

# **Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan**

## **Adopted October 2021**

*Adopted by Borough Council on October 12, 2021*



Funding to prepare this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan was provided in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. Funding was also provided by an Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Community Asset Grant and by the Union City Community Foundation.

## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to all the representatives of Union City Borough and members of the Project Steering Committee who participated in preparing this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

Steering Committee members were actively involved throughout this planning process. They participated in several Steering Committee meetings, answered questions, shared their knowledge of local conditions and provided quality input and guidance as the Plan was being prepared. The Steering Committee is credited with identifying Recreation Priorities, reviewing and discussing those Priorities with residents, and for bringing together and evaluating different types of information and input to help formulate this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

### **Project Steering Committee Members**

Cindy Wells – Union City Borough Manager & Union City Pride

Matthew Joyce – Union City Borough Council – Parks Liaison

Lynora Rumm – McLane Church and Union City Parks & Recreation Committee

Diane Bowes – Union City Community Foundation

Bob Phillips – Union City Borough Streets Supervisor

Damon Piper – Union City Parks & Recreation Committee

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## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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Union City Borough wishes to thank the Planning Consultants for their efforts on this Project.



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Community Conservation Partnership Programs (C2P2) and the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) for recreation area planning and development projects. He takes an active role in all of our public participation efforts and in preparing GIS mapping products. Learn more at <https://www.eadsgroup.com>



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Tracy has worked on a number of community development and recreation related planning projects, including the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan in Union City Borough and Phase I and II of the

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

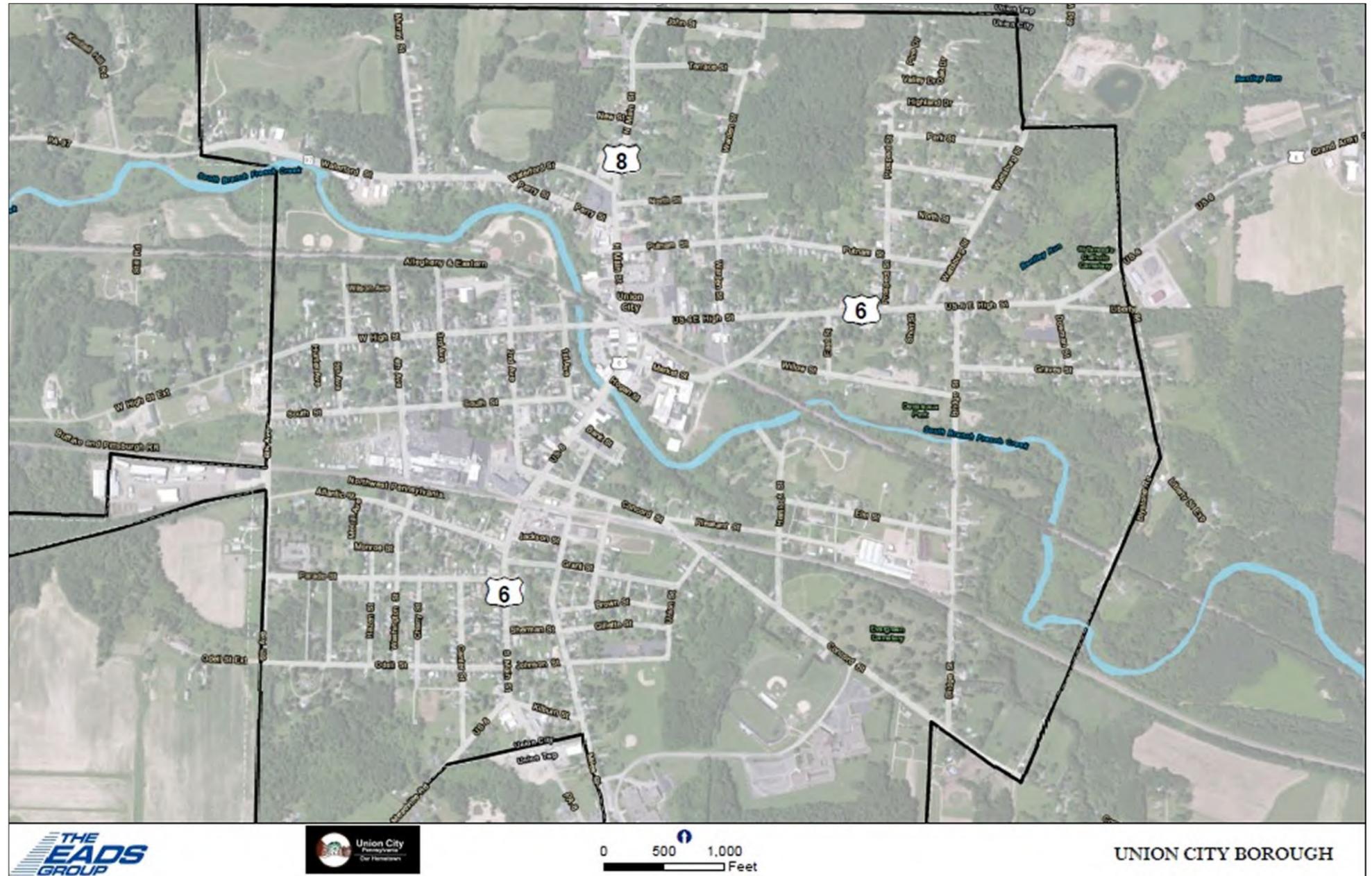
Union City Borough is located approximately twenty-two (22) miles southeast of the City of Erie, which is the county seat along the shore of Lake Erie. Unlike the lakeshore municipalities, Union City Borough is located within the French Creek Watershed, specifically the South Branch French Creek Greenway. Union City is named for the land that William Miles founded. Originally named Miles Mills, in 1855 Union City transformed from a conglomerate of saw mills to an oil refinery-based market. Due to rapidly progressing economies, the town name was changed to Union City Borough in 1871. Union City was one of the many oil refinery and lumbering towns that flourished mainly due to the access to the South Branch of French Creek.

Union City Borough has a geographic and transportation advantage with U.S. Route 6 and Pennsylvania Route 8 intersecting in the Downtown area. In the most recent traffic counts, 8,229 cars and trucks a day use Route 8 in and 7,548 cars and trucks use Route 6, making these roads the main gateways to the Borough. In addition, there are two active rail lines, the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad Inc. and the Western New York & Pa. Railroad Inc.

### About the Project

Union City Borough has developed this Parks and Recreation Plan to guide future improvements at their five (5) public recreation parks including Caflich Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field, First Avenue Park and the Southwest Park. The Plan also develops a concept for creating a Nature Park on Borough owned land adjacent to Caflich and Devereaux Parks.

This Plan lays the groundwork for future development and management of the Borough's parks and their associated recreation facilities. Union City Borough has determined that it is now necessary to more clearly define which types of activities and facilities are of most interest to the community and to determine the most effective ways for improving recreation opportunities for the betterment of the entire community and surrounding areas. Union City Borough conducted a community driven, collaborative and implementable planning approach that emphasized public outreach and the need to develop an implementation framework and a strategy to identify key issues, inventory and analyze existing recreation and park resources and to identify accessibility deficiencies, identify community connections, and overall maintenance, budgetary and personal needs. The Borough has identified a range of projects and initiatives such as equipment, facility and access improvements and promotion, signage and programming enhancements that will maximize the collective potential of the Borough's parks. The Borough will ultimately use this Plan to prioritize and implement future rehabilitation and development projects so that the Borough can have high quality parks and recreation facilities that will accommodate everyday users and that will accommodate recreation events and programming opportunities that will connect residents from the larger region to Union City Borough.



# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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## Project Goals

The overall purpose of this Plan is to increase recreation opportunities for Union City Borough residents and visitors. The following Goals were established by the Borough early in the planning process. Each has successfully been achieved.

- To better understand who uses the Parks and Recreation areas in the Borough, how often and for what reasons
- Identify the most wanted recreation facility and programming improvements identified by residents, officials and other stakeholders.
- Identify a set of recommendations that will provide the types of recreation opportunities wanted by Borough residents.
- Conduct a multi-faceted public engagement process, including input provided by the Project Steering Committee, as part of the planning process.
- To advance the vision of Erie County Plans such as the *Erie County Comprehensive Plan*, *Long Range Transportation Plan*, and *Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan* as well as community initiatives such as *Destination Erie*.

## Project Approach

An asset-based and issues-oriented planning approach was followed to create an “implementable” Parks and Recreation Plan. The approach relied on the input and guidance provided by the Borough, residents and members of the Project Steering Committee which included local and regional stakeholders like Borough Council and Staff, Union City Parks and Recreation Committee, Union City Pride, Inc. and the Union City Community Foundation. The public engagement process made it possible to identify Park related issues, problems and opportunities and to develop implementable improvement solutions. A simple set of principles underlies the methodologies and the planning approach conducted for this Project.

- **A Focus on Issues, Assets and Solutions** – The planning approach relied heavily on public engagement and collaboration to identify issues, assets and achievable solutions for Union City Borough. The approach included fieldwork by the Planning Consultants, a community survey and direct input from Steering Committee members and Borough residents. Results of the public engagement process were considered to identify core issues, assets and solutions. These results were refined during in-depth Steering Committee meetings that further developed several park and recreation focus areas.
- **Organization of the Plan to Reflect Local Thinking** – The Plan consists of six (6) major sections, including:
  - This Introduction section provides background on the development of the Plan and summarizes its purpose and goals.
  - A Community Engagement section highlights the public involvement efforts completed and summarizes the input received.
  - An Existing Conditions section that highlights community characteristics and existing projects and plans that provide recreation opportunities in Union City Borough.
  - A Priorities section that clearly describes the top recreation improvement priorities.
  - A Recommendation section that includes improvement Concept Plans and Cost Estimates for each Park
  - An Implementation section that ties the priorities and recommendations with potential timelines, funding sources and potential partners.
- **Identify a Structure and Capacity to Implement the Plan** – This is an “implementable” Plan, meaning that completion of this document is not the ending point of the planning process but rather the beginning of the ‘doing’ part of the planning process. Union City Borough and members of the Steering Committee were critical to the coordination of follow-up activities and will be critical for the implementation efforts.

# **EXISTING PROJECTS AND PLANS**

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

The following are brief summary profiles for population, age, commuter, disability, housing and transportation characteristics for Union City Borough.

- The 2010 US Census reported that there were 3,320 people residing within Union City Borough. According to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) five year estimates, the population in the Borough had declined slightly down to approximately 3,189.
- The median age in the Borough is approximately 40.8 years of age. Approximately 18% of Borough residents are over 65 years of age.
- Nearly 89% of Borough residents work within Erie County. 30% of residents travel less than 10 minutes. 15% travel between 10-20 minutes to their place of work.
- The average travel time to work for Borough residents is 23.3 minutes. Approximately 79% of residents drive alone to their place of work. A relatively high percentage of residents (10%) are able to walk to work and just over 1% work from home.
- Approximately 8% of residents have diagnosed difficulty hearing or have a vision difficulty.
- There are approximately 1,428 housing units in Union City Borough. Approximately 95% of those units are occupied. Just over 63% of the housing units are owner occupied.
- Union City Borough has a geographic and transportation advantage with U.S. Route 6 and Pennsylvania Route 8 intersecting in the Downtown area. There are also two (2) active railroad freight lines aligned through the Borough.

Union City Borough is connected to a designated Pennsylvania and multi-state Bike Route, a Heritage Corridor, a Natural System Greenway, and a Recreation (trail) and Transportation Greenway. The following also highlights other plans, projects, and resources that are relevant to recreation opportunities in Union City Borough.

- **Bicycle Routes – PA Route Y and US Bike Route 36**  
PA Route 6 through Union City Borough is PA Bicycle Route Y and US Bike Route 36. BicyclePA Route “Y” is the second longest route in PA at over 400 miles. This route enters Erie County on US Highway 6/19 and follows north to the intersection with PA Route 6 where it turns east going through Union City Borough and Corry, then on to Warren County. PA Bicycle Route Y is also designated as United States Bike Route (USBR) 36. USBR 36 connects cyclists across Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York to Union City Borough.
- **Heritage Corridor – PA Route 6**  
Union City Borough is located within the designated PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor. Pennsylvania’s Route 6 covers over 400 miles within northern Pennsylvania and focuses on efforts to preserve, enhance and promote the transportation heritage of one of the nation’s first transcontinental highways; to sustain and enhance the small rural communities linked by the highway, like Union City Borough; and to preserve and enhance the natural, scenic beauty of one of America’s favorite road trips.

- **PA Route 6 Master Plan Design Guide**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recognizes the statewide importance of PA Route 6 and has identified bicycle improvements along the corridor as a high priority initiative. PennDOT, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Pennsylvania Route 6 Alliance, completed a PA Route 6 Bicycle Master Plan Design Guideline to address bicycle safety, accessibility, and connectivity along PA Route 6. The Guide recommends widening the road shoulders to 5’ along sections of Route 6 to the east and west of the Borough and installing shared-lane markings (Sharrows) through the Borough.
- **Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan**  
The Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) addresses local and regional issues related to roads, trails, transit, and rail service. It prioritizes transportation investments in Erie County and develops a financially-constrained project listing based on anticipated funding levels. The County’s existing Plan was adopted in 2017. It is currently being updated to meet current needs and performance measures.
- **Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan**  
This Cultural Heritage Plan for Erie County presents a strategy that will support Countywide historic and cultural preservation efforts.
- **Erie County Parks Trails and Recreation Plan**  
The purpose of the Plan is to set a new direction for the involvement of Erie County government in the planning and support of parks, trails and recreation throughout the county. Specific actions relate to improving the health and well-being of county residents and its overall economy. The county will implement this plan through support in programming, funding and expert assistance to municipalities and organizations
- **Erie County Comprehensive Plan**  
The Plan focuses on improving communities, assisting municipalities and supporting economic development. The Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development maintains the Erie County Comprehensive Plan.
- **Destination Erie Master Plan**  
This regional master plan includes strategies for making Erie County a place where businesses, neighborhoods and families thrive. It focuses on Arts, Culture & Recreation, rural downtowns, the environment and community facilities.
- **South Branch French Creek Greenway and Water Trail**  
Union City Borough is located within the nationally recognized South Branch French Creek Greenway. The total length of the Greenway corridor is nearly 24 miles and varies in width from less than 1,000 feet wide through Union City Borough, to nearly a mile near the City of Corry. An associated Water Trail network is also located through the Borough. French Creek is nationally recognized as one of the most biologically and recreationally important waterways in the entire country.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

- **Recreation and Transportation Greenway – Trails**

Union City Borough is also located within the Mill Village to Corry Junction Greenway Trail. This inactive Norfolk Southern Railroad Corridor will connect Mill Village, through Union City Borough, to the City of Corry. This 19-mile trail corridor could eventually link into the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Crawford County.
- **Union City Borough Parks**

The Borough maintains five (5) public parks including Cafilisch Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field, First Avenue Park and Southwest Park. The Borough owns land adjacent to Devereaux Park that is proposed as a public Nature Park. Cafilisch Park, Devereaux Park and the Willow Street Ball Field are clustered together on the eastern side of the Borough and contain a new modern Comfort Station along with pavilions and picnic facilities, play courts, playground equipment and open spaces. Cafilisch Park is the largest of the all the park areas and is heavily used as a gathering place for family reunions, parties and picnics. First Avenue Park is a traditional neighborhood park that contains equipment and play features designed for younger children. Southwest Park is located on the eastern side of the Borough and is primarily used by school aged children living in surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Union City Borough Active Transportation Plan**

Union City Borough prepared an Active Transportation Plan in 2021 that will serve as a guide for future pedestrian and biking development and improvements in the Borough and at the Cafilisch, Devereaux, Willow Street Ball Field, First Avenue and Southwest Parks and at a Nature Park. Union City Borough developed the Active Transportation Plan to make active walking, biking and wheeling more accessible, safe and attractive to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The Borough relied heavily on the contributions made by their Planning Consultants and from a Project Steering Committee consisting of Borough officials and staff, residents, members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Erie County Planning and Community Development along with health care, transportation and recreation advocates to guide development of the Plan. The Plan focuses on developing pedestrian and bike friendly amenities, community walking loops and connections to community destinations. This Plan also includes improving sidewalk conditions on priority routes, installing pedestrian and bike friendly features and other community enhancements such as signage to key community destinations, community walking loops of varying distances, route and distance markers, shaded rest areas, water fountains, bike racks, and bike repair stations. Improving walking and biking in the Borough will improve public health, will create valuable community and economic assets, and will provide quality-of-life benefits to our residents and visitors.
- **American Legion Little League Fields**

Five (5) well-maintained little league baseball and softball fields are provided at the American Legion Little League Field complex. The fields are located in the northwest corner of the Borough and are in close proximity to the Borough's First Avenue Park. Access to these fields is provided off of First Avenue.
- **Union City School District Facilities**

The Union City Borough Elementary and Middle/High school campuses and the Union City Sports Complex are located in the southern portion of the Borough and are in close proximity to the Borough's Cafilisch and Devereaux Parks and the Willow Street Ball Field. The District maintains a variety of large play fields, courts and other types of play equipment adequate for school related purposes.
- **Sidewalk Grant Program**

The Borough offers property owners grants of \$1.50 per square foot to offset the cost of replacing sidewalks. There has been more than 4,450 feet of sidewalk replaced since 2016 through this program.
- **Downtown Historic Preservation Plan**

The Plan was completed in 2019 and included advisement on historically contributing buildings, signage, lighting, seating and public spaces.
- **Multimodal Sidewalk Project**

The Project was completed in 2020 and is located along the south side of Johnson Street between S. Main Street and Miles Street, and along the east side of Miles Street from Johnston Street to the Elementary School. The project consisted of replacing sidewalks, adding new curbing and installing ADA access to the sidewalks.
- **Main Street Improvement Project**

PennDOT completed this Project in 2021. The Project included traffic signal updates and pedestrian crossings on Main Street. It also included a redesign of the Main Street - High Street intersection.
- **Phase I and II of the Cafilisch Park Improvement Project**

The Project was completed in 2021 and included ADA accessibility improvements, constructing an ADA compliant walking path and installing picnic tables, benches, grills, a swing set and a new Comfort Station.
- **Downtown "Gateway"**

This Project will be located at the north downtown entrance at Main and High Streets. The overall design of the gateway project was finalized in 2021. Funding is currently being sought. The project is anticipated to begin in late 2021 or early 2022.
- **French Creek Trail Feasibility Study**

Work on the Study began in 2021 and is anticipated to be completed by spring 2022.
- **Downtown Improvements**

Installation of street trees, a new parking lot, sidewalk history panels and historic markers in the downtown area and installation of residential National Register signage was completed in 2021.

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Parks and Recreation Survey Results

A Community Survey was conducted to better understand who uses the Parks and Recreation areas in the Borough, how often and for what reasons. It also provided input on the public's perception of the Parks and their facilities/amenities and what the public would like to see in terms of new facilities and programming. Responders also provided guidance on future priorities for the Parks and recreation areas in Union City Borough. The following section highlights the results of the Community Survey.

### Respondent Overview -

There were 131 responses to the Parks and Recreation Survey. Nearly 90% of the responders were either from Union City Borough (57%) or Union Township (31%). Responses were also received from residents living in various other Erie County communities.

The responders represented households containing over 400 residents. The responders also represented households with a good range of age groups. This included Pre-School (16%), School-Age Children (24%), Young Adults (18%), Middle Age Adults (27%) and Mature Adult members (15%). This is important because it ensures that the input provided addresses the needs, wants and priorities for many different segments of the community.

It also balanced out the types of responses received. Responses that represented younger residents likely were oriented towards more active types of recreation facilities and programming. Those representing older residents likely suggested more passive leisure types of recreation facilities and programming. While those middle aged residents likely have an orientation focused on spending time with family and friends, general relaxation and enjoying nature.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Who Responded -

- 131 Responses – representing over 400 residents
- 57% from Union City Borough
- 31% from Union Township
- Households with Pre K - School Age Children; Young - Middle Age Adults; and Mature (60+) members were represented
- Active and passive recreation users were represented



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**How Often are the Parks and Recreation Areas Used - Respondents were asked on average, how often have they or any other member of their household visit each Park and Recreation Area.**

Overall, a high percentage of those responders that visit the Parks and Recreation areas in the Borough indicated that they only visit them on a monthly or seasonal basis. Overall, Caflisch Park, School District facilities, French Creek and the American Legion Ball Fields are the more visited facilities in the Borough. It is likely that the frequency of organized sport leagues at the American Legion fields and School sport games drive visitors to those facilities. Devereaux Park and First Avenue Park are visited at an average rate. Southwest Park seems to be the least visited Park in the Borough.

Unfortunately, many of the responders indicated they never visit one the of the Parks or Recreation areas. On a positive note, this response does alert the Borough that they need to do a better job attracting new users to the Parks. It also emphasizes that implementing improvement projects will likely aid in attracting new users.

The following provides a summary of the responses:

Park and Recreation Areas	Visit Daily or Weekly	Visit Monthly or Seasonally	Never Visit
Southwest Park	3%	16%	81%
Devereaux Park	7%	46%	47%
First Avenue Park	12%	39%	49%
American Legion Ball Fields	15%	59%	26%
French Creek	13%	66%	21%
Caflisch Park	10%	78%	12%
School District	34%	53%	13%

Union City Borough  
Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### How often are the Parks Used – Responders more frequently visit on a monthly or seasonal basis

- 60% visit only seasonally
- 19% visit at least once a month
- 21% visit at least once a week
- Caflisch Park is visited most often
- Southwest Park is visited least often







**Why Do People Use the Parks and Recreation Areas - Respondents were asked why they visit a Park or Recreation Area in Union City Borough**

The most common reasons for visiting a Park or Recreation area is for a reunion or get-together, a scheduled event/program/function or a private picnic. Other common responses included to enjoy nature, geocaching and to watch organized sports. Surprising, least among the reasons were for personal play/enjoyment or to accompany a child/grandchild. This seems to indicate that users of the Parks are focused more on using spaces within the Parks and not necessarily on just using the play equipment/apparatus.

Interestingly, some of the 'other' responses indicated that the Parks and Recreation areas are used as safe places to walk and bike.

The following provides a summary of the responses:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Family/Other reunion/get-together	63%	82
Scheduled event/program	59%	77
Private picnic	56%	73
Enjoy nature	53%	70
School/educational related function	46%	60
Geocaching	45%	59
Watch organized sports	34%	44
Play organized sports	27%	35
Play individual sports	19%	25
Personal play/enjoyment	14%	18
Accompany children/grandchildren	10%	13

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### Why do People Visit the Park –

- The Parks seem to be used more for their spaces and related amenities – and not as much for their play equipment/apparatus.
- Residents seem to visit the Parks more frequently for Reunions or Get-Togethers, Scheduled Events/Programs/Functions, Private Picnics and to enjoy Nature




## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### What Amenities are Most Used - Respondents were asked to identify all of the amenities they visit or use at the Parks and Recreation Areas

The most popular facilities/amenities used at the Parks include pavilions/picnic tables, benches/seating areas, walking paths, swing sets/slides and having access to French Creek. The least popular facilities/amenities seem to be tennis and basketball courts, early childhood apparatus and other standalone apparatus.

The following provides a summary of the responses:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Picnic table	69%	90
Bench/seating area	63%	83
Walking pathway	63%	83
Pavilion	62%	81
Swing set/slide	60%	79
Access to French Creek	54%	71
Restroom/Comfort station	53%	69
Ball field	46%	60
Open space	39%	51
Basketball court	37%	49
Early childhood play equipment	31%	41
Other play equipment/apparatus	30%	39
Tennis court	15%	19

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### What Amenities/Facilities are Used –

- Picnic Tables & Pavilions, Benches/Seating areas, Walking Pathways , Swings/Slides, Access to French Creek, Open Spaces and Comfort Stations are frequently used
- Basketball & Tennis Courts and standalone play equipment are not as heavily used





## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**Overall Facility Conditions - Respondents were asked to give their overall rating of the condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor) of the facilities at the Parks.**

A summary of the responses are as follows:

- Very few responders noted that any of the Parks were in excellent condition.
- Responders noted that the facilities at Caflisch, Devereaux and First Avenue Parks were generally in good or fair condition.
- Responders noted that the facilities at Southwest Park were in poor condition.

These results highlight the need to improve maintenance at all the Parks. More focused maintenance efforts should be prioritized at the Southwest Park

Answer Options	Excellent	Good / Fair	Poor
Caflisch Park	8%	78%	11%
Devereaux Park	3%	50%	15%
First Avenue Park	6%	66%	13%
Southwest Park	1%	27%	28%

Union City Borough  
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### Facility Conditions -

- In Excellent Condition:
  - None of the Parks were rated as being in excellent condition
- In Good/Fair Condition:
  - Caflisch, First Avenue and Devereaux Parks
- In Poor Condition:
  - Southwest Park

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**Adequacy of Access/Areas, Facilities and Programs - Respondents were asked to note their agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements on access, areas, facilities and programs (i.e. playgrounds, fields, parks, trails, etc.) in the Park.**

The results reveal a need to provide better access to French Creek. The results are also clear that additional recreation facilities are needed for all ages above the pre-school age category. And the results really identify a need to increase recreation programming for all ages.

Access/Areas	Agree	Disagree
There is adequate access to the Park Areas	63%	25%
There is adequate access within the Parks	63%	21%
There are adequate open spaces	47%	35%
<b>There is adequate access to French Creek</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>47%</b>

Recreation Facilities	Agree	Disagree
There are adequate facilities for organized sports	60%	25%
There are adequate facilities for pre-school children (age 0-4)	43%	37%
<b>There are adequate facilities for school aged kids (age 5-18)</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>There are adequate facilities for young adults (age 19-29)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>There are adequate facilities for middle-aged adults (age 30-59)</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>There are adequate facilities for mature adults (age 60+)</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>59%</b>

Recreation Programs	Agree	Disagree
<b>There are adequate programs for pre-school children (age 0-4)</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>There are adequate programs for school age kids (age 5-18)</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>There are adequate programs for young adults (age 19-29)</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>There are adequate programs for middle-aged adults (age 30-59)</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>There are adequate programs for mature adults (age 60+)</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>50%</b>

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### Adequacy of Amenities/Programs

- Need better access to French Creek
- Need more recreation facilities for School Aged and Young, Middle & Mature Adults
- Need more recreation programming for all age groups





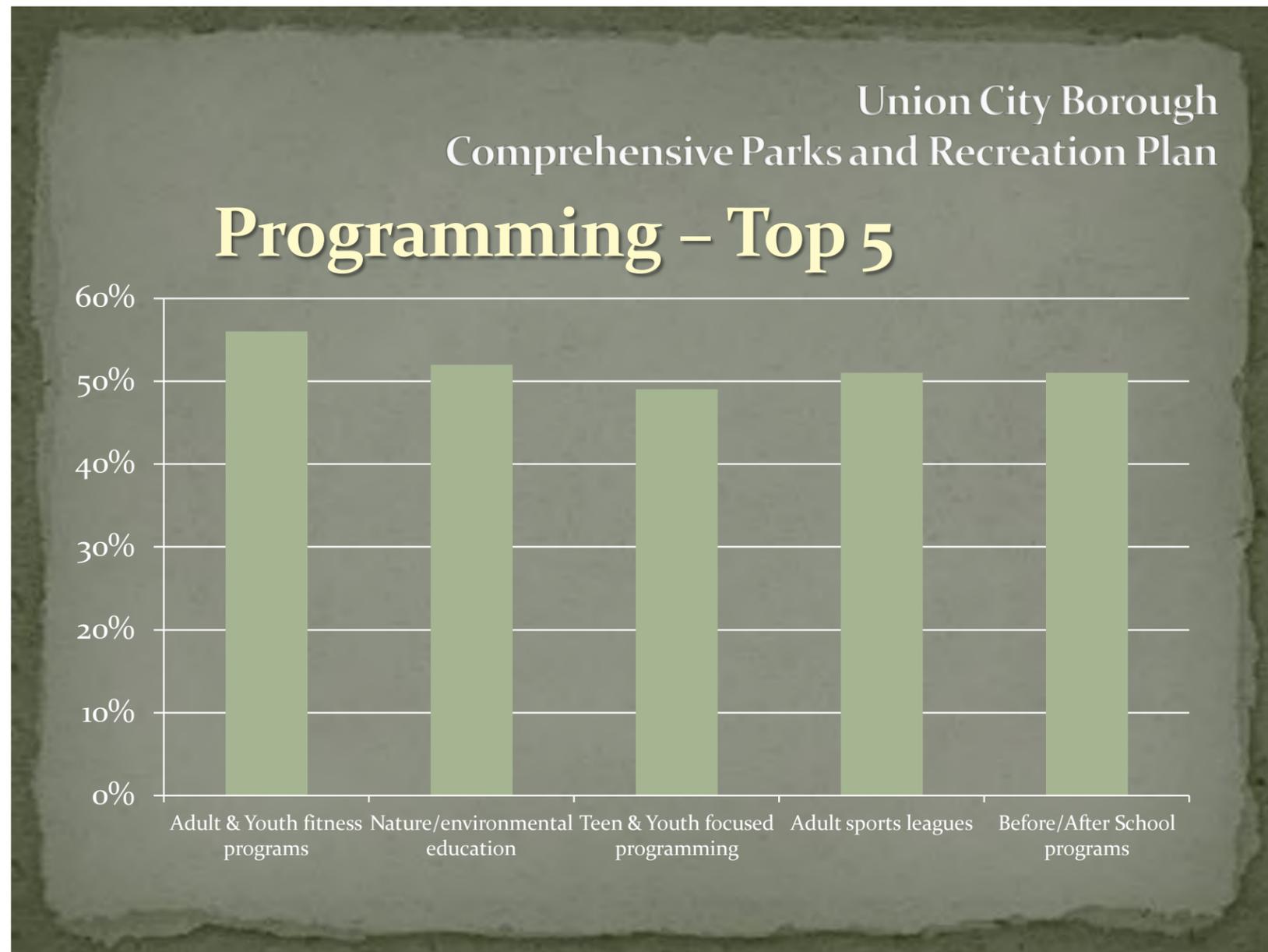



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### What Facilities do People Want - Respondents were asked to identify the types of recreation programming they feel are needed at the Parks.

As described previously, respondents expressed a real need and want for additional recreation programming and activities at the Parks. Responders were able to provide input on which specific types of recreation programming and activities are most wanted at the Parks. The top recreation programming needs include adult fitness programs, nature/environmental education, adult sports leagues and programming for teens. Other notable needs include before/after school programs, programming for senior ages, art/dance/performing arts and summer camps.

Recreation Programming	Response Percent	Response Count
Adult fitness programs	56%	74
Nature/environmental education	52%	68
Teen programming	49%	64
Youth fitness programs	48%	63
Adult sports leagues	47%	62
Before/After school programs	46%	60
Youth summer camps	45%	59
Senior oriented programs	40%	53
Pre-school programs	39%	51
Art, dance & performing arts	39%	51
Programs for persons with disabilities	32%	42
Youth sports leagues	31%	40
Martial arts	22%	29
Child care	22%	29

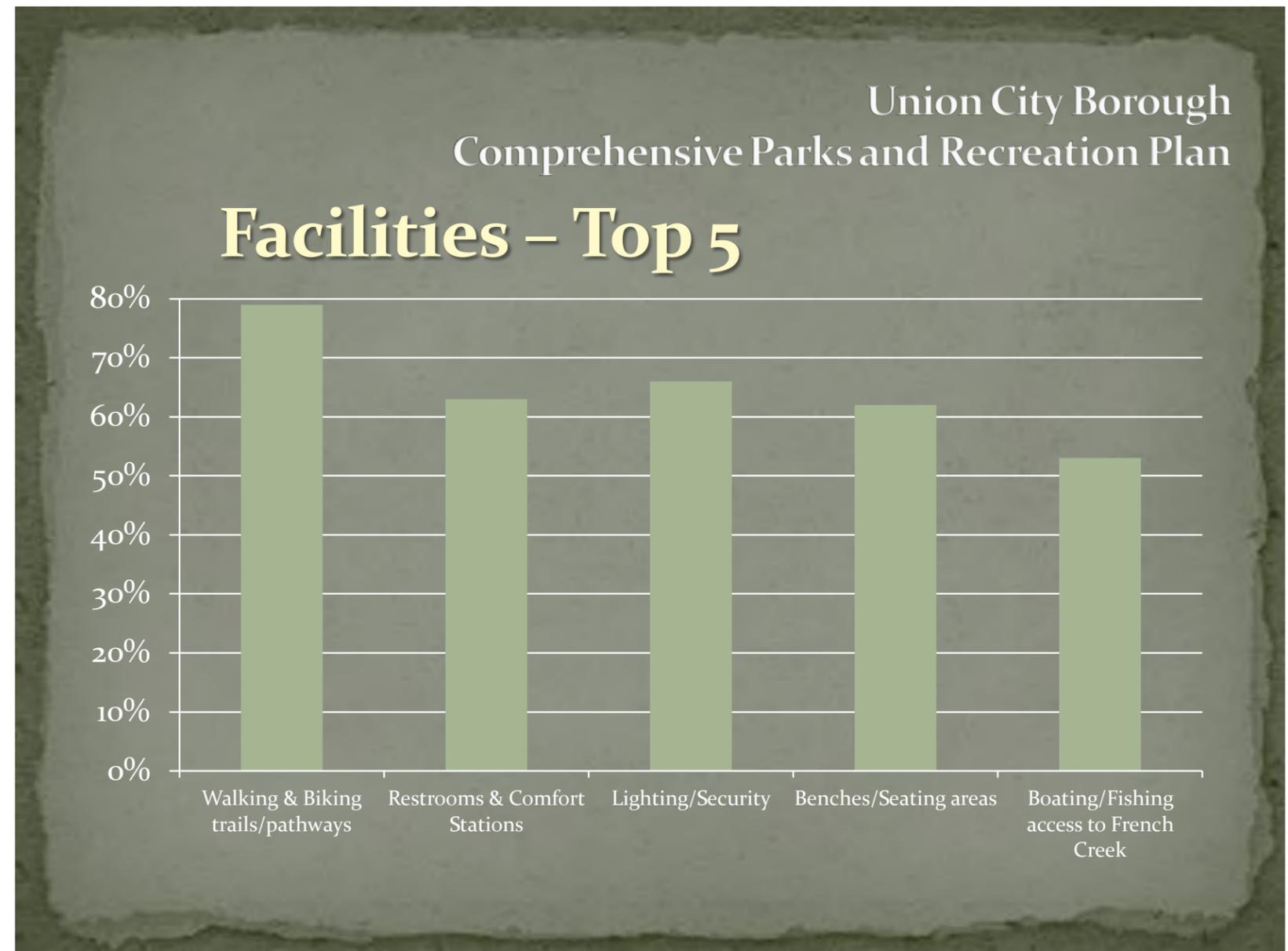


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### What Facilities do People Want - Respondents were asked to identify the types of recreation facilities they feel are needed at the Parks.

As described previously, respondents expressed a real need and want for additional recreation facilities at the Parks. Responders were able to provide input on which specific types of recreation facilities are most wanted at the Parks. The top recreation facility needs include walking and biking trails and pathways, restrooms/comfort stations, lighting and security features, benches and seating areas, equipment for younger children and more boating, fishing and passive access to French Creek. Other notable needs include equipment for children with physical limitations, a dog park and more picnic tables and public art.

Recreation Facilities	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking trails/pathways	78%	102
Biking trails/pathways	68%	89
Restrooms/Comfort stations	63%	82
Lighting/Security	62%	81
Benches/Seating areas	60%	78
Boating/Fishing access to French Creek	53%	70
Play equipment/apparatus for children with physical limitations	50%	65
Play equipment/apparatus for pre-school (0-4) & school aged children (5-18)	47%	61
Dog park	46%	60
Improved parking areas	42%	55
Passive access to French Creek	39%	51
Picnic tables	39%	51
Public art	37%	48
Natural areas/vegetation	35%	46
Picnic pavilions	34%	44
ADA/accessible facilities	32%	42
Basketball courts	31%	41
Public open space	30%	39
Skateboard park	29%	38
Concession areas	22%	29
Play fields	21%	28
In-line skating rink	19%	25
Tennis courts	15%	19
Interpretive/Directional signs	14%	18

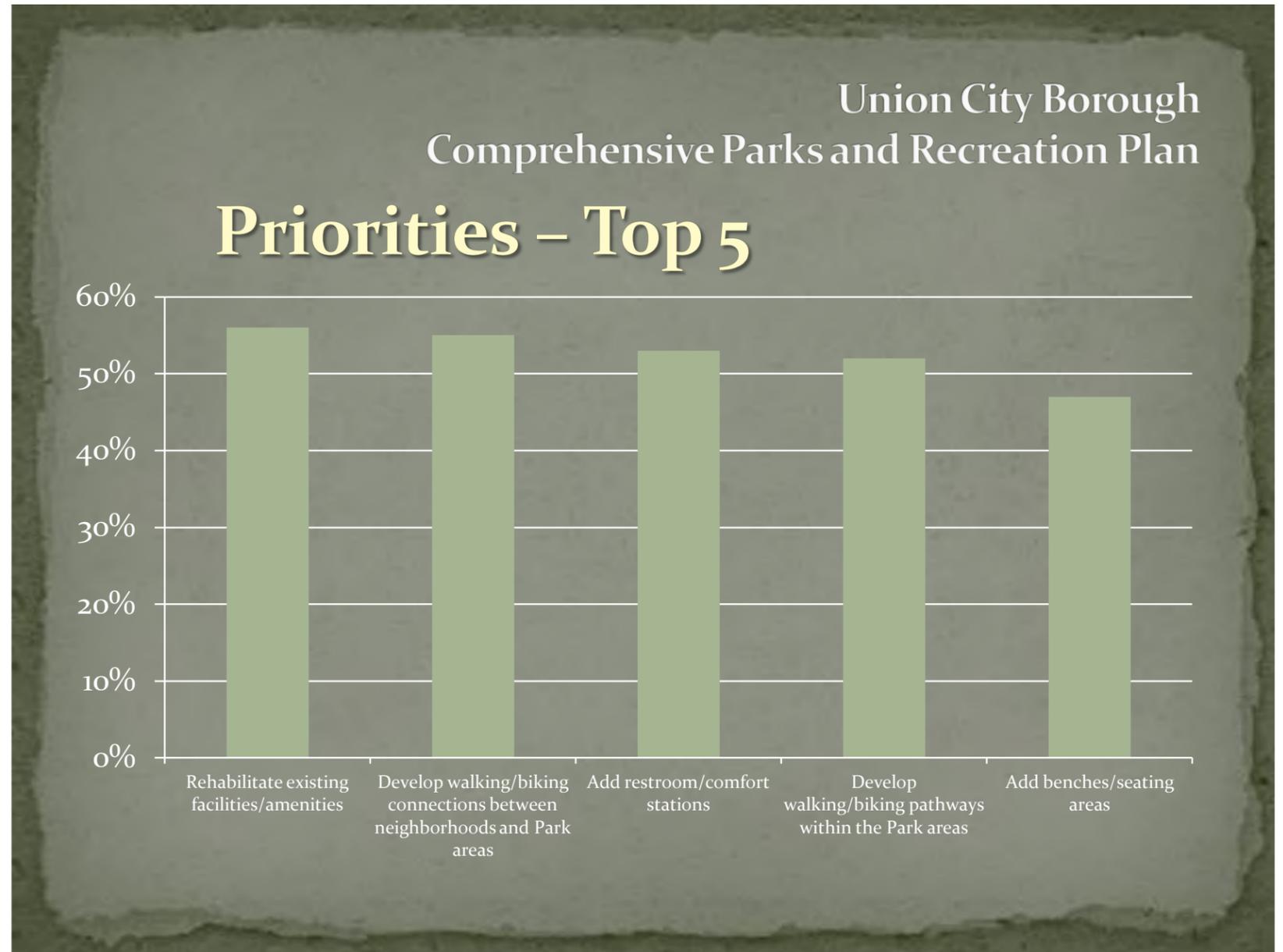


## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Future Priorities - Respondents were asked to identify future improvements for the Park and Recreation Areas

Respondents were asked to rank a series of potential improvements as a High, Medium, Low or Not a Priority. Interestingly, some of the highest ranked improvements both involved developing walking/biking connections and pathways. Also ranking as a high priority was to rehabilitate existing features and amenities, add restrooms/comfort stations and adding benches/seating areas. Other improvements recognized as a priority included improving access to French Creek, adding natural areas/vegetation, improving safety and expanding programming and activities at the Parks.

The lowest ranked improvements included adding new play fields and courts and improving signage and promotion of the Parks.



High Priorities	Response Percent	Response Count
Rehabilitate existing facilities/amenities	56%	74
Develop walking/biking connections between neighborhoods and Park areas	55%	72
Add restroom/comfort stations	53%	70
Develop walking/biking pathways within the Park areas	52%	68
Add benches/seating areas	47%	62
Add play equipment/apparatus	42%	55
Improve access to French Creek	39%	51
Improve safety	39%	51
Improve facilities/amenities for persons with disabilities	38%	50
Expand programming/activities at the Parks	38%	50
Add nature areas/vegetation	37%	48

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Open Ended Questions - Respondents were afforded the opportunity to suggest other improvements and to provide other comments and ideas related to improving the Parks and Recreation areas in Union City Borough:

The responses were highly individualized but there were a few common themes including French Creek, General Improvements, Programs/Activities and Facilities. Overall, respondents want to see more in the way of connections with French Creek, pathways and walking/biking routes and refurbishment of the Parks areas. These improvements are consistent to the responses received elsewhere in this Survey.

Suggested Improvements
<p>French Creek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat launches and fishing spots to French Creek – access from Main Street</li> <li>• Install facilities at French Creek for handicapped persons</li> <li>• Access to and along French Creek</li> <li>• Seating areas along French Creek for passive enjoyment</li> <li>• Pathways, walking and biking trails along French Creek</li> </ul>
<p>Connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide walking pathways and biking trails</li> <li>• Create a designated walking route along West High Street</li> <li>• Improve pedestrian conditions between First Avenue Park and the American Legion Ball Fields</li> <li>• Improve the parking areas at the Parks</li> </ul>
<p>Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General refurbishing and beautification of the play areas</li> <li>• Better upkeep of the Parks – trash and debris clean up</li> <li>• Complete improvements that compliment nature</li> <li>• Theme and design the Parks for different age groups – example First Avenue Park will be for preschool to 10 years old children</li> <li>• Cherry Hill Lot – community gathering place for classes and concerts</li> <li>• Additional safety fencing at Southwest and First Avenue Parks</li> </ul>
<p>Programs/Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire staff persons to run recreation programs</li> <li>• Provide equipment rental opportunities for seasonal activities</li> <li>• Environmental education programming and activities</li> <li>• Provide martial arts classes</li> </ul>
<p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fix broken and worn out equipment or replace with new</li> <li>• Incorporate baby swings at the Parks</li> <li>• Install Lighting at the basketball courts</li> <li>• More regular cleanings of restrooms / install new restrooms</li> <li>• Install more benches, seating areas and picnic tables</li> <li>• General refurbishing and beautification of the play areas</li> <li>• Create a community gardening space and native planting areas</li> <li>• Provide areas for walking dogs/dog play areas</li> </ul>

Union City Borough  
Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Notable Open-Ended Comments

- French Creek – boat launches, fishing, seating and walking trails for all users
- Connections – walking pathways, biking routes and parking areas
- Improvements – refurbishments and beautification , park themes, safety
- Programs/Activities – hire staff, rental opportunities, environmental ed. and martial arts
- Facilities – baby swings, lighting., benches, picnic tables and areas for dogs





# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

## Kick Off Meeting – January 2020

A Kick-Off meeting was held with the Borough Manager early in the planning process. This initial coordination was used to gather input on existing conditions, issues, problems and opportunities from the Borough's perspective. There is also a discussion on expectations and items that needed to have a meaningful planning process and success Plan. It also provided an opportunity to discuss forming a Steering Committee and scheduling public engagement events.

## Steering Committee Meeting – February 20, 2020

The first meeting with the Steering Committee was held in the Union City Borough Municipal Building to introduce the Recreation Plan and to educate and inform Steering Committee members on the planning process. A total of ten (10) persons signed the attendance sheet. In addition, Cindy Wells, Union City Borough Secretary-Treasurer and Tracy Frampton and Mark W. Lazzari, AICP from the EADS Group, the Planning Consultants retained to assist the Borough prepared the Plan, attended and participated in the meeting. After some initial remarks by Cindy Wells, Mark and Tracy provided an overview of the planning process, including why and how the Recreation Plan



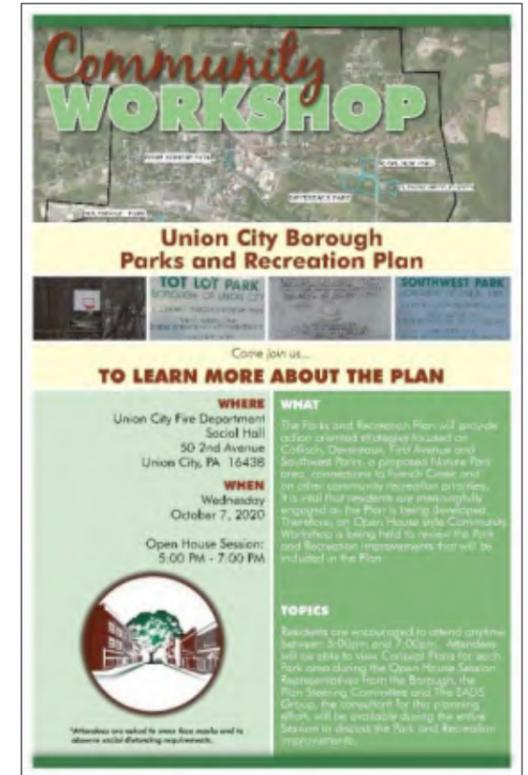
will be developed, what are the expectations of the Steering Committee and what tentative schedule will be followed to complete the Plan. Mr. Lazzari also reviewed some of the initial priorities that the Plan will address and what other participation methods will be used to gather input and feedback from Borough residents. Steering Committee members were afforded time to express their opinions on current issues, opportunities and needs, as well as strengths and weaknesses of the Parks and Recreation areas in Union City Borough. Future goals for the Parks and Recreation facilities in the Borough were also discussed. The following highlights the priorities as expressed by the Steering Committee.

## Virtual Steering Committee Meeting – July 9, 2020

A virtual meeting with the Steering Committee was held to review the Public Participation results, Early Action Items and to establish initial Plan Priorities. A total of eight (8) persons, including Cindy Wells, Union City Borough Secretary-Treasurer, and Tracy Frampton and Mark W. Lazzari, AICP from the EADS Group, participated in the meeting. After some initial remarks by Cindy Wells, Mark and Tracy provided a results overview of the Community Survey and some of the key points made at the first Steering Committee meeting. Participants discussed and provided additional reflections on the results. Mr. Lazzari also reviewed some of the initial early actions that have been accomplished. Mark and Tracy explained that they specifically addressed some of the initial priorities coming out of the planning process. Mark and Tracy then facilitated a discussion with the participants regarding priorities that the Plan will address. They expressed a need to identify realistic and achievable projects and actions that are most needed and would provide the most benefit to the Parks and to residents.

## Field Tour and Community Open House – October 7, 2020

A Field Tour was conducted with members of the Steering Committee prior to a public Open House session held in the Union City Fire Department's Social Hall. Preliminary Concept Plans for each Park were reviewed with the Committee during the Field Tour. This gave Members an opportunity to consider proposed improvements against actual conditions at each Park. It also gave Members an opportunity to revise the Concept Plans and to suggest additional improvements at each Park. It also allowed the Steering Committee to consider approaches and routes for connecting the Parks to the surrounding neighborhoods. The public Open House session was used to introduce the Parks and Recreation Plan to residents and to educate them on the purpose, goals and planning process being used to prepare the Plan. Several Borough residents attended the session. In addition, Cindy Wells, Union City Borough Secretary-Treasurer, and Tracy Frampton and Mark W. Lazzari, AICP from the EADS Group, the Planning Consultants retained to assist the Borough prepared the Plan, facilitated the meeting. Mr. Lazzari and Mr. Frampton reviewed the preliminary Concept Plans and the suggested changes made during the earlier Field Tour.



## Field Investigations

In addition to facilitating the Public engagement sessions and coordination with the Steering Committee, Mark W. Lazzari, AICP and Tracy Frampton from the EADS Group also conducted independent field investigations to observe how the Parks were being used, who was using the Parks and what facilities/amenities were being used. Mark and Tracy also used the field investigations to assess existing conditions and maintenance needs at each Park Area. Field investigations were completed prior to in-person Steering Committee meetings and community workshops. Additional investigations were completed during the summer of 2020 and fall 2021 so that typical park user and usage data could be observed.

## Steering Committee Review of Concept Plans

Steering Committee members and the Borough were provided opportunities to review various versions of the Park Improvement Concept Plans and Neighborhood Connection Concept Plans. Input from the Committee during these review sessions were used to make additional revisions to the Concept Plans. This process gave the Committee and Borough true ownership over the planning process and resulting recommendations made in this Plan.



# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

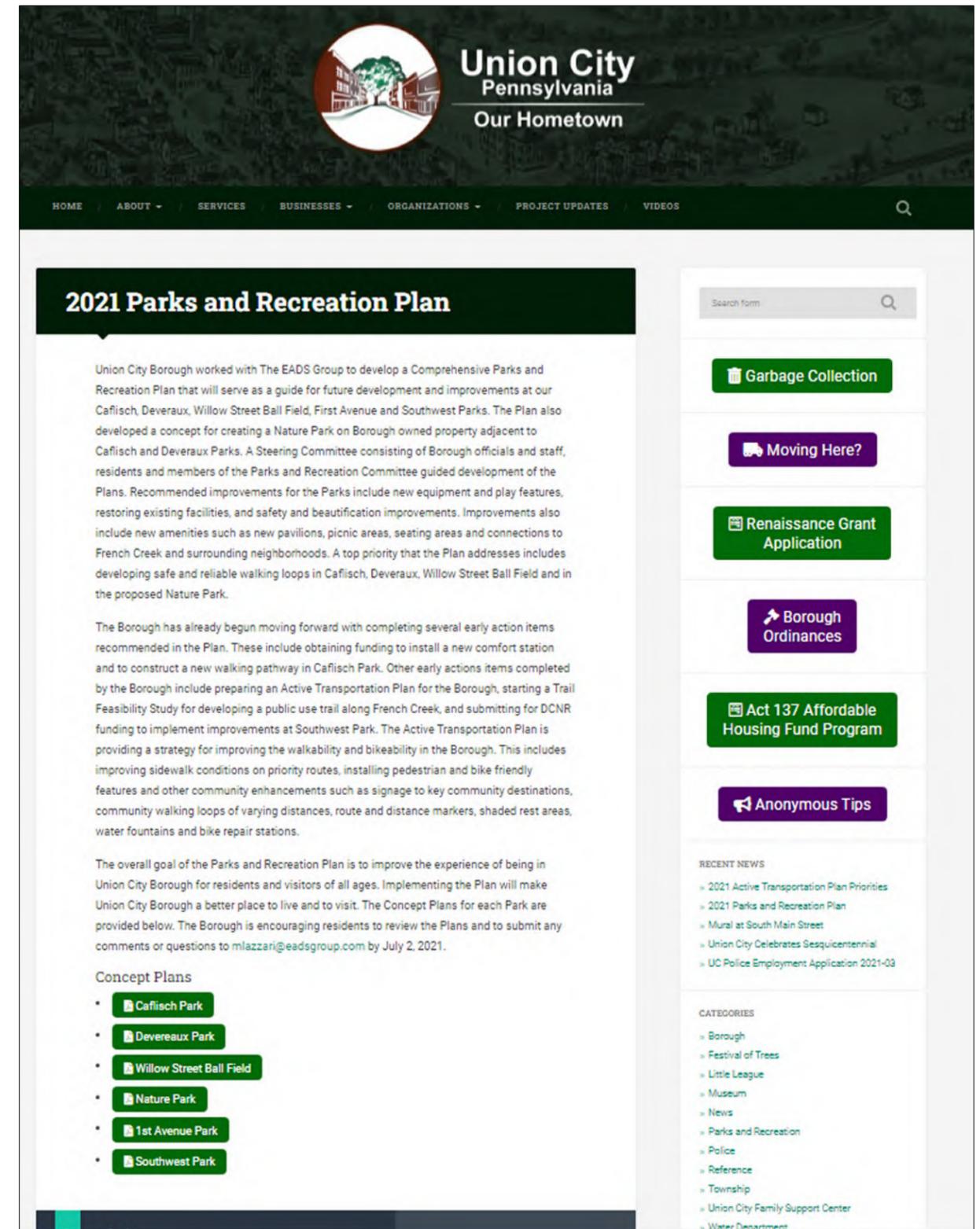
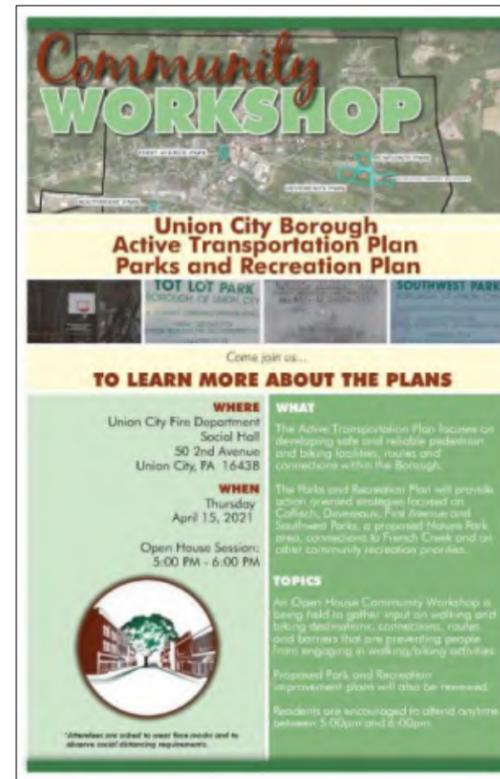
## Community Workshop – April 15, 2021

A final public Community Workshop meeting was held at the Union City Borough Fire Department's Social Hall. The Workshop was promoted using direct invitations, public advertising, poster displays and posting via social media. Some members of the Steering Committee attended in person while others participated remotely. Several residents and organization representatives also attended the meeting. Final draft improvement Concept Plans were presented and reviewed during group and one-on-one discussions. Maps highlighting important community destinations, routes and preliminary connection concepts were also reviewed with the attendees. Constructive comments and suggestions were provided by attendees. Overall, there was consensus and approval of the proposed improvements and neighborhood connection approaches.

Information from the Borough's Active Transportation Plan was also presented and reviewed with attendees. This was an effective way to educate Steering Committee members of the progress of each Plan and to gain consensus of the major recommendations included in each Plan.

## Public Review of Concept Plans

Borough residents and other stakeholder were provided with a contactless opportunity to review the Final Park improvement Concept Plans and neighborhood connection concepts included in this Plan. A summary of the planning process along with digital versions of the Concept Plans were posted on the Union City Borough website [2021 Parks and Recreation Plan | Union City, Pennsylvania \(unioncitypa.us\)](https://www.unioncitypa.us/2021-Parks-and-Recreation-Plan). The Borough posted information to their facebook site on the availability to review the Final Plans and encouraged residents to review the Plans and to submit any comments or questions to the Planning Consultants. Comments and questions received during this public review period were considered by the Steering Committee.



# SITE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Location

Union City Borough maintains five (5) public parks including Caflisch Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field, First Avenue Park and Southwest Park. The Borough owns land adjacent to Devereaux Park that is proposed as a public Nature Park. Caflisch Park, Devereaux Park and the Willow Street Ball Field are clustered together on the eastern side of the Borough and contain a new modern Comfort Station along with pavilions and picnic facilities, play courts, playground equipment and open spaces. Caflisch Park is the largest of the all the park areas and is heavily used as a gathering place for family reunions, parties and picnics. First Avenue Park is a traditional neighborhood park that contains equipment and play features designed for younger children. Southwest Park is located on the eastern side of the Borough and is primarily used by school aged children living in surrounding neighborhoods. Each Park is located on its own individual parcel. The five (5) Parks and the Nature Park total 10.38 acres.

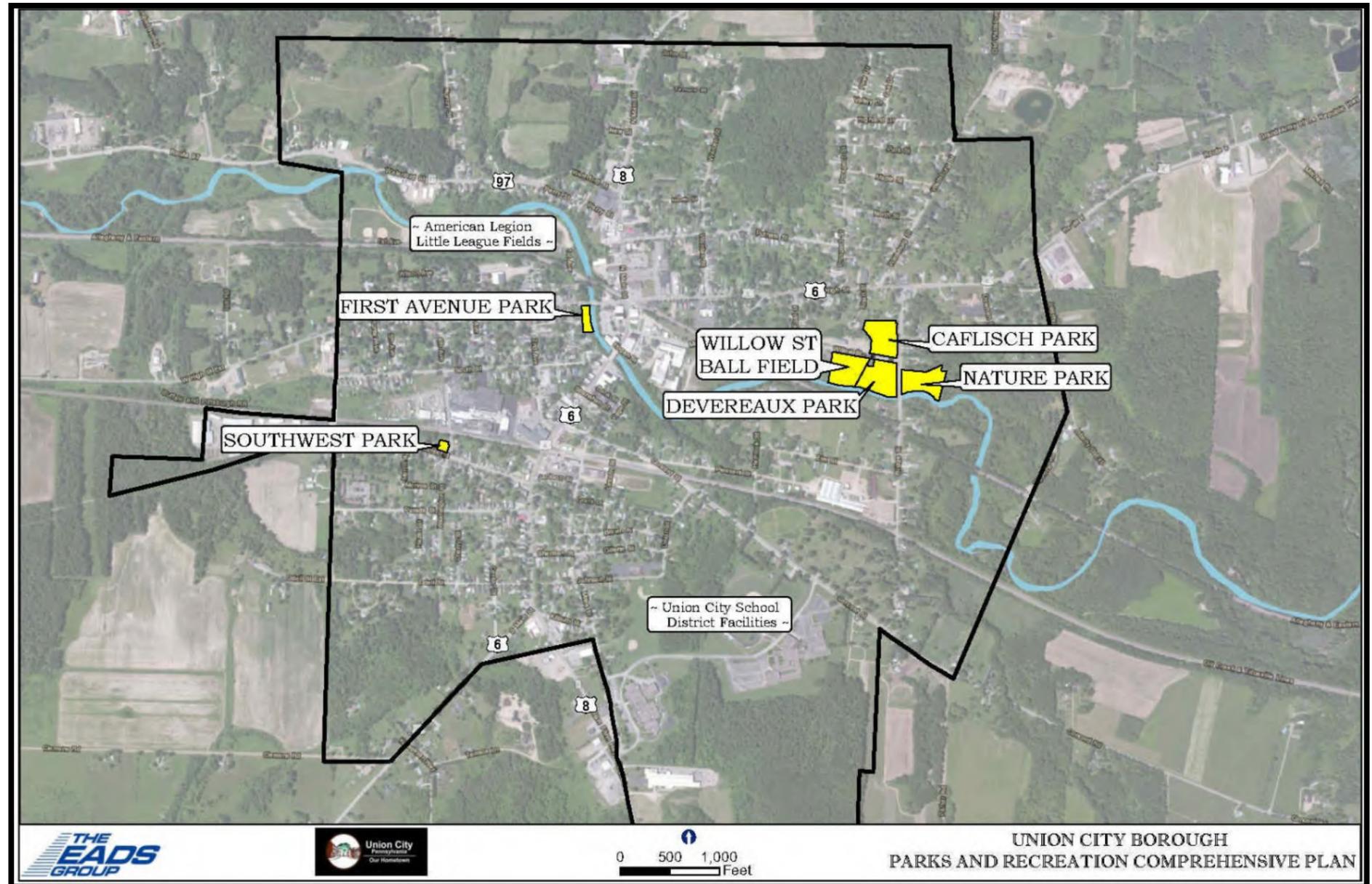
Park	Pin #	Acres
Caflisch Park	41011044001600	2.37
Devereaux Park	41011043001100	2.58
Willow Street Ball Field	41011043000900	2.36
First Avenue Park	42007023000100	0.52
Southwest Park	42009031000200	0.24
Nature Park	41012048001700	2.32

### Access

The main entrance to Caflisch Park, Devereaux Park and the Willow Street Ball Field is located off Willow Street. A parking lot is located at Caflisch Park. Access to the Nature Park area is off Bridge Street. First Avenue Park is located on First Avenue and Southwest Park is located along Atlantic St. Sidewalks are located along Willow Street, Bridge Street, Atlantic Street and First Avenue. Information on recommended sidewalk improvements in the Borough to better connect the Park areas to surrounding neighborhood is provided in the Recommendations Section.

### Development Limitations

This Site Information and Analysis section culminates in a summary of Surface Features, Topography, Surrounding Land Uses and Historic Features associated with the Park Areas. Overall, there are no major limitations that will preclude future improvements within the Parks. Only minor limitations that need to be considered in conjunction with the planning of future projects and facilities within the Parks were identified. These are described on the following page.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

- Surface Features**

The South Branch of French Creek forms the southern border of Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field and the Nature Park. Portions of these Parks are located within the Creek's floodplain. No proposed features or site development improvements that will impact the floodplain are proposed. The eastern edge of First Avenue Park abuts the step wooded stream bank of South Branch of French Creek. Erosion of this hillside is as a feature of concern at this Park. A safety fence is located on the eastern edge of the Park to protect users from the hillside. No proposed features or site development improvements that will impact the hillside or will accelerate any erosion are proposed. A recommendation is made to monitor the hillside for future erosion and to undertake a stream bank protection project as necessary. An active railroad line, although not located in the Park, is located behind the rear edge of the Southwest Park. A semi wooded buffer is located between the Park and the railroad line. The railroad line is located far enough back from the Park that it is not an immediate safety concern. A recommendation is made to add additional fencing and/or vegetation at the rear of the Park to strengthen this buffer area.

- Surrounding Land Use**

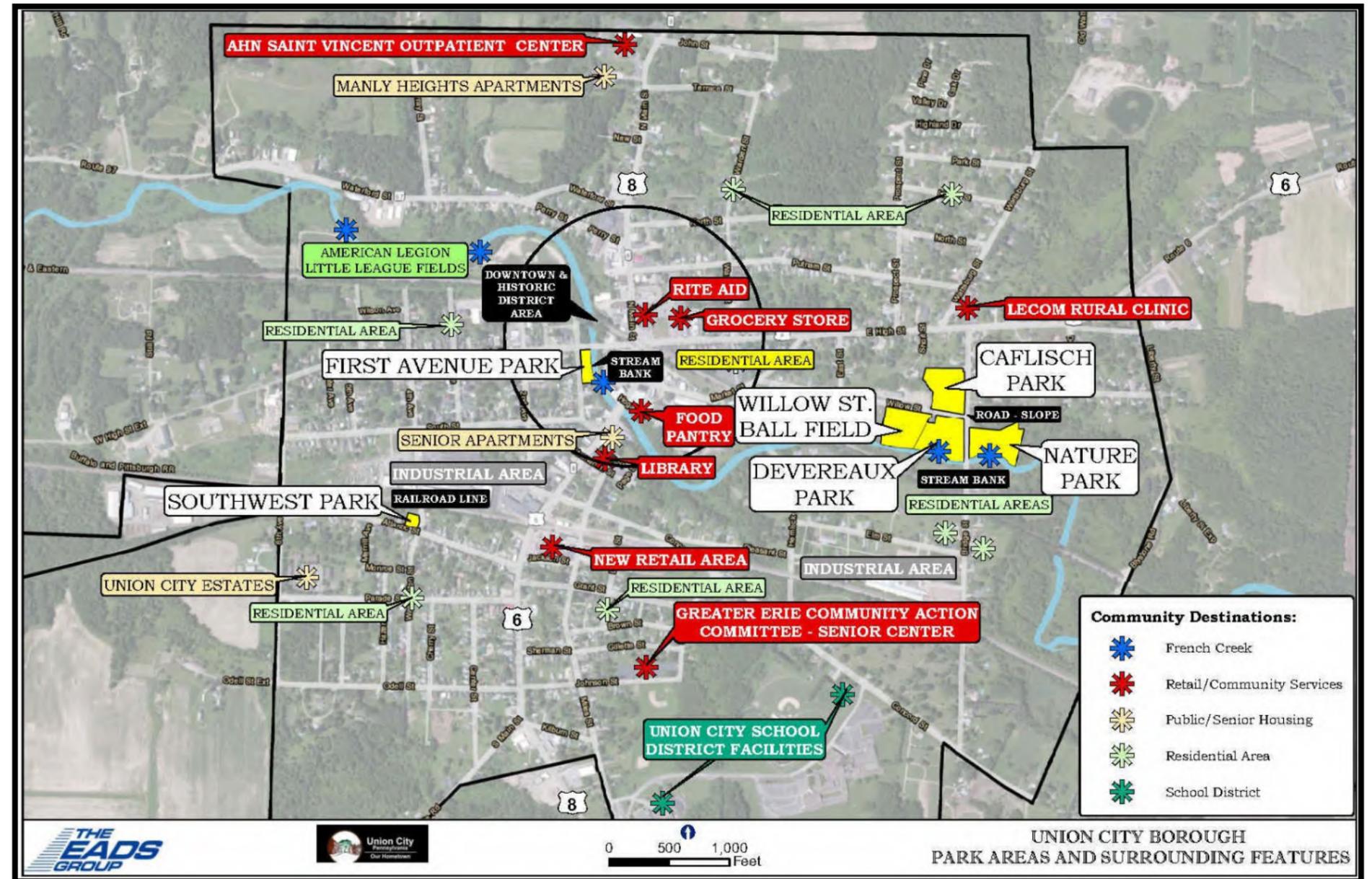
The Park Areas and Surrounding Features map to the right highlights land uses and community destinations surrounding the Parks. Southwest Park and First Avenue Parks are more traditional neighborhood Parks and are surrounded by residential areas and local roads. First Avenue Park is also located close to the downtown area in the Borough. There is also an industrial area located within eyesight of Southwest Park. Caflich Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field and the Nature Park are also located near residential areas, although to lesser extent than First Avenue Park and Southwest Park.

- Topography**

The Park areas are located on generally flat land. Some surface undulations were noted at Caflich Park and Devereaux Park. Caflich Park and Devereaux Park are also located adjacent to Bridge Street which is located at a slightly higher elevation. Therefore, there is a natural road slope in portions of the Parks that are immediately adjacent to Bridge Street. As noted previously, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field and the Nature Park are located adjacent to the stream bank of the South Branch of French Creek.

- Historic Features**

There are no known historic features located in the Parks that require preservation or special consideration during future improvement activities. First Avenue Park is located within the Borough Historic district. Caflich Park was built in 1967 in the memory of the late Albert L Caflich, a pioneer lumberman and citizen of Union City Borough.



# ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ANALYSIS

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

The following section provides an inventory and analysis of existing recreational facilities and amenities within the Parks and the types of park improvements, programming and connections proposed for the Parks. The information provided reflects an examination of the types of recreation choices (Active or Passive) provided at the Parks and those proposed for the Park. This type of evaluation provided the Steering Committee with a better understanding of how the Parks are currently providing recreation opportunities and how the proposed improvements will allow the Parks to offer a wider range of recreation opportunities moving forward.

### Park Usage

Cafilisch Park and Devereaux Park are the most heavily used Parks in the Borough. Cafilisch Park attracts local and regional families and different groups for reunions, meetings and social gatherings. Older residents also use the Park as a safe place to walk. Devereaux Park includes play courts and open spaces that attracts mainly residents. First Avenue Park and Southwest Parks are more traditional neighborhood parks. First Avenue Park was originally designed as a Tot Park and contains equipment and play features that attracts younger children and families. Southwest Park is slightly larger than First Avenue Park and contains more play equipment designed for school aged children living in surrounding neighborhoods. Southwest Park is the least used Park in the Borough.

### Existing Passive and Active Recreation Opportunities and Future Improvements

Borough residents and other Park users want the Parks to collectively provide a mix of passive and active forms of recreation. There is also a desire to have each Park themed towards its intended use and to have future improvements focused on improving how they serve different types of users and different types of uses. Having each Park better serve their intended purpose will collectively improve the recreation opportunities in the Borough.

Park	Park Type	Intended Usage and Users	Future Improvements
Cafilisch Park	Active Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents and regional visitors</li> <li>Adults and children of all ages</li> <li>As a safe walking space and place for reunions, picnics, events and programs</li> </ul>	Should reinforce its use as an active recreation area that provides safe walking opportunities, play equipment and open space play areas and place for reunions, gatherings, a scheduled event/program/function or a private picnic
Devereaux Park	Active Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents and regional visitors</li> <li>Adults and older children</li> <li>As a place to play organized games (i.e. basketball) and open space games.</li> <li>As a future safe walking space and place for smaller gatherings, picnics, events and programs.</li> <li>As a future space for observing and enjoying the South Branch of French Creek</li> </ul>	Should reinforce its use as an active recreation area that provides play courts and open space play areas. The Park should better compliment Cafilisch Park by providing additional pavilions, picnic areas and seating areas. The Park should also embrace its location along the South Branch of French Creek
Willow Street Ball Field	Active Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents</li> <li>Adults and older children</li> <li>As a place to play non-league organized games (i.e. baseball &amp; softball) and open space games.</li> <li>As a future safe walking space and place for observing and enjoying the South Branch of French Creek</li> </ul>	Improvements to the existing ball field facilities and other site improvements will solidify the Park area as a baseball/softball practice field and play area.
First Avenue Park	Passive Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents</li> <li>Families and younger children</li> <li>As a safe space for parents, grandparents and guardians to gather with each other and to bring their younger children to play.</li> </ul>	Although this Park does feature equipment for active play, it is intended to be used by families with younger children. Therefore, its appeal as a slower paced, protected space, where younger families can meet together to sit and watch their children play should be reinforced by future improvements
Southwest Park	Passive Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents</li> <li>Families and mid-aged children</li> <li>As a community beautification area and neighborhood asset</li> <li>As a play space for neighborhood children</li> </ul>	Like First Avenue Park, the intent of Southwest Park is that it is used as a gathering spot for school aged children and their families. Compared to Cafilisch Park and Devereaux Park, Southwest Park should take on a more relaxed and calm space. Future improvements should feature seating areas, a pavilion and vegetation to make this a better community space and neighborhood asset.
Nature Park	Passive Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough residents and regional visitors</li> <li>Adults, families and children of all ages</li> <li>A calm space and place to directly interact with the South Branch of French Creek</li> </ul>	The space will need to be developed into a Nature Park. Improvements should feature a parking area, natural trails, a central pavilion for activities and direct connections to the South Branch of French Creek.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Park Description and Facility Conditions

The following further describes existing conditions at each Park and provides information on the overall condition of their facilities and amenities.

Description / Condition	Photos			
<p><b><i>Caflisch Park –</i></b></p> <p>The Parks contains pavilions, picnic tables, grills and trash receptables, playground equipment (climbing, swinging and sliding apparatus) and open spaces. A 5-wide concrete loop walking path and new restroom comfort station are also located in the Park. A paved parking lot is also provided at the Park. Minimal lighting is also provided in the Park.</p> <p>Condition: Respondents to the Community Survey report that the facilities in the Park are generally in good to fair condition.</p>				
<p><b><i>Devereaux Park -</i></b></p> <p>The Park features a basketball court, a tennis court and open space play areas. The entire southern edge of the Park is along the South Branch of French Creek. Minimal lighting is also provided in the Park.</p> <p>Condition: Respondents to the Community Survey report that the facilities in the Park are generally in good to fair condition.</p>				
<p><b><i>Willow Street Ball Field -</i></b></p> <p>The primary feature at the Park area is a community baseball field with dugout seating areas and a back stop.</p> <p>Condition: Respondents to the Community Survey report that the facilities in the Park are generally in fair condition.</p>				

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

Facility Description	Photo			
<p><b>First Avenue Park -</b></p> <p>This Park was originally designed a Tot Park and includes picnic tables, benches and play equipment intended for younger children. The Park also has lighting.</p> <p>Condition: Respondents to the Community Survey report that the facilities in the Park are generally in good to fair condition.</p>				
<p><b>Southwest Park –</b></p> <p>Older style play equipment including swings, a merry-go-round and a teeter-totter are provided in the Park. There is also a flat paved surface once used for basketball. Minimum lighting is provided in the Park.</p> <p>Condition: Respondents to the Community Survey report that the facilities in the Park are in poor condition.</p>				
<p><b>Nature Park -</b></p> <p>Condition: No condition rating is assigned to this Park because it is not yet developed.</p>				

# **RECREATION PRIORITIES**

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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The following section highlights Union City Borough's top recreation priorities. These priorities included Recreation Priorities; Park Improvements Priorities; Maintenance Priorities; Connection Priorities; and Programming Priorities. The Steering Committee used the information obtained from the Community Survey, Community Workshops and from their own understanding of recreation needs in the Borough to develop the following recreation priorities.

### Recreation Improvement Priorities

The following reflects a set of initial recreation improvement ideas identified by the Steering Committee. Guidance from the Borough, Steering Committee and from the Planning Consultants help to evolve these ideas into recommendations included in Section 7.0 Recommendations.

- Theme and design the Parks for different age groups – example First Avenue Park will be for preschool to 10 years old children
- Add additional safety fencing at Southwest and First Avenue Parks
- Add lighting to improve security at each Park
- Open grass spaces at Caflich Park are uneven in several locations. This impedes their use as a recreation amenity. Develop a project to level out the open spaces could be an early action item of the Plan
- It was suggested that installing Community Garden plots and/or Pollinator Gardens would improve the overall attractiveness and usefulness of the Parks
- Southwest Park is the least used Park because most of its equipment is outdated and needs refurbishing. Emphasis should be placed on improving this Park to make it a neighborhood amenity. It was suggested that introducing public art, such as locally themed murals, into the Parks would help to connect the Parks to the community and will help with improving the overall visual quality of the Parks
- Add picnic tables and pavilions at Caflich and Devereaux Parks - It was suggested that installing smaller single use pavilions would attract additional types of users
- Add play equipment/apparatus for children with physical limitations, pre-school (0-4) (baby swings) & school aged children (5-18)
- Install Lighting at the basketball courts
- Install more benches, seating areas and picnic tables
- General refurbishing and beautification of the play areas
- Add Comfort station to serve Caflich and Devereaux Parks - Updating the restroom facilities at Caflich Park is a priority.
- There was consensus that developing a parking area, nature park and nature trails on the property owned by the Borough is a priority
- The future use of the undeveloped ball field at Devereaux Park should be addressed. It was suggested it could be used as a T-ball field or could be the site of a Miracle Field and used by children having mental and physical disabilities. It was also noted that installing vegetative screening at the far end of the field near the residential area to define the extent of the field area could be an early action item of the Plan
- Selling naming rights to the Parks was thought to be an acceptable way to obtain additional revenues for Park improvements. It was suggested that the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) and other area health care providers could be approached regarding naming rights.
- Cherry Hill Lot – community gathering place for classes and concerts
- Installing a Roller Hockey facility was suggested to attract different users to the Parks.
- It was noted that the large pavilions at the Parks are well used. It was suggested that installing smaller single use pavilions would attract additional types of users.
- It was suggested that introducing public art, such as locally themed murals, into the Parks would help to connect the Parks to the community and will help with improving the overall visual quality of the Parks.
- Add Benches/Seating areas - The Union City School District Bear Mascot is a symbol of community pride. It was suggested that the Bear image could be introduced in the Parks. An example is to incorporate the Bear's likeness into new Park benches.
- There was consensus that more benches and seating areas are needed in all the Parks. Installing seating areas with views of French Creek is a priority.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Park Improvement Priorities

The next step in the priority development process was to incorporate the Recreation Improvement Priorities described above into improvement plans for each Park. The following describes the improvements recommended by the Steering Committee for each Park. These Park improvements are reflected on the Park Improvement Concept Plans included in Section 7.0 Recommendations.

<b>Caflisch Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace existing restroom with a new Comfort station to serve Caflisch and Devereaux Parks</li> <li>• Refurbish the two (2) existing large pavilions</li> <li>• Install lighting – for security purposes – in the Park. Focus is on lighting existing facilities. Hard wired or solar options to be proposed.</li> <li>• Play Equipment -             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus on replacing existing equipment with new</li> <li>▪ Install additional toddler aged equipment/apparatus</li> <li>▪ Install proper safety surfaces (material and heights) around each play equipment/apparatus – example – the end of the slide at Caflisch Park needs adjusted or adding safety surfacing is needed to accommodate younger users – the drop is too large</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify walking and biking pathways connecting the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods <i>(PA WalkWorks Grant awarded to prepare an Active Transportation Plan).</i></li> <li>• Potential Disc Golf Course</li> </ul>
<b>Devereaux Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riparian Project:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selectively remove trees and overgrown scrub shrubs – replaced with low maintenance native plants, trees and shrubs – goal is to open up views of French Creek from within the Park</li> <li>▪ Include a fishing spot(s) to the Creek - should be an ADA facility and ADA accessible - as possible</li> <li>▪ Seating area(s) with views of French Creek and its tributary Bently Run - for passive enjoyment is a priority – depending on elevations and flood boundaries, this may need to be an elevated platform or boardwalk along the edge of the French Creek</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Install an ADA walking pathway through the Park – similar in specification to the on-going project at Caflisch Park - Alignment of walking path should take users near French Creek and Bently Run the adjacent tributary stream             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install two (2) crosswalks across Willow Street (near each end of the parking lot) to connect the ADA walkway loops and to the comfort station in Caflisch Park - to create a large walking loop option</li> <li>▪ Goal is to make Caflisch and Devereaux Parks the safe walking destination in the Borough</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Basketball and Tennis Courts – It was suggested that the tennis and basketball court surfaces, fencing and lighting be improved to accommodate recreation programming uses. Stabilize fencing and surfacing to allow them to be used for their primary use and for other multi-use facilities - Pickleball court – youth tennis – roller blading             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition to the above, add lighting to allow them to be used as places for outdoor programming locations – fitness classes, art classes, and education-based classes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Install (3-4) single use pavilions (rentable) with picnic tables – access to each should be provided from the new ADA walking path</li> <li>• Provide access from the sidewalk to the bike rack area</li> <li>• Install low maintenance vegetation areas and Pollinator Gardens to improve the overall attractiveness and usefulness of the Park</li> <li>• Replace the existing pedestrian Bridge over Bently Run between the sections of Devereaux Park should be addressed. It could be stabilized and refurbished with safety improvements</li> <li>• Install lighting – for security purposes – in the Park. Focus is on lighting existing facilities. Hard wired or solar options to be proposed</li> <li>• Identify walking and biking pathways connecting the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods</li> </ul>
<b>Willow Street Ball Field</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Field Project:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements should allow this area to be used and available for open play opportunities. Perhaps a multi-use field configuration</li> <li>▪ Creating a Miracle Field was suggested</li> <li>▪ Install vegetative border at the far end of the field near the residential area to define the extent of the field area could be an early action item of the Plan</li> <li>▪ Potential Disc Golf Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

<p><b>First Avenue Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install downward focused lighting that will not be a nuisance to surrounding residential area – for safety purposes – in the Park. Hard wired or solar options to be proposed.</li> <li>• Install Bike Racks.</li> <li>• Replace spring riding equipment with new</li> <li>• Install manufactured rock-climbing features</li> <li>• Install Playable instrument area</li> <li>• Add to the existing wood chip surfaces around each play equipment/apparatus.</li> <li>• Install additional benches/seating areas.</li> <li>• Refurbish or replace existing fencing along Creek bank or install additional safety features along this fence.</li> <li>• Identify walking and biking pathways connecting the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Southwest Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install a small sheltered seating area in the grass area near entrance</li> <li>• Install other benches/seating areas throughout the Park</li> <li>• Add proper safety surfaces around each play equipment/apparatus.</li> <li>• Replace existing play equipment/apparatus with new</li> <li>• Install manufactured rock-climbing features</li> <li>• Install downward focused lighting that will not be a nuisance to surrounding residential area – for safety purposes – in the Park. Hard wired or solar options to be proposed.</li> <li>• Extend sidewalk along Atlantic Street and Install Bike Racks.</li> <li>• Clean up existing car pull up area along Atlantic Street – designate parking area with sidewalk along Atlantic Street.</li> <li>• Install decorative or painted fencing with vegetative border system around the back side of park area – to define the Park area, safety purposes and to improve visual quality. Fencing should double as a community art project.</li> <li>• Repaint existing concrete barriers along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.</li> <li>• Install community garden and vegetation areas within the Park.</li> <li>• Install Trees throughout the Park area to improve the visual quality.</li> <li>• Utilize existing asphalt pad – stabilized existing surface and expand – potential spot for outdoor programming.</li> <li>• Identify walking and biking pathways connecting the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nature Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new Entrance area off Bridge Street.</li> <li>• Construct Parking areas in front cleared area</li> <li>• Boat launch (for carry in Kayaks/Canoes) and a fishing spot(s) to French Creek – boat launch and fishing spot should be ADA facilities and ADA accessible - as possible.</li> <li>• Seating areas with views of French Creek for passive enjoyment is a priority.</li> <li>• Provide seating areas with views of French Creek for passive enjoyment create an access point and primitive beach area for a local wading/swimming feature.</li> <li>• Show layout for several nature trail loops – primitive hiking trails</li> <li>• Show location for a centralized shelter             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential Disc Golf Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

## Maintenance Priorities

Well maintained Parks will enhance a user's experience which will lead to good word of mouth promotion and increased usage levels which will ultimately increase each Park's positive impact on the Borough and surrounding region. Overall, very few responders to the Community Survey noted that any of the Parks were in excellent condition. Responders noted that the facilities at Caflisch, Devereaux and First Avenue Parks were generally in good or fair condition. Responders also noted that the facilities at Southwest Park were in poor condition. These results highlight the need to improve maintenance at all the Park. Comments made in the Community Survey and input by members of the Steering Committee helped to identify the following maintenance priorities:

- Improve maintenance at all Parks - Southwest Park has the highest need
- General refurbishing, beautification, trash and debris cleanup of the play areas
- More regular cleanings of the restroom in Caflisch Park
- Eliminating unsafe and unsightly conditions
- Limiting negative visual impacts the Parks have on the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Reducing inconveniences for Park users
- Ensuring proper functioning of the Park facilities and amenities
- Trash and Debris - this includes picking up and removing trash and debris found within the Parks and within reason, in areas adjacent to the Park areas that are visible to users. It is recommended that volunteer based clean up days be held at the Parks to support and assist Borough personnel.
- Maintaining safety surfaces around play equipment. Activities can range from routine inspection to periodic grading to spot surface repairs to entire resurfacing efforts. Activities also include stabilizing surfaces after a major washout event or anything else that creates an immediate unsafe condition.
- Fix broken and worn out equipment or replace with new
- The existing pedestrian Bridge over Bently Run between the sections of Devereaux Park should be addressed. It could be stabilized and refurbished with safety improvements.
- Vegetation - this includes mowing and weed whacking as necessary the grass areas in each Park. Cutting and pruning trees and tree limbs in areas along the South Branch of French Creek will allow more unobstructed view of the Creek and will generally improve the visual appeal in each Park. Activities also include being prepared to address emergency situations such as immediately removing a felled tree limb.
- Structures – maintaining the condition of pavilions, picnic tables, signage, fencing and benches is a priority. These structures will need to be inspected and repaired as required. Activities will range from routine inspection of the structures to periodic repair and replacement.
- Equipment - It is recommended that Union City Borough evaluate their available maintenance equipment and vehicle fleet and determine what additional equipment they will need to acquire to address the future maintenance needs at the Parks.

## Connection Priorities

Union City Borough residents want to see more in the way of connections with French Creek, walking/biking routes and pathways within the Parks and between the Parks and surrounding neighborhoods. Specific responses received in the Community Survey highlight these community needs:

### Park Connections:

- Develop walking/biking connections between neighborhoods and the Parks
- Installing walking loops in each of the Parks
- Improve connections between First Avenue Park and the American Legion Ball Fields
- Improve the parking areas at each Park
- Provide more walking pathways and biking trails
- Create a designated walking route along West High Street

### French Creek Connections:

- Creating a local use trail along French Creek with access points is a priority.
- Need better access to French Creek
- Boat launches and fishing spots to French Creek – at the Borough owned property access, from the Main Street parking areas & at the Legion Ballfields
- Install facilities at French Creek for handicapped persons
- Seating areas with views of French Creek for passive enjoyment is a priority

## Programming Priorities

Union City Borough residents want to see more in the way of recreation and activity programming at the Parks. The following input on programming was received in the Community Survey. Steering Committee members agreed that these types of programming and activities are important. However, they suggested facility improvements should be completed first so that adequate facilities and areas are provided that can adequately host recreation and activity programming.

- Hire staff persons to run recreation programs
- Provide equipment rental opportunities for seasonal activities
- Environmental education programming and activities
- Provide martial arts classes
- Provide Youth and Adult Fitness classes
- Provide teen programming

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

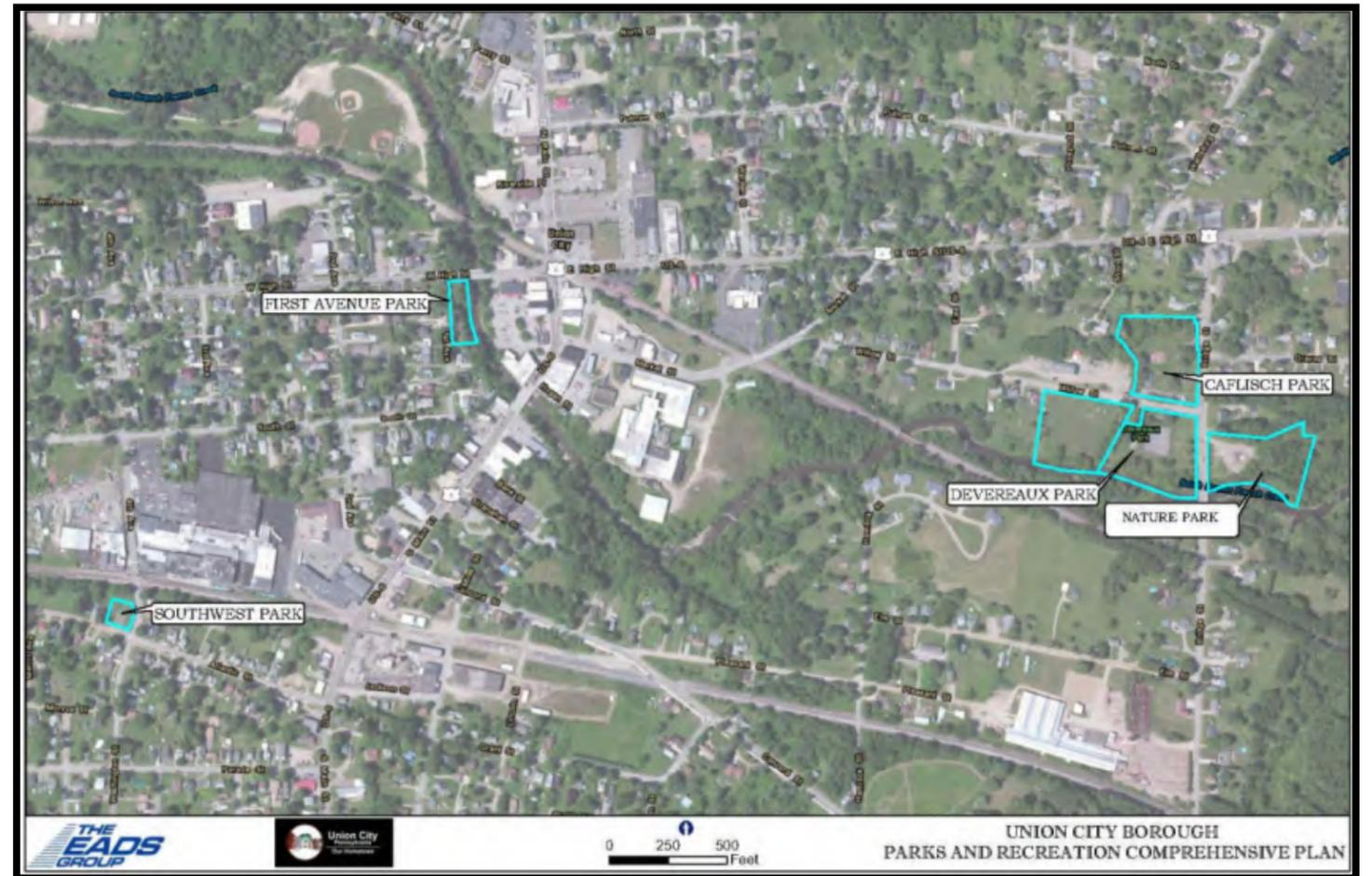
## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

The Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan represents the community's vision for improving the Borough's five (5) existing Parks, creating a new Nature Park and for providing safe and reliable walking and biking opportunities that will improve public health, create valuable community and economic assets and offer quality-of-life benefits to residents and visitors.

The following sections provides an overview of the recommended improvements for Caflich Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field, First Avenue Park and Southwest Park. It also provides guidance for how the community wants a proposed Nature Park to be developed. Conceptual drawings and descriptions that highlight the recommended improvements in each Park and the Nature Park is provided. Estimates of Probable Costs associated with completing the recommended improvements is also provided.

This section also provides Conceptual mapping and descriptions of Connection Priorities that will improve recreational walking and biking opportunities in Union City Borough. These Connection Priorities include the following:

1. **Designated Priority Routes** – identify important community destinations and priority routes that connect residents and visitors with places in the community.
2. **Walkability Improvement Priorities** – identify segments along priority routes that need improvements. Improvements include installing new sidewalks to eliminate sidewalk gaps, completing rehabilitation of existing sidewalks and installing new pedestrian crosswalks.
3. **Community Walking Loop Priorities** – designating community walking loops is a low cost method of creating a recognizable community asset that will help establish Union City Borough as a walkable community, will help encourage residents to engage in this type of physical activity and will help to connect residents and visitors to important community destinations.
4. **Pedestrian and Bike Amenity Priorities** – these include facilities, signage and information kiosks, mapping and other cues that provide directional information, visual improvements and other non-transportation specific community enhancements that will improve the atmosphere and conditions within the Borough that will ultimately encourage and help residents and visitors to actively move around the community.

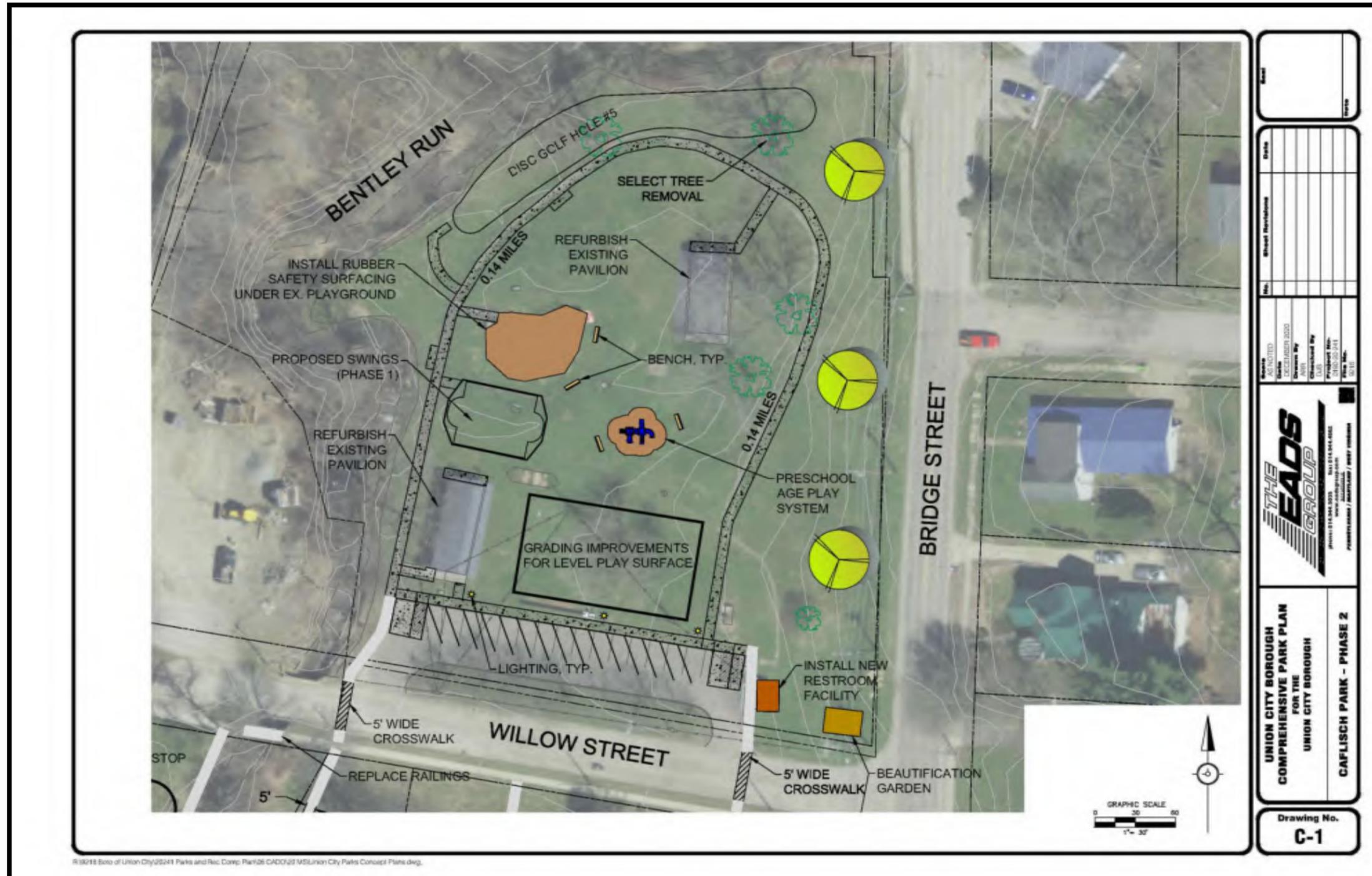


Also provided is a summary of Early Actions Items that have been completed and/or started as a result out of the planning process for this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. This information is included to further highlight the value and benefit of preparing this type of recreation Plan.

It is emphasized here that the implementation of specific Improvement and Connection projects will need to consider the requirements and funding limits for each potential source of funding. Completing a project in phases and/or adjusting the type of improvement to align with available funding will need to be completed. It is also emphasized that the provided Conceptual Drawings and Estimates of Probable Costs anticipate that Union City Borough will contract out all phases of construction. Union City Borough will be able to reduce project costs significantly by using Borough staff or volunteer groups to construct all or a portion of a project. Volunteer labor can also be coupled with Borough oversight to accomplish certain development tasks. Various scouting groups, religious and business volunteer groups and other organizations can assist the Borough with completing the recommended improvements.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**CAFLISCH PARK** - The improvement recommendations for Caflich Park are designed to improve and expand existing facilities and amenities to enhance the Park as a safe walking and play area. The improvements are also designed to enhance the Park as a destination place for larger gatherings, picnics and events. The conceptual map below highlights the recommended improvements. The proposed improvements compliment and in some cases, incorporate, improvements recently completed as part of a Phase 1 improvement project in the Park. A highlighted improvement is a project to level out a larger open space play area near the large pavilion. The project will increase open space play opportunities in the Park. Beautification gardens are also proposed to improve the visual appeal of the Park. One (1) of the nine (9) disc golf holes will also be installed in the Park area. Also shown is the location of a new restroom comfort station that was recently installed using previously obtained DCNR funding. An opinion of probable cost is provided on the following page.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

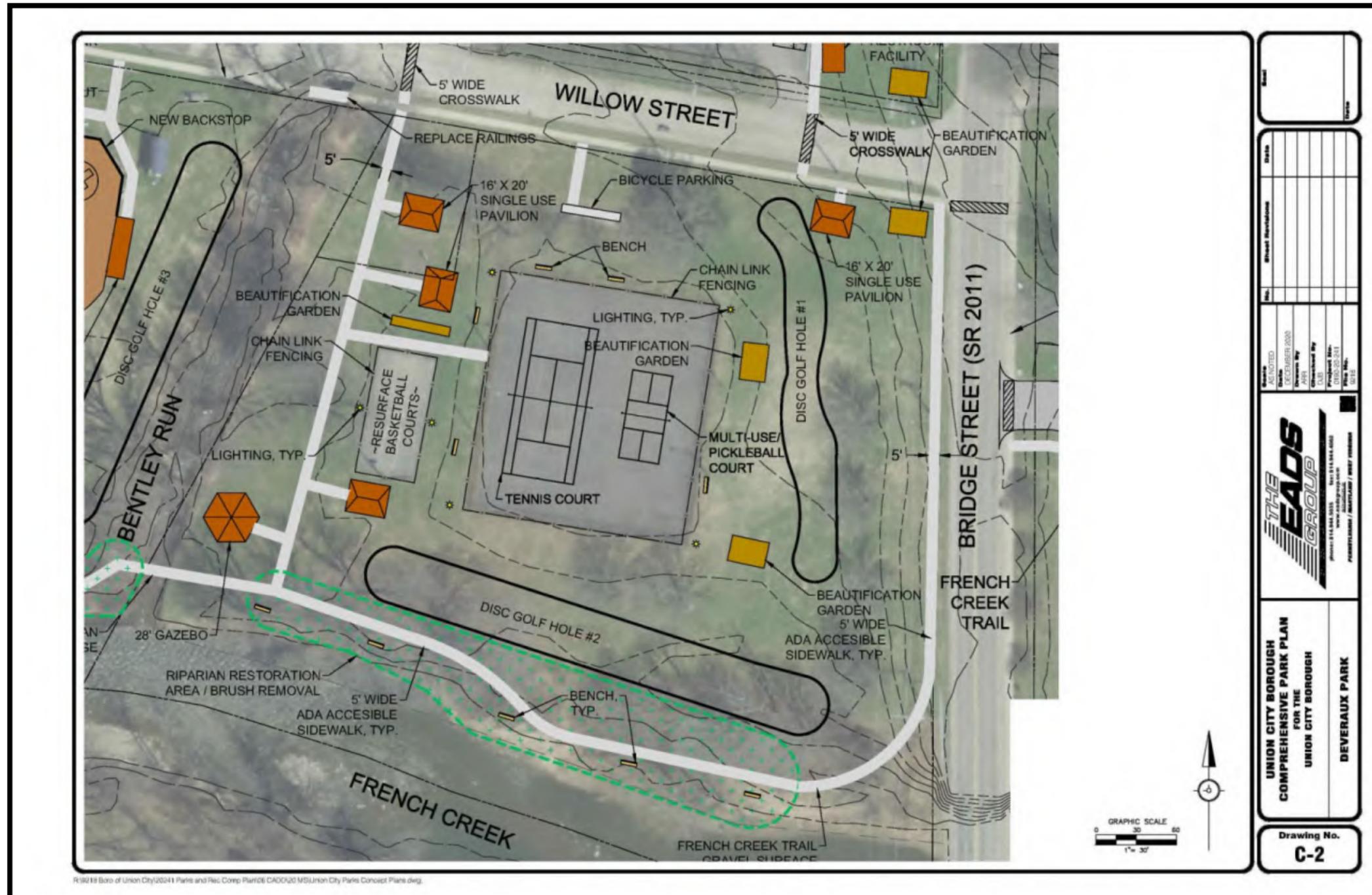
The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at Caflisch Park. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$132,700.00**. Engineering services are estimated to be **\$13,270.00** and Administration costs are estimated to be **\$2,654.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$148,624.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>Caflisch Park - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ General Conditions	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	Site Demolition and Excavation	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	Refurbish Existing Pavilions	2	EA	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
4	Restroom Facility	1	LS	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
5	Solar Lighting	3	EA	\$1,800.00	\$5,400.00
6	5' Wide Concrete Sidewalk	60	SY	\$110.00	\$6,600.00
7	Pre-School Age Play System	1	LS	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
8	Rubber Safety Surfacing	200	SY	\$90.00	\$18,000.00
9	Benches	4	EA	\$800.00	\$3,200.00
10	Vegetation/ Landscaping	1	LS	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
11	Disc Golf Hole	1	EA	\$500.00	\$500.00
	<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>				<b>\$132,700.00</b>
	Administrative costs (2%)				\$2,654.00
	Engineering (10%)				\$13,270.00
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>\$148,624.00</b>

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# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**DEVEREAUX PARK** - The improvement recommendations for Devereaux Park are designed to compliment Caflich Park by creating a better space for sports games, safe walking and open space play. The Park will be promoted as a place for smaller gatherings, picnics and events. Several single use pavilions, a gazebo with views of the Creek and access paths will be installed. The improvements are also designed to make the Park a place where users can passively view and enjoy the South Branch of French Creek. A section of a proposed French Creek Trail is also aligned through the southern edge of the Park. Similar to Caflich Park, a loop walking route will be created by incorporating sections of the French Creek Trail, a new access path connected to the basketball court, pavilions and gazebo and existing sidewalks along Willow Street. The walking route will be connected to Caflich Park using crosswalks across Willow Street and to the Willow Street ball Field via a pedestrian bridge that will be installed over Bentley Run. Beautification gardens are also proposed to improve the visual appeal of the Park. Two (2) of the nine (9) disc golf holes will also be installed in the Park area. The conceptual map below highlights the recommended improvements. An opinion of probable cost is provided on the following page.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at Devereaux Park. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$534,000.00**. Engineering services are estimated to be **\$53,400.00** and Administration costs are estimated to be **\$10,680.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$598,080.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>Devereaux Park - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ General Conditions	1	LS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
2	Site Demolition and Excavation	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
3	16' x 20' Single Use Pavilion	4	EA	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00
4	28' Gazebo	1	EA	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
5	Solar Lighting	6	EA	\$1,800.00	\$10,800.00
6	5' Wide Concrete Sidewalk	810	SY	\$110.00	\$89,100.00
7	Crosswalks	2	EA	\$300.00	\$600.00
8	Tennis Court/ Pickleball Resurfacing	1	LS	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
9	Basketball Court Resurfacing	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
10	8' High Chain Link Fence	650	LF	\$110.00	\$71,500.00
11	Benches	10	EA	\$800.00	\$8,000.00
12	Vegetation/ Landscaping	1	LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
13	Riparian Buffer Brush Removal	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
14	Pre-Fab Pedestrian Bridge	1	LS	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
15	Disc Golf Hole	2	EA	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>				<b>\$534,000.00</b>
	Administrative costs (2%)				\$10,680.00
	Engineering (10%)				\$53,400.00
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>\$598,080.00</b>

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## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**WILLOW STREET BALL FIELD** - The improvement recommendations for the Willow Street Ball Field are designed to make this area a better space for non-league organized baseball, softball and soccer games and practices. Refurbishing the existing field, dugouts and bleachers will be completed. Site work and striping to create a youth sized soccer field will also be completed. A walking path connected to Devearux Park is proposed to make this area a safe walking place. Two (2) of the nine (9) disc golf holes will also be installed in the Park area. The improvements are also designed to make this area a place where users can passively view and enjoy the South Branch of French Creek. A section of a proposed French Creek Trail is also aligned through the southern edge of the Park. The conceptual map below highlights the recommended improvements. An opinion of probable cost is provided on the following page.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

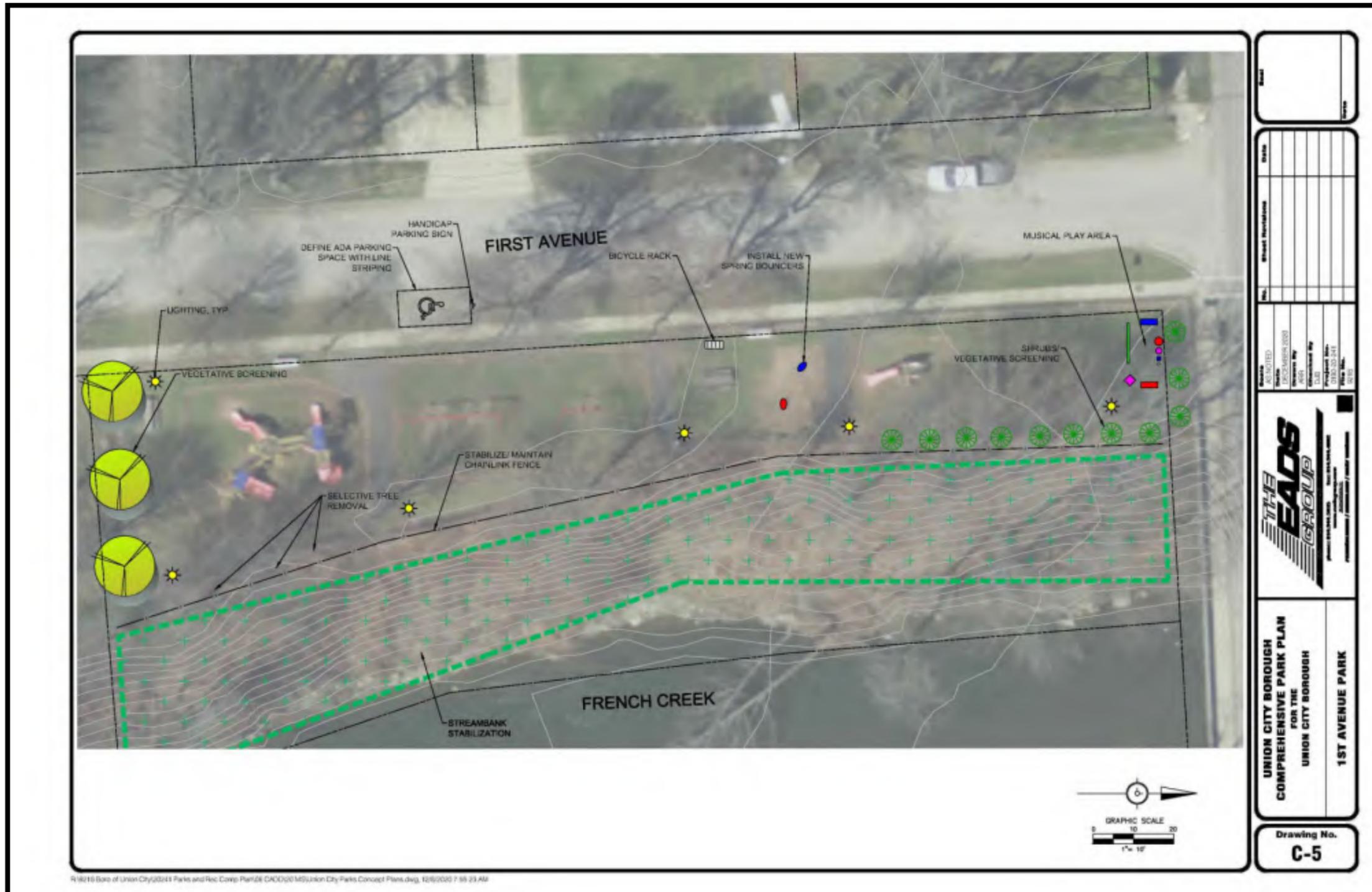
The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at the Willow Street Ball Field. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$238,400.00**. Engineering services are estimated to be **\$23,840.00** and Administration costs are estimated to be **\$4,768.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$267,008.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>Willow Street Ball Field - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ General Conditions	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	Site Demolition and Excavation	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
3	5' Wide Concrete Sidewalk	100	SY	\$110.00	\$11,000.00
4	Youth Soccer Field	1	EA	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
5	Pinto Baseball Field - Infield Surfacing	1000	SY	\$50.00	\$50,000.00
6	Baseball Field Backstop	1	EA	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
7	9'x30' Dugout	2	EA	\$35,000.00	\$70,000.00
8	Bleachers	1	EA	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
9	Benches	3	EA	\$800.00	\$2,400.00
10	Vegetation/ Landscaping	1	LS	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
11	Disc Golf Hole	2	EA	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>				<b>\$238,400.00</b>
	Administrative costs (2%)				\$4,768.00
	Engineering (10%)				\$23,840.00
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>\$267,008.00</b>

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## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**FIRST AVENUE PARK** - The improvement recommendations for the First Avenue Park are designed to make this area a safer and more reliable space for younger families and children to gather and play. The improvements are designed to enhance existing equipment and to create additional play areas and opportunities. A highlighted feature will be the installation of an interactive musical play area. Installation of a bicycle rack, better defining of the ADA parking space and planting of additional trees and other vegetation will also be completed. Although not in the Park itself, a recommendation is made to monitor the adjacent stream bank for erosion and to consider undertaking a stream back stabilization project as needed. There is also an opportunity to selectively cut back some higher growing trees to re-establish views into the downtown area. The conceptual map below highlights the recommended improvements. An opinion of probable cost is provided on the following page.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

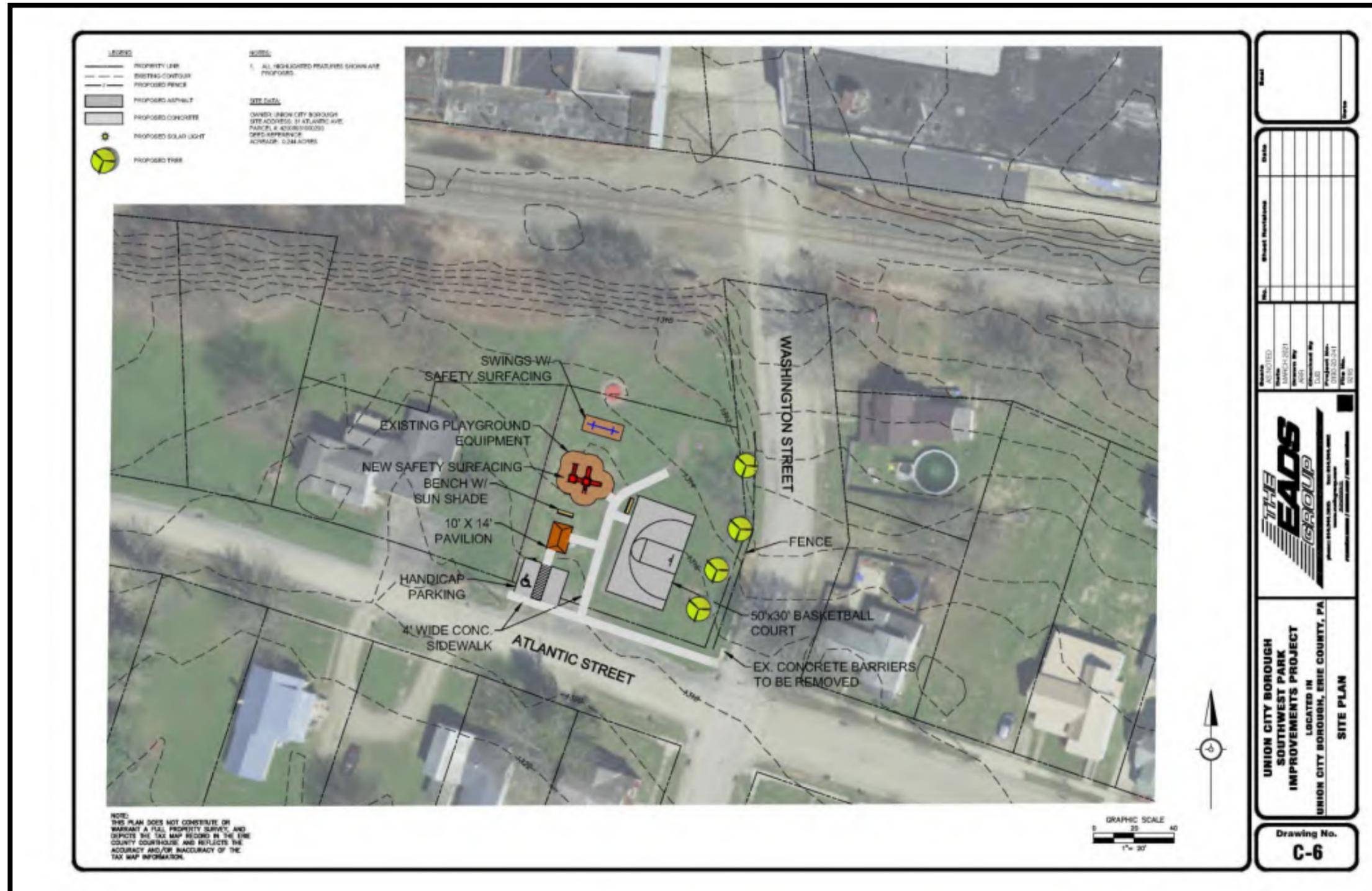
The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at the First Avenue Park. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$71,000.00**. Engineering services are estimated to be **\$7,100.00** and Administration costs are estimated to be **\$1,420.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$79,520.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>First Avenue Park - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ General Conditions	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	Site Demolition and Excavation	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	Solar Lighting	6	EA	\$1,800.00	\$10,800.00
4	Bicycle Rack	1	EA	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
5	8' High Chain Link Fence	170	LF	\$110.00	\$18,700.00
6	Spring Bouncers	2	EA	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
7	Musical Play Area	1	EA	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
8	Line Striping for ADA Parking Space	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
8	Vegetation/ Landscaping	1	LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>				<b>\$71,000.00</b>
	Administrative costs (2%)				\$1,420.00
	Engineering (10%)				\$7,100.00
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>\$79,520.00</b>

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# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**SOUTHWEST PARK** - The improvement recommendations for Southwest Park are primarily designed to make this area a neighborhood beautification asset. Play equipment and area upgrades include a new half basketball court, swings and a multiuse play apparatus. New vegetation, extension of the sidewalk along Atlantic Street and installation of ADA compliant parking spaces also highlight the proposed improvements. A small pavilion and a covered seating area will also be installed. In addition to the improvements shown below, the Borough can consider completing additional beautification and art related improvements in the Park to further establish this area as a community asset. The conceptual map below highlights the recommended improvements. An opinion of probable cost is provided on the following page. A DCNR Grant Application was submitted in April 2021 for funding to complete the recommended improvements.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

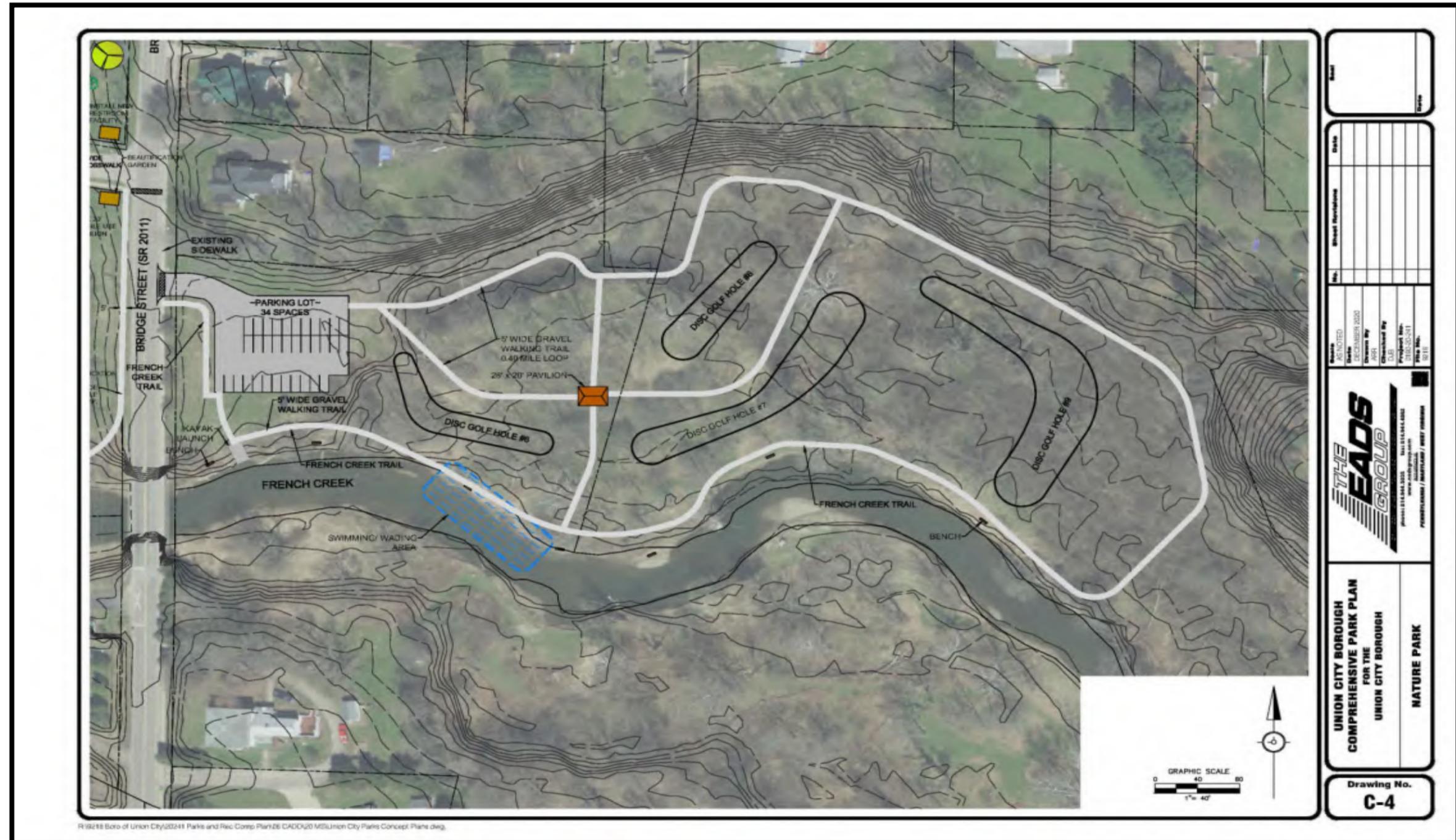
The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at the South West Park. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$73,806.00**. Professional Services (design, specifications, construction administration) are estimated to be **\$16,400.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$90,206.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>Southwest Park - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/Demobilization/General Conditions	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
2	Restoration	1	LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
3	ADA Parking, Concrete Sidewalk & Pavilion Slab	175	SY	\$110.00	\$19,250.00
4	DCNR Project Sign	1	LS	\$100.00	\$100.00
5	10'x14' Pavilion	1	EA	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
6	50'x30' Asphalt & Striping	167	SY	\$120.00	\$20,040.00
7	Basketball Hoop (backboard, rim & post)	1	EA	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
8	8' High Chain Link Fence	110	LF	\$110.00	\$12,100.00
9	Protective Play Surfacing (rubberized matting)	62	SY	\$18.00	\$1,116.00
10	Benches	2	EA	\$800.00	\$1,600.00
11	Picnic Table	1	EA	\$600.00	\$600.00
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>					<b>\$73,806.00</b>
Professional Services (design, specifications, construction administration)					\$16,400.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>					<b>\$90,206.00</b>

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## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**NATURE PARK -** The proposed Nature Park is located just across Bridge Street from Caflich Park and Devereaux Park. The Borough owns the land where this Nature Park is proposed. The portion of the property closest to Bridge Street is cleared and can be driven onto from Bridge Street. The remainder of the property is unimproved and is mainly covered with trees and scrub-shrub vegetation. An important feature of this area is its proximity to the South Branch of French Creek. Historically, residents would use this property to access the Creek for swimming and wading activities and to a lesser extent as a place for launching small boats. The concept shown below recreates access for a swimming/wading area and a car top boat launch. It also includes creation of primitive nature trails that will provide opportunities for users to passively observe and enjoy the surrounding natural landscape. A section of a proposed French Creek Trail is also aligned through the southern edge of the Park. Four (4) of the nine (9) disc golf holes will be located in the Nature Park area. A centralized pavilion and picnic tables will be installed for public use and to create a venue for environmental education activities. The concept also includes creation of a stabilized parking area that can be used by users of the Nature Park and also as an overflow parking area for events held at Caflich and Devereaux Parks.



## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Estimate of Probable Cost:

The following provides an estimate of probable cost for completing the proposed improvements at the Nature Park. The total Construction Cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$223,400.00**. Engineering services are estimated to be **\$22,340.00** and Administration costs are estimated to be **\$4,468.00**. The percentages used to calculate these fees reflect typical grant funding allowable rates - actual fees may vary. The overall total cost of the improvements is estimated to be **\$79,520.00**. Selection of actual improvement items and total costs will be made to fit specific grant funding sources.

<b>Nature Park - Improvements</b>					
No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ General Conditions	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	Site Demolition and Excavation	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
3	Gravel Parking Lot (8" depth 2A stone)	1600	SY	\$18.00	\$28,800.00
4	Kayak / Canoe Launch	1	EA	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
5	Gravel Walking Trail	4750	SY	\$20.00	\$95,000.00
6	28' x 20' Pavilion	1	EA	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
7	Benches	7	EA	\$800.00	\$5,600.00
8	Vegetation/ Landscaping	1	LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
9	Disc Golf Hole	4	EA	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>					<b>\$223,400.00</b>
Administrative costs (2%)					\$4,468.00
Engineering (10%)					\$22,340.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>					<b>\$250,208.00</b>

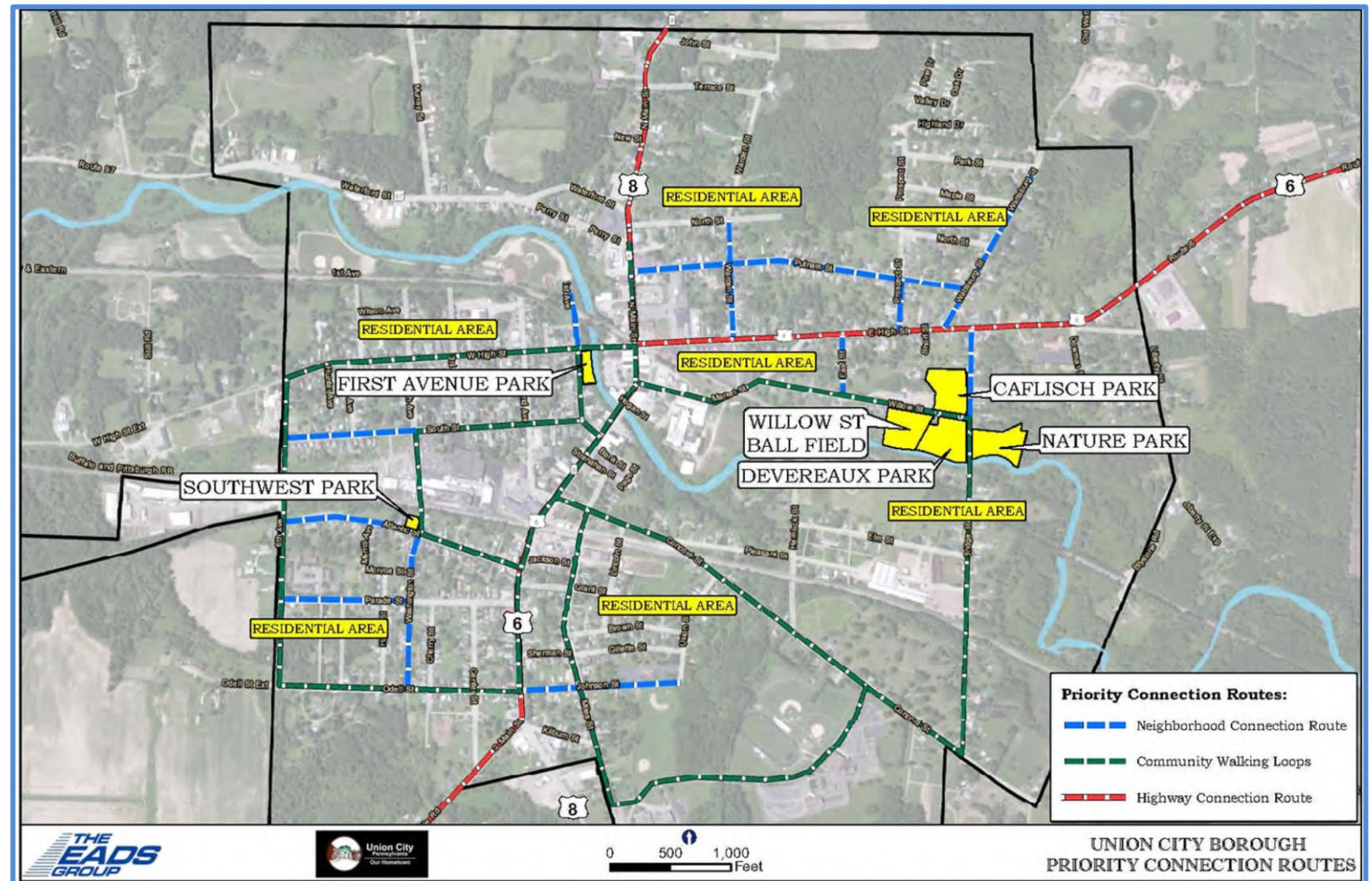
*The EADS Group, Inc. is not a construction contractor and therefore the above cost opinions are based solely upon our experience with construction. This requires The EADS Group to make a number of assumptions, including actual conditions to be encountered, specific decisions of other design/engineering professionals engaged, the means, methods and materials of construction, permitting and other factors not under the control of The EADS Group. Given these assumptions which must be made, The EADS Group states that the above is a fair and reasonable estimate of probable costs. The above costs do not include utility connection or service fees.*

## CONNECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations specifically address the types of park and neighborhood connections wanted by Borough residents. The connection recommendations include priority connection routes, walkability improvements, community walking loops and the installation of pedestrian and bike amenities. The initial identification of the need to better connect the Parks with surrounding neighborhood areas and to improve recreation opportunities throughout the Borough came out of the planning process for this Parks and Recreation Plan. Further development of these connection recommendations was completed as part of the Borough's Active Transportation Plan. Similar information regarding connection recommendations is provided in the Borough's Active Transportation Plan for consistency purposes. These types of recommendations are also designed to improve the overall connectiveness of the Borough and to provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation opportunities.

### Priority Connection Routes:

The map to the right highlights designated Priority Connection Routes that connect the Parks to surrounding neighborhood. The Priority Connection Routes include Neighborhood connections, Community wide connections and connections created by the existing highway network. These Neighborhood Routes are intended to connect people to local resources and to the larger Community wide connections. Community Walking Loops link neighborhood areas to resources throughout the Borough. The Highway Connection Routes are aligned along the PA Route 6 and 8 corridors. Although they help with inter-community connections, they also serve to connect the Borough to destinations in the surrounding areas. PennDOT and other regional entities will make future improvements along these routes referenced in this document. This Plan establishes that the Connection Routes should receive a higher level of focus in terms of sidewalk rehabilitation, biking improvements and where bike and pedestrian friendly amenities should be installed.



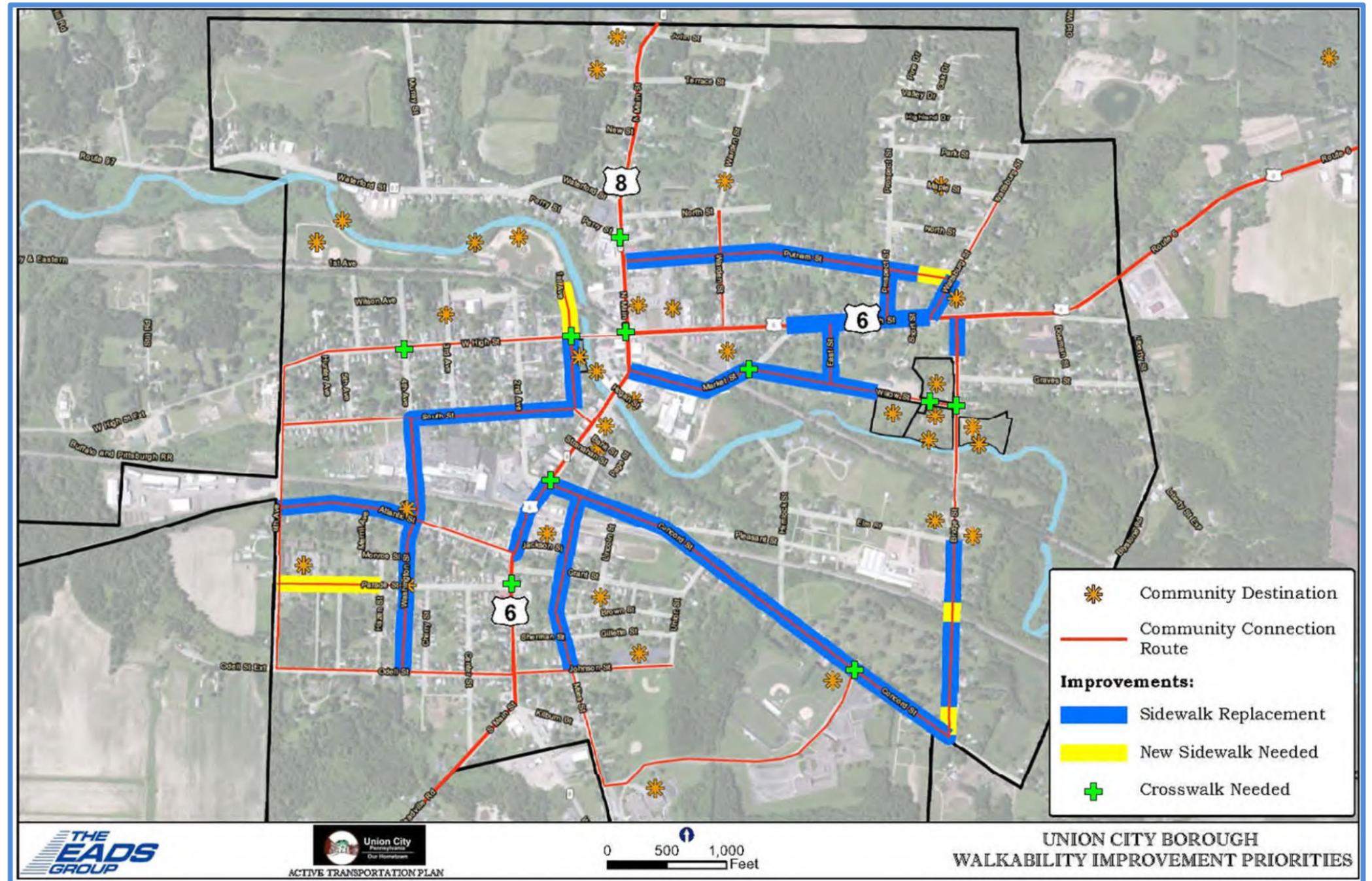
## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Walkability Improvement Priorities:

Perhaps the most welcomed set of improvements involve improving existing sidewalks in the Borough. Addressing sidewalk conditions was identified as one of the top community priorities. Results of Walkability and Bikeability Assessments completed by members of the Project Steering Committee helped in identifying priority sidewalk improvement areas. These areas are shown on the map to the right. Improvements are grouped into areas needing sidewalk replacement (i.e. rehabilitation), areas where no sidewalk currently exists (i.e. new sidewalks are needed) and areas where new crosswalks are needed. The crosswalk areas also include places where improvements to existing crosswalk road markings and/or signage is needed.

Of particular importance is the need for sidewalk improvements along the north side of Concord Street and along the east side of Bridge Street near the Union City Elementary and Junior/Senior High School campuses and along Willow Street. Sidewalks along these streets are heavily used by students who walk to and from the Union City Schools. Field observations during the planning process confirmed that a number of students use these street routes to walk to and from school.

Critical safety issues were observed along Bridge Street. Because of the sidewalk gaps along Bridge Street, students were found to be walking within the roadway in close proximity to vehicle traffic in these areas. Students were also found to cross through the Concord Street / Bridge Street intersection. Completing a Safe Routes to School Project to address sidewalk conditions and missing sidewalks along Concord Street, Bridge Street and Willow Street is a high priority.

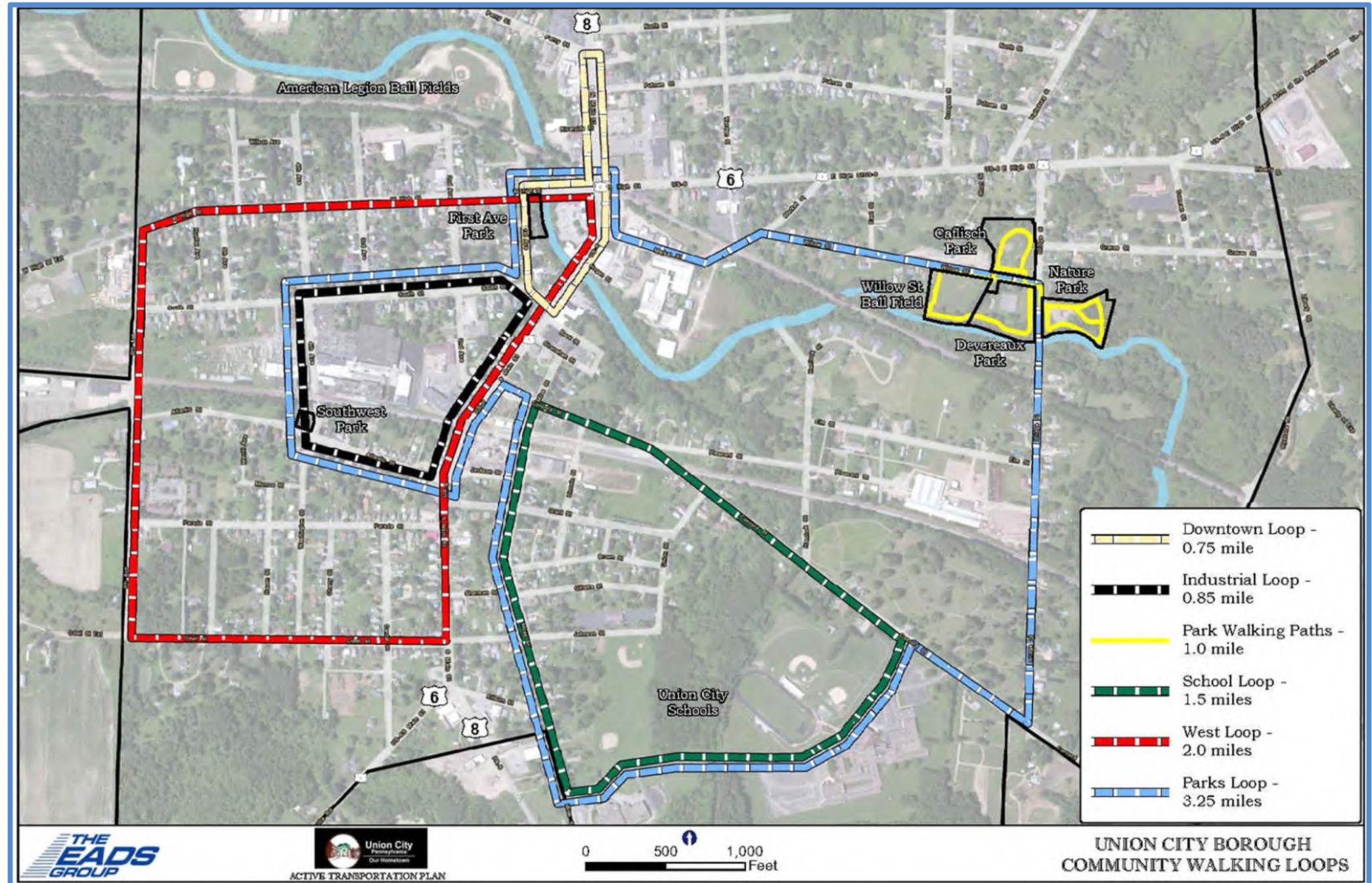


## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Community Walking Loop Priorities:

Six (6) Walking Loops of various lengths and themes are designated in Union City Borough. Five (5) of the loops will use existing streets and sidewalks while the remaining loop will be located within existing public parks in the Borough. The Walking Loops create safe walking and biking routes within the community. They are also intended to encourage recreation walking and biking for residents. The Walking Loops use portions of the Priority Connection Routes described previously in this section. They are places where bike and pedestrian friendly amenities should be located. The following further describes each of the Walking Loops.

- **Downtown Loop** – 0.75 mile. Uses sections of Main Street, High Street, First Avenue and South Street to take users around a portion of downtown Union City Borough. This Loop connects users to First Avenue Park, Banks, Retail Stores and Restaurants.
- **Industrial Loop** – 0.85 mile. Uses sections of South Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Atlantic Street and Main Street to take users around an Industrial Park area. This Loop connects users to Southwest Park.
- **School Loop** - 1.5 miles. As the name implies, the loop incorporates the Union City Junior/Senior High School and Elementary School campuses. This route also connects back to the downtown area.
- **West Loop** - 2.0 miles. This longer Loop extends within the western side of the Borough. This Route passes through residential areas and the downtown area.
- **Parks Loop** – 3.25 miles. This is the longest Walking Loop in the Borough. An important feature of this route is that it connects users to all of Union City Borough's existing Parks.



- **Park Walking Paths** – 1.0 miles. Establish safe walking paths within Caffisch Park, Devereaux Park, Willow St Ball Field, and a Nature Park. When completed, the Park Walking Paths will create a continuous ADA compliant walking area within the Borough. This walking path represents an important recreation and community enhancement asset for Union City Borough.

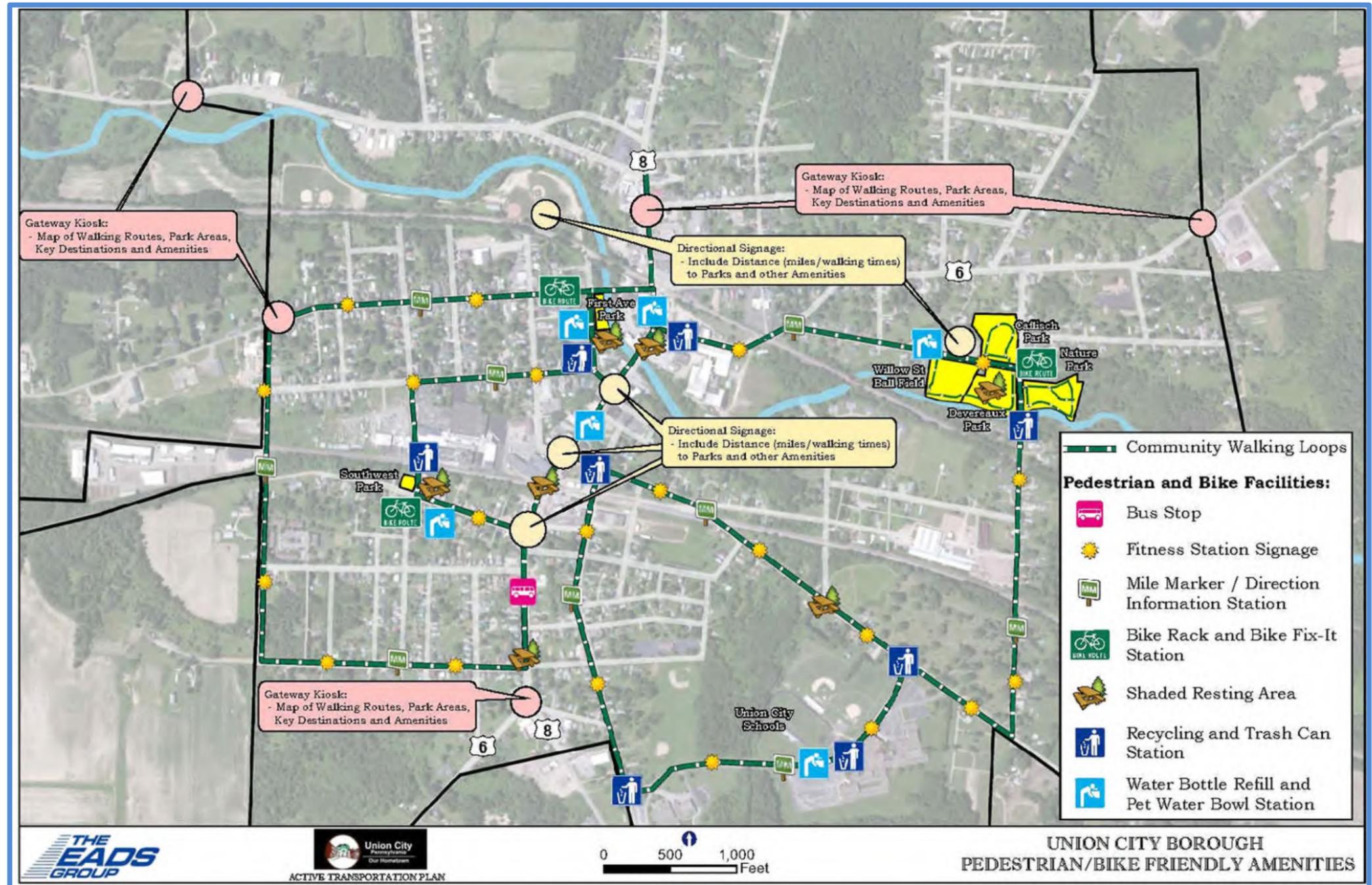
## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Pedestrian and Bike Amenity Priorities:

Various types of pedestrian and bike friendly amenities should be installed in the downtown area, at the Borough's Park areas and along the six (6) Community Walking Loops described previously. The different kinds of amenities and potential installation locations are shown on the map to the right. The amenities are categorized as Pedestrian and Bike facilities, Community Enhancements and Wayfinding Signage. They are all focused on making active walking, biking and wheeling more accessible, safe and attractive to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. They will also make Union City Borough a more inviting and enjoyable place to live and visit.

**Pedestrian and Bike facilities** – the following types of facilities will improve the active walking and biking experience in the Borough.

- Bike Rack and Repair 'fix-it' Station(s)
- Fitness Station Signage along the Community Walking Loops (example: Complete 10 jumping jacks, Stretch for one (1) minute, Run in place for 30 seconds, etc.). This is a fun way to encourage walking and exercise activities.
- Water Bottle Refill and Pet Water Bowl Stations. Installing Pet Waste Stations should also be considered.
- Create Shaded Resting Areas. Having tree shaded areas with benches will help reduce the local heat index and will advance community beautification efforts.
- Recycling and Trash Can Stations to deter littering by walkers and bikers. The Borough could partner with Union City School District student clubs/organizations to maintain the recycling stations.



**Community Enhancements** - the following types of enhancements should be installed at appropriate locations within the Borough. Completing these types of enhancements will improve the attractiveness of walking and biking in Union City Borough. They will also encourage active walking and biking in the Borough and will help to improve the overall appeal of the community.

- Identify existing Public Restrooms or install Composting Toilets (example: Alameda Park in Butler).
- Highlight walking loops that have access to public parking and public restrooms (preferably at the beginning or turn-around point of a route).

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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- Add flower gardens throughout town as inviting beautification features.
- Encourage the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority to evaluate the feasibility of installing a public bus stop within the Borough on South Main Street. This will provide better public transit access for residents in this area of the Borough to the 105 Corry Bus Route.

**Wayfinding Signage** - Mile Markers, Directional Signage and Gateway Kiosks that provide residents and visitors with community resource information, mapping to destinations and distance information (miles/walking times) will be strategically installed within the Borough. The number, locations and design of wayfinding signage should be carefully considered to avoid sign clutter. Developing hard copy and digital mapping highlighting the community walking loops should also be created to help emphasize community destinations, route alignments and distances. This is a low cost way to encourage destination and recreational walking and biking opportunities and to encourage walking as an exercise activity.

- Gateway Kiosks will be located at the major entry ways into the Borough and will be sized so they can be read from a moving vehicle.
- Directional Signage should provide destination names, distance and walking time information. This will help to provide resource information and will help to orient residents and visitors. They should have coordinated colors (by theme or type) to create a uniform look and should be large enough to be understandable to pedestrians. These types of signs should be installed at Borough Park areas, along Main Street and elsewhere in the downtown area. They will help families determine if younger children can safely walk to a destination unaccompanied. Directional Marker signs can be pole mounted, attached to an existing structure or embedded/painted onto the sidewalks.
- Distance Markers (miles or feet lengths) can be installed along the Community Walking Loops and will be designed to provide walkers with information on how far they have travelled and how far they still need to walk to complete the loop. Mile Marker signs can be pole mounted, attached to an existing structure or embedded/painted onto the sidewalks. Teachers can use the Community Walking Loops and the Mile Markers for out of classroom math lessons and to encourage school age students to exercise.

# Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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## Design Considerations

All of the proposed Improvements to the Parks and the Connection recommendations will need to consider certain guidelines, regulations and principles during the projects design and construction phases. The following summarizes the guidelines, regulations and principles that will be considered and included as part of project implementation.

**ADA Accessibility** - the regulatory guidelines of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and current ADA Standards for Accessible Design and universal accessibility to facilities will be followed as appropriate in the completion of the Park and Connection improvements recommended in this Plan. The following summarizes specific ADA requirements that will be incorporated in each Park.

### Cafilisch Park

- Will need to include ADA accessible routes/walkways and grading improvements to create level play surfaces and access routes

### Devereaux Park

- The benches along the French Creek Trail and around the Tennis Court/Pickleball Surfacing should be ADA accessible so that a person in a wheelchair can slide onto the bench and have room beside the bench to park their wheelchair.

### Willow Street Ball Field

- The benches along the French Creek Trail and access should be ADA accessible so that a person in a wheelchair can slide onto the bench and have room beside the bench to park their wheelchair.
- Access to the bleachers will be extended three (3) feet so a person in a wheelchair can slide onto the bleacher and have room beside the bleacher to park their wheelchair.

### Nature Park

- two (2) ADA parking spaces will be created at the parking lot of which one (1) needs to be Van Accessible as per the ADA Standards.
- The bench by the Kayak Launch and just below Disc Golf Holes #7 & #9 will need to be ADA accessible.
- Benches will also be placed along the upper portion of the nature trails and the French Creek Trail for those who have respiratory and walking limitations. This provides them with the opportunity to stop and rest before continuing to walk further.

### First Avenue Park

- ADA compliant access and surfacing will be installed at the Musical Play Area.
- ADA accessible routes/walkways connecting the other play areas and equipment will be installed

### Southwest Park

- An ADA accessible route will be installed to connect the parking area to the pavilion and to the other play equipment and areas in the Park.

**Playground Equipment** – all new playground equipment installed at the Parks shall be in compliance with ASTM and CPSC guidelines.

**Material Selection** - Material choices shall consider alternate green materials as practical to reduce environmental impacts and disturbance to the natural setting.

**Vegetation Selection** - Recommended vegetation and landscaping will use native plants as appropriate.

**Land Development** - Improvements must follow Union City Borough's project review and approval process. Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated during the construction phase of any project.

**Floodplain Regulations** - Portions of Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field and the Nature Park are located within the South Branch of French Creek's floodplain. Facilities installed within the flood plain will need to be consistent with the regulations established in local floodplain regulations.

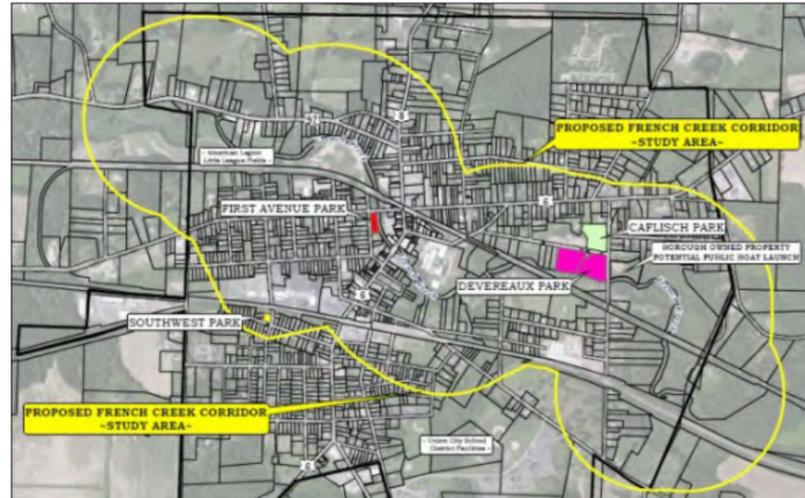
## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Early Action Items

The following highlights five (5) Early Actions Items that have already resulted out of this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Each Action Item addresses an identified recreation priority.

- Union City Borough French Creek Trail Town Plan – DCNR Funded**

The Study began in 2021 and will be completed by spring 2022. The Plan will define the French Creek Greenway Corridor through the Borough and will evaluate land ownership, connections with existing recreation and other community assets, access points for fishing, boating and passive enjoyment, and other approaches for developing a public use trail along French Creek. The Plan will also identify areas for native



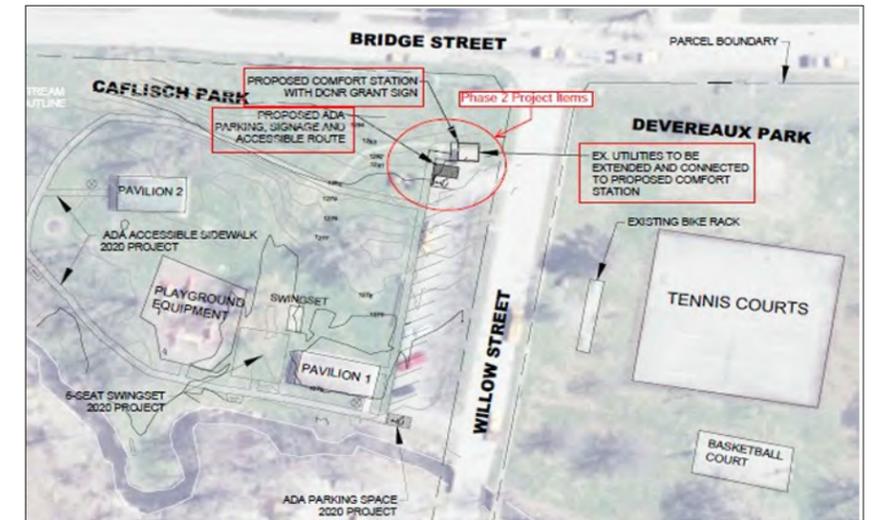
vegetation plantings and riparian enhancements, other Corridor improvements and approaches for making the French Creek Greenway and the Borough an inviting place to attract residents and visitors. The need for this type of planning effort was identified as a priority by members of a Steering Committee and from public input received as part of this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. This guidance and input suggested that a more detailed and dedicated evaluation is needed to properly define the French Creek Greenway Corridor through the Borough. It was also noted that a dedicated effort to educate residents, evaluate land ownership, potential connections with existing recreation and other community assets, potential access points for fishing, boating and passive enjoyment, and other connectivity approaches is needed. Local officials and residents agree that the Borough will benefit greatly from implementing approaches to make the French Creek Greenway Corridor and the Borough a more inviting place to attract residents and visitors.

- Union City Borough Active Transportation Plan – PA WalkWorks Program Funded**

As noted previously, the Borough recently completed an Active Transportation Plan. The Plan focuses on developing pedestrian and bike friendly amenities, community walking loops and connections to community destinations. This includes improving sidewalk conditions on priority routes, installing pedestrian and bike friendly features and other community enhancements such as signage to key community destinations, community walking loops of varying distances with route and distance markers, shaded rest areas, water fountains, and bike racks and bike repair stations. The Plan was guided by a Steering Committee consisting of Borough officials and staff, residents, members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Erie County Planning along with health care, PennDOT and regional recreation representatives to prepare a Plan that address local needs.

- Union City Borough Caflich Park Improvement Project - Phase II – Funded by the DCNR Park Rehabilitation and Development - Small Communities Program**

The Caflich Park Improvements – Phase II Project replaced an existing small, outdated and non-ADA compliant restroom facility, with a more modern, larger and ADA compliant, Comfort Station. The Project also involved site improvements and other modifications to connect the Comfort Station to the existing parking lot and to a new ADA walking trail that was



reconstructed in the Park. The new Comfort Station will also serve users of the adjacent Devereaux Park and a nature Park. The need for this type of rehabilitation project was identified as a priority by members of the Steering Committee and from public input received as part of this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. The input received indicated that the attractiveness of Caflich Park to families with younger children and for families and groups considering using the Park for reunions and other gatherings will be significantly increased.

- Southwest Park Improvement – DCNR Grant Application Submitted 2021**

The Southwest Park Improvements Project will include ADA parking and access improvements, the installation of a pavilion, a small “half-court” basketball court. Other improvements will include a new swing set and other play equipment, picnic tables, benches and fencing. The Borough recognizes Southwest Park as an important community asset and traditional neighborhood gathering and play area. As stated in this Parks and Recreation Plan, it is important that this Park be promoted as a neighborhood improvement effort which becomes a catalyst for additional neighborhood revitalizing efforts.”

- Safe Routes to School Project – PennDOT TA-Set Aside Application Submitted 2021**

This project will address and enhance an important walkability improvement priority route identified in this Parks and Recreation Plan. Improvements are proposed along Concord, Bridge and Willow Streets. Completion of this project will significantly improve connections between the Union City School District Facilities and Caflich Park, Devereaux Park, Willow Street Ball Field and a Nature Park. It will also better connect surrounding neighborhood areas to the School and park areas. The input received for this Parks and Recreation Plan indicated residents wanted safe and reliable connections between the Park areas, facilities at the School District and surrounding neighborhood.

# **IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING STRATEGY**

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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The Park Improvement and Connection Recommendations included in this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan are oriented towards improving the recreation experience in the Borough. They are also oriented towards making Union City Borough a more livable and attractive place for residents of all ages and abilities, visitors and business owners.

### Implementation Summary Matrix

A Matrix summarizing the Park Improvements and Connection action items, implementation time frames, partnerships, and applicable funding sources is provided on the following pages. The Plan provides flexibility and allows those involved with implementation to have a level of control over developing the final project specifications and on the implementation process. Some projects will naturally take longer to get started, while others, like applying for funding to complete improvement at Southwest Park are already underway.

The information provided in this Plan and in the following Summary Matrix provides Union City Borough, members of the Project Steering Committee and other local partners with guidance for project development and implementation efforts. Maintaining flexibility and capitalizing on opportunities will be key to successfully implementing this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Unforeseen opportunities, the identification of grant funding options not identified in this Plan, unsolicited donations, and offers of in-kind services will often dictate the order that projects or project components are implemented.

Time Frames - Implementation time frames are noted in the following manner in the summary matrix. Implementation time frames are difficult to categorize and may change over time.

- Short-term: 1 - 2 years - these projects can be completed immediately and are critical as small “wins” to build momentum, establish culture, and provide successes that medium and long-term priorities can reference and build on. These projects are considered “low hanging fruit” that have either already begun or will soon begin.
- Mid-term: 3 - 4 years – will take a longer time to complete and typically require higher funding levels or several partnerships.
- Long-term - These typically require more than five years to complete and tend to require multiple partnerships and grant sources. They also represent projects that naturally need to be completed over time. This type of project can be started but will be an on-going effort to finish.

Partnerships – The Recommendations made in this Plan are designed to be further evolved and developed through partnerships and collaboration with local organizations and groups such as the Union City Pride and the Union City Community Foundation as well as larger entities such as Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development, the Erie Community Foundation (ECF) and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Completing the Park Improvement and Connection Recommendations included in this Plan will improve recreation opportunities in Union City Borough regardless of the order they are implemented. This ultimately gives Union City Borough and its local partners freedom to implement the Plan as priorities shift, as funds are available and as future conditions require.

Union City Borough representatives and other stakeholders closely associated with the Borough were a critical part of the planning process for this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. This level of support will be needed to successfully implement this Plan. Successful implementation of the Park Improvement and Connection Projects will involve many different participants and steps and will rely on obtaining public, private and local funding and support. The Union City Borough Council may need to authorize direct funding for a project, may need to provide a local match commitment for grant applications or will need to direct Borough staff and employees to complete activities on an in-kind basis. In some cases, the Borough will need to be willing to execute maintenance agreements or will need to provide documentation of their acknowledgement and support of projects if they are moved forward by non-Borough entities and agencies. In other cases, Union City Borough Council will need to provide Letters of Support for grant applications, will need to commit to having regular discussions regarding recreation improvements and will need to advocate for recreation improvement projects to be completed.

Union City Borough will not be able to implement the Project recommended in this Plan alone. Many local partners and community organizations, local businesses and residents will need to take ownership of projects and will need to carry the momentum forward towards implementation. Favorable grant funding consideration from DCNR; DCED, PennDOT; the Route 6 Alliance and others will be vital to successful implementation. The Planning Consultants who assisted the Borough with preparing this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan and members of the Project Steering Committee will need to work with the Borough to support, facilitate and coordinate implementation efforts. Union City Borough can rely on the expertise and capacity of the Planning Consultants to essentially “keep things moving” and to encourage implementation actions. It is also anticipated that members of the Project Steering Committee will actively volunteer and partner with the Borough on implementation tasks.

Many members of the Project Steering Committees for this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan also serve on the Steering Committees for the Borough’s Active Transportation Plan and the Borough’s French Creek Trail Study. These Plans are allied in part to each through their support of recreation improvements in the Borough. Therefore, it is recommended that the Project Steering Committees be combined into a collective stakeholders group. Members of this larger group will be actively involved with supporting the Borough with implementation efforts. This larger group should also meet at least two (2) times a year to evaluate progress and implementation status of each Plan. The group should also discuss funding opportunities, other plans and projects being completed locally and in the surrounding region and also changing conditions in the Borough that can aid with implementation actions.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

**Project Funding** - Potential funding options area provided in the Summary Matrix. Options generally include direct grant funding from State and Regional sources, direct municipal funding including in-kind services, and local donors providing financial contributions and volunteer support. This is not a complete list of funding options. Various local and regional grants, other 'non-state grants', foundations and other sources should be explored and considered during implementation. Projects may need to be funded in stages (i.e. Design/Engineering then follow up submissions for construction) or in phases (completion of a walking path segment including installation of play equipment followed by the next segment, etc.), based on funding available. Due to ever changing grant funding requirements, availability of funding and the variety of funding levels, it is difficult to predict with certainty or to describe an exact funding path for each project. What can be said with certainty is that Union City Borough and its partners must relentlessly seek funding from multiple sources/options. What can also be said with certainty is that funding sources will require a level of local match (cash), in-kind service contributions, maintenance agreement(s) and/or other documentation and the Borough will need to creatively combine and match multiple types of funding awards with multiple priorities.

### STATE GRANT SUMMARY

Criteria	DCNR – C2P2	DCNR - PRT	DCED CFA - GTRP	PennDOT – TA-Set Aside	PennDOT – MTF	CFA– MTF
Grant Award Amounts	Over \$100,000	Up to \$100,000	Up to \$250,000	\$50,000 – \$1,000,000	\$100,000 – \$3,000,000	\$100,000 – \$3,000,000
Funding Level	single source	supplemental	supplemental	supplemental	single source	single source
Local Match Requirement	50%	20%	15%	All Pre-Construction Activities	30%	30% (The 30% match requirement may be waived)
Typical Submission Cycle	Annually April	Annually April	Annually May	2-yr cycle 2021	Annually Fall	Annually Spring

PennDOT - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
 DCNR - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 DCED - Department of Community and Economic Development

CFA - Commonwealth Financing Agency  
 C2P2 - DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program  
 PRT – DCNR's Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program

TA-Set Aside – PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program  
 GTRP – CFA's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program  
 MTF – Multimodal Transportation Fund

Common among potential grant funding sources is the requirement of a local cash or in-kind service match. Ultimately a local source of funding or contribution of services will need to be documented prior to submitting grant applications. The responsibility for providing local match funding will fall to Union City Borough, if other sources of leverage match from another funding source are not readily available. Local organizations and groups must be prepared to contribute financially and/or with services to cover the match requirement.

### Local Funding

Implementing the projects recommended in this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan cannot all be accomplished through State level grant sources. Local organizations and groups must be prepared to contribute financially to the future of the Parks. Local cash contributions and/or in-kind service matches will be needed to complete projects independently or as a match contribution to grant awards. Local funding can also be used to continue to installing elements of a larger project. The following are creative ways for attracting local donations and funding.

- **Adopt-a-Project** – Similar to PennDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program, Union City Borough businesses, civic organizations, families and groups/clubs can formally adopt a Park Project to provide funding or volunteer efforts for maintaining that specific Project. This type of program will be focused on building community pride for the Park by connecting residents and organizations to the long-term sustainability of the Park. Recognition of the adopter can be through the placement of a plaque or placing the adopters name on a sign.
- **Sponsorship Program** – A Sponsorship Program allows annual donations to be received from individuals, organizations and businesses and provides a sense of ownership to the sponsor. Sponsorships for a portion of a Project including signage, benches, picnic tables and trail section development can be obtained. As an example, selling of 'in-memory' benches can be used as fund raiser and, again, as a way to connect residents to the Park. Recognition of the sponsor would be required and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, placing the sponsor's name(s) on the sign or panel, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Sponsorships other than cash including donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies can also be considered.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

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- Naming Rights – The Steering Committee noted that selling naming rights to Park(s) was thought to be an acceptable way to obtain additional revenues for Park improvements. It was suggested that the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) and other health care entities could be approached regarding naming rights.
- Walking Trail Development Fund – Establishing a Walking Trail Development Fund allows smaller donations to be accepted and pooled together. Various funding levels could range from \$25 to \$500 but would allow donors to contribute any amount.
- Membership Campaign – Union City area residents, students, organizations and businesses could also individually contribute to the development of the Park by purchasing an annual ‘Park’ membership. No specific incentive or advantage would be offered to a ‘Park’ member other than some form of special recognition which could be in the form of a unique decal sticker than can be placed on a member’s car or business window. Different membership levels could be established for students, Individuals, Businesses and other Organizations.
- Crowdfunding - This is a grass roots fundraising approach that creatively raises community support and funds. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or initiative by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people usually through the internet. The key to this type of approach is to identify an outcome and funding goal that are realistic and achievable. Projects under \$10,000 are good candidates from this type of funding approach. Projects should be specific and something the community will be able to get behind. The value of this type of approach is that it goes beyond simply asking individuals/groups for money by including them in achieving an outcome. It is suggested that projects be started within six months of the close of the crowdfunding campaign so that timely results can be seen by contributors. Any necessary project expenses beyond those raised through this type of fundraising should be available to ensure the project gets completed. In other words, a reliable secondary source of funding should be identified prior to starting a campaign. It will be necessary to have a social media competent person(s) involved to set up the crowdfunding page and to create information for the crowdfunding project (storyline and video/photo) and collecting and organizing contacts for a community outreach (social media, emails, traditional media, etc.) campaign launch. Someone(s) will also need to be responsible to correspond directly with donors and to field questions asked by potential donors.

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Park Improvements

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
Southwest Park	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• PennDOT</li> <li>• DCED/CFA</li> <li>• DCNR</li> <li>• PA Route 6 Alliance</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCED – GTRP</li> <li>• DCNR – C2P2</li> <li>• DCNR – PRT</li> <li>• DCNR – Rivers Conservation Program</li> <li>• PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>• PennDOT – TA Set-Aside</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> <li>• Borough Funds</li> <li>• Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG)</li> </ul>
Caflisch Park	Short Term		
Devereaux Park	Mid Term		
Willow Street Ball Field	Mid Term		
First Avenue Park	Long Term		
Nature Park	Long Term		

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Designate Priority Connection Routes

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
Designate French Creek as an important Natural Resource destination to the community	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	-
Designate Caflisch Park, Devereaux Park, First Avenue Park, Southwest Park, a Nature Park, Willow Street Ball Field, the American Legion Ball Fields, and the Union City Reservoir as important outdoor recreation areas to the community	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	-
Designate the Manly Heights Apartment, the Union City Estates and other residential areas as places where safe and reliable walking and biking connections need to be established and maintained	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	-
Designate the Union City School District campus and associated facilities as an important public asset where safe and reliable walking and biking connections need to be established and maintained	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	-
Prioritize maintenance activities and local funding for pedestrian and biking improvements along the identified Neighborhood Connection Routes and the Designated Community Walking Loop Routes	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough Funds</li> </ul>
Coordinate with PennDOT and the PA Route 6 Alliance to implement transportation improvements as recommended in the Pennsylvania Route 6 Bicycle Master Plan Design Guide.	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough, Community Foundation &amp; Union City Pride</li> <li>PennDOT</li> <li>PA Route 6 Alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCED – GTRP</li> <li>PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>PennDOT – TA Set-Aside</li> </ul>
Work with various partners to establish a non-motorized connection between Union City Borough and the Union City Borough Reservoir	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough Council</li> <li>Union City Community Foundation &amp; Union City Pride</li> <li>PennDOT &amp; PA Route 6 Alliance</li> <li>Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCED – GTRP</li> <li>DCNR – PRT</li> <li>PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>PennDOT – TA Set-Aside</li> <li>Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Walkability Improvement Priorities

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
Union City Borough encourages residents and property owners within the sidewalk rehabilitation priority areas to voluntarily apply for funding through the Borough's Sidewalk Grant program to rehabilitate/replace their sidewalks	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Property Owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Owner contributions</li> <li>• Union City Borough Sidewalk Grant</li> <li>• Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG)</li> </ul>
Union City Borough may choose to proactively enforce Sidewalk Ordinance No. 1110 by actively inspecting sidewalks within the sidewalk rehabilitation priority areas and notifying property owners that repairs are necessary.	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Property Owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Owner contributions</li> <li>• Union City Borough Sidewalk Grant</li> <li>• Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG)</li> </ul>
Union City Borough uses existing Sidewalk Grant program funding to directly complete sidewalk rehabilitation/replacement projects in the sidewalk rehabilitation priority areas	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Sidewalk Grant</li> <li>• Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG)</li> </ul>
Union City Borough completes sidewalk rehabilitation/replacement projects, constructs sections of new sidewalks and installs crosswalks as part of Safe Routes to School projects, multi-modal transportation improvement projects and/or other transportation enhancement projects	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• PennDOT</li> <li>• DCED/CFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>• DCNR – PRT</li> <li>• DCED – GTRP</li> <li>• PennDOT – TA Set-Aside</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
The Borough shall annually assess sidewalk conditions within the sidewalk rehabilitation priority areas to document progress made and to document changing conditions	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> </ul>	-

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Community Walking Loop Priorities

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
Formally designate the Community Walking Loops identified in this Plan as part of the Borough's infrastructure system	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> </ul>	-
Promote the existence of the Walking Loops by preparing hard copy and digital mapping highlighting the loops by name, alignments and distances. Information on community resources along each route should be included on the mapping	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Other Stakeholders</li> <li>• Visit Erie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA WalkWorks Program</li> <li>• Visit Erie</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
Union City Borough apply for funding through the PA WalkWorks Program to formally establish the Community Walk Loops as official WalkWorks routes. WalkWorks funding will assist with signage and development of hard copy and digital maps of the routes. It will also help to identify and describe key community resources along the routes	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Visit Erie</li> <li>• Union City Historical Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA WalkWorks Program</li> <li>• Visit Erie</li> </ul>
Union City Borough continues to actively seek funding to complete the Walking Path network recommended for Caflisch Park, Devereaux Park, a Nature Park and the Willow Street Ball Field	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• DCNR</li> <li>• PennDOT</li> <li>• DCED/CFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PennDOT – TA Set-Aside</li> <li>• PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>• DCED – GTRP</li> <li>• DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>• DCNR – Rivers Conservation Program</li> <li>• Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) - Northwest Commission is offering assistance for those applying for funding for ARC funding.</li> </ul>

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Pedestrian and Bike Amenity Priorities

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
Install a Bike Repair ‘fix-it’ Station at Devereaux Park, First Avenue Park and Southwest Park. The Stations should include a bike repair stand, an air pump and all the tools necessary to perform basic repairs and maintenance including changing a flat tire, tightening brakes and adjusting derailleurs.	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• DCNR</li> <li>• DCED – GTRP</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
Install Fitness Station Signage at regular intervals along the Community Walking Loops. The Signage will give instructions for completing a fitness activity including jumping jacks, stretches and running in place. The Stations can be modeled after the Walk for Wellness at the Millcreek Mall in Erie.	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Union City Rural Health Clinic</li> <li>• AHN Saint Vincent Outpatient Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
Install at least one (1) combined Water Bottle and Pet Water Refill Station on each Community Walking Loop. A Pet Waste Station should also be installed near the Water Refill Station.	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Union City Rural Health Clinic</li> <li>• AHN Saint Vincent Outpatient Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
Install at least two (2) Recycling and Trash Can Stations on each Community Walking Loop. Install one of the Stations near a Water Refill Station described above. The Borough could partner with Union City School District student clubs/organizations to maintain the recycling stations. In exchange for removing the deposited trash and recycling items, the students could keep the proceeds from the recycling.	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Union City School District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City School District</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
A Shaded Resting Area intended for walkers and bikers should be created at each Borough Park. At least one (1) additional Shaded Resting Area should be created along each Walking Route. The Shaded Resting Area should include trees and benches. They should also contain a Water Refill and a Trash Can Station as described above.	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Union City School District</li> <li>• Union City Rural Health Clinic</li> <li>• AHN Saint Vincent Outpatient Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union City Borough Council</li> <li>• Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>• Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>• Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>

## Union City Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

### Pedestrian and Bike Amenity Priorities (cont.)

Action Items	Implementation	Partnerships	Funding Source
<p>Public Restrooms and Public Parking areas available to walkers and bikers should be identified and promoted for public uses.</p> <p>The Borough could consider installing a Composting toilet (or similar) type of public restroom facility to address a community need if identified.</p>	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Restaurants and Businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PennDOT / DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> <li>DCED – GTRP</li> <li>DCED (CFA) – Multimodal Transportation Fund</li> </ul>
<p>Flower gardens, potted flowers, vegetative planting and other beautification projects like mural paintings on buildings will be encouraged throughout town.</p>	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>Local artists</li> <li>Union City School District</li> <li>Western PA Conservancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dripped on The Road – Artist Residency Program</li> </ul>
<p>Encourage the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority to evaluate the feasibility of installing a public bus stop within the Borough on South Main Street. This will provide better public transit access for residents in this area of the Borough to the 105 Corry Bus Route.</p>	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority</li> </ul>
<p>Distance Markers (miles or feet lengths) should be installed along the Community Walking Loops to provide walkers with information on how far they have travelled and how far they still need to walk to complete the loop. The Distance Marker signs can be pole mounted, attached to an existing structure or embedded/painted onto the sidewalk.</p>	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough</li> <li>Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>Union City Rural Health Clinic</li> <li>AHN Saint Vincent Outpatient Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA WalkWorks Program</li> </ul>
<p>Directional Signage will be installed at the Borough Park areas and along Main Street in the downtown area. They will identify by name and location the Walking Loops, Park areas and other important community destinations. They will give direction and distance (miles/feet) information and approximate walking time information. They should have coordinated colors to create uniform look.</p>	Mid Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erie County Council of Governments (via the Erie County Signing Region Trust)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough</li> <li>Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>
<p>Gateway Kiosks should be installed at the major entry ways into the Borough. These will be large so they can be read from vehicles. The Gateway Signs will identify and visually show the location of pedestrian and outdoor recreation resources in the Borough.</p>	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erie County Council of Governments (via the Erie County Signing Region Trust)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union City Borough</li> <li>Union City Community Foundation</li> <li>Union City Pride, Inc.</li> <li>Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority</li> </ul>