



Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Strategic Plan – 2024
Implementation Status Report

February 11, 2025

Carmel • Clay
Parks & Recreation
NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER
AND ACCREDITED AGENCY



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Based on community feedback, stakeholder input, technical analysis, and the priority rankings outlined within this Master Plan, the following key recommendations were developed to enhance the park and recreation system and position it to best serve the current and future needs of the community.

1.1 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1.1 ENHANCE PARK AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

- Expand trails, river access, and environmental education along the White River Regional Corridor
 - Complete a regional river corridor site plan
 - 2020 – Continued participation by Executive Director in White River Vision Plan, which will include expansion of White River Greenway.
 - 2021 – The White River Regional Opportunity Initiative (WR-ROI) Partnership was created to prepare a Regional Development Plan to submit for a Regional Economic Acceleration + Development Initiative (READI) grant through the Indiana Economic Development Commission (IEDC). The WR-ROI is inspired by the White River Vision Plan, which details a cohesive regional vision, goals, projects, and programs related to economic development within the White River Region.
 - Ensure cohesion with the White River Vision Plan/Identify partners on both sides of the River
 - 2020 – Continued discussions with Conner Prairie for expansion of the White River Greenway from current northern terminus of trail to 146th Street.
 - 2020 – Entered into an agreement with Clay Township for development of a pedestrian bridge across the White River Greenway as part of the Clay Township Impact Program. This project will ultimately connect the Carmel and Fishers trail networks in involves collaboration between CCPR, Clay Township, City of Carmel, Conner Prairie, Hamilton County Parks & Recreation, and the City of Fishers.
 - 2021 – The WR-ROI Partnership, Central Indiana Regional Development Authority within the IndyMPO, consists of three counties: Hamilton, Madison, and Marion; and eight communities: Anderson, Carmel, Fishers, Indianapolis, McCordsville, Noblesville, Westfield, and Zionsville.
 - 2023 – Received bids for construction of White River Pedestrian Bridge, which will connect Hazel Landing Park to Fishers’ Heritage Park. The project is predominantly funded by the Clay Township Impact Program with contributions from CCPR, Hamilton County, Delaware Township, and the City of Fishers.
 - 2024 – Construction of the White River Pedestrian Bridge began, with CCPR set to manage and maintain the bridge upon its completion. This transformative project will connect Hazel Landing Park in Carmel with Fishers’ Heritage Park via a pedestrian bridge spanning the White River. Additional features include a new parking lot near Hazel Landing Park’s entrance and a multiuse trail along Blue Woods Creek, linking the bridge to the perimeter path on Hazel Dell Parkway. The bridge is expected to open to the public in 2025.
 - Develop a dedicated funding strategy for development of the corridor
 - 2021 – The Hamilton County South River District/Conner Prairie Westside Expansion was selected as one of the signature projects for WR-ROI. This potentially positions the White River Education and Ecology Center to receive up to \$7.3 million if WR-ROI is successful in securing READI grant. Hamilton County also committed up to \$1 million for the ecology center if the project receives funds through READI grant.
 - 2021 – Submitted Next Level Trails grant application to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in hopes of securing state funding for the development of the north extension of the White River Greenway.

- 2022 — Department awarded \$4 million READI grant from WR-ROI; Funding to be used for development of the north extension of the White River Greenway, including new trailhead and river outlook on Matilda Haverstick property.
 - 2023 — Submitted Next Level Trails grant application to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in hopes of securing state funding for the development of the south extension of the White River Greenway.
 - 2023 — Department awarded \$1 million from Hamilton County, Indiana for improvements along the White River Corridor, specifically the Hamilton County South River District.
- Develop view sheds along trails for users to enjoy the White River and include picnic areas
 - 2020 — At end of 2019, CCPR secured approximately 13.55 acres of property along Hazel Dell Parkway which will serve as a future trailhead along the White River Corridor; homestead on the property was demolished in 2020 and has been restored to a natural state.
 - 2020 — Focus of River Heritage Park development will be accessible trails and view sheds along the White River.
 - 2021 — Approved professional services agreement with SJCA for the White River Greenway North Extension design development plans. Began working on design concepts for trail overlooks and the anticipated trailhead on CCPR property.
 - 2021 — Wellheads at Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park will receive improvements (funded by Carmel Utilities), which will allow them to serve as Overlooks
 - 2021 — Completed an invasive species assessment of CCPR and Conner Prairie property from the current terminus of the White River Greenway to the proposed location of the White River Education and Ecology Center. This data will help identify the best route for the White River Greenway extension.
 - 2022 — Completed improvements at River Heritage Park which include two new river overlooks with seating for the public.
 - 2023 — Worked with SJCA to develop construction documents for the White River Greenway North Extension. This portion of the White River Greenway will include an overlook located adjacent to the trailhead, parking lot, and restroom.
 - 2024 — Began construction of the White River Greenway North Extension, which includes a trailhead parking lot, restroom, and overlook. New White River pedestrian bridge at Hazel Landing Park includes two overlooks at the center of the bridge, providing scenic views up and down the river.
- Elevate the brand of all trails throughout the City through enhanced marketing strategies
 - 2020 — As new parks and upgrades to existing parks are being made, CCPR diligently works to educate public on amenities available and how changes positively impact the community via website and social media platforms.
 - 2021 — Improved CCPR website to ensure public can easily navigate park projects and obtain critical information.
 - 2023 — Began working on signage standards for CCPR owned/managed greenways, including the Monon and the White River.
 - 2024 — Signage standards created for the Monon Greenway and other greenways; Installation of Phase 1 of Monon Greenway signage replacements initiated.
- Work with the City of Carmel to make trail connectivity a priority (10-minute walk to a park)
 - 2020 — Flowing Well Park added two additional access points for foot traffic into park, one from 116th St. and one from Gray Road.
 - 2020 — Added restrooms to Carey Grove and Flowing Well Parks which will significantly increases the amount of time a patron can spend in the park, also increasing the viability of visitors to walk to the park (don't have to drive in case someone has to use the restroom).

- 2020 — Township approved new pedestrian bridge over White River which will connect City of Carmel and Fishers.
 - 2021 — CCPR met with representatives to review design concepts of future White River pedestrian bridge that will be funded/constructed using the Clay Township Impact Program.
 - 2021 — Kite Realty Group, Buckingham Properties, and the Carmel Redevelopment Commission development “The Corner” requests an easement for a trail connection between an apartment building being constructed as part of the project and the Interurban Trail.
 - 2023 — Construction of the Central Park/Interurban Trail Connection & Trailhead Enhancements began.
 - 2023 — Added a connector trail between West Park and Woods at Shelborne subdivision.
 - 2024 — Enhancements to Central Park/Interurban Trail Connection & Trailhead completed.
 - 2024 — City Council approved \$110 million lease-rental bond to be issued through the Carmel Redevelopment Authority; \$24 million for CCPR related projects.
 - Bear Creek Park (\$8 million) — Phase 1 development
 - Autumn Greenway (\$8 million) — Property/easement acquisition and development of a new multiuse trail
 - Memorial Greenway (\$8 million) - Property/easement acquisition and development of a new multiuse trail
- Develop loop trails to tie into existing neighborhood parks
 - 2021 — CCPR engaged in discussions with Albany Village, the new subdivision to be constructed on the east side of Shelborne Road across from Bear Creek Park regarding the potential donation of approximately 9 acres with a developed multipurpose trail and native prairie installed by the developer that could serve as part of a larger Bear Creek Greenway.
 - 2022 — Initial planning for White River Greenway northern extension. Connectivity with TMNP, Conner Prairie, and 146th Street are priorities for the expansion.
 - 2022 — New wayfinding signs installed to illustrate Monon Greenway connectivity with Meadowlark Park and City CAB trail system
 - 2022 — Initial planning for western expansion of 116th pathway at West Park
 - 2023 — Finished construction of western expansion of 116th pathway at West Park
 - 2023 — Issued departments first ever Park Impact Fee Credit for trail development and site improvements within the Albany Village subdivision across from Bear Creek Park. CCPR continues to negotiate with developer for donation of this property to CCPR due to the important role the trail will play in the future Bear Creek Greenway.
 - 2023 — Engaged Weihe to begin putting together plans for a connector path from River Heritage Park to the White River Greenway (Central Extension Phase 1).
 - 2024 — Began conversations with Overbrook Farms to explore feasibility of creating a trail connecting the subdivision to Bear Creek Park, which is consistent with the Bear Creek Park Master Plan and envisioned Bear Creek Greenway. Engaged CrossRoad Engineers to prepare a concept plan for presentation to the HOA Board and residents.
 - 2024 — CCPR/Albany Village donation complete; segment of Bear Creek Greenway through subdivision officially opened.
 - 2024 — City Council approved up to \$8 million from the \$110 million lease-rental bond to develop two new greenways connecting the Old Meridian Street corridor to the Monon Greenway corridor. This will increase connectivity between these two major urban residential areas.
- Explore opportunities for trail amenities (watercraft access, off-trail fitness, overlook areas, etc.)
 - 2020 — Focus of River Heritage Park development will be accessible trails, view sheds and overlook areas along the White River.

- 2020 — Added shuffleboards, spray plaza, table tennis, bocce ball, seating and shade areas along the Monon Greenway from Elm Street to Walnut Street.
 - 2021 — Completed improvements at Carey Grove Park which included fitness equipment around the perimeter of the playground.
 - 2021 — Approved professional services agreement with SJCA for the White River Greenway North Extension design development plans. Began working on design concepts for trail overlooks and the anticipated trailhead on CCPR property.
 - 2022 — Completed improvements at River Heritage Park which include two new river overlooks with seating for the public.
 - 2024 — Began construction on the White River Greenway North Extension which includes a river overlook. Also began construction of new White River pedestrian bridge at Hazel Landing Park with river overlooks at center of bridge.
- Facilitate implementation of a West Regional Corridor centered on West Park
 - Complete evaluation of the need for additional indoor recreation space at West Park
 - Design/construct amenities to make West Park a Regional Destination Park
 - 2020 — Construction started and anticipated to finish in the Fall of 2021.
 - 2021 — Work continued in 2021, good progress made on connector road and culvert/bridge between the Core and the Groves, parking lot expansion, and splash pad. While park was originally planned to be complete in the Fall of 2021, a bevy of issues resulted in CCPR delaying the anticipated re-opening to Spring of 2022.
 - 2022 — Park re-opened to the general public in the fall; several items are still outstanding and will be remedied in 2023 including pedestrian bridge rails, safety fencing, and startup of splashpad.
 - 2023 — Finished construction of western expansion of 116th Street pathway at West Park.
 - 2024 — Finished construction of 3 additional rentable shelters.
 - Establish a west-side steering committee to assist with partnership opportunities for land acquisition
 - 2020 — Purchased approximately 26.91 acres, now known as Bear Creek Park, at 14330 Shelborne Road, Carmel, Indiana, fulfilling the goal of acquiring much needed new parkland in northwest Carmel as established in both the 2020-2024 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan and 2020-2025 Zone Improvement Plan.
 - Explore partnership opportunities that can assist with completing park development
 - Acquire and develop a community or neighborhood park in the northwest corner of Carmel
 - 2020 — Purchased approximately 26.91 acres, now known as Bear Creek Park, at 14330 Shelborne Road, Carmel, Indiana, fulfilling the goal of acquiring much needed new parkland in northwest Carmel as established in both the 2020-2024 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan and 2020-2025 Zone Improvement Plan.
 - 2020 — CCPR anticipates issuing requests for proposals in early-2021 to select a consultant to facilitate the preparation of a park master plan, which will guide the future development of the new park.
 - 2021 — Demolition of existing homestead and structures at Bear Creek Park completed.
 - 2021 — Engaged with SmithGroup to begin Master Plan process for Bear Creek Park.
 - 2021 — Hosted focus group and community input meetings as part of Master Planning process for Bear Creek Park.
 - 2021 — Bear Creek Park opened to public on weekends for limited pre-development use to help residents experience the park firsthand as part of the Master Plan process.
 - 2022 — Bear Creek Park Master Plan adopted by the Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation on June 14th, 2022 via resolution G-2022-002.

- 2021 — Community Outreach was a goal for our volunteer program to identify new groups for engagement. This included many new outlets and those listed in the next objective illustrate the underserved growth.
- 2021 — New Inclusion Supervisor hired in September with a broader background in inclusion and diversity. Goals established for creating programs geared around promoting diversity
- 2021 — Creative Arts category has been retitled Arts & Culture with the goal of creating more culture-based programs with an emphasis on cultural experiences and education
- Utilize compiled data to formulate program offerings to meet the unmet needs of these populations throughout our Program Areas and Categories
 - 2021 — Volunteer program partnership with Stratford Senior Living engaged our award-winning pollinator partnership program involving seed sorting from seeds collected by volunteers. Seed was transported to the retirement community to make the volunteer project easy for participation and in support of our CCPR mission and values.
 - 2021 — Volunteer program engagement with Midwest Academy for a workday at Flowing Well Park where 39 volunteers gave 2.5 hours removing invasive burning bush, Japanese knotweed, trash, and dismantling 4 visitor created rock dams in Cool Creek. Midwest Academy is an intentional educational community serving students in grades 3-12 with ADD/ADHD, language-based learning differences, high functioning autism, and processing challenges. The school is designed to develop academic achievement, self-acceptance, and personal accountability.
 - 2021 — Engaged in discussions with Janus Developmental Services, Inc. regarding workplace trainings and shadowing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
 - 2024 — Summer Nature Keepers program expanded from a 4 to a 5 day program in 2024 to serve more families that were interested in a 5 day/week program opportunity. Enrollment doubled as a result of this and other changes. 77 enrollments in 2023. 159 enrollments in 2024.
- Expand upon current successful partnerships to reach underserved or unserved populations
 - 2020 — Continued partnership with Carmel Marathon which allows Adaptive participants the ability to compete/participate in the annual Carmel 5K; Continued partnership with Carmel Health & Living Community to implement educational programs for seniors
 - 2021 — Department donated pieces of the former Meadowlark Park play structures to the Lake Lemon Conservancy District (LLCD), helping the equipment find new life and avoid ending up in a landfill. By recycling it for LLCD's use the department also fulfilled a playground need for an underserved population.
 - 2021 — Partnership with Carmel Clay Public Library (CCPL) expanded due to construction at their main facility, and assisted with COVID-19 resources; Continued literacy development program partnership (Story Time Express and Story Walks)
 - 2023 — Reengaged with Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI) to serve as a host for adaptive pickleball programs.
 - 2024 — Volunteer stewardship program worked with Midwest Academy to target invasive species at Inlow Park in February. Midwest Academy brought 30 volunteers to the project.
 - 2024 — Partnership with Girl Scouts / Brownies provided 64 enrollments in 6 program offerings geared toward accomplishing Girl Scout badges. Additionally, Girl Scouts provided 40 volunteer hours working on garlic mustard removal at Flowing Well Park.
 - 2024 — Programs for teens included working with Future Farmers of America and University High School with hands on park stewardship activities targeting invasive species removal. 117 total teenage volunteers were engaged through these 2 project opportunities.

- 2024 — Continued partnership with Texas Roadhouse to provide healthy dinners for Adaptive Program participants.
 - 2024 -- Continued partnership with THRIVE Social Club to provide social opportunities for adults with cognitive, developmental, and physical disabilities in the community, including Valentines Day Mingle and the Barn Dance events.
 - Create new partnerships with identified local organizations to fill current and future gaps in service for underserved or unserved populations
 - 2020 — Texas Roadhouse: providing healthy dinners for Adaptive Participants, a priority for many individuals with developmental disabilities; Gordon Holmes/Tom Blessing/Mary Wallace: Educational programs for participants and their families ranging from financial planning to nutrition
 - 2021 — Extended School Enrichment identified a local citizen to begin process of translating key documents in order to provide better customer service to the growing number of participants whose primary language is Spanish; long-term plan is to continue expanding to other languages
 - 2021 — Implementation of UserWay accessibility widget to CCPR webpage to assist with visual impairments and language barriers.
 - 2021 — Partnership with AAPR offering free tax preparation services to low-income households.
 - 2021 — Partnership with Hamilton County Health Department, Hamilton County Emergency Management, and Carmel Fire Department to offer COVID-19 vaccination site to the community.
 - 2022 — Partnership with Carmel Dad’s Club, utilizing Fieldhouse for summer camp programs, able to expand camp type to additional participants.
 - 2023 — Partnered with THRIVE Social Club to provide a social opportunity for adults with cognitive, developmental, and physical disabilities in the community. The result was the creation of the Adaptive Barn Dance which was held at the Monon Community Center.
 - 2024 — Sensory friendly interpretive signs including signs with braille were added to Central Park and River Heritage Park in an effort to establish new opportunities for individuals with visual impairments and folks with sensory needs.
 - Continue to develop and evaluate internal reporting of populations served through CCPR programs and partnerships
 - 2020 — Updated program survey which will allow for better capture of data from participants and better position CCPR to develop new programs and seek out additional partners
 - 2021 — Volunteer program includes program evaluations by participants and records of each projects accomplishments
- Explore opportunities to provide community gardens as part of land-use strategies
 - 2021 — Native food forest planted as part of a grant award that allowed for the planting of 100 native fruit and nut trees at Founders Park. Once the trees mature this stand of trees will provide a diverse range of native food sources for the community to pick and utilize in a sustainable fashion.

1.1.2 PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES:

- Reimagine existing parks through effective planning and appropriate updates
 - Update existing park master plans (Hazel Landing, Inlow, Carey Grove, Cherry Tree, Flowing Well, Meadowlark, and River Heritage)
 - 2020 — The Clay Township Impact Program (CTIP) provided CCPR with funds to enhance and update Carey Grove, Flowing Well, West, Meadowlark, Inlow, and River Heritage Parks. Improvements will be made to the following amenities, which varies by park: playgrounds, splashpads, restrooms, bank stabilization, bridges, trails, parking lots, shelters, fishing piers, pickleball courts (new addition)
 - Incorporate consistent design principles for all new parks and the update of existing parks

- 2022 — Completed site Master Plan for Bear Creek Park. Extensive public input was solicited as part of the master planning process.
 - 2023 — Completed site Master Plan for Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park. Extensive public input was solicited as part of the master planning process.
 - 2023 — Engaged Purdue University to develop concept plans for a proposed Chinese Garden adjacent to the Carmel Clay Public Library and on property owned by Carmel Clay Schools.
 - Develop a mini business plan for parks and facilities to ensure site will achieve outcomes desired
 - 2024 — Business plans for Monon Community Center/Waterpark, Extended School Enrichment and Summer Camp Series created as part of updated five-year master plan.
 - Continue to upgrade playgrounds in existing parks
 - 2020 — CTIP funds provided to CCPR will allow for playground/splashpad updates at Carey Grove, West, Meadowlark, River Heritage and Inlow Parks
 - 2021 — Playground updates and park improvements completed at Carey Grove Park. West, Meadowlark, River Heritage and Inlow Park improvements underway and expected be completed in the Spring of 2022.
 - 2024 — Added new staircase and concrete infill to the limestone scramble at West Park.
 - 2024 — Added additional shade structure and artificial turf to playground at West Park.
 - 2024 — Updated playground safety surfacing at Westermeier Commons, also installed a large artificial turf area adjacent to the playground to facilitate additional play opportunities.
 - Analyze community demographics to ensure park design meets needs of those it intends to serve
 - 2020 — Community input meetings were held to obtain feedback on park improvements at Carey Grove, Flowing Well, and West Parks; Feedback incorporated into final park design
- Create nature preserve experiences throughout the park system
 - Seek a partnership with a not-for-profit to help preserve natural areas along the trails with resource plans
 - 2021 — Adopt A Park program grew from 4 participants to 13 different participant groups ranging from private individuals, corporate businesses, local civic groups, and non-profits to help support long term preservation standards along trails and within park properties.
 - 2022 — The Hamilton Invasives Partnership has grown into a significant resource for education and action to support preservation of natural areas throughout our properties and as well as serving all of Hamilton County. CCPR is a large contributor to multiple initiatives with this partnership including GIS mapping, Weed Wrangles, and volunteer training.
 - 2022 — Pollinator Partnership group continues to be a huge resource in support of preservation of natural areas through the Project Wingspan initiative. CCPR supported the partnership with 9 total seed collection or seed sorting events to procure usable native wildflower seed for redistribution through the partnership.
 - 2023 — Completed Site Master Plan for Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park.
 - 2023 — Pollinator Partnership group continued to serve as a resource in support of preservation of natural areas through the Project Wingspan initiative. CCPR supported the partnership with 9 seed collection and sorting events that produced almost 2 pounds of usable native wildflower seed.
 - 2024 — CCPR partnered with the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership to deliver 13 Weed Wrangle events with 262 volunteers targeting invasive species at multiple parks.
 - 2024 — CCPR provided 74.5 volunteer hours in support of native seed collection for the Pollinator Partnership.
 - Develop an interpretive plan for natural areas in the parks through updated interpretive signage
 - 2020 — Interpretive signage added to Founders Park in Spring 2020 utilizing Rain on Main funds

- 2020 — Flowing Well interpretive signs are in final stages of production and will be installed in 2021 utilizing CTIP funds
- 2021 — Flowing Well signs were updated and installed as part of the CTIP project
- 2020 — Prairie Meadow signage will be implemented in 2021 utilizing Rain on Main funds
- 2021 — Prairie Meadow sign content is developed and awaiting final designs and production
- 2020 — Meadowlark Park interpretive signage was received as an add-alternate in bids received, evaluating to determine if CTIP funds will be sufficient to cover expense
- 2021 — Meadowlark Park interpretive signs content is developed and awaiting final designs and production
- 2022 — Meadowlark Park interpretive signs were installed all throughout the trail system of the park
- 2022 — Interactive interpretive signs at River Heritage are in design phase
- 2023 — Jim Engledow commemorative interpretive sign installed at West Park
- 2023 — River Heritage Signage nearing completion as part of the parks upgrade
- 2023 - Three interpretive signs installed at Prairie Meadow Park working with the City Utilities
- 2023 - Working with Urban Forestry to develop tree education signs at West Park
- 2024 — Sensory friendly and low vision supported 10 interpretive signs installed at River Heritage Park
- 2024 — 3 interpretive signs installed to support the natural history of bison in Indiana with the addition of the new sculpture in Central Park.
- Develop educational content that helps locate and identify key natural resources in CCPR specific parks
 - 2020 — Park Conversations magazine, created in 2019, continues to provide the community with educational content pertinent to CCPR parks and natural resources
 - 2020 — Volunteer Stewardship projects focused on targeted education on fostering sustainable habitats within CCPR properties
 - 2020 — My Park Series which highlights key natural resources and history of CCPR specific parks was created in 2019. Plans to expand upon the program were delayed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic but will be re-initiated in 2021
 - 2020 — Wildflower Walks will be expanded upon in 2021
 - 2020 — Stewardship focused web presence in development with PNR/Marketing planned for Spring 2021 rollout (educational components are a key focus of each stewardship park activity)
 - 2021 — Stewardship web pages were developed with formatting and added content for 1st qtr 2022 live rollout.
 - 2021 — Participant Learning Outcomes (PLO's) were documented as part of each stewardship engagement program and utilized as a baseline standard of information for participants to gain knowledge and understanding of the projects they are participating in and how they contribute to the larger mission, vision, and values of CCPR.
 - 2022 — PNR division took responsibility for CCPR Nature offerings to include fee-based programs. The control over curriculum development will provide greater connections with educational experiences that can focus on examples of park restoration projects or other internal stewardship activities.
 - 2022 — Nature Keepers program concepts for youth summer programs in 2023 has been a key focus for reinventing the CCPR summer nature program outline.
 - 2022 — PNR hired 1st part-time naturalist position to add another facilitator to our ranks to increase program delivery in 2023.
 - 2022 — PNR staff were invited to be guest presenters with Blatchley Nature Study Club — presenting on the Pollinator Partnership

- 2022 — 14 free nature programs were delivered as stewardship program delivery continues to be a key component of the PNR Division.
 - 2023 — PNR staff were invited to be guest speakers at Midwest Academy, presenting on biodiversity in the parks, Carmel High School, presenting on sustainability, and the Ball State University Wildlife Society, presenting on careers as a naturalist.
 - 2023 — Upgraded the Natural Resource Coordinator position to Operations Manager of Natural Resources. The intention to bring a greater focus to Natural Resource Education and give more stability to Volunteerism.
 - 2023 — 73 Nature programs ran throughout the year focusing on various natural resource topics. 51 Programs were offered with a participant fee and 22 were offered free to participants.
 - 2024 — 171 free and fee for service Nature program sessions ran this year for the community.
 - Seek National Audubon recognition for habitat and native plant preservation and integration of the park system
 - Develop resource management plans for those parks that are preservation designated
 - 2020 — Converted approximately 8 acres of turf/grass to native prairie at Steckley Property
 - 2021 — Year 2 of strategic invasive species mitigation efforts with contracted support from Park Foundation dollars to focus on Vera Hinshaw Preserve sustainable habitat restoration efforts
 - 2021 — 2nd Annual World Habitat Day native tree and shrub planting project at Vera Hinshaw Preserve continuing phased approach to long term restoration efforts
 - 2021 — Woodland Gardens native planting restoration project for Earth Day
 - 2022 — Natural Resource Management Plan was updated to reflect changes in departmental strategies and priorities from the original 2011 version. Preserve property specific plans will be added in 2023.
 - 2022 — 3rd Annual World Habitat Day native tree and shrub planting project at Vera Hinshaw Preserve continued phased approach to long term restoration efforts.
 - 2022 — 94.7% survival rate for woody trees and shrubs with Flowing Well restoration and enhancement to support mitigation of disturbed areas from bank stabilization project.
 - 2023 — Continued extensive removal of Honeysuckle on Vera Hinshaw Preserve.
 - 2023 — Planted an additional 75 native trees and shrubs with the help of volunteers on Annual World Habitat Day at Vera Hinshaw Preserve.
 - 2023 — Completed phase one of hazard tree remediation and removal of invasive tree species at River Heritage Park.
 - 2023 — Completed large scale tree planting projects at River Heritage Park and Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park.
 - 2023 — Natural Resource Management Plans were updated/completed for Vera Hinshaw Park & Preserve, Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park, and multiple other parks that are not designated as preservations.
 - 2024 — Natural Resource Management plans completed as part of Master Plan.
- Provide a diverse selection of facilities and amenities to accommodate indoor and outdoor recreational pursuits
 - Consider developing more health-related amenities in parks (loop trails, art, cultural, outdoor fitness equipment)
 - 2020 — Outdoor cardio equipment was incorporated into park design at Carey Grove Park
 - 2021 — Completed City Center mural project in partnership with Carmel High School (CHS) and the City of Carmel; designed by Caroline Hammonds, a student at CHS
 - 2021 — Clay Township and the City of Carmel began improvements to the existing Japanese Garden honoring Carmel's sister city of Kawachinagano, Osaka, Japan. CCPR will assume maintenance responsibilities for the expanded park upon completion

- 2021 — 6 pickleball courts were incorporated into construction plans for 2 park sites — Meadowlark and Lawrence Inlow Parks — to be completed in 2022.
 - 2021 — Acquired 63-acre parcel, Thomas Marcuccilli “Nature Park” in Northeast Carmel
 - 2021 — Began preliminary conversations with Sports Methodist Medicine regarding an Outdoor Fitness trail loop; Sports Methodist would construct with input from CCPR; CCPR would enter management agreement once complete (trail open for community use).
 - 2023 — Completed 116th Street tunnel mural project in partnership with Carmel High School (CHS); designed by Emily Garnes, a student at CHS
 - 2023 — Completed Central Park Lagoon trail loop.
 - 2023 — City of Carmel Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Program initiated. CCPR led efforts by developing the protocol that is utilized by various City partners including police and fire.
 - 2024 — AED access expanded to multiple park and greenway locations.
 - 2024 — World class bison sculptures added to Central Park.
 - Consider adding additional assets consistent with park master plans in underserved areas
 - 2023 — Engaged Purdue University to develop concept plans for a proposed Chinese Garden adjacent to the Carmel Clay Public Library and on property owned by Carmel Clay Schools.
 - Develop age segment, facility and program experiences matrix for each park to determine who is being served and who is not
 - 2023 — Purchased subscription to Placer.ai which utilizes data sourced from cellular phones to provide metrics on park use, demographics, etc.
- Balance and expand program and volunteer opportunities throughout the community
 - Create continuous coordination between Recreation, ESE, and Parks divisions to better utilize existing resources and collaborate between divisions to ensure a balance of program offerings is being maintained throughout the Department
 - 2021 — Nature programming gained a new format revolving around 4 core areas that help define areas of focus and responsibility for each division.
 - 2021 — Intra-Division quarterly team building initiatives were achieved to promote communication and awareness of the teams strengths and serve an intent of fostering positive culture across divisions.
 - 2021 — Unique circumstances created opportunities for staff to support other divisions including subbing in during extreme staffing shortages and staff even permanently transitioned full time employment from one division to another taking advantage of various professional growth opportunities.
 - 2022 — Quarterly team building initiatives continued as a priority for divisions to engage and learn from each other.
 - 2022 — PNR lead several departmental All Staff meeting agendas to educate the other divisions about PNR responsibilities and park stewardship in general
 - 2022 — PNR took responsibility for planning nature programs which includes working closely with R&F staff for program registrations and delivery of content
 - 2023 — PNR and ESE worked together to create and recruit new Summer Camp Series and Extended School Enrichment volunteers for a variety of roles.
 - 2023 - 73 Nature programs ran throughout the year focusing on various natural resource topics. 51 of those programs were offered with a participant fee with close program structure coordination with R&F and PNR delivery/implementation.
 - 2023 — PNR naturalist instruction has been offered to compliment and incorporate into ESE opportunities.

- 2023 — PNR, ESE, & Marketing are working together to offer complimentary marketing strategies that have the potential to enhance enrollment in PNR delivered nature programs.
 - 2024 — All CCPR divisions coordinated efforts to ensure that residents and visitors to the City of Carmel could safely enjoy the total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024.
 - 2024 — PNR collaborates with ESE to provide nature programming to ESE participants.
- Identify populations/demographics in Carmel, Indiana and Clay Township by geographical area
- Construct targeted surveys to determine needs/wants by geographical area
- Ensure that under-utilized parks are represented in program proposal each season
 - 2021 — Nature programs expanded into various CCPR park properties exploring different ecosystems in different areas of the Carmel/Clay community.
 - 2022 — A family is registered in our Adopt A Park program to support 4.5 acre Prairie Meadow Park.
 - 2022 — Invasive species management targeting Monon South Trailhead and Lenape Trace was prioritized to begin systematically moving north along the recreational and biological corridor of the Monon Greenway, specifically targeting bush honeysuckle.
 - 2022 — Volunteer efforts prioritized Cherry Tree Park to target bush honeysuckle and white mulberry.
 - 2023 — Volunteer efforts prioritized River Heritage Park to target garlic mustard and honeysuckle. Several events are planned for this site in 2024 as well.
 - 2023 — An existing Adopt-a-Park participant group expanded their work to include a 3rd area at Meadowlark Park.
 - 2023 — Nature Keepers spent a minimum of one day a week meeting in under-utilized parks and exploring the natural resources in each place.
- Utilize compiled data to formulate program offerings based on the needs/wants of each geographical community
- Ensure a balance of Summer Camp Series opportunities by offering diverse programs at multiple locations throughout the Carmel/Clay community
 - 2021 — SCS offered 12 different camp types, ranging from traditional to specialty offerings, at 6 different facilities spanning the Carmel/Clay community
 - 2021 — SCS added 3 new camp types, EnRoute (world travel theme), STEAM team (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), and Camp Wayback (exploration of historical time periods)
 - 2022 — SCS held 81 weekly camper spots in 3 popular day camps for campers attending with fee-waivers.
 - 2023 — SCS increased enrollment capacity at the Aletto Family Sports Complex locations by 40 camper spots, reserved for 5–7-year-olds
 - 2024 — New SCS offering for 5–9-year-olds with a biome/natural habitat education focus, called Expedition Discovery
- Collaborate with CCPR Marketing team to create specialized marketing plans to reach new participants and promote programming at locations outside of the Monon Community Center and Central Park
 - 2020 — Annual recreation survey sent towards latter end of 2020 aimed to begin initial information gathering of data that will be used to assist CCPR in reaching new participants
 - 2023 — Recreation program survey was adjusted to send seasonally to provide more timely feedback to the Recreation team.
 - 2023 — New marketing tactics included working with a local influencer to communicate availability of recreation programs to local families, paid social advertisements for new Nature Keepers half-day camps, and cross-promotion with ESE participants.
- Evaluate current local and nation-wide trends, challenges, and critical health and wellness issues
 - 2021 — Survey data used to help determine fitness trend direction and interest to ensure planned investments support the public’s current fitness needs.

- 2021 — Constant evaluation of COVID-19 climate and impact on daily lives. Continuous change in policies and procedures to help support a safe and healthy place to provide fitness and recreational needs.
 - 2022 — Added an additional summer camp focused on active play.
 - 2022 — Implemented “Leave No Trace” educational component to all summer camps.
 - 2022 — Daily mindfulness techniques incorporated into summer camp activities to promote mental health and wellness.
 - 2023 — Enrichment club offerings with a focus on physical fitness offered at all 11 ESE locations, including mileage (walking) club and BOKS fitness curriculum
 - 2023 — Incorporated mental health as a primary focus of multiple Lunch & Learn programs
 - 2024 — Continued to offer Lunch & Learn program that incorporates critical health and wellness issues. Topics covered include Yoga for Arthritis, Senior Living Information, Tai Chi to improve balance and prevent falls, and Divergent Wellness
- Develop targeted surveys to Monon Community Center members that will help identify wants/needs regarding new and current fitness and wellness offerings
 - 2020 Survey Results:
 - Member Satisfaction — 86% of members surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 star rating
 - Highest Rated Amenities — 1. Fitness Equipment Provided, 2. Group Fitness Offerings, 3. Value of Facility for the Money, 4. Investments made to Equipment and Facility
 - 2021 Survey Results:
 - Member Satisfaction — 84.1% of members surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 star rating
 - Highest Rated Amenities — 1. Fitness Center, 2. Indoor Track, 3. Group Fitness, 4. The Waterpark
 - 2021 — Developed first Waterpark survey sent out to general public.
 - General Satisfaction — 83.4% surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 star rating
 - Highest Rated Reason for Visiting The Waterpark — 1. Location, 2. Amenities, 3. Cleanliness
 - 2023 — Developed first My Monon Rewards survey sent out to MCC members
 - 80% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that challenges were accessible for all
 - 2023 - R&F and M&C worked together to revamp the Group Fitness Survey
 - Will be sent out to members in Q1 of 2024
 - 2024 — Continued the My Monon Rewards and Group Fitness Surveys
 - 78% of Group Fitness respondents reported taking multiple classes per week
 - 86% of My Monon Reward respondents reported the rewards challenges were accessible to all members
- Utilize compiled data to develop innovated and effective fitness and wellness program offerings for all age groups focusing specifically on at-risk populations
 - 2021 — Survey data used to help determine fitness trend direction and interest to ensure planned investments support the public’s current fitness needs.
- Ensure fitness and wellness components are integrated into the Extended School Enrichment programs through supplemental enrichment offerings focuses on the needs and current trends surrounding youth demographics
 - 2021 — Daily opportunities for all students to engage in a minimum of 1 hour of physical activity incorporated into ESE programming at all 11 elementary locations.
 - 2021 — Addition of ESE staff training in Mindfulness and Mindfulness breaks for all students, led by staff, incorporated into daily schedule at all ESE sites.
 - 2023 — Addition of Enrichment Special opportunities with a focus on physical fitness like karate, basketball, and obstacle courses.

- 2024 — Incorporated daily opportunities for physical activity during academic assistance portion of the afterschool program, tailored specifically for students who have little to no homework.
 - 2024 — Added a common club (enrichment club offered at all 11 school locations) with a focus on wellness as well as an enrichment special offering emphasizing physical activity through Ninja Parkour.
 - 2024 — Multiple, varied ESE Awareness Day opportunities for students to learn more about social-emotional wellness and giving back to the community, especially senior citizens within the Carmel Clay area.
 - Continue to develop volunteers in all aspects of the system through recruitment, training and replacement
 - 2020 — 46 volunteer programs; 1,288 hours (programs/hours impacted by Covid-19 pandemic)
 - 2021 — 52 volunteer programs; 3,494 hours; 878 timesheets (individual participant records)
 - 2021 — participant learning outcomes (PLO's) were developed to deliver added value to our participants experiences with our department
 - 2021 — Survey Results:
 - Participant Satisfaction — 95% of volunteers surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 start rating
 - 2022 — 43 volunteer programs; 3,357 hours; 967 timesheets (individual participant records)
 - 2022 — Survey Results:
 - Participant Satisfaction — 100% of volunteers surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 start rating
 - 2023 — 60 volunteer programs; 3,881.71 hours; 1173 timesheets (individual participant records)
 - 2023 — Survey Results:
 - Participant Satisfaction — 93% of volunteers surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 start rating
 - 2024 — 55 volunteer programs; 2,611 hours; 766 timesheets (individual participant records)
 - 2024 — Survey Results:
 - Participant Satisfaction — 81% of volunteers surveyed responded with a 4 or 5 start rating
 - Teach and train staff on how to work with volunteers to maximize their performance
 - 2021 — Staff and Board engaged with volunteer program in several respects including training and awareness
 - PNR staff received education and training to engage as project leaders and serve in multiple support roles throughout the year for various projects
 - A comprehensive effort was launched to evaluate and restructure the volunteer program based on the principles of Experience Design. Through this process the recruitment, onboarding, training, evaluation, and retention of volunteers received an overhaul. The exact steps taken, and outcomes of this process, were presented to CCPR staff Additional training for staff including a presentation at CCPR All Staff Meeting conducted by Volunteer Coordinator included a thorough synopsis on the Volunteer Experience Design
 - 2021 — CCPR Board was educated at September board meeting on progress and growth of volunteer program and natural resource engagement programs
 - 2022 — PNR staff supported volunteer projects as part of their annual performance criteria to ensure a logistical support role is a foundational element of the PNR division program support structure. Staff were trained to serve support roles.
 - 2023 — Volunteer Coordinator led a training session for ESE full-time staff members about the volunteer recruitment and management process.
 - 2023 — Volunteer Coordinator worked in conjunction with Inclusion Supervisor to review current Adaptive volunteer offerings and expand to include volunteers in Barrier-Free Theatre.

- 2023 - PNR staff continue to support volunteer projects as part of their annual performance criteria to ensure a logistical support role is a foundational element of the PNR division program support structure. Staff were trained to serve support roles.
 - 2024 - PNR staff continue to support volunteer projects as part of their annual performance criteria to ensure a logistical support role is a foundational element of the PNR division program support structure. Staff were trained to serve support roles.
 - Develop a strong recognition program for volunteers in the system
 - 2020 — Event held in January at Monon Community Center, recognized the accumulative annual contributions from 2019; CCPR recognized its top 20 contributors with an awards banquet and door prizes for all in attendance
 - 2021 - The implementation of NEON CRM at the beginning of the year allowed us to strategically implement and document solicitation of in-kind donations as well as apply for several grants. We raised over \$3,000 in in-kind donations and grant awards brought in over \$10,000. The in-kind contributions were largely utilized as direct deliverables to recognize volunteers with gift certificates, food on projects, and other handouts that focused on a theme of fostering sustainability.
 - 2021 — Volunteer spotlights were developed and highlighted through social media, our web page, and through program newsletters.
 - 2022 — Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event held in February at Monon Community Center, recognized the accumulative annual contributions from 2021; CCPR recognized its top contributors with an awards banquet and door prizes for attendees.
 - 2022 — Volunteer spotlights were developed and highlighted through social media, our web page, and through program newsletters.
 - 2023 — Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet held in February at the Monon Community Center, recognized cumulative annual contributions from 2022; CCPR recognized its top contributors with awards and door prizes
 - 2023 — A volunteer incentive program was created for launch in 2024. The program structure is based on conducted benchmarking and prioritizes engaging volunteers with existing CCPR programs or assets.
 - 2024 — Volunteer incentive program was soft launched in 2024. With turnover in the Volunteer Coordinator position, it was not heavily prioritized but incentives will be prepared for early 2025 Annual Volunteer Appreciation banquet.
- Continue reinvestments in revenue facilities by adding or replacing amenities
 - Add an additional waterslide to The Waterpark
 - 2021 — Engaged Williams Architects to explore options that expand opportunities for water play that do not increase the need for staffing. Targeted areas include the location of the existing lap pool and kiddie pool area. Also exploring the feasibility of adding additional cabanas.
 - 2023 — Ten additional cabanas added to the Waterpark. Site work also completed concurrently with Cabana project to allow CCPR to re-imagine the space and add a new splashpad amenity.
 - Continue to evaluate need to update fitness equipment on a five-year cycle
 - 2020 — Cybex/Strength Circuit was replaced in first quarter of year, which concluded CCPRs previous five-year replacement cycle; 2021 will resume assessment of needs and implementation of new five-year plan
 - 2021 — New dumbbells ordered at end of 2021. No other capital improvements made to fitness due to COVID-19 impact on budgets.
 - 2022 — Treadmill demo occurred in January to collect member feedback and identify potential replacement options.

- Inspections identified need for a large re-investment at Founders Park playground to meet standards as surfacing is completing life cycle on schedule. Parking lot will likely be a large reinvestment as well. Drinking fountain is due for a replacement and fiber expansion has created opportunities for improving security on site.
 - Inspections identified Monon trailhead locations for further updates after receiving several site improvements through kiosk sign project. Next targets will include at a minimum replacing RR doors and adding site security with adequate network connectivity.
- 2022 — Quarterly field staff inspections continue to document and plan regular and capital maintenance improvements.
- 2022 — Annual park inspections include condition assessments for tracking amenities that need maintenance as well as asset life cycle expectations.
- 2023 — Made asphalt repairs to parking lots at Founders and Central Park, and to the lagoon perimeter trail in Central Park.
- 2023 — Resurfaced floors in existing restrooms with epoxy coating and began to paint interior walls with consistent colors.
- 2023 — Completed staining of Central Park east picnic shelters and restroom building.
- 2024 — Repaired concrete at multiple locations to improve access and maintain uneven surfaces.
- 2024 — Updated Monon Greenway sign standard with phase 1 implementation of new signs.
- 2024 — Installed decorative barrier fencing at Inlow, Carey Grove, and Westermeier Commons to improve site safety between playgrounds and parking lots.
- 2024 — Replaced aging fence posts and rails at Dog Park
- 2024 — Exterior paint at Founders Park structures, Lenape Trace shelter, and South Trailhead shade.
- 2024 — New playground surfacing installed at Westermeier Commons and expanded play area with artificial turf to improve site conditions and manage aging infrastructure.
- 2024 — Provided shoreline stabilization to manage erosion at Meadowlark Park ponds.

1.1.3 ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM:

- Maintain Accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies
 - 2024 — CCPR re-accredited, meeting all 154 standards; now one of only 206 park and recreation agencies in the United States that are accredited via the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.
- Develop long-term funding plan and implement Lifecycle Asset Management Plan
 - Maintain and update the Asset Management Plan as new assets are incorporated to the system and items are updated
 - 2021 - Asset management plan updated with new asset infrastructure included unit cost data
 - 2023 — Began transition of Asset Management Plan and Work Order software to Asset Planner. Implementation of software to begin in 2024.
 - 2024 — Implementation of Asset Planner work order and asset management software began.
 - Track capital costs to ensure the dollars allocated in the Asset Management Plan are consistent
 - 2023 — Asset Planner software will help allocate capital costs consistently.
 - Update amenities as they reach their end of life
 - 2020 — CTIP assisted CCPR in expediting replacement of playgrounds, parking lots, and other infrastructure that had reached end of life.
 - 2022 — Replaced carpet in staff offices at the Monon Community Center.
 - 2022 — Added/updated fitness equipment at the Monon Community Center
 - 2023 — Replaced Flowrider rider surface

- 2023 — Added/updated fitness equipment at the Monon Community Center
 - 2024 — Updated slide tower in indoor aquatics
 - 2024 — Replaced chlorinators at MCC and The Waterpark
 - 2024 — Added/updated fitness equipment at the Monon Community Center
 - 2024 — Westermeier Commons playground surfacing replaced
 - Establish a dedicated funding source for capital improvements in all parks
 - 2021 — Meeting with Mayor Brainard, City Councilors, Township Board Members, and Park Board met in April to begin identifying viable solutions to address. Based on initial discussions, all parties supported investigating the feasibility of a Special Taxing District Bond issued through the Township. CCPR is working with the Township’s accountant to conduct assessment.
 - 2024 — Engaged Peters Franklin, a respected municipal finance advisor and consultant, to assist CCPR in evaluating long-term financial opportunities for the department.
 - 2024 — Engaged Catalyst Public Affairs Group to advocate for legislative initiatives that support sustainable funding solutions essential to the department's growth and long-term success. This partnership focuses on securing resources that enable CCPR to enhance its commitment to quality of place, ensuring the delivery of exceptional parks, programs, and services that meet the evolving needs of the community. Through Catalyst’s expertise in legislative advocacy, CCPR aims to foster strategic partnerships and explore innovative funding opportunities to sustain and expand its impact.
- Continue and expand conservation management practices throughout park system
 - Demonstrate the cost benefit of urban conservation management with elected officials
 - 2021 — September Park Board meeting presentation with PNR staff to illustrate community engagement strategy, growth, and value of hands on stewardship
- Partner with public, private, and non-profit sectors to satisfy community needs for facilities with high construction and/or operating costs
 - Continue to partner with local agencies on joint development of properties
 - Develop feasibility studies and business plans for all new recreation facilities being considered
 - 2021 — PROS Consulting prepared feasibility study for former Orchard Park Elementary School site. Study confirmed that the site could be a viable location for expanding summer and out-of-school camps. Information passed along to Carmel Clay Schools in order to facilitate further conversation on renovations needed in order to move partnership forward
- Expand environmental education and park stewardship programming to increase appreciation for natural resources
 - Develop program offerings and opportunities designed around the intent for the Department to gain tangible benefits as a result of the skills obtained by participants
 - 2020 — Continued implementation of Citizen Science and Adopt a Park programs involving water quality assessments, bird monitoring, native and invasive plant monitoring, and park stewardship projects such as planting native trees and shrubs at sites that had invasive species (honeysuckle, etc.) removed
 - 2021 — Adopt A Park programming grew from 4 participants to 13
 - 2021 — Citizen Science programming grew participation to reach a threshold that is now capping participation in certain categories, while also planning for expansion in 2022 with mycology
 - Additional PNR staffing is required to sustain additional growth
 - 2022 — Adopt A Park programming added 2 new participant groups and expanded 1 existing participant group to engage a 2nd area.
 - 2022 — Citizen Science programming grew participation hours in multiple categories including: 16% increase in birding; 11% increase in bluebird nest box monitoring; 81% increase in Hoosier Riverwatch; 140% increase in Pollinator Partnership.

- 2023 — Adopt-a-Park programming added 4 new participant groups and expanded 1 existing participant group to engage a 3rd area.
 - 2023 — Citizen Science continues to grow in participants and volunteer hours reaching 867.55 hours.
 - 2024 — Adopt-a-Park program grew to 16 total locations with 14 participant groups and delivered 401 volunteer hours.
 - 2024 — Continue to waive American Red Cross fees for participants that agree to work with CCPR as lifeguards that attend our Lifeguard Blended Learning courses.
- Develop program offerings and opportunity coordination between divisions to create a reciprocal feed of participants between skill-based instruction (fee-based) and application-based instruction (park system benefit)
 - 2020 — Junior Ranger program developed in 2020 but due to Covid-19 pandemic will not be rolled out until 2021.
 - 2021 — Nature programming growth in active participation through Citizen Science and volunteer stewardship has created a need for developing pre-requisite content that participants can enroll in as a fee-based initial skill based learning opportunity and then apply for stewardship enrollment with built in training to CCPR standards.
 - 2022 — Hoosier Riverwatch pre-requisite was developed and used during Master Naturalist fee-based learning opportunity. Additional pre-requisites are scheduled for 2023.
 - 2022 — Anticipated Jr Ranger program — changed to Nature Keepers program and under PNR development for 2023 program delivery.
 - 2023 — ESE and SCS programs partnered with PNR staff to offer environmental education opportunities to participants.
 - 2023 — Nature Keepers was introduced in June and ran for eight weeks.
 - 2024 — Nature Keepers doubled enrollment in 2024 from 77 to 159.
- Strengthen the infrastructure for informal/unstructured, yet educational, opportunities throughout the CCPR park system
 - 2020 — Added tangible educational resources to field staff vehicles for impromptu opportunities to engage visitors when available
 - 2020 — Interpretive signage added to Founders Park in Spring 2020 utilizing Rain on Main funds
 - 2020 — Flowing Well interpretive signs are in final stages of production and will be installed in 2021 utilizing CTIP funds
 - 2020 — Utilized social platforms to assist with community education on random environmental related topics and nature specific events including native trees, plants, winter solstice, migratory birds, clean water act, world soils day, America Recycles day, etc.
 - 2021 — Nature-based programming incorporated into both ESE and SCS programs, including creek stumping, fishing, nature walks, flora/fauna identification, etc.
 - 2021 — Celebration of Earth Day at all ESE locations with educational and environmental awareness curriculum share with all participants
 - 2021 — Staff attempted to gain additional engagement with park visitors through informal interactions in the parks and allowed for impromptu conversations and general awareness of certain stewardship principles and general management priorities such as adverse effects of stacking rocks in Cool Creek and benefits of shoreline stabilization as well as native species benefits.
 - 2022 — Continued to build on prior initiatives mentioned above.
 - 2023 — Staff developed an ESE-wide Junior Counselor offering for 4th and 5th grade participants, empowering them to provide leadership and role model skills for younger students.
 - 2023 — Continued to use the “My Park Series” for impromptu interaction and education for park visitors

- Explore a park bond issue or other financing resources
 - 2024 — City Council approves \$110 million lease-rental bond to be issued through the Carmel Redevelopment Authority; \$24 million for CCPR related projects.
 - Bear Creek Park (\$8 million) — Phase 1 development
 - Autumn Greenway (\$8 million) — Property/easement acquisition and development of a new multiuse trail
 - Memorial Greenway (\$8 million) - Property/easement acquisition and development of a new multiuse trail
- Consider a new position to develop earned income opportunities
 - 2023 — Hired Resource Development Coordinator to help CCPR solicit sponsorships/donations, coordinate grants, and develop other opportunities.
- Seek additional opportunities through grants and sponsorships
 - 2021 — The Hamilton County South River District/Conner Prairie Westside Expansion was selected as one of the signature projects for WR-ROI. This potentially positions the White River Education and Ecology Center to receive up to \$7.3 million if WR-ROI is successful in securing READI grant. Hamilton County also committed up to \$1 million for the ecology center if the project receives funds through READI grant.
 - 2021 — Submitted Next Level Trails grant application to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in hopes of securing state funding for the development of the north extension of the White River Greenway.
 - 2023 — Submitted Next Level Trails grant application to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in hopes of securing state funding for the development of the south extension of the White River Greenway.
 - 2023 — Met with representatives from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to discuss Land and Water Conservation Funds for Bear Creek Park.
 - 2023 — Received several sponsorships including \$10,000 for staff development.
- Track unit costs and pricing alternatives for achieving cost-recovery goals
- Seek to develop a corporate partner to provide funding mechanism for fee waivers offered by the department

1.2 “FOURWARD” FOCUS

While CCPR should strive to achieve all recommendations outlined within this Master Plan, the following represent the top priorities for the next five years. Achievement of these will require the sustained effort and support of the community, elected officials, Park Board members, and CCPR to accomplish. Successfully implementing these objectives will ensure CCPR remains responsive to the identified needs of the community and positions itself to remain one of the best managed park and recreation systems in the country. The following outlines the key recommendations:

- Carmel White River Regional Corridor
 - River multiuse trail and working with partners to establish a regional system
- West Regional Corridor
 - West Park development and working with partners (e.g., Dads Club, Schools, County, etc.)
 - Northwest side park
- Reimagine Existing Parks
 - Develop new master plans for Carey Grove, Cherry Tree, Flowing Well, Hazel Landing, Meadowlark, and River Heritage Parks
 - Make a significant improvement within each existing park
- Celebrate Nature
 - White River Corridor
 - West Park redevelopment
 - Flowing Well
 - Environmental education and park stewardship programming

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