

**FORSYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIEFING  
DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2020 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 1

**SUBJECT: A. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE  
B. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:**

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

See attached staff report.

After consideration, the City-County Planning Board recommended adoption of the *Parks and Open Space Plan Update*. City Council adopted the plan update on December 2, 2019.

ATTACHMENTS:  Yes  No

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

**WHEREAS** the *Legacy 2030 Comprehensive Plan* identified the goal of providing parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the residents at accessible locations throughout the county;

**WHEREAS** the *Parks and Open Space Plan Update* for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County was developed by staff with input and participation from the general public at seven public meetings;

**WHEREAS** on October 10, 2019, the City-County Planning Board held a public hearing and recommended adoption of the *Parks and Open Space Plan Update* for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County; and

**WHEREAS** the *Parks and Open Space Plan Update* for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County contains recommendations to guide future development and maintenance of the City and County parks and open space system;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached *Parks and Open Space Plan Update* and encourages the plan's use as a guide for future decisions regarding parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

**TO:** Forsyth County Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services  
**DATE:** December 17, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Draft *Parks and Open Space Plan Update*

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Planning staff is prepared to brief the Board of Commissioners on the draft *Parks and Open Space Plan Update*. The draft *Parks and Open Space Plan Update* was developed by Planning staff with extensive input and participation from the general public through seven community meetings and an online survey.

The City-County Planning Board held a public hearing on the draft plan on October 10, 2019 and unanimously recommended adoption of the plan. The Winston-Salem City Council held a public hearing on the draft plan on December 2, 2019 and unanimously voted for adoption of the plan.

Staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the draft plan.

# **Parks and Open Space Plan Update**

**2019**

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# Overview

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## Purpose

The purpose of this update is to further the efforts initiated by the *Parks and Open Space Plan* adopted in 2006 in enhancing the recreational opportunities available to residents throughout the county by guiding development of new parks and recreational facilities. With continued growth within the county and shifting trends and attitudes towards recreation, it is important to reassess the recommendations of the 2006 Plan to ensure that they continue to provide a framework for future development of the park and open space system. This update provides this review, assesses service area needs, and proposes recommendations that reflect the public's attitude towards existing and future facilities. In response to public input, this update includes more detailed information on accessibility and maintenance than included in the previous plan.

This update is intended to be a working document that will evolve over time to account for changing public demand for different amenities and to take advantage of new opportunities for land acquisition as they become available. These changes, whether through individual park improvements and site selection or through future planning efforts, should maintain the goal and objectives of the update.

While this update focuses on the parks and recreational facilities located and maintained by the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department and the Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department, it does acknowledge the work that is being done by the smaller municipalities in the county to provide their residents with recreational amenities. Parks operated and maintained by the municipalities were considered when assessing service area needs. However, recommendations for these communities are only included in this update if the recommendations were adopted during an area plan process as these communities have adopted individual plans that address parks, recreation, and open space.

The plan is organized based on 13 sections. The first eight sections provide information on the context for the overall plan, existing facilities and needs analysis, and recommendations for parks, park amenities, and facilities. Later sections provide information and recommendations relating to open space, deferred maintenance, and accessibility. An implementation schedule is provided at the end of the plan.

## Goal and Objectives

The overall goal for the park system as identified in the community's comprehensive plan, the *Legacy 2030 Update*, is to:

"Provide parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the residents at accessible locations throughout the county."

The objectives of this plan aim to work toward achieving this goal.

- Establish a well-maintained system of parks and open space throughout Winston-Salem and Forsyth County that allows for recreation and enjoyment of nature, improves the health and wellbeing of residents, and enhances community character.
- Provide amenities that meet the needs and wants of current and future residents.
- Ensure that parks and recreational facilities are accessible to all users and provide amenities that can be enjoyed by a broad range of users with varying abilities.

- Ensure that all residents have safe access to parks through the support of a multimodal transportation network.
- Increase collaboration and partnership between governmental jurisdictions, institutions, and providers to effectively and efficiently meet the recreational needs of residents.
- Ensure that all parks and recreational facilities are well-maintained and upgraded as necessary to provide a quality level of service to the community.

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# Planning Context

## Park System History

The parks and open space system began in 1892 with a gift of land that would become Washington Park. Over time the system expanded as other land within the city limits was acquired including Hanes Park (1919), Granville Park (1920 and 1923), Central Park (1922), Bon Air Park (1923), and Greenway Park (1923). A City Recreation Commission was formed in 1934 to manage these lands. Prior to the 1970s, recreational facilities for Forsyth County residents were provided by the City of Winston-Salem or voluntary agencies such as the YMCA, YWCA and little leagues. The first step to establishing a County-managed park system came in 1973 when the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners appropriated \$300,000 for park land acquisition. The County park system began to take shape in 1974 when it gained ownership of the Old Air Force Radar Station property and received a donation of 13 acres of land from the Hill family. These properties would become Union Cross Park, the County's first park, and C. G. Hill Memorial Park respectively. Additionally, the 1974-75 annual budget included a line item for parks and recreation for the first time; and, in November 1974, county voters approved a \$3 million recreation bond with the funds used to purchase Tanglewood Park and Horizons Park.

To direct the growth of the park system, a number of initial plans were created for both the City and County. In 1970, planning staff prepared *Public Open Space and Recreation in a Changing Society, Forsyth County, 1970 to 2000* with assistance from the City's Recreation Department. In 1975, consultants Gardner Gidley Associates completed *Open Space and Recreation Plan, Forsyth County, N. C. 1975-1980* and in 1977 the companion plan, *Volume II - Parks and Open Space for Winston-Salem*, was adopted. An update to the *Forsyth County Open Space and Recreation Plan* was completed in 1984 and provided recommendations through the year 2000. In 2006, the *Parks & Open Space Plan, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, 2015* was adopted.

## Demographics and Development

Understanding how the county's population is changing and where development is taking place are critical to establishing a system that serves the residents of the community. Between 2000 and 2017, the population of Forsyth County increased by just over 62,000, a 20 percent increase. Winston-Salem increased by just over 54,000 people or 29.29 percent. The Town of Lewisville saw the largest percent increase in population at 53.14 percent followed by the Village of Clemmons at 43.5 percent. The Town of Bethania saw the smallest increase at 6.78 percent. Table 1 provides information on population change for Forsyth County and the other municipalities.

**Table 1: Population Change for Forsyth County and Municipalities**

	2000	2010	2017*	Percent Change 2000 to 2017
Forsyth County	306,067	350,670	368,362	20.35
Bethania	354	328	378	6.78
Clemmons	13,827	18,627	19,844	43.5

Kernersville	17,126	23,123	23,988	40.07
Lewisville	8,826	12,639	13,516	53.14
Rural Hall	2,464	2,937	3,118	26.54
Tobaccoville	2,209	2,441	2,597	17.56
Walkertown	4,009	4,675	4,970	23.97
Winston-Salem	185,776	229,617	240,193	29.29

\*estimated  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The number of building permits issued for single-family residential over the past several years has mirrored the population increase with western Winston-Salem, Clemmons and Lewisville experiencing the greatest amount of development. South and southwest Winston-Salem and Forsyth County along with Kernersville have also shown a significant number of permits over the past years.

The North Carolina State Demographer projects the County's population to increase to a population of 423,006, a 12.4 percent increase, by the year 2030 and by an additional 7.1 percent between 2030 and 2038 to a population of 453,140. Net migration is projected to account for an increase of 52,814 individuals by 2038.

The median age of Forsyth County residents in 2017 was 38.2, an increase from the 2010 median age of 37.2 and 2000 median age of 36. For Winston-Salem, the 2017 median age was 35.3 which was also an increase over the 2000 and 2010 median age of 34.6. Since 2000, the greatest changes in the population percentage between the age groups for both Forsyth County and Winston-Salem have come from the decrease of individuals between ages 25 and 44 years and the increase in individuals between the ages 55 and 74 years. The median age for the county is projected to be 38.75 by 2038. Future projections for the county show the largest increases in population for individuals 65 and older with the greatest increase in those 75 and older. A slight increase is projected for individuals between 25 and 44 years. The projections shows decreases in individuals aged below the 24 years and those between 45 to 64 years. See Table 2 for information on age group percentages for Forsyth County and Winston-Salem.

**Table 2: Forsyth County and Winston-Salem Age Group Percentages**

	Forsyth County				Winston-Salem		
	2000	2010	2017	2038*	2000	2010	2017
0 - 14 years	20.2	20.2	19.5	18.19	19.8	20.6	20.0
15 - 24 years	13.2	14.1	13.9	12.87	15.2	15.8	15.7
25 - 34 years	14.9	12.8	12.8	13.85	15.6	14.0	14.0
35 - 44 years	16.2	13.4	12.4	13.0	14.8	13.0	12.5

45 - 54 years	13.9	14.6	13.8	12.13	12.7	13.3	12.4
55 - 64 years	8.9	11.8	12.8	10.32	8.2	10.8	11.8
65 - 74 years	6.9	6.9	8.6	9.49	7.0	6.4	7.7
75 and older	5.8	6.0	6.2	10.14	6.7	6.1	6.1

\*projections for 2038 provided by N.C. State Demographer; Winston-Salem projections not available  
Source: U.S. Census, N.C. State Demographer

Census data also shows that, since 2000, both Forsyth County and Winston-Salem have become more diverse with increases in individuals who identify as either Asian or Hispanic. While the Asian population experienced a slight increase, the percentage of the population that identifies as Hispanic nearly doubled in Forsyth County from 6.4 percent in 2000 to an estimated 12.6 percent in 2017. In Winston-Salem, the percentage went from 8.6 percent to 14.9 percent over the same period.

### Emerging Trends

Over the past several years, there has been a shift in how the public uses parks and recreational facilities and how professionals view the role of park facilities within a community. Residents have changed how they use parks in their day-to-day lives resulting in a shifting demand for park amenities. Furthermore, professionals from various disciplines are viewing parks and recreational facilities not just as singular amenities within a community but as key elements within a broader context that have the potential to serve multiple roles.

### Prescriptive versus At-Will Recreation

Over the past decade there has been a rise in what has been referred to as “at-will” recreation. While ball fields and tennis courts have a prescribed use and typically determined times of use, at-will recreation refers to those amenities which allow users to dictate how they are used and when they are used. Amenities such as multi-use trails, mountain biking trails, dog parks, kayaking, and open grassed areas represent typical at-will recreational amenities. While the demand for baseball and football fields has decreased, demand for at-will recreational amenities is increasing in communities throughout the country.

The *2019 Physical Activity Council’s Overview Report on U.S. Participation* highlights this trend. The Physical Activity Council (PAC) conducts the largest single-source research study on participation in sports, recreation, and leisure activities each year for individuals aged six years and older. Between 2013 and 2018, 1.1 million individuals either started or returned to incorporating some form of physical activity into their daily lives. When analyzing participation over different activity categories, fitness sports and outdoor sports participation increased the most between 2013 and 2018. Activities within the fitness category include class-based exercises, cardio equipment usage, walking for fitness, and yoga. Outdoor sports activities include bicycling (on-road and off-road), birdwatching, camping, canoeing, fishing, recreational kayaking, running/jogging, hiking and trail running. Trail running and hiking saw a minimum of 7 percent average annual increase in participation between 2013 and 2018. The report also noted that while over half of Generation Z individuals (born year 2000 onward) participated in team sports in 2018, their participation has actually steadily declined over the years with focus turning to fitness sports. Lastly, the report noted that while fitness sports remain the go-to activities for incorporating physical activity into daily lives, outdoor activities have become just as important with 60 percent of the population aged six years and older participating in an outdoor activity.

### **Active Living and Community Health**

Over the past decade, planning and health communities have started focusing on the link between community design and health in response to the ongoing epidemic of obesity and other chronic diseases. Planners, public health professionals, and community activists are working together to support active living lifestyles by promoting community development designs that allow individuals to incorporate physical activity into their day-to-day routines. Additionally, public health professionals and policymakers have begun investigating how the built environment influences activity behavior among individuals. The Healthy Community Design Initiative, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was established as a means of improving overall public health by improving community design through educational programs and the use Health Impact Assessments.

Parks and green spaces provide residents with spaces to incorporate physical activity into their lives. Evidence has shown that when residents live near recreational facilities, they are more likely to be active. This is particularly important for youth and elderly residents as their ability to access facilities outside their neighborhood is limited. Furthermore, studies have shown that being able to experience nature can also have physiological benefits beyond simply providing opportunities for physical activity. For example, studies in hospitals have shown that patients in hospital rooms with a view of nature generally recover more quickly, require less pain medication, and have fewer post-surgical complications than patients in rooms without such a view.

In addition to physical health benefits, parks and open spaces are beneficial in addressing the mental health and emotional wellbeing of residents. Access to parks and open space has shown to improve cognitive skills relating to concentration and handling change, impulse control, and the ability to manage stress levels. A lack of accessible green spaces has been connected to increases in attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), clinical depression, and anxiety. On a social level, access to parks and other green spaces leads to less feelings of isolation among residents. Individuals feel more eager to form connections with their neighbors leading to a greater sense of community, generosity, trust, and civic-mindedness. As a result, rates of loneliness, aggression, and crime decrease.

#### Park Rx Program

As the link between public health and access to parks and open space has become ever more apparent, there has been a growing trend among doctors and other health practitioners to prescribe nature to improve physical and mental health. In 2013, a group of park agencies, healthcare providers and community organizations were brought together by the Institute at the Golden Gate and the National Recreation and Parks Association with support from the National Park Service to develop the National Park Rx Initiative. The goal of the initiative was to support practitioners as they navigate this growing trend. Today, a number of programs have been established across the country aimed at informing individuals of opportunities for outdoor recreation as a way of improving their health. Park Rx America is an established non-profit organization that works directly with land managers and registered public health professionals to decrease chronic disease and increase wellness through the prescription of nature during routine health checks. More localized examples include Birmingham Parks Rx Program, Birmingham, Alabama; Campus Park Rx and GWA Parks Rx Program, Greater Williamsburg Area, Virginia; Marin City Park Rx Program, Marin City, California; Docs in the Park, Baltimore, Maryland; and Track Trails, Asheville, North Carolina.

## **Quality of Life**

A number of factors can be used to gauge the success and attractiveness of a city. In the past, a city's success and attractiveness would often be based on economic factors such as number of jobs, number of corporate headquarters, and incomes and wages of residents. More recently, however, factors relating to quality of life and happiness have been playing a greater role in determining the success and attractiveness of a city. These factors include walking and biking facilities, museums and cultural amenities, libraries, restaurants and other entertainment venues, crime rates, and housing costs. Rather than employees moving to where jobs are located, individuals are moving to the cities they want to live in and then finding a job once they have arrived. This is particularly true among young professionals. Additionally, studies have shown that available amenities guide decisions on where to move as much as low crime rates and housing availability. The availability of parks, recreation facilities, and open space is a key quality-of-life factor in determining the attractiveness of a city to new residents, particularly young professionals, and in turn, companies looking for start-up space or relocation.

## **Other Related Planning Efforts**

In addition to the 2006 *Parks and Open Space Plan* and *Legacy 2030 Update*, a number of other plans have guided parks and recreational facilities development.

## **Area Plans**

Area plans provide more detailed guidance on future development and community facility needs for smaller geographic areas. These plans help implement the broad goals and recommendations of the *Legacy 2030 Update* at a more localized level through extensive public input and site analysis. A series of area plans covering the entire county have been updated and adopted as of 2018. Within each area plan, recommendations are provided for new parks and recreation facilities, as well as, improvements to existing facilities.

## **Rural Policy Studies**

Two studies for the rural areas not included in an adopted area plan have been completed. The *Western Rural Area Development Assessment* was completed in 2010 and provides information on future development potential for the area located along the Yadkin River west of the towns of Tobaccoville and Lewisville and north of the Village of Clemmons. The assessment analyzes current development patterns and existing limitations to determine the future development potential of the area. It does not address parks and recreational facilities. The *Northeast Rural Area Study* area was completed in 2012 and covers the northeast portion of the county generally located east of Rural Hall and north of the City of Winston-Salem and Town of Kernersville. Unlike the *Western Rural Area Development Assessment*, the study does provide recommendations for future recreation and open space development and maintenance of the scenic character of the area.

## **Smaller Municipality Plans**

Some of the smaller municipalities have developed plans and recommendations regarding parks and recreational facilities within their jurisdictions. The Town of Kernersville adopted the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* in 2013. The plan lays out recommendations for improvements to existing facilities, proposed new facility needs, future staffing needs and facility maintenance. The Village of Clemmons adopted the *Clemmons Community Compass*, the Village's 2030 comprehensive plan in 2010. Within Chapter 8: Community Life, objectives for parks, recreation, and greenspaces are provided to guide future amenity development. An update to the plan was adopted by the Clemmons Village Council in May 2019. The Town of Lewisville addresses parks, recreation, and open space within its *Comprehensive Plan* adopted

in 2015. Recommendations for parks, recreational facilities and greenways are provided in Chapter 4: Facilities and Services. The plan also addresses open space and land preservation in chapters 2 and 3. Recommendations for future land use and community facilities for the towns of Walkertown, Rural Hall, and Tobaccoville are addressed in their respective area plans.

***Greenway Plan Update***

The *Greenway Plan Update* was adopted in 2012 and provides a framework for the continued development of the county greenway system. The goal of the *Greenway Plan Update* is to expand the existing network of greenways to create a greenway system that emphasizes connectivity within a larger transportation network, provides recreational opportunities for citizens, and protects the county's natural resources. To meet this goal, the plan provides a prioritized system of greenway projects for construction through 2027 based upon three components: construction feasibility, connectivity, and public support.



# Existing Facilities

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The existing public recreation facilities within Forsyth County are spread between the Winston-Salem and the local municipalities with a few located in the unincorporated areas of the county. Winston-Salem currently has 80 parks totaling 3,771 acres and 17 recreation centers. The County manages nine parks totaling 2,474 acres. These parks are fairly evenly spread with four parks located in the western half of the county, four in the eastern portion, and one in the north. The average size of a City park is 47.74 acres with the median size of 10.8 acres. For County parks, the average size is 274.85 acres with a median size of 154.9 acres.

The other municipalities within the county also manage their own facilities. The Town of Kernersville manages nine parks and two sports complexes and is in partnership with the Kernersville Family YMCA to offer a community pool and water park. The Town of Lewisville and the Village of Clemmons maintain two facilities each and the towns of Walkertown, Rural Hall, and Tobaccoville each maintain one. Additionally, Kernersville, Lewisville, and Walkertown each manage one community center. Tables 3 and 4 and Maps 1 and 2 provide details on the existing facilities located throughout the county.

## Since the Plan Adoption

Since the adoption of the 2006 Plan, the City and County have made a number of additions and improvements to the recreation system. For the City, new facilities have been established, master plans have been developed, and improvements have been made to existing facilities. New facilities include Quarry Park, Winston Waterworks, Second Street Park, Merschel Park, Fairgrounds Skatepark, and Salem Lake Marina Center. Furthermore, the new Nelson Malloy Park is currently under construction and designs have been developed for the new Merschel Park. The City also acquired the Long Creek Golf Course which it intends to use as a park with a preliminary master plan completed in 2018. Other master plans completed since 2006 include Hobby Park, Hanes Park, Happy Hill Park, Jamison Park, Malloy Park, Quarry Park, Salem Lake Park, Winston Lake Park, and Washington Park. The Jamison Park Master Plan improvements were completed in 2017 with improvements to Happy Hill, Hanes, and Kimberley Parks currently under construction. Malloy Park will add a new park to northwest area of Winston-Salem once completed. Other improvements include new restroom facilities, playgrounds, and park shelters at various parks.

The County has completed master plans for Horizons Park and C.G. Hill Park since the adoption of the 2006 Plan. The County has also made a number of improvements to its existing facilities including improvements to the Tanglewood Park Championship Golf Course; a new dog park, restrooms, park shelters, and maintenance facility at Tanglewood Park; and new shelters, restrooms, amphitheater, 18-hole disc golf course, and the Carolina Field of Honor at Triad Park. Improvements to the irrigation system for the Tanglewood Park Championship and Reynolds Golf Courses and the golf cart paths at Tanglewood are currently under construction. Renovations to the Tanglewood Park Clubhouse are scheduled to begin in 2019.

The other municipalities in the county have also made improvements to their recreational amenities. The Village of Clemmons established the Village Point greenway in 2015. The Town of Kernersville opened its newest park, Founders Park, in March 2019 and recently completed the final master plan for the new Pope Park. The Town of Lewisville opened the new Jack Warren Park in 2010.

**Table 3: Existing Forsyth County Parks**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
<b>Winston-Salem Parks</b>			
1	Anderson Drive-Luther Street	Open Space	0.29
2	Ardmore	Neighborhood	4.00
3	Belview	Neighborhood	6.28
4	Bethabara	Community	30.15
5	Blum-Blanding	Community	18.89
6	Bolton	District	36.93
7	Bon Air	Mini/Ornamental	0.41
8	Bowen Blvd./Hansel B. Thomas	Community	18.86
9	British Woods	Open Space	10.80
10	Brushy Fork	Neighborhood	4.36
11	Central	Neighborhood	5.09
12	Civitan	Community	36.47
13	Clark/Mickens	Mini/Ornamental	1.48
14	Corpening Plaza	Special Purpose	2.36
15	Crawford	Neighborhood	20.37
16	Crystal Towers	Mini/Ornamental	2.20
17	Downtown	Mini/Ornamental	1.09
18	Drayton Pines	Mini/Ornamental	7.80
19	Easton	Neighborhood	26.66
20	Fairgrounds Skate	Special Purpose	N/A
21	Fairview	Neighborhood	2.57
22	Forest	Community	9.18

23	Fourteenth Street	Community	6.84
24	Gateway Commons	Community	10.59
25	Grace Court	Mini/Ornamental	1.22
26	Granville	Neighborhood	6.09
27	Greenway	Mini/Ornamental	3.21
28	Griffith	Community	6.31
29	Hanes	District	34.92
30	Hanes Hosiery	Community	6.28
31	Hanestown	Neighborhood	2.35
32	Happy Hill	Neighborhood	28.28
33	Harambee	Neighborhood	1.10
34	Hathaway	Neighborhood	17.27
35	Helen Nichols	Community	8.31
36	Hine	District	38.46
37	Historic Bethabara	Special Purpose	118.40
38	Hobby	District	93.53
39	Jefferson	District	25.15
40	Jamison	Community	36.34
41	Jerry King	Community	20.34
42	Kimberley	Community	25.45
43	Kingston Greens	Neighborhood	0.74
44	Leinbach	Neighborhood	9.46
45	Liberty Street Park	Neighborhood	1.47
46	Little Creek	Neighborhood	33.83
47	Lockland	Mini/Ornamental	1.87

48	Long Creek	District	159.00
49	Meadowbrook	Mini/Ornamental	1.36
50	Merschel Park	Mini/Ornamental	0.55
51	Miller	District	39.44
52	Muddy Creek Greenway	Undeveloped	15.75
53	Nelson L. Malloy Jr.	Neighborhood	3.96
54	Oak Summit	Neighborhood	14.96
55	Old Town	Neighborhood	15.66
56	Parkland	Community	24.29
57	Piney Grove	Neighborhood	29.55
58	Polo	Community	14.87
59	Quarry	Regional	228.20
60	Reynolds	District	232.06
61	Runnymede	Mini/Ornamental	4.52
62	Rupert Bell	Community	17.84
63	Salem Lake	Regional	1488.18
64	Sara Lee Soccer	District	46.58
65	Second Street	Neighborhood	0.77
66	Sedge Garden	Neighborhood	20.83
67	Shaffner	Community	56.22
68	Skyland	Neighborhood	14.97
69	South	Neighborhood	5.25
70	South Fork/Our House	Community	14.14
71	Sprague	Community	20.05
72	Spring	Mini/Ornamental/ Open Space	4.00

73	Stratford Road	Mini/Ornamental	4.32
74	Ward	Neighborhood	5.77
75	Washington	District	76.93
76	West Clemmonsville Road	Undeveloped	4.91
77	Weston	Neighborhood	13.89
78	Whitaker	Community	10.16
79	Winston Lake	District	397.67
80	Winston Square	Special Purpose	1.06
<b>Forsyth County Parks</b>			
81	C.G. Hill Memorial	District	185.40
82	Horizons	District	492.00
83	Joanie Moser	Community	18.33
84	Kernersville Lake	District	154.90
85	Old US 421	Special Purpose	1.58
86	Tanglewood	Regional	1150.85
87	Triad	Regional	430.17
88	Union Cross	District	17.08
89	Walkertown Community	District	23.35
<b>Kernersville Parks</b>			
90	Bagley Sports Complex**	Community	N/A
91	Century Lake	Neighborhood	10.02
92	Founders	Mini/Ornamental	0.13
93	Fourth of July	Neighborhood	17.59
94	Gralin Street	Neighborhood	2.69
95	Harmon	Neighborhood	1.73

96	Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex	Community	103.15
97	Kernersville Civitan	Neighborhood	7.51
98	Kernersville Community Pool and Water Park***	Special Purpose	N/A
99	Kernersville Mountain Bike	Special Purpose	27.00
100	Old Kernersville Lake	Neighborhood	13.49
101	Etta Lea and Lawrence Pope Memorial Park	Community	86.87
102	Rotary	Mini/Ornamental	.60
<b>Clemmons Parks</b>			
103	Greendale	Mini/Ornamental	1.19
104	Village Point Lake	Community	16.11
<b>Lewisville Parks</b>			
105	Jack Warren	Community	15.45
106	Shallowford Square	Special Purpose	2.62
<b>Rural Hall Parks</b>			
107	Covington Memorial	Community	8.29
108	Pla-Mor	Neighborhood	0.09
<b>Tobaccoville Parks</b>			
109	The Village	Community	16.40
<b>Walkertown Parks</b>			
110	Town Center	Neighborhood	2.21
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>			<b>6578.56</b>

\*Currently under development; \*\*Joint use facility with WS/FC Schools System; \*\*\*Collaboration with Kernersville YMCA

Map 1.  
Existing Parks and  
Greenways



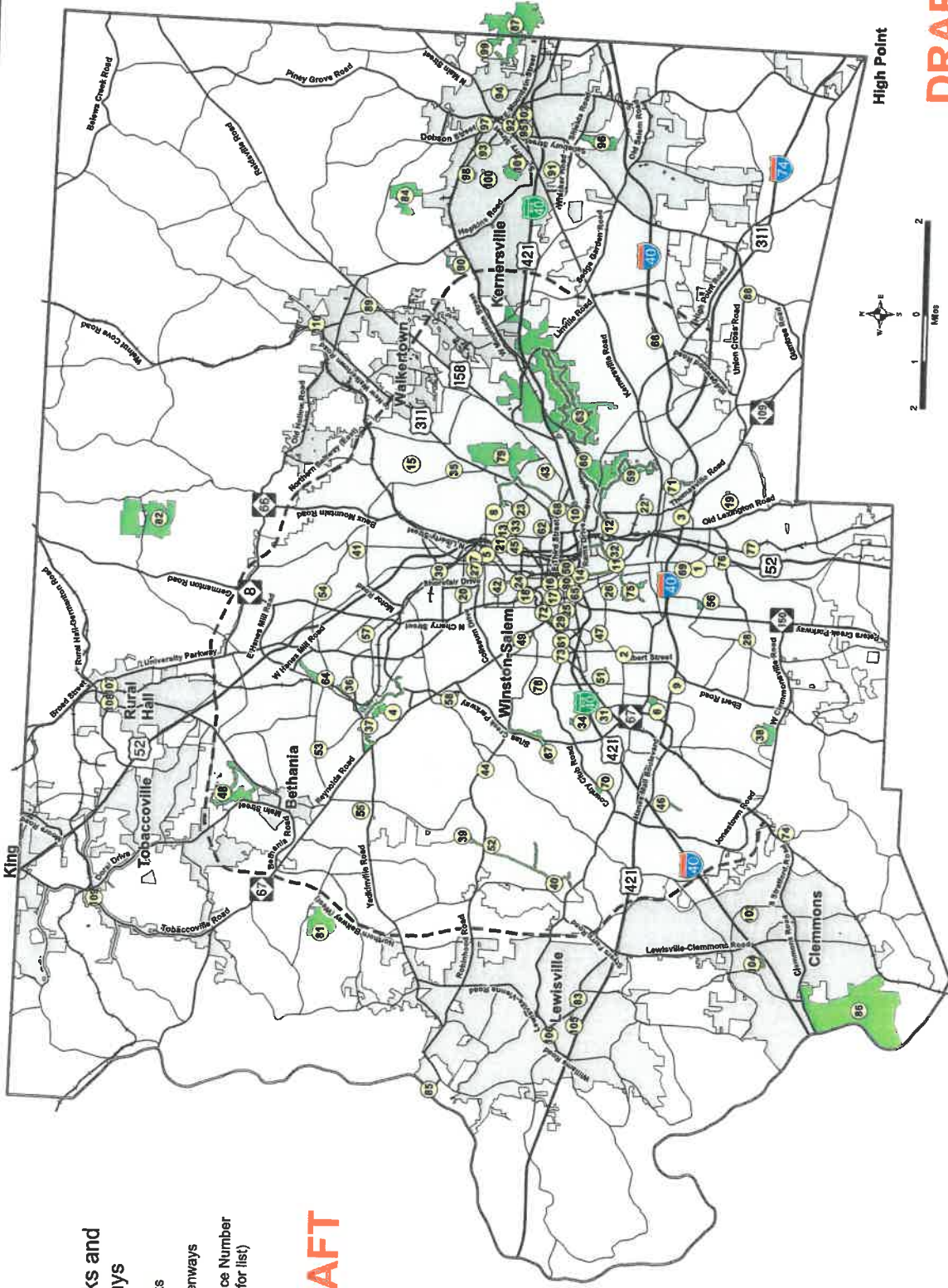
Existing Parks

Existing Greenways



Park Reference Number  
(See Table 3 for list)

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High Point

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**Table 4: Existing Community and Neighborhood Centers**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Center</b>
<b>Winston-Salem</b>	
1	Belview Neighborhood Center
2	Brown & Douglas Neighborhood Center
3	Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center
4	Fourteenth Street Community Center
5	Georgia Taylor Neighborhood Center
6	Hanes Hosiery Community Center
7	Little Creek Neighborhood Center
8	Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center
9	Miller Park Community Center
10	Old Town Neighborhood Center
11	Polo Park Community Center.
12	William R. Anderson Jr. Community Center
13	Rupert Bell Neighborhood Center
14	Sedge Garden Neighborhood Center
15	South Fork/Our House Community Center
16	Sprague Street Community Center
17	William C. Sims Sr. Neighborhood Center
<b>Kernersville</b>	
18	Kernersville Community Recreation Center
<b>Lewisville</b>	
19	G. Galloway Reynolds Community Center
<b>Walkertown</b>	
20	The Booe House

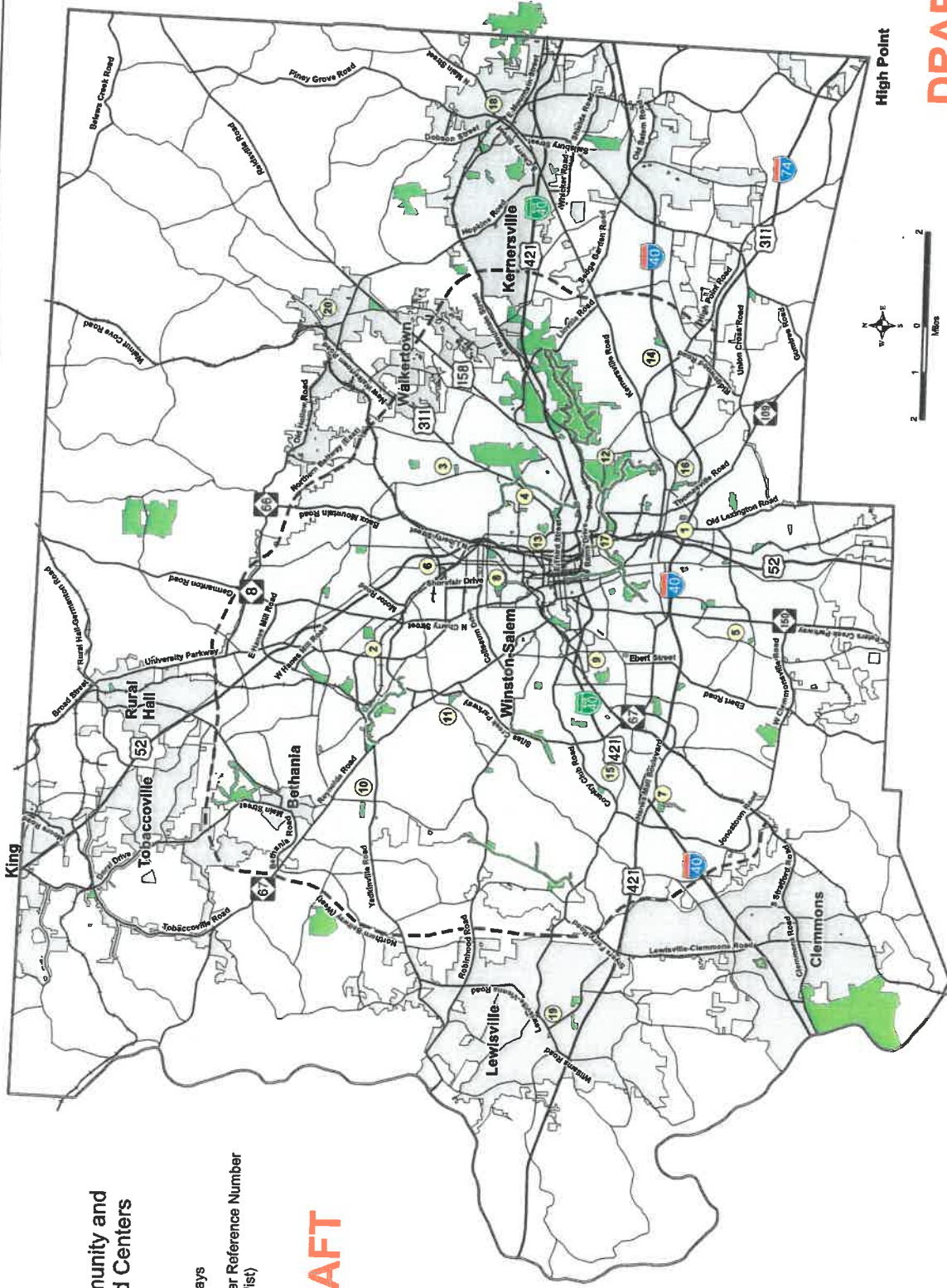


Map 2.

### Existing Community Centers and Neighborhood Centers

-  Existing Parks
-  Existing Greenways
-  Recreation Center Reference Number  
(See Table 4 for list)

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0 1 2  
Miles



High Point

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## Other Recreational Facilities

A number of facilities and properties exist that are unique based on their location, historical status or operation but still add to the recreational facilities and open space available to county residents. Some of these facilities are not listed in Table 3 or shown on Map 1. The City owns two vacant properties that are located outside of the city limits but provide open space for residents: Jefferson Park and Ward Park. Jefferson Park is located adjacent to the northern terminus of the Muddy Creek Greenway and Ward Park is located outside the Village of Clemmons near Ward Elementary School. The County owns two historic courthouse sites that are currently undeveloped: Old Richmond Courthouse and Wright Courthouse. Gralin Street Park is a 2.69 acre, unimproved neighborhood park owned by the Town of Kernersville. Forsyth County owns the Nature Science Center property which is managed by Kaleideum. Similarly, Whickenham Park is owned by the Town of Walkertown but is operated and maintained by the Walkertown Little League through an agreement with the Town.

A number of other facilities exist throughout the county providing residents with access to recreational amenities that are owned and managed by private or nonprofit organizations. These facilities include private golf courses and pools, little league ball fields, and local YMCA and YWCA facilities. Two new parks have been recently developed within Downtown Winston-Salem which have greatly improved the quality of life for area residents: Bailey Park and ARTivity on the Green. Bailey Park was developed and is maintained by the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. ARTivity on the Green was developed and is maintained by the AFAS Group, a Winston-Salem based nonprofit, community arts organization. Both parks are open for public use. The Gateway Nature Preserve is an environmental-based non-profit working to create a nature preserve and educational center along Salem Creek near Washington Park. Lastly, the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) requires new multifamily residential projects to provide recreational amenities within the development.

## ParkScore®

The Trust for Public Lands has developed a comprehensive ratings system, ParkScore®, for the 100 largest U.S. cities. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, the index provides guidance to municipalities on local park improvements. Winston-Salem is included in the index. Out of a possible maximum 100 points, Winston-Salem received 35 points ranking it 86 out of 100 cities in the 2019 ranking. Table 5 compares Winston-Salem to other North Carolina cities included in the ratings system. Forsyth County was not included in the system.

**Table 5: ParkScore® Ratings for North Carolina Cities**

City	Score	Rank
Raleigh	61	28
Greensboro	44.2	64
Durham	41.1	72
Winston-Salem	35	86
Charlotte	28.9	96

Source: <https://parkscore.tpl.org/>

Ten statistical measures within four categories are used to determine a city's ranking. The four categories are total park acreage, available park amenities, public investment, and access. The measures that Winston-Salem scored the highest number of points include:

- Median Park Size: 90 points out of a possible 100;
- Recreation/Senior Centers per 20,000 residents: 90 points out of a possible 100; and,
- Splashpads per 100,000 residents: 100 points out of a possible 100.

The measures that Winston-Salem scored the lowest number of points include:

- Basketball Courts per 10,000 population: 7.5 points out of a possible 100;
- Access (percent of population living within a 10 minute walk of park): 7.5 points out of possible 100;
- Park land as percent of City area: 20 points out of a possible 100; and,
- Investment (spending per capita): 25 points out of a possible 100.

While ParkScore® does have its limitations and is not a perfect system for analyzing a municipality's park facilities, it does provide useful information on how a municipality is performing on different factors compared to other communities and can be used as a basis for determining necessary improvements and upgrades.

# Parks System Needs Analysis

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Two approaches were taken to determine the recommendations of this update. The first was to gather input from the general public on their use of the current system, concerns, and desired future amenities. The second was the analysis of the current system to determine where deficiencies exist. The remaining recommendations of the 2006 *Parks and Open Space Plan* were reviewed to determine if they were still relevant to addressing the existing deficiencies and comments from the public. Furthermore, recommendations for new parks that came out of an adopted area plan have also been included within the recommendations and on the future system map.

## Public Input

To ensure that the recommendations provided in this plan reflect the desires of the public and address ongoing concerns the public may have with the existing system, five public meetings were held throughout the county in the fall 2017 and a survey was made available online. Public input gathered through this process identified existing facilities currently being utilized, desired new facilities and amenities, and system-wide concerns.

Over 325 residents provided input through this process. The input gathered revealed the following information. Survey results can be found in Appendix A.

- Tanglewood Park and Salem Lake are the most utilized County and City parks.
- Walking and hiking trails are the number one amenity used in both the county and city. Open space, picnic shelters, playgrounds and dog parks were also rated high for use for both the city and county.
- Maintenance is the number one concern facing both the City and County. Needed improvements to the existing system noted in the responses included more greenways, more nature education, better security and signage, better ADA accessibility and amenities, and better bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between parks and neighborhoods.
- A strong percentage of participants felt that no new parks were needed with focus on maintaining and enhancing existing parks over the next several years.
- Community and neighborhood parks were rated highest by those participants that desired additional parks.
- Walking and hiking trails, picnic shelters, open space, playgrounds, and dog parks were rated the highest among desired amenities. Other noted amenities include places for rock climbing, mountain biking, disc golf, Pickleball, and adult training courses.
- Better signage and more environmental education opportunities, activities for handicapped individuals, gardens, and bathroom facilities were also noted as desired future improvements.

## Existing System Review

In the 2006 Parks Plan, an analysis was conducted to determine deficiencies in the system. A general metric of acres per 1,000 population was used as a guideline with each type of park having a specific metric to determine projected need. Additionally, a service radius analysis was used to determine service needs for community and district parks with a two-mile and three-mile radius used respectively.

When using an acres per 1,000 population standard as a metric for evaluation, Forsyth County has 16.97 acres of parkland per 1,000 population and Winston-Salem alone has 15.29 acres per 1,000 population. For comparison, the 2018 *National Recreation and Park Associations Agency Performance Review* notes that the average municipality has 10.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 population. However, this metric does not provide location-specific data relating to service needs. It therefore cannot address the issue of whether parks are accessible to residents and, thereby, serving the needs of residents. As such, a service radius analysis of the existing parks and recreational facilities was performed.

A service radius analysis of one mile for all parks was used to determine areas within the city and county that are underserved by the current system (Map 3). A one-mile radius was used as it is approximately a twenty-minute walk for the average individual. This range is of particular importance within an urbanized area as it allows residents to access parks and other facilities through the use of multimodal transportation options, such as walking, biking, and transit, if such amenities are available. While a half-mile service radius is the ideal, achieving the one-mile service radius is the first step in addressing deficiencies within the system and providing accessible recreational opportunities for residents. Review of the service radius highlighted deficiencies in parks within the following urbanized areas:

- West Winston-Salem
- South Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
- Southeast Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
- East Winston-Salem and Kernersville area
- Northeast Winston-Salem and Walkertown area
- North Winston-Salem and Rural Hall area
- Southwest Winston-Salem and Clemmons Area

It is not the intent of this update to recommend that parks be located within one mile of residents living in the unincorporated areas of the county. These facilities serve a broader purpose to the community as district and regional parks compared to neighborhood or community parks. Though, the review did note three main areas within the rural portions of the County that are lacking public recreational amenities: Northeast Forsyth County/Belews Creek area, along the Yadkin River, and Southeast Forsyth County/Abbotts Creek area. The one-mile radius is significant to the unincorporated areas in regards to accessibility. Residents within one mile of parks within the rural areas should be able to access these parks through walking or biking and infrastructure improvements should be made to allow for multimodal access.

## **Analysis**

When comparing the results of the service radius analysis and the public input, there is correlation between where deficiencies are located and where people would like to see new parks developed. When asked about where new regional parks should be located, northwest Forsyth County received 22 percent of the responses and south Forsyth County received 21 percent. Significantly, 25 percent of participants responded that a new regional park is not needed. When looking at the responses to where the City should develop a new park, the top four areas chosen were:

1. Downtown Winston-Salem at 18 percent
2. Northwest Winston-Salem at 13 percent
3. West Winston-Salem at 11 percent
4. South Winston-Salem at 9 percent

Seventeen percent of participants responded that no new parks are needed in the City.

Since the survey was closed, the City has developed or is in the process of developing new facilities that address Downtown and Northwest Winston-Salem. Second Street Park, a small passive park in the Holly Avenue neighborhood of Downtown, was recently opened to the public. Plans for the new Merschel Park, located between Third and Fourth Streets at the intersection with Trade Street, have been developed and construction should begin within the year. The Nelson Malloy Park is currently under construction and is located on Bethabara Road in the northwest area of Winston-Salem. Additionally, the City has acquired the former Long Creek Golf Course with the intent on developing it as a park that will further address deficiencies in the northwest portion of the city. Conceptual plans for the park were completed in 2018.

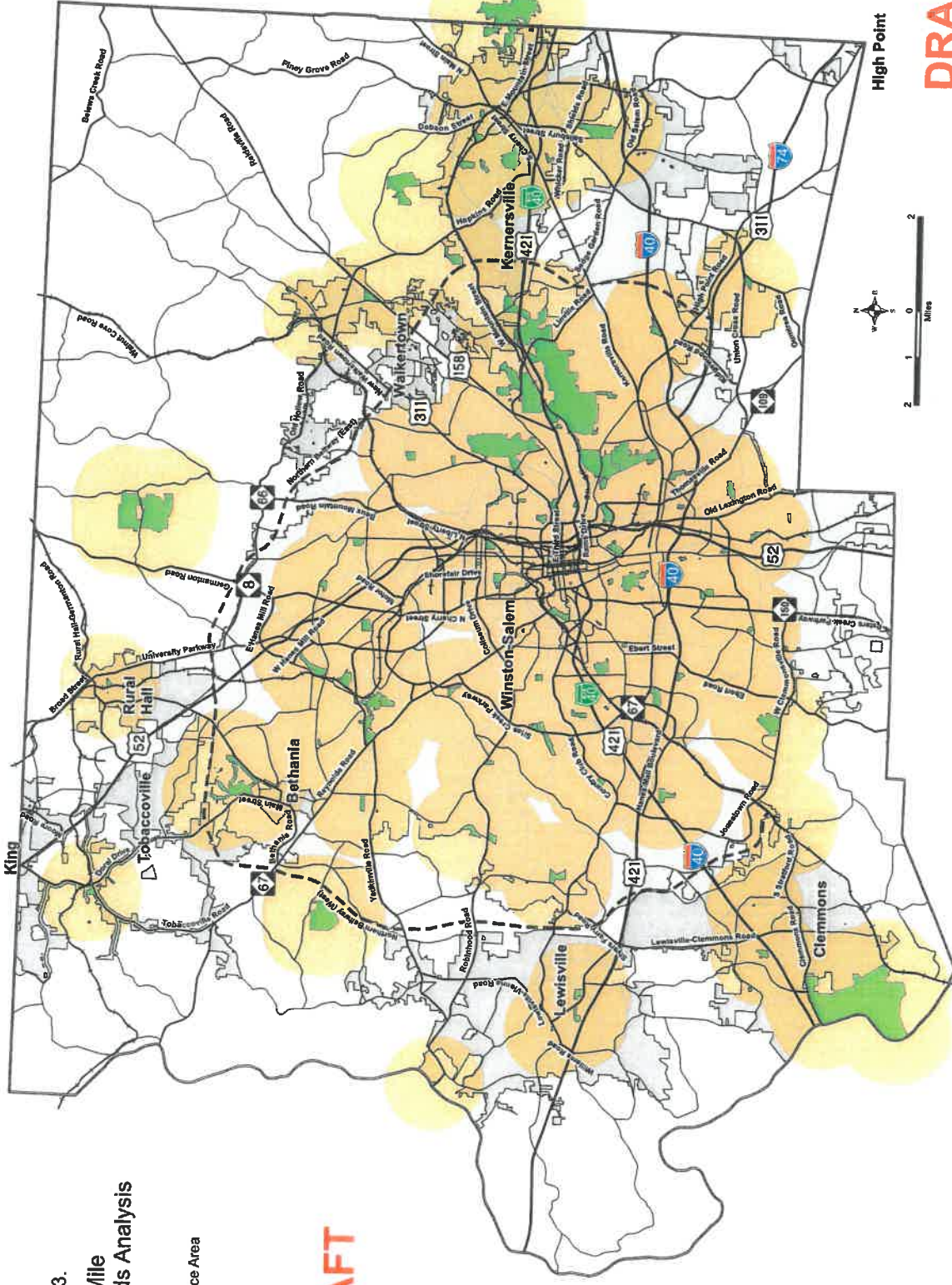
Both west Winston-Salem and south Winston-Salem have experienced a significant amount of residential development over the past decade. Finding available land within the western portion of the City will be difficult; however, there are opportunities to develop partnerships with other organizations to provide recreational amenities to area residents, particularly the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System. Developing a new park in southern Winston-Salem/Forsyth County is a critical need for both organizations. A partnership between the County and City on developing a park in this area, similar to the partnership between Forsyth County and Guilford County for Triad Park, could provide a beneficial arrangement that allows for the costs associated with a new park to be shared between both departments. Furthermore, there is potential for reuse of the Old Salisbury Construction and Demolition Landfill once it has reached its capacity and is retired.

While continuing to establish new facilities is important to achieving the goal of the parks and open space system, the public input gathered through this process highlighted a more critical need facing the system: maintenance. Given the strong responses expressed by the public for better maintenance of existing facilities, particularly in regards to City-maintained facilities, it is recommended that the focus for the coming years should be on making necessary improvements to address deferred maintenance. Though maintenance should be the focus, the County and City should not dismiss opportunities to expand their systems as they become available.

Map 3.  
**One-Mile  
 Service Needs Analysis**

- Park
- Service Area

**DRAFT**



High Point

**DRAFT**

# Park Proposals

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While it is the intent of this plan to focus the majority of efforts on the renovation and improvement of existing facilities, proposals for new parks and expansion of existing parks are warranted in specific areas where existing facilities are lacking. Recommendations for new parks are based on needs analysis and public input gathered through the parks survey. Furthermore, recommendations that were included in the original Parks and Open Space Plan and adopted area plans but haven't yet been implemented are also included.

General locations for future parks are identified in Map 4. More detailed studies are needed to determine the specific location of future parks. Specific park master plans should be completed once site identification and land acquisition has been completed. Where possible, parks should be located where connections can be made to existing public transportation, sidewalks, bike routes, and greenways to increase accessibility for all users.

A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

## Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks offering specialized or multiple recreational amenities that provide a regional draw from within and outside of Forsyth County. Sites for new regional parks would ideally be in excess of 100 acres. Recommendations for regional parks include potential locations for new parks, as well as, expansion and improvement of existing parks.

**Hanes Mill Road Landfill Utilization** The Hanes Mill Road Landfill is projected to be operational through 2035. Even though the landfill will likely remain operational through the life of this plan, begin discussions on the future use of the site within the near term. Complete a feasibility study to determine the possibility of developing the site for passive recreational use upon its closure. **[City]**

**Yadkin River Access and Park** The County should partner with local outdoor recreation organizations and the Yadkin Riverkeeper to develop a new park and access that will serve the needs of river users. **[County]**

**Belews Lake** Acquire land and complete a master plan for a new park at a site that will allow public access to Belews Lake. The County should partner with Duke Energy on the development of said park. **[County]**

**Triad Park** Continue to develop Triad Park according to the current master plan. Expand the park as appropriate adjacent property becomes available. **[County/Collaboration]**

**Horizons Park** Implement the recommendations of the Horizons Park Master Plan. **[County]**

**Tanglewood Park** Improve and expand the existing facilities at Tanglewood Park as necessary to meet the current and future needs of users. Add new amenities based on user input and available funding. **[County]**

**Quarry Park** Implement Phase II improvements based on the Quarry Park Master Plan. **[City]**



## **District Parks**

District parks are relatively large parks with either specialized or multiple recreational amenities. They function mainly to provide specialized facilities to a large service area or more passive recreational opportunities to a rapidly growing population. These parks can range in size from 50 to 250 acres.

**Old Salisbury Road Landfill** The Old Salisbury Road Landfill is projected to be operational through 2030. Even though the landfill will likely remain operational until the end of this plan's timeframe, begin discussions on the future use of the site within the near term. Complete a feasibility study to determine the possibility of developing the site for passive recreational use upon its closure. Consider the possibility of obtaining additional land within the vicinity of the landfill to expand the options for recreational amenities beyond passive use. **[City/County]**

**Washington Park** Implement the recommendations of the Washington Park Master Plan. **[City]**

**Kernersville Lake Park** Develop a master plan for Kernersville Lake Park expansion. Fund and implement the recommendations of said master plan. **[County]**

**C. G. Hill Park** Complete the recommended improvements based on the C. G. Hill Park Master Plan. **[County]**

**South Forsyth County** Develop a new park in south Forsyth County to serve both City and County residents. **[City/County]**

**Salem Lake North** Develop a master plan for the northern portion of Salem Lake Park between the Salem Parkway (US 421) and the city boundary. Given the topography of the area, consideration should be given to utilizing the site for natural trails and mountain biking. **[City]**

**Winston Lake Park** Complete Phase II improvements at Winston Lake Park included in the Winston Lake Park Master Plan. **[City]**

**Hobby Park** Complete the recommended improvements based on the Hobby Park Master Plan. Explore opportunities to expand the park. **[City]**

**Hanes Park** Complete Phase II improvement to Hanes Park included in the Hanes Park Master Plan. **[City]**

**Long Creek Park** Complete the recommended improvements to Long Creek Park included in the Long Creek Park Master Plan. **[City]**

## **Community Parks**

Community Parks are medium sized and serve a number of surrounding neighborhoods. They typically range in size between 30 and 80 acres and provide facilities that are not typically available at neighborhood parks such as community centers, ball fields, and recreational open space. Community parks should be designed to be multifunctional with specific facilities at each park based on public demand and available facilities within the vicinity of the park.

**Abbotts Creek/Southeast Forsyth County** Develop a new park in the Abbotts Creek area of Forsyth County. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [County]

**Northeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County** Develop a new park in Northeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County between City of Winston-Salem and Town of Walkertown boundaries. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [City/County]

**The Village Park, Tobaccoville** Develop a plan for the future expansion of The Village Park. (From *Tobaccoville Area Plan*) [Tobaccoville]

**Northwest Forsyth County/Tobaccoville** Develop a new park in Northwest Forsyth County between the Village of Tobaccoville and C.G. Hill Park. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [County]

**Kernersville Road/Northern Beltway (I-74) Activity Center** Consider the establishment of a new community park near the Kernersville Road/I-74 Beltway Activity Center. [City]

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks provide recreational amenities that are easily accessible to residents within a half mile radius. The parks should be located based on future growth and development to allow for convenient and safe access by residents. Park amenities typically include playgrounds, splash pads, picnic areas, walking trails, and open space but may vary between parks depending on neighborhood demand and availability at nearby facilities.

**Happy Hill Park** Complete the recommended improvements based on the Happy Hill Park Master Plan. (in progress) [City]

**East Forsyth County** Develop a new neighborhood park in east Forsyth County between Belews Lake and Triad Park. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [County]

**Southeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County** Develop a new neighborhood park in the Southeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County area. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [City/County]

**Granville Park** Develop a condition improvement plan for Granville Park and complete the first phase of improvements. [City]

**West Clemmons Road Park** Develop a master plan for improvements to the undeveloped West Clemmons Road Park. A master plan should be developed with extensive public participation to ensure that the park meets the needs of the area residents. [City]

### **Special Parks**

Special parks include linear parks, mini-ornamental parks, pocket parks, civic plazas, and other public gathering spaces. Linear parks are typically located along trails and greenways and provide an additional recreational amenities and links between recreational facilities. Pocket

parks are small parks located in areas with minimal available land and provide opportunities for enjoyment of open space, recreation, and public gathering.

**Bethania-Rural Hall Road Pocket Park** Develop a pocket park along Bethania-Rural Hall Road next to Fire Station 20 in the Bethania Freedman's Community. **[City]**

**Georgetown Pocket Park** Develop a pocket park within the Georgetown neighborhood in north Winston-Salem. **[City]**

**Downtown** Complete facility assessments and master plans for Corpening Plaza, Winston Square Park, and Downtown Park to ensure that the spaces are meeting the needs and demands of current and future residents and visitors to the Downtown core, as well as, play an active role in the revitalization of Downtown. Complete renovations as indicated through the assessment and master planning process. **[City]**

**Anderson Drive - Luther Street Park** Develop the Anderson Drive - Luther Street Park in the south Winston-Salem into a passive pocket park. Clear a portion of the vegetation and trim trees to ensure that there is clear visibility through the park from the street. **[City]**

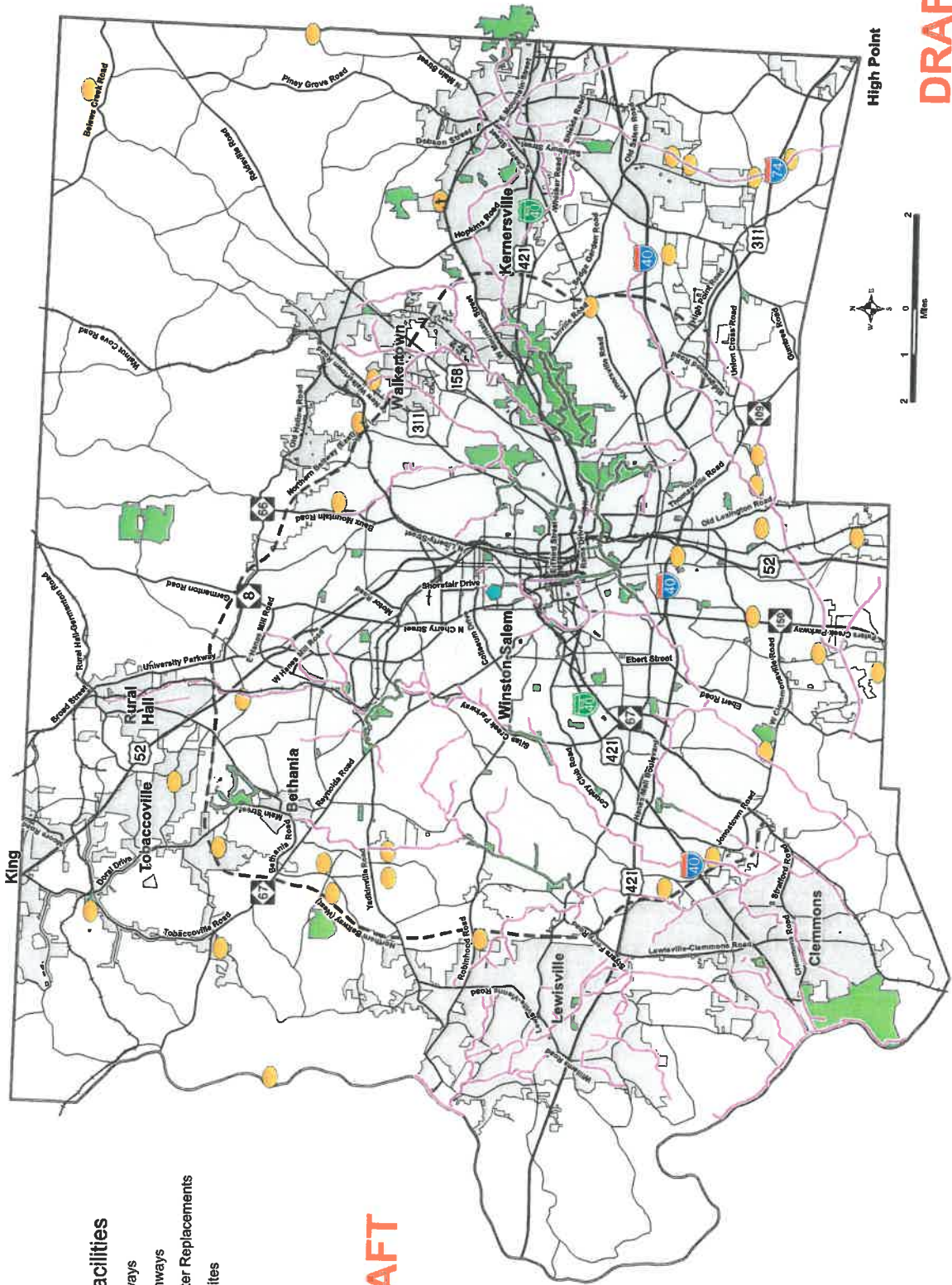
**Pocket Parks** Consider utilizing small vacant parcels within neighborhoods as pocket parks especially in areas with limited access to open space. **[General]**

**Linear Parks** Examine opportunities to establish linear parks adjacent to greenways to provide additional recreational opportunities and connection to nearby neighborhoods. **[General]**

Map 4.

**Proposed Facilities**

- Existing Greenways
- Proposed Greenways
- Recreation Center Replacements
- Potential Park Sites
- Existing Parks



**DRAFT**

High Point

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# Recreational Facilities Recommendations

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Recommendations for recreational facilities include recommendations previously adopted in the *Parks and Open Space Plan* and those based on input through the public input process. These recommendations should be considered when developing a new park and renovating existing parks. As desired facilities may vary between neighborhoods throughout the city and county, a public input process should be undertaken whenever a major investment in park facilities is being completed to ensure that the specific facilities installed meet the demands of the community.

A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

## Recreation and Community Centers

**South Winston-Salem/Forsyth County** Establish a new recreation or community center in south Winston-Salem/Forsyth County to service the new growth in the area. **[City/County]**

**West Winston-Salem/Forsyth County** Establish a new community center in western Winston-Salem/Forsyth County. **[City/County]**

**North Winston-Salem** Establish a new recreation center to serve the population in northern Winston-Salem particularly in the area between north Shattalon Drive and Oak Summit Road. **[City]**

**Smaller Municipalities** Establish community centers in or near the smaller municipalities to serve the growing population in those areas. Residents should be surveyed to determine the needs of the community. **[General]**

## Soccer and Ball Fields

**South Winston-Salem/Forsyth County** Consider including soccer, multipurpose, and/or ball fields as part of a new district or community park in the south Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Survey residents within the area to assess demand for the different field types. **[City/County]**

**Educational Institutions** Work with local schools and colleges to develop shared-use agreements to allow residents access to existing fields on school property. **[Collaboration]**

**Southeast Forsyth County** Consider including soccer and multipurpose fields as part of a new district or community park in southeast Forsyth County. Survey residents to assess demand for such amenities. **[County]**

**Smaller Municipalities** Work with the smaller communities within Forsyth County to address deficiencies in systems relating to accessible soccer, multipurpose, and ball fields. **[General]**

## Tennis Courts

**Winston-Salem** Install new tennis courts in Winston-Salem to meet future needs at the city's edges in areas where demand exists for these facilities. **[City]**

**Forsyth County** Install new tennis courts at existing and future County-owned parks in areas where demand exists for these facilities. **[County]**

**Existing Facilities** Improve existing facilities as needed. If demand for existing facilities is low and facilities are underutilized, consider converting courts to another amenity that will better serve residents. **[General]**

**Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools** Collaborate with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System on shared-use agreements to allow for public use of tennis courts existing on school property. Possible locations included North Forsyth High School, Speas Elementary and Mineral Springs Elementary and Middle Schools. **[Collaboration]**

## Basketball and Volleyball Courts

**Winston-Salem** Examine the possibility of installing basketball courts at parks currently lacking facilities. Possible locations include Shaffner, Parkland, Bolton, South, and Sprague Parks. Survey the surrounding neighborhood residents to assess demand at each location. **[City]**

**Volleyball and Multi-use Courts** Assess the public demand for additional courts when completing park master plans for new parks. Multi-use courts could be a potential option in locations where land is limited. **[General]**

## Walking Trails, Multi-use Paths, and Greenways

**Greenways** Implement the recommendations of the *Greenway Plan Update*. **[General]**

**New Parks** Consider walking trails, nature trails, and multi-use paths as part of the development of all new parks. Assess the public demand for each type of system when completing master plans for new parks. Provide connections to existing greenways where appropriate. **[General]**

**Existing Parks** Install new walking trails at existing parks where space is available. Potential parks include: Union Cross, Rural Hall, Hathaway, Lockland, Sprague, Jerry King, and British Woods. Assess the public demand prior to installation. **[General]**

**Existing Trails** Expand existing paths including those located at Crawford Park, Bolton Park, Piney Grove Park, Kernersville Lake Park, and Walkertown Community Park. Implement the recommended system expansions included in the C.G. Hill Park, Horizon Park, and Hobby Park Master Plans. **[General]**

**Salem Lake** Examine the possibility of creating a natural trail system on the northern portion of Salem Lake Park. **[City]**

**Winston Lake Park** Complete Phase II of Winston Lake Park Master Plan which proposes a lakefront strollway. **[City]**

**Strollway** Complete the proposed improvements to the existing Strollway. Coordinate with other City departments to enhance and extend the Strollway through Downtown. **[City]**

**Long Creek Park** Fund and implement the proposed path improvements and connections as shown in the preliminary Master Plan. **[City]**

**Cross Country Trails** Fund and implement the proposed cross county trail system at Horizons Park included in the Horizons Park Master Plan. **[County]**

**Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools** Coordinate with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System on shared-use agreements for public use of school tracks in areas where available land for recreational walking trails is lacking. Potential schools include Mt. Tabor High School and Glenn High School. **[Collaboration]**

**Mountain Biking Trails** Install new mountain biking trails where appropriate land is available. Install the proposed new trails at Hobby Park and Horizons Park per the respective master plans. Consider adding trails to the northern portion of Salem Lake Park. Collaborate with the local mountain biking organizations on the design of new trails and potential maintenance of trails. **[General]**

## **Other Facilities**

**Dog Parks** Install additional dog parks throughout the county particularly in the eastern half of the county. Install the dog park at Long Creek Park as proposed in the preliminary Master Plan. **[General]**

**Skate Park** Develop at least one new skate park, preferably a concrete skate park, within the county. Collaborate with the skateboarding community to determine the specific elements desired in a new park. **[General]**

**Community and Sensory Gardens** Examine the possibility of adding community gardens to existing parks where there is public demand and an established organization for continued administration of the garden. Examine the possibility of adding sensory gardens containing fragrant and textured plants to existing and new parks. Coordinate with special needs organizations to ensure the gardens are accessible and appropriate. **[General]**

**Disc Golf** Consider adding disc golf courses at existing parks where land is available. Potential locations include Quarry Park and Tanglewood Park. Consider disc courses when completing master plans for new parks, particularly in the south and southeastern portion of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. When designing a new course, collaborate with the disc golf community. **[General]**

**Natural Areas/Open Fields** Provide open fields and natural spaces at existing parks where land is available to allow patrons freedom to utilize the space as they choose. Consider incorporating open fields and natural spaces when completing master plans for new parks. **[General]**

**Fitness Courses** Install a fitness course similar to the Elevate Fitness Course in Apex, North Carolina in city and/or county. Identify the location based on available space and public demand. **[General]**

**Splash Pads/Spraygrounds** Continue to install splash pads or spraygrounds throughout the city and county at existing and new park locations. Potential locations at existing parks include Crawford Park, Piney Grove Park, Sprague Park, Forest Park, Quarry Park, and Triad Park. **[General]**

**Playgrounds** Install playgrounds at existing parks where land is available and at new parks. Incorporate accessible playgrounds for special needs communities throughout the city and county. Collaborate with special needs organizations when designing playgrounds. **[General]**

**Park Shelters** Install park shelters at existing and new park locations throughout the city and county. Where land is available, provide varying sizes of shelters. **[General]**

**Pickleball and Bocce Ball** Continue to provide opportunities for pickleball and bocce ball. Consider expanding options for both as opportunities become available. **[General]**

**Water Activities** Develop programs and activities that take advantage of the water resources, natural or man-made, available throughout the county. Activities could include paddle boats at Quarry Park and water aerobics at pools. Survey residents to see what types of programs they would like to have available. **[General]**



# Park Amenity Recommendations

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Existing parks should be improved and all new parks should be designed with the following recommended amenities.

A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

**Restrooms** Install restroom facilities at existing park locations where they currently do not exist and at all new parks. Restrooms should be ADA accessible and equipped with automatic timers for locks and lights. Where possible, incorporate natural lighting into the design of new restrooms. **[General]**

**Lighting** Install lighting at recreation centers and other recreational buildings along the center perimeters and within the parking lots. Lighting should be at both the pedestrian and street-level and should be down cast to not increase light pollution. **[General]**

**General Signage** Provide clear wayfinding signage that directs patrons to park amenities. Ensure that all parks have signage that lists park rules and guidelines in a manner that is visible and easily understood. Provide signage or markers that clearly delineate trail systems, particularly along natural trails and at trail and greenway connections. **[General]**

**Educational/Interpretive Signage** Provide well-designed educational/interpretive signage, where appropriate, that provide historical and/or environmental information on the area. **[General]**

**Security** Install security systems at all recreation centers and park buildings such as restrooms and picnic shelters. Install additional security and safety measures, such as emergency call stations, as necessary. **[General]**

**Canine Facilities** Install pet waste stations and dog fountains at parks, particularly along trails and at dog parks. **[General]**

**Shade** Plant large variety trees at existing and new parks to provide shade for patrons, especially within dog parks, next to playgrounds, and along walking trails and greenways. Trees planted should be of a native species that do not pose a maintenance issue. Ensure that the location of trees will not impede visibility through the park or create places for individuals to hide. **[General]**

**Public Art** Incorporate public art at park locations throughout the city and county as locations are identified. **[General]**

# Recreational Policies and Planning Recommendations

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A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

## Policy and Programming

**Inclusivity** Renovate existing parks and develop new parks to be inclusive to all. Install amenities and develop programs that cater to different groups across age, physical ability and mobility, and mental capacity spectrums. **[General]**

**Jurisdiction** Develop a mechanism for municipalities that have County facilities within their jurisdiction to take over ownership and maintenance responsibilities of said facilities. **[County]**

**Sustainability** Employ sustainable practices when maintaining and improving existing parks and developing new parks such as down cast lighting, low impact development standards, native plant species, energy efficient building techniques, and locally and regionally sourced materials. **[General]**

**Vegetation** Develop an ongoing program to address invasive species on park lands. Utilize native species of vegetation when adding landscaping to existing and new parks. Where possible, allow land within parks to remain in its natural state to minimize maintenance and provide wildlife habitat and other ecological benefits. **[General]**

**Inventory** Maintain an inventory of all City and County parks and recreational facilities that is routinely updated as existing facilities are expanded and new facilities are developed. **[General]**

**Community Programming** Continue to provide community programs such as summer camps and the Festival of Lights. Expand the available programs as resources become available to address demand and better serve the community. **[General]**

## Planning and Design

**Future Growth** Continuously analyze development patterns within the county to ensure that park facilities are meeting the needs of residents into the future. **[General]**

**Land Acquisition** Utilize this plan to identify areas when recreational facilities are needed and take appropriate steps to acquire necessary land for the development of said facilities. Develop a land acquisition program based on park development and preservation priorities that is flexible to allow staff to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Encourage voluntary land dedications for parks and open space. **[General]**

**Feasibility Studies and Master Planning** Complete feasibility studies and master plans prior to the development of new parks and recreational facilities. **[General]**

**Public Outreach** Incorporate active public outreach into all planning efforts to ensure that new facilities are meeting the needs and wants of the community. **[General]**

**Standards** Develop standards for park furniture, lighting, and signage. Consideration should be given to selecting items that can be easily sourced from multiple vendors. **[General]**

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# Open Space

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Also referred to as green space, open space is defined as natural landscapes that remain relatively undisturbed and serve an equally important role as recreational areas in creating the quality of life expected by current and future residents. Open space provides a range of benefits relating to environmental protection and public health. By conserving natural areas, communities can enhance stormwater management, provide flood protection, preserve wildlife habitat and corridors, improve air quality, and minimize the effects of climate change. Residents with access to open space generally experience improved moods and attitude, better mental health, reduced stress, improved creativity, and increased social interactions and connections.

Protecting high-quality natural areas, as well as sites and habitats with rare plants and animals, high-quality soils, tree canopy, and critical habitats throughout the county is an objective of the *Legacy 2030 Update*. This section furthers this objective by providing recommendations to enhance and establish an open space system that will protect environmentally sensitive land and ecological resources, preserve rural character and natural landscapes, provide recreational open space, and promote a healthy environment.

Open space can take a number of forms within a community, from traditional parks to agricultural lands, with each form offering its own benefits and challenges. While not under the control of public agencies, private lands and facilities can also present opportunities for the public to experience open space and provide the environmental benefits of open space.

## Parks

Parks provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation and are generally considered part of an open space system. A park can provide greater benefits to a community beyond recreation to include the preservation and conservation of significant sites and landscapes depending on its location and development. In general, the parks within Forsyth County have been developed with the intent of providing opportunities for recreation rather than environmental or natural resource protection. However, there are some exceptions. Bethabara Park's main focus is the preservation of the historic settlement and Salem Lake's main purpose is the environmental protection of a drinking water source. Currently, over 6,500 acres of land are held within the existing park system offering both active and passive recreation opportunities with County parks tending toward passive recreation and City parks providing a mix of amenities.

## Gardens

Community and sensory gardens have the potential of providing small-scale opportunities for individuals to connect with nature on a tactile level, particularly individuals with disabilities and the elderly who might find it difficult to utilize a larger park setting. They also have the potential to provide an environment that builds social capital within a community, promotes healthy living through the supply of fresh produce, creates educational awareness of local foods and agriculture, and enhances wildlife, particularly pollinator insect, habitat. In the context of Historic Bethabara Park, the park's gardens provide historical context to the Moravian day-to-day life and community.

Gardens are typically organized and maintained by volunteers, either neighborhood residents, civic groups, school staff or church congregations. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Office for Forsyth County maintains a directory of community gardens through its Forsyth Community Gardening program. It also maintains a community garden coordinator and mentor program.

## **Rural Character and Farmland Preservation**

*Legacy 2030 Update* defines rural character as a land use and development pattern that emphasizes open space, natural landscapes, and vegetation over the built environment and hardscapes. Rural character is associated with areas that contain agrarian lifestyles, rural-based economies, agricultural landscapes, forested lands, wildlife habitats, and low-density development. The *Legacy 2030 Update's* Growth Management Plan defines the Rural Area (Growth Management Area 5) as the outer fringes of Forsyth County that are predominantly outside the incorporated jurisdictions of the county and beyond where public water and sewer can be provided in a cost-effective manner. Chapter 12 of *Legacy* provides recommendations directly related to rural character with the overall goal being to recognize, preserve, protect, and enhance the character and quality of Forsyth County's Rural Area (GMA 5) in a manner that promotes traditional rural lifestyles, farmland and agricultural enterprises, open space, scenic vistas, recreation, and historic resources, while also allowing for compatible limited residential development and service areas.

As noted in *Legacy*, the preservation of farmland provides an important tool to preserve the rural character of the County and provide open space. The Forsyth County Soil and Water Conservation District within the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Office administers the County Farmland Preservation Program and Voluntary Agricultural District. The Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1984 and has preserved 1,600 acres of farmland through the purchase of development rights. Unfortunately, funding for this program is currently not available to continue the purchase of development rights. In recognition of the importance of the preservation of farmland to the county's economic and cultural life, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance in 2008 for the creation of voluntary agricultural districts. The districts provide an opportunity for members to voluntarily preserve and protect farmland from non-farm development while receiving benefits such as recognition, protection from nuisance suits, deferment of water and sewer assessments, eligibility for preservation funds, and potential participation in agricultural tourism. Members are subject to a non-binding conservation agreement with the County for a period of at least 10 years. However, members are able to revoke the agreement at any time with written notice. Currently, 276 properties totaling 5,969 acres are enrolled in the program. Additionally, County leadership came together in collaboration with other local and state agencies and developed the *Forsyth County Farmland Protection Plan* in 2016 with the goal of promoting and protecting the rural agricultural economy. The plan provides recommendations on sustainable growth, economic development, next generation farmers, education, and forestry operations.

Another tool outlined in *Legacy* that can be used to preserve rural character is historic preservation. Preservation of the historic fabric of the county provides an opportunity to preserve both the cultural context of the development of our community and protect open space. Currently, there is one historic area that also functions as a park: Historic Bethabara. Additionally, the County owns two historic courthouse properties that are currently undeveloped but could potentially serve as parks in the future: the Richmond Courthouse and Wright Courthouse sites.

In 2015, the City-County Planning and Development Services Department completed the *Forsyth County Rural Historic Resource Preservation Report*. The report builds upon the

objectives of *Legacy* to provide more detailed information and recommendations for preserving rural character. Key elements noted in the plan include recognition programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and the Century Farms Program, regulatory measures such as Rural Historic Overlay Districts, and the existing Local Historic Landmark designation program. While the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition for the landowner and some protections if public funding is used in a project, the Century Farms Program is an honorary recognition program for working family farms that have been in existence for at least 100 years that provides no incentives or protections. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services lists 22 Century Farms within Forsyth County.

Rural Historic Overlay Districts provide a regulatory method of preserving significant rural landscapes and could function similar to other local historic overlay districts that have design review. There are a number of steps involved before a district could be established and property owners must express an interest in being included in such a district. Currently, there are six areas that could be candidates for potential overlay districts as listed in Table 6. If residents of these areas express interest in establishing an overlay district, a study could be done to determine feasibility and necessary staffing levels for such a district.

**Table 6: Potential Rural Historic Overlay Districts**

<b>District</b>	<b>State Survey ID#</b>
Hope-Fraternity Rural Historic District	FY3916
Friedland Lower Tier Rural Historic District	FY3172
Sprinkle Family Rural Historic District	FY4106
Jonestown Road Historic District	FY4107
Clemmons Historic District	FY2542
Smith-Tucker Farms Rural District	FY3409

### **Natural Heritage and Scenic Sites**

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources provides consolidated information on rare species and natural areas throughout the state to allow landowners and planners to make land use decisions that will provide the most benefit to the community while having the least amount of ecological impact. The program provides assistance to counties in creating individual inventories of natural areas for their communities. Natural areas are defined as areas of land or water that are important to the conservation of the natural biodiversity of the state based on biological surveys per the Nature Preserves Act. The Forsyth County Natural Heritage Inventory was completed in 1998 and originally contained 23 sites. However, a number of sites have been removed since the initial inventory was completed either due to degradation from development or identification of better examples of the natural communities. As of January 2019, 17 sites are listed as a natural area. All except one are located in the northern half of the county with the majority located in the northeast quadrant of the county. The location of the sites is shown on Map 5.

Scenic sites have special qualities that contribute to the overall character of the community and can be visible from different locations such as roads, parks, greenways, and hilltops. While

some sites are already included in existing parks and greenways, there is a need for a countywide plan that identifies potential sites. One of the objectives of Chapter 12 of the *Legacy 2030 Update* is to maintain open space and scenic vistas as part of the rural character of the county. The plan recommends that consideration be given to completing a scenic resources plan to aid in meeting this objective.

### **Conservation Easements**

Conservation easements provide an avenue for landowners to restrict development on property for perpetuity. The Piedmont Land Conservancy, a nonprofit land trust with the mission to protect natural and scenic lands, farms, and open space, handles conservation easements for the piedmont region. The Conservancy serves Forsyth County and eight surrounding counties. Conservation easements are the most common tool that the Conservancy uses to help willing landowners protect their land. To date, the Conservancy has protected 14 properties in Forsyth County, totaling 337 acres.

### **Greenways and Blueways**

Greenways are linear multi-use paths typically located outside of a traditional park. Beyond recreation, they have the potential of playing a vital role in the establishment of a multi-modal transportation network in conjunction with sidewalks and bike lanes. Currently, Winston-Salem has over 25 miles of existing greenways. While the County does not have a greenway network, the Village of Clemmons has one greenway and the Town of Kernersville is beginning to develop its network with two greenways under design or development. Easements are typically used for the development of and public access to greenways. The easements limit development thereby preserving open space and allowing residents in adjacent neighborhoods to have access to open space relatively close to their homes.

The 2012 *Greenway Plan Update* provides the framework for developing the greenway system. Other plans guiding local greenway development include the *Wake Forest University Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Study*, *Yadkin River Greenway Feasibility Study*, and the *Lewisville Greenway and Pedestrian Connections Plan*. Regionally, the Piedmont Legacy Trails, a collaboration between the Piedmont Land Conservancy, the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, and representatives of the 12-county Triad region, has been established to help support and market the local trails, greenways, and blueways as a trails destination. On a state-level, the proposed route of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail has an urban loop that goes through the county.

Blueways relate to the water trails - streams, canals, and lakes - that are accessible for public recreation use. Forsyth County has a number of lakes that are available for public access, either for fishing, boating, canoeing, or kayaking, including Salem Lake, Winston Lake, Belews Lake, and Kernersville Lake. Yadkin River is located along the western border of the county and is accessible to the public, via access points at Tanglewood and Old US 421 River Parks.

### **Floodplains, Riparian Buffers, and Wetlands**

Floodplains are defined as any land adjacent to streams or rivers that is susceptible to flooding during large storms and is composed of the floodway and the flood fringe. A riparian buffer, or stream buffer, refers to a strip of conserved land adjacent to a body of water that serves as a natural filter for pollutants and to mitigate flash flooding erosion and habitat loss. Wetlands are land that is characterized by the presence of water, either continuously or seasonally, and the presence of vegetation adapted to hydric soil. As floodplains and wetlands have limited development potential, they provide opportunities for open space. This is particularly true adjacent to residential areas as many developments use these areas as an amenity for

residents. The Winston-Salem Stormwater Management Ordinance requires stream buffers along streams and creeks located within a development for all new construction or redevelopment projects. The buffer widths are based on the acreage of the site and a portion of the buffer must remain undeveloped. Table 7 provides the buffer widths as established in the ordinance.

**Table 7: Winston-Salem Stormwater Management Ordinance Stream Buffer Requirements**

<b>Development or Redevelopment Size</b>	<b>Required Landward Buffer Widths</b>	<b>Undisturbed Buffer Widths (within Landward Buffer)</b>
0-10 Acres	30 ft.	15 ft.
10-50 Acres	50 ft.	25 ft.
Greater than 50 Acres	100 ft.	50 ft.

### **Zoning Regulations and Design Guidelines**

Various zoning regulations have been established within the UDO that promote or require open space preservation. The Agricultural (AG) District is a zoning classification that is intended to accommodate agricultural uses while allowing for some scattered nonfarm residences on large tracts of land within Growth Management Areas 4 and 5. The district was established as a means of preserving rural character and encouraging the continued use of land for agriculture, forestry, and open space. The district requires a 40,000 square foot lot size and a 150-foot lot width for single-family homes to limit the development of small-lot subdivisions within the district. The Yadkin River Conservation (YR) District is the most restrictive zoning district that is intended to protect the community's water supply, maintain rural character and preserve sensitive natural, historical, recreational, and scenic resources. The YR District has a three-acre minimum lot size requirement.

In regards to more intense zoning districts, the Planned Residential Development (PRD) ordinance provides an alternative to conventional subdivision that promotes the creation of viable, connected open space and allows a more flexible lot pattern. In return for design flexibility, the ordinance requires that developments establish three distinct types of open space: Active, Passive, and Thoroughfare. The percentage of open space required varies according to the underlying residential zoning district. The Mixed-Use - Special Use (MU-S) District is intended for developments of three or more different uses that are designed in a comprehensive, pedestrian-oriented manner. For new buildings greater than or equal to 50,000 square feet, public/private open space is required as a rate of either one or two square feet of open space per 100 square feet of gross floor area. The open space must be easily accessible to users of the building or the general public. This requirement can be waived if certain conditions are met.

Design guidelines have been established for a number of different types of developments and are included in adopted area plans. Two of these guidelines provides recommendations regarding open space. The Guidelines for Suburban Business Parks recommends that at least 20 percent of the park should be preserved as common open space. The guidelines also recommend that the open space be connected, where possible, to provide a corridor through the development. The Design Guidelines for Multifamily Developments recommends that open space that is accessible, safe, and functional be incorporated into new developments. Guidance on urban open space is included in the Guidelines for Activity Centers stating that the open



space should be located in a visible and easily accessible location with direct access from adjacent streets and should be designed in a manner to create a comfortable "outdoor room."

## Open Space Recommendations

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A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

**Planned Residential Developments** Amend current ordinance regulations for Planned Residential Developments (PRDs) to strengthen the conservation of open space and sensitive natural resources. **[General]**

**Piedmont Land Conservancy** Continue to collaborate with the Piedmont Land Conservancy on the preservation of open space and sensitive natural resources. **[Collaboration]**

**Piedmont Legacy Trails** Continue to support the Piedmont Legacy Trails collaborative. **[Collaboration]**

**Greenways** Implement the greenway recommendations of the *Greenway Plan Update*; *Wake Forest University Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Study*; *Yadkin River Greenway Feasibility Study*; and *Lewisville Greenway and Pedestrian Connections Plan*. **[General]**

**Farmland Preservation** Collaborate with the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension Office on the implementation of the recommendations of the *Forsyth County Farmland Preservation Plan*. **[Collaboration]**

**Rural Historic Preservation** Implement the recommendations of the *Forsyth County Rural Historic Resource Preservation Report*. **[General]**

**Park Design** Design expanded and new parks to respect and value the natural resources of the site. **[General]**












**Existing Undeveloped Park Sites** Utilize small undeveloped park sites within the city, such as West Clemmons Road Park, for passive recreation and accessible open space within urban areas. **[City]**

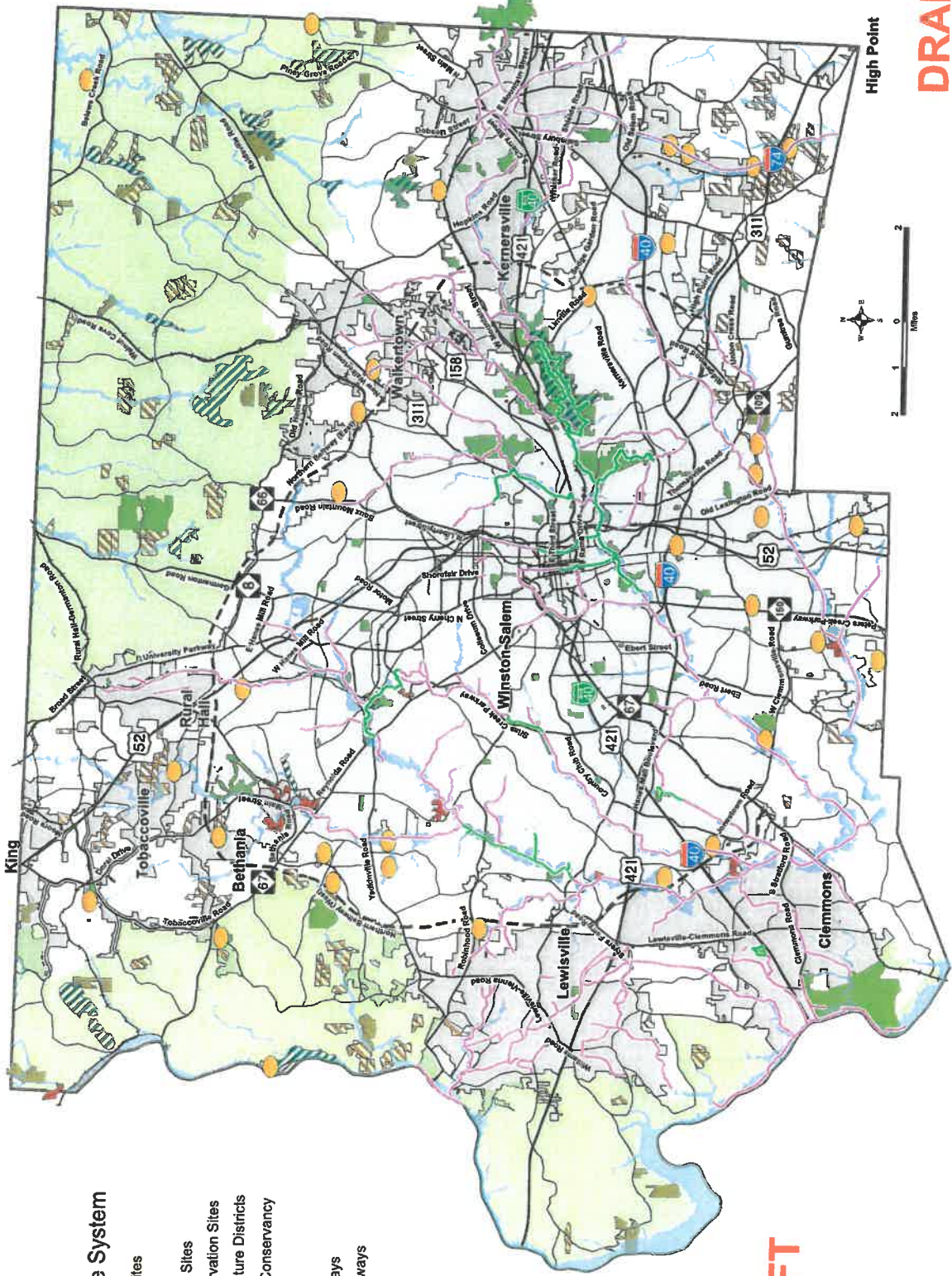
**Large-Scale Residential Developments** Integrate recreational facilities and open space into the design of large-scale residential developments to provide accessible parks and green spaces to neighborhood residents. **[General]**

**Zoning Districts** Consider requiring a percentage of open space in the UDO for other districts beyond the MU-S and PRD districts. **[General]**

Map 5.

**Open Space System**

-  Potential Park Sites
-  Flood Zones
-  Natural Heritage Sites
-  Farmland Preservation Sites
-  Voluntary Agriculture Districts
-  Piedmont Land Conservancy
-  Protected Sites
-  Parks
-  Existing Greenways
-  Proposed Greenways
-  Rural Area



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# Deferred Maintenance

The continued maintenance of existing facilities is a critical concern facing the parks and recreation departments, particularly the City department. With over 80 parks managed between the City and the County, staff is challenged with the constant need for upgrades, retrofits, renovations, and general maintenance necessary to ensure that the facilities are working properly, conforming to standards, and meeting current and future needs. In addition to parks, the City also manages 17 recreation centers that range in age from 16 years to 97 years with the average year built of 1981. These centers also require continued maintenance to ensure that systems are functioning properly and to address the daily wear and tear they experience.

Finding ways to handle deferred maintenance along with routine upkeep of facilities becomes increasingly more difficult as new facilities are added to the system and existing facilities are expanded. Funding for maintenance and the availability of staff becomes strained to cover the new projects. The responses gathered through public input show that residents are aware of the strain that maintenance places on City and County resources. When asked what the greatest concern facing the City and County park systems, the number one response for both was maintenance at 48 percent and 33 percent respectively. Furthermore, when asked where new parks should be developed, the percentage of individuals that responded that no new parks were needed was 17 percent for the city and 25 percent for the county. Additionally, 24 percent and 18 percent of respondents stated that lack of desired amenities was a concern for the city and county respectively. This suggests that the existing system is not meeting the changing demands of users. Complete survey results can found in Appendix A.

## Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Assessment

Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department commissioned Stewart Engineering to complete the *Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Deferred Maintenance Assessment*. Completed in March 2019, the assessment documents the overall deferred maintenance needs of the City park system to create a strategy and budget framework that will allow the City to be more proactive when addressing maintenance needs. The consultants reviewed 71 parks, 17 recreation centers, five pools, and two golf courses and provided summary information on maintenance issues and estimated costs on all facilities. Six parks were not included in the assessment due to a lack of amenities or historic nature. After review of all facilities, the estimated total cost of deferred maintenance was estimated at approximately \$44 million. Table 8 provides a summary of the cost estimates.

**Table 8: Estimated Cost Summary of Deferred Maintenance Assessments**

Parks Cost Summary	\$18.97 million
Pools and Splash Pads Cost summary	\$914,000
Golf Course Cost Summary	\$4.15 million
Recreation Center Cost Summary	\$19.77 million
<b>Total Deferred Maintenance Assessments</b>	<b>\$43,830,000</b>

Source: Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Deferred Maintenance Assessment, March 2019

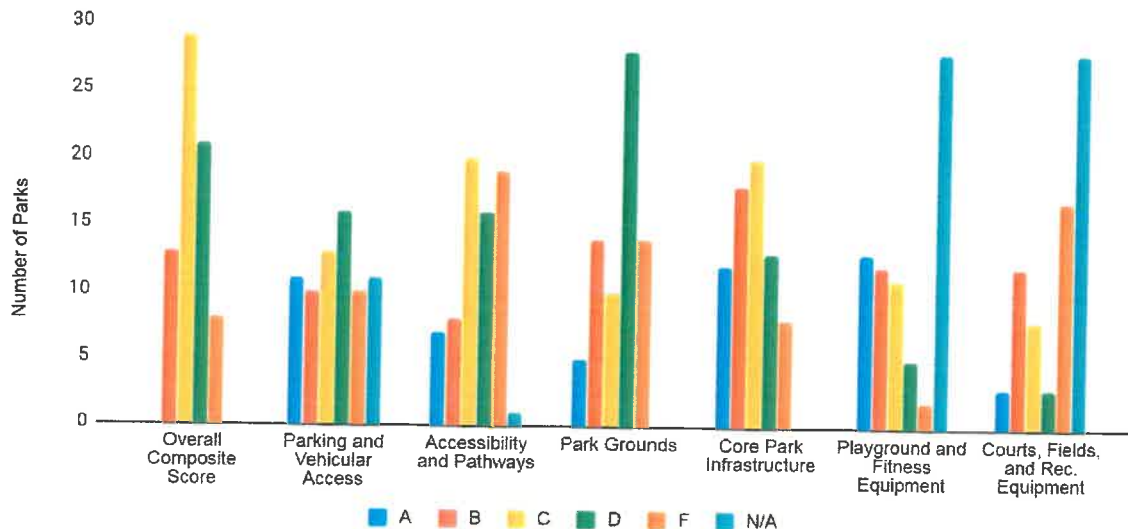
## Parks

Parks were graded on a scale of A through F on six categories and given an overall composite score. The majority of parks received either a C or D composite score. Figure 1 provides the results of the grading system. The six categories that were assessed to achieve the score were:

- **Parking and Maintenance Vehicle Access:** parking lot lighting, surface condition, drainage, vehicle path condition
- **Accessibility and Pathways:** pedestrian pathways and surface condition, assessment of ADA compliance
- **Park Grounds:** lighting, turf and landscaping condition, invasive species, fence condition, drainage issues
- **Core Park Infrastructure:** utilities, shelters, restrooms, furniture, drinking fountains
- **Playgrounds and Fitness Equipment:** playground and fitness equipment, surface condition
- **Courts, Fields, and Rec Equipment:** condition of athletic fields, courts, and infrastructure

Major issues that were routinely seen at parks during the assessment were: parking lot issues, accessibility issues, drainage issues, needed shelter repairs, ageing amenities, and needed pathway repairs.

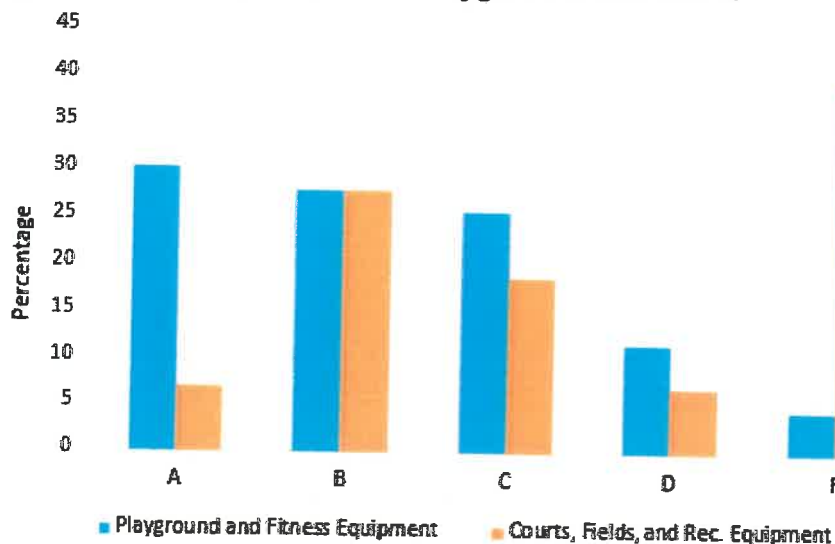
**Figure 1: Park Grading System**



Source: Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Deferred Maintenance Assessment, March 2019

When reviewing the grades for playgrounds, fitness equipment, courts, fields, and recreation equipment, a number of the parks do not have such amenities and can skew the results. When the parks without these amenities are removed, the analysis shows that the while the majority of playgrounds and fitness equipment received a score of A or B, the overwhelming majority (40 percent) of courts, fields and recreation equipment amenities received a score of F. Figure 2 provides the percentage scores.

**Figure 2: Percentage Scores for Playgrounds and Courts**



Source: Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Deferred Maintenance Assessment, March 2019

Maintenance costs were split fairly evenly among three categories: primary safety concerns (\$6.2 million), asset protection costs (\$6.8 million), and general deferred maintenance costs (\$5.97 million). The approved 2018 bonds included \$16 million for improvements and renovations to a number of parks including Hobby Park, Hanes Park, Winston Lake Park, Salem Lake Park, Washington Park, and the William R. Anderson Jr. Recreation Center gymnasium, as well as a number of playgrounds.

### Pools and Splash Pads

Six swimming pools were assessed and detailed information on maintenance issues and cost estimates were provided. As splash pad and spraygrounds are fairly new amenities added to parks, detailed assessments were not conducted. However, a general schedule for maintenance and winterization was provided as these facilities will require ongoing maintenance in the future. The schedule is broken into weekly, monthly, and yearly maintenance tasks as well as 3- and 5-year plans.

The total estimated costs for needed pool improvements is \$914,310 with Bolton Park Pool and Polo Park Pool accounting for 51 percent of the costs. Needed repairs noted included cracks in the decks, deck and pool control joints repairs, cracked steps, caulking, and plaster and tile removal and replacement.

### Golf Courses

Both City golf courses, Winston Lake and Reynolds Park, were assessed by the superintendents of each park on the basis of general maintenance, safety, condition of course features, and playability using an assessment tool created by the consultant. Issues were broken into seven main categories: general design and maintenance issues; irrigation system issues; general fairway and turfgrass issues; general tee issues; general greens complex issues; general bunker issues; and general tree issues. The total estimated costs were \$4,157,950 with Winston Lake accounting for 68 percent of the costs. Priority repairs and recommendations were provided for each course.

### **Recreation Centers**

Assessments were conducted for the exterior and interior of all 17 recreation centers. Common issues noted in the assessments include non ADA-compliant egresses and restrooms; repainting; cleaning of light fixtures, vents, and windows; floor and ceiling repairs and replacement; replacement of windows; potential water leaks; and cracks in walls.

Maintenance costs were broken into two categories: general maintenance and mechanical, electrical or plumbing (MEP). The total estimated costs totaled \$19.7 million with general maintenance repairs totaling \$18.9 million and MEP system repairs totaling \$870,000. Cost varied between centers due to differences in square footage and age. Miller Park, Polo Park, and Fourteenth Street Park Recreation Centers had the highest maintenance costs with each facility needing more than \$2 million worth of improvements. The approved 2018 bond funds include \$1.16 million for improvements to the Carl Russell Community Center.

### **City Facility Condition Assessments**

The Winston-Salem Property and Facility Management Department performs facility assessments every couple of years for all City-maintained buildings including recreation buildings. Items that were commonly noted in the document included roofing, HVAC system repairs, painting, and needed park furniture such as benches, tables, and trash receptacles. The document includes estimated budgets and a general repair schedule. In response to the most recent document, the City included \$6.38 million in the bond referendum, passed by voters in 2018. The funds will address facility renewal projects, such as roof and HVAC replacement, repainting, and replacement of electrical systems, needed maintenance, and improvements and upgrades to lighting, security, tennis courts, basketball courts, and pools.

### **County Facility Maintenance**

The goal of the County Parks and Recreation Department is to “provide extraordinary, safe, and well-maintained facilities to ensure recreational/leisure opportunities are available to Forsyth County citizens.” To achieve this goal, a current initiative within the department is to continue to make renovations of park facilities. Over the past several years, the County has completed several projects to address maintenance needs including replacement of Shelter 2 and 3 at Tanglewood Park, renovations to the Tanglewood Park Championship Golf Course, and a new maintenance facility at Tanglewood Park. Currently, improvements to the irrigation systems are underway at Tanglewood.

The County addressed park maintenance projects within the 2017–2022 Major Capital Improvement Program. The program allocated \$2 million on an alternating year schedule to provide consistent funding for lifecycle park projects such as paving and park shelter and playground replacements. Furthermore, park maintenance is included in the annual operating budget to cover items such as janitorial services, solid waste collection, and repairs. Voters also approved a \$15 million bond referendum in 2016 that includes park maintenance related projects in addition to new facilities. Table 9 provides a schedule for park maintenance bond projects.

**Table 9: Forsyth County Park Maintenance Bond Projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Schedule</b>
Tanglewood Roadway Improvements	2019-2020
Tanglewood Par 3 Golf Course Renovations	2019-2020
Tanglewood Clubhouse Renovations	2019-2020 and 2021
Tanglewood Multi-Use Trail	2019-2020
Horizon Park Master Plan Phase I Improvements	2021-2022
Playground Replacements at Horizons Park, C.G. Hill Park, and Kernersville Lake Park	2019
Playground Replacement at 421 River Park	2017-2018

## **Deferred Maintenance Recommendations**

A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

**Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Assessment** Develop a strategy to implement the maintenance projects outlined in the Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Assessment. Safety and accessibility concerns should be addressed first. **[City]**

**City Facilities Assessment** Continue to perform facility assessments on all park buildings on a consistent basis. Develop a schedule for implementation of needed maintenance. **[City]**

**Project Contracts** Consider addressing needed improvements based upon project type, such as lighting, across multiple parks rather than addressing needs on a park by park basis. **[General]**

**Operations and Staffing** Adjust annual operating budgets and staff levels accordingly as new facilities are added to the system. **[General]**

**Bonds** Complete the projects as outlined in the 2016 Forsyth County Bond Referendum and the 2018 Winston-Salem Bond Referendum. **[General]**

# Accessibility

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The continued development of a parks and open space system that is accessible to residents is the purpose of this update. By providing recommendations that address the deficiencies within the current system based on a service radius analysis, this update identifies one of the key aspects of accessibility - location. Parks must be located in areas and neighborhoods that will allow residents to easily access them. While the location of district and regional parks can be seen as exceptions to the one-mile location rule given their broader, regional purpose, residents should have access to all parks within one-mile of their homes.

The location of parks is only one aspect of achieving true accessibility. External and internal accessibility must also be present to allow residents of all ages and physical abilities to actively enjoy the system.

## External Accessibility

While locating parks within or adjacent to residential areas is important, the location alone does not ensure that the park is accessible to residents. Sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and transit are critical infrastructure that need to be available to allow residents who either cannot drive or do not own a personal vehicle to access to their local park and recreation facility. A number of programs and plans have been established that address multimodal transportation access to parks and other recreational facilities.

## ParkScore®

As mentioned previously, the Trust for Public Lands has developed a comprehensive ratings system, ParkScore®, for the 100 largest U.S. cities that includes Winston-Salem. Out of a possible maximum 100 points, Winston-Salem received 35 points ranking it 86 out of 100 cities in the 2019 ranking. One of the factors that contributed to the City's low rating was access. Access is defined in the system as the percentage of residents who live within a 10-minute walk to a park. The City received 7.5 points out of a possible 100 points with approximately 36 percent of residents living within a 10-minute walk (½ mile) of a park. While a half mile is a tighter radius than the service radius analysis completed for the existing system review as described in the Park System Needs Analysis section, it does draw attention to the fact that many of the existing parks are not accessible to residents without use of a personal vehicle.

## Safe Routes to Parks

Safe Routes to School is a program started in 2005 that works to make it safe and convenient for children to walk and bike to and from school as a means of improving safety and increasing physical activity amongst children. The program is funded through the federal transportation bill. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership has since broadened its focus to beyond travel to schools to ensuring that all streets are designed in a manner that allows for individuals to walk or bike to their destination, be it a school, job, shopping center, or park. The Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program works to improve the safety and security of walking and biking to parks. The program provides technical assistance and grant funds to local communities to improve access to parks in low-income communities and minority communities. The program is an extension of the Safe Routes to Park Action Framework, a collaboration between the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and the National Recreation and Park Association that provides local governments with evidence- and practice-based guidance on best practices to ensure that local policies and practices support safe and equitable access to parks.



## Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan

The Bicycle Master Plan provides recommendations, policies, and a comprehensive map for the continued development of a bicycle network throughout the city. The *Comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan* was adopted in 2005 with the primary purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, and usability of Winston-Salem's bicycle network. An update to this plan, *The Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan*, is currently underway with adoption anticipated in summer 2019. Draft recommendations were made available to the public in April 2019. The draft recommendations highlight 16 priority bicycle routes totaling 414.7 miles of bicycle infrastructure. These routes are based on results of a gap analysis, stress level mapping, latent demand model, and public input in order to create a comprehensive network of bicycle facilities that connect neighborhoods, shopping centers, schools, parks, employment centers and other key destinations. Recreational facility connections from these proposed priority routes are identified in Table 10.

**Table 10: Priority Bicycle Routes and Existing Park Connections**

Priority Bicycle Route	Recreational Facilities Located Along Routes
Northside Trace	Hanes Hosiery Park, Polo Park and Community Center
Robinhood Road	Muddy Creek Greenway, Cedar Trails Greenway Connector
Northwest Connector	Winston Lake Park, 14th Street Community Center, 14th Street Park, Gateway Commons Park, Harambee Park, Hanes Park
Westside Bike Boulevard	Silas Creek Greenway, Shaffner Park, Cedar Trails Connector, Muddy Creek Greenway
Eastern Trace	Winston Lake Park, Newell/Massey Greenway, Salem Lake Park, Salem Lake Trail
CrossTown Connector	Skyland Park, Grace Court Park, Bailey Park*, Hanes Park
Lewisville Connector	Muddy Creek Greenway, Jamison Park
Parkland South Connector	Salem Lake Park, Reynolds Park, Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway, Salem Lake Trail, Happy Hill Park, Washington Park, Hobby Park
Southern Fiddle	Easton Park, Sedge Garden Park and Community Center
Bethabara Brightway	Sara Lee Soccer Complex, Hine Park, Historic Bethabara Park, Bethabara Trail
Walkertown Quarry Connector	Crawford Park, Winston Lake Park, Newell/Massey Greenway, Brushy Fork Greenway, Quarry Park, Waughtown Connector, Reynolds Park, Helen Nichols Park, Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center
Reynolda Link	Hanes Park
Long Branch	Blum-Blanding Park, Bailey Park*

Forsyth Medical	Ardmore Park, Lockland Park, Granville Park, Strollway
Forsyth Tech Connector	Stratford Road Park, Runnymede Park, Ardmore Park
Waughtown Route	Hanes Park, Strollway, Central Park, Happy Hill Park, Salem Creek Greenway, Sprague Street Park and Community Center

\*Private facility

Source: Draft Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan, April 2019

### Other Transportation Plans

A number of other transportation plans have been adopted that address bicycle and pedestrian amenities. The recommendations within the adopted *Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)*, *2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update*, and the *Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Plan*, in conjunction with the *Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan*, provide a framework for creating a connected bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the Winston-Salem Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area. Updates to the CTP, MTP, and the *Sidewalk and Pedestrian Facilities Plan* are scheduled to begin in the coming year. The North Carolina Department of Transportation also provides funding for local bicycle and pedestrian projects through the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Greenways provide both a transportation and recreation function with many connected to parks. The *Greenway Plan* was adopted in 2002 and updated in 2012. The *Greenway Plan Update* provides a tiered prioritization of proposed greenway projects based three factors: connectivity, feasibility, and public support. The existing greenway network is shown on Maps 1 and 2 with proposed greenways shown on Maps 4 and 5.

### Intersection Improvements

In addition to providing sidewalks and bicycle lanes, it is equally important to design intersections leading to parks and recreation facilities in a manner that allows for safe crossings. Many intersections throughout the City and County were not designed to allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross safely and must be retrofitted. The Winston-Salem Department of Transportation has worked diligently over the past several years to make improvements to intersections to address concerns from pedestrians and cyclists. Improvements include better signage, tighter turn radiuses, pedestrian refuge islands, and intersection realignments.

### Transit

In addition to walking and biking, transit offers residents an alternative transportation option for accessing parks and recreational facilities. Two transit operations are located within the county: Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) and Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART). WSTA service provides local routes to residents while PART offers regional public transportation options to Winston-Salem and the greater Piedmont Triad. In 2018, WSTA updated their transit routes to provide better customer service through improved wait times, route alignments, and new service routes on weekends.

### Web Application

Planning staff is currently working to create a web application that will rate the accessibility of City-maintained recreation facilities. For the initial launch of the application, ratings for recreations centers and greenways will be determined. Ratings will be based on a metric of five factors: proximity of sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, and transit stops as well as the number of accessible parking spaces. This application will allow both City staff and local residents to

gain a better understanding of the accessibility of each facility. The application is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

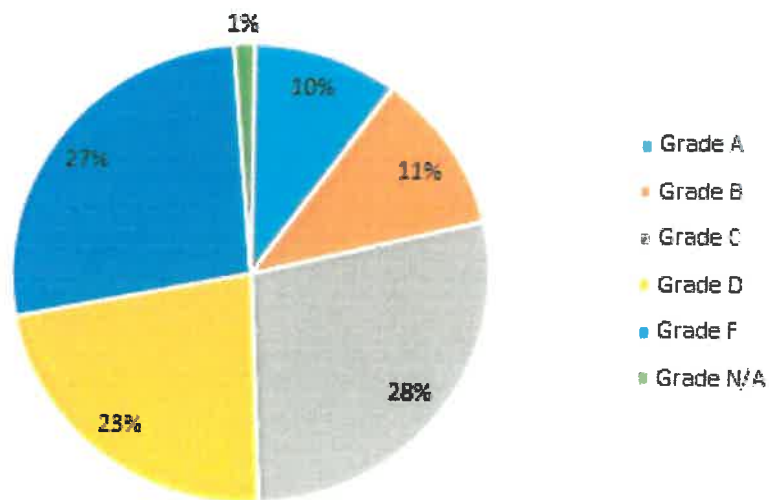
### Internal Accessibility

In order for the park and recreational facilities to truly be deemed accessible, the amenities located within a park or facility must be designed in a manner to allow for use by residents across different physical and mental capabilities. This entails designing new and retrofitting existing pathways, restrooms, and structures to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards. Furthermore, amenities provided at each park should be inclusive to allow for use by individuals with physical disabilities. Currently, many facilities are lacking in providing access to the individuals with physical limitations.

The City's Deferred Maintenance Study identified a number of issues in regards to internal accessibility including restrooms and egresses that do not meet current ADA standard, a lack of accessible parking spaces, and a lack of accessible pathways to existing park amenities. Of the 17 City recreation centers, 14 have restrooms that do not meet current ADA standard. Most non-compliant restrooms will require reconfiguration with three requiring expansion of the building footprint in order to make the necessary improvements. The study also noted that seven centers have egresses that are not ADA compliant.

Parks were also reviewed as part of the Deferred Maintenance Report. A grade from A to F was given to parks based on their accessibility and pathways. Of the 71 parks that were reviewed, the vast majority of parks received a C grade or below with only seven parks receiving an A grade (10 percent) and eight receiving a B grade (11 percent) as shown in Figure 3. Issues noted for parks with below average grades included no access from public right-of-way, no access to neighborhoods, no access to park amenities, and no ADA compliant parking.

**Figure 3: Winston-Salem Park Accessibility and Pathways Grades**



Source: Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Deferred Maintenance Assessment

## **Safety**

After distance, research has shown that safety is the most influential factor in determining if an individual will use a park to incorporate physical activity in their daily lives. This sense of safety goes beyond the presence of low-speed traffic, sidewalks, and intersections improvements to include real and perceived threats to personal safety from criminal activity. The perception of a lack of personal safety creates a barrier to accessing and using parks even if they are within a reasonable walking or biking distance. Issues such as street harassment, graffiti, stray dogs, abandoned houses, overgrown vegetation, and poor lighting all contribute to a sense of fear for one's safety.

Collaboration between multiple organizations is needed to address the various issues that can influence safety surrounding parks including recreation and park departments, local law enforcement, land use and transportation departments, neighborhood advocacy groups, and business owners. It is also critically important that a partnership between community residents and local staff is established to gain a proper understanding of the factors and elements that are causing residents to feel unsafe. Otherwise, any improvements that are implemented may not properly address the issue. Furthermore, community participation in the process can lead to community ownership that allows for improvements and support to be sustained over the long term.

## **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an approach to deterring criminal behavior through the design of the built environment. The original concept for CPTED was created by criminologist C. Ray Jeffery in the 1970s. During this time, a similar concept of Defensive Space was created by architect Oscar Newman. Since its original conception, CPTED has evolved to incorporate more of the principles of Defensive Space with its current implementation based upon the idea that crime and the fear of crime can be reduced and quality of life can be improved through the proper design and effective use of the built environment. There are four primary principles of CPTED that reinforce the premise that individuals are influenced more by the risk of being caught than the impulse and/or reward of performing a criminal act.

- **Natural Surveillance:** This principle relates to creating an environment where individuals can observe the space around them while performing their daily activities.
- **Access Control:** This principle relates to decreasing criminal accessibility to spaces particularly in areas where individuals cannot easily be observed.
- **Territoriality:** This principle relates to creating a sense of ownership of a space. This creates an environment where strangers and/or intruders are more easily noticed.
- **Maintenance:** This principle relates to properly maintaining landscaping, fencing, lighting, and other features that facilitate the other principles of CPTED.

## **Accessibility Recommendations**

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A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

**Housing Development** Ensure that subsidized housing, affordable housing, and low income housing are located in areas that are easily accessible to parks by sidewalks, bike lanes, and/or transit. **[General]**

**Silas Creek Pedestrian Tunnel** Improve the Silas Creek Pedestrian Tunnel at Shaffner Park to provide better lighting and drainage. Ensure that the tunnel is properly maintained and debris is regularly removed. **[City]**

**Park Access** Improve access to parks along major and minor thoroughfares including Oak Summit Park, Hobby Park, Bethabara Park, Salem Lake Park, Union Cross Park, and Tanglewood Park. Work with NCDOT to improve pedestrian accessibility and crossings for parks located on state maintained roads. **[General]**

**ADA Audits** Perform full ADA audits of all facilities. **[General]**

**Walking Audits** Coordinate with the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation on performing walking audits of facilities at the request of community residents. **[Collaboration]**

**Deferred Maintenance** Implement necessary improvements to meet current ADA standard for restrooms and egresses as listed in the 2019 Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Study. **[City]**

**Safe Park Environment** Employ CPTED principles and other measures to ensure the safety of park patrons. Collaborate with other organizations and local government agencies to address safety concerns around local parks. **[General]**

**Lighting** Ensure that all recreation centers and park buildings have proper lighting around the building and within the parking areas. **[General]**

**Bicycle Master Plan** Implement the recommendations of the Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan. **[General]**

**Sidewalk and Pedestrian Plan** Incorporate recommendations that improve access to parks in the update to the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Plan. **[General]**

**New facility design** Ensure that access from surrounding neighborhoods and to park amenities is incorporated into the design of new park facilities. Access should be for all users and for multiple modes of transportation. **[General]**

# Land Acquisition and Funding

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Multiple methods, beyond property taxes, are available to local governments for funding the acquisition of land and the development and enhancement of parks and recreational facilities. The methods range from the use of local bond funds and grant fund to public-private partnerships and donations.

## Bonds

Bonds are a common tool used by municipalities as they provide large sums of up-front money to finance the development of public projects or infrastructure improvements. There are two types of bonds employed by local governments: general obligation bonds and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are not secured by any assets but backed by the full faith and credit of the issuer which has the ability to tax residents to pay back the bonds. Revenue bonds are backed by the revenues of a specific project or source such as tolls or lease fees. Local governments also have the ability to issue general obligation bonds without a public vote in the form of two-thirds bonds. Two-third bonds can be issued to the maximum of two-thirds of the amount the municipality has reduced its general obligation debt in the previous fiscal year.

The City has used bonds to fund park and recreation projects in the past. In 2014 and 2018, City voters passed a general obligation bond referendum authorizing \$30,850,00 and \$31,000,000 for park and recreation projects respectively. In 2016, Forsyth County voters passed a bond referendum authorizing \$15,000,000 for park and recreation projects. The City and County also issue two-thirds bonds on a biennial basis. These bonds typically address maintenance projects.

## Capital Improvement Plan

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a multi-year guide for planning a community's capital expenditures either in regards to new development projects or maintenance of existing facilities. A CIP provides a capital budget for the upcoming year and a program for expenditures for five-years beyond the budget. A CIP is subject to change after its initial year as new priorities are selected and/or more urgent needs are identified.

The City's CIP covers years 2019 to 2024 with the County's CIP covering years 2017 to 2022. The City CIP identified 12 different park and recreation projects to be funded through the use of two-thirds bonds. Projects included greenway resurfacing, picnic shelter renovations, playground renovations, facility renewals, landscape improvements, recreation center lighting renovations, gymnasium floor renovations, pool renovations, golf course improvements, and basketball resurfacing. A number of unfunded park and recreation projects were also listed in the CIP totaling \$94,936,500.

The County identifies park system development within its CIP with general obligation bonds being listed as the funding source. The plan lists \$3,750,000 being allocated for Fiscal Years 2017, 2019, and 2021. County park projects include improvements to Tanglewood, Old US 421, C.G. Hill, Horizons, Walkertown, Kernersville Lake, Union Cross, and Triad Parks. A new multi-use Agricultural Event Center is also noted. The County CIP also identifies the use of two-thirds bonds for maintenance projects.

## **Fees**

User fees are most often used to cover the cost of operating parks and recreational facilities with the intent of covering the cost of providing a particular service. However, user fees generally do not cover these costs. Typical fees for the City Recreation and Parks Department include tour admissions for Historic Bethabara Park; rental fees for venues, courts, equipment field, recreation center, and picnic shelter rentals; and golf course player fees. County fees include shelter, field, and courtyard rentals; admission rates to the Peter S. Brunstetter Aquatic Center and Festival of Lights at Tanglewood; campground rentals; guided trail rides and hayrides; and golf course player fees.

User fees should be continually reviewed and adjusted to offset the rising costs associated with maintaining a high quality level of service to the public. However, the fees should be structured in a manner to not indirectly make facilities inaccessible to low to moderate income individuals and families.

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Established by Congress in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal grant program administered through the National Park Service. The state and local assistance program within the LWCF provides matching funds to state, local, and tribal governments for the acquisition of park land, creation and expansion of parks and recreational facilities, and to further local recreation plans. Since its establishment, the LWCF has provided funding for over 800 park projects throughout North Carolina.

Administered through the National Park Service and funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) is a nationally competitive grant program established by Congress in 2014. The partnership provides grants to help create and improve state- and locally owned parks and other outdoor recreation areas in underserved urban jurisdictions with over 50,000 population. Priority is given to projects located in areas that are economically disadvantaged and lacking in outdoor recreation opportunities. In 2018, a total of \$13.3 million of funding was available.

## **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund**

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) is a state grant program for the acquisition of land and development of parks. For local municipalities, the program provides a dollar-for-dollar grant that can be used for the development of parks and recreational facilities that serve the community. The program is administered through the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation and funded through appropriations of the NC General Assembly with grant recipients chosen each year by the Parks and Recreation Authority.

The Connect North Carolina Bond Grant is a subsection of PARTF and provides construction of special facilities and the adaptation of existing facilities to meet the needs of children and veterans with physical and developmental disabilities. The goal is to provide facilities that are designed in a manner that will enable these individuals to participate in recreational and sporting activities, regardless of their abilities.

## **Dedication and Payment in Lieu**

Communities have developed requirements for developers to either dedicate land for recreational purposes or provide a payment in lieu of land dedication as a way of ensuring that as new residential developments are established adequate recreational facilities are provided for residents. In North Carolina, cities gained the ability to require subdividers to dedicate land

for recreational areas in 1971 (G.S. 160A-372(c)). Two years later, counties were given similar authority (G.S. 153A-331(c)). In 1975, enabling legislation was authorized that granted counties the authority to accept payment of fees in lieu of dedication. Similar authority was granted to municipalities in 1985. A number of localities within the State have enacted regulations governing land dedication and payments in lieu of dedication for new subdivisions including Davidson, Wilmington, and Fuquay-Varina.

## **Partnerships**

Partnerships between organizations whether intergovernmental or between private and non-profit organizations provide desirable opportunities to share responsibilities and costs associated with maintaining and operating recreational facilities. These partnerships allow for the development of more or larger facilities within a community.

Intergovernmental partnerships can be between federal, state, local, or regional government agencies. Triad Park is an example of an existing intergovernmental partnership between Forsyth County and Guilford County. Shared use agreements between the City of Winston-Salem and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System is another example of two organizations collaborating together to bring amenities to residents. There is potential for collaboration between agencies in the future to develop new parks in areas that are currently underserved. A partnership between Forsyth County, Winston-Salem, and/or the City-County Utilities Commission for the reuse of the Old Salisbury Road Construction and Demolition Landfill would allow for a new park and recreational facility to be developed to address the continued growth of the southern portion of the county.

Partnerships between local governments and private and non-profit organizations can also be beneficial in providing recreational opportunities to residents. These partnerships can allow local governments to reach agreements with outside organizations for the continued maintenance and operations of a park or they can provide support to local government efforts through fundraising, advocacy, marketing, design, and programming. Kernersville is currently in a partnership with Kernersville Family YMCA to provide the Kernersville Community Pool and Water Park to the town's residents. Walkertown has partnered with the Walkertown Little League on Whickenham Park in which the park is owned by the Town but maintained and operated by the Little League.

## **Non-profit Organizations, Foundations, and Private Funding**

A number of non-profit organizations, foundations, and private fundraising organizations have aided communities in the development of park and recreation facilities. Organizations can be focused on a single park or recreation facility, such as a Friends group, that works in collaboration with a local government to privately fundraise for improvements or amenities at their selected facility. Other organizations focus on a particular mission associated with parks and recreation either directly or indirectly and provide funding to achieve their mission within communities throughout the country. For example, the Tony Hawk Foundation provides grants to local governments to establish high quality, public skateparks in low-income areas of the United States. The U.S. Soccer Foundation provides funding to support soccer programs and field-building initiatives. The Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership provides technical assistance and grants through its Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities Program to communities to improve safe, secure park access for people of all ages and abilities in low-income, minority communities.



## Health and Wellness Opportunities

With the increased awareness of the link between the built environment and physical and mental health, a number of health and wellness organizations have begun providing grants to communities to enhance the recreational opportunities available to residents to promote healthy lifestyles. Two such organizations in North Carolina include the Blue Cross and Blue Shield North Carolina Foundation and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield North Carolina Foundation is an independent, charitable foundation with the mission of improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians. The foundation provides grants to communities and organizations that range from small-dollar grants to multi-year funding. The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, through its Health Improvement in North Carolina and Healthy Places NC, provides funding opportunities to municipalities and other organizations to address inadequacies in the built environment that limit physical activity.

## Deeding and Donations

Land deed and donations provide a valuable opportunity for local governments to acquire land for parks and open space. Land can be deeded or donated to local governments by other public entities, corporations, or private landowners. Many times these lands are donated to the local government by heirs of the property owner or in honor of a family member. Other times, land is given to a locality as they are abandoned or underutilized properties or have limited development potential given their physical constraints such as topography or the presence of a floodplain.

A number of existing parks, particularly within the city, have been acquired either through deed or gift for specific use as a public recreational facility. The County's first park was established when the County was deeded the abandoned Union Cross Radar Station by the Federal Government in 1974. Land for C. G. Hill Park was obtained through a gift of 13 acres to the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in 1971 by the Hill Family. Tanglewood Park was originally willed to the citizens of Forsyth County by the Reynolds Family in 1951 as a public recreational park and held in trust until purchased by the County in 1977. Winston-Salem obtained its first parkland in 1892 through a dedication of 17.20 acres for Washington Park. Other City parks and facilities obtained through gifts include Blum Park (1944), Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center (1962), Hanes Park (1919 and 1937), Miller Park (1941), Polo Park (1955), Shaffner Park (1958), Stratford Road Park (1951), and Kimberley Park (1940). More recently, a 15.59-acre site along Muddy Creek was donated in 2013 to the City of Winston-Salem for recreational use. It is currently used as a trailhead for the popular Muddy Creek Greenway. In 2017, the Town of Kernersville received a donation of 80 acres of land for use as a park. The Town held public input meetings on the future Pope Park throughout 2018 to determine the type of amenities that should be included in the park's design.

## Funding Recommendations

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A notation is given next to each recommendation specifying if it is a general recommendation or if it will be handled by the city, county, or through a collaboration between different agencies and organizations. An implementation schedule is located in Section 13.

**Operation and Maintenance** Ensure yearly allocations for the operation and maintenance of the park and open space system. As new park facilities are developed, increase the yearly allocations accordingly to ensure that new facilities and existing facilities can be properly staffed and maintained. **[General]**

**Multi-year Funding** Secure a multi-year dedicated funding source, bond funding and/or dedicated tax revenue for land acquisition and capital development for new or expanded parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. **[General]**

**Grant Funding** Pursue state, federal, and private grant funding opportunities for land acquisition and capital development. Investigate new opportunities through alternative sources such those addressing healthy and active living. **[General]**

**Private Funding** Encourage and support effective complementary private fund-raising efforts and sponsors. **[General]**

**Special Interest Partnerships** Partner with special interest organizations to ensure that renovated and new parks and recreational facilities meet the needs of their intended users. Examples include the local skateboarding and mountain biking community, Centers for the Blind, Autism Society of NC, Forsyth County Senior Services, and the Adaptables. **[General]**

**Environmental Education and Stewardship** Collaborate with the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension, Piedmont Environmental Alliance, and other organizations to provide environmental educational programs to the public to promote stewardship. **[Collaboration]**

# Implementation Schedule

Note: The recommendations of this plan serve as a guide to future action and decision making and are not a commitment to funding. Funding for specific projects or amenities will be allocated by the Winston-Salem City Council and Forsyth County Board of Commissioners based on availability of funding and consideration of priorities.

\*Timing: Immediate: 1 to 2 years; Short Range: 3 to 5 years; Medium Range: 6 to 10 years; Long Range: 10 years or more; Ongoing: No established completion date

Action/Project	Responsible Agency	Timing*
<b>Park Proposals</b>		
<b>Regional Parks</b>		
Implement Phase II improvements based on the Quarry Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Immediate
Acquire land and complete a master plan for a new park at a site that will allow public access to Belews Lake.	FCPR; private land owners	Short
Implement the recommendations of the Horizons Park Master Plan.	FCPR	Short
Partner with local outdoor recreation organizations and the Yadkin Riverkeeper to develop a new park and access to the Yadkin River that will serve the needs of river users.	FCPR, private organizations	Medium
Complete a feasibility study to determine the possibility of developing the Hanes Mill Landfill for passive recreational use upon its closure.	CCUC, WSRP	Long
Continue to develop Triad Park according to the current master plan. Expand as appropriate adjacent property becomes available.	FCPR	Ongoing
Improve and expand the existing facilities at Tanglewood Park as necessary to meet the current and future needs of users.	FCPR	Ongoing

<b>District Parks</b>		
Implement the recommendations of the Washington Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Immediate/Short
Complete Phase II improvements at Winston Lake Park as noted in the Winston Lake Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Immediate/Short
Complete Phase II improvement to Hanes Park as noted in the Hanes Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Immediate/Short
Complete the recommended improvements based on the Hobby Park Master Plan. Explore opportunities to expand the park.	WSRP	Short
Complete a feasibility study to determine the possibility of developing Old Salisbury Landfill for passive recreational use upon its closure.	CCUC, WSRP	Medium
Develop a master plan for Kernersville Lake Park expansion.	FCPR, CCPB	Medium
Complete the recommended improvements based upon the C. G. Hill Park Master Plan.	FCPR	Medium
Develop a new park in south Forsyth County to serve the both City and County residents.	WSRP, FCPR	Medium
Develop a master plan for the northern portion of Salem Lake between the Salem Parkway and City boundary.	CCUC, WSRP	Medium
Complete the recommended improvements to Long Creek Park as noted in the Long Creek Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Medium
Explore opportunities to expand existing district parks as they become available.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
<b>Community Parks</b>		
Develop a new park in the Abbotts Creek area of Forsyth County.	FCPR, Town of Kernersville	Long
Develop a new park in Northeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County between City of Winston-Salem and Town of Walkertown boundaries.	WSRP, FCPR, Town of Walkertown	Long

Develop a plan for the future expansion of the Tobaccoville Village Park.	FCPR, Town of Tobaccoville	Long
Develop a new park in Northwest Forsyth County between the Village of Tobaccoville and C.G. Hill Park.	FCPR	Long
Consider the establishment of a new community park near the Kernersville Road/ Northern Beltway (I-74) Activity Center.	WSRP, CCPB	Long
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Complete the recommended improvements based on the Happy Hill Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Immediate
Develop a condition improvement plan for Granville Park and complete the first phase of improvements.	WSRP	Medium
Develop a master plan for improvements to the undeveloped West Clemmons Road Park.	WSRP	Medium
Develop a new neighborhood park in east Forsyth County between Belews Lake and Triad Park.	FCPR, Town of Kernersville	Long
Develop a new neighborhood park in the Southeast Winston-Salem/Forsyth County area.	WSRP, FCPR	Long
<b>Special Parks</b>		
Develop a pocket park along Bethania-Rural Hall Road next to First Station 20.	WSRP	Short
Develop a pocket park within the Georgetown neighborhood.	WSRP	Short
Complete facility assessments and master plans for Corpening Plaza, Winston Square Park, and Downtown Park.	WSRP, DWSP	Medium/Long
Develop the Anderson Drive - Luther Street Park into a passive pocket park.	WSRP	Long
Consider utilizing small vacant parcels within neighborhoods as pocket parks especially in areas with limited access to open space.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities, private developers	Ongoing

Examine opportunities to establish linear parks adjacent to greenways to provide additional recreational opportunities and connection to nearby neighborhoods.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
<b>Recreational Facilities Recommendations</b>		
<b>Recreation and Community Centers</b>		
Establish a new recreation or community center in south Winston-Salem/Forsyth County to service the new growth in the area.	WSRP, FCPR	Long
Establish a new community center in western Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, potentially at C.G. Hill Park.	FCPR	Long
Establish a new recreation center to serve the population in northern Winston-Salem in the area between north Shattalon Drive and Oak Summit Road.	WSRP	Long
Establish community centers in or near the smaller municipalities to serve the growing population in those areas.	FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
<b>Soccer and Ball Fields</b>		
Consider including soccer, multipurpose, and/or ball fields as part of a new district or community park in the south and southeast Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.	WSRP, FCPR	Long
Work with local schools and colleges to develop shared-use agreements to allow residents access to existing fields on school property.	WSPR, FCPR, WSFCS, local colleges and universities	Ongoing
Work with the smaller communities within Forsyth County to address deficiencies in systems relating to accessible soccer, multipurpose, and ball fields.	FCPR, private organizations	Ongoing

<b>Tennis Courts</b>		
Install new tennis courts in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County to meet future needs at the city's edges, if demand exists for these facilities.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Improve existing facilities as needed.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Collaborate with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System on shared-use agreements to allow for public use of tennis courts existing on school property.	WSRP, FCPR, WSFCS	Ongoing
<b>Basketball and Volleyball Courts</b>		
Examine the possibility of installing basketball courts at Shaffner, Parkland, Bolton, South, and Sprague Parks.	WSRP	Short
Assess the public demand for additional courts when completing park master plans for new parks.	WSRP, FCPR, CCPB, other municipalities	Ongoing
<b>Walking Trails, Multi-use Paths, and Greenways</b>		
Complete Phase II of Winston Lake Park Master Plan which proposes a lakefront strollway.	WSRP	Immediate/Short
Complete the proposed improvements to the existing Strollway.	WSDOT, DWSP	Short/Medium
Examine the possibility of creating a natural trail system on the northern portion of Salem Lake Park	WSRP, WSFCU	Medium
Fund and implement the proposed path improvements and connections as shown in the preliminary Long Creek Park Master Plan.	WSRP	Medium
Fund and implement the proposed cross county trail system at Horizons Park as shown in the Horizons Park Master Plan.	FCPR	Medium
Implement the recommendations of the <i>Greenway Plan Update</i> .	WSDOT, WSEng, CCPB, Forsyth County	Ongoing
Consider walking trails, nature trails, and multi-use paths as part of the development of all new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing

Provide connections to existing greenways where appropriate.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Install new walking trails at existing parks and expand existing paths where space is available.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Coordinate with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System on shared-use agreements for public use of school tracks.	WSRP, FCPR, WSFCS	Ongoing
Install new mountain biking trails where appropriate land is available or based on adopted Master Plans.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
<b>Other Facilities</b>		
Install a fitness course within the city and/or county.	WSRP, FCPR	Medium/Long
Develop at least one new skate park, preferably a concrete skate park, within the county.	WSRP, FCPR	Long
Install additional dog parks throughout the County particularly in the eastern half of the county and in accordance to park master plans.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Examine the possibility of adding community gardens to existing and new parks where there is public demand and an established organization for continued administration of the garden.	WSRP, FCPR, private and non-profit organizations	Ongoing
Examine the possibility of adding sensory gardens to existing and new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Consider adding disc golf courses at existing parks where land is available and within new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Provide open fields and natural spaces at existing parks where land is available and consider incorporating open fields and natural spaces at new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Continue to install splash pads or spraygrounds throughout the City and County at existing and new park locations.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing



Install playgrounds at existing parks where land is available and new parks, especially for the special needs population.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Install park shelters at existing and new park locations throughout the City and County.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Continue to provide opportunities for pickle ball and bocce ball.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Develop programs and activities that take advantage of the water resources, natural or man-made, available throughout the county.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
<b>Park Amenity Recommendations</b>		
Install restroom facilities at existing park locations where they currently do not exist and all new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Install both pedestrian and street-level lighting at recreation centers and other recreational buildings along the center perimeters and within the parking lots.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Provide clear signage that directs patrons to park amenities, displays park rules and guidelines, and delineates trail systems.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Provide educational/interpretive signage, where appropriate, that provide historical and/or environmental information on the area.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Install security systems at all recreation centers and park buildings such as restrooms and picnic shelters.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Install pet waste stations and dog fountains at parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Plant large variety trees at existing and new parks to provide shade for patrons, especially within dog parks, next to playgrounds, and along walking trails and greenways.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing

<b>Recreational Policies, Planning, and Funding Recommendations</b>		
<b>Policy and Programming</b>		
Develop a mechanism for municipalities that have County facilities within their jurisdiction to take over ownership and maintenance responsibilities of said facilities.	FCPR, other municipalities	Medium
Develop an ongoing program to address invasive species on park lands.	WSRP, FCPR	Medium
Renovate existing parks and develop new parks to be inclusive to all.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Employ sustainable practices when maintaining and improving existing parks and developing new parks.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Maintain an inventory of all City and County parks and recreational facilities.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Continue to provide community programs. Expand programs as resources be available to meet demand.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
<b>Planning and Design</b>		
Develop standards for park furniture, lighting, and signage.	WSRP, FCPR	Short
Develop a land acquisition program based on park development and preservation priorities.	WSRP, FCPR, municipalities	Medium
Continuously analyze development patterns within the County to ensure that park facilities are meeting the needs of residents into the future.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Encourage voluntary land dedications for parks and open space.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Complete feasibility studies and master plans prior to the development of new parks and recreational facilities.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Incorporate active public outreach into all planning efforts.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing

<b>Deferred Maintenance</b>		
Develop a strategy to implement the maintenance projects outlined in the Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Assessment.	WSRP, WSBE	Short
Continue to perform facility assessments on all park buildings on a consistent basis.	WSPFM	Ongoing
Consider addressing needed improvements based upon project type, such as lighting, across multiple parks rather than addressing needs on a park by park basis.	WSRP, FCPR, local governments	Ongoing
Adjust annual operating budgets and staff levels accordingly as new facilities are added to the system.	WSRP, FCPR, local governments	Ongoing
Complete the projects as outlined in the 2016 Forsyth County Bond Referendum and the 2018 Winston-Salem Bond Referendum.	WSRP, FCPR, local governments	Ongoing
<b>Accessibility</b>		
Improve the Silas Creek Pedestrian Tunnel at Shaffner Park to provide better lighting and drainage.	WSDOT	Short
Incorporate recommendations that improve access to parks in the update to the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Plan.	WSDOT	Short
Implement necessary improvements to meet current ADA code for restrooms and egresses as listed in the 2019 Winston-Salem Deferred Maintenance Study.	WSRP	Medium
Ensure that all recreation centers have proper lighting around the building and within the parking areas.	WSRP, other municipalities	Medium
Implement the recommendations of the Winston-Salem Bicycle Master Plan.	WSDOT	Long
Ensure that subsidized housing, affordable housing, and low income housing are located in areas that are easily accessible to parks by sidewalks, bike lanes, and/or transit.	Local governments	Ongoing
Improve access to parks along major and minor thoroughfares including Oak Summit Park, Hobby Park, Bethabara Park, Salem Lake Park, Union Cross Park, and Tanglewood Park.	WSDOT, NCDOT	Ongoing
Perform full ADA audits of all facilities.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
Coordinate with the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation on performing walking audits of facilities at the request of community residents.	WSRP, FCPR, WSDOT	Ongoing

Employ CPTED principles and other measures to ensure the safety of park patrons. Collaborate with other organizations and local government agencies to address safety concerns around local parks.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Ensure that access from surrounding neighborhoods and to park amenities is incorporated into the design of new park facilities. Access should be for all users and for multiple modes of transportation.	WSRP, FCPR	Ongoing
<b>Funding and Partnerships</b>		
Ensure yearly allocations for the operation and maintenance of the park and open space system.	Local governments	Ongoing
Secure a multi-year dedicated funding source, bond funding and/or dedicated tax revenue for land acquisition and capital development.	Local governments	Ongoing
Pursue State, federal, and private grant funding opportunities for land acquisition and capital development.	Local governments	Ongoing
Encourage and support effective complementary private fund-raising efforts and sponsors.	Local governments	Ongoing
Partner with special interest organizations to ensure that renovated and new parks and recreational facilities meet the needs of their intended users.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing
Collaborate with the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension, Piedmont Environmental Alliance, and other organizations to provide environmental educational programs to the public to promote stewardship.	WSRP, FCPR, other municipalities	Ongoing

**Agency Abbreviations:**

<b>WSRP</b> Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks	<b>WSEng</b> Winston-Salem Engineering
<b>FCPR</b> Forsyth County Parks and Recreation	<b>WSDOT</b> Winston-Salem Department of Transportation
<b>CCPB</b> City-County Planning Board	<b>CCUC</b> City-County Utilities Commission
<b>WSFCS</b> Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools	<b>DWSP</b> Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership
<b>WSBE</b> Winston-Salem Budget and Evaluation Department	<b>WSPFM</b> Winston-Salem Property and Facilities Management Department

# Appendix A: Public Outreach Survey Results

Planning staff utilized an online survey to gather input from the public on the existing park system and future improvements.

## What existing County facilities do you currently use (mark all that apply)?

Park	Number of Responses	Percentage
Tanglewood	232	77.33
Horizons	101	33.67
Triad	82	27.33
C.G. Hill	50	16.67
Joanie Moser Memorial	48	16.00
Old U.S. 421 River	40	13.33
Don't use County parks	31	10.33
Kernersville Lake	28	9.33
Walkertown Community	19	6.33
Union Cross	14	4.67

## What amenities do you use at the County facilities (mark all that apply)?

Amenity	Number of Responses	Percentage
Walking/Hiking Trail	243	84.38
Picnic Shelter	121	42.01
Playgrounds	114	39.58
Dog Park	100	34.72
Open Space	100	34.72
Disc Golf course	58	20.14
Swimming Pool	58	20.14
Arboretum	50	17.36

River Access	49	17.01
Golf	39	13.54
Fishing Lake	33	11.46
Tennis Courts	31	10.76
Other	31	10.76
Rental Facility/Meeting Space	22	7.64
Camping	19	6.60
Indoor Facilities	19	6.60
Basketball Court	18	6.25
Campground	16	5.56
Soccer Field	15	5.21
Softball/Baseball Field	12	4.17
BMX Track	11	3.82
Volleyball Court	10	3.47
Horse Trails	9	3.13
Horseshoe pits	3	1.04

**What existing City parks do you currently use (mark all that apply)?**

Park	Number of Responses	Percentage
Salem Lake	165	55.18
Hanes	105	35.12
Miller	100	33.44
Quarry Park	99	33.11
Bethabara Park	98	32.78
Historic Bethabara	94	31.44
Washington	88	29.43
Greenway	68	22.74
Downtown	62	20.74

Bolton	60	20.07
Corpening Plaza	49	16.39
Hobby	49	16.39
Winston Lake	49	16.39
Reynolds Park	46	15.38
Shaffner	45	15.05
Polo Park	44	14.72
Hathaway	41	13.71
Grace Court	40	13.38
Ardmore	38	12.71
Leinbach	37	12.37
Winston Square Park	32	10.70
Merschel Plaza	26	8.70
Do not use City parks	25	8.36
Granville	23	7.69
Gateway Commons	22	7.36
Little Creek	20	6.69
Old Town	20	6.69
Jamison	16	5.35
Parkland	16	5.35
Whitaker	16	5.35
Sara Lee Soccer	13	4.35
Lockland	12	4.01
South Fork	11	3.68
Hanes Hosiery	10	3.34
Oak Summit	10	3.34
Civitan	9	3.01



Sedge Garden	9	3.01
Rupert Bell	8	2.68
Central	7	2.34
Griffith	7	2.34
Happy Hill	7	2.34
Hine Soccer Complex	7	2.34
Sprague	7	2.34
Hanestown	6	2.01
South Park	6	2.01
Brushy Fork	5	1.67
Piney Grove	5	1.67
Blum/Blanding	4	1.34
Kimberley	4	1.34
Fourteenth St	3	1.00
Bowen/Thomas	2	0.67
Clark-Mikens	2	0.67
Harambee Park	2	0.67
Helen W. Nichols	2	0.67
Skyland	2	0.67
Belview	1	0.33
Crawford	1	0.33
Easton	1	0.33
Fairview	1	0.33
Forest	1	0.33
Jerry King	1	0.33
Kingston Greens	1	0.33
Weston	1	0.33

**What City Recreation Centers do you currently use (mark all that apply)?**

<b>Recreation Center</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do not use City recreation centers	192	65.08
Miller Park	52	17.63
Polo Park	32	10.85
South Fork/Our House	14	4.75
Old Town	11	3.73
Hanes Hosiery	10	3.39
Little Creek	10	3.39
Carl H. Russell Sr.	9	3.05
Sedge Garden	9	3.05
Fourteenth Street	8	2.71
Martin Luther King Jr.	8	2.71
Sprague Street	8	2.71
Georgia Taylor	7	2.37
William R. Anderson Jr.	7	2.37
Rupert Bell	5	1.69
William C. Sims Sr.	3	1.02
Brown & Douglas	2	0.68
Belview	0	0.00

**What amenities do you use at the City facilities (mark all that apply)?**

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Walking/Hiking Trail	223	77.97
Open Space	129	45.10
Picnic shelter	125	43.71
Playgrounds	107	37.41
Dog Park	100	34.97
Lake access	62	21.68
Swimming pool/Splash Pad	58	20.28
Mountain Biking	55	19.23
Tennis Courts	52	18.18
Disc golf course	36	12.59
Rental Facility/meeting space	33	11.54
Fishing lake	29	10.14
Soccer Field	29	10.14
Other	27	9.44
Basketball Court	24	8.39
Golf	23	8.04
Gym	23	8.04
Softball/Baseball Field	18	6.29
Skate Park	10	3.50
Volleyball Court	9	3.15
Bocce Ball/Petanque Court	8	2.80
Pickle Ball	7	2.45
Horseshoe pits	4	1.40

**What is the greatest concern facing the County Park system?**

Concern	Number of Responses	Percentage
Maintenance	95	32.87
Additional parkland and parks	62	21.45
Lack of desired amenities	53	18.34
Other	33	11.42
Location of facilities	28	9.69
Accessibility to the public	18	6.23

**What is the greatest concern facing the City Park system?**

Concern	Number of Responses	Percentage
Maintenance	138	47.75
Lack of desired amenities	69	23.88
Other	43	14.88
Accessibility to the public	21	7.27
Location of facilities	18	6.23

**If the County were to develop a new regional park, where should it be located?**

Location	Number of Responses	Percentages
A new regional park is not needed	72	25.09
Northwest Forsyth County	62	21.60
South Forsyth County	59	20.56
North Forsyth County/Rural Hall area	37	12.89
Northeast Forsyth County/Belews Lake area	29	10.10
Southeast Forsyth County	28	9.76

**If the City were to develop a new park, where should it be located?**

Location	Number of Responses	Percentage
Downtown Winston-Salem	53	18.34
No new parks are needed	49	16.96
Northwest Winston-Salem	37	12.80
West Winston-Salem	31	10.73
South Winston-Salem	27	9.34
Southwest Winston-Salem	26	9.00
East Winston-Salem	19	6.57
Southeast Winston-Salem	18	6.23
North Winston-Salem	17	5.88
Northeast Winston-Salem	12	4.15

**Any new parks developed in the future should be?**

Type of Park	Number of Responses	Percentage
Community Parks (medium sized parks that serve a number of surrounding neighborhoods, usually 30-80 acres in size)	82	27.42
Neighborhood parks (parks easily accessible to neighborhoods with ½ mile radius)	81	27.09
District Parks (large parks with specialized or multiple recreational amenities, typically 50-250 acres in size)	47	15.72
Regional Parks (large parks that provide a regional draw within and outside of Forsyth County)	42	14.05
No new parks needed	28	9.36
Pocket parks (small parks typically less than one acre in size)	19	6.35

**What new amenities would you like to see added to existing and/or new parks in the future?**

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Walking/Hiking Trails	217	74.83%
Open Space	132	45.52%
Playground	120	41.38%
Dog Parks	105	36.21%
Picnic Shelters	105	36.21%
Pool/Splash Pads	102	35.17%
Mountain Biking Course	87	30.00%
Meeting space	63	21.72%
Other	61	21.03%
Disc golf Course	60	20.69%
Skate Parks	40	13.79%
Tennis Courts	37	12.76%
Basketball Courts	36	12.41%
Pickle Ball	32	11.03%
Bocce Ball/Petanque Court	29	10.00%
Soccer/Football fields	28	9.66%
Volley Ball Court	23	7.93%
Softball/Baseball Courts	19	6.55%

(for publication in the WS Journal Legal Section on January 24, 2020 and January 31, 2020 )

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

Notice is hereby given that Forsyth County will schedule a public hearing on Thursday, February 06, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Forsyth County Commissioners' Meeting Room on the fifth floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 153A-323 on the following proposed item:

Adoption of the Parks and Open Space Plan Update

This notice shall be published once a week for two successive calendar weeks. The notice shall be published the first time not less than 10 days, or more than 25 days, before the date fixed for the hearing. In computing such a period, the day of publication is not to be included but the day of the hearing shall be included.

The 24th day of January 2020.

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Ashleigh M. Sloop, Clerk to the Board