



# Goldsboro Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

December 2008

**Prepared by**



Eastern Carolina Council

## **Acknowledgements**

The staff of the Eastern Carolina Council would like to acknowledge those individuals that have eagerly participated and generously given of their time and talents to assist in the data collection and development of this comprehensive plan. The assistance of the staff of the City of Goldsboro and its Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission members was invaluable throughout this process.

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The outcome desired for this project is a robust Parks & Recreation Program for the citizens of the City of Goldsboro that includes adequate facilities. Using this comprehensive plan as a guide will facilitate achieving that objective.

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## Executive Summary

This Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Goldsboro was prepared for the Goldsboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission with the assistance of the Eastern Carolina Council, and the staff of the City of Goldsboro's Parks & Recreation Department. This ten-year plan is intended to provide a road map for needed improvements to parks and recreation facilities to meet the current and future needs of the citizens of Goldsboro.

The Goldsboro Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for 174 acres of parks, 140 acres of greenways, and 3 acres of other property. Additionally they maintain two recreation centers and one golf course (135 acres).

The Parks & Recreation Department is in a transition period. The interim Director and the new Parks Superintendent appear eager to receive this evaluation and to make plans to improve the parks. **The department has already begun acting on the early recommendations, based on available resources.**

As part of the plan's preparation, a survey was distributed to Goldsboro residents in December 2007. Participants were asked about their interest in a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as their interest in a various recreation programming possibilities. These preferences should be taken into account. In July 2008 when the staff and members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission visited ten of the parks in the system, they randomly interviewed people who were using the park that day. These comments have been incorporated into this report.

The public desires:

- Walking Trails (68%)
- Fishing Area (60.4%)
- Lake/pond feature (60.4%)
- Outdoor Concerts (55.3%)
- Picnic Shelters for Families (45.5%)
- Festivals (44.8%)
- Bike trails (44.7%)
- Fitness/health programs (44%)
- Boat/canoe/kayak rentals (43.5%)
- Indoor Swimming Pool (42.3%)
- Amphitheater (41.9%)
- Water Splash Park (40.6%)
- Hiking Trails (40%)

In April 2008 the Parks Superintendent and an Eastern Carolina Council's staff member conducted an initial tour of the parks and recreation facilities and sites. An additional visit was made to the parks (excluding Stoney Creek Park, the recreation centers and the golf course) on July 26, 2008. The Director of Parks & Recreation, some members of the Recreation Advisory Commission, the Parks Superintendent, the Recreation Superintendent and ECC staff person viewed each park and made some preliminary recommendations for upgrades and other changes. These recommendations have been included in this plan.

The recreation centers are clean and the lawns at the various parks are kept mowed. The playgrounds for young children are of a newer type that meets safety standards. In general, the Goldsboro municipal parks and recreational facilities appear to be suffering from a long period of deferred maintenance and "old age." In addition to general condition issues, vandalism and graffiti are recurring problems. These statements can be verified by a windshield tour of the parks or by a review of the photos in this document. The appearance and condition of the parks may be contributing to the perception that they are not safe (comments on survey).

### **Recommendations**

Based on the review of the standards the Parks and Recreation Commission members are of the opinion that there is adequate acreage in the system to accommodate the need for additional amenities desired by the citizens as indicated on the survey. The priority of improvements should follow the order of the parks as listed below:

- WA Foster Recreation Center
- Herman Park
- Mina Weil Park
- HV Brown Park
- Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course
- Peacock Park
- Berkeley Park
- North End Park
- Fairview Park
- South End Park
- Henry C. Mitchell Park
- Quail Park

The citizens of the City of Goldsboro deserve to have recreational facilities that they and the Council can be proud of. Addressing the recommendations in this report, adequately funding the department so it can bring the parks and facilities up to standard, and adequately funding the department's Capital Improvement Plan will result in the improve of the overall condition and appearance of the parks and recreational facilities.

## **Section 1: Introduction**

The City of Goldsboro is located in Wayne County, NC and is the county seat. It was founded in 1787 as Waynesborough. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad figured prominently in the city's history. As the town grew, it eventually was named "Goldsborough's Junction" after Major Matthew T. Goldsborough, an Assistant Chief Engineer with the railroad line. By 1847 when the town became incorporated it was known as Goldsborough because of the railroad the town played a key role in the Civil War. In 1869 the town's name was officially changed to Goldsboro. The town did not really begin to boom until 1942 when Seymour Johnson Air Force Base opened. The City is bordered on the south by the Neuse River and on the west by the Little River.

Goldsboro is the site of historic venues such as Goldsboro Union Station (railroad), Wayne County Courthouse, Willow Dale Cemetery, Waynesborough Historical Village, Goldsborough Bridge Battleground, Wayne County Museum, and the Cherry Hospital Museum.

### *Goldsboro Parks & Recreation Department*

It is the mission of the Goldsboro Parks & Recreation Department "to provide a variety of recreation and leisure activities for a diverse population. We maintain a system of parks, indoor facilities and open spaces for the enjoyment, safety and well-being of all citizens."

The Department's vision is "to enrich the quality of life for our diverse and growing community while establishing a high standard of excellence in our programs, activities, parks and facilities."

The Department's values are communicated in this statement, "Our organization values excellent service to our citizens, innovative recreational programming, professional behavior, and development, maintaining attractive parks and facilities, and program evaluations to ensure continuous improvements."

The Department's motto is "We Make Play Happen!"

## **Section 2: Trends in Parks & Recreation**

In this section the trends impacting parks & recreation will be discussed.

### *Obesity*

“One trend that has a negative impact on outdoor recreation demand is increased obesity. In the United States, obesity has risen at an epidemic rate in the past 20 years. Research indicates that the situation is worsening...Addressing overweight and obesity has become a national health objective.”

(<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp.html>) At the time this plan was being drafted, there is a concern about child obesity and funding is being made available to combat that issue. The City would be well advised to capitalize on this issue as funding becomes available.

### *Longevity and aging of population*

“People are living longer...the trend of increased life expectancy is projected to continue. Lifestyle choices, including participating in recreation and exercise, can affect an individual’s life span.” They are also likely to be healthier at all ages and healthier people are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation creating additional demand for outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp.html>

“Between 2010 and 2020, the number of citizens 65 and older is projected to increase by 35%...Retired persons often have more free time than other adults, and, to a lesser extent, more financial resources...Increased demand can therefore be expected for activities that have a high participation by older Americans. These include walking, sightseeing, attending family gatherings, visiting a beach or waterside, picnicking, visiting a historic site or nature center, birdwatching and attending sporting events. Older Americans also participate in a wide variety of other outdoor recreation activities including wildlife viewing, attending concerts, nature study, fishing, swimming, motor boating, biking and golf.”

[http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp/scorp\\_ch4.pdf](http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp/scorp_ch4.pdf)

The aging population, the anticipated influx of retirees and the military retirees from nearby Seymour Johnson Air Force Base mean that additional recreational facilities will be needed to serve this group. As the population ages, their recreational needs become more passive and the need for senior-friendly (and ADA compliant) facilities increases.

### *Outdoor Recreation Participation in North Carolina*

“The five most popular outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina are walking for pleasure, driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, participating in beach activities, and visiting historical sites. Three out of every four households participated in walking for pleasure at least once in the past 12 months. In addition to the five most popular

activities, over fifty percent of the households responding to a 1989 survey participated at least once in the following activities: swimming (in lakes, rivers, or oceans), visiting natural areas, picnicking, attending sports events, visiting zoos, and freshwater fishing.

“The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey was mailed to 3,100 randomly selected residents in the spring of 1989. Forty-five percent, or 1,399 people, returned completed surveys. Each person receiving the survey was asked to estimate the number of times that household members had participated in each of 43 activities. The survey results provide good insight into the current participation of North Carolinians in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. The survey results also closely mirror those of the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment conducted in 1994-1995 and 2000.” <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jone/trend.pdf>

“Birdwatching has had the largest percentage increase of any activity tracked by the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, growing 235.9% since 1982.” The City might establish a birdwatching trail given the amount of greenway that it has and the fact that it is a bird sanctuary.  
[http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp/scorp\\_ch4.pdf](http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp/scorp_ch4.pdf)

North Carolina is concerned about survival of its natural diversity. Habitats are being destroyed as developers seize the opportunity to create new communities in Wayne County and Goldsboro. A list of threatened and endangered species and their habitats can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/nc-es/es/cntylist/wayne.html> As the City is able to identify areas where these habitats and species exist, it would behoove the City, if feasible, to purchase these parcels (or partner with a conservation group) to protect this habitat for future generations to enjoy.

#### *The Benefits of Local Recreation and Park Services*

“In a 1992 nationwide study conducted at Pennsylvania State University, researchers compiled a listing of the benefits of local recreation and park services as perceived by the American public. Participants in the study could be divided into two groups: users of local recreation and park services and non-users. Surprisingly, 71% of non-users said they received some benefit from their communities' parks and recreational services.”

Benefits identified by non-users were as follows:

- Availability
- Keeping kids off the streets
- Keeping kids occupied
- Community awareness
- Giving kids a place to go
- Feeling good because of being there
- Exercise, fitness & conditioning

- Good for kids
- Kids' enjoyment
- Having a place to go

Individual and family benefits identified by users of local parks and recreation services were numerous.

### Conclusions of the Study

- The vast majority of the American public uses local recreation and park services.
- Park and playground use is the most common use.
- Park and recreational service use continues throughout the life cycle. Recreational participation declines with age, but park use does not. In fact, people between the ages of 65 and 74 use local parks more frequently than any other age group from those 15 and older.
- The majority of people that do not use parks and recreational services still perceive substantial benefit from them.
- Sixty percent of the study's respondents perceive a "great deal" of community benefit from such services.
- Seventy-five percent of respondents said that "local recreation and park services are worth \$45.00 or more per member of their household" per year.
- Local parks and recreation are associated with a sense of community. Community level benefits are considered more important than individual or household level benefits." <http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/1992/ip921137.html>

"The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space - How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line"

- Growing Smart
  - Development actually costs towns more than it gives because schools, streets, police officers, and other necessary municipal services drain more than they are required to pay in taxes.
  - Open space preservation helps communities grow smart, preventing the higher costs of unplanned development.
  - Open space reduces pressure to construct on valuable farmland and natural areas on the urban fringe.
  - A community must decide which lands to protect for recreation, community character, the conservation of natural resources, and open space. This in turn determines where compact development will occur.
- Attracting Investment

- Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
- Corporate CEOs say that employee quality of life is the third most important factor in locating a new business.
- Small company owners say recreation, parks, and open space are the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business.
- Arizona's "outdoor lifestyle and recreation opportunities" were cited as the reason for the location or expansion of 70 firms in that state.
- In Salem, Oregon, land next to a greenbelt was found to be worth approximately \$1,200 per acre more than land just 1,000 feet away.
- In Oakland, California, a 3 mile greenbelt around a lake at the City's center added \$41 million to the surrounding area's property values.
- Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California, increases the value of nearby property from \$500 million to \$1 billion while generating \$5-\$10 million in annual property taxes.
- Across the U.S., access to parks and open spaces has become a measure of community wealth - a tool for attracting businesses and residents by guaranteeing quality of life and economic health.
- Revitalizing Cities
  - Urban parks, gardens, and recreational open space stimulate commercial growth and promote inner-City revitalization.
- Boosting Tourism
  - Open space boosts local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation.
  - Across the U.S., parks, rivers, scenic lands, wildlife areas, and open space help to support the \$502 billion tourism industry.
  - According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, outdoor recreation generated at least \$40 billion in 1996, creating 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion in annual wages.
  - Because tourists cite natural beauty and quality of view to be the most important criteria in selecting a destination, many communities are now striving to protect scenic views and vistas by moving utility wires underground and protecting trees and historic buildings.
  - In 1993, the National Park Service estimated that national park visitors contributed more than \$10 billion in direct and indirect benefits to local economies.
  - According to the National Park Service, the tourism/leisure industry will soon become the leading U.S. industry of any kind at its present rate of growth.

- Wildlife enthusiasts visiting our nation's parks also contribute significantly to the economy. Sport fishing generated \$108.4 billion in 1996, supporting 1.2 million jobs. Sport fishing produced \$2.4 billion in state taxes (nearly 1% of all state tax receipts) and \$3.1 billion in federal income taxes. People interested in birds and wildlife photography contributed another \$85.4 billion to the U.S. economy
- Safeguarding the Environment
  - Open space conservation is often the cheapest way to safeguard drinking water, clean the air, and achieve other environmental goals.
  - One acre of wetland is estimated to generate \$150,000 to \$200,000 in economic benefits.
  - Forested lands control erosion, help clean the air of pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gasses, help shelter our houses from heat and wind.
  - Wetlands serve as wildlife habitat, absorb storm and flood water, and reduce pollutant and sediment loads in watershed runoff. Without wetlands, society would have to pay for these services. With wetlands, they are free.”

[http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About\\_Us/benefits.php#Benefits%20of%20Local%20Parks%20&%20Rec](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About_Us/benefits.php#Benefits%20of%20Local%20Parks%20&%20Rec)

*Benchmarking and Performance Measures*

In order to evaluate how the Parks & Recreation Department is performing, it is necessary to measure performance against a benchmark. The following information was taken from the Executive Summary of the Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2006/2007 conducted by North Carolina State University’s Recreation Resources Services.

“The source of funds by percentage for the 05/06 budget for all reporting Parks and Recreation Towns was 71% from the general fund, 11% from grants, 10 % from fees & charges and 8% from other.”

This is a table of average (mean) expenditures for a Municipal Parks & Recreation Department that serves a population between 25,000 and 49,999 in FY04/05: (top line is the mean, the bottom line is Goldsboro’s on that same report)

<b>Salaries</b>	<b>All Other Direct Spending</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Land, Equipment &amp; Existing Structures</b>
\$1,124,047	\$1,150,172	None reported	\$521,115
\$1,581,555	\$905,743	None reported	\$274,005

In the Southeast NC, in FY 06/07 the average (mean) per capita expenditures was \$53.23—the lowest of all NC geographic areas.

Based on park type for municipalities of similar size, the following maintenance staff is needed per acre:

<b>Park type</b>	<b>Avg. number of maintenance staff per park</b>
Mini-park	0.65
Neighborhood	3.80
Community	2.70

In FY05/06, the mean number of Parks & Recreation employees reported by municipalities of similar size was 26 full time and 143 part-time.

The Capital Improvement Plans for a similar sized municipality average:

In years 1-3	\$2,624,726
In years 3-5	\$3,601,452
In years 5-10	\$5,489,490.

The top line of this table is the mean for municipalities of similar size for the FY05/06. The second line is what Goldsboro reported:

<b>Operating per capita</b>	<b>Capital per capita</b>	<b>Total per capita</b>
\$65.06	\$10.43	\$74.18
\$70.22	\$2.00	\$72.22

In FY06/07 Goldsboro reported spending \$65.14 per capita for operating costs and \$7.18 per capita for capital costs for a total of \$72.31 per capita total.

The mean operating expenditures in agencies of similar size include (top is the mean, the bottom are the figures that Goldsboro reported:

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Contracted personnel</b>	<b>Contracted operations</b>	<b>Travel/training</b>	<b>Supplies/ Material</b>	<b>Maint./ Repair</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$1,447,326	\$69,763	\$124,358	\$11,154	\$161,117	\$222,785	\$496,202	\$2,492,294
\$1,667,647	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,750	\$398,988	\$132,212	\$497,045	\$2,705,142

Similar sized municipalities reported the following average revenues:

<b>Fees &amp; charges</b>	<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Facility rentals</b>	<b>Federal Grants</b>	<b>State Grants</b>	<b>Local Grants</b>
\$393,155	\$21,347	\$31,320	None reported	None reported	None reported

<b>Other Local Governments</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Mandatory land dedication</b>	<b>Hotel/motel tax</b>	<b>other</b>
None reported	\$33,684	None reported	None reported	\$234,596

Similar sized municipalities reported that they employed an average of 26 full time and 143 part time staff.

The above information can be found at:  
[http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS\\_mcprss06\\_Salary.pdf](http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss06_Salary.pdf) and  
[http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS\\_mcprss07\\_facilities.pdf](http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss07_facilities.pdf)

While not addressed in this report, information on specific fees and charges can be found at:  
[http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS\\_mcprss05\\_Fees.pdf](http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/RRS_mcprss05_Fees.pdf)

*Technology and Productivity*

The City’s productivity could be enhanced with the use of technology and computer programs. For example, scheduling of facilities is done by hand when there are computer programs available that specifically process these types of requests. There should also be a method for the public to pay directly online via credit cards, especially if the City goes online with a catalog of items to purchase or items to purchase as memorials.

*Parks and Recreation Public Input*

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission is a valuable asset for assistance in helping the City of Goldsboro to develop and execute its plan for parks and recreational facilities and programs for the citizens. Goldsboro’s Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission has been actively engaged in the development of this document.

## **Section 3: Population Analysis**

The demographic information in this section was from the NC Demographer's webpage and from the US Census Bureau's website.

### *Introduction*

Demographics for the City of Goldsboro are central to the planning process.

Changes in population and local demographics create differing demands for recreational amenities—active and passive.

The City of Goldsboro is located in Wayne County. Goldsboro is the county seat and it has a population of 37,396 residents (NC Demographer July 1, 2007 municipal estimates). This represents 32.5% of the population of Wayne County. The City serves as a regional center for activities for people living in Wayne County.

### *Population and Growth Trends*

#### *1. Population*

Goldsboro, according to the NC Demographer's 2007 Population Estimates for July 1, 2008, has a population of 37,396. Population projections are not created for municipalities. For the purpose of this document, it is assumed that population of the City of Goldsboro will continue to represent 32.5% of the population of Wayne County. Using that percentage and the 2020 population projection for Wayne County of 120,056 (NC Demographer), then the population of the City of Goldsboro in 2020 would be 39,018. These two population figures are used throughout this report (37,396 and 39,018).

#### *2. Gender*

According to the 2000 Census, the gender of the population of the City was about even: 49.2% males and 50.8% females.

According to a 2005 Recreation Study in South Carolina, "Men and women demonstrate different patterns of recreational participation, with men exhibiting higher overall participation levels than women. Men were particularly more likely than women to participate in activities such as hunting, other shooting sports, hunting dog field trials, fresh water and salt water fishing, shellfishing or shrimping, camping, motorboating, waterskiing, jetskiing, and lake or river swimming. The activities for which women were more likely to participate than men tended to be more passive recreational activities, and included picnicking, visiting a museum, visiting a zoo, walking for pleasure or exercise, bird watching, visiting historical sites, and walking on a guided nature trail."

<http://www.scprrt.com/files/RPE/2005%20Rec%20Study%20Summary.pdf>

As the population ages, it is a known fact that women tend to outlive men, therefore when considering senior activities, it may be advantageous to focus more on those activities that women would participate in.

### *3. Racial Composition*

According to the Census 2000, 43% of the City's population is white and 52.2% is African American.

The South Carolina Recreation Study completed in 2005 shows that the participation patterns of blacks and whites differ significantly. Some of the largest differences in participation were in water-related or traditional outdoor activities, with whites more likely to participate than African Americans. These activities included motorboating, lake or river swimming, going to the beach to swim or sunbathe, camping, hiking, and hunting. The activities for which African American participation was higher than that of whites generally involved physically active sports, and included playing basketball, football, volleyball, and softball, as well as bicycling, jogging or running, and working out with weights or exercise machines.

<http://www.scprrt.com/files/RPE/2005%20Rec%20Study%20Summary.pdf>

Because a larger percent of the population is African American, the preferences of that race should be taken into account when the City's Parks & Recreation Department is making programmatic and facility decisions.

### *4. Families and Households*

The Census 2000 has the average family size of Goldsboro at 3.0 with 9,466 family units. There are 5,273 households with people under the age of 18, but only 2,802 have a married couple leading the household. In comparison 2,190 of those families are headed by females with no husband present. For the City's Parks & Recreation Department this might mean that there would be more children needing after school care, summer programs, and other services when school is not in session.

### *5. Poverty*

The Census 2000 shows that there are 1,450 families living below the poverty level. Given today's stressed economy, increased lay-offs and the rising cost of transportation (gas), more may be joining those ranks. The Parks & Recreation Department should consider those issues as it prices its various activities and plans programs.

The South Carolina Recreation Study done in 2005 shows that family income has a significant effect on participation in a number of recreational activities, with the general tendency being for those from higher income families to show higher participation rates

than those with lower incomes. Activities for which differences were particularly large across income groups included going to the beach to swim or sunbathe, visiting historical sites, and golf. Those activities for which the highest income group had the lowest participation rate or for which the differences across income groups were not statistically significant tended to be either team sports in which participation is relatively inexpensive (such as basketball, volleyball, football, baseball, softball, or soccer) or fairly standard, almost day-to-day activities (such as walking for pleasure or exercise, jogging or running, bird watching, or driving a motorcycle for pleasure).  
<http://www.scprt.com/files/RPE/2005%20Rec%20Study%20Summary.pdf>

## *6. Disabled*

According to the Census 2000 data, in Goldsboro there are 8,231 over the age of 5 with one or more disabilities. This represents 26.7%. This is considerably more than the national average of 19.3%. The City's Parks & Recreation Department needs to ensure that facilities are ADA compliant and that the programmatic needs of the disabled are taken into consideration.

## *7. Military*

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB) is located in the area. These military families are young and their children would participate in recreational activities. Even though SJAFB does have its own activities, the City's Parks & Recreation Department should provide programs that are of interest to military families.

Wherever there are military facilities there are those who are based there that retire from the service to live in the area. These military retirees tend to be younger.

### *Population Projections*

Births, deaths, and net migration are among the natural processes affecting population growth. Military, local, State, and Federal initiatives may also affect Goldsboro's population growth. Any significant change in SJAFB or the economy could impact the population of the City.

### *Implications*

North Carolina's population is getting older and Goldsboro will probably follow this trend. In the future, the baby boom generation and the desirability of Goldsboro as a retirement location may impact the type of recreation being sought by this population.

At the national level baby-boomers (born 1946-1964) will be reaching retirement age around the year 2008. An influx of retirees to the area has the potential to increase the need for services and infrastructure, including recreational facilities.

At the same time the retiree population will cause an increase in service oriented businesses and in healthcare. Young families will be attracted to the area to fill these jobs, so the recreational needs of all segments of the population will need to continue to be met.

This trend will also increase the need for and perhaps interest in health and wellness programs.

## Section 4: Public Input

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission undertook the task of surveying the area residents on their needs and ideas for recreation. The City of Goldsboro's Parks & Recreation Department contracted with the Eastern Carolina Council in October 2007 to conduct a Parks & Recreation Survey of its residents. This survey information is needed to complete the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan as well as to receive additional points on a Parks & Recreation Trust Fund grant application.

The City has approximately 38,000 residents. Approximately 14,000 copies of the Parks & Recreation Survey were mailed with the Water Department bills. Additionally the Parks & Recreation Department emailed the link to Survey Monkey (an online survey analysis program) to a number of groups and requested that they complete the survey online.

The survey was open for input through December 5, 2007. ECC staff entered 913 hard copies and 310 were entered directly online by individuals. The total return was 1,223. This represents 8.7% of the 14,000 mailed copies.

This is a synopsis of the highlights of the responses. The complete survey analysis is attached to this report as is a copy of the survey that was distributed.

- 2 zip codes represented >91% of respondents: 27530 and 27534
- 72.9% of those responding lived in the Goldsboro city limit
- 66.6% have lived in Goldsboro for >10 years
- 65.8% of respondents were female
- Ethnic groups: 63.7% were Caucasian and 31.7% were African American
- 45.8% of respondents had household incomes of >\$50,000
- The highest ranking **events/programs** desired by residents included
  - Outdoor concerts (55.3%)
  - Festivals (44.8%)
  - Fitness/health programs (44%)
  - Teen programs (36.6%)
  - Senior programs (34.9%)
  - Movies in the park (34.3%)
  - Summer activities (30.7%)

- The highest ranking **nature/family-oriented** activities desired by residents included:
  - Walking trail (68%)
  - Picnic shelters for families (45.5%)
  - Amphitheater (41.9%)
  - Botanical gardens (34.4%)
  - Large group picnic areas (33.4%)
  - Wildlife viewing area (32.9%)
  - Community garden (30.3%)
  
- The highest ranking **indoor facilities** desired by residents included:
  - Swimming pool (42.3%)
  - Fitness (37.8%)
  - Teen Center (36.5%)
  - Recreation Center (35.4%)
  - Exercise equipment room (34.5%)
  - Banquet room with kitchen (31.3%)
  - Ice skating/ice hockey rink (30.6%)
  
- The highest ranking **water-related** opportunities desired by residents included:
  - Fishing area (60.4%)
  - Lake/pond feature (60.4%)
  - Boat/canoe/kayak rentals (43.2%)
  
- The highest ranking **outdoor facilities** desired by residents included:
  - Bike trails (44.7%)
  - Water splash park (40.6%)
  - Hiking trails (40%)
  - Putt-putt golf course (31.9%)
  - Outdoor swimming pool (31.1%)
  - Stadium—multi-purpose (30.7%)
  - Playground (30.3%)

On the survey there was one open-ended question. The responses ran the full gamut, but here are some of the recurring themes:

- Thanks for asking—survey overdue
- “Any activity to help preserve...and promote family closeness....”
- Need teen activities
- Nothing for active young adults
- Several people offered to assist with planning recreation
- Incorporate multi-age ideas into parks and recreation
- Current facilities are outdated and in need of a facelift and routine maintenance
- Don’t feel safe in some parks

- Need more bike-friendly areas
- Need facilities and programs for handicapped and special needs populations
- Stoney Creek Park—options for development.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Consultant for this plan made a presentation to the Goldsboro City Council regarding the preliminary findings. This is a public meeting and the agenda is published in advance. Members of the public were present, but did not speak.

On July 26, 2008, the Director of Parks & Recreation, some members of the Recreation Advisory Commission, the Parks Superintendent, the Recreation Superintendent and ECC staff person viewed each park. People who were using the park were interviewed and their comments were incorporated into this report.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Consultant met with members of the Parks & Recreation Commission. This was an open public meeting, but no members of the public attended.

Meetings of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, Stoney Creek Alliance, Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course Committee and the Recreation Center Committee are all open meetings and the public is invited to attend and comment. Some of these meetings were covered by the press and articles appeared in the local media after the meetings to report the findings and activities. Information on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission is published on the Parks & Recreation Department's website [http://www.goldsboroparksandrec.com/advisory\\_comm.aspx](http://www.goldsboroparksandrec.com/advisory_comm.aspx) The public also has the option to contact the department through its website.

## **Section 5: Facilities and Standards**

### *General*

A field trip to each facility listed in this section took place in the April 2008. The Parks Superintendent accompanied the Eastern Carolina Council's staff member. The parks were found to be clean and mostly free of litter. The grass had been mowed. The restrooms that were visited were clean, although some lacked soap and hand drying equipment. An additional visit was made to the parks (excluding Stoney Creek Park, the recreation centers and the golf course) on July 26, 2008. The Director of Parks & Recreation, some members of the Recreation Advisory Commission, the Parks Superintendent, the Recreation Superintendent and ECC staff person viewed each park and made some preliminary recommendations for upgrades and other changes.

### *Playgrounds*

"Two sets of playground safety guidelines provide recommendations for creating safe public playgrounds: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety and the American Society for Testing and Materials' (ASTM) F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use. Protective surfacing is one of the most important safety factors on playgrounds. Shock absorbing surfaces can help disperse the impact of a child's falling body or head, thus reducing the risk of life-threatening injuries. An important aspect of reducing playground injuries is to provide cushioned surfaces beneath and around equipment at depths appropriate to equipment height. Limiting the height of playground equipment can also reduce the severity of a fall injury."

<http://www.safetypolicy.org/pm/playgrnd.htm>

The Goldsboro playgrounds have loose sand as the cushioning material. While this is an acceptable medium, heavy rains and use compact the sand. Proper maintenance of this sand requires it be loose and level. Sand requires regular raking to loosen the soil, to check for dangerous objects and to check for animal fouling. There are other surfaces that while more costly to install, provide a higher level of safety and less maintenance, according to several sources. It is recommended that a procedure be in place for playground maintenance and that it be stringently followed.

The Park Superintendent has just obtained his Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPPSI) certification. It is recommended that at least two persons on the staff be a CPSI.

### *Standards for Public Facilities*

In this section, each existing park and facility will be reviewed and needed or desired changes will also be discussed.

**Standards for Public Facilities  
City of Goldsboro**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>NRPA*</b>	<b>Standard Used</b>
<b>Fields</b>		
Baseball	1/5000	1/5000
Softball/Youth Fields	1/5000	1/5000
Football	1/20000	1/20000
Soccer	1/10000	1/10000
<b>Courts</b>		
Basketball	1/5000	1/5000
Tennis	1/2000	1/2000
Volleyball	1/5000	1/5000
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	1/20000	1/20000
<b>Outdoor Facilities</b>		
Picnic Shelters	N/A	1/3000
Active Rec Acres	N/A	5ac/1000
Passive Rec Acres	N/A	5ac/1000
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	1/20000	1/20000

\*National Recreation and Parks Association Standards  
[http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation\\_standards.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation_standards.htm)

These standards are suggestions and the needs and desires of the residents and users of the facilities must be taken into account when applying them. For example, while the standard for volleyball is one court per 5,000 in population, volleyball is no longer a popular sport and seven courts are not needed in Goldsboro.

Interest in tennis comes and goes over the years, depending on whether or not leagues are formed and lessons given on a regular basis.

### Public Facilities Needs

Facility	NRPA Standards	Existing Facilities	Current Demand 37,396	2020 Demand 39,018	Projected Additional Need
<b>Fields</b>					
Baseball	1/5000	3	7.48	7.8	5
Softball/Youth Fields	1/5000	6	7.48	7.8	2
Football	1/20000	1	1.87	1.95	1
Soccer	1/10000	2	3.74	3.9	2
<b>Courts</b>					
Basketball	1/5000	8	7.48	7.8	0
Tennis	1/2000	18	18.7	19.51	2
Volleyball	1/5000	0	7.48	7.8	8
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	1/20000	2	3.74	3.9	2
<b>Outdoor Facilities</b>					
Picnic Shelters	1/3000	13	12.47	13	0
Recreation Acres	10ac/1000*	311.79	373.96	390.18	78.39
Swimming Pool	1/20000	2	1.87	1.95	0
Special use	NA	1 golf course	NA	NA	NA

\* For the purpose of this table, the active and passive recreation areas were combined as the larger parks contain elements of both. (10 acres/1,000 population) The acreage includes the 135 acre golf course.

### Table of amenities by park

Park	Size in acres	Picnic Shelters	Play ground	Soccer	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Basket ball	Football	Pool	Walking Trail	Gazebo
Golf Course	135											
Berkeley	31.59	2	1			2		2				
Stoney Creek	30											
Herman	24.0	3	3				10					1
Weil	20.77	1	1	1	2		4		1	1	1	
Fairview	17.43	1	1	1		2		1				
Brown	14.0	3	1		1		2	2				
Peacock	14.0		1			1				1		
North End	9.0	2	1			1	2	2				
Quail	9.0	1	1									
South End	4.0		1					1				
Mitchell	1.0		1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>309.79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## The Parks

Various organizations and individual governmental agencies have established a varying range of definitions and standards including park type, size, access requirements, and site development guidelines. The standard was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, six to ten acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard recommended by the National Parks and Recreation Association and used by a majority of communities.

Experts caution against the use of standards without consideration for local factors such as existing land use, housing densities, demographic characteristics, economic feasibility, topography, and perceived needs. Other factors for consideration included proximity to other communities with park and recreation facilities, proximity to county park and recreation facilities, adequacy of public school facilities, and availability of church, private and other institutional facilities. Private facilities and those requiring membership were not factored into the mix as they are essentially unavailable to the City's economically disadvantaged or fixed income population.

Riparian, wetland, sensitive habitats, unusual topography and other natural constraints limit the usable land within certain parks. While these are certainly desirable resources, it limits what can be done on the parcel.

As minimum guidelines, the standards are intended to be used as a flexible planning tool. In practice, some standards will most likely not be met while others may be abundantly met due to need.

Mini, neighborhood, community parks, and district parks were the terms used for this assessment. The standards established in this plan have resulted from analysis of existing conditions, user needs, demographic information, and the desire by the community to support a program of park development and recreational programming. (See chart at the end of this section)

### *Mini Parks (less than 4 acres)*

A facility designed to provide recreational opportunities for a small area within a neighborhood. Generally, a mini-park is designed for young children, however in some cases it may be designed for aesthetic purposes. 1/2 acre is the recommended minimum size to provide adequate buffer space and diversity of uses; however, in some cases smaller sites may be developed. One or more mini-parks should be provided in each neighborhood. Mini parks have a service radius of up to .5 miles

### *Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)*

The neighborhood park is designed to serve the recreational needs of children 6-15 years of age, as well as adults, pre-schoolers, and seniors. It would typically include family picnic areas, open turf areas for informal sports and play equipment. Lighted

athletic fields would not be included. At least one neighborhood park should be provided in each neighborhood planning area. Neighborhood Parks have a service radius of .5 to .75 miles.

#### *Community Parks (13 to 50 acres)*

This park is designed to serve a wide variety of needs for youths and adults in both active and passive recreation. Facilities for sports fields, open turf areas, playgrounds, picnic areas, and off-street parking could include restrooms and related facilities. The park should also include facilities for pre-schoolers, young children, senior citizens and families. Components of neighborhood parks and mini-parks should be included in the Community Park. Lighted athletic fields for active sports are included. The Community Park includes facilities which serve a community the size of Goldsboro. Community Parks have a service radius of 1-2 miles.

#### *District Parks (over 50 acres)*

Open space areas characterized by significant natural resources which provide passive recreation opportunities for both the local population and the surrounding metropolitan area; small portions of a district park might be allocated to fulfill neighborhood park requirements. District Parks have a City-wide service radius. There are no district parks within the City border.

#### *Regional Parks*

Regional park is a term used for an area of land preserved on account of its natural beauty, historic interest, recreational use or other reason, and under the administration of a form of government. This can be a special park district covering a region crossing several jurisdictions or a park system of a defined region." A local example of a Regional Park is the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park which is located near Goldsboro.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional\\_park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_park)

"Cliffs of the Neuse State Park is located in Wayne County 13 miles south of Goldsboro off N.C. 111. The park lies near the western limit of North Carolina's coastal plain. The Cliffs of the Neuse State Park is the only state park in Wayne County or in the surrounding six counties: Johnston, Wilson, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin and Sampson counties. Its 751 acres serves an area of North Carolina that is underserved by public outdoor recreation lands, and therefore the park serves an important role in meeting the area's outdoor recreation needs. Park acreage includes the 90-foot tall cliffs from which the park gets its name. Cliffs of the Neuse State Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including picnicking, camping, swimming, boating, fishing, hiking and interpretive programs. The picnic area has 40 tables, grills, and a large picnic shelter. Nearby, an 11-acre lake has a sandy beach, diving platform, bathhouse and rowboats for rent. The Neuse River offers good fishing opportunities, and four short hiking trails allow exploration of the park. A small interpretive museum depicts the geology and natural history of the area. Thirty- five tent and trailer campsites, each with a picnic table and grill but no water or electrical hookups, are available for

overnight visitors. Water is available at several locations in the camping area, and a washhouse with hot showers and electricity is centrally located. A primitive camping area has also been set aside for organized groups.”

<http://www.ncparks.gov/About/plans/gmp/clne/2005/desc.pdf>

*Waynesborough Park*

In the 1980’s the Old Waynesborough Commission was formed to recreate the Village of Old Waynesborough. The Commission currently operates the Village along with a Park. The 134 acre Park has frontage along both the Neuse River and the Little River. It is located at 801 US 117 Bypass South.

*Special Facilities*

A facility such as a community center with recreation building, gymnasium, teen center, aquatic center, public access to public trust waters or other cultural or athletic facility that serves a specific need for a portion of the area population. These facilities may be constructed as part of a Community Park. Special Facilities have a City-wide service radius.

Goldsboro has three facilities that fit the special facility definition: W. A. Foster Recreation Center, the Herman Park Center and the Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course.

*Table for Park Types (Standards)*

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Acres/Pop 1000</b>	<b>Size in acres</b>	<b>Service Radius</b>
Mini	0.5 or less	Less than 4	0.25 to .5 miles
Neighborhood	.5 to 1.5	4 to 12	.5 to .75 miles
Community	4	13-50	1-2 miles
District	10	Over 50	City wide
Special Facility	varies	varies	City wide

*Projected need*

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>2008 Standards Ac/1000</b>	<b>Existing Facilities</b>	<b>Current Demand 37,396</b>	<b>2020 Demand 39,018</b>	<b>Projected Additional Need</b>
Mini	.5/1000 2 acres each	7.0 acres 2 each (1 closed)	18.7 acres 9 each	19.51 acres 10 each	12.51 acres 9 each
Neighborhood	1.0/1000 6 acres each	22.0 acres 3 each	37.4 acres 6 each	39.02 acres 7 each	21.02 acres 4 each
Community	4/1000 25 acres each	151.79 acres 7 each	149.58 acres 6 each	156.07 acres 6 each	4.28 acres 0 each
District	10/1000 50 acres	0 acres 0 each	374 acres 3 to 7	390 acres 3 to 8 each	390 acres Minimum of

	each		each		3
Special Facility	varies	3	3	4	1

*Matrix of Parks*

Park	Size in acres	Picnic Shelters	Play ground	Soccer	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Basket ball	Football	Swimming Pool	Walking Trail	Gazebo
Golf Course	135											
Berkeley	31.59	2	1			2		2				
Stoney Creek	30											
Herman	24.0	3	3				10					1
Weil	20.77	1	1	1	2		4		1	1	1	
Fairview	17.43	1	1	1		2		1				
Brown	14.0	3	1		1		2	2				
Peacock	14.0		1			1				1		
North End	9.0	2	1			1	2	2				
Quail	9.0	1	1									
South End	4.0		1					1				
Mitchell	1.0		1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>309.79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Goldsboro current parks by type**

Name	Type	Acres
Mitchell	Mini	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Mini</b>	<b>1.0</b>
South End	Neighborhood	4.0
Quail	Neighborhood	9.0
North End	Neighborhood	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>22.0</b>
Peacock	Community	14.0
Brown	Community	14.0
Fairview	Community	17.43
Weil	Community	20.77
Herman	Community	24.0
Stoney Creek	Community	30.0
Berkeley	Community	31.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>151.79</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>0</b>
Municipal Golf Course	Special Use Facility	135
Herman Rec. Center	Special Use Facility	N/A

Foster Rec. Center	Special Use Facility	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>Special Use Facility</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>System-wide</b>	<b>309.79</b>

### **Evaluation and Recommendations for Goldsboro Parks**

The parks, golf course and recreation center were viewed on April 7, 2008 with the Parks Superintendent. The parks were reviewed on July 26, 2008 with the Parks & Recreation Director, the Parks Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent, and two members of the Parks & Recreation Commission. The observations noted are a compilation of those two visits.

#### Overall observations:

- Even though the City of Goldsboro is bordered by the Little River and the Neuse River, the City does not have a park on either of these rivers.
- The City has over 130 acres of greenway in nine different tracks. These parcels are not connected nor are they developed for use.
- The landscaping and grass are mostly well-maintained.
- While pets are allowed in the park on a leash, there is no requirement to pick up the pet waste. Consider adding pet waste stations to all parks. Consider adding an ordinance that requires owners who bring their pets to the park to pick up the pet waste.
- The City of Goldsboro has a mandatory recycling program, but there are no recycling containers in any of the parks.
- The restrooms are all kept locked unless a user has reserved the park, a ball field or a shelter. The general public visiting the parks does not have the benefit of being able to use these facilities. (Several people who were interviewed in July indicated their displeasure that they could not use the restrooms.)
- The restrooms are clean, but many are in need of painting and general improvements. Many lack soap dispensers and hand drying equipment.
- Few water fountains work.
- Several faucets were dripping.
- The painted trashcans are very faded.
- The signage at the parks needs to be consistent (name of park, ownership, rules of use).
- There are no kiosks for signs, announcements, posting of reservations.
- There is an abundance of graffiti.
- There are several instances of vandalism.
- There is evidence of the homeless using the facilities.
- The two pools are in serious need of facelifts.
- Some restroom stalls lack doors.
- When one looks at the matrix of the parks and compares it to the standards, one gets the impression that there are an adequate number of certain facilities. But

that is misleading as many park features cannot be used due to their poor condition.

- Grills are needed at many picnic shelters.
- No flower beds or areas of visual interest with aesthetic appeal (except at Herman Park).
- A few parks have interesting decorative features (fountains) that have fallen into disrepair.
- Playgrounds have grass growing in the sand.
- Lighting is needed (or needs to be improved) at several parks.
- Handicapped individuals would only be able to use one or two parks.
- Bike racks were only seen at two facilities. Every facility should have one or more bike racks.
- Members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, members of the general public (who offered comments at the park sites), respondents to the Parks & Recreation survey and staff stated that they do not feel safe or comfortable in some parks.

**Based on the review of the standards the Parks and Recreation Commission members are of the opinion that there is adequate acreage in the system to accommodate the need for additional amenities desired by the citizens as indicated on the survey. The priority of improvements should follow the order of the parks as listed below:**

- **WA Foster Recreation Center**
- **Herman Park**
- **Mina Weil Park**
- **HV Brown Park**
- **Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course**
- **Peacock Park**
- **Berkeley Park**
- **North End Park**
- **Fairview Park**
- **South End Park**
- **Henry C. Mitchell Park**
- **Quail Park**

**NOTE: Some of the issues depicted in the photos of the parks on the following pages have since been fixed or resolved by the Parks & Recreation Department staff, however, graffiti and vandalism continue to be a problem.**

### **Mini Parks (less than 4 acres)**

A facility designed to provide recreational opportunities for a small area within a neighborhood. Generally, a mini-park is designed for young children, however in some cases it may be designed for aesthetic purposes. 1/2 acre is the recommended

minimum size to provide adequate buffer space and diversity of uses; however, in some cases smaller sites may be developed. One or more mini-parks should be provided in each neighborhood. Mini parks have a service radius of 0.25 to .5 miles.

**Henry C. Mitchell Park**

At 1.0 acres, the Henry C. Mitchell Park is the smallest in the system. It is located in the Little Washington residential area and features a playground. The track is an unusual shape and abuts an active rail line. There is a fence that runs along the railroad.





### *Observations*

- Would be uncomfortable visiting park alone or with a small child
- Playground sand has weeds and more soil than sand
- The fence along the active railroad track has two openings that would allow a child to wander onto the track
- The grass is maintained
- The playground equipment is in good condition
- No water fountain, no restrooms, no parking area, no sign with rules, no sign indicating that it is a city-owned park
- The picnic table is chained to a tree
- Two benches are in the hot sun
- There is a concrete walk that has some cracked areas (unsafe)

### *Recommendations*

- Sell the land and use money to improve other parks in the system
- If the city decides to retain the park, it should be converted to a passive pocket park (benches for sitting and perhaps a picnic table or two; remove the playground)

- Need sign to identify it as a city-owned park
- Need sign with park rules

### **Washington Park**

Washington Park is a 2.0 acre mini-park that was taken out of the system in 1999 because of flooding due to Hurricane Floyd. It was located between George Street and Hwy 117 By-Pass in South Goldsboro (Little Washington Area). It is not being maintained at this time so it was removed from the table.

### **Neighborhood Parks (4 to 12 acres)**

The neighborhood park is designed to serve the recreational needs of children 6-15 years of age, as well as adults, pre-schoolers, and seniors. It would typically include family picnic areas, open turf areas for informal sports and play equipment. Lighted athletic fields would not be included. At least one neighborhood park should be provided in each neighborhood planning area. Neighborhood Parks have a service radius of .5 to .75 miles.

### **South End Neighborhood Park**

South End Neighborhood Park is a 4.0 acre mini-park on South Slocumb Street that features a basketball court, a multi-use area, and a children's playground. The park is adjacent to a public housing area.







### *Observations*

- Would not feel safe or comfortable at this park if alone or with a small child
- No signage to indicate that this is a city-owned park
- No sign regarding park use except for a “No concealed weapons” sign on the fence.
- Abuts a low-income housing area
- Playground: equipment is in good condition, swing chains are rusty—leaves residue on hand, weeds growing up in sand, some trash, “horse play” equipment is old and some are broken
- No public parking area (gives impression it is owned by the housing project), no water fountain, no restrooms, no lighting
- Basketball court: weeds growing through cracks in surface, backboard needs to be painted, needs to be resurfaced, graffiti on surface
- Fence: needs repair (top rail missing, rusty), vegetation growing through it in some areas, no gates
- Stark—no trees—only grass

### *Recommendations*

- Possibly work something out with the owner of the low-income housing project adjacent to this park to give this parcel to them to use for a park in perpetuity provided they agree to maintain it
- If the city maintains ownership:
  - Add signage (city-owned, rules)
  - Add landscaping: flowers, trees (for shade)
  - Need more benches
  - Make basketball court more appealing: repair, resurface, repaint, add bleachers
  - Put up soccer goals
  - Add a walking path and additional entrances to the park

**Quail Park**

Quail Park is a 9.0 acre neighborhood park located in the Jefferson Park neighborhood. This irregular-shaped park is heavily treed and has a picnic shelter and a children's playground. The city's greenway system is accessible from this park.





### *Observations*

- Would not feel safe/comfortable in this park alone or with a small child
- Playground: area/equipment is in fair/poor condition, grass growing in the sand, sand needs to be replaced
- Sign at main entrance is missing letters
- Ball field floods when it rains—never used
- No restrooms
- Park bench is not facing playground
- Basketball goals are in a grassy area—don't appear to be used
- Some fencing does not appear to have a purpose
- Good parking
- Picnic shelter is in good condition
- Good walkway to the shelter
- Grill needs work
- Difficult to read the sign
- Ball field—grown over
- Few benches under picnic shelter
- It connects to the greenway (Hwy. 70/Quail/Royal/Ash St.)
- Peaceful park, but doesn't offer many choices of things to do

### *Recommendations*

- Convert unused ball field into a soccer field with goals or remove the backstop and leave the field open as this area is low and retains water
- Remove basketball goals
- Remove unnecessary fencing
- Upgrade the playground and picnic shelter

### **North End Community Park**

North End Community Park is a 9.0 acre park located in North Goldsboro on Neil Street. The park includes two tennis courts, two basketball court, two picnic shelters, a softball field and a children's playground.





### *Observations*

- Great location
- Restrooms, picnic shelters are in close proximity to other park features
- Walking paths are accessible
- Gang graffiti on courts
- Ball field is run down—can't see baseline for the grass, no dugouts

- Basketball court: need to be resurfaced, needs to be repainted, backboard needs to be painted, tire marks on surface
- Old decorative fountain is not functioning—eyesore
- Tennis courts: need resurfacing—grass growing through the cracks, missing gate
- Water fountain not working
- Playground equipment is in fair condition—far away from parking area
- Trashcans needed
- Litter in parking lot
- Wood on shelters needs to be repaired/replaced
- Restrooms—no trashcans, no paper towels or hand dryer, bullet holes in doors, unpleasant smell
- Water faucet under water fountain was running
- Graffiti on picnic shelter, fountain at entrance
- Nothing on sign to indicate city ownership of park.

#### *Recommendations*

- Add perimeter fencing
- Convert unused ball field to a multi-use field (football, soccer)
- Refurbish restrooms
- Wood on picnic shelter needs to be repaired/replaced
- Need water fountain by basketball court
- Transform the old decorative fountain into a planting area
- Update the playground
- Improve existing basketball court and add benches
- Add another basketball court
- Resurface and refurbish tennis courts
- Move picnic table in front of bathrooms off the walkway.

### **Community Parks (13-50 acres)**

This Park is designed to serve a wide variety of needs for youths and adults in both active and passive recreation. Facilities for sports fields, open turf areas, playgrounds, picnic areas, and off-street parking could include restrooms and related facilities. The park should also include facilities for pre-schoolers, young children, senior citizens and families. Components of neighborhood parks and mini-parks should be included in the Community Park. Lighted athletic fields for active sports are included. The Community Park includes facilities which serve neighborhoods and/or the City of Goldsboro. Community Parks have a service radius of 1 to 2 miles.

#### **Peacock Park**

Peacock Park is a 14.0 acre community park located on Herring Street in north Goldsboro. It has an outdoor swimming pool, a lighted softball field and a children's playground.





### *Observations*

- Some were concerned about safety in this park
- Hidden—hard to find—located next to the city’s maintenance yard
- Playground: borders need work, equipment is in fair condition, grass growing in sand, sand looks unclean
- Lighted ball field is not being used
- Good features with pool and playground
- Empty swing frame sitting in a grassy area
- Pool: deck needs shade, lifeguards need shade, needs chairs, looks old and worn, deck looks dirty, picnic tables need to be repainted, new sign with rules is too small to be easily seen and was placed over an old larger sign, broken basketball hoop on pool deck
- Pool entrance: uninviting, rusting lockers, no entrance to the pool except through the restrooms
- Pool locker/changing room/restrooms: changing stalls and bathroom stall only have vinyl shower curtains for doors—unappealing
- Barbed wire fence is unappealing.

### *Recommendations*

- Refurbish the whole pool area (pool, pool house, pool deck, fencing) to make it more inviting
- Convert ball field that is not used to a multi-purpose field (football, soccer)
- Add umbrellas, a tent, or a shade feature to the pool area
- Give the lifeguards shade
- A wooden fence around the pool would help improve the appearance and screen off the view of the city’s work yard
- Need trash cans and tables
- Clean up the playground area
- Add a small picnic shelter near the playground.

**H. V. Brown Park**

The H. V. Brown Park is a 14.0 acre community park located at the intersection of Elm Street and the US 117 Bypass. It has two lighted tennis courts, a baseball field, three picnic shelters, two basketball courts, a large children's playground, a multi-use area, handicapped access and public restrooms.







### *Observations*

- Great location off main highway
- Shelters are centrally located
- Restrooms are away from playground
- Playground: weeds in sand, borders need attention, equipment is faded
- Has interconnecting walking paths (one bad trip hazard)
- No signage
- Basketball courts: backboard need repainting, need to be resurfaced
- Ditch needs to be mowed
- Picnic shelters have concrete slabs that are uneven—a trip hazard
- Parking area #2 needs to be repaved
- Need trashcans
- Need landscape maintenance
- Some litter in the park
- Outdoor grills need work
- Tennis Courts: cracks in surface, leaf build up along fence
- Top of shelter #3 needs repair
- Restrooms need repair, smell, doors in bad shape

- Ball field is not used
- Water Fountains—cut off at restroom
- Old decorative fountain/spray area not working, neglected
- Picnic shelter #1 had too many tables
- Some litter
- Drinking fountain does not work
- Wiring exposed at base of one security light
- Telephone poles supporting shelters are splintering badly
- Graffiti on wall of restroom
- No sign on men’s restroom
- No door on stalls in women’s restroom
- End caps are missing off some aluminum picnic benches creating a liability (could cause skin to tear if contact is made).

### *Recommendations*

- Convert this park to a specialty (destination) park designed for handicapped adults and children (Boundless Playground). All amenities at this park should be designed/refurbished with a handicapped user in mind. Seek advice from local groups serving the handicapped and from handicapped individuals
- Remove or restore the decorative fountain—return it to a spray area for kids
- Resurface the basketball court
- Repair shelters & roofs of shelters
- Fix broken cement areas: shelters & walk
- Replace end caps on picnic tables
- Find a new use for open space/ball field behind restrooms: soccer field, dog park, skateboard park
- Make repairs to restrooms. Add doors to stalls. Ensure ADA compliance
- Make improvements to parking areas
- Resurface the tennis courts
- Repair water fountain—make them ADA compliant
- Add shade, planting areas
- Fix all concrete walks and add more so that all facilities at this park are handicapped accessible.

### **Fairview Park**

Fairview Park is a 17.43 acre community park located on Edgerton Street. It features two lighted softball fields, a soccer field, a basketball court, a picnic shelter and a children’s playground.





### *Observations*

- Good parking areas near restrooms and fields
- Ball fields: good condition, lighting is up-to-date
- Restrooms are in OK condition, but need trashcans and hand drying equipment
- Need nets for soccer goals and need bleachers in that area
- Graffiti on backboards and basketball court
- Backboards need to be painted
- Trashcans look bad—graffiti on some, top edges are ragged and rusty
- Need new bleachers
- Too much playground equipment
- Field A needs a water fountain
- Field B needs water fountain repaired
- Playground equipment is in good condition—some in shady area
- Basketball surface is in good condition
- Road that wraps around the park needs work
- Nice size picnic shelter, but does not protect from the rain
- One person interviewed said she knew of several people who drank out of the water fountain and got sick afterwards

### *Recommendations*

- Add soccer fields
- Restrooms need renovation
- New signage needed
- Ball fields—top rail of outfield needs a protective cover
- Playground equipment needs minor repairs
- Protective surfacing in playground area needs attention.
- Large park—could have a walking trail around the perimeter
- Paint the dugouts
- The Jackie Robinson league uses the fields—they complemented the Parks & Recreation staff for their responsiveness to requests for assistance

### **Mina Weil Park**

Mina Weil Park is a 20.77 acre community park located at the intersection of South John Street and House Street. It has two lighted baseball fields, a lighted football field, a multi-use area, an outdoor swimming pool, a picnic shelter, four lighted tennis courts, a soccer field, a fitness track and a children's playground.











### *Observations*

- Large inviting-looking park from a distance
- Older amenities
- Need park signage throughout the park
- Trashcans are faded and dented
- Pool:
  - In desperate need of general maintenance
  - cosmetically unappealing
  - rusting doors
  - fencing—barbed wire is not keeping out kids
  - weeds are growing through cracks on pool deck
  - pool deck is dirty looking
  - entrance is shabby looking
  - restrooms smell
  - leaves and trash on drain at bottom
  - large, exposed water pipe is a safety hazard
  - no privacy in changing area (completely open)
  - no doors or curtains on restroom stalls
  - no shade for patrons or for lifeguards

- Very few places to sit—picnic tables only
- Water fountain not functioning
- Rules are written on a very small sign and that has been placed over the older, larger sign
- Picnic tables are faded
- Graffiti on cement
- Need more trashcans
- Basketball courts
  - Have cracks in surface with grass growing through them
  - In bad location—poor drainage
  - Bleacher is missing the bottom row seat
  - Backboards need to be painted
  - Light bulbs are out
  - Outdated lighting fixtures—utility poles leaning
- Tennis courts
  - Have cracks in surface with grass growing through them
  - In bad location—poor drainage
  - No fencing on one side of tennis court (where courts were removed)
  - Large sandy area where apparently one or more tennis court was removed
  - Outdated lighting fixtures—utility poles leaning
  - Glass on the courts
  - Net wrenches need work
- Water fountains—some need to be replaced or repaired
- New signage needed
- Playground
  - Some graffiti
  - Equipment in fairly good condition
  - Grass growing in sand
- Because the park is so large and because the parking is on the fringes, some people have been driving over the park as evidenced by paths cut by the tires
- It is a long distance from the parking area to the picnic shelters
- There are some inaccessible areas between the playground and the picnic shelters
- Parking areas need lights
- Baseball fields
  - Outfield fence needs repair
  - Both water fountains were cut off
  - Need restrooms near ball fields
  - No gates on fence
  - Ball fields not used much—grass growing in the infield
  - Have drainage issues
  - Outfield fences need safety top rail covers
- Tennis practice area—surface is cracking

- Need more trashcans throughout the park
- Picnic shelters
  - Need more tables
  - Need more shelters
  - Big picnic shelter needs large cookout grills
  - Need painting
  - Graffiti
  - Broken glass
  - Some picnic tables have been damaged (vandalism)
- Lower limbs of trees need pruning
- Graffiti on back of park sign—sign is old
- Handicapped signs are faded

### *Recommendations*

- Pool
  - Completely renovate the pool, pool house, and pool deck.
  - Replace the fence around the pool with a higher, more attractive fence
  - Add shade to pool deck
  - Add attractive outdoor furniture
- Tennis courts and basketball courts
  - Consider removing completely or moving to another location in park due to poor drainage of current location. They will probably deteriorate again if resurfaced and not moved
- Ball fields
  - Renovate and try to encourage leagues to play games on them
  - Build a restroom facility near ball fields
  - Replace cement dugouts with fencing
  - Add cushioned top rail to outfield fences
- Fix or remove the water fountains
- Update the signage and place use rules throughout the park
- Construct walkways throughout the park to connect area
- Add more vehicle lanes through the park for ease of access to the picnic shelters and add parking near the picnic shelters
- Add more lighting
- Add more picnic tables and picnic shelters
- Need more electric outlets throughout the park
- Hold festivals in this park
- Add more playground equipment and replace sand
- Great location for a bike trail
- Add a handicapped accessible playground
- Add a beach volley ball court
- Add a soccer area.

## **Herman Park**

At the center of the city is the oldest, most popular park, Herman Park. Located on Park Avenue, it is situated behind the Herman Park Center. In 1890 Solomon and Henry Weil donated the park in memory of their brother, Herman. On this site they erected a nineteenth century park house and in 1916 Danish artist Bertel Thorwaldsen created a bronze fountain sculpture named "Lady in the Park." The original work now resides at the Wayne County Museum. In 2003, the city raised \$50,000 to duplicate the work which can still be seen in the park.

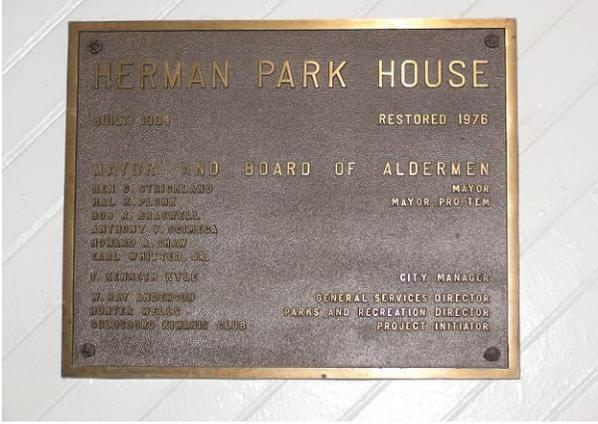
The park house was originally constructed in 1904 and was most recently renovated in 1976.

Herman Park is a 24.0 acre community park that has ten lighted tennis courts, three picnic shelters, the historic park house and fountain, a gazebo, a children's playground and a miniature train operated by the Goldsboro Kiwanis Club. In 2005 the train celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation.















### *Observations*

- Near town center
- Nice, older park
- Restrooms need repair
- Wood on park house is rotting—serious repairs needed
- Gazebo needs repair—homeless persons have kicked out the lattice and use it as a shelter (now repaired)
- Playground equipment is in fair condition—some equipment needs to be removed
- Picnic shelters are in good condition
- Ample parking
- Tennis courts
  - Need repainting and surface cracks need repair
  - Low spots where water puddles need to be filled
- Need more lighting at night
- Fish pond needs cleaning—water was murky, clouded
- Need tables closer to the train
- Water fountains need to be refurbished
- Miniature train is a great asset
- Roses around the fountain are beautiful
- People are parking on the access road and not in the parking area
- Large areas of just sand
- Tennis courts need rules of use
- The picnic shelters are too close to the courts. Kids are interfering with the games and stealing the balls.

### *Recommendations*

- This is the city's flagship park—it needs to reflect that image
- Refurbish the restrooms
- Repair and repaint the park house
- Repair and repaint the gazebo
- Add more tennis court as people are waiting to play at night. Consider adding two new courts with clay surfaces.
- Repair tennis court surfaces and repaint
- Update and make cosmetic improvements to the park
- Replace trashcans
- Limbs need pruning
- Landscaping needs to be revitalized—dirt areas need grass
- Add a walking trail
- Possible skateboard ramp location
- Tennis practice wall needs to be redone
- Add a central protected bulletin board (kiosk) for park events to be posted.
- Add small picnic shelter and picnic tables near the train
- Add rules of use signs to tennis courts.

### **Stoney Creek Park**

Stoney Creek Park is a 30-acre parcel that was deeded to the City as a FEMA buy-out parcel after the area flooded. The park is located on busy Ash Street. Stoney Creek runs alongside the park. Presently the park has no amenities, but it does have parking. A committee has been formed to determine what features are desired for the park. That committee is developing a separate site plan for this park. They have developed a website that provides details on the plans for the park: <http://www.stoneycreekpark.org/> The Stoney Creek Alliance is planning to seek a Parks & Recreation Trust Fund grant in 2009 to develop Phase I of this park.

There are only certain things that can be done on property that is part of a FEMA buy-out. Go to this website for specifics: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/resources/hbphase4.pdf>





**Berkeley Memorial Park**

The Berkeley Memorial Park is a 31.59 acre community park located at the end of Cashwell Drive. It is Goldsboro's largest park and it features two lighted softball fields, two lighted basketball courts, two picnic shelters, a large children's playground, public restrooms, handicapped access and a large playing field.







### *Observations*

- Large park
- Hard to locate—signage on road near Cashwell would help people find the park
- Secluded, wooded
- Playground equipment is in fair condition
- Nice shaded picnic areas
- Ball field
  - lighting is up-to-date
  - backstops are really rusty
  - used 2-4 times a week
  - Field A—outfield fence needs repairs
  - Basically in good condition
  - Safety cushioning on outfield fence
- Basketball courts
  - Large cracks in surface
  - Backboards need painting
  - Need new nets
- Archery target shelter needs to be removed—no longer used

- Volleyball poles need to be moved—too close to the basketball courts
- One section of the park is hidden from view by a row of trees
- Picnic shelters, although shady, are hidden from view
- Limbs need pruning
- Restrooms need signs
- Graffiti on playground equipment and on park bench
- Grills need work
- Need water fountain at playground area
- Need new/updated park signs
- Gaines Barnes monument could use some mulch and maybe a border around it
- Some picnic tables look dirty
- There is a lot of unused space in this park.

### *Recommendations*

- Add dog park
- Add pet waste stations
- Add BMX bike trail area near back of park where there is open space
- Add a run/walk trail
- Add an amphitheater
- Add beach volleyball courts
- Add more picnic shelters
- Add a skateboard park
- Add a soccer field
- In the shaded picnic area add horseshoe boxes and maybe a small playground
- Fix ball field fences
- Refurbish restrooms
- Resurface basketball court
- Picnic shelters need a facelift
- Replace all faucets with ones that automatically turn themselves off
- Need more grills at picnic shelters

## **Special facilities**

### *Municipal Golf course*

This 18-hole course has a full service pro shop and a snack bar. It is open year around. The golf course was built in 1941 and renovated in 1999. The renovation was supervised by Jon LaFoy, a renowned golf course architect. The course has over 6,000 square feet of bent grass greens, 419 Bermuda fairways and concrete cart paths throughout. This challenging course is open to the public. The facility also includes a driving range and a large practice area. Golf lessons are available.







### *Observations*

- It is hard to find the facility
- Maintenance shop is fully visible from the clubhouse
- There is no locker room area for players
- There is standing water on the lower level. This area was once the locker room.

### *Recommendations*

- Screen the maintenance shop from the clubhouse
- Repair the leaks that are causing the lower level to flood and refurbish it.
- Completely renovate the clubhouse.

### **Herman Park Center**

The Herman Park Center is located at 901 East Ash Street. The 16,000 square foot Center was built in 1892 and was known as the Odd Fellows Home. Between 1892 and 1971 it was an orphanage and school. It was purchased by the City for a cost of \$390,000 and renovated in 1978. Roof repairs were last made in 2007. The facility has an auditorium, a leisure center, meeting/activity rooms and a kitchen area. It hosts performances, social, educational and recreational activities and programs.







### *Observations*

The building is showing signs of its age. Although the exterior is primarily brick, there is wood in some areas. The paint is cracking and in need of work. The interior has an institutional look and feel to it although the staff has done what it can to brighten the place up. The ceilings and lighting fixtures are dated. The facility does not have a fire sprinkler system. Some areas of the building are rarely used, but must still be heated and cooled.

### *Recommendations*

- A professional assessment of this building should be done and a plan made to either do a major renovation or to replace the facility in the coming years
- At this time, make the necessary repairs to the facility
- Brighten the rooms up with colorful accents (already started).

### **W. A. Foster Recreation Center**

The W. A. Foster Recreation Center is located at 516 S. Leslie Street. The center was constructed in 1938 and named the Leslie Street Community Center. In 1974 the building was renovated and the name changed to the W. A. Foster Recreation Center to honor Walter A. Foster, retired principal of East End School and prominent community member. The Center has an indoor basketball court, a game room, meeting rooms, a kitchen and an outdoor playground. Educational, recreational and athletic programs are offered at the Center.







### *Observations*

When visited in April 2008, the facility was showing stair-step cracks in the exterior brick and cracks in the interior walls. This older facility may need to have a major renovation or may need to be replaced in the coming years.

### *Recommendations*

- A professional assessment of this building should be done and a plan made to either do a major renovation or to replace the facility in the coming years
- At this time, make the necessary repairs to the facility.

### **Wayne County Memorial Community Building**

The Wayne County Memorial Community Building was built in 1925 at 239 E. Walnut Street across from the Court House as a memorial to honor the veterans of WWI. It had a pool and a gym. The facility was owned by Wayne County, but was operated by the City of Goldsboro's Parks & Recreation Department. It was still in use up until May 2, 2004 when the facility burned down. The proposed new recreation center is being built to replace that facility.

### **New Recreation Center**

A new recreation center is currently in the planning phases. This new Center will be constructed on the corner of Center Street and Chestnut Street. The cost to construct this new 60,000 recreational center is around \$13 million. The plan is for the new facility to feature a zero-entry, heated, indoor swimming/splash pool, gymnasium, indoor walking track, exercise/fitness room, weight room, locker rooms, concession area, conference room, multipurpose rooms and office space. If all goes as planned; the construction is expected begin in Spring 2009. There are no plans at this time to close either the W. A. Foster Recreation Center or Herman Park Center when this facility is built.

### **Downtown**

While not specifically a park, when one considers recreation and leisure for a community, a historic downtown area can be considered an asset. All ages of people can stroll through the downtown area and enjoy the sites, restaurants, and retail establishments.

When the public speaks of needing more walking trails, the historic district is not mentioned as a place to walk, yet is a very pleasant, secure place to stroll or walk. In order to encourage citizens and visitors to take advantage of this wonderful "walking trail" through the historic district, pamphlets (trail maps) should be developed showing routes and distances.

The City needs to take every advantage of its natural scenic beauty and encourage residents and visitors alike to use what exists for recreation and not think that they need to go to a special place to get exercise.

### **Greenways**

The City has 139.99 acres of undeveloped greenways. These include:

Baucom Greenway	Elm St.	5.18 acres
Harris Street Greenway	Harris St.	8.08 acres
Kemp Greenway	Royall Ave.	22.51 acres
Loving Greenway	Hwy. 70 Bypass	20.03 acres
Meekins Greenway	E. Ash St.	16.07 acres
Norwood Greenway	Holly St.	44.69 acres
Reedy Creek Greenway	SR 1556 Rear	5.46 acres
Stoney Creek Greenway	Ash St.	10.14
Troutman-Earnest Greenway	Forest Hill Dr.	7.83 acres

As opportunities arise, these greenways should be linked. Examine the configuration of these greenways and create trails for walkers and mountain bikers through ones that have sufficient linear footage. Work with the local bike club to determine desires. Another possible use would be to create a birding trail.

**Additional properties**

The Parks & Recreation Department had offices located at 903 E. Ash Street but they recently moved to Herman Park Center to centralize services. The 903 E. Ash Street building will be used for storage.

There is also a 1.0 acre parking lot on John Street and a 2.0 acre park (Washington Park) that is not being maintained.

**Neuse River and Little River**

The City of Goldsboro is bordered on the south by the Neuse River and on the west by the Little River. At this time there is no concerted effort to encourage econ-tourism and water-centered activities such as paddling on these bodies of water.

The Little River begins northeast of Wake Forest. It flows under I-95 and it joins the Neuse River on the west side of Goldsboro. The river meanders through rural areas with no towns on its banks. The Little River is one of the Neuse River’s largest and cleanest tributaries. The Triangle Land Conservancy has declared the river Nationally Significant. For paddle trail maps for this river go to:

[http://www.trails.com/tcatalog\\_trail.asp?trailid=XPO001-037](http://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.asp?trailid=XPO001-037)

The Neuse River starts north of Durham. It traverses Raleigh, Smithfield, Goldsboro and Kinston ending at the Pamlico Sound just below New Bern. For paddle trail maps for this river go to: [http://www.trails.com/tcatalog\\_trail.asp?trailid=XPO001-038](http://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.asp?trailid=XPO001-038)

## **Section 6: Staffing, Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, Programs, Events**

### *Staffing*

At the time this plan was drafted, the Parks & Recreation staff includes 37 permanent full-time staff:

- Director (1)
- Administrative support staff (2)
- Recreation Superintendent (1)
- Recreation Staff (8)
- Superintendent of Park Maintenance (1)
- Park Maintenance Staff (13)
- Golf Course Superintendent (1)
- Golf Course Operations Manager (1)
- Golf Course Staff (9)

Temporary part-time staff is hired as the need arises.

### **Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission**

The City Council appoints interested citizens to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission. The Advisory Commission has a Chair, ten adult members and two student members. This Commission meets the second Tuesday of every month September to May.

This Advisory Commission assists in drafting policies, plans, and budgets for Parks & Recreation for the City. The Advisory Commission prioritizes projects and helps to facilitate events. The Advisory Commission acts in an advisory capacity only and has no authority to act unless it is explicitly given that authority by the City Council.

Many of the members have jobs in addition to volunteering to serve on this Advisory Commission. This limits the amount of time that they can give to projects and events.

It is recommended that all special, standing and sub-committees established for specific purposes report to and through the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to ensure coordination with the overall mission of the department and concurrence with the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

### **Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course Committee**

The Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course Committee is composed of seven members. It is charged with the responsibility to make recommendation "to improve and enhance the quality of customer service and overall appearance of the golf course; review club house operations; and overall maintenance and upkeep of the golf course." The committee meets quarterly.

### **Stoney Creek Park Alliance & Stoney Creek Restoration Project**

The Stoney Creek Park Alliance was established in 2006 as a 501(c)3 affiliate of the Wayne Charitable Partnership with the aim to foster community support and involvement in the development and success of the park. The Stoney Creek Restoration Project, under the direction of The City of Goldsboro is completely separate from the park development project. Funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the projects aims to amend the impairment of Stoney Creek, and improve the quality of water moving into the Neuse River. Although this is a completely separate project, Stoney Creek Park stands to gain from this effort. It is possible that smaller flooding events will be reduced as the watershed and stream north of the park are improved. If funds are available, the stream restoration may extend into the park and improve the stream banks through the park. This information was taken from the Alliance's website: <http://www.stoneycreekpark.org/>

### **Wayne County Memorial Community Building Committee**

The Wayne County Memorial Community Building Board of Trustees is the group that will determine the disposition of the land where the Wayne County Memorial Community Building had sat before it burned in 2004.

### **Recreation Center Committee**

A Committee was established to develop the plans for the new recreation center which will take the place of the Wayne County Memorial Community Building which burned in 2004. This committee has representation from the City Council, City administration, Wayne County Memorial Community Building Board of Trustees, Parks & Recreation Commission, Parks & Recreation Director and citizens.

### **Programs**

The Parks & Recreation Department lists a range of programs on its website. Programs come and go according to the season and according to the interests of the community. The activities are grouped by Senior Citizen Activities; Community Special Events; Inclusion Service and Specialized Recreation/Special Populations Activities; Sports/Athletics—Youth; Adult Athletics; and Golf Clinics.

### **Events**

Events are good opportunities for the Parks & Recreation Committee to set up a booth to get continued input and support from the public. In the summer of 2008, the department began a summer concert series that was very successful. The department also hosted its first "light up the park" event called Jingle in the Park.

### **Health and Wellness**

Due to the increased obesity of the population, there is quite a bit of funding available for programs to increase the activity levels. Health and wellness should be a component of a well-rounded recreation & leisure program.

**Other**

The City of Goldsboro lists an "Adopt-a-Park" program on their Parks & Recreation website. They call the program "Pride in our Parks." It encourages the participation of civic, church or other community organizations to "assume beautification tasks such as raking, weeding, pruning, mulching, edging and removing trash." The Parks & Recreation Department is to erect a sign noting the name of the group that adopted the park.

## **Section 7: Other Local Recreational/Leisure Facilities**

The City of Goldsboro is a Tree City. Trees not only help the environment, they also increase the public's enjoyment of the outdoors experience, even in urban areas. The trees are also habitats for birds and wildlife. The City is a designated bird sanctuary. Birdwatching is a popular outdoor activity especially with the older population.

There are many private venues for leisure and recreation in Goldsboro and the surrounding area. This is not an all-inclusive list. Some of these include:

- All Stars Family Fun Center (batting cages, putt-putt course)
- Arts Council of Wayne County
- Eastern Carolina Athletic Park (baseball & softball camps and training)
- Goldsboro Family YMCA (enclosed Olympic sized pool, indoor walking and running track, weight room, triple gym, outdoor sports complex with 6 multipurpose fields and a 1.5 mile track)
- Spring Bank Stables
- The Big Barn Theater
- The Paramount Theater
- Wayne County Speedway & Drag Strip
- Lane Tree Golf Club
- Southern Wayne Country Club
- Private gyms and exercise clubs

There are several public schools within the City limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of Goldsboro. Elementary schools generally have playgrounds and open fields for play. Middle schools and high schools may have baseball fields, softball fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, running tracks and multi-purpose fields. The public may be allowed to use these facilities. Facilities with Goldsboro addresses include:

### High Schools:

- Belfast Academy
- Eastern Wayne High School
- Goldsboro High School
- Rosewood High School
- Wayne Early/Middle College High School
- Wayne School of Engineering

### Middle Schools:

- Dillard Middle School
- Eastern Wayne Middle School
- Greenwood Middle School
- Goldsboro Intermediate School
- Rosewood Middle School

Elementary Schools:

- Carver Heights Elementary School
- Eastern Wayne Elementary School
- Grantham School
- Meadow Lane Elementary School
- North Drive Elementary School
- Rosewood Elementary School
- School Street Elementary School
- Spring Creek Elementary School
- Tommy's Road Elementary School

The Parks & Recreation Department should make use of school facilities when feasible. The current agreement with the school system for use of facilities is outdated and a new agreement needs to be structured. It is suggested that the agreement be generic so that the Parks & Recreation Department can work directly with the concerned school to negotiate the use of a specific facility to meet a specific need. These needs do change over time and it would be advantageous not to have to revise the agreement each time the need changed.

## **Section 8: Mountain-to-Sea Trail**

The material in this section was taken verbatim from the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) East Report <http://www.ncmst.org/msteastplan.htm>

According to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) East Report, the Stoney Creek Greenway will connect to the MST corridor from the north. It follows along the west side of Stoney Creek, southward through Goldsboro from Quail Park (near the US 70 Bypass) to the Neuse River. This urban, historic trail extends approximately 5 miles to connect to the Eastern Segment at the Neuse River.

There are 21 documented canoe access points along the Eastern Segment, according to John Hinners in the publication *Just Around The Bend: A Paddle Journey Down the Upper Neuse*. The list and mileage along the trail, *WAYNE COUNTY*:

- State Route 1224 Bridge Ramp. 80.9
- US 117 Ramp. 99.9
- State Route 581 Ramp. 106.3
- State Route 111 Bridge (Canoe Outfitter-private ramp). 112.8
- Seven Springs Ramp. 121

In some areas along the corridor, much work has already been done at the local level. The MST will serve as a connector between these existing networks. *GOLDSBORO*: Wayne County Trail. This 8.7-mile trail begins at the mouth of the Little River where it meets the Neuse River. It follows the Neuse 2,500 feet before turning east to go through Old Waynesborough Historic Village. The trail heads east through historic Goldsboro, crossing an old stagecoach road and rail line, to Stoney Creek Park. Here it merges with the existing Stoney Creek Greenway Trail following the creek to the Neuse River.

### *Alternative Routes*

Establishing an alignment that primarily follows the banks of the Neuse River is problematic for several reasons. First, most of the land is currently in private ownership. Second, some of the land is perpetually or seasonally flooded and impassable. Third, some stretches of the alignment along the Neuse are very isolated and would be difficult to service. For these reasons, alternative routes (YELLOW) for the land-based trail system were investigated and mapped. The following text describes these alternative routes.

### *WAYNE COUNTY:*

Waynesborough (4.9 miles). Goldsboro. Runs due east from the Eastern edge of Quaker Neck Lake to the Waynesborough Park, then extends south from the park along the old Neuse riverbed back to the main Neuse/MST corridor at US Hwy 117 bridge.

Arrington Bridge Road (3.6 miles). Goldsboro. Follows Arrington Bridge Rd. South from the Neuse River and runs parallel to the Neuse. Connects to Hwy 581 back to the Neuse/MST corridor.

Arrington Bridge – Mitchell – Stagecoach (6.2 miles). Goldsboro. Turns to the West on Pecan Rd. from the Arrington Bridge Road alternate trail briefly before turning back to the Southeast on Mitchell Road. Continues on Stagecoach Road to Cabin Branch and follows Cabin Branch to the East back to the Neuse/MST corridor.

### *Spur Trails*

In addition to the primary and alternative routes for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, it is also apparent that spur trails (PURPLE) would serve to link towns, cities and other “destination” sites to the primary corridor. These spur trails can be developed as off-road trails or as on-road trails. The key is develop a network of trails that would emerge from the primary corridor and could link the region together.

### *Paddle Trail and Access Points*

Along with the land-based trail, the MST-East includes a paddle trail down the Neuse River with regular access points to the water. This section describes each of the newly selected points and shows some model diagrams of different types of access points. Proposed access points were mapped strategically along the Neuse River where gaps of larger than ten miles were found between existing points. The locations of the proposed accesses were selected by GIS distance measurements and where road access was possible or a road crossing existed. Also, a canoe camp has been proposed at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park and is included in the list of proposed access points below:

*WAYNE COUNTY:* Proposed Access Point #5. Stevens Mill Road Bridge, Route 1008 crossing. (90). In gap between State Route 1224 Bridge Ramp and US 117 Ramp. 9 miles downstream from State Route 1224 Bridge Ramp.

### *Local Government Action Steps*

Local governments include the counties and municipalities that lie directly along or immediately adjacent to the route of the MST-East. These local governments will benefit from the future development of the trail and will also be vested with a substantial amount of responsibility for securing land, and developing and managing future trail segments. In order to accomplish these objectives, local governments should follow the steps listed below.

**Step 1: Incorporate MST-East routing and alignment objectives into Park and Recreation and Comprehensive Plans for your community.** Each local government along the trail route should adopt and incorporate this trail alignment as part of their comprehensive, growth management, or park and recreation plans. This will ensure that necessary land and water resources are appropriately reserved for the trail and that future land use activities take into account MST facility development.

Adoption and incorporation of the plan recommendations also creates both the legal and financial basis for local governments to pursue future trail development and will make local governments eligible for matching state funding.

Within any resolution of support for this plan, local governments should stress the commitment to assist with land acquisition and funding for future trail development and their commitment to manage the resource in perpetuity.

**Step 1B: Join FMST and participate in activities.** In addition to joining the Regional group, individuals and organizations should also join the Friends organization that supports the entire 900-mile project. To learn more about Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail visit their web site at [www.ncmst.org](http://www.ncmst.org)

**Step 2: Commit matching funds to MST segments and apply for State funding.** In order to construct segments of the MST-East, local governments that lie along the route are asked to appropriate funds for future construction, maintenance, and operation costs. Local funds that are appropriated can be used to leverage state and federal matching funds for future trail construction. Communities that do not appropriate funds may not be eligible for state and federal assistance. Appropriations can come from the budgets of local governments and/or can be generated from the private sector. Each local government should be responsible for managing local funds used as a match for future construction and management of the trail.

**Step 3: Acquire land for future trail development.** Local governments will need to work with land trusts and the State of North Carolina to complete the acquisition of the needed land rights to facilitate unpaved and paved land-based trails, and access areas for paddle trailheads. Appendix B of this report outlines a variety of land acquisition strategies that can be used both by landowners and by the local or state government agencies interested in securing right-of-way for the MST-East trail. of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail would be to join the Regional MST planning group for their area. These are the same groups that have come together to give input to this Conceptual Plan. The groups will meet on a regular basis to discuss the future design, implementation and management of trail segments within each Region of the MST-East.

**Step 2: Ask local government to adopt the recommendations of the Conceptual Plan.** Local organizations and individuals should also approach elected officials within each county and municipality in which the MST-East route traverses and request that the recommendations of this plan be incorporated and adopted as part of the comprehensive parks and recreation and land use plans. Adoption is an important step for creating the legal and financial basis for future land acquisition and trail facility development.

**Step 3: Obtain financial commitment from the local government to complete Conceptual Plan objectives.** The private sector will need to work closely with local

governments to ensure that the objectives of this plan are implemented. Critical to future implementation is a financial commitment to the MST-East. State funding can be leveraged in support of local trail segments, however, local governments must generate matching dollars, both for facility construction and operation. Individuals, non-profits and local businesses can assist local governments in generating matching funds. Direct contributions to a local fund and support for the use of local government budgets to develop the trail are two ways to demonstrate your commitment and to facilitate commitment from your local government.

**Step 4: Assist local governments with application for State funding.** The private sector can also assist local governments in obtaining state and federal grant funds by helping local governments apply for these funds. In some cases, applications require written letters of support, photos or research. Some local governments will require the assistance of able grant writers. Individuals and supporters of the MST-East should do what they can to provide assistance in obtaining these grant dollars.

**Step 5: Coordinate efforts with local governments, FMST and State Trails Division.** Private sector interests can also work with local and state governments to coordinate efforts and keep project segments moving toward completion. It may be necessary at times for private sector groups to serve as a go-between for local and state governments on certain segments of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

**Step 6: Assist local governments and state of NC with acquisition of priority lands defined within the Plan.** One of the most valuable services that private sector groups and individuals can offer is in the area of land acquisition. Non-profit land trusts are particularly important in this area of work and can be of great assistance to local and state governments in the area of land acquisition. Land trusts, however, need financial support in order to provide these services. They use this support to employ staff and implement work programs. Contributions to a land trust can come from both local and state governments as well as from private sector organizations or individuals.

**Step 7: Assist the local government with construction of trail segments and other facilities defined in your community or Region.** For unpaved, natural trail segments, private sector organizations and individuals can provide assistance in trail construction. The Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is experienced in building natural surface hiking trails and can assume a lead role in constructing MST-East hiking trail segments that are not sponsored by local governments. Paved, multi-use trails will most likely be constructed by local governments.

**Step 8: Agree to assist local governments with maintenance and management of completed segments and facilities.** Private sector groups, individuals, and businesses should agree to help manage, maintain, and operate completed segments of the MST-East Trail. Completed segments can be officially adopted, either through the State Trails Adopt-a-Trail program or from similar local

programs. Local groups should select miles of completed trail to adopt and contact local governments to formally assume maintenance responsibilities.

### *Funding Strategy*

Local governments, private non-profit organizations, land trust organizations, and volunteers should consider applying for available State and Federal grants to assist with the acquisition, development and management of the MST. Of course in some circumstances, individual entities may act alone. For example, a land trust may choose to buy a portion of the corridor from its own members' contributions. An individual county, municipality, or state agency may decide on its own to acquire property along the corridor for its own program purposes. In any case, securing State and Federal funds will be an essential part of this plan. The State and Federal trust funds and grant programs that might be tapped as future funding sources for land acquisition and trail development for the MST include:

- Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- Natural Heritage Trust Fund
- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
- Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
- Forest Legacy Program Funds
- Environmental Enhancement Program
- Federal TEA3 – Enhancement Funds
- DOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Grants
- Recreational Trails Program Grants
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- State Adopt-A-Trail Grants

Over the course of time, the State of North Carolina and its partners will encounter a variety of issues that are important to the successful management and operation of the trail. The following operational policies are defined to assist these partners in responding to typical trail implementation issues. More specific problems and issues may arise during the long-term development of the system that result in additional policies being considered and adopted. <http://www.ncmst.org/msteastplan.htm>

## **Section 9: Special Issues**

### ***Bicycles***

There are no bike trails listed for the Goldsboro area. There is one cycling club in the area: Seyboro Cyclists. Their rides begin and end at East Wayne Elementary School. There are no bike racks in the City center or in most of the parks. Per the City's Planning Department, the City does have a Bike & Pedestrian Plan and it is in the process of creating a multi-use path in the area of North Park, Harding Drive and New Hope Road. If Goldsboro wishes to encourage this mode of travel, bike racks and designated bike lanes would be a start.

Bike parking considerations need to include convenience as well as security. The racks should be located in a highly visible, well lit place. The racks should support the frames instead of the wheel as a theft deterrent. <http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/>

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission is recommending that one or more of the greenways (the ones with more linear footage) should have a combined bike/walking trail.

### ***Transportation***

At the time of this report, gasoline prices are at an all-time high. The most affected are those with the least resources to be able to cope—the working poor and those living in poverty or on fixed incomes. The City has a bus system—Gateway—that offers a limited number of routes. The lack of an extensive mass transit system may affect the residents' ability to access parks. The Parks & Recreation Department should consider providing transportation services to its facilities and programs whenever feasible to enhance the number who would be able to participate.

### ***Signage***

Signage is also an important aspect of park design. Signage provides park users with information they need to use the facility. To avoid having an overabundance of signs and clutter, it is important to maximize the amount of information on each sign. Each sign should be clear, concise, and legible. Pictographs have become the most popular method of communicating information on signs. Unfortunately, pictograph signs are not useful to visually impaired park users. Of equal importance is the location of signage. Locating signs where they will be useful and where the maximum number of park users will see them is paramount to an effective use of signage. Signage should consist of six categories: informational, directional, regulatory, warning, festival, and educational.

- *Informational* signs provide an overview of the park and its facilities and orient users to their position in the park. Mileposts are also a common form of informational sign on a trail.

- *Directional* signs tend to be in the form of graphic symbols and brief descriptions of location. These signs are used to point the park users in the right direction.
- *Regulatory* signs are used to describe laws and regulations that apply within the park. These signs typically include hours of accessibility, permitted uses, speed limits, and other prohibitory regulations.
- *Warning* signs are used to alert park users of hazards. These signs can warn users of wildlife, curves in the trail, steep grades, and blind intersections.
- *Festival* signs are used to publicize and commemorate special events and holidays. These signs can also be used as decoration.
- *Educational* or interpretive signs are used to describe the significance of natural, historical, or cultural features that are located in or near the park.

Most of the signs observed at the various city parks were high and small, making them difficult to read and easy to overlook. These signs were regulatory in nature and did not reflect the full range of park rules currently in effect. It is suggested that the Parks & Recreation Department form a task force to examine park signage and wording.

### **Restrooms**

Removing obstacles to fitness and exercise is one way to encourage the public to be physically active. There is evidence that some people hesitate to participate in fitness activities that put them out of range of toilet facilities. Some people, especially the elderly, are on medications or have medical conditions that cause them to have to urinate frequently. The availability of restrooms is of particular concern to women— young and old. As one young mother said, “Walking home to go to the bathroom is not an option for a 4-year old that has to go now.” The article went on to discuss the restroom needs of pregnant mothers and women with incontinence problems.

<http://www.americanrestroom.org/>

Not all parks have restrooms. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of restrooms available at the parks or to the placement of port-a-johns at those parks where restrooms are not feasible.

Another consideration with regard to restrooms is their accessibility. All permanent public restrooms should be ADA compliant. The restrooms should be open during times when the public is apt to use the park. Restrooms should be kept clean and in good repair. Installing eco-friendly facilities such as waterless urinals will help keep costs down as will installing faucets that turn off when released.

### **Water**

Fitness experts agree that hydration is essential during exercise. If residents are being encouraged to be physically active, the City should ensure that an adequate number of ADA compliant water fountains are conveniently placed at all parks.

Water is also needed at the picnic shelters and areas where there are picnic tables. Families may need water to prepare food or to clean up afterward (sanitation).

### **Cooperative Ventures**

What is often overlooked is the opportunity to partner with other agencies, surrounding towns and the county. It is not necessary that a facility be only for one purpose. For example, the City Public Works Department has need of stormwater control projects. If the City were to create a constructed wetland, this would also be an ideal place for passive activities such as bird watching or a nature park. Partnering with the NC Cooperative Extension Service to create an educational component of a park would also be desirable. For example, several existing parks would be good locations for rain gardens.

### **Open Space & Greenways**

The City's Planning Department should address open space and greenways through the planning process and developer exaction.

A conservation easement is one vehicle that allows landowners to voluntarily protect natural assets. Conservation easements should be encouraged. Purchase of property for the purpose of conservation is another option, especially if a large percentage of the property is wetlands. There are many different funding sources for conservation projects. As the opportunity to purchase such parcels presents itself, it should be explored. Whenever possible, wetlands should be preserved and used as passive wildlife viewing areas.

### **Seniors**

The number of senior citizens will continue to climb as the baby-boomers enter retirement age. The Parks & Recreation Department does have a wide range of activities for Seniors and it should continue to offer them.

### **Disabled/Handicapped**

There are few areas where the disabled or handicapped person can easily enjoy a park within the City of Goldsboro. The wheelchair bound individual, with a few exceptions, would have to roll across grass to get to the amenities. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission is recommending that H. V. Brow Park be redeveloped as a Boundless Playground for the disabled.

### **Public information on Parks & Recreation**

The Parks & Recreation Department has a website that is populated with information and every attempt is made to ensure that it is kept current. When the department is promoting events and programs it needs to ensure the widest possible distribution of this information through a number of different channels and not just rely on the website. The department should consider an online reservation system and a mechanism to accept payment on line.

## **Section 10: Maintenance and Security**

### **Maintenance**

The Parks and Recreation Department has its own maintenance staff which maintain the grounds, facilities, buildings and equipment at the parks. This includes lawn and shrub maintenance, building maintenance, keeping the restrooms clean, picking up the litter, and related duties. The golf course has its own maintenance staff. Each has its own superintendent. Is this the most efficient and effective organizational structure? The Superintendent of Park Maintenance does have a background in turf management.

It is recommended that at least two staff be a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and that the playgrounds be inspected several times a week in the off season and daily during the peak use season. The sand in all playground areas should be properly maintained. At the time that this plan was drafted, one staff person was so certified.

### **Security**

Members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, members of the general public (who offered comments at the park sites), respondents to the Parks & Recreation survey and staff stated that they do not feel safe/comfortable in some parks. In August the Parks & Recreation department filled the position of Park Ranger. This individual is responsible for security at the parks, recreation centers, and golf course.

### **Graffiti & Vandalism**

Graffiti is a continuing problem with all public areas as is vandalism. Keeping areas well lit and keeping screening shrubbery under control is one way to ensure that the areas can be viewed by area residents and those driving by. For other ideas on how to control graffiti and vandalism go to:

[http://www.graffitihurts.org/community\\_resources/prevention.cfm](http://www.graffitihurts.org/community_resources/prevention.cfm)

Graffiti can be seen at most parks. A multi-faceted approach is recommended to deal with graffiti in parks. Some suggested tactics include:

- Uniformed park staff visible in parks
- Dark paint on surfaces (graffiti artists like smooth, light canvases)
- Reduce the number of large blank surfaces located in secluded places
- Strategically mount dummy cameras or motion detectors in highly visible areas
- Illuminate areas sufficiently to allow for nighttime visibility that rivals daylight
- Motion sensitive lighting
- Clear sightline so that illicit activity can be more readily observed
- Use plantings to block opportunities to damage surfaces—thorny bushes work well
- Place a “beware of poison ivy” sign amongst the foliage
- Apply barrier coatings on clean surfaces to make future graffiti removal easier
- Fiberglass, porcelain or enamel coatings are more durable and more easily cleaned
- Glaze surfaces with vandal-resistant plastic laminates

- Apply films or weatherproofing sheets to bulletin boards, temporary signs and posters.
- Multi-colored murals or designs will discourage graffiti (solicit high school art students to create)
- Program parks so that there is an increase in human activity
- Start a program for at-risk youth: park horticulture, park rangers, clean up graffiti
- Coordinate park surveillance with local community watch groups
- Immediately remove graffiti (graffiti attracts more graffiti).

Before removing graffiti, photograph it and make notes on location, type, events, etc. Be alert for signs of gang graffiti (work with police). Graffiti should be immediately removed as it sends a message both to the artist and to the public that vandalism will not be tolerated. The presence of graffiti affects public perception of safety. It “tells the public that no one is caring for the facility and adds to the perception that the authorities are disorganized and lack social control. Disorganized areas evoke fear and eventually avoidance, because people feel the area is unsafe. Then, with a lack of legitimate users in an area, a cycle of decline begins as unpopulated areas become sites for illegitimate activities.” Parks in poor general condition may give the same impression.

[http://www.pps.org/parks\\_plazas\\_squares/info/management/m&o/graffitiprimer](http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/info/management/m&o/graffitiprimer)

“The broken window theory posits that lack of attention to relatively benign crimes (a rock thrown through a window, graffiti, littering, etc.) leads to more troubling criminal activity. Researchers in the Netherlands have now tested this theory and found that individuals behave differently based on their perception of how orderly an area is. In this study, individuals were more likely to litter, trespass and steal when in areas where litter and graffiti were present. The study’s authors contend that communities concerned about crime should not overlook the corrosive effects of petty crimes and neighborhood disorder.” [Read about the study.](#) (Source: Southern Compass)

### **Vandalism**

Evidence of vandalism can be seen as well (e.g., toilets and sinks broken, damaged picnic tables, etc.). “ Vandalism of public toilets is more likely to occur when the toilets are located in remote sites, located in places hidden from public view or have a low average usage. The siting of restrooms in places of maximum visibility is therefore of primary importance to protect them from vandalism. Aesthetic considerations may lead to compromises in the location of restrooms but restrooms should not be placed in sites shielded from view by heavy and low foliage and must have adequate lighting.

Restroom facilities should be located to face passing traffic. Where possible toilet cubicles should also be designed so that the cubicle door is kept open when the toilet is unoccupied since this helps to keep the toilet drier and more odor-free as well as less prone to vandalism.

Other design features that may help combat vandalism are:

- robust door buttons
  - non-flammable fittings particularly toilet paper dispensers, soap dispensers, coat hooks and toilet seats
  - toilet paper dispensers designed to reduce fire spreading into the container if the exposed toilet paper is ignited
  - durable external signage and instruction panels
  - graffiti-proofed walls.
- [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/12557/ds18\\_publictoilets.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/12557/ds18_publictoilets.pdf)

Park districts have five basic social "tools" to reduce vandalism: (1) publicity and public relations; (2) education; (3) rule enforcement; (4) programming and general operations; and (5) cooperation.

There are six principal physical vandalism control strategies: 1) Stop 'em from doing it! 2) Make it difficult and time-consuming! 3) Let 'em do it, but to something else! 4) Protect and strengthen the targets! 5) Make it easy to fix afterwards! And 6) Take away their masks of secrecy! <http://www.lib.niu.edu/1984/ip840120.html>

While the city does have a park ranger, he needs the assistance and cooperation of the police department. It is suggested that the Goldsboro Police Department initiate the principles of community policing. The police could open and lock up the bathrooms at the various parks. They could enforce parking regulations and park use rules. The police should work hand-in-hand with the City staff to support the various events held throughout the City.

The maintenance staff could involve youth in projects to increase the youths' ownership of projects. This helps to decrease vandalism.

## Section 11: Examples from other communities

The pictures in this section are examples of what other communities have done.



Example of use of universal signage to indicate the park amenities.



Example of an attractive trash can for use in areas like Herman Park and downtown.



Example of an informational kiosk to contain notices.



Pet waste station example.



Example of a pet waste station. While there is no ordinance requiring pet owners to pick up pet waste, perhaps if the city were to place pet waste stations strategically around parks and the downtown area that pet owners might voluntarily pick up their pet's waste.



Example of creating a constructed wetland for stormwater retention and using that same parcel as a passive park.



Example of a covered game table area. In good weather people can be seen eating, reading, playing cards and playing board games in this area.



Example of art in public places.



More public art.



Examples of interesting art work in a downtown area.



Example of whimsy in a planting area.



Some examples of inexpensive whimsy.



Example of an attractive downtown historic area walkway.

## **Section 12: Recommendations**

Based on the review of the standards the Parks and Recreation Commission members are of the opinion that there is adequate acreage in the system to accommodate the need for additional amenities desired by the citizens as indicated on the survey. The priority of improvements should follow the order of the parks as listed below:

- WA Foster Recreation Center
- Herman Park
- Mina Weil Park
- HV Brown Park
- Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course
- Peacock Park
- Berkeley Park
- North End Park
- Fairview Park
- South End Park
- Henry C. Mitchell Park
- Quail Park

The public desires as indicated on the survey are noted below. These amenities should be incorporated into the existing parks, greenways and facilities as resources permit.

- Walking Trails (68%)
- Fishing Area (60.4%)
- Lake/pond feature (60.4%)
- Outdoor Concerts (55.3%)
- Picnic Shelters for Families (45.5%)
- Festivals (44.8%)
- Bike trails (44.7%)
- Fitness/health programs (44%)
- Boat/canoe/kayak rentals (43.5%)
- Indoor Swimming Pool (42.3%)
- Amphitheater (41.9%)
- Water Splash Park (40.6%)
- Hiking Trails (40%)

This plan identifies facility standards and projects future needs. Projects are completed as funding and time permit.

- This plan does contain suggestions for each park, but the residents of the community should be asked at the time that the funding is available or being sought what amenities they would like to see at that particular park.

- When considering renovations to a given park or recreation center, review the survey results and when possible incorporate the desired features.
- Incorporate health & wellness into recreation & leisure opportunities.
- Create a unique playground area for children ages 1-12.
- Create an outdoor skateboard park.
- Create a nature trail.
- Construct a splash park as one feature in a state-of-the art playground park
- All large picnic shelters should have water, electric and a large grill.
- Add ADA compliant water fountains to each park and several to the larger parks.
- Add bicycle racks to each of the parks and several racks to the larger park. Use racks that support the frame, not the wheel.
- Need additional security lighting throughout the parks in the system.
- Whenever feasible, include nature interpretative signage.
- Designate one or more bird watching areas.
- Designate walking trails within the historic district and provide maps with distances marked. Create brochure or map of trails.
- Create a paddling guide of the local waters for kayakers and canoers.
- Repair all picnic tables that have been damaged and remove graffiti. As aluminum tables need to be replaced, save the frame and replace the metal planks with recycled composite boards.
- Give more consideration to the environment in all aspects of planning for the City and retain stormwater on site.
- Whenever possible, cooperate with the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service and other environmental groups to set up demonstration projects at the park sites (e.g. rain gardens, stormwater control systems, community gardens).
- More directional signs are needed on major roads to help the public locate the facilities.

- Whenever possible partner with community groups and agencies to enhance the recreational opportunities for the citizens.
- Add universal signage to each park regarding amenities.
- Create a set of regulations for all the parks. Keep them consistent unless there is a strong rationale to deviate. Post them where they can be clearly seen.
- Whenever graffiti or vandalism occurs—clean up and repair as soon as feasible.
- Not all parks have restrooms. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of restrooms available at the parks or to the placement of port-a-johns at those parks where restrooms are not feasible. All permanent public restrooms should be ADA compliant. The restrooms should be open during times when the park is open for public use. Restrooms should be kept clean and in good repair. Installing eco-friendly facilities such as waterless urinals will help keep costs down. Every restroom stall should have door.
- Fitness experts agree that hydration is essential during exercise. If residents are being encouraged to be physically active, the City should ensure that an adequate number of properly functioning ADA compliant water fountains are conveniently placed at all parks.
- Water is also needed at the picnic shelters and areas where there are picnic tables. Families may need water to prepare food or to clean up afterward (sanitation).
- It is recommended that at least two staff be a certified playground inspector and that the playgrounds be inspected several times a week in the off-season and daily during the season. Sand under all playground equipment should be the appropriate depth and be properly maintained.
- Involving the residents in creating and maintaining interesting planting areas would help to create civic pride in the appearance of their parks.
- The maintenance staff could involve youth projects to increase the youths' ownership of projects. This helps to decrease vandalism.
- Encourage police department to use community policing techniques and actively assist in making frequent observations at parks and in enforcing rules. The police could open and lock up the bathrooms at the various parks. They could enforce parking regulations and park use rules. The police should work hand-in-hand with the City staff to support the various events held throughout the City. One

park ranger (newly hired) can only do so much.

- Improve the look and functionality of the downtown area by fixing the sidewalks; add historic style lighting fixtures, place utilities underground, add attractive benches, signage and decorative trashcans.

## **Section 13: Capital Improvements Plan Recommendations**

A number of recommendations have been made. It is up to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission to recommend a course of action and to prioritize the list of actions. The Commission is advised to:

1. Make a decision as to which items they feel should be addressed.
2. Separate the minor needs from the major needs.
3. Prioritize the items on those two lists. Items on the major needs list should be included in the CIP.
4. As funding becomes available (City budget allocation, bonds, grants, donations, other sources) identify which of the needs should be addressed.
5. The lists and needs should be revisited each year at the time when the City is developing its budget and adjustments made as necessary.

The CIP should be updated yearly and should reflect a 3 to 5 year period.

This document is only a planning tool. It needs to be flexible because prices, circumstances, plans, material, shipping costs and standards change. It is difficult to predict in any given year what the City will be able to replace, repair, construct or purchase. It is suggested that the City keep a running list of needs and address them as they are able.

## **Section 14: Funding**

The following is a list of potential funding sources for recreational projects, but please note that funding and grant opportunities do change without notice.

The most common method for funding recreational projects is to combine local, public sector and private sector funds with funds from state, federal and additional private sector sources. There are some municipalities that choose to leverage local money as a match for outside funding sources. It is essential that a wide variety of funding sources be sought, to ensure that the project's success does not depend on one source of funding. The most important issue is to have strong local support, both in terms of finances and volunteerism.

Grant funding comes and goes. Some grants are cyclic. This list contains pertinent links as of the date of this document. The list should be updated yearly.

### ***Federal Government***

#### *The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)*

This is the primary source of federal funding for greenways. Administered by the state, this program caters to greenways and is called the *Recreational Trails Program*. Reimbursing up to 80 percent of the total cost (up to \$50,000); the budget for this program has increased to nearly \$45 million annually. The application deadline is at the end of January. The *Transportation Enhancements* program sets aside 10 percent of the total funds allocated under TEA-21 for funding trails that will improve the overall transportation system of the community. In February of 2004, this program changed in scope and name and is now called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA).

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization/safetea.htm>

#### *National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)*

The RTCA is a program to further the mission of the NPS by working with community groups and local, State, and federal government agencies to preserve open space, conserve rivers, and develop trails and greenways. RTCA staff can facilitate and bring expertise to the implementation of project(s) recommended in a watershed plan that coincide with the RTCA and NPS mission of outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America. More information can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/rtca/>

#### *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding to state and local agencies or nonprofit organizations authorized to carry out, maintain and operate watershed improvements involving less than 250,000 acres. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible

projects to improve watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements, and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50 percent local match for public recreation. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

#### *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants*

This Federal funding source was established to provide “close to home” park and recreation opportunities. Specifically, the purpose of this grant is to provide funding to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources including but not limited to parks, trails, wildlife lands, and other lands and facilities desirable for individual active participation. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. This funding is not consistently available from year-to-year. In North Carolina, this funding is handled through the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (Recreation Resources Services) <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/lwcf/>

#### *Wetlands Reserve Program*

The USDA provides direct payments to private landowners who agree to place sensitive wetlands under permanent easements. This program can be used to fund the protection of open space and greenways with riparian corridors. It is administered by the NRCS in North Carolina. This program usually results in tax benefits for local landowners as well. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>

#### *Environmental Protection Agency*

The Grants Program sponsored by EPA’s Office of Environmental Education supports environmental education projects that enhance the public’s awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress. Annual funding for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million. More than 75 percent of the grants awarded by this program receive less than \$15,000. <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

#### **State Funds**

##### *North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)*

This grant is designed to fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state’s beaches. The funding amounts vary from year to year but municipalities are required to match the funds dollar-for-dollar. Generally, the application for this grant is in late January of each year. <http://www.partf.net/>

##### *NC Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program*

The USDA provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to communities for the purchase of trees to plant along City streets, greenways, and parks. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree inventory; a municipal tree ordinance; a tree commission, committee or City; and an urban forestry management plan.

[http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/urban/urban\\_grantprogram.htm](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/urban/urban_grantprogram.htm)

*North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources*

The Division of Parks and Recreation has a grant program that funds up to 80% of a Recreational Trails Program, with a maximum grant of \$50,000. The 20% match from a municipality may be in in-kind monies or property purchases for the use of recreational trails. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Division also have Adopt-A-Trail grants available. These grants are highly sought after by North Carolina municipalities, and fund up to \$5,000 per project.

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/trails/grant.html>

*North Carolina DOT Enhancement Program*

Through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), the NCDOT allocates federal funds for projects that encourage alternative modes of transportation via the Transportation Enhancement Program. In addition to funding trails and greenways, this program is also effective for funding sidewalks. After February 29, 2004, the program will change names and be called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA). In addition, there are Federal Aid Construction Funds, State Construction Funds, and the Governors Highway Safety Program (GHSP) that have contributed to bicycle and pedestrian needs in the past.

[http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/funding/funding\\_sources.html](http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/funding/funding_sources.html)

*Governor's Crime Commission Grants*

The Governor's Crime Commission Grants Management Section administers federal block grants for new criminal justice and juvenile justice programs in North Carolina. The Governor's Crime Commission administers over \$30 million of grants each year and assures that money is spent according to federal and state governmental regulations during the life of the grants. The grants are awarded to government, education and social service agencies to start new and innovative programs in the following areas:

- Drug Control and System Improvement
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Juvenile Accountability
- Victims of Crime Act
- Violence Against Women Act.

The Governor's Crime Commission staff announces the availability of grant funds statewide every fall on its web site. Applicants have up to six weeks to complete the application. The appropriate committee, the Commission, and the secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety make decisions on the grant recipients and the awards are made in the spring. <http://www.ncgccd.org/planning/grantinfo/grants.cfm>

### *State Clean Water Management Trust Funds*

Funds established to protect or improve water quality could apply if the proposed greenway has a strong link to potentially improving the quality of nearby/adjacent watercourses/water bodies. The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund has funded a greenway study in Jackson County, North Carolina in the past.

<http://www.cwmtf.net/>

### ***Local government***

#### *Funding through local budget*

Maintenance and upkeep are normally funded through a line item in the City's budget. The City should also budget each year for lesser cost items to improve the facilities like benches, tables, etc.

#### *Funding through Local Capital Improvement Plans*

By adding parks and recreation funding into the Capital Improvements Plan, the parks and facilities can be built and maintained with funds on an annual basis. Goldsboro should include parks and recreation in its CIP.

#### *Bond Referendums for Projects*

Some communities around the nation have successfully placed propositions on local ballots to support greenway development. There are a number of North Carolina examples of this, most notably with Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, City of New Bern and Guilford County.

#### *Establishment of a Nonprofit*

There are some foundations that will not award funds to local governments. Setting up a 501(c) 3 corporation would allow the City to apply for these funds.

### ***Private Sources of Funding***

#### *Kodak American Greenways Awards Program*

Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. This provides grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to local greenways projects. Grants can be used for almost any activity that serves as a catalyst for local greenway planning, design, or development. <http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=2106>

#### *BC/BS NC mini-grants*

<http://www.bcbsnc.com/foundation/grants.html#four>

The Foundation funds programs and services that promote physical activity among North Carolinians. A key strategy in addressing North Carolina's overweight and obesity epidemic is to increase physical activity levels. The Foundation funds innovative programs that will help North Carolinians increase their physical activity levels while simultaneously increasing their overall health.

### *Bikes Belong Foundation*

The Bikes Belong Grants Program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths, lanes, and routes, as well as bike parks, mountain bike trails, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.

<http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants>

### *Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation*

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation provides grants to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charities in the United States. An application is available on the Lowes.com website. This foundation provides 1.5 million dollars in grants annually. Additionally, the Lowe's Heroes program provides volunteers for community service activities.

<http://www.lowes.com/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/Community#hero&rn=none>

### *The Home Depot Foundation*

The Home Depot Foundation provides grants to 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt public charities in the United States. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. For funds of up to \$1,000, an organization is eligible to go to a local Home Depot store and ask for assistance with a community project. In that case, the grant may be given in the form of cash, or materials. <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/>

### *Hamburger Helper*

My Hometown Helper grants are given for projects to benefit communities.

<http://www.myhometownhelper.com/>

### *Tony Hawk Foundation—funds skateboard parks*

The Advisory Commission favors projects that demonstrate the greatest need, significant involvement of skaters at every step of the skatepark process, and a commitment to hiring experienced skatepark specialists to ensure a quality park.

<http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/>

### *Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation*

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation believes that people and place are intricately connected and that the quality of life and health of North Carolinians depends on strong stewardship of the environment. <http://www.zsr.org/>

## **Local Foundations**

### *Wayne County Community Foundation*

The Wayne Community Foundation offers grants from its unrestricted endowment fund. Proposals are sought that will assist in initiating projects and programs designed to address a community need, affect a broad segment of our community and will attract additional funding from local groups, government or other foundations.

[http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/affiliates/coastal\\_plain/wayne/index.php](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/affiliates/coastal_plain/wayne/index.php)

## **Other sources of revenue**

### *Gift Catalog*

It is suggested that the gift catalog list, and preferably illustrate, each desired improvement along with its cost. A system of recognizing donors or honorees should be created. This suggestion is still relevant and should be created and posted on the City's web site. Further, the "cost" of the gift should include installation (if needed) plus a small percentage for handling. These items should have donor appeal. Some examples previously given include: park benches, special purpose room, memorial trees, walks, landscaped areas and picnic shelters. Campaigns to solicit gifts should be held around holidays like Christmas, Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc. Gift catalogs and memorials: <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/financepg.aspx#Donations> This next catalog includes policies and procedures for donations. <https://www.oakharbor.org/pages.cfm?id=13&pid=47>

### *Adopt-A-Trail Programs*

These are typically small grant programs that fund new construction, repair/renovation, maps, trail brochures and facilities (bike racks, picnic areas, etc.). Trails can also be adopted by local businesses. <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/trails/home.html>

### *Adopt-A-Park*

Although Goldsboro's Parks & Recreation Department already has such a program, here is an example of a municipal Adopt-A-Park program: <http://www.lee-county.com/AdminCodes/PDF14-0/ac14-6.pdf>

If staff does not have the time to pursue these ideas, then perhaps a volunteer could be recruited to do so.

### *North Carolina Division of Community Corrections*

Low security prison labor can be used to construct and maintain greenways and parks. Amenities such as picnic tables, signs and benches can be constructed using prison labor. <http://www.doc.state.nc.us/dcc/index.htm>

### *Local Private Sector Funding*

Oftentimes, local industries and private businesses may agree to provide support for greenway development through one or more of the following methods:

- Donations of cash or supplies (hardware/home improvement centers) to a specific project or project component.
- Donations of services by companies/corporations to reduce cost of project implementation, including equipment (rental/construction companies) and labor (having employees help during business hours).
- Reduced costs for supplies by local businesses.

In Cary, North Carolina, a greenway was constructed using \$40,000 worth of donated materials and labor. Some materials used in that plan were considered waste by local industries.

### *"Buy-A-Foot" Programs*

These programs have been successful in many local fundraising endeavors throughout North Carolina. This method encourages citizens to purchase one linear foot of the greenway by donating the cost of construction for that foot. In exchange, the purchaser often receives a certificate and a T-shirt. This is very similar to the Buy-A-Brick program that some communities' parks and recreation Towns have used to renovate older parks. This concept could also be used for improvements such as benches, trees, fountains, etc.

### *Volunteer Work*

Community volunteers may donate their time through aiding in construction or conducting a fundraiser. Excellent sources of volunteers include Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Church Groups, High School Clubs and shop classes, Civic Organizations, the U.S. Air Force, and the Sierra Club. Also, a convict work crew or a person in need of completing community service hours would be a method of gaining some additional volunteers. This volunteer work could also be done once the project is complete in the form of Adopt-A-Spot program, in which volunteers are responsible for keeping a section of the project beautified or updated.

[http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?62+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+219+\(Autumn+1999\)](http://www.law.duke.edu/shell/cite.pl?62+Law+&+Contemp.+Probs.+219+(Autumn+1999))

### *Sponsorship & naming right*

In tight budget times, sponsorships can be a much-needed source of revenue for local governments. But if potential sponsors are turned away, there are legal ramifications. Learn how to craft a wise sponsorship policy and avoid legal pitfalls. The link below provides a sample policy, which you can modify and adapt to your jurisdiction.

[Sample Sponsorship Policy for Local Governments](#)

### *Miscellaneous*

Here is a link to a number of ideas for financing park projects:

<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/financepg.aspx>

## Section 15: Reference List

This section is a compilation of links to material related to parks and recreation.

### ***General***

Municipal Research and Service Center—Park Planning & Design  
<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/parkplanpg.aspx>

National Parks and Recreation Association <http://www.nrpa.org/>

Natural Resources Research Information Page  
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~leung/nrrips.html>

North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)  
<http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/resource/scorp.html>

North Carolina Division of Environment and Natural Resources  
<http://www.enr.state.nc.us/>

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation  
<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html>

North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study, Fiscal Year 2005-06 [http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/services\\_study.html](http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/services_study.html)

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Association <http://www.ncrpa.net/>

North Carolina Recreation Resources Services  
<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/>

Promoting Physical Activity through School Ground Greening  
<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lq/pdf/PHACreport.pdf>

Recreation Access Rights under ADA <http://www.indiana.edu/~nca/ncpad/rights.shtml>

Recreation.GOV <http://www.recreation.gov/>

Recreation, Parks and Open Space Standards and Guidelines  
[http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation\\_standards.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation_standards.htm)

Links to articles of interest: <http://www.mrsc.org/focus/focusarcsbj.aspx?sid=12#2111>

Sample CIP <http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/parks/CIP.asp>

Intergovernmental cooperation—P&R: <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/ig-parks.aspx>

[Project for Public Spaces, Inc.](#) - Features information on parks, plazas and public squares, transportation, public markets, public buildings and public art.

[Washington Recreation and Park Association](#)

Virginia Beach P&R Fact sheet

[http://www.vbgov.com/file\\_source/dept/parks/Document/ADM\\_Facts.pdf](http://www.vbgov.com/file_source/dept/parks/Document/ADM_Facts.pdf)

Boundless Playgrounds

In Jacksonville, NC (Camp Lejeune) they are building a Boundless Playground and Warrior Workout Trail. <http://www.boundlessplaygrounds.org/> They are selling bricks to fund it. Here is the web site for that project: <http://www.atlanticmcc.com/bricks/>

***Rules/Regulations/Security/Signage/Vandalism prevention:***

Parks & Recreation ordinances

<http://www.townofpagosasprings.com/vertical/Sites/%7B175F1D4C-10BE-47AA-AF3E-C1BCDE2446A6%7D/uploads/%7B9DB8C475-0E1B-4487-B7B3-A83F247C924A%7D.PDF>

Fort Lauderdale, FL—park rules <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/life/rules.htm>

Comprehensive Park rules & regulations

<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/parkrl.aspx>

Lighting for security:

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1145/is\\_n11\\_v29/ai\\_17883946/pg\\_2](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_n11_v29/ai_17883946/pg_2)

Parks security manger job description

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=14181>

Public/private solution to management of skateboard park

<http://bikesbelong.oli.us/BMX/PublicPrivatePartnership.pdf>

Offenses related to P&R facilities [http://northglenn.org/municode/ch9/content\\_9-10.html](http://northglenn.org/municode/ch9/content_9-10.html)

Aquatic and Recreational signage style guide

<http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au/aquaticsignage.htm>

Manual: <http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au/pdf/SignageManual3.pdf>

Recreation international signage

<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/mapstandards/downloads/inter.pdf>

Samples of international recreational signs

<http://www.westernsafety.com/zumar/zumarsigns2.html>

Interpretative signage <http://www.interpretivebsg.co.uk/>

Recreational Sports Posting and literature distribution policy

<http://recsports.osu.edu/uploads/Recreational%20Sports%20Posting%20Policy.pdf>

Code regarding signage—drug free parks

<http://www.peoriaaz.com/CityCode/PDF/Ch18/sec18-31.pdf>

Wayfinding provides a methodology for people to find their way (hence “wayfinding”) to and around a destination. By gaining an understanding of a place, who its users are, and what they need to find, wayfinding planners develop a signage master plan that guides people through a facility. This process includes defining functions of various signs, and the specific message and location of each sign. These are typically compiled into sign message schedules and locator maps. Regardless of the type of facility for which the wayfinding planning is being done, certain basic principles such as legibility, prioritization of messages and amount of information that can be comprehended apply. Here is an article on wayfinding by the Disney group:

<http://www.mouseplanet.com/articles.php?art=ma071206jk>

Vandalism in general

[http://www.troopers.state.ny.us/Crime\\_Prevention/Juvenile\\_Crime/Vandalism/](http://www.troopers.state.ny.us/Crime_Prevention/Juvenile_Crime/Vandalism/)

Park vandalism

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Beauty+interrupted:+vandalism+can+paint+an+ugly+picture+of+an...-a0152259431>

Vandalism prevention & Hooked on Fishing, not on drugs

[http://www.ci.mansfield.oh.us/parks/parks\\_park\\_programs.htm](http://www.ci.mansfield.oh.us/parks/parks_park_programs.htm)

Prevention of crime in parks

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1145/is\\_7\\_35/ai\\_63973906](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_7_35/ai_63973906)

Graffiti Primer

[http://www.pps.org/parks\\_plazas\\_squares/info/management/m&o/graffitiprimer](http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/info/management/m&o/graffitiprimer)

Recreation & sports facilities user rights and responsibilities;

[http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation\\_standards.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM423/recreation_standards.htm)

Design standards for public toilets (includes section on vandalism prevention)  
[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/12557/ds18\\_publictoilets.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/12557/ds18_publictoilets.pdf)

Healing America's Cities: Why we must invest in urban parks  
<http://www.lib.niu.edu/1995/ip950121.html>

Beyond Recreation: A Broader View of Urban Parks  
[http://www.urban.org/uploadedPDF/311010\\_urban\\_parks.pdf](http://www.urban.org/uploadedPDF/311010_urban_parks.pdf)

Vandalism Control: Management for Park Districts  
<http://www.lib.niu.edu/1984/ip840120.html>

***Programming/Scheduling/rental/reservations:***

Active Network (one example of reservation software—not an endorsement)  
<http://www.activenetwork.com/organizations.htm>

Online reservations: <http://www2.monroeville.pa.us/parks/registration/registration.html>

Fees & Charges—High Point NC <http://www.high-point.net/pr/fees.cfm>

Rentals—High Point NC <http://www.high-point.net/pr/rental.cfm>

[Longview-Kelso Parks & Recreation Department](#)

[Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma](#)

[Portland Parks and Recreation Department](#)

[Seattle Parks and Recreation Department](#)

[Spokane Parks and Recreation Department](#)

City of Spokane--golf - <http://www.spokanegolf.org/>

City of Spokane--swimming - <http://www.spokaneparks.org/swimming/aquamain.htm>

Respecting religious traditions in recreational programming:  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-123580267.html>

Benefits based programming in P&R:  
[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1145/is\\_n5\\_v33/ai\\_20640533](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_n5_v33/ai_20640533)

Austin, TX Programs for seniors <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/seniors.htm>

Seattle P&R for Seniors <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/seniors/index.htm>

Gaston County NC—P&R for Seniors

<http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/ParksAndRec/SeniorPrograms.HTM>

New Bern P&R <http://www.ci.new-bern.nc.us/RP/index.php>

Skateboard Park

<http://www.skatepark.org/>

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Skatepark/index.php>

<http://www.customskateboarding.com/>

Skateboard park operational plan

[http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/council/parks/2005-03-](http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/council/parks/2005-03-23/03%2023%2005%20Skatepark%20Operational%20Plan-9e.pdf)

[23/03%2023%2005%20Skatepark%20Operational%20Plan-9e.pdf](http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/council/parks/2005-03-23/03%2023%2005%20Skatepark%20Operational%20Plan-9e.pdf)

Volunteers—fundraising and public relations—skateboard parks

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1145/is\\_6\\_38/ai\\_105045981](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1145/is_6_38/ai_105045981)

Dogs in Park <http://www.brevardparks.com/dogs/index.php>

Dog Park <http://www.tudekdogpark.org/>

Dog park site: <http://www.monroeville.pa.us/content/?Page=89>

People, dogs & parks <http://www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs.htm>

Policies on geocaching in parks:

<http://www.crpr.org/agency/GeoGames/geocache-policy.html>

Geocaching: [http://www.cityofmartin.net/parksrec\\_sports\\_geocaching.htm](http://www.cityofmartin.net/parksrec_sports_geocaching.htm)

<http://www.google.com/Top/Recreation/Outdoors/Geocaching/>

Geocaching in AK <http://www.anchorage.net/2121.cfm>

### ***Bikes***

Guide to bicycle parking: [www.bfbc.org/issues/parking/apbp-bikeparking.pdf](http://www.bfbc.org/issues/parking/apbp-bikeparking.pdf)

Wake Forest Zoning Ordinance incorporates bicycle parking standards and addresses the Bicycle Parking Guidelines by reference and includes minimum bicycle parking for almost every use:

[http://wakeforestnc.gov/client\\_resources/residents/planning/zoning\\_ordinance.pdf](http://wakeforestnc.gov/client_resources/residents/planning/zoning_ordinance.pdf)

### ***Beautification/Art***

Outer Banks Winged Horses:

<http://www.outerbankspress.com/whe/winged-horses.html>

Greenville Pirates:

<http://www.greenvillenc.org/docs/The%20Painted%20Pirate%20Project.pdf>

Art in public places <http://artinpublicplaces.org/>

Art in public places Miami FL <http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/publicart/>

Art in public places Austin, TX <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/>

Art in public place—variety of links <http://www.artslynx.org/heal/public.htm>

P&R landscaping

<http://www.vbgov.com/vgn.aspx?vgnnextchannel=a59ac67a3e83b010VgnVCM100000870b640aRCRD&vgnnextparchannel=dfee54cf18ad9010VgnVCM100000870b640aRCRD>

Community gardens: <http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/parks/comqarden.aspx>

Bloom to Grow <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=3765>

Keep San Jose beautiful <http://www.sjbeautiful.org/index.html>

### ***Maintenance/Safety***

Playground Rating System by Joe Frost

<http://www.sc.edu/childrenscenter/doc/playgroundratingscale.pdf>

Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool

[http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/tools/docs/documents\\_recfacility.pdf](http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/tools/docs/documents_recfacility.pdf)

Water safety plan

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/58184/2004-2007\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/58184/2004-2007_Action_Plan.pdf)

Public Playground Safety Handbook <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf>

Park Maintenance Plan <http://www.horsham.org/pdf/parks/puchapter8.pdf>

## **APPENDIX A**

Parks & Recreation Survey Instrument and results

## **APPENDIX B**

Map: Street map locating parks, facilities and greenways

**APPENDIX C:**

Chapter 97: Goldsboro Ordinances—Recreation & Parks

