

2009-2029

Comprehensive

parks and
recreation

Master Plan

Chatham
County



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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Chatham County is located in the geographic center of North Carolina. The County Seat is Pittsboro, located in the eastern half of the County, while the largest town, Siler City, is located in the western half. The towns are connected by a major road, US-64, which runs east/west through the County. Other major thoroughfares run north/south and are US-421 in the west and US-15/501 in the east. Chatham is one of the largest counties in the state with a total area of 709 square miles, 26 of which are water. Important bodies of water in the County include Jordan Lake, the Haw River, the Rocky River and the Deep River. The County is in the Cape Fear Drainage Basin.

Chatham County was created from a portion of Orange County in 1771 and named for the First Earl of Chatham, William Pitt. European settlement of the region was mostly people of Ulster Scots and German ancestry who migrated from Pennsylvania and Virginia, into the rolling hills of the North Carolina piedmont. Though both the Continental and British armies marched through Chatham County during the Revolution, the only battles were small skirmishes fought between Tories and Rebels.

Chatham County has long been a leader in the cattle industry of North Carolina. Other industries over the years have included coal mining, timber, food processing, brick making and textile mills. Today agriculture-related businesses account for 38% of Chatham County's total income. Small farms specializing in organic farming, herbs, flowers and specialty produce are a newly important segment of Chatham's agriculture business.

Chatham County is undergoing major demographic and economic changes. Its proximity to Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Durham, is making Chatham County a desirable place to live and raise a family for people who work in the Research Triangle. Its once numerous farms and ranches are being replaced by large housing developments in the northern and eastern portions of the County. The eastern half of the County, including Pittsboro and Cary are experiencing a tremendous population boom. This population growth is expected to continue over the next several years.

Because of the rapid population growth, the leaders of Chatham County have recognized the need for a recreation plan that addresses both the current and future needs of the residents. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan will give them direction and purpose as they strive to meet the recreational needs of their community. The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2009 to 2029 addresses their vision by identifying specific goals and objectives.



The *Chatham County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2009-2029* (hereafter called Master Plan) provides the framework for guiding the County Commission and staff in both its current evaluation of and long-range planning for the Parks and Recreation Department of Chatham County. The framework for this Master Plan is based upon conducting an inventory of the existing park system, recording the observations and recommending the addition and renovation of parks and recreational facilities. Not only does the Master Plan include recommendations, it also prioritizes specific projects, taking into consideration the identification of user populations and the development of recreation standards. The Master Plan is intended to be action-oriented and designed to provide Chatham County with a practical guide for its enhancement of the parks and recreation system for the next 20 years.

In preparing the Master Plan, *State and National Parks and Recreation Standards* were used as a guide to support the recommendations made for the parks and recreational facilities for Chatham County. Using these standard guidelines, McGill Associates, P.A., developed a plan, which applies specifically to the resident and non-resident users of the parks and recreation system.

1.2 PURPOSES AND GOALS

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners, the County Staff, the Recreation Advisory Board and the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department have recognized the need to prepare a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. McGill Associates, P.A., was selected by the County to evaluate its existing park and recreation facilities and to develop a master plan as a guideline for the implementation of recommendations designed to meet the needs of the population for a span of 20 years. In preparing the master plan, McGill Associates, P.A., worked closely with the Chatham County Staff, the Recreation Advisory Board, the Project Oversight Group and County residents. A key objective in the development of the Master Plan was the solicitation of community input in order to identify additional needs for the County (renovation, construction, land purchase and development) both now and in the future.

After recognizing the present and future needs, the Master Plan serves as a guide for the prioritization of recommended park upgrades, expansion and land acquisition. In order to formulate the Master Plan, a community-wide assessment is required to determine these particular park and facility needs for Chatham County. Community input and the comparison to North Carolina's state standards, are the initial steps in the master plan process.

The Master Plan emphasizes the potential for 'connectivity' of proposed projects with existing sites, such as parks, schools, greenways, downtown districts and other



government-owned properties. It is not designed to be exclusive, but rather to enhance recreation opportunities in the town and surrounding communities.

Of utmost intent in the Master Plan purpose is the maintenance of the type of venue in Chatham County that fosters community spirit, activism and bonding between local citizens. The study of the demographic profile of County residents, population ages, race, ethnicity, et cetera, is a key factor in making specific and accurate recommendations.

Not only does the *Chatham County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, 2009-2029* make recommendations for a 20 year period of time (2009-2029), but it also suggests the means by which the identified objectives might be achieved. Opportunities for grants, partnerships and outside funding are recommended as aids in the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan and an operating budget. Varieties of land acquisition are explained in detail.

The Master Plan focuses on providing Chatham County with an accurate, usable guide for decision-making as the County begins to implement items such as the following:

- Park renovations, acquisitions and developments
- Facility renovations, acquisitions and developments
- Recreation programming strategies
- Implementation of improvements

The Master Plan is divided into six major component sections that are listed below:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Population Trends and Projections
- Section 3 – Existing Park Facilities
- Section 4 – Recreation Needs Assessment
- Section 5 – Goals and Recommendations
- Section 6 – Implementation Plan

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chatham County wishes to express its sincere appreciation for those entities and individuals, who, in any way, contributed to the creation of the *Chatham County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2009-2029*, some of whom are identified below. Without the knowledge and expertise of these persons, in both individual and team settings, this document would not be possible.



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-END OF SECTION-



Section 2 Population Trends and Projections

2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of the demographic information of Chatham County has been evaluated to better understand the characteristics of the community and to identify future trends and projections that may influence recreation and park planning. Information concerning the age and gender of the population is an important factor in determining the needs for recreation in the community. Statistics from the US Census Bureau and Chatham County indicate that there will be a period of strong growth in the County over the next few years. The table below contains the general demographic characteristics for full-time residents of Chatham County as ascertained by the 2005-2007 American Community Survey census estimates.

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
SEX		
Male	29,293	49.0
Female	30,518	51.0
Total:	59,811	100.0
AGE		
Under 10 years	7,336	12.3
10 to 19 years	7,676	12.8
20 to 24 years	3,374	5.6
25 to 34 years	8,347	14.0
35 to 44 years	9,080	15.3
45 to 54 years	8,874	14.8
55 to 64 years	6,852	11.4
65 to 74 years	3,993	6.7
75 to 84 years	3,194	5.3
85 years and over	1,085	1.8
Total:	59,811	100.0
RACE		
White	42,245	70.5
Black	8,758	14.5
American Indian/Alaskan	48	0.1
Asian	1,160	2.0
Hispanic	7,331	12.3
Some other race	159	0.3
Two or more races	159	0.3
Total:	49,329	100.0

Source: American FactFinder, ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2005-2007



The 2005-2007 population estimates from the US Census Bureau reveal significant characteristics of Chatham County’s population. The largest age population division is the 35 to 44 year old group, followed by adults aged 45 to 44 years. It is important to note that all of the members of the 45 to 64 year old group will be in the senior category by the end of this 20 year plan.

A large majority of the population is white, while about 15% are of African descent. A growing segment of the population, 12%, is people of Hispanic ancestry, many of whom have been drawn to Siler City by job opportunities.

2.2 CHATHAM COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Certain areas of Chatham County are undergoing unprecedented growth. The State of North Carolina Demographics Division has projected a 53% growth rate in Chatham County from 2000 to 2020. The Operations Research/Education Lab of NCSU reported a 7.6% growth in the number of school students in the Chatham County School System from 2001 to 2007. Much of this growth is taking place in the eastern sections of Chatham County with only minimal growth occurring in the southwestern region. Using current growth rates for the County (2000-2008), growth for Chatham County has been projected as seen in Table 2.2-1.

Table 2.2-1 Chatham County Population Projections

Year	Chatham County population	Increase	% Growth
2000	49,329	NA	NA
2008	60,595	11,266	22.8
2013	74,411	13,816	22.8
2018	91,377	16,966	22.8
2023	112,211	20,834	22.8
2028	137,795	25,584	22.8



2.3 POPULATION TRENDS

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2003-2008 (SCORP) children and senior citizens comprise two of the fastest growing groups in North Carolina who need more recreation opportunities. The tremendous influx of families into Chatham County is expanding the child age demographic at a rate that will require special consideration in all plans for community services. SCORP reports that households with at least one participant between the ages of 25 to 44, tend to be most interested in fitness activities, water activities and activities involving small children. This age group makes up 29.2% of the Chatham County population. Households with children also tend to engage more in activities such as camping, football, skateboarding, motorized sports and going to the beach.



Water activities are very popular with the 25 to 44 year old demographic.

Seniors, aged 55 and above report being more likely to engage in passive activities such as walking for pleasure, camping, nature study or fishing. This senior population is expected to have significant impacts throughout society because of income levels, expanding population numbers and their unique recreation needs.

Developing trends are impacting the need for additional recreation services for town residents. Chatham County and its varied communities will continue to increase in popularity as residential communities for people working in larger metropolitan areas such as Chapel Hill and Raleigh/Durham. To attract and meet the needs of residents and visitors, the County will have to continually evaluate its recreation and ancillary facilities and offer an expanding selection of recreation opportunities.

-END OF SECTION-





SECTION 3

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

McGill Associates, P.A., recently performed an inventory of the Chatham County park system. Site visits were made to each park facility with observations being recorded. A brief analysis of each recreation facility was performed, noting any visible improvements needed for that facility. This method of study serves as a guide for Chatham County in its efforts to develop a plan for present and future recreation needs.

Chatham County residents and visitors have some of their recreation needs met through a variety of amenities offered by local municipalities, organizations, residential developments and the State of North Carolina. School recreation facilities owned and operated by the Chatham County School System also provide recreational opportunities that may be used by the public. Chatham County is fortunate to have the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area located in the eastern half of the County, providing a variety of passive recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. In addition, the State is working with several local governments, including Chatham County to increase recreation/conservation efforts on the Haw River and Deep River.

Chatham County Owned and Operated Facilities

Earl Thompson Park At Bynum
Southwest District Park, Bear Creek
Bynum Beach Canoe Access

Northeast District Park (planned), Big Woods Road, Pittsboro
Northwest District Park (planned), Woody Store Road, Siler City

North Central Park (proposed), Crawford Dairy Road
Bobcat Point (proposed), Emerson Cook Road
Briar Chapel (proposed), Andrews Store Road
Bells Landing (under consideration)

Public Schools:

Northwood High School
North Chatham School
Pittsboro Elementary School
Jordan – Matthews High School
Bonlee School

Perry W. Harrison School
Horton Middle School
Silk Hope School
Bennett School
Chatham Central High School





J.S. Waters
Siler City Elementary School
Moncure School

Virginia Cross Elementary School
Chatham Middle School

Municipality Owned and Operated Facilities

Pittsboro:

Town Lake Park
McClenahan Street Basketball and Tennis Courts
3-M Project (planned)
Pittsboro Town Park (planned)
Kiwanis Park

Siler City:

Boling Lane Park
Washington Avenue Park
Bray Park
Paul Braxton
Landrus Siler Park

Goldston:

Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park

Cary:

Amberly Trailhead Park (Planned)
Weldon Ridge Property (To be planned)

Federally Owned and Operated Facilities

Jordan Lake Dam and Visitors Assistance Center

Federally Owned and State of North Carolina Operated Facilities

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area
Jordan Lake Education State Forest
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission



State Owned Facilities

Lower Haw River State Natural Area
Deep River State Trail (planned)
Carolina Mountains To Sea Trail
Justice Lands

Multi-Agency Joint Ownership and Operation

American Tobacco Trail – Chatham County Section
Haw River Trail

Other Owned Facilities

Recreation Associations

Bonlee Community Park
Bennett Recreation Club
Harper's Crossroads Community Park

Conservation Areas/Open Space

Mclver Landing
White Pines Nature Preserve
Condoret Nature Preserve
La Grange Riparian Reserve
Wood's Mill Bend
Deep River Park

Fitness

Chatham YMCA Fitness Center
Duke Center for Living at Galloway Ridge at Fearington Village
Ladies Fitness Center of Pittsboro
Pittsboro Snap Fitness Center
Curves of Pittsboro
Curves of Siler City
Triangle Fitness
Southeastern Karate School
Easy Tan and Fitness



Golf

- Chapel Ridge Golf Course – public
- Governors Club – private
- The Preserve at Jordan Lake – public
- Siler City Country Club – private
- Twin Lakes Golf Course – public
- Old Chatham Golf Club – private
- Jordan Lake Driving Range - public

Miscellaneous Recreation Providers

- THANKS Trail at CCCC
- U.S. Bicycle Route 1 Trail
- Chatham County Council on Aging
- Camp Royal
- Carnivore Preservation Trust
- Crosswinds Marina and Boat Rental
- Bynum General Store Front Porch Music Series
- Music at Renos
- Shakori Hills
- Haw River Canoe and Kayak
- Boys and Girls Club of Chatham County
- Silk Hope Farm Heritage Center (Silk Hope Ruritan Club)

3.2 FACILITY INVENTORY

Chatham County Owned and Operated Facilities

Earl Thompson Park

Earl Thompson Park is located in Bynum, less than three miles from the Town of Pittsboro's northern limits. The park is used mostly for Chatham County Parks and Recreation programs.

Site Amenities

- 1 Lighted Youth Baseball Field
- Playground Equipment
- Concession Stand/Restroom Facility
- Limited Parking



Baseball Field at Earl Thompson Park



Southwest District Park

Located adjacent to Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek, the Southwest District Park is still under development. Phase One has recently been completed and proved very popular with the local community.

Site Amenities

- Playground Equipment
- Sand Volleyball Court
- 1 Lighted Multi-purpose Field (baseball, softball, soccer, football)
- Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, Concessions and Office
- 1/2 Mile Walking Trail
- Parking Lot

Future Phase Amenities (proposed)

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- Expanded Walking Trail
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 1 Multi-purpose Field (baseball, softball, soccer, football)
- Concession Stand
- Expanded Parking
- Playground Equipment



Bynum Beach Canoe Access

This one acre site on the Haw River was donated to Chatham County through the auspices of the Triangle Land Conservancy. Funds were raised by the Carolina Canoe Club to allow for developing and maintaining a canoe access on the site. The County is currently renovating the site. Renovations include improvements to the footpath, the addition of handrails to the steps, new signage, the installation of bollards and the implementation of a plant management plan.





Schematic Plan for the Northeast District Park.

Northeast District Park (Planned)

Chatham County recently purchased 65 acres of land adjacent to Corps of Engineers land on Jordan Lake. The property has an existing pond, open spaces, hardwoods and a pine forest. Several old oaks stand where the house used to be situated (the house burned down several years ago.) A dirt road runs from the property through Corps of Engineer land to the lake. Residential lots line the southern portions of the property. The remainder of the surrounding land is owned by the Corps of Engineers, and is open for hunting.

Proposed Site Amenities

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 2 Multi-purpose Fields | 1 Baseball Field |
| Recreation Center | 2 Concession Stand/Restroom Facilities |
| Disc Golf Course | Fishing Dock |
| 2 Tennis Courts | 2 Playgrounds |
| Horseshoe Pitch | Picnic Shelters |
| 2 Basketball Courts | Walking Trail |
| Paved Parking Lots | Mountain Bike Trail |



Schematic Plan for the Northwest District Park.

Northwest District Park (Planned)

Chatham County recently acquired 118 acres of land in the north central section of the County. Originally a site for spiritual retreats, this heavily wooded property has several existing buildings, a pond, gravel roads and parking lots, a swimming pool and an athletic field.

Proposed Site Amenities

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Picnic Shelters with Restrooms | 2 Small Picnic Shelters |
| Picnic Tables with Grills | Multi-purpose Trails |
| 1 Fishing Pier | 2 Basketball Courts |
| Primitive Camping Sites | 2 Tennis Courts |
| Overlook | 2 Soccer Fields |
| 1 Restroom/Concession Building | 2 Baseball Fields |
| 1 Playground | 1 Amphitheater |
| 1 Recreation Center | Parking |





Briar Chapel Park (Planned)

Briar Chapel, a Planned Residential Development, in an agreement with Chatham County, is developing a park on a portion of their land. When completed, the park will be deeded over to Chatham County. The park is to be located at the edge of the property, along a public road, facilitating public access to the park.

Proposed Site Amenities

- 2 Lighted Baseball Fields
- 1 Lighted Football Field
- 1 Lighted Soccer Field
- 2 Gravel Parking Lots
- 1 Concession Stand/Press Box
- 1 Restroom Facility
- 1 Mountain Bike Trail

Public Schools

The County Parks and Recreation Department has an agreement with the County School System to utilize numerous school facilities for recreational programming. The following list includes the recreation facility, program, and school utilized by the Recreation Department.

<u>School</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Program</u>
Bennett School	Gymnasium	Basketball
Bonlee School	Gymnasium	Basketball
J.S. Waters School	Gymnasium	Basketball
Moncure School	Gymnasium	Basketball
North Chatham School	Gymnasium	Basketball
	Athletic Field	Softball
Perry Harrison School	Gymnasium	Basketball
	Athletic Field	Softball
Silk Hope School	Gymnasium	Basketball
	Athletic Field	Softball
	Athletic Field	T Ball
Horton Middle School	Gymnasium	Basketball
	Athletic Field	T Ball
Pittsboro Elementary	Athletic Field	T Ball
Chatham Central High	Gymnasium	Basketball
Northwood High	Gymnasium	Basketball



Municipality Owned and Operated Facilities

Town of Pittsboro

Town Lake Park

Originally owned and developed by the Jaycees, Town Lake Park is now a Town of Pittsboro facility. It is located in the southern portion of the Town on Town Lake, an impoundment of Robeson Creek.

Site Amenities

- 1 Soccer Field
- Picnic Shelter
- Information Kiosk
- Fitness Play Equipment



Picnic Shelter at Town Lake Park

McClenahan Street Basketball and Tennis Courts

The rehabilitation of the McClenahan Street Basketball and Tennis Courts is the result of a joint project between the Town of Pittsboro and Chatham County. The Town and the County both provided 50% of the costs for the refurbishing. The facility is operated by the Town of Pittsboro.

Site Amenities

- 3 Lighted Half Basketball Courts
- 3 Lighted Tennis Courts



Basketball Half Courts



Pittsboro Recreation Complex (Planned)

This two-phase project is to be built on approximately 54 acres of land donated to the Town by the 3M Company. It is located south of Pittsboro, in the ETJ, adjacent to the 3M plant. The first phase of the project will consist of mostly passive recreation facilities and will include walking trails and an amphitheater. The second phase is scheduled to include several athletic fields, a playground and picnic facilities.

Proposed Site Amenities

- Amphitheater
- Walking Trails
- 4 Lighted Baseball Fields
- 1 Football Field
- 1 Multi-use Field
- Picnic Shelter/Tables
- Playground Equipment
- Parking Lot

Pittsboro Town Park (Planned)

Located in northern Pittsboro, the planned Pittsboro Town Park is to be located on land dedicated by the developers of Powell Place, a new residential community currently under development. The park is slated to have a multi-use athletic field, a walking trail, pavilion, playground and an office/restrooms facility.

Proposed Site Amenities

- Multi-use Field
- 1/3 Mile Trail
- Pavilion
- Restroom/Office Facility
- Playground Equipment
- Parking Lot

Kiwanis Park

This playground for young children was built on land donated by the Kiwanis Club. The park is located on Credle Street, adjacent to the Kiwanis Club building. The park is fenced in for the safety of the children.

Amenities

- Playground Equipment



Siler City

Boling Lane Park

Site Amenities

Playground
Picnic Shelter
Tennis Court
Grit Walking Track – 1/5 Mile

Washington Avenue Park

Site Amenities

Playground
Picnic Shelter
Grit Walking Track with exercise stations
Basketball Court

Bray Park

Site Amenities

2 Playgrounds	Picnic Shelter
Tennis Courts	Volleyball Court
Swimming Pool	3 Lighted Baseball Fields
1 Lighted Softball Field	1 Lighted Soccer Field
Restroom/Concession Facility	

Paul Braxton

Site Amenities

Basketball Court
Walking Track
Lighted Athletic Field
Community Center/ Recreation Center

Landrus Siler Park

Site Amenities

Playground
Picnic Shelter
Basketball Court
Soccer Field





Goldston

Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park

Located in the Town of Goldston, the Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park is situated next to the old town library building.

Site Amenities

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- 1 Lighted Softball Field
- Playground
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 1 Basketball Court
- Concession Stand/Restroom Facility
- Batting Cage
- Paved Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelter



Children's play equipment at Jehugh C. Burke Memorial Park.

Cary

Amberly Trailhead Park (Planned)

Amberly Trailhead Park is a planned facility that will provide amenities for the American Tobacco Trail.

Weldon Ridge Property (To be planned)

This property, located next to the Amberly Trailhead Park, has been purchased, but plans have yet to be formulated for the land. The property is located on the American Tobacco Trail. Cary is proposing several greenways trails that will connect to the American Tobacco Trail at or near this property.

Federally Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Jordan Lake Dam and Visitors Assistance Center

The Visitors Assistance Center is located at the Dam on Jordan Lake. Rangers at the Center present a variety of programs on the environment and on water safety. The site is owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.



Federally Owned and State of North Carolina Operated Parks and Facilities

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

The Jordan Lake State Recreation Area is 46,768 acres of lake and forested lands. There are nine North Carolina Parks and Recreation Division (NCPRD) owned recreation areas on the lake plus one private concession site, one site owned by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and one site owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A small fee is charged for use of the NCPRD owned sites.

There are a variety of camp grounds available for tent campers and RV's, picnic sites, beaches, boating facilities, walking trails and other amenities.

The Park's rangers offer educational and interpretive programs throughout the year.



Picnic facility at one of the recreation sites on Jordan Lake

Site Amenities

- Boat Ramps at all 12 Areas
- 4 Tent Camping Areas
- 4 Dump Stations
- 6 Picnic Shelters
- Parking Lots
- Public Telephones
- 7 Swimming Beaches
- 3 Playgrounds
- Volleyball Courts
- 1 Backpack/Canoe Camping Area

- 2 Group Camping Areas
- 4 RV Camping Areas
- 4 Hot Shower Facilities
- Picnic Tables with Grills
- Fishing
- Restrooms
- Walking Trails
- Horseshoe Pits
- Floating Docks



Jordan Lake Educational State Forest

Located on the west side of Jordan Lake, off of Big Woods Road, the Jordan Lake Educational State Forest is one of the newest members of the North Carolina Educational State Forests system. Rangers conduct classes and workshops for groups of 10 or more, on the ecosystems found within the forest.

Site Amenities

- Themed Walking Trails
- Picnic Facilities

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Wildlife Resources Commission manages 41,000 acres of Corps of Engineer land around Jordan Lake for wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, fishing and wildlife watching. The Commission is also responsible for hunting and fishing regulations and enforcement on this land.

State of North Carolina Owned and Operated Parks and Facilities

Haw River Trail (Planned)

In 2007, the State of North Carolina entered into an agreement with several local governments, including Chatham County, to develop the Haw River Trail from the Haw River State Park in Rockingham County to Jordan Lake in Chatham County. The trail will encompass approximately 70 miles of the river. The intent is to provide both a canoe/kayak trail and hiking trails along the river. The hiking/biking trails will be included in the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail system.

Lower Haw River State Natural Area

The Lower Haw River Natural Area includes over 1000 acres of land along the Haw River in Chatham County. The property was purchased by the State of North Carolina from Duke University in 2003. The Natural Area extends along both sides of the Haw River from the old Bynum Bridge to the US-64 Bridge. It is a popular location for canoeing/kayaking and hiking. There are no amenities.



Deep River State Trail (Planned)

Authorized in 2007, the Deep River State Trail will be a land based and water based trail system, running from Guilford County, through Randolph, Moore and Chatham counties to Lee County, where the Deep River joins the Haw River. The trail will be a network of conservation lands and amenities developed by partnerships between the State of North Carolina, local governments, land conservancies, nonprofit organizations, private landowners and recreation interests.

Mountains to Sea Trail Alternate Route

A portion of the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail passes through the northeastern section of Chatham County. This alternate route for the trail follows the Haw River south to Jordan Lake and then north along the lake to rejoin the main trail in Orange County. The portion of this trail that follows the Haw River, is also a portion of the planned Haw River Trail. A second alternate route joins the American Tobacco Trail and runs north along the eastern side of Jordan Lake to Durham County.

Piedmont Spur

The Piedmont Spur is a branch of the North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail. The spur runs north/south, connecting the southern and northern routes of the Mountains to Sea Trail. It passes through the northwest corner of Chatham County.

Justice Lands

This 870 acre conservation preserve is owned by the North Carolina Division of State Parks. The land was purchased by the Triangle Land Conservancy in 2003. Ownership of the land was transferred to the State in 2005.

Multi-Agency Joint Ownership and Operation

American Tobacco Trail – Chatham County

The American Tobacco Trail is a joint effort of several local governments, including Chatham County. The trail runs for 22 miles along an old railroad bed that used to carry tobacco trains to the American Tobacco Company in Durham. 4.6 miles of the trail run through Chatham County. In Chatham County some sections of the trail are a natural surface trail. Other sections of the trail are 10 foot wide asphalt with an adjacent six foot wide crushed stone path. The trail will be open to walkers, hikers, bicyclists and



equestrians. Once two bridges are completed, the Chatham County portion of the trail will be completed and joined with the trail section in Durham County.

Haw River Trail

The Haw River Trail is an excellent example of a multi-agency co-operative recreation/conservation facility. In 2007, the State of North Carolina entered into an agreement with nine local governments, including Chatham County, to develop the Haw River Trail from the Haw River State Park in Rockingham County to Jordan Lake in Chatham County. The coalition of ten agencies (including the State of North Carolina) is known as the Haw River Trail Governmental Agency Partnership, and is responsible for jointly developing and maintaining a unified trail system.

The trail will encompass approximately 70 miles of the river. The intent is to provide both a canoe/kayak trail and hiking trails along the river. The hiking/biking trails will be included in the North Carolina Mountains To Sea Trail system.

OTHER-OWNED and OPERATED RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Associations

Bonlee Community Park

This park was built and operated by the Bonlee Recreation Club in the unincorporated area of Bonlee, in the southwestern section of Chatham County. The Club is planning to build a second baseball field in the park.

Site Amenities

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- 1 Practice Field
- Concession/Restroom Building
- Graveled Parking Lot

Bennett Recreation Club Facility

The Bennett Recreation Club owns land located behind the Bennet Elementary School where they have built a ball field. Bennett is an unincorporated area in the southwestern section of the County.



Site Amenities

1 Lighted Baseball Field
Baseball Field

Harper's Crossroads Community Park

Harper's Crossroads is an unincorporated area in the southwestern section of Chatham County. A small park has been built for the residents by the Harper's Crossroads Community Club.

Site Amenities

2 Lighted Baseball Fields
Community Center
Tennis Courts

Conservation Areas/Open Space

Mclver Landing

This site's five acres of land were purchased by the Triangle Land Conservancy as a part of their efforts to protect the Deep River and a portion of a bottomland hardwood forest. The Conservancy partnered with the Deep River Park Association and Rock Rest Adventures to open and maintain a safe and legal canoe/kayak access to the Deep River. The river access point is located near the unincorporated town of Gulf in the southwest section of Chatham County.

White Pines Nature Preserve

The Triangle Land Conservancy began purchasing land for this site in 1986, with the most recent Chatham County purchase in 2004. Recent additions to the Preserve have been added on the Lee County side of the Deep River. Though located in the North Carolina Piedmont, a microclimate created by north-facing slopes and the confluence of two rivers, has allowed a native stand of mountain species plants to develop and thrive. The Preserve is open for hiking and bird watching. The planned Deep River State Trail will pass through the White Pines Nature Preserve.

Site Amenities

Hiking Trails





Condoret Nature Preserve

Donated by the Condoret Family to the Triangle Land Conservancy, this 85 acre site is located southeast of Siler City. The NCDOT is conducting a stream restoration project on two streams on the property.

La Grange Riparian Reserve

Located in southwestern Chatham County, the La Grange Riparian Reserve consists of 308 acres of land situated on the Deep River. A working farm since before the American Revolution, the land contains several native species of plant and wildlife including a rare diabase seepage bog.

Wood's Mill Bend

Located on the Rocky River in western Chatham County, this Triangle Lands Conservancy 'open land' site is 22 acres in size.

Deep River Park

Owned and operated by the Deep River Park Association, the 40 acre Deep River Park is located along Cumnock Road, on the banks of the Deep River. The park contains an old camelback truss bridge (listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the North Carolina Transportation Hall of Fame) dating from the early 1900's.

Site Amenities

- Canoe Access
- 2 Picnic Shelters

Fitness Centers

Chatham YMCA Fitness Center

Currently the Chatham YMCA has a Fitness Center facility that is located in a storefront in Pittsboro. They are searching for a site upon which to build a YMCA complex.

Duke Center for Living at Galloway Ridge at Ferrington Village

The Duke Center for Living is a public, membership-based fitness facility. The professionally trained staff offers an array of fitness and health classes for adults. The indoor facilities include a pool, fitness equipment, a cushioned indoor track and exercise



rooms. Fitness classes include a variety of exercise classes, special classes for those with physical limitations, fitness training, massage and a physical therapy department.

Ladies Fitness Center of Pittsboro

The Ladies Fitness Center of Pittsboro is a for-profit fitness center.

Pittsboro Snap Fitness Center

The Pittsboro Snap Fitness Center is a for-profit fitness center.

Curves of Pittsboro

The Curves of Pittsboro is a for-profit fitness center.

Curves of Siler City

The Curves of Siler City is a for-profit fitness center.

Triangle Fitness

The Triangle Fitness is a for-profit fitness center.

Southeastern Karate School

The Southeastern Karate School is a for-profit martial arts learning center.

Easy Tan and Fitness

The Easy Tan and Fitness is a for-profit fitness center.

Golf Courses

- Chapel Ridge Golf Course – public
- Governors Club – private
- The Preserve at Jordan Lake – public
- Siler City Country Club – private
- Twin Lakes Golf Course – public
- Old Chatham Golf Club – private
- Jordan Lake Driving Range – public



Miscellaneous Recreation Providers

THANKS Trail – Central Carolina Community College

THANKS stands for Trail for Health, Art and Nature for Kids to Seniors. The trail is approximately one mile in length and is paved. There are fitness stations placed along the trail.

U.S. Bicycle Route 1 Trail

This national bike route runs from Florida to Maine. The segment of the trail that runs from Sanford to Apex passes through the southeastern section of Chatham County. The North Carolina and Virginia segments of this trail are the only segments that are recognized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Chatham County Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging operates two Senior Centers: one in Pittsboro and one in Siler City. The centers offer a well rounded slate of opportunities for socializing, exercising and learning through their classes and facilities. The senior centers each have a fitness center and a program of exercise classes for those 55 years of age and older. The Council on Aging sponsors senior games every year. Other activities and classes include health awareness, dancing, and art/craft classes.

Camp Royal

Camp Royal is a special facility owned by the Autism Society of North Carolina. The Society runs a summer camp at the facility for children with autism. The YMCA uses the facility for their soccer program and Chatham County Parks and Recreation uses the facilities for basketball practice

Carnivore Preservation Trust

The Carnivore Preservation Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing homes to carnivorous animals in need of rescue. They provide educational tours of their facility and provide information about the dangers facing these animals in the wild, in the pet trade and in the entertainment industry. Tours are by reservation only. Tour fees are used to support the Trust's mission.



Crosswinds Marina and Boat Rental

A full service marina located on Lake Jordan.

The Bynum General Store

The Bynum General Store is the home of the Front Porch Music Series every Friday night from May through September. The 'Store' reopened in 2007 in order to carry on the tradition of providing Bynum and the surrounding communities with a place to gather and celebrate varied musical traditions and artists. The store also serves as a community center for the residents of Bynum.

Music at Reno's

Located at the intersection of the Goldston/Pittsboro Road and Reno Sharpe Store Road, Reno Sharpe Store presents an open-mike program of gospel and bluegrass music each weekend.

Shakori Hills

A non-profit organization dedicated to building community through the arts and education. Shakori Hills presents music festivals, performances and art, craft, dance and music workshops throughout the year.

Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company

This for-profit business offers canoe and kayak rentals and tours of the Haw River.

Carolina Meadows

This non-profit, fee-oriented, retirement community is located in northeastern Chatham County. They offer their residents a wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities including facilities for golf, tennis, swimming, walking/biking trails and exercise room.

Boys and Girls Club of Chatham County

A Boys and Girls Club is being developed for Chatham County. Initial plans provide for the opening of a Club in Siler City. The purpose of the Club is to provide opportunities for young people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. Programs will target health and life skills, character and leadership development, education and career development, art, sports, fitness and recreation.





Silk Hope Farm Heritage Center

Created by the Silk Hope Ruritan Club, the Farm Heritage Center has a large collection of farm equipment and buildings. The Ruritan Club holds special public events at the Center, celebrating the agricultural heritage of Chatham County each year. Future plans include the construction of a new Community Center, architecturally designed to fit into the character of the site.

3.3 CHATHAM COUNTY’S EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department offers a year-round slate of recreational programs. The chart below summarizes their offerings and the number of participants for the year 2007.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Participants (yearly)</u>
Youth Basketball	850
Adult Basketball	45
Youth Softball	160
T-Ball	125
Track and Field	30
Summer Camps	125
Swimming Lessons	185 (contracted)
Karate Classes	160 (monthly) (contracted)
Cheerleading	130 (monthly) (contracted)
Tumbling Tots	225 (contracted)
Wrestling	40
Adult Volleyball	24
Adult Softball	48
Art Classes	40

The County Parks and Recreation Department currently offers five special events each year: the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Family Fun Day at Southwest Park, Praise in Park, the Fall Festival and the Chatham Parks Foundation Golf Tournament.

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department also works with several athletic associations in the County to provide facilities, assistance, scheduling and promotion for team sports and events.



Some of these associations are:

- East Chatham Youth Football Association
- West Chatham Youth Football Association
- East Chatham Baseball, Inc.
- West Chatham Baseball, Inc.
- Chatham Soccer League
- Bennett Recreation Club
- Goldston Community Club
- Harpers Crossroads
- Bonlee Community Club

Siler City Parks and Recreation Department Programs

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Participants (yearly)</u>
Youth Basketball	265
Adult Men’s Basketball	80
Women’s Basketball	80
Youth Girls’ Basketball	65
Youth Baseball	150
Youth Soccer	35
Youth Football	150
Cheerleading	25
Youth Volleyball (planned)	
Over 40 Men’s Basketball	30
Bridge Club	15

Chatham County Health Department

The Chatham County Health Department sponsors Active Chatham, a program to encourage healthy lifestyles through exercise and physical fitness. The program encourages physical activity in schools, the workplace and communities. Aspects of the program have included:

- The annual 5K Reindeer Run
- Improving existing trails in the County
- Cleaning up parks
- Walk Pittsboro
- Fit Families

- END OF SECTION -





Section 4

Recreation Needs Assessment

4.1 Introduction

Chatham County, Siler City, the Town of Pittsboro and North Carolina State Parks are the primary providers of parks, recreation and public open space in Chatham County. The degree of need for parks/open space is most directly influenced by the expectations of the residents of Chatham County, related strictly to the 'quality of life' to which they aspire. This Master Plan addresses as its first priority, the parks and recreation facility needs that are envisioned as appropriate for all the residents of Chatham County.

Although this Master Plan is developed primarily for the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, park facilities that are not owned or operated by the County are also evaluated to determine the needs assessment for residents of the County. Section 3 of this Master Plan inventories Chatham County's existing park facilities, the recreation facilities within the Chatham County School System, local municipalities, State Parks and private recreation facilities within the County. This detailed inventory includes the facilities which are available within each park in order to create a better understanding of the existing recreation opportunities within the County. The demographic and population trends (found in Section 2 of the Master Plan) provide information needed to understand the growth of Chatham County for the next twenty years. This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be used as a department specific guide for improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Community input and recreation standards were used as the primary method in determining the adequate types and number of park facilities needed for Chatham County. This Master Plan compares standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), an independent, non-profit professional organization for park/recreation departments nationwide. In 1996, NRPA published a manual entitled, *Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*, which is a widely accepted reference standard for communities.

Standards are guidelines, not requirements, for use by communities in estimating the demand for recreation in their given geographic areas. The NRPA's 1996 guidelines shifted emphasis from rigid park facility standards to more flexible standards that better accommodate unique circumstances and situations that exist in every community. To assure that Chatham County's Master Plan contains distinctiveness, yet versatility, public input was sought from its integral components: the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, the County Commissioners, various County Staff, the Recreation Advisory Board and citizen representatives.



4.2 PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The methodology used in establishing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan should always include citizen input. In order to ensure a successful study, it is vital that the public users of recreational facilities be able to share their issues, needs, and desires.

Community Meetings

To facilitate community input, four public workshops were conducted during the initial phase of the Master Plan process. These workshops were held in four different locations in the County. The workshops were held on four separate nights in order to offer multiple opportunities for residents to voice their opinions on the topic of recreation. Thirty-nine people attended the meetings.

Participants were given a questionnaire to fill out each night. The questionnaires solicited their opinions on needed improvements and additions to existing park facilities and programs in Chatham County. Questions were also asked about funding and the types of parks they envisioned for their County's future.

A short presentation was given by McGill Associates about the Master Plan project and questions were entertained. The participants were then divided into groups and given a map of Chatham County, showing the location and size of each existing and proposed park. They were given markers and asked to place them on the map, marking a location for their top priority activities or facilities. Each participant was to mark two priorities. Members of the groups were encouraged to discuss their choices with each other. Group members were also asked to write down a list of activities and facilities that they would like to see provided in Chatham County. When the groups were finished discussing and marking their maps, they were asked to present their choices to the rest of the participants. Notes were taken of any comments.

Results of First Meeting, Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

The first community meeting was held in the Town of Pittsboro. A small group of people attended this first meeting. A couple of members of the Parks and Recreation Oversight Committee also attended.

Concerns that were addressed included the lack of active senior recreation, tree preservation and walking/biking trails.



Results of the Second Meeting, Thursday, November 8, 2007.

The second meeting was held at the North Chatham Elementary School which is located near to the Northeast District Park site. Participants at this meeting tended to be in one of two groups: those that own property adjacent to the Northeast District Park site and those that live in the vicinity of the Northeast District Park site.

The adjacent property owners expressed several concerns they had about possible activities at the site. A list of concerns included:

- Security/Privacy Issues
- Light Pollution
- Soil Erosion
- Noise
- Safety

Concern was also expressed about the destruction of bird nesting sites on the property. Most of this group prefers passive use of the site versus active programming.

Participants that live in the vicinity of the Northeast District Park site, pointed out the enormous increase in the number of children that now live in the northeastern quadrant of the County and the expected growth in this demographic over the next ten years. This group was interested in the development of both passive and active recreational opportunities for children and families at the Northeast District Park site.

Results of the Third Meeting, Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

This meeting was held at the Silk Hope School in the northwestern quadrant of Chatham County. Unfortunately, only two people attended this meeting. The main focus of this meeting was the newly acquired Northwest District Park property. A concern was expressed about safety issues by an adjacent property owner.

Results of the Fourth Meeting, Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

The fourth community meeting was held at Chatham Central High School in the southwestern quadrant of the County. This meeting had the greatest number of participants. The majority of these participants are interested in horse-related recreation opportunities. They pointed out that there are no public facilities for horseback riding, horseback camping or wagon-driving in Chatham County and that to participate in these activities it is necessary for them to drive to other locations. It was mentioned that they spent a good bit of money to do



so, money that was leaving the County. It was also pointed out that if Chatham County had equestrian facilities, it would attract participants from outside of the County, providing financial benefits to businesses in the area.

Other suggestions for improvements to the parks and recreation system included camping facilities and sports fields at the Northwest District Park property and a community center at the Southwest District Park.

Group Exercise Results

The following is a compilation of priorities as listed by the participants on the maps during the group exercise. (See Appendix, Map 2,) To reiterate, participants were asked to chose two recreational amenities that they would like to see in Chatham County. They were each given two sticky dots and asked to place them on a map of Chatham County to mark where they would like to see the amenities provided. In some cases participants chose existing park lands for their amenities and in other cases, they chose a region of the County for their priority amenities.

Location	Priority
Southeastern Quadrant of County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-use park 2. Connecting loops for bicycle trails
Northeast District Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hiking/walking trails (5 markers) 2. Disc golf (3 markers) 3. Athletic fields (3 markers) 4. Indoor swimming pool (2 markers) 5. Maintain security 6. Playgrounds 7. Mountain bike trail 8. Basketball courts 9. Tennis courts 10. Nature preserve 11. Control light pollution 12. Control erosion 13. Reduce trash



Northwest District Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse trails (5 markers) 2. Hiking trails 3. Sports complex (2 markers) 4. Gymnasium 5. Security 6. Camping 7. Preserve forest 8. Build "green"
Southwest County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse trail from Bennett to Bonlee (5 markers) 2. Park with multi-use trails and camping (4 markers) 3. Wagon trails (2 markers) 4. Buy or lease Flat Woods property (2 markers) 5. Community building for Southwest District Park 6. Basketball court at Southwest District Park 7. Tennis courts at Southwest District Park
Central County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District park – ball fields, gymnasium, pool, activity center
Northeast County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect to Orange County's horse trail system
Greenways	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect Pittsboro, Siler City, Bear Creek, Goldstrom, Moncure and Jordan Lake 2. Connect Pittsboro to Jordan Lake 3. Along Haw River 4. From Flat Woods to Northwest District Park and other locations in Chatham County 5. Around Jordan Lake 6. Connect Farrington to Northeast District Park 7. Connect Pittsboro to Northeast District Park 8. Westfall 9. Along Robeson Creek from Walnut Grove Apts. To Salisbury St. in Pittsboro
Pittsboro	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sports complex (2 markers) 2. Walking trails 3. More visibility for soccer leagues 4. Indoor pool 5. Fitness center 6. Activities for senior citizens





Haw River	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kayaking input2. Walking/biking trail along river
Bicycle Trails	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Along one side of highways throughout the County2. Bike lanes on Jack Bennett, Lystra, Mt. Carmel Church and Farrington Point Roads

It is very clear from the above remarks that the participants want trails for hiking, walking, biking and horseback riding. The participants also support the idea of greenway trails that link various destination points within and without of the County.

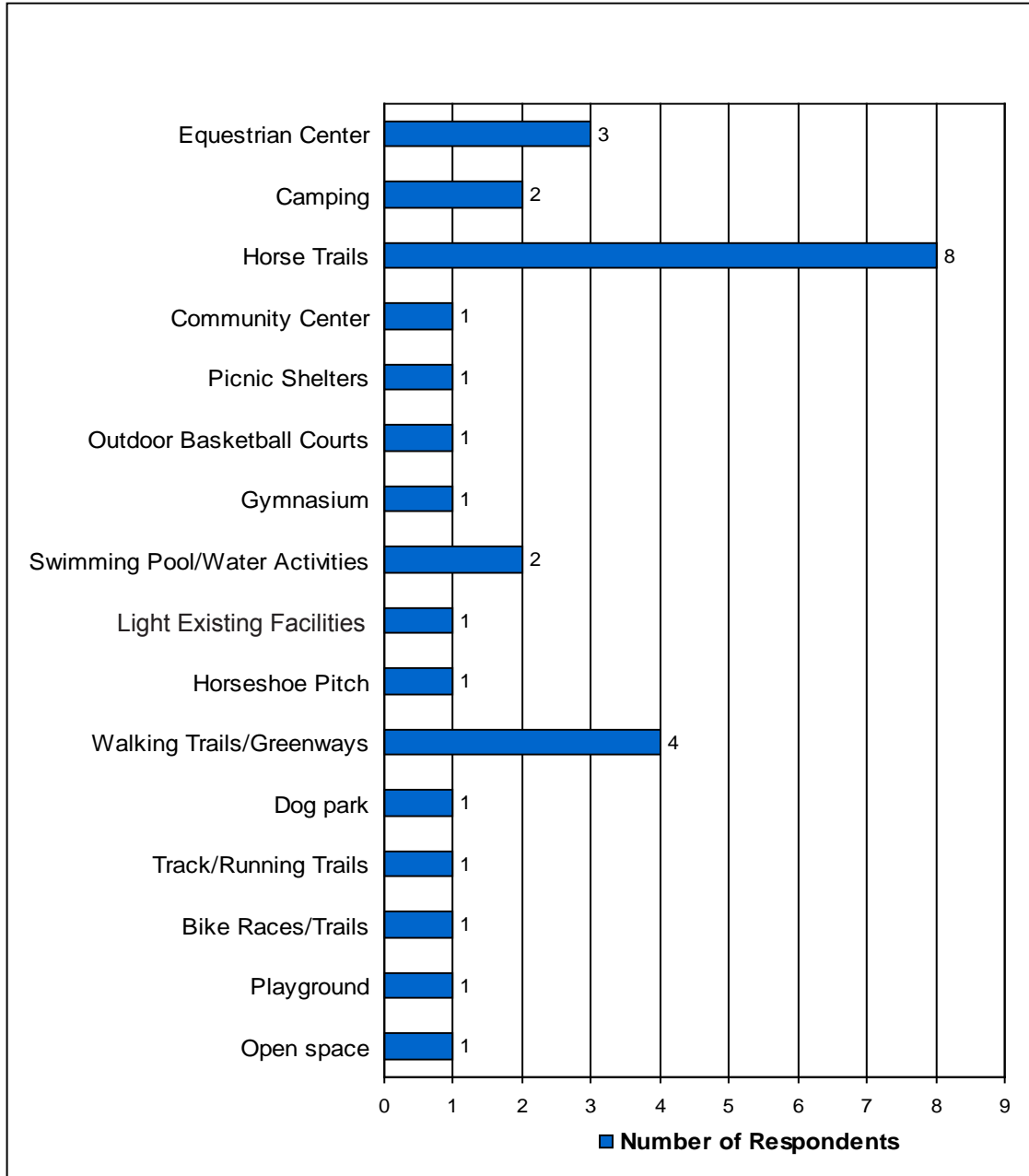
Other facilities that received multiple mentions were athletic fields, an indoor swimming pool, tennis courts and a gymnasium. There were also a number of concerns noted about security, safety and ecological responsibility.

Community Meetings Questionnaire

Participants in the Community Meetings were also asked to fill out a one-page questionnaire. Answers were written in the space provided, with no options given from which to choose. The questions and results are as follows:

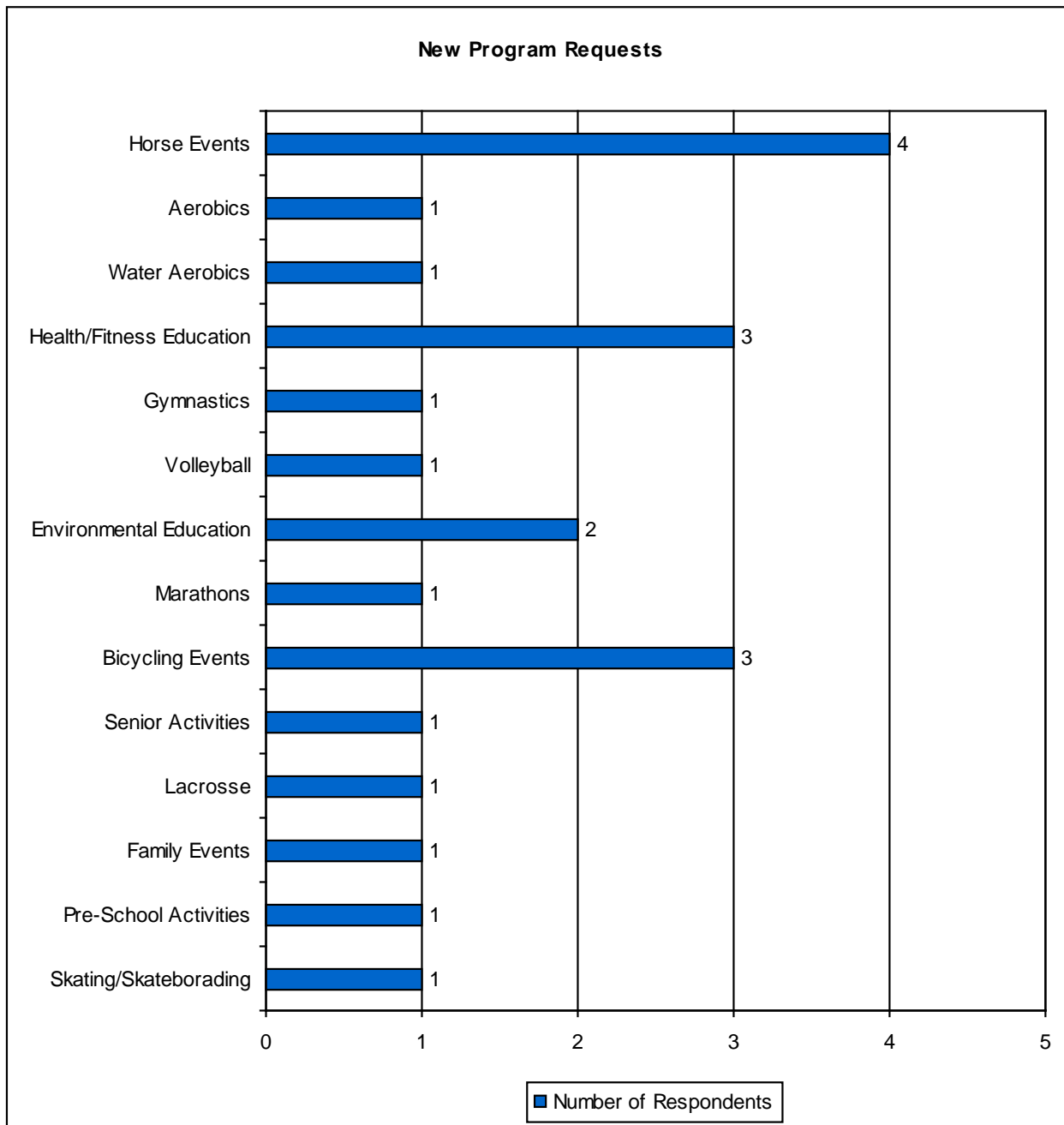


Question #1: What improvements do you think are most needed at existing park and recreation facilities?



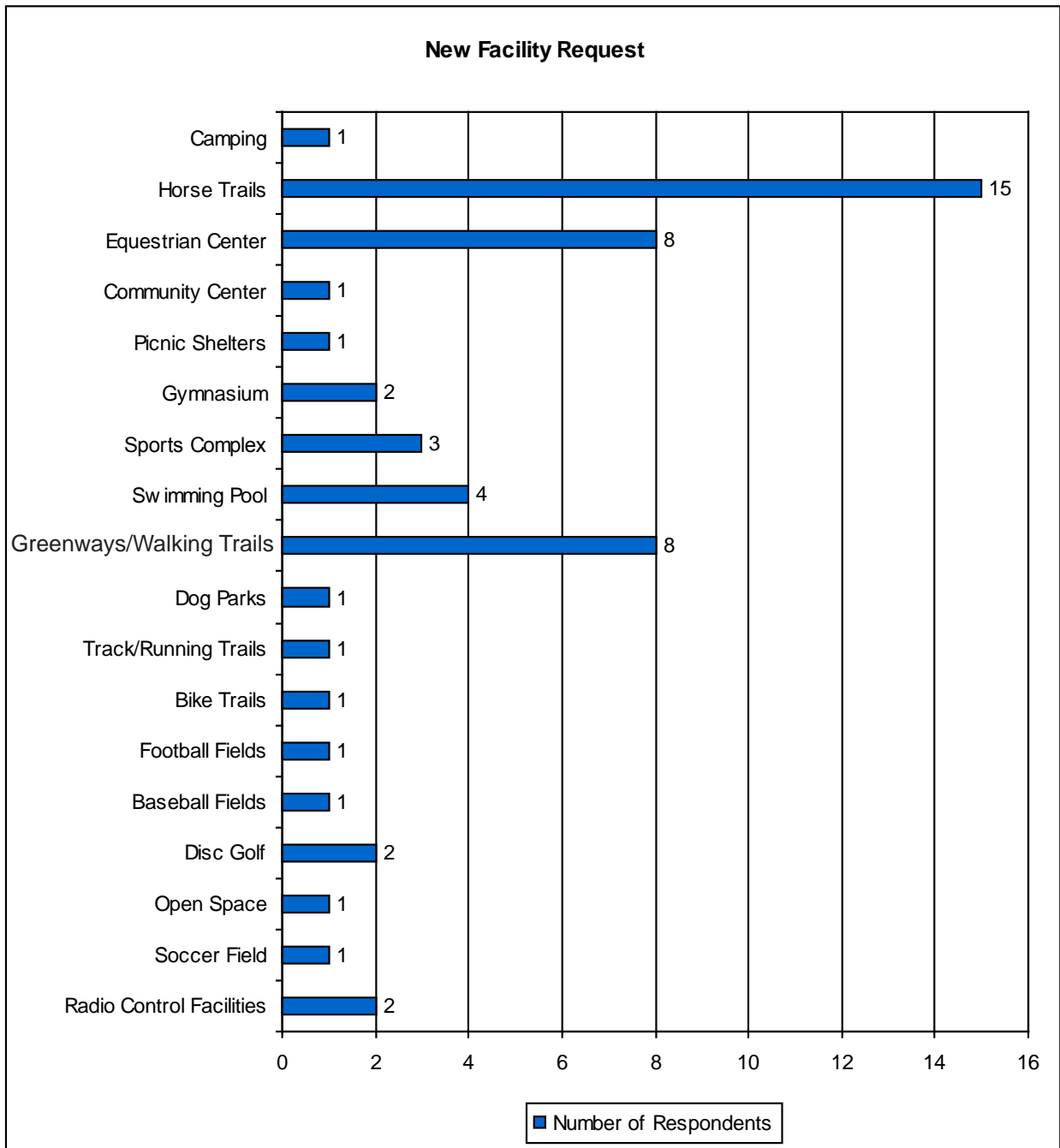


Question #2: What, if any, new recreation programs are needed?



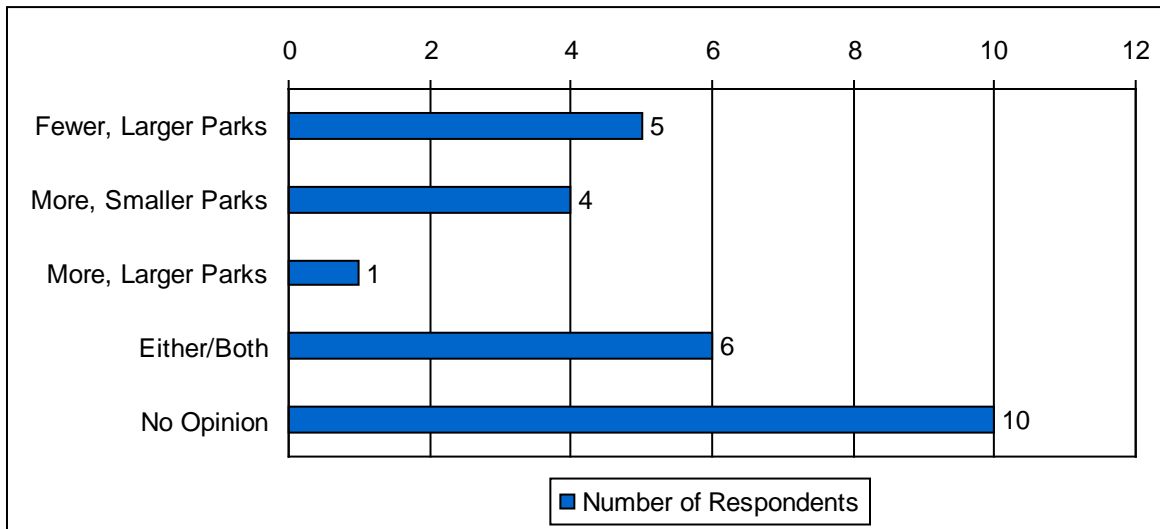


Question #3: What, if any, new park and recreation facilities are needed?

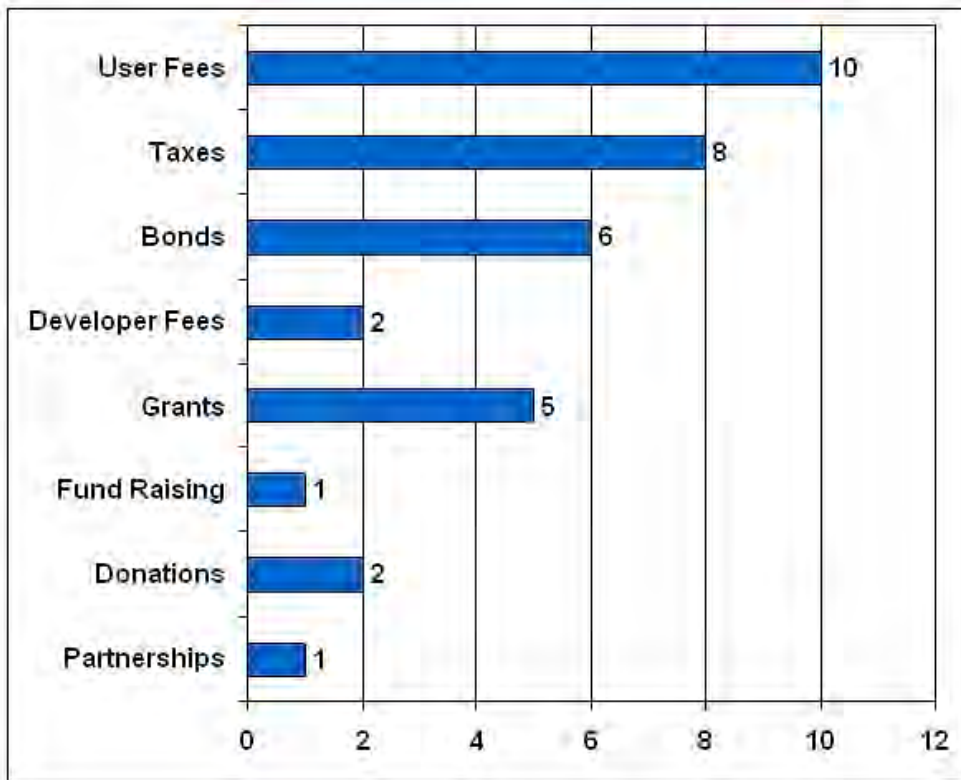




Question #4: If new facilities are provided, should they be included in fewer but larger County-wide parks or in more, but smaller community parks?



Question # 5: What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities and create programs?





Once again, those who chose to attend the four community meetings overwhelming support the idea of trails in County facilities. Since a large number of equestrians attended the meeting in Bear Creek, the responses show a disproportionately heavy support for equestrian trails and events. However, when combined with the results of the community survey, (begins on page 11 of Section 4,) the results of the community meetings help to give a picture of the community's desires and needs for recreational facilities.

Community Survey

The active participation of residents in Chatham County was crucial in developing a Master Plan that reflects the true needs for the County. With this in mind, community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. To gather further public input, a survey was conducted, which was advertised in the local newspaper and on the radio. Survey forms were mailed to Chatham County residents with their utility bills. The survey form was also available on the County's website and through the Chatham County School System.

A total of 564 surveys were filled out and returned. The surveys represent 945 people (household members) in Chatham County and adequately reflect a representative cross section of Chatham County in terms of age and household size. Citizens were able to return the surveys in a variety of ways: drop off, mail in, fax or email.

The survey asked a series of questions about satisfaction with existing programs and facilities. Respondents were asked to rank their priorities for future programs and facilities; room was included for them to write in any choices that were not listed. Several questions pertained to participant use of existing facilities. Since the responses were broken down by zip code locations, the surveys reflect the concerns/opinions of specific geographic locations within the County.

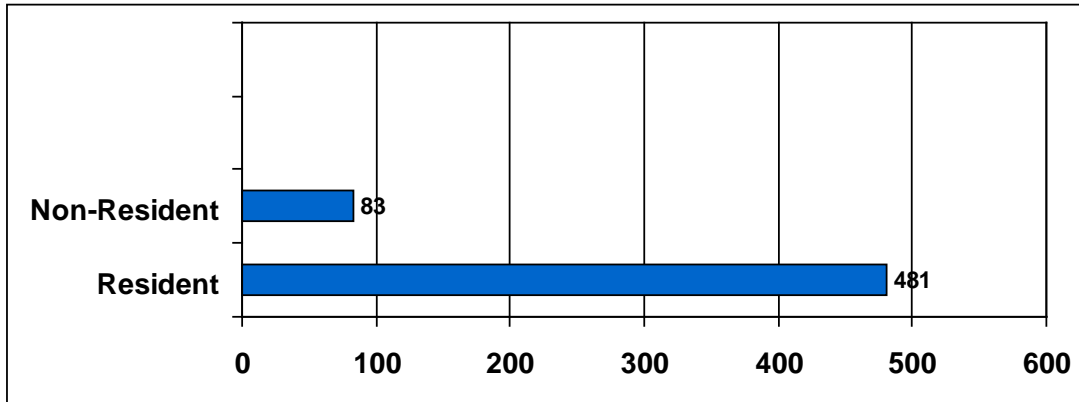


Chatham County Parks Master Plan Survey

564 Completed Surveys- Representing approximately 945 Persons

Demographics

Are you a resident of Chatham County?



This survey attracted a large number of responses (about 15%) from people who are not residents of Chatham County.

Zip Codes Represented:

Zip Code	Number of Respondents	Major Municipality	Area of County
27207	11	Bear Creek	Southwest
27208	2	Bennett	Southwest
27252	5	Goldston	Southwest
27312	163	Pittsboro	Central
27330	3	Sanford	Southwest
27344	11	Siler City	Northwest
27349	1	Snow Camp	Northwest



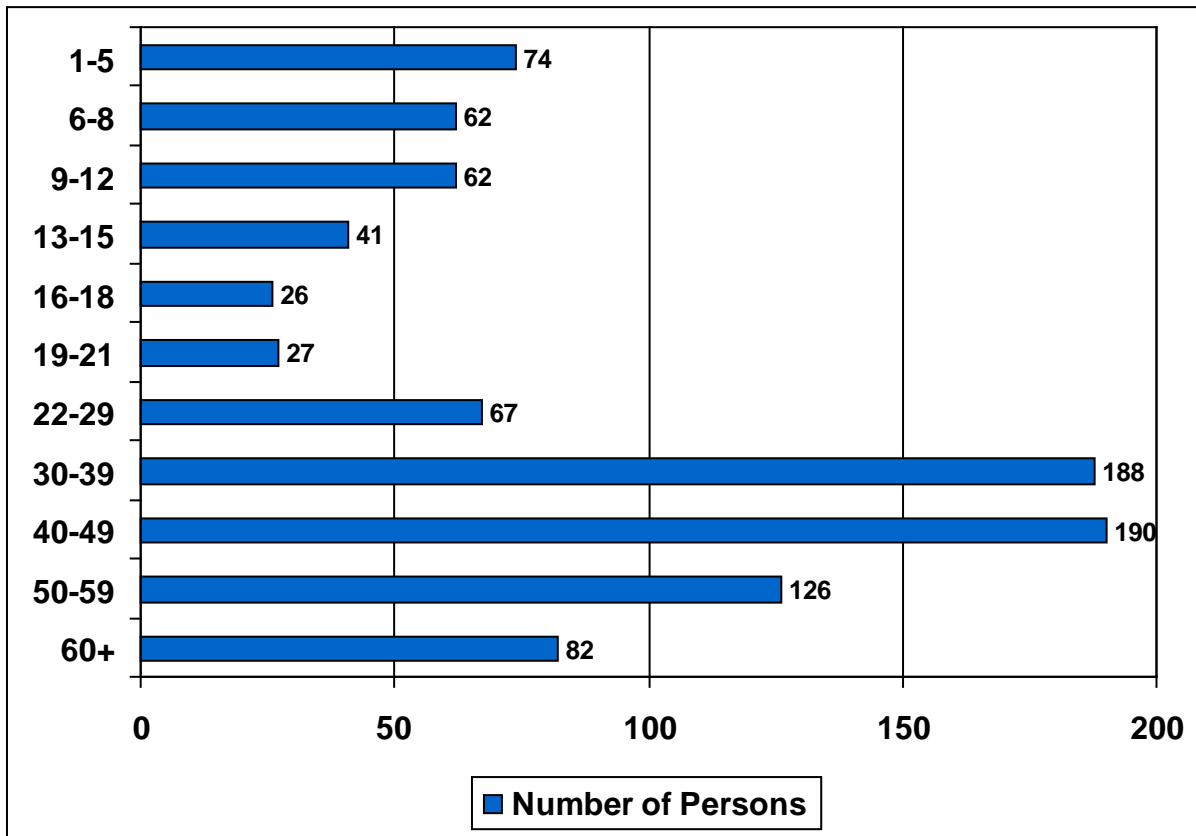
27355	0	Staley	Northwest
27502	1	Apex	Northeast
27516	17	Chapel Hill	Northeast
27517	103	Chapel Hill	Northeast
27523	4	Apex	Northeast
27559	14	Moncure	Southeast
27562	1	New Hill	Southeast
27713	1	Durham	Northeast
Miscellaneous	58	Out of Chatham	Out of Chatham

The two areas (by zip code) where the greatest number of people responded, are the Town of Pittsboro (163 responses) and the northeast section of the County, near Chapel Hill (103 responses.) This mirrors the general population patterns of the County, where the largest centers of population are Pittsboro, Siler City and the northeast section. Though Siler City has a large population, Siler City also has a recreation department that provides a wide variety of programs and facilities for their residents. This could explain the lack of response to a County-wide survey, from the residents of Siler City.





Age of Respondents (and members of their households.)

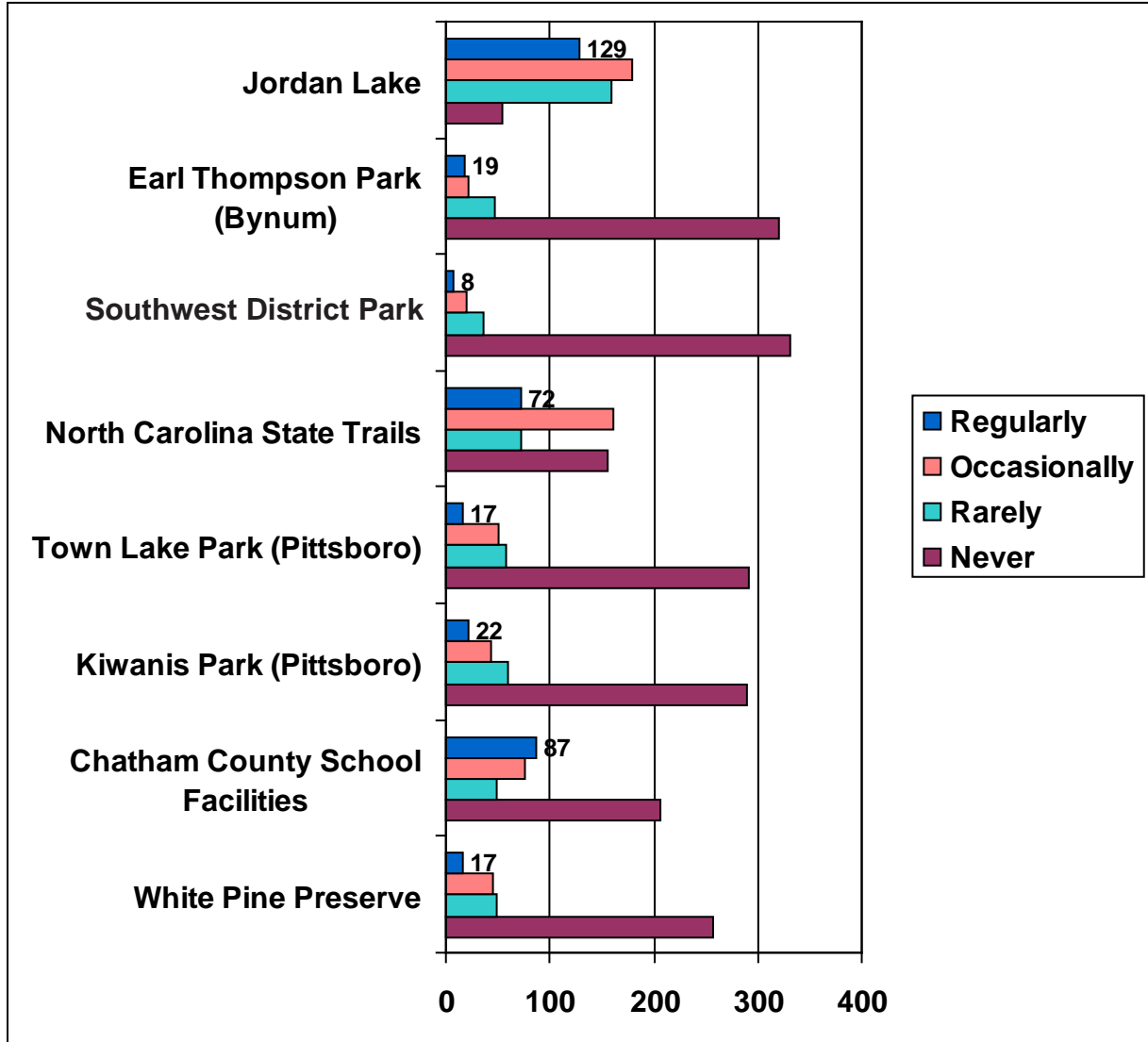


The two largest age groups represented in the survey are the 30-39 year olds and the 40-49 year olds. Yet if you add the three lowest children's groups together (1-5, 6-8 and 9-12), their total is 198, the most numerous group in the survey. This rapidly growing population of children is going to have to be carefully considered in this Master Plan.



Existing Facilities

How frequently have you visited each of the following facilities in the past year?



The State facilities at Jordan Lake are the most often used recreation site in Chatham County by respondents to the survey. Most of the other existing sites in the County are small parks that serve small communities or neighborhoods. At this time, Chatham County does not have any facilities, other than the County School System facilities, capable of serving a larger population.



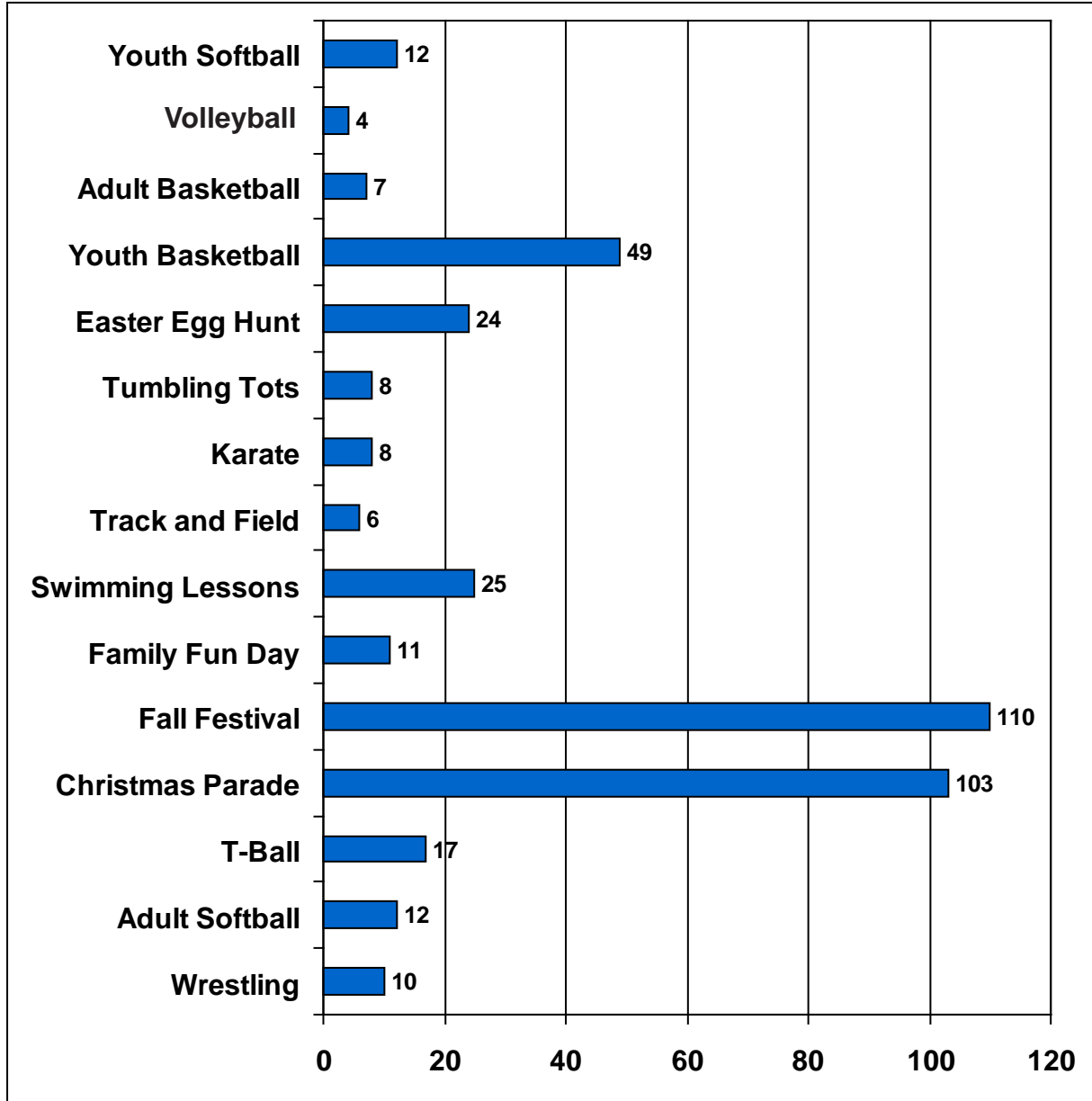
How would you rate the existing parks in Chatham County?



The overall low rating for the existing County parks may have more to do with a lack of facilities, than with the quality of the existing facilities. As seen in *Section 3: Existing Park Facilities* and *Section 4: Recreation Needs Assessment*, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department does not have sufficient facilities to fulfill the needs and wants of County residents at this time.



Which of the following recreation programs, activities and special events offered by Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro, do you or other household members participate in on a regular basis?



The two most popular athletic programs offered by the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department are basketball and swimming lessons. The most remarkable thing about this statistic is that the Parks and Recreation Department owns neither a gymnasium nor a swimming facility.





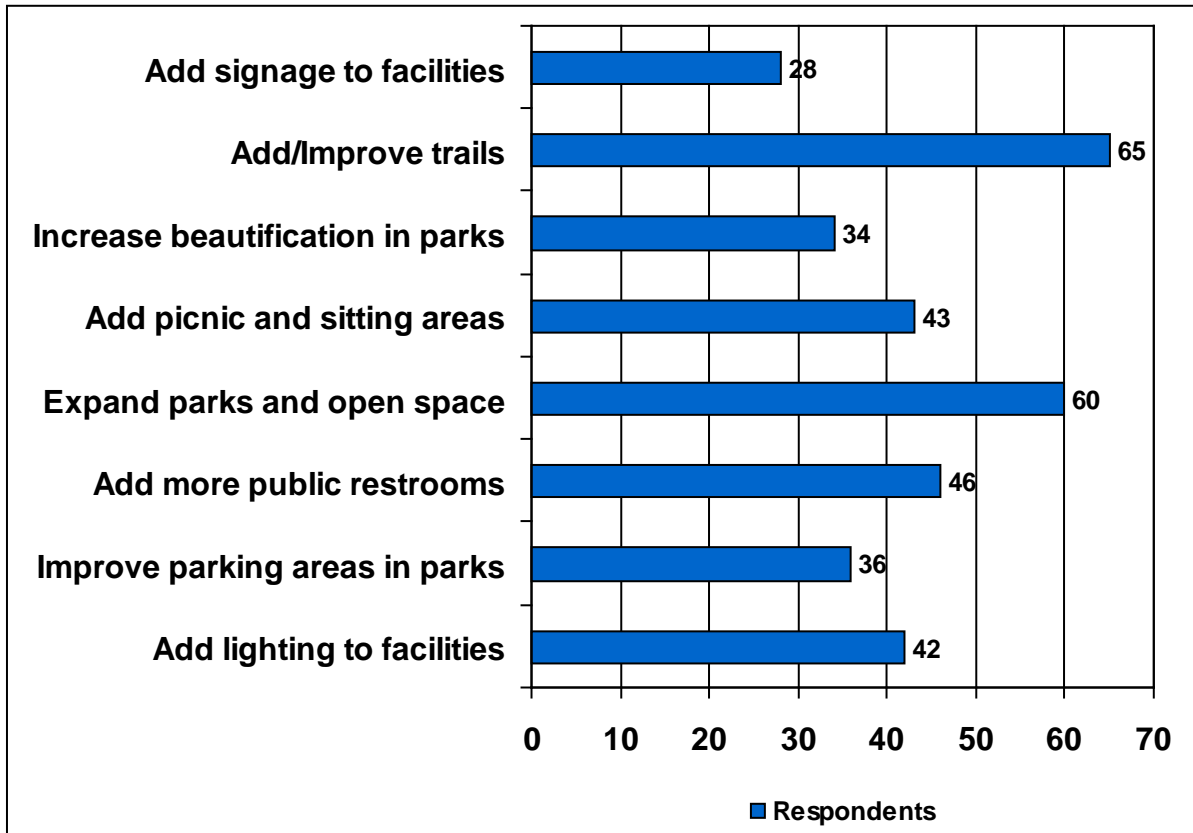
How would you rate the programs and events offered by the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department?



A large segment of the respondents did not know how to rate the programs and events offered by the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department. It can be assumed that this is because they have not participated in any of the Department's offerings. The County is limited as to what kinds and how many programs they can offer, by their lack of facilities.

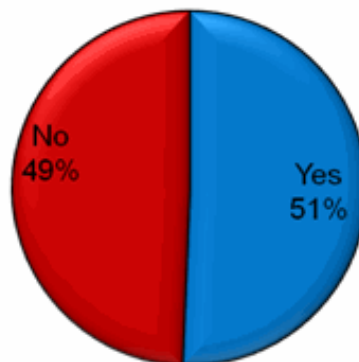


What improvements should be made to existing parks in Chatham County?



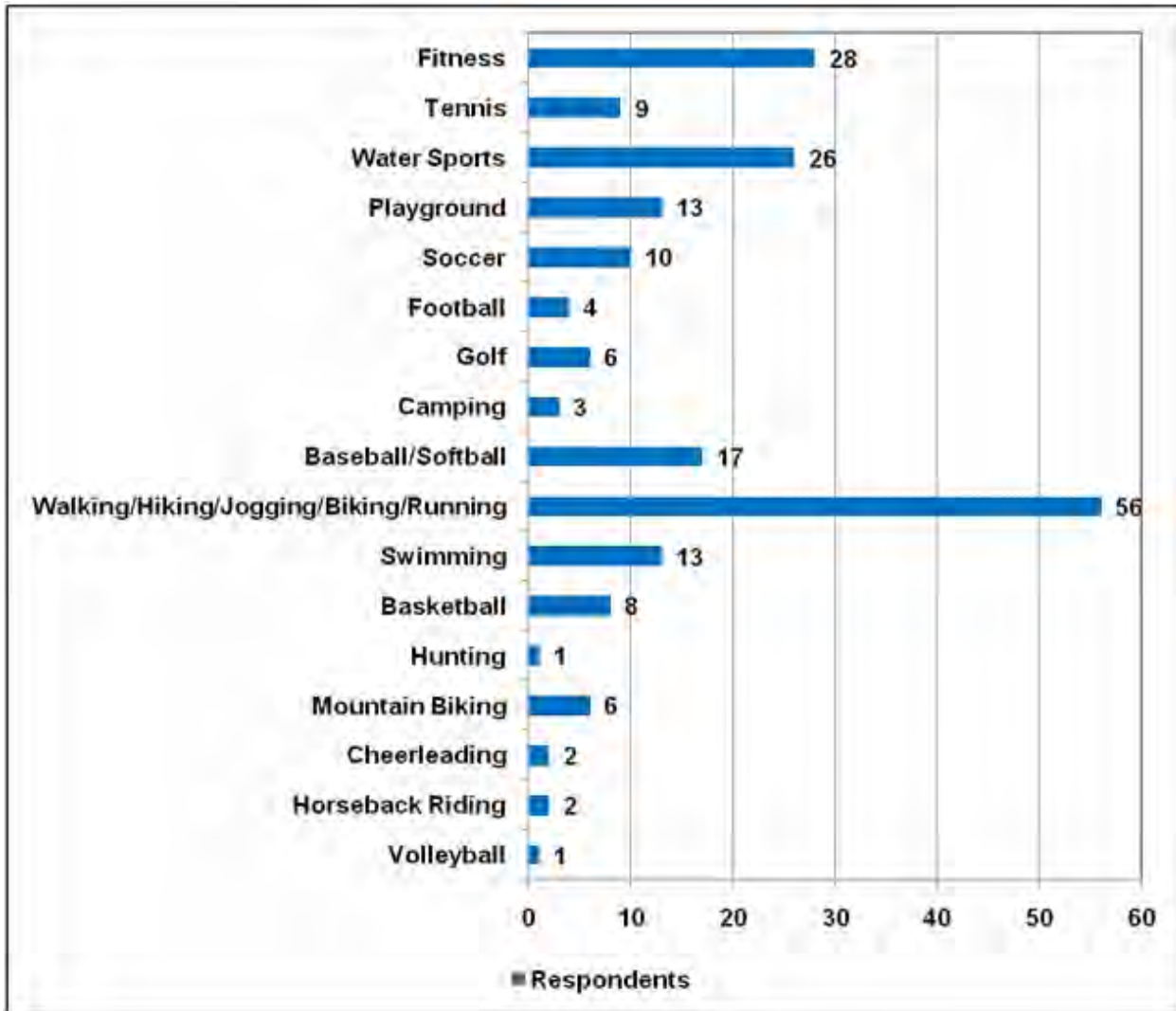
The respondents strongly support the addition of trails and more parks to the park system for Chatham County. Other improvements written on the survey forms included maintenance of the playing fields and courts, expanded playgrounds, swimming pools and adding trees to some of the parks.

Do you use any school, private facilities or other public facilities for recreation or leisure activities?

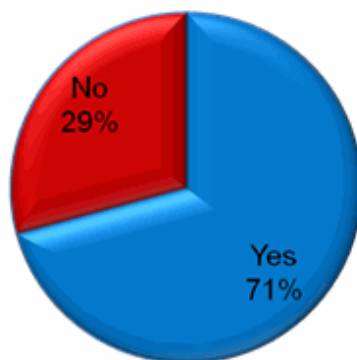




If so, which activities?

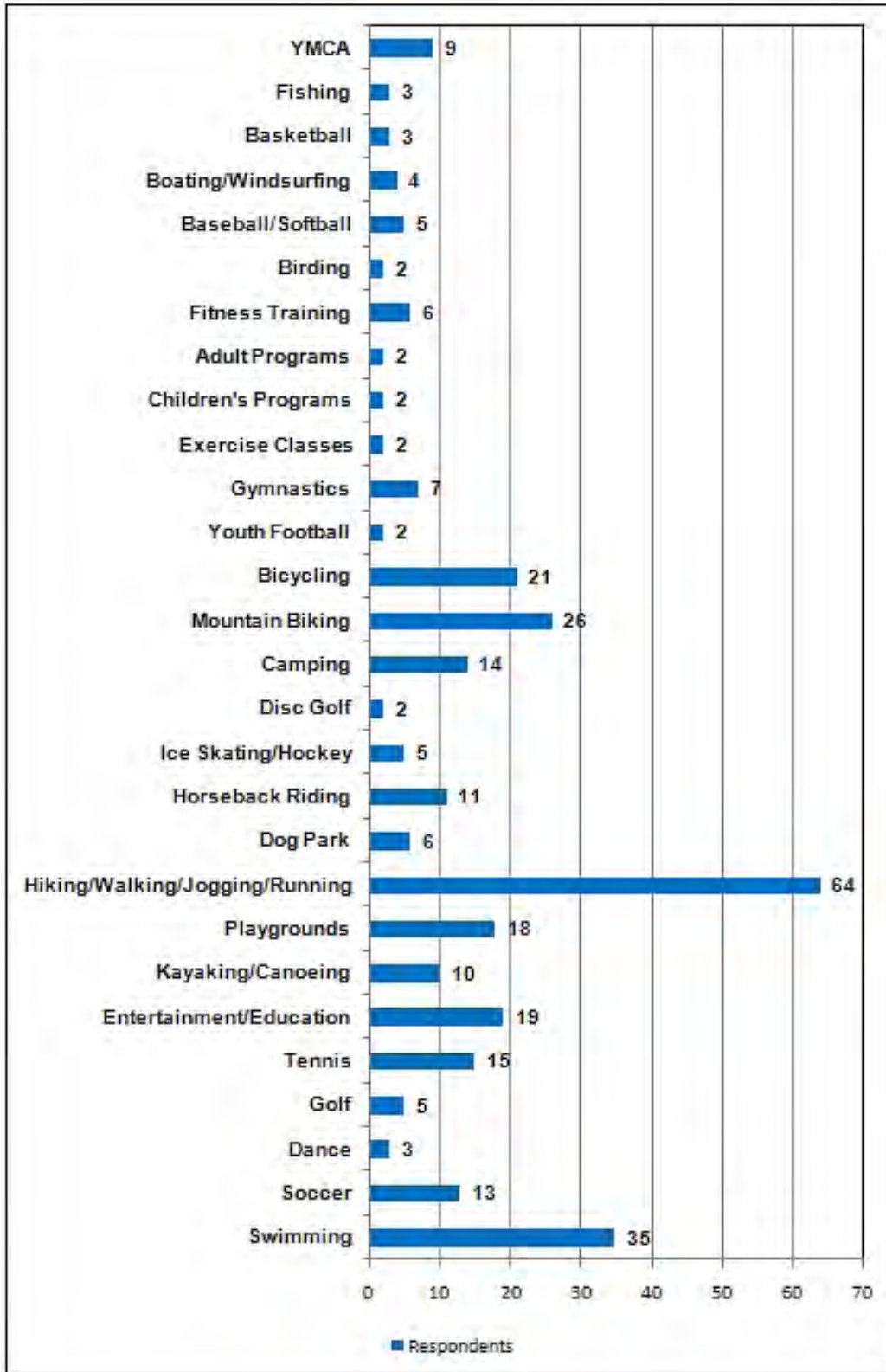


Within the last year, have you traveled out of the County to use a recreation facility or program?





If yes, what activities or programs?



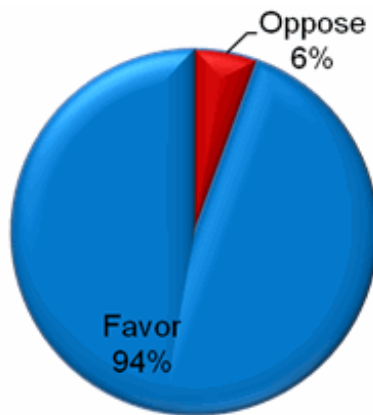


Respondents to the survey listed many locations outside of Chatham County where they go to fulfill their recreation needs. Chapel Hill, Durham, Carrboro, Raleigh, Sanford and Cary are just a few of the cities/town listed. Orange, Durham, Wake, Lee and Alamance Counties all have county facilities that are heavily used by residents of Chatham County. State and federal parks are also very popular with Chatham County residents.

Running, biking and hiking sites were the largest attraction for Chatham County residents in nearby localities. But there were also special interests such as organized adult and youth sports programs, swimming and fitness training.

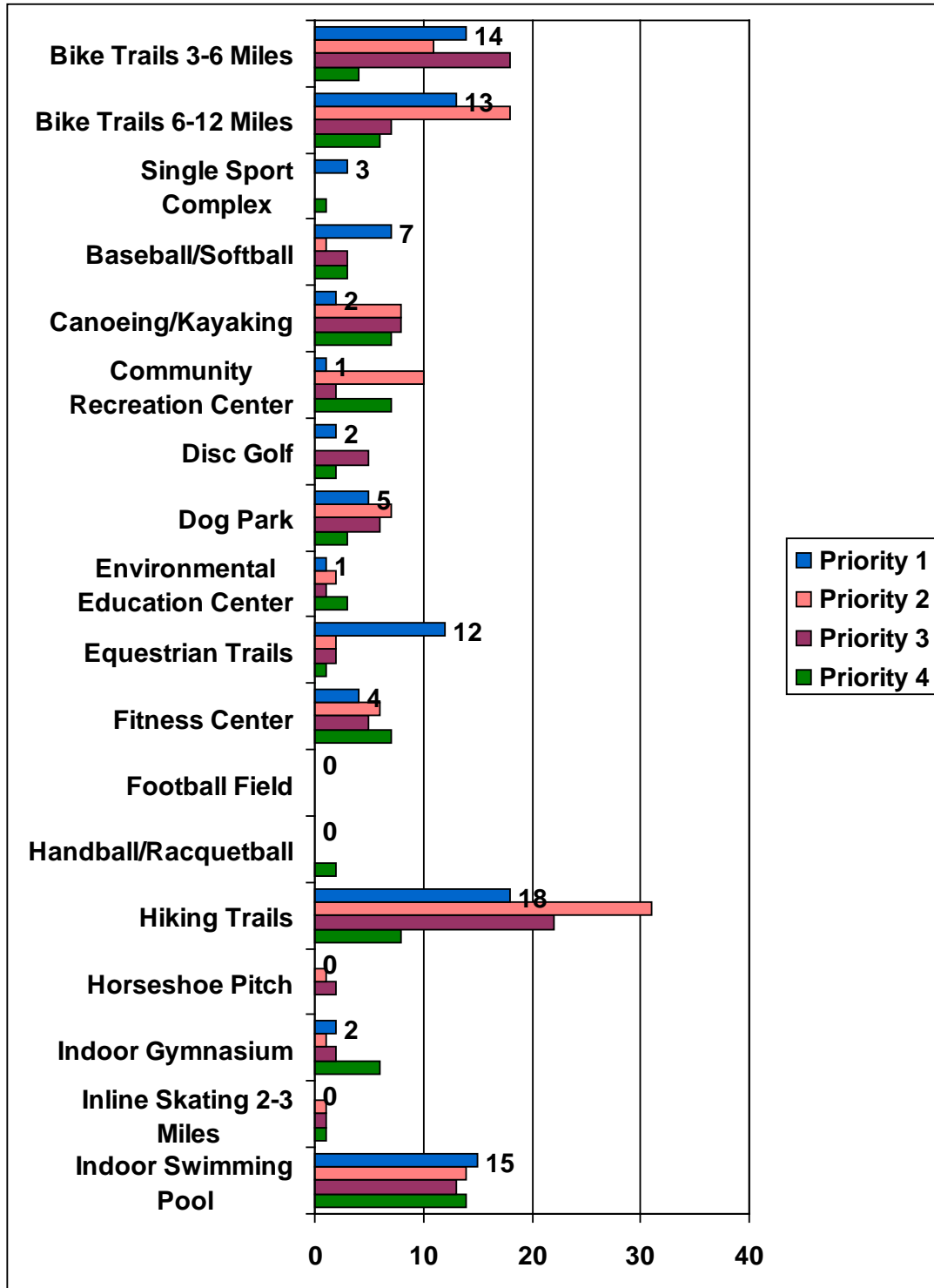
Program/Facility Needs

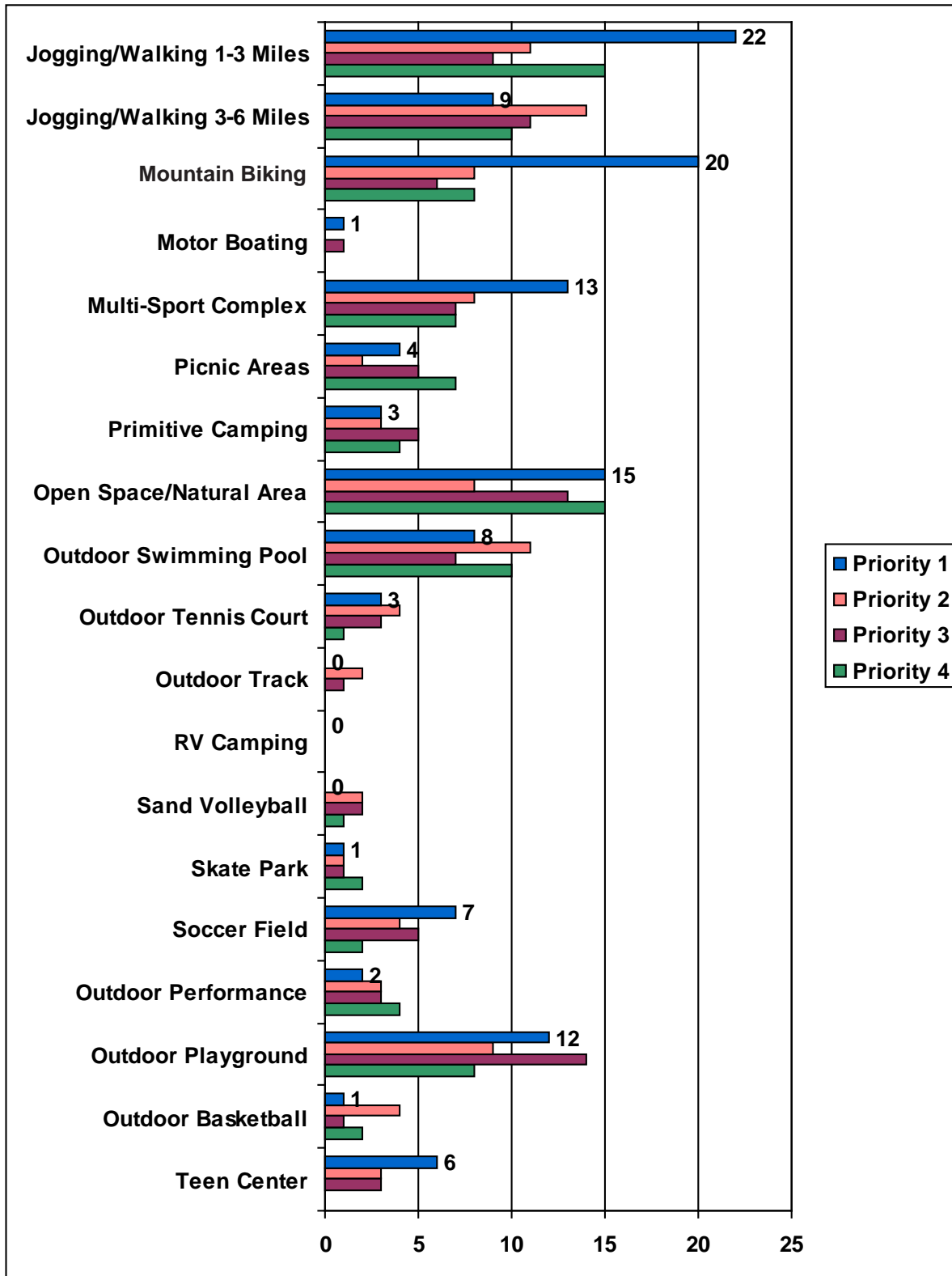
Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in the County?





Choose ten desired facilities from the list below that could be developed in Chatham County. Number your choices 1-10 in order of priority. The top four priority numbers are shown.







It is apparent from the previous graph, that the residents of Chatham County want trails; trails for hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, running, jogging, walking and horseback riding. Some of the comments written on the survey forms also noted that natural surface trails are desirable as well as paved surfaces. Other priorities include swimming pools, more open space/natural areas, a multi-sports complex and playgrounds.

Note:

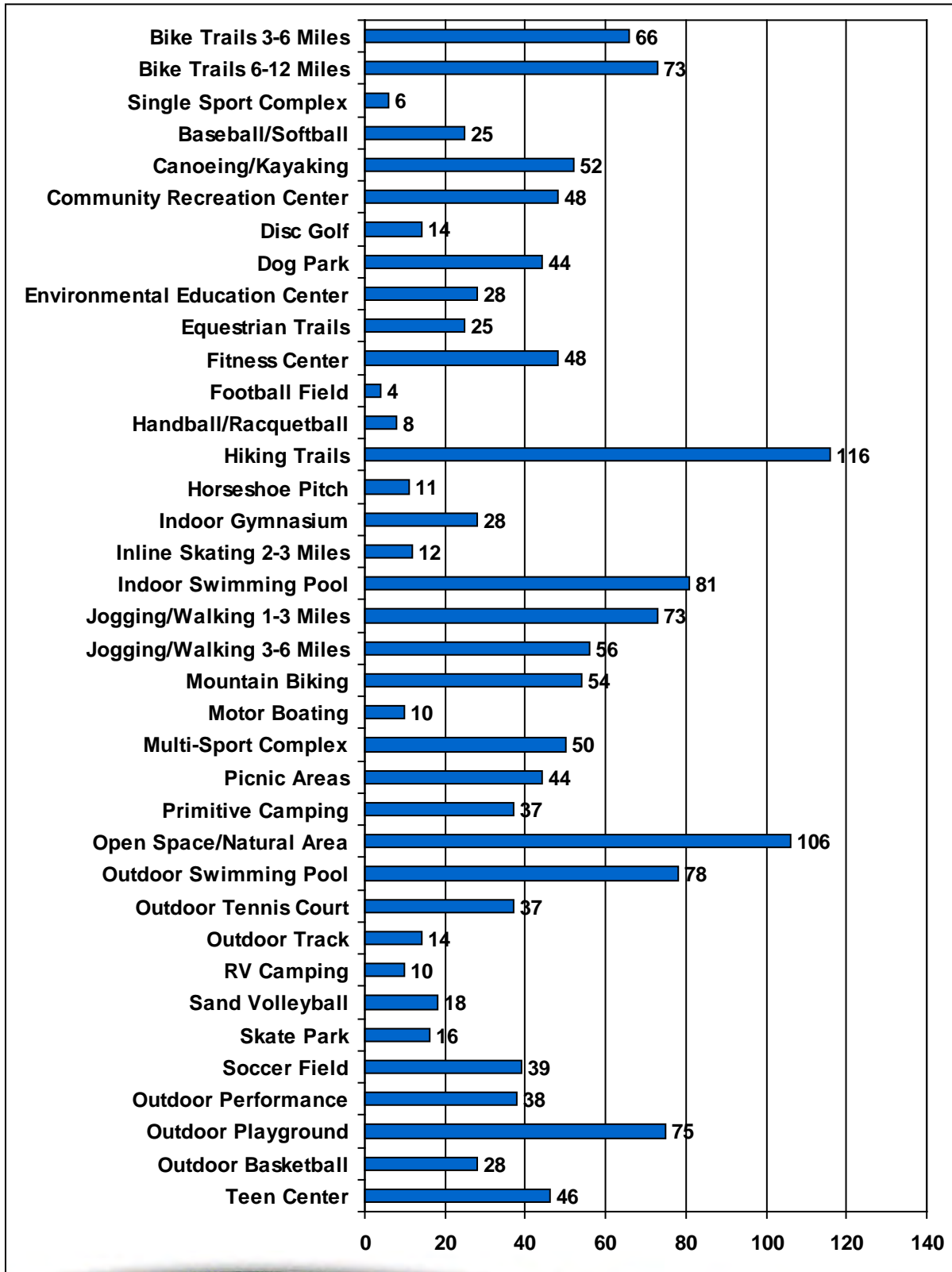
Many of the 83 out-of-Chatham County respondents chose a combination of hiking trails and either mountain biking trails or equestrian trails. Though valid responses, this does create a slightly skewed view of what Chatham County residents want and this fact needs to be taken into account when evaluating this study.



A greenway trail through a linear park.



The total number of priority votes is shown for each facility.





This chart is a compilation of the total number of priority votes each amenity received, one through ten. Hiking trails and open space/natural areas received the highest number of total priority votes. Swimming pools, playgrounds and jogging/walking and biking trails were also seen as priorities.

Priorities Broken Down by Zip Codes. The County was divided into two sections by zip codes, centered around Pittsboro in the east and Siler City in the west.

East County - Zip Codes: 27312, 27514, 27516, 27517, 27559, 27562, 27713

Facility	Priority #1	Total of Top Four Priority Votes
Hiking Trails	23	78
Mountain Bike Trails	19	51
Indoor Swimming Pool	16	49
Jogging/Walking 1-3 Mile Trail	16	60
Dog Park	14	26
Bicycling 6-12 Mile Trail	14	50
Multi-Sport Complex	12	32
Open Space/Natural Areas	12	49
Bicycling 3-6 Mile Trail	12	46
Outdoor Playground	11	40
Soccer Fields	11	26

West County – Zip Codes: 27207, 27208, 27252, 27344, 27349

Facility	Priority #1	Total of Top Four Priority Votes
Equestrian Trail	4	5
Hiking Trails	1	6
Jogging/Walking 3-6 Mile Trail	1	4
Outdoor Swimming Pool	1	4



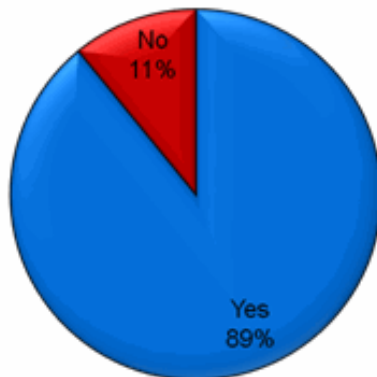


Indoor Swimming Pool	1	4
Fitness Facility	0	4
Outdoor Playground	0	3
Bicycle 3-6 Mile Trail	1	3

The differences seen in comparing the eastern County area responses with the western County area responses can be attributed to population densities and geographical characteristics. The western section of the County is mostly rural with a scattering of small towns and settlements. The eastern section of the County is changing rapidly from a rural landscape to one of housing and commercial developments. The eastern section of the County places a higher importance on facilities that will allow for organized sports programs in addition to hiking, walking, jogging and biking trails.

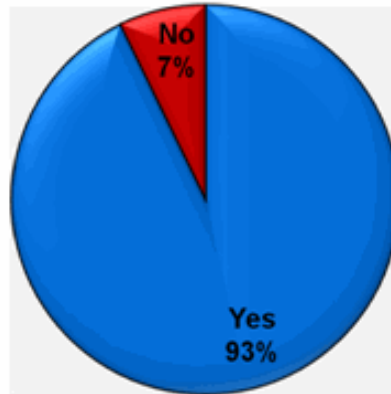
The western section of the County, with its scattered population, already has a number of sports facilities that are owned and operated by the groups using them. The rural character of the area can be seen with the importance assigned to a need for equestrian trails. Other amenities, such as swimming pools and fitness facilities are not easily provided for by small communities or recreation organizations.

Would you support a Greenway Trail System that would connect to destination areas within the County?





Would you be willing to pay a reasonable fee to attend an event or use a special facility for recreation?



Would you use a park or greenway/recreation facility more if it were closer to your home or work?



Given the survey responses favoring trails and open spaces/natural areas, it is hardly surprising that the vast majority of the respondents favor a greenway system for Chatham County. The overwhelming majority would also prefer a greenway and or recreation facility be located closer to their home, rather than further away. Most respondents would be willing to pay a small fee to use a recreation facility or attend a program.





Conclusions

As Chatham County continues its formidable population growth, it will become more and more imperative that the County offer a strong parks and recreation program to fulfill the needs of the residents. This survey gives a clear indication of what County residents want in the way of recreation amenities and programs. Aside from the anomaly created by the out-of-County responses, it is still clear that one of the major needs in Chatham County is for trails – hiking, biking, mountain biking, walking, jogging and equestrian. There is also strong support for open space/natural areas and a variety of sport facilities. If the County is to overcome the poor ratings given to the existing park facilities, new parks and facilities will have to be developed in the near future.

4.3 STATE AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Surveys that were designed to determine the demand for outdoor recreation and facilities, have been conducted on both the federal and state levels by the President's Commission on Americas Outdoor and the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey. Significant facts have evolved from these surveys.

- The top ten most popular outdoor recreational activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Picnicking
 2. Driving for pleasure
 3. Swimming
 4. Sightseeing
 5. Walking for pleasure
 6. Playing sports
 7. Fishing
 8. Attending sports events
 9. Boating
 10. Bicycling

- The most rapidly growing outdoor activities (nationwide) are:
 1. Canoeing
 2. Bicycling
 3. Attending sports events
 4. Camping (all types)
 5. Sailing
 6. Hiking/Backpacking
 7. Walking for pleasure
 8. Water skiing



- The top ten most popular outdoor activities (North Carolina) are:
 1. Walking for pleasure
 2. Driving for pleasure
 3. Viewing scenery
 4. Beach Activities
 5. Visiting Historical Sites
 6. Swimming (in Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans)
 7. Visiting Natural Areas
 8. Picnicking
 9. Attending Sports Events
 10. Visiting Zoos

- Local governments (cities and counties) provide 39% of the public recreational opportunities in the United States.

4.4 TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A comprehensive park system is made up of a variety of park types ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to larger parks with athletic fields, playgrounds, community centers and open space. They reflect the differing recreational preferences of diverse users. Park models are used as guidelines for fulfilling the future recreational needs of communities. Not all of these types of parks are the responsibility of the county government; several agencies (federal, state, cities, and/or towns,) play roles in providing recreational opportunities as well. To further understand the County's role in providing recreation services to its citizens, it is necessary to understand the elements of a comprehensive park system. These types of parks and recreation facilities may/may not be included in comprehensive park systems and are delineated in the following pages of this section:

- Regional Parks
- District Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Linear Parks/Greenways
- Special Use Facilities
- Open Space



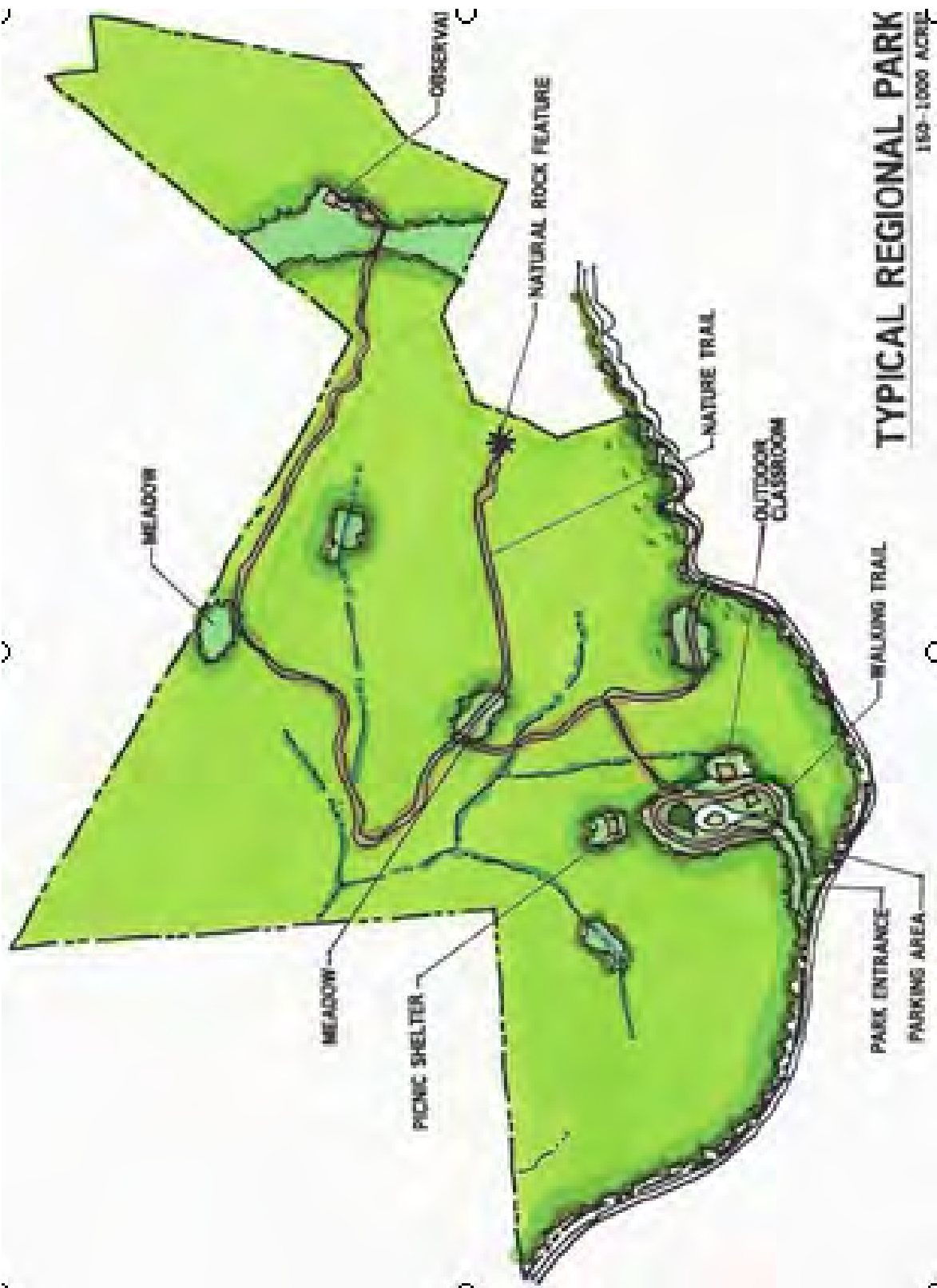
Regional Parks

Regional parks are typically very large sites. On these sites, the unique qualities that exemplify the natural features found there (such as diverse land formation, vegetation, and wildlife) are preserved. Parks containing environmental centers, campsites, nature trails, observation decks and picnic areas are examples of the types of facilities that are usually provided in regional parks. In addition, open fields for non-structured activities such as Frisbee-throwing or kite-flying, are also generally found there.

When land is acquired for the development of regional parks (or the expansion of existing sites), it should be comprised of the previously-mentioned characteristics and if possible, accompanied by natural water features such as lakes, rivers or creeks. The majority of the site should be reserved for passive recreation, with the remaining acreage used for active recreation. The acquisition and development of regional parks are typically undertaken by a federal or state agency.

Specific standards/criteria for developing regional parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	Region-wide
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	10 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Minimum Size:</u>	150-1,000 acres minimum with sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed (10% of the site may be developed with facilities found in Community Parks.)
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	
Equestrian Center	Environmental Center
Group Camping	Primitive Camping
Nature Trails	Recreational Vehicle Camping
Picnic Shelters and Grills	Observation Deck
Boating	Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter)
Parking	Restrooms/Vending Swimming
Fishing Piers/Boat Docks	Caretaker's House





District Parks

A district park functions as the major source of active recreation for several neighborhoods within a community. District parks are intensely developed, offering a multitude of facilities in order to serve their intended geographic user area. Activities are balanced between active and passive recreation. District Parks are typically developed to accommodate athletic league sporting events and tournament competition. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. District parks present great opportunities for non-traditional types of recreation.

Sites for district parks should be relatively level to alleviate excessive grading for the active facilities. Where possible, there should be an equal balance of wooded and cleared areas. If a natural water feature is present, the adjoining land should be developed primarily as passive recreation. Accessibility to neighborhoods should be an important consideration when choosing sites. The development of district parks is typically the responsibility of county or municipal agencies.

Specific standards/criteria for developing district parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	1 to 2 ½ mile radius
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	5 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Range:</u>	75-200 acres
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	+100 acres
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	Tennis Courts (lighted)
Playgrounds	Full or Half Size Basketball Courts
Volleyball Courts	Baseball/Softball/Multi-Purpose Field
Soccer/Football Field	Soccer Practice Field (movable goals)
Nature Trail	Picnic Tables with Grill (with/without shelter)
Restrooms/Concessions	Benches or Bench Swings
Parking/Service Yard	50% of Site Remains Undeveloped
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	Recreation Center
Tennis Center	Amphitheater
Observation Decks	Fishing Piers/Boating/Boat Dock

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.





Community Parks

Community parks focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Compared to district parks, community parks have a smaller range of recreation facilities. They may host athletic league sports events and provide passive recreation. Fifty percent of the community park property should be developed for only passive recreation, with these relatively undisturbed areas serving as buffers around the park and/or acting as buffers between active facilities.

Community park sites should have varying topography and vegetation. A number of different tree species should also be present in forested areas. Community parks should contain cleared areas for the purpose of locating active recreational facilities. At least one natural water feature (lake, river or creek) is desirable in community parks. The land acquired for use as a community park should be contiguous in nature and strategically located in order to serve all users within the designated community. The development of community parks typically falls within the realm of municipal responsibilities.

Specific standards/criteria for developing community parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	1 to 2 mile radius
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	2-5 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Range:</u>	15-50 acres
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	25 acres
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	
Playgrounds	Full Size or Half Size Basketball Courts
Swimming Pool	Tennis/Volleyball Courts
Nature Trails	50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped
Restrooms/Concessions	Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields
Parking	Picnic Tables/Shelter with/without Grills
Benches or Bench Swings	
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	
Recreation Center	Natural Water Features
Disc Golf	Amphitheatre
Observation Decks	

*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.





Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks offer the public a convenient source of recreation while serving as the social foci of neighborhoods. Usually located within walking distance of the area serviced, neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that are of interest to all age groups. The smaller size of neighborhood parks, as compared to those previously mentioned, requires intense development with fifty percent of each site remaining undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent property owners.

Specific standards/criteria for neighborhood parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	¾ to 1 mile radius to serve walk-in
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	2 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	7-15 acres
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	Playground Softball or Baseball Field 50% of Site to Remain Undeveloped Multi-Purpose Field Half Basketball Courts Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter) Picnic Shelter with Grill Benches or Bench Swings
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	Tennis Courts Nature Trails

* Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



TYPICAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
7-15 Acres





Mini Parks

The function of a mini park is to provide very limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Mini parks are the smallest classification of parks that exist. They are often served by school and church playgrounds. These parks are located within walking distance of the area served and they provide limited recreational activities. Their very small size requires intense development and there is little or no buffer between mini parks and adjacent property owners.

Specific standards/criteria for mini parks are as follows:

<u>Service area:</u>	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve walk-in recreation needs of surrounding populations
<u>Acreage/Population Ratio:</u>	0.5 acres per 1,000 persons
<u>Desirable Size:</u>	±1 acre
<u>Typical Facilities:</u>	Playground Half Basketball Courts Picnic Tables with Grills (not under shelter) Benches or Bench Swings Open Play Area
<u>*Alternate Facilities:</u>	Tennis Courts Nature Trails

*Alternate facilities may be added or substituted.



TYPICAL MINI PARK





Linear Parks/Greenways

A linear park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking biking, et cetera. Linear parks are developed for several reasons:

- 1) to connect existing recreational facilities
- 2) to facilitate public right-of-ways
- 3) to connect destination points
- 4) to meet public demand.

As such, the length and size of linear parks vary considerably, depending on the terrain of the park land and the distance between entities to be connected, such as parks, schools, homes, businesses and cultural/historical resources. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with recreation opportunities being a secondary objective.

Unique or Special Use Facilities

The unique or special use facilities are park types that exist for the sole purpose of enhancing or utilizing a special man-made or natural feature. They can include beaches, parkways, historical sites, sites of archeological significance, swimming pools, conservation easements, flood plains, et cetera. Minimum standards relating to acreage or population have not been established by the park and recreation industry for this category of park. A size that is sufficient to protect and interpret the resource while providing optimum use, is considered desirable.

Open Space

While it is realistic and appropriate to adopt population-based standards for park land and facilities, it is not realistic to establish open space standards. The more reasonable method of establishing appropriate standards for open space is to determine the criteria necessary for the protection of significant natural areas contained therein.

Public open space is defined as any land acquired for the purpose of keeping it in a primarily undeveloped state. The functions of open space include:

- 1) preservation of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- 2) protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
- 3) protection of communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- 4) protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- 5) protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
- 6) protection of undevelopable land (landfills)
- 7) protection of areas aesthetically pleasing for a corridor (viewshed)

While these areas are some of the more common open spaces, many others exist. Chatham County's open space is primarily limited to State lands, privately-owned agricultural land and conservation areas.



4.5 EVALUATION OF PARK LAND NEEDS

When comparing a park system to national standards, one method is to examine the total acreage of the park system. The NRPA Park land guidelines (in acres) for the total service population of Chatham County are provided in the table below. Population figures in this analysis, estimated at 45,562, include the effective population comprised of residents in the County, minus the populations of Siler City and Pittsboro. The acreage requirement is based on the population ratio method (acres of park land per population of 1,000) pre-established for each classification of park.

**Table 4.5-1 Chatham County
 PARK ACREAGE BY CLASSIFICATION
 (Based on NRPA Guidelines)**

TYPE OF PARK	Existing** Chatham County Acreage	Recommended for 2008 Population 48,368*	Recommended for 2018 Population 56,502*
REGIONAL PARK (NPS&NC) 1,000 acres or 10 acres/1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA
DISTRICT PARK 200 acres or 5 acres/1,000 persons	183 acres (Planned)	240 acres	285 acres
COMMUNITY PARK 20-30 acres or 2.5 acres/1,000 persons	25 acres	120 acres	143 acres
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK 7-15 acres or 2 acres/1,000 persons	23 acres	96 acres	114 acres
MINI PARK 1-2 acres or 0.5 acres/1,000 persons	NA	NA	NA

*Figure represents County Population Projections minus projected populations of Pittsboro and Siler City.

**See Chart 4.5-2 and 4.5-3 for individual park acreage.

The State of North Carolina is very involved in providing passive recreational opportunities in Chatham County. The State operates nine recreation sites in the Jordan Lake Recreation Area. The State has recently designated around 1000 acres along the lower Haw River in Chatham County as a State Natural Area. North Carolina is also working with several local governments, including Chatham County to develop a land/water trail system along the Haw River and the Deep River.

At the present time, Chatham County does not have any district-sized parks. The newly purchased Northeast District Park property and Northwest District Park property will help





to diminish this shortage when they are developed. When these parks are developed, the County will still be short 57 acres of park land necessary to meet the current need for district park facilities. Within ten years, the deficit will increase to 102 acres.

Chatham County is also deficient in acreage for community and neighborhood parks. NRPA guidelines suggest another 95 acres of community park lands are needed for Chatham County. Neighborhood parks are usually the responsibility of local municipalities, but the increase of 'bedroom' communities in unincorporated areas of the County, shifts this responsibility to the County and to developers.

Table 4.5-2 Chatham County Parks

CHATHAM COUNTY EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	
Earl Thompson Park (Neighborhood)	23 acres
Southwest District Park (Community)	25 acres
Northeast District Park - Planned (District)	65 acres
Northwest District Park - Planned (District)	118 acres
Briar Chapel - Planned (Community)	62 acres
American Tobacco Trail	61
TOTAL CHATHAM COUNTY PARK ACREAGE	354 acres
North Central District Park (Strowd Property) - Proposed	89.5 acres
Bobcat Point - Proposed	21 acres
Bells Landing - Proposed	543 acres

Table 4.5-3 State Parks

STATE PARK ACREAGE IN CHATHAM COUNTY	
Jordan Lake State Recreation Area	46,768 acres
Lower Haw River Natural Area	1,022 acres
TOTAL STATE PARK ACREAGE IN CHATHAM COUNTY	47,790 acres

4.6 EVALUATION OF FACILITY NEEDS

The results of local standards established by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA), the North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, and (foremost) Chatham County have been compiled (Table 4.6-1) in order to assess the current and future facility needs (Table 4.6-2), as follows:





Table 4.6-1: LOCAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facility	NRPA Standards	NCDENR Standards	Chatham County Standards (Recommended)
Fields			
Adult Baseball	1/12,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Softball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Football	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Soccer	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/5,000
Courts			
Basketball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/2,000
Volleyball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Shuffleboard	N/A	N/A	1/5,000
Horseshoe	1/2,000	N/A	1/2,000
Outdoor Areas			
Picnic Shelter	N/A	1/3,000	1/3,000
Playground Activities	N/A	1/1,00	1/2,500
Amphitheater	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Trails			
Walking/Hiking	1/region	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Equestrian	N/A	0.4 mile/1,000	0.4 mile/1,000
Camping	N/A	2.5 sites/1,000	2.5 sites/1,000
Archery Area	1/50,000	1/50,000	1/50,000
Specialized			
Community Center	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Golf Course	1/25,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Bicycling (Urban)	N/A	1/25,000	1/25,000
Auditorium	1/20,000	N/A	1/20,000
Canoeing/Boating			
Streams/Lakes	N/A	0.2 mile/1,000	0.2 mile/1,000
Stream/Lake Access	N/A	1/10 miles	1/10 miles

Where the Chatham County standards deviate from the state and national standards, current demands on Park and Recreation programs have been taken into account.



Table 4.6- 2: EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facility	Local Standard (Recommended)	Existing Facilities**	2009 Demand per Population	2019 Demand per Population
Unincorporated Area of Chatham County 46,596*			46,596*	63,592*
Fields				
Adult Baseball	1/5,000	0	9	13
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	1	9	13
Softball	1/5,000	2(***)=5	5	9
Football	1/10,000	1	5	6
Soccer	1/5,000	0	9	13
Courts				
Basketball	1/5,000	0(***)=5	4	8
Tennis	1/2,000	0	24	32
Volleyball	1/5,000	1	9	13
Shuffleboard	1/5,000	0	9	13
Horseshoe	1/2,000	0	23	32
Outdoor Areas				
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	1	16	21
Playground Activities	1/2,500	2	19	26
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	2	3
Trails				
Walking/Hiking	0.4 mile/1,000	4.6	18.64 miles	25.60 miles
Equestrian	0.4 mile/1,000	0	18.64 miles	25.60 miles
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000	0	117	160
Archery Area	1/50,000	0	1	1
Specialized				
Community Center	1/20,000	0	2	3
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	2	3
Golf Course	1/25,000	0	2	2
Bicycling (Urban)	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A
Auditorium	1/20,000	0	2	3
Canoeing/Boating				
Streams/Lakes	0.2 mile/1,000	0 miles	9.3 miles	12.8 miles
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	1	1	1

*Population figures do not contain the populations of the Town of Siler City or the Town of Pittsboro.

**Existing Facilities include only the facilities owned by Chatham County

***(x) Represents number of School Facilities which account for 1/2 of a facility



Facility	Local Standard Recommended	Existing Facilities	2009 Demand per Population	2018 Demand per Population
Town of Pittsboro			5,542	18,336
Fields				
Adult Baseball	1/5,000	0	1	4
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	0	1	4
Softball	1/5,000	0	1	4
Football	1/10,000	0	0	2
Soccer	1/5,000	1	1	4
Courts				
Basketball	1/5,000	3	1	4
Tennis	1/2,000	3	3	9
Volleyball	1/5,000	0	1	4
Shuffleboard	1/5,000	0	1	4
Horseshoe	1/2,000	0	3	9
Outdoor Areas				
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	1	1	6
Playground Activities	1/2,500	2	2	6
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	0	1
Trails				
Walking/Hiking	0.4 mile/1,000	.5	2.4 miles	7.2 miles
Equestrian	0.4 mile/1,000	NA	2.4 miles	7.2 miles
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000	NA	NA	NA
Archery Area	1/50,000	0	0	0
Specialized				
Community Center	1/20,000	0	0	1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	0	1
Golf Course	1/20,000	0	0	1
Bicycling (Urban)	1/25,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Auditorium	1/20,000	0	0	1
Canoeing/Boating				
Streams/Lakes	0.2 mile/1,000	.5 miles	1.1 miles	3.66 miles
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	0	0	0





Facility	Local Standard Recommended	Existing Facilities	2008 Demand per Population	2018 Demand per Population
Town of Siler City			8,457	9,449
Fields				
Adult Baseball	1/5,000	3	2	2
Youth Baseball	1/5,000	3	2	2
Softball	1/5,000	3	2	2
Football	1/10,000		0	1
Soccer	1/5,000	1	2	2
Courts				
Basketball	1/5,000	3	2	2
Tennis	1/2,000	3	4	5
Volleyball	1/5,000	1	2	2
Shuffleboard	1/5,000		2	2
Horseshoe	1/2,000		4	5
Outdoor Areas				
Picnic Shelter	1/3,000	4	2	3
Playground Activities	1/2,500	4	2	3
Amphitheater	1/20,000	0	0	0
Trails				
Walking/Hiking	0.4 mile/1,000		3.2 miles	3.6 miles
Equestrian	0.4 mile/1,000		3.2 miles	3.6 miles
Camping	2.5 sites/1,000		20	23
Archery Area	1/50,000		0	0
Specialized				
Community Center	1/20,000	1	0	0
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	0	0
Golf Course	1/20,000		0	0
Bicycling (Urban)	1/25,000		N/A	N/A
Auditorium	1/20,000		0	0
Canoeing/Boating				
Streams/Lakes	0.2 mile/1,000	0	1.6 miles	1.8 miles
Stream/Lake Access	1/10 miles	0	0	0



Based on the information contained in Tables 4.6-1 and 4.6-2 , Chatham County does not meet the state or national standard guidelines for all of their recreational facility needs. Due to the specific needs of the County, many of the facilities listed above are not necessary for implementation. The community workshops and the recreation survey will be used as primary guides in prescribing the specific needs for the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, both now and for the future. Because of the tremendous growth the County has seen over the past few years, the population of Chatham County has outstripped the available recreation opportunities. Deficiencies are apparent in almost every category represented in Table 4.6-3. Some of the needed facilities, such as golf courses and camping, are offered by other entities within Chatham County and do not need to be duplicated.



Pond at Northwest District Park



Table 4.6-3

Facility	Chatham County			Town of Pittsboro			Town of Siler City		
	Existing Facilities	Needed to Meet 2009 Standards	Needed to Meet 2019 Standards*	Existing Facilities	Needed to Meet 2009 Standards	Needed to Meet 2019 Standards*	Existing Facilities	Needed to Meet 2009 Standards	Needed to Meet 2019 Standards*
Adult Baseball	0	9	4	0	1	3	1	1	0
Youth Baseball	1	8	4	0	1	3	5	0	0
Softball	2(**2)=4	5	4	0	1	3	2	0	0
Football	1	4	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
Soccer	1	9	4	1	1	3	3	0	0
Basketball Court	0(**5)	4	4	3	1	1	4	0	0
Tennis Court	0	24	8	3	3	6	4	0	1
Volleyball Court	1	8	4	0	1	3	1	1	0
Shuffleboard Court	0	9	4	0	1	3	0	2	0
Horseshoe Pitch	0	24	8	0	3	6	0	4	1
Picnic Shelter	1	15	5	1	1	5	4	0	0
Playground Activities	2	17	9	2	2	4	6	0	0
Amphitheater	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Walking/Hiking Trails	4.6	14 miles	7 miles	1	1.9 miles	4.8 miles	.6 miles	2.6 miles	.4 miles
Equestrian Trails	0	18.6 miles	7 miles	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Camping	0	117	43	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Archery	0	1	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Community Center	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Swimming Pool	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Golf Course	0	2	0	0	0	1	NA	NA	NA
Auditorium	0	2	1	0	0	1	NA	NA	NA
Streams/Lakes	0	9.3 miles	3.5 miles	.5 miles	.6 miles	2.5 miles	0	1.6 miles	.2 miles
Stream/Lake Access	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Additional facilities needed if 2008 standards are met.
 **(x) Represents number of School Facilities which account for 1/2 of a facility



Some recreation facilities such as camping are not ideal for urban spaces. Others do not apply, such as stream access. If we add the population numbers of Pittsboro and Siler City back into the Chatham County total population, the following facilities will be affected:

Table 4.6-4

Facility	Existing	Current Need – 2008	Future Need – 2018*
Equestrian Trails	0	24.4 Miles	12 Miles
Camping	0	153	75
Streams/Lakes	0	12.2 Miles	6 Miles
Stream/Lake Access	1	0	1

*Additional facilities needed if 2008 standards are met.

Chatham County Facility Needs

To summarize, the charts above are the result of the recreational facility needs assessment, both current and future, based on NRPA and NCDENR standards; the charts do not consider community input, which is the primary guide for the development of the Master Plan.

- END OF SECTION -





SECTION 5

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As identified in Section 3: Existing Park Facilities, the parks in Chatham County offer some opportunities for passive and active recreation to residents and visitors. The County has seen the need to update the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department for the future. The goals and recommendations are influenced by the need for these three primary components of the recreation system:

Greenways and Trail System
Parks, Conservation and Nature Preserves
Recreation Programming

This comprehensive Master Plan serves as a map for the future of recreation facilities for Chatham County. The plan incorporates recommendations to accomplish the objectives set forth in the Master Plan. These recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Roles of Chatham County
- Roles of Other Recreation Providers
- Facility Proposals and Recommendations
- Park Proposals and Recommendations
- Priorities for Development

5.2 ROLES OF CHATHAM COUNTY

Currently, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department has few facilities for active, passive or special-facility recreation. In the immediate future, the County needs to focus on maintaining existing facilities and developing additional recreation facilities. The two planned parks, Northeast District Park and Northwest District Park, will allow the County to meet the differing recreational needs of its residents. As the County's population continues its rapid growth, the Parks and Recreation Department will need to continuously re-evaluate its programs and allocate resources as necessary.

Meeting the recreational needs of all users will require a joint effort between various agencies and the private sector. These partnerships will assist with providing programming and facilities in Chatham County, enabling future improvements to be implemented from a more practical standpoint. Creative partnerships should be actively pursued between Chatham County, the Town of Siler City, the Town of Pittsboro, the Town of Cary, the State



of North Carolina and the private sector, in order to achieve objectives for the future. Communication with these entities is extremely important and will improve planning activities and avoid competing programs. In addition Chatham County should continue searching for potential partnerships with organizations that have common interests in recreation programs and facilities. One successful example of this type of cooperation is the American Tobacco Trail. This joint effort between several county and municipal governments, including Chatham County, has proven to be beneficial to all parties involved.

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department will continue to play a major role in recreation programming for County residents. Currently the County provides County sponsored recreation programming, assists several organizations with their programming and contracts with other organizations to provide programming for the County. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to be the major coordinator for recreation programming in Chatham County. By providing programming and coordinating programming with other associations, the Parks and Recreation Department can assure that recreation opportunities are available to all residents in the County.

The Recreation Advisory Board

The Recreation Advisory Board, composed of 10 citizens, serves as a liaison between the Parks and Recreation Department, the County Manager, the County Board of Commissioners and the residents of Chatham County. The Board also makes recommendations to the Commissioners, Administration and the Parks and Recreation Department with regard to the acquisition and disposal of property, finances, personnel, policies and programs that relate to the overall growth and development of the County's recreation program. It is recommended that the Recreation Advisory Board continue to serve as the primary source of guidance in the acquisition of property for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Recreation Advisory Board plays an important role in the development of public support for park and recreation services in Chatham County.

It is important that the Recreation Advisory Board members keep abreast of recreation issues that concern of all of the citizens of Chatham County, in order to provide recreation opportunities that meet their needs. This includes working to provide facilities that meet both active and passive recreation requirements. Encouraging active recreation programming such as team sports is an important factor in the physical and mental health of Chatham County residents, especially the children.



5.3 ROLES OF OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Government Entities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corp of Engineers owns and operates Jordan Lake as a part of the Cape Fear River Basin Water Management Project. Many of the nearly 200 miles of shoreline are managed by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation for use as recreation facilities and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for hunting.

Since two of the proposed parks for Chatham County, the Northeast District Park and Bells Landing (future) are adjacent to Corps hunting lands, it is important for the County to maintain healthy communication with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The State of North Carolina

The State of North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is actively involved in recreation/conservation projects in Chatham County at this time. The newly created Lower Haw River State Natural Area is located wholly within Chatham County. The State is partnering with Chatham County and several other local governments along the Haw River and the Deep River to create the Haw River Trail and the Deep River Trail. Both of these trails (combined hiking and paddle trails) offer tremendous potential for passive recreation opportunities within Chatham County. These trail systems will create improved lifestyles for many different user groups and attract people to Chatham County.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) manages several game lands (owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) for hunting around Jordan Lake. Chatham County is currently working to assume management from the Wildlife Resources Commission of the area of Jordan Lake known as Bells Landing. The County is also working with the NCWRC to regulate the hunting land adjacent to the proposed Northeast District Park, to ensure the safety of the park users.

Chatham County is working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Town of Cary on the 4.6 miles of the American Tobacco Trail that travels through Chatham County. NCDOT has also produced a map delineating three bicycle routes through Chatham County. In addition, a portion of the North Carolina Mountains to Sea Trail passes through Chatham County, as does a portion of the Piedmont Spur Trail. As Chatham County continues to develop their trail system, it will be important to work closely with the NCDOT.



The State of North Carolina is a valuable partner of Chatham County in providing recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. It is important for Chatham County to partner and communicate with the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation and other state agencies in order to continue providing wide varieties of recreation opportunities to residents and visitors alike.

The Town of Pittsboro

Though the Town of Pittsboro does not currently have a parks and recreation department, the Town is actively pursuing the development of new recreation facilities under the guidance of the Pittsboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Their park inventory currently consists of a neighborhood park, a leased playground and a basketball/tennis facility. A proposed community park and a proposed neighborhood park are planned for construction in the near future.

A partnership between the County and the Town of Pittsboro would benefit both parties. The Town can provide needed athletic fields for some of Chatham County's recreation programming. In return the County can assist the Town with the administration, funding and maintenance of the parks and programming. A joint venture would combine essential resources creating a stronger recreation system for residents of Pittsboro and Chatham County.

Town of Siler City

Siler City has a well developed parks and recreation program that receives annual financial assistance from the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department. A partnership between the Siler City and the Chatham County parks and recreation departments would be of mutual benefit as it is difficult for one entity to provide all of the necessary programming and facilities for the community. Chatham County's recreation role for Siler City should be in providing for passive recreation opportunities and as a facilitator between Siler City and other local recreation groups such as the Goldston Recreation Club and the Bennett Recreation Club. A strong, honest communication between the staffs and elected officials is the key to continuing an ongoing relationship between the County and Siler City.



Town of Goldston

The Town of Goldston has a community park that includes both passive and active recreation facilities. Programming for the park is performed by the Goldston Recreation Club with some financial assistance through Chatham County recreational grants. Further partnership opportunities with the Town of Goldston should be pursued to provide recreation programming and facilities for residents in this rural district of the County. Areas for possible partnerships include event planning, programming assistance and guidance in the development of future recreation facilities.

Chatham County School System

The Chatham County School System currently provides recreation facilities that are used for County Parks and Recreation programming and by several athletic associations within the County. These athletic facilities are a vital part of the current athletic programming provided by Chatham County. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Chatham County School System should continue to work together to provide a mutually beneficial athletic program. In addition, the Chatham County School System and the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department should coordinate long-range planning and development efforts in order to evaluate the possibilities of recreation facility sharing. This type of cooperation would result in an increased availability of facilities, reduced costs and reduced duplication of facilities.

The County park system as envisioned within this document, will offer many educational opportunities. School field trips to the County parks and conservation areas will be very beneficial in providing enrichment classes on the environment and can be worked into many other curriculums including math, history, languages and science.

A formal, written agreement between the County, the Chatham County School System and private sector providers (athletic associations) should be inaugurated. The agreement should spell out the responsibilities and benefits to each partner. Points to be considered should be:

- A system-wide fee structure
- An assignment of maintenance responsibilities
- A fair and effective method of scheduling use of the facilities



Central Carolina Community College (CCCC)

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department currently uses facilities at the CCCC for some of their indoor athletic programs. The THANKS Trail (Trail for Health, Art and Nature for Kids to Seniors), a one mile, paved walking trail, is located on the Pittsboro campus of CCCC. Built by CCCC and the Council on Aging, the trail is very popular with the surrounding community.

The partnership between the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department and CCCC should be continued. The County and CCCC should explore ways to expand their partnership. Possibilities include joint development/ownership of recreation facilities and joint sponsorship of recreation programming.

Chatham County Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging works to promote and enable physical and mental health among adults, age 60 and over. As a part of this goal, the Council provides opportunities for both recreation and physical fitness. A partnership between the Council on Aging and the Parks and Recreation Department could benefit both agencies. The Recreation Department can help to expand the opportunities for physical fitness and senior sports activities, while the members of the Council on Aging could provide volunteer help for Recreation Department activities such as Family Fun Day, the Fall Festival or the Easter Egg Hunt. Seniors have experience, knowledge and creativity that will be of great benefit to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Private Sector

The private sector includes businesses, residential developers and non-profit organizations. They provide a wide range of recreational opportunities including facilities, open spaces and programming. The Parks and Recreation Department should develop partnerships and actively generate more opportunities to share recreational activities. Potential partnership opportunities could be developed in the future with the local medical and health providers, the YMCA and other private organizations.



The Triangle Land Conservancy

The Triangle Land Conservancy is very active in the conservation/preservation of open space and significant watershed basins in Chatham County. The Conservancy worked with the State of North Carolina to develop the Lower Haw River Natural Area and is working with the State and Chatham County on the Haw River Trail and the Deep River Trail. The Conservancy is also working on the preservation of working farm land and forested lands in the County, preserving needed open space from future development. The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department and the Triangle Land Conservancy should continue to develop their partnership in providing passive recreation opportunities while preserving natural areas. Possible areas for partnering include joint programming for natural sites, events planning and land acquisition.

The Haw River Assembly

The Haw River Assembly was founded in 1982 with the purpose of restoring and protecting the Haw River and Jordan Lake. Today, they have a program that includes education, preservation, fund raising, advocacy and recreation. They have teamed up with Chatham County and other government agencies to obtain grants and land donations and to conduct ecological studies aimed at preserving/restoring water quality of the river. Chatham County has a common interest with the Haw River Assembly in the preservation and recreational use of the river corridor. Further partnership opportunities include joint studies, land acquisition, environmental education programming and developing canoe access points and trails.

Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy

The Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy has been instrumental in the creation and development of the American Tobacco Trail, a part of which is in Chatham County. A strong partnership with the Conservancy would provide Chatham County with a resource for information, volunteers and counsel.



YMCA

The YMCA is currently looking for a site in Chatham County upon which to build a recreation center. Communication between the YMCA and the Parks and Recreation Department is necessary for both organizations to reach their goals. In today's economic conditions, a facility of this magnitude will be difficult to achieve quickly, thus encouraging a joint venture between the two organizations.

The Deep River Park Association

The Deep River Park is located just south of Gulf, North Carolina, in Chatham County. A private, non-profit organization was developed to manage and maintain the park. The park contains passive recreation opportunities such as: walking, hiking, fishing and canoe access to the Deep River. The County should work with the Association in providing a program of environmental and culturally related passive recreation opportunities.

Private Developers

The private sector is an important component in the provision of resources and opportunities for parks in Chatham County. Developers assist the County in providing recreation opportunities by the dedication, construction and/or reservation of future park sites, open space or greenway corridors during the overall development process.

The Chatham County Subdivision Ordinance states that, "All residential subdivisions, except family subdivisions, shall provide public community recreation areas consistent with County plans, policies, and regulations including, but not limited to, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Master Plan." The County also accepts a fee in lieu of land for recreation. This allows the County to make decisions as to the appropriateness of donated land for recreation purposes. If the land does not fit stated County recreation goals, the County may require the developer to pay a fee which is dedicated to the purchase or development of land that will better serve the County populace.

Private developers can further assist in the development of greenways, inter-connective pedestrian routes and open space preservation.



Partnership Opportunities

Beneficial partnerships result in greater productivity, better services and reach a much larger and diverse audience. Partnerships also foster efficiency while reducing redundancy in services. The result is more quality services available and reduced costs. Chatham County has a tremendous opportunity to engage in mutually beneficial partnerships with a number of civic and public organizations that share a similar mission. The County should continue to utilize existing partnerships and actively generate more opportunities to grow recreational programs in the County. Potential partnership opportunities could be developed in the future with local nonprofits and other private organizations such as outdoor clubs, garden clubs and environmental preservation groups.

Sports Associations

Chatham County has partnerships with some of the local sports associations and assists them with money, guidance and scheduling. These partnerships provide the opportunity for a County-wide system of athletic endeavor and competition. By partnering with various sports associations in the County, sports providers including the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department are able to increase the variety of sports available to the residents of Chatham County.

Partnerships can include the sharing of facilities, cross-organization scheduling of games, tournaments, programming and special events. Some of the sports organizations in the County are:

- YMCA
- East Chatham Baseball, Inc
- West Chatham Baseball, Inc
- Chatham Soccer League
- East Chatham Football and Cheerleading
- West Chatham Football and Cheerleading
- Bonlee Recreation Club
- Bennett Recreation Club
- Harpers Crossroad Community Club
- Goldston Recreation



Private Enterprise Partnerships

Chatham County should consider creating partnerships with private, for profit businesses to enable the County to expand their programs and amenities. Examples of this would include:

1. Using private funds to build a facility on County land, then leasing the facility back to the developer for operation. At the end of the lease period, the facility would revert to County ownership, whence it could be operated by the County, or leased out once more. This strategy could be used for concessions, special facilities such as studio space (dance, aerobics, et cetera), a skateboard park or a splash play park.
2. Providing concession facilities that can be operated by private firms, civic groups or individuals. The operator(s) would be responsible for all operating costs and receive a portion of all receipts taken in.

5.4 PARK PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been determined that in order to create a complete and balanced recreation system that serves the needs of all its citizens, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation System should include three components: (1) active recreation facilities and programming, (2) a greenways and trails system and (3) passive parks that conserve open space and environmentally sensitive lands. The following recommendations address these three facets.

General Recommendations

General recommendations are designed to provide guidance for the operations, goals, administration and growth of the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department. Many of these recommendations depend upon successful collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and other County offices, such as the Planning Department.

Recommendation #1: Facility and Program Accessibility

Every park and recreation facility Chatham County operates should respect and provide for the needs of the disabled through design and programming. All new facilities should be designed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Currently Chatham County appears to be in compliance with these regulations at existing facilities.



As new facilities are acquired or developed, priority should be given to the necessary upgrading of any existing facilities that are non-compliant.

Recommendation #2: Design and Daily Maintenance

The facilities owned and operated by Chatham County should be inviting places for residents of the County and visitors to the area. Priority should be given to improving the design of facilities so that they are architecturally, functionally and ecologically progressive. Daily maintenance practices should be implemented to improve the cleanliness and longevity of all facilities.

Master planning should always be completed for park improvements for development of new facilities. This planning process should include conducting an Environmental Assessment as an initial step in the planning process. The assessment should be used as a guide for better understanding areas of the site which should be protected while also evaluating areas suitable for park development. In addition, the Master Plan should serve as a means for design considerations, budgeting, and developing park phasing options to outlay park transition.

Design (and redesign) of all facilities should embrace ecologically responsible elements and methods such as the use of native plants for landscaping, the incorporation of wildlife habitats, the use of permeable surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff where possible and "green" building practices for structures.

Recommendation #3: Walkable Communities

Promote land uses and site designs that make walking and bicycling convenient and enjoyable. Encourage the inclusion of public greenways or trails in private developments and establish connectivity to public schools, parks and other public destinations.

Recommendation #4: Greenways

Based on state and national studies, walking and biking are highly desired activities. The community surveys and workshops also indicated the local demand for these facilities, with a majority of the respondents favoring the development of greenways. Greenways need to be an integral part of the recreation system for Chatham County, serving facility amenities and as connectors between parks, recreation facilities and destination points within the County. The County should continue to work in conjunction with nearby municipalities, non-profit organizations and other counties to interconnect a system of greenways as they have done with the American Tobacco Trail. It is recommended that the County initiate a Comprehensive Greenway Master Plan to provide a detailed study for specific corridors.



Recommendation #5: Greenway Corridor

Establish greenway and stream buffer corridors for the Deep River, the Haw River, the Rocky River and other significant rivers and streams, especially in or near environmentally sensitive areas. Work with the State of North Carolina, the Triangle Land Conservancy, the Town of Siler City and other interested groups to implement greenway trails along the Deep River, the Haw River, the Rocky River and other river and stream corridors as opportunities arise.

Recommendation #6: Greenway Land Donation

Link the park system with greenways and tie them into the major floodplain/open space system and other destinations where applicable through purchase, fee simple donation or conservation easements where feasible.

Recommendation #7: Greenway Funding

Consider using the subdivision fee in-lieu-of, exaction fees and grants to fund greenway land acquisition and construction where the need for pedestrian connections cannot rely on the timing of private property development.

Recommendation #8: Connectivity

Strongly encourage or require developers to provide connectivity between public facilities such as parks, schools and other facilities, whether existing or in the planning phase.

Recommendation #9: Bike Lanes

Given the high cost of fuel for vehicular transportation, air quality concern and the need to increase the health and fitness of the population, the existing network of bike trails, bike lanes and shared roadways should be expanded to support alternative transportation to recreation facilities and travel within Chatham County. Future roadway construction within the County should include provisions to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel. This network should connect both existing and future park facilities and greenways. In addition, bike racks should be installed at all publicly owned facilities such as schools and other potential high-use areas, throughout the County.

Recommendation #10: Recreation Easements

Encourage the coordination and planning for future utility easements with greenway facilities. The easements should be established to allow for the inclusion of recreation facilities.



Recommendation #11: Land Dedication of Public Access

Consider having developers provide right-of-ways or easements for proposed and future greenway facilities or preservation of riparian buffers. A County-wide greenways master plan would assist in this effort by identifying potential greenway corridors.

Recommendation #12: Way Finding

Develop a uniform system of directional signage for parks and greenways within the County. The signs will direct users to the parks and to facilities within the parks. A uniform system of signs will allow users to immediately recognize County Park signs from among the plethora of signs on the roadways.

Recommendation #13: Interpretative Signage

Consider placing signage to identify historic and natural landmarks along greenway corridors. This will both enliven the pedestrian experience and provide educational and cultural information to users.

Recommendation #14: Partnership Agreements

Chatham County should continue to seek out and foster partnerships with various organizations within and without Chatham County. This process includes approaching potential partners to establish an understanding of each entity's needs. Periodic progress meetings will facilitate the development and realization of the partnerships goals and objectives.

Recommendation #15: Intergovernmental Cooperation

Continue to coordinate planning efforts between the County, the Chatham County School System, local municipalities and adjacent counties to provide greenway and park facilities. Representatives of the County and of these agencies should meet periodically to discuss development and recreation projects that are planned or are underway within the County. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss upcoming project opportunities and development trends in demographics and growth, newly identified citizen needs in recreation and open space and recreation master plan updates for Chatham County, local municipalities and adjacent counties. This will also insure that redundancy in services is prevented and that all opportunities for partnerships and connectivity are being used.



Recommendation #16: Educational Programming

Develop a consistent environmental education program and interpretative facilities for parks and along greenway corridors as opportunities arise.

Recommendation #17: Update Natural Heritage Inventory

Encourage the revision and update of the Inventory of Significant Natural Areas of Chatham County, North Carolina. Areas the Inventory deem to be significant natural resources should be evaluated for consideration of purchase for future conservation parks and nature preserves.

Recommendation #18: Stewardship Programs

Develop stewardship programs and a community volunteer program for Chatham County. The stewardship program should be geared to the management of natural areas and wildlife habitats in the County's parks, open space properties and greenways. Components of this program could include:

- Ecological field inventories
- Active management of natural areas
- Development of stewardship plans for each facility
- Development of land classification system to identify areas to preserve

Recommendation #19: Green Building

It is recommended that the County implement green building components into all existing and future park facilities. (The County currently requires LEED certification for all structures over 20,000 square feet.) These efforts will improve environmental stewardship for park facilities within their jurisdictions. Green building techniques consist of building materials and construction practices that reduce environmental impacts such as green house gases, water pollution, air pollution and inefficient energy use.

Recommendation #20: Recreation Advisory Board

The Recreation Advisory Board is a valuable asset to the people of Chatham County. It is recommended that the Board continue to fulfill its purpose in advising the Parks and Recreation Department, County Administration and Board of Commissioners in all matters concerning the acquisition and disposal of lands and properties for the County's parks and recreation program. The Board should continue to advise the County in the matter of the construction, equipping, operation and maintenance of all parks and recreation sites owned by the County.



Recommendation #21: Contiguous Property Acquisition

When property that is contiguous to existing parks becomes available, all reasonable efforts should be made to acquire the property. Large acreage parcels are more beneficial to park development as well as wildlife and preservation efforts. Contiguous property enlarges existing habitat and provides additional buffering from development. Any contiguous property next to the Southwest District Park, the Northeast District Park and Earl Thompson Park that can be acquired should be the highest priorities. Efforts need to be made to immediately seek the /first option on all contiguous properties. At the time these options are sought, other possibilities should be presented to the property owners as well; conservation easements and tax advantages may appeal to some owners who wish to retain their property. A conservation easement will allow the County the opportunity to use the land for passive recreation while reaping the immediate benefits of preservation. Numerous grant sources can be used for land acquisition. Care should be taken to choose the correct process and timing for acquisition to meet the full potential of some grants.

Recommendation #22: Land Acquisition for Open Space and Park Facilities

It is recommended that Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department seek input from the Chatham County's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Public Works and Utilities Department, Environmental Review Board, Economic Development Corporation, and Planning Department to develop a land acquisition strategy for the conservation of open space and location of greenway corridor locations in the County. The strategy would set priorities and goals for land to be acquired as well as determine methods for the identification and acquisition of land.

It is further recommended that Chatham County work with local and regional government agencies and private groups in identifying and acquiring conservation lands or easements to preserve open space within the County. The lands can have natural heritage, historical or cultural significance. The lands may or may not be used for passive recreation purposes such as hiking and bicycling.

Recommendation #23: Acceptance of Fee Simple Land Donation

If land is offered to Chatham County as donation by fee simple title with no restrictions, the property should be surveyed for natural heritage significance and relationship to existing plans and parks. If the land contains no environmental hazards, restrictive covenants or restrictive easements it can be useful and beneficial for the County to assume ownership. Not all donated land has to be developed into a park in order to be useful. Any land donation to the County serves a great public need even if it is banked for the future, because the development and public needs of the distant future (over 50 years) is unknown. If



donated property were properly managed, the revenue and future significance of the property would far exceed its current contribution to the tax base. If the County chooses not to accept land donation of a particular property, efforts should be made to assist the property owner with contacting an agency that accepts land donations or conservation easements. Land donations in which the County has no interest in owning could be donated to the Chatham Parks Foundation.

Recommendation #24: Recreation Exaction Fee

It is recommended that Chatham County re-evaluate the recreation exaction fee amount that is assessed upon new home/lot sales on an annual basis. The amount of the fee should continue to reflect the impact fees of surrounding counties and municipalities as land values increase.

Activity Specific Recommendations

In Section 4, “Recreation Needs Assessment: Evaluation of Facility Needs”, specific facility needs were identified for Chatham County by both the recreation guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association and the community input process. This section summarizes the County’s needs for their existing/future facilities and makes recommendations for activities to be considered in the future development of their park system.

Top Five Facility Priorities (Recommended)			
Priority	Facility Type	2009 Standards Need	2019 Standards Need
1	Trail System	14 miles	7 miles
2	Open Space/Natural Space Preservation	N/A	N/A
3	Soccer Fields	9	4
4	Baseball/Softball Fields	21	12
5	Recreation Center/Gymnasium/Basketball Courts	4	4



Recommendation #25: Baseball/Softball

Chatham County needs a total of 17 more baseball and 4 more softball fields to meet the standards for the current County population (minus Pittsboro and Siler City). Chatham County has one baseball field at Earl Thompson Park and plans to build one dedicated baseball field at Southwest District Park, one dedicated baseball field at the Northeast District Park and two baseball fields at the proposed Northwest District Park. Recreation clubs in the southwestern portion of the County have constructed four baseball fields and the Town of Goldston has constructed one baseball and one softball field. If the County has access to the Goldston field and the recreation clubs' fields, this provides a total of six baseball fields currently available in the County. It will be necessary for the County, the Town of Goldston and the recreation clubs to formalize a partnership to ensure continued access. If this occurs, then the County will only need five more baseball fields to meet standards for 2019.

The County has no dedicated softball fields in their inventory, but has 1 multi-purpose field with three more planned, that can be used for softball. The Town of Goldston has one softball field. If the multi-purpose fields and the Goldston field are counted as softball fields, then the County needs nine more fields to meet current standards. The three planned multi-purpose fields will reduce the number of needed fields to six. Rather than constructing six additional fields necessary, it is recommended that the County use baseball fields and school facilities for softball where ever possible to help make up the deficit.

Recommendation #26: Soccer

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department currently does not have any dedicated soccer fields. Soccer generated enough support in both the community meetings and the community survey to justify the development of a soccer program and fields. While soccer can be played on multi-purpose fields, there will be scheduling conflicts in the spring with softball and in the fall with football on these fields. It is recommended that four to six dedicated soccer fields be built .

Recommendation #27: Tennis

According to the recreation standards, Chatham County is in need of 24 tennis courts to meet the current standards. In addition to building a total of six to eight tennis courts at County parks, it is suggested that the County encourage private developers to build tennis courts as a part of their residential developments. It is also recommended that the County Parks and Recreation Department work with the Chatham County School System and Central Carolina Community College to provide tennis courts that can be used by members of the local community.



Recommendation #28: Volleyball

In order to meet current state/national standards for volleyball facilities, the County needs to build nine more facilities. But, as volleyball is not a high priority with most County residents, it is recommended that the County only build three or four more volleyball facilities, to be located at individual parks.

Recommendation #29: Picnic Facilities

The community survey showed solid support for picnic facilities at Chatham County park locations. Currently the County provides picnic facilities at Southwest District Park. It is recommended that several more picnic shelters be built in the next ten years. The shelters can be built at existing and new parks. It is also recommended that the County work with private and public agencies to develop picnic sites along the Haw River and Deep River trail systems.

Recommendation #30: Horseshoe Pitches

According to the recreation standards, Chatham County is in need of 29 horseshoe pitches by the year 2018. Since horseshoe pitches were a low priority according to the community survey, it is recommended that efforts in this area be restricted to providing a few horseshoe pitches near picnic shelters.

Recommendation #31: Shuffleboard

Shuffleboard is a very low priority with County residents according to the community survey. Therefore, it is recommended that no shuffleboard courts be constructed until the public expresses a desire for this amenity.

Recommendation #32: Camping

According to the recreation standards, Chatham County needs 143 camping sites by the year 2018. The Jordan Lake Recreation Area currently has over 1000 camp sites available, more than filling this need. However, there are no facilities at Jordan Lake for equestrian camping. It is recommended that Chatham County concentrate on providing camping sites for equestrian events as opportunities arise.

Recommendation #33: Football

Though football fields were a low priority with survey respondents, there are active football programs in the County, under the auspices of the East Chatham Football and



Cheerleading Association and the West Chatham Football and Cheerleading Association. The six fields necessary for football (NPRA Standards, Section 4) can be provided by a mix of football specific fields, multi-purpose fields and the school system.

Recommendation #34: Recreation Center/Gymnasium/Basketball Courts

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department has a very popular basketball program for both youth and adults. Currently the County Parks and Recreation Department owns no facilities for this program and utilizes the school gymnasiums from the County School System. It is recommended that a recreation center with indoor basketball courts be built at each of the County District Parks: the proposed Northeast District Park, Southwest District Park and the proposed Northwest District Park. In addition, the County will need to continue to partner with the Chatham County School System to provide adequate facilities for basketball.

Recommendation #35: Playgrounds

Playgrounds received a high priority rating among respondents to the community survey. In addition, several people reported traveling out of the County in order to use playground facilities. According to the NPRA Standards, Chatham County requires 14 more playgrounds in order to meet the current needs.

It is recommended that the County provide these playgrounds through a variety of methods. First, playground facilities should be provided at all current and future Chatham County parks. Second, developers should be encouraged to provide ADA compliant playground equipment in mini parks within their developments.

Recommendation #36: Stream/Lake Access

Over 60 miles of river traverse Chatham County or its borders. Currently there is only one County-owned canoe/kayak access point while there should be one for every ten miles of river. In addition, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department does not have an access to Jordan Lake.

It is recommended that Chatham County work with the Triangle Land Conservancy, the Deep River Park Association, the State of North Carolina, the Haw River Assembly and other interested parties to construct EPA approved canoe launch facilities along the Haw River and the Deep River.

Recommendation #37: Amphitheater

The NPRA Standards show a need for two amphitheaters in Chatham County currently and an additional one by 2019. The Town of Pittsboro is building an amphitheater at 3M Park



which will reduce the need for amphitheaters in the County by one. It is recommended that at least one amphitheater be constructed in conjunction with other facilities at a County park site.

Recommendation #38: Swimming Facility

The facility which received the most number one priority votes in the community survey, was an indoor swimming pool. An indoor swimming pool also received the second highest vote total. Swimming is an activity that many County residents travel outside of the County to participate in. Since a swimming pool, especially an indoor swimming pool, is a very expensive, high maintenance amenity, it is suggested that Chatham County consider partnering with another entity to provide at least one swimming facility for the residents of the County. Possible partners would be the Central Carolina Community College, the Town of Pittsboro and the Chatham YMCA.

Recommendation #39: Trails/Greenway/Blueway System

The most often cited need/priority in both the community meetings and the community survey, were trails. The trails that received the highest number of priority votes were trails for hiking, followed closely by trails for walking and bicycling. Mountain biking trails, canoeing/kayaking trails and equestrian trails are also in demand.

It is recommended that Chatham County develop a County-wide, comprehensive system of multi-use trails that connect towns, parks, recreation sites and other destinations together. In order to do so, the County will have to partner with the various communities and interested organizations

Recommendation #40: Lighting

Community input noted the need for improved lighting at existing Chatham County park facilities. As lighting is both a safety concern and a convenience factor, it is recommended that the lighting situation be evaluated at each of the existing parks in Chatham County and needed improvements be made. Improvements to lighting should include an evaluation of safety factors and energy conservation. All new lighting plans should include a strategy for dealing with light pollution, negative effects on wildlife and adverse effects (light spill over) to nearby property owners.

Improvements to Existing Facilities

Recommendation #41: Earl Thompson Park

Earl Thompson Park is a heavily wooded park that slopes down towards the Haw River



in Bynum. The southwest corner of the property adjoins North Carolina State land that runs along the Haw River. This land is a part of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Currently the park contains a baseball field, concession/restrooms building and a small playground facility. This small neighborhood park needs to be expanded to fulfill the needs of the Bynum community. The site is large enough to contain a few needed amenities, yet retain most of its wooded area, undisturbed. The following amenities are recommended for Earl Thompson Park:

- Paved Parking Lot
- 1 Outdoor Basketball Court
- 1 Picnic Shelter and Tables
- Nature Trail that connects to the planned Haw River Trail
- Remove Utility Tower

Recommendation #42: Southwest District Park

Phase II of the park should be developed as planned. If any properties adjacent to the park become available, the County should consider means of acquiring the property to allow for future expansion of the park.

Phase II development plans include:

- 1 Lighted Baseball Field
- Concession Stand
- Expanded Walking Trail
- 3 Tennis Courts
- Expand Playground with more Equipment
- 1 Multi-purpose Field (baseball, softball, soccer, football)
- Expanded Parking
- Recreation Center/Gymnasium

Recommendations for Future Parks

Recommendation #43: Northeast District Park

Proceed with the design and construction of this park, as outlined in the amended Northeast District Park Master Plan.

Phase I

Phase One Construction will include the entrance road along with associated utilities. In addition to road construction, this phase will include:

- 1 Restroom/Concession Building
- Parking Area (100 Spaces)
- 1 Playground
- ¼ Mile Walking Trail





- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Baseball Field
- 1 Multi-Purpose Field

Future Phases

The initial phase will include a portion of the park infrastructure; additional utility and road infrastructure will be required. The following is a list of park elements for future phases:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 Recreation Center/Gymnasium | 1 Restroom/Concession |
| Parking Areas | 1 Playground |
| 2 Tennis Courts | 1 Multi-Purpose Field |
| 3 Picnic Shelters | Walking Trails |
| 1 Fishing Pier | Disc Golf Course |
| Mountain Bike Trials | Wildlife Habitat |
| Maintenance Building | Outdoor Basketball Courts |
| Hiking Trails (away from active recreation areas) | |

Recommendation #44: Northwest District Park

The Northwest District Park is proposed as a large, mixed use park that will be built in phases. A portion of the park, approximately 20 acres, is to be dedicated for construction of a new school. It is recommended that the County proceed with the recommended Master Plan for the Northwest District Park.

Initial Phase

The Initial Phase is designed to make Northwest District Park usable for basic recreation purposes and events.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Picnic Shelter with Restrooms | 2 Small Picnic Shelters |
| Picnic Tables and Grills | 2.65 Mile Walking Trail (10' Wide) |
| 0.2 Mile Walking Trail (6' Wide) | Camping Pads |
| 1 Fishing Pier | 2 Tennis Courts |
| 2 Basketball Courts | 1 Overlook |
| Renovation to Existing Buildings | |

Phase 1

Phase 1 will include the construction of the entrance road, utilities, dam repair, sidewalks, landscaping and grading for athletic fields. Recommended amenities in this phase are:



- ½ Mile Asphalt Walking Trail
- 2 Soccer Fields
- 1 Restroom/Concession Building
- 2 Baseball Fields
- 1 Playground

Phase 2

It is recommended that Phase 2 include the construction of additional roadways, storm water control, utility distribution and further landscaping. The recommended amenity for this phase is:

- Mountain Bike Trail

Phase 3

Additional landscaping, utility installation and storm drainage are recommended for this phase. Recommended amenities for Phase 3 are:

- 1 Amphitheater
- Parking (475 spaces)

Phase 4

Recommended construction includes landscaping, utility installation and new concrete sidewalks and plazas. The recommended amenity for this phase is:

- 1 Recreation Center

Recommendation #45: Bells Landing

The County has an opportunity to assume management of this 543 acre site on Jordan Lake. If the County succeeds in obtaining a lease for this site, it should be dedicated to passive recreational uses and land conservation. The following amenities would be desirable at this site:

- 1 Swim Beach
- 1 Restrooms/Bath House Building
- 2 Playgrounds
- 1 Rustic Amphitheater
- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 6 Picnic Shelters and additional Tables
- Restroom/Bath House Facilities
- Paved (Pervious) Parking Lots



Entrance Road and Gates
Multi-purpose Trails
Environmental Education Center
Water Sports Education Area
Non-motorized Boating

The County Parks and Recreation Department should consider partnering with the Chatham County School System and non-profit groups to develop an environmental education center on the property. In addition, opportunities may include partnering with the Sailing Club to provide non-motorized boating opportunities.

Recommendation #46: Briar Chapel

The Briar Chapel Development is located in the northeastern portion of the County and contains a mixture of residential and commercial uses. As part of this development, a portion of the property has been dedicated for recreation. An agreement has been reached between the County and the developer to build amenities on the site for use by the public. The park will be built by the developer, but owned and programmed by the County. The recommended facilities for this site are:

2 Lighted Baseball Fields
1 Lighted Football Field
1 Lighted Soccer Field
2 Gravel Parking Lots
1 Concession Stand/Press Box
1 Restroom Facility
Mountain Bike Trail

In addition it is recommended that a system of walking/biking trails be constructed throughout the park and connected to the Briar Chapel neighborhood. A mountain bike trail already exists on the property.

Recommendation #47: Linear Parks/Greenways/Blueways

Trails were the most requested recreation facilities requested in the community workshops and community survey. By the year 2018, Chatham County will need 19.2 miles of equestrian trails and 18.2 more miles of hiking/biking trails than they currently have, just to meet state/national standards. Because of the local demand and potential opportunities for greenway land dedications, the County should not limit the number of hiking/biking trails to a total of 19.2 miles.

It is recommended that Chatham County develop a County-wide system of trails that



link the local municipalities and communities to parks and other destination points. The trails should be developed so that they can tie into a region-wide system of trails, linking Chatham County to nearby cities and destinations. The County-wide system of trails/greenways should be linked to the regional trails that are being developed or planned, in order to enhance the County trail network.

The American Tobacco Trail

This joint effort, regional trail is nearing completion in Chatham County, with 4.6 miles of natural surface trail in place. All that remains of the Chatham County section of the Trail, are two bridges. It is recommended that Chatham County continue to pursue the completion of the American Tobacco Trail through Chatham County.

The Haw River Trail

The State of North Carolina is currently working with Chatham County, Alamance County, Guilford County, Orange County, Rockingham County, the City of Burlington, the City of Graham, the Town of Haw River and the Town of Swepsonville to develop the Haw River Trail Corridor. The Corridor will link the Haw River State Park and Jordan Lake Recreation Area with a multi-purpose land and water trail, passing through several counties and local communities. Since this trail will greatly contribute to the proposed network of trails through Chatham County, it is recommended that Chatham County continue to support and actively work for the development of this trail.

The Deep River State Trail

Authorized in August of 2007, the Deep River State Trail will run along the Deep River from Guildford County, through Randolph, Chatham and Moore counties to the confluence with Haw River in Lee County. 945 acres of land in Chatham County have already been acquired by the State and the Triangle Land Conservancy for this project. Chatham County should work with the State, the Triangle Land Conservancy and the other four counties to promote the development of this land and water trail.

It is recommended that the County develop procedures for identifying and accepting land donations or easements for the preservation of open space in the County. The County should continue to partner with groups such as the Triangle Land Conservancy, the Haw River Assembly, the Chatham County Historical Society and the Chatham Conservation Partners to preserve lands with significant historical, cultural, habitat and wildlife significance.



Recommendation #48: Bobcat Point

The developer of Bobcat Point residential development has expressed an interest in donating land in the development for a County Park. This 21 acre site is located near the proposed Northwest District Park near Henderson Tanyard Road. It is recommended that, if after evaluation the land is deemed to be suitable, that the County pursue this opportunity. The park should be developed to include active recreation facilities such as soccer fields, a concession/restroom building, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts and picnic areas.

Recommendation #49: North Central Park (Strowd Property)

Chatham County recently purchased 89.5 acres in the north central area of the County for use as a passive park. Once a site assessment has been performed for the property, the County can determine how the property will meet the long range goals for the Parks and Recreation Department. Although no planning has been conducted for the property, potential amenities would be geared primarily towards passive recreation such as hiking trails, bike trails, equestrian trails, open space, horseshoe pitches, disc golf and picnic areas.

Recommendation #50: Southeast Community Park

It is recommended that Chatham County acquire 100 to 150 acres of land for a community park in the southeastern portion of the County, near the unincorporated community of Moncure. There are currently no County park lands in this area. Consideration should be given to land that is located adjacent to the Justice Lands, an 870 acre conservation site owned by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. The County should engage in discussion with the Division of Parks and Recreation to determine the possibilities of the State property being used for passive recreation.

The County should also coordinate with the Chatham County School System in this endeavor. Discussions should include the size of the property, the location and possible opportunities for shared uses between the School System and the Recreation Department.

This type of cooperative planning could defray some of the costs of providing recreation and education facilities for the County.

As a community park, it is recommended that the park be developed with a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities in mind. Facilities would include ball fields and courts, playgrounds, picnic facilities and trails. At least 50% of the property should remain undeveloped.



Recommendation #51: Aquatic and Athletic Center

It is recommended that the County locate and develop an Aquatic and Athletic Center near the geographic center of Chatham County. It is further recommended that the Center be a collaborative effort between the County and one or more partners. Possible partners would be the Town of Pittsboro, the Central Carolina Community College or the YMCA. In addition to providing athletic facilities, the Center could serve as the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department. Amenities could include:

- Indoor or Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Splash Play Facility
- Gymnasium
- Tennis Courts
- Walking/Running Track

Recommendation #52: NC 751 Wildlife Observation Platform and Trail

Until recently this area of Jordan Lake was a popular spot for hiking and bird watching. A trail and observation platform were built by the New Hope Audubon Society about 20 years ago. The observation platform was destroyed in 2007 by a storm and has not been replaced. The trail runs from a gravel parking lot, through forest to the water where the platform once stood. The parking lot and entrance road were closed in the autumn of 2008 due to poor public behavior. The area is opened for two weeks in the fall for dove hunting.

It is recommended that Chatham County engage in discussions with the North Carolina Wildlife Commission about reopening the NC 751 Wildlife Observation Area. Various scenarios should be explored including joint operations of the area. It must be noted that due to the remoteness of the site, and the problems which closed the site down, security will have to be a main component of any planned use for this wildlife area.

5.5 PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Priority Methodology

The park system for Chatham County is a growing network of facilities that will be implemented incrementally. This section describes how the recommended facilities for the County are prioritized.

The following factors guided the prioritization of individual segments of the Master Plan



and were derived from input and desires specified by the residents of Chatham County:

- Needed improvements to existing Chatham County facilities
- Development of planned facilities to meet the current and future needs of recreation for County residents
- Acquisition of land for future parks and greenways
- Connectivity of open space and parks not only within the County but also from a regional context

Priorities for Development

The park facility prioritization is an essential tool that provides Chatham County with a breakdown of the priority for each capital improvement. Given the magnitude of the budgets for improvements to existing parks and for new park facilities, prioritization of these needs is clearly important. The following is a list of priorities, not necessarily in order, based upon the needs assessment process.

Top Priority Projects

Park Facilities

- Development of a Recreation Center with Gymnasium
- Development of Phase 1, Northeast District Park
- Development of Phase 1, Northwest District Park
- Development of Phase II, Southwest District Park

Greenway and Trail System

- Greenway Master Plan
- Completion of Chatham County's portion of the American Tobacco Trail
- Create a linear park/greenway/blueway system

Nature Preserves and Passive Parks

- Development of Bell's Landing Park
- Develop stewardship program for natural areas and wildlife habitats
- Identify and acquire conservation lands and easements
- Expansion of Existing Parks

Meeting the current recreation needs of the community should be the highest priority for Chatham County. The County needs to develop new district parks and improve the two existing parks in order to provide for the existing sports and recreation needs of residents and visitors. As current recreation needs are fulfilled, the County can then address recreation amenities of lower priority.

- END OF SECTION -



Section 6

Action Implementation Plan

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes how Chatham County can implement a safe, convenient and usable park and recreation system through the execution of the established goals in the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The strategy for achieving goals involves the recommended park, recreation and greenway facilities/programs discussed in *Section 5: Goals and Recommendations*. *Section 6: Action Implementation Plan*, focuses on strategies and opportunities, key implementation steps (implementation policies), necessary staffing and methods for developing facilities. Together, these sections fit together to form the implementation program.

The results of the *Chatham County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan 2009-2029* are based on the following discovery methods:

- 1) a review of the study area, which is within the County limits
- 2) an analysis of the existing parks and facilities
- 3) community input
- 4) recreation standards which have been generically developed for municipalities and county governments.

The Master Plan is designed to be an action-oriented tool for the improvement and enhancement of the park system for Chatham County.

6.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Ecotourism in Chatham County

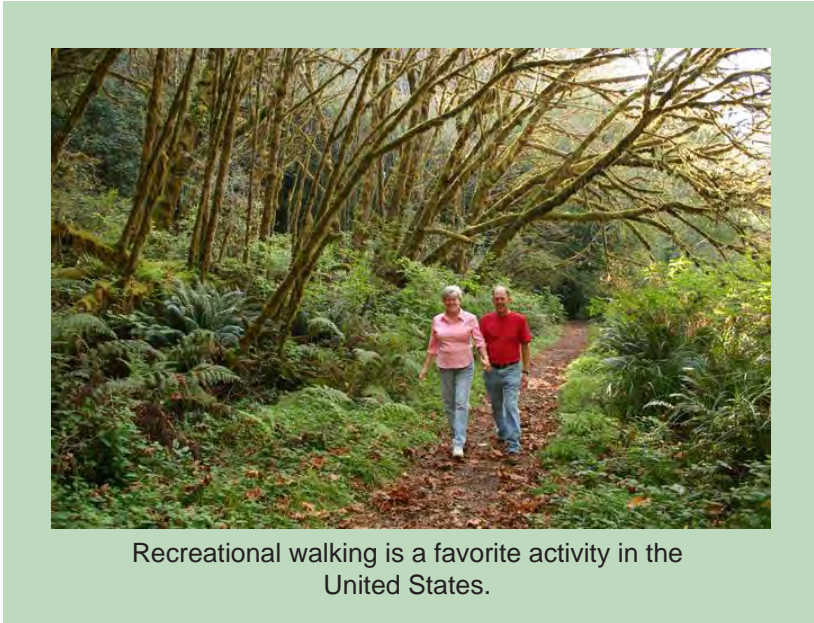
As is the current trend locally, regionally, and nationally, “ecotourism” is beginning to impact Chatham County and, in particular, the natural resources and parks in Chatham County. Ecotourism (also known as ecological tourism) is defined as “travel to pristine, and usually protected, areas that strive to be low impact and often small scale. It (ecotourism) helps educate the traveler; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for natural resources.”

Ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. A conceptual experience, ecotourism enriches those who delve into researching and understanding the environment around them. It gives



insight into the impact that human beings have on natural resources, creating a greater appreciation of them.

Chatham County is now being recognized as – not only a good place to live – but a great place for vacationing. Home to the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area, as well as the Haw, Deep, and Rocky Rivers, Chatham County residents and visitors have immediate access to an abundance of beautiful, natural resources. The B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake, constructed in the late 1960's, provides fish and wildlife conservation for surrounding communities. Serving over one million people per year, Jordan Lake provides recreational opportunities such as boating, swimming, fishing, camping, hiking, and nature education. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation maintains nine (9) recreation areas with over 1,000 campsites, public boat launches, swimming areas, and a newly constructed Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center. In addition, the Haw, Deep, and Rocky Rivers, which run through Chatham County, provide opportunities for hiking, paddling, fishing, and nature enthusiasts. The Haw River Trail – a 110 mile land and water based ecotourism trail through historic mill towns – connects the Triad and Triangle areas of the state and preserves natural habitat and water quality in the Haw River watershed. A similar state trail was authorized in 2007 where the southern portion of the Haw River connects with the Deep River. When both river trails are complete, Chatham County will be one of the most centrally located ecotourism destinations in the state of North Carolina. And with a growing network of pedestrian and bicyclist-friendly trails, Chatham County has become a major recreational resource in a fast-growing ecotourism region.



Recreational walking is a favorite activity in the United States.

Serving over one million people per year, Jordan Lake provides recreational opportunities such as boating, swimming, fishing, camping, hiking, and nature education. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation maintains nine (9) recreation areas with over 1,000 campsites, public boat launches, swimming areas, and a newly constructed Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center. In addition, the Haw, Deep, and Rocky Rivers, which run through Chatham County, provide opportunities for hiking, paddling, fishing, and nature enthusiasts.

The Haw River Trail – a 110 mile land and water based ecotourism trail through historic mill towns – connects the Triad and Triangle areas of the state and preserves natural habitat and water quality in the Haw River watershed. A similar state trail was authorized in 2007 where the southern portion of the Haw River connects with the Deep River. When both river trails are complete, Chatham County will be one of the most centrally located ecotourism destinations in the state of North Carolina. And with a growing network of pedestrian and bicyclist-friendly trails, Chatham County has become a major recreational resource in a fast-growing ecotourism region.

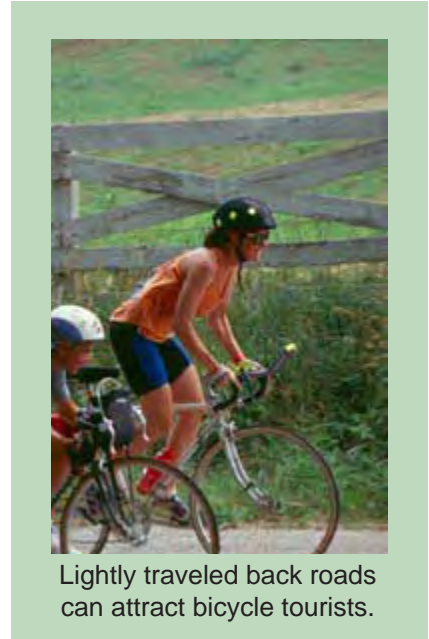
Other activities, facilities, and/or locations are becoming more and more prominent as travelers and residents focus on value, green leisure time. Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- The American Tobacco Trail
- Seven (7) birding sites on the N. C. Birding Trail
- 198-mile cycling trails within 707 square miles



- Championship and/or challenging golf courses
- Nature preserves and open lands, such as the Triangle Land Conservancy and the White Pines Nature Preserve

The belief that recreation has long-term value to an area and career opportunities is evidenced by Central Carolina Community College’s new course offerings in ecotourism. In fact, CCCC’s Continuing Education Department offers an Ecotourism Certificate – the first in the NC Community College System. Specifically, the studies will include Introduction to Ecotourism, Natural and Cultural Resources, Safety and CPR, Interpretation and Guiding, Nature-Based Law, and Business of Ecotourism. Tourism industry workers, who are trained in ecotourism, are needed to serve a growing population of vacationers and travelers who have opted to go “greener” by visiting national parks, taking nature adventures, hiking, biking, birding, or any of the many leisure activities that involve getting closer to nature. Ecotourism has already impacted Chatham County positively in terms of its effect on the economy – through increased tourism, jobs, and tax revenues; and, the Parks and Recreation Department is determined to foster this current trend, and in fact, expound upon it.



Lightly traveled back roads can attract bicycle tourists.



Trails can have a positive economic impact upon a community.

Initial “boosts” in the economy of Chatham County will be attributed to the obvious needs of the ecotourist (whether local or traveling) – food, lodging, sporting goods/clothing, gas, gifts, and alternate types of entertainment and/or social events. To sustain the economic growth spawned by ecotourism, specialists insist that (internally) ecotourism should be small scale, grow slowly, and remain locally based. Local peoples have a vested interest in the well-being of their community and are, therefore, more accountable



to environmental protection than corporate entities. The increased contributions of communities to locally-managed ecotourism create viable economic opportunities, including high-level management positions and the reduction of environmental issues associated with over development. Because the ecotourism experience is marketed to a different lifestyle (than that of large-scale tourism), the development of facilities and infrastructure can be much simpler and less expensive. There is a greater “multiplier” effect on the economy, because local products, materials, and labor are used. The basic assumption of the multiplier effect is that the economic development begins with unused resources. Increases in consumer spending occur due to the increased incomes and then there is feedback into increasing revenues, jobs, and income again. . Ecotourism must certainly be implemented with care.

The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department will continue to have a positive impact on further developing ecotourism in the County. In addition to the American Tobacco Trail, the Master Plan recommends developing greenway and paddle trails along the Haw River, Deep River, Rocky River, and near Jordan Lake. These park amenities are highly desirable for tourism and will generate a regional attraction to the area. Another primary area for ecotourism is Jordan Lake. The master plan recommends a greenway trail near the lake as well as the proposed Bells Landing Park. The Park is proposed to be primarily passive recreation which will offer a major destination for residents of the County as well as visitors to the area. One of the primary goals and objectives will be to provide connectivity with trails and park facilities. The more opportunities available will encourage longer visits by tourists thereby increasing the economic revenue that can be generated.

Bicycle and Pedestrian-Based Tourism

According to the Nation Trails Training Partnership's Economic Values of Greenways, Trails and River Protections (1995) economies are impacted *very positively* where bicycle and pedestrian tourism is fostered and promoted and where investments are made in bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The number of people who feel comfortable walking or riding bicycles is a measure of the quality of life in that area.

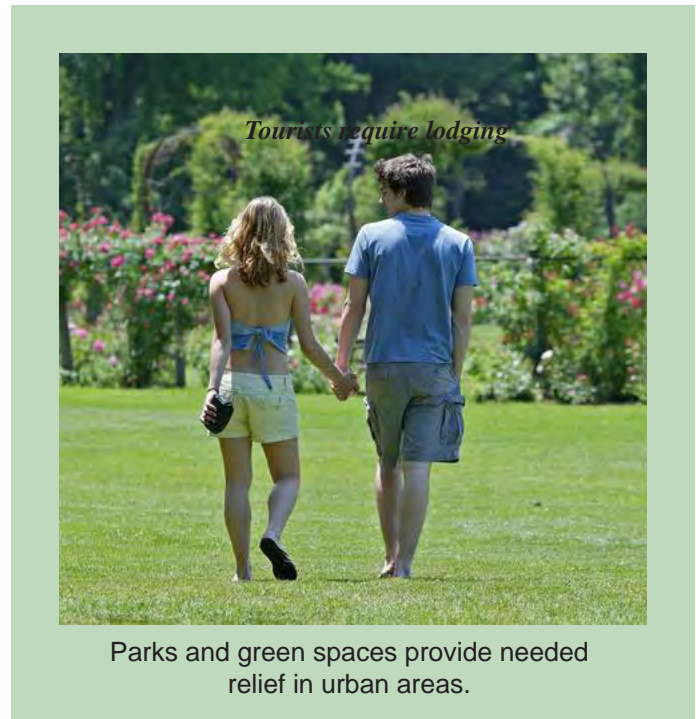
Trails and Greenways

Trails and greenways are extremely popular amenities for vacationing bicyclists and pedestrians. Tourists and visitors to the area often return to communities that provide places (which are safely removed from busy roads) for walking and bicycling. Trails offer scenic recreation which is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. Many times, lodging is in close proximity to popular trails, thereby increasing occupancy for the owner. For residents in these locales, investments in trails and greenways can increase property



values and improve the overall livability of a community, as well as attracting, retaining values and expanding tourism and the associated revenues.

Investing dollars in greenways yields substantial community-wide returns. These returns are in the form of increased property values, attraction of new businesses, recreation revenue and reduced water treatment and flooding costs. Not only are tourists attracted to these areas, but business leaders are selecting sites for the relocation and expansion of industries and corporations where the quality of life is high and recreation opportunities are abundant. Increasingly, corporations are recognizing the benefits of convenient fitness and recreation for their employees and are seeking these greenway amenities for potential locations.



Greenways, as vegetated buffers located adjacent to waterways, act as filters to clean the water, trapping nonpoint source pollutants. These pollutants, which include sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gas and other chemicals, are transported into streams, rivers and lakes by stormwater when rain or snow events occur. Greenways can reduce the need for expensive pre-treatment of the water supply by cleaning it before it reaches municipal water sources.

On-Road Bicycling

Bicycle tourism often occurs with little or no investment in facilities or the infrastructure which is normally required to sustain motor vehicle-based tourism. In areas where networks of lightly traveled back roads and accommodations are prevalent, on-road bicycle routes can provide both visitors and residents an ecologically sound alternative to vehicular travel for sightseeing and recreational travel. When bicycle tourists are attracted to such regions, they become potential customers for bed and breakfasts, restaurants and other service providers in the community.



Trail Development

The ongoing construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is proving to be a very wise economic investment for the communities through which they pass. Trails and pathways have a positive effect on nearby property values with homebuyers and business owners realizing the effect that such facilities bring to a community. According to research by the *Rails to Trails Conservancy*, "*Economic Benefits of Trails and Greenways*", there are vast amounts of people, who are using 'rail' trails. It is easy to understand how communities can profit economically by meeting the needs of trail users; restaurants, convenience stores, bicycle and other merchandise shops, campgrounds and alternative lodgings are all potential businesses that cater to trail users. All of these types of entrepreneurs attribute the location of a nearby trail to at least a portion of their success. Realtors and homebuyers alike are recognizing the benefits of properties located near trails. Both locally and nationally, the construction of trails has proven to be a cost effective use of public funds. In particular, multi-use trails allow more visitors and residents to replace automobile trips with non-motorized trips, thereby moving the citizenry closer to achieving public health objectives, including increased opportunities for physical exercise.

Parks

Research has substantiated the direct correlation between economic growth and the existence of parks and open space in communities and municipalities around the country. This growth includes increased property values in residential, urban and industrial communities, and increased revenue from tourists (*Economic Values of Greenways, Trails and River Protections*).

Increased Property Value

The real estate market consistently demonstrates that residents throughout the country are willing to invest larger amounts of money in properties that are located close to parks and open space areas than they would for homes that do not offer these types of amenities. The higher values of these homes produce higher property taxes in the affected area. In some instances, additional property taxes are sufficient to recoup the annual debt charges on bonds that were originally used to finance park acquisition and development.

Studies have also concluded that the positive relationship between park proximity and property value also holds true in low-income urban areas. In dense, urban neighborhoods, the value effect of nearby green space can be stronger than the resident's lot value, increasing the lot value and yielding higher property taxes that could help to fund the cost of the park.



As farmland and forests are consumed at the edges of fast-growing municipalities, developers have come to realize that preserving open or natural space within new communities can increase the value of home lots. Thus developers advocate designing around and preserving natural and rustic features such as meadows, orchards, fields, pastures, stream valley habitat and woodlands.

The values of commercial properties also increase when parks or outdoor facilities (outdoor festivals, movies, restaurants, etc.) are in the immediate locale. Studies indicate that “commercial asking rents” near park property exceed rents in surrounding submarkets.

Revitalization of Businesses and Residents

In recent years, there has been a trend to revitalize inner-city and urban areas to improve their quality of life. The success of this revitalization has included the addition of parks and recreational activity in downtown areas. Generally speaking, people do not want to live or work in an environment where they have no refuge from downtown city buildings, without having any place to go out for a stroll, walk the dog, or just enjoy some sunshine. In studies of downtown revitalizations, the top recommendations include “the dramatic expansion of parks and open spaces”.

Tourism

A park often becomes the signature attraction for a community or municipality. It is often used as a marketing tool to attract residents, tourists, conventions and businesses. Parks often shape the identity of the area and give residents a sense of pride. For example, Virginia’s Creeper Trail, a 34 mile rail trail, was named for the train that climbed Iron Mountain, with a native plant (bearing the same name) growing alongside the route; likewise, the Outer Banks of North Carolina lures cyclists from all areas, due to its reputation for expansive bicycle trails as well as wide, paved shoulders along its roads.

Organized events held in public parks, arts festivals, athletic events, food festivals, concerts, plays, et cetera, often bring substantial positive economic impacts to their communities by filling hotel rooms and restaurants, and bringing customers to other local business enterprises.

6.3 FUNDING COMPARISON

Identification of sufficient funding is a crucial element that is required to implement the Master Plan especially considering the County’s budget constraints. The North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a guide by which inadequate funding for park and recreation facilities may be identified. *Insufficient funding* will be a



key issue that will need to be addressed in the upcoming years if governments continue to provide basic minimum services. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, North Carolina and its local governments are 33% below the national average in the funding of parks and recreation services.

To meet the existing and future needs of the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, the goals and objectives that are identified in the Master Plan, must be seriously considered for implementation. The County will need to continue to establish annual budgets for the Parks and Recreation Department based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, operations and maintenance costs.

Park and Recreation Capital Expenditures

The population estimates used in this report were certified county and municipal estimates in July, 2005. The estimates were calculated by the State Demographer, Office of State Budget and Management and the North Carolina Office of the Governor. They were provided online at <http://demog.state.nc.us>. The per capita expenditure figures are from the *North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2006-2007*.

The following agencies represent North Carolina cities and counties with populations between 50,000 and 99,000 people. Chatham County was at the lower range of that group in 2005.

Table 6.1

	Departments Serving Populations of 50,000 to 99,000 People	Population Estimate 2005	Per Capita Expenditure 2004-2005
1	Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation	56,291	\$271.99
2	Asheville Parks and Recreation	73,189	\$126.12
3	Greenville Recreation and Parks	68,852	\$83.91
4	High Point Parks and Recreation	92,491	\$79.49
5	Jacksonville Recreation and Parks	73,121	\$52.01
6	Gastonia Parks and Recreation	70,243	\$36.57
7	Brunswick County Parks and Recreation	89,463	\$27.14
8	Carteret County Parks and Recreation	62,760	\$25.23
9	Lee County Parks and Recreation	53,789	\$22.10
10	Sampson County Parks and Recreation	63,566	\$15.10
11	Wilkes County Parks and Recreation	66,897	\$12.03
12	Chatham County Parks and Recreation	56,123	\$10.07

As seen in Table 6.1, expenditures for park and recreation departments in the Class B





population category, range from \$5.31 to \$271.99 per resident. The 2004/2005 spending levels of Chatham County for parks and recreation are in the lower half of this range. Current capital outlay and budget increases for the Department have raised the per capita amount to almost \$11.00 for 2007/2008.

The following counties are located in the Piedmont region of North Carolina.

Table

6.2

	Counties in the Piedmont Region	Population Estimate 2005	Per Capita Expenditure 2004-2005
1	Rockingham Recreation	91,817	\$42.94
2	Person County Parks and Recreation	37,125	\$25.11
3	Lee County Parks and Recreation	53,789	\$22.10
4	Orange County Recreation and Parks	121,991	\$12.42
5	Chatham County	*56,123	\$10.07
6	Caswell County Parks and Recreation	23,759	\$9.68
7	Alamance County Recreation and Parks	138,572	\$8.63
8	Moore County Parks and Recreation	80,867	\$7.58
9	Hoke County Parks and Recreation	40,696	\$6.93
10	Franklin County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources	54,106	\$6.86
11	Wake County Parks and Recreation	755,034	\$5.44
12	Harnett County Park and Recreation	101,608	\$3.44
13	Franklin County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources	54,106	\$6.86
14	Surry County Recreation	73,028	\$6.79
15	Haywood County Recreation	56,595	\$5.65
16	Burke County Recreation and Parks	88,293	\$5.31

*2005 certified population by North Carolina State Demographics.

To meet the existing and future needs of Chatham County, the goals and objectives, which are identified in Section 5 of the Master Plan, have been established including capital improvement projects over the next 10 years. The County will need to continue to establish annual budgets for recreation based on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs and operations/maintenance costs. The following Capital Improvements Plans and Operating Budget are for the 10-year period, 2009-2019, and are broken into each fiscal year for implementation of specific projects.





Table 6.5.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Operating Budget

CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Population Projection	63,358	66,121	68,884	71,647	74,411	77,804	81,197	84,590	87,983	91,377
Operating Capital Expenses \$26,000/Park Addition		\$26,000.00		\$26,000.00						
Additional Personnel		(1) Park Maintenance Supervisor at NW Dist. Park	(2) Park Maintenance Supervisor at Briar Chapel & NE Dist. Park	(1) Program Supervisor	(1) Athletic Supervisor		(1) Asst. Parks and Recreation Director			
Annual Operating Budget	\$1,058,378	\$1,170,097	\$1,291,602	\$1,414,982	\$1,517,231	\$1,593,092	\$1,714,747	\$1,800,484	\$1,890,509	\$1,985,034
Inflated costs using 4% cumulative										
Total Per Capita	\$16.70	\$17.70	\$18.75	\$19.75	\$20.39	\$20.48	\$21.12	\$21.28	\$21.49	\$21.72
Operating Budget assumes 5% inflation										



6.4 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Capital Improvement Program for the development of park facilities is designed to encompass the first ten year period of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The proposed costs are based on 2009 material/labor costs, with a 5% inflation rate for yearly increments. Capital improvement costs include general expenditures such as site preparation, building structures, access, site utilities and parking, along with specific recreation improvements. The capital improvement plan also includes estimates for planning or design fees.

The Capital Improvement Program from 2009 – 2019 can be summarized into the following components:

• Renovation/Improvement Program	\$1,131,342
• Park Development Program	\$6,700,725
• <u>Greenway Acquisition and Development</u>	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
Total Capital Improvement Cost	\$8,332,067

This Total Capital Improvement Cost represents the proposed, cumulative figure to be spent for park and greenway facility development, improvements and renovations by the year 2019. The total figure equates to approximately \$11,166,169 with a 5% inflation rate over a 10 year period through the year 2019. It is recommended that the County allocate a budget of \$50,000 per year for capital improvements of greenway development. This funding will provide a continuous funding source for greenway land acquisition and construction as opportunities develop.

The proposed Capital Improvement Program for the Parks and Recreation Department has been projected for the planning period as shown on the following table:





6.5 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The proposed operating budget includes costs for staff, operations and general maintenance requirements for a parks and recreation system.

Operating Budget

The General Fund for the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2009/10 is \$1,058,378. It is recommended that Budget be increased annually for the next 10 years. There is a proposed 5% increase annually for inflation and expenses as parks are implemented. The Capital Improvements for the next 10 years include development of Northeast and Northwest District Parks. These improvements will require additional staffing and operational expenses for each park once implemented. This translates to approximately \$2,030,011 for year 10 – fiscal year 2018/19 (See Table 6.5.1 – 10 Year Operating Budget)

Additional Staffing Needs

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director (1):

Park Maintenance Supervisor (3):

Northeast District Park (1)

Northwest District Park (1)

Briar Chapel Park (1)

Athletic Supervisor (1):

Program Supervisor (1):

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

- Supervise recreation staff
- Responsible for developing, integrating and managing recreation and/or parks and maintenance functions.

Park Maintenance Supervisor

- Manage the operations and maintenance of one district park
- Set standards for acceptable levels and methods of district park operations
- Conduct inspections of assigned district park
- Recommend and implement district park and program improvements
- Provide recommendations for and ensures compliance with operational policies, priorities and standards
- Assist with developing department goals, objectives and policies
- Plan and coordinate wide variety of activities and events for facility



- Develop and maintain facility usage schedules
- Evaluate programs and events
- Administer facility lease agreements

Athletic Supervisor

- Plan, organize, schedule, direct and evaluate the recreational, leisure and athletic programs for Chatham County
- Coordinate marketing activities to support and expand the programs, services, facilities and special events of the department
- Direct the use of recreation, leisure and athletic field facilities by groups and individuals
- Ensure the readiness of recreation facilities for use
- Train officials, scorekeepers and league supervisors

Program Supervisor

- Responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating recreation programs and events on a community wide basis.

6.6 OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

In order to meet the proposed recommendations from Section 5, increases in operating and capital funding will be required. Over the 10-year period (2009-2019), the County will not be able to support the proposed capital improvements and operations solely through the current level of funding from County appropriations. Chatham County will need to use a combination of revenue sources from various means to accomplish the recommendations of the Master Plan. Fortunately, there are numerous funding strategies and opportunities that will need to be explored and implemented by the County.

Capital Improvement Budget

In addition to the general operation funding for parks, it is recommended that the County allocate a budget for capital improvements of parks. This funding will provide ongoing improvements to existing facilities and land acquisition, and will allow development for new facilities. To generate the funding necessary to develop the recommended improvements (an estimated \$8,332,067, as depicted on the Capital Improvements Plan), the County will need to pursue an aggressive funding program utilizing a variety of revenue sources. If the County is successful in obtaining other funding sources such as grants, the financial impact on the County's general fund could be substantially reduced. An annual allocation of capital improvement funding by the County, supplemented with grants and other funding sources, will allow renovation of existing facilities, land acquisition and construction of



new facilities on a more consistent basis.

6.7 FUNDING/ACQUISITION SOURCES

Implementing the recommendations of this Comprehensive Parks Master Plan will require a combination of funding sources that include local, state, federal and private monies. This Section provides a listing of the most commonly used funds for park and greenway facility projects in North Carolina. Fortunately, the benefits of protected greenways and parks are many and varied. This allows programs in Chatham County to access money earmarked for a variety of purposes including water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, alternative transportation, wildlife protection, community health and economic development. Competition is almost always stiff for state and federal funds. It becomes imperative that local governments work together to create multi-jurisdictional partnerships and to develop their own local sources of funding. These sources can then be used to leverage outside assistance. The long term success of this plan will almost certainly depend on the dedication of local revenue stream for park and greenway projects.

It is important that Chatham County fully evaluate its available options and develop a funding strategy that can meet community needs, maximize local resources, improve quality of life and leverage outside funding. Financing will be needed to administer the continued planning and implementation process, acquire parcels or easements and manage and maintain facilities. Further research into these programs is recommended to determine requirements for specific grants.

McGill Associates advises Chatham County to pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of park and greenway funding opportunities that have typically been pursued by other communities. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely turn up new opportunities not listed here.

Grants

State and federal agencies offer numerous grants to assist municipalities in the financing of their parks and recreation projects. This source of funding should definitely be investigated and pursued by Chatham County for present and future park/recreation improvements.

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF):

PARTF was established for local governments and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in 1994 as a funding source for the development and/



or improvement of parks and recreation facilities, as well as for the purpose of land acquisition. A state-funded program, PARTF matches monies spent by municipalities on parks and recreation, with each sharing 50% of the cost. In 2004, the fund request was elevated from a maximum of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The Recreational Resources Service should be contacted for additional information at (919) 515-7118.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

A federally-funded program, LWCF was established for local and state governments in 1965 as a funding source for outdoor recreational development and land acquisition. LWCF monies are derived from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily offshore oil/gas leases and surplus federal land sales. Acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide variety of outdoor projects such as town parks, tennis courts, bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities (roads, water supply, et cetera.) Facility design must be basic rather than elaborate and must remain accessible to the general public. No more than 50% of the project cost may be federally funded by LWCF, although all or part of the project sponsor's matching share may be obtained from certain other federal assistance programs.

North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. Eligible agencies include the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Dept. of Cultural Resources and the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Although Chatham County cannot be the applicant, there are state agencies, which could acquire properties, institute programs, et cetera in the County for preservation and/or education purposes. Grants are awarded for the following:

- The purchase of lands that represent the state's ecological diversity to ensure their preservation and conversation for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.
- The purchase of additions to state parks, state trails, aesthetic forests, wild and/or scenic rivers and fish/wildlife management areas.
- The development of a balanced state program of historic properties.



- The inventory and conservation planning of natural areas by the Natural Heritage program.

Federal Aid Construction Funds

These funds are included in the National Highway System (NHS) Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). The funds provide for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities. The primary source of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is STP Enhancement Funding.

Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by Section 1404 of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act* (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program is funded at \$612 million over five federal fiscal years (FY 2005-2009) and is to be administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOT's).

The Program provides funds to the States to substantially improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely. The purposes of the program are:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school.
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.
- To facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity (approximately 2 miles) of primary and middle schools (Grades K-8).

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program

The N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) combines a wetlands-restoration initiative by the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources with ongoing environmental efforts by the Dept. of Transportation to restore, enhance, and protect its wetlands and waterways. EEP provides:



- High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection.
- Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation, infrastructure and economic development.
- Detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within North Carolina's threatened or degraded watersheds.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA).

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA), approved by the federal government in 2004, is a primary source for financing bicycle, pedestrian and greenway projects throughout the country, at both the local and state levels. Providing as much as 80% for development and construction costs, this grant is earmarked for facilities such as sidewalks, rail-trails, bike-lanes and greenways. The Enhancement Program (a section of SAFETEA) is used primarily by municipalities since this section focuses on bicycle and pedestrian corridors, environmental mitigation, historic preservation and scenic byways. 20% matching funds are required by the applying entity and applicants must meet several other criteria as well. Prior to applying for this grant, a thorough engineering assessment should be performed to determine construction costs.

Recreation Trails Program

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). RTP makes recreation funds available for state allocation to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation trail users. RTP funds are distributed to states by a legislative formula: half of the funds are distributed equally among all states and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of non-highway recreational fuel used in each state. (Non-highway recreational fuel is the type which is typically used by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road light trucks.) The RTP grants are administered by the State Trails Program of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. A 25% match, either cash or of in-kind contributions, is required.

Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Created in 1996 by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Clean Water



Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grants monies to local governments, state agencies and not-for-profit conservation groups. The money is to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution issues. CWMTF will fund projects that contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational and recreational benefits. There is no match required by local municipalities, however, the 'suggestion' of a match is highly recommended.

Watershed Protection and Flood Protection

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assists state and local governments in their operation and maintenance of watersheds whose areas are less than 250,000 square acres. The NRCS provides both financial and technical assistance to eligible projects for the improvement of watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50% local match for public recreation and fish/wildlife projects.

State Construction Funds

These funds (not including the Highway Trust Fund for Urban Loops and Interchanges) may be used for the construction of sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are a part of roadway improvement projects.

The North Carolina Conservation Tax Credit

This program provides an incentive (in the form of an income tax credit) for landowners that donate interests in real property for conservation purposes. Property donations can be fee simple or in the form of conservation easements or bargain sale. The goal of this program is to manage stormwater, protect water supply watersheds, preserve working farms and forests and set-aside greenways for ecological communities, public trails and wildlife corridors. (Go to <http://ncctc.enr.state.nc.us/> for additional information,)

Farmland Protection Trust Fund

Ranging from only a couple hundred thousand dollars to millions of dollars over the last several years, this program is funded through an allocation by the NC General Assembly to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It is a voluntary program designed to protect farmland from development by either acquiring property outright or acquiring conservation easements on the property. The program is administered by the Conservation Trust Fund for North Carolina



(CTNC). Questions about available funding should be directed to CTNC.

Contributions

The solicitation of contributions is an acceptable method of fund-raising for recreation departments. These donations, typically in the form of land, cash, labor and materials, can be solicited to assist Chatham County with its enhancement program. Corporations, civic organizations, individuals and other groups generally donate to a specific park project; donations may also be solicited for multiple project improvements or additions. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends the use of private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt foundations as a means of accepting and administering private gifts to a public park system.

Park Foundations

The Chatham Parks Foundation raises funds to support public parks in Chatham County. An annual golf tournament is held at The Preserve at Jordan Lake to raise money and promote the Foundation's work. The Foundation also solicits donations from businesses and individuals to help build and run public parks in Chatham County.

Land Banking

Chatham County recently organized a Land Banking Committee which is primarily composed of County Commissioners, County Staff, the County Board of Education. One of the primary objectives will be to plan appropriately for locations in order to secure lands for future County facilities such as parks and schools which could be composed of joint-use facilities. This proactive long range planning effort will allow for suitable site selection in the appropriate locations.

Partnerships

To implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive master plan, Chatham County will most certainly have to expand their partnership agreements with other public agencies and private-sector organizations. There are many different types of partnerships that can be formed to achieve the goals established by the County. In fact, many local governments throughout the nation are utilizing partnerships with public and private-sector interests to accomplish community goals.

Listed below are the various types of partnerships that the County should consider in its efforts for the improvement and addition of parks and recreational facilities:

- Programming partnerships to co-sponsor events and facilities or to allow



qualified outside agencies to conduct activities on properties which are County owned.

- Operational partnerships to share the responsibility for providing public access and use of facilities.
- Development partnerships to purchase land and/or build facilities.
- Management partnerships to maintain properties and facilities.

Chatham County is currently participating with partnerships in other related endeavors and should evaluate forming additional partnerships which address the needs of a comprehensive park system. Direct requests should be made to potential partners, asking them to meet and to evaluate the possible benefits of partnering. This step should be made to generate interest and agreement prior to solidifying any responsibilities for each participating party.

Private-sector partnerships can be beneficial to local governments. Developers can use private funds to develop facilities on government property and lease it to the County over a long term. Over a period of time, the developer returns a portion of the revenue to the County and at the end of the lease the facility is turned over to public ownership. This type of arrangement would typically be a large capital investment for a special use facility.

Land Acquisition and Development

There are many different types of land acquisition available to Chatham County for park system expansion and/or future development. Due to the land costs, as well as land availability, it is recommended that the County prioritize the property to be acquired for park facilities. Listed below are several methods for acquiring and developing parks:

Life Estate

A life estate is a gift, whereby a donor retains the land during his/her lifetime and relinquishes title of the property after his/her death. In return, the owner (or family) is relieved of property tax for the given land.

Local Gifts

Donations of land, money, labor and construction can have significant impact on the acquisition and development of park property. The solicitation of local gifts is



highly recommended and should be organized thoroughly, with the utilization of very specific strategic methods. This often untapped source of obtaining funds requires the contacting of potential donors such as individuals, institutions, foundations, service clubs, et cetera.

Easement

An easement is the most common type of 'less-than-fee' interest in land. An easement seeks to compensate the property owner for the right to use his/her land in some way or to compensate for the loss of his/her privileges to use the land. Generally, the land owner may still use the land and therefore continue to generate property tax revenue for the County.

Fee Simple Purchase

Fee simple purchase is the most common method used to acquire property for park facilities. Although it has the advantage of simplifying justification to the general public, fee simple purchase is the most difficult method to pursue due to limited monetary resources.

Fee Simple with Lease-Back or Resale

This method allows local governments to acquire land by fee simple purchase; yet allows them to either sell or lease the property to prospective users with restrictions that will preserve the land from future development. The fee simple with lease-back or resale method of development commonly results from situations in which land owners who have lost considerable monetary amounts in property value, determine that it is more economical to sell the land to the County (with a lease-back option) than to keep it.

Long-Term Option

Long-term options allow governments to purchase property over a long period of time. This method is particularly useful because it enables the County to consider a particular piece of land that may have future value, though it is not currently desired or affordable at the time. There are advantages to this method of property acquisition. The County can protect the future of the land without purchasing it upfront. Meanwhile, the purchase price of the land will not increase and the County will have the right to exercise its option.



The disadvantage to the County is that all privileges relinquished by the land owner require compensation in the form of securing the option.

Dedicated Source of Local Funding

In order to leverage and provide matching funds for many of the programs listed above, Chatham County should enhance their dedicated park funds with:

- Property/sales tax
- Bonds
- Fee in-lieu of contributions
- User fees/registration fees

Property/Sales Tax Revenues

General tax revenues traditionally provide sources for general operations and maintenance of park systems for local governments. The parks department is scheduled along with health, public safety, utilities, et cetera in regular budgets established by the County. Assessed valuation of real and personal property tax and sales tax provides the framework for the major portion of the tax base for the County.

Traditionally, ad valorem tax revenue has been the primary source of funding for the park and recreation enhancement of properties/facilities owned by local governments. 'Recreational opportunities' are considered a public service and often are a standard line item on general fund budgets. Creative financial opportunities are possible; however ad valorem taxes will continue to be the major revenue source to support the system. As such, communities often vote to raise their local tax rate temporarily in support of their park and recreation systems.

General Obligation Bonds

Many communities issue bonds, which are typically approved by the shareholders, to finance site development and land acquisition costs. The State of North Carolina grants local governments the authority to borrow funds for parks and recreation through the issuance of bonds. The amount of the bond is not to exceed the cost of acquisition or the cost for the improvement of park and recreation facilities. Total bond capacities for local governments are limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation. Since the issuance of bonds relies on the support of the voting population, the implementation of awareness programs is absolutely essential prior to a referendum vote.



General Obligation bonds are the preferred financing approach by the North Carolina Local Government Commission and the general securities market, because these instruments are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer. That simply means that the bonds represent an encumbrance against the property tax base of the issuing jurisdiction and therefore offer the best available security to the bond holder. The State of North Carolina gives the issuance of bonds that are not to exceed the total cost of improvements, including land acquisition. In view of the recommended capital improvements suggested in this plan, the borrowing of funds to develop new facilities may be necessary. Total bonding capacities for local governments is limited for parks and recreation to a maximum percentage of assessed property valuation.

The following are key factors to consider when evaluating the use of this financing instrument:

- In North Carolina, the issuance of General Obligation bonds requires a referendum of the voters within the issuing jurisdiction.
- The term of the debt may be extended to 20-30 years.
- The debt is publicly sold. Therefore, there are costs associated with the sale that generally total 3% to 5% of the total bond principal. The issuance costs offset the lower interest rate so this instrument becomes more attractive as the size of the issuance increases and the issuance costs are spread over the larger debt. It has been found that this financing option becomes financially superior as the debt principal exceeds \$10-\$12 million.
- Prepayment of the debt can generally not be accomplished until reaching a call date, which is generally around 75% of debt retirement.

Failure of the General Obligation Bond to be ratified by referendum could mean that the County could not go forward with an alternative approach to financing without substantially changing the scope of the project.

Fee in-lieu of contributions

Under the zoning ordinances, developers have an option to pay a 'fee in lieu of' rather than dedicate open space within conventional subdivisions. To date, this program has proven to be successful as a dedicated source of revenue that can be earmarked for park development. The County may choose to revisit this source of



revenue to study the feasibility of enhancing the fee in-lieu formula.

User fees/registration fees

Communities throughout the nation employ a wide variety of user fees for public use of recreational programs and services within their recreation departments. The amount of the fee is usually determined by a portion of the recreation costs needed for improvements or operation. These user fees are typically levied for such special facilities as water parks and golf courses; however, they can also be charged for the use of trails and ball fields. Chatham County should consider generating revenue by charging user fees for the use of facilities such as picnic shelters and athletic fields in order to cover operation and administrative costs. As the park system continues develop, the County should examine their fee structure to identify opportunities for additional revenue. Elected officials should determine the fees and charges; the fees should not be so high that persons of modest income would ultimately be denied the use of park facilities.

6.8 PLAN ADOPTION

The first step in implementation of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is adoption of the plan by Chatham County. By adopting the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, the community is able to shape larger regional decisions so that they fit within the goals of the plan. The County also gives itself greater authority in shaping local land use decisions so that they achieve the goals and vision of this plan. In addition, the adoption of this Master Plan is essential in order to maximize available grant opportunities.

Among the opportunities available to promote the recommendations contained in the Master Plan is the ability to build upon an already committed and active base of residents, visitors and enthusiasts in the area. Through their organizations, institutions, publications and networks, Chatham County can promote the improved or new parks and greenway facilities and programs.

Second among the opportunities is the availability of the existing park facilities (amenities, programs, existing trails, et cetera.) Though some changes are being suggested in the short-term and an expanded network is suggested for the long-term, the presence of an existing network provides a strong foundation from which to build. Many County residents are already accustomed to using the existing recreation programs and should become used to seeing new park amenities, programs, signage and other improvements. Building on their existing awareness is much easier than building on no awareness.



Action Steps

Upon adoption of this plan, implementation of specific recommendations can begin. Many of these will occur simultaneously and include policy and facility improvement changes. The key steps are:

- Coordinate the implementation of recommendations and proposals from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan into the policy requirements of other County Departments.
- Secure a dedicated source of revenue to address the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program and address the goals of the Master Plan.
- Provide staffing necessary to support and oversee the implementation of this plan and the proper maintenance and operation of the facilities that are proposed; for example, the County may designate or hire an employee to oversee this task.
- Develop and implement educational and awareness programs such as public events and promotion of parks awareness by civic/environmental advocacy groups. These can be used to announce new park facilities and some of the upcoming projects.
- Begin working on the proposed facilities that are listed in the 10-year and beyond Capital Improvement Program. From these opportunities comes the framework for an initial implementation strategy:
 - 1) Acquiring land for future park expansion and greenway corridors should be a high priority. It will be essential to acquire land as opportunities become available.
 - 2) Use the base of recreation user to expand the awareness of the benefits and operation hours of Chatham County Parks and Recreation System
 - 3) Expand and modify the existing park system into a comprehensive, multi-use system, distributed so that it better meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities to all and enhances the current park system.



- 4) Begin making the critical greenway connections between destination points that will allow for preservation of open space and offer an alternative mode of transportation.

These four steps represent the core of the implementation strategy. As the individual policy recommendations and physical recommendations are addressed, they should each fit with one of these four primary strategies.

- Ensure that park and greenway planning is integrated with other regional planning efforts at the state and local levels, and with long-range and current land use, economic development, parks, environmental and community planning.

The following are mechanisms to achieve this action step:

- 1) Expand local capital improvements program for yearly appropriation for greenway and park development.
- 2) Set aside money for land acquisition, construction and maintenance of parks and greenway facilities in the annual operating budget.
- 3) Pursue and request pedestrian/bicycle projects to be added to NCDOT TIP.
- 4) Pursue developing and expanding existing and new partnerships.
- 5) Apply for PARTF Grants and other related recreation grants for park projects and improvements.
- 6) Seek other sources of revenue funding for parks and greenway improvements such as including local assessment districts, developer exactions, et cetera.
- 7) Pursue funding from other sources listed in this section.
- 8) Evaluate the enhancement of the existing 'fee in lieu' funding formula in Chatham County Subdivision Regulations.



6.9 CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan has laid out a set of strategies for expanding/developing a safe, convenient and usable park system as reflected in the following:

- Utilizing funding opportunities
- Expansion and enhancement of existing facilities; and
- Creation of new facilities in areas of demand.

The plan has assessed the study area, analyzed the existing facilities, received community input, reviewed recreation standards, developed recommendations and provided strategies for implementing the plan. The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a comprehensive guide to be used in the improvement and enhancement of the park system for Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department.

- END OF SECTION -



Table 6.5.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Operating Budget

CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Population Projection	63,358	66,121	68,884	71,647	74,411	77,804	81,197	84,590	87,983	91,377
Operating Capital Expenses \$26,000/Park Addition		\$ 26,000.00		\$ 26,000.00						
Additional Personnel		(1) Park Supervisor at NE Dist. Park		(1) Park Supervisor at NW Dist. Park			(1) Athletic Supervisor			
Annual Operating Budget	\$1,178,264	\$1,295,977	\$1,360,776	\$1,487,615	\$1,561,996	\$1,640,095	\$1,753,600	\$1,841,280	\$1,933,344	\$2,030,011
Inflated costs using 4% cumulative										
Total Per Capita	\$ 18.60	\$ 19.60	\$ 19.75	\$ 20.76	\$ 20.99	\$ 21.08	\$ 21.60	\$ 21.77	\$ 21.97	\$ 22.22
Operating Budget assumes 5% inflation										

**Table 6.4.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary**

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUMMARY											
Earl Thompson Park	\$ 135,900.36										
Southwest District Park	\$ 2,858,535.61										
Northeast District Park											
Phase I	\$ 1,750,009.51	\$ 1,750,009.51									
Phase II	\$ 1,169,019.31					\$ 1,169,019.31					
Phase III	\$ 3,781,696.50									\$ 3,781,696.50	
Northwest District Park											
Interim	\$ 1,131,341.70			\$ 1,131,341.70							
Phase I	\$ 2,269,499.32										
Phase II	\$ 516,261.75										
Phase III	\$ 974,499.48										
Phase IV	\$ 3,319,911.45										
Bell's Landing	\$ 4,875,246.57										
Aquatics/Recreation Center	\$ 7,467,950.00										
Greenways/Blueways Construction	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 30,749,871.56	\$ 1,800,009.51	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 1,181,341.70	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 1,219,019.31	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 3,831,696.50	\$ 50,000.00
PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS w/n 10 yr. CIP	\$ 8,332,067.02										
**Inflated costs using 5% cumulative	\$ 11,166,169.05	\$ 1,890,009.99	\$ 55,125.00	\$ 1,367,550.69	\$ 60,775.31	\$ 1,555,811.86	\$ 67,004.78	\$ 70,355.02	\$ 73,872.77	\$ 5,944,218.90	\$ 81,444.73
Projected Matching Grant Monies	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 9,134,724.32	\$ 1,390,009.99	\$ 55,125.00	\$ 867,550.69	\$ 60,775.31	\$ 1,055,811.86	\$ 67,004.78	\$ 70,355.02	\$ 73,872.77	\$ 5,444,218.90	\$ 50,000.00
Potential Grant Options		<i>PARTF</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>	<i>PARTF</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>	<i>PARTF</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>	<i>PARTF NCDOT</i>	<i>NCDOT RTP</i>
PARTF - PARTF Grants allow a dollar for dollar match up to \$1,000,000 for Land Acquisition, Park Develop and Improvements. NCDOT - NCDOT Grants allow a 20%(governing agency)/80%(NCDOT) match for Multi Use Trail Projects, and Support Facilities. RTP - Recreation Trails Program Grants allow a 25%(governing agency)/75% (RTP) match for greenway trails up to \$75,000. Per Chatham County the CIP reflects a 5% inflation											
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BREAKDOWN											
Earl Thompson Park											
Paved Parking Lot 30 Spaces	\$ 23,310.00										
Outdoor Basketball Courts	\$ 22,000.00										
Picnic Shelter	\$ 25,000.00										
Nature Trail - 1/2 mile	\$ 36,960.00										
Sub-total	\$ 107,270.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 3,218.10										
Park Sub-total	\$ 110,488.10										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 11,048.81										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 8,839.05										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 5,524.41										
PARK TOTAL	\$ 135,900.36										
Southwest District Park											
Lighted Baseball Field	\$ 208,000.00										
Multi-Purpose Field	\$ 48,000.00										
Restroom/Concession Building	\$ 160,000.00										
Walking Trail Addition	\$ 25,200.00										
Paved Parking Lot - 200 Spaces	\$ 155,123.00										
Tennis Courts	\$ 120,000.00										
Recreation Center	\$ 1,500,000.00										
Additional Play Equipment	\$ 40,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 2,256,323.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 67,689.69										
Park Sub-total	\$ 2,324,012.69										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 232,401.27										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 185,921.02										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 116,200.63										
PARK TOTAL	\$ 2,858,535.61										
Northeast District Park											
Phase I											
Entrance Road - 1,034 L.F.	\$ 42,513.00	\$ 42,513.00									
Parking Area - 100 Sp. (3,800 sy)	\$ 70,300.00	\$ 70,300.00									
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00									
Mass Grading	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00									

**Table 6.4.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary**

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Road Grading	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00									
Erosion Control	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00									
Storm Drainage	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00									
Grassing in common areas	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00									
Site Lighting	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00									
Septic Field	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00									
Waterline 6"	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00									
Waterline 2"	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00									
Electrical Distribution	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00									
Irrigation water tap/backflow/main	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00									
New concrete walks/plazas	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00									
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00									
Restroom/Concession Building (800 SF)	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 160,000.00									
Infield clay and calcined clay conditioner	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00									
Laser grading	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00									
Irrigation	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00									
Field lighting	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00									
Bermuda sprigs and growth-in	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00									
Black vinyl coated field fencing - 300' field	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00									
Equipment (foul poles, bases, benches,	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00									
Concrete dugout floors	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00									
Dugout covers	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00									
Laser grading	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00									
Field Lighting	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00									
Irrigation	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00									
Bermuda sprigs and growth-in	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00									
Minor Pavilion/Shelter (20'x24')	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00									
1/4 mile 8' asphalt walking trail	\$ 21,719.00	\$ 21,719.00									
Playground	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00									
Sub-total	\$ 1,381,332.00	\$ 1,381,332.00									
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 41,439.96	\$ 41,439.96									
Park Sub-total	\$ 1,422,771.96	\$ 1,422,771.96									
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 142,277.20	\$ 142,277.20									
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 113,821.76	\$ 113,821.76									
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 71,138.60	\$ 71,138.60									
PHASE I TOTAL	\$ 1,750,009.51	\$ 1,750,009.51									
Phase II											
Entrance Road - (1,050 l.f.)	\$ 46,660.00				\$ 46,660.00						
Parking Area - 150 Sp. (5,000 sy)	\$ 30,000.00				\$ 30,000.00						
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 48,000.00				\$ 48,000.00						
Mass Grading	\$ 100,000.00				\$ 100,000.00						
Road Grading	\$ 20,000.00				\$ 20,000.00						
Erosion Control	\$ 64,000.00				\$ 64,000.00						
Storm Drainage	\$ 100,000.00				\$ 100,000.00						
Grassing in common areas	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00						
Site Lighting	\$ 39,000.00				\$ 39,000.00						
Septic Field	\$ 10,000.00				\$ 10,000.00						
Waterline 2"	\$ 16,000.00				\$ 16,000.00						
Electrical Distribution	\$ 10,000.00				\$ 10,000.00						
Irrigation water tap/backflow/main	\$ 8,000.00				\$ 8,000.00						
New concrete walks/plazas	\$ 3,600.00				\$ 3,600.00						
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 30,000.00				\$ 30,000.00						
Restroom/Concession Building (800 SF)	\$ 160,000.00				\$ 160,000.00						
Laser grading	\$ 18,000.00				\$ 18,000.00						
Field Lighting	\$ 75,000.00				\$ 75,000.00						
Irrigation	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00						
Bermuda sprigs and growth-in	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00						
Minor Pavilion/Shelter (20'x24')	\$ 30,000.00				\$ 30,000.00						
1/4 mile 8' asphalt walking trail	\$ 23,480.00				\$ 23,480.00						
Playground	\$ 40,000.00				\$ 40,000.00						
Horseshoes	\$ 6,000.00				\$ 6,000.00						
Sub-total	\$ 922,740.00				\$ 922,740.00						
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 27,682.20				\$ 27,682.20						
Park Sub-total	\$ 950,422.20				\$ 950,422.20						
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 95,042.22				\$ 95,042.22						

**Table 6.4.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary**

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 76,033.78					\$ 76,033.78					
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 47,521.11					\$ 47,521.11					
PHASE II TOTAL	\$ 1,169,019.31					\$ 1,169,019.31					
Phase III											
Entrance/Parking Area - (10 spaces)	\$ 20,000.00									\$ 20,000.00	
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 18,000.00									\$ 18,000.00	
Erosion Control	\$ 24,000.00									\$ 24,000.00	
Storm Drainage	\$ 50,000.00									\$ 50,000.00	
New concrete walks/plazas	\$ 7,500.00									\$ 7,500.00	
Grassing in common areas	\$ 2,500.00									\$ 2,500.00	
Site Lighting	\$ 20,000.00									\$ 20,000.00	
Septic Field	\$ 20,000.00									\$ 20,000.00	
Electrical Distribution	\$ 5,000.00									\$ 5,000.00	
Minor Pavilion/Shelter (20'x24')	\$ 30,000.00										
3 1/4 mile 6' multi-use trails	\$ 108,000.00										
Basketball Courts (2 courts)	\$ 60,000.00										
Tennis Courts (2 courts)	\$ 80,000.00										
Disc Golf	\$ 20,000.00										
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 20,000.00									\$ 20,000.00	
Recreation Center - LEED Cert. (10,000)	\$ 2,500,000.00									\$ 2,500,000.00	
Sub-total	\$ 2,985,000.00									\$ 2,687,000.00	
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 89,550.00									\$ 89,550.00	
Park Sub-total	\$ 3,074,550.00									\$ 3,074,550.00	
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 307,455.00									\$ 307,455.00	
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 245,964.00									\$ 245,964.00	
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 153,727.50									\$ 153,727.50	
PHASE III TOTAL	\$ 3,781,696.50									\$ 3,781,696.50	
PARK TOTAL	\$ 6,700,725.32	\$ 1,750,009.51				\$ 1,169,019.31				\$ 3,781,696.50	
Northwest District Park											
Interim Phase											
Shelter/Restroom building (24'x40')	\$ 160,000.00			\$ 160,000.00							
Walking Trail (10' crushed stone path)	\$ 196,000.00			\$ 196,000.00							
Walking Trail (6' crushed stone path)	\$ 10,000.00			\$ 10,000.00							
Camping Pads (4" crushed stone)	\$ 12,000.00			\$ 12,000.00							
Picnic Equipment	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00							
8' wide Fishing Pier (50' LF)	\$ 15,000.00			\$ 15,000.00							
Small Shelters (20'x24')	\$ 100,000.00			\$ 100,000.00							
Tennis Courts	\$ 80,000.00			\$ 80,000.00							
Basketball Courts	\$ 60,000.00			\$ 60,000.00							
Overlook/Portage	\$ 10,000.00			\$ 10,000.00							
Renovations to Existing Buildings	\$ 200,000.00			\$ 200,000.00							
Sub-total	\$ 893,000.00			\$ 893,000.00							
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 26,790.00			\$ 26,790.00							
Park Sub-total	\$ 919,790.00			\$ 919,790.00							
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 91,979.00			\$ 91,979.00							
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 73,583.20			\$ 73,583.20							
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 45,989.50			\$ 45,989.50							
INTERIM PHASE TOTAL	\$ 1,131,341.70			\$ 1,131,341.70							
Phase I											
Main Road - (1,000 l.f.)	\$ 88,880.00										
Turn Lane Improvements	\$ 60,000.00										
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 30,000.00										
Mass Grading	\$ 160,000.00										
Erosion Control	\$ 64,000.00										
Storm Drainage/Water Quality	\$ 75,000.00										
Dam Repair/Water Quality Retrofit	\$ 150,000.00										
New concrete walks/plazas	\$ 6,000.00										
Asphalt Walking Trail 1/2 mile (10' wide)	\$ 56,100.00										
Grassing in common areas	\$ 10,000.00										

**Table 6.4.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary**

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Site Lighting	\$ 30,000.00										
Septic Field	\$ 20,000.00										
Waterline 4"	\$ 12,000.00										
Water/Sewer/Electrical Distribution	\$ 50,000.00										
Topography/Boundary Survey	\$ 30,000.00										
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 40,000.00										
Lazer grading/Sprig/Irrigation	\$ 70,000.00										
Field lighting	\$ 200,000.00										
Infield clay and calcined clay conditioner	\$ 20,000.00										
Laser grading	\$ 18,000.00										
Field lighting	\$ 200,000.00										
Irrigation	\$ 24,000.00										
Bermuda sprigs and growth-in	\$ 16,000.00										
Black vinyl coated field fencing - field	\$ 120,000.00										
Equipment (foul poles, bases, benches,	\$ 8,000.00										
Concrete dugout floors	\$ 6,400.00										
Dugout covers	\$ 7,000.00										
Playground	\$ 60,000.00										
Restroom/Concession Building (24'x40')	\$ 160,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 1,791,380.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 53,741.40										
Park Sub-total	\$ 1,845,121.40										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 184,512.14										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 147,609.71										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 92,256.07										
PHASE I TOTAL	\$ 2,269,499.32										
Phase II											
Main Road - loop connector (2,200 l.f.)	\$ 98,000.00										
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 30,000.00										
Mass Grading	\$ 80,000.00										
Road Grading	\$ 12,000.00										
Erosion Control	\$ 40,000.00										
Storm Drainage/Water Quality	\$ 50,000.00										
Grassing in common areas	\$ 7,500.00										
Water/Sewer/Electrical Distribution	\$ 30,000.00										
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 60,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 407,500.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 12,225.00										
Park Sub-total	\$ 419,725.00										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 41,972.50										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 33,578.00										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 20,986.25										
PHASE II TOTAL	\$ 516,261.75										
Phase III											
Parking Area - 475(+/-) Sp. (13,535 sy)	\$ 270,700.00										
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 24,000.00										
Road Grading	\$ 12,000.00										
Erosion Control	\$ 32,000.00										
Storm Drainage	\$ 60,000.00										
Grassing in common areas	\$ 12,500.00										
Site Lighting	\$ 60,000.00										
Septic Field	\$ 60,000.00										
Waterline 4"	\$ 18,000.00										
Water/Sewer/Electrical Distribution	\$ 70,000.00										
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 50,000.00										
Amphitheater	\$ 100,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 769,200.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 23,076.00										
Park Sub-total	\$ 792,276.00										

**Table 6.4.1. CHATHAM COUNTY - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN/2009-2019
10 Year Capital Improvements Plan Summary**

CATEGORY / IMPROVEMENT	COST	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 79,227.60										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 63,382.08										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 39,613.80										
PHASE III TOTAL	\$ 974,499.48										
Phase IV											
Clearing and Grubbing	\$ 18,000.00										
Mass Grading	\$ 8,000.00										
Erosion Control	\$ 24,000.00										
Storm Drainage/Water Quality Measures	\$ 50,000.00										
New concrete walks/plazas	\$ 60,000.00										
Grassing in common areas	\$ 2,500.00										
Site Lighting	\$ 24,000.00										
Septic Field	\$ 70,000.00										
Waterline 4"	\$ 4,000.00										
Water/Sewer/Electrical Distribution	\$ 50,000.00										
Landscaping (trees and shrubs)	\$ 60,000.00										
Recreation Center - (12,000 SF LEED cert.)	\$ 2,250,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 2,620,500.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 78,615.00										
Park Sub-total	\$ 2,699,115.00										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 269,911.50										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 215,929.20										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 134,955.75										
PHASE IV TOTAL	\$ 3,319,911.45										
PARK TOTAL	\$ 8,211,513.70			\$ 1,131,341.70							
Bell's Landing											
Swim Beach	\$ 489,500.00										
Playground Equipment	\$ 80,000.00										
Amphitheater	\$ 100,000.00										
Sand Volleyball Courts	\$ 40,000.00										
Picnic Shelters - Major	\$ 90,000.00										
Picnic Shelters - Minor	\$ 100,000.00										
Parking Lot - 300 Spaces	\$ 232,675.00										
Additional Picnic Tables	\$ 12,000.00										
Nature Trails - 4 Miles	\$ 295,680.00										
Nature Center	\$ 1,500,000.00										
Restroom/Bath House Facilities	\$ 210,000.00										
Paved Entrance Road	\$ 513,287.00										
Paved Road to Beach	\$ 185,028.00										
Sub-total	\$ 3,848,170.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 115,445.10										
Park Sub-total	\$ 3,963,615.10										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 396,361.51										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 317,089.21										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 198,180.76										
PARK TOTAL	\$ 4,875,246.57										
Aquatics/Recreation Center											
Aquatics/Recreation Center	\$ 5,500,000.00										
Sub-total	\$ 5,500,000.00										
Mobilization - 3%	\$ 165,000.00										
Park Sub-total	\$ 5,665,000.00										
Contingencies - 10%	\$ 566,500.00										
Design Fees - 8%	\$ 453,200.00										
Contract Administration - 5%	\$ 283,250.00										
Land Acquisition	\$ 500,000.00										
PARK TOTAL	\$ 7,467,950.00										
Greenways/Blueways											
Greenways/Blueways Construction	\$ 500,000	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00

2019
AND AFTER
\$ 30,000.00
\$ 20,000.00
\$ 12,000.00
\$ 50,000.00
\$ 30,000.00
\$ 40,000.00
\$ 70,000.00
\$ 200,000.00
\$ 20,000.00
\$ 18,000.00
\$ 200,000.00
\$ 24,000.00
\$ 16,000.00
\$ 120,000.00
\$ 8,000.00
\$ 6,400.00
\$ 7,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 160,000.00
\$ 1,791,380.00
\$ 53,741.40
\$ 1,845,121.40
\$ 184,512.14
\$ 147,609.71
\$ 92,256.07
\$ 2,269,499.32
\$ 98,000.00
\$ 30,000.00
\$ 80,000.00
\$ 12,000.00
\$ 40,000.00
\$ 50,000.00
\$ 7,500.00
\$ 30,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 407,500.00
\$ 12,225.00
\$ 419,725.00
\$ 41,972.50
\$ 33,578.00
\$ 20,986.25
\$ 516,261.75
\$ 270,700.00
\$ 24,000.00
\$ 12,000.00
\$ 32,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 12,500.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 18,000.00
\$ 70,000.00
\$ 50,000.00
\$ 100,000.00
\$ 769,200.00
\$ 23,076.00
\$ 792,276.00

2019
AND AFTER
\$ 79,227.60
\$ 63,382.08
\$ 39,613.80
\$ 974,499.48
\$ 18,000.00
\$ 8,000.00
\$ 24,000.00
\$ 50,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 24,000.00
\$ 70,000.00
\$ 4,000.00
\$ 50,000.00
\$ 60,000.00
\$ 2,250,000.00
\$ 2,620,500.00
\$ 78,615.00
\$ 2,699,115.00
\$ 269,911.50
\$ 215,929.20
\$ 134,955.75
\$ 3,319,911.45
\$ 7,080,172.00
\$489,500
\$80,000
\$100,000
\$40,000
\$90,000
\$100,000
\$232,675
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\$513,287
\$185,028
\$3,848,170
\$115,445
\$3,963,615
\$396,362
\$317,089
\$198,181
\$4,875,247
\$5,500,000
\$5,500,000
\$165,000
\$5,665,000
\$566,500
\$453,200
\$283,250
\$500,000
\$7,467,950



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF PITTSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro are pleased to announce an exciting Parks and Recreation workshop and would like to invite you to take part in this important planning process. The workshop is a dynamic planning approach that is inclusive, cross-disciplinary and seeks to find collaboration in values and vision. We believe you will find this innovative process informative, relevant and worthwhile. While we will focus attention on the possibilities of future improvements of the park system, we will also discuss all of our other park and recreation facilities.

We invite you to attend one of the four workshops which will be held at on:

Wednesday, November 7th: Agricultural auditorium, Pittsboro - 6:00 - 7:00pm

Thursday, November 8th: North Chatham School - Cafeteria - 6:00 - 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 13th: Silk Hope Elementary School - Multipurpose Room - 6:00-7:00pm

Thursday, November 14th: Chatham Central High School - Cafeteria -6:00-7:00pm

For more information contact:

Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department Phone (919) 545-8555.



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE

Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Workshop

1. What improvements do you think are most needed at existing park and recreation facilities?

2. What, if any, new recreation programs are needed?

3. What if any new park and recreation facilities area needed?

4. If new facilities are provided, should they be included in fewer but larger County-wide parks or in more but smaller community parks?

5. What, if any, sources of funding are you willing to support in order to make improvements, build new facilities and create programs?



WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Chatham County
and
Town of Pittsboro
Recreation and Parks
Master Plans

Community Needs Assessment
Public Information Meeting

November 7-8 and November 13-14, 2007





RECREATION SURVEY



**TOWN OF PITTSBORO and CHATHAM
 COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY**



The **Town of Pittsboro** and **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** are in the process of creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the County and would like your input. Please take a moment to complete the following survey. The information that you provide will help determine park and recreation priorities in our community. If you need additional copies for your household, they can be found on our web page at www.chathamnc.org or by calling (919) 545-8555.

We also invite you to attend one of our four Master Plan Community Workshops:

- Wednesday, November 7th: Agricultural auditorium, Pittsboro - 6:00-7:00p.m.
- Thursday, November 8th: North Chatham School - Cafeteria - 6:00-7:00p.m.
- Wednesday, November 13th: Silk Hope Elementary School – Multipurpose Room - 6:00-7:00p.m.
- Thursday, November 14th: Chatham Central High School – Cafeteria -6:00-7:00p.m.

Thank you for your time and your interest in letting us know your ideas and priorities for continuing to improve the Parks and Recreation opportunities in the Town of Pittsboro and Chatham County.

Age _____ Resident of: Chatham County Yes No Zip Code: _____ Town of Pittsboro/ETJ:
 Yes No

List the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

1-5 ___ 6-8 ___ 9-12 ___ 13-15 ___ 16-18 ___ 19-21 ___ 22-29 ___ 30-39 ___ 40-49 ___ 50-59 ___ 60+ ___

Check below how frequently you or others in your household have visited the following facilities in the past year.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jordan Lake - (NC State Parks) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Earl Thompson Park - Bynum – (Chatham County Park) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Southwest Community Park - Bear Creek – (Chatham County Park) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| North Carolina State Trails | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Town Lake Park - (Town of Pittsboro) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Kawanis Park - (Town of Pittsboro) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Chatham County School Facilities - (Chatham County) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| White Pine Preserve – (Triangle Lands Conservancy) | <input type="radio"/> Regularly | <input type="radio"/> Occasionally | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | | | |
| Other facility or park (not necessarily in Chatham County)? _____ | | | |





In which of the following recreation programs, activities and special events offered by Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro do you (or others in your Household) regularly participate? Please check all that apply:

- Wrestling
 - Youth Softball
 - Volleyball
 - Adult Basketball
 - Youth Basketball
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Tumbling' Tots
 - Karate (Self-Defense)
 - Track & Field
 - Swimming Lessons
 - Family Fun Day (Southwest Park)
 - Fall Festival (Pittsboro)
 - Christmas Parade (Pittsboro)
 - T-Ball
 - Adult Softball
- others? _____

Overall, how would you rate the recreational programs (from the list above) offered by Chatham County Parks and Recreation Dept?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

Overall, how would you rate the existing parks and recreational facilities in Chatham County?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

Overall, how would you rate the existing parks and recreational facilities in the Town of Pittsboro?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

Check below improvements that could be made to EXISTING parks and list park facilities

- Add lighting to facilities _____
- Improve parking areas in parks _____
- Add more public restrooms _____
- Expanding parks and open space _____
- Add picnic and sitting areas _____
- Increasing beautification in parks _____
- Add/Improve Trails _____
- Add signage to facilities _____
- Others: _____

Choose ten (10) desired facilities from the list below that could be developed in the Town of Pittsboro or Chatham County. Number your choices, 1 through 10 in order of importance, with 1 being your highest priority. Please consider other members of your household as well.

Trails

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Paved_Bicycle Trails (3-6 Miles) | _____ Equestrian Trails |
| _____ Paved Bicycle Trails (6-12 Miles) | _____ Hiking Trails |
| _____ Paved_Jogging/Walking Trails (1-3 Miles) | _____ Mountain Biking |
| _____ Paved_Jogging/Walking Trails (3-6 Miles) | _____ Paved In-line Skating (2-3 Miles) |

Sports Facilities

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Single Sports Complex (which sport? _____) | _____ Disc Golf |
| _____ Multi Sports Complex | _____ Baseball/Softball Fields |
| _____ Football Fields | _____ Handball/Racquetball Courts |
| _____ Outdoor Tennis Courts | _____ Outdoor Track |
| _____ Sand Volleyball Courts | _____ Soccer Fields |
| _____ Outdoor Basketball Courts | _____ Indoor Swimming Pool |
| _____ Indoor Gymnasium | _____ Fitness Facility, e.g. cardio/strength training |
| _____ Outdoor Swimming Pool with special recreation features | |



Miscellaneous

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Recreation Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoe Pits | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Boating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space/Natural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> RV Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Performance Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Center |

Other (Specify): _____

Please list below, any recreational programs or special events that you would like to see offered in Chatham County: _____

Would you support a Greenway Trail System that would connect to destination areas within the County (ex. Schools, shopping, etc)?

ex. schools, shopping, etc.
 Yes No

Would you be willing to pay a reasonable fee to attend an event or use a special facility for recreation?

Yes No

Would you favor or oppose expanding recreational opportunities in the County?

Favor Oppose

Would you use a park or greenway/recreation facility more if it were closer to your home or work?

Yes No

Do you use any school, private facilities or other public facilities for recreation or leisure activities?

If so, which ones? _____

Within the last year have you traveled out of the County to use a recreation facility or program?

Yes No

If yes, what facilities and/or programs? _____

NOVEMBER 16, 2007, is the deadline for returning this survey by mail to- Chatham County Parks and Recreation, 90 East Street (PO Box 1783), Pittsboro, NC 27312; by FAX to- (919) 542-0987; by hand delivery to - Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department; or by email to - tracy.burnett@ncmail.net.

Optional

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____



Community Needs Assessment Results Map 2 Priority Key

First Priorities	Second Priorities
Northwest District Park area	
1. Preserve hardwoods 2. Safe and secure environment 3. Gym 4. Horse Trails 5. Horse Trails 6. Horse Trails 7. Horse Trails	1. Use natural materials 2. Softball complex 3. Sports complex 4. Camping 5. Horse Trails 6. Hiking 7. Hiking 8. Hiking
Northeast District Park area	
8. Ball Field 9. Paved Walking Trail 10. Indoor Pool 11. Tree buffer 12. Walking/jogging trails 13. Disc Golf 14. Tennis Courts 15. Passive recreation park 16. Ultimate Frizbee 17. Playgrounds 18. Soccer 19. Hiking Trails 20. Football Fields	9. Mountain Biking 10. Paved Walking Trail 11. Indoor Pool 12. Too much lighting concern 13. Security/maintenance concern 14. Erosion concern 15. Basketball Courts










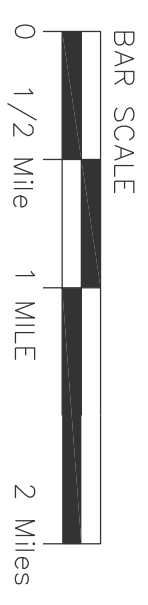
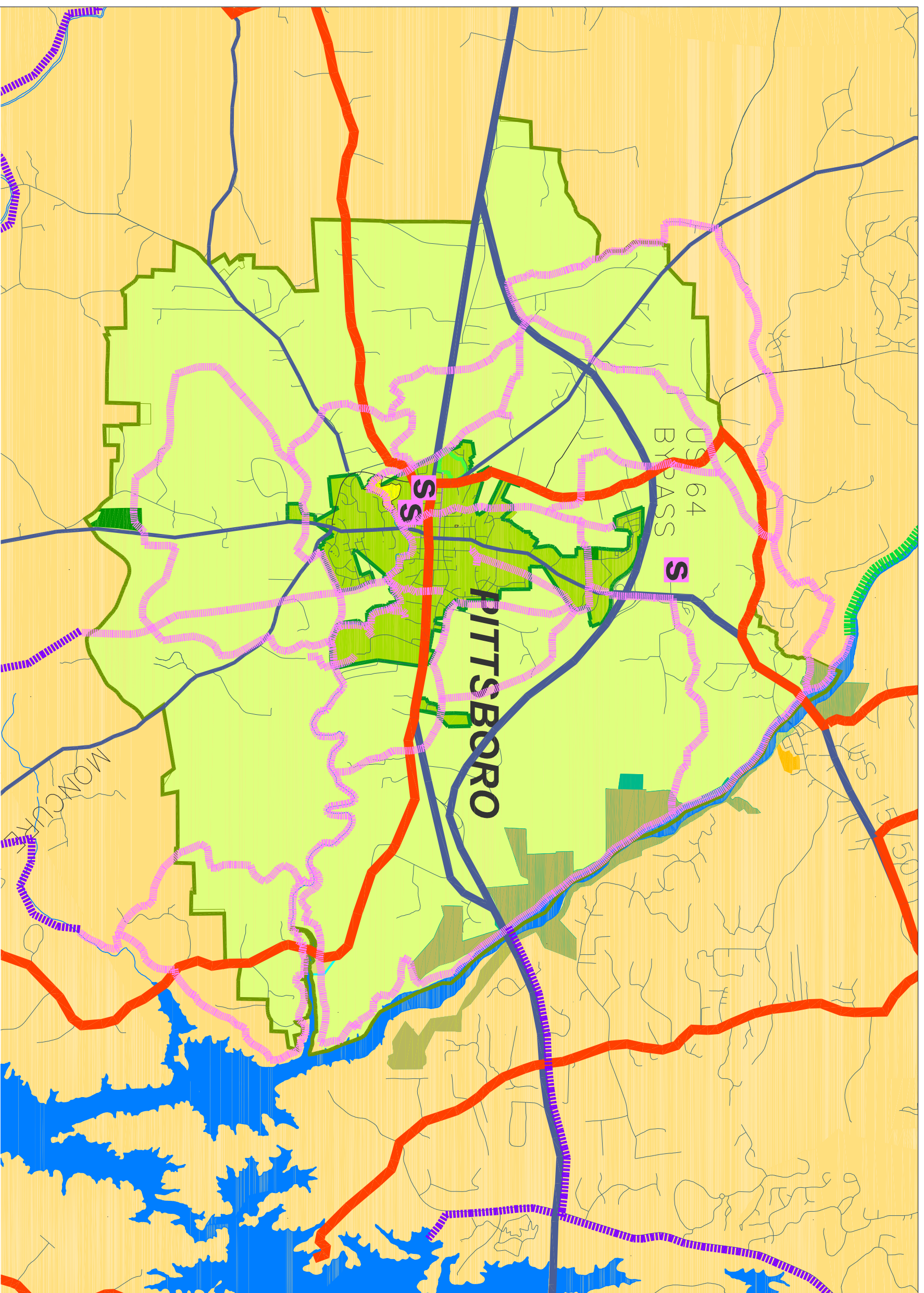
Southwest District Park area	
21. Community Building at Southwest	16. Paved Basketball and Tennis Courts
22. Horse Trail from Bonlee to Bennett	17. Horse/Wagon Trails
23. Horse Trails and Parking	18. Horse Trail from Bonlee to Bennett
24. Horse Trails and Parking	19. Buy/Lease Flat Woods for Horse Trails
25. Horse Trails and Parking	
26. Horse/Wagon Trails and Parking	
27. Horse/Wagon Trails	
28. Horse Trail from Bonlee to Bennett	
29. Horse Trail from Bonlee to Bennett	
Chatham County	
30. Extend other County's horse trails into Chatham County	20. Sportsplex along US 15/501
31. Horse Trails	21. Connecting Bike Loop
32. Horse Trails	22. Hiking Trails
33. Horse Trails	23. Bike and Hike Trails along Haw River
34. Big Park	24. Senior Citizen Activities
35. Kayaking Input	
36. Land for Multi-use Park	
37. Multi-sports Facility	
38. Wide lanes, shoulders on all Chatham County Bike Routes	

Chatham County North Carolina

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009-2029

Map 5 Town of Pittsboro Greenways/Trails

- Existing Trails**
-  Pittsboro/Siler City Trails
 -  American Tobacco Trail
 -  Chatham County Bike Routes
 -  National Bike Routes
- Proposed Trails**
-  Chatham County Greenways/Trails
 -  Pittsboro/Siler City Greenways/Trails
 -  Others

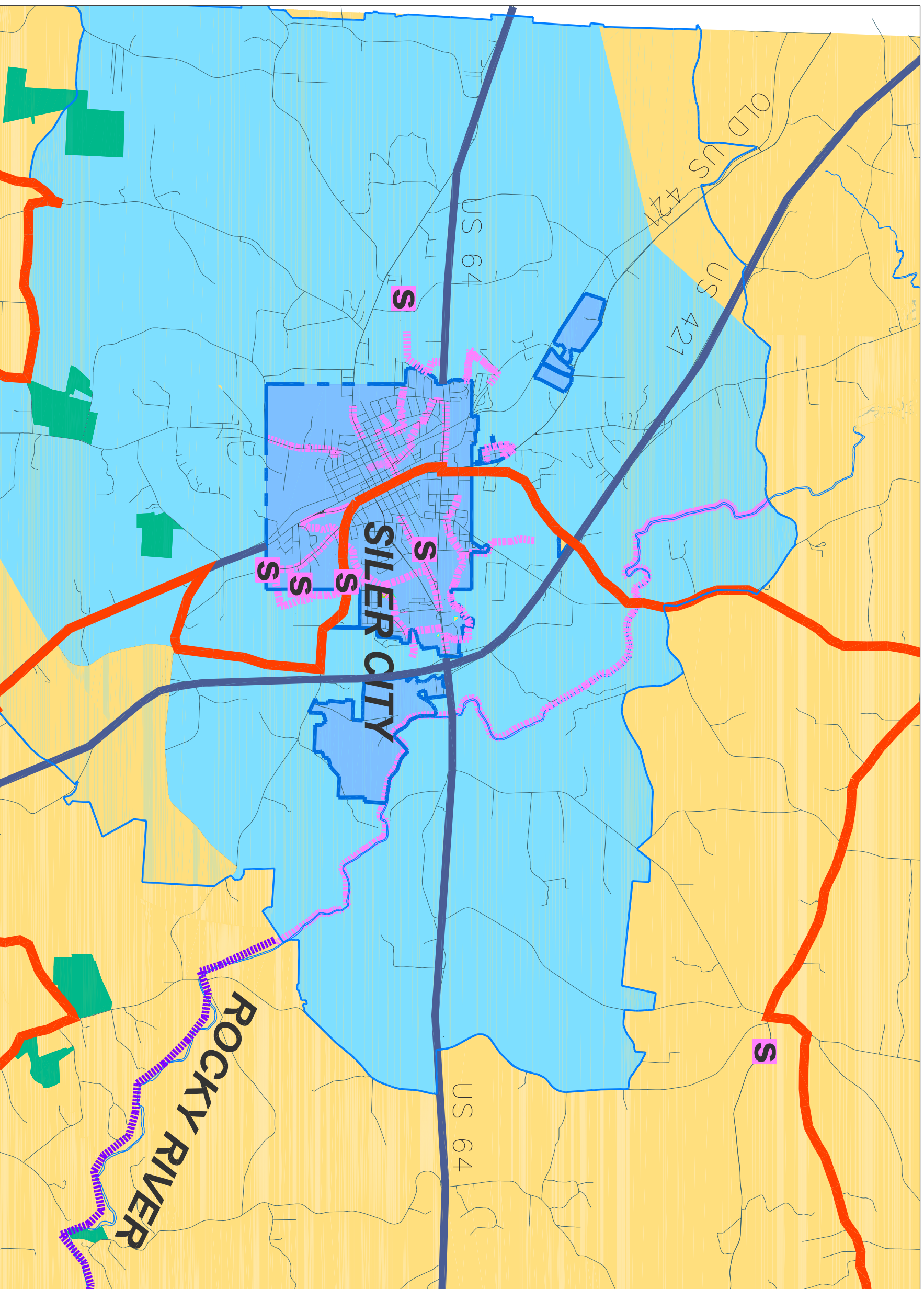



McGill ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERING · PLANNING · FINANCE
1236 19TH ST., LANE NW HICKORY, NC PH. (828) 328-2024

Chatham County North Carolina

Parks and Recreation Master
Plan, 2009-2029

Map 4
Siler City Greenways/Trails

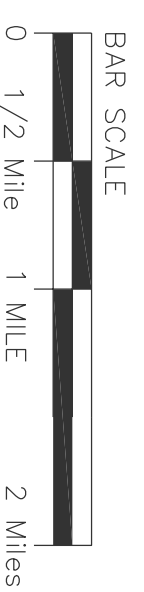


Existing Trails

- Pittsboro/Siler City Trails
- American Tobacco Trail
- Chatham County Bike Routes
- National Bike Routes

Proposed Trails



















- - - Chatham County Greenways/Trails
- - - Pittsboro/Siler City Greenways/Trails
- - - Others

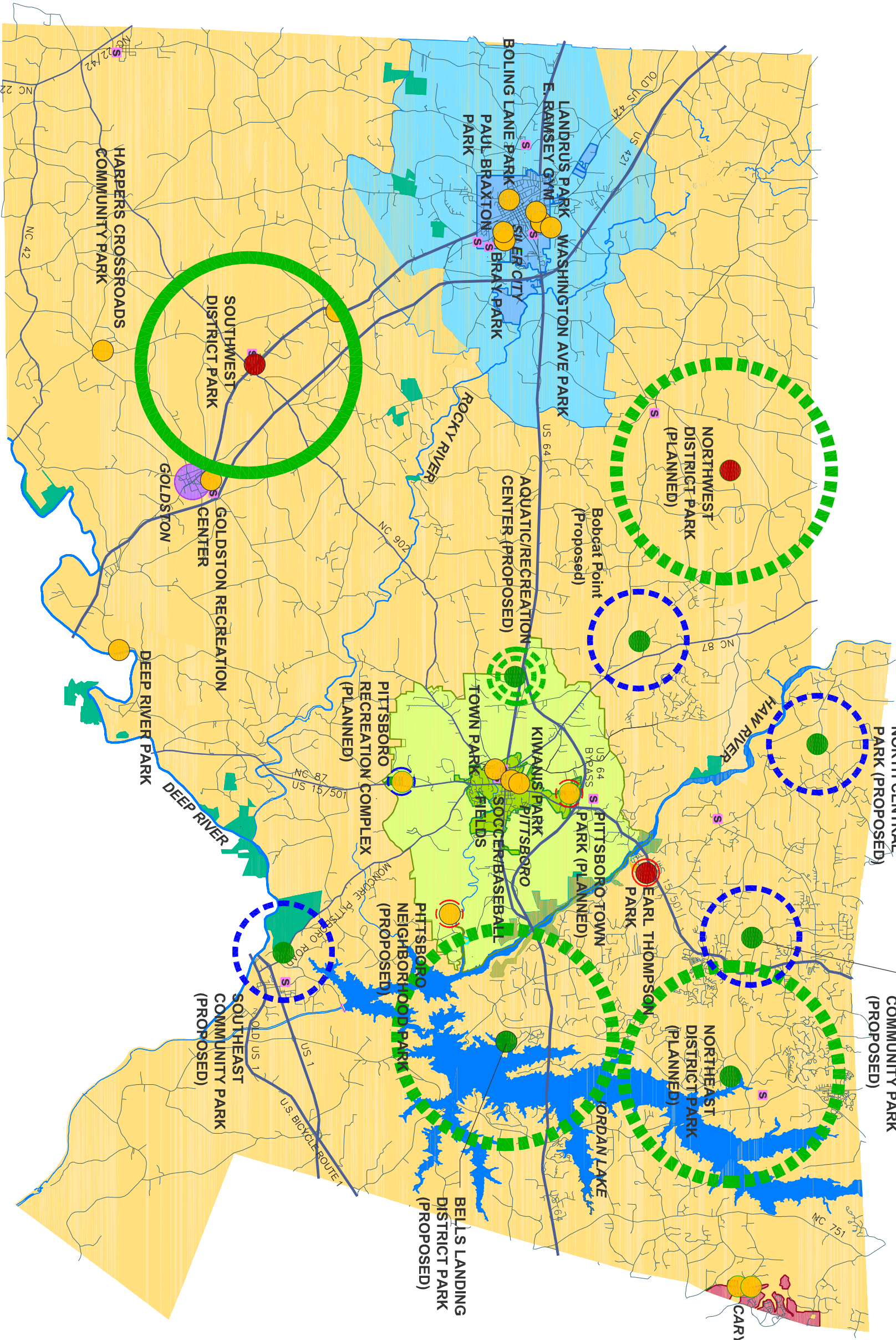


Chatham County North Carolina

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009-2029

Map 1
Park Facility Service Areas

-  Existing Neighborhood Park: 3/4 to 1 Mile Radius
-  Existing Community Park: 1 to 2 Mile Radius
-  Existing District Park: 1 to 2 1/2 Mile Radius
-  Proposed Neighborhood Park Location
-  Proposed Community Park Location
-  Proposed District Park
-  Proposed Parks
-  Existing County Parks
-  Other Owned Parklands
-  Triangle Lands Conservancy Land
-  Haw River Recreation Area (State)
-  Pittsboro Town Limits
-  Town of Pittsboro ETJ
-  Siler City Town Limits
-  Town of Siler City ETJ
-  Goldston Town Limits
-  Cary Town Limits
-  Existing School



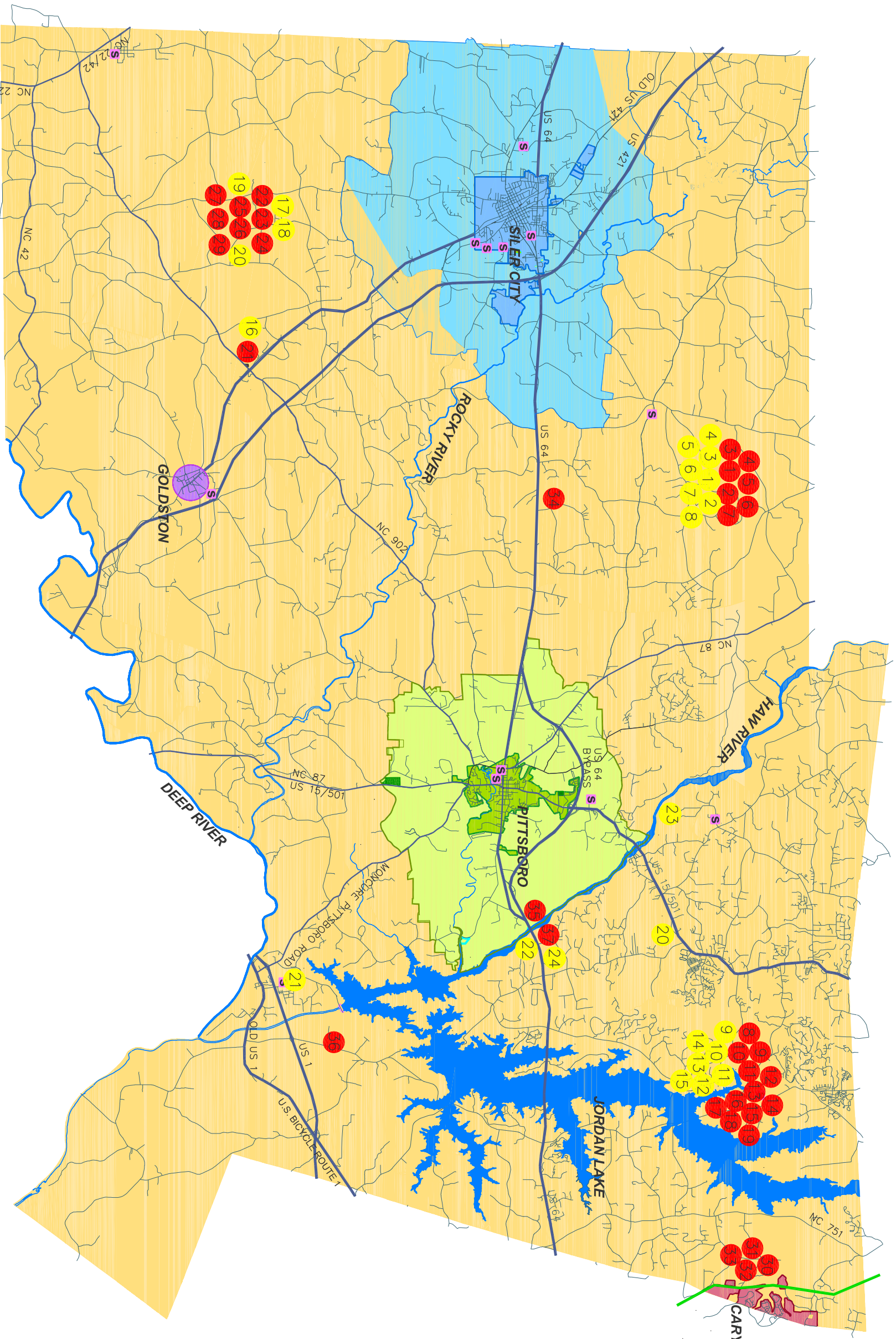
BAR SCALE



Chatham County North Carolina

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009-2029

Map 2 Community Needs Assessment Results



- First Priority
- Second Priority

- Pittsboro Town Limits
- Town of Pittsboro ETJ
- Siler City Town Limits
- Town of Siler City ETJ
- Goldston Town Limits
- Cary Town Limits
- Existing School



Chatham County North Carolina

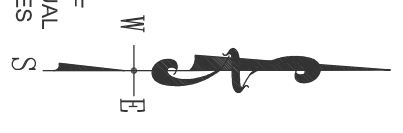
Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2009-2029

Map 3
Greenways/Trails



Note: Though trails are shown as a single line down one side of the river, it is possible that the trail travels down both sides of the river, or down the opposite side of the river. Many of the riverine trails are still under development.

- Proposed Parks
 - Existing County Parks
 - Other Owned Parklands
 - Existing Trails**
 - Pittsboro/Siler City Trails
 - American Tobacco Trail
 - Chatham County Bike Routes
 - Chatham County Bike Routes
 - National Bike Routes
 - Proposed Trails**
 - - - Chatham County Greenways/Trails*
 - - - Pittsboro/Siler City Greenways/Trails*
 - - - Others*
- *TRAIL ROUTES SHOWN ARE MEANT TO REPRESENT ONLY THE GENERAL ROUTE OF PLANNED AND EXISTING TRAILS. THE ACTUAL TRAILS MAY EXTEND UP ONE OR BOTH SIDES OF STREAMS/RIVERS AND ROADWAYS.

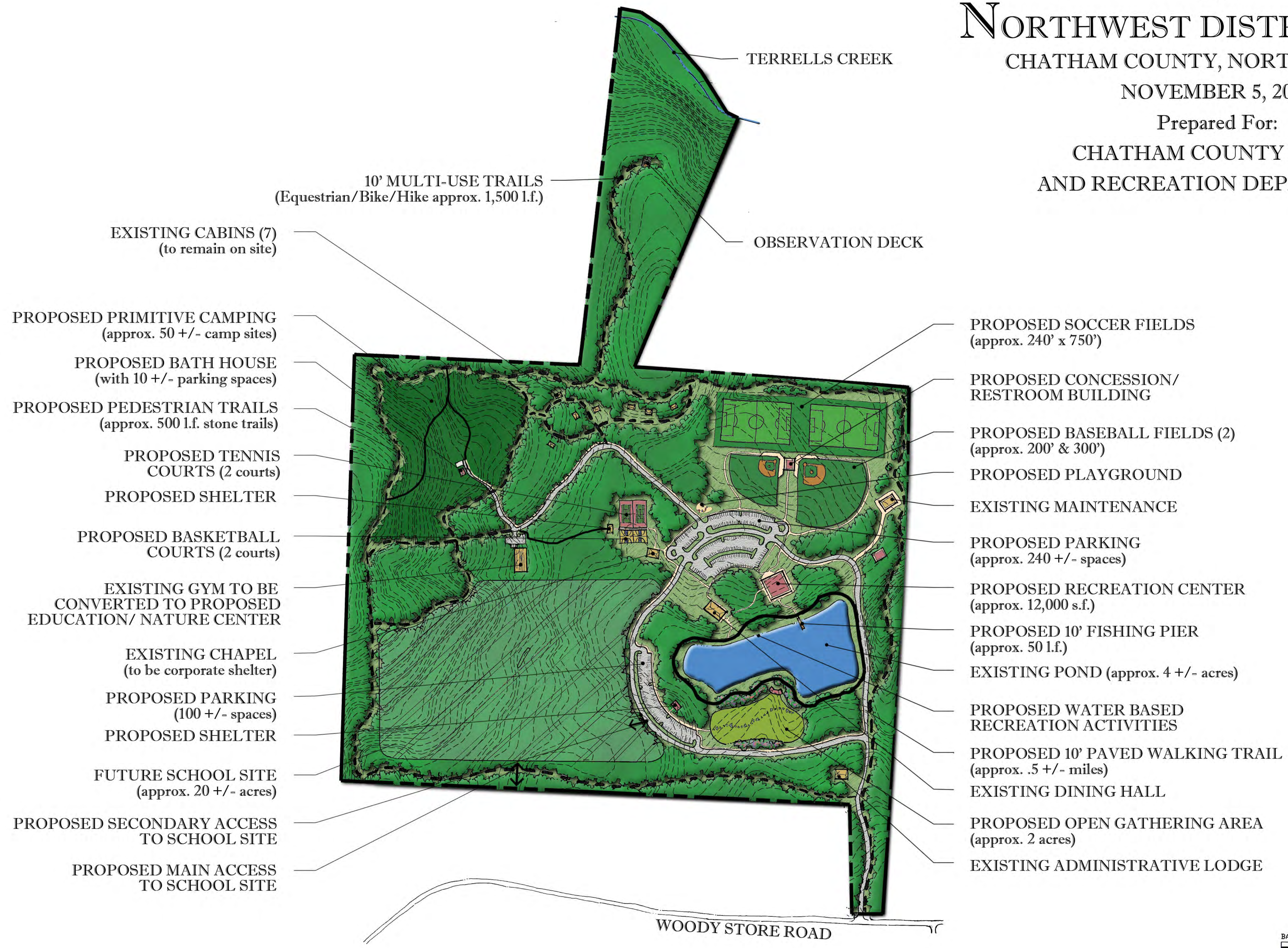


CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN
 For:
NORTHWEST DISTRICT PARK

CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 5, 2008

Prepared For:
 CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS
 AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



TERRELLS CREEK

10' MULTI-USE TRAILS
 (Equestrian/Bike/Hike approx. 1,500 l.f.)

EXISTING CABINS (7)
 (to remain on site)

OBSERVATION DECK

PROPOSED PRIMITIVE CAMPING
 (approx. 50 +/- camp sites)

PROPOSED SOCCER FIELDS
 (approx. 240' x 750')

PROPOSED BATH HOUSE
 (with 10 +/- parking spaces)

PROPOSED CONCESSION/
 RESTROOM BUILDING

PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN TRAILS
 (approx. 500 l.f. stone trails)

PROPOSED BASEBALL FIELDS (2)
 (approx. 200' & 300')

PROPOSED TENNIS
 COURTS (2 courts)

PROPOSED PLAYGROUND

PROPOSED SHELTER

EXISTING MAINTENANCE

PROPOSED BASKETBALL
 COURTS (2 courts)

PROPOSED PARKING
 (approx. 240 +/- spaces)

EXISTING GYM TO BE
 CONVERTED TO PROPOSED
 EDUCATION/ NATURE CENTER

PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER
 (approx. 12,000 s.f.)

EXISTING CHAPEL
 (to be corporate shelter)

PROPOSED 10' FISHING PIER
 (approx. 50 l.f.)

PROPOSED PARKING
 (100 +/- spaces)

EXISTING POND (approx. 4 +/- acres)

PROPOSED SHELTER

PROPOSED WATER BASED
 RECREATION ACTIVITIES

FUTURE SCHOOL SITE
 (approx. 20 +/- acres)

PROPOSED 10' PAVED WALKING TRAIL
 (approx. .5 +/- miles)

PROPOSED SECONDARY ACCESS
 TO SCHOOL SITE

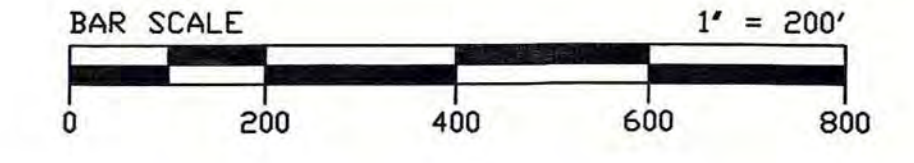
EXISTING DINING HALL

PROPOSED MAIN ACCESS
 TO SCHOOL SITE

PROPOSED OPEN GATHERING AREA
 (approx. 2 acres)

EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE LODGE

WOODY STORE ROAD



CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN
 For:
Northeast District PARK
 CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 DECEMBER, 2007
 Prepared For:
 CHATHAM COUNTY



- Existing Stream
- Existing Wooded Area
- 300' Baseball Field
- Multi-Purpose Field
180' x 360'
- Walking Trail
- Concession /
Restrooms
- Playground
- Parking
+/- 100 spaces
- Maintenance Area
- Disc Golf

- Multi-Purpose Field
180' x 360'
- Concessions/Restrooms
- Existing Pond
- Parking
(+/- 75 spaces)
- Tennis
2 courts
- Playground
- Horseshoe Pits
- Picnic Shelters
- Open Space
- Recreation Center
- Basketball
2 courts
- Parking
(+/- 75 spaces)
- Trail Connector
- Walking Trail
- Main Entrance
- Disc Golf

