




The City of Moraine

2025

**Community
Parks and Recreation
Vision Plan**

May, 2025



The City of Moraine

WAX PARK AMPHITHEATER

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. **8155-25**

Passed **May 22, 2025**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF MORaine COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION VISION PLAN.

WHEREAS, City Council previously authorized via resolution the engagement of Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. to perform professional services related to the provision of a Master Park Plan for the City; and

WHEREAS, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. presented the City of Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan at City Council's May 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting; and

WHEREAS, City Council now desires to approve and adopt the City of Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan presented at City Council's May 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting and appended hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORaine, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the City of Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan presented at City Council's May 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting and appended hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved and adopted.

SECTION 2: That the Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the City Manager, Finance Director, and Director of Parks and Recreation.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its passage.

APPROVED:



Mayor Teri Murphy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Law Director

ATTEST:



Acting Clerk of Council

I, Aaron Viotor, Clerk of Council for the City of Moraine, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 8155-25 passed by the Moraine City Council on May 22, 2025.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand and official seal this May 22, 2025.



Acting Clerk of Council, Aaron Viotor



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan Moraine, Ohio

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE NEED FOR A VISION

This 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan represents what Moraine could become. Moraine is a small city in greater Dayton metropolitan area with around 6,500 people, but the city has a daytime population of over 14,000. In Moraine, the community includes residents, workers, businesses, and visitors. These groups will all be essential parts of a **strong community** when the vision of this plan is realized.

The purpose of this plan is to provide an ambitious yet feasible roadmap for the future that encompasses the needs and desires of the Moraine community. This plan is important because it...

- Outlines a vision for the future of parks and recreation in Moraine that will attract residents and visitors
- Fosters civic engagement, creates a sense of community, and improves quality of life
- Aligns department operations with community needs, including residents and workers
- Identifies gaps & inequities in service delivery
- Strengthens fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and efficiency
- Identifies future funding requirements and potential sources
- Increases user participation, satisfaction, revenue, and capital investment
- Enables the city to keep up with parks and recreation trends
- Reduces duplication of service and improves partnerships

Meant to instill focus, establish priorities, and inspire action, the plan was produced with guidance from an active steering committee, parks and recreation staff, and Moraine residents. The plan is supported by robust data collection, including hours of in-person engagement, and provides a foundation for continuous improvement of Moraine's parks and recreation opportunities.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN MORaine

Developed from all the input gathered during the Evaluate and Engage phases, this strategic plan articulates a freshly inspired vision, mission, and set of defining values. These strategic elements will help pilot implementation of actions identified in this Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan and thereby shape the future of parks and recreation in Moraine.

Vision

Our parks and programs build a strong community and promote healthy lifestyles.

Mission

We provide exceptional parks, events, and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community.

Values

Community – pride and growth through inclusive events and programs

Health – healthy lifestyles through fitness and wellness activities

Nature – connections to nature and the Great Miami River

Innovation – progress through continuous improvement of facilities, programs, and operations

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives will guide parks and recreation operations, improvements, and services in Moraine for the next 10 years.

Goal 1: Engaging Parks – Modern and innovative parks and recreation facilities

Objective 1.1 – Make parks and facilities accessible and inviting for the entire community

Objective 1.2 – Update parks and recreation facilities to meet current and future needs

Objective 1.3 – Improve access to the Great Miami River and the city's other natural areas

Goal 2: Engaging Programs – Excellent programs and community events

Objective 2.1 – Maintain and grow popular community-wide events

Objective 2.2 – Continue to grow sports and fitness programs

Objective 2.3 – Provide arts and cultural programming

Goal 3: Engaging People – Strong leadership and stewardship of financial resources

Objective 3.1 – Optimize services with appropriate staffing levels, performance standards, and growth opportunities

Objective 3.2 – Develop additional revenue strategies to support operations and programming

Objective 3.3 – Employ dedicated maintenance staff with clear standards for stewardship

Goal 4: Engaging Promotion – Citywide engagement for parks, recreation facilities, events, and programs

Objective 4.1 – Utilize clear marketing strategies with dedicated efforts by Parks and Recreation

Objective 4.2 – Continuously engage the community and partners

Objective 4.3 – Build and maintain collaborative relationships to address community priorities

MOVING FORWARD – LET'S PLAY

This plan will guide Moraine and its partners in their efforts to expand and upgrade programs, facilities, and services to meet community needs. Additionally, the plan offers improvements to Parks and Recreation department operations.

Public input (Chapter 3) and an analysis of existing conditions (Chapter 2) together informed the recommendations for improvements outlined in Chapters 4 and 5. The following items are the top priorities determined by the Community

Parks and Recreation Vision Plan process along with direction from the steering committee.

Capital Improvement Recommendations

1. Expand Deer Meadow Park to include:
 - A dog park
 - A large barrier free playground and nature play area
 - Improved fishing access
 - Nature trails and access
2. Redevelop Ora Everetts Park to include:
 - A large splash pad
 - A large barrier free playground
 - Basketball, pickleball and tennis courts
 - A modernized Civic Center



3. Redevelop Wax Park to include:
 - Removal of Splash Moraine buildings
 - An amphitheater



- Riverwalk with fishing/kayak access
 - A large barrier free playground
 - Multipurpose fields
 - A renovated Recreation Center
4. Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan
 5. Add restrooms at the community parks
 6. Improve wayfinding, signage, and branding
 7. Prepare a feasibility study for an outdoor aquatic center (management structure, location, capital/operating costs, staffing, size/elements, etc.)
 8. Improve trails and connectivity throughout the city
 9. Bring the Wright Brothers Pinnacle Hiking Trail property into the park system
 10. Provide basic services at each neighborhood park

Program Recommendations

1. Conduct a program inventory and analysis
2. Develop and utilize participant evaluations for programs and events
3. Engage the community to explore specific types of desired events
4. Utilize proposed facilities for additional program opportunities
5. Add arts programs
6. Seek partnerships for nature programs and educational opportunities

Operational Recommendations

1. Review current job descriptions to ensure that they meet the needs of the organization and community
2. Evaluate the staffing levels to ensure they meet the needs and priorities of the community
3. Develop and implement an annual marketing plan
4. Conduct a utilization and capacity analysis of rentable and reservable spaces
5. Develop or update written policies and procedures for all external groups
6. Develop a Cost Recovery Plan for programs and events
7. Seek alternative funding opportunities for programs, services, and amenities
8. Develop a repair and replacement plan for capital improvements
9. Employ dedicated parks maintenance staff to increase efficiency, streamline repairs and improvement, and improve visitor experiences

Action Plan

The 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan concludes with an action plan of strategies and recommendations to improve facilities, programs, and overall service. The specific action items outlined in Chapter 5 offer a path towards successful implementation of the Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan.

THE PROCESS – WHY ARE THESE ACTIONS NEEDED

Existing Conditions of Parks and Recreation

A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas with each meeting a particular public need. The system should provide a combination of smaller neighborhood parks, larger community parks, and other recreation facilities. For all residents, whatever their background, parks and recreation facilities help provide a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities. Proximity to these valuable resources invariably improves community health and wellness while creating more adaptable, robust local economies.¹

MORAINÉ PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

7 Neighborhood Parks

- DP&L Park
- George Taylor Park
- German Village Park
- Lehigh Park
- Pinnacle Park
- Pinnacle Tot Lot
- Riverview Park

2 Indoor Recreation Facilities

- Payne Recreation Center
- Gerhardt Civic Center

2 Special Use Parks

- Garden Plots
- Main Street/Pinnacle Road Bike Path

3 Community Parks

- Deer Meadow Park
- Ora Everetts Park
- Wax Park

129.7 Total acres

Overall, 67% of Moraine residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park (including schools with playgrounds). Most residents live within a 5-minute drive to a neighborhood or community park. Areas in the far western portion of the city and the southeast corner are not within a 5-minute drive. All areas of the city are within a 10-minute drive of a community park.



¹ https://www.fastcompany.com/90624316/great-parks-dont-just-haverec-space-they-create-jobs?mc_cid=105f89bd93&mc_eid=6c9b6b28d4

Demographic and Benchmarking Analysis

Moraine has experienced minimal population change; however, the city is adding older and younger people and becoming slightly more diverse. As these trends continue, they may create new demand for alternate recreation programs and facilities.

Overall, Moraine compares favorably to the benchmark departments. Moraine has a need for additional programs, multipurpose fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, and improved indoor recreation spaces.

Service Area Analysis

Maps of service areas for various parks and facilities were used to identify service gaps or underserved areas within Moraine. Maps were also created to illustrate levels of access to various park categories and facilities. Moraine's overall level of service for recreation facilities is relatively low and specific parts of the city have considerably less service.

A composite service areas map shows the overall level of service for parks and facilities, ranked from high to low, in turn revealing areas of need and opportunity. Shades of green indicate high service levels, while red areas show those with the lowest level of service to parks and recreation facilities. Approximately 68% of Moraine residents live in areas with high (14%) or medium-high (54%) levels of service.

WHAT MORAINES RESIDENTS SAID

Understanding the needs and wants of Moraine residents was essential to developing the Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan. The community was engaged through a variety of methods, including a random sample survey, web survey, open house workshop, booths at National Night Out and Boo Bash, and conversations with key stakeholder groups. These options for involvement gave park users and non-users a means to share their individual needs, perceptions, concerns, and desires for the park system.

Open House Workshop & Engagement Events

Approximately 250 people participated in three engagement events. During the events, participants were asked how to improve the city's parks and programs.

Participants were also asked to "spend" \$1,000 to indicate how they would support funding for parks and recreation facilities. "New/upgraded outdoor park features" received the most support with \$47,200 (20%) allocated. "More programs and special events" was next with \$37,000 (15%) allocated. Third most popular was "new parks" with \$33,100 (14%) allocated followed by "new/upgraded indoor recreation facilities" (\$29,900 or 12%).

Stakeholder Groups

Stakeholder groups interviewed during the planning process included sports groups/leagues, government officials/agencies, mayor and current city officials, and community organizations such as:

- Mayor and current city officials
- Former mayor
- Local school districts
- Partner groups, including youth baseball
- Parks and Recreation staff
- Park users

Surveys

The city utilized a representative Random Sample Survey of households to represent the population of Moraine as a whole, both users and non-users. The 311 returned surveys provided precision of at least $\pm 5.4\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. An online and handout survey (Web Survey) was completed by 328 respondents. This type of survey tends to be completed by residents that already have a connection to parks and recreation in Moraine, either as users or stakeholders.

The top results for support for investment in facilities and programs provided below. These results from the Random Sample Survey show the percentage of households desiring investment.

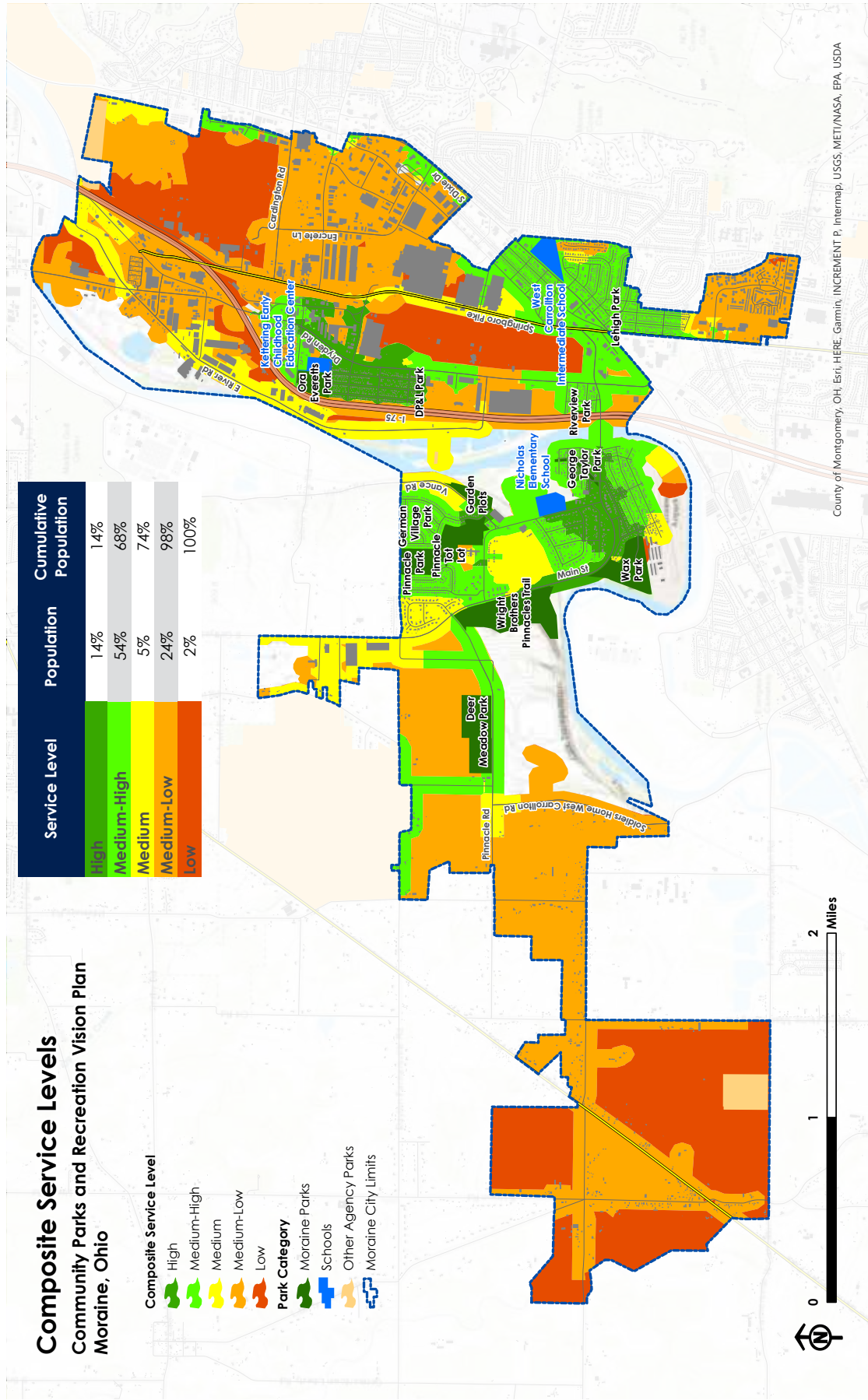
Highest priority facilities for investment

1. Trails (36%)
2. Natural areas/nature parks (35%)
3. Playgrounds (33%)
4. Large community parks (31%)
5. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (31%)
6. Picnic shelters (26%)
7. Splash pads (26%)
8. Community/recreation centers (25%)

Highest priority programs for investment

1. Festivals (35%)
2. Concerts/arts performances (33%)
3. Fishing, canoeing, or boating (28%)
4. Adult fitness and wellness programs (27%)
5. Nature programs (20%)
6. Outdoor movies (18%)
7. Water fitness programs (18%)
8. Youth sports programs (18%)

Continued public engagement will be necessary as Moraine implements the Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan. Public input is an important part of the design process for development of new park facilities and in evaluating programs for improvement. Engagement efforts should be flexible and creative, utilizing tools like on-site feedback and interactive online platforms.














Overall Engagement Findings (All Methods)

Participants at the various engagement events expressed the strongest support for the following **features and facilities**:

-  Trails
-  Natural areas
-  Aquatics – splash pad and/or outdoor pool
-  Indoor recreation facilities (upgrades to Rec Center and Civic Center)
-  Playground improvements
-  Restrooms
-  River access with canoe/kayak launches
-  Support features – drinking fountains, seating, shade, trees, security
-  Dog park
-  Outdoor courts – pickleball, basketball, tennis
-  Amphitheater and event spaces
-  Rectangular fields (especially for soccer)

Participants expressed the strongest support for the following **programs and operational improvements**:

-  Festivals
-  Concerts, movies, and art performances
-  Water related (fishing, canoeing, kayaking)
-  Nature programs
-  Improved marketing and awareness
-  Adult fitness, including age 50+
-  Swimming and water fitness
-  Youth sports
-  Maintenance and facility cleanliness – team dedicated to parks
-  Visual, cultural and performing arts
-  Consistent branding and logo

Lack of awareness and the need for better marketing and promotion were consistent themes of the engagement process. While most Web Survey respondents indicated they prefer to learn about parks and recreation activities through social media, email, and the city website, Random Sample Survey respondents prefer a seasonal program guide. This indicates a need to use multiple methods to make residents aware of opportunities. More direct and targeted efforts may be required to reach residents who are not currently engaged.

ONE PAGE SUMMARY

The final page of this executive summary provides a graphic representation of the overall findings of the 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan. The image presents the whole document on a single image and can serve as an easy reference for those looking for the highlights of the plan.

Mission

We provide exceptional parks, events, and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community.

Vision

Our parks and programs build a strong community and promote healthy lifestyles.

The City of Moraine

GOALS

Goal 1: Engaging Parks – Modern and innovative parks and recreation facilities

Goal 2: Engaging Programs – Excellent programs and community events

Goal 3: Engaging People – Strong leadership and stewardship of financial resources

Goal 4: Engaging Promotion – Citywide engagement for parks, recreation facilities, events, and programs



ENGAGEMENT FACILITIES DESIRED

- Trails
- Naturals areas
- Aquatics – splash pad and/or outdoor pool
- Indoor recreation facilities (upgrades to Rec Center and Civic Center)
- Playground improvements
- Restrooms
- River access with canoe/kayak launches
- Support features – drinking fountains, seating, shade, trees, security
- Dog park
- Outdoor courts – pickleball, basketball, tennis
- Amphitheater and event spaces
- Rectangular elds (especially for soccer)
- Baseball/softball fields w/ covered dugouts

PROGRAMS DESIRED

- Festivals
- Concerts, movies, and art performances
- Water related (fishing, canoeing, kayaking)
- Nature programs
- Improved marketing and awareness
- Adult fitness, including age 50+
- Swimming and water fitness
- Youth sports
- Visual, cultural and performing arts

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a program inventory and analysis
- Develop and utilize participant evaluations for programs and events
- Engage the community to explore specific types of desired events
- Utilize proposed facilities for additional program opportunities
- Add arts programs
- Seek partnerships for nature programs and educational opportunities

Values

COMMUNITY

HEALTH

NATURE

INNOVATION

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Expand Deer Meadow Park with a dog park, a large playground and improved nature access
- Redevelop Ora Everetts Park with a large splash pad, a large playground, courts, and a modernized Civic Center
- Redevelop Wax Park with removal of Splash Moraine buildings, an amphitheater, river access, a new playground, and multipurpose fields
- Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan
- Add restrooms at the community parks
- Improve wayfinding, signage, and branding
- Prepare a feasibility study for an outdoor aquatic
- Improve trails and connectivity & bring the Pinnacle Hiking Trail into the park system
- Provide basic services at each neighborhood park

OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review current job descriptions to ensure that they meet the needs of the organization and community
- Evaluate the staffing levels to ensure they meet the needs and priorities of the community
- Develop and implement an annual marketing plan
- Conduct a utilization and capacity analysis of rentable and reservable spaces
- Develop or update written policies and procedures for all external groups
- Develop a Cost Recovery Plan for programs and events
- Seek alternative funding opportunities for programs, services, and amenities
- Develop a repair and replacement plan for capital improvements
- Employ dedicated parks maintenance staff

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION VISION PLAN



INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE NEED FOR A PLAN

The purpose of this 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan is to provide an ambitious yet feasible roadmap for the future that encompasses the needs and desires of the Moraine community. This plan is important because it...

- Outlines a vision for the future of parks and recreation in Moraine that will attract residents and visitors
- Fosters civic engagement and creates a sense of community, and improves quality of life
- Aligns department operations with community needs, including residents and workers
- Identifies gaps & inequities in service delivery
- Strengthens fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and efficiency
- Identifies future funding requirements and potential sources
- Increases user participation, satisfaction, revenue, and capital investment
- Enables the city to keep up with parks and recreation trends
- Reduces duplication of service and improves partnerships

Parks and Recreation Facilities are Essential to Public Health

Through programs, facilities, open space, and other services, parks and recreation agencies are essential to improving health outcomes and enhancing quality of life. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) highlights a few of the primary benefits of utilizing parks and recreation facilities and programs¹:

- Help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing opportunities to increase rigorous physical activity in a variety of forms

- Provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health
- Aid in reducing hunger in America and increasing access to nutritious food options
- Foster overall wellness and healthful habits, such as becoming tobacco-free and engaging in enrichment opportunities that add balance to life

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) prepares the ParkScore every year to rank the park systems of the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. In 2023, TPL added data about the positive health outcomes of the top-scoring cities. A recent report, *The Power of Parks to Promote Health*,² breaks down the new data to show communities how to make parks a more formal part of their health programs, helping to ensure more are able to experience the physical and mental health benefits of public parks and green spaces.

TPL found that "people are on average 9% less likely to suffer from poor mental health and 21% less likely to be physically inactive" in the top 25 ranking cities, compared to the lower-ranked cities, even after controlling for race/ethnicity, income, age, and population density. The report offers examples of how public agencies, non-profit community organizations, and healthcare providers can leverage public park space to improve health outcomes.

Two key findings from the ParkScore data were **that close-to-home parks are associated with lower obesity rates and improved health in both young people and adults and that staffed programming, such as fitness classes, dramatically increased physical activity**. Each additional supervised activity increased park use by 48% and moderate to vigorous physical activity time by 37%. The report also highlights a program in Columbus, Ohio where doctors prescribe an 11-week fitness program offered free through the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to patients struggling with obesity and high blood pressure.

¹ Role of Parks and Recreation on Health and Wellness. National Recreation and Parks Association. Accessed 2/26/2024. <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/role-of-parks-and-recreation-on-health-and-wellness/>

² The Power of Parks to Promote Health: A Special Report. Trust for Public Land. 2023. <https://www.tpl.org/parks-promote-health-report>

Community Background

Moraine is in Montgomery County in the greater Dayton metropolitan area. The city's population has remained around 6,500 for the past 20 years, but it more than doubles during the day. The city's population is expected to experience moderate growth into the future. Moraine is unique in that while the median age and percentage of residents 65 and over have increases, so has the percentage of residents under 18. This indicates a growing presence of both older adults and young families.

Moraine Parks and Recreation facilities serving city residents include:

- 7 neighborhood parks
- 3 community parks
- 2 indoor recreation facilities
- Garden plots

1.2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

This Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan acts as a compass and roadmap for the department and incorporates findings from the four-phase process including:

- Evaluating existing facilities and programs combined with analyzing current trends and benchmarking
- Engaging with a steering committee, community stakeholders, staff, City Council, and the public (open house and booths at National Night Out and Boo Bash), online survey, random sample mail survey, and stakeholder meetings)
- Visioning sessions
- Preparing recommendations and strategy prioritization

1.2.1 How to Read the Plan



The **EVALUATE** phase is summarized in Chapter 2 and provides a baseline understanding of the existing conditions of Moraine's recreation facilities and programs. The chapter includes an evaluation of the make-up of the population and the levels of service in the community. Additionally, Chapter 2 includes trends and benchmarking analysis which reveals how Moraine compares to nearby communities of similar make up and to national recreation trends. Contents include:

- Parkland and facility inventory & analysis
- Program analysis
- Benchmark comparisons of similar agencies
- Geographic park and facility service area mapping
- Trends in parks and recreation



The **ENGAGE** phase is summarized in Chapter 3 and ultimately leads the discussions throughout the rest of the Plan. Identifying what the community desires is essential to determine and prioritize the future of the parks, recreation facilities, and special events/programming.

- Open house workshops and engagement events
- Web/handout & random sample surveys
- Stakeholder group meetings



CH4 Envision

The **ENVISION** phase is driven by the visioning sessions and meetings with the steering committee and can be found in Chapter 4. Findings from the evaluate and engage phases were reviewed and used to produce a new vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives for Parks and Recreation.

- Visioning sessions with the steering committee and staff
- Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, and Objectives

CH4-5 Plan

The **PLAN** phase uses all the information gathered throughout the first three phases of the planning process to formulate operational and capital – both systemwide and individual park related – recommendations to meet

the goals for the future. Chapter 4 discusses these topics at length and helps provide direction for the city for the next 5-10 years. Chapter 5 presents the action plan that can be used as a checklist for implementation.

- Systemwide recommendations
- Recommendations for each park
- Capital improvements and estimated costs
- Operational and programming recommendations
- Action plan

1.3 How To Use THIS PLAN

The action plan is a living document that will act as a guide over the next 10 years for Moraine and should be revisited annually to measure progress. The recommendations found in the latter half of the plan include capital and operational improvements that prioritize systemwide, departmental, and individual park enhancements. Upon acceptance of this plan, the action plan provided in Chapter 5 will begin to guide and bring to life the needs and desires of Moraine Parks and Recreation and the community.

1.4 RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

This 2025 Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan will be Moraine's first comprehensive parks plan, so background information and potential recommendations will be incorporated from related planning efforts completed by the city and partner agencies. These include the Moraine Comprehensive Plan and Five Rivers MetroParks Comprehensive Master Plan. Summaries of these and other planning efforts are provided in Appendix D.

ACTION PLAN - 2025 Moraine Community Parks & Recreation Vision Plan									
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations									
Parks = Moraine Parks & Recreation					OP = Parks and Recreation Operating Budget				
City = City Council, Other City Departments					CIP = Capital Improvement Budget				
Partners = Other Organizations (county/state, private agencies, schools, state/federal grants, etc.)					Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue				
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies					Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency
					0-2	3-6	7-10		Funding Source
Section Reference									
Goal 1: Engaging Parks – Modern and innovative parks and recreation facilities									
Objective 1.1 – Make parks and facilities accessible and inviting for the entire community									
Strategy 1.1.1: Ensure accessible walkways to all facilities and seating areas					Ongoing			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.2: Add support features throughout the park system such as drinking fountains, shade over seating and facilities, seating, trees, security, and landscaping					Ongoing			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.3: Provide consistent amenities throughout the system					Ongoing			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.4: Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan, following an accessibility audit of all facilities, programs, and communications					✓			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.5: Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks; include family restrooms at larger parks					✓			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.6: Add and upgrade signage throughout the park system					✓			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.7: Develop a series of reservable shelters near the splash pad and playground in Ora Everetts Park					✓			Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.8: Add picnic shelters throughout the system to increase overall access to provide shade and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings					✓	✓		Capital	Parks
Strategy 1.1.9: Invest in upgrading equipment and amenities in parks, focusing on diversity to cater to a wide range of interests and age groups					Ongoing			Policy/Capital	Parks/City



COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Community Background & Needs Assessment chapter provides an evaluation of the existing conditions of parks and recreation in Moraine. This chapter includes detailed analysis of the following:

- Population demographics
- Inventory of existing parks, facilities, and programs
- Benchmarking against other agencies
- Service areas of parks and facilities
- Trends in parks and recreation

The data and information presented in this chapter provides the context needed to understand existing and potential future needs of the community. The data compiled in this chapter will assist in understanding and interpreting community preferences and recreation needs summarized in Chapter 3.

2.2 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

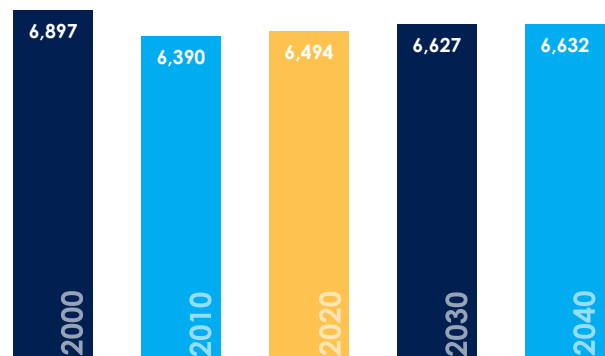
Needs and preferences vary between demographic groups and change over time. The percentage of the total population these demographic groups represent also changes over time. Exploring Moraine's demographic trends and characteristics helps identify current and potentially future demand for parks and recreation services in the community.

The data for this demographic analysis was gathered from the US Census Bureau and Esri Forecasts. Some US Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data for Moraine appears to have some inconsistencies for 2020 and 2022, potentially related to the margin of error and small population. Despite those inconsistencies, the remaining data shows that trends still hold.

2.2.1 Population Change

Figure 2.1 illustrates the forecasted population change in Moraine from 2000 to 2040.¹ The figure shows that Moraine's population is not expected to change significantly in the future. Moraine could experience additional growth if new housing is developed in the western part of the city. The Daytime population is also much larger at around 14,000.²

Figure 2.1: Population Change in Moraine



2.2.2 Age

Because many facilities and programs are targeted to specific age groups, it is important to understand changes to Moraine's age composition. For example, the senior population will have different preferences than those under 18. Understanding how different age groups are growing or shrinking as a percentage of total population will be an important factor in decision making around investments in parks and recreation programs and facilities.

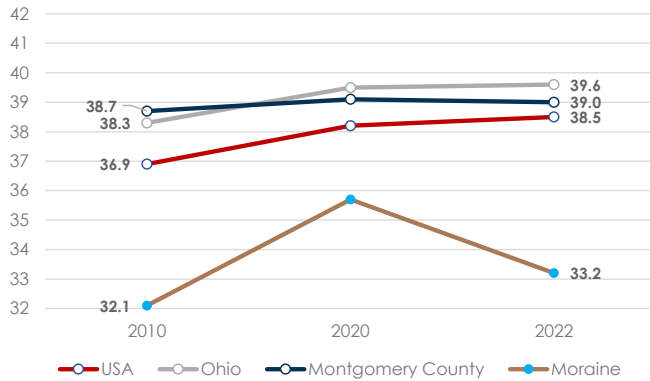
Median Age

Figure 2.2 shows the increase in the median age since 2010. As apparent in the chart, age is increasing in all geographies, but Moraine has a much lower median age than any of the comparison geographies.

¹ 2030 and 2040 projections from City of Moraine Comprehensive Plan

² Esri 2024 estimate

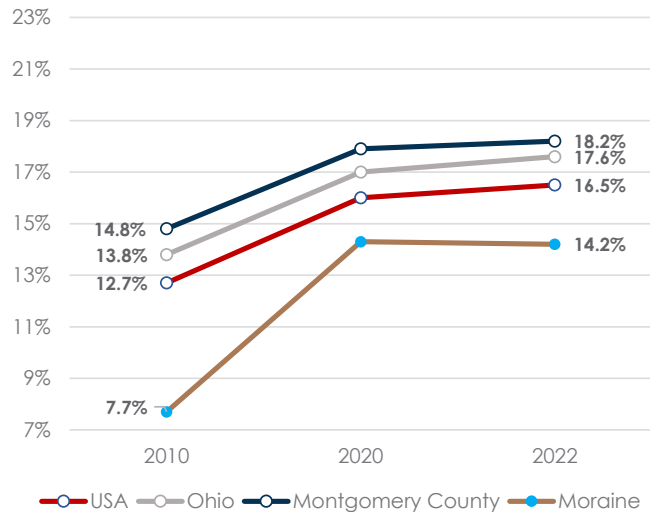
Figure 2.2: Median Age



Senior Population

As with the median age, the senior population (65+) is increasing in Moraine and all other geographic levels. Like with median age, Moraine is behind in this trend, although the population has been growing at a faster rate. The senior population likely continues to grow in Moraine over the next 10 years.

Figure 2.3: Population Age 65 and Older



Children

Figure 2.4 shows that Moraine has a larger proportion of the population under 18 years of age than the county, state, and nation. Youth populations have been declining as a percentage of the population, and this trend is happening in Moraine.

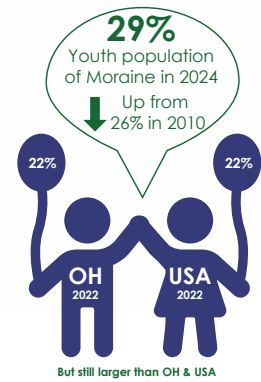


Figure 2.4: Population Under Age 18

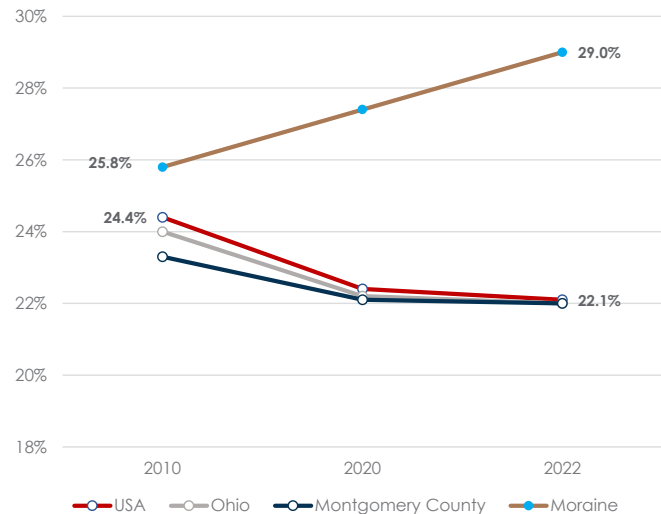


Table 2.1: Population Below Poverty Line

		2010	2022
USA	All	13.8%	12.5%
	Children	19.2%	16.7%
Ohio	All	14.2%	13.3%
	Children	20.2%	18.3%
Montgomery County	All	15.7%	15.1%
	Children	22.7%	22.2%
Moraine	All	19.2%	25.5%
	Children	24.7%	42.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS

2.2.4 Income and Educational Attainment

The median household income and per capita income values in Table 2.2 show that Moraine households earn considerably less than the rest of Montgomery County, Ohio, and the nation. Moraine's median household income did not keep up with inflation from 2010 to 2020 (2010 Adjusted vs. 2020). Consistent with the poverty numbers, the income levels indicate that residents are likely to rely on city services rather than private amenities.

Table 2.2: Household Income

	2010	2010 Adjusted	2020	2022	2024	2029
Median Household Income						
USA	\$51,914	\$61,805	\$64,994	\$75,149	\$79,068	\$91,442
Ohio	\$47,358	\$56,381	\$58,116	\$66,990	\$69,192	\$80,521
Montgomery County	\$43,965	\$52,341	\$53,064	\$61,942	\$64,070	\$75,248
Moraine	\$39,398	\$46,904	\$41,528	\$40,793	\$50,897	\$57,253
Per Capita Income						
USA	\$27,334	\$32,542	\$35,384	\$41,261	\$43,829	\$51,203
Ohio	\$25,113	\$29,898	\$32,465	\$37,729	\$40,032	\$47,124
Montgomery County	\$24,828	\$29,558	\$31,146	\$35,767	\$38,341	\$44,998
Moraine	\$17,815	\$21,209	\$21,241	\$23,792	\$27,304	\$32,145

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates, Esri forecasts, BLS

Table 2.3 shows a slight increase in educational attainment between 2010 and 2024 for Moraine. This minimal increase contrasts with the noticeable increases in educational attainment for the rest of Montgomery County, Ohio, and the nation. These numbers also show that Moraine has much lower levels of education than the rest of Ohio and the country.

Table 2.3: Educational Attainment Age 25 and Over

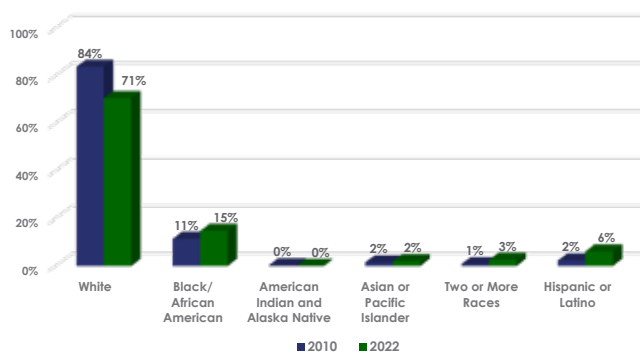
Educational Attainment (Highest Level)	Moraine		Montgomery County		Ohio		USA	
	2010	2024	2010	2024	2010	2024	2010	2024
No High School Diploma	13.6%	13.5%	12.3%	7.3%	12.6%	7.6%	14.9%	9.4%
High School/GED	35.4%	33.7%	30.3%	27.9%	35.8%	32.4%	29.0%	26.8%
Some College, No Degree	33.1%	26.9%	24.7%	21.1%	20.1%	17.6%	20.6%	17.6%
Associates Degree	8.5%	10.1%	8.4%	10.8%	7.3%	9.3%	7.5%	9.5%
Bachelors Degree	6.5%	9.6%	15.0%	19.3%	15.3%	20.2%	17.6%	22.5%
Graduate/Professional/ Doctorate Degree	2.9%	6.2%	9.3%	13.5%	8.8%	13.0%	10.3%	14.3%

Source: ACS 2010 5-year estimates, Esri forecasts

2.2.5 Population Diversity

Moraine is predominately white, non-Hispanic, but became more diverse between 2010 and 2022. The proportion of white, non-Hispanic residents decreased from 84% to 71%. The city's racial composition may be shifting and if minority populations continue to grow, adjustments to program offerings will need to be considered.

Figure 2.5: Population Percentages by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin



2.2.6 Conclusion

While Moraine's residential population is only about 6,500, the community is much larger. A few trends are changing the composition of the population. Most notably, the senior population is expected to grow while the youth population remains the same. Additionally, the community is becoming more diverse. These shifts will require Parks and Recreation to continue to evaluate and update program offerings.

2.3 INVENTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN MORaine

Classification of parks helps to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities available to the public. A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas that collectively meet public needs. Park systems should provide a combination of smaller neighborhood parks, larger community parks, special use parks, and natural areas, dispersed throughout the community.

The facilities inventory in this chapter identifies each park by its classification and lists specific amenities it provides. Table 2.4 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served, typical facility and features, and desirable characteristics. Categories and descriptions are adapted to meet the specific needs of the Moraine system from "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines," by the National Recreation and Park Association.

The Parks and Recreation Inventory (Table 2.5) provides a summary of all parks and recreation facilities offered by Moraine, with the classification for each property. The Moraine Parks and Trails map (Figure 2.6) shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas offered by Moraine. The following text provides a summary of these facilities. Photos with amenity lists and condition assessments for each park are presented in Appendix A.

Table 2.4: Park Classifications

Park Classification	Typical Size and Service Area	Typical Features/ Facilities	Desirable Characteristics
Local Space			
Mini Park (MP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size: Less than 2 acres of developed parkland; less than 3 total acres 1/2-mile service area 10-minute walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-3 Features Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often provided in association with school facilities. Some developed as part of residential developments. May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where households have limited yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size: 2-10 acres of developed parkland; 3-15 total acres 1-mile service area 10-minute walk To serve a population up to 5,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5 Features Suited for intense development Typical facilities include athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic areas/shelters, and walking paths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance). May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. May not be needed in areas served locally by larger parks.
Community Park (CP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-30+ acres of developed parkland; 20 or more total acres 2-mile service radius 5-minute drive To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-20 Features Typical facilities include all those listed for neighborhood parks, plus swimming pool, field or game court complex, dog park, recreation or community center, etc. May include natural areas for picnicking, walking, etc. May have an active or passive recreation focus or a balance of both. Parks with passive focus will have a higher percentage of undeveloped land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities or provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas. May meet neighborhood park needs for users within a 10-minute walk.
Special Use (SU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves community-wide area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of features varies Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as plazas, major pools, riverfront park areas, golf courses, athletic complexes, indoor facilities, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area should be located to meet the specific needs of the intended use.

Table 2.4: Park Classification (Continued)

Park Classification	Typical Size and Service Area	Typical Features/ Facilities	Desirable Characteristics
Regional Space			
Natural Area/Open Space (OS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A Can be local or regional spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of low or limited development. Includes undeveloped areas, urban greenspaces, and small designated natural areas. May include urban greenspaces (mowed and landscaped areas) of any size that are considered developed but have predominantly passive uses. Typical facilities include walking/hiking trails, picnic areas, gardens, and open grass areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes undeveloped properties that may be developed in the future. May also function as small nature parks. Educational opportunities desirable in developed or undeveloped areas.
Nature Parks (NP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size as needed to protect the resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of park to remain in its natural state (less than 20% developed) Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities" and should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, and interpretive signage. Should also include parking and restrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions. Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest. Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency and to promote ecosystem services.
State Parks (SP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size as needed to protect natural resources of State or regional significance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of park to remain in its natural state. The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest, lakes, or other features of state or regional interest. Serve state-wide area or beyond. Size will vary based on the area required to protect the resource.

2.3.1 Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is a small but highly developed park located within a short (10-minute) walking or biking distance of residents with facilities such as game courts, playgrounds, picnic areas/shelters, and athletic fields. Moraine offers seven neighborhood parks, including four mini parks of under an acre.

DP&L Park

DP&L Park is a small neighborhood park in the eastern portion of the city with a playground. The playground is in generally in poor condition and is the only feature in the park. The park also contains several large mature trees. It is very close to Ora Everetts Park and is the only park not owned by the City of Moraine.



George Taylor Park

George Taylor Park is a neighborhood park located on the central portion of the city. The park contains two half basketball courts, a playground, small picnic shelter, and a small grass field. The park had a tennis court in the past, but the court is currently unusable. The playground is in generally good condition; however, much of the rest of the park is in poor to fair condition and needing repairs, particularly the basketball and tennis courts. The park also has low hanging power lines near the basketball courts that could be a hazard.



German Village Park

German Village Park is a mini park located in the north central portion of the city. The park includes a playground and two small shelters. The playground is in fair condition with significant need for repairs, particularly the retaining wall on the south side of the playground. The two shelters are in good condition.



Lehigh Park

Lehigh Park is a mini park in the eastern portion of the city. The park includes a playground, half basketball court, and a small shelter. The playground is in fair condition. The basketball court and shelter are in poor condition.



Pinnacle Park

Pinnacle Park is a large neighborhood park in the north central portion of the city with a playground, separate swing set, walking paths, and three picnic shelters. One of the paths is a hiking trail that connects to the Pinnacle Tot Lot and the Appleseed Trail. The playground and swings are in fair condition. The shelters are in generally good condition but lack assessable paths.



Table 2.5: Parks and Recreation Inventory

Park Name	Park Type	Total	Developed*	Athletic Fields			Game Courts		Outdoor Facilities				Trails & Passive Facilities						Indoor				Support				Feature Score ⁺	Special Features/Notes
				Small Diamond	Large Diamond	Large Rectangular	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playgrounds	Skate Park	Disc Golf	Dog Park	Paved/Hard Surface (Miles)	Unpaved (Miles)	Fishing Docks/Piers	Amphitheater	Large Shelters	Medium Shelters	Community Center	Recreation Center	Fitness Centers	Gyms/Indoor Courts	Restroom Buildings	Gazebos/Small Shelters	Concessions Buildings	Parking (Off-Street)		
Moraine Parks and Recreation																												
Neighborhood Parks																												
DP&L Park	Neighborhood	8.4	8.4						1																0	1.0		
George Taylor Park	Neighborhood	2.5	2.5				1	1	1															1			3.5	Former tennis court
German Village Park	Mini	0.5	0.5						1															2		0	2.0	
Lehigh Park	Mini	0.2	0.2				0.5		1															1		0	2.0	
Pinnacle Park	Neighborhood	18.6	7.6						1				0.2	0.6				1						2		34	4.6	
Pinnacle Tot Lot	Mini	4.5	1.8				0.5		1					0.1										1		0	2.2	
Riverview Park	Mini	0.3	0.3						1															1		0	1.5	
Subtotal - Neighborhood Parks		35.1	21.4	0	0	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	0.2	0.7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	34	16.8	
Community Parks																												
Deer Meadow Park	Community	38.8	20.1						1	1	18		1.2		1			2						2		67	10.4	9 acre pond
Ora Everetts Park	Community	13.5	13.5	3			2		1				0.3						1		1			2		164	9.5	Gerhardt Civic Center
Wax Park	Community	31.8	31.8		1				1				0.9				3			1	1	2		2	1	388	12.3	Payne Recreation Center
Subtotal - Community Parks		84.0	65.3	3	1	0	2	0	3	1	18	0	2.4	0.0	1	0	3	2	1	1	2	2	0	6	1	619	32.2	
Special Use Parks																												
Garden Plots	Community Garden	10.5	10.5																							0	0.0	
Main St / Pinnacle Road Bike Path	Trail	N/A	N/A										2.3													0	4.6	
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		10.5	10.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.6	
Total - Parks and Recreation		129.7	97.3	3	1	0	4	1	10	1	18	0	4.9	0.7	1	0	3	3	1	1	2	2	0	14	1	653	53.6	

*Developed acreage measured in ArcGIS, UL=Unlined, +Feature score is an adjusted count of features in the park

Moraine Parks and Trails

Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan Moraine, Ohio

Legend:

- Moraine Parks (Green)
- Schools (Blue)
- Other Agency Parks (Orange)
- Trails (Red)
- Moraine City Limits (Blue outline)

Map Labels:

- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Deer Meadow Park
- Pinnacle Park
- Pinnacle Tot Lot
- German Village Park
- Garden Plots
- Wright Brothers Pinnacles Trail
- Wax Park
- Nicholas Elementary School
- George Taylor Park
- Riverview Park
- Lehigh Park
- Layer Park
- Leiwig Park
- East River Landing
- Oran Everett's Park
- Kettering Early Childhood Education Center
- West Carrollton Intermediate School
- Garillon Park
- Southern Hills Park
- Hill and Dales MetroPark
- Community Golf Course
- Southdale Elementary School
- Southdale Park
- Tait Park
- Old River Sports Complex
- The Fields - Moraine

Scale: 0 to 2 Miles

North Arrow: N

12

Pinnacle Tot Lot

The Pinnacle Tot Lot is a mini park in the north central portion of the city with a playground, half basketball court, and picnic shelter. The park has a hiking trail that connects to Pinnacle Park and the Appleseed Trail. The playground and shelter are in good condition. The basketball court is in fair condition.



Riverview Park

Riverview Park is a mini park in the eastern portion of the city adjacent to Interstate 75. The park includes a playground and picnic shelter. The playground is in poor condition and the shelter is in fair condition.



2.3.2 Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve multiple neighborhoods and offer a wider variety of facilities. Community parks should be conveniently located (within approximately a 5-minute drive) and easily accessible with facilities intended to occupy visitors for extended periods of time (field or game court complex, skate parks, disc golf, etc.). Moraine offers three community parks: Deer Meadow, Ora Everetts, and Wax.

Deer Meadow Park

Deer Meadow Park is a large community park located in the northwest portion of the city and includes a playground, three picnic shelters, a skate park, fishing pond, walking paths, and a disc golf course. The park also includes an old fitness court that is unusable and should be removed. The playground is in generally good condition. The three shelters,

disc golf course, and skate park are in fair condition. The walking path around the pond was recently resurfaced. The city owns a large amount of land that is contiguous to the park and could be used for additional features.



Ora Everetts Park

Ora Everetts Park is a community park located in the north-central portion of the city. The park includes three diamond fields (one at the adjacent elementary school), two basketball courts, a playground, two picnic shelters, a walking path, and the Gerhardt Civic Center. Overall, most of the features and facilities in Ora Everetts Park are in poor to fair condition. The park and the center have great potential for redevelopment to offer needed amenities for residents and to attract visitors to Moraine.



Wax Park

Wax is a community park located in the south-central portion of the city. The park includes one diamond field, one multipurpose field, a playground, five picnic shelters, a walking path, and the Payne Recreation Center. A levee separates the park from the Great Miami River.

Several buildings from the now defunct Splash Moraine water park remain on the property. These structures are in poor condition and are potential barriers to optimal use of the site. While the trail and picnic shelters are in good condition, most of the features and facilities in Wax Park are in fair to poor condition, and the playground needs replacement. The park also lacks a sign, so many residents may be unaware of its name.



Garden Plots

Moraine offers a community garden along Vance Road in the north-central portion of the city. Residents may reserve one of the 78 plots. The city provides a water tank and portable restroom.



2.3.3 Special Use Parks & Facilities

Special use parks are areas designed for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, and can include places such as plazas, single use facilities, sports complexes, community gardens, and indoor spaces.

Payne Recreation Center

Payne Recreation Center is in Wax Park. The center includes a basketball court, elevated track, fitness studios, exercise equipment, locker rooms, and two meeting rooms. The recreation center is generally in fair to good condition; however, it lacks storage space, and the floor plan does not provide efficient use of space.



Gerhardt Civic Center

The Gerhardt Civic Center is located in Ora Everetts Park. The building includes a game room, several meeting rooms, and a small fitness room. The building is underutilized and needs significant upgrades. It has the potential to be an important feature of the park if redeveloped.



Main Street / Pinnacle Road Bike Path

This 2.3-mile paved path follows Pinnacle Road and Main Street from Deer Meadow Park to the Main Street bridge. It provides connections between Wax Park, Deer Meadow Park, and Possum Creek Metropark.

2.3.4 Parks by Others

Table 2.6 shows nearby parks and recreation areas that may be available to Moraine residents but are not owned or operated by the city. They are owned and maintained by area school systems, Montgomery County, City of Kettering, City of West Carrollton, Miami Township, and other organizations. Each of these spaces contributes to the full spectrum of recreational opportunities available to Moraine residents. Their consideration helps to avoid potentially costly and inefficient duplication of services and amenities.

2.3.5 Conclusion

Key findings from the review of existing parks and facilities:

- Large number of small neighborhood parks
- Substantial deferred maintenance at all parks
- Rubber mulch at playgrounds – potential safety concerns
- Limited ADA access throughout the system
- Lack of entrance and wayfinding signage
- Opportunities at Wax Park and Deer Meadow Park to add and expand services
- Civic Center underutilized – needs to be re-envisioned, along with Ora Everetts Park
- Payne Rec Center could be modernized to better meet community needs

2.4 OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS SUMMARY

Moraine Parks and Recreation operates 10 parks, two indoor recreation facilities, and a variety of programs and special events that require staffing and operating procedures to function effectively.

Table 2.6: Parks by Others

Facility Name	Agency	Park Type	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Court	Diamond Fields	Multipurpose Fields	Artificial Turf Field	Picnic Shelters	Outdoor Pool	Indoor Pool	Recreation Center	Skate Park	Boat Ramp	Fishing Access	Dog Park	Golf (Holes)	Trails (Miles)
School Parks																				
West Carrollton Intermediate School	West Carrollton Schools	School	1	1					1											
Kettering Early Childhood Education Center	Kettering City School District	School	1					1	1											
Nicholas Elementary	West Carrollton Schools	School	2	1.5				2												0.3
Subtotal - School Parks			4	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks by Others in Moraine																				
Great Miami River Recreation Trail	Miami Valley Trails	Trail																		4.5
East River Landing	Miami Conservancy District	Boat Launch														1	1			
Subtotal - Parks by Others in Moraine			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4.5
Private/Non-Profit Parks and Facilities in Moraine																				
The Fields - Moraine Sports Complex	The Fields - Moraine Sports Complex	Field Complex						4												
Subtotal - Private/Non-Profit Parks and Facilities in Moraine			0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks by Others Near Moraine																				
Carillon Historical Park	Dayton History	Historical																		
Community Golf Course	City of Dayton	Golf Courts																	18	
Cox Arboretum MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks	Nature																		4.0
Hills and Dales MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks	Nature	1								6					1				2.0
Layer Park	Miami Township	Neighborhood	1	1			1				1									
Leiwig Park	City of West Carrollton	Neighborhood	1	1							1									
Miami View Park	Miami Township	Community	1					2	1	1	1						1			
Old River Sports Complex	City of Oakwood	Sports Complex							4	1										
Possum Creek MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks	Nature	1								7					1	1			5.5
Southdale Park	City of Kettering	Nature	1																	0.5
Tait Park	City of Kettering	Neighborhood	1	0.5	1			1			1									
Subtotal - Parks by Others Near Moraine			8	3	1	0	0	4	5	1	17	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	18	12.5
Total - Other Parks			12	5	1	0	0	11	7	1	17	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	18	17

2.4.1 Operations

Facility Use

Moraine's athletic fields, mostly diamond fields, are primarily utilized by youth sports teams whose members are from both Moraine, West Carrollton, and other nearby communities. Practice and game rentals for Moraine residents and businesses are free, while non-residents and outside businesses pay a daily rental fee of \$35 or \$55. The city's picnic shelters may be reserved daily for free by Moraine residents and businesses, while non-residents pay a \$40 fee.

The department also rents meeting rooms and spaces in both the Payne Recreation Center and the Gerhardt Civic Center. Rental rates for indoor spaces are hourly and residents pay a reduced fee for most rentals. The department utilizes the MyRec.com platform to manage online reservation requests and membership purchases.

Fees

The Parks and Recreation department offers memberships to the Payne Recreation Center for residents and non-residents for use of the fitness equipment, wellness classes, basketball court, and indoor track (Table 2.7). In 2023, the department sold 673 memberships to the Recreations Center. If the first half of 2024 the department sold 358 memberships.

Operating Budget

Moraine's operating budget for parks and recreation increased by more than 80% from 2020 to 2024 from \$810,390 to \$1,471,548. The department's allocation from the general fund increased by 140% from 2020 to 2024, rising from \$550,000 to \$1,320,000. During the same period, revenues remained consistent but cost recovery dropped from 18% of expenses to 10%. Moraine does not have an established cost recovery goal for parks and recreation facility rentals. Cost of service analysis and a cost recovery plan that includes a fees and charges schedule can help in planning and forecasting program lifecycles based on costs, revenues, and participation rates.

A formal alternative funding plan does not currently exist. Alternative funding, such as fees and charges, sponsorships, partnerships, naming rights, and tribute programs and donations may fund programs, services, and capital investments that otherwise could not be funded through limited, traditional sources of funding, such as general fund dollars.

Program and Point of Sale (POS) Software System

The department began using a new POS software system (MyRec) in 2024. This platform offers a website where the department can share facility and program information and manage memberships, program registrations, and facility rentals. The platform also supports reporting on all transactions.

2.5 PROGRAMS

Moraine Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs utilizing several parks, the Payne Recreation Center, and the Gerhardt Civic Center. Programs and use of facilities and parks are open residents and non-residents of Moraine. Because the department began using the MyRec software in 2024, program registration data is only available for the current year. The department makes decisions on which programs to offer based on program participation, instructor and participant feedback, and staff observation.

2.5.1 Program Guidelines

The core program concept provides direction in the planning, scheduling, and coordination of community-based recreational activities. Involvement of community representatives, parents, participants, and advisory groups in the planning and development of program opportunities is critical for success.

The Core Program Guidelines include six components used as benchmarks for determining the quality of specific activities conducted at each program location. The level of Core Program offering may vary in activity type, intensity, and

Table 2.7: Payne Recreation Center Membership

Age	Membership Term	Fees
Youth (Up to Age 12)	Annual (12 Months)	\$0.00 Res, \$100.00 Non-Res
	6 Months	\$0.00 Res, \$56.00 Non-Res
Teen (Ages 13-17)	Annual (12 Months)	\$50.00 Res, \$100.00 Non-Res
	6 Months	\$28.00 Res, \$56.00 Non-Res
Adult (Ages 18-54)	Annual (12 Months)	\$85.00 Res, \$170.00 Non-Res
	6 Months	\$50.00 Res, \$100.00 Non-Res
Senior (Ages 55+)	Annual (12 Months)	\$50.00 Res, \$100.00 Non-Res
	6 Months	\$30.00 Res, \$60.00 Non-Res
Family	Annual (12 Months)	\$175.00 Res, \$350.00 Non-Res
	6 Months	\$100.00 Res, \$200.00 Non-Res

scope depending on such factors as size of the facility, equipment availability, and the number of staff required. The discussion below provides a description of the core program components as well as a summary of if and how well Moraine is, as of 2024, addressing these components.

Appendix C provides an expanded description of each broad program category (component six). It includes possible program formats, identifies the primary values served by the activity, and lists specific program examples. The list can be a helpful resource for determining and developing programs in Moraine.

2.5.2 Core Program Components

The summary below uses the following abbreviations after each bullet point to describe whether Moraine is meeting the core program components:

- Y = Yes offered by Moraine Parks and Recreation
- L = Limited offerings by Moraine Parks and Recreation
- N = No, not offered in Moraine

This analysis is based on the cumulative offerings and participation rates over the last five years.

1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels.

Target groups for programs include:

- Preschool – (Y)
- Elementary School Age – (Y)
- Teens – (Y)
- Adults – (Y)
- Seniors – (Y)
- Intergenerational – (Y)
- Multiple Ages – (Y)
- Therapeutic/Adaptive – (N)

Moraine Parks and Recreation offers programs for all ages with the largest number of programs aimed at elementary school age children, followed by programs for teenagers. A variety of senior programs are available at the Civic Center and Recreation Center. The department currently offers a relatively small number of adult programs and intergenerational programs. The department does not currently offer therapeutic or adaptive recreation programs.

2. Administrative Feasibility

Activities should be administratively feasible, and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements – (Y)
- Safety – (Y)
- Cost vs. Benefits – (N)
- Specialized Instruction Requirements – (N)

Moraine has not completed a detailed analysis of the costs of programs. This type of analysis can determine the cost of each program per participant in terms of dollars and staff time and compare those numbers to program outcomes and revenues. This type of analysis can be especially useful for evaluating partnerships with outside organizations.

3. Coordination

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

Moraine coordinates with partner organizations to expand recreational services; partner relationships range from summer camps to regularly scheduled programs to providing space. The following entities are current partners with Recreation in providing programs and activities to the community (not an exhaustive list):

- Dayton Metro Library
- Paws 4 Peeps
- Arrowhead Reptile Rescue
- City of Dayton Parks and Recreation Department
- Montgomery County Master Gardener Volunteer Program

4. Settings and Times

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Programs should also be offered at a variety of times to meet the competing schedules of residents. For example, working adults may not be able to participate in programs until the evening or on weekends. Additionally, parents with children may benefit from the availability of childcare or children's programs running concurrent to their chosen activity.

Settings and formats include:

- Instructional Classes (Y)
- Progressive Skill Levels (Y)
- Drop-In (Y)
- Special Events (Y)
- Special Interest Clubs (Y)
- Leagues and/or Tournaments (Y)
- Outings and Field Trips (N)
- After School Programs (Y)
- Camps (Y)

5. Constructive Nature

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

6. Diverse Range of Activities

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Athletics (Y)
- Community Events (Y)
- Creative Arts (L)
- Senior Programs (Y)
- Cultural Performances (L)
- Education, Life Skills, and Fun (Y)
- Games (L)
- Green Living/Environmental Education (N)
- Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities (L)
- Health and Wellness Education (L)
- Heritage and History (N)
- Nature/Outdoor Programs (L)
- Performing Arts (N)
- Volunteer Training & Opportunities (N)

2.5.3 Core Program Comparison

Moraine offers programs in 10 of the 14 core program categories. Table 2.8 shows the number of participants by category, not including rentals. The department does offer community events, but they are not included in the table because participation was not captured by the software currently used by the department.

The data in the table shows that Moraine has the largest participation for education, life skills, and fun programs, followed by athletics. Most of the games are offered at the Civic Center. The department should look for opportunities to add programs in additional categories, including performing arts, creative arts, health & wellness, and health, fitness, and wellness.

Table 2.8: 2024 Program Participation Core Program Category

Core Program Category	2024
Athletics	324
Education, Life Skills, and Fun	395
Performing Arts	0
Health and Wellness Education	2
Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities	13
Creative Arts	35
Games	112
Total	881

2.6 BENCHMARKING COMPARISONS

One method for evaluating parks and recreation services offered in a community is to use benchmark comparisons to other communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program provides a variety of data for use in benchmarking. The following analysis uses data from 22 agencies located in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky (serving populations between

1,000 and 25,000) that participated in the Park Metrics program (Table 2.9). Additionally, NRPA provides an annual report³ which includes national performance benchmarks; these figures are also used in this evaluation process.

Totals for Moraine were calculated based on information provided by the city. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by Moraine are included in this analysis (other agencies, schools, and private facilities were not included). The data used in this analysis for Moraine are actual numbers for fiscal year 2023. The totals for the comparison municipalities were the most recent available of those entered for 2022 or 2023. The values presented in these comparisons are based on information reported to Park Metrics by the agencies and may vary from actual budgets and measurements. Table 2.10 presents the data specific to Moraine used in the analysis.

2.6.1 Agency Operations and Budget

Table 2.11 shows various measures of parks and recreation operations in Moraine. Moraine's operations budget does not include park maintenance, because that function is managed by the Streets Division. The benchmark data does not indicate if the budgets include park maintenance. The table also shows the median values for the 22 benchmark agencies and the national benchmark provided by the 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

Parkland

Moraine has many more parks and much more parkland per capita than the benchmarks. **Moraine's 190.4 acres and 16.2 parks per 10,000 population are more than double the benchmark** numbers. As a percentage of total land, however, Moraine is a bit below the benchmark, due to the rural, western part of the city. A similar amount of the city's parkland is developed.

Trails

Moraine maintains 5.6 miles of trails, 4.9 paved and 0.7 unpaved, which is more than the benchmark median. The median miles of trails maintained by the benchmark agencies is 4.0 or 2.5 miles per 10,000 population.

Operational Budget

The Moraine Parks and Recreation budget is much higher per capita than the benchmarks at \$209, compared to \$60. The operating expenditures per acre are also much higher than the benchmarks. These higher expenditures are likely related to the two buildings the department operates. Only about half of the benchmarks have a recreation or community center, and few likely have more than one.

The department's revenue per capita is a bit above the benchmark, but cost recovery is much lower. The department generates income through user fees at the Payne Recreation Center, but most of the department's programs are free.

³ National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), "2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review"

Table 2.9: Benchmark Agencies

Agency	State	Year	Population	Budget
Moraine	OH	2024	6,811	\$1,421,739
Auburn Hills (City of)	MI	2023	24,360	\$3,706,511
Bargersville Parks and Recreation	IN	2023	10,717	\$293,103
Beverly Hills (Village of)	MI	2022	10,584	N/A
Carlisle Parks and Recreation	PA	2022	20,144	\$1,414,425
East Goshen Township	PA	2022	18,026	\$675,000
Grand Ledge (City of)	MI	2022	7,896	N/A
Hastings (City of)	MI	2023	7,514	\$174,164
Highland Parks & Recreation	IN	2023	23,846	\$2,614,051
Lake Township	MI	2022	1,200	N/A
Laureldale (Borough of)	PA	2022	4,209	\$20,779
Leland Township	MI	2023	2,126	\$121,000
Macedonia Parks & Recreation	OH	2023	12,203	\$2,182,846
Madisonville (City of) Parks and Recreation	KY	2022	19,542	N/A
Mount Joy Township	PA	2022	10,721	\$461,267
Muhlenberg Township	PA	2022	21,915	\$1,403,600
New Haven-Adams Township Parks Dept	IN	2022	16,500	\$1,509,793
Russiaville Park and Tree Board	IN	2023	1,318	N/A
South Whitehall Township	PA	2022	19,903	\$322,930
Steubenville (City of)	OH	2023	18,030	\$742,488
Tallmadge (City of) Parks & Recreation	OH	2023	17,537	\$3,005,655
Washington Township Recreation Center	OH	2023	24,240	\$5,586,589

Table 2.10: Moraine Parks and Recreation Agency Data

Data	Moraine	Source/Notes
County Values		
Total SQMI	9.5	GIS
Total Acres	6,111	GIS
Population	6,811	Esri
Department Values		
# of Parks	11	Inventory
Total Park Acres	129.7	GIS
Developed Acres	97.3	GIS
Trail Miles	5.6	Inventory
Parks & Rec OP Budget	\$1,421,739	2024 City Budget (2023 data)
Parks & Rec Revenue	\$137,874	2024 City Budget (2023 data)
Parks & Rec Capital Budget*	\$128,836	2024 City Budget (2023 data)
Full Time Staff	5	Staff
FTE Staff	12.3	Staff

* 4-year average (2020-2023)

Table 2.11: Agency Operations and Budget

Benchmark	Moraine	Benchmark	National
Parkland Information			
Acreage of Parkland	129.7	142.0	N/A
Acreage of Parkland per 10,000 Pop.	190.4	87.4	106
Parks per 10,000 Pop.	16.2	6.6	N/A
Parkland as a % of Jurisdiction	2.1%	3.4%	N/A
Percent of Acreage Developed	75%	68%	N/A
Trails			
Trail Miles Managed or Maintained	5.6	4.0	16
Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.	0.6	0.4	N/A
Trail Miles per 10,000 Pop.	8.2	2.5	N/A
Operating Budget			
Operating Expenditures (Annual)	\$1,421,739	\$742,488	N/A
Earned Revenue (Annual)	\$137,874	\$336,851	N/A
Cost Recovery	10%	21%	21%
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$209	\$60	\$99
Operating Expenditures per Acre	\$10,962	\$7,884	\$8,260
Operating Exp. per Developed Acre	\$14,612	\$7,732	N/A
Earned Revenue per Capita	\$20	\$18	\$23
Staffing			
Full-Time Employees	5	8.0	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees	12.3	11.3	N/A
FTE per 10,000 Population	18.0	9.4	8.9
Acres of Parkland per FTE	10.6	14.5	N/A
Developed Acres of Parkland per FTE	7.9	8.5	N/A
Operating Expenditures per FTE	\$116,060	\$103,319	\$110,912
Capital Budget			
Capital Park Budget for Next 5-Years	TBD	\$3,000,000	N/A
Capital Budget per Year	\$128,836	\$540,000	N/A
Capital Expenditures per Capita	\$19	\$28	N/A

1. See Table 2.9 for Moraine data sources

2. National medians obtained from NRPA 2024 Agency Performance Review

Staffing

On a per population basis, Moraine employees more staff than the benchmarks with 18.0 FTEs per 10,000 population, compared to 9.4 for the benchmarks. The level of staffing is related to the larger amount of indoor space operated by the department, compared to other agencies. In contrast, the expenditures per FTE are about the same as the benchmarks, because the higher operating costs match the higher level of staffing.

Capital Budget

Moraine has not yet set a capital budget for the next five years. Over the previous three years, Moraine has spent considerably less per capita than the benchmark agencies, \$19 compared to \$28.

2.7 PROGRAMS

Programs Benchmarking

As indicated in Table 2.12, Moraine offers many of the programs offered by other agencies. The table also shows the percentage of benchmark agencies that offer each type of program, separated into two groups: “activities,” which cover programs intended for all users, and “out-of-school-time activities” (OST), which include programs for specific user groups (children, seniors, etc.).

Based on this table, Moraine should consider adding performing arts, visual arts, cultural crafts, and trips and hours. These programs are offered by more than half of the benchmarks but not by Moraine Parks and Recreation. The department also does not offer teen programs or programs for people with disabilities, which are offered by many other agencies.

Table 2.12: Programs Benchmarks

Programs	Moraine	Benchmark	National
Activities			
Social recreation events	✓	93%	88%
Themed special events	✓	93%	89%
Fitness enhancement classes	✓	71%	82%
Team sports	✓	71%	86%
Health and wellness education	✓	64%	80%
Racquet sports	✓	57%	73%
Performing arts		57%	62%
Visual arts		57%	63%
Safety training	✓	50%	70%
Individual sports	✓	50%	76%
Aquatics		50%	68%
Cultural crafts		50%	63%
Trips and tours		50%	62%
Golf		36%	49%
Natural and cultural history activities	✓	36%	66%
Martial arts		29%	56%
Running/cycling races		14%	53%
eSports/eGaming		14%	26%
Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities			
Summer camp	✓	69%	82%
Specific senior programs	✓	50%	78%
Specific teen programs		38%	67%
Programs for people with disabilities		38%	66%
After school programs		31%	52%
Preschool		31%	34%
STEM Programs		19%	57%
Before school programs		6%	19%
Full daycare		0%	7%

2.7.1 Facilities

Table 2.13 compares population per facility to evaluate the existing supply. Looking at population served per facility can help identify facilities that Moraine may want to add in the future or potentially see where the city has overbuilt. This table shows the benchmark median values for a range of facilities – outdoor and indoor. A lower population per facility value indicates a higher level of service. The table also shows the percentage of benchmark agencies that offer the facilities. Figure 2.7 displays the same information, but as facilities per 10,000 population. This version allows for a more direct visual comparison of each type of facility Moraine offers compared to the benchmark agencies.

Overall, Moraine has more facilities than the benchmark agencies for the facilities it offers, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and diamond fields. However, there are several facilities that Moraine does not offer that are offered by many of the benchmarks, including outdoor tennis courts, pickleball courts, and amphitheaters.

2.8 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

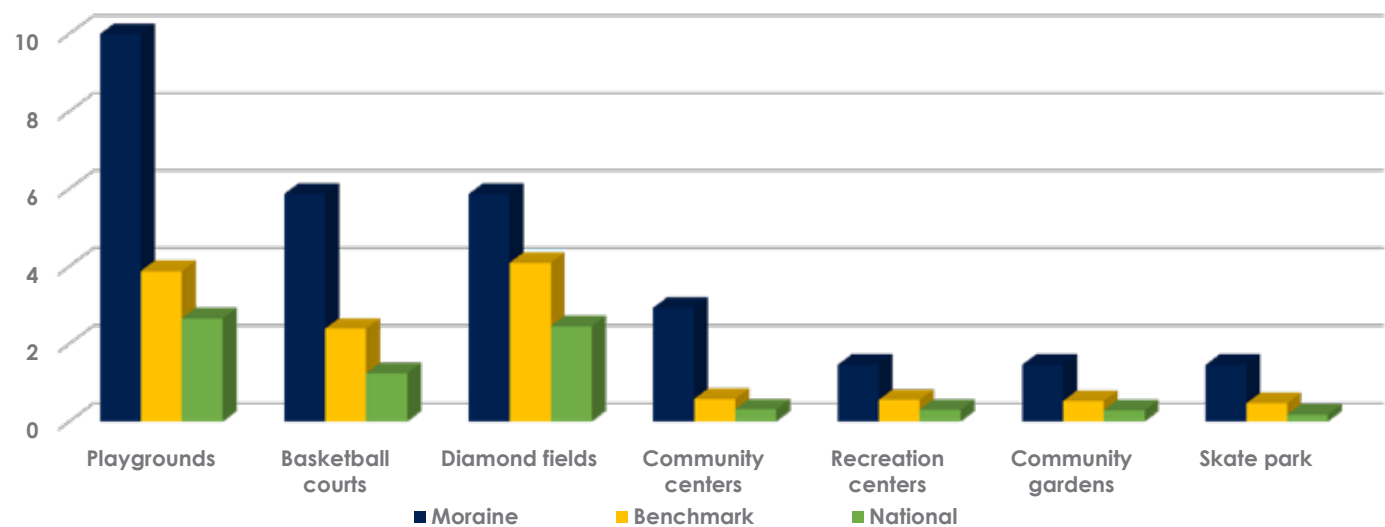
The spatial distribution of parks throughout Moraine is important to consider because residents are better able and more likely to utilize facilities that are close to their homes. The methodology for this analysis (and the facility analysis) can be found in Appendix C. Of note, these service areas do not necessarily represent all users of the parks; after all, some users may be more willing to travel greater distances than those defined in the figures below. However, the most frequent users generally live within the areas indicated and usage rates tend to decline sharply in relation to travel times.

A 10-minute walking distance represents about a half mile range and is a commonly used measurement for the walkability of an area. Most residents can easily travel this distance without using a car. The Trust for Public Land, NRPA, and the Urban Land Institute have all joined forces to develop the “10-minute Walk Campaign” which strives

Table 2.13: Population Per Facility

Facilities	Moraine		Benchmark		National	
	Offered	Pop. per	% Offered	Pop. Per	% Offered	Pop. per
Outdoor Activity Areas						
Playgrounds	✓	681	100%	2,576	93%	3,750
Basketball courts	✓	1,703	95%	4,167	84%	8,000
Tennis courts (outdoor only)		N/A	53%	4,903	72%	6,003
Pickleball courts		N/A	47%	7,305	42%	12,597
Performance amphitheater		N/A	42%	18,784	40%	69,604
Community gardens	✓	6,811	32%	18,784	52%	34,105
Skate park	✓	6,811	32%	21,030	46%	54,750
Rectangular fields: multipurpose		N/A	5%	1,743	83%	5,000
Swimming pools (outdoor only)		N/A	26%	17,019	49%	45,519
Dog park		N/A	21%	14,958	68%	46,917
Diamond fields	✓	1,703	16%	2,441	85%	4,063
Splash pad		N/A	11%	14,374	23%	54,010
Golf course (regulation 18-holes)		N/A	5%	24,360	29%	96,391
Disc Golf Course	✓	6,811	0%	N/A	20%	76,780
Indoor Activity Areas						
Recreation centers	✓	6,811	53%	17,784	62%	32,786
Community centers	✓	3,406	53%	17,019	59%	31,569
Senior centers	✓	6,811	32%	21,980	40%	62,201
Indoor competitive swimming pool		N/A	11%	15,171	22%	66,880
Teen centers		N/A	5%	20,113	12%	58,712
Nature centers		N/A	21%	12,198	34%	133,773

Figure 2.7: Facilities Per 10,000 Population



for healthy, walkable communities and easy access to greenspace for everyone in the country. As part of their multi-pronged campaign, cities all over the U.S. are committed to ensuring that by 2050 all residents will have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their home.⁴

Table 2.14: Population within a 10-Minute Walk (2024)

Park Type	Population ¹	Area
Neighborhood Park	60%	18%
School with playground	7%	3%

¹ % of total population within each area
Source: Esri forecasts for 2024

2.8.1 Park Service Areas

Figure 2.8 shows areas in Moraine within 10-minute walking distance to a neighborhood or community park. Approximately 60% of Moraine residents live within a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood or community park (Table 2.14), and another 7% live within a 10-minute walk to a school with at least a playground. Overall, **67% of Moraine residents can walk to a park.**

The map shows that most residential areas of the city are within a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood park. Noticeable areas outside of those areas include the southeast corner of the city along Cobblegate Drive, the Heritage Estates neighborhood in the north central part of the city and the more rural areas in the western part of the city.

Figure 2.9 shows 5- and 10-minute drivetime areas to community parks. This figure demonstrates that most of the city's residential areas are within a 5-minute drive to a larger park, and all are within a 10-minute drive.

The service area analysis also involved examining the population — limited to residents only — within a 10-minute walk and 5-minute drive of Moraine's neighborhood and community parks (Table 2.15).

Table 2.15: Moraine Residents Living Near Parks (2024)

Park Name	Total	10-Minute Walk Under 15 Years	55+ Years	5-Minute Drive
Deer Meadow Park	0	0	0	2,844
Ora Everetts Park	745	138	211	1,903
Wax Park	180	30	62	4,075
George Taylor Park	933	154	322	5,235
German Village Park	508	116	141	2,143
Lehigh Park	1,110	218	324	4,196
Pinnacle Park	631	146	175	1,883
Pinnacle Tot Lot	681	157	187	2,238
Riverview Park	99	19	26	4,146
DP&L Park	293	53	84	2,337

Source: Esri forecasts for 2024

Within the 10-minute walk areas, the analysis also included the population under 15 and 55 and older. This analysis can help inform the types of programs and features the city may want to offer in these parks over the next 10 years.

Lehigh Park serves the most residents within a 10-minute walk, while George Taylor Park serves the most residents within a 5-minute drive (about two thirds of the population). Lehigh also serves the most residents under the age of 15, which could indicate a need to invest in park features that appeal to younger children living nearby. No residents live within a 10-minute walk of Deer Meadow Park, which indicates a need to prioritize park features that residents would be more willing to travel farther to experience.

2.8.2 Facility Service Areas

This portion of the needs analysis focuses on the distribution of recreation facilities provided for Moraine residents, including some offered by others. Service areas for these key facilities are illustrated in Figures 2.10 through 2.21. As with the geographic distribution of parks, 10-minute walk times and 5- and 10-minute drivetimes are used for defining service areas.

Larger and unique facilities are intended to serve greater populations; typically, residents are willing to travel longer distances to access these amenities. In contrast, smaller and more common facilities usually serve more localized (smaller) populations and are more often within walking distance. The following sections outline the overall access to facilities in Moraine. Even though some portions of the city are highlighted that are located outside of facility service areas, a new facility is not necessarily recommended for these areas.

Playgrounds (Figure 2.10)

- Most residential areas in Moraine are located within a 10-minute walk to a playground at a park or one of the three elementary schools (available outside of school hours).

⁴ <https://10minutewalk.org/>

- Very few residents live outside a 5-minute drive to a playground, and all live within a 10-minute drive.



Outdoor Basketball Courts (Figure 2.11)

- A few pockets of the city are outside of a 10-minute walk to an outdoor basketball court – southeast, north central, northeast, and the neighborhood around Riverview Park.
- The only residential areas outside a 5-minute drive to an outdoor basketball court are in the more rural western part of the city.

Baseball/Softball Diamond Fields (Figure 2.12)

- Moraine offers 10-minute walk service to diamond fields at Wax Park and Ora Everetts.
- Very few residents live outside a 5-minute drive of a diamond field, and all are within a 10-minute drive.

Multipurpose Rectangular Fields (Figure 2.13)

- Moraine does not currently offer any dedicated multipurpose rectangular fields.
- Residential areas east of the I-75 are within a 5-minute drive of a multipurpose rectangular field offered by other agencies.

Outdoor Tennis (Figures 2.14)

- Moraine does not currently offer tennis or pickleball courts.
- The City of Kettering has tennis courts in nearby Tait Park and Southern Hills Park, and a small number of residents in the eastern part of Moraine are within a 5-minute drive of those courts. The rest of the city is beyond a 5-minute drive.

Picnic Shelters (Figure 2.15)

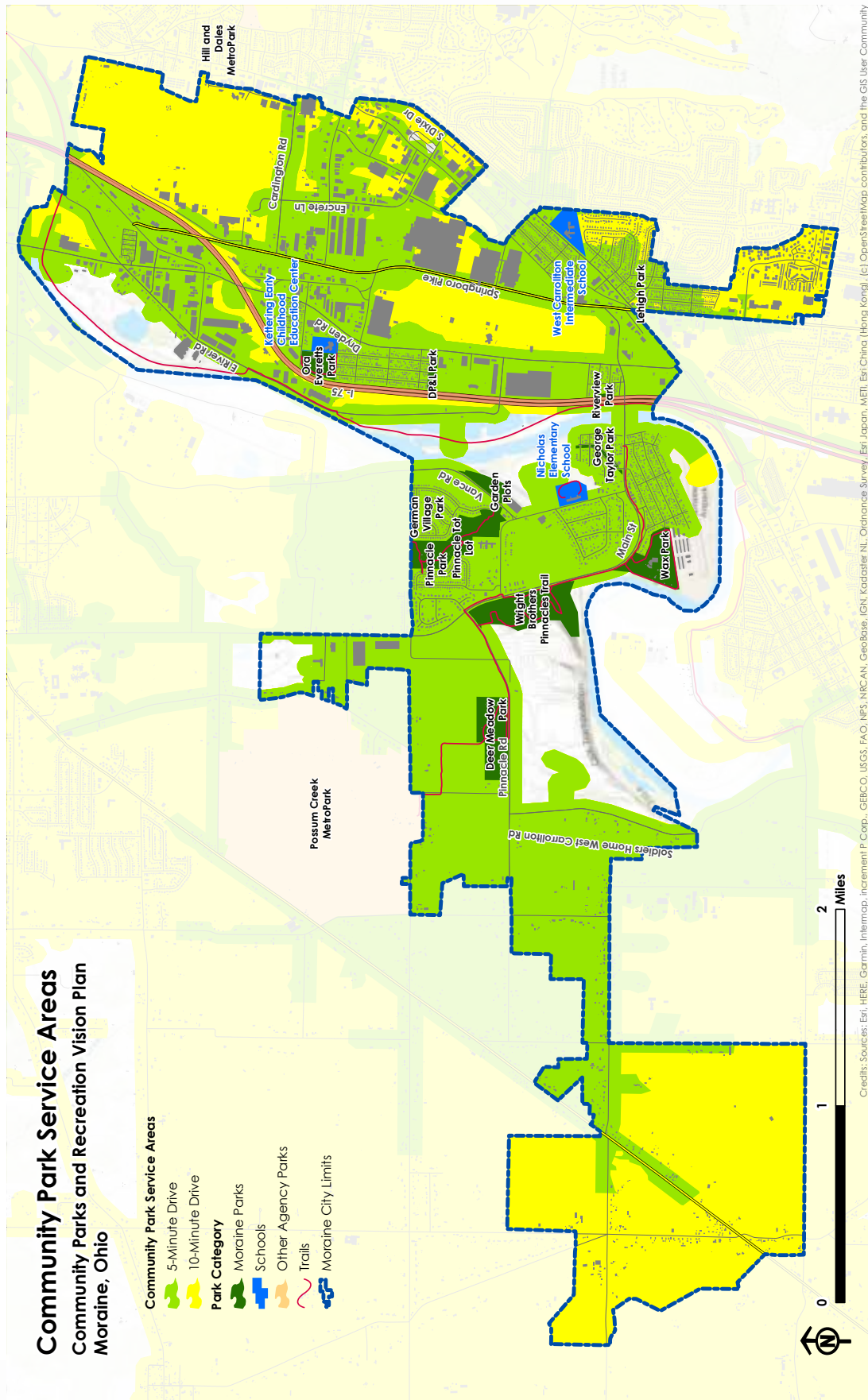
- Wax Park contains three reservable picnic shelters. Deer Meadow and Pinnacle each have medium-sized shelters, and several small shelters are present in other parks.
- Most of Moraine's residential areas are with a 10-minute walk to a picnic shelter. All but the far western areas are within a 5-minute drive, and all are within a 10-minute drive.



COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Figure 2.9: Community Park Service Areas



Indoor Recreation Centers (Figure 2.16)

- Moraine offers the Payne Recreation Center in Wax Park with indoor courts, fitness and exercise areas, and meeting space.
- Only a small area of the city is within a 10-minute walk to the recreation center. The middle portion, containing most of the residential areas, is within a 5-minute drive. Almost all of the city is within a 10-minute drive.



Trails (Figure 2.17)

- Moraine offers approximately 5.6 miles of trails, and nearly 5 miles are paved. This amount does not include the Wright Brothers Pinnacle Trail (1.1 miles) north of Wax Park, the Appleseed Trail (0.6 miles) that connects Pinnacle Park to the Garden Plots, or the section of the Great Miami River Recreational Trail (4.5 miles) that runs through Moraine.



- All residential areas in the central part of the city are within a 10-minute walk to a trail, and all but the far western areas are within a 5-minute drive.



Disc Golf & Skate Park (Figure 2.18)

- Moraine offers an 18-hole disc golf course and a skate park at Deer Meadow Park.
- No residents live within a 10-minute walk to Deer Meadow, but most residents in areas west of I-75 are a 5-minute drive to the park. Nearly all live within a 10-minute drive.



Fishing Access (Figure 2.19)

- Moraine offers fishing access at Deer Meadow Park. Residents may also fish at Possum Creek MetroPark and at the East River Landing on the Great Miami River.
- No residents live within a 10-minute walk to Deer Meadow or East River Landing, but most residents live within a 5-minute drive and nearly all live within a 10-minute drive.



Boat Launch (Figure 2.20)

- Moraine residents may launch canoes and kayaks at East River Landing and Possum Creek MetroPark.
- Very few residents live within a 10-minute walk to East River Landing or Possum Creek MetroPark. About half of Moraine's residential areas are within a 5-minute drive to a boat launch, and nearly all live within a 10-minute drive.



Meeting Space (Figure 2.21)

- Moraine offers meeting and indoor rental space in the Payne Recreation Center at Wax Park and in the Civic Center at Ora Everetts Park.
- Only a small number of residential areas are within a 10-minute walk to the Recreation Center or Civic Center. However, most residential areas are within a 5-minute drive to one of the facilities, and nearly all live within a 10-minute drive.



Figure 2.10: Playground Service Areas

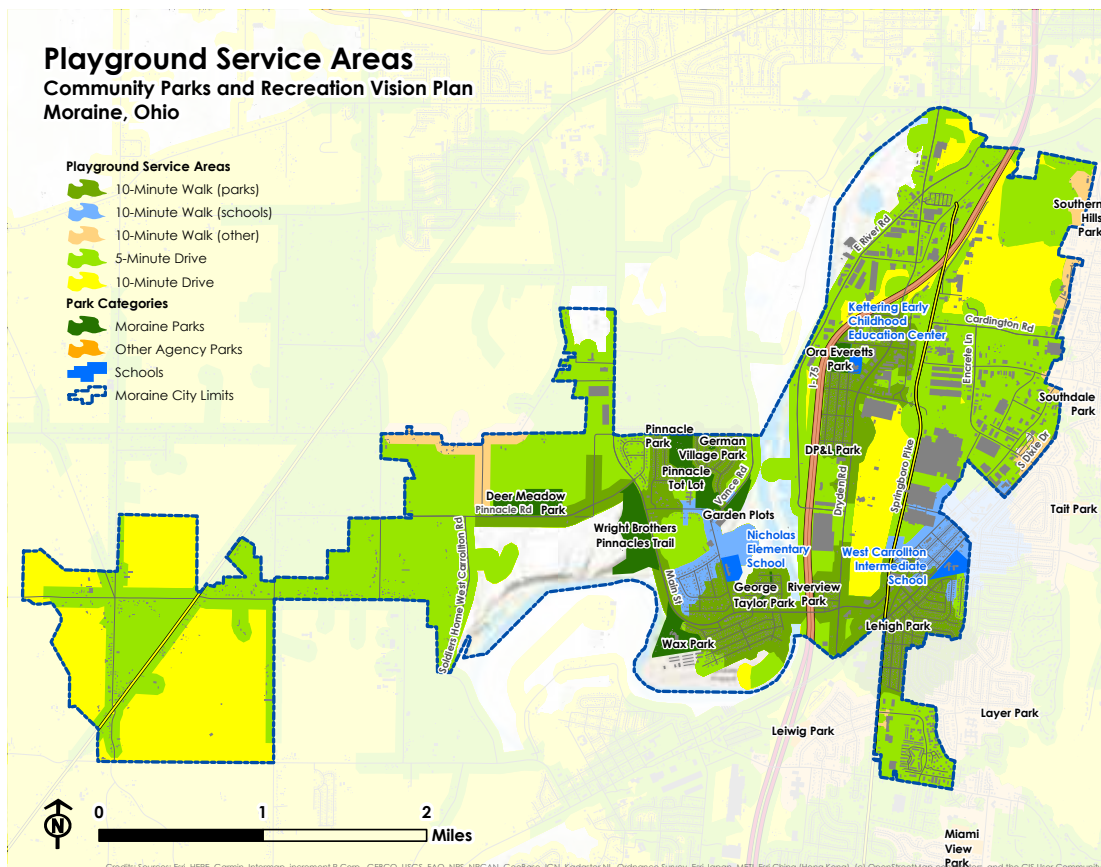


Figure 2.11: Outdoor Basketball Court Service Areas

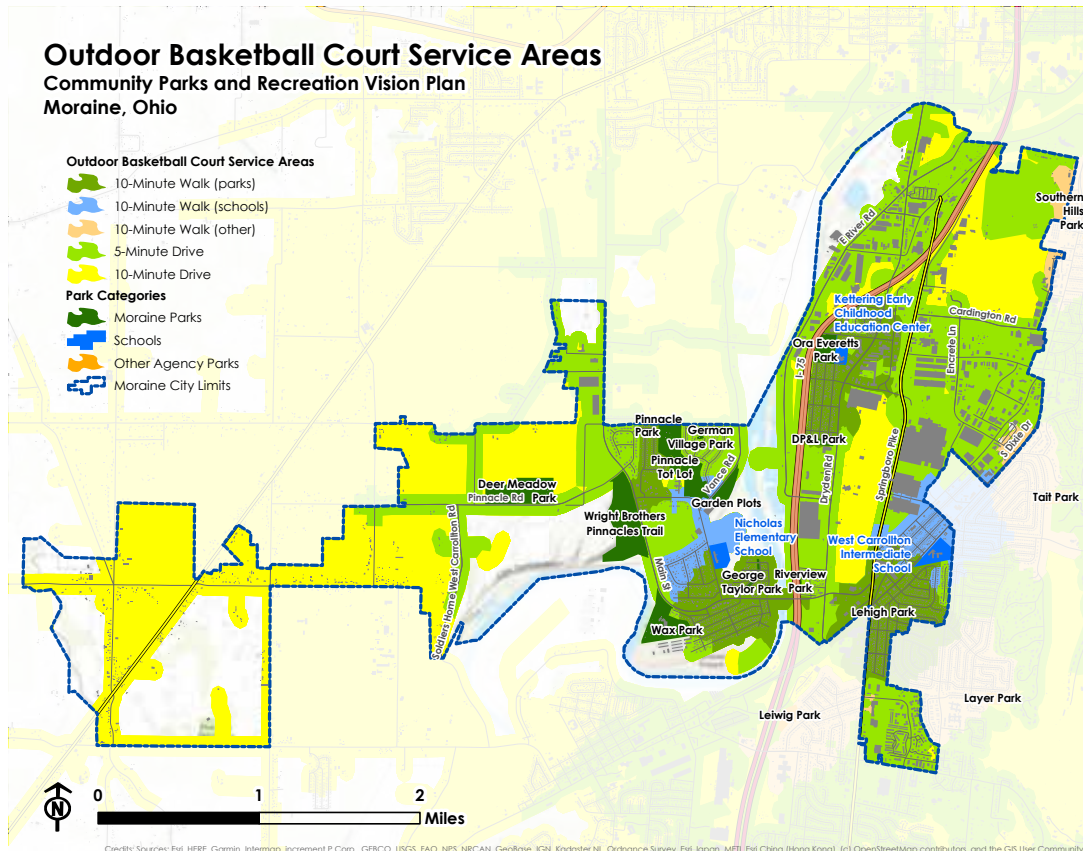


Figure 2.12: Diamond Field Service Areas

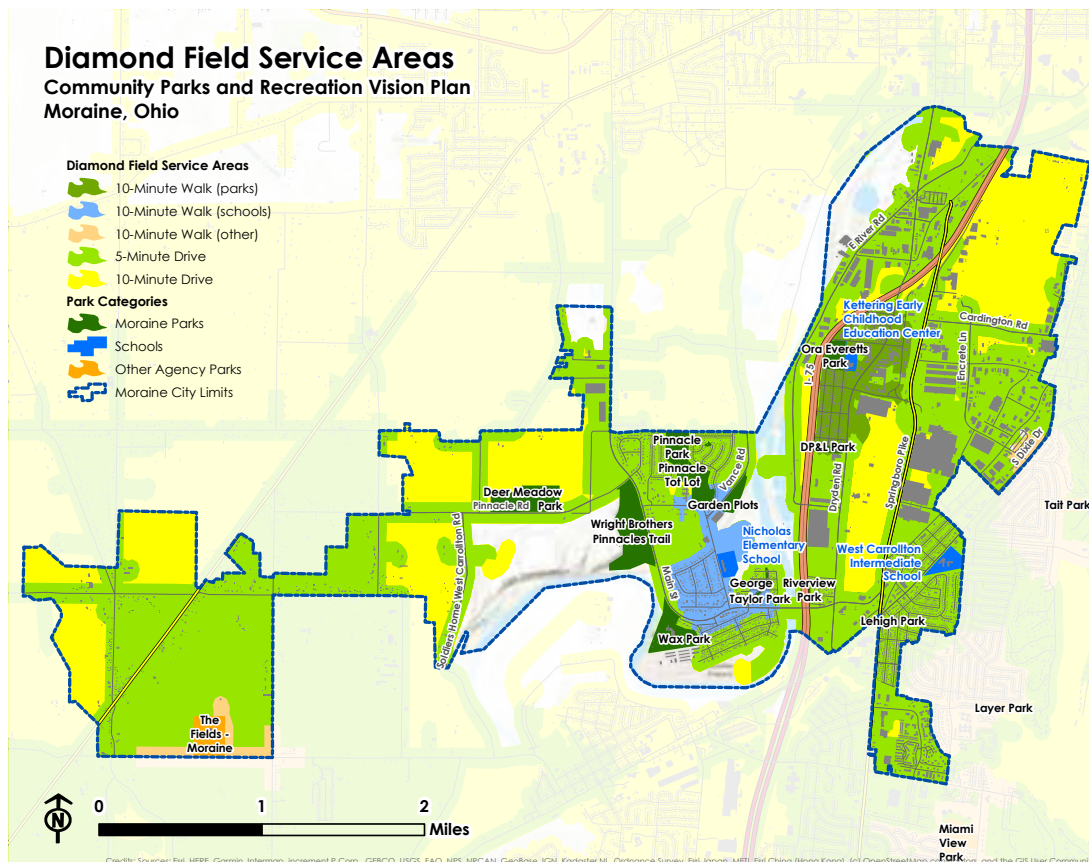


Figure 2.13: Multipurpose Rectangular Field Service Areas

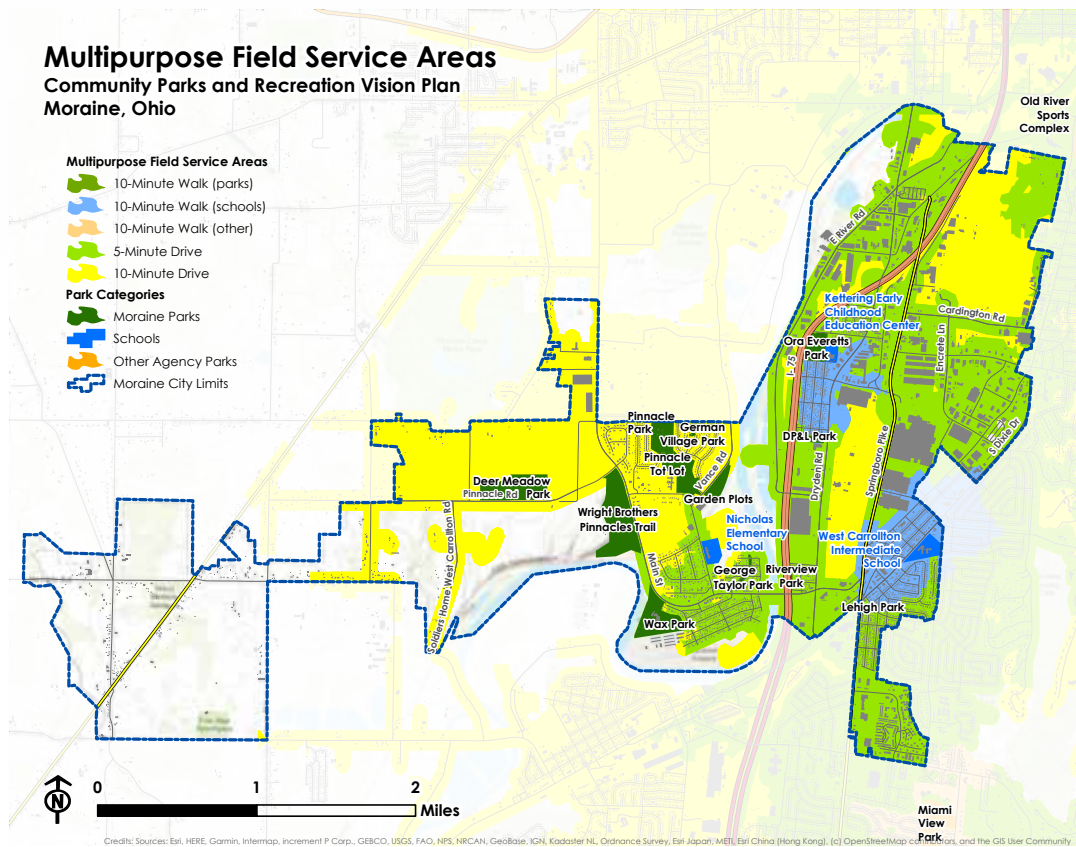


Figure 2.14: Tennis Court Service Areas

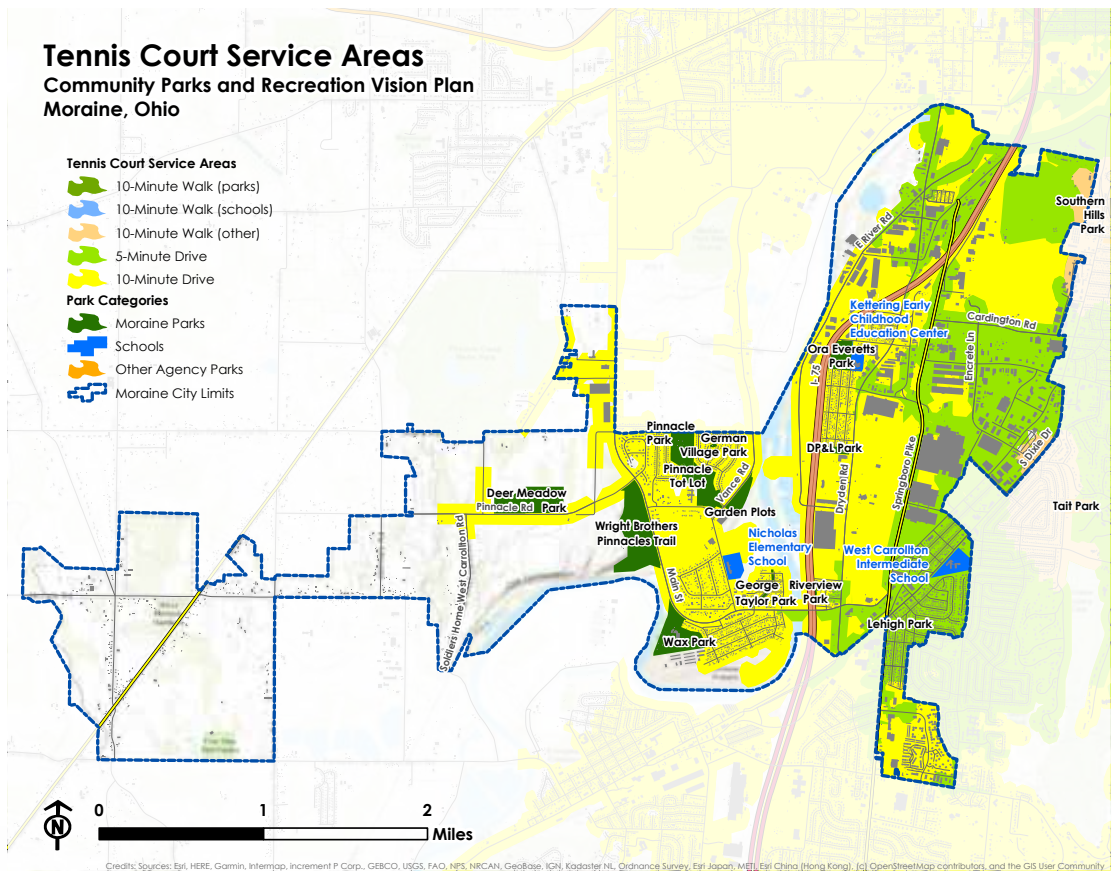


Figure 2.15: Picnic Shelter Service Areas

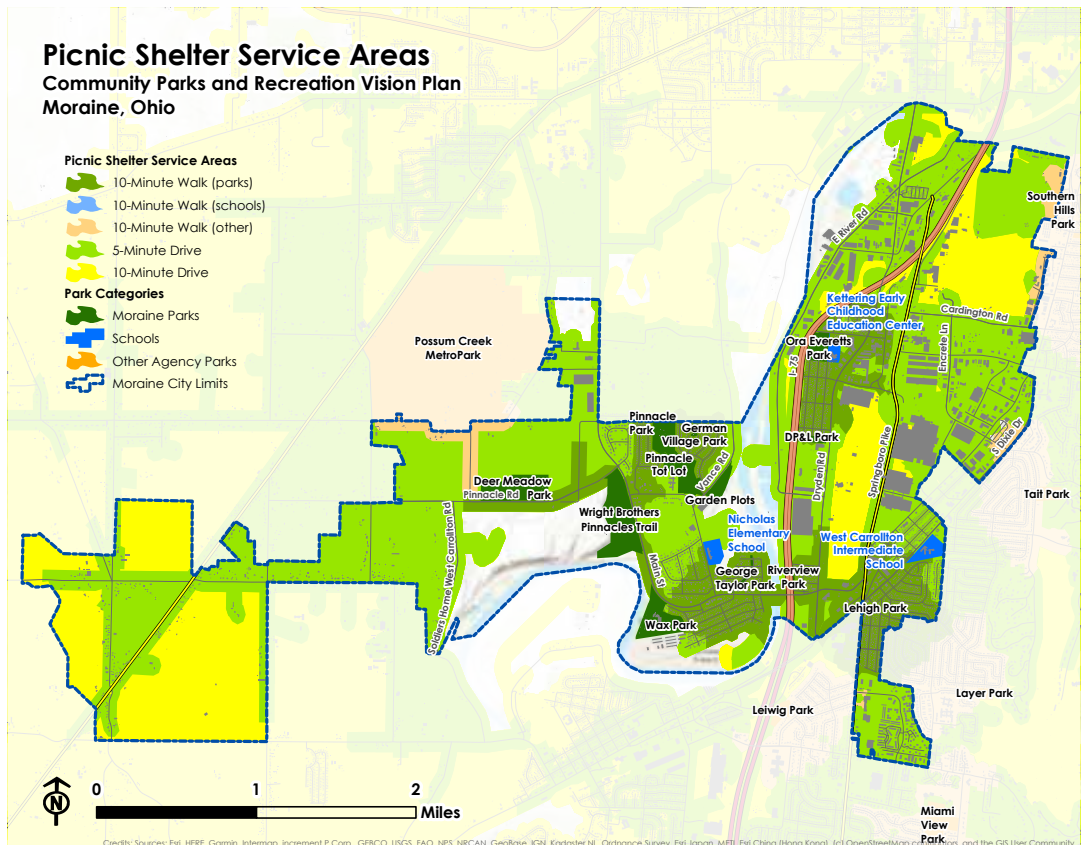


Figure 2.16: Indoor Recreation Centers Service Areas

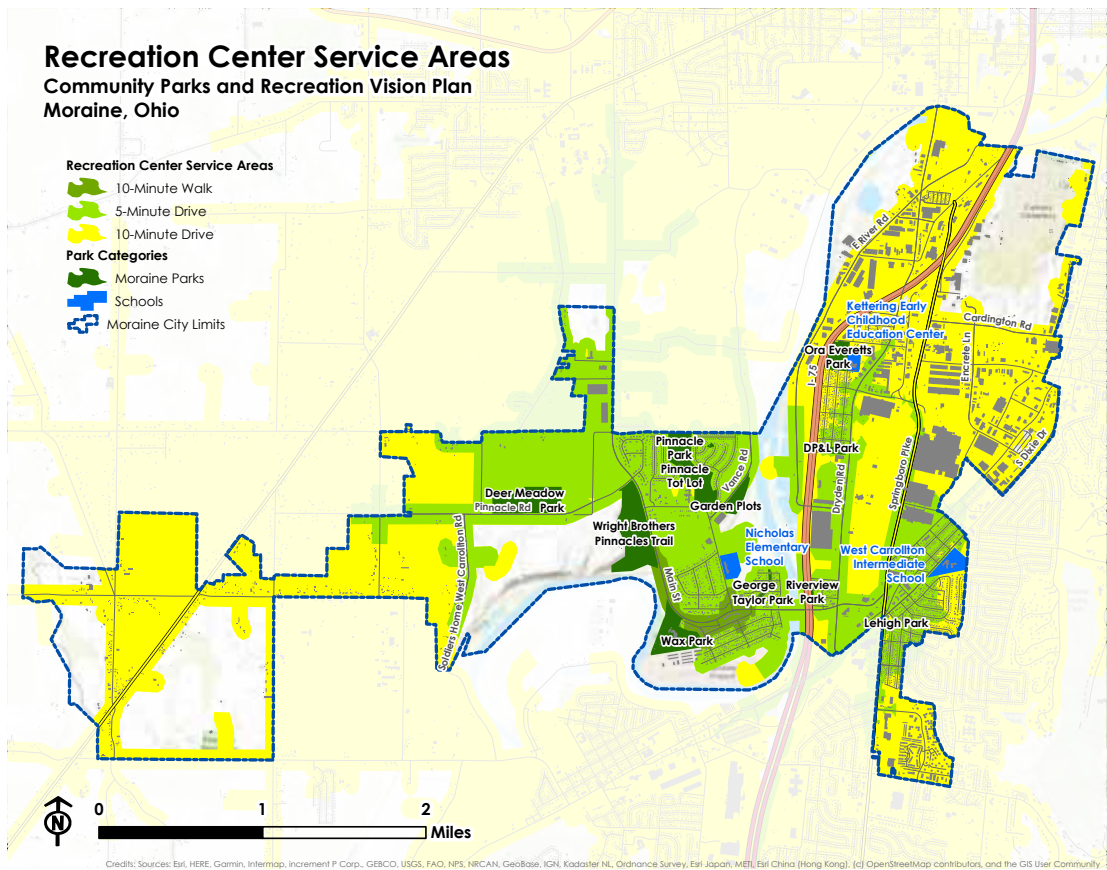


Figure 2.17: Trails Service Areas

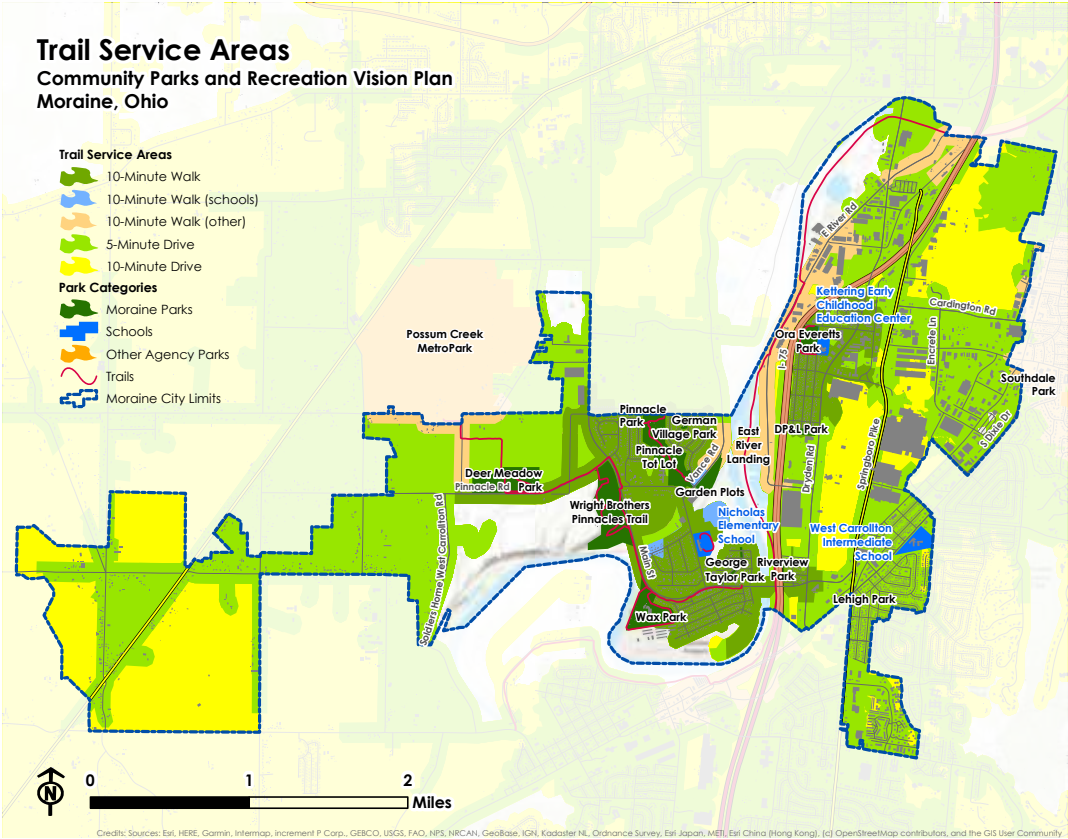


Figure 2.18: Disc Golf and Skate Park Service Areas

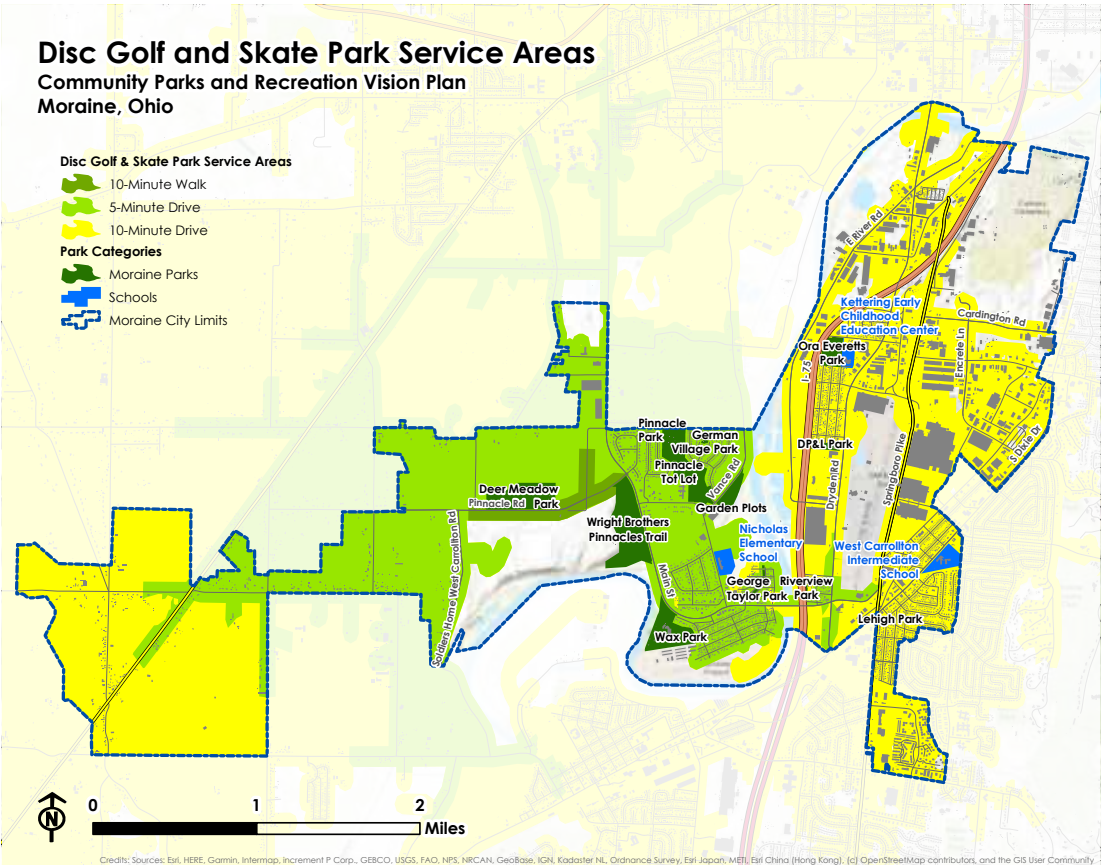


Figure 2.19: Fishing Access Service Areas

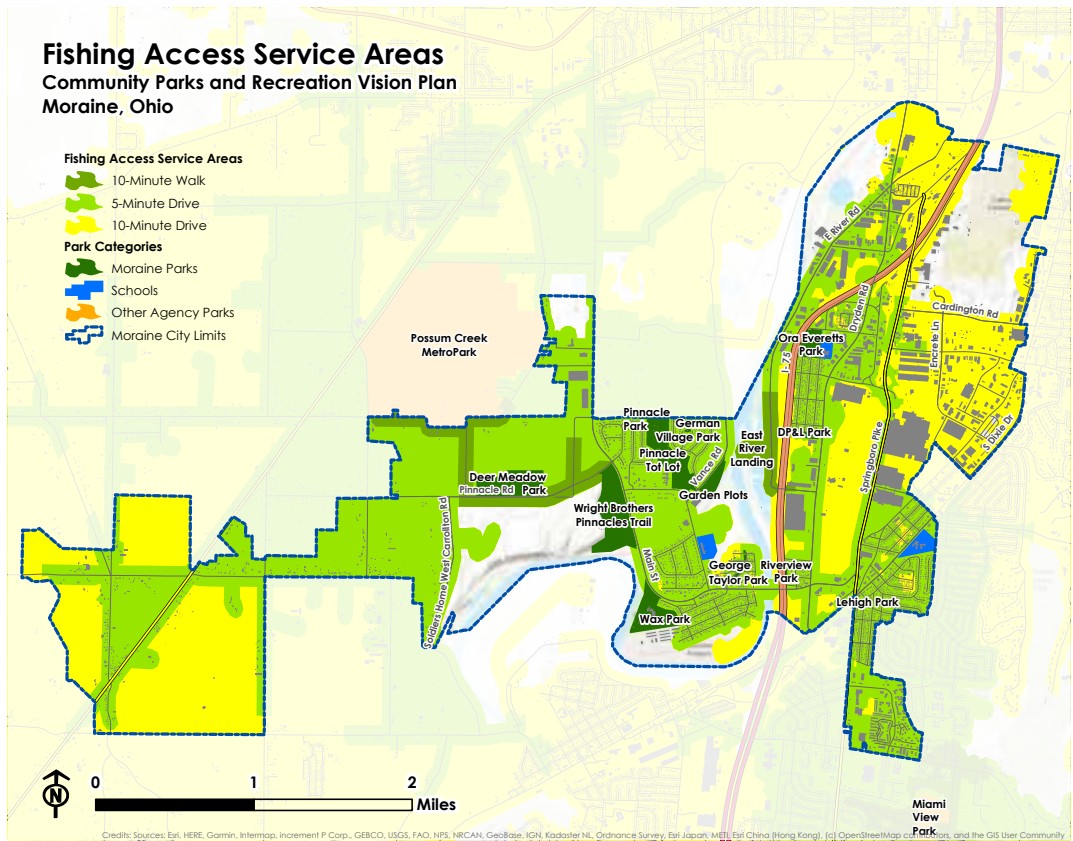


Figure 2.20: Boat Launch Service Areas

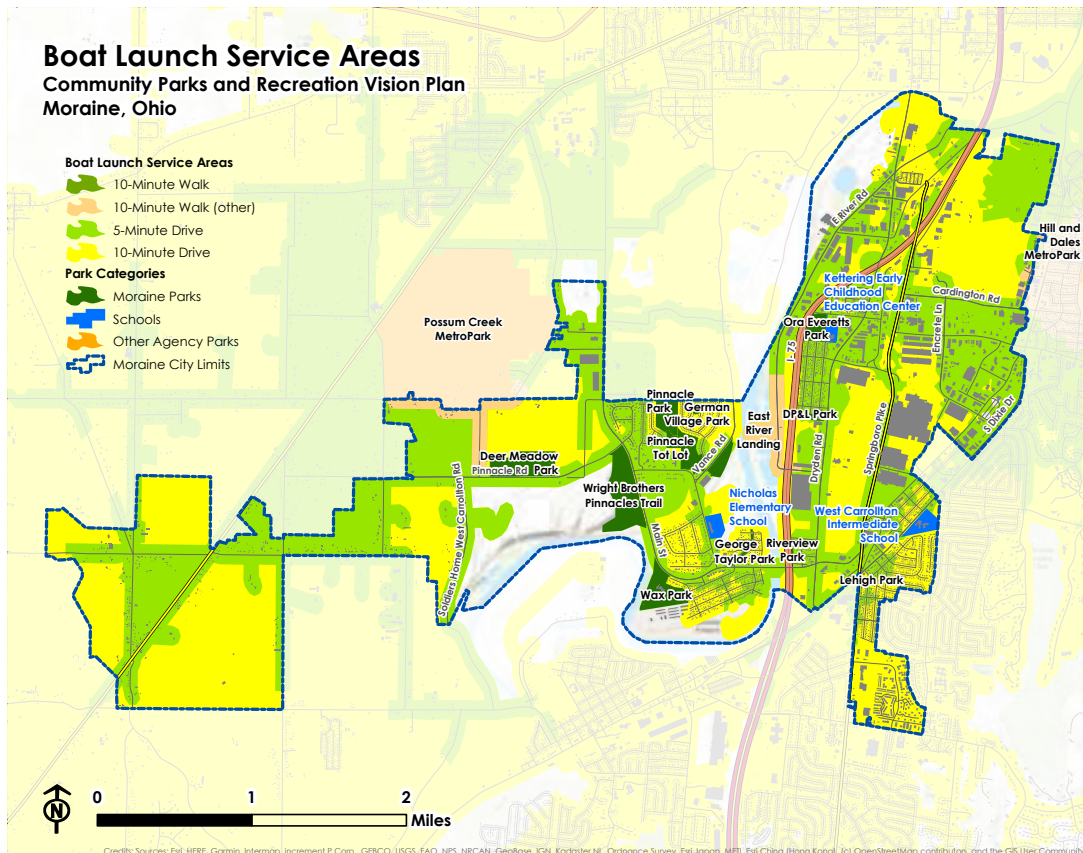
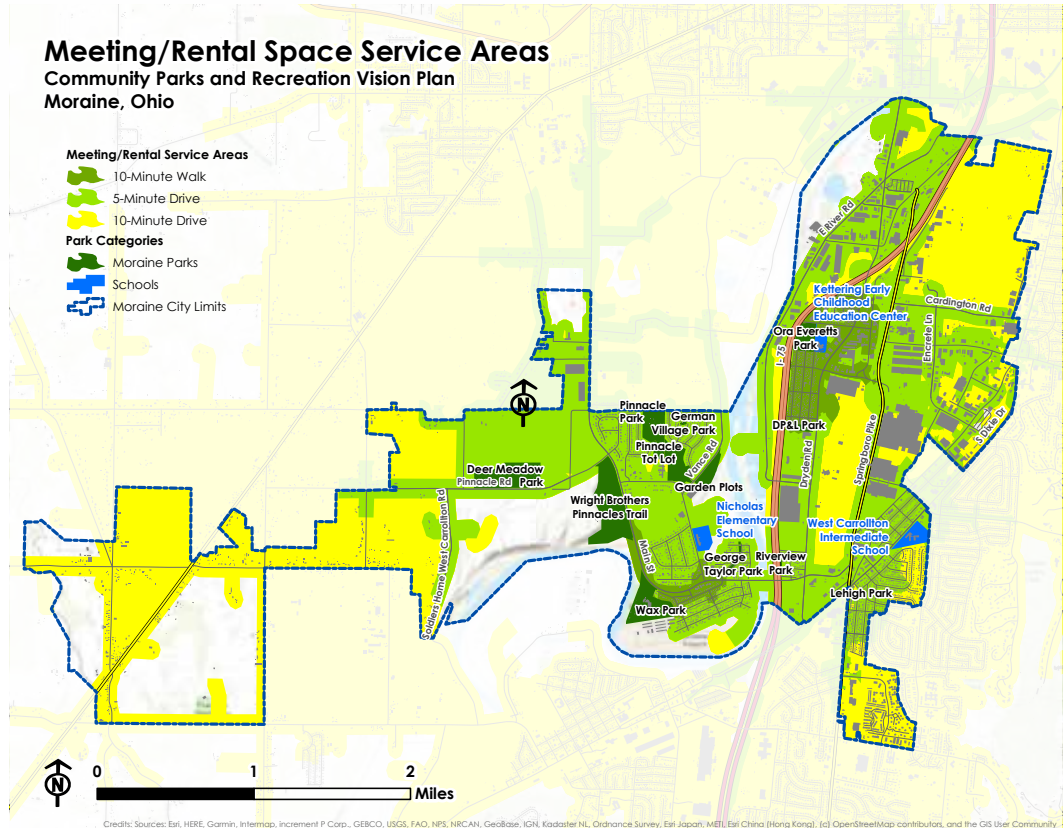


Figure 2.21: Meeting Space Service Areas



2.9 GEOGRAPHIC COMPOSITE PARK SERVICE AREAS

While the previous section (2.7) outlined the level of access to parks and facilities by geographic distribution and type, a composite analysis provides a more robust depiction of the level of service residents experience across the city. Service areas for Moraine's neighborhood and community parks, as well as primary and elementary schools, along with 13 features were assigned scores based on distance from the amenity (e.g., 10-minute walk vs. 5-minute drive). Then GIS software (ArcGIS) was used to produce a composite map with a combined score for all areas of the city.

Figure 2.22 shows the composite service areas for the city based on this multilayered level of access analysis. Service levels are relative to other areas of Moraine and do not

relate to benchmarks or other municipalities. A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix B.

In the figure, green indicates a higher level of service for parks and facilities per location (the deeper the shade, the better), while red areas have the lowest level of service (similarly, the deeper the red, the lower the service level). For example, a resident living within one of the dark green areas would more likely be within a short walk to a park and many of the facilities previously described (e.g., playgrounds and basketball courts).

In Moraine, 14% of residents live in areas with overall high levels of service, and 68% have medium-high or better. Large areas of the city, particularly the western, northeastern, and southeastern areas, have low or medium-low levels of service (26% of the population). These areas present potential opportunities to improve parks and recreation facility access in the city.

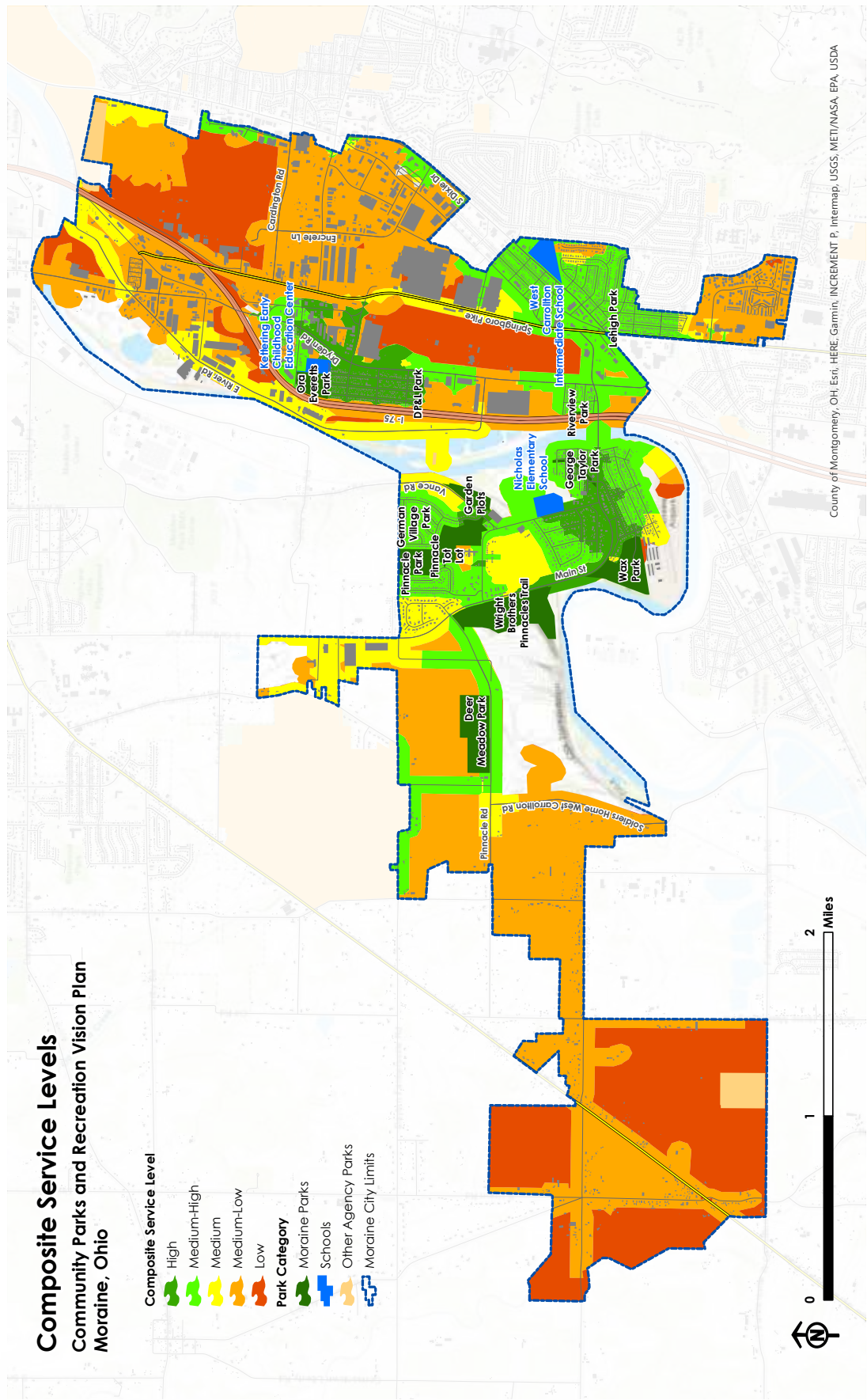
Table 2.16: Population by Composite Service Area

Service Level	Population ¹	Cumulative Population	Area	Cumulative Area	Median Household Income	Diversity Index	Median Age	Children	Seniors
High	14%	14%	5%	5%	\$53,139	41.0	39.5	168	297
Medium-High	54%	68%	15%	20%	\$58,437	48.1	38.0	724	1,063
Medium	5%	74%	10%	30%	\$66,144	47.0	38.1	74	109
Medium-Low	24%	98%	37%	67%	\$36,184	66.3	41.4	257	544
Low	2%	100%	20%	87%	\$62,913	49.9	47.1	13	50

1. % of total population within each area

Source: Esri forecasts for 2024

Figure 2.22: Composite Park Service Areas



2.10 TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The following text analyzes national trends in recreation, including types of activities and their associated facilities. First, a look at participation rates for various activities – using data from the Sport and Fitness Industry Association – then a deeper dive into the latest trends (relevant to Moraine) occurring in programming and facilities across the nation. Looking through a broader lens can provide insight into the origin and trajectory of more localized preferences. Understanding how trends in fitness, recreation, athletics, and cultural resources reflect in the parks and recreation industry illuminates present conditions and future possibilities for recreation and parks facilities and programs in Moraine. Equipped with industry context, the city can better sustain, expand, and realign its existing offerings.

2.10.1 Trends In Participation

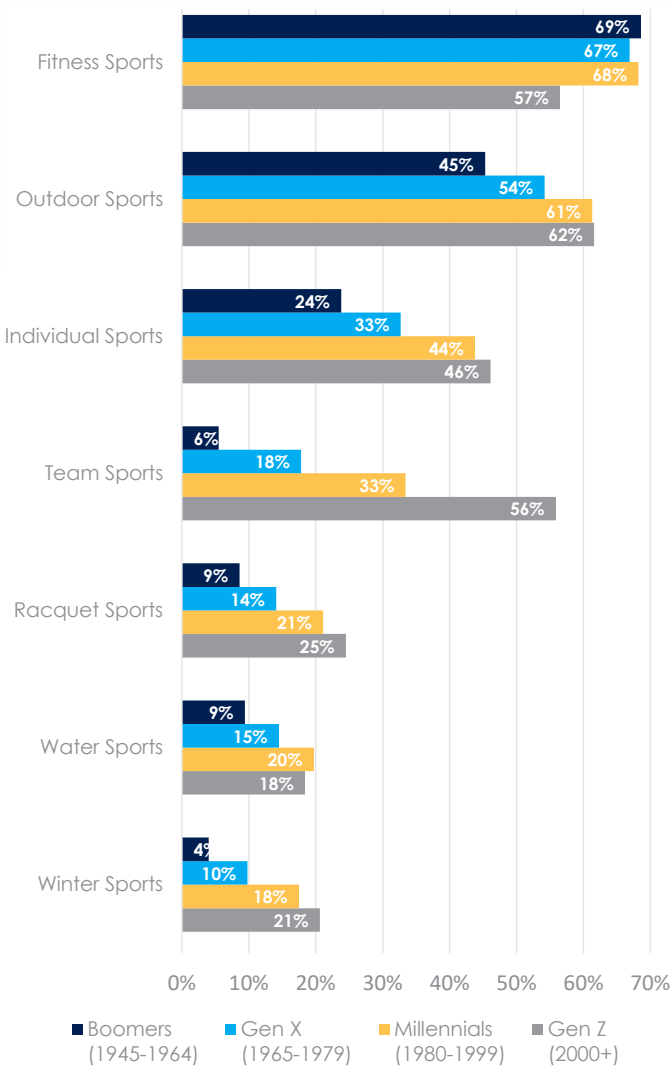
The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts an annual survey of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities.⁵ The survey produces results reflective of the total U.S. population age 6 and older; the 2023 sample consisted of 18,000 online interviews of households. The following text examines the findings of this SFIA report and connects relevant data to generate insights for Moraine.

Generational Differences

Figure 2.23 shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. All generations share high participation rates in fitness sports (e.g., barre, weight-training, kettlebells, etc.). Unlike the other sports categories, participation does not drop considerably with age. With growing percentages of residents in the older two generations, demand for fitness and outdoor sports programming is likely to increase into the future. Even though participation diminishes with age, outdoor sports remain popular with all age groups (45% of Boomers take advantage of outdoor activities).

Team sports, on the other hand, continue to have the highest participation rate with Gen Z. Their rate of participation in team sports has remained constant since 2019. Team sports participation has grown in all other generations since 2019 (Boomers +28%, Gen X +49%, and Millennials +23%). While participation in racquet sports appears to be relatively low compared to other sports, an important element of the data is that participation in racquet sports has increased dramatically across the generations since 2019 (Boomers +55%, Gen X +40%, Millennials +20%, and Gen Z +35%).

Figure 2.23: Participation Rates by Generation



Trends by Activity

Table 2.17 displays the 5-year participation rates for 56 different sports and fitness activities from the 2023 SFIA survey. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate and highlights which activities show either significant growth or decline in participation rates. The fastest growing sports are highlighted in blue. Pickleball continues to be the fastest growing activity with a 5-year average growth rate of 35.7% and a 3-year increase of 223.5%. Other growing activities include trail running (8.3%), cardio tennis (7.9%), skateboarding (7.3%), tennis (6.3%), birdwatching (6.1%), and recreational kayaking (6.1%) over the past 5 years.

Walking for fitness (over 114 million participants) remains the most popular activity, with nearly twice the participants as the second most popular activity, day hiking (61 million). Treadmill, free weights (hand weights), running/jogging, fishing (freshwater), and bicycling (paved surface) all claim over 41 million participants. Moraine currently does not offer any outdoor pickleball courts; however, the city offers several miles of trails for walking or running.

⁵ Topline Sport Participation Report, Sports & Fitness Industry Association, 2024

Table 2.17: Nationwide 5-Year History of Selected Sports Participation

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (in Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Adventure Racing	Individual Sports	2,215	2,143	1,966	1,826	1,714	1,808	-3.9%
Aquatic Exercise	Aerobic Activities	10,518	11,189	10,954	10,400	10,676	11,307	1.6%
Archery	Individual Sports	7,654	7,449	7,249	7,342	7,428	7,662	0.0%
Badminton	Racquet Sports	6,337	6,095	5,862	6,061	6,490	6,513	0.6%
Baseball	Team Sports	15,877	15,804	15,731	15,587	15,478	16,655	1.0%
Basketball	Team Sports	24,225	24,917	27,753	27,135	28,149	29,725	4.3%
Bicycling (BMX)	Outdoor Sports	3,439	3,648	3,880	3,861	4,181	4,462	5.4%
Bicycling (Non-Paved Surface)	Outdoor Sports	8,690	8,622	8,998	8,963	8,916	9,289	1.4%
Bicycling (Paved Surface)	Outdoor Sports	39,041	39,388	44,471	42,775	43,554	42,243	1.8%
Birdwatching (>¼ Mile from Home)	Outdoor Sports	12,344	12,817	15,228	14,815	15,818	16,423	6.1%
Bodyweight Exercise	Conditioning	24,183	23,504	22,845	22,629	22,034	22,578	-1.3%
Boxing/Martial Arts for Fitness	Individual Sports	7,650	8,638	9,856	9,345	9,787	8,378	2.4%
Cardio Tennis	Racquet Sports	2,499	2,501	2,503	2,608	2,812	3,581	7.9%
Cheerleading	Team Sports	3,841	3,752	3,308	3,465	3,507	3,797	0.0%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	Aerobic Activities	33,238	33,056	27,920	27,618	27,051	27,062	-3.8%
Fishing (Fly)	Outdoor Sports	6,939	7,014	7,753	7,458	7,631	8,077	3.2%
Fishing (Freshwater)	Outdoor Sports	38,998	39,185	42,556	40,853	41,821	42,605	1.9%
Football (Flag)	Team Sports	6,572	6,783	7,001	6,889	7,104	7,266	2.0%
Football (Tackle)	Team Sports	5,157	5,107	5,054	5,228	5,436	5,618	1.8%
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	Strength	51,291	51,450	53,256	52,636	53,140	53,858	1.0%
Golf	Individual Sports	24,240	24,271	24,804	25,111	25,566	26,565	1.9%
Gymnastics	Team Sports	4,770	4,699	3,848	4,268	4,569	4,758	0.5%
High Impact/Intensity & Training	Aerobic Activities	21,611	22,044	22,487	21,973	21,821	21,801	0.2%
Hiking (Day)	Outdoor Sports	47,860	49,697	57,808	58,697	59,578	61,444	5.3%
Ice Hockey	Team Sports	2,447	2,357	2,270	2,306	2,278	2,496	0.5%
Ice Skating	Individual Sports	9,721	9,460	9,857	9,481	10,086	11,438	3.5%
Kayaking (Recreational)	Water Sports	11,017	11,382	13,002	13,351	13,561	14,726	6.1%
Kayaking (White Water)	Water Sports	2,562	2,583	2,605	2,623	2,726	2,995	3.2%
Lacrosse	Team Sports	2,098	2,115	1,884	1,892	1,875	1,979	-1.0%
Martial Arts	Individual Sports	5,821	6,068	6,064	6,186	6,355	6,610	2.6%
Pickleball	Racquet Sports	3,301	3,460	4,199	4,819	8,949	13,582	35.7%
Pilates Training	Conditioning	9,084	9,243	9,905	9,745	10,311	11,862	5.6%
Racquetball	Racquet Sports	3,480	3,453	3,426	3,260	3,521	3,550	0.5%
Roller Hockey	Team Sports	1,734	1,616	1,500	1,425	1,368	3,550	-6.5%
Rugby	Team Sports	1,560	1,392	1,242	1,238	1,166	1,112	-6.5%
Running/Jogging	Aerobic Activities	49,459	50,052	50,652	48,977	47,816	48,305	-0.5%
Scuba Diving	Water Sports	2,849	2,715	2,588	2,476	2,658	3,063	1.8%
Skateboarding	Individual Sports	6,500	6,610	8,872	8,747	9,019	8,923	7.3%
Soccer (Outdoor)	Team Sports	11,405	11,913	12,444	12,556	13,018	14,074	4.3%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	Team Sports	2,303	2,242	1,811	2,088	2,146	2,323	0.9%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	Team Sports	7,386	7,071	6,349	6,008	6,036	6,356	-2.8%
Stand Up Paddling	Water Sports	3,453	3,562	3,675	3,739	3,777	4,129	3.7%
Stationary Cycling	Aerobic Activities	36,668	37,085	31,287	32,453	32,102	32,628	-2.0%

Table 2.17: Nationwide 5-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (Continued)

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (in Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Swimming for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	27,575	28,219	25,666	25,620	26,272	28,173	0.6%
Swimming on a Team	Team Sports	3,045	2,822	2,615	2,824	2,904	3,327	2.1%
Table Tennis	Racquet Sports	15,592	14,908	16,854	15,390	15,824	15,359	0.0%
Tai Chi	Conditioning	3,761	3,793	3,300	3,393	3,394	3,948	1.4%
Tennis	Racquet Sports	17,841	17,684	21,642	22,617	23,595	23,835	6.3%
Track and Field	Team Sports	2,710	2,290	2,325	3,587	3,690	3,905	-1.0%
Trail Running	Individual Sports	10,010	10,997	11,854	12,520	13,253	14,885	8.3%
Treadmill	Aerobic Activities	53,737	56,823	49,832	53,627	53,589	54,829	0.7%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	Individual Sports	2,168	2,001	1,846	1,748	1,780	1,738	-4.3%
Ultimate Frisbee	Team Sports	2,710	2,290	2,325	2,190	2,142	2,086	-4.9%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	Team Sports	4,770	4,400	4,320	4,184	4,128	3,917	-3.8%
Volleyball (Court)	Team Sports	6,317	6,487	5,410	5,849	6,092	6,905	2.3%
Walking for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	111,001	111,439	114,044	115,814	114,759	114,039	0.5%
Weight/Resistance Machines	Strength	36,372	36,181	30,651	30,577	30,010	29,426	-4.0%
Yoga	Conditioning	28,745	30,456	32,808	34,347	33,636	34,249	3.6%

COVID related impacts are apparent in these participation rates. Many outdoor activities, such as skateboarding, tennis, pickleball, birdwatching, and hiking, grew substantially from 2019 to 2020 and have maintained or increased usage levels since. Conversely, some indoor activities, such as stationary cycling, weight/resistance machines, and elliptical motion trainers, declined in 2020 and never recovered.

Legend

	>3% Increase
	1-3% Increase
	Minimal Change
	1-3% Decrease
	>3% Decrease

Table 2.18:

2.10.2 Aging Communities

Throughout the United States, the median age of the population is increasing along with the number of persons 65 years and older. Census data indicates the same trend is occurring in Moraine. Senior centers are shifting from a focus on activities like card games to more active programming such as fitness and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and nature programs.

While the aging population should inspire parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for older users such as walking trails, fishing areas, community gardens, and cultural and nature education programs, many of these more involved and nature-oriented activities are appealing to all generations. Moraine offers a few senior-focused programs and special events at the Civic Center and Recreation Center.

2.10.3 Universal Access

Many park systems are developing unique facilities designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Park system administrators are uniquely positioned to set the best example for inclusivity – by creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, parks



Accessible playground in North Canton, Ohio



Accessible splash pad in Elyria, Ohio

Table 2.19: Universal Design to Inclusive Playground Design

Universal Design	Inclusive Playground Design
Equitable Use The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.	Be Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the needs of the whole child. • Encourage multigenerational play. • Program the space for inclusion.
Flexibility in Use The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.	Be Included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer various types and forms of play. • Ensure variety and graduated levels of challenge. • Provide choices.
Simple and Intuitive Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration level.	Be Smart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide behavioral cues. • Support intuitive play patterns. • Define play settings.
Perceptible Information The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.	Be Independent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote diversity, acceptance, and mutual respect. • Provide accessible surfacing and routes of travel. • Offer sensory rich experiences. • Encourage independent play.
Tolerance for Error The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.	Be Safe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply safety standards and address potential hazards. • Integrate emotional well-being. • Accommodate for comfortable supervision.
Low Physical Effort The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with minimum fatigue.	Be Active <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate children's diverse physical needs. • Integrate equitable alternatives. • Encourage cooperation and socialization.
Size and Space for Approach and Use Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.	Be Comfortable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address approach and reach ranges. • Provide adequate space for movement and gathering. • Offer a balance of environmental conditions. • Plan for amenities.

and recreation agencies are changing the landscape not just physically but also culturally and in terms of mental health. With the exception of the Recreation Center and Civic Center, many of Moraine's parks and recreational facilities have limited accessibility. Significant improvements are needed to improve accessibility and to offer facilities and programs for all abilities.

Universal access extends beyond the physical to include interpretive signage, buildings, and all programs. **Providing barrier-free parks should become an essential part of the process for any park improvement.** Most equipment providers have available options for individual features, but it

is necessary to take a holistic approach to the design process to guarantee fully inclusive experiences.

Universal Design is defined as the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.⁶ These principles, developed by Ronald Mace, FAIA, and promoted by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University, were originally intended to guide design of housing, public and commercial facilities, and related products. Architects, landscape architects, and engineers often utilize these principles of designing parks and recreation facilities.

⁶ The Principles of Universal Design. 1997. NC State University, The Center for Universal Design

More recently, the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University, in collaboration with PlayCore, adapted the principles of Universal Design to form a set of guidelines for designing outdoor play environments for children (Table 2.18).⁷ These 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design are intended to guide communities in creating “universally designed play environments that are usable by more people, to the greatest extent possible, and therefore better serve a diverse community through outdoor play destinations where everyone is welcomed as a valued participant.” Among other additions, the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design supports inclusion of people with disabilities and chronic health conditions by providing opportunities for physical, sensory, communicative, social-emotional, and cognitive states of play.

2.10.4 Pickleball

Pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized court with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball and composite or wooden paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It can be played one on one or two on two. According to the 2023 Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) report (Table 2.15), pickleball participation grew by nearly 36% over the last five years.

While growth of the sport began with seniors, popularity is growing with all ages. The largest age 965 and older group still maintains the largest percentage of players at 32.7%. In general, casual players (play 1-7 times per year) tend to be younger (under 35) than core players.⁸

Moraine has begun to respond to this trend by providing pickleball in the gym in the Payne Recreation Center at scheduled times. Outdoor pickleball will continue to be a unmet demand in Moraine until the city adds courts at one of their parks.



Pickleball in South Euclid, Ohio

2.10.5 Splash Pads

Splash pads are a growing trend in aquatics. Many agencies are replacing wading pools with these more accessible water attractions, but they are also often built as new standalone wet playgrounds. When compared to pools, splash pads have several benefits. Because there is no standing water, lifeguards are not required, reducing operating costs significantly. In most instances, splash pads

recirculate water. These facilities can provide a wide range of features, and when built conscientiously, splash pads achieve significantly universal accessibility.

After the closing of Splash Moraine, the city does not offer any aquatic facilities. The City of Dayton offers seven splash pads and is planning to add more. Kettering offers a farm-themed splash pad in Kennedy Park. These facilities, and any aquatic facilities at all, are more than 15 minutes away from most Moraine residents. Survey results and public engagement point to growing demand for aquatic facilities in Moraine. Developing a splash pad would help the city address this demand without the maintenance of a swimming pool.



Clippard Park Sprayground, Colerain, Ohio



Centerville Activity Center, Ohio

2.10.6 Dog Parks

Dog parks are in ever-increasing demand throughout the country. These spaces help to improve the interaction skills of dogs, while also providing social opportunities for dog owners. Quality dog parks require careful planning and an adequate operating budget to ensure adequate maintenance and upkeep.

Optimally, a dog park would be at least three acres in size and includes three separate areas: large dogs, small dogs, and a rotating unused area to allow for regeneration of turf. Some dog parks include an additional area for agility and

⁷ 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design. 2016. PlayCore & Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University

⁸ 2023 Pickleball Fact Sheet. USA Pickleball. Retrieved on March 29, 2024 from <https://www.usapickleball.org/docs/USA-Pickleball-Fact-Sheet-2023.pdf>

training. Many dog parks are larger, reaching well over 10 acres in size. Typical quality amenities include shade, seating, water (for both humans and animals), and restrooms.

Moraine does not currently offer any dog parks, but public engagement indicates a clear demand for one of these facilities. Deer Meadow Park the most obvious location for a new dog park in Moraine, because there is a large amount of city-owned land contiguous to the park.



Triangle Dog Park, Dayton, Ohio



Oak Grove Dog Park, Centerville-Washington Park District

Technology

The use of technology is becoming increasingly common in parks and recreation. Many park users want to remain connected while visiting parks and expect instant access to information about facilities and programs at those parks. They also want to be able to register for the events and programs they discover on their mobile device.

While there may sometimes be concerns about distraction, especially in nature-oriented spaces, technology – when applied intentionally – can be a tool to enhance park experience. Considering the extent to which technology is

part of many user experiences across sectors, it is likely going to be an element necessary to keep people – especially youth – engaged. Potential applications of technology in parks:

- Wi-Fi hotspots – to record the number of connections or searches to create a picture of visitation trends⁹
- User counters – to detect cellphone signals to help determine the number of users in an area¹⁰
- Device-charging areas
- QR codes – to promote and inform
- Trail counters – to detect record types of users

The city currently uses Facebook to promote recreation and cultural programs and YouTube for council meetings. Parks and Recreation has no social media presence of their own. Other nearby agencies, including Kettering, Miamisburg, and Centerville-Washington Park District have their own pages, allowing for frequent updates and last-minute changes.

Keeping these platforms relevant with varied posts (e.g., video content, informational flyers, community polls, etc.) will be helpful for attracting followers and expanding impact. These posts would, in turn, provide the city with additional means of gathering information on park conditions, plant health, visitation levels, and more. YouTube is the most popular platform with 83% of Americans reporting usage in 2023. Facebook is the second most popular (68%) followed by Instagram (47%). Age matters in social media preferences and in choosing which ones to use. While 78% of Americans 18-29 use Instagram, only 15% of those 65 and older use it.¹¹

2.10.7 Nature Interaction, Education, and Programming

Geocaching

Geocaching is a technology-based activity that has been growing in popularity since the early 2000s, when GPS technology improved significantly. Participants travel to local parks and open spaces to hunt for objects previously hidden by others using a set of coordinates and a digital GPS device (typically on a smart phone). Once found, participants sign a log and sometimes exchange the now-discovered item for a new item. The search can have varying levels of complexity – one cache leads to another, or a puzzle must be completed.¹²

Parks are a popular location for geocaches throughout the country. Many geocaches are already present in Moraine parks, including Wax Park, Pinnacle Park, Ora Everetts, and along several trails. Other parks nearby, including Possum Creek MetroPark and Hills and Dales MetroPark also contain geocaches.



⁹ National Recreation and Park Association, "Parks Using Technology to Engage and Inspire," <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/may/parks-using-technology-to-engage-and-inspire/>. (May 1, 2017)

¹⁰ Dolesh, R. J. (2019, January). Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2019. Parks & Recreation.

¹¹ Social Media Fact Sheet. Pew Research Center. Retrieved on March 29, 2024 from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/>

¹² National Recreation and Park Association, "How to Leverage Geocaching to Promote Park and Recreation Events," <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/october/how-to-leverage-geocaching-to-promote-park-and-recreation-events/>. (October 5, 2017)

Environmental Education

There is a need for expanded environmental education and parks and recreation agencies have a considerable role to play. Environmental education centers throughout the country are having great success as communities are seeking better access to engage with and learn from their natural environment. Potential subjects include natural processes, resource management, and wildlife habitats.

Environmental education programs instill a lasting connection to the natural world and present opportunities to promote and encourage greater use and appreciation of local parks in the community, while creating **opportunities for collaboration between organizations, institutions, and advocacy groups such as Moraine's partnership with Arrowhead Reptile Rescue. Five Rivers MetroParks, whose service area includes the City of Moraine, is an obvious partner for educational programs.**

Wildlife Watching

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 146.5 million (56%) Americans participated in wildlife watching in 2022. Bird watching is the most popular form of wildlife watching in the United States. Approximately 96.3 million people participated in some form of bird watching in 2022, with 95% (91.1 million) of those observing birds within one mile of their home for an average of 67 days per year.¹³



Yellow Warbler

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report also includes an analysis of the economic impact of wildlife watching activities. Wildlife watchers direct substantial amounts of dollars into the economy because of trip-related (\$42.1 billion) and equipment expenditures (\$118.6 billion).

The engagement process for this Plan indicated a need for opportunities to connect and interact with nature. Moraine has many spaces that could be used to help meet this need, including Dear Meadow Park, the Pinnacles Trail, and even Wax Park along the Great Miami River.

Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many communities utilize parks as examples of best management practices (BMPs) to serve as models for minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing the sustainability of both park sites and operations. Parks and recreation departments are in great positions to lead

in the implementation of these practices because they are typically among the largest landowners (if not the largest) in their jurisdictions. To assist in the implementation of these practices, some park departments establish manuals detailing the BMPs which are generally divided into categories.¹⁴ Some potential categories include (with examples):

1. Site Selection – which properties to acquire and protect
2. Design – strategies for management of stormwater, water quality, riparian/wetland buffers; use of vegetation; choice of building materials
3. Construction – controlling of pollutants, soil restoration, recycling of construction materials
4. Operation and Maintenance – practices for water conservation, use of organics, weed control, composting, energy use, etc.
5. Programs and Special Events – consider carrying capacity of facility, provide recycling receptacles

All improvements, even small elements such as rain and butterfly gardens, provide educational opportunities. Deer Meadow and Pinnacle parks present feasible options for larger implementation.

Nature Play Areas

Many parks and recreation agencies are placing increased emphasis on the availability of nature play areas and programming for children. The Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) created a document titled Nature Play & Learning Places, which provides a series of national guidelines for the creation of places for children to interact with nature. The guidelines are meant to support communities in providing opportunities for children to learn about their natural environment and to develop healthy active habits. The guidelines also encourage incorporating natural materials like plants, stones, water, fallen trees, etc. to augment sensory experience and facilitate tactile play. According to the guidelines, a nature play or learning place is:



Natural play structure (Silver Falls State Park – Oregon)

"A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences."¹⁵

¹³ 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2023.

¹⁴ Environmental Best Management Practices Manual. City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation. 2011.

¹⁵ Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

The following are examples of nature play features:

- Natural Play Structures
- Multipurpose Lawns
- Meadows and Woodlands
- Vegetable Gardens
- Natural Aquatics
- Gathering and Performance Structures

Moraine has multiple parks where nature play areas could be introduced, especially Deer Meadow Park. Any playground addition or replacement is an opportunity to incorporate natural features, and several of the city's parks could be good candidates.

2.10.8 Trails and Connectivity

Demand for trails, trail linkages, and pathways that connect parks, open spaces, and other destination sites (like downtown districts) has been growing all over the U.S., including in Moraine and neighboring communities in Montgomery County. Communities with existing and extensive trail systems express pride and continued desire to build trails between neighborhoods and develop pathways to schools, shopping areas, other community attractions, and neighborhoods.



Trail in Deer Meadow Park with connector to Possum Creek MetroPark

Livable communities where residents report a high quality of life generally have robust trail systems and reliable connectivity that support active, engaged lifestyles. Moraine has good trail connectivity in some parts of the city, but there is a high level of demand for more.

2.10.9 Bike Facilities

Off-road bicycling activities are growing in popularity, although they still represent a relatively small percentage of all bicycling activities. Modern mountain biking (MTB) originated in the 1970s in California with a group of enthusiasts who modified existing bikes for off-road use. These cyclists organized first downhill races which they called "Repack." This name referred to the need to "repack" the brakes with fresh grease after each race due to the excessive heat from braking during the descent.¹⁶

During the early years of mountain biking, enthusiasts used single-track trails intended for hiking as bikes were not specifically forbidden from using these trails. However, as the sport gained popularity, bikes have been banned from most hiking trails, and single-track trails designed specifically for mountain bikes have been established.¹⁷ As shown above in Table 2.16, BMX biking is becoming more popular, with a 23.6% increase in participation over the past three years. Two types of bike facilities have become popular with both BMX and mountain bike riders, flow trails and pump tracks.

Flow trails provide more predictable surfaces, banked turns, and a lack of obstacles. These trails require little peddling and minimal braking that appeal to a wider variety of users, including families. These trails can be designed to allow beginners to bypass any more technical trails.¹⁸

Another trend in off-road bicycle facilities is the pump track. These tracks, which began to appear in the 2000s, are looping tracks that can be ridden continuously without the need to pedal. A user's speed is dependent on "pumping" the terrain transitions of the track. A pump track requires approximately 50' by 50' of space (minimum) and generally features a series of rollers and steeply bermed corners.¹⁹



Pump Track at Dayton Welcome Park

2.10.10 Creative Placemaking

The Trust for Public Land – a nonprofit organization with a mission to bring high-quality parks within a 10-minute walk of every person in the U.S. – is a leading champion of creative placemaking as a strategy for affecting change. Creative placemaking is a collaborative, community-based process that captures the power of art, vibrancy of local heritage, and potential of place to build memorable spaces rooted in culture and local identity. Parks and recreation agencies around the nation offer community connection in physical and social forms; creative-placemaking is just another tool for ensuring successful parks that equitably reflect the people who use them.²⁰ Many agencies partner with local entities (like other government departments, nonprofits, schools, places of worship, art institutions, and other groups) to put in place opportunities for resident-led installations, programs, and events.

¹⁶ Marin Museum of Bicycling, "Mountain Biking History," <http://mmbhof.org/mtn-bike-hall-of-fame/history/>, (April 8, 2019).

¹⁷ Singletracks, "Visiting the Birthplace of Mountain Biking: Marin County, California," <http://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/visiting-the-birthplace-of-mountain-biking-marin-county-california/>, (April 8, 2019).

¹⁸ IMBA, "Flow Trails," <https://www.imba.com/model-trails/flow-trails>, (April 15, 2016).

¹⁹ Adventure Sports Journal, "Pumpin': An Introduction to the World of Pump Tracks," <http://adventuresportsjournal.com/pumpin-an-introduction-to-the-world-of-pump-tracks/>, (April 8, 2019).

²⁰ Trust for Public Land, Creative Placemaking, <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/creative-placemaking>

Creative-placemaking can take countless forms. It may look like an outdoor sculpture walk at the center of the neighborhood park featuring resident and local artists' work. It might be an annual arts performance downtown that showcases immigrant and refugee cultures in the community. It can also be as low-profile as a pollinator garden, including interpretive signage about the plants chosen and why. Whatever it may look like, it is essential that the community be inclusively integrated into every phase: ideation, selection (of artist(s), piece(s), feature(s), etc.), installation, activation, and long-term care.



Creative Placemaking in the Madisonville Neighborhood of Cincinnati (2015)

When parks and recreation agencies prioritize local traditions, cultural identities, and native resources, making sure these are reflected in program and facility offerings, users will be more likely to participate and do their part to sustain the system. A reciprocal relationship forms, where community engages with parks and recreation to the extent that parks and recreation agencies seek to provide place-based resources. Creative placemaking would provide opportunities to make every park unique and to build and connect community around these parks. With clear expectations, fair compensation, and meaningful engagement, the arts community has the power to enliven parks and community spaces in Moraine.

2.11 KEY FINDINGS FROM THE EVALUATE PHASE

The findings of the Evaluate Phase will be considered with the findings of the Engage Phase and the results of the Envision Phase to develop recommendations and the action plan. Highlights and key findings about Moraine and its parks and recreation offerings from the Evaluate Phase include:

- **Moraine's population is changing** which means new interests in recreational and cultural programming and facilities.
- All parks have **accessibility shortfalls**, indicating a need for an accessibility evaluation and a plan to address problem areas.
- Moraine does not currently offer **pickleball or tennis courts**. Given the growing popularity of both sports, adding a few dedicated courts for each would allow the department to meet a growing need.

- Moraine **lacks multipurpose fields for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and football**. Adding fields would open up many programming opportunities for the city.
- Moraine would benefit from **adding a splash pad** in parks where many residents are within a 10-minute walk.
- Nearly all the city's **playgrounds need to be replaced**. All new playgrounds should include at least some accessible elements with a possible goal of building one completely inclusive playground.
- Potential upgrades to neighborhood parks such as Riverview Park and Lehigh Park present ideal opportunities for **creative placemaking to activate the spaces** and make them neighborhood destinations.
- Moraine offers a good collection of trails in the central part of the city. The trail system needs **connectivity to the eastern part of the city and the Great Miami River Recreational Trail**.
- **Rethinking and renovation of the Civic Center and Ora Everetts Park** could help create a destination for residents' and visitors' recreational and cultural programming needs, while providing high quality rental space for meetings and events.
- The recreation department lacks **good data records for program registrations and participation**. MyRec offers a training programs to help the department take advantage of the platform's many features.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the processes used and the public input gathered throughout the planning process and summarizes the following elements:

1. Open House Workshop
2. Community Events
3. Stakeholder Conversations
4. Surveys – Random Sample Survey & Web/Handout Survey

The public engagement process is essential for identifying the needs and preferences of Moraine residents. The findings of the public engagement process are, therefore, integral to the vision for the future and serve as the foundation for the recommendations of this Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan.

3.2 OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Moraine held three engagement events to learn from residents what they want in the present and future from Parks and Recreation. A dedicated open house was held on August 28, 2024, and input stations were provided at the National Night Out event on August 6 and the Boo Bash on October 12. Approximately 250 people participated in the three events – 50 at the open house, 88 at the National Night Out event, and 105 at the Boo Bash. Recreation center visitors were also invited to participate after the open house.



3.2.1 Preference Boards (Dot Voting)

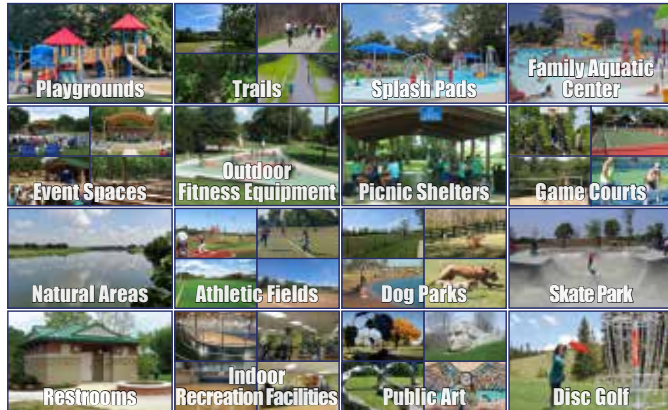
Attendees of all three events were given three red dots to place on a board indicating their preferences for park features along with three blue dots to place on another board indicating their preferences for programs. The boards provided a list of park amenities and programs with pictures. Approximately 260 community members, including adults and children, participated in each of these activities. Results of the selections are presented in Figures 3.1 and 3.2.



On the features board (Figure 3.1), a family aquatic center received the largest number of dots (163 or 21%), followed by splash pads (99 or 13%), and playgrounds (68 or 9%). On the programs board (Figure 3.2), festivals received the largest number of dots (124 or 16%), followed by movies/music concerts and nature programs (87 or 11%). The options provided on the boards were intended to be general, so features and programs were combined into broader categories whenever possible.

What Features are Most Important to You?

Place up to **3 RED DOTS** to show where Moraine Parks & Recreation should add or improve features



What Programs are Most Important to You?

Place up to **3 BLUE DOTS** to show where Moraine Parks & Recreation should add or improve programs



Figure 3.1: Feature Preference Results

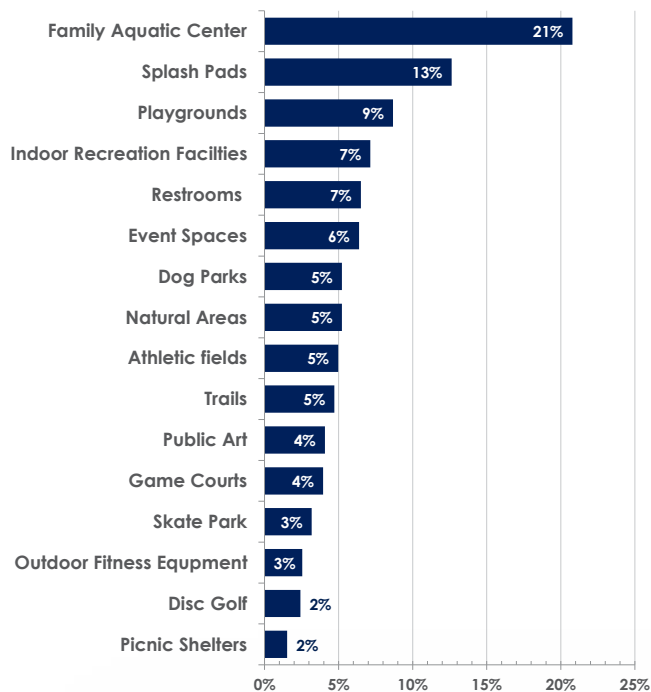
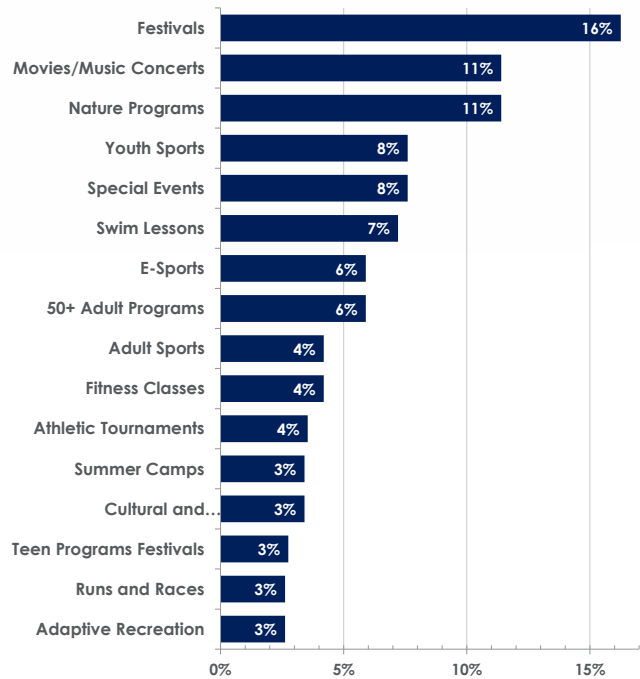


Figure 3.2: Program Preference Results



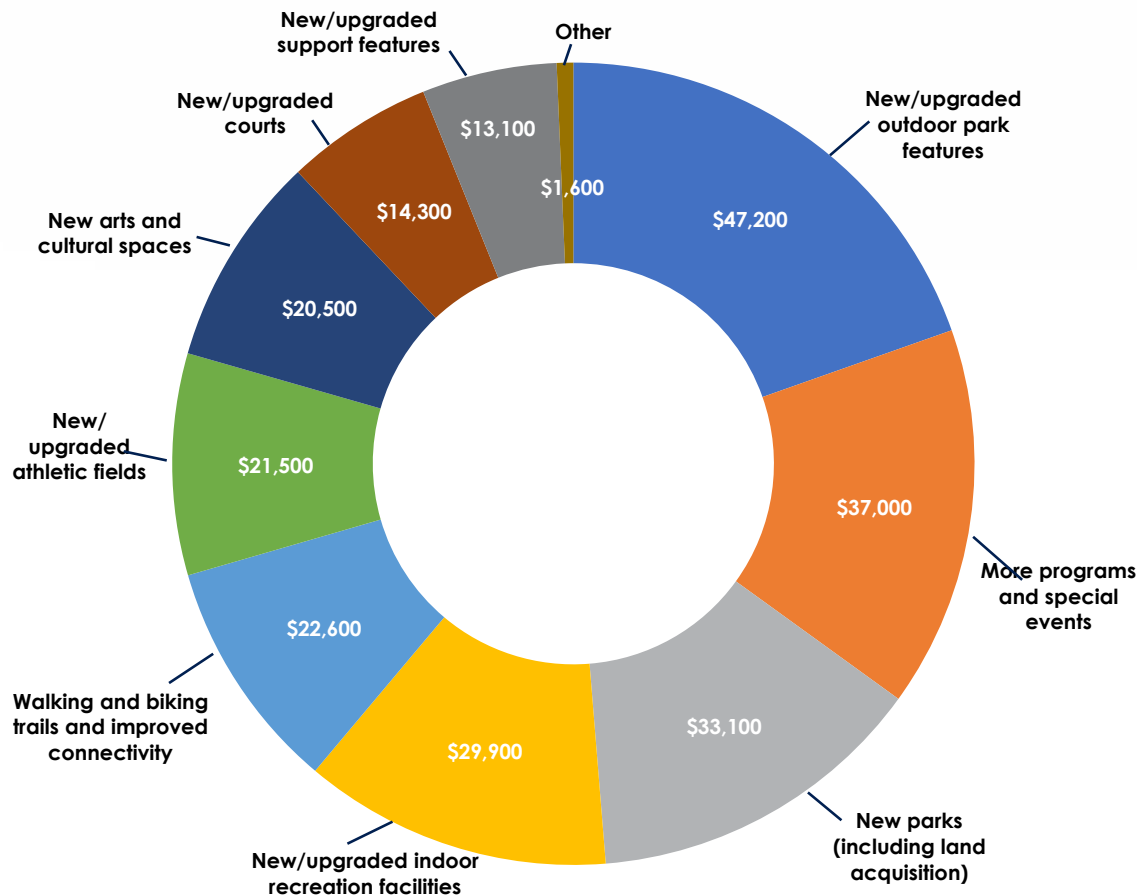
3.2.2 Dollar Voting

Participants at all three events were given \$1,000 in play money to place into boxes to indicate how they would like Moraine to allocate funds for parks and recreation. Figure 3.3 shows the total allocation by the 241 participants for each category (or box). Participants could also choose to place money into a box marked "other" to request specific amenities or improvements not included in one of the nine provided categories.

Of the provided options, **new/upgraded outdoor park features received the largest allocation with \$47,200 or 20% of total dollars.** More programs and special events were second with \$37,000 or 15%, followed by new parks with \$33,100 or 14%. New/upgraded indoor recreation facilities were the next most popular option with \$29,900 or 12% of total dollars. All individual "other" comments are available in Appendix E.



Figure 3.3: Dollar Voting Allocation



3.2.3 Input Stations

Three topics were provided at the open house for participants to provide open-ended feedback: Parks & Facilities, Programs & Special Events, and Trails & Natural Areas. Only one area for all comments was provided at the Boo Bash and National Night Out events due to space limitations. An input board was also placed in the hallway in the Payne Recreation Center for a few weeks following the open house. The summaries of comments in the ensuing text reflect the top noted items. The full text of comments is available in Appendix E.



Parks & Facilities

This station represented built amenities and general recommendations for parks. Overall, participants were most interested in aquatic related facilities and sports fields. The topics listed below summarize the most frequent comments from the various engagement events.

Parks & Facilities
Tell us what you like and what could be improved or added

The City of Moraine
parks and recreation

Playgrounds	Picnic Shelters
Athletic Fields	Dog Parks
Game Courts	Outdoor Fitness Equipment
Aquatics	Restrooms
Indoor Recreation	Bike/Skate Parks
Event Spaces	Permanent Outdoor Games
Disc Golf	
Adaptive/Inclusive Play Equipment	

What do you like about existing opportunities?

- Payne Recreation Center and indoor recreation opportunities

- Growing parks and recreation program
- Walking/biking trails
- Staff

What would you like to see improved or added?

- Sports fields – add soccer
- Aquatics – indoor and outdoor
- Dog park
- Splash pad
- Restrooms
- Lighting
- Pickleball courts
- Accessible equipment (wheelchair access)
- Improved maintenance of grounds and trails

Programs & Special Events

This station provided a location for comments about programs, including sports, special events, and more. Overall, participants were most interested in festivals, special events, and fitness classes. The topics listed below summarize the most frequent comments from the various engagement events.

Programs & Special Events
Tell us what you like and what could be improved or added

Youth Sports	Senior Programs
Adult Sports	Therapeutic Recreation
Basketball	Nature Programs
Tennis	Visual and Cultural Arts
Pickleball	Teen & Youth Camps
Volleyball	Community/Special Events
Soccer	Tournaments
Football	Movies & Concerts
Softball/Baseball	E-Sports
Lacrosse	

What do you like about existing opportunities?

- Movies and concerts
- Fitness instructors
- Shelter rentals
- Special events
- Cooperation with local youth sports

What would you like to see improved?

- Concerts
- Girls sports clubs
- Nature programs
- More fitness classes at the Rec Center
- Extended Recreation Center hours
- Childcare hours at the Recreation Center

- Downstairs weight room
- More free weights and benches
- Adult sports leagues
- Cultural arts
- Marketing for programs and events

Trails & Natural Areas

This station provided a location for comments related to trails and natural areas. Overall participants are pleased with Moraine's trails; however, like most communities, they want more trails and access to the Great Miami River. The topics listed below summarize the most frequent comments from the various engagement events.

Trails & Natural Areas
Tell us what you like and what could be improved or added

Natural Areas	Conservation
Green Spaces	Preservation
Trails	Fishing Access
Canoe/Kayak	

What do you like about existing opportunities?

- Natural areas
- Trails/availability
- Green space
- Fishing

What would you like to see improved?

- Walking/hiking trails and groups
- River access
- Kayak launches
- Add a sunset viewing area to the top of the levee
- Better stocking fishing pond

3.3 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

In August of 2024, the consultant met with a series of stakeholders to determine their priorities for parks and recreation in Moraine. Interest groups participated in these discussions, contributing their respective visions to this Community Vision Plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Moraine parks, recreation facilities, and programs that included discussions of strengths as well as future opportunities. Summaries of the meetings with complete comments are available in Appendix E.

3.3.1 Groups Engaged

The following stakeholder groups were engaged as part of this Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan:

- Local school districts
- Former and current city officials
- Partner groups, including youth baseball
- Parks and Recreation staff
- Park users

3.3.2 Stakeholder Findings

Facility Needs

- Improved Rec Center layout – entrance, offices, and storage
- Splash pad
- Pickleball courts
- Covered dugouts
- Better baseball/softball fields
- Drinking fountains
- Restrooms
- River access
- Artificial turf fields
- Amphitheater
- Parks in new subdivisions

Programming/Operations Needs

- Maintenance and facility cleanliness – team dedicated to parks
- Consistent branding and logo
- Improved marketing
- Security cameras and lighting

3.4 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

The following pages summarize the findings of two different surveys, random sample Random Sample Survey and an online survey. Because the Random Sample Survey results were collected using a representative random sample, they are intended to represent Moraine residents as a whole, both users and non-users. On the other hand, the Web Survey results reflect the views of respondents who are often already engaged in some way with the city's parks and programs and not representative of Moraine residents as a whole. The figures in this section display side-by-side the results from both surveys. Of the figures that follow, most show only the top results for a survey question; however, full results can be found in Appendices F and G.

3.4.1 Representative Random Sample Survey – Overview and Methodology

The ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Survey (Random Sample Survey) during the summer of 2024 to help establish priorities for parks/open space, and programs in Moraine. This random sample Random Sample Survey was designed to obtain representative results from households throughout the city.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. (BCI) project team worked with city staff to develop the survey questionnaire. Tailored to issues of strategic local importance, the survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout Moraine. Recipients were given the option to complete the survey online or on paper. Online promotion was also used to increase participation and ensure a representative sample.

ETC Institute had a goal of 300 survey responses for representative results and met this goal with a total of 311 completed surveys collected. Based on this random sample, the overall results have a precision of at least $\pm 5.42\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. The full survey results are available in Appendix F.

National Benchmarking

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for Parks and Recreation issues in more than 700 communities across all 50 states. The results of these surveys provide a database to compare responses from households in client communities. This National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix F with the full survey report. Select information from the benchmarking is included below.

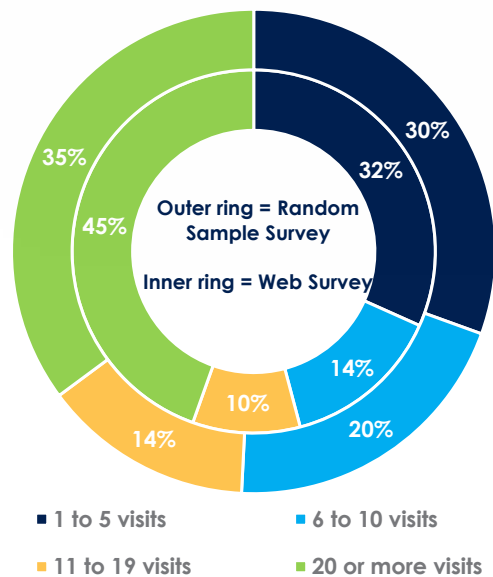
3.4.2 Web Survey – Overview and Methodology

In addition to the Random Sample Survey conducted by ETC Institute, a web and handout survey (Web Survey) was administered by BCI during the same timeframe. The questions in this Web Survey were similar to the Random Sample Survey with the overall length reduced. This version was powered by SurveyMonkey with a total of 328 responses. Over two-thirds (67%) of Web Survey respondents indicated they live in Moraine with 28% indicating they live elsewhere in Montgomery County and 6% living outside Montgomery County. The full survey results are available in Appendix G.

3.4.3 Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities

All but one Random Sample Survey respondent indicated they visited a Moraine park or recreation facility in the past year (Figure 3.4), and 35% of households visited 20 or more times. Web Survey respondents reported visiting at higher rates (45% visited 20 or more times), an expected result as the survey was shared with Payne Recreation Center members and programs users, including sports leagues.

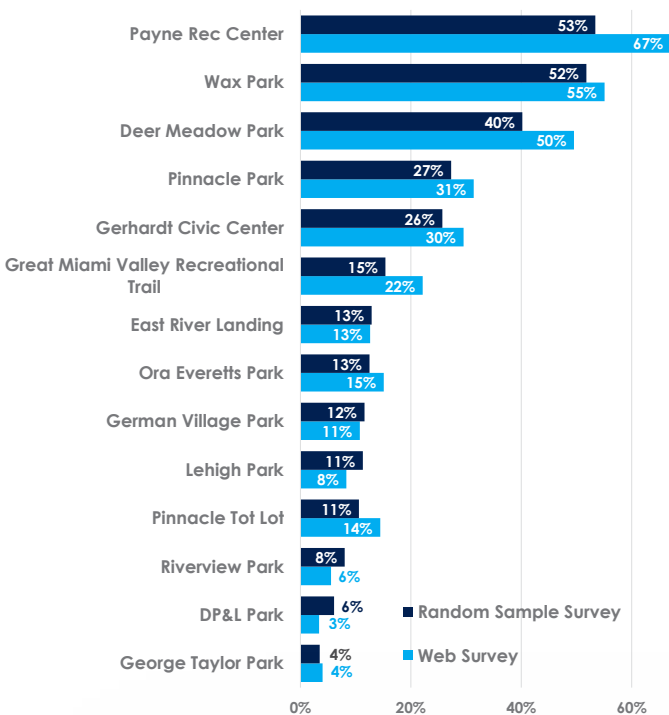
Figure 3.4: Frequency of Visitation



3.4.4 Recreation Facilities and Parks Visited

Figure 3.5 shows that Payne Rec Center and Wax Park were the most visited facilities. As expected, Web Survey respondents were more likely to visit parks than Random Sample Survey respondents. The Random Sample Survey indicates that 53% of households visited the Rec Center, compared to 67% of Web Survey respondents. Wax Park had similar visitation by Random Sample Survey respondents (52%) and was visited by 55% of Web Survey respondents. Deer Meadow Park was the next most visited park with 40% of Random Sample Survey and 50% of Web Survey respondents visiting in the past year.

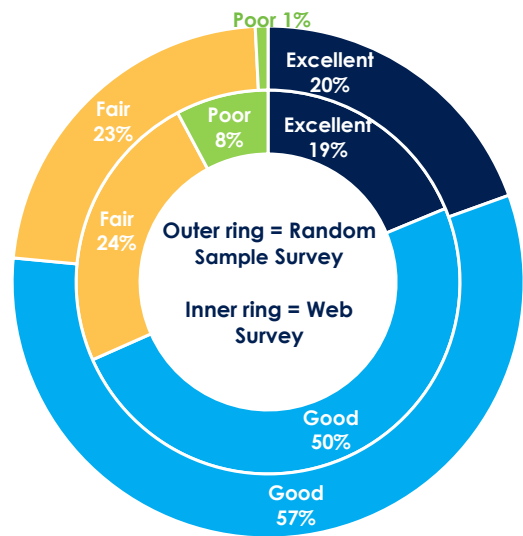
Figure 3.5: Parks Visited in the Past Year



3.4.5 Physical Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities

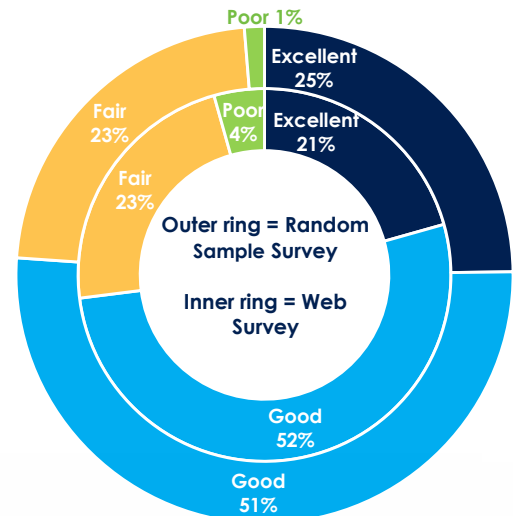
Through the Random Sample Survey, 57% of households rated the condition of Moraine parks as good and 20% rated the condition of the parks as excellent (Figure 3.6). Seventy-seven percent (77%) of Random Sample Survey households identified the condition of the parks as excellent or good, compared to 68% of Web Survey respondents. Web Survey respondents were more critical of park conditions, likely due to them visiting more parks more often. **Nationally, 35% of survey respondents rate the condition of their parks as excellent (according to the national benchmark by ETC), much higher than the 20% in the Random Sample Survey.**

Figure 3.6: Condition of Parks



The surveys also asked respondents to rate the condition of Moraine's recreation facilities. Results were similar to those for parks with 76% of Random Sample Survey respondents indicating good or excellent (Figure 3.7). Results from Web Survey respondents were similar with 73% indicating the condition of recreation facilities is good or excellent.

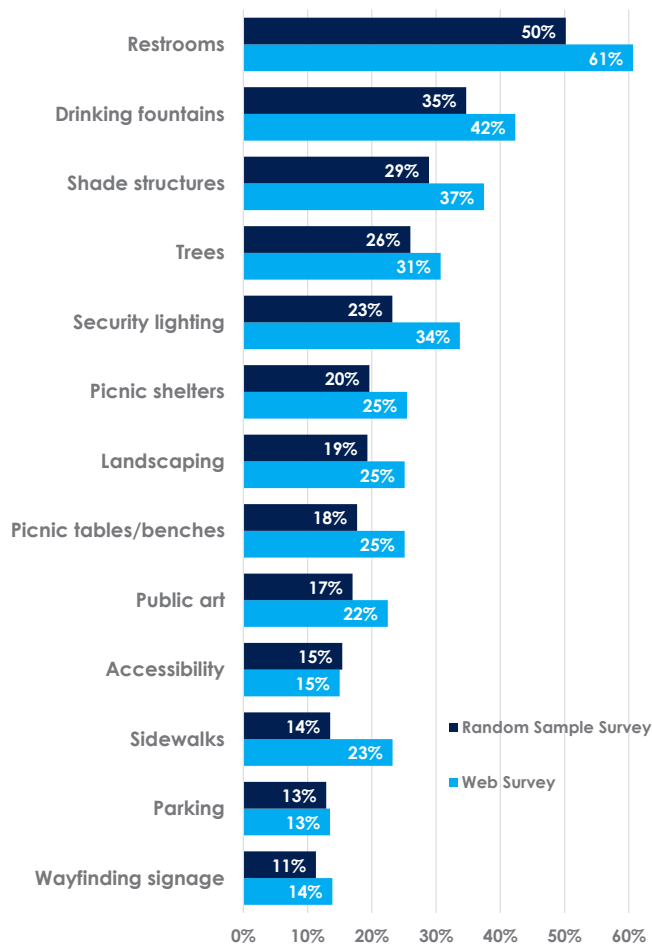
Figure 3.7: Condition of Recreational Facilities



3.4.6 Support Amenities

When asked which support amenities they would like upgraded or added to Moraine's parks (Figure 3.8), **restrooms were the top amenity in both surveys**, a result consistent with many communities. Moraine does not offer restrooms in any parks, except for restrooms located inside the Payne Rec Center and the Civic Center. Respondents would also like to see additional drinking fountains, shade (structures and trees), security, and seating.

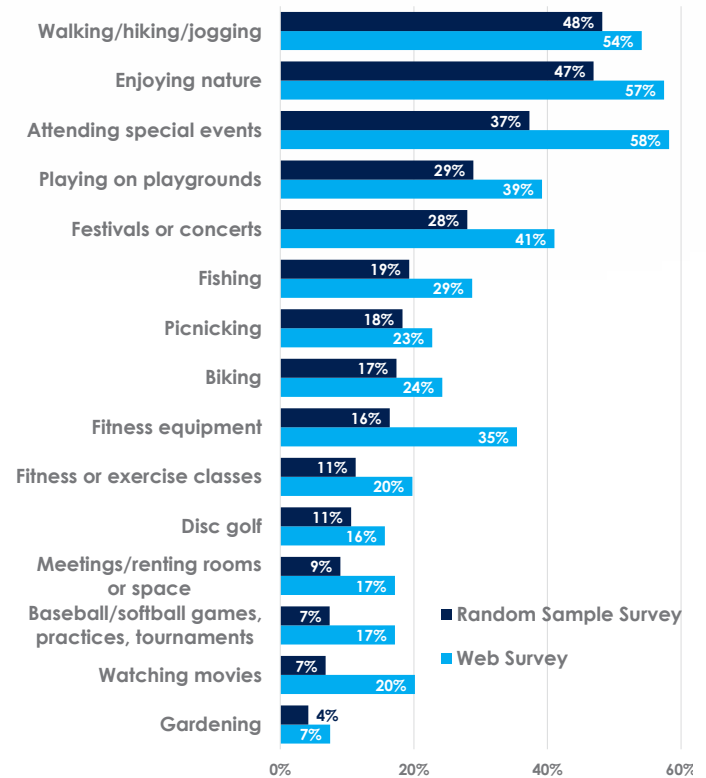
Figure 3.8: Desired Support Amenities



3.4.7 Activities Enjoyed in Parks

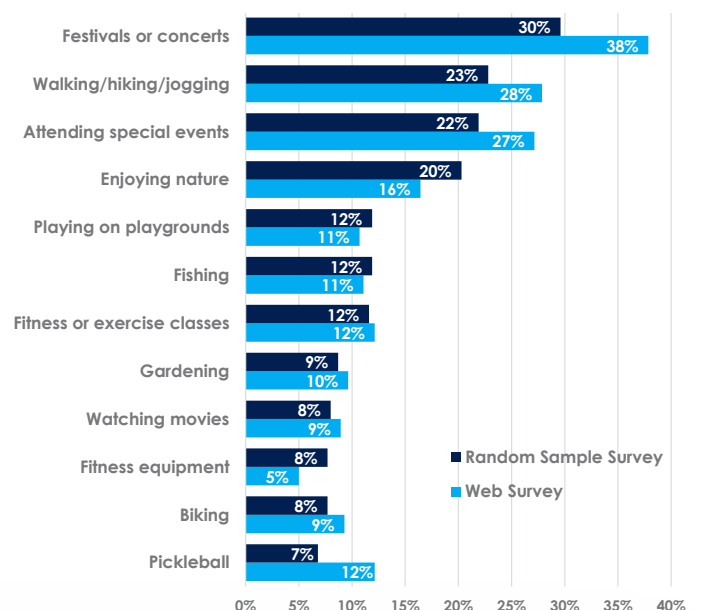
Responses differed between the two surveys for activities enjoyed in parks in Moraine in the past year (Figure 3.9). **The most popular activities for the Random Sample Survey were walking/hiking/jogging (48%) and enjoying nature (47%)**, followed by attending special events (37%), playing on playgrounds (29%), and festivals or concerts (28%). Popular activities for Web Survey respondents (those more engaged in parks and recreation) were attending special events (58%), enjoying nature (57%), and walking/hiking/jogging (54%), followed by festivals or concerts (41%) and playing on playgrounds (39%).

Figure 3.9: Activities Enjoyed in Parks



A follow-up question asked what activities they would like more opportunities to enjoy in the future (Figure 3.10), and the Random Sample Survey found desire for festivals or concerts (30%), walking/hiking/jogging (23%), attending special events (22%), and enjoying nature (20%). Web Survey responses were similar with respondents showing preferences for festivals or concerts (38%), walking/hiking/jogging (28%), and attending special events (27%).

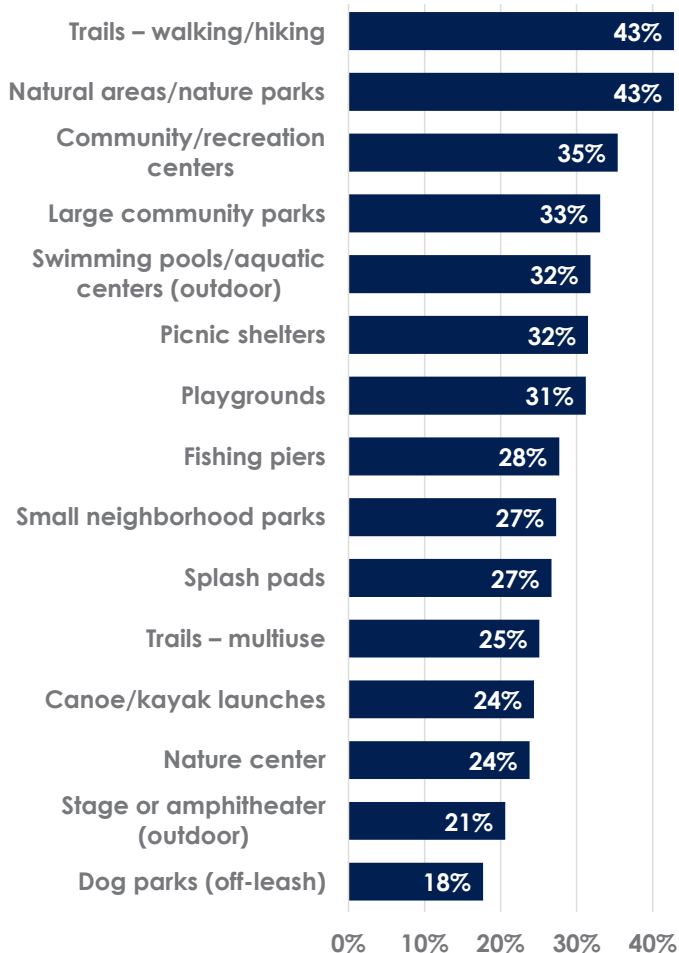
Figure 3.10: More Opportunities to Enjoy These Activities in Parks



3.4.8 Facilities

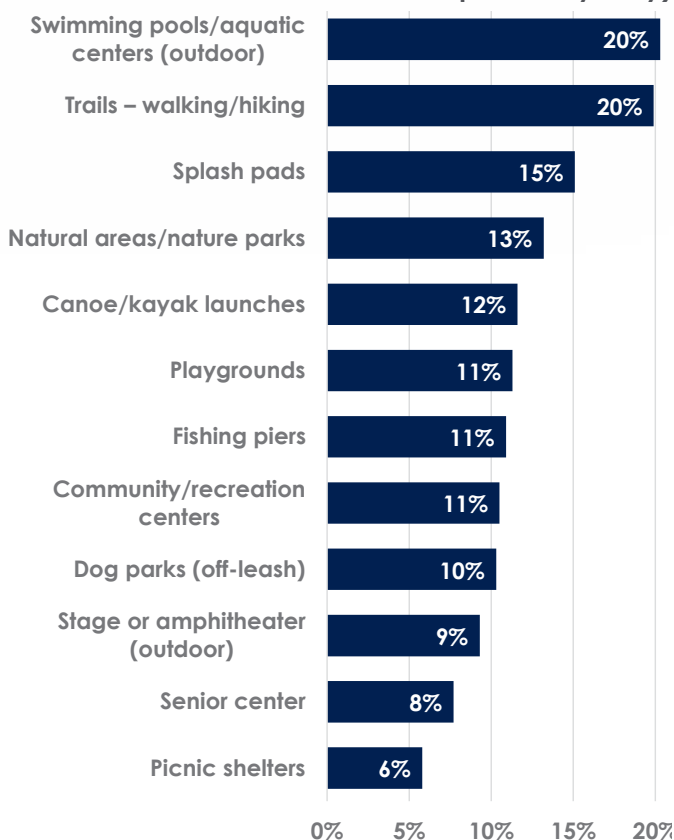
The Random Sample Survey included a series of questions asking households about their desire for and importance of facilities. These questions allowed residents to choose options not currently available in Moraine. **For desired facilities (Figure 3.11), trails and natural areas/nature parks were the most popular selection (43%) followed by community/recreation centers (35%) and large community parks (33%).** Outdoor pools/aquatic centers and picnic shelters were close behind with support from 32% of respondents.

Figure 3.11: Facilities Used or Would Like to Use if Available (Random Sample Survey Only)



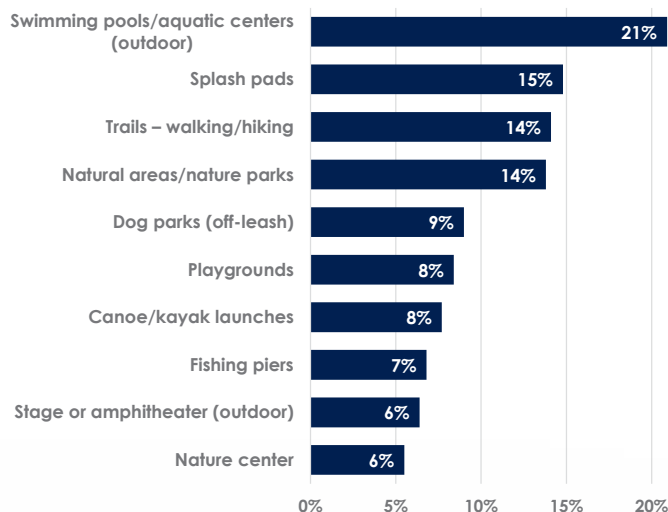
For the three most important facilities or features (Figure 3.12), outdoor pools/aquatic centers topped this list (20%) followed by trails for hiking and walking (20%), splash pads (15%), and natural areas/nature parks (13%).

Figure 3.12: Most Important Facilities (Sum of Top 3 Choices – Random Sample Survey Only)



Another follow-up question asked respondents to indicate three facilities they use outside of Moraine (Figure 3.13). Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers were most commonly used facilities outside of Moraine (31%) followed by splash pads (15%), trails for hiking/walking (14%), and natural areas/nature parks (14%). These represent features or facilities residents would likely prefer to visit in Moraine if offered or if they are aware that Moraine offers them.

Figure 3.13: Facilities Used Outside Moraine (Sum of Top 3 Choices – Random Sample Survey Only)



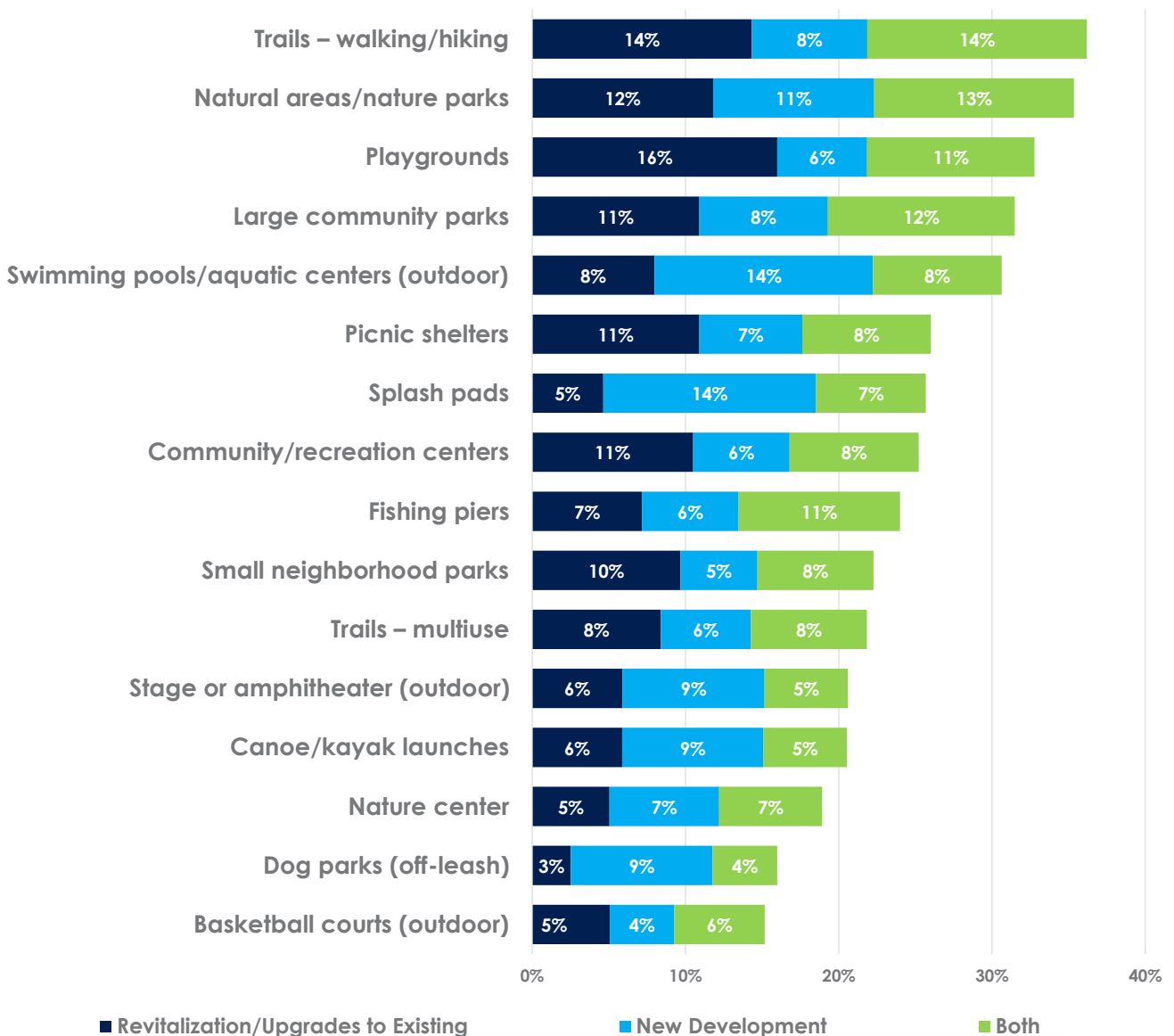
This section of the survey also asked respondents what type of investment they would like to see in each of the facility and feature: "revitalization/upgrades to existing," "new development," "both," and "no investment needed." **Figure 3.14 shows hiking/walking trails with the most support for investment (36%).** Natural areas/nature parks also received high levels of support for investment (35%), followed by playgrounds (33%).

Playgrounds received the most support for revitalization/upgrades to existing facilities (16%) followed by trails at 14%. **Splash pads and swimming pools, features not available in Moraine, received the most support for investment in new development (14%).** Respondents also showed support for both types of investment in the large community parks.

Based on these findings from this section, the **highest priority facilities** for investment are:

- Trails
- Aquatics – splash pad/outdoor pool
- Naturals areas
- Playgrounds (upgrades)
- Water access – fishing access/canoe/kayak launches
- Indoor recreation facilities (upgrades)
- Picnic shelters
- Stage or amphitheater
- Dog park
- Courts – basketball/tennis/pickleball

Figure 3.14: Desire for Investment in Facilities (Random Sample Survey Only)



3.4.9 Programs

Both surveys asked about participation in programs or special events offered by Moraine Parks and Recreation in the past year (Figure 3.15). According to the Random Sample Survey, 40% of households attended programs or events. Web Survey respondents were more likely to participate. Participation numbers for the population as a whole should be similar to the representative Random Sample Survey results. Residents who attended parks and recreation programs were more likely to learn about the Web Survey than those who did not. Both rates are higher than the national benchmark from other surveys administered by ETC (36%).

Respondents to both surveys similar opinions of the quality or programs (Figure 3.16). Nearly 90% of Random Sample Survey respondents and over 80% of Web Survey respondents indicated the quality of Moraine recreation programs is either good or excellent.

Figure 3.15: Frequency of Program Participation

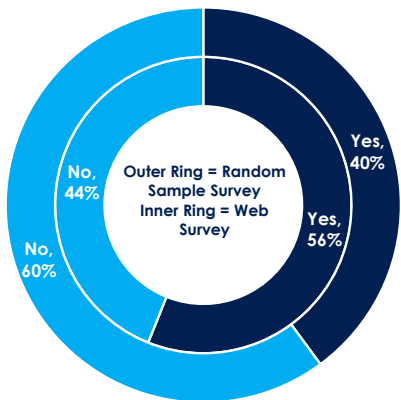
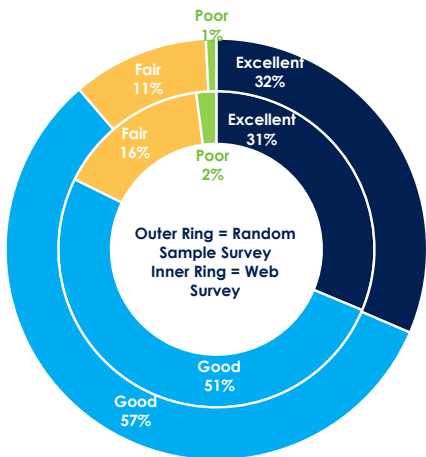


Figure 3.16: Quality of Recreation Programs



The Random Sample Survey asked what programs households would like to attend (Figure 3.17), including options not currently available in Moraine. **Festivals (38%) and concerts/art performances (31%) were the most desired programs, followed by fishing, canoeing, or boating (30%) and adult fitness and wellness programs (29%).** A follow-up question asked households to choose their three most important programs, and the order of results was similar (Figure 3.18). The results of another follow-up question

indicated that households were most likely to leave Moraine to for the same programs and events.

Figure 3.17: Programs Used or Would Like Use (Random Sample Survey Only)

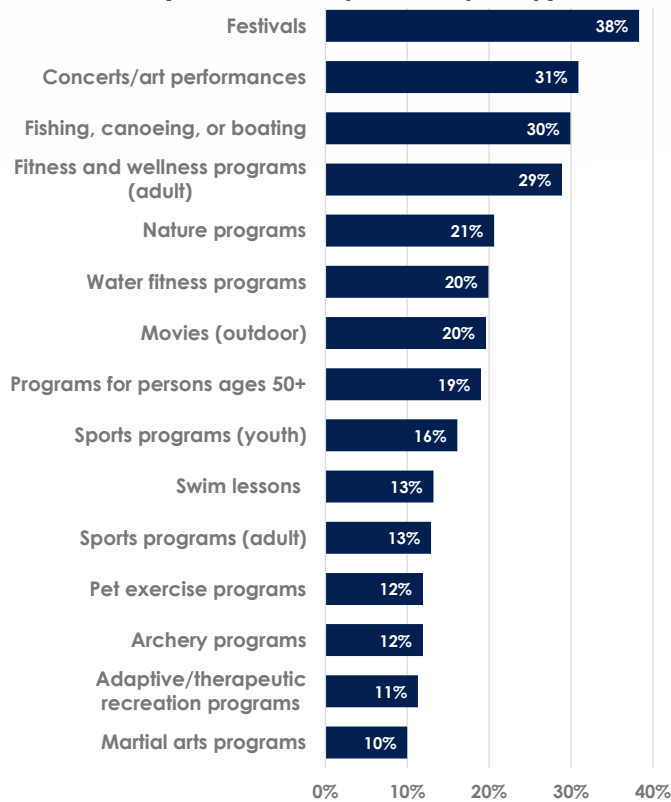
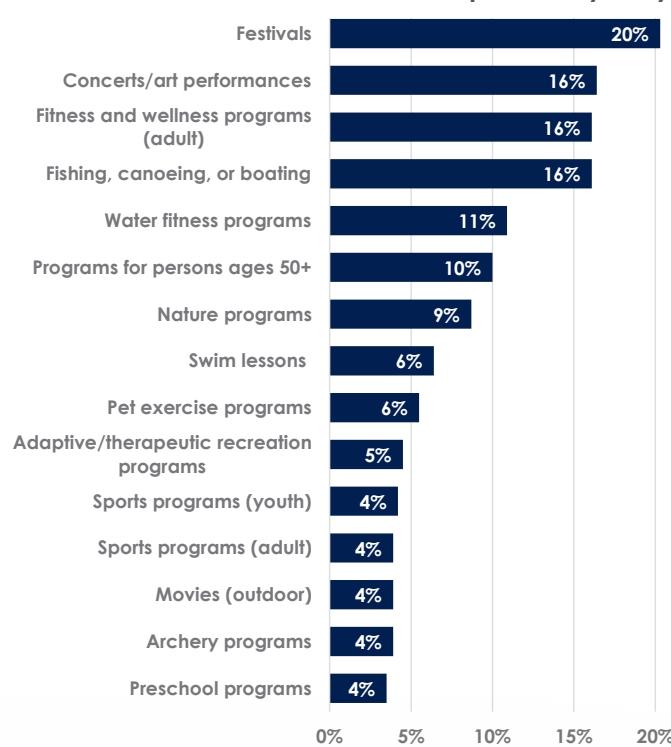


Figure 3.18: Most Important Programs (Sum of Top 3 Choices – Random Sample Survey Only)

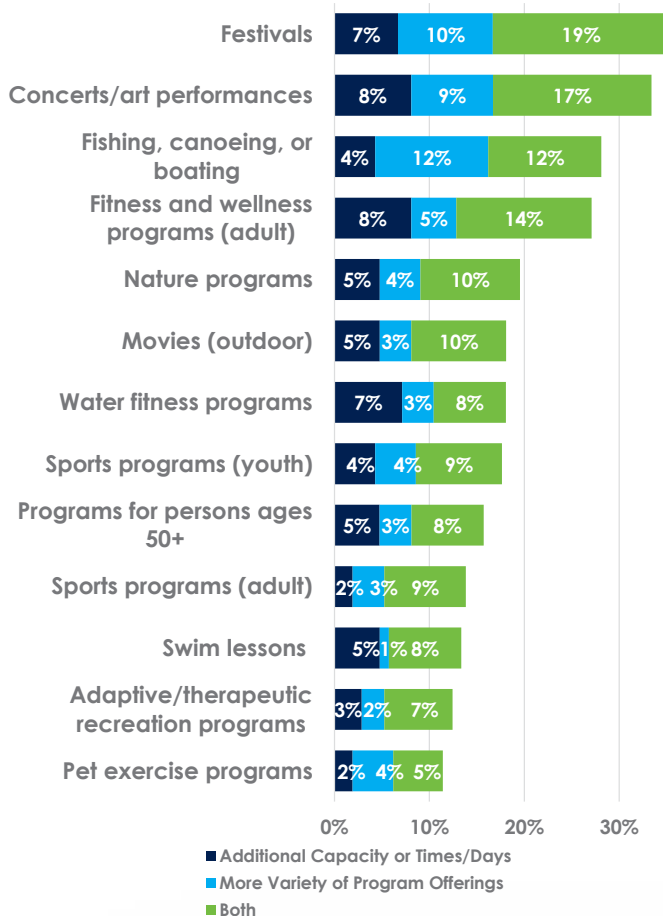


This section of the Random Sample Survey asked respondents to indicate the type of investment they prefer for each type of program (additional capacity or times/days, more variety, both, or no change). For those who desired investment, the results (Figure 3.19) show that **households want more festivals (35%), concerts/art performances (33%), fishing, canoeing, or boating (28%), and adult fitness and wellness programs (27%)** over other programs. Results indicate respondents most want additional programs related to fishing and boating (12%), festivals (10%), and concerts/arts performances (9%).

Based on these findings, the **highest priority program and event categories** for investment, either expanding current offerings or adding new include:

- **Festivals**
- **Concerts or art performances**
- **Adult fitness**
- **Water related (fishing/canoeing/kayaking)**
- **Nature programs**
- **Age 50+ programs**
- **Aquatic programs (water fitness/swim lessons)**
- **Youth sports**
- **Outdoor movies**

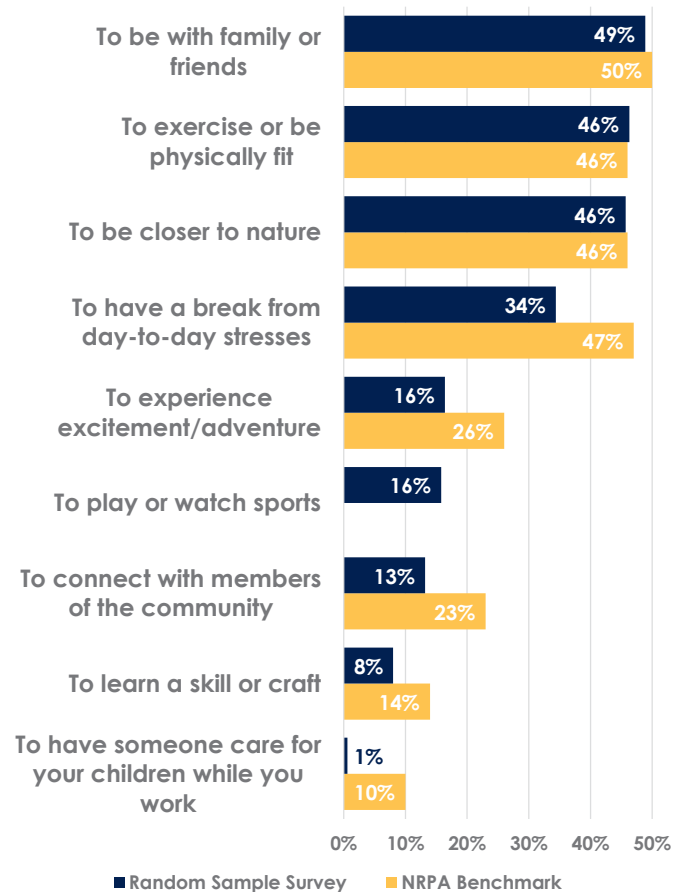
Figure 3.19: Desire for Investment in Programs (Random Sample Survey Only)



3.4.10 Reasons for Participation

The Random Sample Survey asked for reasons why households participate in recreation programs and visit parks. The most popular reasons (Figure 3.20) were to be with family and friends (49%), to exercise or be physically fit (46%), and to be closer to nature (46%). National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) asked this question in their annual national survey, allowing for comparison beyond Moraine. Moraine results track closely with the NRPA benchmarks for the top reasons.

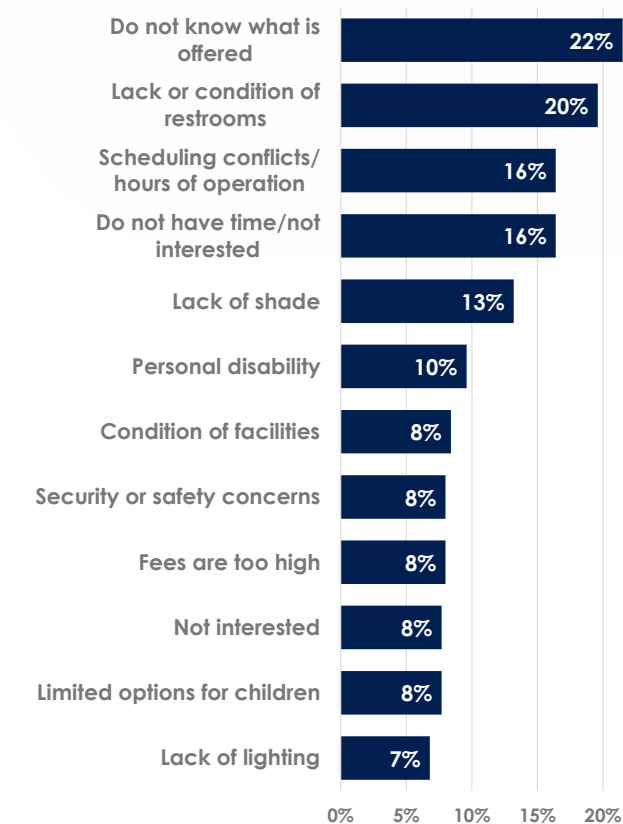
Figure 3.20: Reasons for Using Parks and Recreation



3.4.11 Obstacles to Participation

According to the Random Sample Survey (Figure 3.21), **the most common obstacle for use of facilities and programs was that households do not know what is offered (22%)**, above the 16% found in NRPA's national survey (not shown). Lack or condition of restrooms (20%), scheduling conflicts or hours of operation (20%), and lack of interest (16%) were also barriers to use.

Figure 3.21: Obstacles to Using Parks and Recreation

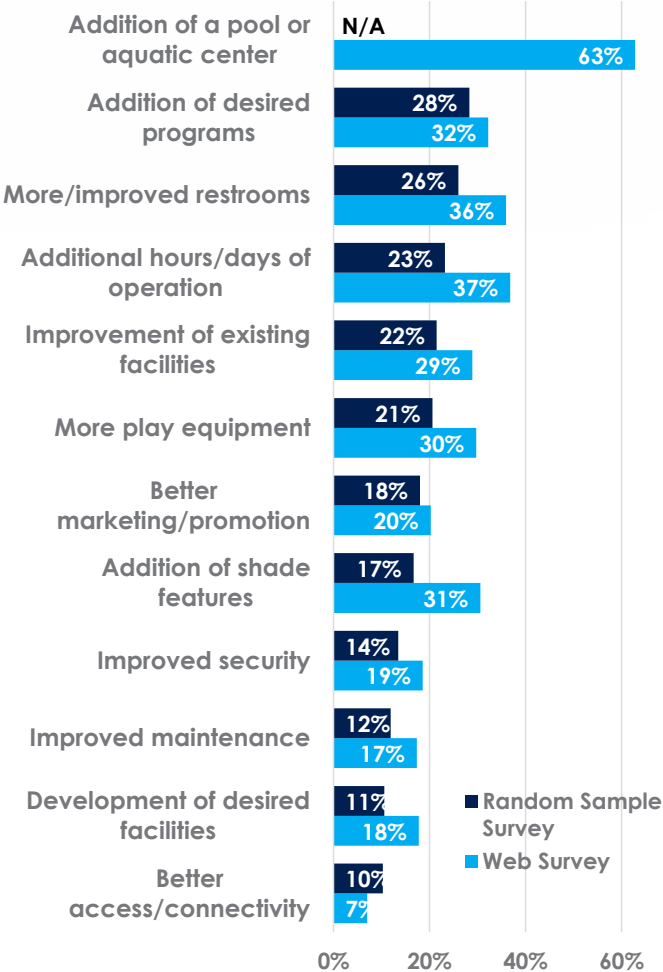


3.4.12 Encourage Participation

Both surveys asked respondents what would encourage them to participate in Parks and Recreation activities offerings more often (Figure 3.22). The city requested the addition of a pool or aquatic center option to the Web Survey after the Random Sample Survey had been mailed. This option was the clear favorite for Web Survey respondents (63%). The longer Random Sample Survey had additional questions about facilities.

The remaining top options were then similar, but in a slightly different order. **The addition of desired programs, more/ improved restrooms, and additional hour/days of operation were most likely to increase participation.** Web Survey respondents were more much more likely to request shade features, probably due to the higher level of awareness of park conditions by this sample.

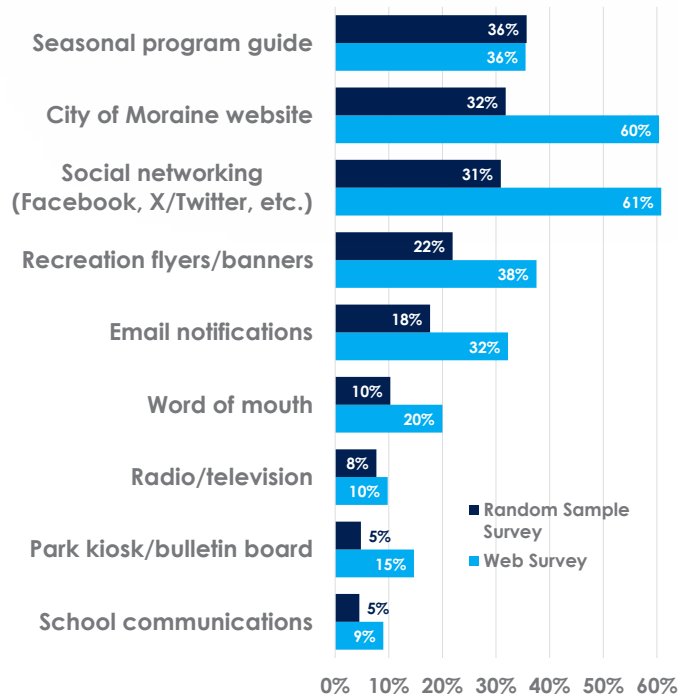
Figure 3.22: What Would Encourage More Participation



3.4.13 Learning about Facilities and Programs

According to the Random Sample Survey, Moraine households prefer to learn about parks and recreation programs, activities, and events through the seasonal program guide, the city of Moraine website, and social media (Figure 3.23). Web Survey respondents especially favor social media (61%) and the city website (60%). **These results indicate a need to employ a variety of methods to address the lack of awareness of the opportunities provided by Parks and Recreation.**

Figure 3.23: Preferred Way to Learn about Facilities, Programs, Activities, or Events

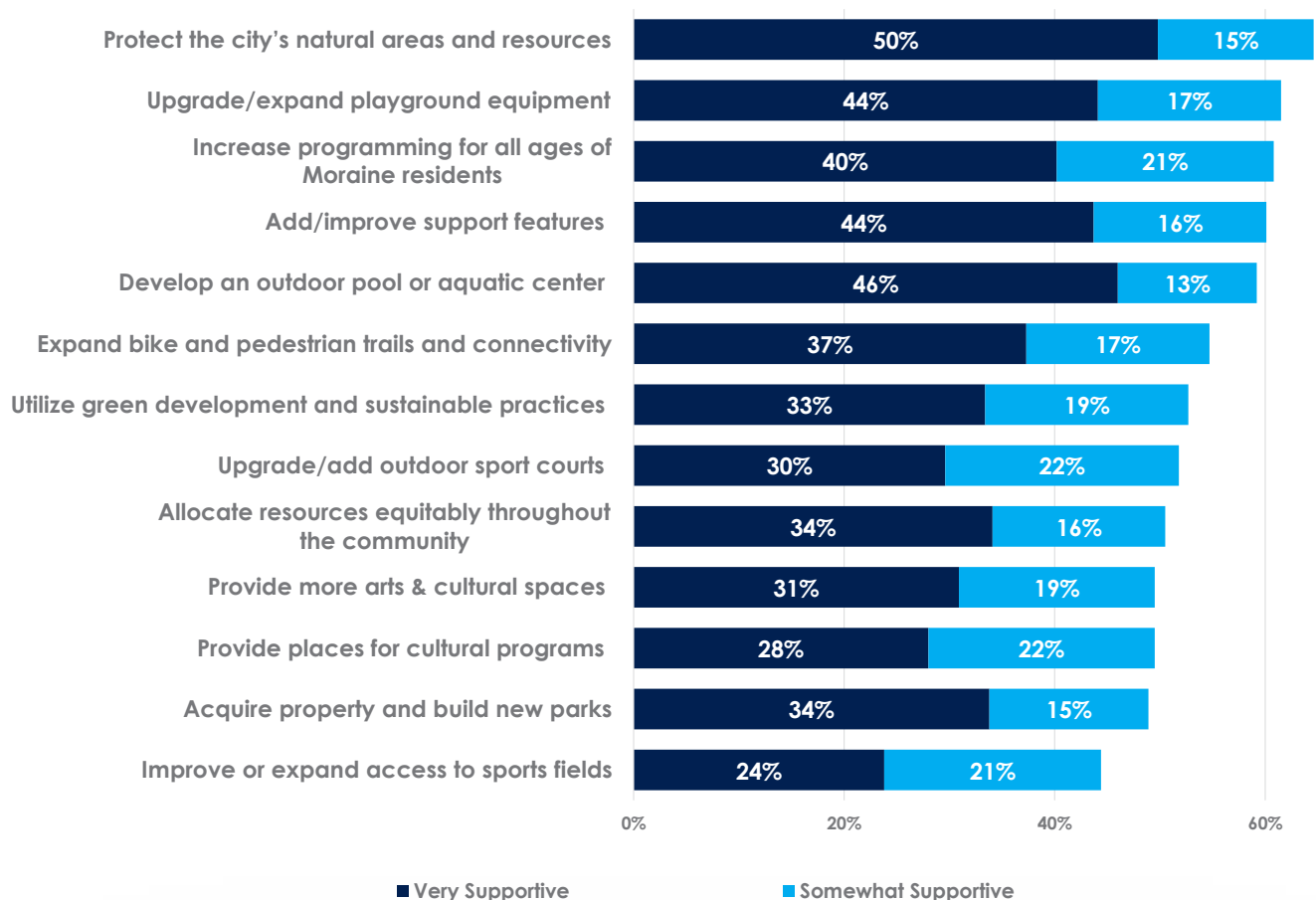


3.4.14 Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation

Random Sample Survey recipients were asked to indicate their level of support for actions to improve parks and recreation (Figure 3.24). Residents most support protecting the city's natural areas and resources (65% are very or somewhat supportive). Over 60% support upgrading or expanding playground equipment and increased programming for all ages.

All but two actions received support from at least half of respondents, including allocating resources equitably throughout the city (51%) and upgrading or adding outdoor courts, such as pickleball, tennis, and basketball.

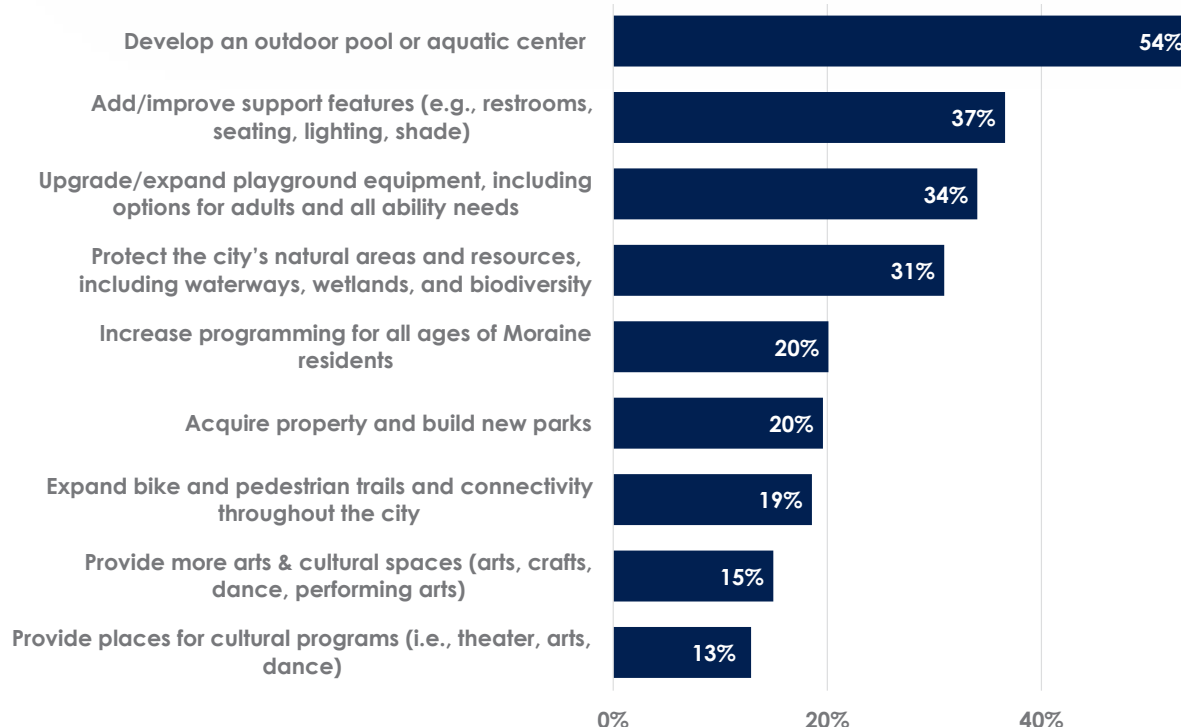
Figure 3.24: Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation (Random Sample Survey Only)



A follow-up question asked respondents which actions are the most important (Figure 2.25). Unfortunately, nearly 38% of respondents declined to answer this follow-up question. Of those that responded, 54% indicated developing an

outdoor pool or aquatic center is the most important action, followed by adding or improving support features (37%), upgrading and expanding playground equipment (34%), and protecting the city's natural areas (31%).

Figure 3.25: Most Important Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation (Sum of Top 3 Choices – Random Sample Survey Only)



3.4.15 Allocation of Funds for Parks and Recreation

The Web Survey asked households to allocate \$100 among nine different types of parks and recreation facilities plus an option for "other" (Figure 3.26). This question mimics the dollar voting exercise participants completed at the open house and at the National Night Out and Boo Bash events; however, the results vary slightly.

New/upgraded outdoor park features easily received the most support with \$4,868 or 24%, indicating desire for improvement to existing parks. New/upgraded indoor recreation facilities were second with \$3,242 or 16%. Other items receiving considerable support included more programs and special events (\$2,612, 13%), walking and biking trails (\$2,326, 12%), and new/upgraded support features (\$2,275, 11%).

3.4.16 Demographics of Survey Households

Figure 3.27 compares the age ranges reported by survey respondents for members of their households to Moraine's population. Overall, the representation of the Web Survey and Random Sample Survey respondents reflects the age demographics of the Moraine population. The Random Sample Survey includes underrepresentation of people 25-34 and ages 5-9, while it includes overrepresentation of those 45-74 and over. Conversely, residents over 55 and 10-14 are underrepresented in the Web Survey.

Underrepresented groups highlight those the department may have difficulty engaging. However, overrepresented groups suggest a higher level of engagement and more interest in participation, so programs and facilities that appeal to them should be considered a priority.

Figure 3.26: Allocation of Funds to Improve Parks and Recreation (Web Survey Only)

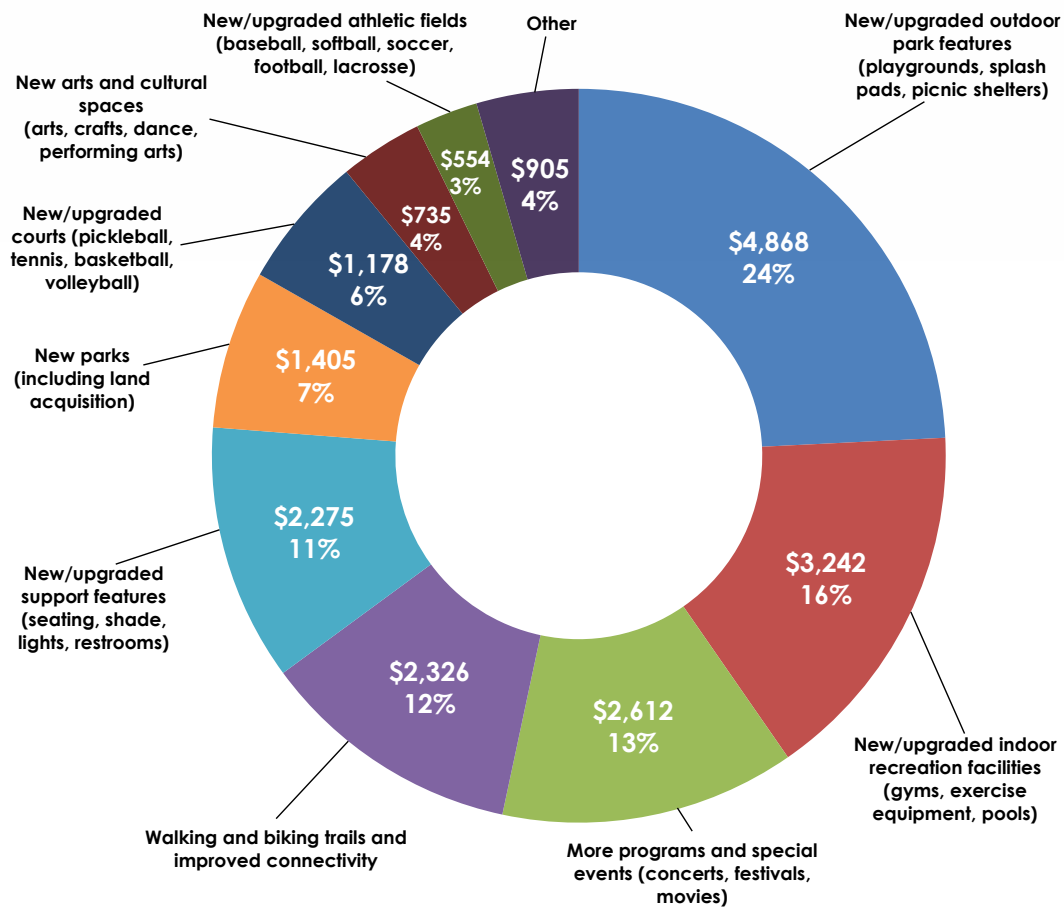


Figure 3.27: Age Comparison

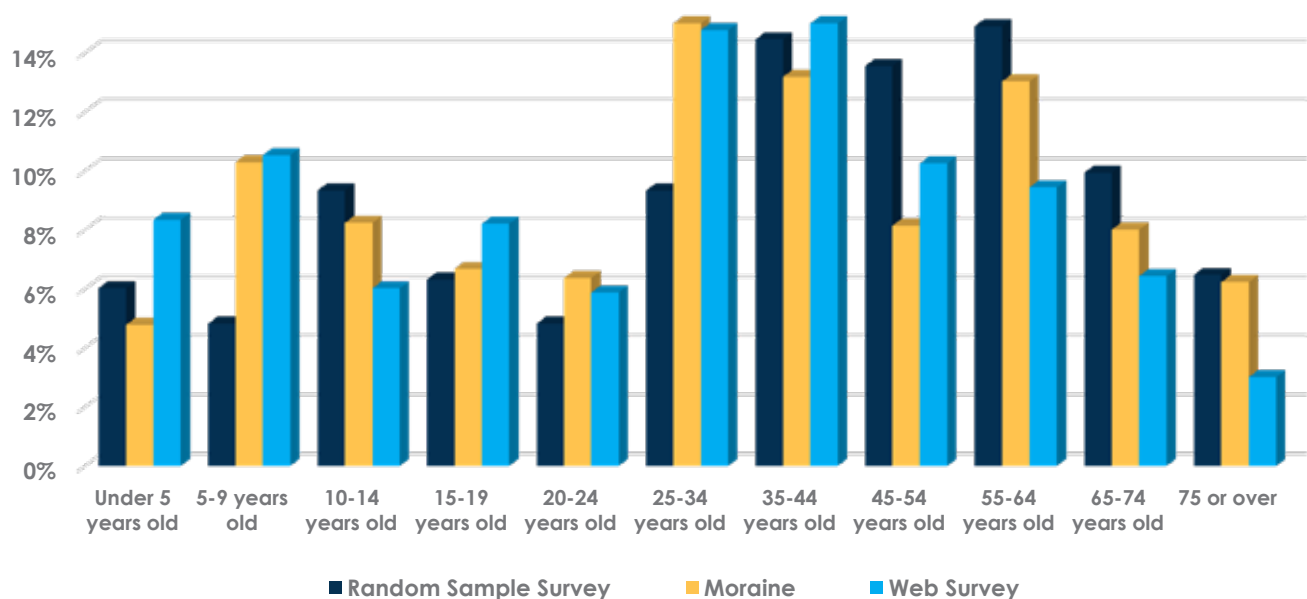
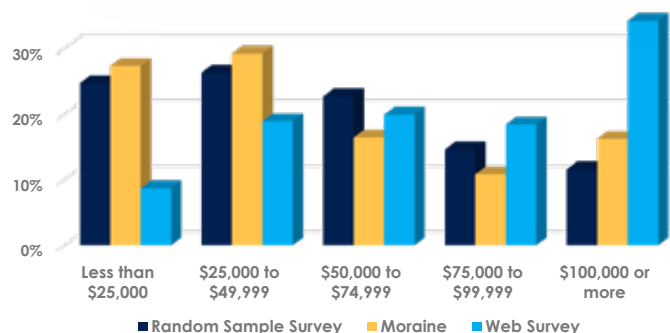


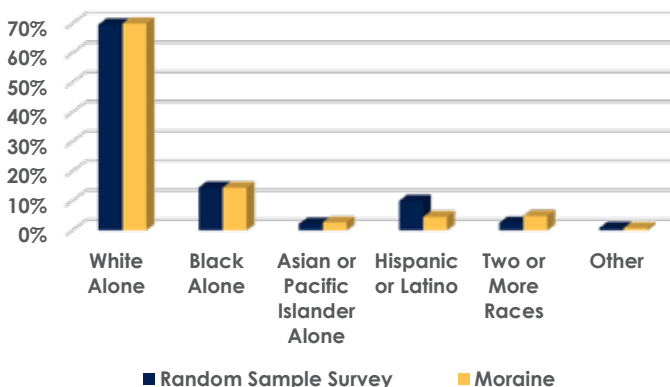
Figure 3.28 shows income levels of the households who responded to the surveys compared to the city as a whole. The overall results for Random Sample Survey vary only slightly compared to the census data. However, the Web Survey greatly overrepresented in the highest income levels and underrepresented the lowest income levels.

Figure 3.28: Income Comparison



The Random Sample Survey also asked respondents to report their race/ethnicity. Overall, survey results match closely with the census data. Hispanic or Latino residents are slightly overrepresented in the survey but likely undercounted in the census.

Figure 3.29: Race/Ethnicity Comparison



Finally, Figure 3.30 shows the representation of the Random Sample Survey was consistent with the geographic distribution of households across the city. The dots show only the block of the household that completed the survey rather than the location of the home.

3.5 CONCLUSION

Moraine residents who participated in the engagement events and surveys expressed clear support for several types of recreation facilities and features. The most consistent support was for trails for walking and hiking, an outdoor swimming pool or splash pad, natural areas, and indoor recreation facilities.

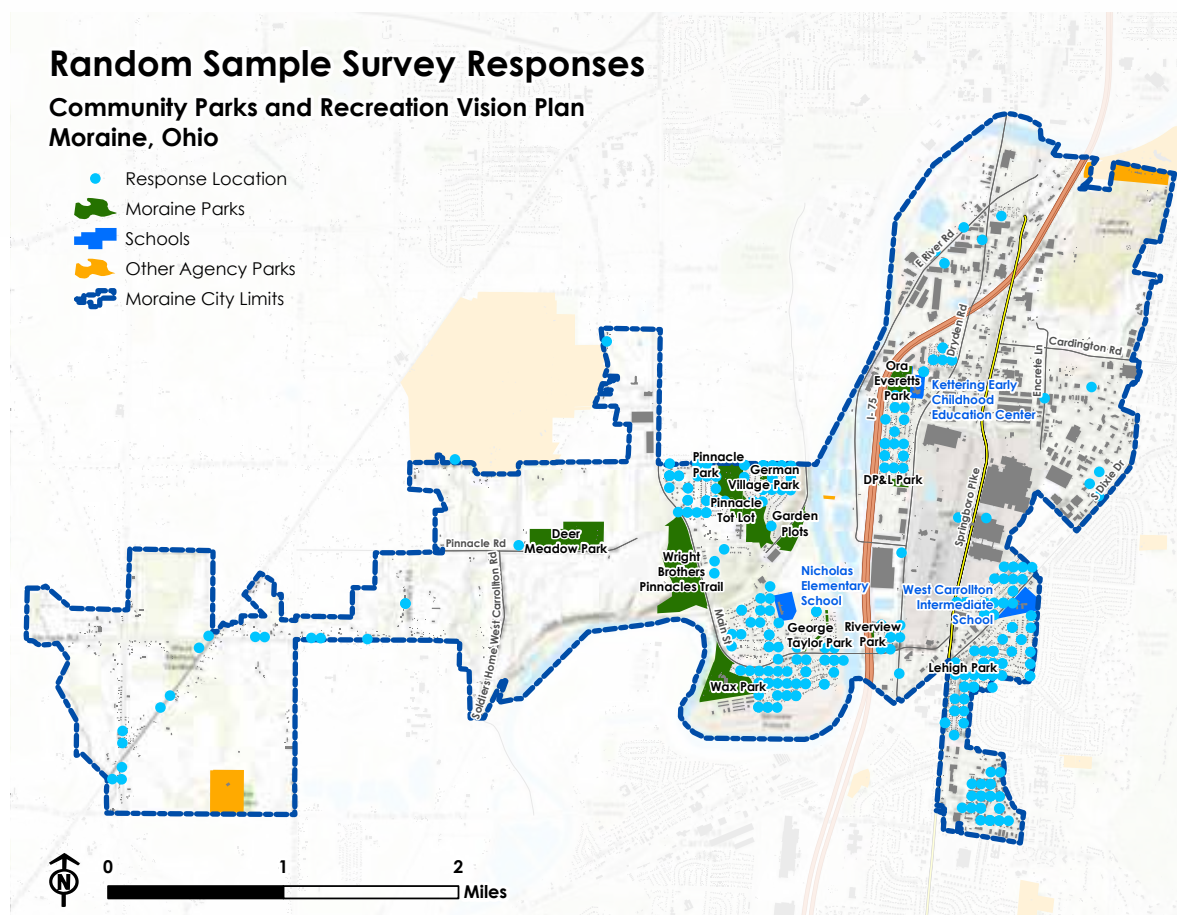
Participants in the various engagement events expressed the strongest support for the following features and facilities:

- Trails
- Naturals areas
- Aquatics – splash pad and/or outdoor pool
- Indoor recreation facilities (upgrades to Rec Center and Civic Center)
- Playground improvements
- Restrooms
- River access with canoe/kayak launches
- Support features – drinking fountains, seating, shade, trees, security
- Dog park
- Outdoor courts – pickleball, basketball, tennis
- Amphitheater and event spaces
- Rectangular fields (especially for soccer)
- Baseball/softball fields w/ covered dugouts

Participants expressed the strongest support for the following programs and operational improvements:

- Festivals
- Concerts, movies, and art performances
- Water related (fishing, canoeing, kayaking)
- Nature programs
- Improved marketing and awareness
- Adult fitness, including age 50+
- Swimming and water fitness
- Youth sports
- Maintenance and facility cleanliness – team dedicated to parks
- Visual, cultural and performing arts
- Consistent branding and logo

The word cloud image below (Figure 3.31) uses font size to show how frequently a word appears in the survey results. While positive or negative value is not applied to a word, the graphic is valuable because it illustrates the elements of parks and recreation that are most important to the Moraine community. This image is provided in conclusion to reinforce the myriad comments, suggestions, and requests heard during the multifaceted public engagement phase.





4

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan represents a collective imagination of the future of what Moraine could become. The strategic plan in this chapter is intended to provide the department with a clearly defined purpose, direction, and underlying motivation for tackling those action items, while the action plan (Chapter 6) is a detailed account of all the recommendations developed – both operational and capital – to guide investment priorities.

Developed from all the input gathered from the community during the engagement phase and approved by the steering committee, the strategic plan articulates a freshly inspired vision, mission, and set of defining values. These strategic elements will help pilot implementation of actions identified in this Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan and thereby shape the future and redefine parks and recreation in Moraine.

This plan will help guide the future of the department as it approaches both revitalization of existing parks and facilities and new development. Continued partnerships between the city and others in the community will be critical to the success of this plan as the department and the city cannot accomplish this Community Vision alone.

This chapter presents the Envision phase of the planning process and leads into the Plan phase which is completed in Chapter 5. The findings presented in this chapter draw from the data compiled and analyzed through the first two phases of the planning process – Evaluate and Engage. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Strategic Plan
- Systemwide Recommendations
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Operations and Programming
- Potential Funding and Revenue Sources
- Capital Improvements and Cost Estimates

4.2 STRATEGIC PLAN

4.2.1 Vision

A vision describes a unique horizon and an intended outcome. It defines a clear standard of accomplishment and unifies effort.

Fully informed by the values and visioning input generated by the Parks and Recreation staff and the steering committee and with their support and approval, the following new vision statement was crafted for Moraine and Parks and Recreation:

Our parks and programs build a strong community and promote healthy lifestyles.

With **strong community** as the key component of this vision, it is important to define what community means for the city and Parks and Recreation. In Moraine, community means residents, workers, businesses, and visitors. When this vision is realized, these groups will all be essential parts of a strong community because of the city's exceptional parks and programs.

4.2.2 Mission

A mission defines the daily work and an enduring purpose of the department. It describes what department does and how and why it does it. It should be the foundation of all departmental decision-making and will direct efforts to accomplish the vision.

Building from the foundational visioning exercise with staff and the steering committee, the proposed new mission statement for Moraine Parks and Recreation is:

We provide exceptional parks, events, and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community.

4.2.3 Values

Core values serve as a “lighthouse” of guiding principles, informed by personal and organizational beliefs. They are attitudes, ambitions, and focus shared by the department and the community. Based on guidance from staff, the steering committee, and engagement, the values for guiding the future work of the department are:

Community — pride and growth through inclusive events and programs

Health — healthy lifestyles through fitness and wellness activities

Nature — connections to nature and the Great Miami River

Innovation — progress through continuous improvement of facilities, programs, and operations

4.2.4 Goals and Objectives

Goals describe elements of the vision, defining what is achievable through the daily execution of the mission. Objectives — and therefore specific strategies or recommendations — fit within the scope of each goal. The following goals and objectives are intended to help guide improvements, operations, and services in parks and recreation in Moraine over the next 10 years.

As already mentioned, specific strategies are provided later in this report for each of the objectives listed above. These strategies will be discussed in Chapter 5 (organized by category, like “programming” and “facility improvements”) as well as listed in the Action Plan (Chapter 6), which also identifies a timeframe, responsible party, and potential funding source.

Goal 1: Engaging Parks — Modern and innovative parks and recreation facilities

Objective 1.1 — Make parks and facilities accessible and inviting for the entire community

Objective 1.2 — Update parks and recreation facilities to meet current and future needs

Objective 1.3 — Improve access to the Great Miami River and the city's other natural areas

Goal 2: Engaging Programs — Excellent programs and community events

Objective 2.1 — Maintain and grow popular community-wide events

Objective 2.2 — Continue to grow sports and fitness programs

Objective 2.3 — Provide arts and cultural programming

Goal 3: Engaging People — Strong leadership and stewardship of financial resources

Objective 3.1 — Optimize services with appropriate staffing levels, performance standards, and growth opportunities

Objective 3.2 — Develop additional revenue strategies to support operations and programming

Objective 3.3 — Employ dedicated maintenance staff with clear standards for stewardship

Goal 4: Engaging Promotion — Citywide engagement for parks, recreation facilities, events, and programs

Objective 4.1 — Utilize clear marketing strategies with dedicated efforts by Parks and Recreation

Objective 4.2 — Continuously engage the community and partners

Objective 4.3 — Build and maintain collaborative relationships to address community priorities

4.3 SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.3.1 Observations and Analysis

Through the public engagement process, residents voiced a strong desire for improvements to existing parks in the Moraine system, including many that would improve their experiences when visiting the parks. Over a third (37%) of households indicated through the Random Sample Survey that improvements to support features (restrooms, seating, lighting, etc.) would encourage more use of the city's existing parks. The need for ADA accessibility improvements was also a clear finding throughout the process, including through the engagement and the park assessments.

4.3.2 Support Features

Restroom improvements were frequently requested through the public engagement with over half of households requesting them in both surveys. Moraine currently only offers restrooms at the Recreation Center and the Civic Center. Visitors would like restrooms at Deer Meadow Park and separate from the buildings at Wax and Ora Everetts.

Many of the most desired improvements to existing parks and facilities relate to improving park users' experiences. In addition to restrooms, over 35% of households want drinking fountains, about 30% want shade over seating and facilities, and over a quarter want improved seating. Others would like more trees, security, and landscaping.

Signage is inconsistent throughout the park system with some park entrances lacking signage. Additionally, wayfinding is limited. This issue is especially notable at Wax Park. Signage is important to ensure that visitors can find their way to the parks and to know they are enjoying a public park provided by Moraine Parks and Recreation. It also helps users navigate within the parks once they arrive.

The city could also better utilize technology, such as visitor counters, park related apps, and mobile device charging stations. Many of these technological improvements could utilize Wi-Fi hotspots in Moraine parks, which would help the success of any future app and would also allow the city to collect data about park usage.

4.3.3 ADA Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires parks and recreation departments to make reasonable accommodations to facilities and programs to serve those with disabilities. The 2010 revision specifically mentions additional parks and recreation amenities, now including sports facilities, boating facilities, exercise equipment, fishing piers, play areas, and swimming pools as requiring accommodation.

The ADA requires agencies to develop an ADA transition plan to define a strategy to eliminate barriers to accessibility. Moraine, like many agencies, has not yet prepared such a plan. An accessibility audit, also required as of 1993, should identify barriers and set a timeline to remove them.

As noted through the site assessments and the public input, many of the parks in Moraine need accessibility improvements. Many playgrounds, seating areas, and fields lack accessible paths. Dugouts and spectator seating areas, for example, need to be accessible by wheelchair or other mobility device.

The department should conduct an ADA accessibility audit, in conjunction with a transition plan, to function as a guide for their efforts to improve access throughout the system. The plan will show a “good faith” effort to bring the system into compliance.¹

4.3.4 Playgrounds

Moraine offers playgrounds in seven locations, providing a level of service above the benchmark. However, over 40% of households desire investment in playgrounds, especially upgrades to existing facilities. A few parts of the city also lack easy access to a playground. Stakeholder groups also mentioned a need for more fully accessible playgrounds.



Possum Creek Nature Play

When adding and replacing playgrounds, the city should ensure variation (e.g., themes and features) to provide unique experiences and reasons for families to visit different parks. The department should consider the seven principles of inclusive playground design (as described in Chapter 2) whenever adding or upgrading playgrounds, so that all children can participate.

The city should also consider incorporating nature play elements into playgrounds, especially in more passive and natural settings like Pinnacle Park and Deer Meadow Park. These features can also satisfy the desire for greater access to nature as indicated by the survey results.

For all new playgrounds, whether replacements of existing or new locations, the city should allow the neighborhood residents to participate in the design process. They should be included in selecting the playground's theme and the types of play elements included. An even stronger connection to the playground could be accomplished through a community build program where residents help with constructing the playground.

4.3.5 Outdoor Aquatics

Many residents expressed an interest in building a new outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center in Moraine. Many residents miss Splash Moraine, the city's former water park that closed in 2009. Before building a new aquatic center, the city should consider why this facility failed and whether a new facility would be successful. An aquatic center would be a very costly facility to construct, operate, and maintain. With limited resources, the city should also ensure that residents want this facility more than all of the other features and programs that could be funded with the same dollars.

The next step for the city in considering an aquatic center should be conducting a feasibility study. This study should help to understand the type of facility desired by most residents, potential locations, cost (capital and operational), and if there is enough support in the city to pay to construct and operate the pool, especially considering what the city could offer using those same funds.

A splash pad is a potential alternative to a pool. Splash pads were also a top request through the public engagement, although slightly behind an aquatic center. However, a splash pad requires much lower capital and operational costs. It also requires fewer staff and a smaller footprint. These aquatic facilities can still provide a large amount of play value for children. For these reasons, a splash pad is recommended for Ora Everetts Park (see subsection 4.4.3).



Lilly Pad Springs Splash Pad

¹ National Recreation and Park Association, “Recreation and the Americans with Disabilities Act,” <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2016/august/recreation-and-the-americans-with-disabilities-act/>

4.3.6 Trails, Connectivity, and Nature Access

Despite benchmarking showing a higher level of service than other similar communities, trails and natural areas consistently emerged as two of the most desired features by Moraine residents throughout the Engage phase. This trend is common throughout the country. Trails were the most used (tied with natural areas) and the second most important facility in Moraine. Households also ranked trails and natural areas as the two most important facilities for investment. Fortunately, Moraine has several areas where both trails and natural areas can be added to meet the needs of the community.



Great Miami River Trail

All three community parks have trail loops, but there are opportunities for more trails and access to natural areas. The city owns additional parcels contiguous to Deer Meadow Park. The wooded parcels to the east of the park could potentially be used to extend the new Wright Brothers Pinnacles Hiking Trail that currently ends at Pinnacle Road. Wax Park could provide trail access along the Great Miami River, potentially eventually connecting to other existing trails.



Deer Meadow Trail and Wayfinding

The Appleseed Hiking Trails connect from Pinnacle Park to the Johnny Appleseed Site on Vance Road, across from the Garden Plots. The trail also has a spur that connects to

the Pinnacle Tot Lot. According to Strava² (a fitness tracking app), few users are taking advantage of these trails. Strava heatmap shows no use of the Appleseed Trail. This same heatmap is already showing use of the new Wright Brothers Pinnacles Hiking Trail. Early use shows that the community is happy to have this trail, but it is not easily accessed. Users have to park at the Recreation Center and use the trail along Main Street for access. The city should bring the whole property into the park system and add a trailhead with parking and amenities.

With the high demand for trails in Moraine, the limited amount of use of the Appleseed Hiking Trails is not likely due to lack of interest. Accordingly, the city should encourage additional use by improving awareness, the conditions of the trail, and access. The connection to Pinnacle Tot Lot needs special attention as these two parks should be combined and planned accordingly. The connection should be accessible if possible, but, at a minimum, better signage and maintenance is needed.

The city will also need to coordinate with the owner of the parcel to the east of the parks to improve the condition and wayfinding. As part of this process, the city should ensure a formal agreement for public access and maintenance. The Garden Plots would be a good location for an additional trailhead.

The city prepared a Master Trail Plan in 2017, and this plan should be updated and expanded to include the recommendations of this plan and other potential linkages. The document should provide design, signage, and maintenance standards that ensure that trail experiences are consistent throughout the community. The plan should also provide recommendations for sidewalk improvements, street crossings, and on-road elements.

Trail and connectivity improvements will help improve access to parks within walking distance and ensure that those within walking distance can reach the parks safely. Currently, about 67% of city residents can walk to a park or school with a playground. This effort to expand trails and connectivity coincides with the "10-Minute Walk Campaign" led by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA), Trust for Public Land (TPL), and Urban Land Institute – a national movement supported by hundreds of communities across the country to ensure everyone has walkable access to parks and trails.³

Trail and connectivity improvements in Moraine will establish safe routes, create alternate means of transportation, increase access to parks and destinations throughout the community, as well as contribute to an overall sense of community cohesion. With the improvements recommended in this plan, Moraine is well positioned to potentially provide walkable access for the whole community.

² Strava Heatmap, <https://www.strava.com/maps/global-heatmap?sport=All&style=satellite&terrain=false&labels=true&poi=true&cPhotos=true&gColor=hot&gOpacity=100#17.65/39.702568/-84.244698>

³ NRPA, TPL, and ULI's 10-Minute Walk campaign: <https://10minutewalk.org/>

The city could also improve access to nature through pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and other native planting areas, in existing parks. These areas would also reduce the amount of mowing required. They could also be utilized for educational and programming purposes.

Another opportunity for nature access is to use community gardens (Garden Plots) for native plants, including flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The department could plant and monitor specific plots to use for educational and programming purposes. Similarly, the city's trails could be used for nature programming.



Garden Plots in Moraine

4.3.7 Action Items

Support Features and ADA Access

1. Add support features throughout the park system such as drinking fountains, shade over seating and facilities, seating, trees, security, and landscaping
 - Include bottle fillers at all new drinking fountains and when existing features are replaced
 - Provide consistent amenities throughout the system
2. Add picnic shelters throughout the system to increase overall access to provide shade and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings
3. Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks; include family restrooms at larger parks
 - Add restrooms at Deer Meadow Park and separate from the buildings at Wax and Ora Everetts
4. Add and upgrade signage throughout the park system
 - Improve wayfinding to and within parks so users can more easily find and enjoy parks
 - Ensure consistent appearance and branding
 - Develop interpretive and informational signage throughout the park system (following signage plans) to help visitors understand the natural features and history of parks
5. Upgrade and utilize technology in parks for the benefit of both patrons and staff (see trends discussion in Chapter 2)

6. Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan, following an accessibility audit of all facilities, programs, and communications
7. Ensure accessible walkways to all facilities and seating areas

Playgrounds

1. Prepare and implement a playground investment program that includes the expected useful life and a timeline for replacement for all playgrounds
 - Ensure some playgrounds are fully inclusive and barrier free
 - Include separate age 2-5 equipment
 - Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities
 - Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development, especially in more passive park areas like Pinnacle Park and Deer Meadow Park
 - Consider community-built playgrounds to instill pride and a sense of ownership within the community

Outdoor Aquatics

1. Conduct a feasibility study for an outdoor aquatic center to understand the type of facilities included, potential locations, cost (capital and operational), and support for required expenditures
2. Develop a large splash pad with a variety of features and play value at Ora Everetts Park to address the demand for aquatics in Moraine

Trails, Connectivity, and Nature Access

1. Consider using the city-owned, wooded parcels to the east of Deer Meadow Park to extend the new Wright Brothers Pinnacles Hiking Trail
2. Provide trail access along the Great Miami River from Wax Park, eventually connecting to other existing trails
3. Bring the whole Wright Brothers Pinnacles Hiking Trail property into the park system and add a trailhead with parking and amenities
4. Encourage additional use of the Appleseed Hiking Trails by improving awareness, the conditions of the trail, and access
5. Improve the connection between Pinnacle Park and Pinnacle Tot Lot with better signage and maintenance
6. Coordinate with the owner of the parcel to the east of the Pinnacle Park connector to improve the condition and wayfinding of the trail
 - Ensure a formal agreement with the property owner for public access and maintenance
 - Add a trailhead at the Garden Plots for better access to the trail

7. Update the 2017 Master Trail Plan to include the recommendations of this plan and other potential linkages.
 - Provide design, signage, and maintenance standards that ensure that trail experiences are consistent throughout the community
 - Include recommendations for sidewalk improvements, street crossings, and on-road elements
8. Consider signing the 10-Minute Walk Mission by the TPL and NRPA to show the city's commitment to connectivity and access to parks
9. Use pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and other native planting areas to improve access to nature in existing parks, while reducing the amount of mowing required
10. Use the community gardens (Garden Plots) and trails for nature education programs
 - Consider planting and monitoring specific plots to use for educational and programming purposes.

4.4 COMMUNITY PARKS

4.4.1 Background

The city's three large community parks offer a wide variety of amenities for residents and visitors, but they have potential to offer much more than they are today. Each of these parks is at the low end of the recommended number of features for community parks. Because of their potential, these three parks are the focus of this Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan, and a detailed concept plan was prepared to show a possible future of these properties.

The first step to implementing any of these concepts is the development of a park development plan with preliminary design and engagement with residents and users to further identify and confirm needs and desires. A full list of improvements for each of these parks is included in Table 4.1 at the end of this chapter.

4.4.2 Deer Meadow Park

The concept for Deer Meadow Park in Figure 4.1 shows a mix of new amenities with a primarily passive focus. The concept includes additional land already owned by the City of Moraine as described earlier in the trails section.

Existing Pond Area

This portion of the park offers most of the existing amenities, but it would benefit from some improvements. First, the fitness equipment near the pond is in poor condition and should be removed and replaced with a new fitness area near the playground.

Public engagement indicated a strong desire for restrooms, and Deer Meadow Park was the most notable specific location requested. The proposed location near the existing parking lot and shelters would be accessible to most users. These shelters also need improvement and improve accessibility.

The concept also shows an expanded and upgraded playground which should include nature play elements. New fishing piers would provide better access to the pond. The area north of the pond has poor drainage and needs to be regraded which would provide an opportunity for nature restoration and reduced mowing.

Expansion/Dog Park Area

While not currently part of the park, this area to the east of the pond shows a new parking lot and a much-needed dog park. This portion of the property should be added to the park even if the city decides to sell the rest of these two parcels.

If incorporated into the park, the wooded area could offer trails, nature access, and an additional disc golf course. The connection to Possum Creek MetroPark provides potential for longer hikes and partnerships for programs.



Dogs playing at dog park

Baseball/Softball Complex

The area to the west of the pond shows a potential location for a baseball/softball diamond field complex. This location is the best available in any of the existing Moraine parks, although it does require land from the adjoining city-owned parcel. The city should continue to seek partnerships and alternative locations for this complex.

These fields would offer a significant upgrade over those currently available in Moraine. The complex should include covered dugouts for players, spectator seating, restrooms/concessions, and a press box. To accommodate tournaments, the city should consider artificial turf on the infields.

This development would require a separate entrance and parking lot. This location would also require relocation of a few disc golf holes, possibly to the area north of the pond or as part of the new course.

4.4.3 Ora Everetts Park

The new vision for Ora Everetts Park is presented in Figure 4.2. This concept seeks to take advantage of the visibility from I-75 and to utilize the existing Civic Center to support facilities and activities in the park. Only 13% of households reported visiting this park, indicating a low level of use for one of the city's three community parks.

Figure 4.1: Deer Meadow Park Concept



Figure 4.2: Ora Everetts Park Concept

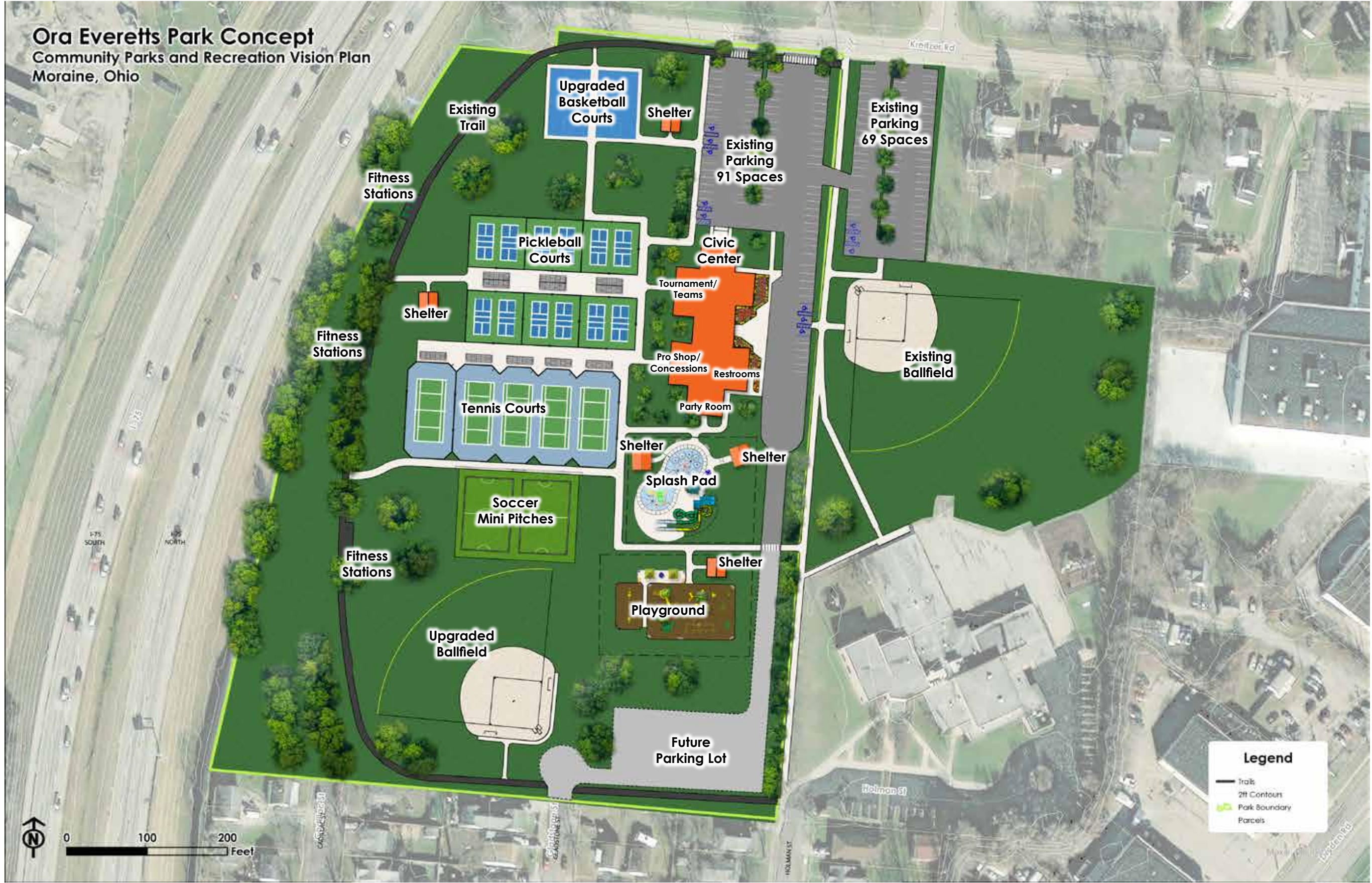


Figure 4.3: Upgraded Civic Center Floor Plan



Outdoor Court Area

The proposed improvements at Ora Everetts Park include a series of courts for various sports. Starting at the north end of the park, the basketball courts should be upgraded. These courts need updated surfacing, new goals, and lights to meet the requests of stakeholders.

A pickleball complex is proposed to the south of the basketball courts. The city has started to address demand for pickleball at the Recreation Center but offers no outdoor courts. Pickleball courts were consistently at the top of survey results for needed sports facilities in Moraine. The concept shows 12 courts, but six could be developed as an initial phase. Like all courts in this complex, lights should be provided to extend use.



Pickleball

The concept also shows five tennis courts, which could also be constructed in phases. These courts could be a potential partnership with West Carrollton Schools and are configured to meet the needs of school competitions.

Soccer courts or mini pitches are the last type of court in the complex. These courts are growing in popularity and are popular with smaller groups for both pick-up and organized sports. These facilities can also help meet the demand for fields and reduce the wear of natural turf. Like all elements at this park, these courts could be constructed in phases.

Playground/Splash Pad Area

A splash pad is a key feature of the recommendations for Ora Everetts Park in response to strong demand for aquatics in the city. Although a splash pad may not meet all needs for aquatics, it would be a great start. The proposed facilities should have a variety of amenities for all ages, including large waterslides as shown in the concept. This feature would be visible from the interstate, leading to additional attendance.

The playground should also be replaced and relocated closer to the building and proposed splash pad. The new playground should be expanded to match the increased traffic at the park. It should also be barrier free and accessible to all.

The concept shows a series of shelters because the splash pad and playground will likely be popular destinations for parties. The new features should connect to the existing trail,

which should be improved to be separate from sidewalks, and fitness stations would provide opportunities for training and programs. Finally, the currently underused field at the southern end of the property should be upgraded to address the removal of the field to the west of the building.



North Canton Dogwood Park Playground

Civic Center

The floor plan in Figure 4.3 shows a complete rethinking of the Civic Center. The current building is very underutilized and in need of modernization. This floorplan shows new uses for most of the building that support the proposed outdoor park features of the park.

The floor plan shows the main dining hall and kitchen in the current location, but the kitchen would be expanded, and both rooms need to be modernized. Each of the other wings would be transformed to serve new outdoor features, including a tournament/team space and a pro shop for the pickleball and tennis courts. The concessions would serve all users, while the party room would overlook the splash pad. Many of these rooms would be accessible from outside, including restrooms near the party room.

The city should consider formally changing the name to Moraine Civic Center, which is already noted on the side of the building facing I-75. This change would remind users that they are in Moraine and enjoying amenities offered by the city. The Gerhardt name could be maintained but assigned to a room or wing of the building. The building should also only be open as needed for rentals and programs or during busy evenings and weekends.

4.4.4 Wax Park

Wax Park is currently very underutilized with a large amount of space dedicated to parking that is used only once a year. There are also several neglected buildings remaining from the former Splash Moraine waterpark that limit visibility and serve as reminders of a facility that is no longer present. Overall, the park does not offer much to the community beyond the Payne Recreation Center. It also does not have a sign at the entrance. The concept in Figure 4.4 shows the potential transformation of Wax Park into a true community park that would be a desirable asset and a popular destination.

Existing Park

The first step to improving the main area of the park is to remove the former Splash Moraine buildings, including pool house, pump house, and ticket booth. Removal of these buildings would improve the appearance and allow visibility into what will become the event lawn with an amphitheater that could host a wide variety of events, including festivals, concerts, and movies.

The concept shows a new skate park to the north of the event lawn. This new feature would replace the existing skate park at Deer Meadow Park which needs improvement, and it would be best to relocate it to a more active park. The location at Wax Park would provide programming opportunities and easy access from the Recreation Center. The larger skate park could also include a pump track and some elements along the existing walking path. It should also be available for many types of users (bikes, scooters, skates, etc.). Finally, the amphitheater should be designed to accommodate skateboarding, providing additional use of that facility.



Dayton Bike Yard Pump track

Near the amphitheater, the concept shows a new or upgraded restroom and concession building to meet another frequent demand of users. A proposed food truck area would allow for refreshments at small and large events, including at other features in the park.

South of the expanded parking lot, the concept shows a new, larger playground with a nature theme and a zip line. The existing playground is small, in poor condition, and not accessible. The new location would be closer to the parking lot and the picnic shelter. With added traffic in the park, these shelters will experience increased use, and the proposed outdoor games, including table tennis and corn hole, will draw more users and potential programming opportunities.



Presidents Park amphitheater, Edgewood ,Kentucky

Riverfront Access

Although it runs along its western side, the park does not currently provide formal access to the Great Miami River. The proposed path over the levee would allow users to walk and rest along the river. A pier would also allow for fishing and canoe/kayak access at this park. The riverwalk path could eventually be extended to connect to other trails. A wildlife observation tower could provide long-distance views of the river from the park side of the levee.

Multipurpose Rectangular Fields

Moraine does not offer any multipurpose rectangular fields at any of the parks. However, attendees of the open house indicated a need for these fields, especially for soccer. The surveys also indicated unmet needs for youth and adult sports programs. Many of the fastest growing team sports use these fields, and this location, adjacent to the Recreation Center, is optimal for programming.



Artificial Turf Field, Anderson Township, OH

The concept shows proposed fields using space that is currently overflow parking and underutilized parts of the park. In addition to soccer, these fields could be used for lacrosse, football, and other sports. An artificial turf field and lights would allow extended use, including potential adult programs. It would also be desirable for tournaments and rentals.

Recreation Center

Payne Recreation Center is a popular facility that offers a wide array of spaces and programs for the community. The floor plan, however, is not optimal for the desired uses and lacks storage. The temporary relocation of city staff to the building has caused further inefficiencies with the layout.



Ashland Kroc Corps Community Center Classroom

Figure 4.5 shows a potential floor plan that would provide better use of space, while accommodating additional types of programming. The proposed floor plan shows the relocation of the weight room to the first floor and the elimination of the outer corridor to increase the room size and allow natural light into the space. Elimination of corridors would also increase the size of the meeting rooms and the multipurpose room while adding storage space. The maintenance space would be relocated to what is currently the kitchen. The existing weight room would be converted to a classroom and a large storage closet.

Renovation of the existing space should be the priority, but expansion of the building would allow for additional program opportunities. A future addition is shown outlined in red. This addition would offer an additional gym, program rooms, and an extension of the second floor walking track.

Like the Civic Center, the city should consider changing the name of the building to the Moraine Recreation Center to remind users that they are enjoying amenities offered by the City of Moraine. The Payne name could be assigned to the gym or another room of the building.

4.4.5 Action Items

1. Prioritize investment at the three community parks (Deer Meadow, Ora Everetts, and Wax) using the concepts to guide improvement
2. Prepare a park development plan with preliminary design and engagement with residents and users to further identify and confirm needs and desires at the three community parks

Deer Meadow Park

1. Remove the fitness equipment near the pond and replace it with modern equipment near the playground
2. Add a restroom building near the existing parking lot and shelters
3. Upgrade and improve accessibility of these shelters
4. Upgrade the playground to include more features, including nature play elements
5. Add new fishing piers to provide better access to the pond
6. Regrade the area north of the pond to improve drainage and consider naturalizing to reduce mowing
7. Develop a new parking lot and dog park in the area to the east of the pond, after adding it as part of the park
8. Consider adding the wooded parcels to the east of the park for trails, nature access, and an additional disc golf course
9. Utilize the connection to Possum Creek MetroPark for longer hikes and partnerships for programs
10. Consider using land to the northwest of the park for a baseball/softball diamond field complex with a separate entrance and parking lot
 - Continue to seek partnerships for alternative locations

- Include covered dugouts for players, spectator seating, restrooms/concessions, and a press box
- Consider artificial turf on the infields to extend use, reduce rainouts, and accommodate tournaments

Ora Everetts Park

1. Upgrade the basketball courts with new surfacing, goals, and lights
2. Develop a 6-court, lighted pickleball complex to address demand for pickleball; upgrade to 12 courts if and when needed
3. Construct two to five tennis courts with lights and investigate a partnership with West Carrollton Schools for use
4. Add soccer courts or mini pitches to the park for both pick-up and organized sports
5. Develop a splash pad with a variety of amenities for all ages, including large waterslides visible from the interstate
6. Replace, relocate, and expand the playground to match the increased traffic at the park and make it barrier free and accessible to all
7. Develop a series of reservable shelters near the splash pad and playground
8. Connect new fitness stations and other features to the existing, improved trail
9. Upgrade the currently underused field at the southern end of the property with improved ADA access, new dugouts, and covered bleachers to address the removal of the field to the west of the Civic Center
10. Renovate and modernize the Civic Center to support the proposed outdoor features of the park
 - Transform spaces to a tournament/team space, a pro shop for pickleball and tennis, concessions, party rooms at the splash pad, and restrooms, all accessible from outside
11. Consider formally changing the name to Moraine Civic Center as noted on the outside of the building
 - Consider assigning the Gerhard name to a room or wing of the building
12. Open the building only as needed for rentals and programs or during busy evenings and weekends

Wax Park

1. Remove the former Splash Moraine buildings, including pool house, pump house, and ticket booth to improve the appearance and allow visibility of the park
2. Develop an amphitheater and event lawn to host a wide variety of events, including festivals, concerts, and movies
3. Replace the existing skate park at Deer Meadow Park and relocate it to Wax Park
 - Include additional features such as a pump track and elements along the existing walking path

Figure 4.4: Wax Park Concept



Figure 4.5: Upgraded Recreation Center Floor Plan



First Floor



Second Floor

- Design the amphitheater to accommodate skateboarding, providing additional use of that facility
4. Renovate or build a new restroom and concession building and food truck area to provide refreshments at small and large events
 5. Relocate and replace the playground with a nature theme and a zip line
 6. Consider adding outdoor games, including table tennis and corn hole, to draw more users and potential programming opportunities
 7. Construct a path over the levee to a riverwalk to allow access to the Great Miami River and look for opportunities to connect to other trails
 8. Add pier for fishing and canoe/kayak access on the Great Miami River
 9. Develop a wildlife observation tower to provide long-distance views of the river from the park side of the levee
 10. Develop multipurpose rectangular fields for lacrosse, football, and other sports in underused areas of the park, including overflow parking
 11. Consider including an artificial turf field with lights for additional use, including potential adult programs, tournaments, and rentals
 12. Renovate and rearrange the floor plan to provide better use of space and accommodate additional types of programming
 13. Consider expansion of the building with offer an additional gym, program rooms, and an extension of the second floor walking track for additional program opportunities
 14. Consider changing the name of the building to the Moraine Recreation Center to remind users that they are enjoying amenities offered by the City of Moraine
 - Assign the Payne name to the gym or another room of the building

4.5 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

4.5.1 Background

Moraine has seven smaller neighborhood parks which provide walkable access to over two-thirds of residents. Pinnacle Park was the most used of these parks with over a quarter (27%) of households visiting in the past year. Between 4% and 12% of households visited each of the other neighborhood parks, more than the number that live within a 10-minute walk of these parks. Although Moraine should prioritize community needs at the larger community parks, these smaller parks still need some investment. Residents indicated desire for continued improvement to these parks, so they can continue to serve their neighborhoods.

4.5.2 Neighborhood Park Standards

Moraine needs a standard list of basic services to include in each neighborhood park. These standards should be applied to existing parks when they are renovated and new parks if added in the future. They can also be used as a starting point for engagement with the community.

As described in Chapter 2, a neighborhood park should be between 3 and 15 acres with a minimum of 2 acres that can be fully developed to accommodate between two and three recreation features. Mini parks can help fill in gaps where larger parcels are not available but should have the same basic elements. The city should also encourage developers to include parks during construction of new subdivisions and to use the guidelines below.

Typical neighborhood park elements include:

1. Small playground
2. ½ basketball court (may be swapped for another feature if desired by the community)
3. Shaded seating area
4. Circulation — walkways/ADA access
5. Landscaping & trees
6. Unique neighborhood determined feature(s) based on local interest – could be related to sports, environment, arts, etc., should consider placemaking opportunities

As noted in Chapter 2, the existing playgrounds have rubber mulch which should be replaced with another type of surface. The city should identify a schedule for the replacement of playground equipment. Many of the features within these parks need improvements to repair cracks or aging features. Paved walkways are needed throughout to ensure access to park features, and all parks could benefit from upgraded site amenities, such as tables, benches, and bike racks. All improvements are listed in Table 4.1 at the end of this chapter.

The community-wide lens of this Parks and Recreation Vision Plan focuses on the needs of the city as a whole but does not necessarily have the data needed to identify needs specific to the users of each neighborhood park. As a result, specific needs should be addressed during the improvement process by allowing residents to determine specific elements based on their interests and needs. The inclusion of these elements helps to promote neighborhood identity, encourages a sense of ownership, and provides opportunities for placemaking in parks.

Potential **neighborhood determined features** include:

- Field or court space (e.g., pickleball, tennis, volleyball, bocce, futsal)
- Public art
- Nature area or garden
- Fitness equipment
- Permanent outdoor games (ping pong/corn hole)

4.5.3 Neighborhood Park Improvements

Specific improvements for each of the neighborhood parks are described below. The recommendations follow the standards outlined above.

DP&L Park

The city does not own this park. It is also in poor condition and is close to Ora Everetts Park. For these reasons, the city should remove it from the parks inventory and stop maintaining it.

George Taylor Park

This park is located in the median of Venetian Way, but it is the only park in this part of Moraine. Optimally, this park should be relocated to another location if one can be found nearby. However, if it stays in this location, it needs some improvements, especially to the basketball courts which are too close to overhead power lines and the tennis court which is not currently usable.

German Village Park

The park is close to Pinnacle Park but is in good condition. As a result, it should remain in the system as a neighborhood park at least for the useful life of the features within.

Lehigh Park

This park is very small but is surrounded by homes. It has the most residents within a 10-minute walk of all of Moraine's parks. However, the park features are dated and need to be upgraded or replaced.

Pinnacle Park & Pinnacle Tot Lot

The city should consolidate these two parks into a single park and planned accordingly. The connection between them should also be improved. This park is the largest of the neighborhood parks and has the potential to offer more than the standard elements.

Riverview Park

This small park is right next to I-75, and, like George Taylor Park, should be relocated if possible, potentially as part of a partnership. It is the only park in this neighborhood of about 100 residents. If another location cannot be identified, it may be a candidate to decommission.

4.5.4 Action Items

1. Determine and implement a standard list of basic services to include in each neighborhood park
2. Apply neighborhood park standards to existing parks when they are renovated and new parks if added in the future
3. Encourage developers to include parks during construction of new subdivisions and to follow neighborhood park standards
4. Replace rubber mulch at all playgrounds with another type of surface

5. Identify a schedule for the replacement of all playground equipment
6. Upgrade accessibility and site amenities, such as tables, benches, and bike racks at all parks
7. Include a neighborhood determined feature at each neighborhood park, ensuring development aligns with needs and encouraging a sense of local investment and opportunities for placemaking in parks
8. Decommission DP & L Park and remove it from the parks inventory
9. Seek opportunities to relocate George Taylor Park to another location and upgrade the park's facilities
10. Continue to maintain German Village Park as a neighborhood park
11. Upgrade and replace the dated features at Lehigh Park
12. Consolidate Pinnacle Park & Pinnacle Tot Lot into a single park and improve the connection between
13. Seek opportunities for partnerships to relocate Riverview Park

4.6 OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

4.6.1 Background

Based on community, steering committee, and staff input, the following core values have been identified as vital to Moraine's marketability, health, and livability – community, health, nature, and innovation.

In addition, the division's updated mission states: "We provide exceptional parks, events, and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community." The following recommendations align with the mission, core values, and community priorities; and serve as a guide in providing exceptional programs, events, and operations.

4.6.2 Programming

Based on recreation program registration data from January 1, 2024 – October 19, 2024, approximately 60% of participants are non-residents, compared to 40% residents. Since there are four zip codes listed for all or a portion of Moraine: 45439, 45418, 45409, and 45459, an assessment of addresses and zip codes should periodically be conducted to verify accurate designation of resident and non-resident status. Evaluate the number of businesses and their employees in Moraine that utilized the "business rate" to participate in programs and use facilities.

The department should conduct a program inventory and analysis to help identify program trends and whether they meet the community's demands and needs. This analysis should use historical data, such as the number of programs offered and completed, number of program participants (both resident and non-resident participation), number of programs canceled due to low registration, and programs that meet their targeted cost recovery goals.

New facilities proposed in this plan will provide Parks and Recreation with many opportunities to expand the amount and types of programming available in the city. While the amphitheater will allow for more events, many other features, such as the courts at Ora Everetts Park, the dog park at Deer Meadow Park, and even the outdoor games at Wax Park, will provide programming opportunities. The classroom at the Recreation Center will allow the department to start offering arts and crafts programs.

Moraine also needs to develop and utilize participant evaluations for programs and events. This process will help determine satisfaction levels in meeting participant expectations, as well as provide additional feedback on trends and interests that can assist with the development of future programming.

Concerts and festivals ranked number one by the community for investing in programs. Continuously exploring specific types of events by further engaging the public and community leaders will assist staff in prioritizing programs, required labor to support events, as well as funding opportunities. This process will become even more important after the amphitheater and event space are added at Wax Park, allowing for the expansion of these programs.

Action Items:

- Conduct a program inventory and analysis that will help identify program trends and whether they meet the community's demands and needs
- Develop and utilize participant evaluations for programs and events
- Explore specific types of events by engaging the community to assist in prioritizing programs, required labor to support events, as well as funding opportunities
- Utilize proposed facilities for additional program opportunities
- Seek opportunities to add arts programs using the proposed classroom at the Recreation Center

Partnerships

The following strategies would leverage partnerships to expand programming:

- Explore new opportunities with local organizations such as the Boonshoff Museum of Discovery, the Dayton Metro Library, Sinclair Community College, University of Dayton, and the Dayton Boat Club to leverage each other's resources to expand youth and teen programs related to outdoor experiences and education, before/after school, arts and crafts, gaming, aquatic, and adaptive programs.
- Seek partnerships with other health and wellness organizations to expand or offer new adult and senior adult fitness and wellness programs, such as with AARP and area health and wellness providers.

Heart healthy and mindfulness trails often have markers or signs encouraging moderate-intensity exercise and ways to improve physical and mental health. They might also include features like distance measurements, exercise tips, or scenic views to make staying active enjoyable and motivating

- Consider programming and signage that designates walking, hiking bike paths as "Healthy Heart" and/or Mindfulness trails, such as the existing walking path and proposed fitness stations at Ora Everetts Park, and the nature and biking paths at Deer Meadow Park



Mindfulness Walks at Astwood MetroPark

Community surveys indicated a high interest in fishing, canoeing, and boating. Outdoor-focused organizations, such as Five Rivers MetroParks, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources provide various programs and educational materials that are available to local agencies, such as boating, fishing, and environmental education. In addition, the Dayton region is home to over 50 outdoor clubs, and OutdoorDayton.com provides information about local organizations that support connecting communities to nature.

- Seek partnerships with outdoor-focused organizations, including Five Rivers MetroParks, Ohio DNR, and outdoor clubs to provide programs and educational opportunities

Tennis and Pickleball

As noted in Chapter 2, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, and tennis is also growing. Community engagement also noted growing demand for both sports. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) offers a comprehensive community assessment program aimed at enhancing tennis and pickleball facilities within local parks and recreation departments. The USTA website provides additional details.⁴

Several opportunities to work with USTA are available and include:

Park Agency Tennis Assessment

This is a complimentary consultation service that involves discussions with city directors of facilities, tennis, local partners, and other entities to produce personalized recommendations and action items.

⁴ USTA, Facility Assistance, <https://www.usta.com/en/home/coach-organize/tennis-support/facility-assistance.html>

Facility Assistance

USTA supports various facility improvements, including court resurfacing, lighting upgrades, and full-scale construction projects. Competitive grants are also available for facility improvements, with contributions covering up to 50% of the total project cost.

Action items:

- Utilize USTA's Park Agency Tennis Assessment to improve the delivery of tennis in Moraine
- Seek USTA grants for tennis improvements

4.6.3 Operations

As stated in the department's core values, innovation and continuous improvements result in providing the community outstanding programs, services, parks and facilities. The continued success of Moraine Parks and Recreation operations hinges on staffing capacity and capability. It is important that the department has the staff needed to maintain and operate the system as it evolves. This requirement is related to both the number of staff and their skills and qualifications, including contracted instructors that are utilized to teach programs.

The reservation processes are currently shared by staff and should be centralized. A utilization analysis would help to evaluate utilization rates of rentable and reservable spaces and to determine if any are overutilized versus underutilized. Additionally, it can be used to evaluate user demographics, such as residents versus non-residents, city programs versus community programs, and private rentals.

An asset inventory of parks and recreation amenities and programs would allow Moraine to identify what could be eligible for sponsorships and naming rights. Parks and Recreation should seek to partner with the local community college and/or university to work with instructors and students, or work with local volunteers to prepare this inventory. An asset inventory includes:

- Park or facility location
- Type of asset or program
- Estimated lifecycle of asset or program
- Estimated replacement cost of asset
- Maintenance cost
- Operating cost

Agreements with all partners should establish responsibilities and provide assurances for equitable benefits for all parties. Moraine needs to formalize and/or regularly review existing written agreements with cooperative use and program providers and/or partners, such as schools and other community-based groups. The department should also develop a written policy and procedures for external group use of Moraine Parks and Recreation facilities and parks.

Action items:

- Review current job descriptions for all park and recreation positions to ensure that they meet and reflect the needs of the organization and community
- Evaluate the staffing levels for each functional area of the division, such as park and facility management and maintenance, recreation programs, administration, and support services to ensure they can meet the needs and priorities of the community
- Provide professional and educational opportunities for staff to enhance their knowledge and expertise
- Conduct regular staff training on the use of the MyRec Software package to maximize understanding and efficient use of the software's programs
- Utilize a task analysis for each current position category to determine if staffing levels and allocated hours have capacity to meet current services and/or be able to expand them, such as with programming and marketing
- Evaluate opportunities to partner with community agencies and businesses and utilize partnerships and/or sponsorships to expand and/or enhance programming and events
- Centralize rental/reservation processes currently shared by staff
- Conduct a utilization analysis of rentable and reservable spaces to evaluate capacity and users demographics
- Conduct an asset inventory of parks and recreation amenities and programs to determine what could be eligible for sponsorships and naming rights
- Establish formal agreements that identify responsibilities of all partners groups and ensure awareness of department policies and expectations
- Inventory use of Moraine parks, recreation facilities, sports fields, and open space by external organizations, such as schools, non-profits, and youth groups
- Conduct a cost-of-service analysis of facilities, parks, and sports fields to identify direct and indirect costs to provide and maintain these amenities.
- Determine the capacity of each sports field and facility to accommodate scheduled programs, maintenance, drop-in use, community-based groups, and private rentals

4.6.4 Engagement and Marketing

All parks (new or existing) undergoing significant development should have development plans with community engagement finalized prior to construction. These plans will help ensure facilities are accessible, complementary features are located appropriately, and, most importantly, desired features fit on the site. Planning is

a critical tool for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance, making it easier to be proactive, instead of reactive, in the face of challenges and changing circumstances.

An annual marketing plan can address the residents' feedback that ranked "lack of awareness" about what the division offers as the top barrier to participation. The plan should use a mix of "real-time" and other communication tools to promote programs, facilities, events, and services and provide accurate, timely, and useful information to the various segments of the community's target audiences.

Marketing for Moraine Parks and Recreation would benefit greatly from better branding and promotion. Parks and Recreation needs a visual identity including a logo and standard messaging structure. The same visual identity should also be used for printed and online marketing, including social media and email notifications. Standardized, expanded marketing has the potential to attract additional users to the events, spaces, and programs offered by Moraine.

The department should then create simple, branded templates to ensure a successful marketing strategy. Not only do templates give staff a better starting point for promoting programs easily and effectively, but they also make any outgoing messaging instantly recognizable by members of the community.

Social media platforms are useful for staying connected but can be a challenge to sustain engaging, interactive content. The city currently uses only Facebook, posting images, updates, and more.

Establishing specific social media pages for Parks and Recreation will help to create an identity for Moraine Parks and Recreation, while reaching a broader audience. Parks and Recreation should consider promoting opportunities on multiple social media platforms, including Instagram, X/Twitter, TikTok, and more to maximize the reach of their efforts. Additionally, promoted postings can reach residents who do not follow the department's accounts.

Action Items:

- Prepare development plans with community engagement for all parks (new or existing) undergoing significant development prior to construction
- Develop an annual marketing plan based on customer input and communication preferences
- Review current policies or determine if policies need to be developed to enhance the park and recreation division's community engagement through marketing, social media, advertising, sponsorships, naming rights, and partnerships.
- Promote park improvements and added programming opportunities as they are added

- Develop a parks and recreation division policies and procedures manual that addresses specific operational needs of the division, such as community communication and engagement, fees and charges, program development, marketing, and usage and prioritization of city facilities and amenities
- Develop new Parks and Recreation specific branding with a visual identity including a logo and standard messaging structure
- Establish specific social media pages for Parks and Recreation on multiple platforms help reach a broader audience

4.6.5 Maintenance

Park and recreation areas, facilities, and programs were identified as one of the priorities in the city's 2024 Comprehensive Plan to highlight and promote the community. This Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan's community surveys and staff interviews also identified maintenance standards of parks and facilities as areas of concern. Centralizing maintenance responsibilities and authority including dedicated staff is essential to establish and implement consistent, high standards for Moraine's parks and recreation facilities.

Parks and Recreation should consider utilizing the free agency self-assessment process offered by the National Recreation and Parks Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. The self-assessment process evaluates the agency's operations and management systems and compares them to the industry's best management practices.⁵

Below is an example of one of the 154 Best Practice Standards for Parks and Recreation Agencies:

Maintenance and Operations Standard 7.5

"The agency shall have established maintenance and operations standards that are reviewed periodically for management of all park and recreation areas and facilities, including specialty facilities such as marinas, ice rinks, golf courses, zoological facilities, equestrian facilities, aquatic or athletic facilities, nature centers, where applicable. Parks, facilities and other recreational elements should be identified according to the intended use of the area, ranging from heavily used and highly developed areas to those that are lightly used and less developed via a park classification or maintenance classification system. Each of these areas should be assigned an appropriate set of maintenance standards including both recommended frequency and acceptable quality."

Park and facility maintenance standards (service) levels are often categorized into classifications that align with the park and/or facility's intended usage, resources available, and community expectations. These classifications help prioritize

⁵ The National Accreditation Standards, capra-national-accreditation-standards-master-document-revised-2023.pdf.

efforts and allocate budgets effectively. Below are examples of common classifications. Moraine Parks and Recreation should customize classifications and service levels to meet and/exceed the community's expectations.

Service Levels

1. **Premium Service Level:** Designed for highly visible or flagship parks (e.g., city center parks, memorial parks and recreational facilities)
 - Standards: Daily maintenance, pristine conditions, and enhanced landscaping.
 - Tasks: Frequent mowing, litter removal, restroom and other facility cleaning, and landscape weed removal and seasonal plantings
 - Features: Well-maintained recreational facilities, water features, artistic installations, and event-ready spaces
2. **Standard Service Level:** Applied to neighborhood parks and community spaces
 - Standards: Moderate upkeep with regular maintenance schedules
 - Tasks: Bi-weekly mowing, weekly litter collection and weed removal, and routine equipment checks
 - Features: Functional amenities such as benches, playgrounds, fitness equipment, and trails.
3. **Basic Service Level:** Suitable for undeveloped or low-usage parks and facilities
 - Standards: Minimal maintenance with occasional checks
 - Tasks: Seasonal mowing, occasional trash removal and weed removal, and responding to reported issues
 - Features: Natural aesthetics are prioritized over manicured upkeep
4. **Specialized Service Levels:** Focused on unique facilities or features like sports complexes, trails, or historical sites
 - Standards: Tailored to meet the demands of specific usage.
 - Tasks:
 - Sports Complexes: Frequent turf care, weed and trash removal and landscape plantings, field marking, and equipment maintenance.
 - Trails: Path clearing, erosion control, and signage upkeep
 - Historic Sites: Restoration, preservation, and expert care
5. **Emergency or Reactive Service Levels:** Reserved for addressing urgent needs and safety hazards
 - Standards: Maintenance performed as issues arise, rather than on a schedule.
 - Tasks: Storm damage cleanup, repair of vandalized property, or urgent safety inspections.

Implementation of Classifications

Step 1: Inventory Your Parks and Facilities

- Create a list of all the parks and facilities you manage
- Include details like:
 - Size and features (e.g., sports fields, playgrounds, recreational facilities, trails)
 - Current usage levels (high, moderate, low).
 - Community significance (e.g., central park vs. neighborhood park)

Step 2: Assign Classifications. Categorize each park or facility into service classifications such as Premium, Standard, Basic, or Specialized

- Consider these factors when assigning classifications:
- Visibility: Is this a flagship or high-traffic park or recreational facility?
- Functionality: Does the park serve specialized purposes (e.g., sports complex, historic site)?
- Community Input: What do visitors value most about this park and/or recreational facility?

Step 3: Define Maintenance Standards

- For each classification, outline specific tasks, frequencies, and priorities.
- Example of a Premium Park:
 - Daily tasks: Restroom cleaning, trash collection, and litter pickup.
 - Weekly tasks: Lawn mowing, shrub trimming, and playground inspections.
 - Monthly tasks: Detailed safety inspections and equipment maintenance.

Step 4: Document the Standards

- Create a maintenance guide or handbook summarizing the standards for each classification. Contact CAPRA accredited comparable size communities with similar services to ask if they would share a copy of their park and operations standards — NO NEED TO RECREATE THE WHEEL!
- Include checklists to help staff consistently meet expectations

Step 5: Test and Adjust

- Begin implementation in a pilot area before expanding to all parks and recreational facilities.
- Collect feedback from staff and visitors to refine the classifications and standards as needed.

Action Items:

- Employ dedicated parks maintenance staff to increase efficiency, streamline repairs and improvement, and improve visitor experiences at Moraine parks and facilities

- Consider utilizing the free agency self-assessment process offered by CAPRA to evaluate the agency's operations and management systems
- Customize classifications and service levels to meet and/exceed the community's expectations
- Inventory and categorize each park or facility into service classifications such as Premium, Standard, Basic, or Specialized
- Create a maintenance guide or handbook summarizing the standards for each classification with checklists to help staff consistently meet expectations
- Begin implementation in a pilot area before expanding to all parks and recreational facilities
- Collect feedback from staff and visitors to refine the classifications and standards as needed
- Develop a repair and replacement plan that can guide park and recreation capital improvements by identifying the lifecycle of equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for prioritization, future planning, and funding

4.7 POTENTIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE SOURCES

4.7.1 Background

Parks and recreation projects can be funded in many ways, including maintenance endowment funds, conservation districts, license tags, transient occupancy taxes, income taxes, lease backs, real-estate transfer fees, land dedication and/or park impact fees, and park authorities. The strategies below are the best options for an immediate impact on the operations and capital improvements of Moraine.

4.7.2 Cost Recovery

Currently, most programs and facilities are free or available for a minimal fee. Evaluate the cost to provide programs, facilities, sports fields, and other amenities, especially those utilized by non-residents. For example, in reviewing the use of Wax Park's ballfield in 2024, groups from West Carrollton and Springboro had the highest number of uses of the field at no charge.

Cost Recovery Plan is needed to help plan and forecast program lifecycles based on costs, revenues, and participation rates. The plan would provide cost recovery goals for each program and event category with corresponding fees and charges schedules.

The proposed amphitheater at Wax Park would be an ideal candidate for naming rights, performance sponsorships and advertising sponsorships. The city should work with a 501c3 organization, such as the Moraine Foundation, to identify and solicit alternative funding (capital and operating) for the proposed new facilities, such as the new amphitheater.

Moraine should also consider using other alternative funding opportunities, such as fees and charges, sponsorships, partnerships, tribute programs, and donations to fund programs, services, amenities (i.e. shade structures, benches, swings, and trees), and capital investments that cannot be funded through limited, traditional sources of funding, such as general fund dollars.

4.7.3 City Capital Budget

The City of Moraine receives most of its tax revenue (over 70%) from income taxes from the businesses located in the city. Fortunately, the city has been operating with a budget surplus for several years and has a substantial reserve. Some of these funds could be used for capital improvements outlined in this plan, especially considering that many of these improvements would attract visitors and potentially businesses to Moraine, generating more tax dollars.

4.7.4 Grant Funding

Devoting staff time to researching and applying for grants from foundations and corporations is important to help fund special programs, such as having a goal to teach all children to swim, which saves kids from drowning – or applying for funds to add youth STEM programs. Grants also can fund trails and specific features, such as playgrounds.

Moraine is experienced in applying for and receiving grants for facility improvements. Moraine should continue to be on the lookout for grants that will enhance the park system. Applying to established foundations is often easier and has a higher acceptance rate. There are sometimes local foundations that are more amenable to giving locally. In all, grants can come from the federal government, state sources, and sometimes local entities.

There are several federal grant programs that are administered through individual state agencies, and two of these include Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) and The Recreational Trails Program, both administered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The National Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant is administered through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). It promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, and safety education. SRTS initiatives improve safety and levels of physical activity for students, and the corridors can connect to park trails.

ODOT partners with the Federal Highway Administration in facilitating the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to provide opportunities for local governments to pursue non-traditional transportation related activities such as pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian streetscaping projects. The Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC) uses grants to fund public health programs that advance the agency's public health mission to keep Americans safe and healthy where they work, live and play. These could be used to develop wellness programs.

Grants from Foundations and Private Organizations

AARP Community Challenge grants help improve public spaces, transportation, and civic engagement with an emphasis on the needs of people ages 50 or older. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's People, Parks, and Power Initiative strives to increase park equity through local policy and systems change. The geographic focus of this initiative is in small and mid-sized cities. Together Outdoor Grants fund outdoor recreation-related programming, events, and leadership development initiatives that benefit communities of color, underserved regions, people with disabilities, and minority groups.

Many additional grants sources are available for park, recreation, and wellness programs through national and state corporations such as Home Depot Building Healthy Communities grants, American Express (playgrounds), LL Bean Charitable Giving, REI Activity Fund, Coca-Cola Foundation, AETNA, CVS, Rite-Aid, State Farm, and All State. Various playground equipment manufacturers and organizations offer competitive grant programs to help fund new or replacement playgrounds.

List of Grant Sources

- National Recreation Trails Program
- Resilient Communities Program (NFWF)
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
- America The Beautiful (U.S. Department of the Interior)
- Conservation Reserve Fund
- Community Forest and Open Space Program (Federal)
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants (FEMA)
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants (USDA)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (Federal)
- Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants (EPA)
- National Park Service Rivers Historic Preservation Fund
- AARP Community Challenge
- Private foundations and charities

4.7.5 Volunteers

The department can also address the need for additional resources through volunteer recruitment and organization. Adopt-A-Trail or Adopt-A-Spot programs are an additional, more formalized way for volunteers to assist with park maintenance. These programs encourage interested residents and groups to become involved in keeping parks clean for their community. These programs give new possibilities for involvement to those residents who have an

interest but need a structured opportunity. There are many of these programs in Ohio, including Five Rivers MetroParks, who would be potential resources to such a program.

4.7.6 Rentals

Multiple indoor and outdoor facilities in the Moraine system are available for rent for modest fees to residents and sometimes outside groups. When any new amenities are developed, they should be added to the rental inventory, and the fees should be reevaluated on a recurring basis to ensure they match what the public (residents and visitors) is able and willing to pay, especially after facility renovation. The department should offer online reservations for all rental facilities with a calendar of availability and rental prices.

4.7.7 General Funding Sources for Parks, Recreation, and Sports Facility Operations

Below is a general list of ideas that communities have used to supplement the costs of operations. Some of these options may be more effective for Moraine than others.

- Tournament fees – if an outside vendor makes money, the city should as well
- Scoreboard sponsors
- Parking fees at events
- Advertising sales
- Wi-Fi revenue through sponsorship, if a vendor provides the Wi-Fi
- Cell tower leases
- Privatization of various park and recreation programs and services
- Sports booster clubs
- Corporate sponsorship in exchange for advertising
- Purchase of naming rights

4.7.8 Action Items

1. Consider using funds from the city's reserve for capital improvements outlined in this plan to attract visitors and potentially businesses to Moraine
2. Establish policies and guidelines for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights
3. Develop a Cost Recovery Plan with recovery goals for programs and events
4. Evaluate the potential for partnering with high-use groups to help share in the cost of maintenance.
5. Work with 501c3 organizations, such as the Moraine Foundation, to identify and solicit alternative funding (capital and operating) for new facilities
6. Consider use of other alternative funding opportunities, such as fees and charges, naming rights, sponsorships, partnerships, tribute programs, and donations

7. Create Adopt-A-Trail or Adopt-A-Spot programs as more formalized ways for volunteers to assist with park maintenance
8. Research grants for trail linkages, universal playgrounds, adult fitness classes, splash pads, wellness programs, nature programs, watercraft, etc.
9. Ensure grant requirements are consistent with the mission of Parks and Recreation, while considering associated costs to the city
10. Add new facilities to the rental inventory as they are developed
11. Reevaluate rental fees as amenities are updated, replaced, or added to the inventory
12. Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees
13. Provide discounts for local recreation use compared to travel teams and for-profit tournaments
14. Consider creating a fund to send rental fees back to Parks and Recreation to fund facility improvements and maintenance

4.8 CONTINUITY WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

4.8.1 Background

As Moraine Parks and Recreation moves forward with improvements and development that can make a difference in the lives of the community, they will benefit from aligning efforts with other plans wherever possible.

The city should participate in county and regional planning processes and look for partners who can help fund and implement projects. Appendix D includes a summary of existing plans considered especially relevant to the work of the agency.

4.8.2 Primarily Relevant Plan Documents

Moraine completed a new Comprehensive Plan in 2024, which included an element specifically for parks and recreation. Key recommendations from the comprehensive plan that coincide with recommendations outlined in this chapter include:

- Repurpose current underutilized facilities with new facilities (i.e., Civic Center)
- Invest in upgrading equipment and amenities in parks, focusing on diversity to cater to a wide range of interests and age groups.
- Establish clear communication options to inform the public about park maintenance efforts, closures, update park activities, public festivals, and recreational activities

Five Rivers MetroParks completed a Comprehensive Master Plan in 2016. While this plan covers all MetroParks in Montgomery County, it recommends a regional trail system that connects residents to MetroParks. Moraine could potentially partner with Five Rivers to expand the trail network in the city. This initiative fits well with the projects identified in the 2017 Moraine Master Trail Plan. The Five Rivers plan also recommends programs that address programming needs in areas with service gaps.

4.8.3 Action Items for Parks and Recreation

1. Coordinate and collaborate with Five Rivers MetroParks to expand programming and trail network
2. Repurpose the Civic Center to better serve community needs
3. Upgrade amenities in parks while focusing on a diversity of offerings
4. Improve marketing and communication capabilities

4.9 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

This section provides recommendations for individual park improvements including proposed new facilities and upgrades to existing parks. These recommendations are presented as a starting point for future discussions with users, neighbors, partners, and the community at large. Before pursuing development, each park site will need a deeper investigation into capacity and precise details like placement, materials used, and maintenance considerations.

The improvements by park are presented in Table 4.1. Improvements that apply to the whole system and those without a specific location are listed at the top of the table. These improvements should be reevaluated prior to new development and after any follow-up planning studies.

Table 4.2 shows a potential 10-year capital budget without outside funding. All costs in both tables are estimated in 2025 dollars and will need to be evaluated for potential escalation at the time of development. The design process completed before large-scale improvements should include a detailed estimate of the costs for the improvements at each park.

Grant opportunities exist and should be explored for many of these improvements to reduce the required contributions by the City of Moraine. Additionally, sponsorships and partnerships, including fundraising efforts, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

Table 4.1: Capital Improvements by Park

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-6 Years	7-10 Years	Total
Systemwide						
1	ADA accessibility assessment	Short	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
2	Consistent signage at all park entrances	Short	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
3	Wayfinding plan & signage for all parks (coordinate with citywide wayfinding project)	Short	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
4	Bike/ped master plan (trails and connectivity)	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
5	Drinking fountains/bottle fillers throughout system	Ongoing	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$90,000
6	Site furnishing upgrades at all existing parks (trash & recycling receptacles/ bike racks/pet waste stations)	Ongoing	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$180,000
7	Tree planting and landscaping throughout system	Ongoing	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$120,000
8	Feasibility study for outdoor aquatic center	Short	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
9	Public art (coordinate w/ partners)	Ongoing	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
Systemwide Total			\$365,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$625,000
Neighborhood Parks						
DP&L Park						
1	Decommission park/remove existing dated features	Short	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Project Total			\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
George Taylor Park						
1	Park improvement plan/engagement/relocation	Short/Medium	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
2	Playground surfacing replacement	Medium	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
4	Basketball half court (replace existing courts away from power lines)	Medium	\$0	\$43,000	\$0	\$43,000
5	Neighborhood determined/placemaking feature (at former tennis court)	Medium	\$0	\$62,000	\$0	\$62,000
6	Parking lot improvements (upgrade or remove)	Medium	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Project Total			\$0	\$115,000	\$0	\$115,000
German Village Park						
1	Playground retaining wall improvements	Short	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
2	Playground surfacing replacement	Short	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
3	Park improvement plan/engagement	Medium	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
4	Basketball half court	Medium	\$0	\$43,000	\$0	\$43,000
5	Shade/landscaping	Medium	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
6	Neighborhood determined/placemaking feature	Long	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
Project Total			\$56,000	\$78,000	\$60,000	\$194,000
Lehigh Park						
1	Park improvement plan/engagement	Short	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Short	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
3	Basketball court resurfacing/paint/goal	Short	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
4	Neighborhood determined/placemaking feature	Short	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
5	Picnic shelter improvements	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
6	Shade/landscaping	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
7	Playground replacement	Short	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Project Total			\$405,000	\$0	\$0	\$405,000
Pinnacle Park						
1	Park improvement plan/engagement (combined with Tot Lot)	Medium	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
2	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
3	Fitness equipment (outdoor)	Medium	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
4	Picnic shelter improvements	Medium	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
5	Parking - ADA spaces at north entrance	Medium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
6	Nature restoration (prairie/meadow)	Medium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
7	Playground removal/replace with nature play area	Medium	\$0	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
8	Connectivity improvements to Pinnacle Tot Lot	Medium	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
9	Neighborhood determined/placemaking feature	Long	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
Project Total			\$0	\$395,000	\$60,000	\$455,000
Pinnacle Tot Lot						
1	Rename property/merge with Pinnacle Park	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Playground surfacing replacement	Short	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
3	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

Capital Improvements by Park (Continued)

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-6 Years	7-10 Years	Total
4	Basketball court resurfacing/paint/goal	Medium	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
5	Shade/landscaping	Medium	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
6	Connectivity improvements to Pinnacle Park	Medium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Project Total			\$150,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$210,000
Riverview Park						
1	Park improvement plan/engagement/relocation	Medium	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
2	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium/Long	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
3	Basketball half court	Medium/Long	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
4	Neighborhood determined/placemaking feature	Medium/Long	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
5	Picnic shelter	Medium/Long	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
6	Shade/landscaping	Medium/Long	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
7	Playground replacement	Medium/Long	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Project Total			\$0	\$170,000	\$165,000	\$335,000
Community Parks						
Deer Meadow Park						
1	Park development plan (engagement/preliminary design)	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
2	Dog park	Short	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
13	Restroom building (near main entrance)	Short	\$310,000	\$0	\$0	\$310,000
3	Parking lot expansion	Short	\$210,000	\$0	\$0	\$210,000
4	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
5	Disc golf relocation/expansion	Medium	\$0	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
6	Fishing piers (2)	Medium	\$0	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
7	Fitness equipment (outdoor) - remove old equipment	Medium	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
8	Nature trails	Medium	\$0	\$260,000	\$0	\$260,000
9	Playground replacement/nature play area - barrier free w/ shade	Medium	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
10	Shelter improvements	Medium	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
11	Nature restoration (prairie/meadow/drainage improvements)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
12	Playground at field complex	Long	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
13	Parking lot (new) - at ballfield complex	Long	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
14	Concession building/food truck infrastructure	Long	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
15	Diamond field (325') w/ dugouts/spectator seating	Long	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
16	Diamond field complex - 4 fields (200') w/ dugouts/spectator seating/restrooms/press box	Long	Partner	Partner	Partner	Partner
Project Total			\$800,000	\$1,260,000	\$30,000	\$2,090,000
Ora Everetts Park						
1	Park development plan (engagement/preliminary design)	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
2	Basketball court resurfacing/paint/goal	Short	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
3	Basketball court lighting	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
4	Splash pad	Short	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000
5	Civic center improvements (modernization)	Medium	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
6	Diamond improvements (ADA access, dugouts, covered bleachers)	Medium	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
7	Fitness stations (outdoor)	Medium	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
8	Food truck infrastructure	Medium	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
9	Pickleball courts (6) w/ lights & room to expand to 12	Medium	\$0	\$440,000	\$0	\$440,000
10	Playground replacement/relocation - barrier free	Medium	\$0	\$310,000	\$0	\$310,000
11	Shelter replacements (2)	Medium	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
12	Soccer court/pitch	Medium	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
13	Tennis/volleyball courts (3) w/ lights	Medium	\$0	\$440,000	\$0	\$440,000
14	Trail improvement - separate from school sidewalk, connect through parking lot	Medium	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
15	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium/Long	\$0	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$320,000
16	Pickleball courts (6) expansion to 12	Long	\$0	\$0	\$440,000	\$440,000
17	Soccer court/pitch expansion	Long	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
16	Tennis/volleyball courts (2) w/ lights	Long	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Project Total			\$2,660,000	\$6,100,000	\$1,050,000	\$9,810,000

Table 4.1: Capital Improvements by Park (Continued)

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-6 Years	7-10 Years	Total
Wax Park						
1	Park development plan (engagement/preliminary design), including Rec Center upgrades	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
2	Amphitheater w/ event infrastructure	Short	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
3	Demolition of Splash Moraine buildings (pool house, pump house)	Short	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
4	Playground replacement - barrier free destination	Short	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
5	Restroom/concessions building (renovate existing)	Short	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
6	Fishing pier	Medium	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
7	Multipurpose fields (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	Medium	\$0	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000
7	Parking expansion (E of Rec Center)	Medium	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
8	Parking expansion (S of Rec Center)	Medium	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
9	Paved access to river w/ riverwalk	Medium	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
10	Recreation center improvements Phase 1 (floorplan changes)	Medium	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
11	ADA walkways - 6' wide	Medium/Long	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
12	Artificial turf field w/ lights	Long	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
13	Food truck infrastructure	Long	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
14	Outdoor games (table tennis, foosball, corn hole)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
15	Skate park w/ trail elements	Long	\$0	\$0	\$620,000	\$620,000
16	Wildlife observation tower	Long	\$0	\$0	\$370,000	\$370,000
17	Recreation center expansion Phase 2 (gym/senior rooms/storage/track extension)	Future	Future	Future	Future	Future
Project Total			\$1,250,000	\$7,425,000	\$2,470,000	\$11,145,000
Special Use Parks						
Garden Plots						
1	Consider for potential aquatic center location	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Bike repair station	Medium	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
3	Parking lot	Medium	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
4	Signage and site amenities	Medium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Small shelter	Medium	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Project Total			\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
Wright Brothers Pinnacle Hiking Trail						
1	Signage and site amenities	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Small shelter	Short	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
3	Bike repair station	Short	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
4	Parking lot	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Project Total			\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
TOTAL PARKS			\$5,826,000	\$15,733,000	\$3,965,000	\$25,524,000

*Values include 10% contingency and 12% for design, engineering, bidding, construction administration, etc. (except non-construction items)

Table 4.2: 10-Year Capital Improvement Budget

Year	Budget
2026	\$3,700,000
2027	\$2,000,000
2028	\$3,700,000
2029	\$6,200,000
2030	\$4,300,000
2031	\$2,200,000
2032	\$800,000
2033	\$1,200,000
2034	\$700,000
2035	\$700,000



5

ACTION PLAN

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Action Plan table on the following pages (Table 5.1) provides a detailed list of recommendations for the 2025 Moraine Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan. These strategies represent specific actions for the Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Moraine to complete to implement this plan.

5.2 ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES

These strategies are listed under the four goals and 12 objectives presented in Chapter 4 with the new vision, mission, and core values. The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table. Checkmarks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy within the time periods of 0-2 years, 3-6 years, or 7-10 years. Some strategies are indicated as "Ongoing,"

because they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total count of strategies by timeframe is located at the end of the table in the corresponding columns.

The other columns provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. "Category" describes the type of action within the following four options: capital (capital improvements); policy (guidelines for the Parks and Recreation and the city, possibly including legislation); planning (long-term parks outlook, which includes conducting studies); or operations. The column for "Agency" indicates who is expected to implement the strategy, usually Moraine Parks and Recreation or city officials. "Funding Source" indicates how the strategy should be funded, or the type of funds used (operating or capital funds). "Section Reference" indicates where in the Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan document to find the narrative for the recommendation.

Table 5.1: Action Plan

ACTION PLAN - 2025 Moraine Community Parks & Recreation Vision Plan									
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations									
Parks = Moraine Parks & Recreation		OP = Parks and Recreation Operating Budget							
City = City Council, Other City Departments		CIP = Capital Improvement Budget							
Partners = Other Organizations (county/state, private agencies, schools, state/federal grants, etc.)		Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue							
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies									
Goal 1: Engaging Parks – Modern and innovative parks and recreation facilities									
Objective 1.1 – Make parks and facilities accessible and inviting for the entire community									
Strategy	1.1.1:	Ensure accessible walkways to all facilities and seating areas	Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.3		
Strategy	1.1.2:	Add support features throughout the park system such as drinking fountains, shade over seating and facilities, seating, trees, security, and landscaping	Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.3:	Provide consistent amenities throughout the system	Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.4:	Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan, following an accessibility audit of all facilities, programs, and communications	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.3		
Strategy	1.1.5:	Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks; include family restrooms at larger parks	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.6:	Add and upgrade signage throughout the park system	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.7:	Develop a series of reservable shelters near the splash pad and playground in Ora Everetts Park	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3		
Strategy	1.1.8:	Add picnic shelters throughout the system to increase overall access to provide shade and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.9:	Invest in upgrading equipment and amenities in parks, focusing on diversity to cater to a wide range of interests and age groups	Ongoing	Policy/Capital	Parks/City	CIP	4.8.2		
Strategy	1.1.10:	Improve wayfinding to and within parks so users can more easily find and enjoy parks	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.11:	Upgrade and utilize technology in parks for the benefit of both patrons and staff (see trends discussion in Chapter 2)	Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.2		
Strategy	1.1.12:	Upgrade and improve accessibility of the shelters at Deer Meadow Park	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2		
Objective 1.2 – Update parks and recreation facilities to meet current and future needs									
Strategy	1.2.1:	Consider using funds from the city's reserve for capital improvements outlined in this plan to attract visitors and potentially businesses to Moraine	Ongoing	Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.3		
Strategy	1.2.2:	Prepare and implement a playground investment program that includes the expected useful life and a timeline for replacement for all playgrounds; ensure some playgrounds are fully inclusive and barrier free	✓	Capital/Planning	Parks	CIP	4.4.3		
Strategy	1.2.3:	Develop a large splash pad with a variety of features, including large waterslides visible from the interstate at Ora Everetts Park to address the demand for aquatics in Moraine	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.5, 4.4.3		
Strategy	1.2.4:	Remove the fitness equipment near the pond in Deer Meadow Park and replace it with modern equipment near the playground	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2		
Strategy	1.2.5:	Conduct a feasibility study for an outdoor aquatic center to understand the type of facilities included, potential locations, cost (capital and operational), and support for required expenditures	✓	Planning	Parks/City	CIP	4.3.5		
Strategy	1.2.6:	Develop a new parking lot and dog park in the area to the east of the Deer Meadow Park pond, after adding it as part of the park	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2		
Strategy	1.2.7:	Upgrade the basketball courts in Ora Everetts Park with new surfacing, goals, and lights	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3		
Strategy	1.2.8:	Remove the former Splash Moraine buildings from Wax Park, including pool house, pump house, and ticket booth to improve the appearance and allow visibility of the park	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4		
Strategy	1.2.9:	Develop an amphitheater and event lawn in Wax Park and design the structure to accommodate skateboarding	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4		
Strategy	1.2.10:	Relocate and replace the playground in Wax Park with a nature theme and a zip line	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4		

Table 5.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
	0-2	3-6	7-10				
Strategy 1.2.11: Renovate and rearrange the floor plan at the Recreation Center to provide better use of space and accommodate additional types of programming	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Strategy 1.2.12: Upgrade and replace the dated features at Lehigh Park	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	4.5.3
Strategy 1.2.13: Prioritize investment at the three community parks (Deer Meadow, Ora Everetts, and Wax) using the concepts to guide improvement		Ongoing		Capital/ Policy	Parks/City	CIP	4.1.1
Strategy 1.2.14: Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.15: Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development, especially in more passive park areas like Deer Meadow Park		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.16: Develop a 6-court, lighted pickleball complex in Ora Everetts Park to address demand for pickleball; upgrade to 12 courts if and when needed		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.17: Construct two to five tennis courts with lights in Ora Everetts Park		✓	✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.18: Add soccer courts or mini pitches to the park for both pick-up and organized sports		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.19: Upgrade the playground in Deer Meadow Park to include more features, including nature play elements		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2
Strategy 1.2.20: Replace, relocate, and expand the playground to match the increased traffic in Ora Everetts Park and make it barrier free and accessible to all		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.21: Upgrade the currently underused field at the southern end of Ora Everetts Park with improved ADA access, new dugouts, and covered bleachers to address the removal of the field to the west of the Civic Center		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.22: Renovate and modernize the Civic Center to support the proposed outdoor features of the park		✓	✓	Capital	Parks/City	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.23: Transform spaces in the Civic Center to a tournament/team space, a pro shop for pickleball and tennis, concessions, party rooms at the splash pad, and restrooms, all accessible from outside		✓	✓	Capital	Parks/City	CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 1.2.24: Develop multipurpose rectangular fields in Wax Park for lacrosse, football, and other sports in underused areas of the park, including overflow parking		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Strategy 1.2.25: Consolidate Pinnacle Park & Pinnacle Tot Lot into a single park and improve the connection between		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.5.3
Strategy 1.2.26: Consider using land to the northwest of Deer Meadow Park for a baseball/softball diamond field complex: include a separate entrance and parking lot, covered dugouts for players, spectator seating.			✓	Capital	Parks/City	CIP	4.4.2
Strategy 1.2.27: Replace the existing skate park at Deer Meadow Park and relocate it to Wax Park; include additional features such as a pump track and elements along the existing walking path			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Strategy 1.2.28: Consider adding outdoor games in Wax Park, including table tennis and corn hole, to draw more users and potential programming opportunities			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4, 4.6.2
Strategy 1.2.29: Consider including an artificial turf field with lights in Wax Park for additional use, including potential adult programs, tournaments, and rentals			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Strategy 1.2.30: Consider expansion of the Recreation Center with offer an additional gym, program rooms, and an extension second floor walking track for additional program opportunities			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Objective 1.3 – Improve access to the Great Miami River and the city's other natural areas							
Strategy 1.3.1: Update the 2017 Master Trail Plan in 2017 to include the recommendations of this plan and other potential linkages	✓			Planning	City	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.2: Bring the whole Pinnacle Hiking Trail property into the park system and add a trailhead with parking and amenities	✓			Capital/ Policy	Parks/City	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.3: Consider signing the 10-Minute Walk Mission by the TPL and NRPA to show the city's commitment to connectivity and access to parks	✓			Policy	City	OP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.4: Use pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and other native planting areas to improve access to nature in existing parks, while reducing the amount of mowing required		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.5: Encourage additional use of the Applesseed Hiking Trails by improving awareness, the conditions of the trail, and access	✓			Capital/ Operations	Parks	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.6: Add a trailhead for the Applesseed Trail the Garden Plots for better access to the trail		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.7: Add new fishing piers in Deer Meadow Park to provide better access to the pond		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2

Table 5.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies								
Strategy	0-2	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		3-6	7-10					
Strategy 1.3.8:			✓		Capital/Policy	Parks/City	CIP	4.4.2
Strategy 1.3.9:			✓		Capital/Policy	Parks/City	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.10:			✓		Capital/Policy	Parks/Partners	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.11:		Ongoing			Capital/Planning	Parks	CIP	4.3.2
Strategy 1.3.12:			✓		Capital	Parks	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 1.3.13:			✓		Capital/Policy	Parks/Partners	CIP	4.3.6, 4.4.4
Strategy 1.3.14:			✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.2
Strategy 1.3.15:				✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	4.4.4
Goal 2: Engaging Programs – Excellent programs and community events								
Objective 2.1 – Maintain and grow popular community-wide events								
Strategy 2.1.1:	✓				Operations	Parks	OP	4.4.4
Strategy 2.1.2:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.1.3:	✓				Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.1.4:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Objective 2.2 – Continue to grow sports and fitness programs								
Strategy 2.2.1:	✓				Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 2.2.2:	✓				Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 2.2.3:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.2.4:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.2.5:	✓				Operations	Parks/Partners	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.2.6:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Objective 2.3 – Provide arts and cultural programming								
Strategy 2.3.1:			✓		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 2.3.2:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.3.6
Strategy 2.3.3:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP	4.3.6
Strategy 2.3.4:		Ongoing			Operations	Parks/Partners	OP	4.4.2

Table 5.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies									
Goal 3: Engaging People – Strong leadership and stewardship of financial resources									
Objective 3.1 – Optimize services with appropriate staffing levels, performance standards, and growth opportunities									
Strategy	3.1.1:	Evaluate the staffing levels for each functional area of the division, such as park and facility management and maintenance, recreation programs, administration, and support services to ensure they can meet the needs and priorities of the community	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
			0-2	3-6	7-10				
Strategy 3.1.2:		Open the Civic Center only as needed for rentals and programs or during busy evenings and weekends	✓	Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.3:		Utilize a task analysis for each current position category to determine if staffing levels and allocated hours have capacity to meet current services and/or be able to expand them, such as with programming and marketing	✓			Policy/Operations	Parks/City	OP	4.4.3
Strategy 3.1.4:		Review current job descriptions for all park and recreation positions to ensure that they meet and reflect the needs of the organization and community	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.5:		Provide professional and educational opportunities for staff to enhance their knowledge and expertise		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.6:		Conduct regular staff training on the use of the MyRec Software package to maximize understanding and efficient use of the software's programs		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.5:		Conduct an asset inventory of parks and recreation amenities and programs to determine what could be eligible for sponsorships and naming rights	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.4:		Begin implementation of maintenance classifications in a pilot area before expanding to all parks and recreational facilities	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.5:		Consider utilizing the free agency self-assessment process offered by CAPRA to evaluate the agency's operations and management systems	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.6:		Collect feedback from staff and visitors to refine the classifications and standards as needed		✓		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.7:		Inventory use of Moraine parks, recreation facilities, sports fields, and open space by external organizations, such as schools, non-profits, and youth groups		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.1.8:		Develop a parks and recreation division policies and procedures manual that addresses specific operational needs of the division, such as community communication and engagement, fees and charges, program development, marketing, and usage and prioritization of city facilities and amenities		✓		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.4
Strategy 3.1.9:		Customize classifications and service levels to meet and/or exceed the community's expectations		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Objective 3.2 – Develop additional revenue strategies to support operations and programming									
Strategy 3.2.1:		Conduct a cost-of-service analysis of facilities, parks, and sports fields to identify direct and indirect costs to provide and maintain these amenities	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 3.2.2:		Develop a Cost Recovery Plan with recovery goals for programs and events	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.2
Strategy 3.2.3:		Consider creating a fund to send rental fees back to Parks and Recreation to fund facility improvements and maintenance	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.2
Strategy 3.2.4:		Add new facilities to the rental inventory as they are developed		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.6
Strategy 3.2.5:		Establish policies and guidelines for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.2
Strategy 3.2.6:		Seek USTA grants for tennis improvements		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.6.2
Strategy 3.2.7:		Reevaluate rental fees as amenities are updated, replaced, or added to the inventory		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.6
Strategy 3.2.8:		Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.6
Strategy 3.2.9:		Provide discounts for local recreation use compared to travel teams and for-profit tournaments		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.6
Strategy 3.2.10:		Research grants for trail linkages, universal playgrounds, adult fitness classes, splash pads, wellness programs, nature programs, watercraft, etc.		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.4
Strategy 3.2.11:		Ensure grant requirements are consistent with the mission of Parks and Recreation, while considering associated costs to the city		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.4
Strategy 3.2.12:		Evaluate the potential for partnering with high-use groups to help share in the cost of maintenance		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.2

Table 5.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
	0-2	3-6	7-10				
Strategy 3.2.13: Work a 501c3 organizations, such as the Moraine Foundation, to identify and solicit alternative funding (capital and operating) for new facilities		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.2
Strategy 3.2.14: Consider use of other alternative funding opportunities, such as fees and charges, naming rights, sponsorships, partnerships, tribute programs, and donations		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	Revenue	4.7.2
Objective 3.3 – Employ dedicated maintenance staff with clear standards for stewardship							
Strategy 3.1.1: Employ dedicated parks maintenance staff to increase efficiency, streamline repairs and improvement, and improve visitor experiences at Moraine parks and facilities		Ongoing		Operations	Park/City	OP	4.6.5
Strategy 3.1.2: Inventory and categorize each park or facility into service classifications such as Premium, Standard, Basic, or Specialized	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.3: Create a maintenance guide or handbook summarizing the standards for each classification with checklists to help staff consistently meet expectations	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.4: Develop a repair and replacement plan that can guide park and recreation capital improvements by identifying the lifecycle of equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for prioritization, future planning, and funding	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.6
Strategy 3.1.5: Replace rubber mulch at all playgrounds with another type of surface	✓			Capital/Policy	Parks/City	OP/CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 3.1.6: Identify a schedule for the replacement of all playground equipment	✓			Planning/Operations	Parks	OP/CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 3.1.7: Determine and implement a standard list of basic services to include in each neighborhood park	✓			Capital/Planning	Parks/City	OP	4.5.2
Strategy 3.1.8: Apply neighborhood park standards to existing parks when they are renovated and new parks if added in the future		Ongoing		Capital	Parks	OP/CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 3.1.9: Decommission DP & L Park and remove it from the parks inventory	✓			Capital/Operations	Parks	OP/CIP	4.5.3
Strategy 3.1.10: Provide design, signage, and maintenance standards in the updated trail plan for consistent throughout the community and include recommendations for sidewalk improvements, street crossings, and on-road elements		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks	OP/CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 3.1.11: Upgrade accessibility and site amenities, such as tables, benches, and bike racks at all parks		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks	OP/CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 3.1.12: Determine the capacity of each sports field and facility to accommodate scheduled programs, maintenance, drop-in use, community-based groups, and private rentals		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Goal 4: Engaging Promotion – Citywide engagement for parks, recreation facilities, events, and programs							
Objective 4.1 – Utilize clear marketing strategies with dedicated efforts by Parks and Recreation							
Strategy 4.1.1: Improve marketing and communication capabilities		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.8.3
Strategy 4.1.2: Review current policies or determine if policies need to be developed to enhance the park and recreation division's community engagement through marketing, social media, advertising, sponsorships, naming rights, and partnerships	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.4
Strategy 4.1.3: Develop an annual marketing plan based on customer input and communication preferences		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.4
Strategy 4.1.4: Develop new Parks and Recreation specific branding with a visual identity including a logo and standard messaging structure	✓			Operations	Parks/City	OP/CIP	4.6.4
Strategy 4.1.5: Ensure consistent appearance and branding of parks, programs, and events		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.3.2
Strategy 4.1.6: Consider formally changing the name of the Gerhardt Civic Center to Moraine Civic Center as noted on the outside of the building; consider assigning the Gerhardt name to a room or wing of the building	✓			Operations	City	N/A	4.4.3
Strategy 4.1.7: Consider changing the name of the building to the Moraine Recreation Center to remind users that they are enjoying amenities offered by the City of Moraine; assign the Payne name to the gym or another room of the building	✓			Operations	City	N/A	4.4.4
Strategy 4.1.8: Promote park improvements and added programming opportunities as they are added		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.4
Objective 4.2 – Continuously engage the community and partners							
Strategy 4.2.1: Establish clear communication options to inform the public about park maintenance efforts, closures, update park activities, public festivals, and recreational activities		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.8.2
Strategy 4.2.2: Establish specific social media pages for Parks and Recreation on multiple platforms help reach a broader audience	✓			Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.4
Strategy 4.2.3: Prepare development plans with community engagement for all parks (new or existing) undergoing significant development prior to construction		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.1.1, 4.6.4

Table 5.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
	0-2	3-6	7-10				
Strategy 4.2.4: Coordinate with the owner of the Appleseed Trail parcel to the east of the Pinnacle Park connector to improve the condition and wayfinding of the trail	✓			Capital/Policy	Parks/Partners	CIP	4.3.6
Strategy 4.2.5: Consider community-built playgrounds to instill pride and a sense of ownership within the community		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 4.2.6: Include a neighborhood determined feature at each neighborhood park, ensuring development aligns with needs and encouraging a sense of local investment and opportunities for placemaking in parks		Ongoing		Capital/Policy	Parks/City	CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 4.2.7: Create Adopt-A-Trail or Adopt-A-Spot programs as more formalized ways for volunteers to assist with park maintenance		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.7.5
Objective 4.3 – Build and maintain collaborative relationships to address community priorities							
Strategy 4.3.1: Establish formal agreements that identify responsibilities of all partners groups and ensure awareness of department policies and expectations		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.6.3
Strategy 4.3.2: Adopt a formal agreement with the owner of the Appleseed Trail parcel for public access and maintenance	✓			Operations	Parks/City	OP	4.3.6
Strategy 4.3.3: Continue to seek partnerships for alternative locations (other the Deer Meadow Park) for a baseball/softball complex		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/CIP	4.4.2
Strategy 4.3.4: Investigate a partnership with West Carrollton Schools for use of proposed tennis courts in Ora Everetts Park		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/CIP	4.4.3
Strategy 4.3.5: Seek opportunities for partnerships to relocate Riverview Park		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/CIP	4.5.3
Strategy 4.3.6: Encourage developers to include parks during construction of new subdivisions and to follow neighborhood park standards		Ongoing		Policy/Planning	City	OP/CIP	4.5.2
Strategy 4.3.7: Seek opportunities to relocate George Taylor Park to another location and upgrade the park's facilities		Ongoing		Capital/Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/CIP	4.5.3
Strategy 4.3.8: Coordinate and collaborate with Five Rivers MetroParks to expand programming and trail network		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP	4.8.3
Strategy 4.3.9: Seek partnerships with other health and wellness organizations to expand or offer new adult and senior adult fitness and wellness programs, such as with AARP and area health and wellness providers		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 4.3.10: Seek partnerships with outdoor-focused organizations, including Five Rivers MetroParks, Ohio DNR, and outdoor clubs to provide programs and educational opportunities		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	OP	4.6.2
Strategy 4.3.11: Utilize USTA's Park Agency Tennis Assessment to improve the delivery of tennis in Moraine		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	OP	4.6.2
Totals by Timeframe	49	26	10				
Total Number of Strategies = 133	Ongoing = 56						

APPENDIX A - PHOTO CONDITIONS INVENTORY

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NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

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SPECIAL USE PARKS

GARDEN PLOTS	A-16
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Legend for Conditions

	Excellent - New/Well Maintained Condition, No Improvements Needed
	Good - Minor Wear, Minimal Improvements Needed
	Fair - Significant Wear/Damage, Needs Repair
	Poor - Needs Replacement





DP&L PARK
 2916 Cadillac Street
Park Size:
 8.4 Acres
Park Classification:
 Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	8.4	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	





GEORGE TAYLOR PARK

4709 E. Venetian Way

Park Size:

2.5 Acres

Park Classification:

Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	2.5	
Game Courts		
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Court	1	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Gazebos/Small Shelter	1	
Support		
Parking Spaces	Unmarked	





GERMAN VILLAGE PARK
 370 Blumen Lane
Park Size:
 0.5 Acres
Park Classification:
 Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.5	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Small Shelters	2	





LEHIGH PARK
 2607 Lehigh Place
Park Size:
 0.2 Acres
Park Classification:
 Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.2	
Game Courts		
Basketball Court	0.5	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Small Shelter	1	





PINNACLE PARK
 3060 Charlotte Mill Drive
Park Size:
 18.6 Acres
Park Classification:
 Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	7.6	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Paved/Hard Surface Trails (Miles)	0.2	
Unpaved (Miles)	0.6	
Medium Shelter	1	
Small Shelters	2	
Support		
Parking Spaces	34	





PINNACLE TOT LOT
 3670 Charlotte Mill Drive
Park Size:
 4.5 Acres
Park Classification:
 Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.8	
Game Courts		
Basketball Court	0.5	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Unpaved (Miles)	0.1	
Small Shelter	1	





RIVERVIEW PARK
3021 Lakehurst Court
Park Size:
0.3 Acres
Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.3	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Small Shelter	1	





DEER MEADOW PARK
 4321 Pinnacle Road
Park Size:
 38.75 Acres
Park Classification:
 Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	20.1	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Skate Park	1	
Disc Golf Holes	18	
Fitness Court	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Paved/Hard Surface Trails (Miles)	1.2	
Fishing Access	1	
Medium Shelters	2	
Small Shelters	2	
Support		
Parking Spaces	67	







ORA EVERETTS PARK
 3050 Kreitzer Road
Park Size:
 13.5 Acres
Park Classification:
 Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	13.5	
Athletic Fields		
Small Diamonds	3	
Game Courts		
Basketball Courts	2	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Paved/Hard Surface Trails (Miles)	0.3	
Small Shelters	2	
Support		
Parking Spaces	164	







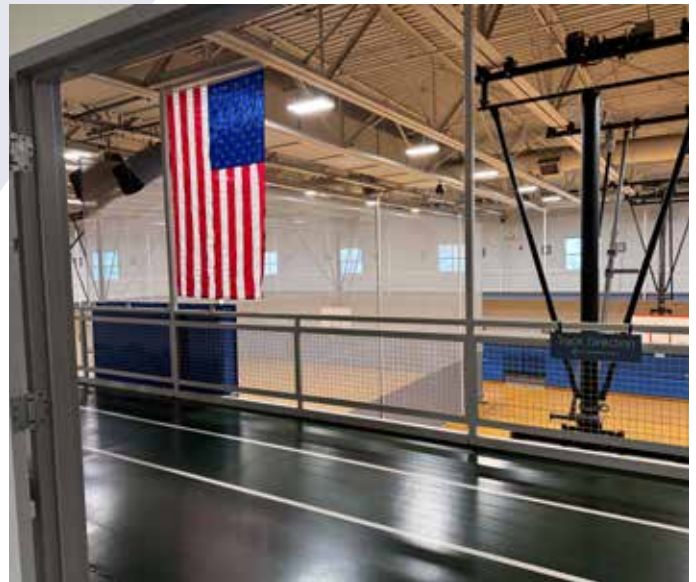


WAX PARK
 3800 Main Street
Park Size:
 31.8 Acres
Park Classification:
 Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	31.8	
Athletic Fields		
Large Diamond	1	
Outdoor Facilities		
Playground	1	
Trails & Passive Facilities		
Paved/Hard Surface Trails (Miles)	0.9	
Large Shelters	3	
Small Shelters	2	
Support		
Restroom/Concession Building		
Parking Spaces	388	









GARDEN PLOTS
 Corner of Dorf Drive and Vance Road
Park Size:
 10.5 Acres
Park Classification:
 Community Garden

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	10.5	
Support		
Garden Plots		

