

Town of Waynesville

Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive System Plan

Adopted August 25, 2026



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Thank you

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Prepared for the Town of Waynesville
by WithersRavenel



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01 Purpose & Process

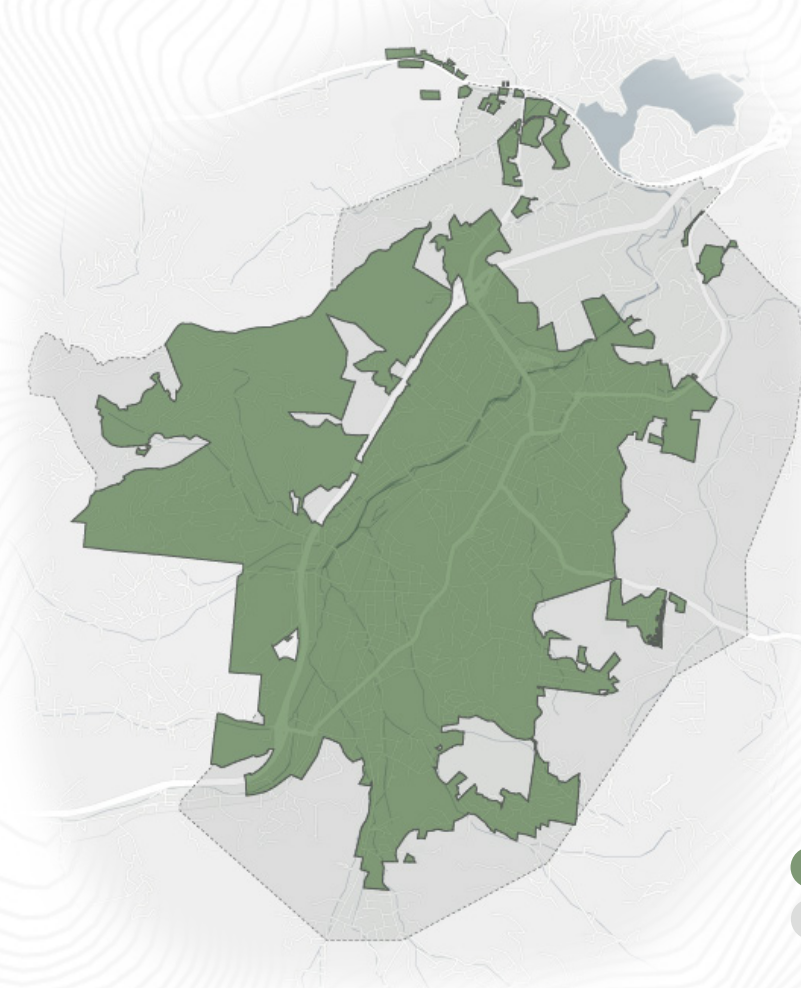


PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The Town of Waynesville Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan is a 10-year vision plan for the future of Waynesville Parks and Recreation. Waynesville is no stranger to recreation, with the Town's elected officials and administration treating parks and recreation as a community priority. Waynesville's 12 parks, including two indoor recreation centers and a greenway network, shape the high-quality recreation system residents and visitors enjoy today.

This Comprehensive System Plan builds on past investment and success by establishing a vision for the future of Waynesville's Parks and Recreation that emphasizes resiliency, sustainability, tourism, inclusivity, and community health.

To realize this vision, this Comprehensive System contains a road map for the Parks & Recreation Department in the form of an implementation playbook. Careful analysis of existing conditions, combined with thoughtful engagement with the community, informed short-, medium-, and long-term action items that will guide recreation investment decisions over the next decade.



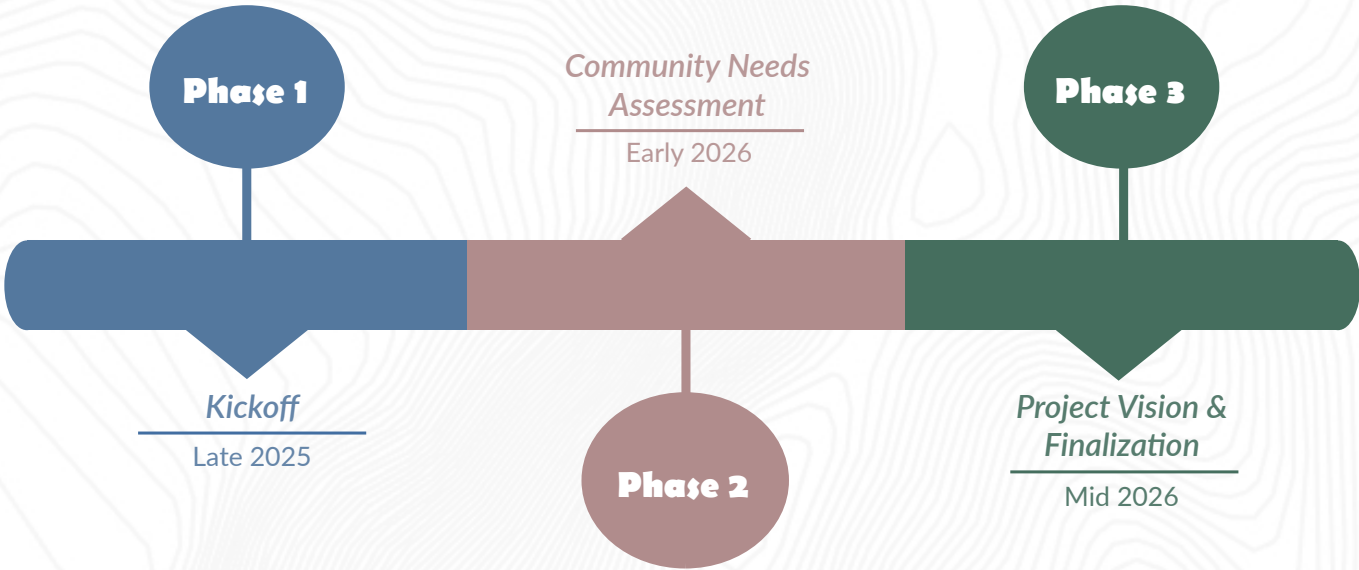
- Waynesville Corporate Limits
- Waynesville ETJ

PROCESS

Developed over the course of ten months, this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan was informed by previous plan reviews, on-site park facility assessments, geographic mapping, demographic and recreation data analysis, and engagement with Town staff, elected leadership, and the community at-large.

To organize and clearly communicate the amount of research and engagement involved, the planning process was structured around three primary tasks, outlined below.

These tasks guided research and engagement timelines and integration of findings into the final plan, with the goal of establishing a clear vision and roadmap for the future of Waynesville Parks and Recreation over the next ten years.



Project Schedule

The schedule kept the project on-track and provided transparency to the community as the project progressed. The following graphic was made available on the Town of Waynesville’s website, at community engagement events, and at all steering committee meetings.

	2025		2026							
Phase	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
PROJECT KICKOFF, INVENTORY, AND ANALYSIS										
Project Kickoff, Data Gathering, Mapping, Plan Review, Community Profile										
Facility Inventory and Analysis										
Programs, Policies, and Operations Analysis										
Benchmarking										
Level-of-Service Analysis										
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT										
Community Survey										
Draft Vision & Recommendations										
Steering Committee										
Public Meeting										
Town Council Work Session										
PROJECT VISION & FINALIZATION										
Recommendation Phasing										
Local, State, & Federal Funding Sources Review										
Draft Comprehensive System Plan										
Finalize System Plan & Town Council Adoption Meeting										

CORE THEMES

Core themes represent all facets of a parks and recreation system and how it serves the community. Evaluating each theme ensures that physical assets, service offerings, internal processes, and economic impacts are all understood and aligned with community needs.

The themes are represented by symbols that are used throughout this document to highlight where each topic is being addressed.

Facilities



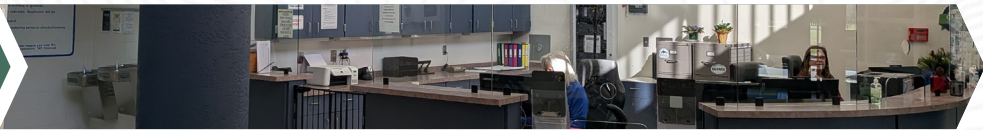
Facilities refer to the physical assets of the parks and recreation system, including parks, greenways, buildings, and recreational infrastructure. This theme addresses the condition, distribution, accessibility, and capacity of these spaces within the community.

Programs



Programs encompass the organized activities, events, and services offered to residents and visitors, such as sports leagues, classes, camps, and special events. This theme reflects the variety, availability, and participation levels of recreational opportunities provided by the department.

Operations



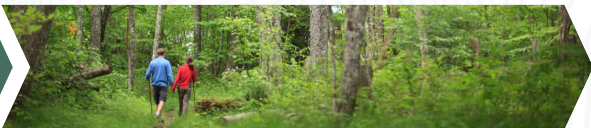
Operations involve the internal functions required to manage and deliver parks and recreation services, including staffing, maintenance, budgeting, and administrative processes. This theme focuses on how resources are allocated and services are carried out on a day-to-day basis.

Tourism



Tourism relates to the role of parks, recreation amenities, and events in attracting visitors to Waynesville. It considers how recreational assets contribute to the local economy and enhance the community's appeal as a destination in Haywood County and beyond.

Maintaining Level of Service



Maintaining level of service refers to providing parks, facilities, and programs at a standard that keeps pace with population changes. It reflects the balance between available resources and community demand to ensure consistent access and quality over time.



Playground at Recreation Park

Waynesville Community 2022 Profile



DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Evaluating demographic trends allows Waynesville to make informed, future-focused decisions based on objective data.

By understanding the makeup of the community using factors like age, income, race and ethnicity, household size, and education, decision-makers can identify the needs, preferences, and challenges of different groups with respect to recreational offerings.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) provided insight into Waynesville's demographic profile and recent population trends. The ACS gathers detailed data each year on a community's demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics, then averages these results over five-year periods to provide a reliable picture of demographic change. Data was pulled from 2018 and 2023 to illustrate trends between these years.

Waynesville's 2022 Local Water Supply Plan helped to verify the U.S. Census Bureau's findings and provided population projections. Population projections are useful for assessing potential future recreation and open space needs, which evolve as a community grows or shrinks.

In addition to general population trends, the Project Team also used this data to identify under-served or unserved population groups. Under-served or unserved households—defined by low income, racial minority status, rural location, or limited access to resources—traditionally experience greater challenges to accessing recreational spaces and programs.

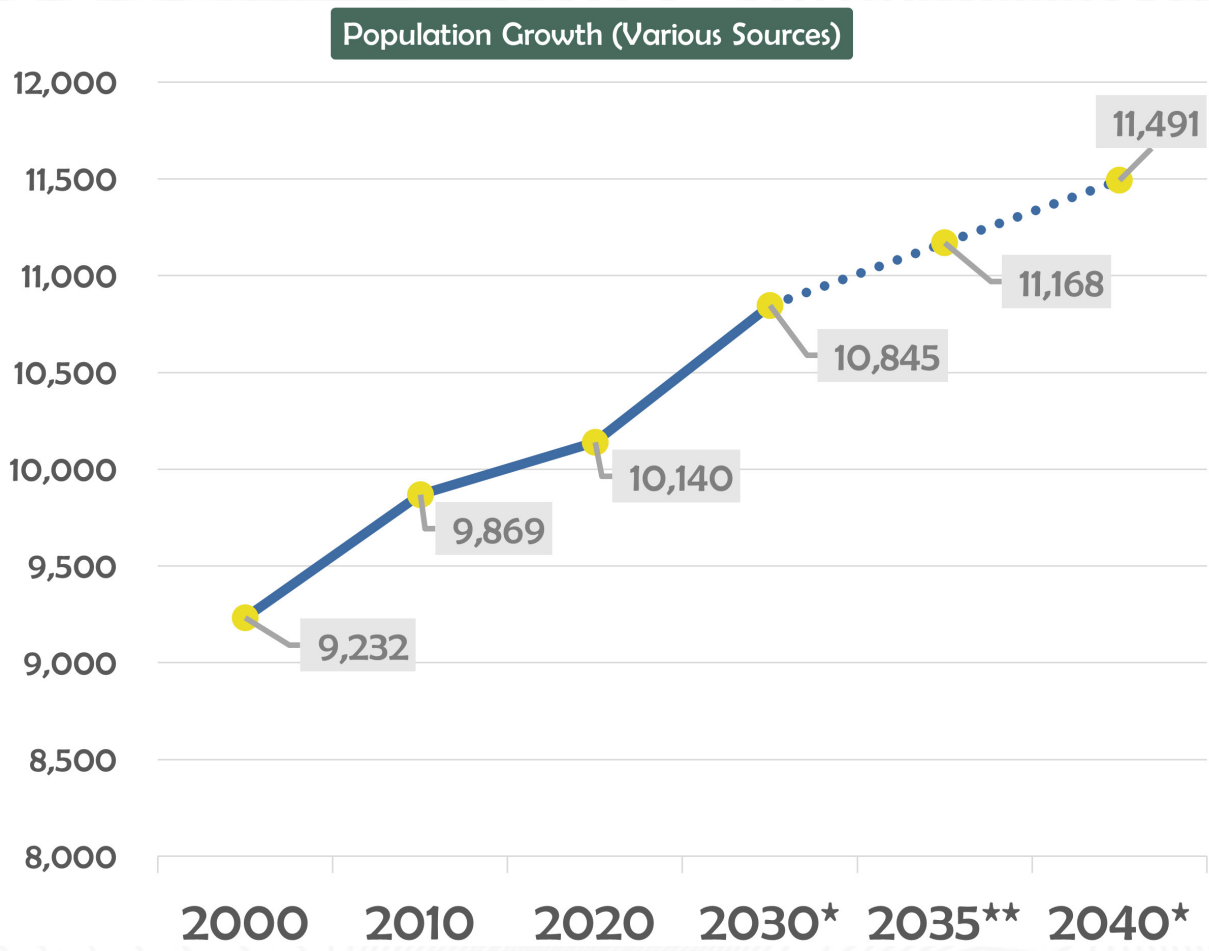
The goal of this plan is to ensure future recreational programs and facilities are equitable and inclusive of Waynesville residents, regardless of age, gender, race, or income.



Population Projection

Waynesville grew by approximately 9 percent (or 900 residents) between 2000 and 2020, with significant growth during the first decade and slower growth during the second. Future projections suggest the town’s population will continue to increase over the next 20 years to a total of 11,491 by 2040, per the 2022 NC Water Supply Population Plan, which evaluates growth in relation to utility demand. Continued population growth year over year underscores the importance of planning for future recreational needs and preferences of existing and new residents.

It should be noted that Waynesville’s seasonal population can fluctuate as visitors travel to the area, particularly during summer and fall. While the Project Team does not have quantified seasonal-resident counts, data from the Census and Haywood County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) indicate tourism is economically significant, with Waynesville having multiple hotels and a great number of short-term rentals.



*Based on Waynesville, NC Water Supply Plan Population Projections for 2022
**Calculated average growth based on NC Water Supply Plan Projections for 2022

Age

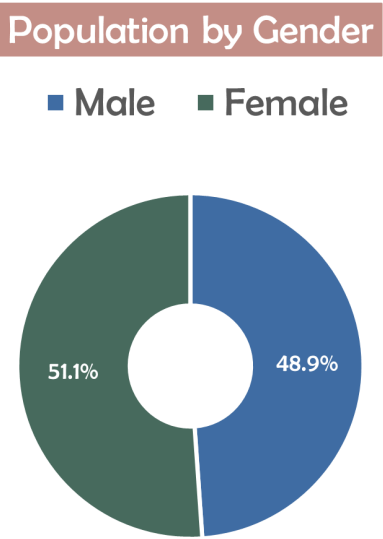
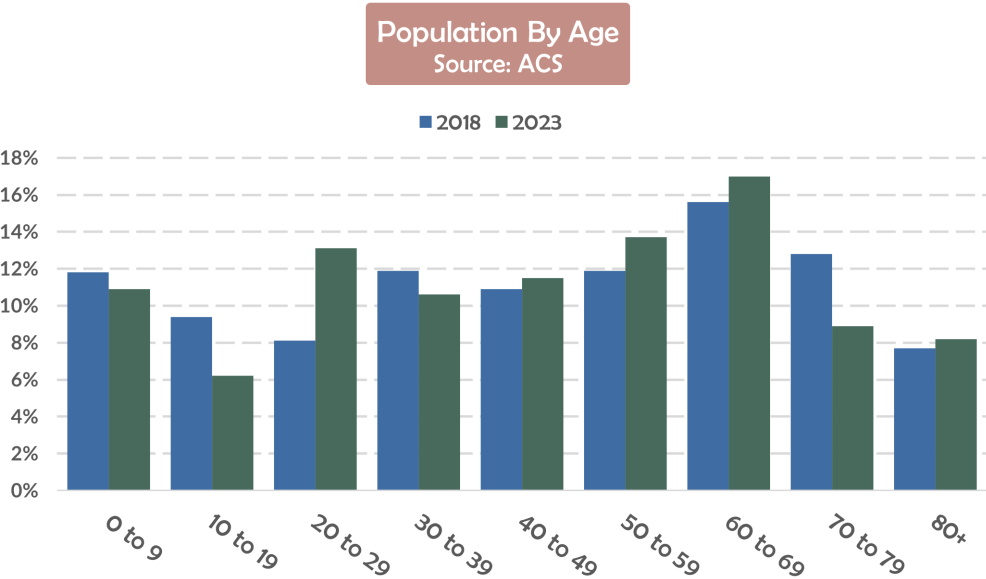
According to the ACS, the median age of the Waynesville community was 47 years old in 2023, down from 48 in 2018. About 26 percent of residents are over 65, a modest decrease from 29 percent in 2018. The share of residents under the age of 18 is also declining, accounting for 16 percent of the total population compared to 20 percent in 2018. The population cohort that experienced the most growth between 2018 and 2023 are residents aged 20 to 29, with an increase of 5 percent. Population groups in their 40s, 50s, and 60s saw small but steady increases during the same time frame.

Waynesville’s shifting age profile implies a rising demand for parks and recreation amenities that appeal to working-age adults. The decreasing median age change does not reflect a growing youth population but instead a narrowing at the top and bottom of the age spectrum. The emerging concentration of younger working-age

residents suggests Waynesville may be attracting early-career adults or retaining more local young adults than in previous years. Age profiles help to inform potential demand for future parks and recreational programming, such as playgrounds for children or passive recreation for older adults. The overarching goal is to create and maintain amenities that address the needs of all age groups while also understanding the needs of age cohorts that are growing in terms of population share of the Town.

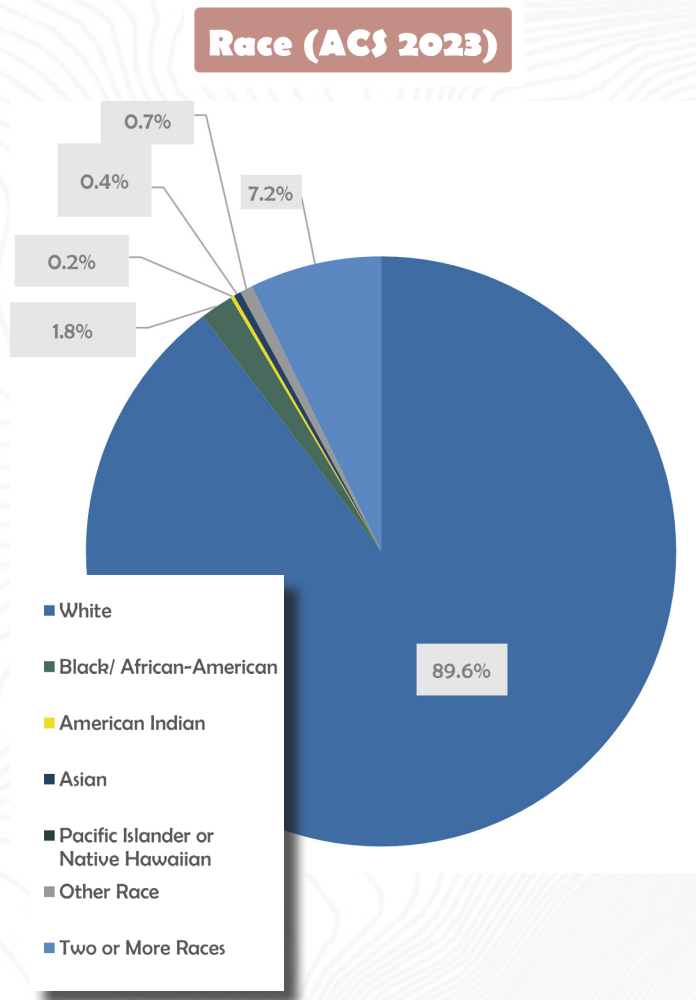
Gender

ACS data reveals a relatively even gender split, with 49 percent of Waynesville residents identifying as female and 51 percent identifying as male. While research from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) notes that men and women may favor different types of recreational activities, Waynesville’s balanced gender profile indicates that future programming should be designed to serve both groups equitably.



Race and Ethnicity

As of 2023, nearly 90 percent of Waynesville residents identified as “White.” However, the share of the population identifying as “Two or more races” quadrupled between 2018 and 2023, from 1.8 percent to 7.2 percent, representing the second largest racial or ethnic group. All other groups made up approximately 3 percent of the population. As with gender, NRPA research suggests race and ethnicity play a role in recreational preferences. Waynesville’s future recreational programs should address the needs of the diversifying population, beginning with community input that represents all users of Town-owned and -operated parks and facilities.



Income

Income data suggest Waynesville’s residents are getting wealthier, though not at the same rate as the county or state. The household median income in Waynesville increased by 19 percent between 2018 and 2023, from \$46,250 to \$54,910. During the same period, Haywood County’s median household income increased 22 percent to \$61,001, and the statewide median increased 33 percent to \$69,904.

The income bracket representing the largest share of the Waynesville households are those earning \$100,000-\$149,999 annually(16percent), followed by the \$35,000-\$49,999 bracket (15 percent), and \$75,000-\$99,999 bracket (15 percent). Compared to 2018, the number of Waynesville households earning less than \$35,000 is decreasing, while the number earning more than \$150,000 is increasing.

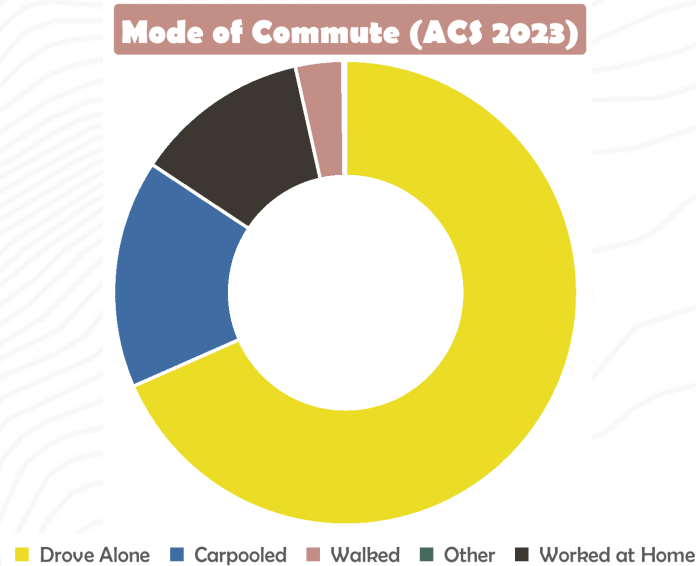
Increasing household income is generally associated with greater investment in Town facilities, including the Parks & Recreation Department. However, households with presumably more disposable income may choose to participate in private recreation facilities or programs, presenting more competition with Town-operated programs.

Education

Waynesville residents are attaining higher levels of education. In 2023, 87 percent of residents were high school graduates, an increase of 6 percent compared to 2018, and 31 percent held a bachelor’s degree or higher, an increase of 3 percent. Education attainment is typically a good indicator of income. As education levels rise in Waynesville, so might income, suggesting more willingness from the community to fund existing and additional parks and recreation offerings.

Mode of Commute

Commuting patterns and preferences can highlight challenges and opportunities regarding accessibility of recreational areas and facilities. Data collected in 2018 and 2023 reflects a major shift in commuting patterns in Waynesville. The share of residents who drove alone to work fell from 81 percent to 68 percent, a 13-percent decrease. Over the same period, the proportion of residents carpooling rose to 16 percent (up 7 percent), while those working from home reached 12 percent (up 10 percent). It’s important to note the rise in residents working from home, as this can be tied to increased recreation facility usage as one can assume with less time of the day spent on travel, more time can be spent on personal activities, perhaps recreation being one.



Playground at Chestnut Park

Previous Planning Efforts



REVIEW OF PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Review of previous plans and reports commissioned and adopted by the Town and regional partners is an important component in understanding the history and trajectory of Waynesville Parks & Recreation. These publications described the Town's and region's goals at the time and summarize strategic enhancements made to date. Analysis of these documents allows the Project Team to build upon the existing framework and past priorities with current data and community input.

The Project Team reviewed eight existing documents as part of this evaluation:

- Waynesville Pedestrian Plan (2010)
- Haywood County Comprehensive Bicycle Plan (2011)
- Systemwide Parks Master Plan: 2017-2026 (2017)
- American with Disabilities Act Assessment & Transition Plan (2019)
- Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study (2021)
- Waynesville 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2020)
- Haywood County Greenway Plan (2023)
- Haywood County Destination Master Plan (2024)
- Town of Waynesville Land Development Standards (2025)

Waynesville Pedestrian Plan

The Waynesville Pedestrian Plan was developed with the goals of increasing pedestrian infrastructure and safety, enhancing public awareness, adopting policies that promote connectivity, enhancing the health of Town residents, and establishing an implementation and maintenance plan. The plan's vision and goals were informed by a project steering committee and engagement with the community through two workshops and a public opinion survey.

Recommendations from the plan largely involve policy enhancements and maintenance considerations for pedestrian facilities. Land acquisition for greenways and wayfinding signage were also identified as a necessary component of the plan. Notable infrastructure investments from 2020 and beyond include two large greenway developments, one running along Hyatt Creek from the Walmart shopping complex north to Russ Avenue and one parallel to Raccoon Road from Pigeon Street to Industrial Park Drive. Additionally, various sidewalk improvements were noted for years 10+ in the plan including infrastructure that connects central Waynesville to eastern neighborhoods and along Pigeon Road. Of note, these recommendations do not appear to have been implemented at this time.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

The Project Team will consider bringing the greenway and sidewalk facility recommendations forward to public engagement to better understand if community preferences still prioritize these pedestrian connections, with the added consideration of the interconnectivity between parks, playgrounds, and community facilities.

Haywood County Comprehensive Bicycle Plan

Just one year after the adoption of the Waynesville Pedestrian Plan, Haywood County adopted a Bicycle Plan. Plan development included the involvement of several regional entities, including Haywood County Recreation & Parks, the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, and the Town of Waynesville. The goal of this document was to expand bicycle use and safety across the County and prioritize interconnectivity between communities and regional amenities where possible. Development of the plan was structured under the framework of “The Five E’s of a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan”: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Evaluation, and Encouragement.

Plan recommendations were framed around these five themes. Of note, the plan makes recommendation of “The Haywood Hub,” a proposed bicycle route which begins southwest in Waynesville where Hyatt Creek Road meets US 74 and continues north along Main Street out of the community; through Lake Junaluska, Clyde, and ending in the Town of Canton. Other relevant recommendations include the expansion of bicycle facilities along Pigeon Road from Waynesville to Bethel, facilities along US 23 in Waynesville from US 74 to Pigeon Street, and the addition of a 4’ shoulder along Raccoon Road towards Ratcliff Cove Road and Clyde. Of note, recommendations related to Pigeon Road may be considered in tandem with the sidewalk improvements recommended in the previous pedestrian plan.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

Similar to the Waynesville Pedestrian Plan, the Project Team will consider bringing forward relevant plan recommendations to the public to verify the need for improvements. The team will also explore overlap in pedestrian and cyclist recommendations, to ensure that recommendations complement a suite of multimodal opportunities and connections.

Systemwide Parks Master Plan: 2017-2026

The 2017 Systemwide Parks Master Plan for the Town of Waynesville contains an inventory of parks and recreation facilities, evaluates needs of the population at the time, and offers recommendations for future improvements and programming.

The Plan highlights the popularity of Waynesville’s parks and recreation facilities for residents and visitors. However, certain facilities were found to be in need of additional supportive infrastructure and amenities such as lighting and a water fountain at the skate park, restrooms at Recreation Park, and shade structures at the dog park. Other priorities gleaned from public engagement efforts include an expansion of the Recreation Center’s weight room and aerobics room, enhanced Greenway connectivity, and development of an outdoor event or performance area (like an amphitheater) and a community garden.

Several of the recommendations from the plan have been realized over the past decade. Most notably, the development of Obama-King Park off Calvary Street, the addition of a playground at Chestnut Park, completion of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan for recreational facilities, and installation of lighting at the skate park.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

The Waynesville Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan will succeed the 2017 Systemwide Parks Master Plan as the Town’s comprehensive strategic vision for managing and improving Waynesville’s recreation facilities and programs. The Project Team will review recommendations from the 2017 plan and, considering today’s park and facility conditions and up-to-date perspectives from the community, identify ongoing opportunities for the future of Waynesville Parks and Recreation.

Americans with Disabilities Act Assessment & Transition Plan

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment & Transition Plan represents a federal requirement for communities of a certain size to audit public infrastructure for potential barriers for those with disabilities, and create a plan to rehabilitate identified barriers. The plan consists of a walking evaluation of public facilities with specific barriers identified for remediation.

Plan findings include various barriers identified in the community’s sidewalks, parking lots, and building entrances. For example, the plan calls for enhancing crosswalk visibility, relocating utility poles, and replacing damaged or aging curb ramps with ADA compliant structures.

The ADA Transition Plan identified four notable barriers that apply as of the writing of this Comprehensive System Plan:

- 1. East Street Park (referred to as Howell Street Park in the ADA Plan) has a gravel parking area and no accessible pathways or ramps for utilizing playground equipment or picnic shelter.
- 2. While no accessibility barriers were found within the ADA playground, there is a lack of ADA accessible features such as picnic tables.
- 3. No accessible parking near public tennis courts.
- 4. No accessible walkway or parking at Hazelwood ball field.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

The Project Team will evaluate these previously identified ADA barriers with additional scrutiny during the site evaluations conducted on behalf of this plan (Chapter Four). Fortunately, identified ADA barriers in Waynesville’s parks were very limited, with most accessibility considerations associated with the sidewalk network.

Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study

The Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study represents a 1.4 mile section of proposed trail from the Waynesville Recreation Center to existing greenway facilities by the Industrial Park. Of particular note, this greenway path was originally identified in the Waynesville Pedestrian Plan. The proposed greenway features seating areas, specific vistas or overlooks, exercise stations, and even fishing access.

It appears as though portions of Phase 1 trail improvements along this greenway have been developed, establishing additional greenway trail from the Recreation Center across Richland Creek, and establishing a small oval loop before crossing the railroad tracks. However, no additional facilities identified in Phase 1, including fitness equipment, picnic tables, and benches, have been provided. Phase 2 trail development does not appear to have begun construction at this time as well.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

Trail improvements for the Richland Creek Greenway have begun, but the proposed greenway has a lot of work remaining. The Project Team will work with the community to ensure that this vision for greenway interconnectivity is still desired. If so, plan recommendations will continue to forward the vision of this Comprehensive System Plan.

Waynesville 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The Waynesville 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan represents a revaluation of community needs and recommendations since the adoption of the Town’s 2020 Comprehensive Land Development Plan document. The plan is holistic in nature, covering various considerations associated with the development and redevelopment of land in Waynesville’s jurisdiction. This plan is unique to the others reviewed due to its comprehensive nature, and the document serves as a bridge between previous planning efforts and the future of the Waynesville community.

The Plan documented the following considerations related to parks, partnerships, and access:

- 1. Promote redevelopment along the railroad and planned greenway corridor.
- 2. Connect downtown Waynesville, Frog Level, and Hazelwood with surrounding neighborhoods, schools, trails and parks.
- 3. Improve visual and physical connection to Richland Creek, including sidewalks and greenways.
- 4. Encourage the redevelopment of Waynesville Plaza to a walkable mixed-use center incorporating retail, office, multifamily, and open space.
- 5. Support opportunities to “green” the floodplain by replacing impervious surfaces with green spaces along Richland Creek.
- 6. Continue to work closely with the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, Asheville Chamber of Commerce, Haywood County Tourism Development Authority, and other regional partners.
- 7. Promote festivals, programs and events organized by historical and cultural organizations.

- 8. Support the Town’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Greenway Feasibility Study to develop recreational facilities that appeal to regional and neighborhood users.
- 9. Develop a “Smart Roads” framework using Level of Service evaluations to decide which roads should prioritize different travel modes (such as transit, bicycle, pedestrians, etc.) and update the Town’s street classification system accordingly.
- 10. Continue to design and implement shared use pathways according to the NCDOT Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines, with equal or more progressive designs to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 11. Continue to fund the planning, design, and construction of the Richland Creek Greenway.
- 12. Conduct a feasibility study on the Raccoon Creek Greenway that will service Junaluska Elementary School and help with water quality efforts.
- 13. Maintain policies in support of bicycling infrastructure, such as the provision of bicycle parking by the Town and as part of new development.
- 14. Invest in Bicycling infrastructure as part of new NCDOT and local projects, including connections to greenways, bike lanes, and shared lane markings (sharrows).
- 15. Prioritize pedestrian safety, connectivity and accessibility through Land Development Standards (LDS) for sidewalks, accessibility, street trees and vegetation.
- 16. Update the Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as a combined plan which includes updated roadway, greenway and other infrastructure information.
- 17. Maintain and enhance existing parks and improve access to open space through implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and LDS Standards.
- 18. Continue to require open space reservation in new development and revisit LDS regulations to ensure open spaces are contextually adequate, consistent with community goals, and easy to understand/ apply as part of development approvals.
- 19. Allow public art and historic markers as an option to fulfill civic space requirements as part of new development in industrial districts, along the railroad corridor, and designated gateways.
- 20. Develop neighborhood parks to provide convenient green space and recreational opportunities in residential areas.
- 21. Conserve open space and farmland by promoting infill and encouraging development in the urbanized areas of town.
- 22. Protect and enhance the Town’s forests.
- 23. Protect rural lands, iconic views and mountain vistas.
- 24. Manage and green the floodplain.
- 25. Pursue targeted public art, beautification projects, landscape plantings and streetscape improvements in the rights-of-way of major gateways to town.
- 26. Encourage preservation of mature forests and foreground meadows as open space along secondary gateways and in developing areas. In areas of redevelopment, encourage new pedestrian facilities, street trees, consolidation of driveways and screening of parking lots and storage areas.
- 27. Protect the Richland Creek Watershed through park and greenway development, the enforcement of buffers, stormwater and land disturbance regulations.

The plan also included a Future Land Use Map (FLUM). A FLUM is a map that helps Town leadership, staff, developers, and community stakeholders understand what types of land uses are desired in Waynesville. The document defines use types, including residential – low to medium density, mixed use – downtown core, and industrial to guide where such uses should be developed or redeveloped in the future. Of note, the Waynesville FLUM defines several parcels as “Open Space,” indicating a public interest in preserving and expanding parks and open spaces. Notably, other future land use descriptions in the plan discuss the importance of parks, connectivity, and preserved spaces.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

Waynesville 2035 is a very important document for the development of this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan. As illustrated through some of the various recommendations brought forward by the plan, Waynesville 2035 clearly reiterates the Town’s priorities in multimodal and greenway development. The plan emphasizes the continued importance of greenways and parks, and specifically identifies the need to complete the Richland Creek Greenway project. Through the Future Land Use Map, Waynesville 2035 establishes park and open space uses to be at the same level of consideration as residential, commercial, and industrial developments. The Project Team must work with Town staff to identify what recommendations have been implemented in order to carry forward remaining and emerging actions through the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan.

Haywood County Greenway Plan

The Haywood County Greenway Plan, adopted in 2023, is the county’s first comprehensive countywide greenway plan. Its primary goal is to create a safe, connected, and resilient network of greenways, trails, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities that links communities, parks, schools, downtowns, recreation destinations, and natural areas throughout Haywood County. Key objectives of the plan include:

- Connecting existing and planned greenways across Waynesville, Canton, Clyde, Maggie Valley, and Lake Junaluska into a coordinated countywide system;
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle safety at roadway crossings and along key transportation corridors;
- Expanding opportunities for recreation, physical activity, and access to nature;
- Supporting economic development and tourism through greenway investment;
- Improving community resilience by incorporating greenways into floodplain and conservation efforts; and
- Establishing priorities that position the county and municipalities for state and federal recreation and transportation grants.

Notably, this plan proposes specific pilot projects, including along the Richland Creek Greenway and Raccoon Creek Greenway.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

The Haywood County Greenway Plan underscores the County’s commitment to creating an interconnected greenway system. Through continued partnership and coordination with Haywood County, Waynesville can pursue funding for conceptual and engineered plans to grow its existing network and prepare for future trail connections within the County and with neighboring municipalities.

Haywood County Destination Master Plan

Visit Haywood developed the Haywood County Destination Master Plan in order to identify action items and priorities necessary to promote regional tourism in the County. The plan identifies the current state of Haywood County tourism as being defined by Baby Boomers, day trippers, weekend visits, and a strong summer season. Plan implementation is intended to further diversify Haywood County’s tourism culture and expand opportunities and the County’s reach. Of particular note, this document was nearly finalized when Hurricane Helene struck western North Carolina. As such, the overarching implementation timeline for the plan was shifted to address immediate recovery needs.

The plan outlines the key challenges facing tourism in Haywood County, including engaging visitors across diverse age groups and interests and encouraging overnight stays. Decreased tourism in winter, along with the growing prevalence of short-term rentals, have also affected the county’s tourism landscape. Future opportunities to address these needs include expanding recreation options related to greenways and water-based play, which in turn highlight the importance of environmental stewardship and community/partnership outreach. From these challenges and opportunities, the plan establishes four strategic pillars:

1. Strengthen Awareness and Perception of the Haywood County Tourism Brand
2. Diversify Tourism Product Offerings and Experiences that Enhance the Destination Appeal for All
3. Support and Promote Stewardship of Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
4. Enhance Haywood County Tourism Development Authority Evolution While Cultivating Community Engagement and Collaboration

Subsequent plan recommendations and action items build upon these pillars and involve detailed efforts related to acquiring better user and spending data, streamlining marketing and communication efforts, and exploring opportunities with river access. In general, many of the recommendations put forward by the Haywood County Destination Master Plan reflect many of the recommendations in the Waynesville 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, albeit at a broader, regional level.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

This plan highlights the importance of partnership in the success of both Waynesville and the County. As discussed, the recommendations and considerations brought forward in this plan have a strong overlap with the Town’s recent land use plan. When the Town and County are largely aligned on the future of parks, recreation, environmental preservation, and accessibility, communication and cooperation will be paramount in uplifting both organizations and the greater region. Identification of Visit Haywood or other tourism-related staff for the purpose of integration with the Project Team will be a critical component in identifying opportunities for cooperation and resource sharing.

EMBRACING HAYWOOD COUNTY TDA’S STRATEGIC PILLARS

Waynesville plays a role in embodying and promoting HCTDA’s four strategic pillars. The Project Team intentionally reviewed the Destination Master Plan to ensure alignment of local and regional initiatives. Several Action Items recommended in Chapter 06 directly support the work of the HCTDA, including moving forward with the County’s Greenway Plan through landowner engagement, encouraging participation with targeted marketing campaigns, and engaging local businesses to get involved in recreation, stewardship, and tourism initiatives.

Town of Waynesville Land Development Standards

The Town of Waynesville Land Development Standards (LDS) reflect the Town’s current development regulations and requirements. Contents of the LDS include zoning districts, parking requirements, sign regulations, and building design standards. Of note to this effort, the regulations also include provisions for sidewalk development, open space, and environmental protection.

Section 6.8.1 Sidewalks states that, “Sidewalks are required in accordance with the street classifications in Section 6.6.2. as part of major site plans and major subdivisions, and wherever designated in the adopted pedestrian plan.” The provision defines alternative facilities or payment in lieu of facility development when environmental constraints arise, as approved by the Administrator.

Section 6.9 Bicycle Facilities identifies that bike lanes or off-street multi-use paths shall be installed on developer-built or modified roadways where designated by the Town of Waynesville’s adopted plans. If the proposed development does not include new or widening of the street, the developer must reserve right-of-way sufficient to accommodate the bicycle facility.

Chapter 7 Civic Space outlines requirements for developer-driven open space and recreation dedications. The size and amenities required vary by zoning district, use type, and number of residential units. Notably, this Chapter also includes a 20-foot pedestrian easement on any areas designated as a future greenway in the Town’s adopted plans. Similar to the sidewalk provisions, there is an opportunity for the developer to submit a payment in lieu of civic space construction.

Relevance to the Planning Effort

The Waynesville LDS provides policies that help ensure new development contributes to the Town’s parks and recreation system. As part of this Comprehensive System Plan, the Project Team evaluated whether the LDS follows best practices and achieves an effective balance between developer-funded and public park infrastructure.

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Today

04



FACILITY ASSESSMENT

This chapter assesses Waynesville's parks and recreation system, including its parks and park equipment, programs offered by the department, and other elements that impact department policies and operations. The Town oversees two community centers (one of which hosts an aquatic facility), seven conventional park facilities, a skate park, a dog park, a disc golf course, and approximately nine miles of trails and greenways. The Waynesville Recreation Center sits at the core of recreation offerings, serving as a hub for operations and programming in the community. This section reviews the current conditions of these facilities.

Facility Experience Evaluation

Inspired by evaluative criteria developed by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS), WithersRavenel created a park-specific assessment checklist to assess a park's overall functionality. This kind of evaluation helps a community identify which parks may provide the most pleasant experience for users, and reveal certain characteristics that may hinder safety, access, comfort, and usability.

The Project Team assessed the following characteristics for each of Waynesville's outdoor parks:

- Design, Construction, & Effectiveness
- Comfort, Appearance, & Safety
- Access & Linkages
- Sociability & Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Economic Sustainability

For a comprehensive list of evaluative questions guiding the Facility Experience Evaluation, see [Appendix A](#).

There is no one-size-fits-all set of criteria to accurately evaluate all parks. Every park is unique and may address a specific community need. However, scoring individual parks—which inform the system-wide score—helps identify local trends and compare functionality and maintenance.

After evaluating Waynesville's recreation spaces, each facility was classified as either "Exceeding Expectations," "Meeting Expectations," or "Not Meeting Expectations."



Pickleball at the Old Armory Recreation Center



CORE THEME:
Facilities

Exceeds Expectations

Parks that exceed expectations are typically new or enhanced, well-maintained, contain various amenities, and are easily accessible. Example characteristics of these parks include:

- The space provides a wide variety of uses for different age groups and activity levels.
- Facilities are clean, maintained, and inviting.
- Facilities are intentionally located and demonstrate good design standards.
- Facilities are easily accessible by biking or walking.
- Programmable spaces demonstrate capacity and equipment for intended uses.
- Athletic facilities contain premium amenities such as scoreboards and high-quality lighting, and lawn surfaces could be considered competition grade.

This type of park scores in the 75–100 range.

Meets Expectations

Parks that meet expectations address the needs of the community, but may lack some amenities of top-scoring parks. These parks are reasonably maintained and are reasonably accessible. Example characteristics of these parks include:

- Parks and facilities serve as intended.
- Facilities are maintained, but may show signs of age or use.
- The facility accommodates different activity levels or age groups.
- Facilities are somewhat accessible by biking or walking.
- Athletic facilities and surfaces are maintained, but do not include amenities like lighting.

This type of park scores in the 50–74 range.

Does Not Meet Expectations

Parks that do not meet expectations have exceeded their functional life span and/or need enhancement to provide functionality for the public. These facilities may be difficult to access and may not feel safe or approachable for users. Insufficient maintenance and aging equipment may also impact usability. Example characteristics of these parks include:

- Facilities are not well attended and/or are not being used as intended.
- Facilities have a consistent low level of activity.
- Facilities are only accessible by car.
- Field surfaces are not well maintained or over utilization prevents maintenance.

This type of park scores in the 0–49 range.

Park Amenity Evaluation

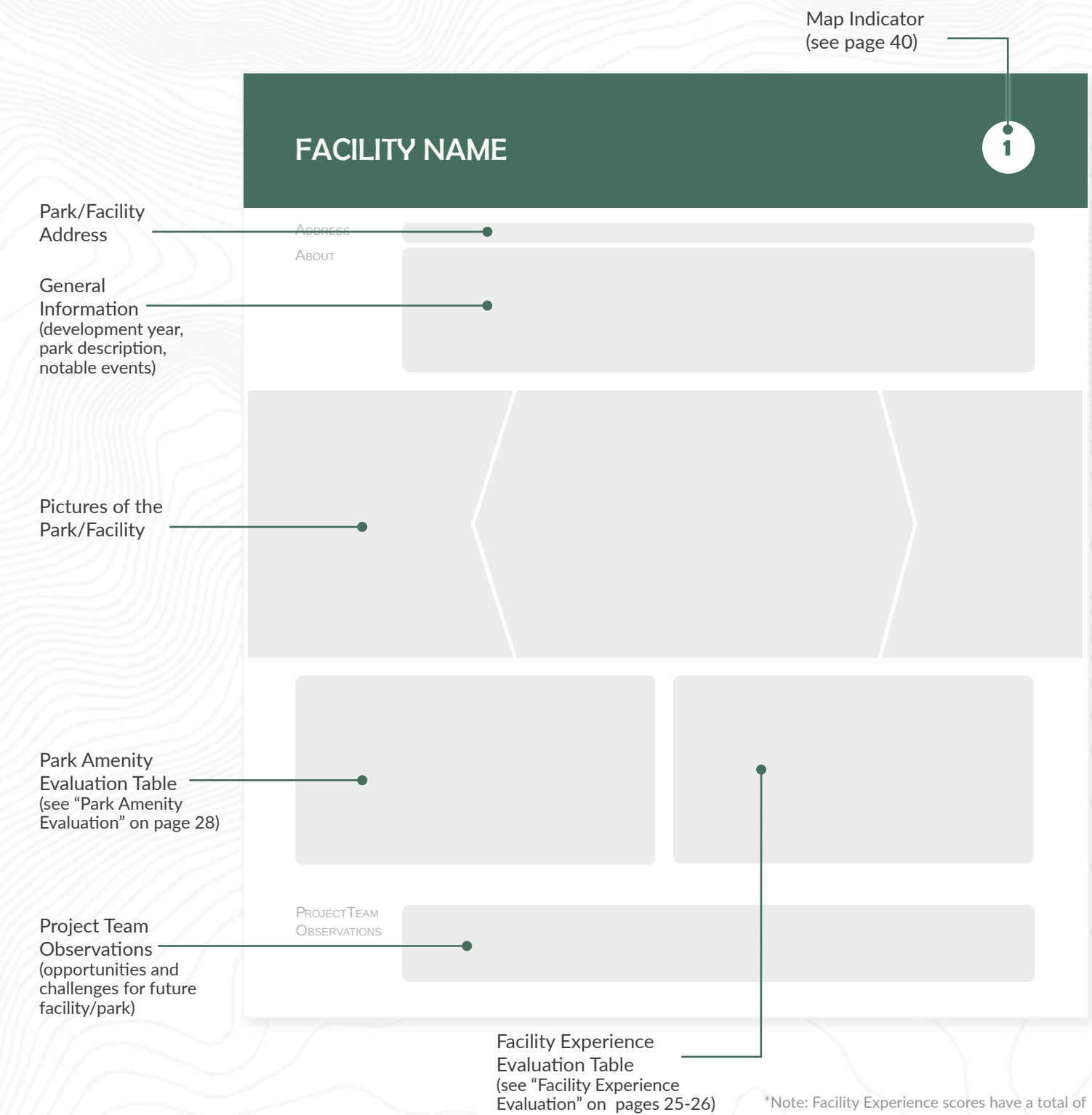
In addition to evaluating overall park experiences as part of this assessment, the Project Team also evaluated the conditions of individual amenities within each park and collected GIS data points that logged location and condition attributes in real time. Condition scores are representative of the following:

Quality	Description
Poor	The facility is in need of repair, renovation, or removal.
Fair	Facilities that currently serve a purpose and do not pose safety concerns but should be considered for up-fitting.
Good	Up-fitting is not necessary and the facility is in acceptable condition.
Very Good / Brand New	The facility is in excellent condition.

How To Review Facility Cut Sheets

The following pages are “cut sheets,” individual assessment sheets generated for each of Waynesville’s parks and recreation facilities.

Each cut sheet contains basic information about the park such as year of construction, available infrastructure and amenities, and accessibility. Each page follows a standard format, shown below.



HAZELWOOD PARK

1

ADDRESS 350 Westwood Circle

ABOUT Hazelwood Park is located north of the downtown along Westwood Circle. The park hosts one of the community's baseball diamonds and a permanent restroom facility. Of note, the restroom facility is only open to the public during organized games. Due to its location within a residential neighborhood, finding this facility may prove difficult without prior knowledge of its existence. The park is bound by natural wooded vegetation to the north, providing a scenic venue for baseball and softball.



Park Amenity	Condition
Baseball	Good
Concession Stand	Fair

Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	16
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	21
Access & Linkages	13
Sociability & Sustainability	7
Environmental Sustainability	13
Economic Sustainability	4
Total (out of 100)	57
Meets Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS The ballfield is currently under renovation along with the press box, dugouts, and batting cage. Parking at the park is nonuniform. Additional security measures at this park may be beneficial such as cameras to prevent vandalism. There is also a trail connection to this park.

SULPHUR SPRINGS PARK

2

ADDRESS 112 Timothy Lane

ABOUT Sulphur Springs Park, situated along the Historic Civil War Trail, is a passive, unprogrammed park owned and operated by the Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department. The facility is bounded by residential homes and steep slopes. A small creek runs through the middle of the property, which has a small gazebo housing the sulphur spring, and no off-street parking.



Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	28
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	27
Access & Linkages	17
Sociability & Sustainability	12
Environmental Sustainability	17
Economic Sustainability	2
Total (out of 100)	79
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS Sulphur Springs Park is well maintained and the perimeter fence was recently painted. User experience could be improved by removing invasive species and creating formal parking along the right-of-way in front of the site. Additionally, education signage in the form of a story-book walk could improve this park as a field-trip destination.

ADDRESS

338 Chestnut Park Drive

ABOUT

Chestnut Park is approximately 3.75 acres and features a playground and picnic shelter. This long, linear park abuts the Shingle Cove stream, where the segment adjacent to the park is currently being rehabilitated. The rehabilitation project will bring a natural surface walking trail to this park that crosses the stream in two places, providing access to the new residential development on Sylvan Street.



Park Amenity	Condition
Playground	Fair
Picnic Shelter / Pavilion	Fair

Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	19
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	24
Access & Linkages	7
Sociability & Sustainability	7
Environmental Sustainability	8
Economic Sustainability	0
Total (out of 100)	50
Meets Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS

Alongside planned upgrades to existing facilities, Chestnut Park has space for future new facilities. The current parking lot is not wide enough to fit double-row parking. The Town could consider expanding the parking lot and adding a driveway on Sylvan Street, which would improve vehicle access.

Note: During the development of this plan, the Habitat for Humanity developed plans for improvements on two parcels (8605-99-8965 &8605-99-8990). These parcels adjoin Chestnut Park and include play structures, gardens, walking paths, and stormwater improvements. The Town is now poised to take over these improvements and bring them into Waynesville network.

ADDRESS

44 Boundary Street

ABOUT

The Old Armory Recreation Center, originally constructed in 1936 as the National Guard Armory, was renovated in 1985 to become a community recreation facility. The center features a gym, stage, upstairs pottery room and studio, restrooms, a classroom, computer room, and a cafeteria. It offers a variety of programs, including cornhole, pickleball, and basketball, senior nutrition classes, and bridge games. Daily admission is \$7 for residents and \$10 for non-residents, while children (17 and under), older adults (60+), and Waynesville Recreation Center members enjoy free entry.



Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	26
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	21
Access & Linkages	16
Sociability & Sustainability	14
Environmental Sustainability	10
Economic Sustainability	10
Total (out of 100)	78
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS

Indoor pickleball is in high-demand at the Old Armory. The building also has a commercial kitchen, performance stage, meeting space, and an art studio upstairs, although the studio is not ADA accessible. Sandbags were present at the back of the building, demonstrating the need for additional stormwater infrastructure behind the building.

OBAMA-KING PARK

5

ADDRESS Corner of Calvary Street and Craven Road

ABOUT Obama-King Park, built in 2020, is approximately ½ acre and the park features a playground, horseshoe pit, grills, and a picnic shelter. Permanent restroom facilities were recently installed along with the pavilion. The setting of this park offers beautiful vistas within a residential neighborhood and is named after former President Barack Obama and Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Park Amenity	Condition
Playground	Very Good / Brand New
Restroom	Very Good / Brand New
Picnic Shelter / Pavilion	Very Good / Brand New
Other (Horse Shoes)	Fair

Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	27
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	30
Access & Linkages	15
Sociability & Sustainability	10
Environmental Sustainability	14
Economic Sustainability	2
Total (out of 100)	75
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS The Project Team observed recently installed restrooms, an ADA-accessible rental pavilion, and a playground serving neighborhood users.

EAST STREET PARK

6

ADDRESS 372 Howell Street

ABOUT East Street Park is Waynesville’s oldest neighborhood park and is accessible via Howell Street. Approximately 3 acres of space hosts a basketball court, playground, and picnic shelter. In 2024, the Town and Kiwanis Club of Waynesville partnered on a \$30,000 project to resurface the basketball court, replace perimeter fencing, and add signage.



Park Amenity	Condition
Picnic Shelter / Pavilion	Good
Playground	Fair
Basketball	Very Good / Brand New

Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	26
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	26
Access & Linkages	15
Sociability & Sustainability	9
Environmental Sustainability	17
Economic Sustainability	5
Total (out of 100)	75
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS Recent stormwater improvements mitigate runoff from the basketball court. Through a partnership with the Kiwanis organization, one of the two existing cabins used by the Boy Scouts is currently being renovated. The swing set is aging and parking is informal due to topography constraints.

RECREATION PARK

7

ADDRESS 128 West Marshall Street

ABOUT Recreation Park is the Town’s 2nd largest park in terms of acreage. This facility hosts a variety of community amenities, including the Town’s six tennis courts, an all-ability playground, and multipurpose fields for soccer or football. It also has a permanent bathroom facility near the park’s entrance. As discussed, the park connects with many other recreation facilities through its greenway and trail system, allowing users to walk between the Town’s parks and amenities. Parking is primarily accessed via West Marshall Street, just north of the downtown.



Park Amenity	Condition
Restroom	Good
Basketball	Poor
Playground (south)	Poor
Playground (north)	Fair
Storage Facility	Good
Baseball	Fair
Picnic Shelter / Pavilion	Good
Other	Fair
Tennis	Fair
Multi-Purpose	Good

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS The tennis courts need resurfacing at minimum, though it is recommended that the Town explore moving the courts. The basketball court also has visible cracking. Recreation Park could benefit from more storage area and insulation in the existing storage facility.

Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	30
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	24
Access & Linkages	16
Sociability & Sustainability	10
Environmental Sustainability	16
Economic Sustainability	4
Total (out of 100)	77
Exceeds Expectations	

WAYNESVILLE SKATE PARK

8

ADDRESS 285 Vance Street

ABOUT Waynesville Skate Park, located off Vance Street and accessible via the Greenway, is an 8,000 square-foot skate park offering a variety of features including rails, ledges, bowls, landscaped areas, and evening lighting. Built in 2013, the park is open from dawn until 10:00 pm and includes safety lighting completed as part of the previous Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which allows skaters to enjoy the facilities after dark.



Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	33
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	27
Access & Linkages	19
Sociability & Sustainability	13
Environmental Sustainability	9
Economic Sustainability	4
Total (out of 100)	81
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS The Project Team observed consistent use at the Waynesville Skate Park by residents and visitors, indicating its importance as a destination facility and its contribution to the overall diversity of recreation offerings in the Town’s park system. The park could benefit from the addition of seating and shade structures to improve comfort for users and spectators.

VANCE STREET PARK

9

ADDRESS 430 Vance Street

ABOUT Vance Street Park, located just south of the Waynesville Recreation Center, is the Town’s largest park by area. Vance Street Park contains the Town’s walking loop, a multipurpose field, a picnic shelter with benches, two volleyball courts, and a diamond field for baseball and softball. Vance Street Park has paved internal connections, which connect its various amenities, and hosts a trailhead for the Waynesville Greenway and the future Richland Creek Greenway.



Park Amenity	Condition
Picnic Shelter / Pavilion	Good
Baseball	Poor*
Multi-Purpose	Good
Paved Trails / Walking Track	Fair
Restroom	Fair

*Under Renovation

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS At the time of this report, the baseball field was under active reconstruction. The Project Team noted several opportunities for additional improvements including roof replacement on the restroom facility, tee boxes at the disc golf course, and a new track surface. Planned projects include the construction of a new Waynesville Dog Park, which will replace the existing sand volleyball courts (intended to be relocated to Recreation Park).

WAYNESVILLE RECREATION CENTER

10

ADDRESS 550 Vance Street

ABOUT Opened in 2000, the Waynesville Recreation Center is a 64,000-square-foot facility with a water play park, lap pool, basketball courts, racquetball courts, multiple training and fitness rooms, and a multi-purpose room for community events. Also on the property is a walking track and baseball diamond. It is accessible via Vance Street or the Waynesville Greenway and is open Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. and on Saturday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Recreation Center offers fitness classes and programs for all ages, including Zumba and spin classes, basketball, pickleball, and volleyball.



Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	31
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	26
Access & Linkages	14
Sociability & Sustainability	14
Environmental Sustainability	17
Economic Sustainability	10
Total (out of 100)	86
Exceeds Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS: Many amenities are in good condition, including the aerobics room. Other spaces, like the weight room and aquatic facility, need improvements. The weight room is often reported as having inadequate lighting and being crowded—a result of the amount of equipment relative to available space. The aquatic space could be improved with a new slide, renovated shower facilities (which are from original construction) and age-appropriate equipment that better demarcates the intended user group (small children). The Parks & Recreation Department should plan to replaster the pool deck surface within the next 5–7 years and continue to monitor the humidity control system for proper operation.

WAYNESVILLE GREENWAY (TRAILHEAD)

11

ADDRESS

South Lakeshore Drive (Adjacent to Lake Junaluska Golf Course)

ABOUT

The Greenway links several parks and recreational destinations throughout town, including the Waynesville Recreation Center, Vance Street Park, Waynesville Skate Park, and Recreation Park. Looking ahead, the 2023 Haywood County Greenway Plan outlines future expansion and safety improvements, including bike-pedestrian pilot projects along Boundary Street.



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Facility Experience Evaluation	
Design, Construction, & Effectiveness	22
Comfort, Appearance, & Safety	19
Access & Linkages	13
Sociability & Sustainability	5
Environmental Sustainability	15
Economic Sustainability	2
Total (out of 100)	58
Meets Expectations	

PROJECT TEAM OBSERVATIONS

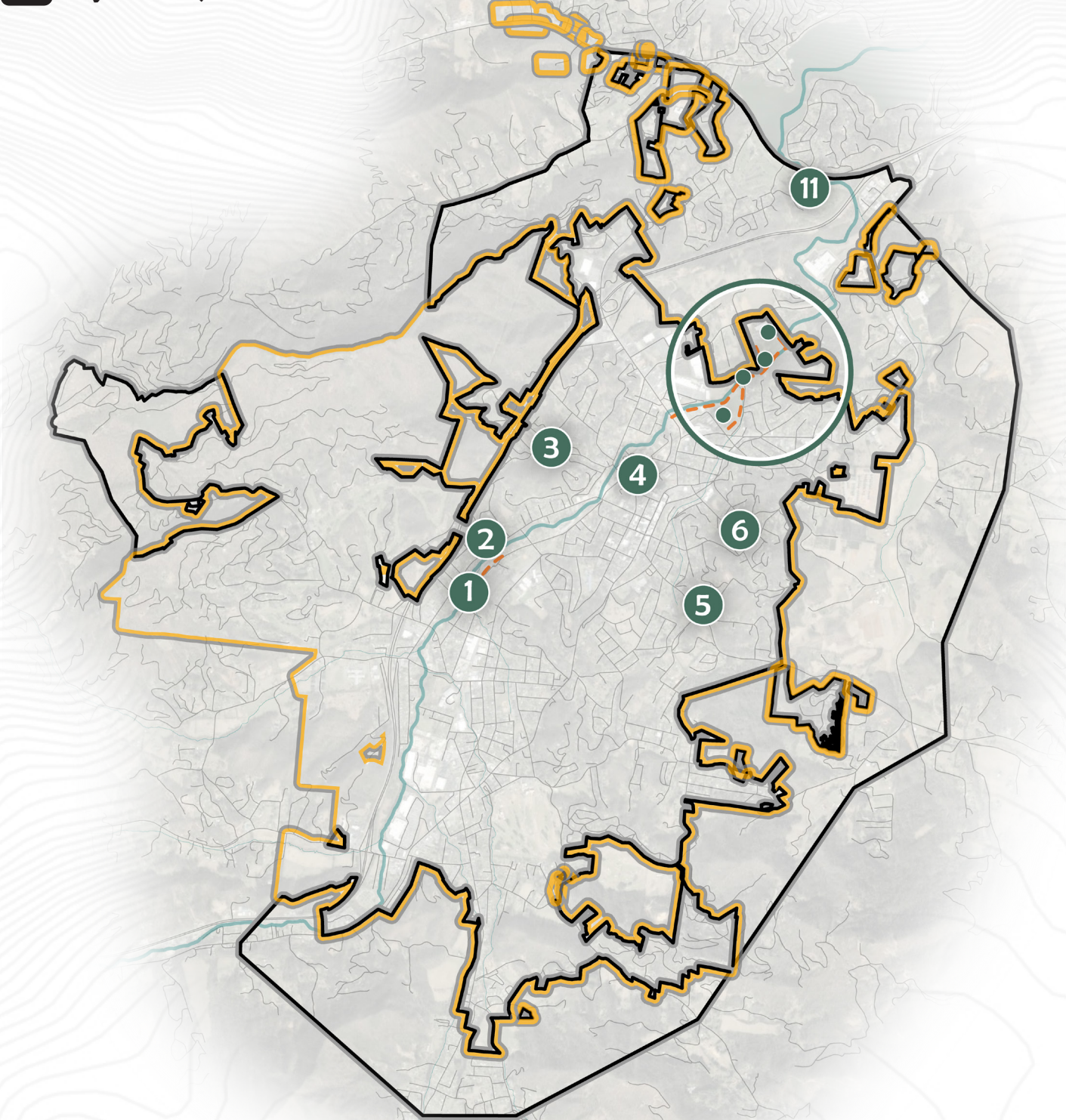
Located at the northern-most limits of Town, this trailhead park provides access to the Richland Creek Greenway. The Project Team observed that the stormwater feature on site could be rehabilitated to function properly. Greenway users would also benefit from updated map signage to improve wayfinding and orientation along the trail.

The Waynesville Parks & Recreation System

- Waynesville Corporate Limits
- Waynesville ETJ



- 1 Hazelwood Park
- 2 Sulphur Springs
- 3 Chestnut Park
- 4 Old Armory Recreation Center
- 5 Obama-King Park
- 6 East Street Park
- 7 Recreation Park
- 8 Waynesville Skate Park
- 9 Vance Street Park
- 10 Waynesville Recreation Center
- 11 Waynesville Greenway Park
- Waynesville Greenway



LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

A Level of Service (LOS) Analysis evaluates a community’s parks and recreation resources relative to its population, providing a measurable way to determine how well the system meets community needs. By benchmarking these results against national data, municipalities can assess their parks’ effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

The NRPA defines Level of Service as: “An allocation mechanism for the delivery of park land and basic recreation facilities throughout a community. By adoption of such a standard, a community in essence says that all citizens... will have an equal opportunity to share in the basic menu of services implicit in the standard and accompanying spatial distribution and allocation of policies.”

While every community has unique recreation needs, three key metrics help compare and evaluate park systems:

- Acreage (Total park land available)
- Facilities (Number and variety of recreational amenities)
- Access (Proximity and ease of reaching park facilities)

Each metric provides a different lens for assessing service levels. Acreage LOS measures the overall availability of park land, Facilities LOS gauges the number of amenities per resident, and Access LOS evaluates how easily residents can reach recreation facilities. Together, these methods offer a comprehensive framework for understanding and improving a municipality’s parks and recreation system.

Acreage Level of Service

The first metric used to measure recreation Level of Service is through evaluation of total parkland acreage. The Town of Waynesville operates approximately 43.5 acres of park land amongst its facilities. The Town’s current population is 10,408, which translates into a total Acreage Level of Service of about 4.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This is below the benchmarked acreage provided by the NRPA, which recommends 12.9 acres per 1,000 residents for communities of similar size to Waynesville. To match national benchmarks, the Town would need to acquire about 91 acres of land for park development.

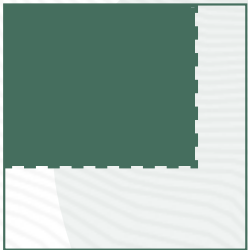
Additionally, the Town’s population is anticipated to continue to grow towards 2030 and beyond. Using data provided by the Town of Waynesville’s Water Supply Plan, the future population for the Waynesville community is expected to be 11,168 by 2035. Using this future population in computing park acreage level of service, Waynesville in 2035

would require about 101 acres of total parkland to provide parkland in line with the current benchmarks.

Ongoing parkland acquisition and development will be considered in the recommendations of this plan to continue to supply Waynesville’s growing population with adequate recreation facilities. However, it must also be considered that not all networks and communities are fulfilling recreation needs the same way. The Town operates two community centers, which is more than most towns of Waynesville’s size. While the overall acreage footprint of these facilities may be limited, the services and opportunities provided by them demonstrate efficient use of the Town’s existing parkland acreage. Through community engagement the plan will identify the balance of recreation needs requiring additional parkland vs. those that can be operated efficiently within the community’s existing park footprints.

Levels of Service

Acreage
Is there enough recreation space?



Access
How accessible are our parks by foot, bike, or vehicle?



Facilities
Are there facilities and programs for everyone?



	2023	2035
NRPA Benchmark	12.9 ac / 1,000 residents Population: 10,408	12.9 ac / 1,000 residents Population: 11,168
NRPA (ac.)	134.3	144.1
Waynesville (ac.)	43.5	43.5
+/-	-8.7 acres / 1,000 -90.8 acres total	-9.0 acres / 1,000 -100.6 acres total



Baseball Diamond at Hazelwood Park



Tennis Courts at Recreation Park

Facility Level of Service

Facility Level of Service (Facility LOS) is the second approach used to evaluate the Town’s parks system. It focuses on the number of park and recreation facilities available per resident. As discussed in the previous section, Facility LOS can illustrate where facility offerings, such as the Town’s community centers, compare to communities of a similar size. While there are no mandatory standards for the number of facilities a municipality must provide or that its community requires, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers recommendations as a guideline.

The tables on the following pages illustrate the Facility LOS for various park facilities and compares them to the NRPA’s recommended benchmarks. The figures reflect both the current population and projections for 2035. Facilities with a deficit are highlighted in red.

Perhaps one of the most notable amongst the community’s facility inventory is that of trail mileage. NRPA benchmarks indicate that the median trail mileage provided by communities of less than 20,000 population to be four miles. Waynesville currently has about nine miles of trail, over double that of the national benchmarks, and is continuing to develop segments of trail through the Community’s Pedestrian Plan and the Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study (see Chapter 3). As previously discussed, benchmarked structures indicate that Waynesville has a surplus of recreation centers and community centers. These buildings, and their flexibility to serve as senior centers, fitness, and aquatics, represent a core identity and strength of the Town’s network. Additional benchmarked surpluses include standalone tennis, volleyball, and racquetball courts.

Benchmarked deficits for 2023 revolve largely around standalone athletic facilities and niche special interests. A single basketball court and community garden would be needed to match national benchmarks, while the community is comparatively down 2 baseball/softball diamonds and two rectangular fields. Niche facilities not

provided in Waynesville, but that are seen in similarly sized communities include various golf facilities, such as 18- and 9-hole courses and driving range stations. Looking at 2035 population projections, Waynesville is further deficient one playground and one baseball/softball diamond.

Facility LOS plays a critical role in plan development by serving as a starting piece of data that can be shared with Town residents and stakeholders to guide discussions regarding plan goals and realistic community needs. Waynesville appears to conduct a large amount of its athletics and programming using the community facilities, while standalone outdoor athletic facilities may not be as desired. This in turn limits the required parkland acreage needed by Waynesville to provide recreation opportunities, but may illustrate a need to diversify or reprogram existing outdoor parkland to supply athletic facilities, if desired by the community.



Recreation Park Playground

FACILITY	NATIONAL AVERAGES (JURISDICTIONS <20,000)	2023 POPULATION (EST. 10,408)			
		NRPA	Waynesville	Median Number of Residents/ Facility (2025 Benchmarks)	+/-
Playgrounds or play structures	1 / 2000	5	5	2000	0
Basketball courts, standalone	1 / 4479	2	1	4479	-1
Diamond Fields	1 / 1958	5	3	1958	-2
Rectangular fields	1 / 2578	4	2	2578	-2
Tennis courts	1 / 3500	3	6	3500	3
Dog parks	1 / 10188	1	1 ¹	10188	0
Community gardens	1 / 8800	1	0	8800	-1
Swimming pools	1 / 9745	1	1	9745	0
Skateboard parks	1 / 10776	1	1	10776	0
Pickleball	1 / 3483	3	3	3483	0
Volleyball courts, standalone	1 / 7057	1	2	7057	1
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	1 / 8274	1	1	8274	0
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	1 / 3900	3	3	3900	0
Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	1 / 13391	1	1	13391	0
Multiuse racquet courts	1 / 4659	2	0	4659	-2
Walking loops/Running tracks	1 / 6129	2	2	6129	0
Disc golf courses	1 / 9402	1	1	9402	0
Driving range stations	1 / 3548	3	1 ²	3548	-2
18-hole golf courses	1 / 11904	1	3 ³	11904	2
Synthetic rectangular fields	1 / 11028	1	0	11028	-1
Ice rinks	1 / 8338	1	0	8338	-1
Nine-hole golf courses	1 / 17500	1	0	17500	-1
Overlay fields	1 / 7932	1	0	7932	-1
Waterparks	1 / 17125	1	1	17125	0
Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts	1 / 14000	1	2	14000	1
Miles of Trail	4.0 miles	4.0	9.0	4.0	5.0

1. The LOS assessment accounts for the new dog park (under development at Vance Street Park at the time of this report).

2. Waynesville has 1 nearby private driving range at Laurel Ridge Country Club.

3. Waynesville has 3 nearby private golf facilities at Laurel Ridge Country Club, Waynesville Inn and Golf Club, and Lake Junaluska.

FACILITY	NATIONAL AVERAGES (JURISDICTIONS <20,000)	2035 POPULATION (EST. 11,168)			
		NRPA	Waynesville	Median Number of Residents/ Facility (2025 Benchmarks)	+/-
Playgrounds or play structures	1 / 2000	6	5	2000	-1
Basketball courts, standalone	1 / 4479	2	1	4479	-1
Diamond Fields	1 / 1958	6	3	1958	-3
Rectangular fields	1 / 2578	4	2	2578	-2
Tennis courts	1 / 3500	3	6	3500	3
Dog parks	1 / 10188	1	1 ¹	10188	0
Community gardens	1 / 8800	1	0	8800	-1
Swimming pools	1 / 9745	1	1	9745	0
Skateboard parks	1 / 10776	1	1	10776	0
Pickleball	1 / 3483	3	3	3483	0
Volleyball courts, standalone	1 / 7057	2	2	7057	0
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	1 / 8274	1	1	8274	0
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	1 / 3900	3	3	3900	0
Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	1 / 13391	1	1	13391	0
Multiuse racquet courts	1 / 4659	2	0	4659	-2
Walking loops/Running tracks	1 / 6129	2	2	6129	0
Disc golf courses	1 / 9402	1	1	9402	0
Driving range stations	1 / 3548	3	1 ²	3548	-2
18-hole golf courses	1 / 11904	1	3 ³	11904	2
Synthetic rectangular fields	1 / 11028	1	0	11028	-1
Ice rinks	1 / 8338	1	0	8338	-1
Nine-hole golf courses	1 / 17500	1	0	17500	-1
Overlay fields	1 / 7932	1	0	7932	-1
Waterparks	1 / 17125	1	1	17125	0
Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts	1 / 14000	1	2	14000	1
Miles of Trail	4.0 miles	4.0	9.0	4.0	5.0

1. The LOS assessment accounts for the new dog park (under development at Vance Street Park at the time of this report).

2. Waynesville has 1 nearby private driving range at Laurel Ridge Country Club.

3. Waynesville has 3 nearby private golf facilities at Laurel Ridge Country Club, Waynesville Inn and Golf Club, and Lake Junaluska.

Access Level of Service

Neighborhood parks that are easily accessible are shown to improve public health by providing a space for physical activity and improving social connections. Accessibility also influences how well a park is used; people are more likely to visit a park if it is within walking distance than if it is within driving distance.

Mapping access to parks and recreation facilities highlights gaps in reachability and connectivity, and is essential for understanding needs of certain groups, primarily kids, older adults, people without cars, people with physical disabilities, and parents with strollers.

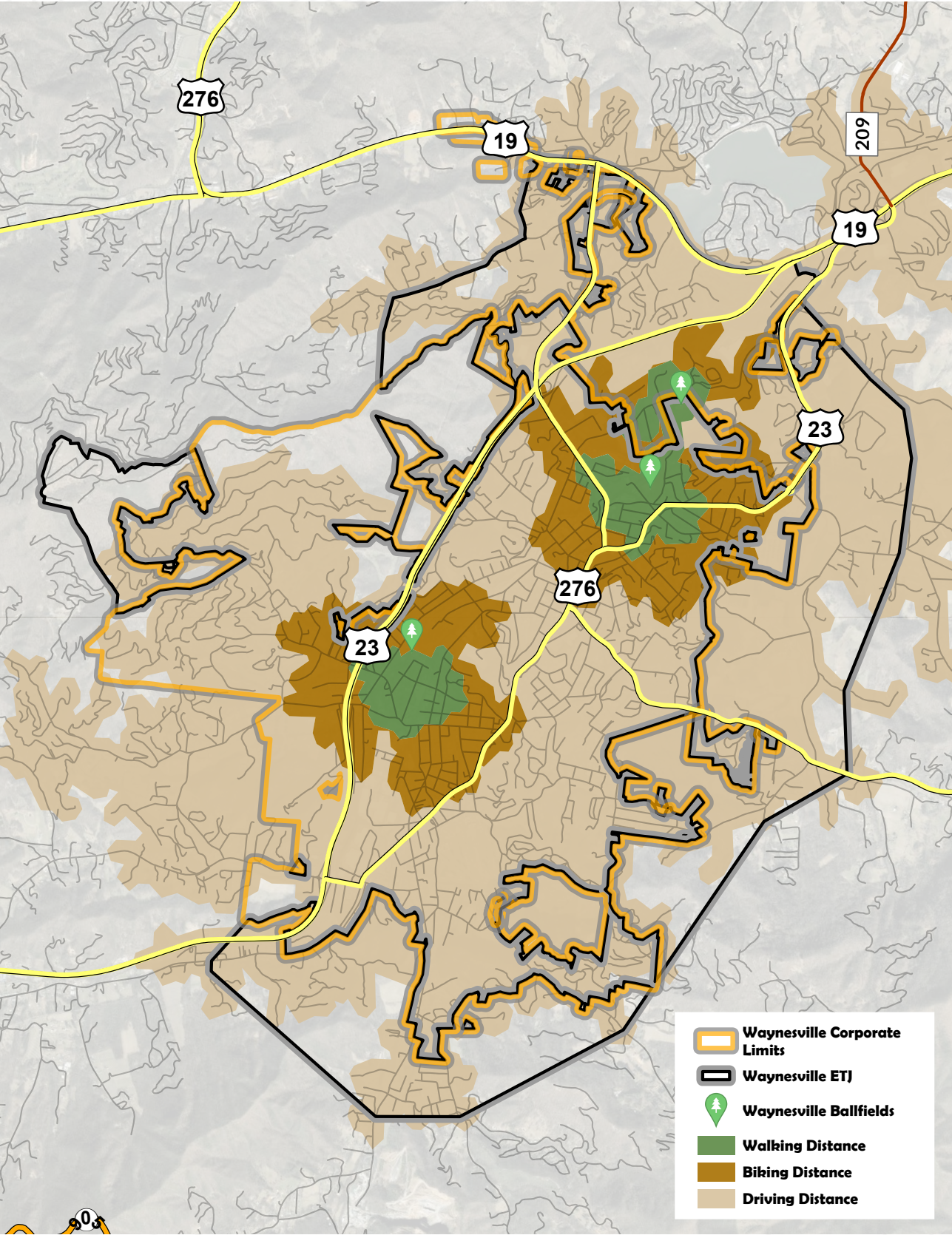
Access Level of Service (Access LOS) is the third method used to assess how well a park system meets the needs of its community. Access LOS evaluates how easily residents can reach park facilities, typically measured by distance (either in miles or travel time), indicating the effort required to access a park. For the purposes of this evaluation, a distance of 1/2 mile is considered a comfortable walking distance, 1 mile represents a long walk or short bike ride, and 3 miles corresponds to a long

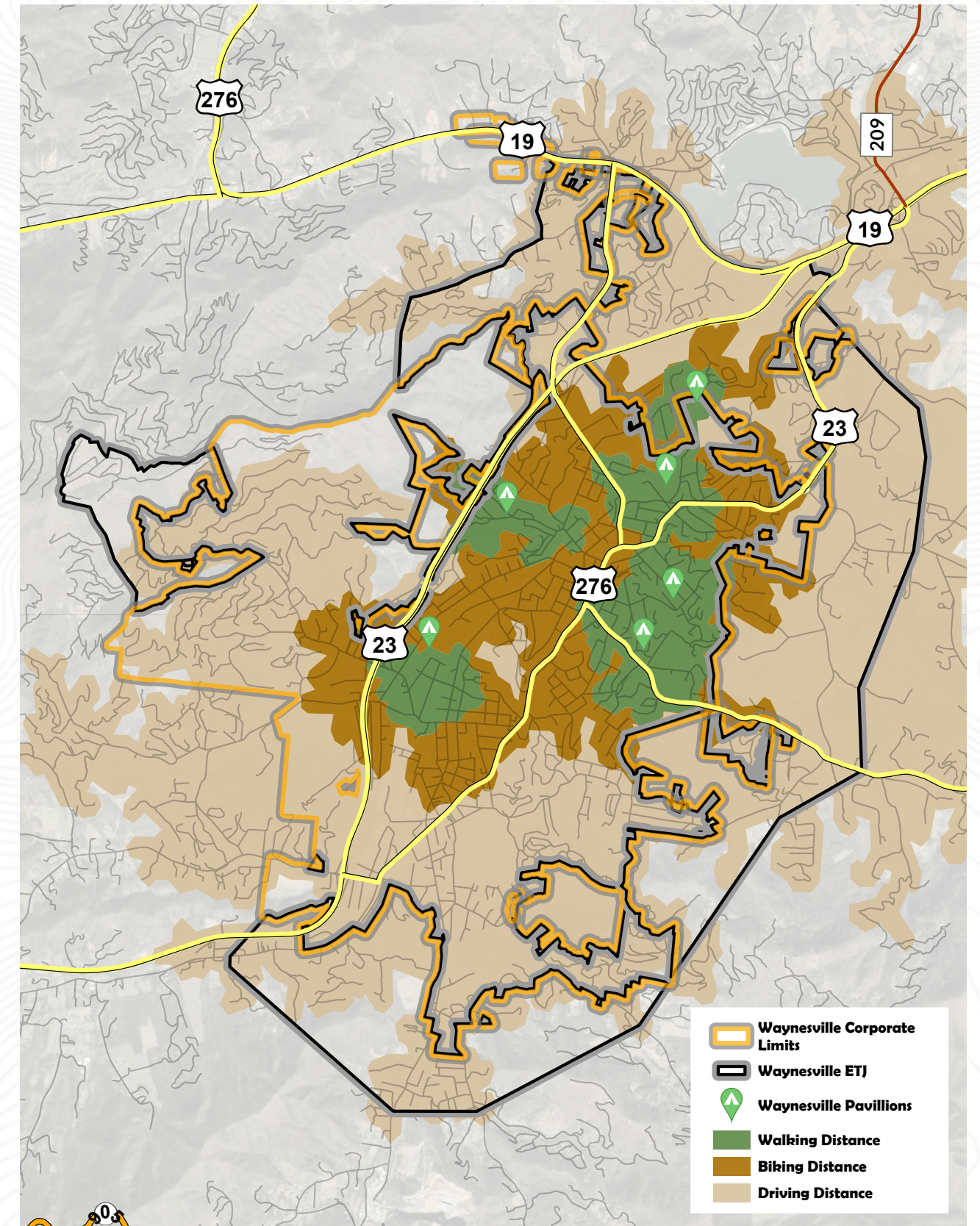
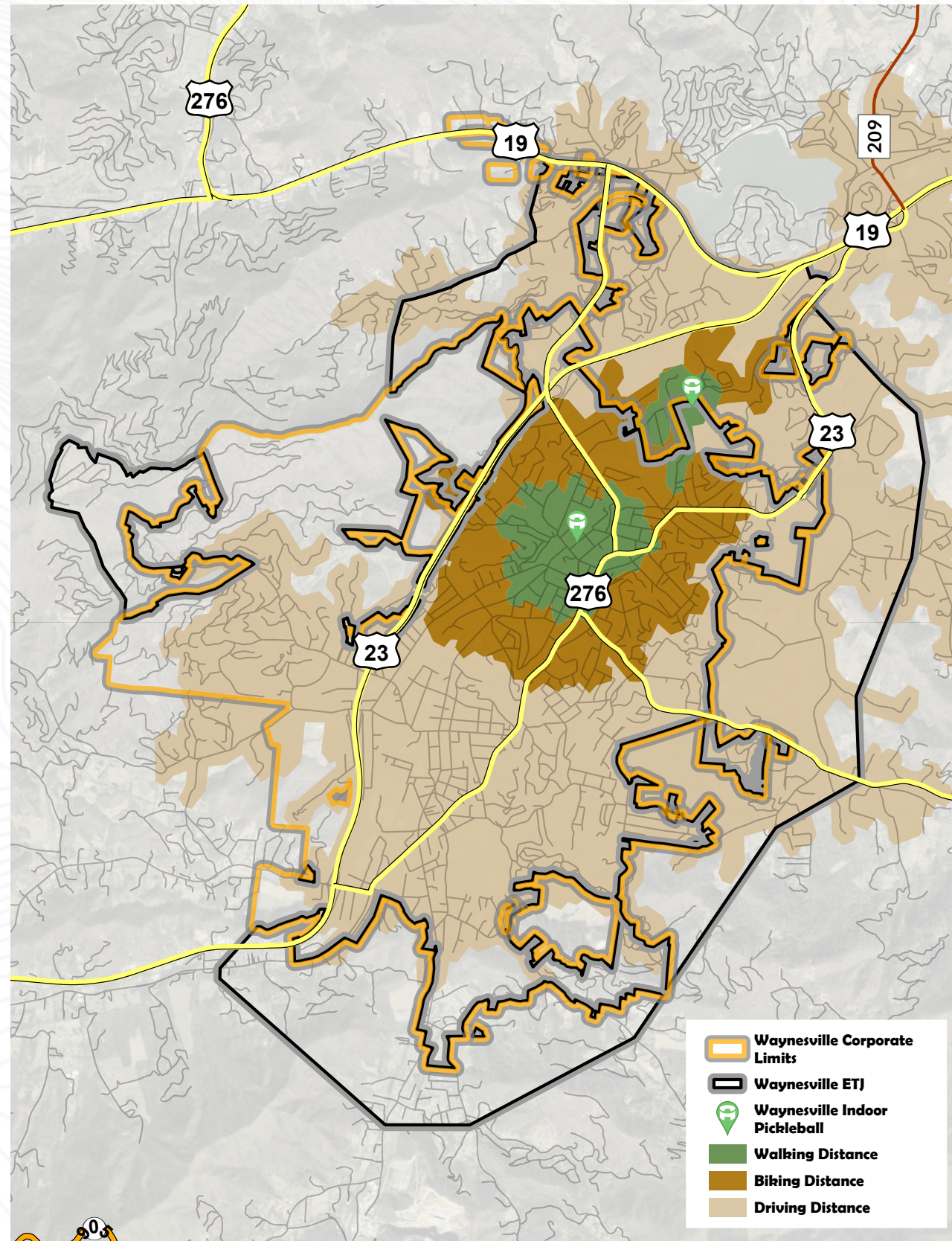
bike ride or short drive. Access LOS was analyzed for the following recreation amenities in Waynesville:

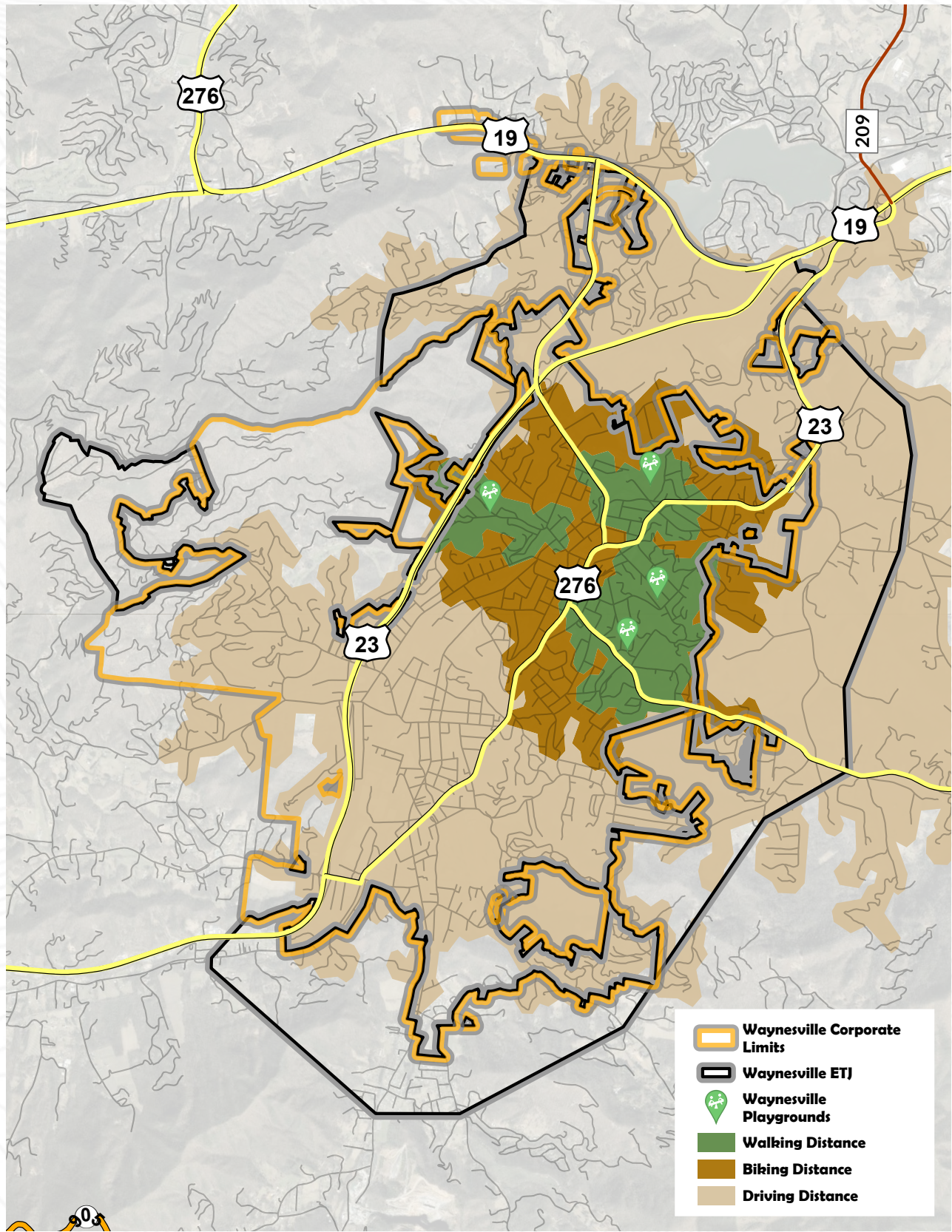
- Ballfields
- Indoor Pickleball
- Pavilions
- Playgrounds

Mapping of these facilities shows that many Waynesville residents can easily reach the town’s parks and indoor recreation amenities. Nearly all residents within Waynesville’s corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) live within a three mile drive of these facilities.

However, many of these facilities are clustered in the northeastern portion of the town. As a result, residents living in the southwestern part of town may not be able to access these amenities by a short bike ride or comfortable walk.







Summary of Level of Service Analysis

Waynesville currently provides about 4.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and would need about 91 additional acres of parkland today—or about 101 acres by 2035—to meet NRPA-documented national standards.

Although these benchmarks suggest Waynesville falls well below the recommended amount of park acreage for its population, the Town actually offers more recreational facility space and open space than many nearby communities. Some of these areas, however, are privately owned or managed, which means they are not counted in the NRPA’s formal benchmarking totals.

Facility LOS shows notable strengths including trail mileage and community centers. Waynesville also hosts a variety of privately-owned recreation opportunities, namely golf courses. Notable deficits exist in outdoor athletic fields and specialized amenities like fitness zones or exercise stations.

Access LOS illustrate a general concentration of parks and recreation facilities in the northeastern portion of the town. Residents living outside one mile of a park may have difficulty accessing these spaces if they cannot drive. Waynesville Parks and Recreation can address this need by planning future neighborhood parks or amenities in the southwestern part of town to better support the recreational needs of children, older adults, people without cars or licenses, and parents with young children.





NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Understanding national and regional programming trends will help the Town of Waynesville build better programming selections for its users. Unlike the community’s recreation facilities, programming is more nebulous in character and can be supplied by external providers or community partners.

The following assessment of local and regional programming is intended to inform Waynesville Parks & Recreation about possible program gaps and opportunities for future partnership or investment.

National Themes

Over the past few decades, parks and recreation departments have established and tested various practices that may be applicable to Waynesville. The elements identified below are suggested for consideration by Waynesville Parks & Recreation staff to inform future operational efficiency and effectiveness:

- Effective tracking of programming metrics—including registration, participation, cancellations, and financials—is critical to assess cost recovery.
- Partnerships with external agencies can facilitate resource sharing of facilities, staff, and marketing campaigns.
- Regional school systems may be less inclined to partner with municipalities due to safety, security, and liability.
- Successful programs cater to the entire family unit. The Town must ensure there are appropriate recreational opportunities for adults, youths, and senior citizens.
- There is growing desire for social services programming, like education, health and nutrition classes, and childcare.
- Programming options that target holiday breaks, summers, and other extended

school breaks provides unique opportunities for programming specifically designed for school-age children and families.

- Regular evening and weekend programming allows individuals with 9-5 jobs to participate in organized recreation outside of work hours.
- Specialty/ethnic programming for single-day or limited sessions provides a more flexible model to engage special interest groups and can bolster the identities of various population groups in the region.

Trends in Program Offerings

The following table shows data from the 2024 National Sporting Goods Association survey, which includes participants ages 7 and older.

Activities	National Rank	National Participation (million)
Exercise Walking	1	105.1
Hiking	2	54.9
Exercising w/ Equipment	3	50.7
Swimming	4	46.9
Bicycle Riding	5	40.6
Running/Jogging	6	40.4
Camping (Vacation/ Overnight)	7	39.2
Weight Lifting	8	37.6
Workout at Club	9	30.7
Fishing (Fresh Water)	10	30.7



Evaluation of data from the 2024 National Sporting Goods Association report on sporting trends reveals the following growing sports programs in the nation over the past 10 years.

Sports Increasing in National Participation (10-Year Trend)	Percent Increase
Pickleball	805.9%
Hiking	30.7%
Mountain Biking (off road)	19.6%
Tennis	17.2%
Soccer	12.1%
Weight Lifting	8.0%
Cheerleading	5.4%
Fishing (fresh water)	4.1%
Football (flag)	1.5%
Swimming	1.3%
Volleyball	0.9%

Conversely, the following sports are showing national decreases in participation over the past decade.

Sports Decreasing in National Participation (10-Year Trend)	Percent Decrease
Softball	19.4%
Workout at Club	16.1%
Tackle Football	15.4%
Baseball	10.2%
Exercising with Equipment	9.9%

Regional Themes

The 2025-2030 North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, “Shaping Outdoor Recreation from Mountains to Sea,” was completed and released in October of 2025. This plan is required to be updated every five years in order for North Carolina to remain eligible for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The plan began development in 2023 and included various engagement events across the state to help inform the trajectory of North Carolina Parks and Recreation. Key takeaways and insights from this plan help inform the regional and state-wide perspective regarding parks and recreation elements. Applicable findings & trends are as follows:

- Outdoor recreation is a significant contributor to local and regional economies.
- Personal health and wellbeing are drivers of regional recreation.
- Parks are serving the additional role of education centers for classrooms and tourism.
- Likewise, parks and recreation departments are supporting societal challenges such as bringing generations together through age-friendly amenities and programming; specialized programming for users with disabilities; gardens and food access; and cultural identity and history.
- Inclusive facilities and designs are paramount for development and redevelopment of community spaces.
- Social media plays a significant role in the advertising of programs and facilities.
- Digital tools, such as trails apps, are growing in popularity & importance.

The plan also included a survey of North Carolina recreation providers to better understand opportunities and challenges unique to the state. Results indicate that lack of information regarding facilities, a general lack of user time, and transportation barriers were some of the largest barriers to recreation. Priorities for future

development were expanding trail systems and removing/replacing aged infrastructure. Staff capacity was identified as the biggest challenge in expanding a recreation network.

Trends Conclusion

Across the U.S. and North Carolina, park and recreation studies highlight gaps in multi-generational programming, a desire for cultural

and ethnic local events, and the need for targeted marketing and branding strategy. By evaluating these trends, Waynesville can assess its own standing in relation to other localities and prepare for shifts in recreational needs. Additionally, these reports identify key recreation partners and future funding opportunities, including federal, state, local, and private grants.



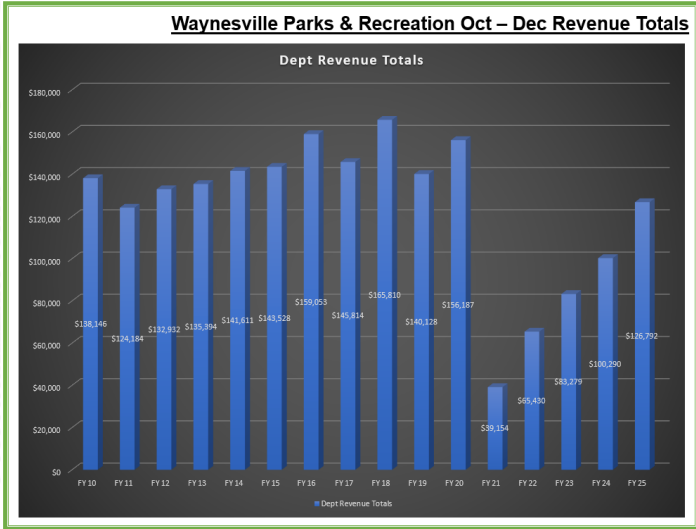
Waterways exploration during Waynesville Parks & Recreation Summer Camp



Old Armory Recreation Center

WAYNESVILLE PROGRAMMING

The Town of Waynesville has continued to grow its suite of programs, but experienced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across its recreation services. Now, with attendance increasing to pre-COVID levels, it is important to evaluate recent programming metrics to better understand how programming is growing in Waynesville.



Historic Program Participation

Year	Number of Participants
2022	491
2023	1,225
2024	1,167
2025	1,815

Program Management

Programs can be run through the Waynesville Parks & Recreation department, or otherwise managed by external providers. Understanding which programs the Town directly runs versus other programs utilizing these partners illustrates where capacity may exist for future partnerships, or where programming should remain in-house.

Staff-run programs are managed by the department itself and feature full-time or part-time employees that run these events. Waynesville has complete control over these programs, their content, and their costs. While beneficial in the amount of control the Town has over these programs and their fees, directly managing programs and maintaining specialized staff to administer them can be costly.

Programs run by third-party providers may be listed on the Town's website, but are administered by someone outside of the Town's staff. These providers are usually paid on a contract basis, with some agreement in place to split program fees and/or revenues. Using third party providers allows the Town to engage in specialized programming opportunities where traditionally, Town staff would not have the expertise to administer such programs. However, working with external contractors can impact a program's financial return on investment, and using contractors to represent the Town may also be a concern for staff.

Co-sponsored events leverage community facilities, but are organized and operated by third parties. These programs are usually not included in the Town's programming lists, as the organizers are largely renting the space and facilities. This is beneficial to Waynesville because the events are largely transactional in nature, with limited staffing needs. However, the events and use of the facility remain a reflection of Waynesville, without staff having much control over content or rollout.

Program Categories

Area	General Description
Aquatics	Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving SCUBA, and other programs (artistic swimming, water polo, etc.).
Cultural Arts	Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.
Education	Language programs, tutoring, science (STEAM) classes, computer, and financial planning.
Fitness/Wellness	Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
General Interest	Personal development classes.
Outdoor Recreation	Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities.
Self-Directed	This includes opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own.
Seniors/Older Adults	Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors. This can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions.
Social Services	This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, and other activities such as health screenings.
Special Events	Town wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
Special Needs	Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.
Sports	Youth and adult team and individual sports. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
Teens	Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors).
Youth	Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool.

The Town of Waynesville has the following observations within these overarching categories:

Aquatics

The Waynesville Recreation Center hosts various aquatic opportunities and programs, including youth sports through the Smoky Mountain Aquatic Club and fitness classes like Aqua Tabata Aerobics or senior-centric aerobics. This is a core strength of Waynesville’s recreation programming.

Cultural Arts

While the Town is limited in its direct cultural arts programming offerings, the larger community hosts annual artisan craft fairs and similar events that celebrate local culture and heritage, such as Ice Fest.

Education

Education programming is also limited through Waynesville Parks & Recreation. Broader programs, such as the Base Camp On the Go, provide opportunities for environmental education but dedicated educational opportunities may represent an area of development.

Fitness/Wellness

The Town hosts a plethora of fitness courses for all ages. Classes range from basic stretching and walking classes, to Zumba courses of varying intensity, to a dedicated spin class. Silver Sneakers partners also implement yoga and aquatic courses.

General Interest

A small number of program offerings are provided as general interests such as bridge and Parent’s Night Out.

Outdoor Recreation

The Town’s partnership on Base Camp on the Go with the Haywood Health Foundation provides opportunities for nature-based youth recreation and education, such as fly fishing. The department appears to leverage regional hiking, biking, & horseback riding trails to supplement the limited programming in this category.

Self-Directed

Many of the Town’s park facilities offer opportunities for self-directed programming. Walking trails, picnic shelters, and open gym hours allow for user-directed recreation.

Seniors/Older Adults

Senior programming, both fitness-related and sports, are present in Waynesville’s programming suite. Pickleball lessons, aquatics, and yoga programs are just some of the programming available to older adults and illustrate a well-rounded suite of opportunities for this cohort.

Social Services

The Town provides a senior nutrition program at the Old Armory Recreation Center. However, the Town has opportunities for educational programming growth and overlap with fitness instruction at the Waynesville Recreation Center.

Special Events

Many of the community’s special events are hosted through the Downtown Waynesville Association. As such, special events programming conducted by the Department of Recreation is limited. However, it is understood that the department assists in the rollout of special events as necessary for the Town.

Special Needs

There is a notable lack of special needs programming through the Town and regional providers. Further

engagement with potential users will be critical in the identification of future opportunities.

Sports

Waynesville provides a large amount of programming opportunities to its residents and visitors. Core sports include pickleball, baseball/softball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, and basketball.

Teens

Teen programming was another notable category in that it currently has sparse Town and regional offerings. While teens may enjoy some sports, self-directed, and outdoor recreation opportunities in the region, dedicated programming for this cohort must be considered in future plans.

Youth

Many of the Town’s programs are designated for youth users. The Town has historically succeeded in providing various before/after school support programs in addition to the wide suite of youth sports offerings. Notably, the Town provides Impending Weather Camps that support families during school closures.



Waynesville Parks & Recreation kids summer camp



Whitewater rafting through the Nantahala Outdoor Center

Waynesville’s Focus Areas

Through evaluation of Waynesville’s program offerings through the framework of the overarching program categories, the Project Team can begin to illustrate the Town’s historic programming emphasis. Understanding where the Town has focused programming options can aid discussions with the community concerning programming needs/opportunities, as well as be used to identify program gaps. To further assess programming emphasis, the following categories have been employed:

Core Programs are those the Parks and Recreation Department has primary responsibility for providing programs for the community.

Secondary Programs are those that may or may not be provided by the Town, and are a lower priority to provide for the community. These may be offered by other organizations.

Support Programs are programs that are not a priority for the Department to be providing directly to the community. The Town may provide information and/or promote the activities, but they are administered by other organizations.

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Youth Programming	Seniors/Older Adults	Teen Programs
Sports	Self-Directed	Special Needs Programming
Fitness/Wellness	Special Events	Social Services
Aquatics	General Interest	Outdoor Recreation
		Education
		Cultural Arts

External Program Providers

Independent of the Town, various other recreation providers are operating in Haywood County. These organizations and communities may offer programming opportunities to Waynesville residents that may not otherwise be available to them. Offerings provided externally include:

Recreation Provider	Facility/Activity
Laurel Ridge Country Club	Golf Facilities
Lake Junaluska	Golf Facilities Boat Ramps Aquatic Facilities Tennis/Pickleball Facilities Fishing Piers
Cataloochee Ski Area	Skiing / Snowboarding Snow Tubing
Legacy Dance	Dance Classes
Splat Forest Paintball	Paintball
Mountain Range	Shooting Range
Smoky Mountain Sk8way & Fun Zone	Roller Skating
Springdale Resort	Golf Facilities

Of additional note, Haywood County, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Forest Service, and neighboring municipalities all host various outdoor recreation facilities and programs in the region. These facilities and programs are largely nature-based, leveraging the region’s natural amenities and resources. Programs and facilities include:

- Hiking Trails
 - Mountain Biking Trails
 - Horseback Riding Trails
 - Shooting Range
- Fly Fishing
 - Navigation Training
 - Yoga
 - Birding

Program Gaps & Opportunities

Evaluating Waynesville’s program offerings in addition to programs offered externally in the region can illustrate significant programming gaps at a regional level in addition to areas of internal growth for the Town. The table below illustrates programming gaps:

Program Areas	Waynesville	Other Organizations
Aquatics	X	X
Cultural Arts		X
Education		X
Fitness/Wellness	X	
General Interest	X	X
Outdoor Recreation		X
Self-Directed	X	X
Seniors/Older Adults	X	
Social Services		
Special Events	X	X
Special Needs		
Sports	X	X
Teens		
Youth	X	

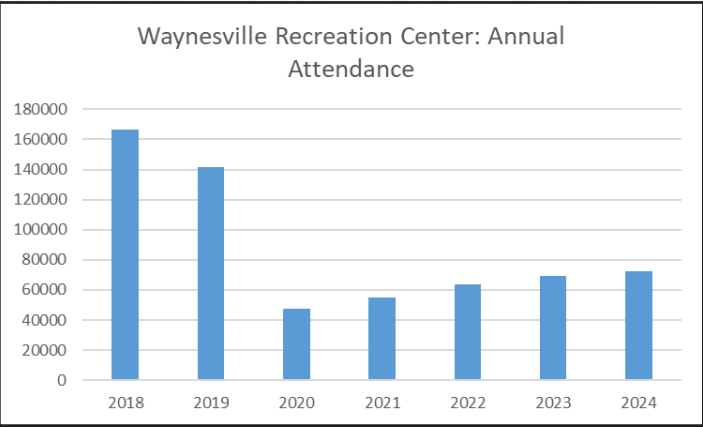
Considering both internal and external recreation programs, Social Services, Special Needs and Teens are the only gaps. To address these gaps, the community must be reliant on external providers to serve Waynesville residents. While the majority of the program areas are being covered, there may be opportunities to explore partnerships that serve a community support role more than a recreation one, as noted with the national trend of diversifying recreation programming to overlap more with social services, education, and special needs. In the case of Teen programming, specific outreach may be required to further understand the cohort’s desires and tastes.

WAYNESVILLE RECREATION CENTER

Since 2000, the Waynesville Recreation Center has served as the community’s hub for recreation programming. As discussed, the facility plays host to a breadth of fitness, sports, and self-directed programs. The facility also houses the Parks and Recreation Department itself, playing a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the Town.

Facility Attendance

As noted previously, the recreation center suffered a large impact to its overall attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual attendance prior to the outbreak shows an annual facility capacity of around 160k trips per year. Attendance since the pandemic is slowly growing towards historic numbers, but the facility has historically accommodated over twice the amount of current visitors.



Recent attendance is closely matching the Department’s goals, and preliminary Q1 & Q2 counts for 2025 illustrate a similar growth trend.

Year	Attendance Goal	Actual Attendance	% of Goal
2023	71,700	64,922	90.5%
2024	73,900	73,796	99.9%
2025*	38,000	41,100	108.2%

*Note that 2025 data reflects goals and attendance from January 2025 to June 2025.

The historic shifts in the facility's attendance demonstrate the recreation network can continue to grow with the existing footprint of the facility. Waynesville Recreation Center has accommodated over twice the amount of current annual users. While the overall facility may have capacity for growth, individual programs and facilities within the recreation center may experience capacity issues as individual program tastes change and staff work to facilitate additional opportunities.

Rental Revenues

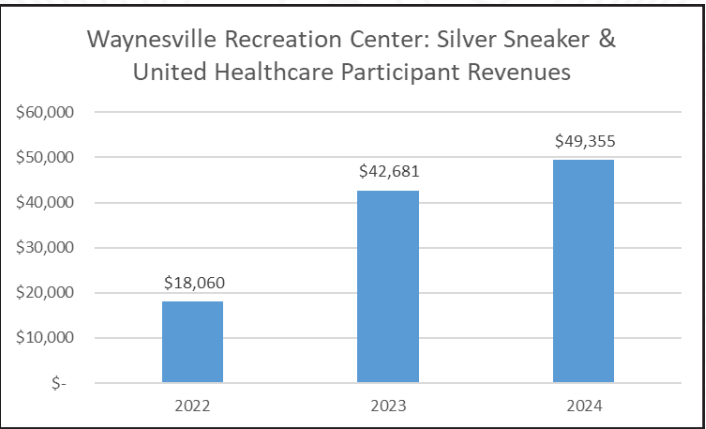
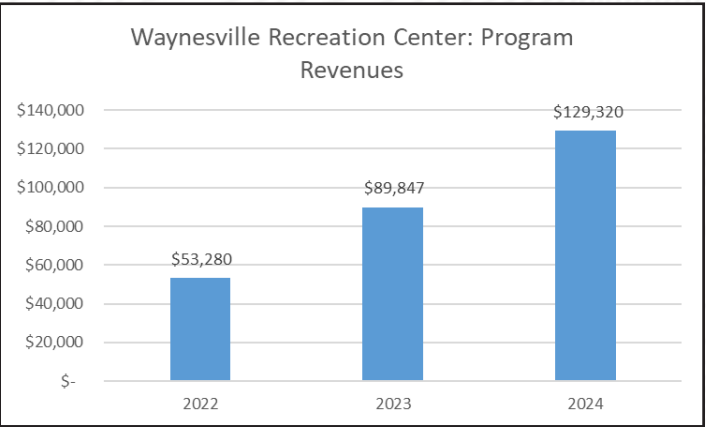
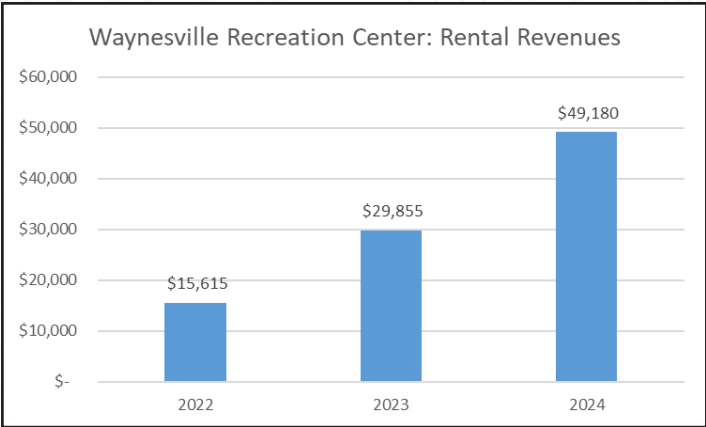
Facility rental revenues continue to track upward. Alongside overall attendance growth, the Department can expect to continue receiving increased rental funds.

Program Revenues

Program revenues illustrate rapid growth of program offerings and fees. These revenues notably are increasing at a faster rate than rental and partnership revenues.

Silver Sneakers and United Healthcare Partnership Program Revenues

Silver Sneakers and United Healthcare Partnership programming revenues show a continued interest in senior programming and fitness offerings. Unlike the previous two metrics, the revenues from this partnership increased only slightly between 2023 and 2024.



Future of the Facility

The Waynesville Recreation Center continues to function as the central location for programs and operations in the Town. Although annual attendance has suffered from the pandemic, Town staff are working hard to encourage expanded use of the facilities and its programs. This is illustrated through the continued growth of the facilities revenues and expanded program offerings. The facility has proven it functions under twice as much use historically, indicating that, outside of emerging community needs, the space does not require additions or notable redevelopment. If deemed necessary by users and staff leadership, there are opportunities to conduct a user survey and/or indoor facilities assessment to both understand shifts in programming and facility preferences unique to the recreation center as well as opportunities to modify the floorspace to accommodate new facilities and spaces.

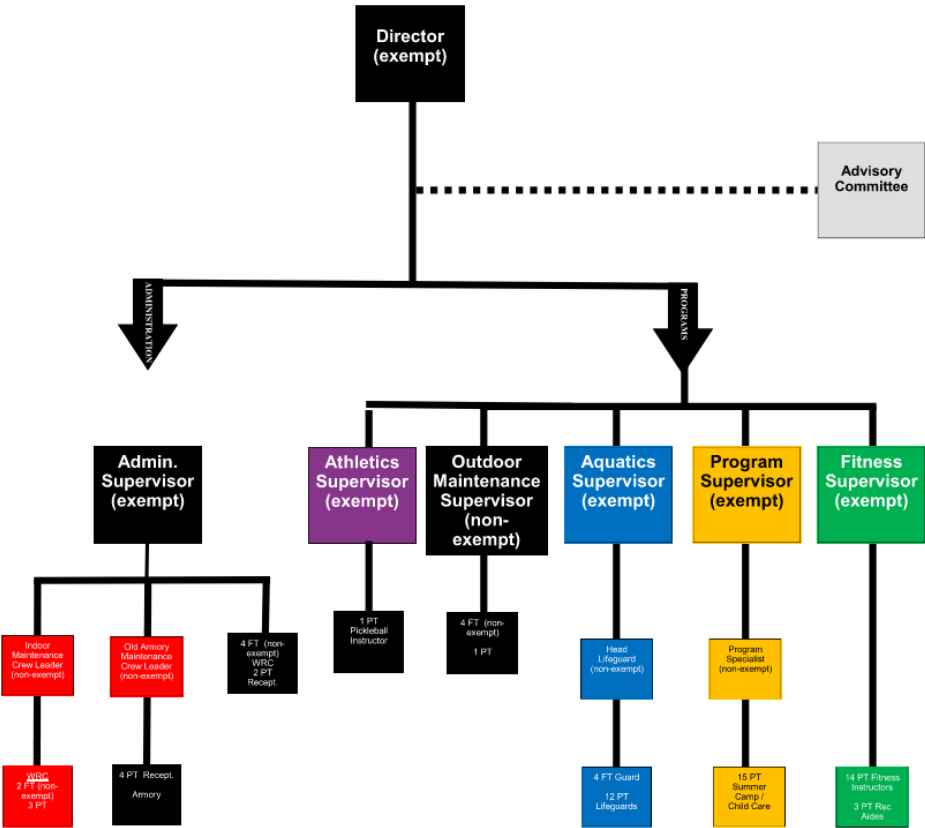
STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Town staff are led by a Parks & Recreation Director. A volunteer advisory board, the Recreation Advisory Committee, works directly with the Parks & Recreation Director to provide regular community input on important Town decisions. Remaining parks staff fall under two main groups, administration & programming. The administrative team leads indoor maintenance at Waynesville Recreation Center and the Old Armory Recreation Center. The programs team is broken up into five subgroups that serve the community:

- Athletics
- Maintenance (outdoor)
- Aquatics
- Programming
- Fitness

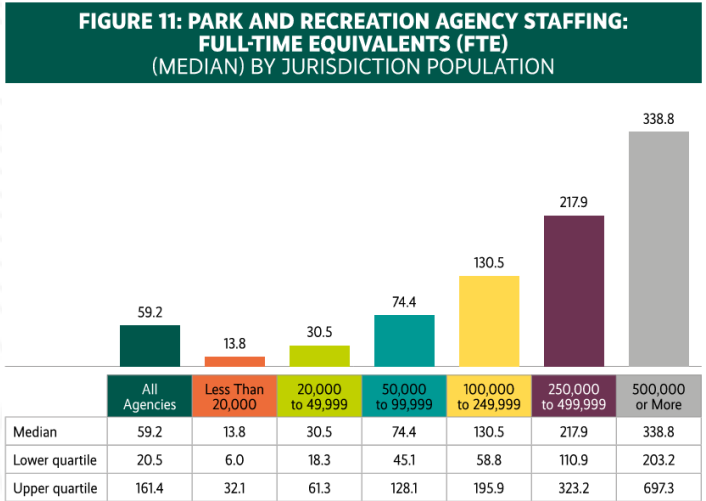


CORE THEME:
Operations



In total, the Parks & Recreation Department employs 25 full-time and 55 part-time employees throughout the year. Figure 11 from the NRPA below illustrates that the department appears to be above the upper quartile amongst other similar sized communities when it comes to full-time equivalent (FTE) recreation staffing.

This illustrates that the Waynesville community is dedicated to providing an excellent level of service for its recreation users, and hires varied specialists to ensure diversified programming and facility options are safe, exciting, and available to the community.

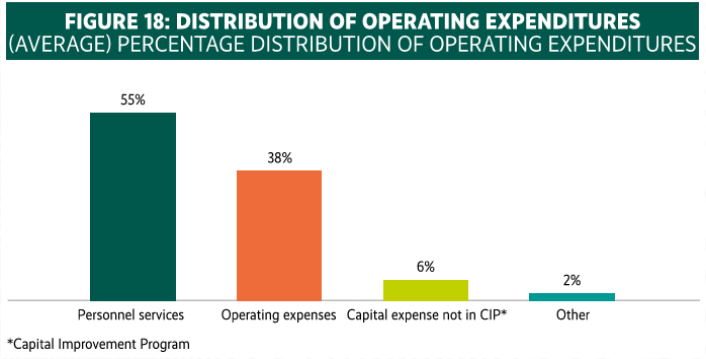


Budget and Spending

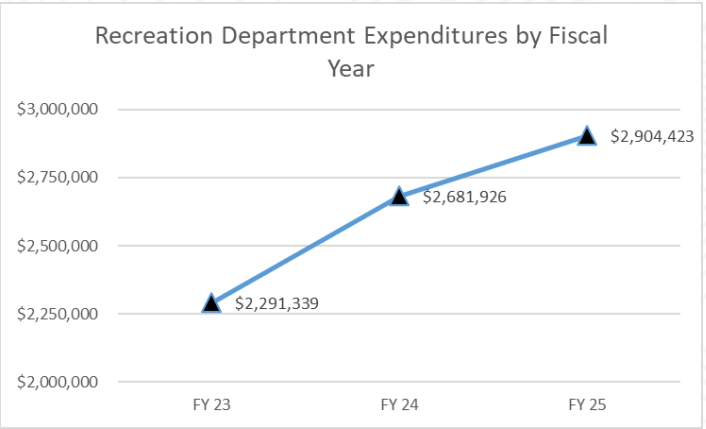
The General Fund is the primary budget for the recreation division along with other Town operations such as police, fire, public works, and the downtown. This account is funded by various community sources such as recreation-related fees like day passes and program revenues, Ad Valorem taxes, utility permits, and similar mechanisms. In turn, this fund is used to invest in Town services and facilities, with each Town Department outlining anticipated expenditures for the year. While this remains the primary source of Waynesville’s Parks and Recreation investments, it should also be noted that fund raising and partnerships with organizations like Haywood County TDA may also contribute to necessary expenditures identified by

the Parks & Recreation Department. Approximately 15.5% of the General Fund was earmarked for the Parks & Recreation Department for 2026 according to the Town’s proposed budget. Regionally, no other community is spending as much proportionally as Waynesville. By contrast Maggie Valley has identified about 4.1% of the General Fund for Parks & Recreation expenses. Similarly, Haywood County has identified about 2% for parks and recreation. Notably, the Town of Canton has flagged about 14.2% of all of its funds to be allocated for recreation. However, unlike the other communities in Haywood County, Canton has a dedicated Recreation Fund and has received federal funds identified for hurricane relief projects to forward these recreation efforts. Similar to the staffing provided by Waynesville, this allocation of funds for recreation spending illustrates that the community is dedicated to a parks-forward identity and is invested in a high quality parks network.

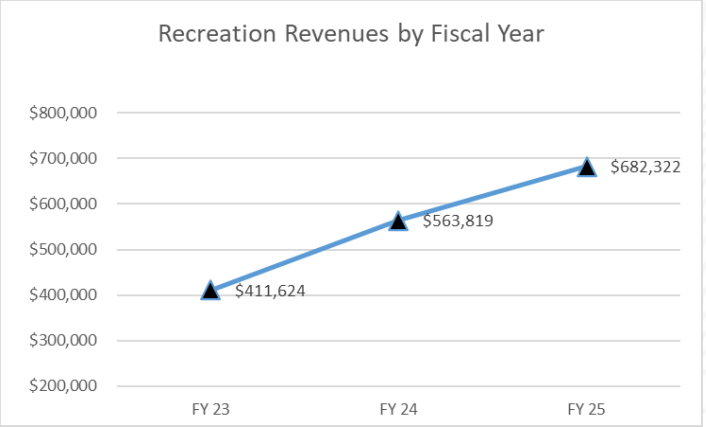
Salaries and pay account for about 50% of the anticipated expenditures for the Recreation Department in FY 2026. This is comparable to how other communities are allocating funding for parks and recreation.



Department expenditures have demonstrated linear growth historically, paralleling the historical and projected population growth of the Town.



Similarly, department revenues illustrate continual growth in line with expenditures and population growth.



Programming & Operations Summary
Waynesville residents have access to a great variety of programs and events that are organized either by Town staff or by third-party providers. While these offerings address many of the community’s recreation needs, the number and types of offerings suggest Waynesville spends more funding on programs than other communities in the region. Waynesville Recreation Center hosts most of the Town’s indoor fitness classes and self-directed services while the Old Armory Recreation Center provides key sports programming including pickleball. Recreation Park and Vance Street Park have outdoor facilities for organized sports and special events.



06 Community Engagement



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Waynesville Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan was developed through a comprehensive community engagement process designed to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness through every stage of the planning effort. The Project Team implemented a series of engagement milestones to collect input from residents, stakeholders, and decision-makers.

Through in-person public events, staff interviews, and a public online survey, over 500 residents of Waynesville and surrounding communities helped shape the vision for the Waynesville Parks & Recreation Department.

Comprehensive System Plan Steering Committee

The Steering Committee served as a collaborative sounding board for the Project Team, providing feedback on findings, reviewing proposed strategies, and exchanging ideas to help shape the plan.

The Project Team met with the Steering Committee in Waynesville on December 11, 2025. At this meeting, the Project Team provided an overview of the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan process and shared preliminary data points, including demographics of Waynesville and levels of service of facilities, park acreage, and access.

During the meeting, the Project Team and Steering Committee completed a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of the current recreation system. Strengths included strong community support, diverse and accessible parks, the Recreation Center, knowledgeable staff, and strong partnerships. Weaknesses focused on limited funding, seasonal maintenance challenges, poor wayfinding, limited county support, and weak social media marketing. Opportunities included improved zoning standards, better community engagement, new partnerships, enhanced customer service, nature-based amenities, and stronger intergovernmental and Town Council collaboration.

Key threats were flooding and erosion—highlighted by Hurricane Helene damage—along with reliance on state and federal funding and limited community partnerships.

Town Council

Town Council was engaged at two points during the process, allowing elected officials to discuss key findings and ensure recommendations aligned with Waynesville's long-term goals.

At the first work session, held on February 26, 2026, the Project Team reviewed demographic research, level of service analyses, and park assessments. These findings were presented alongside preliminary results from the community survey and input gathered during the first public open house. Feedback from the Town Council confirmed and contextualized much of the input collected through public community engagement channels up to that point.

At the second work session, held on May 20, 2026, the Project Team met with Town Council to review feedback from the second open house. Waynesville leadership emphasized the importance of public transparency in the Department's efforts. Town Council also encouraged prioritizing greenway and trail expansion within and around the Town, consistent with public feedback received in the open house.

Staff Interviews

Between March and May 2026, the Project Team interviewed the following Parks & Recreation staff members to understand staff responsibilities and capacity, distinguish department-specific challenges and needs, and identify future improvement plans or aspirations.

- Administrative Supervisor
- Athletic Programs Supervisor
- Aquatics Supervisor
- Fitness Supervisor
- Outdoor Maintenance Supervisor
- Programs Supervisor

Staff feedback is summarized below.

Administrative

From an administrative perspective, there is a big focus on youth programming and how families use the recreation system. Demand is strong, but there are gaps for daytime youth activities. Kids often spend long stretches of time at the Recreation Center, and staff are juggling access and accountability. There is an interest in adding more features (possibly a splash pad) and making programs more accessible.

Athletic Programs

Athletics are thriving right now, with pickleball, volleyball, and soccer being especially popular. But this success is creating space conflicts. Some facilities are in poor shape (like the tennis courts and basketball courts at Recreation Park), but improvements to these facilities could relieve pressure experienced by program staff at the Old Armory Recreation Center.

Aquatics

Waynesville’s aquatic facilities are in decent shape, with staff planning for a few maintenance upgrades in the future (like replacing the pool deck). There are some mismatches between what people expect and what the facility offers. For example, the water park works well for younger kids and swim lessons, but not as much for older children or adults. There

is also an opportunity to better align the aquatics features—rather than trying to appeal to everyone at a basic level, the facility could focus on really excelling at serving younger children. Looking to the future, staff relayed users’ interest in adding lap lanes or building an outdoor pool.

Fitness

The Fitness Supervisor provided a big picture perspective for new recreational offerings, particularly focusing on environmental education and stewardship. The supervisor emphasized a need to build partnerships and educational programs to invite visitors to learn about the valuable ecosystems around Richland Creek and surrounding wetlands. He suggested new features, too, including a trout pond, wetland boardwalk, or nature-focused learning spaces.

Outdoor Maintenance

The maintenance team prides itself on staying ahead of upkeep demands and providing new staff with adequate safety and on-the-job training. But there is a need for additional resources. The maintenance supervisor would be interested in creative solutions like volunteer programs or an “adopt-a-park” program to supplement staff efforts. Some smaller infrastructure improvements—like an expanded mowing shed—would also support staff efforts.

Programs

Programs are increasingly popular, with Waynesville Parks & Recreation’s summer camp, after school program, and childcare events (Parents Night Out) consistently at capacity. The biggest barriers to programs are staffing, space, and transportation. One of the vehicles used for transporting kids between the Recreation Center and external program areas is aging and in need of replacement—ideally with something that meets ADA requirements. Another priority is keeping programs affordable, but doing so can limit the big-ticket improvements like space, additional staffing, and a separate childcare building.



Waynesville Parks & Recreation Summer Camp is so successful it reached capacity for the summers of 2024 and 2025.



Pickleball and volleyball drive demand for indoor space at the Old Armory Recreation Center.



The Maintenance Supervisor noted more storage space at Recreation Park could support upkeep efforts.

Online Community Survey

The Project Team, Town staff, and Steering Committee created a public online survey to understand recreation preferences and needs of the Waynesville community.

422 Waynesville residents and visitors responded to the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan online survey between December 2025 and March 2026.

Their responses helped inform the Vision, Goals, and Actions contained in this plan. The complete survey results are included in *Appendix B*.

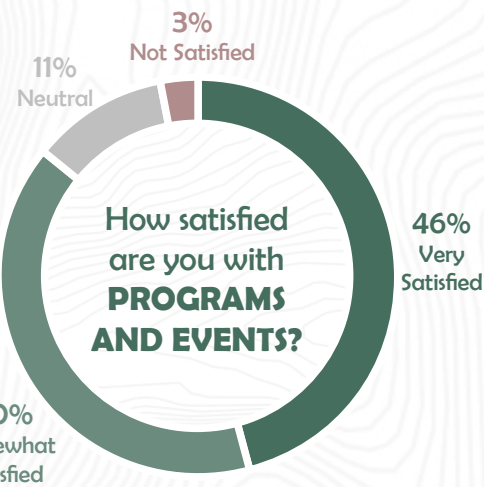
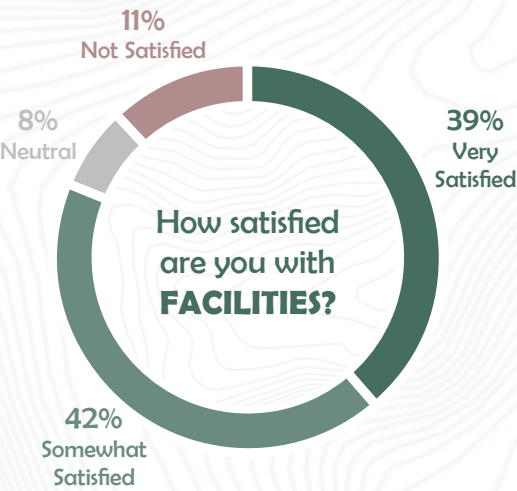
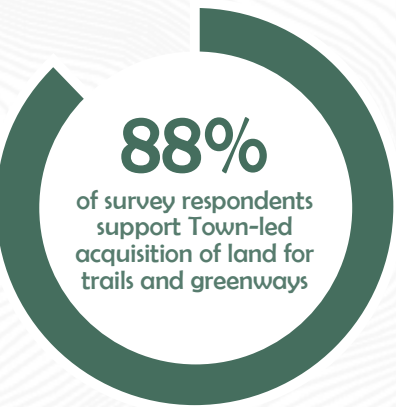
81 percent of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with Waynesville Parks & Recreation facilities and parks. The top five most utilized recreation spaces were Recreation Park, the Recreation Center, the Waynesville Greenway, Vance Street Park, and dog park located at Recreation Park (before it was lost to Hurricane Helene). However, some cited aging amenities, poor maintenance, inaccessible or unsafe bathrooms, and a lack of youth-oriented features as being challenges to use.

86 percent of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with programs and events. Many value the Town’s diverse offerings, including fitness classes at the Recreation Center (like Zumba and yoga), group sports at the Old Armory Recreation Center (pickleball and volleyball), family-friendly events, and childcare (such as Parents Night Out).

The primary challenge for Waynesville’s recreation system is, in part, due to its success. Residents want more. More diverse facilities, new programs, and enhanced outreach will undoubtedly take additional staff time and funding, but speaks to the community’s reliance on Waynesville Parks & Recreation.

Additional takeaways from the online survey are summarized on the following page.

422 SURVEY RESPONSES SHAPED THIS PLAN



Awareness of Parks

While major facilities like Recreation Park, Waynesville Recreation Center, and Vance Street Park are heavily used (visited weekly or monthly by more than 50 percent of respondents), neighborhood parks like Sulphur Springs Park, Obama-King Park, and Chestnut Park are visited less frequently or are unknown to some residents. 25 percent of respondents cited “lack of awareness about parks or programs” as a challenge to using Waynesville’s recreation system.

Maintenance Challenges

More than 20 percent of respondents cited aging infrastructure, dirty bathrooms, litter, and upkeep of trails and greenways as key issues. Additional comments highlighted concerns such as poorly placed trash cans and general uncleanness, which affect user comfort and perceptions of safety.

Desire for Improved Existing Facilities

Feedback pointed specifically to tennis courts, playgrounds, and the skate park surface as needing repair or redevelopment. Residents also suggested improvements to supportive amenities at parks, including water fountains, seating, and shade.

Desire for New Facilities

The top five desired facilities selected by respondents are additional greenways and trails, an expansion to the Recreation Center, a dog park*, additional parkland acquisition, and creek access. Residents are so eager to support trail expansion that 88 percent said they would support Town-led acquisition of land for new paths.

Expansion of Rec Center Hours and Programs

The third most selected challenge experienced by recreation users was “limited operating hours,” with many respondents requesting expanded Recreation Center hours on weeknights and weekends. To facilitate longer hours, the Parks & Recreation Team would likely need additional funding and staff to manage additional administrative, supervisory, and janitorial responsibilities.

*The Project Team noted strong public support for replacing the dog park lost during Hurricane Helene. The replacement project slated for Vance Street was planned prior to the survey, and construction began shortly after the survey concluded.

Really appreciate the programming for parents (parents night out, day camps during schoolbreaks, summer camp).

Tennis courts are in poor condition. The courts were recently resurfaced. Within a few months cracks appeared and it is getting unsafe.

Doing the survey let me know that there were three more parks that I didn’t even know about

The park, in general, is such a lovely daily escape for my dogs and me. It serves to rejuvenate us as well as bring us much pleasure and joy in simply being outside.



Some residents are unaware of East Street Park, at which the basketball courts were recently resurfaced and fencing was installed.

Public Open Houses

The Project Team hosted two public open house events at the Waynesville Recreation Center.

Open House #1 Event Summary

Approximately 50 people attended the first open house on February 25th, 2026 at Waynesville Recreation Center. Eight boards showcased the park system map, the Project Team’s facility assessments, and Waynesville’s standing compared to National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) benchmarks. Attendees could interact with the boards by placing sticky notes with their thoughts, questions, and suggestions.

The event also featured an investment game where participants were directed to allocate ten tokens across eight potential park and recreation improvements, each assigned a token cost based on its estimated real-world expense. For example, new park development required three tokens, while signage installation required one token. With limited tokens relative to the number of options, participants were encouraged to prioritize the improvements they felt were most important.

Feedback Collected

Feedback from the first Open House focused on three main areas: parks and facilities, staffing and operations, and programs and events.

Participants emphasized maintaining and improving existing parks—especially the skate park, Recreation Park tennis courts, Vance Street Park, the Greenway, and reconstructing the dog park lost to Hurricane Helene—along with expanding trails, bike connections, amenities, and future parkland.

Operational comments centered on Recreation Center hours, staffing capacity, and competitive pay while program feedback highlighted a desire for more youth, teen, adult, and outdoor offerings.

In the Waynesville Parks & Recreation Parks Investment Game, top priorities were programs, trails and greenways, and new and renovated facilities, underscoring the feedback from the online survey.

Open House #2 Event Summary

Approximately 65 people attended the second open house on May 19th, 2026 at Waynesville Recreation Center. Attendees could view and provide feedback on eight poster boards that summarized the planning work to date, including a project overview, demographic summary of Waynesville, a vision board for future recreation opportunities, and three boards explaining the Plan’s proposed goals, objectives, and sample actions.

Attendees were encouraged to add sticky dots to the three goal boards to indicate priority level, selecting three out of the nine objectives on which the Town should focus in the first few years of implementation.

Feedback Collected

Community input revealed a clear priority to improve existing parks and recreation facilities first, followed by expanding recreation opportunities and programming.

Attendees noted poor user conditions at Recreation Park’s tennis courts and skate park and the Waynesville Recreation Center aquatics facility, and safety concerns along the greenway (specifically regarding needles). Attendees suggested these facilities get basic upgrades and frequent maintenance checks by the local police department to dispose of sharps. Attendees also want supportive amenities like shade structures, water fountains, seating, and safer restroom access.

Secondary priorities include building new facilities and improving trail connectivity. New desired facilities include sports fields and a splash pad. Attendees also want more weekday programs and cultural events, along with increased social media outreach, public-private partnerships, and avenues for community input.

Attendees’ prioritization of objectives/actions and specific suggestions for facility and program improvements helped to inform the implementation chapter of this report.



Attendees play an investment priority game at Open House #1.



A family adds sticky notes to boards at Open House #2



Participants add sticky notes with feedback and suggestions at Open House #1.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Waynesville Parks & Recreation users enjoy the Town’s parks and programs, but feedback collected through public engagement highlighted the following desired improvements:

-  **New trail connections** between residential neighborhoods, local parks, and regional parks
-  **Diversified programming** including outdoor/adventure education, programs for young adults, and fitness classes for seniors
-  **Supportive amenities** like restrooms, shade, seating, and water fountains
-  **Targeted marketing** to improve awareness of programs and events
-  **Expanded hours and facilities** at the Recreation Center, with a specific emphasis on the pool, weight room, and youth spaces
-  **Enhanced maintenance** with additional trash bins and clearing of invasive plants

From Vision to Action: 07 The Playbook



A PLAYBOOK FOR FUTURE DECISIONS

This Comprehensive System Plan is intended to guide the next decade of investment and decision-making related to the Town's parks, recreation facilities, programs, greenways, and open spaces.

This section, nicknamed the Implementation Playbook, consists of four elements: a Vision Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Action Items.

Element 1: The Vision Statement

A Vision Statement describes the ideal future state of the parks and recreation network. It is broad, inspirational, and long-term. The Vision Statement provides decision-makers and staff with an aspirational lens to guide investment.

In crafting this Vision Statement, the Project Team intentionally blended Waynesville Parks & Recreation's departmental vision and mission statements with input from the community, stakeholders, and the Steering Committee.

Element 2: Goals

Goals break the Vision into a few major priorities. Goals are still fairly broad but more focused and actionable. The Goals in this plan respond to local priorities identified throughout the engagement process, and are intended to address every dimension of Waynesville's recreation system.

Element 3: Objectives

Objectives provide a roadmap for implementation, making goals more specific and measurable. They often include a clear result or target, such as a specific facility, program, or administrative initiative. Objectives can be considered benchmarks indicating whether the Town is making progress.

Element 4: Action Items

Action items are the concrete steps, projects, or tasks needed to achieve each objective. Actions are specific and often tied to timelines, responsibility, and financial investment. These are the day-to-day efforts to achieve Goals and the Vision.

VISION STATEMENT

sets the overall direction and long-term aspiration

GOALS

translate the vision into broad priorities

OBJECTIVES

break goals into measurable steps

ACTION ITEMS

are the specific tasks that make implementation happen

Vision for Waynesville Parks & Recreation

Waynesville will continue to be a leader in parks and recreation in Western North Carolina, providing parks, trails, greenways, facilities, and programs for residents of all ages and abilities. Recognizing the value that Town leadership and the community place on parks and recreation, Waynesville is committed to caring for and improving its existing assets, exploring new opportunities, and fostering partnerships with public and private organizations to ensure accessible, high-quality recreational experiences for everyone.

Goals

Waynesville Parks & Recreation, together with the Town of Waynesville, will work towards the Vision by accomplishing the following goals.

1. Waynesville's parks and recreation facilities adequately serve residents' and visitors' needs by being functional, accessible, safe, and comfortable.
2. Waynesville's facilities and programs are affordable to the public and operationally sustainable for the Town of Waynesville.
3. Waynesville's recreation offerings inspire residents and visitors to get active, stay connected, and enjoy fun opportunities for all ages.
4. Events showcase Waynesville's recreational amenities and local businesses while boosting tourism to the Town.
5. Waynesville Parks & Recreation is a leader in the regional recreation network, collaborating both with neighboring communities and Haywood County necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Implementation Playbook combines Goals, Objectives, and Action Items so staff can easily identify responsible parties and time frames for each. The Implementation Playbook is expected to change over the course of implementation. It is recommended that Waynesville Parks and Recreation staff, with the support of partners or community leaders, review and update this Playbook to reflect efforts to date.

The implementation matrix identifies the following for each action item:

- **Anticipated Effort** refers to the expected impact an action will have on staff capacity, budget, and planning resources.
 - » Low — Requires only Parks & Recreation Department staff time, could be funded through the annual budget or small grants (under \$10,000), and requires minimal planning and/or research.
 - » Medium — May require interdepartmental collaboration or support from Town Council, moderate funding (\$10,000-\$100,000; potentially through outside grants or donations), and requires moderate planning and/or research.
 - » High — Requires strong Town support, requires substantial funding (more than \$100,000; potentially through grants or donations), and requires considerable planning and/or research.
- **Time Frame** refers to the expected time for the action to be completed in terms of years out from the adoption of this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan.
 - » Short-term — 0-2 years
 - » Mid-term — 3-5 years
 - » Long-term — Over 5 years
 - » Ongoing — An effort which is anticipated to be continued and may not have a defined end date (example: facility maintenance).
- **Champion** refers to the municipal department with the primary responsibility for implementing the associated Action Item. It is anticipated that many of these recommendations will require collaboration between departments or with organizations outside of Waynesville. It is the responsibility of the indicated Champion to organize those collaborative efforts. Champions included in this matrix are:
 - » Waynesville Development Services
 - » Waynesville Parks & Recreation Department
 - » Waynesville Police Department
 - » Waynesville Public Works Department
- **Core Themes** refers to the themes (defined in Chapter 1: Purpose & Process) addressed by each Action Item, consisting of Facilities, Programs, Operations, Tourism, and Maintaining Level of Service (Maintain LOS).

Priority Actions—described in the next section—are identified with a blue outline.

Goal 1: Waynesville’s parks and recreation facilities adequately serve residents’ and visitors’ needs by being functional, accessible, safe, and comfortable.

This goal focuses on proactively updating and expanding parks and recreation facilities to keep pace with Waynesville’s growing population. It emphasizes aligning infrastructure investments with evolving community needs and usage trends.

					Core Themes				
Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Objective 1-1: Maintain and improve existing facilities.									
All outdoor facilities									
1-1.a	Conduct monthly safety checks and clean-ups at parks. Specific user concern is related to drugs and needles along the Greenway.	Medium	Ongoing	Police	X		X		X
Old Armory Recreation Center									
1-1.b	Purchase and set up a pickleball paddle organizer rack to help facilitate gameplay.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.c	Conduct stormwater drainage assessment at rear of Armory Rec Center to remediate any potential pooling/flooding associated with storm events.	Medium	Short-term	Public Works	X				
1-1.d	Conduct an ADA accessibility study for all recreational facilities, with a specific focus on the Armory Recreation Center and Waynesville Recreation Center.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
Chestnut Park									
1-1.e	Conduct a study for parking lot expansion, allowing for two rows of parking, and a driveway from Sylvan Street.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
East Street Park									
1-1.f	Replace swing set.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
Hazelwood Park									
1-1.g	Add security measures at the park, such as cameras, to prevent vandalism.	Low	Mid-term	Police	X				
Recreation Park									
1-1.h	Create a park-specific concept plan for Recreation Park to make it more accessible and functional for the community. Consider the following: - New amenities like pickleball and basketball courts - Rebuild/relocate the tennis courts - Rebuild wooden playground with a safe alternative - Keep bathroom facilities open longer, and install cameras to prevent vandalism - Improve maintenance facility/equipment storage	High	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X	X	X
1-1.i	Relocate volleyball courts from Vance Street Park to adjoining Recreation Park site.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X

					Core Themes				
					Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion					
Recreation Park - Skate Park									
1-1.j	Add a water fountain.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.k	Add picnic tables or additional seating.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.l	Add trash cans.	Low	Short-term	Public Works	X			X	
1-1.m	Address cracks in the skate surface.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.n	Construct a shade structure.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.o	Add bathroom facility.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
Sulphur Spring Park									
1-1.p	Add nature education signs for visitors and students. Example topics could include native versus invasive plant species, native animal species, benefits of pollinators, conservation, or migration patterns.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.q	Build a community garden with support from local businesses, schools, and organizations, including but not limited to Haywood County Schools, Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, and Mountain Projects (a local Community Action Agency).	Low	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.r	Remove invasive species.	Low	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
Vance Street Park									
1-1.s	Add tee boxes, wayfinding signage, and hole numbers to the disc golf course.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.t	Add picnic tables.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.u	Replace the restroom facility roof.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.v	Resurface the running/walking track.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.w	Where possible, rebuild ADA-compliant fishing platforms and water access previously damaged by hurricanes.	Medium	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	X
1-1.x	Explore addition of athletic fields on the parcel across the bridge from the Vance Street Park to expand capacity for youth soccer.	Medium	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X

					Core Themes				
Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Waynesville Greenway and Trail Network									
1-1.y	Remove invasive species along Greenway and supplant with native species where possible. Partners in this effort could include Haywood Waterways Association and NC Wildlife Resources Commission.	Low	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.z	Add mile markers to the Greenways.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.aa	Install dog waste facilities along Greenway.	Low	Short-term	Public Works	X		X		
1-1.bb	Create a map of Waynesville's existing trail network (including both the Waynesville Greenway and natural forested trails) and publish on the Parks & Recreation website.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.cc	Work with a consultant to plan for an extension of the Greenway between Walnut Street and Hazelwood Park.	High	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-1.dd	Rehabilitate the stormwater feature at the trailhead.	High	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.ee	Collaborate with Haywood County to plan for development of new trail connections, including a link between the greenway at Lake Junaluska to the main Waynesville Greenway stem.	High	Long-term	Public Works	X			X	
1-1.ff	Upgrade the existing Greenway signs with trailhead signs including maps of the Greenway system, locator indicator (e.g., "You Are Here"), and a list of nearby parks or facilities. Augment with additional wayfinding signs at intersections.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
1-1.gg	Develop pocket parks or gardens along the Greenway.	Medium	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	
Waynesville Recreation Center									
1-1.hh	Conduct a staffing/fee schedule audit to explore expanding Recreation Center programs after 5pm on weekdays and opening on Sundays, with specific focus on the aquatics area.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X		
1-1.ii	Reconfigure Recreation Center storage areas for easier access & efficiency.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation			X		X
1-1.jj	Work with Haywood Community College to attract students as lifeguards for the Recreation Center pool.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X		X		
1-1.kk	Upgrade equipment and add appropriate lighting to the weight room.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.ll	Address incompatibility of Water Park equipment/ infrastructure to cater specifically to younger children and allow for expansion of swim lesson area by adding things like a portable pool slide.	Low	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	X
1-1.mm	Evaluate and make necessary replacements for gymnasium and racquetball lights.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X				

Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Core Themes				
					Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
1-1.nn	Renovate the kitchen in the multi-purpose room.	Medium	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.oo	Conduct a feasibility study for a potential expansion of the Waynesville Recreation Center. This will be contingent on staff capacity to maintain and host programs at an expanded facility.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X	X	X
1-1.pp	Replace pool deck with concrete or tile surface.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	X
1-1.qq	Replace the restroom shower facilities.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.rr	Replace gymnasium basketball hoops.	Medium	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X				X
1-1.ss	Replaster pool surface.	High	Long-term	Parks & Recreation	X			X	X
Objective 1-2: Plan for and implement facility improvements and expansions that address future recreation needs resulting from population growth and increased demand.									
1-2.a	Identify opportunities to connect Waynesville's recreation facilities and programs to environmental education of surface waters and native species of the region. Opportunities include outdoor education events, community clean-ups, fishing courses with Trout Unlimited, and bird watching trips.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-2.b	Budget for and hire new municipal staff across relevant department to serve growing recreational demand and tourism in Waynesville.	High	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X	X	X
1-2.c	Replace aging Parks & Recreation fleet vehicles to provide safe transport of program participants.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X		X
1-2.d	Engage design specialists and NCDOT to forward bicycle routes noted in the Haywood County Comprehensive Bicycle Plan, including the proposed "Haywood Hub" route and bicycle facilities along Pigeon Street and Raccoon Road.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-2.e	Codify trail easements in Waynesville's development ordinance.	Low	Mid-term	Development Services	X				
1-2.f	Evaluate current parkland space for future early childhood playgrounds.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X				
1-2.g	Create a land acquisition policy and metrics to determine when the Town needs to invest in additional land suitable for parks and facilities, respective to Town growth. This could be a metric reflecting NRPA benchmarks and community demand. According to NRPA benchmarks, Waynesville could benefit from the development of additional rectangular fields, diamond fields (softball, baseball), or an amphitheater by 2035.	Medium	Mid-term	Development Services	X				X
1-2.h	Prioritize parkland acquisition in southwestern Waynesville, where access to parks is lower compared to central and northeast Waynesville.	Medium	Long-term	Development Services	X				

Goal 2: Waynesville’s facilities and programs are affordable to the public and operationally sustainable for the Town of Waynesville.

This goal aims to ensure that cost does not prevent participation in parks and recreation opportunities, and address operational capacity of Waynesville Parks & Recreation staff and volunteers. It highlights the importance of affordability and inclusive access for all residents.

This goal also prioritizes new volunteer opportunities for Waynesville residents, nonprofits, and businesses. The community is eager to support Parks & Recreation endeavors and, by providing specific avenues for these efforts, the Parks & Recreation department can both spread the load of upkeep and nurture stewardship for the recreation system.

Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Core Themes				
					Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Objective 2-1: Establish and support volunteer programs that encourage community stewardship, ownership, and long-term care of parks, gardens, and outdoor facilities.									
2-1.a	Partner with the Haywood County Senior Center, Mountain Projects, and other community organizations to involve older adults in gardening and low-demand volunteer activities.	Low	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X		
2-1.b	Encourage the formation of a "Friends of Waynesville Parks" group to advocate for park projects and events, engage residents in volunteer opportunities, and lead fundraising activities to support park improvements.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X		X		X
2-1.c	Initiate an Adopt-A-Park program for local businesses, organizations, and volunteer groups to engage in planting, painting, and other basic maintenance of public parks and facilities. Example: Burgaw Adopt-A-Park	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X		X
Objective 2-2: Provide equitable access to recreational facilities and programs by minimizing financial barriers for individuals and families across all income levels.									
2-2.a	Meet annually with community organizations and non-profits to explore opportunities for collaboration. Organizations could include Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Projects (a local Community Action Agency), and the YMCA of Western North Carolina.	Low	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X		
2-2.b	Post a link on the Town's website, print flyers, publish social media content with information about Silver Sneakers, United Healthcare's Optum One Pass program, and similar programs, which allow those on Medicare or with certain insurers to participate at local fitness locations for a reduced cost or for free.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation		X			

Goal 3: Waynesville’s recreation offerings inspire residents and visitors to get active, stay connected, and enjoy fun opportunities for all ages.

This goal emphasizes offering a variety of programs that meet the interests and needs of all age groups. It supports lifelong recreation and engagement across Waynesville, even as the community grows. A major consideration for successful programs and events is marketing. Strategic communication through both digital and print media is critical to make people aware of all Waynesville Parks & Recreation has to offer.

					Core Themes				
Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Objective 3-1: Develop and maintain a diverse range of recreational programs that serve youth, teens, adults, and older adults.									
3-1.a	In partnership with Mountain Projects' Senior Resource Center, offer guided hikes for older adults on Waynesville's trails and Greenway system.	Low	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X			
3-1.b	Add group hikes for youth and teens.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X			
3-1.c	Add a Fishing 101 course for adolescents and teens.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X			
3-1.d	Partner with local schools' theater clubs or arts organization to organize outdoor theater events like Shakespeare in the Park. Potential partners could include Haywood County Arts Council and Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART).	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X		X	
3-1.e	Explore reintroducing personal training services, potentially through Haywood County Parks & Recreation, for one-on-one or two-on-one personal training for older adults.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X			
Objective 3-2: Increase awareness of parks, facilities, programs, and events through consistent, targeted, and effective marketing efforts.									
3-2.a	Create a social media marketing campaign featuring parks (example: "Park of the Month") to build local awareness of facilities and recreation opportunities.	Low	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation	X		X	X	
3-2.b	Add a "Current Projects" webpage linked from the Parks & Recreation website to keep residents and visitors informed of current developments or updates to facilities.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation			X	X	
3-2.c	Create and publish a seasonal flyer, brochure, or magazine for the public that details events, programs, and activities offered by Waynesville Parks & Recreation. Material could be funded, in part by, business partners and sponsors. Example: The Junaluskan's Lake Views and News newsletter and Greensboro Parks and Recreation's Discover Greensboro magazine.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X		X	X	

Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Core Themes				
					Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
3-2.d	Create a brand identity and brand guidelines to ensure consistency between Parks & Recreation's website, marketing materials, and signs. Example: Haywood County Tourism Development Authority brand guidelines.	Medium	Mid-term	Parks & Recreation			X	X	
3-2.e	Redesign Parks & Recreation landing page to include: - Interactive park and greenway map that lists park address, available amenities, and opening times (if applicable). Example: Town of Cary interactive map - List of upcoming events - Call-to-action for partners / event sponsors - Park of the Month (see Action 3-2a)	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation	X		X	X	

Goal 4: Events showcase Waynesville’s recreational amenities and local businesses while boosting tourism to the Town.

This goal seeks to strengthen collaboration with the local business community, in part by creating structured, transparent frameworks for working with sponsors and partners. It highlights the role of partnerships in both expanding program offerings and enhancing community engagement.

					Core Themes				
Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Objective 4-1: Establish clear sponsorship and partnership guidelines to clarify responsibilities and expectations for partners and vendors.									
4-1.a	Develop a sponsorship packet with information about how local businesses or organizations can sponsor events. Include the delineation of sponsorship tiers (e.g., micro-sponsorship options at \$100).	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation			X		X
4-1.b	Establish a clear fee system for businesses and organizations serving as vendors at Parks & Recreation events.	Medium	Short-term	Parks & Recreation			X		X
4-1.c	Create a simple Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Public Private Partnership (PPP), or sponsorship agreement template to streamline future partnerships with external organizations, businesses, and institutions.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation			X		X
Objective 4-2: Increase participation from local businesses and organizations in recreation programs and events through outreach, incentives, and shared promotion.									
4-2.a	Create a dedicated section or page on Waynesville's website with information about business partnerships and event sponsorship opportunities. Highlight upcoming events needing sponsors and marketing opportunities for businesses and organizations, including logo recognition at events and ads in Waynesville's seasonal recreation brochure. Example: Greensboro Parks and Recreation Sponsorship webpage.	Medium	Medium-Term	Parks & Recreation			X	X	
4-2.b	In Waynesville Parks & Recreation's seasonal brochure/newsletter, dedicate a specific section to thank event sponsors and promote future sponsorship opportunities.	Low	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X	X	X	
4-2.c	Engage in public-private partnerships (PPP) by partnering with local or regional businesses to co-sponsor contests or competitions that attract adult and youth athletes from across the state. Examples include disc golf tournaments and skate park competitions.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X	X	X	X
4-2.d	Add a "Sponsor an Event" button on the Parks & Recreation webpage that brings interested businesses and organizations to a simple form for event or program sponsorship. Information requested on the form could include the type of event they want to sponsor, level of sponsorship, and contact information for the point person.	Low	Short-term	Parks & Recreation		X	X	X	

Goal 5: Waynesville Parks & Recreation is a leader in the regional recreation network, collaborating both with neighboring communities and Haywood County as necessary.

This goal focuses on building stronger connections with neighboring jurisdictions and regional organizations, allowing for resource-sharing and joint funding pursuits. It supports coordinated efforts to elevate Waynesville’s role as a destination for recreation and tourism.

Index	Action	Anticipated Effort	Time Frame	Champion	Core Themes				
					Facilities	Programs	Operations	Tourism	Maintain LOS
Objective 5-1: Strengthen partnerships with regional and county recreation resources to position Waynesville as a central hub for recreation and tourism.									
5-1.a	Meet quarterly with Haywood County Parks & Recreation to share resources, evaluate success of past events, and align on future needs and event scheduling.	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation	X	X	X	X	X
5-1.b	Meet quarterly with Haywood County Tourism Development Authority (HCTDA) to ensure Waynesville is utilizing the TDA's resources, is following the region's new brand guidelines for partnered events or programs, and to update HCTDA on any upcoming events in Waynesville that could spur tourism to the area. This action reflects HCTDA's Destination Master Plan, which emphasizes HCTDA's desire to support the five communities in which it operates (Waynesville, Canton, Clyde, Maggie Valley, and Lake Junaluska).	Medium	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation		X		X	

SELECTED PRIORITY ACTIONS

While all the Action Items included in the Implementation Matrix are important for achieving the Vision, some are more technical or require significant time and planning.

This section provides additional details and case studies for a selection of Action Items to provide the Town with insight that could help with future planning and investment.

- **Priority Action: 1-1.n**
Construct a Shade Structure at the Skate Park
- **Priority Action: 1-1.ee**
Collaborate with Haywood County to Plan for Development of New Trail Connections
- **Priority Action: 1-1.oo**
Conduct a feasibility study for a potential expansion of the Waynesville Recreation Center
- **Priority Action 2-1.c**
Initiate an Adopt-a-Park Program
- **Priority Action: 3-2.e**
Improve Parks & Recreation Webpage



Richland Creek

PRIORITY ACTION: 1-1.n
Construct a Shade Structure at the Skate Park

The skate park is one of the most well-loved features of Recreation Park. However, the area needs additional shade structures.

Appropriate shading provides a range of health, safety, and comfortability benefits. In terms of heat and UV protection, shade structures reduce the risk of sunburn and heat exhaustion for both skater and spectators. Shading also keeps amenities like benches or tables cool and safe to touch/use.

Shade structures also improve usage and comfort during the hottest part of the day, not just mornings and evenings. With a comfortable place to sit and rest, skaters, parents, and spectators can enjoy longer visits.

There are different types of shade structures that range in cost and suitability. It is recommended that the Parks & Recreation Department consider the following types of structures for the skate park:

Shade sails are triangular or rectangular fabric pieces stretched between poles. They are typically lower cost and quick to install, and their design makes for flexible shapes and layouts. That said, shade sails require maintenance like cleaning and occasional inspection for tears. Soft shade material is less durable than other materials like wood or steel, leading to more frequent replacement.

Cantilever structures are single-column supports with an extended roof. Cantilever structures can be fabric, metal, or composite, making them more durable (but also more expensive) than shade sails. Because these structures are open on one side, they can be installed along the edges of bowls or plazas.

Pavilions are traditional shelter structures with solid roofs. They are more permanent and provide full shade and rain protection. Pavilions require large upfront investment, but may last longer than alternatives.



Shade sail. Credit: Lawrence Fabric & Metal Structures Inc.



Cantilever umbrella structure.



Pavilion with picnic tables

PRIORITY ACTION: 1-1.ee
Collaborate with Haywood County to Plan for Development of New Trail Connections

Trails are a top-desired recreation amenity for residents in Waynesville and Haywood County.

Engagement conducted for this Waynesville Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan revealed a strong desire for continued trail development to connect segments of the Richland Creek Greenway.

This long-term vision aligns with Haywood County’s 2022 Greenway Master Plan, which identified opportunities for pilot projects along the Richland Creek Greenway and the Raccoon Creek Greenway, the latter of which would link the Richland Creek Greenway to Highway 276.

Development of bike paths or separate greenways is a long-term endeavor, often requiring land acquisition, engineering studies, state permitting and approval, and significant outside investment. Trails within Waynesville’s corporate limits should be treated as components of regional projects, and best practices are to maintain consistent, regular communication between municipal and county governments.

Parks & Recreation staff, with support from the newly formed Friends of Waynesville Parks & Recreation, can work to collect funding that could spark greater momentum for local greenway projects. Smaller—or even temporary—projects like painting the greenway’s street crossings can incentivize local businesses and organizations to donate to local greenway projects and promote trail planning and development.

Additionally, the Town can work with conservation partners to protect planned greenway routes through conservation easements and grants. Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District, Haywood Waterways Association, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy are local experts on land preservation and funding.

According to Waynesville’s 2021 Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study, the proposed northern extension of Richland Creek Greenway (see image to the right) will connect Vance Street Park, Waynesville Recreation Center, and Lake Junaluska. The trail connection will require the Town to secure six to seven easements with private landowners.

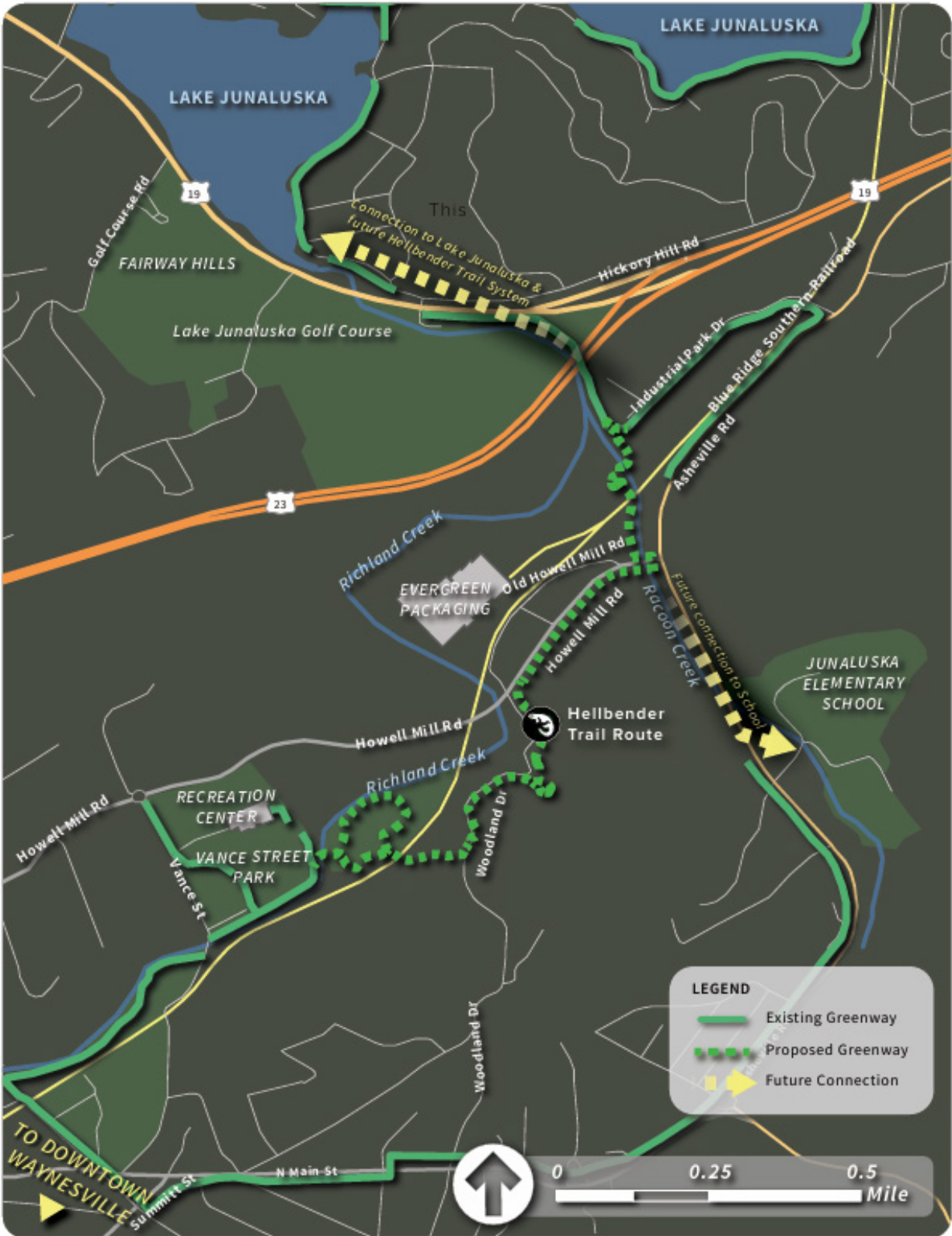
Engaging private landowners early and often is critical for trail development.

The Town should work with Haywood County to create a strong, branded project campaign to promote awareness of the future connection. A communication schedule or calendar could also help establish regular check ins with landowners who own property along the proposed trail.

Trust is not built at the time of the project—it is required months if not years before development. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recommends several engagement strategies to help keep landowners informed, engaged, and excited about new transportation projects:

- Use social media to push meeting notices, promote surveys, and collect design input
- Work with designers to create ground-level conceptual designs of the greenway
- Take stakeholders on guided tours along the proposed trail route (and conceptual designs can help them visualize the trail)
- Identify alternative trail routes to adapt to community input and possible regulatory or environmental constraints

PILOT PROJECT
RICHLAND CREEK GREENWAY (NORTHERN SECTION)



Map source: Town of Waynesville, Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study (2021) [\(link\)](#)

PRIORITY ACTION: 1-1.00
Conduct a feasibility study for a potential expansion of the Waynesville Recreation Center

The Recreation Center is a key element of the Town’s recreation system, and its success—along with increased demand—means the Town should consider additional space through expansion or development of a satellite location in the future.

As it stands today, the Recreation Center needs several improvements. Respondents to the public online survey repeatedly mentioned a need for new lighting (see **Action 1-1.kk**), with one respondent describing the current experience in the weight room as “dark and uninviting.” Another challenge is space. Public engagement revealed a desire for additional current programming space, or at minimum reorganizing existing rooms to maximize navigable space.

In planning for the future, Waynesville Parks & Recreation could explore land acquisition opportunities close to the Recreation Center for development of satellite fitness space, as done by the Town of Clayton.

Clayton’s 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified a need for expanded intergenerational and senior programming space. In 2023, Clayton’s Economic Development Director saw an opportunity for the Town to purchase a private gym in Clayton, with the plan of transforming it into a new community recreation space.

By repurposing an existing facility, the Town of Clayton is meeting the needs of its residents and is setting itself up for future growth. A \$1 million state grant through the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, secured with support from local legislators, was a key component of the funding for the project. Town leaders emphasize that the project will broaden programming opportunities and better serve residents of all ages, especially seniors.

Overall, the initiative reflects strong long-term planning, transparency, and partnership between the Town and the community.



Identification of the purchasing opportunity was made possible through close collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and Economic Development Department. Credit: Town of Clayton

PRIORITY ACTION: 2-1.c
Initiate an Adopt-A-Park Program

Throughout the development of this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan, many recreation users expressed an interest in giving back to the department that provides so many facilities and programs for public use. With the appropriate organization and Town support, Waynesville Parks & Recreation can initiate a new avenue for public participation and stewardship of local parks.

Step 1: Establish clear goals for the program by:

- identifying parks/areas eligible for adoption;
- defining the scope of volunteer activities (as not all activities are appropriate or safe for volunteers); and
- designating a program coordinator to manage outreach and logistics.

Waynesville Parks & Recreation should also develop basic program materials such as applications, guidelines, agreements, and waivers that outline expectations, safety requirements, and division of responsibilities between participants and the Town. Both the City of Hendersonville and Town of Burgaw have successful Adopt-A-Park programs with strong guidelines and public information (attached in **Appendix C**). Establishing this framework early ensures consistency and prevents confusion or liability issues as the program grows.

Step 2: Build partnerships and recruit participants.

Outreach through the Town website, social media channels, and the seasonal program brochure can target local businesses, neighborhood associations, civic groups, schools, and recreational communities (such as skate park users and tennis players). The Town can offer incentives such as recognition signage to further encourage participation. It is important to match interested park adopters with parks based on capacity and interest. For example, neighborhood associations may be more interested in adopting a small neighborhood park close to their community (like Hazelwood Park), while large local employers may have more volunteer capacity for municipal parks (like Recreation Park or Vance Street Park).

Step 3: Provide ongoing support and conduct consistent evaluation. Waynesville Parks & Recreation should provide park adopters with necessary supplies like tools, safety equipment, and trash bags, and maintain a clear communication channel to establish where, when, and what maintenance activities are taking place. Scheduled cleanup events and periodic program reviews can ensure maintenance is keeping pace with demand and guarantee participants an enjoyable volunteer experience. Tracking volunteer hours and gathering feedback can help Waynesville Parks & Recreation refine the program over time so that it remains sustainable and beneficial for both the community and the park system.



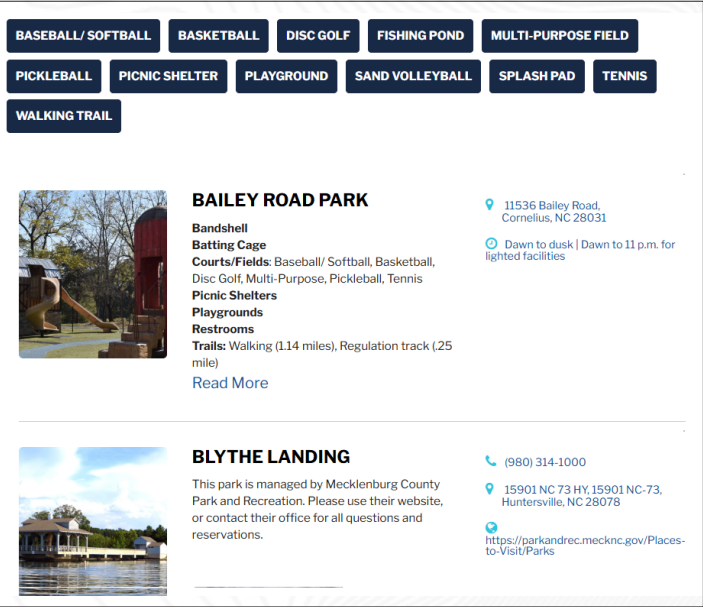
Park volunteers can lighten the load on maintenance staff and build local pride in Waynesville’s parks system.

PRIORITY ACTION: 3-2.e
Improve Parks & Recreation Webpage

Waynesville’s Parks & Recreation’s landing page has the Department’s Mission and Vision Statements, a link to reserve a recreation space, the Department’s seasonal digital brochure, and the event calendar. The side bar contains links to specific department information, rental information, programs, and specific facility/park information. While this is a great start for information, there is an opportunity to improve communication with the public about available facilities/programs, ongoing projects, and volunteer/sponsorship opportunities.

Opportunity 1: Add basic snapshots about each park facility directly to the main landing page, or to a separate landing page that is clearly linked from the main page. The City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation and Town of Cornelius Parks & Recreation websites are great examples of this.

Opportunity 2: Create an interactive facility and park map to promote awareness of facilities. The Department currently has a PDF map linked from the website, but an interactive map would be easier to navigate and could include information about park facilities like address, amenities, hours of operation, and ongoing projects.



Cornelius Parks & Recreation webpage has short park blurbs with interactive tags for sorting by facility type.

The City of Asheville has a location map which lists all public Town facilities and is filterable by department for users to easily view and digest information about specific sites. The Town of Cary also has a park-specific map (“Parks at a Glance”) that is filterable by amenity or facility type and links to park-specific landing pages.

Opportunity 3: Add blurbs about ongoing or planned projects. Blurbs identifying project status or park down-time not only reinforces the Department’s commitment to transparency and accountability but also proactively addresses community questions. The City of Fayetteville highlights projects through media releases, linked directly from the Parks & Recreation webpage.



The City of Fayetteville showcases projects through media releases and even invites community members to participate in groundbreaking for high-visibility projects.

Opportunity 4: Add a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page. During interviews with Parks & Recreation employees, staff mentioned spending time answering residents’ and visitors’ questions via phone call. While staff are eager to help park users, a dedicated FAQ page could address the needs of residents clearly and effectively, allowing staff to reclaim time for other tasks. The Town could explore the integration of a chatbot capable of addressing basic questions (for example, “What time does the Recreation Center close today?”) or directing web users to specific pages on the Town’s website.

Opportunity 5: Add a ‘Donate Today’ button to the webpage. Providing a quick link for individual and organization donations can add another avenue of revenue generation for the department.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Federal, state, and local funding is critical for any infrastructural project or programming improvement. A primary goal of this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan is to position the Town and Parks & Recreation Department for grant funding that could enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the area.

This section is a non-comprehensive summary of grant programs that could be used to make improvements or additions to the Waynesville Parks & Recreation System.

Federal Funding Opportunities

Federal grants support local parks and recreation planning by providing resources for land acquisition, facility development, and long-range planning efforts.

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Website	https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/funding/atiiip/
Description	Support organizations and local governments that are implementing projects to build and improve multi-use trails. Fill gaps in all types of active transportation infrastructure, including sidewalks, crosswalks, multiuse trails and greenways and separated or painted bike lanes.
Project Examples	Trails and greenways; Bike lanes
Max Award Amount	Varies
Match Required	20% (higher match increases score)
Application Deadline	June, annually

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Website	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities
Description	BRIC provides funding for hazard mitigation measures that can include nature-based solutions (e.g., floodplain parks, greenways as stormwater buffers) that also provide recreation benefits.
Project Examples	Floodable parks; Riparian greenways; Culvert upsizing with trail co-benefits; Resilient access points
Max Award Amount	Varies (see NOFO); applicable to large-scale or regional projects
Match Required	25%
Application Deadline	July, annually

Clean Water State Revolving Fund	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	US Environmental Protection Agency
Website	https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/clean-water-state-revolving-fund
Description	The Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides funds for restoration of first-order streams including stormwater infiltration Storm-water Control Measures (SCMs), establishment of restoration of permanent riparian buffers to at least 30 ft on both sides of a stream, restoration of stream/wetland/buffer, reclaimed water/usage or rainwater harvesting/usage, and projects that provide SCMs to treat existing sources of pollution.
Project Examples	Stormwater Best Management Practices; Stream/wetland/riparian buffer restoration; Rainwater harvesting/usage
Max Award Amount	Loans up to \$35,000,000 (0% interest, 20 year)
Match Required	No match requirement, 2% loan fee
Application Deadline	Two funding cycles per year, typically in March and September

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	NC Rural Economic Development Division (REDD)
Website	https://www.hud.gov/hud-partners/community-cdbg
Description	Provides formula-based grants to provide housing, suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.
Project Examples	Acquisition of real property; Construction of parks and public facilities including community centers and parks
Max Award Amount	Varies (see NOFO); funds not consistently available
Match Required	50%
Application Deadline	Varies depending on program and funding availability

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	US Department of Agriculture
Website	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/ community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
Description	Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.
Project Examples	Street improvements; Public works vehicles or equipment; Construction of community gardens and food hubs; Construction of community centers
Max Award Amount	Varies (Low interest direct loans with repayment terms up to 40 years, based on facility useful life. Limited grants available based on MHI)
Match Required	None
Application Deadline	Rolling

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	USDA Forest Service
Website	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program
Description	The Community Forest Program helps communities acquire and protect forests that offer public recreation, safeguard water and wildlife resources, demonstrate sustainable forest management, and support local economies through forest based products.
Project Examples	Community outreach; Land acquisition
Max Award Amount	\$600,000
Match Required	50%
Application Deadline	January

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Implementation Grants	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	US Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Website	https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/economic-adjustment-assistance
Description	EAA Implementation Grants support development in economically distressed areas of the United States by fostering job creation and attracting private investment.
Project Examples	Water/sewer/road/broadband to trailheads or gateway parks; Tourism infrastructure enabling new private investment; Development and implementation of long-term disaster recovery and resiliency plans; Enhancement of infrastructure to make it more resilient to natural disasters
Max Award Amount	Varies (see NOFO)
Match Required	Varies (based on economic indicators of applicant)
Application Deadline	Rolling

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Website	https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/land-and-water-conservation-fund
Description	The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects.
Project Examples	Land acquisition for public parks; Outdoor recreation facility rehabilitation or development
Max Award Amount	\$750,000
Match Required	50%
Application Deadline	Early November, annually

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	North Carolina Trails Committee
Website	https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant
Description	Grants help fund sustainable construction ready projects that meet recreational trail needs to provide low infrastructure economic development opportunities through natural resource tourism.
Project Examples	Construction of new trails; Maintenance or repair of existing trails; Land acquisition; Planning, legal and permitting; Purchase of trail tools
Max Award Amount	\$100,000
Match Required	25%
Application Deadline	September

Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	National Park Service (NPS)
Website	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities
Description	Through RTCA, NPS staff help local partners plan trails, greenways, river access, and park projects, including community engagement and funding strategies.
Project Examples	Trail/greenway concept plans; River access master plans; Park rehabilitation; Construction of new parks; Community engagement (through in-person events or digital media); Improvements to underutilized spaces (re-purposing vacant or abandoned lands as parks, gardens, open space); Programs for mental and physical well-being; Heritage/cultural signs
Max Award Amount	Technical assistance only
Match Required	N/A
Application Deadline	July, annually

RTP Safety and Education Grant (SEG)	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	North Carolina Trails Committee
Website	https://trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant#safety-education-grant
Description	Supports projects that promote trail safety, environmental protection, and public education for trail users.
Project Examples	Safety and education instructor fees; Speaker fees; Displays, signage, and educational materials (print, video, interactive displays); Trail patrols for safety monitoring, environmental protection; Training programs on trail safety, environmental stewardship, accessibility, and sustainability
Max Award Amount	\$5,000 (reimbursement model)
Match Required	25%
Application Deadline	Biannual (April and September)

Water Resources Development Grant Program	
Funding Source	Federal
Administering Agency	NC Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Water Infrastructure
Website	https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-grants/water-resources-development-grant-program
Description	The purpose of this program is to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments for seven eligible project types.
Project Examples	Stream restoration; Stormwater control measures; Flood reduction/resilience; Water-based recreation sites (greenways, trails, boardwalks, fishing docks/piers, paddle access); Land acquisition for water-based recreation sites; Preliminary feasibility or engineering studies related to water-based recreation
Max Award Amount	\$200,000 (larger grants may be awarded on a case-by-case basis)
Match Required	50%
Application Deadline	June, annually

State Funding Opportunities

North Carolina provides specific funding for municipal and county parks and recreation projects and programs. The following are a selection of state-level funding opportunities the Parks & Recreation Department could pursue.

Connecting Communities to State Trails Grants (CCST)	
Funding Source	State
Administering Agency	Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
Website	https://trails.nc.gov/state-trails/nc-complete-trails-program
Description	State program to help small municipalities (population <25,000) connect to authorized State Trails; includes planning and construction for connections.
Project Examples	Trail development; Land acquisition
Max Award Amount	Varies
Match Required	Varies by population: ≤5,000 no match; 5k–<25k 50% match
Application Deadline	October, annually

Multimodal Planning Grant Program	
Funding Source	State
Administering Agency	NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division
Website	https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/IMD-Multimodal-Planning-Program/Pages/default.aspx
Description	Supports the development of local (Town or County-wide) comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. As required by this program, these plans may not be included in a comprehensive plan.
Project Examples	Comprehensive Bicycle Plan; Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan
Max Award Amount	Varies
Match Required	Sliding scale based on population
Application Deadline	April or May, annually

NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF)	
Funding Source	State
Administering Agency	NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Website	https://nclwf.nc.gov/
Description	The Land and Water Fund improves water quality, sustains ecological diversity, and protects historic sites and military installations by funding projects to acquire land, restore the habitat for fish, wildlife, and other species, and enhance the filtering of stormwater runoff to reduce pollutants from entering water supplies.
Project Examples	Land acquisition for conservation; Riparian buffer rehabilitation; Water restoration projects to enhance or restore waterways and to protect downstream natural resources such as drinking water supplies, fisheries, and recreation opportunities
Max Award Amount	No set funding range.
Match Required	None. However, the percentage of match and the type of match is factored in the application rating system
Application Deadline	March, annually

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

Funding Source	State
Administering Agency	NC Division of Parks and Recreation
Website	https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund
Description	The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects.
Project Examples	Land acquisition for public parks; Outdoor recreation facility rehabilitation or development
Max Award Amount	\$500,000
Match Required	50%
Application Deadline	May, annually



Recent NC Community Funding
PARTF

The Town of Waynesville has been awarded PARTF funding three times—in 1998, 2010, and most recently 2021—totaling more than \$540,000. This funding has made possible the Waynesville Recreation Center, the skate park, and improvements to Richland Creek Greenway. This Comprehensive System Plan positions the Town to apply for future PARTF funding.

Regional Funding Opportunities

Regional planning organizations, councils of governments, and metropolitan planning organizations in North Carolina may provide technical assistance and limited funding to support coordinated, multi-jurisdictional parks and recreation planning initiatives.

Economic Development Districts / Regional Councils of Government	
Funding Source	Regional
Administering Agency	NCARCOG
Website	https://ncarcog.org/services/
Description	EDDs/COGs (e.g., Southwestern Commission) provide planning, grant development, CEDS alignment, and access to EDA programs that can fund recreation-linked infrastructure for tourism/outdoor economy.
Project Examples	Trailheads; Water/sewer/road to outdoor recreation sites; Wayfinding; Business support facilities that enable outdoor economy projects
Max Award Amount	Technical assistance only
Match Required	N/A
Application Deadline	N/A

Private Funding Opportunities

Private funding from philanthropic foundations, corporate sponsors, and nonprofit organizations can supplement public funding by supporting planning studies, public engagement, and recreation projects.

AARP Community Challenge	
Funding Source	Private
Administering Agency	AARP
Website	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/
Description	This program provides funding for projects that help cities, towns, and neighborhoods become more livable and age-friendly, with a strong focus on residents 50 and older. The AARP Community Challenge has 3 distinct grant opportunities: Flagship (up to \$15,000), Capacity-Building Microgrants (up to \$2,500), and Demonstration (up to \$25,000)
Project Examples	ADA-compliant features (trails, restrooms, etc.); New amenity construction (event spaces, parks, etc.); Disaster preparedness or resiliency measures (emergency shelters, etc.); Park amenities installation (benches, lighting, public art, etc.); Open space activation (transforming vacant lots into green spaces or community gardens)
Max Award Amount	Varies based on grant type and project
Match Required	25%
Application Deadline	March, annually

America Walks Community Change Grants

Funding Source	Private
Administering Agency	America Walks
Eligible Applicants	501(c)(3) non profit organizations and local government agencies
Website	https://americawalks.org/programs/community-change-grants/
Description	America Walks and Active People, Healthy Nation is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Grants—funded by the CDC along with private companies like General Motors—are awarded to communities for projects that create healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play.
Project Examples	Murals along walking trails; Walking events; ADA-accessible spaces; Story walks; Wayfinding signage; Sidewalk replacement; Weekly wellness classes
Max Award Amount	None (project-specific funding amounts)
Match Required	None
Application Deadline	January or February, annually



Recent NC Community Funding
COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT

In the 2026 award cycle, the SouthPark Community Foundation in Charlotte was awarded funding from the Community Change Grant Program to convert an underutilized green space into a pocket park along the SouthPark Loop pedestrian and bicycle path. The park will feature seating, public art, creative lighting, and shade landscaping.

Photo credit: SouthPark



Appendix A:

Facility Evaluation Questions

FACILITY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Inspired by evaluation metrics published by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS), WithersRavenel created the following criteria to evaluate overall park success. The Project Team used these questions to guide their evaluation of Waynesville’s parks during the site visit in January 2026.

Design, Construction, & Effectiveness

- Is the design and construction of this site appropriate for the needs of users served?
- Is the site readily accessible by pedestrians/ cyclists from the surrounding neighborhood (i.e. - non-automobile)?
- Is the site accessible to users of all ability levels including but not limited to mobility impaired or handicapped?
- Does the site utilize cohesive design standards (for branding, materials, wayfinding, etc.)?
- Does the site have features/amenities that can be used by people of different ages?
- Do site facilities function and are they easy to use?
- Is the site intended for active recreation, passive recreation, or at-will opportunities?

Comfort, Appearance, & Safety

- Does the site make a good first impression?
- Are there enough places to sit and that are conveniently located?
- Is the site being regularly and sufficiently maintained and is clean and free of litter?
- Considering safety, are activities within the site visible within and around the site?
- Does vehicular traffic around or within the site impact user enjoyment?
- Does the site need upkeep or improvements?

Access and Linkages

- Are there clear and open view lines into open spaces?
- Is there clear, useful, and adequate wayfinding/signage within the site?
- Can people walk easily to the site from surrounding areas?
- Do paths and/or roads connect people to primary amenities?

Sociability and Sustainability

- Does the site provide places for people to gather?
- Does the site provide opportunities and or resources to promote active, healthy lifestyles?
- Does the site promote educational awareness of the history of the property (if there is any)?

Environmental Sustainability

- Does the site use energy, water and material resources efficiently?
- Does the site treat stormwater from a larger area than itself or otherwise improve water quality?
- Does the site use varied vegetation and/or contain biological diversity?
- Does the site enhance environmental awareness or knowledge through signage or educational material?

Economic Sustainability

- Does the site generate public and/or private revenue or is there a user fee?
- Does the site contain or require full-time employees?

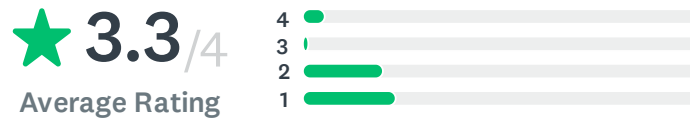


The public online survey was an instrumental element of the exploratory process for this Parks & Recreation Comprehensive System Plan. The survey was open in the winter and spring of 2026. This appendix contains the results from online responses only.

Appendix B: Community Survey Results

Q1 If you have attended Waynesville's recreational programs (e.g., rec center fitness classes, youth camps) or special events (e.g., Special Olympics, Parents Night Out, Rec Jam) within the last 3 years, please indicate your satisfaction with the programs.

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0

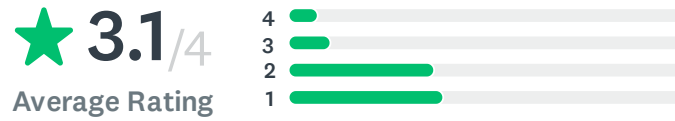


Rating	Percentage	Responses
Very satisfied	23.5%	99
Somewhat satisfied	20.4%	86
Not satisfied	1.4%	6
Neutral	5.5%	23
Average 3.3		214

ⓘ 1 answer option excluded. [Show all](#)

Q2 If you have used Waynesville's park facilities (e.g., rec center, playground) within the last 3 years, please indicate your current satisfaction with Waynesville's park facilities.

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Rating	Percentage	Responses
Somewhat satisfied	38.9%	164
Very satisfied	36.5%	154
Not satisfied	10.4%	44
Neutral	7.3%	31
Average 3.1		393

ⓘ 1 answer option excluded. [Show all](#)

Q3 If you answered “Not satisfied” on Question 1 or 2 , please include a brief description of why.

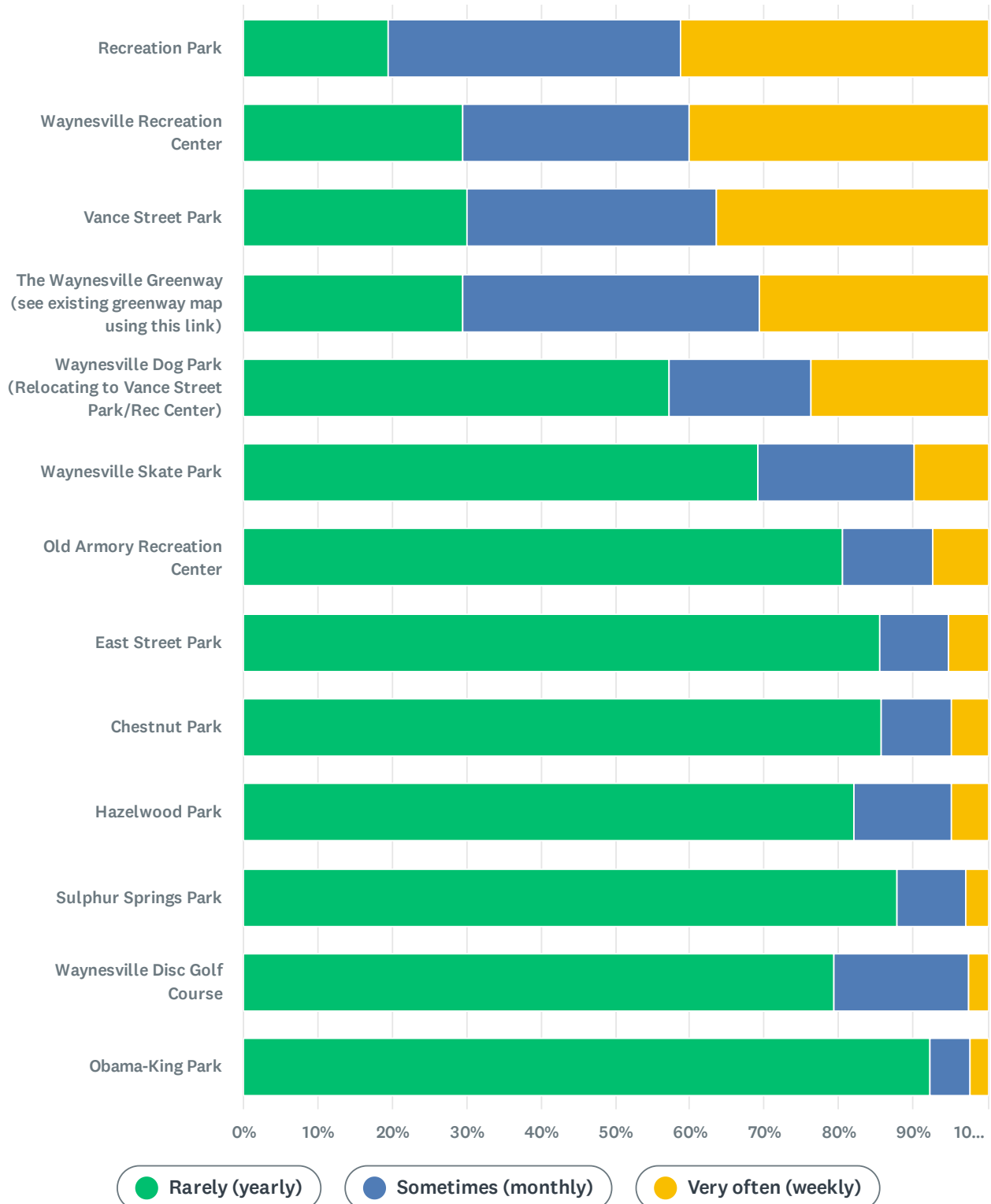
Answered: 85 Skipped: 337

Q4 If you answered "Somewhat Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" on Question 1 or 2, please name that event, program, or facility, and tell us why you enjoyed your experience.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 195

Q5 Please indicate how often you or your household have visited the following Waynesville parks.

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0

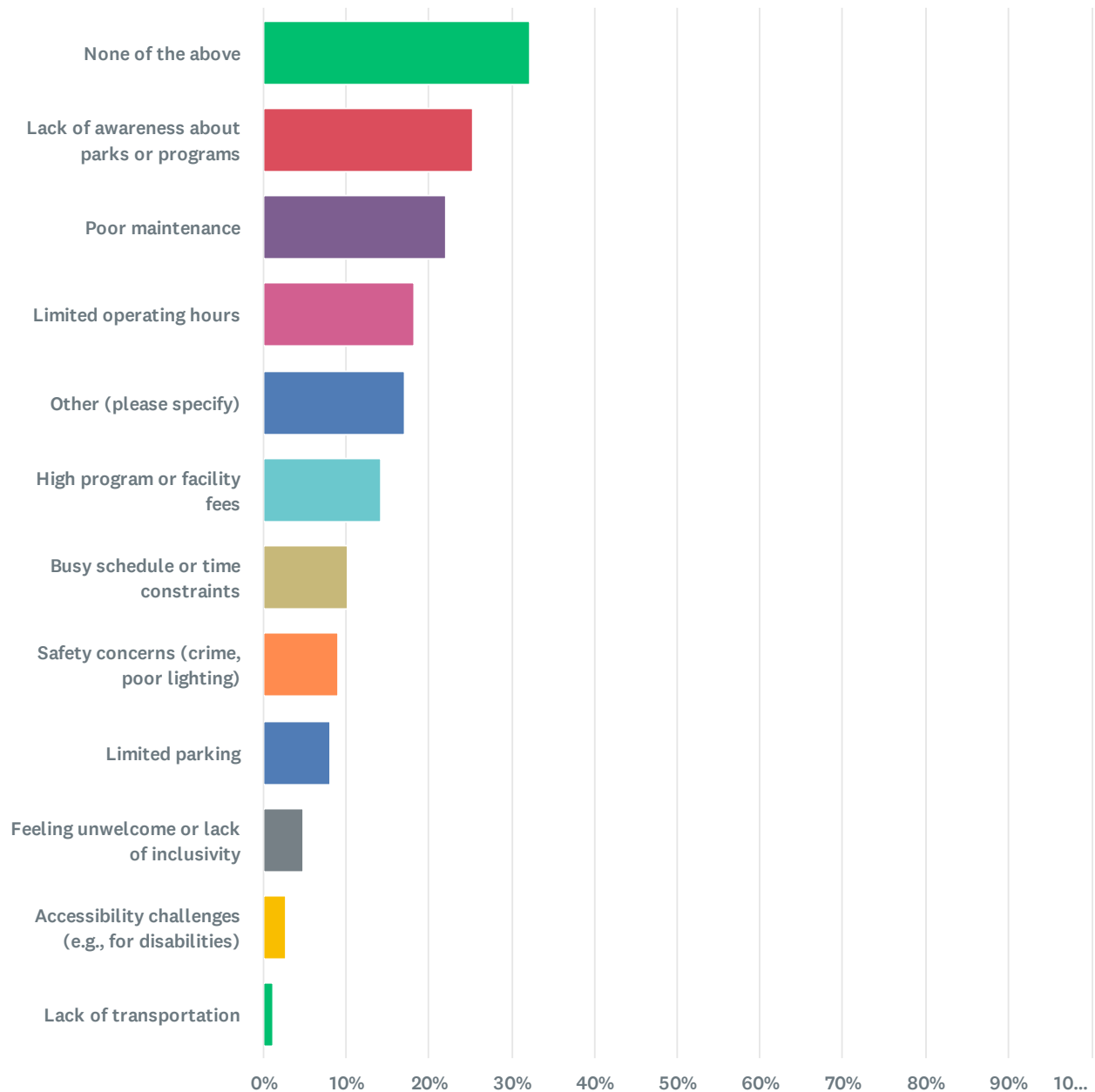


Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

	 Rarely (yearly)	 Sometimes (monthly)	 Very often (weekly)	Total
Recreation Park	19.42% 74	39.37% 150	41.21% 157	381
Waynesville Recreation Center	29.43% 113	30.47% 117	40.10% 154	384
Vance Street Park	30.14% 107	33.52% 119	36.34% 129	355
The Waynesville Greenway (see existing greenway map using this link)	29.46% 109	40.00% 148	30.54% 113	370
Waynesville Dog Park (Relocating to Vance Street Park/Rec Center)	57.26% 201	19.09% 67	23.65% 83	351
Waynesville Skate Park	69.09% 219	21.14% 67	9.78% 31	317
Old Armory Recreation Center	80.56% 261	12.04% 39	7.41% 24	324
East Street Park	85.48% 259	9.24% 28	5.28% 16	303
Chestnut Park	85.67% 263	9.45% 29	4.89% 15	307
Hazelwood Park	82.14% 253	12.99% 40	4.87% 15	308
Sulphur Springs Park	87.87% 268	9.18% 28	2.95% 9	305
Waynesville Disc Golf Course	79.30% 249	18.15% 57	2.55% 8	314
Obama-King Park	92.23% 273	5.41% 16	2.36% 7	296
				4315

Q6 Have you experienced any of the following challenges when trying to access Waynesville Parks & Recreation spaces or facilities? (select all that apply)

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● None of the above	32.23%	136
Total		696

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

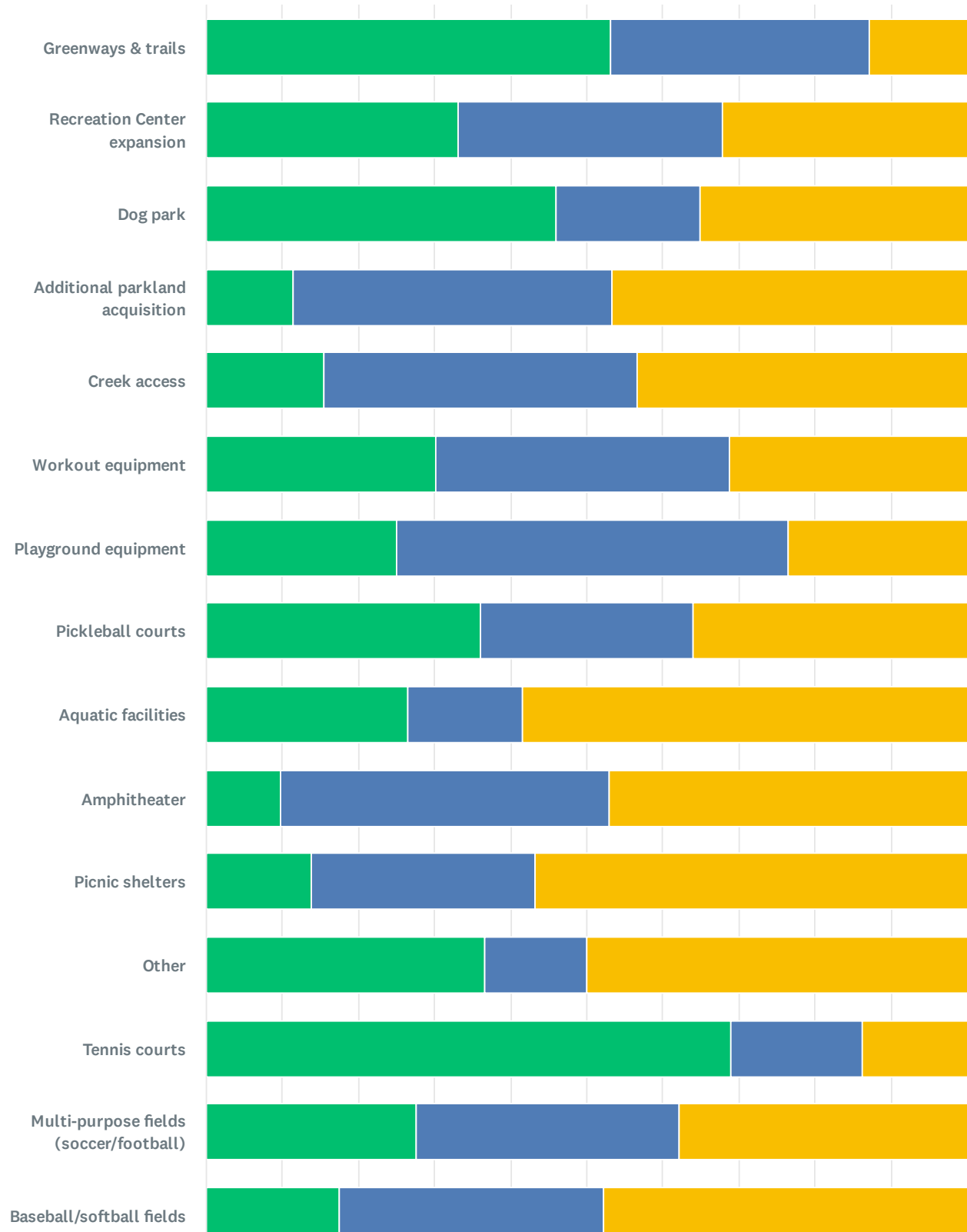
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Lack of awareness about parks or programs	25.36%	107
 Poor maintenance	22.04%	93
 Limited operating hours	18.25%	77
 Other (please specify) Show responses	17.06%	72
 High program or facility fees	14.22%	60
 Busy schedule or time constraints	10.19%	43
 Safety concerns (crime, poor lighting)	9.00%	38
 Limited parking	8.06%	34
 Feeling unwelcome or lack of inclusivity	4.74%	20
 Accessibility challenges (e.g., for disabilities)	2.61%	11

Q7 If you experienced any of the challenges listed in Question 6, please expand on your experience here:

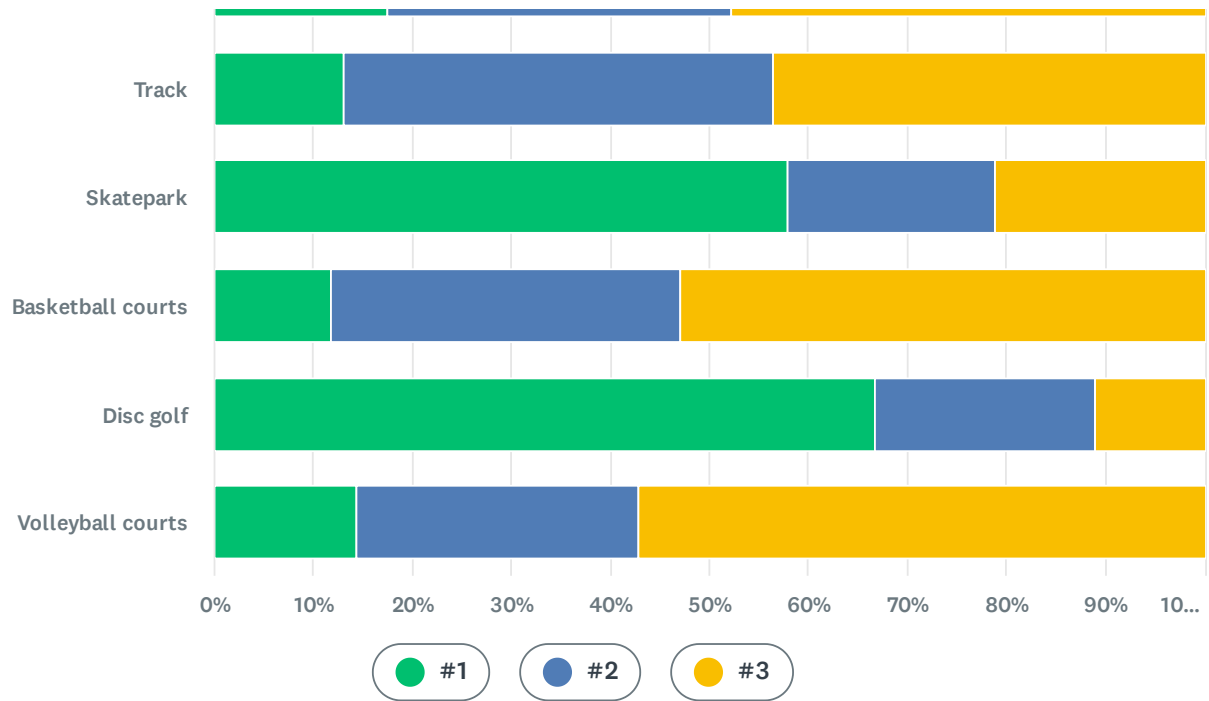
Answered: 166 Skipped: 256

Q8 If Waynesville were to add new facilities or expand on current facilities, which of the following would be your top 3?

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey



	#1	#2	#3	Total
Greenways & trails	53.15% 152	33.92% 97	12.94% 37	286
Recreation Center expansion	33.05% 39	34.75% 41	32.20% 38	118
Dog park	45.95% 51	18.92% 21	35.14% 39	111
Additional parkland acquisition	11.43% 12	41.90% 44	46.67% 49	105
Creek access	15.46% 15	41.24% 40	43.30% 42	97
Workout equipment	30.12% 25	38.55% 32	31.33% 26	83
Playground equipment	25.00% 16	51.56% 33	23.44% 15	64
Pickleball courts	36.07% 22	27.87% 17	36.07% 22	61
				1266

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

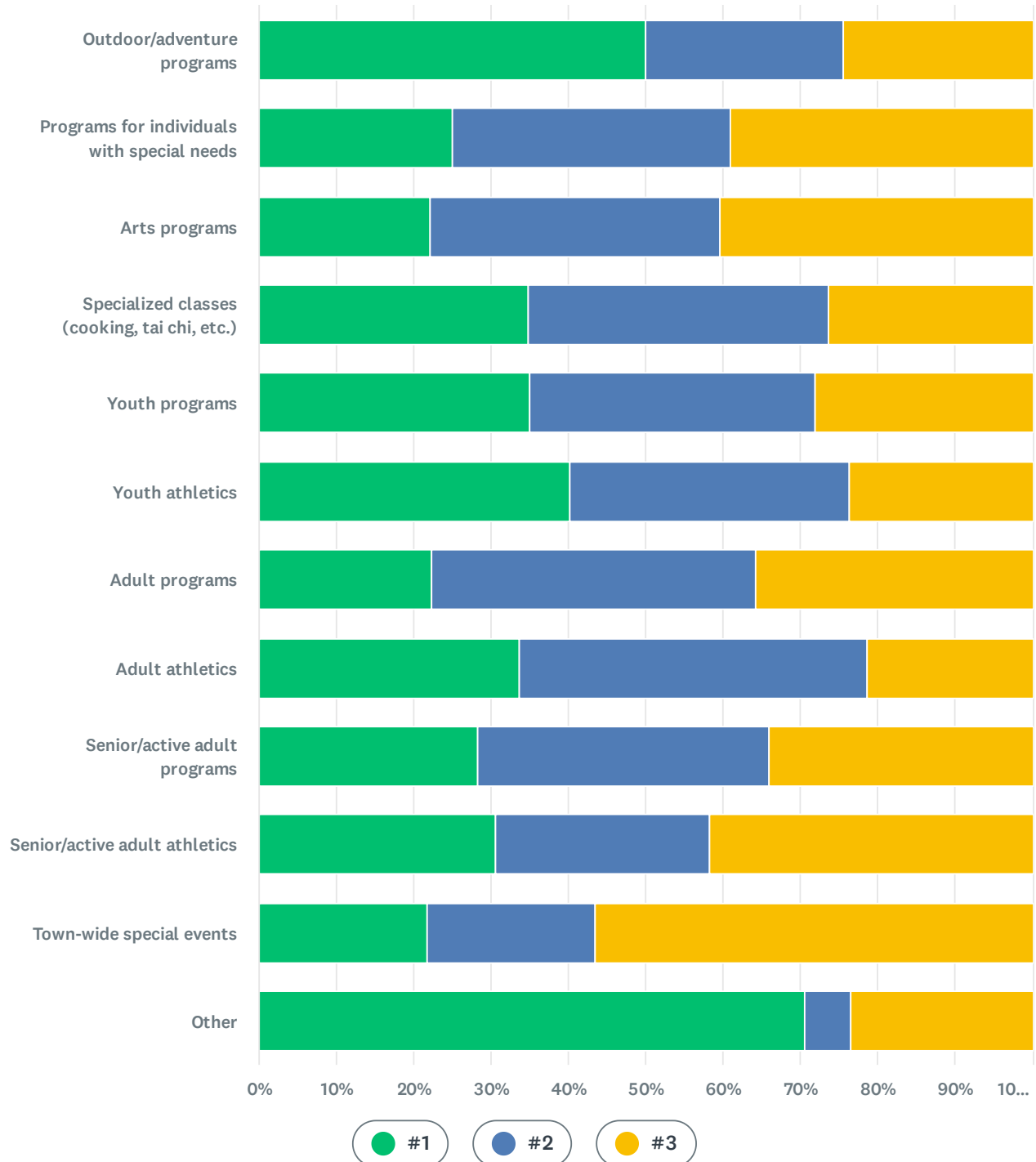
	 #1	 #2	 #3	Total
Aquatic facilities	26.42% 14	15.09% 8	58.49% 31	53
Amphitheater	9.80% 5	43.14% 22	47.06% 24	51
Picnic shelters	13.73% 7	29.41% 15	56.86% 29	51
Other	36.67% 11	13.33% 4	50.00% 15	30
Tennis courts	68.97% 20	17.24% 5	13.79% 4	29
Multi-purpose fields (soccer/football)	27.59% 8	34.48% 10	37.93% 11	29
Baseball/softball fields	17.39% 4	34.78% 8	47.83% 11	23
Track	13.04% 3	43.48% 10	43.48% 10	23
Skatepark	57.89% 11	21.05% 4	21.05% 4	19
Basketball courts	11.76% 2	35.29% 6	52.94% 9	17
				1266

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

	 #1	 #2	 #3	Total
Disc golf	66.67% 6	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	9
Volleyball courts	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	57.14% 4	7
				1266

Q9 If Waynesville were to add new programs or expand current programs, which of the following would be your top 3?

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



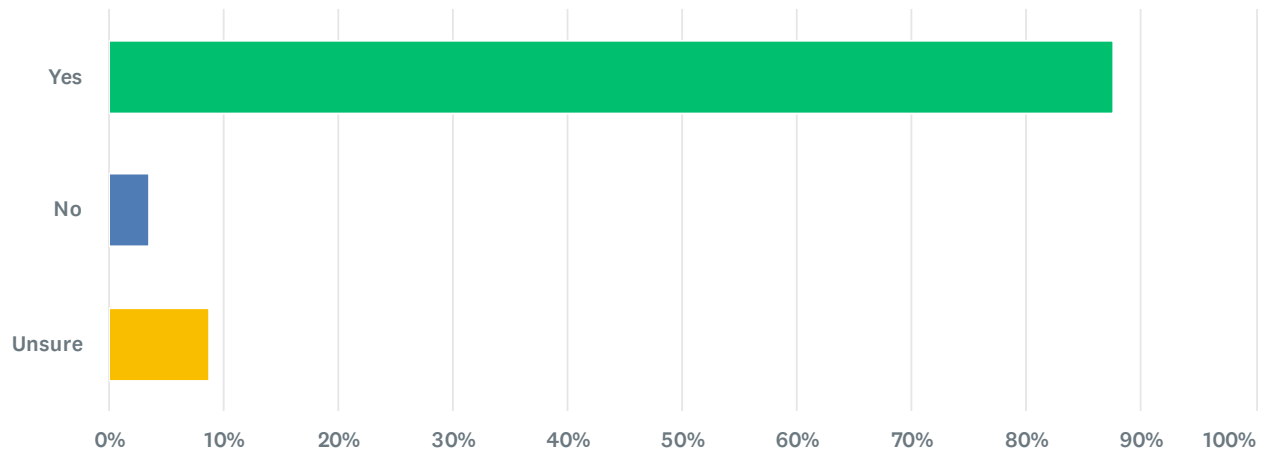
	 #1	 #2	 #3	Total
--	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	-------

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

	 #1	 #2	 #3	Total
Outdoor/adventure programs	50.00% 117	25.64% 60	24.36% 57	234
Programs for individuals with special needs	25.00% 16	35.94% 23	39.06% 25	64
Arts programs	22.02% 24	37.61% 41	40.37% 44	109
Specialized classes (cooking, tai chi, etc.)	34.87% 53	38.82% 59	26.32% 40	152
Youth programs	35.00% 35	37.00% 37	28.00% 28	100
Youth athletics	40.28% 29	36.11% 26	23.61% 17	72
Adult programs	22.22% 18	41.98% 34	35.80% 29	81
Adult athletics	33.75% 27	45.00% 36	21.25% 17	80
Senior/active adult programs	28.26% 39	37.68% 52	34.06% 47	138
Senior/active adult athletics	30.56% 22	27.78% 20	41.67% 30	72
Town-wide special events	21.77% 32	21.77% 32	56.46% 83	147
Other	70.59% 12	5.88% 1	23.53% 4	17
				1266

Q10 Would you support Waynesville purchasing land to develop a Town-wide greenway/trail/sidewalk network that connects parks, community facilities, businesses, and neighborhoods?

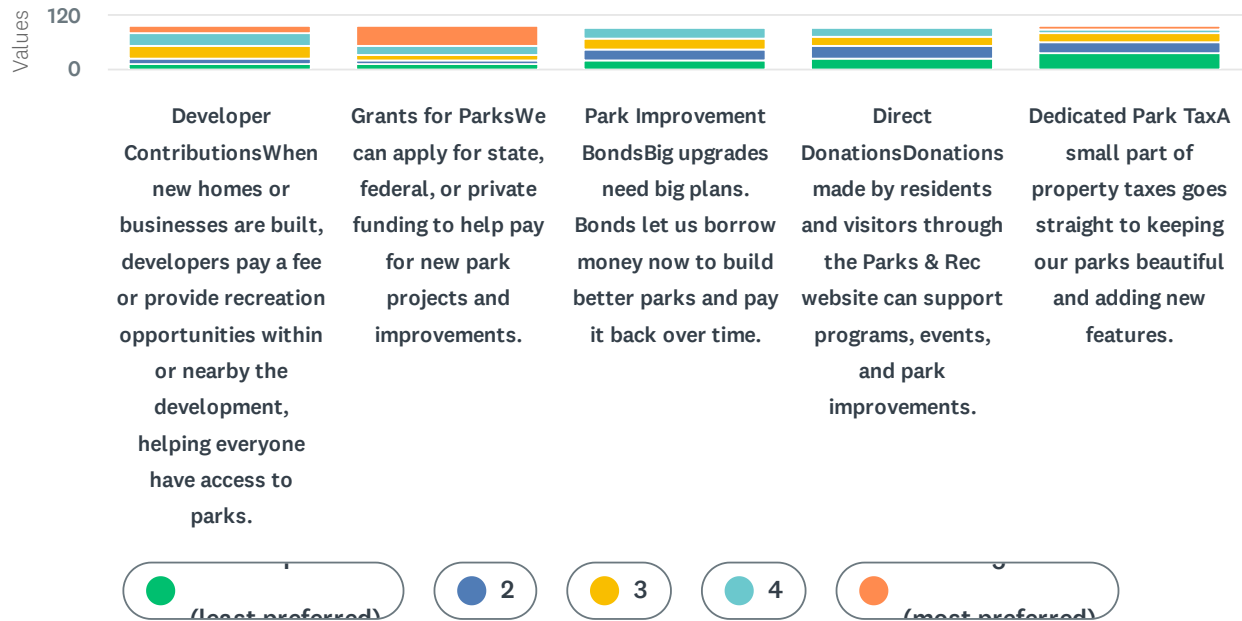
Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Yes	87.68%	370
● No	3.55%	15
● Unsure	8.77%	37
Total		422

Q11 In order to invest in more parks and recreation facilities, the Town of Waynesville may require additional funding. Please rank your preferred methods for additional capital funding for recreation and parks 1 through 5 (with 5 being the highest).

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



	1 (least preferred)	2	3	4	5 (most preferred)	Total
	10	10	10	10	10	50

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

	1  (least preferred)	2 	3 	4 	5  (most preferred)	Total
Developer Contributions When new homes or businesses are built, developers pay a fee or provide recreation opportunities within or nearby the development, helping everyone have access to parks.	11.68% 41	15.10% 53	29.06% 102	27.35% 96	16.81% 59	351
Grants for Parks We can apply for state, federal, or private funding to help pay for new park projects and improvements.	10.54% 37	9.69% 34	12.54% 44	23.08% 81	44.16% 155	351

Q12 Please rank your preferred methods of receiving information about parks/facilities, recreation programs, and special events held by the Town:

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



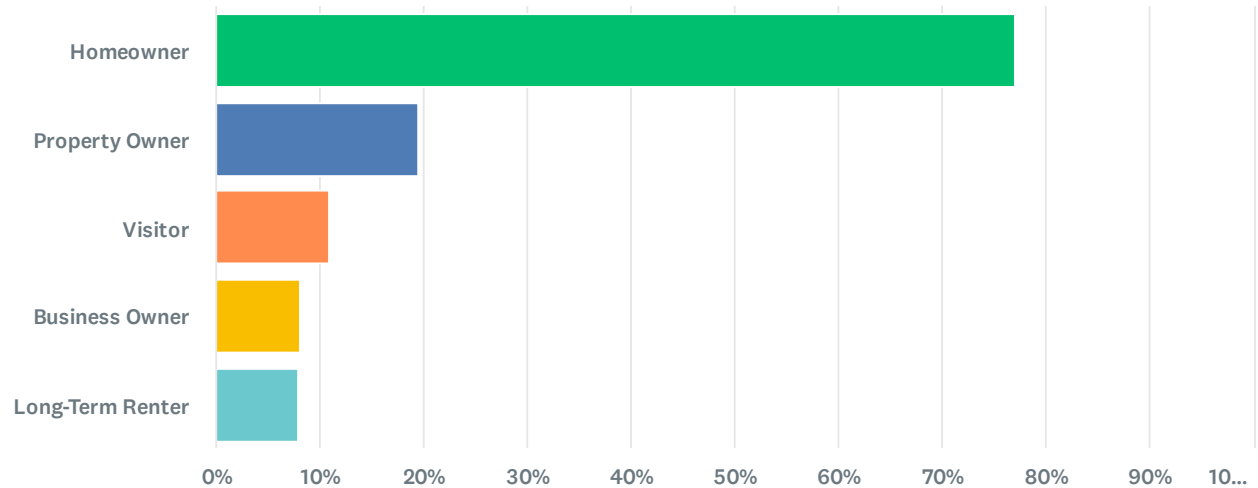
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Weighted
School email/newsletter	0.24% 1	4.50% 19	4.50% 19	9.00% 38	28.44% 120	23.93% 101	29.38% 124	422	5.50
Newspaper ads	5.21% 22	11.85% 50	22.99% 97	18.96% 80	18.48% 78	13.27% 56	9.24% 39	422	4.10
Marketing materials at municipal locations	2.37% 10	5.92% 25	16.82% 71	32.46% 137	16.59% 70	18.96% 80	6.87% 29	422	4.39
Mail	18.96% 80	26.07% 110	14.45% 61	11.37% 48	13.27% 56	7.35% 31	8.53% 36	422	3.30
Town website	6.64% 28	13.27% 56	19.91% 84	14.93% 63	11.61% 49	24.64% 104	9.00% 38	422	4.22
Town social media	13.51% 57	16.35% 69	11.85% 50	8.06% 34	8.06% 34	7.82% 33	34.36% 145	422	4.42
								2954	4.00

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

	 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7	Total	Weight
Email	53.08% 224	22.04% 93	9.48% 40	5.21% 22	3.55% 15	4.03% 17	2.61% 11	422	2.07
								2954	4.00

Q13 What is your relation to the Town of Waynesville? (select all that apply):

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



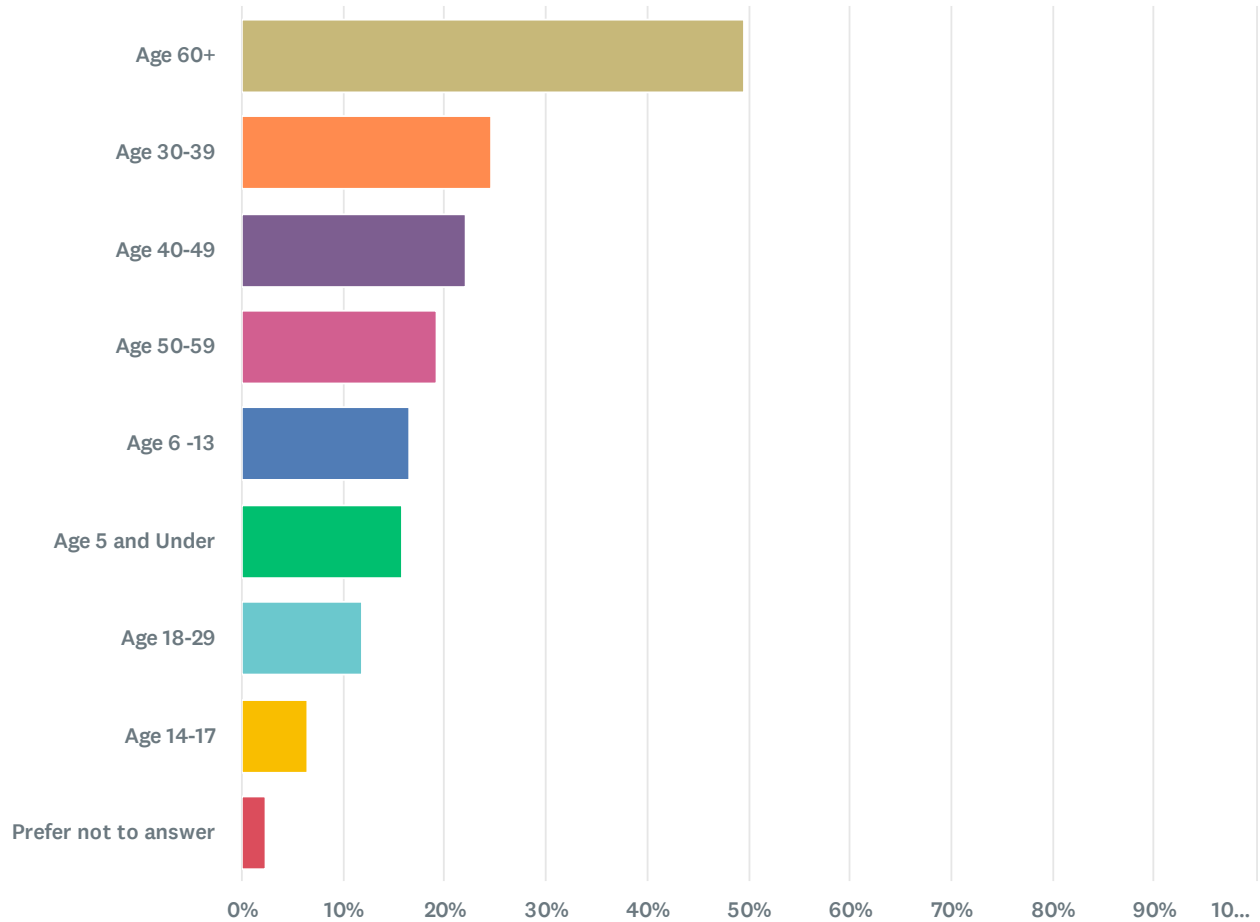
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Homeowner	77.01%	325
● Property Owner	19.43%	82
● Visitor	10.90%	46
● Business Owner	8.06%	34
● Long-Term Renter	7.82%	33
Total		520

Q14 If you selected "Visitor" on question 13, please expand on what brings you to Waynesville Parks and Recreation Facilities and what you would like to see more of with respect to recreation/outdoor offerings in Town?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 377

Q15 What are the ages of the people in your household? (select all that apply)

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



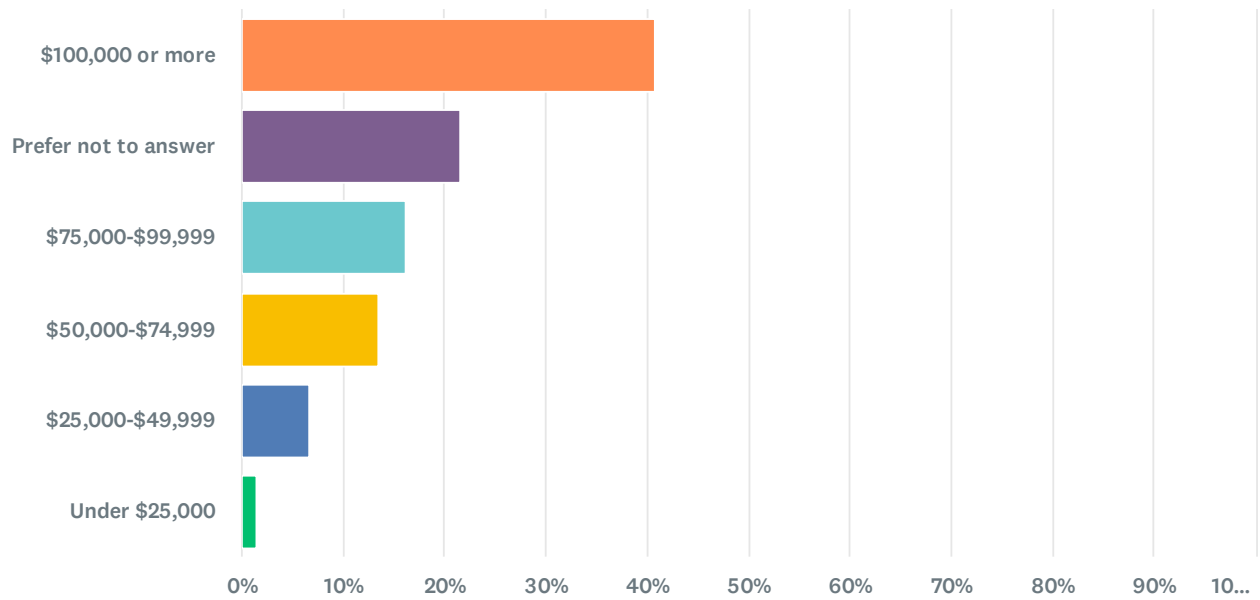
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Age 60+	49.53%	209
● Age 30-39	24.64%	104
● Age 40-49	22.04%	93
● Age 50-59	19.19%	81
● Age 6-13	16.59%	70
● Age 5 and Under	15.88%	67
Total		711

Waynesville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Age 18-29	11.85%	50
 Age 14-17	6.40%	27

Q16 What is your household income?

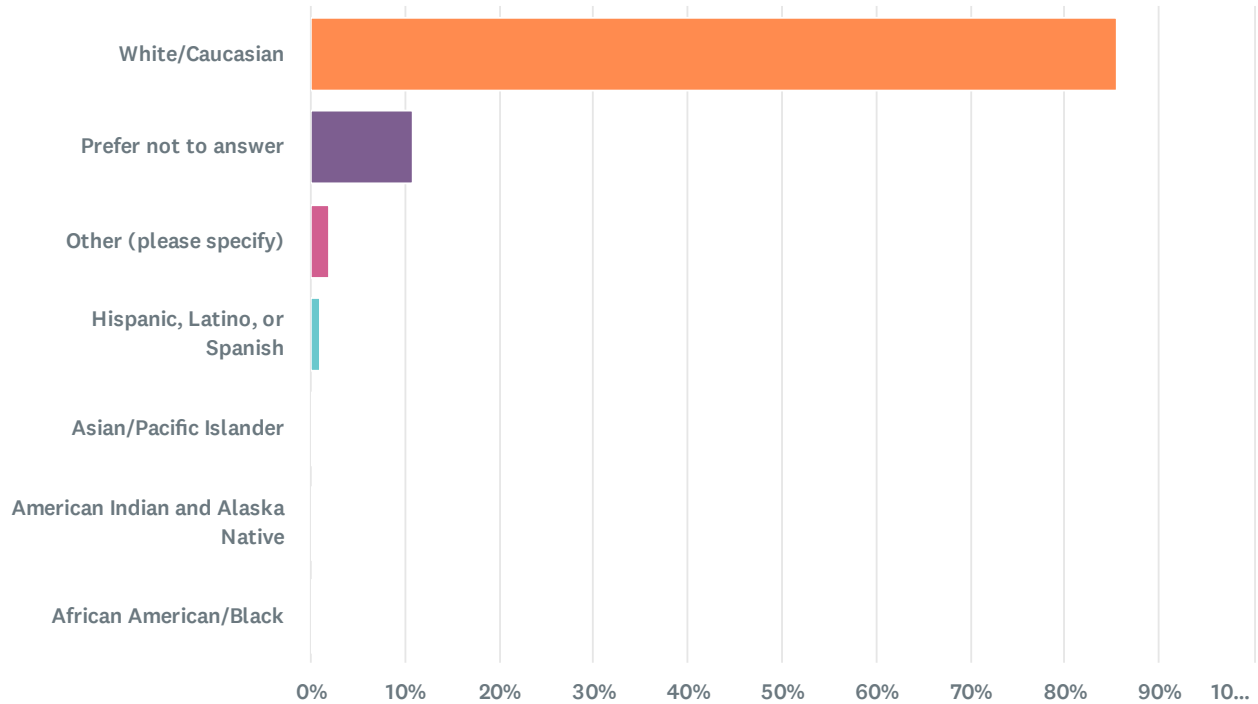
Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● \$100,000 or more	40.76%	172
● Prefer not to answer	21.56%	91
● \$75,000-\$99,999	16.11%	68
● \$50,000-\$74,999	13.51%	57
● \$25,000-\$49,999	6.64%	28
● Under \$25,000	1.42%	6
Total		422

Q17 Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

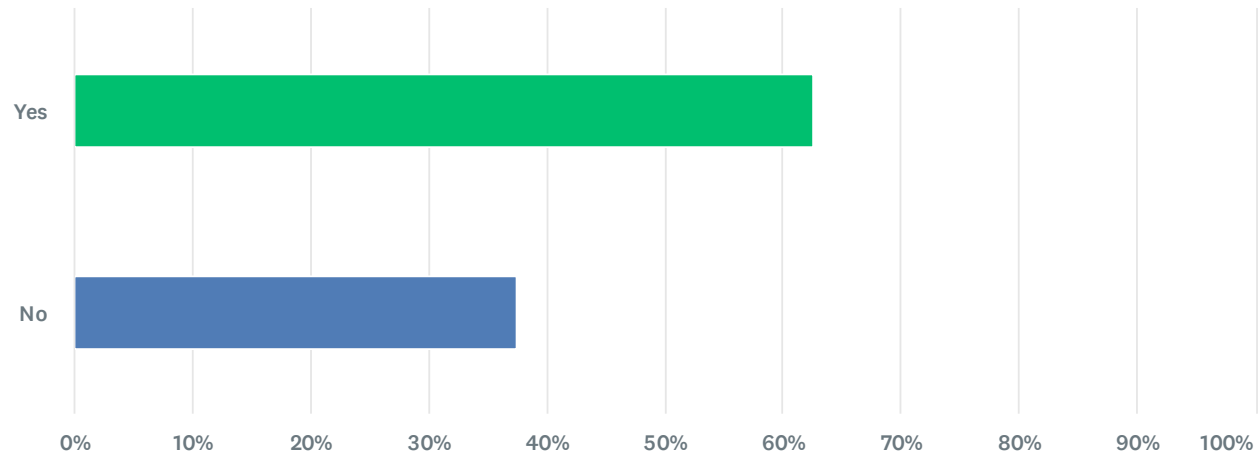
Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● White/Caucasian	85.55%	361
● Prefer not to answer	10.90%	46
● Other (please specify) Show responses	1.90%	8
● Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish	0.95%	4
● Asian/Pacific Islander	0.24%	1
● American Indian and Alaska Native	0.24%	1
● African American/Black	0.24%	1
Total		422

Q18 Are you currently, or have you ever been, a member of the Waynesville Recreation Center?

Answered: 422 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes	62.56%	264
No	37.44%	158
Total		422



The City of Hendersonville and Town of Burgaw have instituted Adopt-A-Park programs. This appendix contains sample forms and waivers that Waynesville Parks & Recreation can reference if they decide to initiate a local Adopt-A-Park program.

Appendix C: Adopt-A-Park Samples

CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
ADOPT-A-STREET/PARK/TRAIL PROGRAM
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. Policy

1. The City has a direct interest in reducing litter on our street frontages, in our parks, and along our trails. This can be accomplished by litter clean up and by encouraging the general public to dispose of litter properly. The City's Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program assists in both ways.
2. The program encourages organizations to pick up litter and pull/cut weeds on a specific length of roadway frontage, a park, or a specific length of trail. Appropriate signs calling attention to the litter control effort and crediting the volunteer or sponsor organization for its work are furnished and installed by the City.

II. Eligibility

1. Individuals, private corporations and non-profit organizations may participate. The organization or group of individuals will be allowed to pick up litter on designated sections of roadway frontage, in parks, and along a designated section of a trail, subject to the rules and conditions specified in Section III.
2. Non-profit organizations affiliated with for-profit organizations, as well as for-profit organizations, are also welcome in this program.

III. Rules and Conditions

1. The length of street frontage should be a minimum of one mile (or full length of street if it is less than one mile) of adjacent, connected or adjoining City streets and should not exceed two miles. Only street frontages designated by the City will serve as acceptable clean up areas. The length of trail should be approximately one mile. Most parks are available for adoption. See **Appendix D** for the designated areas and locations. Safety of Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail workers are a prime consideration.
2. No permits will be granted when site conditions are unsuitable for your group's age level.
3. No individuals younger than 12 years of age may participate or be permitted in the right-of-way for any reason. The group shall provide adequate supervision (i.e., at least one adult, 21 years of age or older for every ten members under the age of 21 years.)
4. The City will furnish, install and maintain the signs. The City reserves the right to edit the wording of the sign and has final approval of the sign. If the sign has to be replaced due to vandalism, the organization may be required to pay for its replacement. Allow approximately one month for sign placement/replacement.
5. The City will supply litter bags and remove and dispose of filled bags. Recycling is encouraged and must be kept separate from the litter (trash). It is the coordinator's responsibility to notify the City that the work has been completed and the bags are ready to be collected. The coordinator must identify the location of all of the bags that are to be collected.

6. The City will provide safety vests which are to be worn by all workers when working on the street frontage, in a park, or along a trail. Vests belonging to the City need to be returned to the City's Public Works Department within 5 days after each use.
7. Participating volunteer organizations will appoint a coordinator from its membership to oversee and coordinate pickup events and work events.
8. The coordinators and all supervisors must complete a safety course given by a City of Hendersonville Public Works Department representative on-site or in an office before the first litter pickup or other work. The coordinator must provide the safety course to all new workers before each subsequent litter pickup or other event. All workers should be encouraged to attend the safety course provided by the City of Hendersonville.
9. The coordinators and supervisors must read and comply with the safety requirements provided by the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department. All workers should be encouraged to read the safety requirements and follow the directions of the appointed supervisor.
10. All workers will be instructed in safety precautions by their supervisor prior to each litter pickup or work event.
11. All workers will at all times adhere to the safety requirements within this policy, the waiver, and all oral safety instructions.
12. The participating organization will be required to pick up litter and/or pull/cut weeds/vines **a minimum of four times a year** (or ideally once a month) to keep its area relatively clean based on the evaluation by the City.
13. Participating organizations must coordinate their pick up schedules with the City to prevent conflicts over the use of the street frontage, parks, or trails and proposed construction work. Two weeks notice prior to a scheduled pick up event is required. Please contact the City of Hendersonville Public Work Department contact person to coordinate the pick-up event schedule. See **Appendix C** for the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department List of Contacts.
14. A liability insurance certificate will not be required when the litter removal work is performed by volunteers.
15. The coordinator or supervisor shall ensure that each participant signs an individual waiver (**Appendix A**) prior to each pick up event or work event.
16. The agreement between the organization and the City shall be effective for two years and is renewable, at the City's discretion, if the volunteer organization has maintained its obligation to the satisfaction of the City. If the organization has failed to fulfill its commitment, the City may assign the area to a new volunteer group.
17. Volunteers are encouraged to wear protective eye wear and proper clothing. These items will not be provided by the City. If working within the right of way, volunteers shall work as a group and face oncoming traffic at all times. Do not cross the roadway unnecessarily and cross only at intersections.
18. The City may not go onto private property to collect trash or perform other work.
19. The City of Hendersonville may impose additional conditions as needed.

IV. Procedures

1. Interested organizations shall contact the City of Hendersonville's Public Works Department contact person. See **Appendix C** for the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department List of Contacts.

2. City of Hendersonville's contact person will explain and discuss the City's program with a responsible representative of the interested organizations, emphasizing that the program involves significant physical work that must be done safely on a reasonable frequency for at least two years.
3. An agreement must be completed by the volunteer organization and approved by the City.
4. Each participant will submit a signed individual waiver (**Appendix A**) prior to each pick up event.
5. Volunteer organization will appoint its coordinator.
6. City personnel will arrange for the fabrication and installation of signs.
7. Volunteer organization will call the City of Hendersonville's Public Works Department's contact person to schedule litter pickup dates or work event dates at least two weeks before the proposed pick up date.
8. The coordinator will call the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department to request issuance of safety vests and litter bags no later than 48 hours before each scheduled pick up date.
9. City personnel will arrange for litter pick up dates and for pick-up of filled litter bags.
10. City of Hendersonville Public Works Department representative will provide a safety course for the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail coordinators and supervisors before the first litter pick-up work.
11. Each participant will sign the sign-in form waiver on-site before starting the litter pickup work. Coordinators will complete and return to the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department contact person the Sign-in and Activity Reporting Form within 3 business days following the litter pickup event. See **Appendix B**.
12. Coordinators will return the safety vests belonging to the City within 5 days following the litter pickup event.



Exhibit A

ADOPT-A-STREET/PARK/TRAIL VOLUNTEER

RELEASE WAIVER AND HOLD HARMLESS

The City of Hendersonville Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program is for volunteers who donate their time to help keep the City clean. Participants are advised that working adjacent to a City street, in a City park, or on a trail can be hazardous. Participants shall exercise proper care in performing litter collection and all other activities. Participants must wear the safety vest and gloves furnished by the City, and should wear appropriate protective clothing such as long pants and a long sleeve shirt, and thick-soled boots or shoes. Participants may be entitled to receive full coverage for medical treatment required for injury incurred during participation in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program under the medical aid provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act, which is administered by the Department of Labor and Industries, but not for loss of time because of injury or illness, or for lasting disability or death. As a volunteer for the City of Hendersonville I agree to follow all of the rules outlined in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program policy. I acknowledge that City personnel will provide direction and limited supervision regarding my duties as a volunteer. I will use all provided equipment appropriately and follow all safety practices. I am aware that the work contemplated in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program involves certain risks of physical injury and death. Being fully informed as to these risks and in consideration of being given the privilege to participate in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program, I hereby, on behalf of myself and my heirs, assume all risks in connection with my participation in this program and I further hold harmless the City of Hendersonville, its officials, employees and agents for any injury or damages which may occur to me while I am participating in this program and I waive any right to bring claim or lawsuit against them for any such injury, damage or death. Furthermore, I agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the City of Hendersonville, its officials, employees and agents from any and all claims and lawsuits for injury, loss, or damage to other persons or entities which may arise in the future as a result of or

in connection with my participation in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program except for injuries or damages caused by the sole negligence of the City. I authorize any necessary emergency medical treatment that might be required for me in the event of physical injury and/or accident to me while participating in this program.

Signature of Participant

Date

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the participant above-named; that I have read and understood the foregoing release and waiver; and that in consideration of allowing the participant to participate in the City's Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program I join in the release and waiver without reservation and agree to release and waive any claim or legal cause of action that I might have arising out of any personal injury, damage or death of the participant as against the City of Hendersonville, its officials, employees and agents. I further grant my full consent and authorization for the above-named participant to engage in the activity described above.

Furthermore, I authorize all reasonable medical treatment that may be necessitated in the event of injury or accident occurring to the participant named above while working in the Adopt-A-Street/Park/Trail program.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Guardian

Date

(If participant is less than 18 years old)

Exhibit B

Report you Adopt A Street/Park/Trail Clean Up Activity & Volunteer Hours

Type of Activity: Adopt A Street/Park/Trail (Circle one)

Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Date: _____

Number of volunteers: _____

Number of hours worked: _____

Number of bags of Litter: _____

Number of tires: _____

Other trash/debris: _____

Are there items remaining in your area that are too large for you to remove? If so, provide a description of the item(s) and the location(s): _____

Exhibit C

Contact List for Public Works

Director of Public Works

Tom Wooten

828-697-3084

twooten@hvlnc.gov

Assistant Director of Public Works

Chad Freeman

828-697-3084

cfreeman@hvlnc.gov

Administrative Aide

Tammy Ledford

828-697-3084

tledford@hvlnc.gov

Administrative Support Specialists

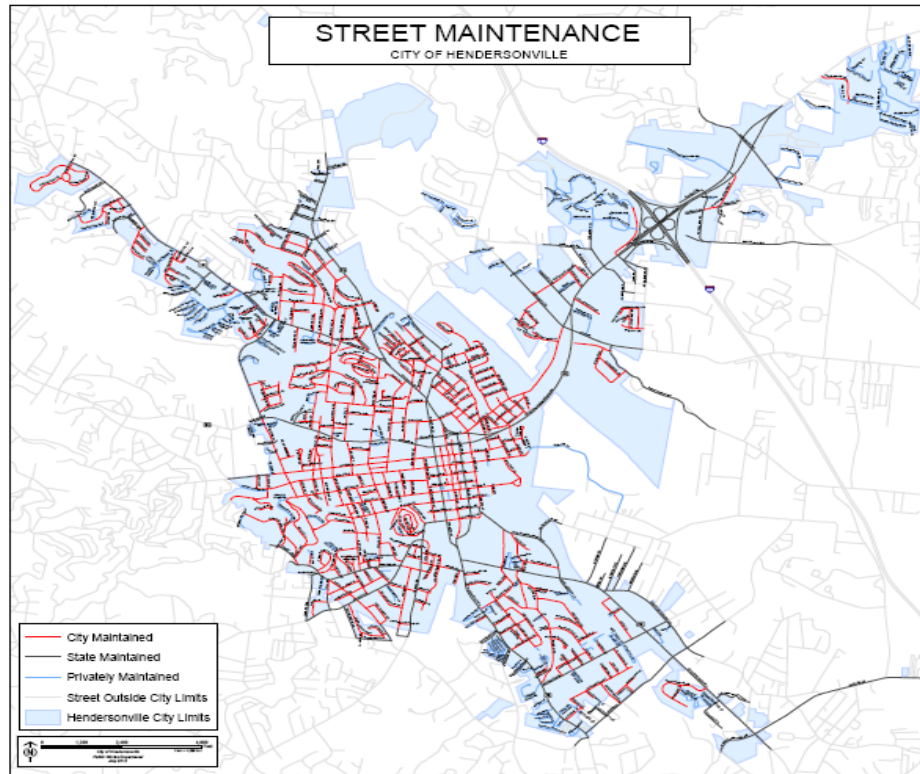
Brianna Wilson

828-697-3084

bwilson@hvlnc.gov

Exhibit D

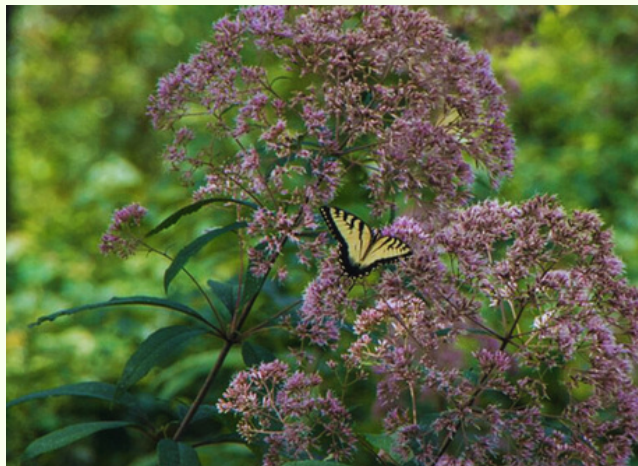
Locations Available for Adoption





WHAT DO WE GET OUT OF IT?

In addition to clean parks and walking trails and a sense of pride in serving the community, groups adopting a park will be recognized after each year of service with a plaque by the Mayor and City Council during October. Groups will also be recognized when they join the program through The City of Hendersonville's website.



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE

Public Works Department
305 Williams Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

CONTACT US



828-712-4464



cgendusa@hvlnc.gov



hendersonvillenc.gov/public-works/adopt-parktrail

Photos taken by Friends of Oklawaha Trail

ADOPT-A-PARK OR TRAIL PROGRAM



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ADOPT A PARK OR GARDEN?

By adopting a portion of a City park or trail, your group, organization or school agrees to visit that park or trail a minimum of once a month to help keep it clean, and to make note of any condition of the park facility that requires attention by Park Maintenance employees.

By adopting a park or trail and helping to keep it clean, you will be extending your tax dollars by allowing City parks employees to spend their time on major renovations, repairs and maintenance work.

You will also be able to take pride in the fact that you will be helping to make Hendersonville one of the most beautiful & pleasant cities in the Western North Carolina.

VOLUNTEER TASKS

Pollinator Garden Maintenance

- planting, weeding, and consistent upkeep
- Current opportunities: Oklawaha Trail

General park maintenance

- Pick up litter and dog droppings
- Sweep court surfaces
- Sweep pavilion areas
- Clean picnic tables and benches
- Clean and rake children's play areas
- Remove or paint over graffiti
- Plant flowers or trees
- Build & maintain trails

Groups are also asked to make note of vandalism damage, dirty restrooms, buildings or structures needing repair, or unsafe conditions.



WHAT SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED?

The City of Hendersonville will provide the following materials:

- Plants, seeds, and any tools/supplies needed
- Trash bags
- Gloves
- Safety vests
- Road signs (if necessary)
- Other supplies (as needed)



Be part of our Bee City USA program and join the millions of people taking initiative to increase pollinator conservation. Our City parks need your help!





WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In return for being allowed to participate in Town of Burgaw volunteer activities and all related activities, including any activities incidental to such participation ("Volunteer Activities"), the undersigned Volunteer or Parent/Legal Guardian of Volunteer if Volunteer is under age 18 (hereafter referred to using "I", "me", or "my") releases and agrees not to sue the Town of Burgaw or its officers, directors, employees, sub-contractors, sponsors, agents and affiliates ("the Town") from all present and future claims that may be made by me, my family, estate, heirs, or assigns for property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death arising as a result of my participation in the Volunteer Activities wherever, whenever, or however the same may occur.

I understand and agree that the Town are not responsible for any injury or property damage arising out of the Volunteer Activities, even if caused by their ordinary negligence or otherwise.

I understand that participation in the Volunteer Activities involves certain risks, including, but not limited to, serious injury and death. I am voluntarily participating in the Volunteer Activities with knowledge of the danger involved and I agree to accept all risks of participation.

I also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Town for all claims arising out of my participation in the Volunteer Activities.

I understand that this document is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the state in which the Volunteer Activities take place and agree that if any portion of this Agreement is invalid, the remainder will continue in full legal force and effect.

I also acknowledge that the Town have not arranged and do not carry any insurance of any kind for my benefit or that of Volunteer (if Volunteer is under 18), my parents, guardians, trustees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns. I represent that, to my knowledge, I am in good health and suffer no physical impairment that would or should prevent my participation in Volunteer Activities.

I also understand that this document is a contract which grants certain rights to and eliminates the liability of the Town.

(Signature of Volunteer) Date

I am of legal age and am freely signing this agreement. I have read this form and understand that by signing this form, I am giving up legal rights and remedies.

(Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian if Volunteer is Under 18) Date

I am the parent or legal guardian of the Volunteer. I am of legal age and am freely signing this agreement. I have read this form and understand that by signing this form, I am giving up legal rights and remedies.

ADOPT-A-PARK

BURGAW PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Adopt-A-Park

The Adopt-A-Park Program is designed to promote community involvement, while maintaining and beautifying neighborhood parks and recreation facilities. The program is designed to be a low-key, relaxed and informal approach to involve people in the community to keep an eye out of potential hazards, vandalism and general park mistreatment. Through these partnerships the Town is able to maintain and improve the park system, keep our parks beautiful and safe for the enjoyment of our park users. The idea is for residents of a neighborhood to take ownership of their local park and improve the quality of the park through synergistic collaboration and creative activities as well as increased manpower. The adopted park is encouraged to be used as a focal point of neighborhood activities.



Hankins Memorial Park



W. Ross Harrell Memorial Park

How it works

To Adopt-A-Park:

- Identify a park or trail you would like to adopt and type of project/activity you would like to do.
- Request an application from the Burgaw Parks & Recreation Department. Complete the application and return to Town Hall or recreation@burgawnc.gov. You will then be contacted to discuss the adoption procedure. Town staff will work with the volunteer group to identify park needs.
- Once the “Adoption” is approved, the Adopt-A-Park Agreement is signed, and the requesting group can begin.
- Coordinate your project(s) with the Parks & Recreation Department. Necessary tools, materials and supplies may be provided to help the adopting group with their projects. Scope of project with depend heavily on the fiscal year budge for Parks & Recreation Department.
- All volunteers must sign a waiver release and service agreement prior to participation in the program.
- Recruit and schedule volunteers from your organization to implement the program.
- Submit a quarterly activity report or pictures to update your progress.

BENEFITS

Volunteer groups and organizations derive great satisfaction by becoming stewards of the Town park system and enjoy the knowledge that by being part of this program truly makes a difference. In addition, the Town of Burgaw will provide a plaque or recognizable sign erected at the adopted park acknowledging the group’s contribution and commitment to the program. Adopt-A-Park helps people help each other so that all may have a better recreational opportunity and experience.

WHO CAN ADOPT-A-PARK?

Any civic-minded individual, group or organization can adopt a Town park. Garden clubs, corporations, scout groups, student organizations, social clubs, youth sport organizations, homeowner associations are just a few examples. Participants must be at least 12 years old to participate.

Parks Available for Adoption

- ❖ W. Ross Harrell Memorial Park
- ❖ Rotary Park
- ❖ Hankins Memorial Park
- ❖ Johnson Park
- ❖ Ashe Street Park
- ❖ Pecan Park
- ❖ Wilmington Street Park
- ❖ Pocket Park on S. Wright St.
- ❖ Osgood Canal Greenway & Urban Trail



Johnson Park



Rotary Park

Address to Parks located on Town Website



Ashe Street Park

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following safety guidelines are provided to participating groups for the safety of the participants and park personnel. The Town of Burgaw has a safety program in place designed to prevent accidents before they occur by emphasizing a sound, common sense, approach to safety. The Parks & Recreation Department provides and maintains a safe healthful play environment in its park system by educating its participants to act responsibly in preventing injury. Adopt-A-Park groups are expected to accept responsibility for the actions of their participants with regard to safety and causing damage to the facilities.

- ❖ Organizations must provide adequate supervision for participants under the age of 18.
- ❖ All volunteers must sign a waiver prior to participating and a parent/guardian must sign for anyone under the age of 18.
- ❖ Volunteer groups are prohibited from moving equipment or creating situations that may be considered hazardous without prior authorization from the Parks & Recreation.
- ❖ Volunteer group should not schedule any activity when threatening weather is present or perform outside their capabilities.
- ❖ Power tools and motor-driven equipment is discouraged unless approved by Parks & Recreation Department. Appropriate clothing should be worn.
- ❖ Work during daylight hours and beware of adjacent traffic.
- ❖ Avoid picking up discarded syringes/needles or other hazard. Avoid unfamiliar animals.

Contact Information

Town of Burgaw
Parks & Recreation Department
109 N. Walker St.
Burgaw, NC 28425

(910)-300-6401
recreation@burgawnc.gov



Town of Burgaw
Adopt-A-Park Program

Applicant Information

Adoption Coordinator: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____ Apartment/Unit # _____
Street Address

_____ City State ZIP Code

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Agreement

The Town of Burgaw believes that well-maintained parks and trails areas are essential to the beauty and appeal of our community. The Town of Burgaw Adopt-A-Park program was established to improve the appearance of the Town of Burgaw, and to encourage community involvement.

By this agreement, _____ agrees to abide by the Adopt-A-Park Program Requirements and Adopt-A-Park Safety Guidelines set forth by the Town of Burgaw, and to enforce compliance with the program requirements and safety guidelines by volunteers working on APAP projects sponsored by its organization.

The Town of Burgaw recognizes the applicant as the adopting organization of the following park/trail:

Park Name: _____

Trail Name: _____

Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

The terms of this agreement are to be followed from the date the adoption is approved until end date on application. The number of clean-ups required during this time period is 4.

Disclaimer & Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to adoption of a Town of Burgaw Park, I understand that my specified organization must meet the requirements of completing a service project once each quarter during that fiscal year (July-June).

I further understand that no alterations can be made without the direct consent from the Burgaw Parks & Recreation Department and that no service projects can be completed until all waivers are signed and returned.

Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

Burgaw
Parks &
Recreation: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

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