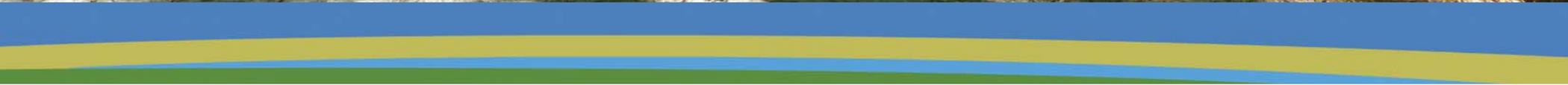




## 4. Recommendations



## Overview

Wake County is a prime model for livability in North Carolina. Job opportunities, medical centers, education facilities, and inspiring outdoor experiences are among just a small sample of reasons why people choose to live in and visit the area. As growth continues, quality of life for all citizens—regardless of age, race, gender, or ability—is integral to maintaining healthy, well-balanced communities in rural, suburban, and urban environments. County Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are key contributors to the County’s mission to improve economic, social well-being, and physical quality of the community. This plan sets a course for how each facility can be enhanced to respond to the evolving needs of the community and provide quality experiences for generations to come.

The recommendations of this plan have been vetted through several perspectives via a robust process of engagement and cross-checking. Each touchpoint of discovering need and determining appropriate action was considered through the lenses of staff, management, citizens, visitors, users, and non-users of all ages and abilities. The purpose of these recommendations is to guide management and staff toward a new vision for each park that complements the context, advances trends in recreation, and focuses on conservation, health and wellness, and social equity.

The following pages illustrate improvements at the master planning level, with representative photos, narrative, action steps, funding targets, and conceptual renderings. The division mission and goal is to ensure parks, programs, and resources are accessible all users. Recommendations for the department establish a baseline for each park to provide consistency of information across all communication platforms and a comprehensive wayfinding package to and around each park. Clarity will be critical to encourage new use and provide confidence while navigating each of the parks. Access emerged as the pinnacle to success for the department and each park. This can be defined as access via public transit, access in a sense of approachability, access for users with special needs, and access in the realm of connectivity throughout each programmed space. Together, the overall recommendations and each individual park improvement will result in increased awareness, user experience, environmental health, and social unity for users now and into the next decade.

## Systemwide Recommendations

Throughout the planning process, several recommendations emerged that either were suitable for all parks or were not specific to any one place but would benefit the entire system. These recommendations are outlined below and segmented into the categories of Access + Equity, Facilities, Programs, and Management. Access + Equity emerged as a key topic throughout all input stages, with a strong emphasis on physical, emotional, and social definitions of access from ADA standards to language barriers and public transportation. These recommendations should dovetail with those of the *Wake County Greenway System Plan*, as well as other countywide transportation and comprehensive planning efforts.

### Access + Equity

#### Vehicular

- Improve title signage for visibility and to distinguish from other County facilities. Consider creating a park logo or color palette that distinguishes the parks from other County facilities.
- Improve welcome sequence. What signage do people see? Where are they directed? How can they access information that will inform a safe and enjoyable visit? Who are they greeted by?

#### Bicycle/Pedestrian

- Improve access to transit from each park and provide better awareness of each park at nearby transit stops.
- Connect to Countywide greenway system.
- Provide sidewalks, crosswalks, countdown signals and/or HAWK signals at major and (if applicable) minor park entrances.
- Improve welcome sequence. What signage do people see? Where are they directed? How can they access information that will inform a safe and enjoyable visit? Who are they greeted by?
- Create a trail rating system to help users understand skill level needed to use a trail. This includes indicating which trails are ADA accessible.
- Add bicycle parking that meets the requirements of the League of American Bicyclists’ standards for placement, spacing, and style (replace non-compliant parking).

#### Wayfinding

- Develop a master wayfinding sign family for the park system. Sign types shall include: title signage (vehicle), title signage (greenway), kiosks (pull up car and pedestrian), directionals (vehicle and bike/ped), loop maps, building/special feature signage, pavement markings, mile markers, and trail blazes. Create an acceptable color palette and suite of symbols to improve access. Symbols should include a scale for trail difficulty, as well as symbols for park use areas and restrictions.
- Vehicular signage should indicate where to park, where a welcome center or “starting point” can be found and major nodes or attractors in the park.
- Pedestrian and bicycle signs should be placed to capture those arriving via transit and greenway/sidewalk, as well as provide information for those approaching from parking areas.
- Pedestrian and bicycle signage should, where applicable, indicate distance and time for travel as well as level of difficulty.
- All trailheads should have kiosks with accurate maps of the trail system, level of difficulty, time investment, and safety information including shade, carrying water, and potential hazards.
- All loop trails should include mile markers for fitness tracking and safety.



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### Transit Access, Connections, and Messaging

- Create awareness for transit to park and park to transit options within maps, brochures, and on the County website.

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### ADA

- Create primary path that links park features.
- Coordinate to make sure any programs offered are available for those with physical and mental limitations.

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### Language

- Provide symbology that is universal in lieu of single language narrative (maps, signs, wayfinding, brochures).

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### User Ability

- Indicate which facilities are available to persons of various physical and mental skill levels and what the time invested will be per activity.

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### Outreach and Awareness

- Coordinate website, kiosk, and brochures with same information. Reconcile what is actually offered in each park with outreach materials.
- Change “amphitheater” to outdoor classroom on outreach materials, maps, and signage.
- Create a chart of all activities offered at all facilities and categorize by those offered at each park. Include mileage of trails (multiuse and mountain bike) for user comparison.
- Facebook and social media are easy and inexpensive avenues for reaching families across the County. Increase the County’s presence by having a dedicated Wake County Parks and Recreation Page and consider a page for each park (some parks have a dedicated page). In addition to posting events and activities on the County pages, assign a staff member to monitor other groups, events, and municipal sites for cross posting, promotion, and support.
- Trail closures should be posted on Facebook, the County website and other social media to provide real-time trip planning. Consider a real-time trail update on the County website (much like how a ski resort indicates when trails are open).

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### Facilities

#### Structures

- Explore passive solar orientation for all new buildings.
- Research opportunities to add solar and wind power to all parks.
- Use LEED guidelines when designing new buildings.

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#### Site Furnishings

- Consider user ability in selecting site furnishings (drinking fountains, signage, seating areas) - ADA accessible, seat level, backs, etc.
- Include recycling receptacles alongside trash receptacles in each park.

---

#### Specialty Facilities

- Consider implementing sustainable landscape programs such as SITES guidelines when making site improvements.
- Practice low-impact development and consider opportunities to add rain gardens, green roofs, and stormwater collection.

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### Programs

#### Mission and Education

##### Health Cards

- To coincide with the development of Park Rx Program, Wake County Parks should identify activities that can be accomplished by individuals in 10, 20, 30, 40, and 60 minute increments. These cards should be available in each park display, with information about time and health. The cards should be crafted of sturdy material to enable return and reuse. A marketing campaign should accompany this program and all cards should be visible for trip planning on the County website.
- In addition to the Health Cards, Wake County should enact a “Health and Energy” program. This program would have several components. Private partnerships should be explored with Duke Energy to fund personal health tracking devices in parks. These devices could be borrowed (or purchased) at each park to track activity while in the park. These would overcome barriers to health tracking devices for economically challenged individuals. Every person

would have the ability to enter a personal number or pin to activate the device and continue to build their personal profile of activity. The County would provide personal login credentials through a health portal on the website where each individual could monitor their steps, calories burned, miles walk/biked/hiked, etc. The park system can become a part of a Countywide media campaign “eye on health” where the county, in real time, tracks human power, calories burned, etc. as a way to monitor the need to increase physical activity and combat the obesity epidemic, cardiovascular health issues, and inactivity.

- Provide trip planning messages on brochures and include a trip planner on the website to help people understand how they can get to each park via car, walking, biking, or transit.

---

### Management

#### Staff Needs

- Create a policy for staff to welcome and be accessible to users, especially in concert with improved facilities.
- Have a resource available in the County to coordinate with staff when developing programs and facilities to represent the needs of special populations (ability, culture, language, etc.).

---

#### Partnerships

- Seek a “Healthy Routes to Parks” partner. Execute a media campaign to link personal and public health to parks via transit and proximity to neighborhoods. Work with the County Health Department to share resources for existing and future initiatives.
- The County should work with municipal and state parks and recreation departments to connect with doctors and encourage them to begin a Park Rx Program. In this program, doctors will prescribe patients with time spent in parks.
- Consider local schools as partners. Educate schools about program offerings and facilities available for school classes, programs, and field trips.
- Develop of list of partners, vendors, and user groups (public, private, non-profit) for each of the parks. Cross promote availability of programs and facilities across the park system for each of these groups.

## Park-Specific Recommendations

The following pages list and illustrate project recommendations for each individual park. Recommendations were reviewed based on six criteria as developed by staff, and ordered on how well they aligned with the criteria. As funding becomes available and other projects are initiated by the department, County, and adjacent municipalities, Wake County may choose to change the order of implementing the items recommended in this plan.

### Criteria

**Enhances equity / access.** The master plan project helps us reach an underserved population and/or makes our park facilities easier for people to use or physically access.

**Connects to mission and goals of the individual park and the Division as a whole.** The master plan project aligns with the primary purpose and activities of the park without causing undue harm to natural or cultural resources.

**Attracts new visitors.** The master plan project expands the Division's reach in the community and appeals to additional users.

**Enhances visitor experience.** The master plan project improves the experience of existing users and provides new attractions to increase duration and frequency of visits.

**Provides good cost / benefit ratio.** The master plan project fills an important need, or perhaps multiple needs/functions/activities, at a reasonable cost.

**Leverages existing amenities.** The master plan project expands or enhances an existing amenity or facility.





## American Tobacco Trail

No current mission statement for this park.

### Addresses:

Wimberly Parking Area:  
1017 Wimberly Rd, Apex, NC 27502

1309 New Hill-Olive Chapel Rd  
Apex, NC 27502

1305 White Oak Church Rd  
Apex, NC 27523

### Unique Feature:

Regional Connectivity

### Size:

6.5 Miles

### Hours:

8 am to 1 hour before sunset

## MAIN VISION

The American Tobacco Trail is not just a local trail but a component of an evolving regional system. The trail is a fitness venue for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. It connects urban and rural communities along with corporate and local businesses. Mindful future connections will enhance the natural essence of the trail while expanding educational opportunities about conservation, locomotion, history, and health.

## TRAILHEAD RECOMMENDATIONS

### ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Provide accessible parking spaces and route to the primary trail from existing trailheads.

### LIGHTING

Provide additional lighting (consider Solar/LED fixtures) at trailheads for improved visibility at dawn and dusk as facilities are opening and closing.

### PARKING SPACES

Expand parking areas to accommodate additional car and horse trailer parking. Provide bicycle parking and horse hitches near restrooms and trail entrances.



### BICYCLE REPAIR

Provide bicycle repair stations at each trailhead.

### STRETCHING STATIONS

Add stretching stations and outdoor fitness equipment at each trailhead.

### ART AND INTERPRETATION

Add artifacts and art for historic and environmental interpretation along the trail.

### ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER

Allow mobile food vendors at trailheads and food truck or farmer stands for special events. Provide picnic tables and shelters to facilitate event programming and family picnicking. Provide signage to comfort station and water access and add water bottle, ADA, and pet-friendly water-filling stations.



### HORSE WASTE

Explore opportunities to add composting stations at trailheads.

### BICYCLE AND HORSE RENTAL

Research potential mobile vendors to provide bicycles and horses for rent.



### SMALL SHELTERS WITH STORAGE AND CABOOSE KIOSK

Add shelters with storage areas at each trailhead. Select a key location to add a caboose that will serve as a shelter and information kiosk.

### TRAILWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### TRAIL INTERSECTIONS AND SPURS

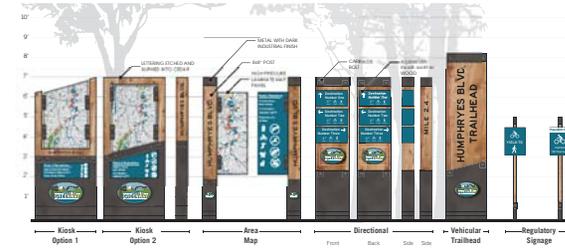
Provide standards and guidelines to municipalities and neighborhoods to indicate how to properly tie into the trail with signage, trail width, and wayfinding.

#### BOLLARDS AND FENCES

Ensure fence and bollard spacing allows for wheelchair, stroller, and bike carriage accessibility.

### WAYFINDING

Develop a cohesive wayfinding package using the brand of the ATT. Provide kiosks at each trailhead and at key intersections that illustrate the length of the trail, key destinations, trailheads, restrooms, access to water, and the distances and timing via walking and bicycling to arrive at select places along the trail. Coordinate with municipalities for opportunities to co-brand. Use symbols in lieu of language when possible.



### PULL-OFFS AND RESTING PLACES

Explore opportunities to create pull-offs for resting and bicycle repair. Install benches every half to quarter mile.

### NEW FEATURES

- GAP CLOSURE AND NOVELTY ATTRACTION**  
Work with New Hope Valley rail line to provide a stop at the east end of their passenger line that could close a critical gap in the ATT and become a major bike to train destination.



- ART ALONG THE TRAIL**  
Identify key locations along the trail (like the Hwy 64 underpass) to include murals, public art, and relics that tell the story of the American Tobacco Trail, history of the area, importance of watersheds, connectivity of the East Coast Greenway, and future of transportation.



- FUTURE CONNECTIONS**  
As connections to points east are completed, indicate on wayfinding signage the time and distance to the Neuse River Greenway, Downtown Cary, Downtown Apex, and Downtown Raleigh.
- FUTURE CONNECTIONS**  
Extend greenway from passenger rail line to Harris Lake County Park.

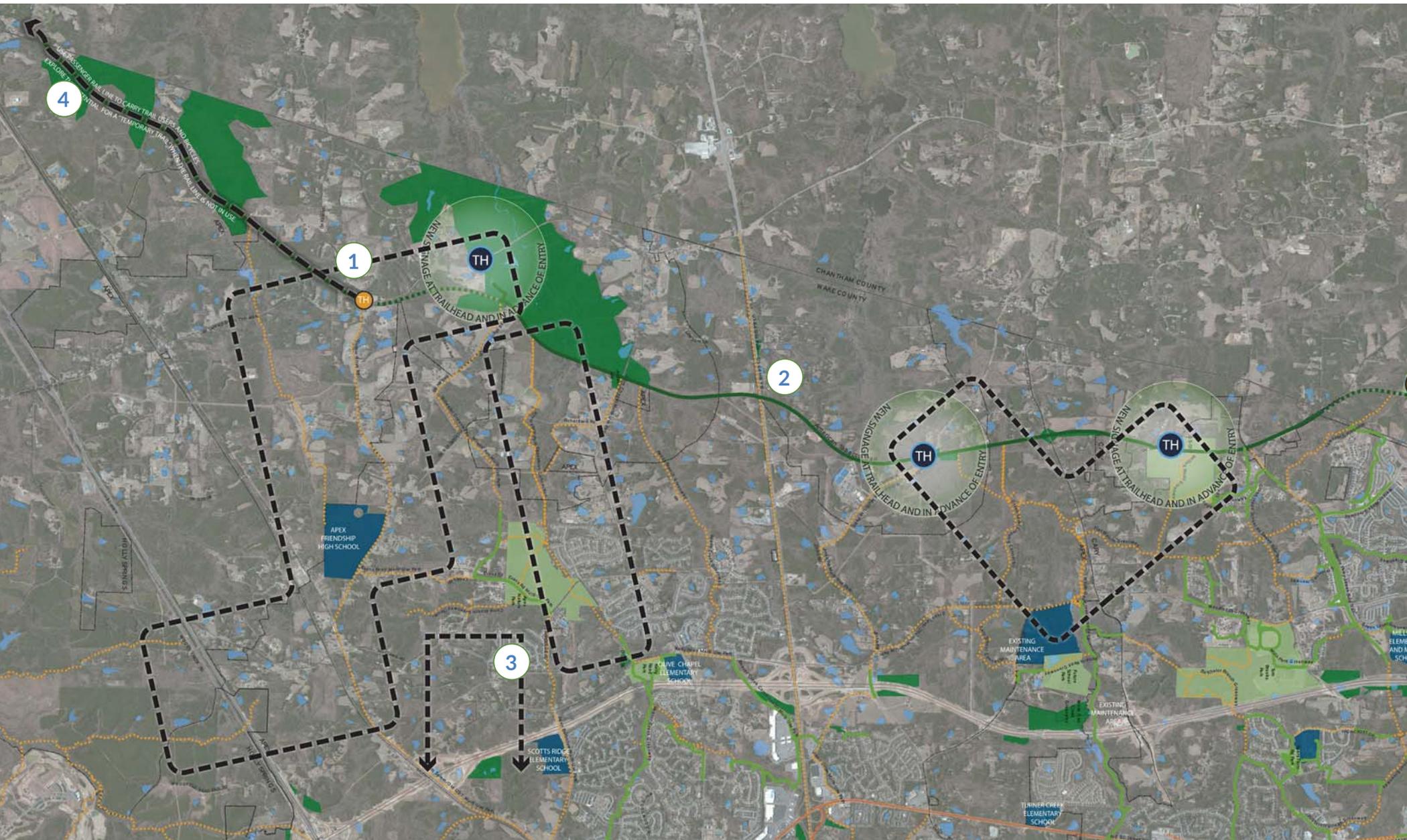


# American Tobacco Trail

## Project Recommendations

American Tobacco Trail		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Water Utility Connections / Fountains	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Comfort Station / Restroom	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Parking	Expand	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
ATT Extension to Hope Valley Railroad	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Small connector trail	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Lighting	New	✓✓		✓	✓✓	✓	
Small Shelters at Trailheads	New	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Trail overlooks	New	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Caboose Kiosk at Trailhead	New	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Trail pull offs	New	✓	✓		✓✓	✓✓	
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓







## Blue Jay Point County Park

The mission and focus of Blue Jay Point is to provide opportunities for Wake County's population to experience environmental education in a natural setting.

### Address:

3200 Pleasant Union Church Road, Raleigh NC, 27614

### Unique Features:

Adventure Recreation/Retreat Center

Size: 236 Acres

### Hours: 8 am-sunset

Exhibit Center 8 am-5 pm

## MAIN VISION

Blue Jay Point offers its visitors the best of outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities. Groups and individuals alike can spend an entire day learning, playing and exploring amongst the park's Center for Environmental Education, trails, shoreline, educational garden and open play fields. Whether you're looking for a quiet, meditative space, a beautiful shoreline to explore, or even a treetop challenge for the more adventurous types, Blue Jay has something to offer every outdoor enthusiast.

## NEW FEATURES

### CAMPING

Provision of an area for on-site camping was supported by the public during the planning process. Further exploration is recommended to determine where to site the camping, which type of camping will be permitted, and how this addition will affect rules, regulations, and staffing.

- 1 **ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH**  
Provide kayak launch for users of all abilities.
- 2 **OVERLOOK**  
Provide opportunities along the trail to view the natural habitat.
- 3 **CHALLENGE HIKING**  
Use the existing steep topography to create hiking trails for more advanced users. Provide additional signage where these trails cross the MST.



- 4 **ADA LOOP TRAIL**  
Provide opportunities to interact with the habitat to visitors of all abilities.
- 5 **SMALL SHELTER**  
New shelters should be integrated into the natural surroundings and may take on a more current style.



- 6 PAVILION**  
Provide a shelter with restrooms, fireplace, and storage that can serve as a gathering space for large groups (200+) and/or covered gathering space for day camps and classes.



- 7 KAYAK BEACH AND OVERLOOK**  
Provide an accessible route from the park center near the active play area to an overlook and kayak access location. In this same location, create an entrance to the park from the water and blueway trail.



- 8 BLUEWAY**  
Add markers and stopping points along a blueway trail that skirts the shoreline of the park.

- 9 PARKING**  
This lot will accommodate shelter users and visitors using the kayak launch.

### ENHANCED FEATURES

- 10 EDUCATION CENTER**  
Expand to provide additional education and display space.

- 11 NATURE PLAY**  
Expand and enhance the current nature play area.



- 12 EXISTING RETREAT CENTER**  
Expand opportunity for a variety of organizations to make use of the center.



# Blue Jay Point County Park

## Project Recommendations

Blue Jay Point County Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Pavilion	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Trail Access to Lakefront	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Nature Playground	Expand	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Kayak Beach	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	
Waterfront Overlooks	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	
Six Forks Kayak Access	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Park Loop Trail	New	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Challenge Hiking Trails	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Small Shelters	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	
Park Center Expansion	Expand	✓	✓	✓	✓✓		✓
Garden	Expand	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓





# Blue Jay Point County Park recommendations





## Crowder District Park

*No current mission statement for this park.*

**Address:**  
4709 Ten Ten Road Apex NC, 27539

**Unique Features:**  
Gardens/Environmental Programs

**Size:** 33 Acres

**Hours:**  
8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

## MAIN VISION

Crowder District Park provides a sense of community in a suburban area. The park is a destination for daily health and physical activities and serves as a place for family/group gatherings and education programming. Utilizing the natural and built elements, themed gardens and plantings, the park hopes to improve the connection between visitors and the environment. Connectivity to existing/future greenways and parks and the acquisition of surrounding property will allow Crowder District Park to expand its programs, facilities, services, and overall community presence.

## NEW FEATURES

- 1 BOG GARDEN**  
Create a garden with opportunities for play and water quality education.



- 2 NATURE PLAY**  
A new nature play area will support daily use and can be designed to support park programming.



- 3 HEALING GARDEN**  
Provide a quiet respite for self-reflection, yoga, stretching, and connecting with self and nature.



- 4 BACK PORCH**  
Add classroom space in the form of a large screened-in back porch similar to the classroom space at Prairie Ridge.



- 5 BOARDWALK**  
Add boardwalk to link new “back porch” with existing boardwalk. Include kayak and water education access for staff during programs and creative platforms for water interaction.



- 6 HEALTH & WELLNESS GARDEN**  
Replace existing playground equipment and add multi-generational exercise equipment at this location and along the primary greenway trail.



- 7 DOG AMENITIES**  
Add dog water fountains and additional waste stations along the trail to serve the large population of dogs in the park.



### ENHANCED FEATURES

- 8 CONNECTIVITY AND VISIBILITY**  
Support installation of a sidewalk along Ten-Ten Road for pedestrian access and the exploration of a Complete Streets study to provide equity in transportation. Clear vegetation to improve visibility of existing entrance sign. Add a park sign at each property corner to indicate park entrance ahead. Work with NCDOT on adding sidewalks and fully controlled pedestrian crosswalks at Ten-Ten Road and Holly Springs Road to connect nearby neighborhoods and improve pedestrian access to the park.

- 9 PARK ENTRANCE**  
Explore realigning the entrance with Cortland Dr. during Ten-Ten Road Improvement Project.

- 10 PARK CENTER**  
Improve maintenance area, expand welcome center, add parking, and create a welcome plaza, focused on pedestrian arrivals and large enough for gatherings or check-in tents for special events.

- 11 BIRD GARDEN**  
Provide opportunities for learning more about the connection between plants and birds and add a “nest” outdoor classroom.



## Crowder District Park

- 12** **PRAIRIE GARDEN**  
Expand the garden by adding vegetation, interpretive signs, and seating areas.
- 13** **GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**  
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.
- 14** **RAIN GARDEN**  
Enhance the garden by adding interpretive signage and improving the conveyance and storage functions.
- 15** **BUTTERFLY GARDEN**  
Expand the garden and add interpretive signage.



### Project Recommendations

Crowder District Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Park Center	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Back Porch Classroom	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Nature Playground	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Back Porch Overlook / Teaching Platform	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Fitness Equipment	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Natural Surface Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Boardwalk to Back Porch	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	
Playground	Expand	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Gardens	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Sidewalk along Ten-Ten Road	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Staff Kayak/Canoe Access	Enhance	✓	✓			✓	✓
Parking	Expand	✓			✓		✓
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓



# Crowder District Park recommendations

Two foot contours





## Harris Lake County Park

No current mission statement for this park.

<b>Address:</b> 2112 County Park Drive, New Hill NC, 27562		
<b>Unique Features:</b> Hiking	<b>Size:</b> 680 Acres	<b>Hours:</b> 8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

### MAIN VISION

Harris Lake is the “Destination for the Day,” a place to reconnect with nature through recreational and educational opportunities. There is something here for each family member to enjoy—be it fitness and health-related activities or just back to the simple things in life like fishing and family picnicking. It is nature that connects play, education, and overall human development together.

### NEW FEATURES

#### CAMPING

Provision of an area for on-site camping was supported by the public during the planning process. Further exploration is recommended to determine where to site the camping, which type of camping will be permitted, and how this addition will affect rules, regulations, and staffing.

#### NAME EACH POND

Mark each pond with a naming sign and add names of the ponds to the trail maps to aid in navigation.

#### 1 LOOP ROAD AND GREENWAY

Use the service road to expand vehicular circulation toward the point and bring users to additional places within the park. Create a minimum 10 foot wide ADA greenway loop to enhance access and serve users who prefer this surface type to soft surface trails.

#### 2 GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY

Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

#### 3 PARKING AND COMFORT STATION

To accommodate disc golf and tree top trail users.

#### 4 TREE TOP TRAIL

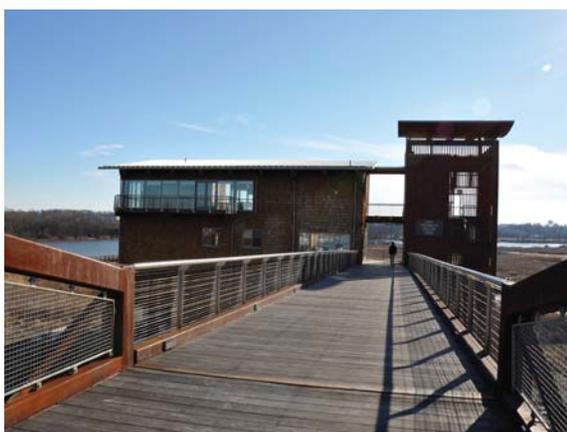
Create an elevated trail in the tree canopy that is ADA accessible with several overlooks, hammocks, and spaces that can serve as an outdoor classroom.



5

**PARK CENTER**

Design a new solar-powered, energy efficient park center to become the official arrival point for visitors. Include offices, indoor classrooms, display areas, restrooms, and storage. Add sufficient parking to accommodate events and groups using the new center.



6

**BLUEWAY**

Create a blueway trail along the shoreline using floating mile markers and interpretive signage.

**ENHANCED FEATURES**

7

**HIKING TRAILS**

Add wayfinding, mile markers, and interpretive signage to help navigate and celebrate the mission of the park.

8

**TRAIL SYSTEM**

Add connector trails to shorten loops and enhance access for users.

9

**DISC GOLF**

Create courses that are ADA accessible and youth friendly.

10

**MAINTENANCE AREA**

Expand the maintenance area to better suit the needs of the grounds, programming, and staff.

11

**MOUNTAIN BIKING NETWORK**

Create sustainable trails and improve rider experience to accommodate a wider variety of skill levels. Enhance the existing trails with signage.

12

**PLAYGROUNDS AND WATER ACCESS**

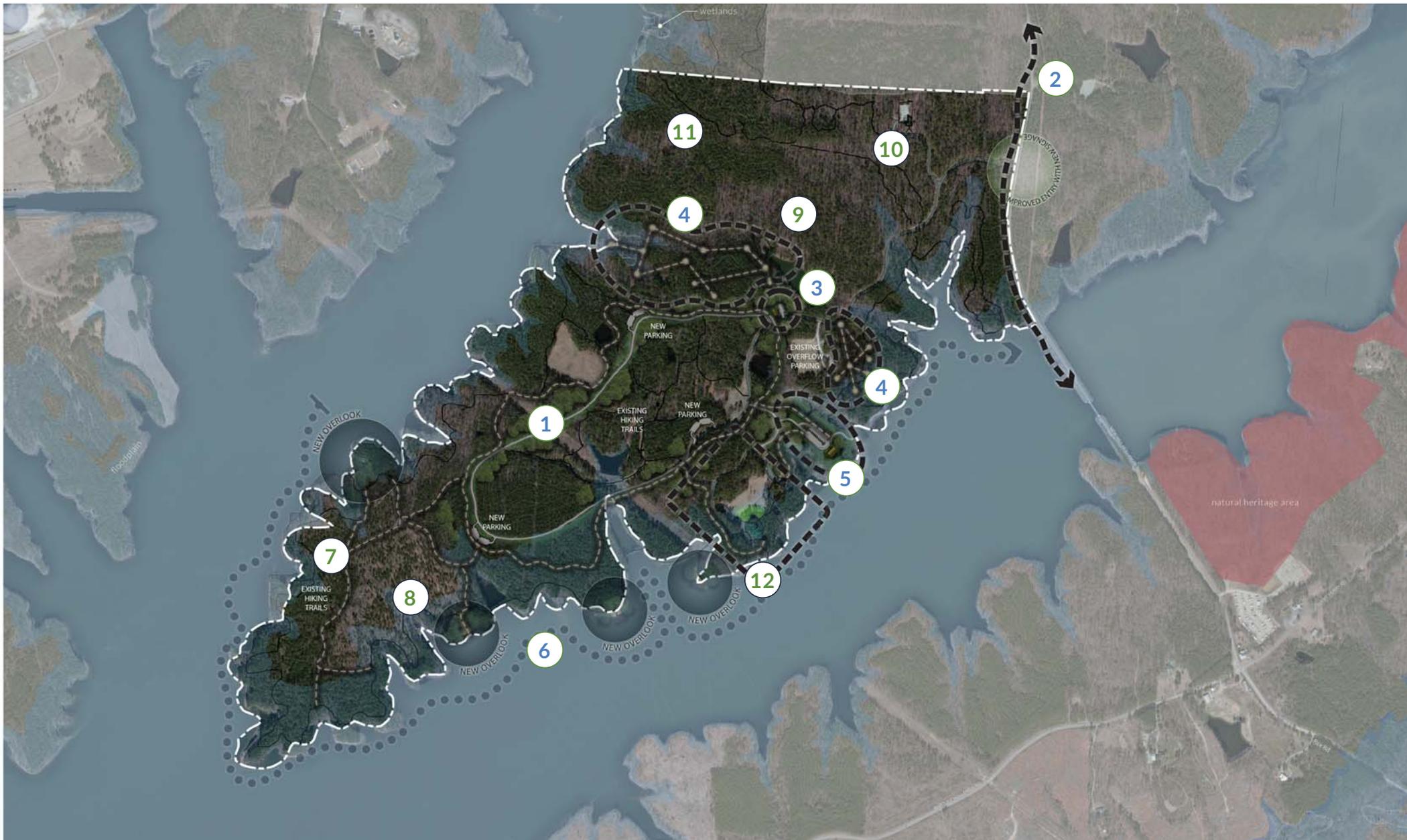
Expand the natural play area and upgrade the existing playground. Enhance water access by creating a kayak/paddleboard/canoe launch with ADA accessibility. Explore the potential of adding a vendor to rent human powered watercraft.



Project Recommendations

Harris Lake County Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Kayak access and launch	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Disc Golf / Youth Disc Golf	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Comfort Station / Restroom (Disc Golf)	New	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Park Center	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Park Loop Greenway Trail	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Tree Top Trail	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Internal Connector Trails	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	
Overlook Decks	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	
Mountain Bike Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Nature Playground	Expand	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Playground	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Park Loop Road	New	✓	✓		✓		
Parking	Expand	✓			✓		✓
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓





# Harris Lake County Park recommendations





## Historic Oak View County Park

*In the tradition of a great state which celebrates its past, cherishes its heritage, and nurtures its resources for future generations, Historic Oak View County Park interprets and preserves the agricultural heritage and rural farm life of North Carolina through educational programs, special events, and exhibits, and provides cultural enrichment and passive recreation opportunities for visitors.*

**Address:**  
4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh NC, 27610

**Unique Features:**  
Historic Farm

**Size:** 27 Acres

**Hours:**  
8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

## MAIN VISION

Historic Oak View County Park interprets North Carolina's diverse agrarian past and invites families to explore and connect with daily farm life. Expanding the park's educational and recreational opportunities will enhance the visitor experience and broaden its role in the community.

### NEW FEATURES

#### FARM TO TABLE

Look for opportunities that teach about farm-to-table methods using local farmers and food grown at Oak View.

#### 1 PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

Create a primary loop trail around the park and additional ADA accessible pathways to connect each park feature.



#### 2 ACCESSIBLE GARDEN

Allow all users to experience the garden plots by widening the walking aisles and raising the garden beds to easier access.



#### 3 PARK EXPANSION AREA

Offer additional park features including a playground, walking and hiking paths, and fishing platform.



- 4 INTERPRETIVE PLAY**  
Create and enhance interpretive play spaces throughout the park that allow for interactive learning and user activities that simulate life on the farm.



- 5 FISHING PLATFORM**  
Provide access to pond.

- 6 PLAYGROUND**  
Create new farm-themed playground.

### ENHANCED FEATURES

- 7 SIDEWALK AND TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY**  
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to proposed sidewalk facilities, public transit systems, and other recreational amenities, such as the Neuse River Trail.

- 8 MAIN FARMHOUSE**  
Complete updates and enhancements of permanent exhibits.



- 9 FORMAL ENTRY**  
Provide designated entry into historic building.

- 10 CROPS**  
Expand opportunities to cultivate food on the farm and use for educational purposes.

- 11 CONNECTIVITY**  
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to Wake County office park and facilities and nearby Neuse River Trail.

- 12 PARKING AREA**  
Add additional parking spaces.

- 13 FISHING ACCESS**  
Improve access near the existing ponds for viewing and fishing while maintaining the natural "farm feel" of the edge of the lake.



- 14 REAL ANIMALS**  
Add more live animals to the farm to allow for enhanced interaction with farm life, an opportunity to learn about historic and present day practices, improved user experience, and expansion of the attractions on the farm.



- 15 SOUND WALL**  
Sound wall on west side of property between I-440 and main farm buildings.



# Historic Oak View County Park

## Project Recommendations

Historic Oak View County Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Playground (Themed)	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		
Main House Exhibits	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Pecan Grove Loop Trail	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Gardens / Crop Areas	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Pond Overlooks / Platforms	Enhance	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Sidewalk to Office Park from Poole Rd.	Expand	✓✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Parking	Expand	✓			✓		✓
Sound barrier along I-40	New				✓✓		
Livestock Barn	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Interactive Play Elements	Expand	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Trails (north)	Expand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance Yard / Facility	Expand						✓
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	New				✓		✓





# Historic Oak View County Park recommendations



Two foot contours





## Historic Yates Mill County Park

*"Escape the Daily Grind" through a variety of unique recreational, cultural, natural and agricultural experiences.*

### Address:

4620 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh NC, 27603

### Unique Features:

Historic Mill

**Size:** 174 Acres

### Hours:

8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

## MAIN VISION

Historic Yates Mill County Park celebrates its past, cherishes its heritage, and nurtures its cultural and natural resources for future generations. NC State University's agriculture research farm provides the backdrop and offers glimpses into North Carolina agricultural heritage while protecting significant wildlife habitat in the heart of Raleigh. Expanded trails will elevate the park as a favorite day-use facility for health and wellness while new historical elements will provide users with a reason to linger longer. The relationship between Wake County, Yates Mill Associates, and NC State University, the physical connection with modern agricultural practices, and university based research in natural resource management, will draw groups and individuals looking for an experience in local North Carolina history, an escape into our natural world and quality environmental education.

## NEW FEATURES

### 1 BOARDWALK

Add a boardwalk through the wetlands to create a loop for trail users.



### 2 CLASSROOM AND PICNIC AREA

Provide new covered shelter to serve as outdoor classroom.

### 3 ART IN THE FIELD

Add art and artifacts that attract visitors and highlight the park entrance. Incorporate art and artifacts near the classroom space that tell the story of the park and create a flexible play space.



### 4 VILLAGE AND HISTORIC ACTIVITIES

Add village buildings to create historic activity spaces for a blacksmith and a house creamery, as well as appropriate buildings for a gift shop and concessions.



### 5 ADA TRAIL TO MILL

Add accessible trail to allow people of all abilities to visit the mill.

### 6 WATERFRONT ACCESS AREA

Provide access and water interaction opportunities that encourage picnicking and water activities, such as canoeing and kayaking.



- 7 OVERLOOK**  
Provide areas along trail to view mill and pond habitat.

## ENHANCED FEATURES

- 8 GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**  
Expand the trail system in the park to connect to regional greenway systems.

- 9 MAINTENANCE AREA**  
Move some maintenance functions away from the waterfront and expand maintenance area. Screen views into maintenance area with vegetative border.

- 10 OVERFLOW PARKING AND FLEX-SPACE ENTRANCE**  
Provide new entry signage and clear vegetation to improve visibility and create a more legible park entrance.

- 11 GREENWAY AND TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY**  
Create key connections to NCSU facilities, nearby sidewalk/paths, and the State Farmers Market. These connections not only create physical opportunities to increase visitation and cross promotion but also tell the agricultural story and mission of the park. Ensure that a road crossing to the NC State greenway is safe by using crosswalks and other devices such as HAWK signals to alert drivers of pedestrian crossings. Collaborate with NC State to explore the potential of connecting people to this park via the Wolfline. Coordinate with NCDOT to explore a greenway connection as part of the bridge replacement project at Lake Wheeler Road.

- 12 MILL EXPERIENCE**  
Create an ADA accessible entrance to the Mill that protects the integrity of the historic structure. Expand the historic experience by relocating the Phares Yates House to this property and providing access and interpretive signage.

- 13 PARKING**  
Explore opportunity to share parking with the recycling center for event overflow parking.



# Historic Yates Mill County Park

## Project Recommendations

Historic Yates Mill County Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Access to Water's Edge	Expand	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Trail to Mill	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Boardwalk along Creekside Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Canoe/Kayak Launch Area	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Phares Yates House	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Small Shelter at Classroom Area	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Overflow Parking	Expand	✓✓			✓	✓✓	✓
Overlooks	Expand		✓		✓✓	✓	✓
Interpretive/Educational Elements	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Trail Access under Lake Wheeler Road	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Millpond Loop Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Trail Connections	Enhance	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Pedestrian Bridge at Lake Wheeler Road	New	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Mill Village Buildings	New		✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Canoe/Kayak Storage Building	Enhance		✓		✓	✓	
Maintenance/Shelter Building	Enhance					✓	
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓





# Historic Yates Mill County Park recommendations





## Lake Crabtree County Park

To serve the growing needs of Wake County residents by having passive leisure and recreational opportunities available in a natural setting.

**Address:**  
1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville NC, 27560

**Unique Features:**  
Mountain Biking/Water Access

**Size:** 215 Acres

**Hours:** 8 am-sunset, 7 days a week  
Park office, 8 am-1 pm

## MAIN VISION

This park is truly “everyone’s park.” From the ADA accessible trails to the new accessible kayak launches, and connections with trails and transit—equity in recreation, leisure, and wellness is the focus. Multi-generational spaces create opportunities for the whole family to enjoy an hour or a whole day at the park. Water activities, peaceful trails, picnic shelters, and multi-use trails provide opportunities for enjoyment for daily activities and special events for all ages and abilities.

### ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

#### ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Provide accessible parking spaces to all use areas and the primary loop trail.

#### ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL LOOP

Enhance the existing loop trail to provide equality in mobility and access for all park users.

#### PARK CONNECTIVITY ACCESSIBILITY

Renovate park trails and sidewalks to create ADA accessible paths connecting each use area in the park.

### NEW FEATURES

- 1 BOARDWALK**  
Constructed in conjunction with future roadway improvements.
- 2 TRAIL EXPANSION AREA**  
Expand trails across Aviation Parkway.
- 3 CONNECTIVITY**  
Improve connectivity with crosswalks, links to existing greenways, sidewalk connections to RDU, and coordination with area transit for stop locations and wayfinding. Extend trails across Aviation Parkway to increase total trail length.



- 4 SIDEWALK**  
Complete the pedestrian connection from the entrance and tie into the new park loop.

- 5 TRAILHEAD**  
Provide a trailhead near the mountain biking trails that has a shelter, bike “fix it” station, restrooms, first aid station, and changing area.



- 6 PARK CENTER**  
Create a new Park Center with an iconic building that provides an educational setting, a place for rest and relaxation, observation of the waterfront, and park support facilities. The iconic tower will be re-imagined to preserve the overlook while enhancing safety and accessibility.



- 7 BLUEWAY**  
Add mile markers and resting places along a blueway trail that skirts the shoreline.

### ENHANCED FEATURES

- 8 GREENWAY CONNECTIVITY**  
Collaborate with municipalities and the office parks to complete a loop around the lake.

- 9 PARKING**  
Expand existing parking areas.

- 10 LOOP TRAIL**  
Enhance the existing loop trail to become an ADA accessible Lake Loop. The route would improve connectivity throughout the park and provide new connections to the Cary and Morrisville greenway systems.



- 11 GATHERING SPACE**  
Provide a new picnic shelter and restrooms for large groups (over 100 people), new playground, and multi-generational park activities suitable for varied ages and abilities.

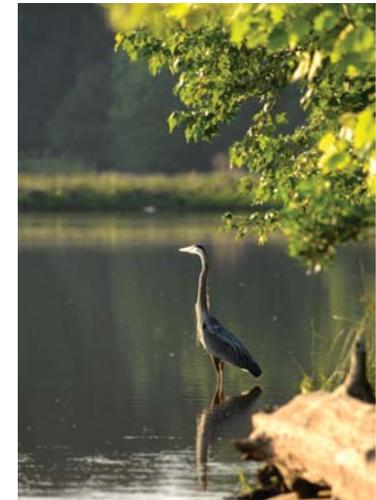




# Lake Crabtree County Park

## Project Recommendations

Lake Crabtree County Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Park Loop Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
New Park Center	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		
Sidewalk to Aviation Parkway	New	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Parking	Expand	✓			✓	✓	✓
Natural Playground	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Activity Spaces	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Boardwalk across Lake at Aviation Parkway	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Western Wetlands Trail	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Boardwalk on Old Beech Nature Trail	Enhance	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓	✓	✓
Picnic Shelter	New	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Mountain Bike Trailhead	New	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Playgrounds	Expand	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Car-top Boat Launch	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Mountain Bike Trails	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Trail Connections	Enhance	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓





natural heritage area

# Lake Crabtree County Park recommendations





## North Wake Landfill County Park

*No current mission statement for this park.*

### Address:

9300 Deponie Drive Raleigh NC, 27614

### Unique Features:

Reuse/Viewshed

Size: N/A

### Hours:

8 am-sunset, 7 days a week

## MAIN VISION

This park brings waste, conservation, recycling, and re-use to the forefront of visitor experience. Opportunities will be created throughout the park to reflect on the importance of conscious use of materials, human effects on the earth, and how re-thinking materials—which some consider trash—can become beautiful art and vehicles for creativity and recreation.

## NEW FEATURES

### CHANGE THE NAME

Create a committee or hold a contest to create a new name better aligned with the main vision.

1

### TRANSIT CONNECTION

Work with CAT to create a stop near the park entrance.

2

### PARKING

To serve top of the hill trail.

3

### DUMPSTER PLANTERS

Up-cycle dumpsters as planters to provide shade without penetrating the mound. Enlist artists to design each dumpster to tell a story of energy, consumption, and human impacts on the earth.



4

### ART ON THE HILL

Provide a setting for student/community developed art to be placed on the mound. At the east, visitors will view the art from the trail and surrounding area.



5

### PARKING

To serve mountain biking trails.

6

### INTERPRETIVE VEGETATION

Plant bands of native vegetation in colored patterns around the hill to illustrate the height the landfill grew over a period of time. Pair the plantings with interpretive signage around the park.



- 7 ART LOOP TRAIL + STORY FENCE**  
Create a loop trail around the northern mound to link with Abbotts Creek Trail. To prevent access to the mound, install a story fence to educate visitors about waste, recycling, and re-use.



- 8 RECYCLE PLAY**  
A different take on nature play using recycled materials instead of natural elements to coincide with the theme of the park.

- 9 TRAIL**  
To connect with Abbotts Creek Trail.

- 10 LOOP TRAIL**  
Create a greenway trail that loops the perimeter of the road and connects uses throughout the park with dog support facilities including fountains and waste stations.

- 11 PARKING**  
This lot will accommodate visitors to the skate trails and art loop.

- 12 SKATE TRAIL**  
Create a trail system with below-ground level and above-ground ramps. Plazas, railings, and jumps will be created specifically for tricks and challenges for multiple levels. The loop trail will continue on the outside of the skate trail to provide connectivity and observation.



- 13 TRAIL**  
To connect with the school and community center.

- 14 ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL**  
A new trail leading to the top of the main hill will be manageable for those with limited physical abilities with gradual slopes, landings, benches, and shade.

## ENHANCED FEATURES

- 15 MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**  
Expand the trail network as planned in the previous master plan.

- 16 TOP OF THE HILL**  
To provide shade while preserving views.

- 17 PLAYGROUND**  
To provide shade for youth and adults.



# North Wake Landfill County Park

## Project Recommendations

North Wake Landfill District Park		Enhances Equity/Access	Connects to Mission/Goals	Attracts New Visitors	Enhances Visitor Experience	Provides Good Cost/Benefit Ratio	Leverages Existing Amenities
Project	Category						
Top of the Hill Trail	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Playground (Themed)	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	
Skate Facility Trail	New	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	
Playground Shade Structures	New	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Parking	Expand				✓	✓	✓
Park Loop Trail	Expand	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sidewalks to Deponie Drive	New	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mountain Bike Trails	Enhance	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Art Loop Trail	New	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	
Shelters	New	✓	✓		✓		
Specialty Planters along Top of Hill Trail	New		✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Lighting	Enhance	✓			✓		✓
Hillside Landscape	New		✓		✓	✓	
Specialty Fencing (Along North Hill)	New				✓	✓	
Landscape, Signage & Site Furnishings	Enhance				✓		✓





# North Wake Landfill County Park recommendations

