

**Due to the COVID-19 concerns and social distancing recommendations, a virtual meeting is being offered. Participants wishing to speak on a topic should message the meeting moderator. All participants are asked to mute their individual computers at times when they are not speaking to minimize background noise. Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>*

**NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING
BONDURANT PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
APRIL 18, 2024**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held at 6:00 PM on April 18, 2024, in the Bondurant City Center, 200 Second Street, Northeast, Bondurant, Polk County, Iowa. Said meeting is open and the public is encouraged to attend.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Call to Order and Declaring a Quorum
3. Abstentions declared
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Perfecting and Approval of the Agenda
6. Guests requesting to address the Parks Board
7. Action Items
 - a. -Consideration of recommendation related to Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan
8. Discussion Items -
9. Reports and Comments:
10. Adjournment



**BUSINESS OF THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
BONDURANT, IOWA
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 7.a.
For Meeting of 4/18/2024
Motion

TITLE: -Consideration of recommendation related to Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan

CONTACT PERSON:

Marketa Oliver, City Administrator

BRIEF HISTORY & ANALYSIS: For recommendation by the Parks & Recreation Board this evening is approval of the updated Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan.

The updated plan, created in partnership with the University of Iowa's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) Program, is essential as it considers both recent parks/trails/greenways enhancements within the community and opportunities where additional park/trails/greenways improvements can be implemented to better meet the growing needs of the community. The original Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan was completed in 2013 when Bondurant's population was around 4,000 residents, contrasting with the current estimated population of approximately 10,000 people.

Community engagement was an important factor as part of the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan update process. Throughout the eight-month planning phase, the public had multiple opportunities to offer input via platforms such as surveys, event booths, and stakeholder discussions. This public feedback was utilized by the students while crafting the plan's recommendations.

The vision statement included as part of the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan is: Bondurant champions accessible recreation, safe pathways for multi-modal transportation, and a shared sense of belonging for generations to come.

The four overarching goals of the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan that related back to the vision statement include:

- Goal 1 - Implement practical strategies to promote Bondurant's status as a regional leader in parks, trails, and greenways development.
- Goal 2 - Develop a comprehensive network of interconnected parks, trails, and greenways that meet the needs of all residents.

- Goal 3 - Preserve Bondurant's "hometown feel" through proactive planning for smart growth.
- Goal 4 - Enhance Bondurant's natural landscape to provide an enjoyable aesthetic experience for all residents and preserve environmental sustainability.

The Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan includes several park concepts to facilitate implementation efforts at several existing undeveloped parks in Bondurant, including Sankey Summit Park, Harvest Meadows Park, Featherstone Park, and others.

The Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan complements other recently-adopted plans of the community, including the Art, Culture, & Wayfinding Master Plan, the Central District Stormwater Improvements Master Plan, the Civic Campus Master Plan, the City Park Master Plan, the Eagle Park Master Plan, and the Building Bondurant Comprehensive Plan.

A component that will be included as an attachment of the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan is guidance that the City can utilize to assist when implementing community garden initiatives.

Another attachment that will be included in the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan is an Evaluation Workbook attachment that will serve as a guidance for evaluating implementation of the master plan.

IISC students will be in Bondurant to present the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan to the public during the IISC closing ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26th.

FUNDING SOURCE:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Parks & Recreation Board can choose to make a recommendation for City Council to adopt the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan. Any changes requested by the Parks & Recreation Board this evening will be communicated by staff so that these changes can be reflected in an updated version of the plan. The University of Iowa will be in Bondurant presenting the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan to the public at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024. Following the April 26th presentation, it is anticipated the Bondurant City Council will set a public hearing for May 20th to consider adoption of the Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan.

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Bondurant PTG MP Draft 4.12.24
2. Bondurant Community Garden Resource Guide
3. Community Garden Preliminary Policy Plan and Guide
4. Evaluation Work



Bondurant Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan

2024

Melanie Comer Kenna Bell Farnaz Fatahi-Moghadam Maddie Stoen Benjamin Whisnant

Acknowledgments

The Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan Update team with the University of Iowa School of Planning and Public Affairs would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their guidance throughout this project. Their expertise helped tremendously in the creation and development of this master plan update.

City of Bondurant, Iowa

Maggie Murray; *Planning and Community Development Director*

Isaac Pezley; *City Planner*

Nicole Van Houten; *Communications and Events Coordinator*

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

Travis Kraus; *IISC Director and Faculty Advisor*

Jennifer New; *Community Engagement Specialist*

The University of Iowa

Scott Spak; *Faculty Advisor*

The City of Newton, Iowa

Brian Dunkelberger; *City Planner and Alumnus Mentor*

IOWA

School of Planning
and Public Affairs



Bondurant

Life Connecting

IOWA

Initiative for Sustainable
Communities

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Introduction

In partnership with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), four graduate students from the University of Iowa's School of Planning and Public Affairs created a Parks, Trails, and Greenways (PTG) Master Plan update for the City of Bondurant in the academic year 2023-2024. Bondurant partnered with IISC to create a plan that encompassed innovative strategies to improve and plan for the future of the PTG system.

The City of Bondurant faces a unique situation that presents exciting possibilities for PTG planning. Bondurant's population has grown 90.8% between 2010 and 2020 and continues to expand, which brings various opportunities for its provision of sufficient parks and recreation amenities. With an increasing population comes an increasing need for accessible green space within the City boundaries, which can be achieved through intentional planning for sustainable development.

While Bondurant's most recent PTG plan was created in 2013, the City has also created numerous individual parks plans such as the Eagle Park Master Plan, the City Park Master Plan, and the Central District Stormwater Master Plan. Additionally, after Bondurant was redesignated as an Iowa Great Place in 2022, the City partnered with the Bondurant Community Foundation to develop goals and objectives for the PTG system. This plan builds from these



Figure 1. Photo of the Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan Update group.

existing frameworks, centering feedback from community members and other stakeholders in the process.

By mapping existing and proposed amenities for each park, this plan helps ensure practical, accessible, and sustainable allocation of resources throughout the next 10-15 years. In addition to its parks, there exists an extensive network of local and regional trails that can be further connected to local businesses and nearby communities, while also

providing alternative methods of transportation for bicyclists and pedestrians. This plan also outlines opportunities to construct greenways as natural corridors to help build and sustain biodiversity, improve transportation, and increase residents' connection to place. Creative components such as storytelling features are suggested to incorporate the environmental and human histories of Bondurant's past and present residents. Finally, sustainable development opportunities such as community gardens, pollinator habitats, and wetland and prairie restoration are outlined.

History

In developing a plan focused on land use, it is crucial to acknowledge that Bondurant holds historical significance as the ancestral territory of the Ioway, Sauk, and Meskwaki tribes, who have an enduring connection to this land. Over 3,000 Native Iowans live in Polk County today.¹

Following the forced displacement of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Meskwaki Nation from Iowa to Kansas and Nebraska, Polk County was established in 1846.¹ Just over a decade later, Alexander C. Bondurant moved from Illinois to Iowa to expand his land ownership.² Alexander purchased 320 acres of land northeast of the Des Moines City Center before donating 30 acres of his own farmland to construct a new church. In 1884, Alexander officially founded the town of Bondurant, making room for just under 300 residents to call it their home. Alexander constructed the first school in 1885, drawing more residents to Bondurant.

Much of Bondurant's success is based on Alexander's vision for future growth. In 1892, at the height of the expansion of the Chicago Great Western Railway, Alexander donated land to the railroad company. In return, the company created a rail station and named it Bondurant.² After donating



Figure 2. Photo of the Bondurant Regional Trailhead - site of the original train depot that established Bondurant as a City (SVPA, 2023).

another 44 acres of land for prospective business owners to start their companies, Bondurant continued to steadily grow. The town of Bondurant was officially incorporated into Polk County in 1897, and it continues to grow and thrive today.

PTG planning within the City of Bondurant has evolved immensely since the beginning of its incorporation. In 1968, Bondurant's first Comprehensive Plan was created. In its short section on parks, planners noted that the City's only park, City Park, contained only a children's playground.³ This plan described the attitudes of residents towards the parks and recreation system, stating that 50.3% of adults and 60.8% of youths found the recreational facilities and town entertainment to be below average or poor. Residents requested amenities such as shuffleboard courts, a swimming pool, horseshoe pits, and ping pong tables. At the time, Bondurant was known for being what some call a

“bedroom community,” one where residents live but do not work. At the time, 47.6% of residents were employed outside of the City, often commuting to Des Moines for work. The 1968 Comprehensive Plan denoted that their budget was too constrained to create new parks: Sufficient funding would require more residents to boost the tax base.

Thirty-three years later, Bondurant’s second Comprehensive Plan was published. This 2001 Comprehensive Plan was the introduction of parks and trails planning in Bondurant. While creating this plan, Bondurant’s Parks and Recreation department hosted a focus group of nine residents, asking them to name the strengths and weaknesses of the existing park facilities, recreational programs, and youth activities, as well as visions for the future of these systems.⁴ The focus group identified strengths of park facilities as having designated green areas, lakes and fishing, and sports fields and courts; weaknesses included the lack of trail connections, shore stabilization at the lake, and parking at sports fields and parks. The overall goals focused on increasing the PTG system’s interconnectivity throughout the City.

Following the 2001 Comprehensive Plan, Bondurant published a 2012 Comprehensive Plan. In this plan, Bondurant described the difference between Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Specialty Parks, denoting the scale and uses desired within each category.⁵ The themes and goals of this Comprehensive Plan regarding the PTG system closely resembled the goals of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan. Generally, residents desired new parks

and trails, and hoped to improve the connections between them. One factor setting this plan apart from previous plans was the desire for Bondurant’s parks to be defining features of the City rather than simply plots of leftover land made into green spaces. This plan marked the beginning of a desire for Bondurant to be known for its parks, trails, and greenways.

The first PTG Master Plan for Bondurant was published in 2013 and outlined the state of the PTG system as it existed in the early 2010s. This plan highlighted each existing park, indicating which parks were improved or unimproved along with proposed park improvements.⁶ This plan was also the introduction to the concept of a greenway, adding another factor into the planning process. Additionally, this plan incorporated multi-level development needs, including existing parks and areas for future parks at both community and neighborhood scales.

The most recent Comprehensive Plan from 2022 contains a detailed chapter focusing on Bondurant’s existing parks and trails system and the desires for the future of this system by residents of Bondurant. This Plan identified locations of existing parks and trails and their levels of service to the public, including a walk-time analysis and park acres per person.⁷ Proposed future park and trail locations were identified and delineated as serving low-, medium-, and high-density residential areas. Proper implementation of park improvements was achieved through a series of goals, policies, and action items that specified what quantitative steps Bondurant should take to ensure success in reaching their goals. Goals for this plan included maintaining a high-

quality parks and recreation system, ensuring responsiveness to residents and trends, and promoting Bondurant as a trail and recreation community.

After analyzing the history of PTG planning in Bondurant, it is clear that there has been a rapid increase in PTG planning and achievements over recent years. As any new planning efforts are informed by past decisions and resident desires, historical trends in resident requests and PTG improvements will aid in determining priority items throughout the current planning process. This plan will focus on updating and maintaining the existing PTG system and planning for future improvements throughout the community.

Demographics

Bondurant has unique growth characteristics that sets it apart from other cities in Iowa. The City has grown rapidly in the past decade, showing a population increase of 90.8% from the years 2010-2020, which is drastically higher than the rate of Iowa at 4.7%.⁸ The population growth rate is so rapid that Bondurant will conduct a special census in 2024. Today, the population is estimated to be about 9,402 residents. The median age of Bondurant residents is 31.3, indicating a relatively young population for the City compared to the state median age of 38.9 years old.⁹ Race demographics show a predominately white population at 91.6%, followed by 6.6% Black, 0.9% Asian, and 0.9% of residents identifying as two or more races.¹⁰

Educational attainment in Bondurant denotes a high proportion of residents with bachelor's degrees when compared to Iowa overall; 38.2% of Bondurant residents ages 25+ have bachelor's degrees when compared to the state of Iowa at 21.5%.¹¹ Median household income in Bondurant is \$106,821 with a 0.8% unemployment rate and a 6% poverty rate.¹²

Of the 2,379 households in Bondurant, 95.3% are one-unit structures, meaning that single-family homes are the predominant housing type throughout the City. 2,154 households or 90.5% are owner-occupied compared to 225 or 9.5% units that are renter occupied. The median housing value for this area is \$235,800 compared to the state of Iowa at \$194,600.¹³ Median gross rent follows a similar trend: it is \$1,083 per month in Bondurant, and \$891 per month in the state of Iowa. What the demographics of Bondurant show is that this is an affluent and rapidly growing community with strong employment opportunities and social success indicators.

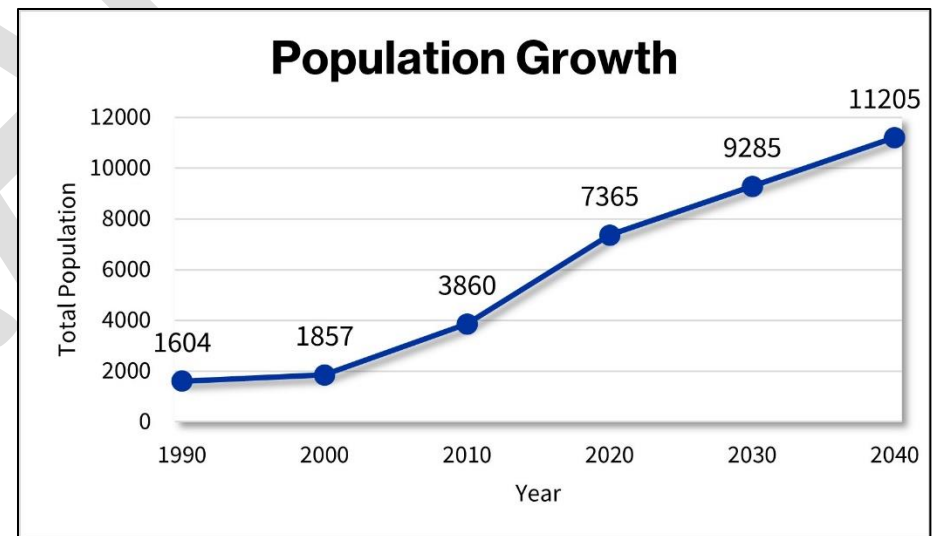


Figure 3. Projected Population Growth in Bondurant (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021)

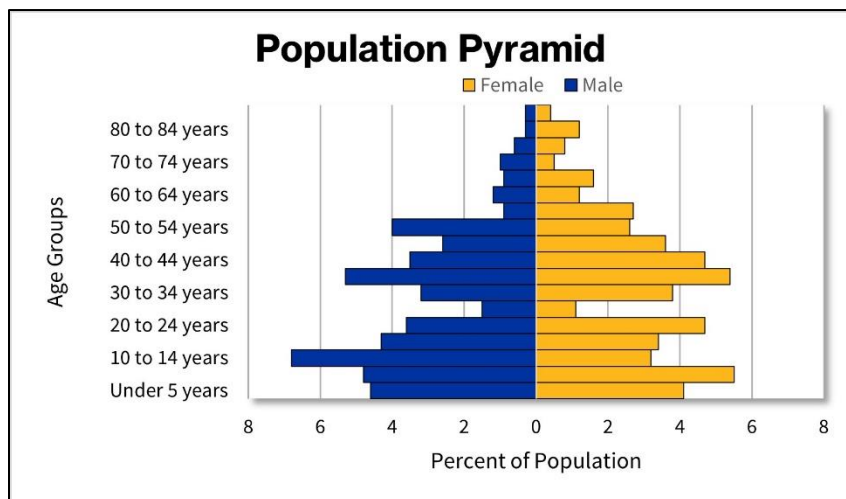


Figure 4. Population Pyramid of Bondurant (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020).

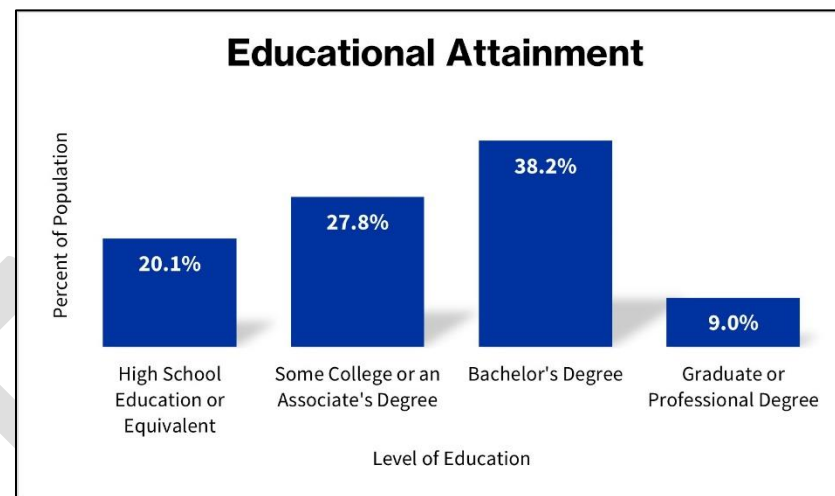


Figure 5. Educational Attainment in Bondurant (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

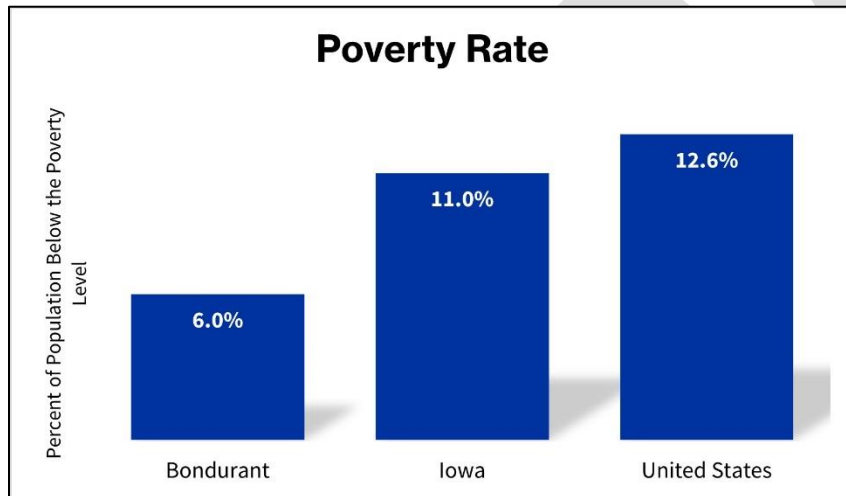


Figure 6. Poverty Rate in Bondurant versus Iowa and the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

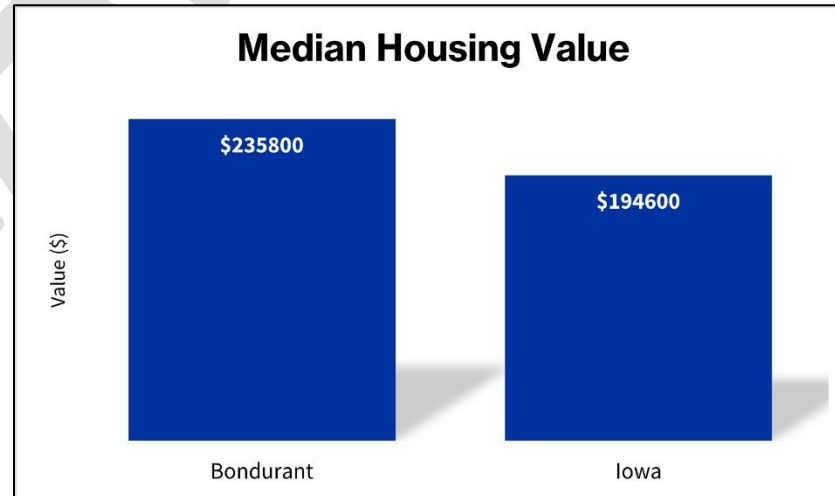


Figure 7. Median Housing Value in Bondurant versus Iowa (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Implement practical strategies to promote Bondurant's status as a regional leader in parks, trails, and greenways development.

Objectives

- Prioritize development and maintenance of existing parks, trails, and greenways.
- Expand awareness of Bondurant's PTG system among current residents of the Des Moines metro area and statewide.

Goal 2: Develop a comprehensive network of interconnected parks, trails, and greenways that meets the needs of all residents.

Objectives

- Provide safe and efficient routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized transportation that connect all areas of the City.
- Expand trails and greenways through natural, residential, and business areas to decrease commute along state highways create safe routes for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Ensure that parks, trails, and greenways are accessible and desirable for all residents.
- Improve creative wayfinding infrastructure to increase knowledge of routes, facilities, and amenities.

Goal 3: Preserve Bondurant's "hometown feel" through proactive planning for smart growth.

Objectives

- Use the PTG system as a creative storytelling tool to improve residents' connection to place.
- Develop programming and marketing designed to facilitate community events for residents of all ages and abilities.
- Develop neighborhood "themes" designed by and for their residents to maintain a sense of community as the city grows.

Goal 4: Enhance Bondurant's natural landscape to provide an enjoyable aesthetic experience for all residents and preserve environmental sustainability.

Objectives

- Center neighborhood-based programming such as tree plantings, prairie restoration, and community gardens designed to build community and conserve natural landscapes.
- Identify existing and potential greenways such as converted alleyways, empty parcels, parks, and trails.

Vision Statement

Bondurant champions accessible recreation, safe pathways for multi-modal transportation, and a shared sense of belonging for generations to come.

Greenways

As Bondurant experiences such a pivotal point of growth, it is important to map opportunities to develop greenways and take full advantage of their many benefits. Since the 1980s, greenways have become an increasingly popular development priority due to their extensive benefits for both human and environmental health. Greenways were first popularized by the US President's Commission on American Outdoors Report of 1987, in which they were advocated as "a vision for the future: A living network of greenways provide people with access to open spaces close to where they live, and link together the rural and urban spaces in the American landscape, threading through cities and country sides like a giant circulation system."^{xiv} Benefits of greenways include increased biodiversity, improved mental and environmental health, higher property value, water management, and overall sustainability of the City's infrastructure.^{xv} They are also an opportunity to restore sections of land to their pre-industrial ecological state through projects such as native prairie restoration, wetland regeneration, native tree planting, and rain gardens.

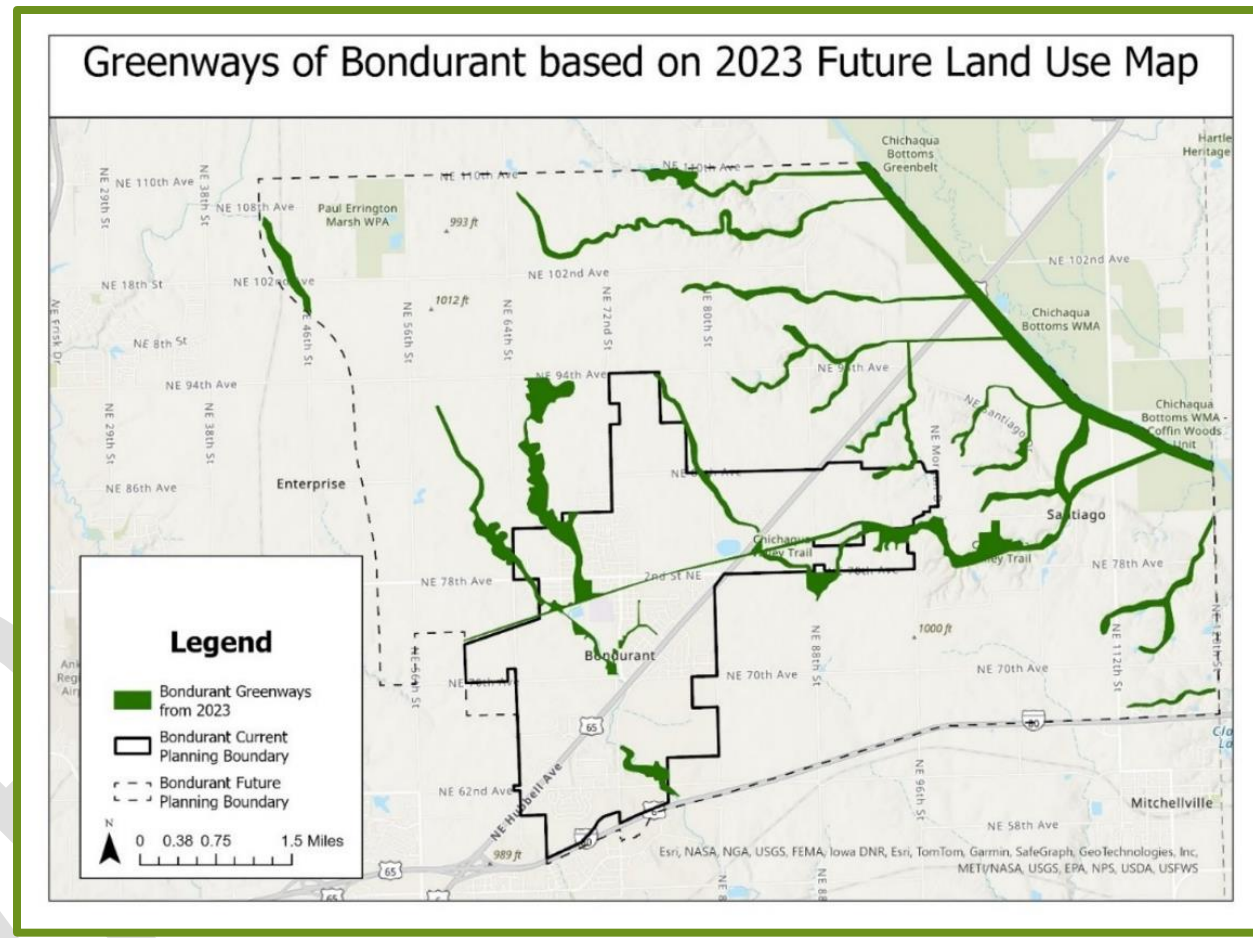
Greenways can follow and extend the City's trail network to enhance their ecological benefits and recreational experience for residents. The prairie restoration project outlined in the 2024 Heritage Park Master Plan is a prime example of this. Additionally, greenways can be mapped in relation to schools and businesses to provide an alternative transportation route and increased connectivity. In essence,

greenways not only offer pathways but also integrate urban environments with nature, allowing residents to co-create a tangible connection to place and its history as the City grows.

In the context of this plan, **greenways are connective natural areas that bridge existing greenspace through converted alleyways, empty parcels, parks, and trails.**

The following maps highlight both existing and potential greenway opportunities and recommend development priorities based on considerations such as floodplain hazard zones, gaps in existing trail networks, opportunities for native habitat restoration sites, and overlaps with existing parks and trails.

The 2013 PTG Master Plan maps greenway overlaps through several existing parks including Eagle Park, Central Stormwater District, Mallard Pointe, Wisteria Heights, and Lake Petocka (Figure 8). The recommended greenway zones within the updated 2023 Master Plan remain consistent with the 2013 recommendations but extend greenway opportunities along future development zones (Figure 9). The majority of identified areas for future greenway development will follow the path of waterways that feed into Chichaqua Bottoms and Skunk River.



Resources for Restoration

Native plant rehabilitation, roadside plantings, and other restoration projects along greenways will require intentional planning and ongoing maintenance. For example, while prairie pockets require little to no maintenance in the long-term, their initial implementation takes an average of three years of ongoing care. Page 81 of the appendix lists several resources for consulting, implementation, and maintenance assistance, distributors of native seeds and other materials, and funding opportunities to enhance the impact and streamline future greenways development throughout Bondurant. Each segment in the comprehensive greenways system should have distinct characteristics and unique maintenance plans, serving various purposes and adhering to standards as required by their distinct ecological conditions.

Community Engagement

Stakeholder Analysis

The team performed a stakeholder analysis to understand Stakeholders identified within the upper right quadrant include Adults with Children, Adults without Children, Elders, the School District of Bondurant, Developers, Local Business Owners, Neighborhood Homeowner Associations, Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail, Youth Baseball Teams, Youth Soccer Teams, and Farmers. These stakeholders will be

strongly impacted and highly influential to the new master plan because they are the main users of Bondurant's PTG system and have power to direct governmental decisions. Stakeholders identified in the upper left quadrant include Kids and Children, Neighboring Cities and Towns, Teens, the Low-Income Community of Bondurant, Nature and Animals, Bondurant School Athletic Teams, and Local Art Programs.

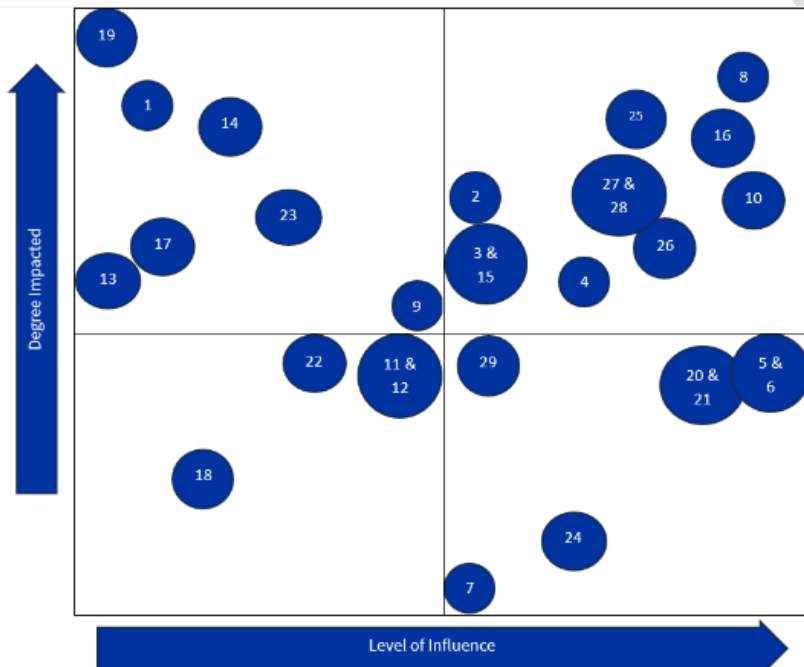


Figure 9. Stakeholder Analysis

- Kids and Children
- Adults with Children
- Adults without Children
- Elders
- Public Works
- Planning Director
- DNR
- School District
- School Athletics
- Developers
- Polk County Government
- Polk County Residents
- Neighboring Cities and Towns
- Teens

- Local Business Owners
- Low Income Community
- Private Gyms
- Nature and Animals
- Bondurant City Council
- Bondurant Mayor
- Daycare Centers
- Local Art Programs
- High Income Residents
- Neighborhood Homeowners Associations
- Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail
- Youth Baseball Team
- Youth Soccer Team
- Chamber of Commerce

These stakeholder groups will be strongly impacted by the master plan but will not have strong influence on the planning process. These stakeholders will also be the main users of Bondurant's PTG system, but they do not have power over the decision-making process of the master plan. The stakeholder groups in the lower right quadrant consist of the Public Works Department, The Planning Director and Planning Department, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Bondurant City Council, Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board, the Mayor of Bondurant, High-Income Residents of Bondurant, and the Chamber of Commerce. These stakeholders have a strong level of influence and decision-making power over the planning process due to their relative positions of power in Bondurant.

Bondurant Farmers' Market

The project team held their first public engagement event at the Bondurant Farmer's Market at City Park on October 18th, 2023 from 5-7pm. The event was advertised on the City's website and Facebook page, as well as on a local business's Instagram. The recurring farmer's market is a family-friendly event that attracts community members of all generations. It was also an opportunity to see City Park come to life: the team was greeted by sounds of kids playing basketball on the park's central court, local artists performing music on the grass, and community members greeting each other as they perused the local vendor booths. It was a great example of how Bondurant's parks can be utilized to bring together art, play, and support of local businesses.



The focus of this initial community engagement opportunity was to introduce the project to Bondurant and share access

Figure 10. University of Iowa graduate student group conducting interviews at the Bondurant Farmer's Market.

to a survey for residents to complete. In addition, community members completed brief interviews designed to gather preliminary information about their relationships to Bondurant's parks, trails, and greenways. Interviews were recorded and transcribed, and initial findings were incorporated into questions included in the online survey before it was published on October 21st, 2023. Finally, contact information was collected from four participants interested in completing more in-depth interviews later in

the project to be used in the storytelling component of the plan.

One recurring concern from residents was that cleanliness and maintenance of parks and trails will be important to consider in the plan. Three of the six respondents stated that cleanliness was the most important determinant in choosing which parks to visit, and one mentioned their concern about a lack of funding for park and trail maintenance. Safety and walkability were also listed as most important by two respondents.

Interviewees indicated that Lake Petocka and City Park were most frequented by themselves and other residents of Bondurant, followed by the Chichaqua Trail and Eagle Park. In addition to cleanliness and proximity, most desired features included play equipment for children, structured exercise activities such as volleyball and disc golf, and the feeling of being surrounded by nature (i.e., dense tree cover). The current PTG system is often used by residents as a means for routine recreation: one survey participant noted that they choose a different trail to walk every Monday morning, and another enjoys camping on the weekends.

Bondu Spooktacular



Figure 11. Tabling at the Bondu Spooktacular

Bondurant held its annual Halloween festival at City Park on October 21st, 2023. Each fall, the Bondu Spooktacular brings together residents of all ages with games, activities, costume contests, and trick-or-treating. In collaboration with the Bondurant Parks and Recreation Department, planners collected survey responses from residents as they enjoyed the lively community bonding event held in one of the City's most popular parks.

During this second community engagement opportunity, residents provided beneficial insight to inform PTG planning in Bondurant. For example, one resident mentioned a desire for more connectivity across the trail network, specifically between Bondurant and Altoona. As an avid biker, they expressed concerns about safety: to reach the regional trails in Altoona, their only route option requires biking along unsafe roadways. Other respondents mentioned that although they live outside of the City limits, they still enjoy frequenting Bondurant's parks, trails, and greenways. These responses highlight the opportunity to improve trail connectivity across the City to encourage safe, alternative routes for all to enjoy.

Stakeholder Interviews

Eleven interviews were conducted with community stakeholders throughout January-February 2024. Stakeholder groups included the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Bondurant Little League, Bondurant Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Friends of Chichaqua Valley Trail, Wolf Creek Park, Sankey Summit Park, Prairie Point View Park, Wisteria Heights Park, and Lincoln Estates Park.

The goal of these virtual interviews was to gain a better understanding of how these groups currently use the PTG system, what their programming and development priorities are, and to discuss their ideas for the updated master plan.

This interview process provided insight into some of the patterns, priorities, and possibilities for PTG development.

First, most stakeholders mentioned a need for more safety and connectivity across Bondurant's parks, trails, and greenways system. They recommended improvements to signage and wayfinding infrastructure, regulations for trail connections and rights-of-way to ensure natural landscape along the trail system, and improved amenities along the trails system -- specifically restrooms, water fountains, seating, and lighting.

Additionally, stakeholders expressed that improved green infrastructure should be a development priority and could be achieved through projects such as increased tree cover, native prairie restoration, community gardens, and open green space. They suggested utilizing current community groups (such as the Girl Scouts) to help with community-led maintenance of green infrastructure projects.

Finally, the theme of shared identity came up frequently throughout these interviews. Therefore, this plan outlines suggestions such as developing unique park features and amenities for each neighborhood, establishing clear park categories, and prioritizing accessibility and outreach for community events.

Open House



Figure 11: Entrance to PTG Open House

The open house was held on March 24, 2024 from 1 – 4pm at Reclaimed Rails Brewery. This event provided an opportunity for residents to provide feedback on design concepts, trail maps, and budget outlines for this plan. The event was advertised through Bondurant’s Instagram, Facebook, and website

throughout the two weeks prior. About fifteen residents attended throughout the day.

Immediately upon entering, visitors were invited to fill out a short survey about budget and amenity recommendations for small, medium, and large park sizes (Figure/Page #). As only ten surveys were submitted, results are not indicative of community-scale preferences; however, results showed a preference for large-scale playground systems, parking lots, and park benches. Additionally, 20% of respondents indicated interest in a community garden, which is consistent with the 18% preference indicated by the community-wide survey results (appendix p.).

After completing the survey, participants were asked to view a map of existing, proposed, and future planned trails

across the City. Residents added color-coded stickers and 3mm tape to indicate desired amenities and trail connections.

Finally, residents walked through a gallery of four park design concepts including Bluejay Landing, Meadow Brook, Sankey Summit, and Heritage Park. They placed green and red stickers on specific sections of the designs to denote their approval or disapproval. They were also invited to place sticky notes with more detailed comments on each map, and shared ideas and recommendations with each of the planners. Feedback was generally positive, and suggestions primarily focused on a need to design parks that are desirable and accessible for all age groups.

The main takeaway from the open house was that community engagement will remain an essential component of future parks, trails, and greenways planning. Due to the relatively low turnout compared to total



Figure 12: Residents interacting with trails map



Figure 13: Residents providing feedback on park concepts

community survey respondents, it is apparent that residents are more responsive to online feedback mechanisms shared through the City's social media pages and website. This plan outlines suggestions for future engagement strategies in the implementation section ([link to section](#)).

Community Survey and Stakeholder Engagement

The Bondurant PTG survey officially opened online during the Bondu Spooktacular on October 21st, 2023, and closed on January 31st, 2024. The primary goal of this survey was to gain insights into the connections between Bondurant residents and their PTG system. It aimed to identify the specific parks and trails that residents frequent, and the reasons behind their choices. The survey also asks about people's feelings toward parks and what factors matter most when choosing a park to visit. These responses were used to inform the final PTG Plan. The survey was developed using Esri's Survey 123 platform, and a complete copy can be found in the appendix.

The survey includes multiple choice questions designed to gauge respondents' favorite parks, barriers to park access, and reasons for choosing which park to attend. It also includes a qualitative question in which respondents are asked to describe the qualities they appreciate in their favorite parks.

After the survey closes in January, in-depth discussions and interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders such as the Bondurant Soccer Club and administrators from the local community school district. These conversations will provide more specific, in-depth insights into how these stakeholders currently utilize the existing PTG system, and how they would like to benefit from its expansion.

Survey Results

The survey was offered online only and was pushed out by Bondurant Administrative staff on their social media sites. At the time the survey closed, there were 220 reported responses. The demographic breakdown of the survey respondents can be seen below:

- 69% of respondents were women
- Age breakdown was representative of the population
 - 7% were between the ages of 18 and 29
 - 40% were between the ages of 30 and 39
 - 29% were between the ages 40-49
 - 12% were between the ages 50-59
 - 9% were between the ages 60-69
 - 3% were 70 years old or older
- 98% of respondents live in Bondurant
 - 39% have lived in Bondurant 5 years or less
 - 27% have lived in Bondurant between 6 and 10 years

- 11% have lived in Bondurant between 11 and 15 years
- 23% have lived in Bondurant for 16 years or more
- 86% of respondents are married
- 81% of respondents have children

Some of the key findings of the survey include barriers to accessing parks and trails, priorities for choosing which park to go to, and how people feel going to parks and trails in Bondurant.

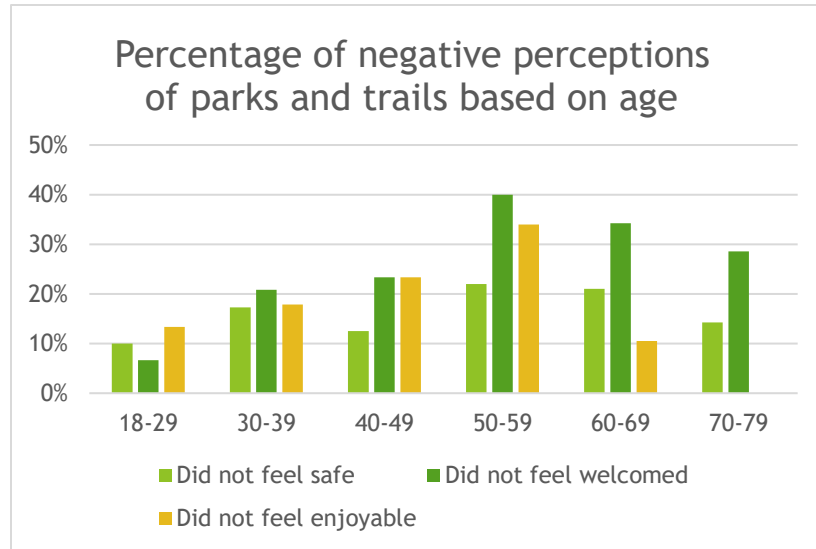
In the survey, respondents were asked if they had any barriers to accessing parks. 35% of respondents stated that they did not have any barriers to accessing the parks. Of the 65% that did have barriers, 37% said that locational awareness of where parks are was a barrier. 32% said that lack of time was a barrier, 33% said that distance to parks was a barrier, and 11% checked that parks are not accessible.

For resident's filling out the survey, another question asked was what their priorities are when considering which park to go to. The top priorities were that the park has the amenities that people want (score of 4.42 out of 5) and that they can walk there (score of 4.14 out of 5). Less important priorities for Bondurant resident's include that the park is close to

other businesses and downtown (score of 2.78 out of 5), and the park has activities for preteens and teenagers (score of 2.64 out of 5).

To understand how people feel in the current park and trail network, questions were asked about how safe, welcoming, and enjoyable both the parks and trails are. Answers were answered by ranking how people felt on a scale of one to five. One was feeling extremely unwelcomed, unsafe, and unenjoyable, and 5 was feeling extremely welcomed, safe, and enjoyable. 88% of respondents said they felt either somewhat or extremely safe in parks, and 80% said they felt either somewhat or extremely safe on the trail network. 77% of respondents said they either felt somewhat or extremely welcomed in the Bondurant parks, and 72% stated they felt either somewhat or extremely welcomed on the trails. As for how enjoyable parks are, 79% said parks are either somewhat or extremely enjoyable, and 78% said the trails are either somewhat or extremely enjoyable.

These numbers are largely positive, but when breaking it down by age, there is a different story. As people age in Bondurant, they begin to feel less welcomed and do not feel



parks are as enjoyable, compared to the younger population as seen on the graph to the left. For example, 40% of Bondurant residents aged 50-59 did not feel welcomed in the parks, compared to less than 10% of young adults. Using this information helps inform the need for more intergenerational activities available to older adults.

For more information on survey results, all the data results can be found in the appendix.

Nature Biographies

In addition to the stakeholder interviews, community members who indicated interest in follow-ups through the survey were later invited to participate in semi-structured “nature biography” interviews. Of the 31 initial responses, four residents completed one-hour long nature biographies. The main goal of these conversations was to elicit free-flowing, personal reflections about residents’ relationships to outdoor spaces throughout their lives. Responses provided longer anecdotes which informed creative future planning aspects of this plan. For example, these interviews provided insight into neighborhood-specific needs, and to the larger implications of the accessibility and purpose of parks, trails, and greenways in Bondurant. Residents’ stories weave throughout the narrative of this plan, from wayfinding and signage concepts (page #?) to neighborhood-based park designs (page #?).

SWOT Analysis

To strategically leverage Bondurant’s strengths and proactively address potential threats to the revised PTG Master Plan, the team developed a comprehensive SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. This was achieved by analyzing previous plans and documents created by the City, along with considering public opinion through surveys. This framework was informed by

the insights gained from prior planning initiatives and community engagement, ensuring a nuanced and accurate assessment of the community.

STRENGTHS

1. The City of Bondurant Parks and Recreation department creates an annual report. This report consists of goals, reflections, and investments made in the park each year, helping to understand the growth of events and parks annually.
2. The City of Bondurant hosts a wide variety of events in their parks to encourage their use. Some of these events include the annual Bondu Spooktacular and the weekly farmers' market held in the spring, summer, and fall.
3. Bondurant residents are proud to live in their town, and some of their favorite places are the parks and trails, according to the Arts, Culture, and Wayfinding Emerging Themes Document.¹⁴
4. The 2013 PTG Master Plan goes into depth about current parks and their opportunities for improvement.⁶ It provides a helpful baseline for understanding where Bondurant is headed in the future.
5. Bondurant has a strong social media presence, which makes for effective engagement and dissemination of online information.
6. Due to the volume of plans that have been produced over the past few years, the City understands the wants and needs of the community through their own community engagement.

7. PTG development has been on Bondurant's radar since 2020. The City recently developed a new City Park Master Plan and created the Central District Stormwater Management Master Plan.
8. New developments have brought in big businesses, namely Amazon. This provides jobs and local revenue to the community.

WEAKNESSES

1. There is limited public transportation in Bondurant, making major parks less accessible to the community.
2. There is limited trail connectivity going north and south in Bondurant.
3. Most of the development in Bondurant is low density, single-family development. This leads to a sprawled community, making connectivity in the parks system a challenge.
4. Lack of sidewalk connection makes getting to parks for individuals who cannot drive a challenge.
5. Future residential development largely consists of low-density housing. This can lead to an increased need for parks to ensure every resident has walkable access.
6. Several multi-million-dollar projects are occurring in Bondurant, which might limit the budget for additional amenities, trail connections, and maintenance.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Bike culture and infrastructure in the greater Des Moines area has greatly expanded in the last 20 years, which can provide support for expanded trails and bring in visitors to Bondurant who are bike enthusiasts.
2. Dedicating land to parks in new developments without a specific intended purpose enables the community and the City to shape the parks according to the community's needs.
3. Bondurant's growing population and high income rates will increase the tax base, allowing for greater investment in the PTG system.
4. The community is not landlocked, so it has room to expand in almost all directions. This increases opportunities for new parks, trails, and greenways as the community grows.
3. The heavy traffic flow on Highway 65 presents difficulties for pedestrians attempting to cross the road. This also creates noise pollution for parks in close proximity to the highway, such as Lake Petocka.

THREATS

1. The cost of construction materials is increasingly rising, which can impact what the community decides to implement as the plan is finalized.
2. More developed suburban communities in the surrounding area have more established parks and trail connectivity, so residents may travel elsewhere instead of utilizing the parks, trails, and greenways in Bondurant.

Park Asset Mapping

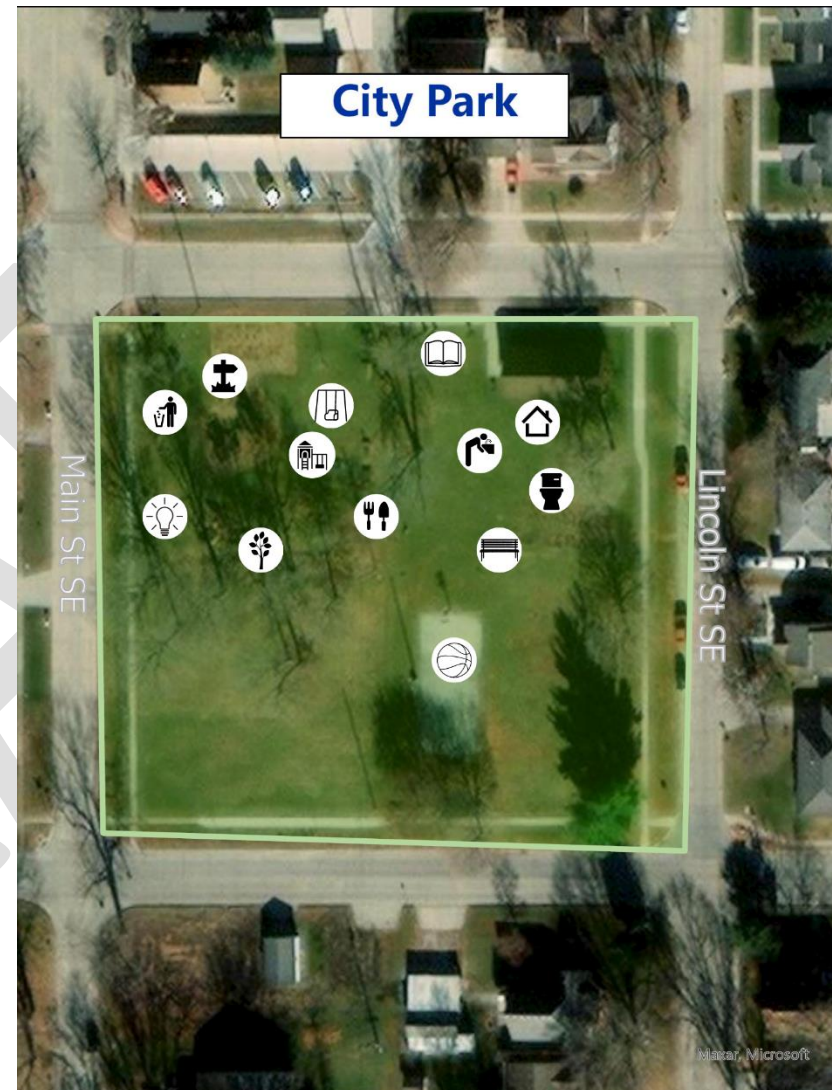
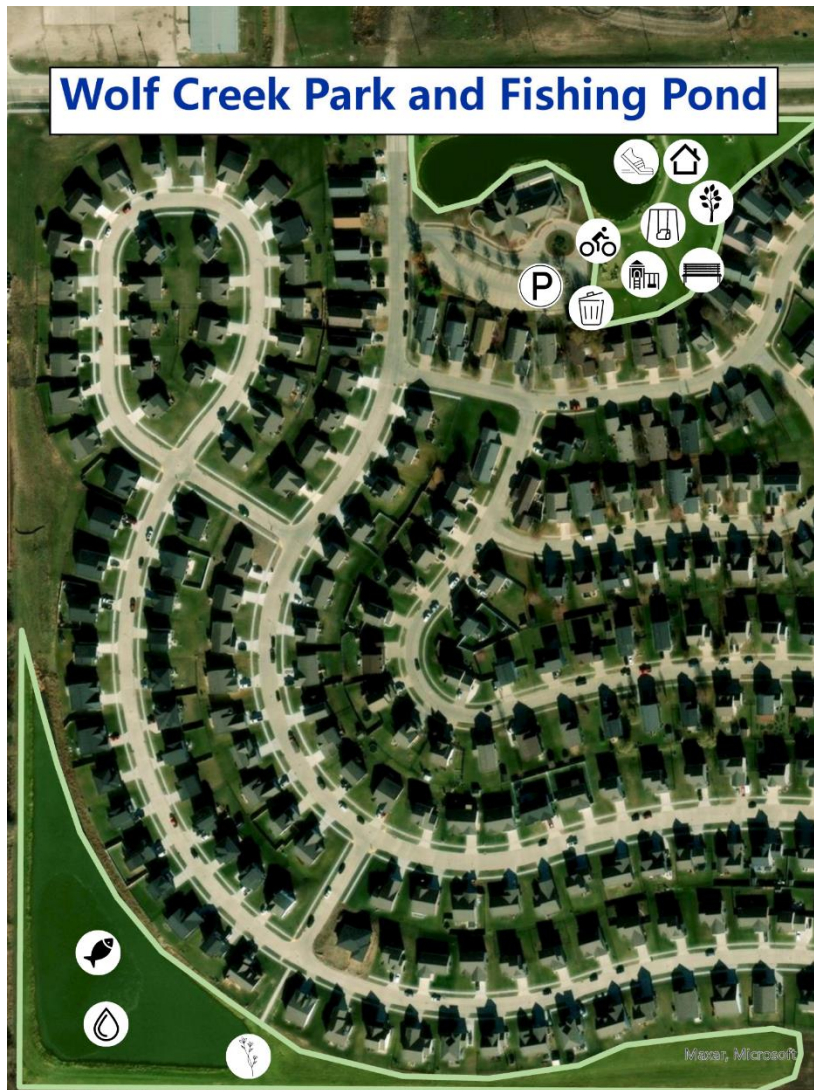
Each park in Bondurant is unique, providing different special features and amenities that serve the community. The following baseball cards and maps of existing amenities help visualize where and how these amenities are distributed, and the future potential of the City's parks.



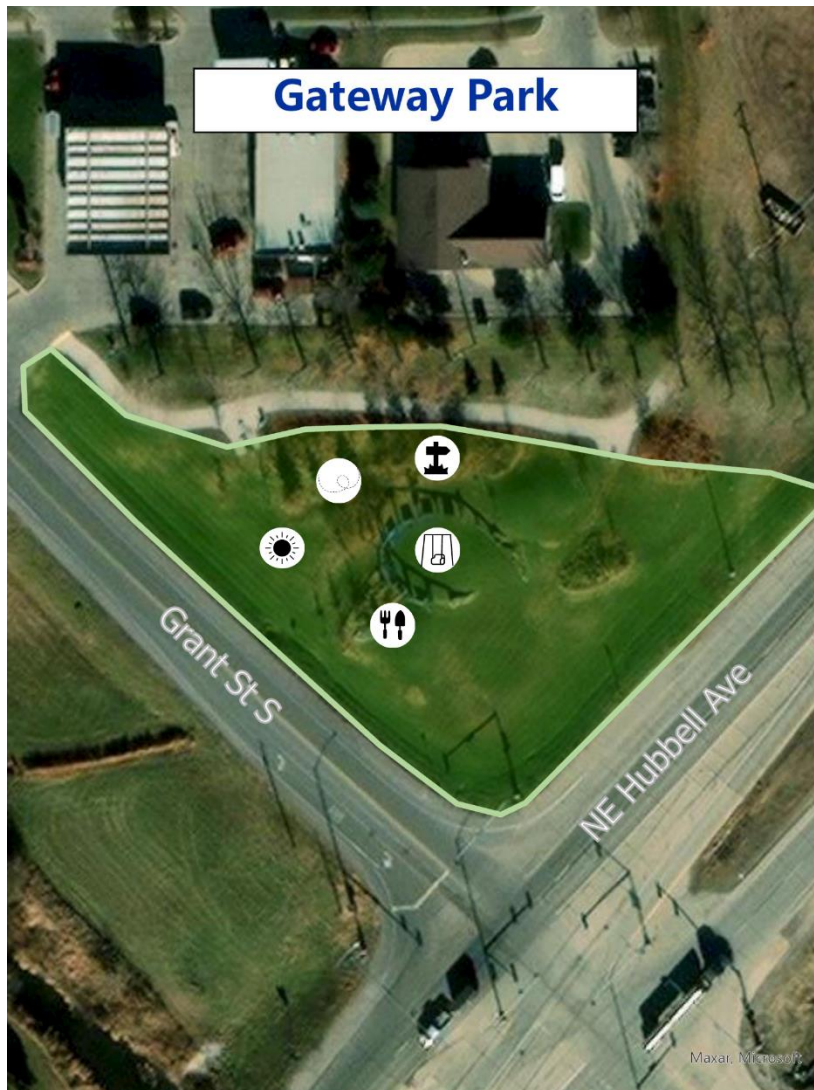
Legend

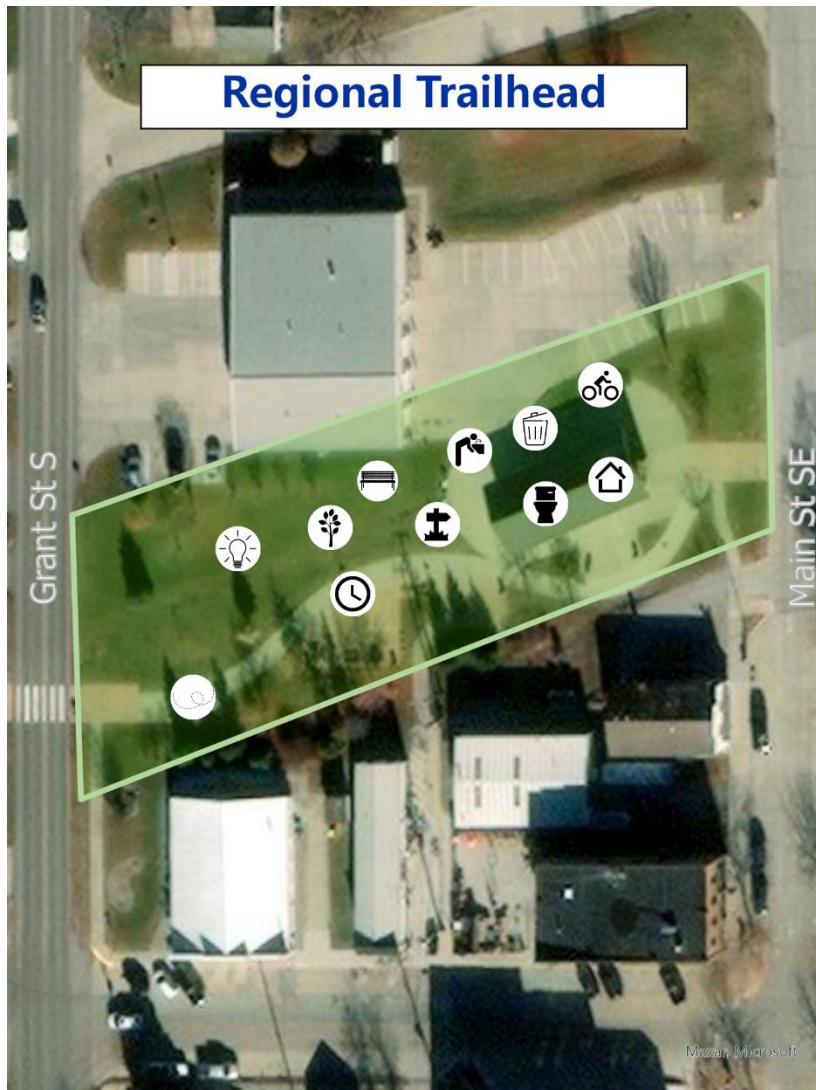
 Trail connection	 Book library
 Bathrooms	 Sandbox
 Shelter	  Field/Court
 Bike racks	 Butterfly garden
 Benches	 Drinking fountain
 Wayfinding	 Exercise equipment
 Parking	 Grill
 Fishing	 Clock
 Trees and bushes	 Streetlights
 Walking path	 Bike rack
 Trash bins	 Nature play
 Prairie	 Gardens
 Swing set	 Dog litter bags
 Play set	

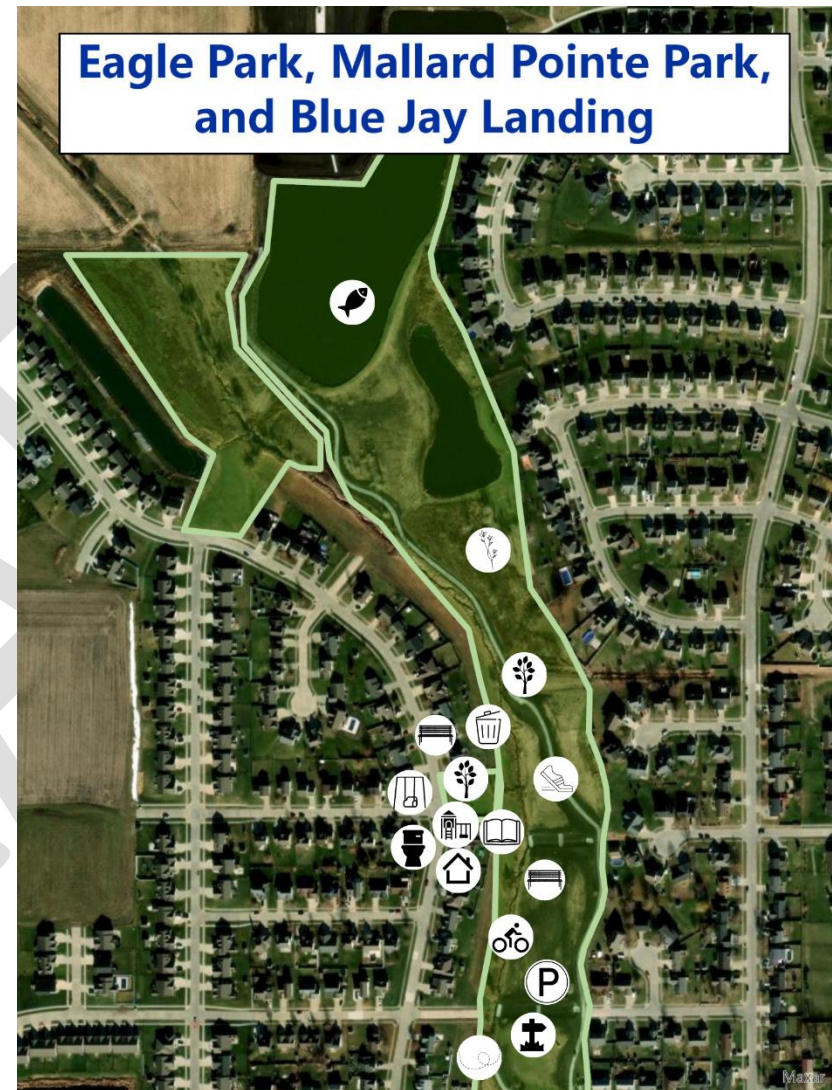












Efnor Estates Park

401 Eva Point Dr. SW



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Trail connection
- Open greenspace
- Streetlights
- Shelter
- Trees and bushes



Collison Soccer Park

315 2nd St. NW



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Bathrooms
- Soccer fields
- Open greenspace
- Shelter
- Trees and bushes



Gateway Park

1499 Grant St S



Amenities

- Swing set
- Gardens
- Trail connection
- Public art
- Wayfinding
- Nature play



Eagle Park

320 2nd St. NW



Amenities

- Benches
- Prairie
- Trail connection
- Open green space
- Fishing
- Bike racks
- Paved walking path
- Wayfinding
- Parking
- Trees/bushes



City Park

201 Main St. SE



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Bathrooms
- Basketball court
- Dog litter bags
- Gardens
- Open green space
- Streetlights
- Shelter
- Wayfinding
- Trees and bushes
- Drinking fountains
- Book library



Regional Trailhead

2 Main St. SE



Amenities

- Benches
- Bathrooms
- Trail connection
- Open greenspace
- Streetlights
- Bike racks
- Paved path
- Wayfinding
- Trees and bushes
- Drinking fountains
- Waste bins
- Clock



Bondurant Regional Sports Complex

2050 Jr. Haines Pkwy NE



Amenities

- Bathrooms
- Soccer fields
- Open green space
- Wayfinding
- Parking lot
- Trees and bushes
- Drinking fountain
- Waste bins



Lake Petocka

521 Pleasant St. NE



Amenities

- Benches
- Bathrooms
- Baseball field
- Prairie
- Open green space
- Fishing
- Walking path
- Trees and bushes
- Exercise equipment
- Book library
- Waste bins
- Grill
- Parking lot
- Wayfinding
- Shelter



Mallard Pointe Park

501 Mallard Pointe Drive



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Bathroom
- Open green space
- Shelter
- Trees and bushes
- Drinking fountain
- Waste bins
- Book library
- Water pump



Lincoln Estates Park

1201 Kadin Trail SE



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Shelter
- Parking lot
- Trees and bushes
- Waste bins



Wisteria Heights Park

1310 13th St. SE



Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Open green space
- Shelter
- Trees and bushes
- Sandbox
- Waste bins
- Book library



Renaud Ridge Park

410 Sycamore Dr. NW

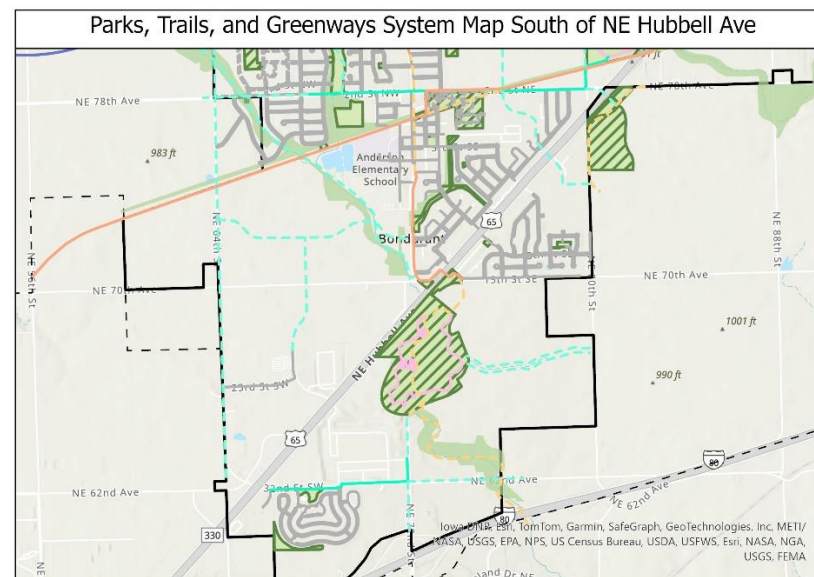
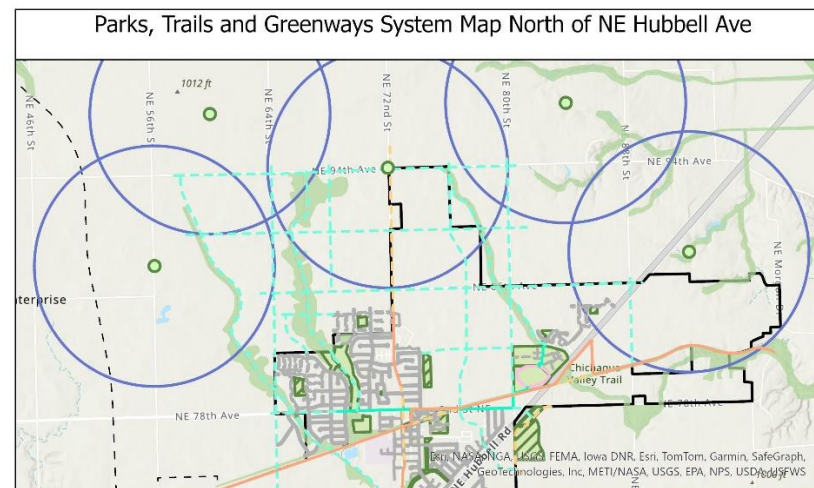
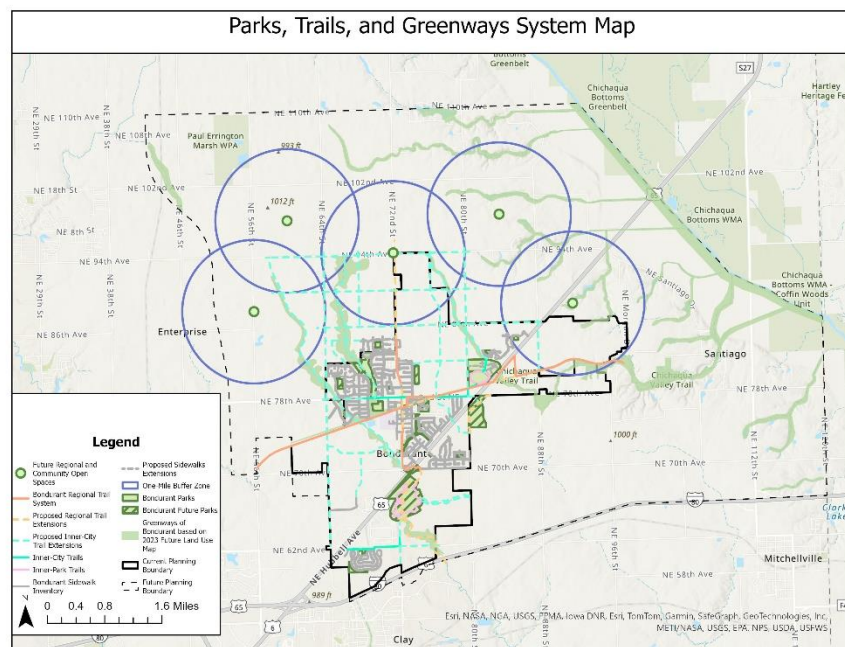


Amenities

- Swing set
- Play set
- Benches
- Prairie
- Dog litter bags
- Bike racks
- Shelter
- Butterfly garden
- Wayfinding
- Trees and bushes



Existing and Proposed Projects



Central District Stormwater Improvements Master Plan

The Central District Stormwater Improvements Master Plan was developed by SMITHGROUP in partnership with the City of Bondurant to address flooding associated with Mud Creek, improve circulation along a realigned and improved Grant St. S, serve as a catalyst for future growth, and create a new 116-acre regional public park space.¹⁵ The proposed master plan was adopted in November 2022 by the Bondurant City Council.¹⁵ As part of the proposed project, the City plans to develop a 36-acre stormwater management basin, a community building space, a new regional skate park, a playground, splashpad, non-motorized watercraft access, swimming access, and more than 3 miles of new trails and paths.¹⁵

The community outreach efforts during the planning process included stakeholder interviews and public input meetings. The key stakeholders involved in the planning process of the Central District Stormwater Improvement Master Plan included local businesses and employers, adjacent landowners, community groups, and Bondurant community members.¹⁵ Through small-group interviews, these stakeholders were able to provide input during the planning process. Additionally, the City hosted three separate public input meetings. The first meeting focused on providing the community with context behind the purpose of the planned stormwater improvements; the second meeting presented three design concepts for the stormwater improvement and recreation areas; and the third meeting involved showcasing

the final design concept for the Central District Stormwater Improvements Master Plan.¹⁵

As part of the creation of the new 116-acre regional public park space, the City plans to include several key amenities. For example, the public indicated a desire for a new recreational lake that was larger than Lake Petocka.¹⁵ They also requested more walking paths and improved connectivity through the regional trails of Chichaqua Valley and the Gay Lea Wilson trails.¹⁵ Developers also plan to include a community building and outdoor event space which will serve as a catalyst for future mixed-use growth, a regional skatepark at the northside of the proposed project area, and multiple amenities such as a splash pad, a small nature-based playground, and a larger regional destination playground.¹⁵ The Stormwater Improvements Master Plan will not only address flooding issues, but also improve trail connectivity and add another park to serve as an attractive new feature in the PTG system.

Civic Campus Master Plan



Figure ?. Civic Campus Master Plan Design. Source: Civic Campus Master Plan.

The Bondurant Civic Campus Master Plan was developed by the City in partnership with Confluence, Kirkham Michael,

and SVPA Architects. Adopted by the Bondurant City Council in April of 2023, the purpose of the Civic Campus Master Plan

is to centralize City services to meet both current and future civic demands of the growing population of Bondurant.¹⁶ The campus development plans to provide centralized sites for emergency services, public works, law enforcement, City Hall, and additional future civic uses.¹⁶ Additionally, the new development plans to have spaces that will be subdivided for commercial development and medical offices.¹⁶

The planning process for the Bondurant Civic Campus Master Plan comes directly from Goal 28 of the Building Bondurant Comprehensive Plan.¹⁶ The six-month long planning process was guided by a Steering Committee consisting of key members of Bondurant's civic services.¹⁶ By applying the policies of the Comprehensive Plan and working with the Steering Committee, the City was able to create a Civic Campus Master Plan that will shape the future of civic services in Bondurant.

With development of the civic campus, the City plans to improve connectivity with the regional Chichaqua Valley Trail by adding new pedestrian pathways.¹⁶ In addition to trail connectivity, the City plans to increase the overall tree canopy by prioritizing large, branching trees and landscaping along roadways.¹⁶ To address run-off and flooding, the development process will include creating an on-site wet detention basin with walking pathways surrounding the basin.¹⁶ While the civic campus does not involve the creation of dedicated parkland, the plan proposes improvements to Bondurant's overall trail system.

City Park Master Plan



Figure 7. City Park Master Plan Design. Source: City Park Master Plan.

In consultation with the RDG planning and Design Firm, the City of Bondurant created the City Park Master Plan in 2021. The plan was adopted by the Bondurant City Council in July of 2021 with the intent of “clear and concise direction for the future of City Park.”¹⁷ The City Park Master Plan served as a plan to update the existing park space. Located near downtown Bondurant, City Park’s amenities include a shelter with seating, playground equipment, basketball courts, and bathrooms.¹⁷

The planning process involved multiple public outreach events including a survey and public presentation of the plan.¹⁷ Key stakeholders were later identified, and a Steering Committee was created to guide the planning process.¹⁷ Finally, a community open house was held to present the draft plan to the public.¹⁷

Following community engagement efforts, a design concept for updating City Park was developed. With the proposed update to City Park, the City plans to add a splash pad, more seating, a new shelter, a pickleball court, an amphitheater, and more natural foliage.¹⁷ The new design aims to create a welcoming space for residents of Bondurant while providing locations for recreation and multi-use.¹⁷

Through the proposed projects, the City plans to add several key amenities indicated as “desirable” by community members.

Spatial Analysis

Existing Parks

Figure 14 provides insight into the walkability of the parks in Bondurant. Quarter-mile, half-mile, and one-mile buffer zones were created around each park. Parks within 0.25 miles of a residential parcel are typically reached in under a 10-minute walk, which is a common metric in measuring park walkability among professional walkability studies. Within each of the buffer zones, the residential properties are identified in yellow. The darker blue color corresponds with higher walkability.

Geospatial analysis of the parks in Bondurant show that most residential parcels located in subdivision developments are within a walkable distance from a park. However, there are several outlier residential parcels located on the outer northeastern edge of the City that lack access. The map indicates that walkability to the parks in downtown Bondurant is high; however, as the City continues to expand, newly established parks should be located within a walkable distance to all residents of the City.

Further geospatial analyses of the park system will examine accessibility to schools and churches of Bondurant as well as

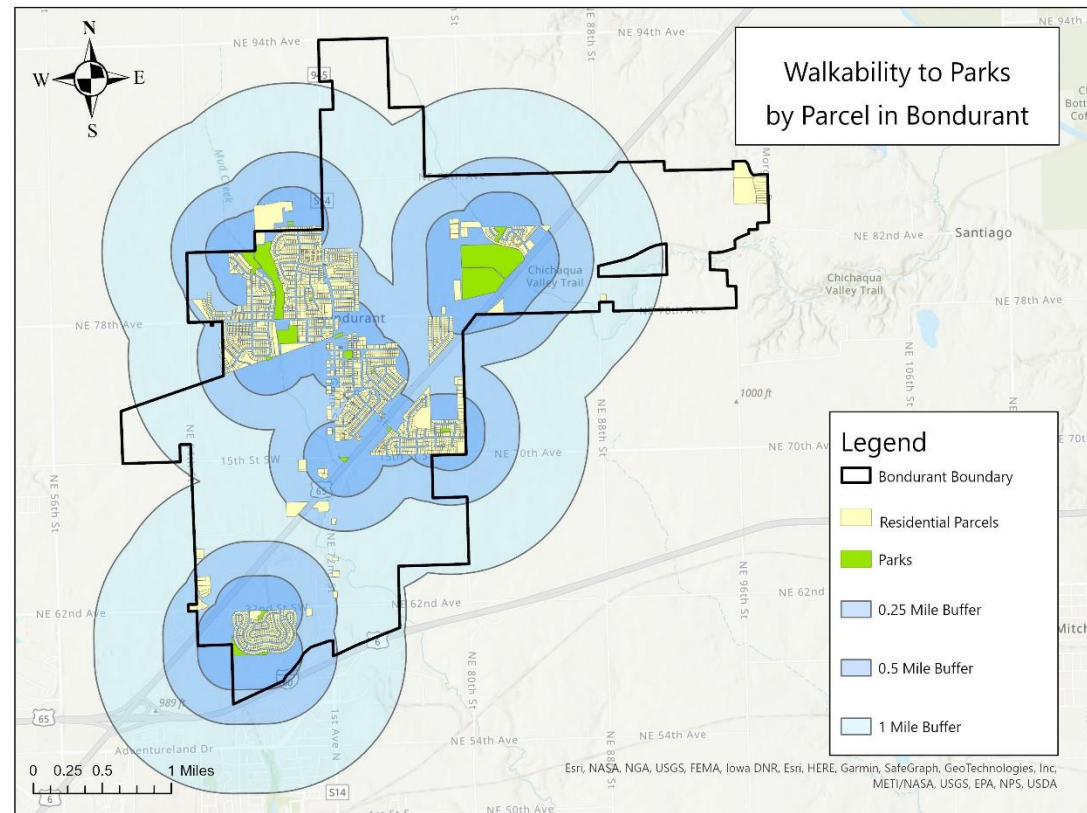


Figure 14. Walkability to Parks by Parcel in Bondurant.

specific amenities of the park system. The walkability between businesses and the park system will also be examined.

Existing Trails

Figure 15 portrays the walkability between the City's residential parcels and the paved trail system. Quarter-mile, half-mile, and one-mile buffer zones were created around the trail system. Darker shading of the residential parcels on the map indicates greater proximity to the trail network.

Geospatial analysis of the trail system of Bondurant highlights effective east-west connectivity and weak north-south connectivity. The southernmost subdivision of Bondurant has no connection to the Chichaqua Valley Trail and limited access to the trails in Altoona. The Central District Stormwater Management Master Plan plans for future development of the Gay Lea Wilson trail to extend south towards Altoona from the proposed project location.

Existing Greenways

Geospatial analysis of existing greenways in Bondurant shows that there are very few existing locations of delineated greenways within the City. Greenways serve as natural transportation corridors and can be used as opportunities for multiple uses such as

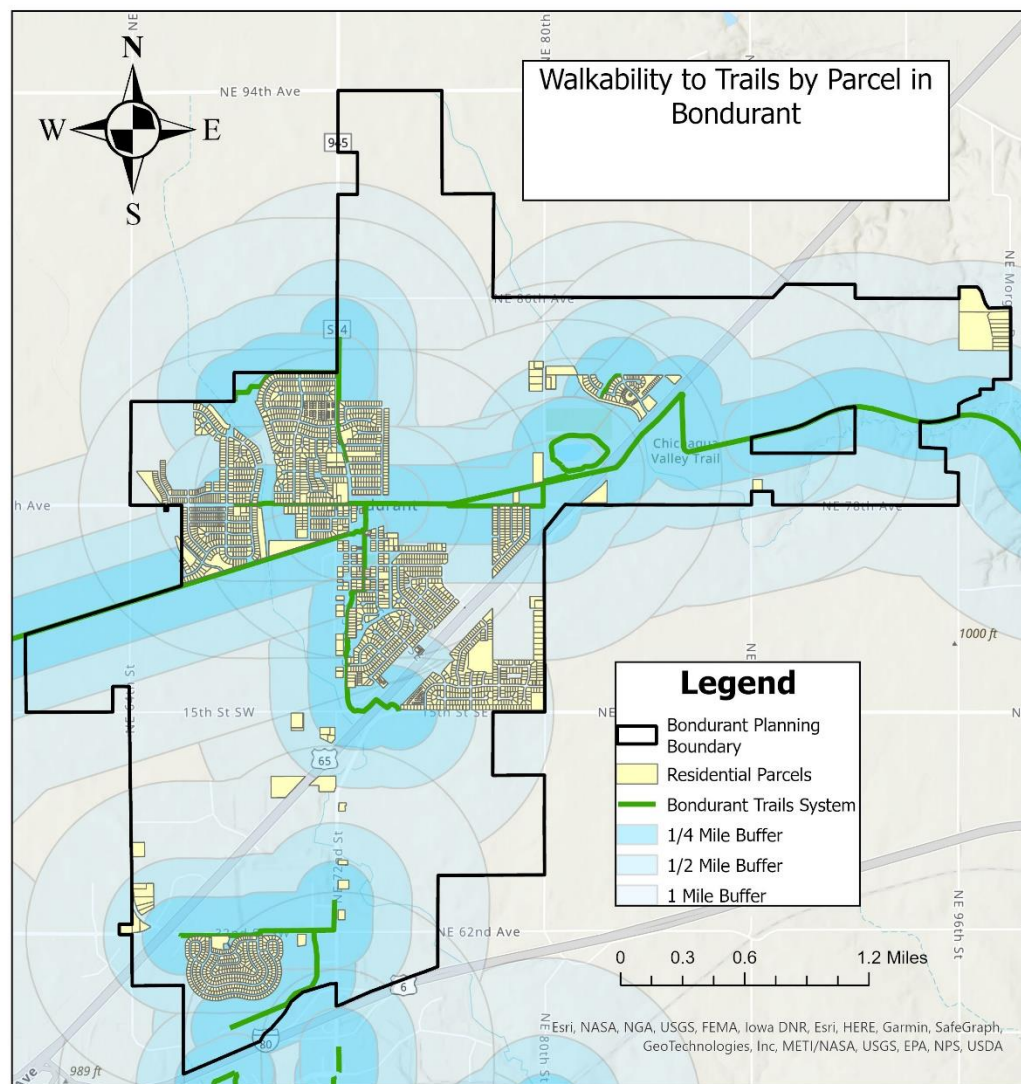


Figure 15. Walkability to Trails by Parcel in Bondurant.

biodiversity corridors, trailways, and connections between parks, neighborhoods, and commercial spaces. Bondurant's only current greenway is Meadow Brook Park, a neighborhood park that is also considered a greenway through the Meadow Brook North Neighborhood. In the 2013 PTG Master Plan, a potential adaptation to this park is noted as a possible location for a greenway trail system connecting to the Gay Lea Wilson East regional trail. Implementation of this trail connection would expand connectivity throughout the central region of Bondurant.

As discussed previously, future locations for greenways, , should be centered around providing safe transportation alternatives to schools and businesses in the community to decentralize automotive uses throughout the City. Potential locations for greenways will be delineated in future land use maps in areas of open green spaces within existing neighborhoods and undeveloped areas. While greenways serve multiple purposes for transportation – both human and wildlife – they are also suitable locations for stormwater management if located within existing floodplains.

Best Practice Research

Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed in 2019 by University of Iowa students with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC). The project statement outlined in the Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan is “to increase the usage opportunities provided by the Webster City Parks and Recreation system by reimagining, enhancing, and promoting the available assets, resources, and activities in and around the community.”¹⁸ The vision for Webster City is “an accessible and welcoming Parks and Recreation system supporting human, natural, and aesthetic uses of public spaces and promoting comprehensive activities within those spaces.”¹⁸ Both the project statement and the vision statement for The Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan serve as comparable examples for the project statement and vision of the Bondurant PTG Master Plan.

The Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan developed five key guiding principles for the plan: public service and outreach, health and wellness, safety, ensuring equitable outcomes, and sustainability.¹⁸ In addition to these guiding principles, the team outlined 5 key focus areas: trail connectivity, community engagement, promoting parks and recreation, beautification, and riverfront development.¹⁸ Creating guiding principles and focus areas for the Bondurant PTG Master Plan could direct planning decisions. This is an avenue to explore for the master plan.

During the planning process, the team utilized multiple avenues to collect public input. The team used an open house meeting where residents were able to attend and discuss the future of the Webster City parks and recreation system.¹⁸ Additionally, the team created a survey that was distributed at multiple tabling events throughout the City.¹⁸ Towards the end of the planning process, the team hosted another open house, using a sticky dot exercise to prioritize recommendations for the future of parks and recreation in Webster City.¹⁸ The community outreach process for the Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan showcases the what is feasible for an University of Iowa graduate student Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities project. The Webster City provides insight into the types of outreach efforts that could benefit the Bondurant PTG Master Plan.

For the Webster City Parks and Recreation Master Plan, each park was analyzed by reviewing existing conditions, examining aerial photographs, using GIS data, and consulting online directories.¹⁸ Along with analyzing each park, specific recommendations were provided. The recreation amenities were also analyzed based on research, project partner input, and community feedback, developing recommendations for improving recreation in Webster City.¹⁸ The process used for the Webster City Master Plan provides insight into possible strategies for analyzing the parks and providing recommendations for Bondurant’s PTG Master Plan.

Peosta Forward! Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Trails Master Plan

The City of Peosta partnered with RDG Planning and Design firm to develop both a Comprehensive Plan and a Parks Master Plan. Both plans were adopted by the City in May 2021. Key goals of the Parks Master Plan for the City of Peosta are 1) provide park facilities and recreation services accessible to Peosta's growing population, and 2) identify and establish an interconnected network of natural areas that provide recreation options and protect natural resources.¹⁹ The threefold vision for Peosta's Park system is: 1) an active City focused on health and wellbeing of its citizens, 2) a braided City of parks, neighborhoods, and people, and 3) a community connected to its natural resources.¹⁹ The key goals and vision for Peosta's Parks Master Plan serves as a potential example for goals and vision of Bondurant's PTG Master Plan.

Unique to the Peosta, the proposed parks master plan separated the City into eight distinct "tiles" with separate plans and recommendations for each of these areas.¹⁹ The separation of the City into eight distinct "tiles" is a process that could be mimicked in the PTG Master Plan for Bondurant. Breaking the City into distinct sections could help direct planning decisions to specific areas of the City.

As part of the implementation of the Peosta Park Master Plan, prioritization and proposed cost of each project was outlined. Prioritization of projects were derived from public engagement, project's impact, project timeline, necessity,

ease of accomplishment, and return on investment.¹⁹ The focus of investment into Peosta's Park system is on four large projects that could be completed over the next three to ten years.¹⁹ Focusing on just four large scale projects rather than the whole system could help prioritize planning decisions for the City and create a plan that is feasible. The City has already approved three proposed projects. Focusing the plan on these projects could prevent the City from overpromising and underachieving the goals and objectives of the Bondurant PTG Master Plan.

City of Overland Park Comprehensive Park System Master Plan

The City of Overland Park Comprehensive Park System Master Plan was adopted in May 2013. The vision of parks and recreation in Overland Park is a "system of well-designed and maintained parks, greenways and recreation facilities [that] are elements to the community's wellbeing, active lifestyles and identity. These places and the experiences they offer provide wide ranging benefits for residents and visitors, while preserving green space and strengthening the local economy."²⁰ The vision of parks and recreation in Overland Park could provide insight into the vision of Bondurant's PTG Master Plan.

A key component of the Overland Park Comprehensive Park System Master Plan involved assessing the park system needs. The existing park system was evaluated, considering the park's size, classification, condition, function, and facilities.²⁰ In addition to the evaluation of the existing park

system, a geographical analysis was performed to understand the differences in development across the City and its impact on the park system needs.²⁰ The aquatic needs, recreational facility needs, recreational programming needs, and maintenance needs were also evaluated.²⁰ The process for analyzing the park system of Overland Park could be utilized when analyzing Bondurant's Park system.

City of Iowa City Parks Master Plan

City of Iowa City Parks Master Plan was adopted in September 2017 and was created in partnership with RDG Planning and Design and HBK Engineering. The vision of Iowa City's Park system is "an accessible parks and recreation system, committed to building community and serving all residents."²¹ Like with the Parks and Recreation plans of other cities, the vision of City of Iowa City Parks Master Plan serves as a comparable example for the vision of Bondurant's PTG system.

Part of the planning process included analyzing the park system. This was using a Geographic Information System Program, ESRI's ArcGIS to perform spatial analysis as well as on-the-ground data collection.²¹ The parks were then classified by size, facilities, use, and other factors.²¹ In addition to park analysis, the districts of Iowa City were analyzed based on population and equity.²¹ Similar to Overland Park Comprehensive Park System Master Plan, the planning process for analyzing the park system of Iowa City could be used to analyze the Bondurant's Park system.

Concord, North Carolina – Greenways

Due to the increasing popularity of greenways across the United States, several case studies are available as references to determine best practices for the unique ecological and cultural context of Bondurant. For example, in the early 2000's, City planners in Concord, North Carolina conducted a study on the possibilities for greenway development as their City expanded. Like Bondurant, Concord was experiencing rapid population growth – specifically, it doubled from almost 27,000 to over 50,000 people over just one decade -- and development expanded into the City's surrounding open space as a result.²¹ Planners highlighted greenways as an effective mechanism to "protect the natural environment, offer recreational opportunities, and provide alternative transportation routes."²¹ They specifically recommended locating greenways along stream corridors and floodplains as a buffer from non-point source pollution.

Implementation

To successfully achieve the recommended updates to Bondurant's PTG system, it is necessary to develop a clear timeline for the distribution, allocation, and sourcing of all necessary ~~recources~~[resources](#). The following section outlines a comprehensive menu of amenities, funding sources, and timelines for development, emphasizing insights into past ~~expedentures~~[expenditures](#) and recommendations for improved alignment with Bondurant's projected growth. All recommendations center results from community engagement activities, highlighting neighborhood-specific needs to help ensure long-term benefit for all residents.



Park Amenities: Current Needs and Amenity Catalogue

In each park, there is a need for specific amenities that serve all residents and visitors of the park system to ensure for maximum comfort and enjoyability. Within the current parks system, there are parks that prioritize different age groups, interests, and hobbies. However, to be fully equitable in provisioning, the parks and trails system should consider the needs and desires of residents from all areas of the city. To best address these needs, a catalogue of amenities is provided with costs associated to best identify the base cost of any future park developments within Bondurant.

The following amenities are identified as being priority items that should be located within each park and along each trail:

- Lighting
- Trees
- Shrubbery
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Restrooms (trails and some key parks)
- Trash Receptacles
- Signage

The following amenities are identified as commonly used park amenities that would likely be used in new developments:

- Full-sized playground structures
- Swing Sets
- Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Outdoor Exercise Equipment
- Ponds (may contain fish)
- Outdoor Grill

The following amenities are specialty amenities that could be placed within parks as more unique additions:

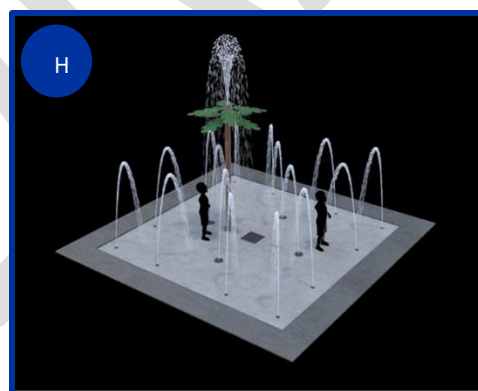
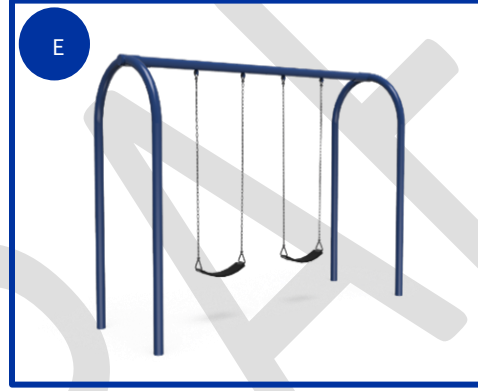
- Rock Walls
- Sports Courts
- Amphitheaters
- Splash Pads or Water Features
- Parking Lots

The figure below shows a catalogue of park and trail amenities organized by priority level for the PTG system. A dollar amount based on market research is matched with each amenity to accurately predict the costs of future park or trail development. A list of companies providing these amenities – with examples provided below – is provided in the appendix.

Amenity Catalogue

	AMENITY	COST	PRIORITY
A	SOLAR LIGHTING	\$1,000-\$2,500 per post	HIGH
	TREES	\$600 per 2 in. diameter tree	HIGH
	BENCHES	\$1,500	HIGH
B	DRINKING FOUNTAIN	\$8,000-14,000	HIGH
	TRASH RECEPTACLES	\$1,000	HIGH
	SIGNAGE	\$3,000	HIGH
C	RESTROOMS	\$200,000	MEDIUM
D	L-SIZED PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES	\$60,000-\$100,000	MEDIUM
	SWING SETS	\$3,000	MEDIUM
E	SHELTERS	\$10,000	MEDIUM
	OUTDOOR GRILL	\$300	MEDIUM
	PICNIC TABLES	\$1,000	MEDIUM
F	OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	\$10,000	MEDIUM
	SPORTS COURTS	\$40,000	LOW
G	AMPITHEATERS	\$500,000-\$1,000,000	LOW
H	PLASH PADS OR WATER FEATURES	\$250,000	LOW
	PARKING LOT	\$2.50-\$7 per square foot	LOW
I	ROCK WALL	\$6,000	LOW

Figure 2. Amenity catalogue showing the prices and priority levels for key park and trail amenities.



Revision of the Subdivision Ordinance

Currently, the means of acquiring new park land within subdivisions in Bondurant is dictated by the existing subdivision ordinance: **180.06 Public Parkland Dedication**. This ordinance reads:

***“Requirement.** The development of any property for residential purposes **shall be required to dedicate public parkland**. No new plats or site plans for residential development shall be approved unless the provisions of this section are complied with.”*

The current subdivision ordinance does not account for cohesiveness in park design or planning for future growth, affecting the equitable distribution of parks. To further regulate and promote the dedication of adequate park space as Bondurant grows and adapts, revisions to the existing parkland dedication ordinance are suggested based on APA Award Winning Cities such as St. Paul, MN and Columbus, OH. These revisions will help improve connectivity, park size and placement, and overall development.

Proposed Revisions:

1. Requirement for all plans including parkland dedications to **pass through the Parks and Recreation Board**.

2. Parkland dedication should be **required for mixed-use developments that include residential uses**.

3. **Dimensional requirement alterations**, either:
a. Increase in street frontage requirements from 10% to 20%
b. Require multiple street frontages for parks

4. Inclusion of **development incentives** such as setback reductions or increased height maximums for developers that choose parkland dedication over a fee-in-lieu. Increased incentives for those abutting existing parks.

5. Requirement for proposed subdivisions with parkland dedications to have **direct trail connections** to the proposed parks.

6. Requirement for all **fees-in-lieu** paid by developers to **be dedicated to the development and maintenance** of park space nearest to the development by the City.

Funding Sources and Cost Analysis

Funding for capital expenditures relating to the PTG system have steadily increased throughout the years, promoting a parks-and-trails-oriented outlook to community development and interconnectivity of natural transportation corridors. As Bondurant continues to grow and more subdivisions create open park spaces, Bondurant will need to consider how these areas will be funded and prioritized to provide equitable park access and amenities to all Bondurant residents.

Each year, the City of Bondurant publishes a Parks and Recreation report highlighting park and trail updates, expenditures, financing, and event and programming information that took place throughout the year. In 2022, Bondurant discussed park enhancements and the funding used to provide upgrades to the current PTG system. Bondurant worked on many projects during 2022 such as the Lake Pawtocka Dog Park, the Central Park Plan, and the Gay Lea Wilson Underpass. The City of Bondurant funded most of these projects, but much of the funding received for these projects came from grants and private interest group funding. Grants used for these expenditures came from the Iowa DNR, Trees Forever, a Lowe's Hometowns Grant, the Resource Enhancement and Protection program, and many others. To fund future parks and trails planning initiatives, these organizations will be key to acquiring grants that will help deliver park services and enhance tree canopy and biodiversity habitats.

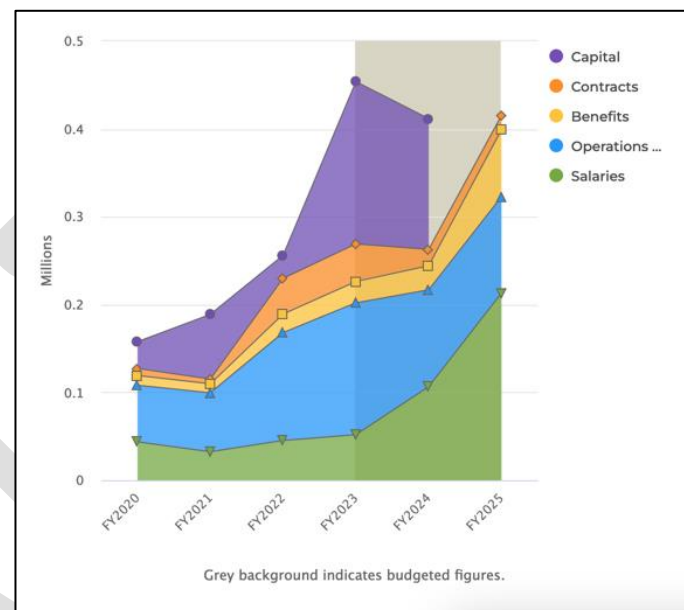


Figure ?. Bondurant past and future total park expenditures (Bondurant Transparency Center, 2023).

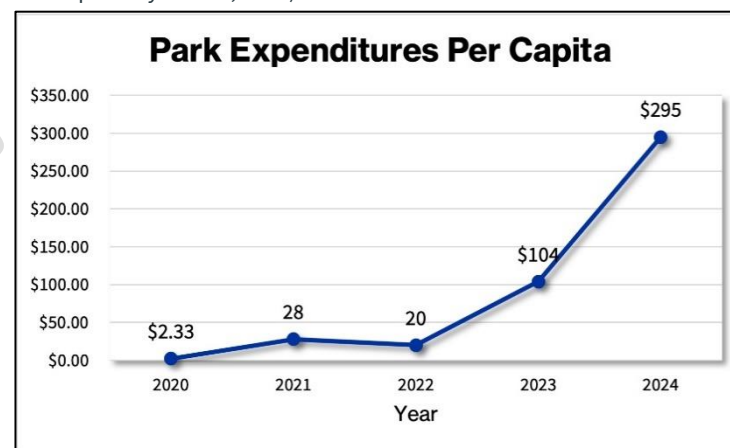


Figure ?. Bondurant's park expenditures per capita (Bondurant Transparency Center, 2023).

Bondurant Total Expenditures 2022

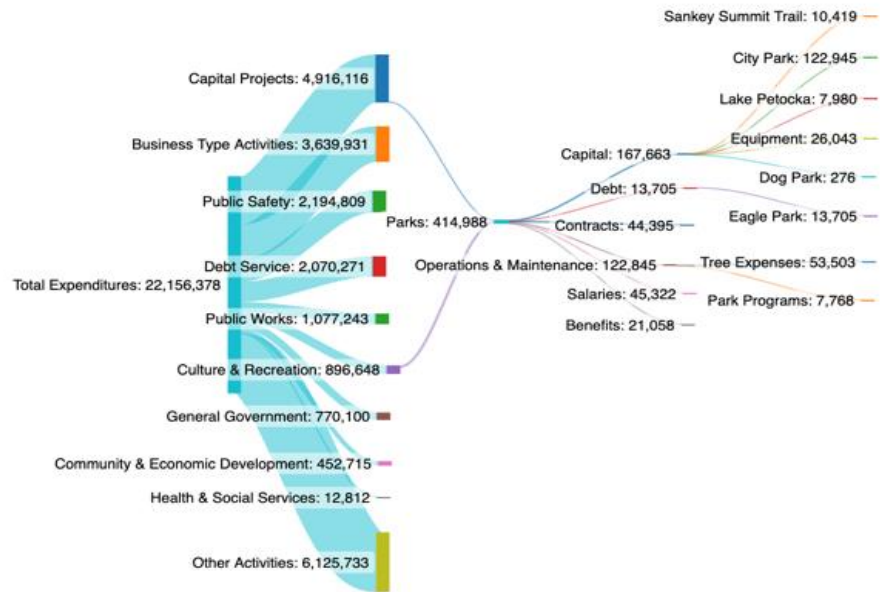


Figure 7. Total Expenditures for Bondurant FY 2022 broken down to delineate PTG expenditures (Bondurant Transparency Center, 2023).

Fiscal Year 2022 data breaks down the expenditures on park improvements and tree plantings, operations & maintenance expenditures, and salaries and contracts for the parks and recreation department. The total budget from all funds for FY2022 was \$30,690,537; the total expenditures from FY2022 totaled \$22,156,378. In total, Bondurant expended 72% of

the total budget for FY2022. “Parks” capital expenditures include parks, trails, trees, and equipment. Overall, Bondurant spent \$414,988 or 1.9% of the City’s total expenditures on parks. 40.4% of these expenditures were spent on capital improvements for Sankey Summit Trail, City Park, Lake Petocka, the Lake Pawtocka Dog Park, and equipment for the parks. The next largest proportion of total park expenditures was spent on operations & maintenance such as park programs and tree expenditures, totaling up to 29.6% of total park expenditures.

Adequate funding is essential for an efficient PTG system that serves the needs of all residents. There are multiple funding sources and strategies to provide the resources needed for future development, such as:

- Grants
- Private interest groups
- Neighborhood interest groups
- Reallocation of the existing budget

As only 1.9% of Bondurant’s total expenditures are allocated to the PTG system currently, the City should consider a reallocation of the existing budget to increase available funding for PTG improvement. As shown in Figures 16 and 17, the proposed spending on the PTG system is projected to increase over the coming years, which means overall spending should be budgeted to increase each year at a steady rate to match the growing PTG system.

Potential Funding Sources

Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Available through the **Iowa Energy Office**, this grant awards grants between \$50,000-\$300,000 to support **innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy demonstration projects** such as solar projects.

Community Attraction and Tourism Grant

Available through **Enhance Iowa**, the CAT program provides funding for communities looking **to enhance recreation and tourism**.

Inspire Iowa Cultural Tourism Grant

Available through the **Iowa Arts Council**, this grant awards between \$25,000-\$100,000 to communities or non-profits wishing to elevate the **perception of Iowa as a cultural destination**. Following the construction of an amphitheater or other outdoor event space, Bondurant would be eligible for this grant.

Resource Enhancement and Protection Grant

Available through the **Iowa Department of Natural Resources**, this program has a budget of \$20 million per year until 2026 dedicated to improving open space, roadside vegetation, city parks, soil enhancement, and more.

The Living Roadway Trust Fund

The **Living Roadway Trust Fund** supports integrated roadside vegetation management operations which allow applicants to complete **roadside vegetation planting of native plants** along with educational opportunities for residents of the area.

Destination Iowa

Available through the **Iowa Economic Development Authority**, this grant helps cities fund development of new and existing infrastructure that **creates unique places and promotes tourism** within Iowa communities.

Trails and Sidewalk Map

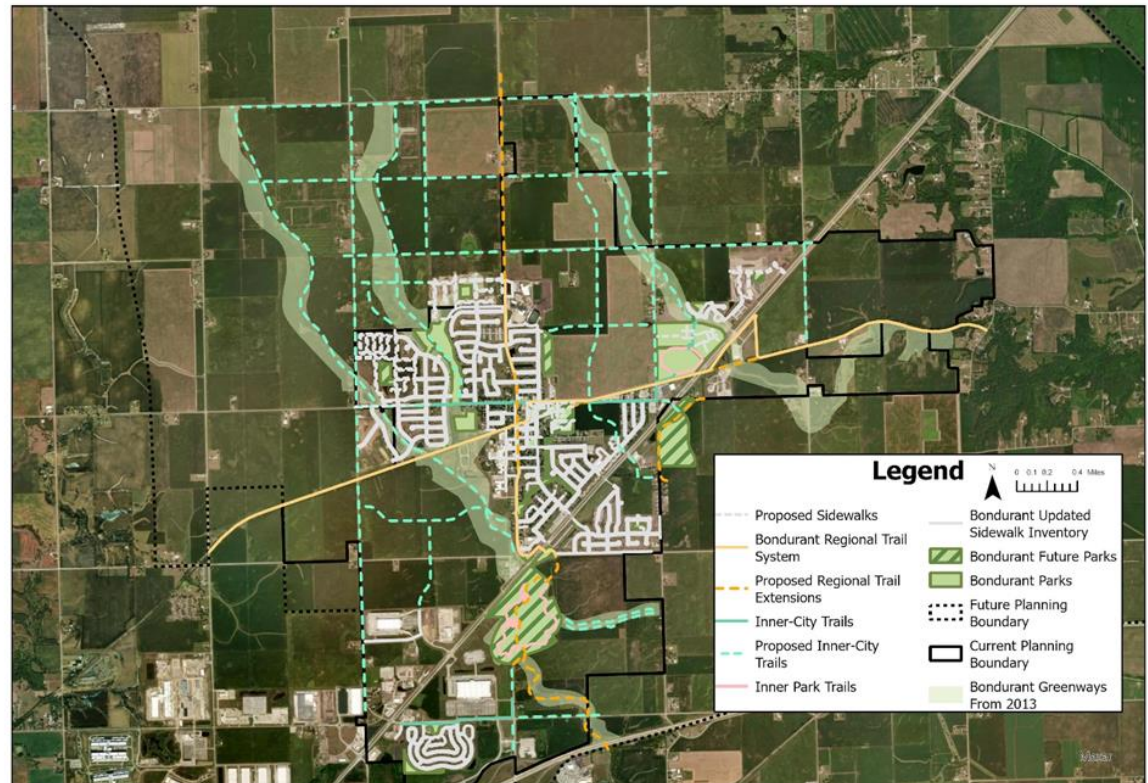
Through community outreach efforts, residents of Bondurant indicated several weaknesses of the current trails and sidewalk system. The biggest issue experienced by Bondurant residents is the lack of connectivity across the whole system. While the Chichaqua Valley Trail runs from west to east through the city, there is very little north to south connections along the trails and sidewalk system. Existing trails are located across from the Bondurant-Farrar Junior High School and High School as well as south of the downtown business district, ending at NE Hubbell Rd.

Residents that live south of NE Hubbell Rd highlight that they feel disconnected from the rest of the Bondurant Parks, Trails, and Greenways system due to the incomplete trail network. Additionally, recreational bikers who live in the city noted that they are forced to bike along shared roadways which can be a potential safety hazard.

Using the feedback generated from Bondurant residents, the team developed an updated Trails and Sidewalk Map for the City of Bondurant (Need to work in “See Map #”), identifying both existing and proposed trails. The location of these trails

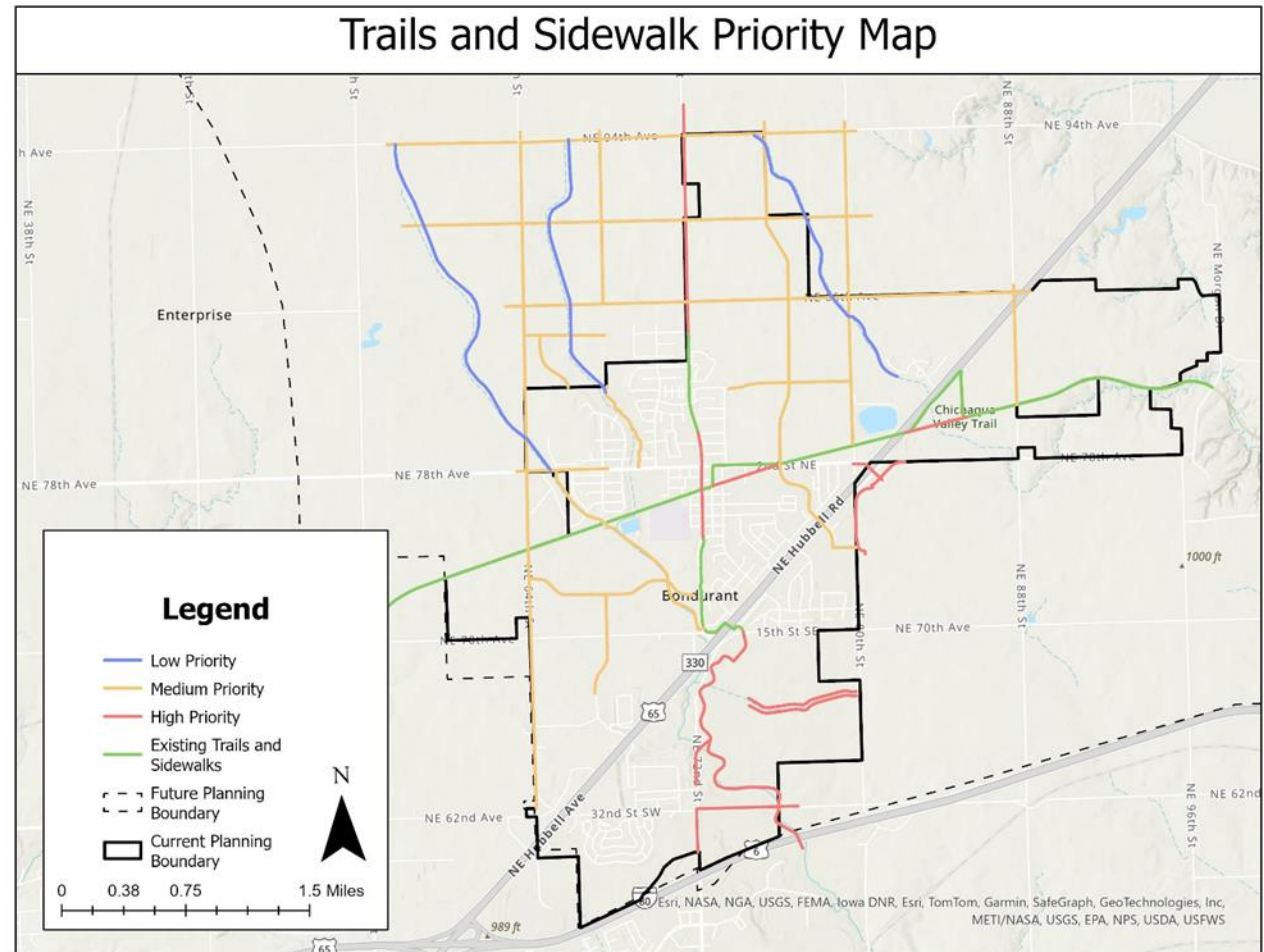
and sidewalks are based on several key factors. First, the City of Bondurant is rapidly growing and over the past few years, the City has approved several important development master plans. Trails and sidewalks that are planned within these adopted master plans have been added to the new Trails and Sidewalk Map to ensure that the information within these master plans is being followed in the Updated

Updated Bondurant Trails and Sidewalks Map



PTG Master Plan. In addition to adopted master plans, sidewalk information from approved subdivision plats have been added to the new Trails and Sidewalk Map. From the Open House engagement event, bikers in the community identified key areas to add trails running parallel with roadways throughout the city, especially near the Chichaqua Valley Trailhead located east of the City. With the adoption of new streets in the City, there is an opportunity to add trails along the new roadways as well as along identified greenways. The updated Trails and Sidewalk Map addresses the discontinuity between residents south of the City and the overall trails system, and helps prepare the city for continued growth in the future.

As identified within the Trails and Sidewalk Map, the trails can be classified as Regional Trails, Inner City Trails, and Inner Park Trails. Regional trails connect multiple cities and towns across the region. Not only does the City of Bondurant have the Chichaqua Valley Trail run west to east through the City, but the Gay Lea Wilson Trails run north to south through the City, too. Inner City Trails are



classified as trails that connect parks and subdivisions within the city. To improve the connectivity of the trail system, the City will need to prioritize the development of Inner City Trails. Lastly, Inner Park Trails are trails that exist solely within a singular park. The walking loop around Lake

Petocka is a prime example. With the adoption of the Central District Stormwater Management Master Plan, the City plans to establish more Inner Park Trails with this development.

Trails and Sidewalk Priority Map

Coinciding with the updated Trails and Sidewalk Map, the Trails and Sidewalk Priority Map identifies which trails should be developed based on priorities. The proposed trail additions are labeled as low priority, medium priority, and high priority based on resident feedback and ongoing development. There is an immediate need for improved north to south trail connectivity to bridge the gap between the Wolf Creek subdivision and the rest of Bondurant. Additionally, trails that coincide with adopted master plans are also identified as high priority since these trails should be created as their master plans are developed. Trails identified as medium priority exist alongside roadways. As new streets are established throughout the City, this creates an opportunity for the city to proactively establish trails that run parallel with these arterial and collector streets. Additionally, bikers within the city expressed safety concerns regarding sharing roads with cars, making these trails a medium priority need for the city. Lastly, areas identified as low priority coincide with areas of the city noted as greenways and serve as a desirable extension to the trail system rather than an immediate residential concern.

Future Regional and Community Open Spaces

The following map depicts possible locations for future regional and community open spaces within Bondurant's future planning boundary. One-mile radius buffers incircle identified points on the map. The points do not indicate exact locations but signify a general area where a regional or community open space should exist.

The City's Future Land Use Map served as the primary source of information for the decision-making process of the locations of future regional and community open spaces. The two general locations furthest west and the location furthest east were selected due to their planned growth as residential and commercial centers. The future land uses within these general locations feature high density residential, medium density residential, low density residential, regional commercial, and neighborhood commercial land uses. A regional and community open space near these denser development areas has the potential to provide numerous benefits to many future residents of Bondurant.

Future Regional and Community Open Spaces

Legend

- Future Regional and Community Open Spaces
- Future Regional and Community Open Spaces Buffer Zone
- Future Planning Boundary
- Bondurant Parks
- Bondurant Future Parks
- Bondurant Current Planning Boundary

Future Use

- Downtown Mixed-Use
- High Density Residential
- Industrial
- Business Park/Industrial
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Mixed Use
- Neighborhood Commercial
- Open Space
- Parks/Recreation
- Public
- Regional Commercial
- Retail Flex
- Rural Residential

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Iowa DNR, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

The general location furthest north could provide access to outdoor recreation for individuals that already reside within the area. In the future, as the City annexes property to expand the City's planning boundary, providing a recreational space for these existing properties could help the City to proactively provide equitable access to city resources. Additionally, because these developments already exist, there is limited opportunity for parkland to be dedicated through the development of subdivisions.

The central general location creates an opportunity for collaboration with the Bondurant-Farrar School District due to its proximity to the Bondurant-Farrar Junior High School and High School. Additionally, the location is near future residential development that could benefit from a nearby Regional and Community Open Space.

The Future Land Use Map identifies locations of future detentions. The proposed locations of future regional and community open spaces coincide with these locations. The development of future detentions have the opportunity to be utilized as future regional and community open spaces.

Concept Mapping for Parks

To assist in the implementation of this plan, concept park maps were created to reflect the interests of community members. Using responses from survey analysis and community engagement, these maps display desired amenities of residents throughout different parts of the city. Within each park, there is an element designed for various age groups. While these designs can be implemented as proposed, they also serve as a basis and inspiration for future park designs.

The five currently undeveloped parks that have design concepts are Sankey Summit Park, Bluejay Landing Park, Meadow Brook Park, Harvest Meadows Park, and District Corridor Park.

NOTE:

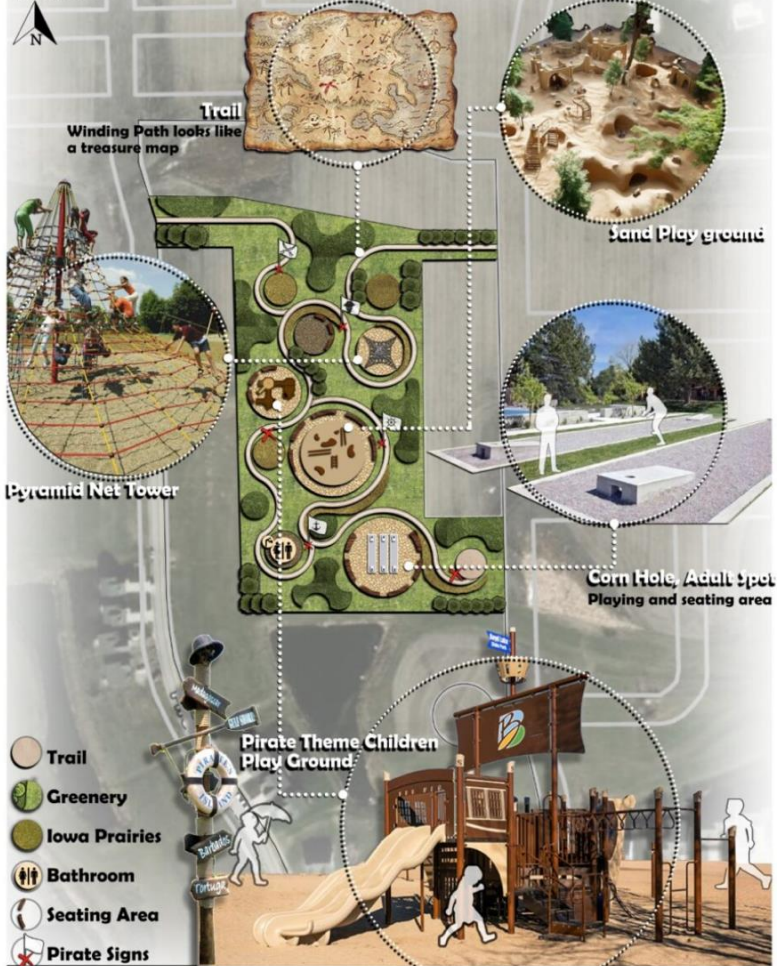
Design concepts for Bluejay Landing Park and Meadow Brook Park are currently under revision and will be sent to project partners when complete.

The final concept for Harvest Meadows will include a parking lot.



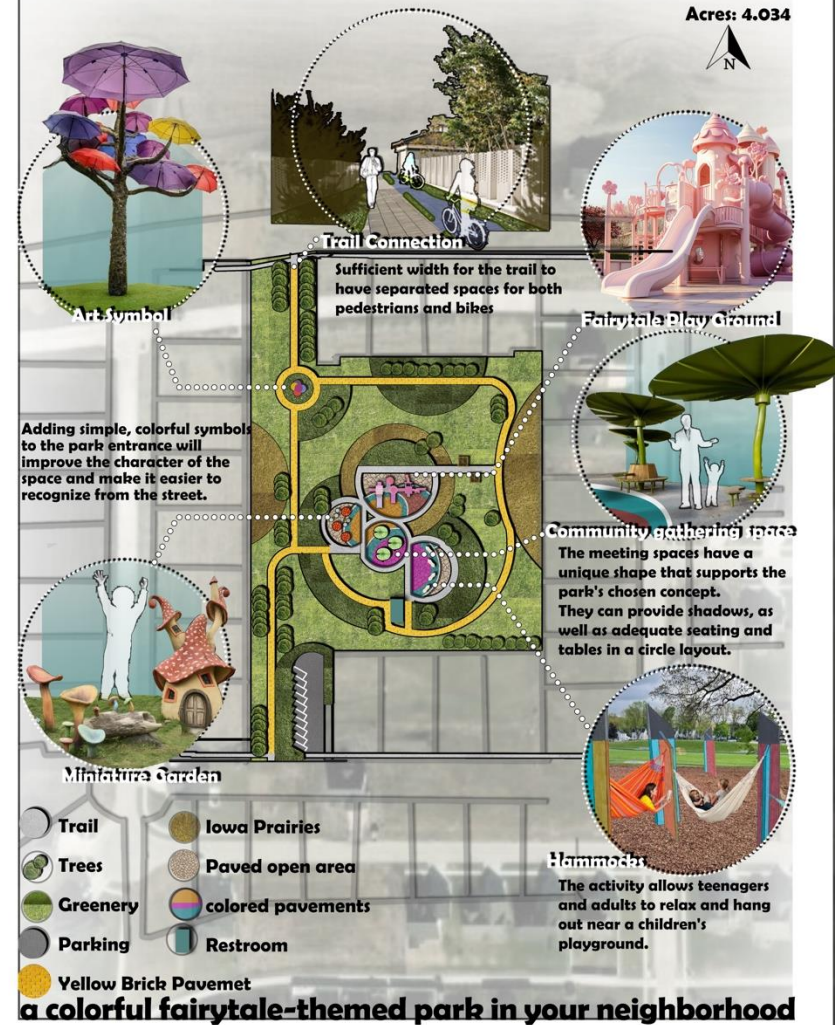
Concept Design Map for Harvest Meadows Park A Park with Pirate Theme

Acres: 6.94



Concept Design Map for Sankey Summit Park

Acres: 4.034



a colorful fairytale-themed park in your neighborhood

Wayfinding and Signage

Note: The final plan will include designs for additional trail signage and wayfinding. These concepts were designed to build from Group Creative Service's Art, Culture, and Wayfinding (ACW) Master Plan, which will help achieve cohesion and improved wayfinding throughout the City. This section will also incorporate ideas gained through the Nature Biography interviews, including additions to the ACW Plan's suggestions for neighborhood-based community building activities and future community engagement strategies.

Future Recommendations

Future recommendations for Bondurant are split into short, medium, and long-term goals for the city to achieve an ideal parks, trails, and greenways system as efficiently as possible.

Short-Term 0-3 Years	Medium-Term 3-5 Years	Long-Term 5-10 Years
1. Revise the existing subdivision ordinance. 2. Develop parks that are currently undeveloped within the city. 3. Implement storytelling signage at each park. 4. Create a PTG group that meets bi-annually to ensure that goals are being met within the proposed timeline.	1. Begin roadside vegetation and native prairie planting efforts. 2. Ensure adequate trail amenities are provided (restrooms, benches, drinking fountains) 3. Revamp each neighborhood park with ADA accessible features such as curb cuts and amenities. 4. Create an amenity inventory which highlights the types and quantities of amenities located at each park or trail.	1. Create trail connections along the greenway system to the north. 2. Create a regional attraction that generates circulating revenue back into the PTG system. 3. Work with neighboring cities to create trail connections that will bridge gaps in connectivity. 4. Create community garden groups to provide fresh produce to Bondurant residents.

Appendix

Bondurant Parks, Trails, and Greenways Survey

This survey is being used to collect data for the updated Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan for the City of Bondurant. It is being conducted by students in the School of Planning and Public Affairs and at the University of Iowa, through the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities.

Your responses will be anonymous, unless you would like to include your email and the end of this survey to be a part of a more in-depth conversation for this plan. Providing your email is optional. For any questions about the survey, please email madelyn-stoen@uiowa.edu. Thank you for your participation.

Do you live in Bondurant?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you have children?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is your favorite park in Bondurant?

☐ Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex

☐ Bondurant Regional Trailhead (Depot)

☐ City Park

☐ Eagle Park

☐ Efnor Estates Park

☐ Gateway Park

☐ Lake Petocka

☐ Lincoln Estates Park

☐ Mallard Pointe Park

☐ Park Side Park

☐ Renaud Ridge Park

☐ Wisteria Heights Park

☐ Wolf Creek West Fishing Pond

☐ Wolf Creek Park

☐ Bluejay Landing Park

☐ Collison Soccer Complex

Why is this your favorite park?

What is your favorite natural feature of Bondurant?

☐ Natural water features like creeks or ponds

☐ Native habitats and wildlife

☐ Trees

☐ Open space

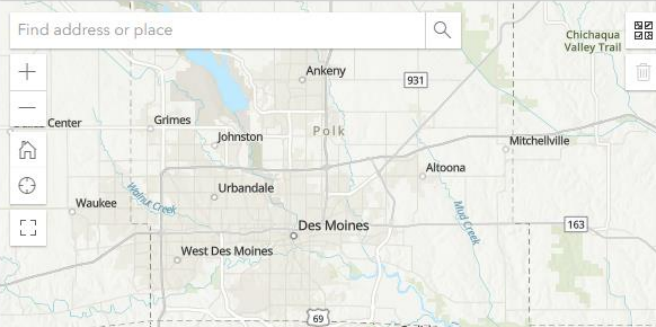
☐ Other

Think about your favorite park or trail system in that you have visited, it could be in the Des Moines area or another place in Iowa. Where is that park or trail?

Please type in the address or double-click to place a marker on the map.

Note: You can only add one marker to the map.

Find address or place



Esri, CGIAR, USGS | City of Des Moines, IA, Des Moines Area Regional GIS, Iowa DNR, Esri... Powered by Esri

No geometry captured yet.

How enjoyable are the trails in Bondurant?

Extremely unenjoyable Somewhat unenjoyable Neither unenjoyable nor enjoyable Somewhat enjoyable Extremely enjoyable

Are there any barriers for you accessing the Bondurant parks and trail system? If so, what are they?

☐ Lack of time

☐ Distance to parks

☐ Is not accessible (lack of curb cutouts, wheelchair ramps, audio and visual signage, or other accessibility features)

☐ Locational awareness of where the parks are

☐ The parks are not safe

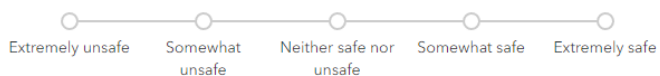
☐ Lack of transportation

☐ There are no barriers for me accessing the parks

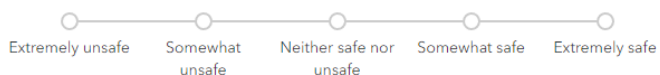
☐ Other

Why is this your favorite park or trail network?

How safe do you feel in the Bondurant parks?



How safe do you feel in the Bondurant trails network?



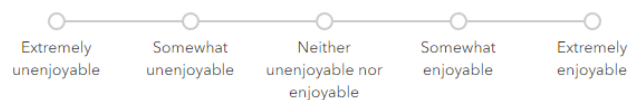
How welcomed do you feel in the Bondurant parks?



How welcomed do you feel in the Bondurant trails network?



How enjoyable are the parks in Bondurant?



When choosing a park to go to, please rank the following from most important to least important.

- ☐ I can walk there
- ☐ It has the amenities I want
- ☐ It has activities for young children
- ☐ It has activities for preteens and teenagers
- ☐ The park is close to other businesses/downtown
- ☐ It has parking

Reset

What is your primary use of the existing park system?

- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Exercise
- ☐ Relaxation
- ☐ Family entertainment
- ☐ I do not go to the parks in Bondurant
- ☐ Other

What is your primary use of the existing trail system?

☐ Recreation

☐ Exercise

☐ Relaxation

☐ Family entertainment

☐ Commuting/getting around town

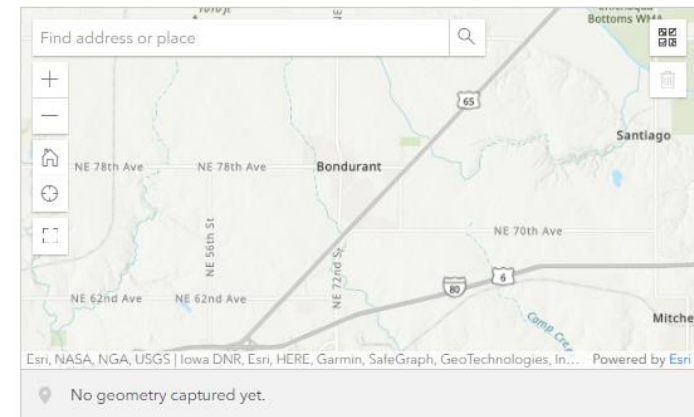
☐ I do not use the trails in Bondurant

☐ Other

If you have an idea of where a future park in Bondurant should be, please place a marker on the map.

Please type in the address or double-click to place a marker on the map.

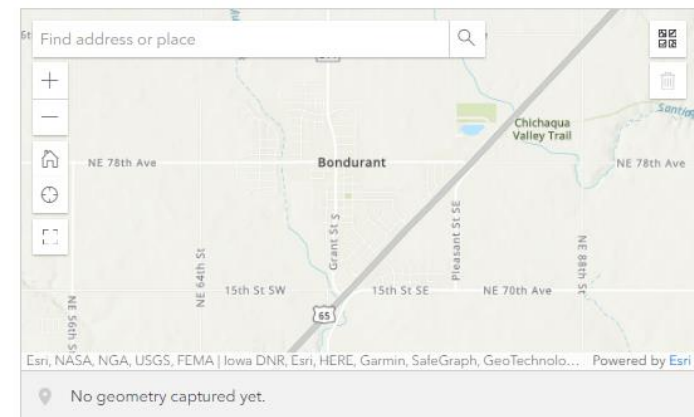
Note: You can only add one marker to this map.



Where do you think there should be an expanded trail or additional trail connectivity in Bondurant?

Please type in the address or double-click to place a marker on the map.

Note: You can only add one marker to the map.



Is there any things you think are missing or that there should be more of in the parks and trails in Bondurant? If so, what are they?

☐ Playsets and swingsets	☐ Splashpads
☐ Courts for sports (basketball, pickleball, etc)	☐ Disc golf
☐ Ping pong table	☐ Benches/seating
☐ Gardens	☐ Natural water features
☐ Prairies	☐ Fountains
☐ Open greenspace	☐ Fishing
☐ Lighting	☐ Bike racks
☐ Shelters	☐ Public art
☐ Parking lots	☐ Trees, bushes
☐ Outdoor ampitheatre	☐ Fire pits
☐ Concession stands	☐ Birdwatching
☐ Dog litter bags	☐ Trail connections
☐ Nature play	☐ Walking/running track
☐ Wayfinding and signage	☐ Native plantings
☐ Drinking fountains	☐ Memorial gardens

☐ Nearby public transit	☐ Baby changing stations
☐ Wildlife refuge	☐ Hammocks
☐ Exercise equipment	☐ Pump/dirt bike track
☐ Swimming	☐ Skate park
☐ Community gathering space/community center	☐ Edible forest/community gardens

Is there anything you would like to see us include in the updated Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan?

Please select one or more options that reflect your gender

☐ Woman

☐ Man

☐ Non-Binary

☐ Transgender

☐ Two-Spirit

☐ I prefer not to disclose

☐ Other

What is your marital status?

-Please select-

What is your age?

-Please select-

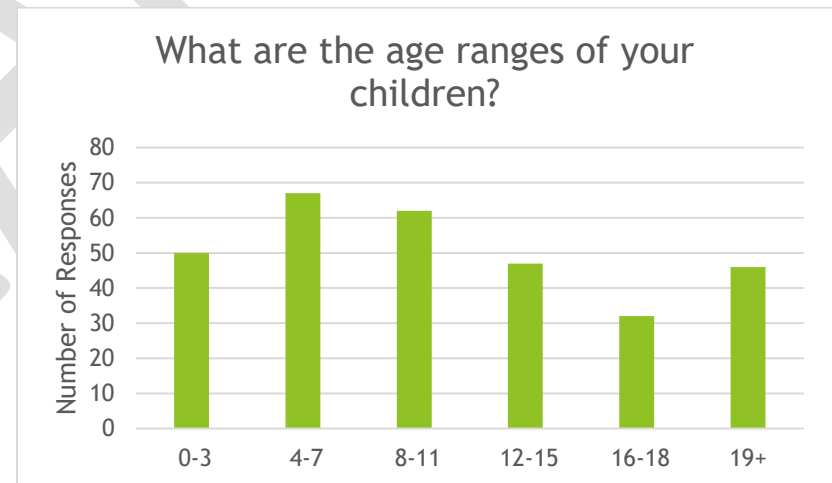
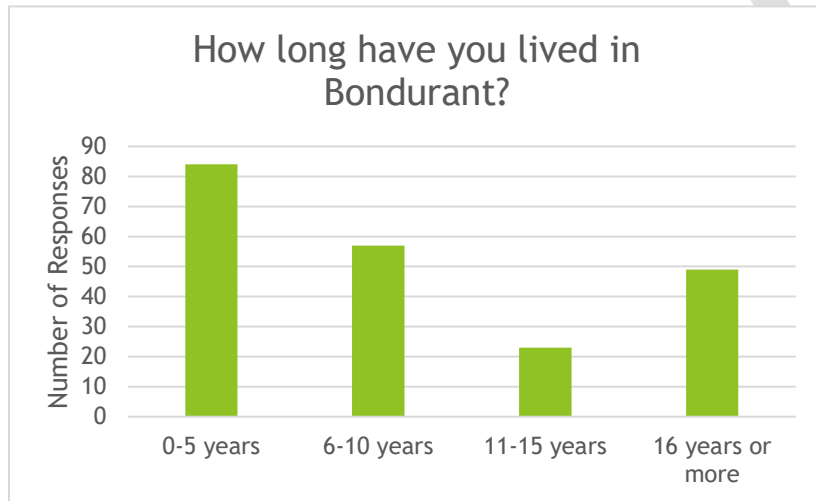
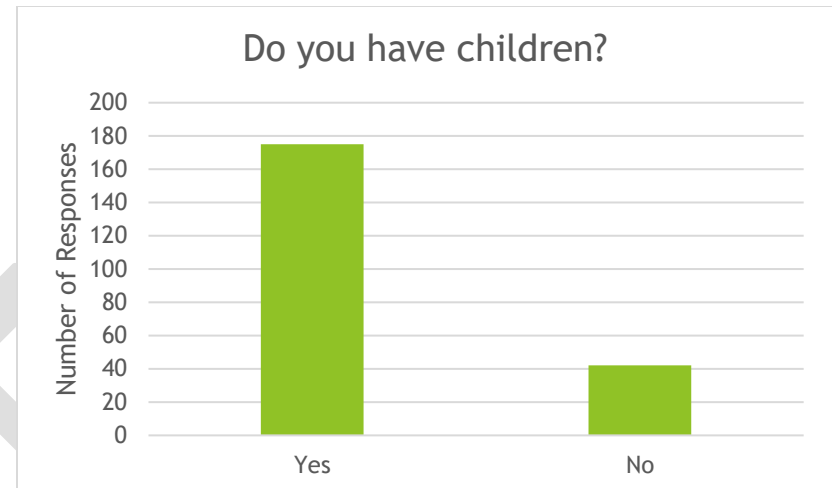
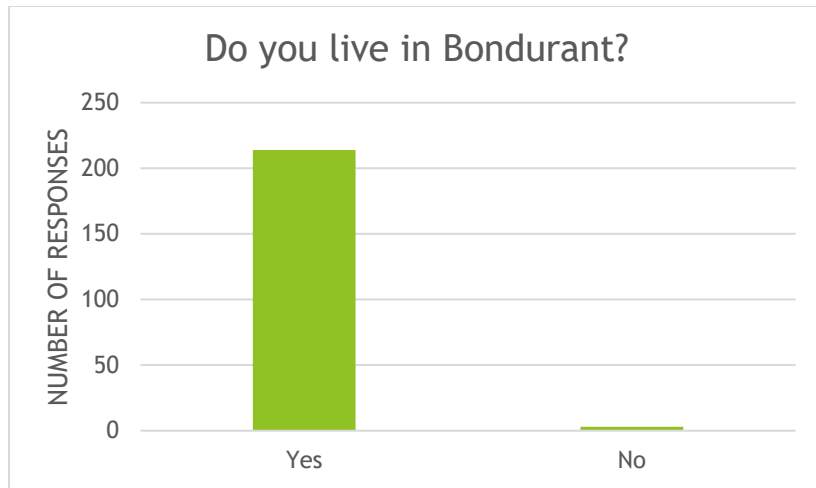
What neighborhood do you live in?

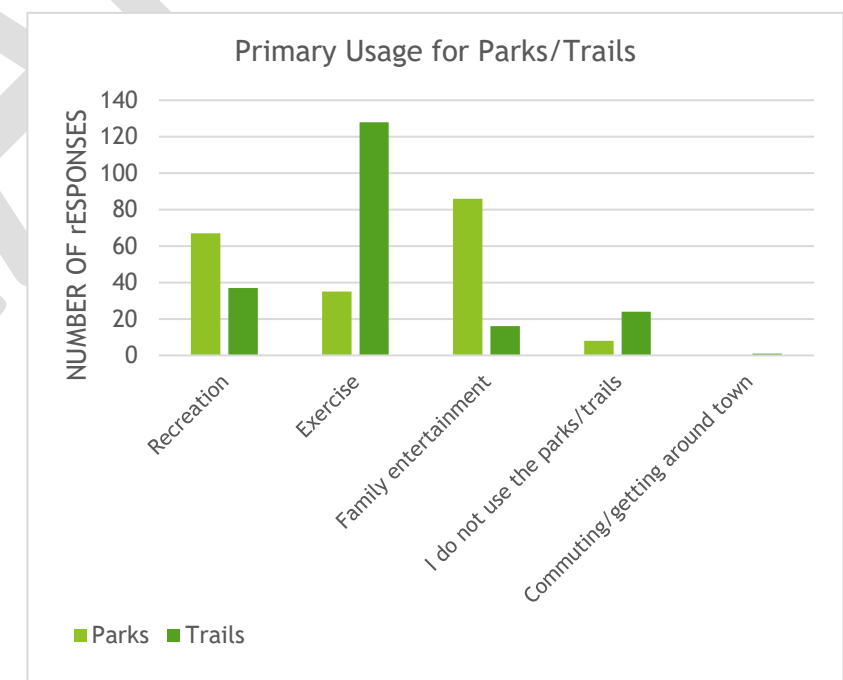
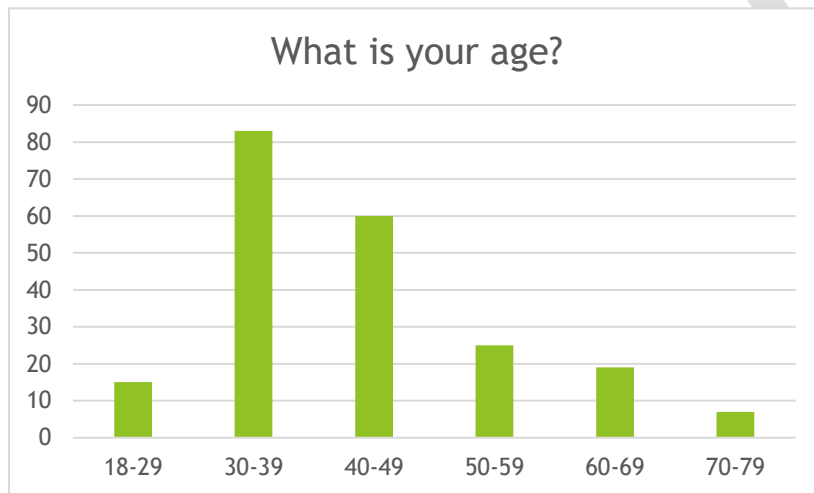
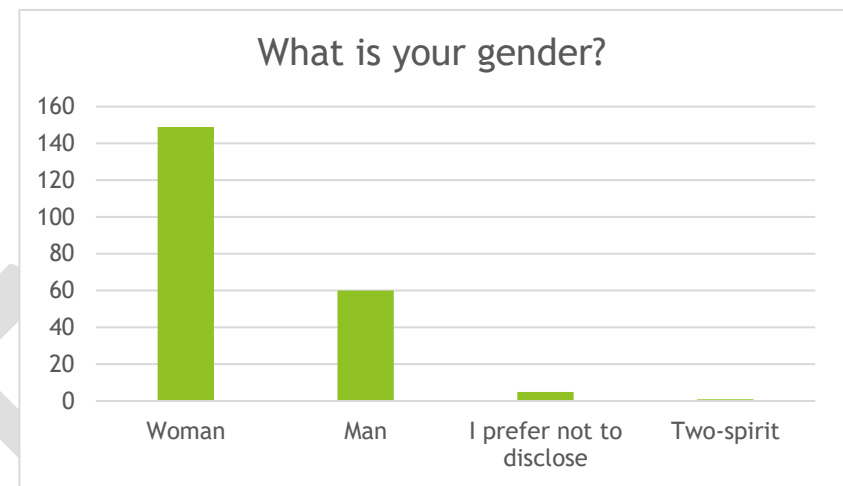
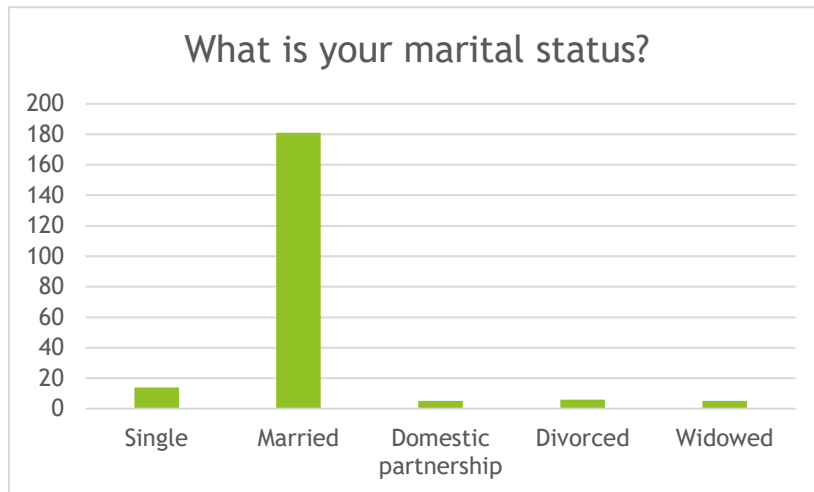
Would you like to be contacted for a more in-depth conversation about your relationship and experience with parks and trails?

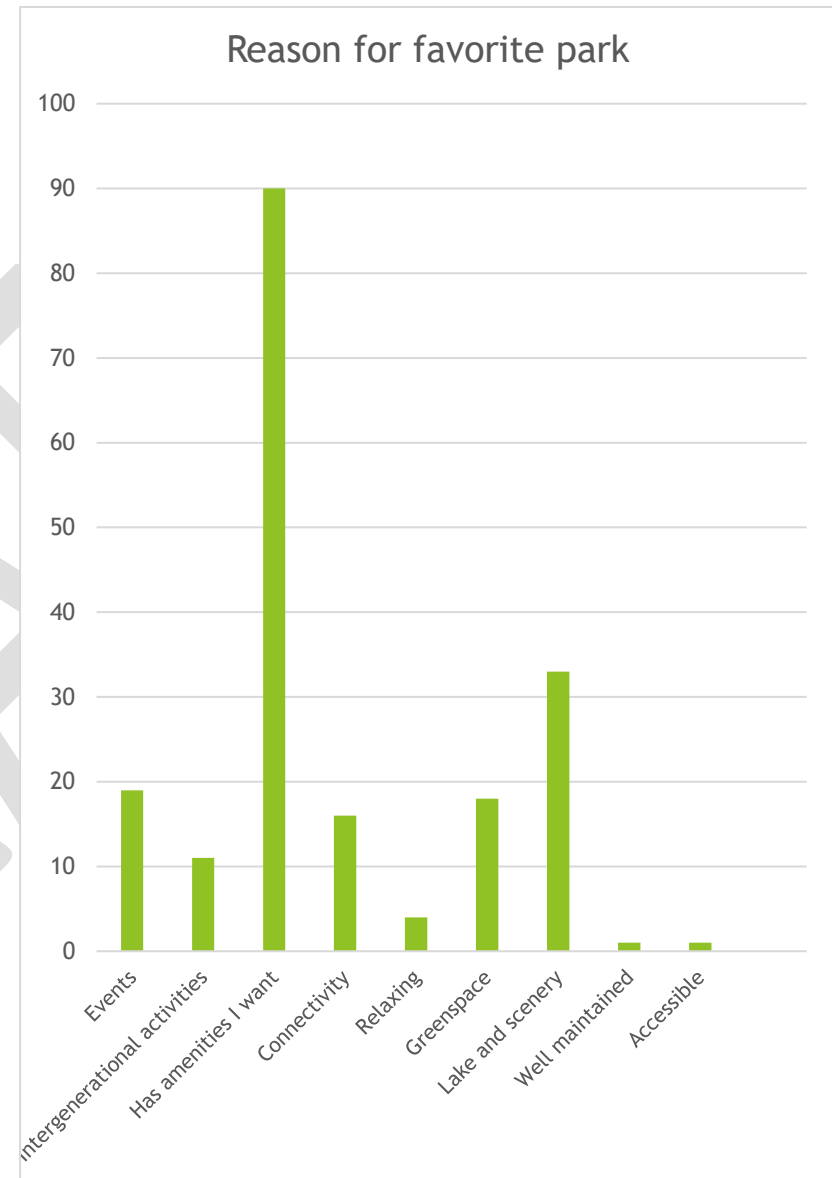
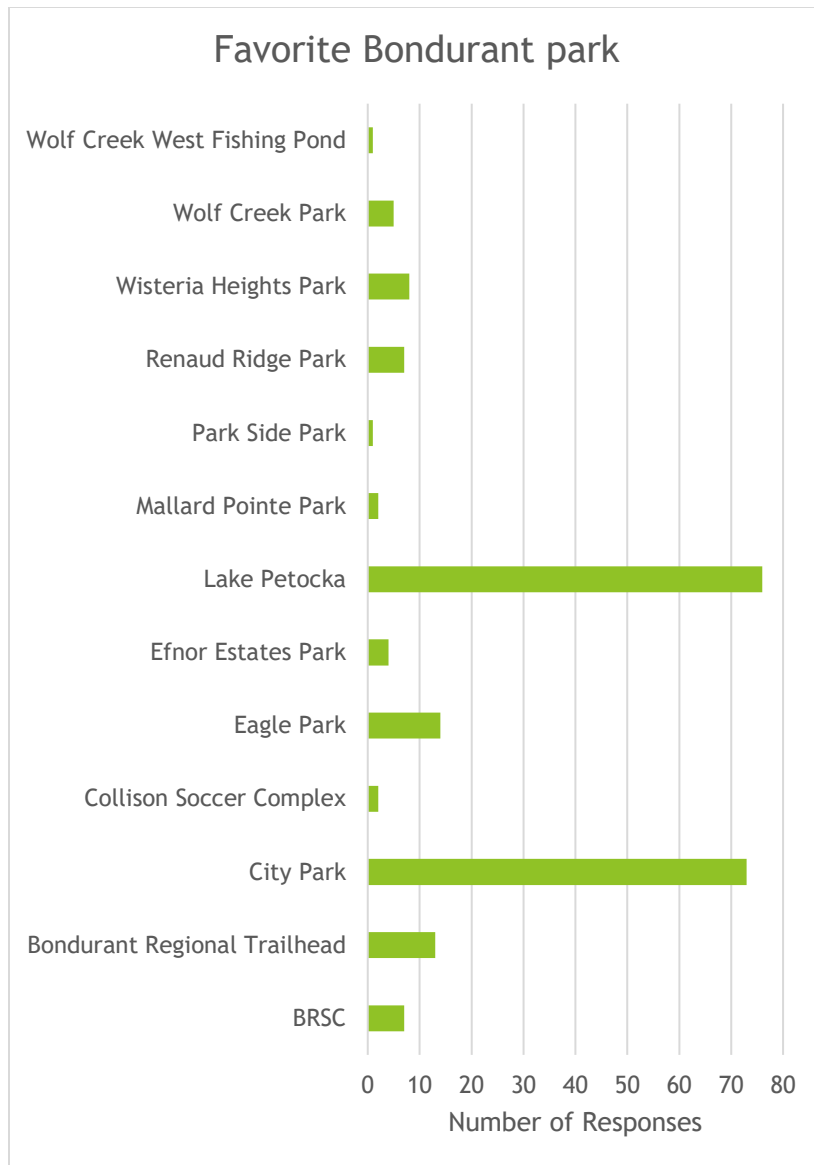
☐ Yes

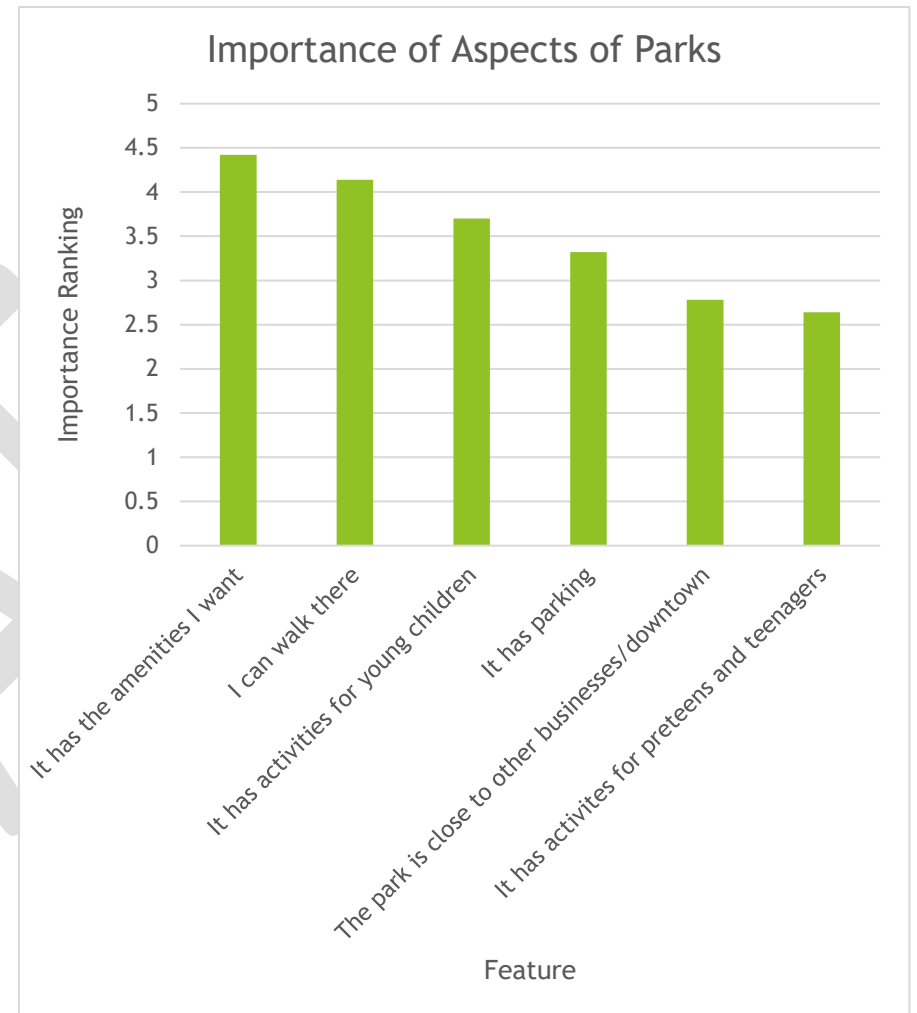
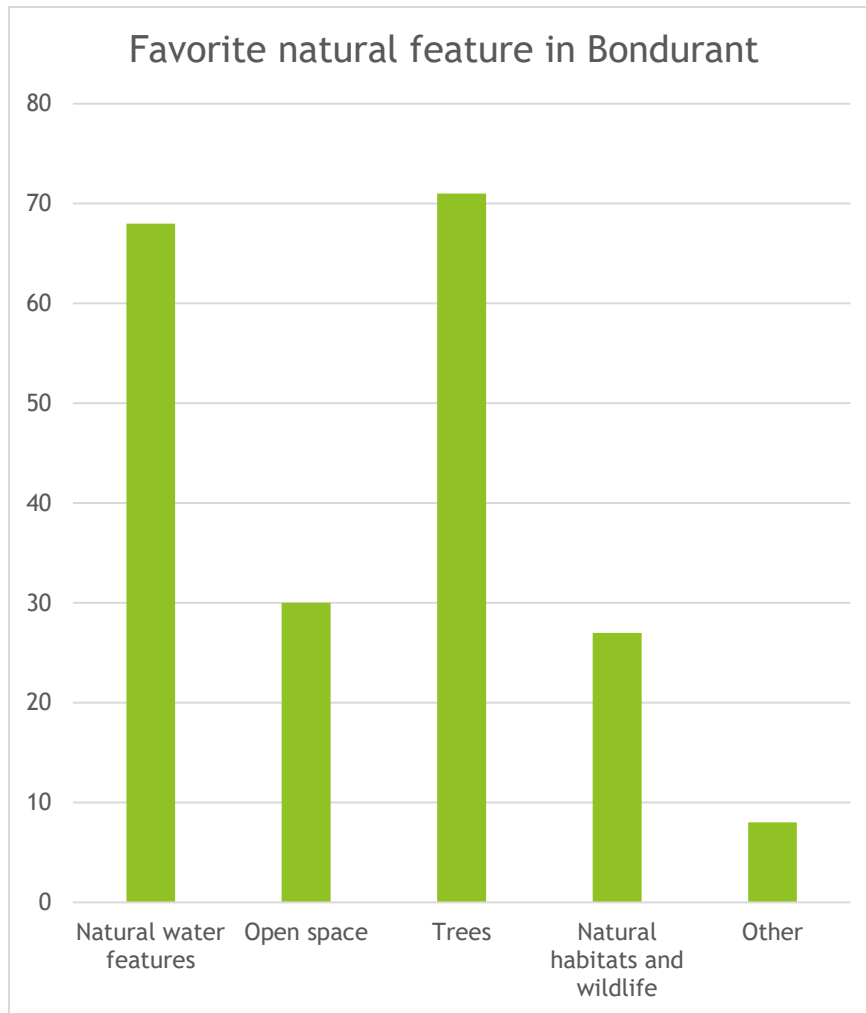
☐ No

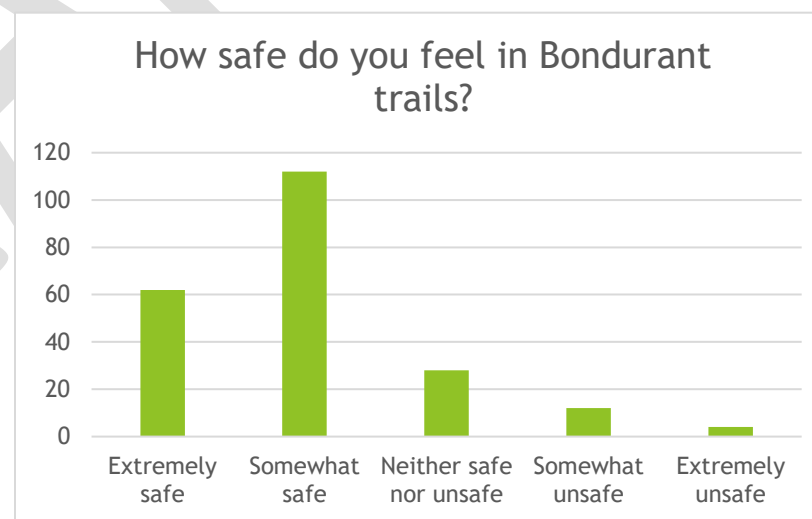
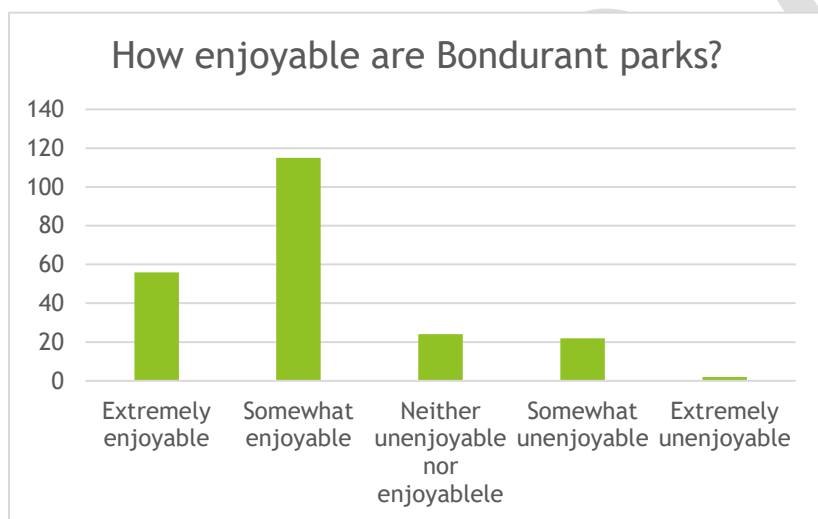
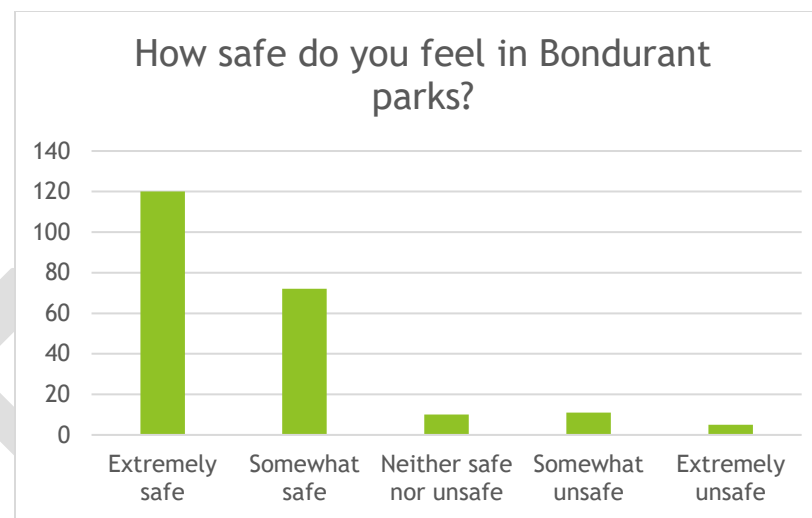
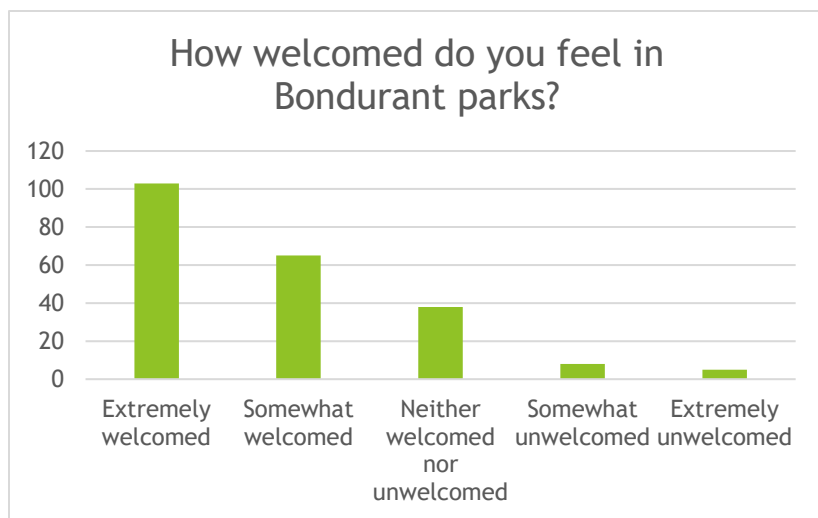
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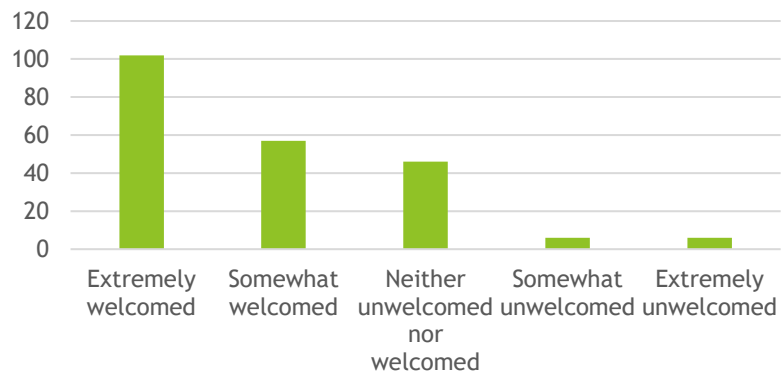




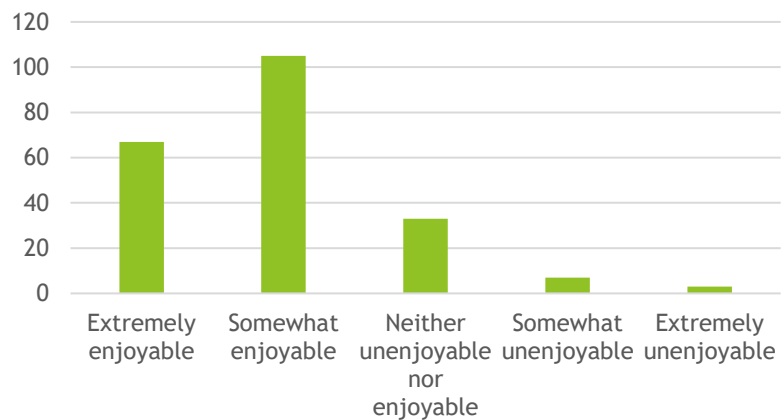




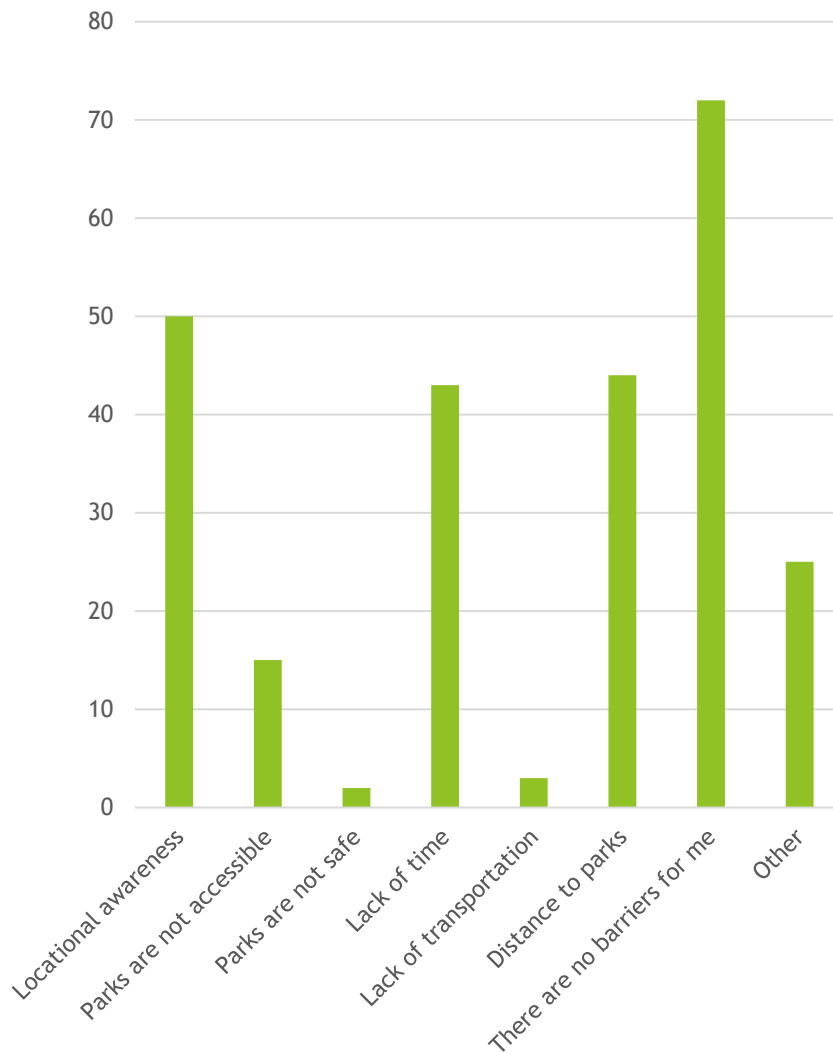
How welcomed do you feel in Bondurant trails?



How enjoyable are Bondurant trails?



Barriers to access for parks and trails



“Other” Responses
I lived next to the city park for ten years. It was taken over mostly by loud rude teenagers, who often vandalized, harassed and used drugs.
Trails and sidewalks are not fully connected throughout town.
Most parks in Bondurant are small or outdated.
Wish there was a connection from west to the walking path/park east of my house, that goes around the ponds and to the new area North and east
No connection from my neighborhood
No bike trail connection
I don't like all of the dogs. Some not on leashes.
Walking through people's yards to access some parks
No trail connection for our subdivision (Wolf Creek)
Most recreation is for young families and lacks appeal to elderly.
All geared towards the same age groups. Lack of joining ages together at the same park. When you have a wide range of kids in your family, no one park in Bondurant will entertain them all
Sidewalks are not available throughout the community. Many blocks do not have sidewalks and this is dangerous, especially for kids going to school or the park.

Underpass is out of the way so I still have to cross the highway. Stoplights on the four lane would greatly improve this.
Hard to get to Bondurant by trail unless on Chichaqua Trail
The highway is still a major barrier for my neighborhood.
For the bike trail, it is not possible to bike to trail access. Would have to load up the bikes and drive over to the trailhead. If we could somehow link the Wolf Creek neighborhood to the trail, that would be amazing.
Most parks have aging equipment and not a great fit as kids get older.
Please clear snow off trails in winter
Would like to see a higher quality park. We seem to have run of the mill parks. Use even half of the big waukee park as a template and that'd be nice.
Sidewalks/street lights to allow kids to safely cross busy roads to get to the bike trail or other parks. My kids aren't quite old enough to quickly bike or walk across a busy road.
Additional safe location to cross highway at where Dee Street meets Hubble.
Lack of designated crosswalks across busy roads (NW side across 2nd Ave)
I live east of lake Patoka and am not able to access the trails with out having to cross highway 65
They seem contrived
lack of parking to access the various areas

You will always have an element of older teens being disrespectful to the park goes and park equipment but this is a consistent issue and I know it's one that happens at all of the various parks. I'm not sure what the solution is.
Trails are not All connected
Some people walk their dogs without a leash on the main trail area south of Efnor park.
Bike would need to cross major highway

Amenities Wishlist (out of 220 responses)

Bathrooms	76
Trail Connection	77
Trees and Bushes	85
Gardens	67
Edible Forest/Community Gardens	39
Natural Water Features	84
Courts for Sports (Basketball, Pickleball)	75
Splashpads	97
Memorial Gardens	12
Fountains	53
Open Greenspace	38
Fishing	28
Walking/Running Track	49
Outdoor Ampitheatre	44
Fire Pits	33
Swimming Pool	73

Nature Play	63
Exercise Equipment	23
Disc Golf	41
Playsets and Swingsets	33
Native Plantings	67
Drinking Fountains	32
Prairies	50
Birdwatching	20
Dog Litter Bags	40
Public Art	44
Benches	58
Community Gathering Space	40
Lighting	37
Hammocks	18
Skate Park	26
Ping Pong Table	14
Baby Changing Stations	18
Wildlife Refuge	35
Pump/Dirt Bike Track	15
Bike Racks	23
Nearby Public Transit	6
Shelters	39
Parking Lots	36
Memorial Gardens	13
Wayfinding and Signage	19
Concession Stands	7

Amenity Providers

ADA-Compliant and Themed Playground Equipment, Swingsets, Slides, etc.:

- <https://www.miracle-recreation.com/>
- <https://proplaygrounds.com/>
-  

Solar Lighting

- <https://www.solarilluminations.com/>
- <https://www.firstlighttechnologies.com/>
- 

Splash Pads

- <https://www.splashpadsusa.com/>
- 

Benches, Grills, and Trash Receptacles

- <https://www.theparkcatalog.com/>

Drinking Fountains

- <https://www.elkay.com/us/en/drinking-water/coolers-and-fountains.html>
- 

Rock Walls

- <https://www.playgroundequipmentusa.com/outdoor-commercial-playground-equipment/outdoor-solid-climbing-walls/>
- 

Outdoor Exercise Equipment:

- <https://www.miracle-recreation.com/products/outdoor-fitness-equipment/>
- 

Resources for Restoration

Planning, Implementing, and Maintaining Native Prairie Sites:

- [Iowa Prairie Network](#)

Park-Specific Iowa Prairie and Pollinator Habitats:

- [Park Guidelines](#)

Zone-Specific Habitat Assessment, Installation Plans, and Species Lists:

- [Pollinator Resource Center](#)
- [Midwest Native Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects](#)
- [Iowa DNR Prairie Conservation Resource Center](#)
- [Iowa Native Plant List](#)
- [Prairie Plants of Iowa](#)

Iowa Native Seed Supplier:

- [The Prairie Flower](#)

Resources and Funding for Roadside Plantings:

- [Tallgrass Prairie Center](#)
- [Living Roadway Trust Fund](#)

State and Federal Funding Opportunities:

- [Iowa DNR Grants](#)
- [Iowa Native Plant Society](#)
- [Resource Enhancement and Protection \(REAP\)](#)

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¹ Polk County. (2005, February). *Polk County Comprehensive Plan: Cultural resources*

² Lutz, R. (n.d.) “Bondurant”. The Des Moines Register. https://www.cityofbondurant.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif2841/f/uploads/bondurant_iowa_-_renda_lutz_-_des_moines_register_-_original_article_12-5-2001.pdf

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⁴ Bondurant Comprehensive Planning Committee. (2001). *Bondurant Comprehensive Plan*.

⁵ (2012). *City of Bondurant Comprehensive Plan*. Hoisington Koegler Group Inc.

⁶ Snyder & Associates. (2013, May). *The City of Bondurant Park, Trail and Greenway Master Plan*.

⁷ Confluence Inc. (2022, September). *Building Bondurant Comprehensive Plan*.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). RACE. *Decennial Census, DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), Table P1*. Retrieved December 10, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALPL2020.P1?q=population in Bondurant, Iowa>.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Age and Sex. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101*. Retrieved December 10, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S0101?q=median age in Iowa>.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). RACE. *Decennial Census, DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), Table P1*. Retrieved November 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALPL2020.P1?q=population in Bondurant City>,

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1501*. Retrieved November 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2021.S1501?q=education in Bondurant City, Iowa>.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). MEDIAN INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS). *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1903*. Retrieved November 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2021.S1903?q=income in Bondurant City, Iowa>.

¹³ U. S. Census Bureau. (2021). MEDIAN VALUE (DOLLARS). *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25077*. Retrieved November 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2021.B25077?q=median housing cost in Bondurant City, Iowa>.

¹⁴ Group Creative Services. (2023, June). *Survey Results: For Bondurant's Arts, Culture & Wayfinding Plan*. Confluence Inc.

¹⁵ SMITHGROUP. (2022, November). *Central District Stormwater Improvements Master Plan*.

¹⁶ City of Bondurant, Confluence, & SVPA Architects. (2023, April). *Bondurant Civic Campus Master Plan*.

¹⁷ City of Bondurant, & RDG Planning & Design. (2021, July). *Bondurant City Park Master Plan*.

¹⁸ Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, Webster City, Borjas, J., Dunkelberger, B., Oliveira, F., & Thomas, S. (n.d.). Parks & Recreation

Plan. Webster City. <https://websterCity.com/community-development/iowa-initiative-for-sustainable-communities/parks-recreation-plan/>

¹⁹ City of Peosta, & RDG Planning & Design. (2021, May). *Peosta Forward! Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Trails Master Plan*.

²⁰ City of Overland Park, MIG, Inc., Ballard*King & Associates, Schlagel & Associates P.A., & Bowman Bowman Novic Inc. (2013, May). *City of Overland Park Comprehensive Park System Master Plan*.

²¹ City of Iowa City, RDG Planning & Design, & HBK Engineering. (2017, September). *City of Iowa City Gather Here Parks Master Plan*.

Bondurant Community Garden Resource Guide



Bondurant
Life Connecting



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Why Community Gardens?

Gardening serves many purposes, from food production to providing a way for people to get physical exercise. Gardening can also help relieve stress, and community gardens serve as a gathering space for people in the community. Best yet, gardening provides fresh, local produce that might be expensive or inaccessible. This resource guide offers some tips and tricks for new gardeners, and information on soil and seeds to plant in Iowa's climate. Happy gardening!

Getting Started

Thinking about gardening for the first time? There are many local and online resources to help you plan for your garden including educational tools about gardening in the local climate.

Education

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has a variety of resources on their website, free of charge. These resources range from how to take care of certain crops to an FAQ with thousands of questions and answers about gardening. To look through these resources, visit hortnews.extension.iastate.edu.

Polk County Master Gardeners is another resource with help new and experienced gardeners alike. They host events, and share educational

resources on their website. Learn more at polkcountymastergardeners.org/.

The Des Moines Botanical Garden provides seasonal workshops about gardening throughout the year. To learn more and to see their calendar of events, you can visit their website dmbotanicalgarden.com/programs/adult-education/.

Knowing What to Plant

Due to the climate in Iowa, some vegetables and produce thrive better than others. Bondurant is located in hardiness zone 5b. Hardiness zones are determined based on the minimum average temperatures of that geographic area. A map of the hardiness zones in Iowa is located in the appendix of this document.

Some produce that thrives in the 5b zone includes carrots, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes, and even watermelon. A more comprehensive list of good fruits and vegetables to grow in your garden can be found on the Iowa State Extension and Outreach site, and by clicking this link [here](#).

Plant with Intention

If you are interested in gardening to eat what you grow, make sure it is food you enjoy. If you are hoping to donate or can your harvest, growing high yield plants like beans or tomatoes could be beneficial.

Planting the Seeds

When it is time to plant, there are some key things to know for a successful harvest. Maximizing space helps ensure that you are getting the most out of your garden, but it is also important to have space between each plant, so they have space to grow. Different plants have different spacing requirements in gardens. A guide for spacing with different plants can be found [here](#).

Maintaining Your Plot

Once your seeds have been planted, maintaining your plot is important to ensure your plants continue to thrive. This includes watering, weeding, and watching for insects/pests.

Once your seeds are planted, making sure they get enough water is important, so they are able to grow and thrive. Check the soil every few days to see if it is dry, and if it is, make sure to water. If there is a lot of sun or high temperatures, check the soil more often. Normally, plants need approximately 1 to 2 inches of water per week, so pay attention to weekly rainfall.

Weeding is another aspect of gardening to help create a successful harvest. By weeding out undesirable plants, you are helping to make sure the seeds you planted have the resources they need, and do not get any plant diseases.

To help prevent weeds, herbicides and pesticides can be used. Chemical herbicides can be toxic, but there are plenty of natural herbicide remedies to help gardens. Planting some natural repellents such as basil and lemongrass is one option.

Additionally,

hortnews.extension.iastate.edu has weed and insect solutions on their website. You can find these solutions by clicking on the “FAQ” tab and selecting “Weeds” as the category.

Pruning

Pruning is the process of removing parts of the plant, such as branches or buds, to help manipulate the plan. This can encourage growth on parts of the plant that are doing well, and can help your garden thrive.

Other Available Tools

Fencing is one useful tool that can help divide plots and help maintain privacy with your garden. Fencing can also help prevent animals from accessing your produce. Fencing is not a requirement for a successful garden, but can be a useful tool.

Plant cages can be another beneficial but not necessary tool that might be useful in your garden. If you are trying to conserve space in your plot, plant cages can help encourage plants to grow up instead of out. This can work well for plants like tomatoes that grow on vines.

End of Season

Harvesting

It is important to think about harvesting during the entire gardening season, as different plants have different planting and harvesting calendars. Resources for this can be found at hortnews.extension.iastate.edu. There is also an example plant calendar in the appendix of this document.

Preservation

If you are planning to preserve your fruits and vegetables after harvesting, there are a few different options to store them. Some of these include freezing, canning, and dehydrating. To learn more about preservation, visit store.extension.iastate.edu/topic/food-nutrition-and-health and search for “food preservation. The ISU Extension has a variety of downloadable files about food preservation, free of charge.

Donating

If you are interested in donating any extra produce from your garden, there are a few food banks in Polk County that accept food donations, including the Food Bank of Iowa. Donations are accepted at 2220 E. 17th St., Des Moines, IA. For more information on food donation, you can visit their website foodbankiowa.org/give

Appendix

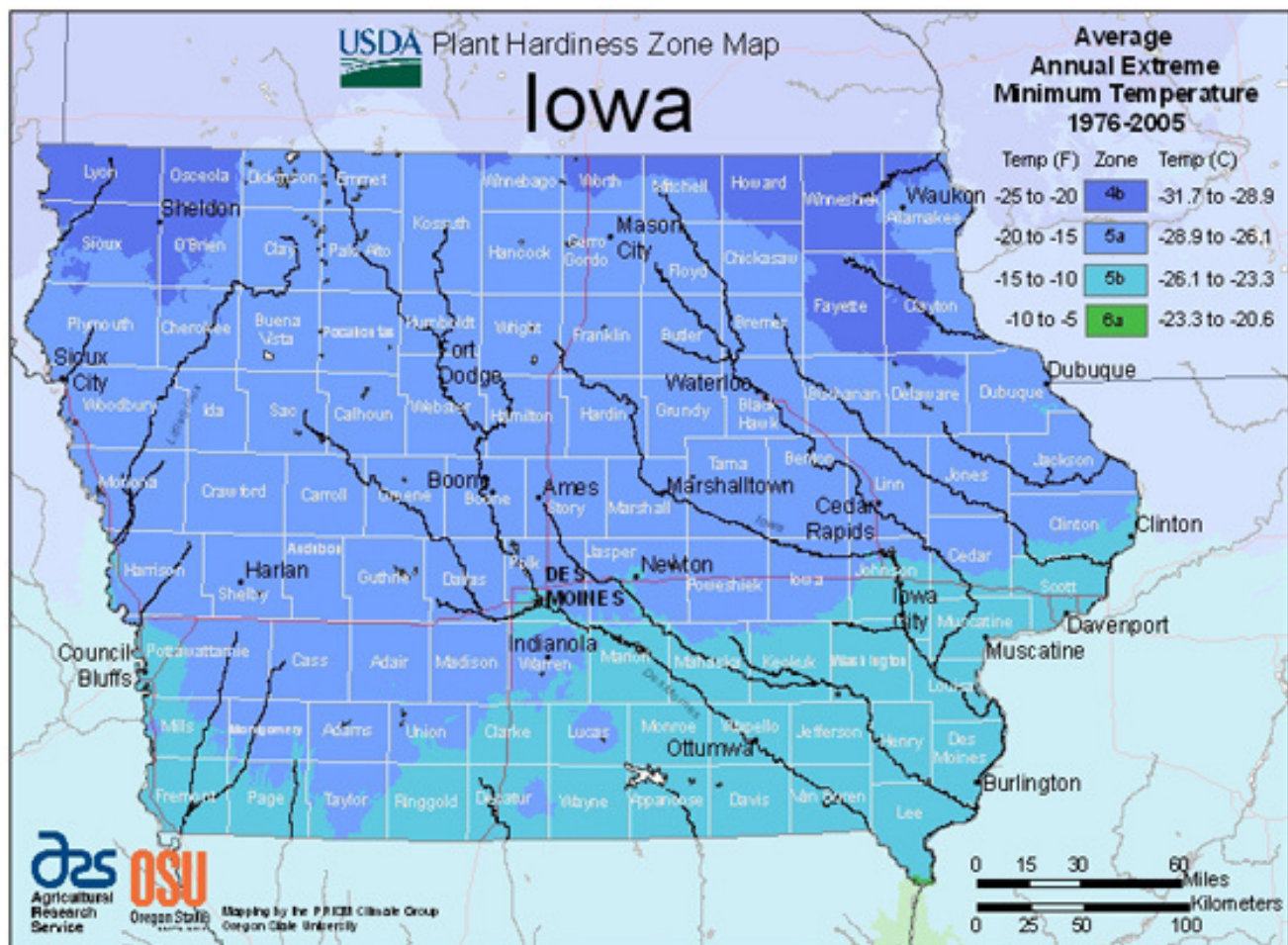


Figure 1 shows the hardiness zone map for the state of Iowa, which is based on average minimum temperature. Bondurant is located in hardiness zone 5a, which helps determine best plants for gardening. This image came from the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach site.

Zone 5 Planting Schedule

Start Seeds Indoors Direct Sow or Transplant Succession Planting, Growing & Harvesting End of Harvest

Average Minimum Temperature
-20° F through -10° F
Average First Frost Date
October 13 – 21
Average Last Frost Date
April 7 – 30

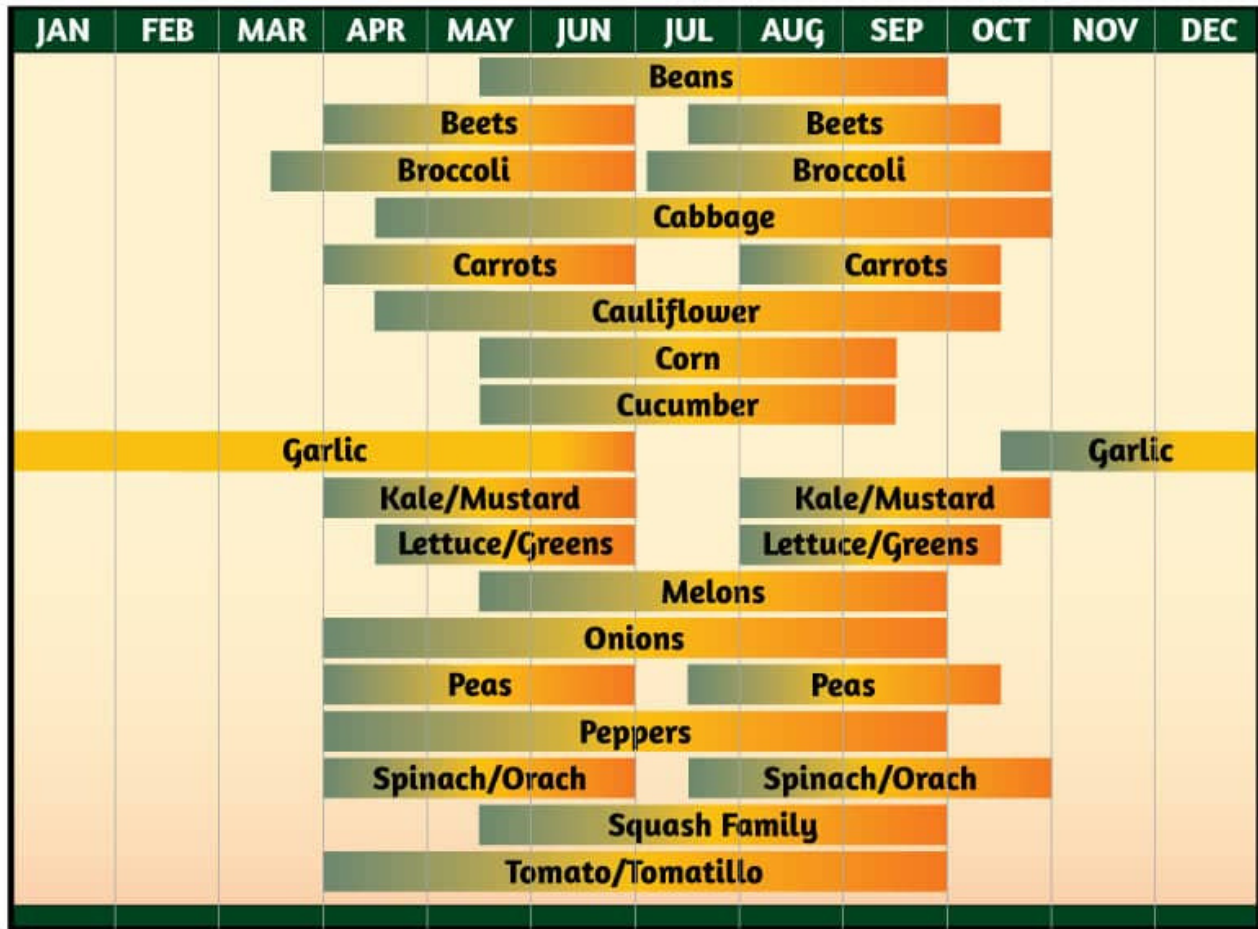


Figure 2 shows the planting schedule for common plants grown in hardiness zone 5. More resources are available on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach website. Planting calendar image was sourced from the San Diego Seed Company website.

Introduction

Community gardens play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of individuals and fostering a sense of unity within the broader community. These gardens offer a wide variety of benefits that extend from personal health to communal connections. For individuals, community gardens serve as a valuable source of fresh fruits and vegetables, addressing issues of accessibility and affordability often faced in traditional grocery stores. Gardening in these communal spaces not only provides nourishment but also encourages physical activity, contributing to improved physical health for individuals within the community.

Beyond the individual level, community gardens become a hub for social interaction and cohesion on a city-wide scale. The act of gardening brings people together, creating a shared space where community members can collaborate, share experiences, and build connections. This sense of connection goes beyond the mere act of planting and harvesting; it extends to a broader feeling of belonging and shared responsibility for the well-being of the community. In essence, community gardens serve as more than just places to grow food—they are vital components that strengthen the social fabric of communities, fostering a sense of togetherness and collective purpose.

Currently, Bondurant's population is growing exponentially, almost doubling their population from 2010 to 2020. As the city continues to grow, the need for new parks and amenities will grow with it. The updated 2024 Parks, Trails, and Greenways plan identified needs in the parks and trails network within Bondurant through community outreach. Part of the outreach included asking residents what amenities they hope to see in the future and in Bondurant. 18% of respondents stated they would like to see community gardens or edible forests within the community.

Establishing community gardens in Bondurant will bring a variety of benefits to the people that live there, and the community. As Bondurant continues to grow, establishing community gardens will help ensure everyone has access to healthy fruits and vegetables, as well as bring a way for people to come together to preserve Bondurant's close-knit community.

Recommended Parks for Community Garden

Outdoor planting requires enough space, sunlight, water, and good soil. Because of this, undeveloped parks or parks with a lot of open space would be ideal areas for community gardens. Currently, there are 21 parks in the community, with 6 of those being undeveloped. To understand which parks would be best suited for a community garden, a set of criteria was used on each of the parks. Parks were eliminated if they did not have the space to accommodate community gardens, or if they had a plan for

the development. Additionally, if parks were in flood hazard areas, at risk for floods they were eliminated from consideration. Special consideration was given to parks in higher density areas, and areas that were farther apart from other proposed community gardens.

Park Name	Flood Hazard Area?	Adequate Space?	Other Notes
Sankey Summit Park	N	Y	
Bluejay Landing Park	Y	N	
Eagle Park	Y	N	
Renaud Ridge Park	N	N	
Mallard Pointe Park	Y	Y	
Collison Soccer Complex	N	Y	
Efnor Estates Park	Y	N	
Regional Trailhead	N	N	
City Park	N	N	
Meadow Brook Park	N	Y	
Park Side Park	Y	N	
BRSC	Y	Y	
Lake Petocka Park	N	N	
Lincoln Estates Park	N	Y	
Wisteria Heights Park	N	Y	Enclosed space
Gateway Park	N	N	
Wolf Creek Park	N	N	
Wolf Creek Fishing Pond	N	N	
Featherstone Park	N	Y	
Harvest Meadows Park	N/A	N/A	Plot undetermined
Heritage Park	N	Y	

Given this criterion, parks adequate for a community garden include Meadow Brook Park, Sankey Summit Park, Collison Soccer Complex, Featherstone Park, and Heritage Park. Featherstone Park is currently plotted to be in the middle of a development that has yet to be built. The location would be suitable for a garden once the subdivision is developed.

For an initial pilot of the community gardens, Collison Soccer Complex and Heritage Park have been determined most suitable based on their size and location. Meadow Brook was eliminated from consideration as they are a site for stormwater drainage, as this could lead to excess water in the area, which could be harmful for plants. Wisteria

Heights was eliminated due to its location and being close to stormwater drainage. Harvest Meadows is confirmed as a park, but it does not have a determined location. After a location is confirmed and development begins, it could be considered for a second phase of community gardens.

For the initial pilot of the community gardens, the plots could be in the same location, or spread out across both parks, based on available space and needs within the community.

Plot Sizes

Having different plot sizes allows for people with different expertise and goals with gardening to choose what is best for them. Based on garden plot sizes from other communities, and given the availability of space in existing parks, three different plot sizes would be a good start as the program begins. These could be adjusted based on demand in the community.

ADA Raised Plot Beds (8 x 4 ft)

Raised plot beds come in a variety of different sizes, and having access to them is important to ensure accessibility and make gardening more comfortable for all. Other sizes include 6 x 2 feet, or 4 x 2.5 feet.

Small Sized Plots (10 x 10 ft)

Generally, a plot should be at least 100 square feet. Small garden plots are beneficial for newer gardeners to help limit how much they grow in their first few seasons.

Medium Sized Plots (10 x 20 ft)

As gardeners become more comfortable with gardening and are potentially looking for a new challenge, larger plots up to 200 square feet can be available for rental. Because gardens will be created for the first time, emphasis should be put on small sized plots. If there is a high demand and as more parks continue to be added in Bondurant, more medium and potentially large plots can be added.

Recommended Amenities and Materials for Community Gardens

As mentioned previously, ADA plot beds serve as an excellent means to offer gardens for individuals of all ages and abilities. Moreover, facilitating easy access to water contributes to the creation of gardens that are accessible to everyone. As the community expands and additional gardens are incorporated, waterlines prove to be an effective method for establishing this accessibility. In the case of small parks or initiating garden projects, the utilization of large rain barrels is recommended for water collection, benefiting gardeners. Nevertheless, it is crucial for staff to monitor these barrels, ensuring a consistent water supply throughout the gardening season.

Having access to gardening tools is another way to help create equitable access to gardening within Bondurant. This could be done through a rental process for tools, through departments such as parks and recreation or the library or the establishment of a local tool shed. Some of these amenities include shovels, gloves, and a rake. Other important tools such as a hoe or wheelbarrow to load up produce at the end of the season could be beneficial for gardeners to access. Additionally, a seed library with free seeds as a starter kit could help promote produce that grows well in Iowa spoil and increase accessibility. Seed libraries have been established at multiple libraries across the Des Moines Metro, including the [Urbandale Library](#).

Additional amenities, such as benches, drinking fountain and a shelter, could improve the park space as well. Although not directly beneficial for the gardens, adding these amenities can create more of a welcoming environment for all the community, and create a welcoming space for everyone. Other potential amenities could include parking spaces for gardeners, and access by a sidewalk or trail for people entering that space.

Edible forests are another amenity that can be added to community gardens. Trees in edible forests provide shade to the local areas, and the right trees can thrive in Iowa's environment. Placing these trees in the same space as gardens can help establish the park as a community space for produce and can help foster events or gatherings based on that identity.

Budget Breakdown

Infrastructure

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Grading land	5000 sq ft	Avg \$1.10 / sq ft	\$5,500
Water connection	Approx 200 ft	\$50 / ft	\$10,000
ADA Beds	4	\$119.99	\$479.96
Concrete slab for ADA beds	Approx 800 sqft	\$6 / sq ft	\$5,000
Total			\$20,979.96

Preferred Amenities

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Wheelbarrow	1	\$59.99	\$59.99
Shovel	1	\$29.99	\$29.99
Garden Hoe	2	\$9.95	\$19.90
Trowel	3	\$8.79	\$26.37

Watering Can	3	\$14.99	\$44.97
Pruning Shears	2	\$5.03	\$10.06
Seeds	5 (Could vary based on plots and demand)	\$29.99	\$149.95
Total			\$341.23

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation work plays a vital role in any master plan, enabling an understanding of how ongoing activities impact the community. Evaluations empower cities to track progress, make data-driven decisions, and demonstrate accountability and transparency. For Bondurant, this is especially critical as the city expands, allowing officials to assess how new parks and trails serve the community. Various evaluations can be conducted at different intervals to generate specific insights. This guide offers resources for implementing three types of evaluations: process, impact, and outcome.

This evaluation guide will function as a tool for future evaluation efforts. It outlines key stakeholders, what to evaluate, options for evaluation methods, and how to utilize evaluation data.

Process Evaluation

Process evaluation assesses the plan's impact during the implementation phase. City employees can use this evaluation to gauge how effectively the plan was executed, identifying strengths and areas for improvement in the implementation process as Bondurant continues to grow in the future.

Impact Evaluation

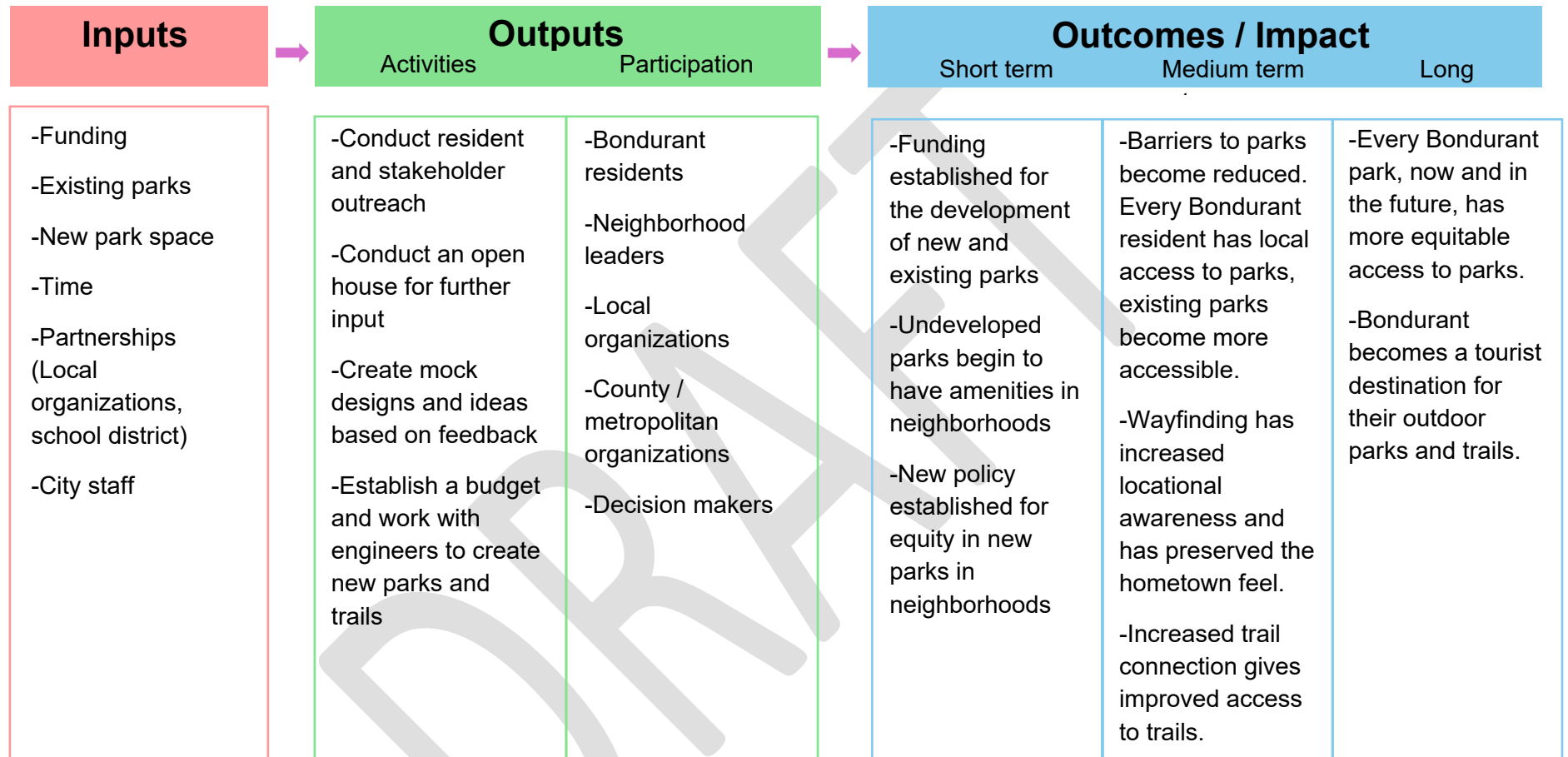
Impact evaluation examines the immediate effects of the plan. Once fully implemented or when significant aspects are in place, the city can assess how residents of Bondurant are directly affected by the implementation. This evaluation captures both intended and unintended consequences, providing valuable insights for decision-making.

Outcome Evaluation

Outcome evaluation occurs after full plan implementation to understand the long-term effects of the parks, trails, and greenways master plan. This evaluation is ideally conducted a few years post-implementation to grasp lasting impacts on community health, recreation, and overall quality of life.

PRE-EVALUATION PREPARATION

Before we begin the evaluation, it's important to clearly define what we are assessing. This involves identifying the specific goals and objectives that will be evaluated prior to starting the assessment. Additionally, understanding which stakeholders need to be involved in the evaluation process is crucial. To initiate this process, we have completed a logic model graph and a stakeholder chart. These tools will serve as a foundation for our evaluation and ensure that we proceed in an organized and effective manner. Let's use these resources to guide our evaluation process.



BONDURANT STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION

Type of Stakeholder	Definition	Example
Implementers	Those directly involved implementing the new Parks, Trails, and Greenways Plan	-Bondurant planning department -Bondurant parks and recreation department -Civil engineers -Public works department -Landscaping companies
Decision Makers	Those in a position to determine funding or decide something about the program	-Bondurant planning department -Bondurant City Council -Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board -Bondurant mayor
Participants	Those being served or impacted by the Bondurant Parks, Trails, and Greenways Plan	-Bondurant families -Families from nearby cities -Local sports leagues -HOA's -Conservation groups and advocates
Partners	Those who have support or are invested in the implementation of the plan	-Bondurant-Farrar Community School District -Bondurant Men's Club -Local Businesses -Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

When engaging with stakeholders for the evaluation, there are a number of methods to be able to do so, both quantitative and qualitative. For a deep understanding of the evaluation, mixed methods with both quantitative and qualitative data collection can help do this.

Quantitative

- Surveys
- Observational studies
- Secondary data collection
- GIS analysis

Qualitative

- In-depth interviews
- Focus groups
- Open-ended surveys

PROCESS EVALUATION PLAN

The process evaluation can begin at the start of the project and can be re-evaluated after large milestones or at certain time points during the implementation phase of the plan. Beginning the evaluation early is crucial to get the most relevant feedback from stakeholders. Integrating parts of the process evaluation throughout implementation can help ensure goals are being met on schedule.

Identifying Outcomes

The first step to the process evaluation is understanding which questions need to be answered. For the Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan, this could include some of the following:

1. What progress has Bondurant made since the plan was approved?
2. Is the implementation phase of the plan being implemented on time and on budget? If not, what are the discrepancies?
3. Have there been any challenges in implementation? How can the city address these challenges?
 - a. Are there any resource constraints to implementing the plan?
 - b. Are we able to adapt to any unforeseen circumstances?
4. How are we communicating the progress of the plan with Bondurant residents? Is it sufficient?
5. How has collaboration been with different partners during the process?

These questions help clearly identify the progress of the short-term outcomes of the master plan. Many of these questions could be answered through secondary data sources, such as budgets and estimates from contractors. For a more in-depth understanding, engaging stakeholders involved in the process would be a good next step.

Engaging Stakeholders

Engaging stakeholders is critical to gaining valuable insights and ensuring the success of our parks, trails, and greenways implementation evaluation. Each stakeholder group

plays a unique and important role in contributing to our understanding of the project's impact.

- **City Staff:** Providing insights into implementation processes and operational considerations.
- **City Council:** Offering perspectives on policy implications and community-level impacts.
- **Homeowner's Associations (HOA's):** Contributing neighborhood engagement perspectives and maintenance considerations.
- **External/independent Contractors:** Bringing expertise in project execution and outcomes.
- **Utility Workers:** Working with multiple partners to provide infrastructure for parks.

Surveys sent to people involved in the project or focus groups with different groups are some potential ideas to answer question. Once the data has been collected, analyzing the responses will help understand the success of the implementation of the parks, trails, and greenways plan.

Analyzing Results

For any qualitative data collected, the next step would be to transcribe and code data. Data could be coded in different ways, based on the questions needing to be answered. More information on types of coding can be found [here](#).

Once the information has been coded, the next step would be to determine the meaning behind the data. This could include finding common themes within the data, understanding context, or doing comparative analysis between stakeholders. Doing this analysis will provide information to determine what the best next steps are, and how the implementation part of the plan is going.

IMPACT EVALUATION PLAN

The impact evaluation plan is essential for assessing the immediate effects of the parks, trails, and greenways plan within the first 6-12 months of implementation. Starting the evaluation early allows for gathering timely insights to support the project's success. The evaluation can occur either after the entire parks, trails, and greenways plan has been fully implemented or following a significant milestone, such as the construction or enhancement of a neighborhood park.

It is crucial to identify the most relevant questions and involve key stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. Engaging with community members, project teams,

city officials, and other stakeholders helps in understanding how the plan is making a difference in the neighborhoods. The impact evaluation will provide valuable insights into achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement related to the plan's implementation. These insights will guide future decision-making, resource allocation, and project adjustments to ensure that the parks, trails, and greenways benefit the entire community.

Identifying Outcomes

For the impact evaluation outcomes, questions for stakeholders are geared towards understanding how the parks and trails system has made an immediate impact on the community. Some of the questions asked could include:

- How many more families have access to parks than before the plan?
- Has there been increased trail connectivity, leading to more people having local access to the trail network?
- Who is using the park?
 - Are there any groups of people such as seniors or teenagers that are not utilizing the park and trail system?
 - Are parks equitable and accessible for everyone, regardless of age or disability?
- How satisfied are people with the new updated parks, trails, and greenways system?
- What are residents' favorite things about the new and updated parks and trails?
 - Is there anything that is still missing for them?
- How safe and welcoming do people feel in parks?
- Are Bondurant residents more aware of where parks are and what amenities they have?

Engaging Stakeholders

After the Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan has been implemented, the mix of stakeholders involved may shift compared to the process evaluation phase. It's crucial to engage these stakeholders and establish open lines of communication to gather valuable feedback and insights for a comprehensive assessment of the new and updated parks. Key stakeholders to involve in the impact evaluation include:

- **Bondurant City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board:** Their involvement ensures alignment between park development plans and broader city goals, priorities, and regulations. They may have also heard feedback from their constituents.
- **Bondurant City Planners and Parks Staff:** City staff are involved throughout the entire process of implementing the new parks and trails plan. Their insights

are crucial for assessing operational challenges, resource allocation, and opportunities for improvement.

- **HOA's:** Engaging with HOAs helps identify localized needs and preferences of residents.
- **Bondurant Residents:** Residents are the primary users and beneficiaries of parks and trails. Gathering feedback from residents helps assess overall satisfaction, usage patterns, safety concerns, and desired amenities. Their input is essential for ensuring parks meet community needs and preferences.
- **Local sports leagues:** Engaging with sports leagues provides insights into facility requirements, challenges, and opportunities to enhance recreational offerings.
- **Bondurant-Farrar Community School District:** Understanding how parks and trails contribute to student well-being, outdoor education, and community engagement is vital for promoting healthy lifestyles and academic success.

Each stakeholder group brings a distinct perspective and set of interests to the Bondurant park's evaluation process. By involving these stakeholders, park managers, planners, and decision-makers can gain comprehensive insights into the impact of parks and trails on the community, identify areas for improvement, and foster collaborative partnerships for sustainable park management and development. Engaging with diverse stakeholders ensures that the evaluation process reflects the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the entire community served by the parks and trails system.

To engage stakeholders, the city could send out surveys in the mail or with utility bills. Utilizing online platforms and social media is a way to get many responses from residents. Another way is to hold open houses or town hall meetings at the newly updated parks, to highlight their success and get people engaged. Throughout this process, providing transparency and accountability is important for residents. After information has been gathered from these groups, an analysis will help understand the success of the plan.

Continuing engagement with stakeholders during the evaluation process is helpful to know how the new parks, trails, and greenways plan impacts residents. In doing so, establishing a means to record this data before the stakeholder engagement begins. Will this be through an ongoing online survey? How will feedback be recorded through informal conversations? Answering these questions will help ensure that the data is thorough throughout the entire process.

Analyzing Results

Stakeholders carry rich, vital information for an evaluation through engagement. This information can be used to determine if there are any changes needing to be made to

the parks after the initial implementation has been completed and help show what the immediate impact on the community has been. Ideas and recommendations for analyzing qualitative data can be found in the process evaluation section of this document.

Transcribing interviews and finding common themes will help group together ideas and thoughts from stakeholders. Statistical tools such as regressions can be utilized to understand ideas such as equity in park access, such as measuring average distance to parks and dividing it by neighborhood based on income level or age. Understanding the answers to these questions helps determine how successful the new plan was at addressing these concerns.

OUTCOME EVALUATION

The outcome evaluation is designed to assess the long-term influence of the Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan on the Bondurant community. By conducting this evaluation for years into the future, we aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the plan's full impact. This is especially crucial as Bondurant continues to grow, allowing us to adapt the current plan to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Outcome evaluations also serve to enhance transparency within the community. Residents can gain insight into the tangible effects of the plan, fostering trust in the government's decision-making process for future initiatives.

Identifying Objectives

Outcome objectives focus on the long-lasting impacts of the Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan. Some of the questions that could be the focus include:

- Has the implementation of the new parks, trails, and greenways plan influenced the cultural identity of Bondurant?
 - Does the outdoor space contribute to preserving the town's unique character and hometown feel?
- How has the local economy in Bondurant evolved or changed following the development and implementation of this plan?
 - Are there noticeable economic benefits or impacts attributed to the presence of new parks, trails, and greenways?
- To what extent has Bondurant experienced an increase in tourism since the implementation of this plan?
 - What are the trends and patterns associated with tourism, and how has this impacted the local community and economy?
- What environmental benefits have resulted from the new parks?

- How has the new parks and trails system impacted the quality of life for Bondurant residents?
- How satisfied have Bondurant residents and stakeholders been with the new parks and trails?

Engaging Stakeholders

Given the significant impact of parks, trails, and greenways on various aspects of the community, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders is essential to gain a holistic understanding of their effects. The stakeholder engagement process will involve utilizing various methods such as surveys, events, and in-depth interviews to gather insights and perspectives aligned with our evaluation objectives.

- **City Council:** They have the power to make decisions in the future after the evaluation is complete and listen to feedback from Bondurant residents.
- **City Staff:** Different departments in the city have the opportunity to make recommendations to the city based on the evaluation and feedback received during the process.
- **Bondurant Residents:** Bondurant residents are the primary stakeholders for the updated Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan. Receiving their feedback helps to understand how their lives have changed due to the updated parks.
- **Residents from the Greater Metropolitan Area:** One of the long-term goals for the updated plan is for Bondurant to become a tourist destination for parks and trails in the future. Engaging with residents from other nearby towns such as Altoona or Ankeny can help understand perceptions about the Bondurant park network.
- **HOA's:** HOA leaders can provide valuable insights into neighborhood park utilization and resident feedback, highlighting areas of success and improvement.
- **Conservation Groups:** Some of the objectives in this plan are centered around conservation and nature preservation. Speaking with conservation groups can help understand exactly the environmental impact this has had on Bondurant.
- **Bondurant-Farrar Community School District:** Parks serve a lot of children in the community, and because of this, the school district might have insight on how the parks impact that population.
- **Local Orgs such as Friends of the Chicaqua Valley Trail:** Local organizations have unique priorities and perspectives. Engaging with them provides insights into whether specific objectives of the plan align with community interests and priorities.
- **Local Businesses:** Businesses nearby parks can provide insight on potential economic impacts the parks have had on their business.

Stakeholder engagement is an essential tool to foster inclusivity, collaborative decision-making, and community empowerment. Stakeholders provide firsthand experiences and nuanced insights that enrich the quality and relevance of evaluation data, complementing quantitative metrics with qualitative narratives. Additionally, engaging stakeholders builds trust, transparency, and accountability, demonstrating a commitment to responsiveness and community involvement.

Through active participation, stakeholders become empowered to shape the future of parks and trails, fostering community resilience and collective responsibility. Importantly, ongoing stakeholder engagement informs future planning and adaptation strategies, aligning park initiatives with community needs and goals for long-term sustainability.

Analyzing Results

Interviews and other qualitative data collection methods play a crucial role in creating a narrative that illuminates the evaluation process and the impact of the plan. Once data has been collected from stakeholders and secondary sources, the next step is to compile and analyze the information to identify common themes and insights. Refer to the process evaluation section of this document for information on coding and data analysis tools to facilitate this step.

After analyzing the data, it is essential to determine how to use the insights gained. For an outcome evaluation, this may involve highlighting successes of the plan, identifying areas for improvement or adaptation, and exploring opportunities for future enhancements. Depending on the timing of the outcome evaluation, consideration may be given to initiating updates or revisions to the plan to address emerging needs or capitalize on opportunities identified through the evaluation process.

Evaluations can be an iterative process and may be done in conjunction with the implementation and reviewed after milestones in the plan. Each type of evaluation has its own strengths and importance for any implementation of a plan. However, doing two or three evaluations may be time consuming and not feasible for Bondurant. Choosing the priorities and where the city is hoping to learn the most can inform which evaluation is most important.