPANCY

	Total Units	Units Occupied	Percent Occupied
Miami Township	13,671	12,400	90.7%
Miamisburg	8,705	8,028	92.2%

## OUR NEIGHBORS AND PARTNERS

Miami Township is surrounded by other parks and trails agencies that offer a variety of activities. As public parks are not closed off to people from outside of jurisdictional boundaries, township residents may use our neighboring systems as their main park space. Communication and cooperation of neighboring parks and agencies help create better space for everyone. All bordering communities have their own network of parks that are open to Miami Township residents, which is why it is important to select features for our parks that are not repeated in close parks. New park facilities should benefit the area as a whole.

### FIVE RIVERS METROPARK

Five Rivers MetroParks is a regional park agency that consists of a variety of outdoor recreation and environmental education. Five Rivers offers different events and activities around the Montgomery County area. They are a valuable source of outdoor recreation and education. They provide and maintain regional hiking, walking, and biking trails throughout the area. Two of Five Rivers parks, Cox Arboretum and Medlar Conservation Area, are located within Miami Township. These parks are located in the township, but are completely controlled and maintained by Five Rivers MetroParks as an independent entity. Medlar Conservation Area is bisected by the paved trail named the Great-Little Miami. Five Rivers MetroParks has recently completed the Cox Arboretum and Medlar Conservation Area Master Park Plan that identifies all updates and major recommendations for both parks.

### CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON PARK DISTRICT

The Centerville - Washington Park District maintains 1,000 acres of park land. The park district represents both Washington Township and Centerville. They provide the community with ample playgrounds and different types of nature trails. The community parks in the park district offer youth and adult group recreation such as athletic groups, camps, and other special events. One goal of the Washington - Centerville Park District was to make sure all 33 neighborhoods within the community have direct access to greenspace.

## CITY OF MIAMISBURG

Due to the location of the city of Miamisburg being entirely contained within Miami Township's boundaries, often city parks are the best, closest option for park space for township residents. Miamisburg maintains 21 parks, a community center, a golf course, and recreational programming. Miamisburg parks and recreation is an asset to township residents, and should continue to inform what amenities and installations are added to township parks.

## MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The MVRPC created a Regional Active Transportation Plan that was adopted in 2022. The purpose was to create a network of safe and equitable walking, biking, and transit connections to better serve the Miami Valley region. Some of the key concepts implemented into the plan were to make all features available to all ages and abilities, provide quality of life benefits, and support healthy lifestyles. One goal of this Parks & Trails Plan is to incorporate and include some of the Prioritized Projects mentioned in the MVRPC Active Transportation Plan. The MVRPC AT Plan for Miami Township's Prioritized Project is the State Route 741 Bike and Pedestrian Facilities.

## MIAMI CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The MCD offers a wide scope of services to southwest Ohio, including flood protection planning, water resource management, and recreational infrastructure and programming. With the Great Miami River flowing through Miami Township, the River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict of MCD is a major asset to the community. The RCIS constructs and maintains paths, bridges, and trails around the region, including the 101-mile long Great Miami River Recreation Trail that connects directly to Crains Run Nature Park.



# **PARKS & TRAILS PLAN**



## **CHAPTER 2: INVENTORY**

# INVENTORY CONDITIONS

The Park Conditions Chart shows the operational condition of all existing parks network features and infrastructure. The chart shows only the parks that are currently owned by Miami Township. Cox Arboretum, Medlar Conservation Area, and Park at Austin Landing are all owned/maintained by separate entities, so Miami Township does not directly control park conditions.

The Park Conditions Chart is separated into Neighborhood and Community Parks, based on park service level. Each amenity that is listed corresponds to a color showing Good, Fair, and Poor condition. Anything listed in Good condition does not need immediate replacement and has been identified as in working order by the Public Works Department. Amenities rated as Fair are in working order but may require replacement or repair within three to five years. Amenities rated as Poor are features that will need immediate replacement or repair, within the next one to two years.

The Park Condition Chart is meant to show the quality of all park amenities. This helps the Township determine which parks are in need of the most attention. The chart is a visual way to show the disparity in features and amenities between neighborhood parks, and the condition of those features.

**Neighborhood Parks**      **Community Parks**      **Regional Parks**

8th Street      Cromer      Reeder      Omietanski      Zengel      Miami View      Layer      Crains Run      Waldruhe

**Signs**

Entrance Signs	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Good Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Good Condition
Kiosks/Wayfinding	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Structures**

Shelter	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Good Condition
Restrooms	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Portable Restroom	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition
Picnic Tables	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition
Grills	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition
Drinking Fountains	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition
Trash Receptacle	Poor Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Fair Condition
Benches	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition
Bike Racks	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable
Play Equipment	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Good Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Poor Condition

Not Applicable  
 Good Condition  
 Fair Condition  
 Poor Condition

**Recreation**

Baseball Diamond	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Basketball Court	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Tennis Court	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hiking Trail	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Good Condition	Good Condition
Fishing Pond	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Good Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Not Applicable
Off Street Parking	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Good Condition	Fair Condition	Fair Condition
Light Poles	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Poor Condition	Not Applicable	Fair Condition	Not Applicable

## 8TH STREET PARK

**Location:** 6051 8th Avenue

**Acres:** 0.89

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

### History

8th Street Park is the second smallest park in the township at right around 0.89 acres in the heart of the Chautauqua Community. This park was donated to Miami Township by the Miami Valley Chautauqua Association. The Chautauqua Community has only been a part of the township since 1987, with the park being donated in 1990. 8th Street Park is one of the township's latest integrated parks.

### Park Analysis

8th Street Park has no designated parking or parking lot. It is mostly used by local residents. The park features a small gazebo and one playground and swing set that was last updated in 2017.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

<i>Label</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1	Playground/Swing Set	Fair
2	Gazebo	Poor

## CROMER PARK

**Location:** 10200 Western Avenue

**Acres:** 0.63

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

### History

Cromer Park is the smallest of the township parks. The park is 0.63 acre and is located within the Chautauqua Community. Cromer Park was also donated to Miami Township by the Chautauqua Association in 1990.

### Park Analysis

Cromer Park is the smallest park in the township, but still has playground equipment, basketball, and a tennis court. There is no parking lot or easy access for cars, making this park popular for residents.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

<i>Label</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1	Playground/Swing Set	Poor
2	Tennis Court	Poor
3	Basketball Court	Poor

## CRAINS RUN NATURE PARK

**Location:** 10741 Dayton-Cincinnati Pike

**Acres:** 34.80

**Classification:** Regional Park

### History

This park came to be a part of Miami Township's park system on September 1, 1992, when the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners transferred ownership to the township. Before it was owned by the township, this park was taken care of by the city of Miamisburg.

### Park Analysis

Crains Run is known for the beautiful views of the Great Miami River, with the Great Miami Recreational Trail running through the park as it follows the banks of the river. About two-thirds of the park is heavily wooded with various walking and hiking trails winding throughout. There is open green space and benches placed alongside the walkways and playground area. There are two park shelters, one can seat up to 40 people, and the other comfortably seats 70. While this is one of the township's most visited parks, there is no electricity and no permanent restrooms. There are two parking lots located by each park entrance, totaling 50 parking spaces.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

Label	Feature	Condition
1	Signage	Poor
2	Parking Lot	Fair
3	Shelter	Poor
4	Portable Restroom	Fair
5	Bike Path	Good
6	Pond	Fair
7	Bike Racks	Poor
8	Trash Receptacles	Poor
9	Playground Area	Poor

## LAYER PARK

**Location:** 4999 Cordell Drive

**Acres:** 7

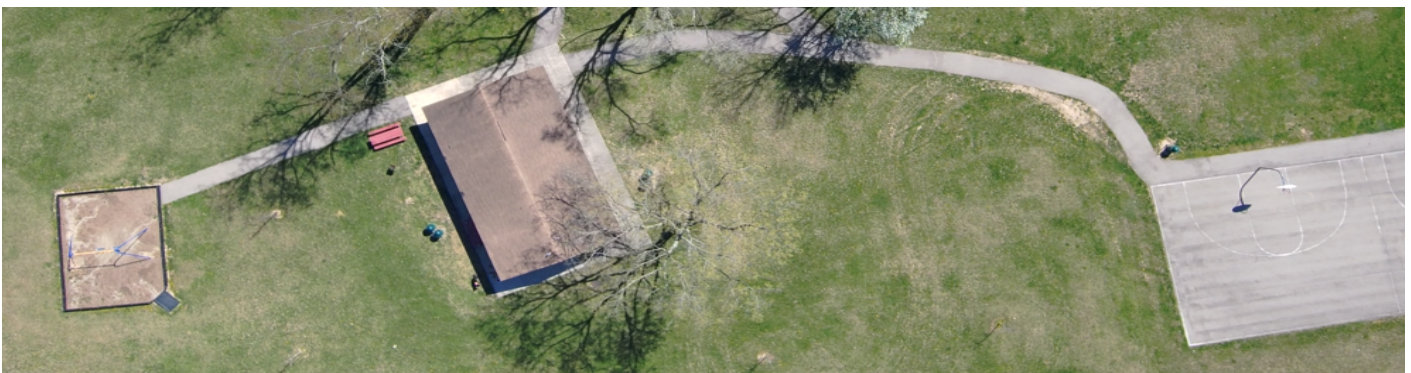
**Classification:** Community Park

### History

Layer Park was originally named Bush-Dell Park and later renamed Layer Park in 1998 in honor of Berman E. Layer, a long time trustee and original member of the Miami Township Park Board. This property was donated in 1956 by Robert Boswell, M.D. to the Miami Valley Hunt and Polo Club. It was later transferred to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners in 1972. One year later, the property was donated to Miami Township. The township had to build a road to reach the property since there was no formal entrance to the space.

### Park Analysis

This park is Miami Township's northern most park and is located in the Huber area. Layer Park serves as a community park and directly connects to hundreds of residents. Layer Park is situated on about 7 acres of both open space and wooded sections. This park has great shade in the summer produced by large trees throughout the area. There is a single shelter that can seat up to 56 people, along with permanent restrooms. In one corner, sits a baseball diamond and two half basketball courts. Playground equipment is situated by the shelter that includes a swing set, sand box, and play structure. There are 15 parking spaces available at Layer Park.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

Label	Feature	Condition
1	Playground/Swing set Area	Fair
2	Shelter	Fair
3	Basketball Court	Poor
4	Baseball Diamond	Poor
5	Parking Lot	Good
6	Trash Receptacles	Fair
7	Grills	Poor
8	Signage	Good
9	ADA Path	Poor

## MIAMI VIEW PARK

**Location:** 5911 Munger Road

**Acres:** 33.4

**Classification:** Community Park

### History

Miami View Park is located on top of the hill at Munger Road, which gives this location a fantastic view of the greater Dayton area. This piece of land used to be owned by the West Carrollton School District before it was donated to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners on June 20, 1972. The Board of Commissioners cared for the land for several years before giving Miami Township the park on a limited warranty lease. The warranty of this lease is that the township uses this property only for a public park or green space.

### Park Analysis

Miami View Park sits at just over 34 acres. The entrance sign sits on Munger Road just at the top of the hill, with the driveway leading to 49 parking spots. The park has a fully stocked pond close to the parking lot turn around area. The bathroom shelter is next to playground equipment and swing sets. Miami View has many picnic tables and benches throughout the area along with two grills. There are two baseball diamonds with a set of bleachers on opposite ends of the park. There is also a shelter for various activities located next to the play equipment.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

Label	Feature	Condition
1	Playground/Swing set Area	Poor
2	Parking Lot	Fair
3	Pond	Poor
4	Shelter	Fair
5	Baseball Diamond	Poor
6	Signage	Poor
7	Trash Receptacles	Fair
8	Grills	Poor

## OMIETANSKI PARK

**Location:** 9797 Nettleton Park

**Acres:** 3.29

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

### History

Omietanski Park was dedicated on April 11, 2005, in honor of Shirley Omietanski, who was a long time member of the Board of Trustees. An Ohio Natural Resources Grant of \$141,000 aided the purchase of the park in 2003. This neighborhood park is 3.29 acres and is located in the heart of the Villages of Miami subdivision.

### Park Analysis

The park features newly constructed play equipment, a small shelter, and parking lot for minimal vehicles. A large portion of the park is open space with trees giving the park a good amount of shade.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

<i>Label</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1	Playground/Swing Set	Poor
2	Picnic Tables	Fair
3	Off Street Parking	Fair
4	Shelter	Fair
5	Trash Receptacles	Fair
6	Park Sign	Poor

## REEDER PARK

**Location:** 9979 Lincolnshire Road

**Acres:** 1.36

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

### History

This piece of land was originally rented out for sharecropping from the early 1950's until 1972. It was then sold twice and ended up being purchased by a housing construction company. This section of land was set aside when lot planning for the surrounding homes occurred. The company then donated this empty lot to the Miami Township Board of Trustees. The board named it Reeder Park and it became an official township park.

### Park Analysis

Reeder is a 1.3-acre neighborhood park. There is no designated parking for this area and limited signage. This park is perfect for hosting a small number of users. There are 2 picnic tables located next to newly renovated playground equipment with a swing set and slide.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

<i>Label</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1	Playground/Swing Set	Good
2	Picnic Tables	Fair
3	Benches	Fair
4	Memorial Rock	Good

## WALDRUHE PARK

**Location:** 10000 Springboro Pike

**Acres:** 53.1

**Classification:** Community Park

### History

The original owner of this 53-acre property, Adam Schantz, gave the property the German name 'Waldruhe' which translates to 'Forest Rest' in English. Schantz was a successful businessman in the Dayton area in the 1850s to early 1900s. In 1917, Schantz gifted Waldruhe Park to the city of Dayton. In the late 1970's, the city of Dayton had planned to sell a large number of trees in the park for lumber. Following a lawsuit by the Schantz family and much public outcry, the decision was made that trees cannot be cut down and removed, keeping the park as a heavily wooded area. Waldruhe Park is the property of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. Miami Township can rent the property in 60-year increments. The original lease started on July 1, 1982, and will be renewed on July 1, 2042, at the rate of \$1 as long as the township maintains the park.

### Park Analysis

This heavily wooded lot offers a peaceful place for visitors to enjoy century old White Oak trees and a variety of wildflowers and bird species. The park has 2 open-air picnic shelters made of oak and cedarwood to blend in with the natural surroundings. Each shelter can seat over 70 guests comfortably.



# Current Park



# Feature Conditions

Label	Feature	Condition
1	Shelters	Fair
2	Playground/Swing set Area	Poor
3	Bike Path	Good
4	Grills	Poor
5	Portable Restrooms	Fair
6	Nature Walking Path	Good
7	Parking Lots	Fair
8	Trash Receptacles	Fair
9	Signage	Good

## ZENGEL PARK

**Location:** 2176 Vienna Parkway

**Acres:** 5.27

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

### History

Zengel Park was originally farmland before it was transferred to Zengel Construction Company. The surrounding land was soon all used for new home construction, except the empty park space. The 5.3-acre space was donated by the Zengel Construction Company on March 31, 2000. The donation conditions stated the lot must be maintained as a park, no electricity or lights are to be installed on the property, and limited scheduled athletic activities. Zengel Park is the perfect open space for dog lovers and children's games.

### Park Analysis

Zengel Park is just a little over 5 acres with most of the space being open green space. There are several picnic tables placed on one side of the park close to playground equipment that are shaded by some of the surrounding mature trees. Zengel Park has a newly constructed entrance sign and sidewalk that borders half of the open space, making it a perfect park to walk to.



# Current Park



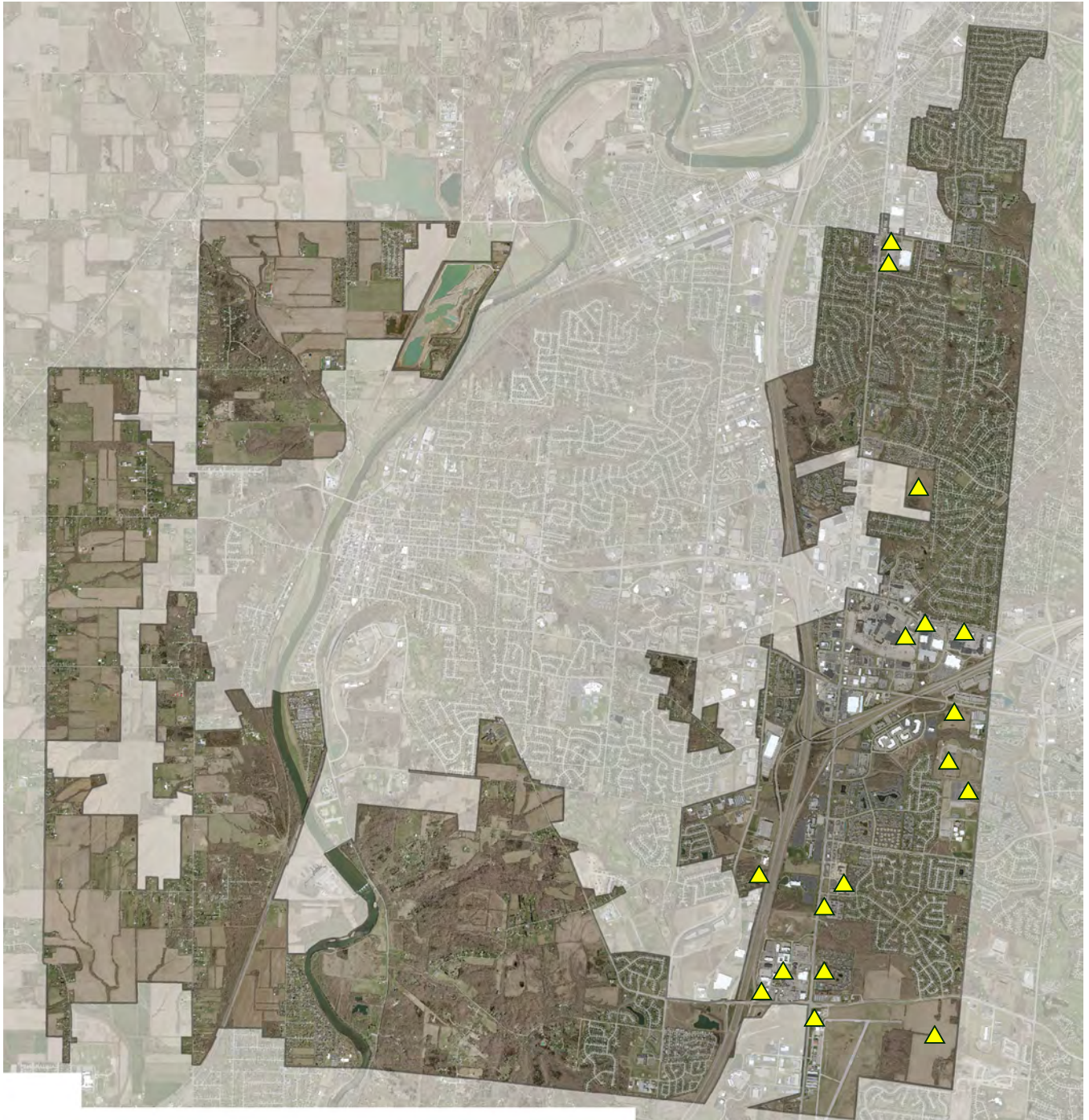
# Feature Conditions

<i>Label</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>
1	Playground/Swing Set	Poor
2	Signage	Good
3	Grill	Poor
4	Picnic Table	Fair

### PRIVATE PARKS

Private Parks are located throughout the township. These parks may not be generally used by the public; however, they do serve a purpose for the various needs of the development. The schools within Miami Township such as Dayton Christian School and Jane Chance Elementary both have playgrounds and various sports fields that are regularly used by students throughout the day. Many of the churches in the township have outdoor play spaces for the children of members. SouthBrook Christian Church has a basketball and volleyball court, along with toddler play equipment that are used for after-school activities and other partnerships with community schools. Apartment complexes within the township usually have some sort of play equipment available for residents to visit. These smaller parks are important for the surrounding residents because they are walkable and close to home. Some examples of these are Hunters Chase Apartments, who have two tennis courts, Hidden Lakes Apartments with a multi-use court and playground, and Spring Hill Apartments with open greenspace and a playground.

## PRIVATE PARKS IN MIAMI TOWNSHIP



# ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Recreational pathways are not only a great recreation asset to a region, they can also be vital to the development of the community. According to both Parks & Trails Plan Surveys, the addition of bike and walking paths was one of the top amenities desired by the community. The following information explains the different types of pedestrian pathways available in the Township, explores gaps in the travel possibilities for pedestrians, and investigates barriers that may stop community members from accessing pedestrian pathways. Miami Township has three main connectivity definitions:

**Sidewalk** - Paved paths usually 5 feet wide, located at the side of the roads. Sidewalks are mainly located in the right-of-way and used for pedestrian travel. Sidewalks are meant to handle a smaller amount of travel at one time and are usually used for shorter travel distances.

**Bike Lane** - These lanes are located on the street or road and are marked as designated lanes only for bicycles. Bike lanes are typically 5 feet wide and are used when separate bike paths are unavailable. Bike lanes are intended for one way travel, and flow with the direction of traffic.

**Bike Path (Multi-Use Path)** - This type of path is the widest of all connectivity options, at a typical 8-12 feet wide. Multi-Use Paths are meant for all pedestrian modes of transportation and are intended to support high traffic. This recreational pathway option is intended to serve occupants for long periods of uninterrupted travel.

The following pages describe the various existing trails and pathways in Miami Township.

# MIAMI TOWNSHIP TRAILS AND PATHWAYS



Existing Trails and Pathways



Park Areas

### THE GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL

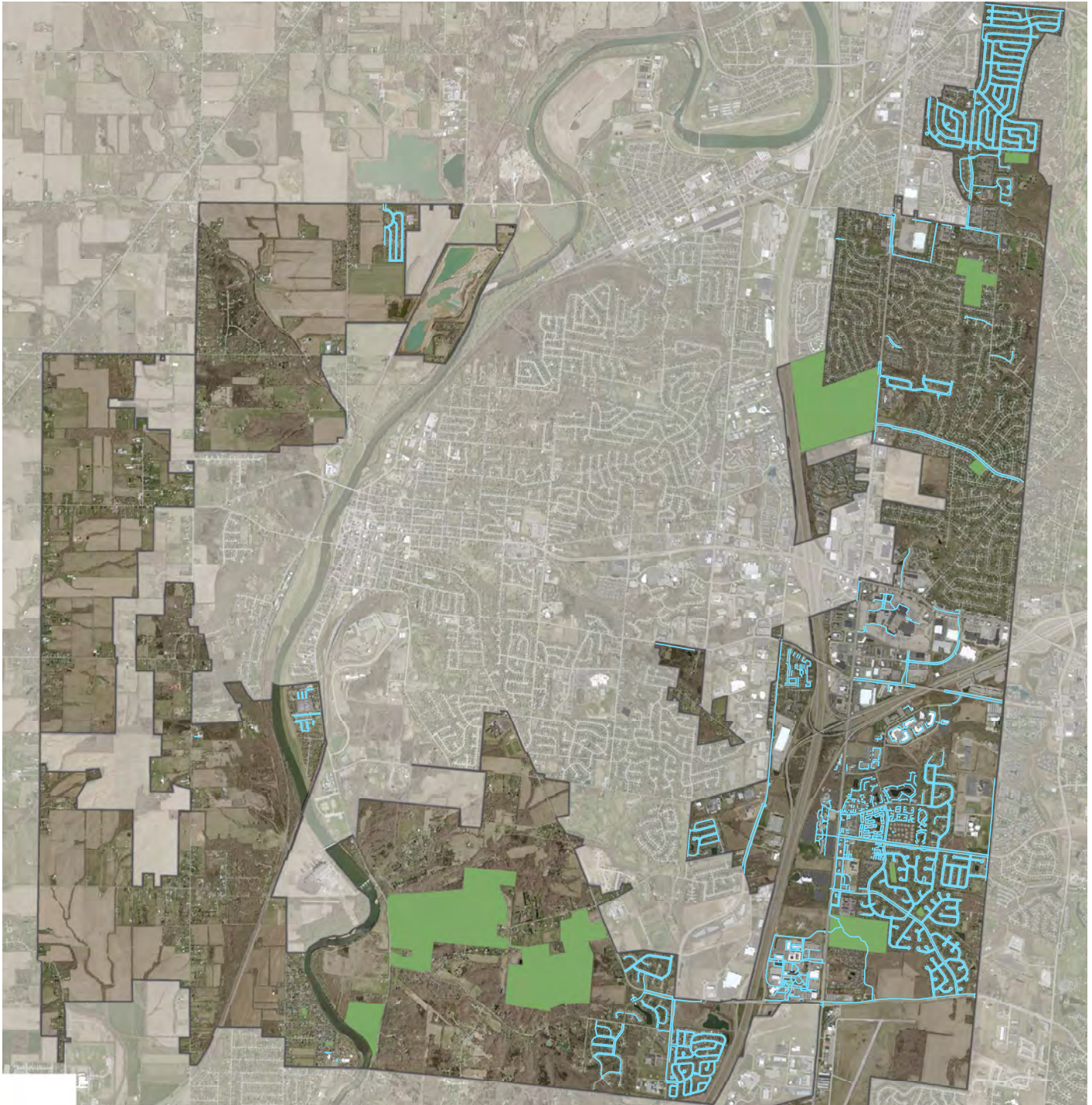
The Great Miami River Trail runs 93 miles through Warren, Montgomery, Shelby, Miami, and Butler counties. The trail hugs the Great Miami River almost the entire route and runs through 12 different jurisdictions. The trail starts in Middletown and ends in Piqua, with additional line segments connecting Sidney and Hamilton-Fairfield. This widely used trail is both paved and multi-use, meaning it is wider than the traditional bike path. The route winds through historic downtowns, past multiple picnic facilities, and between gently rolling terrain. The Great Miami Trail is perfect for running, skating, cycling, and all other forms of pedestrian friendly transportation. Miami Township is fortunate to have the Great Miami River Trail connect to our parks network.

The Great Miami River Trail started as an idea from Horace Huffman. Huffman was the co-founder and first president of the Dayton Cycling Club in 1961 and later formed the Miami Valley Regional Bicycle Council, which drafted the first regional bike route plan. This plan was later adopted by the regional planning commission in 1973. An important part of the plan was the route along the Great Miami River since the river was a key part of Dayton history and its landscape. The first 8-mile section of the path was built in 1976 and has been growing ever since.

### GREAT-LITTLE TRAIL

Miami Township has a bike path that connects to the Great Miami River Trail and runs through Medlar Conservation Area, Austin Landing, Waldruhe Park and up to Lyons Road, called the Great-Little Trail. The Great-Little Trail connects Crains Run Park all the way to Washington Township. This 2.5-mile path consists of both a paved pathway and a shared bike lane. The shared bike lane is located through the Newmark Business Park. This area sees moderate to low traffic. Miami Township hopes to see this portion of the Great-Little Trail become a fully paved bike path.

# MIAMI TOWNSHIP SIDEWALKS



Existing Sidewalks



Park Areas

### MIAMI TOWNSHIP SIDEWALKS

Miami Township has sidewalks in a few regions across the community. The Huber community at the northernmost point of the township is one place where almost every street is accompanied by a sidewalk. The Singing Hills and Vienna Parkway area is where sidewalk access starts to become limited. The Villages of Miami also have access to sidewalks from Austin Boulevard to Spring Valley Road and Newmark Drive. The Crains Run neighborhood has sidewalks, however those sidewalks do not connect to the rest of the township. The west portion of the township, typically zoned Agricultural, does not have access to any sidewalk.

While most neighborhoods have access to sidewalks, there are important missing sections that make pedestrian travel along State Routes 741 and 725 dangerous. All future residential developments in Miami Township must agree to take the necessary steps to create connectivity to the rest of the township, whether that be through additional sidewalks or multi-use paths. Presently, about 33 percent of Township parks have adequate footpath connectivity to surrounding residential communities, meaning that at least one existing off-street pedestrian pathway connects directly to

## MISSING CONNECTIONS

The following areas are missing key connectivity infrastructure, creating barriers to access for pedestrian travelers to the Miami Township parks network. A greater focus will be placed on improving connectivity in these areas by adding new pedestrian pathways.

### MIAMI VIEW PARK AREA

Currently, no existing sidewalks or other pedestrian pathways connect to Miami View Park. The Trails Plan map shows the need for a multi-use pathway along SR-741 which would encourage pedestrian traffic between the Meijer development area and residents to the south. Once this multi-use pathway is installed, an excellent opportunity will exist to connect residents with Miami View Park, located to the east. A survey of nearby residents should be conducted to determine the desire to bring a sidewalk pathway from SR-741 to Miami View Park. If such a sidewalk is desired, a study should be conducted to determine a sidewalk route through the marked area which best connects the park with pedestrians traveling along SR-741. Adding a sidewalk to an established residential neighborhood can present a significant challenge. The study should also address how to garner support from affected residents and how to disturb existing front yards as little as possible.

### DAYTON MALL AREA

The Dayton Mall campus and adjacent businesses have numerous existing and proposed multi-use paths and sidewalks that converge on this area. Additionally, this area is a hot spot for visitors from within and outside of the Township. A focused, specialized plan for connecting the various trails which intersect the Dayton Mall area should be developed by the Community Development Department. This plan would outline baseline requirements for pedestrian infrastructure for any future development of the Dayton Mall campus.

### DAYTON MALL AREA (CONTINUED)

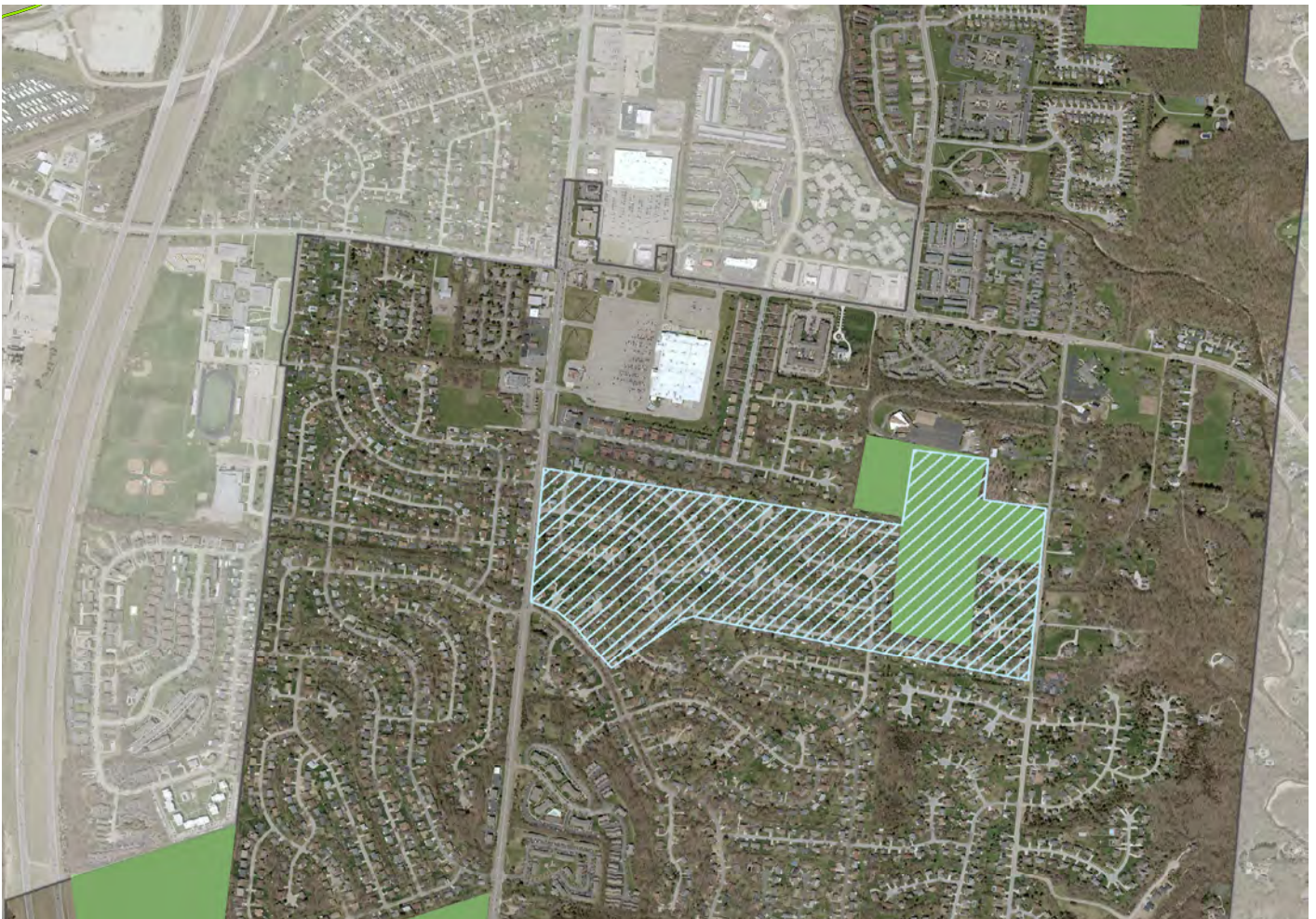
From the north, sidewalks along SR-741 are located in the city of Miamisburg. The Township also has sidewalk infrastructure located along SR-725, and the Trails Plan map shows that additional sidewalks along SR-725 are needed to improve walkability. However, only one of these pedestrian pathways crosses SR-725 (at the intersection of SR-741 and SR-725) meaning any pedestrians to the east would need to walk all the way to this intersection to cross SR-725 and visit the mall area. A study should be conducted with the Ohio Department of Transportation to determine if pedestrian crossings along SR-725 are a feasible improvement.

From the south, sidewalks along Lyons Road are the closest existing pedestrian pathways allowing access to the mall area. The Trails Plan map shows needed multi-use pathways along Kingsridge Drive, which connects to SR-741 and would continue south to eventually connect to the existing bike path near the LexisNexis campus. The proposed Kingsridge Drive bike path would also connect to the bike path located along Lyons Road to the west.

This area represents a significant challenge for pedestrian and other non-automobile traffic. Due to the proximity of the I-75 interchange, the area prioritizes automobile travel. Along with the pedestrian crosswalk feasibility study along SR-725, a study should be conducted to determine what, if any, traffic calming measures could help improve pedestrian safety in and around the Dayton Mall campus area.

## STATE ROUTE 741

State Route 741 contains several major gaps within the trail system, leading to interruptions in pedestrian mobility. As seen on the Trail Connectivity Map, the township has limited pedestrian pathways on SR-741 for the majority of its length. SR-741 is one of the most-traveled roads in the Township, servicing a major portion of all planned developments along with other commercial centers such as Austin Landing, The Exchange at Spring Valley, Dayton Mall, and a Meijer grocery location. The lack of pedestrian pathways creates a major gap in the ability of pedestrians to travel safely along SR-741. This can lead to inequalities for Township residents that do not have access to vehicular transportation. Recreational uses of the SR-741 corridor are also limited by the lack of connecting bike paths, meaning riders would need to either dismount or merge with traffic to travel along this important roadway.



### BARRIERS TO ACCESSIBILITY

Addressing immediate needs for updating park amenities and facilities is the first step to complete accessibility. Repairing and replacing broken or worn-down play equipment and the addition of utilities and amenities are needed, as expressed by the public through both Park Surveys. Park amenities differ from park to park. Based on the Park Conditions Chart, neighborhood parks lack infrastructure that is more common in community parks, such as benches, walking paths, paved parking lots, bike racks, and drinking fountains. Without access to these amenities, people could be hesitant about using smaller parks.

Based on the township's steadily growing community, the park network must be able to handle people of all ages. Stroller and wheelchair accessibility must be developed and maintained in all township parks. Accessibility paths need to be added to each park, regardless of size, to accommodate both a growing and aging population. One must be able to travel to all park amenities without coming across preventable barriers. Play equipment for all ages should be oriented near paths for easy access. Service for accessibility paths must be maintained so not to become uneven, preventing necessary access.

Along with having adequate park features inside the park, it is necessary for there to be connections from surrounding areas to each park. This includes sidewalk or pathway connections from neighboring communities that make access to the parks obtainable without the use of a motorized vehicle. Promoting pedestrian travel by having safe pathways to parks will make traveling park by park possible, creating a more walkable community.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, "...under federal regulations, when parks and recreation facilities are built or altered, they must comply with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards), which require inclusion of features such as accessible parking spaces, routes, toilet facilities, public telephones, and spectator seating areas."

## THE “10-MINUTE WALK” ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD

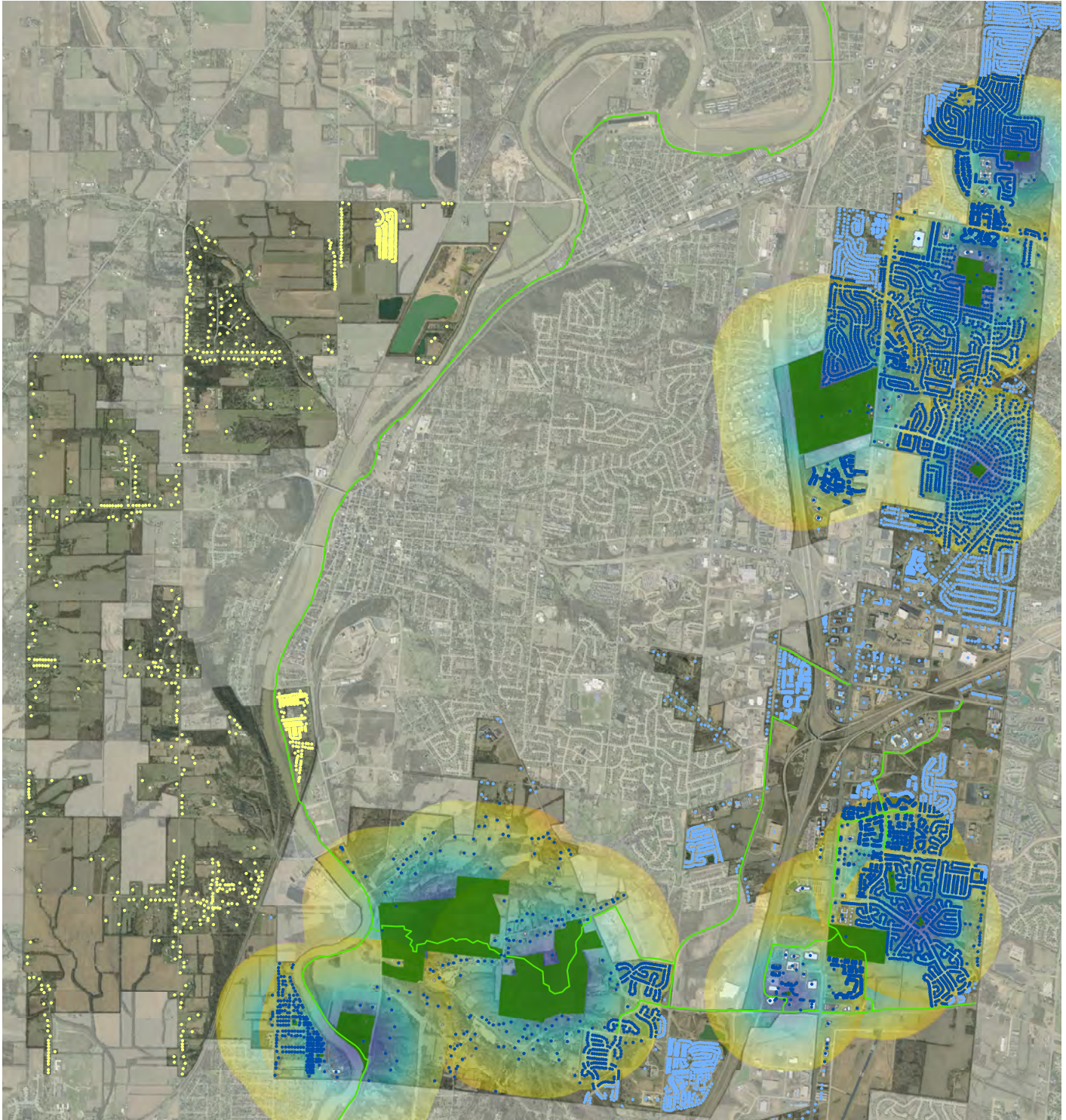
According to the Trust for Public Land, a national advisory organization for local park systems, parks located within a 10-minute walk from residents provide maximum benefits to those residents. People are more likely to use parks if they are easily accessible via pedestrian travel, such as walking or biking. When parks are accessible to pedestrians, more people enjoy the health benefits of spending time outdoors and being physically active. Some residents, like children or senior citizens, may not be able to access parks unless they can walk and/or bike there. When parks are close enough to walk to, barriers to access are reduced. Local parks offer a natural community gathering space for residents, which fosters social interaction and strengthens community bonds. Apart from individual health and community-wide social benefits, accessible parks impact the local economy. A comprehensive review of studies on the economic impact of local parks suggests that a community’s network of parks positively affects property values. Additionally, access to parks increases the attractiveness of the community to potential workforce and makes it easier for businesses to attract and retain employees.

The 10-Minute Walk Accessibility Map illustrates which residents of Miami Township are located close enough to a park to walk there in 10 minutes or less. Because ability and mobility vary by individual, the term “10-minute” walk is subjective. Analysis of previous studies suggests that to accommodate a range of physical abilities, one can assume that most people can travel at least 0.5 miles in 10 minutes on foot. The circles around each park on the map illustrate a distance of 0.5 miles. Any Township households located within this “10-minute walk radius”, shown in dark blue on the map, are considered to have adequate access to at least one park in the network. Households shown in light blue are not within a 10-minute walk to a local park and are considered to have inadequate access to the parks network. Some households are shown in yellow. These households represent residents in the more rural and agricultural areas of Miami Township. These areas have much lower population density, and often lack pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks and bike paths. The households shown in yellow are not included in the following analysis of overall park accessibility because of these factors.

### THE “10-MINUTE WALK” ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD (CONTINUED)

In total, 15,214 residential households are represented on the map. Of these, 1,048 or just under 7 percent of households are considered to be in rural/agricultural areas and as such are excluded from this analysis of accessible park locations. Of the remaining 14,166 households, 8,934 or 63 percent are located within a 10-minute walk to a park in the network. This means that 37 percent, or 5,232 households would not be considered to have adequate access to a local park. One of the Objectives of this plan is to increase access to parks so that at least 75 percent of Township households in suburban and urban areas are located within a 10-minute walk to their local park. Several recommendations within this Parks & Trails Plan serve to increase residents' access to the parks network. This includes bridging gaps in the pedestrian infrastructure in Miami Township by adding new sidewalks and walking paths. Such improvements will make it easier for residents to visit parks even when they do not live within a 10-minute walk to a park. However, the only feasible way to increase the percentage of households within a 10-minute walk to a local park is to acquire new park land near neighborhoods which do not currently have adequate park access. This plan does include supporting strategies to accomplish this, including supplementing the Parks budget with grant funding and private investment or partnering with nonprofit and volunteer organizations.

## "10-MINUTE WALK" ACCESSIBILITY MAP



■ Homes within 10-minute walk

■ Homes outside 10-minute walk

■ Homes excluded

● 0.5-Mile Radius

### ROLE OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IN PARKS SYSTEM

Miami Township is a large community with great schools, expansive parks systems, and vibrant residential neighborhoods. It is also a regional retail hub with shopping centers, health care providers, and industrial areas. The Township's population and commercial areas developed rapidly at the same time as national trends toward more suburban residential developments and auto-oriented strip malls. These development patterns often did not include sidewalks or bicycle infrastructure in many parts of the Township, making low-cost healthier options like walking and bicycling difficult and dangerous. Today we are seeing the needs and wants of the community changing to desire places that are walkable and spaces where people can live, shop, and socialize without relying on personal automobiles.

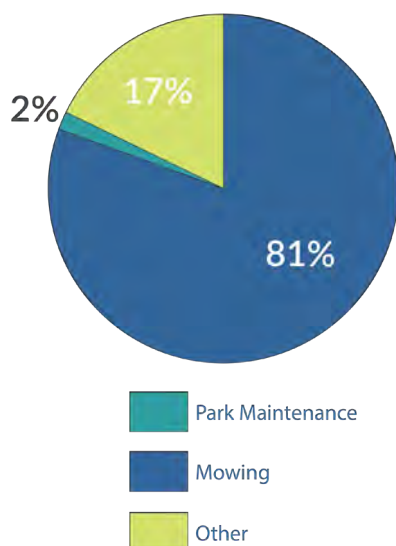
Creating an Active Transportation Plan is an important initial step in creating a connected pedestrian and bicycle network. While often thought of as a recreational amenity, bicycle and pedestrian connections are also a critical part of the transportation network providing an alternative to getting to work, school, or commercial centers. An Active Transportation Plan will inventory existing conditions, recommend, and prioritize projects, and create an implementation strategy. Having a plan allows the township to strategically identify projects and pursue funding to create connected bicycle and pedestrian networks that are safe, functional, and convenient for all residents and visitors.

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) serves as the Dayton region's Municipal Planning Organization (MPO). MVRPC has completed a Regional Active Transportation Plan that will inform Miami Township's efforts to develop a full-fledged Active Transportation Plan to address the mounting challenges of meeting the mobility needs of all residents.

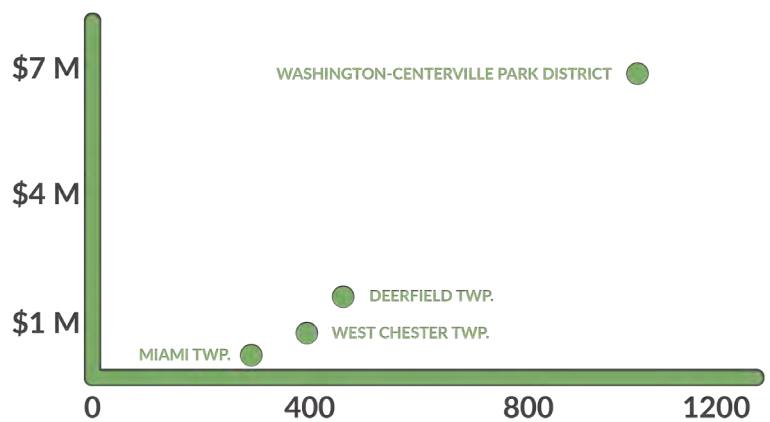
## STAFFING & OPERATIONS

The Miami Township Parks Department oversees the construction, maintenance, and other operations of the parks network in Miami Township. Currently, the Parks Department is staffed by one Parks Supervisor (full-time), two full-time Parks Maintenance Technicians, and two seasonal Parks Maintenance Technicians. In total, 8,280 hours of staff time were devoted to the maintenance and operation of the parks network in 2022. The total cost to the Township, in associated salaries, for all parks maintenance and operations in 2022 was \$172,700. The total budget for the Parks Department in 2022 was \$368,637. Of that amount, only \$243,637 was generated from the Township general fund balance. \$110,000 of the total budget for parks in 2022 was generated from a time-limited development agreement with Fed-Ex to support local parks. Another \$15,000 was generated in 2022 from the sale of used vehicles or machinery. In total, Miami Township Public Works is responsible for maintaining 296 acres of land. Of that, 140 acres is land within the parks network. In 2023 alone, 2,489 out of 8,280 staff hours (or about 30 percent of all staff hours) were spent mowing land within the parks network.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF HOURS EXPENDED**



**ACRES MANAGED VS. DOLLARS BUDGETED**



# NATIONAL RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION BENCHMARKS

The National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) is an organization which gathers data from parks programs across America and compiles best-practice recommendations. In NRPA’s 2022 Agency Performance Review, several key benchmarks for park operational efficiency and effectiveness are presented. The following graphic compares Miami Township parks program data to national median data developed by NRPA.

## FTE EMPLOYEES PER 10,000 RESIDENTS .....

Miami Township employs far fewer Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) workers to manage the parks network than the national median figure. Increasing this benchmark will support the additional park infrastructure suggested by this plan.



## ..... OPERATING EXPENSES PER CAPITA



This figure represents how much money is spent on the parks network for each individual resident. Miami Township spends far fewer dollars per resident each year than the national median.

## RESIDENTS PER PARK .....

This figure represents how “crowded” our parks network is. As this number rises, it means that more people on average will use an individual park. Miami Township has slightly more residents per park than the national median.



## PARKS DEPARTMENT BUDGETARY ANALYSIS

Miami Township spends a higher percentage of its total Parks budget on staff salaries than similar communities. When comparing the total Parks Department budget to the portion devoted to salaries, just under 47 percent of the total budget for the parks network goes to paying for staff working hours. In Deerfield Township, just under 29 percent of the total Parks budget is devoted to salaries. West Chester Township spends just under 42 percent of its total Parks budget on personnel costs. Washington-Centerville Parks District spends 34 percent of its budget on staff salaries. Across the communities compared, the percentage of budget spent on salaries falls as programming, maintenance, and capital expenditures rise. Miami Township spends far less per acre of land maintained by the Parks Department than other similar municipalities. To draw this comparison, a ratio of total dollars allocated to the Parks Department budget divided by the total area (in acres) of land managed by Public Works was created. In 2024, Miami Township Public Works will maintain 296 total acres of land, with a projected Parks Department budget of \$405,088. This means that about \$1,351 of Parks funding are spent per acre of land maintained. Three communities were selected for a comparative analysis, each with parks networks that are high-quality and well-attended. These communities are West Chester Township, Deerfield Township, and the Washington-Centerville Parks District. West Chester Township spends about \$2,240 per acre of land maintained, Deerfield Township spends about \$3,913 per acre of land maintained, Centerville-Washington Park District spends about \$6,950 per acre of land maintained.

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Operating the Miami Township parks network requires reliable sources of funding and other resources. Besides the funds allocated to the Parks Department from the Township general fund, the Township has access to multiple funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels. The funding sources described below represent existing opportunities to amplify Township spending on parks, with grant amounts matching and often exceeding Township spending on associated projects. Many of these sources of funds are utilized by adjacent municipalities for park operating expenses and infrastructure improvements.

## TOWNSHIP-CONTROLLED SOURCES

These funding sources are controlled directly by Miami Township. By activating one or more of these revenue streams, the Township can directly increase available resources for the parks network.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF Funds):** The concept behind the increment financing is that taxes in a designated area are frozen and the redevelopment that occurs in the economic development area will increase the assessed valuation of the property and generate new property tax revenues. The increase can be used on an annual basis to retire revenue bonds issued to finance public infrastructure costs for projects which benefit the TIF area.

**Wi-Fi Revenue:** The Township can set up a Wi-Fi area whereby a Wi-Fi vendor is able to sell the advertising on the Wi-Fi access banner to local businesses targeting the users of the site.

**Advertising Revenue:** Advertising revenue can come from the sale of ads on banners, skate park, nature center, sport leagues, winter sports area, ice skating, spray ground and golf for green fees, carts, leagues, and lessons (these are example parks and recreation services agencies have assessed fees for in the past).

**Special Fundraiser:** Many agencies hold special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects to be dedicated to a facility or Township as a whole.

**User fees:** User fees to access or use elements of parks could be introduced to include fees to access parks and recreation services such as education programs, a dog park, a skate park, nature center, sport leagues, winter sports area, ice skating, spray ground and golf for green fees, carts, leagues, and lessons (these are example parks and recreation services agencies have assessed fees for in the past).

## STATE & FEDERALLY CONTROLLED SOURCES

These funding sources are controlled by state and federal agencies and congressional bodies, and often administered by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC). Miami Township can currently apply for many of these grant opportunities. These funding sources are not guaranteed, often being competitive and requiring planning years in advance.

**Transportation Alternatives Program (TA):** The TA Program provides funding for projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-and-off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities; environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and safe routes to school projects. TA funding from MVRPC can provide up to 80 percent of a project's costs in matching funds, so long as at least 20 percent of the project is funded by non-federal sources. About \$1.7 million is sub-allocated each year to MVRPC by ODOT for this program. Once the MVRPC Board of Directors makes a determination of funds availability, staff will solicit qualified member government entities for new TA projects. The solicitation cycle typically starts and ends in the fall of each year.

**Surface Transportation Program (STP):** The STP Program provides flexible funding that may be used by state and local governments for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. In the Miami Valley region, these funds are sub-allocated to MVRPC for project selection. In 2012, MVRPC introduced a Simple Resurfacing Program, which will be used for paving projects that have no right-of-way or environmental needs. The amount “set aside” for these resurfacing projects is determined on an annual basis. STP funding from MVRPC can provide up to 80 percent of a project’s costs in matching funds, so long as at least 20 percent of the project is funded by non-federal sources. About \$15 million is sub-allocated each year to MVRPC by ODOT for this program. Once the MVRPC Board of Directors makes a determination of funds availability, staff will solicit qualified member government entities for new STP projects. All project applications must be consistent with the Regional Complete Streets Policy.

**Carbon Reduction Program (CR):** The CR Program provides funding for projects that support a reduction in transportation emissions, defined as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from on-road sources. Types of projects for which Miami Township might utilize CR funds include transportation alternatives projects (construction, planning, and engineering) of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists and projects supporting the deployment of alternative fuel vehicles (EV, hydrogen, fueling infrastructure). ODOT sub-allocates about \$1.7 million in CR funds each year to MVRPC. Once the MVRPC Board of Directors makes a determination of funds availability, staff will solicit qualified member government entities for new CR projects. The solicitation cycle typically starts and ends in the fall of each year.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG):** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate-income areas.

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ):** The CMAQ program derives its funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The purpose is to provide a flexible funding source to state and local governments for transportation projects which help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Funding is available to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (non-attainment areas) and for former non-attainment areas that are now in compliance (maintenance areas). CMAQ funding is sub-allocated to the 8 largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in Ohio, one of which is MVRPC. CMAQ funding from MVRPC can provide up to 80 percent of a project's costs in matching funds, so long as at least 20 percent of the project is funded by non-federal sources. Historically, ODOT sub-allocates about \$8 million each year to MVRPC. The solicitation cycle normally starts and ends in the fall of each year. All project applications must be consistent with the Regional Complete Streets Policy. Upon approval by the MVRPC Board of Directors, staff will complete the statewide CMAQ application process that includes an allowance for regional priority. This priority is based on the ranking of projects as approved by the MVRPC Board of Directors. A final funded list from the Ohio Statewide Urban CMAQ Review Committee will typically be approved before the end of the following calendar year and staff will notify sponsors of the results.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants:** This federal funding source was established in 1965 to provide "close-to-home" park and recreation opportunities to residents throughout the United States. Money for the fund comes from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily federal offshore oil and gas leases and surplus federal land sales. LWCF grants can be used by communities to build a variety of parks and recreation facilities designated for majority of outdoor recreation use. LWCF funds are distributed by the National Park Service to the states annually. Communities must match LWCF grants with 50 percent of the local project costs through in-kind services or cash. All projects funded by LWCF grants must be used exclusively for recreation purposes, in perpetuity.

**National Recreational Trails Program:** These grants are available to government and nonprofit agencies, for amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000, for the building of a trail or piece of a trail. It is a reimbursement grant program (sponsor must fund 100 percent of the project up front) and requires a 20 percent local match. This is an annual program, with an application deadline at the end of January. The available funds are split such that 30 percent goes toward motorized trails, 30 percent to non-motorized trails, and 40 percent is discretionary for trail construction.

**Safe Routes to Schools Program:** The federal government provides safe routes to school funding for trails to promote youth walking to school. Grants are 100 percent federally funded.

**Small Business Tree Planting Program:** The Small Business Administration provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to purchase trees for planting along streets and within parks or greenways. Grants are used to develop contracts with local businesses for the plantings.

**Design Arts Program:** The National Endowment for the Arts provides grants to states and local agencies, individuals, and nonprofit organizations for projects that incorporate urban design, historic preservation, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and other community improvement activities. Grants to organizations and agencies must be matched by a 50 percent local contribution. Agencies can receive up to \$50,000.

### PARTNERSHIP SOURCES

These funding opportunities are driven by engagement from leaders in the Miami Township community. Partnering with citizen groups or quasi-governmental organizations whose mission is to protect natural resources helps ensure parks remain healthy and safe. Partnering with business leaders and service organizations can promote charitable giving and volunteer labor to supplement Township spending on park programs and infrastructure.

**Land Leases:** Many communities across the United States have allowed land leases for commercial retail operations along trails and around the border of park parcels as a source of funding. The communities that have used land leases look for retail operations that support the needs of recreation users. This includes coffee shops, grills, food concessions and small restaurants, ice cream shops, bicycle shops, farmers markets, and small local business. The land leases provide revenue to maintain the trails/parks and/or to be used for in-kind matching.

**Local Private Sector Funding:** Local industries and private businesses may agree to provide support for recreation infrastructure development through donations of cash to a specific parks initiative, donations of services by large corporations to reduce the cost of parks project implementation (including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of a specific destination), and reductions in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses that support local parks and can supply essential products for infrastructure projects.

**Park/Trail Sponsors:** A sponsorship program allows for smaller donations to be received both from individuals and businesses. The program must be well planned and organized, with design standards and associated costs established for each amenity. Project elements that may be funded can include mile markers, call boxes, benches, trash receptacles, entry signage and bollards, and picnic areas.

**Volunteer Work:** Community volunteers may help with park/trail maintenance and/or construction, as well as conduct fundraisers. Organizations which might be mobilized for volunteer work include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

**Greenways Conservation Groups:** Conservation groups adopt green corridors to support the operations and capital costs for specific greenways corridors. These groups raise needed money for designated greenways for capital and operations costs. For instance, the Miami Conservancy District mission focuses on the Great Miami River which abuts Crains Run Nature Park. Developing relationships with these entities could allow the Township to focus efforts in areas which do not have existing organizations



# PARKS & TRAILS PLAN



## **CHAPTER 3: PLANNING PROCESS**

### PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

The Miami Township Comprehensive Plan, known as The Plan, was adopted in 2022. The Plan created a development guide to help steer the vision for the community. Land Use Designations were made with input from the public to “establish a baseline of current and future expectations of land use within Miami Township.” Park land is under the Land Use Designation of Special Consideration Districts. Special Consideration Districts are intended to permit additional flexibility or designate areas that necessitate additional standards. The Plan clearly indicates the need to pursue locations for additional park space and prioritize the development or redevelopment of land within the community for park spaces. The Plan calls for the creation of a full Parks Master Plan that will help put into focus specific needs and goals. According to survey data collected for The Plan, residents identified parks as one of the most important aspects of our community. The responses from our community show a clear desire to improve and expand the parks network.

One of the major initiatives listed in The Plan, Miami Township’s Comprehensive Plan adopted March of 2022, was “Update and maintain public open spaces and parks through the adoption of a long-term Parks Plan”. This goal is what led to the initiation of this planning process.

The recommendations in the Parks & Trails Plan will help to address a long list of initiatives identified in the Township’s comprehensive land use plan. Some of these initiatives are examined on the following page.



### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Develop a long-term master plan for extending pedestrian and bikeway connections throughout the community.
- Complete conversion of sidewalk curb ramps to ADA compliant ramps.



### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Connect existing sidewalks and bike paths to create a continuous network for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improve pedestrian and non-automotive access to food centers and other health resources.
- Promote community gardens, farm markets, and other programs that increase access to locally grown and minimally processed foods.
- Establish recreational programming to engage residents of all ages and provide opportunities for activity.



### SENSE OF PLACE

- Identify areas where consistent community-oriented elements can be implemented to provide image continuity, such as benches, wayfinding signs, light posts, and gateway features at the major entrances into the community.
- Develop facilities that provide opportunities for community events and social interaction.
- Seek opportunities to install public art highlighting both past and present cultural influences.



### SUSTAINABILITY

- Avoid development of existing wetlands and pursue opportunities for enhanced mitigation measures.
- Identify and adopt open space preservation goals.

### PARKS SURVEYS

Two surveys were conducted and distributed at different times, one in December 2022, and one in October 2023. The surveys were made available to respondents in several ways:

- Miamitownship.com
- Digital Billboard Sign
- Temporary Signs in Parks
- Miami Township Newsletter
- Social Media Postings (Facebook and Instagram)

A parks survey was developed and sent out in December 2022 in order to gain more information about the people who visit our parks and how they felt about the parks they visit. The first Miami Township Parks Plan Survey was sent out in December and was open for four weeks, receiving 104 participants. The Google Form Survey was 13 questions long, consisting of both multiple choice and long answer questions. The Kick-Off Survey was used as a starting off point for the Community Development Department to better understand how people viewed our parks and park upkeep. Data was collected and turned into graphs and charts for visual understanding. The following pages provide insight into the responses collected from residents for the initial Parks Survey.

People of all ages were welcome to complete the Parks Survey. The majority of people preferred not to say; however it was split almost equally among 65+, 55-64, 45-54, and

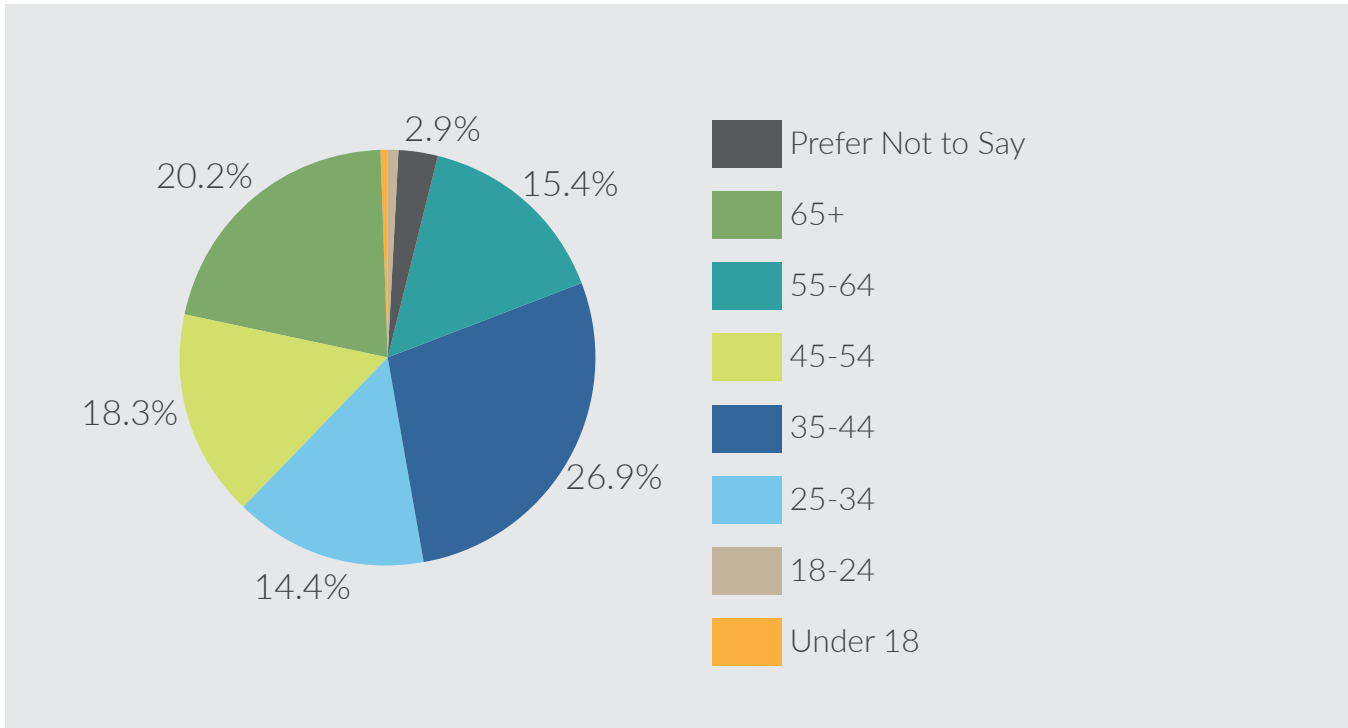
Respondents were asked which parks in the Miami Township parks network they visit most often. Respondents were able to select up to three parks from the list of available choices. The responses gathered indicate that some of our parks are visited far more often than others. For instance, nearly 80 percent of all respondents visit Cox Arboretum and only about 3 percent visit the two parks located in the Chautauqua area. A number of other parks, such as Miami View, Waldruhe, Reeder, Crains Run, Austin Landing, and Zengel parks see a moderate amount of visits from the community. Overall, these responses represent which parks are the most popular destination within our parks network. What makes Cox Arboretum a popular park destination while parks like Layer and Omietanski see far fewer visitors? Additional survey information collected from respondents may provide insights to help answer this question.

Our first survey showed us that 44.1 percent of people visit our parks at least once a week. 30.4 percent visit at least monthly, and 8.8 percent daily. One goal of the Parks Plan is to make trips to the parks easier for everyone, getting people to visit parks everyday would benefit both the township and the residents.

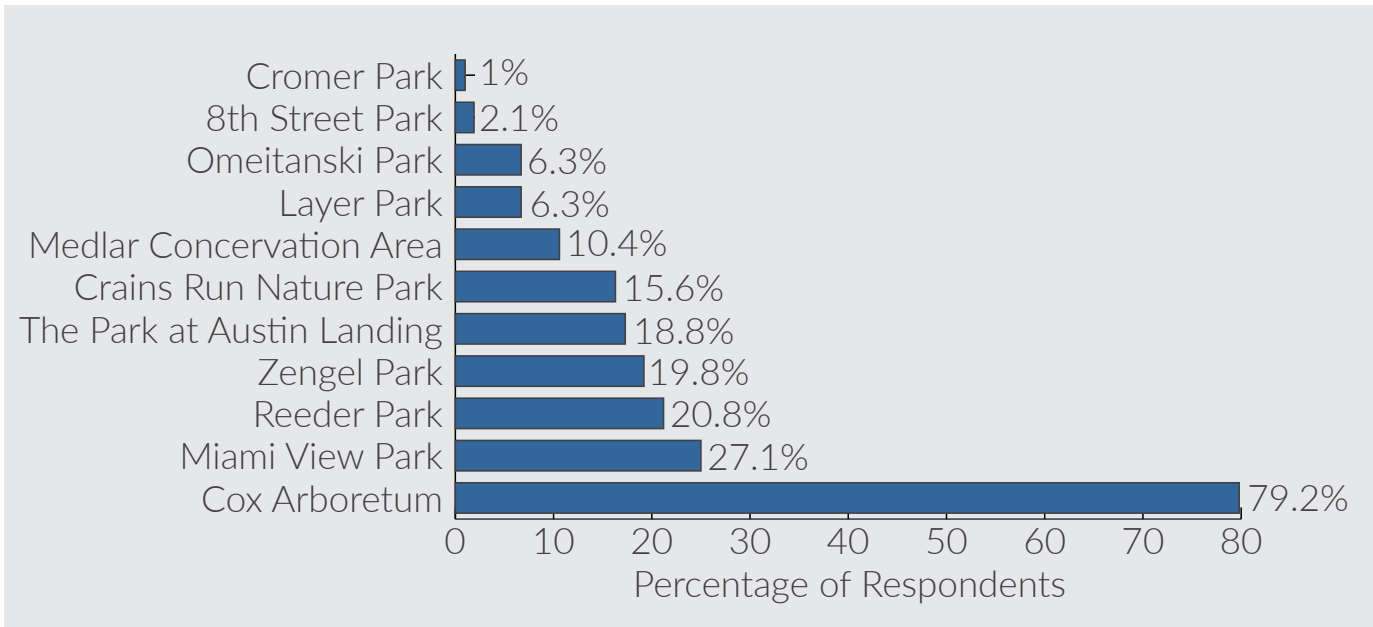
About half of our park visitors have to drive to access them. With so many of the visitors needed to use vehicles, parking updates and maintenance will remain important for the future of Miami Township Parks. The other half of park visitors use some sort of pedestrian travel whether that be walking or biking. This Parks & Trails Plan also wants to work toward maintaining and expanding our sidewalk and multi use path system. Our parks need to be able to accommodate both an automobile and pedestrian centered community.

These are the amenities that draw people into our parks the most. As you can see, hiking and walking paths are most frequently sought after and used. Playground equipment is one of the main reasons people visit our parks, which lets us better understand why replacing and expanding playgrounds would be important for the township.

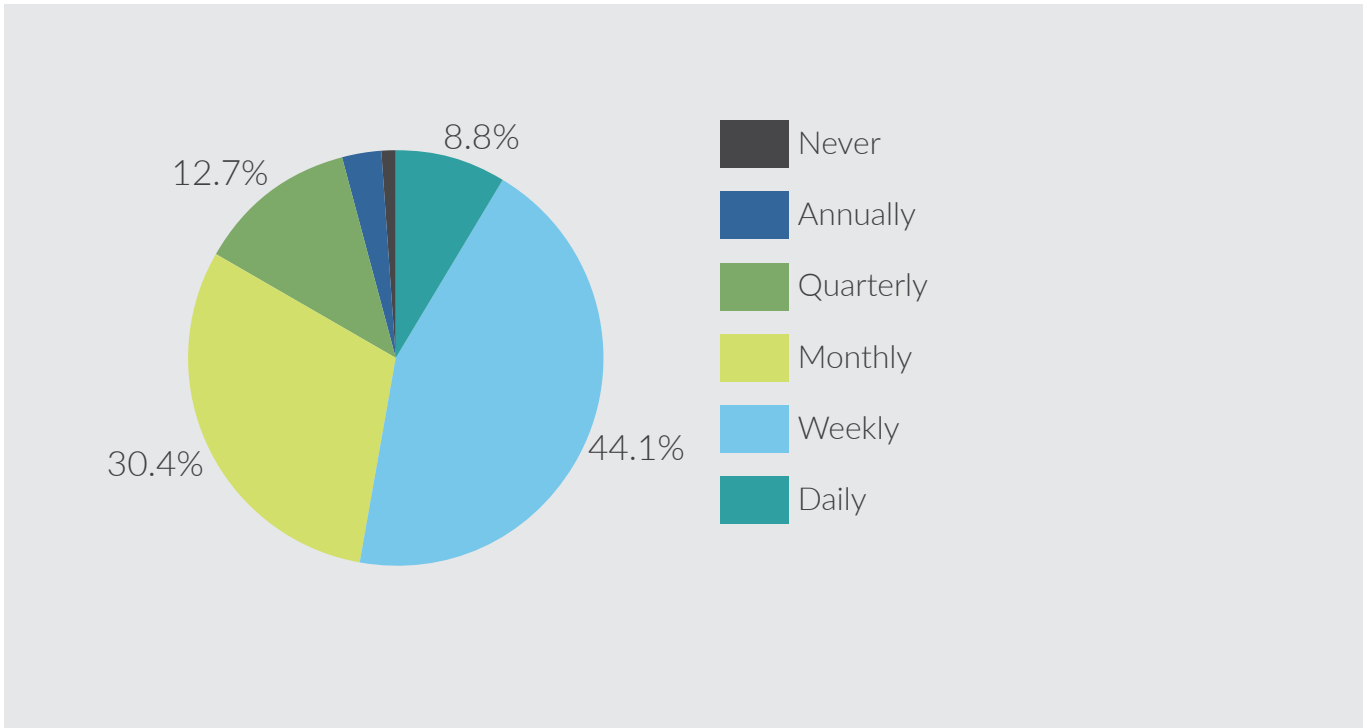
## RESPONDENT AGE RANGE



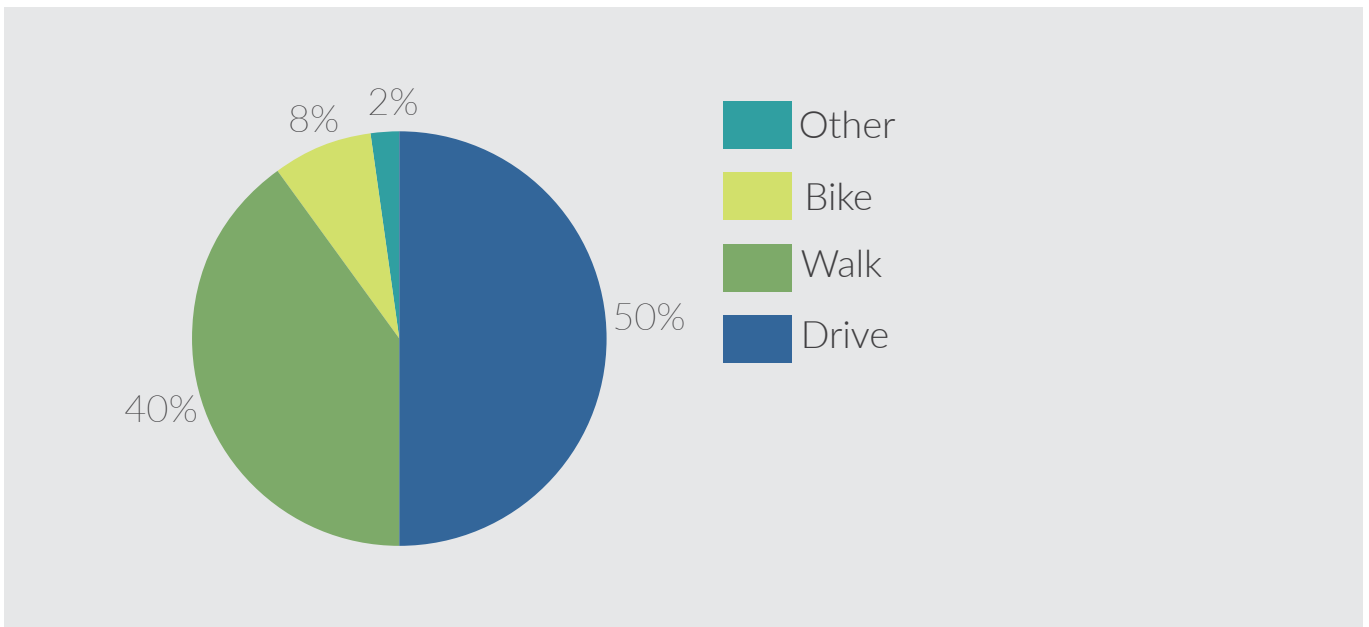
## PARKS VISITED MOST OFTEN



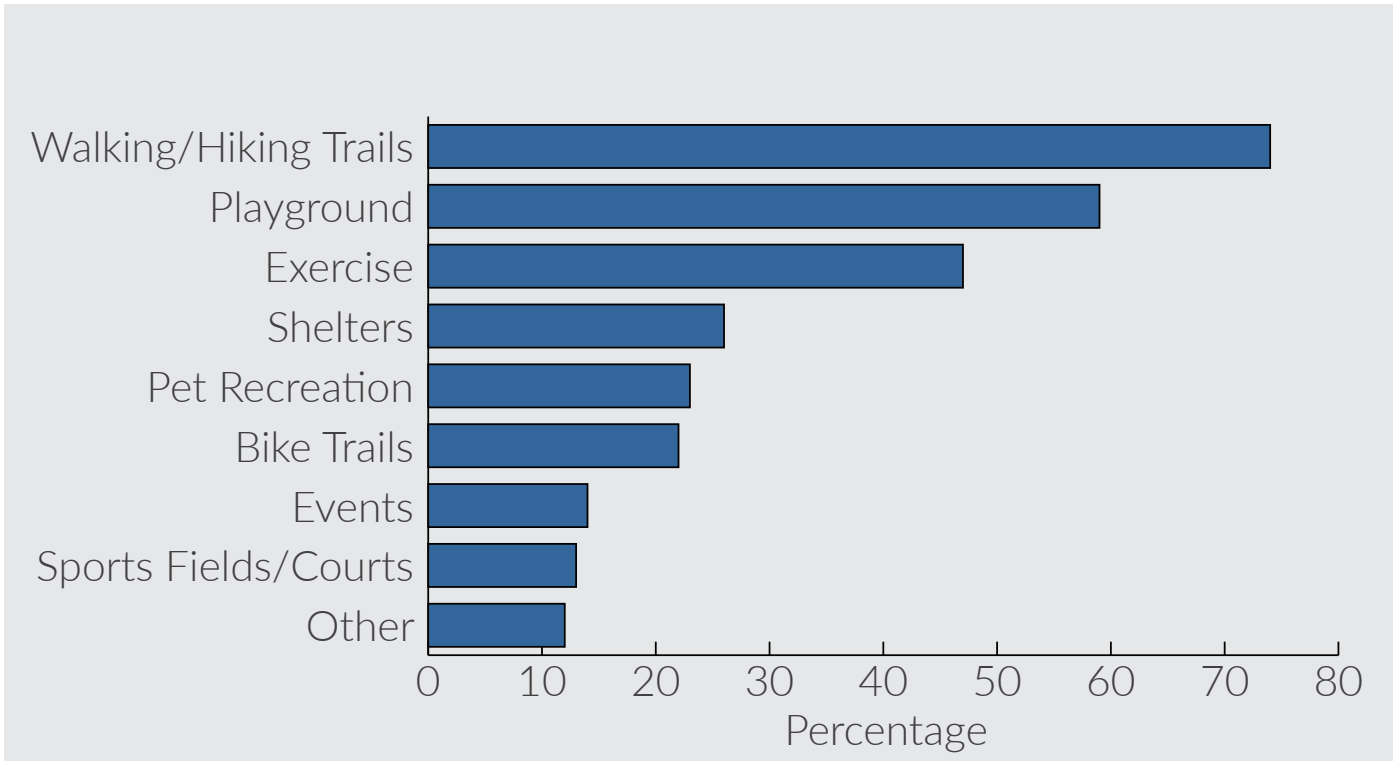
### FREQUENCY OF PARKS VISITS



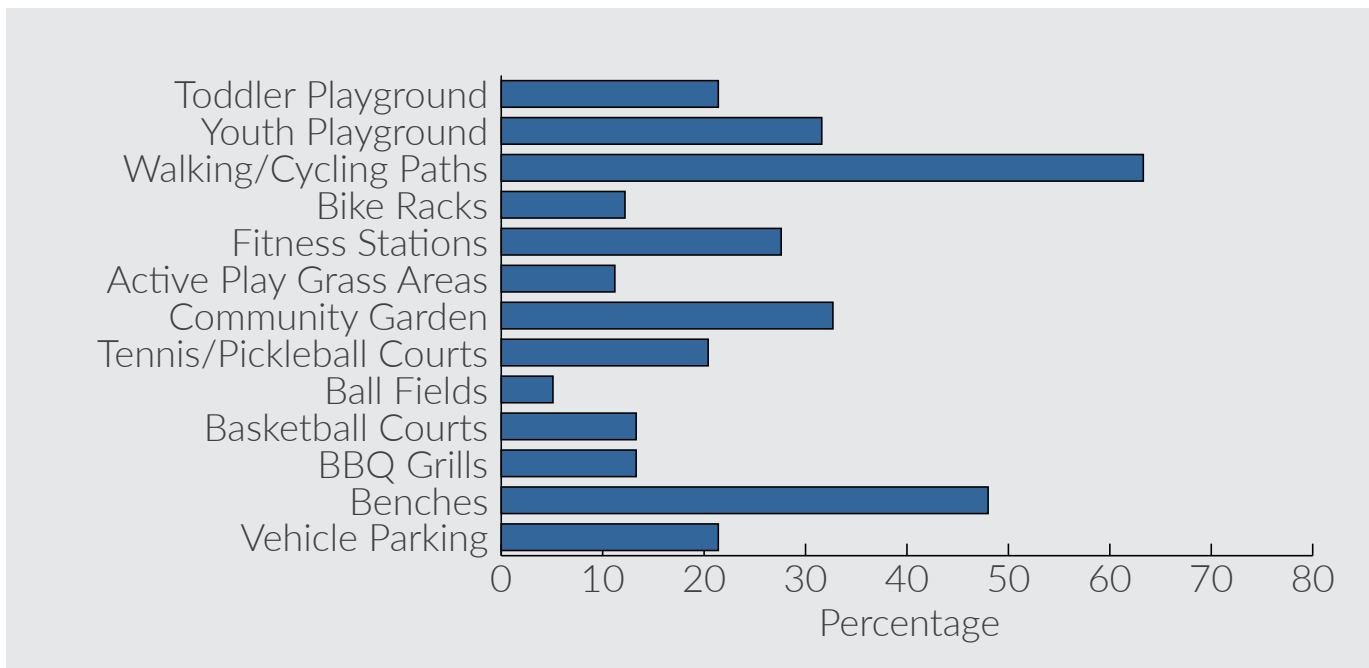
### TRANSPORTATION METHODS TO VISIT PARKS



**APPRECIATED PARK AMENITIES**



**DESIRED PARK AMENITIES**





### COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Miami Township had two community workshops designed to gain public input for the future of our parks. The first community workshop was held on April 20, 2023. This workshop was designed to collect data from attendees about what they currently enjoy about our parks. Each park had a designated map board with the prompts about what they enjoy about the park and what they would want to change about the park. While the participation for the first workshop was not as robust as was foreseen, the park we collected the most data on was Miami View Park. Residents liked the sports fields, fishing pond, and ample room for their dog to run. Miami View Park also had the most comments for improvements. Most commenters wanted to see updated playground equipment, the addition of pickleball courts and disc golf course, and improving the parking lot.

EXAMPLE FEEDBACK BOARD

# MIAMI VIEW PARK



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT MIAMI VIEW PARK?

Blank response area for the question: "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT MIAMI VIEW PARK?"

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE AT MIAMI VIEW PARK?

Blank response area for the question: "WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE AT MIAMI VIEW PARK?"



# PARKS & TRAILS PLAN



## CHAPTER 4: PLANNING IN ACTION





## PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Now that the existing conditions and trends in the Miami Township parks network have been explored and inventoried, it is time for action! The following chapter contains a set of actionable recommendations that Miami Township can implement to improve the experiences of visitors to our parks network. These recommendations were developed by listening to the Miami Township community through surveys and workshops, researching best practices from other successful communities, and investigating new and exciting amenities and programming.

The following recommendations are categorized into Goals, Objectives, and Strategies. Goals are the broadest category, encompassing the underlying main themes related to Park Land, Accessibility & Connectivity, Maintenance & Operations, Financing, and Communication & Engagement. Each Goal statement brings focus to the associated Objectives and Strategies and ensures that the Parks & Trails Plan is guided by dedicated core principles. Vision statements try to answer the question of “Why?” the Township should focus on these aspects of the parks network. Each Goal statement links to several Objectives which take the form

of aspirational action steps that support the associated Vision. Objectives seek to answer the question of “What?” the Township should do to further the ideals expressed in the Vision statements. At the most focused end of the spectrum, Strategies represent concrete, measurable, and achievable actions that the Township can take to achieve the stated Objectives. Strategies answer the question of “How?” the Township can turn theory into reality.

In addition to these recommended action steps, the Plan also highlights potential infrastructure and amenities upgrades for each of the parks in our network. The new concept plans for each park highlight community survey responses linked to the individual parks. New features, such as pickleball courts and exercise loops, bring exciting new recreation options to the community. Requested upgrades, such as resurfacing walking paths and bringing them into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) principles, result in wider enjoyment of the parks network. By listening to our residents, looking to examples of success from other communities, and innovating unique solutions, Miami Township is dedicated to making our parks network better and easier to enjoy.

## Goal 1 - Park Land

Miami Township will maintain an expansive network of community park space, expand park areas to service a greater portion of the community, and support and cooperate with regional park partners to provide active and passive recreational opportunities.

### Objective 1.A

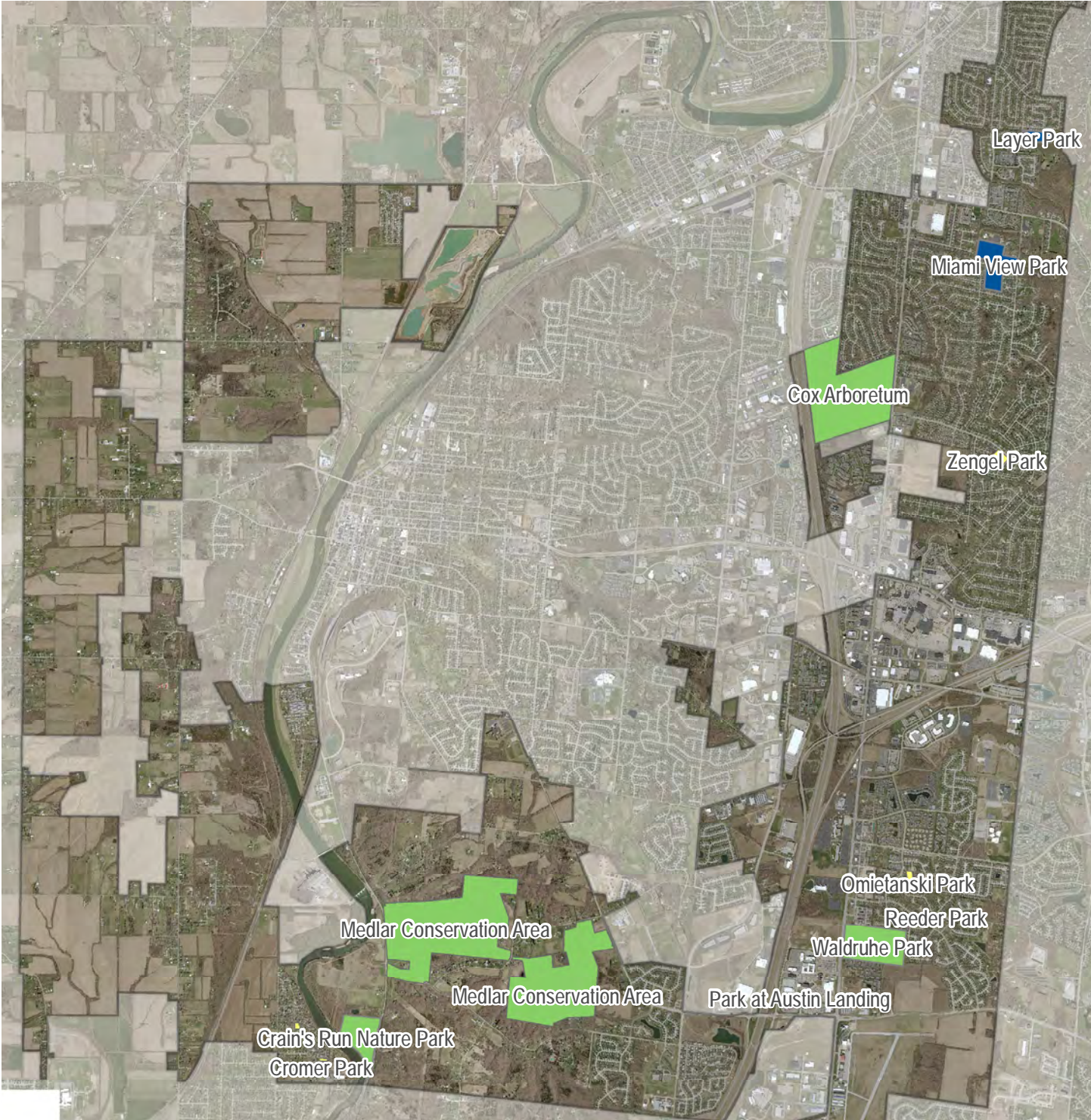
Utilize Park Concept Plans to guide installation of new features and amenities in our parks.



Park Concept Plans were prepared for each township park using recommendations from township stakeholders through the Parks & Trails Plan public input process as well as necessary improvements to achieve recommended services based on each park’s classification. Park Concept Plans are intended to be representative of the types of improvements needed at each park as shown in the Park Amenities By Service Level chart in Appendix B, but not necessarily showing the exact final location of each recommended improvement nor precluding other projects from consideration.

Park Classification Description	Service Area	Relative Size	Primary Users	Primary Mode of Access	Key Color
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> The smallest and most accessible parks and are primarily used by its surrounding community. These kinds of parks are seen as community amenities, as there are mainly playgrounds and limited facilities.	<.5 Mile	<4 Acre	Surrounding residents	Pedestrian – Walking, Biking	Yellow
<b>Community Parks</b> Moderately sized and have larger scale recreational facilities for organized activity such as a baseball diamond or basketball court. Community Parks are often located between neighborhoods and have access to collector roadways.	<2 mile	<50 acre	Community-wide	Pedestrian – Walking, Biking Vehicular	Blue
<b>Regional Parks</b> These are most visited facilities, regardless of size. These parks serve the entire surrounding area and provide a wide array of activities for visitors. Regional parks generate recreational tourism and draw in people who would not otherwise enter the community.	5+ miles	<85 acre	Community-wide and others from around the region	Pedestrian- Walking, Biking Vehicular	Green

# PARK CLASSIFICATION MAP





# 8TH STREET PARK

**Location:** 6051 8th Avenue

**Acres:** 0.89

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

## 8th Street Park Recommendations

- 8th Street Park is a prime example of a neighborhood park. There is no dedicated parking and the easiest way to access the park is by walking or biking. In any case where a visitor arrives at the park with a stroller, wagon, or wheelchair, the amenities should be easier to access. Pathways should be constructed connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- Some parking should be made available for more distant visitors, including ADA compliant parking.
- Currently, there are very few furnishings that encourage a visitor to stay and enjoy the park for any extended period of time. New park furnishings should be installed that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, covered tables under gazebo, etc.
- Today, 8th Street Park has minimal features that identify the land as a formalized public park. Trees and vegetation should be planted to improve aesthetics and frame the park, establishing a natural/green destination.
- There is currently no signage in the park. Clear signage should be installed that directs visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park.
- Select a new name for the park which respects the historical significance of the Chautauqua neighborhood.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

*New Gazebo*



*Intentional Tree Screening*



*New Entry Sign*



*Picnic Tables*





# CROMER PARK

**Location:** 10200 Western Avenue

**Acres:** 0.63

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

## Cromer Park Recommendations

- The existing basketball court and tennis court in Cromer Park (below) are in poor condition. A multi-use court should be installed that provides a variety of recreational opportunities on a single impervious surface.
- The existing playground equipment is outdated. Install updated playground equipment to provide state-of-the-art recreation opportunities for park visitors. Separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.
- Cromer Park is a prime example of a neighborhood park. There is no dedicated parking and the easiest way to access the park is by walking or biking. In any case where a visitor arrives at the park with a stroller, wagon, or wheelchair, the amenities should be easier to access. Pathways should be constructed connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- Install park furnishings that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; covered gazebo, benches, picnic tables, covered tables under gazebo, etc.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination.
- Install clear signage to direct visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park.

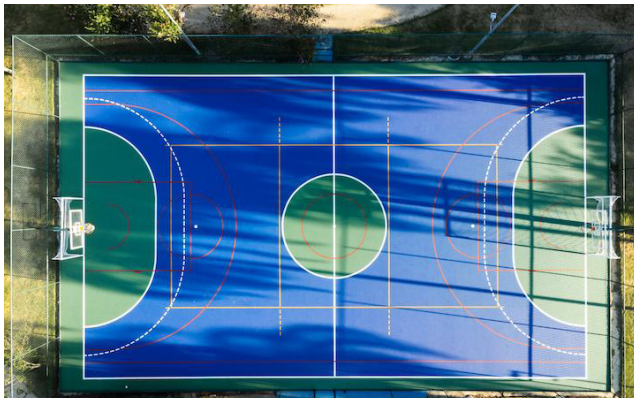


# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Multi-Use Court



Accessible Pathways



Picnic Shelter



New Entry Sign





# CRAINS RUN NATURE PARK

**Location:** 10741 Dayton-Cincinnati Pike

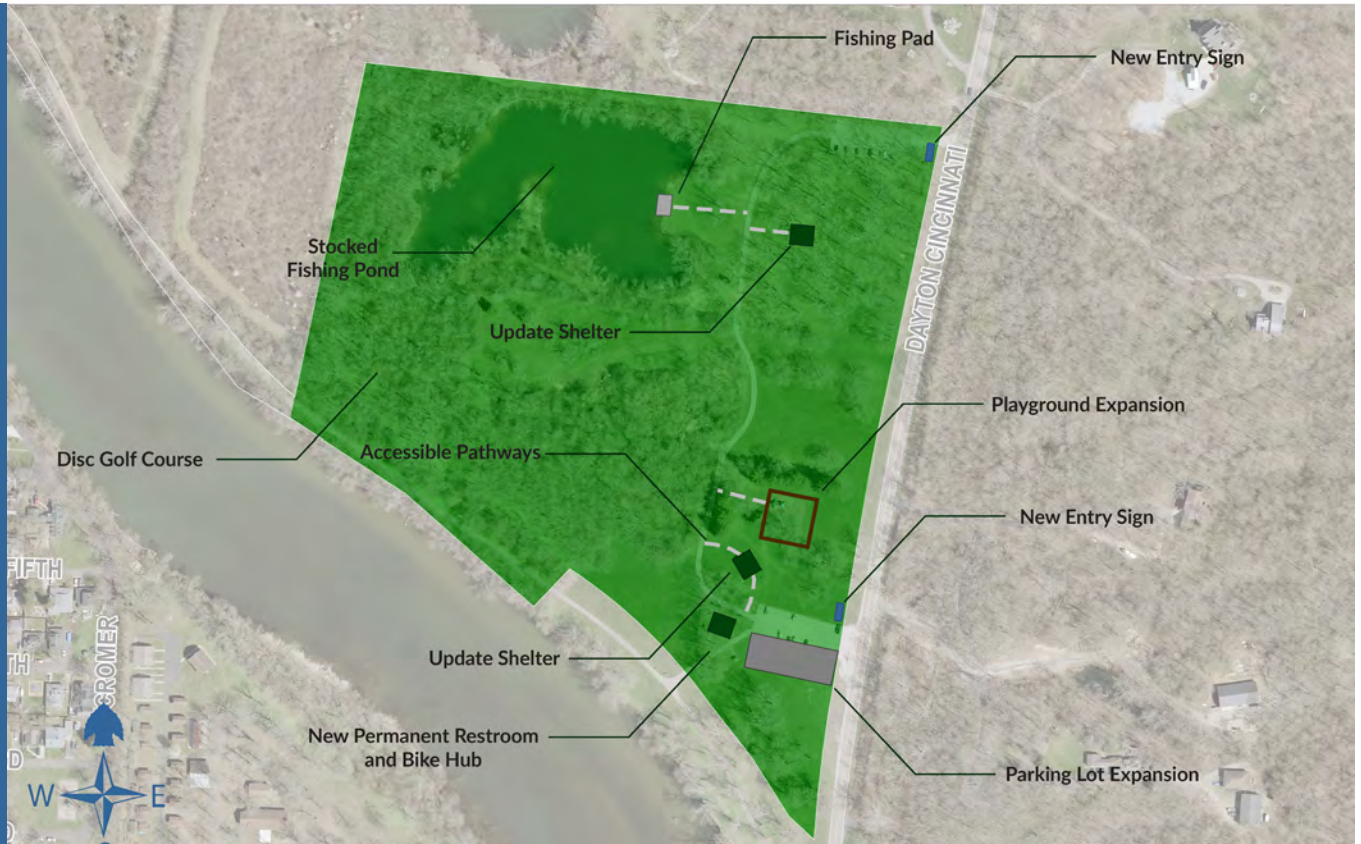
**Acres:** 34.80

**Classification:** Regional Park

## Crains Run Nature Park Recommendations

- Crains Run Nature Park (CRNP) has a unique opportunity relative to other township parks in that the 93-mile Great Miami River Trail runs directly through the park. A bike hub/shelter should be constructed near the path with the goal of making CRNP a regional attraction and mainstay on this trail. Permanent restroom facilities should be installed as part of this cycling dedicated infrastructure.
- The existing shelters at CRNP are in immediate need of renovation/replacement. In addition to new shelters, new park furnishings should be installed throughout the park that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, fishing station, etc.
- The majority of amenities at CRNP are not currently accessible via pathway. Pathways should be installed connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- The south parking lot is in need of repair and expansion. This parking area should be expanded with the intention of being the primary parking lot directly connected to the majority of amenities.
- CRNP has adequate land and diverse topography/vegetation to develop a unique disc golf course. This is an opportunity to introduce a new recreational opportunity to the township.
- With two separate parking lots, clear signage should be installed to direct visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park. At a park this size, wayfinding signage should also be installed directing visitors to amenities.
- A fishing dock constructed adjacent to the pond would create an accessible point for fishing. The dock could additionally serve as an educational opportunity by displaying the types of fish stocked in the pond along with other ecological data.
- Expand the play area and separate equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

New Permanent Restrooms



Disc Golf Course



Bike Hub



Fishing Pad





# LAYER PARK

**Location:** 4990 Cordell Drive

**Acres:** 7

**Classification:** Community Park

## Layer Park Recommendations

- The northeast playground should be expanded to add additional options for recreation. This playground could serve as a toddler/young child specific play area to add new amenity types to the park. Separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.
- The shelter at Layer Park is one of the most utilized in the township. Additional improvements that make the shelter more convenient for residents should be considered, such as access to electricity.
- Layer Park is located near a neighborhood that has off-street sidewalks. A pathway should be installed throughout the park to allow visitors to add the length of the park to their walk.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination. A targeted tree line between the basketball courts and adjacent homes should be prioritized along with landscaping features near the walking path.
- The dumpster in the parking lot is one of the first things visitors see when arriving at the park. The dumpster should be screened in an enclosure area to minimize visual impact.
- Natural grass/prairie areas should be considered around the outside perimeter of Layer Park to introduce visual interest along the pathway and ecological diversity.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Playground Expansion



Accessible Pathway



Landscape Screening



Benches





# MIAMI VIEW PARK

**Location:** 5911 Munger Road

**Acres:** 33.84

**Classification:** Community Park

## Miami View Park Recommendations

- Relocate and expand existing playground areas. The existing equipment is too close to the pond and insufficient in size/service level for a Community Park. Separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.
- Install active recreational opportunities, such as basketball courts, pickleball courts, etc. to serve and attract a wide variety of users.
- A fishing dock constructed adjacent to the pond would create an accessible point for fishing. The dock could additionally serve as an educational opportunity by displaying the types of fish stocked in the pond along with other ecological data.
- Relocate park entrance to provide safer ingress/egress.
- Develop a natural trail throughout the park to provide a guided walking route through multiple types of scenery.
- Construct pathways connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- Install park furnishings that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, covered tables under gazebo, etc.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination. Miami View is a prime park for integration of natural vegetation areas to improve park aesthetics and act as a natural pollination area.
- Install clear signage to direct visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Fishing Pad



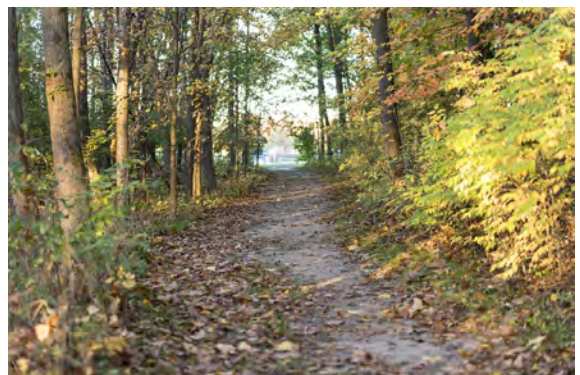
Pickleball Courts



Observation Tower



Natural Area





# OMIETANSKI PARK

**Location:** 9797 Nettleton Park

**Acres:** 3.29

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

## Omietanski Park Recommendations

- The playground at Omietanski Park is not accessible without traversing across grassy lawn area. Construct pathways connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- The playground area is in need of updating. The playground should be accessible to a variety of visitors. Separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.
- A nature path should be installed throughout Omietanski Park. Trees and low maintenance landscaping should be installed along the path for aesthetic and ecological diversity.
- Park furnishings should be installed throughout the park to allow visitors to engage with the space; benches along the path, picnic tables under shade trees, etc.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination.
- Install clear signage to direct visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Nature Path



New Entry Sign



Updated Playground



Outdoor Fitness Station





# REEDER PARK

**Location:** 9979 Lincolnshire Road

**Acres:** 1.36

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

## Reeder Park Recommendations

- As Reeder Park is somewhat “hidden”, install archways that attract attention and delineate the entry to the park.
- Reeder Park can only be accessed today by walking across lawn area. Construct pathways connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities and mark a clear pathway to the park.
- Reeder Park currently has few options for visitors to engage the space. Park furnishing should be installed that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, etc.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination. Reeder Park currently has little shaded space. New trees along with a shelter could introduce new shaded areas.
- Install clear signage to direct visitors to the park and establish the space as a Miami Township public park.
- Expand the playground area by adding new features/structures and separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

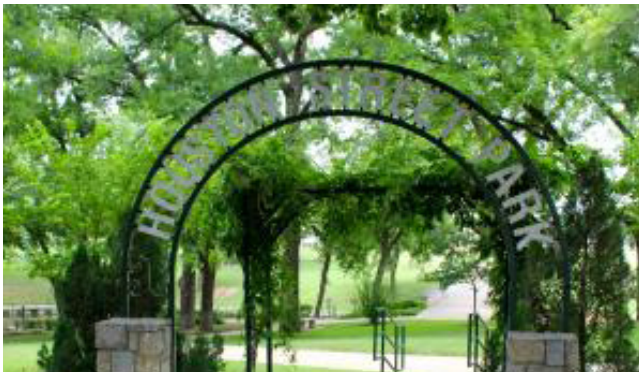
Landscape Screening



New Entry Sign



Entry Archway



Picnic Shelter





# WALDRUHE PARK

**Location:** 10000 Springboro Pike

**Acres:** 53.1

**Classification:** Regional Park

## Waldruhe Park Recommendations

- As a Community Park, Waldruhe Park is intended to draw a greater amount of traffic than many smaller parks. The current temporary restrooms on site are insufficient and unattractive. Permanent restrooms should be installed on site to replace existing temporary restrooms.
- The vast majority of Waldruhe Park must remain natural forest area that is currently only informally accessed. A natural path system should be installed throughout the park along with a circuit map and associated wayfinding signs to guide users on hikes of varying lengths.
- The majority of features within Waldruhe Park are accessed only by traversing unpaved/pathed areas. Pathways should be constructed that connect existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- Install park furnishings that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, covered tables under gazebo, etc.
- Plant trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination.
- Waldruhe Park has the current design for Miami Township park entrance signs. Additional wayfinding signs should match current branding standards to improve sense of place within the park.
- Expand the playground area by adding new features/structures and separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Nature Path



Permanent Restroom Feature



Expanded Playground



Outdoor Fitness Station





# ZENGEL PARK

**Location:** 2176 Vienna Parkway

**Acres:** 5.27

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

## Zengel Park Recommendations

- The playground at Zengel Park is only accessible today by traversing lawn area. Construct pathways connecting existing paved infrastructure to key park amenities.
- The existing playground is small and dated. A larger, modern playground area should be installed to allow wider use. Expand the playground area by adding new features/structures and separate play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.
- Zengel Park is located adjacent to a large sidewalk network. A water fountain area near the sidewalk should be installed.
- Install park furnishings that create a variety of opportunities for visitors to utilize the space; benches, picnic tables, covered tables under gazebo, covered picnic shelter, etc. A picnic shelter located near the playground with a grill area would provide opportunities for neighboring residents to host larger events.
- Plant additional trees and vegetation that improve aesthetics, but also frame the park to establish a natural/green destination. Shade trees around the boundary of the park should be installed.

# Concept Plan



# Aspirational Park Imagery

Updated Playground



Gazebo



Water Fountain



Picnic Tables





## Objective 1.B

Evaluate opportunities to expand the park network by growing existing parks and acquiring new land for additional parks.

The expansion of existing parks or the addition of new parks will be considered when the new green space will provide new or improved opportunities for community recreation.

### Strategy 1.B.1

Where land adjacent to existing township parks becomes available, acquisition of the property will be considered for expansion of the park.

### Strategy 1.B.2

When new development/redevelopment occurs, the subject property will be considered as an opportunity for the integration of new public space.

### Strategy 1.B.3

Rezone all park properties into park zoning districts relative to their park classification.

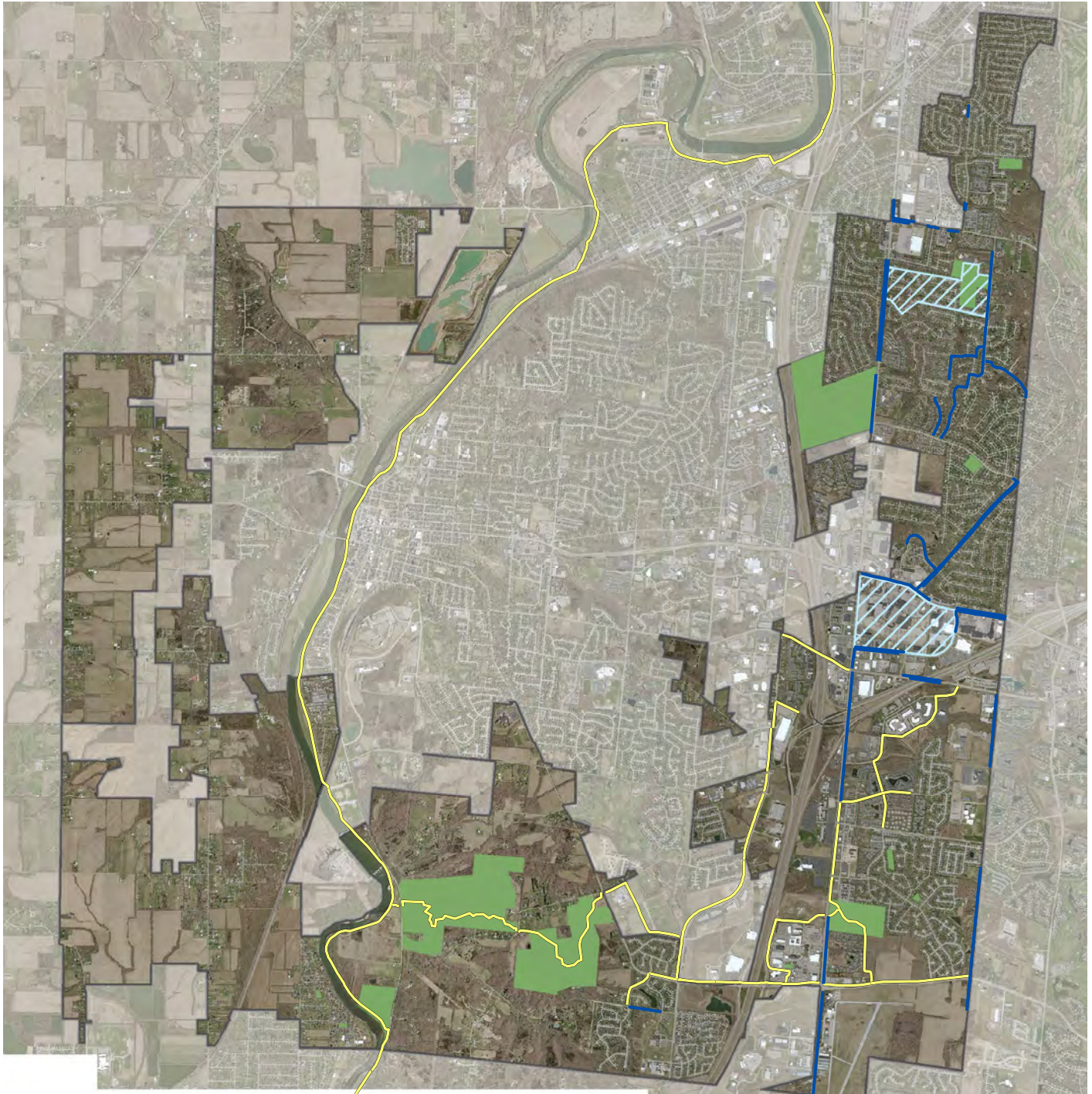


## Objective 1.C

Miami Township will achieve park service levels wherein at least 75 percent of Township households will be within a 10-minute walk of a public park, acknowledging real impediments to pedestrian/bicycle travel.

In order to establish benchmarks for the success of this goal, we must also review the connections that enable people to get to their parks. To the right is the Future Connections Map. This map displays a series of recommended sidewalk and path connections specifically looking at Accessibility and Connectivity through the lens of getting people to parks. This map serves as the baseline for accomplishing Objective 1.C, as well as many goals within Goal 2 - Accessibility and Connectivity.

# FUTURE CONNECTIONS MAP



■ Future Sidewalks

■ Park Locations

■ Existing Trails and Pathways

## Goal 2 - Accessible Infrastructure

Miami Township will ensure that any visitor to the parks system, regardless of chosen mode of transportation, will have safe and barrier-free access to all Township parks and facilities.



**Objective 2.A**  
Bridge gaps in the existing pedestrian/cyclist infrastructure as expressed in the Trail Connectivity Map.

According to stakeholder surveys conducted for the development of The Plan and Parks & Trails Plan, the addition of bike and walking paths was one of the top amenities desired by the community. To meet these needs, the Township must inventory the existing pathways available, determine gaps in accessibility and service, and plan to complete connections between each individual piece of the greater parks network. Connecting community members to the parks network ensures that the parks will be enjoyed by a greater number of users.

### Strategy 2.A.1

Identify gaps in connectivity and plan to construct additional sidewalks, trails, and multi-use paths that would successfully serve the community.

### Strategy 2.A.2

Work with education partners to plan and/or support projects that improve pedestrian access to school buildings.





### Objective 2.B

Update existing park facilities and amenities, and install new facilities and amenities, to achieve barrier-free accessibility for all park users.

Addressing immediate needs for updating park amenities and facilities is the first step to complete accessibility. Repairing and replacing broken or worn down play equipment, and adding new features and amenities, were identified as top priorities for stakeholders according to the results of multiple surveys. Park amenities are not currently standardized between all parks in the network. Based on the Park Facilities Chart, neighborhood parks lack infrastructure that is more common in community parks, such as benches, walking paths, paved parking lots, bike racks, and drinking fountains. The lack of these amenities in neighborhood parks could represent real barriers for community members to enjoy the parks network.

#### Strategy 2.B.1

Implement park amenity standards based on the recommendations of the Parks Facilities Chart that are consistent throughout the parks network.

#### Strategy 2.B.2

After implementation of the Parks Plan, continue to update Parks Facilities Chart as conditions in individual parks improve.

#### Strategy 2.B.3

Comply with the requirement of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) that accessibility standards are met for all park infrastructure whenever improvements are made to a public park space.

#### Strategy 2.B.4

Comply with Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Society for Testing and Materials by separating play equipment into age-appropriate grouping areas.

### Objective 2.C

Partner with regional transit experts to develop an Active Transportation Plan that expands on the connectivity gaps highlighted in the Trail Connectivity Map.



Creating an Active Transportation Plan is an important initial step in creating a connected pedestrian and bicycle network. While often thought of as a recreational amenity, bicycle and pedestrian connections are also a critical part of the transportation network providing an alternative to getting to work, school, or shopping. An Active Transportation Plan will inventory existing conditions, recommend, and prioritize projects, and create an implementation strategy. Having a plan allows the township to strategically identify projects and pursue funding to create connected bicycle and pedestrian networks that are safe, functional, and convenient for all residents and visitors.

## Goal 3 - Park Department Operations

Miami Township will adhere to the highest level of operational and maintenance standards to provide the community with clean, safe, and well-maintained parks.

### Objective 3.A

Establish a natural area maintenance plan to preserve naturally beautiful features within parks while reducing the staff time dedicated to grass and lawn maintenance.



Members of the Miami Township community enjoy our parks in a multitude of different ways. For some, parks provide an escape from the modern built environment and a chance to enjoy the peacefulness of nature. Miami Township should cultivate more natural-looking areas within the parks network. The Miami Township Parks Department will develop a formal document which proposes specific areas within our parks network to cultivate into natural areas. This document will also detail how existing natural areas, such as the hardwood forest in Waldruhe Park, will be maintained free of invasive species and open for the enjoyment of all park visitors.

### Strategy 3.A.1

Develop a codified process for reducing the negative impact of invasive plant species on the planned natural areas in the parks.

### Strategy 3.A.2

Adopt a set of standard criteria for evaluating the optimal conditions for the success of natural areas in each Township park, such as proximity to residences, proximity to child-focused equipment, and availability of sunlight.

### Strategy 3.A.3

Coordinate with Five Rivers MetroParks to plan for and evaluate the long-term health and success of natural areas following real-world implementation.



## Objective 3.B

Finalize a staffing plan for Parks Department employees which details the optimal staffing required to adequately meet the operational and maintenance standards for the park network.

Currently, staffing levels in the Parks Department would not support the installation and maintenance of new amenities and features in the parks network. The Parks Department employs a Supervisor, two Full-Time Staff, and two Seasonal Staff. This current staffing level does not provide adequate levels of maintenance for all park infrastructure, resulting in certain maintenance objectives falling below ideal standards. This Parks & Trails Plan suggests adding new features and amenities to much of the Township parks network. To improve existing maintenance outcomes while supporting the maintenance of new infrastructure, the Parks Department will investigate the need for new staff positions. A report will be developed detailing how operational hours for Parks staff are divided among project types. This report can then be used to extrapolate and determine how many additional work hours might be needed to support the suggestions made in this Plan.

Such a report can help determine if additional staff positions within the Parks Department are needed to achieve ideal outcomes.

### Strategy 3.B.1

Develop a report which details current Parks operations completed each year and what percentage of total work hours each year are dedicated to various operational categories.

### Strategy 3.B.2

Update the Parks Maintenance and Operations annual schedule of projects to include recommendations from this Parks & Trails Plan to identify the ideal, acceptable, and unacceptable levels of service for each Township park.

### Objective 3.C

Develop regional partnerships with adjacent municipalities, conservation groups, and regional park partners to coordinate services and avoid duplication of efforts.



Miami Township enjoys productive relationships with other parks jurisdictions such as Five Rivers MetroParks and Miami Conservancy District. These agencies maintain parks in our boundaries, service bike paths throughout the region, and provide crucial institutional knowledge about regional park experiences. Additionally, the Township is bordered by municipal governments which maintain their own parks networks. It is said that a rising tide raises all boats. As such, the Parks Department will investigate ways to formalize partnerships with other nearby agencies with similar missions. By aligning our efforts with other parks-focused organizations, Miami Township will improve the park experience for the entire region while maximizing the impact of Township programs and projects.

#### Strategy 3.C.1

Develop an inventory of existing partnerships that affect Township parks.

#### Strategy 3.C.2

Investigate opportunities to form new partnerships and expand existing partnerships to improve outcomes for Parks stakeholders.





### Objective 3.D

Foster both environmental and fiscal sustainability in the operations of Township parks.

Miami Township will strive to ensure that the parks network represents a positive impact on the environment. Agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and even Montgomery County Environmental Services provide guidance on best practices and administer regulatory requirements for projects and programming which could impact natural environments. Miami Township will incorporate best practices into existing and future planning efforts for the parks network. Apart from recommending best practices, environmental agencies often impose requirements such as limiting structures within wetland areas or within riparian corridors, or imposing stormwater runoff protection measures. Each new and existing park project will review and incorporate any relevant requirements from such environmental agencies into the project.

By adhering to environmental regulations and incorporating emerging best practices into park infrastructure, programming, and operations, Miami Township can further improve outcomes for park users and the greater community. Additionally, adhering to all relevant Federal, State, and Regional standards will ensure that funding opportunities relying on these entities remain available for Township park projects.

#### Strategy 3.D.1

Implement the requirements and recommended best practices of environmental agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and Montgomery County Environmental Services to ensure park projects maximize positive environmental impacts while minimizing negative impacts.

## Goal 4 - Financing

**Miami Township will utilize every available funding source to minimize costs to residents while maintaining high quality park services and facilities.**

### Objective 4.A

Develop a funding plan which provides adequate resources for land acquisition, park expansion, construction of trails/paths, and operations and maintenance costs.



The Community Development Department will collaborate with the Public Works Department to investigate the viability of various funding sources related to parks, green spaces, and active transportation. A regular schedule for grant application timelines will be generated and used to maximize the number of grants that can be applied for while minimizing expended resources. For each potential funding source, staff will generate a report detailing application requirements, potential projects suitable for the grant, funding cycles timelines, contact persons within the relevant agencies, and other key information.

### Strategy 4.A.1

Develop and implement a grant application schedule to regularly apply for Federal and State grant funding opportunities identified in Chapter 3 of this Plan to enhance park infrastructure and operations.

### Strategy 4.A.2

Investigate the viability of nontraditional funding opportunities for recreation and active transportation projects, including partnerships with other organizations which are park stakeholders.

### Strategy 4.A.3

Investigate supplemental revenue sources controlled by the Township that can be applied to park projects and programming.

## Objective 4.B

Cooperate with Federal, State, and Regional agencies and incorporate their guidelines into our planning process to improve outcomes for park programs and services while expanding the availability of external funding sources.



Many funding sources require projects to adhere to specific requirements for how the project is designed and constructed to maintain eligibility for funding. Miami Township will begin to review these requirements and regularly incorporate them into project planning processes to increase the probability of being awarded grant funding. These requirements exist to help standardize best practices for planning and public improvement projects. Besides increasing funding availability, incorporating these standards into our park projects and infrastructure will improve the ability of all residents to enjoy the Miami Township parks network.

### Strategy 4.B.1

Adhere to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Complete Streets Policy for transportation projects to promote greater park accessibility and enhance viability of applications for MVRPC-controlled funding sources.

### Strategy 4.B.2

Design new park and transportation projects, and improve existing park and trail features, to be compliant with all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements to promote inclusive enjoyment of Township parks while enhancing viability of grant funding requests.



**Objective 4.C**

Develop an initiative to provide an avenue in which community members can donate or sponsor park programs and infrastructure improvement projects.



Community members form lasting bonds with the places that are special to them. Local parks are where we play growing up and where we take our children to play. Miami Township will recognize the feeling of belonging and ownership that residents often associate with local parks and create a method for community members to provide material donations as well as volunteer time for park improvement projects. Engaging the community in working together to improve the Miami Township parks network can reduce the overall cost of providing park services while strengthening the link between our community members and their parks.

**Strategy 4.C.1**

Create an outreach program to identify donation partners who wish to support new park infrastructure or other park programs.

**Strategy 4.C.2**

Create a standardized method of acceptance for donations of capital and/or volunteer time.

**Strategy 4.C.3**

Create a standardized schedule of donation drives throughout the year to encourage the community to give to specific park initiatives.



## Goal 5 - Community Engagement

Miami Township will employ best practices to communicate with and engage park system stakeholders to build brand recognition, encourage advocacy, and foster community backing for park programs.



### Objective 5.A

Implement Miami Township branding by applying township logos, standardizing park fixtures and furnishings, and installing consistent wayfinding signage throughout the parks network.

Branding represents the core identity of an organization in an easily-recognizable visual package. Township branding will be synonymous with clean and safe recreation supported by excellent public service. Visitors to the parks network will begin associating Township branding elements with positive experiences that they create while visiting parks. Branding can help enhance trust between community members and the Township, leading to more frequent and more positive interactions with residents that can further guide parks operations and planning. Besides the positive impacts on our residents, positive brand association can foster pride among the Township staff and the residents they serve.

### Strategy 5.A.1

For each park in the parks network, update existing entrance signage to match the style of Waldruhe Park to achieve consistent branding.

### Strategy 5.A.2

Develop a style guide for any new wayfinding and other park signage and replace existing signage with updated versions to achieve consistent branding.

### Strategy 5.A.3

Develop a style guide for park furnishing such as trash receptacles, benches, drinking fountains, etc. and apply the new styles throughout the parks network.



### Objective 5.B

Develop a plan for improving awareness of available park amenities and to inform the community about activities and special events occurring in the parks.

Currently, many of the township parks are located in smaller communities and neighborhoods. These parks have minimal signage and the township has no clear way to promote them. This allows for people to become unaware of the vast parks system. A detailed plan for spreading awareness of the parks system and amenities would increase the number of visitors to parks and help the township better regulate the needs of individual parks. Since parks can be one of the most effective ways of building a sense of community and improving overall quality of life, keeping the public informed and engaged with various park activities benefits both the township and surrounding people.

#### Strategy 5.B.1

Provide adequate signage and message centers/kiosks for all parks to engage the public in community events.

#### Strategy 5.B.2

Use social media, online resources, local newspapers, and township owned signage to promote new park upgrades and township events.

#### Strategy 5.B.3

Host Township events and solicit/support third-party events which drive engagement with our parks system.

## APPENDIX A - SYSTEM CHARACTER

System character is necessary for creating a strong community connection between the parks network and its users. A well-defined brand creates a recognizable identity for the park system. This fosters a sense of community pride and ownership, encouraging residents to value and support their parks. Branding helps clearly communicate the park system’s mission, values, and available amenities, allowing residents to understand the unique experiences and benefits provided by their parks. The Township will update park features to provide a consistent aesthetic for amenities throughout the entirety of the parks network. This Appendix identifies existing park infrastructure that is either in need of replacement or does not advance a unified branding image. Appendix A provides example images of types of signage, supporting infrastructure, and park buildings and equipment that the parks network can aspire to. A positive brand image can cultivate a sense of loyalty and advocacy for the park system. This can lead to increased community support or volunteerism, and can even help to attract sponsorships.

### LOGOS



**MIAMI TOWNSHIP**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

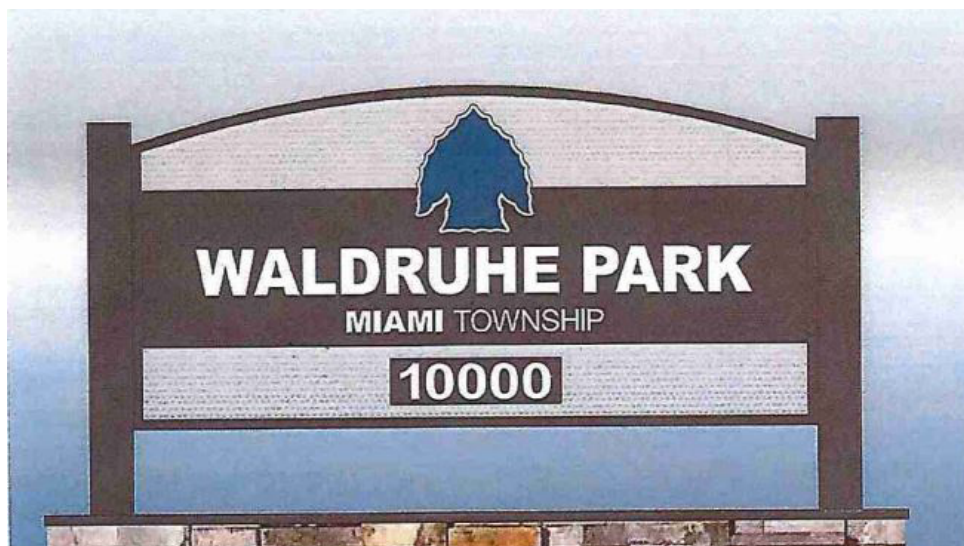
## SIGNAGE

Signage within Miami Township varies from park to park, due to gradual efforts over time to update each sign to a more modern look which incorporates Township branding elements. The township has successfully replaced three of the nine township-owned park signs with the new design. Updating all parks to have matching main entrance signage would help park users identify park location and create a recognizable park system. In addition to entrance signage, the Design Guide offers examples of numerous types of signage found in and around parks.

### EXAMPLE ENTRANCE SIGNAGE TO BE REPLACED



### UNIFIED BRANDING - ENTRANCE SIGNAGE



## EXAMPLE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE TO BE REPLACED



## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - WAYFINDING SIGNAGE



## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - KIOSK



DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - SAFETY/PARK RULES SIGNAGE



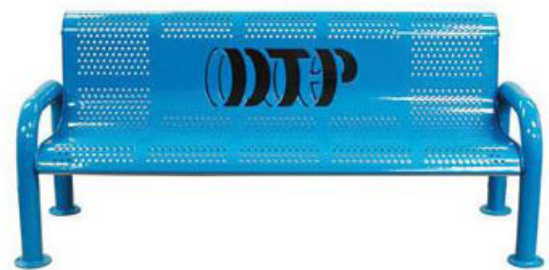
## COMMON PARK AMENITIES

Township parks offer a suite of common amenities meant to increase the ease of use and overall enjoyment of the parks network. Common amenities include benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and other non-structural features. A majority of the park amenities have been replaced and/or updated on an irregular basis, making shared site features inconsistent from park to park. Similar furnishings create a sense of visual unity and cohesiveness throughout an individual park and the parks network as a whole. This helps the parks network foster a sense of identity from park to park while enhancing the enjoyment of our parks by visitors.

### EXAMPLE BENCHES TO BE REPLACED



### DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - BENCHES



### EXAMPLE PICNIC TABLES TO BE REPLACED



### DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - PICNIC TABLES



### EXAMPLE TRASH RECEPTACLES TO BE REPLACED



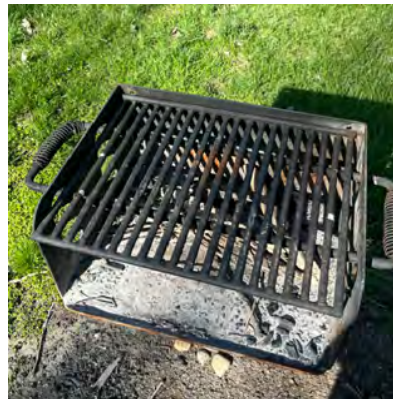
### DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - TRASH RECEPTACLES



## DESIGN INSPIRATION - DUMPSTER ENCLOSURES



## EXAMPLE GRILLS TO BE REPLACED



## DESIGN INSPIRATION - GRILLS



## ART IN THE PARKS NETWORK

Currently, no township park features any type of art installation. Art installations can add beauty and intrigue to a park, making it a more interesting and enjoyable place to visit. They can serve as conversation starters, spark imaginations, and provide a unique perspective on the natural world. Unlike art museums, which often have admission fees, art in parks is free and accessible to everyone. Public art can help to make parks safer and more inviting places, attract visitors to a park, and lead to increased use and a stronger sense of community ownership. Partnering with local artists for various sculptures, murals, or interactive pieces would help enhance the Miami Township parks network experience. Adding Little Libraries throughout the parks will present local artists with “canvases” to create art pieces. Public art installations offer an opportunity to engage park users and stakeholders to provide input on proposed themes and designs, leading to a sense of personal connection with the installation.

### DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - ART INSTALLATIONS



LITTLE LIBRARY



RESTROOM MURAL

## PARK STRUCTURES

Park structures such as shelters and gazebos provide much needed shade, especially for children, seniors, and people with sensitive skin. They offer protection from sunburns, heatstroke, and even sudden rain showers, allowing visitors to enjoy the park for longer periods. These structures create comfortable areas for picnics, gatherings, or simply relaxing outdoors. Shelters can also house picnic tables, benches, or even permanent grills, making them ideal spots for family outings or community events. When selecting the new design standards for structures, the Township will prioritize high-quality materials that meet both safety and aesthetic standards. All new site structures will incorporate uniform township branding, colors, and materials.

### DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - GAZEBOS



## EXAMPLE SHELTERS TO BE REPLACED



## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - SHELTERS



## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - RESTROOMS



## DESIGN INSPIRATIONS - BIKE HUBS



## APPENDIX B - PARK CATEGORIES

Miami Township has three park types. Neighborhood, Community, and Regional parks make up the township park system. Each park category has a different level of service based on size, location, and outreach. The bigger parks like Cox Arboretum, Medlar Conservation Area, and the Park at Austin Landing serve a large number of people. The Regional Parks will need more amenities and features in order to safely and successfully service a significant amount of visitors. Community Parks are township owned parks that serve both residents and the local community. Community Parks are typically moderately sized and must support medium scale recreational facilities. Neighborhood Parks are the smallest park category in acreage. These park types must be able to support neighboring homes and a smaller amount of visitors. The need for additional park features will be based on park usage and service capabilities in order to place proposed amenities in the most well suited areas.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are the smallest parks within the township. These parks mostly serve the neighboring residents, with minimal visitors from outside communities. With a lower service area, neighborhood parks in the township are lacking the most basic amenities. Neighborhood parks must focus on including the following features in order to serve an increased user base:

- » **Wayfinding Signage**
- » **Small Scale Play Equipment**
- » **Benches**
- » **Picnic Tables**
- » **Gazebo/Small Shelter**



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks within the township include Miami View Park and Layer Park. These parks serve a large number, but not to the capacity of Regional Parks. Community Parks are frequently visited and traveled through. They must be able to provide adequate amenities for the range of service area. These parks must focus on the following park amenities and features:

- » Hiking Trails
- » Walking Trails
- » Drinking Fountains
- » Medium Scale Play Equipment
- » Off Street Parking
- » Permanent Restrooms
- » Bike Hubs
- » Medium Scale Shelters
- » Artwork
- » Sport Courts



## REGIONAL PARKS

Regional Parks will have the most amount of unique features and amenities. Based on the Parks Classification Chart, Regional Parks serve over 5 miles of the surrounding area and are regional pulls to the township. With the highest number of visitors, Regional Parks will need to focus on the addition and upkeep of the following features:

- » Hiking Trails
- » Walking Trails
- » Drinking Fountains
- » Large Scale Play Equipment
- » Off Street Parking
- » Permanent Restrooms
- » Bike Hubs
- » Large Scale Shelters
- » Artwork



## AMENITIES BY SERVICE LEVEL

Larger parks can accommodate a wider range of activities. They might have space for sports fields, playgrounds, walking paths, and even nature preserves. Smaller parks, on the other hand, might just have room for a playground or a walking loop. Large parks often serve a regional function, attracting visitors from a wider area. They need features that cater to a diverse range of users, including families, athletes, and dog walkers. Smaller parks, typically found in neighborhoods, cater to the needs of the local community. They might prioritize features for specific demographics, like playgrounds for young children or benches for retirees. In smaller parks, every square foot counts. Features need to be compact and multi-functional. For example, a small park might have a play area with equipment designed for different age groups. Larger parks have more space to spread out, allowing for features with dedicated purposes.

The Park Amenity By Service Level Chart shows which features and amenities should be added in each park in order to bring them up to appropriate standards that meet the needs of different service levels. The blue marked boxes represent park amenities that we are recommending be in each park category. Regional parks have the highest number of visitors. This translates into a higher need for signage, large structures, and recreation features. Any future township park that reaches the Regional Park Category size, must include at minimum the charted amenities. Current and future Community Parks must provide adequate features for the large number of everyday use. This includes large shelters, public restrooms, sports fields, and other amenities that are needed within the community. Community Parks are frequently traveled through. The addition of features such as bike hubs, restrooms, and drinking fountains would benefit travelers as the cross through the township. Neighborhood Parks may not be serving the amount of people like Community and Regional Parks, however they still need to be able to adequately provide park benefits for all surrounding residents. Neighborhood Parks must have features such as benches, small shelters, grills, bike racks, and other smaller scale needs that may be currently missing.

	<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>Regional Parks</u>
<b>Signs</b>			
Entrance Signs			
Kiosks/Wayfinding			
<hr/>			
<b>Structures</b>			
Shelter			
Permanent Restrooms			
Picnic Tables			
Grills			
Drinking Fountains			
Trash Receptacle			
Benches			
Bike Hub			
Play Equipment			
<hr/>			
<b>Recreation</b>			
Sport Courts			
Hiking Trails			
Walking Path			
<hr/>			
Off Street Parking			
Artwork			

## APPENDIX C - REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX D - PLAN ADOPTION RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION #039-2024

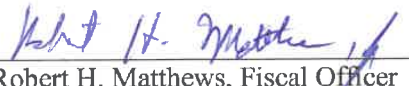
### RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PARKS & TRAILS PLAN, A PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE MIAMI TOWNSHIP PARKS NETWORK

- Whereas,** Miami Township does not currently utilize any comprehensive planning document to guide the operation of its extensive network of public parks; and
- Whereas,** the Miami Township Board of Trustees acknowledge that best practices recommend adopting and adhering to long-range planning documents and updating such plans as community conditions change; and
- Whereas,** the Miami Township Community Development Department utilized a combination of citizen engagement and best-practices research to draft the Parks & Trails Plan to guide the operation and long-term planning of the Miami Township network of recreational spaces; and
- Whereas,** throughout the drafting period, public comments, and concerns from interested parties were solicited through public meetings and public surveys; and
- Whereas,** staff prepared the final draft of the Parks & Trails Plan by integrating comments and feedback from the public and Board of Trustees; and
- Whereas,** the Miami Township Board of Trustees reviewed the Parks & Trails Plan in a work session held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024; and
- Whereas,** the Board of Trustees desires to dispense with the requirement that a resolution be read on two separate days, and authorizes the adoption of this resolution upon its first reading; and
- Whereas,** the Community Development Department will maintain a copy of, and record any edits or updates to the Parks & Trails Plan as reviewed by the Board of Trustees; and,
- Therefore Be It Resolved,** the Miami Township Board of Trustees ADOPTS the Miami Township Parks & Trails Plan.

**SIGNATURE PAGE ONLY FOR RESOLUTION #039-2024**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Donald R. Culp, Trustee President	✓			
Terry W. Posey Jr., Trustee Vice President	✓			
John Morris, Trustee	✓			

Attested:

  
Robert H. Matthews, Fiscal Officer  
Passed: May 21, 2024