CHAPTER 6: CITIZEN SURVEY

What is the importance of completing a citizen survey?

Information received from a statistically valid citizen survey provides decision makers with the data needed to make informed decisions.

Introduction

The Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during March and April of 2007 to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the County. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the County. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Overview of the Methodology

The consultant worked extensively with County officials to develop the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

In March 2007, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in Wake County. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an electronic voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed the consultant began contacting households by phone, either to encourage completion of the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys within the County. This goal was accomplished with a total of 423 surveys completed. The results of the random sample of 423 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.8%.

Selected Survey Results

The citizen survey Executive Summary is located in Appendix B of this report. Selected survey results are featured here which are germane to the planning effort.
Wake County Parks and Trails Visited Over the Past Year

From a list of eight Wake County parks and trails, respondents were asked to indicate which ones their household has visited over the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

Lake Crabtree County Park (31%) is the Wake County park/trail that the highest percentage of respondents have visited over the past year. Other Wake County parks and trails that respondent households have visited the most over the past year include: Harris Lake County Park (16%) and Blue Jay Point County Park (16%). Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondent households have visited at least one of the Wake County parks and trails over the past year.

Q1. Wake County Parks and Trails That Respondent Households Have Visited Over the Past Year

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

- Lake Crabtree County Park: 31%
- Harris Lake County Park: 16%
- Blue Jay Point County Park: 16%
- Historic Yates Mill County Park: 13%
- Crowder District Park: 13%
- Historic Oak View County Park: 12%
- American Tobacco Trail: 12%
- Cedar Fork District Park: 6%
- None. We do not use any Wake County park or trail: 38%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Overall Physical Condition of All Facilities and Trails in Wake County Parks

Respondents were asked to indicate how they would rate the overall physical condition of all the facilities and trails in the Wake County parks that they have visited. The following summarizes key findings:

Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents rate the physical condition of all the facilities and trails in the Wake County Parks they have visited as either “excellent” (19%) or “good” (47%). An additional 6% rate the physical condition as “fair” and 28% have “no opinion”. Less than 1% rated the facilities and trails as “poor”.

Q5. How Respondents Rate the Physical Condition of All the Facilities and Trails in the Wake County Parks They Have Visited

by percentage of respondents

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Ways Respondents Learn About Activities

From a list of 10 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ways they have learned about activities in the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. The following summarizes key findings:

From friends and neighbors (47%) is the most frequently mentioned way that respondents learn about Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division activities. The other most frequently mentioned ways that respondents learn about Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division activities include: newspaper articles (31%), brochures/fliers at parks or facilities (21%), and Wake County Parks Website (19%).

![Bar chart showing ways respondents learn about activities in Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division.](chart.png)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
**Reasons that Prevent Respondent Households from Using Facilities and Programs More Often**

From a list of 18 reasons, respondents were asked to indicate all of the reasons that prevent them and members of their household from using parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division more often. The following summarizes key findings:

“Not enough time” (38%) is the most frequently mentioned reason that prevents respondent household members from using parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division more often. The other reasons that prevent respondents from using parks and facilities more often include: “I use city and town parks and facilities” (31%), “I do not know what is being offered” (29%), “I do not know locations of parks/facilities” (25%) and “parks too far from our residence” (25%).

**Q8. Reasons Preventing Respondent Households From Using Parks, Trails, Recreation Facilities or Programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division More Often**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not enough time</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I use city and town parks and facilities</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not know what is being offered</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not know locations of parks/facilities</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks too far from our residence</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program times are not convenient</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security is insufficient</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program or facility not offered</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and facilities are too crowded</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of transportation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees are too high</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities are not well maintained</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of handicap accessibility</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park operating hours not convenient</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration for activities is difficult</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks are not well maintained</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of parking</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor customer service by staff</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Open Space Options Respondent Households Would Support the Most

From a list of four options for acquiring and developing open space for parks and recreation purposes, respondents were asked to indicate the two options their household would support the most. The following summarizes key findings:

“Open spaces should be acquired and improved for passive use” (52%) and “open space should be acquired and improved for both passive and active use” (51%) had the highest percentage of respondents indicate those options as the two open space options that respondent households would support the most. Additionally, “open space should be acquired and left undeveloped” (33%) also had a high number of respondents indicate it as one of the two open space options that they would support the most. Only 6% of respondents indicated that no new open space should be acquired.

Q9. Open Space Options That Respondent Households Would Support the Most

by percentage of respondents (two choices could be made)

- Acquire open space for passive use: 52%
- Acquire open space for passive & active use: 51%
- Open space should be acquired and left undeveloped: 33%
- Acquire open space for active use: 21%
- No new open space should be acquired: 6%

Source: Leisure Vision ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support for Wake County Concentrating on Large Regional Parks and Longer Trail Systems

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on the acquisition, development, and operations of large regional parks and longer trail systems that can serve citizens throughout the County and leaving the operations of neighborhood parks and community parks to cities and towns within Wake County. The following summarizes key findings:

Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondents indicated being “very supportive” (51%) or “somewhat supportive” (25%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on the acquisition, development, and operations of large regional parks and longer trails systems and leaving the operations of neighborhood parks and community parks to cities and towns within Wake County. An additional 17% of respondents indicated “not sure”, and 7% are “not supportive”.

Q12a. Support for Wake County Continuing to Concentrate on the Acquisition, Development and Operations of Large Regional Parks and Longer Trail Systems and Leaving the Operations of Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks to Cities and Towns Within Wake County by percentage of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very supportive</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat supportive</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not supportive</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support of Wake County Concentrating on Partnering with Cities and Towns

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with cities and towns on the acquisition of open space primarily for water quality protection. The following summarizes key findings:

Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents indicated being either “very supportive” (63%) or “somewhat supportive” (21%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with Cities and Towns on the acquisition of open space primarily for water quality protection. An additional 12% indicated being “not sure”, and only 4% indicated that they are “not supportive”.

Q12b. Support for Wake County Continuing to Concentrate on Partnering with Cities and Towns on the Acquisition of Open Space Primarily for Water Quality Protection

by percentage of respondents

- Very supportive: 63%
- Somewhat supportive: 21%
- Not supportive: 4%
- Not sure: 12%

Source: Leisure Vision ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support of Wake County Concentrating on Partnering with Wake County Public School System, Cities, and Towns

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with the Wake County Public School System, cities, and towns on the acquisition, development, and use of park facilities with school sites. The following summarizes key findings:

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents indicated being either “very supportive” (54%) or “somewhat supportive” (24%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with the school system, cities and towns on the acquisition, development, and use of park facilities with school sites. An additional 14% indicated “not sure”, and 8% indicated that they are “not supportive”.

Q12c. Support for Wake County Continuing to Concentrate on Partnering with the Wake County Public School System, Cities and Towns on the Acquisition, Development, and Use of Park Facilities with School Sites

by percentage of respondents

- Very supportive: 54%
- Somewhat supportive: 24%
- Not supportive: 8%
- Not sure: 14%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Areas Respondents Feel Are Most Important to Concentrate On

Respondents were asked which two areas they feel are the most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to concentrate on. The following summarizes key findings:

Based on the sum of their top two choices, the two areas respondents feel are most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to concentrate on are: partnering with cities and towns (63%) and acquisition of large regional parks (53%).

Q13. Areas Respondents Feel Are Most Important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to Concentrate On

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top two choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnering with cities and towns</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of large regional parks</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnering with public school system</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None chosen</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support for the Long Range Goal of Protecting 30% of Land Area

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area within the County for environmental stewardship, protection of water quality, developing new parks and recreation sites, developing trails, etc. The following summarizes key findings:

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents are supportive of the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area. Only 6% of respondents are not supportive of protecting 30% of the land area, and 16% indicated “not sure”.

Q14. Are Respondents Supportive of the Long Range Goal of Protecting 30% of the Land Area Within the County for Environmental Stewardship, Protection of Water Quality, Developing New Parks and Recreation Sites, Developing Trails

Yes 78%
Not sure 16%
No 6%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Potential Benefits That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

From the list of 10 potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services, respondents were asked to indicate which three potential benefits are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings:

Based on the sum of their top three choices, the potential benefits that are most important to respondent households are: improves physical health and fitness (70%), preserves open space and the environment (48%), make Wake County a more desirable place to live (39%), and improves mental health and reduces stress (33%). It should also be noted that improves physical health and fitness had the highest percentage of respondents select is as their first choice as the most important potential benefit.

Q16. Potential Benefits That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices

- Improves physical health and fitness: 70%
- Preserves open space and the environment: 48%
- Makes Wake County a more desirable place to live: 39%
- Improves mental health and reduces stress: 33%
- Increases property values in surrounding areas: 19%
- Protects historical attributes of the County: 13%
- Helps reduce crime: 12%
- Increases opportunities for people of different cultures: 8%
- Helps attract new residents and businesses: 7%
- Promotes tourism to the County: 2%
- Other: 1%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Potential Benefits Are Most Important to the Future of Wake County

From the list of 10 potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services, respondents were asked to indicate which three potential benefits are most important to the future of Wake County. The following summarizes key findings:

Based on the sum of their top three choices, the potential benefits that respondent households think are most important to the future of Wake County are: make Wake County a more desirable place to live (46%), preserves open space and the environment (46%), improves physical health and fitness (31%), and helps attract new residents and businesses (27%). It should also be noted that make Wake County a more desirable place to live had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important potential benefit.

Q17. Potential Benefits That Respondent Households Feel Are Most Important to the Future of Wake County

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>Total Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make Wake County a more desirable place to live</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserves open space and the environment</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improves physical health and fitness</td>
<td></td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps attract new residents and businesses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases property values in surrounding areas</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protects historical attributes of the County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps reduce crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotes tourism to the County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improves mental health and reduces stress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases oppor. for people of different cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Prioritizing Resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division

Respondents were asked to indicate how they would prioritize resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. The following summarizes key findings:

Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents indicated they would prioritize resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division with improvements/maintenance of existing Wake County Parks. The remaining 68% was allocated as follows: 22% for acquisition of new parkland and open space, 17% for development of new trails and pathways, 15% for development of new land based recreation, 13% for development of new water based recreation, and 1% for other.

Q18. How Respondent Would Prioritize Resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division

by percentage of respondents

- Improvements/Maintenance of existing Wake County Parks: 32%
- Acquisition of new parkland and open space: 22%
- Development of new trails and pathways: 17%
- Development of new land based recreation: 15%
- Development of new water based recreation: 13%
- Other: 1%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Summary of Key Findings

- Lake Crabtree County Park is the most heavily used park.
- The physical condition of the park system is rated high with 66% rating it as excellent or good.
- Marketing efforts need to be improved; for example, 25% of respondents do not know the locations of the County parks; however, this exceeds a national benchmark of 13%.
- Support for the acquisition of open space is very high with 90% being in favor of it.
- Walking and hiking trails are the highest rated new facilities that citizens want.
- Citizens want the County to expend its resources on large regional parks and longer trails, in fact, 76% expressed their support for this choice for resource allocation.
- Citizens want the County to partner with cities to acquire open space for environmental purposes; 84% are supportive of this endeavor.
- 78% of the respondents are supportive of the County’s effort to partner with the school district, cities and towns to co-locate parks and facilities adjacent to schools.
- 78% of the respondents are supportive of the County’s effort to protect 30% of its land area for environmental stewardship, water quality, large parks and trails.
- Personal benefits from the services provided by the County are health and wellness.
- Citizens expressed a priority for improvements and maintenance to existing County Parks followed by the acquisition of new parkland and open space.

Coming in the Next Chapter…

View the Goals and the Action Strategies that are required to successfully implement the Comprehensive Master Plan.
CHAPTER 7: GOALS AND ACTION STRATEGIES

What are goals and strategies?

Goals are realistic targets to achieve through this master plan. Strategies are steps that will need to be taken to achieve the goals.

Introduction

In this era of Parks, Recreation and Open Space planning, emphasis is placed on several concepts, which enable Wake County to simultaneously imagine its future and move forward with the confidence that the County’s resource allocation is in alignment with the preferences of its citizens.

The concepts that are woven through the fabric of this document include: positioning (alignment with issues that are important when resources are allocated), sustainability (financial, environmental and management), partnerships (leveraging resources with others who share common goals), and accountability (performance measures). In a growing and increasingly more diverse county, these concepts are intended to enable County leaders to make informed, responsive and forward-looking decisions about the Division.

Goal #1 – To position the Division of Parks, Recreation and Open Space (the Division) as a valued partner in the vision of Wake County

Strategy 1.1 – Refine the Division’s role.

- The Division’s core services will continue to be the provision of open space, recreation and leisure services and environmental and cultural education.
- The Division will develop consistent, cohesive policies and procedures to ensure the timely and effective delivery of core services to park visitors.
- The Division will continue to plan, develop and manage large regional parks.
- The Division will serve as a facilitator and partner to municipalities and special interest groups who share common goals in pursuing projects which are compatible with the intent of this comprehensive plan; for example, trails, greenways, environmental protection, land acquisition, and education.
- The Division will be proactive with other Wake County departments in discussions concerning land use plans, land acquisition, impact fees, partnership opportunities, etc. to ensure that parks and open space needs are considered.
- The Division will be proactive with external government agencies, such as municipal park directors, in discussions concerning the County’s role in the development of parks, recreation and open space, and on matters of mutual importance.
- The Division will provide technical assistance to municipalities, non-profit groups, citizens, and others with regard to parks and open space.
- The Division will assume a strong leadership role in coordinating the planning and development of the trail and greenway system among municipalities.
- The Division will consider options with its partners and stakeholders toward providing opportunities for recreation and education opportunities.
- County Commissioners, the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee and other County Departments will be encouraged to participate in a one-day Visioning Workshop to encourage consensus on the intent of this Comprehensive Master Plan.
Goals and Action Strategies

Strategy 1.2 – Become strategically aligned with key issues and partners.

- The Division will continue to align itself with:
  - Key individuals and groups who advocate environmental issues;
  - Key individuals and groups who advocate the development of trails and greenways;
  - The Wake County Public School System - to strengthen its co-location program for parks, schools and other public facilities; and
  - Municipalities and non-profit groups - to identify needs and provide services, which are in alignment with the intent of this Master Plan.

Goal #2 – To maintain and enhance the core services of Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The Division’s core services are the provision of open space, recreation and leisure services and environmental and cultural education. All core services are provided at each facility to varying degrees as dictated by individual park master plans.

Strategy 2.1 – Protect the environment through acquisition and stewardship of open space.

- The Division will actively promote its open space program and its goal to protect 30% of the land area within the County.
- The Division will work with other Wake County departments, municipalities and nonprofits to consider all manner of conservation measures including: acquisition in fee or easement; regulation; the land development process and others. Table 7.1 shown below details how this goal could be met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Open Space</th>
<th>(Minimum) Goal In Acres</th>
<th>Percent of Total Open Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Protected Open Space</td>
<td>55,719</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserved Floodplain Lands (future)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Open Space through land development process (future)</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Open Space Acquisitions</td>
<td>27,281</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Protected Open Space</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Land Area of Wake County</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Wake County Consolidated Open Space Plan)

- The Division should fund and develop an environmental stewardship plan, which protects the County’s acquired natural resources. The four key issues for this plan include:
  - Enhancement of natural resources for public benefit;
  - Natural resource inventory;
  - Ongoing monitoring of parks and open space lands; and
  - Natural resource management for protection of those resources.
- The Division will develop a sustainable program that meets the needs of current and future generations.
Strategy 2.2 – Provide facilities and amenities that allow citizens to enjoy recreational and leisure activities.

- Maintain and provide facilities to meet the recreational and leisure demands of a growing county population.
- Partner with internal and external agencies to support and promote health and wellness opportunities.
- Provide a safe environment for park visitors.
- Use best management practices when managing for recreational and leisure activities.

Strategy 2.3 – Provide cultural and environmental education programs, that introduce citizens to the history and natural environments of Wake County.

- Promote awareness of environmental and cultural issues affecting Wake County, and foster stewardship activities through the park’s educational programs.
- Recognize and address the educational needs and interests of surrounding communities.
- Collaborate with the Wake County Public School System, local and state agencies, associations, and other groups to enhance and promote educational opportunities.
- Maintain professionally trained and certified educators to develop, lead, and sustain educational programs that promote environmental and cultural awareness, and stewardship.
- Provide and maintain appropriate educational facilities designed to meet increasing educational program needs.

Goal #3 – To be proactive with initiatives, that result in long-term sustainability of the Division and the environment

A sustainable park system is defined as one that is responsive to the environmental, economic, personal, social, and managerial needs of its citizens and political environment. Acknowledging that the demands on the environment and the services provided by the Division increase due to continued population growth and changing demographics, the strategies below are developed to address the long-term sustainability of the Division.

Strategy 3.1 – Set funding targets for County park maintenance, improvement and development.

Wake County PROS’ funding is a combination of general fund operating dollars and capital improvement program (CIP) funding. The CIP funds three components for the Division of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: a) existing park facility maintenance and improvements, b) community use of school parks, and c) facility master planning.

The funding for future county park development is not secure. In that regard, the strategy for park funding is as follows:

- Evaluate and recommend needed changes within PROS operating budgets;
- Evaluate and recommend needed changes within the PROS CIP budget; and
- Identify and secure funding sources for the planning and development of future county parks as outlined in Chapter 8 of this document.

Strategy 3.2 – Modify the Recreation Land Dedication Ordinance (RLDO).

An analysis of the current RLDO reveals that it is patterned from similar ordinances crafted for municipal parks and recreation agencies assessing a fee for the development of neighborhood services. Because of recent Supreme Court decisions that give municipal ordinances their standing, it is important that Wake County review its current ordinance.
The following recommendations should be implemented.

- **Recommend that Wake County, through its Planning Department, review the current ordinance relative to Supreme Court decisions for possible revision or replacement.**
- **Consult an expert on the writing of a County ordinance that is supportable by current law and specific to Wake County.**
- **Create a fee formula supportable by actual Wake County conditions such as cost of development, expected population growth and future open space demand compared to the current documented demand.**
- **Include language specific to regional parks, countywide trails and greenways, and possible cooperative purchases or developments in cooperation with the adjacent municipalities.**
- **Include language to require periodic reviews of how the fee is calculated; i.e. once every three years.**
- **Cash in lieu of options should include the type and quality of land that will be accepted and should stipulate that land offers are subject to approval of suitability.**
- **Service areas may need to be created to establish where collected fees may be used so that it is used in proportion to the demand that created the need.**
- **Use fees collected under the current ordinance in partnership with municipalities in close proximity to the source of the fee.**

**Strategy 3.3 – Promote sustainability in park development and operations.**

- Encourage sustainability and protection of the environment in all park and open space acquisitions, development, and operations.

**Strategy 3.4 – Analyze long-term regional park lease agreements.**

- Of the seven existing County parks, five of them include public and private lease agreements. These agreements should be analyzed, altered if necessary, and renewed in sufficient time to reduce or eliminate the interruption of services to citizens

**Strategy 3.5 – Amend partnership and interagency agreements.**

- The Division will formalize all partnership and interagency agreements. Agreements will be reviewed annually to determine if they are mutually beneficial to all parties.

**Strategy 3.6 – Ensure adequate and qualified staff in order to sustain the level of service desired in a safe park environment.**

- Using the Division-wide staffing study model, continue to assess and evaluate staffing needs in order to create a safe working environment for staff and to provide high-quality service to citizens.
- Update the existing succession plan that outlines a path of professional development for staff.
- Address the need for additional administrative support to manage and carry out operations.

**Strategy 3.7 – Ensure staff needs to create and maintain an effective and productive work force.**

- Give timely and sincere recognition for a job well done.
- Provide the necessary resources to do the job.
- Provide adequate latitude to make decisions within structured parameters.
- Provide and encourage professional staff development through a variety of means such as trainings, conferences, workshops, professional memberships, and opportunities to network with other professionals.

**Strategy 3.8 – Acquire and utilize the technology necessary to operate at the highest levels of efficiency.**

- Hardware and management software will be acquired to meet the Division’s unique needs and training will be provided to ensure effective and efficient use of these resources.
- Upgrade technology that will allow effective communication among staff and citizens.
- Software will be acquired and used to streamline the appropriate processes such as the reservation process, registration process and program evaluation process.
Goal #4 – To market the benefits and services of the Division of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

**Strategy 4.1 – Promote the program benefits provided by the Division.**
- The Division will develop strategies to recognize environmental protection efforts that take place within the Division, to ensure that citizens, County leaders, and key stakeholders are aware of the opportunities that are available to them and the benefits of those opportunities.
- The Division will actively pursue local, state, regional and national awards. The benefit of this endeavor is that County leaders and citizens-at-large will develop a stronger appreciation of the Division’s efforts when those efforts are widely recognized by outside agencies as meritorious.
- The Division will actively promote the benefits resulting from its involvement as a direct provider and facilitator of parks, trails, greenways, educational programs, services and facilities. These benefits include but are not limited to:
  - The value of the park system in attracting and retaining current and future citizens and businesses;
  - The economic impact resulting from its involvement with special events and other attractions;
  - The health and well being of its citizens from engaging in recreational activities; and
  - The quantifiable quality of the water supply and other environmental issues.

**Strategy 4.2 – Market the Division’s services.**
- The Division’s website will be managed by staff to ensure that its content is current, timely and user-friendly.
- A mailing list of core park system users will be constantly updated. From this list, a newsletter will be regularly distributed and e-mail blasts will be distributed in a timely manner to announce current events.
- Effectively market programs and events to the general public, public and private schools, and other organized groups, including home schools, through a variety of media.
- The Wake County logo and the Division name will be shown on all promotional materials and advertising for all programs and events sponsored or hosted by the Division.
- The Division will work with municipalities, local tourism agencies, and others to achieve a seamless exchange of information and to take advantage of marketing opportunities.

Goal #5 – To continue to serve the citizens of Wake County in our three core service areas and develop performance measures to track and report our success

The Division holds itself accountable for the efficient and effective allocation and management of its resources. The Division needs to improve its performance measure process to justify and support proposed facilities and services.

**Strategy 5.1 – Develop performance measures to gauge customer satisfaction.**
- Evaluate customer satisfaction through surveys, questionnaires and other assessment tools to strive for the highest level of customer service.
- Regularly evaluate programs and programmers to ensure quality educational programs.
**Strategy 5.2 – Develop internal performance measures to address process requirements.**
- The Division will annually evaluate major operations used to manage parks, open spaces and educational programs.
- Process measures will include customer satisfaction with their efficiency and effectiveness. Software will be researched to streamline the appropriate processes such as reservations, registration, and program evaluation.
- Division will conduct facility maintenance assessments to document park conditions, ensure a safe and quality experience for the customer, and project future budget needs.

**Goal #6 – To create a regional park-land acquisition and development plan**

**Strategy 6.1 – Collaborate with partners.**
- The Division should continue to partner with outside agencies in an effort to identify land for future regional park development. Potential partners may include the State of North Carolina, public universities, utilities, RDU Airport Authority, and any of the 12 municipalities within Wake County. Partners may also include counties adjacent to Wake County.
- Land acquisition in unincorporated areas near municipal boundaries needs to be collaboratively acquired and developed in a manner which is consistent with County and municipal long term needs. This effort is in response to the continued expansion of municipal boundaries into the unincorporated areas.
- Work with partners to continually update current and future park master plans.

**Strategy 6.2 – Allocate required resources to support County parks, education, recreation, and open space needs.**
- Commit County resources to a regional park system, which is connected to other systems by trails and greenways.
- Develop master plans for current and future parks to provide core services to the citizens of Wake County that reflect changing conditions and shifting priorities.
- Develop a priority approach to land acquisition in recognition of the level of need, limited resources, availability, and needs of municipalities.
- Include conservation data from state agencies such as the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, and others, to select environmentally sensitive locations for parks and greenways; thus implementing this plan’s goal of protection.

**Strategy 7.1 – Host workshops with municipalities, and trail and greenway experts to review existing maps, ensure accuracy, and to map new corridors that are needed.**

**Strategy 7.2 – Become the repository for all trail and greenway plans and continuously update the corridors within the County, the connections to adjacent counties, and to regional trails such as the Mountains to Sea Trail.**

**Strategy 7.3 – Use directives from the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission for the development of greenways to create habitats for wildlife, wildlife viewing opportunities, and walking trails for our users.**
Strategies Matrix linked to Key Issues

Table 7.2 below is a key that links issues identified during the planning process with the core team and other stakeholders with the goals and strategies that address them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Issue</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County’s Role</td>
<td>1, 2, 5</td>
<td>1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 5.1, 5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Growth</td>
<td>All goals</td>
<td>All Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing Demographics</td>
<td>All goals</td>
<td>All Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail and Greenway System</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.1, 7.2, 7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Recreation Versus Passive Recreation Demands</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Issues</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 6, 7</td>
<td>1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coming in the Next Chapter...
Current and future park development projects and an opinion of probable costs for their planning and construction.
CHAPTER 8: EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK DEVELOPMENT

What will the future park development projects be and what will they cost?

Detailed in this chapter are the future projects and costs that align the Division of Parks, Recreation and Open Space with the eight management goals that have been created in this comprehensive master plan to address environmental, social and personal needs of Wake County.

Introduction

Wake County conducts annual facility condition assessments at existing County Parks and School Park sites to identify critical park infrastructure repairs and minor improvements. The County’s current seven-year CIP includes funding to address repairs and minor improvements through the facility condition assessment process. Since FY03, this program has facilitated needed repairs and minor improvements at all seven County Parks and many of the existing School Parks. Table 8.1 indicates the current seven-year CIP for continued funding of this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 8.1: Existing County Park Minor Repair &amp; Improvements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Repair &amp; Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $1,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $250,000 $1,750,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Community Use of Schools Program represents a partnership between the County, Wake County Public School System, municipalities and non-profit agencies to develop community parks in conjunction with the development of new school sites. Funds are used for land acquisition and/or infrastructure beyond what the school program requires. Park facilities may include ball fields, lighting, irrigation, parking, playgrounds, and picnic shelters. The County has been funding this program since FY98. Table 8.2 indicates the County’s current seven-year CIP for continued funding of this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 8.2: Community Use of Schools Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Use of Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $6,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $1,000,000 $800,000 $6,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The County’s current seven-year CIP includes funding to prepare updated master plans to existing County Park facilities. The master plan process will identify current and projected facility needs at existing parks. The process will also determine preliminary development costs for expansion and other improvements. As facility master plans are updated, projected development costs will be considered as part of Wake County’s Capital Improvement Program or other funding source. Table 8.3 indicates the County’s current seven-year CIP for continued master planning of existing parks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 8.3: Existing County Park Master Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing County Park Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY09  FY10  FY11  FY12  FY13  FY14  FY15  Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Planning / Design / Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Oak View County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Jay Point County Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Crabtree County Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowder District Park</td>
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<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Yates Mill County Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Tobacco Trail (South)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
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<td>Harris Lake County Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TBD: Design/Development costs to be determined as part of facility Master Plan update
Costs shown are based on 2007 estimates and do not include escalation.

Future County Parks

Wake County has identified four potential future County Park facilities. These four facilities, when implemented, will achieve the necessary level of parks and leisure services provided by Wake County. Table 8.4 lists the projected costs for each facility. The costs outlined are based on conceptual program elements that will be further defined through the preparation of comprehensive facility master plans.
Table 8.4: Future County Park Projected Development Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future County Park Projected Development Costs</th>
<th>FY09</th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning / Design / Development</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Myra County Park</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Land Acquisition (+/- 200 Acres)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$12,554,000</td>
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<td>Design/Development</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$4,174,000</td>
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<td>Project Total</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$16,728,000</td>
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<td>Southeast Wake County Park</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Land Acquisition (+/- 250 Acres)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,780,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Total</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,380,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady Jefcoat Property</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Land Acquisition (+/- 1 Acre)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$30,000</td>
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<td>$75,000</td>
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<td>Project Total</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$105,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>Little River County Park</td>
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<td>Additional Land Acquisition (+/- 35 Acres)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Project Total</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$675,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$21,970,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Myra County Park

Over the past year, Wake County, in partnership with the Triangle Land Conservancy and Trust for Public Land, has acquired a 125-acre tract adjacent to the historic Lake Myra for a future Wake County Park. The acquisition is part of a larger priority preservation area of the Mark’s Creek watershed in an effort to protect and preserve water quality and wildlife habitat, conserve unique natural areas, and to retain scenic and historical values.

The future County Park will overlook the 100-acre Lake Myra situated in eastern Wake County. The site will provide opportunities for trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, fishing, open space preservation, and environmental education. Adjacent to the park is a planned elementary school scheduled to open in 2009. The adjacency of the park to the school will provide outreach opportunities for environmental education and interpretation.

Little River County Park

In the mid 1980’s, the Little River in eastern Wake County was identified as a future source of drinking water for that area of the County. During the early phases of planning, it was suggested that parkland be acquired in addition to land for the proposed reservoir. The 1993 parks bond allocated $2 million toward acquisition of land for a future County Park at the planned Little River Reservoir.

Since 1993, the County has assembled approximately 250 acres with several key acquisitions remaining. In addition to the parkland, the County is acquiring and preserving a 100’ buffer adjacent to the permanent pool elevation of the planned reservoir. This buffer will accommodate a publicly accessible trail that will circle the 2,000-acre reservoir.

The County is also considering jointly acquiring with the City of Raleigh a 623-acre parcel in close proximity to the reservoir. This parcel, if acquired, may also present opportunities for development of County Park facilities with publicly accessible connections to the reservoir.
The future County Park will provide opportunities for open play, active play, hiking, biking, picnicking, boating, fishing, and environmental education. The trail circling the reservoir has the potential to serve as a spine to a larger network of trails and greenways in eastern Wake County.

**Southeast Wake County Park**

The 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet and predicted need for County Park facilities and services in southeastern Wake County. In FY04, the County allocated the capital funds to begin the acquisition of land in that part of the County for a County Park. The identified park site is along Middle Creek in an area of unique topography, with significant wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Since 2004, the County has acquired multiple tracts totaling 235 acres for the park. Several potential acquisitions remain that would increase the size approximately 100 acres. Opportunities for the park development include trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, open play areas, open space preservation, environmental education center, and overnight lodge. There are also opportunities for active recreation through municipal partnerships.

**Brady Jefcoat Property**

In 2005, Wake County acquired a 55-acre tract just north of Lake Wheeler along Penny Road. The current landowner (who maintains a life estate) donated half of the tract and the County purchased the balance. The site could provide typical County Park opportunities including picnic shelters, playgrounds, trails, restrooms, fishing, open space preservation, and environmental education. A portion of the site also lends itself to playfields for active recreation, which could be developed through various partnerships.

A unique feature of the Jefcoat Property is its proximity to the Swift Creek Open Space Corridor, Historic Yates Mill County Park, Crowder District Park and the City of Raleigh’s Lake Wheeler Park. Planning will determine the future uses of this site but a key element could be pedestrian trail connections.

**Future Trails and Greenways**

As defined in Goal #5 of this comprehensive Master Plan, Wake County will serve as the facilitator in the planning and collaboration among municipal and regional trail and greenway plans. The County’s role in development will be on key linkages between municipal corporate limits and the development of potential partnerships towards the implementation of a regional trail and greenway system. Key to this effort is three major trail projects.

**American Tobacco Trail South** - The extension of the American Tobacco Trail south from its current ending point in New Hill to Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County. The extension would include a spur trail connecting to Harris Lake County Park. Further planning studies will have to be executed prior to developing projected costs for this trail project.

**Swift Creek Greenway** - In 2006, Wake County, in partnership with the City of Raleigh and Town of Garner, prepared a concept plan for a publicly accessible greenway trail in the Swift Creek corridor connecting Lake Wheeler and Lake Benson. Funding for this project is estimated at $9 million and is outlined in a separate facility master plan. Development of this greenway will require partnerships from the City of Raleigh and Town of Garner.

**Neuse River Greenway** - The County, through open space acquisition and other partnerships, has targeted the Neuse River corridor from Poole Road south to the Johnston County line for a publicly accessible greenway. This would be an extension of the Neuse River Greenway that the City of Raleigh has already implemented and planned for north of Poole Road. Further planning studies will have to be executed prior to developing projected costs for this trail project.
Operational Costs for Potential Future Projects

Operational costs associated with the four new County park facilities: Lake Myra, Little River, Southeast, and Brady Jefcoat, can only be projected based on current operational expenditures at existing County park facilities. The conceptual programs developed for each of the proposed facilities also impacts operational costs. The current operational figures at existing County parks vary based on the size of the facility and programs offered. The 2007 annual operational figures range from approximately $158,000 to $439,000. It can be expected that any new County park facilities will require similar operating funds.

Table 8.5 summarizes all projected costs associated with expansion and renovation of existing County Park facilities, school park facilities, and development of future County Parks.

Table 8.5: Summary of Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Costs</th>
<th>FY09</th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing County Park Repair &amp; Improv.</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Use of Schools</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$6,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing County Park Master Planning</td>
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<td>$37,500</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
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<td>$305,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future County Park Projects</td>
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<td>$1,890,000</td>
<td>$4,620,000</td>
<td>$5,270,000</td>
<td>$4,735,000</td>
<td>$4,780,000</td>
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<td>$21,970,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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<td>$3,177,500</td>
<td>$5,707,500</td>
<td>$6,545,000</td>
<td>$5,810,000</td>
<td>$6,110,000</td>
<td>$1,825,000</td>
<td>$30,225,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concluding Statements

1. The Master Plan identifies county park facilities, that when developed, achieve the level of parks and leisure services needed by Wake County.

2. The Division’s core services of open space, recreation and leisure, and cultural and environmental education are on target.

3. There’s an increasing need to collaborate and partner with municipalities in the provision of parks, recreation, trails and greenways throughout Wake County.

4. Existing Wake County park facilities are aging and will need higher levels of maintenance and renovation.

5. The opportunities to acquire and protect open space and parkland are decreasing as the County continues to develop and grow, thereby limiting the potential for expansion and achievement of the primary goal of protecting the environment.
Existing and Future Park Development

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APPENDIX A

Focus Group Participants
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FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Active Recreation
- Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- Town of Cary
- North Raleigh Athletic Association
- Capital Area Soccer League
- Triangle Futbol Club
- Triangle Flying Disc Association
- YMCA of the Triangle
- North Wake Baseball

Natural Resources
- Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- Wake County Environmental Services
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Town of Cary
- North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Trails & Greenways
- Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Town of Cary
- Triangle Greenways Council
- North Carolina Horse Council
- North Carolina State Trails / Parks & Recreation
- Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail
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Community Attitude and Interest Survey
Executive Summary of Citizen Survey Results

Overview of the Methodology

The Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during March and April of 2007 to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the County. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Wake County. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with Wake County officials and members of the Bucher, Willis & Ratliff project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

In March 2007, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in Wake County. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed; each household that received a survey also received an electronic voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone, either to encourage completion of the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys within Wake County. This goal was accomplished, with a total of 423 surveys having been completed. The results of the random sample of 423 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.8%.

The following pages summarize major survey findings:
**Wake County Parks and Trails Visited Over the Past Year**

From a list of eight Wake County parks and trails, respondents were asked to indicate which ones their household has visited over the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

- **Lake Crabtree County Park (31%)** is the Wake County park/trail that the highest percentage of respondents have visited over the past year. Other Wake County parks and trails that respondent households have visited the most over the past year include: Harris Lake County Park (16%) and Blue Jay Point County Park (16%). Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondent households have visited at least one of the Wake County parks and trails over the past year.

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

*Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)*
Parks and Trails That Respondent Households Visit the Most Often

From the list of eight Wake County parks and trails, respondents were asked to indicate which three their household visits the most often. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the parks/trails that respondent households visit the most often are: Lake Crabtree County Park (28%), Blue Jay Point County Park (14%), Harris Lake County Park (13%) and Crowder District Park (12%). It should also be noted that Lake Crabtree County Park had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the park/trail they visit most often.

![Chart: Parks and Trails That Respondent Households Visit Most Often](source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007))
Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Have Used Over the Past Year

From a list of 21 recreation facilities located within Wake County parks, respondents were asked to indicate all of the facilities that their household has used or visited over the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

- Fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents households have used walking and hiking trails over the past year. Other recreation facilities that respondent households have used or visited the most over the past year are: picknicking areas/shelters (40%), playgrounds (36%), open play areas (24%) and boating and fishing areas (23%).

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents who used various recreation facilities over the past year.]

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Use Most Often

From the list of 21 recreation facilities located within Wake County parks, respondents were asked to indicate which three their household uses the most often. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the parks and recreation facilities that respondent households use the most often are: walking and hiking trails (43%), playgrounds (26%), and picnicking areas/shelters (21%). It should also be noted that walking and hiking trails had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the facility they use most often.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>1st Most Often</th>
<th>2nd Most Often</th>
<th>3rd Most Often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking and hiking trails</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking areas/shelters</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating and fishing areas</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic fields</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open play areas</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature/Interpretive trails</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking trails</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/Kayak areas</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature preserves/wildlife habitats</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic buildings</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc golf course</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational gardens</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand volleyball courts</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight lodge</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor classroom</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education/visitor centers</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm History Center</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock areas</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop (cotton) program</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit orchards</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None. We do not use any recreation facilities</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
**Overall Physical Condition of All Facilities and Trails in Wake County Parks**

Respondents were asked to indicate how they would rate the overall physical condition of all the facilities and trails in the Wake County parks that they have visited. The following summarizes key findings:

- Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents rate the physical condition of all the facilities and trails in the Wake County Parks they have visited as either “excellent” (19%) or “good” (47%). An additional 6% rate the physical condition as “fair” and 28% have “no opinion”. Less than 1% rated the facilities and trails as “poor”.

![Pie chart showing the distribution of ratings for the physical condition of facilities and trails in Wake County Parks.](source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007))
Time in Minutes it Takes to Travel to Park Visited Most Often

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of minutes it generally takes them to travel to the Wake County Park that they use the most often. The following summarizes key findings:

- Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents take 6-10 minutes to travel to the Wake County park that they use the most often. In addition, 22% of respondents travel more than 20 minutes to the park they use most often, 20% travel less than 5 minutes, 20% travel 11-15 minutes, and 15% travel 16-20 minutes.

![Pie chart showing time in minutes to travel to park]

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Ways Respondents Learn About Activities

From a list of 10 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ways they have learned about activities in the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. The following summarizes key findings:

- From friends and neighbors (47%) is the most frequently mentioned way that respondents learn about Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division activities. The other most frequently mentioned ways that respondents learn about Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division activities include: newspaper articles (31%), brochures/fliers at parks or facilities (21%), and Wake County Parks Website (19%).

Q7. Ways That Respondents Have Learned About Activities in the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division

![Chart showing the percentage of respondents who learned about activities from different sources.](chart.png)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Reasons that Prevent Respondent Households from Using Facilities and Programs More Often

From a list of 18 reasons, respondents were asked to indicate all of the reasons that prevent them and members of their household from using parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division more often. The following summarizes key findings:

- “Not enough time” (38%) is the most frequently mentioned reason that prevents respondent household members from using parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division more often. The other reasons that prevent respondents from using parks and facilities more often include: “I use city and town parks and facilities” (31%), “I do not know what is being offered” (29%), “I do not know locations of parks/facilities” (25%) and “parks too far from our residence” (25%).

Q8. Reasons Preventing Respondent Households From Using Parks, Trails, Recreation Facilities or Programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division More Often

(by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made))

- Not enough time - 38%
- I use city and town parks and facilities - 31%
- I do not know what is being offered - 29%
- I do not know locations of parks/facilities - 25%
- Parks too far from our residence - 25%
- Program times are not convenient - 4%
- Security is insufficient - 4%
- Program or facility not offered - 4%
- Parks and facilities are too crowded - 4%
- Lack of transportation - 3%
- Fees are too high - 3%
- Facilities are not well maintained - 2%
- Lack of handicap accessibility - 1%
- Park operating hours not convenient - 1%
- Registration for activities is difficult - 1%
- Parks are not well maintained - 1%
- Lack of parking - 1%
- Poor customer service by staff - 0%
- Other - 10%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Open Space Options Respondent Households Would Support the Most

From a list of four options for acquiring and developing open space for parks and recreation purposes, respondents were asked to indicate the two options their household would support the most. The following summarizes key findings:

- “Open spaces should be acquired and improved for passive use” (52%) and “open space should be acquired and improved for both passive and active use” (51%) had the highest percentage of respondents indicate those options as the two open space options that respondent households would support the most. Additionally, “open space should be acquired and left undeveloped” (33%) also had a high number of respondents indicate it as one of the two open space options that they would support the most. Only 6% of respondents indicated that no new open space should be acquired.

![Bar chart showing open space options supported by respondents](chart.png)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Need for Recreation Facilities

From a list of 26 recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ones that they and members of their household have a need for. The following summarizes key findings:

- Five of the 26 parks and recreation facilities had over 40% of respondents indicate they have a need for it. These five facilities include: walking and hiking trails (75%), nature trails (60%), picnicking areas and shelters (54%), nature preserves/wildlife habitats (44%), and children’s playgrounds (43%).

![Bar Chart showing the percentage of respondent households that have a need for various parks and recreation facilities (Q10).]

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Need for Recreation Facilities in Wake County

From the list of 26 recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The graph below shows the estimated number of households in Wake County that have a need for recreation facilities based on 190,669 households in the County.

Q10a. Estimated Number of Households in Wake County That Have a Need for Various Parks and Recreation Facilities

by number of households based on 190,669 households in Wake County (Source: 2000 U.S. Census)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
How Well Recreation Facilities Meet Needs

From the list of 26 recreation facilities, respondent households that have a need for facilities were asked to indicate how well those facilities meet their needs. The following summarizes key findings:

- For all 26 facilities, less than 35% of respondents indicated the facility completely meets that needs of their households.

![Diagram showing how well recreation facilities meet needs](source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007))
Wake County Households with Their Facility Needs Being 50% Met or Less

From the list of 26 recreation facilities, respondent households that have a need for facilities were asked to indicate how well those facilities meet their needs. The graph below shows the estimated number of households in Wake County whose needs for facilities are only being 50% met or less, based on 190,669 households in the County.
**Most Important Recreation Facilities**

From the list of 26 recreation facilities, respondents were asked to select the four that are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top four choices, the facilities that respondents rated as the most important are: walking and hiking trails (55%), nature trails (25%), picnicking areas and shelters (25%) and children’s playgrounds (23%). It should also be noted that walking and hiking trails had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important facility.
Support for Wake County Concentrating on Large Regional Parks and Longer Trail Systems

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on the acquisition, development, and operations of large regional parks and longer trail systems that can serve citizens throughout the County and leaving the operations of neighborhood parks and community parks to cities and towns within Wake County. The following summarizes key findings:

- Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondents indicated being “very supportive” (51%) or “somewhat supportive” (25%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on the acquisition, development, and operations of large regional parks and longer trails systems and leaving the operations of neighborhood parks and community parks to cities and towns within Wake County. An additional 17% of respondents indicated “not sure”, and 7% are “not supportive”.

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support of Wake County Concentrating on Partnering with Cities and Towns

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with cities and towns on the acquisition of open space primarily for water quality protection. The following summarizes key findings:

- Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents indicated being either “very supportive” (63%) or “somewhat supportive” (21%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with Cities and Towns on the acquisition of open space primarily for water quality protection. An additional 12% indicated being “not sure”, and only 4% indicated that they are “not supportive”.

![Pie chart showing support levels](chart.png)
Support of Wake County Concentrating on Partnering with Wake County Public School System, Cities, and Towns

Respondents were asked how supportive they are of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with the Wake County Public School System, cities, and towns on the acquisition, development, and use of park facilities with school sites. The following summarizes key findings:

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents indicated being either “very supportive” (54%) or “somewhat supportive” (24%) of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with the school system, cities and towns on the acquisition, development, and use of park facilities with school sites. An additional 14% indicated “not sure”, and 8% indicated that they are “not supportive”.

![Pie chart showing support levels](chart.png)
Areas Respondents Feel Are Most Important to Concentrate On

Respondents were asked which two areas they feel are the most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to concentrate on. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top two choices, the two areas respondents feel are most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to concentrate on are: partnering with cities and towns (63%) and acquisition of large regional parks (53%).

Q13. Areas Respondents Feel Are Most Important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to Concentrate On

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top two choices

- Partnering with cities and towns: 63%
- Acquisition of large regional parks: 53%
- Partnering with public school system: 48%
- None chosen: 15%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Support for the Long Range Goal of Protecting 30% of Land Area

Respondents were asked if they are supportive they are of the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area within the County for environmental stewardship, protection of water quality, developing new parks and recreation sites, developing trails, etc. The following summarizes key findings:

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of respondents are supportive of the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area. Only 6% of respondents are not supportive of protecting 30% of the land area, and 16% indicated “not sure”.

Q14. Are Respondents Supportive of the Long Range Goal of Protecting 30% of the Land Area Within the County for Environmental Stewardship, Protection of Water Quality, Developing New Parks and Recreation Sites, Developing Trails

by percentage of respondents

Yes 78%
Not sure 16%
No 6%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Reason Respondent is Not Supportive of Protecting 30% of Land Area

Respondents who indicated that they are not sure or not supportive of protecting 30% of the land area within the County were asked to indicate the primary reason for their response. The following summarizes key findings:

- Of the 22% of respondents who indicated “not sure” or “no” to the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area within the County, 63% indicated the reason that they are not supportive is “I need more information”. Additionally, 16% indicated “I would support a goal that was less than 30% of the land area”, 12% indicated “other” and 9% indicated “I do not feel we need to protect any more land for these purposes”.

Table showing the distribution of responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need more information on this goal</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not feel we need to protect any more land for these purposes</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would support a goal that was less than 30% of the land area</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Level of Agreement with Potential Benefits

From a list of 10 potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services, respondent households were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each potential benefit that could be provided by parks, trails, and recreation facilities. The following summarizes key findings:

- **Five of the 10 benefits had over 40% of respondents indicate that they “strongly agree” with the benefits being provided by parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services.** These five benefits include: improves physical health and fitness (68%), preserves open space and the environment (63%), make Wake County a more desirable place to live (60%), improves mental health and reduces stress (49%), and increases property values in surrounding areas (44%).

![Q15. Level of Agreement with the Benefits Being Provided by Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities and Services](source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007))
Potential Benefits That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

From the list of 10 potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services, respondents were asked to indicate which three potential benefits are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the potential benefits that are most important to respondent households are: improves physical health and fitness (70%), preserves open space and the environment (48%), make Wake County a more desirable place to live (39%), and improves mental health and reduces stress (33%). It should also be noted that improves physical health and fitness had the highest percentage of respondents select is as their first choice as the most important potential benefit.

![Chart showing the percentage of respondents who selected each benefit as their first, second, or third choice.](chart.png)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Potential Benefits Are Most Important to the Future of Wake County

From the list of 10 potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services, respondents were asked to indicate which three potential benefits are most important to the future of Wake County. The following summarizes key findings:

- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the potential benefits that respondent households think are most important to the future of Wake County are: make Wake County a more desirable place to live (46%), preserves open space and the environment (46%), improves physical health and fitness (31%), and helps attract new residents and businesses (27%). It should also be noted that make Wake County a more desirable place to live had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important potential benefit.

Q17. Potential Benefits That Respondent Households Feel Are Most Important to the Future of Wake County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Benefit</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make Wake County a more desirable place to live</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserves open space and the environment</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improves physical health and fitness</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps attract new residents and businesses</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases property values in surrounding areas</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protects historical attributes of the County</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps reduce crime</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotes tourism to the County</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improves mental health and reduces stress</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases opport. for people of different cultures</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Prioritizing Resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division

Respondents were asked to indicate how they would prioritize resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. The following summarizes key findings:

- Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents indicated they would prioritize resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division with improvements/maintenance of existing Wake County Parks. The remaining 68% was allocated as follows: 22% for acquisition of new parkland and open space, 17% for development of new trails and pathways, 15% for development of new land based recreation, 13% for development of new water based recreation, and 1% for other.

![Pie chart showing resource prioritization](chart.png)

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Satisfaction with Overall Value Received from the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division

Respondents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with the overall value their household receives from the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. The following summarizes key findings:

- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents indicated being either “very satisfied” (20%) or “somewhat satisfied” (37%) with the overall value their household receives from the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division. Only 7% of respondents indicated being either “somewhat dissatisfied” (5%) or “very dissatisfied” (2%) with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division. In addition, 17% of respondents indicated “don’t know” and 19% indicated “neutral”.

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Demographics

Q21. Demographics: Ages Of All Those Living in Household

by percentage of respondents

- 20-24 years: 3%
- 25-34 years: 18%
- 35-44 years: 14%
- 45-54 years: 15%
- 55-64 years: 12%
- 5-9 years: 8%
- 10-14 years: 7%
- 15-19 years: 6%
- Under 5 years: 8%
- 65+ years: 8%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)

Q20. Demographics: Amount of People in Household

by percentage of respondents

- 2 people: 43%
- 3 people: 15%
- 4 people: 21%
- 5+ people: 10%
- 1 person: 11%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Demographics Continued

Q22. Demographics: Age
by percentage of respondents

- 25 to 34: 27%
- 35 to 44: 18%
- 45 to 54: 20%
- 55 to 64: 18%
- Under 25: 5%
- 65+: 11%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)

Q24. Demographics: Amount of Time Lived in Wake County
by percentage of respondents

- Under 3 years: 11%
- 3 to 5 years: 13%
- 6 to 10 years: 19%
- 11 to 15 years: 14%
- 16 to 20 years: 10%
- 21 to 30 years: 14%
- 31+ years: 20%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Demographics Continued

Q25. Demographics: Whether Respondent Household Has Members of Hispanic or Latin Ancestry

by percentage of respondents

Yes 7%
No 93%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)

Q26. Demographics: Race/Ethnicity

by percentage of respondents

White 75%
Asian/Pacific Islander 3%
Other 4%
Black/African American 17%
American Indian or Alaskan Native 1%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (May 2007)
Demographics Continued

Q27. Demographics: Gender
by percentage of respondents

Male
46%

Female
54%

Source: Leisure Vision ETC Institute (May 2022)
APPENDIX C

Survey Instrument
(This Page Left Blank Intentionally)
Community Interest and Opinion Survey: *Let your voice be heard today!*

The Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division would like your input to help determine parks, trails, open space and recreation priorities for Wake County. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts to improve the quality of life in Wake County.

Do you live in Wake County?

(1) Yes [Please continue the survey.]

(2) No [Please discontinue the survey. This survey is only for residents of Wake County.]

1. From the following list, please check ALL the Wake County parks and trails you or members of your household have visited over the past 12 months.

   (1) Lake Crabtree County Park
   (2) Blue Jay Point County Park
   (3) Historic Oak View County Park
   (4) Crowder District Park
   (5) Harris Lake County Park
   (6) Historic Yates Mill County Park
   (7) American Tobacco Trail
   (8) Cedar Fork District Park
   (9) None, we do not use any Wake County park or trails

2. Which THREE of the parks listed in Question #1 do you and members of your household visit the most often? [Please write in the numbers below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices using the numbers in Question #1 above, or circle NONE.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Most</th>
<th>2nd Most</th>
<th>3rd Most</th>
<th>NONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. From the following list, please check ALL the recreation facilities found within the Wake County Parks listed in Question #1 you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 12 months.

   (01) Walking and hiking trails
   (02) Nature/interpretive trails
   (03) Mountain biking trails
   (04) Educational gardens
   (05) Overnight lodge
   (06) Athletic fields
   (07) Boating and fishing areas
   (08) Playgrounds
   (09) Outdoor classroom
   (10) Disc golf course
   (11) Canoe/Kayak areas
   (12) Historic buildings
   (13) Farm History Center
   (14) Crop (cotton) program
   (15) Fruit orchards
   (16) Livestock areas
   (17) Environmental education/visitor centers
   (18) Sand volleyball courts
   (19) Open play areas
   (20) Picnicking areas/shelters
   (21) Nature preserves/wildlife habitats
   (22) Other: ___________________________
   (23) None, we do not use any recreation facilities.

4. Which THREE of the parks and recreation facilities listed in Question #3 do you or members of your household use most often at Wake County parks? [Please write in the numbers below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices using the numbers in Question #3 above, or circle NONE.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Most</th>
<th>2nd Most</th>
<th>3rd Most</th>
<th>NONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Overall how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the facilities and trails in the Wake County
parks you have visited?
____ (1) Excellent  ______ (3) Fair  ______ (5) No opinion
____ (2) Good  ______ (4) Poor

6. How long (in minutes) does it generally take you to travel to the Wake County park that you use the most often? ______ minutes

7. Please check ALL the ways you have learned about activities in the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division.
   ____ (01) Wake County Parks Quarterly Newsletter  ____ (07) From friends and neighbors
   ____ (02) Wake County Parks Website  ____ (08) Brochures/fliers at parks or facilities
   ____ (03) Newspaper articles  ____ (09) Radio
   ____ (04) Conversations with park staff  ____ (10) Television
   ____ (05) School flyers/newsletter  ____ (11) Other:________________________
   ____ (06) E-Mail List

8. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, trails, recreation facilities or programs of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division more often.
   ____ (01) Parks are not well maintained  ____ (11) Poor customer service by staff
   ____ (02) Facilities are not well maintained  ____ (12) I do not know locations of parks/facilities
   ____ (03) Program or facility not offered  ____ (13) I do not know what is being offered
   ____ (04) Security is insufficient  ____ (14) I use city and town parks and facilities
   ____ (05) Lack of transportation  ____ (15) Lack of parking
   ____ (06) Parks too far from our residence  ____ (16) Park operating hours not convenient
   ____ (07) Parks and facilities are too crowded  ____ (17) Registration for activities is difficult
   ____ (08) Fees are too high  ____ (18) Not enough time
   ____ (09) Program times are not convenient  ____ (19) Other:________________________
   ____ (10) Lack of handicap accessibility

9. The Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division has many options regarding acquiring and developing open space for parks and recreation purposes. From the following list, please check the TWO open space options that you or members of your household would support the most.
   ____ (A) Open space should be acquired and left undeveloped.
   ____ (B) Open space should be acquired and improved for passive usage, i.e. trails, picnicking, shelters.
   ____ (C) Open space should be acquired and improved for active usage, i.e. baseball, soccer, football, etc.
   ____ (D) Open space should be acquired and improved for both passive (trails, picnicking) and active (baseball, soccer, football) usages.
   ____ (E) No new open space should be acquired.
10. Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has a need for each of the parks and recreational facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the park/facility.

If YES, please rate ALL the following parks and recreation FACILITIES of this type in Wake County on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means “100% Meets Needs” and 1 means “Does Not Meet Needs” of your household.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Facility</th>
<th>Do You Have a Need for this Facility?</th>
<th>If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Walking and hiking trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Biking trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Horse trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Mountain biking trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Nature trails</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Youth fields (i.e. baseball, softball, football, soccer, and lacrosse)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Adult fields (i.e. soccer and softball fields)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Skate park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Canoeing and kayaking areas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Boating and sailing areas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Fishing areas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Swimming pools</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Outdoor classrooms</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Conference centers for weddings/meetings</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. Tennis courts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Sand volleyball courts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q. Historic sites and buildings</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Off leash dog parks</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Environmental/cultural education centers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Nature preserves/wildlife habitats</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Education gardens</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Picnicking areas and shelters</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Children’s playgrounds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Disc golf course</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. Livestock areas and farms</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Other: ________________________________</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Which FOUR of the facilities from the list in Question #10 are most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division to provide for your household? [Using the letters and number in the left hand column of Question #10 above, please write in the letters or number below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices, or circle ‘NONE’.]

1<sup>st</sup>: _____ 2<sup>nd</sup>: _____ 3<sup>rd</sup>: _____ 4<sup>th</sup>: _____ NONE
12. Historically, the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division has concentrated on three major areas in the delivery of parks and recreation services. Listed below in Questions 12a, 12b, and 12c are each of the three areas. For each area please indicate how supportive you are of the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division concentrating on this area.

12a. How supportive are you of Wake County continuing to concentrate on the acquisition, development and operations of large regional parks and longer trail systems that can serve citizens throughout the County and leaving the operations of neighborhood parks and community parks to cities and towns within Wake County?
   (1) Very supportive (2) Somewhat supportive (3) Not sure (4) Not supportive

12b. How supportive are you of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with cities and towns on the acquisition of open space primarily for water quality protection?
   (1) Very supportive (2) Somewhat supportive (3) Not sure (4) Not supportive

12c. How supportive are you of Wake County continuing to concentrate on partnering with the Wake County Public School System, cities and towns on the acquisition, development, and use of park facilities with school sites?
   (1) Very supportive (2) Somewhat supportive (3) Not sure (4) Not supportive

13. Which TWO of the areas listed in Questions #12a, 12b, and 12c do you feel is most important for the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division to concentrate on? [Please write in the numbers below for your 1st and 2nd choices using the numbers in Questions #12a, 12b, and 12c above, or circle NONE.]

   1st Most Important 2nd Most Important NONE

14. Wake County has a long range goal of protecting 30% of the County’s land area for a variety of purposes, including protection of water quality, environmental stewardship, developing new parks and recreation areas, developing trails, etc. Reaching this goal would mean protecting approximately 165,000 acres of Wake County’s total land area of 550,000 acres. There are currently 55,719 acres protected throughout the County.

Are you supportive of the long range goal of protecting 30% of the land area within the County for environmental stewardship, protection of water quality, developing new parks and recreation sites, developing trails, etc.?
   (1) Yes [please continue with Q15] (2) No [please answer Q14a] (3) Not sure [please answer Q14a]

14a. Which ONE of the following is the PRIMARY reason you are not supportive of the 30% goal?
   (1) I do not feel we need to protect any more land for these purposes
   (2) I need more information on this goal.
   (3) I would support a goal that was less than 30% of the land area. Note: Please write in what percent you would support? _______%
   (4) Other: ___________________________________________________________
15. The following are some benefits that you and your household may receive from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services. For each potential benefit, please indicate your level of agreement with the benefits being provided by parks, trails, and recreation facilities by circling the corresponding number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential benefits from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Improves physical health and fitness</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Helps reduce crime</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Makes Wake County a more desirable place to live</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Preserves open space and the environment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Increases property values in surrounding areas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(F) Improves mental health and reduces stress</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Increases opportunities for people of different cultures to interact</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(H) Helps attract new residents and businesses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I) Protects historical attributes of the County</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(J) Promotes tourism to the County</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(K) Other: ________________________</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Which THREE of the potential benefits listed in Question #15 are most important to you and members of your household? [Please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices using the letters in Question #15 above, or circle ‘NONE’.]

1st: _____  2nd: _____  3rd: _____  NONE

17. Which THREE of the potential benefits listed in Question #15 are most important to the future of Wake County? [Please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices using the letters in Question #15 above, or circle ‘NONE’.]

1st: _____  2nd: _____  3rd: _____  NONE

18. Using percentages, please indicate how you would prioritize resources for the Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Division. Please indicate what percent of 100% you would allocate to each category by writing in that percentage in the space to the left of the descriptions below. [Please be sure that your allocation adds up to 100%]

- _____% Improvements/maintenance of existing Wake County parks
- _____% Acquisition of new parkland and open space
- _____% Development of new trails and pathways, i.e. walking, hiking and biking trails, etc.
- _____% Development of new land based recreation, i.e. athletic fields, picnic areas, historic areas, etc.
- _____% Development of new water based recreation, i.e. boating and fishing areas, etc.
- _____% Other: ____________________________________

100% TOTAL
19. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means “Very Satisfied” and 1 means “Very Dissatisfied”, with the overall value your household receives from the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division.

___ (5) Very Satisfied  ___ (2) Somewhat Dissatisfied
___ (4) Somewhat Satisfied  ___ (1) Very Dissatisfied
___ (3) Neutral  ___ (9) Don’t Know

Demographics

20. Including yourself, how many people live in your household? _______

21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are?
   Under 5 years _____  15 - 19 years _____  35 - 44 years _____  65+ years _____
   5 - 9 years _____  20 - 24 years _____  45 - 54 years _____
   10 - 14 years _____  25 - 34 years _____  55 - 64 years _____

22. What is your age? _______

23. What is your home zip code? ________

24. How long have you lived in Wake County? ______

25. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latin ancestry?
___(1) Yes  ___(2) No

26. How would you describe your race/ethnicity? [Please check all that apply.]
___(1) Asian/Pacific Islander  ___(4) Black/African American
___(2) White  ___(5) Other: _____________________
___(3) American Indian or Alaskan Native

27. Your gender: ___(1) Male  ___(2) Female

28. Please check which ONE of the following communities or areas of Wake County you live within.
___ (01) Apex  ___ (06) Knightdale  ___ (11) Wendell
___ (02) Cary  ___ (07) Morrisville  ___ (12) Zebulon
___ (03) Fuquay-Varina  ___ (08) Raleigh  ___ (13) Unincorporated Wake County
___ (04) Garner  ___ (09) Rolesville
___ (05) Holly Springs  ___ (10) Wake Forest

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time.

Please Return Your Completed Survey in the Enclosed Return-Reply Envelope Addressed to:
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wake County  
FROM: Michael Malyn and Dick Horton  
SUBJECT: RLDO Critique  
DATE: Thursday, July 19, 2007

An analysis of the current May 20, 2002 Ordinance reveals that it is patterned from similar ordinances crafted for municipal parks and recreation agencies assessing a fee for the development of neighborhood services. Because of recent Supreme Court decisions that give municipal ordinances their standing, it is important that Wake County review its current ordinance.

It is recommended therefore that the following be implemented.

• Recommend that Wake County, through its Planning Department, review the current ordinance relative to Supreme Court decisions for possible revision or replacement.
• Consult an expert on the writing of a County ordinance that is supportable by current law and specific to Wake County.
• Create a fee formula supportable by actual Wake County conditions such as cost of development, expected population growth, future open space demand compared to the current documented demand.
• Include language specific to regional parks, county wide trails and greenways, and possible cooperative purchases or developments in cooperation with the adjacent municipalities.
• Include language to require periodic reviews of how the fee is calculated; i.e. once every three years.
• Cash in lieu of options should include the type and quality of land that will be accepted and that land offers are subject to approval of suitability.
• Service areas may need to be created to establish where fee may be used so that it is used in proportion to the demand that created the need.
• Use fees collected under the current ordinance in partnership with municipalities in close proximity to the source of the fee.
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Wake County Parks Inventory

Facility Name (Public or Private):

*Blue Jay Point County Park*

Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):

- 234 acres
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 19,591 (gross ft²: Education Center, Lodge, Maintenance Shop, Comfort Station and Residence)

Special Features and Amenities:

- Environmental Education Center (with exhibits)
- Overnight Lodge for environmental education
- Educational Garden area with small study pond
- Wildlife enhancement areas
- 5 miles of hiking trails including 1 self-guided interpretive trail
- 4.5 miles of shoreline on Falls Lake
- 5 acres of turf on open-play area and tee-ball field
- Picnic areas
- Park Residence
- 2 Playgrounds
- Small amphitheater
- Fishing area

Partnerships

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- North Carolina State Parks
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Wake County Public School System
- Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- Private individuals, community interest groups, private organizations and educational institutions
- Local, state and national governmental agencies in conjunction with special events and educator workshops

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):

- Located in northern Wake County, the park is convenient for all County residents due to access from I-540 (The Outer Loop)

Types of Programs Offered:

- Environmental and cultural history education programs for school groups, camps and public programs
- Exhibits
- Special Events

Entry Sign

- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance

- High

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)

- Secondary asphalt path maintenance
- Picnic shelters (as identified in current Master Plan process)
- Office expansion
- Playground retaining wall

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):

- Lodge for environmental education
- Classrooms in environmental education center (priority given to groups with environmental education in their mission)
- Relationships with CASL and YMCA for field reservations

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Park is well known for excellence in environmental education
- High quality of maintenance
- Environmental Education Center has professional-level, high quality exhibits

**Potential for Expansion:**
- Currently in master planning process
- Future trail expansion possible
- Picnic shelter and Office expansion may be added as part of the master planning process

**Notes:**
- Blue Jay Point is a high quality, well maintained, park focusing on environmental education with additional provisions for informal recreation opportunities
Wake County Parks Inventory

Facility Name (Public or Private):
Crowder District Park
- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):
- 33 acres
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 7,676 (gross ft²: Park Office, Pavilion, Comfort Station and three Picnic Shelters)

Special Features and Amenities:
- 3 Picnic shelters with grills
- 3 Playgrounds
- 1.1 mile paved trail
- 2.1 acre pond w/ boardwalk
- Viewing deck with Adirondack chairs at upper Pavilion
- Educational gardens
- Small amphitheater
- 2 restroom pavilions
- Playfield with backstop
- Sand volleyball court

Partnerships:
- Penny Road Elementary School
- Middle Creek High School
- North Carolina State University – Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):
- Within 5 miles (Fuquay, Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Garner

Types of Programs Offered:
- Environmental and cultural history education programs for school groups, camps and public programs
- Special Events

Entry Sign
- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance
- High
- Park appears to have a higher level of wear and tear than other County Parks

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)
- Need for indoor classroom/meeting space (for Park and County use)
- Easement potentially required for bridge leading to amphitheater. Currently about 5’ of the bridge is on private property
- Consider acquisition of property adjacent to the park for conservation purposes
- Need for increased all weather, secure storage

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):
- Picnic shelters

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Very good general conditions
- Appears to be a highly used/visited park

Potential for Expansion:
- Additional property behind park which Park would like to be obtained
- Additional property would provide a habitat/eco system for improved educational programming and potential for increasing length of trails

Notes:
- Drainage/erosion issues at Heron Shelter
- Large portion of asphalt paths failing
- Turf issues around picnic shelters—noticeable high percentage of clover
- Restroom and deck structure could benefit from a touch up with paint/stain
- Wood fence along playground has failed at one point
- Interpretive sign regarding rain garden is not “lay person” friendly. Could improve to be more engaging, interactive etc
- Boardwalk needs improvements
- Users highly value Crowder Park
Wake County Parks Inventory
Facility Name (Public or Private):

**Harris Lake County Park**
- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):  
- 680 acres  
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 8,478 (gross ft²): Park Office, Comfort Station, three Picnic Shelters and a Well House

Special Features and Amenities:  
Only Phase I completed:  
- Visitor Center/Operations and Management Facility  
- Day use area including:  
  - 3 picnic shelters & picnic area  
  - Restroom building  
  - 10 miles mountain bike trails  
  - 5 miles hiking  
  - Interpretive trail  
  - Playground  
  - Fishing pier  
  - Canoe/kayak launch site  
  - Disc Golf Course  
  - Catfish pond  
  - Sand volleyball court

Partnerships

- Progress Energy  
- Triangle Off-road Cyclists (TORC)  
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
- Raleigh Area Disc League (RADL)  
- North Carolina Forest Service  
- NC State University  
- Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Group  
- Wake County  
- Towns of Fuquay-Varina, Cary and Holly Springs  
- Raleigh Astronomy Club  
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):

Located in New Hill, NC (southwestern Wake County) and convenient to:  
- Apex  
- Raleigh  
- Cary  
- Holly Springs  
- Fuquay-Varina

Types of Programs Offered:

- Environmental and cultural history education programs for school groups, camps and public programs  
- Special Events

Entry Sign

- Standard Wake County Park sign  
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance

- High  
- Playground has regular maintenance regime  
- General site appearance (asphalt, lawn shoulder, parking area, picnic area etc. appeared highly maintained)
Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)
- Park would like to expand by adding an Environmental Education Center, camp ground and other facilities consistent with current master plan

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):
- Picnic shelters can be reserved

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Conditions are high quality and very well maintained
- Park is known for its mountain biking trails
- Provisions for adequate water based recreation opportunities

Potential for Expansion:
- Only Phase I completed at this point
- Potential for expansion

Notes:
- Recommended for Master Plan to be re-evaluated against potential future plans for Progress Energy to raise water level by 20`. Division should be pro-active in preparing for new park “footprint” by planning for moving facilities and amenities impacted by increased water level without disruption of service to visitors. Division should continue to communicate and negotiate with Progress Energy on potential additional land that could offset land lost from flooding.
- Map potential new shoreline and recommend relocation of future primary structures and amenities out of potential future flood elevation.
- Re-evaluate Master Plan to determine priority order of phases and capital budget of each phase.
Wake County Parks Inventory

Facility Name (Public or Private):

*Historic Oak View County Park*

- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):

- 27 acres
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 16,602 (gross ft²): Main House, Farm History Center, Cotton Museum, Carriage House, Livestock Barn, Plank Kitchen and two Picnic Shelters

Special Features and Amenities:

- Historic House and out-buildings
- Farm History Center
- Cotton Museum
- Crop program, fruit orchard, pecan grove, herb garden, livestock program

Partnerships

- Wake County Cooperative Extension
- Wake County Extension and Community Association
- North Carolina Museum of History
- Raleigh Heritage Trail
- North Carolina Pecan Growers Association
- Antique Automobile Club of America
- Wake County Public Libraries
- Herb Society of Wake County
- Wake County Master Gardeners
- North Carolina State University College of Humanities and Social Science
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):

- County wide
- County wide school groups

Types of Programs Offered:

- Cultural educational opportunities
- Guided public tours
- School group programs
- Exhibits
- Special Events

Entry Sign

- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance

- High

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)

- Additional items on current Master Plan (i.e. tenant house, expansion of Farm History Center for conference room space)

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):

- County groups only can reserve house
- Shelters

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:

- Excellent condition
- High quality, beautiful and unique park facility

Potential for Expansion:

- No potential for expansion due to site constraints

Notes:

- Directional signage into primary park area could be improved
- Park has an Advisory Board
Wake County Parks Inventory

Facility Name (Public or Private):
Lake Crabtree County Park
- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):
- 215 acres
- 520 lake acres
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 9,330 (gross ft²: Park Office, Maintenance Shop, Boat Rental Buildings, Observation Tower, two Comfort Stations, and three Picnic Shelters

Special Features and Amenities:
- Boat rental & boat launch
- Fishing pier & fishing platform
- Trails
- 3 Picnic shelters
- Volleyball courts
- Open space area
- 2 Playgrounds
- Educational gardens

Partnerships
- North Carolina State University
- Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
- Triangle YMCA
- Triangle Paddling Club
- Carolina Sailing Foundation
- Triangle Off Road Cyclist
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):
- Located in western Wake County on the edge of the City of Raleigh, the park is convenient for all County residents via access from I-40

Types of Programs Offered:
- Environmental education
- Canoe and kayak demonstrations
- Special Events

Entry Sign
- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance
- High

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)
- In-door Classroom

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):
- Shelters
- Boat launch fees

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Conditions are high quality and very well maintained
- Park is known for its mountain biking trails, boat rental program including sailing camps, and environmental education programming

Potential for Expansion:
- In 1993, the County expanded its original park site with a lease of 127 acres from the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority. Further park expansion is not likely, but additional trail and greenway connections between the park and the Town of Morrisville and the Town of Cary are planned.
- A revised master plan is needed and may include a plan for indoor conditioned educational space.

Notes:
The park is the most heavily visited site in the Wake County system.
Lake Crabtree has been impacted by the upstream release of PCBs from the Ward Transformer site. This EPA superfund site, and impacted waters down-stream are under investigation for remedial action.
Wake County Parks Inventory

Facility Name (Public or Private):

American Tobacco Trail (ATT)
- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):
- 6.7 miles of trail in Wake County
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 444 (gross ft²: two Comfort Stations)

Special Features and Amenities:
- Restrooms, picnic areas, kiosks and benches at 3 trail heads

Partnerships
- North Carolina Department of Transportation
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Triangle Rails to Trail Conservancy
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- Chatham County
- Town of Cary
- Town of Apex
- City of Durham
- North Carolina Horse Council
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):
- Trail access points are located at New Hill/Olive Chapel Road, Wimberly, and White Oak Church Road

Types of Programs Offered:
- Environmental education programs
- Special Events

Entry Sign
- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance
- High
- Equestrian group cleans trail 2x per week.

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)
- Wake County may need to make a decision about the use of granite screenings on its trail surfaces as it presents a significant maintenance problem. Users prefer granite screenings to asphalt.

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):
- No amenities require reservations

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Conditions are high quality and very well maintained
- Trails are wide to accommodate all user groups
- Gates allow for bike, pedestrian, and horse access while restricting motorized vehicles from entering.

Potential for Expansion:
- Town of Cary and Apex want to connect to ATT with their trail systems
- Expansion of the Trail south to Harris Lake County Park and possibly to Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County

Notes:
- Lack of directional signage to Wimberly trail head
- Wimberly trail head is smallest parking area and often overflowing with cars
- Pedestrian crossings could be improved or expanded at the Wimberly trail head
- Trail users parking outside gates before opening time creates safety concerns
Wake County Parks Inventory
Facility Name (Public or Private):
Historic Yates Mill County Park
- Public

Size (Land area or Building Square Feet):
- 174 acres
- 20-acre pond with mill dam
- 16,000 SF Visitors Center
- Total Building sq ft maintained: 16,639 (gross ft²): Education Center with Research Wing, and Outdoor Classroom Lodge, Maintenance Shop, Comfort Station and Residence

Special Features and Amenities:
- Native landscaping with piedmont prairie demonstration plot
- Wildlife enhancement features
- Best management practice demonstration areas
- Visitor's Center with museum
- Education Wing including
  - Two classrooms
  - Auditorium
  - Exhibits
  - Staff offices
  - Support facilities
- Historic Grist Mill and Mill Dam
- Pond and wetland boardwalks
- Pedestrian bridge
- Park center and mill overlook decks
- Covered outdoor field classroom (no utilities)
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Picnic tables
- 3 miles of hiking trails

Partnerships:
- NC State University/State of NC
- NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Yates Mill Associates
- Private individuals, community interest groups and private organizations

Location and proximity to the greatest number of users (1/2 mile away, within 5 miles, within 10 miles, from all over County.):
Located in southern Raleigh, NC (southwestern Wake County) and convenient to:
- 5 miles from downtown Raleigh
- North Carolina State University
- Apex
- Cary
- Fuquay-Varina
- Garner
- Holly Springs

Types of Programs Offered:
- Programs for the general public are offered in subjects including historical interpretation, environmental education, agro-ecology, and public recreation
- The park serves as a field research facility and wildlife refuge for NC State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- The park is surrounded by the university’s Biological Field Laboratories
- Programs for Wake County School students are currently being developed and will be offered starting in 2008
- 6 week summer program run by NC Museum of Natural Sciences, as well as week-long camp programs offered by PROS, NC State University’s Biological Outreach Program, and Youth Unlimited Programs
Entry Sign
- Standard Wake County Park sign
- New, high quality

Quality of Maintenance
- High
- Newly opened historic mill is fully restored and operable– excellent restoration
- General site appearance (asphalt, entry drive, lawn shoulder, parking area, retaining walls, visitor’s center, historic mill, picnic area etc. appeared highly maintained)

Needs and Estimated Quantities (for CIP estimates)
- Park entrance approach signs for safety reasons
- Auxiliary Parking Lot for amphitheater and overflow (current 75 spaces not sufficient for events)
- Reservable covered picnic shelter
- Accessible crossing at waterway
- Demonstration farm

Reserved Facilities or Uses (Shelters, Courts, Gyms, Meeting Rooms):
- Classrooms
- Auditorium
- Covered field classroom

General Conditions and Adequacy for Intended Purpose and Uses:
- Conditions are high quality and very well maintained
- Parking lot and visitor’s center can accommodate wide variety of visitors from small family to school groups
- The mill is open by appointment at limited times – tour offerings should be expanded as resources become available to support an expanded operation

Potential for Expansion:
- Future 400 acres are programmed for additional trails
- Demonstration plots on adjacent land are used by students

Notes:
- Permitted visitor entrance into Mill is unclear
- Private donation may fund construction of general store for the sales of mill merchandise through Yates Mill Associates
- Decision must be approved by Advisory Board, YMA executive committee, and YMA board of directors
- The park was designed and developed without a separate maintenance facility. It was thought that maintenance equipment and materials storage could occur at nearby Crowder District Park. Future master plan revisions may address this issue.
- There has been limited discussion of relocating Lake Wheeler Road and its vehicular bridge away from the historic mill.
APPENDIX F

Other Plan Review
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Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003-2008

Overview:
Since passage of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been required in order for states to be eligible for LWCF acquisition and development assistance. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the state agency with authority to represent and act for the state for purposes of the LWCF Act, has prepared this plan. The plan contents and format are shaped by the planning guidelines of the LWCF Act. The major requirements are:

- comprehensiveness
- evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state;
- a wetlands priority component;
- a program for implementation of the plan;
- ample public participation in the planning process;
- description of process and methodology

Key Outdoor Recreation Issues:
1. Improved Outdoor Recreational Services — The need to provide improved outdoor recreational services to meet the needs of a growing and changing population including some highlights: adequate staffing, addressing deteriorating facilities, greater public accessibility, expanded protection of natural resources.

2. Conservation of Natural Resources — The need to conserve and protect important natural resources and open spaces in a rapidly developing state. Recognition of dwindling open space for future resources.

3. Funding — The need to ensure a stable and adequate source of funding to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of current and future generations. Reviews some of the statewide funding mechanisms including: Natural Heritage Trust Fund, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

4. Partnerships — The need to create effective partnerships between all parties interested in outdoor recreation so they may pursue common interests more effectively. Encourage partnerships between government agencies and entities, public/private, and non-profit/public.

5. The State Parks System — The need to improve the North Carolina state parks system.

These issues were identified at statewide meetings and through responses to a statewide outdoor recreation issues survey.

Supply of Outdoor Recreational facilities
Provides an overview of park structures at the State Level, what activities are included in “Outdoor Recreation” and a comparative analysis of counties that provide these services and structures.
See section 2 of the report for charts, graphs and specific numbers related to these items:

Results Overview:
Wake County which ranks among the top 5 counties in North Carolina in population density by county, has some of the best distribution in the State of serving residents per park acre at the regional and local levels.

Its service levels for facilities rate it among the best in the State at this time for residents per facility including: residents per baseball fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, soccer/football multi-purpose fields, trail per mile, volleyball courts,

Midrange within the state for: softball, basketball courts, soccer fields, swimming pools, tennis courts

Lowest in the state for resident per facility for: football fields, baseball/softball multi-purpose fields

Top Five most popular outdoor recreational activities within the state are:
1. walking for pleasure
2. driving for pleasure
3. viewing scenery
4. beach activities
5. visiting historical sites

Please note: Wake County's highest population age bracket is 25-44 years old and the following activities ranked among the highest with this age bracket:
1. bicycling for pleasure
2. jogging or running
3. use of play equipment
4. use of open areas
5. beach activities

Additional demand was broken down by age group and activity demand resulting in the following statewide future demand results for all categories:
1. walking for pleasure
2. fishing-freshwater
3. beach activities
4. camping (tent or vehicle)
5. bicycling for pleasure

The following activities are listed as ranking high for public support or funding for outdoor recreational activities:
1. walking for pleasure
2. camping (tent or vehicle)
3. picnicking
4. visiting historical sites
5. fishing-freshwater
6. visiting natural areas
7. beach activities
8. visiting zoos
9. use of play equipment
10. attending outdoor cultural events
Statewide Priorities for Funding 2003-2008
1. walking for pleasure
2. camping (tent or vehicle)
3. picnicking
4. beach activities
5. fishing-freshwater
6. attend outdoor cultural events

ROLES and Responsibilities:
The primary descriptions in this section define the roles of Federal, State, and local governments.

SCORPS view of County responsibilities:
Counties generally provide the resource-based and locally oriented outdoor recreational areas that are not large enough to be managed feasibly at the state or federal levels, or which do not have resources of statewide or national significance. Such areas constitute an invaluable part of the overall outdoor recreational effort in North Carolina and are indispensable to well-balanced statewide outdoor recreation.

SCORPS view of municipal responsibilities:
Because of population densities and the lack of large open-space areas, most municipal recreation systems tend to concentrate their efforts on providing services involving more intensive user-oriented facilities that require relatively little space in proportion to the use accommodated. Typical municipal outdoor recreational facilities include playgrounds, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts and picnic areas. A few municipalities even provide golf courses.

Although most municipal programs do not typically provide resource-based outdoor recreational facilities, municipalities do play a vital role in providing facility-dependent recreational opportunities in North Carolina. The role of Municipal programs will likely grow in importance as increased public emphasis is placed on recreation closer to home. Since municipal recreation agencies are closest to the populace, they are usually the first to feel the pressures to establish programs that meet the demands of residents.

Statewide Trends Affecting Outdoor Recreation:
1. primary trend in North Carolina is overall population growth
2. increased development
3. increased participation
4. population shifts: Statewide is seeing overall increase in the population age group 62 and over. HOWEVER, Wake County is one of 4 counties with the lowest elderly population containing only 9% of the population as 62 and over.
5. increased obesity
6. increased female participation

Activity trends & increased participation:
1. bird watching
2. hiking
3. backpacking
4. attending outdoor concerts/plays
5. walking
Natural Diversity Preservation

Section Acknowledges finite resources within the State and therefore active programs to ensure preservation and conservation of these resources. Section highlights various statewide programs for natural resource preservation.

Action Item Summary
Clearly defines order of action the State will take to implement items within the SCORP.

Highlights that impact Wake County?
- Projects will be funded by the state by how they address issues within the SCORP document
- The State offers technical assistance to agencies for trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, management and funding
- State will develop a statewide comprehensive trail plan system
- Allow Access to PARTF funds if projects illustrate they meet user needs
- NCDOT Bike Ped program will undertake state bikeway system improvements and projects such as signs, maps, and road improvements
- Consulting services available through RRS-Recreation Resource Services
- State is developing a statewide conservation plan "One North Carolina Naturally"
- State will work with local municipalities to preserve natural resources
- Grant proposals directed toward SCORP needs will have high priority funding through OPSP.
- The State encourages all partnerships and support these partnerships when they can
- The State encourages and support the protection of wetland resources and water resources
State Parkland and Open Space in Wake County

Falls Lake State Recreation Area
Wake Forest, NC
(leased by County from COE)
- 26,000 acres (+ 12,000-acre lake)
- Boating
- Concession with:
  - boat launching, slips and mooring
  - snack bar
  - equipment rental, supplies and gasoline
- Camping
  - Family camping: With more than 300 sites for tent or RV camping
  - Holly Point: 153 campsites, 89 with water and electric hookups.
  - Rollingview: 80 RV campsites and 35 campsites for tents and trailers
  - Backpack “hike in” camping
  - Group camping
- Community building
- Cycling (13 miles)
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Special events and educational programming

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area
Apex, NC
- 46,768 acres (+ 14,000-acre lake)
- Boating
- Camping
  - Crosswinds: 129 campsites total with water and electric hookups
  - Parkers Creek: 250 campsites total, 150 with water and electric hookups
  - Poplar Point: 580 campsites total, 351 with water and electric hookups
  - New Hope Overlook: 24 Backpack or canoe in primitive campsites
  - Vista Point: RV Sites only
  - Group camping – Parkers Creek: 6 group sites with water; Vista Point: 5 group sites with water and 5 RV sites with water and electric hookups
- Bald Eagle Watching Observation Deck
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Swimming (3 beaches)
- Special events (Heritage Day) and educational programming

William B. Umstead State Park
Raleigh, NC
- 5,481-acres
- Boating
- Bridle & Cycling trails (13 miles)
- Camping
  - Tent/Trailer camping
  - Primitive group camping
  - Group camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Exhibit hall
- Special events and educational programming
**The Mitchell Mill State Natural Area**
- 93 acres
- Unique and fragile ecosystem of granitic flatrocks covering 10-15 acres of the site
- Environmental Education destination
- Entire site is a registered Natural Heritage Area

**Hemlock Bluffs State Natural Area (aka Cary Nature Preserve)**
- 92 acres
- Host to a unique stand of Canadian Hemlocks
- Nature trails
- Overlooks
- Environmental Education Center
Wake County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
Municipal Master Plan Summaries

Overriding themes found across municipal master plans:
- Significant county wide growth is occurring
- Municipalities highly value the school/park relationship with Wake County
- Municipalities value the County’s role in:
  - School/park agreement assistance
  - Financial support
  - Open space acquisition assistance
  - Program and facility provisions from County Parks
- Would like County to:
  - Play a greater role in small town planning efforts
  - Assist smaller municipalities from a financial perspective

Potential County Issues that municipalities are concerned with:
- Growth
  - Growth is occurring at a rapid rate county-wide possibly requiring cross municipality/county
    wide planning efforts to guide and direct county wide connectivity issues
- Current “boom” in school facility development
  - County may need to continuously assess their role in the School Park
- County/municipal land relationship changing with growth (i.e. annexation, corporate limits expansion
  etc)
- Demographics may be shifting in a manner that requires an assessment of programming and facility
  needs

Wake County Parks and Recreation Role (as viewed by municipalities):
- School Parks
- Land acquisition
- Connectivity planning
- Continue with current county park programming & facilities
The Town of Apex is located in southwestern Wake County and is one of twelve municipalities in the County. The town population has grown from approximately 5,000 in 1990 to approximately 30,000 in 2006. The town offers a variety of passive and active leisure opportunities to Apex Citizens and residents of Southwestern Wake County.

Facilities:
- Eight town owned parks ranging in size from 0.25 Ac to 159 Ac
- Two community facilities including a Community Center and Cultural Arts Center
- Environmental Education Center/ Nature Park (currently under construction)
- Six sections of greenway trails
- Seven school/parks

Programs:
- Traditional athletic programs
- Pre-school Programs
- Martial Arts
- Fine Arts Programs (Drawing, Arts and Crafts, etc…)
- Performing Arts Programs (Drama, Acting, etc…)
- Senior Activities
- Financial Planning
- Aerobics/Exercise
- Special Events
  - Seasonal Festivals (Egg Hunt, 4th of July, Halloween Carnival, Turkey Trot)
  - Peak Week
  - Concerts at the Depot
  - Youth Fishing Derby
  - Today and Yesteryear
  - Puppet Shows

Additional Program Needs: (as expressed in the Executive Summary of the Master Plan)

- Immediate: (0-2 years)
  - 2 Baseball Fields
  - 2 Basketball Courts
  - 1 Football Field
  - 1 Multi-use Field
  - 1 Horseshoe Pit
  - 1 Volleyball Court
  - 1 Gymnasium
  - Additional Playground
  - Fitness/Exercise Facilities
  - Year Round Indoor Swimming Facilities

- Near Term Needs: (0-5 years) (assuming Immediate needs are met)
  - 2 additional Baseball Fields
  - 2 additional Basketball Courts
  - 1 more Community Center
  - .25 more Football Field
  - 3 more Playgrounds
  - 1 Horseshoe Pit
  - 1 more Soccer Field
  - 1 more Softball Field
  - 1 additional Swimming Pool
• Special Facilities Needed
  ▪ Frisbee Park/ Frisbee Golf
  ▪ Dog Park
  ▪ Special Events Lawn
  ▪ Skate Park

Park Users:
• Community Members
• Residents of Southwestern Wake County

Partnerships:
• Active recreation needs are met through a joint use agreement with Wake County Schools

Future Impacts:
• Population Growth

Relation with Wake County:
• Continue School/Park relationship with County
• Working with the Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC)
Town of Cary
Mary Henderson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources
Parks & Recreation Master Plan Summary – dated December 11, 2003

Cary is a thriving community in the heart of the Triangle area of North Carolina, between Raleigh and the Research Triangle Park. The population more than doubled between 1990 and 2000, growing from 43,858 to 94,536, and currently has a projected population of 215,000 in the year 2025.

As the town experienced rapid growth and development in the 1990’s and its parks and recreation system evolved into a regional benchmark, its residents have enjoyed an ever improving quality of life. As Cary’s population has both grown and broadened (particularly in the number of residents over the age of 65) the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department has worked hard to meet the challenges to provide high-quality facilities, programs and services to all residents.

Facilities:
• Four Mini Parks (.5ac -1.5ac)
• Eleven Neighborhood Parks (10ac-20ac)
• Four Community Parks (25ac-100ac)
• One Metro Park (274 acres)
• A strong base of connected Greenways
• Eighteen School Parks
• Special Use Facilities
  ▪ Bond Park Boathouse
  ▪ Bond Park Community Center
  ▪ Sertoma Amphitheatre at Bond Park
  ▪ Herb Young Community Center
  ▪ Middle Creek Community Center
  ▪ Green Hope Elementary School/Park
  ▪ Cary Tennis Center
  ▪ Amphitheatre at Regency Park
  ▪ Senior Center
  ▪ Page-Walker Arts & History Center
  ▪ Jordan Hall Arts Center
  ▪ Stevens Nature Center at Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve
  ▪ Sk8-Cary
• Cultural Arts Facilities

Programs:
• Traditional athletic programs
• Pre-school Programs
• Senior Activities
• Martial Arts
• Fine Arts Programs (Drawing, Arts and Crafts, etc…)
• Performing Arts Programs (Drama, Acting, etc…)
• Martial Arts
• Aerobics/Exercise
• Special Events
  ▪ Lazy Days in downtown
  ▪ Spring Days at Bond Park

Additional Program Needs:
• Upgrading of some current facilities to better serve the community and new facilities that will serve areas of the community that are currently not well served
• Four additional Mini Parks
• Fifteen additional Neighborhood Parks
• Five additional Community Parks
• Three additional Metro Parks
• Four additional Special Use Facilities (Performing Arts Center, Aquatic Center, Golf Course)
• Unique Recreational Facilities (water recreation, horseback riding, skateboarding, disc golf, pet exercise areas, performance stages)
• Improved school parks
• Facilities
  • Two performance spaces
  • Rehearsal spaces
  • Purpose-built exhibition space, 4,000 sq. ft.
  • Smaller exhibition space, 1,000-2,000 sq. ft.
  • Classrooms
  • Artist studio space

Park Users:
• Community Members
• Residents of Wake County
• The Research Triangle Park
• Non-profit groups
• Recreation clubs
• Wake County Schools

Partnerships:
• Wake County Schools
• Wake County Parks
• Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC)
• Capital Area Soccer League (CASL)

Future Impacts:
• Population: Growth, Diversity, Age-range
• Expansion of Corporate Limits
• Community Development Patterns

Relation with Wake County:
• Continue School/Park relationship with County
• Working with the Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC)
Fuquay-Varina is located in southern Wake County, about 18 miles south of Raleigh. Its current population estimate is 10,300. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is now responsible for ten park sites with seventeen athletic fields, one gym, and a Community Center offering programs for fitness, education, and recreation. The Town of Fuquay-Varina produced its first comprehensive parks and recreation master plan in 2000 and due to sustained growth in the population underwent an update in 2005. The update has identified specific facility needs, pointed out opportunities for park acquisition and development, and produced an action plan to implement park development recommendations.

Facilities:

- Two Community Parks (20-100 ac)
- Two Neighborhood Parks (5-20 ac)
- One School/Park Facility
- One Mini-Neighborhood Park (Less than 2 ac)
- Two Specialty Recreation Facilities
  - (1) Environmental Education Park
  - (1) Historic Interpretation Park
- Playfields
  - (1) Multi-field
  - (9) Soccer Fields
  - Football, Baseball, Softball Fields

Programs:

- Traditional athletic programs
- Adult Athletics
- Pre-School Programs
- Fitness/Exercise
- Arts and Crafts
- Dance
- Special Interest Programs and Clubs
- Senior Citizens’ Programs
- Community Programs (Red Cross Classes, N.C. Wildlife classes, Tax Help, etc…)
- Cooperative Programs (Fuquay-Varina Athletic Association, AARP, American Red Cross, etc…)
- Special Activities
  - Seasonal Festivities (Independence Day, Christmas Tree Lighting, etc…)
  - Multicultural Festival

Additional Program Needs:

- Current Needs (2005-Present)
  - New Gymnasium
  - Community Center
  - Four New Neighborhood Parks,
  - Three New Mini-Parks
  - Greenway Trails
- Intermediary Needs (By 2010)
  - New Neighborhood Park
  - Two Mini-Neighborhood Parks
  - Seven Acres of Playfields
  - Greenway Trails
  - Unleashed Dog Park
  - Larger Soccer Complex
  - Additional softball/baseball fields with all necessary support facilities
- Long Term Needs (By 2015)
  - One Community Park
  - One fully developed School/Park
  - Three Neighborhood Parks
  - Two Mini-Neighborhood Parks
  - Eighteen Additional Acres of Playfields
  - Greenway Trails

Park Users:
- Residents within the Town Corporate Limits
- Members of the Fuquay-Varina Athletic Association (FVAA)
- To a lesser degree those outside the limits in the surrounding communities

Partnerships:
- Lease agreements with private landowners
- Wake County Public Schools
- Fuquay-Varina Athletic Association (FVAA)
- North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission

Future Impacts:
- The number of current available neighborhood parks is too low to meet current needs
- Continued Growth
- High demand for programs and facilities
- Land Acquisition

Relationship with Wake County
- Town of Fuquay-Varina would like to continue school/park partnership with County
- County staff considered very important in working with school system and acquiring agreements
In 2000 the Town of Garner had a population of 17,757 with the anticipated growth increasing by 1.6 times the current population by 2010. The Garner Parks and Recreation Department currently operates 21 parks and facilities with a variety of active and passive recreation uses. Maintenance of the town parks is performed by the Public Works Department. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a diverse array of recreational programs for all age groups ranging from pre-school to seniors, including children's camps, sports, arts, self-defense, fitness, and environmental education.

Existing Facilities:
- 8 developed town owned parks ranging in size from approximately 4 acres to 96 acres
- 5 undeveloped parks or open space properties from approximately 7 to 120 acres
- 3 shared parks with Wake County Schools
- 4 town owned recreation buildings
- 1 boathouse on Lake Benson leased from the City of Raleigh

Programs:
- Traditional athletic programs
- Variety Aerobics, Conditioning, wellness, and Fitness Programs
- Variety of Preschool program offerings, programs are expanding
- Nature, outdoor, and environmental education programs
- Teen Programs
- Martial Arts
- Variety of Fine Art, visual arts, cultural, and performing arts programs
- Summer Camps and school break camps
- Extensive Senior Program offerings & Special Events
- Special Events
  - Easter Egg Hunt & Kite Fly
  - Goblins in the park
  - Mayors Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness
  - Walktober
  - Christmas Parade
  - Special Trips
  - July 4th Celebration

Additional Program Needs:
- Gymnasium
- Greenways
- Preschool/toddler programs
- Need to address conversion of several area traditional schools to year round schools; what programming will be done during school "track out" periods

Park Users:
- Town of Garner Residents (60%)
- Surrounding communities (40%)

Partnerships:
- Parks partnerships with Wake County Public Schools, Wake County, and City of Raleigh
- Program partnerships with various Drama and athletic associations
- Partnerships with other service providers to expand athletic program offerings
  - ie. Pop Warner Programs, Optimist Club, Towne Players of Garner, etc.
Future Impacts:
- Rapid community growth in the eastern part of Garner’s ETJ
- Rapid community growth outside of Garner’s ETJ to the south and east
- Raleigh continues to grow closer to Garner in the north
- Schools are becoming year round and the track-out schedule is impacting facilities and programs in the Town
- Town development is impacting open space in the community

Relationship with Wake County
- Town of Garner would like to continue working with the County on greenways and open space needs, shared school/park & park relationships, and land acquisition.
- Partnership with Wake County and the City of Raleigh for the Swift Creek Greenway
The Town of Holly Springs is located in Southern Wake County. The town population has grown from approximately 1,000 in 1990 to approximately 17,500 in 2006. The town offers a variety of passive and active leisure opportunities to its Citizens and residents of Southern Wake County.

Facilities:
- Two Trail Linkage Parks
- Two Neighborhood Greenway Parks
- Three Conservation Education Parks
- Three Town-Wide Entertainment Parks

Programs:
- Traditional athletic programs
- Youth Fine Arts programs (Drawing, Crafts, Dance, etc…)
- Cultural Events
  - Hollyfest Celebration
- Music Classes
- Youth Theater Program
- Culinary and Cooking Classes
- Language and Literary Classes

Additional Program/Facility Needs:
- Six “Community Central Parks”
- Immediate Facility Needs
  - Three Indoor Basketball Courts
  - Two Soccer Fields
  - Three Baseball Fields
  - Three Softball Fields
  - Two Multi-Use Fields
- Mid-term Facility Needs (Including Immediate Needs)
  - Five Baseball Fields
  - One Football Field
  - Four Soccer Fields
  - Four Softball Fields
  - One ¼ Mile Running Track
  - One Field Hockey Field
  - One Lacrosse Field
  - Six Multipurpose Fields
  - Four Basketball Courts
  - Four Tennis Courts
  - Two Multipurpose Courts
  - One Regional Trail System
  - One Swimming Pool
  - Two Additional Community Centers

Park Users:
- Community Members
- Residents of Southern Wake County
- Regional park visitors

Partnerships:
- Wake County Schools
- Wake County
Future Impacts:
- Population Growth
- Future Development

Relation with Wake County:
- Continue School/Park relationship with County
- Residents rely on Harris Lake County Park for programs and facilities
Town of Knightdale
Tina Cheek, Director of Parks & Recreation
Parks & Recreation Master Plan Summary – dated July 7, 2007

The Town of Knightdale grew rapidly during the 1980’s, and changed from a rural community with few demands for municipal services to a small town of more than 6,000 people. The town is expected to have more than 14,500 people by the year 2010. Associated with this growth is an increasing demand for many services, including parks and recreation facilities. To date, the community needs for parks and recreation facilities have been served by a combination of county, school/parks and private facilities, with the town playing a fairly minor role. As a result, parks and recreation facilities have not been developed in a consistent and coordinated manner, and some facility need are not being met.

Facilities:
- One main park facility: Harper Park
- Two community park facilities: Knightdale Elementary School, East Wake Middle School
- One recently added Environmental Park
- Knightdale Community Park (Currently under Construction)
- Three “Open Space opportunities”: Anderson Point, East Neuse Park, West Neuse Park

Programs:
- Traditional athletic programs: Youth/Adult
- Pre-school Programs
- Martial Arts
- Fine Arts Programs (Hand-tinting photos)
- Cheerleading
- Aerobics/Exercise (Yoga, dance)
- Swim Club
- Frisbee Golf
- Special Events
  - Seasonal Festivals (Easter Egg Eggstravaganza, Harvest Hay Day, etc…)
  - Health and clinical needs (Health Fair and Blood Drive, Flu Shot Clinic, etc…)
  - Craft shows

Additional Program Needs:
- Community park in the northeastern area of the community
- Community park in the northwestern area of community
- Regional park with Wendell
- Community park at the intersection of Neuse river and Poplar creek

Park Users:
- Community Members
- Residents of Eastern Wake County
- Civic organizations (Junior League, Girl/Boy Scouts, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs)

Partnerships:
- Active recreation needs are met through a joint use agreement with Wake County Schools

Future Impacts:
- Population Growth

Relation with Wake County:
- Continue School/Park relationship with County
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The Town of Morrisville is located west of Raleigh and is in the approximate center of North Carolina’s internationally recognized Research Triangle Park Region. The Town of Morrisville’s Planning Department has projected that the 2007 population will be approximately 15,800 residents with at 2010 population projections of 20,100 residents. The Parks and Recreation department is working hard to meet the challenges associated with such a rapid increase of population by maintaining current parks and programs and planning land acquisition and facility expansion to accommodate the growth projections.

Facilities:
- Morrisville Aquatics and Fitness Center
  - Multi-use athletic and recreational facility
- Morrisville Community Park
  - Sports fields, pavilions, Hatcher Creek Greenway
- Cedar Fork Community Center
  - Sports fields, Gymnasium, Conference room
- Shiloh Park
  - Community Center, Sports fields, shelter
- Ruritan Park
  - Active and passive recreational opportunities
- Crabtree Creek Nature Park
  - Multi-purpose field, (future nature park and center)
- Morrisville Square
  - Historic green “open space”
- Future Park Site (Adjacent to Breckenridge Development)
  - Sports fields, shelter, playground
- Cedar Fork District Park
  - Multi-purpose fields

Programs:
- Traditional athletic programs, (Youth and Adult)
- Aquatic activities, (Swimming, Aerobics, etc…)
- Fitness programs, (Martial Arts, Gymnastics, Aerobics, etc…)
- Youth Classes, (Reading Adventures, Fairy Tale Foods, etc…)
- Pre-School Activities, (Tumble Tots, Kinder Kids, etc…)
- Special Events, (Seasonal activities)
- Cultural Events

Additional Program/Facility Needs:
- Adult and Senior program offerings
- Teen programming
- Youth programming (such as Arts and Crafts)
- Increase swimming pool offerings
- Increase amenities offered at Aquatics Center
  - Additional pool or gymnasium
  - Additional tennis court practice wall
  - Increase pool size to meet current demand
  - Increase overall classroom space
  - Increase size of fitness room
  - Facility renovations
- Additional Gymnasium
- Nature Park
- Off-Leash Dog Park
- Athletic Fields
  - Soccer and Basketball
• Multi-use Center (Active Adult and Cultural Center)
• Greenways (and multi-use pathways)
• Open space
• Provide Adequate Numbers of Professional and Trained Staff

Park Users:
• Community Members
• 0-14 age group

Partnerships:
• Wake County Schools
• Private Recreation Resources (Private Residential Amenity Centers)
• Wake County

Future Impacts:
• Recreation needs must grow to accommodate the large and growing youth population (youth participation has increased in girls programs 373% in five years)
• Current parks and facilities are running at full capacity

Relation with Wake County:
• Continue School/Park relationship with County
• Working with the Wake County Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
The City of Raleigh is at the center of one of the fastest growing areas in the country. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Raleigh more than doubled. In the past decade, the population of Raleigh and its planning jurisdiction grew by 28.2%, from 237,056 to 303,971. As of January 1, 2007, Raleigh’s population is estimated to be 359,332. It is projected that the area within Raleigh’s extraterritorial jurisdiction will grow by approximately two percent each year in the foreseeable future and that by the year 2025, Raleigh’s population will exceed 541,000.

Facilities: 8,500 total acres (2006)
- Mini Parks (4)
- Neighborhood Parks (37)
- Community Parks (21)
- Metro Parks (8)
- Special Parks (101)
- Greenway (57 miles of trails; 3,300 acres)

Programs:
- Adventure
- Aquatics
- Arts
- Corporate Event Planning
- Education
- Fishing
- Athletics
- Nature & Waterfront
- Seniors
- Social
- Specialized Recreation
- Fitness
- Teens
- Tennis
- Urban Forestry NeighborWoods
- Volunteer Opportunities

Additional Program/Facility Needs (2025):
- Neighborhood Parks (+43 parks/860.76 acres)
- Community Parks (+8 parks/476.09 acres)

Park Users:
- County wide

Partnerships:
- Goal 5 of Raleigh Parks Plan states:
  Continue to pursue additional opportunities to coordinate and cooperate with:
  - Wake County
  - Wake County Public School System
  - Neighboring municipalities
  - State of North Carolina
  - USACOE
  - Federal Highway Administration

- Wake County Board of Education:
  - Rental of facilities for City of Raleigh programs
  - Shared construction of two new School/Community Centers on park sites.
• Wake County PROS - Open space preservation – Swift Creek and Steep Hill watersheds, Neuse River greenway and Randleigh Farm acquisitions
• NCDOT
• Private developers

**Future Impacts:**
• One of the fastest growing areas in the country
• Raleigh’s extraterritorial jurisdiction is projected to grow by approximately two percent each year in the foreseeable future and that by the year 2025, Raleigh’s population will exceed 541,000

**Relationship with Wake County**
• Nearly half of Wake County residents are also City of Raleigh residents
• Shared funding with Board of Education facilities and open space acquisition
Rolesville is located just 12 miles northeast of Raleigh and is the second oldest city in Wake County. Like many municipalities in Wake County, the Town is experiencing unprecedented growth. With the population predicted to increase by over 300% by 2010, it is clear that the Town’s current park facilities will be unable to meet this future demand.

Facilities:
- One neighborhood park
- One school park
- Three Historic/Cultural areas as identified on the National Register of Historic Places

Programs *(offered in 2006)*:
- Traditional youth athletic programs (soccer, baseball, softball, football, basketball)
- Cheerleading
- Special events
  - Senior Dance
  - Recreational Day
  - Easter Egg Hunt
  - 4th of July Parade/Fireworks
  - Fall Festival
  - Christmas Parade

Additional Program/Facility Needs:
- Rolesville P&R shows a deficit in the following types of recreational facilities:
  - Baseball fields (-1)
  - Softball fields (-1)
  - Tennis courts (-1)
  - Community centers (-1)
  - Swimming pools (outdoor) (-1)
  - Soccer fields (-1)
- Park deficits:
  - Neighborhood Parks (-2.5 acres)
  - Community Parks (-17 acres)
- Increased programming for youth, adults, seniors, and individuals with disabilities in diverse range of athletic, cultural, and social programs
- Need for Recreation Programmer
- Increased resource-based recreation opportunities

Park Users:
- Community residents

Partnerships:
- Rolesville Elementary School
- Wake County
- Wake County Schools

Future Impacts:
- Population expected to increase by 348.5% by 2010
- Estimated population from the anticipated developments is 6071 people by 2010

Relationship with Wake County:
- Continue school/park relationship with Wake County
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Located in northern Wake County, less than 10 miles from Raleigh, Wake Forest is a progressive community of over 23,000 residents. The Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of activities for all ages and interests, including youth and adult athletics as well as youth and adult cultural programs. The Town is continuing to undergo steady expansion in terms of both population and developed land within its jurisdiction. As the County’s own growth began to influence the Town of Wake Forest, it became evident that current park and recreational facilities could no longer adequately serve the anticipated population growth. In light of the inevitable growth and development occurring both in the County as well as in the Town, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan update was needed to refresh and expand the framework for Town leaders and the P&R Staff. The current Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Master Plan, adopted in August 2005, establishes recreational objectives through the year 2015.

Facilities:
- 499.5 acres of park lands
- Five mini parks (>2 acres)
- Six neighborhood parks (5-20 acres)
- One metro park (100+ acres)
- Three school parks

Programs:
- Youth athletic programs (baseball, softball, t-ball, and basketball leagues)
- Adult athletic leagues (softball, basketball, and volleyball)
- Arts and/or crafts classes (all ages)
- Youth baking and cooking classes
- Youth golf
- Youth dance
- Kinder Gym
- CPR for Friends and Family
- First Aid Survival & CPR
- Babysitting Boot Camp
- Adult singing, dancing
- Tai Ji
- Yoga
- Dog Obedience
- Special Events (Concert in the Park, Pepsi Pitch Hit and Run, Easter Egg Hunt, Tangle of Tales Puppet Show, All the Same Web Youth Theatre)

Additional Program/Facility Needs:
- 6 ball fields, 15 tennis courts, 2.5 swimming pools, 2.5 neighborhood centers, 2 community centers, 6 soccer fields, 6 youth soccer fields, 19 multi use courts, 6 picnic shelters, 12 playgrounds
- Total parks needed by 2015: 14 neighborhood parks (includes mini and school parks), 1 Community Park, 2 Metro Parks

Park Users:
- Primary users are within the corporate limits and within a 5 mile radius.
- Residents from Youngsville, Rolesville, and Wakefield
- Residents beyond corporate limits but with Wake Forest address

Partnerships (identified as “existing or potential” in Master Plan):
- City of Raleigh
- Wake County and Wake County Public School System
- Towns of Rolesville and Franklinton
- USACOE
• Wildlife Resource Commission
• Federal Highway Works Administration
• Sports organizations:
  - American Legion Baseball, CASL, Dream Camps, Carolina Copperheads, Pop Warner Football, Greater Raleigh Fall Baseball League, Triangle Futbol Club, Raleigh Rugby Football Club, Mid-Atlantic Cricket Conference
• Trails related Organizations:
  - NC Bicycle Club, NC FATS Mountain Biking Club, Triangle Greenways Council, NC Mountains-to-Sea-Trail, East Coast Greenway
• Special Use Organizations:
  - NC Horse Council, Raleigh Area Disc League, NC Senior Games
• Conservation Organizations:
  - Triangle Land Conservancy, Trust for Public Land
• Parks Organizations
  - People for Parks
• Unaffiliated Groups:
  - Businesses, hospitals, churches, private schools

Future Impacts:
• Town’s population has tripled in the past 10 years
• Growth rate is predicted at least at the County’s rate if not faster
• Predicted that the most demand will be for programs and facilities for young & school age children and seniors

Relationship with Wake County:
• Town to broaden and strengthen partnering opportunities with Wake County
• Preserve remaining natural areas in a manner that complements the environmental stewardship and conservation efforts being undertaken by Wake County
• “The most important thing that Wake County does to assist municipalities is support the acquisition of open space through their bonds and through their leadership role with the Wake County Public School System for joint use and development of recreational facilities throughout Wake County.” (Quote from Susan Simpson, Director)
Town of Wendell
Brinkley Wagstaff, Director of Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Summary (provided by P&R Director)

Wendell is a beautiful, small, historic town nestled just 10 miles east of Raleigh in North Carolina’s Wake County. The Town does not have its own Parks and Recreation Master Plan but rather, it is a component of the Town’s Comprehensive Development Plan last updated in 1996.

Facilities:
- One 37 acre park
  - 2 baseball fields
  - Open space for soccer
  - 2 tennis courts
  - 2 picnic shelters
  - 3/10 mile nature trail
  - 18,000 SF Community Center

Programs:
- Youth athletic camps
- Youth athletic programs (tennis, t-ball, softball, baseball, & basketball)
- Adult athletic programs (church basketball/softball, co-ed softball & volleyball)
- Yoga

Additional Program/Facility Needs:
- Addition to the Community Center to include the Eastern Wake Senior Center, an addition of 10,000 sq. ft.
- Develop a master plan for the 45 acres of land adjacent to the Wendell Park to include:
  - One 400 ft. baseball field
  - Three baseball fields with 200 ft. fences
  - Four tennis courts, lighted
  - One multi-purpose game field for football/soccer with lights
  - Two multi-purpose fields for practices of football/soccer
  - Two sand volleyball courts
  - 3.1 and a 5.0 mile cross country courses for the public and for the high school to use
  - Nature trails and Greenways throughout the park with picnic shelters, adequate parking and restroom facilities throughout
  - Frisbee Golf course spread throughout the park
  - Additional play ground areas
  - Updated Concession and restroom areas
  - New Concession and restrooms at selected points throughout the expanded park
- New lights on the existing two fields and Wendell Park
- An access into the Park off of Poole Road
- Sidewalks into the park from the Poole Road area
- Additional gym space in the Community Center for Basketball

Park Users:
- The majority of the users of the programs and of the park are within the Wendell ETJ, however we do have a lot of patrons that take part in our programs that are not from Wendell. Those individuals pay an outside fee vs. an in town fee.

Partnerships:
- Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Wake County Public Schools
- United Arts Foundation
- Eastern Wake Senior Center
- East Wake Soccer Association
- Young Olympians
- Boys/Girls Club on Zebulon
• Triangle Select Baseball League
• Wendell Football Boosters
• Wendell Chamber of Commerce
• Hope n’ Hoe Garden Club (the freedom Garden at the Town Square)
• Wendell Perennial Garden Club (Upkeep of the Wendell Women’s Club)
• Kiwanis Club of Eastern Wake County
• And we work very close with the surrounding Parks and Recreation Departments of Zebulon, Knightdale, Rolesville, Clayton, Smithfield and Wake Forest.

Future Impacts:
With the expected growth that is being planned for Wendell, Parks and Recreation could see:
• Increase in the number of youth participating in the programs
• Increase in the number of rentals of the Community Center, picnic shelters, activity rooms, and outside rentals.
• Increase in the number of adults that participate in the paid programs as well as the free programs

Relationship with Wake County
• The people of Wake County have been very good to the Wendell Parks and Recreation department over the years.
• We would like for them to consider continuing to improve the facilities at Carver Park (Liles Dean Road) in Wendell.
• We are in need of concession and restroom facilities. Water has been run from Liles Dean Road to the park with the expectation that the concession and restroom facilities would be part of future capital projects.
• We also need help in repairing the playing surface at Carver Field #2.
Town of Zebulon
Greg Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Summary, (phone interview 1.16.2007)

The small, rural Town of Zebulon has a current population of 4,700 with anticipated growth doubling the current population in the next 10 years. The Zebulon Parks and Recreation Department maintains and operates four well-groomed parks that are available to the public in their leisure pursuits. The department offers a diverse array of recreational programs for all age groups ranging from pre-school to seniors, including children’s camps, sports, arts, self-defense, fitness, and environmental education. The Town of Zebulon is currently developing its Comprehensive Open Space Plan, of which the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be a part. The Comprehensive Open Space Plan may identify need for greenways and direct the City to begin to develop a Greenway Master Plan.

Facilities:
• Four town owned parks ranging in size from 4 acres to 47 acres
• Two school/parks
• Currently looking for funding to begin design phase for converting a National Guard Armory Building into the town’s first indoor facility to serve as the Zebulon Community Center

Programs:
• Traditional athletic programs
• Karate program
• Aerobics/Conditioning
• Walking Program
• Pre-school Program
• Summer Camps
• Special Events
  ▪ Arts in the Park (in conjunction of opening day of youth baseball)
  ▪ Dogwood Classic Disc Golf Tournament

Additional Program Needs: (as expressed via public survey)
• Indoor facility/wellness center for quality programming
• More trails, greenways, picnic shelters, and playgrounds
• Swimming pool (ranked #6 in most recent public survey but no plans currently in place to provide)

Park Users:
• Community Members
• Also serve Franklin, Nash, Johnston and Wilson Counties due to location of town

Partnerships:
• Partner with high school coaches to lead summer camps
• State Soccer Team (conducts soccer camp)
• Contract out referees and officials
• Rent Zebulon Middle School gymnasium as part of “Community Schools Program”
• School/Parks partnerships with schools and Wake County
• Wake County Arts Council (Arts in the Park)
• Raleigh Area Disc League (Dogwood Classic Disc Tournament)

Future Impacts:
• Growth doubling
• Current school/park agreements are in high growth areas
• No property currently purchased for parks in high growth areas
• Town P&R Department to reassess facilities and programs as population grows

Relationship with Wake County
• Town of Zebulon would like to continue school/park partnership with County
• County staff considered very important in working with school system and acquiring agreements
• Would like County to support small town planning efforts
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Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Chris Snow, Director
Master Plan (dated October 2003) Summary

Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space maintains parks and natural areas that promote environmental and cultural resource stewardship that provide safe recreational and educational opportunities for all county citizens. Wake County is home to many municipal, state and County parks. Wake County parks include Blue Jay Point County Park, Lake Crabtree County Park, Historic Oak View County Park, Historic Yates Mill County Park, Crowder District Park, Harris Lake County Park, and the American Tobacco Trail.

Facilities:
- Five County Parks and One Regional Trail
- Four additional County Parks in Planning and Land Acquisition Stages
- Two District Parks (Cedar Fork District Park is leased to the Town of Morrisville)
- Sixteen School Parks

Programs:
- Environmental Education
- Adventure Recreation
- Biking
- Hiking
- Pre-school Programs
- Summer Camps
- Scouting Programs
- Gardening
- Astronomy Classes
- Stewardship Programs
- Historical Education
- Boating
- Fishing
- Sailing

Additional Program Needs:
- 557 acres of acquired land and 553 acres of additional land for district parks
- Including the 297 acres proposed for Little River Park and additional 457 acres of County/Metro Park Land
- County Wide Deficit (per inventory analysis)
  - 17 softball/ baseball fields
  - 60 football/ soccer field
  - 44 multi-purpose fields
  - 54 gymnasiums
  - 14 swimming pools

Park Users:
- Wake County Residents
- Wake County School Students

Partnerships:
- Raleigh/Durham Airport Authority
- Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District
- CP&L
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Wake County Office Park
- Private Citizen: Mrs. Doris P. Crowder
- North Carolina State University
• NC Wildlife Resources Commission
• Wake County Public School System
• Surrounding Municipalities
• Non-Profit Agencies

**Future Impacts:**
• Population Growth
• Park Acreage exists where necessary infrastructure (E.G. water, sewer, roads) does not
• Managing agencies cannot afford the cost of full development due to lack of resources in meeting priorities
• Development of needed facilities may conflict with a community’s interest in preserving the natural character of the land