

To: Park Authority

From: Amber Lane
Parks Director

cc: Deb Cook
Town Manager

Date: April 1, 2026

Park Operations Executive Summary - March

Operations during this period focused on transitioning from intensive winter response to proactive spring site preparation. Key activities included extensive inspections of playgrounds and facilities, natural area restoration, and significant administrative planning to ensure long-term asset durability and system-wide accessibility.

Trail & Natural Resources Management

- Restoration Operations: Logged over 60 hours of natural area restoration and invasive species management along the B&O Trail and I-74 Gateway Park.
- Trail Corridor Safety: Conducted targeted trail inspections and maintenance on the White Lick Creek Greenway and Maple Ridge Trail to identify and mitigate hazards.
- Tree & Landscaping Preparation: Completed hazardous tree removals at Stephens Park and addressed turf/lawn debris clearing at Arbuckle Acres to prepare for the growing season.
- Equipment Readiness: Dedicated specialized labor to equipment maintenance at Arbuckle Acres, ensuring fleet readiness for spring operations.

Facilities & Asset Maintenance

- Comprehensive Safety Inspections: Conducted high-frequency Preventive Maintenance (PM) inspections across all major sites, including Arbuckle Acres, Williams Park, and Stephens Park, specifically focusing on playground equipment, splash pad components, and fitness areas.
- Asset Preservation: Performed detailed inspections of the Bundy Lodge and various park shelters, documenting conditions to prioritize future repair cycles and ensure guest satisfaction.

Infrastructure & Operations Improvements

- Signage & Perimeter Control: Removed or updated signage along the White Lick Creek Greenway and inspected perimeter fencing to maintain clear boundaries and public safety.
- Site Furnishing Repairs: Addressed maintenance needs for basketball courts and tennis/pickleball courts at Arbuckle Acres to ensure recreational amenities are ready for increased spring volume.

Work Orders in the Last 30 Days

Work Category	Work Orders Completed
Building Maintenance	63
General Maintenance	19
Equipment Maintenance	8
Grounds Maintenance	23
Inspections	115
Other	39
Event Set-Up	1
Natural Areas Restoration	3
Winter Weather	2
Storm Inspection & Clean-Up	1
Total	282

Work Category Descriptions

- **Building Maintenance** – Includes janitorial tasks such as trash removal, restroom cleaning, and shelter or indoor rental room upkeep, as well as facility repairs, upgrades, and maintenance of park buildings.
- **General Maintenance** – Covers a wide range of tasks including electrical work, painting, pressure washing, general repairs, and other routine maintenance needs.
- **Equipment Maintenance** – Involves daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance of the splash pad, as well as preventive maintenance on playgrounds, vehicles, and other park equipment.
- **Grounds Maintenance** – Encompasses landscaping and natural resource tasks such as trail upkeep, pollinator and rain garden maintenance, mowing, and vegetation management.
- **Inspections** – Includes routine checks of playgrounds, buildings, vehicles, and park zones. Often paired with litter removal, weed control, and identifying future maintenance needs.
- **Other** – Administrative tasks such as meeting with contractors, researching replacement products, and supporting park and natural resource operations beyond physical maintenance.
- **Event Set-Up** – Assistance provided to the Recreation Division for setting up and preparing for special events and programs.
- **Vandalism** – Response to graffiti, intentional damage, or other destructive behaviors observed in the parks.

Indoor Facility Utilization (Rentals) - March

Facility Name	Days Reserved	Hours Reserved	Total Attendance
Bundy Lodge	20	134	691
Eaton Hall	14	83	696
Total	34	217	1,387

Outdoor Facility Utilization (Rentals) – March

Shelter Location	Number of Rentals	Total Attendance
Arbuckle Acres Park	2	100
Williams Park	16	59
Stephens Park	0	0
Total	18	159

Dog Park Membership Passes – March

Pass Type	Total Passes
Small Dog	185
Large Dog	387
Total	572

Recreation Executive Summary

Volunteer Activity: March 2026

Volunteers	Current Month	Current Year-to-Date
New Registrations	16	35
Opportunity Responses	116	173
Volunteer Hours	120.59	277.73
Volunteer Value	\$3,834.76	\$8,831.81

Post-Event Summary – Brownsburg Parks Events



PFHC Picnic for the Parks

Staff attended the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Picnic for the Parks event to engage with residents and park partners from across the county. The Town of Brownsburg Parks showcased the mobile nature cart funded by the Parks Foundation, highlighting how it will support hands-on nature programming in our parks. Staff also promoted upcoming spring and summer programs and invited five of the department’s top volunteers to attend and represent the Town of Brownsburg Parks.



Little Sprouts-FULL

Both sessions of **Little Sprouts: Wiggly Worms** were filled with curious young explorers learning about these helpful garden creatures. Littles enjoyed story time, wiggled their way through a garden-themed obstacle course, inspected worms up close, and created a fun worm craft to take home. The session wrapped up with plenty of digging and discovery in the worm-themed sensory bins.

Spring Stuffies

Our Spring Stuffy event at Bundy Lodge was a joyful success! We had 19 children of all ages choosing their very own stuffy and bringing it to life by stuffing it themselves. Afterward, families gathered to enjoy cookies and juice while listening to stories by the Brownsburg Public Library, making it a fun and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Morning Bird Hike

Park Naturalist, Riley, led a Morning Bird Hike along the B&O Trail off Green Street, where six birders joined for a cold but rewarding morning. The group observed 15 bird species, including a pair of kingfishers and wood ducks, both exciting “lifer” sightings for many participants.

CITO (Cache In, Trash Out)-Invasive Species Removal

The Parks Department hosted a successful Weed Wrangle + Geocache CITO event on Saturday, March 21 at Gateway, in partnership with the Wastewater Department. A total of 18 volunteers participated, including 10 geocachers, contributing 36 service hours. Volunteers focused on removing invasive bush honeysuckle along the creek edge and collected several bags of litter throughout the area. This effort provided ecological benefits by improving native habitat, while also enhancing safety and aesthetics along the roadside. Final trailer counts for brush removal will be updated once completed.



Hopping Down the Bunny Trail

This year marked the second year of Williams Park hosting Hopping Down the Bunny Trail. **What started last year as a decent turnout of roughly 1000 participants and 12 local businesses, exploded into almost 30 businesses and close to 3000 participants this year.** Williams Park was packed with families enjoying the newly added egg hunts. This event also had 10 wonderful volunteers dedicate their Saturday morning to helping get everything set up and running the event as smoothly as possible.



Weed Wrangle

We hosted a successful Spring Break Weed Wrangle at Arbuckle Acres Park, where 26 volunteers joined our Natural Resources team to remove invasive bush honeysuckle from the park's lower level. Favorable spring weather contributed to a productive event, and we appreciate the community members who dedicated their time, many during spring break, to support ongoing habitat restoration efforts.



Spring Break Camp

Our Spring Break Camp was an amazing two weeks filled with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories! Week 1, we had seventeen campers, and week 2, we had nine. They enjoyed a variety of exciting activities, with highlights including a colorful powder party, an action-packed Nerf gun war, and hands-on slime making. It was a fantastic way to spend the break, and everyone had a blast from start to finish!



Upcoming Programs and Events – April

Let the Games Begin: Board Game Series – April 10, 2026, 6:00–8:00 PM, Eaton Hall

- Relaxed tabletop game night for friends and families featuring a shared collection of games and snacks.

Morning Bird Hike – April 11, 2026, 9:00 AM, Williams Park

- Early morning trail stroll for all experience levels; limited binoculars available for participant use.

Wildflower Wander – April 11, 2026, 11:00 AM, Williams Park

- Guided naturalist hike exploring seasonal blooms and local flora.

SOLD OUT – Fabulous Frogs (Little Sprouts Nature Discovery) – April 14, 2026, 10:00–11:00 AM, Virgil Park

- Early childhood nature program exploring frog life cycles through story time, crafts, and sensory play.

SOLD OUT – Fabulous Frogs (Little Sprouts Nature Discovery) – April 15, 2026, 10:00–11:00 AM, Virgil Park

- Early childhood nature program exploring frog life cycles through story time, crafts, and sensory play.

Make & Take in the Parks – April 18, 2026, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM, Arbuckle Acres Park

- Free, family-friendly monthly craft program focused on nature-themed creations.

Jam as a Fam – April 18, 2026, 10:30–11:15 AM, Bundy Lodge

- Musical engagement experience for children ages 1–5 and their parents to build early musical confidence.

National Let's Fly a Kite Day – April 19, 2026, 2:00–4:00 PM, Williams Park

- Community gathering featuring kite-building supplies and open flying to celebrate the holiday.

Senior Soirée – April 21, 2026, 4:30–7:30 PM, Eaton Hall

- Social dance event for seniors featuring music through the decades and community connection.

Roadside Rescue with Ben's Garage – April 23, 2026, 6:00–7:00 PM, Bundy Lodge

- Hands-on basic car maintenance class for ages 16+ covering tire changes, oil checks, and emergency preparedness.

Great Indy Trailways TrailMixer Festival – April 25 – May 3, 2026, B&O Trail

- Multi-day regional celebration of National Celebrate Trails Day featuring pop-up activations and community adventures.

Clean and Green Day – April 25, 2026, 9:00–11:00 AM, Bundy Lodge

- Community volunteer event focused on environmental stewardship and park maintenance.

Administrative Summary - March

“Mission Accomplished” 2026 – 2030 Master Plan Adopted:

Successfully secured Town Council approval for the five-year Master Plan on March 26. This foundational document will now serve as the official roadmap for departmental growth, land acquisition, and facility development through 2030.

Trail Accessibility & Compliance:

Initiated a comprehensive review of Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPPDMD) policies in alignment with ADA and DOJ assessment factors. This review ensures our trail systems remain inclusive and accessible while balancing the safety of all users and the preservation of natural resources. It gives staff the tools to guide trail users better when questions arise.

Operational Efficiency Training:

The Parks Director delivered a specialized workshop for departmental staff focused on task management and prioritization strategies. This training was designed to streamline workflows, improve event tasks and work-order response times, and ensure staff can effectively balance routine tasks with high-priority projects.

Update on Pickleball Noise Mitigation Efforts:

On March 19, 2026, a working session was held with Council Members Lacey and Hohman, Parks Department staff, and three local residents to address noise impact on adjacent properties. Following that meeting, the Parks Department conducted a feasibility analysis on the proposed solutions.

Structural & Physical Barriers

- Acoustic Curtains: We have pivoted to focus on high-performance noise curtains as a more immediate and effective solution than permanent construction.
 - Products Under Review: We are evaluating [HushTec](#) (noted for visibility/clear panels) and [Acoustiblok](#) (noted for maximum decibel reduction). Acoustiblok sent a video to [illustrate](#) the sound damping ability.
 - Status: Physical samples have been ordered for Town inspection. Manufacturer data confirm a significant reduction in audible noise levels.
- Earth Berms: This solution is now partially restricted. The back perimeter is non-viable due to the existing drainage corridor. However, a berm on the side perimeter remains a possibility, though limited in size by space constraints.

Operational Adjustments & Security

- Revised Hours: A proposed compromise for weekend hours (9 AM – 7 PM Saturdays; 11 AM – 6 PM Sundays) is currently pending final approval. Staff recommends re-engaging the pickleball players before making final decisions.
- Access Control: We are investigating automatic locking mechanisms for the court gates to ensure strict adherence to these hours and eliminate after-hours play.

Equipment Research

- Performance Constraints: While "quiet balls" and "quiet paddles" were discussed, they are currently **not recommended** for further pursuit. Player feedback indicates a significant negative impact on the quality of play, and the cost of providing town-issued paddles is prohibitive.

Updated Mitigation Status Table

Mitigation Measure	Status	Notes/Concerns
Acoustic Curtains	Active Focus	Top Priority. Samples en route; high efficacy demonstrated in testing.
Schedule Changes	Proposed	Weekend hour restrictions pending final Council sign-off.
Gate Auto-Locks	Under Review	Technical feasibility is being checked by facilities staff.
Earth Berm	Partially Viable	Limited to the side perimeter only; drainage prevents full enclosure.
Quiet Equipment	Discouraged	Unlikely to be effective due to player resistance and high costs.

Next Steps

Upon receipt of the acoustic curtain samples, the Parks Department will conduct a site walkthrough to determine the best aesthetic fit and finalize a budget proposal for the Council’s review.