

Silver Creek Township Parks System Master Plan



December 2025

CROSSROADS
DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE, LLC

Acknowledgements

Silver Creek Township

Township Trustee

Billy Ramser

Park Board

Stephanie Smithers, President

Tony Bennett, Secretary

Karen Alexander, Treasurer

Brenna LaDuke

Amil Kleinert

Crossroads Development Resource, LLC

Crossroads Development Resource, LLC is an independent consulting firm focusing on planning, research, and training for outdoor recreation to enhance quality of life, economic development, and health in communities of all sizes. Website- <https://crossroadsdr.com/>

Layne Elliott, Owner and Lead Consultant

Copyright Notice

This report and all contents are copyrighted by Crossroads Development Resource, LLC. This document may not be used in part or in its entirety without permission.

©2025 Crossroads Development Resource, LLC

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Introduction and Goals.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
Planning Process.....	7
Community Background.....	7
Demographics	7
Park System	8
Accessibility	8
Public Engagement	8
Public events	9
Survey	9
Needs Assessment	11
Gap Analysis	11
Goals and Objectives	11
Action Plan	12
Community Background	13
Planning Area- Silver Creek Township.....	13
Natural Features- Characteristics	13
Climate/Weather	13
Geography and Geology	13
Natural Features- Facilities.....	13
Waterways	13
Flora and Fauna	14
Historical, Cultural, and Man-Made Characteristics	14
History and Culture	14
Transportation	15
Roads and Highways	15
Rail	15
Airports	15
Trails and Greenways	16
Recreation	16
Silver Creek	16
Sellersburg	16
Clark County	17
Demographics	18
Population	18
Sex/Gender	18

Education 18

Race and Ethnicity 19

Income and Poverty 19

Employment 19

Disability 20

Other Health Factors 20

Silver Creek Township Parks..... 21

 Management 21

 Park Board 21

 Budget 22

 Facilities 22

 Recreation and Programs 24

Accessibility 26

 ADA Coordinator 26

 Accessibility Review 26

Public Engagement40

Stakeholder/Public Meeting 40

 Results 40

Sellersburg Celebrates! Engagement Event..... 41

Community Survey..... 42

 Methodology 42

 Results 43

Public Presentation of Plan..... 50

Needs Assessment51

Level of Service Analysis..... 51

 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Amenities 51

 Programming 54

Gap Analysis..... 55

Goals, Objectives, and Strategic Actions 57

Action Plan59

Bibliography64

Appendix A- Public Engagement.....65

Stakeholder meeting..... 65

 Attendees 65

 Silver Creek Township Stakeholder Meeting Agenda 66

 Results 67

Sellersburg Celebrates! Engagement Event..... 69

Community Survey..... 70

Distribution 71

Survey Instrument..... 73

Silver Creek Township Parks System Master Plan Community Survey 73

Survey results 87

Public Presentation of Plan..... 96

Appendix B- Other documents97

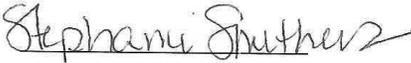
WHEREAS, The Silver Creek Township Parks Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Silver Creek Township.

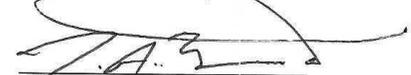
WHEREAS, the Parks Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens.

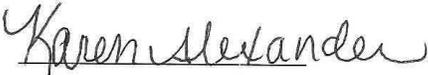
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Silver Creek Township Parks Board by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Park System Master Plan 2026-2030 as its official plan for the next five years for the growth and development of park and recreation opportunities in Silver Creek Township.

APPROVED BY THE SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD this ___ day of January, 2026.

ATTEST:


Stephanie Smithers, President


Tony Bennett, Secretary


Karen Alexander, Treasurer


Billy Ramiser, Township Trustee

Introduction and Goals

Silver Creek Township is located in south-central Clark County, Indiana. The Township is steadily growing with the recent population estimate at 14,458 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). The Township is named for Silver Creek, the largest creek in Clark County, which borders the Township on its eastern and southern sides and empties into the Ohio River between Clarksville and New Albany

Parks and trails are critical facilities that can define a community's identity, provide social gathering places, improve health, increase property values, and attract new residents and businesses. As the Township grows the park system should grow with it in a sustainable way to ensure all necessary services are provided, while attracting new residents and business and enhancing quality of life and quality of place for current and future residents. Silver Creek Township recently acquired the privately owned but open to the public Speed Park in the Town of Speed on a five-year lease at \$1 per year with a promise to purchase the property by January 2029 at a cost of \$325,000.. The park is in serious need of renovation and upgrades and the Township is seeking both public input and funding to restore the historic park to the centerpiece of the community that it once was while maintaining and making incremental improvements too Silver Creek Township Park and overall recreation offerings for Township residents and visitors. In order to advance these goals related to parks and recreation, the Township has created this Parks System Master Plan.

A Master Plan is a tool to guide decision making over a defined period of time. In Indiana, a standard Park System Master Plan is a five-year plan. A Master Plan assesses the current conditions of the park and recreation system, engages the community to determine recreation needs and desires, identifies gaps, and crafts goals and objectives with defined strategic actions to fill those gaps. A Master Plan not only identifies necessary actions to improve the parks system, it communicates the community's intentions to do so and opens doors to funding sources. The State of Indiana mandates a five-year plan that meets certain requirements to be adopted by a Park Board to be eligible for recreation funding sources administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources including Federal passthrough programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, and others. Private and non-profit funders may also require or prefer a Master Plan to be eligible for their grants.

Silver Creek Township offers this Parks System Master Plan with the following goals:

- Align future park development with community development goals, focusing on improvements to newly acquired Speed Park
- Gather feedback from the Silver Creek Township community on recreation needs and desires that informs Township leaders about future policy and development priorities
- Identify barriers to participation in local parks and recreation facilities and programs and establish strategies for ensuring equitable access for all
- Establish Silver Creek Township's eligibility for grant funding administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Community Grants and Trails

Executive Summary

Planning Process

The Silver Creek Park System Master Plan project kicked off in May of 2025 with the first phase-Community Background data collection. The project team met regularly to review progress and establish next steps throughout the 7-month planning process. The timeline for the entire project through plan adoption by the Silver Creek Township Park Board in December is illustrated here:



Community Background

Data was collected about Silver Creek Township, the people who live here and the park system and recreation opportunities available to Township residents. Key demographics can inform community leaders about who may be using local parks and how they may develop facilities and programming to meet their needs. Silver Creek Township is steadily growing with a population that is slightly older than the average population in Indiana but with more families with small children. Township residents are also slightly less likely to have a college degree but also earn more and are far less likely than the average Hoosier to be in poverty. Disability rates in the Township, however, are significantly higher than average, placing high importance on the addition of and improvements to accessible park facilities and programs.

Demographics

Table 1: Silver Creek Township key demographics

Silver Creek Township Demographics Summary	
Population (2024)	14458
Age	40.7
Education (HS or GED)	92.4%
Education (Bachelor’s or higher)	28.9%
Household Income	\$72,988
Poverty	6.1%
Disability	19.2%

Park System

Silver Creek Township now owns 2 park properties. Silver Creek Township Park was opened in 1995 and Speed Park was acquired by the Township in 2025.

Silver Creek Township Park- 249 N. Fern Street

The 40 acre community park opened in 1995 is the centerpiece of recreation facilities for the Township and the Town of Sellersburg. The park has a multitude of assets and is the site of the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival each August. The park is in generally good condition with some minor but no significant repairs or renovations needed but lacks directional signage. The basketball court is slated to be removed with an accessible playground constructed on it's location otherwise, no new significant amenities are planned. With the stage that hosts Seelersburg Celebrates!, the park has the infrasturcure for more music and arts events which are desired by the community and community leaders.

Speed Park- 169 Indiana Avenue

Speed Park was recently acquired by the Township. Speed Park has a long history, created and maintained by the successive owners of what is now the Heidelberg Materials cement plant for the benefit of employees and the community. The property has fallen into disrepair in recent years and was purchased by a private owner who agreed to lease the property to the Township for \$1 per year until 2029 when the full purchase will be completed. The Township aims to renovate the 8 acre park, which has aging facilities, while maintaining its shaded, serene open setting. A new pavillion, playground, and walking path are planned along with renovations of the parking lot, aging trees, grounds and landscaping, and maintenance building. Both Township leadership and the community see the potential for the park to host music, arts, and other community events once renovations are complete.



Figure 1: Speed Park ribbon cutting

Accessibility

In addition to the major renovations needed at Speed Park, significant accessibility challenges must be addressed. The Americans With Disabilities Act requires that addition of assets or upgrades to existing assets are in compliance with the law. To this end, an extensive accessibility review was undertaken at Speed Park to inform Township leaders of deficiencies and requirement as assets are replaced and constructed. Of note, a new playground is needed along with proper routes to allow people with disabilities to access park amenities, and adequate parking. The review, with many other recommendations and accessibility standards, is summarized in this plan with the full report available as a supplemental document.

The Township Park is much better condition with respect to accessibility with accessible routes to park amenities and playground surfacing being the most notable deficiencies. Other details and recommendations can be found in the Accessibility Review section.

Public Engagement

Robust public engagement is critical to the success of any planning effort. In order to set goals, objectives, and strategies to develop the recreation system in a community, leaders must understand what their residents want and strive to align the master plan with community needs and desires. Feedback was gathered in multiple fashions including a key stakeholder meeting, public event, and a community survey.

Public events

Key Stakeholder meeting

A public meeting was conducted in July of 2025 with key stakeholders for an open discussion about the state of the parks system and the needs and desires for its development. Invited stakeholders were determined by the Silver Creek Township project team and included representatives from park user groups, schools, law enforcement, medical providers, and others who are impacted by the parks system in any way.

Sellersburg Celebrates!

The project team hosted an engagement event at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival on August 22nd and 23rd, 2025. Staff maintained a booth in the high traffic vendor area to ask people to take the community survey and to engage them in the same SWOT and map activities that key stakeholders participated in with the goal of creating a community-driven SWOT and gathering additional feedback from the public about desired improvements to Speed Park.

Upon completion of the community SWOT, key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were identified. Complete SWOT results can be found in the Public Engagement chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location Safe community Good infrastructure for events	No restrooms at Speed Park No water fountains Not enough staff
Opportunities	Threats
More events (music, arts, festivals) to generate revenue and engage the community More community involvement Finding grant funding and donations	Funding cuts Increase in population (adding stress to infrastructure) Maintenance/wear and tear

Figure 2: Community SWOT highlights

Common suggested improvements to Speed Park from the map activity included more events such as music, arts, and festivals, a new pavilion for events and gatherings, new restrooms, a splash pad, historical markers, and a separate play area for small children. The complete list of suggestions can be found in the Public Engagement chapter.

Survey

A community survey was conducted to gather feedback from the public about the current and desired states of the park system in a quantitative fashion. The survey was open to any community member who wished to take it. The survey was distributed via a variety of methods including invitation cards, flyers, and posters with instructions and a survey QR code, placed at strategic locations such as Township Park, Speed Park, Township offices, grocery stores, and other locations as determined by Township staff and forwarded directly to key user groups. The survey invitation was also posted on Township social media accounts. In addition, the survey invitation cards were distributed by the project team at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival. 104 surveys were completed. Key results are as follows:

Satisfaction with Silver Creek Township Park is fairly high with 68% of survey respondents saying the park is in excellent or good condition. Not surprisingly, only 28% feel the same about Speed Park. The most important amenities to park users are walking paths, playgrounds, and shelters. All three amenities are planned for construction or replacement at Speed Park. Silver Creek Township does not directly offer

programming relying, instead on partners to independently operate events at the Township Park. Festivals, specifically Sellersburg Celebrates! had the highest satisfaction of the programs available at Township Parks. The annual Easter Egg Hunt and adult baseball leagues also received high marks though were not attended by a significant number of people.

Table 2: Park satisfaction

Park Satisfaction	
Silver Creek Township Park	68%
Speed Park	28%

Table 3: Important amenities

Important amenities	
Walking Paths	89%
Playgrounds	82%
Shelters	76%

Table 4: Program satisfaction

Program satisfaction	Did not use
Festivals	74% 11%
Easter Egg Hunt	68% 61%
Adult baseball/softball	70% 86%

The most common amenities that survey respondents want to see added to the Townships parks are additional restrooms, playgrounds, and trails. The most popular program to add are programs for people with disabilities, especially important because the number of Township residents with disabilities is quite high. Other programs in demand include special events and after schools programs. Since the Township does not offer programs directly, additional partnerships should be sought to provide these services.

Table 5: Top amenities to add

Top 3 amenities to add	
Restrooms	93%
Playgrounds	80%
Paved Trails	73%

Table 6: Top programs to add

Top 3 Programs to add	
Programs for people with disabilities	64%
Themed special events	43%
After school programs	43%

Survey respondents were asked which planned and suggested improvements at Speed Park were most important. 88% said restrooms were Very or Quite Important followed by a new playground (84%) and a walking path (74%)

Table 7: Speed Park desired improvements

Speed Park Improvements	
Restrooms	88%
Playground	84%
Walking Path	74%
Open space	71%
Accessible features	68%
Replace picnic tables	67%
Shelters	64%
Repaved parking lot	59%
Garden/landscaping	59%

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment analyzes data gathered from the Community Background and Public Engagement phases of the planning process to determine gaps in the system and establish goals and objectives for filling those gaps.

Gap Analysis

Based on the Township's current level of service and feedback from Township residents and visitors, the following needs become apparent for the park system:

- The need for the complete renovation of Speed Park
- Accessibility improvements are needed across the park system, especially at Speed Park
- Additional programming is in demand
- Additional staffing for both maintenance and programming is needed
- Operations and Maintenance planning is needed to maintain assets over their lifespan

Goals and Objectives

In order to meet the park and recreation needs of Townships residents, these Goals are established. Each Goal has Objectives to be completed in order to fulfill the Goal and each Objective has specific strategic actions to be undertaken over the planning period to meet the objective. Strategic actions are detailed in the Action Plan

Goal 1- Renovate Speed Park

Renovate the newly acquired Speed Park to replace and upgrade aging assets and amenities and add new features to this historic site to create a cornerstone community recreation and gathering place.

Objectives

- 1.1 Replace aging facilities and assets
- 1.2 Renovate and refurbish aging facilities and assets
- 1.3 Construct new facilities and assets

Goal 2- Improve Accessibility

Bring both parks and Township policies and communications in better alignment with ADA requirements and best practices in order to make the Township's park system more accessible to all residents and visitors.

Objectives

- 2.1 Address accessibility issues at Township Park
- 2.2 Address accessibility issues at Speed Park
- 2.3 Improve accessibility policies and procedures

Goal 3- Maintain and Improve Existing Assets at Township Park

Silver Creek Township Park is a large, complex park that serves the community well. Proper maintenance of current assets and improvements to aging assets is critical for the park to continue to serve Township residents as a recreational, social, and economic core.

Objectives

- 3.1 Upgrade aging facilities and assets
- 3.2 Improve orientation for better visitor experience

Goal #4- Enhance Operational Capacity

Both Township Park and Speed Park have the potential for growth in facilities, amenities, and programs and events but sustainable growth must come with enhanced operational capacity including adequate

staffing, improved communications, partnerships for programming that the Township cannot directly provide, and long-term maintenance planning.

Objectives

- 4.1 Address staffing to ensure future maintenance and programming needs are met
- 4.2 Provide additional programs and events
- 4.3 Plan for long-term operations and maintenance to ensure asset quality and financial sustainability
- 4.4 Improve communications about park offerings and events

Action Plan

The Action Plan establishes priorities, anticipated timelines, estimated costs, and potential funding sources for achieving strategic action items defined in the Goals and Objectives. Key items are shown here with the entire 5-year list of strategic items detailed in the Action Plan section.

Table 8: Action Plan key strategic items

Action Item	Priority	Timeline	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Replace playground with fully accessible playground	Critical	Short-term	\$180,000-\$200,000	Grant funding, reserve
Repave main parking lot and correct drainage issues	Important	Short-term	\$100,000	Donations, reserve
Construct pavilion/shelter at Speed Park	Important	Short-term	\$150,000	Grant funding, donations, reserve
Add accessible routes to amenities at Township Park	Critical	Short-term	\$7,500	Donations, reserve
Remove or replace substandard paved routes throughout Speed Park	Critical	Immediate	\$50,000	Donations, grant funding
Construct accessible playground or renovate existing playground to be fully accessible	Important	Long-term	\$200,000	Grant funding, reserve
Add orientation signage to direct visitors to amenities throughout the park	Important	Short-term	\$8,000	Reserve
Add 1 FTE park superintendent/event coordinator	Important	Short-term	\$35,000/year	Operating
Plan live music and other social events at Speed Park upon	Important	Short-term	\$0	Staff time, volunteers

Community Background

Planning Area- Silver Creek Township

Silver Creek Township is located in south-central Clark County. The 2024 population of the Township is estimated to be 14,458 and is steadily growing. The Township has one incorporated Town, Sellersburg, and two other unincorporated communities, Speed and Hamburg. A portion of Clarksville also extends into the Township. The Township, as is all of Clark County, is part of the Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Statistical Area though the Township is located at the northern edge of suburban development within the MSA.

Due to its proximity to Louisville, 12 miles to the south, and with access to two Interstate highways, the Township is poised for continued growth. The Township has one park with several baseball and softball fields, shelters, pickleball and tennis courts, a dog park, and open space and has recently acquired another park property in the town of Speed that is in need of renovation. Sellersburg has two parks including an outdoor pool and Hamburg and the Township portion of Clarksville have no parks.

Silver Creek Township Park is quite large with a variety of amenities including five baseball and softball fields and hosts the Silver Creek Little League (SCLL) and Silver Creek Wildcats Youth Football. SCLL serves a wide area that extends into Washington and Scott Counties.

Natural Features- Characteristics

Climate/Weather

The hottest month is July with an average high temperature of 86 F/30 C. and the coldest month is January with an average high temperature of 40 F/4 C. Average precipitation throughout the year is 59.1 inches with August the driest (3.6 inches) and April the wettest (7.3 inches). Silver Creek Township sees precipitation on 97 days per year, with snow on 10 of those days (Weather World, 2025).

Geography and Geology

The land area of Silver Creek Township is 16.98 square miles with a mix of developed areas and agriculture with some wooded pockets. The terrain consists of flat land or rolling hills and gently slopes toward the Ohio River. The Township contains a wide variety of soil types suitable for agriculture or construction and development with the most prevalent being Urban Land Aquents, Jennings Silt Loam, Pekin Silt Loam, and Wakeland Silt Loam (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 2025). There are no significant bodies of water within the Township, only small ponds and creeks that drain into Silver Creek.

Natural Features- Facilities

The following are significant water, forest, and other natural features accessible from Silver Creek Township.

Waterways

Silver Creek is the longest waterway in Clark County and borders the Township on the eastern and southern sides. With its headwaters at Big Bass Lake near Henryville, the creek empties into the Ohio River as the border between Clarksville and New Albany. The creek is generally not commercially navigable but does accommodate recreational canoeing and kayaking.

The Ohio River Basin Alliance is a volunteer group of stakeholders made up of over 130 federal, state, local, academic, industry, and non-profit entities whose mission is to manage and improve water quality, maintain recreation opportunities, and boost the economic impact of healthy water ecosystems in the Ohio River Basin. Neither Silver Creek Township nor the Town of Sellersburg belong to the ORBA but may

consider joining to increase available resources for better utilizing the river basin for its recreational, economic, and conservation opportunities.

Flora and Fauna

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources identifies 23 animal and 18 plant species as State endangered, most notably the Hellbender, Fat Pocketbook mollusk, and Indiana and Gray Bats, all of which are Federally endangered as well (IDNR, 2025). It is not known how many of these species exist within Silver Creek Township. An inventory of them may be useful to help determine how to manage habitats and ensure they are protected.

Historical, Cultural, and Man-Made Characteristics

History and Culture

Silver Creek Township is located in central Clark County. The county is one of the earliest settled areas in what would become the State of Indiana and was named for Revolutionary War General George Rogers Clark when land was given to his troops as a token for their service (Citation). Settlement began with the construction of Fort Clark in 1785 at Clarksville. The early history of the county was defined by the Ohio River as one of the main trade routes of travel for people and goods into the interior of the new country. Clark County is famously the starting point for the 1803 Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific. Silver Creek Township was established around 1815. Records from the time are lost and the exact date is unknown though the economy undoubtedly had cement production at its foundation as the area contains many deposits of cement rock (Dorsey, 1940).

Sellersburg, the largest town in Silver Creek Township, was founded in 1846 by Moses Sellers and John Hill. The town's location was selected to capitalize on nearby railroads. One line still exists as the Louisville & Indiana Railroad while the other was abandoned by CSX and is being converted into a long-distance rail trail, adding to the recreation opportunities for the Township. By 1875 the town had a population of approximately 300 people, three churches, two saloons, three dry-goods stores, one grocery, two blacksmiths, two shoe-makers, and three physicians. Most residents were employed by cement companies. 15 years later in 1890, the Town was officially incorporated (Sellersburg, 2018) and has grown to just over 10,000 residents as of 2023.



Figure 3: Speed, Indiana circa 1940. Speed Park is visible at center-left. (Photo Courtesy of Indiana Memory)

The town of Speed was originally called Petersburg until Louisville Cement Company with James Speed as Superintendent, purchased much of the land and built a cement plant there in 1904. The town was subsequently primarily developed as a "company community" for those employed at the cement plant, complete with housing, stores, churches and other amenities, and a park and other recreational facilities built and owned by the Company (Dorsey, 1940). The park property was subsequently owned by successive cement plant owners until 2024 when the property was sold to a local resident who leased the property to Silver Creek Township with a promise to purchase it within five years. This significant transfer of the property represents an opportunity for the Township to preserve this historic and serene park and enhance recreation opportunities for Township residents. The Township intends to honor that history through the installation of interactive interpretive stations throughout the park.

A significant milestone in Township recreational opportunities came with the dedication of the Silver Creek Township Park 1995. The park greatly expanded sports facilities available and is a regional draw for youth baseball and football and hosts the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival. Sellersburg Celebrates! is the most significant public event in the Townships and takes place in late August each year since 1990. This independent, volunteer run festival features a parade, 5K run, walk, car show, hot air balloons, music and other activities, drawing 5,000-7,000 people annually. The park has ample space and parking and could host many more large events, drawing visitors and contributing to the Township's economy as well as expanding leisure and recreation offerings.



Figure 4: Township Park dedication plaque

Clark County, as part of the Louisville MSA, is rapidly growing with the Township just outside of the urbanized communities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany. Growth in the township has been steady for many years but may begin to increase more rapidly. The Township should prepare for the needs of those potential new residents by expanding recreation and leisure opportunities at both Township parks to make the Township a desirable suburban destination and look to preserve existing natural areas to protect from overdevelopment and loss of wildlife

habitat and green space.

Transportation

Silver Creek Township is well-positioned for transportation with Interstate highways that offer easy access to Louisville, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati, State highways that connect the rest of Southern Indiana, and a rail line and the nearby Ohio River that offer cargo transportation.

Roads and Highways

Interstate 65 bisects the Township from north to south and offers access to Louisville to the south and Indianapolis approximately 100 miles to the north.

Interstate 265 is a beltway that partially surrounds the City of Louisville through the eastern side of the metro area. The highway sits just south of the Township border and can be accessed easily from Interstate 65.

U.S. Highway 31 also bisects the Township from north to south, running parallel to Interstate 65. It generally serves as the "Main Street" of the Township and the Town of Sellersburg and merges with the interstate in Clarksville before crossing the Ohio River into Louisville.

Indiana 60 begins at U.S. 31 in the southern part of the Township and runs northwest, giving access to the towns of Borden, Salem, and Mitchell.

Rail

The Louisville & Indiana Railroad (LIRC) was formed in March 1994 to acquire 106 miles of rail line between Indianapolis and Louisville that remains from the old Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis Railroad at the heart of Sellersburg's foundation and early development. (Anacostia, n.d.)

Airports

Clark Regional Airport is a commuter airport located in Silver Creek Township and is the only airport in Clark County.

Silver Creek Township is served commercially by Louisville Muhammed Ali International Airport (SDF), 16 miles to the South. Airlines flying into and out of SDF include American, Delta, Southwest, United, and several smaller and regional carriers. Other commercial airports accessible from Silver Creek include Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, 100 miles to the east and Indianapolis International Airport, 132 miles to the north.

Trails and Greenways

The South Monon Freedom Trail/Monon South Trail is currently under construction from New Albany to Mitchell. Once completed, it will be the longest greenway in the State of Indiana at 67 miles. The trail lies along the bed of the former CSX Railroad and will pass through Silver Creek Township just west of Sellersburg and generally parallel the route of IN 60. The City of New Albany and Clark County are constructing the section from New Albany to Deam Lake Road, called the South Monon Freedom Trail. At Deam Lake, it continues as the Monon South Trail, with construction spearheaded by the non-profit economic development organization Radius Indiana. Funding for the trail largely comes from the state's Next Level Trails program.

The Ohio River Greenway is a 7.5 mile trail along the banks of the Ohio River connecting Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany. The trail connects to the Big Four Bridge, offering pedestrian access into Louisville and will eventually connect with the South Monon Freedom Trail with additional sections and connections planned throughout the Greenway's route. Attractions along the trail's path include Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, Terraced Lawn amphitheater in Jeffersonville, and historic riverfront homes.

The Knobstone Trail is a long distance greenway owned by the State of Indiana. At 60 miles, it is currently the longest trail in the state. The Knobstone is maintained as a backcountry hiking trail beginning at Deam Lake and winding its way over rugged terrain and through state forests to its northern terminus in the Jackson-Washington State Forest approximately 11 miles north of Salem (IDNR, n.d.).

While connections from these trails to the Township's parks is desired, the existing development and infrastructure in any possible route corridors make that unlikely without significant expense and planning which would likely require intervention from the State. A more plausible option is for the Township to work with South Monon Freedom Trail planners to construct an enhanced trailhead for Township residents to access, then work to connect to the trail and trailhead through the existing sidewalk network, adding new sidewalks or multi-use paths as needed.

Recreation

Silver Creek Township residents have a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities with two state parks, a state forest, and a state recreation area within Clark County. As the Metro Louisville area grows and the Township becomes increasingly urbanized, neighborhood and pocket parks should be developed to provide green space and make the community more attractive for new residents. Recreation opportunities within or within a short travel distance for Township residents include:

Silver Creek

Silver Creek Township Park

The 'headline' park in the Township with several sports facilities, dog park, shelters, a walking trail, and open space. The park is host to the independently operated Silver Creek Little League, Silver Creek Wildcats Youth Football, and Sellersburg Celebrates! festival.

Speed Park

Speed Park was recently acquired by the Township with plans to renovate the park but maintain its open, serene setting.

Sellersburg

Mosley Park and Town Pool

Mosley Park is the home of Sellersburg's community pool and splash pad, pickleball courts, a basketball court, a small picnic shelter, and open space.

Wilkerson Park

Wilkerson Park, a pocket park located at the corner of New Albany and Utica streets in Sellersburg, contains war memorials, an annual Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by the local American Legion, Caroling in the Park, Food Truck Friday's, and Shakespeare in the Park. (Town of Sellersburg, n.d.)

Covered Bridge Golf Club

A privately owned golf club designed by professional golfer and native Hoosier Fuzzy Zoeller, Covered Bridge is one of the premier golf courses in the area.

Clark County

Hidden Creek Golf Course

Falls of the Ohio State Park

Located on the banks of the Ohio River in Clarksville, a 15 minute drive from the Township Falls of the Ohio State Park features 390-million-year-old fossil beds that are among the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world. The park features a spectacular interpretive center overlooking the fossil beds featuring new interactive, immersive exhibits. Other activities at the park include hiking trails, fishing, a boat launch, and picnic areas (IDNR, n.d.).

Charlestown State Park

Charlestown State Park is located in Charlestown, 15 minutes to the east of Silver Creek Township. The park has hills and ravines offering scenic views and rugged hiking. Other amenities include shelters, a playground, campground, fishing, and an interpretive naturalist (IDNR, n.d.).

Deam Lake State Recreation Area

Deam Lake State Recreation Area is the largest outdoor recreation facility in Clark County and the region. The property is 1300 acres with a 194 acre lake constructed in 1965. The SRA offers hiking, camping in campgrounds and cabins, fishing, boating, hunting, mountain biking and equestrian trails and offers nature based programs in the Forest Education Center. (IDNR, n.d.)

Clark State Forest

Clark State Forest is the oldest forest in the state of Indiana, established in 1903. Recreational opportunities include hiking, non-electric camping, boating and fishing on the forest's 7 lakes, hunting, picnic shelters, and a shooting range. (IDNR, n.d.)



Figure 5: Sellersburg Celebrates! balloon glow

Demographics

Population

In 2024, the population of Silver Creek Township was 14458 (Stats Indiana, 2024). All other statistics from U.S. Census Bureau- 2023 American Community Survey. The Township has grown by almost 20% in population over the last 10 years. Continued growth is anticipated as the Louisville MSA grows.

Just over 10,000 people live within the Town of Sellersburg, though the Town does extend into Carr Township. A small portion of Clarksville (total population 22,000) extends into Silver Creek Township. Speed and Hamburg are unincorporated and do not have their populations recorded other than as part of Silver Creek Township.

At 40.7 years of age, the average age of Silver Creek Township’s residents skews slightly older than the state as a whole (38.3). 17.7 percent of Township residents are over the age of 65 and 25.2 percent are under 20.

52% of Township households have no children, 42% have 1-2 children and 6% have 3 or more children compared to 55% of Indiana households with no children and 10% with 3 or more children.

Sex/Gender

52.2 percent of the Township's residents are female and 47.8 percent are male, consistent state and national averages.

Education

The Townships’ education level is comparable to the state with 92.4% graduating high school or with a GED. 28.9% have at least a bachelor’s degree compared to 30.2% of Hoosiers.

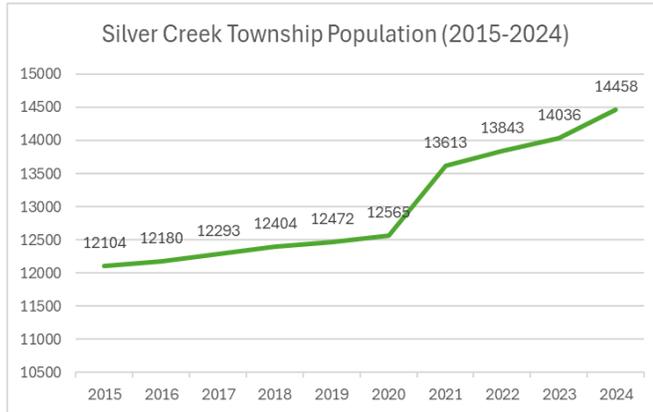


Figure 6: Silver Creek Township population

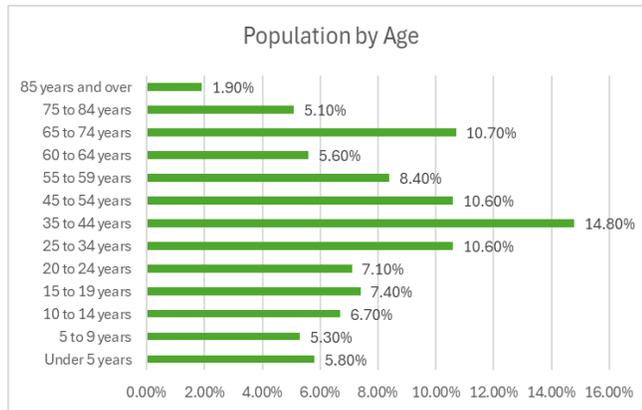


Figure 7: Silver Creek Township age

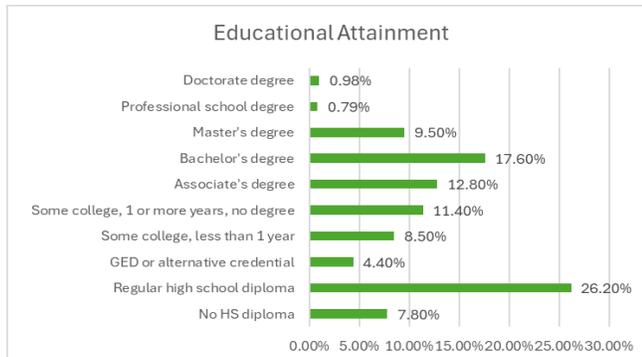


Figure 8: Silver Creek Township educational attainment

Race and Ethnicity

All race and ethnicity categories are those utilized by the U.S. Census Bureau and the data here is also gathered from the Census Bureau data. The most common race in the Township is White (non-Hispanic) at 88.8%, followed by Hispanic or Latino (4.4%). 3.1% of the population is Black or African American while 2.8% are Asian and .7% are American Indian or Alaskan and .1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Race	%
White	88.80%
Black or African American	3.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.70%
Asian	2.80%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.10%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	4.40%

Figure 9: Silver Creek Township race and ethnicity

Income and Poverty

Silver Creek Township’s median household income is a bit higher than the state. Township households earn \$72,988 per year while the average Indiana household earns \$69,447. The most common income bracket is \$50-75,000 with just over 25 percent of Township households. Only 7.1 percent earn less than \$25,000 while 12.3 percent earn over \$150,000.

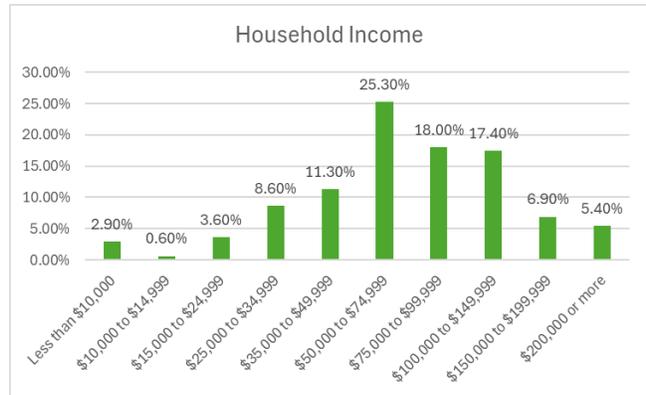


Figure 10: Silver Creek Township household income

6.1% of Township residents live below the poverty level, half of the statewide average of 12.2. The number of families in poverty in the Township is 1.9%, significantly lower than the 8.4% of Indiana families in poverty. The Township is completely the opposite of the rest of the state when it comes to family poverty rates. Childless households in the Township are the most likely to live below the poverty level (2.5% of families) while they are the least likely to live below the poverty level statewide (4.3%) only .03% of Township households with 5 or more children live below the poverty level while a staggering 43% of large households in Indiana live below the poverty level.

Employment

The Township has a wide and varied employment landscape. All employment sectors are as categorized by the U.S. Census Bureau. The largest employment sector in the Township is Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance with 22.7% of jobs. Manufacturing is the next largest sector with 14.6% of jobs. Retail (11.4%) Professional, Scientific, and Management (10.5%) and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (11.4%) are in the next tier, followed by Construction (6.4%), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (5.9%), Transportation (5.7%), Other Services (4.4%), and Public Administration (3.7%).

Table 9: Silver Creek Township employment by sector

Sector	Number employed	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0	0.00%
Construction	443	6.40%

Manufacturing	1,019	14.60%
Wholesale trade	167	2.40%
Retail trade	790	11.40%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	398	5.70%
Information	66	0.90%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	410	5.90%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	728	10.50%
Educational services, health care and social assistance	1,581	22.70%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	793	11.40%
Other services, except public administration	304	4.40%
Public administration	257	3.70%

Disability

2,659 Silver Creek Township residents or 19.2% of the population have a disability. Some people may have more than one disability, therefore the individual types of disability displayed add up to more than the total population with a disability. This is over 30% higher than the 14.5% of people with a disability statewide. The most common disabilities are ambulatory (9.3%) and cognitive (9.0%), consistent with statewide averages but at a higher rate.

The higher rate of disability within the Township places a high level of significance on ensuring the upcoming renovations at Speed Park are done with accessibility at a premium to ensure equitable access and experiences for all Township residents.

Other Health Factors

Township residents are very likely to be covered with health insurance. Only 4.6% do not have some type of health coverage, either private, through an employer, or publicly subsidized, compared to 6.9% statewide.

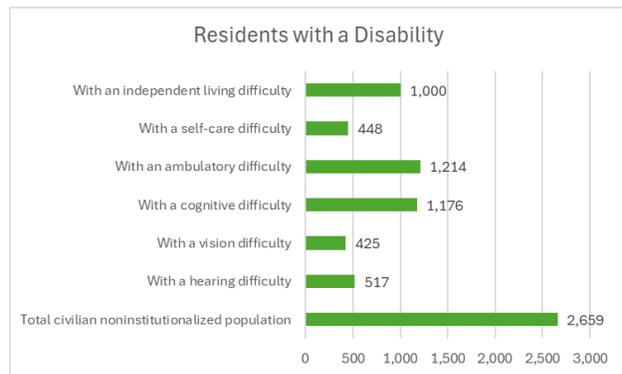


Figure 11: Silver Creek Township disability (number)

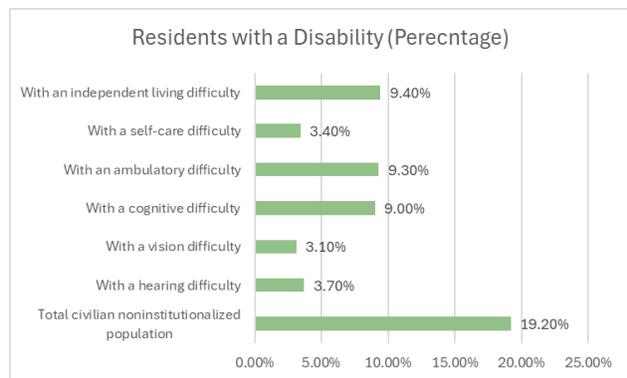


Figure 12: Silver Creek Township disability (%)

Residents with Health Insurance

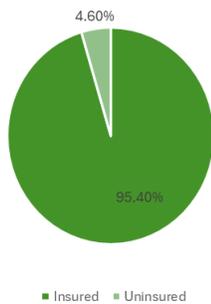


Figure 13: Silver Creek Township residents with health insurance

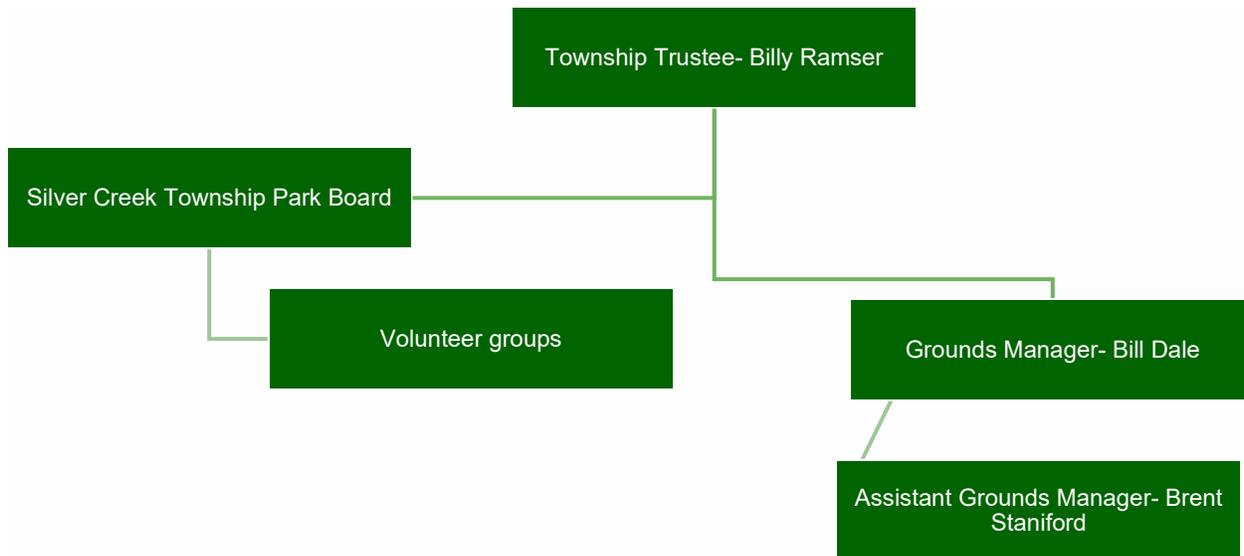
Overall, the Townships residents are a bit older than average, with families that are smaller but more likely to have children, and higher levels of disability but with higher income, considerably lower levels of poverty and more likely to have health insurance than average. The Township should consider these factors when planning improvements to its parks and programming improvements, ensuring accessible facilities and prioritizing programming for people with disabilities and families as it seek to offer or create partnerships for additional programming.

Silver Creek Township Parks

Management

Both Silver Creek Township Park and Speed Park are managed by the Township Trustee- currently Billy Ramser. The Township does not have a separate Parks Department. Park facilities are maintained by a Grounds Manager and Assistant Grounds Manager who report to the Trustee. The parks are also maintained with assistance from a robust volunteer network including the Silver Creek Little League who maintain baseball fields, Silver Creek Master Gardeners who assist with landscaping, Clark County Community Corrections who provides opportunities to fulfill service hours through park maintenance, and other individuals.

Organizational Chart



Park Board

The Silver Creek Township Park Board was formed in June of 2025 to oversee the park system. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Sellersburg Public Library. Current Board Members include:

Stephanie Smethers, President. Email- strongmama19@hotmail.com

Tony Bennett, Secretary. Email- tkzec@hotmail.com
 Karen Alexander, Treasurer. Email- baseballcheer816@aol.com

Budget

Without a formally established Park Department, park operations and maintenance funding is part of the Township’s overall operating budget. Tax allocations from Clark County to the Township consist of a .012% annual property tax rate. Silver Creek Township does not charge fees or rentals for any facilities or programs, relying on additional donations and volunteer time to supplement the tax allocation.

2025 estimated expenses for park operations and maintenance are as follows. All expense categories are inclusive of labor. Pavement sealing and painting are not required every year so their costs are spread out over multiple years with an annual average cost illustrated here.

Table 10: Park operations expenditures

Expense	2025 \$
Turf Maintenance, including mowing	\$40,000
Pavement sealing, annualized	\$8,000
Equipment repair	\$7,500
Equipment maintenance	\$5,000
Supplies and materials	\$3,000
Utilities	\$3,000
Other repairs	\$3,000
Painting, annualized	\$1,200

The Township also maintains a significant reserve of \$1.2 million from non-reverting, unspent tax revenue. Public assistance funding must be prioritized but the remainder is available for discretionary park and other uses as determined by the Township Trustee. While grant funding will be sought for many of the improvements planned at both parks to the greatest extent possible, this reserve will be utilized to fund strategic items established in the Action Plan and provide matching funds as required for grants received according to the priorities and timeframes set forth in the Action Plan.

Facilities

The Township maintains two park facilities. Silver Creek Township Park and Speed Park. Parks were assessed for assets, amenities, and condition in July of 2025. Condition assessments document the features and amenities in each park with visual inspection to determine which amenities may need repair or replacement; painting, cleaning, or other maintenance; or need no immediate attention. Descriptions of each park and a summary of the condition assessments are here while the complete assessment documentation can be found in Appendix C.

Silver Creek Township Park- 249 N. Fern Street- 40 acres

The large community park opened in 1995 is the centerpiece of recreation facilities for the Township and the Town of Sellersburg. The park has five fully fenced baseball/softball fields and other practice fields; a full sized football field, soccer field, basketball court, sand volleyball court, two pickleball courts, shelters, a dog park, playground, paved walking trail, and a large stage which can be covered to create an

amphitheater with a large hillside for spectators. The park is more focused on active recreation and is home to the Sellersburg Celebrates! festival.

Condition Assessment

The park is maintained well overall. Most assets and amenities are in very good shape with minor or no attention needed. Court and field surfaces, fencing, baseball dugouts, shelter structures and decks, and grass and paved surfaces were almost all in good to excellent condition. Almost all picnic tables have recently been replaced. Parking lots and the walking path were being resealed at the time of assessment. As noted in the accessibility assessment, there are few accessibility concerns and they are mainly level changes at entrances to shelters and other structures, playground surfacing, and accessible routes to some assets, most easily addressed.

Specific items that may need attention include drainage after heavy rain; some grass and weeds in baseball infields; basketball goals are visibly aging and will be removed soon; on the playground, surfacing is wood chip and was somewhat muddy with severe kickout under swings and at the ends of slides and one slide showed cracks. Ballfields and shelters were not numbered and no directional signage was present. Adding these identifiers and signage will help people unfamiliar with the park to orient and make the park more visitor friendly.



Figure 14: Sellersburg Celebrates!

Speed Park- 169 Indiana Avenue- 8 acres

Speed Park was recently acquired by the Township from the town of Speed. The Township aims to renovate the park, which has aging facilities, while maintaining its shaded, serene open setting. Current features of the park include a centerpiece gazebo, playground, open space with picnic tables and grills, and extensive gardening and landscaping. The Township plans to renovate, upgrade, or replace existing features, some of which are not functional or safe. The playground will be replaced with a fully accessible playground and a walking trail will be added around the perimeter.



Figure 15: Speed Park gazebo

Condition Assessment

The property is showing its age with many older trees that are either hazardous or will soon be. Stump and root remnants and pits are evident from trees that have fallen or were cut down, creating hazards scattered throughout the park. The parking area is heavily worn and should be resurfaced. Failing drainage tiles in this area will need to be replaced and the remainder of the drainage system in the park evaluated. The playground has older equipment, some of it in need of repair and with a gravel surface that is hazardous and should be replaced immediately. Picnic tables and grills are aging and should be replaced. The gazebo is functional with moderate repairs, cleaning and painting all that is needed.

As noted in the full accessibility review, the playground equipment and surfacing should be accessible, accessible parking should be created, accessible picnic tables, and routes improved and added, to bring the park into compliance with accessibility standards and requirements.



Figure 17: Speed Park tree remnants



Figure 16: Speed Park playground surfacing



Figure 18: Speed Park parking lot

Recreation and Programs

Silver Creek Township does not offer recreational programming directly but Silver Creek Township Park does host events organized and operated by the Township and other entities.

These events include:

Easter Egg Hunt- Annual event operated by the Township with more than 8,000 treat filled eggs for children in several age categories to find.

Sellersburg Celebrates!- A volunteer operated festival each August with 5,000-7,000 in attendance.

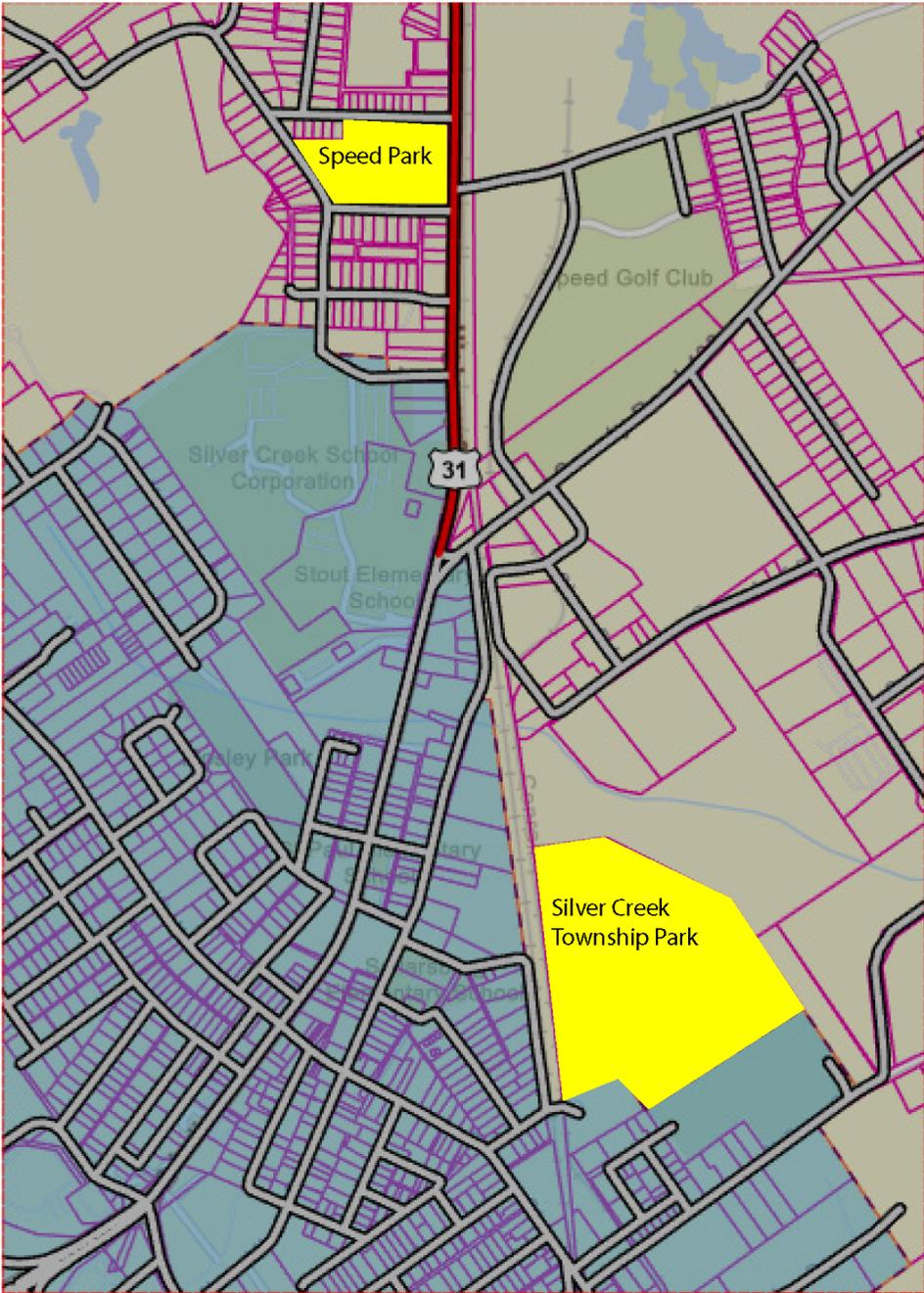
Silver Creek Little League- Youth baseball teams from Clark, Washington, and Scott Counties play each summer. The League also volunteers to help maintain the baseball fields.

Silver Creek Wildcats Football- Youth football

Hispanic Baseball League- this informal league plays on Sundays throughout the summer.

Between the existing infrastructure at Silver Creek Township Park and the intended renovations at Speed Park, opportunities exist for the Township to add events including additional sports leagues, festivals, music events, and farmer's markets. These events would not only enhance recreation and entertainment for Township residents but would draw visitors and tourists who would contribute to the local economy. Without a formal Park Department, the Township may consider adding a staff member who could organize and promote these events.

Silver Creek Township Parks



Accessibility

Silver Creek Township does not currently have its own formal accessibility policies. It is a goal of Silver Creek Township to establish its own accessibility policies in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as a way to inform Township residents of accessible facilities and amenities and clarify procedures for resolving grievances.

ADA Coordinator

The ADA Coordinator's role is to plan, coordinate, organize, facilitate, and promote compliance efforts. The Coordinator responds to requests for accommodations or barrier removal. The Coordinator also receives and investigates complaints and grievances. Silver Creek Township has no official ADA Coordinator until formal policies are adopted. In the meantime, residents may contact Township Trustee Billy Ramser for assistance.

Billy Ramser, Township Trustee
103 N Fern St
Sellersburg, IN 47172
Phone (812) 246-2211
e-mail billyramsersct@yahoo.com

Accessibility Review

CDR and Indiana University's National Center on Accessibility (NCA) conducted accessibility reviews as part of the condition assessment process to assess each facility for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and best practices around accessibility. NCA is a nationally renowned expert on accessibility practices in parks and public lands and made a deeper examination of Speed Park to make detailed recommendations to ensure the planned improvements at the park meet and exceed ADA requirements while CDR conducted a standard review of Township Park. Below is a summary of the assessments and the resulting recommendations. The full report for Speed Park can be found in a separate publication.

Speed Park

Silver Creek Township is moving forward with a series of upgrades at Speed Park designed to improve accessibility, safety, and inclusivity for all visitors. These improvements are guided by the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the Township's vision of creating a welcoming, equitable community space. This report reviews the park's existing infrastructure, including pathways, parking areas, restrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, and public garden, with a focus on identifying barriers to accessibility and opportunities for improvement.

Parking

No designated accessible parking spaces were observed, and there were no markings or signage identifying van-accessible spaces. Additionally, no adjacent access aisles were present to allow individuals who use wheelchairs or mobility devices to safely enter and exit vehicles.

Under ADA requirements, accessible parking spaces must be clearly designated with both pavement markings and upright signage featuring the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). At least one van-accessible space is required when more than one accessible stall is provided. Each accessible parking space must also include an adjacent access aisle—5 feet in width for standard spaces and 8 feet in width for van-accessible spaces. These aisles must connect directly to an accessible route leading to the facility entrance.

The current lot surface appears in generally stable condition, but slope and level measurements were not confirmed during the visual review. ADA standards specify that accessible spaces and aisles must be located on the shortest accessible route to the facility and must not exceed a slope of 1:48 in any direction.



Figure 19: Parking lot entrance

Parking Lot Accessibility Recommendations

1. Re-stripe the lot to include the minimum number of accessible spaces required, including at least one van-accessible space.
2. Provide properly dimensioned access aisles (5 ft for standard accessible spaces; 8 ft for van-accessible spaces, or 5 ft with an 11 ft wide van space).
3. Install upright signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) and designate van-accessible stalls with additional signage.
4. Re-grade and re-pave to ensure surfaces are firm, stable, slip-resistant, and do not exceed a slope of 1:48 in any direction.
5. Ensure all accessible spaces connect to an accessible route leading to park amenities without obstruction.

Access Routes

At the parking lot entrance on the right side of the park, the route leading into the site is discontinuous and transitions from paved surface to grass and soil. This condition does not meet ADA requirements for an accessible route, which must be firm, stable, and slip-resistant along its entire length. Additionally, the route does not appear to provide a clearly delineated or consistently paved connection from the parking area into the park's pedestrian network, which is required to ensure accessibility for individuals using mobility devices.

The route leading to the picnic area and information sign is partially paved; however, its compliance is limited by several factors. At certain points, the width of the path is reduced by adjacent grass encroachment, potentially falling below the required 36-inch minimum clear width. In addition, the connection from the paved surface to the picnic table and sign involves a transition onto grass, which does not provide the firm, stable surface required for accessible use. These discontinuities create barriers to individuals using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices and prevent the route from being considered accessible.

Overall, the current access routes at Speed Park do not provide continuous, code-conforming accessible connections from the parking lot to park amenities. To achieve compliance, the Township should ensure that accessible routes are paved, level, free of surface irregularities, and maintain a minimum clear width of 36 inches. Accessible routes should connect directly to designated accessible parking spaces and extend to amenities such as picnic tables, signage, and other programmatic elements.

Accessible Routes Recommendations

1. Replace grass, soil, or uneven stone surfaces with firm, stable, slip-resistant pavement at least 36 inches wide, with cross slopes not to exceed 1:48 (2%).
2. Ensure routes extend from accessible parking to all major park amenities (picnic areas, playgrounds, restrooms, garden, and shelters) and all program elements, including signage, benches, tables, and play areas, are linked by accessible routes.
3. Eliminate abrupt level changes greater than ½ inch.
4. Where grade changes are present, install ramps with compliant slopes and cross slopes.



Figure 20: Path from parking lot toward gazebo

Signage

At the parking area, no upright signs designating accessible parking spaces were observed. ADA Standards require that each accessible parking space be identified with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) on an upright sign. These signs must be mounted at least 60 inches above the ground surface, measured to the bottom of the sign, so that they are visible when a vehicle is parked. Van-accessible spaces must include an additional designation reading "Van Accessible." Without this signage, the spaces cannot be considered code-compliant, even if they were to be correctly dimensioned and surfaced.

At the picnic and information area, the posted sign is not placed in a manner that ensures accessibility for all visitors. ADA guidelines require that informational and identification signage be mounted at a height where the centerline of the sign is between 48 inches (minimum) and 60 inches (maximum) above the ground, and that signs providing essential information be located on or adjacent to accessible routes. In this case, the sign is positioned in a way that may not provide clear access from the paved route and does not appear to be mounted at a height conforming to ADA standards. Additionally, the sign does not incorporate tactile characters or Braille, which are required where signs provide permanent room or space identification. While general informational signs (such as park rules or notices) are not required to be tactile, they must still be placed in accessible locations and presented in a legible manner for all users.

Signage Accessibility Recommendations

1. Install upright signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) at all designated accessible parking spaces, mounted at least 60 inches above ground to the bottom edge, and van-accessible spaces are labeled "Van Accessible."

2. Mount informational and identification signs so that the centerline is between 48 and 60 inches above ground, located along or adjacent to an accessible route, with ADA compliant tactile characters and Braille on identifying permanent rooms or spaces (e.g., restrooms, shelters).
3. Add directional signage along accessible routes with sufficient color contrast, large print, and easy-to-read fonts for people with low vision to help visitors locate amenities (e.g., restrooms, playground, picnic areas).

Toilet

ADA standards require that where portable toilet facilities are provided, at least 5% of the total number, and no fewer than one, must be ADA-compliant accessible units. An accessible portable toilet must provide a minimum interior clear floor space of 60 inches in diameter to allow a wheelchair to enter and turn. The door must provide a minimum clear opening of 32 inches and must be operable with minimal force and without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.

In addition, accessible units must be placed on a firm, stable, and level surface, and must be located along an accessible route connecting to other park amenities such as parking, walkways, and activity areas. The accessible route must be continuous, paved or otherwise stable, and meet ADA width and slope requirements. The reviewed unit was placed directly on grass/soil and does not appear to provide the required firm and stable surface.

Portable Toilet Accessibility Recommendations

1. Ensure at least one unit provided is an ADA-compliant model on a firm, stable, slip-resistant pad (e.g., concrete or asphalt) to prevent shifting or sinking on an accessible route. Identify accessible units with upright signage displaying the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA).

Gazebo

The primary concern is the lack of a continuous, accessible route connecting the gazebo to other park amenities. While sidewalks are present near portions of the structure, transitions appear to include grass or uneven surfaces, which do not meet ADA requirements for a firm, stable, and slip-resistant accessible route. Accessible routes must extend from designated accessible parking spaces and pedestrian walkways directly into the gazebo without interruption.

At the entry points, the gazebo is raised slightly above the surrounding grade. ADA standards specify that any vertical level change greater than ½ inch must be addressed with a compliant ramp, beveled edge, or other accessible design feature. The photos indicate that the threshold into the gazebo does not provide such an accommodation, which creates a barrier for individuals using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers.

Additionally, the clear floor space within the gazebo must allow for wheelchair maneuverability, defined as a 30-inch by 48-inch clear space at key locations and a 60-inch turning radius in common-use areas. While the gazebo's interior is open, the presence of steps, posts, or uneven flooring may impede these clearances.

Finally, no signage or wayfinding elements were observed to direct visitors with disabilities to accessible entry points. Although not always required for open structures, wayfinding can improve usability and compliance by clearly identifying the most accessible approach.

Gazebo Accessibility Recommendations

1. Construct a paved, firm, stable, slip-resistant route from accessible parking and circulation paths to the gazebo.
2. Eliminate steps or raised thresholds greater than ½ inch at the gazebo entry. Where grade changes exist, install a compliant ramp.

3. Ensure gazebo flooring is firm, stable, and slip-resistant; repair or resurface as needed, maintaining a minimum 30-inch by 48-inch clear space at key points within the gazebo with a 60-inch turning radius for wheelchair maneuverability.



Figure 21: Gazebo steps

Public Garden

The primary access routes within the garden include pathways surfaced with grass, soil, and stone, as well as a secondary back path from Maryland Street that incorporates steps. These conditions do not meet ADA requirements for accessible routes, which must be firm, stable, slip-resistant, and at least 36 inches wide. In addition, steps or stairs are not considered part of an accessible route. Where elevation changes occur, ADA standards require the use of ramps with compliant slopes and landings, or alternative accessible routes without steps.

Within the garden itself, no accessible seating, raised planting beds, or resting areas were observed. ADA and universal design best practices recommend providing accessible elements such as raised garden planters at heights between 28 and 34 inches, firm-surfaced seating areas, and clear ground space adjacent to features so that individuals with disabilities can engage in gardening activities or enjoy the space equally.

Overall, the current garden design prioritizes traditional pathways and landscaping without providing accessible routes or features for individuals with mobility or sensory impairments.

Public Garden Accessibility Recommendations

1. Construct paved, firm, stable, slip-resistant pathways at least 36 inches wide throughout the garden with proper slope.
2. Replace steps along the back path to Maryland Street with a compliant accessible route or provide an alternative accessible connection. Where grade changes are unavoidable, install ramps with a maximum slope of 1:12 and compliant landings.
3. Provide benches or seating areas along accessible routes with adjacent 30-inch by 48-inch clear floor space for wheelchair users.
4. Incorporate raised planting beds at heights between 28 and 34 inches with accessible clear space adjacent for participation.
5. Replace grass/soil surfaces along primary circulation paths with paved or stabilized materials suitable for wheelchairs and mobility devices.

Garden Shed

The shed is situated on grass and soil, with no paved or stabilized accessible route connecting it to nearby park amenities or circulation paths. Under ADA standards, all public facilities that provide storage, program, or maintenance-related functions must be connected to the park's accessible route system. Routes must be firm, stable, slip-resistant, at least 36 inches in clear width, and compliant with slope and cross slope requirements.

The entrance to the shed is elevated above grade, with a visible threshold or step at the entry. ADA standards specify that vertical changes in level greater than ½ inch must be beveled or ramped, with slopes not exceeding 1:12. The shed does not appear to have a compliant threshold treatment or ramp, which creates a barrier for wheelchair users or individuals with limited mobility.

Interior accessibility is also a concern. Although the interior was not fully visible, ADA standards require at least a 30-inch by 48-inch clear floor space inside the doorway to allow wheelchair users to enter and maneuver. If the shed is intended for public or programmatic use (e.g., for community garden tools, supplies, or storage access), compliance with interior clearances would be required.

As currently configured, the shed does not meet ADA standards due to the absence of an accessible route, lack of a compliant entry threshold or ramp, and uncertain interior maneuvering space.

Garden Shed Accessibility Recommendations

1. Construct a continuous, firm, stable, slip-resistant route connecting the shed to accessible parking and circulation paths.
2. Modify the shed entrance to eliminate vertical changes greater than ½ inch. If a step is present, install a compliant ramp with a maximum slope of 1:12 and a minimum width of 36 inches.
3. Provide at least 30 inches by 48 inches of clear floor space immediately inside the entrance to allow for wheelchair maneuverability. Ensure shelving, storage, or other features do not obstruct required clearance.

Historic Stonewall

A review of the historic stone wall located in the garden area of Speed Park indicates that the structure itself is not intended as an accessible feature and therefore is not required to independently meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The ADA does not mandate that historic site features used solely for landscaping or aesthetic purposes, and not part of a required accessible route or amenity, be altered solely for compliance.

However, where historic elements such as stone walls form part of the circulation system or are used functionally (e.g., as seating or edging along pathways), ADA requirements do apply. In this case, the stone wall is uneven in height and surface, with no designated clear floor space adjacent to it. If the wall were being used as informal seating, it would not provide the firm, stable, and accessible surface required for use by individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the immediate surface surrounding the wall consists of grass and soil, which does not meet ADA standards for accessible routes or seating areas.

Under ADA guidelines, historic features must be evaluated under the principle of program accessibility. Where direct compliance would threaten or destroy the historic significance of a feature, alternative methods of providing accessibility are permitted. For the Speed Park stone wall, this means the wall itself may remain unaltered as a historic feature, but equivalent accessible seating or gathering space should be provided elsewhere in the garden on firm, stable, slip-resistant surfaces with appropriate clear floor space.

In summary, while the stone wall is not code-conforming as an accessible seating or circulation feature, it may remain as a preserved historic element. To achieve program accessibility, the Township should

provide accessible alternatives nearby that offer equivalent opportunity for rest and enjoyment of the garden.

Historic Stone Wall Accessibility Recommendations

1. Retain the stone wall in its existing condition to protect its historic significance. No modifications are required to the wall itself if it is not part of an accessible route or designated seating. If so, provide accessible alternate seating.
2. If the wall is a designated historic feature, consider interpretive signage along an accessible route so visitors with disabilities can engage with the historic element equally.

Benches

A review of benches located in the garden area and playground of Speed Park indicates that they do not fully comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Accessible benches must be placed on a firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface with a clear floor space of at least 30 inches by 48 inches adjacent to the bench for wheelchair users to approach and transfer. This space must connect to an accessible route so that individuals using mobility devices can reach the seating without encountering barriers. The benches observed are placed directly on grass or soil without paved landings or adjacent clear floor spaces. These conditions do not provide the stability or accessibility required for individuals using wheelchairs or walkers. Additionally, the benches are not consistently integrated into the accessible route network; instead, they appear isolated within landscaped or playground areas without compliant connections. ADA best practices also recommend that benches intended for general public use provide back support and armrests to assist individuals with limited mobility in sitting and standing. While the benches reviewed appear to include backrests, not all provide adequate arm supports for safe transfers.

Bench Accessibility Recommendations

To bring the benches into compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, the following

1. Install benches including backrests and armrests to aid individuals with limited mobility on firm, stable, slip-resistant surfaces (e.g., concrete or asphalt pads) with adequate clear floor space and an adequate accessible route.



Figure 22: Bench without clear space

Playground

The playground is reviewed here as a single element. Individual play structures and amenities, however, are reviewed separately and in full in the full report (Appendix B). A review of the playground equipment at Speed Park, including the climber with slide and the plywood climbing structure, balance beam, swing set, and dome indicates that these features do not fully comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the guidelines outlined in the 2010 ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for Play Areas.

Under ADA standards, newly constructed or altered play areas must include an accessible route connecting to and throughout the play area, as well as providing access to a variety of play components. At least one of each type of ground-level play component (such as climbers, slides, activity panels, or swings) must be located on an accessible route and usable by children with disabilities. Additionally, a minimum number of elevated play components must be accessible via transfer systems or ramps, depending on the size and complexity of the structure.

The swing set seats appear to be standard belt-style swings without adaptive features. ADA best practices recommend that playgrounds include at least one accessible swing seat (e.g., molded bucket seat with harness, high-back seat, or platform swing) to provide equivalent play opportunities for children with mobility impairments. ADA standards require that when swings are provided, at least one of each type of swing (e.g., belt, bucket, or tot swing) must be located on an accessible route and include a clear ground space adjacent for use by children with disabilities. In addition, a minimum number of ground-level play components, including swings, must be made accessible depending on the overall size of the play area.

The play structures reviewed are surrounded by pea gravel surfacing, which does not appear to be compacted or stabilized for wheelchair access. ADA standards require that surfaces within accessible routes and clear floor spaces be firm, stable, and slip-resistant. Loose or uneven surfaces prevent children with mobility devices from accessing the equipment.

None of the observed structures includes accessible transfer systems, ramps, or ground-level play features directly connected to an accessible route. Without these elements, children who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices are excluded from meaningful participation in the play area.

Playground Accessibility Recommendations

To bring the playground equipment into compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for Play Areas, the following corrective actions are recommended:

1. Replace or treat existing loose-fill surfacing with ADA-compliant materials (e.g., poured-in-place rubber, bonded rubber, rubber tiles, or properly installed and compacted engineered wood fiber).
2. Provide continuous accessible routes (36 inches minimum width) leading into and throughout the play area and connect the accessible route to a variety of play components, including both ground-level and elevated structures.
3. Ground-Level Play Components
 - a. Ensure that at least one of each type of ground-level play feature (e.g., climber, activity panel, swing) is accessible from the route.
 - b. Provide 30-inch by 48-inch clear floor space adjacent to accessible components for wheelchair use.
 - c. Incorporate at least one accessible swing option, such as a molded bucket swing with harness, a high-back seat, or a platform swing.
4. Elevated Play Components- Provide access to elevated structures through either an accessible transfer system (platform and steps designed for wheelchair transfers), or a ramp system (if the structure is large enough to trigger ramp requirements under ADAAG).
5. Program Accessibility

- a. Ensure that the overall variety of play experiences—climbing, sliding, balancing, and interactive play—is available to children with disabilities, consistent with ADAAG’s requirement for equal opportunity.
 - b. Recognize that the balance beam may not be directly usable by children with mobility impairments and provide an equivalent accessible balance activity, such as a ground-level rocker, wobble platform, or sensory-rich balance feature accessible from a wheelchair.
 - c. Recognize that the climbing dome is not directly accessible for children with mobility impairments and provide an equivalent accessible play opportunity, such as an overhead ladder at ground level, a climbing wall with transfer access, or other upper-body activity accessible from a wheelchair.
6. Ensure the overall playground design includes a variety of accessible play components that balance elevated and ground-level activities, in line with ADAAG requirements.



Figure 23: Playground climber with plywood, gravel surfacing

Picnic Tables

According to ADA standards, at least one accessible picnic table must be provided in each cluster of tables. An accessible table must have a surface height between 28 and 34 inches and provide sufficient knee and toe clearance: a minimum of 27 inches in height, 30 inches in width, and 19 inches in depth. In addition, there must be a 30-inch by 48-inch clear floor space for a forward wheelchair approach. This table and its clear space must be located on a firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface and connected to the site’s accessible route system.

The tables observed are fixed models with attached benches on both sides, leaving no extended overhang to allow a wheelchair user to roll under the table. As a result, the required knee and toe clearances are not provided. In addition, the tables appear to be placed on grass or soil surfaces rather than on paved, slip-resistant pads. No clear floor space was observed adjacent to the tables for wheelchair approach, and no paved accessible route connects directly to them.

In their current configuration, the picnic tables do not provide the clearances, surface conditions, or route connections required for ADA compliance. To achieve accessibility, the Township should install at least one ADA-compliant picnic table with the proper knee and toe clearances, mounted on a paved pad with adequate clear floor space, and connected to the park’s accessible route network.

Picnic Table Accessibility Recommendations

1. Install at least one ADA-compliant picnic table with the proper knee and toe clearances, mounted on a paved pad with adequate clear floor space, and connected to the park's accessible route network.

Outdoor Grills

ADA requirements specify that when outdoor cooking facilities such as grills are provided in public spaces, at least one unit must be accessible. Accessible grills must provide a cooking surface height of no more than 34 inches above the ground, forward reach ranges between 15 inches and 48 inches for operable parts such as handles or adjustment controls, operable parts that can be used with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist, clear ground space of 30 inches by 48 inches positioned for a forward approach by a wheelchair, and placement on a firm, stable, slip-resistant surface connected to the site's accessible route system.

The grill reviewed appears to be mounted on a single post with a fixed height. The cooking surface appears higher than the 34-inch maximum allowed for wheelchair accessibility, and the surrounding ground surface is grass/soil rather than a firm and stable pad. No paved accessible route was observed leading directly to the grill. Additionally, while the grill includes an adjustment handle, it is unclear whether the operable part can be used without tight grasping, which is required for compliance.

In its current configuration, the grill does not provide the required surface height, clear floor space, or accessible route. To achieve compliance, at least one ADA-compliant grill should be installed on a paved surface, with cooking and control surfaces within reach range, and connected to the park's accessible route system.

Outdoor Grill Accessibility Recommendations

1. Provide at least one ADA-compliant grill with an accessible route

Programs

Accessibility at Speed Park extends beyond physical infrastructure to the programs, services, and activities offered within the park. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II, public entities are required to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in all programs and events. This principle, known as program accessibility, emphasizes both compliance with federal standards and the broader goal of community inclusion.

At this point in time, Speed Park does not host formal programs at the location. As the township begins to host programs, it will be important that these programs are welcoming, adaptable, and designed so that all community members can engage meaningfully. Accessibility considerations should include:

- **Information & Communication:** Providing promotional materials, registration platforms, and signage in formats usable by individuals with visual, auditory, or cognitive disabilities.
- **Reasonable Modifications:** Adjusting rules, policies, or procedures when necessary to allow full participation (e.g., flexible play rules, extended time for activities).
- **Adaptive Opportunities:** Incorporating adaptive equipment, sensory-friendly options, or alternative participation methods to expand inclusion.
- **Staff Training:** Ensuring staff, volunteers, and coaches are prepared with disability awareness and strategies for providing reasonable accommodations.
- **Partner with local disability organizations** to expand adaptive and inclusive programming options.
- **Create a feedback mechanism** for participants with disabilities to share their experiences and needs.

Silver Creek Township Park

Silver Creek Township Park is a very large, complex park with some easily corrected accessibility issues and very few critical issues. Overall, the park meets accessibility standards at a high degree. Specific standards and requirements including measurements of clear space, ramp and path slope and height requirements are detailed in the Speed Park review and not repeated here.

Parking

The park has three parking areas. There are accessible spots in each lot, all marked with the universal accessibility symbol on the pavement but lacking signs. The lot at the main entrance has 175 parking spaces with 4 designated as accessible, though no van parking. All accessible spots have proper access to the paved path that enters the park. The lot accessed directly from Adkins Ct has 75 parking spots with five accessible. There is no designated van parking. The spots are scattered with all having a path to both paved paths entering the park, though needing to cross traffic on the way. The entrance to the immediately adjacent ballfield has a steep slope and bollards to block traffic but which may also block access to mobility devices. The third lot, also accessed from Adkins Ct. through the second lot, has 188 parking spaces, eight of which are accessible with four of those designated for van parking. There is a route to paved paths entering the park, though crossing traffic.



Figure 24: Township Park accessible parking

Parking Accessibility Recommendations

1. Add two designated van parking spots to the parking lot by the Fern St. entrance.
2. Move accessible spots in the Adkins Ct entrance parking lots closer to paved paths to avoid crossing traffic.
3. Add signage to designate accessible parking spots.

Other Facilities and Activities

The most prominent accessibility issue in the park is the wood chip surfacing on the playground. Wood chips are subject to severe kickout and drainage problems and are not accessible for mobility devices or strollers. The playground also lacks an accessible climbing element and swings.



Figure 25: Township Park playground-kickout under swing set

All park shelters have more than the minimum required number of accessible picnic tables and there are proper routes to all but one shelter, though there is a 1-2 inch lip at the transition from route to shelter pad which may impede mobility devices. The concessions area is similar with proper surfacing on the concourse but a high level change at the transition to the paved path. ADA standards specify that any vertical level change greater than 1/2 inch must be addressed with a compliant ramp, beveled edge, or other accessible design feature.

Three of the five ballfields have proper routes for access and proper areas with stable surfacing for spectators in wheelchairs. One of the two ballfields without a route or proper spectator seating is the only adult sized field. Ballfield dugouts are only accessible through the field and there are high level changes at the transitions from infield dirt to concrete dugout floors at all



Figure 26: Township Park level change at shelter

fields. There are no routes or firm, level spectator areas at the basketball court, volleyball court, football field, or soccer field.

The stage is approximately 24 inches high at the rear and approximately 36 inches high in the front. There is no ramp for access and no route to the concrete pad at the front of the stage which is otherwise suitable for spectators with wheelchairs. Picnic tables at the front of the stage are not accessible.



Figure 28: Township Park stage



Figure 27: Township Park steep level change at dugout

The dog park is accessed via a set of gates that lead into a grassy area. There is no accessible path into the dog park or accessible seating area.

There is an adequate route to the restrooms but insufficient clear space to open the door and no signage designating them as accessible. The restrooms were locked at the time of the assessment so the interiors could not be inspected.



Figure 29: Township Park dog park entrance

Facilities and Activities Accessibility Recommendations

1. Replace playground surfacing with accessible surface.
2. Add accessible swings and a climbing element to the playground.
3. Correct level changes at transitions to shelters and concessions area.
4. Add proper routes and spectator seating areas to volleyball court, basketball court, adult baseball field and all baseball field dugouts, football field, and soccer field.
5. Add a ramp for stage access and a route to the concrete pad at the front of the stage for accessible seating.
6. Improve the route accessing the dog park.

Signage

There is no directional or orientation signage in the park. Signage is important to direct visitors who may not be familiar with the park to its various amenities and, from an accessibility standpoint, to direct people who need accommodations to the locations where they can find them.

Signage Accessibility Recommendations

1. Add proper signage directing to accessible features such as seating areas, picnic shelters, and restrooms.

Other amenities

There are picnic tables scattered throughout the park, mostly in grass with no route to access. Port-a-lets are not accessible. Trash receptacles are almost all mobile trash cans not easily reachable by a person in a wheelchair. The information center has no route to access it.

Other amenities accessibility recommendations

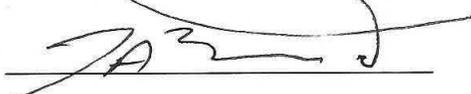
1. Add routes to sufficient number of amenities to achieve ADA compliance.
2. Add trash cans that are wheelchair accessible.

**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 Silver Creek Township Park Board (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

Stephanie Smethers
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE 

J. A. Bennett
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 01/13/2026

Public Engagement

Public engagement is a critical and required part of the master planning process. The parks system must serve community members and their feedback determines the course of action for community and park system leaders. Feedback was gathered in multiple fashions including a key stakeholder meeting, public event, and a community survey. Below is a summary of each engagement opportunity and the resulting feedback. Complete methodologies and results can be found in Appendix A.

Stakeholder/Public Meeting

A public meeting was conducted with key stakeholders for an open discussion about the state of the parks system and the needs and desires for its development. Invited stakeholders were determined by the Silver Creek Township project team and included representatives from park user groups, schools, law enforcement, medical providers, and others who are impacted by the parks system in any way. The meeting was held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at the Sellersburg Public Library and included a series of open ended discussion questions and two activities.

Results

To open the meeting, participants were asked to identify themselves and describe the Township's park and recreation system in 3-4 words. Many attendees expressed fond memories of playing at the Speed Park as a kid and with family. Arts in Speed Park, no longer taking place, was also mentioned as a favorite by several. Many also feel that parks are good for giving kids something to do.

Participants were asked for their overall impressions of the Township's park system. Most are happy with the current park system, particularly Township Park. It was agreed that Township Park is safe, well maintained, and has a multitude of things to do. It was also consensus that Speed Park needs significant attention but has a great deal of potential and all were happy that the park has been added to the Township's park inventory.

When asked what is missing from the Township's recreation system, multiple attendees mentioned more events in the parks are needed including a return of Arts in Speed Park and music at Speed Park. Singular responses included a farmers market, splash pad, and a walking path and interpretive history displays at Speed Park.

Participants universally agreed that no new parks or facilities are needed in the Township's system at this time. When asked what they would do differently or the same if they were in charge of the park system, most agreed that the Townships parks are well run but that additional staffing would be a benefit, particularly as the community grows and Speed Park is renovated and with additional events and programs added.

The first meeting activity included a SWOT activity using breakout groups to discuss and brainstorm Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Township's park system. Strengths and weaknesses are internal to the existing system while threats and opportunities are external but could have significant impact on the system. Groups reported their conclusions to all meeting attendees and were combined into a single SWOT matrix.

Strengths that were identified by the groups centered around infrastructure at Township Park for events and choices of activities, and the Township's location, safety and beauty. Weaknesses were notable at Speed Park being in need of renovation and concerns about staffing, community involvement, and funding.

Opportunities included renovations at Speed Park, the addition of music, arts, and festival events, finding sources of funding, improvements to security, and Eagle Scout projects to enhance the parks. Increasing population puts additional stress on the parks and Township infrastructure, traffic, vandalism, keeping up with maintenance, and residents near Speed Park being unhappy with the addition of events which may generate noise and traffic.

Table 11 Key stakeholder SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location (X2) Accessibility Beautiful Choices of activities Plenty of space Ample parking Good infrastructure for events Atmosphere Existing green space Safe community	No restrooms at Speed Park (X2) No water fountains (X2) Not enough staff (X2) Older trees at Speed Park could create hazards Playground at Speed Park outdated Maintenance at Speed Park Funding Not enough volunteers/community involvement
Opportunities	Threats
Finding grant funding and donations (X2) More community involvement (X3) More events (music, arts, festivals) to generate revenue and engage the community (X3) Adding restrooms and utilities at Speed Park Improve security Add a splash pad Eagle Scout projects Shuttle from parking during events	Funding cuts (X2) Vandalism increasing Too much traffic Too much noise Increase in population (adding stress to infrastructure) Not enough parking Maintenance/wear and tear Nearby residents complaining about noise and activity

The second activity involved placing ideas for improvements and additions to the Speed Park to inform Township leaders of community desires as the park is renovated. Meeting participants placed sticky notes with their ideas on a map of the park to indicate their suggestions and locations around the park. Suggestions included replacement of the playground and the parking lot, the addition of a pavilion for events, restrooms, a dirt bike path, and historical markers, and an arbor walk.

Sellersburg Celebrates! Engagement Event

The Township Trustee and Park Board members and CDR staff participated in an engagement event at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival on August 22nd and 23rd, 2025. Staff maintained a booth in the high traffic vendor area to ask them to take the community survey and to engage them in the same SWOT and map activities that key stakeholders participated in with the goal of creating a community-driven SWOT and gathering additional feedback from the public about desired improvements to Speed Park.

Additional comments on strengths included the safety of the parks, and the walking path and dog park at Township Park. Additional weaknesses were identified as the need for a bike trail, more seating to rest, no indoor recreation facility, and the Township Park stage needing upgrades. Opportunities identified by festival goers included more events, particularly the return of Arts in Speed Park.

Table 12: SWOT with public input added

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location (X2) Safe community (X2) Accessibility Beautiful Choices of activities Plenty of space Ample parking Good infrastructure for events Atmosphere Existing green space Walking trail @ Township Park Dog park	No restrooms at Speed Park (X2) No water fountains (X2) Not enough staff (X2) Older trees at Speed Park could create hazards Playground at Speed Park outdated Maintenance at Speed Park Funding Not enough volunteers/community involvement Bike trail Indoor rec facility Not enough seating to rest Stage needs upgrades
Opportunities	Threats
More events (music, arts, festivals) to generate revenue and engage the community (X5) Arts in Speed Park (X4) More community involvement (X3) Finding grant funding and donations (X2) Adding restrooms and utilities at Speed Park Improve security Add a splash pad Eagle Scout projects Shuttle from parking during events Farmers market	Vandalism increasing Too much traffic Too much noise Funding cuts (X2) Increase in population (adding stress to infrastructure) Not enough parking Maintenance/wear and tear Nearby residents complaining about noise and activity

The map activity proved very popular at the festival with many people happy that Speed Park was acquired by the Township.

The complete list of comments, including those from the stakeholder meeting:

- | | |
|--|---|
| More events/Arts in Speed Park (X5)
Shelter/Pavillion (X4)
Splash Pad (X3)
Bathrooms (X3)
Historical markers (X2)
Play area for small kids (X2)
Paved parking lot
New Playground
Dirt bike track
Exercise trail | Water fountains
Youth football field
Wiffle ball field
Arbor walk
Dog Park
Construction park
Pet vet
Food truck area
Animal reading stations
Landscaping and flowers |
|--|---|

Community Survey

Methodology

A community survey was conducted to gather feedback from the public about the current and desired states of the park system in a quantitative fashion. Due to the smaller population of Silver Creek

Township, the project team determined that the survey be open to any community member who wished to take it.

The survey was distributed via a variety of methods including invitation cards, flyers, and posters with instructions and a survey QR code, placed at strategic locations such as Township Park, Speed Park, Township offices, grocery stores, and other locations as determined by Township staff and forwarded directly to key user groups. The survey invitation was also posted on Township social media accounts. In addition, the survey invitation cards were distributed by the project team at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival August 21-23. A paper survey was also available upon request, mailed to the requestor with a postage paid envelope addressed to CDR included. No paper surveys were requested.

The survey opened on August 20 and closed on September 14. A total of 104 surveys were completed. At the conclusion of the survey period, survey data was compiled and analyzed with key questions and data tables and charts included in the plan document. Questions asking for ratings of quality or importance were measured on a 5 point scale with 5 being "Extremely important" or "Excellent", 4 being "Quite important" or "Good", 3 being "Somewhat important" or "Satisfactory", 2 being "A little important" or "Fair", and 1 being "Not important" or "Poor". The full survey instrument and additional survey data are included in Appendix A.

Results

Survey Demographics

61% of survey respondents said they live in the Town of Sellersburg, 10% said they live in Silver Creek Township but not within any town limits, 3% live in the Silver Creek Township portion of Clarksville, and 26% live outside of the Township (Table 1). The most common locations for those not residing in the Township were the nearby communities of Charlestown, Memphis, and New Albany. Of those who live in the Township, just over half (55%) have lived here for more than 20 years (Table 2).

Table 13: Residence

Do you live in:	%	Count
Sellersburg	61%	60
Other	26%	25
Silver Creek Township outside of town limits	10%	10
Clarksville	3%	3
Years	%	Count
More than 20 years	55%	43
11-20 years	17%	13
1-5 years	14%	11
6-10 years	14%	11

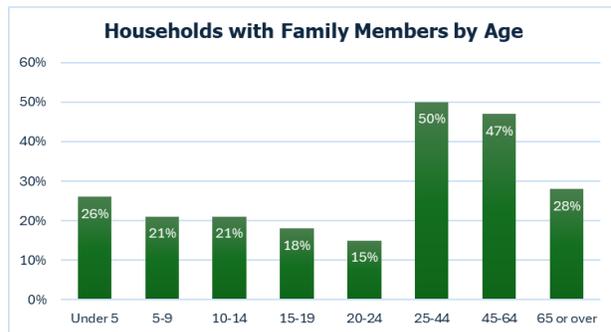


Figure 30: Household members by age

62% of respondents were female and 93% report their race or ethnicity as white. 60% report being employed for wages, 18% are self-employed, and 16% are retired. 57% have a household income of \$75,000 or more annually while only 8% have a household income of \$25,000 or less.

50% of the households of survey takers have at least one family member aged 25-44, 44% have a member 45-64 and 28% have a member over 65 years old. 26% have a family member under the age of 5, 21% have a member aged 5-9, and 21% have a family member aged 10-14.

For context, 52% of Township residents are female, 89% report their race/ethnicity as white, and only 42% have household incomes of \$75,000 or more. 17% of residents are over the age of 65, 25% are

aged 45-64, and 25% are aged 25-44 while 28% are under the age of 15. Survey respondents were more likely to be female, older, and wealthier, than the population at large though many households have younger children who visit the Township’s parks.

Usage

When asked how often they visit the Townships parks, Silver Creek Township Park is visited much more frequently than Speed Park, not surprisingly given the size and condition of Speed Park and the limited number of amenities. 26% said they visit Township Park more than 20 times per year, 12% visit 11-20 times per year and 22% visit 6-10 times per year. Only 1% said they were not aware the park existed. Only 7% visited Speed Park more than 20 times over the previous year while 62% visited 5 or fewer times. 3% were not aware the park existed.

Walking paths were identified as the most important amenity at the Township’s parks with 89% saying they are extremely or quite important and 73% ranking them in their top three most important facilities. There is currently a walking path at Silver Creek Township Park but not Speed Park though the addition of a walking path to Speed Park is planned. Playgrounds were the next most important amenity with 82% saying they are extremely or quite important quite important while 61% ranked playgrounds in their top 3. Other highly rated amenities include green space and open field (40% in their top 3), shelters (35% in their top 3), and dog parks (33% in their top 3).

Table 14: Park visitation

Township Park	%	Count	Total
0-5 times	39%	36	92
More than 20 times	26%	24	92
6-10 times	22%	20	92
11-20 times	12%	11	92
Not aware it existed	1%	1	92
Speed Park	%	Count	Total
0-5 times	62%	57	92
6-10 times	15%	14	92
More than 20 times	13%	12	92
11-20 times	7%	6	92
Not aware it existed	3%	3	92

Table 15: Important amenities

Amenities	Extremely important %	Quite important %	Top 3 %	Total
Walking Paths	71%	18%	73%	83
Playgrounds	55%	27%	61%	82
Open Fields and Green Space	30%	37%	40%	82
Shelters	44%	32%	35%	82
Dog Park	16%	22%	33%	82
Baseball/Softball Fields	16%	13%	28%	82
Picnic Tables	31%	39%	25%	83
Pickleball Courts	5%	11%	19%	81
Sports Fields	21%	20%	16%	80
Basketball Courts	6%	19%	16%	81

Volleyball Courts	4%	13%	15%	82
-------------------	----	-----	-----	----

Satisfaction

People are generally happy with the condition of Silver Creek Township Park with 68% saying the park is in good or excellent condition and none saying it is in poor condition. Speed Park, as expected, received lower ratings with 38% saying the park is in fair or poor condition and only 5% saying it is in excellent condition.

Table 16: Silver Creek Township Park condition

Condition	%	Count	Total
Good	37%	34	93
Excellent	31%	29	93
Satisfactory	12%	11	93
Fair	11%	10	93
Did not visit	10%	9	93
Poor	0%	0	93

Table 17: Speed Park condition

Condition	%	Count	Total
Fair	25%	23	91
Good	23%	21	91
Did not visit	19%	17	91
Satisfactory	14%	13	91
Poor	13%	12	91
Excellent	5%	5	91

Respondents were asked to submit open ended comments on specific concerns they had about each park. Comments about Silver Creek Township Park were varied but some common suggestions for improvements include upgrading lighting on the walking path, the addition of places to sit in the shade, and improvements to playing fields. The most common answer by survey respondents was that they had no concerns.

There is also a high degree of recognition that Speed Park is in need of significant improvements. In addition to low ratings in the overall condition of the park, the most common comment by respondents is that the park is in generally poor shape. Specific concerns repeated include the unsafe playground, the lack of bathrooms, and the poor condition of the parking lot. Suggestions included the addition of a walking path, the return of Arts in Speed Park, and the introduction of other events such as live music events. Replacement of the playground and parking lot and the addition of restrooms, a walking path, and a shelter are planned and will address many of these concerns.

Programs

Silver Creek Township currently offers only a handful of programs at its parks, mostly through or through cooperation with partner organizations. Other than festivals, these programs tend to be targeted toward children so are not utilized by a majority of the population. Festivals are attended by 89% of survey respondents with 74% of those who attended rating them as good or excellent. Only 39% attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt with 68% rating it as good or excellent. The remaining programs are sports leagues and were as heavily used or as highly rated as festivals and the Easter Egg Hunt. 34% of respondents attended youth Baseball or Softball leagues with 17% of attendees saying the leagues are

excellent and 46% saying they are good. 34% attended youth football with 17% saying it is an excellent program and 22% saying it is a good program while 45% rate it as only fair or poor. Adult Softball or Baseball is only attended by 14% of respondents with 10% rating it as excellent and 60% rating it as good.

Table 18: Current programs satisfaction

Program	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Did not use	Total
Festivals	33%	41%	11%	16%	0%	11%	72
Easter Egg Hunt	29%	39%	4%	29%	0%	61%	71
Baseball/Softball Leagues (Youth)	17%	46%	25%	13%	0%	66%	71
Youth Football	17%	22%	17%	39%	6%	74%	70
Baseball/Softball Leagues (Adult)	10%	60%	30%	0%	0%	86%	71

Speed Park improvements

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to weigh in on the upgrading of Speed Park. Of the improvements planned for the park, all except the gazebo received an important rating of extremely or quite important of at least 59%. The gazebo is one of the few assets at the park that is already in good condition. 87% said that the addition of restrooms was extremely or very important. The next most important improvement is the replacement of the playground at 84% saying that it is extremely or quite important. 74% say the addition of a walking path, 71% say improvements to the existing open space, and 68% say the addition of and improvements to amenities and facilities for the disabled are of a high level of importance.

Table 19: Speed Park improvements

Amenities/Improvements	Extremely important %	Quite important %	Total
Restrooms	71%	16%	82
Playground	67%	17%	82
Walking Path	53%	21%	81
Repaved Parking Lot	39%	20%	82
Picnic Tables	37%	30%	82
Open Space	33%	38%	82
Accessible Features (for the Disabled)	33%	35%	83
Landscaping/Garden Areas	32%	27%	82
Shelters	32%	32%	82
Gazebo	25%	23%	81

Barriers

When asked why they are unable to visit the Township's parks more often, lack of time was by far the most common reason (56%). Maintenance of the parks is next at 23% followed by lack of interesting programs and amenities at 13% and parks being too far away at 11%. Health related issues such as poor health or a lack of facilities and amenities for the disabled were the least common reasons given for not visiting the parks.

Table 20: Barriers to participation

Barriers to participation	%	Count
Lack of time	56%	34
Parks are not maintained well enough	23%	14
Township parks and recreation offerings do not interest me	13%	8
Parks are too far away	11%	7
Don't have enough information about Township parks	10%	6
Don't feel safe in Township parks	8%	5
Poor health or mobility	5%	3
Parks and/or recreation offerings are not accessible for people with disabilities	5%	3
Other (please describe)	5%	3

Health

Respondents were also asked to rank the top three facilities or amenities they felt were most important for their health. Walking paths were the most common amenity important for health with 34 votes for the most important and 60 placements in the top three. Playgrounds, open fields and green space, and the dog park also rated at the top of healthy facilities and amenities.

Table 21: Facilities important to health

Facility	1st	2nd	3rd	Total (top 3)
Walking Paths	34	16	10	60
Playgrounds	18	11	10	39
Open Fields and Green Space	12	7	12	31
Dog Park	7	8	7	23
Shelters	5	3	11	19
Sports Fields	5	5	2	12
Baseball/Softball Fields	4	6	7	17
Picnic Tables	3	8	4	15
Grills	2	2	4	8
Pickleball Courts	2	6	11	19
Basketball Courts	1	1	10	12
Volleyball Courts	1	4	4	9

Additional facilities/amenities and programs

Survey respondents place a high level of importance on enhancing certain recreation amenities, particularly restrooms, playgrounds, drinking fountains and paved trails such as the walking path at the Township Park, aligning with the planned and desired improvements to Speed Park. 93% said it was extremely or quite important to add restrooms to the Townships parks, 80 % would like additional playgrounds, 73% want to see more trails, and 62% want more drinking fountains. Cooling centers was next at 50% but no other amenities received more than 50% agreement that they are extremely or quite important.

While respondents seemed to consider additional programs as less critical than amenities, increasing programming for more vulnerable populations, what the National Recreation and Parks Association calls

Programs Focused on Children, Older Adults, and People with Disabilities received the highest priority with 6 of the 10 program areas deemed most important serving this group. At the top are programs for people with disabilities (54%), after school programs (43%), and preschool (39%). Also in the top ten were full daycare, teen specific programs, and before school programs. While it may be beyond the capacity of the Township to provide these types of programs directly, partnerships and independent providers could be sought and cataloged as a resource for Township residents. Other programs rated as important to increase include themed special events such as festivals (48%), team sports (38%), performing arts (35%), and natural and cultural history programs (33%).

Table 22: Facilities to add (top 10)

Facility/Amenity	Extremely important	Quite important	Total
Restrooms	77%	16%	77
Playgrounds	62%	18%	76
Drinking Fountains	43%	19%	77
Trails- Paved	43%	30%	77
Community Center	26%	16%	76
Recreation and Senior Centers	25%	17%	76
Swimming Pools	25%	13%	76
Cooling Centers	23%	27%	77
Indoor Recreation Center	23%	17%	75
Performance Amphitheater	22%	16%	76

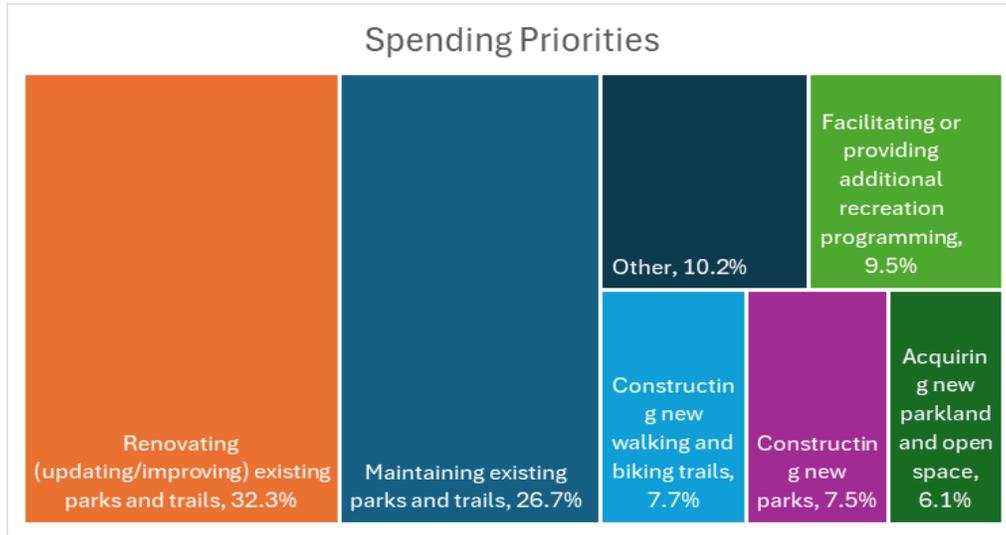
Table 23: Programs to add (top 10)

Program	Extremely important	Quite important	Total
Programs for People with Disabilities	30%	24%	71
After School Programs	25%	18%	72
Full Daycare	25%	11%	72
Preschool	25%	14%	72
Team Sports	23%	15%	74
Performing Arts	21%	15%	73
Themed Special Events	20%	28%	74
Natural and Cultural History Activities	19%	14%	73
Teen Specific Programs	19%	16%	73
Before School Programs	18%	13%	71

Priorities

When asked about how they would spend potential future money on the park system, it is clear that adding new facilities is not seen as a priority. With a hypothetical \$100 to spend, survey respondents would only allocate \$21.30 toward the construction of new parks or trails or the acquisition of new land or open space. \$59.00 would be spent on maintaining and renovating existing facilities while \$9.50 would be spent on the addition of new programs.

Figure 31: Spending priorities



Information

It appears that the Township makes effective use of social media to communicate about events and other recreation happenings with 63% of respondents saying that social media is how they receive this information. Beyond social media, information dissemination appears to be somewhat limited with 55% saying they receive it by word of mouth and 25% saying they receive no information at all. The Township does not have a website so relies on social media, traditional media, and flyers or posters at its parks to let residents know about park events.

Social media is definitely the preferred method of receiving information (81%) with an official website (50%) and email bulletins (34%) also preferred. Any of these methods are more cost efficient and easier to maintain than the next most preferred, a published program guide (32%). Neither the current nor anticipated future levels of program offerings justifies the expense of guide layout and printing.

Table 24: Communication method- current

Communication method	%	Count
Township Social Media	63%	42
From friends or neighbors	55%	37
I do not receive any information about Township parks and recreation offerings	25%	17
Flyers/posters at parks and recreation facilities	21%	14
Newspaper articles or ads	12%	8
Conversations with parks staff	10%	7
Other (please describe)	10%	7
Radio or Television	7%	5
Email bulletins	3%	2

Table 25: Communication method- preferred

Communication method	%	Count
Township Social Media	81%	50
Township website	50%	31
Email bulletins	34%	21
Seasonal or annual program guides	32%	20
From friends or neighbors	32%	20
Flyers/posters at parks and recreation facilities	21%	13
Newspaper articles or ads	18%	11
Radio or Television	16%	10
Conversations with parks staff	15%	9
Other (please describe)	3%	2

Benefits

Finally, survey takers were asked about several well recognized benefits of parks for their community. Table 19 is arranged by the percentage of responses that strongly agreed with each benefit statement though it is important to know how many people agree, even if not strongly. The percentages for each benefit statement are calculated against the number of people who answered that statement. In the case of "Other" benefits, 16 people rated other benefits in their top 3 with 38% of those strongly agreeing though no one who selected other as a benefit identified a specific benefit in the open ended portion of the question.

The benefit of parks that most people agreed with is that parks provide access to the outdoors and nature with 92% agreeing and 56% strongly agreeing. Preserving open space and the environment is a close second with 91% of people agreeing but a higher percentage (67%) strongly agreeing, showing a high perception of parks as good for nature and the environment. Strengthening a sense of community is the next most recognized benefit with 88% agreeing while 88% agree that parks improve physical health and fitness and that they enhance the community's appearance. While parks are known to be economic drivers for many communities, our survey respondents rated the promotion of tourism (56%) and helping to attract new residents and businesses (60%) as the least important benefit, though both still recognized by the majority.

Table 26: Benefits of parks

Benefit	Strongly Agree	Agree	Top 3	Total
Preserve open space and the environment	67%	24%	50%	66
Improve physical health and fitness	61%	24%	44%	66
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	56%	36%	11%	66
Enhance community appearance	51%	34%	58%	67
Strengthen sense of community	48%	40%	11%	65
Improve mental health and reduce stress	45%	39%	47%	66
Increase property values in surrounding area	38%	26%	21%	66
Other (please describe)	38%	6%	0%	16
Improve social connections	32%	47%	41%	66
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	29%	32%	39%	66
Promote tourism in the Township	26%	30%	12%	66
Help attract new residents and businesses	24%	36%	46%	67

Public Presentation of Plan

The completed master plan document and findings were presented in an open public meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. ET at the Sellersburg Public Library. Following the presentation, the plan document was made public and emailed to all who requested it with a deadline of Friday, December 12 to ask additional questions or offer additional feedback. No feedback or questions led to significant changes in the plan and all questions and comments are documented in Appendix A.

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment synthesizes the current state of the parks and recreation system with what was learned through the public engagement process to uncover community needs and expose gaps.

The first part of the Needs Assessment is the Level of Service (LOS) analysis. The LOS analysis takes a deeper dive into the specific facilities, amenities, and programs offered in the Township and compares them with national benchmarks for communities of similar size and the needs and desires expressed by the public through the engagement process. These benchmarks are taken from the National Recreation and Park Administration's (NRPA) annual Agency Performance Review and Park Metrics which compiles data from across the nation and categorizes it in various ways for easy comparisons. This LOS analysis looks at communities under 20,000 in population where Silver Creek Township fits. It should be noted that this comparison is not a measure of what the community "should" expect from its park system. It is, rather, a look at what is typical for communities of similar size. Every community has needs, wants, interests, budgets and other constraints that a master plan should address which may be very different for each locale.

This LOS analysis carries forward into a Gap Analysis which describes the opportunities for growth and development in the parks system to better meet community needs. The final part of the Needs Assessment is the establishment of broad goals and more specific objectives that frame the final part of the master plan, the Action Plan, which lays out the specific items that the Township intends to undertake over the five years of the planning period to meet goals, objectives, and community needs.

Level of Service Analysis

Since the majority of Silver Creek Township residents live within the Town of Sellersburg and Town and Township residents have access to all parks and recreation facilities therein, this Level of Service analysis will include the facilities of both the Township and the Town for an examination of the complete and complementary recreation opportunities available. Though there is no formal cooperation for facilities, programming, or funding between the Town and Township, this wholistic analysis will help both the Township and the Town ensure gaps can be filled without unnecessary duplication of facilities and services.

Parks, Trails, and Recreation Amenities

NRPA measures the number of parks in a community by determining the number of residents for each. The average for the under 20,000 category is 1,001 residents per park. The Township has two parks and the Town of Sellersburg has two parks for a ratio of 3,614 residents per park. Park acres and miles of trails and greenways are measured per 1,000 residents. The Township falls short on these measures as well with 45.5 total park acres, or 3.13 acres per 1,000 residents and only 1 mile of paved walking trail, or .69 miles per 1,000 residents. With the recent addition of Speed Park and its significant renovation needs, there are no plans for the Township to add additional parks at this time, though a walking trail is planned for Speed Park and the South Monon Freedom Trail, once constructed will pass through the Township, boosting trail and greenway access.

Table 27: Parks and Trails

Parks	Number	Current LOS (residents per park)	NRPA Benchmark (residents per park)
Number of parks-SCT	2		
Number of parks- Sellersburg	2		
Number of parks- Total	4	3,615	1,001
Park Acres	Acres	Current LOS (per 1,000 residents)	NRPA Benchmark (per 1,000 residents)
Park acres- SCT	41		
Park acres- Sellersburg	4.25		
Park acres-Total	45.25	3.13	10.9
Trails and Greenways	Mileage	Current LOS (per 1,000 residents)	NRPA Benchmark (miles)
Trails and greenways- SCT	1		
Trails and greenways- Sellersburg	0		
Trails and greenways- Total	1	.69	4

When examining the specific facilities and amenities offered, again combined with Sellersburg, The Township is near or above the average, based on population per amenity for diamond fields, dog parks, amphitheaters, pickleball courts, splash/spray pads, swimming pools, and volleyball courts. It is below the average for rectangular (i.e. football and soccer) fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, and has no community gardens, disc golf courses, publicly owned golf courses, community centers or indoor recreation facilities, skate parks, and tennis courts. There are privately owned golf courses in the Township but little else in the way of private recreation facilities that could fill gaps in the system. Of the facilities and amenities which are offered below average or not at all, however, only playgrounds received significant mention as a recreation asset that should be added though restrooms and water fountains rounded out the top 3. The renovations at Speed Park will address some of these desires by adding and upgrading assets such as a new playground, walking trail, and pavilion, and improved picnic areas, open space, and event space.

Table 28: Facilities and Amenities

Facility/Amenity Type	Quantity (SCT)	Quantity (Sellersburg)	Facilities per 10,000 residents-SCT	Facilities per 10,000 residents-Total	LOS (population per facility)	NRPA Park Metrics
Athletic Fields	3	-		2.07	4,819	2,578
Ball Diamonds	5	-	3.02	3.46	2,892	1,958
Basketball Courts	1	1		1.38	7,229	4,479
Community Garden (plots)	-	-	0	0		8,800
Disc Golf	-	-	0	0		9,402
Dog Parks	1	-	0	.69	14,448	10,188
Drinking Fountains	-	-	-	-		-
Golf course (18-hole)	-	-	0	0		11,904
Fitness Zones	-	-	0	0		8,274
Nature Center	-	-	0	0		10,633
Performance Amphitheater	1	-	7.54	.69	14,448	11,100
Pickleball Courts	2	2	15.08	2.77	3,614	3,483
Playgrounds	2	-	7.54	1.38	7,229	2,000
Community Center	-	-	-		-	10,000
Recreation Center (including gyms)	-	-	-		-	9,875
Senior Center	-	-	-		-	13,996
Teen Center	-	-	-		-	15,475
Restrooms	1	1	7.54	1.38	7,229	2,359
Shelters	3	2		3.46	2,892	No data
Skate Parks	-	-		0		10,776
Splash Pads/Spray Pads	-	1		.69	14,448	13,391
Swimming Pools (Outdoor)	-	1		.69	14,448	9,745
Tennis Courts	-	-		0		3,500
Volleyball Courts	1	1		1.38	7,229	7,057

Programming

Regular Programming

NRPA data shows the percentage of communities across the nation offering specific types of programming. Topping the list are themed special events (85%), social recreation events (82%), and team sports (81%). The Township directly offers just one program, the annual Easter Egg Hunt while Sellersburg offers swim lessons, and annual "Pooch Plunge", and rentals of the pool facility for parties and private events, through the Township partners with several organizations that operate programs at the Township Park including youth and adult baseball, youth football, and the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival.

Public engagement showed significantly more demand for additional programming than for additional parks and recreational amenities. High on the demand list of regular programming are the return of Arts in Speed Park, additional live music and art events, a farmers' market, additional festivals and themed events, and cultural history activities.

Table 29: Regular programs

Program	Offered in Silver Creek Township	Offered by Sellersburg	% Offering (NRPA Park Metrics)
Team Sports	Y	N	81%
Individual Sports	N	N	64%
Fitness Classes	N	N	72%
Health and Wellness Education	N	N	69%
Safety Training	N	N	59%
Aquatics	N	Y	50%
Trips and Tours	N	N	43%
Martial Arts	N	N	38%
Cultural Crafts	N	N	46%
Themed Special Events	Y	Y	85%
Natural and Cultural History Activities	N	N	44%
Performing Arts	N	N	43%
Visual Arts	N	N	46%
Social Recreation Events	N	N	82%
Racquet Sports	N	N	63%
Running / Cycling Races	N	N	43%
Golf	N	N	25%
eSports / eGaming	N	N	13%

Special Programming

NRPA also tracks programs focused on certain groups such as children, older adults, and people with disabilities. These groups often have a difficult time finding programming that meets their needs therefore communities should pay close attention to and offer programming, either directly or in partnership with other organizations to ensure these groups are provided with equitable access to park and recreation activities. The most frequently offered programming of this type are summer camps, offered in some form by 63% of similarly sized communities nationwide followed by programs for older adults (60%) and after school programs (47%).

Neither the Township nor the Town of Sellersburg currently offer any programming specific to these groups. Understandably, without a formal Park Department, it is challenging to offer these or other programs through they can be offered by non-profit, public, or private entities such as schools, health care providers, and service organizations, partnering with the Township for resources, facilities, and promotion.

These types of programs dominated the demand for additional programming of any type in the community survey. Programs for people with disabilities garnered the highest level of demand for additional programming with 54% of survey respondents saying they are Extremely or Quite important to add. After school programs (43%), daycare (36%), preschool (39%), programs for teens (35%), and before school programs (31%) were all in the top ten program types to add.

Table 30 Programs for special populations

Program	Offered by Township	Offered by Sellersburg	% Offering (NRPA Park Metrics)
Programs for People w/ Disabilities	N	N	35%
Summer Camp	N	N	63%
Older Adult Programs	N	N	60%
Teen Programs	N	N	46%
STEM Programs	N	N	41%
After School Programs	N	N	47%
Before School Programs	N	N	16%
Preschool	N	N	24%
Full Day Care	N	N	8%

Gap Analysis

Based on the Township's current level of service and feedback from Township residents and visitors, the following needs become apparent for the park system:

- The need for the complete renovation of Speed Park is clear and underway. This historic park, long under private ownership, has been neglected in recent years but has received a new lease on life in the hands of the Township. Practically every asset in the park needs overhaul, removal, or replacement including the playground, parking areas, picnic tables, sidewalks and pathways, hazardous trees and dead tree remnants, and drainage issues. Additional planned amenities such as a walking trail, pavilion, and historical interpretive stations will return the park to the

centerpiece of the community that it once was and open opportunities for recreation, entertainment, and social gatherings the greatly enhance quality of life for Speed and Silver Creek Township residents.

- Accessibility improvements are needed across the park system. Practically no feature of Speed Park meets ADA standards and requirements, though much of this will be addressed as the park is refurbished. Silver Creek Township Park has several issues as well but most are easily correctable and the park has a solid foundation for meeting accessibility needs. The Township, though, has no official policies or procedures for ensuring accessibility needs are met or communicated and should establish such policies as soon as possible.
- Additional programming is in demand by community residents and desired by Township leadership and the Township Park Board. Live music events, additional festival, social gatherings, and farmers' markets would not only increase recreation and entertainment opportunities but can prove to be economic drivers by drawing out-of-town-visitors. Programs for people with disabilities, older adults, and children are also important to Township residents. It is beyond the current capacity of the Township to offer many of these programs directly due to the constraints of budget and staffing. There are no non-profit or private recreation providers, such as a Y or senior center in the Township, however partnerships can be sought with service organizations, schools, health care providers, and others to create such programming with support from the Township.
- Additional staffing for both maintenance and programming is needed. The Township has two staff members who serve as grounds crew for Silver Creek Township Park. They do a credible job of maintenance and upkeep but the park is large and complex and the renovation of Speed Park will add facilities and amenities which must be maintained. Speed Park has a dedicated group of volunteers who maintain the garden but cannot be expected to maintain other new and renovated assets. As Speed Park is upgraded and additional events and activities desired by the community are launched, a coordinator for these programs would give the Township greater ability to plan, organize, and execute programs and events that are desired by the community. The Township plans to hire a full-time staff member to serve as both park superintendent and events coordinator.
- As major renovations at Speed Park progress and Silver Creek Township Park continues to age, it will be critical to consider the cost of maintaining new and renovated assets over their anticipated life span. Too often, well-meaning additions to a park or park system are undertaken without planning for their maintenance and upkeep over what may be many years or decades and these assets deteriorate as a result of lack of budgeting and staffing for their maintenance. Life-cycle costing is the practice of planning for the entire cost of not only construction but long-term maintenance of an asset until its anticipated replacement and can be mapped through a thoughtful operations and maintenance plan. Operations and maintenance planning involves consideration of all of the monetary and operational needs of each asset in the system including periodic maintenance tasks, their frequency, the time it takes to perform each task, and their cost to determine the staffing and funding needed to properly operate and maintain each asset over its life span. This allows for more accurate long-range budgeting and overall savings but keeping assets in working order instead of a constant cycle of deterioration and repair or replacement. Without a formal park department or budget, the Township would be well served to plan for operations and maintenance to properly determine a sustainable budget needed for upkeep of new assets, particularly at Speed Park.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategic Actions

In order to meet the park and recreation needs of Townships residents, these Goals are established. Each Goal has Objectives to be completed in order to fulfill the Goal and each Objective has specific Strategic Actions to be undertaken over the planning period to meet the objective.

Table 31: Renovate Speed Park goal and objectives

Goal #1- Renovate Speed Park	
Renovate the newly acquired Speed Park to replace and upgrade aging assets and amenities and add new features to this historic site to create a cornerstone community recreation and gathering place.	
1.1	Replace aging facilities and assets
A	Replace playground with fully accessible playground
B	Replace or repair picnic tables ensuring an adequate number are accessible and add route
C	Replace or repair grills ensuring an adequate number are accessible
1.2	Renovate and refurbish aging facilities and assets
A	Repave main parking lot and correct drainage issues
B	Remove and prune hazardous trees
C	Remove dead tree stumps and remnants and repair ground
D	Replace doors on maintenance building and repaint
E	Continued refurbishment of garden area
1.3	Construct new facilities and assets
A	Create walking trail by improving sidewalks around perimeter
B	Construct pavilion/shelter
C	Install historical interpretive stations
D	Install or rent accessible portable toilets

Table 32: Improve Accessibility goal and objectives

Goal #2- Improve Accessibility	
Bring both parks and Township policies and communications in better alignment with ADA requirements and best practices in order to make the Township's park system more accessible to all residents and visitors.	
2.1	Address accessibility issues at Township Park
A	Address level changes at shelter and concession stand entrances
B	Add accessible routes to amenities including stage and stage seating, volleyball court, and football fields
C	Add orientation signage indicating accessible features
2.2	Address accessibility issues at Speed Park
A	Remove or replace substandard paved routes throughout the park
B	Add sidewalk access garden area
C	Add proper routes to playground and picnic tables
D	Install signage indicating accessible features
2.3	Improve accessibility policies and procedures
A	Establish and publish ADA compliance policies and grievance procedure

Table 33: Maintain and Improve Existing Assets at Township Park goal and objectives

Goal #3- Maintain and Improve Existing Assets at Township Park	
Silver Creek Township Park is a large, complex park that serves the community well. Proper maintenance of current assets and improvements to aging assets is critical for the park to continue to serve Township residents as a recreational, social, and economic core.	
3.1	Upgrade aging facilities and assets
A	Remove basketball goals
B	Construct accessible playground or renovate existing playground to be fully accessible
3.2	Improve orientation for better visitor experience
A	Add orientation signage to direct visitors to amenities throughout the park
B	Add number or name signage to ballfields and shelters to differentiate
C	Create a park map

Table 34: Enhance Operational Capacity goal and objectives

Goal #4- Enhance Operational Capacity	
Both Township Park and Speed Park have the potential for growth in facilities, amenities, and programs and events but sustainable growth must come with enhanced operational capacity including adequate staffing, improved communications, partnerships for programming that the Township cannot directly provide, and long-term maintenance planning.	
4.1	Address staffing to ensure future maintenance and programming needs are met
A	Add 1 FTE park superintendent/event coordinator
4.2	Provide additional programs and events
A	Plan live music and other social events at Speed Park
B	Utilize stage for additional music and arts events at Township Park
C	Seek additional partnerships to provide programming for children, teens, and older adults
4.3	Plan for long-term operations and maintenance to ensure asset quality and financial sustainability
A	Create long-range operations and maintenance plan
B	Complete purchase of Speed Park property
4.4	Improve communications about park offerings and events
A	Create web page to provide events information, schedules, facility reservation system, and accessibility information

Action Plan

The Action Plan establishes priorities, anticipated timelines, estimated costs, and potential funding sources for achieving strategic action items defined in the Goals and Objectives. Silver Creek Township has created an ambitions plan for the renovation of Speed Park reliant on many potential sources of funding, in-kind services, volunteer work, and donations to supplement the annual and reserve funding that the Township has available for park upgrades and ongoing maintenance. Grant funding will be sought for the most costly strategic items though grants are usually competitive and not guaranteed as a funding source. The priority level assigned will dictate the order in which these items will be completed as funding allows

Priority levels

Priority levels are defined by the critical nature of the strategy, including safety, liability, and functionality. Assets and amenities that are unsafe, non-functional, or out of compliance with legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act are the most crucial to accomplish. Other enhancements and improvements to visitor experiences may be less impactful and take a lower priority depending on available budget and organizational capacity. These strategic action items are categorized by the following levels of priority:

Critical- Immediate action is needed because of safety or compliance deficiencies or because completing the item would enable high-priority planned uses for the facility. These items should be completed as soon as possible.

Important- Action is needed because of a substantial loss of functionality, safety, or compliance due to physical or programmatic deficiencies or because completing the item would significantly enhance use of the facility.

Secondary- Action is needed to improve an asset or program that is otherwise functional.

Minimal- Item can be addressed quickly, with minimal effort, time, and resources.

Timeframes

The implementation timeframe outlines when the strategic action item is intended to be completed. Factors in establishing a timeframe include priority level, available funding, and operational capacity for completing the work. Timeframes are defined as:

Immediate- Can be completed in less than one year.

Short-term- Can be completed in one to two years.

Long-term- Can be completed in two to five years.

Visionary- May take more than five years to complete.

Ongoing- Progress is currently being made and will continue for the foreseeable future or until completion.

Funding sources

Several funding sources are or may be available for completing strategic action items. Some are internal such as an annual operating and capital budgets, local donors, and income from fees or facility rentals. External funding sources include grants from non-profit, private, or governmental agencies that are likely to be competitive and may require matching funds. Typical funding sources may include:

Operating budget- Annual funding of park and recreation operations from tax revenue, fees, and facility rental income.

Reserve funds- non-reverting income that can be accumulated and is not required to be spent within an annual budget cycle.

Capital budget- Annual budget for capital expenditures.

Bonds- General obligation bonds issued and paid back over time.

Donations- Funding donated by private individuals, organizations, or businesses, usually for a specific purpose. Can include cash donation or in-kind contributions such as labor, materials, or expertise including volunteers.

Grants- Grant funding awarded by non-profit, private, or governmental entities such as foundations, economic or tourism development organizations, or government agencies. Grants are usually competitive and often include a required match of cash or in-kind funds. Grant funding sources that may be available to Silver Creek Township include:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Community Foundation of Southern Indiana
- Samtec
- Sam Shine Foundation
- Readi

Renovate Speed Park

Renovate the newly acquired Speed Park to replace and upgrade aging assets and amenities and add new features to this historic site to create a cornerstone community recreation and gathering place.

Table 35: Renovate Speed Park action items

Action Item	Priority	Timeline	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Replace playground with fully accessible playground	Critical	Short-term	\$180,000-\$200,000	Grant funding, reserve
Replace or repair picnic tables ensuring an adequate number are accessible and add route	Critical	Immediate	\$1,600	Donations, reserve
Replace or repair grills ensuring an adequate number are accessible	Important	Short-term	\$1,000	Donations, reserve
Repave main parking lot and correct drainage issues	Important	Short-term	\$100,000	Donations, reserve
Remove and prune hazardous trees	Critical	Ongoing	\$25,000	Reserve, grant funding
Remove dead tree stumps and	Important	Ongoing	\$0	Volunteer, donations

remnants and repair ground				
Replace doors on maintenance building and repaint	Important	Short-term	\$2,000	Reserve
Continued refurbishment of garden area	Secondary	Ongoing	\$7,500	Donations, volunteer, reserve
Create walking trail by improving sidewalks around perimeter	Important	Long-term	County project	Grant funding, donations, reserve
Construct pavilion/shelter	Important	Short-term	\$150,000	Grant funding, donations, reserve
Install historical interpretive stations	Secondary	Long-term	\$100,000	Grant funding
Install or rent accessible portable toilets	Secondary	Long-term	\$5,000	Reserve

Improve Accessibility

Bring both parks and Township policies and communications in better alignment with ADA requirements and best practices in order to make the Township's park system more accessible to all residents and visitors.

Table 36: improve Accessibility action items

Action Item	Priority	Timeline	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Address level changes at shelter and concession stand entrances at Township Park	Critical	Immediate	\$2,000	Reserve
Add accessible routes to amenities at Township Park including stage and stage seating, volleyball court, and football fields	Critical	Short-term	\$7,500	Donations, reserve
Add orientation signage indicating accessible features at both parks	Important	Long-term	\$2,000	Reserve
Remove or replace substandard paved routes	Critical	Immediate	\$50,000	Donations, grant funding

throughout Speed Park				
Add sidewalk access to garden area at Speed Park	Important	Short-term	\$25,000	Donations, grant funding
Establish and publish ADA compliance policies and grievance procedure	Critical	Immediate	\$0	Staff time

Maintain and Improve Existing Assets at Township Park

Silver Creek Township Park is a large, complex park that serves the community well. Proper maintenance of current assets and improvements to aging assets is critical for the park to continue to serve Township residents as a recreational, social, and economic core.

Table 37: Maintain and Improve Existing Assets at Township Park action items

Action Item	Priority	Timeline	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Remove basketball goals	Secondary	Short-term	\$2,000	Reserve
Construct accessible playground or renovate existing playground to be fully accessible	Important	Long-term	\$200,000	Grant funding, reserve
Add orientation signage to direct visitors to amenities throughout the park	Important	Short-term	\$8,000	Reserve
Add number or name signage to ballfields and shelters to differentiate	Important	Immediate	\$2000	Reserve
Create park map	Secondary	Short-term	\$1000	Reserve

Enhance Operational Capacity

Both Township Park and Speed Park have the potential for growth in facilities, amenities, and programs and events but sustainable growth must come with enhanced operational capacity including adequate staffing, improved communications, partnerships for programming that the Township cannot directly provide, and long-term maintenance planning.

Table 38: Enhance Operational Capacity action items

Action Item	Priority	Timeline	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
-------------	----------	----------	----------------	----------------

Add 1 FTE park superintendent/event coordinator	Important	Short-term	\$35,000/year	Operating
Plan live music and other social events at Speed Park upon	Important	Short-term	\$0	Staff time, volunteers
Utilize stage for additional music and arts events at Township Park	Important	Short-term	\$0	Staff time, volunteers
Seek additional partnerships to provide programming for children, teens, and older adults	Secondary	Ongoing	\$0	Staff time
Create long-range operations and maintenance plan	Important	Long-term	\$15,000	Reserve
Complete purchase of Speed Park property by 1/1/29	Critical	Long-term	\$325,000	Reserve
Create web page to provide events information, schedules, facility reservation system, and accessibility information	Secondary	Short-term	\$500	Operations, staff time

Bibliography

- Anacostia, (n.d.), LIRC- Louisville and Indiana Railroad. Retrieved 6/12/25 from <https://www.anacostia.com/our-companies/lirc/>
- Clark County, Indiana, (2023), ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Clark County Government, Jeffersonville, Indiana.
- Dorsey, Jesse G., (1940), Louisville Cement Company history, Speed, Indiana. Retrieved 8/7/2025 from <https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15078coll17/id/12267>.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (n.d.), Charlestown State Park. Retrieved from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/charlestown-state-park>
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (n.d.), Clark State Forest. Retrieved 6/17/25 from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/properties/clark-state-forest>
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (n.d.), Deam Lake State Recreation Area. Retrieved 6/17/25 from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/deam-lake-sra>
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (n.d.), Knobstone trail. Retrieved 7/15/2025 from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/properties/knobstone-trail-conditions-reroutes-maps/>
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (n.d.), Falls of the Ohio State Park. Retrieved from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/falls-of-the-ohio-state-park>
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (2026), Indiana County Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species List. Retrieved 8/7/2025 from https://www.in.gov/dnr/nature-preserves/files/np_clark.pdf
- Town of Sellersburg, Indiana. (2018). Sellersburg parks & recreation system master plan. Retrieved 6/17/2025 from https://sellersburg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Adopted-Sellersburg-Master-Parks-Plan_reduced.pdf
- U.S. Census Bureau, (2023), American community survey. Silver Creek Township. Retrieved from
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, (2025), Web soil survey. Retrieved 8/7/2025 from <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
- Weather World, (2025). Clark County, Indiana climate averages. Retrieved 6/13/25 from <https://www.weatherworld.com/climate-averages/in/clark+county.html>

Appendix A- Public Engagement

Public engagement is a critical and required part of the master planning process. The parks system must serve community members and their feedback determines the course of action for community and park system leaders. Feedback was gathered in multiple fashions including stakeholder and public meetings and a community survey.

Stakeholder meeting

A public meeting was conducted with key stakeholders for an open discussion about the state of the parks system and the needs and desires for its development. Invited stakeholders were determined by the Silver Creek Township project team and included representatives from park user groups, schools, law enforcement, medical providers, and others who are impacted by the parks system in any way. The meeting was held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at the Sellersburg Public Library.

The meeting was facilitated by CDR with open ended questions and activities meant to foster discussion among the group. The questions were drafted by CDR staff, then reviewed and revised by Silver Creek staff to determine the final agenda.

To open the meeting, participants were asked to identify themselves and describe the Township's park and recreation system in 3-4 words. Open ended questions for discussion were followed by two activities, then further open ended questions and closed by offering the opportunity for participants to ask follow up questions or offer additional comments. The first meeting activity included a SWOT activity using breakout groups to discuss and brainstorm Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Township's park system. Groups reported their conclusions to all meeting attendees and were combined into a single SWOT matrix. The second activity involved placing ideas for improvements and additions to the Speed Park to inform Township leaders of community desires as the park is renovated. Meeting participants placed sticky notes with their ideas on a map of the park to indicate their suggestions and locations around the park. The complete SWOT matrix and all notes from the mapping activity are included in this Appendix with common and key themes summarized for the analysis included in the plan document.

The meeting was recorded for transcription. The transcription dialogue was coded and analyzed by CDR staff. Coding is the systematic process of searching the dialogue for meaningful words and phrases which are analyzed for patterns and categorized and grouped into themes to gain a qualitative understanding of the meeting feedback.

Meeting participants are identified for transparency but no comments, coded or in full, will be attributed to any meeting participant without their written permission and the meeting recording was deleted after the transcript was coded and analyzed.

Attendees

Table 39: Key Stakeholder meeting attendees

Name	Representing
Lisa Garcia Reger	Clark Circuit Court
Scottie Maples	Clark County Sherriff
Billy Ramser	Silver Creek Township

Tony Bennett	Silver Creek Township
Kim Johnson	Community member
Dave Johnson	Community member
Mike French	Community member
Amin Mousavi	Tri-Township Fire Rescue
Mary Jo Davis	Community member
Todd Davis	Community member
Grey Reyer	Community member
Chris Fox	Clark County Council
Karen Alexander	SMG
Karen Hans	John Paul II Catholic School
Doug Reiter	Silver Creek Advisory Board
Sean Alexander	Community member
Nancy McDevitt	Community member
Stephanie Smethers	Silver Creek Township/Sellersburg Celebrates!
Dean Bottorff	Boy Scouts

Silver Creek Township Stakeholder Meeting Agenda

Arrival and Introductions (10 minutes)

- 1) Sign in sheet
- 2) Facilitator introductions (PPT)
- 3) Project introduction and explanation (PPT)
- 4) Icebreaker/attendee introductions- Say 3-5 words to describe parks in the Township.

Open ended questions (10 minutes)

- 1) What are your overall impressions of parks within Silver Creek Township? (clarify not Sellersburg)
- 2) What is missing, if anything, from recreation opportunities in Silver Creek Township?

SWOT Activity (25 minutes)

Break into groups (2-3 depending on attendance)

Discuss Silver Creek Township parks and recreation Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (15 minutes)

Group spokesperson reports out. Facilitator record on big post-its (5 minutes)

Review and wrap-up by facilitator (5 minutes)

Map Activity

What improvements would you like to see in Speed Park? Distribute post-it notes to place on map.

Open ended questions (10 minutes)

- 4) Should the Township focus more on adding new recreation facilities or maintaining current facilities?
- 5) If you were in charge for a day, what would you do differently? The same?

Wrap up (5 minutes)

Any additional thoughts or questions?

Results

Discussion feedback

- 1) In a few words describe the parks system in the Township
 - Went there a lot as a kid (Speed Park) (multiple)
 - Loved Arts in Speed Park (multiple)
 - Spending time with family (multiple)
 - Gives kids something to do
 - Remembered going to the Speed Store

- 2) Overall impressions of the park system
 - Very good (multiple)
 - Lots of things to do at the parks
 - Safe
 - Lot of history at Speed Park
 - Very well maintained (Township Park) (multiple)
 - Maintenance needed at Speed Park
 - Like living near the park (Township Park)
 - Lot of potential at Speed Park
 - Dog Park is great

- 3) What is missing from recreation system?
 - Need more events (multiple)
 - Bring back Arts in Speed Park (multiple)
 - Farmers Market
 - Music in Speed Park (multiple)
 - Like to see a walking path at Speed Park
 - History interpretations at Speed Park
 - Splash pad

- 4) Add or maintain?
 - Maintain (all)
 - Don't need new parks at this time

- 5) What would you do differently? Same?
 - Nothing
 - Doing a great job
 - Add staffing for maintenance
 - Hire someone to run the parks
 - Hire someone to be in charge of events

SWOT Activity

The following table is the result of the SWOT activity from the stakeholder meeting. It will be combined with SWOT feedback from the Sellersburg Celebrates! engagement event to create a community SWOT.

Table 40: Key Stakeholder SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location (X2) Accessibility Beautiful Choices of activities Plenty of space Ample parking Good infrastructure for events Atmosphere Existing green space Safe community	No restrooms at Speed Park (X2) No water fountains (X2) Not enough staff (X2) Older trees at Speed Park could create hazards Playground at Speed Park outdated Maintenance at Speed Park Funding Not enough volunteers/community involvement
Opportunities	Threats
Finding grant funding and donations (X2) More community involvement (X3) Adding restrooms and utilities at Speed Park Improve security Add a splash pad More events (music, arts, festivals) to generate revenue and engage the community (X3) Eagle Scout projects Shuttle from parking during events	Vandalism increasing Too much traffic Too much noise Funding cuts (X2) Increase in population (adding stress to infrastructure) Not enough parking Maintenance/wear and tear Nearby residents complaining about noise and activity

Speed Park Map Activity



Figure 32: Speed Park map activity

Sellersburg Celebrates! Engagement Event

The Township Trustee and Park Board members and CDR staff participated in an engagement event at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival on August 22nd and 23rd, 2025. Staff maintained a booth in the high traffic vendor area to ask them to take the community survey and to engage them in the same SWOT and map activities that key stakeholders participated in with the goal of creating a community-driven SWOT and gathering additional feedback from the public about desired improvements to Speed Park.

Additional comments on strengths included the safety of the parks, and the walking path and dog park at Township Park. Additional weaknesses were identified as the need for a bike trail, more seating to rest, no indoor recreation facility, and the Township Park stage needing upgrades. Opportunities identified by festival goers included more events, particularly the return of Arts in Speed Park.

Table 41: Community SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location (X2) Safe community (X2) Accessibility Beautiful Choices of activities Plenty of space Ample parking Good infrastructure for events Atmosphere Existing green space Walking trail @ Township Park Dog park	No restrooms at Speed Park (X2) No water fountains (X2) Not enough staff (X2) Older trees at Speed Park could create hazards Playground at Speed Park outdated Maintenance at Speed Park Funding Not enough volunteers/community involvement Bike trail Indoor rec facility Not enough seating to rest Stage needs upgrades
Opportunities	Threats
More events (music, arts, festivals) to generate revenue and engage the community (X5) Arts in Speed Park (X4) More community involvement (X3) Finding grant funding and donations (X2) Adding restrooms and utilities at Speed Park Improve security Add a splash pad Eagle Scout projects Shuttle from parking during events Farmers market	Vandalism increasing Too much traffic Too much noise Funding cuts (X2) Increase in population (adding stress to infrastructure) Not enough parking Maintenance/wear and tear Nearby residents complaining about noise and activity

The map activity proved very popular at the festival with many people happy that Speed Park was acquired by the Township.

The complete list of comments includes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| More events/Arts in Speed Park (X5)
Shelter/Pavillion (X4)
Splash Pad (X3)
Bathrooms (X3)
Historical markers (X2)
Play area for small kids (X2)
Paved parking lot
New Playground
Exercise trail | Water fountains
Youth football field
Wiffle ball field
Dog Park
Construction park
Pet vet
Food truck area
Animal reading stations
Landscaping and flowers |
|---|---|

Community Survey

A community survey was conducted to gather feedback from the public about the current and desired states of the park system in a quantitative fashion. Surveys can be either random sample or open. A random sample survey is conducted by sending the survey to a randomly selected number of households

and is considered statistically valid. Due to the smaller population of Silver Creek Township, the project team has determined that the survey will be open to any community member.

The survey instrument was drafted by CDR using standard parks system master plan questions, then customized by review and edit of the Silver Creek staff and Park Board. Questions asking for ratings of quality or importance were measured on a 5 point scale with 5 being "Extremely important" or "Excellent", 4 being "Quite important" or "Good", 3 being "Somewhat important" or "Satisfactory", 2 being "A little important" or "Fair", and 1 being "Not important" or "Poor". Two open ended questions were asked with text only answers and some questions had an "Other" option to allow for additional options to be submitted in open ended fashion. Open ended answers were coded and analyzed by CDR staff.

The survey will open on August 20 and closed on September 14. At the conclusion of the survey period, survey data was compiled and analyzed with key questions and data tables and charts included in the plan document. The full survey instrument and survey data will be included in this appendix.

Distribution

The survey was primarily conducted using an online survey with paper surveys available upon request, mailed to the requestor with a postage paid envelope addressed to CDR included. No paper surveys were requested.

The survey was distributed via a variety of methods including 3" X 5" invitation cards, flyers, and 11" X 17" posters with instructions and a survey QR code, placed at strategic locations such as Township Park, Speed Park, Township offices, grocery stores, and other locations as determined by Township staff and forwarded directly to key user groups. A survey invitation was also posted on Township social media accounts. In addition, the survey was distributed by the project team at the Sellersburg Celebrates! Festival August 21-23.

Silver Creek Township needs your opinion for our Parks System Master Plan

This plan will shape the future of the Township's parks and recreation system and we need your feedback

Please take our survey with the QR code here or at <https://bit.ly/SCTParks>



Figure 33: Survey flyer

Your opinion is needed!



Please take our survey to help shape the future of the parks system in Silver Creek Township

Silver Creek Township Park System Master Plan

Silver Creek Township is seeking the community's opinions of the Township's park system. Your feedback will help our community create and maintain the best parks experiences for all users and visitors.

Please take our survey with the QR code here or at <https://bit.ly/SCTParks>.

For a paper copy with a postage paid envelope or for any question about the survey, contact Project Manager Layne Elliott at l Elliott@crossroadsct.com



Figure 34: Survey invitation post card

Survey Instrument

Silver Creek Township Parks System Master Plan Community Survey

Silver Creek Township offers two parks outside of Sellersburg- Silver Creek Township Park and Speed Park. The Township would like your input to help determine parks and recreation priorities for its new five-year master plan.

This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. This survey is completely optional and anonymous and you may stop at any time. The results of this survey will be used to guide the Township in the management, operation, and development of park assets for years to come. Your participation is valued and appreciated!

- 1) Do you live in:
 - Sellersburg
 - Clarksville
 - Hamburg
 - Speed
 - Silver Creek Township outside of Town limits
 - Other _____

- 2) How long have you lived in Silver Creek Township?
 - Less than a year
 - 1-5 years
 - 6-10 years
 - 11- 20 years
 - More than 20 years
 - I do not live in Silver Creek Township

3) From the following Silver Creek Township parks, please indicate how many times you or a member of your household has used each park in the past year. If you are not aware of one of these parks, please indicate.

Park	More than 20 times	11-20 times	6-10 times	0-5 times	Not aware it existed
Silver Creek Township Park					
Speed Park					

4) Please indicate all Silver Creek Township Parks you or a household member visited in the last year and rate the condition of each park.

Park	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Did not Visit
Silver Creek Township Park	1	2	3	4	5	
Speed Park	1	2	3	4	5	

5) Please indicate whether you or members of your household used any of the following facilities at any Silver Creek Township Park in the past year and indicate how important each is to your family’s recreation needs.

	Not at All Important	A Little Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Did not Use
Baseball/Softball Fields	1	2	3	4	5	
Basketball Courts	1	2	3	4	5	
Dog Park	1	2	3	4	5	
Grills	1	2	3	4	5	
Open Fields and Green Space	1	2	3	4	5	
Pickleball Courts	1	2	3	4	5	
Picnic Tables	1	2	3	4	5	
Playgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	
Shelters	1	2	3	4	5	

Sports Fields	1	2	3	4	5	
Walking Trails	1	2	3	4	5	
Volleyball Courts	1	2	3	4	5	

6) Which THREE facilities at Silver Creek Township have you or members of your household used most in the last year? Indicate with MOST = 1, 2nd MOST = 2, 3rd MOST = 3

	Used Most
Baseball/Softball Fields	
Basketball Courts	
Dog Park	
Grills	
Open Fields and Green Space	
Pickleball Courts	
Picnic Tables	
Playgrounds	
Shelters	
Sports Fields	
Walking Trails	

Volleyball Courts	
-------------------	--

7) Which THREE facilities contribute most to the health of you or members of your household? Indicate with MOST = 1, 2nd MOST = 2, 3rd MOST = 3

	Most Impact
Baseball/Softball Fields	
Basketball Courts	
Dog Park	
Grills	
Open Fields and Green Space	
Pickleball Courts	
Picnic Tables	
Playgrounds	
Shelters	
Sports Fields	
Walking Trails	
Volleyball Courts	

8) Do you have any specific concerns about Silver Creek Township Park?

9) Silver Creek Township recently acquired the Speed Park located at 169 Indiana Avenue in Speed with the intention of making significant renovations. What amenities and improvements are most important to you and members of your household?

Facility	Not at all Important	A little Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Accessible Features (for the Disabled)	1	2	3	4	5
Gazebo	1	2	3	4	5
Landscaping/Garden Areas	1	2	3	4	5
Open Space	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic Tables	1	2	3	4	5
Playground	1	2	3	4	5
Restrooms	1	2	3	4	5
Repaved Parking Lot	1	2	3	4	5
Shelters	1	2	3	4	5
Walking Path	1	2	3	4	5

10) Do you have any specific concerns about Speed Park?

11) Below is a list of recreation facilities and amenities, *some of which are already offered by Silver Creek Township and some are not*. Please indicate how important it is for you and members of your household for these resources to be offered.

	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Quite important	Very important
Arena	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Soccer Fields	1	2	3	4	5
Adult Soccer Fields	1	2	3	4	5

Multi- purpose Fields	1	2	3	4	5
Football Fields	1	2	3	4	5
Lacrosse Fields	1	2	3	4	5
Ball Diamonds	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Baseball	1	2	3	4	5
Adult Baseball	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Softball	1	2	3	4	5
Adult Softball	1	2	3	4	5
Basketball Courts	1	2	3	4	5
Community Garden plots	1	2	3	4	5
Cooling Centers	1	2	3	4	5
Disc Golf	1	2	3	4	5
Dog Parks	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking Fountains	1	2	3	4	5
Golf course	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness Zones	1	2	3	4	5
Ice Rink	1	2	3	4	5
Indoor Recreation Center	1	2	3	4	5
Nature Center	1	2	3	4	5
Performance Amphitheater	1	2	3	4	5
Pickleball Courts	1	2	3	4	5

Playgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation and Senior Centers	1	2	3	4	5
Community Center	1	2	3	4	5
Senior Center	1	2	3	4	5
Teen Center	1	2	3	4	5
Trails- Paved	1	2	3	4	5
Trails- Unpaved	1	2	3	4	5
Restrooms	1	2	3	4	5
Skate Parks	1	2	3	4	5
Splashpads	1	2	3	4	5
Swimming Pools	1	2	3	4	5
Tennis Courts	1	2	3	4	5
Volleyball Courts	1	2	3	4	5

12) Please indicate which recreation programs or events offered in Silver Creek Township you or members of your household use and their quality.

	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Did not use
Baseball/Softball leagues (Youth)	1	2	3	4	5	
Baseball/Softball leagues (Adult)	1	2	3	4	5	
Youth Football	1	2	3	4	5	
Festivals	1	2	3	4	5	

Easter Egg Hunt	1	2	3	4	5
------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

13) Below is a list of recreation programs and events. *Some are offered in Silver Creek Township and some are not.* Please indicate how important it is for you and members of your household for these resources to be offered.

	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Quite important	Very important
Team Sports	1	2	3	4	5
Individual Sports	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness Classes	1	2	3	4	5
Health and Wellness Education	1	2	3	4	5
Safety Training	1	2	3	4	5
Aquatics	1	2	3	4	5
Trips and Tours	1	2	3	4	5
Martial Arts	1	2	3	4	5
Cultural Crafts	1	2	3	4	5
Themed Special Events	1	2	3	4	5
Natural and Cultural History Activities	1	2	3	4	5
Performing Arts	1	2	3	4	5
Visual Arts	1	2	3	4	5

Social Recreation Events	1	2	3	4	5
Racquet Sports	1	2	3	4	5
Running / Cycling Races	1	2	3	4	5
Golf	1	2	3	4	5
eSports / eGaming	1	2	3	4	5
Programs for People w/ Disabilities	1	2	3	4	5
Summer Camp	1	2	3	4	5
Senior Specific Program	1	2	3	4	5
Teen Specific Programs	1	2	3	4	5
STEM Programs	1	2	3	4	5
After School Programs	1	2	3	4	5
Before School Programs	1	2	3	4	5
Preschool	1	2	3	4	5
Full Daycare	1	2	3	4	5

14) If an additional \$100 were available for Silver Creek Township to fund parks and trails, how would you allocate the funding among the competing categories below? Enter as much or as little as you wish for each, but please make your total allocations equal \$100.

Category	Allocation
Maintaining existing parks and trails	\$
Renovating (updating/improving) existing parks and trails	\$
Acquiring new parkland and open space	\$
Constructing new walking and biking trails	\$
Constructing new parks	\$
Facilitating/Providing additional recreation programs to the community	\$
Other (Please describe.) _____	\$
TOTAL (should equal \$100)	\$

15) Please select all the ways you CURRENTLY receive information about Silver Creek Township parks and recreation offerings.

- Township Social Media
- Flyers/posters at parks and recreation facilities
- Email bulletins
- Newspaper articles or ads
- Radio or Television
- From friends or neighbors
- Conversations with park staff
- Other _____
- I do not receive any information about Township park and recreation offerings

16) Please indicate all the way you would PREFER to receive information about Township park and recreation offerings.

- Township website
- Township Social Media
- Flyers/posters at parks and recreation facilities
- Email bulletins
- Seasonal or annual program guides
- Newspaper articles or ads
- Radio or Television
- From friends or neighbors
- Conversations with park staff
- Other _____

17) The following are some of the benefits that you, members of your household, or the community in general may receive from parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services. For each potential benefit, please indicate your level of agreement.

Benefits	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Enhance community appearance	5	4	3	2	1
Help attract new residents and businesses	5	4	3	2	1
Improve mental health and reduce stress	5	4	3	2	1
Improve physical health and fitness	5	4	3	2	1
Improve social connections	5	4	3	2	1
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	5	4	3	2	1
Increase property values in surrounding area	5	4	3	2	1
Strengthen sense of community	5	4	3	2	1
Preserve open space and the environment	5	4	3	2	1
Promote tourism in the Township	5	4	3	2	1
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	5	4	3	2	1

Protect the Township's historical attributes	5	4	3	2	1
Other	5	4	3	2	1

18) If you answered "Other" to the above question, please describe. _____

19) From the benefits in question 15, please rank the top 3 benefits in importance to you and your household. Indicate with MOST = 1, 2nd MOST = 2, 3rd MOST = 3

Benefits	Most Important
Enhance community appearance	
Help attract new residents and businesses	
Improve mental health and reduce stress	
Improve physical health and fitness	
Improve social connections	
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	
Increase property values in surrounding area	
Strengthen sense of community	
Preserve open space and the environment	
Promote tourism in the Township	
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	

Protect the Township's historical attributes	
Other	

20) Which of the following circumstances prevent you from using parks or recreation facilities or program offered by Silver Creek Township as often as you like? (Check all that apply)

- Lack of time
- Poor health or mobility
- Parks and/or recreation offerings are not accessible for people with disabilities
- Parks are not maintained well enough
- Parks are too far away
- Lack of transportation
- Too expensive
- Don't feel safe in Township parks
- Don't have enough information about Township parks
- Township parks and recreation offerings do not interest me
- Other _____

21) How many people in your household, counting yourself, are the following ages:

- Under 5 _____
- 5-9 _____
- 10-14 _____
- 15-19 _____
- 20-24 _____
- 25-44 _____
- 45-64 _____
- 65 or over _____

22) What is your sex/gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer

23) What is your race/ethnicity?

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to answer

24) What is your employment status?

- Employed for wages
- Self employed
- Student
- Homemaker

- Retired
- Not employed
- Prefer not to answer

25) What is your household income?

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,000- \$24,999
- \$25,000- \$34,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000- \$99,999
- \$100,000-\$149,999
- \$150,000-\$199,999
- \$200,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

26) If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card, please provide your name and email or physical address. Your personal information will only be used for this purpose and will not be shared with anyone for any reason.

Name _____ Email/Address _____

Thank you for completing this survey! Your feedback is confidential and will only be used by Silver Creek Township to help plan parks and recreation offerings to meet the community's needs.

Survey results

The following are additional results from the survey in more complete form.

Importance of facilities

Table 42: Importance rating

Facility	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Total
Baseball/Softball Fields	13	11	21	14	23	82
Basketball Courts	5	15	21	20	20	81
Dog Park	13	18	15	16	20	82
Grills	0	8	19	23	32	82
Open Fields and Green Space	25	30	17	4	6	82
Pickleball Courts	4	9	29	15	24	81
Picnic Tables	26	32	12	6	7	83
Playgrounds	45	22	8	1	6	82
Shelters	36	26	13	1	6	82
Sports Fields	17	16	22	11	14	80
Volleyball Courts	3	11	29	17	22	82
Walking Paths	59	15	2	3	4	83

Table 43: Three most important facilities

Facility	1st	2nd	3rd	% in top 3	Total (top 3)
Walking Paths	28	18	15	73%	61
Playgrounds	25	17	8	61%	50
Open Fields and Green Space	8	14	11	40%	33
Shelters	8	7	14	35%	29
Dog Park	9	10	9	33%	27

Baseball/Softball Fields	9	4	10	28%	23
Picnic Tables	9	5	7	25%	21
Pickleball Courts	2	5	8	19%	15
Sports Fields	4	6	3	16%	13
Basketball Courts	1	4	8	16%	13
Volleyball Courts	2	6	4	15%	12
Grills	2	1	6	11%	9

Concerns

Do you have any specific concerns about Silver Creek Township Park? (Complete, unedited responses)

- Adding more light fixtures and security cameras would be an added benefit.
- Basketball court should be in better shape.
- Bathrooms are always locked. Porta potties are always disgusting. This park is very important to the community. Some basic improvements to the fields would allow for tournaments and additional revenue for the park.
- Clear signage for event in parking
- I have been there before with my kids when the restrooms weren't open and it is quite an ordeal
- I just don't want it made so elaborate that people come from all over and we worry about safety shootings, etc.
- I would like to see more benches or seats in shady areas throughout the park/paths
- Just to be a good place for the community.
- Lack of light on the mile loop
- Love that we have it-locally!!
- More accessibility for those with special needs
- More biking paths would be nice.
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No big concerns. Feel like the playground equipment gets broken or is vandalized unfortunately
- No specific concerns
- No, great for family time.
- None
- None @ the present time

- Not at all
- Not really
- Not sure where the bathrooms are, playground is not meant for little kids
- Problems with graffiti and broken equipment on the playground. Also lack of shade.
- Sometimes walking on the backside of the park, I don't feel safe because there's not any emergency call boxes or anything like that or cameras
- Thankful to see the upgrade on the Speed Park and look forward to other improvements in the future.
- The basketball court is rough
- The soccer field is in absolute disrepair. Considering the increasing popularity of the sport as well as the relatively high Hispanic population in Sellersburg, leaving it as it is would be offensive.
- Too much grass and not enough trees or plants.
- Update playground equipment
- "Yes. First off, I love the new entrance to the lower fields. We need to raise money to make generational investments in all the sports fields. All the fields need a makeover, including artificial batters boxes, new fencing and foul poles, batting cages, score boards, restrooms, concessions, etc. We need tee ball benches for players and bleachers for parents. There's no reason why Silver Creek park can't be a destination park for tournaments. May need to consider long term partnership with the little league to generate revenue for the rest of the park upkeep and allow them the security to make long term investments in the facilities.
- We need to explore options to improve Fern St access. The park should be a focal point of town will easy access from Hwys 31 and 403. Consider a new entrance on the north side of the park, perhaps Helbig St, to access the parking lots for pickleball and volleyball.

The trash cans needs to be managed differently so that there is can access at all locations and all the cans don't take up the first 10 parking spots in the main lot. There's so much trash around the ball fields.

I have 4 children and spend most of my evenings at the park with dozens and dozens of other families. Investing in the facilities ensures that little league and travel sports clubs will thrive in this community. This park and the schools are the heart beat of our community and critical to the health and growth of the next generation.

Do you have any specific concerns about Speed Park? (Complete, unedited responses)

- At least regravell the parking behind the park, it has deep potholes
- Being a lost park
- Good lighting, clean restroom facilities any night and security cameras are very important.
- Hard to answer. Residents need a longterm vision for this park that offers residents a unique experience, one that complements Silver Creek Park not compete with it. For example, Silver Creek Park could be a place for youth sports and festivals whereas Speed Park could be an animal-friendly park for walkers, accented with botanical gardens and other natural and water features.
- I haven't visited this park in quite some time and last time I did everything was broken worn down, and it looked as though it was just forgotten about. It needs a lot of updating and frequent care.

- I think it's been a longstanding parking, and I wish more families utilized it. I think the outdated playground, overgrown landscape, and lack of community events make it less attractive. I used to go there on field trips as an elementary student, so I'd like to see it be revitalized. I think having more family friends events would help to showcase the space which could increase visitors to the park.
- It needs a lot of work. The pebble gravel needs replaced under the playground. It's dusty and dirty. It's an eye sore. I am so happy that it was purchased and I think there is so much good to come out of this space.
- It used to be my kids favorite park.
- It's just dingy
- It's not well maintained and garbage piles up.
- Just that it's clean and well kept. Would love to see Art in Add Speed Park again.
- Listed above - playground upgrade at Speed is important to me and my grandchildren
- Major updates
- No
- No
- No
- Not really
- Parking, bathrooms, damaged playground
- Poor management
- So happy with everything that has already been done, excited for the rest to come.
- The equipment on the park is falling apart and needs attention. Also, it would be nice to have restrooms available.
- The park could use lighting
- The parking lot looks better with new gravel but I think having it paved would be better. I also think that we should bring back festivals there. Nice restrooms would be good too.
- The playground equipment needs to be replaced, the bushes that line Clark St are growing out of control and get in the way of viewing cars.
- The potholes in the lot are big
- The rocks at the playground are hard to walk on.
- There are many things that need to be improved as this park has been very neglected.
- Trash pickup, parking lot, walking path, safer play ground, more seating
- Try to keep it classic - Speed Park doesn't need a complete makeover, it just needs maintained. It has been a great park for as long as I've been alive. Don't try to modernize it, just keep it how we all remember it.
- Whoever is doing the flower gardens is awesome!
- Would like to see the space utilized as a park tailored to children with disabilities. A sensory park would be perfect!
- I'm hoping the playgrounds are updated at Speed Park!! I'm so thankful that someone in Sellersburg is working to make it better for families!! Thanks Billy
- Needs major updating for playground equipment and needs a walking path.

Speed Park improvements

Table 44: Speed Park improvements ratings

Amenities/Improvements	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Total
Accessible Features (for the Disabled)	27	29	12	10	5	83
Gazebo	20	19	24	8	10	81
Landscaping/Garden Areas	26	22	22	7	5	82
Open Space	27	31	17	4	3	82
Picnic Tables	30	25	18	4	5	82
Playground	55	14	6	1	6	82
Repaved Parking Lot	32	16	16	12	6	82
Restrooms	58	13	6	3	2	82
Shelters	26	26	17	8	5	82
Walking Path	43	17	13	3	5	81

Facilities/Amenities to increase

Table 45: Facilities/amenities to increase

Facility/Amenity	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Total
Restrooms	59	12	2	3	1	77
Playgrounds	47	14	8	1	6	76
Drinking Fountains	33	15	19	5	5	77
Trails- Paved	33	23	9	6	6	77
Community Center	20	12	28	5	11	76
Recreation and Senior Centers	19	13	20	9	15	76
Swimming Pools	19	10	15	11	21	76
Cooling Centers	18	21	25	8	5	77
Indoor Recreation Center	17	13	15	12	18	75

Performance Amphitheater	17	12	27	8	12	76
Teen Center	17	12	23	7	17	76
Community Garden plots	16	19	18	10	14	77
Dog Parks	16	18	14	10	19	77
Splashpads	16	18	20	13	9	76
Senior Center	15	10	23	7	21	76
Trails- Unpaved	15	14	15	14	16	74
Youth Baseball	15	10	13	12	27	77
Ball Diamonds	14	5	16	12	30	77
Multi- purpose Fields	14	8	26	11	18	77
Nature Center	14	12	21	16	13	76
Youth Softball Fields	14	12	13	10	28	77
Basketball Courts	12	12	20	17	16	77
Football Fields	11	4	13	15	34	77
Pickleball Courts	9	7	19	17	24	76
Fitness Zones	8	6	29	16	18	77
Golf Course	8	3	6	12	48	77
Skate Parks	8	5	8	14	41	76
Youth Soccer Fields	8	8	15	12	34	77
Adult Softball	7	5	10	16	38	76
Disc Golf	7	7	13	15	35	77
Tennis Courts	7	8	16	17	27	75
Adult Baseball Fields	5	4	9	16	43	77
Volleyball Courts	5	8	15	22	25	75
Adult Soccer Fields	3	6	10	11	47	77
Ice Rink	3	2	14	13	43	75
Lacrosse Fields	2	5	5	13	52	77

Programs to increase

Table 46: Programs to increase ratings

Program	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Total
---------	---------------------	-----------------	--------------------	--------------------	----------------------	-------

Programs for People with Disabilities	21	17	15	10	8	71
After School Programs	18	13	19	6	16	72
Full Daycare	18	8	14	9	23	72
Preschool	18	10	15	8	21	72
Team Sports	17	11	17	12	17	74
Performing Arts	15	11	22	12	13	73
Themes Special Events	15	21	22	7	9	74
Natural and Cultural History Activities	14	10	15	15	19	73
Teen Specific Programs	14	12	22	8	17	73
Aquatics	13	10	16	11	24	74
Before School Programs	13	9	16	10	23	71
Senior Specific Programs	13	12	19	11	17	72
Social Recreation Activities	13	14	22	13	11	73
STEM Programs	12	14	20	7	19	72
Visual Arts	12	8	15	16	21	72
Individual Sports	10	12	19	14	19	74
Summer Camps	10	12	23	11	18	74
Cultural Crafts	9	10	22	9	24	74
Safety Training	9	12	23	15	15	74
Fitness Classes	5	16	21	17	15	74
Health and Wellness Education	5	12	25	15	17	74
Trips and Tours	5	5	13	14	37	74
eSports/Gaming	3	3	10	7	50	73
Golf	3	5	12	8	45	73
Martial Arts	3	5	13	17	35	73
Racquet Sports	3	8	16	16	30	73
Running/Cycling Races	3	9	19	15	26	72

Benefits

Table 47: Benefits ratings

Benefit	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Preserve open space and the environment	44	16	3	0	3	66
Improve physical health and fitness	40	16	8	0	2	66
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	37	24	3	0	2	66
Enhance community appearance	34	23	6	2	2	67
Strengthen sense of community	31	26	5	0	3	65
Improve mental health and reduce stress	30	26	8	0	2	66
Increase property values in surrounding area	25	17	16	2	6	66
Improve social connections	21	31	10	1	3	66
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	19	21	19	3	4	66
Promote tourism in the Township	17	20	18	7	4	66
Help attract new residents and businesses	16	24	13	7	7	67
Other (please describe)	6	1	9	0	0	16

Table 48: Top 3 benefits

Benefit	1st	2nd	3rd	Total (top 3)
Improve physical health and fitness	15	15	9	39
Enhance community appearance	12	10	9	31
Improve mental health and reduce stress	13	11	7	31
Provide access to the outdoors and nature	10	8	11	29
Preserve open space and the environment	12	8	7	27
Strengthen sense of community	8	6	12	26
Improve social connections	2	5	7	14
Help attract new residents and businesses	2	4	2	8
Increase property values in surrounding area	2	3	3	8
Increase opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	2	3	2	7
Promote tourism in the Township	4	0	3	7

Demographics

Table 49: Sex/gender

Sex/gender?	%	Count
Female	62%	43
Male	30%	21
Prefer not to say	7%	5

Table 50: Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity?	%	Count
White	93%	64
Black or African American	1%	1
Asian	1%	1
Prefer not to answer	4%	3

Table 51: Employment status

Employment status	%	Count
Employed for wages	60%	41
Self employed	18%	12
Retired	16%	11
Student	1%	1
Homemaker	1%	1
Not employed	1%	1
Prefer not to answer	1%	1

Table 52: Household income

Household income	#	Count
\$100,000-\$149,999	29%	20
Prefer not to answer	22%	15
\$75,000- \$99,999	18%	12
\$50,000-\$74,999	7%	5

\$25,000- \$34,999	6%	4
\$200,000 or more	6%	4
\$35,000-\$49,999	4%	3
\$150,000-\$199,999	4%	3
Less than \$15,000	1%	1
\$15,000- \$24,999	1%	1

Public Presentation of Plan

The completed master plan document and findings were presented in an open public meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. ET at the Sellersburg Public Library. Following the presentation, the plan document was made public and emailed to all who requested it with a deadline of Friday, December 12 to ask additional question or offer additional feedback.

Feedback and questions asked during the meeting and subsequent comment period included:

Q. In the garden area, can gaps between flagstones be filled to create a stable surface?

A. Yes as long as the filler is stable and flat.

Q. (Garden area again) Can bricks or other paving be added to make paths wide enough?

A. Yes. Sidewalks should be at least 36" wide

Q. (Garden area again) Can an alternate route be constructed for access instead of modifying existing path?

A. Yes, as long as the alternate route gives an equitable experience.

Q. Why does the garden shed need to have a ramp if is it not open to the public?

A. It needs to be accessible for anyone using it whether they are a member of the public, staff, or volunteers.

Q. Is cutting the overgrowth on the sidewalk along U.S. 31 good enough or does the sidewalk need to be replaced?

A. The entire sidewalk is substandard and needs to be replaced. This is a county project and should be fully funded by Clark County.

Appendix B- Other documents

Silver Creek Parks- Individual Site Assessment

Site Name	Silver Creek Township Park
Classification	Community Park
Conducted by	Layne Elliott
Site Description	Large community park with baseball/softball, football, and soccer fields; basketball, volleyball, and pickleball courts; a playground; shelters; a dog park; and large open space with a stage/amphitheater with a removable cover. Youth baseball and football leagues are held at the park as well as the Sellersburg Celebrates! festival.

Silver Creek Township	Rating (1= Needs improvement-5=Exceeds expectations)
Access and Connections	
Visibility from a distance	3
Ease in walking to the park	4
Public transportation access	N/A
Adequate signage at road/highway	4
Adequate parking	5
Image	
First impression/overall attractiveness	5
Sense of pride/ownership	4
Marketing or promotional efforts for the facility or activities	3
Comfort and Safety	
Feeling of safety	4
Lighting	4
Cleanliness (Exterior)	5
Cleanliness (Interior)	N/A
Quality of Maintenance (Exterior)	4
Quality of maintenance (Interior)	N/A
Clarity of information/orientation/directional signage	2
Comfort of places to sit	4
Protection from bad weather	4
Ability to easily supervise and manage the park or facility	3
Condition and effectiveness of equipment or operating systems	4
Uses- Facilities, Amenities, and Programs	
Mix of uses/things to do	4
Presence and quality of interpretive signage/displays	2
Level of activity	4
Programming flexibility	4
Ability of facility to support current organized programming	5

Environmental Sustainability	
Stormwater management	3
Facility energy efficiency	3
Recycle/waste management	3
Image and aesthetics	
Buildings and Architecture	3
Clarity of entry points and connections to the park	3
Interior layout and flow	N/A
Interior finishes and furniture and equipment	N/A
Functioning dimensions of space	
Building enclosure	3
Mechanical systems (HVAC, etc.)	N/A
Energy efficiency and sustainability	N/A
Accessibility	
Accessible routes	4
Signage and maps	2
Equitable access to amenities- Mobility	4
Equitable access to amenities- Vision	3
Equitable access to amenities- Hearing	3
Equitable access to amenities- Cognitive	3
Equitable access to programs- Mobility	4
Equitable access to programs- Vision	3
Equitable access to programs- Hearing	3
Equitable access to programs- Cognitive	3

Amenity	Condition				
	1	2	3	4	5
Parking Lot (near playground)					5
Notes: Newly resealed. Level and in excellent condition. Accessible parking spaces marked but without signage or van parking.					

Playground			3		
Notes: All equipment in good to very good condition except slide. Slide cracked at top and kick out with standing water at landing. Wood chip surfacing shows wear and drainage issues.					
Shelters			4		
Notes: All in very good condition with required number of accessible picnic tables. Routes to 2 of 3 are good with level change issues at shelter entrances.. One shelter with grass access only.					
Dog Park			4		
Notes: All play elements, grass, and fencing in very good condition. No accessible path to seating area.					
Walking Trail					5
Notes: Excellent condition. Being resealed at time of visit.					
Ballfield 1- near playground			3		
Note- Ballfields were not numbers so numbers here were assigned starting from the southernmost field near the playground and moving north and west.					
Notes: Safety capping does not extend all the way. Weeds and grass in infield. Appears to be for practice only.					
Ballfield 2- next to dog park			3		
Notes: Infield dirt and outfield grass level and in good condition. Standing water in infield at time of visit. Dugouts in good condition with high level changes at entrances. No access to dugouts except through the field. All fencing in good condition with adequate safety capping.					
Ballfield 3- middle			4		
Notes: Infield dirt and outfield grass level and in good condition. Dugouts in good condition with high level changes at entrances. No access to dugouts except through the field. All fencing in good condition with adequate safety capping.					
Ballfield 4- westernmost			3		
Notes: Infield dirt and outfield grass level and in good condition. Dugouts in good condition with high level changes at entrances. No access to dugouts except through the field. All fencing in good condition with adequate safety capping. Route from parking is sloped and blocked by bumpers.					
Volleyball court			4		
Notes No issues with sand surface or netting. No route for access or seating areas.					

Pickleball courts			3		
Notes No nets at time of visit. No court lines or markings. Recently repaved?					
Open Space			4		
Notes Grass well maintained.					
Ballfield 5- next to volleyball court			3		
Notes Grass and weeds in infield. Not recently mowed. No accessible routes to field or seating. Infield dirt and outfield grass level and in otherwise good condition. Dugouts in good condition with high level changes at entrances. No access to dugouts except through the field. All fencing in good condition with adequate safety capping.					
Restrooms					
Notes Not open at time of visit					
Concession stand			4		
Notes Not open at time of visit. Exterior and concourse in good condition. Adequate route for accessibility. No counter access at wheelchair level. Water fountain protruding.					
Football field			4		
Notes Grass field level and mowed. No route to access or seating area.					
Soccer field			4		
Notes Grass field level and mowed. No route to access or seating area.					
Stage/amphitheater			3		
Notes Minor maintenance needed to surface and skirting. Paved route to a loading/unloading area but to route or ramp to access stage. Concrete pad in front with picnic tables in good condition but no route to access or accessible picnic tables.					
Parking lots (near pickleball courts)			4		
Notes Level and in very good condition. Accessible parking spaces marked but without signage or van parking. Parking bumpers blocking access to ballfield #4. No signage at Fern Street to indicate parking is available here.					

5- Excellent- Full functionality as intended. No defects or needed repairs. Appearance- no defects, peeling paint, vandalism, etc. Proper surfacing and routing. Fully accessible (ADA).

4- Good- Functional as intended. Minor repairs (unrelated to functionality or safety) notable. Appearance- wear and tear visible. Adequate surfacing. Proper routing. Mostly accessible with correctable issues.

3- Fair- Minor loss of functionality. Repairs notable. Appearance- obvious wear and tear or vandalism. Inadequate surfacing or routing. Accessibility issues apparent.

2- Poor- 50% functionality. Repairs needed. Appearance- obvious wear and tear. Accessibility issues evident.

1- Very Poor. Non-functional or unsafe. Not accessible. Removal or replacement recommended.

Silver Creek Parks- Individual Site Assessment

Site Name	Speed Park
Classification	Neighborhood Park
Conducted by	Layne Elliott
Site Description	Small park with extensive landscaping, shade, and open space. Functional elements include a small gazebo, playground, picnic tables, and garden area with a fountain.

Speed Park	Rating (1= Needs improvement-5=Exceeds expectations)
Access and Connections	
Visibility from a distance	3
Ease in walking to the park	5
Public transportation access	N/A
Adequate signage at road/highway	3
Adequate parking	5
Image	
First impression/overall attractiveness	3
Sense of pride/ownership	1
Marketing or promotional efforts for the facility or activities	3
Comfort and Safety	
Feeling of safety	4
Lighting	N/A
Cleanliness (Exterior)	3
Cleanliness (Interior)	N/A
Quality of Maintenance (Exterior)	2
Quality of maintenance (Interior)	N/A
Clarity of information/orientation/directional signage	1
Comfort of places to sit	2
Protection from bad weather	2
Ability to easily supervise and manage the park or facility	4
Condition and effectiveness of equipment or operating systems	2
Uses- Facilities, Amenities, and Programs	
Mix of uses/things to do	3
Presence and quality of interpretive signage/displays	1
Level of activity	2
Programming flexibility	3
Ability of facility to support current organized programming	N/A
Environmental Sustainability	

Stormwater management	2
Facility energy efficiency	N/A
Recycle/waste management	2
Image and aesthetics	
Buildings and Architecture	3
Interior layout and flow	N/A
Interior finishes and furniture and equipment	N/A
Functioning dimensions of space	
Building enclosure	N/A
Mechanical systems (HVAC, etc.)	N/A
Energy efficiency and sustainability	N/A
Accessibility	
Accessible routes	2
Signage and maps	1
Equitable access to amenities- Mobility	2
Equitable access to amenities- Vision	1
Equitable access to amenities- Hearing	N/A
Equitable access to amenities- Cognitive	2
Equitable access to programs- Mobility	N/A
Equitable access to programs- Vision	N/A
Equitable access to programs- Hearing	N/A
Equitable access to programs- Cognitive	N/A
Notes: There is no programming at the park and no buildings open to the public. Park is slated for major renovation. Park has not been consistently maintained, though landscaping has been improved recently.	

Amenity	Condition				
	1	2	3	4	5
Parking lot		2			
Notes Gravel. Uneven surface and with obvious drainage issues. Should be repaved with accessible spots added. Mud and standing water at entrances to the park from streets and sidewalks leading to the rest of the park. Entrance spaces should be levelled and repaved.					

Maintenance building		2			
Notes Building in poor shape but functional. Should be refurbished for safety and aesthetics.					
Playground		2			
Notes Pea gravel surfacing is not safe for children or accessible. Main climbing element in poor condition with broken parts and should be closed immediately until removal. Swing set is poor condition but functional. Other equipment in adequate condition. No route to access- grass only. Benches at side are in grass with no route or clear space. Playground should be closed and replaced as soon as possible.					
Gazebo				4	
Notes Overall in very good condition. Appears to have been recently painted. Needs power washed. Concrete stage in good shape-normal cracking but level. New picnic tables but not accessible. Concrete path leading to stage in vet good condition with minor heaving that may present an obstacle for wheelchairs.					
Picnic areas		1			
Notes All picnic table are in very poor condition or broken. All should be replaced. Grills in moderate condition. All picnic tables are on concrete pads but no route to access any. Grills are in grass with no access route or clear space.					
Open space				3	
Notes Most grassy areas are mowed and in fair condition. Many obvious dead tree locations with rough ground/tree stump and root remnants that could create tripping or other injury hazards.					
Garden area				4	
Notes Landscaping and fountain in very good condition and well-maintained. Path to access is paved with flagstones that are uneven and spaced far apart, obstructing access for strollers and mobility devices. Sidewalk entrance from a Maryland St should be rebuilt and connect to new walking path.					
Gardners' shed				4	
Notes Exterior in very good condition. Door locked at time of visit. High step to access. May be in temporary location. Once in permanent location, ramp should be added for access.					
Sidewalks		2			
Notes Sidewalks along U.S. 31 and Indiana in very poor condition and need to be rebuilt. County or State? Several partial paved routes through park that end with no destination. Not sure what they led to when built. All in poor shape and could create hazards. Replace or remove. Only sidewalk in good condition leads from parking lot to gazebo.					

Trees			3		
Notes Many older trees that are potential hazards. An arborist should be consulted and hazard trees removed.					
Notes					
Notes					
Notes					

5- Excellent- Full functionality as intended. No defects or needed repairs. Appearance- no defects, peeling paint, vandalism, etc. Proper surfacing and routing. Fully accessible (ADA).

4- Good- Functional as intended. Minor repairs (unrelated to functionality or safety) notable. Appearance- wear and tear visible. Adequate surfacing. Proper routing. Mostly accessible with correctable issues.

3- Fair- Minor loss of functionality. Repairs notable. Appearance- obvious wear and tear or vandalism. Inadequate surfacing or routing. Accessibility issues apparent.

2- Poor- 50% functionality. Repairs needed. Appearance- obvious wear and tear. Accessibility issues evident.

1- Very Poor. Non-functional or unsafe. Not accessible. Removal or replacement recommended.