



## Chapter 11

# Parks, Open Space and Sustainability Plan

**Parks, areas of open space**, and environmental features are all important components of the Town and contribute significantly to overall quality of life for New Carlisle residents. This Plan recognizes the value of these areas and seeks to protect and enhance them as vital community assets. In addition, the Plan addresses the issue of community sustainability and outlines strategic recommendations designed to ensure the long-term stability of the Town.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **NEW CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Town of New Carlisle’s Parks and Recreation Department is primarily responsible for the provision of parks and recreation in the Town. The Town of New Carlisle Parks and Recreation Department’s (NCPRD) potential mission statement could be something like:

*“Serve New Carlisle’s citizens by providing quality parks, recreation facilities and programs thereby ensuring that the Town continues to be a livable place where all citizens can enjoy a wide range of leisure and recreation activities.”*

The NCPRD owns and maintains five park sites and facilities located in the central portion of New Carlisle. In addition to operating these facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department runs a number of community events and recreation programs in cooperation with partner organizations.

Parks and recreation are important contributors to the quality of life enjoyed by residents. This chapter of the Comprehensive Plan outline various guiding principles to parks and recreation development that should serve as a general guide, however it is strongly recommended that more detailed planning efforts be conducted by the New Carlisle Parks and Recreation Department.

### **PARKS & GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN**

The NCPRD will be needing to update its 5-year parks and greenways master plan in 2020. The Parks, Open Space and Environmental Features Plan contained in this Comprehensive Plan should be used to assist the NCPRD in its planning efforts. In turn, once the new Parks and Greenways Master Plan is adopted, the Comprehensive Plan should be updated to reflect the goals, objectives and recommendations of the plan.

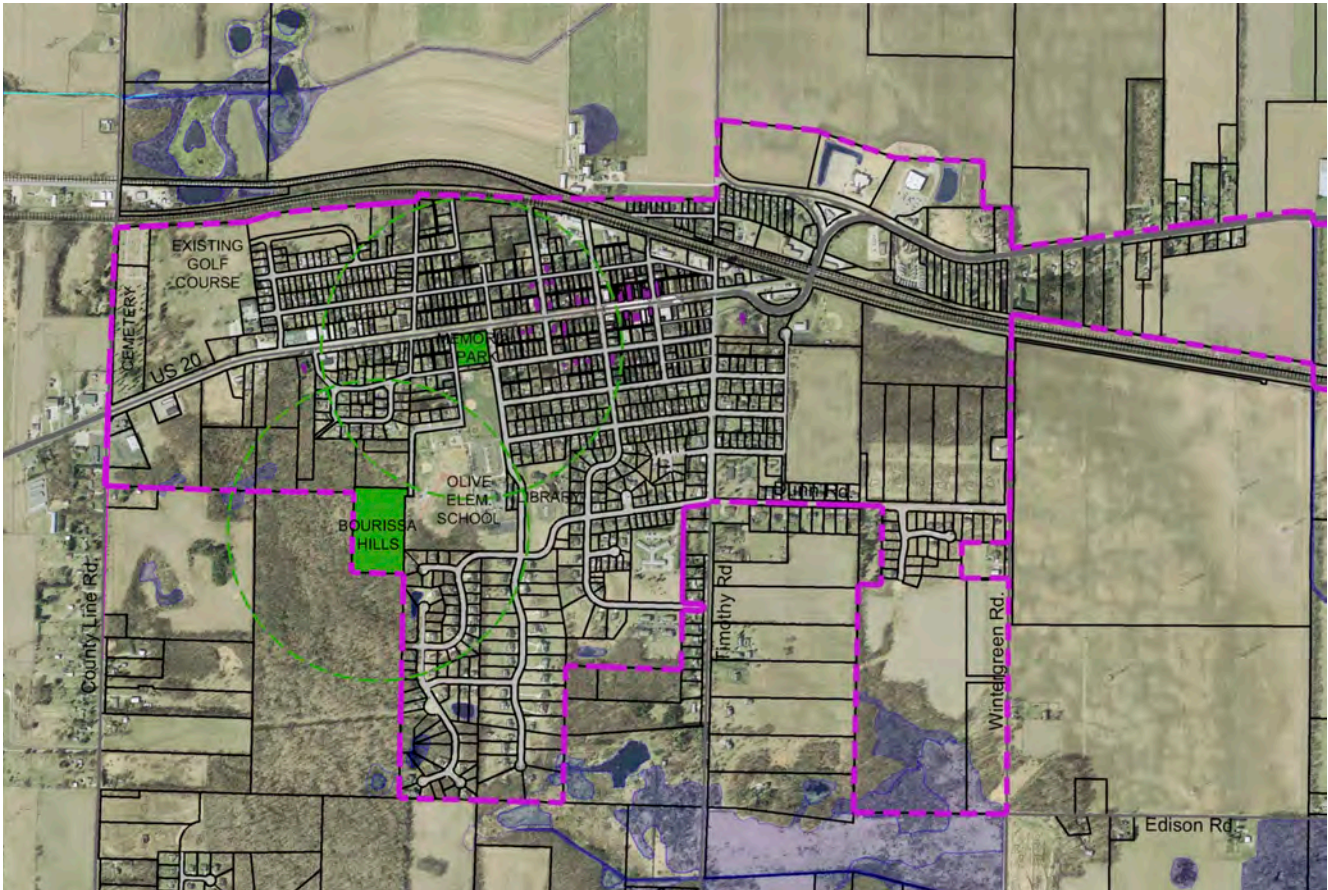
### **PARK AND RECREATION STANDARDS**

For decades, the agreed upon standards for park and recreation facilities have been those established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA recognized the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards, particularly to provide a community with a recommended minimum number of facilities and land requirements for parks based upon population and geographic area. For simplicity and ease of use across the country, the accepted open space standard is 10-acres of parkland for every 1,000 people. Based on the Town’s 15± acres of parkland and a population of 1,891 (2020 pop.) the existing level of service of park land is 7.93 acres per 1,000 persons. Acquisition of addition park land should be considered by the Town in the future.

### **PARK LAND ACQUISITION**

With approximately 15 acres of parkland and 1,891 residents as of 2020, a standards analysis would suggest the Town of New Carlisle has a current parkland shortage of approximately 2-3 acres. Supporting this observation is the fact that, during the outreach process for the Comprehensive Plan, it was noted that while the recreation department performs well given its budget and the number of parks it oversees, some feel that the community is underserved by recreation, trails and open space.

Much of New Carlisle’s existing park land is concentrated in two (2) parks... Memorial Park (±3 acres) and Bourissa Hills Park (±12 acres), and few neighborhood parks (privately owned) exist. It is recommended that the Town promote the importance of parks and recreation, improve service in existing neighborhoods, and provide policies to ensure new growth areas are well served, which could require an evaluation of its subdivision ordinance and impact fee ordinance to ensure the adequate provision of park land and funds necessary to build and maintain parks and recreation infrastructure throughout the community.



### Subdivision Ordinance

The Town’s subdivision ordinance does not contain any open space requirements for residential developments that are greater than five acres and located within certain residential zoning districts. With an open space requirement within the subdivision ordinance, open space is to be used for either passive or active recreational purposes and the Town Parks and Recreation Board may purchase or accept dedication of any portion of the required areas of open space. The subdivision ordinance requirements are a key component to the future expansion of parks and open space in the undeveloped portions of New Carlisle and surrounding Olive Townships and should be periodically reviewed to ensure they are effective in assisting the Town in acquiring open space to meet the recreational needs of the community.

### **Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance**

The Town should study the feasibility of adopting a recreation impact fee ordinance. A park and recreation impact fee requires a per-dwelling unit fee be paid for all residential development requiring a building permit within the Town limits. In addition to the larger park sites dedicated through the subdivision ordinance, the impact fee allows the Parks and Recreation Department to plan for and develop smaller scale park sites throughout the Town.

### **UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS**

In addition to facilitating park development in future neighborhoods, the Town should continue to strive to ensure that all existing residential areas have safe and convenient access to parks. The Town should identify and prioritize opportunities to purchase land in underserved areas of the community and develop small neighborhood “pocket parks” in areas identified to have the greatest need for new park space. Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within residential neighborhoods, ideally within a half-mile walk of all homes. If needed, larger community parks should be located along arterials and collectors with pedestrian linkages.

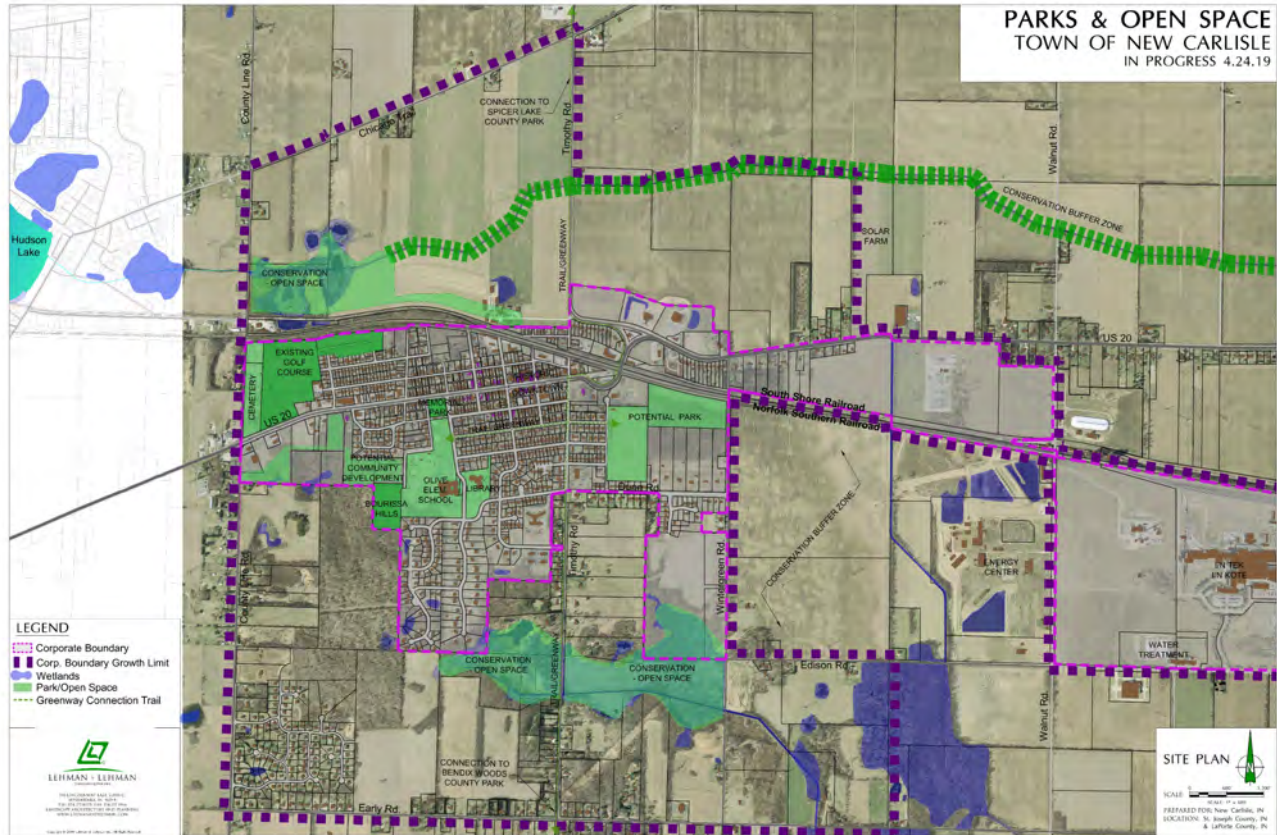
### **Future Park Sites**

While unique opportunities for park land acquisition will present themselves as subdivision development occurs and individual properties become available for purchase, the Parks and Open Space Plan figure identifies underserved residential areas where new park land would be desirable. The areas highlighted in blue in the figure indicate the service areas for the Town’s existing neighborhood parks, community parks and school sites with outdoor recreational facilities.

### **PROGRAMMING & PARTNERSHIPS**

**INSERT NARRATIVE REGARDING THE TOWN’S ROLE IN RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND RELATED PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.**

### CONCEPTUAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN MAP



**PRIVATE OPEN SPACE**

**INSERT NARRATIVE REGARDING PRIVATE OPEN SPACES IN RELATIONSHIPS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACE OF THE TOWN.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES**

**INSERT NARRATIVE REGARDING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES FOUND IN THE TOWN AND THE GROWTH AREA INCLUDING WOODED AREAS, FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS, ETC.**

**INSERT ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAP**

## **SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK PLAN**

**INSERT NARRATIVE REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK PLAN THAT WILL STRENGTHEN THE TOWN AS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY. THIS SECTION WILL ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES, WATER CONSERVATION ELEMENTS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMPONENTS, ETC.**

## **MONITOR AND UPDATE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES**

**INSERT NARRATIVE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES STANDARDS AND ITS MONITORING POLICY. THIS WILL IDENTIFY ORDINANCES THAT SHOULD BE UPDATED ALONG WITH VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS. NARRATIVE WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROMOTING SMART GROWTH FOR THE TOWN.**

**NARRATIVE WILL ALSO INCLUDE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS**

**FRAMEWORK PLAN THAT WILL STRENGTHEN THE TOWN AS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY. THIS SECTION WILL ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES, WATER CONSERVATION ELEMENTS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMPONENTS, ETC.**