



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDY SESSION  
February 17, 2026  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Tompkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:** Mohr called the roll, Trustees Colravy, Schriver, Harpst, Willard and Olinger are present. Trustee Metzger is absent. Additionally, Village President, Jason Tompkins, Village Administrator, Patrick Brown, Village Attorney, Joe Chamley, Village Treasurer, Carole Tempel, Village Planner, Abby Heckman, Parks & Recreation Director, Dan Waldinger, Parks & Recreation Program Manager, Denise Heiser, Economic Development Specialist, Austin Shufflebarger, and Village Clerk, Dawn Mohr are present.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment is presented.
5. **DISCUSSION:** Text Amendment Follow-up. Tompkins opened the discussion and turned the floor to Heckman. Heckman states that this is a follow up regarding a text amendment that was proposed to the R2 zoning that addresses detached single family homes and the side yard setbacks. She stated that on March 3<sup>rd</sup> the plan & zoning commission will have a public hearing and that the hearing announcement ran in the News Gazette on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. She added that the packet for the hearing and meeting would be available on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Heckman explained what was in the packet and the changes that would be discussed. She pointed out that Rob & Jake Frerichs with Unlimited Homes is here tonight and is open to questions about the proposed text amendment, she adds that they have provided a sketch to help provide clarity of how the changes would look if approved. Rob Frerichs addresses the Board members explaining their position on the change and how it would not only benefit his company and development but how it would be a positive change for the Village as well. They welcome questions from the board. Trustee Schriver questioned why change the amendment and not make a change for this site. Heckman responded that it would require a variance and that the petitioner would have to prove a hardship, which is unlikely to be granted. Schriver asked if they could change that, Heckman stated that she did not believe so and referred to Chamley who stated he did not believe it was possible with the current ordinance. The discussion continued and in closing Heckman emphasized that the proposed change is only related to detached homes in the R2 zoning district.
6. **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS:**
  - A. **FINANCE:**

1. **Bill List:** Tempel goes over the highlights of the bill list pointing out some large payments with an explanation of the payments. One being the Annual Police Pension Fund payment and the other a payment to SNC for the water main project. Brown points out that the SNC payment is funded by the EPA loan and once we receive the funds a payment is made to the contractor. Tompkins asked if there were any questions or comments, none are presented. Tompkins called for a motion to move the bill list to the consent agenda. Olinger moved and Colravy seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 5-0. The bill list is moved to the consent agenda.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Tempel goes over the treasurer's report in brief highlighting the income and interests earned. Schriver asked if the grocery sales tax was included in the sales tax amounts. Tempel responded that they were, Harpst asked if there was any data to show the breakdown of the tax received. Tempel states that there is no breakdown. Tompkins asked if there were any more questions or comments, none are presented. Tompkins called for a motion to move the treasurer's report to the consent agenda. Harpst moved and Schriver seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 5-0. The treasurer's report is moved to the consent agenda.

**B. PARKS & RECREATION:**

1. A Resolution to Accept an Engineering Service Agreement with Farnsworth Group, Inc. for Construction Design Services Phase of the 13 Acres Park Pickleball Project for the Not to Exceed Amount of \$43,500. Waldinger states that this is the next step in the process. Based on the approval of the 13 Acres master plan that was approved previously. He adds that this phase is for the design of the Pickleball Courts, the plan is designed for up to 12 courts and this phase would be for the first four courts, parking improvements and drainage at the park. He goes on to say that Amy Wilson with Farnsworth would be the lead in this design Waldinger states that the time line if approved would be about 3 months and that the cost of construction would range from \$700,000-1 million. Tompkins asked how much was budgeted, Waldinger responds that the cost is within the budgeted amount. Willard asked if they would have to go thru this process again. Waldinger answered that they would yes. Schriver asked if there would be sidewalks in the park. Waldinger replied that yes there would be sidewalks. Tompkins asked if there were any more questions or comments, none were presented. Tompkins called for a motion to move the resolution to the consent agenda. Willard moved and Colravy seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 5-0. The resolution is moved to the consent agenda.
2. **PRESENTATION:** Mahomet Parks & Recreation Year in Review. Waldinger presented to the Trustees, highlighting all that the Parks & Recreation department had done in 2025. He broke down the statistics and how they compared to the National Average, showing that Mahomet is at the minimum and in a lot of cases surpassing the average in communities our size. Waldinger expressed how the department could move forward and what the goals are for the future. A lengthy discussion arose about possibilities for the parks and how the Village might achieve some of the goals.

**7. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

**A. Departmental Reports:**

1. Parks & Recreation

8. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** Tompkins stated that he and Brown had not been able to get together and discuss the marketing plan and firm for the Strategic Plan and hopes to do so in the very near future. Tompkins asked the Trustees to contact Mohr if they plan on being absent for the next meeting.

A. **February 2026 Board Meeting Calendar**

1. February 24, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business is presented.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Tompkins asked if there were any comments or questions, none were presented. Tompkins called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Harpst moved and Willard seconded. Mohr called the roll, ALL VOTES YES 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Approved  
As  
Presented  
2/24/2026  
All

# Annual Report



MAHOMET  
PARKS  
& REC





# MPRD STAFF



## MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF MAHOMET RECREATION IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS BY MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE PROVISIONS OF SAFE, EXCELLENT, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES.

# Executive Summary

2025 was a landmark year for Mahomet Parks & Recreation. With 3,960 participants across 155 programs, community engagement reached its highest levels ever. MPRD now serves 1,350 households—41.5% of all Mahomet homes—a 23% increase in two years.

Youth Sports remained a strong anchor, engaging 1,910 athletes. Sponsorships contributed \$35,401, strengthening program quality and community partnerships.



# Digital Engagement

Highlighting MPRD's online presence and community connection through social media platforms

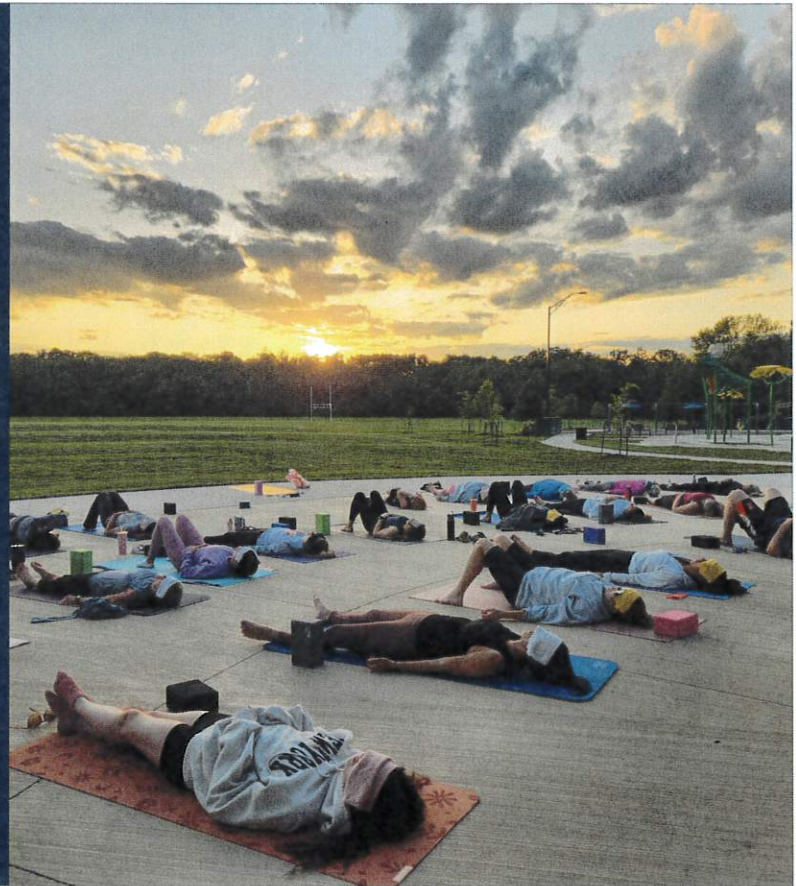
- 4000 followers on Facebook
- 1100 followers on Instagram
- 5000 newsletter subscribers



# 3,960

## Participants

In 2025, **MPRD** engaged a remarkable 3,960 participants through diverse programs, highlighting the community's commitment to **active lifestyles** and recreational opportunities for all ages.



# Variety

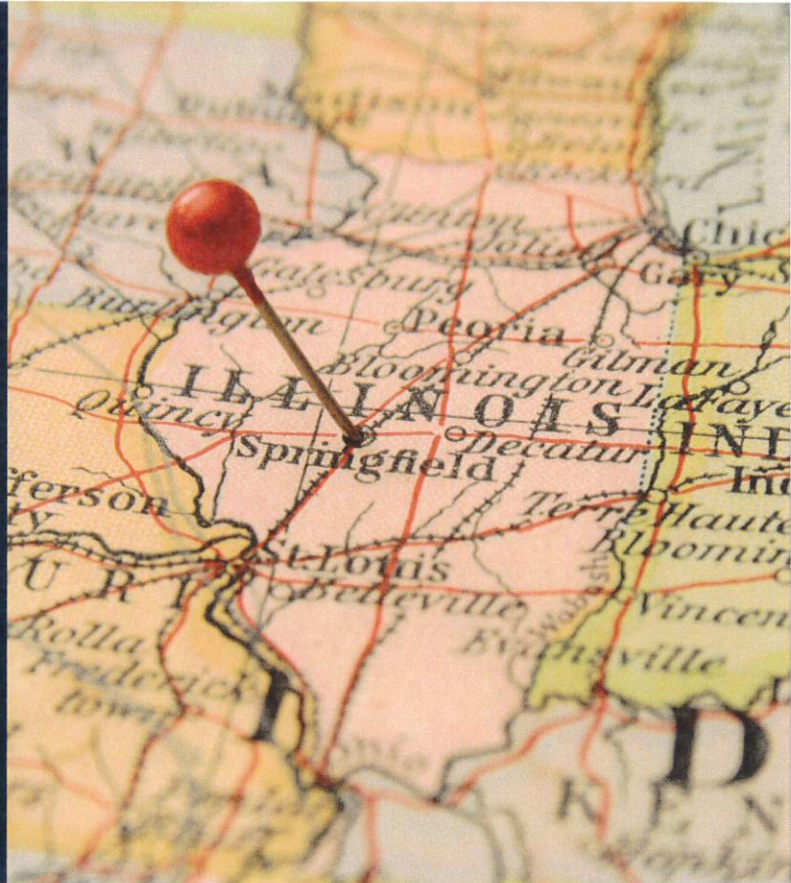
- 155 programs offered across all seasons, 40 varieties of offerings
- Families participate in 4–6 programs per year
- Youth Sports accounted for 1,910 athletes across soccer, baseball/softball/T-ball, basketball, and flag football.
- Growth in household reach and year-round offerings continues to strengthen MPRD's role in community life

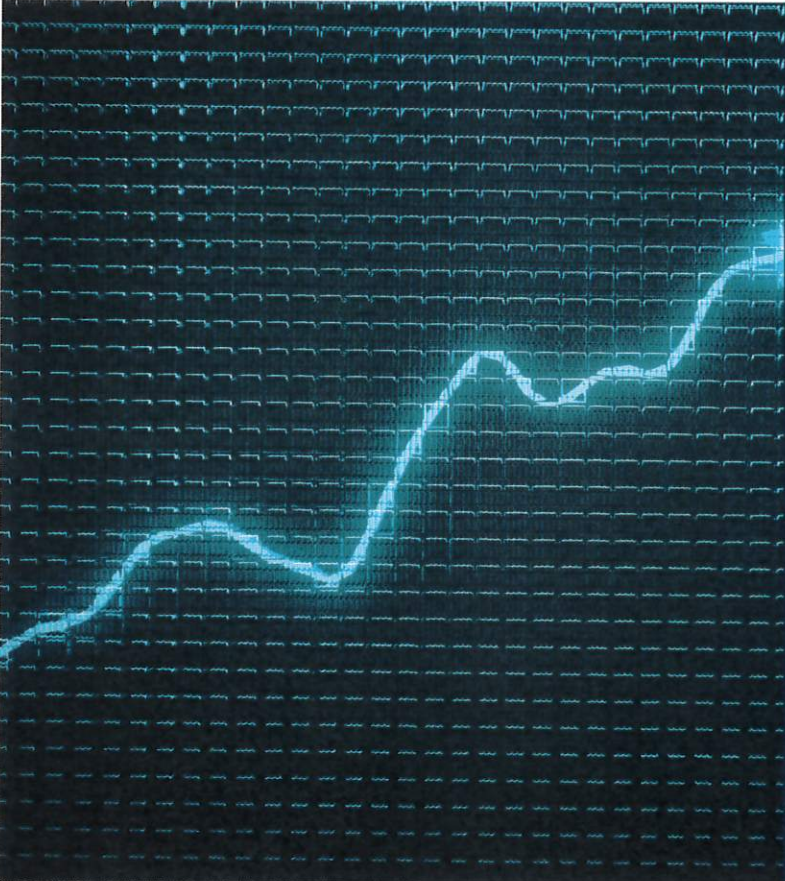


# 1,350

## Households Engaged

MPRD has achieved a **23% growth** in household engagement, reaching 41.5% of Mahomet households and fostering connections across 7 communities in the past 3 years.





**3,960**

Participants in 2025

**5.3%**

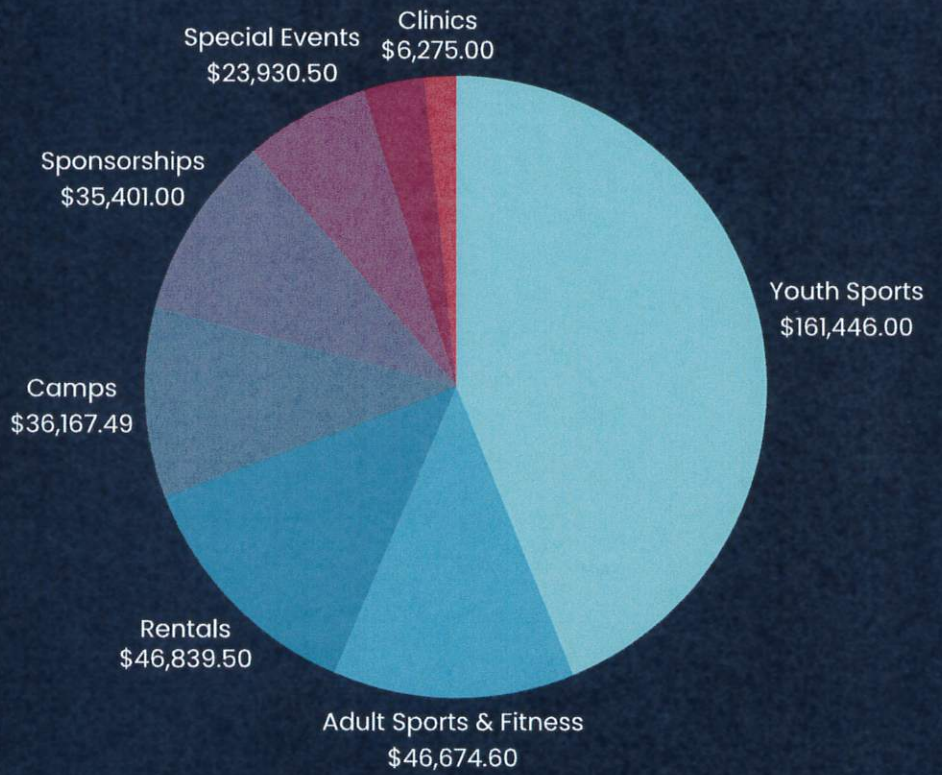
Growth from 2024

- 2023: 3,800 registrations
- 2024: 3,828 registrations
- 2025: 3,960 registrations

Participation has grown steadily over the past three years, driven by strong program retention, new programs, expanding household engagement

## Recreation Revenue

Youth Sports remains MPRD's largest and most consistent program area, with strong seasonal demand, balanced participation across sports, and stable pricing/value.





## Core Youth League Participation

| Sport                    | Participants |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Soccer                   | 559          |
| Baseball/Softball/T-Ball | 474          |
| Youth Basketball         | 466          |
| Flag Football            | 411          |

Youth Sports remains MPRD's largest and most consistent program area, with strong seasonal demand, balanced participation across sports, and stable pricing/value.

# \$35,401

## Sponsorship Revenue

In 2025, MPRD realized **\$35,401** in sponsorship revenue, demonstrating strong community support and creating opportunities for local businesses to engage and partner with us.



## Rentals Revenue Performance

A Strong Indicator of Facility Demand & System Health

Mahomet Parks & Recreation generates approximately \$46,800 annually in facility rental revenue, more than double the national average for communities serving 10,000–20,000 residents.

### How We Compare

National benchmark: \$10,000–\$20,000 annually

Mahomet: ~\$46,800 annually

Per-capita impact: ~\$2,600 per 1,000 residents (2x above average)

### Why This Matters

- Indicates high utilization of existing parks and facilities
- Reflects strong community trust and demand
- Shows MPRD is maximizing existing assets without overbuilding
- Confirms that facilities are at or near capacity

### What It Tells Us

- Residents want flexible, reservable spaces for sports, events, and gatherings
- Demand already exceeds what a typical community our size experiences
- Additional indoor and event space would be immediately used



# Recreation Benchmarks

MPRD continues to outperform national benchmarks across the core measures of municipal recreation success — participation, cost recovery, and program diversity.

## Household Engagement (Participation)

- MPRD: 41.5%
- National Average: 20–25%
- Performance: **Nearly 2× higher**

## Recreation Cost Recovery

- MPRD: **100.5%**
- National Average: 20–40%
- Performance: **Top 10% nationally**

## Program Variety

- MPRD: 40+ annual programs
- National Average: 20–25 programs for communities our size
- Performance: On par with mid-sized cities (population 25,000–50,000)

## Youth Sports Participation

- MPRD: 1,910 youth athletes
- Performance: Elite participation saturation for population size

## Staff Efficiency

- MPRD: 5 full-time staff
- National Benchmark: Agencies serving ~16k residents average 10–12 staff
- Performance: **Output per FTE is 2–3× higher**



According to NRPA performance data, most agencies engage 20–25% of local households annually. In 2025, MPRD engaged 41.5% of Mahomet households, nearly double the national average. Financially, the Recreation Division recovered 100.5% of its operating costs, placing Mahomet among the top 10% of comparable agencies nationwide, where typical cost recovery ranges from 20–40%. This level of fiscal efficiency is rarely achieved by small agencies without dedicated recreation centers. Programmatically, MPRD offers more than 40 programs year-round, spanning youth sports, adult fitness, enrichment, camps, clinics, and special events, a level of variety normally found in communities two to three times Mahomet's size. This breadth of offerings ensures that residents of all ages benefit from meaningful, accessible recreation experiences.

# Why this matters

## **Strong participation means strong community health.**

When 41.5% of households engage in recreation, families stay active, connected, and invested in the community. This level of engagement is nearly double the national standard and reflects MPRD's deep integration into Mahomet's identity.

## **High cost recovery protects taxpayers.**

At 100.5% cost recovery, MPRD's recreation programs cover their operating costs, a rare achievement for a municipal department. This reduces pressure on the General Fund and ensures that programs remain affordable and sustainable.

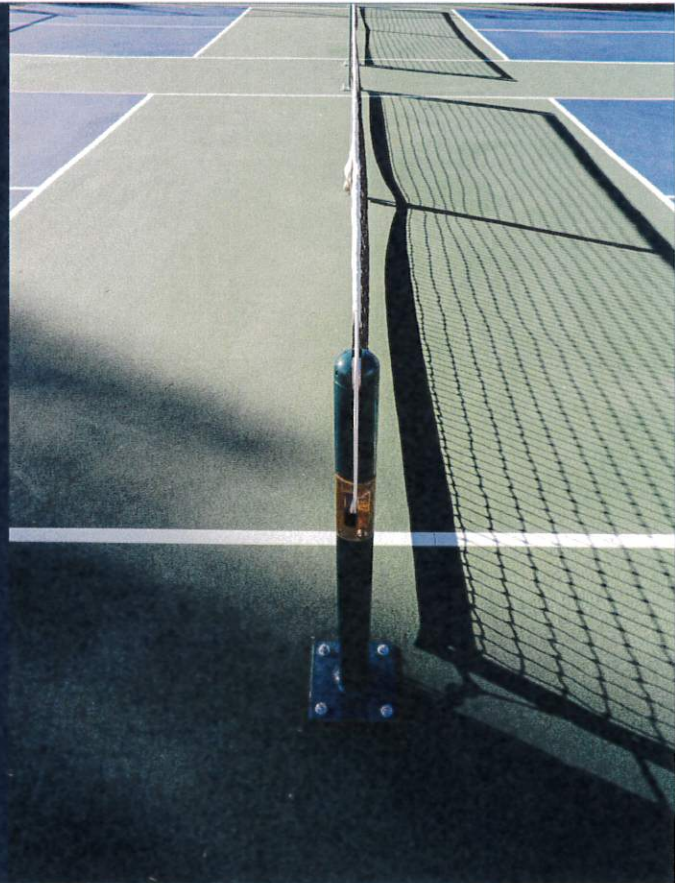


**Program diversity ensures year-round value.**

Offering more than 40 different varieties of programs, MPRD delivers a variety of experiences typically found only in communities with much larger budgets and staff. This makes Mahomet a more attractive place to live, work, and play.

**Exceptional efficiency maximizes every dollar.**

With just 5 full-time employees, MPRD provides services on par with agencies that average 10–12 staff. This efficiency demonstrates **strong leadership, operational discipline, and a high return on investment for the community.**



# Parks and Facilities

Overview of MPRD's infrastructure for community engagement and recreation in Mahomet

- 13 parks
- 151 acres of green space
- 5 playgrounds
- 41 fields and courts
- 200+ rentals annually (indoor and outdoor)
- Hosted Tennis and Cross Country Regionals (both firsts)



# Maintenance Operations

Essential services ensuring quality parks and recreational facilities for the community.

2025 Key Projects Completed:

- Stained Barber Park Pergola
- Installed Shade Structures at Barber Splashpad w Transportation Dept.
- Erected and Built Custom Park Sign at Middletown Park
- Paved Dowell Park Parking Lot (with Transportation crews)



# Maintenance Operations

Essential services ensuring quality parks and recreational facilities for the community.

- Coordinated with Mahomet Rotary on 10 new trees + staff installed 6 additional new trees in parks
- Insulation renovations at Barber Park concession and restrooms, saving \$ longterm
- Developed internal snow removal procedures and safety manual for staff to prioritize pathways and park connections better serving community



# Parks Benchmarks

Mahomet's parks and recreation system continues to provide exceptional value to the community, consistently performing above national NRPA benchmarks across acreage, access, athletic field capacity, playground distribution, trail availability, and facility utilization. At the same time, rapid population growth and rising program participation highlight the need for strategic capital investments to maintain service quality and meet future demand.

This section summarizes how Mahomet compares nationally and outlines the system's primary capital needs for the coming years.





# Parks Benchmarks

## Athletic Fields

- Mahomet:
  - 10 baseball/softball diamonds
  - 6 rectangular fields
- NRPA Benchmark:
  - 1 diamond per 4,500 residents
  - 1 rectangular field per 7,500 residents
- Comparison:
  - Diamonds: 3× the recommended capacity
  - Rectangular fields: 2–3× above benchmark

This high field capacity supports Mahomet's extraordinary youth sports enrollment of 1,910 athletes annually.



# Parks Benchmarks

## Playgrounds

Mahomet provides multiple playgrounds across its parks (Barber, Bridle Leash, Brent Johnson, Brooks-Warfel, 13 Acres, etc.), aligned with the NRPA expectation of accessible play within short travel distance for families.

- Comparison: Strong neighborhood coverage for a community of Mahomet's size.

## Tennis & Pickleball

- Mahomet: 6 tennis courts, 3 pickleball-lined courts (Middletown Park)
- NRPA Benchmark: 4-6 courts total for towns <20,000
- Comparison: Average on tennis, below on pickleball
- Demand continues to rise, especially for pickleball, creating opportunities for expansion.



# Parks Benchmarks

## Trails & Connectivity

- Mahomet: 6+ miles of walking, biking, and running trails
- NRPA Benchmark: 1–5 miles for similar-sized agencies
- Comparison: Above national median

Trail expansion and connectivity remain top community priorities.

## Splash Pad

- Mahomet: 1 splash pad (Barber Park)
- NRPA Benchmark: 1 splash pad per 25,000 residents
- Comparison: Mahomet exceeds national expectations, offering high-value water-based play for families at a smaller population size.



# Parks Benchmarks

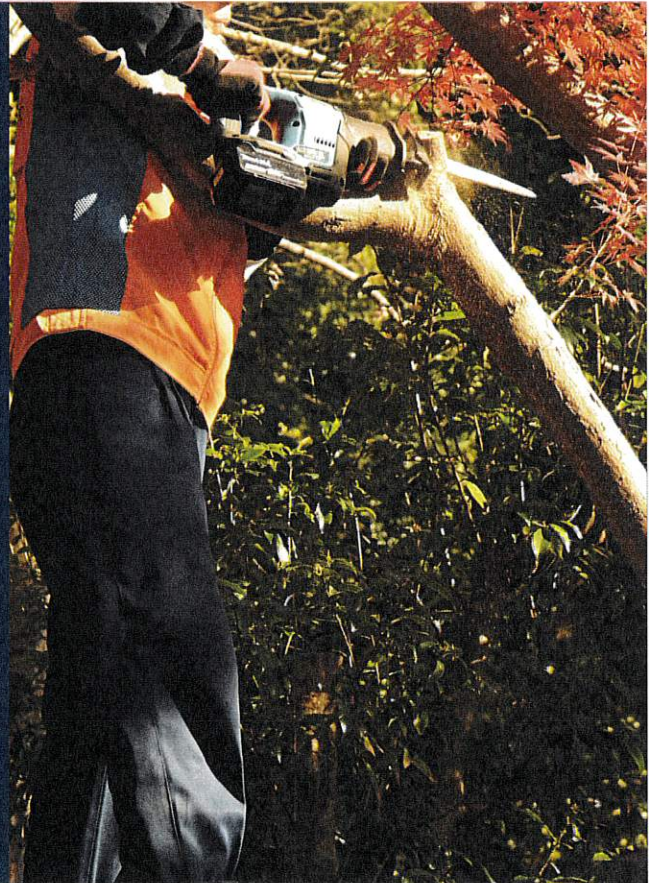
## Staff Efficiency

- Mahomet: 2 full-time parks maintenance staff
- NRPA Benchmark: 1 FTE per 20–25 acres
- Mahomet's Ratio: 1 FTE per ~75 acres
- Comparison: 3× the national workload per employee

Despite limited staffing, Mahomet maintains large parks, athletic fields, trails, and amenities to a high standard.

## SYSTEM STRENGTH SUMMARY

Mahomet delivers a parks system typically found in communities two to three times larger. With excellent acreage, abundant fields, extensive trails, multiple playgrounds, and modern amenities like the splash pad and tennis/pickleball complex, the community benefits from diverse, high-quality parks supported by a small but extremely efficient staff.



# Whats next...

Mahomet's parks and recreation system has reached a pivotal moment. Participation continues to rise across all areas; youth sports, adult recreation, community events, and facility rental, creating a level of demand that has exceeded the capacity of key amenities. To meet current needs, sustain quality, and prepare for and sustain population growth, the following capital priorities are essential to the system's long-term success: field lighting and turf upgrades, pickleball expansion, and the development of a multi-purpose recreation center.



# Pickleball Expansion

Pickleball continues to surge nationally with annual participation growth exceeding 30% and becoming the number one adult recreation activity in many communities. Mahomet is experiencing this trend with increasing demand and daily usage at Middletown Park.

Adding dedicated pickleball courts will:

- Reduce pressure on shared-use tennis courts
- Expand adult recreation offerings in a demographic that values consistent, low-impact activity
- Support league development, open play, and lessons
- Create opportunities for small tournaments and social recreation events
- Align Mahomet with NRPA benchmarks for court availability

For a town of Mahomet's size, NRPA recommends 4–6 dedicated pickleball courts. Building additional courts positions the community to meet long-term demand and supports year-round active lifestyles.



# Recreation Center Development

Despite serving more than 41% of local households and delivering nearly 4,000 annual registrations, Mahomet currently has no dedicated indoor recreation space. This places the community far below NRPA benchmarks for indoor recreation access.

A multi-purpose recreation center would:

- Provide much-needed gym space for youth basketball, volleyball, pickleball and more
- Enable expansion of adult leagues and fitness programming
- Offer multipurpose rooms for senior programs, community meetings, and vendor-based classes
- Be an economic engine
- Serve as a community gathering hub, strengthening Mahomet's identity
- Reduce reliance on school facilities and rental constraints
- Capture new revenue through rentals, memberships, and expanded programming
- Provide equitable access to indoor recreation for all residents

Communities of similar size almost universally operate at least one recreation center of 25,000–40,000 square feet. Mahomet's recreation demand already exceeds that level—demonstrating the need, readiness, and clear community benefit of such an investment.



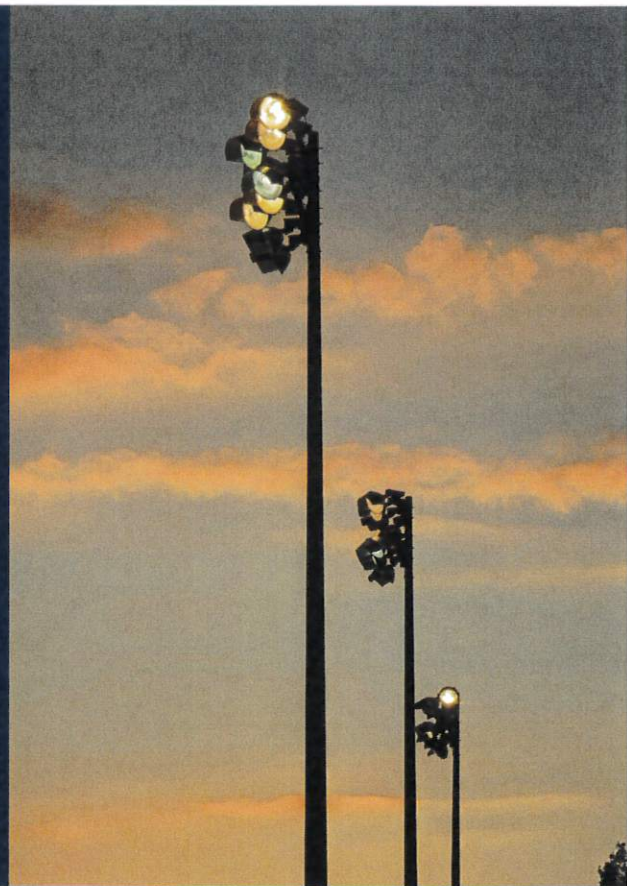
# Outdoor field upgrades

Mahomet's athletic fields are among the most heavily used in Central Illinois. With 1,910 youth athletes, field space is fully programmed during daylight hours, and the season duration is constrained by sunset times and weather.

Upgrading existing ball diamonds and multi-use fields with LED field lighting and strategic turf upgrades would:

- Increase field capacity by 30–50% without acquiring new land
- Allow activities to be scheduled later, improving family flexibility
- Reduce rain-out scheduling conflicts
- Support tournament hosting and economic impact events
- Improve equity by allowing more age groups and teams access
- Enhance safety and playability

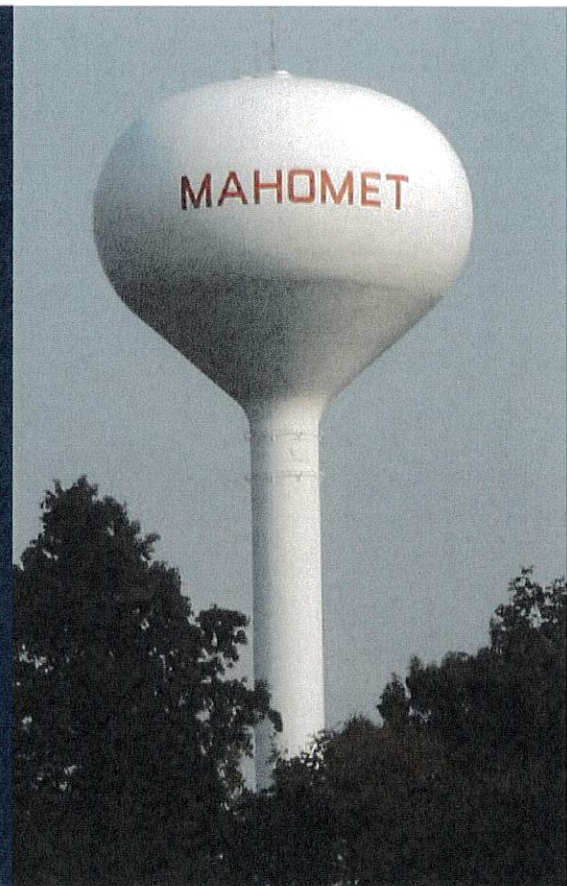
NRPA data shows that communities with this level of participation typically rely on lit fields to maintain program quality. Lighting upgrades are the most cost-efficient way to expand capacity within the current park footprint.



## System Summary

Mahomet's park system exceeds national benchmarks in nearly every major category. With over 160 acres across 14 park sites, extensive athletic fields, high-quality playgrounds, 6+ miles of trails, and a robust tennis complex, MPRD delivers amenities typically found in communities two to three times larger. Athletic field capacity alone far surpasses NRPA norms, enabling MPRD to support nearly 2,000 youth athletes across soccer, baseball, softball, flag football, and basketball. Mahomet's parks system provides a high level of service per capita, is geographically well-distributed, and aligns with national best practices for public access, safety, and recreational diversity.

Upgrading field lighting, expanding pickleball facilities, and developing a recreation center are critical capital investments that will shape Mahomet's quality of life for the next generation. These improvements will expand program capacity, enhance community wellness, increase revenue potential, reduce scheduling strain, and ensure Mahomet remains a vibrant, competitive community in the region. Each project aligns with national standards, community demand, and the department's demonstrated efficiency and performance.



Thank you for  
helping to Make  
Mahomet a Better  
Place to Live &  
Play in 2025!

