

# **Town of Fortville**

## **10.06.2025**

### **Town Council Meeting**

#### **Opening of Meeting:**

The meeting was held at Fortville Town Hall, 714 E. Broadway. Meeting was called to order by Council President Tonya Davis at 6:30 pm.

#### **Present:**

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Sean Morgan, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Jacob Antrim sitting in for Alex Intermill, Town Attorney; Missy Glazier, Clerk Treasurer.

#### **Not Present:**

Missy Glazier

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Ryan Rummell made a motion to make a change to the agenda moving Beth Marsh above Old Business for today October 6th, 2025; Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 15th, 2025, Town Council Meeting. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

#### **Old Business**

- a) The Council will consider the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2025-9A, a text amendment to the Mercho-Lauth PUD – Adam Zaklikowski reminds everyone of the changes made in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The Plan Commission gave the plan a unanimous positive recommendation. Ryan Rummel made the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-9A with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

#### **New Business:**

- a) The Council will hear the Parks & Recreation Survey Results and Master Plan snapshot presented by Travis Tranbarger of Pro's Consulting (*slide presentation*) – Travis Tranbarger with Pro's Consulting and Heath Luther, Fortville Parks Manager presented

this. The slide show is attached. Sean Morgan asked about splashpads or water features. Heath responded with it would be a Town Council decision and other factors that go into play along with the budget. Heath mentioned the Indiana Trails Grant application was submitted.

- b) The Council will recess the regular council meeting and open a Public Hearing for the presentation of the 2026 Proposed Budget, presented by Beth Marsh of Bookkeeping Plus (*via Zoom*) - Ryan Rummell made a motion to close the Council Meeting and open Public Hearing with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carried, passed 5/0. Beth Marsh presented the proposed 2026 Budget. No questions from the public. Fritz Fentz asked about the increased salaries. Beth explained there are 27 pays next year vs the normal 26.
- c) The Council will close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular council meeting - Ryan Rummell made the motion to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular Council Meeting, with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carried, passed 5/0.
- d) The Council will hear a Special Event Request - "Chili in the Park", Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, 10 am – Noon, presented by Angelica Rangull of Gateway Community Church – Angelica Rangull was not present. Ryan Rummell made the motion to approve the Special Event Request with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

### **Department Head Reports:**

#### **Town Manager: Joe Renner**

The change order that the Council approved a couple meetings ago is currently making good progress.

#### **Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski**

We have done 158 single family residential permits from January 1 through the end of September. This is a record by far. The most we have done in one year is somewhere around 115-120.

#### **Parks Manager: Heath Luther**

No Comment.

#### **Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton**

Gave updates on accident reports regarding before and after the road diet. The number of accidents has gone down since the road diet was implemented. The Police Department is wearing pink badges for breast cancer awareness month. Pat will be out of town for the next Council Meeting. Officer Lanning will be attending ILEA training in January. Officer Payne is our new hire. Chief would like to address the fees associated with in car camera and body cams in the fee schedule.

**Town Attorney:** Alex Intermill

No Comment.

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Missy Glazier

N/A

**Public Comment:**

Jennifer Chaves asks if she could close the alley way behind her house for trick or treating hours. Chief Bratton is going to assist her with this.

**Council Members:**

**Tonya Davis:**

Welcomes Sean Morgan to Council.

**Ryan Rummell:**

No Comment.

**Libby Wyatt:**

No Comment.

**Fritz Fentz:**

No Comment.

**Sean Morgan**

No Comment.

**Approve and Sign Vouchers:**

Ryan Rummell made the motion to approve and sign vouchers; Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

**Adjourn:**

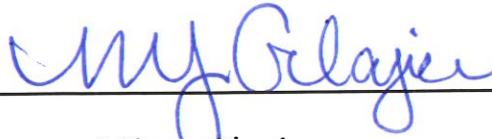
Tonya Davis made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: \_\_\_\_\_



Tonya Davis

Clerk-Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_



Missy Glazier



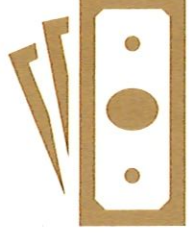
**Parks & Recreation Master Plan  
Town Council Workshop  
10.06.2025**

# Master Plan Process – PROS Consulting Scope



## Where Are We Today?

Community Profile  
Stakeholder engagement and Community  
needs assessment completed



## How Do We Get There?

Funding options  
Partnership strategies  
Vision, Mission, and Goals  
Strategic Action Plan



# Stakeholder Engagement

# Online Community Survey

## Recreation Programming

- About 33% participate only a few times per year and residents primarily go to the City of Fishers (42%), Hancock Wellness Center (25%), and the Town of McCordsville (23%) for recreation programming.
- Top barriers for participating in recreation programs include lack of awareness (77%), limited program variety (53%), and inconvenient times (22%)
- 83% want programs offered at varied times to fit busy schedules
- Residents request youth and teen programs, family-focused events, and senior programming
- A strong desire for financially accessible programs and childcare support was expressed

# Online Community Survey

## Priorities

- Improving existing parks, more special events and community festivals, adding outdoor fitness and recreation opportunities, and building new recreation facilities ranked highest as priorities for the next five years.
  - Accessibility improvements and trails/greenway expansions were also frequently mentioned.
- Updating current parks and facilities, trail and greenway expansions, and acquiring and developing more parkland were top funding priorities.
  - Splash pads, trails, outdoor fitness areas, and playground upgrades were repeatedly mentioned as facility and amenity priorities
  - There is also strong interest in indoor recreation spaces, including gyms and wellness centers

# Online Community Survey – Key Actions

- **Prioritize upgrading existing parks** by adding water play and outdoor fitness amenities to meet family and community needs.
- **Develop youth/teen programs, senior activities, and community events** while improving program scheduling flexibility and affordability.
- **Expand trail and greenway networks** to link neighborhoods, parks, and downtown areas.
- Implement consistent communication strategies with centralized calendars, social media, and newsletters to **increase awareness and engagement**.
- Ensure ADA compliance, offer culturally inclusive programs, and explore childcare support to reduce participation barriers.
- **Collaborate with schools, regional providers, and nonprofits** to maximize resources and expand program offerings.

# Focus Group Themes - Strengths

## Strengths to Build On

- Stakeholders value the ability to connect easily to parks and trails, which supports informal recreation and social connection.
- Landmark Park and Memorial Park serve as key gathering spaces. The parks are used for events, markets, and informal play, and their central location is convenient for residents.
- The parks are described as easy to rent and accessible, with minimal red tape for organizing activities. The community appreciates the flexibility and openness of the system.
- Fortville benefits from a strong spirit of collaboration between departments and community partners (e.g., Library, Hancock Health, Ninestar, and ATA). This cooperation provides future opportunity for shared-use programming and events.

# Focus Group Themes - Challenges

## Upcoming Challenges for the Park System

- Fortville is growing, and the community is concerned about keeping up with facility maintenance, equipment upgrades, and service levels. Limited staffing and potential budget cuts may hinder progress.
- Concerns about reduced state funding and lack of alternative revenue sources were raised. There is a need to explore impact fees, TIF, increased user fees, and dedicated fundraising efforts. There's also debate around reinstating a Park Board and how it would align with Council priorities.
- Participants cited issues with vandalism and aging infrastructure, particularly restrooms and play structures, that require consistent attention to maintain positive user experiences.
- There is a risk of fragmented trail development. Without a long-term connectivity plan and funding for regional trail links, Fortville may miss opportunities to become a well-connected destination.

# Focus Group Themes – Community Needs

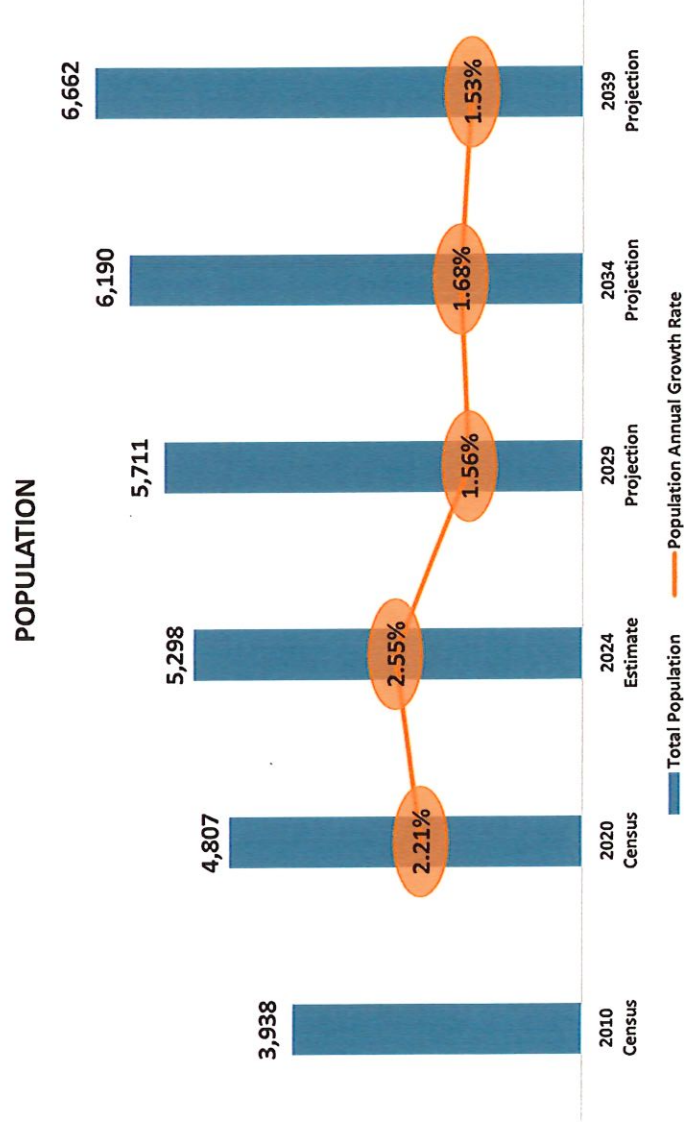
## Community Needs

- Restrooms at Landmark and Memorial Parks are in urgent need of renovation. Memorial Park's playground and Landmark's infrastructure also require updates to serve current and future users effectively.
- There is strong interest in a dedicated indoor space for fitness, training, and wellness programming. Ideas include a renovated community center or a new fieldhouse-style facility.
- The community seeks more family-centered recreation which can include camps, events, and sports for youth. There's also interest in serving specialized recreation needs, such as childcare support and partnership-led programming (e.g., library, FFA, ATA).
- Improvements to signage, educational elements (like story walks), and beautification, such as native landscaping and low-maintenance enhancements, were suggested for parks and public spaces.



# Demographics & Recreation Trends

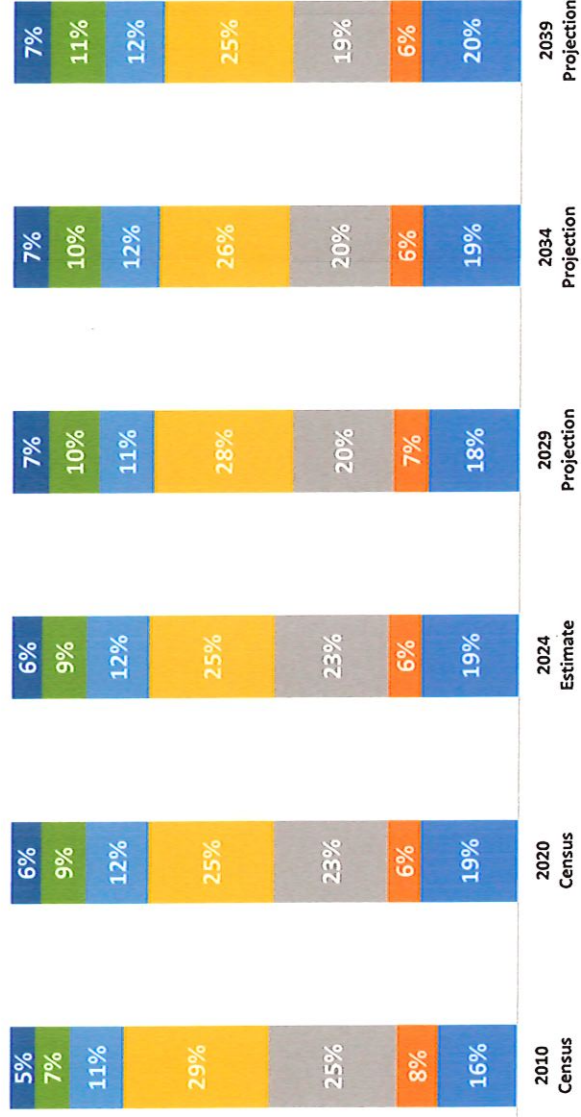
# Population Growth Trend



# Age Segment Breakdown

POPULATION BY AGE SEGMENTS

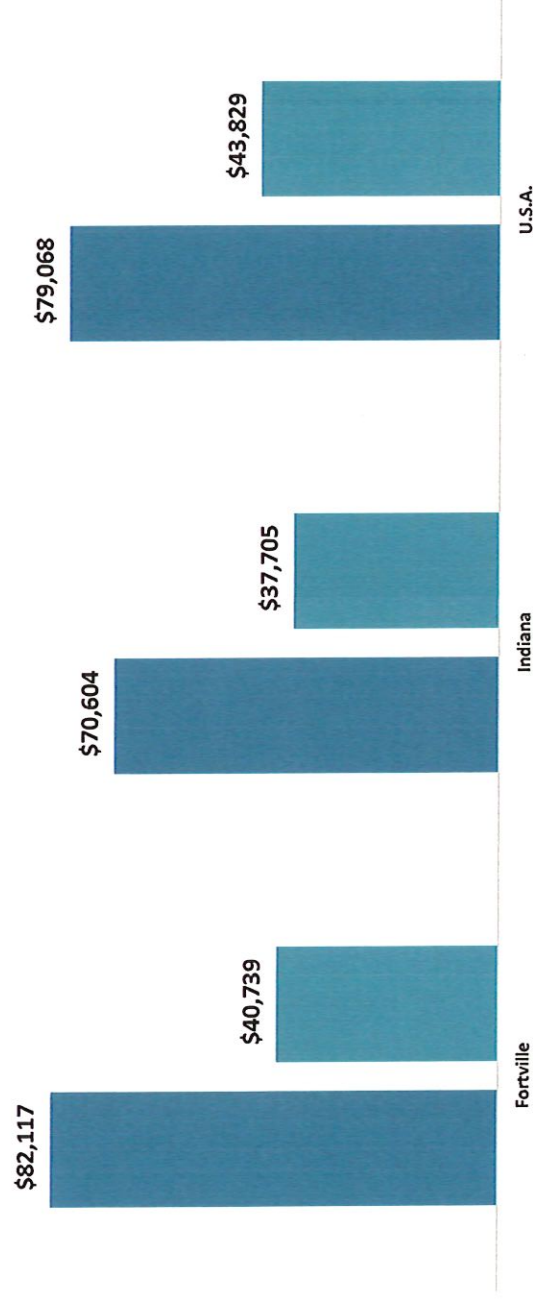
0-12 13-17 18-34 35-54 55-64 65-74 75+



# Income Characteristics

## COMPARATIVE INCOME

■ Median Household Income ■ Per Capita Income



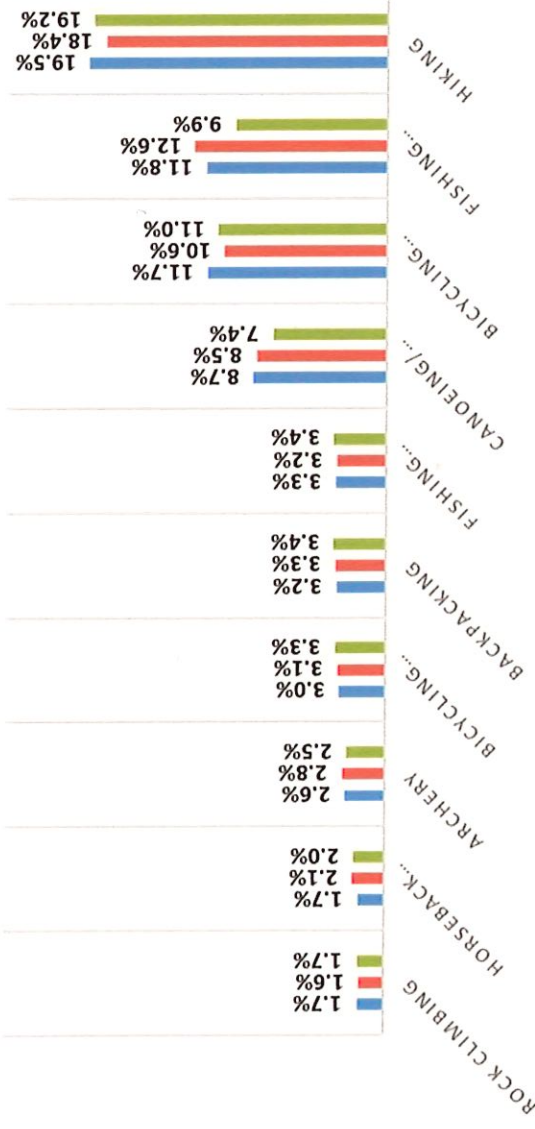
# Demographic Implications

- The Town's **aging population trends** indicate a need to identify and understand the interests of all ages, especially middle-aged and senior populations.
- The Town's household income characteristics suggest **potential disposable income at the family level**. The Department should be mindful of this when establishing appropriate fees for programs and activities while still ensuring opportunities for lower-income households.
- **Population growth** should be considered and accounted for when planning new facilities, amenities, and programs for the community. Fortville should also be accounting for the additional maintenance and upkeep of current offerings to provide a consistent level of service or better in the future.

# Recreation Trends

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITY MPI

■ Fortville ■ Indiana ■ National Average



- Golf, basketball, and tennis show the most market potential for sports programming.
- Walking for exercise, swimming, and weightlifting are the top fitness activities
- Hiking, fishing, and road biking are the top outdoor activities





# Funding Strategies

# Funding Strategies Overview



**Shift from taxes:** Park systems across the U.S. are moving beyond tax dollars as the sole funding source.

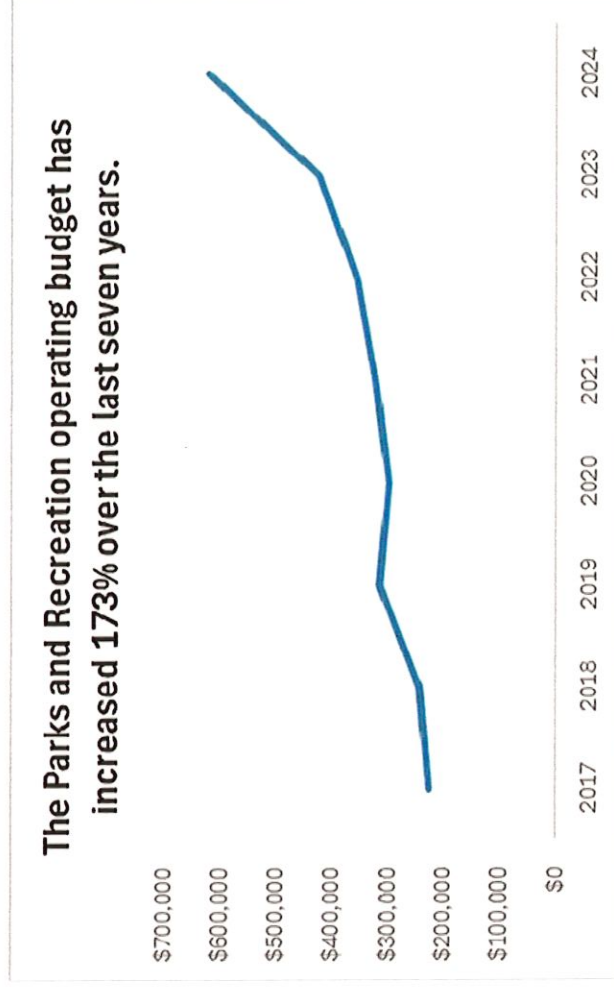
**New revenue streams:** Pricing policies, cost recovery targets, and partnerships are now standard.

**Economic impact:** Parks boost property values and drive economic development.

| Fortville Operating Budget Per Capita (2024) | NRPA National Median<br>(Communities less than 20,000) | NRPA Great Lakes Region Median<br>(Communities less than 20,000) |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$117.16                                     | \$139.87                                               | \$109.30                                                         |

# Fortville Revenue Snapshot

- **Primary funding:** Property taxes remain the main source.
- **Rental revenue:** Up 16% annually since 2019; \$54,450 in 2023.
- **Sponsorships & donations:** Totalled \$76,276 since 2018.
- **Overall growth:** \$71,730 in 2023, up 124% from 2018; \$294,470 total since 2018.



The Parks and Recreation Operating Budget totaled \$620,714 in 2024



# Capital Investments

- **2020 GO Bond (\$235K):**  
Playground, dog park, mowers, truck.
- **2022 Lease Bond (\$878K):**  
Tennis/basketball courts, field lighting, shelter renovations, HVAC, solar, security.
- Upcoming improvements to Landmark Park



# Funding sources at a glance

**External:** Sponsorships, partnerships, foundations, crowdfunding, donations.

**Capital:** Net revenue fund, impact fees, public-private partnerships.

**User Fees:** Memberships, rentals, permits.

**Grants:** Trails, urban forestry, NRPA, CDBG, LWCF, transportation alternatives.

**Tax Tools:** Property tax, food & beverage tax, GO bonds, TIF-backed bonds.

**Other:** Land leases, easements, interlocal agreements.

# Key financial actions



Diversify funding to  
reduce tax dependency.



Build partnerships for  
grants, donations, and  
sponsorships.



Develop cost recovery  
policies and pricing  
strategies.



Align capital  
investments with  
master plan priorities.

# Next Steps

- Draft Plan to Town Council for approval – **11/3**
- Draft Plan is submitted to Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – **11/15**
- IDNR feedback and edits made to plan – **Winter 2025/2026**
- Final Master Plan submitted to IDNR – **4/15/26**