

Liberty Township Comprehensive Plan

Butler County, Ohio

Prepared By:

Liberty Township Board of Trustees

Christine Matacic (President)

Pat Hiltman (Vice President)

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Adopted by Liberty Township Board of Trustees: September 18th, 2006

Approved by Butler County Planning Commission: October 10, 2006

Adopted by Butler County Board of Commissioners: October 24, 2006

Mission

The mission of Liberty Township is to maintain its position as a family-oriented community that promotes a high quality of life for all ages and income levels. The Township is committed to providing reliable services, promoting education excellence, being environmentally conscious and encouraging a viable local economy with sustainable development and growth. In pursuing this mission, the Township places a high value on protecting the residential character of the surrounding neighborhoods by ensuring that the commercial development is well planned and consistent with the character of the surrounding residential community.

Existing Land Conditions

Subcommittee Goals: Should be reviewed as part of the preparation of the future land use plan based on the changes in the existing land use, the development patterns which have occurred within Liberty Township and adjacent communities, planned transportation improvements, and incompatible land uses.

- Provide adequate areas of commercial development to offset the tax burden on residential properties
- Provide more green space on the proposed land use plan instead of showing the entire Township as being developed
- Provide transitional land use classifications between the commercial and single family residential uses including, offices, town homes, and mixed use developments
- Provide alternative zoning classifications to provide a wider range of development options including mixed use, Neighborhood Business PUD, General Business PUD, Industrial PUD, and Office PUD.
- Evaluate conservation development with greater amounts of open space in the rural areas of the Township.
- Promote open space in development adjacent to existing open space to create larger pockets of open space.
- Plan for larger lot in areas where sewer is not available.

- Evaluate incompatible land uses including
 - a. Areas planned for commercial use which have developed residential
 - b. Identifying factors outside of the Township will come into play as we evaluate proposed future land uses.

Steering Committee Goals Prioritization

Economic Development

1. Develop, plan and encourage sufficient commercial, industrial, research park, retail, service and office development in Liberty Township to help offset the tax base and increase employment opportunity in the Township
2. Be proactive in providing infrastructure to support, attract and expand business
3. Form an Economic Development Committee
4. Educate residents on the need for commercial development to help support taxes and other community costs
5. Expand land earmarked for commercial development.

Community Identity/Vision

1. Develop and market a vision, image and identity – long-term and short-term.
2. Need a post office without own Township zip code to increase identity
3. Liberty Township needs an identified downtown and center for community
4. Clarify/define the identity/perception of our community branding.
5. Evaluate the long term implication of Liberty Township being only a dormitory community.

Residential development

1. Provide areas for mixed use development with retail/residential/transition type uses
2. Provide areas for retirement and empty nester homes
3. Provide a mixture of housing types, **including affordable housing**, to allow a wider range of residents to be able to live in the community
4. **Control and adhere to the Land Use Plan**

Transportation/Infrastructure

1. Transportation improvements need to occur prior to, or during development
2. Integrate sidewalks/pedestrian ways and bike paths to create community linkages.
Prepare an overall pedestrian plan.
3. Support and maintain good North-South and East-West thoroughfares to move traffic throughout the Township
4. Provide a new interchange along I-75 between Kyles Station Road and Millikin Road.

Parks

1. Financing Parks – find alternative means to get money – Redefine park Development - park conservation
2. Make sure Liberty Township has adequate park space for the number of residents and locate them adjacent to residents
3. Require developers to provide land for parks and park facilities (encourage active and passive park facilities both private and public)
4. Focus on quality of parks, not quantity
5. There is a need for a central park facility.

Environmental/Historic resources

1. Keep rural character of the community with expanded open space areas
2. ***Developers should give “usable green space” not “left-overs”***
3. Natural drainage courses shall be maintained and not altered without engineering and environmental review/approval **Maintain natural features**

Public facilities/services/government

1. Evaluate alternate forms of government (Home Rule and City). **Look at having 5 trustees instead of 3.**
2. Small businesses need architectural design that fits in with the area (i.e.: Fairfield's Village on the Green – Permit mixed uses in planned developments with community facilities combined with a retail transition into the residential areas)
3. **Develop a master plan for anticipated government facilities**
4. **Assess emergency public services – seem to need more police.**

Schools

Development Goals

1. Evaluate impact fees on development
2. ***Can developer “benefits to the community” include linking school population and quality to new developed property including funding and sponsoring. Need to maintain low staff to student ratio for community quality, “plan for future school sites.”***
3. **Development should be balanced and stick to the comprehensive plan.**

Parks

Community Parks – sites, typically 3-100 acres in size, accessible to residents within a one mile radius and beyond. Amenities may include athletic fields, play equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts, walking trails, picnic areas, and shelters, as well as undeveloped natural areas.

Regional Parks – are operated under the jurisdiction of the Butler County MetroParks. The goal of MetroParks is to enhance the quality of life in Butler County, by acquiring, establishing, and managing a system of regional natural area parks to preserve, restore, and protect the land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources contained therein and to provide for appropriate leisure time use and enjoyment by the citizens of Butler County.

Private Parks – are sites that are owned by private entity located within Liberty Township.

Parks can further be categorized based on the activities and amenities that they offer

Active Parks – typically require intensive development and often involve cooperative or team activity including playgrounds and ball fields.

Passive Parks – emphasize the open space aspect of a park and typically involve a low level of development, including picnic areas and walking trails.

Parks and Open Space Planning Principles and Strategies

- Provide incentives to developers to set aside land for parks and park facilities (encourage active and passive park facilities for both public and private use)
- Prepare a parks master plan
- Provide linkages between existing and planned parks including hiker/biker connections
- Look into co-location of parks with schools and existing private recreation facilities
- Promote and expand existing hike/bike plan
- Add new community parks in growth and underserved areas
- Utilize floodplain for open space conservation and greenways
- Promote conservation development
- Look into funding mechanisms for parks development
- Leverage donations for grants as matching funds

Subcommittee Goals

- Provided a map inventory of existing parks (public and private) with details on the features of each park. Include land owned by the Township identified as future parks
- Prepare map showing one-mile radius around existing parks and identify areas where future parks would be desirable. Look into providing larger radius around community and regional parks to identify areas in the Township which may be suitable for these types of facilities.
- Make a goal to identify the maximum distance any resident should live from the nearest park and use this standard to identify future park sites and pedestrian/biker/hiker trail connections from existing neighborhoods.
- Define each park type including, “Neighborhood, Community, or Regional”
- Define a general rule for the goals of what should be in each park by type “Neighborhood, Community, or Regional.”
- Identify what type of park the Township should prioritize “Neighborhood, Community, or Regional”
- Provide better identification/signage for the existing parks, including marketing each park with its features and events.
- Provide park linkages between the existing and future parks including hiker/biker trail connections
- Promote the Bicycle Plan that is in place
- Provide developer requirements for park land donation and investment, no more useless ground (unless for environmental resources); require the developer to make capital improvements to the park land they are providing
- Identify new ways to fund parks/generate revenue
- Look into co-locating parks with schools and existing private recreation facilities
- Prepare a parks master plan
- Perform public needs assessment survey (active/passive recreation)
- Look into the Township/parks providing programmed recreation

Land Use Classifications

Open Space – areas designated to remain in their natural state, areas set aside or designated as open space in an approved PUD Development Plan, areas which contain natural environmental features which shall be preserved, and active and passive recreation areas.

General Location and Development Characteristics

1. Open space areas shall include but not limited to: wetlands, floodplains, stream corridors, steep slopes, and woodlands
2. Open space areas may contain walking trails, bike/hike trails, or other recreation (active and passive) and natural uses
3. Development of adjacent parcels shall provide connecting open space to allow for larger expanses of open space lands
4. Open space areas shall remain in their natural state or improved/maintained as recreation areas with the goal of minimizing impacts to existing natural areas
5. Open space areas shall be maximized to promote a high quality of life for the residents
6. Promote the use of conservation easements.

Implementation and Recommendations

1. When improvements are made adjacent and along SR 747 or Princeton Road, Liberty Township will require that a landscaped boulevard be constructed within the median, along with left turn storage at key points.
2. The Comprehensive Plan indicates entry nodes and key intersections throughout the Township and a unified landscaping, signage, lighting and design will be required for each of these areas.
3. The Open Space and Recreational Map indicate a linkage between parks and schools in Liberty Township. When a new project is presented to the Township; an area and linkage will be required to be included in the development plan.
4. Recommend appointing a committee that evaluates the funding of preservation for open space, park improvements, and the potential to including funding for preservation of historic sites.
5. The zoning resolution needs to be updated to more clearly define transitional land uses, screen criteria, building coverage ratios, mixed use PUD regulations and dimensional relationships. This resolution may need revisions and updates to the PUD overlay provisions.
6. Recommend meeting with Ohio State Representatives and Trustees from Lemon Township to develop a unified improvement Strategy.
7. Liberty Township shall actively market property and public relations in order to attract investment into the community. In addition, the Township should provide a variety of public activities that will bring attention to Liberty Township and foster community identity and unification.

8. The Butler County Engineer's Office Thoroughfare Plan needs to be referenced with every new development proposal. Liberty Township should work with the county Engineer to add future improvements that will eliminate offset intersections, improve pedestrian access along county roads and upgrade bridges and culverts for future road widening. Liberty Township should pursue the development of a new interchange with I-75 and Millikin Road. This will link the Cox Road Extension and the development planned east and west of I-75.
9. The Liberty Interchange project should be the highest priority transportation improvement in Liberty Township
10. The Township should continue to support expanded infrastructure (roads and sewer) to vacant commercial properties
11. The Township should work with property owners to rezone land planned for commercial use.
12. A Parks Master Plan shall be prepared.
13. Liberty Township shall move forward with preparation of overlay district and development master plan of Cincinnati-Dayton Road corridor in Bethany.
14. Liberty Township shall create an Economic Development Committee to create a Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) in order to foster and market economic development activities.

Liberty Township Trails
Liberty Township Trustees
January 2006

**Miami 2 Miami
Maud Hughes Incline**

The Miami 2 Miami Connection is a proposed 84 mile trail system made up of a combination of 10-foot wide separate trails, 5-foot wide bike lanes on roadways, and signed shared roadways to connect the Great Miami River Path (existing and proposed) with the existing Little Miami Scenic Trail. The multi-use trail system will offer transportation and recreation opportunities for walking/jogging, cycling, skating, and wheelchair use. When completed, the trail system will not only connect two large north/south trails, but with those connections, will provide links to more than 400 miles of multi-use trails across the state of Ohio.

Phase I

Bike Route connected to Fairfield Township on Liberty-Fairfield Road that extends through subdivisions of Greystone and Logsdon Meadows, and through a proposed new subdivision between these two subdivisions. This will take the bike route from Liberty-Fairfield Road (west end) to SR 747 (east end).

Phase II

4,350 ft. path in the Reserves Park and 4,625 ft. path in the Wetland Park for a total of 8,975 ft. completed in the two parks.

Phase III

Approximately 2,000 feet between phases II and IV. The land south of the Michael A. Fox Highway between the sound walls and eight homes in the Greenbriar Subdivisions is very tight. Because of the close proximity of the back yards to the sound walls of the highway, several alternate plans for this area are being studied. They include:

- Taking the bike path out of the Wetland Park and into the Woodmoor Terrace Subdivision and then the Greenbriar Subdivision as a bike route and bringing it back onto the path.
- Cutting into the soundwall, adding overlapping soundwalls, and taking the path to the outside of the soundwall along a boardwalk past the area of the eight homes and then back through the soundwall to the path.
- Moving the soundwall to provide adequate room for a ten foot wide path between the right homes.

Phase IV

The Maud Hughes Incline derives its name from the unique use of three sets of double stairs with bicycle gutters to transition from the upper Michael A. Fox Highway to the lower Maud Hughes Road level.

Phase IV is a 3,210 foot section of hike and bike trail from approximately 2,000 feet east of the Wetland Park, adjacent to the Michael A. Fox Highway on the south side, north of Hamilton-Mason Road, and proceeds along land being donated to the Liberty Township Park Department from the Butler County Transportation Improvement District. Near the end of donated land, the trail will ease into the right-of-way area of the Michael A. Fox Highway. It proceeds eastward to the area near the Maud Hughes Bridge Overpass where the trail will be angled northeast to cut under the overpass and proceed to Maud Hughes Road parking area where Phase IV will terminate. Welsh Development donated approximately 5 acres of land on the north side of the Michael A. Fox Highway to connect Maud Hughes Road to the TID parcel.

Phase V

Maud Hughes Road connector with Dutchland Woods. This phase is being explored and requires permission from Norfolk Southern Railroad to utilize an old farming tunnel under their tracks south of Princeton Road and east of Maud Hughes Road and permission from the Dutchland Woods Homeowners Association to utilize the old entrance to Dutchland Woods south of Princeton Road. Once completed, Liberty Park and the Lakota Family YMCA on Yankee Road will be accessible via biking/hiking from the west. 4,290 feet of the Liberty Park path was completed in 1995/96.

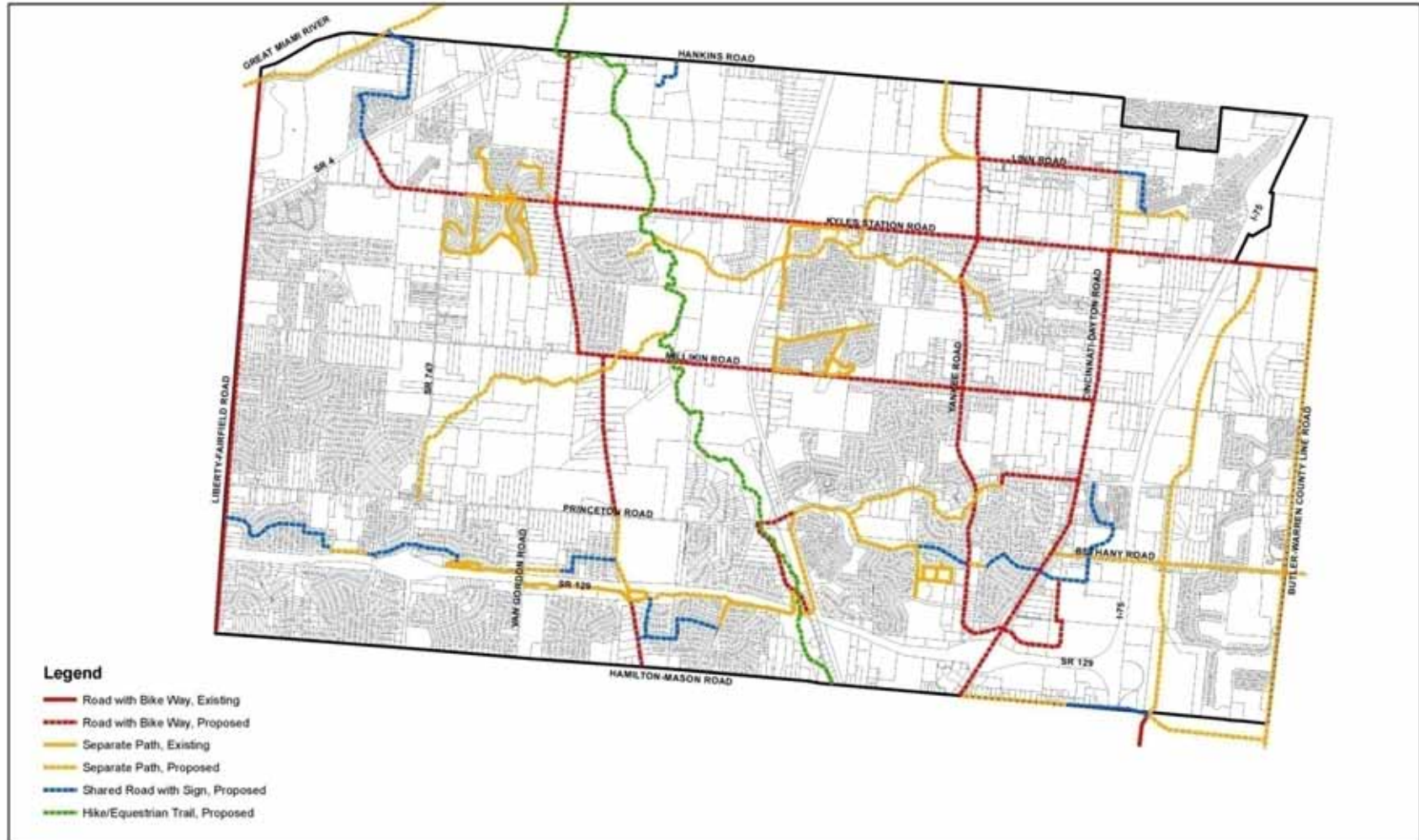
Phase VI

Huntsville Station Connector. Easement rights have been granted to Liberty Township from CINERGY for a path to proceed through their property on Yankee Road across from the Lakota Family YMCA and Liberty Park. The path would come out on Essex Mill Terrace and proceed through the Stonehenge subdivision to Wyandot to Cincinnati-Dayton Road. Cross Cincinnati-Dayton Road at the light and proceed on Wyandot to Lakota East High School.

Phase VII

Bethany Road – A bike lane needs to be added to this road from Lakota East High School to Butler-Warren Road

- Part 1. Liberty Ct. to Bethany Road east crossing over I-75 to frontage of Greencrest Golf Course.
- Part 2. Frontage on Bethany Road east of Greencrest Golf Course to Butler Warren Rd. Approximately 4,300.



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet April 14, 2008



Existing Bicycle Thoroughfare Plan
 Liberty Township Parks Master Plan
 Butler County, Ohio

A Few Minutes of Your Time Will Help Make Liberty Township a Better Place to Live, Work and Play!

Dear Liberty Township Resident:

Your response to the enclosed survey is extremely important...

The Liberty Township Trustees are conducting a Community Attitude and Interest Survey to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. Your household was one of a limited number selected at random to receive this survey, therefore, it is very important that you participate.

We appreciate your time...

We realize that this survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, but each question is important. The time you invest in completing this survey will aid the Trustees in taking a resident-driven approach to making decisions that will enrich the future of our community and positively affect the lives of its residents.

Please complete and return your survey within the next two weeks...

We have selected Leisure Vision/ETC Institute, an independent consulting company, as our partner to administer this survey. They will compile the data received and present the results to the Liberty Township Trustees. **Your responses will remain confidential.** Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jon West, Director of Planning and Zoning, at (513) 759-7500.

The Community Attitude and Interest Survey is a tool that will benefit all Liberty Township residents. Please take this opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,
Liberty Township Trustees

Pat Hiltman
President

David Kern
Vice-President

Christine Matacic
Trustee

The Liberty Township Board of Trustees would like your input to help determine parks and recreation priorities for Liberty Township. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time.

1. Have you or any member of your household visited any of the Liberty Township parks and facilities during the past 12 months?

___ (1) Yes (please answer Questions 1a and 1b) ___ (2) No (please skip to Question 2)

1a. Approximately how often did you or members of your household visit Liberty Township parks and facilities during the past year?

___ (1) 1 to 5 visits ___ (3) 11-19 visits ___ (5) Don't know
 ___ (2) 6 to 10 visits ___ (4) 20 or more visits

1b. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the Liberty Township parks and facilities you have visited?

___ (1) Excellent ___ (3) Fair
 ___ (2) Good ___ (4) Poor

2. Have you or other members of your household participated in any programs / events / festivals / parades / 5K run offered by Liberty Township over the past 12 months?

___ (1) Yes (please answer Questions 2a) ___ (2) No (please skip to Question 3)

2a. How would you rate the quality of the programs you and members of your household participated in?

___ (1) Excellent ___ (3) Fair
 ___ (2) Good ___ (4) Poor

3. From the following list, please check ALL of the parks and recreation facilities that you or members of your household have visited in the past 12 months.

Liberty Township Parks

- ___ (01) Allen Park
- ___ (02) Cherokee Park
- ___ (03) Dudley Memorial Park
- ___ (04) Ft. Liberty Playland
- ___ (05) Maud Hughes Incline
- ___ (06) Mill Creek Preserve
- ___ (07) Reserve Park
- ___ (08) Wetlands Park
- ___ (09) Logsdon Meadow Park
- ___ (10) Liberty Park

- ___ (11) Summerlin Park
- ___ (12) Wilhelmina Park

Other Community Parks

- ___ (13) Dudley Woods Metro Park
- ___ (14) LSO Walter J. Long Park
- ___ (15) LSO Fields on Yankee Rd.
- ___ (16) Metalex Park
- ___ (17) Voice of America Park
- ___ (18) Lakota YMCA
- ___ (19) Keehner Park
- ___ (20) Other _____

4. Which three of the facilities from the list in Question #3 did you visit the most in the last 12 months [Please write in the numbers below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most visited facilities using the numbers in Question #3 above or circle NONE.]

1st most visited: ___ 2nd: ___ 3rd: ___ NONE

5. For each of the following functions that could be performed by Liberty Township, please indicate if you feel the function is very important, somewhat important, not important, or not sure by circling the corresponding number.

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Sure</u>
(A) Providing places for outdoor sports programs	1.....	2.....	3	4
(B) Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities	1.....	2.....	3	4
(C) Providing programs for residents of all ages and families	1.....	2.....	3	4
(D) Operating and maintaining parks and facilities.....	1.....	2.....	3	4
(E) Allocating park facilities equally to different parts of the Township	1.....	2.....	3	4
(F) Providing trail systems (ie. walk/bike trails, creek corridors, etc.).....	1.....	2.....	3	4
(G) Providing places for cultural programs, i.e. theater, arts, dance	1.....	2.....	3	4
(H) Providing programs for specific ages, i.e. seniors, teens, etc.....	1.....	2.....	3	4
(I) Preserving the environment and providing open space/green space.....	1.....	2.....	3	4

6. Which THREE of the functions listed in Question #5 do you think should be most important for Liberty Township to provide? [Please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices using the letters from the list in Question #5 above.]

1st

2nd

3rd

7. From the following list, please check ALL the organizations that you and members of your household use for parks and recreation programs and facilities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> (01) Private schools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (02) Churches</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (03) Private youth sports leagues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (04) School District</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (05) Liberty Township Parks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (06) Private clubs (tennis, health & fitness)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> (07) Neighboring cities/counties/state parks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (08) College or University</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (09) Public & private golf courses</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (10) Senior Citizen Center:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (11) Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (12) None, do not use any organization</p> |
|---|---|

8. From the list in Question #7 which TWO organizations do you and your household USE THE MOST for recreation and parks programs and facilities? [Write in the numbers from the list in Question #7 for the THREE agencies you use most.]

Organization Used Most

Organization Used 2nd Most.....

Organization Used 3rd Most

9. Please indicate if **you or any member of your household has a need** for each of the parks and recreational facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the park/facility. **If YES, please rate ALL of the following Parks and Recreation facilities of this type in Liberty Township on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means “100% Meets Needs” and 1 means “Does Not Meet Needs” of your household.**

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met by Facilities?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
B. Large community and/or County parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
C. Baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
D. Lacrosse fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
E. Youth football fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
F. Outdoor Soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
G. Indoor soccer field	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
H. Off-leash dog parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
I. Walking and hiking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
J. Mountain bike trails or BMX track	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
K. Natural areas/nature parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
L. Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
M. Picnic shelters / picnic areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
N. Skateboarding area	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
O. Boating and/or fishing access areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
P. Disc-Frisbee Golf	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Q. Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
R. Outdoor stage or amphitheater	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
S. Tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
T. Indoor basketball / game courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
U. Indoor swimming pools / water parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
V. Remote control planes, cars, etc.	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
W. Outdoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
X. Horseback trails / facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Y. Sand volleyball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Z. Golf Courses	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
1. Golf driving range / training facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
2. Shooting Range	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

10. Which FOUR of the facilities from the list in Question #9 are most important to your household? [Using the letters and numbers in the left hand column of Question #9 above, please write in the letters and numbers below for your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

11. Please indicate if **you or any member of your household has a need** for each of the recreation programs listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the recreation program.

If YES, please rate the following recreation programs in Liberty Township on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "100% Meets Needs" and 1 means "Does Not Meet Needs" of your household.

Type of Program	Do You Have a Need for this Program?		If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met by Programs in Liberty Township				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Youth Learn to Swim programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
B. Pre-School programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
C. Babysitting/ child care	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
D. Before and after school programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
E. Youth summer camp programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
F. Youth sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
G. Youth fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
H. Martial arts programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
I. Adult fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
J. Water fitness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
K. Youth art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
L. Adult art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
M. Adult sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
N. Senior programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
O. Programs for mental/physically challenged	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
P. Birthday parties	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Q. Pet Exercise	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
R. Teen programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
S. Special events	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
T. Nature programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
U. Adult day trips	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
V. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

12. Which **FOUR** of the programs from the list in Question #11 are *most important* to your household? [Using the letters in Question #11 above, please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

13. Which **FOUR** of the programs from the list in Question #11 *do you currently participate in MOST OFTEN?* [Using the letters in Question #11 above, please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE

14. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to existing Liberty Township parks. Please check ALL the improvements you would most like to have made to Liberty Township parks.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Park entrance signs | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Tennis courts | <input type="checkbox"/> (17) Handicap accessibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Paved parking | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Playground equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> (18) Sand volleyball courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Sidewalks | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Bike racks | <input type="checkbox"/> (19) Park security lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Picnic shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> (20) Landscaping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Drinking fountains | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Picnic tables/benches | <input type="checkbox"/> (21) Bike trails & bike lanes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Restrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Outdoor basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> (22) Increased programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Trail lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Sports fields | <input type="checkbox"/> (23) Shooting Range |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> (16) Sports field lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> (24) Other _____ |

15. Please check ALL the ways you learn about Liberty Township programs or activities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Visited or called the Township office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Township Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Through the Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Word of mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Brochures / Fliers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Website | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Chamber of Commerce/Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Local access television channel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Youth Sports Organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Other _____ |

16. If you had \$100 in new funding, how would you allocate the \$100 among the following types of parks and recreation facilities in Liberty Township? [Please be sure your total adds up to \$100.]

- \$ _____ Acquisition of land for open space/green space
- \$ _____ Development of walking, biking and horse riding trails
- \$ _____ Improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas
- \$ _____ Improvements/construction of new game fields (i.e. softball, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, etc.)
- \$ _____ Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities (i.e. playgrounds, shelters, etc.)
- \$ _____ Recreation programs and activities
- \$ _____ Other: _____
- \$ 100 TOTAL**

17. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS of the Liberty Township Parks and Recreation Department more often.

- (01) Facilities are not well maintained
(02) Program or facility not offered
(03) Facilities do not have the right equipment
(04) Security is insufficient
(05) Lack of quality programs
(06) Too far from our residence
(07) Design not conducive to disabled use
(08) Use facilities in other park systems
(09) Poor customer service by staff
(10) I do not know locations of facilities
(11) Use other agencies in Liberty Township
(12) I do not know what is being offered
(13) Facilities operating hours not convenient
(14) Availability of parking
(15) We are not interested
(16) We are too busy
(17) Other:

Demographics

18. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household? _____

19. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are?

- Under 5 years, 5 - 9 years, 10 - 14 years, 15 - 19 years, 20 - 24 years, 25 - 34 years, 35 - 44 years, 45 - 54 years, 55 - 64 years, 65+ years

20. Your Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

21. What is your age? _____

22. Are you or any members of your household members of a local YMCA? ___ Yes ___ No

23. What is your home zip code? _____

24. How long have you lived in Liberty Township?

- 0-5 years, 5-10 years, Over 10 years

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!

Please Return Your Completed Survey in the Enclosed Postage Paid Envelope Addressed to: ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your response will remain Completely Confidential
The address information on the sticker to the right will ONLY be used to help identify areas with special interests

National Benchmarking

Since 1998, Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute) has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 200 communities in over 35 states across the country.

The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

Communities within the following states are included within the National Benchmarking data base.

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wyoming

“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

Results from household responses for Liberty Township were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information. A summary of all tabular comparisons are shown on pages 3-9.

Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with Liberty Township is not authorized without written consent from Leisure Vision/ETC Institute.

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Have you or members of your household visited any City/County/ Park District <u>parks</u> over the past year?	Yes	72%	79%
	No	28%	21%
How would you rate the quality of all the <u>parks</u> you've visited?	Excellent	30%	22%
	Good	54%	63%
	Fair	12%	13%
	Poor	2%	1%
	Don't know	2%	1%
Have you or members of your household participated in City/County/Park District recreation <u>programs</u> during the past year?	Yes	30%	31%
	No	70%	69%
How would you rate the quality of all the recreation <u>programs</u> you've participated in?	Excellent	33%	20%
	Good	54%	65%
	Fair	10%	14%
	Poor	2%	1%
	Don't Know	1%	0%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Ways respondents learn about recreation programs and activities			
	Newspaper	41%	69%
	Word of mouth	42%	56%
	Township Newsletter	49%	46%
	Through the Schools	19%	24%
	Youth Sports Organizations	NA	23%
	Brochures/Fliers	32%	21%
	Website	14%	15%
	Radio	10%	4%
	Visited or called the Township office	17%	1%
	Chamber of Commerce/Tourism	NA	1%
Organizations used for parks and recreation programs and facilities			
	Liberty Township Parks	49%	57%
	Neighboring cities/counties/state parks	22%	45%
	School District	27%	40%
	Churches	32%	34%
	Public & private golf courses	NA	31%
	Private youth sports leagues	12%	29%
	Private clubs (tennis, health, & fitness)	23%	28%
	Private schools	9%	8%
	College or University	17%	8%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Reasons preventing the use of parks and recreation facilities and programs more often			
	I do not know what is being offered	23%	54%
	I do not know locations of facilities	13%	36%
	Program or facility not offered	13%	26%
	We are too busy	34%	26%
	Use facilities in other park systems	15%	25%
	Too far from our residence	15%	22%
	Facilities do not have the right equipment	7%	13%
	Lack of quality programs	7%	12%
	Facilities are not well maintained	6%	9%
	Program times are not convenient	14%	7%
	We are not interested	13%	7%
	Security is insufficient	7%	6%
	Use other agencies in Liberty Township	6%	5%
	Availability of parking	5%	3%
	Class full	5%	3%
	Design not conducive to disabled use	2%	2%
	Facilities operating hours not convenient	6%	2%
	Poor customer service by staff	3%	1%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Recreation <u>programs</u> that respondent households have a need for			
	Adult fitness and wellness programs	48%	59%
	Youth sports programs	27%	42%
	Nature programs	34%	38%
	Youth Learn to Swim programs	23%	33%
	Adult sports programs	24%	33%
	Special events	41%	31%
	Youth summer camp programs	20%	29%
	Youth fitness and wellness programs	19%	28%
	Water fitness programs	30%	28%
	Pet Exercise	NA	26%
	Pre-School programs	15%	24%
	Birthday parties	17%	21%
	Youth art, dance, performing arts	18%	20%
	Babysitting/child care	NA	19%
	Teen programs	17%	18%
	Adult art, dance, performing arts	23%	17%
	Before and after school programs	15%	17%
	Martial arts programs	16%	13%
	Senior programs	23%	12%
	Adult day trips	NA	10%
	Programs for mental/physically challenged	12%	5%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Most important recreation <u>programs</u> (sum of top choices)			
	Adult fitness and wellness programs	29%	35%
	Youth sports programs	15%	29%
	Youth Learn to Swim programs	12%	21%
	Nature programs	15%	20%
	Adult sports programs	9%	17%
	Youth summer camp programs	8%	17%
	Pet Exercise	NA	16%
	Pre-School programs	7%	13%
	Special events	22%	13%
	Youth fitness and wellness programs	6%	12%
	Teen programs	7%	11%
	Water fitness programs	13%	11%
	Adult art, dance, performing arts	10%	10%
	Youth art, dance, performing arts	6%	9%
	Babysitting/child care	NA	9%
	Before and after school programs	7%	8%
	Senior programs	13%	8%
	Adult day trips	NA	4%
	Martial arts programs	4%	4%
	Birthday parties	4%	4%
	Programs for mental/physically challenged	4%	2%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys		
	National Average	Liberty Township
Parks and recreation <u>facilities</u> that respondent households have a need for		
Walking and hiking trails	69%	85%
Large community/County parks	56%	75%
Natural areas/nature parks	51%	75%
Small neighborhood parks	60%	69%
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	54%	63%
Playgrounds	42%	60%
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers	43%	53%
Indoor swimming pools/water parks	44%	46%
Golf courses	30%	46%
Golf driving range/training facilities	29%	44%
Fishing access areas	32%	36%
Baseball and softball fields	NA	36%
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	35%	35%
Outdoor soccer fields	22%	32%
Outdoor basketball courts	25%	32%
Off-leash dog parks	25%	31%
Tennis courts	26%	30%
Indoor basketball/game courts	26%	27%
Mountain bike trails or BMX track	22%	22%
Youth football fields	14%	18%
Sand volleyball courts	17%	17%
Disc-Frisbee Golf	13%	16%
Indoor soccer field	NA	16%
Shooting Range	NA	15%

Parks and Recreation Benchmarking for Needs Assessment Surveys			
		National Average	Liberty Township
Most important parks and recreation <u>facilities</u> (sum of top choices)			
	Walking & hiking trails	31%	55%
	Small Neighborhood Parks	29%	33%
	Playground Equipment for Children	21%	28%
	Large Community Parks	19%	28%
	Natural areas/wildlife habitats	16%	26%
	Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Facilities	17%	21%
	Golf Courses	14%	17%
	Picnic Areas and Shelters	18%	14%
	Indoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Facilities	17%	14%
	Outdoor soccer fields	8%	13%
	Off-Leash Dog Park	11%	12%
	Baseball and softball fields	NA	12%
	Golf Driving Range	11%	9%
	Mountain bike trails or BMX track	6%	8%
	Fishing areas	11%	8%
	Outdoor Amphitheater	9%	7%
	Tennis Courts (outdoor)	7%	6%
	Indoor basketball/volleyball courts	7%	5%
	Shooting Range	NA	5%
	Youth football fields	3%	5%
	Outdoor Basketball Courts	5%	4%
	Indoor soccer field	NA	3%
	Ultimate Frisbee/Disc Golf	2%	2%
	Volleyball Courts (outdoor sand)	3%	2%

Parks and Recreation Department Survey

For the Liberty Township (Butler County) Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 By: Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

- 1) Agency_____
- 2) Population served by the agency _____
- 3) Number of acres of park land **total in your community**:
 - a) Active acreage (playing fields, courts, swimming pools etc.) _____
 - b) Passive acreage (trails, woodland, nature preserves, etc.) _____
- 4) Number of acres of park land **under your department's jurisdiction**:
 - a) Active acreage (playing fields, courts, swimming pools, etc.) _____
 - b) Passive acreage (trails, woodland, nature preserves, etc.) _____
- 5) Number of acres of **Board of Education/School land** that you have access to:
 - a) Active acreage (playing fields, courts, swimming pools, etc.) _____
 - b) Passive acreage (trails, woodland, nature preserves, etc.) _____
- 6) Other private land used by the community that you have access to:
 Source(s)_____
 - a) Active acreage (playing fields, courts, swimming pools, etc.) _____
 - b) Passive acreage (trails, woodland, nature preserves, etc.) _____
- 7) 2007 Budget
 - a) Overall annual budget (without capital improvements) \$_____
 - b) What is the source of your income and revenue (as a percentage of your total)?
 - i) Government General Fund (tax supported) _____ %
 - ii) User fees/ rentals, etc. _____ %
 - iii) Grants and foundations/donations _____ %
 - iv) Dedicated Open Space tax for parks & recreation _____ %
 - v) Other _____ %

Total **100%**

 - c) Five-year average of grants/donations received: \$_____
 - d) Five-year average Capital Improvements Budget \$_____
- 8) What is the breakdown of your 2007 annual budget (from Question 7a)?
 - a) Salaries \$_____
 - b) Operating Expenses/Supplies \$_____

- 9) Number of employees
- a) Full time- year round _____
 - b) Part time – year round _____
 - c) Part time seasonal _____
 - d) Other _____

Park Maintenance

- 10) How many workers do park maintenance?
- a) Full time- year round _____
 - b) Part time – year round _____
 - c) Part time seasonal _____

11) Does the park maintenance staff report directly to you? Yes_____ No_____

If no, who do they report to?_____

12) How many fields do you have access to each season?

	Spring	Summer	Fall
Soccer			
Softball/Baseball			
Football			
Lacrosse			
Other_____			

13) How many fields are you responsible to line/prepare each season?

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Comments?
Soccer				
Softball/Baseball				
Football				
Lacrosse				
Other_____				

14) Do you contract out any work (mowing, turf management, field prep, etc.)? Yes/No

If yes, what? _____

15) Do you have any synthetic turf fields? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is the brand? _____

Other Facilities

16) Do you have an outdoor aquatic center? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please answer the following:

a) Approximate number of gallons or square feet of water surface

_____ Gallons _____ Square feet

b) Year opened _____

c) Total annual attendance _____

i) Number of family passes _____

ii) Number of individual passes _____

d) Average numbers of days in operation per year _____

e) Annual revenue \$ _____

f) Annual expenses \$ _____

g) Do you have a concession? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please answer the following:

i) Annual revenue \$ _____

ii) Annual expenses \$ _____

Are the revenue/expenses included in your figures for 15e & 15f above? Yes _____ No _____

17) Do you have an indoor recreation center or community center? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please answer the following:

a) Approximate square feet _____

b) Year opened _____

c) Total annual attendance _____

d) Number of annual members _____

i) Family memberships _____

ii) Individual memberships _____

e) Total annual income/revenue \$ _____

f) Total annual expenses \$ _____

g) Which of the following facilities are included in your recreation center:

- Gyms (Number of game courts) _____
- Fitness Area – Cardio/Free weights _____
- Indoor Pool _____
- Indoor Track _____
- Auditorium/Theater _____
- Ice Rink (Number of sheets) _____
- Teen Area _____
- Senior Area _____
- Kitchen _____

18) How many sites other than centers under your jurisdiction (schools, private centers, etc.) do you access to for your programs?

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Public School Gyms (# of courts)				
School multipurpose rooms				
Private Center				
Other _____				

19) What is your website address? _____

20) Name of person completing the survey: _____

21) Phone number of person completing the survey: _____

22) Email address of person completing the survey: _____

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

If you have any back up information, organizational charts, pre-printed materials, etc., that makes information requested more understandable, please send us a copy.

All agencies that participate will receive a copy of the tallied results.

Please send the completed form by fax, email or regular mail to:

Patrick Hoagland, ASLA
Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
2360 Chauvin Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40517

Phone 859-268-1933

Fax 859-268-3341

Email: phoagland@brandstettercarroll.com

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Park Land Comparisons

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
		TOTAL ACRES IN YOUR TOWN			IN YOUR DEPARTMENT			BD OF ED./SCHOOL LAND		PRIVATE PARK LAND		PARK LAND		
AGENCY	POPULATION	ACTIVE PARK ACRES	PASSIVE PARK ACRES	TOTAL PARK ACRES (C+D)	ACTIVE PARK ACRES	PASSIVE PARK ACRES	TOTAL PARK ACRES (F+G)	ACTIVE ACRES	PASSIVE ACRES	ACTIVE ACRES	PASSIVE ACRES	PERCENTAGE OF PARK LAND FOR ACTIVE RECREATION (F/H)	CITIZENS PER ACTIVE PARK ACRE (B/H)	TOTAL PARK ACRES PER 1000 RESIDENTS (H/(B/1000))
Liberty Township	33,000	288.7	299.4	588	67.41	175.1	242.51	112.06		109.3	15	28%	490	7.35
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	50	175	225	139	20	159	8	4	50	800	87%	68	16.74
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000				201	100	301	200	25			67%	189	7.92
Anderson Township Park District	44,000	265	245	510	265	245	510	0	0	0	0	52%	166	11.59
City of Middletown	50,000			613	297	49	346	0	0	0	0	86%	168	6.92
Colerain Township Parks	60,000	90	15	105	30	8	38	16	40			79%	2,000	0.63
Miami Township - Clermont County	36,000	280	700	980	131	267	398	very limited				33%	275	11.06
Sycamore Township	20,000	75	5	80	75	5	80					94%	267	4.00
Clearcreek Township	30,000			140	40	215	255					16%	750	8.50
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700	52	16	68			0							0.00
Hamilton Township	25,000	266	279	545	61	279	340					18%	410	13.60
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000	136	53	188.5	136	53	189	34	0			72%	51	27.00
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000	55	45	100	55	45	100					55%	600	3.03
Average	29,938	155.71	183.21	345.18	124.78	121.76	227.58	52.87	11.50	39.83	203.75	57%	453	9.1
Median	33,000	112.75	114.00	206.75	103.00	76.50	242.51	16.00	2.00	25.00	7.50	61%	271	7.9

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Budget Comparisons

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
		BUDGET SUMMARY		INCOME & REVENUE							(O/C)				
AGENCY	POPULATION	OVERALL ANNUAL BUDGET	EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (C/B)	GENERAL FUND	USER FEES / RENTALS	GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS	DEDICATED OPEN SPACE TAX	OTHER	Total	FIVE YEAR AVERAGE OF GRANTS / DONATIONS RECEIVED	FIVE YEAR AVERAGE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS	SALARIES	PERCENT OF BUDGET AS SALARIES (M/C)	OPERATING EXPENSES / SUPPLIES	PERCENT OF BUDGET AS EXPENSES (O/C)
Liberty Township	33,000	\$411,000	\$12.45						0				0		\$0
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	\$1,750,000	\$184	100%	33%	5%			138%	\$50,000	\$300,000	737,000	42%	\$390,000	22%
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000	\$6,314,633	\$166	55%	44%	1%	0%		100%	\$10,000	\$2,000,000	3,103,392	49%	\$3,211,241	51%
Anderson Township Park District	44,000	\$3,700,000	\$84		20%	20%	60%		100%	\$150,000	\$500,000		47%		53%
City of Middletown	50,000	\$140,000	\$3	100%					100%			62,000	44%	\$78,000	56%
Colerain Township Parks	60,000	\$1,400,000	\$23	90%	2%	8%			100%	\$180,000	\$35,000	570,000	41%	\$1,000,000	71%
Miami Township - Clermont County	36,000	\$1,500,000	\$42	100%					100%			626,449	42%	\$816,108	54%
Sycamore Township	20,000	\$450,000	\$23	100%					100%			30,000	7%	\$420,000	93%
Clearcreek Township	30,000	\$300,000	\$10	100%					100%		\$300,000	71,000	24%	\$238,298	79%
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700	\$1,375,000	\$372	100%					100%		\$88,000	719,000	52%	\$656,000	48%
Hamilton Township	25,000	\$150,000	\$6	100%					100%	\$0	\$115,000			\$115,000	77%
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000	\$2,762,865	\$395	67%	33%				100%	\$0	\$180,000	1,312,200	47%	\$1,251,957	45%
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000	\$525,000	\$16	85%	10%			5%	100%			175,000	33%	\$350,000	67%
Average	29,683	\$1,697,292	\$110	91%	24%	9%	30%			\$65,000	\$439,750	740,604	39%	\$775,146	60%
Median	31,500	\$1,387,500	\$33	100%	27%	7%	30%			\$30,000	\$240,000	598,225	42%	\$420,000	55%

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Staff Comparisons

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
AGENCY	Population	PARK ACRES				TOTAL STAFF					MAINTENANCE STAFF							
		Total Park Acres	Active Park Acres	Passive Park Acres	Citizens per park acre (B/C)	Full-time - year round	Part-time Year Round	Part-time Seasonal	Other	Total Employees	Total Acres per Employee (C/K)	Total Employees per 1000 Population (K/(B/1000))	Full Time Employees per 1000 Population (G/(B/1000))	Full-time - year round	Part-time Year Round	Part-time Seasonal	Does park maintenance staff report to you?	Who staff reports to if not Parks and Rec.
Liberty Township	33,000	243	67.47	175.09	136	4	0	0		4	60.64	0.12	0.12	4			yes	Service Director
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	159	139	20	60	11	7	42		60	2.65	6.32	1.16	3	2	3	no	Service Director
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000	301	201	100	126	22	148	6	3	179	1.68	4.71	0.58	7	4	6	yes	
Anderson Township Park District	44,000	510	265	245	86	22	20	30		72	7.08	1.64	0.50	10	3	16	yes	
City of Middletown	50,000	346	297	49	145	1	0	3		4	86.50	0.08	0.02	7	0	1	no	Public Works Director
Colerain Township Parks	60,000	38	30	8	1,579	8	4	15		27	1.41	0.45	0.13	6	4	6	no	Park Foreman
Miami Township-Clermont County	36,000	398	131	267	90	7	3	19		29	13.72	0.81	0.19	5		5	yes	
Sycamore Township	20,000	80	75	5	250	0	1	0		1	80.00	0.05	0.00	0	1	0	no	Superintendent
Clearcreek Township	30,000	255	40	215	118	1	0	5		6	42.50	0.20	0.03	1	0	5	yes	
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700					6	25	34		65		17.57	1.62	6	1	5	no	Public Works Director
Hamilton Township	25,000	340	61	279	74	1	0	1		2	170.00	0.08	0.04	1	0	1	no	Road Supervisor
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000	189	136	53.00	37	9	46	240		295	0.64	42.14	1.29	19	1	5	no	
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000	100	55	45.00	330	4	6	12	2	24	4.17	0.73	0.12					
Average	29,938	246.55	124.79	121.76	252.54	7.38	20.00	31.31	2.50	59.08	39.25	5.76	0.45	5.75	1.60	4.82		
Median	33,000	249	103	77	121.95	6.00	4.00	12.00	2.50	27.00	10.40	0.73	0.13	5.50	1.00	5.00		

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Athletic Fields Comparisons

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE				
AGENCY	Population	FIELDS YOU HAVE ACCESS TO															FIELDS YOU MAINTAIN AND PREPARE																	
		SOCCER			SOFTBALL / BASEBALL			FOOTBALL			LACROSSE			SOCCER			SOFTBALL / BASEBALL			FOOTBALL			CONTRACT WORK		SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS									
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Citizens per field - Prime season (B/E)	Spring	Summer	Fall	Citizens per field - Prime season (B/G)	Spring	Summer	Fall	Citizens per field - Prime season (B/M)	Spring	Summer	Fall	Citizens per field - Prime season (B/O)	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Do you contract work?	Work Contracted	Do you have synthetic turf fields?	Type				
Liberty Township	33,000			21	1,571	18	18		1,833			6	6,500	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	no		no	
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	7	7	7	1,357	5	5	5	1,900	1	1	1	9,500					7	7	7	5	5	5	1	1	1	no			no				
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000	22	22	22	1,727	19	19	19	2,000	5	5	5	7,600					20	20	20	18	18	18	2	2	2	yes	Mowing two church soccer fields		no				
Anderson Township Park District	44,000	27				16			2,750			3	14,667	6			7,333				16	16	6				3	no			no			
City of Middletown	50,000	15	15	15	3,333	8	8	8	6,250	4	4	4	12,500														yes	Youth sports care for the fields		no				
Colerain Township Parks	60,000	6		6	10,000	10	10	10	6,000																	yes	Fertilization program		no					
Miami Township - Clermont County	36,000	18		19	1,895	10	10	3	3,600			2	18,000	6			6,000	18		19	10	10	3			2	yes	Fertilization/week control, field lining		no				
Sycamore Township	20,000	5	5	5	4,000	11	11	11	1,818																	no				no				
Clearcreek Township	30,000	7	7	7	4,286									1	1	1	30,000									yes	Chemical applications to turf and trees. Soccer Association contracts for striping		no					
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700																									yes	Field marking		no					
Hamilton Township	25,000	7	7	7	3,571	15	15	15	1,667	2	2	2	12,500	1	1	1	25,000	5			6			1		no			no					
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000					11	11	4	636												11	11	4			no			no					
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000	3		3	11,000	9	9		3,667			1	33,000					3		3	9	9	4			1	no			no				
Average	29,683	12	11	10	4,574	11	11	9	3,029	3	3	3	15,395	4	1	1	17,083	11	14	19	11	12	7	1	2	2								
Median	31,500	7	7	7	3,571	11	10	9	2,375	3	3	2	12,500	4	1	1	16,167	7	14	19	10	11	5	1	2	2								

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Aquatic Center Comparisons

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
OUTDOOR AQUATIC CENTERS												
AGENCY	POPULATION	Y/N	Approx. Number of gallons	Approx. square feet of water surface	Year opened	Total annual attendance	Number of family passes	Number of individual passes	Average number of days in operation per year	Annual revenue	Annual expenses	Annual Expense per gallon
Liberty Township	33,000											
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	1			1970	21,000	124	19	85	\$60,000	\$101,000	
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000	1	390,000	13,200	1995	32,518	787	248	90	\$191,172	\$199,934	\$0.51
Anderson Township Park District	44,000											
City of Middletown	50,000											
Colerain Township Parks	60,000											
Miami Township-Clermont County	36,000											
Sycamore Township	20,000											
Clearcreek Township	30,000											
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700	1	335,000		1999	18,000	150	3	100	\$23,000	\$140,000	\$0.42
Hamilton Township	25,000											
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000	1			2000	50,546	149	846	95	\$580,000	\$1,076,206	
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000											
Average	29,683	1	362,500	13,200		30,516	303	279	93	\$213,543	\$379,285	\$0.47
Median	31,500	1	362,500	13,200		26,759	150	134	93	\$125,586	\$169,967	\$0.47

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Recreation Centers Comparison

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE	FF		
AGENCY	POPULATION	Y/N	Square feet	Year opened	Total annual attendance	Number of annual members	Family memberships	Individual memberships	Total annual income /revenue	Total annual expenses	Gyms (No. of game courts)	Fitness Area - Cardio/Fr ee weights	Indoor Pool	Indoor track	Theater	Ice Rink - # of sheets	Teen Area	Senior Area	Kitchen	PUBLIC SCHOOL GYM				SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOMS				PRIVATE CENTER					
																				Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall		
Liberty Township	33,000																																
Oxford Parks and Recreation	9,500	1		1970							1	1								3	1							1	1	1	1		
City of Mason Parks and Recreation	38,000	1	158,000	2003	314,144	18,110	15,487	2,623	\$2,410,383	\$3,460,424	6	1	1	1	1		1	2	2	8	8	8	8	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1		
Anderson Township Park District	44,000	1	12,000	2004					\$140,000	\$96,000	1									3			3										
City of Middletown	50,000																																
Colerain Township Parks	60,000																																
Miami Township-Clermont County	36,000																																
Sycamore Township	20,000																																
Clearcreek Township	30,000																																
Village of Evendale Recreation Department	3,700	1	52,000	1991	117,000	2,600	1,535	65	\$218,000	\$656,000	2	1				1	1	1															
Hamilton Township	25,000																			3	3	3	3										
City of Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept.	7,000	1	50,000	2000	90,000	1,100			\$250,000	\$1,076,000	1									2			2										
Delhi Township Parks & Recreation	33,000																																
Average	29,683	1.00	68,000		173,715	7,270			\$754,596	\$1,322,106	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	1.5	1.5	3.8	4.0	5.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Median	31,500	1	51,000		117,000	2,600			\$234,000	\$866,000	1	1	1	1	1		1	2	2	3	3	6	3.0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1		

Appendix F – Land Acquisition Tips

The following recommendations come from the book entitled: *Greenways for America*, by Charles E. Little, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990. This source was written for greenways, but most of the tips apply to land acquisition for park land also.

- Land for the corridor need not be conveyed in fee - that is, in full title, free and clear. A negative conservation easement may be all that is necessary for corridor areas not actually open to the public – adjoining a trail for example, or the view involved in a scenic route. A purchase in fee means to purchase all rights in land. An easement acquisition concerns only certain rights, including the negative right to prohibit development or otherwise change the use of the land. A positive easement (access agreement) is required for a trailway itself or other public access to an area, however.
- The land along rivers and streams in most cases is already protected to some degree by floodplain zoning. It therefore has little if any new development value and may be acquired in fee or easement for a corridor relatively cheaply, assuming a willing seller and assuming the land is vacant.
- In special cases, already developed land in a floodplain can be acquired from owners under grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency under its flood insurance program, assuming local law prohibits development or redevelopment in the floodplain. To qualify, existing properties within the floodplain which have been damaged must have lost greater than 50 percent of their value through a flood disaster.
- Land along ridgelines, another favored route for greenways, is often in private ownership and may have significant development value. With ridgeline trails, however, there is more flexibility in routing than with riparian greenways, so a corridor can be routed through land whose owners are sympathetic to a project or through land too steep to be developed economically.
- Trail easements can be piggybacked on public rights-of-way such as sewer easements or power lines.
- In most jurisdictions, residential developers are required to donate part of their site for park or recreational use. If privately owned land ready for development is located along a potential greenway corridor, arrangements should be made with municipal authorities and with the developer for this land (and not some other part of the site) to be dedicated as part of the corridor.
- Residential development plans can also be modified to produce corridor land (over and above mandatory dedications) by means of cluster development (keeping overall housing density the same but reducing individual lot sizes to produce an open-space surplus). This may also be achieved by allowing the transfer of development rights (TDR) from a greenway corridor to another site not in the corridor, permitting the builder to construct the same number of housing units overall.
- Greenway authorities (whether governmental or a public-private foundation) can also produce corridor land by various purchase and resale approaches. For example, a large

Appendix F – Land Acquisition Tips

parcel may be purchased outright from a private owner, the land needed for the greenway corridor divided from it, and the remainder resold either as a single parcel or further subdivided into multiple parcels. In the latter case, it is altogether conceivable that the authority might come out of the transaction with no financial loss or even with a surplus that can be used to acquire corridor land elsewhere. If the division of the property is impractical, then a conservation easement with a trail right-of-way can be placed in the deed and the parcel resold in its entirety with covenants protecting the corridor and providing public access along a trail established in perpetuity.

- Some public authorities favor purchase and leaseback (to adjoining farmer, for example) rather than purchase and resale. In cases other than state or federal scenic highways, however, for which this approach is sometimes used, purchase and resale with restrictions is probably a better means to establish a greenway corridor since it eliminates the need to administer leases.
- Philanthropic land donation (fee or easement) or a bargain sale of land to a greenway authority should always be sought but rarely expected – especially now that lowered income tax rates make land donation less desirable from an estate-planning standpoint. The best approach is to involve the landowners along the corridor in the project at the outset. Then the opportunity for a donation of land will arise naturally. When it does, ask - and it may be given.

Appendix G – How You Can Help

There are numerous ways in which the citizens of Liberty Township can help to improve the quality of life, sense of pride, and health of the residents of Liberty Township. Listed here are just some of the ways in which you can make a difference.

- Let the Trustees know that you support the recommendations of the Master Plan.
- Volunteer to help the Events Committee and Parks Committee in their planning efforts for parks and programs.
- Use the parks. Parks with positive use deter vandalism and unwanted activities.
- Be a good neighbor. Report any unwanted activities or problems that you see in the parks to the Township.
- Volunteer to clean up the parks and help in the maintenance and development of trails.
- Donate land to the Township to be used for parks and open space. Many of the existing parks are the result of donated land.
- Assist the Friends of Liberty Parks and Recreation in fund raising efforts.
- Volunteer to assist in youth activities. The organizations need coaches, maintenance help, referees and umpires, concession workers, and much more.
- Sponsor an event. Many organizations show their community support by providing corporate sponsorships for events.
- Sponsor a park facility. Many organizations sponsor facilities such as picnic shelters, amphitheaters, or playgrounds and are recognized with a sign on the facility.
- When the Township plans the proposed new parks, get involved in the planning process. Then help in the development.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to get involved also. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.
- As the Township builds the network of trails to link parks, schools, and neighborhoods, they will need access to land. Help by providing an easement for the trail if the proposed path is on or near your property.

This is just a start. The communities that are the most desirable places to live have an active community which supports the efforts of the local government. Be creative. How can you help?