



Acknowledgements

Prepared for the Village of Oak Harbor, Ohio

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Introduction

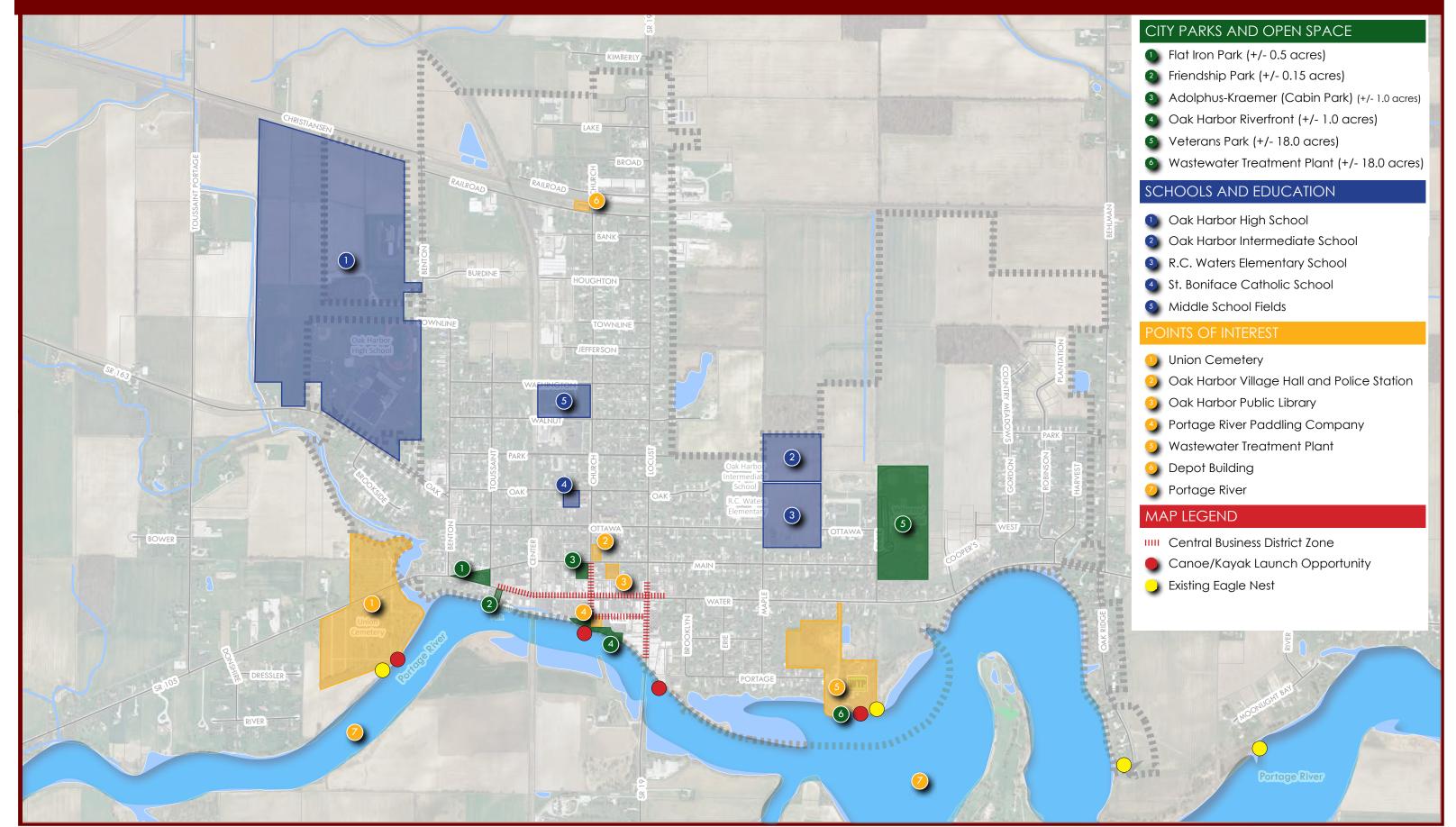
The purpose of this report is to provide the Village with a description of its current parks and recreation issues, identified needs and realistic recommendations.

The plan will guide decision making related to overall capital improvements and specific improvements to existing park spaces. This document will identify needed facility improvements and development standards for said improvements; analyze outdoor facility needs, including the designation of potential park, recreation, open space/greenway areas and bikeways; develop language and preliminary conceptual layouts of how these improvements will be incorporated into existing park land. The Village will use this plan to identify development scenarios for existing and future park space based on a needs assessment and projected budgetary restraints.

The implementation of this master plan will embody the Village's desire to provide the highest quality parks and recreation facilities for this ever changing community. This long-term vision can be achieved through the identification of realistic, yet, innovative strategies for improvements throughout the entire park system. The objective being to create a park system that helps to continually strengthen the image and sense of community pride present throughout the Oak Harbor community.

This Master Plan will be a flexible document, presenting findings that are evaluated, validated and/or modified periodically as the Village responds to opportunities and constraints. Periodic updates of the Master Plan are anticipated to occur at approximately five-year intervals.

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



Source: Ottawa County-Auditor, Reveille

PLANNING + GIS +
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Regional Context

The Village of Oak Harbor, located in Ottawa County Ohio, lies approximately 10 miles inland from the mouth of the Portage River, 25 miles southeast of Toledo, 90 miles west of Cleveland, and 120 miles north of Columbus, Ohio.

Known as the "biggest little town in Ohio" and originally called Hartford in 1832, present day Oak Harbor's name wasn't changed until March of 1863.

Demographics

Currently, Oak Harbor has a population of 2, 785 with an average household income of approximately \$67,000. The median age in Oak Harbor is 37.9 years; 34.4 years for males, and 48.8 years for females.

16% of residents are under the age of 18; 63% between the ages of 18 and 64; and 21% are 65 years of age or older. The gender makeup of the city is 49% male and 51% female.

The racial makeup of the city is currently 93% White, 4.4% from other races, and 2.6% from two or more races.

There are 1,276 households with 48.0% married couples living together, 15% had a female householder with no husband present, 11% had a male householder with no wife present, and 26.0% were non-families.

Regional Park and Recreational Facilities

In addition to its own system of 6 parks and several open spaces, ranging in size from the 0.15 acre Friendship Park site (currently undeveloped) to the 18 acre Veterans Park, the Village's parks, recreation and open space needs are being met by a number of public and private entities both inside and outside of the community.

Within the Village

- Oak Harbor High School (+/- 18.0 acres)
- Oak Harbor Intermediate School (+/- 0.6 acres)
- R.C. Waters Elementary School (+/- 0.4 acres)
- St. Bonaface Catholic School (+/- 0.16 acres)
- Union Cemetery (/+/- 27.0 acres)
- Middle School Fields (+/- 7.2 acres)
- Depot Building and Site (+/-0.5 acres)

Outside of the Village

- Graytown Parks
- Toussant Wildlife Area
- Ottawa County Fairgrounds
- Little Portage River Wildlife Area
- Hopfinger Zimmerman Memorial Park
- Ottawa Natural Wildlfe Refuse Area
- Gladhaven Campground and Marina
- Portage River Marina

Recreational Programming

Recreational programming within Village parks consists of the following:

Youth Baseball

Oak Harbor Little League offers programs for various age groups, including:

- Tee ball (ages 4-7)
- Coach/machine pitch baseball (ages 5-7)
- Kid pitch baseball (ages 8 and up)
- Travel Baseball (ages 11+)

Flag Football

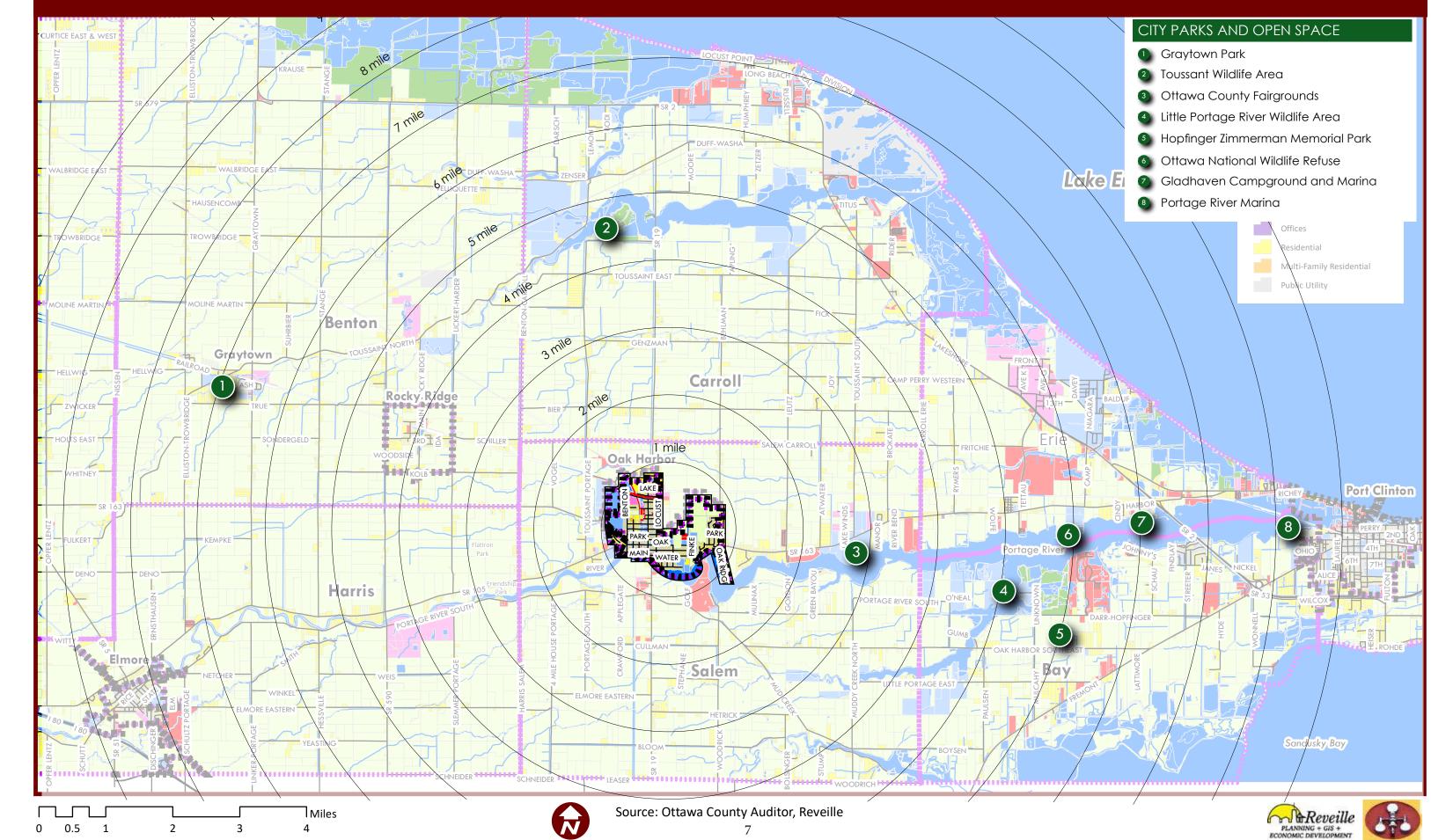
- Lake Erie Flag Football League
- Boys and girls (grades 1-4)

All other sport and/or recreation programming occurs outside of the Oak Harbor parks community or through the Benton Carroll Salem School District.

Currently, the Village is responsible for the development, maintenance and programming their existing park system spanning 6 parks totaling over 23 gares.

All operations and capital development projects are funded by the Village's general fund. These funds support the maintenance of the park facilities including mowing, landscaping, general repairs, and the upkeep of a gazebo, several open air picnic shelters, a single restroom building and the five youth baseball fields at Veterans Park.

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



Community Connectivity

The Benefits of a Connected Community Through Sidewalks, Trails and Bikeways

Health & Wellness

- Encourages physical activity: Walking, biking, and jogging become more accessible and enjoyable
- Improves mental health: Nature trails and greenways offer calming environments that reduce stress
- Reduces sedentary lifestyles: Easy access to active transportation options promotes healthier habits

- Safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists: Dedicated infrastructure reduces accidents and conflicts with vehicles
- Improved accessibility: Sidewalks and trails make it easier for people with disabilities, children, and seniors to move around safely
- Traffic calming: Well-designed bikeways and pedestrian paths can slow down vehicle traffic in residential areas

Environmental Impacts

- Reduces carbon emissions: More walking and biking means fewer cars
- Preserves green space: Trails often incorporate natural landscapes, promoting conservation
- Improves air quality: Less traffic leads to cleaner air and a healthier environment

Economic Benefits

- Boosts local businesses: Trails and bikeways attract foot traffic to shops and cafes
- Increases property values: Homes near well-maintained paths and greenways often see higher market values
- Reduces transportation costs: Walking and biking are relatively free, saving money on fuel and car maintenance

Community & Social Connections

- Fosters interaction: Public paths become gathering places, strengthening neighborhood ties
- Promotes inclusivity: Everyone, regardless of age or income, can use sidewalks and trails
- Supports community events: Trails and bikeways are ideal for festivals, charity runs, and group rides

Important Connections to improve upon within the Village:

- Bikeway improvements along the north side of Main Street from Veterans Park west to Flat Iron Park (+/- 0.95 miles) Connecting the following:
 - Veterans Park
 - Oak Harbor Public Library
 - Oak Harbor Municipal Building
 - Oak Harbor Village Hall/Police Station
 - Adolphus Kraemer Park
 - Flat Iron Park
- Bikeway improvements along the west side of Chruch Street from Depot Park south to the Riverfront (+/- 0.9 miles) Connecting the following:
 - Depot Park
 - Former Oak Harbor Middle School site
 - Oak Harbor Village Hall/Police Station
 - Adolphus Kraemer Park
 - Water Street Businesses The Riverfront
- The Riverfront boardwalk connecting South Church Street east to Locust Street/SR 19
- A pedestrian crossing at Locust Street/SR 19 connecting the Riverfront boardwalk area east to Portage Street, then north along the east side of South Maple Street, crossing Water Street ultimately connecting to Main Street (+/- 0.6 miles)
- The Ottawa Street connector from Veterans Park west, then north along the Intermediate and R.C. Waters Schools entry drive to Park Street, then west to Benton Street and north to the High School pedestrian entrance across from Walnut Street (+/- 1.3 miles) Connecting the following:
- Veterans Park
- RC Waters Elementary School/Oak Harbor Middle School
- Former Oak Harbor Middle School site
- Oak Harbor High School

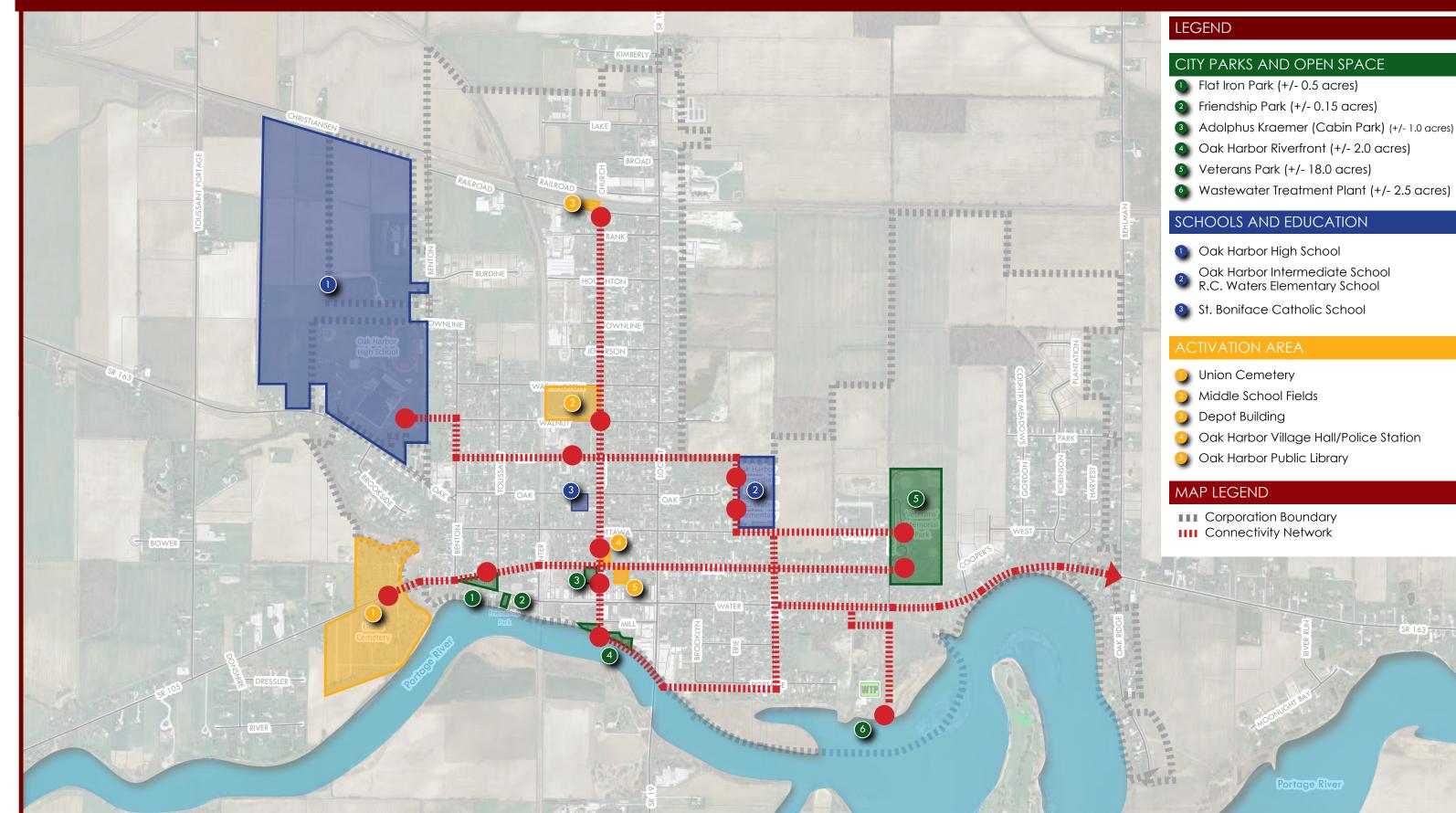
Bikeway improvements along Water Street from Flat Iron Park West

to Union Cemetery (+/- 0.3 miles)

 Bikeway improvements along Water Street from Maple Street east to the Ottawa County Fairgrounds (+/- 3.0 miles)

0.125

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN











COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Household Survey Summary

An on-line household survey was created to solicit input from all community members and supporters of the Oak Harbor community. The survey asked residents to respond regarding the existing state and condition of the Village's parks and open space and how the Village should invest in and focus on future development of its parks. 183 households responded with complete surveys. This approach by the Village attempted to offer every resident an opportunity to participate in the park planning process.

The following is a summary of the park system survey results. The entire household survey results, including individual comments, can be requested.

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Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey Results

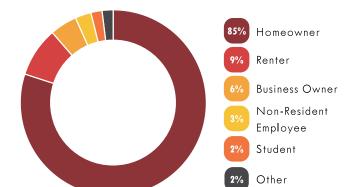


participants

1 of 2

I am a... (Select all that apply)

I live in...



Improved Playground Equipment and

Amenities Residents expressed a strong desire for more modern,

improvements residents would like

updated playground equipment, especially at Veterans Park. They also mentioned the need for amenities like splash pads, shaded areas, and better restroom facilities.



Enhanced Safety and Accessibility Concerns about safety were raised, particularly regarding

lack of lighting and security. Residents also requested improved handicapped accessibility in the parks.



Increased Recreational Opportunities

Residents sought more activities and programming, especially for children and families. Ideas included organized events, sports leagues, and community centers.



Better Park Maintenance and Landscaping

Many respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining existing park infrastructure and landscaping. They mentioned issues such as overgrown grass, broken equipment, and lack of upkeep.

"We need lights in the park for people using the park in the early morning or late evening."

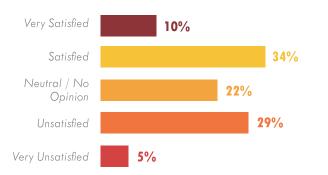
How satisfied are you and/or your family with the current parks and recreation facilities and activities in Oak Harbor and the area?

67% Village of Oak

15% Salem Township

Carroll Township

Benton Township



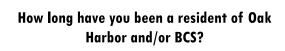
How aware are you of parks and recreation programs and events happening in Oak Harbor and

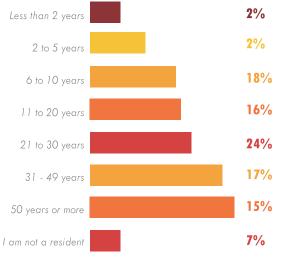
55% Very aware

25% Somewhat aware

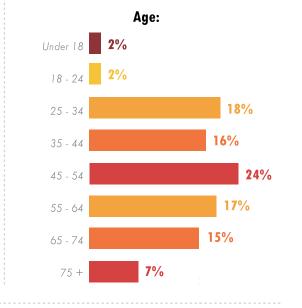
20% Not aware

"The sidewalks to Veterans' park are so rough and uneven taking a stroller let alone walking down they is hazardous whether you catch your toe on uneven cement, or the stroller is bouncing all over, the smoother alternative is to walk on the street."

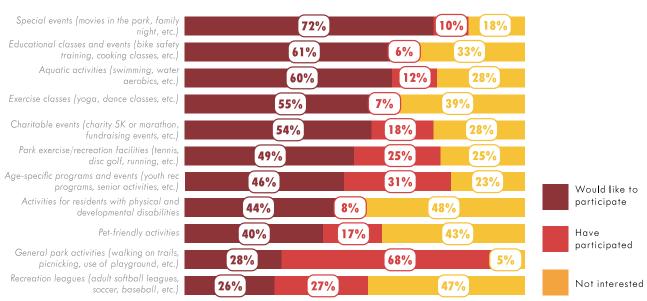




Prefer not



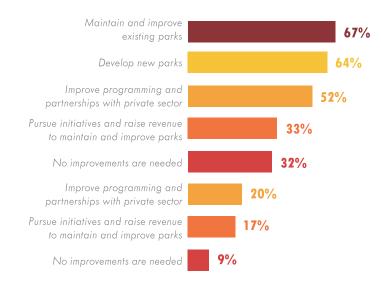
I or my family members have participated in or would like to participate in the following park activities:



Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey Results



I would walk and/or bike more often if there was: (Check all that apply)



areas identified for new parks or improved pedestrian connectivity

North Side of Town



Old Middle School Grounds

Many residents suggested this location as an ideal spot for a new park, potentially incorporating a playground, walking paths, green spaces, and connecting with sidewalks or trails to the rest of the village.



Several respondents indicated a need for improved pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks and bike paths in this area, which some suggested could be used to connect to outdoor recreation spaces further north to

Veterans' Memorial Park While not specifically a new location, many suggested improvements to this existing park, including better connectivity to other parts of town and enhanced



None/Improve Existing Parks and Sidewalks

Many residents suggested focusing on improving the parks and sidewalk infrastructure the village already has before trying to build new park facilities.

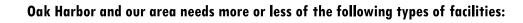
"Our Veterans' Park is beautiful, but there is very little for the kids there. The skate park is great, but more modern playground equipment or even a splash pad would be great additions. The walking path is also an excellent feature."

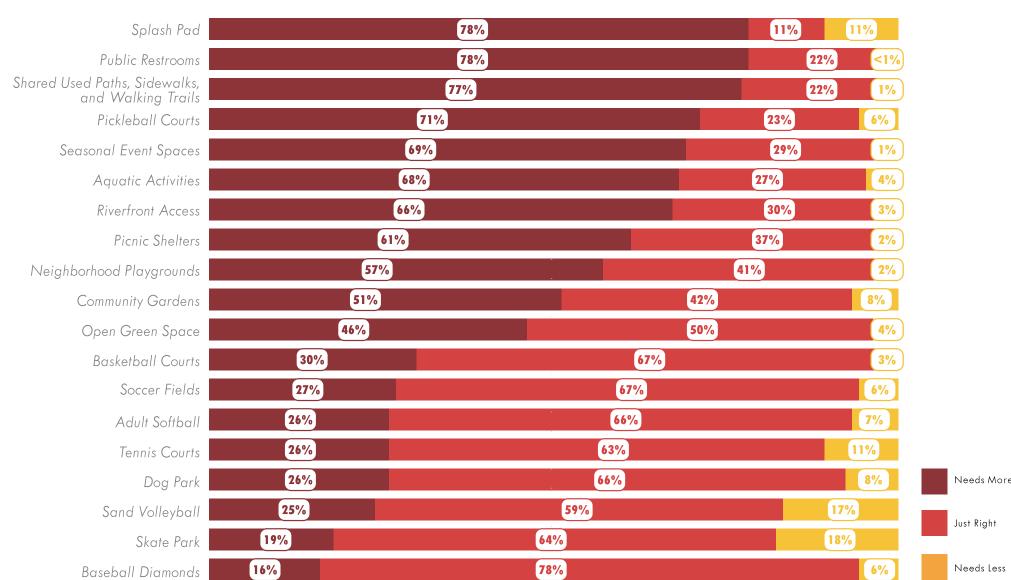
Do you use recreation facilities in another community or those offered by a private provider (Hopfinger Park, Anytime Fitness, etc.)?

Would you be open to the idea of using street legal golf carts in town if only



2 of 2







Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed using a community outreach approach. Once outlined, they were refined throught meetings with the Park Advisory Committee creating park specific and system-wide recommendations.

Improve the appearance of the current park system

- Create standards for signage, lighting and site furnishings
- Place a high importance on maintenance and beautification at the entrance of each park

Create more efficient use of existing facilities and services

- Pursue and encourage joint uses with schools
- Encourage churches and other community services to share resources
- Do not duplicate services that an adjacent community may already provide
- Identify volunteering opportunities within the community
- Identify alternative funding sources throughout the community
- Create a park foundation to raise funds through public and private partnerships for parks, trails, and recreational programs

Develop system-wide maintenance standards

- Upgrade and maintain all parks to meet high level of safety and quality standards
- Place emphasis on the level of maintenance within existing parks rather than the acquisition of additional park space
- Provide 'High Level Maintenance' to parks areas with reasonably high visitation and use
- Consistently reevaluate all parks annually to determine the required level of maintenance needs

Maintain and improve safety within each of the parks

- Provide clear and understandable signage to increase safety through clear wayfinding within the parks
- Consider methods of surveillance to reduce vandalism, inappropriate activities or the perception of isolation
- Enhance lighting to enhance the safety and night time surveillance
- Conduct audits of all playground equipment to identify deficiencies and/or necessary improvements
- Design for all ages and ranges of physical abilities
- Design barrier-free handicapped accessible facilities
- Integrate sidewalks and safety crosswalks where gaps exist

Develop a multi-use trail system strategy

- Create standards for the entire Village path and sidewalk system
- Strengthen and make any 'obvious' internal neighborhood connections
- Identify and connect important elements throughout the community
- Create a dynamic system that integrates easily with regional connections

Provide equitable service to the entire community

- Promote community health and wellness for residents using the parks
- Make all parks welcoming and easily accessible for all levels of users
- Promote all types of public open space within the community regardless of use (active, passive, or natural)
- Provide the community with a variety of park and open space options
- The Village should react to reasonable desires of the community
- Promote Parks and Recreation as an essential Village service
- Permit the use of street legal golf carts within the Village

Establish a communication and public awareness campaign

- Use social media channels and the Village website to increse community awareness of current parks and trails, their sizes and components
- Provide the community with up-to-date maps and descriptions of all facilities

Partner with other community groups, associations and park districts

- Oak Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce
- Park District of Ottawa County
- Benton-Carroll-Salem School District
- Oak Harbor Development Group
- Lake Erie Flag Football League
- Rocket Little League Baseball Association

Pursue private development partnerships for recreation and leisure

- Encourage local businesses to participate, volunteer, donate services and/or provide sponsorships
- Promote local economic development opportunities through dialogue with the Mayor's office and Village administration

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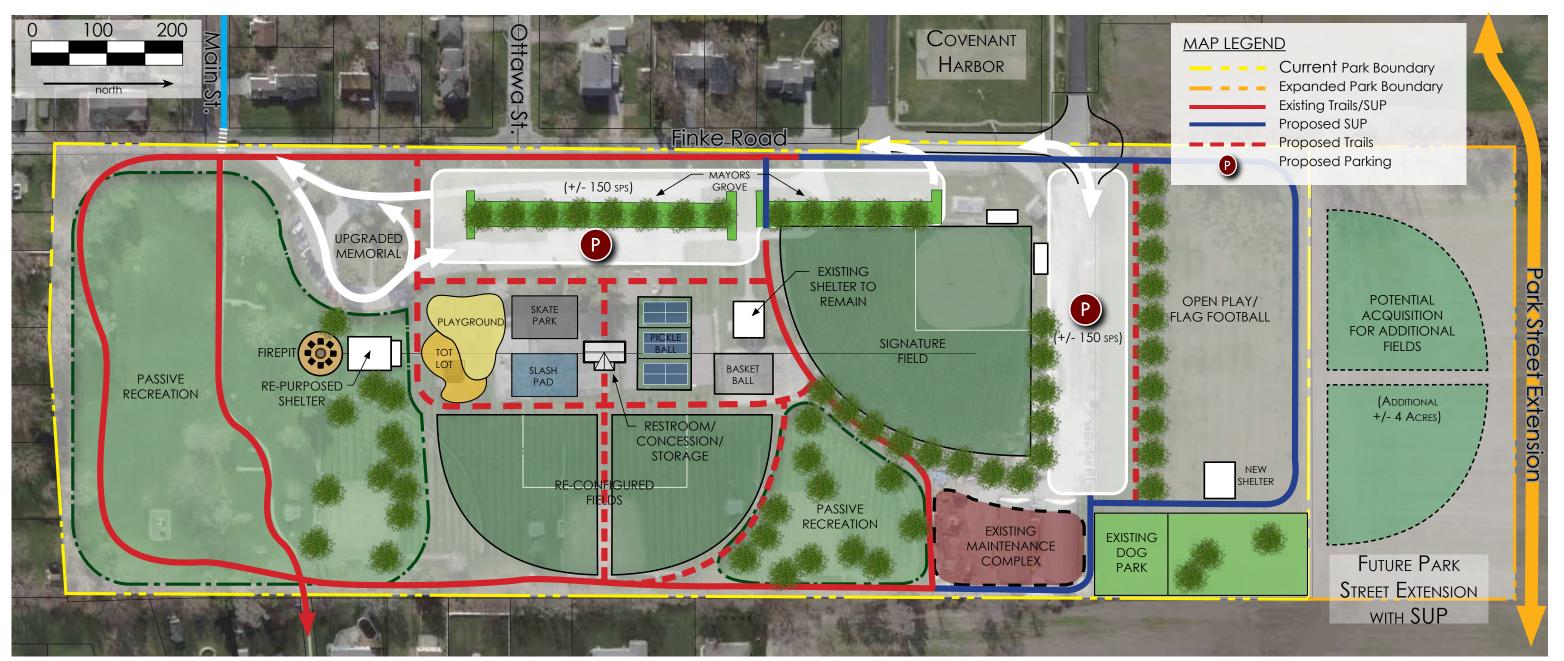
Individual Park Analysis and Recommendations



OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN

VETERANS PARK

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



SOUTHERN PORTION

Passive Recreation

WALKING PATHS SHARED USE PATHS (SUP) **RE-PURPOSED SHELTER** FIRE PIT MATURE TREES & VEGETATION SLEDDING HILL **OPEN SPACE** BENCHES/SEATING MAINTAIN FITNESS STATION

IMPROVED PARK ENTRY/LANDSCAPE

PLANT ADDITIONAL TREES FOR SHADE

CENTRAL PORTION

ACTIVE RECREATION

SKATE PARK SPLASH PAD PLAYGROUNDS **BASKETBALL COURTS** PICKLEBALL COURTS RESTROOM/CONCESSION/STORAGE PICNIC SHELTER (EXISTING) **RECONFIGURED BALL FIELDS** WALKING PATHS UPGRADED PARKING PLANT ADDITIONAL TREES FOR SHADE NORTHERN PORTION

ACTIVE RECREATION

SIGNATURE BALL FIELDS **UPGRADED PARKING** FLAG FOOTBALL OPEN SPACE DOG PARK PICNIC SHELTER POTENTIAL EXPANSION WALKING PATHS EXPAND SUP **UPGRADED MAINTENANCE COMPLEX** PLANT ADDITIONAL TREES FOR SHADE

Veterans Park: (+/- 18.0 acres)

Veterans Park, located on Finke Road, is known throughout Oak Harbor as the flagship park within the community. At just over 18 acres, Veterans Park boasts both passive and active recreational opportunities for a variety of age ranges and abilities and is well connected to adjacent residential neighborhoods. The park also serves as the eastern-most open space anchor along the Main Street pedestrian corridor.

Existing Park Features

Active recreation activities consist of the following:

- Four baseball/softball diamonds
- Two basketball courts
- The Village's only skate park
- Batting cages
- Two sand volleyball courts
- A 'tot lot' area for 2-5-year age ranges
- Playground equipment for 5-12-year age ranges
- Open fields for active flag football

Passive recreation activities consist of the following:

- One open-air picnic shelter with men's and women's restroom facilities
- One open-air picnic shelter
- A looped walking path system
- Sledding hill
- Dog park
- An oak grove recognizing all previous mayors
- A cannon and American flag recognizing veterans
- Open fields for passive recreation activities

Veterans Park is also the location of the Village's existing maintenance complex.

Park Analysis and Current Use

Currently Veterans Park serves as the only large-scale community park. A unique characteristic of the park is that there are three different zones within the park, each being used by the community in three distinct ways, all connected by a looped walking path. The southern portion of the park offers passive recreation opportunities. Populated with mature shade trees, rolling topography,

This portion of the park is quieter and less active than the other areas found within the park. The central portion of the park contains most of the active recreation. Ball fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, picnic shelters, restrooms and the majority of the parking have historically become the park's central hub of activity. The northern portion provides additional parking spaces, the community's only

dog park and open turf grass fields primarily used by the

Lake Erie Flag Football League. Sandwiched between the

open lawn areas and walking trails and park benches.

central and northern areas of the park sits the Village's maintenance complex.

Recommendations

Improvements to Veterans Park will need to be made ove a series of phases over several years and prioritized based on future funding opportunities. Potential phased improvements are as follows:

- Considered acquisition of an additional +/- 4.0 acres north to coincide with a Park Street extension and provide additional active recreation
- Expand the shared-use path system within the central portion of the park and along the park's northern perimeter
- Maintain good neighborhood pedestrian connectivity
- Redevelop the central portion of the park to create a more organized area of activity focused around a restroom/concession/storage building surrounded by pickleball courts, a skate park, basketball (multiuse) courts, splashpad and playgrounds
- Reconfigure two small ball fields within the central portion of the park
- Consider developing a single 'signature ball field' for larger events
- Consider nature-based play opportunities as playgrounds get replaced
- Maintain the southern portion of the park as the passive zone with improvements to the veteran's memorial contained within the park entry circle and repurpose the existing shelter building to include a
- Maintain the existing dog park in its current
- Provide a picnic shelter/shade for dog park users and flag football families

- Make improvements to both parking lots creating safer vehicular and pedestrian circulation and greater parking efficiencies
- Maintain and add to the Mayor's oak grove
- Improve the pedestrian connections and crosswalks into the park at the Finke Road and Main Street intersection
- · Maintain the existing maintenance complex in its current configuration and provide improved screening and improved access management and security









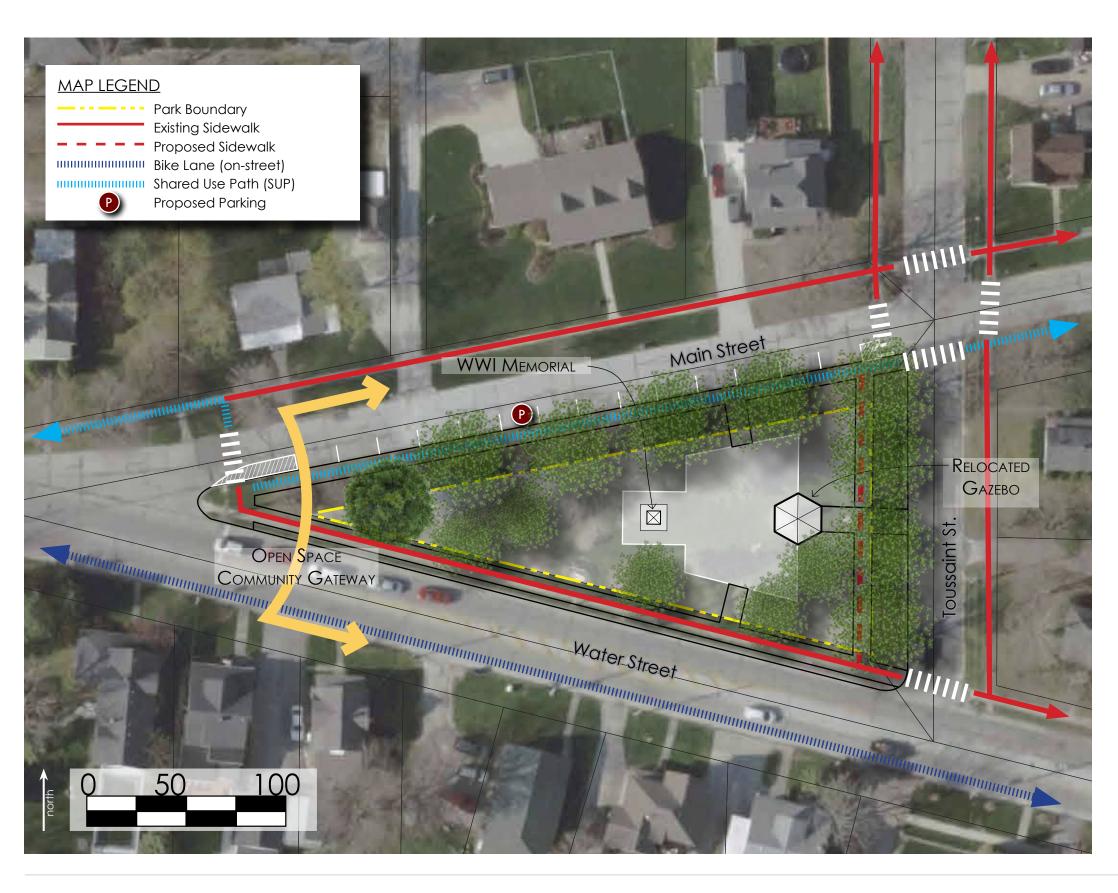








OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN FLATIRON PARK FLAT IRON PARK



Flatiron Park: (+/- 0.5 acres)

Also known as Triangle Park within the community, Flatiron Park is located at the intersection of Main, Toussaint and Water Streets and serves as a passive park and community gateway for those entering the community from the west. While considered by most residents as a 'drive-by' 35 MPH park, it also serves as the western-most open space anchor along the Main Street pedestrian corridor.

Existing Park Features

Passive elements within the park consist of the following:

- A historic gazebo "by the community for the community"
- All veterans memorial granite plaque (small)
- WW II limestone monument (large)
- The American flag
- Ohio flag paver planter
- Sidewalk only on Water Street
- Mature trees
- Electricity and water

Park Analysis and Current Use

Flatiron Park was dedicated in 1919 to honor veterans of World War I. In 1985 the park was rededicated in tribute to all veterans who have served and are currently serving our country. In 1954 a limestone monument was erected to memorialize the eleven local individuals who died in World War II. Historically the park has been used for small gatherings, photography, weddings, organization meetings and picnics. The park is also the site of the annual 'live manger scene' during the Christmas holiday season. Known to many as Triangle Park, most citizens experience this community open space from their cars as they drive by.

Recommendations

Improvements to Flatiron Park should, first, continue to observe the proud recognition of this country's veteran population. It should also maintain its contribution as a community gateway, focusing on beautification and improved pedestrian access and on street parking. Potential phased improvements are as follows:

- Construct sidewalks within the park along the south side of Main Street
- Construct sidewalks within the park along the west side of Toussaint Street
- Provide parallel parking spaces along the south side of Main Street
- Improve crosswalks on Main and Toussaint Streets
- Create a veterans memorial plaza organizing all of the existing plaques, monuments and gazebo into a single space honoring individuals who have serve our
 - Relocate or reconstruct the gazebo
 - Relocate the limestone monument
 - Relocate the granite plaque
- Make all of the pedestrian and gathering spaces ADA accessible
- Provide areas for colorful plant material at each intersection and within the plaza
- Consider irrigation within the park to enhance the high visibility planted areas
- Encourage partnership opportunities for improvements and on-going maintenance (Scout groups, local business/organizations, volunteer organizations, 'friends-of' groups, etc.)

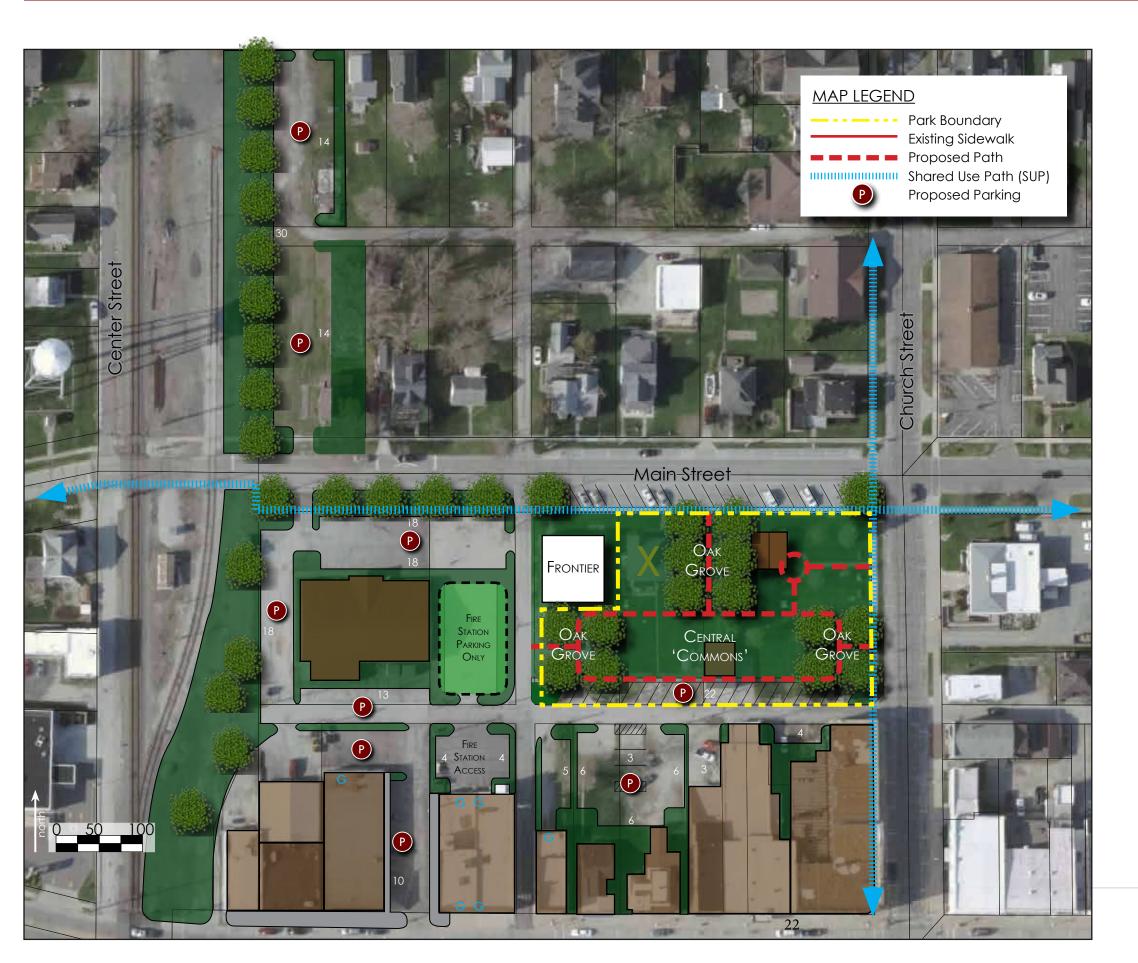


intain current annual traditions









Adolphus Kraemer Park: (+/- 1.0 acre)

Also known as Cabin Park within the community, Adolphus Kraemer Park is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Church Streets and serves as a historically significant passive park within the community.

ADOLPHUS KRAEMER PARK

Existing Park Features

Passive elements within the park consist of the following:

- A historic cabin
- Police Department storage garage
- On-street parking
- Informational kiosk
- The American flag
- Park benches
- Sidewalks on Main and Church streets
- Mature trees
- Electricity and water

Park Analysis and Current Use

The park was dedicated in 2009 and named after Oak Harbor pioneer Adolpus Kraemer. After a long life of service to his community, Adolphus Kraemer assisted in changing the name of the community to Oak Harbor. Currently, the park sits on the previous site of Oak Harbor's first Town Hall. Its location on the Main and Church Street pedestrian corridors and adjacencies to the current village hall, police station, post office and public library make it an ideal 'public square' and community gathering space. The cabin plays host to seasonal events such as Santa Claus at Christmas and the Easter Bunny during the Easter holiday season. Additionally, the Oak Harbor Log Cabin Committee hosts a number of interpretive and historic functions throughout the year and during the months of July and August, organize free Sunday evening concerts in the park.

Recommendations

Improvements to Adolphus Kraemer Park should, first, continue to observe the proud history of the Oak Harbor community. It should also maintain its contribution as a community events gathering space, focusing on interpretation, events, beautification and improved pedestrian access and on street parking. Potential phased improvements are as follows:

- Develop a 'Central Commons' within the center of the
- Create a series of small oak groves that provide shade and a reminder of the historic significance of the Village namesake.
- Provide additional on-street parking along the north side of the alley
- Promote park improvements to become a catalyst for improved parking and vehicular circulation within the Village downtown business district
- Improve pedestrian circulation throughout the center of the park
- Continue support of on-going annual community events within the space such as the summer concert series, elementary school visits and the Oak Harbor Apple Fest and promote new ones















Oak Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant Site (+/- 18.0 acres)

While not officially a community park, the wastewater treatment plant may afford the community better regional pedestrian connectivity and a potential access point to the Portage River in the future.

Existing Site Features

Elements within the property consist of the following:

- Access to the Portage River
- Sidewalks along Water Street
- Mature trees
- Electricity and water

Site Analysis and Current Use

The Village owned property is roughly 18 acre in size and currently houses the Village wastewater treatment facility with a planned expansion to be completed in 2027. Unfortunately, shallow water depths along the north shore of the river have prevented past attempts to access the water thus limiting recreational boating opportunities. Attempts at allowing lower profile watercraft such as canoes and/or kayaks may provide easier access than larger boats. A high volume of maintenance equipment entering and exiting the property would require a detailed safety plan clearly defining safe separation from any proposed shared use paths where pedestrians may cross.

Recommendations

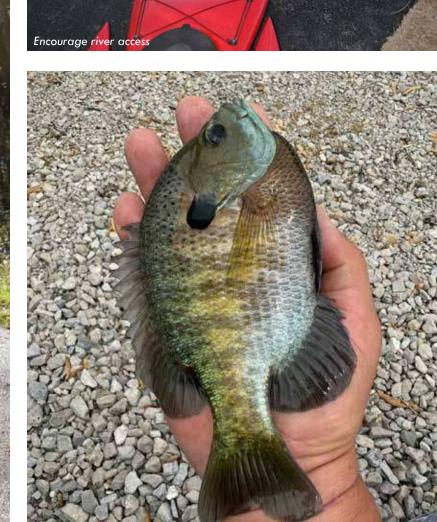
Any improvements to this site should, first, maintain a high level of sensitivity to the security of the site.

Potential phased improvements are as follows:

- Develop future access to the Portage River for recreation
 - Fishing docks
 - Kayak/canoe launch areas

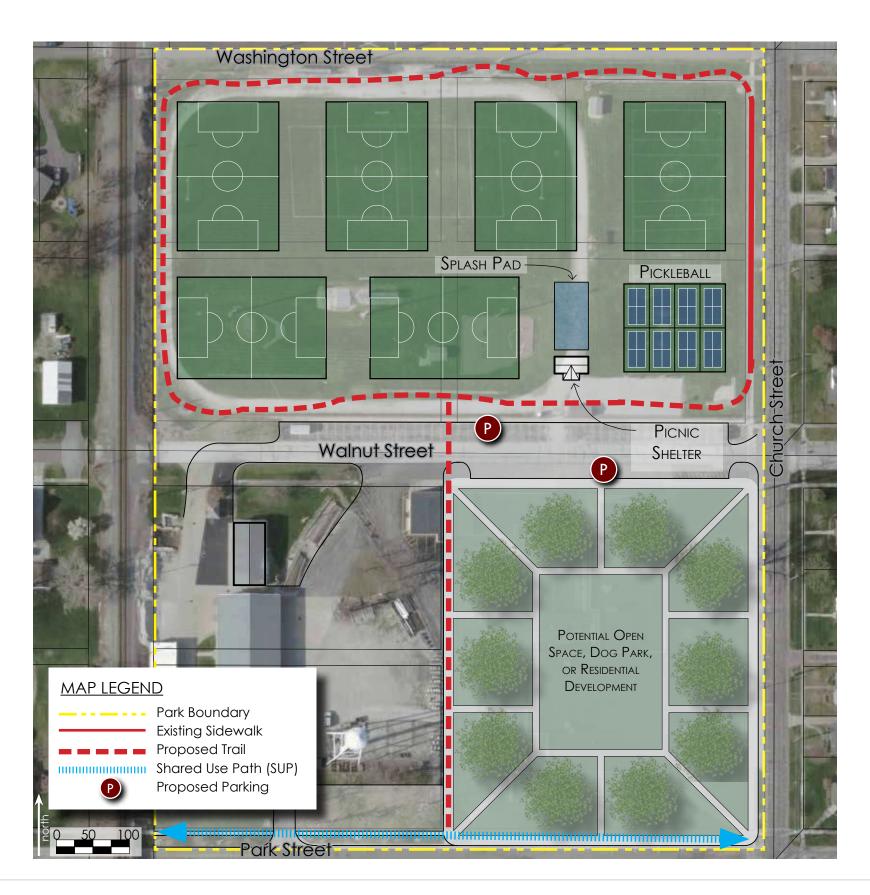
- Boardwalks allowing public access with an emphasis on habitat and natural resource opportunities and interpretation
- Develop the site as part of the Portage River Trail or regional shared use path connections
- Develop an off-site shared use path connection along Maple Street between Main and Portage Streets west connecting to the downtown riverfront development area







OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



Oak Harbor (former) Middle School Site (+/- 8.0 acres)

This property is currently owned by the Benton-Carroll-Salem School District and not by the Village.

Existing Site Features

- Elements within the property consist of the following:
- Remnant site of the former Oak Harbor Middle School
- Middle school football field and track
- Middle school practice field
- Half court basketball courts
- Swings and fitness Station
- Storage shed
- On-street parking on Walnut, West Washington and Church Streets
- Sidewalks on Washington, Walnut, Park and Church Streets

Site Analysis and Current Use

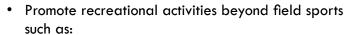
The location of the property at 315 North Church Street, its central location within the community and its adjacency to residential neighborhoods make it an excellent candidate for consideration of an adaptive reuse for open space uses. While any improvements would require coordination with the school district, the available open space north of Walnut Street and now south of Walnut on the former Middle School site could provide the community with an additional 8 acres of usable open space.

Recommendations

Any improvements to this site should be coordinated with the Benton-Carroll-Salem School District.

Potential phased improvements are as follows:

 Develop the site for multi-use recreational field activities



- Pickleball
- Basketball courts
- Splashpad
- Develop an internal pedestrian path system
- Maintain good neighborhood connections and crosswalks
- Improve public parking on Walnut Street
- Provide restrooms and a picnic shelter
- Provide seating
- Promote general open space passive uses





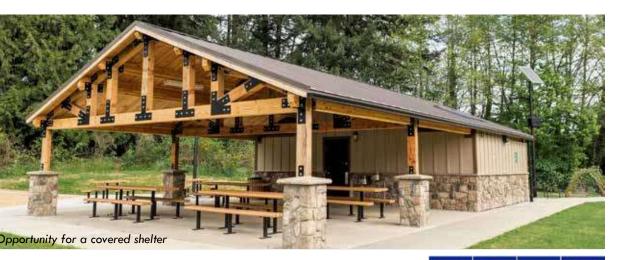




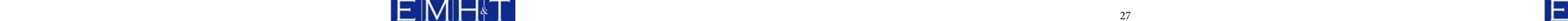




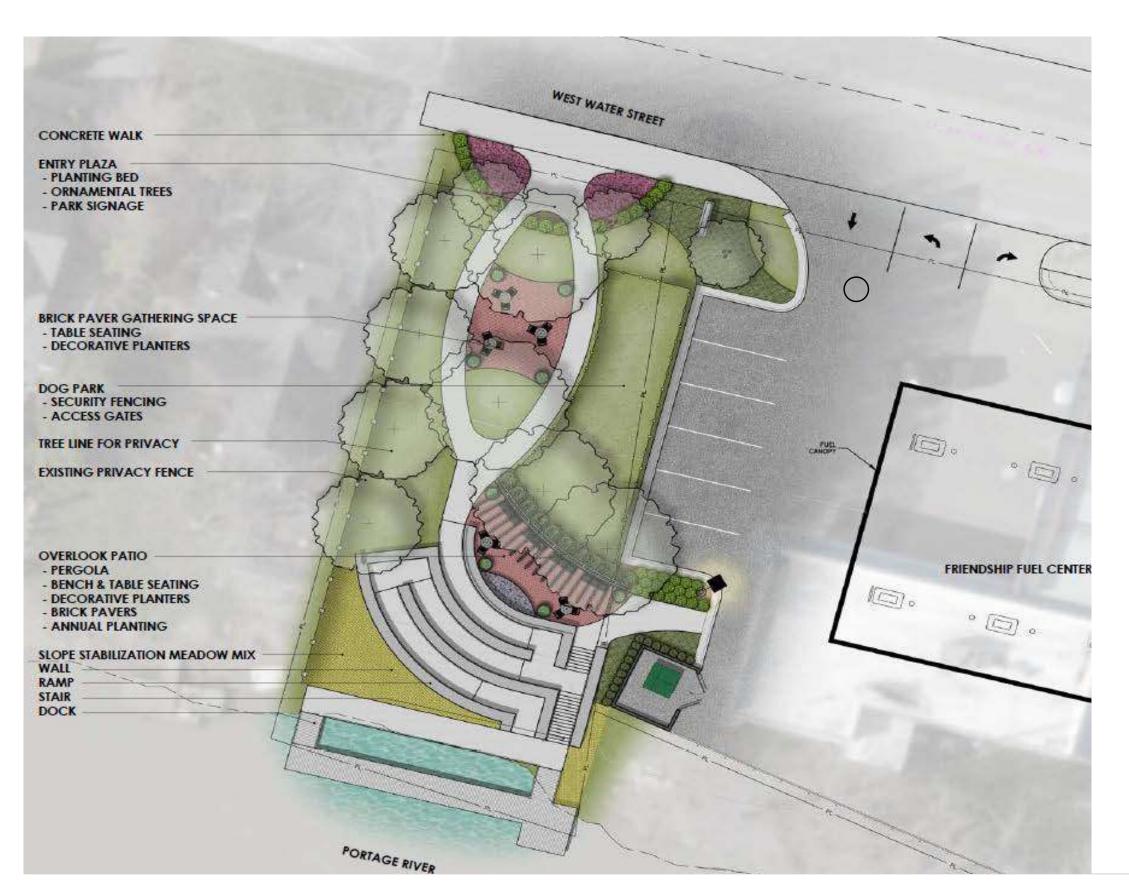








OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN FRIENDSHIP PARK



Friendship Park: (+/- 0.1 acres)

Friendship Park is currently a vacant property owned by the Village located directly adjacent to the Friendly Kitchen on West Water Street and currently under design development.

Existing Park Features

Elements within the vacant property consist of the following:

- An open lawn area
- West Water Street frontage
- Six dedicated off-street parking spaces
- Access to the Portage River
- A privacy fence

Park Analysis and Current Use

Purchased by the Village in 2023, Friendship Park has always been envisioned as a passive recreation area with gathering spaces and plantings for beautification, a paver plaza with a shade canopy and seating, a river overlook and pedestrian access to West Water Street.

Recommendations

Currently under design development, the park's potential phased improvements are as follows:

- Slope stabilization on the Portage River
- An overlook patio with:
 - Benches and tables for seating
 - Decorative planters
 - An overhead pergola
- A paved gathering space with seating
- An entry plaza with signage and planting















^{*} Plan and images prepared by EDGE

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN

RIVERFRONT PARK

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN

RIVERFRONT PARK



Riverfront Park: (+/- 2.0 acres)

Activating the riverfront with public amenities was a top planning issue and working with the Oak Harbor Development Group to refine riverfront improvements was a key recommendation identified in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan prepared by Reveille.

Existing Site Features

Elements along the riverfront corridor consist of the followina:

- The Oak Harbor Interurban Overlook
- The Oak Harbor kayak launch
- The Portage River Paddling Company (private)
- Approximately 700 lineal feet of riverfront shoreline
- General open space
- Parking

Site Analysis and Current Use

Currently sitting on approximately 2 acres along the north shore of the Portage River, the property set aside to become what will be known as the Oak Harbor Riverfront Park will become a destination for recreational activities as well as community events and an entertainment venue. Serving as the 12.7 mile marker at the Oak Harbor Interurban Overlook along the Portage River Water Trail the site also makes it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy the scenic beauty of the river. Infrastructure improvements regarding storm water, water, electric, access management and site circulation will also be incorporated into the development of the preliminary engineering plans currently in preliminary plan production.

Recommendations

Improvements to the riverfront will incorporate recreational activities while enhancing the natural features of the waterway and incorporating habitat preservation, ultimately benefiting the water quality of the Portage River.

The development of the open space corridor will also need to be a collaborative effort involving the Village, community organizations, county and state agencies, and private property owners aimed at developing public and private sector investment opportunities.

The riverfront's potential improvements are as follows:

- An elevated boardwalk along the north shore of the river
- An outdoor amphitheater
- The development of an adventure playscape
- Improvements to the shoreline
- Improved pedestrian connections east across Locust Street (SR 19)
- Improved pedestrian connectivity north to downtown
- Parking lot improvements
- Enhanced overlook and kayak/canoe launch
- Streetscape enhancements to Mill Street













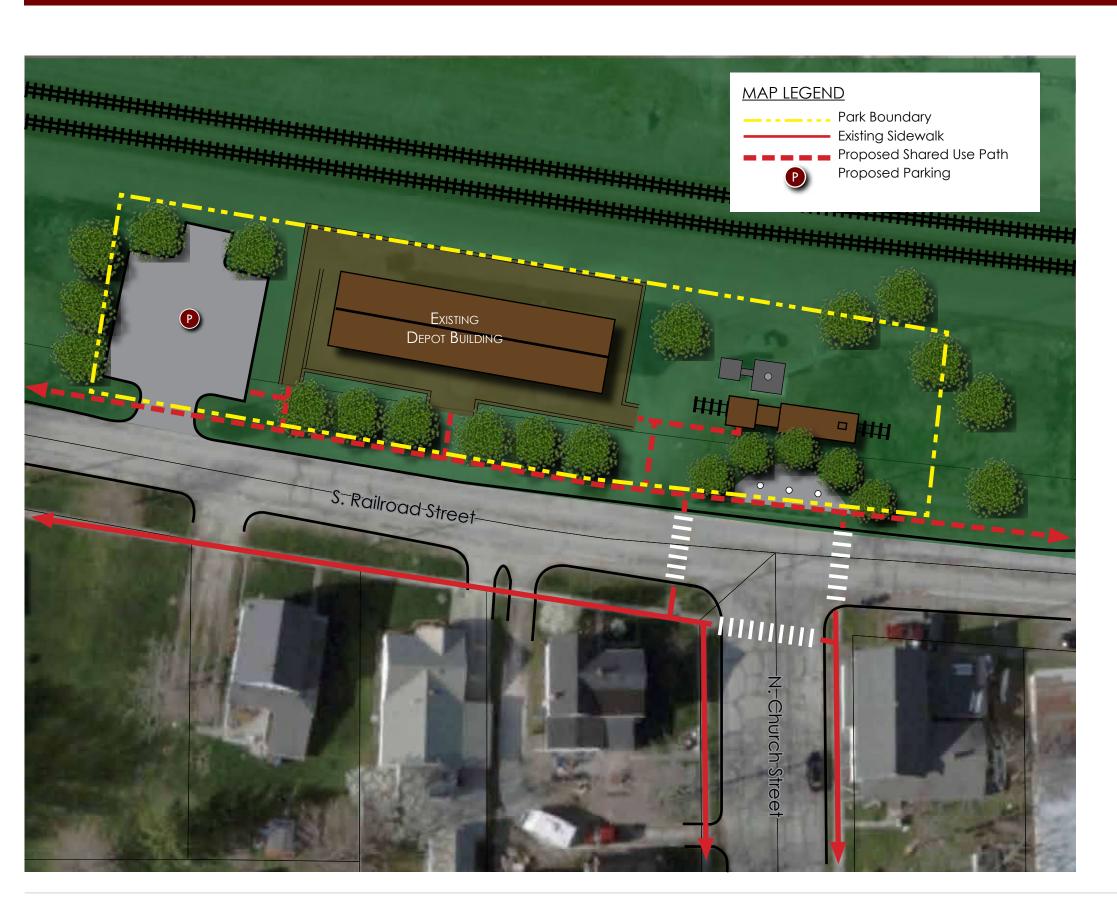
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^{*} Plan prepared by EDGE

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN

DEPOT PARK

DEPOT PARK



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Depot Park: (+/- 0.5 acres)

This property is currently owned by Norfolk Southern Railway and not by the Village.

Existing Site Features

Elements within the vacant property consist of the following:

- A vacant depot building
- A cell phone tower

Site Analysis and Current Use

The depot property currently sits along the south side of railroad right-of-way at the intersection of South Railroad and North Church Streets. The active rail line is currently operated by Norfolk Southern Railway. The depot building sits approximately 40'-0" south of the railroad and appears to be vacant. The structure is entirely surrounded by aggregate providing 360 degree access around the building for vehicular circulation and/or parking.

Recommendations

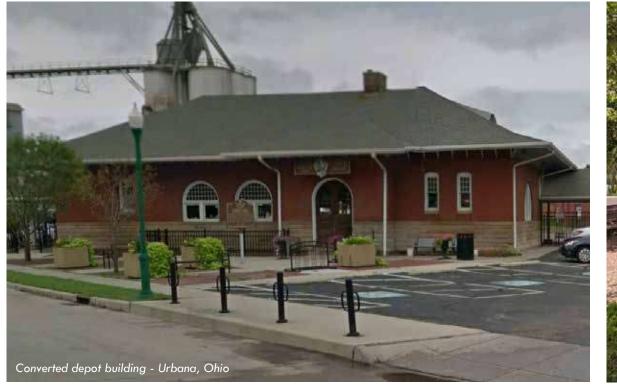
The site's potential improvements are as follows:

- Make depot building structure improvements maintaining the iconic historic building aesthetic
- Develop a viewing platform along the north side of the building along the tracks
- Develop and open space corridor from the depot building east to Locust Street between South Railroad Street and the rail line that contains:
 - A shared use path
 - Tree plantings and landscape beautification
- Enhance the crosswalks at the South Railroad Street and Church Street intersection
- Identify opportunities for the development of an ice cream, coffee shop or historic interpretation

- Create a landscape feature at the north terminus of Church Street to include:
 - Ornamental tree plantings
 - Landscape beautification
 - A relocated train aesthetic (caboose/engine)











Community Branding and Identity





As part of the park parks improvement study the Parks Advisory Committee was ask to assist in the reimagination of the current logo design for the Village. The two logos that currently exist (above) for the Village of Oak Harbor and the Oak Harbor Development Group were used as the inspiration for moving the logo and branding design forward.

JD Orr with Formations Design, and part of the planning team, facilitated a series of in-person, highly interactive design charrettes with the Committee to determine how to elevate the design while maintaining significant historic and physical elements important to the community that should be incorporated into a new brand thematic.

Important Features to Consider

An initial meeting proved challenging, as it tried to make attempts at creating an all encompassing logo containing a variety of physical, natural and personal elements found throughout the history of the Village. The initial list of elements to consider, provided by the committee consisted of the following:

- The River
- The Sun Birds and Birding as an activity
- Churches
- Fish and Fishing as an activity
- Oak Leaves/Tree
- Rockets (school specific)

- Rockers (school specific)
 Canoe/Kayak
 Apples (festival)
 Streetlamp Globes
 The Words Oak Harbor



The first round of sketches made an attempt to include many of the elements in a variety of options for the Committee to consider. Unfortunately, the Committee could not reach a consensus regarding a design direction. This effort made an attemt to refine the included design elements to five elements:

- A Bird
- The River
- An Oak Leaf
- The Streetlamp Globes
- The Words Oak Harbor

This effort also included the incorporation of color and added a unique twist by developing a logo specifically around a 'Parula Warbler'.

Overall consensus again was not reached, so a second round of sketches provided another round of refinement which ultimately resulted in the two final concepts shown on the following page.

The final two options return the logo to a more conservative update containing fewer community elements and simplifying the design similar to the current logo to include:

- The Streetlamp Globes
- The Letters 'O' and 'H'
- Location for the words Oak Harbor

Why Community Branding Matters for Oak Harbor

Community branding is about defining and promoting what makes our village special — its history, values, people, and vision for the future. It's not just a logo or slogan — it's a tool to guide growth and strengthen our identity.

Benefits for Village Planning

1. A Shared Vision for the Future

- Helps residents and leaders align on what we want our village to become
- Informs decisions on land use, infrastructure, and community services

2. Stronger Community Engagement

Builds pride in our heritage and character

Encourages more residents to participate in planning and local events

3. Boost to Local Economy

- Attracts visitors, small businesses, and potential new residents
- Highlights our unique charm—whether it's historic buildings, local farms, or scenic trails

4. Clear and Consistent Communication

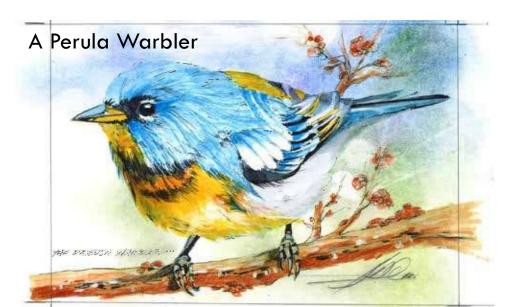
- Makes it easier to share our story with the region and beyond
- Strengthens applications for grants and partnerships with nearby communities, townships, counties and agencies

5. Sustainable and Thoughtful Growth

- Encourages development that respects our rural roots and natural surroundings
- Helps preserve what makes our village a great place to live
- Reinforces previous planning efforts

Our Opportunity

By investing in a community branding effort, we can shape a future that reflects who we are and who we want to be. It's a smart step toward a stronger, more connected, vibrant village.



Community Gateways and Wayfinding

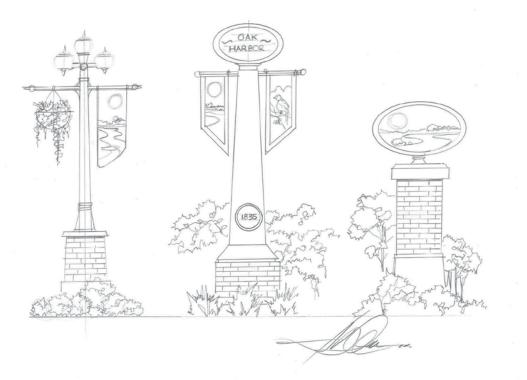
Once a Village logo and brand identity gets developed and approved, a family of wayfinding elements can be developed that incorporate the new design in community-based signage. The new design aesthetic can be incorporated in community gateways, directional signage, regulatory signage, park entry signs and other important Village properties and structures. The Community Gateways and Wayfinding sketches at the end of this document are meant to provide inspiration for future design considerations.

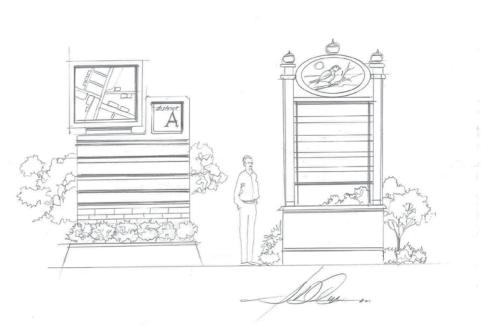


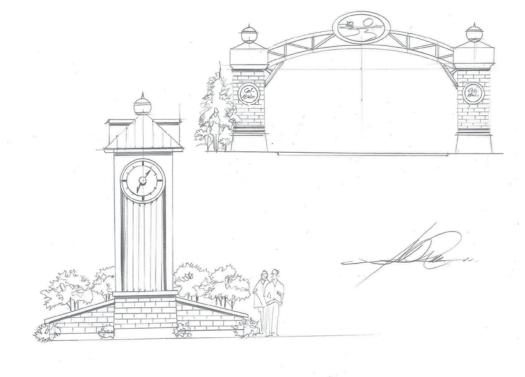
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CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



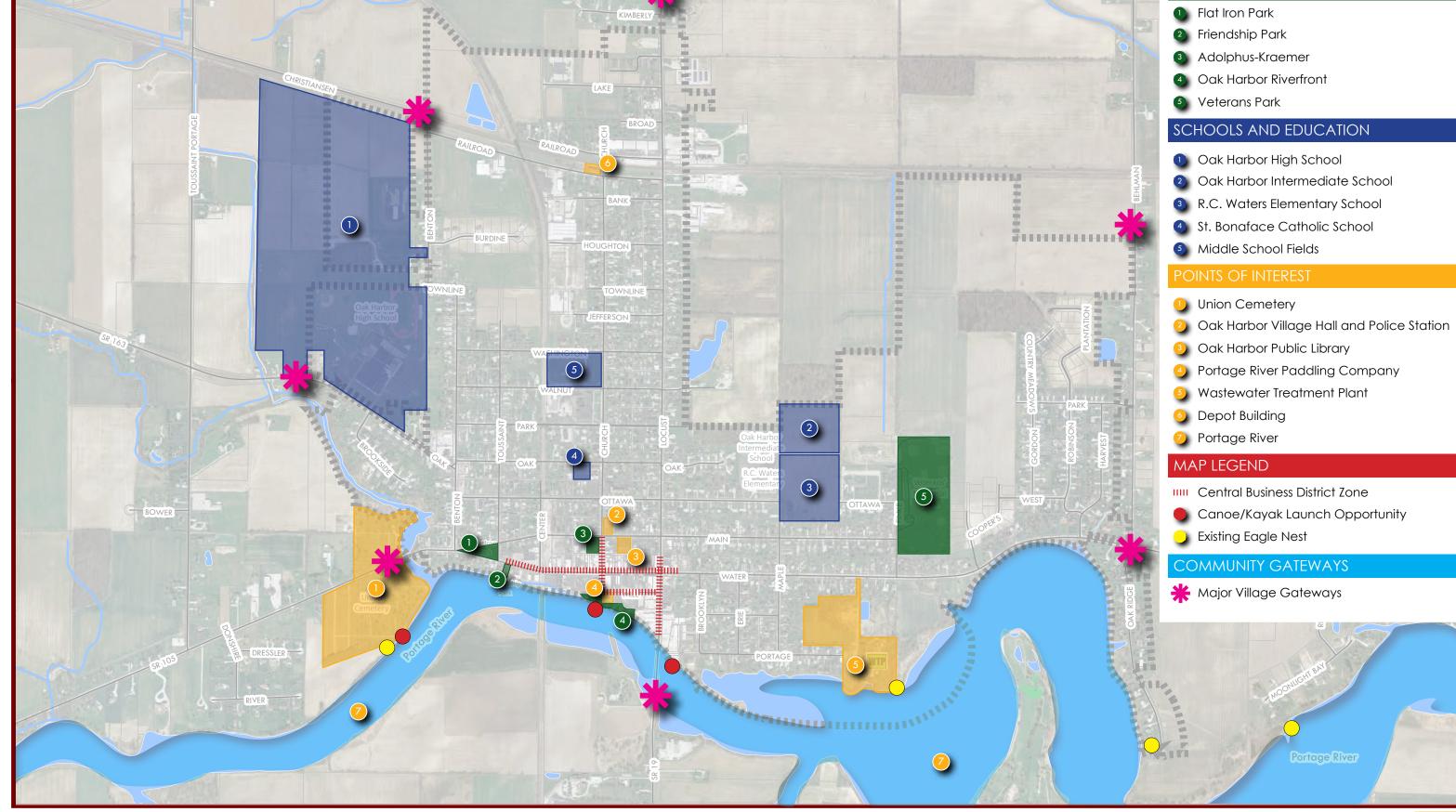












OAK HARBOR PARKS & PLACEMAKING PLAN



