



**DAVIESS-MARTIN JOINT  
COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**MASTER PLAN**

**2021-2025**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2021-2025 Department Master plan of the Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks and Recreation Department. This plan is established to serve as guidelines for the department in providing quality recreation to our visitors and department staff. This planning effort is part of our ongoing commitment to assuring that the park remains a vibrant through the ongoing changes in modern trends, culture, and dynamic. To make sure that happens, we must take an objective look at who we are, what we offer, and who we serve. Throughout this plan, we will examine the needs, demands, and desires that are requested of our department to properly supply a diverse recreational facility to diverse user groups.

As we proceed with this planning process we will examine some of the perceptions, and misperceptions, that exist in our communities concerning our department, its unusual two-county make up, and how that affects our operation. Our unique structural makeup is one that presents several challenges but also illuminates numerous assets in which we are able to utilize to progressively showcase our facility. While a major element of our mission is to operate with a minimum of taxpayer funding, it is inescapable that we find many park visitors that have experienced other park systems where the level of service often exceeds the capability of user fees alone to provide. One of our main goals is to research, identify, and pursue numerous avenues of funding in order to properly provide a sustainable and progressive parks department.

## Mission Statement

We have seen our mission evolve over the years into one in which the mission of the Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Department is to *"provide the widest possible range of recreation opportunities, to the largest possible number of people, at the lowest possible public cost, without depleting the underlying natural resources."*

Ancillary to this mission statement are several working concepts that make West Boggs Park a unique experience. In the broad field of outdoor recreation today, most organizations focus on healthy lifestyle promotion, nature interpretation and education, and conservation or preservation of natural resources. All of these are incorporated into the mission of West Boggs Park, but we make a concerted effort for them to not be overly overt. Where many parks systems begin with a program to educate a public in any of these areas and then attempt to make those programs interesting; we attempt to develop programs that are fun and then try to incorporate the education. This approach was probably stated best by Walt Disney, when he said *"I would rather entertain and hope that people learned something than educate people and hope they were entertained."*

Much of the operation of West Boggs Park is based on the principle that parks are for people. Ours is not a pristine, natural setting that must be preserved from man, but rather it is a largely artificial creation of man that was designed to give people a place to play and get away from the day-to-day stress of modern life. Our land, air and waters are all natural resources, but are arranged into this particular setting by human design, for human endeavor. And yet we attempt to manage this assembly of resources to create at least a reasonable illusion of wildness. We have areas set aside for limited uses, and other areas designated for more intense use. We have systems in place internally and with outside agencies to apply sound science to the management of fisheries and forests, and have a high level of interest in clean water technology and strategies. There is a goal in all efforts to conserve the underlying natural resources of the park so that people can continue to enjoy the benefits of this setting for many decades to come; but our focus is always on people.

When we speak of seeking the lowest public cost, we refer to taxation. Our department has evolved a corporate outlook in which we clearly see that it is difficult to justify taking money from one person for the leisure time interests of another person. Our goal is to provide services that are a good value to the people who participate in them, and for which those people are willing to pay the realistic costs associated with providing the services they use. That does not mean we will not seek and accept public funding where the revenue is already collected in other forms and distributed in grants for recreation activities. Since we have no control of the collection of those funds we feel it is incumbent on us to attempt to recover as much of them as we can for our constituencies; who at some point were the source of the funds being distributed. Yet, where possible, we plan budgets and operations around user fees established at rates intended to cover the cost of services.

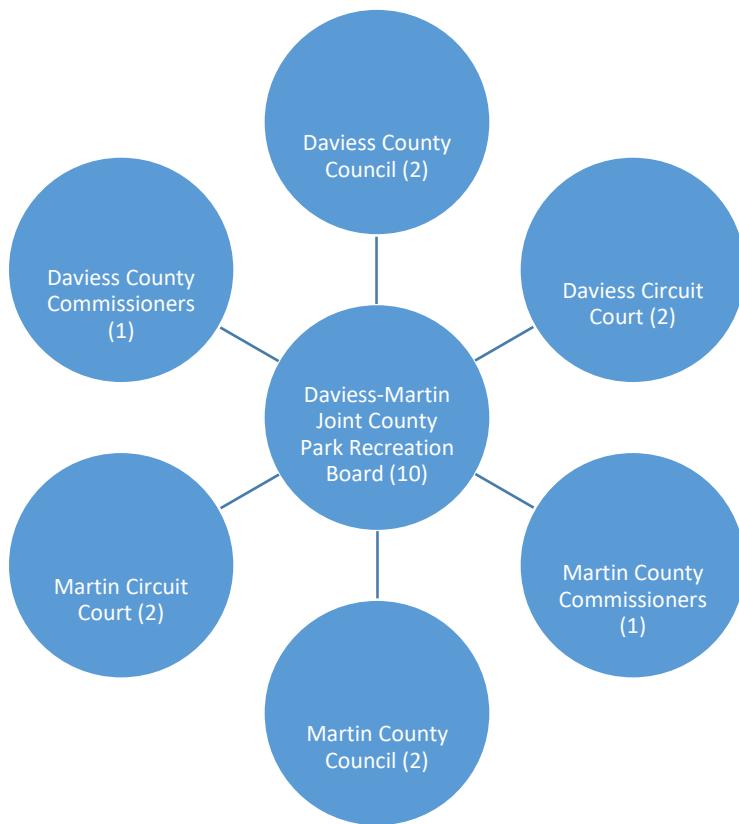
## Contacts

President of Park Board	Superintendent
Brian George	Jameson Hibbs
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Loogootee, IN 47553	Loogootee, IN 47553
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## Organization

The Department is an unusual entity in Indiana. Formed under IC 36-10-3-29, the Department represents the parks and recreation interests of two Indiana counties under Park and Recreation Boards formed under IC 36-10-3-3. Thus, the organization operates under the auspices of a joint park board made up of 10 members, five of which represent each county. The Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Board is further distinguished from more typical local government park boards, in that it was created specifically to construct, own and operate West Boggs Park near Loogootee, Indiana. West Boggs is a Regional Park, under Indiana's SCORP park classification system, and perhaps the only example of a regional park operated by a joint county entity in Indiana. The Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Department is currently administered by a Superintendent. Under his direction are divisions of Administration, Programs, Maintenance and Security.

## Park Board Appointment Chart



**Martin County Board Members****Christopher Baugh**

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Appointed By: Martin County Commissioners

Political Affiliation of Record: Democrat

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**Brian George, President**

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## History

The joint parks department was formed for the purpose of owning and operating West Boggs Park. West Boggs is a relatively large and diverse facility, which opened to public use in 1972. The 1,500 acre facility includes 622 acre West Boggs Creek Reservoir, offers boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, camping, and a wide variety of day use activities. 236 acres are located in Martin County leaving 1,264 acres in Daviess County. The joint county park board currently oversees the operations at the mutual West Boggs Park. However, it could be possible for either the Daviess County Park Board Members and/or the Martin County Park Board Members to take initiative and action with endeavors within their own respective county.

West Boggs Creek Reservoir was created circa 1970 as a project of the Small Watershed Flood Control Act, or PL566. West Boggs was a joint project of several federal, state and local entities, as it was one of the largest PL566 projects in the region that was to include a significant recreation component in the development.

The park participated in several work programs in the 1970's and into the early 1980's, as it was singularly available in the immediate area for activities in such programs as SPEEDY, YACC, YCC, Green Thumb, and others. After the termination of these programs, the park reduced its operational scope and trimmed its activities to a more sustainable level.

Today, West Boggs operates under a fully self-funded budget of roughly \$1,250,000.00 per year, and is able to maintain user fee levels similar to those of comparable facilities. The park serves in excess of 200,000 visitor days of recreation each year, and offers an array of outdoor recreation activities found nowhere else in the region. The park continually increases revenue as the facility becomes a more popular recreational destination.

The scale and scope of the West Boggs facility makes it unusual in many ways. The property is owned by the Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Board. Deed records exist in both of these counties, showing such ownership. However, the lake is still considered "public waters" under Indiana law, and as such falls within the jurisdiction of several state management activities as well. Boating enforcement is thus provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, along with county Sheriff's officers, and Park Rangers from the parks department itself. Likewise, the IDNR division of Fish & Wildlife is the management entity for the West Boggs fishery, and provides almost all resources needed for that activity. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, IDEM, has jurisdiction of certain watershed and surface water activities related to West Boggs, and IDNR's Division of Water is charged with dam safety issues.

## Strategic Plan

### Where we fit

Along with addressing specific recreation goals and objectives that deal with supply and demand for services, we also acknowledge our macro strategy related to funding. We are heading into a new vision and scope of parks & recreation facilities due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Parks and recreation properties were and still are the main sources of escape and focus of our general public. The camping industry is experiencing an unprecedented demand from manufacturing of camping units on down to campgrounds. People are using campgrounds and other outdoor facilities as their main and often only source of entertainment. Providing leisure services for this increased need is a main focus of our department as we look to conform to new changes and trends. Coupled with an era in which funding for public programs is increasingly under stress, we will continue to address this need by focusing on activities that are appropriate for an outdoor recreation area of the scale and scope of ours, and which are at the same time revenue positive in their operation. Our long term goals include continuing to apply the principles of business to our operations so that we can maximize our revenue streams while providing recreation opportunities that the public is willing to support with user fees, grants, sponsors, and other available sources. As we work to maintain an outdoor recreation focus, we will also try to develop new enterprise activities to keep revenue streams at appropriate levels, to not only operate effectively, but to also grow the inventory of recreation opportunities in the future as our population changes over time. The onset and newly acquired Great American

Outdoors Act will be an important concept to assist not only the future development of our facility but also other outdoor facilities within our scope and region of Indiana.

Some examples of how we attempt to mesh our recreation planning with our strategic planning can be seen in the action schedule of this plan. IDNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife performed a complete renovation of the West Boggs fishery in 2014. Thus, we know that a substantial surge in park traffic has accrued in the past five years. During the past five years, West Boggs Park has also undergone a major transformation by providing a substantial increase in programs, updated facilities, and increased promotional methods which has accrued a vast increase in facility usage. This substantial increase has accelerated the deterioration of much of our facility including our roads, restrooms, comfort stations, and parking areas just to name a few. However, this plan coupled with the progress made with our 2015-2020 Master Plan will allow us the framework to improve, renovate, and accommodate that rise in facility impact.

Indiana's 2006 SCORP, or Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, has provided a wealth of information relative to the development of our own recreation master plan. Readers here who would like to read the entire SCORP for Indiana can do so online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/files/or-scorp21.pdf>. From the SCORP we are able to better see how our facilities and recreation opportunities fit within the larger recreation community on the local, regional and state levels. As we proceed with this planning process it will help to know where we fit in that big picture. Indiana has divided the state into 15 planning regions, of which we fall in Region 12. Daviess and Martin counties share that region with Greene, Lawrence and Knox counties. This plan states that both Daviess and Martin Counties along with region 12, exceed the recommended recreational acreage available to residents.

Over the years, West Boggs Park has become the preferred outdoor recreation facility for a large number of visitors from outside the two county area. Camping registration records indicate that visitors come from all over Indiana and from other states as well. This creates a thriving tourism traffic which is important to the local citizens in several ways. One of those is that the park operations have become self-supporting and has not required property tax support from the local public, at least since 1996. Having the only regional level park in the area with no tax cost is a positive benefit to locals, who only pay small user fees when they visit. In turn we also find that we provide regional park opportunities for some other counties in the region, at no cost to them since they have not had to address the regional needs of their citizens with West Boggs Park providing those opportunities. Perhaps most noticeable in this aspect is Lawrence County, which is listed in the SCORP as having insufficient regional recreation assets. This may help explain the large representation of Lawrence County residents in West Boggs user demographics.

Because the Department receives no fiscal support from the two county governments, an operational paradigm has developed which of necessity focuses on business principles. The unit obtains 100% of its operating budget revenue from user fees and other earned income from its activities. This mode of operation makes the unit unusually focused on customer service, which has led to a mixture of park facilities and activities that is somewhat different than the typical regional park model.

In the last five years, West Boggs Park has tried to cater to the needs of our local communities in order to provide them with adequate and exceptional recreational services. Beginning with numerous and diverse programs, events, and activities along with the inclusion of a new modern playground has initiated that local connection that was for so long absent. This has given us the necessary momentum and support to continue efforts to support our local communities. Many of these actions taken also increase the value to the regional tourist using our facility as well. Most of our events are designed to attract users from a wide perimeter of Indiana and further.

## Economic Impact

A secondary but extremely important objective of the department is to provide stimuli for economic development, tourism, and overall quality of life in the communities it serves. This objective is addressed through many goals and initiatives, including working partnerships with other organizations. The department has worked diligently in recent years and continues to find methods to improve and protect the lake's water and fisheries resources,

protect and preserve riparian habitat and other wild spaces, and has initiated a number of innovative events to make the park community more attractive to a wider range of visitors.

A very significant project was just completed linking major metropolitan areas. I-69 is now a golden pathway linking us to a substantial customer target. This interstate now provides existing and future customers a more accessible pathway to West Boggs Park. Utilizing this development to increase our visibility as a potential leisure destination will not only increase the vitality of our facility, but it will also increase economic impact of our local communities.

## Goals & Objectives

The Daviess-Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Department, including the Board and Administration, were established to own and operate West Boggs Park. As such, its goals and objectives uniquely focus on that facility, and its impacts on the Daviess and Martin county communities.

**Goal #1: Protect and conserve the natural resources of West Boggs Park and the district.**

Objective 1.1: Promote and encourage awareness and use of Best Management Practices (BMP) in the watershed of West Boggs Lake, including those for agricultural and residential activities.

Objective 1.2: Provide planning support and implementation of appropriate lake management practices for West Boggs Lake and its surrounding wetlands, riparian areas and uplands.

Objective 1.3: Encourage conservation ethics and responsibilities within the community, among local government offices and with visitors to the area.

Objective 1.4: Develop and implement resource protection strategies, including the use of Parks Department staff and state and local law enforcement personnel.

Objective 1.5: Utilize grant through LARE to perform Lake Diagnostic Study and Sediment Removal Study to determine precise issues and mitigation tactics in order to improve water quality of West Boggs Lake.

**Goal #2: Develop and operate appropriate recreational use of West Boggs Park and within the district.**

Objective 2.1: Develop and operate a range of activities and amenities that comply with new trends due to COVID 19 while enhancing the quality of life for local community residents.

Objective 2.2: Develop and facilitate a diverse range of outdoor recreation activities, amenities, and facilities to attract potential employers and qualified employees.

Objective 2.3: To the extent that outdoor recreation space may exist in excess of the current needs of the local community, provide regional, fee based, outdoor recreation opportunities as a mechanism to subsidize funding for overall park and recreation operations.

Objective 2.4: Use the scale and scope of West Boggs Park in conjunction with its extensive management structure, to provide support for other park and recreation opportunities within the district, including in the cities and towns in the two county area.

Objective 2.5: Work with outside organizations and other governmental entities to explore appropriate growth and development of additional recreation facilities within the district.

Objective 2.6: Develop and offer new programs designed to eliminate barriers to participation involving age, gender, culture, physical mobility, and COVID 19 impact.

Objective 2.7: Establish a formal evaluation system for measurement of program participation, cost and effectiveness.

Objective 2.8: Develop volunteer opportunities to foster sense of ownership and personal involvement on the part of area residents.

**Goal #3: Promote and facilitate cultural and educational opportunities in the area served by West Boggs Park.**

Objective 3.1: Provide opportunities to allow outside organizations, including schools, other local governments and organizations, to utilize parks department lands and facilities for meetings, events and gatherings for appropriate purposes.

Objective 3.2: Develop and operate an outreach/liaison activity to provide off-site outdoor education opportunities to local schools and other organizations.

Objective 3.3: Provide a range of programming opportunities to promote better understanding of the health, wellness and social benefits of quality leisure time activities

Goal #4: Promote economic development in the communities surrounding West Boggs Park.

Objective 4.1: Promote the use of West Boggs Park as a destination for tourism.

Objective 4.2: Promote and where possible facilitate the development of additional park space and outside support services for tourism in the district.

Objective 4.3: Promote and provide leadership of the appropriate and well planned development of infrastructure and facilities for recreation within the district.

## Master Plan Goals

This plan has short term and long term goals. The first goal is to qualify and quantify trends in park visitor demands, identify deficiencies in park infrastructure, and forecast looming needs in advance of their becoming a crisis. From this information will be developed a five-year plan to upgrade, repair and replace existing infrastructure components, and to add new services and amenities as determined from needs identified in the planning process. As we progress with these objectives, the park will continue to manage for a sustainable future by keeping our operations, expansion, maintenance ability and funding sources closely matched.

As with most such planning efforts, this one is designed to qualify and quantify the relationships between the supply of recreation, and the demand. A second objective is to identify current and future recreation needs, which is completed by public surveys and meetings along with facility self-assessment. The third objective is to develop an action plan and development schedule to guide the implementation of balanced and needs-based recreation growth for a wide variety of users. Implicit in all these objectives is the desire to clearly recognize that West Boggs is actually serving a recreation supply role exceeding that of the local population.

Applying the needs assessments from this plan to actual recreation opportunities on the ground will likely be a changing and evolving strategy. As the plan is being developed, it is not clear what funding will become available from such sources as grants. West Boggs also has developed a history of trying to operate at a gross profit, and to then apply any excess funding to development and improvements. It is likely that each improvement step taken in this plan will result in additional revenue production from increased visitation levels; which in turn would allow for accelerated completion of development schedules. For these reasons, many aspects of this plan are designed to address issues and propose solutions, in a manner that will allow goals to be achieved in either less or more time than the five-year cycle, depending on ability over time.

## Accessibility and Universal Design

All current and future implementation of this plan must recognize two pieces of federal legislation regarding accessibility. The first of these is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This federal law requires specific actions by agencies, including ours. Among these actions is a self-evaluation of all policies, facilities, programs and services. The second piece of legislation related to this subject is the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This act, known as ADA, guarantees equal opportunities to, among other things, recreation.

Most of the existing facilities at West Boggs are sufficiently old that they no longer meet the standards of current needs. For this reason, we have already begun the process of trying to bring some old facilities to more appropriate standards where feasible. This process is hampered by the fact that many of the original buildings at the park were of masonry construction, and with limited space, a combination that does not lend itself well to

retrofitting. However, we understand that the age and disrepair of the buildings also presents an opportunity to see the needs of visitors with all levels of ability better met, as the facilities are replaced for other reasons.

The subject of accessibility in parks in the past, and too often in even more current design theories, has focused almost exclusively on restroom facilities and playgrounds. While we acknowledge that these are important aspects of making any park accessible, and that our older facilities do not meet these needs; our current planning is more inclusive. The entire concept of universal design is being rethought and retooled at West Boggs Park to eliminate to the degree possible, both the physical and psychological separations between facilities usable by individuals with disabilities, and those without. In this planning we are cognizant of the fact that people with disabilities who visit parks desire to do more than use the bathroom. We also understand that the majority of disabled persons do not wish for their disability to be the primary criteria by which their needs, their desires, or their personalities are measured. These concepts have allowed us to identify and find the available funding to accommodate universal growth in our facility. First, the park constructed a new universally designed playground adjacent to our beach. Trekking along and thanks to the Land Water Conservation Grant awarded to the department in 2019, we will be able to update and add new universally designed amenities. These projects will include complete road refurbishment which includes chip and sealing ten campsites to introduce mobile friendly sites, new ADA courtesy docks at our boat ramp including an EZ Canoe/Kayak launching system, replacement of our fish cleaning station, ADA stationary fishing pier, and an ADA friendly concrete ping pong table.

These projects were listed on our 2015-2020 Master Plan and will be rolled over to our 2021-2025 Plan as they will be accomplished during this cycle. We will also be including new projects on our agenda that we have identified as priorities due to a change in facility popularity and usage. Identification of these projects came from facility assessment along with public input for this plan.

West Boggs Park has also commenced modernization of campsites in during the last five year planning cycle. Two camping sections boasted electrical infrastructure upgrades and the planning for two more is near completion. Most of the campsites at West Boggs are scheduled for renovation, utility upgrades and continued modernization during this planning cycle. While this process is intended to provide more modern services at reduced maintenance cost, it also offers an opportunity to implement the concepts of universal design in this very important part of the recreational inventory in the region.

The park has also replaced our park gatehouse as you first enter the facility with an ADA compliant structure that is available for all person entering the facility. This was accomplished with the cooperation of both the Daviess and Martin Community Foundations. Permanent pathways and ramps will be installed post our park road refurbishments in 2021

During this assessment and planning process, careful attention will also be dedicated to other park facilities that provide group accommodations or serve as common meeting venues, again attempting to accomplish most immediate improvements in accessibility to services utilized by significant numbers of park visitors. These facilities include five rental shelters, the Beach Complex and the Activity Center, a central location for park sponsored programs and events. The Activity Center features a new addition that includes accessible rest room facilities. The beach complex also offers accessible rest rooms and showers. However, of the five rental shelters, all of which predate ADA design dictates, only two offer feasible access to patrons with mobility concerns. While all of these shelters will eventually require renovation or replacement and the potential for enhanced accessibility, the ADA self-assessment process offers the opportunity to identify these problems and areas where short term remediation of some obstacles to more universal accessibility is possible.

Only one of the four restroom/shower buildings located within the park's campground features accessible facilities. As described in a previous paragraph, it is the campground's newest and largest containing not only accessible rest rooms and showers, but also a family assist area. The three remaining buildings original to the park and of masonry construction will require extensive renovation or replacement to meet ADA guidelines. In some cases, the physical location itself presents an additional problem in developing feasible plans for practical access. For these reasons focus on provision of additional accessible facilities will center on new construction. Fortunately,

the park's newest and most recently renovated buildings already provide accessible accommodations in areas of most concentrated visitor activity: beach complex, Activity Center and campground. Increasing access to our Activity Center and our Beach Building is all a priority of our department.

Of course parking and pathways to amenities and services are just as important. Our facility currently lacks adequate accessible parking at many of our amenities and services. During the process of road refurbishment, we plan to use the chip and seal and/or new pavement as a method to create additional ADA parking pads. In areas that the aforementioned will not be conducive, we will utilize concrete as our material to create adequate parking. Pathways to our new courtesy docks will also be implemented with our road rehabilitation projects. ADA pathways to other amenities located in the facility will be constructed with concrete.

Assuring universal access is not limited to assessment of infrastructure, but must also include programs offered to entertain and educate. The approach to developing programs here at West Boggs Park has always included the effort to be as inclusive as possible, to engage as wide a range of ages, interests and abilities as possible. Scheduled programs always include events of both active and passive nature. This attempt to provide a quality outdoor recreation experience to as broad a range of visitors as possible will also be subject to review during the ADA self-assessment process. Locations of various events, programs, and activities often limit the target audience. All attempts are made to host programs in areas that allow for an accessible approach and representation at the program. Moving forward, we plan to incorporate new ADA parking areas and pathways to increase the accessibility to our program areas.

Most items listed below are duplicated in the Recreation Master Plan's Priorities and Action Schedule. This is due to direct impact on the availability of accessible facilities and services at West Boggs Park.

Accessibility and Universal Design Self Assessment Review and Implementation			
	Year	Project	Cost Estimate
1	2021	Mobile friendly campsites	\$15,000
2	2021	Accessible pathways to courtesy docks	\$20,000
3	2021	Replace FEMA Trailers with Cabins	\$150,000
4	2021	Accessible parking at activity center & comfort stations	\$3,000
5	2022	ADA fishing pier w/ parking and pathway near redbud shelter	\$40,000
6	2022	ADA parking and pathway to beach playground	\$5,000
7	2022	Concrete ping pong table at activity center – ADA	\$10,000
8	2023	Dogwood shelter overlook multi use Deck	\$50,000
9	2023	Small ready/observation decks	\$20,000
10	2025	New main office and maintenance shop	\$250,000
11	2025	Amphitheater	\$300,000
12	2021-2025	Lively Lakefront and Wellness Initiatives	\$800,000

Providing all customers with modern leisure services is encased in our decree, goals, and responsibilities as a public leisure service facility. Inclusion of all persons in programs, events, activities, buildings, and amenities is a common goal we share with like departments throughout the country. Making these efforts visible for review and feedback is an obligation we must and will uphold. Such information as in this plan, will also be available at our main office through tangible and digital forms. Our park gatehouse will display and provide such information to individuals wishing to check and authorize our efforts. To obtain such information or to discuss all ADA procedures, individuals

my contact our park superintendent Jameson Hibbs, CPRP by calling our main office at 812-295-3537 or emailing at [jameson@westboggs.com](mailto:jameson@westboggs.com).

## Natural Features & Landscape

West Boggs Park is a 1500 acre facility located in the eastern edge of Daviess County and the western edge of Martin County, north of the city of Loogootee, Indiana. That acreage includes a 250 acre outdoor recreation area, 622 acre West Boggs Lake, with remaining acreage consisting of a buffer zone around the entire perimeter of the lake. Martin County host roughly 236 acres while Daviess County provides 1,264 acres of the park.

The West Boggs Creek watershed is located in the Lower East Fork White watershed, designated as 05120208 in the USGS Cataloging system. More specifically West Boggs watershed is approximate 1500 acre drainage on the boundary between the Lower East Fork White and the Lower White watersheds.

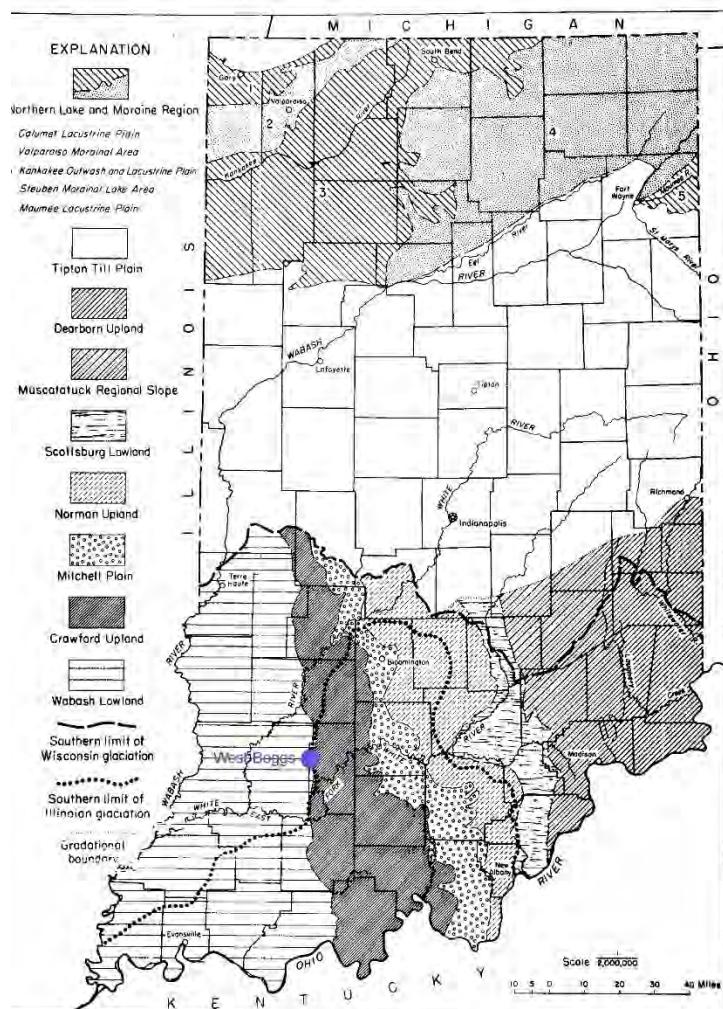


Figure 13.--Map of Indiana showing physiographic units (from Wayne, 1956).

the state. Most of Daviess County was under that ice flow, whereas most of Martin County was not, leaving the two areas with vastly different topography and soil compositions.

These differences in turn create different types of landscapes, flora and fauna communities, and to some extent differences in how humans interact with the land. This is visible in the differences between the Oak-Hickory forested uplands of Martin County, and the un-forested lowland, glacial till plains of Daviess County. The boundary between those vastly different regions is in West Boggs Park.

The West Boggs Creek watershed is at a relatively high elevation in the Lower East Fork White watershed, and as such is not affected by flooding in the East Fork of White River; making it a good location for water based recreation area.

The landscapes in and around West Boggs Park are the results of a long series of natural phenomenon. While the park is on a boundary between two modern counties, the area is distinctly a boundary region in multiple natural ways as well.

West Boggs Park is immediately on the Physiographic Division boundary between the Crawford Uplands and the Wabash Lowlands. This boundary is particularly distinct as one cross the lands of West Boggs Park from the Martin County portion to the Daviess County portion. The Martin County hills drop off to become the gentle rolling country of Daviess County, and even the rocks are different. Martin County, being in the Crawford Uplands, is underlain by sandstone, whereas Daviess County has bedrock of mostly siltstone and shale.

West Boggs is also directly on the lower boundary of the Illinoian Glaciers that covered parts of Indiana from 300,000 to 140,000 years ago, and which extended farther south than the Wisconsin Glaciers and into most of southeast and southwest Indiana, but not in south-central parts of

Our 8,000 watershed is a subwatershed of the East Fork of the White River. The majority of our 8,000 acres is agriculture, void of most trees and native ecosystems. What wooded areas that do exist are largely populated by invasive species such as Autumn Olive, Honey Suckle, Pivot, and rose. The magnitude of change (this transformation has taken place over the period of several decades) exhibited in this area of land has led to an influx of nutrients reaching West Boggs Lake. These nutrients feed plant life in the lake and unfortunately have caused a major increase of unwanted algae. There are numerous species of algae but the attention is drawn to the toxic blue-green algae that is often present in lakes around the midwest. Blue-green algae can cause major health issues in both humans and is often fatal to canines. Our department recently received a grant through the Lake and River Enhancement program of IN DNR. The grant is to assist with Lake Diagnostic and Sediment Removal Studies and will help us determine issues and mitigation tactics to combat the water quality issue.

The park owns and managed a buffer strip around the lake. This strip is present to assist with the filtering of sediment along with nutrients and pollutants carried by storm water before reaching the lake. This buffer zone is meant to be planted in native species, however much of this land is now converted into extension of backyards through a shared program with adjacent landowners. Many areas of the buffer zone is now adjacent to residential areas and the occupants have cleared and planted fescue on the buffer zone. Swales and other drainages are now void of the necessary vegetation required to properly filter nutrients. Wooded areas of the buffer zone have largely been encroached with invasive species such as autumn olive, honeysuckle, pivot, rose, and various other species. Our department has not yet begun to combat the invasive species but we do realize this endeavor will need take the forefront of our attention in the near future. One of our tactics will be to partner with the Daviess Martin CISMA group that is a dual county organization with a mission of education and eradication of invasive species. This group has already utilized our park for various identification walks and a reimbursement grant opportunity to eradicate invasive species. Continuing this partnership will be pivotal in our mission to clear our facility of invasive species and open the door for natives to flourish.

The park area and watershed are home to a wide variety of wildlife. Whitetail deer, rabbit, squirrel, red and gray fox, coyote, and muskrat, beaver, mink, raccoon, are some of the common mammals found on the property. Birds include Bald eagles, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, songbirds, quail, most regional species of waterfowl, and the state endangered Loggerhead Shrike. The park is also home to a variety of native trees and various other flora. We have planted eight (8) acres of pollinator mix inside the recreational area of West Boggs Park through a program sponsored by the US FWA. This plots have allowed us to create small changes in the immediate natural environment by increasing pollinator habitat as well as creating filter strips in storm water drainage areas.

## **Man-Made, Historic and Cultural**

West Boggs Park exists because of the creation of West Boggs Lake, which was built under the PL 566 Small Watershed Flood Control Act. The West Boggs Creek project consisted of the development of the reservoir and the associated recreation facilities. The earthen dam was constructed in 1971, below the confluence of West Boggs Creek and Shurm Creek, just west of U.S Highway 231. The reservoir has a surface acreage of some 622 acres, with about 50 acres in Martin County and the remaining 572 acres in Daviess County, when the lake is at normal pool level of 499.6 feet above sea level.

The upper watershed totals about 8,492 acres, most of which are agricultural lands. West Boggs Reservoir was designed to hold 6,220 acre/feet of water with a maximum depth of 25 feet, and an average depth of 12.5 feet. The shoreline of the impoundment totals 21.47 miles, and gives the water body a shoreline development index of 6.14.

The Parks & Recreation department owns all of the lake and 100% of the lake shore with a minimum of 100 feet horizontal distance from an elevation where the land would be inundated when the lake is three feet above normal pool. In all, the department owns an approximate 1,500 acres at the West Boggs property; with 622 being water surface and the remaining 887 acres being a combination of uplands, wetlands and riparian areas encompassing the lake.

West Boggs Park offers a wide range of outdoor recreation to visitors. These include fishing, boating, swimming, waterfowl hunting and bird watching. A three bay, six lane boat ramp serves anglers and boaters for lake access. Services in the boat ramp area also include a fish cleaning station, rest room, mooring posts, rental and courtesy docks. There are multiple access sites for bank fishing including an accessible fishing jetty and dock. Beach area services include bath house, accessible rest rooms and showers, new universally designed playground, sand volleyball court, and a potential concession stand.

The campground at West Boggs Park contains 264 campsites. All campsites offer electric and water service. 26 sites also provide sewer service. Camping services include three combination shower and restroom facilities and one rest room building. The newest of these, completed in 2004, features a family assist room with accessible shower and restroom facilities open year round. One sanitary dump station with two bays serves the campground. Also available in the campground area is a small playground area (original installation) and open activity area.

The park includes a large, shady picnic area of approximately five acres. Facilities in this area include one picnic shelter (accessible), multiple tables (some accessible) and stationary grills, playground equipment (original installation) and rest room building. However, due to a change in facility usage this area will undergo modification within the timeline of this proposed plan. This area will soon be the forefront of an advanced designed disc golf course. This picnic area rarely sees use from patrons and has the potential to provide robust service in other ways. The topography, size, and layout is adequate for a major portion of a well-designed disc golf course. This disc golf course will also add an amenity in our park that services the change in local culture. Health and wellness issues and the need to combat poor health is exhibited in both Daviess and Martin County plans. A push for more recreational opportunities have been outlined by local communities and concepts such as disc golf will help condition a health and wellness mentality. Four additional picnic shelters serve visitors requiring accommodations for group activities. With one exception, these shelters include some accessible tables.

The recreational area of our park currently contains minimal sporting court outlets. We have a dilapidated tennis court that we plan to minimally revive in 2021. Adjacent to this tennis court is a small basketball court that is used by due to the location the frequency of use is minimal. Our park should be the forefront of providing recreational opportunities that include sporting courts increasing health and wellness initiatives. Our plan is to develop additional sporting court opportunities at our beach area. This will provide services and amenities at a central location within the park. This will also allow for visiting families to keep their units within close proximity to one another adding to the element of safety in which our culture is morphing.

The multi-use trail system within West Boggs Park has slowly increased over the years to around five miles. These trails are used for a variety of recreational outlets but one of the major usages are from golf carts. West Boggs Park is one of the few large public facilities that allows the use of golf carts and has conditioned this culture of transportation within the facility. The popularity of golf carts has quickly risen and these vehicles are used by all types of visitors in the facility. A local golf cart repair company began renting golf carts in 2019 and quickly gained business in 2020. Many facets of Amish utilize this outlet when they camp at West Boggs Park. The golf cart culture has many positive and negative points. First, it does provide a safer method of travel to get around the facility. We would rather have people traveling on golf carts via our trails and roads to areas such as the beach, activity center, golf course, Stolls' Restaurant, and to fish rather than more cars/trucks using the road system. The use of golf carts is also an attraction that has increased our customer base over the years. However, there are some serious negative aspects to point out. First, making certain that everyone understands there are rules to follow with golf carts. Many parents utilize golf carts as a means of recreation for their children, many of which do not have a drivers' license and can't operate the carts safely. Serious accidents have also been an issue in the park, some involving underage drivers but others also involving adults. Rules, policies, and instructional pamphlets are passed out at our gatehouse to people purchasing entrances for golf carts. We have increased the number of man-hours for park rangers due to the influx of golf cart users in the park. Golf carts have also degraded the popularity of hiking and biking our trails. Users gravitate towards the easiest means of travel and disregard the concept of walking. We continually monitor the usage of golf carts and will make necessary changes as we see fit to serve our users and keep people safe.

Additional visitor services include a nine-hole golf course and full service restaurant. Both of these facilities are operated by contractor lease arrangements.

Our service area primarily consists of Daviess and Martin Counties. Both counties respectively have different natural features, landscapes, demographics, and historical/cultural interpretations. Based on recreational opportunities within these jurisdictions, both of these counties are dependent upon West Boggs Park to provide leisure services to their populations.

Daviess County has an estimated population of 33,351 based on 2019 information by the US Census Bureau. Although the percentage isn't defined, the Amish populations in Daviess County is very prominent. This Amish community comprises of nearly 8,000 acres of our 8,492 acre watershed, rendering this population vital in the planning of our leisure area. Over the past five years, this group has commenced on utilizing our facility for their

recreation needs. They are increasing their consumption in our services such as camping, fishing, and boating, while also participating in our activities, programs, and events. These individuals are a definitive market and we need to begin shifting our focus on their needs, abilities, and desires. In attempt, we have held a public meeting at the Simon J. Graber building in accordance to the objectives of developing the last two master plans.

Unfortunately, this demographic provides no attendance to these meetings. Our next measure will be to speak to the bishops and other person of leadership within the Amish population.

The Amish community is quite engaged in the vitality of our local well-being. This community is home to several large commercial manufacturing, many of which offer services throughout the state of Indiana and our Midwest region. They also provide businesses that assist with tourism such as Dinky's Auction, various country stores, and a substantial facility called Gastofs Amish Village. This facility hosts a large Amish buffet style restaurant, crafts, antiques, flea market, bakery, and banquet area. Adjacent to the restaurant is an eighty-two room hotel to accommodate tourists in our area. This type of businesses allows visitors to infiltrate the Amish lifestyle and certainly increases the tourism impact in Daviess County. Building and retaining a healthy working relationship with this group is a high priority and will certainly assist us in not only providing leisure services to our entire community, but also engulf us into a new revenue stream increasing our ability to expand our services.

Daviess County also boasts an increasing number of Hispanic speaking immigrants from a variety of countries. These immigrants are primarily relocating to work at the poultry farms and various other agriculture based practices around Daviess and surrounding counties. Our department recognizes this population segment and will begin determining the best practices to survey and provide recreational services to this culture. Daviess County started a Cultural Task Force in late 2019. This committee was created per the Daviess County Quality of Place Plan with the mission to reach out to minority groups to understand how Daviess County can better serve their needs. COVID created a barrier of progress but this committee is still a viable outlet for various cultures in Daviess County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019 Martin County, Indiana has a population of 10,255 individuals. This small population is primarily due to US Crane Naval Base consuming 100 square miles of Martin County. The majority of this population lives in or near the two main towns of Loogootee and the county seat of Shoals. Loogootee is only three miles north of our West Boggs Park facility and has the nearest stores, restaurants, and conveniences and does possess a small park, aquatics, and open space facilities. Their small facility on the west side of the town serves a small population of the county but due to the size and scope of this facility, not all recreational needs can be met. Both Loogootee and Shoals are working on increasing their recreational services and amenities to meet the needs of their local citizens. Our department supports their efforts and will assist if and when possible in these improvements.

Martin County is a very beautiful county due to the geological features and gorges cut by the East Fork of the White River. The Martin State Forest is six miles east of Shoals and provides 7,863 acres of recreational property. This facility offers activities such as class C camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, mountain biking, hiking, and an arboretum. Martin County also boasts hundreds of acres of the Hoosier National Forest which provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other non-structured recreational services.

There are two important landmarks located in Martin County, both having significant impact on tourism. Just outside of Shoals to the west is a geological phenomenon called "Jug Rock". This famous rock structure has been the Martin County icon for over a century and is a stop for numerous individuals that are enjoying the scenery around southern Indiana. Martin County residents are in conversation with DNR about assisting with access to Jug Rock and the surrounding property. Hopefully, this public land area will provide additional trails in the near future.

The other feature is located on the East Fork of the White River and is called Hindostan Falls. Hindostan was a town established in 1816 located at the falls was once an important shipping location. The falls are just too big to get boats up or down stream, so this was an important location for shipping and receiving goods up and down this waterway. This settlement was also along one of the first stagecoach roads between New Albany and Vincennes. There is a large rock shelf that still has evidence of ports, wagons, piers, and other human presence. Hindostan Falls area is owned by IN DNR and was once a recreational hotspot with camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing. The campground has since closed and now the property is laying with much potential to serve once again as an important feature to Martin County. If the right group, department, or agency would take the necessary steps to improve the quality of this location, we believe that Hindostan Falls could once again flourish as a recreational destination. Martin County leaders have been discussing the option of reviving a past event titled Hindostan Days in the autumn of 2021.

Martin County also recently adopted a county Inn-Keepers Tax. This ordinance comes through a measure of realizing the importance of tourism in Martin County. Younger leaders are climbing the ranks in Martin County and the realization of eco-tourism is slowly taking root. The newly established Inn-Keepers Commission took the place of the Martin County Tourism Council which had been marketing for the county during the last decade. However, the council had a limited budget of \$3,000, which was annually allotted by the Martin County Council. Martin County now has an appointed board utilizing money from Inn-keepers which should create insight and incentives to properly expand and adequately market Martin County tourism.

Our department has the unique opportunity to serve a multitude of cultures, ages, and ethnicities. One of the major influences in our area is Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. This facility consumes 100 square miles with the base primarily in Martin County but also found in Daviess, Lawrence, and Green Counties. This facility has created quite a network of industrial development in and around the base and is home to some of the most innovative technology-driven companies. This industrial zone has made Martin County the highest income per capita in Indiana and ranking Martin County as the 4<sup>th</sup> most concentrated county for STEM related jobs. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) This type of industrial development creates jobs and attracts employees whom in turn relocate to our area. The employees and their families will be in need of recreational opportunities to increase their quality of life. One of the common questions people ask when relocating is "what are the recreational opportunities in the suggested area? This is where we need to make certain our presence is known in and around Crane which will not only assist in attracting viable employees, but also increase our facility usage. Partnering with Crane and affiliates with programs and events will increase our presence and impact on the lives of our residents.

Another cultural trend we are seeing in both Daviess and Martin Counties is the increase awareness of Health and Wellness Initiatives. Both counties created a Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan through grant dollars awarded through Regional Opportunity Initiatives. Both plan exhibited an extreme need for additional health and wellness concepts. This would include healthcare provider availability, nutritional knowledge, access to healthy foods, and of course access to recreational opportunities. The counties realize the need to provide residents with ample services and comprehensive trail systems have been a desired application. The two counties joined forces in late 2019 to attempt at a state provided trail grant. Unfortunately, that effort was too hastened and fell way short of objectives. But it did provide incentive and knowledge for community need. The local communities realize the need for trail systems throughout the towns/cities with the idea that connectivity between municipalities could be in the future. Loogootee recently conducted a public input survey for their master plan and residents stated the need for a local trail system. There is also evidence in our master plan information demonstrating the need for trail systems throughout both counties. Our department would like to assist any efforts taken whether it be a county or municipality initiative to provide trail systems. As this concept gains value and credibility, our department will eventually be an integral partner in developing and maintaining the amenity.

## Programs

West Boggs Park has become a regional tourism destination, attracting customers with a broad range of outdoor recreation interests from an extensive area within and outside state boundaries. Apparently the marketing phrase, "Southwestern Indiana's Best Kept Secret", is no longer appropriate. Although many visitors have the opportunity to take advantage of park facilities at similar or even smaller distances from home, they continue to indicate their preference by selecting West Boggs Park as a preferred leisure venue.

Beginning in 2016, a new direction was taken within our department. West Boggs Park had lost an important connection with our local community and it was a very important goal of new leadership to rebuild that relationship. Catering to our community needs with new and exciting programs, events, and activities is the approach taken by our department leaders. Beginning with smaller events and quickly increasing in quantity and diversity, our programming department is now providing programs to a wide range of local citizens. Such programs offered by our department are but not limited to: Easter Egg Hunt, Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast, kids fishing derby, civil war reenactment, five-part concert series, Drone Races, Hillbilly Heyday, Chili Cookoff, Zombie Fun Run, and numerous smaller activities. As the positive reputation of West Boggs Park spreads, other organizations have partnered with our facility to provide events such as the Carters Legacy 5K, Martin County Vintage Camper Rally, Martin County Safe Day, and the DSI Family 5K.

In 2019, the programming department started a Kids Summer Day Camp. This camp provides children with a diverse program that offers a wide range of educational and fun components to the six weeks of summer break.

2020 was the second year for the camp and we had a waiting list for children to attend. The popularity of this camp was not a surprise due to the popularity of West Boggs Park and the leadership provided in our programming department. We expect this camp to continue to attract numerous youth from our service area.

Available overnight accommodations also include cabin, park model camper, and four mobile home units. The cabin and mobile home rental programs offer housekeeping units in wooded settings on or near the lake. The park plans to replace the four FEMA trailers with cabins during the timeline of this plan.

The multi-use trail system remains a popular feature with park visitors. With a total of approximately 6.9 miles, it offers experiences of varied environments including, wooded, lakeshore, wetland and open habitat. In addition to providing an alternative and convenient means of access to many of the park's recreational features and common areas, it has become a significant element in provision of activities scheduled to entertain and educate park visitors with opportunities for nature interpretive and natural resource conservation programs as well as events scheduled solely for the fun factor. Examples of such programs include nature hikes, scavenger hunts and bird, wildflower and tree identification activities.

Approximately eight acres of property have been placed in a pollinator habitat program through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. These plots allow for the increase awareness of pollinator habitat importance and also provide color to the park. These plantings have also been a method of storm water mitigation and filtering to help improve the water quality of West Boggs Lake.

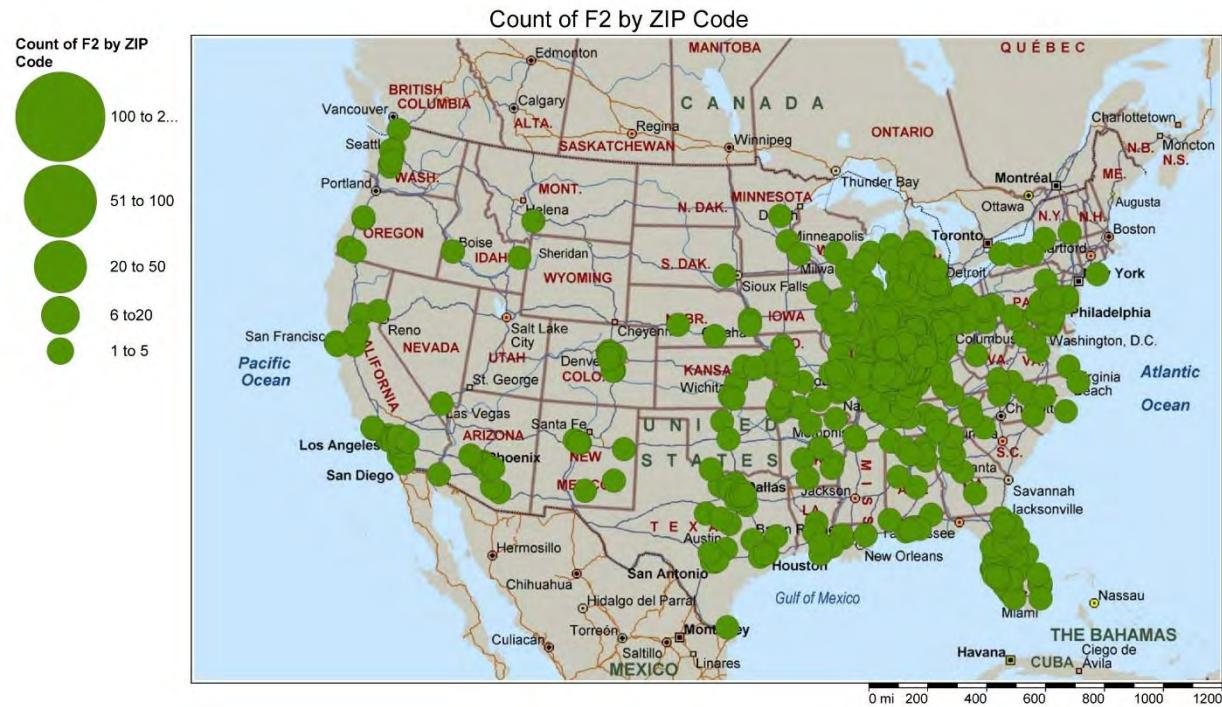
West Boggs Park continues a tradition of active involvement in the local community. This involvement has resulted in the development of events coordinated with faculty and students from area school districts, scout troops, social service agencies, civic and charitable organizations. These events allow opportunities to promote conservation and educate visitors regarding natural resource issues, fostering a sense of ownership, responsibility and involvement among residents in the planning area.

## Recreation Needs Analysis

### A Nationally Significant Destination

There are many ways to attempt to analyze how resources should be directed to best serve the recreation needs of a community. Like most other parks and recreation entities, we have attempted to gather information from a combination of surveys and public input activities. These data help us develop a better picture of who our current and potential visitors are, and what they want and need to make their recreation experiences satisfying.

In doing so, however, it is helpful to understand any associations between the needs being expressed, and the sources of the resources to be applied to those needs. This is one area where our planning model may differ from others, but there are some sound reasons why it must. One aspect of this planning process is that we hope it helps others understand why we sometimes seem less responsive to local demands for certain services for which those stating the desire are not also willing to fund. To help understand that it is necessary to first understand what role West Boggs has come to play in the larger field of outdoor recreation.



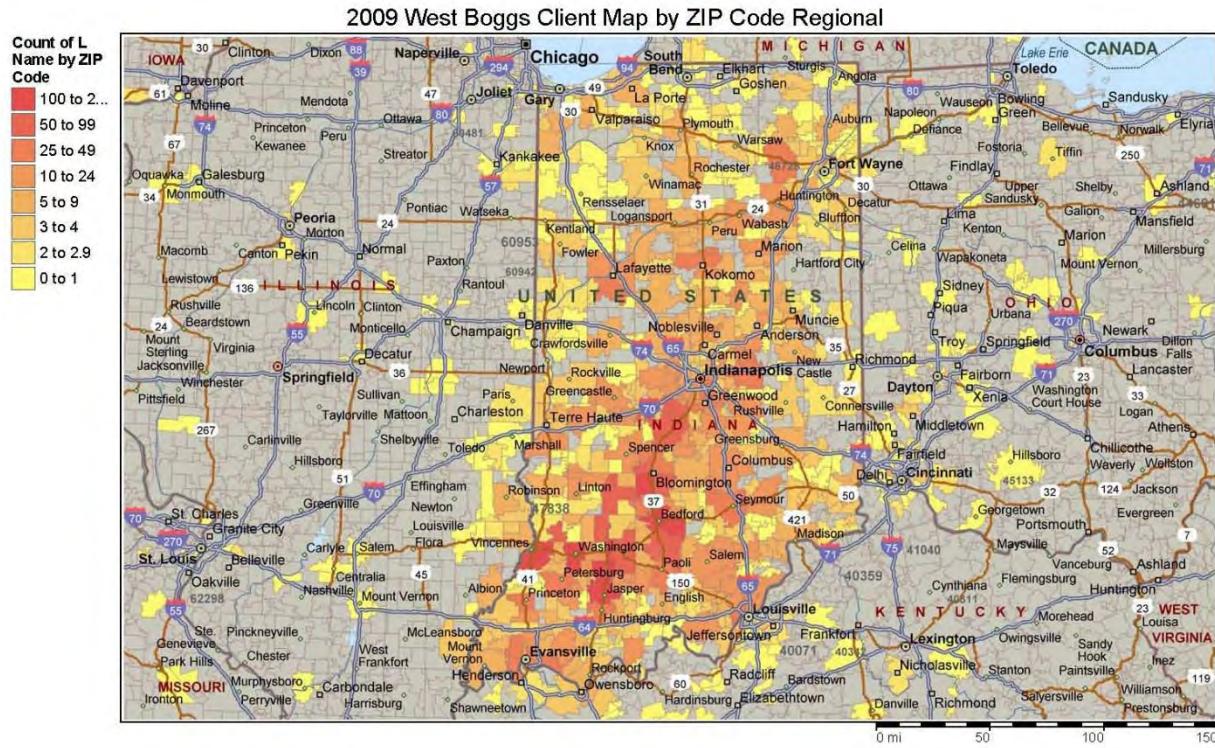
The map above shows that visitation to West Boggs Park is from a clientele much larger than the citizens of Daviess and Martin Counties. While it is obvious, and will be even more so later in this discussion, that West Boggs serves people from across Indiana, here we can see that the entire Midwest is well represented in the West Boggs clientele, along with some visitors from coast to coast in the United States.

What one begins to grasp when viewing these maps is that West Boggs Park is at least as much a tourism engine for the area as it is a park. Many of these non-county residents come just to visit West Boggs Park, making it a destination venue. Others use the park as a base from other tourism in the area, including visits to the large Amish community in Daviess County, and for the many other activities, events and venues in the region; including the casino operation in nearby Orange County.

Looking at West Boggs visitation data from this large perspective shows that the benefits to the local community from tourism may well be the most visible way for the majority of the park's assets to be utilized. The creation of some of the more desirable jobs in the area, along with a multimillion dollar influx of tourism dollars is of great importance to everyone in the two county area, and we hope to partner with our communities to continue this growth.

### A state level park that is not a State Park

Like all previous user surveys, along with visitation records, the data collected for this planning process make it clear is that West Boggs serves a region much larger than the two county area. Daviess and Martin counties combined only represent a small portion of the user base of the facility.



The mapping of West Boggs visitor residence locations also provides an interesting look at some other elements of recreation marketing that may be of use to our peers in other departments. One such element that becomes obvious involves transportation systems.

Since the data used to develop this map included people who came to West Boggs to camp, it can be assumed that the majority of them brought along camping trailers or RV's. With that in mind is easy to see from the map that the presence of better travel routes, and larger roads, are relevant to campers' decisions about venues. One can follow major roadways in the approximate center of all of the visitor concentrations shown here, with an unbroken concentration of park visitors along Indiana Highway 37 from Paoli to Indianapolis and Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis.

Again, from this view it becomes strikingly clear that West Boggs Park is not a typical local county park, serving a local need in only basic recreation. Rather we have become a dynamic economic force that draws millions of dollars into the local economies, and does so at a tax cost to local taxpayers of exactly zero. It is hard to overestimate the level of cost benefit this produces, since there is a no cost and such an enormous benefit.

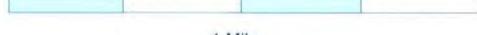
# PROPERTY MAP

## MAP KEY

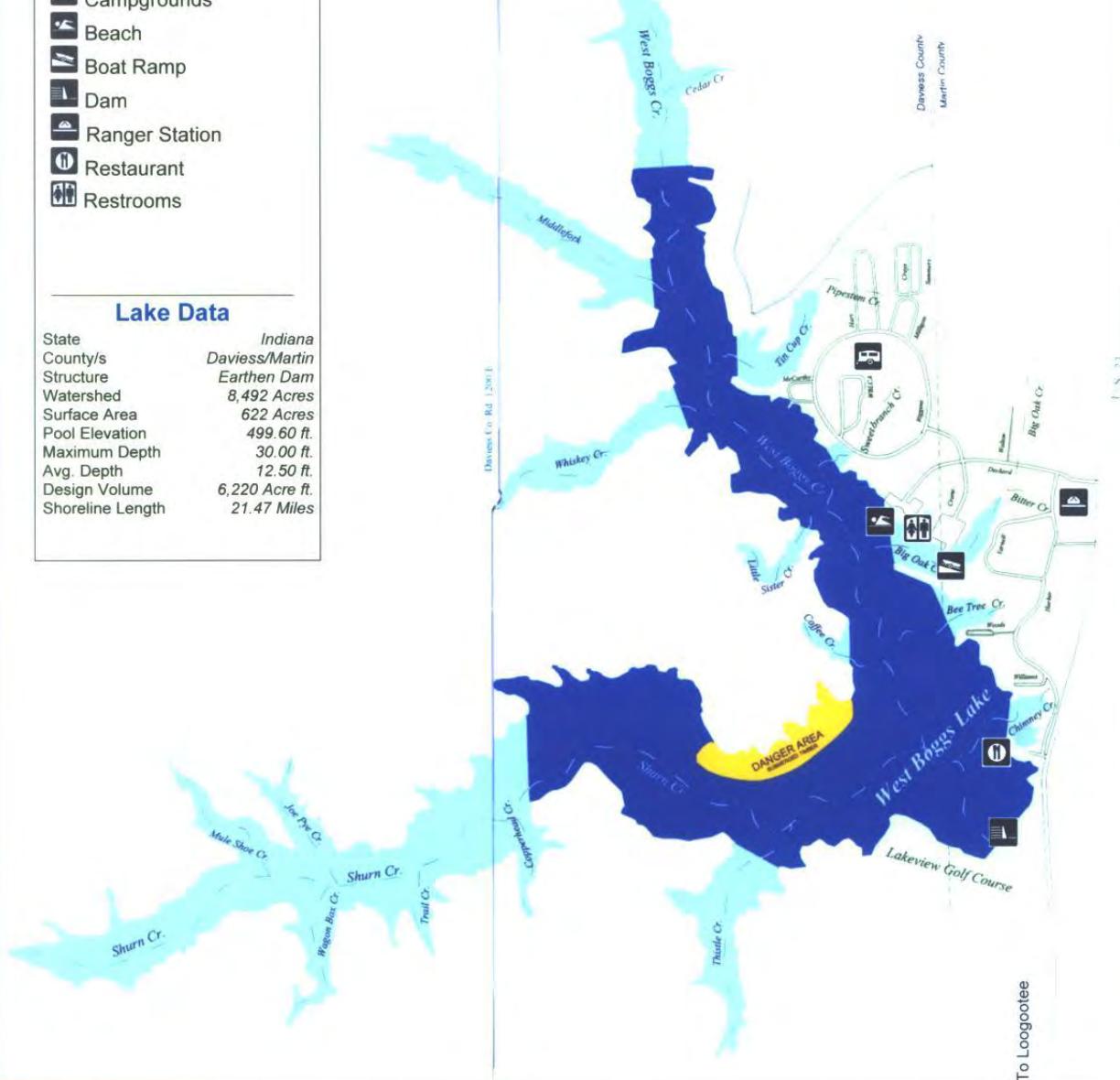
- [White Box] Park Area
- [Blue Box] Open Water
- [Light Blue Box] Idle Zone
- [Yellow Box] Danger Zone
- [Camping icon] Campgrounds
- [Beach icon] Beach
- [Boat Ramp icon] Boat Ramp
- [Dam icon] Dam
- [Ranger Station icon] Ranger Station
- [Restaurant icon] Restaurant
- [Restrooms icon] Restrooms

## Lake Data

State	Indiana
County/s	Daviess/Martin
Structure	Earthen Dam
Watershed	8,492 Acres
Surface Area	622 Acres
Pool Elevation	499.60 ft.
Maximum Depth	30.00 ft.
Avg. Depth	12.50 ft.
Design Volume	6,220 Acre ft.
Shoreline Length	21.47 Miles



1 Mile



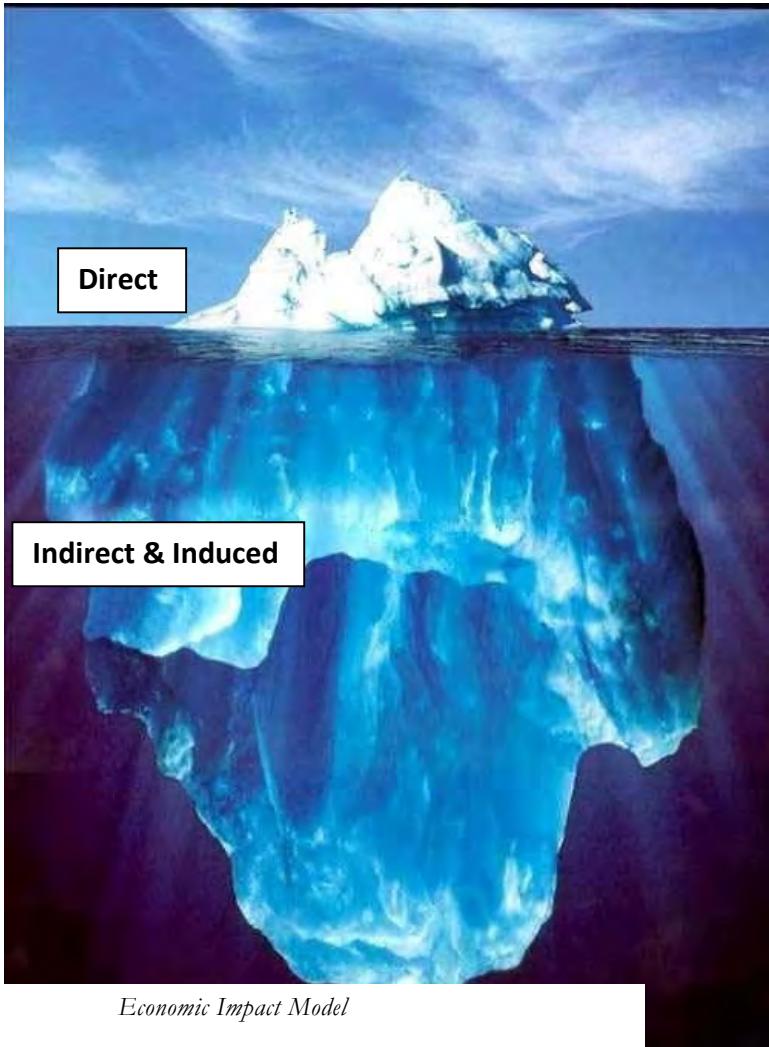
## PARK MAPS & PRICES



## Social and Economic Factors

Understanding the impact that West Boggs Park has on the local economy is an imprecise science; but is important if we are going to prepare ourselves to make proper management decisions. Accepted tourism industry planning methods have determined that the real impact of a tourism activity is found by multiplying the direct revenue gained in the activity by a factor ranging from seven to eleven times that number. Any particular community will be placed in that range depending on how well the community is prepared to respond to the initial business opportunities created by the direct impact.

To better understand that principle, it will help to understand how tourism works as an economic engine. The Indiana Office of Tourism Development has created a vast reservoir of information, research and data that can be used to demonstrate the



impact of tourism. Rather than try to recreate that research, we will here draw heavily upon it. The following information comes from documents of that office,<sup>1</sup> edited only to fit the concept of local economic impact rather than state wide impacts.

The total economic impact of travelers is separated into three distinct parts; *direct*, *indirect*, and *induced*. The direct impacts represent the value added<sup>1</sup> of those sectors that interact directly with the visitor. The indirect impact represents the benefit to suppliers in those direct sectors. The induced impact adds the impact of tourism-generated wages as they are spent in the economy. The image of an iceberg represents the various impacts of tourism. Those industries that are part of the direct tourism sector represent the impact that is visible, i.e. above the water. But below the surface travelers spending generates wages, employment and taxes in a host of supporting industries. Although these are not seen, they are important to understanding the full economic impact of tourism.

Looking at the illustration to the left here, we can visualize the data showing that the indirect and induced impacts from West Boggs may exceed \$18 Million per year in the Daviess and Martin County area economy; far more than the \$2 Million in direct impact.

For a little more personal look at what this discussion is about, consider this. A park visitor from central Indiana comes to the park and camps for a week. That visitor spends money on several things during that

week, one of which is the fees for use of the campsite. The park then hires a person to maintain that campsite and pays that person from the money collected from the visitor. The park employee uses that money to buy a car to get to work, which also means he or she buys insurance. Part of the money paid for that insurance pays the salary of an insurance agent. The insurance agent buys a house, and in doing so takes out a mortgage. The bank that provides the mortgage hires a person to process it and handle all the details. That loan officer at the bank then has money to spend on college for a dependent, and the story can go on and on for a long time before that money from the campsite is exhausted in the local economy. This is part of the indirect and/or induced impact of the park being here.

<sup>1</sup> "The Economic Impact of Travel & Tourism in Indiana"

What can we determine about the impact of West Boggs Park on the local economy? It is hard to say for certain what the total impact would be, because much of that impact is unseen. Using the above tourism model we can reasonably apply the number we do know, and extrapolate them into other details of tourism modeling.

Early in this discussion we saw that the multiplied effect of indirect and induced impacts of visitor spending can be from 7 to 11 times the direct impact, depending on how well a community is prepared for that activity. West Boggs is in a good position to maximize that effect in several ways. First, we know that most, approximately 75%, of West Boggs camping visitors come from outside the two county area. This means that an unusually high volume of the direct impact revenue is "new" money to the local economy. Second, West Boggs has not received local tax dollars since 1996, meaning that as the direct revenue moves through the local economy it is not recaptured in taxes to be reinvested in the park enterprises in which it was generated. In essence, this means the local economy incurs no cost of sales for the revenue distributed into it from the park.

On the downside, the park's local community has not become well equipped to take full advantage of the large influx of tourists that the park provides. Although some local businesses do benefit, such as food services, grocery stores, gas stations, etc., the lack of typical tourist related businesses such as motel/hotel services, amusement facilities, theatre, museums, gift shops and similar operations cause a great deal of potential benefit to be missed as park visitors either bring more things from home or drive to sources outside the community. A good example is that there is not a full service boat or RV dealer in the area positioned to capture the large potential for those markets.

For these reasons we should probably use a multiplier near the middle of the 7-11 range. Using the conservative figure of direct sales of \$2 Million then we would see that the indirect and induced impacts might be some \$18 Million per year. Add the direct, indirect and induced impacts and West Boggs Park is likely to be having a total impact of nearly \$20 million per year on the local economy at a tax cost of zero. We can find no other example of a county government agency having anything close to that cost/benefit ratio.

The two counties involved in West Boggs ownership see disproportionate distribution of the direct, indirect and induced economic effects of all this activity. As a matter of geography, Daviess County has gained the most from residential development and the resulting property tax base. Approximately 330 homes have been built around West Boggs Lake that would not have been there if the lake did not exist. With a very conservative average assessed value of \$150,000, these homes have a total assessed valuation of over \$50 Million. The property taxes from that growth are received by Daviess County almost exclusively. Martin County, also as a matter of geography, receives a disproportionate share of the direct tourism activity, as the city of Loogootee is the closest shopping area available for park visitors.

Employment from park operation is split almost evenly between the two counties with a current annual expenditure on labor and labor related expenses of just over \$450K. This does not include labor from the contracted services that include the golf course and restaurant. The combined labor from all park related operations is likely nearer \$1 Million per year.

In addition, the West Boggs Lake fishery renovation is nearly complete. Stocking efforts commenced late in 2014 and continued through 2016. Fishing contributes to a high percentage of our revenue and due to the gizzard shad infestation, our revenue hit a low in 2014 and 2015. However, over the past five years West Boggs Lake has grown to one of the most popular fisheries in southern Indiana. The influx of revenue due to this fishing destination has given the park the necessary revenue to reinvest into other facets of our facility. Focusing on our immense maintenance backlog and upgrading necessary infrastructure throughout the park has allowed our department to provide updated services, decrease maintenance costs, and open opportunities to invest in new services and amenities. As we continue our growth and investments, the local economy also continues to grow. High tides raise all ships leading to growth of our department along with our local communities.

## **COVID 19**

During the initial public input phase of this plan, we had an unprecedented worldwide pandemic begin we all know as COVID-19. In some regards, the U.S. was going strong and citizens were able to afford vacations, recreational purchases, and having avid leisure time. Once COVID 19 took root, all that almost instantly ceased. The entire U.S. economy took a vast downward spiral due to this shutdown and our area was affected consistent with the rest of the country. Our facility was closed at the beginning of camping season and many of our leisure assets were closed to keep the spread at a minimum. During this time,

we did keep our park open for free use. People utilized this facility in order to relieve the constant fear and worry about the future. We saw families having picnics, boating traffic increased, walking/jogging increased, and it seemed that people just came to stare at the horizon hoping for answers.

As the reopening of the state commenced, we soon realized that West Boggs Park was going to be a targeted destination in 2020. Due to various state and travel restrictions and the people's deep desire to travel, the camping industry witnessed an unprecedented boom due to COVID. It was clear early in the spring that the camping pressure was going to be immense this season as nearly every weekend throughout this summer was reserved to full capacity. Our campground didn't have any open campsites on the weekends until late August, and the weekdays reported 40%-50% occupancy at times. People were using the facility as their escape from the new reality and we recognized that West Boggs Park and other like facilities were essential components for the health and wellbeing of our citizens during trying times.

During this unique usage period, we noticed people using the facility a little differently. People seemed to exhibit a rare regard to privacy. Although many used camping as a way to see their family and friends in an open air environment, others were choosing to use this time to isolate themselves and their families. We also recognized that West Boggs Park needs to implement recreational services that do not require close participation. During the shutdown, many of our amenities such as the playgrounds and basketball court were shut down. This created a large void in available services and amenities offered to our users. Due to this observation, we find it gravely important to research and offer services and/or amenities that do not require closures during such shutdowns.

Overall, parks and especially campgrounds have been the silver lining for our citizens during this COVID 19 Pandemic. The impact is widespread and in many cases has been the main artery for businesses located in communities near to these facilities. Campgrounds were the main focus on the essence of escape from the negative impacts all of us felt through this COVID 19 issue. Many folks visiting these facilities visited the local communities for essential items such as fuel, convenience, mechanics, groceries, restaurants, and regionally focused businesses. Many citizens have now reinvested into outdoor recreational concepts and due to the changes that have derived from COVID, we expect this increase in facility usage to continue.

## Daviess County, Indiana

**Organized in 1817 and named for Battle of Tippecanoe hero Joseph Daviess**

**County Seat:** Washington

**Largest City:** Washington (2019 population: 12,528)

**Population per Square Mile:** 77.65

**Square Miles:** 429.50

[Go to county's in.gov site](#)

<b>Population over Time</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
Yesterday (2010)	31,654	54	0.5%	6,484,192
Today (2019)	33,351	50	0.5%	6,732,219
Tomorrow (2030 projection)*	36,524	46	0.5%	7,143,795

Percent Change 2010 to Today	5.4%	14	3.8%
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\*Projection based on 2010 Census counts.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

#### Components of Population Change, 2018-2019 Number Rank in State Percent of State Indiana

Net Domestic Migration	-163	71	3,997
Net International Migration	21	38	14,379
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	212	18	1.1%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Population Estimates by Age, 2019 Number Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Preschool (0 to 4)	2,748 35	8.2% 6.2%
School Age (5 to 17)	7,099 39	21.3% 17.1%
College Age (18 to 24)	2,775 50	8.3% 9.8%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	7,994 47	24.0% 25.5%
Older Adult (45 to 64)	7,588 57	22.8% 25.2%
Seniors (65 and older)	5,147 56	15.4% 16.1%
Median Age	34.6	Median Age = 37.9

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

#### Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2019 Number Rank of in County in State

	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	130 47	0.4% 0.4%
Asian Alone	169 54	0.5% 2.6%
Black Alone	768 34	2.3% 9.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	38 25	0.1% 0.1%
White	31,881 49	95.6% 84.8%
Two or More Race Groups	365 50	1.1% 2.2%
<b>Hispanic or Latino Origin (can be of any race)</b>		
Non-Hispanic	31,604 48	94.8% 92.7%
Hispanic	1,747 36	5.2% 7.3%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Household Types	Number Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Households in 2018 (Includes detail not shown below)	11,417 54	100.0%	100.0%
Married With Children	2,938 39	25.7%	18.6%
Married Without Children	3,668 58	32.1%	29.9%
Single Parents	887 60	7.8%	9.5%
Living Alone	2,917 54	25.5%	28.5%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in County</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in State</b>
Total Housing Units in 2019 (estimate)	12,565	55	100.0%	100.0%
Total Housing Units in 2018 (includes vacant units)	12,551	55	100.0%	100.0%
Owner Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	8,381	56	66.8%	61.3%
Median Value (2018)	\$121,500	40		
Renter Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	3,036	49	24.2%	27.6%
Median Rent (2018)	\$476	78		

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

<b>Education</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
School Enrollment (2019/2020 Total Reported)	5,051	51	0.5%	1,111,333
Public	4,618	54	0.4%	1,050,614
Adults (25+ in 2018 ACS)	20,396	54	0.5%	4,399,815
with High School diploma or higher	73.2%	91		88.6%
with B.A. or higher degree	13.8%	70		25.9%

Sources: [Indiana Department of Education](#); [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

<b>Income and Poverty</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2018	\$42,064	47	89.2%	47,149
Median Household Income in 2018	55,434	41	99.5%	\$55,725
Poverty Rate in 2018	11.5%	48	88.5%	13.0%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	17.4%	37	99.4%	17.5%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2019	31	34	0.6%	5,235
Food Stamp Recipients in 2019	2,557	44	0.4%	581,821
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2019/2020	2,348	49	0.5%	507,739

Sources: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#); [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Family Social Services Administration](#); [Indiana Department of Education](#)

#### **Health and Vital Statistics Number Rank of Percent of State Indiana**

Births, 2017	553	34	0.7%	82,170
Births to Teens, 2017	33	37	0.6%	5,152
Deaths, 2017	324	57	0.5%	65,602

Source: [Indiana State Department of Health](#)

#### **Labor Force, 2019**

#### **Number Rank in State Percent of State Indiana**

Total Resident Labor Force	16,772	49	0.5%	3,387,366
Employed	16,337	48	0.5%	3,275,056
Unemployed	435	57	0.4%	112,310
Annual Unemployment Rate	2.6	85	78.8%	3.3
<b>September 2020 Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>53.4%</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Source: [STATS Indiana](#), using data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Employment and Earnings by Industry, 2018	Employment	Pct Dist. in County	Earnings (\$000)	Pct Dist. In County	Avg. Earnings Per Job
<b>Total by place of work</b>	18,267	100.0%	\$833,314	100.0%	\$45,619
<b>Wage and Salary</b>	12,988	71.1%	\$496,390	59.6%	\$38,219
<b>Farm Proprietors</b>	1,155	6.3%	\$23,411	2.8%	\$20,269
<b>Nonfarm Proprietors</b>	4,124	22.6%	\$193,273	23.2%	\$46,865
<b>Farm</b>	1,374	7.5%	\$30,896	3.7%	\$22,486
<b>Nonfarm</b>	16,893	92.5%	\$802,418	96.3%	\$47,500
<b>Private</b>	14,919	81.7%	\$697,072	83.7%	\$46,724
Accommodation, Food Serv.	974	5.3%	\$18,194	2.2%	\$18,680
Arts, Ent., Recreation	121	0.7%	\$1,242	0.1%	\$10,264
Construction	2,191	12.0%	\$173,687	20.8%	\$79,273
Health Care, Social Serv.	Data not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.				
Information	146	0.8%	\$5,941	0.7%	\$40,692
Manufacturing	2,801	15.3%	\$138,084	16.6%	\$49,298
Professional, Tech. Serv.	612	3.4%	\$33,621	4.0%	\$54,936
Retail Trade	2,006	11.0%	\$77,841	9.3%	\$38,804
Trans., Warehousing	1,247	6.8%	\$65,220	7.8%	\$52,302
Wholesale Trade	465	2.5%	\$31,930	3.8%	\$68,667
Other Private (not above)	2,588*	14.2%*	\$87,442*	10.5%*	\$33,787*
<b>Government</b>	1,974	10.8%	\$105,346	12.6%	\$53,367

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

\* These totals do not include county data that are not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.

Residential Building Permits, 2019 Units	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State	Cost (\$000)	State Cost (\$000)
Total Permits Filed	26	100.0%	100.0%	\$3,496
Single-Family	16	61.5%	73.1%	\$2,684
2-Family	10	38.5%	1.6%	812
3- and 4-Family	0	0.0%	0.7%	\$0
5+ Family	0	0.0%	24.6%	\$26,551
				\$615,228

Notes: Detail cost may not sum to total due to rounding. Greene County does not currently issue building permits, so it is excluded.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

## Largest Cities and Towns in Daviess County

Name	Population in 2019	Percent of County
Alfordsville	100	0.3%
Cannelburg	164	0.5%
Elnora	676	2.0%
Montgomery	759	2.3%
Odon	1,385	4.2%
Plainville	498	1.5%
Washington	12,528	37.6%

## Martin County, Indiana

**Named for Maj. John T. Martin, founded in 1820 and home to Crane Naval Weapons and the Hoosier National Forest**

**County Seat:** Shoals

**Largest City:** Loogootee (2019 population: 2,700)

**Population per Square Mile:** 30.55

**Square Miles:** 335.70

[Go to county's in.gov site](#)

Population over Time	Number	Rank in State	Percent of State	Indiana
Yesterday (2010)	10,380	88	0.2%	6,484,192
Today (2019)	10,255	88	0.2%	6,732,219
Tomorrow (2030 projection)*	10,120	88	0.1%	7,143,795
Percent Change 2010 to Today	-1.2%	48		3.8%

\*Projection based on 2010 Census counts.

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

### Components of Population Change, 2018-2019 Number Rank in State Percent of State Indiana

Net Domestic Migration	30	34	3,997
Net International Migration	-1	81	14,379
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	9	56	0.0%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

	Population Estimates by Age, 2019 Number	Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Preschool (0 to 4)	593	88	5.8%	6.2%
School Age (5 to 17)	1,680	88	16.4%	17.1%
College Age (18 to 24)	757	87	7.4%	9.8%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	2,285	88	22.3%	25.5%
Older Adult (45 to 64)	2,826	88	27.6%	25.2%
Seniors (65 and older)	2,114	87	20.6%	16.1%
Median Age	43.5			Median Age = 37.9

Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Business Research Center](#)

	Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2019 Number	Rank of	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	38	86	0.4%	0.4%
Asian Alone	48	84	0.5%	2.6%
Black Alone	36	91	0.4%	9.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	1	88	0.0%	0.1%
White	10,021	88	97.7%	84.8%
Two or More Race Groups	111	89	1.1%	2.2%
<b>Hispanic or Latino Origin (can be of any race)</b>				
Non-Hispanic	10,137	88	98.8%	92.7%
Hispanic	118	91	1.2%	7.3%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Household Types	Number Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Households in 2018 (Includes detail not shown below)	4,198	87	100.0% 100.0%
Married With Children	729	87	17.4% 18.6%
Married Without Children	1,353	88	32.2% 29.9%
Single Parents	342	86	8.1% 9.5%
Living Alone	1,262	86	30.1% 28.5%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

Housing	Number Rank in State	Pct Dist. in County	Pct Dist. in State
Total Housing Units in 2019 (estimate)	4,828	88	100.0% 100.0%
Total Housing Units in 2018 (includes vacant units)	4,804	88	100.0% 100.0%
Owner Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	3,323	86	69.2% 61.3%
Median Value (2018)	\$111,100	54	
Renter Occupied (Pct. distribution based on all housing units)	875	88	18.2% 27.6%

Median Rent (2018) \$408 89

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

<b>Education</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
School Enrollment (2019/2020 Total Reported)	1,441	89	0.1%	1,111,333
Public	1,441	89	0.1%	1,050,614
Adults (25+ in 2018 ACS)	7,089	88	0.2%	4,399,815
with High School diploma or higher	85.5%	71		88.6%
with B.A. or higher degree	13.4%	74		25.9%

Sources: [Indiana Department of Education](#); [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates.](#)

<b>Income and Poverty</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
Per Capita Personal Income (annual) in 2018	\$39,941	63	84.7%	47,149
Median Household Income in 2018	55,444	40	99.5%	\$55,725
Poverty Rate in 2018	11.8%	44	90.8%	13.0%
Poverty Rate among Children under 18	15.6%	53	89.1%	17.5%
Welfare (TANF) Monthly Average Families in 2019	11	84	0.2%	5,235
Food Stamp Recipients in 2019	665	89	0.1%	581,821
Free and Reduced Fee Lunch Recipients in 2019/2020	712	89	0.1%	507,739

Sources: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#); [U.S. Census Bureau](#); [Indiana Family Social Services Administration](#); [Indiana Department of Education](#)

#### **Health and Vital Statistics Number Rank of Percent of State Indiana**

Births, 2017	113	87	0.1%	82,170
Births to Teens, 2017	6	85	0.1%	5,152
Deaths, 2017	88	88	0.1%	65,602

Source: [Indiana State Department of Health](#)

<b>Labor Force, 2019</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>	<b>Indiana</b>
Total Resident Labor Force	5,380	85	0.2%	3,387,366
Employed	5,239	85	0.2%	3,275,056
Unemployed	141	89	0.1%	112,310
Annual Unemployment Rate	2.6	85	78.8%	3.3
<b>September 2020 Unemployment Rate 3.5</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>60.3%</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Source: [STATS Indiana](#), using data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

<b>Employment and Earnings by Industry, 2018</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in County</b>	<b>Earnings (\$000)</b>	<b>Pct Dist. In County</b>	<b>Avg. Earnings Per Job</b>
<b>Total by place of work</b>	8,948	100.0%	\$791,527	100.0%	\$88,459

<b>Wage and Salary</b>	7,705	86.1%	\$547,260	69.1%	\$71,027
<b>Farm Proprietors</b>	244	2.7%	\$19,724	2.5%	\$80,836
<b>Nonfarm Proprietors</b>	999	11.2%	\$21,619	2.7%	\$21,641
<b>Farm</b>	292	3.3%	\$20,820	2.6%	\$71,301
<b>Nonfarm</b>	8,656	96.7%	\$770,707	97.4%	\$89,037
<b>Private</b>	3,576	40.0%	\$166,086	21.0%	\$46,445
Accommodation, Food Serv.			Data not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.		
Arts, Ent., Recreation			Data not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.		
Construction	247	2.8%	\$9,092	1.1%	\$36,810
Health Care, Social Serv.	209	2.3%	\$6,943	0.9%	\$33,220
Information	42	0.5%	\$1,646	0.2%	\$39,190
Manufacturing	425	4.7%	\$29,312	3.7%	\$68,969
Professional, Tech. Serv.	671	7.5%	\$58,942	7.4%	\$87,842
Retail Trade	415	4.6%	\$9,809	1.2%	\$23,636
Trans., Warehousing	370	4.1%	\$20,801	2.6%	\$56,219
Wholesale Trade	96	1.1%	\$6,387	0.8%	\$66,531
Other Private (not above)	599*	6.7%*	\$15,766*	2.0%*	\$26,321*
<b>Government</b>	5,080	56.8%	\$604,621	76.4%	\$119,020

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

\* These totals do not include county data that are not available due to BEA non-disclosure requirements.

<b>Residential Building Permits, 2019 Units</b>		<b>Pct Dist. in County</b>	<b>Pct Dist. in State</b>	<b>Cost (\$000)</b>	<b>State Cost (\$000)</b>
Total Permits Filed	4	100.0%	100.0%	\$490	\$4,988,366
Single-Family	2	50.0%	73.1%	\$370	\$4,298,385
2-Family	2	50.0%	1.6%	120	\$48,202
3- and 4-Family	0	0.0%	0.7%	\$0	\$26,551
5+ Family	0	0.0%	24.6%	\$0	\$615,228

Notes: Detail cost may not sum to total due to rounding. Greene County does not currently issue building permits, so it is excluded.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

## Largest Cities and Towns in Martin County

Name	Population in 2019	Percent of County
Crane	179	1.7%
Loogootee	2,700	26.3%
Shoals	789	7.7%

FACILITY GENERAL INFORMATION			
Site code	Name of site West Boggs Park		
Address (number and street, city, state, and ZIP code) 16117 US Hwy 231 Loogootee, IN 47553			
Primary telephone number ( 812 ) 295-3537	Primary e-mail address jameson@westboggs.com	Site URL www.westboggs.com	
Name of owner Daviss Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Dept	Name of manager Mike Axsom		
Type of facility: (Please check one)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park / Recreation Area <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Historic / Cultural Site <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Nature Preserve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reservoir <input type="checkbox"/> Trail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing / Boating Access Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping / Trailer Park <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife Area			
Type of area: (Please check one)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Township			
Time Open:	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year-round	
Total acres 1500	Land acres 878	Water acres 622	Wetlands acres

PICNIC AND PLAYGROUND AREAS			
Is there a Picnic Area on this site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there a Playground on this site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

ATHLETIC AREAS			
Site code			
Please record "Number of" each of the following:			
AMENITY	CHECK IF THIS SITE HAS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING		MULTI-USE (check, if applicable)
Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fields</b>			
Baseball / Softball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Courts</b>			
Basketball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes:	West Boggs Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities that are more nature play related. However, we have not discounted the benefits of introducing additional sporting amenities to our customers.		

**CAMPING OR LODGING FACILITIES**Is there a Campground on this site?  Yes  No**GOLF FACILITIES**Is there a Public Golf Course on this site?  Yes  No**SHOOTING OR ARCHERY FACILITIES**Is there a Public Shooting Range on this site?  Yes  NoIs there a Public Archery Range on this site?  Yes  No**WINTER ACTIVITIES**Is this site open for any Winter Activity use?  Yes  No**TRAILS**Are there any Trails located on this site?  Yes  No

If Yes, please contact Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Outdoor Recreation for addition to Trails Inventory.

**WATER**Is there a Pool on this site?  Yes  NoIs there a Splash Pad, Water Park, or other Water Feature?  Yes  NoIs there a Pond, Lake, River, or Creek on this site with public access?  Yes  No

Notes:

We have a swimming beach located at West Boggs Reservoir.

## Public Participation

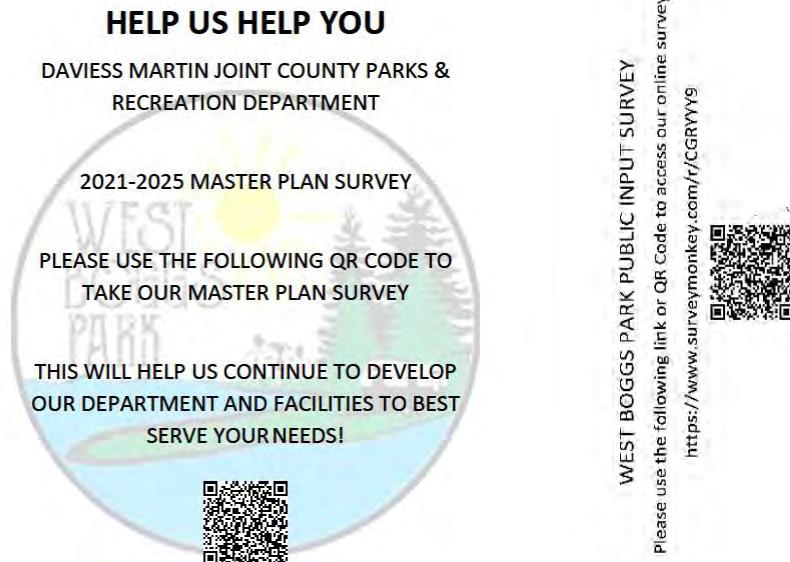
Our parks department has the underlying mission to serve the communities in which we reside and also provide a destination that attracts tourism to our area. We realize that in order to properly understand the needs and wants of our users, we must provide outlets for them to express such. Public participation was vital in the preparation of this plan. We were able to capitalize public input through the use of a survey on SurveyMonkey. This survey went live on January 1, 2020 and over the course of the year we garnered 1,046 responses. Through these responses we were able to extrapolate what the public needs, wants, and expects our department to accomplish in order to meet their needs.

Our department was also able to host one public meeting at the Simon J. Graber building in Daviess County on November 18, 2020. Due to COVID 19 issues, we only attracted one individual to this meeting.

Our second meeting to read the draft of the plan was held at our normal park board meeting on January 12, 2021

In order to reach the public about the availability of the Public Input Opportunity, we primarily utilized social media. Throughout the 2020 year we would occasional post a link to our survey along with a post regarding the importance for us to receive public input. We also placed flyers around the park facility and our local community businesses. We emailed the link out to both the Daviess and Martin County Chamber of Commerce Members.

The following are flyers distributed via email and at public locations to promote the participation in our public input sections.



The following are sign in sheets for these public input meetings.

WEST BOGGS PARK MASTER PLANNING  
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2020  
**SIGN-IN SHEET**

NAME:      EMAIL:      TELEPHONE:      COMMENTS:

Giant Hays HAYsqd@GMAIL.COM 412-299-0283

Mark Snayl mtraylor1@nucable.net

James Hobbs

Jules Brown

#### Public Survey Information

Due to the amount of input received from the public input survey through Survey Monkey, we have ample evidence pertaining to the needs and wants of our users. The summarized survey results are compiled to 134 pages of answers to 29 questions that were designed to extrapolate the necessary information needed by our department to create, prioritize, and set forth an Action Agenda. We also conducted an internal survey in order to garner what our staff request to effectively provide the leisure experiences demanded by our users.

According to survey results, the ages of our respondents are as follows:

- 22.33% (232) are ages 55-64
- 20.31% (211) are ages 25-34
- 19.54% (203) are ages 35-44
- 19.06% (198) are ages 45-54

- 10.97% (114) are ages 65+
- 6.74 (70) are ages 18-24
- 1.06 (11) are under the age of 18

This information shows us that we have a wide range of adults that utilize the park, but there is an above average use or our facility of a slightly older generation. Many in this age sector will be parents and grandparents and will require and participate in different services for their leisure experience. The second highest percentage is of the ages 25-34, which will consist of single adults to young married couple without children and young married couples with children. This survey does not specify age groups with children, however question number 5 does demonstrate that 53.04% of our respondents do not have children residing in their household. 18.94% have 2 children, 13.33% have 1 child, 8.60% have 3 children, 4.06% have 4 children, and 2.03% have more than four children residing in their household. Of the 1035 respondents to this question, that places us close to  $\frac{1}{2}$  with children and  $\frac{1}{2}$  without children. This data delivers the message that we need to look at a wide array of activities, projects, amenities, and services that will accommodate the needs children along with young, middle ages, and senior adults.

Visitation and usage of the facility can be equated to question number 7 in our survey. Of the 1035 respondents to this question:

- 40.10% (415) visited the park 0-5 times per year
- 31.21% (323) visited the park 6-15 times per year
- 18.07% (187) visited the park 26+ times per year
- 10.63 (110) visited the park 16-25 times per year

These figures are a good baseline to use in comparison to past surveys conducted with similar question. Past surveys do not exhibit answers in a consistent method, but comparing the question on our 2015 public survey to our 2020 survey, it's apparent that usage of West Boggs Park has vastly increased in the past five years. This information will better aide us in the future to analyze the use of our facility once we have accommodated the needs expressed by those users through this master plan.

Question number 9 in our survey allows us to see how far people are traveling to use our facility. Of the 1035 respondents:

- 19.32% (200) live within 3 miles of the park
- 27.25% (282) live within 4-10 miles of the park
- 20.29% (210) live within 11-20 miles of the park
- 14.11% (146) live within 21-30 miles of the park
- 9.66% (100) live within 31-50 miles of the park
- 9.37 (97) live with 51+ miles from the park

These figures exhibit that our facility is vastly used by our local communities yet the facility does attract regional users. It would be nice to know of those the frequency of use by those living further than 20 miles from the park as these individuals would reside out of our two respective counties in which we directly serve. Based on this information, we realize that we should focus need on improving the facility for to meet local needs, however it could also be viewed that we need to find methods to increase participation from those living further than 30 miles from the facility. It would be in our best interest to find tasks that would benefit both needs.

Our survey also requests information from participants as to the method of utilization of our facility. West Boggs Park is a popular destination for camping. Results of 782 respondents to question 13 are:

- 62.92% (492) of the people use our facility for camping
- Fishing is a close second at 55.75% (436)
- Events are third at 42.20% (330)
- Activities at 31.84% (249)
- Golf cart use at 31.84% (249)
- Playground use at 29.92% (234)
- Concert series attendance at 26.47% (207)

- Cleanliness of facility 23.40% (183)
- Swimming at the beach 19.95% (156)
- Exercise health and wellness 18.41% (144)
- Kayaking at 16.75% (131)
- Photography 9.59% (75)

This information gives us insight as to why and how people are using our facility. We can utilize this knowledge to better address our needs analysis and prepare our action schedule based on current trends. These numbers above also reflect areas of concern that we could focus extra effort to increase the usage of some concepts in our facility.

West Boggs Park is operated by a joint county parks & recreation department and has been operating without the use of tax funds since 1996. Our survey showed that nearly 70% of participants did not realize we are a self-sufficient parks department. That question was asked following our request for feelings based on our user fees. Our survey shows that the 75%-80% of the respondents thought our user fees were just right. Several expressed our user fees are too high and only a few stated they were too low. It would be good to ask those question in reverse order next time to see if the ordering conditions different responses.

West Boggs Lake is a watershed constructed to alleviate flooding and to control erosion from an 8,000 acre subwatershed of the White River. Due to this purpose, the lake does capture immense nutrient load coming from area agricultural practices. This in combination with adjacent landowner activities, recent fishery renovation, and new global weather patterns has resulted in an increase influx of several algae species. The past five years, the presence of such algae has increased and it is highly expressed in our public survey for our department to address this issue of concern. This impacts both the health and wellness of the users along with the recreational benefit and economic impact of visitation to the lake. Measures being taken will be addressed in the action schedule of this plan.

West Boggs Park has made major transformations in the past five years. Much of this is not seen by the public eye due to the nature of department structuring, planning, saving, and various administration efforts. But the facility has witnessed upgrades along with new services, amenities, and events. Our public input survey shows that people view our progress over the last five years is ranked Good by the majority and excellent a marginal second. This figure gives us incentives to continue our efforts due to the appreciation shown, but also the goal of getting an excellent response from the majority of survey participants. Due to our careful planning and development, we anticipate the next survey will exhibit more in the Excellent response column.

We wanted to gain some insight on what people would like to see outside of West Boggs Park. We asked a couple of questions pertaining to thoughts on ideas and/or projects elsewhere in Daviess and/or Martin Counties. Various other organizations may also use this information to move forward with initiatives and concepts. At this time, we are unsure if we can incorporate any of these into our master plan due to the complexity of our funding. However, we wanted to ask this question so that we can better prepare for the future of our parks department. The results of this question align with the basic need for additional recreational and leisure opportunities that are needed in our area.

First, we have assets in our counties that could be exposed and built to create new recreational outlets. These areas are owned and controlled by Indiana DNR and are locations such as Hindostan Falls and Jug Rock in Martin County. The answers to our question express the desire to develop and/or redevelop existing facilities in our area. There could also be potential to acquire properties from mining companies that are adjacent to the Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area in southern Daviess County. This would be a perfect location for the inclusion of a new multi facet shooting sports destination, which was a highly recommended concept in our master plan. These two ideas were followed close by new parks/pocket parks inside the smaller communities along with community trail systems. Our parks department partner with various organizations to expose these possibilities. Exposure could ultimately lead to future development based on this community need.

## **Needs Analysis**

The public input methods along with the department need surveys have allowed us to establish distinctive needs. These needs will provide fulfillment for the operational standpoint of our department along with creating an

atmosphere that caters to the public expectations. In order to stay consistent with our mission and our funding mechanisms, it's imperative that we look at the needs exhibited in these surveys and illustrate our method of approach accordingly. Our park has grown considerably in recent years, and our usage rate has vastly increased over the past five seasons. The campground in our facility provides an outlet as a regional destination and is utilized at full capacity most weekends of the camping season especially due to the COVID 19 pandemic. As we expand and provide leisure services, we need remain mindful of current status of our infrastructure and upgrade accordingly in order to reduce our current deferred maintenance log. Many of the tasks listed in the 2015-2020 plan and this 2020-2025 plan will reflect the need to address existing infrastructure. Many of the suggested projects below are listed multiple times which reflects the importance of their presence in our master plan. We will give a quick synopsis of most projects as we progress through the Needs Analysis.

Our public survey asked relevant questions pertaining to the replacement and/or upgrade of some existing amenities located in West Boggs Park. These items are listed based on response in the following order:

- Upgrade campground utilities
- Update the beach/lakefront area
- Update the beachhouse
- Update our comfort stations
- Level our campsites
- Upgrade our putt putt course
- Replace the existing FEMA trailers with rentable cabins
- Improve or enlarge our shelter houses.

These projects are all priorities of our department based on self-assessment and public input. Due to various variables, the priorities of these same projects will change in our timeline but all will be addressed. The campground at West Boggs Park was established at the onset of the park and slowly grew to the size it is today. Outdated infrastructure currently provides 1/3 of 300 campsites with electrical utility and maintenance issues continually increase. As the size of camping units increase, the need for additional electrical load is necessary. One of our main focuses moving forward will be to complete our task we began in 2015 and upgrade the electrical infrastructure in the entire campground.

Staying in the campground, we understand that many of our sites are not on level ground and as camping units continue to increase in size, longer and wider flat campsites are required for an overall positive experience. Administrative observation along with public input has allowed us to recognize this issue and the urgency in which we should place this objective. Level campsites are part of the experience of camping and provide users with safe, clean, and desirable places to recreate.

Camping cabins are increasingly growing in popularity. Cabins provide an outlet for people who do not own a camper or RV nor a tent but still want the overnight outdoor experience. We currently have four FEMA trailers and plan to replace these outdated units with six or more cabin units. Cabins will increase the overall aesthetics of the facility and the additional units will provide recreational availability to a higher number of possible participants. Due to the deterioration rate of the present FEMA units, it's in our best interest to incorporate this change at the early stages of this plan.

Question 26 in our survey asked people to rank from highest to lowest how certain new structures would impact their facility use. The following are the results from that question:

- 50'x100' Lake overlook deck connected to our Dogwood Shelter
- More playground equipment throughout the park
- An amphitheater
- Additional camping cabins
- New Beachhouse
- Walking trail loop from the beach to the activity center
- New maintenance and main office building
- Art/sculptures throughout the park

The list above are express new ideas along with projects that have been repeatedly expressed in past master plans. The idea of an amphitheater has been brought to our attention on multiple occasions. This project could create multiple programming outlets for our department but we're trying to wait until the right time to pursue this concept. Considering it is an expensive endeavor, we know that other projects suggested in the public input will provide a greater impact on the overall leisure experience at our facility. The amphitheater is a project that will come to fruition at some point, however it may not be in the duration of this plan.

We are trying to capitalize on areas that are focal points of the park. The Dogwood Shelter is one such point of interest in the facility due to its location on top of a long hillside. It overlooks the beach and a large section of West Boggs Lake. The idea of a 50'x100' observation deck would greatly enhance this shelter house and increase the services that it can provide. We would design this deck not just as an observation deck, but also a location for larger events such as weddings, reunions, dances, and various other activities. It could also include play structures such as a bouldering wall and slide.

These projects are some of the ideas that our department had for the future development of the facility. The answers give insight on how we should progress with such.

Question 27 asked participants to rank their level of interest for the following listed amenities. The following amenities are listed in order of public response:

- ½ mile walking path circling connecting the beach and activity center
- Kayak and paddle board rentals
- Concessions at the beach
- Rentable cabins
- 50'x100' overlook deck at Dogwood shelter
- Sand volleyball courts
- Basketball courts
- Outdoor fitness area at beach
- Disc golf course
- Dog Park
- Pickleball courts
- Primitive camping area
- Art sculptures

We did leave room for "Other" in this question. Some of the more popular responses are: fishing piers, more campsites, shade over playground, splash pad, tennis courts, more wildflowers, and additional landscaping.

Once again, the following are concepts that our department has researched based on current parks and recreation trends, word of mouth suggestions, health and wellness needs, and various observations. Each of these project ideas would benefit users to varying levels but would have an overall benefit to every user of the park. Some of the ideas listed by survey participants and department staff ideas are:

- Leveling of campsites
- Additional fishing piers
- Daily mooring docks for adjacent landowners
- Boat rentals
- Golf Cart rentals
- Fitness equipment
- Walking/jogging paths
- Hammock use areas
- Small observation decks overlooking the lake
- Disc Golf Course

Throughout the master plan, the idea of upgrading the beach area and the amenities adjacent to it are repeatedly listed. This lakefront area is the center of our park and has the potential to provide ample leisure services to our facility users. In 2017, we introduced the parks most modern playground as an effort to attract users to this location of the park. That was just the first step in our plans to continue growth around the beach area. There are several

services and amenities expressed in the survey that will be included in the development of the lakefront beach area. Most of these projects fall into the health and wellness component of recreational facilities. The projects that we have been preparing to conduct in this area are tournament ready volleyball courts, pickleball courts, basketball court, ½ mile walking/jogging path, outdoor fitness equipment, lake mooring docks, and shade structures. We will also demo and construct a new beach house that will provide family assist rooms, concessions, boat rentals, and additional shaded areas. Our vision is to utilize several landscaping concepts in order to mitigate the storm water issue that is currently pressing but will also increase with the additional hard surfaces. The combination of these projects will allow us to create a centralized leisure area that provides ample opportunity for health and wellness focused activities. Prioritizing these actions will take precise planning to secure ample funding sources but also to provide a fundamental process of construction. The layout of this area is conducive to method of implementation of these projects in a certain timeline.

Many of the responses on this survey pertain to projects that we have listed on our current 2015-2020 Master Plan. We were able to complete numerous objectives on the current plan and secured funding in 2019 through the Land Water Conservation Grant for several other projects that will roll over to the 2021-2025 Plan. Such projects that will roll over are:

- Road rehab – set for 2021 and funded by LWCF
- Additional accessible fishing pier – set for 2022 and funded by LWCF
- Replace Fish Cleaning Station – set for 2021 and funded by LWCF
- Complete replacing deteriorated road culverts – set for 2021 prior to road work.
- Complete second half of Electrical utility upgrade in Whitetail Camping section - set for 2021 and funded by our operating budget.

Road rehabilitation is the most mentioned project in the public input section of our past two surveys. The severe issue with our park roads is also mentioned by most campers on our social media platforms, in person conversations, and other outlets for suggestions. Due to the immense costs associated with road rehabilitation, it took our department that past four seasons to plan and prepare for this undertaking. Preliminary tasks have been replacement of inoperable main water line valves, culvert replacement, electrical infrastructure upgrades, valve box riser, man-hole risers, and roadside swale improvements. It also took our department from 2015 – 2019 to save the excess funds in order to match a substantial grant such as the LWCF in order to complete the road improvement objective. This project is the main objective to meet with the LWCF grant we have received. Through cooperation with both the Daviess and the Martin County Highway Departments, our plan is to accomplish this task in the summer of 2021.

Our facility is best known for the excellent fishing and it's our responsibility to provide fishing access to all individuals. The public survey requests additional fishing access and site observation along with word of mouth suggestions have brought insight to this need. The LWCF grant will also assist us with providing an additional stationary ADA fishing pier. This structure will be located near an area with established parking but will also include ADA parking and pathway to this new fishing pier. To meet the needs of the high number of fisherman using our facility, we are also set to construct a new fish cleaning station

One of the first methods of collecting data, was a questionnaire given to park board members and staff. The questionnaire was simple and asked what new projects and what upgrades they would like to see take place during the next five years. The answers were very comparable to the public survey. Projects such as but not limited to campsite leveling, playground shade structures, beach/lakefront area improvements, nature interpretation signage, disc golf, primitive campsites, putt putt course upgrade, and an amphitheater. These project ideas correlate with the basic requests and needs of the public.

Our facility also needs to better prepare ourselves and our offered services/amenities in accordance to any current or future health pandemics. COVID 19 created numerous barriers and led to major shutdowns of park amenities and services. The timeline of the COVID 19 pandemic over the course of 2020 has allowed us to view our facility in a different light. We now realize that campgrounds and outdoor recreational facilities essential facilities and the usage of these facilities vastly increased in light of the COVID 19 issues. It's in our best interest to research and include projects may properly serve our users in case of major economic shutdowns in the future. Such project

ideas are disc golf courses, community gardens, interactive landscaping, nature self-interpretation, increased fishing access, hammock use areas, and the inclusion of small picnic areas. These concepts may or may not be included in our project agenda but can be included in the framework of our tasks if and when they become applicable.

Our parks department would also like to begin looking outside the borders of West Boggs Park into formidable recreational facilities that are streamlined with our funding type. Considering West Boggs Park does not utilize tax money, it would be difficult to look into traditional recreational facilities that require tax based funding for basic operations. So we are initially looking into concepts that could be self-supportive. These ideas are based on the overall community need that has derived from public input and research from our administrators on area recreational availability. Some of the self-supportive ideas that have been generated are: shooting range, additional campgrounds, adventure programs, and a farmers' market.

These facility ideas would fit into the scope of operations currently utilized at West Boggs Park. Each of these ideas could operate with a revenue driven budget and require no assistance from Daviess County or the subsidy from the West Boggs Park facility. The most popular of these ideas is the shooting range. We serve a rural section of Indiana in which a high percentage of the residents enjoy shooting sports. This section of Indiana hosts a significant void in public shooting ranges, which is a disservice to these Hoosier residents. Daviess County is home to the Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area facility, boasting 8,000 acres of public land. Adjacent to this facility is ample acreage owned by one of many coal mining companies. If our department would acquire ample acreage from the current coal mine occupant, it would be a prime location for an immense multi-faceted shooting range. State grants at one time were available specifically for shooting ranges but now such monies are not available for that specific use. However, state grants would be applicable for this endeavor.

However, we will not discount the idea of traditional facilities but such would require a funding commitment from other resources such as county government or another source. Such ideas and projects are; Trail system between both Daviess and Martin Counties, basic community park at Hindostan Falls, additional county pocket parks, and community gardens. These ideas would serve our counties with a more widespread offering of services and amenities. Each would require unique partnerships, funding sources, and detailed approach to basic operations.

Of these mentioned projects, the connecting county trail system has momentum with various interested groups and parties. A bi-county committee was formed in late 2018 with the intent on creating a trail system that would ultimately link Loogootee to Washington. This project would also create a pathway through the communities of Cannelburg and Montgomery. This committee made an attempt at securing funds offered by DNR Ready Trails Program but unfortunately too many barriers were present for this attempt. However, the need and desire for this project still exists and people in this committee are still searching for methods provide this project. It is very desirable for our parks department to be included in this process as a trail system fits into the scope of Parks & Recreation. The concept of trails both within and outside of cities/town was presented on our public input section of this plan and received positive results.

Another project mentioned for outside of West Boggs Park is a community park at Hindostan Falls. DNR owns and controls this area, which also lies in a flood zone. There was once a campground and park that offered recreational opportunities. Unfortunately, that facility was closed due to a variety of factors. Many local residents would like to see an operating facility there once again. Even just basic amenities would serve as an attraction to the location. Special planning would need to be taken into account for the occasional flooding of the area and services such as restrooms would need to be constructed and/or located in accordance.

## **Water Quality**

West Boggs Lake is the premier feature of our facility. This lake provides ample recreational opportunities to a wide variety of users. The fishing in this lake attracts people from a wide radius and is some of the best panfishing in the state of Indiana. Recreational boating is also an attraction, and during the warmer months, people will participate in skiing, tubing, wake-boarding, jet skiing, and pontoon cruising. The park operates a large swimming beach which attracts numerous people during the summer months. The beach witnessed a huge influx of users in 2020 due to

pool shutdowns related to COVID 19. So it's very important that the department provide clean and safe water for users

Recent years, the lake has been overcome with algae blooms. Unfortunately, most of these algae blooms are considered cyanobacteria (blue green algae). Cyanobacteria is especially prevalent in smaller coves and areas that receive debris from both wind and wake. In some extreme cases, the algae have completely covered coves, impeding both human and boating use. We conduct a weekly water sample in order to determine toxicity levels of the present algae and our department has been forced to cease swimming in the lake due to accelerated toxins present in these samples. The cause of these algae blooms are attributed to the immense nutrient load that reaches the lake. The 8,000 acres watershed that flows into our system is comprised of numerous agricultural practices and lifestyles. Animal waste and field fertilizers quickly make their way into drainages and creek systems and end up in West Boggs Lake. There are also numerous houses adjacent to park property. The presence of these private residences attribute to the nutrients as well through storm water runoff of hard surfaces and mowed fescue lawns. Fertilizers are other chemicals are often used on private lawns, which ultimately end up in the lake feeding the algae.

In order to mitigate this issue, we need to first research and pinpoint the exact locations of the issues. Our department has applied for and received a LARE Grant for a Lake Diagnostic Study which will also be coupled with a Sediment Removal Study. This research is set to begin in 2021 and will assist us with determining the exact issues at hand and give us insight on tactics to remedy the problems. . Facility assessment in addition to public input fully points that water quality is a major issue that needs to be addressed in this 2021-2025 Master Plan.

## **Programming**

Parks and recreation departments pride themselves in providing adequate and fulfilling programs to their communities. We are no different in the aspect but have structured our programming a little differently due to a large percentage of our participants utilizing our campground. Our facility had a very minimal programming department until the past five years. Since 2015, we have vastly increased the quantity and quality of our programs, events, and activities. The available programs have not only attracted new customers to our campground, but have also created an active relationship with our local communities. Cultivating that relationship with our communities was one of our primary goals during the last five years. Our department now offers a wide range of programs that provide experiences for a diverse population. Some of the most popular events have been a five-part music series, civil war reenactment, kids fishing derby, Easter egg hunt, and our hillbilly weekend. We have also increased the credibility of the park and other entities now want to host their events here. The Martin County Vintage Camper Rally started in 2017 and now has a large following. We now have a bbq competition hosted in the park by a third party. The Martin County Law Enforcement and First responders host a Martin County Community Safety Day in the facility. Cultivating and managing these relationships is an important aspect of our programming department.

Our public survey for this plan also demonstrates the success of our programming and at the same time giving us insight on how to progress. Many responses request for more adult and senior directed activities. There are also numerous responses requesting nature based programs that creates an adventure and a learning component for the participants. Our own assessment gives us insight for the need to provide our communities with winter and after school programming options. Our task at hand now is to research available options, partners, and locations to host such programming. Currently, it will be difficult due to restrictions of COVID 19, but we hope that subsides in during the period of this master plan.

## **Priorities and Action Schedule**

Parks and recreation facilities create priorities and actions in order to commit and accomplish goals that will positively reflect the mission of providing leisure services. However, we also want to maintain a safe and exciting place to visit and to work. The projects necessary for us to promote and encumber into this plan reflect a need of basic infrastructure upgrades along with the essence of improving the quality of play. Leisure experiences are

reflected by both so it's essential for us to offer quality utilities and infrastructure along with ample services and amenities for users to enjoy.

Our department wants to include projects that will reflect the interests of the department and public need. The public input is invaluable to the establishment of our action schedule and helps us set in motion the roadwork for future growth. It's our desire to properly serve our rural communities with a modern and updated park facility that meets their needs. As with most rural communities, at times the latest trends in parks & recreation are not yet known, so it's also our responsibility to provide that information and expose those concepts for public input. The public survey that was available for the entire 2020 year expressed modern trends that many of our users have yet to experience, so exposing them to those concepts is an important component of this plan. Many of the projects exhibited in this plan will directly serve the public whether they are utilizing our facility for camping, day use, or both. We want to plan our actions to accommodate all users.

Pulling from the public plan and through facility assessment, some of the most desired projects based on public need are improvements to the beach area. We have already rolled out a concept call the Lively Lakefront and Wellness Initiative in which the entire beach/lakefront area will receive a complete makeover. This concept includes outdoor fitness equipment, official size volleyball courts, pickleball courts, basketball court, shade structures, new beach building, and ample landscaping to increase aesthetics and combat storm water. This concept also includes a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile walking/jogging path that will encircle the new amenities and the beach. Many of these projects were expressed as major interests in our public input section. Our department also realizes that this centralized area of the park is in the spotlight and underutilized. We are looking at several funding sources and options in order to establish these projects. Over the next five years, we anticipate completing this initiative in various stages with grants and loans are the most formidable outlets.

The public also expresses the concern with the condition of our campsites. Our department understands that we need to focus on the services and comfort of our sites. West Boggs Park offers a variety of terrain features with very little flat space. The camping sections are located on varying terrain. The public and internal survey states the need for our department to focus on campsite leveling. It's obvious that some sections are placed on a severe slope and other sections are not as severe but to require leveling. We are also utilizing LWCF money to provide up to ten mobile friendly campsites. These sites will be level and meet ADA camping standards. The agenda also shows our timeline to finish the electrical upgrades in our campground. The LWCF grant will fund 50% of the upgrade in our Raccoon Camping Section. Completing the Whitetail Section and upgrading our Bobcat section will follow suit. Camping has become the main outlet for people due to social changes demanded by arising health concerns. This trend quickly overtook the country in 2020 and our campground occupancy rates demonstrate this rise. We want to monitor this trend over the next three years and expand accordingly to provide additional campsites for recreational outlets. We anticipate the need for expanding our modern camping availability and also introducing new primitive campsites conducive for tent camping. We also have a growing demand for group camping from groups such as boy scouts and church groups, so providing an inclusive space for groups would also expand our versatility.

The water quality of West Boggs Lake is one of the most important aspects of our journey towards progress. If the quality of our reservoir deteriorates, it will have dramatic impacts on recreational opportunities, safety, aesthetics, and economic vitality. A high percentage of our open ended survey questions were answered with concerns about the water quality. Beginning with the LARE Diagnostic Lake Study and Sediment Removal Planning Grants, we will be able to move forward over the next five years and improve the water quality of the lake. We know this will take a perpetual effort, and the next five years will just be the foundation of this change.

One of our many goals set by our administration, is to provide ample recreational opportunities. Presently, our facility provides very few amenities that target all ages groups and demographics. We also want to provide

amenities that allow for physical play to assist our rural area with increasing health and wellness. Our facility offers prime areas for disc golf, which is one of the quickest growing trends in parks & recreation. This activity is cheap and easy to play by all ages and abilities. This area of Indiana is also void of courses but is also highly desired according to our survey. Using a professional designer, our plan is to include a beginners 9-hole course to introduce people to the activity and provide families with an additional physical option within the facility. We will also include an advanced course in another section of the park that will entice avid players to visit our park. This course will also give us the opportunity to host and/or provide large scale tournaments that will attract new users to our facility and communities. Disc golf is also an activity that fits into any social distancing demands due to health or viral issues.

The addition of cabins in our facility will accommodate the need to increase the available rental units based on demand of users. Our current FEMA trailers have reached and are exceeding their life spans. Replacing these units with cabins will increase the aesthetics of the park but also allow for additional units to be available. This will increase our capacity and allow for more people to enjoy the leisure opportunities in our facility. We also plan to include basic camping cabins in other locations in the park. These units will allow us to use the available spaces we have for accommodating unites. The inclusion of cabins will also assist both Daviess and Martin Counties will tourism dollars through the Inn-Keepers Taxes.

West Boggs Park offers varying topography that provides scenic hilltops with great views. These rolling hills are part of the attraction of our facility. The Dogwood shelter is located at the peak of the park and provides a great vantage point to overlook the lake, beach, and our playground. It also provides beautiful views of the sunrises, sunsets, and is an attractive location for weddings. To increase the versatility of this location, the park has crafted the idea to construct a deck that will be 50' in width and extend up to 100' over the hillside. This inclusively designed structure will accommodate larger gatherings and support the growing trend of outdoor weddings. It will also provide additional outdoor space for events as demanded with COVID 19 issues. We expect this structure to be popular and in high demand. So we anticipate constructing similar spaces but on smaller scales in order to accommodate more users. These small deck structures will increase the leisure opportunities utilizing the hillsides that allow for very few options.

As our facility gains popularity in both camping and day use activities, it's imperative we improve the attractiveness at the main entrance. This will promote the park and demonstrate our evolving progress to provide a modern, trending, yet traditional appeal to our users. It will also fall in line with improving the visual appearance of both Martin and Daviess Counties.

It's also imperative that we meet the needs of our parks department so that we may properly serve our users. Our department does not want to overlook the needs of our staff and the projects and/or concepts that will improve their capability to perform their jobs. Providing adequate equipment, buildings, and services are paramount to attract and retain quality employees. Our main office and maintenance shop are outdated buildings that do not lend themselves for quality nor practical working environments. Replacing these structures with modern appearance, utilities, and supplies would greatly enhance the working environment and ultimately attributing to an increased output of our staff. Over time, this type of investment would enhance the quality of experience for our facility users.

Our planning wouldn't be complete without some dream projects. These projects would allow our West Boggs Park facility to diversify the amenities and services while allowing our department to expand the amount of managed facilities offered to the public. An amphitheater in West Boggs Park would increase the versatility of the park and allow us to grow our programming availability within our department and outside groups. This could allow us to increase the scope of our music events and allow for various and diversified programs to take root.

This project has been toiled around for years and continues to be a popular idea, however we still consider the priority level lower than other concepts listed in this plan.

Another immense undertaking our department would like to pursue, is the establishment of a multi-faceted shooting range. This facility would offer various shooting sports from rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery. Variable ranges and distances could be designed to enhance the versatility and provide an avenue for large scale events. This potential of this facility could create an immense economic impact on the local community and surrounding counties. Large events could vastly increase occupancy in local inn-keepers and provide an opportunity for new businesses to develop and current businesses to expand. Due to the large void in shooting facilities in this part of Indiana, the popularity and usage of this facility would align to our self-sufficient business plan through user fees. Planning this initiative will take many resources and partners and we anticipate our department will be prepared to begin this process by 2025.

Action Schedule				
	Year	Action	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	2021	New ADA Fishing Cleaning Station with parking	\$25,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
2	2021	Raccoon Camping Section Electrical Upgrade	\$20,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
3	2021	Accessible parking and pathways to courtesy docks	\$20,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
4	2021	Renovate Existing Structure to open for public use	\$30,000	Women of Daviess County Grant, General Fund
5	2021	Two disc golf courses - beginners and advanced	\$55,000	General Fund, Sponsorship, Local Grants
6	2021	Renovation of roads	\$250,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
7	2021	ADA Campsites	\$15,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
8	2021	Replace FEMA Trailers with Cabins	\$150,000	General Fund, Loans
9	2021-2024	Campsite Leveling	\$25,000	General Fund, Donated materials
10	2021-2025	Water Quality Initiatives; Studies, mitigation efforts	\$150,000	LARE Grant, IDEM Grants, SWCD, General Fund, County Assistance
11		Studies, Mitigation Efforts		General Fund, County Assistance, Landowner Support
12	2021-2025	Lively Lakefront Initiative	\$800,000	Community Grants, Fundraisers, Donations, Voluteers, Loans
		New sand volley ball courts		
		Outdoor fitness equipment		
		Pickleball Courts		
		Basketball Courts		
		1/2 mile walking/jogging path		
		Shade Structures		
		Landscaping - storm water mitigation, enhancement		
		New Beachhouse; concessions, boat rentals, ADA restrooms		
13	2021-2025	Landscaping for visual enhancement and storm water	\$25,000	General Fund, Volunteers, Donations
14	2021-2025	Assist with Bi-County Trail System		General Fund, Volunteers, Forced Labor, Donations, Grants
15	2021-2025	Development of New Programs and Events	\$20,000	General Fund, Grants, Donations, Participation Fees
16	2022	ADA Fishing Pier by Redbud Shelter	\$40,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund

17	2022	Concrete Ping Pong Table at Activity Center	\$10,000	LWCF, Non-Reverting Capital Fund
18	2022	Complete Whitetail Electrical Upgrade	\$10,000	General Fund
19	2022	Bobcat Electrical Upgrade	\$35,000	General Fund
20	2022	Putt Putt Course Upgrade	\$15,000	General Fund, Volunteers, Donations
21	2023	Dogwood Shelter Overlook Deck	\$50,000	General Fund, Grants, Volunteers, Donations
22	2023	Small Observation/Reading Decks Decks	\$20,000	General Fund, Grants, Volunteers, Donations
23	2023	Front Entrance Sign and landscaping	\$20,000	General Fund, Volunteers, Donations, Community Grants
24	2024	Addition of Primitive Sites	\$10,000	General Fund
25	2024	Additional Modern campsites	\$20,000	General Fund, volunteers, Non -reverting Fund
26	2025	New Maintenance Shop and Main Office Building	\$250,000	General Fund, Non-Reverting Fund, Loan, Grants
27	2025	Additional and upgrade playgrounds in camping sections	\$75,000	General Fund, Grants, Donations, Fundraisers
28	2025	Establishment of an Amphitheater	\$300,000	Non-Reverting Capital Fund, Grants, Donations,
29	2025	Commence Planning for multi-faceted shooting range	\$50,000	General Fund, Non-Reverting, Grants
30	2025	Coyote Electrical Upgrade	\$50,000	General Fund, Non-Reverting,
		TOTALS	\$2,490,000	

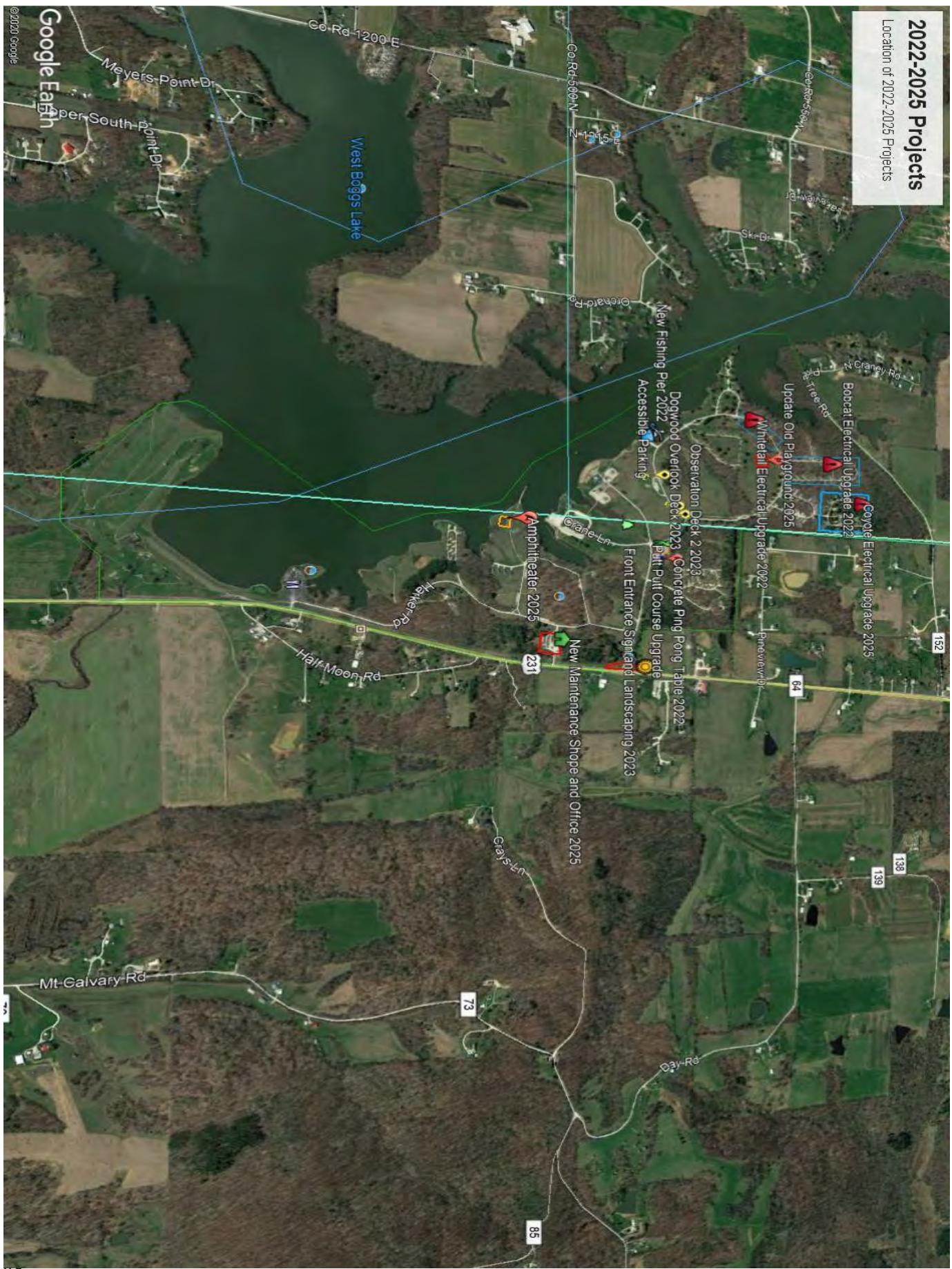
## 2021 Projects

- New ADA Fish Cleaning Station
- Raccoon Elect. Upgrade
- ADA pathways to courtesy docks
- Renovate old building for open public use
- Two Disc Golf Courses
- Road Rehab: Black - Repave
- Orange - ChipSeal
- ADA Campsites - ChipSeal
- Replace FEMA Trailers w/ Cabins



## 2022-2025 Projects

Location of 2022-2025 Projects



# Lively Lakefront and Wellness Initiative

2021-2025 Projects



## **Final Public Presentation**

Final presentation of the Master Plan will be conducted in person and/or via virtual methods after approval from DNR in the spring of 2021

Both park board and staff input will be valuable in finalizing the master plan.

### **Post Adoption:**

#### **Implementation**

Implementation of this plan is a combined effort between the staff of the Daviess Martin Joint County Parks & Recreation Department, the governing park board, the Daviess and Martin County Commissioners, the Daviess and Martin County Council members, community partners, West Boggs Park Foundation, and the facility users. Implementing the prioritized changes discussed in this plan will take planning, budgeting, implementation strategies, and evaluation. The items listed in this plan are unique to the information collected through various input segments conducted in order to understand what our customers and staff need. As these actions are completed, movement may or may not be to the very next item listed. Trends, needs, and priorities constantly change and we plan to remain limber and able to adjust our strategies to best fit these changes.

#### **Evaluation**

In order for the department to fully implement this master plan and meet the needs of the customer, we must evaluate our efforts and the effectiveness of this document. One important method to utilize to ensure the influence of our plan, is to continue to educate the public and allow feedback concerning their needs and wants. This will assist us in staying up to date on trends, spending habits, and customer needs. Placement of the master plan at strategic areas in our communities will allow for this continued public involvement and assist our efforts in staying in tune to the needs of our communities.

Over the past five years, the department has witnessed a substantial growth in both facility usage and services and amenities offered to the public. We have made excellent progress on providing a diverse facility that meets the needs of our users. Our software system allows us to examine specific revenue streams of the department which creates an excellent baseline to analyze the impact of new projects. Utilizing these baselines and information will allow us to demonstrate the impact on our communities based on usage and participation rates.

The staff, park board, and park affiliates will biannually review progress reports and public comments accumulated from our master plan locations. Such review will allow us to maintain a constant vision as stated in this document and keep us from veering to alternate influences. Review will also keep us in check to the demands and needs of our communities. Biannual reviews allocate a time to include and/or amend any actions stated in this plan. Such amendments will only be adopted after research, discussion, and public feedback.

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

The Douglas T. & L. Inc. (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE   
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

Brian George  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE   
Spencer L. Keeler  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 1-18-21