

## PARKS & RECREATION

**TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL SYSTEMS ARE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE EXISTING URBANIZING AREA AND SHOULD BE BUILT UPON AS NEW AREAS ARE DEVELOPED OR REDEVELOPED.**

### A. BACKGROUND

Open space and recreation are important elements of the Urbanizing Area Plan. Currently, the Urbanizing Area has a limited number of public parks and open spaces. The most notable of these is Karst Farm Park, which will be connected to the Town of Ellettsville via the Karst Farm Trail, currently under construction. However, there are a number of parks, opens spaces and greenways in the City of Bloomington and in Monroe County but outside of the Urbanizing Area, which provide opportunities to create comprehensive interconnected open space system.

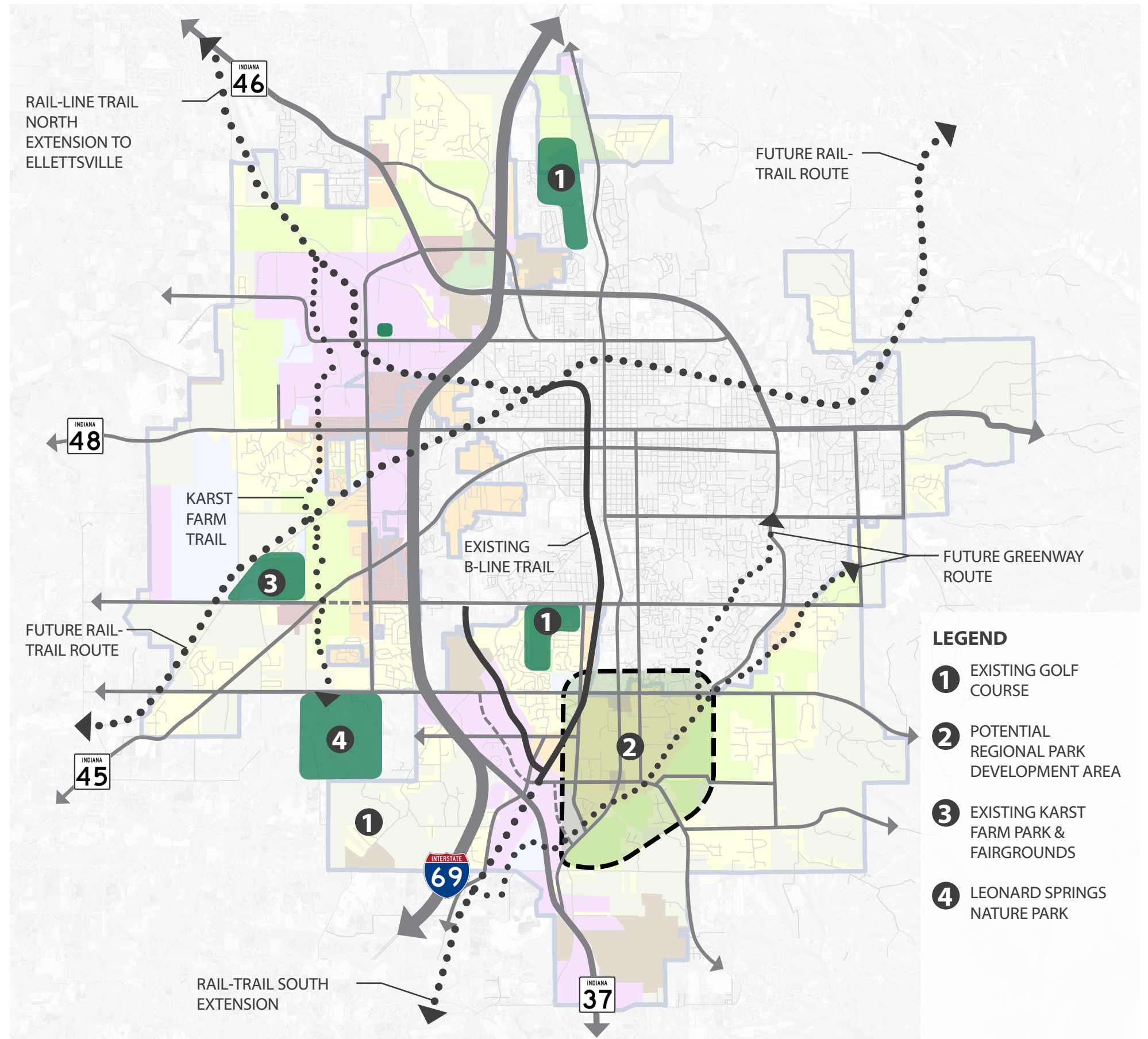
### B. PARKS

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

New development should incorporate public open spaces. In particular, a neighborhood scale park should be provided within 1/4 mile or 5 minute walk of all residential homes.

#### COMMUNITY PARKS

Also, with population growth in the study area, there will likely be a need for additional community scale parks. A community scale park, similar to Karst Farm Park, provides large athletic facilities, community meeting venues, unprogrammed open space, and natural areas. A goal for this scale of park is to provide a community scale park within 1 mile or a 20 minute walk of all residential homes.



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## C. TRAILS

The Karst Farm Trail should be extended south to Wayne Woods along South Duncan Road, and ultimate to Leonard Springs Nature Park south of Leonard Springs Road. Ideally, the trail should extend further south, passing under the new I-69 along to connect to a southward extension of the B-Line Trail. Currently, the B-Line, Bloomington's signature rail-to-trail ends to the south of Bloomington at Church Lane near the Clear Creek Community within the Urbanizing Area. Remaining portions of the original rail line should be integrated into the bikeway system. The Clear Creek Trail also extends from Bloomington along the west fork of the creek, connecting to the B-Line north of Church Lane. Extension of the B-Line past SR 37 is possible due to existing highway bridge structures near the Dillman Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. Extension of the system south of Leonard Springs Nature Park and under the new I-69 may be possible by running a trail along a tributary of Clear Creek.

A core objective for new trails is provide a trail within 1/2 mile or 10 minute walk of all residential homes. This will provide accessibility to the trail system and encourage use by residents.



## INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART INTO THE TRAIL SYSTEM



High Trestle Trail Bridge; Madrid, Iowa

The trail system in the Bloomington Region is one of the core amenities and drivers of tourism. The City of Bloomington has a public art program along the B-Line trail. This concept should be built upon and expanded into the Urbanizing Area. Any new trails should be constructed with some public art strategically placed along each corridor to enrich the user experience.

Examples of public art along trails include sculptural bridges, unique lighting, custom pavement, murals on adjacent buildings, and integrated sculpture. Also, this opportunity for public art would be a tremendous boon for the local arts community and would support both established and emerging artists.



Indianapolis Cultural Trail; Indianapolis, Indiana

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