



## Benchmark Comparison

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles data from municipalities and parks and recreation agencies across the country annually. NRPA’s Park Metrics provides insights into “average” statistics in terms of park land provided per 1,000 residents, trail miles, full-time equivalents (FTEs), budget allocation, and much, much more. This comparison provides a baseline understanding of Logansport Parks & Recreation (“Logansport”) in terms of how it relates to agencies of similar scope. All metric standards represent the *median* statistic based on the NRPA’s park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool. It should also be noted that this process is self-selected, meaning park and recreation agencies choose to participate *and* upload their own information.

For each benchmark category, the median metric is presented based on agency characteristic. For the purposes of this benchmark, metrics for all cities, service population below 20,000 people, maintain 10-19 parks, and maintain less than 250 acres are listed to provide additional lenses to view benchmark metrics.

An important distinction is made for this benchmark analysis. **The Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course is *not* included in the benchmark analysis. The golf course is not included because it is a special use facility that caters to a specific audience.** Although a public asset, the financials, acreage, and full-time equivalent (FTE) calculations associated with the golf course would skew the benchmark results. Additionally, the golf course is operated out of a non-reverting fund whereas this benchmark analysis focuses on the base department functions.

### Park Land and Trails

In terms of park land and trails, Logansport aligns with benchmark ranges. The number of residents served is very similar to the benchmark range. The number of acres available per 1,000 residents is also similar to the benchmark range. As noted above, the acreage represented in the benchmark does not include the Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course’s 167 acres. In terms of trail mileage available to residents, Logansport aligns with the benchmark range’s average.

| Metric                                 | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|--|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Residents per Park                     | 1,511      | 2,000      | 1,200                     | 2,200                  | 2,000                 |
| Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents | 11.3       | 11.2       | 12.9                      | 10.9                   | 5.1                   |
| Miles of Trail*                        | 6.7        | 15         | 3                         | 10                     | 3                     |

\*Trail miles are a combination of paved and unpaved.

### Outdoor Facilities

In terms of outdoor facilities tracked and measured by NRPA, Logansport offers youth baseball and softball fields, multi-purpose rectangular fields that can be used for both soccer and football, basketball courts, playgrounds a swimming pool, and a dog park. In terms of a level of service (LOS), Logansport tends to have a high level of service compared to agencies that offer the same amenity. Additionally, Logansport provides amenities not tracked by NRPA such as pickleball courts, shelters, and a splashpad.





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These are amenities that all help add to the Logansport level of service, even if a national benchmark comparison cannot be made.

When examining outdoor amenities offered by agencies of similar size and scope, seemingly “missing” outdoor amenities within the Logansport infrastructure portfolio include community gardens, multi-use courts, and dedicated soccer fields. These features may warrant inclusion in the Logansport park system, but further public engagement and analysis is required.

The percentages in the chart below represent the percentage of agencies that offer this type of outdoor facility/amenity based on the benchmark characteristic. The numbers in the chart represent the LOS metric (i.e., 1 facility/amenity for every X number of people).

| Metric                           | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball Diamond (Adult)         | -          | 58%        | 45%                       | 48%                    | 45%                   |
|                                  | -          | 20,000     | 8,000                     | 15,800                 | 11,400                |
| Baseball Diamond (Youth)         | 3          | 83%        | 78%                       | 82%                    | 77%                   |
|                                  | 6,000      | 7,000      | 3,100                     | 5,800                  | 4,600                 |
| Basketball Courts                | 10         | 90%        | 86%                       | 91%                    | 85%                   |
|                                  | 1,800      | 7,000      | 3,800                     | 8,200                  | 5,300                 |
| Community Gardens                | -          | 55%        | 40%                       | 41%                    | 37%                   |
|                                  | -          | 29,000     | 8,800                     | 20,000                 | 14,700                |
| Cricket Fields                   | -          | 15%        | 1%                        | 8%                     | 3%                    |
|                                  | -          | 103,000    | -                         | 66,000                 | 55,800                |
| Dog Parks                        | 1          | 75%        | 44%                       | 61%                    | 46%                   |
|                                  | 18,000     | 43,000     | 11,100                    | 28,900                 | 18,300                |
| Field Hockey Fields              | -          | 4%         | 2%                        | 5%                     | 4%                    |
|                                  | -          | 38,600     | -                         | 15,000                 | 20,400                |
| Football Fields                  | -          | 40%        | 26%                       | 34%                    | 24%                   |
|                                  | -          | 30,000     | 8,000                     | 18,000                 | 12,300                |
| Lacrosse Fields                  | -          | 11%        | 4%                        | 10%                    | 5%                    |
|                                  | -          | 36,300     | 7,100                     | 13,700                 | 14,800                |
| Multi-Purpose Fields (Natural)   | 4          | 70%        | 60%                       | 70%                    | 66%                   |
|                                  | 4,500      | 9,500      | 4,400                     | 9,000                  | 7,000                 |
| Multi-Purpose Fields (Synthetic) | -          | 21%        | 3%                        | 15%                    | 11%                   |
|                                  | -          | 46,000     | 13,000                    | 24,600                 | 30,500                |
| Multiuse Courts                  | -          | 49%        | 46%                       | 46%                    | 47%                   |
|                                  | -          | 16,500     | 5,400                     | 14,200                 | 10,300                |
| Outdoor Ice Rink                 | -          | 18%        | 21%                       | 15%                    | 14%                   |
|                                  | -          | 16,900     | 8,000                     | 12,200                 | 8,000                 |
| Outdoor Pickleball Courts        | 2          | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |
|                                  | 9,000      | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |
| Outdoor Swimming Pool            | 1          | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |
|                                  | 18,000     | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |
| Outdoor Tennis Courts            | -          | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |
|                                  | -          | -          | -                         | -                      | -                     |





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|                                 |               |        |       |        |        |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>Overlay Fields</b>           | -             | 9%     | 6%    | 8%     | 8%     |
|                                 | -             | 21,400 | 8,700 | 10,700 | 10,600 |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>              | <b>11</b>     | 95%    | 96%   | 99%    | 96%    |
|                                 | <b>1,600</b>  | 3,400  | 2,000 | 3,700  | 3,100  |
| <b>Shelters</b>                 | <b>14</b>     | -      | -     | -      | -      |
|                                 | <b>1,300</b>  | -      | -     | -      | -      |
| <b>Soccer Fields (Adult)</b>    | -             | 48%    | 35%   | 44%    | 39%    |
|                                 | -             | 14,000 | 8,000 | 10,600 | 11,400 |
| <b>Soccer Fields (Youth)</b>    | -             | 55%    | 52%   | 53%    | 45%    |
|                                 | -             | 7,400  | 3,500 | 7,100  | 4,000  |
| <b>Softball Diamond (Adult)</b> | <b>1*</b>     | 73%    | 51%   | 62%    | 55%    |
|                                 | <b>18,000</b> | 13,300 | 5,700 | 11,200 | 9,300  |
| <b>Softball Diamond (Youth)</b> | <b>2</b>      | 67%    | 62%   | 60%    | 59%    |
|                                 | <b>9,000</b>  | 11,700 | 5,300 | 8,000  | 7,600  |
| <b>Sprayground/Splashpad</b>    | <b>1</b>      | -      | -     | -      | -      |
|                                 | <b>18,000</b> | -      | -     | -      | -      |

\*Operated by Cass County Men's Softball

### Indoor Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities provide guaranteed access and program space regardless of weather conditions. Currently, Logansport does not have any dedicated indoor recreation spaces like the ones tracked by NRPA benchmarks. Logansport does, however, have the McHale Complex at Riverside Park, Penman Building, and areas at the golf course that can be reserved for private use.

In terms of typical indoor facilities offered by organizations in similar size and scope as Logansport, community centers and recreation centers are most common, albeit a low number is required for Logansport based on LOS benchmarks.

| Metric                                     | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|--|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Aquatics Centers</b>                    | -          | 30%        | 15%                       | 30%                    | 24%                   |
|  | -          | 57,300     | 11,400                    | 39,700                 | 23,600                |
| <b>Arenas</b>                              | -          | 6%         | 4%                        | 4%                     | 4%                    |
|  | -          | 68,200     | 6,100                     | 16,700                 | 12,900                |
| <b>Community Centers</b>                   | -          | 64%        | 51%                       | 55%                    | 57%                   |
|  | -          | 28,200     | 8,500                     | 22,400                 | 14,000                |
| <b>Indoor Ice Rinks</b>                    | -          | 13%        | 6%                        | 6%                     | 8%                    |
|  | -          | 56,100     | 8,000                     | 12,000                 | 11,000                |
| <b>Nature Centers</b>                      | -          | 29%        | 10%                       | 18%                    | 9%                    |
|  | -          | 102,000    | 11,800                    | 33,600                 | 22,200                |
| <b>Performance Amphitheaters</b>           | -          | 43%        | 16%                       | 30%                    | 21%                   |
|  | -          | 64,800     | 9,300                     | 33,600                 | 26,000                |
| <b>Recreation Centers (including gyms)</b> | -          | 71%        | 49%                       | 54%                    | 58%                   |
|  | -          | 34,000     | 9,100                     | 22,900                 | 15,300                |
| <b>Senior Centers</b>                      | -          | 50%        | 25%                       | 37%                    | 30%                   |





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|                     |   |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                     | - | 68,200 | 13,000 | 31,800 | 24,000 |
| <b>Stadiums</b>     | - | 18%    | 11%    | 12%    | 13%    |
|                     | - | 78,300 | 9,100  | 31,000 | 24,500 |
| <b>Teen Centers</b> | - | 18%    | 8%     | 13%    | 14%    |
|                     | - | 74,600 | 14,400 | 23,300 | 25,300 |

### General Programming

Logansport has a small programmatic portfolio and has just recently begun enhancing offerings. In terms of potential programming to add, health and wellness education, performing arts, racquet sports, and team sports are offered by a large percentage of agencies of similar size and scope.

The percentages in the chart below represent the percentage of agencies that offer this type of recreation programming based on the benchmark characteristic.

| Metric                               | Logansport                          | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Aquatics</b>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 78%        | 55%                       | 65%                    | 61%                   |
| <b>Cultural Crafts</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 64%        | 40%                       | 57%                    | 53%                   |
| <b>eSports/eGaming</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 14%        | 7%                        | 8%                     | 7%                    |
| <b>Fitness Enhancement Classes</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 87%        | 67%                       | 80%                    | 79%                   |
| <b>Golf</b>                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 51%        | 22%                       | 39%                    | 28%                   |
| <b>Health and Wellness Education</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 83%        | 67%                       | 79%                    | 76%                   |
| <b>Individual Sports</b>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 79%        | 64%                       | 75%                    | 72%                   |
| <b>Martial Arts</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 63%        | 39%                       | 52%                    | 57%                   |
| <b>Natural and Cultural History</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 61%        | 37%                       | 56%                    | 43%                   |
| <b>Performing Arts</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 68%        | 40%                       | 62%                    | 51%                   |
| <b>Racquet Sports</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 76%        | 60%                       | 66%                    | 65%                   |
| <b>Running/Cycling Races</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 49%        | 41%                       | 43%                    | 39%                   |
| <b>Safety Training</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 72%        | 62%                       | 67%                    | 69%                   |
| <b>Social Recreation Events</b>      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 90%        | 83%                       | 86%                    | 88%                   |
| <b>Team Sports</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 92%        | 85%                       | 88%                    | 89%                   |
| <b>Themed Special Events</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 92%        | 83%                       | 89%                    | 87%                   |
| <b>Trips and Tours</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 63%        | 43%                       | 55%                    | 54%                   |
| <b>Visual Arts</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 65%        | 43%                       | 56%                    | 52%                   |

### Targeted Programs

When examining targeted recreation programs, senior programs, summer camps, and after school programs are most offered by similar-sized agencies; however, the prevalence of offering targeted programs in general is low among agencies of similar size and scope across the country. If Logansport were to add a focus area, summer camps would appear popular across the country.





| Metric                                | Logansport               | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| After School Programs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 58%        | 47%                       | 43%                    | 50%                   |
| Before School Programs                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14%        | 16%                       | 15%                    | 17%                   |
| Full Daycare                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6%         | 4%                        | 4%                     | 6%                    |
| Preschool                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 30%        | 25%                       | 32%                    | 32%                   |
| Programs for People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65%        | 36%                       | 58%                    | 45%                   |
| Specific Senior Programs              | <input type="checkbox"/> | 83%        | 65%                       | 79%                    | 72%                   |
| Specific Teen Programs                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 69%        | 46%                       | 64%                    | 56%                   |
| STEM Programs                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | 57%        | 40%                       | 52%                    | 47%                   |
| Summer Camp                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 82%        | 61%                       | 81%                    | 74%                   |

### Staffing

The national median for the number of full-time equivalents (FTE) for all cities is 54. This means that the median city agency has approximately 112,000 staff hours available across full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. However, when examining benchmark communities, Logansport’s 13 FTE are more in alignment with agencies that serve a similar population size and maintain a similar number of park acres, but this figure is much lower based on the number of park sites within the system. Based on community population, Logansport’s FTE is lower than benchmark metrics.

| Metric                       | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) | 13         | 54         | 12                        | 31                     | 19                    |
| FTEs per 10,000 Residents    | 7          | 10.1       | 11.3                      | 8.9                    | 10.6                  |

### Budget Metrics

Logansport’s 2023 budget is approximately \$1,100,000, a figure like agencies that serve a similar population, but lower than systems that manage a similar sized system. Comparatively speaking, Logansport has a low operating expenditure per capita, per acre, and per FTE figure. Logansport generates a low revenue per capita amount compared to benchmarks which translates into a lower cost recovery percentage. Fees generated through programs and rentals go into the Parks Non-Reverting Operating Funds, which helps provide ongoing programs and pays for general facility maintenance.





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| Metric  | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|---|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Annual Operating Expenditures                                     | \$1.1M     | \$5.9M     | \$1.2M                    | \$3.3M                 | \$2M                  |
| Operating Expenditures per Capita                                 | \$57       | \$104      | \$117                     | \$89                   | \$102                 |
| Operating Expenditures per Acre                                   | \$5,000    | \$8,500    | \$8,200                   | \$6,800                | \$15,800              |
| Operating Expenditures per FTE                                    | \$80,000   | \$103,000  | \$102,000                 | \$106,400              | \$93,000              |
| Revenues per Capita   | \$2.50     | \$22       | \$35                      | \$24                   | \$27                  |
| Revenue as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery) | 4%         | 19%        | 25%                       | 23%                    | 25%                   |

### Distribution of Operating Expenditures

When examining the distribution of operating expenditures, Logansport aligns well with benchmark metrics with the exception of capital expenses. Most agencies have a separate capital improvement plan (CIP) that is funded outside of the normal operating budget. The CIP is also usually associated with a different funding source(s). Currently, Logansport carries a capital outlay budget line within its operating budget which is the reason why the Capital Expense (Not in CIP) metric below is much higher than benchmark metrics.

| Metric                       | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Personal Services            | 52%        | 56%        | 50%                       | 55%                    | 52%                   |
| Operating Expenses           | 25%        | 37%        | 42%                       | 38%                    | 40%                   |
| Capital Expense (Not In CIP) | 23%        | 5%         | 6%                        | 5%                     | 6%                    |
| Other                        | -          | 2%         | 2%                        | 2%                     | 2%                    |

### Sources of Operating Expenditures

In terms of sources for operating expenditures, Logansport is realistically funded almost entirely from the general fund. A non-reverting fund is used to leverage earned/generated revenue through program fees and charges, but the overall budget percentage attributed to this earned income is low.





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| Metric                   | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund Tax Support | 96%        | 67%        | 62%                       | 62%                    | 65%                   |
| Earned/Generated Income  | 4%         | 20%        | 24%                       | 22%                    | 22%                   |
| Dedicated Levies         | -          | 6%         | 7%                        | 8%                     | 7%                    |
| Other Dedicated Taxes    | -          | 3%         | 1%                        | 2%                     | 2%                    |
| Grants                   | -          | 2%         | 3%                        | 2%                     | 2%                    |
| Sponsorships             | -          | 1%         | 1%                        | 1%                     | 1%                    |
| Other                    | -          | 1%         | 2%                        | 3%                     | 1%                    |

### Capital Budget

Capital spending varies greatly from park agency to park agency. The national median statistic for capital improvement spending is approximately \$9.9 million over a five-year period for all cities, but that figure decreases dramatically based on agencies of similar size and scope to Logansport. Based on capital expense actuals from 2018-2002, Logansport spent approximately \$700,000 on park capital improvement projects, an amount well below the median for agencies of similar size and scope.

| Metric                            | Logansport | All Cities | <20,000 Population Served | 10-19 Parks Maintained | <250 Acres Maintained |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Five-Year Capital Budget Spending | \$700K     | \$9.9M     | \$1M                      | \$5M                   | \$2M                  |

### Discussion and Implications

#### Operating Support

Logansport is operating a park system that is relatively underfunded compared to industry benchmarks. More operational investment is warranted based on expenditures per acre, per capita, and per FTE. Additionally, there is a low cost recovery percentage based on existing program fees and charges. More programmatic opportunities to generate earned income is necessary. Diversifying funding sources will also be important for Logansport as most of the department’s funding is from the general fund. A popular trend in the parks and recreation industry includes identifying other dedicated funding sources beyond the general fund such as dedicated levies, tourism dollars, food and beverage taxes, and the like.

#### Capital Support

As shown by the LOS metrics, Logansport offers many outdoor amenities, trail miles, and park acres that align well with industry benchmarks; however, five-year capital spending trends appear to be underfunded based on agencies similar in size and scope. With a relatively large infrastructure portfolio, it will be imperative for Logansport to identify additional capital monies for system reinvestment as infrastructure ages. Additionally, considerations for park land consolidation/repurposing should be discussed to reduce both the operational and capital support burden on the system.





### **Programming Opportunities**

Comparatively speaking, Logansport does not offer a program portfolio commensurate with industry benchmarks. As mentioned earlier, recreation programming is a relatively new function within the department and it will be important to continue growing this focus by identifying core program areas most salient to the Logansport population. Additionally, developing indoor recreation space will become more important as the system grows. Dedicated indoor space will allow for program expansions and the implementation of new programmatic opportunities.

